



DIRECTIONS

WASHBURN
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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**SCIENCE IN
THE COMMUNITY**

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Directions is a publication for
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Cover: A small section of “Gusto,” a mural created by Art Department students under the guidance of professor Monette Mark in memory of Glenda Taylor, who served as chair, was unveiled at a ceremony in February.

Science In The Community



The first day of classes this fall brought with it the additional spectacle of Topeka's 99.7% total solar eclipse. For me, the excitement started a few days before the eclipse with a campus lecture by Physics Lecturer Mark Smith in our largest classroom packed with people of all ages eager to learn about astronomical phenomenon. Days later, a crowd filled Moore Bowl, eclipse glasses in hand, to witness what we could through overcast skies.

The College continued to look towards space as we welcomed Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman astronaut, as the keynote speaker of our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Education conference. This conference enriched an eager crowd of public school teachers by providing them with vibrant classroom ideas and novel approaches to teaching science. In her remarks, Dr. Jemison quoted the folklorist and novelist Zora Neale Hurston, "Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose." In the College, we share Dr. Jemison's enthusiasm for and commitment to science education and science literacy.

Science is a fundamental part of the "Arts and Sciences" but it's also an inherent part of disciplines that we don't typically think of as "science." For example, we also recognize that scientific knowledge helps our ceramics professor guide students on firing clay and helps our anthropology students in understanding the artifacts from a dig.

In this issue of Directions, we sample just a few ways that the College of Arts and Sciences takes science into the community, whether it's training future science teachers, providing continuing education for current public school teachers, guiding community members towards healthy living, providing science enrichment programs for youth, organizing science cafes, or fostering the scientific research skills that will lead to new breakthroughs in biomedical research.

Poking and prying with a purpose—it's all in a day's work at Washburn's College of Arts and Sciences.

Sincerely yours,

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

Science Reaches Out

Science education at Washburn goes beyond the college classroom and into the community; whether it's providing science forums at a local restaurant or bringing middle school students to campus, Washburn provides the public with a window into natural phenomena and scientific exploration.

Topeka Science Cafe

When invited to a “science cafe” one might conjure up thoughts on cooking lessons, the science of eating, or insights into food-related topics. In actuality, science cafes are forums for broad conversations about a variety of scientific topics, in a comfortable and accessible setting. Most science cafes occur in public venues and involve a casual presentation and question and answer session, in which a scientist or science enthusiast converses with a lay audience.

Science cafes are hosted around the world, but only one occurs regularly in Topeka, thanks to Dr. Brian Thomas, Professor of Physics at Washburn. Thomas worked with a physics major and committed community members to offer the first Topeka Science Cafe in February of 2013.



“The goal is to allow the public—whoever is interested—to interact with scientists in an informal kind of way” said Thomas. “It’s a place where you can come, have dinner, sit around and talk, hear about somebody’s work and ask lots of questions.”

Presentations at the Topeka Science Cafe have included captivating topics such as space weather, evolution, artificial intelligence, exercise, rare mushrooms and many more. At a recent science cafe, Dr. Greg Rudnick from the University of Kansas discussed techniques used to observe and study the evolution of galaxies that are billions of light years away and on a scale of time that is far beyond a human lifetime.

A Compelling Hypothesis Leads to Good Company

The Topeka Science Cafe meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. during Washburn’s academic year at Perkins Family Restaurant. Typical attendance is about 25 people per meeting.

Response from Science Cafe attendees has been encouraging. “There are people who come regularly who are all friends” said Thomas. “It is a social event as well as a learning event.” One enthusiastic attendee is Vivian Marshall, freshman at Washburn Rural High School, who has attended since January 2015. “I enjoy going to the Topeka Science Cafe because I love anything science related. It is my favorite subject” said Marshall. “Though at times I have been one of the youngest participants, I have always felt welcome.”

Upcoming Washburn Speakers- Stay Tuned!

The Topeka Science Cafe will resume in January 2018 with presentations from notable Washburn faculty members:

1/9/2018	Dr. Brian Thomas: “What I did on my summer (and fall) vacation (sabbatical!)”
2/13/2018	Dr. Rodrigo Mercader, Biology: Specialist Herbivores in Kansas
3/13/2018	Dr. Matt Arterburn, Biology: Perennial Wheat Genetics
4/10/2018	Dr. Dan Petersen, Social Work: Metallurgy
5/8/2018	Dr. Gaspar Porta, Mathematics & Statistics: Math and Games

Be sure to follow the Topeka Science Cafe on their Facebook page or join their facebook group to keep up with the latest happenings: www.facebook.com/TopekaScienceCafe



Image: A student works diligently to create a motorized boat out of recycled materials.

Summer Transportation Science Camp

Twenty-six rising seventh and eighth graders were on a roll at the inaugural Summer Transportation Science camp that took place on Washburn's campus in July.

National Summer Transportation Institutes

Education Department chair and Professor Dr. Cherry Steffen received a grant from the Kansas Department of Education to host a National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI). Several NSTIs have been developed across the U.S., supported by funding from the Federal Department of Transportation, but this was the first middle grades residential camp in Kansas. The grant allowed for broader participation of students with an interest in STEM fields to attend the camp free of charge.

Constructing on Campus

During the camp, middle schoolers learned about potential transportation careers and engaged in intriguing activities related to transportation. They built robots, used Computer Assisted Design (CAD) to fashion vehicles, and constructed boats out of recycled materials. Field trips to the Kansas National Guard Museum, Combat Air Museum, Washburn Tech, and the Great Overland Train Station allowed for engaging and interactive experiences. They also got a taste of campus life by staying in the dorms on Washburn's campus.

Leaving a Lasting Impression

Steffen's hopes for the camp involved inquiry and inspiration. "What I hope these kids took away from this is first of all that love for the STEM concept of solving problems and answering questions, but I also hope they took away the idea that, 'here are ideas for careers that are available, the sky is the limit and I can do that!'"

From the Dig to the Lab

This past July, several Washburn archaeology students, led by Assistant Professor Laura Murphy worked tirelessly to uncover the past by exploring prehistoric remains near Van Buren, Missouri at the Ozarks National Scenic Riverways and at a local ranch near Meade, Kansas.

Practice Makes Perfect

In preparation for the trip, Murphy taught an archaeological methods course in the spring. Students learned how to prepare artifacts for excavation, properly document their discoveries, and strategically map out locations on Washburn's campus using sophisticated GPS surveying tools.

Murphy used soil samples she had collected from the Burntwood Creek Rockshelter, a prehistoric campsite in Rawlins County, Kansas. Students gained experience in using the flotation method, a technique used to recover lightweight remains such as charcoal, seeds, shells, and bone fragments from the rock-shelter sediments.

The Field School

With newfound archaeological knowledge and skills, the students were ready for larger-scale excavations and embarked on a two-part journey that began near Van Buren, Missouri at the Ozarks National Scenic Riverways. The site was near a large spring, an ideal spot that attracted prehistoric people searching for a good water source and hunting grounds. For the dig, the Washburn crew teamed up with the Odyssey Archaeological Research Program at the University of Kansas, as well as the Center for Archaeological Research at Missouri State University, and the National Parks Service.

They uncovered artifacts from the Late Paleoindian period, "Dalton" complex, which extends from about 10,500 to 9,900 radiocarbon years ago (circa 8500 to 7900 BCE). "These were mobile hunter-gatherers that lived mostly in the Ozarks, but also in eastern Kansas and eastern parts of Oklahoma as well. That's where their specific spear points are concentrated. They were moving back and forth in the area, probably utilizing a lot of rock-shelters in the Ozarks," Murphy explained.

Discoveries near the big spring by the Washburn crew included fire-pit features used for cooking, an adze (a stone tool used to scrape out trees to make dug-out canoes), at least two Dalton spear points, a hide scraper, and other tools. Murphy noted, "The Dalton component was buried very thick, so there's quite a lot of activity going on there. They were probably coming back year after year, but we won't be sure yet until the samples are back in the lab and analyzed. However, it is unique that there is so much material-- so many Dalton points and other very well-preserved features."

Exciting Discoveries

After their work at the Missouri site, the team ventured to Meade, Kansas, to explore a lead on possible animal remains from the end of the last Ice Age found on a local ranch. "The ranch owners were bringing us fragments of mastodon, but they didn't know exactly where it was from. Having that context is important for archaeology, so we excavated a couple of test units and they didn't reveal anything. Then we excavated a third test unit and uncovered what looked to be an ancient cooking feature" said Murphy. They also found burned bone, charcoal, a fragment of a bi-face stone tool, and shell within the cooking feature.

Students collected these artifact and soil samples for radiocarbon dating and paleoenvironmental analysis, which students will prepare in a laboratory at Washburn. Murphy and her students are currently working on the samples in the lab to reveal more information about the people who created the cooking feature, what they were eating and when.

Opposite page image: Senior anthropology student Alyssa Sparks uncovers an artifact while digging at the Ozarks National Scenic Riverways.

Lessons Learned

It is not the discoveries alone that enhance the student learning experiences in these archaeological digs. Murphy states, “It can be a needle in the haystack at times, and I think at the beginning, we were very hopeful; but we were starting to feel discouraged that we weren’t finding huge, intact mastodon remains with a big spear point stuck in it. That’s just not the reality of what archeology is. So I think it was actually good that the students were able to experience that, but then also find something different that we weren’t expecting.”

Murphy has high hopes for the future of the archaeology program at Washburn. Using the Washburn University Foundation’s new crowd-funding campaign, Impact, she is hoping to raise funds to expand the program’s equipment and laboratory supplies and to continue offering the collaborative experience that the field school provides. Murphy adds, “The goal is to understand Kansas prehistory and to have students working with artifacts and soil samples in a laboratory setting, so that they can work on their own research, present at conferences, and publish papers. I think that’s really exciting and rewarding for our students.”



Above image: Archaeology students learn how to prepare artifacts in preparation for field school.



STEM Education in Bloom

“Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.” – Carl Sagan

This fall marks the start of an innovative STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Education initiative, the result of a recent partnership between Washburn University, Westar Energy, Bartlett & West and AT&T. The program has helped establish a state-of-the-art STEM classroom, and helped Washburn host a STEM Educators Conference that took place on October 30, 2017 on Washburn’s campus.



STEM Classroom

Washburn education faculty, including Department Chair and Professor Cherry Steffen, Assistant Professor Lisa Douglass, and Assistant Professor David Pownell, have planned the development of a high-tech STEM classroom. The STEM classroom, located in the lower level of Henderson Learning Center, provides specialized equipment and an active classroom for the education classes it hosts, including elementary math and science methods, middle grades methods, and creative experiences.

The classroom houses color and 3D printers, iPad carts, and interactive white boards to facilitate innovative methods of teaching and learning. The walls and all of the tables are white board surfaces. Classified as an “active classroom,” components are dynamic and portable, allowing the classroom to be rearranged into a variety of configurations to accommodate various small groups or one large group.

“The room is designed to be mobile so that we can work in small groups, we can work in a large group, or we can do, for example, a robotics challenge in the middle of the floor” said Steffen. “The beauty of the room is that there is no one design.”

This classroom permits education majors to use inquiry-based learning and imagine possibilities for their own future classrooms. “I’m excited to have a place where we can model what we are talking about. In a traditional classroom, it is very difficult” said Steffen.

STEM Conference-Beyond the Classroom

Creative ideas abounded at the first STEM Educators conference at Washburn as teachers and administrators developed strategies and concepts for increasing STEM proficiencies among students. This inaugural conference centered on the concept of STEM beyond the science and math classroom. “Our focus is looking at STEM as an umbrella and not as a subject. It really is a way of thinking and a way of teaching.” said Steffen.

Image: Education students participate in a skill-building teaching exercise in the active learning classroom.

Teachers of all levels and various interests coordinated guided sessions, tackling specific areas of development including career and technology education, STEM in early childhood education, and engineering in the classroom.

The conference featured keynote speaker Dr. Mae Jemison, noted as the first African-American female astronaut; Jemison has earned degrees in chemical engineering and medicine. Among the featured speakers were two Washburn University graduates. Dr. John McConnell, *bs physics '60*, gave a presentation regarding STEM Outside of the Classroom. McConnell worked at the National Laboratory in Los Alamos, NM and upon retirement, founded the Math and Science Center in Grand Junction, CO. In addition, Dr. Tom Turpin, *bs biology '65*, Professor of Entomology at Purdue University, was also a featured speaker. Turpin is known for creating a “Bug Bowl” annual event for insect-themed competition in West Lafayette, IN.

The large scope of the STEM Educators Conference distinguished it from other STEM conferences. “STEM conferences typically focus on just high school or just the science and math at any level; one of the things this conference offered is that big picture” said Steffen. Washburn’s STEM conference had insight to offer educators of all levels and various subjects.

Steffen hopes to continue to offer the conference in the future, to further the growth of Washburn’s STEM Education initiative which benefits Kansas teachers and students.

Image: Keynote speaker, Dr. Mae Jemison served six years as a NASA astronaut.



Moving Toward Health

Washburn students and faculty are making a substantial difference in the health of over 80 clients through a new wellness program. Housed on Washburn's campus, the "WU Moves Community Wellness Program" generates individualized wellness plans.

Expansion to Topeka

The WU Moves Community Wellness Program is a revival of a previous wellness program that started several years ago at Health Care Access in Lawrence, KS, a not-for-profit organization that provides health and wellness services to individuals with low incomes.

Dr. Park Lockwood, Associate Professor of Kinesiology, formulated and directs the program staffed by Washburn students from various health-related professions. He is assisted by Dr. Roy Wohl, Professor and Department Chair for Kinesiology, and Ms. Kathy Ure, C.O.A.C.H Director and Lecturer in the School of Nursing. Together they developed a health model called **ASSIST**, which stands for **A**ffordability, **S**ocial support, **S**tructure, **I**ntegration of disciplines, **S**creening/assessment, and **T**ime.

In the spring of 2016, the Kinesiology Department was awarded a Washburn major research grant to establish the WU Moves Program, and ultimately conduct research to determine the impact on its clients. October of 2016 marked the opening of the WU

Moves Program at Washburn. The program functions year-round, and is open five days a week during the academic year and four days a week during the summer months.

Image: WU Moves Worker Tanna Terry teaches a kickboxing class to clients.

The Process

Clients begin by completing a series of physiological, performance, and perceived health measurements and from these, wellness goals are generated. Faculty, student workers, interns and volunteers create a personalized improvement plan in areas such as nutrition, weight management, and/or stress management. Clients are then guided through tailored exercises and lessons, or are referred to other Washburn entities or community organizations. Client progress is measured one month, three months, six months and one year from the start of their personalized program.

Staffed each day by a faculty member from Kinesiology or Nursing, the program has employed 8 student workers, as well as 5 student interns, 7 faculty



volunteers and over 25 student volunteers. These helpers come from departments across campus including Kinesiology, Nursing, Social Work, Psychology, Allied Health, and the Law Clinic. “This endeavor is truly an interdisciplinary collaboration” said Dr. Wohl.

Community partners include Makin’ Moves, Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, HyVee, and St. Francis Health Center; the list of participating organizations continues to grow.

Extreme Success

Even though it has only been publicized by word of mouth, the program has been so popular it is almost at full capacity. Lockwood’s initial goal was to have 40 appointments per week after data was collected, at three months. Instead, within three months of the programs inception, they were filling 85 appointments per week and participants had shown significant improvement. “In this short period of time, the average weight loss was approximately 11 pounds, blood pressure was lower, resting heart rate was lower, perceived health had improved 17%, performance measures had improved, and glucose levels were

much healthier” said Lockwood.

Practical Experience and Positive Reactions

The WU Moves program has benefits for the student volunteers and interns, who learn how to practically apply their degree. “I always ask them, ‘Do you feel like you are taking your degree and applying it here?’ And they always give me a look like, ‘Are you kidding me?!’ And the answer is usually that and more so. Besides the structured lessons and exercise, they are learning to adapt these instructions for people with different personality types” said Lockwood.

Client reactions to the program have also been promising, according to a former WU Moves intern, Clifton Gardner, *ba kinesiology* '16. “Knowing that the clients are improving is nice for us because that means what we are doing is working” said Gardner. “They are really appreciative of everything, and that makes me want to go above and beyond.”

Images: Dr. Park Lockwood and WU Moves Worker Kaylee Farmer assist clients in various exercises.



Science That Will Save Lives

For many years, research funding from the Kansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) has empowered Washburn science majors and faculty with the opportunity to develop critical health research enterprises. From studying essential muscle proteins to detecting toxic food additives, WU students have used K-INBRE funds to delve into projects of major significance.

K-INBRE stems from a federal program sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, with a goal of promoting successful scientific careers in biomedicine among Kansans. Started in 2001, the research focus of K-INBRE is biomedical science and related fields. The WU K-INBRE program was initially organized by Professor Emeritus Dr. Janice Barton; the current Director is Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Sam Leung.

K-INBRE at Washburn

Washburn is a partner institution within K-INBRE, one of ten universities that participate in the cutting-edge program. Science majors apply for funding to conduct research during the academic year and/or in the summer, and are guided by science faculty mentors. These driven students then present their research at the regional K-INBRE symposium held each January, and can also receive funding for travel to other regional or national conferences to share their findings with a wider audience.

Much of the K-INBRE sponsored research being conducted by Washburn science majors and faculty supports potentially life-saving and life-changing projects.



Making Progress to Combat Muscular Dystrophy

Assistant Professor of Biology, Dr. Takrima Sadikot, and her students are analyzing the muscle protein, telethonin, which could aid in understanding muscle degeneration and related diseases. Telethonin joins with one of the largest known proteins, called titin, facilitating development of muscles. Mutations in telethonin are associated with limb-girdle muscular dystrophy (LGMD).

“There is an amino acid ‘tail’ on telethonin that is not well defined and its purpose is unknown” said senior biology major Gentry Cork, who works with Sadikot. Together they set out to determine the purpose of this protein region, and its potential significance for those with LGMD. “My goal with students has been to make this protein in a bacterial cell, so then we can study its structure under different conditions with different pieces of the protein” said Sadikot. She has been working on the project at Washburn since December 2014 and looks forward to future findings that could improve the daily quality of life of those with muscular dystrophy.

A Colorful Way to Detect Harmful Substances

Since the summer of 2012, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Seid Adem has investigated means of detecting harmful additives in food through the use of gold nanoparticles. These nanoparticles are valuable detection agents because they change color when exposed to particular properties in their surroundings. As such, they have great potential to detect harmful contaminants in food, specifically melamine, the ingesting of which can lead to kidney failure and death. “Due to its high nitrogen content, melamine has been illegally added to products such as pet food, infant formula, and various dairy products to falsely boost their protein content” said Adem.

Image: Christian Gomez, *bs biology '13*, prepares tissue samples for immunohistochemical analysis.

Normally red wine colored, these nanoparticles turn blue or purple when they come into contact with melamine, allowing individuals to easily detect the harmful substance and prevent major health issues in humans and animals. In the future, Adem and his students plan to continue their detective work using nanotechnology. “We would like to extend the applications of nanoparticles for detection of heavy metal ions in environmental samples such as water and soil and develop a color kit for identification of different metal ions of forensic interest” said Adem.

Providing the Research Foundation for Graduate Study

The K-INBRE program has helped launch the professional careers of many Washburn science students. Since 2009, 68 WU students have received K-INBRE research grants for their Washburn research projects, and eight won K-INBRE outstanding presentation awards for their work. WU graduates who completed K-INBRE projects are now biochemistry and molecular biology researchers at top-rated institutions, including Creighton University, University of Texas, University of Kansas, KU Medical Center, University of Wisconsin and Clemson University.

Christian Gomez, *bs biology '13*, is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Molecular Biosciences at the University of Kansas. He began his research career working on a cytogenetic K-INBRE project under the guidance of Associate Professor of Biology, Dr. Matt Arterburn. While at Washburn, Gomez studied the genetics of perennial wheat, a research project that provided foundational skills that have served him well. Currently in the final stages of his doctoral program, Gomez studies the inflammatory pathways and potential treatments for ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease. Gomez credits K-INBRE for providing him a valuable opportunity to progress in his field. “Without K-INBRE, we probably wouldn’t have had money for reagents that were used for all of the experiments that we did. It helped me do research in the first place.”

This coming January, at the 15th Annual K-INBRE Symposium, a new group of WU undergraduates will present their research findings, and are expected to continue the trend which has seen WU students winning K-INBRE conference awards every year. These students will follow in the footsteps of predecessors like Gomez, for whom K-INBRE research propelled a promising career and provided the opportunity to make an impact on the world through biomedicine.

Department Highlights





ART

Assistant Professor of **Art** Danielle Head was selected to receive a Student Life Achieving Excellence Award (*shown above*). Three of Associate Professor Ye Wang's "Return to Classicism" oil paintings won significant awards over the past year. The department hosted a successful High School Art Day with 132 students from 15 high schools, and 25 workshops put on by art faculty and staff. Becky Shaffer retired from the department. Monette Mark and her advanced ceramics class, friends and volunteers, added the second installation to "Gusto" Glenda's Mural in memory of former Art Department Chair, Glenda Taylor (*see cover*).

The **Biology** Department is pleased to welcome Joshua Smith as a new Forensic Biology professor. J. Anthony Ware, M.D., bs '74, senior vice president of product development at Lilly Biomedicines, was presented with an Alumni Fellow award. Andrew Herbig was selected by graduating seniors majoring in the sciences to receive the 2017 Award for Excellence in Teaching Science. Heather Pfannensteil, lecturer, was the keynote speaker at Women in Science Day. For the 16th consecutive year, the biology department graduating seniors scored above the national mean on the Biology Major Field Test. This year the composite score for the 21 students taking the exam was 163, which is 11 points higher than the national average and in the 94th percentile.

Chemistry majors Christopher Denton and Paul Heffren tied for first place in the undergraduate poster session at the 149th Annual meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science. Shaun Schmidt mentored their projects. Janice Barton, professor emeritus, completed a paper titled "Comparative Protein Profiles of the Ambrosia Plants" that was accepted for publication in BBA - Proteins and Proteomics for work she completed with former student Rachel Schomacker at Washburn. Last academic year marked the first time the forensic chemistry laboratory course was taught



COMMUNICATION STUDIES

in the Forensic Science Center in the Kansas Bureau of Investigation building at Washburn. Dr. Tim Laird, M.D., ba '87, family physician at Health First Medical Group, was presented with an Alumni Fellow award.

Mary Pilgram, **Communication Studies**, assumed the role of chair of the department. Washburn Debate (*shown above*) continued its success by winning the championship at the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence at Colorado State University Pueblo. The team is directed by Kevin O'Leary and Steve Doubledee. Tracy Routsong was appointed as the director of the Bachelor of Integrated Studies program, and was presented with a Distinguished Innovation Award from the Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning. The new master's program in Communication and Leadership is now fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

Nan Sun, Professor of **Computer Information Sciences**, had five papers accepted for publication over the last academic year, co-authoring three of these with CIS colleague Dr. Cecil Schmidt. Sun has also been selected to receive the International Association for Computer Information Systems 2017 Ben Bauman Award for Excellence (*shown above*). Ten computer information sciences majors gave presentations at the 2017 Apeiron and three majors engaged in Washburn Transformational Experiences over the last academic year.

The **Education** Department hosted a second grade STEM day with their science/math block students, leading activities for children from the Holton School District. Professor Judith McConnell-Farmer took another group of students on a trip to Belize over winter break, where they had the opportunity to tutor local children. During the 2016-2017 academic year, 60 student teachers graduated, the overall pass rate on the required content tests was above 95% and approximately 95% of them



COMPUTER SCIENCE



ENGLISH

have acquired teaching positions. Two students were nominated as Teachers of Promise in conjunction with the Kansas Teacher of the Year activities in February 2016.

Danny Wade, **English**, received the Ned N. Fleming Excellence in Teaching Award (*shown above*). Vanessa Steinroetter was selected to receive a Living Well at Washburn award, and has assumed the role of English department chair. Dennis Etzel, Jr. won an Emerging Innovation Award through the Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning and was awarded a 2017 Troy Scroggins Award by the Mayor of Topeka. His book *Fast-Food Sonnets* was published this year and awarded a 2017 Kansas Notables book award. Melanie Burdick published “Speaking out locally: Open letters and rhetorical opportunities” in *English Journal*. With the help of Danny Wade, Washburn hosted the 23rd annual Literature Festival. Tatiana Schafer, English education major, won the 2016 Teacher of Promise Award from the education department. Karen Simpson, administrative assistant, retired from the department. Tom Averill, professor and writer-in-residence, also retired from the department.

Professor of **History** Rachel Goossen is currently in residence as a visiting regional fellow at KU’s Hall Center for the Humanities, researching and writing on LGBTQ inclusion/exclusion in Mennonite institutions. Goossen also presented the Spring 2017 CAS Distinguished Faculty Lecture, “Remembering Vietnam: Perspectives on an American War.” Kim Morse won the 2017 First Year Experience Faculty Debate (*shown above*). Johnathan Hart, *ba '17*, for Kerry Wynn and Tom Averill’s “Digital Storytelling” course, discovered the likely location of Fort de Cavagnial, the mid-eighteenth century French outpost (1744-64) situated on bluffs near present-day

HISTORY

KINESIOLOGY

Fort Leavenworth. Kerry Wynn was named the director of the University Honors Program. Tony Silvestri’s first choral work as composer, “Each Morning She Walks” with text by Eric Whitacre, was published by Walton Music and performed by the Washburn Singers. Tom Prasch organized a pop-up conference on civic religion at Washburn.

Graduating senior, Samantha Carson, **Kinesiology**, received the Sibberson Award at the spring 2017 commencement. Alexis Yelland, Athletic Training (AT) major, was chosen as Executive Director for the District Student AT Leadership Council. In addition, she will represent the Mid-America District at the national level, the first time a Washburn AT major has been selected for this position. AT majors Austin Dodds, Mattie Silva, Alexis Yelland and Dustin Planke took first place at the Mid-America Athletic Trainers Association District Quiz Bowl Championship in Omaha, NE (*shown above*) and represented Washburn University in Houston at the National Athletic Training Symposium Quiz Bowl Championship. Exercise Physiology majors Evan Burdick, Zach Macke, Rory Stewart and Maustin Otterstatter took third place in the Central States American College of Sports Medicine Quiz Bowl in Fayetteville, AR.

Maria Stover, **Mass Media**, has taken on the role of mass media department chair. Charles Cranston directed a short film, that was written by a student in his Cinematic Storytelling class and features Washburn student actors. In March the department hosted 78 high school students from eight schools for its second Media Day. The day included four workshops, a tour of KTWU and a photo scavenger hunt. Over spring break, 12 Washburn students joined Maria Stover on a trip to Paris, where they took part in the International Media Seminar (*shown above*). On the trip, students had the chance to tour UNESCO and get a custom tour of the Musee D’Orsay. Mass Media students traveled to Los Angeles in June



MASS MEDIA

to meet with film professionals and learn about the film industry. Academy Award winner Dane A. Davis met with Washburn's film and video students, Charles Cranston, and incoming Washburn Assistant Professor Matt Nyquist. Davis gave the students a private lecture and personal tour of many Warner Bros. facilities where students were able to see projects in various stages of post-production.

Bill Gahnstrom, **Mathematics & Statistics**, was presented with a Student Life Achieving Excellence Award and retired from the department. Professor Sarah Cook has been recognized as this year's Kansas Mathematical Association of America Teaching Award winner. Beth McNamee and Gaspar Porta won an Emerging Innovation Award from the Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning. Math Day, featuring the annual Mathnificent race, had participants from 23 high schools. Richard Shermoen, former chair and professor of the department, was presented with the Col. John Ritchie Award (*shown above*). Actuarial Science major Katelynn Robinson won a top paper award at the Kappa Mu Epsilon national convention.

The **Modern Languages** department partnered with international programs to bring Chef Fuchsia Dunlop to Washburn for an international culinary workshop. Georgina Tenny was presented with the Student Life Achieving Excellence Award. The French and Spanish Clubs participated in the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library's *Dia!* event, a celebration of reading among children and families (*shown above*).

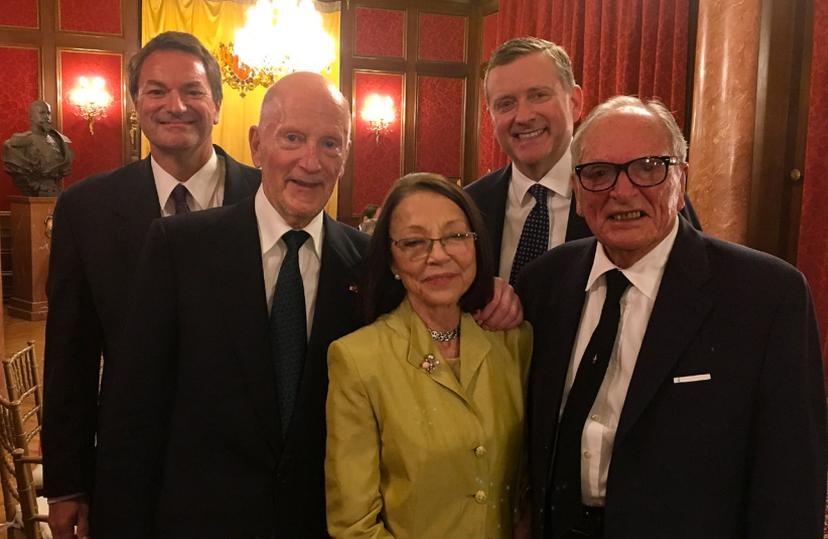
Professor Emeritus of **Music** Gordon McQuere presented the Last Lecture at *Apeiron* and served as the grand marshal at the CAS spring 2017 commencement ceremony. Rebecca Meador was presented with a Student Life Achieving Excellence Award. Shiao-Li Ding arranged a piano duet version of "On the First Day of the Festival of Christmas" from Bach's

MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

Christmas Oratorio which was recorded and broadcasted by KTWU at the Vespers Concert. Martha Placeres was named director of the Topeka Youth Symphony Orchestra. In October 2016, music major Kyam McCormack auditioned for and was accepted into the Fountain City Youth Brass Academy "Academy Band." Viola student Ryan Masotto won second place in the Senior Division of the Kansas American Strings Teacher's Association Solo Competition. All fall 2016 and spring 2017 B.M. in Music Education graduates have secured full-time teaching positions.

In March, the **Philosophy** Department hosted Dr. Margaret Pabst Battin, expert in ethics in end of life issues, as a Fink Visiting Professor of Ethics and Leadership. While here, Battin visited ten classes in various disciplines on campus, gave a well-received keynote address—"Suicide: That 'One Truly Serious Philosophical Problem'", and took part in a roundtable discussion with faculty members from Washburn and KU. Barry Crawford published a co-edited manuscript for the Society of Biblical Literature entitled *Redescribing the Gospel of Mark*. Ian Smith has assumed the role of chair of the department. The department bid farewell to two long-time faculty members: Professors Barry Crawford and Russ Jacobs. Between them, they have more than 80 years of service to Washburn University.

Professor of **Physics** Brian Thomas generated six research publications in 2016, three of which were coauthored with Washburn physics majors. Accordingly, he was honored with the 2017 A. Roy Myers Excellence in Research Award. Lecturer Mark Smith presented planetarium shows to 1,245 visitors and observatory open houses to 257 visitors during the 2016-2017 academic year. The department recently graduated the first student with a degree in computational physics.



POLITICAL SCIENCE

Whitt Damron, alumnus of Washburn Law School and former student of **Political Science** Professor Steve Cann when he was at Idaho State University, is now a lobbyist, and has created the Steve Cann Scholarship for a political science major who is on track to attend law school. Bob Beatty presented the Fall 2016 College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty Lecture, “AMERICAN SHOCKER: Inside the Wild 2016 Presidential Election from Start to Finish.” Beatty also took a Sweet Sabbatical where he attended the 80th birthday party of King Simeon of Bulgaria (*shown above*). Tom Schmiedeler retired from the department. Political science major Jack Van Dam was chosen as a recipient of the 2017 Jordan Smith Undergraduate Student Fellowship Award.

The **Psychology** Department took 12 students and three faculty to the Great Plains Psychology Convention in Hays, KS. Nine students presented at the conference. Caleb Hallauer and Leyli Beims won first place for their papers in the graduate and undergraduate divisions (respectively), and Katie Secrest won first place for her undergraduate poster presentation. Washburn’s online BA in Psychology program has been recognized for excellence by the Community for Accredited Online Schools. Assistant Professor Cindy Nebel has been named chair of the Washburn Institutional Review Board. Nebel, along with three colleagues, created a blog at learningscientists.org to share empirically supported learning strategies to students and teachers worldwide. Adjunct Abby Callis won the Ned N. Fleming Excellence in Teaching Award. Tonja Speer, *ba ’87, ma ’90*, executive director and vice president of Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., was presented with an Alumni Fellow award.



MUSIC/ THEATRE

Assistant Professor in the **Sociology/Anthropology** Department, Chris Conner, received a Washburn major research grant for his study “LGBT Issues in an Era of Heightened Visibility.” Associate Professor Mary Sundal assumed the role of chair of the department. The B.S. in Anthropology (Forensics Concentration) program kicked off in the fall of 2016, complete with an outdoor dig site at the Kansas Bureau of Investigation building. This is the first bachelor-level forensic concentration in Kansas, and after the first year of the program they have 14 new majors. Two such majors, Susie Athey and Mackenzie Walls, received research assistant positions for a research grant funded by the National Institute of Justice, guided by Assistant Professor Alex Klales. Klales also conducted forensic anthropological case work for area law enforcement and medical examiner’s offices.

The **Theatre** Department collaborated with the department of music to put on Roger’s and Hammerstein’s *It’s A Grand Night for Singing* (*shown above*), directed by outgoing department chair Paul Prece. He also co-coordinated an “Art and Theatre in London/ Global Communication” trip to London with Tracy Routsong, communication studies. Professor Sharon Sullivan was appointed as chair of the department. Sullivan was also presented with the Paul Harris Award by the Topeka Downtown Rotary Club, the Washburn Faculty Commitment to Diversity Award, the Herrick Faculty Award for Outstanding Service, the Women of Influence in Education Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice. Paul Prece and Penny Weiner retired from the department. Two students presented their original plays at Apeiron. Four students traveled to New York to attend the 60th United Nation Commission on the Status of Women with Sharon Sullivan.



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