

WASHBURN BUSINESS

FALL 2023



Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence



WASHBURN BUSINESS



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MAcc Director

Dr. Barbara Scofield

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Our Mission





The Washburn University School of Business provides knowledge and personalized experiences to engage students who will enhance the economic vitality of businesses in the region and beyond.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Gratitude is usually defined as an expression of appreciation for what one has or is thankful for. As fall continues and we approach Thanksgiving, I wanted to share with you some of the things for which I am thankful:

Our history and tradition! This past July, the School of Business celebrated our 50th anniversary. I'm so grateful to the professors and administrators who came before us and began our long tradition of excellence, as well as our past and present students, supporters and friends. We have much to be excited about on our horizon.

Our students! This Fall, we experienced a 17-percent increase (over last year) in the number of declared Business majors! What makes this even more remarkable is that our senior class is smaller than usual (as we transition through the pandemic years). This newsletter issue is bursting with stories of so many Bizbods and we're so proud to share their successes.

The Washburn Alumni Association and Foundation! The WAAF has done a great job over the years connecting with alumni and friends who support our efforts in providing opportunities for students. For the current year, we were able to award over \$500,000 in scholarship funds to Business students.

Additionally, we are able to support so many student and faculty projects – the kind of real-world experiences that truly help our students prepare for their careers. Thanks to all of you who provide support to the School.

Henderson Remodel! Thanks to the Washburn Board of Regents and administration, along with the efforts of the WAAF, we are embarking on a \$35 million remodel of the Henderson Learning Center building. We have hired the architectural and construction management firms that will lead us through several months of planning, design, and cost projections, and expect to begin the construction phase in 2024.

Our community! Both the Greater Topeka Partnership and the Topeka Community Foundation generously support our Fall and Spring pitch competitions. Area employers hire our students as interns and later offer them outstanding career opportunities. Community members are involved in our day-to-day activities, from being guest lecturers, to providing consulting and mentorship opportunities for our students and participating in our events. Our community is one of the things that makes Washburn so special.

The School Faculty and Staff! I am so very proud of the team that we have built over the years, but it took on a special meaning for me this year as I dealt with a medical situation that slowed me down for several months. In my absence and during recovery, they took the lead on making sure the School continued to deliver on our promise of delivering high-quality business education to our region. I am so very grateful for each of them and I truly appreciate those of you who checked in on me and kept my family in your prayers.

David L. Sollars
Dean and Professor



WASHBURN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

1865

Lincoln College founded as a private Congregational school

1868

Lincoln College Renamed to Washburn College
Ichabod Washburn's \$24K donation saved the university.

1922

Department of Economics and Commerce organized
Prior to this, Economics was part of the History Dept.

1939

Renamed to Department of Economics & Business Administration

1941

Washburn College renamed to Washburn Municipal University of Topeka

1945

Bachelor of Business Administration degree program begins
Dr. Dale Marcoux led the charge advocating for School status.

1971

Henderson Learning Center opens
Originally named the Learning Resources Center; renamed for Pres. John Henderson in 1976.

1973

School of Business is officially established
Dr. Paul Junk leads the School as the first dean.

1982

Master of Business Administration program introduced

1998

Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek becomes the 5th dean of the School

2003

Dr. David Sollars takes reins as dean of the School
Dr. Mazachek left to lead the Washburn University Foundation

2006

The School receives initial accreditation by AACSB

2013

Master of Accountancy program introduced

2023 & BEYOND

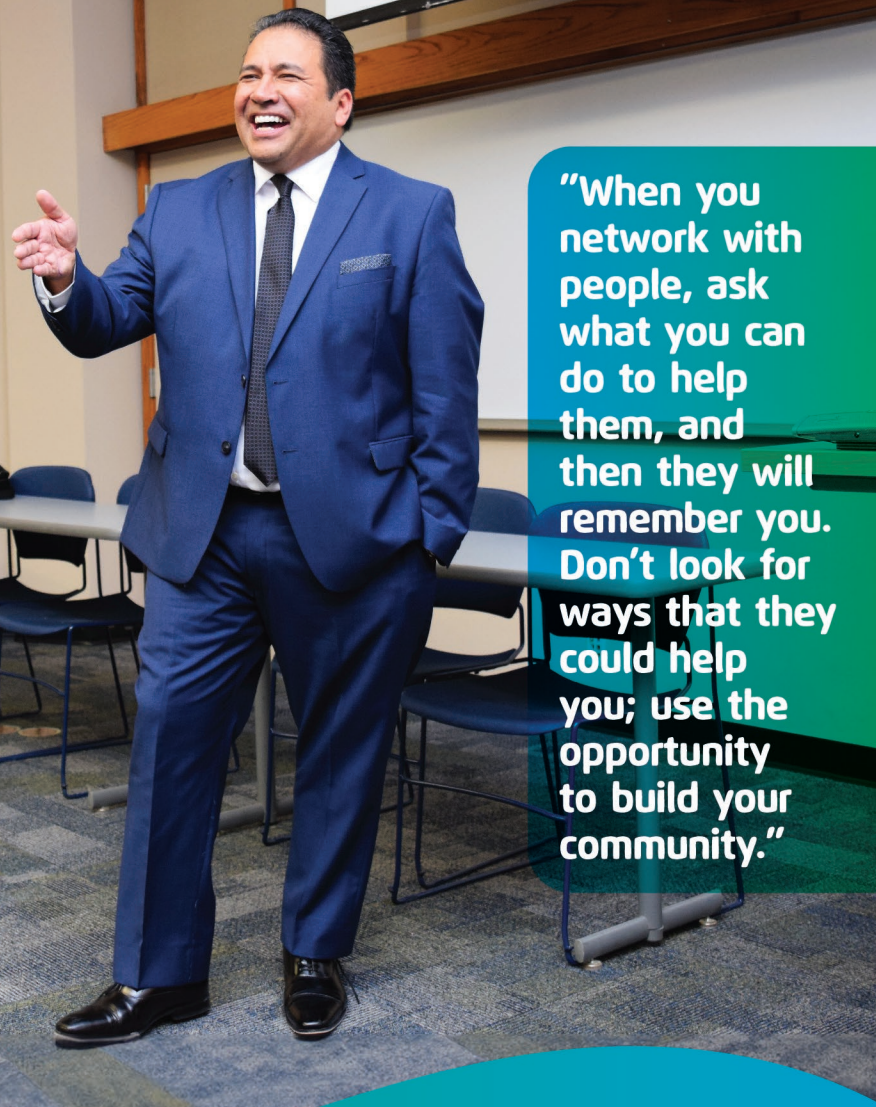
Excellence In Business Education Continues...

For over 100 years, students at Washburn have been able to study Business. Our focus has always been on helping our students achieve their lifelong goals and ambitions. Throughout our history, we have focused on providing our students with quality education and striving to support the economic vitality of our region and beyond. Since the School was officially established in 1973, we have constantly looked for new ways to offer students relevant and cutting-edge Business education. Our future is bright; the next chapter of the School will include renovation of the Henderson Learning Center building, growing enrollments and continued excellence in all we do.

1973-2023

2022 ALUMNI FELLOW

CARLOS GOMEZ



“When you network with people, ask what you can do to help them, and then they will remember you. Don’t look for ways that they could help you; use the opportunity to build your community.”

Carlos Gomez (BBA '90) was named the 2022 School of Business Alumni Fellow. Gomez is the president and CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City.

Prior to leading the Chamber, he was very involved with the Topeka community and also spent 18 years working in management for Best Buy, including helping to launch the test store in Topeka and implementing a Latin music section for the chain. He served various community organizations – the City Commission of Topeka, Our Lady of Guadalupe Grade School, Junior Achievement, El Centro of Topeka, the West Topeka Rotary Club, the Kansas Business Hall of Fame and the Topeka Chamber of Commerce – just to name a few.

Under Gomez’s leadership, the Chamber is now the 11th largest chamber in the Kansas City metro area, out of 40+ chambers/business membership organizations, and the 15th largest chamber in the region.

Gomez visited campus in November, spoke to students about his career and gave them advice for their future careers. He explained how he and his team use analysis and strategic recommendations to help small businesses grow and turn their visions into reality. Many of his recommendations center around branding and community involvement.

“Owner involvement in the community is very important. Community members who give back to their communities are going to be known for doing so, which positively impacts the culture of their business and their employees,” Gomez said.

Gomez explained the importance of networking and showing up, especially for students who are entering the workforce or who have entrepreneurial aspirations.

“Everyone has a story and everyone has a network. Show people who you are – be proud of who you are and where you’re from. Let people know what you have to offer and look for common denominators. Inquire about what they are trying to accomplish and see if there are ways that you could help,” he said.

He believes the saying that “half of winning is just showing up” – but most people don’t show up. He recalled times where he didn’t necessarily want to go to a networking event, but forced himself to go and made incredible connections because he showed up. Gomez encouraged students to “show up” beyond just logging into an online lecture or meeting, but to use the

opportunity to showcase themselves by raising their hand, stating their name and asking a question.

“Let everyone in the room know that you are there. State your name and the organization you work for and ask a question. It doesn’t even matter if you care about the answer to the question; the question isn’t important. Use the opportunity to make sure everyone knows you are there. If you don’t truly show up, you’re wasting your time and the opportunity,” Gomez said.

He continued, “The contact you make today may not be useful today, but it might be useful a year or two down the road. When you network with people, ask what you can do to help them, and then they will remember you. Don’t look for ways that they could help you; use the opportunity to build your community.”

5 Things I’ve Learned



Gwen Clark is a junior majoring in Marketing and Economics. She was awarded the 2022 James D. Pollak Memorial Scholarship, the only School of Business scholarship that provides a full ride for the recipient.

shared with us while traveling is something I know I’ll reflect back on throughout my life. A portion of this class was completing a project for Polo Custom Products in Topeka, which we worked on and presented with Belgian students. The Belgian students visited us during the Spring semester and we visited them at their university during our summer travels. Connecting with international students and learning from Washburn alumni at Polo was very motivating and educational. Polo was so welcoming to us and open to the ideas we shared in our project.

1.) Learning takes place both inside and outside of the classroom.

Whether it’s attending a Beta Alpha Psi meeting between classes or working my job outside of school, I have found it beneficial to apply concepts I learned in class to different environments. Speakers and workshops hosted by the School of Business have introduced me to careers to consider and have allowed me to see professional application of our course concepts.

2.) Washburn provides great people that will be the source of your greatest learning.

Although reading the textbook is important, the most memorable things I’ve learned have come from the real-life examples shared by my professors. The School offers a variety of connections and I have greatly appreciated learning from my professors’ previous job experiences and backgrounds. Through my International Business Experience course, I got the opportunity to study abroad in Europe during the summer. With Dr. Stoica as our expert guide, this trip was an unforgettable experience. The knowledge and advice he

3.) School of Business courses not only demonstrate ways of doing, but also ways of succeeding.

Even Business prerequisite courses enhance the way we learn, communicate, and think. Through every course I’ve taken, I have experienced the high-quality education Washburn provides. The advisors are truly here to help you succeed, guiding you towards early graduation if possible, a double major or a master’s program. I value the innovative ways my classes have been taught, as well as the learning objectives that will set me up for success. Attending an AACSB-accredited business school will prepare me for lifelong learning in my career.

4.) Topeka is a great place to get involved.

I truly appreciate how connected our university is to the Topeka community. Through being a member of Greek Life on campus, I had the opportunity to volunteer at events like Making Strides hosted at Every Plaza and The Race Against Breast Cancer. Washburn has a variety of clubs and organizations that help students get connected to the community and gain valuable experience while working towards a degree. Although finding the time to give back can be challenging, the impact is substantial.

5.) Scholarships provide opportunities for networking and academic achievement.

Washburn has such generous support from donors, which has given me so many unexpected opportunities in my college career. Scholarships have significantly helped me towards my goal of graduating debt-free. In the future, I hope to also be able to financially support other students in reaching their collegiate goals. I am so thankful for everything the School of Business provides, and their very noticeable drive to help each individual succeed.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Excellent

2023

The School of Business Excellent Eight Awards were created to reward and honor some of our most hard-working students in each Business major – Accounting, Business Data Analytics, Economics, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Finance, International Business, Management and Marketing. The awards acknowledge students who best represent the School's core values – honesty, trust, fairness, respect, integrity and responsibility.

The awards are made by the School of Business Student Affairs Committee, consisting of: Amber Ybarra, Rick LeJuerne, Dr. David Price, Dr. Rosemary Walker, Dr. Barbara Scofield and Dr. Liviu Florea.



Hometown: St. Marys, Kansas

What has been your favorite class so far?

My favorite class was Microeconomics with Prof. Dmitri Nizovtsev because it was the first challenging class I took at Washburn and I really enjoyed the material and teaching style.

What is your dream job?

My dream job is to be a middle school teacher and teach basic accounting and finance to students in a fun, engaging way to help them appreciate and understand numbers, rather than assume that numbers are impossible or boring.



Hometown: Tecumseh, Kansas

What has been your favorite class so far?

My favorite class has been BU315 Legal Environment of Business with Prof. Rick Lejuerne. This class was very interesting and allowed me to learn a lot about an area of business completely out of my comfort zone.

What is your dream job?

I don't have a dream job; I just hope that whatever role I end up in allows me to travel and see all that the world has to offer!



Hometown: Topeka, Kansas

What has been your favorite class so far?

One of my favorite courses so far has been Organization & Management with Prof. Jayme Burdick. The class sets you up for success by teaching the importance of understanding interactions between and within companies.

What is your dream job?

My dream job is to have a career in real estate. I would love advertising homes, selling properties and helping people navigate the market. I want to help guide individuals and families to success in finding their dream home.



Hometown: Topeka, Kansas

What has been your favorite class so far?

My favorite class so far has been BU370 Entrepreneurship Clinic with Prof. Karl Klein. We had the opportunity to work with a local business to help guide them and give them resources to expand and grow. It was a fun, hands-on experience that gave me a taste of what it would be like to run and grow a business.

What is your dream job?

My dream job would be a small business consultant. I would like to help other entrepreneurs to grow their businesses.



Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona

What has been your favorite class so far?

My favorite class at Washburn was Financial Accounting with Prof. Sunita Rao. I was solely a Finance major before taking her class and being encouraged to add an Accounting major as well.

What is your dream job?

My dream job would be being CFO of a successful company or owning/being a partner in a personal finance firm.



Hometown: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

What has been your favorite class so far?

My favorite course by far has been the International Business Experience with Prof. Michael Stoica. Meeting people from across the world and gaining experience working for a company in Brazil was a great experience.

What is your dream job?

My dream job out of college would be to become an international business development manager. Continuing to learn about and work with international markets by developing strategies and partnerships would be very rewarding.



Hometown: Topeka, Kansas

What has been your favorite class so far?

My favorite course was Principles of Macroeconomics with Prof. Manaf Sellak. I enjoyed his teaching style because he presented us with a big-picture view of market dynamics and their interconnection with daily life.

What is your dream job?

My dream job is to occupy a prominent leadership role where I can inspire, make a lasting impact and guide teams towards excellence. I want to be a driver of positive change and help foster an empowering collaborative environment.



Hometown: Highlands Ranch, Colorado

What has been your favorite class so far?

My favorite class at Washburn was BU471 Marketing Management with Prof. Stoica. I really enjoyed it because we got to work with local businesses in Topeka. Seeing our ideas in action and getting positive feedback was really satisfying.

What is your dream job?

Inspired by my dad's successful sales career and my childhood dream of being an anesthesiologist, I'm determined to find success as a medical device sales representative.

PITCH COMPETITION

Competition So Nice We Did It Twice



The Washburn Pitch Competition gives students the opportunity to pitch their new business idea to a panel of judges in three minutes or less. In 2022, we had more than 70 students from Washburn and Washburn Tech. compete in our Knockout Round, which we then narrowed down to 12 semi-finalists. Our 12 semi-finalists were narrowed down to five competitors who battled it out in the Grand Finals for cash prizes provided generously by Go Topeka.

The Community Innovation Challenge is a brand-new competition designed to encourage students to explore and develop business ideas that focus on helping solve social issues. Students submitted a written summary of their idea, which was scored by a panel of judges. The top 10 entries presented their ideas to a panel of community judges in the semi-finals round. The top four semi-finalists then went on to compete in the Grand Finals round for cash prizes provided generously by the Topeka Community Foundation.



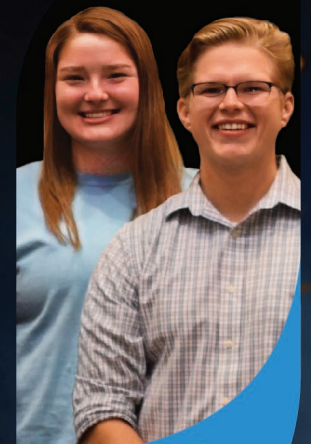
5th Place: \$1K
Keisheona Wilkins

Keisheona pitched Wheel Friends Club, a nonprofit for people with disabilities.



4th Place: \$2K
Daniel Archer

Daniel pitched Debate Together, a service that connects teams and coaches.



3rd Place: \$4K
Olivia DePew & Zach Yelland

Olivia & Zach pitched Drink EZ, a breathalyzer and water bottle combo.



2nd Place: \$6K
Ben Kneisler

Ben pitched Bell K Farms, his free-range chicken farming business.



1st Place: \$8K
Tonya Fisher

Tonya pitched Taperloc, a hairstyle tool she designed for creating dreadlocks.



1st Place: \$10K
Peyton Price

Peyton presented Kansas Community Consulting, a service to help companies with childcare tax credits.



2nd Place: \$4K
Nico DeGreeff

Nico presented EASE, a nicotine-free e-cigarette alternative.



3rd Place: \$3K
Andrew Foreman

Andrew presented his idea for a geothermal-powered Topeka Greenhouse Project.



4th Place: \$2K
Chase Carter & Tyler Ladson

Chase Ast, Carter Bussone and Tyler Ladson presented Cause Connect, an app for community service.





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Rajeshwori Malla

MARK & SHEREE YARDLEY

Rasna Ranabhat
Jenny Voegeli



Thanks to the generosity of many alumni, community leaders and organizations, the Washburn School of Business awarded more than \$519,375 in scholarships to more than 200 incoming and current business students.



LOVE FAMILY REALLY LOVES WASHBURN

It's fair to say that Garrett (BBA '10) and Caley (BA '11) Love got a lot out of their time at Washburn. They got their educations, of course – Garrett a Bachelor's of Business Administration and Caley a degree in Kinesiology with a minor in Leadership Studies. They both later added an MBA from Fort Hays State University.

They got first-hand experience in leadership. Garrett, who was a basketball player, ran for Washburn Student Government Association president his senior year. For his running mate, he selected a vibrant young woman, Caley Onek. They met when they were both student ambassadors giving campus tours during his sophomore and her freshman year, though it took some convincing before she agreed to join the ticket. They ran on the slogan "Leadership You Can Believe In" and won two-thirds of the vote. After Garrett graduated, Caley succeeded him as president her senior year.

They got each other, too. While Caley took some convincing to agree to be his vice president, she took less convincing when he asked her to be his wife a couple of years later.

Washburn helped the Loves get a great start to their life together. Garrett's taste of politics led him to run for and win a seat in the Kansas legislature, becoming the youngest state senator in Kansas history. Caley took a job in the Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner.

For all they got from Washburn, as they settled down and started a family together, it was something they didn't get that was key to the next chapter of their lives.

"We graduated without debt," Garrett said. "Caley and I both came to Washburn with the help of many generous scholarships: Finnup Foundation, basketball, and the School of Business' Dale

Marcoux Leadership Scholarship in my case, and the Leadership Institute and Garvey Competitive Scholarship in Caley's case, among others. Because of that, we left Washburn without a single dollar of debt, which was huge, and were able to explore our careers and eventually begin investing in a farm and real estate. Those scholarships gave us such a great start."

So the Loves entered a new phase, as entrepreneurs and small business owners. Garrett stepped away from politics in 2016 as their family was growing (they now have four children between two and eight years old). They purchased farmland in Montezuma, Kansas and began raising cattle and growing sorghum, wheat, corn and soybeans. Caley started a photography business, and Garrett started a guided pheasant hunting company, among other ventures.

Now with a family, property and businesses, the Loves decided it was time to sit down and formalize some of their financial and estate plans. And as part of the "I Will for Washburn" campaign, they've included Washburn in their wills and have made a commitment to create the Garrett and Caley Love Endowed Scholarship Fund, to support student-athletes in the School of Business.

"The opportunities from Washburn are what shaped us," Caley said. "It was other people's generosity that gave us our start and made our success possible, so we want to do everything we can to pay that forward."

Caley continued, "Washburn is a big part of what made us who we are, and we will forever be grateful for all those opportunities it gave us. If we can pay even a small portion of that back, we are thrilled to do it. Washburn is a part of our family. We are Ichabods for life."

Chasing the Chance

Jacob "Kuba" Konarski earned his BBA in Finance and Management in May 2023. He's originally from Northglenn, Colorado, but now lives and works full time in Topeka at Advisors Excel.

"Attending Washburn was such an amazing experience because the opportunities outside the classroom were just as valuable as the coursework... Washburn encourages exploring these opportunities and programs to promote cross-curriculum thinking to solve problems that can make such a difference in your professional future."



As a Coloradan, I never thought I would leave the mountains for the Midwestern plains, but my time at Washburn was one of the best decisions I ever made.

Attending Washburn was such an amazing experience because the opportunities outside the classroom were just as valuable as the coursework. During my time as an Ichabod, I started a small business with my roommate because of a School of Business competition, was a fellow of the Breneman Series and got to make countless memories and learn things about myself through the athletic program that I otherwise wouldn't have.

Washburn encourages exploring these opportunities and programs to promote cross-curriculum thinking to solve problems that can make such a difference in your professional future.

In January, I got the opportunity to intern with Advisors Excel's strategy team. The role description promised that "every day would be something new," but that was an understatement. I worked on a variety of projects like distributing gear to hundreds of internal and external channels, analyzing millions of financial statements to develop new approaches to problems or just hopping on calls to address the needs of our advisors.

I was already committed to a full-time post-graduation position before my internship began, but it did not take long before I got the feeling of wanting to stay. Lucky for me, I had a great manager who was thinking the same thing.

During my internship, I saw first-hand how much Advisors Excel cares about their employees and invests in their growth, so once we agreed that there was a perfect position for me here, it was easy to make the decision to stay. My time at Washburn prepared me for this internship and I accepted a full-time position after graduation to stay with Advisors. I now serve as the strategy data analyst at Advisors Excel and every morning I wake up feeling thankful.

I encourage you to push yourself and develop skills that can make a difference in your future. Plenty of those skills and knowledge can be learned in class, but there are some that can only be developed with experience.

Internships are a great way to get your foot in the door and evolve your communication and team skills beyond what you learned in school. Opportunities come few and far between, so if you are lucky enough to be given an opportunity to be an intern, take advantage of it!

I thought I had my future planned out, but my internship changed my course for the better. Work hard (and smart) during your time at Washburn so you can play the ten-year game. Invest in yourself, live with optimism, contribute to your ROTH, take your work seriously (but never yourself) and look forward to where you can find yourself in ten years if you stay on that path. The last laugh is the best laugh, I promise, so play the long game and get rewarded!

2022-2023

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Lora Westling ('07, '05) & Amy Galey
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John ('71) & Linda Ybarra

* DECEASED
H = HONORARY

Wake Up with Washburn



Anne Shelton

Anne Shelton (BBA '84) recently retired as vice president of finance and CFO for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, after more than 37 years of service to the company. Last August, she visited campus for Wake Up with Washburn, and presented her lecture, "Healthcare Industry Changes." She spoke about some of the changes that have occurred in the healthcare industry over the last few years, including the Affordable Care Act, mental health parity, COVID-19, telemedicine and Medicare.

Afterwards, Shelton visited several classes, spoke about some of her career experiences and gave advice to students.

"Take advantage of the company you work for and work in as many different areas of the organization that you can. This will make you as well rounded as possible and will help you benefit from opportunities as they arise,"

Shelton told students.

Shelton encouraged students to always do their best and cultivate relationships with their coworkers and managers. She explained that even if you get turned down for one promotion, next time you might be the perfect candidate.

"Make sure they can rely on you and that they consider you valuable. Make them look good. If you are known as someone who shares your knowledge, trains and helps other people and makes others better at what they do, then you will be known for that. Those are the type of people managers love to work with and promote," she said.

While there is always competition within companies, withholding information and thinking that you are more valuable because you are the only

one who knows, hurts everyone in the long run, and could damage your reputation.

She explained further, "In business, first impressions are huge. Your actions and reactions will define you from the beginning. Create a name for yourself and stand out."

"It is important to have a good reputation and to be known as the person who gets the job done well and does it on time. Always ask if there is more you can do. When you're in the office, get yourself out there and in front of everyone. This way, when new opportunities arise, you are the one that comes to mind," Shelton said.



Each semester, we administer the Educational Testing Services (ETS) Major Field Test in Business to our BBA and MBA capstone courses. The test measures business knowledge gained by students during their studies and allows us to benchmark performance against hundreds of Business programs across the U.S.

Every year, consistently, for the last several years, Washburn students have scored in at least the 75th percentile or higher. We believe our strong results are a testament to the excellence of our faculty, staff and students, and to the support we receive from alumni and our business partners. In addition, we have tremendous support from everyone in the Washburn academic community. It is truly a team effort and we are proud of and grateful for everyone involved.

The Washburn University students listed here placed in the top 25 percent, Fall 2022 through Summer 2023.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Ahmed Alanazi | Abdulrahman Alghanem * |
| Fred Baer * | Chantz Barta |
| Hudson Bentley | Daniel Bird |
| Grant Brenneman | Stacy Briggs |
| Vincent Buchanan | Daniel Buller |
| Carter Bussone | Caroline Collett |
| Megan Courtney | Nilam Dangi |
| Emily DeShazer * | Raul Dicu * |
| Aaron Diehl | Christopher Essman * |
| Alie Fulks | Saimon Ghimire |
| Mark Gibbs * | Christopher Havenstein * |
| Wyatt Heiman | Kera Hicks * |
| Hayden Hotchkiss | Larresa Kelpin |
| Jacob Konarski | Hannah Korbe * |
| Sumnima Limbu | Eduardo Lobato Nunes Pinto |
| Darion Mayo | Garrett Metcalf * |
| Tyson Miller | James Monson |
| Aashra Neupane * | Casey O'Brien * |
| Anna Parish * | Kyle Rice * |
| Megan Risetter | Patrick Robb * |
| Amanda Sainato | Ashton Schrader |
| Nicolas Schwensen | Caden Vanlandingham |
| Jackson Wexler * | Dawson Wills * |
| Peyton Wilson | Sangya Yogi |

*MBA student

Scot Ferrell (BBA '85) is a managing director at Marsh McLennan, the world's leading professional services firm in risk, and leads the western geography sales for Marsh Risk Consulting. In February, he visited campus and spoke at Wake Up with Washburn about the importance of risk management and the new skill sets that students will need in the business world.

After the breakfast lecture, he visited classes and spoke to students about his career in data analytics and risk management.

Ferrell told students that their data analytics classes are some of the most important they will ever take. He said everything comes

down to the data and how to use it to develop a better product or service, to do your job better or to understand what the customer is demanding.

"Companies are shifting the way they make business decisions and data analytics professionals are in high demand. Companies are requiring their team members to provide data and analytics to support the decisions they are making," Ferrell explained.

"I expect that the data analytics students of today are going to be the ones that the top executives come to when making decisions and developing data management strategies. These future employees will progress rapidly through their organizations because their bosses are going to come to them constantly for help making data-driven

decisions," he continued.

Ferrell also encouraged students to get involved, especially in student organizations, to help learn how to "speak business" and be comfortable and confident when speaking in front of a group of people. He recommended to students to work on developing their problem-solving skills so they are able to own whatever problem arises in their job and take control of the situation.

"College is all about making mistakes, living through it, getting a little embarrassed and learning for next time. Make your mistakes now. Take wrong turns and learn lessons so you can build yourself. Learn as much as you can and have some fun," Ferrell advised.



Scot Ferrell



STUDENT BUSINESS ACCELERATOR FUND

Every Spring, we open applications for the annual Student Business Accelerator Fund, a program designed to create and advance a culture of entrepreneurship by supporting student startup ventures. Students are encouraged to develop new ideas and ventures and the School of Business provides funding awards to assist with development and startup costs. SBAF is supported by generous alumni who believe strongly in supporting our students and their entrepreneurial dreams.



Chris Paez founded his fragrance company, Atlantis, in 2020. He received \$7,900 in funding, which he used to buy equipment and set up his online store. Paez is currently selling his initial fragrance, Gaia, locally in Topeka and online at atlantisfragrances.shop. He is currently developing a second fragrance and working to expand nationwide.



Stacy Briggs received \$1,500 in funding for her startup, The Golden Bubbler. She hopes to assist local restaurants and brewers by serving their products and creating brand awareness at social and corporate events through a state-of-the-art tap trailer. Briggs has been doing research and attending local events in preparation for a testing stage.



Peyton Price was awarded \$1,900 in funding for her venture, Kansas Community Consulting, a turn-key service that aims to help companies claim a childcare-related tax credit and improve daycare access and affordability for Kansas parents. Price has established her business as an L.L.C. and begun working with a developer to build her company website.



Nico DeGreef received \$1,000 in funding for EASE, a behavioral aid device that is designed to replicate the sensation of vaping without the mist or nicotine. With the funding he received, DeGreef was able to purchase equipment and materials, expediting his product R&D. He has been working to refine his prototype and conduct a feasibility study.



Kat Haulmark received \$1,000 in funding. She returned to Finland after the Spring semester and spent time over the summer testing methods and materials for her handmade leather accessories startup, Lethur Kröna. Haulmark has been working to develop her techniques and products, as well as gathering information about her competitors.



DeyJa Cardenas received \$2,500 in funding for her renovation startup, M.O.R.E. (which stands for Morphing Opportunities through Renovations for Equality). Cardenas has established her business as an L.L.C. and has started making her first equipment purchases. She expects to be able to start taking bids on jobs in the near future.



Arnav Pokharel received \$1,000 in funding for Collown, an innovative platform that links local community members with college students for "odd jobs" and gig-work. He has assembled his team and they are actively researching, planning and developing the platform. Pokharel and his team are currently developing and testing their working prototype.

SBDC NEWS: KARL KLEIN RETIRES & NADIA ARBELO TAKES REINS

Karl Klein, the long-time regional director of the Washburn University Kansas Small Business Development Center (WUKSBDC), retired in June. He had served the Topeka community in that role for just shy of 13 years.

Klein began his Washburn career in 2009, advising at the Washburn University SBDC Outreach Center in Manhattan, Kansas. Before arriving at Washburn, he owned and operated hardline retail stores, selling and servicing a wide variety of products in western Kansas.

Since his retirement, Klein continues to serve the Topeka community and region; he has been working as a contract advisor, assisting the Kansas SBDC at both Washburn University and Emporia State University. Klein is a certified exit planning advisor and valuation analyst; he primarily assists with business transitions and estimating business value.



Nadia Arbelo joined the WUKSBDC as a business advisor in January 2022, was promoted to assistant director in October 2022 and took over as interim regional director after Klein's retirement in June. She says she's excited about the collaboration and synergy this opportunity brings.

In September, Arbelo was awarded the Kansas State Star Award at the annual America's SBDC conference in Nashville, Tennessee. She



brings a broad international consulting and educational background to the position. As an entrepreneur, she has owned and operated several small businesses, from computing to art and interior design. As a consultant and civic organization volunteer, she helped develop college mentoring programs for female STEM students and minority male student advancement and continues to do consulting in cultural and minority community business development. In her current role, she continues to provide small business advising and resources to the region.

Arbelo holds a Bachelor of Arts from Boise State and a Masters of Education from the University of Gloucestershire, U.K. She entered the Ph.D. program at the University of Primorska, Slovenia, the E.U.'s only Ph.D. program in Philosophy and Theory of Visual Culture. She is focusing her research on gender equity and female identity in public space and is currently working to complete her dissertation.

As interim director for the WUKSBDC, Arbelo believes that supporting lifelong learning helps develop innovation and the entrepreneurial spirit. She sees her role in cooperation with affiliate organizations to encourage and support small businesses, put ideas into practice and engage in the economic vitality of businesses in the region and beyond.



In April, we held our annual combined Beta Gamma Sigma and Beta Alpha Psi new member initiation dinner. Beta Alpha Psi inducted 11 new members, while Beta Gamma Sigma inducted 26 initiates. Dawna McCabe (BBA '89), the president and CEO of Century Business Technologies, was inducted to Beta Gamma Sigma as an honorary member and spoke at the event.



Beta Gamma Sigma is the international honor society serving business programs accredited by AACSB. Only the best business students in the world and professionals who earn the distinction of "the best in business" during their academic careers can claim membership.

Beta Alpha Psi is an international honors organization for financial information students and professionals promoting the study and practice of accounting, finance and information systems. The organization aims to encourage and recognize scholastic excellence in the business information field.

2023 Beta Gamma Sigma Inductees:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Hannah Abel | Robert Forkner | Shaina Moravec |
| Jase Adams | Alie Fulks | Aaron Nelson |
| Kylie Alexander | Saimon Ghimire | Chloe Paschal |
| Hudson Bentley | Lincoln Gibson | Brock Robert |
| Austin Broadie | Wyatt Heiman | Alaina Roberts |
| Shanise Brooks | Avery Hoffpauir | Ashton Schrader |
| Bryce Chitanavong | Chenxi Liao | Grant Smith |
| Savanna Dey | Karen Marshall | Stephanie Wright |
| Kari Edelman | Eric Mcmillan | |

2023 Beta Alpha Psi Inductees:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Kylie Alexander | Saimon Ghimire | Amanda Sainato |
| Bryce Crough | Theresa Greene | Sangya Yogi |
| Nilam Dangi | Kristen Hearrell | Riley Zook |
| Caden Davis | Tyson Miller | |

FACULTY & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PAMELA SCHMIDT

Dibble Professor of Accounting

Dr. Pamela Schmidt was promoted to Professor. "I enjoy seeing when a student discovers something new or accomplishes a difficult task. Their eyes light up and it is clear that they have found something interesting or fulfilling. When their curiosity is naturally piqued, students become motivated to continue learning on their own," she said.



AKHADIAN HARNOWO

Associate Professor of Management

Dr. Akhadian Harnowo was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. He has been teaching at Washburn for eight years. Harnowo says one of his favorite parts of teaching is witnessing the growth and development of his students. "Watching them gain confidence in their abilities and get comfortable with their skills is truly rewarding," he said.



MANAF SELLAK

Assistant Professor of Economics

Dr. Manaf Sellak was awarded the 2022 Dicus Excellence in Teaching Award, which is selected by students. Students shared that he is very caring and a great communicator. "He's an outstanding professor who always goes above and beyond to help his students, and his teaching strategies make the material easy to understand," one student said.



NORMA JUMA

Brenneman Professor of Management

Dr. Norma Juma was awarded the 2023 Kaw Valley Bank Award for Research Excellence. In the last five years, she has made multiple conference presentations and published nine peer-reviewed journal articles, many of which were published in top-ranked journals. Her research topics include corporate responsibility, business ethics and sustainable entrepreneurship.



JOYCE SCHECK

User Services Administrator

Joyce Scheck (BPA '93) joined the School of Business staff in November 2022. She provides technology support for the School, ensuring that the many systems, software and hardware used for teaching, learning and research are functioning properly. Prior to joining the School, Scheck was the Application Systems Administrator for Washburn ITS.



MICHAEL AUSTIN

Lecturer

Michael Austin (BBA '12) recently joined the School as a Lecturer in Economics. Previously, Austin was the chief economist for two Kansas governors and the Director of Fiscal Policy at the Kansas Policy Institute. Currently, he is the legislative director at Americans for Prosperity Kansas and president of Knowledge and Decisions Economic Consulting.





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