



DIRECTIONS

WINTER 2011



WASHBURN
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



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Education:
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& Danny Wade (associate)

History: Tom Prasch

Kinesiology: Roy Wohl

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COVER: *Top: Mary McCoy, professor of biology emerita*
Bottom: Tian Lin, art student



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News from the College



"An art or music student uses hands to learn to create beauty, just as an athletic training major uses hands to learn to care for the physical condition of athletes."

Greetings from the College of Arts & Sciences!
We are happy to provide you with the fifth edition of *Directions*, our way of communicating some of the excellent work being undertaken by our faculty and students.

The theme this time might be described as "Minds and Hands." Let me explain. The learning process in the arts and sciences is often and correctly perceived as developing minds. Indeed, that is our primary purpose. We take great pride in the way that our students grow intellectually during their time here. But I am often struck by the many ways we go beyond that basic purpose. We also educate by means of hands. For example, an art or music student uses hands to learn to create beauty, just as an athletic training major uses hands to learn to care for the physical condition of athletes.

Of course, I am using "hands" metaphorically as well as literally. To me, learning with hands can also mean extending classroom lessons to hands-on activities in science or media laboratories. It can mean learning to help people overcome emotional challenges in the Psychological Services Clinic. It might involve working with primary materials in the library, teaching in an elementary classroom, writing or acting in a play, or digging at an archaeological site.

We are very proud of the successes of our students and faculty, both with their minds and with their hands. As you read these stories, we hope you will share that pride with us. As always, we thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

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

Gordon McQuere, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

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



WASHBURN'S WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Read about the personal journeys and professional accomplishments of these six scientists.

SUSAN BJERKE,
associate professor of
biology, teaches in Stoffer
Science Hall.



Rachel Atkinson

“Washburn gave me all the right experiences – hands-on lab experience, project development and implementation.”

Washburn has a history of encouraging women’s scientific pursuits. For example, of the 168 current students who have declared a biology major, 96 are women. And six of the biology department’s 14 full-time faculty members (or 43 percent) are female. (In contrast, women hold about 28 percent of all full-time science and engineering faculty positions, according to 2003 National Science Foundation data.) Of 69 current chemistry majors, 30 are women. And half of the students currently conducting chemistry independent study or research are female.

What’s more, Washburn’s science departments *retain* their student and faculty recruits by consistently supporting women in their educational and career endeavors. Come get to know a few of our scientists through the following profiles – a sampling of the university’s distinguished women in science.

RACHEL ATKINSON, Ph.D.

University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston

After Atkinson earned two degrees from Washburn – *BA Chemistry '03, BS Biology '03* – she was soon involved in cancer research as a graduate student at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston. There in 2010, she determined that using gold nanoshells to deliver heat to radiation-treated breast-tumor cells helped kill the tumor’s stem cells. This groundbreaking discovery is leading to clinical trials. Atkinson is now working on a postdoctoral fellowship, investigating normal breast tissue for markers that would identify cancer-free women at risk for developing breast cancer.

“At Washburn, I learned to develop my research project, apply for research funding and present my data – three steps you’re continually taking as a scientist,” Atkinson said.



Jayme Barnes

JAYME BARNES

Ozawkie Senior, Biology Major

As a child in Ozawkie, Kan., Barnes was fascinated by her pediatrician's diagnostic equipment and medical instruments. Her interests primed her for choosing a biology major at Washburn, where she excelled in microbiology. "I'm intrigued by the incredibly small size of microorganisms," Barnes said, "and their ability to provide benefits as well as cause serious health problems in humans."

In research, Barnes has been focusing on a specific protein likely involved in strengthening the virus responsible for cold sores. Barnes presented her research findings at the 2011 Washburn *Apeiron*, a student-research forum. She's also recently received a grant to explore new methods of conducting similar research. With plans to graduate with a bachelor of science degree in biology in 2012, Barnes is now applying to medical school for a future as a neonatologist.

"Washburn allows female students to thrive in the sciences," Barnes said. "The university has a nearly equal male-to-female science faculty ratio, which gives female students ample opportunity to seek guidance from female mentors."

SUSAN BJERKE, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Biology

Bjerke's father, an explosives chemist, helped fuel her science interests early in life. The family home in Lewiston, Idaho, served as a makeshift lab for chemistry experiments. That foundation convinced Bjerke that anyone with science capabilities should be encouraged to be a scientist, so she earned an undergraduate degree in biochemistry, microbiology and molecular biology from the University of Idaho. She received her doctorate from the University of Iowa.

Bjerke's favorite college science course turned out to be Eukaryotic Molecular Biology. "That class was the first place I was really encouraged to think about scientific processes

and experiments and use that knowledge to synthesize new ideas," she said. "I still think about that class today and try to use it as a model for the courses I teach at Washburn."

Among other courses, Bjerke teaches microbiology. She also oversees projects resulting in published papers and keeps herself and several students participating in virology studies – despite the high costs of virology equipment.

"I get the most satisfaction from seeing my students succeed, whether they're presenting their data at a local conference, getting into med school or getting a job," she said. "It's rewarding to see them think and work as scientists."

KAREN CAMARDA, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Physics & Astronomy

As a child growing up in Seal Beach, Calif., Camarda was fortunate to have parents and teachers who nurtured her curiosity for science – and enabled her to ignore the criticism and skepticism of peers. Still, Camarda knows it remains easy for young women to pick up on the bias that they're not supposed to be good at math or science.

"When we reach adulthood and scientific careers, the bias takes on a different character," Camarda added. "At work, in many cases, a woman has to be truly exceptional to be recognized as competent. And in our personal lives, some friends and relatives don't take our interests and careers seriously, since they don't understand that we work, at least in part, to fulfill a psychological need to understand a subject deeply and share it with others."

Currently, Camarda enjoys the intersection of computer programming, mathematics and physics in both teaching and research. Her research efforts involve numerical relativity, using computers to solve the equations of general relativity for astrophysical systems. Her work has led her into studies of distorted and primordial black holes and rotating stars. (For more on Camarda's role in encouraging young women in math and science, see the light blue box on page 5.)



Susan Bjerke



Karen Camarda



Lisa Sharpe Elles

LISA SHARPE ELLES, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Elles grew up immersed in the science of the natural world as a way of life in Elkhorn, Wis. Her mother was naturally curious about life processes, and Elles and her sisters learned from her to ask questions, experiment and investigate. As a result, Elles collected caterpillars and observed their metamorphosis into monarchs, asked for a microscope for one of her birthdays and focused on veterinary science in 4-H.

Yet, Elles didn't consider science as a career until she was smitten by biochemistry in college. "I found I enjoyed taking all the chemistry I learned and applying it to biological systems and processes. I still remember sitting in class and thinking, 'Wow, that chemistry is going on inside my body right now!' I still enjoy biochemistry and love to talk about how it connects chemistry to life and how our bodies work."

Elles' current passion in chemistry centers around baking and cooking and the chemical reactions involved in making food good tasting and good for the human body. In fact, she's teaching a new course on food chemistry at Washburn.

"It's really satisfying to be able to discuss and teach chemistry," she said, "and share my excitement about it with students every day."



Mary McCoy

MARY MCCOY, Ph.D.

Professor of Biology Emerita

McCoy grew up in a rural area near Kansas City where her love for science began with exploring nearby fields and woods. But unlike her younger peers, McCoy pursued her education when biases against women in science were overt and pervasive.

Entering college in 1957 as a zoology major, McCoy found few female biology students and no female science faculty members. And when McCoy earned her master's degree in entomology, she did so in a program with 30 men. However, McCoy persevered and earned her doctoral degree in entomology from the University of Kansas, and later was hired at Washburn, where she taught for 33 years.

"Washburn faculty interact a great deal with our students – in class, in the lab, in field studies and in research," McCoy said. "I've found the most supportive and productive relationships are forged through fieldwork and research, when faculty and students spend ample time together."

Today, McCoy often makes outreach presentations on insect biology and tropical rainforest ecology, complete with live insects. She derives special satisfaction from speaking to grade- and middle-school students: "If their interest is piqued at this stage – if they can see how exhilarating and fascinating biology can be – many will go on to study in the field."

WASHBURN'S EARLY WOMEN OF SCIENCE

Here are just a few of the pioneering women who have taught math and science at Washburn.



Lumina C. Riddle Smyth, Ph.D.

Instructor of botany and mathematics, 1900-01

Instructor of natural history (biology), 1903-04

Acting professor of zoology and physiology, 1916-17

Instructor of biology, summer school 1917-20



Edith M. Twiss, Ph.D.

Assistant professor of botany, 1910-13

Professor of botany, 1913-19

MIDDLE-SCHOOL GIRLS ENJOY WOMEN IN SCIENCE DAY

On Oct. 3, Stoffer Science Hall resonated with the sounds of more than 200 seventh-grade girls enjoying science. The goal of Washburn's Women in Science Day, an annual event since 2007, is to show young females that men and women can achieve equally well in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

The middle schoolers listened to guest scientists and ate lunch with lab instructors. They also chose from among such projects as building a volcano simulation and testing the strength of their reflexes. Karen Camarda, associate professor of physics and astronomy, Susan Bjerke, associate professor of biology, and Topeka's Association for Women in Science organized the event. Sponsors included the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Water Office, National Weather Service, U.S. Geological Survey, University of Kansas and Washburn.

"The motivation behind this event is to combat the well-documented phenomenon of junior-high-aged girls dropping out of science and math," Camarda said. "Up to this age, statistically, girls perform as well as or even better than boys in those subjects. Once girls reach a school level where they can choose classes, they choose fewer STEM courses than boys."

"By exposing girls to positive science experiences – run primarily by women – girls see that science can be fun, that women can do science for a living, and that we can do it well."



Washburn students and faculty work with area middle schoolers in the lab during the 2011 Women in Science Day, including Topeka biology major Mollyyanne Gibson (above).



Mary W. Newson, Ph.D.

*Assistant professor of mathematics,
1912-21*



Sarah L. Doubt, Ph.D.

*Acting professor of botany,
1919-21*

*Professor of botany,
1921-38*



*Mildred Wilson, B.A.
(Botany), J.D.*

*Instructor of bacteriology,
1920-21*

*Assistant professor of
bacteriology, 1921-26*

*Professor of bacteriology,
1926-33*

HANDS-ON FOCUS

John Burns, director of the Athletic Training Education Program, works with Brandon Downing, Washburn defensive back.

STATE-OF-THE-ART ATHLETIC TRAINING

Washburn's Athletic Training Education Program prepares students with hands-on practice and strong science focus.



Steve Ice

Whether working with Washburn's 10 Division II teams, helping high school athletic trainers or shadowing physicians, students in Washburn's Athletic Training Education Program spend hundreds of hours building the skills they will need to serve as certified athletic trainers.

"We talk about injury evaluation and rehabilitation and review research findings in classes. In lab classes, we do case studies and scenarios," said program director John Burns, *BA Physical Education '92*. "But when you get to apply that information to an actual event that produces a tangible outcome, learning and retention increase dramatically."

This hands-on focus and a rigorous, science-based curriculum are paying off. In the past two years, Washburn

graduates have exceeded the national average for passing the required Board of Certification exam on the first try: 87 percent versus the national average of 60 percent. Currently, 24 students are enrolled in Washburn's six-semester program, which has competitive admissions.

Washburn's athletic training program, first started as an internship by head athletic trainer Steve Ice in the mid-1980s, became an accredited major in 2005. The program has

demonstrated its excellence by achieving the maximum, 10-year reaccreditation in 2009 from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

“Getting a 10-year reaccreditation is not the norm, and it makes evident the superior quality of our program,” said Roy Wohl, professor and chair of Washburn’s kinesiology department. He added that athletic training programs may be reaccredited for five-, seven- or 10-year terms.

HANDS-ON TRAINING

The athletic training program’s 10 credit hours of clinical experience translate into about 900 working hours that students split between Washburn sports – rotating through football and both men’s and women’s teams – and other settings. This part of the program is facilitated by clinical education coordinator Karen Garrison, *BS Athletic Training ’05*, originally of Reading, Kan.

“We want to prepare students and then let them refine those skills in supervised settings,” Burns said. “I often challenge them by asking, ‘Can you see yourself doing that? Does that light a fire or spark an interest for you?’”

That’s exactly what happened to Washburn senior Caitlin Ferré, Topeka, during her clinical rotation with Topeka orthopedic surgeon Michael McCoy last year. After observing Dr. McCoy perform a knee replacement surgery, Ferré became interested in a career as a physician extender, evaluating injuries and assisting with surgeries.

Ferré said Washburn has prepared her for her career through smaller class sizes, the variety of athletes she’s worked with, and the injury evaluation and rehabilitation techniques she’s learned. Ferré expects to graduate in May 2012.

“It is easier to learn in an environment that you are comfortable in, and Washburn’s program offers that environment for all its students,” Ferré said. “Because Washburn offers a variety of sports, we, as athletic training students, are able to observe and have hands-on experiences with many different athletes.”

THE WASHBURN ADVANTAGE

Washburn is one of only two Division II schools to employ a HydroWorx therapy pool, which incorporates an underwater treadmill for rehabilitation. Such technology and state-of-the-art facilities put students at an advantage in the job market.

“We have competitive teams and our facilities are top rate – and our students benefit from that,” Burns said.

Burns also commended Washburn’s strong science departments, which prepare students for graduate school or other allied health training. The Athletic Training Education Program requires 30 credit hours of science coursework, a research portfolio and a public presentation, which has been customized to fulfill Washburn’s scholarly/creative transformational experience.

An optional leadership transformational experience has been tailored to the program as well. “Students who implement leadership behaviors make better clinicians in practice,” Burns said. “The leadership skills they develop at Washburn carry over into their careers.”

SUCCESS BEYOND SCHOOL

Program graduate Kyle Montgomery, *BS Athletic Training ’07*, originally of Topeka, is now head athletic trainer at Highland (Kan.) Community College. Montgomery said it became apparent that Washburn had given him an edge in his education as he completed his master’s in athletic training at Ohio University in a single year. All of his classmates were also board certified athletic trainers from schools across the country.

“Things that were common sense to me because I’d done them at Washburn, some students didn’t have the luxury of that knowledge because they hadn’t performed such things before,” Montgomery said. “When I graduated from Washburn, I was prepared to practice as an athletic trainer, whereas students from some of the other schools perhaps didn’t leave with that 100 percent confidence.

“Thanks to Washburn, I had that year at Ohio University to prove to myself that I really was ready to be an athletic trainer.”



Caitlin Ferré



Kyle Montgomery

CLINICIAN-IN-TRAINING

Beth Ryszewski, Overland Park, Kan., is in her second year of the master's program in clinical psychology.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES CLINIC

Serving clients – and training graduate students – for 30 years.

This year Washburn's Psychological Services Clinic celebrates 30 years of providing confidential, low-cost mental health services to the community – and excellent training for clinical psychology students.



Cynthia Turk

"It's not typical for a master's program to have something like the Psychological Services Clinic," said Cynthia Turk, associate professor and director of the clinic's anxiety program. "From the first semester, our students are involved in clinical work. Their first clinical experience is in our clinic – observing and taking phone calls in the first year, and counseling clients in the second year. They complete an internship in the community the third year."

AID FOR ANXIETY, DEPRESSION

Today, the Psychological Services Clinic specializes in the latest, science-based treatments for anxiety and depression.

The clinic is staffed by students pursuing a master's degree in clinical psychology, who receive training and supervision from two licensed clinical psychologists: Turk and Dave Provorse, associate professor and chair of Washburn's psychology department. The fee for individual and group therapy sessions is just \$5 each.

Last year, the clinic also started offering psychological assessments, primarily for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and learning disabilities. While the cost for a typical psychological assessment usually is between \$1,500 and \$2,000, the clinic charges \$125, and some students may be eligible for a reduced rate.

Here are the clinic's three main areas of service:

Anxiety Clinic. As director of the anxiety program, Turk supervises students offering treatment for generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, specific phobias and social anxiety disorder. She said the most effective type of treatment for anxiety problems is cognitive behavioral therapy.

"Thirty to 40 percent of our clients are Washburn students," Turk said, adding that most of the rest are from Topeka and surrounding communities. "We see a range of people who wouldn't get treatment otherwise or are drawn to a clinic that specializes in anxiety disorders."

Depression Clinic. Provorse directs the depression program, supervising students who offer treatment for relationship problems, adjustment disorders and more severe depressive disorders. The most effective treatment for depressive disorders includes cognitive and interpersonal therapies, he said.

Provorse, a marathon runner with a background in sports psychology, also oversees two performance enhancement groups with the women's soccer team each spring.

"The psychology master's program has experienced an increased emphasis on providing training in group therapy approaches in recent years," Provorse said. "One of the newest groups offers training in mindfulness skills that have been attended by students, faculty and community members interested in achieving a more accepting approach to life."

Psychological Assessment Services. Jenna Glover, assistant professor, directs the assessment program. She supervises assessments for learning disabilities, ADHD, depression, anxiety and personality disorders. Someone interested in a career in law enforcement or as a military pilot may also undergo an assessment to establish fitness for the job.

"Adding formalized assessments to the curriculum last year has helped our graduates in their careers," Glover said. "We've also helped students struggling in school and clients to improve their job performance."

INTENSIVE PREPARATION

During their third year, the clinical psychology students complete a nine- to 10-month internship. The internship includes 20 hours/week of supervised training at mental health facilities across eastern Kansas, including the Lansing Correctional Facility, Topeka's Valeo Behavioral Health Care and Osawatomie State Hospital.

Thomas Bartlett, *AA Mental Health Technology '81, BA Psychology '81, MA Psychology with Emphasis in Clinical Psychology '85*, trained at the Washburn clinic in the 1980s. He obtained his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Denver in 1993 and today is director of training and education at Topeka's Family Service & Guidance Center (FSGC), where he works with children with anxiety disorders.

"My training in the master's program at Washburn was some of the best training I received academically and clinically," Bartlett said. "The experience grounded me in research and science."

Bartlett also directs FSGC's pre-doctoral clinical psychology internship program, which often hosts Washburn interns. "The students are well prepared clinically, have a research background and are very grounded in anxiety-related issues," he said. "The treatments that students are using in Washburn's anxiety clinic have a tremendous amount of empirical support."

To learn more, visit Washburn.edu/cas/psychology/clinic

"... I'm graduating this week, and 6 months ago I was so worried about panic attacks that I wondered if I'd ever even hold down a real job upon graduation. Now I'm looking forward to starting a new job. ... Not only is my panic disorder nearly nonexistent [today], but my daily struggles with generalized anxiety don't seem to be as bad either. ..."

Email excerpt from a satisfied client of the anxiety clinic



Dave Provorse



Jenna Glover



Thomas Bartlett

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



"Rumors"



"Elephant's Graveyard"

The Theatre Department offered a course in London in May. The department also produced several plays in 2011, including Neil Simon's "Rumors" with guest director Terrance McKerrs; "Elephant's Graveyard" by George Brant; "Uncle Vanya" by Anton Chekhov (and adapted by Emily Mann); and "Two Sisters and a Piano" by Nilo Cruz.

The **Art Department's** new Catron Professor of Art is Jennifer Marsh, founder of the International Fiber Collaborative. Longtime art professor Reinhild Janzen retired but will continue teaching as professor emerita. More than 130 people attended Art Day in November. "The Waiting Room," a collaborative art project, appears at the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery in the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library Jan. 14-March 16, 2012. Azyz Sharafy, associate professor, presented a lecture at the Spencer Museum of Art in November.

The **Biology Department** welcomed three new faculty members: Kristin Barkus, lecturer and lab coordinator; Jason Emry, visiting assistant professor, botany, ecology; and Rodrigo Mercader, assistant professor, population biology, entomology. Susan Bjerke was tenured and promoted to associate professor. The department's third annual Biology Orientation helped biology students get off to a great start.

Chemistry Department senior Diana Crain of Kansas City, Mo., won a \$10,000 Kansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) Star Trainee Grant for her research,

plus a trip to the 2012 American Chemical society meeting in San Diego, for winning the presentation competition at the society's Local Section Student Research Symposium. The department was awarded a \$25,000 K-INBRE grant to purchase a capillary electrophoresis instrument for research by analytical chemist Seid Adem, assistant professor. Biochemist Lisa Sharpe Elles, assistant professor, developed a Chemistry of Cooking course; she was also awarded more than \$8,000 by the Washburn Women's Venture Partners to buy a gel documentation system.

The **Communication Department's** Mock Trial team placed ninth out of 24 teams at regionals. Last spring, Washburn Debate finished as the runner-up squad at the National Parliamentary Debate Association Championships. Of nearly 1,000 ranked teams, only the top 64 are invited to compete. Washburn was the last squad with multiple teams still competing, finishing fourth, sixth and 12th. Senior Dane Anderson, Topeka, earned the first Capstone Award. Leslie Reynard was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor. Tracy Routsong, associate professor, was granted tenure and named department chair.

JiZhou Li, Wuhan, China, a student in the [Computer Information Sciences Department](#), presented his poster “Multiple Radical Search of Simplified Chinese Characters” at Washburn’s 2011 student-research forum *Apeiron*. JiZhou worked with Bruce Mechtly, associate professor and department chair, on a Java application that allows users to search for Chinese characters using radicals. Joshua Wurtz, Topeka, also presented his poster “Real Time Audio Signal Processing in Java” at the 2011 *Apeiron*.



Education students study abroad in Belize.

The [Education Department](#) had its first Student Study Abroad in Belize Program, directed by Judith McConnell-Farmer, professor and department chair. The group tutored children at orphanages in Belize City and in nearby Ladyville. The department also welcomed lecturer Wally D. Thompson, who focuses on reading curriculum, and assistant professor Scott P. Myers, who coordinates and teaches graduate leadership programs in education.

The [English Department](#) welcomed Vanessa Steinroetter, assistant professor, an American literature specialist, and Melanie Burdick, assistant professor, a rhetoric and composition specialist. Erin Chamberlain, assistant professor,

delivered the Hamblin Lecture at Southeast Missouri State University last spring. Published works include “A Waiting Room of One’s Own: Contexts for the Waiting Room Project,” an essay collection and art catalog compiled and edited by Sarah Smarsh, assistant professor, and the book of poems *Mommy Daddy Evan Sage* by Eric McHenry, assistant professor. Thomas Fox Averill, professor and department chair, wrote *Rode*, a novel inspired by the Jimmy Driftwood song “Tennessee Stud.”

Three [History Department](#) students presented at the Phi Alpha Theta Midwest Regional Conference under the direction of Kelly Erby, assistant professor. Five students will present at the Phi Alpha Theta National Conference; associate professors Kim Morse and Alan Bearman will oversee the group and present their own work. Rachel Goossen, professor, presented at the Peace History Society Conference. Thomas Prasch, professor and department chair, presented at the Victorians Institute Conference on Charles Dickens and will present (along with adjunct and alumna Bethany Mowry-Ramos) at the North American Conference on British Studies. Goossen, Erby, assistant professor Kerry Wynn, and lecturer Tony Silvestri are participating in this year’s faculty colloquium. Silvestri also traveled to Germany in September for the premiere of Tobias Forster’s “Concerto for Chorus and Jazz Piano,” for which he penned the lyrics.

Margie Miller, assistant professor in the [Kinesiology Department](#), is a member of the statewide coalition “Let’s Move in Kansas Schools,” part of a national initiative to help

coordinate physical activity with school. Young Sub Kwon, lecturer, and Park Lockwood, assistant professor, are developing a physical and psychological performance assessment and training program for Topeka Police SWAT and other law enforcement personnel. Alex Willis, Topeka, a senior pursuing physical education teacher licensure, was recognized as Washburn’s Outstanding Undergraduate Major of the Year at the Kansas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Convention.



Mass media students learn about international media in Paris.

The [Mass Media Department](#) took 19 students to Paris over spring break to attend an international media seminar and meet professionals at several French media companies. Maria Stover, associate professor, coordinated the trip. The department’s new Avid video-editing lab complements its new Digital Film and Video emphasis. This fall, two students in a new mass media course launched a weekly online radio show called “Dn’A.”

Allan Riveland, associate chair, retired from the [Mathematics and Statistics Department](#) after 40 years at Washburn. He oversaw the department’s chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon and directed more than 20 student projects, many of which earned

awards. Michael Mosier, professor, co-authored a paper published in the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. Several faculty participated in the Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conference, including Sarah Cook, associate professor; Donna LaLonde, associate professor; Pat Mower, associate professor; Gaspar Porta, assistant professor; Janet Sharp, lecturer; and Jennifer Wagner, assistant professor.



Students in the Modern Languages Department visited a rain forest in Costa Rica last spring.

Courtney Sullivan, associate professor in the [Modern Languages Department](#), traveled to Martinique and Guadeloupe, France, for further training as a professor of French language, literature and culture. Sophie Delahaye, assistant professor, took an intensive course on teaching French for business at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris and presented at the 13th International Congress for 18th Century Studies in Graz, Austria. Lecturer Georgina Tenny took students to Costa Rica last spring. Miguel González-Abellás, professor and department chair, obtained a grant in collaboration with the history department to increase Latino history and culture audiovisual resources. Josh King,

Overbrook, Kan., *BA Spanish '10*, received the Sibberson Award.

The [Music Department](#) sent its Jazz Combo to China to perform over the summer. This fall, students, ensembles and faculty presented the second annual Mosaic Concert. Senior flute major Jessica Vogel, Marion, Kan., is one of three students selected to perform in a master class led by international flute performer Sir James Galway. The Washburn Wind Ensemble is one of seven bands selected to perform at the College Band Directors National Association Conference in March 2012.

The [Philosophy and Religious Studies Department](#) invited Ferdinand Schlingensiepen to present “Dietrich Bonhoeffer 1906-45: Martyr, Thinker, Man of Resistance” at the 2011 King Lecture in Religious Studies. A German Lutheran pastor and theologian, Bonhoeffer is revered for his views on the role of Christianity in the secular world. He participated in the German resistance movement against Nazism and was a founding member of the Confessing Church.

The [Physics and Astronomy Department](#) announced the promotion and tenure of Brian Thomas, associate professor. Keith Arkenberg, *BS Physics '11*, Topeka, will be listed as an author on a paper to be submitted by Thomas. Students Nick VanCamp, Carbondale, Kan., and Brock Snyder, Topeka, are working on research funded by Thomas’ NASA grant.

The [Political Science Department](#) helped bring to campus Robin B. Wright, internationally recognized journalist, author and foreign policy

analyst. Students met with the author of *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion Across the Islamic World* at Wright’s public lecture and in smaller groups. She explored such trends as the Arab revolts and the counter-jihad against extremism a decade after 9/11.

In March, nine [Psychology Department](#) majors presented at the 31st annual Great Plains Students’ Psychology Convention. Winning first-place awards were Joe Currin, Topeka; Katelyn (Martinek) Foxhoven, Rossville, Kan.; A. Danielle McDonald, Topeka; Leticia Perez, Topeka; and Leah Eller, Topeka. In attendance were 328 students and faculty advisers from more than 27 regional colleges and universities.

The [Sociology and Anthropology Department](#) announced that anthropology major April Sumpter, Topeka, presented on “Alternative Healing in Northeast Kansas” at the Society for Applied Anthropology meetings last April. Mary Sundal, assistant professor of anthropology, attended the Japan Studies Association’s Freeman Foundation Summer Institute in Hawaii. Several faculty members received Sweet Sabbaticals: Margaret Wood, associate professor of anthropology, Italy; John Paul, associate professor of sociology, Czech Republic and Poland; and Sharla Blank, assistant professor of anthropology, Dominica. Karen Kapusta-Pofahl, lecturer, led a study abroad trip to Prague last summer and will take students to Spain during spring break 2012. In October, Sangyoub Park, assistant professor of sociology, was a guest blogger on the website “Sociological Images.”

For Theatre Department news, see page 10.



CAMPUS CONCERTO

Student Mariela Flores Barquero of Costa Rica is majoring in harp performance.



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