

CAS Bulletin: Spring 2020 ~ April

THANK YOU!

The College of Arts and Sciences wishes to express heartfelt appreciation to the entire Washburn University community during this unprecedented time. While the novel coronavirus has created untold disruptions in our day-to-day lives, all across campus Ichabods have been living up to our motto, *Non Nobis Solum*.

We are deeply grateful not only for the tremendous hard work to ensure our students finish the semester, but also for the spirit of teamwork, cooperation, compassion, and immense patience you have shown your students and colleagues.

We thank each of you for your willingness to work from home to suppress the risk to others. Thank you for your caring. Thank you all as well for your graceful acceptance as planned events and activities have been cancelled.

We asked the members of the College if they wished to express gratitude for any above-and-beyond support they had received, and the thank you notes came pouring in, praising Ichabods in and out of the College of Arts and Sciences. The following people were noted as being of particular help to their colleagues during this crisis.

ITS

With little warning, members of the Washburn ITS unit suddenly had the weight of the entire university's remote-work plan on their shoulders, and they handled the situation with grace and skill. The College is deeply grateful to the entire ITS staff, without whom our online solutions would be impossible. From finding laptops for faculty, staff, and students to getting everyone connected to Zoom, they have worked tirelessly and cheerfully.

Many people wanted to thank every member of the ITS team. One person wrote, "their willingness to step up and ... equip the entire campus to work from home has been inspiring. YEA for the whole ITS Staff!" Another wrote, "they have worked tirelessly without complaint. In our time of need, this crew has really shone!"

Additionally, the following individuals were thanked by name: **Jim Tagliarini, John Haverty, Erik Crouch, Carl Dillman, Dave Edmonds, Homer Manila, Dale Rusche, and Anne Walbridge**. One person wrote, "John Haverty helped me out in a very patient, calm, and helpful manner. ... It was yet one more thing I didn't want to have to deal with and thus did not have the patience for, but he surely had the patience!" Another said of Erik Crouch and Anne Walbridge, "I really appreciate their patience, sense of humor, and of course their expertise under pressure. They are great people!" Another ended their letter with, "Thank you, Erik Couch. You're my hero!"

C-TEL /

Online Education Support teams

The C-TEL staff has been equally indispensable in helping our faculty transition to online teaching. Many wrote to express gratitude for the C-TEL classes on online teaching and to thank the individuals who facilitated C-TEL sessions, including **Kelly Erby, Jericho Hockett, and Tracy Routsong**.

Additionally, **Melanie Burdick** and **Marc Routsong** were noted as being especially helpful. One faculty member noted Melanie Burdick "gave colleagues great advice and pointed them to helpful resources."

Last but not least, the single person most frequently thanked in the flood of email CAS received was C-TEL instructional designer **Sue Taylor-Owens**. One person wrote, "I'd like to send a HUGE thank you to Sue Taylor-Owens, who has spent many hours of her time over the past few weeks just helping me individually, so I can only imagine how much time she's spending on everyone else too! ... Sue has been an invaluable and endlessly patient lifeline for learning D2L details, Zooming students, and making audio and video recordings. ... I can safely say my life (and my students!) would not be the same without all of the gracious help that Sue provides! I am so thankful." The entire College appreciates Sue's patient and pleasant support. Thank you, Sue!

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More CAS Gratitude

Departments

The number of individuals who wrote to thank their entire department was truly inspiring and a sign of the spirit of teamwork and cooperation that has prevailed across campus. The comments are too numerous to include here but can be summed up by the words of one Chair:

I would like to recognize all faculty and staff [in my] department for going above and beyond in their efforts to provide a smooth transition to an online class modality and for taking the time to help our students navigate through this time of great uncertainty. Each one of them is exhibiting the care, dedication, and positive attitude that make a big difference in a time like this. This group of people exemplifies Washburn's *Non Nobis Solum*. I am so thankful to know them and work with them.

Individuals in the departments of **Art, Biology, Communication, English, Mass Media, Mathematics and Statistics, Modern Languages, Music, Sociology and Anthropology, and Theatre** wanted every person in their department to know how much they are appreciated.

Faculty

The College would like to thank each and every member of our faculty who has balanced the safety of our community with the commitment to providing a quality education, particularly those who are teaching remotely for the first time and those who have had to think creatively on how to teach labs, studio classes, lessons, etc. Many of us who were not technically savvy have had to learn a number of new skills over the past few weeks, yet everyone has understood the necessity for the changes and has made them with grace.

We would also like to thank the CAS faculty who have been reaching out to students in their classes, helping them with advising, filling out academic progress reports, and all the other ways faculty work to help our students be successful.

Additionally, the following faculty were mentioned by name as being particularly supportive to colleagues and students in and out of their departments.

Erin Chamberlain
Kevin Charlwood
Stacy Conner
Sarah Cook
Todd Cooksey
Angela Crumer
Liz Derrington
Dennis Etzel
Jia Feng
Erin Grant
Kristen Grimmer
David Hartley
Stephanie Herbster
Jericho Hockett

Lindsey Ibanez
Chris Jones
Margaret Jones
Louise Krug
Tracie Lutz
Kelly McClendon
Michael McGuire
Jason Miller
Kim Morse
Mike Mosier
Laura Murphy
Julie Noonan
Dana Nordyke
Matt Nyquist
Holly O'Neill

Gaspar Porta
Tracy Routsong
Cecil Schmidt
Barbara Scofield
Janet Sharp
Sarah "Sally" Shaw
Roy Sheldon
Ted Shonka
Dave Snyder
Danny Wade
Jennifer Wagner
Shirley Waugh
Ben Wills
Kerry Wynn

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Department Staff

The support staff in every CAS department has proven invaluable to their faculty and Chairs. Dean Stephenson would like to thank the Administrative Assistants and other department staff for their willingness to learn new technology, processes, and ways to help our faculty and students. The College couldn't function without you!

Specific individuals mentioned by their departments include:

Ailyn Castillo-Najera, the AA for Modern Languages and Theatre, was praised by members of both departments. According to Modern Languages she “made the transition smooth,” and in Theatre she was thanked for helping two tech-averse faculty set up their courses in D2L.

Nancy Province, AA for Kinesiology, was complimented by several faculty. “She’s a rock star now, but she always is too!”

Wendy Stafford, AA for Biology, was “a huge help getting Biology Department moving to remote work.”

Patricia Starlin, AA for Art, was praised for her steadiness. “[Patricia] seems to be entirely unfazed by all of this. Which is so reassuring.”

Linda Wilson, AA for Mathematics and Statistics, was also lauded by her faculty: “She has been doing a tremendous job!”

Theatre faculty also wished to thank **Lynn Wilson**, who “filled in everywhere, as usual.”

Department Chairs

Times of crisis put extra stress on those in leadership roles, and the College is grateful for the tremendous leadership our Chairs have demonstrated in managing to put together and implement remote working/teaching plans in record time. Special kudos to those Chairs and search committees who succeeded in hiring three new faculty via virtual interviews, including a person who has never been to Kansas!

Faculty wanted thanks to go out to these Chairs in particular:

Kara Kendall-Morwick “for positive messages and open communication.”

John Mullican “for his leadership, in that he is not only proactive, but is quick to come up with solutions to complex issues. He is also patient, kind and thoughtful, and he has a good sense of humor.” Another faculty member wrote, “Thank you so much, Dr. Mullican. Throughout my time at WU, you have consistently been the best boss I’ve ever heard of, truly.” One faculty wanted to thank Dr. Mullican for “his inspiring video to start the week and keeping us well informed,” and another wrote to thank him for his “leadership and personal support.”

Tom Prasch was thanked by his faculty for his “foresight and encouragement and his tireless advocacy for all of us.”

Jim Schnoebelen, who “met individually with each of his adjuncts and helped them find resources to get up online. This on top of being a new chair, and in the middle of a job search; he has handled his new role with aplomb.” Faculty also appreciated how well he kept the department informed as the situation progressed.

Cherry Steffen for “being a fantastic leader and cheerleader of her faculty and students.”

Vanessa Steinroetter “despite being on sabbatical and without being asked,” helped a faculty member access an online section in case it would be helpful in the online transition.

Maria Stover “has been an amazing leader during this week of transition. She was totally on top of things and was really great at pushing information to our department faculty and students. [...] She’s been figuring out work-arounds for us and has been really encouraging to all of us.”

Mary Sundal suggested and organized a 30-day yoga challenge. One of her faculty wrote, “the daily yoga sessions are helping with physical and mental health during this difficult time, and I enjoy getting everyone’s completion check-in via group text each day!”

Craig Treinen “has done so much to get everything ready for us to work from home. He has been calm and encouraging throughout. [...] He is a true leader.” Another member of the Music department wrote, “Thank you to Craig Treinen for his leadership and the support that he affords our department.”

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Washburn Leadership & Support Teams

In this difficult time, the College of Arts and Sciences is grateful to the Washburn University leadership and their staff, and to the university's administrative and support units. Our faculty and staff wish to express special appreciation to the following individuals:

Matt Arterburn for helping to teach so many of his colleagues how to use technology and for making sure the Math Lab continues to run smoothly.

Aileen Ball for "her patience with my constantly changing answers."

Jennifer Ball for her calm focus and leadership.

Alan Bearman for acts of support too many and varied to name.

Joseph DeSota and **Aileen Ball** for "[facilitating] Zoom meetings to get info out to Faculty. I can't imagine our success this past week without them."

Sherry Draper for helping to "expedite orders and approvals to get materials supporting online instruction."

Chris Enos for "providing a calm presence as he protects and secures the campus."

Kelly Erby for her steady advocacy.

Faculty Handbook Committee: Jennifer Ball, Rick Barker, Alan Bearman, Paul Byrne, Jane Carpenter, Zach Frank, Marc Fried, Cynthia Holthaus, Debbie Isaacson, JuliAnn Mazachek, Pat Munzer, Tom Prasch, Carla Pratt, Mary Ramirez, Shaun Schmidt, David Sollars, Laura Stephenson, and Kerry Wynn for adapting policy to accommodate the crisis.

Pam Foster for support.

Eric Gropitch and the Student Life staff for "providing guidance on unique situations in which students find themselves (e.g., no internet access, no computer, depression/anxiety, etc.)."

The entire Human Resources unit, in particular **Cherisa Jones, Teresa Lee, and Debi Meier** for making it possible to continue hiring searches. Also for ensuring that staff and student workers are compensated appropriately.

Chris Kuwalski and the VPAT staff for all they do behind the scenes to keep things running.

Jan Martin and **Michaela Saunders** for kindness and helping set up Zoom interviews and virtual campus visits with applicants.

JuliAnn Mazachek and the VPAA staff for their leadership. Many faculty and staff wrote in to say thanks in particular to Dr. Mazachek. One person expressed gratitude for her "quick action, optimistic spirit, caring, responsive leadership, and thoughtful analysis." Another said Dr. Mazachek has provided "excellent leadership of the academic Schools and College during this time, with kindness and grace."

All One-Stop staff who have been on the front lines in dealing with student needs, "and they are incredible."

Shelby Peek and the iCard staff for providing keys and iCard access.

All Registrar staff for their behind-the-scenes work.

Tracy Routsong for her dedication to our students.

Rilie Sibold for her willingness to answer "tons of questions."

Laura Stephenson and the **CAS Deans office, including Toni Lewis, Christine Rhoads, Monique Robins, and Michaela Saunders**. Dean Stephenson in particular received praise for her "steadfast leadership and wise guidance." Another faculty member wrote that Dean Stephenson has provided "excellent leadership of 19 departments during this time with kindness and grace. [She has] stayed on task to ensure important processes are not ignored/overlooked, [and has been] firm to ensure the safety of faculty, students, and staff."

Jim Tagliarini, whose IT staff has made it possible for Washburn to complete the spring semester.

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CEP Team

The entire CEP Team has worked to ensure our concurrent enrollment students are not forgotten and will be able to finish their semester. The College of Arts and Sciences would like to give a special thanks to **Enrollment Management** and **Admissions** for their efforts. Our CEP liaisons, too, have put in extra hours to transition not only their own classes to online, but also to help our high school partners and students do so.

Special thanks in particular to **Sarah Cook, Heather Pfannenstiel, and Danny Wade**; each has gone above and beyond in their CEP duties. One of our high school instructors emailed with this message: "I teach dual credit and I have Dr. Wade as my WU Liaison and he has been AMAZING with communication on his end! I am so grateful for him!"

Our thanks as well to the **Math Lab staff and faculty** who, despite being new to Washburn, not only switched their operations to online, but also made their tutors available to CEP math students who need additional assistance. Special thanks to **Valerie Mendoza** for assisting with the Math Lab transition.

External Support

During this time of intense change and uncertainty, family is more important than ever. The College is grateful to the families of our faculty and staff who have re-arranged furniture for home offices, facilitated internet connectivity, cooked supper, watched the kids, and helped in a thousand other ways during this transition to remote working.

On a related note, many people wanted to thank their colleagues for bringing their pets to Zoom meetings. It seems pets are stress-relief virtually as well as physically, and some said they felt closer to their colleagues after meeting their pets.

Lastly...

CAS wishes to thank the Washburn University community members who have assisted in locating needed equipment for fighting COVID-19. Our next CAS Bulletin will include some of those stories.

**Thank you for all you have done
and continue to do!**

**Your efforts and patience
have made a difference in the lives
and health of your community.**

Non Nobis Solum

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