

# Washington



# INNOVATION AND FOR

St. Louis is our home, and WashU is partnering with organizations across the region for the well-being of the city and its citizens, pg. 20.

## **Kneeling in Prayer and Protest**

By taking a closer look at sports and religion and where they intersect, students gain insight into race, gender, protest, nationalism and more, pg. 12.

## **An Old Illustration Animates a New Story**

A long-forgotten Christmas card reveals the early genius of an accomplished alumnus and his admiration for a fraternity housemother, pg. 32.

## **Presidential Curation**

Curator Crystal Marie Moten, AB '04, wants visitors to the Obama Presidential Center Museum to see themselves as part of history, pg. 47.

# Students

“To the WashU Class of 2027, welcome home. Today, I’m defining home not as a place but rather as a state of living alongside others as your authentic self. ...

“You belong here because you earned it. You belong here because of what we see in you: Brilliance. Character. Curiosity. Passion. And the potential to lead.”

— CHANCELLOR ANDREW D. MARTIN, AT THE ANNUAL CONVOCATION CEREMONY, HELD IN BROOKINGS QUADRANGLE AUG. 26

On the cover: Today, Washington University and other organizations in St. Louis are working more closely than ever on transformative solutions to the region’s challenges, pg. 20.

This spread: The Class of 2027 is WashU’s most diverse class yet. Its 1,834 members represent all 50 states as well as 29 countries, and 21% of students are Pell Grant-eligible, 17% are the first in their families to attend college, 53% identify as students of color, and 7% are from rural communities. (Photo: Sid Hastings)





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'After years and years ...,' a forgotten Christmas card from the late 1940s reveals the early genius of an Emmy Award-winning alumnus and his admiration for Mother Baird, a fraternity housemother.

### 38 Grace and Grit

That's the 'life hashtag' of Alicia Graf Mack, MA '10, ballerina and Juilliard dean. And it describes her perfectly.



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FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Photo: Sid Hastings

## A big step toward educational equity

From left: Chancellor Andrew Martin, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Beverly Wendland, and Vice Chancellor for Students Anna Gonzalez are among the university's senior leaders welcoming the Class of 2027 – the most diverse class ever – to Washington University during Convocation. The event, held in Brookings Quadrangle, is the official academic welcome to WashU for new students and their families.

The readership of this magazine is a widely diverse group, but we all have something in common: We are all champions for Washington University in St. Louis and for the outstanding students and faculty who put their gifts to work in service of the greater good. We are all believers in the power of a WashU education to transform lives and illuminate new paths toward increased health, knowledge, justice and joy.

In recent years, though, the power of a WashU education – and of higher education in general – has been undermined by soaring costs that put a greater burden on families than in generations past. As a result, there are many bright, passionate young individuals from lower- and middle-income families who, upon graduation and well into adulthood, are compelled to prioritize loan repayment ahead of their own dreams, purposes, personal wealth-building and the betterment of society. While we've done excellent work to cultivate a socioeconomically diverse student body at WashU, we could do more to ensure that students graduate and take their next steps on an even playing field.

For that reason, beginning this fall, WashU will no longer include student loans in undergraduate financial aid packages. Instead, we'll fill the gap with scholarships and grants, with the hope that WashU students will feel compelled to pursue educational and professional paths that are most

meaningful to them, rather than most immediately financially rewarding. Beyond that, we hope to do our part to maximize each graduate's potential to contribute to the betterment of society, build personal wealth and meet personal or family goals, and foster economic growth in their communities.

We are immensely proud of this step toward educational equity, and we are equally grateful that we have the resources to make this dream a reality. WashU – like many of our peers that have already taken this step – has a sizable and growing endowment and a generous network of alumni, friends and philanthropic supporters who believe in our students and our mission.

Your support brought us here, and the continued success of Make Way: Our Student Initiative, a fundraising effort launched in fall 2022, will allow us to offer no-loan financial aid packages in perpetuity. By eliminating undergraduate student loans, we have aligned our resources with our mission in a significant way. Together, we are unlocking the potential of every future WashU student to make a unique mark on the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew D. Martin'.

Andrew D. Martin  
Chancellor



@WashUChancellor



FEEDBACK



“Thank you for the article ‘Into the Forest’ in the August issue. I was reminded of the many happy hours I spent exploring the park during my time at WashU (1969–73). I’ll admit to some jealousy of the students involved in the ‘Sustainability Exchange’ book project and the Forest Park Living Lab (FPLL). I would have loved to have taken a deeper dive into the park to study and learn about the incredible biodiversity in this urban environment. I look forward to reading the book when it comes out.

“One issue occurred to me when I read the article: I noticed there was no mention of the City of St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry, the folks responsible for the day-to-day management of Forest Park. I would hope that lessons learned in the book project and FPLL would inform the city’s management strategies for the park. Cooperative engagement here is essential for the long-term success of maintaining the park’s biodiversity.”

THE AUGUST 2023 ISSUE

WILLIAM DEFRIES KELLNER, AB '73

“I am writing about the photograph of the diver on pg. 54 of the April 2023 edition. If nobody has identified her, I think I might be able to.

“In the 1976–77 swim season, WashU had a freshman diver named Candace (Candy) Williams, and my guess is she’s the diver in the photo.

“My connection is that I met her when we were in high school. We attended different high schools, but her boyfriend was a swimmer at my high school. We were freshmen together at WashU, including being physics lab partners. I have not had any dealings with her since then.

“I hope this helps.”

GARY SUTORIUS, BSEE '80, BSME '82

**Corrections:** In the August issue, the editors regret two misspellings in photo captions: kindergartner Ava Prothro on pg. 13 and cypress knees, pg. 30.

“I saw the inquiry in *Washington Magazine* for those who support athletics.

“After not seeing each other for nearly 50 years, but reconnecting during the pandemic, six of us (and there are others who couldn’t make it) met on the WashU Intramural Field during Reunion in 2022. We were all members of a multiple championship flag football team named Jeremiah. All of us agree that our WashU experience was wonderful and enhanced by our athletic endeavors in intramural sports.

“Members graduated between 1973 and 1975, but mostly in 1974. And our success as teammates and students at WashU has seemingly carried over to our careers, as we include a couple of doctors, several engineers, a lawyer, some bank/finance people and several entrepreneurs. We enjoyed our reunion so much that we will be returning to WashU next spring 2024 for what is the 50th anniversary for most of us.”

JOSH ROSENBERG, AB '74

“Thank you, Washington University — I really like the digital issue!”

GLORIA J. DAVIS, MA '78, retired school superintendent

“I just received a current edition of your lovely magazine.

“I thoroughly enjoyed the stories, loved the layout and overall was very impressed with this edition.

“My only concern or criticism was the Washington that was front and center on the magazine. It took me just a minute to figure out it was Wash University. I don’t know if this is something new or I just hadn’t paid attention before. I think enough of us have mixed feelings about Washington, that to see it plastered front and center was not an attraction in my mind. Wash University, on the other hand, represents standards that are so far above everything else that it is such a pleasure to have been associated and to continue to be associated with the educational institution.”

JANET GOODSON, MSW '72

We want to hear from you!

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ST. LOUIS  
*In*







ALL agLow

For the first time, WashU sponsored a hot air balloon in the 2023 Great Forest Park Balloon Race. “Time Traveler,” the WashU balloon, was among those that delighted community members who came out in droves to enjoy pre-race festivities Sept. 15. The balloons took off the next day, Sept. 16. To view a short video, see <https://source.wustl.edu/2023/10/washu-balloon-goes-over-big/>.

Photo: Whitney Curtis



Photo: Joe Angeles

### WELCOMING RURAL STUDENTS

The first-ever cohort of the Rural Scholars Academy visited the WashU campus last summer. In all, 22 high school students from throughout Missouri and southern Illinois took part in the inaugural program, living in Umrath House, taking a class with Sam Fox School faculty and learning about the college application process. Part of WashU's Heartland Initiative, the academy was supported by alumna **Joyce Buchheit**, an emerita trustee, and her husband, **Chauncy Buchheit**. The Heartland Initiative also funds two admissions officers who are dedicated to visiting rural high schools and college fairs.

### AN HONOR FOR WASHU

Bloomberg Philanthropies recognized the university as one of 28 American Talent Initiative (ATI) High-Fliers, a group of high-graduation-rate institutions that are national leaders in college access and success for lower-income students. WashU received the distinction for making the greatest gains in lower-income student enrollment since 2015–16 and for its innovative recruitment, enrollment and retention practices.

### TEACHING BLACK HISTORY

St. Louis-area high school teachers spent time on the WashU campus as part of the African American Studies Teachers Summer Institute. The free, one-week seminar, organized by **Shanti Parikh**, chair and professor of African and African American studies and a professor of anthropology in Arts & Sciences, and **Gerald Early**, the Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters, connected social studies teachers to experts and resources in local Black history — with an emphasis on primary sources. “Students know what they see today — the streets, the storefronts, the playgrounds. But they don’t always know the layered history of these places and how they connect to broader themes and topics,” Parikh says. “By introducing students to primary sources such as a [musical] score or a photograph, we are showing what it means to be a scholar — to learn how to analyze primary data and understand its context.”





# § \$ B i l l i o n

## New vice chancellor for research

**Mark E. Lowe, MD, PhD**, an academic leader and accomplished pediatric physician-scientist at the School of Medicine, was named vice chancellor for research. He leads WashU's ambitious research mission, which in 2022 attracted more than \$1 billion in funding from public and private sources. This includes an estimated \$620 million in funding from the prestigious National Institutes of Health to support innovative investigator-initiated laboratory and clinical research programs, as well as graduate training programs in the sciences.

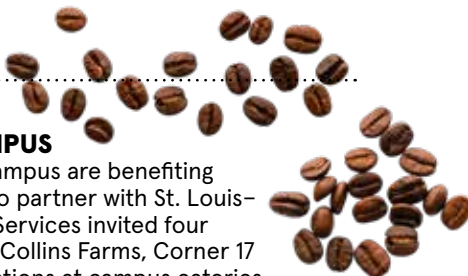
## EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY AT OLIN

A second broadside of the Declaration of Independence was part of a special exhibit at Olin Library this semester. Joining the Southwick Broadside at the library was the Rogers Broadside, an original Declaration of Independence printed by John Rogers in the shop of Ezekiel Russell in Salem, Massachusetts, between July 14–16, 1776. Broadside — essentially posters of the Declaration — were printed and posted in town squares throughout the colonies before the handwritten Declaration was signed Aug. 2, 1776. The Rogers Broadside is on loan to University Libraries for 10 years.



## A NEW ERA FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

**Norma Guerra Gaier**, associate vice chancellor for career development and education, arrived in September to lead the new WashU Center for Career Engagement. Her charge is to help transform the center into a unified career-engagement model that provides equitable and consistent access and services for all undergraduate, graduate and professional students across schools — making it a one-stop shop for employers, alumni and families who want to support students and alumni in their career journeys. "I work with the career-engagement team, campus partners and friends of the university to tell the WashU student success story — one that will be shared and remembered across the globe," she says.



## SAMPLING ST. LOUIS — ON CAMPUS

This fall, students on the Danforth Campus are benefiting from the university's broader effort to partner with St. Louis-area businesses as University Dining Services invited four local restaurants — Beast Craft BBQ, Collins Farms, Corner 17 and the Fattened Caf. — to open locations at campus eateries. In addition, a coffee bar featuring local roasters took up residence in Olin Business School, replacing a national coffee chain.

# \$40,000 grant

## PHILANTHROPY LAB GRANTS

Last spring, students learned philanthropy in the classroom — and then put it into practice. A new course, "Philanthropy Lab," offered by the Department of Sociology in partnership with the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement, gave students both a theoretical and practical understanding of giving back. Among the topics discussed were the history of philanthropy, where philanthropic dollars actually come from, and the tension between capitalism and philanthropy. At the end of the course, students granted \$40,000 to four local nonprofits: Vitendo4Africa, Bread and Roses, East Side Aligned and Senior Services Plus, Inc.

## Batter up?

Artificial intelligence could be coming to a baseball stadium near you — if the work of a McKelvey School of Engineering researcher catches on. In a new study led by **Yevgeniy Vorobeychik**, professor of computer science and engineering, researchers used deep neural networks to learn how to predict outcomes of pitches whenever a batter swings. The concept is a work-in-progress, but it has the potential to make one of sport's most difficult skills — hitting a baseball — even more difficult. "Formally solving this as a game may enable pitchers with less experience or ability to figure out the best pitch sequencing and to better utilize their stuff," Vorobeychik says.



### ENGINEERING THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID

Two advances in COVID-19 detection came out of WashU this year, both from an integrated team of researchers from the McKelvey School of Engineering and the School of Medicine. The first was a real-time monitor able to detect any variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in a room in about 5 minutes. Combining advances in aerosol sampling technology with an ultrasensitive biosensing technique, the researchers developed an inexpensive, proof-of-concept device for use in health-care facilities, schools and public places. The team also developed a breath sensor device, a kind of breathalyzer for COVID, capable of providing results within 1 minute using only one or two breaths.

### IMPROVING DIABETES TREATMENTS

Diabetes researchers at the School of Medicine have uncovered at least one reason insulin-secreting cells made from stem cells in the lab don't work as well as natural cells. Using single-cell sequencing technology, they learned that islet beta cells produced from stem cells aren't as efficient at making insulin in response to blood sugar. The findings could improve treatment for those with insulin-dependent diabetes.

### ADDITION BY CONTRACTION

Good news for pregnant women who want to minimize hospital time during labor and delivery: A portable uterine-contraction tracker could one day make that a reality. The lab of **Shantanu Chakrabarty**, the Clifford W. Murphy Professor in the McKelvey School of Engineering, in collaboration with scientists at the School of Medicine, developed a flexible electrode patch that wirelessly transmits contraction data to a doctor's office. Chakrabarty envisions a future where a pregnant person could wear such a device most of the day in their own homes, as a doctor would immediately be aware of any concerning changes in the pregnancy without the need to have patients come in person.

### THINKING AUTUMN IN THE SUMMER

**Susanne Renner**, a visiting researcher in Arts & Sciences, has helped solve the mystery of the timing of falling leaves by revealing a pivotal role played by warming temperatures around the summer solstice. A study published in *Science* showed that higher temps before the solstice trigger an earlier onset of leaf senescence — the process through which plants break down and reabsorb key nutrients that had been deployed in leaves — and declining photosynthesis. Warming that occurs after the solstice slows the leaf discoloration process. The switch in effects is an evolutionary adaptation that allows trees to synchronize their growth rhythms with the changing day length.





For more on university research and faculty achievement, visit [source.wustl.edu/news](http://source.wustl.edu/news).



## New tool helps evaluate social media use

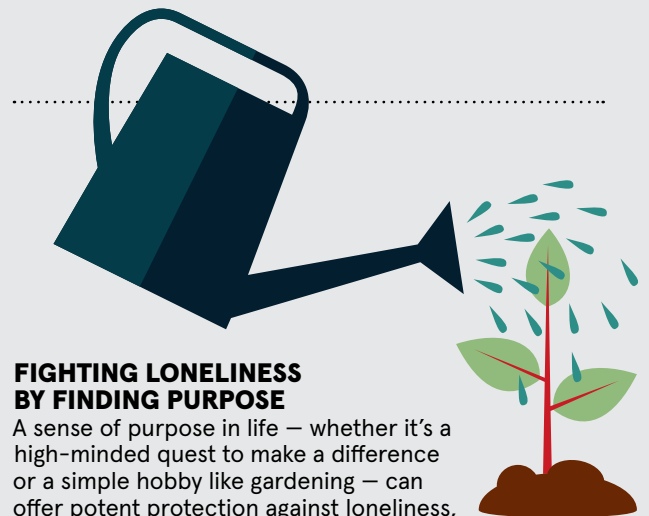
Arts & Sciences researchers in clinical psychology offer a new way to understand how our use of social media is associated with a complex web of social desires and emotional concerns. The Social Media Use Scale, the WashU model developed by **Renee J. Thompson**, associate professor of psychological and brain sciences, and **Alison B. Tuck**, an A&S University Fellow, is a response to a large body of research that has produced inconsistent and often conflicting findings regarding the influences of social media on psychological well-being. “This new scale allows us to carve social media at its joints in more nuanced ways that will help all of us start to better understand what is healthy versus unhealthy social media use,” Tuck says.

### FIGHTING WILDFIRES WITH TECHNOLOGY

Radar geophysicist **Roger Michaelides** is helping fight wildfires with a radar imaging technology called Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR). The radar, which is capable of penetrating clouds and smoke and works day and night, provides valuable insight into the location and extent of wildfires in all parts of the world, including remote Arctic and Subarctic forests like those that burned in Canada last summer. Michaelides, an assistant professor of Earth, environmental and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences, is also co-investigator of a new NOAA-funded project that aims to improve the warning systems for flash floods, which often threaten areas recently denuded by fire.

### INDUCING A HIBERNATION-LIKE STATE WITH ULTRASOUND

Some animals preserve energy and heat by going into torpor, a condition similar to hibernation, during which body temperature and metabolic rate drop. For the first time, a multidisciplinary team of researchers, led by **Hong Chen**, associate professor of biomedical engineering in the McKelvey School of Engineering, has safely and noninvasively induced torpor in mice and rats using ultrasound. Their work could help astronauts and people with health conditions.



### FIGHTING LONELINESS BY FINDING PURPOSE

A sense of purpose in life — whether it’s a high-minded quest to make a difference or a simple hobby like gardening — can offer potent protection against loneliness, according to research from **Patrick Hill**, associate professor of psychological and brain sciences. The new study, based on surveys of more than 2,300 adults in Switzerland, found that feelings of loneliness were less common in people who reported a purposeful life, regardless of their age. “A sense of purpose is this general perception that you have something leading and directing you from one day to the next,” Hill says. “It’s OK if someone else thinks that your purpose is trivial, as long as it’s meaningful to you.”



## A positive outcome to negative emotions

Arts & Sciences' Emily Willroth finds those who accept unpleasant feelings, but not the underlying unpleasant situations, experience less anxiety and depression.

December can be an especially stressful time of the year. The holiday to-do list may feel overwhelming. Disappointment can swell if the “magic” of the season doesn't live up to expectations. Even the thought of spending the holidays with extended family can trigger feelings of anxiety.

“Oftentimes, people feel guilty because society tells us that the holidays are supposed to be filled only with positive emotions. But this isn't realistic for everyone, and it's OK to feel stressed, overwhelmed, sad or disappointed,” says **Emily Willroth**, assistant professor of psychological and brain sciences in Arts & Sciences.

While unpleasant feelings are common during the holidays — and other times of the year — how you respond to those emotions can have an even bigger impact on your overall psychological health, according to a study published in summer 2023 in the journal *Emotion* and co-authored by Willroth.

Willroth and collaborators found that people who habitually judge unpleasant emotions such as sadness and anger as inappropriate or negative are more likely to experience anxiety and depression than those who are more accepting of these types of emotions.

“Our research suggests that it may be beneficial to accept those unpleasant emotions as normal responses to the situation that will likely pass with time, rather than judging those emotional responses as bad or wrong,” Willroth says.

Importantly, that doesn't mean that you must accept the situations that led to those unpleasant emotions.

“It's OK and often beneficial to try to change the situations that give rise to negative emotions,” Willroth says. “For example, you might make changes to a busy holiday schedule so that you feel less overwhelmed, or you might set boundaries with your family to reduce feelings of sadness or anger.

“Accepting our unpleasant feelings doesn't mean accepting the unpleasant situations that cause them,” she says.

Many people judge their emotions from time to time, she says. For some, however, judging their emotions may be a routine part of how they respond to them. That's where the trouble comes in.

It can be difficult to break habitual tendencies, but a good place to start is by recognizing that unpleasant emotions are a natural response to many situations and can even be adaptive, Willroth says. For example, sadness signals to other people that we need their support; fear can protect us from risky situations; and anger can help us stand up for ourselves and others.

Other research suggests that talking about your emotions with others can be helpful, Willroth adds. Once we recognize that unpleasant emotions are natural, normal and likely to pass, we can begin to accept them rather than judge them.

“If you notice yourself judging your emotions, don't dwell on it,” Willroth says. “If you find that you frequently experience intense unpleasant feelings or unpleasant feelings that last a long time and that disrupt your quality of life, though, it may be helpful to reach out to a mental health professional.”

■ SARA SAVAT



QUOTED

WASHU IN THE NEWS

WashU experts weigh in on major topics of the day.

“Think of poetry as the art of attention. It’s the ability to pay attention to the world and produce for the world the name of something that must be known.”

ABRAM VAN ENGEN, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, IN *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, ON WHY POETRY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.



Photo: Sean Garcia

“This is a film that delights in the absurdity of Barbie to expose the absurdity of gender in the world we live in.”

EILEEN G’SSELL, SENIOR LECTURER IN THE COLLEGE WRITING PROGRAM IN ARTS & SCIENCES, WRITING ON THE POPULAR APPEAL OF GRETA GERWIG’S SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER *BARBIE*.



Photo: Joe Angeles

“I’m stepping up to the most rewarding job at the university.”

MARK WRIGHTON, PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY, ON RETURNING TO THE CLASSROOM AFTER A STELLAR CAREER HELMING UNIVERSITIES WITH THE NAME “WASHINGTON” IN THEM.



Photo: Pierce Harman

“People grew up with her in parallel.”

JESSI GOLD, MD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY, ON ONE REASON WHY TAYLOR SWIFT SEEMS SO ACCESSIBLE TO FANS. GOLD HERSELF HAS SEEN EVERY TOUR OF SWIFT’S SINCE 2009.

“Remember all the things that are bad for you are bad for your skin – sun, smoking and drinking alcohol. Your daily habits can go a long way in preventing lines.”

PLASTIC SURGEON JOHN CHI, MD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN OTOLARYNGOLOGY, ON HOW TO KEEP A YOUTHFUL FACIAL APPEARANCE.

L57 RelPol 3345 The Politics of Play and Protest: Religion and Sports in America

# Kneeling in prayer and protest

By taking a closer look at sports and religion and where they intersect, students gain insight into race, gender, protest, nationalism and more.

Sports and religion are powerful forces in America.

For example, in the 1960s, Muhammad Ali used his fame as a boxer to talk about his faith, civil rights and his refusal to be drafted during the Vietnam War.

“I either have to obey the laws of the land or the laws of Allah,” said Ali, who was a member of the Nation of Islam. “I have nothing to lose by standing up for my beliefs. We’ve been in jail for four hundred years.”

In “The Politics of Play and Protest: Religion and Sports in America,” WashU students use religion and sports to examine American life, including social protests like Ali’s.

“Sport is where a lot of conversations about what we value as a society come to the fore,” says **Cody Musselman**, creator of the course and a postdoctoral research associate in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. “It’s an opportunity for us to talk about greater social issues through the nexus of religion and sport.”

In America today, sports and religion share many similarities. “They both have ritual,” Musselman says. “They both have institutions that they follow. They both have fans or crowds and followers. There are sacred places, and people make pilgrimages.”

However, Americans haven’t always revered sport. In early U.S. history, Musselman says, sports were viewed as deviant activities that led people away from a focus on productivity and a pious life.

That belief evolved in the 19th century as the frontier battlefield disappeared and the Industrial Revolution expanded leisure time. Musselman says religious leaders began thinking of sport as a way to build a citizenry that was physically and morally fit. Musselman uses football as an example.

“Football was seen as a way of fortifying the nation,” she says. “There was the idea that you could help create the new American man through the game of football. This new and robust form of muscular Christianity reflected ideas about national identity formation and also of settler colonialism.”

To illustrate this point, Musselman tells her students about the football team at the

Carlisle Indian Industrial School, a Pennsylvania boarding school for Native Americans founded in 1879. In the early 1900s, the school’s team of smaller-than-average players created new, innovative trick plays and defeated Ivy League powerhouses such as Harvard and Penn.

“But in doing so, they upset narratives of civilizational progress,” Musselman says, “and their success on the gridiron spurred new rules that favored the white American football players. Sport was (and is still) used to both justify and demonstrate a racial and class hierarchy whereby white Protestant men represent the pinnacle of civilization.”

Marginalized groups have long used sports to assimilate, she says, citing Catholics at Notre Dame University embracing football or, in a lesser known example, Jewish people playing baseball and managing baseball teams.

“We can look at sport as a place where people — athletes and fans — negotiate national belonging, as a way of showing their Americanness,” Musselman says.

This search for belonging encompasses race and gender.

“The example of Serena Williams [raised a Jehovah’s Witness] highlights the difficulties of being a Black woman athlete — even if you are far and away one of the greatest athletes in your sport of all time. Given her marginalized social position, she still struggled for recognition and belonging,” Musselman says. “We also raise Colin Kaepernick’s [NFL kneeling] protest, the success of transgender athlete Lia Thomas and the evangelism of Tim Tebow in our class as examples to assess how athletes mediate commercial, political and religious interests with their platforms.”

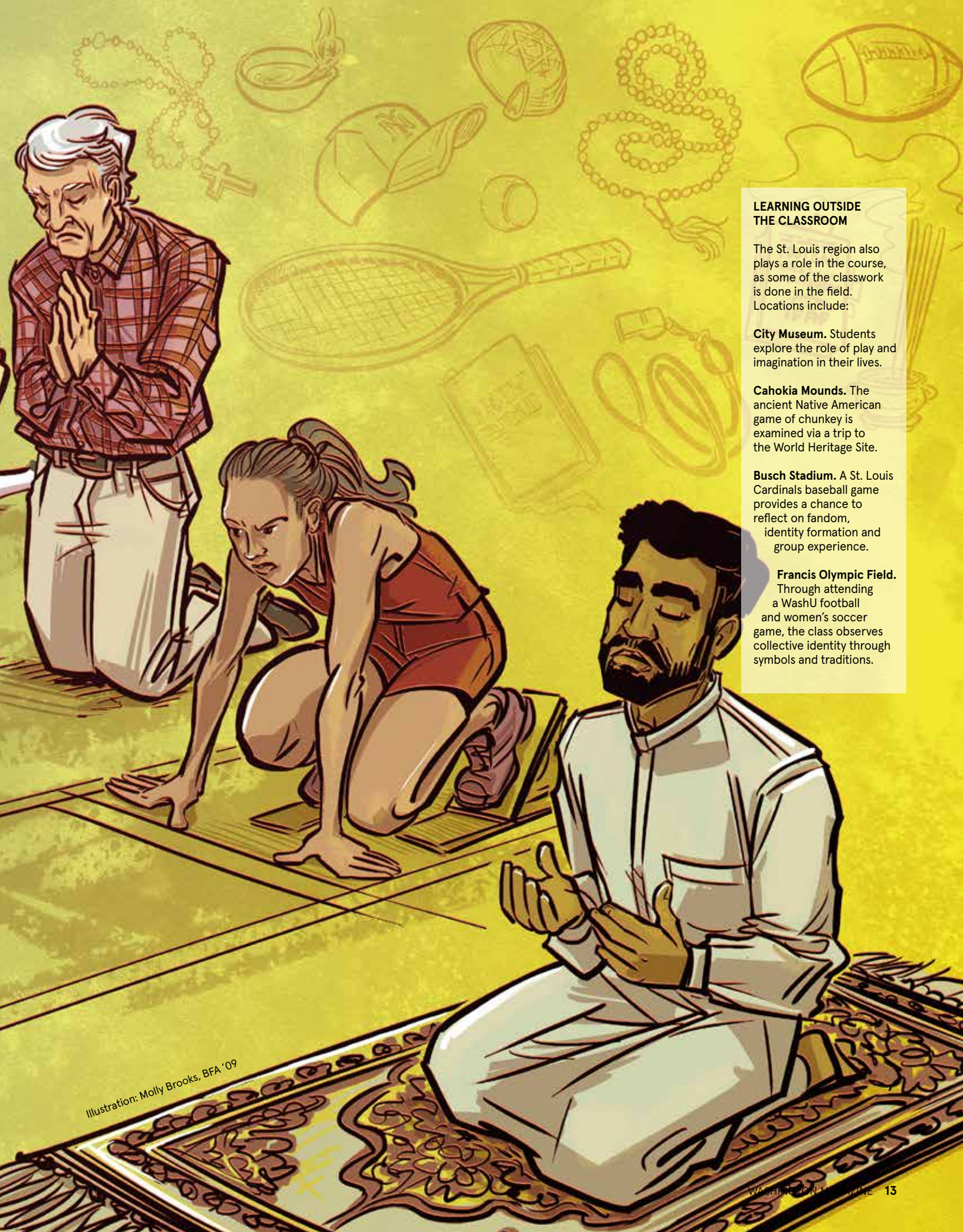
In addition, the course examines unexpected topics such as CrossFit, reality TV, sports marketing, pre-Columbian Indigenous sports and more.

“My goal is for students to see how relevant religion is to their everyday lives,” Musselman says. “And that doesn’t necessarily mean the practice of their own personal religion, but merely the fact that religious influence is everywhere.”

■ JULIE KENNEDY, MA ’22







### LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

The St. Louis region also plays a role in the course, as some of the classwork is done in the field. Locations include:

**City Museum.** Students explore the role of play and imagination in their lives.

**Cahokia Mounds.** The ancient Native American game of chunky is examined via a trip to the World Heritage Site.

**Busch Stadium.** A St. Louis Cardinals baseball game provides a chance to reflect on fandom, identity formation and group experience.

**Francis Olympic Field.** Through attending a WashU football and women's soccer game, the class observes collective identity through symbols and traditions.

Illustration: Molly Brooks, BFA '09



# The work will save you

Carl Phillips is an accomplished, award-winning poet. He's also written an enlightening book offering guidance on how to live as a committed writer.

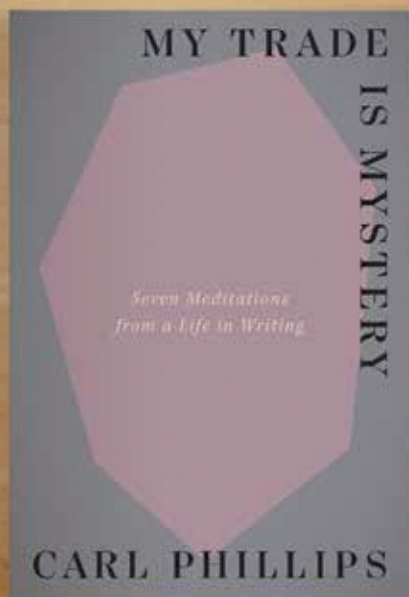
**Carl Phillips**, professor of English in Arts & Sciences, spent the spring semester teaching, writing — and picking up the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for *Then the War: And Selected Poems, 2007–2020*. While he has quietly, unassumingly become one of the most accomplished poets of his generation, he's also building a legacy as a teacher of writing.

In late 2022, he published *My Trade Is Mystery: Seven Meditations from a Life in Writing*, which is being compared to Anne Lamott's *Bird by Bird* or Rainer Maria Rilke's *Letters to a Young Poet*. Through a series of essays, he draws on decades of teaching and writing to create a guide “not in terms of how to write or to be a writer,” he writes in the preface, “but in terms of how to live, as a writer.”

Below is an excerpt from the chapter “Ambition,” which he wrote before winning the Pulitzer but indicates that despite all the accolades he has earned, Phillips is not going to rest on his laurels.

*Prizes are part of the politics that attend art the way flies attend horses. They ultimately distract from what, as far as I can tell, art is mostly about: the urgency of and devotion to and sheer pleasure in the act of making some form of expression for what it means to be a human body at this moment in time.*

*Often remind my students of what making a career in writing maybe most requires, besides luck, some talent and stamina: a constant calibrating and recalibrating of arrogance and humility. You need the arrogance to believe not only that you have something to say but that the world must hear it, and you need the humility to recognize both that not everyone wants to listen and that no one is in fact obligated to do so. This too seems part of the work of ambition.*

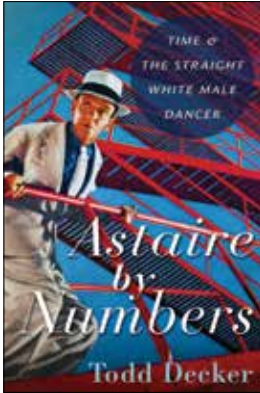


Excerpted from *My Trade Is Mystery: Seven Meditations from a Life in Writing*, by Carl Phillips, published by Yale University Press. Copyright © 2022 by Carl Phillips. Reprinted by permission of Yale University Press.

*A steady drive, without expectation. An acceptance that to be an artist is to commit to a lifelong apprenticeship to master over what cannot truly be mastered, since the definition of art — as with the evaluation of excellence — is ever shifting and always subjective. Accepting the fact of this — indeed, even embracing it — will return you to that most important form of ambition that I mentioned earlier, the ambition for the work. When it comes to art itself, a prize is already irrelevant because it's (usually) for work that's finished; the committed artist will already have continued that fumbling forward into the unknown that is finally required for the work to keep deepening, to continue surprising. This ambition will keep your mind on the work, what matters most; as much as possible, let the work be everything, for the work will save you.*

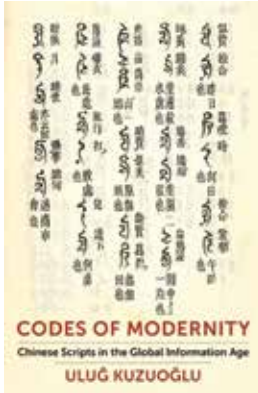


## FACULTY



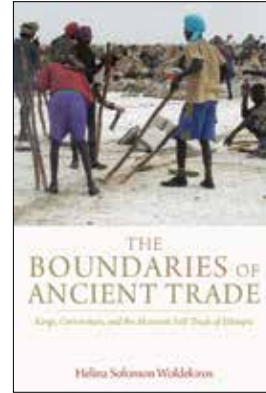
### Astaire by Numbers TODD DECKER

Musicologist Todd Decker looked at every second Fred Astaire danced on film: 6 hours, 34 minutes and 50 seconds. In doing so, he takes readers onto the set and into editing rooms where Astaire crafted his seemingly perfect film dances and curated his reputation as a straight white male dancer. Decker, the Paul Tietjens Professor of Music in Arts & Sciences, shines new light on the icon while digging deeply into questions of race, gender and sexuality.



### Codes of Modernity ULUG KUZUOGLU

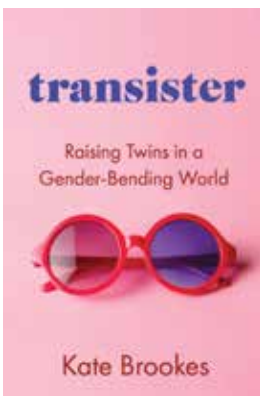
Ulug Kuzuoglu, assistant professor of history in Arts & Sciences, explores the global history of Chinese script reforms — efforts to alphabetize or simplify the writing system — from the 1890s to the 1980s. Examining the material conditions and political economy underlying attempts to modernize scripts, Kuzuoglu argues that these reforms were at the forefront of an emergent information age in China.



### The Boundaries of Ancient Trade HELINA SOLOMON WOLDEKIROS

To research Ethiopia's Afar salt trail — one of the last caravan-based trade routes in the world — Helina Solomon Woldekiros, assistant professor of anthropology in Arts & Sciences, traveled it in her own caravan. The book takes a deep dive into the route and provides evidence that informal economies and local participation have played a critical role in trade, politics and sustained power of the Aksumite state.

## ALUMNI



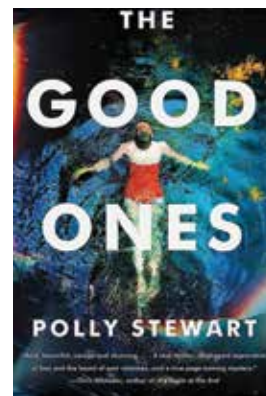
### transister KATE BROOKES

Kate Brookes (Kate Epstein Mankoff, AB '93) writes a story of a family in transition. *Transister* is a raw, honest and sometimes humorous account of a mother of twins. When one of them grapples with gender identity at age 8, Brookes questions, copes and ultimately lovingly accepts the situation, and along the way, she learns there's no such thing as a "normal" family.



### Shelf Life MARTIN SNEIDER

Even the deepest family bonds can have a shelf life. Martin Sneider, AB '64, former adjunct at Olin Business School and retailing giant of Edison Brothers fame, provides both a grand-scale family drama and an insider's glimpse into the world of fashion footwear. *Shelf Life* tells the story of a Jewish American family that creates a fashion retailing empire and then struggles to remain intact as the empire falls.



### The Good Ones POLLY STEWART

Polly Stewart (Mary Stewart Atwell, MFA '02, PhD '13) has written a novel of female friendship — and the costs of being good. In the book, Nicola Bennett remains haunted by the disappearance of her friend Lauren Ballard, who mysteriously vanishes after last being seen scraping a key along the side of a truck. Two decades later, Bennett returns to her Appalachian hometown to search for answers.



Photo: Roberts Creative LLC



# Neil Richards: How to survive in a digital world

Privacy expert says the path to surviving the 'Information Revolution' is through education and especially the law.

When I was a little boy in England in 1979, my parents bought me a picture book about technology and the future. The book described an imminent technological paradise where we would all have video phones and shop on our televisions, computers would recognize speech, and there would be robotic helpers in our homes.

Forty years later, we are living in a version of that future. We have video phones in the form of FaceTime and Zoom. We shop on our TVs — or at least on computer screens that let us order from Amazon and thousands of other merchants. We talk to our computers in the form of Alexa and Siri, and we can have sophisticated conversations about almost any topic with generative text AIs like ChatGPT. And while Rosie of *The Jetsons* has yet to appear in our homes, robotic vacuum cleaners, lawnmowers and pool cleaners have been on the market for years. What's more, in the form of our smartphones, we have pocket-sized devices that let us instantly obtain information or communicate with virtually anyone in the developed world. We are living in the future.

But that future is not quite so rosy as the book predicted. Our digital devices are addictive, and they too often serve to deliver advertising, misinformation or both. Our politics have been riven by a distrust of expertise, by radical polarization, by the rise of conspiracy theories, and even by the return of specters of fascism and authoritarianism. A vast industry sometimes called "surveillance capitalism" profits from selling and sharing our most intimate personal data without anything approaching our meaningful consent. And we have been plagued not just by stagnant wages, wealth inequality, and the prospect of entire professions being eliminated by robots and AIs, but by a crippling mental health crisis that many attribute to digital disruption. We have never been more connected, nor so isolated. We are, as sociologist Sherry Turkle puts it well, "alone together."

How can we survive this digital transformation? Innumerable articles offer us tips to protect our data security ("Encrypt!" "Use a password manager!"), our privacy ("Check your privacy settings!"), or our political polarization ("Read a wide variety of media!"). These may be all well and good, but in my teaching and scholarship on

privacy and technology over the past 20 years, I have discovered that such tips are woefully insufficient. They tend to place the responsibility on individuals for broader social forces that they lack the capacity to control on their own. In the form of the Information Revolution, we are facing a set of transformations that are reshaping our society as radically as the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries. The Industrial Revolution created marvels, ended professions and created a host of workplace, equality, environmental and consumer issues that we are still working to solve literally centuries later. We have made progress, largely through law, but our work remains ongoing.

In tackling the complexities of the Information Revolution, a similar set of long-term social strategies will be necessary. Helpful tips will not help us much, nor will "innovation." Education will be an important part of any solution — not merely scientific and medical education to understand our new technologies, but the full suite of critical thinking skills across the arts, sciences and humanities as well. At our School of Law, I find myself teaching not just what the law is but, more importantly, offering the perspectives and analytical skills to train our students to practice law in a society that doesn't yet exist.

More than anything, however, surviving the digital transformation will require laws that channel our new technologies in directions that are not merely driven by engagement and profit but by human flourishing. We will need to ensure that in the digital society we are building, hard-won fundamental rights like those of equality, consumer protection and democratic participation survive our "upgrade" to digital systems. And we will need to ensure that the services and institutions we rely on to live our modern, connected lives are loyal to us over and above what makes them more money, just like we required industrial food producers to sell only safe food, and just like we required cars to have seat belts and airbags. If we do it right and build human values into the laws we need to shape the Information Revolution, we will build a digital society that we all can trust. We might even build a society that is nearly as good as the one described in that 1979 picture book.

■ NEIL RICHARDS

## WHO

Neil Richards, the Koch Distinguished Professor of Law and director of the Cordell Institute for Policy in Medicine & Law

## DEGREES

BA, George Washington University, 1994; JD, University of Virginia, 1997; MA in legal history, University of Virginia, 1997

## BOOKS

*Why Privacy Matters* (Oxford Press, 2021), winner of the 2022 Palmer Civil Liberties Prize; and *Intellectual Privacy* (Oxford Press, 2015). His many scholarly and popular writings on privacy and civil liberties have appeared in media from the *Harvard Law Review* and *The Yale Law Journal* to *The Guardian*, *WIRED* and *Slate*.

## HOBBIES

Cycling, along with being a lifelong supporter of Liverpool Football Club

# Generation gap

In forming public policy, policymakers shouldn't rely on generational labels or stereotypes, says economist George-Levi Gayle.

Corporate America has heard the warnings: Generation Z is going to turn workplaces upside down with their competitive nature and demand for remote work. While the oldest Gen Zers have been in the workforce for less than a decade, already there are dozens of books geared toward helping leaders successfully manage them. And don't forget entitled millennials, independent, aloof Gen Xers and corporate-climbing baby boomers. With four generations converging in the workplace, how's a manager to keep up?

Start by throwing out any preconceived notions and biases you have about generations, says **George-Levi Gayle**, the John H. Biggs Distinguished Professor of Economics in Arts & Sciences, who adds that generational labels are not good predictors of how people think and behave. Factors such as education, race and socioeconomics are better indicators.

"From a research standpoint, generational labels are useful to understand the initial or prevailing conditions for a group of people," Gayle says, citing as an example the "silent generation" that came of age during World War II.

"The war created an initial condition for this generation, but their trajectories were affected by many different factors later on, such as educational attainment or socioeconomic standing," Gayle says. "Within this generation, they had different starting points, too."

"At the end of the day, generational labels are a summary statistic — they're not an innate part of people's character," he says.

Like other stereotypes, generational labels stick because it's easier to make a snap judgment about someone based on their generation than it is to take the time to understand the person's unique situation and abilities, Gayle says.

In the research world, generational labels have long been criticized as fake and potentially harmful. Earlier this year, the Pew Research Center — known for its prolific generational studies — announced new guidelines for conducting this type of research to "avoid reinforcing harmful stereotypes or oversimplifying people's complex lived experiences."

## No one-size-fits-all

If generational labels oversimplify, family economists like Gayle seek to add nuance to our understanding of how individual behavior and family decision-making shape macroeconomic outcomes.

Gayle's research spans a wide range of social issues, such as gender gaps in the labor force, fertility trends and intergeneration mobility. He uses demographic analysis to understand the implications of standard economic policies intended to address these issues.

The fertility behavior of women, for example, is not an issue you might expect economists to care about, but the implications of these trends are critical to our economy, Gayle says. Programs like Social Security are built on a pyramid where younger people support older generations. With fertility rates declining, those pyramids are now inverted in the U.S. as well as in Japan and most of Europe.

Most of the policies that countries have adopted in an attempt to boost fertility rates have not had a significant impact, Gayle says. His research suggests that these policies — which often focus on immediate concerns like child care — fail to address a major concern for young people: job security.

"In my research, I found that working women were more concerned about their career trajectory and the loss of future income should they break that trajectory than the immediate cost of child care," he says. "That's not to say that affordable child care isn't important, but I would advocate that policymakers should also focus on providing paid parental leave and guaranteeing that a new mom's job will be waiting for her when she returns to the workforce."

## Why economic policies fail

Gayle says there are several reasons why economic policies fail. First, policies fail when they're based on sweeping generalities, like generational labels.

It's also important to remember that context matters. For example, a policy that was effective in one part of the country can't be duplicated in another region without careful consideration of the unique opportunities and challenges present there.

Even the most well-intentioned policymakers can miss the mark when targeting the outcome they want to achieve rather than the causes and people they want to help.

"Economics is all about understanding incentives and trade-offs," Gayle says. "Outcomes are shaped by society and individuals making decisions, so you need to target the people you want to help and understand the incentives at work. Otherwise, you end up with bad policy."

■ SARA SAVAT



HELLO  
MY GENERATION IS...

HELLO  
MY GENERATION IS...  
~~the~~  
Boomer

~~MILLENNIAL~~

HELLO  
MY GENERATION IS...

HELLO  
MY GENERATION IS...  
~~the silent~~  
~~generation~~

~~GEN X~~

HELLO  
MY GENERATION IS...  
~~GEN-Z~~

Illustration: Monica Duwel





# IN AND FOR



St. Louis is our home, and WashU is partnering with organizations across the region for the well-being of the city and its citizens.

■ BY DIANE TOROIAN KEAGGY, AB '90, & NINA GIRALDO, A&S CLASS OF '25

- HEALTH
- EDUCATION
- EQUITY
- CULTURE
- SUSTAINABILITY

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY AND ST. LOUIS GO BACK A LONG TIME, EXACTLY 170 YEARS SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY IN 1853. Today, the institution and the region are working more closely than ever on transformative solutions to societal challenges and partnering for the growth of every person in our community.

In the following vignettes, you'll learn about a sampling of our faculty, students, staff and alumni who are collaborating with local organizations for the betterment of the region and beyond. These partnerships and others have already had a great impact, yet WashU is making a broader commitment — through the "Here and Next" strategic plan — to position the university, as Chancellor Andrew Martin says, "*in St. Louis, for St. Louis and with St. Louis.*"

"Chancellor Martin and I know that we can always do more," says Lisa Weingarh, WashU's senior advisor for St. Louis initiatives. "We have the talent and the resources here, and in growing these partnerships, and creating new ones, we can help bring about profound, positive change in this place we call home."



## FOR BETTER HEALTH

Keisha Windham (right), assistant director of community outreach for the Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities, along with Sharvitti Broussard (center, right) and Charles Cogshel (center, left), attended a health fair at Archwell Health in September to educate members of the community and offer screenings for prostate and colorectal cancers.

### **BETTINA DRAKE**

*Professor of Surgery, School of Medicine  
Director, Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities  
Associate Director, Community Outreach and Engagement  
2023 Provost Community Impact Award winner, "Here and Next"*

### **VETTA SANDERS THOMPSON**

*E. Desmond Lee Professor of Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Brown School  
Former Co-Director, Center for Community Health Partnership and Research  
Co-Chair, St. Louis Teaching and Research Collaborative, "Here and Next" implementation committee*

### **CAROL CAMP YEAKY**

*Marshall S. Snow Professor, Arts & Sciences  
Founding Director, Center on Urban Research & Public Policy  
Founding Director, Interdisciplinary Program in Urban Studies  
2023 Provost Community Impact Award winner, "Here and Next"*

In St. Louis, Black women are twice as likely to die of breast cancer than white women, and Black men are 60% more likely to have prostate cancer. Bettina Drake, Vetta Sanders Thompson and Carol Camp Yeakey — three experts representing different WashU schools and disciplines — share a common mission to eliminate these disparities through research, education and outreach.

"Health is not just about prevention or cures," says Yeakey, whose interdisciplinary research focuses on the St. Louis ZIP codes with the highest rates of cancer. In *Poverty and Place: Cancer Prevention Among Low-Income Women of Color* and *Cancer: Charting the Path Forward for Low-Income Women of Color*, Yeakey and fellow co-authors, including Thompson, determine that "health is also about cultural factors, economic opportunities, education, environmental factors, psychological and social factors, and more: poverty, race, housing." Yeakey stresses, "Attempting to address health through a narrow lens will lead to futility."

Yeakey, Thompson and Drake agree that strong community partnerships are key to improved health outcomes. For instance, Drake and Thompson have

joined forces with some 50 nonprofits and agencies through the Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities' (PECaD) Breast Cancer Community Partnership. Together, they increased visits to the Siteman Cancer Center mammography van, hosted health fairs at local churches and supported a network of lay cancer navigators. The result: The diagnosis of late-stage breast cancer among Black women in the region decreased by a whopping 40% in the past decade.

PECaD also has worked with community partners to eliminate barriers to screening and treatment of prostate cancer and has recruited more Black men to participate in medical studies — a critical step to better understanding cancer disparities.

"People really care about each other in this community," Drake says. "Our job is to be in conversation with these organizations and incorporate their experiences and voices into our work."

"And to show up," Thompson adds. "We are not there for just one meeting or to take their data. We show up because we care. It's about building a deep relationship, not just a partnership on paper. That's how trust is built and sustained."





“  
**We were able to get accurate information into the hands of trusted local messengers.**  
 ”

**MATTHEW KREUTER**  
*Kahn Family Professor of Public Health, Brown School*  
*Founder, Health Communication Research Laboratory*  
*2023 William H. Danforth St. Louis Confluence Award winner, “Here and Next”*

As Washington University physicians fought COVID-19, Matthew Kreuter battled another deadly contagion: COVID-19 misinformation.

Kreuter collaborated with local nonprofits and government agencies to build trust in the vaccines and reach St. Louisans who historically have been failed by the medical establishment. The team created the nation’s first local surveillance and response system to identify and address misinformation, recruited “vaccine ambassadors” to share their experiences with the unvaccinated, and developed a testing and vaccination program for homebound seniors. In addition, the team established a COVID research information hub where St. Louisans could learn about COVID studies and participate in important research.

“We were able to get accurate information into the hands of trusted local messengers,” Kreuter says. “We illustrated a new way that academic research centers like ours can work with community partners to address urgent needs of the community in a faster and more rigorous way.”



**DANIEL MAMAH, MD**  
*Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine*  
*Founder and Director, Washington Early Recognition Center*

About 3% of the population will experience a psychotic episode in their lifetimes. And yet many people suffer for years from psychotic disorders without a clear diagnosis or effective interventions. That’s why Daniel Mamah, MD, started the Washington Early Recognition Center, an outpatient clinic that serves patients between the ages of 13 and 25 who are at risk or have a psychotic disorder such as schizophrenia. The free clinic employs a team of licensed counselors, social workers and psychiatric physicians who offer a range of services, including psychiatry, individual and group psychotherapy, case management, community outreach, cognitive training, and behavioral and cognitive assessments.

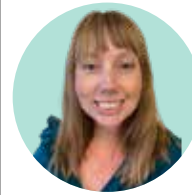
“Imagine you’re a mother or father, and suddenly you’re seeing this happening to your child, but there’s nothing you can do to control it. It’s heartbreaking,” Mamah says. “We know effective treatment means more than seeing a psychiatrist or getting a counselor. So we work with families and patients, spending as much time as needed to help them get their lives back on track.”



**JOHN JACHIMIAK**  
*Arts & Sciences Class of ‘24*  
*President, Heart for the Unhoused*

Led by John Jachimiak, Heart for the Unhoused’s 100 student volunteers partner with local nonprofits to create hygiene kits and provide informational resources and basics like food and toiletries at shelters across the city.

“These kits and supplies allow us to connect with these individuals and help guide them to other available resources in the area,” Jachimiak says. “And we’re here to listen.”



**ANNELIESE STOEVER, MSW ‘03**  
*Director, St. Louis Area Agency on Aging*

Anneliese Stoever first started working with St. Louis’ older adults nearly two decades ago as a practicum student at the Brown School. Today, she leads efforts to advocate on behalf of older adults in the city, connecting them with services, expanding their access to food through the Meals on Wheels program and lunch programs at senior centers, increasing their exercise options to improve health and wellness, and more.

“If your focus is health, mental health or advocacy, inevitably you will be working with older adults, and they deserve exceptional services,” Stoever says.



**KELLY HARRIS**  
*Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy & Surgery (Public Health Sciences), School of Medicine*  
*Director, Health Equity, Opportunity and Education Laboratory*

Childhood asthma impacts more than physical health; it also hurts academic participation and performance. In 2019, Kelly Harris discovered that north St. Louis neighborhoods experience environmental injustice and suffer higher rates of asthma. Now, she is studying how occupational therapists can assess home and school environments to reduce asthma triggers.

Photo credits, left to right (clockwise): Whitney Curtis, Whitney Curtis, Matt Miller, courtesy photo, courtesy photo, courtesy photo



## FOR BETTER EDUCATION OUTCOMES

**JULIAN NICKS,**  
**BSBA '13**  
*Chief Executive  
Officer, LaunchCode*

University City native and WashU alum Julian Nicks first learned of LaunchCode as a graduate student at Stanford. He was familiar with coding boot camps — nearby San Francisco had dozens. But LaunchCode was different. First, its courses are free. That's a big deal for LaunchCode learners, many of whom do not have a degree or make a living wage. Second, LaunchCode places job-ready graduates in paid apprenticeships with some 500 businesses across the St. Louis, Kansas City and Philadelphia regions. About 80% of those apprenticeships end with a job offer and on average more than double the graduate's previous salary.

"From the start, LaunchCode was making an impact — for the students who wanted more for their families and their careers, and for the businesses that needed tech talent," Nicks says.

Nicks joined the LaunchCode board in 2020 and was appointed CEO this year, after 10 years in the private sector at management consulting firm Bain & Company. Founded by fellow WashU alum and Square co-founder Jim McKelvey, AB '87, BSCS '87, LaunchCode serves around 1,500 learners and job-seekers annually and focuses on serving those often shut out of the tech industry, including hosting special cohorts for women+, veterans and incarcerated learners.

"The decision to lead LaunchCode was a mixture of my love for St. Louis and my passion for social impact," Nicks says. "You don't need a long education to learn coding. If you have foundational math and logic skills, aptitude and the drive to learn, you can code."

As CEO, Nicks hopes to take the LaunchCode model to other regions and build new partnerships here. For instance, WashU's School of Continuing & Professional Studies now accepts LaunchCode credits for its data science degrees.

"St. Louis needs more people trained in these skill sets to meet labor market demand," Nicks says. "Every day, we are working to meet that challenge."

Photo credits, left to right (clockwise): Whitney Curtis, Whitney Curtis, Sean Garcia, courtesy photo, Carol Green, courtesy photo



“  
**To address student mobility, we need to understand why students move and where they are going.**  
 ”



**ANDREW BUTLER**  
*Chair and Associate Professor of Education, Arts & Sciences*  
*Associate Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Arts & Sciences*  
*Co-Chair, St. Louis School Research-Practice Collaborative*

**What is the St. Louis School Research-Practice Collaborative (SRPC)?**

“A lot of research-practice partnerships consist of one university working with a single district. We wanted to take a more comprehensive, inclusive and regional approach. Our collaborative includes researchers from WashU, Harris-Stowe State University, University of Missouri–St. Louis, Saint Louis University and other institutions working with practitioners at St. Louis Public Schools, KIPP St. Louis and Confluence Academies.”

**What is the SRPC studying?** “Our practitioner partners have identified student mobility (when students move from school to school during the academic year) as a major barrier to our children’s academic growth and well-being. When students move between schools, it can create challenges for not only the student who is moving, but also those who remain in schools with high mobility rates, teachers who are now tasked to integrate the student and ensure they are meeting the student’s academic needs, and the larger school community. Our initial report found that student mobility rates are substantially higher in our city schools than in the surrounding counties and other comparable cities.”

**What’s next?** “To address student mobility, we need to understand why students move and where they are going. With that data, schools can put policies and interventions in place to help students and teachers.”



**NIKKI DOUGHTY, MSW ’14**  
*Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives, Institute for School Partnership\**

Want a thriving community? Invite all students to experience joyful learning and support educators to lead, innovate and inspire.

Nikki Doughty does just that, partnering with Institute for School Partnership (ISP) staff and educators across the St. Louis region through a variety of innovative ISP initiatives such as STEMpact District Immersion and Teacher Quality (TQ); the Transformational Leadership Initiative; Math314; and mySci, a standards-aligned, kit-based curriculum that makes hands-on science learning possible. Each year, ISP reaches 3,850+ educators and 189,000+ pre-K–12 students from 50+ school districts and 60+ independent schools.

“Our teachers need resources, coaching, evaluation and professional development — and that’s where ISP can move the needle,” Doughty says. “It’s exciting to see teachers create learning environments that move student achievement beyond surviving toward thriving.”

*\*In 2023, the institute was designated a “Here and Next” Provost Investment in Research-to-Practice Network.*



**DANIEL KEATING**  
*Tyrrell Williams Professor of Law, School of Law*

Daniel Keating is committed to serving the students of Maplewood–Richmond Heights High School. For the past eight years, he has taught a nine-week ACT prep course, and for many years, he served on the board of Joe’s Place, a shelter for the district’s unhoused teenage boys.



**TASHANNA STANCIEL**  
*Director, College Prep Program*

Growing up in St. Louis, Tashanna Staniel would have loved to join a cohort like the College Prep Program, WashU’s innovative effort to help talented, first-generation and limited-income high school students get to and through college. Now, she serves as the program’s director, introducing participants to campus resources, helping them navigate the college application process and showing them that they can thrive in college — just like she did.



**KATIE AUYEUNG**  
*McKelvey Engineering Class of ’26*  
*President, Studio Tesla*

Every week, Studio Tesla members travel to local middle schools to lead hands-on activities, including extracting DNA from a strawberry, building a bridge from straws and constructing a birdseed holder.

“Studio Tesla stands for teaching engineering to St. Louis adolescents, but it’s so much more than engineering. It’s sustainability, it’s biology, it’s physics,” says Katie Auyeung, a sophomore at the McKelvey School of Engineering. “The best part is seeing the students light up when they start to solve a problem. I remember that feeling when I was in middle school and want to share that spark with others.”



## PARTNERSHIPS FOR EQUITY

**MATTHEW BERNSTINE (LEFT), MUD '14**  
*Associate Director,  
 Office for Socially  
 Engaged Practice,  
 Sam Fox School of  
 Design & Visual Arts  
 Lecturer, Master of  
 Urban Design*

Broken pavers catch the sun. Worn foundations peak through the grass. A brick path still marks the alley between now-demolished properties.

In College Hill, the ground is layered with history.

But last summer, on a sloping, 1.5-acre parcel known as Peace Park, new layers were taking shape. Small flags, marking utility rights-of-way, sprouted like dandelions. Spray-painted lines delineated a future orchard, an amphitheater, an exercise circuit, a playground, a rain garden.

“Residents told us they want this to be a beautiful place,” says Matthew Bernstine, associate director of the Office for Socially Engaged Practice (OSEP). “They want a place that’s healthy. They want a place — Peace Park — to demonstrate their pride in their neighborhood.”

Set on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, College Hill is home to Bissell Mansion, St. Louis’ oldest surviving residence. The Grand Avenue Water Tower, built in 1869 and still the world’s tallest freestanding Corinthian column, parts traffic like a stone in a stream. But the 20th century brought hard times. Today, College Hill has some of the city’s highest vacancy rates.

Peace Park dates to the late 1990s. After his home was destroyed by lightning, local activist Otis Woodard (1936–2015), a former associate of Martin Luther King Jr., took to dispensing food and clothing from a concrete table on what had been his own front lawn. A grassroots resource was born.

In 2014, Jason Purnell, associate professor in the Brown School and president of the James S. McDonnell Foundation, released a report about regional health disparities. Soon, Purnell’s Health Equity Works and the Grace Hill Settlement House (now the Urban League), engaging with College Hill residents, identified upgrades to Peace Park as a neighborhood priority. More than a dozen local organizations and the City of St. Louis are now aiding the effort.

In 2019, Bernstine — who serves as WashU representative to the core Peace Park planning group — and OSEP outreach coordinator Emily Coffman led a Sam Fox School seminar to brainstorm design strategies. “The charge to students was to think about the entry plaza,” Bernstine recalls. “We also worked with residents to develop an overview aesthetics of the park. What would residents like to see and do in Peace Park?”

Bernstine’s seminar also helped to inform a 2022 studio, led by Wylie Brown, assistant professor, in which students designed, proposed and constructed a bamboo entry pavilion that will be installed at the park’s southwest corner. Meanwhile, Arbolope Studio, the celebrated landscape architecture firm led by L. Irene Compadre, AB ’08, MLA ’12, a visiting assistant professor, completed the final site plan. Penina Acayo Laker, assistant professor, is developing wayfinding and graphics.

“This is an incredibly meaningful, community-led project,” Bernstine says, noting that construction and planting should be completed by the spring. “I’m proud of all the people and institutions that have rallied behind it.” —LIAM OTTEN, BFA ’93

Photo credits, left to right (clockwise): Whitney Curtis, Joe Angeles, Joe Angeles, courtesy photo, courtesy photo, courtesy photo, courtesy photo



**SEAN JOE**

*Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development, Brown School  
Founding Director, Race and Opportunity Lab*

**What is HomeGrown STL\*?**

“HomeGrown STL is a community science initiative of the Race and Opportunity Lab to improve the lives of Black boys and young men in a way that is measurable and large scale. After years of planning, people from across the region are stepping up in a manner that poises us for impact.”

**What innovations offer promise?**

“One innovation is our life coaching program, which is composed of dedicated professionals who connect Black males to the region’s network of housing, education, health and youth development organizations. Another innovation, the St. Louis Community Information Exchange, is helping health and social service providers better deliver coordinated care. A nonprofit system that has the same level of data infrastructure as the health-care system will be so much more efficient and effective, not only for HomeGrown, but



the entire region. I’m also really excited about our workgroups, incubators for possible solutions, like our skills-to-jobs workgroup that is answering how to prepare young Black males with the skills needed to employ them in summer or livable-wage jobs.”

**Why is it so important to focus specifically on Black boys and young men?**

“Right now, Black men and boys don’t believe in the systems. They want to be successful economically, but they don’t see the region offering the opportunity framework to do so. Here’s a parallel: Our generous community has created a welcoming environment to facilitate the economic integration of immigrant and refugee populations. These males want the same thing. And so should everyone, because if you improve the economic outcomes of Black men at scale, you improve the outcomes of everyone in the region.”

*\*Earlier this year, Sean Joe was selected as a 2023 Confluence Award Top 10 finalist, and HomeGrown STL was designated a “Here and Next” Provost Investment in Research-to-Practice Network.*



**NICOLE CORTES (LEFT), JD ‘12, MSW ‘12;  
JESSICA MAYO, JD ‘12**  
*Co-Founders, Migrant and Immigration Community Action Project*

Since its founding a decade ago, the Migrant and Immigrant Community Action (MICA) Project has provided legal representation to some 4,600 immigrants and refugees from 65 countries. But working with clients to obtain legal status is only part of the mission.

“From the start, we wanted to take a more holistic approach, addressing the whole person,” Cortes says. “We collaborate with other community organizations to provide pathways through the complex systems our clients face.”

The MICA Project recently moved to Cherokee Street, a vibrant home to many immigrant businesses and families.

“Immigrants contribute so much to our community. Our region is fortunate that immigrants chose to build a life here,” Cortes says.

And that’s not the only reason Cortes and Mayo do this work.

“Whether they are fleeing danger, reuniting with family or seeking better opportunities, everyone has the right to go through these established legal pathways,” Mayo says. “Everyone has human dignity.”



**KAREN TOKARZ**

*Charles Nagel Professor of Public Interest Law & Policy, School of Law  
Co-Founder and President, St. Louis Mediation Project  
Director, Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic*

No one benefits from an eviction – not the tenants, not the landlords and certainly not the community. To promote housing stability, Karen Tokarz launched the St. Louis Mediation Project, in conjunction with her Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic, in which law students and volunteer mediators have helped resolve thousands of St. Louis City and St. Louis County housing disputes over the past decade through free, confidential counseling and mediation services.



**MOLLY METZGER (LEFT)**

*Senior Lecturer, Brown School  
Faculty Director, Center for Social Development*

**CHRIS KREHMEYER (NOT PICTURED), AB ‘86**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer, Beyond Housing*

**JANEKA HADEN (RIGHT), MSW ‘23**  
*Policy Associate, Office of the President of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen*

Molly Metzger and Chris Krehmeyer are two of the region’s leading advocates for safe, affordable housing. Metzger and her students recently published “Welcome Home: A Policy Briefing Book for Housing Opportunity in St. Louis County,” offering strategies to make the inner-ring suburbs of south and central St. Louis County more equitable and affordable.

Janeka Haden, one of Metzger’s former students and a co-author of the “Welcome Home” report, reflects on the historical context of St. Louis’ housing challenges: “On the journey to meaningful solutions, we must remain aware of the cumulative decisions that have brought us to this juncture. Any remedy that fails to place equity and the most marginalized at its core merely perpetuates the illusion of justice.”

Meanwhile, Krehmeyer’s community development organization Beyond Housing continues to bring economic investment, affordable housing and much-needed services to the 24:1 Community, which includes the 24 north St. Louis County municipalities within the Normandy Schools Collaborative.

“Families and communities have many needs that must be met in order to thrive, including housing, employment, education, health, economic development and municipal government,” Krehmeyer says.



## FOR ENHANCED CULTURE

**XIN WEI, EMBA '21**  
 Founder, Wei's  
 Hospitality Group

Restaurateur Xin Wei can't make noodles, steam bao buns or stuff dumplings. But he can read the tea leaves.

In 2015, Wei moved to triple the size of the fledgling family business, Corner 17. Wei's parents had doubts: The hospitality business is tough, and they had already lost one restaurant. But Wei knew demand for his parents' traditional recipes and boba teas would surge as the region's Asian population grew and local diners became more adventurous.

He was right. Today, diners flock to Corner 17 for its hand-pulled noodles made from scratch by Wei's parents behind a large glass window. Wei calls the spectacle "the noodle show."

"Food is never just food," says Wei, whose favorite dishes are the pork buns

and the wonton with chili oil. "From the start, we wanted people to see how we make noodles in China and to understand a culinary culture that goes back thousands of years."

The name Corner 17 evokes both Wei's hopes for the future and his ties to the past. Wei wants to be on every corner and, indeed, the family business is expanding. Wei operates W Karaoke Lounge, which offers private rooms for small groups, a first in St. Louis. And Corner 17 just opened a location in Olin Library's Whisper Café, serving boba tea, bao buns, dumplings and grab-and-go dishes.

The number 17 represents Wei's age when his family moved from rural China to Belleville, Illinois. There, the family worked at a Chinese buffet, saving money to open their own restaurant in Alabama. When that venture failed, they returned to the region and started all over again.

"My parents always say, 'Always remember where you came from, no matter where you are now,'" Wei says. "Seventeen was a turning point in my life. I came here, didn't know English and started from zero. I never want to forget that."

Photo credits, left to right (clockwise): Whitney Curtis, courtesy photo, courtesy photo, courtesy photo, Meghan Spiro, James Byard



For more on Xin Wei and his family's restaurant business, visit [magazine.wustl.edu](http://magazine.wustl.edu).



“

This place reminds us that these events may have been bigger than us, bigger than St. Louis, but they were still shaped by our local people.

”



**ADAM PRESSWOOD, BS '18**  
Oral Historian, Soldiers Memorial Military Museum

Next time you go downtown to Union Station or a Cardinals game, visit the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum. The immensely interesting, but often-overlooked, museum shares American military history through the lens of St. Louis.

“It is a treasure,” Adam Presswood says of the 85-year-old institution. “The study of war has become somewhat unfashionable, but to understand who we are, you need to understand our conflicts.”

In his current role, Presswood records Vietnam veterans sharing their memories of basic training, combat, coming home and adjusting to civilian life. Their accounts are part of the museum’s permanent collection and are on view in the exhibit *Vietnam: At home and at war* through May 27, 2024.

“It’s easy to think of wars as these events that happen far away to another group of people,” Presswood says. “This place reminds us that these events may have been bigger than us, bigger than St. Louis, but they were still shaped by our local people.”



**MICHAEL ALLEN**  
Senior Lecturer, Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts  
Lecturer, American Culture Studies, Arts & Sciences

Whether researching the infamous Pruitt-Igoe housing complex, leading a walking tour of the Central West End or salvaging terra-cotta façades for the National Building Arts Center, Michael Allen is committed to preserving, documenting and sharing St. Louis’ extraordinary architecture.

Most recently, Allen curated the expansive exhibit *Urban Archaeology: Lost Buildings of St. Louis*, on view through Feb. 4, 2024, at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation. The exhibit brings together salvaged architectural elements from landmark buildings, residential homes and neighborhood institutions to highlight innovations in materials, design and construction, as well as explore the complicated legacies of power, wealth and neglect that have shaped St. Louis.

**MARY STRAUSS, MA '69**  
Partner, Fox Associates

In saving the beloved Fox Theatre in 1982, Mary Strauss did no less than spark the rebirth of Midtown, now home to lively museums, theaters, hotels and restaurants. This year, the Missouri Arts Council honored Strauss for her support of seminal arts organizations such as COCA, Saint Louis Ballet, Saint Louis Art Museum, The Muny and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis.



**SOPHIE LIN**  
Arts & Sciences Class of '26  
WashU Pride Alumni Network Fellow, Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement

Sophie Lin was not dismayed after studying St. Louis’ long history of bigotry and inequality. She was inspired. “I see it as a positive that people here are having the hard conversations and want to make the city better,” Lin says.

So, Lin joined the Gephardt Institute’s Summer Fellows Program, which immerses fellows in the city’s culture and politics and funds full-time internships at local nonprofits. Lin worked at PROMO, an LGBTQ advocacy group, as well as Camp Indigo Point, a camp for queer youth.

“At the end, we ask campers to share their experiences. Their answers were beautiful: ‘I can be myself here,’ ‘I feel safe,’ ‘I am accepted for who I am,’” Lin says. “I’m glad I was able to help create this space for queer joy.”



**MICHAEL DORF, AB '84, BSBA '84**  
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, City Winery

Debuting in March, the intimate City Winery is bringing top artists — and great wines — to St. Louis audiences. Founder Michael Dorf, who opened his first City Winery location in New York 15 years ago, says St. Louis is a city on the move.

“I’d been watching St. Louis,” Dorf told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. “There are new buildings, investments happening, proud locals doing the work.”



**NON-EUCLIDEAN GEOMETRY**

Students Spencer Kates, Henry Windish, Gabe Hamburg, Maeve McFadden and Evan Quigley are Non-Euclidean Geometry, a high-energy indie act that fans call a “Gen Z Steely Dan.” Promoting its debut album, *Into the Midnight*, the band is attracting crowds across the region.

**GREG GLEICHER, BSBA '13**  
Founder, Good Developments Group

Greg Gleicher is spearheading the Gateway South Innovation District, a billion-dollar development project envisioned as a hub for the design and construction industries. The 94-acre project will also bring housing, shops, attractions and green spaces to that area of downtown.



## FOR THE REGION'S SUSTAINABILITY

**FANGQIONG LING**  
*Assistant Professor,  
Department of  
Energy, Environmental  
and Chemical  
Engineering, McKelvey  
School of Engineering*

As a high schooler in Beijing, Fangqiong Ling studied water invertebrates with scientists from a nearby university. Today, Ling leads a program that does the same for St. Louis youth.

In an educational initiative called “OurH2hOme” through the Institute for School Partnership, Ling and her doctoral students connected with local high school teachers and students to embed the study of microorganisms in St. Louis household water samples into the curriculum.

“When I came to St. Louis in 2018, seeing the interesting neighborhoods and historical buildings got me curious about the microbial life in the buildings

and in the water,” Ling says. “To address that question, we needed to work with the people of St. Louis.”

Notably, Ling’s award-winning research extends across disciplines from discovering new ways to analyze wastewater samples to monitoring box turtles with Saint Louis Zoo staff. The latter she conducts to better understand the wildlife microbiome and the ways in which it is impacted by biodiversity loss.

Across the field of environmental engineering, community service remains a key component, Ling says. “It’s through the dialogues that scientists hold with educators that we learn how to write accessible educational materials and research protocols for citizen-scientists.

“My students know their work is touching real people, and I can see the excitement on their faces when they work on these projects,” she says.

Photo credits, left to right (clockwise): Whitney Curtis, courtesy photo, Church Productions, courtesy photo, courtesy photo, courtesy photo



“

We're all hurtling through space together on a changing planet, and it's deeply professionally and personally meaningful to collaborate to advance solutions that are only possible by working together.

”



**TYLER CARGILL**  
*Doctoral Student, McKelvey School of Engineering*

As a member of the research group led by Jay Turner, the James McKelvey Professor of Engineering Education, Tyler Cargill uses his passion for engineering, community engagement and the environment to study St. Louis air quality. In 2022, he helped install air quality sensors at 14 churches across the region for AirWatch, a community-based partnership among the Turner Group, the university's environmental studies program, the Nature Conservancy and Metropolitan Congregations United, a faith-based organization committed to environmental justice.

"We inhale the particles. If they're small enough, they can spread to anywhere in your body, and that can lead to an increased risk of inflammation and cause cardiovascular effects," Cargill explains. "That's why we do air quality research."

Cargill also met regularly with community members to explain the data collected and hear their experiences.

"It's important to realize the target audience for your research. For air quality specifically, people must always come first," Cargill says. "Our job as air quality researchers is to understand the perspectives of the community and create dialogue such that knowledge is transferred both ways."



**PHIL VALKO, AB '03**  
*Assistant Vice Chancellor for Sustainability*

Phil Valko is advancing sustainability initiatives both on and off campus. As co-chair of a St. Louis regional energy and emissions working group and co-founder of the Midwest Climate Collaborative, Valko is helping to develop strategies and capture data that will accelerate the region's efforts to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Washington University already has significantly reduced emissions, thanks to Valko's leadership. WashU also is now one of the state's largest producers of on-site solar energy, home to 30+ LEED-certified buildings and a major investor in programs that conserve water, promote low-carbon transportation and reduce waste. In addition, Valko teaches an interdisciplinary environmental studies capstone course where students serve as consultants to a local community, proposing solar and decarbonization strategies.

"We're all hurtling through space together on a changing planet, and it's deeply professionally and personally meaningful to collaborate to advance solutions that are only possible by working together," Valko says.

**AAMNA ANWER**  
*Sustainability Coordinator, Office of Sustainability*

In addition to her work at the Office of Sustainability, Aamna Anwer leads the environmental efforts of the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis. Initiatives include the introduction of a composting program to eliminate food waste during the month of Ramadan and a ban on plastic water bottles at one of the largest mosques in the region.



**NADAV SPRAGUE, AB '17, MPH '20**  
*Founding Chief Executive Officer and President, Gateway to the Great Outdoors*

In a mission to make the outdoors more accessible, Gateway to the Great Outdoors (GGO) provides environmental and STEAM education to low-income public schools throughout St. Louis and Chicago through weekly classroom lessons, monthly outdoor adventures, overnight camping trips and year-round mentorships to empower students to learn and experience local ecosystems.

In the 2022–23 school year, GGO was named the St. Louis Public School District's (SLPS) Community Partner of the year. "I am very proud of our amazing partnership with SLPS," Sprague says. "SLPS has been very supportive of our mission. A lot of our students have never seen a lake or a forest before our program. We expose them to things they learn in school but are often not able to conceptualize."



**TOVA FEINBERG, MBA '22; DAVE KANOFF, MBA '22**  
*Co-Founders, VertiGreens*

Vertical farming startup VertiGreens is producing high-quality herbs and lettuce varieties with no chemicals, minimal water and nominal space. The outfit just started a partnership with James Beard-nominated chef Ben Poremba at his restaurant Olio.

"Tova and I are both passionate about food — where it comes from, the flavors and, most importantly, how food brings people together to build community," Dave Kanoff says.

"Combining our shared mission to create a more healthy and knowledgeable community around food has proven to be an excellent foundation for our startup venture."







Photo: Washington University Archives



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# AN OLD ILLUSTRATION ANIMATES A NEW STORY

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'After years and years ...,' a forgotten Christmas card from the late 1940s reveals the early genius of an Emmy Award-winning alumnus and his admiration for Mother Baird, a fraternity housemother.

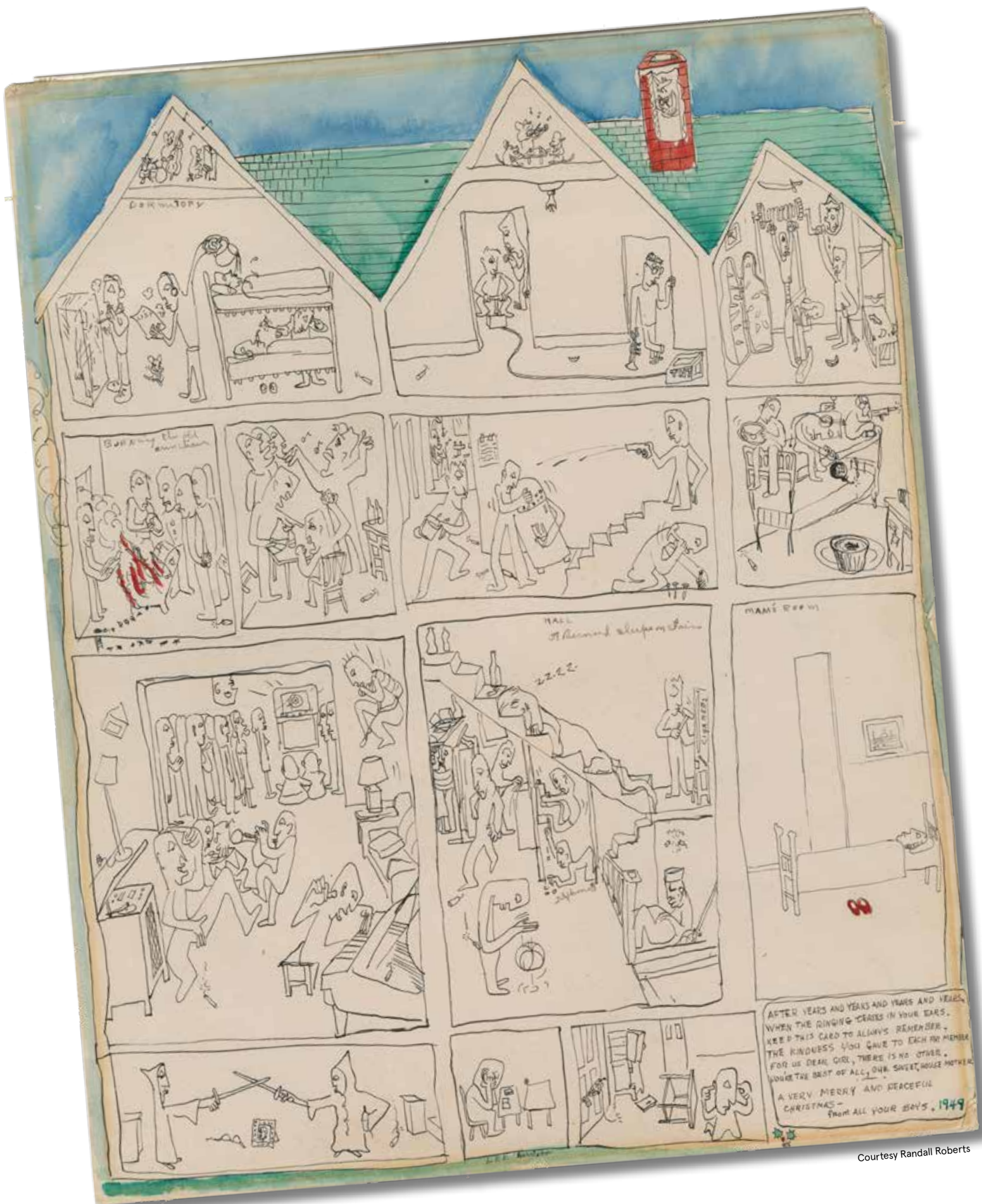
■ BY RANDALL ROBERTS



THE HAND-DRAWN CARD FROM 1949 INTERRUPTED, LIKE A SURPRISE PARTY, WHAT WAS AN OTHERWISE MUNDANE DAY. A page-turn away from being tossed in the trash, it was placemat-sized and tucked within an old parcel map book as big as a cookie pan. The illustration featured a dollhouse-style cross section of a vibrant fraternity house.

I examined it. Each room of the precisely rendered four-level residence was teeming with people and action. Whoever drew it had fit entire stories into panels that captured the thrills of post-WWII college life in America: books, music, sex, cigarettes, TV, antics, senseless fun. A kind of idea explosion on paperboard.

Implied noise and motion were everywhere. A jazz trio was rocking on the main floor as a guy bounced on the couch; a St. Bernard was snoring on stairs, above a couple kissing in a cubby. Elsewhere, a dozen-odd awestruck students were huddled around a new mass-market device called the television.



DORMITORY

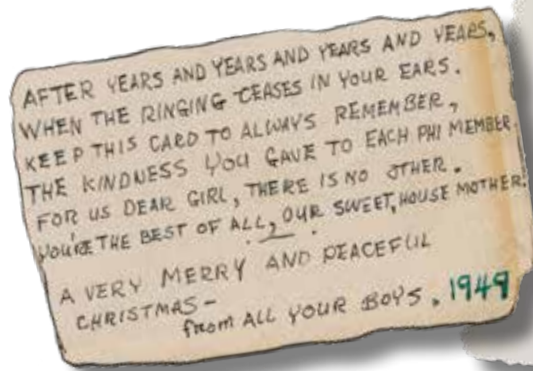
BATH

HALL  
Almost asleep

MAN'S ROOM

AFTER YEARS AND YEARS AND YEARS AND YEARS,  
 WHEN THE RINGING CEASES IN YOUR EARS,  
 KEEP THIS CARD TO ALWAYS REMEMBER,  
 THE KINDNESS YOU GAVE TO EACH AND EVERY  
 FOR US DEAR GIRL, THERE IS NO OTHER,  
 WOULD BE BEST OF ALL, OUR SWEET HOUSE MOTHER.  
 A VERY MERRY AND PEACEFUL  
 CHRISTMAS -  
 FROM ALL YOUR BOYS, 1949





Courtesy Randall Roberts

Each of the 17 panels was its own mini-drama. Sword fights. A mock medieval dungeon (in the attic). A mouse string quartet. In the basement, beneath it all, one solitary student sat at a desk with a few open books, his fingers in his ears to drown out the noise. The panel was captioned “Lee Harrison.”

Holding it in the sunlight, I decided it must be a print. It was too well-crafted. But the watercolor blue skies and red brick chimney were hand-painted. The razor-thin lines capturing coeds were in real ink. Each joyous stroke was etched with intent.

Amid the clamor, one area was silent.

Near the bottom in a panel captioned “Mam’s room,” a woman was asleep in a bed. She’d neatly placed her red slippers underneath the bed and seemed blissfully unaware of the chaos surrounding her.

Beneath slumbering Mam was a handwritten poem:

*After years and years and years and years,  
 When the ringing ceases in your ears.  
 Keep this card to always remember,  
 The kindness you gave to each Phi member  
 For us dear girl, there is no other.  
 You’re the best of all, our sweet, house mother.  
 — A very merry and peaceful Christmas —  
 From all your boys, 1949*

Mam was my great-grandmother, Juanita Berenice (Barco) Baird. I knew her as Grandmommy. And Lee Harrison, from just across the Mississippi in Belleville? Online sleuthing eventually led me to the artist, who had signed the card to “Mother Baird” on the back. A decade after drawing this for her, graduating with an art degree and returning a few years later for an engineering degree, Harrison, BFA ’52, BSME ’59, successfully embarked on a mission to revolutionize computer graphics.

You’ve seen the Emmy-winning innovator’s work. In the original version of *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* during the Oompa Loompa song, when the lyrics “What do you get when you guzzle down sweets?” zigzag across the screen to the sound of the music, Harrison’s invention, Scanimate, is animating the query. Once you know what it is, you’ll start seeing Scanimate action all over 1970s-era TV series, local news

stories and highlight reels. The shimmering early-era HBO logo? Yep.

“Before we came on the scene, graphics, especially, were static,” Harrison told *Washington Magazine* in 1997. “We started animating openings for shows and were the first to use electronic animation to create distinctive logo packages for television stations.”

I was unaware of this at the time. But I certainly expected — or hoped — that after graduation this Harrison guy used the skills so evident in this astonishing card. I also wondered whether Mother Baird’s kindness had rubbed off on him and how she kept all her boys in line. I started poking around.

#### THE ‘RIGHT KIND’ OF HOUSEMOTHER

Keeping the students out of trouble was among the roles of housemothers (now called live-in housing directors) in the 1940s. Well, that and virtually everything else that mid-century patriarchy deemed mom jobs: cooking, cleaning and household stability included.

Comments on the job description sound laughably condescending today: “The housemother can be a real tower of strength in the purchase of provisions, in the planning of meals and in the regulating of dining room service,” one participant at the National Interfraternity Conference said in a 1946 speech called “Fraternities on the Postwar Campus.” It was the same year that Mother Baird, two years a widow, joined on at Phi Delta Theta fraternity as a housemother.

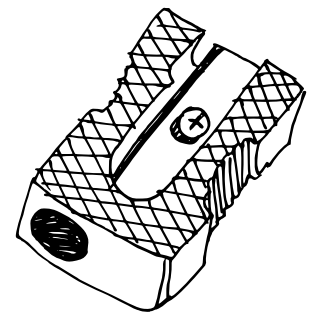
The speech described housemothers’ prerequisites as being “worthy of the name and who shall ... add a motherly touch to an otherwise all-male establishment.”

Requiring full-time fraternity housemothers was hardly a foregone conclusion at the time, especially among privileged men. “There is so much emphasis on the feminine side, with feminine instructors and outside diversions, that we are getting away from something of the masculinity of the older eastern colleges,” one wary fraternity official observed at a late 1930s conference. If Nazi-killing soldiers didn’t need troop mothers on the front lines, why should young Midwestern men need them for studying?

Washington University Dean G.W. Stephens disagreed. At the annual get-together of the

From far left to top: Author Randall Roberts found an illustrated holiday card created by alumnus Lee Harrison in 1949 for Roberts’ great-grandmother, who served as housemother for Harrison’s fraternity. The original was tucked into an oversized map book, which was found in an old leather trunk. Roberts also found a 1949 snapshot of Mother Baird with Michael Hadley, AB ’50, one of Harrison’s fraternity brothers, and the fraternity’s dog, Scrubbie.

In the group photo on pg. 32, Mother Baird and Lee Harrison are circled.



National Association of Deans and Advisers of Men in 1944, he proclaimed that “the housemother is most strongly to be desired,” submitting that “a boy who comes to the University has left a home in which there was a mother, and ... the fraternity house should be the nearest equivalent to a home in the literal sense.” The dean felt inclined to include a caveat: “assuming that she is the right kind.”

Whether Mother Baird was “the right kind” is an open question. When her first husband, Homer Baird, died in 1944 of what she described in her diary as “a heart ailment,” she was a mother of two grown, married daughters, Anna Maria (my grandmother, whom everyone called Marie) and Judy (my great-aunt who insisted that her well-to-do husband drive her everywhere in a Cadillac limousine). Within two years of leaving the “housemotherhood,” Mother Baird had married a man in El Paso, Texas, only to divorce him six months later. Marie was often embarrassed by her mother’s outgoing nature — at least according to the first of her three children: my mom, Sue.

#### AN IDEA HATCHED

Lee Harrison III didn’t know Mother Baird from Mother Superior when he arrived at Washington University in 1949. He’d grown up across the Mississippi River, born into a successful family of engineers in blue-collar Belleville, Illinois. His grandfather was the inventor of a P.T. Barnum-inspired machine known as the Jumbo steam engine. Majoring in art, playing football and becoming a member of Phi Delta Theta, the younger Harrison embraced his years at the university.

He picked a good time to be at the School of Fine Arts. A year earlier, the great German expressionist painter Max Beckmann had arrived to teach after being exiled and having his life upended by the Nazi regime. Records don’t indicate whether Harrison had Beckmann as an instructor, but the student’s assured hand on the Christmas card certainly suggests a precocious talent worthy of notice.

After his 1952 graduation and a two-year stint in the Coast Guard, Harrison traveled to Central America, he told *Washington Magazine* in 1997. While there, he conceived of what he called “a magic box” for graphic animation. Returning to the St. Louis area, he re-enrolled at Washington University to pursue an engineering degree.

This drive for a cross-disciplinary education at the university predated by decades innovative programs such as Arts & Sciences’ new Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures. “At first I wasn’t even sure that what I wanted to do could be done,” Harrison said of his idea. So he pursued knowledge that would build on his art degree and enable his invention. Harrison ended up with more than a dozen patents to his name.

“What he was doing was very experimental at the time,” says Tom Sito, author of *Moving Innovation: A History of Computer Animation* and professor of cinematic arts at the University

of Southern California. “It was also very novel, the idea that he was able to take this idea and go mainstream. When he was starting, the notion of using computers to make imaging was still considered bizarre.”

#### EVIDENCE OF A RICH LIFE

By the time she arrived as a housemother in 1946, Mother Baird was a three-time grandmother. Born in 1888, she married Homer when she was 20. He was an Edwardsville dentist whose family lived in the bedroom community’s tony St. Louis Street district.

Though hardly a daily journaler, Mother Baird was dedicated to the idea of keeping detailed notes on her travels and experiences, even if in practice entire swaths of her dated diaries and calendars are blank. But she was uninhibited in what she kept and actively compiled evidence of a rich life within her belongings, tagged each piece with descriptions and scribbled asides as if someday they might help tell a story.

Mother Baird, too, seemed a little bizarre, at least judging by a few of the three dozen photos of her rescued from the same leather chest that housed the book holding the Harrison illustration. In one black-and-white image at an outdoor party in 1933, she’s standing like a stork doing the cancan, her front leg kicked high and left arm hooked over her head. She’s wearing a dress, and you can clearly see her underwear.

The “right kind” of woman might have burned this photo long ago. But she kept it in her photo box, not far from images of her sitting on a camel in front of an Egyptian pyramid and another of her posing in Florida with five parrots perched on her arms and head. A shot of her leading a group through a street in Italy is captioned, “I am telling Gertrude Duetmar how the Romans did it.” One photo, dated 1950, captures her posing at Washington University with two young men and a St. Bernard she identifies as “Scrubbie.” That same dog is snoozing on the stairs in Harrison’s drawing.

After Mother Baird died in 1974, my grandmother added further documentation when she could before piling everything into a dingy leather trunk. It sat in my grandparents’ basement until both passed in the 1990s after more than 60 years of marriage.

The physical evidence of Mother Baird’s life wasn’t much to look at: piles of photos, paperwork, ragged books, the lace collar from her 1908 Stix, Baer & Fuller wedding dress — the kind of stuff that you can’t just delete with a keystroke, especially when blood’s involved. The recent owner of a 10,000-square-foot four-family in St. Louis’ Benton Park, I unloaded the trunk and its belongings, including the Madison County Property Ledger, into my basement.

#### AN IDEA TAKES FLIGHT

Harrison earned his engineering degree in 1959, moved to Denver and founded Lee Harrison Associates, which evolved into Control Image Corporation before becoming Computer Image Corp. in 1969.







Within a few years, his trio of machines, Scanimate, ANIMAC and CAESAR, were thriving in the graphic animation industry, offering jaw-dropping new possibilities for creatives, advertisers and filmmakers. The most successful of them, Scanimate, was much cheaper than traditional cell animation. *Broadcasting Magazine* reported in 1970 that old-school animation required more than 5,000 painstaking drawings and months of man-hours for similar results.

“Because the Scanimates produced output in ‘real-time,’ the clients could literally sit down and say things like, ‘Make it move a little faster,’ or ‘Can you make it more of a teal color?’” Dave Seig, a former Computer Image employee and an expert on Harrison and Scanimate, wrote in an essay on his website. “The animators would tweak it, get an approval, tape it, and the guy would walk out with his master.”

“Everybody was looking for a new look, a different way of looking at visuals,” says *Moving Innovation* author Sito, adding that media companies wanted “the Peter Max-style, very pop-art look that Scanimate produced.”

As Scanimate’s popularity soared in America, its influence began to spread globally. Artists like Ringo Starr and Todd Rundgren saw the potential for it to become a game-changing “visual equivalent of a Moog synthesizer.” TV producers eagerly embraced Scanimate for intros and effects in shows like *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*, *The Electric Company* and *The Pink Panther* cartoon.

Michael Webster, a president of Computer Image in the 1970s, noted in a trade magazine interview that the system’s accessibility made it a creative tool for anyone with imaginative ideas: “The operator can produce an infinite variety of spectacular effects and put an image through an incredible range of movements by

simply manipulating knobs and dials,” Webster said, adding that, with the technology, “graphic effects can be done that were never possible with conventional animation.”

It was as if Harrison had jolted to life the kinetic energy expressed in his holiday card to Mother Baird.

#### CURATING A LIFE

I don’t know whether my great-grandmother kept up with her former charge’s success in computer graphics. She was 84 and blind by the time Harrison got his Emmy in 1972, the first ever awarded in the Outstanding Achievement in Engineering Development category. I was 6.

When she was living in a duplex next door to my grandparents in Edwardsville, I remember her as a joyous presence, quick to laugh. She seemed not just “the right kind,” but perfect. Her belongings bore that out. She was a brilliant curator of her own life.

She could often be found reading books written in Braille or listening to the radio. She’d quit being a housemother in 1950 and quickly took to traveling. Her six-month Texas marriage occurred in 1952, but other than a quick datebook mention, it barely registered. According to my mom, Mother Baird never discussed it.

Harrison sold his company in 1987 and eased into a Colorado retirement with his wife, Marilou. He passed away in 1998. Though he hadn’t painted since traveling to Central America in the 1950s, he picked it up again in his later years.

He did so, he recalled to *Washington Magazine*, for the same reasons he composed that card to Mam: “To give myself an out from the partying that was going on around me. It was a way to record the places where I was staying, and some of the fun we had.”

He succeeded.

The late Lee Harrison III (1929–98), BFA ’52, BSME ’59, was an early pioneer in analog electronic animation. He is perhaps best-known as the inventor of Scanimate and the ANIMAC, and he received an Emmy Award for his work in 1972.



Photo: Tony Meoli



# GRACE — AND — GRIT

That's the 'life hashtag' of Alicia Graf Mack, MA '10, ballerina and Juilliard dean. And it describes her perfectly.

■ JEANNETTE COOPERMAN

Ballerina Alicia Graf Mack, the youngest-ever dean and director of the Dance Division of The Juilliard School, is posed on a stool at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA) in St. Louis. Soft light outlines her long neck and sets her braids aglow. Her hands lie relaxed in her lap, her features are composed, her back effortlessly straight. The camera is in position for a short documentary interview and — she hops down to hug a former student who just poked her head in the door.

"I follow you on Instagram!" says the young dancer, just back from New York.

"I follow you, too!"

A quick exchange, one more tight hug, and Mack returns to position. "Let me just tweak — no, that's gorgeous," the director says, surprised that his subject has managed perfect placement in two seconds.

She moves gracefully through the interview, answering every question conscientiously but with no empty words or clichés. Startled by how easy this was, the director wraps up fast.

"I'm a dean," Mack tells him with a grin. She spends her days communicating, bringing the professional world of dance to Juilliard students and listening carefully to their dreams.

**HER OWN BEGAN BEFORE SHE WAS 3 YEARS OLD.** Coming to work one day with her mother, she watched a dance class in another part of the building and got so excited, the teacher let her join while still in diapers. A few more years and Alicia knew, with a child's unclouded certainty, that she had a superpower. Her body

was so attuned to emotion that simply by the way she moved, she could move people's hearts.

By age 12, she was dancing competitively. Posters of Judith Jamison, a star in the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, hung all over her room. At 17, she was accepted into the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Co-founder Arthur Mitchell, "a disciplinarian and an amazing coach," swiftly made Alicia Graf a soloist. Asked what he saw in her, she smiles. "Extensions. I had long legs I could lift to the sky. He would always ask me to do that."

He saw more.

He cast her as the Siren in George Balanchine's *Prodigal Son*. And when the role's cruelty seemed impossible to an 18-year-old who radiated innocence and joy, Mitchell showed her video of Suzanne Farrell in *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*, dancing against type. Possibilities broke open. Graf reached for, and found, "a worldly, sensual cruelty" that delighted the reviewers. Dubbed "a born ballerina," she was on her way to world-class.

Then the pain struck.

Her knee had swollen many times before; doctors had drained the fluid and informed her that she was "too anxious," her regimen too intense. This time, an MRI showed a tear in the cartilage — but after surgery to repair it, the knee did not heal. Then her ankle blew up, the tissue around that graceful joint swelling into a sphere. Her hip followed. Finally, her cousin, a rheumatologist, gave her the stunning diagnosis: *ankylosing spondylitis*, a rheumatoid disease.

She climbed into bed in her New York apartment and didn't get up again. She couldn't

walk — and even if she could, where would she go? The sudden plummet from that early career high had shattered her. Alarmed, her brother moved in and made it his business to cheer her up. They ate a lot of Chinese takeout and watched a lot of comedies on TV.

**FROM THE APARTMENT BALCONY, GRAF COULD SEE THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.** It looked like an oasis: all those people close to her age, carrying books that spelled various futures. She needed a new one.

She enrolled, majoring in history. For money, she wrangled an internship doing marketing for JPMorgan Chase, figuring this was her new life. But as soon as she graduated (with honors, and an offer to stay with JPMorgan Chase), Mitchell invited her back.

Her condition now managed, she danced with his company for a few more years, until the company hit a financial crunch. She called American Ballet Theatre but was told she was too tall. “You start in the corps, and they wanted everyone roughly the same height,” she explains. “I’m 5-foot-10, so en pointe I’m 6-foot-3.”

Ballet is infamous for its Procrustean insistence on certain body shapes; it had also been painfully white, its choreographers usually male, for decades. But Mitchell had shown her a freer, more inclusive approach. So had her parents. Her mother, who is Black, taught social work at Howard University; her father, who is white, was a community organizer. Different races, different temperaments, “as different as you can imagine,” she smiles. “That was the blueprint. You can lead this really rich life with diversity and inclusion when you let love lead the way.”

Ready to widen her own horizons, she joined the Alvin Ailey dance company, shifting to modern dance. After her debut, a reviewer for *The New York Times* wrote that she “was so good she became the news of the night all by herself.”

She danced with Alvin Ailey for three years, along the way falling in love with the cousin of a friend. They had met before, both history majors at Columbia. “You’re the new girl,” Kirby Mack said when she stepped on the elevator. Now, he was selling luggage, and traveling with Ailey had worn hers out. She asked him to find her a new large rolling duffel bag. Her roommate on tour, Antonio Douthit-Boyd (now artistic director of dance at COCA and teaching in its collaborative MFA program with WashU) saw it and wanted the same luggage. Mack wound up outfitting a few from the company.

“I owe you dinner or at least a drink the next time you’re in New York,” Graf told him.

“I’ll be in New York next week,” he replied. And after that first date, she knew he was the one.

For now, though, she was soaring again, her performances with Ailey making her talent obvious. In 2007, *Smithsonian Magazine* named Graf an American Innovator of the Arts and Sciences. But the following year, she crashed down with another injury.

It was back to school — this time Washington University, because it was in Mack’s hometown,

and Graf felt happy on the peaceful campus.

“I was surrounded by so many people who had big dreams, big goals,” she recalls. “And I needed a place that would also be healing.”

She enrolled in what was just renamed the School of Continuing & Professional Studies, which provided academic rigor and allowed her to work while she earned a master’s degree in nonprofit management. She also taught at WashU and at Webster University and was delighted to realize that she loved teaching, especially undergraduates: “They’re right on the precipice of their careers, and everything is urgent.”

A week after graduation, she married Mack. Now, she was set to teach — but once again, dance called her back. She rejoined Alvin Ailey in 2011 and danced three more years before another injury grounded her. In 2014, she retired.

In 2015, she and her husband had a son, Jay. Then came a daughter, Laila (who is her mom’s spitting image and already choreographing).

When Laila turned 2, the retired dancer heard about an opening at Juilliard. Urged to apply, she was hired. Now the family lives in New Jersey, and Alicia Graf Mack takes the train to Lincoln Center every morning to oversee auditions, curriculum, students, faculty, administration and the program’s relationship with professional dance. On family visits to St. Louis, she sees her friends from WashU, Webster, COCA.

“You have to love the process, love the work. The performance is the icing on the cake. There’s nothing like performing on stage. It feels like your spirit is in motion.”

— Alicia Graf Mack



Photo: Courtesy of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater





Photo: Courtesy of The Juilliard

**THIS TRIP, AFTER HER INTERVIEW IS FILMED, MACK VISITS A CLASS, WATCHING WITH HER HANDS CLASPED BEHIND HER BACK AS THE YOUNG BALLERINAS DO PLIÉS.**

The thought was that she would give tips, but she hangs back, reluctant: “They don’t know me.” She would never dream of tucking an arm or extending a hand without someone’s permission. Not a fan of rigid corrections, she prefers to ask a student what they were thinking. If these were her students, though, she might tell them that a plié is “a moving meditation,” and when their arm curved in a port de bras, she might urge them to “gather the whole world with you.”

Every year, 400 applicants from all over the world audition at Juilliard; between 18 and 26 are accepted. They must have a keen sense of musicality (most teaching is done with live music, and communication is crucial); strong physicality (shape, form, coordination and endurance); a good understanding of technical specificity; and “something unique and intangible that will move an audience,” Mack explains — which is to say not by conforming to preordained standards, but through authentic self-expression.

“Why is something considered traditional; why is it part of the canon?” Mack wants students to ask. “Who is part of the canon?”

“We talk about why things have been as they are and how we want to see the dance world in the future,” she says. “More artists of color. More female choreographers. We’re trying to open the dancers’ minds so they question and think and discuss, which is not always something done in a dance studio but is important to us at Juilliard.”

The students who are accepted are not similar in terms of race, body type, background or even the sort of training they have had. Mack is determined to increase equity, diversity, inclusion and a sense of belonging, and this is more than rhetoric. Under her auspices, the program has put hip-hop in the core curriculum, added more instruction in West African dance and other world dance classes, expanded the coursework in composing (choreography), built

in an elective course in technology and new media, and opened pointe classes to all genders.

Above all, she wants to shift the atmosphere, so that in a world traditionally closed and harshly critical, dancers can relax and feel like themselves — not judged, not forced to prove themselves because they are a certain shade or shape, driven only to be excellent.

Traditional ballet is traditionally romantic, an exaggeration, even, of masculine and feminine norms. But “dance, and how we interpret the world through dance, has to evolve with us,” Mack says. In classical ballet, “the dancing is beautiful, and the stories are universal,” she continues. “That’s why these ballets have lasted 150, 200 years.” What needs to change is only “who embodies them, who gets to tell these stories.”

Two men, dancing a love story — will one be able to lift the other? “Of course. You study, and you learn the technique. At Juilliard, we teach partnering, and we teach everybody to do everything.” Will the variations be as powerful? “Of course. Whenever you put deep love and passion onstage, you’re going to inspire an audience.”

Mack’s “life hashtag” is simple: “grace and grit.” Her definition of grace is striking because it extends well beyond the physical. “Someone who possesses grace,” she says slowly, “is someone who carries their pride — and their beauty, and their passion — with them always.” Those with that sort of grace, she adds, invariably also have grit. They know how to dig into the work.

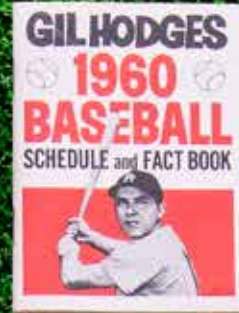
What does it take to dance well? “You have to love the process, love the work,” she says. “The performance is the icing on the cake.” She misses that sweetness, though: “There’s nothing like performing on stage,” she admits. “It feels like your spirit is in motion.”

And what does it take to teach well? “You have to be a very astute listener. You have to have the awareness and flexibility to give each student what they need in the moment, not just teach all one way. You have to love how everything moves in small increments. You have to love.”

**She is distantly related to Léon Bakst, a Russian painter of Jewish origin who designed luminous, enthralling sets and exquisite costumes for the Ballets Russes. “I’d love to ask him about meeting Nijinsky,” Alicia Graf Mack confides.**



# Next



**CARDINALS**

50c

N.L. HITS  
3,430  
Wagner

N.L. RUNS  
1,859  
Ott

N.L. AT-BAT  
10,427  
Wagner

N.L. RBI  
1,860  
Ott

N.L. GAMES  
2,785  
Wagner

MAJOR LEAGUE LONG HITS  
1,356  
Ruth

MAJOR LEAGUE TOTAL BASES  
5,863  
Cobb

**Musial  
Milestones**  
Records to shoot at  
in 1962

Illustration of Stan Musial in a Cardinals uniform.

**Yearbook  
1962**

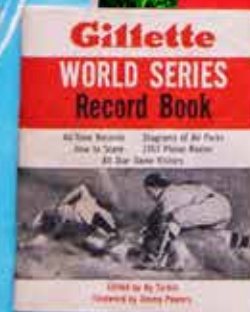
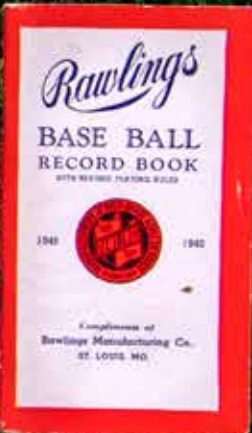
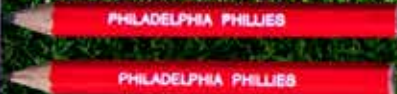


Photo illustration: Joe Angeles and Jennifer Wessler/WashU



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Batter up!

**Lewis Levey, MBA '67**, first began saving ticket stubs and scorecards as a child growing up in St. Louis. Over time, his collection grew into a vast archive of sports memorabilia. Now housed in University Libraries, the Lewis A. Levey Family Collection on Sports and Culture is a resource for researchers and students studying the history, sociology and cultural influences of American sports and fandom. In addition to the collection, Levey and his wife, **Leslee, AB '67**, also pledged to create an endowment that will fund exhibits, events, expansion and preservation.



# Flying smart

A love of logistics and learning about the world leads Michael Holtz to create a new kind of luxury travel company.

First comes the thrill. A trip to the Hershey chocolate factory — what greater wonder at age 5? At 7, a flight to London, with the big clock and the solemn Beefeaters in their fuzzy black hats. But by the time **Michael Holtz, BS '87**, enrolls at Washington University, travel is also a game.

These are the early days of frequent-flyer promotions, and both Newark and St. Louis are TWA hubs. By flying back and forth from his Long Island home and routing stops in Columbus and Chicago, he can hit six sectors and win a free trip to Hawaii. A born logistics whiz, he majors in industrial engineering and, for a Fortran class, expands Ozark Air Lines, drawing spokes to cities not yet serviced and writing commands to move a fleet of three DC-9s around.

Now, he is obsessed with travel efficiency. At airport counters, he picks up all the timetables (tech is still low) and studies them the way other people read novels. Soon he can rattle off the best route anywhere for anybody who asks, a skill he brings to the company he starts in 1990. Holtz's SmartFlyer caters to "luxury travel" — but not as it is usually defined.

"People hear 'luxury' and think Four Seasons or the Ritz, white tablecloths and turndown service," Holtz says. "But I think it's travel that gives you a great story. Habitas Bacalar is a relatively new brand in Mexico, and you're in this amazing property that focuses on wellness and serves you delicious, healthy food, and yeah, there might be a few bugs, because you're sleeping in tented camps at the edge of the Mayan lagoon — to me, that's luxury."

His award-winning agency caters to high-end travelers who are curious, not timid and persnickety. For one man, luxury is a chance to ride horseback on Nihiwatu Beach, hidden from daily obligation on a pristine island in Indonesia. And who cares that it took four flights to get there? "Most of our clients want to explore the world, and they understand where they're going and why."

Based in an airy white office in Manhattan's Garment District, the walls bright with retro travel

posters, SmartFlyer agents travel and research nonstop. Painted across a mirror is the blithe assertion that "jet lag is for amateurs." Holtz swears he's never felt that lag, and he spurns sleeping pills, wine and elaborate timing. "I just go with it," he says. "There's so much psychology in everything we do."

Speaking of things that will mess with a traveler's head: Did he let himself be grounded by COVID? "We were in Rwanda when it broke," he recalls. "We got back to New York, and I didn't travel for two months. Memorial Day came, and my wife said, 'We have got to get back on the road.' So, we bring our masks and our rubber gloves and our dog and fly to Grand Rapids."

From there, he learned to travel safely — or at least with a level of risk he felt comfortable with, because safety never comes with a guarantee. Like many of his clients, he stuck to this country, rediscovering destinations like "Bozeman, Montana; Maine; going to Wyoming for the first time." The surprise, adventure and beauty that had drawn him to his favorite international destinations could be found, he realized, at home. Meanwhile, the domestic destinations and resorts that had always been SmartFlyer's favorites were becoming more popular than ever. "Amangiri, in Utah, was booked to the rafters."

New enthusiasms have not limited Holtz's horizons, though. Married in Paris on New Year's Eve 2019, he and his wife were supposed to go to the Maldives in 2020, but ... COVID. Now that famously beautiful archipelago — more than 1,000 tiny coral islands floating in crystal-clear water — is back in his sights. And scheduling won't be hard.

"Work from home has become work anywhere," he points out. "Just four years ago, the remote work opportunities were nowhere near as sophisticated as they are now. There's Wi-Fi at the airports and hotspots in cities, and whatever your calling program is, it's likely worldwide. People who had long commutes have gotten back hours of their lives. And they can take the opportunity to pack up the whole family to spend July in Tuscany, working while they're there."





**WHO**

Michael Holtz, BS '87

**ONE TRIP EVERYBODY SHOULD TAKE**

Go to the place your parents were born. It's your story, and what you learn can move down through the generations.

**FAVORITE SEAT**

2A. It's often the single seat in premium cabins on long-haul flights.

**ALWAYS CHECKS**

Instagram, to find the quirky, cool places that tourism brochures overlook.

Photo: Loren Productions LLC

Holtz knows the ins and outs of minimizing stops and cleaning up an itinerary. He praises the hubs Qatar and other airlines have developed in the Middle East and the ease of reaching so many African destinations on Turkish Airlines. He was thrilled to see Lufthansa set up a hub in St. Louis, which has already become one of that airline's most successful cities, with people snapping up trips to more than 100 destinations with only one stop in Frankfurt.

Beyond speed and ease, he is also canny about creating value and adding experience. Instead of making the usual stop in Bangkok, why not fly to Phuket on Korean Air and spend a few days at Angkor Wat on your way? Why not book a room at the Condado Vanderbilt Hotel in San Juan on your way to St. Barts and fly the next morning instead of arriving at 10 p.m. the night before? "You're maximizing your time with every leg of the trip."

It's tough to imagine Holtz's life without travel. But what about the rest of the world — what would be lost?

"Travel helps bring cultures together," he says slowly. "When you travel, you discover the challenges and customs of people different from yourself. Travel helps create understanding."

It also continues education, and he has made it his life's work to learn the world. Over the years, he has watched Bhutan develop mindfully, its emphasis — like that in mineral-rich Botswana — on caring for its environment. He has become adroit at communicating across borders, and he has built work relationships that span the globe.

That, too, started in college.

"I loved my education at WashU, and what I loved most was that the student body was so diverse," he says. "I learned how to work with people from different cultures, how to learn from different cultures. Today, we have more than 300 people in our organization, and we interact with thousands of partners around the world on a daily basis. And I'm grateful."

■ JEANNETTE COOPERMAN



Photo: Ackerman + Gruber

## For friendship's sake

Nina Badzin's podcast is a salve for those craving connection.

### WHO

Nina Badzin, AB '99

### GOOD TIMES AT WASHU

Badzin's best college memories feature her friends. "We basically lived at The Bakery, which was in Mallinckrodt Center. We hung out and ate frozen yogurt there all the time."

### FOR FUN

Badzin enjoys tennis and walking. She's also an avid reader who reviews up to 40 books a year on her website.

### BEST ADVICE FOR MAINTAINING FRIENDSHIPS

Give friends the benefit of the doubt. "Oftentimes, hurt feelings are based on assumptions," Badzin says. "We tend to give ourselves plenty of room to mess up. Why not do the same for our friends?"

When pandemic lockdowns found us meeting friends over Wi-Fi instead of dinner, **Nina Badzin, AB '99**, started exchanging video messages with friends. But it didn't take long for the Minneapolis-based writer and podcaster to realize that the missives she sent were typically longer and more frequent than the ones she received.

"I clearly needed more connection," she says. And she knew she wasn't alone; Badzin says she wasn't surprised when the surgeon general cited loneliness as the latest public health crisis.

So in July 2021, she launched "Dear Nina: Conversations about Friendship," a podcast that helps listeners navigate friendship challenges — because, as she says in every episode, "When our friendships are going well, we're happier all around."

The podcast helps Badzin, too. "When I was craving connection, this was an opportunity to speak to people who are writing and talking about the

things I'm interested in," she says. While Badzin's guest list includes names like happiness expert Gretchen Rubin and Scary Mommy founder **Jill Smokler, BFA '99**, she's also shared the mic with "regular people" such as her close college friend **Rebecca Kotok, AB '99**, and husband **Bryan Badzin, MBA '00**.

As a writer, Badzin has been answering anonymous questions with nuance and compassion for nearly a decade. The move from the page to podcasting felt like a natural shift, but she experienced growing pains when she first left her niche as a parenting writer to pen stories about friendship. When the HerStories Project, an online community for women writers, offered her a role as a friendship advice columnist in 2014, Badzin worried she was underqualified.

"But my editors said my perspective, not as a professional, but as someone who is unusually obsessed with friendship, was perfect," she recalls. Badzin chalks up her interest in the topic to growing up with parents who frequently socialized with other couples and to getting married in her early 20s; while her friends were concerned about their dating lives, "my friendships were the interesting and ever-changing relationships in my life."

Badzin, who double-majored in political science and Spanish in Arts & Sciences, has worn many hats, including English teacher, short-story author and essayist, writing teacher, wife, mom of four and, of course, loyal friend — all of which help her explore friendship questions with nuance and compassion. "With my eclectic background, I relate to all kinds of people," she says.

And, as Badzin knows, friendship problems don't disappear with the awkwardness of adolescence. While specifics vary, most friendship issues share basic themes. "Questions fall into three buckets — making, maintaining and ending friendships," Badzin says. Within those topics, "there's no shortage of episode ideas."

Between listener and newsletter reader questions and ideas from friends and fans, Badzin's inbox overflows with inspiration. "Every day, someone is telling me, whether on the phone, over email or in person, about something to include on the show."

■ PAM MOORE





# Presidential curation

Crystal Marie Moten wants visitors to the Obama Presidential Center Museum to see themselves in history.

As a third grader growing up on the South Side of Chicago, **Crystal Marie Moten, AB '04**, knew she wanted to be an educator. As a high schooler, she sought out a college with a Black studies program. At WashU, thanks to two courses taught by the legendary Leslie Brown, Moten discovered an aspiration to be a historian and professor. After graduate school and six years teaching, Moten pivoted to a new educational setting: museums.

“I see museums as the ultimate classroom to reach a diverse group of people. Curator is my professional job title, but I feel that I’m an educator in my heart,” Moten says. “In a museum, people let their guards down. They stop; they explore; they talk — and most of the time, it’s unprompted. We have the opportunity to reach so many people and expand so many minds.”

Moten spent three years as curator of African American history at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History before returning to her hometown for a role that brings it all together: curator of collections and exhibitions at the Obama Presidential Center Museum. The 19-acre Jackson Park campus, including a towering museum with more than 25,000 square feet of exhibition space, will open in 2025.

Building a brand-new cultural institution requires a detailed and an expansive mindset, as well as the full research toolkit Moten acquired as a professor. She personally writes and edits exhibition text and works on display designs down to the square inch. To tell the story of the Obama presidency and family, her team interprets primary source documents and oral histories, consults with scholars of political and presidential history, and even crowdsources objects to include in the collection.

“When you think about the groundbreaking history of the Obama campaign — especially the ways in which then-Senator Obama inspired people to get involved at the grassroots — we have evidence of that excitement. That’s what people donate. You can feel the vibrancy of the moment in those objects,” Moten says. One example includes a handmade banner scrawled with campaign volunteers’ unofficial rallying cry: “Fired up! Ready to go!”

At the top of the new museum, the Sky Room will offer views of the Chicago skyline and a place to reflect on the objects displayed in the floors below. In addition to the Obamas’ past, exhibitions will cover the broad history of civil rights that contributes to the Obama legacy. Moten hopes the Sky Room will provide a moment for visitors to consider their own place in that history.

“Everyone should have access to these stories. If we listen to them, if we take them in, if we understand them, they tell us so much about our past — and they can also provide insight into where we are now and inspire us for the future,” Moten says.

“I hope people will contemplate what they have just seen and what it means to them, but then also move to asking the question: ‘What can I do?’ And then together, ‘How can all of us change the world?’”

■ CLAIRE GAUEN

#### WHO

Crystal Marie Moten, AB '04

#### FIRST-TIME AUTHOR

*Continually Working: Black Women, Community Intellectualism, and Economic Justice in Postwar Milwaukee* was published this year by Vanderbilt University Press.

#### THE WASHU EFFECT

“WashU means so much to me. It was the first moment in my life when I understood that I could do and be anything I wanted to be. Resources and obstacles just didn’t matter. Whatever I wanted to do, I could do at WashU. No one ever said no to me or my dreams.”

#### UNDERGRAD ACTIVITIES

Moten double-majored in anthropology and in African and African American studies, held leadership roles in the Association of Black Students and Harambee Christian Ministries, and studied abroad in Kenya.





Photo: Buff Strickland

## The sky's the limit

Mark Waggoner designs stadium roofs that shield tens of thousands of sports fans from the elements and can withstand Mother Nature's fury.

### WHO

Mark Waggoner, BSCE '97

### WHY WASHU?

"During my campus visit, everything came together for me — I knew I'd get a great education, and I could play tennis."

### FAVORITE WASHU MEMORY

Meeting his future wife, Anne Weller, AB '97, MSPT '99

### TRAVELING SCHOLAR

"After graduate school, I received a traveling fellowship and spent three months in Europe studying cathedrals and other long-span structures. It was such a fun experience!"

**Mark Waggoner, BSCE '97**, has a lot on his mind: wind, earthquakes, heat, snow and flight paths, to name a few. As a structural engineer, he thinks big — really big — which is crucial since he specializes in long-span roof design for professional sports facilities.

While building a structurally sound roof is key (and aesthetics are certainly important), there are many other aspects Waggoner must consider such as climate, environmental factors and acoustic concerns — all of which impact the choice of roofing materials.

"For example, when designing translucent or transparent roofs, we have to get the solar properties of the roof just right so that the people inside the stadium aren't baking!" he says.

How did Waggoner get into long-span roof design? It started at WashU, where he was especially drawn to his

structural engineering classes. "My professors did a great job of blending theory as well as practical considerations and instructional design," he says. After graduating, he attended The University of Texas at Austin, earning a master's degree in structural engineering. He then began his career at the engineering firm Walter P Moore, where he has worked for 23 years. His first assignment? NRG Stadium, home to the Houston Texans.

Now a senior principal at Walter P Moore, Waggoner is known for his innovative designs that use computer analysis to address a variety of environmental concerns. He often works with a wind consultant, who places a model of the building in a wind tunnel to test it for wind loads. In high seismic zones, Waggoner conducts earthquake simulations to see the effect on the building. Based on the findings, he refines the design and develops detailed drawings to hand over to the building contractors.

Waggoner says one of his most challenging projects was SoFi Stadium, home to the Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers. "We were building in one of the highest seismic areas in the world, and our site was close to an active fault," he says. "We had to put the building 100 feet in the ground because it was so close to LAX [Los Angeles International Airport] and had to be below a certain height for flight paths." The stadium went on to win multiple design awards.

What's next for Waggoner? He's working on a replacement roof for Montreal's Olympic Stadium, in use since the 1976 Summer Games. "It's interesting because we have to design a roof that is resistant to snow buildup and ice impact," he says. Other projects include new stadiums for the Buffalo Bills and the Tennessee Titans.

"I really enjoy the complexity that comes with long-span roof design," Waggoner says. "We get to put the roof together as the sum of its parts and make it seem like it was always there floating in the sky."

■ BLAIRE LEIBLE GARWITZ



# Waves of change

**María Isabel Dabrowski, AB '18,** combines her fascinations with marine life and behavioral science as a senior outreach associate at Rare's Center for Behavior & the Environment, the world's first center focused exclusively on behavioral science and design as it relates to the environment. After graduating from WashU with a major in cognitive neuroscience, Dabrowski earned a master's degree in environmental psychology from the University of Michigan, interviewing Ecuadorian fishermen about ocean conservation for her capstone project. She also founded a science communication page on Instagram. Below, she talks about her career in conservation at this critical point in human-climate history.

► **It all started with a trip from WashU to Costa Rica.** This one-week experience working at a sea turtle conservancy completely turned my perception of conservation and environmentalism on its head. I realized that talking about conservation requires empathy. Calling someone a poacher, for example, villainizes them, and villainizing someone does not make them want to be part of a solution. Now, I start off by trying to understand motivations and barriers. In Ecuador, the government can hand out policies and regulations, but what are the motivations and barriers for fishermen to follow these rules and change their practices to become more sustainable?

► **There are so many ways to be creative in how you get to whatever path you're on.** My junior year, as I lay in bed having an internal crisis about my future, I went on social media to distract myself. I saw a video of a turtle with a straw being pulled out of its nose, and it really tugged at my heartstrings. I started taking environmental classes, and I realized that this is what gets me up in the morning. Regardless of your

degree, there is a role for whatever you studied to be applied to the environment. People like to say the economy underpins so much, but I would say that the climate underpins everything.

► **When you're doing outreach, you realize how many people actually care.** It can be so easy to get overwhelmed because every day there is more bad news about the environment. For me, working with kids and engaging in local projects gives me hope. The program Skype a Scientist lets me talk about turtles or birds or neuroscience to youth ages 5–18, and it is an encouraging way to realize that there are generations coming after us that are worth fighting for. When you work locally, you also have a better chance of seeing visible positive action take place.

► **A day in the life is a day of organized chaos.** It is a balance of keeping up with my job at Rare, my science outreach projects and my continued efforts in Ecuador. At Rare, one of the biggest projects that we're working on right now is Solution Search, a contest looking for behavioral science-influenced projects in Latin America and the Caribbean to reduce illegal or unsustainable wildlife trade. We are also trying to make behavior-centered design tools accessible to the public and practitioners. My work, outreach and studies have allowed me to travel to different countries and make friends all over the world, and @gogreenfortheocean has gone from a pet project to a community. It's all been really incredible.

■ NINA GIRALDO, ARTS & SCIENCES CLASS OF '25

Photo: Andres Alonso

**WHO**

María Isabel Dabrowski, AB '18

**LATINA IDENTITY**

"Being a Latina in STEM has provided me with so many opportunities to connect with people, but I've also been told I'm not Latina enough or not American enough. I've had to do a lot of advocating for other Latin folk and myself."

**ON THE GO**

Dabrowski enjoys birding, scuba diving and travel. Her work with Rare has taken her to Brazil and to Colombia twice this year.



@gogreenfortheocean





Photo: Michael Thomas





# Connection is key

Larry Thomas, co-chair of Make Way: Our Student Initiative, wants to help students build personal networks and ‘realize the empowering possibility’ of WashU.

When **Lawrence “Larry” Thomas, BSBA ’77**, picked up a flute recorder at age 6, he did not know how that humble instrument would shape his life’s trajectory. He took up other instruments, mastered multiple genres and, as his skills deepened, settled squarely on the saxophone. The summer before his senior year of high school in Vicksburg, Mississippi, he landed a coveted spot on a band delegation headed to a national convention in St. Louis. His band was housed in the South 40 dormitories, and he fell in love with WashU.

Thomas enrolled the following fall. A strong STEM student, he initially intended to study pharmacology. Over the course of a few terms, however, he was increasingly drawn to applied mathematics-based courses, so he transferred to Olin Business School.

Today, Thomas cites the continuous commitment of key WashU supporters as integral to his academic self-discovery and ensuing professional achievements. Supported through self-doubts, encouraged in his strengths and connected with advocates, he undertook his first steps toward a remarkably successful career at Edward Jones. Thomas served as partner at the St. Louis-based brokerage firm until his retirement in 2021.

As an alumnus, Thomas has remained reciprocally invested in the university. He is a co-chair of the fundraising effort Make Way: Our Student Initiative and is one of the longest-serving voting members of the current Board of Trustees. A consistent scholarship donor for four decades, he encourages others to increase their

investments in scholarships. In short, Thomas aims to ensure that every admitted student receives the access and support that primed him for his post-WashU life.

## DESCRIBE YOUR WASHU EXPERIENCE.

I came from an academically challenged state, where I attended public elementary and high schools. The academic piece of WashU was tough. When I think about my experience, it is the people who really helped me along — friends, classmates and some crucial supporters.

There was a fellow who worked in Chancellor Bill Danforth’s office at the time by the name of Ron Jackson, who later served as the executive director of St. Louis for Kids. Ron had been a student at the university, and he was a personal adviser to me. He took me under his wing. When I had some difficulty or questions — either simple or deep — he was my go-to guy. Building relationships with people like Ron really got me through.

## WHY DO YOU GIVE SO MUCH TO WASHU?

I took an internship class at Olin, and the professor, George Hempel, directed me to three companies where I could apply. Edward Jones was one of them. So I went in for an interview. It was very small then, with just one employee in personnel. She thought I was applying for a night job in the mail room. She sought assistance from the partner, but I got nowhere with the two of them for more than a week.

Impatient, I approached Hempel and let him know about the situation. He

made one call to a very senior person he knew well — the late John Bachmann. Hempel said, “Hire this young man.” And Bachmann, who was never at a loss for words, simply said, “OK.” After I graduated, I started at Edward Jones full time, and I worked there my entire career. Bachmann became the company’s managing partner and one of my staunchest supporters.

Naturally, I have a strong investment in Washington University. My advisers not only knew my potential, but they also threw their weight behind me. I want more students to discover the resources, networks and social capital at their fingertips. I want all of them to realize the empowering possibility of this place.

## WHY IS MAKE WAY IMPORTANT?

Make Way helps students come to WashU. It also ensures that they truly connect as I did. Not all students arrive equipped to seek resources or ask for help. They’re suddenly in a place with all this great brainpower, all these great people, and it’s overwhelming. We want our students to be able to engage fully. It’s not only about tuition and room and board.

Among its priorities, Make Way is building support for internships and career development and cultivating student health and well-being. In short, Make Way is proactively preparing more young people for life after graduation. We recognize that many students must be taught to tap into the resources and the community. As I learned, that community is essential to success.

■ GRIZELDA MCCLELLAND, MA ’03, PHD ’13

# Welcome to La Comunidad

WashU's new network for Hispanic, Latinx and Latin American alumni is nearly 20 years in the making.

In 2002, **Jorge Castillo, AB '06**, arrived on campus as one of roughly 3% of Washington University undergraduates who identified as Latinx.\* He was drawn to WashU by the Annika Rodriguez Scholars Program, a merit-based and service-driven scholar community established in 1999. At the time, the program's participants were predominantly Latinx, and "there was a real sense of belonging and family among the students," he recalls.

That spirit extended to cultural organizations across campus. Many Rodriguez Scholars participated in the Association of Latin American Students (ALAS) and volunteered with Niños Cambios Puertas, a tutoring and mentoring initiative, or at Casa de Salud, a local clinic serving uninsured and underinsured immigrant populations. The bonds forged from these overlapping groups — not to mention the popularity of events like Carnaval — often made the Latinx student presence on campus feel mightier to Castillo than numbers alone suggested.

Today, a little more than 12% of WashU's undergraduates and 13% of the Class of 2027 identify as Latinx. With this growth comes an equally flourishing body of Latinx alumni. To better reach them, WashU's Alumni Association introduced a new network in January 2023. La Comunidad, Spanish for "the community," launched after months of planning by a dedicated alumni steering committee, which included Castillo and five others. The network aims to be a cultural home, as well as a professional and personal resource, for members of the WashU community who identify as Hispanic, Latinx or Latin American.

## ORIGINS

The story of La Comunidad begins almost two decades ago, when a handful of recent WashU grads — Castillo and his now-wife, **Mónica O'Malley de Castillo, AB '06**, among them — banded together to form a Latinx alumni group. Dubbed Somos, or "we are," the group sought to become an outreach network for WashU's "Latino and Latino-loving" community.

In 2007, **Jose Chacon, BSBA '06**, built a Facebook page to spread the word while others reached out

to **Julia Macias, PhD '20**, now associate dean for the Office of Scholar Programs and director of the Rodriguez Scholars Program, to explore a formal partnership with the university. Though the group disbanded after a couple of years, these efforts laid important groundwork for La Comunidad. Three Somos vets sit on the network's steering committee.

By the time the committee commenced planning in spring 2022, "we are" had morphed into "who are we?" The alumni wrestled with capturing the cultural, geographic and linguistic diversity of this community in a single name. Indeed, the terms Hispanic, Latino/a, Latinx and Latine are complex and not necessarily interchangeable. "Hispanic" denotes a common Spanish tongue, whereas "Latino" and its permutations signify shared geography within Latin America. "Latinx" and "Latine" offer more inclusive, gender-neutral alternatives.

The committee members took these nuances seriously, crowdsourcing fellow alumni and current students for their thoughts and suggestions. "We wanted to come up with a meaningful name that would be inviting to our most recent alumni and those who graduated decades ago," Macias says. They settled on La Comunidad because it reflects the new network's foundational goal of building community across generations, geography and experience. While alumni make up La Comunidad's core audience, the group is open to Latinx students, parents, faculty and staff as well.

## ON A MISSION

One of La Comunidad's immediate goals is to fuel interest through a mix of in-person and virtual events like happy hours and a speaker series. The network kicked off 2023 with an on-campus alumni panel discussion featuring opening remarks by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Anna Gonzalez. In April, La Comunidad hosted its first alumni reception during Reunion at Thurtene Carnival, followed by a casual gathering in Chicago later that month.

Additional programming ideas under consideration focus on mentorship and career development, such as a speed networking event that would give current Latinx students and recent grads face time with







Photos: Gara Lacy

**\*My name is ...**

In keeping with the current language at WashU, La Comunidad uses the terms Latinx and Latine. Students and alumni may employ other terms that reflect their own experience, such as Latino, Latina, Hispanic, Afro-Latinx or specific national/regional identities. La Comunidad will continue to evaluate this approach as language evolves.

Above (from left): In January, **Isabel Acevedo, BS '06**, **Carol Pazos, AB '20**, **Julia Macias, PhD '20**, and others celebrated the launch of La Comunidad. At far left (from left): **Mónica O'Malley de Castillo, AB '06**, **Luisa Castañeda-Cano, AB '19**, and **Ousmane Gaye, BArch '22**, participated in a panel discussion.



For more information about La Comunidad, including upcoming events, visit [alumni.wustl.edu/la-comunidad](http://alumni.wustl.edu/la-comunidad).

more established alumni. Macias would also like to see La Comunidad partner with ALAS as well as school-based graduate organizations like the Latin American Law Students Association and the Olin Latin American Business Association. Moving forward, the group may also add student liaisons to the steering committee.

For **Carol Pazos, AB '20**, La Comunidad presents exciting opportunities to support today's Latinx students and have a positive impact on their WashU experience. She came to WashU as a first-generation college student from a largely Latinx neighborhood on Chicago's South Side and remembers feeling overwhelmed by the unfamiliarity of her new surroundings.

"I thought a lot about how to create space for other students like me when I was at WashU," she says. Pazos, who was a Rodriguez Scholar, helped found a WashU chapter of Alpha Psi Lambda, a coed Latinx fraternity, in 2018. She views her current role

on the La Comunidad steering committee as an extension of this work.

Pazos and other members of the steering committee recognize the importance of university support to the group's successful launch and future growth. "La Comunidad wouldn't be where it is today without the backing of the Alumni Association," she says. In turn, Castillo believes cultural networks like La Comunidad are powerful assets — not just for individual members but also for institutions.

Knowing such a group exists makes WashU a place where current students want to stay and prospective students want to be. And those students will eventually become alumni whose engagement has the potential to further bolster the university and its mission.

Everyone involved has high hopes for the future of La Comunidad. "We're off to a great start," Macias says. "But now it's time to dream bigger."

■ EMMA DENT, AB '09

# Class Notes



Photo: Washington University Archives



## A TASTE OF FAT ALBERT'S

“ I managed Fat Albert's, probably 1977-78; maybe it was the following year instead. There was a large illustration of the kids from the *Fat Albert* TV show, so I always assumed that was the origin of its name. We served bagels and ice cream. I recall when I ordered bleach for the first time for the dishwasher, the salesperson asked if I also wanted soap. Soap? Who knew? Sorry if your dishes weren't clean before that. Once we ran out of ice cream, so we went to Howard Johnson's for some big tubs. I seem to recall they charged us \$10 for each 5-gallon tub. Also, some whipped cream disappeared from stock once. Sorry about that, too.”

DAVID RUBENSTEIN, AB '79



# What's New?

Let us know about recent honors, promotions, appointments, travels, marriages and births, so we can keep your classmates informed of important changes in your lives.



## SEND NEWS:

Class Notes, *Washington Magazine*  
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St. Louis, MO 63130-4899



## EMAIL:

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Entries may take up to three issues after submission to appear in the magazine; they are published in the order in which they are received.

## ALUMNI CODES

AR	Architecture
BU	Business
DE	Dentistry
EMBA	Executive MBA
EN	Engineering
FA	Art
GA	Graduate Architecture
GB	Graduate Business
GD	Graduate Dentistry
GF	Graduate Art
GL	Graduate Law
GM	Graduate Medicine
GN	Graduate Nursing
GR	Graduate Arts & Sciences
HA	Health Care Administration
HS	House Staff (Residency)
LA	Arts & Sciences
LW	Law
MD	Medicine
MT	Manual Training
NU	Nursing
OT	Occupational Therapy
PMBA	Professional MBA
PT	Physical Therapy
SI	Sever Institute
SU	Sever Institute Undergraduate
SW	Social Work
TI	Technology & Information Management
UC	University College

## 1950

**Frances Weiss Mandel**, UC50, turned 95 this past February. Prior to retirement, Mandel was an esteemed and much-loved librarian at Serna Elementary School in San Antonio. She lives in Sun City, Ariz., where she enjoys reading every day, watching comedies and jazzercise. Her son, **Ross Mandel**, EN79, who majored in chemical engineering and went on to earn an MBA from Texas A&M, retired from a career that spanned Bechtel, Phillips Petroleum, Texas Instruments and Microchip Technologies. He lives in Phoenix. Frances' cousins, **Irv Fagin**, BU51, and **Frank Haspiel**, LA51, GR53, as well as his son, **Joey Haspiel**, LA81, are all WashU alumni as well.

## 1954

**Joan F. (Blumenthal) Grossmann**, LA54, turned 91 years old in July and still has close relationships with sorority friends that helped build the Delta Gamma School for children with visual impairments.

## 1961

**Anne Ward Sabbert**, LA61, and Donald Sabbert celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 29 with a "progressive anniversary dinner" with members of their wedding party — starting in St. Louis; continuing in Aurora, Ill.; moving on to West Bend, Wisc.; and concluding with a stay at Liberty Lodge in Sister Bay, Door County, Wisc.

## 1965

**Martin A. Frey**, LW65, professor emeritus at The University of Tulsa College of Law, recently published his first historical novel, *Captain Hornigold and the Pirate Republic*. A reviewer wrote: "History lovers, especially those particularly interested in this era, will find great information to help them continue their pursuit of the period's secret. Frey's writing is easy to read and approachable for upper-middle-grade students through adults." His 10th blog post, "The Caribbean: The First Hundred Years of European Colonization" is posted to his website (thepiratehaven.com).

## 1967

**Michael M. Berger**, LW67, received the Jefferson B. Fordham Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of State and Local Government Law. As one of the top land use and condemnation attorneys in the United States, Berger was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the practice of state and local government law over the course of his career. The award is one of the highest honors given by the ABA. He is senior counsel with Manatt.

**Tsvi Blanchard**, LA67, GR69, GR73, has been the Meyer Struckman Professor of Jewish Law in the Berlin faculty of law at Humboldt University since 2011.

**Perci Chester**, FA67, had her work "Tore So Glow" curated by Esther Callahan into the exhibition *The Periphery of Power*, held July 15–Aug. 18 at the Gamut Gallery in Minneapolis, Minn. Chester was also invited to speak on the artists panel on the show.

**Nizar Mullani**, EN67, won the de Hevesy Prize of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging in June for his significant contribution to the development of positron emission tomography (PET). In 1973, Mullani joined the nuclear medicine laboratory in Barnes Hospital. He helped design and build the first PET scanner of hexagonal design. Mullani went on to build four more PET scanners at Washington University before he left for the University of Texas at Houston. He is now a partner at DermLite LLC and president of Translite LLC.

**Sandy Rothschild**, LA67, GB71, was elected treasurer of the board of directors of the Great Rivers Environmental Law Center, which is a nonprofit providing free or reduced-rate legal services that attempt to protect the environment and public health. Previously, Rothschild operated his own company, Sandy Rothschild & Associates, Inc. for 25 years until a medical condition forced him to close it. The company had been highly successful at helping clients reduce property taxes and in other areas. Rothschild is also a dedicated WashU volunteer, serving a term on the Alumni Board of Governors, five years on the Eliot Society (he's now a Life Eliot member), and many years as a member of the travel committee and the executive committee of the W Club. He's also a "super fan" — a regular and enthusiastic supporter of Bears sports.

## 1968

**William F. Siedhoff**, UC68, SW73, was honored by the St. Louis Crisis Nursery, which dedicated its outreach center as the William F. Siedhoff Family Empowerment Center in honor of Siedhoff's commitment to the City of St. Louis, the homeless population and children at risk. Siedhoff recently established the William F. Siedhoff Foundation, which provides grants focused on the needs of children and families in the City of St. Louis. While semi-retired, he currently serves as chair of five social service and educational organizations. He also was recently appointed to the Brown School National Council at WashU and is a member of the Danforth Circle Committee of the Eliot Society.

## 1969

**James W. McKay**, LA69, retired in 2012 from a career in mental health, mentoring and social services.

## 1970

**Frank B. Ford**, LA70, won the Editor Award at the North American Lily Society's annual International Lily Show and Symposium held in Chicago in July. He won for his article "How'd I Do That? Taking a tissue culture

bulb of *Lilium gloriosoides* from pinky-tip size to glorious bloom,” which was published in the March 2023 issue of *The North American Lily Society* bulletin (and his photo of the blossom was the cover photo).

**Dennis Wolf**, BU70, retired in 2014 from a nonprofit, multihospital health-care organization based in Denver after a career in supply chain management in the computer industry. Now living in Boise, Idaho, he has served as a trustee on several boards for nonprofit governing bodies, and he is currently an officer of a political organization. Wolf and his wife, Beth, have been married for more than 50 years and raised two sons, Bradley (Colorado School of Mines) and Jeffrey (University of Denver).

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## 1971

**Joe Madison**, LA71, LW19, was selected as a recipient of the Council Award of Special Recognition from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Madison was honored as part of the ASALH's efforts to defend the teaching of Black history in Florida and to support the citizens, teachers and scholars who are on the front line against the laws that hinder the teaching of the truth in the state. Madison is the host of a daily program, “The Black Eagle,” on SiriusXM's Urban View (channel 126).

**J. Stuart Showalter**, LW71, published the 10th edition of his textbook, *The Law of Healthcare Administration* (Health Admin. Press, 2023). In the 1990s he taught health law in the Health Administration Program of Washington University School of Medicine and also taught the subject at Saint Louis University, the University of Central Florida, San Diego State University and La Sierra University (Riverside, Calif.). Retired, he lives near family in Williston, Vt.

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## 1972

**Raymond Dalton**, LA72, completed his career as a Veterans Administration clinical psychologist. After graduating from Washington University, his favorite professor encouraged him to delay active military duty and follow him to the campus of Indiana State University, where he earned a master's degree in clinical psychology. When called to active duty, Dalton served as a behavioral scientist officer with the U.S. Air Force. He constructed psychometric instruments and counseled alcoholics. This combination caught the attention of the chairman of the psychology department at Arizona State University and led to his earning a doctorate in clinical psychology.

**Stan De Loach**, LA72, has produced the YouTube channel “Diabetes, con normoglucemia” in Spanish and English for more than a year. De Loach states that people don't realize that a person with diabetes can have normal, non-diabetic blood glucose levels 95% of the time just by choosing an “abnormal” (low-carb) diet for their body. His goal is to teach newly

diagnosed people with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes how to make their quality of life infinitely better with different methodologies and treatments.

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## 1973

**Albert Ip**, EN73, was appointed senior advisor to the president of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in November 2022 and was appointed a member of the Science and Technology Council of the Macau Special Administrative Region chaired by the chief executive in June.

**Roslyn Ehudin Zinner**, LA73, created the immersive art installation “Coral Reef Encounter,” which turned a swimming pool in Columbia, Md., into a coral reef for two days in July. The installation is in its third year and about 1,100 people participated, snorkeling through a trail that consisted of about 300 fish and coral made from fabric, plastic bags, can lids, fencing, rubber gloves, concrete starfish, bubble wrap, purses, a bed frame and many other found objects. On arrival, participants viewed a short film about the importance of coral reefs to the ocean and environment, then were taught how to snorkel with loaner equipment.

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## 1974

**Bill Horvath**, UC74, retired as an electrical engineer. He specialized as a safety compliance engineer for Basler Electric in Highland, Ill., and for Killark Electric in St. Louis.

**Gregory Mixon**, LA74, was co-director of The Quest for Freedom, part of the National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks in American History and Culture program at Thomasville History Center in Georgia, in July. The two weeklong programs examined African American history during the long civil rights movement and how African Americans created churches, schools and organizations to sustain their community in the face of widespread discrimination. Mixon is a professor of history at University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

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## 1976

**W. Charles Bennett**, GB76, penned his first book, *Dirt Under the Cap* (BookBaby, August 2021). The book recaps some of the major sports stories, including his widely reported investigation that uncovered significant irregularities in the NBA's salary cap in 1991.

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## 1980

**Teddy Bader**, MD80, wrote *Which Treatment Is Best? Spoof or Proof?* (Routledge, February 2023). The book includes a story of a young woman who cries, “Please don't let me die!” Has she received the best treatment? What is the best treatment? How do we know? Life-threatening disease prompts these

questions in everyone. The story ends with the randomized controlled trial and how to interpret it.

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## 1982

**Scott Stolz**, BU82, GB83, managing director at New York-based iCapital, has published his second book, *Rest Easy Retirement* (Advantage Media Group, May 2023). Stolz and his wife, Tina Corner, author of *Your Seat at the Table*, reside in St. Petersburg, Fla.

**Mitchell Strominger**, LA82, MD86, relocated to Reno, Nev., in 2018, where he is a professor of surgery, ophthalmology and pediatrics at University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine. He also is serving as president of the Nevada chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Strominger has a noncommercial winery, 107 Vines, where he grows grapes and makes wine for nonprofit fundraising (see Facebook).

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## 1986

**Alexander S. Douglas II**, LA86, was selected by The Florida Bar to serve on the Florida Probate Rules Committee. The function of the committee is to carry out the mandate of Rule 2.140 concerning the proposal of new rules of procedure and changes to existing rules. Douglas is a partner with ShuffieldLowman and practices in the area of fiduciary litigation.

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## 1990

**Paige Johnson**, GR90, was named chief marketing officer of CURE Childhood Cancer, an Atlanta-based nonprofit that advances pediatric cancer research and provides patient and family support. Previously, Johnson served as senior vice president, strategy/digital at Blue Sky Agency. She has more than 20 years of experience as a marketing and business strategy leader.

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## 1992

**Jordan Forman**, BU92, was named partner at Fox Rothschild's Atlanta office. Forman represents and defends businesses in contract claims and the full range of commercial disputes.

**Paul Ruggieri**, HS92, recently published his sixth book, *Confessions of a Surgeon: A Deeper Cut*. It is a memoir about his experiences as a surgeon.

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## 1993

**Miriam Laugesen**, GR93, associate professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, was awarded a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellowship (2023–24) for research in Tokyo. She was also named a National Academy of Medicine and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation





Photo: Washington University Archives

#### A TASTE OF FAT ALBERT'S



My favorite was the Cookie Monster – ice cream on a giant warm chocolate chip cookie, hot fudge and whipped cream. My roomie, David Gohlke, AB '85, was on the wall of fame for finishing the giant tub of ice cream and toppings in some amazing time. You could also get nachos and some other snacks. Between Fat A's and the Rat, life could be really good."

DANIEL SMITH, AB '85

Health Policy Fellow 2023, which started in September. The fellowship includes an intensive three-month orientation followed by a nine-month assignment in a congressional office or the executive branch working on health-related legislation and policy development.

#### 1994

**Andy Mozina, GR94, GR98**, authored his fourth book of fiction, *Tandem* (Tortoise Books, October 2023). In the book, the perpetrator of a fatal drunk-driving hit-and-run rationalizes a romantic relationship with the mother of his victim as a type of atonement.

#### 1995

**Daniel Backman, EN95**, vice president of operations at Clark, Richardson & Biskup (CRB), a full-service facility design, engineering, construction and consulting firm for the life sciences and food and beverage industries, was recently elected to the CRB board of directors. Backman and his wife of 26 years, Sheena, are the parents of a daughter and two sons, and reside in Kalamazoo, Mich.

**Maggie Knaus, GF95**, published her first children's book, *Eleanor's Moon* (Owlkids Books, August 2023), which she wrote and illustrated. The story is about Knaus' eldest daughter, Eleanor, and Knaus' father (Eleanor's grandfather) and their connection to the moon, even when they are apart. Knaus writes that while the book is illustrated with her paintings today, her 30-year career as a professional photographer was molded by her experience at WashU.

**Daniel A. Schwartz, LW95**, has been elected as a fellow of the Class of 2023 College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. Fellows are recognized as distinguished members of the labor and employment community and have practiced labor and employment law for at least 20 years. Schwartz is an attorney with Shipman & Goodwin LLP. He is also the author of the Connecticut Employment Law Blog, which was named to the ABA's Blawg 100 Hall of Fame.

#### 1996

**Patti Bubash, GR96**, recently participated in a 10-day Fulbright Association Alumni Travel Program in-site tour of Portugal and Spain, traveling from Lisbon to Madrid. She then traveled on a 14-day Faith Journeys tour

to France and Italy to celebrate Fontbonne University's Centennial Celebration, including trips to Paris, Lyon, Le Puy-en-Velay and Rome.

#### 1999

**Katie Ireland, PMBA99**, has joined CRB as a senior packaging engineer. She has more than 20 years of experience across iconic global brands including Starbucks, Kellogg, Ford Motor Company, Unilever and Hershey. Ireland is helping clients seeking holistic packaging, equipment and line design that maximizes a product's shelf life, safety, ease of use and marketing appeal.

**Melissa Kerin Reagan, BU99**, was selected as LawWeek Colorado's Top 2023 Women Attorneys. Reagan is a member in Sherman & Howard's trial department, where she is a member of the firm's data security and privacy group. She also serves as the firm's chair of talent acquisition, inclusion and diversity.

#### 2000

**Paul Gasset, PMBA00**, was named vice president at OBATA Design, where he manages client relationships for the firm's ESG (environmental, social and governance)

and sustainability reporting division. He writes that he leverages the skills he learned at Olin Business School to guide clients, including major Fortune 100 companies, in their sustainability strategies.

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## 2001

**Melissa Bloom**, LA01, is in the planning stages of a journey from Maryland to California aboard her sailboat. She will be joined by first mate **Matthew Pickar**, LA01; her husband, Tom Spalding; and her loyal and enthusiastic pup, Ollie. The planned journey includes an initial sail to Delaware to pick up **Ivey (Raymond) Helmick**, LA01, and a daring trip through the Panama Canal before following the whale migration routes north to pick up **Allison (Tannenbaum) Levy**, LA01, in Long Beach and then concluding the epic journey with **Elizabeth (Hazelton) Pearce**, LA01, in San Francisco. To date, preparation includes a day sail from the vessel's home port outside Baltimore during which first mate Pickar did a "really good job" steering the boat.

**Jayson Johnson**, LA01, was appointed to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission by Mayor London Breed. The commission advocates for human and civil rights and works in service of the city's anti-discrimination laws to further racial solidarity, equity and healing. Johnson was also featured as a 2023 LGBTQ+ Biopharma Leader in *Endpoints News*.

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## 2003

**Kjell Erik Brekke**, GR03, moved with his family in July from Nairobi, Kenya, to San Francisco to start a new diplomatic posting as a consul at the Norwegian Consulate General.

**Lynne R. Perkins**, LW03, was retained as associate circuit judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court in the City of St. Louis by Missouri Gov. Mike Parson in November 2020. Perkins has served the associate circuit bench since October 2017. Since the start of 2023, he has been one of two associate judges assigned to the St. Louis Circuit Court's bond review divisions.

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## 2005

**Danielle Borrin Hertz**, LA05, was appointed by President Joseph Biden to be a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, the governing board of trustees of the museum.

**Patricia Saleeby**, SW05, helped develop courses for the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) Program. The ICF is a health and functioning classification that works with the ICD (classification of diseases), used in every global health system. As a Washington University doctoral student, Saleeby began working with the World Health Organization in development of the ICF. Since then, she has continued to serve on committees to update and promote the use of these international health classifications.

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## 2006

**Lauren (Miller) Hoye**, SW06, a partner with Willig, Williams & Davidson, was named a 2023 Pennsylvania Super Lawyer. Hoye advocates for labor unions and individual employees before state and federal courts around the country. She is an arbitrator in the compulsory arbitration program of the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas and is a volunteer with the Support Center for Child Advocates, representing abused children in the child welfare system.

**Michelle Smirnova**, LA06, penned *The Prescription-to-Prison Pipeline: The Medicalization and Criminalization of Pain* (Duke University Press, March 2023). The book presents compelling data to examine how the relationships among trauma, physical pain, medical care, crime, drug use and incarceration are interwoven and co-created. It tells stories that humanize those who are often demonized in popular imagination. Smirnova is associate professor of sociology and affiliate faculty of race, ethnic and gender studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

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## 2007

**Christopher Luna**, BS07, LW10, has joined Foster Garvey as of counsel in their tax and benefits practice group. He advises clients on a wide array of income tax and transactional matters.

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## 2008

**Mai-Lan Ho**, MD08, was promoted to professor of radiology at the University of Missouri in 2022. This year, she was named vice chair of operations and innovation, medical director of radiology, physician director of radiology informatics, and division director of neuroradiology at the university. She lectures for national/international radiology societies and has served as a visiting professor in Sweden, Brazil, Vietnam, Ghana, Netherlands and Thailand. Ho is currently editing her fourth book on child neurology after publishing *Neuroradiology Signs* in 2014, *The AAWR Pocket Mentor* in 2021 and *Pediatric Neuroimaging: State-of-the-Art* in 2021.

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## 2010

**Lauren Elizabeth Peters**, LA10, wrote *Fashion Before Plus-Size: Bodies, Bias, and the Birth of an Industry* (Bloomsbury Academic, July 2023). It is the first book to trace the origins and history of plus-size fashion and the nature and evolution of weight bias in the fashion industry. Peters is an assistant professor in the Fashion Studies Department at Columbia College Chicago.

**Dennis James Sweeney**, LA10, penned *You're the Woods Too* (Essay Press, May 2023). Formally inventive and grounded in personal story, *You're the Woods* lives in the thicket where the forest becomes human and the

human becomes a journey into intimacy, flight and the need to find ourselves in the natural world.

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## 2013

**Britt England**, LW13, took a new role as commercial attorney and director for Flagship Facility Services, Inc., after more than 10 years of legal, contracts and business experience. She has a law license in D.C. and recently volunteered with the WashU Law 10-year reunion committee as class giving leader, raising donations from alumni for the annual fund.

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## 2015

**Jeffrey Lee**, GA15, **Christopher Taurasi**, GA15, and **Lexi White**, GA15, founders of Level Studio Architecture, recently won the 2023 Forge Prize for their EV Charging Infrastructure Concept. Their concept is defined by striking steel canopies that offer shade and vistas in an engaging space that loops and takes about 15 minutes to explore. The trio has been working together since meeting at WashU 10 years ago and is a little over a year into formalizing their office. They state there is no doubt that their dedication to materiality and craft shares a lineage to their time studying at Sam Fox.

**Emma Tyler**, LA15, started work at the Environmental Protection Agency as the deputy associate administrator for house affairs.

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## 2016

**Yvonne Osei**, GA16, has her work on display through Jan. 1, 2024, at the Saint Louis Art Museum's *The Culture: Hip Hop and Contemporary Art in the 21st Century*. Osei is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans performance art, video, photography, textile design, garment construction and site-specific installations. In demand as a speaker, she has been a visiting scholar at universities in Ghana, Kansas and Indiana and given a TEDx talk in St. Louis. Osei also leads training sessions for business professionals at COCABiz.

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## 2017

**Yifan Diao**, SI17, GR21, was named to the Top 30 Under 30 list by the 2023 All-American Chinese Youth Federation (AACYF). The honor recognizes outstanding Chinese American innovators, entrepreneurs and future leaders. Diao was selected for AACYF's list in the Academic Research Individual Achievement category for his accomplishments in materials research and innovation, including work in energy storage, conducting polymers and flexible electronics. He is a senior scientist at solar technology company LONGi.

**Marina Peng**, FA17, and **Mee Jey**, GF19, both were selected as a Craft Alliance's Artist-in-Residence for the 2023-24 cohort. Their two-person exhibit *Where to Begin When to*





Photo: Washington University Archives

**A TASTE OF FAT ALBERT'S**

“ I worked there all semester in 1970 (in part to cement a relationship with a girl, Jane Laubheim, AB '73, who is now my wife of 49 years!): buttered bagels with melted gouda or muenster and served the Fat Albert — about 20 scoops of ice cream with toppings — which was free to anyone who could finish it without help from friends.”

**TOM LASSAR, MD, AB '73, HS '80**  
 (Our son, Alex Lassar, AB '03, BSBA '03; his wife, Caeli Higney, AB '04; and our daughter, Maggie Lassar, AB '07, are also WashU grads. It's a family tradition!)

*End* ran at the Staenberg Gallery at Craft Alliance in July. Peng and Jey's work focuses on Asian American and Pacific Islander narratives and stories of immigration, cultural identity and isolation through textiles and videography.

**2018**

**Jacob Levitan, LA18,** completed a master's in international relations at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in 2023. Prior to that, he lived and worked in Kazakhstan from September 2019–February 2020 working in think tanks focusing on international relations, specifically Russia. After Kazakhstan, he worked at the Caspian Policy Center and International Conflict Resolution Center. Levitan was one of three winners of the Munich Security Conference's annual international Junior Ambassador Essay Competition for his short essay, titled "A Wasted Opportunity," analyzing Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

**2019**

**Zachary Goldman, LA19, SW20,** is in the doctoral psychology program at George Washington University.

**Carter Paterson, LA19,** joined IATSE Local 161 Union in 2022 as an assistant production

coordinator and worked with Chiwetel Ejiofor on his directorial debut *Rob Peace*. Paterson also visited his 40th country for WUnderground's alumni trip to Cuba.

**Tej Seelamsetty, EN19,** is head of growth at Fair Square Medicare, a startup that is working to simplify Medicare and empower seniors. Seelamsetty was inspired to join the company after learning more about its mission and how it related to his father's journey through Medicare. Seelamsetty writes that his enduring love of learning, hard work and mission-driven service was fostered during his years at WashU.

**2021**

**Michael Wang, EMBA21,** is a current student in the Olin Business School program at Fudan University in Shanghai, China.

**2022**

**Gabriella Smith, LA22,** was named to the 2023 cohort of Knight-Hennessy Scholars at Stanford University. The scholars receive up to three years of financial support to pursue graduate studies while engaging in experiences that prepare them to be visionary leaders who address complex challenges facing the world. Scholars are selected based on their demonstration

of independence of thought, purposeful leadership and civic mindset. Smith is pursuing a medical degree at Stanford University School of Medicine and aspires to fuse clinical medicine, research and advocacy to support the health and well-being of children and promote health equity.

**Zhaolong (Adrian) Li, LA22,** has been working as a neuroimaging researcher in the Department of Psychiatry at WashU since graduation. He has won the Society for Neuroscience's Trainee Professional Development Award, and he has led several studies, including one investigating poverty's influences on children's brain development that was recently published in *JAMA Network Open* and featured in WashU's *The Source* and in national news. He also assumed the role of co-chair for WashU's Alumni and Parents Admissions Program in the St. Louis North region, helping connect WashU to more high school students.

**Brian Sun, EN22, EN23,** is currently a student in the MD/PhD program at WashU's School of Medicine.

**2023**

**Alexine Marie Hanson, LA23,** is continuing her WashU education on the Medical Campus, working to earn a doctorate in occupational therapy in 2025.



Courtesy photo

Carolyn Kornfeld Lesorogol, who taught for two decades at the Brown School, was a leading scholar in international social development, with a particular focus on community change in rural northern Kenya.

**Carolyn Kornfeld Lesorogol**, MA '00, GR '02, a professor for 20 years at the Brown School, died May 17, 2023, of cancer. She was 58.

Lesorogol grew up in the St. Louis suburb of Frontenac. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in social studies. She earned master's degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1991, and Washington University in 2000. In 2002, she earned a doctorate in anthropology from Washington University.

In 2003, Lesorogol joined the faculty of the Brown School and concurrently taught in the Department of Anthropology in Arts & Sciences. She was named a professor at the Brown School in 2016. From 2014 to 2020, Lesorogol served as associate dean for global strategy and programs, leading the Brown School's development of global initiatives and educational programs.

Lesorogol was a leading scholar in her field. She specialized in international social development, with a particular focus on community change in rural northern Kenya. She earned numerous awards, fellowships and grant support. She authored two books, 40 peer-reviewed articles and eight book chapters.

"Carolyn was a brilliant, remarkable human being with an unwavering commitment to her students, global research and the communities she lived in and worked with in Kenya. From the first to her last days at

the Brown School, she was deeply engaged and incredibly thoughtful. She has made an indelible and lasting impact on the Brown School, her colleagues and former students," says Tonya Edmond, interim co-dean. "I will miss her terribly, but we will cherish her memory as a champion of international development and an irreplaceable member of the Brown School family."

Lesorogol's impact extended far beyond her academic achievements. She touched the lives of those around her as a teacher, mentor, mother, wife and friend.

Professor Lora Iannotti fondly recalls her initial meeting with Lesorogol and their immediate connection: "I first met Carolyn when I came to WashU for my job talk and interview. By the end of our lunch meeting, we were already planning ways to collaborate. She would become one of my closest research partners and dearest friends."

Lesorogol is survived by her daughters, Sarah Lesorogol Shivers, Jennifer Lesorogol Eyen and Emily Lesorogol; grandsons, Namon Jones and Sterling Shivers; sons-in-law, DeVonte Shivers and Joe Eyen; father, Stuart Kornfeld; sister, Katherine Kornfeld; and brother, Kerry Kornfeld. She was predeceased by her mother, Rosalind Kornfeld, and her husband, Leretin Lesorogol.

In honor of Lesorogol's contributions to academia, her colleagues and friends have established The Carolyn Lesorogol Global Student Endowed Scholarship.

**David M. Becker**, the Joseph H. Zumbalen Professor of the Law of Property Emeritus, died in St. Louis, April 17, 2023. He was 87.

Becker taught at the School of Law for 50 years. Born in Chicago, he earned a bachelor's degree magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1957 and a juris doctorate in 1960, Order of the Coif, from the University of Chicago.

He joined the Washington University law faculty in 1963, and within 10 years, he received the Distinguished Faculty Award at Founders Day. He also received the School of Law Alumni Association's first Distinguished Teacher Award in 1988 and the school's Dean's Medal in 2005. Becker received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the university in 2012.

Becker regularly received the Teacher of the Year Award from the Student Bar Association (SBA). In 2007, SBA renamed the honor as the David M. Becker Professor of the Year Award. The award — SBA's highest recognition of excellence in teaching — is given annually to a professor who demonstrates a passion for teaching and regularly contributes to the law school community. Becker is the author of *Lessons Learned: Stories of a Teacher and Teaching* (Carolina Academic Press, 2019).

**Jeffrey H. Brodsky**, AB '97, an accomplished journalist and oral historian, passed away July 26, 2023, at age 49 at home in Manchester, N.H., after battling an aggressive form of Parkinson's disease for a decade.

Brodsky showed his journalistic talent at an early age. As editor-in-chief of his high school newspaper, he led the Manchester Central newspaper staff in transforming the student publication into a broadsheet format based on *The Boston Globe*. When he was a junior in high school, Brodsky was selected as an intern for the *Chicago Sun-Times* to cover the White House beat, the first high school student the *Sun-Times* ever hired for that role. He repeated this feat as the first high school intern selected by CNN for their investigative reporting unit in Washington, D.C.

Brodsky's journalism legacy lives on in New Hampshire, where he launched The Brodsky Prize in 2018, a college scholarship for high school journalists across the state. Brodsky's vision was to encourage out-of-the-box efforts and innovation by a new generation of student journalists.

**David C. Farrell**, a former longtime member of the Washington University Board of Trustees, died June 5, 2023, at his home in Ladue, Mo. He was 89.

Farrell, former chairman and CEO of May Department Stores Co., served on the university's board from 1979 to 2005 and continued to serve as an emeritus trustee from 2005 until 2022. Among his service to the university, he was a chairman and life patron of the Danforth Circle Eliot Society and an inaugural member of the William H. Danforth Leadership Society. He also had served on the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center community advisory board and on the School of Medicine's medical finance committee and National Council.

Farrell and his late wife, Betty, provided transformative philanthropic support for WashU. The Farrells' support includes the



David C. and Betty Farrell Distinguished Professorship in Medicine, the state-of-the-art Farrell Learning and Teaching Center on the Medical Campus, and the Farrell Family Medical Research Fund to support research into Alzheimer's disease.

In recognition of his contributions to the university, Farrell received numerous honors, including the Second Century Award from the School of Medicine in 2003, the Brookings Award with Betty in 2006, and the William Greenleaf Eliot Society's Search Award in 2009. WashU awarded Farrell an Honorary Doctor of Science in 2007.

Farrell is survived by two sons, Mark Farrell, of Dallas, and David Farrell, of St. Louis; a daughter, Lisa Heller, of St. Louis; a sister, Anne Boho, of Illinois; and four grandsons.

**Michael David Fleming**, LA70, GR79, who had more than 3,000 bylines addressing popular and classical music, dance, architecture and art in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *St. Petersburg Times* and *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, among others, died May 2, 2021.

Fleming earned a bachelor's degree in music and doctorate in musicology from Washington University, and later he also earned a law degree from William Mitchell College of Law.

In addition to his work as a music critic, he had a passion for sacred music, the English choral tradition specifically, and the pipe organ. His comprehensive understanding of early music performance technique was augmented by substantial knowledge of Latin and the Romance languages, information that allowed him access to primary sources of Western culture. He specialized in keyboard and instruments of the Baroque period: organ, harpsichord, viola de gamba and the recorder. Graham Chapel was his favorite performance venue because of its pipe organ and acoustics.

**Pamela White Hadas**, LA68, GR70, GR73, died June 22, 2022. A gifted author and poet, White Hadas published four collections of poetry — *Passion of Lilith*, *Designing Women*, *In Light of Genesis* and *Beside Herself* — and received numerous accolades, including the 1968 American Academy of Poets Award, Oscar Blumenthal Award from *Poetry* magazine and Witter Bynner Poetry Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

**Roland C. Jordan**, GR73, who taught composition and music theory at Washington University for more than three decades, died May 18, 2023, in St. Louis, from complications due to Alzheimer's disease. He was 84.

Jordan came to WashU as a doctoral candidate in 1968. After earning his degree in 1973, he joined the Department of Music in Arts & Sciences as an assistant professor, teaching courses on theory, composition and 20th-century music, among other topics.

Jordan was promoted to associate professor in 1979 and named professor emeritus in 2004.

His major works include the evening-length "Maps" (1978), for voice and a large instrumental ensemble, which was written and presented, with sponsorship from the New Music Circle, to mark WashU's 125th anniversary. In the 1990s, St. Louis ensemble Synchronia and the Saint Louis Symphony Chamber series both presented Jordan's "Years of the Plague," a work marking the first 13 years of the AIDS crisis.

His final two works were "Night Music" and "Brief Encounters: Five Movements for Woodwind Quintet and Percussion," which were written, respectively, for his grandchildren Emily Deguzis and Micah Gharavi, and performed as part of their own graduate thesis recitals.

Jordan also is survived by his daughters, Leslie Jordan and Jennifer Jordan; a third grandchild, Fox Cashell; and nieces Julie Day, Medusa Artemis and Megan Reta. Memorial donations are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association.

**Robert Morgan**, a former professor in the McKelvey School of Engineering for more than three decades, died June 26, 2023, in Falls Church, Va. He was 89.

Morgan joined the Washington University faculty in 1968 as a visiting associate professor and retired from the university in 1999 as a professor. He was a part-time lecturer until 2002. He worked to build new research and educational activities on the social applications of technology, which led to his becoming the founding chair of the Department of Technology and Human Affairs in the School of Engineering and ultimately the first Elvera and William Stuckenberg Professor of Technology and Human Affairs, a title he held until his retirement.

In addition to his work at Washington University, he was a science public policy fellow at the Brookings Institution, chairman of the advisory subcommittee of the Technology Transfer Program at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a member of the national advisory board program on ethics and values in science and technology at the National Science Foundation, a member of the commission on research grants at the National Research Council, a Sigma Xi national lecturer, a visiting senior analyst at the Office of Technology Assessment of the U.S. Congress, and a fellow at the National Academy of Engineering.

**Zachary Porter**, a rising junior in Arts & Sciences at Washington University, drowned May 21, 2023, while walking on tidal mud flats near Hope, Alaska. He was 20.

Porter, from the Chicago suburb of Lake Bluff, Ill., was studying economics and mathematics in Arts & Sciences and computer science at the McKelvey School of Engineering.

Porter was a pitcher for the Washington University club baseball team, the Slayers; a member of Sigma Nu fraternity; a Campus Y volunteer at Wydown Middle School and local animal shelters; and a teaching assistant and tutor at McKelvey Engineering. His friends — and he had many on every corner of campus — say Porter "possessed a boundless enthusiasm and innate talent for everything he tried, from data science to acoustic guitar."

Porter is survived by his parents, Todd and Susan; and older sisters, Elizabeth and Sarah.

The Porter family has started The Zachary Porter Foundation, currently maintained as The Zachary Porter Fund, at Chicago Community Trust. The foundation will help subsidize enrichment activities, including music lessons, sports, park programs and outdoor field trips for kids who would not otherwise have access to these opportunities.



Community activist Lovie M. Haynes, known as "Ms. Lovie," was a dear friend of many WashU students over the years.

#### REMEMBERING MS. LOVIE

**Lovie M. Haynes**, who died Sept. 9 at age 93, was a community activist in St. Louis' Hamilton Heights neighborhood and a fixture of the long-running course "Community Building, Building Community." Bob Hansman, emeritus associate professor in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, offers this remembrance:

"It's hard to say how we got so close. I don't remember the first time I visited, or the first time I brought a class to her. It seemed like we'd been friends forever. And students could see it. They'd ask, 'You two really love each other, don't you?' She'd give me a look and say, 'Yeah. Yeah, we do.'

"She lit up around those kids. We'd spend days at her house. Students would go back to play bingo, do some beading or cook a meal. She'd have students over for Thanksgiving. They'd put up Christmas decorations. She came to graduations. Students introduced her to their parents.

"One student came back to St. Louis — this must have been 15 years after graduation — and brought his wife to meet Ms. Lovie. When another student passed away, his mom gave Ms. Lovie a framed portrait.

"Her walls were covered with pictures. Floor. To. Ceiling.

"She had a wicked, wicked sense of humor. She was also very spiritual. She recognized that she had something to teach. She'd tell stories about the neighborhood — the kind of stories that students had only read about, or maybe not even that. Sitting on her porch, watching people come and go, she showed students a whole way of life.

"Ms. Lovie never locked her door. Literally. She'd say, 'I never want to feel like I have to live behind locks.' That's not the world she wanted. She'd see people on the street, homeless or strung out or whatever, and she'd have them inside for a meal. She had this incredible sense that we should all be caretakers for one another.

"She couldn't change the world, but she could change her world."

**Linda M. Repa-Eschen**, GR76, former business director for the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism & Lipid Research within the Department of Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine, died June 5, 2023, at her home while waiting for a lung transplant. She was 72.

Before coming to Washington University, she taught English for 10 years at Bishop DuBourg and McCluer North high schools in St. Louis. She dedicated the next 40 years to business administration at the former Jewish Hospital of St. Louis and Washington University School of Medicine, working there until recently.

She is survived by her husband, John Eschen; a daughter, Jessica (Brianna) Eschen-Goodman; a brother, Denis Repa; and her in-laws, Sr. Carole Eschen, Jim (Laura) Eschen, Mary Fran (Tony) Jurkovich and Tom (Chris) Eschen.

**Robert M. Senior, MD**, HS63, GR97, a highly regarded physician-scientist and professor emeritus of medicine at Washington University School of Medicine, died June 8, 2023, at his home in St. Louis. He was 86.

Joining the faculty in 1969, the noted pulmonologist spent a long and distinguished career at Washington University, where he was a professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine and a professor of cell biology and physiology.

In recognition of Senior's outstanding contributions to the field of pulmonary medicine, in 1988 he received an endowed professorship, the Dorothy R. and Hubert C. Moog Professor of Pulmonary Diseases in Medicine, a position he held until his retirement in 2015.

Originally from White Plains, N.Y., Senior earned his undergraduate degree from Oberlin College in 1957. He went on to earn his medical degree from George Washington University School of Medicine in 1961. He conducted his internship and first year of medical residency at what was then Barnes Hospital and was a senior resident at what was then Jewish Hospital of St. Louis.

After completing his medical training, Senior became chief of the pulmonary function laboratory at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. From 1966-69, he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

Senior returned to St. Louis to serve as the director of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Jewish Hospital and also interim physician-in-chief and director of the Department of Medicine from 1989-90.

He is survived by his wife, Martha Senior; his daughters, Jocelyn and Rebecca Senior, and Devra Bram; his son, David Senior; and seven grandchildren.

**David Zenreich**, BU08, tragically died in an accident Sept. 8, 2022. He was 36.

Zenreich grew up in Westport, Conn., and was known for his humor, creativity and brilliant writing. From a young age, Zenreich was a voracious reader and a master of words, which was the foundation upon which he built a successful career in digital marketing.

An entrepreneur at his core, Zenreich launched his first business while still an undergraduate at WashU. This helped springboard a portfolio of businesses he developed and launched over the next

15 years. He was frequently invited to speak at industry conferences, sought after by other marketing professionals for consultation, and asked to mentor aspiring entrepreneurs.

Though it was cut far too short, Zenreich lived a rich and substantial life. He was an accomplished high school wrestler, which is where he first developed a lifelong interest in bodybuilding and combat sports. Zenreich was also a passionate traveler who visited dozens of countries and lived in Asia, Europe and South America. While he lived in Miami toward the end of his life, New York City was always Zenreich's home – which was fitting, given his love for comedy, art and fashion.

Zenreich was a beloved son, brother, uncle and friend, whose warmth, charisma and generosity were limitless. He is deeply missed by his family, friends and fraternity brothers. He is survived by his parents, Michael Zenreich and Carole Roller; his sister, Sara Weiss; his brother-in-law, Eric Weiss; and his niece and nephew, Hannah and Jesse Weiss.

The following death notices were submitted from May 1, 2023-Aug. 31, 2023. Please contact Advancement Services at [WUADDataChange@wustl.edu](mailto:WUADDataChange@wustl.edu) to report the death of an alumnus or alumna. Please submit full obituaries for consideration to [wustlimgclassnotes@wustl.edu](mailto:wustlimgclassnotes@wustl.edu).

## 1940-1949

**Nancy (Davis) Barthold**, LA45; June '23  
**Henry Kraus**, EN48; May '23

## 1950-1959

**Dale K. Haworth**, LA50, GR51; May '23  
**G. David Stifel**, BU50, May '23  
**Donald W. Winsby**, EN50, March '23  
**Janet (Anderson) Morse**, LA51; July '23  
**Norma (Whittleman) Wasmuth**, NU51; July '23  
**Albert J. Haller**, LA53, LW58; June '23  
**Charles E. Taylor**, MD53; May '23  
**Clayton W. Watson**, EN54; May '23  
**Elizabeth (Seitz) Hudson**, OT55; May '23  
**Charles W. Markham**, MD55; Aug. '23  
**Marjorie (Salzberg) Richman**, LA55; Aug. '23  
**Thomas F. Hornbein**, HS, MD56; May '23  
**Edward L. Moore**, GR56; May '23  
**Linda (Crawford) Wells**, NU57; June '23  
**Donald R. Browning**, UC58; June '23  
**Donald Green**, FA58, GR74; June '23  
**Willmeda (Mathis) Harris**, SW58; May '23  
**Emil L. Mantini**, MD58; Aug. '23  
**Rawser P. Crank**, MD59; May '23  
**William D. Hunter**, BU59; July '23  
**Marilynne Jost-VaNess**, LA59; June '23  
**James K. Pendleton**, LW59; Aug. '23

## 1960-1969

**Joseph H. Avery**, BU60; May '23  
**Don L. Brandenburger**, AR60, GA63; May '23  
**Donald R. DeZutter**, EN60; May '23  
**Robert J. Manning**, BU62; June '23  
**Eva (Dunning) Schuler**, NU62, GN64; Aug. '23  
**Robert S. Jordan**, AR63; Aug. '23  
**Robert M. Senior**, HS63, GR97; June '23  
**Elsa (Newman) Southam**, SW63; June '23  
**Kenneth J. Krupp**, EN64; Aug. '23

**Edward L. Morris**, LA64; June '23  
**Carol Randolph-Jasmine**, GR65; Aug. '23  
**Mary A. Hawley**, NU66; June '23  
**John A. Kreishman**, AR66, GA 68; Aug. '23  
**Lloyd L. Whetzel**, UC67; June '23  
**Edward S. Wohl**, AR67; May '23  
**David R. Cooper**, UC68; Aug. '23  
**Pamela (White) Hadas**, LA68, GR70, GR73; June '22  
**Sheldon S. Nicol**, MD68; July '23  
**Christhart S. Schilbach**, MD68; July '23  
**Verla (Taylor) Mitchell**, UC69; June '23

## 1970-1979

**Michael D. Fleming**, LA70, GR79; May '21  
**J. Gumbelevicius**, MD70; May '23  
**Joan (Shapiro) Katz**, LA70, GR72; June '23  
**Jack M. Pruitt**, UC70; July '23  
**Thomas R. Trager**, LW70; May '23  
**Peppi Elona**, FA73; May '23  
**Roland C. Jordan**, GR73; May '23  
**Victoria (Harmon) Robinson**, UC73, GR79; June '23  
**Edson E. Swift**, HA73; Aug. '23  
**Nancy (Weiss) Klein**, LA74; June '23  
**Kim E. Marsh**, MD74; June '23  
**Caroline R. Rosenstone**, LA74; June '23  
**Rusty B. Schroedel**, EN74; May '23  
**Constance K. Barsky**, GR75; Aug. '23  
**George de Forest Lord**, LA76; June '23  
**Linda M. Repa-Eschen**, GR76; June '23  
**William S. Glickert**, BU78; June '23  
**Linda (Seiferth) Gurney**, LA78; May '23  
**Peggy (Steiner) Ratcheson**, GR78, GR86; May '23  
**Margaret (Wilson) Elliott**, LA79, GB86; May '23

## 1980-1989

**Robert F. Dwornick**, LW82; May '23  
**Daniel W. Gipple**, BU82; Aug. '23  
**David Laird**, EN82; May '23  
**Stuart Sherman**, MD82; June '23  
**Kenneth D. Rakouska**, BU83; July '23  
**Rashid A. Buttar**, LA87; May '23  
**Douglas S. Griffith**, LW87; May '23  
**Shaun P. Coggins**, EN88; May '23  
**Donovan C. Price**, TI89; July '23

## 1990-1999

**Christopher G. Azar**, GM93; June '23  
**Charles B. Jellinek**, LW93; June '23  
**Greg Lyon**, EN93; July '23  
**Jeffrey H. Brodsky**, LA97; July '23

## 2000-2009

**Carolyn (Kornfeld) Lesorogol**, GR00, GR02; May '23  
**Mark C. Donahue**, PT02; July '23  
**David C. Farrell**, GR07; June '23  
**Christopher Wheeler**, GB07; July '23  
**David Zenreich**, BU08; Sept. '22

## 2010-2019

**Adam E. Gremp**, BU10, GB10, GB11; May '23





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Photo: Washington University Archives





The inside scoop

*Student Life* was founded in 1878. The staff pictured here circa 1945 — described as the “Tuesday toilers in Eads 100” in the 1946 *Hatchet* yearbook — produced the newspaper “weekly throughout the academic year, except during holiday and examination periods.” The paper was produced under the direction of the Faculty Committee on Student Publications, and James N. McClure served as faculty editor at the time.

Building community

“The Longest Table,” a new event sponsored by the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement, brought together diverse students for free food and good conversation — and an opportunity for students to ask, “Who am I in the context of civic life, and what is my role in our collective future?”



Photo: Whitney Curtis