

# Washington



## RECONCILING WITH OUR PAST

The WashU & Slavery Project is uncovering hard truths about how Washington University's past intersects with slavery, pg. 20.

### **Bridging Divides**

Using novels and readings from all over the world, an Arts & Sciences course teaches students to look at the stories that exist on both sides of geopolitical borders, pg. 12.

### **Building Trust, Community**

WashU develops the global leaders of tomorrow through approaches that help students better connect and communicate, develop empathy and active listening, and grant each other grace, pg. 32.

### **Competitive Energy**

As head of Azimuth Energy, alumnus Deko Devins is on a mission to make solar power more widespread, affordable and accessible, pg. 46.



AUGUST 2024  
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# Comments

“Throughout history, many have suffered at the hands of conquest. Utilizing a Seven Generations approach, Indigenous communities continue to look toward the sustainability of their traditions and languages for future generations.”

— ASHLYN NEWCOMB (CHEROKEE) AND KAYLEIGH MOULTON (CHEROKEE),  
CO-CHAIRS OF THE 33RD ANNUAL POWWOW SPONSORED BY THE  
BROWN SCHOOL'S KATHRYN M. BUDER CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES





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The WashU & Slavery Project is uncovering hard truths about how Washington University's past intersects with slavery and racial injustice.

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Community**

WashU develops the global leaders of tomorrow through approaches that help students better connect and communicate, develop empathy and active listening, and grant each other grace.

On the cover: In our cover feature, *Washington Magazine* introduces readers to the WashU & Slavery Project, which is part of a consortium of more than 100 universities across the globe uncovering how their institutions were involved in human bondage and legacies of racism, pg. 20.

(Background image) The Kathryn M. Buder Center hosted the 33rd annual Powwow at WashU April 6. This year's Powwow celebrated Indigenous communities across Turtle Island. And this year's theme – "There is empowerment in belonging" – centered on Indigenous empowerment and the power of unity and compassion for another.







Photo: Joe Angeles

campus can enhance their peers' intellectual growth and development — or it can become one more way for students to segregate themselves into the age-old categories of “us” and “them.” We cannot live in fear of what divides us. In fact, intellectual curiosity demands that we explore it. DxD strives to teach students not only how to listen but also how to speak in ways that promote mutual understanding and civil discourse.

Nor is this a purely intellectual exercise. Our graduates emerge into an ever-more global business environment, where they will likely work with colleagues from all over the world. Research has shown that diverse perspectives lead to innovations and breakthroughs, and that companies with greater diversity typically outperform their peers in profitability. Such results don't happen by accident, or merely by putting different kinds of people in a room together. Rather, companies that benefit from diversity also tend to reflect environments where an employee's individuality is viewed as a strength, and where an environment of trust allows for discussion, debate and differences of opinion.

WashU has its own difficult topics to examine and discuss, including the recent protests over the war in Palestine and historical questions about the university's role in treatment of marginalized communities. As an institution, we remain committed to combating hate, fostering religious literacy and tolerance, and upholding the vital principles of equity, inclusion and human dignity.

I invite you to learn more about the work of the DxD program as well as the WashU & Slavery Project in this issue of *Washington*. I hope both articles demonstrate how the university is grappling as an institution with our past, and how we are trying to better equip our students to hold the difficult conversations of today and the future.

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

Andrew D. Martin  
Chancellor

## Preparing leaders

Chancellor Andrew Martin addresses the Class of 2024 during Commencement May 13. “Craft the world through your deeds and ideas,” he said. “Rewrite existing storylines of injustice, inaction and indifference. Use the wrestling you’ve done with complexity to create a more just, ethical and sustainable plotline for us all. We believe in you.”

In the modern world, differences of opinion too often threaten to tear us apart. We are becoming ever more polarized in our politics, and segregated from those who might think, believe or behave differently from ourselves. The most pressing social issues of our time are also the ones that we struggle to discuss with people who hold opposing views. Yet, we cannot find solutions if we do not openly address our problems, and we cannot forge compromises if we have no tolerance for alternate perspectives.

As WashU prepares its students to become critical thinkers and inspiring leaders, we have come to see that effective listening and respectful engagement are critical to navigating difficult conversations. This approach formed the basis for WashU to develop its Dialogue Across Difference program, which launched last year and will continue to expand this year. The program, informally known as DxD, offers not only an array of courses for credit but also a series of workshops and events that promote thoughtful discussion around difficult and divisive subjects, such as gender, politics, race and faith.

Listening is an essential skill that we must learn and develop in our pursuit of intellectual inquiry and free speech. WashU has grown beyond its St. Louis roots to become a global campus, with a student body that represents more than 110 countries. The vast variety of lived experiences represented by the students on this



**FEEDBACK**



THE APRIL 2024 ISSUE

“As a graduate of WashU, I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate *Washington Magazine*. I look forward to reading it and keeping informed about the updates on students and faculty and the interesting projects that make Washington University so wonderful in our community and beyond.

“After reading your April issue, I am feeling optimistic about future cures for some of the most debilitating and life-altering diseases.

“Thanks for sharing the news of the fascinating studies and promising research that Washington University is spearheading to find out how to slow down and clear out the plaques in the brain that are an enormous issue with people who suffer from Alzheimer’s.

“This is especially encouraging and relevant to our family as we cared for a dear family member who suffered through many years living with Alzheimer’s. The disease stole so much from her and from all of us as we witnessed her decline. She, too, was an alumna of Washington University and was a brilliant woman. She would have been so proud of the young scientists and the research the university is doing.

“I should also mention that my 98-year-old father is also an alum, having earned a bachelor’s degree after his time in military service. Our family feels connected to Washington University in many ways.”

– TERESA BRUNO, MA ’93 (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)



**“It is where I first met three ladies who would become roommates and lifelong friends!”**

– MICHELLE BUESCHER FERGUSON, AB ’95

“Every Thursday night for four years. Friends. Beer. Pizza. Pure bliss!”

– SANDY TAUB GERSTEIN, AB ’87

“In 1998–99, I remember bad karaoke to ... Matchbox Twenty: ‘It’s 3 a.m., I must be lonely!’”

– RYAN JACOX, BSCE ’01, MBA ’02

“I loved The Rathskeller as well. There was something special about being there. Besides the food, I think of it now for its ambience, being underground, cozy. It wasn’t institutional. It felt adult and made me feel grown up even though I couldn’t order a beer. I’ve gone back and shown my kids where it was. My son graduated a few years ago and wished The Rat had been there. WashU should bring it back.”

– NIKHIL HUTHEESING, AB ’84



**“How wonderful it was to see the picture of Dr. Moog**

[in Class notes]. It gave me goosebumps. As an undergraduate, I took her comparative anatomy and embryology course for pre-med students. She meant the world to me and gave me the confidence to excel. And because of outstanding faculty like her, my wife, Amy D. Ronner, PhD ’80 (Michigan), and I sponsored a scholarship at Washington University in 2016: The Michael P. Pacin, MD and Professor Amy D. Ronner Scholarship in Honor of Professor Alfred Holtzer. And we’re hoping to endow another in Dr. Moog’s name.”

– MICHAEL P. PACIN, AB ’65, MD ’69

**We want to hear from you!**

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ST. LOUIS  
*In*



Photo: Whitney Curtis





Resounding resilience

The Class of 2024 attended WashU during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. But they persevered and were recognized at the 163rd Commencement May 13. “When I think about your generation and how passionate and vocal you are, it makes me so happy because this is progress,” Commencement speaker **Jennifer Coolidge** said. “Seriously, we need you.”





Photo: Carol Green

### INAUGURAL MAKE-A-THON CREATES ASSISTIVE TECH

A man with a spinal cord injury who wanted a modified dressing stick. A baby with motor delays who needs his tummy supported as he learns to crawl. A 6-year-old with cerebral palsy who wanted an easier way to carry her toys. At the inaugural Assistive Tech Make-A-Thon, these WashU Medicine occupational therapy (OT) patients worked with engineering and OT students to create devices specifically for their needs. Teams had one week to design and build in the Spartan Light Metal Products Makerspace in the McKelvey School of Engineering, and they delivered. Henry (pictured above), the baby who needed help crawling, received a device with wheels that lock and a suspension hammock for his torso.

### HONORS FOR INVENTORS

**Hong Chen** and **Jonathan Silva**, both faculty members in the Department of Biomedical Engineering in the McKelvey School of Engineering, have been named senior members of the National Academy of Inventors. Chen's goal is to develop ultrasound technologies for noninvasive diagnosis and treatment of brain diseases. Silva developed software to provide a holographic display to physicians who perform catheter ablations for arrhythmia. The system is expected to be widely available in the United States in 2025.

### HUMANITIES ADVOCATES

As part of the National Humanities Alliance's Humanities Advocacy Day, Arts & Sciences graduate students **Sewasew Assefa**, of the Department of Art History and Archaeology, and **Skyler Dykes**, of the Department of Music and the School of Law, along with **Laura Perry**, of the Center for the Humanities, met with Missouri's congressional representatives to encourage federal support for the National Endowment for the Humanities and the U.S. Department of Education's international education programs.





All eyes to the sky

On the steps of Brookings Hall, members of the WashU community gathered in awe April 8 to see the sky darken during the most recent solar eclipse. Although the Danforth Campus did not experience totality, it was close: about 98%. Fellows of the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences, which hosted the viewing party, also offered a series of weekend talks leading up to the big day. The lectures covered the science and history of eclipses, the 1919 eclipse that made Albert Einstein world-famous and more.

### A 26.2-MILE PARTNERSHIP

A tradition for more than two decades, the Greater St. Louis Marathon returned April 27 with WashU as a new partner. Sporting WashU-branded running shirts, community members joined races for runners of all abilities. Then, at the WashU Runner's Commons, participants enjoyed live music, received WashU giveaways and visited the Natural Recovery Station staffed by School of Medicine physical therapists. "The marathon is more than a race," says **Lisa Weingarth**, senior advisor for St. Louis initiatives. "It's an opportunity to come together and celebrate St. Louis and each other. WashU is thrilled to be a part of this great tradition and help it grow."



### FAMED FASHION DESIGNERS TALK BUSINESS

This spring, students in the recently formed Business of the Arts Club learned from the pros. In an event sponsored by the St. Louis Fashion Fund and Caleres, shoe designer **Stuart Weitzman** discussed his experience building an internationally renowned company and his unique approach to entrepreneurship. Later in the semester, the club heard from designer **Michael Kors** and writer **Derek Blasberg**. Students inspired to follow the fashion icons' footsteps can pursue a minor in business arts, thanks to a joint program offered by Olin Business School and the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts.



### NEW OISS LEADER

The Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) welcomed **Geet Vanaik** as executive director last semester. Previously a leader at Northwestern University, Vanaik is an expert in international student and scholar services, immigration law, fiscal stewardship, community engagement, export control compliance and risk management. Services provided by OISS include immigration advising, orientation to the WashU and St. Louis communities, and other programs to help students and scholars thrive.

### AN \$8.8 BILLION IMPACT

WashU's hometown impact can be seen in community partnerships, patient care, volunteer activities, and intellectual and cultural life — and in very real dollars and cents. In fiscal year 2023, WashU's local economic impact reached \$8.8 billion. The figure includes research funding, employee compensation (we're the region's second-largest employer), construction projects, spending at local businesses and more. Research funding alone totaled \$978 million, making WashU one of the nation's top R&D funding recipients.

### STUDENT NAMED TO FORBES' '30 UNDER 30'

**Naina Muvva**, a rising sophomore in Arts & Sciences, has been recognized by Forbes for her innovative financial literacy software, Intertwined. Muvva and her co-founder, **Kerry Ao**, created the platform to teach financial literacy topics such as budgeting, saving and investing. Intertwined has reached 2,800 students in more than 25 states and expects to raise \$270,000 this year. The platform recently became part of the Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub.





## The wildlife next door

Researchers with the Forest Park Living Lab, a group that includes WashU's Living Earth Collaborative, are following two red-tailed hawks that are tending a nest they've built near the Danforth Campus. Red-tailed hawks are notoriously territorial, yet the two hawks, which researchers have named Tungsten and Beauty-O, are displaying an unusual companionship. Their unique behavior is offering a glimpse into red-tailed hawk dynamics and into the complexities of avian relationships. The couple has captured the campus imagination on social media, and a mobile app called Animal Tracker easily shares movement data. The app also displays data from other animals in Forest Park including box turtles, Canada geese, great horned owls, raccoons and coyotes.

Photo: Whitney Curtis



### SKIN PIGMENTATION REVEALS BIAS IN PULSE OXIMETERS

For decades, pulse oximeters have been a useful tool to measure oxygen levels in the blood. But the device, which works by sending light through a clip attached to a finger to measure oxygen levels in the blood, has a major flaw: It may provide inaccurate readings in individuals with more melanin pigment in their skin.

A multidisciplinary group involving researchers at the McKelvey School of Engineering and the School of Medicine is working on ways to improve the device and mitigate the potential bias. The team is looking at experimental systems that allow skin pigmentation to be varied while all the other physiologic parameters remain the same. The team is also looking at changing the pulse oximeter wavelengths from red light to short-wave infrared light, which minimizes melanin absorption and scattering.

### OVERCOMING THE GENDER GAP IN PATENT APPLICATIONS

While women make up nearly half of the workforce, they account for only a fraction of patent applications and patents granted by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. A recent study from Olin Business School explored the role of persistence in the patent application process. The central findings: Women were less likely than men to continue pursuing a patent after an initial rejection, and that interventions — including mentorship and support networks — could significantly impact closing the gap.

### DETERMINING WHY PEOPLE DON'T HELP OTHERS

Are we really so quick to turn a blind eye to those in need? **Pascal Boyer**, the Henry Luce Professor of Collective and Individual Memory in Arts & Sciences, took a hard look at this dark side of human nature in a study exploring what causes people to decline to lend a helping hand.

In a study in which participants were given fictitious news stories and then asked to rate the character of the victim — and in some cases donate money to help — results revealed a disheartening trend: The more character flaws participants saw in a victim, the less willing they were to help. Instead of making a blanket assumption that all victims somehow deserve their misfortune, people went out of their way to find fault in each victim on a case-by-case basis. Boyer says he is intrigued by the thought processes that can lead people to abandon the basic impulse to help others. “We’re trying to create a model of what happens in a person’s head to produce these ideas,” he says.





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



## Using AI to improve human health

School of Medicine scientists are working on ways to use artificial intelligence (AI) to fight diseases. In one study, scientists trained a machine-learning algorithm to accurately predict brain metastasis using biopsy samples from early-stage, non-small cell lung cancer patients. It also was highly accurate in predicting those patients who do not develop metastatic brain tumors.

In the second study, AI was used to supplement radiologists' evaluations of mammograms, improving breast cancer screening by reducing false positives without missing cases of cancer. Again, researchers developed an algorithm that identified normal mammograms with very high sensitivity. Then they ran a simulation on patient data to see what would have happened if all the very low-risk mammograms had been taken off radiologists' plates, freeing the doctors to concentrate on more questionable scans. The simulation revealed that fewer people would have been called back for more testing, but the same number of cancer cases would have been detected.

### MODERN-DAY REDLINING

Corporate investing in real estate, and landlords who "buy low, rent high" are becoming all too normal to populations that can least afford it. To provide an in-depth view into this recent real-estate phenomenon, a type of modern-day "redlining," **Carol Camp Yeakey**, the Marshall S. Snow Professor of Arts & Sciences and founding director of the Center on Urban Research & Public Policy, is leading a two-year national study. Her team will examine the surge of corporate investors in the single-family rental (SFR) market and the implications for renters, especially marginalized communities of color. The study will focus on St. Louis, Cincinnati and Atlanta, where more than half of the SFR housing is owned by corporate investors, and there is a predominant number of low-income renters of color.

### HAPPINESS MAY PROTECT AGAINST DEMENTIA

Being happy is key to healthy aging. Sounds simple, right? But it's not enough to tell people to "be happy," says **Emily Willroth**, assistant professor of psychological and brain sciences in Arts & Sciences. Actions must follow, such as having friends, finding hobbies and staying active through exercise. Willroth contributed a chapter to this year's World Happiness Report (WHR), writing that happiness, if done right, is potentially protective against cognitive decline. The yearly report — produced by Gallup, the Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre, the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the WHR's editorial board — is intended to bring attention to happiness as a criterion for government policy. In doing so, it's another way to show how the science of happiness can ripple throughout society.

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### DEVELOPING NEW LUNAR SCIENCE DEVICE

Physicist **Jeff Gillis-Davis** in Arts & Sciences is leading a team that will develop and test an instrument to measure the chemistry of rocks, minerals, soil and ices on the surface of the moon. The device — small enough to be carried by a rover or other robotic explorer — will fire laser pulses at its target, superheating the rock or ice to create plasma emissions that can immediately determine which elements are present. This kind of information is essential for figuring out how much water or other resources are present in a particular location on the moon.

"This device, with its advanced capabilities, represents a significant leap in lunar science instrumentation," says Gillis-Davis, a faculty fellow in the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences.





# Rethinking the waste in water

Young-Shin Jun and her team at the McKelvey School of Engineering see untapped resources in the chemical compounds in highly saline wastewater.

Communities around the world are increasingly using a process called reverse osmosis (RO) to produce drinkable water. It's estimated that more than a billion people could be consuming RO water by 2050. But much of value is lost in that process, a fact that drives the research of **Young-Shin Jun**, professor of energy, environmental and chemical engineering in the McKelvey School of Engineering.

From Jun's perspective, wastewater in the environment is not just H<sub>2</sub>O molecules. "Water always occurs together with a very useful bag of materials," she says. That bag could contain calcium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, lithium, and numbers of other reusable (and scarce) chemicals for industry and agriculture.

All are useful materials. Now, with a \$1.35 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, Jun and her colleagues are working to open that bag and let those materials out.

"It's not a treatment process; it's a production process for both clean water and valuable salts," she says about working with the leftover waste from RO, called reverse osmosis concentrate (ROC). Jun and her project team will develop a coupled process of electrochemical treatment and selective solid nucleation to reuse that concentrate in new forms.

In reverse osmosis, water goes through a semi-permeable membrane, separating the clean water from its aqueous ion contents. Because mineral scales formed during the RO process can increase energy consumption and foul the membrane, RO water is pretreated with antiscalants. The antiscalants protect the membrane, but they will continue interfering with the nucleation and solidification of these mineral scales even after the RO process.

The leftover ROC compounds are converted to mixed waste solids via other processes, including brine concentration and crystallization. To harvest useful resources and to reduce energy costs, Jun will develop a method that both breaks down the antiscalants in ROC and enables the selective nucleation and crystallization of sought-after minerals and salts. So far, her lab's research has found ways to greatly speed up this valorization and use less energy.

Treating and disposing of highly saline ROC water is expensive and environmentally challenging, and the newly developed process could greatly reduce the energy and operation costs for producing drinkable water while also recovering useful resources. The same process can also be used for "produced" water, the brine waste from oil and gas recovery.

The year 2021 saw production of some 25 billion barrels of produced water in the U.S., according to the Groundwater Protection Council. Some of that goes into the ground for reuse in fracking, but Jun's process aims to also extract valuable resources. Instead of thinking about waste as a burden to be disposed of, Jun and her project team are embracing a "circular economy," seeing waste as an untapped resource.

The work is a multidisciplinary project with multi-institutional teams that creates a "beautiful marriage between the chemistry and engineering processes," she adds, noting that it couldn't come at a more critical time as climate change ramps up. "We need to save water and energy while we remove CO<sub>2</sub>," she says.

The process of solidifying the useful chemicals in these brines also can lock CO<sub>2</sub> into a solid form, and then the new solid can be used for green building construction and as a useful chemical feedstock. "We aim to turn waste into a precious ore," Jun says.

■ LEAH SHAFFER



QUOTED

WASHU IN THE NEWS

WashU experts weigh in on major topics of the day.



Courtesy photo

**“It’s so exciting to be able to show the science to everyone here, because everyone is here because they want to be. I want to be able to show them as much as we possibly can.”**

**MIKE KRAWCZYNSKI**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EARTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND PLANETARY SCIENCES, ON ST. LOUIS PUBLIC RADIO DISCUSSING AN ECLIPSE VIEWING EVENT IN BURFORDVILLE, MISSOURI.

**“It’s currently being used, and soon we’ll see a lot more applications. Artificial intelligence will be embedded in almost all aspects of health care.”**

**THOMAS M. MADDOX, MD**, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND VICE PRESIDENT OF DIGITAL PRODUCTS AND INNOVATION AT BJC HEALTHCARE, IN PREVENTION.



Photo: Sean Garcia

**“The data shows very clearly that diversity is correlated with clear benefits to organizations. Companies with more racial and gender diversity among managers boast more profitability and more innovation than those without.”**

**ADIA HARVEY WINGFIELD**, THE MARY TILESTON HEMENWAY PROFESSOR OF ARTS & SCIENCES, WRITES IN *THE CONVERSATION* ABOUT THE BACKLASH TO WORKPLACE DEI INITIATIVES.

**“We all know cancer is an aging disease. However, it is really coming to a younger population.”**

**YIN CAO, MD**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY AT THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, ON CNN DISCUSSING HER RESEARCH ON ACCELERATED BIOLOGICAL AGING AND CANCER RISK.



Courtesy photo

**“Stress is a part of life – engaging in temporal distancing can put everyday stressors in context in our lives and help us focus on the impermanent nature of the stressor.”**

**EMILY WILLROTH**, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES, IN THE *WASHINGTON POST* ON THE BENEFITS OF IMAGINING ONE’S FUTURE SELF.



IAS 3602: Borders, Checkpoints, and the Frontiers of Literature

# Crossing borders, bridging divides

Using novels and readings from all over the world, an Arts & Sciences course teaches students to look at the stories that exist on both sides of a geopolitical line.

**Seth Graebner** has long been fascinated by borders and the areas around them.

“In graduate school and since then, I have crossed a lot of borders,” says Graebner, associate professor of French and of global studies in Arts & Sciences. “I became really fascinated by the physical space and the cultures that arose there.”

In the course “Borders, Checkpoints, and the Frontiers of Literature,” Graebner asks his students to investigate border culture through novels and readings from each side of several border regions: the Mexican–U.S. *frontera*, the Indian and Pakistani partition line, African colonial borders and Israeli–Palestinian divisions.

Class discussions often touch on international issues in the news, but literature helps students move beyond current events and reflect on borders as places not just of conflict but of stories.

“We are making students think a little bit about borders as places where stories come from,” Graebner says. “The human brain is hardwired for narration, and literature is where narration gets done most creatively, maybe most freely.”

Graebner chose the books on the course’s reading list because they talk about border crossing in some explicit way — and because they are compelling reads. And most of the borders discussed in class were either drawn, or redrawn, within a couple generations of memory.

“In each place, people previously had been walking around innocent of any future border that might develop right where they were standing,” he says. “And yet, that’s what happened. In a couple of cases, it’s not that people are literally crossing borders. It’s the borders that have moved.”

Graebner calls his class discussions “remarkable” because the course attracts

students from different disciplines. “I have students from very different parts of the university — from global studies to computer science — who might not talk as much in another context,” he says. “And so, there is a kind of border-crossing effect in the class as well.”

Also, thinking about borders between nation-states, he says, “turns out to be a good way of thinking about cultural borders much closer to home.”

**Hieran Andeberhan**, a junior majoring in global studies in Arts & Sciences, says reading *Cracking India* by Pakistani author Bapsi Sidhwa and *The Shadow Lines* by Indian author Amitav Ghosh gave her new insight into that border region.

“Reading novels by both a Pakistani author and an Indian author gave me an opportunity to read two perspectives on the lasting impact of the 1947 partition,” Andeberhan says.

**Shirine Awad**, a sophomore studying global studies, also enjoyed learning about borders from new viewpoints. “This class makes you think more deeply about borders and the effects they have on individuals, communities and societies,” Awad says.

Graebner wants his students to become “better readers, more self-conscious readers and more cosmopolitan readers,” he says. “I want them to start to ask different kinds of questions as they read.”

He says literature expands possibilities for insight when compared to academic social science writings or media reports.

“Students are exposed to places very different from what they know,” he says. “Literature conveys imagination, and that’s critical. It stretches people’s minds and helps them think about certain current issues differently than if they were just reading *The New York Times* or watching cable news.”

■ JULIE KENNEDY, MA '22

Illustration: Monica Duwel



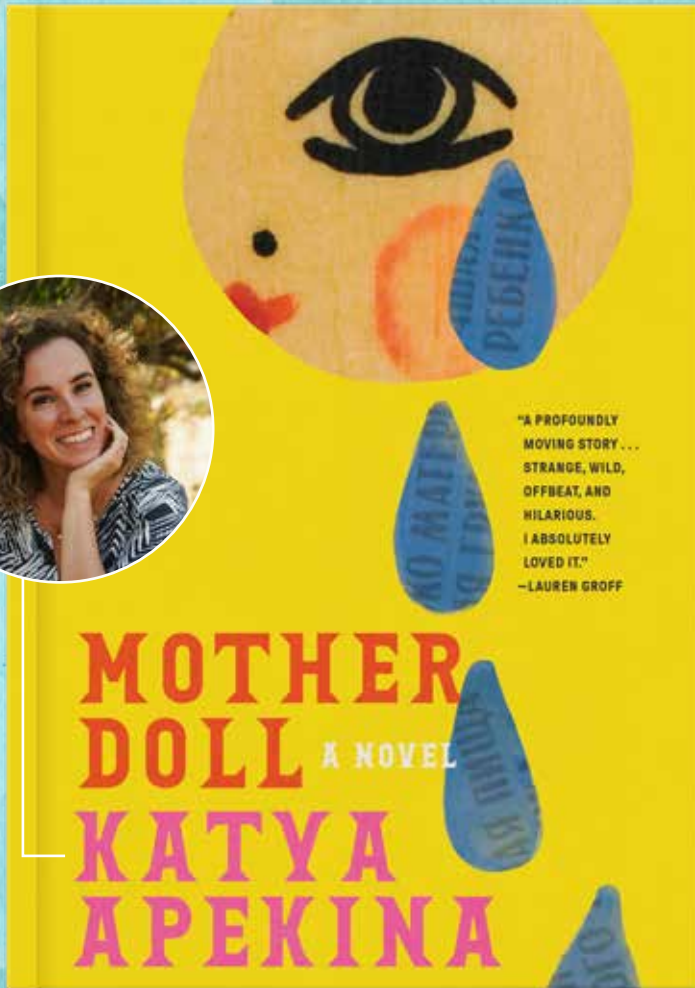




**INSIDE THE SYLLABUS:  
A SAMPLE OF THE  
READING LIST**

- U.S.–Mexico
  - Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza*
  - Yuri Herrera, *Signs Preceding the End of the World*
- India–Pakistan
  - Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India*, also published as *Ice-Candy-Man*
  - Amitav Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines*
- Africa
  - Ahmadou Kourouma, *The Suns of Independence*
  - J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*
- Israel–Palestine
  - A.B. Yehoshua, *The Lover*
  - Anton Shammas, *Arabesques*





## ‘Mother’ lode

*Mother Doll*, the second novel from Katya Apekina, takes on the spirit world, the Russian Revolution, a surprise pregnancy and personal upheaval — and it’s hilarious.

What if we could speak to our deceased ancestors? What if they could answer back?

For a decade, **Katya Apekina, MFA ’11**, had on her laptop the Russian journals of her grandmother, who had chronicled her escape from Poland during World War II and her life in the Soviet Union. “For many years, I could never read them,” Apekina says. “I was unsure whether I’d be able to take on all of the terrible things that happened to her and her family. But on the night of her funeral, I finally opened them.”

Apekina, herself fluent in Russian, started translating the journals, notating questions and comments in the margins with things she regretted never asking her grandmother. “I felt like I was having a very honest conversation with her, even though she was dead,” Apekina says. “All these things I’d been afraid of, or carrying internally without knowing where they came from, I began to understand a little more. *Mother Doll* sprang from there.”

While the novel, Apekina says, is not in any way autobiographical, it does take on the concept of generational trauma — and the burden one generation can carry to the next. *Mother Doll* spans two centuries, three continents and five generations, and it features a couple of ghosts, a funny chorus of spirits and a reluctant medium. “I wanted to tell a story that felt as if time were like a column — where time is happening all at once,” she says, “as opposed to a sprawling generational narrative.”

The story opens in present-day Los Angeles, where the main character, Zhenia, finds herself adrift and with a pregnancy neither she nor her husband really want. Her beloved grandmother is dying across the country in Boston; she has a difficult relationship with her own mother; and she’s working as a Russian interpreter at a hospital, but what she really wants to be is an actress. That’s when she gets a phone call from Paul, a medium who claims to be channeling Zhenia’s great-grandmother Irina, a Russian revolutionary who is stuck in some sort of spiritual limbo but needs her story known. But because she’s speaking to Paul in Russian, he doesn’t understand a word of it.

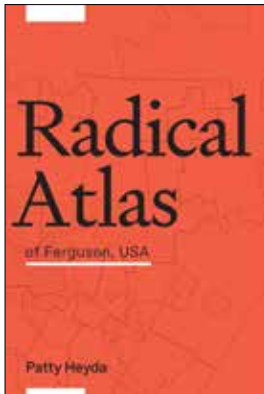
What follows is a novel at once funny, poignant and profound, with more twists, turns and time warps than a funhouse mirror. Apekina layers a story on top of a family narrative on top of an epic. Like Russian matryoshka dolls — each one distinct yet fitting perfectly inside the next — *Mother Doll*’s plot points are knitted together masterfully. They’re sprinkled with insights on the choices — profound and mundane — that are made every day in our lives, in our past lives through our ancestors, and in our future lives through our children.

Maybe we can’t talk to our ancestors directly, but we can always learn from them. In driving that point home, *Mother Doll* takes the reader on one wild ride.

■ LESLIE GIBSON MCCARTHY

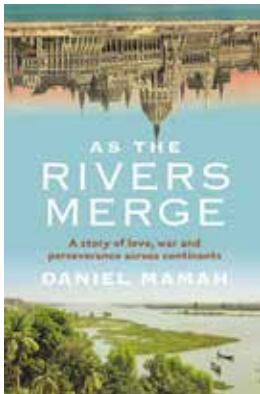


## FACULTY



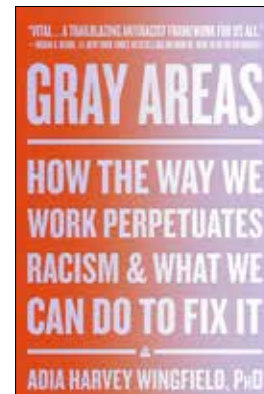
### Radical Atlas of Ferguson, USA PATTY HEYDA

The activism that exploded in Ferguson, Missouri, a decade ago laid bare how long-standing municipal planning policies had led to racial segregation, fragmentation, poverty and police targeting. In more than 100 maps, Patty Heyda, associate professor in urban design and architecture, charts the systemic forces that have defined Ferguson and the first-ring suburb more broadly — often working against the very residents who live there.



### As the Rivers Merge DANIEL MAMAH

Daniel Mamah, MD, professor of psychiatry at the School of Medicine, chronicles the life of his mother, Judit, and father, Matthew, through their letters, journals and memories. The result is *As the Rivers Merge: A story of love, war and perseverance across continents*, a sweeping narrative of his parents' separate lives growing up and then their enchanting romance and life forming a family in the 1980s.



### Gray Areas ADIA HARVEY WINGFIELD

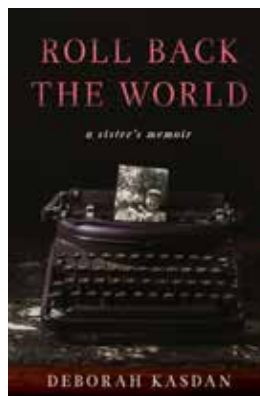
Adia Harvey Wingfield, the Mary Tileston Hemenway Professor and vice dean of faculty development and diversity in Arts & Sciences, has spent a decade examining inequality in the workplace. In *Gray Areas: How the Way We Work Perpetuates Racism & What We Can Do to Fix It*, she reveals why racial inequality persists despite today's multibillion-dollar diversity industry — and provides actionable solutions.

## ALUMNI



### Red Reckoning TOBIAS T. GIBSON

Though it ended more than 30 years ago, the Cold War still casts a long shadow. *Red Reckoning: The Cold War and the Transformation of American Life*, co-edited by Tobias T. Gibson, MA '01, PhD '06, examines how the great ideological conflict of the 20th century transformed the nation and forced Americans to reconsider almost every aspect of their society, culture and identity.



### Roll Back the World DEBORAH KASDAN

What happens to sibling relationships when an older sister, a budding poet loved and admired as a child, falls prey to mental illness? In *Roll Back the World: A sister's memoir*, Deborah Kasdan, AB '68, MA '70, provides a poignant look at how a family copes when one of their own suffers and then eventually finds acceptance in a compassionate community.



### Making Space for the Gulf ARANG KESHAVARZIAN

Arang Keshavarzian, AB '94, offers a fresh perspective on the globally consequential Persian Gulf region. In *Making Space for the Gulf: Histories of Regionalism and the Middle East*, he connects moments more often seen as ruptures — the discovery of oil, the Iranian Revolution, the rise and decline of the British Empire, the emergence of American power — and crafts a narrative populated by a diverse range of people.





Photo: Roberts Creative LLC



# A new era for the humanities

As director of the Center for the Humanities in Arts & Sciences, **Stephanie Kirk** wants to empower humanities graduate students to use their expertise in a range of meaningful careers.

When I graduated from my PhD program in 2003, I entered a buoyant academic job market and chose WashU from among a number of attractive tenure-track positions. In the 20-plus years since then, the number of tenure-track jobs across the humanities has plummeted, and a very different academic workforce has emerged. The financial crisis of 2008 initiated a free fall that the pandemic only intensified, with many permanent faculty positions now replaced by temporary ones across a spectrum of precarity.

While faculty in departments and programs are reshaping their curricula to fill in these gaps, I believe there is an even more potent source of change and momentum: graduate students themselves. As director of the Center for the Humanities, I've made it my mission to empower them to shape their own futures and advocate for themselves. In doing so, they create new career paths and learn to deploy their many skills beyond the academic world.

National statistics show that 89% of humanities PhDs cannot identify their value for nonacademic careers. In fact, they are skilled researchers who know how to craft and understand narratives, possess global and intercultural fluency, have expertise in collaboration and community building, and are motivated by a work ethic informed by leadership and service. While the center will always support students who seek academic jobs, I also want to help WashU students recognize the multitude of outcomes — in nonprofit, corporate and governmental sectors, for example — for which their graduate training prepares them.

As the humanities center works alongside others on campus invested in graduate education, I have focused our efforts on a unique kind of support. Instead of the traditional top-down structure of the adviser-advisee relationship or more broad-based career counseling, our programming — which responds to students' interests in large-scale societal questions — combines training opportunities with practical instruction on contributing to the public good.

Here at WashU, our center has been at the forefront in national discussions around alternative career outcomes or “next gen” pedagogy. In 2018, my predecessor, **Jean Allman**,

won a \$1.5 million Mellon Foundation grant, “Redesigning Doctoral Education” (RDE), designed to rethink humanities graduate training. The original model was structured to retrain faculty to expand graduate students' classroom experiences. Having made good headway here, in the last two years since I became director, we have moved the focus to training graduate students themselves.

Two recent center-organized workshops offer concrete examples of our goals. Funded by the RDE grant, “Writing as Advocacy” in April brought together a national group of outstanding humanities practitioners in a two-day workshop to equip students to think broadly about writing, community and the role of the humanities PhD in the contemporary world. These sessions helped participants conceive of how their existing capacities in writing could lend themselves to career options in such areas as qualitative research, educational consultancy, nonprofit work, social impact companies and beyond. Last year, our workshop “The Community-Engaged PhD” brought graduate students and faculty into conversation with St. Louis-based community organizations and nonprofits to learn how to develop ethical collaboration practices for social advocacy work.

Building on our ties to St. Louis, in December 2023, the center received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to collaborate with local mission-driven community organizations to place PhD students as interns. While embedded in organizations such as the Griot Museum of Black History, Forest ReLeaf, 4theVille, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and Trailnet, the students will apply and expand their workplace skills while learning from and enriching these partners doing crucial work in our region. In addition, students will gain project management experience as they organize our new Midwest Intern Workshop and Careers for Creative Humanists Fair.

I have seen our students in action in our workshops and other events. They have the skills and commitment to transform a multiplicity of workplaces. As they begin to graduate from WashU, they will teach us what success looks like in this new era.

■ STEPHANIE KIRK

## WHO

Stephanie Kirk

## TITLES

Professor of Hispanic studies, director of the Center for the Humanities

## SCHOLARLY FOCUS

Literature and culture of colonial Latin America

## IN THE CLASSROOM

This fall, Kirk will teach the “Merle Kling Undergraduate Honors Fellowship Seminar,” a two-year writing-intensive course that builds community and peer-review skills among selected Arts & Sciences students pursuing independent research projects.

# Seeking environments that ‘generate health’

Washington University appoints Sandro Galea as inaugural dean of its planned School of Public Health to work toward healthier futures in St. Louis and globally.

“As time passes, we understand more and more that health is much more about the world around us than it is about medicine,” says epidemiologist and sought-after speaker **Sandro Galea, MD, DrPH**, in the 2023 TEDMED Conversation “Creating a healthier future for all.”

Galea stresses during the discussion that health is made by many conditions: whether your home and workplace are safe, whether you have education that provides material comfort, whether the air you breathe is polluted, and whether the food you eat is nutritious or calorie dense but nutrient poor.

“We tend to think of doctors as generating health, and doctors do matter ... but they are important to restore us to health if we are already sick,” he says. “To keep ourselves healthy, we fundamentally want to live in environments that generate health.”

Washington University recently announced that Galea — one of the world’s most influential public health leaders — will become inaugural dean of its planned School of Public Health, effective Jan. 1, 2025. In this critical role, Galea will help shape WashU’s first new school in 100 years. The school is part of “Here and Next,” WashU’s 10-year strategic plan to make both the university and St. Louis a global hub for solving society’s deepest challenges.

“Sandro Galea’s choice to come to WashU is an endorsement of the strengths, opportunities and potential offered by our university and St. Louis,” says **Beverly Wendland**, provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs. “His insights into the complex interplay between social, environmental and health factors will be crucial as we seek to usher in the next era of public health in partnership with our community.”

Galea is dean of Boston University’s School of Public Health and the Robert A. Knox Professor, and professor of family medicine at its Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine.

At WashU, he will hold the newly endowed Margaret C. Ryan Deanship at the School of Public Health. **Tony and Ann Ryan**, of Boston, made a gift to endow the deanship in honor of their late daughter, **Maggie Ryan, AB ’16**, who demonstrated a strong commitment to leadership and global health. He also will hold the Eugene S. and Constance D. Kahn Distinguished Professorship in Public Health, established by a commitment from WashU Emeritus Trustee **Gene Kahn** and his wife, **Connie**.

Galea researches the behavioral health ramifications of trauma, including those caused by firearms. He has studied the effects of 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa, and the U.S. wars in

Iraq and Afghanistan. He also links health to social disadvantages such as poverty and lack of education.

One of the world’s most cited social scientists, Galea has written more than 1,000 scientific journal articles, 75 chapters and 24 books. His books *Epidemiology Matters* and *Public Health: An Introduction to the Science and Practice of Population Health* are widely used as textbooks in public health and epidemiology courses. Thomson Reuters has named Galea among “the world’s most influential scientific minds.”

“Sandro Galea is a trailblazer in the field of public health,” says **Chancellor Andrew D. Martin**. “With his leadership at our planned School of Public Health, we’re poised to have a real impact on advancing community health in St. Louis and worldwide. We’re incredibly fortunate to have recruited such an inspiring and influential scholar and practitioner to this critical role.”

## KRUK TO JOIN WASHU MEDICINE FACULTY

Galea’s wife, **Margaret E. Kruk, MD, MPH**, also is joining the WashU faculty. Kruk is a professor of health systems at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and director of the QuEST Centers and Network, a multicountry research consortium generating evidence to build high-quality health systems. Her research focuses on how health systems can produce better outcomes for people living in low- and middle-income countries.

At WashU, she will serve as a distinguished professor in health systems and medicine in the Department of Medicine and as director of the universitywide QuEST Center.

## NEW SCHOOL TO OPEN IN 2026

Plans for WashU’s School of Public Health, set to launch in fall 2026, were announced in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which revealed great American distrust in the health-care system. What’s more, Americans have the worst health outcomes among high-income nations, according to a 2022 Commonwealth Fund report, due to factors such as limited health-care access, income inequality, education gaps, unhealthy lifestyles, a fragmented health-care system and high costs.

“I can think of no more important time to create a school of public health than today,” Galea says. “And I can think of no better place to do so than at Washington University, with this institution’s deep and rich tradition of excellence in scholarship and in thought. All the pieces are in place to do wonderful things, both for WashU and the world.”

■ DEB PARKER



**“Public health is the work of building a world where everyone can live the rich, full, long lives that health enables. This is a radical aspiration. It is radical because it means improving the world at every level. And that is a vision that we, building a school of public health, are committing to.”**

— SANDRO GALEA, MD, DRPH, DURING A WELCOME RECEPTION AT WASHU JUNE 7



For more of his remarks, visit [https://source.wustl.edu/news\\_clip/why-public-health-at-washu/](https://source.wustl.edu/news_clip/why-public-health-at-washu/).



Photo: Kelly Davidson

# RECONCILING WITH OUR PAST

The WashU & Slavery Project is uncovering hard truths about how Washington University's past intersects with slavery and racial injustice.

■ BY ROSALIND EARLY, AB '03

Photo: Joe Angeles





A George Washington statue stands in front of Olin Library. At the time of his death, Washington, for whom the university is named, held 317 people in slavery.

**T**HE TYPICAL WASHU DANFORTH CAMPUS TOUR TELLS UPBEAT STORIES ABOUT STUDENT LIFE AND ACADEMICS WHILE TAKING YOU FROM THE EAST END OF CAMPUS TO THE SOUTH 40. YOU LEARN ABOUT WILD IN THE QUAD, THE FUN OF PAINTING THE UNDERPASS AND THE STRANGE REASON WE DON'T HAVE SORORITY HOUSES.

But there's another story hidden in the names and history of WashU's campus. And there's another tour that tells you about the university's darker history, one connected to slavery and racial injustice.

This self-guided tour starts at the George Washington statue that stands in front of Olin Library and reminds you that Washington University is named after someone who held 317 people in slavery at the time of his death. At Crow Hall, you learn that Wayman Crow, one of the university's founders and former trustees, was an enslaver. Walking along Ellenwood Avenue, you learn about the history of slavery in the area, and that the Danforth Campus and South 40 occupy land where people were enslaved by the Forsyth and Skinker families.

The "Enslavement and Its Wake" tour is part of the WashU & Slavery Project, an initiative started in spring 2021 to advance scholarship around WashU's history with slavery. But the project is also reshaping public history in the St. Louis region by striving to add or improve information around slavery and racial discrimination at area historical sites, including the General Daniel Bissell House and the Missouri Botanical Garden.



The WashU & Slavery Project is part of Universities Studying Slavery, a consortium of more than 100 universities across North America, Colombia and the U.K. that are uncovering how their institutions were involved in human bondage and legacies of racism.

Geoff Ward, professor of African and African American studies in Arts & Sciences and director of the WashU & Slavery Project, advocated for WashU to join the consortium in 2020 when Chancellor Andrew Martin asked senior faculty for ideas on how the university might further commit to dismantling structural racism.

Ward suggested the university join for three reasons: (1) Research in this area shows that it is important to address these legacies; (2) it would allow WashU to better prepare our students to understand and address structural racism as it relates to the history and legacy of slavery; and (3) it would offer WashU the opportunity to be a more meaningful, valuable partner in the local, regional and international efforts to grapple with these issues.

University leadership agreed. “It is important for our university to acknowledge any entanglements with slavery,” says Beverly Wendland, provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs. “It is taking a step toward truth-telling and reconciliation. It helps to uncover and acknowledge past injustices, which is essential for healing and moving forward.”

The University of Virginia (UVA) started the consortium in 2016. UVA used enslaved labor to build its campus and, like other schools in the consortium, is dealing with these direct ties to slavery.

Washington University’s relationship to slavery is different. According to Ward, no evidence has been found that enslaved people built the university or labored on campus (the first buildings on the current Danforth and Medical campuses were built in the early 1900s, years after the Emancipation Proclamation). Yet the story of William Greenleaf Eliot, who founded the university in the mid-1800s and was long touted as an abolitionist, needed updating.

A team of student researchers contributing to the WashU & Slavery Project discovered that Eliot wasn’t as staunch an abolitionist as

previously thought. Students in “Rethinking WashU’s Relation to Enslavement: Past, Present and Future” — a course taught by Iver Bernstein, professor of history, African and African American studies, and American culture studies, all in Arts & Sciences, and Carl Craver, professor of philosophy and philosophy-neuroscience-psychology in Arts & Sciences — showed that Eliot actually owned enslaved people. He bought them for the purpose of freeing them, but he required the enslaved to work for a while to recoup his expenses. He also only supported conditional and gradual emancipation of Blacks and wanted Blacks sent to Liberia once they were freed.

Students combed through Eliot’s papers at Olin Library and found, among other evidence, that in 1853 — the year he founded Washington University — Eliot wrote a letter to the editor of *The Christian Messenger* saying he “would not advise the present emancipation of those in bondage.” The students published their findings in *Student Life* in 2021, and the article was picked up by local media.

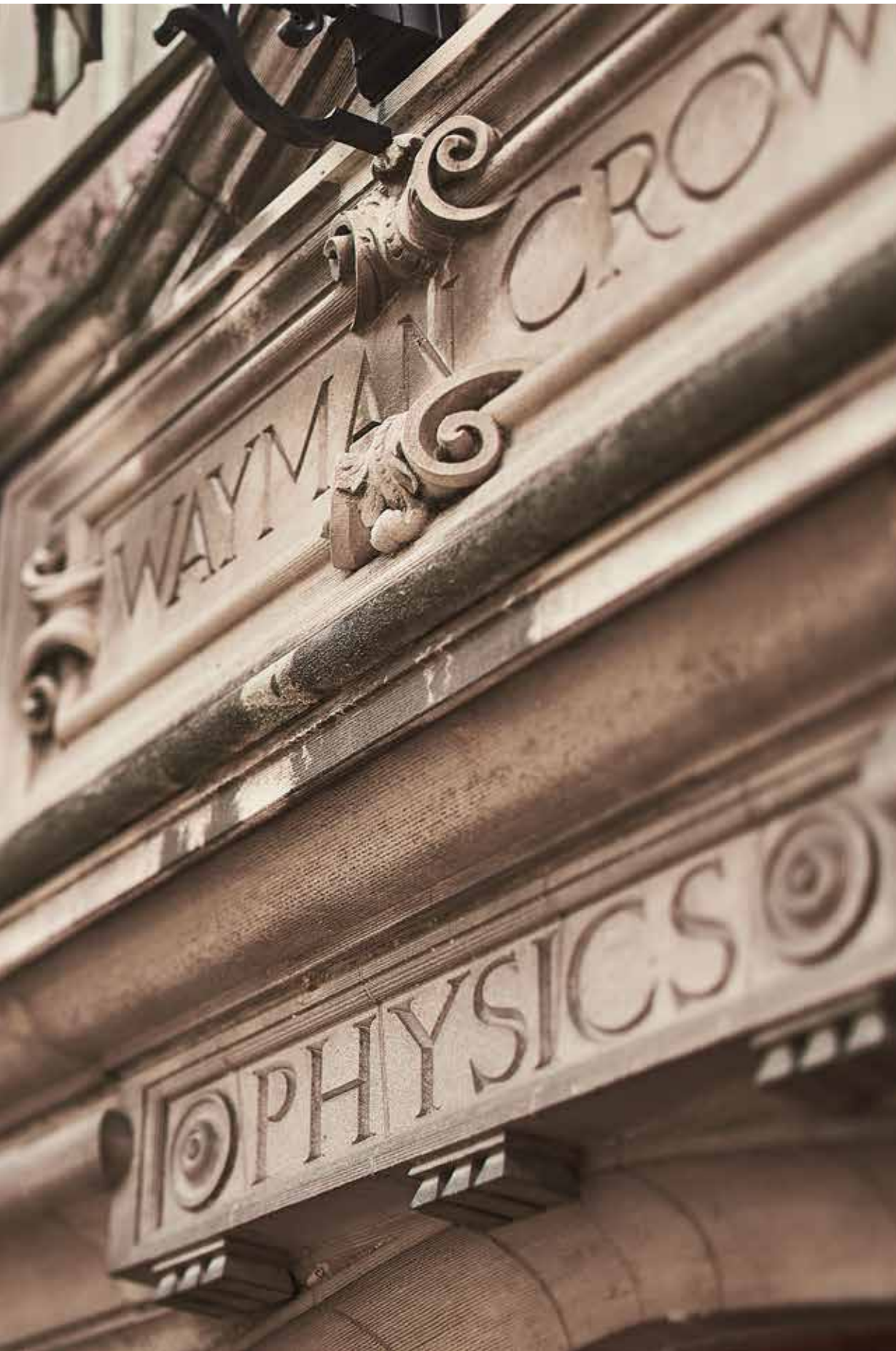
The students do acknowledge that Eliot made many positive contributions to St. Louis, such as founding the Western Sanitary Commission (WSC) during the Civil War. A precursor to the Freedman’s Bureau, the WSC provided field hospitals, housing and other support to Civil War refugees — white and Black, soldiers and civilians — up and down the Mississippi River Valley. Eliot also rescued and befriended Archer Alexander, an enslaved man who told Union troops about a Confederate plan to destroy a bridge. (*Washington Magazine* published a feature story on their relationship, “Of friendship and freedom,” in spring 2016.)

“Much of what we’re learning is through the research of our students,” Ward says, and this research showed that the university’s relation to slavery was “profoundly nuanced.”

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Photo credits, left to right: Portraits Nos. 1 and 2, courtesy of Washington University Archives; No. 3, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis; Devon Hill





**“Much of what we’re learning is through the research of our students,” and this research showed that the university’s relation to slavery was “profoundly nuanced.”**

(Opposite page) Wayman Crow (left), who was a university founder and early trustee, was an enslaver. William Greenleaf Eliot (center), who was a founder of the university and its third chancellor, has been known as an abolitionist, but he also was an enslaver. His history is more complex than Crow’s because Eliot bought enslaved people for the purpose of freeing them. But he required the enslaved to work until he recouped his expenses. Eliot also rescued and befriended Archer Alexander (right), who helped alert Union troops about a Confederate plan to destroy a bridge. (Left) Among the buildings named for enslavers on the Danforth Campus is Wayman Crow Hall, home to the physics department in Arts & Sciences.





### **PUSHING BACK ON WHITEWASHING**

Ward credits collaboration among faculty, staff, students and community partners with guiding the early development of the project. Key here is Kelly Schmidt, who joined the project as a postdoctoral researcher and is now a reparative public historian in WashU Libraries, a lecturer in the Department of African and African American Studies and associate director of the project. Schmidt teaches courses such as “Catholicism and Slavery,” “St. Louis Black History, Culture, and Civic Engagement” and “Slavery and Public History.” And the last two dovetail with the WashU & Slavery Project.

“The ‘Slavery and Public History’ course is meant to move beyond teaching the history of slavery as you would in a traditional history class,” says Schmidt, who previously worked with Saint Louis University on the U.S. Jesuits’ “Slavery, History, Memory, and Reconciliation” project. Instead, the course teaches “students how to apply history in public settings for people who aren’t academics and to work with communities

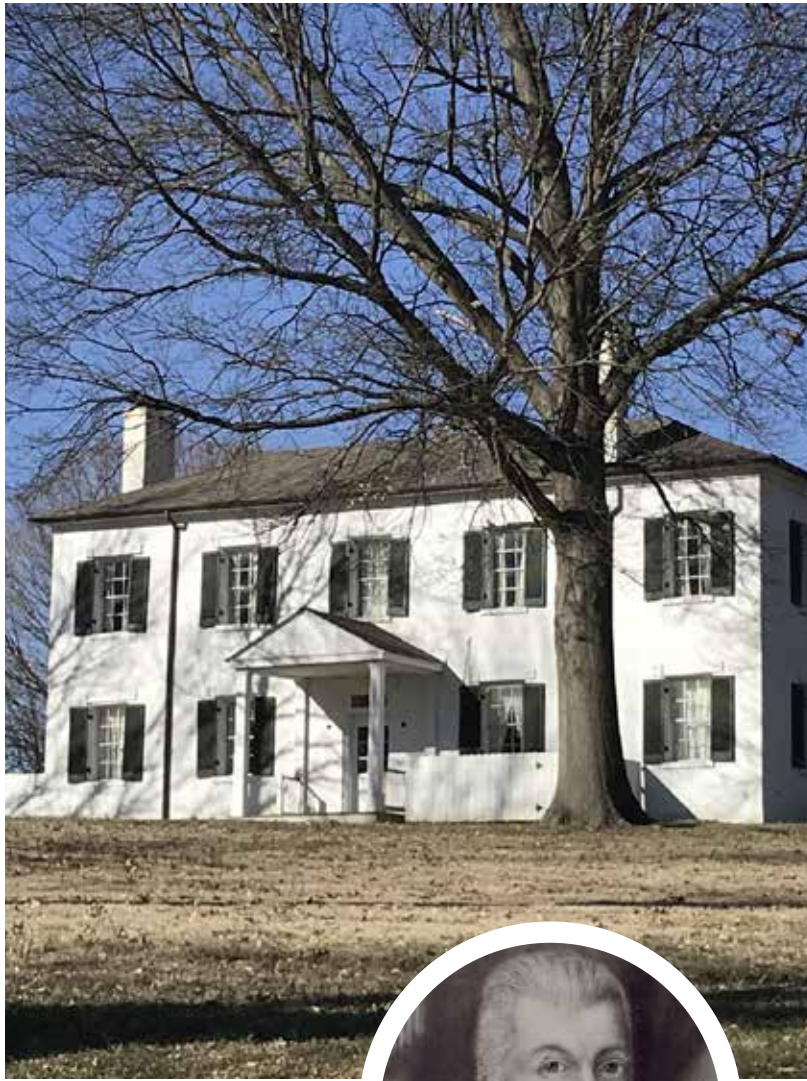
in telling the stories of slavery in St. Louis so that the stories are not forgotten.”

The course is interactive. Schmidt takes students on a campus tour. (She is the one who designed the WashU & Slavery Project’s “Enslavement and Its Wake” tour.) They visit different sites around the St. Louis area, including White Haven, a home Ulysses S. Grant shared with his wife, Julia Dent, who held people in slavery. Plus, students have been able to meet virtually with representatives from the Highland’s Council of Descendant Advisors, a group made up of the descendants of enslaved people from President James Monroe’s Highland estate, in Charlottesville, Virginia.

When they visit historical sites, students use best practices they’ve learned in class to evaluate how the sites are dealing with their legacy of slavery. In addition to analyzing the tour and exhibits, students also assess if appropriate media are being used to tell the story, how text is integrated into the tour’s interpretive frame and if the scholarship is current.

Students work with some sites to improve their historical offerings. For example, Arielle





Kelly Schmidt's "Slavery and Public History" course is interactive. In it, she takes students on campus tours and visits to historical sites, such as White Haven (opposite page), a home Ulysses S. Grant shared with his wife, Julia Dent, who held people in slavery. When visiting historical sites, students use best practices they've learned to evaluate how the sites are dealing with their legacy of slavery. Students also work with some sites to improve their historical offerings, such as the General Daniel Bissell House (left) in north St. Louis. Daniel Bissell (circle) had enslaved people build and operate his family home. St. Louis County Parks, which now owns the property, is committed to interpreting the site's history of enslavement.

Hatton, Arts & Sciences Class of '26, and Sandra Meszaros, AB '23, revised and designed, respectively, interpretive panels about enslavement at the General Daniel Bissell House in north St. Louis. Hatton and fellow students Cameron Chambers, AB '24; Daniel Radke, Engineering Class of '27; and Allen Willis, Arts & Sciences Class of '27, helped nominate the Bissell House as a site for the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom — as a site people escaped from, not to. And their interpretive panels will go up this year.

And Bissell House wasn't the only site the WashU & Slavery Project helped nominate to the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

Keona Dordor, AB '24, who while a student was a Civic Scholar with the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement, researched people interred at Greenwood Cemetery, in the St. Louis suburb of Hillside, who used or aided the local Underground Railroad. Greenwood was the first commercial and nonsectarian cemetery for Blacks in St. Louis, and Dordor's work led to the

cemetery becoming part of the park service's Network to Freedom.

"Getting younger people involved in preservation work is imperative," says Dordor, who majored in urban studies. "Last summer, most of the people I interacted with in preservation fieldwork were older. Being the only young person in these spaces made me nervous about what the future would look like for preservation projects.

"I would argue it is one of the most urgent things that young people can get involved in, mainly because correct and accurate history is under attack," Dordor says.

**"Getting younger people involved in preservation work is imperative ... because correct and accurate history is under attack."**

Photo credits, left to right (clockwise): Courtesy of National Park Service; Kelly Schmidt; Missouri Encyclopedia





**“Across our nation, Black history is being erased. And it is projects like these ... that will ensure our history doesn’t get erased ... but instead is accessible and transparent for the public to see.”**

#### **A DATABASE MAKES THE ENSLAVED VISIBLE**

In December 2018, Carl Craver was on a biking trip in Natchez, Mississippi, with a friend, and it was not going great.

“During the day, we would visit these mansions, and I kept getting more and more irritated about the whitewashing of this history,” Craver remembers. So he suggested they go to Forks of the Road — “the second-largest domestic slave market in the Deep South,” according to the National Park Service, which maintains the site.

“I expected to find a national park with an office,” Craver says. “Instead, we got there and saw this little patch of land where they had poured some cement in the ground and threw some shackles in it. There was a sign that was a barely functioning historical marker.”

Craver became despondent. And he remembers expressing as such to his friend, stating, “This place is sick. These people are sick. And they’re not going to get well until they know of every person who passed through this place.”

After returning home, Craver realized he didn’t know much about the history of St. Louis. So he started looking into slavery here, and he discovered, among other shocking facts,

that the east steps of the Old Courthouse were a regular site for slave auctions.

“The centerpiece of our skyline is a slave market,” Craver says, still surprised. Many iconic images of St. Louis feature the Gateway Arch perfectly framing the Old Courthouse. “And I thought again, ‘This place is sick. We are sick.’”

Only this time, Craver thought that perhaps as a professor of philosophy at WashU he was in a position to learn some history and, in the process, contribute to the effort to remember people enslaved in St. Louis. He wanted to begin, in bits and pieces, to assemble what we could of their names and stories. After all, he had access to extremely talented students who wanted to learn by doing. All he had to do was focus their energies and talents on this project.

“Historians at Gateway Arch National Park had collected documents about court-ordered slave sales,” Craver says. Yet the records were all categorized by enslaver.

But “what’s valuable in those sources in particular,” Craver says, “is you get names of people enslaved and sometimes family relationships. They’re the beginnings of a narrative, the beginnings of a life story.”

Craver wanted to reorganize the information into a database focusing on the biographical information of those enslaved, not on the





Name	Age	Height	Occupation	Security
Jacob Jones - Clerk	57	5 8	White Negro	John D. P. C.
Samuel Jones - Clerk	51	5 10 1/2	White Negro	James
Willy Hanks	38	5 2	Chambermaid or hair	John J. Heild
Richard Jones	40	5 2	Negro	F. J. Hanger
Leona Harris	47	5 4 1/2	Porter	Joseph R.
Henry Hancock	28	5 14	Domestic hand	Frederick R.
Emily Brown	26	5 14	Negro	Nicholas R.
Corneia Gibson	29	5 2	Negro	John W.
Leona Hancock	47	6 2 1/2	Domestic	
George Hancock	34	5 6 1/2	Domestic	
Henry Moore	19	5 2 1/2	Negro	John F. J.
William Parks	48	5 12	Negro	Howard L.
Henry Henry	33	5 2 1/2	Negro	James
Willy Johnson	52	5 2 1/2	Negro	W. Blackman
Arthur Clark	42	5 4 1/2	Chambermaid	John S. Mason
Elizabeth Bell	29	5 4 1/2	Negro	W. C. Wilson
Leonia Clark - Druggist	41	5 5 1/2	Negro	Henry W. S.
Agatha Rowland	52	5 5 1/2	Cook & Negro	John F. H.
Ed Lockit	16	5 5 1/2	Blacksmith	Wm Taylor
Thomas Tyler	25	5 7	Domestic	P. H. K.
Mary Mitchell - wife	29	5 4	Home slave	John L.
Henry Deaton	26	5 1	Teamster	George S.
Mattie Hawkins - wife	52	5 2 1/2	Negro	Rev. Henry
Wm Tyler, and	20			
Ed Tyler, children of	16			

Adjourned to 11 AM to-morrow

M. Lighter



enslavers. The St. Louis Integrated Database of Enslavement, aka SLIDE, was born. Craver then partnered with undergraduate and graduate students (now numbering more than 20, and counting), the Humanities Digital Workshop and the WashU & Slavery Project to build the database, record by record, name by name.

This isn't the first time Washington University has digitized enslavement records. In 2013, the university concluded the St. Louis Freedom Suits Legal Encoding Project, an initiative of the Digital Library Services unit of Washington University Libraries. It digitized some of the 300 St. Louis Circuit Court cases where enslaved people sued for freedom, most famous among them Dred and Harriet Scott.

Schmidt oversees the day-to-day work on the SLIDE database, which has gone through several iterations as the team figures out how best to organize the information. But Craver's students still contribute as part of their coursework and in independent studies.

Francisco Perez, Arts & Sciences Class of '27, is taking Craver and Bernstein's course "Rethinking WashU's Relation to Enslavement," and as part of the course, he and the other students input data about freedom bonds records (licenses and sponsorships required

of all free Black people in St. Louis starting in 1935) into SLIDE.

"Across our nation, Black history is being erased," Perez says. "And it is projects like these, repositories like these, that will ensure our history doesn't get erased — that will ensure this information is not 'gate-kept,' but instead is accessible and transparent for the public to see."

Students use multiple sources — freedom bonds, runaway slave ads, census data, court-ordered slave sales and more — to create entries for each enslaved person and enslaver in the hopes that descendants will be able to find their ancestors.

In one instance, Perez discovered a freedom bond for Joseph W. Postlewaite. Sometimes a person's occupation, age and height will appear on a freedom bond, but that wasn't the case for Postlewaite. So Perez did additional research and found Postlewaite had been a famous composer in the mid- to late 1800s.

"It just shows that bonds can lead to treasures of information," Perez says.

(From left, clockwise) The east steps of the Old Courthouse in downtown St. Louis were a regular site for slave auctions. Historians at Gateway Arch National Park had collected documents about these auctions, and Carl Craver decided to create a database focusing on the biographical information of those enslaved. With student input, the St. Louis Integrated Database of Enslavement was born. This is the second time WashU is digitizing enslavement records. In 2013, it digitized some of the 300 St. Louis Circuit Court cases where enslaved people, including Dred and Harriet Scott, sued for freedom.

Photo credits, left to right: Shutterstock; courtesy of Gateway Arch National Park; portraits, Library of Congress

## HENRY SHAW AND WASHU'S CONTESTED PAST

Sylvia Sukop is a student in the track for international writers in the Germanic languages and literatures doctoral program, and her research is focused on the commemoration of difficult histories, for example, slavery in the U.S. and the Nazi Holocaust in Europe. She jumped at the chance to participate in “Memory for the Future: A Public Humanities Lab,” which dealt with difficult histories including slavery, racial violence, the Holocaust and more.

Ward and historian Anika Walke, the Georgie W. Lewis Career Development Professor in Arts & Sciences, taught the course — a one-year studioloab offered through the Center for the Humanities that combines the formats of the classroom and the lab.

“Their course was fantastic,” says Sukop, a Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Fellow. “By having us complete a public-facing project, it provided me with a foundation to think about my upcoming dissertation in light of my own public humanities practice.”

For her community project, Sukop formed two key partnerships. First, she collaborated with cultural preservationist Angela da Silva, a public historian who researches and performs stories of the lives of 19th-century enslaved people in Missouri.

One significant story da Silva shares is that of Mary Meachum, the widow of the abolitionist preacher John Berry Meachum, who assisted enslaved people fleeing to the free state of Illinois. Once in 1855, for example, nine enslaved people, including four owned by Missouri Botanical Garden founder Henry Shaw, crossed the river with Mary Meachum's help. Four escaped, but armed bounty hunters recaptured five, including a woman named Esther and her two children. As punishment, Shaw separated Esther from her children and sold her down-river in Mississippi. Meachum was immediately arrested.

Since 2002, the Mary Meachum Celebration, co-founded by da Silva, reminds St. Louis of this history. The event is held at the Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing, a federally recognized Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site on the west bank of the Mississippi River. Located on what da Silva calls “sacred ground,” near where freedom seekers tried to cross to Illinois, the site today is part of the Great Rivers Greenway system.

With Ward's support, Sukop initiated a Mentored Professional Experience (MPE) with her second community partner, the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG). Beginning in spring 2023, Sukop worked for three semesters with Sean Doherty, MBG's vice president of education, to develop narratives and public programming addressing Shaw's slave-owning past.

Henry Shaw came to the United States in 1819 from Sheffield, England, settling in St. Louis where he opened a prosperous general store. Sukop says when he first came to St. Louis as a young man, Shaw expressed anti-slavery views. But beginning at age 28 and persisting for more than three decades, he enslaved both adults and children, even hiring some of them out for their labor and taking their wages.

“As I learned more about this history,” Sukop says, “I was shocked by the level of exploitation and dehumanization that went on.”

While Shaw's business records document his ownership of enslaved people and are publicly accessible on the MBG website, the archive provides little information about the enslaved themselves. Sukop has been combing through the archive, including personal letters and journals, in search of any mentions of enslaved individuals that might provide some sense of their humanity.

“We're hoping to develop narratives and modes of telling a fuller story,” she says. “During my MPE, I researched innovative models at other institutions around the country — for example, the Rooted Wisdom initiative at the Adkins Arboretum in Maryland — and introduced some of those ideas to the garden and arranged Zoom meetings for our staff to talk to theirs.”

Some of Sukop's work was folded into MBG's application to the National Park Service to have Tower Grove House added to the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

“I find there's public confusion about what that means,” Sukop says. “A lot of people think, ‘Oh, that means Henry Shaw's Tower Grove House was a safe house on the Underground Railroad.’ And it's the opposite. The reason it was awarded the designation is Shaw's enslaved fled from there to seek their freedom. Shaw did not have sympathies with abolition, and he owned people up to and including (what was known then as) Shaw's Garden's grand opening in 1859.”

Shaw's story is entwined with WashU's, too. In 1885, Shaw endowed the Henry Shaw School of Botany at the university.

“I think what Geoff (Ward) and Kelly (Schmidt) have done — so powerfully, so eloquently, so deeply — is they have helped us surface these kinds of connections among elite St. Louis individuals and institutions of the 19th century and shown that these were not separate stories,” Sukop says. “They're all entwined.”

Today, MBG and WashU are once again partnering on scientific research and education projects around plant conservation — and now around the study and interpretation of slavery and freedom in St. Louis.

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Photo credits, left to right: Courtesy of Library of Congress; Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis



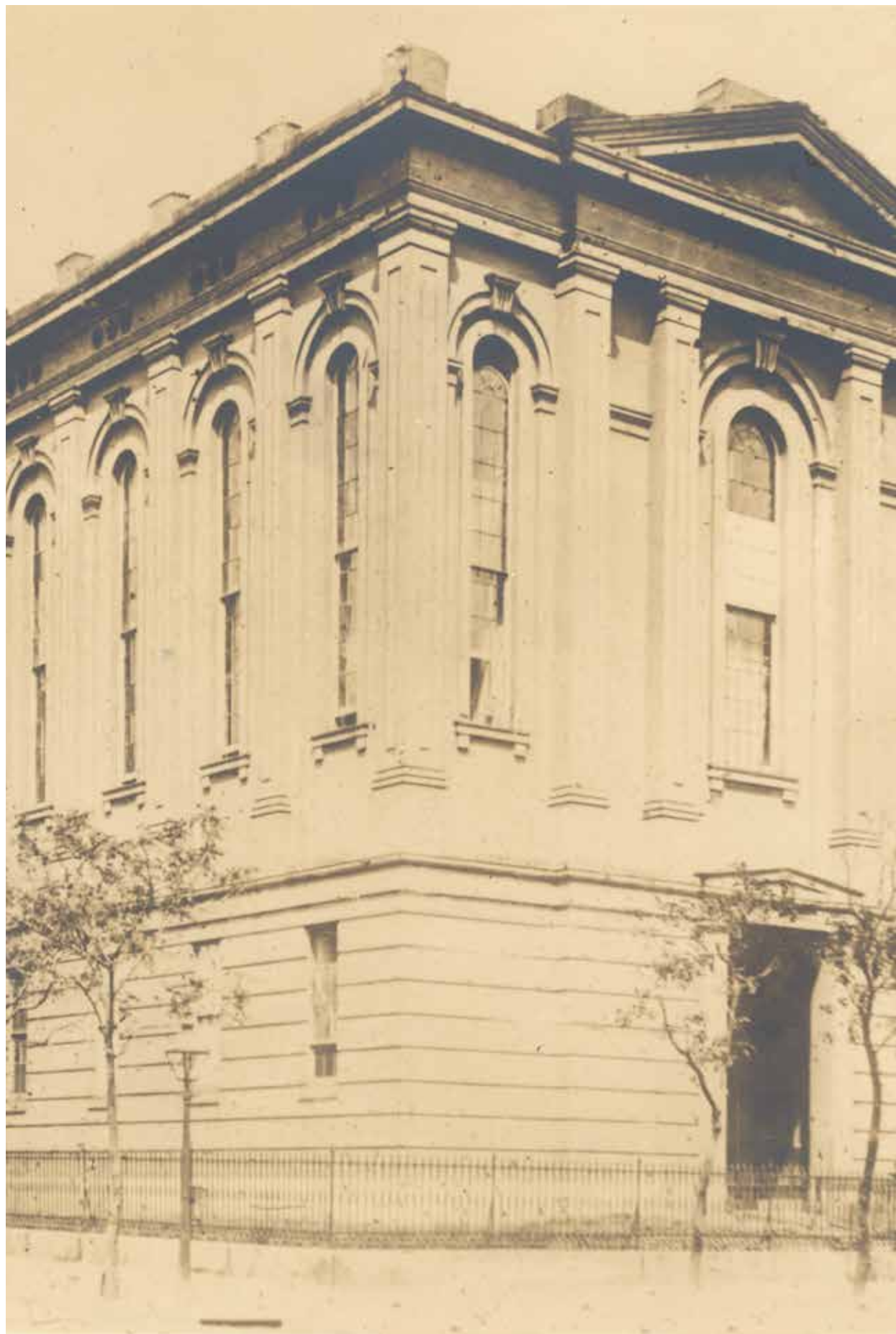




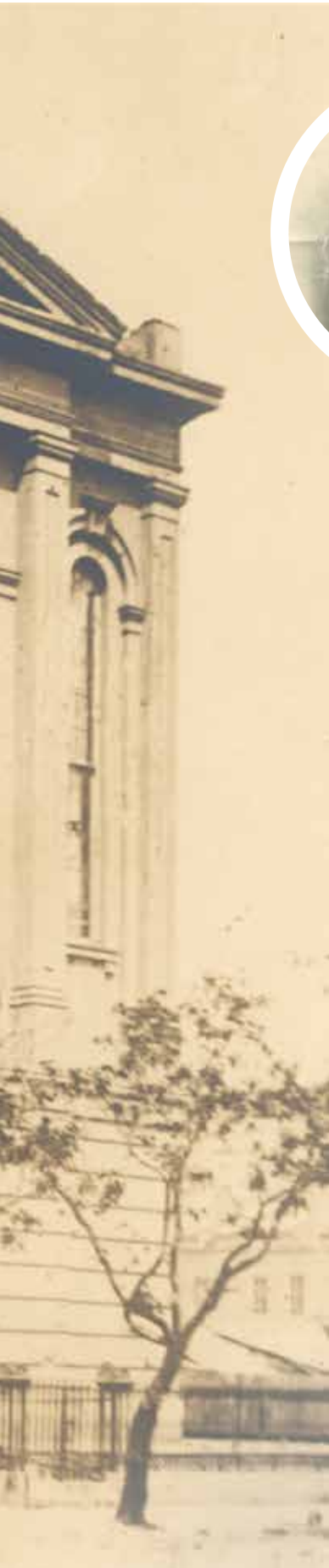
When Henry Shaw (above) came to the U.S. in 1819 from England, he expressed anti-slavery views. However, beginning at age 28 and persisting for decades, Shaw enslaved both adults and children. Doctoral student Sylvia Sukop is working with the Missouri Botanical Garden (formerly Shaw's Garden, which Henry Shaw founded in 1859) on reframing historical accounts of Shaw's involvement with slavery. Her research was folded into the application to the National Park Service to have Tower Grove House (left) added to the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, which recognizes those who fled the house to seek their freedom.

**“How should WashU acknowledge this past, and how should we address its legacies in our campus and community?” The project can inform answers ... but answers will have to come from university leaders, and ultimately the entire WashU community.**

The WashU & Slavery Project is learning how histories of slavery and colonialism touch every school within the university. Capt. John O’Fallon (left circle) was one of the university’s early benefactors and founders of the St. Louis Medical College, precursor to the School of Medicine (image at right circa 1876). He also was one of the largest slaveholders in the state and led its anti-abolitionist movement. Charles A. Pope (center circle), professor of anatomy and physiology, became the medical school’s first dean of faculty. He also was O’Fallon’s son-in-law. Students are discovering that WashU did not stand at the forefront of desegregation either. After Walter Moran Farmer (right circle) graduated from the law school in 1889, the university stopped admitting Blacks until the mid-20th century.







### WASHU & SLAVERY PROJECT KEEPS EXPANDING

The early history of WashU is filled with enslavers like Henry Shaw. According to Ward's 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Commemoration keynote — "Can St. Louis Become the Beloved Heart of America?" — several of our early founders and trustees were enslavers.

Capt. John O'Fallon was one of the largest slaveholders in the state and led its anti-abolitionist movement. He was also one of the university's early benefactors and founders of the School of Medicine.

O'Fallon reportedly led the grand jury that declined to indict anyone for the lynching of Francis McIntosh, a Black man who stood accused of stabbing two policemen. When a white mob broke him out of jail and began burning him alive, McIntosh was in such pain he begged someone to shoot him.

Later, one of Washington University's first buildings, the O'Fallon Polytechnic Institute, was built near the intersection where McIntosh was murdered, and WashU Law School later started there.

Washington University also did not stand at the forefront of desegregation. While the Law School in 1889 had its first Black graduate, Walter Moran Farmer, his classmates refused to walk with him during graduation according to a Missouri Courts article. Atiya Chiphe, Arts & Sciences Class of '26, says she found it while conducting research on Black graduates as a WashU & Slavery Project Scholar. The scholars program was created to increase student participation and contributions in project priority areas.

After Farmer, WashU didn't admit Blacks until the School of Medicine unintentionally admitted a Black student in 1947. Even though President Harry S. Truman's Commission on Higher Education asked states that same year to repeal segregation in higher education laws, undergraduate programs at WashU weren't open to Black applicants until 1952.

The WashU & Slavery Project is learning how histories and legacies of slavery and colonialism touch not only the medical school but every school within the university. A project steering

committee was recently created to bring faculty and staff from the School of Medicine, School of Law, Sam Fox School, and the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity into more direct advisory roles, helping guide project planning and integration throughout the institution.

Many questions remain. The project continues to revisit the Lucas Place neighborhood where the school's early downtown campus was located, for example, and research is ongoing regarding all the enslavers who have had ties to WashU.

Much is left to be done, but for Ward, an overarching question looms: "How should WashU acknowledge this past, and how should we address its legacies in our campus and community?"

Ward points out that the project can inform answers to this question, but answers will have to come from university leaders, and ultimately the entire WashU community.

One result to date: Washington University has established a framework to examine issues of naming or renaming buildings and other spaces, professorships and scholarships. And the university has appointed a Naming Review Board to which members of the community can submit requests for named features to be reviewed. The framework and process was approved by the Board of Trustees Dec. 1, 2023.

The past will not remain buried; in fact, it never really was, Ward says. "The past maintains a presence," he says. "We know from a vast body of social science and humanities research that histories of slavery continue to help explain contemporary patterns of conflict, violence and inequality.

"We need to find ways to bring more of our community into a recognition of this problem," Ward continues. "The 'yoke of history' guides our behaviors and institutions down particular paths, and we need to be intentional about changing course."

Through reconciling with our pasts, we open up our futures.

Photo credits, left to right: Washington University Bernard Becker Medical Library; portrait No. 1, Washington University Archives; No. 2, Bernard Becker Medical Library; No. 3, courtesy of *St. Louis American*



# BUILDING TRUST & COMMUNITY

One of WashU's fundamental missions is to help students develop into the global leaders of tomorrow, by cultivating habits of lifelong learning and critical and ethical thinking. Here, six faculty members and administrators share their approaches and work on helping students – and the entire community – better connect and communicate, develop empathy and active listening, and grant each other grace, especially in fraught times.

■ BY JEANNETTE COOPERMAN

Photo: Devon Hill





(From left) Emilio Parra-Garcia, Ziyi Zhang, Spencer Annor-Ampofo and Gabriella Jager – students involved with diversity, inclusion, inter-faith and international issues at the university – engage in discussion outside Olin Library.

# H

OW DO WE INSERT EMPATHY INTO FIERCE DISAGREEMENT? What happens when we cannot reach even a compromise, let alone accord? How do we learn to negotiate difference gracefully, preserving the humanity of all? The country — in fact, the entire world — is struggling with those questions.

Here at Washington University, there are big questions to resolve — locally, nationally and globally — with searching, sometimes difficult conversations taking place along the way. Professors, administrators and students are tackling similar challenges in their own fields — from the social and physical sciences to medicine and the arts. Always, they're working hard to bring clarity, to create community.

As an institution, WashU also has had a long tradition of peaceful protest, wherein tough questions are raised and explored. Chancellor Andrew D. Martin, PhD '98, who teaches the "Free Speech on Campus" seminar, says that anyone has the right to ask and answer any question, engage in the most complicated issues of the day, disagree profoundly and express their convictions. Yet there must be parameters: One cannot harass or intimidate others, create chaos, instill fear or disrupt the regular life of the university.

When issues become emotionally charged, Martin says, it becomes even more important to stay focused on the university's missions. First, on WashU's highest purpose: the creation and dissemination of knowledge, through teaching, research and practice. Second, on the totality — the many thousands of students, faculty and staff — of the university community. Some might burn to speak, but others are overwhelmed, confused or silenced by grief.

Third, but never least, "we focus on the students," Martin says. "*In loco parentis* doesn't exist anymore, but it's how we approach the work, as if these students are our own. Our job is to love every one of them, even at very fraught moments, like those of the last academic year, where some of our students were arrested on campus. It was our duty to embrace those students — but also to embrace the other students who were affected as well."

Martin hails from a different, predigital generation of college students: "Sure, we had the telephone, but it hung on a wall in the dormitory. Our evenings were spent in conversation with our classmates about the issues of the day. Today, we are hearing loud

and clear, particularly for our students who grew up during the pandemic, that the ability to genuinely listen to the opinions of others is at a real deficit. Yet there's a real desire among many of our students to get out of the echo chambers created by social media platforms."

As an institution, WashU's job is not to pick sides in contentious debates, he continues, but to give students the skills they need to climb out of those chambers — the ability to find trustworthy information, investigate history and context, listen across differences — and dialogue with respect and without attack.

"Our students have grown up during a time of global instability and volatility, and they're trying to figure out what's going on," Martin says. "Tensions with China, a land war in Europe, tragic events in Africa and, of course, the complicated conflict in the Middle East. We're also approaching a presidential election at a time of unprecedented polarization, which is curated by social media companies to inflame passions because anger sells more clicks."

The stakes are high for all universities right now, Martin adds. Higher ed has joined the list of other institutions that have lost people's trust. At many universities, enrollments are declining. And "people, particularly in Washington, D.C., are angry with higher ed. Part of that is political opportunism, but part of it is a real concern that some institutions have lost their way."

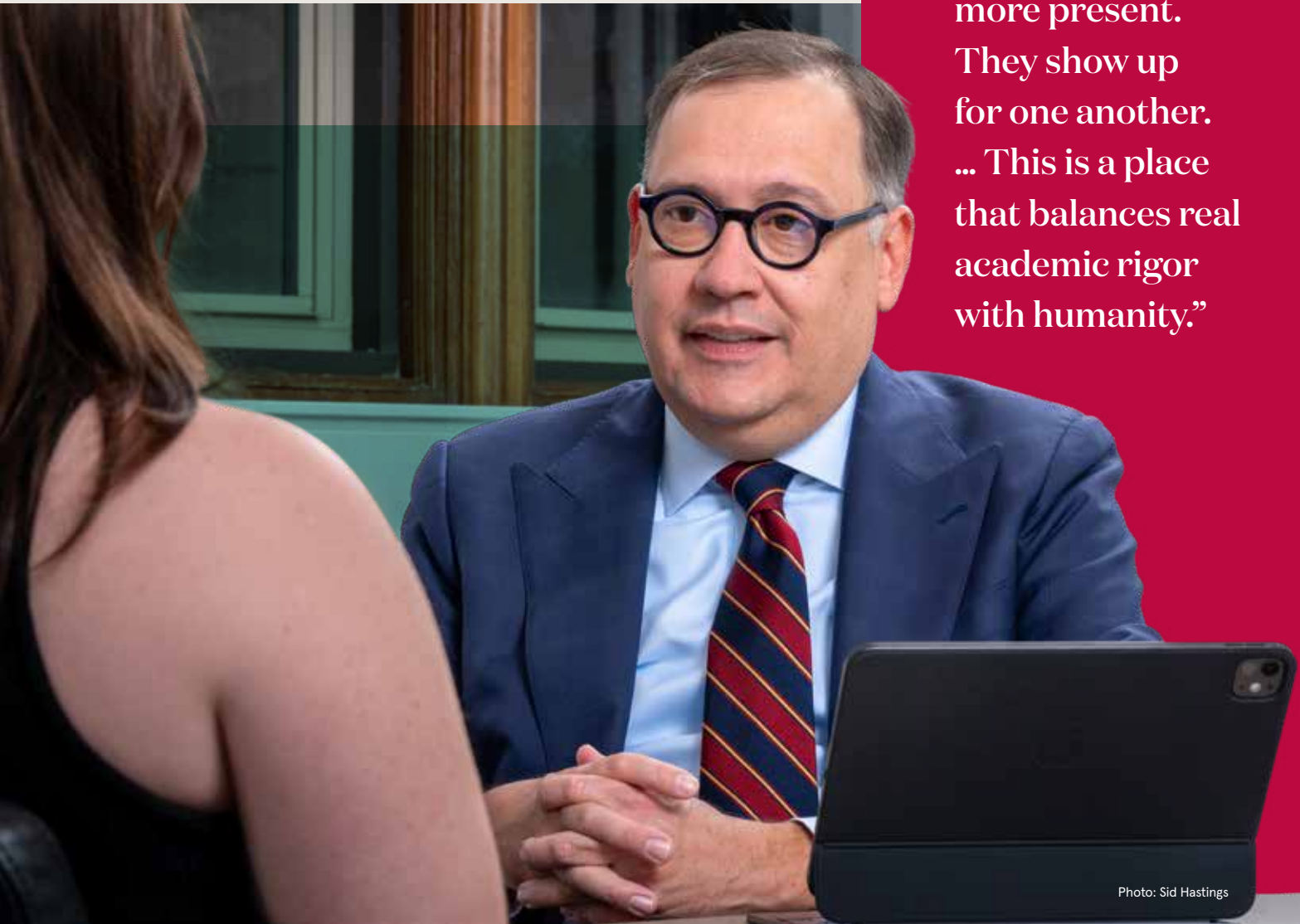
WashU's future is not as precarious as others. But in a time of general chaos, "students are going to start sorting into places that handle things well."

During the spring's protests, WashU was one of the campuses that did not allow tents to go up. "On other campuses, once encampments were set up, things got out of hand," Martin explains. "Our decision was painful in many ways, but it was the best of a lousy set of options."

Fortunately, WashU is uncommonly committed to the idea of community, and Martin is confident that it can be preserved. "People here are more present. They show up for one another," he says. "It drives a level of collaboration in research that you don't see in many places. This is a place that balances real academic rigor with humanity."

And as an institution, WashU engages the entire community in examining these big questions. On the next pages, five faculty and staff members share how they're adding to the conversation and preparing all of us, especially students, to have difficult conversations.





“People here are more present. They show up for one another. ... This is a place that balances real academic rigor with humanity.”

Photo: Sid Hastings

Chancellor Andrew D. Martin meets with one of the first graduates of the WashU Pledge program to discuss her college career and how it has prepared her for the future.



Jacob Chacko (center), executive director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and director of Dialogue Across Difference, holds a small group discussion with Mac Barnes (left), Engineering Class of '26, and Ara Cho, LLM '24.

Photo: Sid Hastings

### CREATING A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

**Jacob Chacko** is executive director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and director of Dialogue Across Difference (DxD), an eight-week course for undergrads. DxD teaches the art and skill of navigating difficult conversations on highly charged topics, including politics, religion, race, gender and socioeconomic identity.

#### When did you first become interested in these conversations?

My lived experience is pretty much conflict! When I was coming to understand my queer identity in high school, I encountered folks opposed to my way of life. As we launch the DxD program here, I recognize student fear: “How do I know there’s a safe space for me to talk about my perspective without feeling attacked?” And I say, “If you are fearful or uncomfortable, there are probably 10 others who are feeling the same way. Come connect.” We create an environment where community is formed, and trust is built.

#### I imagine that kind of teaching takes many forms.

When we held the Israel-Palestine dialogues, some students said, “I have family in Israel who are affected,” or “I have family in Palestine who no longer have a home.” The pain was raw. So we did both intergroup and intragroup dialogue. Afterward, students said, “I came to this with a staunch understanding that ‘from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free’ meant [x].” For some, it was a full belief; for others, it was antisemitic. No one changed their minds after our dialogue, but they now understood where others were coming from, and why those words could be hurtful.

We’ve also started a program called Dessert and Dialogue, where we discuss different topics each month: what intergroup dialogue looks like; love and relationship; the impact of Sidechat, an anonymous app where students vent; even how to talk through roommate conflicts.

#### In building skills, where do you start?

With active listening. Understanding where folks are coming from. Knowing the difference between debate, dialogue and discussion. Persuading to the other side is debate. What we do is centered fully on dialogue, where we’re learning from each other’s truth and lived experience.

The ability to ask the type of questions that enable folks to share how they came to a certain belief is a skill students need to learn. It’s something employers are absolutely looking for. You may someday have to work with a team of people who don’t share the same perspectives you hold, but you’ll still have to find a way to get a project done.

#### What do you see getting in students’ way?

The notion that you are either this or that. You are on the right side of humanity or the wrong side. There’s peer pressure to choose a side — maybe they feel if they are not choosing, they are not living up to their values. But sometimes they have little knowledge or history of what might be happening. Often, the answer is not an easy this or that.

For more than a decade, cancel culture has marked both the left and the right. If you are not fully on board with something, then you are not with us. Tech has advanced in many ways that provoke those divides. It brings both information and misinformation. Sure, times of polarization always existed, but now it’s more in your face. Nothing seems far away, distant, remote. That can make people more rigid because there’s no avoiding it.

#### You are equipping and training faculty, too?

What’s happening in the world absolutely comes through the classroom, so real dialogue needs to happen. We now have trained faculty/staff facilitators for small groups. At The Longest Table — a meal program hosted by the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement, where you eat with people from different walks of life — facilitators who are trained to de-escalate are there helping with dialogue.

In the classroom, it’s a little more controlled. The class works through deciding how they will hold each other accountable when community guidelines are broken.

#### What results are you seeing?

Students who might never connect with each other under normal circumstances are able to meet and greet. Students are realizing, “Hey, not everybody who holds the views I do thinks the same.” To still hold each other in love and friendship while holding those differences is the goal.



## EDUCATING ASPIRING LEADERS

**Anna Gonzalez**, who developed Dialogue Across Difference, is vice chancellor for student affairs — which means listening closely to students, watching over their well-being and offering them hard-earned wisdom.

### A big part of your role is recognizing students' needs. What are they in this fractured time?

In my experience, they need to learn how to step back and view situations from multiple perspectives. To develop the ability to express themselves in a way that is civil, a way other people can hear. And cultivate the ability to listen — by which I mean, *really* hear one another.

### What have you found works?

The Dialogue Across Difference program is working. More than 1,500 students have been touched by the program. The first part of the course focuses on learning how to listen, and that never stops. One student told me it was the best class — and the *hardest* — she's ever taken. We held an interfaith dinner, and hundreds of students showed up. They were not forced to go; they chose to go. Also, there was a debate between College Democrats and College Republicans on women's reproductive rights, and before they came together, they outlined the rules of engagement.

Those things work because people know what to expect. It takes the fear away. And so many students are afraid. They're afraid of getting doxed. They're afraid that if they disagree, even in a small group, they'll be bullied, or someone will put what they said out there on social media or in the newspaper.

It makes me sad — and angry. A sense of belonging is critical for our students. No one wants to walk in fear.

### What challenges are students facing?

Loneliness is real. Young people feel lonely and isolated, and they so want to belong. It's harder now than ever to say no to a mob or a bully. Students need to know they can be their authentic selves and still belong here.

Also, again social media: There are anonymous platforms where you can just throw something out without taking any responsibility for your words. You can be as hurtful and mean as you want without having to engage in a conversation. Students leave thinking they did have a conversation: They said what they thought, and other people were emboldened, so they responded. But this is not a real conversation!

### What tips do you offer?

Sometimes it's OK to take a deep breath and say, "I need a timeout. I can't engage with you or this issue right now." Also, we need to help students get excited about learning about history and culture. If you really want to debate or dialogue about the Middle East, for example, you must learn about the Middle East first.

### Is part of the problem how complex and daunting today's issues are?

Yes, and it's daunting for us, too! WashU's top leadership has had a slew of training on Islamophobia and antisemitism. Really smart people are there, and they're taking notes and asking lots of questions. So, yes, it's daunting — and we cannot give up on it.

### What else do you notice in your interactions with students?

They're curious. They want to learn about differences, about seeing themselves in relation to others, probably more than at any other time in their lives. We put them in such a diverse community — diverse thoughts, experiences, cultural backgrounds. We want that curiosity, that engagement.

And I try my best to give them grace when they make mistakes. They're still developing, learning how to take responsibility. I tell them that no matter what their intentions are — and I believe they nearly always come from a place of deep care and passion — their actions affect others and can have harmful consequences. The challenge is to bring everyone together and then grapple with how these differences can help build us up as individuals and as a community.



As vice chancellor for student affairs, Anna Gonzalez (right) is charged with supporting all students. Here, she meets with Natasha Chisholm, AB '24, who is working this summer in the vice chancellor's office while interviewing for other positions outside St. Louis.

“Sometimes it's OK to take a deep breath and say, 'I need a timeout. I can't engage with you or this issue right now.'”

Photo: Jenny Sinamon

## **BENEFITING FROM PERSPECTIVES OF INDIVIDUALS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS**

**John Inazu** is the Sally D. Danforth Distinguished Professor of Law and Religion. His most recent book is especially apt: *Learning to Disagree: The Surprising Path to Navigating Differences With Empathy and Respect*.

In his book, Inazu succinctly summarizes current obstacles: “We are not very good at disagreement,” he writes. “We view our adversaries not only as wrong but increasingly as evil. We resist notions of forgiveness. And we distrust institutions that try to mediate our disagreements.”

### **Why are classrooms ideal places to overcome those obstacles?**

Because you can have an extended conversation with the same group of people, and you can ask follow-up questions if you are thrown or confused. We can't expect people to be willing, on day one, to engage across perspectives on emotionally and intellectually complex issues. It takes time to build that trust.

### **What challenges are WashU's students – and faculty – facing?**

I'm quite inspired by the passion and energy of our undergrads. The challenge they encounter is that they arrive at college and start thinking more deeply about the injustices of the world and want to address them, but they often lack the resources or capacity to do that. Without longer-term strategies that unfold over years or even decades, whatever difference their current actions make will often be limited and fleeting. I think we can do a better job of helping students understand how to make a commitment over a longer period, rather than just in the moment.

### **You write that “in addition to its unending distractions, social media also makes it harder to empathize with others.” What can we do about that?**

I don't think we have any choice but to think radically about minimizing or changing our social media habits. We are not going to change the algorithms. They are set up for our worst selves, encouraging interactions that are short and snarky and disembodied.



Photo: Sid Hastings

First Amendment expert John Inazu (left) mentors many students, including Caroline Kopsky, AB '24, on freedoms of speech, assembly and religion. His most recent book discusses how all of us might learn to disagree and navigate differences with respect.

### **What else makes it difficult for students to understand or empathize with different viewpoints?**

In my experience, some WashU students who lean progressive might not have much lived experience with people who are more conservative. I've seen students have trouble imagining why someone might embrace certain viewpoints and ways of life, and that becomes a limit in imagination and understanding. That's true for faculty as well. But there are also limits to understanding the felt experience of being a racial, sexual or religious minority on campus. It's easy for people who are in the majority to think, “Well, we have already addressed that,” and not realize it can still be hard, and exhausting, on a daily basis for those in the minority.

### **How do you suggest someone enter a difficult conversation?**

By asking, “What is one thing I can learn from this person? And what might our common ground be?” Also, make sure you are going in emotionally and physically prepared, well-rested, having thought about what might happen. Especially with people close to us, it's likely that we're going to hear something that disturbs us. So if you can anticipate that and plan a reaction that is patient and calm and doesn't take offense, you have an opportunity to change the dynamics of the conversation.

### **How do you advise students to decide when to engage in the culture fight and when to step back?**

Choose your battles. You don't have to speak truth to every issue. Find a few you care about deeply and learn deeply about those issues. Use this time to become more educated about them. And be attentive to context. It's rarely productive to get into a disagreement at a large lecture or public event. Save the meaningful interactions for smaller conversations when you can have follow-up.

### **You write about disagreeing “gracefully.” What does the word mean in this context?**

When I think about grace, I think about a kind of softness and compassion in our interactions, reminding ourselves that every person we encounter is a human being with hopes and dreams and insecurities. Grace can let us slow down and be aware of the incredible complexities but also possibilities of the people around us.

Grace also means learning to forgive yourself for making mistakes – and learning to let others make mistakes.

### **If we are morally confident about a certain stance, are we obligated to persuade others to join us?**

A lot of people with political or religious or ideological commitment want to see their views embraced by everyone around them, because they think those views are true and important for a just society. I understand that. But the key is persuasion, not coercion or control. And sometimes persuasion takes a very long time, and we do it in very small and modest ways.





Pamela Begay (center), MSW '04, director of the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies, gathers with Buder Scholars Ashlyn Newcomb (left), MSW '24, and Kendra Henry, MSW '24, at the Buder Blessing before the Brown School recognition ceremony May 11.

Photo: Sharon Riney/Brown School

## FULLY COMMITTING TO FAIRNESS AND INCLUSION

**Pamela L. Begay, MSW '04**, is associate professor of practice and director of the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies. She is a member of the Diné (Navajo) Nation and was recently appointed the North American Commissioner of the Indigenous Commission for the International Federation of Social Workers.

Begay's email signature includes a land acknowledgement — a formal statement that honors a place's Indigenous people, past and present, and recognizes the history that brought us to where we are today: *"The Kathryn M. Buder Center at Washington University in St. Louis occupies the ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands of the Osage Nation, Otoe-Missouria, Illinois Confederacy, Quapaw, Ho-Chunk, Miami and many other tribes as the custodians of the land where we reside, occupy and call home. We recognize their sovereignty was never ceded after unjust removal..."*

### To the First Nations, land is sacred, alive, deserving of respect. Where do you even begin in trying to convey that?

If I'm giving a land acknowledgement, I'll talk about the people, the tribes that should be here. We took a trip to Oklahoma, for example, and talked to people from nine tribes. It was important for me to know and recognize them, because this is not my tribal homeland. Everyone got pushed and forced to other states away from Missouri.

The Buder Center received funding from Missouri Humanities, and we made a series of videos, one that included a panel discussion with people from three different tribes. What does it mean to be a person from a tribe that should still be here? What does the land mean and is it proper to do a land acknowledgement, or is it just performative?

Acknowledgement continues by encouraging others to do their own research on tribal removal, tribal sovereignty and the history of the land where they reside.

We created a land acknowledgement template that anyone can use at public events or meetings, but we want them to do their own research, not just rely on the Buder Center. The idea is to get people to act. We ask corporations or other organizations, "What have you researched, and what do you now know?" We are very happy to help, but we encourage people to do this work themselves. And we encourage them to read their acknowledgements themselves — it doesn't have to be a Native person reading it. It doesn't have to always fall on Native people to teach other people about us. The research people do themselves is the action — learning is action.

### How do you make sure the verbiage isn't just performative?

We always encourage people to ask: What can I do? What can my/this organization do? So it's not just performative. How can you partner with Native people to make sure they are seen and not invisible in the process? How can you support Native causes, consider a Native scholarship, partner with tribes in recruitment?

### What progress are you seeing here on campus?

Departments and schools are adding similar land acknowledgements to their email signatures and websites. One example of action is that various departments have sponsored and offered to help pay rental fees for the annual Powwow that brings Native people back to their ancestral homeland here in St. Louis, the land here at Washington University. Our Buder Scholars are in the community, and this past year spoke to the first-year medical students about land, discussing Native wisdom and land as the source of medicine. The Buder Center at the Brown School does a lot of recruitment, letting people know about the Buder scholarship for graduate study in social work and looking for Native tribes that could be practicum sites for our students.

We must also keep in mind that we are only 2% of the general population. People ask, "Why aren't there more Native students and Native faculty?" Well, there's only 2% of us left.

### Are you seeing similar responses at other universities?

When you talk about social justice and the importance of people and the dignity of people, that is embedded in social work's code of ethics. Last summer, I had a few students working on their practicum through the Buder Center. And I wanted to know what other schools of social work had land acknowledgements. Some did — but it's probably less than one-fourth. So why don't the others? Especially universities that are benefiting from stolen land where these universities across the country stand. Miami University in Ohio gives tuition waivers to members of the Miami tribe who are accepted to the school. Other schools have committed to free tuition for any Native students. But there's so much more work to be done. It's 2024, and we are barely in a space of talking about it, but let's act.

## DISCOVERING GLOBAL HISTORY AND KNOWLEDGE

**Tabea Alexa Linhard** is director and professor of global studies and professor of Spanish and comparative literature (by courtesy). She teaches students how to understand the historical, social and cultural contexts of highly charged issues.

### There are many points of tension these days, but Israel and Gaza have risen to the top. Why didn't the war in Ukraine?

Or the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan? I don't have an answer for this question, mainly because there are many and often contradicting reasons for this. It's not just the role of the U.S. in the conflict; or social media; or colonialism; or global inequalities; or the loss of life; or the destruction of schools, universities and of a future; or antisemitism or Islamophobia. Unpacking any of these reasons takes expertise and patience.

I do think that sometimes the history of the 20th century can feel very far away to students born in the early 2000s. A clearer sense of that history will not make the debates about the war any less intense, but perhaps more productive.

### How do you respond, in the classroom, to current news?

When the war in Ukraine broke out, I was teaching a class called "War, Migration, and Human Rights." I'd had no intention of teaching anything about Ukraine or Russia, but it felt like my responsibility to address it. So I changed the syllabus and added a limited reading list with works from Ukrainian authors.

What we as faculty can do is not provide the answers — because we don't have them either — but help students ask questions and then point them to scholars who have reflected on the history, the context and the causes of current events, and encourage them to review trustworthy information.

On any given day, WashU students can be found on campus meeting and dialoguing about the important issues of the day — building community, trust and understanding in the process.

### How did you handle Oct. 7, 2023?

In my "Global Futures" course, "How to write about human rights in the 21st century" was on the syllabus for the first class after Oct. 7. I changed what was meant to be an interactive discussion to a quiet reflection. I presented several questions and then requested students to write their answers. I did not want to ask them to speak in front of everybody else so soon after the events of that day — but I didn't want to ignore it either. Time will tell whether that was the right or the wrong approach.

### Where do students generally get their news?

The sense I get is that they trust social media more — and social media often appeals to emotion more than facts. Some do not trust the news media at all. But there are certain sources to be trusted, if never wholly. One of our guest speakers in "Global Futures" was journalist Aryn Baker [the senior international climate and environment correspondent at TIME]. When a student inquired about trust, she suggested looking to sources that stay accountable and acknowledge any reporting mistakes. One thing we can do as faculty is help students question, but also think about moments when the information they receive can be trusted. The representation of migration in the media, for example, can be flawed and dehumanizing — but in which media? Not all outlets are the same.

### Where are students emotionally these days?

In a very difficult place. This is the generation that went through COVID and through the routines of active shooter drills in their schools. As digital natives, with social media amplifying all kinds of emotions, they also may feel isolated. But there is much I admire about them: their empathy, their commitment to protect the environment and even to protest.

### How do you help them understand current events?

My first instinct is to tell them to take classes with faculty experts — and, fortunately, we have many, working in different disciplines and teaching a variety of courses. Again, find trustworthy sources of information. Read opposing points of view and see what their arguments are, what their sources are. As faculty, we can give students an opportunity to understand where these big issues and conflicts come from, help them understand their history. But students should come to their own conclusions.



Photo: Devon Hill





Photo: Sean Garcia

“One of the things I tell students ... is not to tell the end of a story before it actually happens. ... don’t think you have all the answers before you start reading.”

Tabea Alexa Linhard is director and professor of global studies. In her courses on Spanish and Spanish American literature and film, the Holocaust, migration and more, students learn how to understand the historical, social and cultural contexts of highly charged issues.

#### And how do you help students not feel overwhelmed?

One of the things I tell students, wherever they’re from, is not to tell the end of a story before it actually happens. In other words, don’t think you have all the answers before you start reading. And don’t try to find one theory that explains everything. Remember that when you talk about these big problems, you are talking about people, about people’s lives. And people are flawed and make many mistakes, regardless of how good their intentions may be.

For example, those who move people across borders today may be part of cartels. They may be involved in human trafficking. But they also may be ordinary people who find themselves in precarious situations, and it’s important not to demonize them, especially in the absence of additional information about their paths. Think about individuals who fled from Fascist-occupied Europe during World War II. Those who made it out did so with the support of others, the “passeurs,” who are now considered heroes and rescuers. But these heroes were also flawed and complicated, and they did all kinds of things that were entirely illegal: They forged documents, paid bribes, helped refugees to cross borders illegally. Yet we would not consider those refugees to be illegal immigrants.

#### Is this an especially hard time to teach?

Even before this moment, there was a bit of a panic about trigger warnings. Sometimes I heard statements, not necessarily from faculty, along the lines of: “We cannot teach anything anymore; all our students require trigger warnings.” I don’t think that this is true, or at least I have not seen it. Our students are a lot less fragile than many may think. They do not shy away from asking good questions about difficult topics. I’ve taught about the Holocaust, about sex, about violence and death, and I have not had any issues or complaints. When I teach Spanish or Latin American literature, I sometimes hear comments like: “Latin American literature is all about violence, sex and death!” And I respond, “Yeah, all of literature is. You just haven’t read the rest yet.”

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Health and hope  
in Montana

Following her own struggle with cancer, **Tescha Hawley, MSW '02**, founded the Day Eagle Hope Project. The nonprofit provides cancer support and wellness services to the Fort Belknap Reservation and surrounding areas. For her lifesaving work in her Native American community, Hawley was named a Top 10 CNN Hero of 2023. Read her story online at <https://source.wustl.edu/2024/08/health-and-hope-in-montana/>.

Photo: Courtesy of CNN/Allie Torgan

# Innovating for the future of medicine

Last year, Chris Boerner became CEO of one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. His eyes are on the future of health care – and the innovation that will get us there.

“There’s nothing more exciting than knowing that what you do at work has the potential to change people’s lives,” says **Chris Boerner, AB ’93**. “I see the impact we’re making on global health every single day.”

As board chair and CEO of Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS), Boerner leads a company at the forefront of biopharmaceutical innovation, specifically in oncology, hematology, immunology, cardiovascular disease and neuroscience. During his time in the industry – more than 20 years – he says the rate of innovation has increased dramatically.

“When I was at WashU, HIV/AIDS was pretty much a death sentence,” he says. “Thanks to companies like BMS, it’s now a chronic disease – and there’s hope that eventually it will be curable.”

With an ever-increasing understanding of the biology of disease, BMS employs new techniques to treat a wide range of health conditions. One example is cellular therapy, where healthy cells are put into the body to replace diseased or damaged ones. “These new modalities allow us to help more patients in areas like cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and cardiovascular disease,” Boerner says. “Advances in technology, like AI and machine learning, can increase the pace of innovation even more dramatically. It’s exciting to think what the future could hold.”

Boerner’s optimism stems from a host of projects in the pipeline at BMS. The company is working toward using cell therapy to treat autoimmune diseases, as well as using targeted oncology therapy and radiopharmaceuticals to treat cancers that were previously intractable. Through another modality, protein degradation, the company aims to destroy inactive or mutated proteins in solid tumors. BMS also has plans to launch a drug for schizophrenia and Alzheimer’s disease psychosis. “The advances we’re making are incredible!” he says.

So how did a history and economics major end up as a leader in the biopharmaceutical industry? After graduating from WashU, Boerner studied the economics of innovation at the University of California, Berkeley. He focused his dissertation on the factors that drive innovation in the pharmaceutical industry and later accepted a job with management consultancy McKinsey & Company, which serves pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. Boerner then moved to Genentech, serving as a marketing leader for oncology products, before heading to Seattle Genetics, Inc.,

where he held several leadership roles. He joined BMS in 2015 and became CEO in 2023.

“While my initial interest in pharma was academic, it became much more personal after I lost a close relative to cancer,” Boerner says. “I decided to dedicate my professional life to helping patients and their families avoid going through what my family and I did.”

Boerner encourages students interested in the pharmaceutical field to “take advantage of the incredible resources available at WashU. It has one of the top medical schools in the world and leading programs in biology and chemistry. I wish I had taken more than just one biology course when I was there!”

Because of his positive experience at WashU, Boerner stays involved by serving on the Arts & Sciences National Council, and he and his wife sponsor a scholarship. “I’m grateful for the significant financial support I received,” he says. “Now I’m paying that generosity forward.”

Boerner is also dedicated to increasing access to medicines worldwide. “At BMS, we don’t feel our job is done until patients are actually benefiting from our cutting-edge medicines,” he says. “Access to medicine is highly disparate based on geographic area, ethnicity and socioeconomic status, so BMS and the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) organization, made individual commitments to invest \$150 million to advance health equity by 2025.”

Additionally, the BMS Foundation, which is primarily funded by BMS Co., partnered with Baylor College of Medicine to build the core infrastructure needed in sub-Saharan Africa to deliver HIV/AIDS medicines. “Mother-to-child transmission of HIV was a huge problem in that region, and thanks to our efforts with a number of local partners, we’ve made a dramatic impact,” Boerner says. In fact, the World Health Organization announced that the Republic of Botswana, one of the countries where the BMS Foundation operates, had achieved a mother-to-child HIV transmission rate of less than 5% – a dramatic decrease from earlier decades.

“Now we’re focused on providing lifesaving treatments to children with cancer in sub-Saharan Africa, which has a devastating child mortality rate,” Boerner says. “Contributing to global health is important. The pharmaceutical industry is a phenomenal space to be in, and I’ve never been more excited about the potential.”

■ BLAIRE LEIBLE GARWITZ



**WHO**

Chris Boerner, AB '93

**CYCLING FOR CANCER**

Each year, Boerner joins 350 BMS colleagues around the world to cycle cross country in Bristol Myers Squibb's "Coast 2 Coast 4 Cancer" ride. "It's rigorous, so we hire professional cyclists to train participants to be able to ride 70 to 100 miles a day for three days," he says. Since its inception in 2014, the event has expanded to Europe, Japan and Latin America, raising more than \$16 million for cancer research.

**FIRING UP A NEW HOBBY**

Boerner recently took up barbecuing. "I grew up in the South — in Arkansas — and didn't know how to barbecue, which just felt unacceptable to me."



Courtesy photo



# Competitive energy

Deko Devins is on a mission to make solar power more widespread, affordable and accessible.

Before the 2017 conference track and field championships, Deko Devins had the word “compete” tattooed on his left shoulder. He went on to win the conference and NCAA Division III championships in both indoor and outdoor men’s 800 meters, setting a program record that holds today.

Devins no longer runs, but he’s never stopped competing. At 29, he leads St. Louis-based Azimuth Energy, making his way from intern to president in seven years.

“I love the grind of competition — that drive to be better, to learn more, to do more,” says **Devins, BS ’17**. “You see that same spirit in the solar industry. We’ve gone from, ‘How do we convince people that solar is a proven technology and better than fossil fuels?’ to ‘How do we deploy solar as fast as possible?’ We are in a race to solve this problem.”

For Devins, solar energy is more than a weapon against climate change. It’s a tool to help the world’s most vulnerable people. He arrived at WashU in 2013 determined to find ways to make solar affordable and accessible. Back then, solar energy accounted for a mere one-quarter of 1% of the energy produced in this country.

“Solar once looked terrible financially, but from a material sciences perspective, it was clear that the cost of solar was going down, while the efficiency was going up,” Devins says. “By the time I graduated, solar cost less than grid energy produced from fossil fuels. The timing couldn’t have been better.”

Fast forward to today — the solar industry is exploding. Azimuth Energy designs and builds solar projects for commercial, industrial utility and institutional clients across the nation and the Caribbean as well as community solar projects, an emerging model that enables users who cannot install on their own property to buy into local solar gardens. Thanks to advances in solar technology and new tax credits, solar power is expected to grow from 3% of the nation’s energy inventory to 40% in 2050. With every completed multimillion-dollar project, Azimuth contributes to that trend.

He credits several mentors along his journey, including **Phil Valko, AB ’03**, WashU’s assistant vice chancellor for sustainability, for his current success. Valko hired Devins to work on campus renewable energy projects. He also introduced him to Marc Lopata, Azimuth’s founder.

“Finding Phil gave me a route to the real world in solar,” Devins says. “Until then, I wanted to pursue research in solar materials science. Working with Phil and meeting Marc, I learned that it was time for solar deployment. It is a monumental shift to go from ‘I want to be a researcher’ to ‘I want to work in construction.’”

Now Devins is inspiring the next generation. At WashU, he’s a guest lecturer in “Reset,” Valko’s renewable energy course, and advises an engineering student through McKelvey’s Mentor Collective. “I’m transitioning from mentee to mentor,” Devins says. “It’s an interesting challenge. And one that I love.”

■ **DIANE KEAGGY, AB ’90**

#### WHO

Deko Devins, BS ’17

#### WASHU MAJOR

Electrical engineering at the McKelvey School of Engineering

#### HOMETOWN

Kansas City, Missouri

#### THE PATH TO SUCCESS

While an undergraduate, Devins launched two unsuccessful businesses. “WashU gave me the space to fail,” he said at the time. “Failing is doing what you think is actually right and not being good enough — at least not good enough yet.”



# When it's the outside that counts

Katie Ireland shapes the ways everyday products are manufactured, packaged and brought to a store near you.

While strolling down a grocery store aisle, some Pop-Tarts catch your eye. The thin, brightly colored box falls into your cart. Like most shoppers, you don't give the package a second thought until it's time to toss it in the recycle bin.

As a senior packaging engineer at CRB, a construction and consulting company, **Katie Ireland, PMBA '99**, has a different perspective. "Every company I have worked for has a different perspective of packaging and supply chain needs. I now draw from those experiences for CRB clients," she says.

Working for heavy-hitters like Starbucks, Kellogg, Hershey, Ford Motor Company and Unilever, Ireland has designed new and modified packages, set up complex factory lines and handled global logistics for products ranging from coffee beans to the hybrid Ford Escape SUV. One of the many packages she has shaped? A deceptively simple box filled with 48 toaster pastries.

Before Ireland's intervention, Pop-Tarts came in a corrugated case — the kind with fluting in between. She proved that a different type of packaging, Z-flute (or zero flute) paperboard, could effectively protect the heavy, delicate pastries. Pop-Tarts became the first product in the world to launch in this carton material.

Using less packaging is a win for companies, consumers and the environment, Ireland says. Small changes like removing a foam insert from a bottle cap (as she did for Hershey's syrups) can reduce waste and lead to more efficient recycling. Overall, she sees sustainability as an increasingly important part of her job.

In the late 1990s, Ireland decided to add business knowledge to her



Photo: Steve Puppe

technical expertise. At that point, marketing teams initiated most of her projects. "I thought, 'Who's making all these decisions? That's where I want to be,'" she says. "I liked making the changes, but I wanted to help dream them up, too."

While in the evening MBA program at Olin Business School, Ireland focused on international business and marketing. One course included an 18-day experience in China and Japan, where graduate students conducted real business meetings on behalf of St. Louis-area companies. Years later, when tasked with designing the first Starbucks packaging lines in China, she recalled lessons from that experience.

"Different protocols exist in different countries," Ireland says. "In China, there was a lot of planning and a lot of relationship work." The result? A LEED-certified facility that served as the vision for how Starbucks plants would be built or upgraded going forward.

In her role at CRB, Ireland works with food and beverage clients on design, construction and consulting projects. "I get to help our clients realize their dream, or even help them build their dream if they're not quite sure what they want yet," Ireland says. "I think that's the biggest impact the MBA has had on my career. Whatever clients want to make, I can dream it and build it."

■ CLAIRE GAUEN

## WHO

Katie Ireland, PMBA '99

## GROCERY LIST

A sampling of products from Ireland's résumé: Hebrew National hot dogs, Hershey's syrups, Kashi cereals, Kellogg's Rice Krispies Treats, Morningstar Farms Veggie Grillers Crumbles, Orville Redenbacher's popcorn, PAM cooking spray, Reddi-wip whipped topping

## LASTING LESSON FROM THE MBA

"My negotiation course really stuck with me," Ireland says. "Whether it's with a client or a business partner — or even as a parent! — negotiation is always happening."



## Building on relationships

As director of the Frank Lloyd Wright House in Ebsworth Park, Kathryn Feldt works at the confluence of natural elegance and architectural brilliance.

### WHO

Kathryn Feldt, MHS '95

### CONTINUING CONNECTIONS

"The museum has an amazing relationship with the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts," Feldt says. Robert McCarter, professor of architecture, has published multiple books on Wright's life and work, and Eric Mumford, the Rebecca and John Voyles Professor of Architecture, is curating the "Preserving What's Wright" fundraiser, which will be held at Kemper Museum Sept. 22.

Sitting in her favorite spot at the iconic Frank Lloyd Wright House in Ebsworth Park, **Kathryn Feldt, MHS '95**, can't help but smile thinking of the career path that led her to this sun-bathed studio, with its unique hexagonal artist's table directly below a parallelogram-shaped skylight.

Looking out at a grove of persimmon trees, through the frameless windowpanes joined at an angle under a signature Wright cantilever roof, Feldt works at the confluence of natural elegance and architectural brilliance.

"Here I am, once again, in a role trying to bring beauty and joy into people's lives," says Feldt, who has been executive director of the nonprofit museum

since 2018. "As much as it seems like I've held unrelated roles in my career, there's connective tissue with all of it."

Wright, considered the greatest American architect of the 20th century, designed the house in 1951 for artist **Russell W. Kraus** (who studied art at WashU) and his wife, **Ruth Goetz Kraus, LLB '31**, after Russell sent him a letter requesting his highly in-demand services.

The 1,900-square-foot house, located on the outskirts of Kirkwood, Missouri, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 and sold in 2001. For Feldt and the house's board, their mission is twofold: preservation and education. Both tenets reflect a foundational aspect of Feldt's career path: relationship development, a skill she traces back to her time earning a master's degree in health sciences at WashU.

"I felt so enriched and empowered by what I was learning and who I was learning with," she says. "I remember feeling such a sense of responsibility, in the spirit of 'much has been granted, much is expected.'"

Inspired by her mother's 18-month struggle with cancer, Feldt started the Joy Foundation in 2003, with the goal of providing a broad spectrum of programs designed to bring art and beauty into patients' lives at a time when those elements were difficult to find. "Her spirit of bravery, of life and adventure and joy was really a life force that sort of kept me going," Feldt says of her mother. "I thought it was important to share."

Prior to joining the Ebsworth Park nonprofit, Feldt worked with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Marygrove, a residential treatment facility for children, teens and young adults. Though they were very different jobs, both required relationship-building and introducing beauty to others, through music and the arts.

Just beyond the studio's terrace, a brightly colored eastern bluebird flits past the windows. The Krauses once let their horses roam on the gentle hills of the 10.2-acre property. Here, Feldt feels at home. It's a feeling she also associates with her time in graduate school.

"WashU has such a beautiful learning environment, such a beautiful campus," Feldt says. "I remember as a student being in this cocoon of just enormous physical beauty, and that's what I have now."

■ RYAN FAGAN



# Throw like a girl

In the spring of 2023, **Bonne Korte, BFA '73**, became the first woman in the United States Judo Association (USJA) to earn kudan — a ninth degree rank in judo. It's a distinction only a few have achieved worldwide and one that takes decades of training and experience.

The rank far exceeded any goal she had set when she began judo at age 13 in 1963 because “my father wanted me to learn self-defense.” What followed, though, was international fame, a studio of her own and a lifetime commitment to a sport that taught her so much more than self-defense. It's a sport in which those who are most successful master self-discipline, self-control and technique because they practice, practice, practice. And in Korte's case, learning how to “throw like a girl.”

► **The thing about self-defense** is that, because of judo, nobody would look at me and think that I could do what I can do. No one would know what I'm capable of because I have mastered many techniques. In judo, you are confident because you know what you're going to do. You control the element of surprise.

► **I was known for my throws**, and in the 1980s, after I had won some international competitions, the USJA did a promotional poster of me with the words “Throw like a girl.” When you throw someone in sport judo, you first pull them up. Your hands grab the gi [the heavy tunic worn by all judoka], and you pull them up before you throw them. That keeps your opponent from hitting the ground with full force. I would then follow the throw down to the mat and go into a hold, because you never know what your opponent might do on the mat. You need to finish it with a pin.

► **In judo, you're constantly thinking a few steps ahead.** You learn to think faster. And because you've practiced the techniques so many

times, your body and your brain just react together. You don't consciously think, “He put his arm here and his leg here, so I'm going to do this.” You just react because you've practiced it so many times. And you've practiced it not just standing still, in kata, but in randori, where you're constantly moving around.

► **I knew I could compete on the international level.** I never let myself get intimidated by my opponents. I'd tell myself, “I trained hard. I went to camp. I've done this before.” That kept my mind off who I was going to compete against — because I never knew who was next.

► **Time is the greatest teacher.** We all learn the same throws, same techniques, same rules, but what matters most is how much time you spend practicing. You must work at it. Through repetition, you get more speed; through speed, you develop routines. In judo, it doesn't matter how strong you are. But if you train hard, if you commit the time, you get stronger. The exercises that you do in the beginning increase your agility, and agility helps increase your strength. You don't have to be Hercules to walk onto a judo mat.

■ LESLIE GIBSON MCCARTHY

**WHO**

Bonne Korte, BFA '73

**SHE ALSO HAD A DAY JOB**

Korte put her WashU fine arts degree to work first as a graphic designer in the 1970s for small print shops and then the U.S. Army, putting together promotional materials and presentations. She also worked as an art instructor at St. Louis-area parochial schools and then the Ferguson-Florissant School District, retiring a few years ago.

**HER NEXT CHALLENGE**

“Stay involved in judo as long as I'm able. I still run; I still practice.”

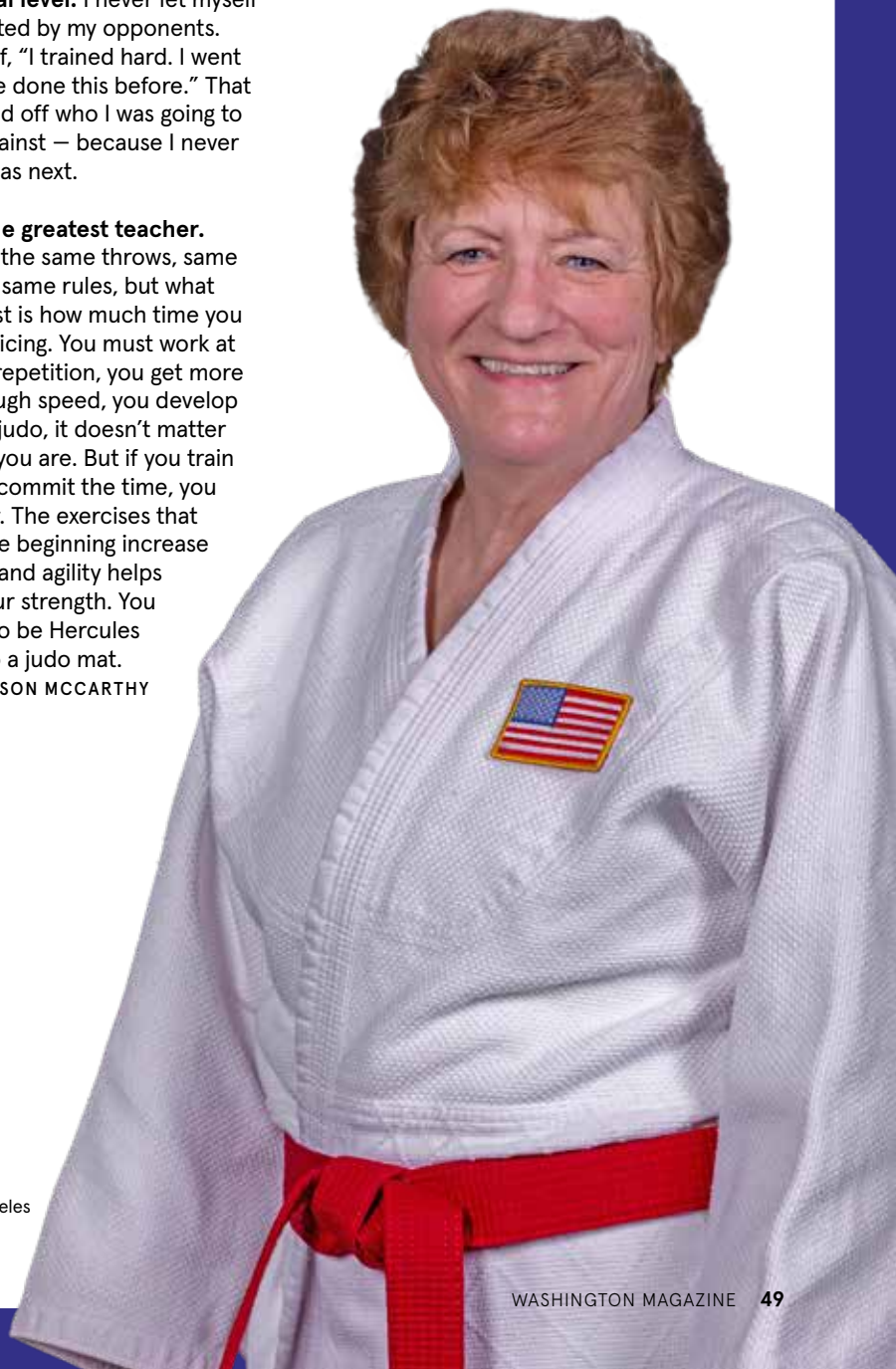
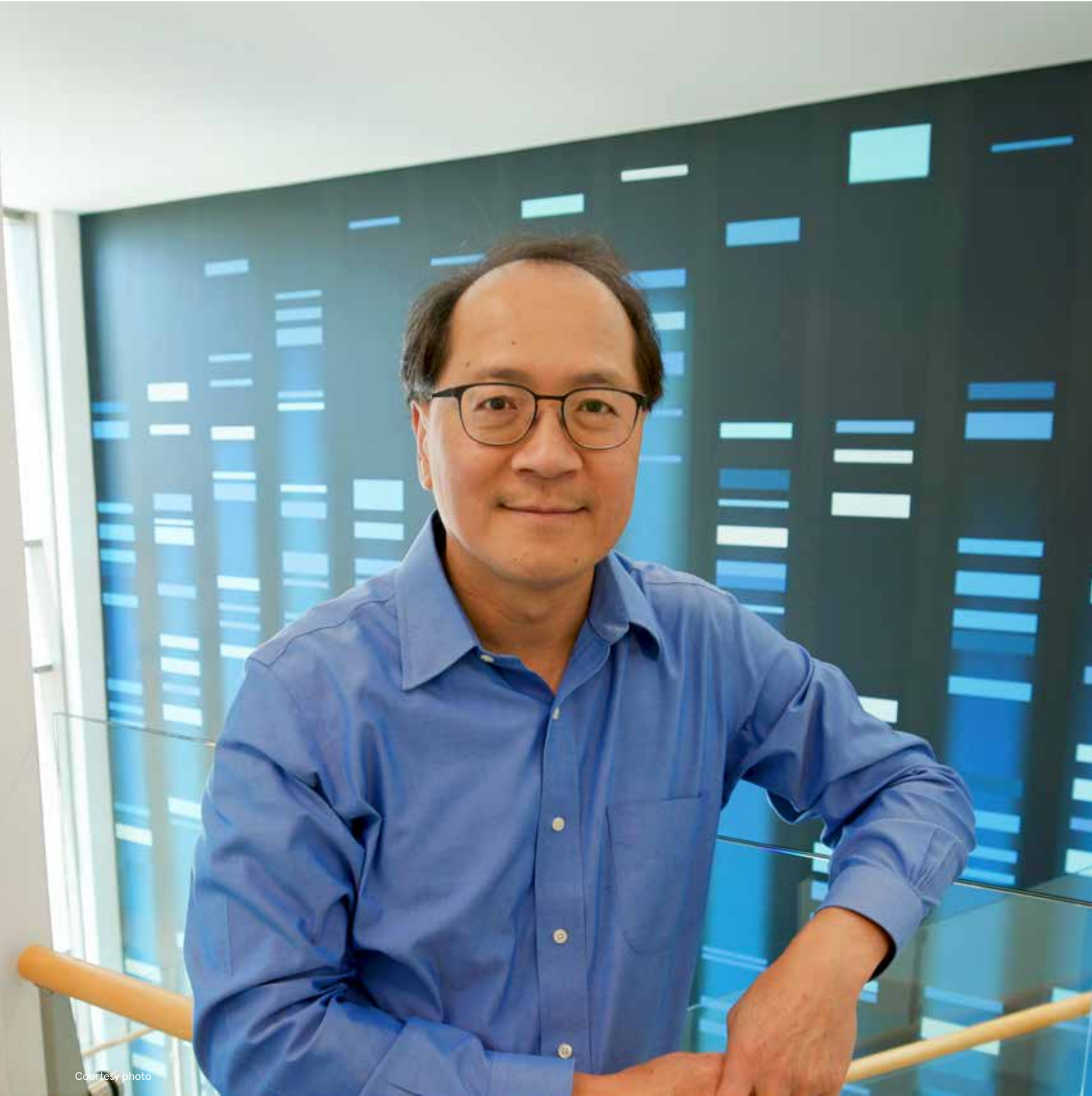


Photo: Joe Angeles



Courtesy photo



# Strengthening the physician-scientist pipeline

Andrew Chan invests in the School of Medicine to honor his mentors and help pave the way for future biomedical research leaders.

When **Andrew Chan, MD/PhD '86**, graduated from Northwestern University with bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry in 1980, his animating vocational interests were science and helping people live healthier lives. The Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) at Washington University School of Medicine was a perfect next step. Combining rigorous education in clinical medicine and biomedical research, the dual-degree program was one of the strongest in the country. A full-ride scholarship cemented his decision to enroll.

Chan's experience at the university fundamentally shaped his conception of physician-scientists. Great examples abounded among his teachers and mentors, including rheumatologist and immunologist **John Atkinson**, the Samuel B. Grant Professor of Clinical Medicine, in whose lab Chan conducted his doctoral research. The distinctive collegiality of these faculty members and their commitment to integrating science and medicine provided a road map for his success.

Chan's trailblazing career spans academia and industry. He spent nearly a decade on the WashU faculty before joining Genentech in 2001. He currently serves as senior vice president of research biology at the San Francisco-based biotech company and as an adjunct associate professor at the University of California San Francisco. He has contributed to breakthrough discoveries in autoimmunity and cancer immunotherapy, is a leading implementer of personalized medicine strategies, and co-invented a drug that has profoundly affected the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

Over the years, Chan has found many ways to repay the university for

its investment in his education and development. He has advised the medical school as a member of its national council since 2017. And he has honored mentors like Atkinson by providing financial support for professorships, a fellowship and a lecture series. WashU presented him with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2023 and an Honorary Doctor of Medicine degree during this year's Commencement ceremony.

Notably, the university also played a role in Chan's personal life. He met his wife, **Mary Finnorn Chan, MD**, now a retired gastroenterologist, when both were completing residencies at the medical school and Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Years later, their daughter, **Jennifer Chan, AB '15**, earned an undergraduate degree in biology from Arts & Sciences.

## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE WASHU FOR YOUR MD/PHD?

I was aware of the phenomenal strength of basic science at the medical school, and the MD/PhD program was excellent, with a long history of training exceptional physician-scientists. Many alumni have gone on to accomplished careers in academic medicine and in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries. That history continues to draw top students today.

I was very fortunate to choose WashU's program. I had outstanding clinical and research mentors who taught me to treasure and appreciate both the wonders of science and the art of medicine.

## WHY DO YOU REMAIN ENGAGED WITH WASHU?

The university is a terrific place for medicine and science. I spent a total of 17 years there, including six years

earning an MD/PhD and three years completing my residency. Then I came back as faculty for eight years. I still have a number of good friends who serve on the faculty. WashU is home for my wife and me.

The way I look at it, the university decided to commit to me and invest in me a long time ago. Now, I believe it's important for me to invest in WashU to ensure that the pathway to becoming a physician-scientist remains strong for future students. This is important for the future of human health. I receive great joy from supporting the university, its students and its faculty.

## WHAT SETS WASHU APART AS A BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTION?

At drug companies like Genentech, we're extremely focused. We say, "This is what we want to do," and we garner all the resources we need to accomplish a singular critical objective. At many academic medical centers, and at WashU in particular, the goal is broader. These institutions foster innovation and discovery in a multifaceted way — through infrastructure, training programs, centers of excellence and more. It's a multimodal way to support the entire scientific endeavor.

Consider the medical school's new neuroscience research building. WashU decided to invest in this critical area because of the prevalence of neurodegenerative diseases in the aging population, but also because the brain is something we do not fully understand. By committing to a particular discipline in this very open-ended way, the next set of major discoveries will be made.

■ GRIZELDA MCCLELLAND, MA '03, PHD '13

# Greetings from WashU

Welcome events bring campus spirit to a city near you.

Right now, the Washington University Alumni Association is in full-on welcome mode. From June through October, a group of dedicated staff and volunteers organize WashU Welcome events to greet new alumni, recent transplants and other members of the university community in cities across the country. Nearly 2,000 alumni, parents and friends connected — or reconnected — at 14 parties in 2023. And for many attendees, these social gatherings mark the first stop in a richer, more rewarding relationship with WashU.

## THE WASHU CONNECTION

Within the past two years, **Navraj Randhawa, MS '17**, bounced from New York to Chicago to Washington, D.C. At each stop, he found his footing by tapping into the WashU network.

It all started when Randhawa, who earned a master's degree in finance from Olin Business School, attended a WashU Welcome party at Chicago's River Roast restaurant in August 2022. There, he was introduced to the local chapter of WashU Engage, which collaborates with the university's Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement to host community service activities and other events throughout the city. Randhawa signed up on the spot and, by the following month, was packing up winter gear and school supplies for children at a Cradles to Crayons volunteer event. He eventually stepped up his commitment by joining the steering committee, and he discovered a valued mentor in **John B. Crosby, AB '69**, co-chair of the Gephardt Institute's national council.

For Randhawa, giving back yields great returns. "I fundamentally believe in the importance of civic service," he says. "It fosters a sense of social responsibility and empathy toward others while investing in the betterment of society and future generations."

Randhawa describes WashU Engage as collaborative, gratifying and substantive. "Alumni can participate in projects around the country and the globe," he says. "They also can dream up their own projects wherever they believe needs exist. The group provides abundant opportunities to make a meaningful impact." Although he remains close with professors and classmates from Olin, he also appreciates the ability to bond with alumni from different graduation years, schools, industries and life experiences.

When Randhawa, who works as a private investor and financial consultant for nonprofits, relocated to Washington, D.C., at the end of 2023, he encountered a built-in support system of alumni in the area. He formed ties with fellow grads at the annual alumni holiday party and through his ongoing work with the city's WashU Engage chapter. His new contacts continue to help him settle in, offering everything from career advice to intel about the district's best squash courts. "It's a tight-knit group here," Randhawa says. "There's something very special about the WashU connection."

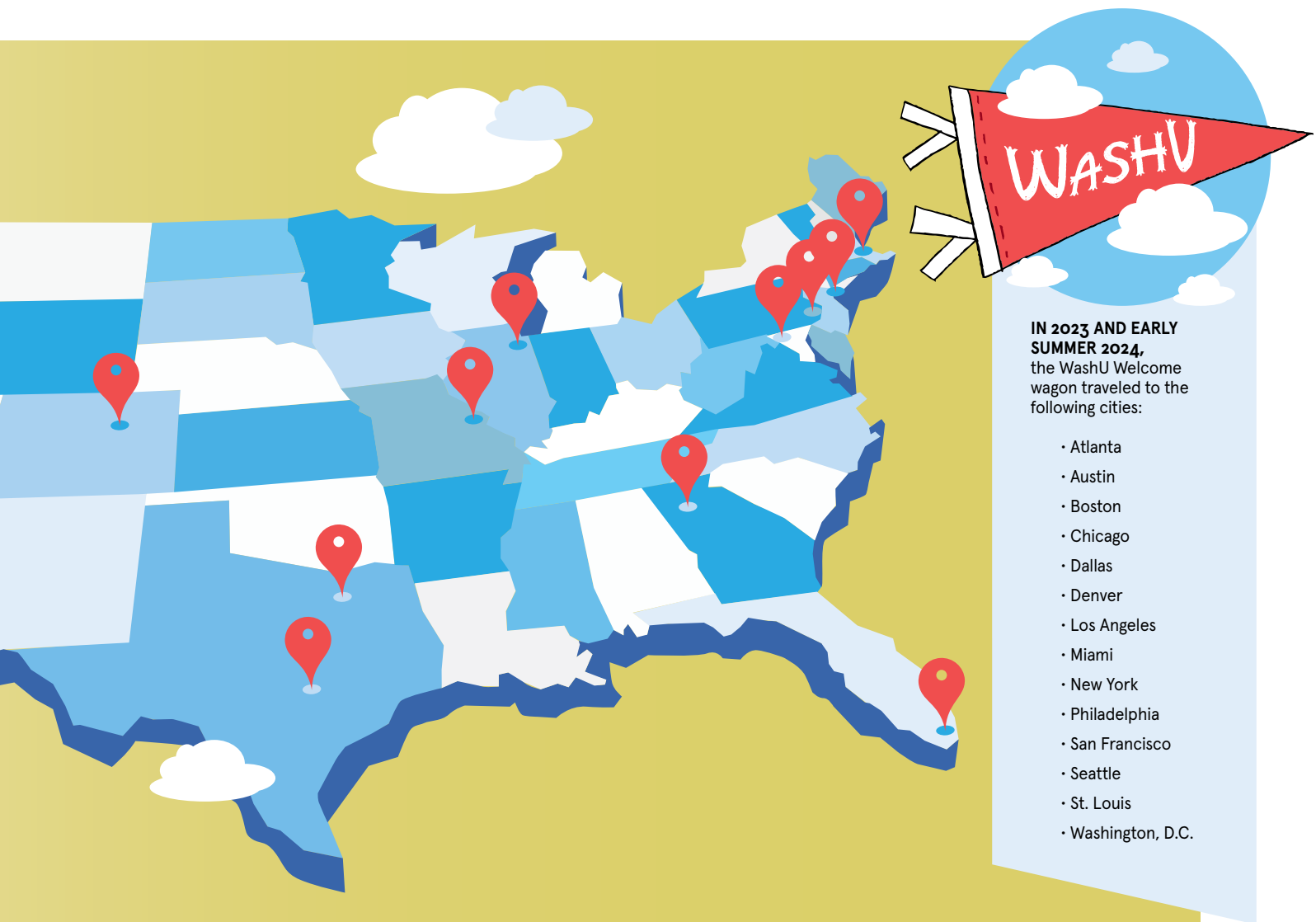
## A JOURNEY BEGINS

**Jerome** and **Stacey Schneider** entered WashU's orbit through their son, **Rowan**, who is now a rising sophomore in Arts & Sciences. Last summer, the trio headed north from their home in Newport Beach, California, to Los Angeles for a WashU Welcome party on the beach.

They arrived feeling a bit nervous about the transition to WashU, but their anxieties quickly dissipated. "Everything was so organized and on point," Stacey says. "Other parents were there to greet us, and we just immediately felt welcome and at ease."

The Los Angeles event was open to both alumni and incoming families like the Schneiders. The mix,





**IN 2023 AND EARLY SUMMER 2024,** the WashU Welcome wagon traveled to the following cities:

- Atlanta
- Austin
- Boston
- Chicago
- Dallas
- Denver
- Los Angeles
- Miami
- New York
- Philadelphia
- San Francisco
- Seattle
- St. Louis
- Washington, D.C.

which included many recent grads, was refreshing to Jerome. “You expect enthusiasm from seasoned WashU parents and grandparents,” he says. “But it was helpful to hear from younger alumni who could speak to the student experience.”

The Schneiders, who are also parents to a daughter in high school, are accustomed to being involved in their children’s schools. They left the beach party eager to continue that tradition at WashU. In September 2023, Stacey organized a function for WashU families based in Orange County. “It was a great chance to meet others in the immediate area and talk parent-to-parent in a casual way,” she says.

A couple of months later, Jerome met with WashU undergraduates at the Newport Beach office of PIMCO, where he serves as a managing director and leader of short-term portfolio management and funding. During the visit, which was coordinated by WashU’s Center for Career Engagement, Schneider and his colleagues fielded students’ questions about the ins and outs of an investment management career. His primary goal was to help them begin to translate their academic training into the real world.

The Schneiders, who now sit on the university’s Parents Council, are likewise figuring out how to

leverage their time and expertise to benefit their son’s future alma mater. Their experience on the council, albeit brief, has nonetheless offered valuable perspective on WashU’s current state and its ambitions for the future. “We’re at the beginning of our journey with WashU, and we’re excited to share it with Rowan over the next four years and beyond,” Jerome says. “The university has already set a pretty high bar for us.”

■ EMMA DENT, AB ’09

 A red circular graphic with a white border. On the left side, there is a blue location pin pointing towards the center. Inside the circle, the text reads:
 

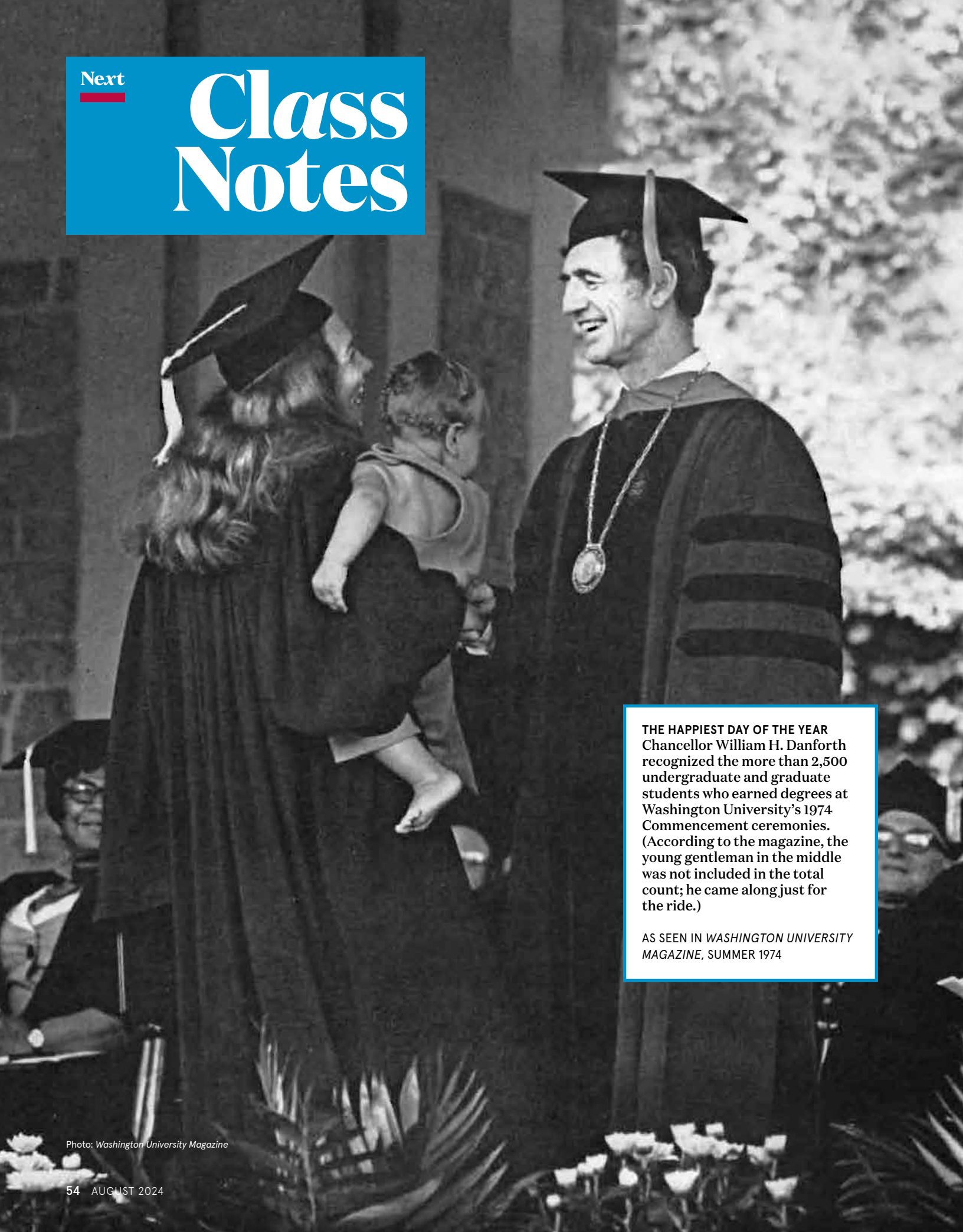
**STOP BY AND SAY “HI” AT AN UPCOMING WASHU WELCOME EVENT!**

Chicago: Aug. 28  
 Washington, D.C.: Oct. 23

For more dates, visit [alumni.wustl.edu/events](http://alumni.wustl.edu/events).

Next

# Class Notes



**THE HAPPIEST DAY OF THE YEAR**  
Chancellor William H. Danforth recognized the more than 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students who earned degrees at Washington University's 1974 Commencement ceremonies. (According to the magazine, the young gentleman in the middle was not included in the total count; he came along just for the ride.)

AS SEEN IN *WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE*, SUMMER 1974

Photo: *Washington University Magazine*



## 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*  
Washington University in St. Louis  
MSC 1070-0390-02  
1 Brookings Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899



### EMAIL:

wustlmagclassnotes@wustl.edu

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.

### 1957

**Jaime Yrastorza**, DMD '57, turned 93 in December 2023. In 1989, Yrastorza started a nonprofit organization called Uplift Internationale, which brings a team of professionals to mostly rural Philippines and provides corrective surgeries free of charge to disadvantaged children with cleft lip deformities. He also recently wrote *From Fire to Freedom*, a book that chronicles his upbringing in rural Philippines during the invasion of the Japanese during WWII. Yrastorza currently lives in Littleton, Colorado, with his wife of 66 years, Patricia. The couple has five children, 14 grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

### 1963

**Robert Zaller**, MA '63, PhD '68, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus at Drexel University, published his fifth collection of poetry, *After the Fire* (Moonstone Press).

### 1965

**Charles P. Bubany**, JD '65, was honored with the creation of the Charles P. Bubany Endowed Professorship at Texas Tech University School of Law in recognition of his more than 50 years of service as a professor.

### 1966

**Robert J. Levy, MD**, AB '66, delivered the first Robert J. Levy Basic Science Lecture at "CARDIOLOGY 2024, the 27th Annual Update

on Pediatric and Congenital Cardiovascular Disease," in Scottsdale, Arizona. Levy, who is the William J. Rashkind Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cardiology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, presented "The Role of the Serotonin Transporter in the Progression of Heart Valve Disease." Levy is also professor of pediatrics and professor of systems pharmacology at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.

**Julie Wosk**, AB '66, is curating the exhibit *Imaging Women in the Space Age* on view at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, through Sept. 8 (and was previously at the New York Hall of Science). Wosk, a professor emerita at State University of New York, Maritime College, lives in Manhattan. She also has a summer home in the Berkshires, where she once enjoyed concerts with her late-husband, Bill. Her newest book, *Artificial Women: Sex Dolls, Robot Caregivers, and More Facsimile Females*, was published in April 2024 by Indiana University Press.

### 1967

**Lawrence Millman**, AB '67, published another book, *Outsider: My Boyhood with Thoreau* (Coyote Arts LLC, March 2024), his 22nd title.

### 1969

**John Berra**, BS '69, published *Turning the Giant: Disrupting Your Industry With Persistent Innovation* (Forbes Books, March 2024), in which he shares his life's journey: a shy, uncertain university student who becomes the chairman of Emerson Process Management. In the book, he also reveals the giant challenges he faced along the way. Berra has received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the McKelvey School of Engineering. He is an emeritus member of the engineering school's national council and has served on the Austin Regional Cabinet.

### 1970

**John Sheridan**, AB '70, had his piece "Broken on the Rocks of War" selected for the nationally juried exhibit *Our True Heroes* at the Gilroy California Center for the Arts last November. Sheridan's sculpture consists of 12 small stools painted red, white, blue and black and placed in arcs around a block of Sierra granite strewn with broken bits of stone and a hammer. The installation invites visitors to use the setting for meditation, contemplation and discussion about what should be done to assist military veterans.

### 1971

**Linda Showalter**, MSW '71, though officially retired, continues her social work interests via volunteering. She's served on several community nonprofit boards, including currently as board president for Interfaith

Assistance Ministry, which provides food, clothing and financial assistance for needy neighbors in Hendersonville, North Carolina. She's also volunteered with the Girls Empowered program, a collaboration with Women United/United Way and Henderson County Public Schools to boost self-confidence and skills for young girls. These endeavors and world travel are her passions.

### 1974

**Sam Graefe**, BS '74, is a proud father of four, grandpa of nine, and the 10th WashU grad in his family, dating from 1935 to 2008. He is retired from careers in engineering, management, consulting and health care in industries of oil refining, gas pipeline, pharmaceuticals, internet and telecom technical, respiratory therapy, and real estate, and from teaching STEM in grades 5-12 and other classes at community college.

**John Weston Parry**, JD '74, wrote *The Burden of Sports: How and Why Athletes Struggle With Mental Health* (Rowman & Littlefield, February 2024). He has been the host and primary content provider for the website and blog Sportpathologies.com since 2016. He also is the author of *The Athlete's Dilemma: Sacrificing Health for Wealth and Fame* (2017) and *Mental Disability, Violence, Future Dangerousness: Myths Behind the Presumption of Guilt* (2013).

**Barbara Langsam Shuman**, AB '74, had her second documentary, *Mr. Z: What Happens Early in Life Lasts a Lifetime*, premiere at the St. Louis International Film Festival in November 2023. The documentary has been awarded a Social Impact Award from another film festival and is entered in several other film festivals.

### 1975

**Bob Wickizer**, MA '75, runs a commercial winery that he started in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He grows his own grapes, winning awards in San Francisco and in other competitions. Wickizer plans to publish a book this year titled *Lies We Tell Our Children*. It is science fiction wrapped around a fictionalized memoir. He remembers WashU literally leaving its mark on him when he played touch football in front of the Compton physics lab. He went out for a pass and slipped on the ice and hit his head on the building, spending the winter day at the emergency room.

**Khan Zahid**, MA '75, retired and moved to the Charlotte, North Carolina, area. He has had many adventures. After WashU, he earned a doctorate in economics at Columbia University where two of his advisers won the Nobel Prize in Economics. Zahid started his career teaching, moved to life insurance research, and then took a position with the U.S. Treasury Department as an economic adviser with the U.S.-Saudi Joint Economic Commission in Saudi Arabia. After living there for 17 years, he returned to the United States before moving to China to teach college courses. Afterward, he

returned again to the U.S. and got a job as visiting assistant professor at High Point University in North Carolina.

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## 1978

**Bonnie-Belle K.C. Chun**, AB '78, retired in July 2018 after 37 years of public service with the County of Los Angeles. She then relocated to hometown Honolulu, Hawaii.

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## 1979

**Peter Tao**, AB '79, was featured in 2023 by St. Louis CITY soccer club and Enterprise in their Exceptional Neighbor recognition program for his work and commitment in the St. Louis community. Tao is working with the Missouri Historical Society on its Chinese American Collecting Initiative, where he is chair of the advisory committee. He is board president of OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, a civil rights and advocacy organization for the Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander community. Peter's father, **William Tao**, MS '50, DSc '97, a former emeritus trustee of Washington University, helped found the OCA St. Louis Chapter and the national movement back in 1973.

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## 1982

**Thomas Berthoff**, AB '82, retired in January 2021 after a 25-year career in information technology and has been devoting himself to his Buddhist path.

**Nathan Byers**, BS '82, is semiretired from a career in engineering consulting and working three days per week (more or less). Despite having more time, he is still as busy as ever. Byers and his wife, Page, are empty nesters and are experiencing the paradox of both loving the quiet house and missing their daughters, Hallie and Harper.

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## 1983

**Michael Ivy**, AB '83, was appointed chief medical officer of Gaylord Specialty Healthcare in Connecticut. Previously, he was health deputy chief medical officer at Yale New Haven Health.

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## 1984

**Leonard Chanin**, JD '84, accepted a position as chief counsel to the president of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, which provides support and guidance to all state bank commissioners.

**Michelle Gralnick**, AB '84, after a successful 30-plus year career as executive director for local and international nonprofit organizations, "recreated" herself as a resident rights advocate and private care manager, providing support and services to individuals living in residential care communities. Gralnick has authored articles and blogs, spoken at conferences,

and testified in Jefferson City, Missouri, to address and improve quality of care, and she recently served as a resource to KSDK-TV as part of their ongoing investigation of abuse and neglect in nursing homes.

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## 1985

**Jeff Lefton**, MBA '85, was selected to do his "Murder by Magic" show last month in Melbourne, Australia. Lefton has been performing magic professionally since he was 12, starting at children's birthday parties. He has gone on to perform at Hollywood's Magic Castle, in Las Vegas, and on a three-month national tour for General Motors. Using his WashU MBA, he founded and sold two St. Louis companies devoted to magic and entertainment — Lefton Promotions and Abra-Kid-Abra.

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## 1986

**Julia L. Bienias**, AB '86, MA '86, was named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 2021.

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## 1987

**Jennifer Weed**, JD '87, retired last year after 35 years in private practice spanning three states (Texas, New Mexico and Pennsylvania). Her husband, Jim, plans to retire in four years, at which time they will decide whether it will be the beach or the mountains in retirement. Their daughter is a law student at American University in Washington, D.C., and loves it. While the family was visiting law schools, Weed was amazed at the stunning law school building at WashU that did not exist when she was a student in the 1980s.

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## 1988

**Nicole Anderson**, AB '88, is interim executive director of academic and scientific affairs, director of the Ben & Hilda Katz Interprofessional Research Program in Geriatric and Dementia Care, associate scientific director of the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health and Wellness, and senior scientist at the Rotman Research Institute at the Baycrest Academy for Research and Education in Toronto, Canada, as well as a professor of psychology and psychiatry at the University of Toronto. In March 2024, Anderson and two colleagues published the second edition of their book *Living With Mild Cognitive Impairment: A Guide to Maximizing Brain Health and Reducing Risk of Dementia* (Oxford University Press).

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## 1990

**Linda Hunt**, AB '90, wrote *Particular Place and People* (Booklocker.com, August 2023) about growing up in University City, Missouri, during the '50s and '60s. In the memoir, Hunt shares how at age 5 she became notorious for being the first vegetarian in her neighborhood. Known as an individualist and quirky, she turned ideas into reality and,

due to her religious background, questioned everything. Hunt admired Louisa May Alcott and planned to be a writer herself despite her mother's plans for her to be a secretary and marry a lawyer. Her home life was topsy-turvy at times, and she'd go exploring to get away.

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## 1991

**Christopher Cokinos**, MFAW '91, penned his latest book, *Still as Bright: An Illuminating History of the Moon From Antiquity to Tomorrow* (Pegasus Books, April 2024). Neil Armstrong biographer James R. Hansen calls it a "mesmerizing masterpiece," and Kirkus Reviews gave it a starred notice. Cokinos is also leading a crew of four artists, who will spend six days on a simulated moon mission in Biosphere 2's Space Analog for the Moon and Mars in Arizona.

**Deborah Koplovitz**, AB '91, joined Allstate Corporation as vice president, associate general counsel, strategy, enablement and implementation for law and regulation.

**Henrika McCoy**, AB '91, AB '91, PhD '08, was appointed, effective June 15, as the Morris Endowed Dean and full professor at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work.

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## 1993

**Andrew Faiola**, AB '93, is a "spacesweeper." Since January 2023, he has been commercial director of Astroscale Ltd., a company with a mission to become the "roadside assistance" company for space, keeping the orbital highways clear, sustainable and efficient by providing in-orbit servicing solutions.

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## 1994

**Barry Levy**, AB '94, created, executive produced, wrote and served as showrunner for a new Apple TV+ family series, *Me*, that just premiered in July.

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## 1996

**Aaron Diamant**, AB '96, is leading business development and strategic content consulting for Lucie Content, a full-service media company with studio headquarters in Atlanta. That follows a 25-year career in broadcast journalism and a stint in higher ed communications.

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## 1999

**Joni Kamiyal**, MSOT '99, is president of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii (OTAH). OTAH serves as the professional group for occupational therapists and educates consumers to advance the practice of occupational therapy.

**Rebecca Lawin McCarley**, AB '99, celebrated 20 years of her historic preservation business, SPARK Consulting, in November 2023. The firm offers consulting services





Photo: Washington University Magazine

**'THE INCOMPARABLE ELLA FITZGERALD'**

According to the summer 1974 issue, "Washington University this spring was graced by the appearance on campus of a gracious and graceful woman: the incomparable Ella Fitzgerald. Miss Fitzgerald, or Dr. Fitzgerald as she can be known from now on, was one of 10 outstanding leaders in a wide variety of fields who received honorary degrees ... Yet, it was Ella who received the most enthusiastic and prolonged applause from a record Commencement crowd that filled the Quadrangle to overflowing. It was Ella who brought forth a spontaneous demonstration of appreciation and affection that was as warm as the weather at a ceremony held on a muggy late May day in St. Louis."

AS SEEN IN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE, SUMMER 1974

related to historic buildings, including historic tax credit applications, National Register of Historic Places nominations, design guidelines, architectural and historical surveys, and research on historic buildings and themes in history. The firm operates throughout Iowa and adjoining states.

**2000**

**Sarah Glasser**, AB '00, opened YENology, a premier smoking accessory and luxury home goods boutique in Frontenac, Missouri. The store's mix of luxury goods complements all paths to peace, both mindful and medicinal, to help all those who seek comfort. Glasser was voted one of the Most Influential Businesswomen by the *St. Louis Business Journal* in 2022.

**Jason Thomas**, AB '00, received a Points of Light Award this past Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The award honors people who help change the world with their hearts, hands and minds by strengthening communities and solving persistent problems. Thomas is involved with various Atlanta-based organizations from fighting food insecurity with Urban Recipe and Second Helpings Atlanta to delivering hope and support with

Hugs and Hope and the Westside Future Fund. His hands-on role in assembling and delivering food boxes is a direct response to the challenge of hunger in the metro Atlanta area.

**2001**

**Maggie McDonald**, MSW '01, and **Katrina Watson**, AB '06, are both working at United Way of Central Alabama. McDonald serves as vice president of Legacy Gifts, and Watson serves as senior vice president of Community Initiatives. They met while they were working for organizations that are funded by United Way and became fast friends when they realized they both graduated from WashU's Brown School, a rare find in Birmingham, Alabama. Years later, they became colleagues and work collectively to ensure that everyone in central Alabama has access to vital services.

**2002**

**Tiffany (Spriggs) Cruz**, BS '02, JD '08, an international employment attorney, adjunct law professor, wife and mom, received Chapman University's (Orange County, California) prestigious 2024

Woman of Distinction Award on March 27 for exemplifying outstanding leadership, demonstrating a commitment to advancing the empowerment of women, and making meaningful contributions to Chapman University and the greater community.

**2003**

**Karen L. Branding**, MBA '03, was named president and CEO of the Regional Business Council by its board of directors. Branding is a 13-year veteran of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, where she has served as senior vice president for external engagement and corporate communications. She is a member of the St. Louis Fed's Management Committee. Before joining the St. Louis Fed in 2011, she was the associate dean of marketing and communications for WashU's Olin Business School.

**2004**

**Victoria Houseman**, PhD '04, an associate professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, penned a biography on the classicist Edith Hamilton titled *American Classicist: The Life and Loves of*

*Edith Hamilton* (Princeton University Press, October 2023). Hamilton was the author of *The Greek Way* and *Mythology* among other works.

**Ryan Lawson**, BFA '04, was named to *Architectural Digest's* AD100 2024 list, which recognizes the top talents in interior decoration, architecture and landscape design. Lawson and the interior design firm he founded in 2005 have become known for sophisticated, layered interiors that convey a sense of having been collected and refined over many years but remain unexpected and relevant.

**Diane M. Steinkamp**, MBA '04, married Darin L. Schreier on Sept. 9, 2023, in Steinkamp's hometown of Centralia, Illinois. The couple, who live in St. Louis, honeymooned on the island of St. Lucia. Diane is a vice president and privately held investment manager at Commerce Trust, a division of Commerce Bank, and Darin is the mechanical designer manager at McClure Engineering.

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## 2005

**Anuk Karunaratne**, BS '05, was named senior vice president for business operations for the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. He will oversee the team's ticketing, marketing, corporate sales, broadcasting and business analytics departments. Karunaratne will also work with others across the organization to develop strategic planning functions for the team's various business and stadium operations. Previously, he was executive vice president of business operations with the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team.

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## 2006

**Julia Fernandez-Pol**, BFA '06, had multiple works on display in the exhibition *Roots*, which ran from March 15–April 27 at the Atrium Gallery in St. Louis. The exhibition showcased artists originally from St. Louis who have gone on to have success around the country.

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## 2007

**Teddy Wayne**, MFAW '07, had the rights of his new book, *The Winner*, acquired by Columbia Pictures. Wayne will adapt his novel for the big screen, which follows a law school graduate who takes a job as a tennis pro only to find himself torn between an arrangement with a sharp-tongued divorcée and falling in love with her outspoken daughter. *The Winner* (Harper Collins Publishers) hit the bookshelves in May. Wayne also is author of the novels *The Great Man Theory*, *Apartment, Loner*, *The Love Song of Jonny Valentine* and *Kapitoil*. He is the winner of a Whiting Award in Fiction and an NEA Creative Writing Fellowship.

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## 2008

**Ben Jackson**, AB '08, an attorney with Cohen Milstein, was named partner. Jackson is a member of the securities litigation and investor protection practice, which is based in New York City. He represents institutional and individual shareholders in lawsuits and securities class actions.

**Jessica "Jessie" Rosell**, JD '08, an attorney with Lathrop GPM, was promoted to partner. Rosell's practice focuses on environmental, litigation and appellate matters, representing clients with administrative claims before federal and state environmental agencies, and advising clients initiating and maintaining environmental regulatory compliance programs. She joined the firm in 2008.

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## 2009

**Patrick Boothe**, MArch '09, has been promoted from director to partner of Woodhull, an award-winning architecture, construction and millwork firm located in Maine working on residential and commercial projects throughout New England.

**M. Ariel Cascio**, AB '09, started a new position as assistant professor in the Center for Bioethics and Social Justice at Michigan State University in August 2023.

**Peter LeBlanc Jr.**, LL.M. '09, an attorney, joined Lathrop GPM in the firm's trusts, estates and legacy planning practice group. LeBlanc has more than a decade's worth of experience in advising individuals and families on estate, trust, tax, business entity and legacy planning.

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## 2010

**Julia Sadove-Lopez**, AB '10, and her husband relocated to live abroad in Portugal. She is a virtual consultant for a niche area of dentistry. Sadove-Lopez's expertise is in educating and supporting parents in understanding how their children can have better breathing, facial growth, sleep and overall health.

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## 2011

**Perry Morocco**, AB '11, married Lisa Fan Morocco in a wedding ceremony in Chicago. The couple also welcomed a baby boy, Paul (named after his paternal grandfather), to their family. At the wedding, the couple's groomsmen included **Zachary Enloe**, BS '11, **Alexander Tatar**, BS '10, and **Michael Wang**, AB '11. After celebrating their nuptials with family and friends, the couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Austria and Germany. Perry is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Chicago after completing a pediatric fellowship at the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital.

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## 2012

**Gabriel Lampe**, MArch '12, was promoted to associate at CO Architects in Los Angeles. His design approach has resulted in projects that improve the human experience and align with the clients' vision.

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## 2013

**Sarah L. Nirenberg**, JD '13, attorney and shareholder at Butzel, was named to *Michigan Lawyers Weekly's* "Go To Lawyers for Employment Law." The program honors leading lawyers in a particular field of law as nominated by their peers. Nirenberg specializes in representing employers for litigation in all areas of employment law, including statutory claims under federal and state law for discrimination, harassment, retaliation and payment of wages.

**Diane Hemphill**, MA '13, is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer of North Macedonia, having served from 2016 to 2018. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers keep serving throughout their lives.

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## 2015

**Garrett Allen**, MBA '15, was named senior vice president of business development at HCA Midwest Health in Kansas City. He will lead efforts to develop the HCA Midwest Health network and partner with administrators and physicians to drive growth in volume, market share and earnings. Previously, Allen was executive director of physician integration and strategy at Missouri Baptist Medical Center and helped develop and deploy the initial phases of a multimillion-dollar strategic campus plan.

**Kyle Brandt-Lubart**, MSW '15, has a new public art installation titled "Remnants, Shadows & Pathways" in Dutchtown, St. Louis' new VAL Pocket Park. The installation's aim is to honor the community's heart, soul and grit through visual storytelling. The piece utilizes discarded objects all found within the Dutchtown footprint to create an assemblage sculpture inspired by the neighborhood's history and nuanced identity.

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## 2017

**Miquela Ibrao**, MPH '17, MSW '17, graduated with a PhD in public health from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in December 2023. His dissertation was titled "Age-Friendly Health Systems and Cultural Relevancy: Exploring the Geriatrics 4Ms Model with Native Hawaiian Elders."

**Ophelia Yuting Ji**, MArch '17, MLArch '17, was promoted to associate at CO Architects in Los Angeles. Since joining the firm in 2018, she has worked on complex projects for Cedars-Sinai, Kaiser Permanente, LAUSD and UCLA.



#### 'A SPEECH AT A CEREMONY'

Richard P. Wilbur, who would gain prominence in 1957 when his book of poetry *Things of This World* received a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award, gave the keynote address at WashU's 103rd Commencement in 1964. In his address, Wilbur described the role of ceremony in society as serving "to punctuate our lives with what look like significant choices and deliberate changes."

Wilbur would go on to become the second Poet Laureate of the U.S. in 1987 and receive a second Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1989.

AS SEEN IN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE, SUMMER 1964

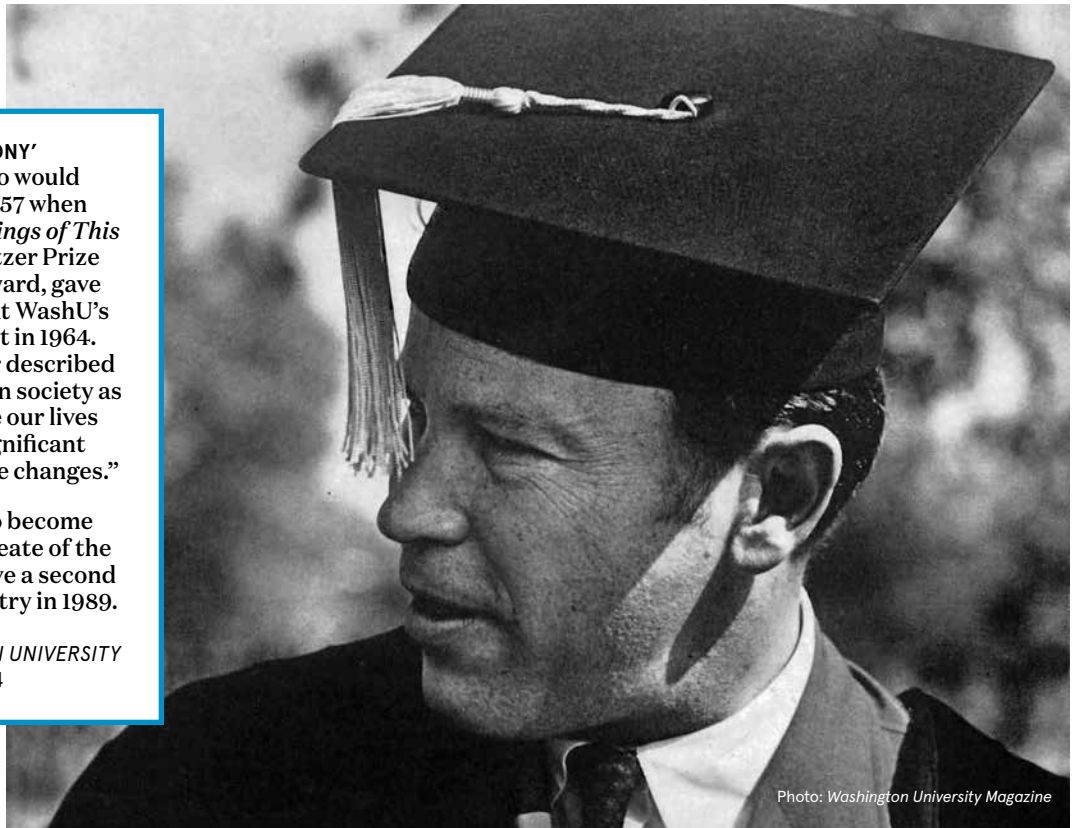


Photo: Washington University Magazine

**Christine Montero**, MSW '17, is currently working at an abortion fund in the South and has been interviewed by the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* about Florida's six-week abortion ban.

#### 2018

**Karen Hinkley**, JD '18, joined Davis Hartman Wright as a partner in the firm's litigation and appellate practice groups. In December 2023, Hinkley was admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina and certified by the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission. She was named to the 2024 North Carolina Rising Stars list in the business litigation practice area and honored as Business North Carolina's 2024 Legal Elite for her appellate law practice.

**Kaiwen Ku**, MArch '18, MLArch '18, was promoted to associate at CO Architects in Los Angeles. She has worked on projects at UCI Health and Wichita State University.

**Brandi Pikes**, JD '18, was named as states counsel for President Joe Biden's campaign. Pikes is providing legal advice and guidance on employment, contracts, campaign finance and other matters. Previously, Pikes worked as an associate attorney at Winston & Strawn and served as a federal law clerk for Vanessa D. Gilmore, then a U.S. district judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

#### 2019

**Meredith Rose**, MSW '19, opened Integrated Counseling in St. Louis. She is an IFS-informed therapist working with adults and adolescents who need support and guidance to restore wholeness and choice in their lives. Rose specializes in sexual health and sees clients dealing with depression, anxiety, trauma, relationship issues and more. Website: <http://wholenessandchoice.com>.

#### 2020

**Daun Lee**, AB '20, was selected as a 2023 Fulbright-National Geographic Award recipient. The award allows recipients to undertake in-depth explorations of pressing global issues over the course of an academic year. Lee works toward equitable, holistic climate mitigation strategies. She will research the social impact of converting agricultural lands to solar farms on Jeju Island, South Korea, uncovering the cultural and heritage value disruptions that citrus farmers are facing due to the nation's greenhouse gas reduction goals. Lee will share her findings through a journal article and short-form documentary film.

#### 2021

**Henlay Foster**, BM '21 (music), is a U.S. Army veteran who held leadership positions in Washington, D.C., including national director of Head Start, the pre-school child development program, and associate commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families, both in the Department of Health and Human Services. Foster also was deputy associate chief of the U.S. Children's Bureau in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He is on the faculty of the Community Music School in St. Louis (now part of Webster University) and is a piano teacher and an organist for the United States Religious Retreat House in Berchtesgaden, Germany.

#### 2023

**Ale Uriostegui**, AB '23, was awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. The award offers full-cost scholarships to outstanding applicants from countries outside the UK to pursue a postgraduate degree in any subject available at the University of Cambridge. The Gates Cambridge mission is to build a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others. Uriostegui is interested in social movement theory and, in particular, transnational and transracial/transethnic social movements in Latin America and the possibility of collective change.



Photo: Matt Miller

Emeritus Trustee Philip Needleman, a “giant of science,” devoted 60 years of his life to Washington University School of Medicine.

**Philip Needleman**, an emeritus trustee, longtime benefactor and former department head at WashU’s School of Medicine, died in an accident March 25 in Creve Coeur, Missouri. He was 85.

Needleman’s connection to WashU began 60 years ago when he became a postdoctoral fellow at the medical school. He quickly rose to professor and later head of the Department of Pharmacology from 1976–89, where he developed innovative programs for students and launched a master’s program.

“Phil was a pioneering pharmacologist, an esteemed faculty member and a generous benefactor whose impact on our university and the world of drug discovery cannot be overstated,” Chancellor Andrew D. Martin says. “His legacy will endure through the countless lives he has touched.”

An expert in prostaglandin regulation, Needleman and his colleagues at the medical school made key discoveries in the 1980s about the roles COX-1 and COX-2 enzymes play in pain and inflammation due to arthritis.

In 1989, he became chief scientist at Monsanto, where he led the development of the arthritis medication Celebrex, which blocks the inflammation driven by COX-2. The drug has improved the lives of millions of people worldwide. Later, he served as president of Searle Research and Development and then senior executive vice president.

He remained closely tied to the university during this time, serving on the Board

of Trustees beginning in 2002 and the Barnes-Jewish Hospital board. Needleman returned to the School of Medicine in 2004, when he was named associate dean and assisted with BioMed 21, the innovative research initiative designed to speed scientific discovery and to rapidly apply breakthroughs to patient care. Needleman also served as a board member and interim president of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and as board member and interim president of the Saint Louis Science Center.

He received many accolades for his work, including WashU’s Distinguished Faculty Award five times and an Honorary Doctor of Science and the School of Medicine’s 2nd Century Award. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1987 and to the academy’s Institute of Medicine in 1993.

“Phil Needleman will long be remembered as one of the giants of science that walked the halls of Washington University School of Medicine,” says David H. Perlmutter, MD, the George and Carol Bauer Dean of the School of Medicine and executive vice chancellor for medical affairs.

Needleman is survived by his wife, Sima; children, Nina and Larry (Lisa); his brothers, Paul Needleman and Alvin Needleman; a sister, Arlene Robbins; and two grandsons. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Needleman Program in Innovation and Commercialization or to Network for Strong Communities.

**Stan Braude**, professor of practice in biology and in environmental studies in Arts & Sciences, died June 1 after a short illness. He was 62. In addition to world-renowned expertise on naked mole-rats, Braude published articles and textbooks on many different topics in ecology, evolution and conservation biology. He began his teaching career at WashU in 1992 as a lecturer in University College and began teaching full time in the Department of Biology in 1997, receiving multiple national awards for his teaching.

**Robert Dean Brooks**, AB ’59, of Brevard, North Carolina, passed away peacefully in his home on March 25. He was 89.

Brooks spent his childhood in St. Louis, attending McKinley High School for a year before deciding to leave formal education for California. Encouraged by a mentor to resume his studies, he returned to St. Louis in 1955 with the winnings from a trip to Las Vegas. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in English from WashU, he earned master’s and doctoral degrees from Cornell. In 1964, after a year as an associate professor at San Diego State University, he joined the faculty at the University of Illinois as a professor of communication. In subsequent years, he served on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin and Northwestern University.

**Philip E. Cryer, MD**, a professor emeritus and former longtime director of the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism & Lipid Research at the WashU School of Medicine, died Feb. 24 in St. Louis following a heart attack. He was 84.

Cryer joined the medical school faculty in 1971. As a distinguished researcher, clinician and teacher, he led the General Clinical Research Center from 1973–2006. He became a professor of medicine in 1981 and directed the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism & Lipid Research from 1985–2002. He was installed as the Irene E. and Michael M. Karl Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism in 1985, a title he kept until he retired in 2014. In his many years at WashU, Cryer made a point to acknowledge his research sponsors, mentors, collaborators, technicians, research nurses and colleagues, and particularly the 42 postdoctoral fellows with whom he worked.

**Peter Alan Fedders**, a professor emeritus of physics in Arts & Sciences, died Feb. 22 in La Jolla, California. He was 85.

Fedders was an expert in condensed-matter physics who made significant contributions to the theory of nuclear magnetic resonance. A connecting thread through much of his career was his understanding of the physical consequences of disorder and defects in condensed matter. This involved topological disorder — the structure of amorphous materials and glasses — as well as alloy and magnetic disorder in various forms. Fedders published more than 200 scientific papers and was known for his teaching abilities and collaborative nature. He joined the WashU faculty in 1967 and retired in 2004.

**Amarnath Ghosh**, a Master of Fine Arts candidate in dance in the Performing Arts Department in Arts & Sciences, was killed Feb. 27. He was 34.

An accomplished dancer, vocalist and choreographer, Ghosh was originally from



Suri, in the Indian state of West Bengal. He began learning Hindustani vocals at age 6, in nearby Kolkata, and later studied at India's eminent Kalakshetra College of Fine Arts and Kuchipudi Art Academy, both in Chennai.

"Amarnath was an exquisite dancer," says Elinor Harrison, a lecturer in dance and a faculty affiliate in philosophy-neuroscience-psychology in Arts & Sciences, who was helping Ghosh to prepare for his MFA final project performance."

An exponent of four classical dance styles — Kuchipudi, Bharatnatyam, Manipuri and Kathak — he performed extensively across India and, more recently, in the U.S. In St. Louis, Ghosh performed with Asha Prem's Dances of India and worked at the Consuming Kinetics Dance Company.

**Kathleen Dyer Grantham**, AB '63, of Spring Branch, Texas, died July 30, 2023. She was 82.

Grantham graduated Phi Beta Kappa from WashU with a bachelor's degree and from Northwestern University with a master's degree, both in Spanish language and literature. She was the 10th CEO of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas and led the council through its only capital campaign to create the Sally Cheever Girl Scout Leadership Center. She retired in 2009 after 34 years as a professional Girl Scout.

**David E. Hoffman**, AB '74, of Los Angeles, died Jan. 3 following a six-month battle with glioblastoma. He was 70. A writer, journalist and author of 17 books, Hoffman was the Emmy Award-winning creator and executive producer of *The Best Thing I Ever Ate* and *The Best Thing I Ever Made*, the long-running franchise that aired on the Food Network and Cooking Channel. After writing the best-selling *The Joy of Pigging Out*, he hit the road to chronicle food and food obsession, while eating his way across the country.

**Joe Madison**, AB '71, Honorary LLD '19, died Jan. 31 of prostate cancer. He was 74. Madison was a civil rights activist who hosted the SiriusXM radio talk show *Joe Madison, the Black Eagle*. (See sidebar at right for a remembrance by **Louis G. Hutt Jr.**, BSBA '76.)

**Catherine Marroquin**, a junior studying neuroscience and psychology in Arts & Sciences, died Jan. 30. She was 24.

A bright and gifted student, Marroquin loved exploring new disciplines and consistently made the dean's list, says her mother, Audrey Marroquin. She also was committed to helping others, serving as a tutor and mentor to her classmates and as a volunteer for pediatric cancer patients in St. Louis and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"Cate had a creative mind, an analytical mind, but what made her truly beautiful was not only her insight and exceptional intellect, but her empathy and care for others," Audrey Marroquin says. "She was a loving soul who wanted to make the world a better place."

**Justin B. Serugo**, a senior research technician in the Department of Pathology & Immunology at WashU's School of Medicine, died Feb. 6 in St. Louis from liver cancer. He was 44.

For a decade, Serugo contributed to research identifying the gut microbiome's causal role in childhood malnutrition. That

research — which relies on mouse studies Serugo helped conduct — resulted in the development of a therapeutic food that nurtures healthy gut microbes and supports the healthy growth and development of malnourished children.

**Sudhir M. Singh, MD**, an assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism & Lipid Research at WashU's School of Medicine, died Dec. 24, 2023, following a short illness. He was 45. Singh specialized in caring for patients with metabolic and endocrine disorders. His work focused on metabolic syndrome, diabetes, hyperthyroidism, testosterone replacement, pituitary disease and rare tumors of the adrenal glands.

**Eduardo Slatopolsky, MD**, a pioneering physician-scientist and a professor emeritus of nephrology, died April 24 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He was 89.

Slatopolsky served for three decades as director of the Chromalloy American Kidney Center on the Medical Campus. He earned his medical degree from the University of Buenos Aires and completed his residency at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Cleveland. After Slatopolsky read a scientific paper by Neal Bricker, MD, he wrote to Bricker, then chief of nephrology, and asked to join his research team at WashU. Slatopolsky recalled that the day Bricker agreed to take him on as a fellow was "one of the happiest days of my life."

Slatopolsky arrived in St. Louis in 1963 and remained at WashU his entire career. His research focused on the complex interplay between mineral metabolism and kidney function.

**John Sprague**, the Sidney W. Souers Professor Emeritus of Government in the Department of Political Science, died Dec. 21, 2023. He was 89.

Sprague was a Fulbright Scholar who earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Stanford University. He taught at WashU for 35 years and once served as chair of the political science department. Innovative and analytical, Sprague was one of the early social scientists to embrace the power of computers to conduct quantitative analysis to better understand human behavior. Under his teaching and mentorship, students in WashU's political science program were well-versed in the latest data processing tools and social science research methods.

**Curt Thies**, professor of chemical engineering, died Jan. 6 from complications of dementia. He was 89.

Thies joined the engineering school faculty at WashU as an associate professor in 1975; he became a full professor in 1976 and retired in 2002. His research area was in microencapsulation, which is commonly used today in sustained-release medications. He was a member of an international research team developing targeted drug delivery for cancer. The team invented biodegradable microspheres filled with anticancer chemicals to be injected into veins and arteries to make use of the body's own delivery system to send deadly messages to tumors.

He also collaborated on a project to develop a long-acting form of a drug used to treat alcoholism.



Joe Madison received an Honorary Doctor of Laws at Commencement 2019.

#### A CHERISHED FRIEND, COLLEAGUE

When **Louis G. Hutt Jr.**, BSBA '76, was in high school, his family lived in the same apartment building as **Joe Madison**, AB '71, Honorary LLD '19. The two would cross paths again years later during annual recruiting events for WashU hosted by Hutt and his wife, Nellie, in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C., area.

"Joe was among the first alumni to attend, and he returned for at least 25 years," Hutt says. "He was always available to talk with prospective students, providing guidance and details about what Washington University has to offer."

Hutt recalls with great detail Madison and the overall impact of his life's work: "A civil rights activist, Madison began his career at age 24, as the youngest-ever executive director of the Detroit branch of the NAACP," Hutt says. "He later served as its national political director and as a member of its national board of directors. During his tenure, Madison led hundreds of volunteers on voter registration marches, including the 'March for Dignity' from Los Angeles to Baltimore. He also led an effort that collected thousands of signatures for an anti-apartheid bill in Congress.

"Madison worked in radio in Detroit, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Affectionately known as 'The Black Eagle,' he brought his lifelong dedication to civil rights to a national audience on SiriusXM radio in 2008. He was well-known for his signature phrase, 'What are you going to do about it?'

"In 2015, Madison set a Guinness World Record by talking on the radio for 52 straight hours, helping raise more than \$250,000 for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. In 2021, he went on a 73-day hunger strike to encourage Congress to pass laws strengthening voting rights. He also advocated for the passage of the Emmett Till Antilynching Act. Nancy Pelosi, then U.S. House Speaker, recognized his influence when it became law in 2022."

Hutt, who is a CPA and an attorney, also remembers fondly that Madison in 2010 asked him to come on his show to provide tax tips. Hutt recalls, "Joe said, 'You have only 15 minutes, Lou. Put it where the goats can get it.' In other words, simplify the message." Those 15 minutes laid the groundwork for *The Lou Hutt Show* airing nationally on SiriusXM 126.

As a member of WashU's Board of Trustees, Hutt is honored to remember Joe Madison. And he agrees with President Joe Biden, who called Madison "the voice of a generation."

**Judd D. Waddell**, BFA '85, died Jan. 29 from cancer. He was 60.

Under the tutelage of fashion design faculty member Cathy Rodgers, he explored his love of clean lines and philosophy of "the woman first and the dress second." After graduation, he joined the fashion house of Carolina Herrera, ultimately heading the bridal division. He eventually established his successful Judd Waddell couture bridal label with fellow alum **Tal Recanati**, AB '86. He rarely spoke of the famous women whose gowns he designed, his appearances on *Say Yes to the Dress* and in magazines, or the awards and honors he received. He cared for his employees, counted industry leaders among his close friends and respected what "his" brides wanted.

**Florence Orin Wechsberg**, PhD '51, died Jan. 14. She was 102.

After earning a bachelor's degree from CUNY Hunter College in 1942 and a master's degree from Clark University in 1944, Wechsberg earned a doctorate in clinical psychology with honors from WashU in 1948, where she was listed in the first edition of *Who's Who of American Women*.

**Sophonra Reacie Williams**, BSN '59, MSN '61, died Feb. 17 in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was 94.

Williams worked more than 40 years as a nurse and nurse educator, becoming one of the first African American nurses in hospitals and universities in Missouri, Ohio and Colorado. After working as a nurse for five years, she entered Washington University in 1957, earning a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1959 and then a master's degree in 1961. She co-authored the third and subsequent editions of *Mental Health—Psychiatric Nursing: A Holistic Life—Cycle Approach*.

The following death notices were submitted from January 1, 2024–April 30, 2024. Please contact Advancement Services at [WUADDataChange@wusm.wustl.edu](mailto:WUADDataChange@wusm.wustl.edu) to report the death of an alumnus or alumna. Please submit full obituaries for consideration to [wustlmagclassnotes@wustl.edu](mailto:wustlmagclassnotes@wustl.edu).

## 1940-1949

**Madeline Sanford (Sanford) Monat**, BSN '44; March '24

**Margery Knight (Knight) Gable**, AB '45; Feb. '24

**Geraldine (Soffer) Schiller**, AB '45; Jan. '24  
**Shirley (Malone) Nienhaus**, BSN '49; Dec. '23

## 1950-1959

**Vernon H. Braneky**, MBA '50; March '24

**Robert R. Franta**, BS '50; Feb. '24

**Cynthia Kagan (Portnoy) Frohlichstein**, BS '50; Jan. '24

**Doris E. Austin**, AB '51; Jan. '24

**John E. Harrison**, BSBA '51; Feb. '24

**Elizabeth (Baize) Hartwig**, BS '51; April '24

**Florence O. Wechsberg**, PHD '51; Jan. '24

**Shirley A. (Wolfarth) Bauer**, AB '52; March '24

**Doris Andrews (Andrews) Danna**, BArch '52; March '24

**John G. Gerachis**, BFA '52; April '24

**June Marie (Baumer) Kummer**, BArch '52; Jan. '24

**Frank S. Thomas**, BS '52; Feb. '24

**John L. Roebber**, AB '53; April '24

**Eugene E. Rowton**, BS '53, MS '54; Feb. '24

**Albert B. Becker**, BS '54; Jan. '24

**Howard A. Graham**, BS '54; Jan. '24

**Richard H. Sands**, PHD '54; Jan. '24

**Martin L. Altman**, BS '55; March '24

**Thomas F. Atkinson**, BFA '55; Jan. '24

**Frank A. Fuerst**, BSBA '55; Jan. '24

**Carol Jean Krafft (Krafft) Hoff**, BFA '55; March '24

**John B. Martin**, MD '55; Jan. '24

**William P. Battiste**, AB '56, MA '62; March '24

**Leonard T. Furlow**, MD '56; Feb. '24

**Patricia H. (Hawks) Helmkamp**, BSN '56; Jan. '24

**Ray A. Mundloch**, BSBA '56; Feb. '24

**W.F. Samuel Hopmeier**, BSBA '57; April '24

**Richard F. Hudson**, DDS '58; Feb. '24

**Kenneth C. Kolb**, BS '58; Jan. '24

**Texas Jo (Hughes) Boling**, BSPT '59; March '24

**Robert D. Brooks**, AB '59; March '24

**Kenneth E. Geib**, BS '59; Jan. '24

**Dean D. Larrick**, MA '59; March '24

**Sophonra R. Williams**, BSN '59, MSN '61; Feb. 2024

## 1960-1969

**James F. Barbour**, MA '60; Feb. '24

**Burton M Fendelman**, BSBA '60, JD '61; Feb. '24

**Robert J. Fitzgerald**, BS '60; March '24

**William B. Grubb**, MD '60; Jan. '24

**Harlan E. Lewis**, MA '60; Jan. '24

**Robert G. Scheibe**, AB '60, MD '64, Res/Fel; March '24

**Charles L. Fremont**, BFA '61; Jan. '24

**Warren B. French**, DDS '61; March '24

**William W. Hendrickson**, BS '61; Jan. '24

**Phillip E. Hoffsten**, BS '61, MD '65, Res/Fel; Jan. '24

**Scott E. Dietert**, MD '62; April '24

**Bruce S. Feldacker**, AB '62; Feb. '24

**Anna M. (Crow) Halmich**, BS '62; Jan. '24

**Jay W. Smith**, MD '62; Feb. '24

**James O. Baltz**, BS '63; Feb. '24

**George A. Hussey**, MA '63; Feb. '24

**Zed C. Layson**, MA '63; April '24

**John W. Lyons**, MA '63, PHD '64; March '24

**Lawrence M. Unger**, MD '63, Aug. '23

**Michael T. Bottom**, BSBA '64; Jan. '24

**Steven Eveloff**, BSBA '64, JD '70; March '24

**Risa (Steinberg) Fuhrman**, AB '64; April '24

**Gilbert T. Fujimoto**, DDS '64; April '24

**Don C. Gentry**, DDS '64; Jan. '24

**Donald J. Giesen**, MHA '64; Jan. '24

**Louis F. Glaser**, BS '65; March '24

**Susannah Godlove**, MSW '65; March '24

**David D. Long**, DDS '65, Oct. '23

**William L. Nussbaum**, JD '65; Jan. '24

**Margaret C. Telfer**, MD '65; Jan. '24

**Lawrence H. Weltman**, BSBA '65, JD '68;

Jan. '24

**Max A. Baker**, MD '66; April '24

**Clayton W. Bates**, PHD '66; Feb. '24

**Janice (Bingenheimer) Emich**, AB '66;

Jan. '24

**Eric G. Flammholtz**, MBA '66; Jan. '24

**Nadine H. (Greenberg) Meltz**, AB '66; Jan. '24

**Barbara (Nussbaum) Passman**, AB '67;

Feb. '24

**Donald V. Labrot**, BS '68; Jan. '24

**Charles M. McKeough**, MS '68; Jan. '24

**John P. Wareham**, MBA '68; Jan. '24

**Jerilyn R. (Loofbourrow) Gadberry**, MSW '69; April '24

## 1970-1979

**Eugene E. Hendrikse**, MBA '70; April '24

**James E. Sifford**, BS '70; Feb. '24

**Peter O. Skoglund**, MBA '70; Feb. '24

**Gerald M. Adair**, AB '71, PHD '75; Feb. '24

**Gary A. Ashby**, MSW '71; April '24

**Donald L. Flaskamper**, BS '71; Feb. '24

**Joseph E. Madison**, AB '71, Hon LLD '19; Jan. '24

**Stephen E. Williams**, PHD '71; April '24

**W. Patrick McGinnis**, MBA '72; March '24

**Jerri (Persky) Livingston**, AB '73; April '24

**David Edward Hoffman**, AB '74; Jan. '24

**Daniel Bernard Bauwens**, MD '75; March '24

**Eric Richard Lindstrom**, MD '75; Feb. '24

**Donald Richard Matthys**, PHD '75; Jan. '24

**Thomas Francis Flynn**, JD '76; Feb. '24

**James Robert Heafner**, AB '77; April '24

**George Putnam Stricklin**, MD '77, PHD '77, MD '77, Res/Fel '82; Feb. '24

**Catalina M. Alvarez**, JD '78; March '24

**Henry Wallace Fries**, BS '79; April '24

**John William Grisham**, BS '79; Feb. '24

**Kenneth Robert Hoffman**, MD '79; April '24

**Robert Kenneth Leutwiler**, MA '79; Feb. '24

## 1980-1989

**John Travis Hain**, BSBA '80; Jan. '24

**Fred Robert Jaeckle**, BT '80; Jan. '24

**Julia A. Lieblich**, AB '80; Nov. '23

**Dion Sokolic Hitchings**, BFA '81; Feb. '24

**Jack Louis Norman**, AB '81; March '24

**John Peter Minnock**, MBA '83; Feb. '24

**Charles Floyd Hildebolt**, AM '85, PHD '87; March '24

**Judd Dirk Waddell**, BFA '85; Jan. '24

**S. Courtney (Gray) Gray**, JD '87; March '24

**Michael D. Deeg**, BSBA '88; March '24

**Elizabeth Wight Herring**, BS '88, MLA '93; April '24

## 1990-1999

**Donelle Lisa Raffensberger**, MAT '90; March '24

**Donald William Anson**, BS '91; Feb. '24

**David Lynn La Croix**, BS '91; Feb. '24

**Cynthia Houser (Houser) Riera**, MAED '91; Jan. '24

**Jacob Adams**, AB '93; April '24

**Edgar Joe Smith**, BS '95; Feb. '24

**Erik Keith Wicker**, BFA '98; March '24

## 2000-2009

**Vernon Finnell Butler**, AB '00; Feb. '24

**Carol Anne Jonak**, MIM '00; March '24

**Scott D. McClurg**, PHD '00; April '24

**Scott Benjamin Lovitch**, PHD '07, MD '07; April '24

## 2010-2019

**Joel David Fritts**, MBA '17; March '24

**David Goodbarry**, BS '17; March '24

## 2020-2029

**Maria Lynn Rohlman**, LLM '21; Jan. '24





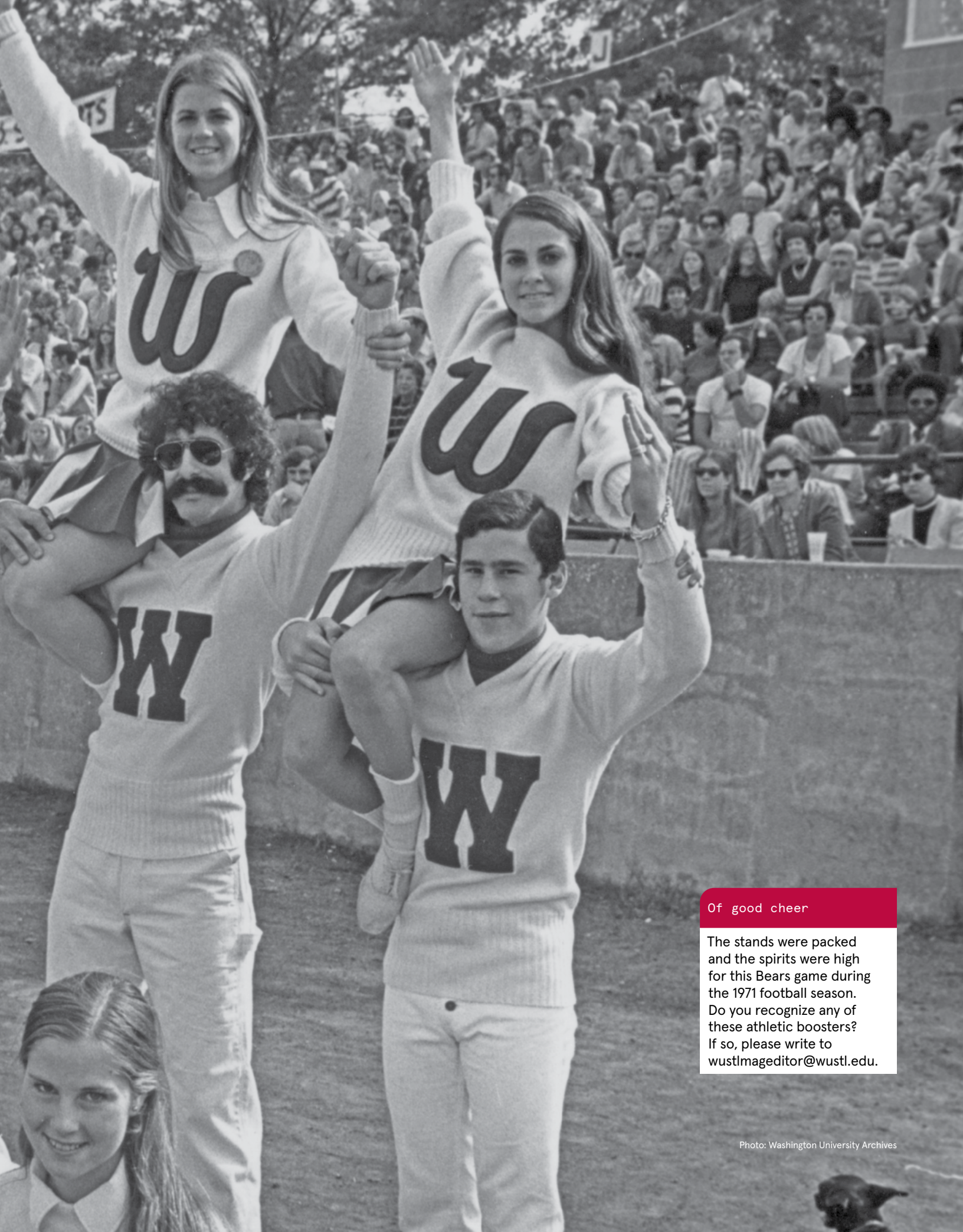
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Of good cheer

The stands were packed and the spirits were high for this Bears game during the 1971 football season. Do you recognize any of these athletic boosters? If so, please write to [wustlimgeditor@wustl.edu](mailto:wustlimgeditor@wustl.edu).





A time to shine

In recognition of their scholarly achievements, these 2024 graduates added creative flair to their ensembles, which epitomize the model WashU grad who is ready to blossom and make a positive mark on the wider world.