



Washburn President's Letter

Friends of Washburn High School,

Today is a great day to be a Miller! Enrollment continues to increase, we have a fancy new scoreboard at newly-renovated MacQuarrie Field, and the Washburn Community is excited to begin a new chapter in its storied history with new leadership by



Interim Principal Linda Conley

way of Interim Principal Linda Conley and new Athletic Director (and former WHS State Champion Boys' Basketball Coach) Reggie Perkins. Perhaps "new leadership" isn't an entirely accurate description; however, as Linda and the rest of the administrative team have all been at Washburn for at least six years. Please read more about Linda and the progress at Washburn in her letter contained within this edition of the Legacy Newsletter.



Athletic Director Reggie Perkins

identify specific and prioritized areas of need at the school. Again, as we all continue to strive for true Excellence in Academics, Arts, and Athletics at Washburn, we will need to continue to work to find new and increasing sources of outside funding to meet these goals.

The good news is that YOU have been listening! Thank you for caring about Washburn students. Washburn alumni, community, and parent supporters continue to do an amazing job of INCREASING support year after year. I invite you to help us maintain the momentum by pledging your support today. The following projects require funding beyond District budget allocations. Your gift of:

- \$10,000 provides modern software for International Baccalaureate (IB) classrooms.
- \$50,000 provides crucial training for teachers to fully implement the IB curriculum and take their instruction to the next level.
- \$4,000 provides clay, paper and other essential supplies for art classes, including IB Visual Art.
- \$2,000 provides updated technology and computer accessories for WHS auditorium and gym spaces.
- \$15,000 provides renovation of Washburn's choir classroom piano.
- \$3,000 improves lighting and access to a variety of performance art at Washburn's burgeoning Black Box Theater.

What is your passion? Your meaningful contribution today will help sustain the rising tide of Miller pride! WE ARE WASHBURN. Are you in?

Go Millers!

Mark Bachman, WHS '91
President, WHS Foundation

Letter from the Interim Principal

Dear Washburn Supporters,

I am happy to have the opportunity to introduce myself as we begin this special year at Washburn. My name is Linda Conley and this is the beginning of my 7th year here. My two children are Washburn graduates from the classes of 1986 and 1988 and we loved living in the neighborhood for approximately ten years. I served as an assistant principal from 2007 until early August of this year. When the call came, Assistant Principal Nilo Guanzon and I decided together that I would accept the role of Interim Principal. While I was a bit anxious, the administrative team is in full swing now and we have added an administrative teacher on special assignment serving as a second Assistant Principal, Michelle Terpening.

We had a great opening week with teachers and staff followed by another great opening week with students. We held class meetings in the auditorium on Friday of that week in order to introduce ourselves to the students and set priorities for the year with the key being on-time attendance.

As of this writing, Washburn celebrated Homecoming with the addition of the new scoreboard and a tremendously successful dance – over 680 tickets sold as well as the fact that classes are challenging students and teachers alike.

Washburn has been granted candidate status for the IB Middle Years Programme which is the framework for teaching and learning in grades nine and ten that precede the IB Diploma Programme coursework in grades eleven and twelve. We are working towards an authorization visit in the fall of 2014.

This year Washburn is also participating in the AdvanceED recertification process that is a necessary part of being a “certified” high school, which is, of course, something we want to have on every transcript! The certification visit is scheduled for early December.

Debate and Math Team are preparing for their meets and our Fine Arts program has several inspirational programs that will be presented this fall.

I am looking forward to a successful year, where all students feel safe and engage in rigorous coursework and extra curricular activities in order to become well-rounded Millers!

Go MILLERS!

Linda

VOLUME 27 FALL 2013

Dick Erdall: Mighty Miller



*Dick and Barb Erdall
Courtesy of Dick Erdall*

If one were to come up with a list of the all-time great Millers, certainly Dick Erdall would be in the conversation. In fact, Dick was a member of the inaugural class of the Washburn Hall of Fame in 2007. He currently lives in the same house where he grew up in the Washburn neighborhood. In fact, his family built the home in the 1920's. Dick attended Washburn from 1947 – 1950 and lettered in football, wrestling, and tennis. While Dick was a very good student athlete, he would cement his legacy in the Washburn community with his dedication to coaching student athletes at Ramsey and Washburn for almost 60 years, starting in 1951.

Jake McCoy was one of Dick's former players and eventually coached with Dick. Jake played on the 1964 US Olympic Hockey team and has been a youth hockey coach in the Twin Cities for over 50 years. “Dick did so much for so many athletes in the Washburn area by his caring, his teaching, and his wisdom,” Jake said. “Dick Erdall is the reason I became a teacher and a coach,” he added.

John Crouch (Class of '59) was also one of Dick's players as a 6th grader at Burroughs. “Dick was an outstanding coach and his efforts, and along with those of Jack Marton, built the foundation of Washburn's success in athletics in the late 50's, the 60's, and beyond,” John said. “The most important thing that we learned from Dick was the value of making selfless contributions to others. All of us who were coached by Dick owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for the important contributions that he made to our lives.”

Dick's legacy continues to this day. Not only did he and his wife Barb, of 51 years, have three children attend Washburn (Rick (Class of '81), Kris (Class of '84), and Sue (Class of '88)), but they now have grandchildren coming up the ranks. Maddi is a Junior and Ellie is a Sophomore at Washburn, with Lizzie, Gigi, Emma, and Sam in various elementary and junior high schools in the Washburn area.

Thank you, Dick, for your past and continued support and influence on Washburn and its students. You epitomize what it means to be a Miller!



Fiscal Year

The Washburn High School Foundation would like to thank the following people who donated from July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013. Because of you we are able to continue our goal of making Washburn High School the top high school in the city with the best teachers, the best resources and the best-prepared students for the future. Thank you for your continuous support and donations!

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In kind donations

Lee Bachman
Vicki Bunker
Myrton and Jean Charney

WHSF Mini Grants Help Augment Classrooms and Activities

What is a “mini-grant”? A dictionary definition would say something like “a small amount of money/goods awarded in response to a request.”

A Washburn staff member might call them “awesome,” “amazing,” something lifting “the burden of calculating the cost over bringing interesting chemistry activities.” Grants allow them “to think outside the box when teaching,” and “provide students with exposure to artists that deepens their work, and inspires them!”

The first WHS mini grants were awarded to four teachers in the spring of 1998, a total of \$1080; in early 1999 six teachers/organizations received \$1125. Today? As a result of the continuing generosity of alums and friends, the WHSF was able to award over \$20,000 in both 2013 spring and fall semesters, to well over 40 staff members/class rooms/organizations. And these grants were in addition to much other funding given to the school through a variety of activities and requests.

The application process is kept simple; early in each semester coordinator Judy Yung, former WHS English teacher and former Foundation Board member, sends an email to all staff with the maximum dollar limit for this current grant, a form attached, and the date for its completion. The staff member emails the form back with activity date and description, goals, grade levels, number of students potentially involved, and itemized cost. Judy then prints each request, and compiles a list which she sends to the Board for review. If the requests exceed available funds, which they often do, an important deciding factor would be the number of students to be impacted by the grant. Financing supplies, books, field trips and transportation, and guest speakers/artists are recurring requests from every department.

Prepared by WHS for College

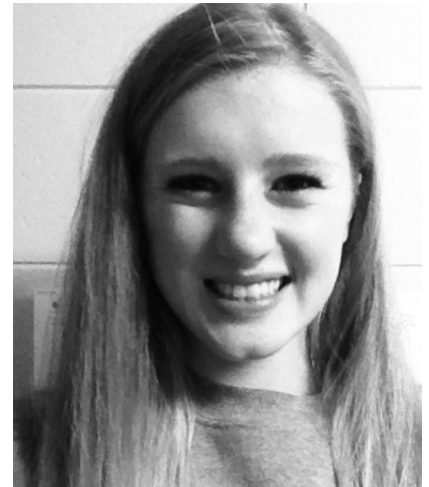


Audrey DeVaughn '13 WHS grad attending Yale

“I have met so many interesting people with different backgrounds. I love the atmosphere, it is a great place for me to learn!”

Megan Lucas '13 WHS grad attending The University of Wisconsin-Madison

“My favorite part about Madison (cliché as it is) is game days, when the entire city can be seen out wearing red. Aside from the sports, I also love the extensive opportunities to get involved in different aspects of campus life - I’ve already explored getting involved with club basketball, intramurals, the Wisconsin Cheese Club, an international scholars program, and much more!”



Nina Quist '13 WHS grad attending Winona State

“I love WSU. It’s a lot smaller than Minneapolis, but everyone here is so nice! Not to mention how beautiful the scenery is! Really the only hard part is that I have to sport Southwest High School colors.”



'63' Has New Focus for Washburn's Class of '63

By TOM CROUCH, WHS '63

Minneapolis Washburn High School has been on the front page too much this year. In a week, the Class of '63 will gather for their 50th reunion. Undoubtedly old stories will be told. Few will probably be accurate and I'm sure all will be embellished. The following is neither: On a crisp day late in November of 1962, a powerful Washburn football team played a St. Paul team for the Twin Cities Championship at the U of M Memorial Stadium.

There was no state tournament and Washburn would be named as the mythical State Champions by Ted Peterson of the Minneapolis Tribune. Wilson High, the St. Paul representative, was overmatched and also having a bad game. Nothing went right for the St. Paul team all day. Washburn was up 28-0 at halftime. Coach Russ Hellickson (note: a wonderful coach and man) said we hadn't returned a kickoff for a touchdown all season.

Greg Wright and the blockers took care of that to start the second half. Washburn received and Wright went untouched for a touchdown. I don't recall if the coach tried to shut us down at that point. It would have been difficult, with some of the subs being seniors playing in their last game.

With four minutes remaining, Washburn went up 63-0 (a safety was included) and the seniors on the sideline started lobbying for a scoring moratorium.

"We are the Class of '63," they said, wanting to keep the point total at a symbolic 63.

The extra point was still to be tried and senior class president Jim Babcock had a high success rate as the kicker. As I recall, coach Hellickson wanted no part in the deal, strolling down the sideline and away from the discussion about not executing the PAT.

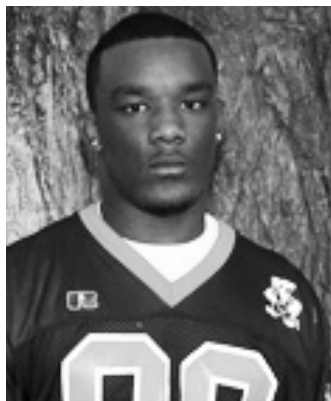
The snap was good and the hold perfect by quarterback Phil Lang. Babcock approached and then the ball was gone – a perfectly executed Lucy-on-Charlie Brown by Lang, and 63 was preserved as the point total.

We did get the ball back on Wilson's 25 with two minutes left. We went with several players at unfamiliar positions, including (I think) lineman Mike Beugen at quarterback. We did not score and 63-0 was the final number posted in a perfect season in which Washburn outscored nine opponents 327-40.

I'm sure this was all misguided and if we could, we would apologize to the St. Paul Wilson players. We never intended to show them up. We weren't that bright a group, only kids playing a game we loved.

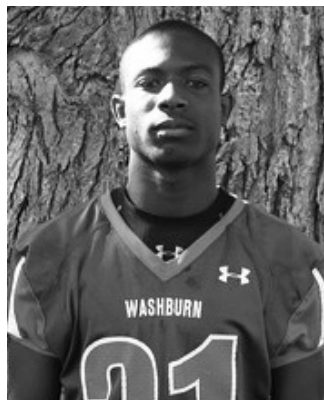
At our reunion, this story will be recalled, but we are now faced with another 63 to deal with. We have lost 63 classmates and our main focus at the reunion will be on honoring them.

Highly Touted Washburn Football Players



Ra'Shede Hageman graduated in 2009 from Washburn. He lettered in basketball and football. In basketball, he was a key contributor on Washburn's 2009 State Championship team. In football, he led Washburn to a State Tournament berth in 2007 and earned a full-athletic scholarship to the University of Minnesota. Ra'Shede is now a starting defensive tackle for the Gophers and was voted team captain

for this 2013 season. The Gophers feel that Ra'Shede has a very good chance to be chosen early in this year's NFL draft.



Jeff Jones is currently a senior at Washburn. As a junior in 2012, he helped the basketball team to 2nd Place finish in the State Tournament. He has been a 4-year letterman for the football team and led them to 4 straight City Conference Championships. He is the #1 ranked football player in the State of Minnesota and #9 ranked running back nationally. Jeff

currently has 11 official offers to play football at a major Division 1 university including University of Minnesota.