



# Washburn High School Foundation

SPRING 2018

201 West 49th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588



**Dear friends,**

There is an old French saying, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." Put another way, turbulent changes do not affect reality on a deeper level. Maybe this philosophical concept is too deep for these pages, but Washburn is facing a severe budget cut for next year. As an advocate for Washburn's continued legacy of success, this is tough to hear. That said, we are the Mighty Millers, and we will persevere, whatever the outcome of the proposed cuts. We always have, and we always will. Washburn's leaders have been fighting hard to find alternative solutions that don't gouge the school with cuts that would cripple any business. You can read more about the ongoing status of the budget debate on Facebook, search "Equity for Washburn."

In the meantime, we here at the Washburn High School Foundation are back again sharing Washburn's continuing story of success, which we will build on in these pages. First, despite potential budget cuts, Washburn will be undergoing an extensive addition to add four new science classrooms, with a compact construction schedule that will minimize disruption to students and learning. This is a much-needed addition of space to the school and reflects of Washburn's rapidly-increasing enrollment the past nine years.

The Foundation's core programming of Mini-Grants, Scholarships, and Administrative Grants continue to provide value-added benefits and experiences for virtually all Washburn students. Washburn's Debate team had members place 1st AND 2nd in the State Tournament (first time ever), and are off to the Tournament of Champions to represent Washburn on a national level! Our Robotics team has also had a stellar year, winning the Engineering Inspiration Award which sent them to the FIRST World Robotics Championship. Music and theater programs continue to astound and amaze parents, students, and community members alike. Participation in athletics is growing and many teams and individuals achieved great success in competition this year.

So the more things change at Washburn, the need for the additional value-added support that the Foundation brings to the School and its students remains the same. We are over a third of the way toward our goal of building a \$1 million endowment to ensure the Foundation's enduring support. Please consider the Foundation in your estate planning, or simply consider a meaningful contribution toward the endowment. We are a proud community of Millers! Let's continue the Legacy!

Go Millers!

Mark Bachman, '91 • President, WHS Foundation



Mark Bachman ('91)

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# ACADEMICS

## Washburn Foundation Mini Grants Abound!

We are very pleased to report that 36 teachers/staff members applied for funds for a wide variety of projects, including guest artists, books, uniforms, durable equipment, training and more. Below are some highlights from the more than \$20,000 awarded for semester two of the 2017-18 school year.



The Miller Bots with teacher/coach Mark LeFeber who benefit from the funds for kits to create the "Bot" that competes. Mr. LeFeber may be the coach, but the students do the designing, the problem solving, and creation of the robot under his watchful eye.

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Mary Dierkes, the debate coach/teacher is so proud of the team as they won both first and second place in the state competition. They qualified for two tournaments, the National Association of Urban Debate League Tournament in late April in Washington, D.C. and the Tournament of Champions in April in Kentucky. Go Millers!!

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Nancy Hinz, art teacher extraordinaire, pictured with one of her students working on Japanese Calligraphy.

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## Student Success Story: Jasmine Somado

Jasmine Somado is a senior who has been at Washburn since she was a freshman. Since then, she has taken her learning very seriously and successfully completed many International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement classes. She believes that her counselor recommended her for this profile because she has utilized the counseling office and been receptive to input from her counselor. She has also participated in the TRIO program, which helped her with schooling and summer opportunities. TRIO is an outreach and student service program designed to help students progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postbaccalaureate programs.

Aside from her academic successes, Jasmine is most proud of working on the Race 2 Justice Day for the past two years. You can see photos and read more about this event on page 5 of this newsletter.

Jasmine is proud to have been accepted at both her top choice schools, Bethel University and University of St. Thomas. She will be living on campus and plans to major in pre-med. Congratulations to this outstanding student who represents Washburn PRIDE (Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Excellence) so well!

## Yale Edges Out Harvard with WHS Class of 2018!

The Class of 2018 is setting new high water marks across the board!

The average for ACT scores is 23.02

- The highest in over 15 years
- Above both State and National averages
- Scores for our WRAP and SPAN special education students are included in this average.

The class of 2018 includes:

- Four National Merit Semifinalists
- Eight National Merit Commended Students
- 27 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Candidates (trends illustrated below)

Each spring, our counseling office provides a list of every college application submitted by every Washburn senior. Our analysis of the 1820 applications provided some interesting trends:

- The University of Minnesota - Twin Cities continues to be the top choice for the largest number of applicants, with the University of Wisconsin-Madison running in second place.
- For the 4-year liberal arts colleges, University of St. Thomas received the most applications, followed closely by Augsburg University.
- Minneapolis Community Technical College (MCTC) received the most applications of the community colleges, followed by Normandale.
- On the Ivy League front, Yale wins with 4 applications (followed by Harvard with 2).

International Baccalaureate (IB) Trends

With the introduction of IB in 2010, the number of diploma candidates and diplomas awarded at Washburn has continued to climb. The jump in candidates for 2018 is another indication of how exceptional this class has been.

\* Actual diplomas for 2018 are not yet available.

**Congratulations and best wishes to all our new Washburn Alumni!**



# ART

## Theater:

The winter musical "Hairspray" was a huge success. Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight Education awarded the Overall Production an Honorable Mention with the Overall Performance an Outstanding. The cast will perform at the Orpheum Theatre on June 11. The popular production's online sales were double that of the previous best seller. Reserved seating had to be added to keep up with the pre-sale demand. The spring play was "The Laramie Project." The Laramie Project is about the reaction to the horrific 1998 murder of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming.

Washburn's Blackbox Acting program celebrates 10 years of Tribute performances for Theatre 1 students this year. In December Theatre 2 and 3 performed at the University of Minnesota on the Rarig Center Thrust Stage, and will finish out the school year on that same stage May 30 and 31. Theatre 3 performed for the school on Race to Justice Day and has been touring their original play "Channels of Change." Guests artists Ashawnti Ford, Antonio Duke, and Alissa Paris continue to light up the classroom with their excellence and expertise in performance elements such as movement, vocal work, and character development. The director, Crystal Spring, thanks all the parents, family, and community members who contribute funds to make this program possible. Because of this, Washburn students have had a platform for youth voice and social justice theatre since 2008.

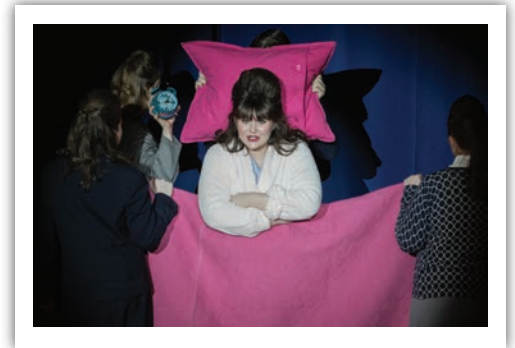
## Visual Arts:

The Visual Arts were busy with Race 2 Justice Day preparations(see page 5).

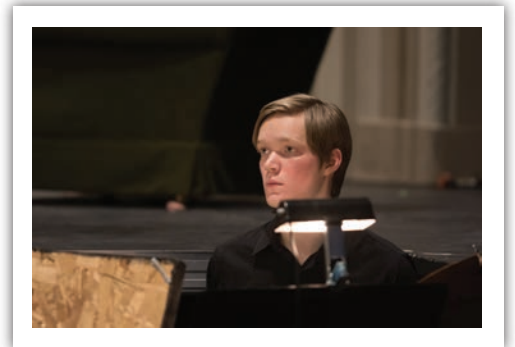
## Band:

Band director Tim Martin highlights the accomplishments of two senior Washburn musicians. Quinn Ingram has spent the last decade in musical groups in the Twin Cities and Washburn. Quinn is a section leader and band officer and soloist in Wind Ensemble and Concert Band as well as the Drum Captain for the Miller Pride Orange and Blue Band. He has also participated in the pit orchestras for Legally Blonde, Into the Woods, and this year's success, Hairspray, and snare drum for the Angry Baker Brass Band.

Eli Haugland is another Washburn Senior who has a great Washburn résumé. Eli has been in concert band, saxophone section leader, Wind Ensemble band officer and Jazz 1 Big Band lead alto saxophone. He plays in our Miller Pride Orange and Blue Band. He is founding member of our Angry Baker Brass Band. He has played in the pit orchestras for Into the Woods and Hairspray. Eli's Washburn résumé also includes strong academics and athletics, playing on the Tennis Team, and 4 years of playing in band and jazz. We are very proud of these two student musicians who have found ways among all their activities to "Always Be Musical."



A scene from "Hairspray"



Quinn Ingram



Eli Haugland

# Washburn Tops Wayzata to Capture First and Second Place in Minnesota Debate State Tournament



On January 12-13, 2018 at the Minnesota Debate State Tournament at the University of Minnesota, the Washburn High School Debate Team won both first and second place! This happened because for the first time in its 117 year history two teams from the same school, Washburn, made it to the final round. The two Washburn teams defeated Edina and Minneapolis South in the quarterfinals, and then defeated the top two Wayzata teams in the semi-finals, before having to face each other in the finals. The two pairs, Lily Endo/Luke Peichel and Grace Klage/Alex Dresdner were undefeated in the first 7 rounds of debate, and then met each other in the final round. The Policy topic that they debated was *Be It Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its funding and/or regulation of elementary and/or secondary education in the United States.*

Under the guidance of debate coach and social studies teacher Mary Dierkes, the debate team students worked hard for the past four years, and they were very exciting to win state this year! By doing so, they qualified to attend two national debate tournaments in April: The National Association of Urban Debate League Tournament in Washington, D.C. and The Tournament of Champions in Kentucky.

## Race 2 Justice

Washburn High School held our second Race 2 Justice Day conference exploring and promoting social justice in our community on Wednesday, March 21, 2018. Students attended workshops and dove into deep discussions about social justice issues related to race, gender, identity and mental illness and other topics. Our theme this year was Safe, Seen and Celebrated. City Council members Andrea Jenkins and Jeremiah Ellison were the keynote speakers. Andrea Jenkins is the first African American openly trans woman to be elected to office in the United States. More than half of the sessions were led by students, and other sessions were led by community leaders and staff members. Students from Washburn's Social Justice Blackbox Theater program performed for the entire student body. It was a great forum to learn about social justice issues in our community.



## Tennis Update:

The Washburn Boys Tennis Program is off to a great start this spring, even with difficult weather conditions. The team returned 11 varsity letter winners from 2017 and rosters 51 boys across three squads. This season, they aim to extend their six-year streak as Conference Champions, Twin Cities Champions and achieving Academic All-State, and advance within a highly competitive state section. This remarkable growth has been accomplished with a coach who has a strong vision for the future of this program and believes there should be a place for everyone who wants to play. Coach Ryan Hoag was selected to receive the National No Cut Coach Award from the U.S. Tennis Association in 2013—a testament to his leadership on and off the court. Washburn tennis has no designated home courts; so, in addition to their strong leadership on the court, the team is working with the community to advocate for the Morgan Courts rehabilitation. To learn more about the Morgan Courts efforts visit:<http://washburntennis.com/morgan-courts/>



Boys Tennis Team

## Nordic Update:

The Nordic Team flourishes! The Washburn Nordic team has grown to record levels with 55 skiers this past season. Senior Ben Perry and juniors Lily Song and Etta Leugers represented the school at the State meet. At the Charlie Banks relay the girls took second while the boys took third. The team is coached by Washburn alum Jacob Polland ('08).



Photo by Phil Bode

## NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

This year 11 Washburn student athletes signed National Letters of Intent to play college athletics. Congratulations to these students for the hard work and dedication to their sport and to their education. We wish them the best of luck in college.

### Baseball

Michael Thomas                      College of Wooster

### Cross Country & Track

Joseph Minor                      South Dakota State University  
Olivia Orr                              Loyola University-Chicago

### Football

Rory Purnell                          Garden City Community College

### Soccer

Charlotte DeVaughn              Brown University  
Hannah Heinemann              University of Nebraska-Omaha  
Lydia Ruppert                        University of Minnesota  
David Saly                              Augsburg College  
Cooper Wells                         North Park University

### Volleyball

Frances Egan                         University of St. Thomas  
Elizabeth Stark                       Northern Michigan University



From left to right: Rory Purnell, Hannah Heinemann, Charlotte DeVaughn, Frances Egan, Michael Thomas



From left to right: Joseph Minor, Lydia Ruppert, Olivia Orr, Elizabeth Stark, Cooper Wells, David Saly

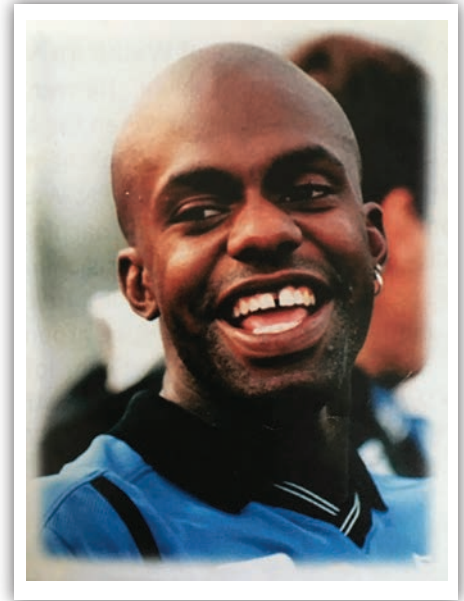


## Sylvester Cup Scholarship Award

John Sylvester (Washburn 1987-1991) loved soccer and it loved him back. As a child, he played in the streets and juggled on the front yard of his childhood home on 48th and Columbus. John had a decorated career as a member of the Minnesota Thunder championship team as well as many other local, regional, and international clubs. He then spent his remaining years coaching children throughout Minneapolis / St. Paul to learn and excel at the game he loved.

The mission of Sylvester Cup Scholarship program is to give financial support to Washburn High School soccer players as they prepare to enter college. John used the game of soccer to equip his players with a confidence that they can do anything, both on and off the field. This up to \$500 scholarship is designed to continue his legacy and touch the lives of 2 deserving athletes (1 boy and 1 girl). His family hopes that through this award, John's heart and passion for soccer and people will be shared with others through the lives of the scholarship recipients.

Candidates are asked to submit a short essay (no more than 500 words) explaining how they demonstrate the core values of the Sylvester Cup Scholarship. Those core values are inclusiveness, ambassadorship, commitment, passion and hard work. If you would like to contribute to the Sylvester Cup Scholarship Fund, you can make a secure online donation at [WashburnConnections.org](http://WashburnConnections.org) in honor of the SCS Fund or John Sylvester, or you can send a check to the WHS Foundation with the SCS Fund in the memo line.



## Millerbots Attend World Robotics Championship

The Washburn Millerbots FIRST robotics team was founded in 2008. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology) is an international organization which hosts annual competitions to inspire students to pursue science and engineering careers. Students on the robotics team lead and execute 100% of the operations, performing roles that traditionally would be filled by teachers and parents. As a result students learn to collaborate as one, to pass on knowledge to younger members, and grow into great leaders. During the 2017-18, school year thirty-five Washburn students put in over 3,000 hours designing, building, wiring, writing software and managing all of the fundraising for this year's Millerbots.

On March 31, 2018 at the 54-team Minnesota North Star Regional, the Washburn Millerbots won the 2018 Engineering Inspiration Award, sending the team to the FIRST Robotics Championship in Detroit, Michigan on April 25-28, 2018. Congratulations to co-captains Brynn DeVaan and Anna Teurman for their inspiring leadership this year, to advisor Mark Le Feber for his dedication, and to the entire team for a trip to the FIRST World Robotics Championship! The Engineering Inspiration Award celebrates outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team's school and community. Inspiring others to respect science and technology requires passion, knowledge and commitment; FIRST celebrates these qualities by presenting its Engineering Inspiration Award.



## Emily Anne Mayer Staples Tuttle: Washburn Alumna, Community Leader and Donor

Emily Anne Mayer Staples Tuttle was a leader in our community, a proud alumna of Washburn High School and a generous donor to the Washburn High School Foundation. Emily Anne died on January 13, 2018.

After graduating from Washburn, Emily Anne earned her degree from the University of Minnesota. She then embarked on a long and productive career as a community volunteer, serving on more than fifty boards beginning with the Minneapolis Junior League and including the Guthrie Theater, the Playwright Center, the University of Minnesota Foundation and Graywolf Press. Emily Anne began her political career in 1974 with a run for the state House of Representatives and was elected to the State Senate in 1976, becoming the first female DFL senator elected to serve in the Minnesota State Senate.

In 1980, She obtained a Master's Degree from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, having received a Bush Foundation Leadership Grant. She was particularly interested in forwarding the causes of health care and women's rights. She was a co-founder of the Minnesota Women's Political Caucus and Minnesota Women's Economic Roundtable. In 1992, Emily Anne was elected to the Hennepin County Commission and chaired the commission's Committee on Health.

According to her obituary in the Star Tribune, "Emily Anne's legacy will live on in those she inspired. The efforts of many politicians and activists were launched or boosted by Emily Anne's example, her generosity and her encouragement." She is survived by three children, four step-children and many grandchildren.

The Washburn High School Foundation is proud to call Emily Anne an alumna of our school and grateful for her generous support of our work.



Emily Anne Mayer Staples Tuttle



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note that dates sometimes change. To confirm dates and learn about other events visit [www.washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us/calendar\\_of\\_events](http://www.washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us/calendar_of_events).

**June 7:** Graduation

**July 21:** All Class Reunion at Patty Wagon

**August 3:** Miller Open Golf Tournament [www.MillerOpen.com](http://www.MillerOpen.com)

**September 22:** Super Soccer Saturday

**September 28:** Homecoming

**November 17:** Arts Gala