

Washburn High School Foundation

Winter 2018

201 West 49th Street Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588



Dear Friends.

As the fall colors subside and the temperature begins to dip, we reflect on the beginning of another school year and look ahead to continued growth and success at Washburn. Last spring, I wrote about budget cuts that threatened Washburn. While the crisis of those cuts was averted, the challenge of meeting the needs and providing enrichment opportunities for Washburn's diverse student body remains. I'm confident, though, that responsible leadership and your continued support will ensure Washburn's continued success.

While we're indebted to Principal Rhonda Dean for her strong leadership the past four years, Washburn was proud to welcome Dr. Emily Palmer as our new principal. Dr. Palmer brings a wealth of experience within the Minneapolis Public School District as a teacher and administrator. Most recently, she served as principal of Sanford Middle School. Since her arrival, Dr. Palmer has been meeting with the broader Washburn community – both inside and outside of the school. One of her first responsibilities was overseeing the successful completion of the extensive four-classroom addition and renovation project. The project had a very aggressive timeline to minimize disruption to students and learning. In addition, Dr. Palmer has already started talking about ways to partner together to build on Washburn's successful legacy.

One area of renewed focus for the Foundation is planned giving. Thanks to several generous estate gifts the past nine years, we have seen this fund grow from \$200,000 to \$600,000. We are thankful to Lawrence Bachman ('41), Steve Stoll ('61), and Dr. Charles Standing ('61) for their foresight in planning their gifts. Contributions from the estates of Lowell Figen ('43) and Barbara Connelly ('50) are pending and will grow the fund further. You can read about Dr. Standing and his recent gift to the Foundation endowment on page 5. When the endowment has grown to \$1 million, it will provide ongoing income to the school of at least \$50,000 per year.

I hope you'll enjoy reading about Washburn's most recent activities. You're always welcome to stop by the school to see the latest renovations or to take in a concert or game.

Thanks to ALL our donors for your generous support of the Washburn High School Foundation!

Go Millers!

Mark Bachman, '91 President, Washburn High School Foundation



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ACADEMICS MINI-GRANTS

Mini-grant requests from teachers, staff and coaches were at an all-time high with the Foundation awarding approximately \$38,000 this fall. The funded proposals that will enhance learning, bring students together outside of the classroom, and engage students and staff in a variety of ways include:

- All ninth grade students visiting the Science Museum of Minnesota.
- Ms. Benz will take Studio Art students to the High Point Center for Printmaking for a unit on printmaking.
- Mr. Adams will be adding a mobile greenhouse and garden lab to his biology classroom.
- The World Language teachers are ordering Logitech presenters to use in their classes.
- Mr. Miller will be acquiring a turtle and pet materials for his students.
- Approximately 200 students will participate in a college immersion experience where they will see a community dance performance "In The Margins." This is a cross-curricular opportunity covering American Sign Language, Visual Art, and culture.

Your generosity allows teachers to find new and creative ways to educate and inspire students. On behalf of the teachers and staff, thank you for making these opportunities possible.

WASHBURN CLASS OF 2018 – The truth about Graduation Rates

Reporting graduation rates is complex - particularly with a mobile community. For Washburn, it's a story of a school serving many unique and diverse students.

Many things influence a graduation rate: the number of English Language Learners, students with particular disabilities and students who transfer in or out of the school.

Yet the graduation formula used by the media includes any student who was enrolled for at least one day at Washburn from September 2014 through June 2018. Students who leave and enroll at another school are counted as "drop-outs," which lowers the graduation rate. The rate also includes students in special programs, which was 12.3% of the class of 2018 students. These students are eligible to get their diploma, but often choose to continue to continue to attend a specialized program within the Minneapolis Public School system instead. In 2018, English Language Learners were 19.3% of Washburn's graduating class.

By the end of the summer, 323 of 351 Washburn's class of 2018 had received their diplomas. – a graduation rate of 92%. Yet when English Language Learner students, special education students who have opted to continue their education with Minneapolis Public Schools, and students who have unofficially changed schools are removed from the equation, Washburn's graduation rate increases to 97.8%.



Last spring, we reported the accomplishments of the WHS class of 2018. Since then, 20 International Baccalaureate diplomas were conferred on graduates -- more than twice the number of 2017 (8).



ARTS

Washburn Blackbox Wins Award

Congratulations to Crystal Spring (pictured) and the Washburn Blackbox Acting Program for winning the Sally Award for Arts Access on October 15, 2018. Since 2008, the Washburn Blackbox Acting Program has maintained a safe space for youth to create, perform and tour original theater. The Sally Award recognizes the contributions of artists, educators, volunteers, philanthropists, and leaders who strengthen and enrich the stage of Minnesota with their commitment to the arts and arts education.





Fall Play Features Underclass Performers

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee featured the talented cast and crew of freshman and sophomores and a few upper-class students. The musical comedy follows six quirky kids as they try to become spelling bee champions. Each night lucky audience members were chosen to share their spelling skills. The show is part of the Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight series.

Art Students Supporting Homeless Teens

Students in two IB Visual Art classes are making t-shirt designs to raise awareness about teen homelessness. The t-shirts will also raise money for Washburn Cares, which supplies everyday assistance to Washburn's homeless and highly mobile students. A Washburn Foundation mini-grant is making it possible for Elpis Enterprises to teach the class how to make screen prints on the t-shirts. (Elpis Enterprises is a silkscreen t-shirt organization that works to provide employment and training opportunities to homeless youth and young adults.) It's a great annual tradition that the students wouldn't be able to do without the support of the Washburn Foundation. Limited t-shirts will be for sale December 17 from 5:30-8:00 during the visual arts show, Cocoa, Cookies, and Clay, and choir and orchestra concert. All 10 designs will be available for order in late January.



Students Honored with All-State Band, Choir and Orchestra

And congratulations to the music students who made the All-State Bands, Choirs and Orchestras. They attended camps in August and will perform with students from across the state in February. Band students honored were Matt Healy, Audrey Carlson, Eli Zukor-Zimmerman; Orchestra students honored were Hadyn Wyckoff, Faruk Badur, Caitlyn Hyatt, Olivia Bergin, Eleanor Vap and Lauren Gross; Choir students honored were Madeline Thompson, Lydia Wisti, Lillian Carlson and Jordan Muschler.

ATHLETICS

Cross Country Coach C.G. Johnson coaches Emily Covert to Back-to-Back State Championships

As a Washburn student C.G. Johnson ('80), played football and soccer and skiled with the Nordic team. After graduation, he ran track and cross country at Luther College in Iowa.

Ten years ago, C.G. Johnson took on the role of coach for the cross country team, growing it from a handful of runners into a juggernaut of a program. Two years ago, C.G. also took on the head track coach position. Under his leadership, the girls have won the Cross Country and Track City Championships 6 years in a row; the boys have won both titles 5 years in a row.

C.G. attributes the success of the teams to a strong parent booster program, a slew of dedicated coaches, and a team culture in which older students welcome, encourage, mentor, and support younger runners. Runners on C.G.'s teams learn the approach and effort they have to take to be successful, and the experienced runners teach the younger runners how to push themselves to achieve their full potential.

Among the runners is senior Emily Covert, who won the State Cross Country Championship last year and this year. She holds state records in the 3,200 (set last spring at the state track meet) and has run the fastest 5K time for a girl in Minnesota State High School League history. She qualified for both Nike Nationals and Foot Locker nationals last year and will run at the collegiate level.





Seniors Grace Dickel, Caleb Haugland and Emily Covert all competed in the Sate Cross Country meet, placing in the top 15.



Ty Benjaafar Wins Mr. Soccer

Washburn senior Ty Benjaafar (right with Coach Aaron Percy) won the 2018 Mr. Soccer award. Nominees are chosen by the Minnesota High School Soccer Coaches Association to honor the top senior soccer players in the state.

Senior Marli Rajacich was nominated for the Ms. Soccer award.

Dr. Robert C. Olson ('58) Inducted Into the Washburn High School Athletic Hall of Fame

During half-time of the September 30 football game, alumnus Dr. Robert "Bob" C. Olson ('58) was inducted into the Washburn High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Bob was an outstanding defensive lineman and wrestler on varsity teams that won five Minneapolis City team championships. He was undefeated in three years of dual meet wrestling competition, leading Washburn to the City Championships and winning the individual and District championships twice in his division. In fall 1957, Bob led the football team in tackles by a two to one margin over his closest rival and received Honorable Mention All-City honors.

After leaving Washburn, Bob remained active in athletics by both coaching and participating. He remains an avid cyclist and has completed six Iron Man races. Outside of athletics, Bob had a successful career in medicine. He served 25 years as Chief of Gastroenterology at the University of Minnesota and Ramsey County Medical Center. In 2004, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Minnesota and now is Emeritus Professor of Medicine and Gastroenterology at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

In Memory of Dr. Charles Standing - WHS '61, Engineer, Scientist, and Donor

We are saddened to report the passing of Dr. Charles Standing ('61). Yet we are grateful for his generosity in naming the Washburn High School Foundation in his estate planning documents. Below is a tribute written by Dr. Standing's brother Tom Standing ('58):

Charles Standing, captain of Washburn's ski team 1960-61, lead actor in the Senior Class Play, lifelong advocate of the highest quality for public education, and generous donor to the Washburn High School Foundation, passed away September, 2017.

Chuck viewed his education at Washburn as the foundation that carried him through his studies at the University of Minnesota where he completed his PhD work in Bio-Chemical Engineering in 1970. But it was his physics, chemistry and mathematics teachers at Washburn who inspired Chuck to become, as his colleagues described him, a "man of science" across a broad spectrum of disciplines. Chuck spent his career as a food scientist with Pillsbury and General Mills. He was granted numerous patents for new food products and processing innovations.

Closest to Chuck's heart, however, was his work with an orphanage located in a remote region of Mexico. Chuck and his wife Kathy supported the orphanage, became fluent in Spanish, and sponsored the education and support of Maria, an orphan girl. Chuck and Kathy made the region around the orphanage their second home. Today, Maria, her husband, Javier, and their two sons Carlos and Luis live in Minneapolis, and remain a part of Chuck and Kathy's family.

A dedicated environmentalist, Chuck initiated and consulted on many projects to restore and develop urban forests in Minneapolis and Bell, California. He also served as a citizen advisor for Hennepin County. You can read about Chuck's legacy at: www.charlesstanding.com.





Chuck Standing with Carlos at his college graduation

Leave a Legacy for Washburn

The WHS Foundation board has elected to add Dr. Standing's generous gift of approximately \$228,000 to the endowment fund. This will grow the Foundation's annual support to the faculty and students of Washburn High School. We are grateful to Dr. Standing for his generous legacy to Washburn High School and setting an example for future donors.

If you are considering an estate gift to the Foundation here are some steps to follow:

- 1. Review the "Specific Gifts/Bequests" section of your will to confirm if previously named people or institutions are still valid.
- 2. Review your beneficiary designations on all retirement accounts, life insurance policies, and/or annuities to confirm if previously named people or institutions are still valid.
- 3. If the WHS Foundation is not currently listed, please consider adding the WHS Foundation as a partial beneficiary to either your Will and/or any beneficiary designations.
- 4. If you decide to add the WHS Foundation as a benefactor to any part of your estate plan, we strongly recommend you contact your estate planning attorney to amend your existing will and or beneficiary designation forms.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call Foundation Treasurer, Jeremy Graff, at (612) 668-3483. or email him at info@washburnconnections.org.

Thank you, donors!

The Washburn High School Foundation would like to thank the following people who made donations between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. Because of you, we are able to continue our goal of making Washburn High School the top high school in Minneapolis with the best teachers, the best resources and the best-prepared students for the future. Thank you for your continuous support and donations!

1925 Society (\$10,000+)

John W. Mooty Foundation Trust

Gold Medalists (\$5.000 - \$9.999)

Paul and Marguerite Pratt Smaby Family Foundation in recognition of four 50-year reunions (recent and pending): Mark '62, Gary '67, John '72, Anne '73

Grist Givers (\$1.000 - \$4.999)

Marion Amundson Patrick and Mary Anderson Paula and Kevin Ario Mark and Carrie Bachman Sally Callahan Ralph J. Carlson Robert and Janet Christianson, Jr. Tom and Paula Crouch Holly Firehammer Thomas A. Gruber, in memory of Karin Larson-Nordstrom ('58) Bruce and Jean Grussing Illinois Tool Works Harold and Joan Johnson Charitable Fund, in memory of Matthias Jacob Pena Kopp Family Foundation Tristen and Steve Lindemann The Minneapolis Foundation Members Foundation Rich Renikoff and Kathy Kinne Renikoff Maryan Schall Alan Schlesinger

Miller Pride (\$500 - \$999)

John Sylvester Scholarship Fund

Roberta and Robert Abdo

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Todd and Shari Anderson Lynn Blewett, in memory of Sue Reid ('76) Owen and Katherine Christoferson Ronald Davis, in memory of Douglass Addison and **Steve Luers** Elizabeth Fisher, in memory of **Dorothy Hesier Stevenson** Jim Furber Geoffrey Gould Karin Grossman Stuart and Gail Hanson R S (Dick) and Elizabeth Kinyon Daniel Kvinge, in memory of Robert Madden Ronald London Timothy and Katherine McGinley Mike Myers Stuart Nielsen John Nyguist **Edward Olson** Judith Paine **Ronald Peterson** Craig Ruhsam Emilie Slape, in memory of Elaine Ulteschi Fisher '57 Ted Stern **Kay Thomas Tipping Family Foundation Members** Stephen and Sarah Weld Gavin Wright, in Memory of James Ira Scheiner

Blue Circle (\$100-\$499)

John Aamodt, in memory of Toni Stoll ('59) and Steve Stoll ('61) David and Linda Andell Amy Anderson John Anderson Eric Anderson Roger C. Anderson

Wilson and Pauline Anderson Thomas and Julia Arneson Kari and Leon Ball Louise and Donn Barber, in memory of Anne Barber Dunlap **Edward Bather** Baxter Family Foundation **Members Family Foundation** Maureen and Peter Beck Alix Behm Toni and James Beitz, in honor of Vicki Bunker Philip Bell Herbert Bell Michael Belzer Mick Benson Herbert and Lynne Benz Thomas Bergseth Robert Berkwitz Gladys Bowden James Bracket Kathryn J. and James Bratly John Brenneman Kathryn and Thomas Burnside John and Jane Burton Pamela Campbell Karlotta Carlson Jim Clancy Class Of 1961 Henry and Linda Cohen David Conkey, in Memory of Forrest H. Adams, M.D. and John H. Combs '41 John and Lynn Cota Bonnie L. Daniels

Donald Davies, in Memory

Michael and Michelle DeVaughn

Sarah Parsons Devoung

Joan and Charles Diessner

Susan Duxbury, in memory

of Bruce Kath

Dirk Devoung and

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Dennis W Dunne

of Parker Cramer ('55) Virginia Dwan Kay and Brad Englund Kristin Lynn Erdall David and Gwen Evans David Flesner Philip and Debbie Flodin Barbara Freeman Shelly Frolick Jeffrey Frommelt Roger Frommelt Lorraine Fryklund Lynn R. and David Fulton Stan Furber, In honor of Jim Furber ('58) and Jane Furber Becker ('60) Calvin Gage, in honor of my classmates of January 1947 Kathy Garmezy Brent Giebink, in memory of G. Scott Giebink Melissa Gjerde Luella and Stanley Goldberg Susan Goldenberg Susan and Richard Goldman Carol Golub Robert Goodale Tom Gould, in memory of Louis Claeson Jeremy and Sarah Graff David Greven Gordon and Helen Griller Norman Gurstel Barbara and Bruce Halgren Henry and Diana Halladay Elie Halpern, in memory of Carl Carlson and in Memory of Steve Stoll Marjorie Halstead Tina Ham Peterson Kenneth Hande, MD, in honor of Carter Holmes John Harden Kathleen and William Haug

Judy Yung

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Washburn teachers

Shirley Santoro

Denise Scharlemann John Schmitt Norm and Debra Scott Cheryl and Bruce Skalbeck, in honor of Reggie Perkins being honored as the State Athletic Director of the Year Walt Slibeck, in memory of Frank Ario Ann Smith, in Honor of Ann Smith ('81) James and Deanna Sokolowski Rolf and Roberta Sonnesyn Margaret Spriggs and Jim Hanneman Elaine Steinman Kathy and John Stone Nadine Sturdevant Robert Sutter David J. Sutton, in memory of Jean Chase, her husband Frank, and other members of the Class of 1944; in memory of basketball, Model A Ford, and Jack Frdall Rolf Svendsen, in memory of Myron Cottrell '60 Tom H. Swain Donald F. Swanson, in memory of Rose Mary Rathbun Hannah ('39)Ralph and Bonnie Swenby Mary Swenson Mary Taylor, in memory of Peter Rand Jacquelyn Tennant Tracie and Becky Thacher-Bell, in memory of John "Jocko" Honmyhr '65 Stanley Thompson Howard I. Thorsheim John and Carrie Tietz Jessica Toff James Tucker James M. Urnes, Sr. John and Linda Van Straaten William Wangensteen Judy Wehr

Paul Welschinger

Fritz and Brenda Westphal John White Doris Wona Michael Woods Lynn A. Woodward Orange Circle (\$1-\$99) **Anonymous** Community Shares Of Minnesota Class Of '60, in memory of Myron E. Cottrell and Marcia Kay Solon Jeff and Jody Alberts Stephen C. Aldrich Mary Ames Dale E. Hammerschmidt, M.D. and Mary Arneson, M.D. John and Debbi Bahr Thomas Balcom Richard and Judy Ballintine Barbara Barickman-Meier Barbara Bauer special friendship with "Chick,", Richard Bezdeny Thomas Bodger Stanely and Shirley Bormann Rick Brimacomb Karen M. Brown Sally Brown Frederic and Karen Browwn Gordon Carlson, in memory of Diane Hansen Carlson ('48) **Davton Carlson** Marilyn Chapman Megan Connors Robert Coulter Christine Daugherty Marion Dongoske Bruce and Sandy Eichinger Jeffery Elavsky Jeanne Erickson, in memory of Mary Sue Hanson Taylor Susan E. Erickson Susan E. Erickson, Ph.D. Timothy Evenson Kelly Evenson-Mayhew John Farrell Rvan David Fisher William and Sonja Flory

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Mike Myers John Rosen

Mary Russ Warren Ryan

Janice Sammelson

Richard Sandeen, in memory

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Camille Schroeder

Sheila Scott, in memory of

Joyce Hughes Scott ('43)

Zana Sehlin

John Sieff, in memory of

Elizabeth Jane Sieff ('47)

Wendell and Sandra Snyder

Donna J. Sonnesyn Donald K. Sovell

Mary Spriggs

Nancy C. State, in Memory

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Paul Steiner

Dean A. Stromwall

Virginia Sweetham Jones

Paul and Karine Swenson Moe

Mary Thompson

Lois Tigay, in memory of

Pat Stubbs ('61) Lee H. Trelstad Paige VanVorst Robert Vik

Jean Volna

Steve and Mary Wallfred,

in memory of Earl Hacking ('60)

Peter Warner Cynthia Watters Michael Welbaum Sandra Werthe

Philip Wheaton, in honor

of graduation in 1933

Sally Wherry

Barbara Wiegand, in memory of Louis R. Pryor and Hope Roe

Allan Wurst, in memory of Begie

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 14: Jazz Band Winter Concert

December 17: Winter Visual Arts Show

December 17: Choir and Orchestra Winter Concert

December 18: Band Winter Concert

December 19-20: Blackbox Theater Showcase

February 28-March 3: Musical

March 7-10: Pippin Musical

Please note that dates sometimes change. To confirm dates and learn about other events visit www.washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us/calendar of events.

Washburn Expands and Renovates

Last spring, Washburn launched a major construction project. Four new science classrooms were added on top of the music wing on the west side of the school. This provides much-needed and updated lab space. In the process, the choir and band rooms received a complete make-over. Working twelve-hour days during the summer, contractors were able to complete the project with minimal disruption to students.



Students Yusra Yusuf and Mayra Rndon-Espinoza, Superintendent Ed Graff and Principal Emily Palmer cut the ribbon officially opening the new classrooms.