On Sunday, May 15, 2006, Washburn University School of Law graduated 148 students as parents, families, spouses, significant others and friends looked on. The ceremony was held in Lee Arena on the Washburn University campus.

During the graduation ceremony the Class of 2006 recognized Professor Gregory Pease as Professor of the Year and Ronald P. Pope '84 as Adjunct Professor of the Year.

James Slattery ’75 was selected by the class to be the keynote speaker. Slattery received his B.A. in Political Science from Washburn in 1970 and his J.D. from Washburn Law in 1974. He attended the Netherlands School of International Economics and Business 1969-70. He has been a partner in the law firm of Wiley, Rein & Fielding LLP, in Washington, D.C. since 1997. He is a member of the Government Affairs, Energy and International Trade Practices of the 250 member law firm. He served in the U.S. Congress from 1983-1995, as Kansas Secretary of Revenue in 1979 and in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1973-1979.

In his remarks, Slattery gave seven suggestions for graduates on how to use their powers of analysis, of articulation and of draftsmanship that they learned at Washburn Law to better serve their clients, community and their profession, and in the process, enhance public respect for lawyers. His suggestions were:

#1 - Be a servant! The law is a profession that should be characterized by a spirit of public service. Serve your clients and serve your profession and please devote a period of time to serving your community.

#2 - Pursue Justice. I believe the pursuit of justice under the rule of law is a lawyer’s highest calling. No one is above the law and everyone is entitled to equal protection under the law.

#3 - Pursue Truth. Essential to the pursuit of justice is the pursuit of truth. There will be no justice without truth. All lawyers have the responsibility and duty to insure that the adversarial system serves truth and justice. Legal combat is not an end in itself. The objective is truth, then justice!

#4 - Discourage Litigation. Our most famous prairie lawyer, Abraham Lincoln, once wrote, “Persuade your neighbor to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser — in fees, expenses and waste of time. As a peacemaker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good man.”

#5 - Know What You Know and What You Don’t Know. Work hard to master an area of the law about which you feel passionate and stay current in this area. Don’t be afraid to ask for help!

#6 - Accept Responsibility. The simple willingness to accept responsibility is huge. We desperately need to hold leaders accountable! When you accept responsibility, be prepared for accountability. This will truly set you apart as a leader.

#7 - Treat Others As You Want To Be Treated. If we simply treat our clients, our colleagues and fellow lawyers as we would like to be treated, you will never have to worry about losing your license to practice law and you will be a respected and successful member of the bar.
After the keynote address The Honorable Sam A. Crow received an Honorary Doctor of Law degree. Judge Crow received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Kansas in 1949 and graduated from Washburn University School of Law in 1952, setting the stage for his more than five decades of service to not only his fellow Kansans but to his countrymen as well.

After graduating from Washburn Law Judge Crow served in Korea before entering Judge Advocate General School at the University of Virginia. During the next 12 years he completed the JAG basic course, advanced JAG course, JAG officer career course and military judge course certifications. In 1975, he completed the selective service military course in Washington, D.C., and received certification from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in National Security Management in 1977. Judge Crow served his country for more than 30 years, retiring at the rank of Colonel in 1986.

Judge Crow while serving his country was also working in private practice. In 1953 he joined the firm of Rooney, Dickinson, Prager & Crow in Topeka where he continued to practice law until 1975 arguing cases at the Kansas Supreme Court, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals and the U.S. Army General Court Martial Courts.

In 1973 he was appointed part-time Magistrate Judge and became full-time in 1975. In 1981 President Ronald Reagan appointed Judge Crow to the federal bench. Fifteen years later Judge Crow became the Senior Judge for the District.

Judge Crow shares his talents and knowledge with others in the legal community speaking at numerous venues across the country including Washburn Law, other law schools, bar associations and military law institutes.

He served on the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors from 1994-1998. In June 2000 Judge Crow received the Distinguished Service Award from Washburn University School of Law. In 1997, the Topeka American Inn of Court of changed its name to the Sam A. Crow American Inn of Court. Judge Crow was the organization’s founding president from 1992-1995. Judge Crow is a strong and loyal supporter of the law school and each year provides scholarships for Washburn Law students to join the Inn of Court.

After the ceremony a reception for graduates and their families was held at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center.
This Trophy Case was made possible by the generosity of the Centennial Class of 2006 and the Washburn Law School Alumni Association.

2006 Graduation
Class of 2006 Class Gift

The Class of 2006 presented a custom made Cherry Wood Trophy Case to the law school at graduation. The class gift was organized by a committee staffed by Dallas Bauer, Aubrey Borel, Brian Clarke, Jake Henry, Anthony Hunter, Jeff King, Amy Kutschka, Sunee Mickle, Dara Montclare, Hillary Spellman and Angel Zimmerman. The trophy case is located on the 1st floor of the law school. The remainder of the money raised was put into a third-year law student class gift fund which will go toward a needs-based scholarship for an incoming first-year law student in the fall of 2006. The Class of 2006 raised $4,016 and the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association contributed by matching the first $3,511 raised. The total raised which went to the trophy case and scholarship was $7,527.

The following students from the Class of 2006 contributed to the class gift fund. Washburn Law would like to thank them for their generous gift and commitment to the law school.

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