

WHITE CONCERT HALL



The entering class of 2013 came from across the United States, spanning from California to South Carolina; New Jersey to Oregon. Fifty-nine percent are Kansans. Fifteen percent are minorities. They represent 47 different undergraduate schools. The top feeder school this year was the University of Kansas with 16 undergraduates. Washburn University was the second-largest feeder school with 15 graduates, while 10 graduates came from Kansas State University, followed by three students each from Fort Hays State, Pittsburg State, and Wichita State. Both Baker and Benedictine provided two graduates each.

Washburn Law Leads Its Peers in Student Satisfaction

Washburn University School of Law leads its peers in student satisfaction, according to a new Law School Survey of Student Engagement. This year's survey reflects more than 28,000 responses received from law students at 98 different schools.

The survey sought student evaluations of four specific categories — learning to think like a lawyer, student-faculty interaction, student advising, and law school environment. Washburn Law scored higher than the collective scores of all participating law schools in every category. Additionally, our “overall satisfaction” rate among 1Ls was 3.64 (on a scale of 1-4), compared with 3.24 among all schools surveyed this year.

According to the survey results, the majority of students would choose to attend Washburn Law again. Students ranked the school high in the areas of diverse perspectives in class and out; transferring concepts from class to class; encouraging the ethical practice of law; developing legal research skills; happiness with

faculty, administration, staff, and other students; computing technology; and library assistance.

Students were given the opportunity to provide anonymous written comments. Following are a couple of quotes from Washburn Law students reinforcing the survey's results.

“The atmosphere is so conducive to learning and everyone — faculty, staff, and students — is so friendly and helpful. The faculty is very knowledgeable and has great practical experience, which is a huge plus because we learn what we're going to actually encounter after school, not just what theory applies to a certain topic. Law school is tough, but I wouldn't want to go anywhere else.”

“Washburn Law has done an incredible job of providing an environment that cultivates learning, promotes open communication, and fosters relationships between students and faculty.”



New Offering: Master of Studies in Law Degree

Washburn University School of Law will be offering a Master of Studies in Law (M.S.L.) degree beginning with the fall 2014 semester. The program is designed for individuals engaged in professional work who may benefit from formal exposure to the study of law and whose professional interests do not require admission to the bar. The program will be offered to full- and part-time students, making it opportune for those making career changes or wanting to advance their existing professional positions.

Prospective students will come from a wide range of parallel professions, including accounting, business, children and family services, criminal justice, environmental studies, government, health care, human resources, journalism, library services, oil and gas, and real estate development, as well as tribal officials. The program provides a legal background that will complement the professional interests of the participants, strengthen their ability to interact effectively with the legal community, and provide professional certification of these accomplishments.

Organization of the curriculum, built upon a framework of Centers for Excellence and certificate programs, provides a professional curriculum in the following career paths: Business and Transactional, Children and Family, Tax or Estate Planning, Government, Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Criminal Justice.

A full-time student will be able to complete this program within a single academic year. Part-time students must complete all credit hours needed for the degree within four calendar years beginning with the first semester after enrollment. Costs per credit hour for the M.S.L. students are the same as those for J.D. students.

The law school has received American Bar Association acquiescence to ensure that the proposed program does not detract from the existing J.D. program. The ABA does not accredit or assess Masters' level programs. The program has been approved by the Washburn University Board of Regents and the Kansas Board of Regents. A request for approval is pending before the Higher Learning Commission.

Learn more about the program at washburnlaw.edu/MSL



LL.M. in Global Legal Studies Coming in Fall 2014

Foreign-trained lawyers will have the opportunity to pursue an LL.M. in Global Legal Studies at Washburn Law beginning with the fall 2014 semester. The program will provide the substantive training and skills required in a global legal market.

The full-time LL.M. program, in addition to offering the usual career paths, will prepare students to work with or across from U.S. counsel in a variety of transactions or disputes.

Three broad areas or “tracks” will be offered, with specialization in corporate and commercial law; public law; or legal analysis, writing, and advocacy. Washburn Law’s faculty program director will work with students to select courses consistent with their individual interests and objectives. Students will have the opportunity to take classes alongside students enrolled

in the J.D. program and develop lasting relationships with future American lawyers.

Students will be required to show proficiency in English and have a first-level law degree from a non-U.S. law school or faculty of law.

Cost for the 2014-15 academic year is projected at \$27,000. Unlike some other programs, which are based on per-credit-hour charges, students will pay tuition on a flat-rate basis. All LL.M. students must complete 24 credit hours in classroom courses but may also enroll in a maximum of six additional credits during the academic year at no additional cost beyond the required 24 credits.

Completion of an LL.M. from Washburn will come with eligibility to take the bar exam in several states, including New York and California.

More about the program can be found at washburnlaw.edu/LLM



U.S. Constitution Day Recognized

Washburn University and the School of Law recognized U.S. Constitution Day on September 17, 2013.

Washburn University School of Law, the Center for Law and Government, and the Center for Excellence in Advocacy hosted the Kansas Court of Appeals on Tuesday, September 17, 2013, for a special U.S. Constitution Day session in the Robinson Courtroom and Bianchino Technology Center.

Judges Thomas E. Malone, G. Joseph Pierron Jr., and **Stephen D. Hill, '75**, heard oral arguments on several cases. Washburn Law students were able to observe the oral arguments as part of their Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing courses.

An evening Constitution Day presentation by Professor Bill Rich, "The Gettysburg Address: Lincoln's Framework for a New American Constitution," was held at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center on the Washburn campus.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address highlighted the importance of equality, liberty, national unity, and democracy. With respect to each of these topics, our original constitutional text had been found wanting, and resulting conflicts gave rise to the Civil War. Professor Rich described some of those early conflicts along with the Civil War Amendments to the Constitution that addressed them. He also discussed ongoing struggles over the interpretation and implementation of this "new Constitution."

This event was part of Washburn University's yearlong commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* U.S. Supreme Court decision. Washburn is proud to honor the contributions of our alumni, faculty, students, and the greater Topeka community that have expanded, and will continue to expand, our understanding and appreciation for the principles of this watershed moment in the American civil rights movement.



International and Comparative Law Center

This fall, Washburn Law launched a new International and Comparative Law Center. Nancy G. Maxwell, professor of law, and Craig Martin, associate professor of law, serve as the Center's co-directors.

International and comparative law programs are increasingly important to a modern law school curriculum. The Center will complement the already robust and growing international and comparative law program at Washburn Law. There are at least nine faculty members who are currently teaching and engaging in scholarship in areas that have a significant international or comparative law component.

Washburn Law offers a number of international and comparative law courses, which are the basis for the current International and Comparative Law Certificate. In addition, Washburn Law has a robust study abroad program, currently conducted through Maastricht (Netherlands) University and the University of the West Indies. Washburn Law faculty members teach international and comparative law courses as part of the study abroad program in Barbados.

Look for more information about the International and Comparative Law Center in the next issue of the *Washburn Lawyer*.

PROFESSOR JAMES R. AHRENS REMEMBERED

Professor James R. Ahrens, who taught at the law school from 1948 to 1988, passed away quietly on his 94th birthday, Friday, June 7, 2013, surrounded by family.

During his tenure, Professor Ahrens designed the Washburn Law Institute and served as the faculty advisor for the Washburn Moot Court Team, taking teams to National Finals. He initiated comparative law programs specifically for Yugoslavia and England. Professor Ahrens was named Washburn Distinguished Professor of Law and received honors including a law school endowment in tort law in his name.

Professor James Concannon observes in his history of Washburn Law: "Few people demonstrated greater commitment to the school than Professor Ahrens. Until the size of the graduating classes became too large, Ahrens and his first wife Geri annually hosted a brunch at their home for graduating seniors. They regularly attended student social functions and dances. Throughout his lengthy retirement, he regularly attended class reunions of his former students and other law school events."

When he retired, Professor Ahrens' message to students was, "Pay less attention to exam-taking techniques. Learn your rules and know when to apply them. Be willing to spend a lot of time synthesizing them. Have a check list of every rule of law. After one course, you have 20 pages of law, and then you memorize them. The way to heavenly bliss in the law is a lot of work!"

