

# Unstoppable

*2L Moore faces new lands and languages, and never backs down.*

To date, the story of **Alosha Moore, BA '13 and JD candidate '17**, has been nothing short of epic. His saga has stretched across three continents, netted him multiple families, and meant starting over more than once. Growing up in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, Moore didn't consider his childhood harrowing or traumatic, even though he called an orphanage home until age 9.

"Looking back from this perspective, it was a lot harsher to grow up over there. I remember when we would get in trouble, sometimes they would withhold food. Sometimes it wasn't a big deal because you were so hungry that you'd almost rather not eat, because it would just make you hungrier," Moore said.

"But it was just life. It wasn't harsh at the time."

That matter-of-fact mindset is characteristic of Moore. He deals with what is — grappling mightily at times, sure — but marching on all the same. That's how he handled his adoption and relocation to the United States, leaving behind people

who "weren't even friends at that point; they were family." It's also how he responded when, due to Russia's lack of medical technology, he slowly lost his sight to glaucoma by 7 years old.

Moore, as he puts it, *happens to be* blind. The fact that could so easily define him — serve as the big, bold title of his life's tale — is, instead, a footnote.

"I've heard lots of people say, 'I forget you're blind.' And it's because it's just not something that's forefront to me. In a lot of ways, having that vision loss was more of a blessing. Because I never would have been able to afford, on my own, getting into college," he said, noting his National Federation of the Blind scholarships.

That's not to say it was easy for Moore to embrace such a positive outlook. Adopted by a Wichita family in 1998, he knew he was fortunate. Still, with so much change swirling around him (learning English, grasping braille, absorbing a new way of life), the adjustment was rough.

"I was a rambunctious, crazy kid. And I think a lot of it was because of the difference in culture. Back in Russia, you literally had to struggle to survive. It took a while for that mentality to go away. So here, when people aren't struggling and you still are, you're a lot more amped up than you need to be."

But Moore refused to be boxed in by his circumstances. He has taken on horse training, bronc riding, surfing. Washburn Law, which he "heard so many good things about since seventh grade," was the ultimate task on his list.

In typical fashion, Moore addresses the extraordinary demands of law school without complaint, managing braille, screen readers, and notetakers. He also finally relented and got a guide dog, Frosty, who has offered him not just independence, but a newfound ease.

"It was one of those sit-down-with-myself moments, saying, 'If I want other people to take me seriously, I've got to do something, because I can't have my life revolving around other people's schedules,'" he said.

"People are just so much more receptive and open with Frosty. To me, that's been huge, because I was so shy."



Alosha Moore chats with **Pedro Irigonegaray, '73**, after a Lunch and Learn.





With Frosty in tow, Moore has come alive in a way he never knew possible. Between his coursework and positions as vice president of the Pro Bono Society, treasurer of the Washburn Business Law Society, and rep-at-large for the Washburn Student Bar Association, the law school community has become his surrogate family, “where no one even hesitated to accept me.”

He has continued branching out. In January 2015, he made his first solo trip, to a Berkeley Law workshop on international humanitarian law. By summer, he shattered his comfort zone altogether, venturing to Sydney, Australia, for an internship in refugee law.

Each move is part of a calculated plan: first, a foot in the door with the U.S. Department of State, then a career in international human rights, including international adoption. His purpose is simple: To help children who desperately need it, like he once did.

Professor Rory Bahadur, for one, thinks it’s an ideal match. Originally from Trinidad, Bahadur instantly related to Moore’s global perspective.

“He does things not because of how they would look or because of what other people would think, but because it’s what needs to be done,” Bahadur said. “And when you’re thinking about international adoptions, there’s so much political and bureaucratic red tape that he would be the perfect one to not be dissuaded, but just continue persevering for the benefit of the adoptee.”

Moore has gone from a shy kid in survival mode to an outgoing, driven law student who has conquered two languages and three countries. At this point in his story, he seems pretty well unstoppable.

“I feel like I’m one of the very few exceptions who has been raised by a village. So sometimes I just can’t help being amazed at where I’ve gotten. It’s been such a huge interaction with so many people, and it’s just such a huge blessing.”