

**DEAN**

Thomas J. Romig

EDITORS

Judyanne Somers,
Director, Alumni Services

Shelia Summers,
Director, Marketing Communications

Pam Bestler Kaufman,
Create, Inc.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Gary Jones, jones huyett Partners
Bruce Mathews, Mathews Communications
Martin E. Wisneski

DESIGNER

jones huyett Partners

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS:

E-mail: alumni@washburnlaw.edu

Telephone: 785.670.1011

CONTACT US:

We welcome your comments to this publication. Please write, telephone, e-mail, or visit our website. Letters to the editor and news of jobs, honors, weddings, anniversaries, and births are always welcome. Please include your name, class year, address, and daytime telephone number. Letters to the editor may be edited for length and clarity.

WRITE TO:

Editor: *Washburn Lawyer*

Washburn University School of Law

Alumni Services

1700 SW College Ave.

Topeka, KS 66621

Telephone: 785.670.2013

Fax: 785.670.3249

E-mail: alumni@washburnlaw.edu

Web: washburnlaw.edu/alumni

DEAN'S LETTER

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

– BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (1706-1790)

Education has changed greatly in recent years, and law school teaching is no different. In this issue of the *Washburn Lawyer*, you will read about innovative and interactive programs that are being implemented at Washburn Law to enhance student learning:

- Two professors are using a flipped classroom technique, where students prepare for class by watching a recorded lecture; class time is then devoted to interactive discussion as a class and in small groups.
- Several faculty members incorporate audio, visual, and hands-on learning methods to help students learn and retain knowledge, skills, and values.
- Other professors require students to write bar exam essays on class topics, replace textbooks with primary documents needed to walk through a transaction from start to finish, or bring practitioners into the classroom to work through real-world problems.

Professor Rory Bahadur exemplifies our emphasis on quality teaching that puts students first. This fall we celebrated Rory's selection by the authors of *What the Best Law Teachers Do* (Harvard University Press, 2013) as one of the top 26 law teachers in the United States.

While our law school building has served us well since 1969, high-quality teaching and innovative methods of instruction require a modern and flexible learning environment. Smaller, more flexible teaching spaces are needed to assist faculty members in preparing graduates who are practice-ready.

On October 26, we officially launched our campaign to fund a new School of Law. Our campaign for \$34.5 million includes \$20 million for the new building, \$6 million for students, \$6 million for faculty and programs, and \$2.5 million for annual giving, and is a part of Washburn University's bold vision for future generations. Details can be found on pages 30-31.

The university's campaign, 150 Forward: The Campaign for Washburn University, was launched at the same time, and is a \$100 million initiative to support scholarships, faculty development and programs, campus spaces, and annual giving.

Adapting current teaching methods that give students the opportunity to engage in active learning helps us take the "best and brightest" students and turn them into graduates who are well-educated and ready to practice the day they leave Washburn Law. Your support of the law school continues to make this goal a reality.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. ROMIG

Dean and Professor of Law

Washburn Lawyer is published twice yearly by Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kan. Opinions expressed and positions advocated herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the policies of the school.

© 2014 Washburn University School of Law
All rights reserved.