



WCWU Spring 2022 Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRSIDENT

Dear Friends,

In my second newsletter the words **Resilient, Resourceful, Re-adaptable**, are still guiding us as we prepare our spring activities. **Our mission** is to provide opportunities for friendship, learning, and service to our members and to the broader Washington University community.



In spite of the challenges we faced for the last two years, we took advantage of technology, such as Zoom, to get things done virtually when in-person meetings were impossible because of the pandemic. Be assured that our personal health and safety are the most important considerations for us and WU, as we move to host our Spring Symposium Luncheon and Annual Meeting on Friday, April 29, 2022. A full description and more details about this event are also in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you in person or by livestream and hope you can make it!

The handbook is our source for all information and activities of the WCWU. This important publication is going to be ONLINE for the 2022-2023 year! The executive and full Boards, along with our wonderful new Coordinator, Laura Vetter, are committed to ushering in this transition very carefully. We will assure EVERYONE is able to access the handbook and our password-protected membership list, when needed. We have created a special committee to assist members with any technical needs. Just reach out to Laura if you need help.

Executive Committee

Carmen S. Dence
President

Paulina Conner
Vice President

Jane Schaefer
Director, Educational
Programming

Nancy Thompson
Director, Membership

Sarah Fowler-Dixon
Director, Communications

Barbara Feiner
Director, Service to the
University

Elena Maksaeva
Director, Symposium
Luncheons

Linda Smith
Director of Finance

Connie Stout
Recording Secretary

Lisa Schmidt
Treasurer

Judith H. Joerding
Immediate Past President

Laura Vetter
Coordinator
(314) 935-6013

I trust you were able to attend our online RZW Scholarship Endowment event in late January, where our Club granted five scholarships to deserving University College WU students! What a great amount of behind the scenes work was done by our executive committee, chairs of events and volunteers. I deeply thank all of our members!

I encourage you to join one or more of our fantastic special interest groups (SIG), and to share your talents and expertise with us! We can't do this without you! I close this message by encouraging self-approval, kindness and love for everyone. As we meditate about the spring equinox, let us feel revitalized by gentle rains and warmer temperatures, a time of balance and harmony, growth, new life and a fresh beginning!

With sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carmen S. Dence". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a double horizontal line.

Carmen S. Dence

Risa Zwerling Wrighton Scholarship Endowment Event

On January 28th, we gathered together via Zoom to celebrate our 2021-2022 Risa Zwerling Wrighton Scholars. While we were not able to see each other in person, we were glad to “see” each other virtually and hear from our scholars, and Risa Zwerling Wrighton. Raymond Arvidson, James S McDonnell Distinguished University Professor, Department of Earth and Planetary Science presented a talk on “The Mars Rover.” Dean of University College, Sean Armstrong and Senior Director of Student Engagement and Communications Andy Thorp also spoke about University College and how valuable the Risa Zwerling Wrighton Endowed Scholarship Program is to the non-traditional university student population.



The Risa Zwerling Wrighton Scholarship Endowment Event Committee consisted of Scholarship Director Linda Smith, Director of Symposium Luncheons Elena Maksaeva and Event Co-chairs Ellen Norris and Mary Johnson. They spent many hours and months planning the event and organizing the logistics, and we are grateful for their time and expertise. The event went off without a hitch with over 47 people joining in online.

A YouTube recording of the entire presentation is accessible by clicking [here](#).

RISA ZWERLING WRIGHTON SCHOLARS 2022-2023



Atlee Winningham

Major: B.S. Integrated Studies (Professional Track)

2nd Major: Certificate in Business

Hometown: High Ridge, MO

Year: Junior

As a first generation college student, attending University seemed like an unachievable goal for me. I am so very proud and thankful to receive this scholarship, which allows me to add credits to each semester, and achieve my goal of obtaining my B.S. faster. I've had to work very hard with little family support my entire life, and receiving the support, both financial and encouragement, from this scholarship has uplifted me and given me more self-confidence as I continue working hard toward my goal.

As a gender diverse and queer person, I am passionate about helping my community, specifically removing barriers to healthcare. I am currently working for a tele-medicine based gender care clinic, bringing gender affirming healthcare to individuals in over 33 states in the US. My education at WashU is helping me help others. My goal is to obtain a Director of Quality and Research position with my current company and elevate the care we provide to our patients even further, as well as directly impact the lives of all gender diverse people with by sharing our research with other healthcare providers so they may better care for their gender diverse patients. We must work to lift each other higher and protect each other in any way we can.



Birdie Wilde

Major: Industrial and Organizational Psychology

Minor: Certificate in Somatic Studies

Hometown: Bonita, CA

Year: Junior

I am so grateful for this scholarship; it changed my timeline from 10 years to 5 to finish my degree. I'm a single mom and working multiple jobs to support my kids, and I had to take classes here and there to fit into my schedule, but being able to afford two classes at a time has completely changed my life to know I'll be done in half the time. I've had a lot of setbacks and career resets because of kids and financial hardships, and I am grateful to finally have someone in my corner to help me finish this chapter and get my undergrad degree before I'm 40.

I am passionate about creating equity and a better workplace for women and gender-nonconforming individuals. Wash U is unique because I can combine my previous experience in Somatic Studies with a degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, which are the two fields I wish to combine in my future career.



Brandon Byrd

Major: BS - Global Leadership and Management

Hometown: Lake St. Louis, MO

Year: Sophomore

I am sincerely grateful to be chosen as the recipient of the Risa Zwerling Wrighton Woman's Club Endowed Scholarship. Thank you for your generosity, which has allowed me to take an additional course for each semester during 2021-2022 school year. As I work to complete my education, I am grateful of receiving your thoughtful gift.

I have always been passionate about helping individuals obtain and maintain employment. By working as a recruiter I am able to coach and encourage individuals meet their career goals. Members of the Washington University staff have been encouraging and provide feedback regarding the pursuit of my bachelors degree.



Catie Fisher

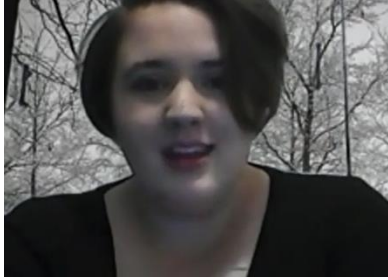
Major: Psychological & Brain Sciences

Hometown: Chesterfield, MO

Year: Senior

I am sincerely honored to be a recipient of the Risa Zwerling Wrighton Woman's Club Scholarship. When I started at WashU in 2020, I was very unsure of my future. I didn't know if I would be able to succeed at WashU, I was uncertain if making this major career move would be worth it, and I was unsure if the Psychological & Brain Sciences program was the right path for me. It has now been almost two years, and I couldn't be more sure of my future and my ability to succeed. Attending WashU has given me the confidence, knowledge, and strength to pursue a career that I am passionate about and a career that will impact many lives. I have worked very hard to make this dream a reality, and I am so grateful that you recognized my achievements and rewarded me with the gift of this scholarship.

I am very passionate about mental health, treatment for mental disorders, and mental health advocacy. I come from a diverse background. I have a B.A. in Art History, worked as a travel agent, and worked in human resources for several years. However, I was never truly happy at these jobs and always felt that they weren't right for me. After having to quit my job as a human resources specialist due to severe depression, I decided to stop and reevaluate my life, what I am passionate about, and what I wanted to do for a career. There, at the lowest point in my life, I turned inward and realized the path had been there all along. I struggle with several mental health issues, and after years of treatments, therapies, doctors, and medications, I finally recognized that what I had always thought of as my greatest weakness could be my greatest strength. Finding the Psychological & Brain Sciences program at WashU has not only helped my mental health personally, but it has also helped me grow in my passion for mental health and realize that I want to work in the mental health field.



Kiersten Connolly

Major: Integrated Studies with a focus in psychology

Minor: Forensic psychology

Hometown: Alton, IL

Year: Junior

I would like to thank the Woman's Club for allowing me this opportunity to continue my education. Being a single mom, without the opportunity given to me by scholarships, going back to school would be nearly impossible. This support means a better life for me and for my son. I would like to thank the Women's Club for sponsoring me and my son's future.

I am passionate about mental health. Through WashU I am able to advocate for mental health while also gaining an interesting prospective of how the human mind works. From research opportunities to my courses and volunteer work, here at Washington University I've been allowed to fully immerse myself into my understanding of mental health.

[The Risa Zwerling Wrighton Endowed Scholarships](#) are funded by members of the Woman's Club through donations made specifically to the endowed fund. Members can indicate a donation, in addition to their membership contribution, when they renew their membership or at any time during the year. Donations can be made online or by check mailed to the WCWU office. The scholars are also supported by the [Connect-4-Success](#) group consisting of Woman's Club members Jennifer Luner, Linda Smith, Judy Joerding and Karen Johnson Fields. They make themselves available to the scholars for mentoring, networking, and support.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Linda Smith

by Suzanne Doyle

Linda Smith can see the Arch from the eastward-facing windows in her eighth floor Clayton condominium and can almost see her oldest son Jason and his wife Carrie's apartment, an easily walkable distance south. The home office she shares with her husband Richard, the dining area, living room and open kitchen are awash in light mornings and midday, brightening the works of art and craft Linda has carefully selected and placed—except when she has enticed the artisans to visit her home of fifteen years to install their work themselves. (She purchased several pieces from the St. Louis Art Fair, also visible every September and less than a block from the Smiths' condo.)



Linda was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, where she attended Brooklyn College and met her husband of more than fifty years, marrying when she was not yet twenty. The two pursued their educations almost in tandem on the East Coast: In Massachusetts Richard completed dental school while Linda earned her master's degree in education. Then they moved to Connecticut where Richard pursued his graduate work in orthodontics, followed by his Ph.D. at Yale in anthropology while Linda attained her doctorate in educational psychology at the University of Connecticut. She focused on the education of gifted children in Connecticut, then in St. Louis. First, beginning when her sons, Jason (now 46) and Owen (45), were young, she and her graduate advisor, Joseph Renzulli, started a specialty publishing house. For seventeen years she was able to set her own work hours while furthering the field of gifted education, overseeing the production and distribution of the literature and traveling around the country co-leading workshops on methods to meet the particular needs of exceptional learners. Then 37 years ago when her youngest, daughter Hilary, was just six months old, the family moved to St. Louis where Richard had been recruited to chair the orthodontia department at Washington University. When the dental school was closed—a difficult endeavor, steered with finesse and generosity by Richard—he transferred to anthropology, a field he loves and has returned to teach again after chairing the department for fifteen years then serving as Dean of the Graduate School for six years. Now, after shepherding his last graduate students, he plans to join Linda in retirement next year.

The family lived in a lovely three-story house in Clayton for years as the children grew, and Richard established himself at Washington University. In characteristic fashion Linda decided to become more involved in the children's education by running for the Clayton School Board, on which she served for six years, finally as President. As the children were launched, architect Hilary to Orlando, litigator Owen to Chicago, and Jason nearby, Linda

dove deeper yet into her chosen field, becoming Director of what is now the largest gifted student program in Missouri in Rockwood School District—"a huge district spread over a wide territory."

It wasn't 'til after she retired from that position ten years ago that Linda joined the Woman's Club. Again, she has served in leadership roles, as Membership Chair, then for six years as Finance Director, and now Chair of the Risa Zwerling Wrighton Endowed Scholarship Fund, which she delightedly mentioned, has grown from \$50,000 to a half million dollars, helping to support five students. She also takes great pleasure from her work in the Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden. Living in a high-rise building, despite the beautiful views, deprives her of the opportunity to plunge her hands into garden dirt, and the gratification of fertile soil and a lush array of butterfly-luring flowers was deepened during the past years with outdoor conversations, gardener to gardener--"heaven during the pandemic [isolation]."

In addition to her several roles with the Woman's Club, Linda has occupied herself during the pandemic with baking—LOTS of baking—cakes mostly, received appreciatively by husband, Richard, and often shared with son, Jason, and his wife, Carrie. She experiences her baking as a creative endeavor; she combs through hundreds of recipes then researches techniques and ingredients and has already compiled her own pandemic cookbook. She enjoys visiting her and Richard's grandchildren in Chicago and her four-year-old granddaughter in Orlando where a second girl is eagerly anticipated in September. Linda and Richard find real meaning in sharing experiences with their family, especially on holidays, and dream of spending winter months some place warm when Richard's retirement allows. Linda assures us that she is not abandoning St. Louis, which she and Richard love, but broadening their world into further creative possibilities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING SYMPOSIUM LUNCHTIME LECTURE AND ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, April 29, 2022
11:00 – 2:00 p.m.

The St. Louis Club
Clayton's Pierre Laclede Center
Louisiana Room, 14th Floor
7701 Forsyth Blvd., Clayton, MO 63105

Part 1:

Woman's Club Annual Meeting and New Board Installation.

Part 2:

Speaker:

Andrew Martin

Chancellor and Professor of Law and Political Science
PhD, Washington University in St. Louis

Menu:

Roasted Sliced Turkey Breast Entrée Salad

Romaine heart lettuce, roasted tomatoes, bell peppers, avocados, root vegetables, orange segments & lemon Dijon vinaigrette

Triple Chocolate Mousse Terrine

White, milk and dark chocolate mousses, espresso sauce
Coffee, tea service

Parking is free under building - bring your ticket to the luncheon for validation.

Questions? Contact:

Barbara Bindler: (314) 432-4324, bgbindler@aol.com

Jennifer Luner: (314) 469-8668, jluner@charter.net

Please RSVP by Friday, April 22. The reservation form can be found on page 28 of the handbook. Please send the form and your check for \$38 to:

Woman's Club Coordinator
Washington University
7425 Forsyth Boulevard
MSC 1228
St. Louis, MO 63105

THE BIG DIG!
Tuesday, May 3, 2022
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Rain Date Wednesday May 4, 2022

The Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden is located on Forsyth Boulevard directly across from the Danforth University Center (DUC). Parking is available in the DUC's underground parking garage.

Come help us with our spring planting!

RSVP to Lee Anne Quatrano
(314) 322-3842 or lquatrano@gmail.com
Co-Chairs: Lee Anne Quatrano, Elena Maksaeva

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TRANSITION MEETING

All Current and New Board Members

Thursday, May 26, 2021, 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.
West Campus, Room 350

9:15 - 10:30 Final 2021-2022 Board Meeting
10:45 - 1:00 First 2022-2023 Board Meeting
Refreshments provided

RSVP by May 24, 2022 to
(314) 935-6013 or womansclub@wustl.edu

Questions: Contact Carmen Dence at: (314) 813-0325 or
carmensdence413@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The current membership of the Woman's Club stands at 162, down from 189 last year. Given we were not able to meet in person due to COVID-19, membership has declined but we hope to reinstate in-person events, enticing members back into the Club so that they can enjoy the interpersonal interactions which we have all missed so much. Membership renewal will begin in early May. *Online renewal is highly recommended.* Checks and mail in renewal forms may take longer to be processed due to hybrid schedules of Washington University staff. Forms to renew can be filled out online and members can pay with a credit card. It is easy and safe and information is protected by the Washington University data processing protocols. You may access the Woman's Club website at <https://womansclub.wustl.edu>.

If a member is hesitant to use the Woman's Club website to renew their membership, renewal forms can be mailed. Because of COVID restrictions, guest members from this past year, 2021-2022, will have their guest membership extended for the coming year, 2022-2023. If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact our Membership Chair, Nancy Thompson at bokunancy@gmail.com.

OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

Washington University in St. Louis has many opportunities for learning virtually. Please visit the following websites for more information:

Lifelong Learning Department: <https://osher.wustl.edu/>

Virtual Connections: <https://alumni.wustl.edu/events/>. These events require registration to receive a Zoom link.

The Brown School has a variety of presentations and webinars on the calendar. Visit <https://brownschool.wustl.edu/events/Pages/default.aspx> for a list of upcoming events, and to register.

For more events visit <https://atwashington.wustl.edu>

UPDATES

This year we have lost a few of our beloved members of the Woman's Club.

Gretchen Felix passed away on January 5, 2022. Her obituary can be viewed [here](#).

Elsie Glickert passed away on January 28, 2022. More information about Elsie can be found [here](#).

Sondra Wagner Ellis passed away on February 10, 2022. Her obituary can be viewed [here](#).

A contribution to Washington University's Olin Library will be made in memory of these valued members.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Our president, Carmen Sofia Dence, is a 2022 Missouri Arts Award honoree by the Missouri Art Council. Chosen because of her incredible contributions to Missouri's dance community for decades. She also founded the Grupo Atlantico in 1995 which she continues to direct. She will be receive the award at a ceremony on Wednesday, April 20 at 1:30 pm in Jefferson City. The ceremony is free and open to the public. You can find out more [here](#).
- Dvora Siegel and her husband, Jon, who have recently spent an extended amount of time in Europe, will be moving to Washington State soon.
- Cindy Kahn recently retired from her position with the Performance Arts Department at Washington University.
- The Galleries and Sights group attended a guided tour in November of the Missouri History Museum's exhibition on St. Louis Sound (which highlighted Josephine Baker and many other famous St. Louis Jazz musicians.) Over 20 members attended.
- Pat Sarantites reports that Mee Jay, a member of the International Women's group has received the St. Louis Visionary Emerging Artist Award for the year 2022. She is currently one of two community artists in residence at the Laumeier Sculpture Park for the year 2022.
- Jennifer Luner and husband Lee have been traveling a lot lately. They recently returned from a trip to the Galapagos Islands. Jennifer also went on her annual trip to Florida to root for the Cardinals during spring training.
- Galleries and Sights had a delightful visit in March to the Ethical Society to view the unique embroidered art exhibit created by Aaron Elliott McCallister. Afterwards the group of 18 people gathered together in a meeting room to enjoy coffee, cookies, cake and conversation.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our Woman's Club community!

Woman's Club of Washington University - Founded 1910

Washington University in St. Louis, MSC 1228
7425 Forsyth Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63105