



2025



WIFI's Mission

WIFI is dedicated to promoting and celebrating film production, stories from the Midwest, and education at Washburn University, in the Topeka community, and in the state of Kansas. Its leadership holds to the mission statement of Washburn University and sees WIFI as an organization that will allow the department to foster and engage in relationships that will enhance students' lives and help them in their development as productive and responsible citizens. At the core of WIFI's inception is the belief that cinema is one of the most democratic arts with its ability to reach large audiences on an accessible and inclusive level. Each year, the WIFI Film Festival adopts Washburn University's WUmester theme as a focal point for its panels, workshops, and featured directors.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 JUDGE PANEL

WIFI Judges

Thomas Prasch
Johnathan Hart
Lyll Ford
Pam Schmidt
Laura Stephenson
Kelly Erby
Andy Farkas
Leah Jamison
Christina Noland
Dean Krueger
Michael Kalas

Student Review

Sean Alen Little
Andrew Mosher
Taylor Romancheck
Miles Moore
Kayla Locke
Oliva Watson
Bailey Collar
Lilly Kobach
Morgan Albrecht
Gavin Gomez

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Cash or Checks are accepted at registration table.

Mail a tax-deductible contribution:

WIFI Film Festival
Mass Media Department
1700 SW College Ave.
Topeka, KS 66621



Leadership



Charlize Easter

Charlize Easter is the **Event Lead Manager** for the festival where she focuses on assisting with press releases, promotional designs, content, and managing the judging and film schedule for the WIFI Film Festival.

Easter also works for Advisors Excel as an account management intern and is a member of Phi Kappa Phi.

Easter will graduate in May 2025 with her Bachelor of Arts degree in mass media, with a concentration in advertising and public relations, along with a double minor in Spanish and communication. She plans to pursue a career in book publication advertising and receive her SIELE certification.



Miles Moore

Miles Moore is the **Website Developer** for the festival, where he focuses on designing and maintaining the event's website, ensuring seamless user experience, optimizing site performance, and collaborating with the marketing team to integrate promotional content and design elements.

Moore will graduate in May 2025 with his Bachelor of Arts degree in mass media, with a concentration in advertising and public relations, along with a minor in music. He plans to pursue a career in digital marketing and project management.



Kayla Locke

Kayla Locke is the **Head of Design** for the festival where she leads the creative rebrand and oversees the creation of promotional materials, including signage, the festival program, social media graphics, and videos.

Locke also works for Advisors Excel as a graphic design production artist intern.

Locke is set to graduate in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mass media, with a concentration in advertising and public relations and a minor in communication.

Leadership



Ashley Heavner

Ashley Heavner is the **Publicist and Public Relations Strategist** for the festival where she focuses on assisting with press releases, arranging visits with local radio and TV shows, facilitating interviews with journalists, and helping create promotional designs and content ideas. Heavner also works at the Washburn Student Recreation and Wellness Center as a marketing assistant and is a student-athlete for the Washburn women's track team.

Heavner will graduate in May 2026 with her Bachelor of Arts degree in mass media with a concentration in advertising and public relations, along with her minor in leadership studies and general business.



Eli McDaniel

Eli McDaniel is the **Creative Social Media Director** for the 2025 WIFI Film Festival. His work includes brainstorming creative content and running social media platforms for the WIFI Film Festival. Eli will graduate in the Spring of 2026 with a Mass Media, Advertisement, and P.R. Bachelors degree. As well as minors in both History and Psychology.

Eli also freelances in photography & videography. His work in these fields gave him a keen eye and mind for creativity. He just recently started working with the Washburn University Football team, making engaging and creative content for its social media platforms.



Skyler Smith

Skyler Smith is the **Video Production Lead** and Streaming Manager for the festival where he creates promotional videos and the highly anticipated Award Show. Smith is also the current president of the Washburn Filmmakers Association and works for Peraton as a technical videographer and editor intern.

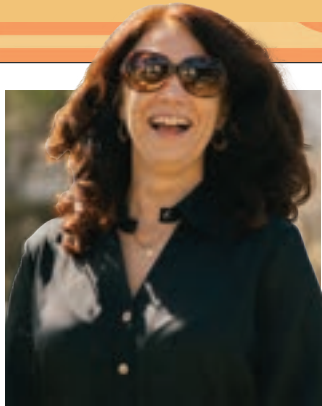
Smith will graduate in May 2025 with his Bachelor of Arts degree in mass media, with a concentration in film and video, along with a minor in game design. He plans to pursue a career in film and television.

2025 WIFI Leadership



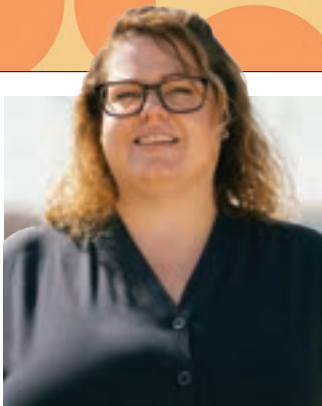
Matthew Nyquist

Matthew Nyquist is the **Founding Executive Director** of the WIFI Film Festival as well as a writer and director from Lindsborg, KS. He has been obsessed with making movies since he began directing using the family camcorder in Kindergarten. Matthew has extensive experience in many aspects of filmmaking from his time in Hollywood ranging from indie to studio productions. He was mentored in producing working with Fred Roos (The Godfather Part II, Star Wars) and in sound by Dane Davis (The Matrix, Suicide Squad) after getting his MFA in film and TV production from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. He is currently in pre-production on his feature film debut *Eyes Open*, which he wrote with his wife, Dr. Tara Nyquist, and is the founder and host of The Game Show podcast on BreakmanX.com which has recently been rebooted after running for ten years in its original run.



Maria Stover

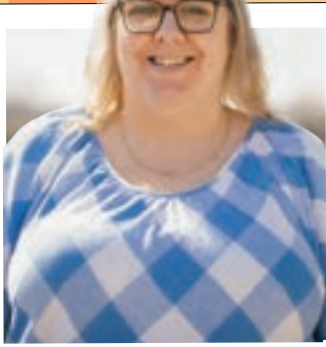
Managing Director Maria Stover is currently the chair and a professor in the Department of Mass Media at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, where she has taught since 2003. Stover's scholarly work focuses on women in politics in Eastern European countries and she is most known for her book, an edited collection called *Media and Women in Politics: Perspectives from nations in Transitions*.



Kristen Grimmer

Public Relations Director Kristen Grimmer, Ph.D., is an associate professor and chair for the Department of Mass Media at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. Grimmer teaches in the Advertising & Public Relations concentration and her scholarly research is focused on what the media teaches young adults, particularly in areas of gender and sexuality. Grimmer holds a Ph.D. in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas, an MSJ from the same institution, and a Bachelor of Arts in mass media from Washburn University.

Leadership



Regina Cassell

Print Director Regina Cassell is a senior lecturer in the Department of Mass Media and is also the Director of Student Media at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, where she has taught since 2003. Prior to teaching, Cassell was a publication specialist for the Washburn Alumni Association for almost three years.

Cassell holds a Master of Science in journalism from the University of Kansas at Lawrence, and a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Missouri.



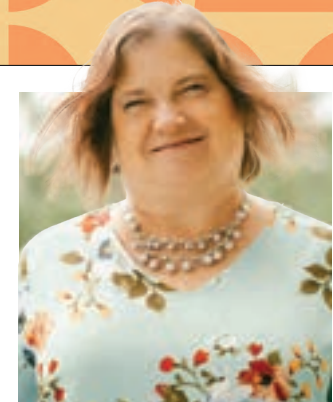
Sam Finch

Content Director Sam Finch is a lecturer in the Department of Mass Media at Washburn University. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Telecommunications from Michigan State University and a Master's degree in Film Theory and Criticism from Central Michigan University. Finch lived in South Korea where he taught English as a second language for 11 years. He has also worked professionally as a videographer and video editor. Finch teaches courses in screenwriting, film and video techniques, video editing, documentary filmmaking, and more.



Dean Krueger

Dean Krueger is a visual artist focused on comics and animation from Illinois. He recently completed his thesis work, a short film revolving around robots that struggle to keep their daily lives together. All types of media inform his practice, with a keen interest in foreign graphic novels, animation, and vintage electronic music. When he is not drawing or enjoying one of the three things mentioned above, he is teaching as a Lecturer of Mass Media at the wonderful Washburn University.



Tracy Horacek

Tracy Horacek is the office coordinator for the Department of Mass Media at Washburn University. Horacek has several years of experience in running an office and her expertise in administration now keeps the department running smoothly. In addition, she brings a global perspective to her job, having lived in the Baden-Wurttemberg region of Germany for many years before moving to Topeka, Kansas.

WIFI Film Showings

Saturday, April 12

Topeka & Shawnee County Library

Marvin Auditorium



Nominated Films

Documentary Shorts (10:00 - 10:31 a.m.)

The Iceland Cycling Expedition: A Rigorous Journey to End Myeloma	United States	Run Time: 14:03	Director: <i>Petur Thor Ragnarsson & Heimir fReyr Hlööversson</i> Producer: <i>Sylvia Dsouza & Peter Anton & Jason Gregory London</i>
Echoes of Silk and Tides: An Ethnic Introspection	United States	Run Time: 14:59	Director: <i>Cynthia Cai</i> Producer: <i>Yunjie Chen</i>

Narrative Film Short (10:31 - 11:48 a.m.)

Popcorn	United States	Run Time: 5:44	Director: <i>Fangjian Li</i> Producer: <i>Xiaolin Mai</i>
Donor	United States	Run Time: 21:45	Director: <i>Wesley Boone</i> Producer: <i>Garrett Ahrens & Justus Boone</i>
In The Window Display	United States	Run Time: 21:34	Director: <i>Hannah Davis</i> Producer: <i>Emma Steenhard</i>
Happy Pals	United States	Run Time: 12:22	Director: <i>Ryan Palmer</i> Producer: <i>Annalea Fiachi & Bonnie Jean Tyer</i>
Smoothie	United States	Run Time: 15:00	Director: <i>Chris M Churchill</i> Producer: <i>Emily Railsback</i>



WIFI Film Showings

Saturday, April 12

Topeka & Shawnee County Library

Marvin Auditorium

International Narrative Short (11:48 a.m. - 12:01 p.m.)

The River	Italy	Run Time: 14:00	Director & Producer: <i>Alessio De Santis</i> Producer: <i>Fiorella Giuliano & Federico Ajmone Sessera</i>
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Washburn Students & Alumni (12:01 p.m. - 12:29 p.m.)

Edge of Oblivion	United States	Run Time: 12:03	Director & Producer: <i>Logan Bodenhamer</i> Producer: <i>Adin Replogle</i>
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Iron Warriors	United States	Run Time: 6:41	Director & Producer: <i>Andrew Mosher</i>
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The Getaway	United States	Run Time: 7:10	Director: <i>Jess Seidel</i> Producer: <i>Peter Blum & Perla Soto</i>
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Kansas High School Films (12:29 - 12:54 p.m.)

Bleach Boy	United States	Run Time: 14:00	Directors: <i>John Young & Asyiah Montes</i>
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Beyond the Truth	United States	Run Time: 9:37	Director & Producer: <i>Lilly McAlister</i>
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A Mistake You Can't Take Back	United States	Run Time: 1:26	Director & Producer: <i>Isaac Gorges</i>
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WIFI Film Showings

Saturday, April 12

Topeka & Shawnee County Library

Marvin Auditorium

Narrative Film Feature (12:54 - 2:10 p.m.)

Meet Me at Magic Hour

United States

Run Time: 01:16:27

Director & Producer:

Monica Honey

Producer: *Maria*

Victoria Savage

International Documentary Feature (2:10 - 3:30 p.m.)

Dwarf Story

United Kingdom

Run Time: 01:20:17

Director: *Riccardo
Servini*

Producer: *Sophie
Harmer & Nick Taussig*

Documentary Feature (3:30 - 5:01 p.m.)

Ali Eats America

United States

Run Time: 01:30:36

Director: *Roush Niaghi
& Greg Morris*

Producer: *Eva Longoria
& Cris Abrego*

Animated Shorts (5:01 - 5:16 p.m.)

Tomte's Tulip

United States

Run Time: 5:46

Director & Producer:
Ellehcyne Jane Hallock

I, Herself

United Arab Emirates

Run Time: 4:59

Director & Producer:
Sahar Baniabbasi

Into the Reds Tale

United States

Run Time: 4:05

Director & Producer:
Alisdair Zhang



<https://www.facebook.com/WIFIFilmFestival>



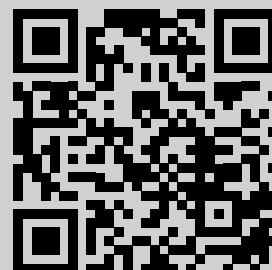
<https://twitter.com/wififestival>



<https://www.instagram.com/wififilmfestival>



<https://www.youtube.com/@wififilmfestival583>



WIFI Film Showings

Saturday, April 12

Washburn University - Henderson Building
Room 017

Nominated Films

Narrative Film Feature (10:00 - 11:22 a.m.)

My Heart Remembers	United States	Run Time: 01:21:43	Director: <i>Stephen Folker</i> Producer: <i>Melinda Myer, Melissa Lawrence, & Stephen Folker</i>
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International Documentary Feature (11:22 a.m. - 12:51 p.m.)

Know Her Name	Canada	Run Time: 01:30:00	Director & Producer: <i>Zainab Muse</i> Producer: <i>Heidi Lasi</i>
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Officially Selected

Narrative Film Short (12:51 - 1:40 p.m.)

#DadLife	United States	Run Time: 3:58	Director: <i>Scott May</i>
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Margot on a Run	United States	Run Time: 20:40	Director & Producer: <i>Andrew Sindt</i>
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The Fundamentals	United States	Run Time: 11:00	Director & Producer: <i>Kyle Yazzie</i> Producer: <i>Drew Clark</i>
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Grape Chapstick	United States	Run Time: 10:42	Director & Producer: <i>Lily Bella Joyce Tucker</i>
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Breathless	United States	Run Time: 2:45	Director & Producer: <i>Cole Campbell & Janel Barrier</i>
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WIFI Film Showings

Saturday, April 12

Washburn University - Henderson Building

Room 017

Officially Selected

Animated Short 1:40 - 2:00 p.m.

Engram

China

Run Time: 3:19

Director & Producer:
Yichen Wang

Gip and Geoffrey Go
For a Spin

United States

Run Time: 3:58

Director & Producer:
Elliot Wheat

Rack and Pinion Explain
It All for You

United States

Run Time: 12:53

Director & Producer:
Gordon LePage

WIFI Award Nominees

GOLDEN BOWTIE - BEST OVERALL FILM

Tomte's Tulip (5:46)

United States

Director & Producer: Ellehcyn Jane Hallock

Happy Pals (12:22)

United States

Director: Ryan Palmer

Producer: Annalea Fiachi & Bonnie Jean Tyer

Donor (21:45)

United States

Director: Wesley Boone

Producer: Garrett Ahrens & Justus Boone

GOLDEN ICHABOD - BEST WASHBURN FILM

Edge of Oblivion (12:03)

United States

Director & Producer: Logan Bodenhamer

Producer: Adin Replogle

Iron Warriors (6:41)

United States

Director & Producer: Andrew Mosher

The Getaway (7:10)

United States

Director: Jess Seidel

Producer: Peter Blum & Perla Soto

BEST DIRECTING - NARRATIVE

Happy Pals (12:22)

United States

Director: Ryan Palmer

Producer: Annalea Fiachi & Bonnie Jean Tyer

Smoothie (15:00)

United States

Director: Chris M Churchill

Producer: Emily Railsback

Donor (21:45)

United States

Director: Wesley Boone

Producer: Garrett Ahrens & Justus Boone

WIFI Award Nominees

BEST DIRECTING - DOCUMENTARY

The Iceland Cycling Expedition: A Rigorous Journey to End Myeloma (14:03)

United States

Director: Petur Thor Ragnarsson & Heimir fReyr Hlööversson

Producer: Sylvia Dsouza & Peter Anton & Jason Gregory London

Ali Eats America (01:30:36)

United States

Director: Roush Niaghi & Greg Morris

Producer: Eva Longoria & Cris Abrego

Dwarf Story (01:20:17)

United States

Director: Riccardo Servini

Producer: Sophie Harmer & Nick Taussig

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY - NARRATIVE

Popcorn (5:44)

United States

Director: Fangjian Li

Producer: Xiaolin Mai

The River (14:00)

Italy

Director & Producer: Alessio De Santis

Producer: Fiorella Giuliano & Federico Ajmone Sessera

Donor (21:45)

United States

Director: Wesley Boone

Producer: Garrett Ahrens & Justus Boone

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY - DOCUMENTARY

The Iceland Cycling Expedition: A Rigorous Journey to End Myeloma (14:03)

United States

Director: Petur Thor Ragnarsson & Heimir fReyr Hlööversson

Producer: Sylvia Dsouza & Peter Anton & Jason Gregory London

Ali Eats America (01:30:36)

United States

Director: Roush Niaghi & Greg Morris

Producer: Eva Longoria & Cris Abrego

Echoes of Silk and Tides: An Ethnic Introspection (14:59)

United States

Director: Cynthia Cai

Producer: Yunjie Chen

WIFI Award Nominees

BEST EDITING - NARRATIVE

Happy Pals (12:22)

United States

Director: Ryan Palmer

Producer: Annalea Fiachi & Bonnie Jean Tyer

Meet Me at Magic Hour (01:16:27)

United States

Director & Producer: Monica Honey

Producer: Maria Victoria Savage

Donor (21:45)

United States

Director: Wesley Boone

Producer: Garrett Ahrens & Justus Boone

BEST EDITING - DOCUMENTARY

Ali Eats America (01:30:36)

United States

Director: Roush Niaghi & Greg Morris

Producer: Eva Longoria & Cris Abrego

Echoes of Silk and Tides: An Ethnic Introspection (14:59)

United States

Director: Cynthia Cai

Producer: Yunjie Chen

Dwarf Story (01:20:17)

United States

Director: Riccardo Servini

Producer: Sophie Harmer & Nick Taussig

BEST SOUND DESIGN

I, Herself (4:59)

United Arab Emirates

Director & Producer: Sahar Baniabbasi

Happy Pals (12:22)

United States

Director: Ryan Palmer

Producer: Annalea Fiachi & Bonnie Jean Tyer

The River (14:00)

Italy

Director & Producer: Alessio De Santis

Producer: Fiorella Giuliano & Federico Ajmone Sessera

WIFI Award Nominees

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR

Happy Pals (12:22)

United States

Director: Ryan Palmer

Producer: Annalea Fiachi & Bonnie Jean Tyer

Actor: Brandon J. Sommerville

Smoothie (15:00)

United States

Director: Chris M Churchill

Producer: Emily Railsback

Actor: Michael B Woods

Popcorn (5:44)

United States

Director: Fangjian Li

Producer: Xiaolin Mai

Actor: David Prottas

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS

Meet Me at Magic Hour (01:16:27)

United States

Director & Producer: Monica Honey

Producer: Maria Victoria Savage

Actress: Ace Dionne

Popcorn (5:44)

United States

Director: Fangjian Li

Producer: Xiaolin Mai

Actress: Kate Lanza

Donor (21:45)

United States

Director: Wesley Boone

Producer: Garrett Ahrens & Justus Boone

Actress: Gordy Cassel

WIFI Award Nominees

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN

Popcorn (5:44)

United States

Director: Fangjian Li

Producer: Xiaolin Mai

Edge of Oblivion (12:03)

United States

Director & Producer: Logan Bodenhamer

Producer: Adin Replogle

My Heart Remembers (01:21:43)

United States

Director & Producer: Stephen Folker

Producer: Melinda Myers & Melissa Lawrence

BEST COSTUME DESIGN

In The Window Display (21:34)

United States

Director: Hannah Davis

Producer: Emma Steenhard

Happy Pals (12:22)

United States

Director: Ryan Palmer

Producer: Annalea Fiachi & Bonnie Jean Tyer

Meet Me at Magic Hour (01:16:27)

United States

Director & Producer: Monica Honey

Producer: Maria Victoria Savage

BEST ANIMATED SHORT

Into the Reds Tale (4:05)

United States

Director & Producer: Alisdair Zhang

I, Herself (4:59)

United Arab Emirates

Director & Producer: Sahar Baniabbasi

Tomte's Tulip (5:46)

United States

Director & Producer: Ellehcyn Jane Hallock

WIFI Award Nominees

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT IN SOCIAL PROGRESS THROUGH FILM

Know Her Name (01:30:00)

Canada

Director & Producer: Zainab Muse

Producer: Heidi Lasi

Dwarf Story (01:20:17)

United States

Director: Riccardo Servini

Producer: Sophie Harmer & Nick Taussig

The Iceland Cycling Expedition: A Rigorous Journey to End Myeloma (14:03)

United States

Director: Petur Thor Ragnarsson & Heimir fReyr Hlööversson

Producer: Sylvia Dsouza & Peter Anton & Jason Gregory London

EXCELLENCE IN TITLE DESIGN

Ali Eats America (01:30:36)

United States

Director: Roush Niaghi & Greg Morris

Producer: Eva Longoria & Cris Abrego

Edge of Oblivion (12:03)

United States

Director & Producer: Logan Bodenhamer

Producer: Adin Replogle

Donor (21:45)

United States

Director: Wesley Boone

Producer: Garrett Ahrens & Justus Boone

BEST FILM BY A KANSAS MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Bleach Boy (14:00)

United States

Directors: John Young & Asyiah Montes

Beyond the Truth (9:37)

United States

Director & Producer: Lilly McAlister

A Mistake You Can't Take Back (1:26)

United States

Director & Producer: Isaac Gorges