



BRECK WASHAM WANTS TO SEE YOU AT OGS WEEKEND

OGS executive committee chair **Breck Washam**, ME'90, can trace the origins of his faith in philanthropy to the day he learned the scholarship that funded his education had been endowed by Lewis Young, who, in 1907, was appointed to lead what is today Missouri S&T at just 28 years old. Soon after, when he allowed students to celebrate the first-ever St. Pat's, Young became the original Honorary Knight of St. Patrick.

Following the example of his mentor, OGS member **Bob Berry**, CE'72, who hired him at Burns & McDonnell in 1990, Washam has contributed ever since to the scholarship Young endowed — giving back what he says was so graciously given to him. He's also followed in Berry's footsteps professionally, now serving as senior vice president and Midwest Region general manager of Burns & McDonnell, where he's recognized as a down-to-earth leader and a lifelong learner.

In addition to his role as chair, Washam has served S&T as an area director for the Miner Alumni Association, a member of the S&T Board of Trustees and past president of the Missouri S&T Academy of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. He joined OGS in 2010 with his wife, **Ruth Ann**, and became chair in 2025.

OGS WEEKEND

June 4–6, 2026
Dallas



Q&A:

Q: What inspired you to chair OGS?

Washam: It's simple. I think those of us who have benefited from S&T have a duty to sustain and advance the school that created the foundation for our success. Groups like OGS are a great way to do that. I want to promote and shepherd the OGS giving-back spirit.

Q: What would you say to S&T benefactors who are considering OGS?

Washam: Please join us! Membership offers an up-close view of what's possible when we invest in something larger than ourselves. There's a great camaraderie that comes from helping our university produce the world-class innovators our industries and communities need.

Q: What do you enjoy most about OGS?

Washam: The people. Everyone has a unique story, but we're all committed to ensuring S&T continues to thrive and be recognized. OGS is a great place to remind ourselves how important it is to help students succeed. Being a member is also how I honor the alumni who shaped my life.

Q: What are your goals?

Washam: My immediate goals are to strengthen engagement with OGS members and raise awareness of how we can help S&T. I also want to honor the shillelagh, a traditional Irish walking stick that symbolizes support, strength and guidance. Golden reflects generosity and enduring value — the idea that those who came before us pave the way for those who follow.

Q: What's the role of philanthropy in higher education?

Washam: Philanthropy bridges the gap between possible and probable. It's fueling innovation, improving access and helping ensure that we adapt to new challenges.

Q: What's in store for OGS Weekend, coming up June 4–6 in Dallas?

Washam: A fantastic blend of camaraderie, celebration, connection and inspiration. In fact, OGS Weekend was just recognized by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education as an outstanding multiday, in-person special event. In Dallas, we'll visit unique attractions, connect with old friends, make new friends, share ideas and learn about the incredible progress S&T is making. We'll celebrate our shared commitment and purpose as we recognize the work of many of our members. Personally, I'm always re-energized after an OGS Weekend.

Q: What makes Missouri S&T a good investment?

Washam: Our students hit the ground running. Employers know Miners bring technical expertise and hands-on problem-solving mindsets on their first day. Supporting S&T is an investment in the people and programs that prepare those innovators and leaders. Whether people give their time, talent or treasure, Missouri S&T is a solid investment in the future.

Breck Washam,
OGS executive
committee chair



Register for OGS Weekend at
mineralumni.com/OGSWeekend
by Sunday, May 10.

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