

# BEYOND STEPHENS



ISSUE 12

SPRING | SUMMER | 2017



2

3

11



16

18



4

6



8

12

in this issue

## From Dianne

Stephens President Dianne Lynch guides you through your magazine.

## A Closer Look

Stephens College by the numbers!

## Point of View

You asked for it, you got it: Stephens has a new Stephens Alumnae Recruitment program.

## The Stephens College Mission

Stephens unveils new Mission, Vision and Values statements.

## News & Notes

Class Notes \* Remembrances \* Club Notes

features

## Suite Dreams

Pick your room! Stephens launches a campaign for residence hall furniture.

## My Yap Year

Intrepid traveler: The latest adventure of **Joyce McClure '69** has taken her to the island of Yap.

## In Celebrity Company

**Shelby McCoy '15** works with the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales.

## 60 Years of Magic

Where everybody is a star: The transformational power of Okobojo Summer Theatre.

# From Dianne



The 2017 *Ten Ideals* after their unveiling at the annual Honors Convocation in April. Pictured (L-to-R): Support - **Morgan Daniels '17**, Intelligence - **Taylor Barber '17**, Leadership - **Aja Depass '17**, Respect - **Angela Meier '17**, Stephens President Dianne Lynch, Creativity - **Maddy Spall '17**, Responsibility - **Autumn Brown '17**, Independence - **Yonne Nasimiyu '17**, Sensitivity - **Jennifer Miller '17**, Courage - **Clara Bentz '17**, Belief - **Jennifer Zink '17**.

Greetings!

Summer here at Stephens brings a slower pace, a little more time to plan, perhaps even a few days of vacation or afternoons off. But for one group of faculty, staff and students, June has nothing to do with relaxation. For the Stephens folks who live, breathe, eat and dream theatre, summer means just one thing: It's all about Okoboji.

It's hard to explain to the uninitiated what Okoboji is all about. As a new president in 2009, I wondered that myself: Where is Okoboji, Iowa, anyway? Why transplant our theatre program to Iowa when we have a perfectly lovely, largely empty campus right here in Columbia? I decided to visit 'Boji to find out. I sat in on one show being blocked, another in rehearsal, and another on the mainstage. I visited the costume shop, and the tech shop, and the first run-through of the Bantam children's show. I watched the star of the mainstage take her final bows at 10 p.m., and be back at 8 the next morning as part of the tech crew, building sets.

And I understood: 'Boji is a place where memories are made, where lives are transformed, where students discover what they are capable of doing, and being, and becoming. It's why we've recommitted to 'Boji, why—thanks to the support of our generous donors and community—we're creating an artists' village of "tiny homes." And it's why I invite you to consider joining us this summer to celebrate the 60th birthday of this extraordinary program. Even if you can't be a part of it, I know you'll enjoy reading about it in our feature on page 12. I hope it will inspire you to consider contributing, so that future generations of Stephens stars can experience a 'Boji summer.

And speaking of stars, they are shining bright in this magazine issue: You'll be inspired by the adventurous spirit of **Joyce McClure '69**, enthralled by the career of **Shelby McCoy '15** (who doesn't love the Clydesdales?), and excited (we hope!) to join your fellow alumnae in claiming your dorm room and pitching in to help provide our current students with new furnishings in our Suite Dreams campaign. And you're going to love the updates and news about your friends and classmates (which we know is actually your favorite part of every issue!).

I hope you enjoy every story, every photo, every memory of your very favorite little women's college. See you at 'Boji!

Enjoy!

Dr. Dianne Lynch, Stephens College President

## Beyond Stephens Spring/Summer 2017 Vol. 7, No. 1

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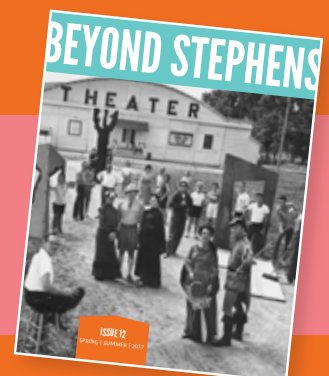
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### ABOUT THE COVER:

The Okoboji Summer Theatre lot in Spirit Lake, Iowa, circa early 1960s. Pictured seated is Bill West, a major force at OST from 1958 to 1979.



# A Closer Look

A quick dose of Stephens fun facts and interesting stats.



## 1958

The year in which Okoboji Summer Theatre (OST) opened in Spirit Lake, Iowa. Before purchasing OST outright, Stephens College originally leased the theatre, which had been converted from a vacant airplane hangar into a theatre by Grinnell College. Today, OST is recognized as one of the longest-running summer stock theatre programs in the country. Read about the remarkable success of the theatre and its 60th anniversary on page 12.

## 10th

### CITIZEN JANE 10th FILM FESTIVAL

Anniversary the Citizen Jane Film Festival will celebrate this fall (Oct. 26-29). Since its inception in 2008, Citizen Jane—dubbed as independent film by independent women—has celebrated and showcased the works of women filmmakers from around the world. *MovieMaker Magazine* notably named the festival among its "50 Films Worth the Entry Fee" (2016 and 2017) and "Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World" (2015).



## 1st

College in the nation to offer a varsity collegiate all-women's esports team. Beginning this fall, the Stephens six-player team will compete in the game "Overwatch," which was selected for its diverse and strong female characters. Partial athletic scholarships are available for eligible students.



## 1st

Place that the 2016 *Harbinger*, "Girls Like Us," won in Sigma Tau Delta's Outstanding Literary Arts Journal Awards. The student literary magazine is no stranger to the award given annually by the international English honor society. In seven years, *Harbinger* has received top honors five times.

## \$20,000

Amount of money raised by this spring's "Make A Joyful Noise" benefit concert for the Stephens College Chapel organ. An audience of over 150 people enjoyed selections played by world-renowned organist Haig Mardirosoian, with performances by Trent Rash, tenor, and Darrell Jordan, baritone; the Prairie Strings Quartet; and the Stephens College Concert Choir. The concert was made possible through the support of **Margaret Lynn Koegle '48**, whose donation enabled necessary interim repairs to the organ. The College's goal is to raise \$190,000 to restore the 60-year-old Aeolian-Skinner 1186 to its original splendor. To donate to the organ restoration project, please email [giving@stephens.edu](mailto:giving@stephens.edu) or call (573) 876-7110.



## Suite Dreams

Replacing the dorm furniture,  
keeping the memories.

Home away from home. That was your college dorm room. The place you came home to after a long day in the classroom, in the lab, backstage or down at the barn. The place where you laughed, cried, sympathized and celebrated.

Every year, generation after generation, Stephens welcomes new students into our dorm rooms, where they do so much more than sleep. They (like you) make lifelong friends there, and some of their most cherished memories.

The beautiful historic halls of the North Residential Quad date back to as early as the 1930s with the opening of Tower Hall and North Hall (now Roblee). Since then, Stephens has provided many refurbishments and technology upgrades, but the furniture itself has not been updated since the 1970s. Now we're introducing the Suite Dreams campaign to help Stephens replace and update the dorm furniture throughout the North Residential Quad.

"The Suite Dreams campaign gives us a moment to pause and remember just how dear our Stephens memories are to us," says **Dr. Leslie Swanda Willey '83**, vice president for academic affairs. "For the

first time, I took a new look at the current furniture, and I realized, 'yes, that's the furniture I had.' I thought about all the amazing memories, the late nights, the lifelong friendships, and the transformational quality of the college experience, but I also thought 'you know, it really is time to update this.'"

"Dorm life is the constant," she says. "The rules have relaxed, majors may have changed, Columbia has grown, but we all remember the friends we made in those dorm rooms. This campaign is a great way to celebrate that."

Through the Suite Dreams campaign, Stephens alumnae, friends and supporters can sponsor a set of furniture for \$3,000 in the room of their choice, says Meichele Foster, vice president for institutional advancement and initiatives. The gift will be recognized with a plaque inside the room. A group of friends, or a club, can also give and be recognized. Honorary and memorial donations are accepted as well.

"I was thrilled to hear about this effort," says **Alissa Pei Gorham '08 B.S., '16 M.S.L.**, director of residence life and education at Stephens. "I know it will



make a big impact on all of our students. It's hard to move away from home, and for many of us, live with someone for the first time in a small space. Little things like up-to-date furniture do make a difference."

She says that the newly furnished rooms will have a new junior loft design, which gives students a lot of options.

"It's slightly more raised than the usual bed, so this practical choice will give students a lot of flexibility for storage underneath," Gorham says.

"Part of our job is helping students feel welcome," says **Cara Vignola '16**, a Stephens graduate resident. "New furniture will go a long way. I have been amazed by how involved our alumnae are and how helpful they can be. When you see that an alumna has sponsored your furniture set, you stop and think about that. And you think about what you will do to give back some day."

Suite Dreams is modeled after Stephens' successful Room to Grow: The Campaign for Classrooms, which launched five years ago at a time when the College's classrooms needed an update. Teaching

technologies had evolved and students and teachers were asking for flexible learning spaces.

"Our alumnae stepped forward and generously gave to our Room to Grow campaign," Stephens President Dianne Lynch says. "Today, because of the generosity of our donors, our classrooms have the equipment and technologies they need to support 21st century learning. In that same spirit, we developed the Suite Dreams campaign because we know our alumnae will give their support again to ensure a quality student-life experience for our students."

The campaign, which launched in late April, is off to a strong start.

"Our Suite Dream campaign has sparked a lot of interest and elicited a lot of funny and touching stories about life in the Stephens dorms through the decades," Foster says. "We look forward to hearing from many more of our alumnae. Because in the end, that's what this is all about: Celebrating shared memories and ensuring today's students have the same wonderful experience as the Stephens women before them."

## Get Involved

Follow and share your dorm photos and memories with the #stephenssuitedreams hashtag or send to [scnews@stephens.edu](mailto:scnews@stephens.edu).

Sponsor a furniture set: Learn more at [stephens.edu/giving](http://stephens.edu/giving) or contact the Office of Institutional Advancement and Initiatives at (573) 876-7110 or [giving@stephens.edu](mailto:giving@stephens.edu).

## Suite Dreams Basics

- A \$3,000 donation sponsors one set of furniture.
- A furniture set includes a bed, four-drawer dresser, desk with hutch and desk chair.
- Two sets are available in each room.
- The campaign currently includes these North Residential Quad halls: Pillsbury, Prunty, Roblee, Searcy and Tower. (You can sponsor a set in any hall, regardless of where you lived!)
- To learn more, visit [stephens.edu/giving](http://stephens.edu/giving) and click on "Suite Dreams."

# My Yap Year

What's it called again? Yap. Y. A. P. Yap.

Where is it? In Micronesia.

Oh ... Indonesia.

No. Micro ... Micronesia.

For anyone traveling to the remote island of Yap in the western Pacific Ocean, most conversations begin this way. However, I remember learning about Yap as a child flipping through back issues of *National Geographic* in our living room in Corpus Christi, Texas. It was there that I saw photos of the immense discs of stone money used as currency; of bare-breasted women wearing colorful, hand-woven sarongs called lava lavas and grass skirts made of hibiscus fiber; and of men in elaborately wrapped loincloths dancing in a line to tell ancient stories and myths of their ancestors.

The Peace Corps sent me to Yap to work as a response volunteer with the Yap Visitors Bureau and the organizing committee of the 2018 Micronesian Games as a marketing consultant. Most volunteers are young and come for two-year assignments, living with local families in some of the more remote villages and outer islands. Response volunteers are older, many of them retired, with experience in business, education and medical professions.

My Peace Corps assignment was for one year, but I was forced to return home due to a medical condition. I later returned on my own and now work as an independent consultant with the Visitors Bureau, the MicroGames, as well as the Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Development Center.

Yap is one of four states in the Federated States of Micronesia. Its four main contiguous islands, seven outer islands and 134 atolls are spread across 100,000 square miles of open ocean just above the Equator. Only 22 of those coral outcroppings are home to a little more than 11,000 residents. I live in Colonia, the only town in Yap and the center of its government. The four islands make up 30.6 square miles of the total landmass of 45.9 square miles. The weather is tropical, which translates to hot and humid with little variance in the 87-degree average temperature.



I am often asked, "Why did you go back?" My answer is that I returned to continue a journey that I intend to take around the world. Along the way, I plan to stay in places that I have not yet identified and a few that I have. The Trans-Siberian Express beckons as does an ashram in Kerala, India; volunteering at a nonprofit serving women in Ladakh; friends who live in Tulum and Oaxaca, Mexico; and stops in-between in Morocco and Cadiz, Spain. Ambitious? Yes. Doable? We shall see.

When I was 11, my father accepted a two-year assignment in Iran as the manager of a major development project for the Shah. Although I had traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada by then, living in a very different culture provided me with a worldview and curiosity about other cultures that is at the heart of who I am.

As an adult, I traveled on several continents for business and pleasure but never lived outside the U.S. again. My purpose in accepting the assignment with the Peace Corps was to do just that. When I had to leave that service, I decided to return to complete my goal. If I don't do it now, at the age of 70, I never will, I reasoned.

I often hear friends and strangers alike say, "I would be so afraid to do what you're doing!" It's a phrase that my expat friends in Yap have heard, as well. Whether Australian, Croatian, Albanian or American, we share our dismay at those who call us "brave." Bravery, I say, is for those who race into burning buildings or go to war-torn countries to administer to the sick. Bravery has nothing to do with living in a very different culture. Rather, it has to do with the desire to understand how others live, how they think, how they believe, how they commune and thrive and celebrate. At the same time, I continue to learn about myself and what is important to me after giving up my New York City apartment, getting rid of my furniture, storing what remained in a friend's garage, and turning westward toward the unknown.

Read more about my time in Yap on my blog ([citycitations.blogspot.com](http://citycitations.blogspot.com)). And then challenge your own comfort zone and strike out on your own journey of discovery.

by Joyce McClure '69





# In Celebrity Company

Shelby McCoy '15 has a dream job with Anheuser-Busch.

Since the time she was a young girl, **Shelby McCoy '15** saw the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales as the celebrities of the horse world.

Today, she works as a handler for one of the traveling teams that takes care of the iconic gentle giants. Of her seven-member team stationed in Merrimack, N.H., McCoy is notably the only woman.

She credits Stephens with helping her dream up to land the position.

"I have never once been intimidated by the job," says McCoy, who graduated in 2015 with a degree in equestrian studies from Stephens College. "I had three years of support at Stephens College, where I was surrounded by people who told me over and over, 'You can do it!' All of those people helped me get to where I wanted to be."

In her role, she drives one of the team's three 50-foot tractor-trailers used to haul its 10 horses, the famous red, white and gold beer wagon and other essential equipment. On show days, which can last up to 12 hours long, she helps prepare the horses, wagon and Barley the Dalmatian. She also cleans the trucks, sorts equipment and ensures the Clydesdales are back in their stalls, brushed, fed and watered.

**Sara Linde Patel '02**, equestrian studies program coordinator and a hunter/jumper

instructor at Stephens, isn't surprised by McCoy's success.

"Shelby took advantage of every opportunity the equestrian program offers all its students," says Patel, adding McCoy had no qualms about joining the stable crew and working long hours. "She cleaned stalls, fed and watered the horses and worked during breaks."

So when McCoy later asked Patel for a letter of recommendation, she was more than happy to help her former student become a handler for a team of Budweiser Clydesdales.

"It was so easy to write about her passion, work ethic and love of horses," Patel says. "It was easy to say why Shelby would be phenomenal for the job."

The letter certainly helped, but so did McCoy's dogged determination.

Before securing her post with the Clydesdales, McCoy started her career with Anheuser-Busch straight out of college at Grant's Farm in St. Louis, the former Busch family estate and home to more than 100 species of animals.

In the beginning, McCoy worked in merchandizing but was soon outdoors mowing grass, all the while asking about jobs with the horses. Four months later, a full-time position opened with the Clydesdales. McCoy applied.

*continued on next page*

Pictured (top left): **Shelby McCoy '15** with the Clydesdales in Times Square. (Far left): A classic turn-of-the-century Budweiser beer wagon. (Left): McCoy and Sonny on graduation day.

The job was a dream come true for the horse lover, whose family settled in Marshall, Mo., when she was 13.

"I remember thinking, 'Man, nothing would be cooler than working with the Clydesdales,'" she says.

McCoy was 7 when she received her first horse, Pepper, a 30-year-old pony who lived on a farm in Kentucky where she was taking riding lessons. Though he appeared tall to young McCoy, Pepper was short for a pony. He had a dark reddish-brown coat peppered with white and a coal-black mane and tail.

Because her father was in the military, McCoy's family moved often. But riding horses gave her an instant connection, no matter where she lived.

"I really loved doing it and had a passion for it from the beginning," she says.

By age 10, McCoy was traveling to horse shows around the country to compete in Western-style riding events. She had a new Quarter Horse named Sonny, who she earned one summer in exchange for training, cleaning stalls and taking care of horses at a stable.

Years later, Sonny, a brown horse with white legs and a big personality, would come with McCoy to Stephens, where together they trained, and he lived in the campus stables. She still owns Sonny, who is spending his golden years at a private stable in Columbia.

As for her team of Clydesdales, McCoy loves them all, but she has a soft spot for a 7-year-old lead horse named Ivan. Like Sonny, he's a born star.

"When we're out showing, he likes to look at the crowds and shake his head," McCoy says. "He'll show his teeth, and people think he is smiling. Ivan has a sense of pride when we put on his harness. He holds his head high, snorts and says, 'I'm here to do my job!'"

Jeff Knapper, general manager of Clydesdale operations for Anheuser-Busch, says besides McCoy's team in New Hampshire, two other hitch teams are based in Fort Collins, Colo., and St. Louis. Each team is made up of seven employees.

"Because the Clydesdales are an enduring symbol of Budweiser's heritage, tradition and commitment to quality, we look for enthusiastic and passionate people who love horses and are also committed to providing quality care," Knapper says.

Each team member completes extensive training before joining one of the Clydesdales teams, which make hundreds of appearances each year and draw crowds wherever they go.

With her team, McCoy has traveled to such places as Game 7 of the 2016 World Series in Cleveland, where fans lined the streets for a chance to see the Clydesdales.

The team also appeared in New York City recently to reenact the delivery of beer to

local bars, marking the anniversary of the 1933 repeal of Prohibition.

"The more people who are there, the more excited the horses get," McCoy says. "They really like the attention; it's a lot of fun."

What McCoy likes best about working with horses is the unspoken bond that develops once she has earned their trust.

"I love being able to communicate without ever saying a word," she says. "Horses aren't like dogs and cats; they are mysterious and have a sense of wildness about them. You have to earn their respect and trust before having a great connection with them. What has always drawn me to horses is that quiet connection."



McCoy with her pony, Pepper.



## Investing in Tradition Equestrian Program

# Investing in Tradition. Securing Our Legacy.

In nine short years, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our equestrian program. Please join us in honoring that tradition as we work to secure our legacy for the next century.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can help the Stephens College equestrian program achieve new levels of excellence, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement and Initiatives at (573) 876-7110 or [giving@stephens.edu](mailto:giving@stephens.edu).

# Call to Action:

## Spread the word about Stephens

It's time to do more than simply read about happenings at Stephens College. You know Stephens is a great institution, but we need your help spreading the word to the world. If you don't let people know about Stephens, they're missing out on an experience that is life-changing and transformational ... **just look at you!**

We recently launched a new Alumnae Recruitment Program, which allows you to assist our Admissions team in connecting with future Stephens women. We do not expect you to be experts on the College, but you are a gatekeeper to an amazing, life-changing opportunity. You are our greatest creation, and we're proud of you!

Please consider showing your Stephens pride in three ways:

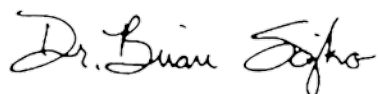
**Direct Contact with Students and Parents:** Engage with potential students to create interest and awareness of Stephens; share with us contact information of interested students, so that our Admissions team can follow up. Because research shows that women involve their parents in the college search process more than men, it's also great to speak with parents of potential students.

**Business and Relationship Development:** Seek out and build relationships with major influencers, so they can help promote Stephens to their constituent groups.

**Institutional Awareness:** Take every presented opportunity to talk about Stephens and increase awareness about the College's location and programs offered, share pictures, hand out materials, or extend invitations to attend campus events.

If you're interested in taking the next step with our Stephens Alumnae Recruitment Program, you can learn more at [stephens.edu/recruit](http://stephens.edu/recruit). The program was designed by the Admissions and Advancement teams in consultation with alumnae leaders and includes three levels. For each level, we'll send you the materials you need. This might include a packet of information for a prospective student you know (a niece, a neighbor, a friend, a coworker's daughter!), or you might have connections at your local high school or through a local group to which you belong. To get involved, please contact **Tiffany Bryden Goalder '06 B.S., '12 M.S.L.** at [tgoalder@stephens.edu](mailto:tgoalder@stephens.edu) or (800) 876-7207.

If you have a passion for your alma mater, please consider letting the world see it in this way.



—Dr. Brian Sajko, Vice President for Enrollment Management



Dr. Brian Sajko became vice president for enrollment management in Fall 2016. He brings to Stephens his more than 25 years of progressive leadership experience in enrollment management and higher education administration. He most recently served as vice president of enrollment and student success at Nebraska Methodist College. He earned a Ph.D. in Theatre from Bowling Green State University, an M.A. in Theatre Arts from the University of Minnesota and a B.A. in Theatre from the University of Dayton. He was a U.S. Senior Fulbright Scholar in residence at National Sun Yat-sen University in Taiwan in 2003.





## 60 Years of Magic

Celebrating Okoboji Summer Theatre, a place of transformative professional theatre.

Call it a magic formula for creating unforgettable memories: “Start with a group of eager college students. Add in a staff of dedicated artists and administrators; pour in a cornfield, thunderstorms, bonfires, late night techs and early morning focuses—and mix,” says **Jenny Friend Bolling '89** in describing her time at Okoboji Summer Theatre (OST).

“I spent 11 summers in this chemistry experiment both growing up myself and helping others to grow,” says Bolling, who works as the production stage manager for Children’s Theatre Company in Minneapolis.

Bolling is among the hundreds of Stephens theatre students who have grown from the transformational experience of OST, which is located in the northwest Iowa Great Lakes region. The professionally run theatre is owned and operated by Stephens College.

Stephens theatre students embark on a magical, whirlwind journey at ‘Boji—as its affectionately nicknamed—during their second and final summer of the three-year, two-summer B.F.A. theatre program.

The summer stock theatre provides students an experience unlike any other undergraduate theatre-training program in the country, contributing to the Stephens theatre program’s national recognition as the No. 6 “Best College Theatre,” according to *The Princeton Review*.

Serving as a true capstone experience for Stephens theatre students, OST trains students in every aspect of theatre, from acting and stage management to scenic, costume and lighting design.

“‘Boji challenges our students to apply all that they are learning in their undergraduate education with discipline and diligence within a high-stakes situation,” says Dr. Gail Humphries Mardirosian, the artistic director of OST, who also serves as Dean of the School of Performing Arts.

### **An experience like no other**

In 10 short weeks, theatre students work alongside professional guest actors, directors, choreographers and designers—under the supervision of theatre arts faculty and staff—to produce nine main-stage productions and four children’s theatre productions at ‘Boji.

A new play opens each Tuesday, running six days straight before the company strikes the set after Sunday evening’s show. While they are performing one show, the company spends each day balancing the demands of rehearsing lines, building sets and producing costumes for the next show. In the meantime, the Bantam Theatre Company rehearses lines, designs sets and lighting, and creates costumes for its own children’s theatre productions.

“There is no place like OST, no way to properly describe the hard and rewarding work that is performed on that lot summer after summer,” **Virginia Ris '99** says.

It’s impossible for students not to grow in such a demanding atmosphere, where they eat, sleep and breathe theatre.

“I wish my students had a place like OST where they could go and immerse themselves in theatre,” says **Dean Anthony '87**, who teaches theatre at State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota. “Working that hard toward the goal of producing great theatre week in and week out teaches life lessons that will help you no matter what field you eventually find yourself in.”

Anthony later returned to ‘Boji for nine seasons as a guest actor and witnessed firsthand the amazing transformation that students undergo during a time in their lives when they work harder than they ever have before.

“Being part of this community of professionals taught me at an early age the value of flexibility, teamwork, accountability, being prepared, taking feedback and the importance of being an upbeat and positive colleague,” **Rachel Gross '93** says. “‘Boji changed me for the better and 25 years later, I’m still benefiting from this gift.”

It’s a sentiment heard often:

“‘Boji taught me hard work is more important than talent ... whatever that is.”

“I learned to embrace fear and/or anxiety and not let it control you.”

### **A remarkable run of success**

Amazingly, since 1958, year after year, decade after decade, the OST Company successfully has produced tear-jerking, laughter-inducing and thought-provoking live theatre for sold-out audiences.

OST Executive Director **Ruth Ann Schulze Burke '86** looks forward to each new season with anticipation.

"Every summer is unique," she says. "It never gets old to see the whole company of artists and students bond together and create wonderful art and memories."

She's been involved with OST for nearly 20 years, previously serving as director of development.

"OST is a wonderful place of total immersion into the world of theatre for our students," says longtime Stephens theatre professor **Rob Doyen '69**, who is celebrating his 40th year at 'Boji this summer. "They remember and treasure their time at OST for a lifetime."

They remember the thrill of opening night. Watching the community come together under the awning. The traditional Fourth of July celebrations and the pig roasts on the theatre lot. And they always remember that bittersweet final strike.

Memories such as these are what Mardirosian believes will draw OST veterans and supporters back to 'Boji to help celebrate the theatre's 60th anniversary this summer.

### A time of celebration

Several special events have been planned to commemorate the historic 60th theatre season, including a special opening night event for the season's first show, Kander and Ebb's musical *The World Goes 'Round*, and a July celebration during the run of *Boeing-Boeing*, a popular farce.

Later this summer, OST patrons can look forward to Ernest Thompson's American

classic *On Golden Pond*, which won an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay in 1981.

As part of a project with Humanities Iowa, the renowned writer will visit OST, where he will participate in workshops, a talk-back and other special events.

"We anticipate a weekend of great celebration with the arrival of Ernest Thompson," Mardirosian says. "It's a time not to be missed."

More anniversary plans will unfold as the summer begins, so be sure to watch for updates (and to get your tickets!) on the 'Boji website: [okobojsummertheatre.org](http://okobojsummertheatre.org).

"We look forward to showing alumnae and friends so many things, both big changes and things that have stayed the same throughout the years," Burke says. "As for the new, we're creating a new approach to housing by investing in an artists' village with small cottages, funded by both our amazing alumnae and our loyal local theatre patrons."

She says that Stephens will never forget why 'Boji is so important.

"We'll never stop working so hard to bring great theatre to life, to give our students a transformative professional experience, or to create the family that generation after generation is OST."

What will always remain the same is the magical feeling that OST invokes for those who hold the place dear.

"I can say a tiny piece of heaven is in Iowa," Ris says.

## Reflections on 'Boji

Read many more memories: [okobojsummertheatre.org](http://okobojsummertheatre.org)

"The first day of the season is always thrilling when there is always a line of folks wanting their tickets at the box office."

—Michael Burke '86  
OST Director of Production and Operation

"Okoboji: A 1958 vision by Bill West, combining professional standards, a community-based focus, college support, a hard-working, fun-loving staff, and many, many talented students. We were well-prepared and well-fed, and did good work entertaining sell-out audiences. I never had an unhappy day at OST! Thanks to all those who have been to 'Boji over these 60 years! Here's to more pig roasts!"

—Addison Myers  
OST Executive Director (1980-97)



Key

Moments in

# 'Boji History

- 1963** Boji Bantam Theatre, the children's theatre, is constructed.
- 1964** The theatre is expanded by 100 seats to a capacity of 450.
- 1995** The THEATRE letters, absent for many years, are restored. The theatre receives a new roof.
- 2003-07** The theatre begins a five-year fundraising campaign, raising \$250,000. The complete makeover includes new carpeting, air conditioning, seats and lights.
- 2007** OST celebrates its 50th anniversary. The largest-ever theatre company includes 55 professional guest artists.
- 2008** Construction of the new Joan Bing Kirke Rehearsal Hall is completed; the Anne Thorne Weaver Patio is created and the Frances Shloss Green Room is renovated.
- 2010** "There's No Place Like Home" campaign begins to raise funds for new student housing.
- 2014** The first tiny homes are completed. Dr. Gail Humphries Mardirosian becomes dean of the Stephens College School of Performing Arts and co-artistic director at OST.

Join us under the awning!

Come celebrate our OST 60th season with us.

Get your tickets:

boxoffice@okobojsummertheatre.org

(712) 332-7773

okobojsummertheatre.org



# 1958

**The first season opens** with nine Stephens students and 11 faculty members.

1st Season Schedule:

The Reluctant Debutante  
Affairs of State  
The Chalk Garden  
Janus  
The Curious Savage  
The Mousetrap  
The Moon is Blue  
Threes A Family  
Bus Stop

# 2017

**Celebrating 60 years**

60th Season Schedule:

The World Goes 'Round  
Plaza Suite  
The Nerd  
Footloose  
Boeing-Boeing  
On Golden Pond  
Move Over, Mrs. Marleham  
Sylvia  
South Pacific

Learn more about OST history:  
[okobojsummertheatre.org](http://okobojsummertheatre.org)

# Tiny home

to honor memory of mother

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Helen's House



Some of the favorite memories held by **Sara Herrnstadt Crosby '76** as a student at Stephens were made in the summer of 1975 at Okoboji Summer Theatre.

Her parents, who lived three hours away in Ames, Iowa, never missed a show that season.

Crosby shared a love for theater with her family, especially her mom, Helen Herrnstadt, who acted and directed in productions for Iowa State University Theater and co-founded the Ames Women's Theatre in 1976.

So, when Crosby learned about the "There's No Place Like Home" campaign to create a theatre campus of tiny homes for guest artists and students at 'Boji, she knew she had found the perfect way to honor her mom, who passed away in 2015: Build a tiny home in her memory and call it Helen's House.

"It is the perfect way to celebrate my mother and the fact that she raised me to be a strong, savvy Stephens woman," Crosby says. "And it also recognizes her love of theater. Building this tiny house in her memory will be like passing it on to other young women."

The tiny homes are part of an artistic village concept and replaced the 1950s dormitory and the donated cottages used until recently.

Several years ago, a plan was adopted to create an artists' village with clusters of quaint tiny houses. The idea was to offer patrons, alumnae and alumni, and lovers of the arts an opportunity to support OST by sponsoring the construction of a tiny home. Donors select the design and color of their house and name it after someone special or an organization.

So far, three eight-bedroom and three four-bedroom homes have been built for students while five two-bedroom houses have gone up for guest artists. This summer, three more tiny homes for guest artists are scheduled to be built with a fourth foundation waiting for a donor.

But there are several phases to the project waiting for donor support. Ultimately, plans include nine more two-bedroom units and three four-bedroom units to complete the artists' village.

"We are confident that with everyone's support, we will make it to our goal," says Dr. Gail Humphries Mardirosian, Dean of the School of Performing Arts. "They say it takes a village, and we are indeed creating a village."

Crosby, who lives in Sioux Falls, S.D., and serves on the Stephens College Board of Trustees, said sponsoring a tiny home in her mother's name is a decision that has given her much joy.

"I believe the tiny houses are a fabulous way to revive the campus at Okoboji by making a place where everyone feels at home," she says.

# The Stephens College Mission:

Timeless commitment.  
Contemporary statement.

## Mission

Learn. Grow. Lead.

## Vision

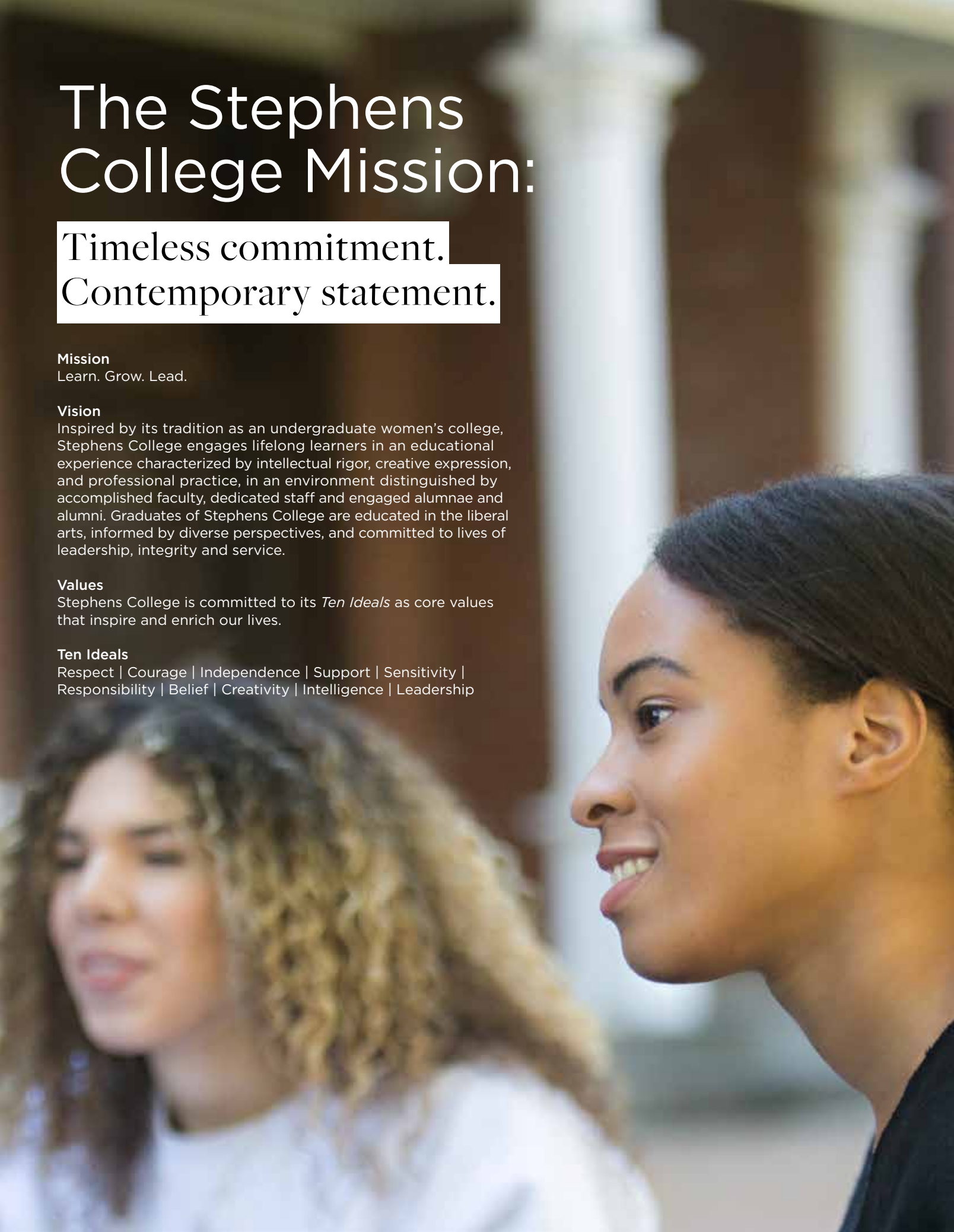
Inspired by its tradition as an undergraduate women's college, Stephens College engages lifelong learners in an educational experience characterized by intellectual rigor, creative expression, and professional practice, in an environment distinguished by accomplished faculty, dedicated staff and engaged alumnae and alumni. Graduates of Stephens College are educated in the liberal arts, informed by diverse perspectives, and committed to lives of leadership, integrity and service.

## Values

Stephens College is committed to its *Ten Ideals* as core values that inspire and enrich our lives.

## Ten Ideals

Respect | Courage | Independence | Support | Sensitivity |  
Responsibility | Belief | Creativity | Intelligence | Leadership



It has been more than 187 years since Lucy Ann Wales first stood before a classroom of eager young women. Since that day, Stephens College has evolved into an institution unlike any other in higher education. Innovative, independent and spirited, Stephens remains inspired by its unwavering dedication to women's undergraduate education—even as it has embraced new opportunities, redefined its distinctive advantages, and expanded its outreach to learners of all ages.

Guided by the Strategic Plan introduced in 2010, Stephens has embraced a new emphasis on excellence in the creative arts and health sciences. A reorganization of the College to create a School of Health Sciences, launch of a Master of Physician Assistant Studies program, and significant investment in a new Center for Health Sciences have expanded the College's opportunities in some of the most in-demand disciplines in the marketplace today. Simultaneously, the College has invested in its legacy arts programs, including new housing at its summer theatre; acquisition of TRYPS (Theatre Reaching Young People & Schools), a local children's theatre program; the reconfiguration of its School of Fashion into a School of Design, with an attendant infusion of creative innovation and design thinking into its curricula; and the launch of a new blended Master of Fine Arts in Television and Screenwriting, located at the Jim Henson Studios in L.A.

Our evolution has been guided and inspired by the insights and independent thinking of the hundreds of faculty, staff, administrators, students, trustees (and you, our committed and amazing alumnae) who have all contributed to our forward movement. Through more than 16 months of meetings, conversations, drafts and presentations, the Stephens community has participated in celebrating its achievements and acknowledging the good work yet to be done.

In January of 2016, the College began to engage all of its stakeholders in an inclusive series of mission workshops. Faculty, staff and students participated in on-campus

meetings, and alumnae were represented in a focused workshop at the Alumnae Leaders Weekend in November. A Strategic Planning Committee, working with me, synthesized those many ideas to produce a draft of the College's new Mission, Vision and Values statements. Those were shared with the community before being approved by the Board of Trustees in February.

These are the same principles and values that have guided our evolution for decades, even as we rallied around a more contemporary version of the College's longstanding, historical character. Steadfastly committed to remaining an undergraduate residential women's college, Stephens has developed into a teaching-and-learning institution for the 21st century, expanding its reach and promise to lifelong learners of all genders both on and off campus.

Designed to be considered collectively, the College's Mission, Vision and Values statements communicate an exciting sense of energy, urgency and commitment to outcomes. Our three-word Mission statement, memorable and emphatic, presents an imperative that speaks to all of our community stakeholders: students, employees and alumnae. Our Vision statement is as realistic about our strengths as it is aspirational about our results. And our Values statement provides an apt reminder that, even as Stephens College embraces its dynamic, strategic and inclusive future, it remains deeply committed to the foundational values that have steadfastly informed and inspired our history.

To every alumna, whether you participated formally in this process—or have helped shape the Mission, Vision and Values of Stephens through your ongoing feedback and steadfast commitment to Stephens—you have our thanks and deepest appreciation. You make us Stephens.



Dr. Dianne Lynch, Stephens College President

# CLASS NOTES

## '50s

**Suzanne Brown Blazer '53** studied child study and English at Stephens. She and husband Frederick, a retired electrical engineer, celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in October. They live in Cincinnati near their daughter, who went to Harvard Business School for her M.B.A. and is an innovation director at the children's hospital in Cincinnati. Their youngest son is a civil litigation lawyer and CPA while their older two sons own and run Blazer Electric Supply in Colorado. Suzanne and Frederick also have five granddaughters, one grandson and six great-grandsons.

**Beverly Helmbold Erschell '54**, a contemporary artist, has two of her paintings in the permanent collection of the Cincinnati Art Museum. For the past 15 years, she has sold merchandise, including cards,

lithograph prints, tote bags, clutches and T-shirts, featuring her design work in the museum's gift shop. Beverly also exhibits her artwork in the Marin-Price Galleries in Chevy Chase Md., and the Bowman Gallery in Fort Thomas, Ky. She writes: "I loved my art classes and my two years at Stephens." Beverly enjoyed drawing horses, as well as riding them, and they became a recurring theme in her art. She studied at the Art Academy of Cincinnati and earned a B.F.A. and M.F.A. from the University of Cincinnati. Before pursuing her painting full time, Beverly taught art

and art history at the college level. In 2013, she published "The Lucky Greyhound," a children's book that tells the story of Beverly's adopted greyhound, Maple.

## '60s

**Dorothy Whitehurst Cummins '63**, a long-time journalist, is the author of two books: "Four Furry Friends," a children's story about cats, and "Magnolia Monday," a Christian romance. As a student, she was the editor of *Stephens Life*.



Beverly Helmbold Erschell '54 inside her art studio.

# REMEMBRANCES

## '30s & '40s

**Nadine Ballew Miller '34** of Bend, Ore.; March 8, 2012. **Betsy Wilson Nelson '37** of Evansville, Ind.; Nov. 7, 2016. **Virginia Sargeant Dalnodar '38** of Wayne, N.J.; Sept. 19, 2013. **Jean Lichty Shields '38** of Highlands, N.C.; Nov. 29, 2016. **Winifred Stevens Freeman '39** of Carefree, Ariz.; Jan. 17, 2017. **Harriet Sprowl Shanner '39** of Carmel, Calif.; Oct. 4, 2016. **Betsy Andrus Silver '40** of Copley, Ohio; Jan. 23, 2017. **Helen Lawson Atamian '41** of Santa Barbara, Calif.; Oct. 17, 2016. **Terese Tarlton Hershey '41** of Houston; Jan. 19, 2017. **Helen Acheson Jevne '41** of Sequim, Wash.; April 22, 2014. **Virginia Hicklin Taylor '41** of Jacksonville, Fla.;

Dec. 9, 2016. **Suzanne Smith Young '41** of Geneva, N.Y.; Jan. 22, 2017. **Ethel Rayner Ashley '42** of Fort Collins, Colo.; Sept. 10, 2015. **Mary McClure Mathae '42** of St. Louis; Nov. 2, 2016. **Barbara Brown Phillips '42** of Greenwood, Ind.; Nov. 28, 2016. **Dorothea Simpson Sullivan '42** of Sun Prairie, Wis.; Dec. 9, 2016. **Ed Dell Wortz '42** of Fort Smith, Ark.; Nov. 4, 2016. **Jimmie Bland Lawrence '43** of Greenville, Texas; July 6, 2016. **Phyllis Staab Moody '43** of Urbandale, Iowa; Dec. 18, 2016. **Janet Dobbin Stevens '43** of Portland, Ore.; Dec. 30, 2016. **Julanne Howe Alt '44** of Gouverneur, N.Y.; Oct. 17, 2016. **Jewel Verhulst Dyer '44** of Appleton, Wis.; Oct. 22, 2016. **Gloria Meyer Gold '44** of Eau Claire, Wis.; April

29, 2016. **Jane Rogers Hudson '44** of Perryton, Texas; Nov. 28, 2016. **Cathryn Petterson Montgomery '44** of Columbus, Ohio; Feb. 10, 2017. **Allie Anderson Raulston '44** of South Pittsburg, Tenn.; Dec. 10, 2016. **Paula Unger Boelsems '45** of Santa Monica, Calif.; Jan. 9, 2017. **Dorothy McMurtry Bomar '45** of Austin, Texas; Oct. 17, 2013. **Patricia Norman Brockway '45** of Metairie, La.; Jan. 25, 2017. **Jane Scott Farnan '45** of Southern Pines, N.C.; March 21, 2016. **Phyllis Harrison Hahon '45** of Columbia, Mo.; Dec. 12, 2016. **Marcia Meyers LaMorte '45** of Buffalo, N.Y.; Nov. 24, 2016. **Jean Beebe Winters '45** of Fort Washington, Md.; June 10, 2016. **Billie Shaffner Chappell '46** of Pensacola, Fla.; Feb.



Pictured (L-to-R): Frances "Sister" Webb Strong '51, Margie Bryan McBride '51, Polly Webb White '51, Pat Kelso Knott '51, Jane Abel Kinser '51.

## Cruising with the '51 White Hall Crew

This year, Stephens seniors who lived in White Hall in 1951 celebrated their 21st reunion on a Carnival Cruise ship. The alumnae enjoyed beautiful weather during the trip, which departed from Mobile, Ala., and made stops in Progreso and Cozumel, Mexico.

**Pat Kelso Knott '51** writes: "Other than some confusion about the ship's forward and aft directions, not having the strength to turn on hot water for the cabin shower and not being able to unlock restroom doors having strange hardware to operate, it was a smooth voyage. So many decks, so many dining rooms, we sometimes felt we were wandering in the wilderness searching for our destination."

Stephens Susies who shared a suite were **Margie Bryan McBride '51**, the cruise organizer; **Frances "Sister" Webb Strong '51**; **Polly Webb White '51** and **Pat Kelso Knott '51**. **Jane Abel Kinser '51**, the inspiration for the reunion cruise, also traveled on the cruise with her husband, Ralph. **Marilyn Myers Dearmin '51**, who attended all 20 of the previous group reunions, was especially missed this year.

The group encourages all '51 White Hall members to attend their reunion next year. Pat writes: "We thought of each of you and wished you were with us. We are all 85 years of age, so maybe next year we can meet again."

13, 2017. **Geraldine Zajkowski Da Bica '46** of West Simsbury, Conn.; Oct. 26, 2016. **Mary Ann Mathis Darby '46** of Lake City, Fla.; March 8, 2016. **Nancy Hawkins Gatewood '46** of Henrico, Va.; Oct. 25, 2016. **Marcia Daniel Levine '46** of La Porte, Ind.; Jan. 28, 2017. **Bette Bartholomew Nelson '46** of Dillon, Mont.; Sept. 3, 2016. **Bernadene Briggs Parcher '46** of Blackwell, Okla.; Nov. 15, 2016. **Catherine Sale '46** of Dahlonoga, Ga.; Oct. 31, 2015. **Virginia Genrich Sammon '46** of Schofield, Wis.; Dec. 12, 2016. **Anna Harkness Wilder '46** of Homer, La.; Nov. 24, 2016. **Jane Archibald Young '46** of Culver City, Calif.; Dec. 25, 2016. **Carol Grotnes Belk '47** of Charlotte, N.C.; Aug. 25, 2014. **Rose Williams Gibson**

**'47** of Oneonta, N.Y.; Jan. 9, 2015. **Joan Mainzer Kishkis '47** of Minneapolis; Dec. 15, 2016. **Janice Shaw Menholt '47** of Sioux Falls, S.D.; Nov. 14, 2016. **Marian Garvey Rascoe '47** of San Antonio; Jan. 4, 2017. **Marjorie Reese Reid '47** of Carpinteria, Calif.; Jan. 9, 2017. **Mary Russell Anderson '48** of Maysville, Ky.; Feb. 8, 2015. **Marcia Mendenhall Brown '48** of Fort Myers, Fla.; Nov. 9, 2016. **Jo Anna Wilcox Carr Baker '48** of Lakeway, Texas; Oct. 22, 2016. **Marcia Wilkins Howard '48** of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Jan. 17, 2017. **Jeanne Bendick Kuhse '48** of Mesa, Ariz.; Jan. 8, 2017. **Carolyn Calvin Marble '48** of Lincoln, Texas; Nov. 23, 2016. **Barbara Goethe Morton '48** of Yuba City, Calif.; Jan. 13, 2017. **Grace**

**Trammell Murphy '48** of Nashville, Tenn.; May 18, 2009. **Phyllis Kloecker Shemelya '48** of Orlando, Fla.; Feb. 20, 2017. **Charlene Buck Stout '48** of Denver; Oct. 27, 2016. **Mary Thurman Clark '49** of Anthony, Kan.; June 5, 2011. **Emily Wood Graybeal '49** of Mount Pleasant, S.C.; June 26, 2016. **Julia Maxwell Hallman '49** of Northport, Ala.; July 29, 2012. **Marian Strong Jackson '49** of Soquel, Calif.; Jan. 1, 2014. **Madelyn Houston Lang '49** of Dallas; Dec. 4, 2016. **Ida Marguerite "Peggy" Saville Leiter '49** of Rome, Ga.; Nov. 5, 2016. **Arvelyn Welch Miller '49** of Dunlap, Ill.; Oct. 17, 2016. **Catharine Shepard Ruch '49** of Modesto, Calif.; April 1, 2016. **Joyce Ketelsen Wampler '49** of Bellevue, Wash.; Aug. 11, 2016.

*continued on next page*

**'70s**

**Dr. Linda McKay Aulgur '73** retired from Westminster College in December 2016 after 19 years as a faculty member. She served as chair of the education department for 16 years and also served as the first-year experience program director and the faculty marshal for the college. Linda was honored with professor emerita status upon her retirement. She previously taught at the Stephens College Children's School and in the Stephens Department of Education from 1985-99. Linda teaches early childhood classes as an adjunct at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She enjoys traveling and her grandchildren.

**Rev. Joanna Loucky-Ramsey '76**, an ordained American Baptist minister, writes weekly for small group curriculum provider The Wired Word, which combines current events with biblical texts. She serves in various capacities at Trinity Episcopal Church and coordinates a conversation partner program for international students in Potsdam, N.Y. Joanna is the founder and administrator of Pants-on-Fire, a Facebook group that celebrates the pure joy of animals. She and husband Bill, a contractor and ski instructor, are celebrating the 10-year anniversary of their bed-and-breakfast, Hidden Meadow Inn, located

in Norfolk, N.Y. They enjoy agility, rally and obedience training with their three Keeshonden dogs, Apache, Lola and Havel. Joanna writes whimsical poetry that she publishes on her Doggerel for Dogs Facebook page.

**Leslie White Clay '79** stays busy as the chief development officer for Hope Cottage, Dallas' oldest nonprofit, non-faith based adoption agency. She recently helped complete a successful comprehensive capital campaign to raise funds for a new building and program expansion. In June, the agency will begin its yearlong centennial celebration. She writes: "It is a year of non-stop celebrating!"

**Renee Peltzman Walkup '79** is fulfilling her lifelong dream of living in the Rocky Mountains. She moved to northern Colorado this past summer. She is a professional speaker for her business, which is named SalesPEAK, Inc. During her spare time, Renee enjoys volunteer activities and making fused-glass creations.

**'80s**

**Shelley Blessing Bay '80** earned her master's degree at the Thunderbird School of

Global Management in Arizona. While at Stephens, Shelley befriended **Lindee O'Neil Shadrake '79**, who suggested that Shelley send her resume to Lindee's dad, Bill O'Neil. At age 23, Shelley secured her first job with the stock brokerage firm William O'Neil & Co. Lindee's mom, **Fay Seifert O'Neil '53**, helped Shelley find her first apartment in California, and Shelley met her husband-to-be, Greg Bay, while working at William O'Neil & Co. Then, Shelley worked in commercial satellite contracts for Hughes Space and Communications as the youngest member and the only female on the team at the time. As her career progressed, Shelley negotiated international commercial satellite contracts, mostly in Asia. She also negotiated a unique contract to re-boost a stranded Intelsat satellite into its proper orbit via NASA astronauts, and another contract to manufacture the only commercial satellite sold to Russia by an American contractor. Other highlights included leading the business management team for Boeing Digital Cinema and the operations efforts for the business development organization at Boeing Satellite Systems. After taking early retirement from Boeing (formerly Hughes), Shelley enjoys grant writing for nonprofit organizations and working at The Bay Companies, her husband's real estate business. This year, the couple will celebrate their 33rd wedding anniversary.

**REMEMBRANCES****'50s & '60s**

**Barbara Stone deCastro '50** of Santa Fe, N.M.; Feb. 17, 2017. **Ruth Ross Sanderson '50** of Stockton, Calif.; March 12, 2016. **Virginia Turner Smith '50** of Stephens, Ark.; June 23, 2014. **Shirley Wright Zdenek '50** of Arlington, Texas; Nov. 8, 2016. **Mimi Ward Goode '51** of Newcastle, Wyo.; Nov. 9, 2016. **Mary Angel Kilgore '51** of Boise, Idaho; Oct. 14, 2016. **Suejette Cooledge Mason '51** of Mount Pleasant, S.C.; Nov. 6, 2014. **Joan Stricker Pease '51** of Lexington, Ky.; Jan. 7, 2017. **Patricia Johnson Schwartz '51** of Orlando, Fla.; Oct. 26, 2016. **Barbara Hazard Staples '51** of Shawnee Mission, Kan.; Jan. 20, 2017.

**Arlene Tripp Berge '52** of Sewell, N.J.; Oct. 28, 2016. **Annabelle Arnett Miller '52** of Lake Forest, Calif.; Dec. 15, 2012. **Nancy Rogers Smith '52** of Longview, Texas; Jan. 29, 2016. **Janet Cleary DeByle '53** of Rhinelander, Wis.; Sept. 25, 2016. **Theone Millman Halpern '53** of New Orleans; Oct. 29, 2016. **Ruth Chidester Kramer '53** of Westerville, Ohio; Oct. 16, 2016. **Laura Gray Smith '53** of Lake Forest, Calif.; Nov. 11, 2016. **Anne Landstrom Anderson '54** of Dallas; Nov. 11, 2016. **Gayl Laymon Brown '54** of Delray Beach, Fla.; Feb. 5, 2017. **Jean Mary Fleming '54** of Winter Park, Fla.; Nov. 30, 2016. **Edwina Elliott Moreland '54** of Southbury, Conn.; Oct. 23, 2016. **Mary Catherine Feyen Patterson '54**

of Aurora, Ill.; Jan. 13, 2017. **Mary McCormick Scheidt '54** of San Rafael, Calif.; Dec. 1, 2016. **Gail Tallman Walter '54** of O'Fallon, Mo.; March 14, 2012. **Pauline Culver Anderson '55** of Pittsford, N.Y.; Nov. 24, 2016. **Virginia Strasser Legge '55** of Palm Coast, Fla.; Jan. 15, 2017. **Margot Herzog Neale '55** of Springfield, Mo.; Feb. 7, 2014. **Betty Perrin Cruz '56** of Kingsport, Tenn.; Aug. 22, 2016. **Ellen Anderson Giacomelli '56** of Ladd, Ill.; Aug. 3, 2016. **Joanne Walsh Moon '56** of Colorado Spring, Colo.; Jan. 18, 2017. **Marilyn Schwab Rossow '56** of Anaheim Hills, Calif.; Feb. 28, 2015. **May Briscoe '57** of Lexington, Ky.; June 25, 2013. **Carole Hensler Steadman '57** of Winter Haven, Fla.; Dec. 9, 2016. **Frances**

**Karen Gebhardt Briscoe '81** wrote "Real Estate Success in 5 Minutes a Day: Secrets of a Top Agent Revealed," which was selected by Inman, a real estate news website, as a top book to read.

**Beth Ann Riechman '85** reports that "the girls of Columbia Hall" recently enjoyed lunch at Crushed Red in Kirkwood, Mo. She writes: "There were some of us who had not seen each other in over 30 years. It was such a fabulous time we vowed to do this again soon."

**Cristin Edel Cate '86** has always had a passion for cooking. She will soon publish her first cookbook. Find her on Instagram and on the Cristy's Cooking Creations Facebook page, which has over 1,200 likes. She is the co-owner of Wyatt Oil-field Services and Controls.

**Amy Jo Shapiro '88** moved to Kobe, Japan, after graduating from Stephens and still lives there 29 years later. She participated in the study seminar to Japan while at the College. She teaches at a private cram school preparing sixth-graders for the next grade of English. She also teaches English at a nursery school and teaches English grammar



*Pictured (L-to-R): Lisa Haugen Mantia '84, Beth Ann Riechman '85, Claudia Simms Riley '86, Lally Riley McLean '85, Lisa Crump Greer '86.*

and English conversation at a private all-girls junior/senior high school. Several years ago, Amy found a Stephens T-shirt at a tiny shop. She writes: "You can imagine my stunned face! I really couldn't believe my eyes! And yes, I bought it; of course, I did. It's not a real Stephens T-shirt but a fake one. But it still brings back tons of memories of my time at wonderful Stephens. Because of Facebook, I'm friends with so many of my old sisters!" She would love to hear from former classmates from 1984-88. Reach her at amyjoinkobe@gmail.com.

## '90s

**Laura Matalon Chandley '92**, along with husband Ian Chandley and sister Karen Matlalon, have formed Two Sisters And A Dog Cafe, a holding company through which it operates Cannonball Café in Jamaica. They own and operate four cafes/coffee houses.

**Rajah Maples-Wallace '97** has become a board member of the International Radio and Television Society in New York City.

**Thompson Armstrong '58** of Bath, N.C.; Dec. 15, 2016. **Marian "Punkie" Ellinwood Alexander '59** of Appleton City, Mo.; Nov. 1, 2015. **Robin MacBain Ellis '59** of Summerville, S.C.; Feb. 2, 2017. **Stephanie Eubanks McDougal '61** of Gleneden Beach, Ore.; Aug. 29, 2016. **Helen Austin McCord '62** of Kula, Hawaii; July 28, 2016. **Marken Frazier Gerhardt '63** of Crystal Lake, Ill.; Dec. 20, 2016. **Suzanne Shaub Feldman '64** of New York; April 1, 2016. **Kay Fuller Ashworth '65** of Texas City, Texas; Dec. 31, 2016. **Catherine "Kitty" Moon Emery '66** of Nashville, Tenn.; Feb. 8, 2017. **Nancy Evans '66** of Tucson, Ariz.; Oct. 5, 2016. **Judith Gates Hicks '67** of Temple, Texas; Feb. 14, 2017.

## '70s, '80s & '00s

**Amy Lynne Rowell Carling '70** of Milaca, Minn.; Dec. 5, 2016. **Debra Dean-Ciriani '72** of West Hartford, Conn.; Feb. 12, 2017. **Rita Gayhart Ferruzza '72** of Yonkers, N.Y.; Aug. 23, 2014. **Cherie Heick Von Rueden '72** of Vancouver, Wash.; Jan. 15, 2010. **Sharon Sweezy '74** of Bethesda, Md.; Oct. 17, 2016. **Karine Berghauser '76** of San Antonio; Oct. 14, 2016. **Dorothy Donovan '76** of Columbus, Ga.; Dec. 15, 2016. **Helen Tindall Polly '77** of Columbia, Mo.; Dec. 22, 2016. **Sally Reisch Erickson '80** of Hallsville, Mo.; Nov. 2, 2016. **Elizabeth Holm Farris '81** of Columbia, Mo.; Oct. 22, 2016. **Virginia "Ginger" Welch Meidel '81** of St. Petersburg, Fla.; March 27, 2012. **Jewel Ernst '82** of Columbia, Mo.;

April 1, 2015. **Emily Collins Rackley '83** of Belton, S.C.; Dec. 1, 2015. **Mary Vanable '87** of Waukegan, Ill.; Oct. 15, 2016. **Amy Bomgaars '08** of North Sioux City, S.D.; Oct. 8, 2016.

## Former Employees of the College

**Rebecca Slater Colbert '90** of Columbia, Mo., maid supervisor for over 40 years; Oct. 28, 2016. **Betty Duff** of Jefferson City, Mo., staff member; Nov. 6, 2016. **T. William "Bill" Hall** of Davis, Calif., faculty member; Oct. 24, 2016. **Margaret Anne Ludeman** of Oxford, Miss., Child Study department faculty; Nov. 29, 2016. **Sharon Van Deren** of Columbia, Mo., longtime staff member; Nov. 7, 2016.



## For Love of Fashion and Cars

**Katie Marble Cootsona '96** (pictured above) combines her expertise as a Stephens fashion program graduate with a love of classic cars. She has always appreciated classic cars for their artistic details. Her husband, Craig, has restored three classic cars and is now restoring his fourth. They own an MGB, Austin-Healey Sprite, MGA and MG TA (re-bodied to Q-Type, officially a Q-Type special).

Katie writes: "Classic cars call to people for many reasons, including the ability to work on the mechanics, changing and improving the characteristics of the vehicle; the beautiful body work, an artistic expression in shape and color; the idea of owning something unique; and the historic preservation."

Her love of classic cars aligns quite well with her other love: vintage clothing. Katie has found that vintage clothes are often paired with the cars at many car shows and museum exhibits. After seeing a pre-war car, airplane and clothing exhibit in England, Katie was inspired to make her own clothes using vintage patterns to pair with their MGA. She dons the clothes when the couple shows it about three times a year. She also helps with sewing and upholstery work for their cars as part of the restoration process.

With her recent retirement, Katie is interested in restoring her own classic car. She writes: "Maybe my own car will be a reality in the next couple years."



**Ebony Tanner Lamar '97** (pictured top right) married Calvin Lamar on Feb. 13, 2016, in Orlando, Fla. Family and friends attended a ceremony and reception that included entertainment by the 2013 Belly Dancer of the World Jennifer at the Holy Trinity Reception Center. The couple, who lives in Deerfield Beach, Fla., met in 2013 in Tampa, Fla., and became engaged on Dec. 25, 2014. Ebony is a program coordinator for Palm Beach State College, and Calvin is a teacher in the School District of Palm Beach County.

In October, five Stephens women walked in Avon 39: The Walk to Crush Breast Cancer, a two-day 39.3-mile walk around New York City that took the group through Brooklyn, Manhattan and more. The participants (pictured middle right, L-to-R) were **Carol Anderson '66 A.A., '68 B.A.**; **Katherine Cowie Enochs '11**; **Katherine Dietzen '86**; **Jenny Stahl '05 B.S., '06 M.B.A.**; and **Rachel Gross '93**. The group raised \$25,000, which supports not only breast cancer research but also the financial struggles of medically disadvantaged patients suffering from the disease. "It's so inspiring," **Katherine Dietzen '86** says of the experience. She, as well as **Rachel Gross '93** and **Laura Gross '91**, walked the Avon 39 in 2015 and raised \$25,000 for the cause.

## '00s

**Marie McGill Stephens '05** and husband Chris proudly announce the arrival of their first child, Luralai Lindsey-Don Stephens, on Sept. 25, 2016. The family (pictured bottom right) lives in Kalamazoo, Mich.

**Janessa Chasteen Buchely '07** (pictured bottom left) married Dr. Mario Buchely of Colombia, South America, on Aug. 14, 2016. The couple had a destination wedding at Fort Lauderdale Beach on Jan. 7, 2017. She writes that the small, intimate affair was a "fairy tale come true. It was a beautiful day full of love and wonderful memories." The couple lives in Rolla, Mo., where both work for Missouri University of Science and Technology.

**Emily Skoza-Brackenridge '07**, a certified hand therapist, received her B.A. in Biology from Stephens and went on to earn an M.S. in Occupational Therapy from Washington University in St. Louis. She and husband Trent relocated to Portland, Ore., earlier this year after having lived in St. Louis, New Orleans and Austin, Texas. The couple met at a local gym during college. Trent is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia. In October 2010, the couple was married at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, with



a wedding reception in the Kimball Ballroom of Lela Raney Wood Hall at Stephens. Emily is still involved with horses and is training a young appendix Quarter Horse mare named Kira. While at Stephens, she stabled her sorrel Quarter Horse, Sonny, at the Stephens Equestrian Center, and he was used as a lesson horse. Emily also brought Tyson, her bay appendix Quarter Horse gelding, with her one year.

**Alissa Pei Gorham '08 B.S., '16 M.S.L.** and husband Luke are excited to announce the birth of their second daughter (*pictured below*). Caroline Taylor Gorham was born on May 26, 2016. She joins big sister, Bella, age 3. Alissa is the director of residence life and education at Stephens. Her twin sister, **Vicky Pei Denman '08**, was present for the birth. Vicky works as a reports analyst and lives in Riverside, Calif., with husband Dave.



**Etosha Moh '08** has joined the L.A.-based public relations agency The Consultancy PR, as managing director.



## SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

Share whatever is new in your life, whether it's a career move, a new bundle of joy in your family, a special anniversary or recognition of your work. High resolution photos (300 dpi) are welcome as well.

### Submit your news:

Complete our form ([stephens.edu/alumnae](http://stephens.edu/alumnae)), email us ([alumnae@stephens.edu](mailto:alumnae@stephens.edu)) or send us a letter (Office of Institutional Advancement and Initiatives, 1200 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65215).

**Fall/Winter 2017 issue deadline:**  
**Aug. 1, 2017**



**Savannah Baltazar Scofield '08** (pictured top left) and husband Chris welcomed the arrival of their first child, Sloan Patrick Scofield, on Nov. 24, 2016. Sloan's first visitor was **Katie McKellar '11**, who also officiated their wedding in 2014.

**Maggie Laskowitz '09** writes that after a successful 2016 her business Mix & Match in St. Louis has opened a brick-and-mortar store. She and a friend launched the business in September 2015 as a women's boutique trunk show and styling service. Maggie writes: "We wanted to create a way someone could shop not only with her girlfriends but with a personal stylist in a one-on-one styling session. Our clients are busy moms and business-women who don't have time to run to the mall."



## '10s

**Elena Christian Dissen '11** (pictured middle left) married her college sweetheart, Josh Dissen, on April 9, 2016, in Adel, Iowa, and honeymooned at Disney World and St. Pete Beach, Fla. **Catie Ferguson '10** attended the wedding. After graduating from college in 2011, the couple has been living in St. Louis with their two dogs, Annabelle (who was Elena's roommate at Stephens) and Casper. Elena works at Enterprise in the fleet management division, and Josh is a control systems engineer at McEnergy Automation. They have become avid runners and are training for their first half marathon this year.



**Ciara McCormack Greenwalt '11** (pictured bottom left) married Gavin Greenwalt on Sept. 4, 2016, in Seattle. **Rebecca Sandel Lane '78** performed the ceremony, and **Katie McKellar '11** assisted in planning the event. The couple was joined by family and friends, including **Becca Nelson '11**, **Kelsea DeShazo Dubuque '11** and **Kaitie Huffman '11**. Ciara works as a teaching artist throughout the Seattle area. She teaches dance in numerous schools, community centers and dance studios, and is especially proud to work in the Pacific Northwest Ballet's community education department. Gavin is a film professional.

**Kramer Pruitt Kreiling '14** (pictured top right) married Andrew Kreiling on Jan. 2, 2016. **Samantha Bennett '14** and **Stephanie Reynolds '14** were bridesmaids, and **Erica Bonnot '13** was a guest book attendant. The couple lives in Kansas City, Mo., where Kramer danced professionally with Storling Dance Theater and now works full time at Kansas City Ballet. Andrew coaches baseball at Avila University and is pursuing his M.B.A. in Marketing.



# CLUB NOTES

## United Kingdom Network

This past summer, Stephens alumnae living in the United Kingdom gathered for coffee, cake and conversation at The Kew Greenhouse Café in London.

*Pictured (L-to-R): Erleen Anderson '91, Caitlin Blankenhorn '05, Laura Kate Shippert '03, Lee Bolin O'Mahony '86, Elizabeth Scanlon Thomas '80, Suzanne Currell '79.*

Want to connect with the Stephens U.K. Network? Contact **Erleen Anderson '91** at [erleena@hotmail.com](mailto:erleena@hotmail.com).

## Kansas City Luncheon Club

Box lunches and books were the features at the November meeting of the Kansas City Luncheon Club, held at the Plaza Branch of the Kansas City Public Library. After lunch, Kalei Holder, director of the annual fund and alumnae engagement at Stephens, spoke to the group about campus news and upcoming events. Members enjoyed a book exchange after the business meeting.

"We're a group of grads (spanning many ages) who've established close camaraderie with each other," **Karen Olsen Poe '63** said. "That speaks highly of our shared Stephens education."

*Pictured (L-to-R, back row): Diane Hunter Robertson '86, Carolyn Skoglund Kuttenkuler '65, Tana Walther Hardin '66, Karen Olsen Poe '63, Kerry Brockner '82, Judy Derry Mahoney '62, Susan Eggleston Donaghue '57, Dot Bowe Wingerd '56, Shirley Demmitt Golden '53, Judy Mason Mertz '71.*

*Front row (L-to-R): Janet Disinger Wilson '62, Nancy Fouts Jefferis '52, Vicki Panethiere '72, Mary Lew Eldridge McCarty '79, Mary Anne Wright Lusk '66, Susan Story Lord '52, Kalei Holder.*

## St. Louis Alumnae Club

To celebrate the holidays, more than 75 members of the St. Louis Alumnae Club attended a luncheon and gift exchange at Westwood Country Club. Gwen Robbins, director of philanthropy at Stephens, also attended. **Sally Jensen Jones '80** received a club award for her over 20 years of service as president of the St. Louis Afternoon Alumnae Club. "She is a true treasure to Stephens and our alumnae group," **Beth Ann Riechman '85** said.

In January, the club also hosted a speed networking event, which included networking and mentor opportunities with local alumnae and current Stephens students.

## Greater Phoenix Area Group

The Greater Phoenix Area Alumnae Group welcomed Stephens President Dianne Lynch and Dr. Gail Humphries Mardirosian, Dean of the School of Performing Arts, to a reception on March 25 at Theater Works in Peoria, Ariz. The reception was held in recognition of The McMillin Fellowship and **Constance W. McMillin '59** and **Maggie Niven '16**, the first recipient. The group enjoyed gourmet hors d'oeuvres and desserts, along with wine and beverages.

## LA Women for Stephens

LA Women for Stephens closed out 2016 with an afternoon of theater and holiday cheer. Stephens alumni and friends were treated to a special matinee performance of Rogue Machine Theatre's *The Super Variety Match Bonus Round*, starring **Stephens alumnus Mark Taylor**, a Board of Trustees member. **Kirstin Denise Racicot '12** was the assistant director of the show. A festive reception, with champagne and sweets, was held following the performance.

"I'm delighted that LA Women for Stephens is a great source for Stephens graduates of all ages to network," said **Shelley Blessing Bay '80**, who attended the gathering.

The group kicked off the new year with its monthly Stephens Social in the Beverly Grove neighborhood of Los Angeles.

*Pictured (L-to-R): Chelsea Leigh '10, Breanna Sheridan '09, Audrey Robles '16, Andrea Rutherford '04, Elyse Bertani '14, Jennifer Nitzband Flaks '03, Tennessee Martin '11, Charlotte Holtzermann '69, Etosha Moh '08.*

## Alumnae Club of Greater Washington

In December, the Alumnae Club of Greater Washington celebrated the holidays with a wine and cheese party. Aside from tasting fabulous wines, **Stephens alumnus Ron Brooks** helped the group members become wine connoisseurs with his teaching of wines from around the world.

In March, **Karen Gebhardt Briscoe '81** shared with fellow alumnae the inspiration for writing her new book, "Real Estate Success in 5 Minutes a Day: Secrets of a Top Agent Revealed," as well as her experience of the writing, publishing and marketing process. Books were available for purchase at the event as well.

"Ron was so knowledgeable about each wine," **Taressa Snelling Fisher '82** said. "You'd have thought he majored in wine instead of theatre."

*Pictured (L-to-R): Sheila Graham '73; Cynthia Hoftiezer '88; Kathryn Blecker Gibbs '60; Mary Josie Cain Blanchard '67; Dr. Karen Dreier Pettigrew '58; Flo Meyer Cartier '66; Ellen Vollrath '86, Stephens Board of Trustees member; Betsey Dibert Mulloy '65 A.A., '67 B.A.; Taressa Snelling Fisher '82; Stephens alumnus Ron Brooks; Lauri Kempson '77.*



1. United Kingdom Network 2. LA Women for Stephens 3. St. Louis Alumnae Club 4. Alumnae Club of Greater Washington 5. Greater Phoenix Area Group 6. Kansas City Luncheon Club

## Alumnae Club of Dallas

In October, the Alumnae Club of Dallas held its annual fundraising luncheon at the Dallas Country Club with 120 alumnae and guests in attendance. The afternoon was a celebration of Stephens' tradition of excellence in the creative arts and sciences. The club raised \$25,500, which will go toward the elevator in the Stephens College Center for Health Sciences, which houses the new Master of Physician Assistant Studies program.

Live auction items included getaways from Jackson Hole, Wyo., to Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca. The silent auction featured items such as original art, pearls and designer children's clothing by **Susan Erickson-Ingram '82** of Helen and Harry IV Co.

The event honored Houston philanthropist Dr. Carolyn Farb for her gift of personal designer gowns (*pictured in the Table of Contents*) to the Stephens College Costume Museum and Research Library fashion collection. **Dr. Monica Phillippe McMurry '82**, Dean of the Stephens School of Design, presented Farb with an award for her donation.

*Pictured (L-to-R): Gayle Flannery Bentsen '67; Susan Schmidt '67, Stephens Alumnae Club of Dallas president and Stephens Board of Trustees member; Houston philanthropist Dr. Carolyn Farb.*

Keynote speaker Ken LaZebnik, a Hollywood screenwriter and founder and director of Stephens' M.F.A. in Television and Screenwriting program, spoke about the low-residency program in L.A. and the successes of its students. The event also included a video produced by Dallas sportscaster Scott Murray about the history of Stephens and the new PA program.



## Share your news with us:

Please submit your club/network news: Complete our form ([stephens.edu/alumnae](http://stephens.edu/alumnae)), email us ([alumnae@stephens.edu](mailto:alumnae@stephens.edu)) or send us a letter (Office of Institutional Advancement and Initiatives, 1200 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65215). Fall/Winter 2017 issue deadline: Aug. 1, 2017.

## In Memory

### Alyce Roberts Cheatham '40

**Alyce Roberts Cheatham '40** of Portland, Ore., a generous donor and trustee emerita of Stephens College, passed away on May 21, 2017, at the age of 96.

Cheatham, who received her Associate of Arts degree from Stephens, strongly supported her alma mater with unrestricted donations over the years. She helped fund the construction of the College's Visitors Center in 1978, in honor of the graduation of her daughter **Sallie Cheatham Cutler '76**, and the subsequent renovation of the building in 2007. Her generosity is commemorated with a plaque at the front door of the Visitors Center and several guest suites are named in her honor. She was also a member of the Smart, Strong, Savvy ... Stephens Society as a \$1 million-plus donor during a past comprehensive campaign.

"She was one of our early alumnae leaders and worked throughout her life to inspire others to support Stephens and be as proud of their affiliation as she was," said **Shannon Blankenship Walls '93**, special assistant to the president of philanthropy at Stephens. "She was a true Stephens woman in every sense of the word."

Cheatham was an active member of the Portland Alumnae Club and served on both the Alumnae Association Board and the Alumnae Fund Board.

An avid follower of Dr. Albert Schweitzer, she spent time with the famous doctor at the hospital he founded in Lambarene, Gabon, West Africa. In the late 1990s, Cheatham donated a large collection of Schweitzer's art and writings to Stephens, and the northeast corner of the second floor of the library became the Albert Schweitzer Center in honor of her donation. Cheatham went on to fund the center with an annual gift for many years.

Cheatham grew up in the South, where her family moved several times because of her father's work in the cotton industry. After graduating from Stephens, she worked at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga., where she met husband, Julian North Cheatham. The couple eventually settled in Portland in 1954, where her husband worked for Georgia-Pacific. They have three children. He preceded her in death in 1988.

Over the years, Cheatham did volunteer work for the arts, education, healthcare and community development. She served as vice president of the Oregon Symphony Board and later president of the Portland Opera Board and was a dedicated supporter of the Portland Art Museum and the Oregon Public Broadcast.

With her strong commitment to education, Cheatham earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lewis & Clark College in 1976.

# Celebrate Stephens

## Reunion 2018

April 12-14

We had a fabulous time reliving the magic of Stephens during alumnae reunion this spring. It was a great time of reminiscing with old, and new friends, alike.

Check out photos from the memorable weekend: [stephens.edu/celebratestephens](http://stephens.edu/celebratestephens)

And be sure to mark your calendar for next year's reunion.  
(We'll have special recognition for classes ending in 3 and 8.)



## Alumnae Leaders Weekend

**Save the date! October 6-8, 2017**

A weekend dedicated to building confidence (and alumnae engagement). Join with fellow Stephens alumnae volunteers, including Alumnae Association Board members, class presidents, reunion class representatives and club and network leadership for expert speakers, interactive workshops, discussions and professional networking.

Learn more: [stephens.edu/leaders-weekend](http://stephens.edu/leaders-weekend)  
Questions? [alumnae@stephens.edu](mailto:alumnae@stephens.edu) | (573) 876-7173

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