

BEYOND STEPHENS



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From Dianne



Stephens President Dianne Lynch and some of our new students this fall.

When **Tennessee Martin '11** walked into the Office of the President in 2010, she knew exactly what she needed: An airplane ticket to Hollywood so she could work on location for a major feature film. It was an opportunity of a lifetime. But the cost of a short-notice flight was beyond her financial reach.

It was that combination of student talent and ambition, timely opportunity and pressing need that prompted me to establish the Magic Moments Fund at Stephens College. The program provides grants to students who have unexpected opportunities—opportunities they couldn't have planned or saved for—that have the potential to be truly transformative in their professional lives. It bought Tenn's plane ticket to Los Angeles, and since then, has funded the travel, professional training, networking and research of some of our best and brightest students. In return, recipients commit to giving back when they can, helping to fund future "Magic Moments" for students.

It's that spirit of giving that creates and inspires a community, and at this very special time of year, it's the theme of this issue of *Beyond Stephens*.

You'll meet Tenn, and two other Magic Moments Fund recipients, all of whom are proof that a little generosity at the right moment can truly transform a life. You'll be inspired by the exceptional public service of **Erin McGruder '03**, whose work has taken her to the scenes of such disasters as Hurricane Harvey and the Joplin tornado in 2011. You'll meet the extraordinary members of our Board of Trustees, generous professionals so dedicated to Stephens College that they give constantly of their time, their talents and their treasure to ensure its continued growth and success. And you'll be amazed by the "dream project" of **Katie Marble Cootsona '96**: 52 new dresses in 52 weeks, a capstone to a fashion career launched when Katie was an intern in New York City with designer **Jeannene Thompson Booher '56** (who in 2016 gave Stephens a \$1 million gift to establish a fashion lecture series). Every story speaks to the importance of giving, and giving back.

During this season of giving, I ask that you consider the ways in which Stephens continues to touch or inspire you—whether it's through the friendships you've sustained, the values and ideals you've embraced, the professional successes you've enjoyed, or simply the fundamental sense of yourself you developed at a women's college. Please remember to include Stephens on your list as you make your annual, tax-deductible donations this season; as the recipients of Magic Moments funds know so well, even a small gift can make such a difference.

Happy Holidays, and all the best to you and yours,

Dr. Dianne Lynch, Stephens College President

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A Closer Look

A quick dose of Stephens fun facts and interesting stats.



Number of Stephens College varsity teams that earned the distinction for National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Scholar-Teams for the 2016-2017 academic year. The team GPAs were as follows: cross country (3.67), competitive dance (3.53); softball (3.61), tennis (3.58), basketball (3.49), volleyball (3.44) and golf (3.13). As a department, the Stars held a 3.38 GPA for the 2016-17 academic year, and the Stars had 21 NAIA Scholar-Athletes in the academic year.



15

Number of tiny homes that have been funded as part of the "There's No Place Like Home" campaign for modern high-efficiency housing at Okoboji Summer Theatre. Phase II is now complete thanks to many generous donors from our alumnae and loyal local supporters. To learn more about the program, contact giving@stephens.edu.

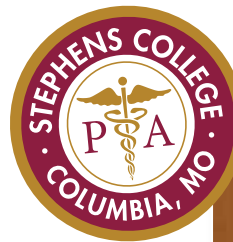


2017-18
Season
70



157,000

Number of milliseconds of totality witnessed in Columbia, Mo., during the historic total solar eclipse on Aug. 21. The city (and the Stephens campus!) was among the nation's prime viewing locations with totality occurring for more than two and half minutes. In celebration of the once-in-a-lifetime event, the Stephens community enjoyed picnic fare, a dance party and more on the Historic Quad.



20



Number of students in the inaugural class of the Stephens College Master of Physician Assistant Studies program who committed to the profession on Sept. 16 during the program's first White Coat Ceremony. The event marked the end of 13 months of didactic education and the beginning of 14 months of clinical training.

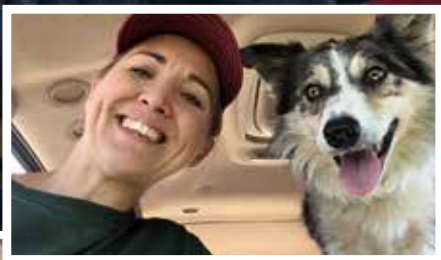
70th

Season that the Stephens College School of Creative and Performing Arts is celebrating this academic year. The anniversary season, dubbed "Season 70: A Season that Will Move You," features a blend of classic works, including this fall's Noel Coward's *Blythe Spirit* (pictured), and those with a modern twist. See the complete schedule: stephens.edu/performingarts.



DOCUMENTING Disaster

Erin McGruder '03 provides crucial technical assistance in disaster relief efforts.



Resiliency. It's one characteristic all Stephens women have in common. And for **Erin McGruder '03** that resiliency—honed at Stephens—is what she relies on when she is out there supporting disaster relief efforts around the country.

As a technical information specialist with Missouri Task Force One, McGruder was on the ground for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts this fall. She also was there after the Joplin tornado in 2011, Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and the flooding in Colorado in 2013.

Armed with a laptop, camera and video recorder, McGruder maps search areas, ensures GPS tracking during missions and reports back to FEMA on the team's progress and availability for reassignment. During Hurricane Harvey recovery, those efforts supported the evacuation of more than 360 people and 40 pets from flooded areas during the group's deployment.

On each response, McGruder brings with her the skills she first polished as an equestrian student at Stephens. For her, responding to disasters and training horses are both about resiliency and a willingness to be bold and take risks, she says.

"When you are training a horse for the first time, the new experience can be distressing for the horse," says McGruder, who graduated with a degree in equestrian business management. "You have to learn to interact with the horse, console the horse, and get it through its personal crisis to a better place.

"It's the same thing in disaster management. You have to have sensitivity, and you have to have that sympathy."

It was her experience dealing with the events of Sept. 11, 2001, that drew McGruder to disaster relief. A student at Stephens then, she had just finished her western riding class and was putting up her horse in the stall when someone shouted from the office: "Everyone, come quick and watch TV!"



McGruder admits that she was overcome with a sense of helplessness as the events unfolded on the screen. One of her classmates was a ROTC student at the University of Missouri and soon the two headed to the ROTC office where McGruder instantly felt a kinship with the people there.

"It was very secure being there with military people and listening to strategy and tactics and what we could do to respond to this tragic event," she says.

McGruder decided to pursue a career in disaster management while continuing to run a monthly horse magazine that she had started in college. In 2003, she joined the Boone County Fire Protection District, and before long, she landed a position as a 911 dispatcher in Boone County. She also gained certification as a disaster search dog handler for the state of Kansas. And, in 2009, she became a member of Task Force One.

Today, McGruder works as a curriculum specialist with the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute. She is responsible for updating existing courses and developing new programming for the institute.

"It all goes back to being in the Stephens barn and watching the Twin Towers go down," she says. "It was a natural progression for me to go from working in the barn and being around people who knew what they were doing to being around people who could help.

"I might not be the one helping the lady into the boat, but I am on the other side of the camera, helping to make that moment possible. I have the drive to be a resource. I want to be able to help. I want to be a supporting part of society."

And supporting others is the mark of a Stephens woman, too.



Stephens College

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meet the governing body of Stephens College.

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of Stephens College. Each of its 26 members is a steward to the College, serving current students and working to ensure a strong Stephens for generations to come. The Board works collaboratively with President Dianne Lynch to support the best interests of students, faculty and staff. This year's board includes alumnae as well as community members whose diverse backgrounds and professional experiences provide Stephens with leadership steeped in knowledge, integrity and insight. We introduce to you the Stephens College Board of Trustees.

Vicki Russell, Columbia, Mo.

Executive Committee

Russell, the former publisher of the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, was inducted into the Missouri Press Association Hall of Fame in September. She serves on the corporate board of The Callaway Bank, as past board chair of Regional Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) and is the chair of the Missouri Press Foundation Board of Directors.

Mark Taylor '73, Van Nuys, Calif.

Committees: Academic Affairs/Admissions, Executive, Chair of Trusteeship

Taylor has spent more than 40 years acting and directing in Hollywood. Professionally, he has appeared in multiple TV shows and has directed several original plays. He is married to fellow Stephens theatre graduate **Judy Doyen Taylor '73**.

Sara Herrstadt Crosby '76, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Committees: Executive, Student Affairs, Trusteeship

Crosby is a licensed clinical social worker and co-founded the award-winning Dakota Academy of Performing Arts (DAPA). She is a consultant in the field of social justice.

Valerie Shaw '00, Columbia, Mo.

Committees: Advancement, Executive, Chair of Finance and Audit

Shaw is retired from a 36-year banking career. She received the Keeper of the Flame 2016 President's Award for Outstanding Community Service from Columbia NAACP and received recognition for community service in 2014 from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Association.

Board Chair



Vicki



Mark

Board Vice Chair



Sara

Board Secretary



Valerie

Board Treasurer

Board Members



Gayle

Gayle Flannery Bentsen '67, Houston, Texas

Committees: Advancement, Student Affairs

Bentsen is a founding member of Victory, a group of American Cancer Society volunteers who sponsors the Cattle Baron's Ball in Houston. With her husband, Lloyd, she co-chaired a Project Orbis Gala to fund eye care in developing countries.



John

Dr. John Black '72, Copley, Ohio

Committees: Student Affairs, Trusteeship

Black is an OB/GYN with Cleveland Clinic Akron General. Before becoming a doctor, he received a B.F.A. in Theatre Arts from Stephens. He is a recipient of the Greer Garson Acting Award at the Dallas Theatre Center.



Kyla

Kyla Cherry '16, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Committees: Advancement, Student Affairs

Cherry works in New York City as a show freelancer for KCD, a leading fashion public relations and production agency. She has also worked for Forever 21. While at Stephens, Cherry interned with *Seventeen*, *Cosmopolitan* and *Elle* magazines.



Ann

The Honorable Ann K. Covington, Columbia, Mo.

Committees: Academic Affairs/Admissions, Trusteeship

Covington is a former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Missouri and the first woman appointed to that position. She also served as an assistant attorney general under Missouri Attorney General John Ashcroft. She is a former curator for the University of Missouri.



Daryll

Daryll Harris Griffin '72, Norcross, Va.

Committees: Academic Affairs/Admissions, Trusteeship

Griffin is the president and founder of Accolades, Inc., a brand-marketing firm. She was recognized as one of the Top 100 Black Women of Influence by the Atlanta Business League and is a recipient of the League Leadership Award.



Rachel

Rachel Gross '93, New York, N.Y.

Committees: Advancement, Student Affairs

Gross is the senior vice president of event marketing at Univision Communications Inc., the leading media company serving Hispanic America. She oversees corporate events for Univision and manages client-focused experiences at major events and franchises.



George Ann

George Ann Stokes Harding '58, Denver, Colo.

Committees: Finance and Audit, Trusteeship

Harding is retired general counsel and senior vice president of The Minute Maid Company. She also served as the U.S. West, Inc., associate general counsel and as vice president of Mt. Bell Telephone Company. She is a court-appointed special advocate (CASA) for children in foster care.



Sara Jane

Sara Jane Johnson '56, Orcas, Wash., and Wilson, Wyo.

Committees: Academic Affairs/Admissions, Advancement

Johnson is a member of the League of Women Voters in Washington and Wyoming; Washington State Citizens for Recycling; San Juan Preservation Trust; Friends of the San Juans; and a nonprofit organization that provides affordable housing.

Nikki Krawitz, Columbia, Mo.

Committees: Advancement, Finance and Audit

Krawitz is retired after serving as the vice president for finance and administration for the University of Missouri System. She also worked at Stephens as vice president for finance and administration, associate dean of faculty and a business faculty member. She also consults on budgeting and financial planning with higher education institutions.



Nikki



Teresa

Teresa Rouse Maledy '78, Columbia, Mo.

Committees: Advancement, Finance and Audit

Maledy is the chairperson and CEO of Commerce Bank, Central Missouri Region. She was the first female president in the Commerce Bancshares organization, a \$24.5 billion bank holding company. She serves on the University of Missouri Health System Advisory Board.

Jane Hobson Marcus '78, Vernon Hills, Ill.

Committees: Academic Affairs/Admissions Committee, Advancement, Executive (at-large appointee)

Marcus is a senior client partner in Korn Ferry's New York and Chicago offices and a leading member of the firm's asset management and wealth management sectors, within the global financial services market.



Jane

Board Members

Angeleigha "Angel" Mendez '14, Las Cruces, N.M.

Committees: Advancement, Student Affairs

Mendez recently accepted a position at New Mexico State University as the marketing and publications lead for the University Foundation. Prior to that, Mendez served as content marketing manager for Helen of Troy, a personal care products company; a communications and marketing manager for the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council; and a TV reporter in Columbia.



Angeleigha

M. Anne Murphy '78, Houston, Texas

Committees: Advancement, Student Affairs

Murphy has joined Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast after working as principal at Dini Spheris, a fundraising consulting firm for nonprofit organizations. She has also worked for Girl Scouts USA and for the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Centennial campaign. She teaches fundraising courses in collaboration with Rice University.



Anne



Anita

Anita K. Parran '73, Kansas City, Mo.

Committees: Advancement, Chair of Student Affairs, Executive

Parran is the associate state director for public affairs for AARP Missouri and principal for KK Charles Communications, LLC, an international firm she founded in 1998. In 2016, she formed The AMP Group, which consults on advocacy campaigns and issues.

Christy Hanahan Powell '68

Banner Elk, N.C., and Coral Gables, Fla.

Committees: Chair of Academic Affairs/Admissions, Advancement, Executive

Powell serves as chairperson of the board of the National YoungArts Foundation. She has raised more than \$1 million for the American Cancer Society while chairing the "10 Best Dressed Luncheon" for many years. She was named one of the "Leading Ladies of Miami" (1996) by the American Red Cross and a "Woman of Substance & Style" (2009) by The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.



Christy

Tom Richards, Columbia, Mo.

Committees: Advancement, Finance and Audit

Richards is the treasurer and chief investment officer of the University of Missouri System. He manages investment portfolios in excess of \$6 billion, including the university's retirement, endowment and general operating funds.



Tom



Susan

Susan Brawley Schmidt '67, Dallas, Texas

Committees: Advancement, Student Affairs

Schmidt is a member of the Board of Directors for the Texas Conservation Alliance, which works to protect the environment. She spends her time researching anti-aging, stem cells and regenerative medicine.

Stephens Hymn

Jim Sinek, Columbia, Mo.

Committees: Advancement, Student Affairs

Sinek is the president of Boone Hospital Center, a 400-bed regional referral center serving a 28-county area of Mid-Missouri. He helped create a partnership between Stephens and Boone Medical Group-Central to provide full-time undergraduates with limited free healthcare services.



Jim



Silissa

Silissa Uriarte Smith '98, Long Beach, Calif.

Committees: Advancement, Student Affairs

Uriarte Smith is an executive, senior-level staffer and community-based leader in the nonprofit, political and public sectors. She created 360 Collaborative Solutions to continue working with clients interested in changing their communities.

Ellen Vollrath '86, Washington, D.C.

Committees: Academic Affairs/Admission, Chair of Advancement, Executive

Vollrath most recently served as director of treasury and reporting at Blumont, Inc. where she was employed for eight years. She was with the American Bar Association for the previous 20 years.



Ellen



Henry

Henry "Hank" J. Waters, III, Columbia, Mo.

Committees: Academic Affairs/Admissions, Trusteeship

Waters is the publisher emeritus of the *Columbia Daily Tribune*. He is the founder, former president and charter member of the board of directors of Job Center, Inc., and Consumer Counseling Service. He also helped found Reality House, Inc., a rehabilitation center for adult criminal offenders.

"What a caring, thoughtful and inspiring group of men and women you all are. You truly care about Stephens."

-Angel Mendez '14





Magic
MOMENTS
Opening Doors for Students

Not all learning occurs in the classroom. Sometimes the most memorable student experiences, or “Magic Moments,” happen during an internship, while meeting a professional in the student’s chosen field, or while simply being exposed to a new environment. Providing access to unexpected transformational opportunities for students is exactly why President Dianne Lynch developed the Magic Moments Fund seven years ago—and why donors stepped up to make it happen.

“We started Magic Moments as a way to inspire students to follow their dreams, to create connections between students and alumnae, and to raise the visibility of the Stephens network nationwide,” Lynch says. “I am pleased to say that through the support of both alumnae clubs and individual donors, we have provided many life-changing educational and career opportunities to talented students who are now pursuing dream careers from coast to coast.”

We took the time to catch up with three of the earliest recipients, all of whom are experiencing amazing and rewarding careers today thanks to your generosity.

Jasmine Johnson '12

It takes a special kind of person to do what **Jasmine Johnson '12** does every day.

She's the outcomes and evaluations coordinator for Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS) an organization in New York City that provides services to girls and young women who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking. She evaluates the impact of GEMS' services and uses the data to help institute program changes and garner outside funding.

Johnson, 27, a St. Louis native and psychology program graduate, has always been passionate about social justice and human rights.

For her, working at GEMS is a dream come true. And it started with an opportunity through the Magic Moments Fund to visit Columbia University in New York City and explore its graduate program in social work.

"The visit confirmed for me that I wanted to attend Columbia and live in New York," Johnson says. "I was also able to meet a few colleagues and make those relationships before school started."

A mentor from Stephens also recommended she apply to live at International House New York, a private, non-private residence and program center for graduate students, scholars and interns. Once she moved in, Johnson was linked to another community.

"I remember being really overwhelmed and anxious about the next step after graduation," Johnson says. "Visiting Columbia University made all the difference in boosting my confidence and alleviating my anxiety and helping me make the decision to go for it."

While a student at Stephens, Johnson led groups to work with HIV and AIDS patients in Trinidad and Tobago, homeless communities in California, and domestic violence victims in Columbia, Mo. She also served as a national spokesperson lobbying for older foster youth. She received a national Pell Grant Legacy Award for her strong leadership skills.

"I had an amazing experience at Stephens," Johnson says. "I often tell my colleagues how valuable my time was at Stephens and how much I appreciated being at a women's college. It has helped my life in many ways. I am especially grateful to have benefited from Magic Moments and the generous donors who support the program."



“I often tell my colleagues how valuable my time was at Stephens.”

—Jasmine Johnson '12

Brittany Morgan '11

Brittany Morgan '11 is living her dream.

She rises each morning before the sun and catches the subway to her job in New York City at CBS News. Her shift begins at 4:30 a.m., and being late isn't an option.

This is the big time, after all.

Morgan, 28, works as an associate producer for Gayle King, a co-host of *CBS This Morning*.

Getting this far hasn't been easy for Morgan. She works hard, sometimes putting in long hours that stretch into days when projects demand it. But she's grateful for every moment, and none of them would have been possible without the Stephens College Magic Moments Fund.

"Magic Moments and its generous donors helped me to get where I am today in my career," she says.

It all started six years ago with a paid visit to New York City, where Morgan met Scott Pelley, a *60 Minutes* correspondent, courtesy of his wife, **Jane Boone Pelley '80**. He introduced Morgan to the executive producer, who advised her to apply for the CBS Page Program.

Not long after, Morgan, a Kansas City, Mo., native, threw caution to the wind and bought a one-way ticket to New York. She arrived in the Big Apple with a suitcase, \$1,000 and no job. But she was subletting an apartment from a Stephens alumna and counting on her connections at CBS.

Two days later, the network called about an interview with the CBS Page Program. She was up against nearly 20 other applicants, many of whom had already interned at places like CNN, NBC and ABC.

However, Morgan had something the others didn't—the lessons, the most important being stay true to yourself, she had learned at Stephens. Her inner strength shined through and caught the attention of those in charge. And she landed the job.

"My biggest advice would be to be yourself and stay true to who you are," she says. "You never know what that can bring. I was very nervous in that interview, but I didn't know how to be anyone else but me.

"Stephens taught me how to do that, how to be a strong woman."



“Magic Moments and its generous donors helped me to get where I am today in my career.”

—Brittany Morgan '11

Tennessee Martin '11

In the fall of her senior year at Stephens, **Tennessee Martin '11** was invited to help shoot a film with a small production company in Los Angeles.

Imagine working on a real movie set with professionals, building a body of work that includes hands-on experiences. It was the opportunity Martin, a digital filmmaking major, had been waiting for.

Unfortunately, she had already been to L.A. during the summer, serving an internship with the same company. She didn't have the money for a return trip and neither did the fledgling company.

Before long, administrators at Stephens got wind of Martin's dilemma and offered to use the Magic Moments Fund to cover some of her expenses. Martin accepted the offer and returned to L.A.

"I am grateful to Magic Moments for setting me on the path I am on today," she says. "It truly set the trajectory for the rest of my career."

Today, Martin, 28, is living in L.A., where she has landed a number of positions in the film industry. Most recently, she was employed with Warner Brothers Studios, where she worked as a script coordinator on the television drama *Lucifer*, now in Season 3 on Fox. She started as a writer's PA the first season and served as writer's assistant the next season.

Not bad for a young woman who grew up in a family of 10 children in tiny Olivehill, Tenn. Martin was the only student in her graduating class of 27 to go to college on an academic and athletic scholarship.

"Stephens College was always there in the ways it needed to be," Martin says. "It was never overbearing. No one ever told me what to do, but I always had the support I didn't have with my family or elsewhere. Stephens has been my home and my family."



“Stephens has been my home and my family.”

—Tennessee Martin '11

And that's what it's all about: helping students. Whether you choose the Magic Moments Fund or the Stephens Fund, or support our Suite Dreams campaign, we make sure your gift makes a difference in the lives of students.

"The most magical thing about Stephens is how much we care about one another and how ready our alumnae are to help," Lynch says. "They make magic moments possible."

Learn more about your giving options at stephens.edu/make-a-gift.

MIM
Magic Moments

Dream PROJECT

52 Dresses, 52 Weeks

Designer **Katie Marble Cootsona '96** is creating one new dress every week for a year.



Katie Marble Cootsona '96 grew up strolling the aisles of fabric stores with her mother and grandmothers.

She remembers the colors of cloth on the bolts, their distinct smells and the feel of cotton, wool and silk between her fingers. Most of all, Cootsona recalls the oversized pattern books and the magical images inside.

A pattern, she learned, was a starting point.

Her childhood wardrobe, crafted almost entirely by her mother and grandmothers, was a testament to that philosophy. And so were the hundreds of garments she discovered years later in the Costume Museum & Research Library at Stephens College, where she spent countless hours as a fashion student.

"The idea that a pattern was simply an example of what you could do connected with me," Cootsona says. "I understood that concept, that I could go beyond the look in the pattern book."

Today, Cootsona has reconnected with her childhood love of sewing and is dreaming up one-of-a-kind styles on a weekly basis. Her "52 Dresses" project, which launched in January 2017, is Cootsona's personal "Project Runway," a challenge to revive her sewing skills and chase the designs dancing in her head.

"This project has been a goal of mine for many years," she says. "I'm so happy to finally be taking up the challenge."

To keep herself accountable, Cootsona took her project to the internet, where each week she blogs about her latest design, sharing the pattern that inspired the dress, the fabric she selected and her work along the way. Readers are able to see how Cootsona takes a pattern and makes it her own. Visit her blog at rollingmarblestudio.com.

In the beginning, Cootsona went slowly, resisting the temptation to push herself.

"I'm fighting the urge to have over-the-top, amazing projects, which will derail the timeline for 52 dresses," she wrote on Jan. 2, 2017. "So, I will start easy, and be true to my aesthetics. I am sure somewhere in the 52 there will be amazing dresses; who knows what will come after a few 'warm-up' projects."

Sure enough, Cootsona has delivered, creating amazing dresses week after week.

The first design was a "simple dress with an artistic detail," in which she literally painted red detail down the front and back of the garment. Week #19 was a full-length gown made from a solid copper satin and navy-blue netting, which she spent hours beading while on a cruise. There was a reversible dress (week #17), another with a matching hat (week #14) and still others made from bold prints that only a seasoned professional could cut and line up without a flaw.

"The key thing was to feel confident in my sewing skills," she says.



continued on next page

“During my years at Stephens, I learned firsthand that every detail matters in fashion.”

— Katie Marble Cootsona '96

While at Stephens, Cootsona formally studied fashion design, patterning, drawing, sewing and fashion show management. She also made a point of creating her own experience by always taking classes outside her major, including history, science, philosophy and political science.

“Probably one of the best classes I took was a half-credit class on negotiation,” she says. “It is quite amazing the amount of negotiation in life and in the fashion world.”

Cootsona received the award for “Most Marketable” collection as a senior at Stephens, a recognition of her dedication to the details of fashion.

“During my years at Stephens, I learned firsthand that every detail matters in fashion, whether it’s the type of fabric used or how the garment is priced, marketed and delivered.”

Cootsona also spent a summer in New York City, interning with **Jeannene Thompson Booher '56**, who has always been a champion for Stephens students. Booher also recently made a \$1 million gift in 2016 to establish The Jeannene Booher Fashion Lecture Series.

During her time in the Big Apple working for Booher, Cootsona participated in every aspect of the design process, from selecting fabrics and trims to visiting with the production team to ensure Booher’s vision was reflected in the final product.

The experience served as affirmation of Cootsona’s dream of working in the fashion industry.

“While working with Jeannene, I got a snapshot of all the different parts of the process,” she says. “That really set me up for my success.”

Cootsona’s first job out of college was as a technical coordinator with the May Merchandising Company in St. Louis. In 1998, she moved to L.A., where she worked as an assistant designer for Rex Lester (a boutique label in Los Angeles), and later as a technical designer with The Disney Store. In 2000, her talents landed her a job with Nordstrom in the greater Seattle area, where she started as a technical design manager and worked her way up to product development manager and then director of the men’s supply chain in 2014. She left Nordstrom in 2016 to focus on her first love of sewing and designing.

“My career has covered design, technical design, product development and supply chain,” she wrote on her website. “I have spent time in factories reviewing quality, process and set-up as well as watching in-line sewing specifics. I appreciate the global view of fashion my career has given me. Now, I am enjoying my own personal studio.”

While she continues with her “52 Dresses” project, Cootsona also works buying and merchandising for a gift shop at a hospital near her home in Tacoma, Wash. She isn’t sure what she’ll do after her project is complete, but chances are it will involve patterns, fabric and her imagination.

“I have a pile of patterns that I would like to make but need the right material,” she says. “And I have piles of material that I need to find the right pattern for.”



2017 The Year in Review

JANUARY

- Faculty, staff and students head to the Missouri statehouse for Citizens for the Arts Day.
- **Minuette Layer '17** takes top honors at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (Region V) for her 10-minute play.

- Four fashion design students are honored with scholarships from YMA, the industry's leading educational nonprofit.

FEBRUARY

- *Harbinger* once again wins Outstanding Literary Arts Journal from Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society.

MARCH

- International fashion icon Dame Zandra Rhodes inspires students as part of The Jeannene Booher Fashion Lecture Series.
- Girl Scouts from throughout Missouri come to campus for a S.T.E.A.M. event featuring hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, arts and math.
- Stephens hosts national authors at Unbound Book Festival.

- New programs in Exercise Science and Theatre for Young Audiences are introduced.
- A Joyful Noise raises funds for the historic organ in Firestone Baars Chapel.

APRIL

- Stephens graduates the first class of M.F.A. in TV and Screenwriting students.



MAY

- Summer campers explore film, fashion, rock-n-roll, riding and equestrian careers, and leadership with faculty and students.

JUNE



JULY

- The 60th season of Okoboji Summer Theatre continues to provide inspiration, entertainment and amazing opportunities for students.



AUGUST

- Stephens celebrates move-in day and kicks off the 2017-18 school year.

SEPTEMBER

- *Stephens Life* magazine receives numerous design award nominations and goes on to win Best in Show from the Associated College Press.



- The esports world takes notice as Stephens becomes the first women's college to play varsity collegiate esports.

OCTOBER

- Students receive honors at the National Association of Teachers of Singers (NATS).



NOVEMBER

- We close another successful year and look forward to a 2018 inspired by our Stephens College alumnae who so generously support our students. Thank you for sharing in the legacy of a women's college education.

DECEMBER



Celebrate Stephens



REUNION 2017



Super Susies





20th Anniversary Class. Class of 1997.

Pictured (L-to-R): Justine Craig-Meyer '97, Mindy Weber McRoberts '97, Leanne Niswonger Violette '97, Rajah Maples-Wallace '97, Carolyn Esquivel '97, Stefin Preboski Kohn '97, Kerri Cigler Runge '97. Not pictured but in attendance: Crystal Simmerman Martie '97.

45th Anniversary Class. Class of 1972.

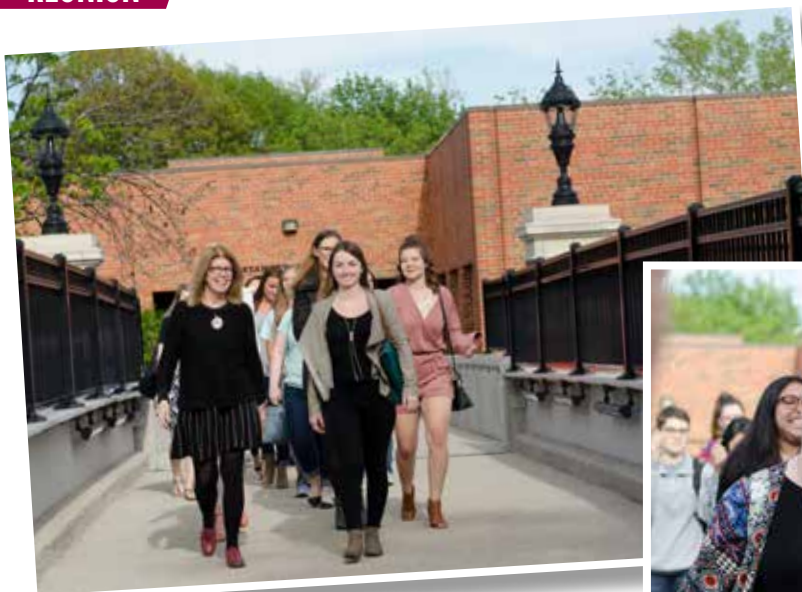
Pictured (L-to-R): Dana Morgenthaler '72, Jeanine Wolfenden Meunier '72, Pamela Lloyd Comello '72, Catherine Wright Howard '72.

50th Anniversary Class. Class of 1967.

Pictured front row (L-to-R): Christina Wolfenden Woods '67, Pamela Hay Blanche '67, Carol Jackson Frazier '67, Mary Peters '67, Pamela Duncan Backhaus '67, Ayliffe Jones Ris '67, Lynda Moses '67, Susan Smith-Pierce '67, Patti Horn Weiss '67. Back row (L-to-R): Stephens Board of Trustees member Gayle Flannery Bentsen '67, Patricia Burnett '67, Mary Josie Cain Blanchard '67, Neel Stallings '67, Jane Helmer '67, Judy Thelen Huischmidt '67. Not pictured but in attendance: Elizabeth Love Kester '67, Anne Boyd Newtown '67.

60th Anniversary Class. Class of 1957.

Pictured (L-to-R): Sandra McFadden Rowden '57, Jeridean Hafter '57, Sueann Wilkowske Kaestner '57, Barbara Kerr Staub '57, Gretchen Bush Kimball '57.



Class of 2017 students are welcomed into the Stephens alumnae family at our Crossing the Bridge ceremony. In this time-honored tradition, the soon-to-be graduates cross the bridges, walking away from the heart of campus toward the outside community. Stephens alumnae, who have gone before them, greet the Stephens women as our newest members of the Stephens College Alumnae Association.





CLASS NOTES

'40s

Jeannette Clift George '44 is the founder and artistic director of the A.D. Players, a Houston-based Christian Theater Company that offers plays throughout the world. She recently realized her lifelong dream of opening a theater. The Jeannette and L.M. George Theatre, which seats 440 people, opened earlier this year in Houston. Jeannette graduated from the University of Texas after earning her A.A. at Stephens.

'50

June Rose Garrott '51 has donated 17 boxes of letters, manuscripts, photographs and art to the Columbia University Libraries Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Most of the collection is the extensive correspondence between June and Nien Cheng, whose memoir "Life and Death in Shanghai" is considered an important account of the Cultural Revolution in China. June spent many years as a missionary and



Pictured (L-to-R): Jane Smith Pirtle '51, Anna von Matyas Chapo '51 and Lois Droste Trowbridge '51.

educator in Hong Kong, China and Japan, where she collected materials related to Chinese life and society. June's donated collection also includes papers from Lei Liang, a Chinese-born American composer, and Lao She, a Chinese novelist and dramatist who was a significant figure of 20th-century Chinese literature.

Lois Droste Trowbridge '51 writes: "We still keep in touch after all these years," referring to her longtime friendship with

classmates **Jane Smith Pirtle '51** and **Anna von Matyas Chapo '51**. The trio met for coffee and pastries this spring in Anna's home in St. Louis. *(Pictured above.)*

Stephanie Williams Ragni '57 has moved from Pittsburgh to Houston, where her only child, Erick, who is an architect, and his wife live with her two grandchildren. She writes: "Plus, I was tired of the cold, snow and my historic home's up-keep." Stephanie recently has enjoyed attending

REMEMBRANCES

'30s & '40s

Emily France Berggren '34 of Pleasant Hill, Iowa; March 5, 2017. **Gladys Sprague Strain '34** of Jacksonville, Ill.; Feb. 28, 2017. **Wilma Tonn Boggs '36** of Carlsbad, Calif.; March 14, 2017. **Mary Martin Duncan '37** of Savannah, Ga.; April 10, 2017. **Helen Jansen Burnett '39** of Indianapolis; Aug. 20, 2016. **Joan Creahan Cleavenger '39** of Miamisburg, Ohio; April 15, 2017. **Helen Dodds Dooley '39** of Corvallis, Ore.; June 9, 2017. **Marion Heltzel Seder '39** of Williamsburg, Va.; July 20, 2017. **Melissa Hibberd DeKieffer '40** of Louisville, Colo.; April 28, 2017. **Marjorie Frank Gross '40** of Wilmette, Ill.; Jan. 27, 2017. **Betty Goldstein Hofstadter '40** of Highland Beach, Fla.;

April 27, 2017. **Betty Baxter Livingstone '40** of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; May 2, 2017. **Leora Campbell Lund '40** of Carlin, Nev.; Nov. 18, 2015. **Marjorie Garlow Singleton '40** of Morgantown, W.Va.; Aug. 28, 2014. **Ina Lewis Freeman '41** of Garland, Texas; June 19, 2017. **Mary Frances Riley Nanasy '41** of Los Osos, Calif.; July 9, 2017. **Betty Sass Parker '41** of Chapel Hill, N.C.; Jan. 12, 2017. **Margaret West Root '41** of Silver Springs, Md.; June 24, 2017. **Dora Hutchison Hanner '42** of Kansas, Ill.; March 10, 2017. **Eleanor Frank Heinz '42** of Portland, Ore.; May 22, 2017. **Jeanne Hausfeld Kluener '42** of Cincinnati; June 14, 2017. **Phyllis Johnson Taber '42** of Paradise Valley, Ariz.; July 22, 2017. **Marian Maher Vaeth '42** of Pittsford, N.Y.; Dec. 19,

2016. **Rowena Sheets Wilson '42** of Gorman, Texas; Jan. 18, 2010. **Betty Bevan Graybill '43** of Lawton, Okla.; Aug. 19, 2015. **Elizabeth Atkins Greene '43** of Richmond, Va.; May 18, 2017. **Roxanna Edge Joynes '43** of Richmond, Va.; July 11, 2017. **Betty Neal Milberger '43** of Seattle; March 28, 2017. **Norma Park Muck '43** of Lincoln, Ill.; April 21, 2017. **Marian Ready '43** of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; July 25, 2017. **Jane Thompson Black '44** of Brownstown, Ind.; April 28, 2017. **Pauline Chicado Middleton '44** of Las Cruces, N.M.; May 10, 2012. **Martha Hughes Nielsen '44** of Longwood, Fla.; April 18, 2017. **Constance Snelling Noonan '44** of Allentown, Pa.; Dec. 21, 2016. **Alice Clarke Okcuoglu '44** of Lexington, Ky.; July 22, 2017. **Barbara Schranck**

several parties for the 50th anniversary of the off-Broadway debut of *Hair*. Her late husband, Gerome B. Ragni, was the coauthor of that musical production and was in the first cast. Stephanie credits Stephens' closed circuit TV class on comparative religions for her interest in religious history and has traveled to Turkey five times. She took two years of Greek at Stephens and read the New Testament in Greek. She also enjoys opera and goes to Santa Fe, N.M., for a week each year, meeting there with the same group of opera enthusiasts. Stephanie was an art major at Stephens.

Jean Lee Rogowsky '57 was a foreign student at Stephens from 1955-57. After graduation, she attended the University of Michigan, majoring in voice and piano, and then transferred to the New York College of Music, which merged with New York University. Jean worked for Pan American World Airways in New York City for many years, got married, and continued with her voice lessons. She gave recitals and concerts locally and in Taiwan. In April, she published "How to Maintain Your Youthful Look on a Shoestring," by Jean H. Lee. The small book is about skin care and health and is available

on Amazon. Jean is working on a "more serious" second book.

'60s

Marita Ingraham Beavin '60 is a retired pharmacist who lives in Norman, Okla. After Stephens, she went on to earn a Doctor of Pharmacy.

Elizabeth Stevens Campbell '62, a retired realtor, attended Stephens for two semesters and later returned to earn her B.A. through the Stephens Without Walls Program in 1986. She and her husband, Pressley, adopted their three great-grandchildren (Destiny, 10; Aiden, 8; and Landon, 5) after raising them for four years. Elizabeth writes: "They are excited that their grannie is now their mom. I will always be called 'Grannie' and we didn't change their names, but they are now secure that they will continue to have a stable, nurturing home."

Jayne "Mary Jane" King Day '68 recently was recognized as the CEO of the Year by the *Nashville Post*. Jaynee writes: "Stephens played a major role for me on my journey

to president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee for the past 29 years. During my time at Stephens, I was given the opportunity to be a leader and learn what that all entails. My experiences there prepared me for the challenges and opportunities as a leader of a dynamic organization with a budget of over \$45 million dollars last year. Stephens taught me that women can be whatever they want to be. I will always be appreciative of my time at Stephens."

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), email us (alumnae@stephens.edu) or send us a letter (Office of Institutional Advancement and Initiatives, 1200 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65215).

**Spring/Summer 2018 issue deadline:
Feb. 1, 2018**

Watson '44 of Land O' Lakes, Wis.; May 14, 2017. **Nancy Whiting Greene '45** of Mayfield Heights, Ohio; March 8, 2017. **Cleo Jane Rogers Halebian '45** of Dallas; June 11, 2017. **Louise Mudge Halstead '45** of Sheffield, Mass.; April 3, 2017. **Elizabeth Ireton Hayes '45** of Prairie Village, Kan.; May 12, 2017. **Gloria Sitler Koons '45** of Sarasota, Fla.; April 21, 2017. **Emilie Bohnhorst Kuner '45** of Evanston, Ill.; Feb. 19, 2017. **Betty Goetz Lall '45** of New York; May 15, 2015. **Jean Bumgardner McDonald '45** of Indianapolis; June 4, 2017. **Sara Watson Morrow '45** of Orange Park, Fla.; March 26, 2017. **Lois Gebert Pannier '45** of Cincinnati; Jan. 19, 2017. **Phyllis Barr Prescott '45** of Thousand Oaks, Calif.; July 12, 2017. **Mary Tilton Bartemus '46** of

Rochester, N.Y.; April 5, 2017. **Ellen Platte Ford '46** of Naples, Fla.; Feb. 27, 2017. **Elizabeth Drake Livingston '46** of Columbus, Ohio; July 8, 2017. **Mary Jane Ebling Powell '46** of Bellevue, Wash.; April 12, 2017. **Ann Rose Allen '47** of Henderson, N.C.; May 9, 2017. **Ellen Babbitt Dayton '47** of Sacramento, Calif.; July 4, 2017. **Alyce Eldridge Elmore '47** of Middletown, Conn.; Aug. 1, 2016. **Martha Berkshire Peterson '47** of Springfield, Va.; Feb. 17, 2017. **Evelyn Hilton Schwoerer '47** of Bloomington, Ill.; Oct. 24, 2015. **Jane Leonhardt Easley '48** of Huntsville, Ala.; Feb. 28, 2017. **Dorothy Hunter Emile '48** of Lincoln, Neb.; Jan. 1, 2017. **Phyllis Lahm Foss '48** of Redmond, Wash.; July 11, 2017. **Charlotte Shearer Harris '48** of Marco Island, Fla.; July

11, 2014. **Susanne Hageman Havran '48** of Longmont, Colo.; Sept. 29, 2003. **Frances Thompson Lynch '48** of Jacksonville, Fla.; May 2, 2017. **Dorothy Buckley Rogers '48** of Dallas; March 15, 2017. **Carol Danielson Smith '48** of Grand Junction, Colo.; July 14, 2017. **Eva Dickins Boschert '49** of Duncan, Miss.; June 8, 2017. **Anne Major Doggett '49** of Highlands, N.C.; June 14, 2017. **Jaimie Long Gallegos '49** of Denver; March 29, 2017. **Carol Stober Hall '49** of Rogersville, Mo.; April 6, 2017. **Ellen Isenberger Riggs '49** of Wichita, Kan.; March 30, 2017. **Susanne Severance Rodgers '49** of Whittier, Calif.; June 26, 2017. **Margaret Rust Sheard '49** of Seattle; Feb. 6, 2015.

continued on next page



This spring, several Class of 1966 classmates visited the Stephens campus. Pictured (L-to-R): Pam Wolfson Johnson '66, Mary Lee MacKelcan '66, Nancy Justin Jones '66, Carol Mueller Hurt '66 and Sherrie Calcott Ellis '66 outside their old dorm, Roblee Hall.

Five Class of 1966 classmates (**Sherrie Calcott Ellis '66**, **Carol Mueller Hurt '66**, **Pam Wolfson Johnson '66**, **Nancy Justin Jones '66** and **Mary Lee MacKelcan '66**) enjoyed a long-awaited visit back to Stephens College in late March.

Pam writes: "We were back in time and going forward at the same moment! Speaking for all five of us, we were so impressed with the amazing changes that we saw and felt such pride that we were a true part of this awesome institution. We are also extremely

enthusiastic about the plans for the future of Stephens."

Plans for their return trip to Columbia, Mo., began in September when the five Stephens women met at Mary's summer home in Maine. That visit marked the first time the women had seen each other since graduating, although they never lost touch throughout the years. They also connected via FaceTime with **Cindy Ludman Salikof '66**, who was unable to attend either gathering.

Pam reminisces about their campus tour: "We crossed the campus to Tower Hall and the Chapel (updated but maintaining its beauty and charm), then on to the bookstore, where we purchased treasured Stephens T-shirts and memorabilia. We also walked through the modern dining hall, which offers all kinds of today's healthy choices, unlike the 'mystery meat,' we laughingly recalled! Across the campus we went, through the infamous 'scramble light' (now a bridge over the road), taking photos along the way. ..."

'70s

Madeline Kay Speerstra Tucker '71 returned to campus this summer with husband Sam to share memories of Stephens. Madeline writes: "I haven't been back since 1975, and we were both impressed with the campus itself and the friendliness of the staff. Very sad that Wales Hall and Laura Stephens Hall were both gone but so much is still as I remember and well cared for."

Mary Beth Humphries Scott '76 has been selected to have her artwork featured on clothing designs for VIDA, a charitable organization that uses its profits to educate the workers who put her art on the

REMEMBRANCES

Doris Voss Spaulding '49 of Durham, N.C.; March 10, 2017. **Virginia Smith Wiemann '49** of Phoenix; Jan. 6, 2016.

'50s

Barbara Meyer Abercrombie '50 of Lawrence, Kan.; April 30, 2016. **Marjorie Mitau Raike '50** of San Francisco; June 2, 2017. **Barbara Horner Smith '50** of Richmond, Va.; Aug. 12, 2017. **Sally Summers Stanke '50** of Bozeman, Mont.; May 23, 2017. **Bettye Gray Woodworth '50** of National City, Calif.; April 1, 2017. **Nancy Seiple Dennis '51** of Gap, Pa.; March 2, 2017. **Dorothy Seyster Landin '51** of East Wenatchee, Wash.; Feb. 5, 2017. **Fey Fraser Rumbarger '51** of Birmingham, Ala.; May 6, 2017. **Toccoa**

Wise Switzer '51 of Union, S.C.; Aug. 5, 2017. **Mary Lee Walton '51** of Modesto, Calif.; July 15, 2017. **Mary Wood '51** of Donna, Texas; July 4, 2017. **Suzanne Sharpe Brigham '52** of Gainesville, Fla.; April 4, 2017. **Marlene Mendelsohn Silverman '52** of Lansdowne, Va.; July 4, 2017. **Katherine Chames Vlachos '52** of Kalamazoo, Mich.; March 23, 2017. **Phyllis Peres Brown '53** of El Cerrito, Calif.; June 8, 2017. **Mary Shank Schauer '53** of Dayton, Ohio; April 19, 2017. **Harriet Ruegg Coble '54** of Nashville, Tenn.; April 7, 2017. **Margot Moore Hamilton '54** of San Antonio; May 21, 2017. **Nancy Trapnell Holmes '54** of Boothbay Harbor, Maine; March 18, 2017. **Floreen Fazendin Wolfort '54** of Weston, Mass.; June 5, 2017. **Marnie Kemper Inman '55** of Rancho Palos

Verdes, Calif.; July 20, 2017. **Anne Swain Killian '55** of Wichita, Kan.; July 7, 2017. **Anne Prescott Buell '56** of Gettysburg, Pa.; June 8, 2017. **Elizabeth Lowther Lyon '56** of Lebanon, Ohio; Oct. 16, 2016. **Janet Fulton Sylvia '56** of Scottsdale, Ariz.; March 31, 2017. **Kaye Joyce Sixbury Holman '57** of La Habra, Calif.; June 18, 2017. **Laurel Jeanne Smith Powell '57** of Columbia, Mo.; June 16, 2017. **Sheila Varian '57** of Arroyo Grande, Calif.; March 6, 2016. **Sandra Smith Nice '58** of Garrison, N.Y.; July 21, 2017. **Elizabeth Blades Selig '58** of Norfolk, Va.; May 16, 2017. **Patricia Pulliam Upton '58** of Heber Springs, Ark.; May 23, 2017. **Jo Shaw Kiley '59** of San Antonio; Dec. 21, 2016. **Rosemary Klose Sinclair '59** of Annandale, Va.; March 14, 2015.



40th Anniversary Class Reunion: Class of 1977. Pictured front row (L-to-R): Melanie May '77, Lucinda Fitch Wright '77, Jana Brogden Hicks '77, Rebecca Stockdale Comley '77, Lorraine Hafenbrack Collier '77, Terry Humphrey '77, Julie Beard '77. Back row (L-to-R): Joy Katzen-Guthrie '77, Helen Lewis Moore '77, Lauri Kempson '77, Cynthia Cobb '77, Kitsy Battle '77. Not pictured but in attendance: Maura Cockett Alvaro '77, Holly Bright Mayfield '77, Barbara Jaskot Speare '77.

clothing designs. After Stephens, Mary continued her art studies at the Otis College of Art and Design.

This spring, Class of 1977 classmates (pictured above) returned to campus for *Celebrate Stephens* to celebrate their 40th anniversary class reunion. **Melanie May '77** found her first-time experience attending reunion to be "very memorable, endearing and inspiring!" Classmate

Lorraine Hafenbrack Collier '77 writes: "It is always great to reconnect with powerful women."

Mindy Tatz Chernoff '78 recently published her first book, "From Muck to Magnificence: How Cleaning Horse Stalls Can Lead to an Astonishing Life." The book is an Amazon No. 1 Hot New Release. Contact Mindy at theresonant-horse@gmail.com.

'80s

In April, Class of 1982 classmates (pictured on page 27) gathered on the Stephens campus for *Celebrate Stephens*. The reunion marked the 35th anniversary of their graduation from Stephens.

Katrina Luise Everhart '83 was named the Major General Jeanne M. Holm Aerospace Education Officer for 2017 in Missouri. She is an auriculotherapist technician and an osteopathic manual practitioner. Katrina earned a Master Certificate in Osteopathy (MCO) in May 2016 and a Diploma in Osteopathic Manual Practice (DOMP) in December 2016. She recently published two books, "Glove Thief," her first children's book; and "Mince Sniffers."

Lisa Parum Gordon '84 has been married to Lockheed Martin for 29 years. They have two sons, 22 and 25. Lisa enjoys working as a subcontract program manager at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control Inc. in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Class of 1987 classmates (pictured on page 27) enjoyed special recognition as the 30th anniversary class at this spring's *Celebrate Stephens*.

'60s, '70s & '80s

Nancy Reese Bolton '61 of Palos Verdes Estates, Calif. **Donna Burton Bosko '61** of Oak Park, Ill.; April 15, 2017. **Carol Barber Caraveau '61** of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Sept. 27, 2016. **Susan Weaver Chamberlin '61** of Farmington, Mich.; Jan. 22, 2017. **Susan Pastor Fishman '61** of Los Angeles; May 12, 2017. **Susan Trapp McCamy '61** of Florence, Ala.; July 29, 2017. **Helen Warren '61** of Lexington, Ky.; May 11, 2017. **Jeanne Prettyman Ramlow '62** of Columbia, Mo.; March 13, 2017. **Pauline Kins Ettelman '63** of Dallas; July 10, 2016. **Priscilla Rogers Brutsche '64** of Fort Worth, Texas; April 16, 2017. **Margaret Newton Burt '65** of Danville, Calif.; April 2, 2017.

Diane Tway Severson '65 of Fairfax, Va.; March 15, 2017. **Carol Clark Smith '65** of Leawood, Kan.; July 18, 2017. **Donna Wayland Trice '65** of St. Petersburg, Fla.; May 4, 2017. **Carol Russell Parker '66** of Topeka, Kan.; May 4, 2017. **Suzanne Shrader Quiggle '66** of Bath, Ill.; July 7, 2017. **Barbara Anspaugh '67** of Oklahoma City; March 9, 2017. **Karen Kennedy Johnson '67** of Ruston, La.; June 23, 2017. **Jill Jordan '67** of Flagstaff, Ariz.; April 10, 2017. **Scharlane Tunnell McGregor '68** of Houston; Feb. 14, 2017. **Karen Gonda Rashewsky '73** of Grand Rapids, Mich.; May 18, 2016. **Rebecca Richens '73** of San Jose, Calif.; April 20, 2017. **Edward Morgan '80** of Newton, Iowa; Dec. 28, 2016. **Hilda Smith '85** of Southport, N.C.; June 16, 2017. **Susan Stoikovic Rhodes**

'87 of Springfield, Mo.; June 14, 2017. **Elisabeth Burch Taron '88** of Nashville, Tenn.; April 6, 2017.

Former Employees of the College

William Colbert of Columbia, Mo., former employee; Aug. 2, 2017. **Dorothea Polzin** of New London, Wis., former employee; Feb. 24, 2017. **Janet Longe Sadler** of South Hadley, Mass., former publications manager; Feb. 4, 2017. **Charlotte Short** of Boulder, Colo., former faculty; Jan. 2, 2017.

'90s

Shared Success in Fashion

Finding their shared reason for success in the fashion industry didn't take long for **Marni Rutan '95** of Houston, Texas, and **Lindsey Ruzick Ford '06** of Lenexa, Kan. They are both graduates of the Stephens fashion program.

The Stephens alumnae are independent stylists with J. Hilburn, an award-winning men's custom clothing and concierge service that boasts nearly 2,000 stylists nationwide. Lindsey closed out her best personal month in September, finishing No. 1 in the entire company, while Marni has consistently been in the top 11 for nearly five years.

Both women are thankful to Stephens for the education they received.

Marni writes: "Stephens set me up for success in so many ways I didn't realize back then. Now I realize that the courses I took in sewing, pattern drafting, wool tailoring and textiles (to name a few) have given me the ability to be so successful. Many times in my business I feel certain aspects in 'fit' just come natural to me, when more times than not, it's the underlying education in fashion I learned from the courses at Stephens College."

Lindsey shares similar feelings. She writes: "I always knew I was better prepared for the workplace than non-Stephens candidates, but it's unfolded many times throughout my career. My knowledge of tailoring, fabric and collection presentation skills, which were instilled in me at Stephens, have been fundamental in my success as a stylist. I am the only one responsible for my success, or lack thereof. I often think back to the first day of Senior Collection where we were required to plan out our entire semester and explain how we would achieve creating our collection. The time management I learned throughout the course of my senior year prepared me for my career in fashion and in life. I know without a doubt, my Stephens education had a tremendous impact on my life."

Kristin Atwell Ford '91, an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, co-produced the new opera "Riders of the Purple Sage," based on Zane Grey's iconic novel. In November, the opera was nationally broadcast on classical music stations as part of WFMT's American Opera series. The show can be heard on the Arizona Opera website (azopera.org). She is directing a documentary film about the artistic process behind the opera that will be released in 2019. Kristin writes: "So many of my professors, most notably Thomas Dillingham, Bertrice Bartlett, Judith Clark and James Shirkey, influenced my approach to storytelling."

'00s

Stephanie Krueger Scott '04 and **Laura Moorhead Amis '04** (*pictured right*) recently renovated a building with their business, Stephens Susies Properties, and opened Studio 6 Pilates and Wellness, a Pilates, Gyrotonic and yoga studio in Hopkins, Minn. The pair met in Searcy Hall during their freshman year at Stephens and have been friends ever since. They taught together before their business venture, which allowed them to use the building skills they developed from their time in summer theatre and dance. Stephanie writes: "Within one summer, we bought a building, took on a 2,500-square-foot renovation with little outside help, became landlords and opened a beautiful boutique studio, AND managed to stay friends. Now Studio 6 has been open for a year and our dream is growing!"



Marissa Barresi Scott '07 and husband Mitch are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Madeline Laurie Scott, (*pictured right*) who was born on Nov. 10, 2016. Marissa writes: "She will hopefully be a fourth-generation Stephens graduate. Her mother, **Marissa Barresi Scott '07**; grandmother, **Linda Schwartz Barresi '77**; two aunts, **Alice Schwartz van Westenberg '77** and **Nancy Schwartz Patterson '83**; and late great-grandmother **Patricia Johnson Schwartz '51** are alumnae." Marissa lives in Orlando, Fla., with her family and spunky dog, Stewart. She works as a solutions engineer for ZeroChaos.

'10s

Polly Rose Edelstein '10 married Arik Spenser Davidson on May 14, 2017, in her hometown of Memphis, Tenn. Stephens alumnae in attendance were maid of honor **Austin Stanton '10** and **Chey Jezreel '10**. The couple met in Philadelphia, where they both reside. Arik is a second-year law student at Temple University, and Polly is the artistic director of the Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival, where she dedicates her time to creating opportunities for women in theater.

Angel Mendez '14 a Stephens trustee, recently relocated to Las Cruces, N.M., for her career. (*Read more about her on page 8.*) She graduated from Stephens with a B.S. in Integrated Media. Angel writes: "I look forward to connecting with any Susies in the New Mexico/Texas area."



Marni Rutan '95 (*pictured left*) and Lindsey Ruzick Ford '06 (*pictured above*).



35th Anniversary Class Reunion: Class of 1982. Pictured (L-to-R): Larkellen Rogers Krehbiel '82, Taressa Snelling Fisher '82, Mary Furness '82, Fay Ishikawa '82, Kerry Brocker '82.



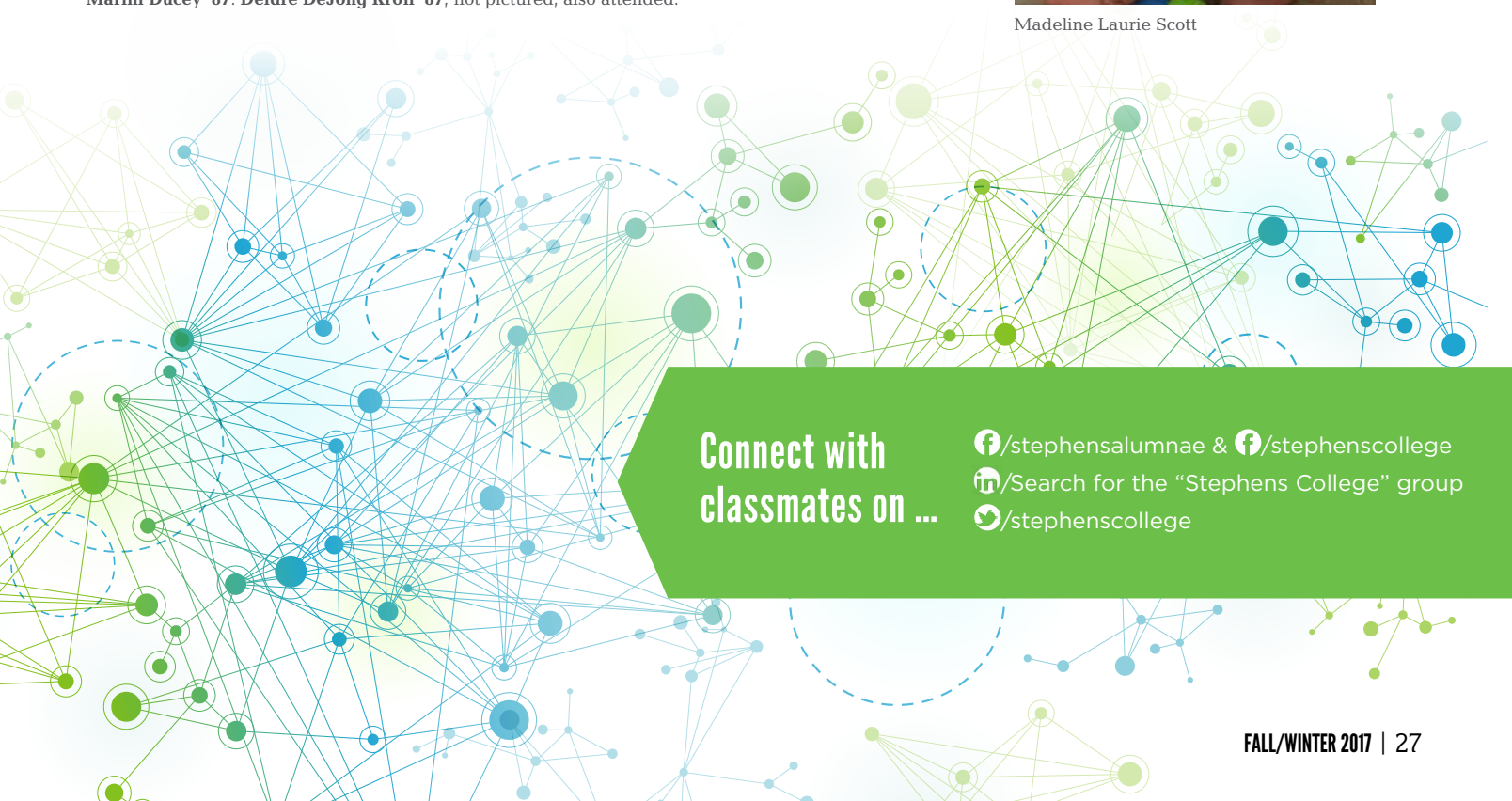
Pictured (L-to-R): Laura Moorhead Amis '04 and Stephanie Krueger Scott '04.



30th Anniversary Class Reunion: Class of 1987. Pictured (L-to-R): Martie Murphy '87, Elizabeth Stephens '87, Leah Ashfield Peniston '87, Marilyn Krebs '87, Wendy Landes Hatem '87, Tamara Marini Ducey '87. Deidre DeJong Kroll '87, not pictured, also attended.



Madeline Laurie Scott



Connect with
classmates on ...

-  /stephensalumnae &  /stephenscollege
-  /Search for the "Stephens College" group
-  /stephenscollege

CLUB NOTES

Connecticut Alumnae

Stephens College alumnae in Connecticut gathered on May 21 for a champagne brunch at the Wee Burn Beach Club in Rowayton, Conn. Event host **Margaret Egan Johnston '67** says the gathering was “a lovely event with amazing women.”

“We all, every one of us, share great memories of a wonderful all-around Stephens College experience and a top-quality education,” she says. “I have found that no matter the age group, we are all bound by our strong ties to our beloved Stephens.”

Pictured front row (L-to-R): Heather Hay '93, Margaret Egan Johnston '67, Greta Gehlbach Gribkoff '80, Erin Nelson Simon '92, Sherrie Calcott Ellis '66. Back row (L-to-R): Madeleine Baker '70, Janeen Bjork '78, Suzanne Carbery Emery '77, Barbara Jaskot Speare '77.

Atlanta Alumnae Club

The Atlanta Alumnae Club held a luncheon and a happy hour on March 23. The luncheon featured a talk by **Daryll Harris Griffin '72**, a Stephens College Board of Trustees member, who shared her excitement about all the good things going on at Stephens in health sciences, performing arts, fashion, digital film and education.

“The luncheon was a wonderful way to share an afternoon with awesome Stephens women,” Griffin says. “The Stephens trivia led by [Stephens College Director of Philanthropy] Gwen Robbins brought back many great Stephens memories.”

During the happy hour, Robbins provided updates on specific programs and answered questions from the group. Those in attendance were: **Ardith Hamilton Kirchhoff '78, Kitsy Battle '77, Mia Rosenberg Spolan '88, Ronda Robinson '77, Becky Thorup Battle '73, Jennifer Wolf Scales '85** and Gwen Robbins.

Luncheon attendees:

Pictured (L-to-R): Elizabeth Noah Coil '58, Kitsy Battle '77, Mia Rosenberg Spolan '88, Karen Wilcox Barker '60, Ardith Hamilton Kirchhoff '78, Linda Hummelstein Newport '71, Pamela Brown Coleman '78, Mary Marvin Lemon Walter '69, Daryll Harris Griffin '72.

Seattle Alumnae Club

On June 17, the Seattle Alumnae Club held its annual luncheon at the Seattle Yacht Club. Stephens President Dianne Lynch was the club's guest of honor. A total of 25 alumnae were in attendance, including longtime club member **Phyllis Lahm Foss '48**. She passed away later this summer.

Denver Area Alumnae

In June, Stephens alumnae from the Denver area gathered for three events: Lunch at the Boulder Cork in Boulder, Colo.; lunch at the Brio Tuscan Grille in Park Meadows in Lone Tree, Colo.; and a happy hour at the Brio Tuscan Grille in Cherry Creek in Denver.

“New friends were made and old friends reunited!” **Ann Willett Kingery '58** says. “Stephens sisters socialized and shared life experiences ‘beyond Stephens,’ which included continued education, professional careers, marriage and family, travel and fun ... all in all, real life drama!”

Colorado Alumnae

On May 21, Stephens alumnae gathered to watch *The Secret Garden* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. **Brianna Lee Taylor Firestone '01**, the center's director of customer experience and loyalty, hosted the event that raised funds for the Colorado Scholarship Fund.

Those in attendance (listed by class year): Ann Willett Kingery '58, Ayliffe Jones Ris '67, Denise Girtin Daniell '72, Cathleen Chrystal DeCoster '77, Rebecca Gallegos '78, Tracy Knode Hamil '80, Sara Mills '97, Rebecca Maniatis '98, Virginia Ris '99, Brianna Lee Taylor Firestone '01, Karin Carr '03, Madison Burke '17, Stephens alumna Chris McGinley. Not pictured but also in attendance: Courtney Nelson Hanfland '04, Elizabeth Howerton '72, Mary Carolyn Hetherington Lee '63.

LA Women for Stephens

In May, members and friends of LA Women for Stephens gathered at the historic Santa Monica home of **Jane Bensussen '65** in Los Angeles to celebrate the inaugural graduates from the College's LA-based low-residency M.F.A. in TV and Screenwriting. M.F.A. Director Ken LaZebnik highlighted the impressive accomplishments of the 20 graduates and shared the latest news from the program. Meichele Foster, vice president for institutional advancement and initiatives, and Shawn Poore, director of philanthropy, joined local alumnae from the 1960s through current students to congratulate the new graduates and reminisce about their time at Stephens.

“New friends were made and old friends reunited!”

— Ann Willett Kingery '58

HELLO

MY NAME IS



Kansas City Luncheon Club

Early this year, the Kansas City Luncheon Club held a Valentine's Day lunch at the Mission Road Antique Mall in Prairie Village, Kan.

In March, the group enjoyed lunch at the home of **Dot Bowe Wingerd '56**, where a police officer gave tips on identity theft protection. During a April luncheon at the condo of **Karen Erickson Granville '61**, they learned about Kansas City's historic Union Cemetery and the famous people buried there. In May, **Susan Story Lord '52** hosted a potluck salad exchange.

Pictured front row (L-to-R): Kerry Brocker '82, Susan Story Lord '52, Karen Erickson Granville '61, Dorothy Frost Ferm '45, Janet Reddington Kinder '52, Shirley Demmitt Golden '53, Nancy Fouts Jefferis '52, Mary Lew Eldridge McCarty '79. Back row (L-to-R): Kara Lay '87, Wynne Botkin Weaver '62, Sondra Heuer Gregory '59, Judy Mason Mertz '71, Judy Derry Mahoney '62, Dot Bowe Wingerd '56, Stephanie Alexander Hamil '62, Rosalyn Marting Osborn '61, Barbara Butler '72, Jan Moses Durrett '50. Not pictured but in attendance: Bette Frass McDaniel '42, Vicki Panethiere '72.

Kansas City Luncheon Club & 1833 Kansas City Club

Sponsored by the Kansas City Luncheon Club and the 1833 Kansas City alumnae groups, an ice cream social for incoming freshmen was held on July 16 at the home of **Angela Barto Viehland '00**. Freshmen and parents from the Kansas City area, members of the clubs and Stephens staff members Maggie Gonzales, an admissions counselor, and Kalei Holder, director of annual fund and alumnae engagement, also enjoyed the festivities.

Diane Hunter Robinson '86, 1833 member, and **Judy Mason Mertz '71**, Luncheon club president, agreed the freshmen are perfect for Stephens' future.

Pictured front row (L-to-R): Mary Pena '21, Izze Loos '20, Hannah Dobson '21. Back row (L-to-R): Jada Warren '21, Savannah Maul '21, Emily York '21, Mariah Stewart '21.

Alumnae Club of Greater Washington

On May 20, Stephens President Dianne Lynch joined more than two dozen D.C. metro alumnae and guests at the home of **Meghan Stone Thomas '92**, for the SCACGW biennial silent auction. With the proceeds from the auction and other revenues from dues, the club raised \$6,000 for the Suite Dreams campaign as well as an additional \$2,000 in support of the club's endowed scholarship fund. Active since 1949, the club welcomes new members and volunteers for leadership roles. Learn more: dcstephensalums.org.

Alumnae Club of Dallas

The Alumnae Club of Dallas continues to enjoy monthly lunch with increasing attendees at various locations in the Dallas area. In March, the club hosted an antique road show. Guest speaker Dr. Susan Sturdivant, an antique appraiser, gave background information and values on the items each alumna brought.

"It was so fun to enjoy the great stories that came with each item!" says **Susan Brawley Schmidt '67**, club president and Stephens Board of Trustees member.

In June, Stephens alumnae visited fashion designer Paulette Martsof in her new couture warehouse, Allie-Coosh. She designs and makes gowns, garments and jewelry. She gave the group a behind-the-scenes tour of her warehouse, plus time to shop!

Stephens alumnae (pictured L-to-R) at Allie-Coosh: **Martha Phillips Austin '65**, **Babs Lindsey '72**, **Carla Jonisch-Adams '78**.

Alumnae Club of Northern California

On Sept. 2, the Alumnae Club of Northern California gathered for a garden tour and lunch at the beautiful Filoli estate in Woodside, Calif.

Garden tour attendees (pictured L-to-R): **Jessa Tewart '67**; **Denise Pourroy Ziony '56**; Elizabeth Caselton, friend of Jessa; **Jane Reid '80**; **Susan Paterson '80**; **Sue Cummins Alvarez '64**; **Betty Armstrong Drake '52**; **Janan Perkins Huntsberry '66**; **Candy Wiggins Capogrossi '65**.



Dallas



Greater Washington



Join your local group!

Find the group nearest you, or register your own group, on our alumnae website, stephens.edu/alumnae. Click on "Alumnae Groups."

“ I have found that no matter the age group, we are all bound by our strong ties to our beloved Stephens. ”

—Margaret Egan Johnston '67

In Memory

Laurel Jeanne Smith Powell '57

Laurel Jeanne Smith Powell '57 of Columbia, Mo., who taught clothing construction, fashion design, pattern making and millinery for more than two decades at Stephens College, passed away on June 16, 2017.

Though Powell also served as head of the Art and Fashion department during her tenure, she is most fondly remembered for teaching tailoring and for preparing generations of young women to compete in the male-dominated field.

"I do not think there was ever a doubt in anyone's mind that they could not compete with male tailors and that the skills they received at Stephens gave them an advantage in the marketplace," says **Dr. Monica Phillippe McMurry '82**, Dean of the School of Design. "Tailored design offers some of the highest levels of fitting, pattern making, draping and sewing one can obtain. To this day, many of us refer to techniques Jeanne Powell used in the classroom."

Powell was also an expert milliner, a skill of high importance through the late-1960s. She continued to teach the skill to both fashion design and costume/theatre students into the '80s. And because of her knowledge about headwear designs, Powell was later called upon to help date hats housed in the Stephens College Costume Museum & Research Library.

In 1987, Powell and **Carol Olsen Foley '55**, a good friend and colleague, co-wrote "Pattern Making," a how-to book, including numerous illustrations, for basic to advanced patterns.

"The illustrations were such that it was not difficult to follow the instructions," McMurry says. "When computer-aided pattern making was just beginning in the late '80s and early '90s, Jeanne's book became the most-used book by Gerber Pattern Making software."

The book's illustrated step-by-step instructions were so comprehensive that even persons who could not speak English could follow them.

"She was ahead of her time in going beyond cultural boundaries," McMurry says.

Powell was known for being generous with her time and knowledge with Stephens students, staff and faculty. Some time ago, the School of Design received a fashion illustration created by Powell that today hangs in the fashion program's office conference room.

"The illustrations present a forward-thinking vision," McMurry says. "Jeanne would have liked the placement of the image."

Tributes

Memorials may be made to the Stephens Fund in the name of **Laurel Jeanne Smith Powell '57**.

Please send your memorial gifts to: Stephens College Office of Institutional Advancement and Initiatives, 1200 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65215.

To make a donation, you also may contact (573) 876-7110, giving@stephens.edu or stephens.edu/giving.



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