

# BEYOND STEPHENS



**ISSUE 8**

SPRING | SUMMER | 2015



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# From Dianne



**Toni Leach Reinis '67**, the 2015 Alumnae Achievement Award winner, with Stephens College President Dianne Lynch. Reinis was recognized for her achievements during *Celebrate Stephens*. View more Reunion 2015 photos at [www.flickr.com/photos/stephenscollegeflickr](http://www.flickr.com/photos/stephenscollegeflickr).

Dear Stephens,

I walked into the Kimball Ballroom on a sunny afternoon in late April, and I wished for one brief moment that every one of you could have been there with me. It was the opening event of our 2015 Reunion, a celebration that brings together our current students—inspired, ambitious and excited to meet all of you, our Stephens network—with those of our alumnae who find the time in their incredibly busy lives to come home again.

I stood in the doorway and watched them converge in that extraordinary, historic and beautiful space: Stephens women—of all ages, experiences and ambitions—connecting and sharing with one another. It was a magical moment, a reminder that Stephens is a community of confident, creative and talented women, all of whom became their best selves on this little college campus in Columbia, Missouri.

This issue of *Beyond Stephens* speaks eloquently to that transformation and to the brilliant impact Stephens women have in their spheres of influence. From the feathers of **Abby Arauz '94**—adorning such celebrities as Beyoncé and Big Bird—to the dignity and political power of our own amazing **Helen Froelich Holt '32**, Stephens alumnae are changing the world, one encounter, adventure and achievement at a time.

And even more than that, this issue of the magazine is an inspiring reminder of the breadth and depth of our Stephens sisterhood. Flip through the many pages of news and announcements, and you'll find compelling evidence of the deep and abiding friendships that were forged in our residence halls and maintained throughout lifetimes. And you'll become nostalgic and saddened at the passing of some of the greatest faculty ever to grace a college classroom.

Ask today's Stephens students to describe what they cherish most about their experience here, and their response is immediate and unequivocal: Their friendships and their relationships with faculty and staff. They are creating memories every day that they will carry with them after graduation, out into a world full of opportunity and challenge. And they take pride and comfort knowing that this little women's college, right here in the middle of the country, is still thriving, still growing, and still celebrating what it means to be a Stephens woman. Just as you do.

Enjoy!

Dr. Dianne Lynch  
Stephens College President

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### ABOUT THE COVER:

Pictured: Kathy Nguyen '17 models a handmade marabou-peacock feather fan created by Abby Arauz '94, who owns The Feather Place in New York.

Photo credit: Zucker Feather Products



# A Closer Look

A quick dose of Stephens fun facts and interesting stats.



72

Number of points Stephens College earned as a 2013-2014 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Champions of Character Five-Star Institution. Stephens earned a bronze-level finish, coming up just three points shy of reaching the silver level. Institutions are awarded points for character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion.

This academic year, Stephens Athletics also revealed a new look for the Stars. **Sara Barnett '15** designed the logo (pictured). Check out the new Stars' athletics website ([stephensstars.com](http://stephensstars.com)) as well!



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Age of the oldest piece (a diploma circa 1897) featured in Stephens' exhibit, "Bridging Traditions." The three-case exhibit, which was on display at Columbia City Hall this spring, included items such as a dress worn by Diana Ross in 1969, a variety of vintage photos and other memorabilia from Stephens.



50

Number of colleges (including Stephens' program) named as "Top Fashion Schools in the World" by Fashionista.com, one of the largest independent fashion news sites. Stephens was one of only 19 U.S. schools to make the list and the only liberal arts college. Stephens is also one of a few Midwestern colleges and the only women's college to be associated with the Council of Fashion Designers of America.



2

Number of residence hall "parents" who lived in Columbia Hall this academic year. The couple is working with Residence Life to see if this is a good model to enhance the Columbia Hall experience for students. *Pictured:* Mark and Debbie Brunner. Mark is Stephens' IT director while Debbie is the executive director of the Stephens College Academy of Health Sciences.



4.8 MILLION

Projected average number of "Today" show viewers who watched Dominique, an eighth-grader living in a New York homeless shelter with her mother, receive a full scholarship to Stephens. Dominique will attend summer programming on campus until she graduates high school, at which time she'll have the opportunity to attend Stephens as long as she meets the College's admissions standards.

(*Pictured L-to-R:*) **Dr. Leslie Swanda Willey '83**, Dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, who presented the scholarship to Dominique in December; Dominique; and **Paula Goldenberg '14**, an employee at a marketing firm who contacted Stephens about the opportunity to help Dominique.

# Propelling Stephens into the Future



*Dr. Suzan Harkness became Vice President for Academic Affairs in January. Prior to joining Stephens, she was a tenured faculty member and administrator at the University of the District of Columbia since 2002. During her time there, she served as special assistant to the president, an assistant dean, the founding director of the Learning Resources Center for Academic Technology and a tenured professor in the political science program. Harkness maintains a vibrant research agenda and continues to publish in peer-reviewed scholarly literature; she has an upcoming article that will be published in *The American Journal of Distance Education* later this year. She earned her Ph.D. in Political Science and Public Policy from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, an M.A. in International Relations-Intercultural Studies from United States International University (now Alliant International University) and a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.*

I was drawn to Stephens because of its rich history, innovative spirit and experiential pedagogical approach. But perhaps I was destined to come to Stephens—my first book, which I was given as a 3-year-old child and still have today, was titled “I Am Suzy.”

Throughout my career, I have worked meticulously to help institutions be the best that they can be—to offer intentional, innovative, sustainable and relevant courses of study and to help faculty have the resources they need to be effective. As the chief academic officer, I envision being able to build upon the College’s strengths and identifying and advancing high-demand programs, new collaborations and flexible instructional modalities.

I draw upon my academic training in public policy to see things at the micro and macro levels and to value incremental change. Like the germination of a spring seedling that was planted in the ground, it takes time to see the full bloom of each individual flower and a wider view to see the symphony of all of the flowers that make up the bouquet. Higher education in general, and at Stephens College in particular, necessitates such a view.

It is my goal to help propel Stephens forward as an institution committed to the creative arts and health sciences, to educating successive generations of women, and to building upon Stephens’ national reputation.

I am humbled by the innovative, pioneering spirit; critical inquiry; intellectual talent and technical expertise that I see around me every day. My goal for students through our talented faculty is to instill a sense of constant wonder, to take a broad world view, to step outside of the comfortable, to be adaptable and flexible, to accept new ideas, to embrace change, to view the world through multiple perspectives and to step up and into leadership roles wherever there is a need.

Stephens has a rich history, and now I have the opportunity to become part of that history—and for that, I am privileged and much obliged.

—Dr. Suzan Harkness  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

# A Stephens snapshot



Some of the 2014-2015 Stephens Scholars members.



Searcy House Plan members, 1984-1985.

“ I feel like we still have that community just by being able to say I’m a Stephens Scholar. The metaphorical ‘floor’ is always with us. ”

—Glenn Morehouse Olson '87

**Abilene Olson '18** wanted to become part of the honors society at Stephens because she liked the idea of being challenged academically.

The network of friends she gained was an added benefit.

“It’s nice to have support outside of my major,” says Olson, a theatre major and daughter of **Glenn Morehouse Olson '87**.

That sense of community has been the linchpin that’s held the program together since its inception, through her mother’s year in the Searcy House Plan to the Stephens Scholars program it is today.

Now in its sixth decade at Stephens, the honors program ensures that high-achieving first-year students are taking coursework that challenges them and makes sure they’re surrounded and supported by like-minded peers.

“I remember it being a community within a community—really supportive and nurturing,” **Andrea Horton Davis '83** says. “It was nice to know that if you were struggling with a subject or assignment, there were people around you going through the same thing ... or who could at least commiserate with you.”

The honors plan began as a pilot program in 1961 in West Hall, which was renamed in honor of longtime faculty member Laura Searcy three years later. The program then became the Searcy House Plan, which gained in popularity: by the 1970s, it had become a model for other campuses. In addition to taking courses together and living as neighbors, members also organized annual events such as holiday parties, debates and trips.

Davis remembers her Searcy classes as courses that she might not have taken had it not been for the program.

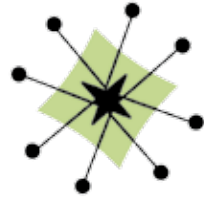
“It was a good way to dip your toe into new curriculum,” says Davis, who went on to work in advertising and, later, in the film and television industry.

She also recalls the plan’s dedicated faculty members, including Margaret Campbell, who was “such a fixture.”

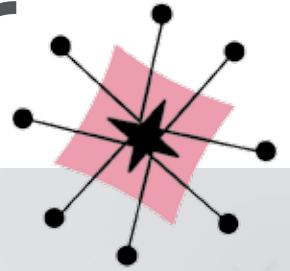
She still is. Campbell and a tight-knit crew of faculty work together to make sure the mission of the program meets the changing needs of students. Today, that means giving them housing options while still ensuring that participants have a chance to study and socialize together.

“The program has changed over time, but the faculty remain committed to making sure honor students have everything they need to excel at Stephens and beyond,” Campbell says.

True



Trailblazer



Courtesy West Virginia  
Secretary of State's office

## Helen Froelich Holt '32

became West  
Virginia's first  
female Secretary  
of State in 1957.



“Stephens was my foundation.  
That’s where I grew up. I loved it.”

—Helen Froelich Holt '32



When **Helen Froelich Holt '32** first came to Stephens College, Herbert Hoover was president; a bottle of cola cost a nickel; and a woman in political office was practically unthinkable.

Holt would eventually go on to serve as the first female Secretary of State in West Virginia and the head of a federal initiative that essentially shaped the retirement home system as we know it today.

But in 1930, she wasn't out to shatter any glass ceilings. Holt was just 16 when she started college and says she was “very timid and insecure.”

On campus, though, she began to accept roles that shaped her leadership skills. She joined the Hexagon mathematics club. She honed her grammatical skills with Dr. Louise Dudley. She found herself involved in student government.

“I was pushed into a lot of things without knowing what I was doing,” she says. “Opportunities just came along.”

And they continued to come along throughout her life.

While teaching in Washington, D.C., a photo of her landed in *Life* magazine's spread on the “prettiest school teachers in the U.S.” The picture caught the eye of Sen. Rush D. Holt—considered at the time the most eligible bachelor in the nation's capital. As fate would have it, his sister knew her and introduced them. They married in 1941.

Holt was settled in her role as wife and mother when tragedy struck and her husband died at the age of 49 after a battle with cancer. On his hospital bed, he asked her to finish out his term in West Virginia's House of Delegates.

“The House of Delegates was made up of people willing to work with me,” Holt says. “They were friends of my husband, and he had confidence in me.”

After her term, she was appointed to the Secretary of State's office to finish out the term of the former secretary, who had died.

While in that position, the federal government was starting to study the housing needs of the elderly, starting in West Virginia. That's when Holt met President Dwight Eisenhower, who would later recruit her to head an initiative to better regulate retirement homes.

“Congress had passed a law for the construction of care facilities for the elderly, but nobody was clamoring for the job to run it,” she says. “Eisenhower called me and asked me to take the job of setting up the program.”

In that role, Holt was responsible for building thousands of nursing homes across the country. She started by researching best construction practices, and building a model facility in West Virginia. She also worked closely with the Department of Health and Human Services to formalize administrative systems that all facilities could use, as well as training programs.

“Each time we built one, we found ways to make improvements, so each facility was better than the last,” she says.

Holt would go on to work under seven presidents within the Federal Housing Administration and Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Holt was chosen as the Professional Woman of the Year for the Washington Area in 1971. She was also declared West Virginia's Woman of the Decade and

received an honorary doctorate for her service from West Virginia University. She's also a past recipient of the Alumnae Achievement Award, the highest award Stephens bestows.

The secret of her success? Just do the best you can, she says.

“I tried to follow the Lord's direction all of my life and to do each job that was given to me to the very best of my ability,” she says.

Holt, who will turn 102 on Aug. 16, has remained involved with Stephens over the years.

“Stephens was my foundation,” she says. “That's where I grew up. I loved it.”

Most recently, she has contributed to the restoration of the historic President's Home.

Having President Dianne Lynch live on campus is important, Holt says.

“It means she's part of the school, and the students feel that she's part of them,” she says. “That's a really good feeling.”

Holt remembers visiting the home as a student herself. President James Madison Wood and his wife, Lela Raney Wood, often invited students there for special gatherings.

Holt also remembers President Wood inviting students to accompany him on business trips to Kansas City or St. Louis.

“It was a special privilege to get to ride with him,” she says.

After all, in 1930, Stephens women weren't allowed to ride in cars without permission.

# Giving Hearts

Stephens honors Sursum Society members for contributions.

The Sursum Society provides a special level of recognition for our most generous donors who are dedicated to supporting Stephens College. During *Celebrate Stephens*, the College's annual reunion in April, a special recognition luncheon was held to honor and thank members of the Sursum Society for their contributions and their commitment to support Stephens.



(Pictured far left):  
**Jan Moses Durrett '50** and **Libby Taylor Reid '71**

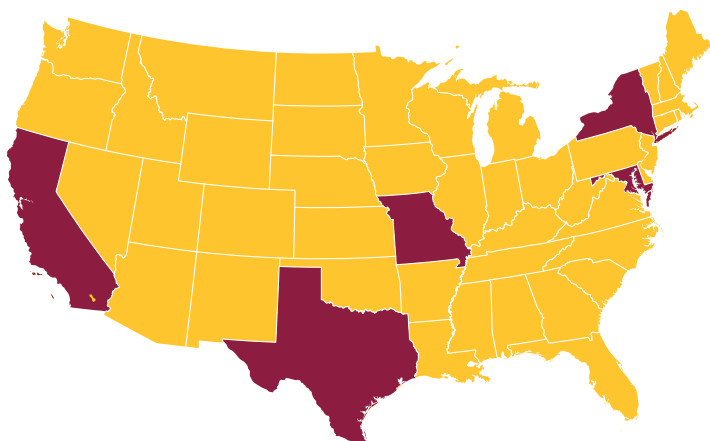
(Pictured left):  
**Doris Painter Littrell '58** and **Nikki Krawitz**, chair of the Stephens College Board of Trustees



(Pictured far left):  
**Joy Underdown '54** and **Meichele Foster**, Stephens vice president for Institutional Advancement & Initiatives

(Pictured left):  
**Lois Perkins Luallin '58** and her husband, **Duane**, with **Nikki Krawitz**

Realizing that traveling to Columbia, Mo., is not always an option for some donors, Stephens held regional Sursum Society receptions this past fall in Los Angeles; New York City; Washington, D.C.; and Houston. Our special guest on behalf of Stephens was the newly appointed Dean of the School of Performing Arts, Dr. Gail Humphries Mardirosian. Dean Mardirosian spoke about the importance of the arts in education and society, and she also delivered a message of sincere gratitude to the Sursum Society members for their commitment to Stephens.



If you have questions about being recognized in the Sursum Society, please contact Liz Bird, director of donor relations, at [ebird@stephens.edu](mailto:ebird@stephens.edu) or (573) 876-7183.

## Los Angeles Reception

Jim Henson Studios on Oct. 19, 2014



*(Pictured left):*

**Linda Podas Chapman '65, Vivian Bangs Biely '65, Jane Cunningham Bensussen '65, Choo Choo Hannemann Boyer '65**

*(Pictured right):*

**Judy Doyen Taylor '73; Mark Taylor '73, Stephens trustee; Gail Humphries Mardirosian, dean of the Stephens School of Performing Arts**

## New York City Reception

Sardi's on Oct. 28, 2014



*(Pictured left):*

**Andrea Kiraly Kircher '66, Elizabeth Sebald Pague '48**

*(Pictured right):*

**Rachel Gross '93, Stephens trustee; Carol Anderson '66 A.A., '68 B.A.; Shawn Poore, director of philanthropy at Stephens**

## Washington, D.C. Reception

Restaurant Nora on Oct. 30, 2014



*(Pictured left):*

**Chelsey Christensen '08; Jenifer Brandeberry '86; Ellen Vollrath '86, Stephens trustee**

*(Pictured right):*

**Bruce Blanchard, the husband of Mary Josie Cain Blanchard '67 (pictured far right) and Helen Froelich Holt '32**

## Houston Reception

Home of Gayle Flannery Bentsen '67 & Lloyd M. Bentsen III on Nov. 4, 2014



*(Pictured left):*

**Gayle Flannery Bentsen '67, Stephens trustee; Anne Norton Johnson '74 and her husband, Michael Johnson**

*(Pictured right):*

**Gail Humphries Mardirosian; Anne Murphy '78, Stephens Alumnae Association Board president**

# A Fond Farewell to a Stephens Star

*Deb Duren retires from Stephens after 31 years of service.*



**Deb Duren** is known for a lot of things.

She always has an idea. She's practically famous for telling you exactly what's on her mind. And everyone who knows her knows Duren would go out of her way to help any Stephens woman.

"Deb's a great advocate for women's education, and she has devoted her life to Stephens," says Dr. Lindi Overton, vice president for finance and administration.

Duren is, perhaps, best known for her commitment to the athletics program—a commitment that has spanned decades.

"Athletics provides a positive, co-curricular activity that many women have had success and interest in," she said in a *Stephens Life* article in 1994, the year in which the Stars' sports teams returned to campus.

Thirty years after she began coaching volleyball on a part-time basis, Duren is leaving Stephens ... and, in so many ways, much better than she found it.



Duren's retirement from her position as athletics director and vice president for student services will affect her whole family, she says.

That's because Stephens has played such a significant role in the family's dynamics. Her husband, Steve, has been the support system that allowed her to do what she loved. Her daughters—**Heather Duren Stubbs '98** and Kerri Duren Burrows—both attended Stephens. Heather earned a bachelor's degree in marketing, public relations and advertising, while Kerri finished her last semester of high school at Stephens. In fact, coaching Heather on the Stephens Stars volleyball team was a career highlight, Duren says.

Athletics is in Duren's DNA. The Columbia native was named "Athlete of the Year"

during her senior year at Hickman High School. She played volleyball at Southwest Missouri State University. She coached volleyball at the University of Missouri before deciding to stay home with her children.

The volleyball coaching gig at Stephens opened up in 1984, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Why is athletics so appealing to her?

"It's exhilarating," she says. "You get a little bit of it, then you want more."

In 1984, Duren was already familiar with the reputation of Stephens athletes.

"I knew plenty about Stephens," she says. "Back in the day, every college and university in the state was in the same league and would play in a state championship. MU played Stephens, so I knew them well. In fact, one of the best players I ever saw was Dana Caston."

That would be **Dana Caston Moore '77**, now head volleyball coach at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn., a three-time Upper Midwest Athletic Conference Coach of the Year recipient.

Four years after taking the Stephens post, budget constraints took their toll on athletics and the program was eliminated. Duren takes blame ... or, in hindsight, credit.

"Every year, as head coach, I was required to write a report about what was working or not working," she says. "I wrote that they needed to better fund it."

When they didn't, Duren suggested either funding it or ending it altogether. The administrators chose the latter.

For the next several years, Duren served as chair of the Physical Education department, quietly working behind the scenes raising support and money to resurrect the program.

"I had enough connections that I knew I could pull it together the right way," she says.

In the meantime, the athletics landscape was changing, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) took over the structural operation of college sports.

In 1994, athletics returned to Stephens for good, and the College was placed in the NCAA as a Division III member.

Over time, Duren has been able to improve the program. She quickly realized the NCAA was not the right fit for the College, and successfully moved the Stars into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) instead. She expanded offerings from four Stars teams to eight today. Competitive dance was the most recent addition in 2014.

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 2010, the Women's Intersport Network (WIN) for Columbia named her Mentor of the Year. Last year, the renovated basketball court at John and Mary Silverthorne Arena was named in her honor.

"That's the epitome of an athletic award for a coach or director—to have a court named after you," she says.

Duren also has been recognized in other ways. In 1994, she was asked to serve as interim dean of students. Duren was reluctant but agreed only if she could continue to serve as athletic director. Later, she'd be promoted to vice president.

Duren can take credit for another major change at Stephens. In the 1990s, she pitched the idea of letting students bring pets with them to college. Administrators at the time scoffed, but when former President Wendy Libby arrived, Duren tried again. After careful planning, pet-friendly policies began.

Like athletics, pets are a part of the Duren family dynamics. She and her husband and daughters helped a no-kill shelter in Columbia get off the ground. Her youngest daughter, Kerri, wrote a successful grant for the Second Chance organization, giving it a substantial boost.

It was over the family dinner table, in fact, that the idea of a fostering program was born. She and her daughters were discussing ways Stephens and the Second Chance shelter could team up. Again, after much planning, Duren and President Dianne Lynch expanded the College's pet-friendly policies two years ago to allow students to foster shelter pets in exchange for scholarship funding.

What started with seven students as a pet-friendly pilot program in 2004 has grown, and today, hundreds of students bring or foster cats, dogs, birds and other pets. Stephens is now recognized as the pet-friendliest college in the country.



For the past 18 months or so, Steve Duren has been waiting patiently for his wife to join him in retirement.

"He's been hanging out," Duren quips over iced tea. "The motor home is running."

Travel is on the couple's agenda, as is spending more time with their two granddaughters, ages 8 and 9. She's also open to volunteer opportunities and says she would love to assist in a K-12 setting.

Duren has had opportunities to coach or direct athletics elsewhere—it's a male-dominated industry where gender diversity is in demand.

But, as she reflects on her career, Duren says she's always recognized that at Stephens, she was allowed to try new ideas. And anyone who knows Duren knows she's full of those.

“I'm forever indebted to Stephens for the opportunities the College gave me. I will miss the people here. I love the people. I love the students. Stephens is family.”

—Deb Duren

# Fabulously Feathered

Abby Arauz '94 turns beautiful feathers into serious business.

She's provided feathers for entertainers such as Beyoncé and Lady Gaga; for movies, including *Maleficent* and *The Hunger Games*; and for retail giants like Hobby Lobby, Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores, and the Martha Stewart Collection.

Her company's feathers are used to create the angel wings for Victoria's Secret stores around the world.

And the trademark yellow feathers that make Big Bird, well, Big Bird? Yep. Those are hers, too.

Meet **Abby Arauz '94**, aka the Feather Girl. The former Radio City Music Hall Rockette is a third-generation feather entrepreneur who expanded her family's small-town fly-fishing feather operation into an international corporation.

When Arauz was growing up in California, Mo.—a community about 50 miles southwest of Columbia—she would ride around with her grandparents as they sold turkey feathers out of the back of a truck to fly fishermen. The feathers were byproducts from nearby turkey plants and would have been thrown away otherwise. Back in those days—before feathers became big business—they were free.

Her parents turned the operation into a wholesale company in the 1980s. And a young Arauz swore she'd never go into the family business.

In high school, Arauz "dabbled" in dance but grew tired of it. While attending the University of Missouri, she took a dance class with Michael Simms, a longtime

ballet teacher at Stephens, for fun. It proved life-changing.

"I realized it was my passion and my calling," she says. Her parents allowed her to transfer schools—as long as she paired a business degree with her B.F.A. in Dance. That dance degree took her to Rockefeller Center, which eventually led her back to her roots.

During her nine-year stint as a Rockette, she became, perhaps by default, the feather-clad company's costume expert. That's when she realized feathers had a wider market than fly-fishing. In 1998, she opened The Feather Place in New York's Garment District, selling boas, wings, jackets and other feather-based products.

On a warm spring day in March, Arauz gave Stephens representatives a tour of the California, Mo., facilities where the feather magic happens.

Zucker Feather Products is the wholesaler that supplies feathers for retailers, imports exotic feathers such as ostrich plumes, and exports turkey feathers, mainly to China. The Feather Place remains open in New York, and Arauz has since expanded to a retail shop in L.A. that mostly caters to the entertainment industry. The Feather Place sells products to large clients, such as the annual Carnival of Brazil, as well as to everyday shoppers looking for Halloween costumes or craft materials.

Between stops at the various workstations during the recent tour, Arauz was eager to talk about how she's been reconnecting with Stephens since she moved back



to Columbia five years ago. For the past several years, she has served as a judge for the College's Modeling Group. She recently returned to campus to share her story with Stephens Scholars, the honors program. And every year she invites Stephens students to model her products for the Zucker Feather Products catalog.

Stephens, Arauz says, prepared her not only for success in the dance industry but also for the business world.

"I learned work ethic—you have no choice but to learn that at Stephens," she says. "It's such a nurturing and encouraging environment. I was encouraged to get out of my program and comfort zone and work with other departments. They invest time and energy in you—and you don't get that everywhere."

Recently, Arauz opened another office, a think tank of sorts in Columbia that comes up with new uses for feathers and creates Do-It-Yourself videos showcasing feather-based products.



"We're always re-inventing," she says. "We try different techniques—lately we've been tie-dyeing feathers—and are constantly coming up with new designs."

Uses for feathers seem never-ending. Feather Christmas trees and holiday wreaths? Check. Feather stickers? Yep. Feather headbands, earrings, fans, wigs and pins? They sell those, too. Everything, Arauz will tell you, is better with a feather.

The tour proved that there's a lot that goes into preparing a feather for the spotlight. They have to be washed and dried through a rigorous multi-stage process that takes a week. There's an elaborate dye shop—one of the only feather dye shops in the U.S.—where clients can choose from among 130 stock colors or bring in a custom color that the factory can create.

While the work itself can be grueling, Arauz recognizes that a love of feathers is in her blood.

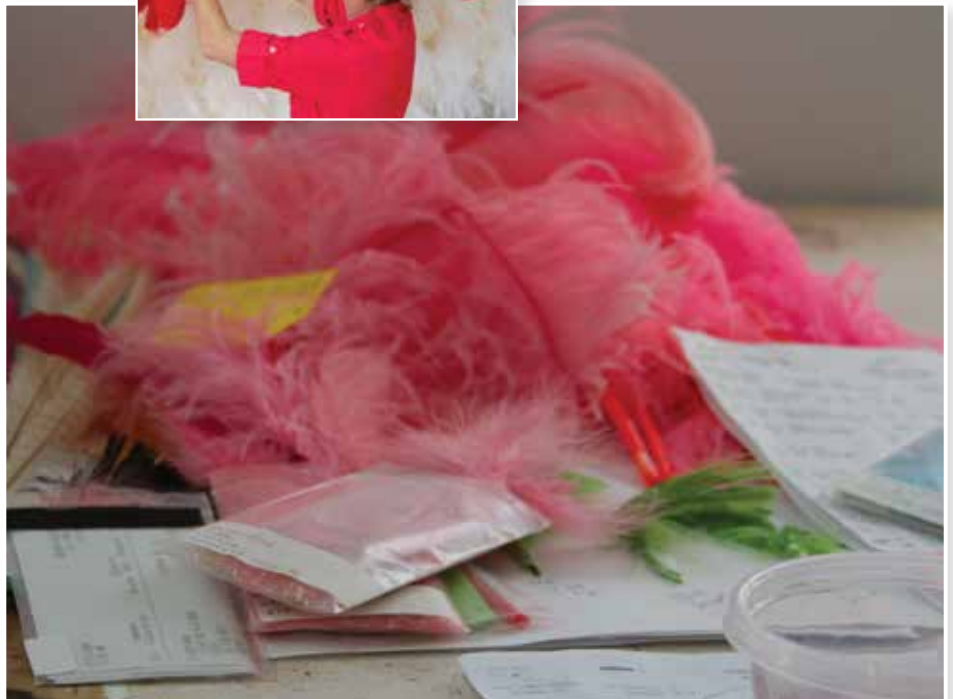
"To me, they're not only dramatic, there's something exotic and glamorous about them," she says. "They add movement and flair. You can take something simple and jazz it up with a feather. We're taking a natural byproduct, recycling it and transforming it into something totally different."

Big Bird would undoubtedly agree.



"I learned work ethic—you have no choice but to learn that at Stephens. It's such a nurturing and encouraging environment."

—Abby Arauz '94



(Pictured, left page): A box of feathers used for fly fishing. (Pictured top): Arauz poses with a light blue feather boa in her company's main factory and showroom in California, Mo. (Pictured, inset above): Arauz sorts through red and white feather boas. (Pictured, above): Feathers sit atop a work table in Arauz's dye shop in California, Mo.

# In Memory

## Betty Jane Lakin

At Stephens College, **Betty Jane Lakin** was known for the fully stocked candy dish at her desk and for offering advice to co-workers and students.

"She was just a gem," says longtime Stephens faculty member Margaret Campbell. "I counted on her—a lot of us did. She shared cheer and good items from her corner in the Bookshelf."

Lakin passed away on March 7, 2015, at her home in rural Boone County. She was 73.

Born Betty Jane Boyer on Dec. 26, 1941, Lakin worked for MFA Oil Company before starting her second career at Stephens in 1981. She went on to work at the Bookshelf at Stephens for 25 years, in charge of ordering supplies for both the bookstore and campus offices.

"She could almost custom tailor items," Campbell says. "If she didn't have a specific item in stock that I wanted, she did her best to order it for me—especially my favorite Pilot pen and Week-At-A-Glance planner."

Outside of Stephens, Lakin was active in many organizations, including Broadway Christian Church, Daughters of the American Revolution, Beta Sigma Phi and the Philanthropic Education Organization. She was famous for bringing baked treats to community events.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Dean; a daughter, **Kimberly Lakin Mize '90**, who is a member of the Stephens College Board of Trustees, and her husband, Geoffrey, of Charlotte, N.C.; a son, Philip Lakin, and his wife, Johnna, of Rocheport; one grandson; and two brothers.

## William Frederick Freund

**William Frederick Freund**, a longtime professor and well-known artist, passed away on Aug. 12, 2014, at the age of 98.

Freund was a professor of Fine Art and Design at Stephens from 1946 to 1964. During that time, he was featured in *Life* magazine as one of America's Top 10 Painters. He was also a featured artist in the Missouri Pavilion at the 1964 New York World's Fair. His paintings will remain in permanent collections in museums around the world.

Freund was born on Jan. 20, 1916, in Madison, Wis., where he graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He retired as a professor emeritus of fine arts from the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Ill., in 1981.

Freund was preceded in death earlier in 2014 by his wife, Dorothy, of 73 years. He is survived by four children: Freya Pease and her husband, Charles, of Columbia, Mo.; Marlene Freund of Eden Prairie, Minn.; Frederick Freund of Watersmeet, Mich.; and Patricia Summers and her husband, Douglas, of Eden Prairie, Minn.; as well as seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Betty Lakin with her husband of 52 years, Dean; and their grandson, Oliver. Photo credit: Kim Wade, SilverBox Photographers

### Memorial Scholarship

A memorial scholarship has been established at Stephens to recognize the contributions of long-time employee Betty Jane Lakin.

Contributions to the Betty Boyer Lakin Scholarship can be made to: Stephens College Office of Institutional Advancement and Initiatives, 1200 E. Broadway, Columbia, Mo., 65215.



"Academy" by William Freund. The piece is part of the Stephens art collection.

## Gerri Blaha Bennett '57

**Gerri Blaha Bennett '57**, the 2015 Jean Clinton Roeschlaub Alumnae Service Award recipient, passed away on April 22, 2015, in Scotts Hill, Tenn., after a lengthy illness. She was 77.

Bennett knew she received the award—which pays tribute to an alumna who has gone above and beyond to serve Stephens College—and prepared some remarks, which were read during the award presentations at alumnae reunion weekend. Following is an excerpt:

“There is something very special about Stephens College that is often referred to as the Spirit of Stephens. It’s more than a team spirit or loyalty to an alma mater. To define it isn’t easy. It’s what makes Stephens so much more than a short-term learning experience; it’s what makes Stephens a lifetime experience.”

Bennett served as the Class of 1957 president for more than a decade. She was a champion for the Class of 1957 scholarship, helping to complete the endowment campaign in the mid-2000s. She also created her class letter each year and compiled a newsletter with more updates from classmates. Bennett helped organize class reunions in other areas of the country and helped plan the 50th reunion celebration on campus in 2007. In addition, she was a member of the Alumnae Association Board for several years.

## Peter Brett Prentiss

**Peter Brett Prentiss**, a longtime theatre professor at Stephens College and director of the Summer Theatre Institute, passed away on May 13, 2015, at the age of 73.

Prentiss retired from Stephens in 2008 after a career that spanned 38 years. After earning a theatre degree from Amherst University and finishing graduate school at Yale, Prentiss was hired by Bill West, then head of the College’s theatre department in 1968. Two years later, he moved to New York, only to return to Stephens two years later.

During his time at Stephens, Prentiss eventually succeeded West as head of the program. He led the effort to replace the old Stephens Playhouse, which burned in 1984. Two years later, he helped cut the ribbon when the Macklanburg Playhouse opened. Prentiss was also among the first instructors at Stephens to be recognized as a full professor under a restructuring of faculty. In 1994, he won the Governor’s Excellence in Teaching Award. Before he retired, Prentiss was part of more than 100 shows at Stephens, where he was known for Shakespearean roles and British portrayals of aristocracy.

In a *Columbia Daily Tribune* column about his retirement, Prentiss said his time at Stephens was full of memories. “I’d have to have a roster to remember all those who have gone on to careers in theatre,” he told the *Tribune*. “You never knew who would strike it rich. Annie Potts was a kid from Kentucky with a smile and an accent and a good work ethic.”

He is survived by his wife, Branca; two children, Craig and Laura; and five grandchildren.

## Memorial Gifts

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Class of 1957 Scholarship Fund. Send your memorials 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](mailto:giving@stephens.edu) or [www.stephens.edu/giving](http://www.stephens.edu/giving).



Brett Prentiss performs in *Woman in Mind*, a 2007 Macklanburg Playhouse Company production.

## CLASS NOTES

## '50s

The Stephens 1951 White Hall reunion was held from Sept. 2-6, 2014, in Nashville, Tenn. The reunion marked the 19th get-together for the "gals" since they left Stephens 63 years ago. They cruised the Cumberland River, while being entertained by a country music group; visited "The Hermitage," President Andrew Jackson's plantation; enjoyed a theatre production; and dined at the Opryland Hotel. This year, the group will re-unite at Camp Mac in Munford, Ala., which is owned by **Margie Bryan McBride '51** and her family. The group held its 18th reunion at the camp in September 2013.

**Pat Kelso Knott '51** writes, "... Another chance to ride those zip-lines; if only we had an escalator to climb up the tower."

**Karen Truesdell Riehl '52** recalls her relationship with fellow actor George C. Scott—who later became a film star, winning an Oscar for *Patton*—at the Macklanburg Playhouse. Many years later, she wrote her first book, a memoir titled "Love and Madness: My Private Years with George C. Scott." Her eighth



1951 White Hall reunion members (pictured L-to-R): Pat Kelso Knott '51, Marilyn Myers Dearmin '51, Jeannine "Davie" Davis Gullett '51, Margie Bryan McBride '51, Joyce Tamm Curtis '51, Polly Webb White '51 and Joan Kircher Gregory '51.

book, "The Ghosts of the Queen Mary," was released as an eBook this fall. Other books are "Saturday Night Dance Club," "The Ghosts of Fort Ord," "Freedom's Sins," "Hello Again," "Helga: Growing Up in Hitler's Germany" and "Bad Girl."

**Ann Simpson Meredith '53** works as a travel consultant with Springdale Travel in Mobile, Ala. She began her travel career at Stephens working part-time at

the Columbia Travel Bureau on campus. She continues to work as a senior group coordinator for various church and club groups in and around Mobile. She says her career allowed her and her husband (now deceased) to see the world "and it all started at Stephens. Thanks, Stephens!"

**Marita Ingraham Beavin '58** writes: "I have such great memories of my years at Stephens!" After Stephens, she graduated

## REMEMBRANCES

## '30s

**Helen Scharfenberg Peters '34** of Galesburg, Ill.; Nov. 28, 2014. **Marion Wheelock '38** of Clive, Iowa; Dec. 26, 2009. **Constance Glover Comfort '39** of Urbandale, Iowa; June 24, 2014. **Mary "Annette" Jordon Farnham '39** of Santa Fe, N.M.; July 21, 2014. **Margaret Kiesling Heston '39** of Carmichael, Calif.; Sept. 16, 2014. **Vivian Creech Purdy '39** of Columbia, Mo.; Aug. 12, 2014. **Lorrayne Johnson Scott '39** of Palm Beach, Fla.; April 7, 2014.

## '40s

**Patricia Seibel Didier '40** of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Nov. 14, 2014. **Pat Knuth Ebzery '40** of Sheridan, W.Va.; Dec. 30, 2014. **Frances**

**Dorchester Harrell '40** of Pensacola, Fla.; Sept. 25, 2014. **Charlotte Sommers Albano '41** of Houston; Sept. 4, 2014. **Mavis Peterson Alexander '41** of Dallas; Oct. 18, 2014. **Marion Hall Andrews '41** of Westerville, Ohio; Oct. 6, 2014. **Dorothy Sitter Foster '41** of Sherman, Texas; Sept. 11, 2014. **Vera Phillips Gerlach '41** of Indianapolis; Feb. 23, 2014. **Jeanne Giese '41** of Florissant, Mo.; April 23, 2014. **Celia Hawkins Keeran '41** of Canton, Ohio; Oct. 6, 2014. **Mary Newberry Lyles '41** of Carmichael, Calif.; Jan. 2, 2015. **Mary "Buff" Rowell Paine '41** of Wayland, Mass.; June 23, 2014. **Harriet Lee Stitsinger '41** of Hamilton, Ohio; Nov. 14, 2014. **Susan Kimberly Sutter '41** of Appleton, Wis.; Aug. 10, 2013. **Lee Miller Altendorf '42** of Waupaca, Wis.; Dec. 21, 2010. **Patricia "Pat" Hoke Burrow '42** of Grand Junction,

Colo.; Aug. 27, 2014. **Patricia Bettcher Dockendorff '42** of Orange, Conn.; Dec. 12, 2014. **Myrna Smith Dupler '42** of Columbus, Ohio; Nov. 4, 2014. **Frances "Frankie" Jaffe Goldenberg '42** of Somerset, Ky.; June 23, 2014. **Grace Spillane '42** of Shapleigh, Maine; Oct. 6, 2014. **Marjorie Bohnet Willoughby '42** of San Antonio; Nov. 8, 2014. **Jean Elsberry Bountis '43** of Penn Valley, Calif.; June 27, 2014. **Robbie Lee Johnson Bourgeois '43** of Kirkwood, Mo.; Sept. 6, 2014. **Edwina Macon Bristol '43** of Atlanta; June 21, 2014. **Grailyn Berryhill Brooks '43** of Jackson, Tenn.; Sept. 27, 2014. **Virginia "Ginny" Arnold Davies '43** of Tucson, Ariz.; Aug. 2, 2014. **Jean Ewan DeBarre '43** of Coral Springs, Fla.; June 5, 2010. **Betty Jane Lore Duncan '43** of Metairie, La.; Nov. 30, 2014. **Louise Peckham Todaro '43** of Miami; Sept. 20, 2014. **Lorelle Boggus Youngblood**

from the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy and became a hospital pharmacist. She retired several years ago. Her husband, Jerry, is a retired city judge who continues to practice as a lawyer. Their children, Joe and Elizabeth, are college graduates, and their grandson, Jared, is a current college student. She would love to reconnect with former Stephens friends. Contact her at [jbeavin@cox.net](mailto:jbeavin@cox.net).

**Patricia O'Keefe Hunter '58** recently visited Istanbul, Turkey, where son Chuck is the U.S. Consul General. She and her husband began their overseas travel with a trip to Ireland. Their son Geoff treated them to a 10-day stay in Dalkey, which is located 15 miles south of Dublin. Patricia writes: "It was a trip of a lifetime."

## '60s

**Carol Ann Barber '61** received the Curator's Award and had her dress placed in the archives of the fashion department as a Stephens student. She also created postcards of Historic Senior Hall that were used by Stephens President Patsy Sampson and turned into a poster by the College. Carol looks back fondly on her time at Stephens, reminiscing about her favorite teachers and the education she

received in the arts and sciences, and especially in foreign studies. She writes: "It has all been with me throughout my life. ..." She then attended the University of Missouri, Highlands University in New Mexico and New Mexico State University.

**Lo Anne Kinney Mayer '61** and **Cynthia Balut Bye '61** enjoyed a summer-time visit at Lo Anne's home in Manchester, N.J. They were roommates in Tower Hall from 1959-60. They last saw each other for a brief visit in 1978. Lo Anne and her husband, Raymond, also attended the wedding of Cynthia and her husband, Dr. Robert Bye, more than 50 years ago. Lo Anne writes: "It was a rekindling of our friendship and a joy-filled remembrance of Stephens College." Lo Anne's spiritual memoir, "Celestial Conversations: Healing Relationships After Death," recently came out in audio, which she calls "thrilling."



*Pictured (L-to-R): Lo Anne Kinney Mayer '61 and Cynthia Balut Bye '61.*



*Pictured (L-to-R): Janet Lewis Tuck '66, Sally Babcock Nees '66, Julie Trapnell Hall '66, Carol Anderson '66 A.A., '68 B.A., Linda Bishop Freidus '66 and Carey Hirsch Eber '66.*

Class of 1966 alumnae took a Carnival Cruise to Nova Scotia in October 2014 to celebrate their 50 years of dedicated friendship. The Stephens Susies, who get

*continued on next page*

'43 of Harlingen, Texas; July 4, 2014. **Jeanne Bickley Zacharias '43** of Roswell, N.M.; Jan. 20, 2015. **Elaine Bates Hipp '44** of Charlotte, N.C.; Aug. 18, 2014. **Nancy Nonn Jones '44** of Nashville, Tenn.; July 2, 2014. **Ethel Mae Kammer Kessler '44** of Corpus Christi, Texas; Aug. 2, 2014. **Dorothy Newby McCaw '44** of West Lafayette, Ind.; Jan. 13 2015. **Miriam Morris Moss '44** of Union City, Tenn.; Sept. 15, 2014. **Virginia Irvine Quirey '44** of Sarasota, Fla.; June 26, 2014. **LaDawn Irish Sherman '44** of Nashville, Tenn.; Dec. 12, 2014. **Nancy Pinkston Williamson '44** of Montgomery, Ala.; July 13, 2014. **Ellen Wiggins Fraser '45** of Fenton, Mich.; Sept. 14, 2014. **Mary Anderson Shewalter '45** of Willowbrook, Ill.; June 29, 2014. **Marjorie Howay Swalwell '45** of Mountain View, Calif.; Dec. 13, 2013. **Joyce Saunders Brown '46** of Bloomfield, Mich.; Sept. 22, 2014.

**Bette Williams Cook '46** of San Antonio; Aug. 13, 2014. **Rosemary Dabney Deal '46** of Taylorsville, N.C.; Oct. 19, 2014. **Catherine Chambers Hamilton '46** of Jessup, Md.; May 5, 2013. **Anne Holter Howell '46** of San Jose, Calif.; July 16, 2014. **Patricia Ingraham Bateson '47** of Columbus, Ohio; June 22, 2014. **Harriet Jean Mitten Benjamin '47** of Wabash, Ind.; July 13, 2014. **Marilyn Mussetter Card '47** of West Des Moines, Iowa; Aug. 19, 2014. **Sally Hines Hinkle '47** of Franklin, Tenn.; July 3, 2014. **Dorothy Steward Koehl '47** of Tacoma, Wash.; July 14, 2014. **Sonia Freitag Kuniansky '47** of Atlanta; Dec. 21, 2014. **Patricia Jane Crocker Paffrath '47** of Carmichael, Calif.; Dec. 2, 2014. **Wanda Marie Wagner Rice '47** of Columbus, Ohio; Nov. 24, 2014. **Florence Michel Richards '47** of Saint Paul, Minn.; Oct. 28, 2014. **Mary Mackenzie Roberts '47**

of Westlake, Ohio; Jan. 17, 2015. **Carol Bedell Seaman '47** of Norwalk, Ohio; June 13, 2014. **Hazel Sansom Sonderman '47** of Tucson, Ariz.; May 2, 2014. **Carolyn Beckmann Wells '47** of Newell, W.Va.; Oct. 13, 2014. **Violet Schultz Eaton '48** of Portland, Ore.; Dec. 9, 2014. **Laura Peavy Graham '48** of Denver; July 16, 2014. **Patricia Buckels Joyner '48** of Mount Dora, Fla.; Aug. 26, 2014. **Janet Hollowell Kulka '48** of Munster, Ind.; July 19, 2014. **Joan North Miller '48** of Rockville, Md.; Aug. 21, 2013. **Cynthia Ann Needham '48** of Shelter Island, N.Y.; Aug. 19, 2014. **Carol Strong Oberg '48** of Marco Island, Fla.; Oct. 12, 2014. **Myra Jo Draper Perley '48** of Sierra Madre, Calif.; Sept. 24, 2014. **Dolores Ann Campbell Quinlisk '48** of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Oct. 13, 2014. **Dale Danenberg Scrutchfield '48** of Sun City West, Ariz.; Sept. 2, 2014. **Suzette Halbert**

*continued on next page*

together frequently, met in September 1964 when they arrived on campus from all around the U.S. and were assigned to South Hall. **Carol Anderson '66 A.A., '68 B.A.** writes: "There are hundreds of old and current stories among these gals, and their love for each other never falters. A Stephens connection forever."

**Constance Lee Lovell '65** married her husband, Bob, in 1967. They have two children and three grandchildren. She established her own interior design practice in 1980 in Birmingham, Mich. In 2008, the couple relocated to North Carolina.

**Beth McCullough '66** recently traveled to Gambell, Alaska, on St. Lawrence Island, where many famous ivory carvers live and where birdwatchers "go to see vagrants and rarities."

**Patricia Rowe Gilkerson '67** of Stillwater, Okla., published "The Horse Rescuers," a collection of young adult horse stories written for ages 10-15.

**Sandy Berridge Watson '67** is showing her acrylic artwork at Blue River Fine Art Gallery in Breckenridge, Colo. Sandy studied interior design at Stephens and

later earned a B.S. degree. Sandy became an art teacher and mural and faux artist.

**Brenda Asterino '68** recently published a new book titled "Sitting in Creation," which is, as she says, "a work of poetry and short essays about life, liberty and relationships."

**Jayne Larsen Kohn '68** is a retired elementary teacher from the Bismarck Public Schools (N.D.). She reports that she loves retirement and enjoys volunteering. Jayne and her husband, Stan, celebrated their

40th wedding anniversary with a two-month trip to Kauai, Hawaii. Daughter Melanie works for Catholic Relief Services in Mali, Africa. Their son, Michael, got married in November and lives with his wife, Amanda, in the Denver area.

## '70s

**Dr. Kim Abkarian Lindsey '72** received a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Southern California (USC). She worked as a research assistant professor and lecturer at USC until 2009. For many years, Kim



Sandy Berridge Watson '67 at her art exhibit last August.

## REMEMBRANCES

**Smith '48** of Franklin, Tenn.; Oct. 20, 2014. **Corinne Jane McCormack Underwood '48** of Kansas City, Mo.; Aug. 14, 2014. **Mary Jane Wheeler Clingman '49** of Dallas; Nov. 11, 2014. **Janet Sherwood Johnson '49** of Olympia, Wash.; Oct. 26, 2014. **Patsy McDaniel McLeod '49** of Black Mountain, N.C.; July 15, 2014. **Martha Ann Ferguson Miller '49** of Vernon Hills, Ill.; Sept. 21, 2014. **Rosemary Pehr Moran '49** of Evanston, Ill.; Oct. 23, 2014.

## '50s

**Ann Golterman Hitzmann '50** of Temple, Texas; June 18, 2014. **Jane Bartlett Meyer '50** of Goshen, Ky.; Jan. 12, 2015. **June "Tommye" Dize Pfeifferkorn '50** of Winston Salem, N.C.; Feb. 10, 2014. **Joan Salisbury Berg '51** of Westwood, Mass.; Aug. 23, 2014. **Dorothy**

**"Dottie" Anne Chambliss Booker '51** of Gulf Breeze, Fla.; Oct. 17, 2014. **Elizabeth "Betsy" Franklin Burg '51** of Los Angeles; Jan. 4, 2015. **Sandra Matz Friedman '51** of Dix Hills, N.Y.; Sept. 13, 2013. **Jean Anderson Kelly '51** of Farmington, Conn.; May 27, 2014. **Barbara Biscup Ross '51** of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Nov. 12, 2014. **Barbara Owen Carter '52** of O'Fallon, Ill.; Aug. 28, 2014. **Virginia Pearce Dortch '52** of Birmingham, Ala.; July 28, 2014. **Elizabeth "Honey" Lewis Kurber '52** of Dunedin, Fla.; July 13, 2014. **Phyllis Pearson Bennett '53** of Pittsfield, Mass.; Nov. 27, 2014. **Edette Marie Wichmann Brockman '53** of Brookfield, Wis.; Sept. 28, 2010. **Ruth "Lyn" Bagg Hooker '53** of Reading, Mass.; Dec. 4, 2013. **Mary Louise Heck Lewis '53** of Dayton, Ohio; Sept. 6, 2014. **Lois Kriek Moore '53** of Westport, Conn.; Aug. 14, 2014. **Eloise Pottle Streett '53** of Encinitas, Calif.;

Feb. 6, 2013. **Sally McCormick Adams '54** of St. Charles, Mo.; May 17, 2014. **Margie Segal August '54** of Dallas; Nov. 22, 2014. **Baila Berman Block '54** of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Aug. 29, 2014. **Sally Marshall Brooks '54** of Phoenix; Sept. 1, 2014. **Nancy Drake Uren '55** of Urbandale, Iowa; Nov. 4, 2014. **Gail Manders Caro '56** of Oak Brook, Ill.; May 20, 2014. **Geri Blaha Bennett '57** of Scotts Hill, Tenn.; April 22, 2015. **Nancy Ann Draheim Jensen '57** of Los Angeles; May 12, 2014. **Sharon Montague Taber '57** of Saginaw, Mich.; July 31, 2014. **Pat Findlay Blue '58** of Salina, Kan.; Oct. 21, 2014. **Sue Duncan Wise '58** of Gainesville, Fla.; Jan. 11, 2010. **Nancy Mercer Keith Gerard '59** of Savannah, Ga.; May 10, 2010. **Julianne "Julie" Locke Gunter '59** of La Canada, Calif.; July 18, 2014. **Ann Holder Moseley '59** of Owensboro, Ky.; March 2, 2014.

conducted research, with a grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, but found her true passion, apart from teaching, was counseling and mentoring. Since 2009, she's worked as the counseling director at an outpatient drug/alcohol treatment center, and has recently begun a private practice, with an emphasis on brain development and positive psychology.

**Betsy Rollins Smith '73** recently defended her dissertation and earned a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Sports Management from the United States Sports Academy. She completed her degree with a 4.0 GPA.

**Jenny Simonson Burke '74** has published her first novel, "The Dragon Dreamer" by J.S. Burke. The young adult science fantasy is packed with "action, adventure and a twist of fun."

**Sharman Bugbee Dow '74** is the founder of Empower Women's Conference, which empowers women to become architects for change and achieve success in the workplace. The conference is based upon her new book, "Ten Commandments of Business Success for Women," about achieving your goals with integrity. After having her company acquired by a top 10 insurance

brokerage firm, Sharman serves as senior vice president at USI Insurance. She inspires women to reach their fullest potential as a conference speaker. Sharman lives in La Quinta, Calif., with her husband, Bruce. They have four grown children.

**Constance Leinbach '75** and a business partner purchased the monthly print newspaper on Ocracoke Island (N.C.) in March 2014. She writes: "Purchasing this paper is another dream-come-true. I credit the late, great Elizabeth Barnes, my first journalism teacher, as my inspiration. She was an excellent teacher and mentor. I think of her often and wish I could have come back to Stephens to visit her and tell her what an impact she had on my life. I've had some wonderful successes and credit my years at Stephens for helping shape my goals and confidence." Since college, Constance has held a career in public relations, community theater and journalism. She has worked as a daily news reporter with the *Reading Eagle* in Pennsylvania; as a freelance reporter; as

an owner of the monthly paper *The Arts Connection*; as executive director of Berks Arts Council in Reading, Pa.; and as a correspondent for [www.islandfreepress.org](http://www.islandfreepress.org) and the *Ocracoke Observer*.



Business partners Peter Vankevich and Constance Leinbach '75 distribute their first issue of the *Ocracoke Observer* last April.

## Connect with classmates on ...

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

## '60s

**Diane Quarton Geiger '60** of Des Moines, Iowa; Aug. 21, 2014. **Carolyn Crane Vincent '60** of Cedar Grove, N.J.; July 19, 2014. **Katherine Brown Bryson '61** of Tucson, Ariz.; Oct. 27, 2014. **Judith Hertfelder Burke '61** of Vero Beach, Fla.; July 8, 2014. **Patricia Webster Mielke '61** of Columbus, Ohio; Sept. 14, 2014. **Carolyn Bowman Parent '61** of Kalamazoo, Mich.; Aug. 30, 2014. **Jan Humber Robertson '61** of Oxford, Miss.; Nov. 16, 2014. **Barbara Stubbs Kovacs '62** of Annapolis, Md.; Jan. 6, 2015. **Martha "Marti" Bishop Wilhelm-Brandon '63** of Kennesaw, Ga.; Dec. 3, 2014. **Gail Wright Marion '63** of College Station, Texas; July 9, 2014. **Peggy Eileen Muckenthaler Albert '64** of Fullerton, Calif.; March 2, 2015. **Courtney Amiss Jaacks '64** of

Tallahassee, Fla.; Oct. 17, 2014. **Cynthia Tepper Kusnetzky '64** of Kansas City, Mo.; Sept. 22, 2014. **Mary Ann Muchow '64** of Estes Park, Colo.; July 15, 2013. **Julie Ousley Pilkington '65** of Las Vegas; May 26, 2014. **Robin Ann Moore Bell '66** of St. Simons Island, Ga.; July 22, 2014. **Mary "Beth" Gilliat Keane '66** of Gulf Breeze, Fla.; June 18, 2013.

## '70s & '80s

**Mary Jane Lewis '72** of Honolulu; June 26, 2014. **Sara Lee Moench Gant '73** of Kansas City, Mo.; Aug. 25, 2014. **Mary Ellen Settle '73** of Fort Worth, Texas; Oct. 11, 2014. **Irma Fink Williamson '78** of Metairie, La.; Aug. 21, 2011. **Sherri Tate Hilton '83** of Madison, Miss.; Nov. 8, 2014.

## Former Employees of the College

**Albert Delmez** of Columbia, Mo., faculty chairman of foreign language division; Aug. 20, 2014. **George Bernard "Bernie" Esser** of Columbia, Mo., economics/social studies instructor; July 27, 2014. **William Frederick Freund** of Iron County, Mich., fine art/design professor; Aug. 12, 2014. **Jane Haden Jeffries** of Columbia, Mo., 35 years in counseling department; Oct. 13, 2014. **Janette Fugate Johnston** of Melbourne, Fla., faculty; Dec. 28, 2013. **Betty Jane Lakin** of Columbia, Mo., Bookshelf manager; March 7, 2015. **David Otto** of Charlotte, N.C., science professor for 38 years; Jan. 15, 2014. **Peter Brett Prentiss** of Columbia, Mo., longtime theatre professor; May 13, 2015. **Annie Ratliff** of Columbia, Mo., postmaster for 25 years; Dec. 6, 2014. **Henry Von Holt** of Columbia, Mo., professor/chair of psychology department; Oct. 13, 2014.

**Beth Humphries Scott '76** reports that her writing hobby has become her new career after working many years in the travel industry. She self-published her first book, "Birthdays: Who is Your Soul Mate? Who is Your Fatal Attraction?" about astrology, available on Amazon.com.

**Deborah Conard Baldwin '77** teaches drama for St. Vrain Valley Schools in Estes Park, Colo. She recently completed writing her first middle-grade novel, "Bumbling Bea."

**D.A. "Daisy" Hickman '77** recently published "Always Returning: The Wisdom of Place," the 15th anniversary edition of "Where the Heart Resides: Timeless Wisdom of the American Prairie." The second edition features a new preface and other updates. As she writes in the book: "We're always returning, coming back, coming round, as our perceptions ripen: as we gather the delicate strands of our lives, time and time again." In 2000, Daisy held a signing for the first edition at Stephens. She is also a poet and founder of SunnyRoomStudio.com, "a creative sunny space for kindred spirits." She is working on her first poetry collection and a memoir.

## '80s

**Marcia Kester Doyle '81** released her debut book, "Who Stole My Spandex? Midlife Musings from a Middle-Aged MILF," which is a compilation of funny, surprising and relatable stories. She also writes the humor blog, Menopausal Mother ([www.menopausalmom.com](http://www.menopausalmom.com)), where she muses on "the good, the bad and the ugly side of menopausal mayhem." Marcia has four children and one grandchild. She writes: "This [my book] is especially thrilling for me since I was a Creative Writing major at Stephens and worked with Jack LaZebnik, one of my favorite teachers when I was a student."

**Dawn Martin '82** received an A.A. from Stephens, a B.A. in 2006 from Baldwin Wallace College and a Master of Divinity in 2012 from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. She is a chaplain at St. Anthony Medical Center.

## '90s

**Bethany Tucker '90** married Wendi Elton, the love of her life, on July 7, 2014, the seventh anniversary of the day they met.

**Tiffany Roe Leek '91** recently visited with **Samantha VonHatten Siedhoff '91** and **Alicia Moser Skroska '91**. They met in Searcy Hall during their freshman year in 1987. Tiffany writes that it's "so cool to be able to stay in touch with the 20 amazing women I met that first year at Stephens who have continued to be important to me all these years."

**Shannon Keating-Moore '93** was among the recipients of the U.S. Bank Annual Pinnacle Award, the company's highest employee achievement honor. Shannon is a personal trust relationship manager for The Private Client Group at U.S. Bank in St. Joseph, Mo. She provides financial and planning advice, and investment management services for clients. She is a Certified Financial Planner, and a Certified Trust and Financial Advisor.

**Jami Walker '93** has been appointed the director of marketing in private sector education and services at Elsevier. For 12 years, she has worked at the world-leading provider of information solutions. She attributes her foundational success to her experience at Stephens.

**Tracie Daughtery Reilly '94** has moved with her husband, Michael, and their four children (pictured lower right) to Amarillo, Texas, after having lived in New York City for almost 15 years and working for eight years as a prosecutor in the Bronx. Her baby girl, Savannah Katherine, was born on May 23, 2014. She joins sister Emmalynn and brothers Braeden and Jackson. Tracie is working for the City of Amarillo Police Department. She writes: "It is a huge change, and we are still suffering from culture shock, but we are looking forward to our new adventures!"



**Shaashawn S. Dial-Snowden '98**, known as The Voyce, held a launch party on Dec. 5, 2014, for the double book release and signing of "Acquired Taste of Love: Spice Filled Poems to Please Your Palate" and "Estrogen in the Atmosphere." The books are comprised of her free verse poems, authentic list poems and clever haiku poems written between 1994 and 2008. She previously released a CD in January 2010, "but now I finally obtained the goal of a print literary legacy."

## '00s

**Tiffany Bryden Goalder '06 B.S., '12 M.S.L.** and husband Matt welcomed their son, Greyson Matthew Goalder, on Dec. 19, 2014. He joins big sister, Greenlee, age 3. (pictured below) Tiffany is the assistant director of undergraduate admissions at Stephens. Matt is a lead journeyman at MHC Kenworth in Columbia.



**Chelsey Christensen '08** married John Groth on Sept. 27, 2014, in Decorah, Iowa. **Colleen Burns Coco '08** was one of her bridesmaids. Chelsey works as the associate director of development for Imagination Stage in Maryland. (Pictured below)



Finding Focus Photography

**Nevada Jones Eñird '08** married Eli Eñird on Sept. 21, 2013, in Hogeye, Ark. Several of her fellow Kappa Deltas attended her wedding. (Note: View their group photo in the Table of Contents.) Stephens alumnae in attendance (pictured, L-to-R) were **Victoria Pei Denman '08**; **Hayley Griffith '08**; **Courtney Stiles-Cheak '09**; **Ashley Steffes Hasty '07**; the bride, **Nevada Jones Eñird '08**; **Alissa Pei Gorham '08**, director of residence life at Stephens; **Sarah Crumbaugh '08**; and **Lauren Goth '08**. The couple lives in Bentonville, Ark. Nevada is a senior buyer for Walmart and is working on her M.B.A. at the University of Arkansas. Eli teaches sixth grade and is working on his Master of Arts in Teaching.

## '10s

**Katelyn DeShazo Wood '10** married Fred Wood on Oct. 18 in San Antonio. Costume Design graduates **Caitlin "Kitty" Flynn '11** and **Kathryn "Liza" Nevins '12** joined the event ensuring everyone was dressed to perfection. Katelyn says the ceremony started exactly on time thanks to the help of her maid of honor, **Jessica Gorman '10**, and **Kelsea Dubuque '11**. Katelyn reports that "it was a production befitting Stephens Women."

**Erin Zevely Mazzola '13 M.S.L.** and her husband, Mike, proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Parker Joy, on Aug. 12, 2014. Erin is the director of student services at Stephens. Mike is a pharmacist at Kilgore's Medical Pharmacy, and the couple is beyond thrilled to be parents. (Pictured below)



**Kimberly Myers Voth '13 M.Ed.** married Ryan Voth on Aug. 23, 2014. She worked as a graduate assistant in the Stephens Human Resources office while she worked on her master's degree in counseling. Ryan is a doctor in the U.S. Air Force, and they are currently stationed in Cheyenne, Wyo.



Pictured (L-to-R): Kelsea Dubuque '11, Jessica Gorman '10 and Katelyn DeShazo Wood '10.

## Performing Arts

**Joy Haynes** shot small roles for the 2015 seasons of *Veep* on HBO and *House of Cards* on Netflix.

**Missy Doty Kaye** recently received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Princeton Education Foundation. She has been cast in two Oscar-winning movies, *Nebraska* and *Sideways*. Her television career has landed her roles in shows, including *How to Get Away with Murder*, *Bones*, *American Horror Story* and *Desperate Housewives*.



## 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. We also want to hear the latest happenings in your local alumnae club or network. High resolution photos (300 dpi) are welcome as well.

## Submit your news:

Complete our form ([www.stephens.edu/alumnae](http://www.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 2015 issue deadline:  
**Aug. 31, 2015**

## Club Notes



"A Prelude to Sunnylands" luncheon (*alumnae listed in order of class year*): **Jean Steven McVicker '49**; **Bettye Gray Woodworth '50**; **Bonnie Wendt Bitney '51**; **Mary Hall Cross '51**; **Lou Anderson Wirin '56**; **Gail Herndon '60**; **Judy Polson Estey '62**; **Marianne Dinardo Millican '62**; **Pamela Price '62**; **Pamela Tarbox Dalsimer '63**; **Marilyn Jenkins Will '64**; **Janice Lilley Montgomery '67**; **Susan LoForti '71**; **Karen Deiwert Jason '73**; **Jennifer Kaiser Palmer '73**; **Sharman Bugbee Dow '74**; **D. Shawn Poore**, Stephens director of philanthropy; and **Anne Rowe**, director of collections and exhibitions at the Sunnylands.

### Greater Palm Spring Area Alumnae

In November, Stephens alumnae living in the Greater Palm Springs area gathered in Indian Wells, Calif., for a luncheon under palm trees, blue skies and the shadow of Eisenhower Mountain. **Karen Deiwert Jason '73** organized the event with co-chairs **Marilyn Jenkins Will '64** and **Pamela Price '62**. The fall function, called "A Prelude to Sunnylands," featured guest speakers Anne Rowe, director of collections and exhibits at the Sunnylands (the estate of the late Walter and Leonore Annenberg in Rancho Mirage, Calif.); and D. Shawn Poore, Stephens director of philanthropy. Rowe shared snippets of history about Sunnylands and shared behind-the-scenes details of the center's 2015 exhibit featuring humorous and serious gifts given to the Annenbergs by presidents, royalty, diplomats, business leaders, entertainers and family.

In March, the group visited the Sunnylands Center and Gardens for themselves. They had a private tour of the Annenbergs' personal residence, a mid-century modern estate designed by the acclaimed architect A. Quincy Jones and famed interior decorator William Haines.

If you are interested in future events, please contact **Karen Deiwert Jason '73** ([kwinona@aol.com](mailto:kwinona@aol.com)) or **Jean Steven McVicker '49** ([jsmcv@aol.com](mailto:jsmcv@aol.com)).

### Alumnae Club of Milwaukee

Last summer, the Stephens Alumnae Club of Milwaukee proudly awarded its endowed scholarship to **Carley Schwendel '18** of Hubertus, Wis., who is studying Equestrian Business Management and Theatre Arts. In August, the club hosted an afternoon "send-off" cookout for Carley and her parents at the home of **Anne Ruttger Neafie '78**.

The Carol Swanson Soik Milwaukee Club Scholarship was established as a fundraising project by Milwaukee alumnae in the late 1970s. It has helped enable a student from Wisconsin to attend Stephens College each year since 1993.

### Alumnae Club of Greater Washington

In October, the Stephens College Alumnae Club of Greater Washington gathered at the home of **Kay Kennedy Brown '51** to hear Dr. Ludy Green, author of the book "Ending Domestic Violence Captivity: A Guide to Economic Freedom." As an advocate for women and children for more than 20 years, Green has helped thousands of women to begin new lives by marshaling resources in job training, employment and financial education into a program called Second Chance. Many club members brought their daughters and friends to hear about this and other efforts to end trafficking and other violence against women.

In December, Stephens alumnae and their guests met at the National Cathedral's St. Albans School for a seated luncheon in the refectory, followed by a Christmas homes tour in the Cleveland Park area of Washington, D.C. After the delicious lunch, they shopped at about 50 boutiques in the school's "marketplace" and then boarded shuttles for Holiday Homes. Escorted by the St. Albans young men in school blazers and Santa hats, the group enjoyed a variety of architecture, decor, floral arrangements, art and history from parent/docents.

## Join your local group!

Find the group nearest you, or register your own group, on our new alumnae website, [www.stephens.edu/alumnae](http://www.stephens.edu/alumnae). Click on "Alumnae Groups."



## Dallas Alumnae Club

The Stephens College Dallas Alumnae Club held its first All Texas Fundraiser Luncheon/Silent Auction/Fashion Show on Oct. 18 at the Park City Club. The event raised \$9,000 from the silent auction, with more than 100 women attending. The fashion show featured the garments of three of the club's most successful fashion graduates (*pictured bottom left, L-to-R*): **Wendy Manasse '81**, Quenchwear stylish activewear; **Susan Erickson Ingram '80**, HELENA AND HARRY IV children's wear; and **Lee Ann Mager-Morris '80**, a la carte coordinated sportswear. They are pictured along with their former fashion professor **Carol Olsen Foley '55**, a past president of the Dallas Alumnae Club. They presented Foley with a pearl necklace with a solitaire diamond drop, in appreciation of her teachings, devotion and inspiration throughout the years.



This past year, Dallas club members also attended the grand opening of Oscar de la Renta's "Five Decades of Style" exhibition at the Bush Presidential Center on the Southern Methodist University campus.

The club wrapped up the year with its annual Christmas Tea at the historical Dallas Women's Forum.

Dallas alumnae (*pictured top left, L-to-R*): **Charlotte Hughes Massey '55**; **Carole Stevenson '64**, lunch bunch/special events; **Mildred Swearngen Patterson '60**, treasurer; **Marilyn Patrice Fleming '64**, newsletter/public relations; **Joanne Armbruster Pokladnik '61**; and **Susan Schmidt '67**, archivist/directory/webmaster/president.



## Kansas City Luncheon Club

In December, the Stephens College Kansas City Luncheon Club held a festive holiday luncheon at the Bloomsbury Bistro, located in the Mission Road Antique Mall in Prairie Village, Kan. The group of 20 Stephens alumnae enjoyed good food, fellowship and shopping. "A good visit was had by all as we prepared to shop and enjoy the beautiful antiques available," says **Susan Story Lord '52**, club president.

Those in attendance (*pictured L-to-R, back row*): **Carolyn Skoglund Kuttenkuler '65**, **Judy Mason Mertz '69**, **Carol Clark Smith '65**, **Dorothy Ferm Frost '45**, **Kara Lay '87**, **Sherrie Renberg Kaplan '72**, **Karen Erickson Granville '61**, **Susan Eggleston Donaghue '57**, **Bette Frass McDaniel '42**.

*Pictured (L-to-R, seated, front to back)*: **Ann Lundgren Brownfield '49**, **Judy Bickmore Jaso-James '54**, **Shirley Demmitt Golden '53**, **Nancy Fouts Jefferis '52**, **Judi Rogers Knight '62**, **Karen Olsen Poe '63**, **Stephanie Alexander Hamil '62**, **Janet Disinger Wilson '62**, **Judy Derry Mahoney '62**, **Rosalyn Marting Osborn '61**, **Susan Story Lord '52**.

## LA Women for Stephens

In November, members of LA Women for Stephens gathered with **Stephens alumna Dawn Wells** to celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Gilligan's Island*. Dawn portrayed the "sweet, polite and thoughtful" Mary Ann Summers from Kansas. She recently wrote a book titled "What Would Mary Ann Do?: A Guide to Life," based on her role as the "good girl" in the popular series. Club members enjoyed hearing advice straight from "Mary Ann."

"It was a thrill for all of us to hear Dawn talk about her life and the unforgettable lessons she learned from Stephens College," says **Jane Cunningham Bensussen '65**, club coordinator.

In January, several group members met for lunch with Ken LaZebnik, director of Stephens' new low-residency M.F.A. in TV and Screenwriting program.

In March, the group held a film screening of *Muffin Top: A Love Story*, written, directed and starring Cathryn Michon, one of Stephens' advisers for the M.F.A. program. LaZebnik spoke about the program and how the group can show its support.



*Pictured top right (L-to-R, standing):* Dionne Manlove Cox '73, Jane Cunningham Bensussen '65, Tennessee Martin '11.

*Pictured (L-to-R, seated):* Stephens alumna Dawn Wells, Mary Anna Bobbe Noveck '86.



*Pictured bottom right (L-to-R):* Ken LaZebnik, Charlotte Holtzermann '69, Jane Cunningham Bensussen '65, Jennifer Nitzband Flaks '03, Joy Winkelman Rinaldi-Donohue '63.

## Denver Area Alumnae

In the fall, Denver Area alumnae gathered at Pinehurst Country Club for a luncheon that raised \$1,000 for the Colorado Endowed Scholarship Fund. The group of 52 alumnae welcomed Stephens President Dianne Lynch, who gave an update on the College. **Kathy Stolte Sherrod '71**, **Ann Willett Kingery '58**, **Denise Girtin Daniell '72** and **Ramona Adams Kemper '59** organized the get-together that included special guest **George Ann Stokes Harding '58** from Texas.

Last July, **Carla Hampton Macartney '52** invited local alumnae to the premiere of her daughter Carolyn Macartney's documentary, *Wanda the Wonderful*. The film is about Carla's mother, Wanda, who had a Hollywood career as a sharpshooter in the '20s. The group attended the premiere with a couple hundred guests at the local theater in Worland, Wyo. Carla, who lives in Denver, has a ranch south of Ten Sleep, Wyo., where the Stephens alumnae gathered after the film.



*Class of 1952 classmates (pictured top right, L-to-R):* Lou Prewett Harding '52, Joyce Tinkham Patterson '52, Carla Hampton Macartney '52, Dorry Jacobson Rice '52 (*seated*).



# Celebrating Stephens



**Stephens alumnae come together to share, make new memories.**

During *Celebrate Stephens* weekend in April, several alumnae had an extra special reason to celebrate their time together back on campus—they marked milestone class reunions.

## Classic Classes

*Pictured (L-to-R):* Gretchen Bush Kimball '57, Chuckie Gee Beath '50, Jan Moses Durrett '50, Joy Underdown '54, Lois Perkins Luallin '58, Karen Kinder Kowert '60, Winnie Eggers Stith '55.



## 50th Anniversary Reunion: Class of 1965

*Those in attendance (listed alphabetically):*

Constance Gillick Beich '65, Vivian Bangs Biely '65, VerLinda Hannemann Boyer '65, Linda Podas Chapman '65, Barbara Guilford Colvert '65, Jenney Smith Duffy '65, Lucy Finley Duskin '65, Dianne Edenfield Edwards '65, Linda Braley Grace '65, Mary Lynch Hennies '65, Stacy Holland '65, Constance Clark Jaeger '65, Sheryl Bolton Johnson-Todd '65, Janell Stutler Jones '65, Carolyn Skoglund Kutenkuler '65, Jean Jarmin Losquadro '65, Elizabeth Dibert Mulloy '65, Carole Eron Pei '65, Carol Clark Smith '65, Marcy McKinsey Sparks '65, Susan Wolfe Zimmerman '65.



## 35th Anniversary Reunion: Class of 1980

*Pictured (L-to-R):* Terri Stith '80, Joy Katzen-Guthrie '80, Renee Peltzman Walkup '79, Vici Block Davis '80, Frank Sawyer '80, Julia Milltenberger '80.

*Not pictured but also in attendance:* Elisabeth Penunuri '80 and Ann Ryan Solomon '80.

## Receive Stephens news!

Subscribe to *From Stephens*, our monthly e-newsletter, which is packed with the latest news, events and information about the College. Email us at [alumnae@stephens.edu](mailto:alumnae@stephens.edu) or call (573) 876-7110.

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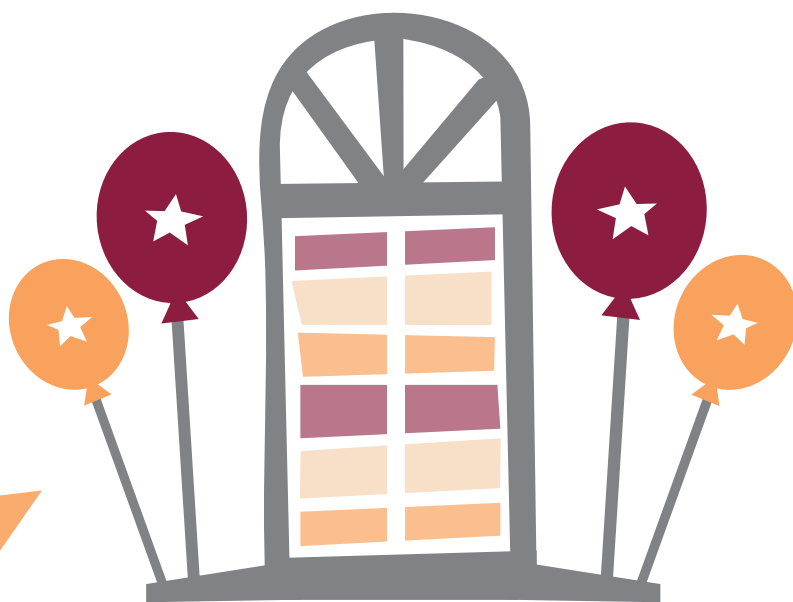


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