



Stephens College

# ALUMNI F.Y.I.

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## NOTE FROM THE ALUM OFFICE



Dear Stephens Alums,

These past months have been filled with love and connections, and the celebration of significant historical achievements, and it elicits our reflection on the powerful ties that bind our alum community. Our alumni's stories of success, resilience, and innovation continue to inspire a sense of pride and camaraderie in all of us.

At Stephens, we LOVE the news you share about your lives and careers. We LOVE when you visit campus and engage with today's students. We LOVE when you refer or bring prospective students to campus. And we especially LOVE when you share your memories of Stephens College with us. These actions add to the rich tapestry of our shared history, and we are eager to celebrate every milestone with you.

Warm Regards,

*Shannon*

Shannon Blankenship Walls '93  
Vice President for Advancement  
[sbwalls@stephens.edu](mailto:sbwalls@stephens.edu)

To read previous editions of Alumni F.Y.I. - click [here](#)

**ALUMNI WEEKEND IS LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY**  
**Call your friends and Register Now!**



**Alumni Weekend 2024 is April 11-13**

The Schedule and Registration links are available at [Stephens Connect](#)

We're thrilled to invite you to join us for an unforgettable Alumni Weekend, April 11-13, 2024! This is your chance to reconnect with old friends, celebrate your alma mater, and create new memories that will last a lifetime.

## Here's a glimpse of the exciting activities we have planned:

### Thursday, April 11:

- Cookout on the Quad
- Harbinger 2024 Edition Launch Party
- Karaoke Night

### Friday, April 12:

- Dedication and Ribbon Cutting for the Center of Excellence for Veteran Success
- Crossing the Bridge Ceremony for the Class of 2024
- All Campus Lunch
- Alumni Award Ceremony
- Reception with Faculty, Staff, and Retired Faculty

### Saturday, April 13:

- President Dianne Lynch's State of the College Address
- Class Photos
- Reunion Lunch
- 80th Annual Fashion Show, "The Collections"
- The Conservatory for the Performing Arts 2024 Senior Showcase

Throughout the weekend, you'll also have up close and personal connections with our faculty and students as they showcase how the College's new academic block program will fully immerse them into their learning experiences. We've always done things **"the Stephens Way,"** and these campus connections will be a great opportunity for you to participate and see it firsthand!

For information regarding Alumni Weekend, including a detailed schedule, [click here](#).

If you have questions or prefer to register by phone, call us at **(573) 876-7110**. We can't wait to welcome you back to campus!

## NEWS FROM ALUMNI

### Awards and Honors



**Pam Green '72** was inducted into the Country Radio Hall of Fame on July 10, 2023. The Country Radio Hall of Fame is dedicated to the recognition of individuals who have made significant contributions to the radio industry over a 20-year period.

Pam began her career at the iconic WHN/New York in the early '70s, where she quickly ascended to the position of music director. She continued to make waves in the industry, serving as senior director of artist relations for United Stations Radio Networks, later becoming Westwood One. Her contributions to the industry were recognized when she was named one of country Radio's Greatest Music Directors by Radio & Records Magazine. Pam's success as one of country radio's first female music directors paved the way for other women seeking influential programming positions.

In her acceptance speech, she recognized Stephens for its "terrific theatre program." She told the story of how she fell in love with New York City when she took a study trip with the Searcy House Plan her freshman year, which led her to move to the Big Apple after graduation and to embark on a 45+ year radio career. She said, "While there will not be a Tony award in my future, tonight I'm celebrating a much more important award, induction into the Country Radio Hall of Fame." For more click [here](#).

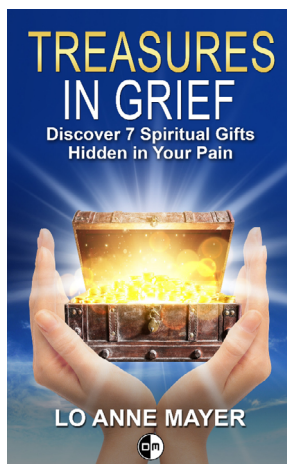


**Ronda Robinson '77** received the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Excellence in Communications Award in December 2023. Ronda has worked as a health communications specialist at the CDC in Atlanta for 15 years. She is a former journalist and freelance writer with a passion for health, travel, Jewish, and inspirational topics.



Congratulations to **Amy Banks '17 MFA** for being nominated for a 2023 Emmy as a writer of Sesame Street's #Comingtogether Word of the Day Series, which starred Zahn Tokiya-ku McClarnon of Dark Winds. Click [here](#) to view the segment.

## Alumni Authors

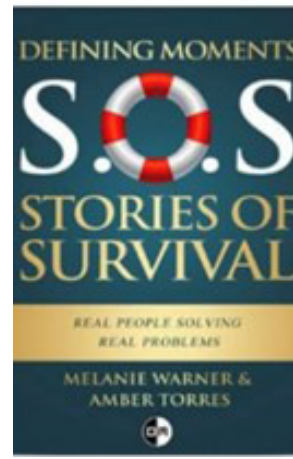
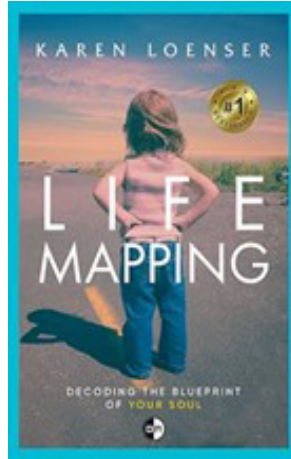


**Lo Anne Kinney Mayer '61** has published her second book, *Treasures in Grief: Discover 7 Spiritual Gifts Hidden in Your Pain*. She says it is a book for anyone walking the path of grief, and it is based on her journey to Glastonbury, England, to find closure after her daughter Cyndi's death. While there, she discovered there are many gifts received while grieving. She hopes her book will help those who have lost a loved one benefit from her discovery and notice their treasures. Learn more [here](#).

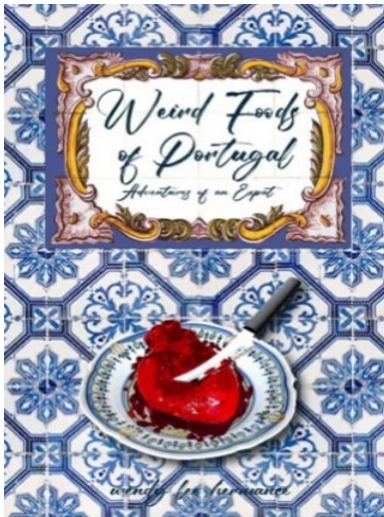


**Jamecia Stoudermire '09** is a consultant, talent manager, and brand acquisition specialist in Los Angeles. She is producing her podcast, "*Jam'n #IntheROOM.*" Each 15-20-minute episode features guests who share real-life networking stories from their professions. Jamecia would love to feature stories of Stephens College alumni who have navigated their way through the professional world. The podcast aims to be a source of motivation, offering valuable tips and exploring the latest trends in various industries. Learn more [here](#).





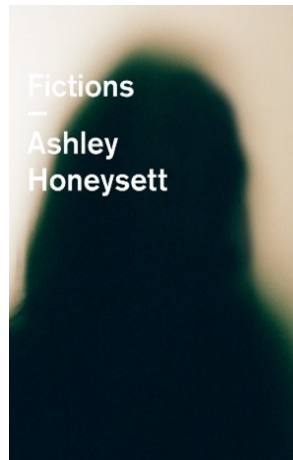
**Karen Mayer Loenser '84**, daughter of **Lo Anne Kinney Mayer '61**, is an award-winning television production and digital platform innovator. She is also a best-selling author of *LifeMapping: Decoding the Blueprint of your Soul* and *S.O.S. – Stories of Survival*, and the executive producer and host of *Seeking Center: The Podcast*. Additionally, since January 2023, Karen has been the Director of Program Operations and Management at Warner Bros. Discovery. Learn more [here](#).



**Wendy Hermance '86** is a former vegetarian restaurateur, restorer of old homes in the US and Europe, and an author. Wendy says “Stephens made a world of difference to me. I was accepted, encouraged, and respected there.” Her most recent book, *Weird Foods of Portugal*, describes her first years as an expat trying to make sense of a strange new place while making a home there for herself. She describes it as part travel adventure, part how-to, part cautionary tale, and ultimately, affirmation for all who consider making such a move. Learn more [here](#).



**Debra Atlas '74** is an environmental journalist, author, professional speaker, blogger, workshop leader, and radio personality. Her book *You Aren't Depression's Victim* is a departure from her usual journalist writing. The book offers readers new ideas and thought-provoking possibilities to consider, and it presents the idea that we have a choice when faced with depression. Learn more [here](#).



**Ashley Honeysett '05** has lived throughout the US, Ireland, and Japan and is now raising a child with her husband outside of Chicago where she works as a fundraiser for environmental nonprofits. Her first book, *Fictions*, won the 2023 Miami University Press Novella Prize. Told in a fragmentary style that blurs the line between reality and imagination, *Fictions* considers the everyday trolls – the personal as much as the aesthetic – of getting our longing onto the page. *Fictions* will be published on May 7, 2024, and is available for pre-order now. Click [here](#).

## Alum Visits to Campus



Former Board of Trustees Chair **Jean Holloway Zunkel '65** visited campus with her granddaughter in February. Jean and Philomena spent two full days touring campus, attending classes, and meeting students and faculty. Jean worked with the alumni and admissions offices to coordinate the unforgettable campus visit. Jean expressed her pride in the direction her alma mater is heading, and we hope to see Mena on campus this fall! To refer prospective students to Stephens, click [here](#). To coordinate a campus visit, contact us at [alums@stephens.edu](mailto:alums@stephens.edu).



Board of Trustees members **Nancy Brown '73**, **M. Anne Murphy '78**, and **Ellen Vollrath '86** joined **President Dianne Lynch** March 15-16 to cheer on the Stars in their first NAIA National Championship Tournament. To see if the Stars will be in your area, follow their schedules [here](#).



**Joan Ranquet '82** spent a week in residence on the Stephens campus in February to spend time with students and their animals. Joan is an animal communicator, energy healer, TEDx speaker, author, and founder of communication with All Life University, a school for animal communicators and energy healers. She is the author of *Emotional Freedom Technique for Animals and Their Humans*, *Energy Healing for Animals*, and *Communication with All Life*.



This year, the Stephens College Pen Pal Project connected 27 alumni with current students, sparking conversations and memories. **Stacy Morse '99** and her pen pal, **Trinity Wigginton '27**, met for lunch at Stamper Commons!



## Class Notes



Kansas City Alumni Club President **Karen Olsen Poe '63** shared news of classmate **Ólöf Birna Blöndal '63** of Iceland. Ólöf is an artist and has been very involved in the arts in Iceland. She has been recognized for a project to draw all of the senior citizens of a small town there. It is a fascinating work of art.



**Priscilla McPherson Phillips '74** of Carrboro, NC, performed a four-month run of the play *A Christmas Carol*. She played the roles of Mrs. Fezziwing and the Laundress at the Allstate Theater in Fredericksburg, VA.



**Rebecca Nelson Dubuque '11** and her husband, Brian, welcomed a daughter, Madison, on June 3, 2023. This was just ten days after fellow Stephens alum and Rebecca's good friend, **Ciara McCormack Greenwalt '11**, gave birth to a baby girl. They look forward to the girls sharing a play date soon. At Stephens, we are anxious for them to enroll in Fall 2024!



**Mary Roberts '22 MPAS** shares the life of a physician assistant suits her because it combines her love of all medical specialties and allows her to pursue one of her greatest passions: caring for and helping others. She finds the field rewarding because she witnesses people building their quality of life and knows she has a role in the process. She says her goal is not to be merely adequate in the healthcare industry, but to be the best – a sentiment shared with Stephens College and the Physician Assistant Program.



**Annabel Pacheco '21 MPAS** spent six long weeks of training to successfully become an Aeromedical PA!

If you have news about your career or family to share with us for future editions, please submit it [here](#) or email us at [alums@stephens.edu](mailto:alums@stephens.edu).

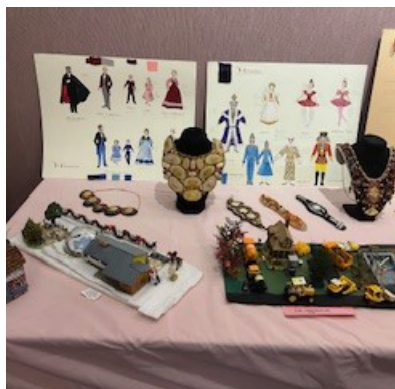
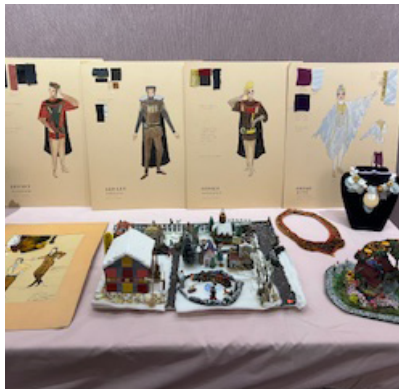
## In Memoriam: *Honoring the Lives and Legacies of Our Departed Stephens Family*

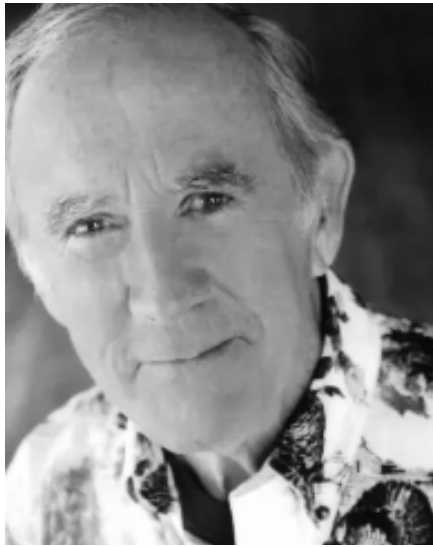


**Mary Alice "Patti" Doyle** passed away on November 29, 2023, in Columbia, MO. She was born on February 19, 1938. Patti earned an MA in Theatre Arts from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, and a PhB in Theatre Arts from the University of Detroit. She served as the costume design professor at Stephens College for 34 years. At Stephens, she taught 20th Century Costume History in the fashion department and Costume Construction and Costume Design in the performing arts department. After her retirement in 2009, Patti returned as a guest costume designer for the Okoboji Summer Theater in 2012.

After retirement, Patti taught courses at the University of Missouri OSHER Life Long Learning Center, traveled to China, enjoyed a Rhine River cruise, and took yearly trips to Stratford, Ontario, for the Shakespeare Festival. She had a lifelong love for research and amassed over 1500 books in her theater, art, fashion, and history library. She was active in the community of Columbia through the Weavers and Spinners Guild, the Symphony Society, and the Assistance League of Mid-Missouri. Music was her passion, including jazz, musical theatre, and especially the theatre organ. She traveled regularly to Kansas City, attending many organ concerts. Patti continued her artistic endeavors, creating miniature works and producing beadwork and jewelry for sale at Artrageous Gallery. In her words: "Who said retirement was boring?"

Patti's celebration of life was held at the Macklanburg Playhouse on January 20, 2024, with displays of her many creative works. Patti wished that expressions of sympathy be made to the Okoboji Summer Theater.





Actor-teacher-mentor **Addison Michael Myers** passed away at 92 on December 23, 2023, in Columbia, MO. Addison entertained numerous audiences and mentored hundreds of students in his career. He directed the theatre program at Hollywood High School in Los Angeles, CA, from 1964- 1968. Joining the Stephens College faculty in 1968 as a professional actor/teacher, Addison taught acting, directing, and theatre history from 1968-1974 and from 1976 until his retirement in 1998. For nearly 50 years, Addison was active in summer stock productions at such venues as the Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, CT, the Canterbury Theatre in Michigan City, IN, and at the Okoboji

Summer Theatre in Iowa, where he served as managing/artistic director from the early 1980s through 1997.

Addison was a proud member of the Actor's Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA. He performed in more than 300 plays as an actor and director, appearing on- and off-Broadway, on television, and in film. His credits range from a 1957 Broadway Company production of *Inherit the Wind* to an episode of the *Twilight Zone* to Westlake Hardware commercials. Before and after retirement from Stephens College, Addison maintained an active career in movies, industrial films, commercials, voice-overs, and print in Kansas City and St. Louis. Locally, he performed in several productions of the Greenhouse Theatre Project and at Talking Horse Productions. His last performance was with his close friend Aaron Krawitz in *Memoirs* at Talking Horse in 2017.

Addison is survived by his wife of 42 years, **Darcy Wells '87**, whom he met in Spirit Lake, IA, in 1981. He is also survived by daughter Alison Brunet and grandsons Nick and Jake Brunet of Arizona, in-laws from Iowa, Minnesota, and Washington, niece Suzanne Hilty Lind of Michigan, nephew George Myers Jr. of Texas, and other nieces and nephews from around the U.S.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Okoboji Summer Theatre or the Central Missouri Humane Society. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 2 p.m. in the Macklanburg Playhouse on the Stephens College campus.



## *Remembering Our Beloved Alumni:*

### **1930s**

**Betty Douville Johnston** '39; Alpena, MI

### **1940s**

**Virginia Schutt McConnaughy** '40; Centennial, CO

**Dorothy Danielson Ziska** '40; Elizabeth, CO

**Virginia Radabaugh Simon** '42; Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA

**Virginia Veach DuBois** '43; Littleton, CO

**Emily Alsop Russell** '43; Oskaloosa, IA

**Ernestine Soller Meyer** '44; Bonner Springs, KS

**Phyllis Nigh Yochem** '44; Corpus Christi, TX

**Mary Todd Beveridge** '46; Overland Park, KS

**Wilma Webster Schwada** '46; Chandler, AZ

**Nancy Bailey Andrews** '47; Golden, CO

**Caryl Schmidt Williams** '48; Tempe, AZ

**Mary Elliot Anderson** '49; Galesburg, IL

**Helen Parkinson Lampkin** '49; Oklahoma City, OK

### **1950s**

**Janet Hutson White** '50; Cockeysville, MD

**Sally Foster Brodie** '51; Tempe, AZ

**Norma Parker Guest** '51; San Antonio, TX

**Elizabeth "Betsy" Daine** '52; White Hall, MD

**Carla Hampton Macartney** '52; Denver, CO

**Barbara Pinckney Paullus** '52; Memphis, TN

**Nancy Lawler Stephens** '52; Atlanta, GA

**JoAnne Jacobs Zieringer** '52; Omaha, NE

**Mary Hearon Dickson** '53; Jacksonville, FL

**Ann Kaplan Lasnick** '53; Palm Beach Gardens, FL

**Veda Higger Levy** '53; Mc Lean, VA

**Lanier Jenkins McCrary** '54; Brownsboro, AL

**Glenda Poteet Pugh** '54; New Bloomfield, MO

**Carol Boggs Stevenson** '54; Oklahoma City, OK

**Barbara Oldt Ware** '54; Tampa, FL

**Nancy Klopfenstein Davis** '55; Richardson, TX

**Sandra Seyferth Duncker** '55; Saint Louis, MO

**Mary Elizabeth Hurst Simmons** '55; Columbia, SC

**Barbara Brook Brodbeck** '59; Brady, TX

**Sara Etheridge** '59; Sandersville, GA

**Elizabeth "Liz" Clark Watkins** '59; Saint Louis, MO



## 1960s

**Gail Butler Wakelee '62**; Rocklin, CA  
**Ann Grimm Gabel '63**; Dallas, TX  
**Nancy Wallace Dunham '64**; Salisbury, NC  
**Carol Lynn Voelkel '64**; College Station, TX  
**Kathleen Krider Hawken '67**; Jupiter, FL  
**Jerrie Rodgers Walden '68**; Jonesboro, AR  
**Mary Lemon Walter '69**; Atlanta, GA

## 1970s

**Angela Goddard Marx '71**; Upperco, MD  
**Mari Marsha Boland '73**; Greenville, MS  
**Marcia Lynn Flohr '73**; Glendale, AZ  
**Marilyn Miller Robitaille '74**; Folsom, CA  
**Max Turner Huls '75**; Jacksonville, FL  
**Kimberly Stuerke Widebrook '75**; Overland Park, KS  
**Joan Petersen Burtzos '77**; Colorado Springs, CO

## Giving

### **Trailblazer Day**



Thank you to all who gave in support of Trailblazer Day 2024. On February 10, we celebrated the birth and legacy of Lucy Ann Wales and launched the Student Experience Fund. This fund will allow each Stephens student to have at least one cross-cultural experiential learning opportunity during their academic career, regardless of their economic ability. The trailblazers below were among the first to give to the new Student Experience Fund. We are committed to providing opportunities for every student to learn, grow, and lead.

## Innovator

**Jeanne O'Rear Troxell '77**  
**Holly Jensen Kerr '77** (in memory of Charles L. and Bennie Jensen)  
**Anonymous**  
**Sally Ann Jensen Jones '80** (in honor of Chas. L & Bennie Jensen)  
**Anne Reed Cady '64**  
**Alicia Steele '68**  
**D. Ann Cleeton Wright '72**  
**Dana Caston Moore '77**  
**Lindsey Lischka Nicolescu '05**

**Anonymous** (in memory of Pauline Dwyer Macklanburg '32 and Constance Schenk '48)  
**Rikki Takeyama Menn '09, '10**  
**Terry Wollersheim** (in honor of Jo Ann Steele)  
**Carol Ann Dove '69**  
**Chelsey Christensen '08**  
**Darcy Wells '87** (in honor of Shannon Blankenship Walls '93 & Shannon's grandmother)

**Anonymous** (in memory of Constance Schenk '48)

**Mary Mensing Link** '73

**Helen Lewis Moore** '77

**Janeen Bjork** '78

**Joan Salmonson Nolan** '66

**Jody Benson** '68 (in memory of Linda Fries Nixon '68)

**Judith Lynn Taylor Preston** '78

**Judy Johnston McConahay** '74

**Nancy Witt Berning** '74 (in honor of Alice Parker Batty Roth '74)

**Natalie Self Rosengren** '68 (in memory of Madeline Grapes, a great Art History teacher)

**Pamela Oltmanns Rodman** '79

### **Visionary**

**Elissa Nathan Norwood** '72

**Andrea J. Trinklein** '80

**Dr. Sharon Ford Schattgen** '77

**Sharran Parkinson** '78

**Anita K. Parran** '73 (in memory of Wilma J. Parran, Thank you for planning ahead and securing my Stephens experience!)

**Susan Brown Zahn** '78

**Linda J. Adler** '70 (in memory of Anne Ritchie '71 and Linda Lamparter '70)

**Anne Thomson Delaney** '78

**Joy Katzen-Guthrie** '78

**Kathleen Trichel Ellis** '68, '73

**Jane Hobson Marcus** '78

### **Trailblazer**

**Jean Holloway Zunkel** '64

**John and Patti Ball Blakemore** '65

**Shannon Blankenship Walls** '93 (in memory of my amazing grandmother, Jo Ann Steele)

**Jane Cunningham Bensussen** '65

**Julia King Muller** '61

**Gretchen Steinle Prater** '69

**Judith Lambert Kopp** '76

**Craig Gabrian** '77

**Sara Herrnstadt Crosby** '76 (in memory of Helen Herrnstadt, my trailblazing mother)

**Nancy Schwartz Patterson** '83

**Lori Fowler Richardson** '81

**Patricia Taggart** '84

### **Catalyst**

**Mark Taylor** '73 and **Judy Doyen Taylor** '73

### **Vanguard**

**M. Anne Murphy** '78

**Chole Johnson** '95

**Caroline Bailey Hornblow** '64, '66

**Vivian Bangs Biely** '65

**Gayle Flannery Bentsen** '67

**Sara Jane Johnson** '56

**Cross Cultural Initiatives Fall 2024**

# Italy

*Milan, Florence, Rome*

**Bus 386: Global Markets**

- Expand your understanding of international markets
- Tour Italy's iconic fashion districts
- Form meaningful connections with peers and industry professionals
- Immersive cultural experiences including trips to museums and historical landmarks
- **The class will be capped at 12 students**
- **Please scan QR code to express interest!**

**2nd Block: Sept. 25 - October 5**

**Led by:**

- Dr. Scott Taylor, Business Professor
- Alex Bryan, Associate VP Student Experience

**More info coming soon!**

One of the first cross-cultural academic student experiences will occur during Block 2 of the Fall 2024 Semester. The course, Business 386: Global Markets, will enroll up to 12 students, providing them the opportunity to expand their understanding of international markets with Dr. Scott Taylor and Alex Bryan in Italy! They will spend September 25 - October 5 immersing themselves in the culture, touring historic fashion districts, meeting industry professionals, exploring historic landmarks and museums, and more. Alumni support makes it possible for all students to

engage in this kind of transformative educational experience.

## Stop Day: Class Giving Challenges

In 1914, on April 1, President James Madison Wood called for a campus-wide Stop Day. Excerpts from the 1914 Stephensophia describe what occurred on that eventful day:

“All was peace until the first of April when there was rumor of a class uprising.”

“All year long, the over-enthusiastic Juniors had been trying to ‘start something’ (as they expressed it) and wondered why the Seniors didn’t respond. But the time was coming when they would no longer accuse the dignified Seniors of having no “class spirit”. April 1 was declared a holiday. At 1:30, a Faculty-student baseball game was played in the gym. Of course, all the unsuspecting Juniors were at the game, but three alert Seniors were at that very time bearing the loved “crimson and green” high above all, upon the utmost tower. Then, behold! What did the astonished Juniors see waving gaily in the breeze when they came from the game? Senior colors! It never occurred to them that this might be an April Fool joke – merely intended to arouse excitement...”



This tomfoolery launched a tradition of a week-long ‘battle’ between the Junior and Senior classes.

Channeling the 1914 Stephens competitive class spirit, we are bringing back Class Giving Challenges! In the lead up to Alumni Weekend 2024, we encourage you to give to Stephens – no gift is too small! During Alumni Weekend, we will award three trophies to the:

1. Class with the Highest Total Giving Amount
2. Class with the Highest Number of Donors
3. Class with the Highest Percentage of Donors

It is not clear who won in 1914. On page 21 of the 1914 Stephensophia, the Juniors declared themselves the victors. However, on page 22 the seniors say, “Of course these are only rumors, for the Seniors were not eyewitnesses to these heart-rending scenes.”

## Launch of Stars Club and Scholarship Fund



The success of our athletics program is not only about winning games but also about empowering our student-athletes to excel BOTH academically and athletically. That's why we have launched the Stars Club and Scholarship Fund.

**The Stars Club and Scholarship Fund** raises financial support for Stephens College's varsity sports, including basketball, soccer, softball, and volleyball, as well as the club sport of competitive dance/cheer.

We invite you to join a program providing essential resources and enabling us to maintain our competitive edge, investing in the academic pursuits of our students, and giving unparalleled opportunities for our student-athletes to learn, grow, lead, AND succeed. To join us in celebrating our student-athletes and investing in the future of Stephens College Athletics, click below to learn more today!

Founding Members of the Stars Club and Scholarship Fund

### Individual Donors

#### **Teammate**

Anonymous

#### **White**

**Leah Neese '94**

#### **Gold**

**Aline Reese Crompton '84**

**Jane Cunningham Bensussen '65**

#### **Maroon**

**Doris Painter Littrell '58**

**Shannon Blankenship Walls '93**

### Corporate Donors

#### **Captain**

BSN Sports

Coil Construction  
(**Cydney Jackson Coil '75**)

#### **Champion**

Show-Me-Sports



## While You're Away

- Join [Stephens Connect](#)
- Shop at [Susie's](#) and sport your Stephens Gear
- Travel with alums: [Stephens Alumni travel opportunities](#)
- Stay tuned to [Giving Day](#) opportunities like the upcoming Stop Day: Class Giving Challenges April 1-13, 2024
- Refer Students and Spread the News about [The Stephens Promise](#)
- Follow our social media sites curated especially for Alums:



## When You're On Campus

- Attend [Alumni Weekend](#), April 11-13
- See a show: [76th Performing Arts Season](#)
- Catch a game: [Spring Athletics Schedules](#)
- Plan a mini-reunion with your friends: [Contact us!](#)
- Bring a prospective student for a [campus visit](#) or [preview day](#)

## **GIVE. CONNECT. RECRUIT.**

Thank you for staying connected to Stephens!

To read previous editions of Alumni F.Y.I. – click [here](#)