The Russell Waters Challenge for the Stephens Fund

About Vicki Russell & Hank Waters

Vicki Russell and Hank Waters, longtime leaders in the Columbia community and former publishers of the Columbia Daily Tribune newspaper, are known for supporting education and programs that help women thrive. Russell is a recipient of the Columbia Women’s Network ATHENA Leadership Award for her professional excellence and community service. She was recognized by the Greater Missouri Leadership Foundation as the Community Leader of the Year and was inducted into the Missouri Press Association Newspaper Hall of Fame.

Waters, who worked at the Columbia Daily Tribune for 64 years, has founded and led organizations to support job placement and financial counseling for low-income members of the community and community-based rehabilitation for adult criminal offenders. He was enshrined in the Boone County Hall of Fame and received the University of Missouri School of Journalism Gold Medal, among other recognitions and awards.

They have chosen to make Stephens College their most significant philanthropic priority.

“We’re ‘All In’ for Stephens!”

About the Challenge

Vicki and Hank celebrate that they have the best women’s college in their hometown. With a lifetime of working with the most influential women in their community, Vicki and Hank have a long-standing relationship with Stephens and with Stephens women.

“Stephens students consistently say the same thing: ‘I am not the same person I was when I came here,’” Vicki and Hank say. “Graduates tell us they feel ready for and excited about their futures.”

That’s why they chose to be ‘All In’ for Stephens with a five-year commitment to give. “We’re giving a total of $125,000 over the next five years, and we hope our pledge will inspire others to join us. We’re speaking out to encourage our community to put Stephens first and inspire others to make a pledge of their own.”

They believe in the transformative power of a Stephens College education, and the value it will continue to have throughout this century.

How the Challenge Works

The Russell Waters Challenge will provide a 1:1 match for:

- **New**
  - Five-year commitments for $5,000 or more per year

- **Renewed**
  - Five-year commitments for $5,000 or more per year
About the Sursum Society

Alumnae and alumni, parents and friends are all members of the community of support opening the doors for the women leaders of each generation. The Stephens Fund is the College’s highest philanthropic priority helping underwrite scholarships, experiences, challenging coursework, internships and career services. Contributions from Sursum Society members represent the largest source of funding for the College.

Sursum! represents the best of Stephens College’s rich traditions and engaged community. Located in the heart of the Stephens College campus in Journey Plaza, the sculpture serves as an inspiring reminder of the power of education to transform women’s lives.

Sursum Society of Donor Recognition*

1833 Circle  $1,000-$4,999
Maroon Circle  $5,000-$9,999**
Gold Circle  $10,000-$24,999
President’s Circle  $25,000+

Stephens’ fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30; gifts to Stephens College are tax deductible to the extent allowed by U.S. and Canadian law.

*Your recognition level is based on your gift and will not include the challenge matching dollars.

**Donors may establish a named annual scholarship for each gift of $5,000 or more, pledged for five years. Undergraduate alumnae and alumni who graduated in the past five years and graduate and professional alumnae and alumni age 35 and younger who have graduated in the past five years may establish a named annual scholarship with each gift of $2,500 or more.

Yes! I/We will support the Stephens Fund.

Please designate my/our gift to support
☐ Stephens Fund  ☐ Annual scholarships

This gift will be funded as follows: (see payment options on right)
☐ A multi-year pledge* to be paid over _______ years (up to five years) beginning _______ date

☐ A recurring credit card gift as follows until canceled $ _______ date

☐ One-time gift of $ _______

☐ This gift will be matched by __________________________
   (Name of company. Please enclose matching gift form.)

*If your gift or pledge will be paid from a family foundation or donor advised fund, your gift will be an “intention” and not a legally binding pledge.
You can change or discontinue your recurring gift at any time by contacting the Office of Advancement at (573) 876-7110 or giving@stephens.edu.