



Stephens College

STEPHENS F.Y.I.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It's mid-semester – already! I can't believe how fast time flies. And, believe me, although we are busy (maybe even frenetic, at times), the faculty and staff are filled with focus and optimism and centered in our life's work to further the mission of this special institution.

We make progress on our Reimagining Stephens strategic plan every day. Each of our decisions is considered through a student-centric lens and how it best meets the needs of the students of today

and tomorrow and their learning. We are prioritizing student engagement, lived experience, and learning outcomes and configuring our systems, structures, and pedagogical approaches to meet those needs with the flexibility necessary in our world of rapid change and disruption.

We have so many lanes of growth that we are managing simultaneously, including: the development of a women-centric workforce development program in partnership with industry leaders; the creation of an expandable teaching certification program in partnership with Columbia Public Schools and school districts in the Kansas City and St. Louis area; an academic and student experience focused on collaborative, immersive learning and cross-cultural experiences; and maximum investment in marketing and advertising to promote the College's market competitiveness in transformational education and student experiences. I will continue to unveil pieces of this robust plan in the issues to come, but today, I am most excited to share with you a newly adopted commitment by the Stephens College Board of Trustees: **The Stephens Promise.**

Affordability is the number one concern expressed by students and their families today. In response, The Stephens Promise is our commitment to residential students whose families have an adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less and who have a GPA of 3.3 or higher to put together a financial aid package of scholarships and grants – not loans! – that will cover tuition from the time they enroll until the time they graduate. Most colleges will tell you that they’re worth the investment, but at Stephens, we’re flipping the script and telling our prospective students that we’re investing in them.

How can you help?

Share the news. Tell your family, friends, neighbors who believe private education is out of reach to take look at Stephens. Or send us names to make connections.

Consider [sending a gift](#) to the **Stephens Scholarship Fund** or the **Stars Scholarship Fund** for student athletes. The support of our alumni resonates deeply with the students who benefit from donor-funded scholarships. Your support of any size makes an impact. Or, if you can do more, contact our [Advancement Office](#) to discuss named scholarship options. Scholarships are an investment in a bright future. What more can we possibly ask for?

All my best,

Dianne

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



NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Stephens College Board of Trustees met October 12-14 on campus. They welcomed seven new members **Shatenita Horton '06 MBA, Rikki Takeyama Menn '09, '10 MSL, Kay Chaney Nadel '65. Stacy Schroeder Peters '81, Leigh Anne Preston '85, Jennifer Kelley Wilder '94, and Ana Ximenes, '83.**

In addition to the governance work they reside over related to setting strategic goals, approving academic programs and monitoring their outcomes, and stewarding the College's financial resources and campus properties, the Board members participated in a day of immersive learning with our faculty and students.



They rolled up their sleeves at the Stephens Stables to study the gastrointestinal biomes of our horses and how different elements in their diets affect them. This will be a central research component within the new Women in Science Research at Stephens College (**WISR^{SC}**) program led by **Dr. Brandon Moore**, Associate Professor of Biology, and **Sara Linde-Patel '02**, Associate Professor of Equestrian Studies, in partnership with the University of Missouri Veterinary School. The program will welcome its first student cohort Fall 2024 as a pipeline program for students interested in research-focused careers, whether they go on to pursue veterinary school, medical school, or the biotech or pharmaceutical industries.



Next, they kept their sleeves rolled up and engaged in a hands-on exercise to mimic the **Women's Workforce Development** program that will launch in February 2024. **Dr. Scott Taylor**, Director of Workforce Development and Business Program Chair, treated Board members to a workshop to learn the art and science of tile setting in our theatre scene shop which will become host for the pre-apprenticeship training program for students in this program. This program will accept all students, but it will be taught through a women-centric lens, and it will train and certify students for careers in the trades that pay family - supporting wages.



Student Athletes and their Coaches from Basketball, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball hosted the Board for lunch and shared news of their seasons and plans ahead. During this A-list level networking, it was decided that when **Stephens Stars** athletic events are occurring on the road, we will notify and invite alums in the area to attend and cheer for the Stars. New traditions coming soon. [Go Stars!](#) Stay tuned in November in:

- Cape Girardeau - November 11;
- Helena, Havre, and Great Falls, MT - November 16-18;
- Macomb, IL - November 20;
- Georgetown and Campbellsville, KY - November 30 and December 2



The final stop on this immersive tour was led by the Conservatory for the Performing Arts where Board members were treated to the stellar vocal talents of musical theatre majors **Carley Cramer, Olivia Evans, Kylie Hower, Quinten Loveland, Lily Mace, RiQuadrion Mangum, Joe Murphy, Sawyer Nevins, Ava Whittaker, Mallory Womeldorff** and **Nick Youngstead**. Trustees agreed that the talent in our Conservatory is worth touting. If you have the chance, come and see these students and their classmates in [Vanities](#) November 10-12 or [A Christmas Carol the Musical](#) December 8-15.

The Board Members thoroughly enjoyed their up close and personal interactions with the campus. If this sounds interesting to you, watch for details about our Alumni Weekend plans which will provide opportunities for invite alumni to participate with students and faculty in interactive experiences like these in their classes and labs. Alumni Weekend registration opens November 1 on [Stephens Connect](#).

NEWS FROM CAMPUS

A Big Impact from Class Giving...



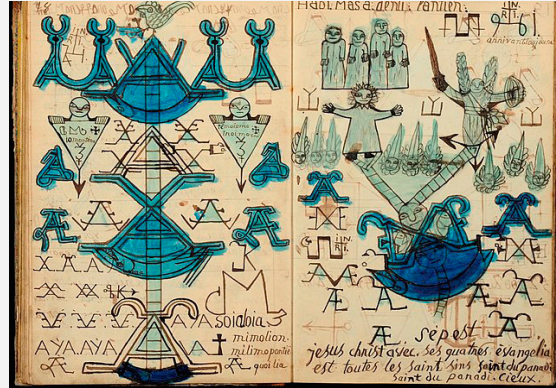
A central spot on campus has received a wonderful upgrade thanks to members of the **Class of 1972** who gathered at their 50th reunion and decided to make their mark on campus in honor of the occasion.

The group, valiantly led by **Trish Starnes Gross '72**, made gifts for Campus Beautification that enabled the College to create a gathering hub on the Journey Plaza beside the Firestone Baars Chapel in the center of campus. Tables and benches that surround the inspirational Sursum statue are available for meeting, lunching, reading, chatting, relaxing, or outside the classroom learning. The project also folded in the pocket park garden area with plans for beautiful blooms when alumni return to campus in April for Alumni Weekend.

The hub is along everyone's path as they traverse our beautiful campus, and it has already become a favorite spot for the campus community.

Thank you, Class of 1972 for your vision, leadership, and generosity that has made a big impact on campus!

Stephens Stars Get Published...



Always immersive – Stephens’ newest Creative Writing class, taught by Associate Professor **Dr. Jim Terry**, encourages students to participate in bi-weekly writing challenges put on by the online publication, [The Ekphrastic Review](#).

Writers respond to a specific visual prompt each time, usually a piece of historic artwork. They can submit poetry, creative nonfiction, flash fiction, micro-fiction, or any other form of creative writing, up to 1000 words.

Just because they submit, doesn’t mean their writing will be chosen for publication. Even so, the poetry of six talented Stephens students was selected to be published!!

You can see their published work in [The Ekphrastic Review](#) (scroll down to the 10/6/23 entries to find their works), which were based on the visual prompt seen above – “Page from Grimoires Illuminees,” by Pierre Richard (France), dated from before 1879.

(Pictured above L to R)

Congratulations to **Mads Christiansen, Katie Davey, Julie Wiley, Ruby Siegel, River Louraine, and Baylee Bleu** (who is not pictured) for their talent, enterprising spirit, and getting published!

Star Faculty are Leaders in Their Industries...



The Conservatory for the Performing Arts at Stephens College is known for having exceptional faculty and guest artists. Today we celebrate Assistant Professor of Musical Theater **Jamey Grisham** for his election to serve as both a Board Member-At-Large and a National Convention Delegate for the Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA), representing the Missouri Valley Local in national governance.

Though the unions are currently on strike and tensions in the industry are high, Jamey is excited to take on these responsibilities. “The challenges currently facing the union and its strike are multifaceted and significant. Negotiations, demands, and finding common ground with the opposing parties can be daunting,” Grisham says. “As an elected representative, I understand the importance of addressing these challenges and ensuring the well-being of our members. I pledge to prioritize the concerns of my immediate community and work towards resolutions that benefit everyone involved. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility, and I stand in solidarity with all members of SAG-AFTRA during this time. Together, we will strive for a better future.”

[SAG-AFTRA](#) is the combination of two American labor unions – Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists – and represents approximately 160,000 actors, announcers, broadcast journalists, dancers, DJs, news writers, news editors, program hosts, puppeteers, recording artists, singers, stunt performers, voiceover artists and other media professionals.

As a working professional, Jamey is a multidisciplinary artist with a body of work that spans six continents and more than 100 productions and venues worldwide. Those ventures have garnered him six Encore Michigan Wilde Awards, six Travel Weekly Magellan Awards, and a THEA Award.

We are proud to have Jamey on faculty at the [Conservatory for the Performing Arts](#) at Stephens training the next generation of artists and leaders.



Kelly Hulse judging 2022 World's Championship Horse Show.

A World Champion exhibitor and trainer, **Kelly Hulse** brings vast experience in teaching, training, breeding, and equestrian business management. Before teaching at Stephens, she was co-owner of Mark Hulse Stables for over 20 years, winning numerous World and Reserve World Championships.

Over the years, Kelly has worked hard and earned herself a highly regarded place in the industry. Most recently, she was selected to judge Equitation at the 2023 Grand National and World Championship Horse Show in Oklahoma City, October 7-14th.

Kelly has served as the Chair or Co-Chair of the United Professional Horsemen's Association (UPHA)

Chapter 5, for the last six years. She is a USEF R judge and annually judges nationwide horse shows during the show season. Kelly was also selected as one of five judges for the 2022 World's Championship Horse Show in Louisville, KY. She has received several professional equestrian awards that include 2020 UPHA Chapter 5 Horse Person of the Year, 2021 UPHA Chapter 5 Distinguished Service Award, as well as being named the recipient of the Missouri Horse Shows Association Show Horses and Ponies Horse Person of the Year in 2006 and 2009.

Kelly is part of a team of dedicated horsewomen focused on providing the best educational experience for all [Stephens College Equestrian Studies](#) students.

Stephens Pets back in the National News...



Pets are cute, they're cuddly, and they're a beloved part of our Stephens community – even USA Today knows that we're the pet-friendliest campus on the planet!

Though the focus of this article is on a Michigan school, Stephens College is credited with being the OG of pet-friendly campuses. We've embraced pets as a vital part of our community for almost two decades!

The USA Today article also sheds light on the importance of pets on campus – turns out, they're not just cute and cuddly, “In a study published in 2021 in the Georgia Journal of College Student Affairs, researchers at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, concluded pet ownership could lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels. And, students who have pets in their rooms report decreased feelings of isolation.”

Read the full [USA Today article](#).

How you can be involved from your hometown...

1. Join [Stephens Connect](#)
2. Follow our new social media sites especially for Alums: [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)
3. Buy and Wear your Stephens gear at [Susie's](#)
4. Travel with alums: [Stephens Alumni travel opportunities](#)
5. Stay tuned to [Giving Day](#) opportunities like the upcoming Stars Day, November 19

Registration Opens November 1...



Alumni Weekend 2024 is April 11-14.

Registration opens November 1 on Stephens Connect.

Alumni Weekend is a special weekend every year where we come together to celebrate Stephens, engage with classmates, and reminisce about days gone by. Classes ending in '4 and '9 will celebrate Milestone Reunions. All Alumni are welcome.

If you haven't been to campus for a while, there's so much to experience, and we have big plans for this fun and engaging weekend. Remember the moments you created. Spend quality time with today's students who are writing their own history. Mingle with faculty - current and retired. Celebrate the service and accomplishments of our amazing alumni. Hear an exclusive Stephens College update from President Dianne Lynch. And more. You won't want to miss a minute.

If you have questions or prefer to register by phone, call us at (573) 876-7110.

Thank you for staying connected to Stephens!

Give. Connect. Recruit.

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