



# KITCHEN

Volume 24  
March 2015  
www.kitchen8.org

## RFFs: Roommates - Friends Forever

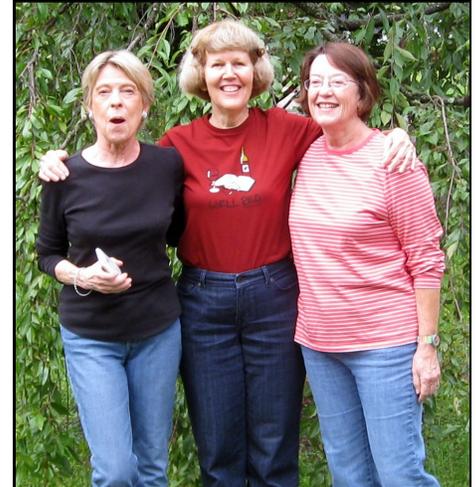
“RFFs: Roommates–Friends Forever” is the perfect theme for the 2015 K-8 Annual Meeting set for Saturday, April 25, at the Lawrence County Club. The inspiration for it comes from the “Triple Threat,” a trio of Watkins alumnae who will attend the Annual Meeting to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being roommates at Watkins. The Triple Threat (aka **Joan (Fowler) Kessler, Ann (Elliott) Leipold, and Pat (Barnes) Spreer**), as Pat’s sister dubbed them, will be the special guests on the Annual Meeting program.

### Triple the stories, triple the fun

Joan, Ann and Pat will talk about the experiences as Watkins roommates that made them each other’s lifelong closest friends, how they managed to remain close friends over the years before internet and email, and they promise to re-

veal why they are called The Triple Threat. Was it because they were all tapped for Mortar Board on the same night, which set a record for the most taps at a single hall or house in one year? Was it because the three of them held the most important offices in Watkins (President, House Manager and Social Chair) for two years running? Or maybe it was because they all broke new ground as women or championed the rights of women once they graduated from Watkins and KU. Only those Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents who attend the 2015 Annual Meeting will ever know the real story.

In addition, only Annual Meeting attendees will discover which member of the Triple Threat currently is a state court judge and was one of the first four women ever appointed U.S. Attorney;



ABOVE: Watkins roommates Pat (Barnes) Spreer, Ann (Elliott) Leipold and Joan (Fowler) Kessler, collectively “The Triple Threat,” celebrate a reunion in 2001. The reunion marked the first time all three had been together since Pat’s wedding in 1965.

which one volunteered for Planned Parenthood and received the Woman of Achievement Award from the Commission on the Status of Women; and which worked for KU Dean of Women Emily Taylor and is an environmental activist whose favorite thing to do is garden. Find out those answers and learn so much more from Joan, Ann and Pat at the Annual Meeting.

It took a lot of planning and effort for the trio to make it to Lawrence at the same time. Joan is the only one who lives in the Midwest and Ann and Pat are on opposite coasts. Since 2001, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of moving into Watkins together, the trio has enjoyed “Roommate Reunions” every couple of years. However, prior to that the Triple Threat had not been together since Pat’s wedding in Lawrence in August 1965, right after they all graduated. Joan and Ann were Pat’s bridesmaids when she married Battenfelder Larry Spreer and celebrated with a reception at Watkins.

Communicating with each other during most of the years since they graduated also took some effort. “There were no cell phones, texting or emails in those

### 2015 K-8 Annual Meeting Weekend Schedule of Events

Friday, April 24		
2:30 p.m.	<b>Kitchen 8 Board Meeting:</b> Open to Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents	<b>Watkins Museum</b> 1047 Massachusetts Street
Saturday, April 25		
9 a.m.	<b>Registration</b>	<b>Lawrence Country Club</b> 400 Country Club Terrace
9:30 a.m.	<b>2015 Kitchen 8 Annual Meeting Business Meeting and Elections</b> <b>Report:</b> <i>The Best is Yet to Be – The Renovations of Watkins/Miller Halls</i> <b>Program:</b> “RFF” Roommates – Friends Forever	<b>Lawrence Country Club</b>
Noon	<b>K-8/EMWMS Celebratory Luncheon</b>	<b>Lawrence Country Club</b>
1 p.m.	<b>2015-16 EMWMS Awards Presentation</b>	<b>Lawrence Country Club</b>
3 p.m.	<b>Walking Tour of the KU East Historic District</b>	<b>Start between Watkins/Miller Halls</b>
5:30 p.m.	<b>K-8 Members/friends and RFF Dinner followed by Bonfire with S’mores Bar and Lizzie’s Movies</b>	<b>Circle S Ranch</b> 3325 Circle S Lane
Sunday, April 26		
2 p.m.	<b>Watkins and Miller Alumnae Tea</b>	<b>Watkins Scholarship Hall</b> 1506 Lilac Lane <b>Miller Scholarship Hall</b> 1518 Lilac Lane
4 p.m.	<b>Honoring “Lady Bountiful”:</b> Laying flowers on Mrs. Watkins’ grave	<b>Oak Hill Cemetery</b> 1605 Oak Hill Avenue



days,” Ann, the internet savvy member of the trio recalled. “We kept in touch by Christmas cards and occasional letters.” Although their lives were very different at times, Ann said they were able to remain such close friends because “our core values were still the same.”

### Sing me a song, a funny song

The Annual Meeting program also will feature live entertainment, including songs with lyrics written by **Camille (Icenogle) Olcese** (Watkins 1971-74) and **Pat (Jolly) Putnam** (Watkins 1971-74) and performed by a few K-8 members, most notably retired, but internationally renowned, mezzo soprano **Bev (Runkle) Benso** (Watkins 1954-58).

“RFFs through the Ages,” a memory-packed PowerPoint of roommate stories and pictures organized by the Annual Meeting Committee, will round out the program. To make the PowerPoint colorful the Annual Meeting Committee requests that Watkins/Miller alumnae send short anecdotes and photos to Pat Putnam at either [pajputnam@hotmail.com](mailto:pajputnam@hotmail.com) or P.O. Box 258, Perry, KS 66073. (See box below)

### What’s the story?

Please send us your roommate stories and tell us about your Watkins/Miller RFFs so we can include them in the “Roommates through the Ages” program at the 2015 K-8 Annual Meeting. Tell us:

- What did you learn from your roommate (s) that you didn’t know before?
- What made your roommate experience different from other friendships you had?
- What annoying habit did you try, but failed, to hide from your roommate(s)?
- How did your roommate(s) help you in a big or lasting way?
- How did living with your roommate(s) change and improve college and your life?
- What are some of the fun or most memorable experiences you had with your roommate(s)?

Please send your stories and photos to Pat Putnam at either [pajputnam@hotmail.com](mailto:pajputnam@hotmail.com) or P.O. Box 258, Perry, KS 66073.

## 2015 K-8 Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 25  
Lawrence Country Club  
400 Country Club Terrace

- 9 a.m. Registration, coffee and greetings
- 9:30 a.m. K-8 Business Meeting
  - K-8 Board and Committee Reports
  - Treasurer’s Report – EMWMSF and K-8 Sugar Bowl
  - “State of the Halls” reports – Watkins and Miller Presidents
  - 2015-17 K-8 Board Election
- 10:30 a.m. Report: “The Best is Yet to Be” – Status of 2016 Watkins/Miller Renovations
- 10:45 a.m. Program: “RFFs: Roommates – Friends Forever”
- Noon Celebratory Luncheon
- 1 p.m. Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Presentations

PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 18.

**To Register:** You may register for the 2015 K-8 Annual Meeting by one of the following:

**Online:** Register at [www.kitchen8.org/2015meeting.html](http://www.kitchen8.org/2015meeting.html) and pay using PayPal.

**E-mail:** [norma.hoagland@yahoo.com](mailto:norma.hoagland@yahoo.com)

**Phone:** 913-727-6446 (Norma Hoagland)

**Mail:** **Mary (Emerson) Gomez**, *Kitchen 8 Treasurer*  
3620 Wyoming  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Please provide your name, address, phone and email.

**Registration Fee:** The registration fee for the Annual Meeting is \$20. The fee includes the luncheon and morning coffee and rolls. You may send your check to Mary Emerson or pay at the Annual Meeting. Make your check payable to Kitchen 8. Please consider a donation to cover the lunch of Watkins/Miller residents and/or EMWMSF recipients and their families, who are the guests of K-8.

**Information:** For more information about or local transportation to the 2015 K-8 Annual Meeting, please contact Norma Hoagland.

**Directions:** Take West Lawrence Exit off I-70.  
Turn right on Rockledge.  
Turn right onto Country Club Terrace and drive into Country Club parking lot.

### Business before RFFing

Before the RFFing begins, Kitchen 8

#### President Norma (Decker)

**Hoagland** (Watkins 1969-71) will first convene the business portion of the annual meeting at 9:30 a.m. The K-8 Board and Committee Chairs will report on “Kitchen 8 in Action” activities and projects during the past year and on the horizon. K-8 Treasurer **Mary (Emerson) Gomez** (Watkins 2004-09) will provide the financial news about the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund (EMWMSF) and K-8 “Sugar Bowl.” Judging by the record contributions to the Sugar Bowl in 2014, Mary will also divulge how many hand-written “Thank You” notes she sent to K-8 members and friends.

Next, Watkins President **Alaine Caudle** and Miller President **Miranda Davis** will present their “State of the Halls” addresses. Norma Hoagland, who serves on the Architectural Program Committee for the Renovation of Watkins and Miller Halls, will provide a report, “The Best is Yet To Be,” about the status of the project, which cur-

rently is scheduled for 2016.

### Fueling up before traveling uphill

Before Kitchen 8 presents the 2015-16 EMWMS Awards, K-8 members, Watkins/Miller residents, and scholarship recipients and their family will have an opportunity to share conversation and friendship over lunch. At 1 p.m., the EMWMS Selection Committee will reveal whether we have broken the record 22 scholarships awarded in 2014. In what will surely be the most touching moment of the day, the EMWMS recipients will have an opportunity to share what the award means to them. There will be few, if any, dry eyes in the room.

We request that K-8 members and friends register for the 2015 Annual Meeting by April 18. Registration for the 2015 K-8 Annual Meeting is \$20, which includes the luncheon and morning coffee and tea. Please consider including a donation to cover the lunch of Watkins/Miller residents and/or EMWMSF recipients and their families, who are our guests. See the registration

# The President's Pantry: Lizzie's my new RFF

Dear K-8 Sisters, RFFs and Friends,

**RFFs: Roommates – Friends Forever.** What a great theme for the 2015 Kitchen 8 Annual Meeting! Thank you to **Joan (Fowler) Kessler, Ann (Elliott) Leipold** and **Pat (Barnes) Spreer** for inspiring us with your timeless friendship which began in our beloved halls and for agreeing to celebrate your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being roommates with us at the Annual Meeting.

Our 2015 K-8 Annual Meeting Committee Co-chairs **Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman** (Watkins 1971-75) and **Pat (Jolly) Putnam** (Watkins 1971-74), who also are RFFs and lived in the same room 10 years after Joan, Ann and Pat, have requested that we send memories of our roomies to use for the Annual Meeting program. I've sent memories of my Watkins roomies, **Ann Beckman** (1969-73) and **Elena Wahbeh** (1970-72), and I hope you will send yours, too. Happily, Ann and Elena are still in my life and great RFFs.

## Roommate needed

I learned a lot from both of them. I've also learned so much from my recent Watkins roommate -- **Elizabeth Miller Watkins**.

Last spring at the 2014 K-8 Annual Meeting, as I hope you remember, Watkins historian **Mary Burchill, Gail Trotter**, the actress who portrays Elizabeth, and I presented a program about Elizabeth and the book we are doing on Watkins and Miller Halls. We also performed a flurry of programs about Elizabeth to different groups in Lawrence.

After that, I settled down to intensely work on the **Watkins and Miller Halls** book. Having always been attuned to history, the more I learned about Elizabeth, the more I wanted to know. She truly became my roommate. Just ask my husband, Joe, who sometimes felt like a third wheel.

## Channeling Elizabeth

Elizabeth was there, even when I was

n't working on the book, suggesting ideas in the middle of the night. She insisted on decorum and helped sort the quotations that would make the book and those that wouldn't. "Nothing that isn't ladylike," I could hear her say.

*"Be sensitive and respectful to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt about the run in her stockings when she visited me at*

*Miller and Watkins,"* she cautioned me one afternoon. "Now, it's all right to mention the fun our girls had, but really, **that story wouldn't be proper to put in a book.**" She would urge me to look further to find some missing detail to put in the book. "Re-read those letters again, dear!" she would firmly instruct.

Elizabeth would creep into any conversation I had during the past year! Joe developed a signal that told me to tone down the "Elizabeth's book" talk when we were out socially. Elizabeth seemed to be everywhere. Her papers took over my small office at home. I found myself wearing pearls more often. I set my table more properly. She smiled back at me when I polished my silver tea service for her birthday celebration with Watkins and Miller residents.

Elizabeth set a high standard for herself and expected the same of me. "Be thorough, dear. Think things through." I welcome her high standards and I want the first book about Elizabeth's dream to be just right. Her attitude of giving, her friendly interest in young people is something I also want to always be a



**AT LEFT:** Watkins alumnae Gayle Matchett and Norma Hoagland celebrate after they presented Watkins with the framed diploma and graduation picture of Watkins alumna Janice Gartrell during the 2014 Alumnae Tea. Janice donated a testamentary trust, valued at \$750,000, to the EMWMSF to provide scholarships to academically gifted, but financially needy women.

part of my life. She has given me the gift of an education and, with it, the gift of gratitude. I want her Creed also to be mine.

Will Elizabeth stay when the book is finished? I think so. I hope so. She is my new RFF and welcome to stay.

## Celebrating 90 years of RFFs

I want to feel Elizabeth smiling when we debut the book about her dream of the scholarship halls, the first in America, at the Watkins Hall 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Celebration on April, 23, 2016. In addition to presenting Elizabeth's book that night to all the K8 members and friends who she helped to "travel uphill," we celebrate 90 years of her triumphant "experiment" on Lilac Lane, honor Watkins and Miller residents, and award the 18<sup>th</sup> annual EMW Memorial Fund Scholarships. Even if you've never attended a Kitchen 8 event, the 2016 Gala Celebration is the one you dare not miss.

Rooming this year with my "new" RFF has made me think of my "old" Watkins RFFs. You'll have to come to



### The Financial Page:

## K-8 members, friends send many pennies from heaven

By Mary (Emerson) Gomez  
Kitchen 8 Treasurer  
Watkins 2006-09

The generosity of Kitchen 8 members and friends shown bright in 2014 as evidenced by a combined total of \$16,157 donated to the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund (EMWMSF) and the K-8 Sugar Bowl. That total doesn't even include the numerous in-kind donations, be it money, time or effort, that Kitchen 8 members gave to make events such as the New Women Dinner, EMW Birthday Party, and Career Day a success.

### EMWMSF – Helping the girls who must travel uphill

The EMWMSF, which started 2014 with a robust asset value of \$1.31 million, gave out \$61,000 in scholarships to 22 bright KU women in 2014 and still managed a modest increase to end the year with a \$1.33 million balance. The scholarship money was available because K-8 members and friends contributed \$2,210 to the EMWMSF and the fund achieved a total gain of nearly \$89,000 in 2014. The fund earned nearly \$29,000 in interest and dividends, and over \$59,000 in unrealized and realized gains.

The EMWMSF follows a recommended conservative investment strategy, maintaining roughly 65% in equity/mutual funds and 35% fixed income/bonds. The purpose of the EMWMSF and sole use of its funds is to award scholarships to exceptional young women with demonstrated financial need who attend the University of Kansas.

Kitchen 8 thanks its members and friends for their generous hearts and commitment in 2014. To ensure the EMWMSF continues to inch upward, we urge K-8 members and friends to commit to giving to the EMWMSF this and every year. Your contributions are fully tax-deductible. You can contribute to the EMWMSF by sending your check, payable to EMWMSF Advisory

Committee, to:

**Greater Kansas City Community Foundation**  
1055 Broadway, Suite 130  
Kansas City, MO 64105-1595

You also can donate on the K-8 Website at [www.kitchen8.org](http://www.kitchen8.org). Click on the "How Can I Help" folder.

The members of the EMWMSF Advisory Committee do not take any fees for their work. The Committee members volunteer their time monitoring and reviewing EMWMSF investments, updating and revising investment strategies, and determining the amount of funds available each year for EMWMS awards. The members of the 2014-15 EMWMSF are:

**Alica Thomas**, EMWMSF Chair (Miller 1990-94)

**Norma (Decker) Hoagland**, Kitchen 8 President (Watkins 1969-71)

**Mary (Emerson) Gomez**, Kitchen 8 Treasurer (Watkins 2006-09)

**Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley**, Kitchen 8 Secretary (Miller 2003-08)

### 2014 K-8 Sugar Bowl Report

**Cash on Hand** as of 01/01/14 **\$3,730.14**

**Deposits in 2014:** **\$13,947.00**

K-8 General Donations \$1,947.00

Newsletter Donations \$750.00

Website Donations \$600.00

EMW Birthday Donations \$400.00

New Women Dinner Donations \$200.00

Legal Fund Donations \$10,500.00

**Expenses in 2014:** **\$3,395.73**

2014 Newsletter/Printing \$800.76

2014 Newsletter Postage \$86.45

2014 Scholarship Luncheon \$1,370.96

2014 EMW Birthday Party/Gifts \$562.11

K-8 Website Maintenance \$500.00

PayPal Transaction Fees \$75.45

(for \$2,382.00)

Watkins/Miller New-Women Dinner \$0.00

Website Domain, Registration and \$0.00

Hosting (paid in advance in 2011)

Express Marketing Listserv Agreement \$0.00

(paid in advance through 04/28/16)

**Cash on Hand** as of 01/01/15 **\$14,281.41**

**Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger**, EMWMS Selection Committee Co-Chair, Watkins 1970-74

### The Sugar Bowl runneth over

Kitchen 8 members and friends gave a record \$13,947.00 to the Sugar Bowl fund in 2014. These donations funded "Kitchen 8 in Action," which in 2014 included everything from the K-8 Annual Meeting to the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Birthday celebration to Kitchen 8's social media (Facebook, Twitter, Website and Newsletter). In 2014, K-8 members also contributed \$10,500 to create a legal fund if legal expenses are ever incurred.

One of the kindest groups of donations to K-8 came from K-8 members and friends attending the 2014 Annual Meeting and EMW Memorial Scholarships Celebratory Luncheon. Most donated more than the cost of their lunch so that Watkins/Miller residents and EMWMS recipients and their families could be our lunch guests.

We put the Sugar Bowl donations to good use, to which Watkins/Miller residents would attest. For example, at EMW's 154th birthday celebration on Jan. 30, K-8 presented Watkins and Miller with many birthday presents. These included new kitchen appliances, games, pillows and blankets, and a stunning Christmas tree for each house.

### Sweet blessings

Kitchen 8 thanks all of you for your generous spirit and commitment to help K-8 stay active in the lives of Watkins/Miller residents, alumnae and friends. The K-8 Sugar Bowl, like the EMWMSF, needs to be refilled every year if Kitchen 8 is to continue to carry out its mission to help "the girls who must travel uphill" to provide a community of support and service to Watkins and Miller residents, alumnae and friends. You can make a donation to the K-8 Sugar Bowl at the K-8 Website ([www.kitchen8.org](http://www.kitchen8.org)) and using the PayPal account on the "How Can I Help?" page or sending a check, payable to Kitchen 8, to:

**Mary (Emerson) Gomez**, Kitchen 8 Treasurer  
3620 Wyoming Street, #4  
Kansas City, MO 64111

## 2014 Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund and Kitchen 8 Sugar Bowl Donors

### From the 1940's

Roselyn (Skonberg) George (Watkins 1945-48)\*  
Helen (Stormont) Brown (Watkins 1942-45)  
Mary Ann (Deckert) Berthelson (Watkins 1940-43)  
Donna (Holm) Fisher (Watkins 1946-49)\*

### From the 1950's

Bev (Runkle) and Eldon Benso (Watkins 1954-58)\*  
Gayle (Barry) Matchett (Watkins 1955-57)\*  
Judy (Johnson) Niebaum (Miller 1958-61)\*  
Pat (Gardner) Stein (Miller 1953-57)\*  
Pat (Powers) McClure (Watkins 1952-55)  
Ann (Fahrback) Branden (Watkins 1956-59)

### From the 1960's

Norma (Decker) and Joe Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71)\*

### From the 1970's

Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman (Watkins 1971-75)\*  
Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger (Watkins 1970-74)\*  
Cathie (Fuller) and Ron Miller (Watkins 1970-73)\*,  
*Memorial to Sue Overmann Garcia Thompson*  
Sarah (Wohlrahe) and John Shortall (Watkins 1972-76)\*  
Elena Wahbeh (Watkins 1970-72)\*

### From the 2000's

Emily Hane (Watkins 2008-10)  
Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley (Miller 2003-08)\*

### Friends of Kitchen 8

Betsy (Wigner) Holste, *Memorials to Margery Lewis Wigner (Watkins 1938-41) and Harry "Papa Wiggins"*  
Beth (MacCurdy) Wigner (1974-77)\*

\*--Indicates donor also contributed in 2013.

## Roster becomes the "A" list

The fact that the Kitchen 8 roster nearly tripled in size since 2013 is proof positive that it has become *the* Alumnae list to be on. In 2013, K-8's membership roster had just topped 550 women. Now we are excited to announce we have almost 1,500 members.

The exponential increase in the number of K-8 members came as a surprise. In February when it was time to send out the "Save the Date" card announcing our 2016 Gala Celebration, we mailed more than 1,400 cards.

### Bigger is bigger

While Kitchen 8 is thrilled to see its membership grow in such a big way, it also means that our newsletter printing and postage costs will be much bigger starting this year. To help us contain those costs,

Please see 'ROSTER', page 15



## Start running the presses

By Norma (Decker) Hoagland  
Kitchen 8 President  
Watkins 1969-71

When I began the journey to write *Watkins and Miller Halls*, the fourth book in Historic Mount Oread Friends (HMOF) "Biography of a Building" series, my wise editors told me that it would take much longer than we'd imagined. They were absolutely correct!

After two years of research, compiling, sorting and writing, we are in the home stretch! HMOF editors Barbara Watkins and Carol Shankel have checked (double-checked and even triple-checked) half of the book. They told me repeatedly how taken they were with the Halls' history, the stories of our Lilac Lane women, and Elizabeth Miller Watkins, whose triumphant "experiment" is the reason for this book. After Barbara and Carol finish their editing, we hand the results off to our designer, Shala Stevenson.

### EXTRA! EXTRA! Start spreading the news

The good news is that we are on track, on time and on budget! The book will be in our hands and ready to debut at our Watkins 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Celebration and K-8 Annual Meeting on April 25, 2016.

Author **Sara Paretsky** (Sellards 1964-68), whose impressive and best-selling body of work includes 17 V. I. Warshawski private investigator mysteries, has written the foreword for *Watkins and Miller Halls*. We will be extending a special invitation to Sara to attend the 2016 Gala Celebration and Annual Meeting and to, of course, sign books.

Sara's internationally best-selling and award-winning books are available in 30 languages. Her 2007 memoir, *Writing in an Age of Silence*, was a National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist and she was recently elected President of Mystery Writers of America. At KU's commencement ceremony on May 17,

KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little will present Sara her newest award – an honorary Doctor of Letters for her outstanding contributions to American literature and the mystery writing field. Sara has generously established several scholarships at KU, including an annual award presented to a returning Sellards Hall resident.

### Acknowledgments

In the true sense, I am not the author of *Watkins and Miller Halls*. You and everyone else who has lived at Watkins and Miller are the authors. I am the compiler of your words, your pictures and your memories of your life on Lilac Lane. Thank you to all the amazing women who wrote about your experiences living at Watkins and Miller, these special halls we love.

Thank you to all the women who put Hall and personal scrapbooks together and to those who scanned those scrapbooks, especially **Laura (Draxler) Sixta** (Watkins 2005-09) and **Michelle Loewenstein** (Watkins 2005-09).

Thank you to Lawrence historian Mary Burchill, who has unparalleled love of history and all things EMW, for keeping me company.

Thank you to HMOF for envisioning this book as a good addition to your series on KU landmarks.

And finally, thank you Barbara and Carol for your guidance, trust, and patience in helping us to get this great project from inspiration to publication!

The University of Kansas Press is scheduled to print 1,500 copies of *Watkins and Miller Halls*. The book will be listed in their 2016 catalog and available online and at Jayhawk Ink, the KU Bookstore. To reserve a book, you can contact me at [norma.hoagland@yahoo.com](mailto:norma.hoagland@yahoo.com) or:

Norma Hoagland  
25332 Wolcott Road  
Leavenworth, KS 66048

## Current Hall Happenings

# That Watkins spirit continues to soar

### Dear Alumnae and Friends,

Another great year at Watkins Scholarship Hall is nearing an end, and another year full of wonderful memories is going into the history books. In my four years at Watkins, the semesters have flown by with increasing speed as each year passes. It seems that it was just a few months ago when I first walked through the door at 1506 Lilac Lane. And though it is often said that first impressions are wrong, I knew from the day I walked into Watkins Scholarship Hall that it would be my home for the next four years, and each year since has been more amazing than the last, with this year being no exception.

### All About That Watkins Spirit

Coming off the amazing 2013-14 academic year in which Watkins won Scholarship Hall of the Year and housed a group of 49 talented and passionate young women, the 2014-2015 year promised to be just as excellent, with many of our girls returning. Full of life and energy, Watkins Women are spirited and love participating in the Schol Hall community. Our year started off with a bang at the annual ASHC

Opening Picnic where we performed a short spirit call to the tune of "All About That Bass," reworked to state "All About That Watkins," and won Best Spirit Call.

We continued the spirit by attending as many Schol Hall events as we could and bonding within the hall by spending time in the living room and TV room, enjoying each other's company and sharing laughs all around. We held our annual Heaven and Hell Halloween bash, adding new elements like a live Instagram photo stream and creating a fun promotional video to get other Schol Hallers excited about the event. We've also had a number of girls get involved with the community, including participating in Natural Ties, a student organization that serves members of the Lawrence community who have developmental disabilities. With the help of those involved in Natural Ties and all the other community service done by members of the hall, Watkins led the scholarship hall community in service, racking up the most service hours for the past several months running. Last year we took home the trophy for Most Community Service Hours, and with all the involvement we've had this year, it looks like that title will be ours once again.



**Alaine Caudle**  
2014-15 Watkins President

### Springing Forward

Our spring semester also is turning out to be very spirited.

Kitchen 8 hosted an information-packed

Career Day this month and we are looking forward to returning the favor at our annual Alumnae Tea on April 26. In addition, Watkins women are excited about a new partnership we are planning with Battenfeld -- hosting a Deck Party for the Schol Hall community once lilac blooming weather finally arrives. With the promise of this great semester, we are excited to throw our name into the hat again for Scholarship Hall of the Year and continue to grow and bond as a hall.

I will be sad to leave my home on Lilac Lane when I graduate in May, but I know that the hall will be left in the capable hands of each of our wonderful Watkins Women.

**With Lilac Lane and Llama Love,**  
**Alaine Caudle**  
2014-15 Watkins President

### 'PANTRY' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the 2015 K-8 Annual Meeting to hear about the great gift Ann brought to my life and about my beautiful Ukrainian roomie Elena, who is back in my life and involved in Kitchen 8. She has added a lovely touch to the EMW Birthday celebrations the past two years and was an active participant in K-8's second Career Day this month. Elena also was one of the first K-8 members to volunteer to help with the 2016 Gala Celebration. Elena, I'm so glad to have you back in my life and love your enthusiasm for Elizabeth's legacy.

### RFFE: Roommates – Friends Forever and Ever

One last word about someone I consider a RFF to all of us: **Janice "Garter" Garter** (Watkins 1939-42). At the Watkins Alumnae Tea last spring, we were de-

lighted to see her diploma and graduation photo installed in Watkins Hall. Thanks to Janice's and K-8's RFF **Gayle (Barry) Matchett** (Watkins 1955-57), Garter's diploma and graduation picture were preserved and framed, ready to install during the Alumnae Tea at Watkins.

Janice was the consummate RFF when she lived at Watkins and for the rest of her life. In the 1940-41 scrapbook, the caption under her photo reads "Garter – Everyone's Friend!" Janice's final act as an RFF was to donate a \$750,000 trust fund to K-8's scholarship fund, the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund. Her donation is the largest Kitchen 8 has ever received. She is a large part of the reason Kitchen 8 was able to award a record 22 scholarships in 2014! It's right to have her installed in Watkins as a RFF for every

woman who lives there in the future.

### You can be an RFF

It's never too late for any of us to be RFFs. Like Joan, Ann and Pat, you can reach out and reunite with roommates at the 2015 Annual Meeting to celebrate the unique sisterhood we had at Miller and Watkins. Like Elena and Gayle, you can reach out to K-8 members and participate in events, programs and action to help support our Watkins/Miller residents and alumnae and carry forward the legacy of Elizabeth. You can be a RFF for future generations of "the girls who must travel uphill" by giving to the EMWMSF. You can invest in them, as Elizabeth and Janice invested in you.

**Lilac Lane Love to all of you,**  
**Norma (Decker) Hoagland**  
Kitchen 8 President  
Watkins 1969-71



# Best Action Shows of 2014-2015

There were not many blank dates on the Kitchen 8 calendar during 2014-15. It seemed like every month Kitchen 8 members were busy with an event or project.

## April showers Lilac Lane

The 2014 Kitchen 8 Annual Meeting weekend was one for the history books, literally. Kitchen 8 President **Norma (Decker) Hoagland** (Watkins 1969-71), Lawrence Historian and K-8 member **Mary Burchill**, and actress **Gail Trotter**, with the KU Theatre Department, brought Lilac Lane history alive with their program "In Her Own Write—The Life and Letters of Elizabeth Miller Watkins." Norma and Mary shared research they discovered working on the book, *Watkins and Miller Halls*. Gail, who portrayed Lizzie in the 2011 one-act play "Elizabeth, Betsy and Bess! A conversation with Elizabeth Watkins," reprised her role by reading EMW's letters.

**Sarah (Jackson) Martin** (Miller 1998-02), the National Historic Register Coordinator at the Kansas Historical Society, presented "National Treasures: Watkins and Miller" about the process of adding the halls to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the KU East Historic District. Most importantly, she explained what the designation means for Kitchen 8's efforts to preserve Watkins and Miller Halls.

The Annual Meeting also was one for the record books. K-8 awarded 22 Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship (EMWMS) awards of \$4,000 for the 2014-15 academic year, totaling a record \$61,000. With the automatic award renewal policy K-8 and

the EMWMS Selection Committee adopted in 2013, the awards represent a potential commitment of more than \$120,000. The following women received 2015-16 EMWMS awards:

**New Recipients:** Bailey Rendzia, Jill Winter, Katie Strnad, Jennifer Calderwood, Anna Balmilero, Haley Nus, Elizabeth Goodrow, Jordan Meradith, Allora Richey. **Renewal recipients:** Kerra Cissne, Akira Cowden, Simona Dragieva, Jenna Gannon, Yuqi Gao, Erika Garcia, Anna Hu, Emilyjane Pyle, Jocelyn Sajani, Natalie Scott, Katerina Sieg, Natasha Sudac, Ann (Wallsmith) Eddy.



ABOVE: In keeping with tradition, a Candlelighting and reciting Mrs. Watkins' Creed concluded the 2014 New Women Dinner and Tribute Night.

## May we have more tea, please

The 2014 Annual Meeting program on Mrs. Watkins was so well-received that Norma, Mary and Gail were asked to repeat their presentation several times during 2014-15, including for the KU University Women's Club. Most recently, on Feb. 23 Norma, joined by **Bev (Runkle) Benso** (Watkins 1954-58), K-8 Watkins Campus Coordinator, spoke about the history of EMW, Watkins/Miller and K-8 on "Timeline Radio," a daily hour-long program on KLWN (1320 AM). The week before (Feb. 16), Mary was the featured guest on "Timeline Radio" talking about her research on Elizabeth Watkins. You can listen to and download podcasts of both shows by going onto the K-8 Facebook page or go to

[www.klwn.com](http://www.klwn.com).

## August turnout for September New Women Dinner (do you remember?)

In August, when new women moved into Watkins and Miller, Kitchen 8 members immediately began planning to host the annual New Women Dinner and Tribute Night. On September 9, local K-8 members treated the Watkins/Miller new women to a scrumptious feast.

After dinner in the Miller Council/TV room, Norma presented each new Watkins/Miller resident with a copy of "Thank You, Elizabeth Miller Watkins,"

materials about the history of Mrs. Watkins, the halls, and Kitchen 8, the Alumnae Association for Watkins and Miller Scholarship Halls that Elizabeth inspired. K-8 members were invited to stay for "Tribute Night," featuring Elizabeth and Jabez Watkins. Afterward, when everyone went outside for the

traditional Candlelighting and reciting EMW's Creed, the Watkins/Miller Executive Boards unveiled the surprise that they had hired a professional to photograph the ceremony.

## Happy birthday Lizzie!

To mark Elizabeth Miller Watkins' 154<sup>th</sup> birthday, Kitchen 8 threw a party for Lady Bountiful at the Watkins Museum of History on January 30. Although it was Lizzie's birthday, Kitchen 8 gave all the presents to Watkins and Miller because we know Elizabeth would have wanted it that way. Although the presents were typical household items, you would have thought residents had won the Grand Prize the way they reacted when they unwrapped mixers, dustbusters, throw pillows and blankets, and



board games. The presents were items the residents requested when Kitchen 8 put up a Christmas “wish list.” No surprise that their gifts included artificial Christmas trees.

**Marching to the top of the career ladder**

While Facebook COO and *Lean In* author Sheryl Sandberg may have inspired women to go for the top rung on the corporate ladder, on March 7 Kitchen 8 provided a step-by-step playbook on how to get there at the second “Career Day” they presented for Watkins and Miller residents.

**Louisa Matthews**, a senior manager in the multi-state tax division at Deloitte Tax LLP, keynoted the Career Day at the Kansas Union. Her address covered a range of topics including first impressions and interviewing skills, networking, social media and email etiquette, and professional attire and the “real” definition of business casual. Following the keynote, K-8 member **Mary (Emerson) Gomez** (Watkins 2004-09) moderated a panel discussion so the attendees could ask questions of Louisa and K-8 Watkins Campus Coordinator **Bev Benso** (Watkins 1954-58), who had her own successful career and happens to be Louisa’s mother.

Next, the K-8 Career Day focused on the importance of financial and physical health to a successful career. **Jeffrey Heppler**, KU Student Money Management Services peer adviser, spoke about money management and **Susan Anderson**, a local advanced practice register nurse, provided guidance about staying healthy, physically and mentally, for you and your job.

In addition, the Career Day included more than a dozen breakout sessions conducted by K-8 members and friends and past EMWMSF recipients. The breakout sessions provided information on resume writing and career options, including medicine, law, architecture, education, business, social work and physical therapy. Bev Benso presented one of the most popular sessions: “Business Meal Etiquette.” Bev’s breakout table looked like a table in a 5-star restaurant, decked “to the nines” so she could teach the scholarship hall women about proper place setting and table manners and provide tips on appropriate business meal conversation and dress. Bev was an internationally-renown singer and attended formal dinners all over the world.

This year’s Career Day was held in the Kansas Room in the Kansas Union. The first Career Day that K-8 organized was so successful that, at the request of women in the other KU scholarship halls, Kitchen 8 extended an invitation to attend this year’s free Career Day. As a result, this year K-8 had to move Career Day from Watkins Hall to a larger venue in the Kansas Union.



**TOP OF PAGE:** Miller Campus Coordinator Judy Niebaum congratulates Miller President Haley Gilchrist after her “State of the Halls” address at the 2014 K-8 Annual Meeting. **MIDDLE:** 2014-15 Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship recipients. Front row: Jennifer Calderwood, Kerra Cissne and her son, Erika Garcia and her daughter. Back row: Katie Strnad, Emilyjane Pyle, Katerina Sieg, Allora Richey, Jenna Gannon, Elizabeth Goodrow, Jordan Meradith, and Jocelyn Sajjani.

**ABOVE MIDDLE:** K-8 members Mary Emerson, Norma Hoagland, Cayla Witty, Cathie Miller and Miller Watkins after placing lilacs on her grave. **ABOVE:** Watkins residents lead K-8 members 2014 Alumnae Tea. **ABOVE LEFT:** Kitchen 8 member Sarah Martin attending the 2014 Annual Meeting how being serve Watkins and Miller Halls.



**AT LEFT:** Three time EMWMSF recipient Kerra Cissne shares her award at the 2014 K-8 Annual Meeting with husband Drew and their son Atticus who, Kerra says, “makes me want to be a better person and motivates me to do better in school.”

**IMMEDIATE LEFT:** EMWMS Selection Committee member Gayle Burger and Kitchen 8 Vice-President Elizabeth Boman check final details before the Committee begins presenting 22 scholarship awards at the 2014 K-8 Annual Meeting.

**BELOW:** Louisa Matthew, with Deloitte Tax LLP, and K-8 member Bev Benso, her mother, answer questions at the second Kitchen 8 “Career Day” on March 7.



Stevi Ballard, Michelle Loewenstein, Lynne Coblammers, and Sam Bunnyfield share their thoughts about Elizabeth Miller after the 2014 Alumnae Teas.

and friends in “My Sweetheart of Lilac Lane” to close the

, with the Kansas Historic Society, explains to K-8 members how the place on the Register of Historic Places will help to pre-



**LEFT:** Miller Alumnae Chair Caitlin Laird shows off a big “Christmas morning” smile as she unwraps the mixer Kitchen 8 gave to the hall at EMW’s 154<sup>th</sup> birthday party on Jan. 30.

**ABOVE:** Kitchen 8 members and party planners (Standing) Erin Solis, Judy Niebaum, Camille Olcese, Elena Wahbeh and Gayle Matchett and (Kneeling) Norma Hoagland and Lynne Coblammers put on their EMW pearls for the 154<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Elizabeth Miller Watkins.



# Alumnae News:

## Drum roll, please – 5 weddings and a . . . baby!

By Ali (Bannwarth) Zayas  
K-8 Newsletter Co-Editor  
Watkins 2002-06

### Listening to the beat of a distant drummer

Back in the late 1960s when **Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger** (Watkins 1970-74) was in high school she dreamed of flying the friendly skies -- as a TWA airline stewardess. She thought that profession would allow her to “see the world.”

However, once Susan got to KU, she came down back down to earth and got a degree in business, accounting to be exact. Her 20-year career as a certified public accountant and CFO in the health care industry allowed Susan to do “a little business travel,” but nothing close to the frequent flyer miles a TWA flight attendant would have logged during the same period.

### Mid-course correction

It took a career change – to teaching yoga – to really get Susan on the road and into the air. She spent the next 20 years traveling to study yoga and massage. Now that Susan has retired from her second career, she and husband Jack have been making up those lost miles. In the summers of 2012 and 2013 they spent their summers in Siena, Italy, participating in a month-long music festival.

As a “retiree,” Susan also has taken up the drums – large taiko drums, which literally mean “big, fat drums” in Japanese. For more than 1,400 years taiko drums have been played for religious ceremonies and festivals. Although Susan has not been playing that long, after “studying and practicing intensively” she became a member of the St. Louis Osuwa Taiko performance team. You can see the team perform in videos posted on its Website at [www.stltaiko.com](http://www.stltaiko.com).

### The beat heard around the world

Last summer, Susan traveled to Japan for six weeks to study and play taiko “in its birthplace.” “I’m not much of a tourist,” Susan admitted, “but I love to immerse myself in the local culture.”

Susan traveled with eight members of the St. Louis Osuwa Taiko performance team to Suwa and Okaya, Japan. In Suwa, Susan visited the gravesite of Grandmaster Daihachi Oguchi, the founder of modern performance kumi (ensemble style) taiko which the St. Louis team performs. Accompanied by Daihachi Oguchi’s daughter and grandson, Susan said “we were blessed at the Shinto Shrine where the ancient taiko rhythms that inspired Daihachi Oguchi to create kumi taiko were found.”

In Okaya, Susan and the team participated in the taiko Matsuri festival, in which “several hundred taiko were played on stage all at the same time.” The group spent their final day together at the Suwa Hanabi fireworks display.

### Taiko just happens!

After the rest of the team departed for the return trip home, Susan stayed in Japan for another month to continue studying and play taiko in two hotspots for the art: Hachijou and Sado Islands. But first she started with a week of “respite” at Lake Shikotsuko Onsen, in Hokkaido, the northern most island of Japan, and then met up with her daughter in Tokyo.

Susan and Jessie traveled with eight taiko players from North America on the overnight ferry to Hachijou Island off the east coast of Japan for more taiko. “On Hachijou Island, taiko just happens,” Susan



LEFT: K-8 member Susan Kissinger played and studied taiko drumming for six weeks last summer in Japan, the birthplace of taiko.

admired. “One afternoon we went out for passion fruit ice cream. The shop owner had a taiko in the back room and invited us to play. A few minutes later, several local players showed up, and then more. Ice cream turned into an hour of shared community and taiko.” Susan added that this happens all the time. “You go to bars and play taiko.”

For the final leg of her journey, this time Susan joined with 20 taiko players from North America to travel to Sado Island off the west coast of Japan. “We lived, worked and studied taiko in the bare bones apprentice center of the world-renowned taiko performance team, KODO,” she said, adding “KODO is currently on tour in North America. . . look for a performance in your area. . . AMAZING!!” (Since returning from Japan, Susan participated in a workshop in Kansas City taught by Yosuke Oda, the assistant artistic director of KODO.)

After living, studying and playing together with KODO apprentices for a week, Susan said she learned, “Play from the heart and allow the drum to speak through you.” Her last image of Sado Island was magical. “The apprentices performed for over an hour as we stood on the deck of the ferry taking us back to the mainland. They were still playing when the last orange dot of a flag they



were waving finally faded from view.”

### Tradition, sweat and harmony

Susan said she enjoyed experiencing Japanese traditions and the generosity of her hosts. Those experiences included traditional accommodations: futons on the floor and 8 to 10 persons per room. On the overnight ferry to Hachijou Island, Susan said, “Our room was just big enough to contain 10 2x8-foot rectangular spaces marked on the carpeted floor with a brick shaped pillow in each space and blankets to rent. In close spaces with sweaty taiko lovers, you learn to live in harmony.”

Susan said she studied Japanese culture and learned rudimentary Japanese to prepare for the trip. “I enjoyed several lovely moments when my few Japanese words and a stranger’s few English words were just enough to make a connection while riding the subway or standing on the street or playing taiko.”

### Final Four turns into Top Two

**Genevieve (Boyle) Brown** (Miller 2003-05) said she knew when she had found the perfect mate, “When you know it’s right – you know!” Ironically, although Genevieve and her husband Justin Brown were both KU undergraduates at the same time (2003-07), she didn’t know Justin was “the right one” until much later. Although they shared several mutual friends at KU and, being basketball fans, they probably sat near each some-time at Allen Field House, they didn’t team up until five years after graduation.

Luckily, in 2012 they did go to the same Final Four watch party in Lawrence. As Genevieve and Justin watched KU beat Ohio State, 64-62, the two met and became close friends. It wasn’t until next year’s March Madness that they started dating. Michigan beat KU in the Sweet 16 round in 2013, but Genevieve and Justin eventually made it to the Finals. Following an 11-month courtship and a 5-month engagement, on July 12, 2014, the couple married at Danforth Chapel, just a few steps down Lilac Lane from her old home at Miller. Rev. Edward

Foster, from Genevieve’s hometown of Salina, KS, officiated.

### Art and soul

The wedding party headed to the Lawrence Arts Center downtown for a reception in the gallery space. For Genevieve, the Lawrence Arts Center was the perfect reception venue given her passion for art. Genevieve graduated from KU with a bachelor’s degree in fine arts. She also has a master’s degree in art history from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a master’s degree in education from Pittsburg State University.

Following their wedding, Genevieve and Justin honeymooned in Santa Fe, NM, the acknowledged fine arts mecca of the Southwest. Genevieve and Justin now live in Nashville, TN, where Genevieve teaches art in the Williamson County School District and Justin attends law school at Vanderbilt University.

### Play that song again

There are three things **Emma (Willis) Supica** (Watkins 2005-06) appears to love – music, taking risks, and David Supica. If she didn’t love music she wouldn’t have met, let alone wed, David Supica and she never would have taken the risk of marrying him at an outdoor wedding in October. Emma must know how to play the odds, because on October 11, 2014, when she and David wed, “The weather was beautiful, a gorgeous Kansas fall day tucked between two cold and wet ones.”

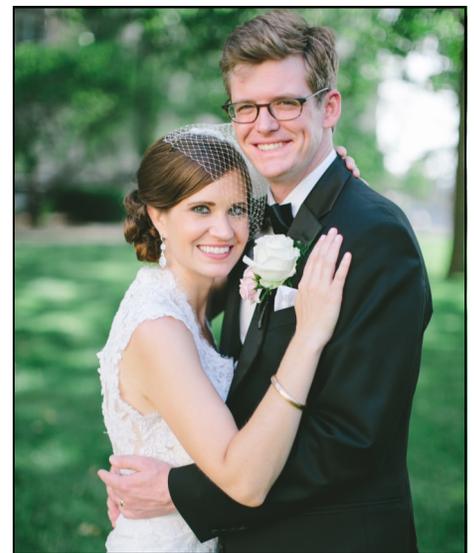
On that picturesque day, surrounded by immediate family and autumn colors, Emma and David exchanged their vows on family land in Oskaloosa, KS, where Emma grew up. The couple decided not to have attendants, but Emma’s sister Claire Willis (Margaret Amiri 2007-09) stood with the couple. The celebration continued that evening with a reception at Liberty Hall in Lawrence. “I had the best time dancing with friends and family,” Emma said.

Emma first met David when she was a freshman. They were both in bands – Emma’s was the KU Marching Band.

They encountered each other a few more times while she attended KU. Flash forward six years – the couple finally reconnected when Emma went to see David’s band play at the Granada Theater in Lawrence. They dated long distance for an entire year before Emma moved to Nashville, TN, to be with David.

### The couple’s first marriages ended . . . with a second

Emma and David got engaged one time during a trip back to Lawrence, but they got married twice. They did it to solve a dilemma – Emma said the couple wanted to get married in Kansas, but they also wanted to celebrate with their friends in Nashville. So, they held an “unofficial” wedding, which they called their betrothal celebration, in their backyard on the sum-



**TOP:** Genevieve and Justin Brown married at Danforth Chapel last July.

**ABOVE:** Emma and David Supica enjoy the beautiful autumn weather on their wedding day in Oskaloosa, KS.



mer solstice last year. The “unofficial bride” sewed her own dress and the “unofficial newlyweds” prepared all the food for their guests. The “unofficial” wedding had them fully prepared when they made things official last fall. After a belated honeymoon to Sayulita, Mexico, in February, Emma and David live and work in music fields in Nashville.

### It’s all about the Schol Hallers you know

If not for the KU Schol Hall community, **Maddie (Allen) Allen-Kasten** (Watkins 2005-07) probably would never have met her husband Joel. It was Maddie’s Big Sister at Watkins, Angela Kerner (Watkins 2004-08), who introduced her to Battenfelder Michael Bretches who, in turn, introduced Maddie to Joel. As they say, the rest was eventually, but not immediately, history.

Maddie and Joel became friends and remained in that holding pattern as undergraduates. They did not start dating until Maddie was in graduate school working on a masters in education. After graduating, Maddie got a job, but it was in Louisiana. That could have been the end of Maddie and Joel, but Joel happily moved down to Cajun country to be with her.

### And now the rest of . . . the story

In a short year and a half, Maddie’s new job as Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing and Fan Experience at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) took her to Cedar Falls, IA. And again, that could have been the end of Maddie and Joel, but he happily moved to the home of UNI Panthers with their enclosed UNI-Dome football stadium and subterranean student union where he now sells insurance for Banker’s Life.

It took the couple a year of house hunting to find the perfect home. The first night that the couple moved into their new home, October 19, 2013, Joel proposed to Maddie. And finally, it was Maddie’s



**ABOVE: Maddie Allen-Kasten and husband Joel Kasten walk hand-in-hand after their May wedding at Library Park in Sabetha, KS.**

turn to be happily moved to say “Yes!”

### The two-minute wedding drill

The couple had only seven months to prepare for an outdoor wedding at Library Park in Sabetha, KS, on May 31, 2014. Maddie and Joel quickly got to work planning a “very personal” wedding where their guests could feel at ease and really enjoy themselves. Maddie happily selected two of her favorites for the wedding: her favorite color blue for the décor and Mexican food for the reception because “I think most people who lived with me know that I eat Mexican food every chance I get.” To make sure their guests enjoyed themselves at the rehearsal dinner, Maddie and Joel served BBQ from Arthur Bryant’s.

Maddie and Joel’s wedding day, like their beginning, wouldn’t have been complete without the support of their Schol Hall friends. Maddie’s sister Maggie (Allen) Suther (Watkins 2007) was matron of honor and Megan (Stites) MacFarlane (Watkins 2004-08) was a bridesmaid.

### Five alarm romance

**Jennifer (Hamil) Borel** (Watkins 2005-09) says she was no stranger to being set up on dates before she married John Borel last June. Jennifer admits she did-

n’t feel any spark on most of those blind dates. So, she was skeptical when John’s sister suggested that Jennifer marry her brother. Although the idea of dating a firefighter was sort of “hot,” Jennifer dismissed it completely when she found out John lived in Branson, MO.

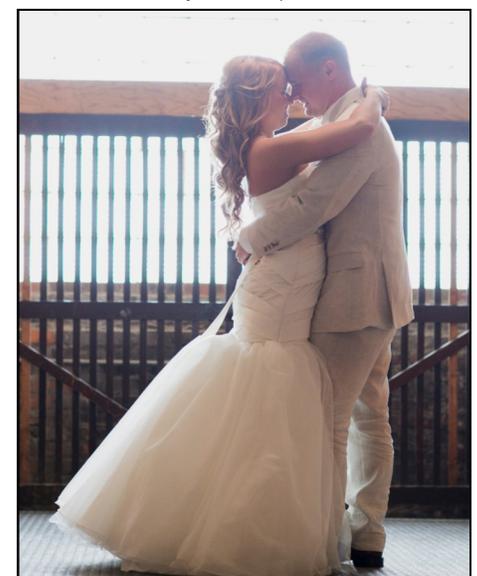
However, six months later things warmed up a little when Jennifer met John. Afterward he friended Jennifer on Facebook, but she said, “Nothing really happened right away.” On New Year’s Eve 2012, John sent the following message, “Hope you have a really great new year!” That message ignited a five-month firestorm of 5,000 messages as their long distance friendship grew. On May 31, 2013, John showed up at Jennifer’s apartment in the Kansas City area, and by the end of the evening they were officially dating.

“There wasn’t much doubt in our minds where our relationship was heading,” Jennifer said, even though John didn’t move to the Kansas City for several months.

### Sparks fly

Three months after they began dating, John secretly asked Jennifer’s parents for her hand in marriage. He managed to keep their blessing a secret for another three months. On New Year’s Eve, exactly one year after that first Facebook message,

**BELOW: Jennifer and John Borel enjoy a few private moments as they head up to their reception ( <http://www.loveelizabethphoto.com>).**





John proposed. He surprised Jennifer by taking her to Skies Restaurant, a revolving restaurant on the 50<sup>th</sup> floor of a Crown Center hotel that had closed down after the hotel changed management. Somehow John had gotten permission to use the old restaurant.

When Jennifer walked in, she said there was a table set with candles, flowers, and champagne. John handed her a journal filled with their dating story. At the bottom of the journal was a hole, filled with a ring and a vial of diamonds so Jennifer could design the engagement ring. John got down on one knee and proposed, and according to John, Jennifer said “Yes!” about 20 times. John then whisked Jennifer to an open restaurant where their families were waiting to celebrate.

Jennifer and John were married on June 1, 2014, at the Bride and the Bauer, an event space in an historic Crossroads Arts District building in Kansas City, MO. Jennifer’s sister Rebekah (Hamil) Allen (Watkins 2004-05) was maid of honor and her Watkins roommate Rachael (Miles) Black (Watkins 2004-08) also attended.

### Bring on the heat

For their honeymoon, John surprised Jennifer with their “fantasy” trip to the Caribbean island of Antigua. “When John and I were long distance dating we had to get creative on weekends we weren’t together,” Jennifer explained. “We started planning trips together while we were Skyping. One of the make-believe trips we planned was to a beautiful resort in Antigua we had found where we ‘vacationed’ in a bungalow by the water.” Jennifer said the real trip was more incredible than the fantasy one.

The couple recently bought a home in Shawnee, KS. Jennifer teaches art at an elementary school in Olathe, KS, and in her spare time is a professional photographer ([www.jennybphotographykc.com](http://www.jennybphotographykc.com)) and a writer for “The Art of Education,” an online publication for art teachers. John is a paramedic with LifeFlight Eagle.



ABOVE: Newlyweds Jacob and Lynne Coblammers celebrate with their dog Ada at their “home-made” reception in Baldwin, KS, last September.

### Home-made wedding or it takes a Schol Hall

When **Lynne (Lammers) Coblammers** (Watkins 2006-10) married high school sweetheart Jacob (Coble) Coblammers (Battenfeld 2008-09) on September 27, 2014, at the Vinland Fairgrounds in Vinland, KS, it was a community event. That’s because it seemed like an entire village and Watkins Hall pitched in to make it a special day.

Although Lynne and Jacob both grew up in Baldwin, KS, they didn’t meet until they walked into the same high school physics class. Lynn and Jacob started dating soon after meeting and continued to date all the way through KU. Just before Lynne graduated with a bachelor’s degree in linguistics, Jacob popped the question. “We had much to celebrate graduation weekend,” Lynne remembers. The couple moved to Connecticut for the next three years when Jacob got a job with a computer software company. They decided to wait to plan their wedding until they returned to Kansas.

### Do it yourself nuptials

Lynne fondly described their wedding as “a real community event” because just about everyone in or attending the wedding had a job to do. “Our parents both helped out a lot,” Lynne said “with my mom making my dress and growing and arranging the flowers, and Jacob’s mom and her boyfriend making most of the food. So many family and friends helped us make decorations, prepare food, provide entertainment, and set up and take down everything at the venue!”

A number of former scholarship hall residents also played crucial roles in the couple’s special day. Jacob’s roommate at Battenfeld, Chris Orlando, officiated at the wedding and five of Lynne’s six bridesmaids were Watkins alumnae, including **Stevi Ballard** (2006-10), **Mary (Emerson) Gomez** (2006-09), **Emily Hane** (2006-10), **Katie McMahan** (2008-11), and **Erin Solis** (2006-10).

As Watkins women are want to do, Lynne said her bridesmaids were eager to help out in many ways. “They rolled silverware, made signs and a card box, and helped string 1,000 homemade paper cranes,” Lynne explained. She added that Stevi, her Watkins roommate, stayed up “into the wee hours of the night” putting together the flower bouquets and baking the wedding cake. “Seeing so many people come together to help us celebrate was really moving,” Lynne said. “And in the end when it all came together, I couldn’t have asked for a more joyful day.”

The couple lives in Overland Park, KS, with their dog Ada. Jacob works as a software engineer at RiskAnalytics. Lynne is pursuing a degree in computer science at KU, while working part time as a software engineer at Perceptive Software. The couple is excited to finally take a belated honeymoon this summer, when Lynne finally has a break from classes.

### 2014 whines – a very good year

**Dr. Mallory (Richardson) Martinez** (Watkins 2003-05) and her husband, Dr. Alan Martinez, gave birth to daughter Breckin Suzanne Martinez, 6 lbs. 14 oz., 20 inches, on August 9, 2014. The sound of Breckin’s healthy cry when she was born was sweet music to their ears.

### Nappers instead of Napa

Breckin is the couple’s miracle baby. Mallory and Alan had looked forward to having children, but after months of trying they were about ready to give up. To take their minds off of things and celebrate Mallory’s birthday, the couple planned a



trip to California where they hoped to visit some Napa Valley wineries. However, before visiting the wineries, Mallory, on a hunch, decided to take a pregnancy test “just to be safe.” She and Alan were shocked and ecstatic when Mallory discovered she was pregnant. The chardonnay would have to wait.

Although overjoyed by their news, Mallory knew her pregnancy would be stressful. Mallory was doing her residency training in anesthesiology at KU Medical Center, where she and Alan graduated from medical school a few years earlier. “Working a 24-hour call is no easy feat on its own,” Mallory said, “and doing it while pregnant was exhausting. I actually went into labor the day after a 24-hour call!”

### We'll learn no gender before its time

Although challenging, Mallory described her pregnancy as uneventful. She continued to run daily until the last month and a half of her pregnancy. The pregnancy



ABOVE: Watkins alumna Mallory Martinez and husband Alan welcomed daughter Breckin last year.

also was stressful for Mallory’s and Alan’s family. “We decided to keep the sex of the baby a secret, which drove our families crazy,” she recalled. Finding out in the delivery room that they had a daughter made for “such a wonderful surprise,” Mallory said. “We were both hoping for a healthy baby, but my husband secretly wanted a girl, so he was on cloud nine when our precious little girl was born.”

### Life is a cabernet

“Parenthood has been even better than we could have ever imagined,” Mallory said. “Our daughter has such a wonderful

personality. She is truly a joy.” Of course, that’s easy for Mallory and Alan to say, having been blessed with such an easy-going, happy baby. They describe Breckin as a good eater and sleeper and note that she rarely cries.

According to Mallory, Breckin also is a great traveler. “She took her first plane ride at 3 months of age,” Mallory said. “Not only did she steal the show, she was a perfect angel on all the flights. Other travelers didn’t even realize there was a baby on the plane!”

Breckin, Mallory and Alan live in Prairie Village, KS. Mallory and Alan, a pathology resident, each have a year and a half left in their residency training. Currently, they are looking to join practices close to Lawrence once they finished their residencies.

### ‘MEETING’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

form on page 2, for information how to register and pay, which include online at the K-8 Website, [www.kitchen8.org](http://www.kitchen8.org).

### Heading on up to the East side

Following the Annual Meeting, Kitchen 8 invites members, friends and RFFs to enjoy a guided Walking Tour of the KU East Historic District, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. Watkins and Miller Halls are significant parts of the East Historic District.

According to **Sarah (Jackson) Martin** (Miller 1998-2002), the National Register Coordinator with the Kansas Historical Society, “Elizabeth Miller Watkins is the lynchpin of the East Historic District.” More than half of the designated places that comprise the East Historic District are Scholarship Halls. The Outlook, Mrs. Watkins’s home that she donated for KU’s Chancellor’s Residence, and Danforth Chapel, which she helped to fund, also are part of the East Historic District.

A guide will lead the tour, which starts between Watkins and Miller, is guaranteed

to bring back memories, make history come alive, and show what living on the “East Side” is like today.

### Head ‘em up, move ‘em up

After a good walk, what better way to relax than with a tall, cold drink and dinner with RFFs, K-8 members and friends at the Circle S Ranch, 3325 Circle S Lane, Lawrence. Appetizers will be served at 5:30 p.m., and a Southwest dinner follows at 6:30 p.m. Stay after dinner to reminisce around the Bonfire with S’mores Bar and watch some of Lizzie Watkins’ favorite movies.

Lizzie had a soft spot for screwball comedies, such as 1936 Oscar-nominated Best Picture “Libeled Lady” starring box-office stars Jean Harlow, Spencer Tracy, William Powell and Myrna Loy. She also loved Eleanor Powell musicals featuring Cole Porter and Oscar Hammerstein-Jerome Kern songs. Porter’s “I’ve Got You Under My Skin” received an Oscar nomination for best song and Hammerstein’s “The Last Time I Saw Paris” won the Academy Award. You don’t want to miss Eleanor’s dance number with the dog!

She choreographed it herself. K-8 members/friends and RFFs can come just for the dinner and evening activities, which costs \$30. For dinner reservations and transportation, contact **Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman** at [gssplash@aol.com](mailto:gssplash@aol.com) by Monday, April 20.

People also can stay the night at Circle S Ranch and take advantage of their “Scholarship Halls RFF Getaway” special for \$125 per person. The per person rate includes appetizers, Saturday night dinner, Bonfire with S’mores Bar, Sunday breakfast, double occupancy room, free WiFi, unlimited access to the Silo with its 8-person Jacuzzi, and plenty of hiking trails. For overnight reservations, contact Sarah Bronson at 785-312-2599 or [events@circlesranch.com](mailto:events@circlesranch.com). For more information about accommodations, go to [www.circlesranch.com](http://www.circlesranch.com).

Circle S Ranch, a unique bed and breakfast and event center, is located about 20 minutes north of Lawrence. For directions, call (785) 312-2599 or see directions on the K-8 Website at [www.kitchen8.org](http://www.kitchen8.org).



# EMW wants you to vote in the K-8 Board elections

An experienced slate of candidates will stand for election to the 2015-17 Kitchen 8 Board at the 2015 K-8 Annual Meeting on April 25. Of the 12 offices that comprise the K-8 Board, current board members will run for re-election in 11 of those offices. Three K-8 members are first-time candidates for the K-8 Board: **Stevi Ballard** (Watkins 2006-10), **Sarah Greenup** (Watkins 2008-12) and **Camille (Icenogle) Olcese** (Watkins 1971-74).

The women elected to the 2015-17 Board will lead Kitchen 8 during two of the most important years of its mission – the Watkins Hall 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Gala in 2016 and the Miller Hall 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Special Events in 2017.

Even if you cannot attend the 2015 K-8 Annual Meeting, you can still cast your vote for the Board using one of the following methods:

**By mail:** Clip out the election ballot vote, sign with your name and address, and send it to:

**Pat (Jolly) Putnam**  
 P.O. Box 258  
 Perry, KS 66073  
**Online:** [www.kitchen8.org](http://www.kitchen8.org)

You may cast your vote for the candidate nominated for each office or write-in your vote for another K-8 member. All ballots must be received by noon (central time), Friday, April 24.

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee will preside over the elections during the K-8 Business portion of the April 25 Annual Meeting. The Committee will allow K-8 members to make nominations for the K-8 Board from the floor and candidates may make a short statement at that time. The Committee will conduct a run-off if no candidate receives a majority of the vote cast. The Committee will post the names of the 2015-17 Board members on the K-8 Website and Facebook pages.

For more information about K-8 Board elections, see Article VI of the Kitchen 8 By-laws on the K-8 Website, [www.kitchen8.org](http://www.kitchen8.org).

**'ROSTER' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

we ask that you let Kitchen 8 Secretary **Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley** (Miller 2003-08) know whether we may send the K-8 Newsletter and other communication via email. You can contact Paula at:

**Paula Wrigley**  
 2525 Stowe Drive  
 Lawrence, KS 66049  
[paulawrigley@kitchen8.org](mailto:paulawrigley@kitchen8.org)

**Big time celebration**

K-8 wants to ensure that every woman who has ever lived at Watkins or Miller gets to be part of the Watkins 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Celebration in 2016 and Miller 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebra-

tion and Surprise Special Events in 2017. If you know of anyone who isn't aware of Kitchen 8 and our upcoming celebration, let us know or have them contact Paula. Help Kitchen 8 celebrate 2016 and 2017 by tripling our membership roster.

K-8 does not share its roster or member information with anyone outside K-8. We only use the roster to stay in communication with Watkins/Miller alumnae and friends and to help alumnae reestablish connections with women they knew when they lived on Lilac Lane.

## Ballot for 2015 Kitchen 8 Board Election

<p><b>President</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Norma (Decker) Hoagland</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>Vice-President</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>Secretary</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>Treasurer</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mary (Emerson) Gomez</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>Historian</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Laura (Draxler) Sixta</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>Watkins Campus Coordinator</b> (You may vote for 2)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stevi Ballard</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Camille (Icenogle) Olcese</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>Miller Campus Coordinator</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Judy (Johnson) Niebaum</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>EMWMSF Advisory Committee Chair</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alica Thomas</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>EMWMS Selection Committee Co-Chairs</b> (You may vote for 2)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Valentine Baumann</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>Website Coordinator</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lynn Coblammers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>Newsletter Co-Coordinators</b> (You may vote for 2)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sarah (Wohlrabe) Shortall</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ali (Bannwarth) Zayas</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>Mentoring Co-Coordinators</b> (You may vote for 2)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Greenup</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cathie (Fuller) Miller</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Write-in</p>
<p><b>Signature:</b></p> <p>_____</p>
<p><b>Address:</b></p> <p>_____</p>



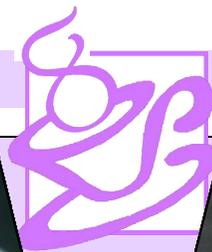
## Two sugars with our Alumnae Teas, please

2 p.m. on Sunday, April 26

Watkins and Miller Halls will meet, greet and treat alumnae at their annual Alumnae Teas at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 26. This year the “treat” will include tours of the halls, home-baked goods and a special musical program performed by Watkins and Miller residents. In keeping with tradition, the program will conclude with “My Sweetheart of Lilac Lane.”

Parking is available at the Student Union lot if parking on Lilac Lane is full.

After the Teas, alumnae and residents will head to Oak Hill Cemetery to place flowers on Elizabeth Miller Watkins’ grave. Oak Hill Cemetery is located just off East 13<sup>th</sup> Street on Oak Hill Avenue in Lawrence.



*Elizabeth (Miller) and Jabez Watkins*

and

**KITCHEN**

invite you to attend the

### **Watkins Hall 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Gala**

**Saturday, April 23, 2016**

Join us to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Watkins Scholarship Hall, premiere of the Watkins and Miller Hall book, and the presentation of the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarships.

### **Miller Hall 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Special Events**

**Saturday, April 22, 2017**

Join us to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Miller Scholarship Hall, the presentation of the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarships and surprise Special Events.

**Make sure you are on the invite list. Contact Paula Wrigley at [paulamwrigley@gmail.com](mailto:paulamwrigley@gmail.com).**



**KITCHEN**

**The Alumnae Association  
For  
Watkins and Miller  
Scholarship Halls**

**2525 Stowe Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66049**

[www.kitchen8.org](http://www.kitchen8.org)

**facebook**

