

# KITCHEN8

*Alumnae Association for  
Watkins and Miller Scholarship Halls &  
our EMW Memorial Scholarship Recipients*



*Featuring:* **2017 REPORT,**  
**THE DISCOVERY OF EMW'S WILL AND TRUST,**  
— & —  
**2018 ANNOUNCEMENT OF EVENTS**

## CONTENT

## KITCHEN 8

**3 WELCOME LETTER**

Alumna recalls her home away from home. **BY NORMA (DECKER) HOAGLAND**

**8 20 YEARS WITH EMW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the EMW Memorial Scholarship Award.

**9 OUR HISTORY**

Celebrating the "Perfect Storm" discovery of the Watkins & Miller Trust.

**11 KITCHEN 8 BOARD MEMBERS**

Contact our Kitchen 8 Board Members with questions or a desire to connect with us.

**12 KITCHEN 8 CONNECTIONS**

Events throughout the year help build relationships between current residents and Kitchen 8 members.

**18 PRESIDENT'S PANTRY**

A special "thank you" to the Committee for Preservation of Watkins and Miller Halls. **BY NORMA (DECKER) HOAGLAND**

**19 WATKINS MUSEUM**

A permanent exhibit is planned on Elizabeth!

**27 SISTERS WE HAVE LOST**

"We don't always know when a sister passes, but we always care." **BY MICHELLE LOEWENSTEIN**

**30 GIVING TO KITCHEN 8**

Please consider how to leave your own Kitchen 8 legacy.

**31 TREASURER'S REPORT**

Information about Kitchen 8's finances. **BY DANA DIEC**

**2017 DONOR'S LIST**

Thank you to our Kitchen 8 and EMW Memorial Scholarship Fund supporters.

## KITCHEN 8

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Kitchen 8 is an alumnae organization comprised of residents, past and present, of these halls, our scholarship recipients and other supporters of Mrs. Watkins' tradition. As the official keepers of her legacy we endeavor to provide a community of support for previous, current and future residents through mentorship, charitable contributions through the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, staying informed of the condition of Watkins and Miller Scholarship Halls and striving to follow her example of compassion and selflessness.*

## JOIN US

*Give back, with gratitude for Mrs. Watkins' gift to you. We are an all-volunteer group and there are no fees to join or belong. Whether you live near or far from KU, there are ways you can help with our work of supporting the residents of Watkins and Miller Halls and providing scholarships to financially needy young women at KU.*

## HALL LIFE

**4 WATKINS HALL**

All Hall photograph and Watkins 2017-2018 events. **BY MARISA HASELHUHN**

**6 MILLER HALL**

All Hall photograph and Miller 2017-2018 events. **BY HANNAH WALKER**

**8 LIZZIE'S LEGACIES**

This year marked the founding of Lizzie's Legacies, a networking group of former and current EMW Memorial Scholarship Recipients.

**17 LAWRENCE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL TOUR**

A Legacy in Stone: Mrs. Watkins gift - to the city of Lawrence.

## 2018 EVENTS

**15 2018 ANNUAL MEETING**

The Kitchen 8 Annual Weekend will be held Friday, April 27-Sunday, April 29 in Lawrence, KS.

## EMW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**20 SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION**

Continuing Elizabeth's legacy with our EMW Memorial Scholarships. **BY SUSAN (HARSHAW) KISSINGER and VALENTINE BAUMANN**

**21 ELIZABETH'S LEGACY**

Honoring "Lady Bountiful" and Janice Gartrell, our 1930's "Elizabeth."

**22 2017-2018 EMW SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Announcing the new and renewal recipients of the EMW Memorial Scholarship for 2017-2018.

## 2017 EVENTS

**16 2017 ANNUAL MEETING**

Linking past and present to the future. **BY PAT (JOLLY) PUTNAM and ELIZABETH (ERVIN) BOMAN**

**WATKINS AND MILLER HALL ALUMNAE TEAS**

A stroll down memory lane with fellow alumnae .

# a warm WELCOME

*Watkins Alumna remembers impact of her 'Home away from Home'*

Our Welcome Letter this year, from Roselyn Skonberg George, Watkins 1945-48 is taken from her response to last year's Magazine. She is a long-time supporter of our young women in Watkins and Miller and Kitchen 8's activities:

*"I am going to wax poetical here, so please listen to me!*

*While reading the Watkins Hall Alum newsletter, reading the girls tell why they liked living in Watkins Hall, one of the girls commented in five simple words - 'We cook for each other'. That just stood out for me. It says almost all you need to know about life in Watkins/Miller Halls, I think.*

*Those five simple words evoke many things - including love, care, support, nurture, sisterhood, comfort and nourishment in all its many defini-*

*tions. I remember one of the highlights of the day - no matter how tiring or frustrating it had been, was when we gathered in the living room, walked down the stairs more or less together and each went into our own kitchens to eat what one of us had cooked for the rest of us. We would talk about our day, laugh and enjoy a time together.*

*I can just hear Elizabeth saying 'That is exactly what I intended. I could not have said it better'. Her desire for her daughters was not just a cold formal place to get an education, but to live in a 'Home away from Home.'*

*I could not keep this to myself!"*  
Thank you, Roselyn. We're glad

you didn't keep it to yourself!

Many things have changed: gathering in the living room before meals, singing grace together before dinner, eating lunch and dinner together each day. But the nourishment of body and spirit continues in the cozy kitchens of Watkins and Miller where gathering and sharing and caring all continue. Elizabeth's wonderful idea!

**BY NORMA (DECKER) HOAGLAND**  
*Kitchen 8 President*

*"Miller also has provided a great incubator for developing leadership skills. As Miller celebrates 80 years, it's inspiring how many leaders this Lilac Lane incubator has produced. Best of all, I know I won't be the last."*

**MELANIE REMP**

*Miller Hall President 2011-2012*



**ABOVE:** Roselyn (Skonberg) George and Watkins Scholarship Hall's freshman class of 1945. Roselyn is featured on the far left of the back row.  
**AT LEFT:** Roselyn (Skonberg) George and Marilyn (Whiting) Thomas pose by EMW's portrait.



# watkins hall



**ROW 1: (Left to Right)** Grace Woods, Tonganoxie, KS; Alissa Kastendick, Overland Park, KS; Sydney Grimm, Tempe, AZ; Nikki Pelkey, DeSoto, KS; Sam Ritchie, Minneapolis, KS; Michell Tinoco-Morales, Kansas City, KS; Breanna Diaz, Emporia, KS

**ROW 2: (Left to Right)** Kenzi Woodbury, Topeka, KS; Mika Schrader, Lawrence, KS; Sophie Solomonson, Olathe, KS; Noelle Haselhuhn, Burlington, KS; Jerika Miller, Aurora, CO; Cathlynn Skinner, Clearwater, KS; Marisa Haselhuhn, President of Watkins Hall, Burlington, KS; Sydney Combs, Lawrence, KS; Emily Tribolet, Kansas City, MO; Karen Vasquez, Liberal, KS; Cheyanne Teasley, Kansas City, MO

**ROW 3: (Left to Right)** Katherine Wolf, Olathe, KS; Andrea Guidry, Houston, TX; Emma Hixson, Topeka, KS; Cady Jarman, Wichita, KS; Sydney Warren, Wichita, KS; Aubrey Burgess, Wichita, KS; Jenny Rick, Emporia, KS; Hanah Glimpse, Kansas City, KS; Pooja Poladia, Olathe, KS; Charlotte Muttai, Shawnee, KS; Melissa King, Horton, KS; Deanna Diaz, Emporia, KS; Sarah Soriano, Shawnee, KS; Isabelle Sears, Oklahoma City, OK; Fanny Rangel, Lakin, KS; Madison Manche McMillian, St. Joseph, MO; Kalena Nichol, Lawrence, KS; Jessica Nguyen, Kansas City, MO; Katie McCabe, Caldwell, KS

**PHOTO BY DEBRA BATES LAMBORN OF FIRST CITY PHOTO IN LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS**

This year at Watkins has been wonderfully eventful so far. With several inner hall events, two joint events with Miller, and many dinners with Battenfeld already under our belts, it's almost weird to think that we're only halfway done with the year. Our first event was "Lake Day," a new happening proposed by our Environmental Chair, Nikki Pelkey. The purpose was to enjoy the natural world while also getting to pretend for a bit we actually lived by the coast.

Our first joint event with Miller was our New/Old Resident Dinner, hosted by our two Alumnae Chairs Charlotte Muttai and Katherine Wolf, Miller's Alumnae Chairs and the amazing members of Kitchen 8, our joint alumnae base. This was on Sunday, September 17. This is a yearly event where K8 comes to our halls and cooks a big, delicious potluck meal. The new residents from each hall go to one hall (this year Miller) and the old residents go to the other (this year Watkins). K8 explains all the neat and unique traditions that Watkins and Miller have to the new residents, and the old residents chat and enjoy the lovingly-prepared food.

Our second joint event with Miller was Tribute Night. This was on October 15 and happens yearly as well. On that evening, Watkins residents trooped over to Miller Hall to learn more about our wonderful founder, Mrs. Lizzy Miller Watkins, and the traditions of Miller and Watkins. Also, every excuse to bond between sister halls is a good excuse, so conversation was bright and loud.

Our big inner-hall event was, and usually is, Heaven and Hell. This



**ABOVE:** *Tribute Night 2017 at Miller Hall.*

was on October 27 at 7pm. The theme this year was "Carn-evil," matching the spookiness of upcoming Halloween and the revival of Stephen King's *It* in theaters. The foyer area was filled with the carnival of everyone's childhood and sweet, dessert items were served upstairs. Traveling downstairs, however, transported go-ers to a carnival of everyone's nightmares: creepy clowns, spicy food, and lights dimmed. Our wonderful social chairs, Grace Wood and Fanny Rangel, did a fantastic job!

One of our other yearly inner hall events was Watsgiving. This is Thanksgiving a la Watkins. As two of our traditions here at Watkins, family and food, this event is definitely one of our big ones. Headed up by our amazing Food Board Manager Sydney Collins, three turkeys and several other Thanksgiving staples, like green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, and stuffing, were carefully prepared and then eaten by the residents, families and friends.

Something that our social care chair, Deanna Diaz, has been working on are Self-Care Nights. College is a stressful place, and these nights are for de-stressing activities and happy thoughts only.

Another inner-hall event was Winter Well-Wishings. This is somewhat like a hall Christmas party, except we don't exchange physical gifts. Instead, the Exec Board give verbal gifts. These are gifts that we would give residents if we had no limits. We did this after our house meeting on December 3, and we wore PJs and ate candy canes. Lots of llama Christmas love was felt by all!

In the past, Watkins' relationship with our brother hall, Battenfeld, hasn't been the best, and the two halls decided to change that this year! We've tried to have dinners together once a month, and we switch off hosting. The most recent "Batkins" dinner was on January 13, where Battenfeld hosted a back-to-school dinner for Watkins. Board games or volleyball usually follow the meal.

All in all, having a full house of beautifully crazy residents really spices up the atmosphere of our already unique scholarship hall community. Residents are charging into the spring semester head-on. Here's to a long, eventful, and food-filled year ahead at Watkins!

**BY MARISA HASELHUHN**

*Watkins President*

# miller hall



**ROW 1: (Left to Right)** Natalie Fanella, DeKalb, IL; Eleanor Matheis, Lawrence, KS; Monica Can, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; Taryn Weilert, Holton, KS; Erika Smith, Lenexa, KS; Gantsatsral Granpurev, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

**ROW 2: (Left to Right)** Victoria Bogner, Kansas City, KS; Georgi Singleton, Liberty, MO; Rosanna Chan, Overland Park, KS; Tina Wang, Topeka, KS; Steffie Villanueva, Hutchinson, KS; Abigail Bergman, Louisburg, KS; Miller President, Hannah Walker, Clovis, NM; Michaela Behymer, Newton, KS; Kirstin Georgeson, Norton, KS; Elle Perkins, Strafford, ME; Zalma Molina, Topeka, KS; Megan Holder, Wichita, KS

**ROW 3: (Left to Right)** Tiffany Chao, Overland Park, KS; Allison Schwartz, Pflugerville, TX; Karla Arias, Dodge City, KS; Ally Dobie, Rochester, MN; Lauren Klapper, Kansas City, KS; Shanya Dorsey, St. Louis, MO; Elizabeth Godinez, Lawrence, KS; Marie Parker, Kansas City, MO

**ROW 4: (Left to Right)** Grace Menninger, Fairway, KS; Natalie Eppler, Paola, KS; Madelyn Stonehouse, Newton, KS; Maddy Foster, Topeka, KS; Alex Vaoif, Kansas City, MO; Mary Juno, Omaha, NE; Hunter Owsley, Wichita, KS; Jordan LeBeau, Skiattoole, OK; Elizabeth Rhodes, Austin, TX; Amarais Towle, Topeka, KS; Sasha Arteaga, Overland Park, KS; Taylor Dimkel, Hays, KS; Ruthie Taylor, Blacksburg, VA; Emily Straight, Fort Worth, TX; Mikayla Schmitz, Olathe, KS; Brenna Hipsher, Olathe, KS; Scholarship Hall Director, Annie Lundeen, LaCrosse, WI

**PHOTO BY DEBRA BATES LAMBORN OF FIRST CITY PHOTO IN LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS**

Full 2017 was full of laughter, memories, and tradition in Miller!

The first night we did our annual walk to the campanile where new women walk blindfolded, aided by the returning women to the campanile and the new women receive gifts. Once we made it to the campanile and gave gifts, returning women took the time to share some of our favorite memories from our time in Miller and offer new women advice based off our experiences.

The Schol-Hall Olympics occur annually during “Hawkweek”, the first week of class, and the residents of Miller made our mark on the community by playing dodgeball on a team with the gentlemen of Stephenson. A disappointing loss was the cookie decorating competition, but our women decorated valiantly (and should have won).



**AT LEFT:** Miller women put flowers on Mrs. Watkins grave.



**ABOVE:** Miller residents at Judy (Johnson) Niebaum's Chili & S'Mores night. **AT RIGHT:** Eleanor Matheis, Megan Holder, Hannah Walker and Zalma Molina, in front of Miller's Christmas Tree.

As residents began to settle down into the comfort of a routine, things calmed down within the hall. On the 11th of September, the women of Rieger Hall had invited Miller over for dinner, to be followed with s'mores at Miller's beloved fire pit. Residents of both halls had a happy surprise when Stephenson came by serenading Sellards first, then coming to sing for our group.

The new women's dinner is always wonderful for returning residents to catch up with alumni, but it is also a valuable experience for new women to begin to understand the great things that Elizabeth Miller Watkins has done for them.

There were many weekly and bi-weekly events thrown by other halls that our women go to nearly every time. Some favorites are; Trivia at Stephenson, Lupi Night courtesy of Pearson, and K-Kreamery an Ice cream social hosted by KK Amini.

Near the end of October, we had our fall event in conjunction with Watkins' heaven and hell party. For the past several years, Miller has opted to put on a haunted house,



instead of a dinner theatre. This year our social chairs and residents pulled out all the stops to make this haunted house memorable. The entire living room was transformed from cozy study space to a completely dark haunted maze complete with scarers. The fall event always brings the residents closer as working for so long together on one thing is a great bonding experience.

The semester closed with Judy Niebaum coming to help us decorate for Christmas. There were residents putting up decorations all over the living room and even stringing lights and garland up the bannister in the front staircase.

All in all, it was a lovely semester, full of fun and traditions that I can't wait to see carry on!

All my Lilac Lane Love,

**BY HANNAH WALKER**

Miller Hall President 2017-18

# celebrating 20 YEARS

## *Annual Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship flourishes*

2018 marks the 20th year of Kitchen 8's Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund. It was 1998 when Gayle Matchett and Joyce Browder set up the account at Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. Numerous alumni have contributed and our biggest boost was given by Janice Gartrell's Charitable Remainder Trust in 2009. Last year's magazine outlined the chronology of the scholarship program prior to 1998, but here we celebrate the stable, established scholarship program that is the hallmark of Kitchen 8. The Scholarship Selection Committee Chair,



**ABOVE:** Carrying on Mrs. Watkins wishes, Watkins resident Katie Ellsworth and Lizzie's Legacies Chair Gayle Matchett prove they are using real china at the 2012 Alumnae Tea.

Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger, shares her thoughts on page 20.

But first, a special thanks to both Gayle and Joyce for their years of dedication to Kitchen 8, working to preserve Elizabeth's legacy and the welfare of W&M Halls. Those of us who have worked with them knew their hearts were especially in the scholarship program. Deb Stark says, "At the time (late 1980's), I wasn't aware of the strength of the strategic direction (Gayle Matchett) took which drew attention to all the contributions of Elizabeth Watkins – not just Watkins and Miller. She really drew attention to the unique role Mrs. Watkins played at a time when women didn't typically wield that much power and influence." Gayle lent her inspiration toward guiding the scholarship program and now, to supporting "Lizzie's Legacies."

Gayle points with pride at the scholarship program, noting "Since 1998 when Erika Greene from MacDonald, KS received \$1,000, we have invested \$376,000 in our shared futures." Thank you for your donation and for being a part of this proud legacy of Elizabeth.



### CONNECTING PAST & PRESENT RECIPIENTS

Lizzie's Legacies is a group of current and previous Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship recipients. Lizzie's Legacies connect current scholarship recipients to each other and to the wider Kitchen 8 family. If you are a previous scholarship recipient, please contact us to stay in touch with this group.

This group is chaired by Gayle (Barry) Matchett, W 1955-57 and Emily Hane, W 2008-10. Emily says "When I was a scholarship recipient, I viewed K-8 and the EMWMS as a 'fairy godmother' that was there to help and support if needed, but with no strings attached. Just knowing support is there means a lot, and I'm still incredibly grateful for that." Emily and Gayle look to support and mentor in helpful, personal ways, not already being done by the University and its departments.

## Last Will and Testament

of

ELIZABETH M. WATKINS

I, ELIZABETH M. WATKINS, residing at Lawrence, in the County of Douglas and State of Kansas, do hereby make, publish and declare this my Last Will and Testament, hereby revoking any and all former wills by me at any time made.

FIRST: I direct that my debts, if any, be promptly paid.

TWELFTH: In the event that I shall not have made provision therefor during my lifetime, I give and bequeath to said THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF KANSAS CITY, as Trustee, or to its successors in trust, the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) in cash and/or securities of equal value, in trust for the following purposes, to-wit: to invest and reinvest the same, upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set out, in securities of the kind and character hereinafter described and to use the income therefrom perpetually for the maintenance, upkeep and operation of WATKINS HALL and of MILLER HALL, the dormitories for girls heretofore erected by me and conveyed to the State Board of Regents of the State of Kansas, the net income from said entire trust fund to be divided between said WATKINS HALL and said MILLER HALL, equally, share and share alike.

# Kitchen 8 HISTORY

## *Celebrating the Discovery of the Watkins & Miller Trust*

At first, in 1926, Mrs. Elizabeth Miller Watkins was very much a part of life at Watkins Hall. She had worked with the architect to design her “girls’ dormitory” exactly as she envisioned. She chose the furniture, the drapery and the House Mothers. She even paid the House Mothers, personally. There was gracious living space to be shared, rooms for study, dorms for sleeping and her thoughtful idea of 7 kitchens, so that each girl could have a home away from home and incidentally,

learn some cooking and housekeeping skills. She was a frequent guest, from stories handed down, checking to be sure that chores had been done. Each kitchen took its’ turn in setting an extra place setting, just in case she would come at dinner time. And she sometimes did. It all worked beautifully, so Miller Hall was built and opened in 1937, to enable more young women to get their education more affordably. Then she was gone.

But she left a Trust for the “main-

tenance, upkeep, and operation” of the two buildings, so the cost to live in them would be kept at a minimum. From the Deeds gifting the two Halls to the Kansas Board of Regents, we know now that she set up a “Rent Setting Committee” of city business leaders who would meet yearly and ensure that the rent rates her girls would pay would never exceed her intent of minimal cost. That worked for a while after Elizabeth’s death, but these people, too, passed away and KU Endowment assumed those responsibilities. Nearly 50 years passed.

When your author was at Watkins in 1969, we “girls” knew next to nothing about Elizabeth. We had no opportunity to be inspired by her faith in us, her intelligent giving, her selfless example. She was the name of the hall; she was a painting on the wall; she had lived in the Chancellor’s Residence.

### THE PERFECT STORM

In 1981 a young woman named Deb Stark moved into Watkins. She was a natural leader and quickly became House Manager, then Watkins’ representative to the All Scholarship Hall Council. Once there, she became the President of ASHC. This enabled her to have access to the financial records for all the scholarship halls and she began to notice entries into the Watkins and Miller financial records from a Trust. What Trust was this? She began to ask questions.

Gwen (Thompkins) Larson recalls, “KU was undertaking some significant renovations of the older scholarship halls that year. Officials announced there were funds from the Watkins trust that would be

used. Deb started investigating. I believe she found either the original will or trust documents. She also found information about the gift that built Watkins Hall and later Miller. In those documents, Elizabeth Watkins wrote very eloquently about providing an opportunity for young women to attend college in an affordable way. She recounted her own story in which she came to KU but had to withdraw after a grasshopper plague wiped out her family's funds."

In reading several of her letters to and from then-KU Housing Director Ken Stoner, this author can assure you Deb was polite, respectful, and professional in all her requests for information from Housing. But the questions weren't getting answered. Deb remembers early morning strategy sessions in third floor bathroom of Watkins with Colleen (Eck) Medill and Mary Boyce, where they would figure out "the next move." Gwen says, "Deb's sleuthing also discovered that Elizabeth's gift included funds for care, maintenance and upkeep of the halls. This led to these questions:

**1. Why are Watkins women paying money in their housing contracts for renovations; and**

**2. Why is Watkins money being used for other halls or to build a new scholarship hall?"**

Gwen also remembers, "When Deb's meetings with housing didn't bring results, Deb decided it was time to call in the big guns - Watkins alumni whose voices would be listened to. That's when the plan for the first alumni weekend were born. Before that, we would have alumni stop by on Homecoming and ask



**ABOVE:** Deb Stark in 1985.

to see the Hall and the rooms they lived in. This time, however, we dug out the scrapbooks and prepared to fete those who went before us. Talking with those alumni who came back was fascinating. I think we especially caught the attention of women who attended KU in the 1960s and 1970s. They knew how to organize and get things done."

The Halls were deteriorating. Now there was word of the Watkins & Miller trust money being used for other halls. That is when Deb organized an alumnae reunion and partnered with Kitchen 8 founder, Gayle (Barry) Matchett. Again, a perfect storm.

Deb Stark remarked "Gayle's role was HUGE! We reached out for help and she came to our rescue bringing years of experience in navigating the University and an extensive knowledge of Mrs. Watkins and the history of the hall.... She gathered together former residents and they sketched out a timeline of changes that were made to the trust and its administration over the years. A lot of it came to light through endless hours she spent at the University archives mining for information. Gayle also

did a masterful job at organizing the anniversary celebration."

But Deb graduated and others picked up the torch. When information about the Trust wasn't forthcoming, a group of very courageous Miller and Watkins women filed a petition in the Douglas County Court, requesting access to the Trust accounts held by Bank of America. After all, Elizabeth made her wishes clear and the money was invested only for Watkins & Miller. At the time, from public records the women discovered the W&M Trust under Bank of America as Trustee was grossly underperforming the market and money from the Trust was going other places, adding to the need to see the Trust accounts. Gayle Matchett remembers "Karen Krueger - in the stacks of Douglas County Courthouse, looking at the (W&M Trust)bank filings for 1972, saying over and over "but the check is not to the Kansas Board of Regents anymore. It is written directly to the KU Endowment Association. They can't do that." Today one has to question why KU joined in the lawsuit on the side of Bank of America in opposing the Hall residents' petition.

Many names float into the Kitchen 8 collective memory, Lindsay Poe - Julie Mettenburg - Stacey Cook - Kellie Hogan - Leslie Mettenburg, and this author would welcome a direct story from any of these brave young women who participated in the lawsuit, despite threats of increased rent and the time taken from their academic work. They deserve our recognition and thanks. The women involved in the lawsuit could only be involved as long as they were actively living in the

Halls, so as they graduated and moved on, more dedicated young women held on. Finally in 2000, a ruling came down that the residents were indeed “beneficiaries” of the Trust, and as such should have a yearly accounting of the W&M Trust. Those financial records continue to this day, sent to the Treasurer of Watkins or Miller, alternating each year, so that the women can see the performance of the Trust. About that time KU Student Housing began its annual fall meeting



**ABOVE:** Deb Stark recently retired from Cerner.

with W&M residents to show them the Income and Expenditures for each Hall. The residents are watching and so are the alumnae.

Gayle Matchett has mentored scores of Kitchen 8 members and tutored us to value the history and legacy of Elizabeth. She demurs about her contributions and says “What one person does – matters! The banner we carried in 1986 (saying) “Thank You, Elizabeth,” has expanded to gratitude for the actions of many. I continue to be amazed at the consistency of the one lesson I have carried into other situations from these many years “with” Elizabeth. One person – EMW – put it all in motion. One person – Deb – asked questions and followed through. One person – Art Hodgson - Janice Gartrell – Karen Krueger - Joyce Browder. There are many stories we don’t know, but again and again, we see change when one person doing

## ELIZABETH’S TRUST FOR WATKINS AND MILLER HALLS

If you use 4.7% as a return rate compounded twice a year. (*These are the figures KU endowment uses in calculating an endowed scholarship.*)

Then \$250,000 invested in 1939 (*per Elizabeth’s will*) would be worth about \$9.5 million today.

The Watkins and Miller trust has \$3.9 million.

their job, doing the right thing, caring, isn’t there anymore. And we see miracles when one person continues to care and act.”

One person – can help this strong woman’s legacy continue. Is it your turn?

**BY NORMA (DECKER) HOAGLAND**

*Kitchen 8 President*



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# building CONNECTIONS

*Hall Residents and Kitchen 8 members bond throughout yearly activities*

## NEW WOMEN DINNER

In September local K-8 members welcomed the new women of Watkins and Miller Halls with a buffet of salads and cookies prepared by the members. Miller Hall hosted the New Women's Dinner this year. With the new residents, officers of both halls and K-8 members, around 60 people enjoyed the meal. New women are presented with a notebook containing information about Elizabeth and traditions surrounding the halls. The evening is a great kickoff to the school year as K-8 members meet the new residents, and new women are introduced to the rich legacy of Watkins and Miller halls. It's hard to imagine the years when residents didn't know about Elizabeth!

Understanding Elizabeth's vision of an affordable and supportive place to live while getting your education is such a meaningful gift to each woman lucky enough to live in Watkins or Miller. Knowing about Elizabeth's example is an inspiration to all our residents. *\*This event uses funds from the K8 Sugar Bowl Fund.*

**BY CAMILLE (ICENOGL) OLCESE**

*K8 Watkins Campus Co-Coordinator*

## 2017 CAREER DAY

On Sunday, March 5th, residents of Miller and Watkins Halls gathered in Miller's living room for a lesson in "adulting." Presentations were given by K8 Alumni as well as a representative from KU's School of Business. Former Watkins resident Michelle Loewenstein kicked the afternoon

off with tips and tricks for writing resumes and cover letters. Perhaps two of the most important pointers given were to tailor your resume to the job you are applying for and to phase out older information as needed to limit information to one page. For someone just starting out on their job search, it is appropriate to list high school accomplishments; however, a college junior or senior nearing graduation may have more relevant experience to include that takes priority over those high school experiences.

After informative Q&A, former Watkins residents Emily Hane, Sarah (Taggart) Garten, and Laura (Draxler) Sixta shared real world experiences about appropriate use of social media and e-mail in the workplace. An important takeaway from this presentation was the power of the internet search. Google yourself to see what future employers/fellow employees will find online as they create their first impression of you. What they see may determine whether they keep your resume at the top of the stack or toss it to the recycle bin. Closing thoughts on this presentation included the need to set personal boundaries; just because you have access to work communication on your phone or home computer doesn't mean you are on the clock, and your time at home should be yours to enjoy.

The residents enjoyed some delicious homemade snacks prepared by K8 Alumni before hearing a presentation from former Watkins resident and president of K8, Norma (Decker) Hoagland, about dining etiquette for those potential business and/or interview luncheons. A representative from KU's School of Business stressed the importance



**ABOVE:** Michelle Loewenstein shares tips on writing a good resume for job applications at Kitchen 8's Career Day 2017.

of managing money wisely by saving early and using credit responsibly. Overall, it was a very well-rounded afternoon of information.

While it may have been a bit overwhelming, these presentations will hopefully have armed the residents of Miller and Watkins with the tools they need to be strong and successful women in their years to come. *\*This event uses funds from the K8 Sugar Bowl Fund.*

**BY LAURA (DRAXLER) SIXTA**

*Watkins 2005-09*

## MILLER'S CHILI & S'MORES EVENT

We Miller Women did have a very good time here at my home! They first looked at my 1958-61 years scrapbooks with interest and enthusiasm. We then ate a large pot full of beef chili and half of a vegetarian pot full too. Then we cooperatively made and ate delicious oven S'Mores!! I sent makings for more back to Miller with them.

During the evening's sharing and conversation, the subject of my wedding dress came up, probably in reference to the many family photos that adorn my home. Before they left, they asked to see my wedding dress I had mentioned... still hanging in my closet here. It was worn 6 times: by me, then my sister, sister-in-law, daughter, niece, and daughter-in-law. What a story that dress has to tell! It was a fine time together!

**BY JUDY (JOHNSON) NIEBAUM**

*K8 Miller Campus Coordinator*



**ABOVE:** *Miller residents gather around the table for Chili & S'Mores!"*

## WELCOMING WATKINS IN THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Being a Watkins Co-Coordinator is the best job in K8, though Camille Olcese and I might be biased. We have been working together for almost three academic years now, trying our best to live up to the legacy of our predecessor, Bev Benso. The Watkins Co-Coordinator position has a few defined responsibilities such as helping with the planning of events with K8 and the Hall, most notably the New Resident Dinner and EMW Birthday Party, as well as acting as a general liaison between residents and alumni.

However, the role of a co-coordinator has many lesser known responsibilities. Most importantly we try to develop relationships with the residents and help them with whatever they might need.

Providing rides, places to stay, connections with other alumni, and create a space for residents to chat



**ABOVE:** *Stevi welcomed the Watkins Executive house members back to KU early during Hawk Week, with treats of cookies, fruit and of course, Elizabeth's favorite, Jordan Almonds.*

and connect with people who have been through it all before. Currently there is a lot of turnover in the house, and we've got a new set of Alumni Chairs (the residents in the hall who work with us the most) so Camille and I have our work cut out for us! We've had a good start to the year, and we are looking forward to all the joys the rest of this year presents. *\*The hall gifts are paid for by the K8 Sugar Bowl Fund.*

**BY STEVI BALLARD**

*K8 Watkins Campus Co-Coordinator*

## LIZZIE'S B-DAY PARTY

Once again, the women who must walk uphill gathered together to celebrate Elizabeth Miller Watkins' birthday. This year, Lizzie turned a modest 156 years old and we held a celebration in her honor on Friday, January 20. The alumni banded together to supply "Lizzie's Pearls" for all, decorations, punch, cake, and of course Lizzie's favorite, Jordan Almonds. We had a great turnout of both alumni and residents again this year (because what self-respecting Miller or Watkins woman (former or current) turns down free food and fun!?)

Treats and conversation were shared until it was time to roll out the gifts for the halls, and all the current residents had fun unwrapping new stuff for their halls. Each hall is always asked to submit a "wish list" of things every woman in the hall could use. Luckily we had a special connection this year. Just as our Miller Hall Campus Coordinator, Judy (Johnson) Niebaum was downsizing and sorting through her beloved possessions, she received the wish list with a number of items on it she already had! What serendipity! Judy happily shared her belongings and what better way to re-use, than

with love shared by alumnae and residents. Another new gift this year was a large print of the formal portrait taken of each hall's residents. K8 had this photo taken for their annual magazine and presented a large print for each hall's living room.



**ABOVE:** Watkins women are delighted with blankets for the living room and study rooms!"

To end the evening, Camille (Ice-nogle) Olcese jumped on the piano to lead us all in a round of "Happy Birthday" for Lizzie. Thanks to all of the residents who could make it to the event this year, and to all the alumni who donated items, helped set up and put away, or simply attended. You all helped to make yet another wonderful birthday celebration! *\*The hall gifts are paid for by the K8 Sugar Bowl Fund.*

**BY STEVI BALLARD**

*K8 Watkins Campus Co-Coordinator*

**MILLER ALUMNAE TEA**

Miller's 80th Birthday celebration came to a fitting conclusion at the Alumnae Tea. A special cake was provided by Kitchen 8's Sugar Bowl Fund and the women of Miller really made their lovely house sparkle! There was beautiful musical entertainment and lots of memories and conversation. Judy (Johnson) Niebaum, K8's Campus Coordinator for Miller Hall,

made the presentation of our book Watkins & Miller Halls to both of the outgoing Miller women who have lived in the hall all four years. These books are paid for by the K8 Sugar Bowl fund. The honored seniors are Gabby Buckner and Annelise Kolar. Congratulations to you both!

Be sure you plan to attend the Hall Alumnae Teas in 2018 on Sunday, April 29th. Arrange to meet some of your past roommates or KU friends there!

**WATKINS ALUMNAE TEA**

True to tradition, Watkins was cleaned and shining to welcome back all of her alumnae in April of 2017. Another tradition of Watkins Alumnae Teas is the scrapbooks, which are

always out and available for all alumnae to look through and remember...

Lovely treats, good conversation and talented entertainment are always on hand and this year was no exception. Our dedicated Watkins Alumnae Co-Chairs, Amy Zheng and Mariana Vasquez Sanchez did a great job! The hall renovations were a topic of conversation for all, with the new configuration in the lower level and the handicap-access public restroom on the main floor. Central heat and air conditioning were welcome additions to this round of renovation! The radiators, sadly (to some) are gone!

The alumnae always especially enjoy the singing of "My Sweetheart of Lilac Lane" written by Virginia Gessell Williams, W 1939-43. There is a further note on the original music that it is arranged by Mary Beth (Spenn) Cunningham of Pratt, KS and Mitzi (Nystrom) Philippus of Denver, CO. Anyone knowing these women and with a memory of the song to share, please send an email to our K8 website: [www.kitchen8.org](http://www.kitchen8.org). We would love to share more about the story behind this song!

Make plans to join the residents and alumnae at Watkins Alumnae Tea, April 29, 2018.



**AT LEFT:** Judy presents the Watkins and Miller book to Gabby Buckner (Right) and Annelise Kolar (Left). Both lived in Miller all four years, and receive the book as a gift from Kitchen 8, using Sugar Bowl funds. **AT RIGHT:** (Left to Right) Rose-Bertine Mercier, April Montoya, Amy Zheng, Mariana Vasquez Sanchez, Molly Kaup, and Kaitlin Neill are all graduating seniors who have lived in Watkins all four years. They are presented with Watkins & Miller Halls book, a gift from Kitchen 8, using money from the Sugar Bowl fund.



## 2018 PROGRAM: *Housemothers to Schol Hall Directors*

In 1926 Elizabeth Miller Watkins selected her first “housemother” for Watkins Hall, that dramatic experiment in helping the “girls who must travel uphill”. Today the scholarship halls have SHDs or “Scholarship Hall Directors”, who preside over several scholarship halls. But from “housemothers” to “SHDs”, that person has made an indelible mark on the women of Miller and Watkins Scholarship Halls. Throughout the years this versatile character who carried the responsibility for the overall operations and sometimes for the hearts of residents has variously been called Matron, Social Director, Housemother, Mother, Resident Director, House Couple, and Scholarship Hall Director. What did you call her or him or them?

The KU History website reports that EMW personally selected Watkins Hall's first housemother, Mrs. R.C. Morrow, and paid her salary. She continued to select and pay the “matrons” or “social directors” as she called them, until her death in 1939. Under her formal agreement with KU, whenever there was an opening for this position, Mrs. Watkins would provide a list of nominees from which the University would select its preferred candidate.

A housemother in the 1950s requested her “girls” call her “Mother Willard”, not her given name of Julia. Fast forward to the 70s when the hip house couple wanted to be referred to as “Pam and Cliff”, not Mr. and Mrs. Conrad. Advance to the present when the women of the halls denote their operations manager as SHDs, who don't live in each building.

This information should whet your appetite to come to the April 2018

K-8 program, “Housemothers to SHDs”. There you will meet our version of the very real and memorable “Mother Stayton”, first housemother in Miller Hall and friend of Elizabeth. You will hear of their friendship and the “scandal” that resulted in her retirement!

We hope this also encourages you to share your experiences with the 2018 program planning committee.

### SHARE YOUR STORY

*Do you have a funny story about an SHD, a wonderful memory of your housemother, or an adventure you could not have survived without your RD/RA? Contact Pat Putnam at [pajputnam@hotmail.com](mailto:pajputnam@hotmail.com) with stories or with contact information of any former housemothers/RAs/SHDs with whom you are still in communication. Please respond as soon as possible. We'd love to share them in the 2018 Kitchen 8 program.*

### 2018 KITCHEN 8 WEEKEND: April 27-April 29, 2018

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

3-5 PM **K-8 Board Meeting** - Help us plan future events! Open to all alumnae and residents at **Watkins Museum**, 1047 Massachusetts St., Lawrence, Kansas

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018

9 AM **Meet and Greet at Maceli's**, 1031 New Hampshire, Lawrence, Kansas

9:30 AM **Short Business Meeting and Program**

*"Housemothers to SHDs" Hear the humorous history of early Housemothers in our Halls and learn about the transition from these lovely elderly ladies to graduate students, couples, and even young men as our Scholarship Hall Directors!*

11 AM **Celebratory Brunch with EMWM Scholarship Recipients and Watkins / Miller Residents** - During brunch, Pat and Liz will have another Trivia game to test your knowledge of Schol Hall History! **Please consider a donation to cover brunch costs for a Watkins or Miller resident and/or EMW Scholarship recipient, who are all guests of Kitchen 8. RSVP BY APRIL 15. PAY \$20 EACH ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR.**

12 PM **Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Award Presentation**

2:30 PM **Join our Guided Tour of James A. Naismith's "Rules of Basketball"**, DeBruce Center, next to Allen Fieldhouse

5:30 PM **Dutch Treat Drinks & Dinner together**, Port Fonda Mexican Restaurant, 900 New Hampshire (adjoining the TownePlace)

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

2-4 PM **Watkins and Miller Alumnae Teas at each hall**

4:30 PM **Honoring "Lady Bountiful"** Traditional visit to lay flowers on the grave of Elizabeth Miller Watkins at Oak Hill Cemetery, 1605 Oak Hill Ave., follow 13th St. east of Massachusetts St.)

**BRUNCH AND PROGRAM RESERVATIONS: RSVP FOR REGISTRATION AND THE BRUNCH, \$20 EACH, BY APRIL 15 VIA ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**ONLINE:** [www.kitchen8.org](http://www.kitchen8.org) (Pay online with PayPal)  
**EMAIL:** [normahoagland@kitchen8.org](mailto:normahoagland@kitchen8.org) (Pay at the door)  
**PHONE:** 913-775-3685

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** Book your group rate for Kitchen 8 at 785-842-8800 or [tps.foets.sales@marriott.com](mailto:tps.foets.sales@marriott.com)

TownePlace Suites by Marriott, 900 New Hampshire

# celebrating SISTERHOOD

## *2017 Annual Meeting bridges past and present alumnae, recipients*

### 2017 WELCOME PARTY

The first event in a weekend packed with fun AND serious appreciation for Miller and Watkins Halls started with a “Come as You Were” Taco Bar at Hampton Inn to meet and greet early arrivals. Some of us dragged out our old Watkins or Miller Tee shirts for a great visit with past schol hall women whom we hadn’t seen in years! It was like we started up right where we left off – enjoying laughs and great conversation – and even our guests joined in the fun! Comments like “Oh my goodness, is that you?” were repeated several times, along with “I didn’t recognize you”, the ever-hesitant “You look familiar”, and that perennial favorite, “You haven’t changed a bit.”

### 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

The formal program started on Saturday at 10 a.m. at Maceli’s with a look at why “Miller Love” really does describe the relationships that developed at Miller Scholarship Hall. Alica Thomas of Miller ’90-94, Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley of Miller 2003-8, and Judy (Johnson) Niebaum of Miller ’58-61 shared their memories of events that created lasting friendships, supportive

relationships, and marriages that have stood the test of time. In a show of “Miller Love”, the young, nervous Judy was aided by Miller Hall women even before she moved there by receiving letters of welcome with helpful tips from them! Even though their recollections described different decades, the “Miller Love” among the residents was displayed in each. Kay Sul-

linger Wible, Rita Marie Crews, and Bonnie Viner who were in Miller hall together in the late 1970s, shared their lifelong friendship which began that first week at Miller and continued through the years by means of “Round Robin” letters mingled with personal visits and calls. The descriptions of “Miller Love” shared by our speakers reflected the fact that Miller was a nurturing haven for learning, making connections with other women, and it became an inspiring foundation for their futures. No wonder Kitchen 8 is dedicated to the memory of the woman who made this unique educational experience possible.

### PROGRAM: BOUNTIFUL LEGACY

During the brunch, Kitchen 8 and the scholarship award winners played a trivia game in which we



**AT LEFT:** (Left to Right) Kay Wible, Rita Marie Crews and Bonnie Viner, who shared their “Miller Love” story of Round-Robin Letters at the K8 Annual Meeting in 2017. **BELOW:** Scholarship Awards Brunch 2017 at Maceli’s.



learned more about “The Bountiful Legacy of Jabez and Elizabeth Miller Watkins”. You might have won the trivia game if you had known that Mrs. Watkins benefi-  
cance was a result of collaborations with her husband, Jabez, in which they made plans to give to their

community and to the University in part because they had no children. Thank you, Elizabeth and Jabez, for thinking of us! According to historian Robert Taft, a KU student who developed smallpox in 1905 was isolated to a cabin on an island in the Kaw River and food was left by friends on a tree stump nearby. This horrific story sparked efforts by students and teachers to provide health care for KU students in various locations in Lawrence, but never resulted in a permanent hospital. Upon noticing the need for a permanent hospital for KU, Mrs. Watkins donated the money to build Watkins Memorial Hospital in 1931. That is “trivia” that is not trivial!

### TOUR: LEGACY IN STONE

Later in the day, a tour of Lawrence Memorial Hospital, part of Elizabeth’s “Legacy in Stone” was attended by many of the Kitchen 8 members. Since LMH was originally built and equipped by Mrs. Watkins, the alumnae of Watkins and Miller Scholarship



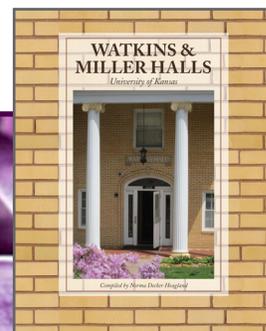
**ABOVE:** Alumnae and current residents attending the Lawrence Memorial Hospital Tour. This photo was taken by the original building cornerstone.

Halls enjoyed learning more about our benefactress. With \$200,000 in funds supplied by Elizabeth, the original 50-bed building was constructed and occupied in the fall of 1929. In 1937, an addition to the north, again made possible by funds donated by Mrs. Watkins, was constructed to bring the total number of beds to 75. After the hospital was built, the first baby born there was named Elizabeth in gratitude to our “Lady Bountiful”.

Earl Reineman, Major Gifts Officer for Lawrence Memorial Hospital and Janice Early, Vice-President of Marketing and Communication were our cheerful and sharing hosts. Their enthusiasm for Mrs. Watkins matches our own and they shared many artifacts from the historical records of the hospital with us. They noted “In giving the funds for the hospital, Mrs. Watkins echoed Dr. Barnes’ vision as she stipulated that ‘no person shall be excluded on account of race, or physical, social or financial condition.’ That commitment prevails to this day.”

## Watkins & Miller HALLS BOOK

*Watkins & Miller Halls, a book newly published by the Historic Mount Oread Friends, details the story of Elizabeth Miller Watkins and her development of the two scholarship halls at the University of Kansas. The book was compiled by Kitchen 8 President Norma (Decker) Hoagland and launched during our 2016 Kitchen 8 Annual Meeting in April.*



To purchase your copy of the *Watkins & Miller Halls* book, order from the University Press website at <http://kansaspess.ku.edu/978-0-7006-2275-7.html>.

## PRESIDENT'S PANTRY: *Thanks to the Committee for Preservation*

A new gift was given to Kitchen 8 during 2017- a story worth telling. Before Kitchen 8, there was a group named the Committee for Preservation for Watkins and Miller Scholarship Halls (CPWMSH). It was begun by those brave residents who initiated the lawsuit against Bank of America to see the accounting of the Watkins and Miller Trust set up by Elizabeth. As they graduated, they formed this group. They followed the lawsuit, provided legal funds and kept alumnae informed of Court action. Many K8 members gave donations to this group. They used the funds wisely and well.

However, as the lawsuit came to a close and years passed, the group and their nonprofit status became dormant. At one of the Alumnae Teas, former President of CPWMSH, Kellie Hogan, mentioned to me that K8 was doing good work and perhaps their funds could be donated to us. According to IRS rules, CPWMSH could only gift their funds to another 501(c)3. The K8 Board had asked me to get K8 nonprofit status at this same time. Serendipity!

Kellie corresponded with Julie Mettenburg, former CPWMSH Legal Chair and Janice McLean, former Treasurer, for approval. Janice worked with their Credit Union for a number of months, ensuring all was done within IRS guidelines. The fund was released and transferred over to Kitchen 8.

K8 extends thanks to all these generous women for their faith in the work K8 is doing. We were delighted to receive their donation of approximately \$10,000 into our Sugar Bowl fund,

which is used to support W&M Halls. Many thanks to CPWMSH!

This leads me to another topic worth discussing: I have had many alumnae speak to me about giving money to Kitchen 8, but wishing to dedicate their money directly to support the women in Watkins and/or Miller Hall. This describes our "Sugar Bowl", which is now a nonprofit tax-deductible fund. It has been said that "Sugar Bowl" sounds like a "slush fund" and if so, perhaps we need to re-name it! How about simply the K8 Fund? This is where you want your dollars to go if you want to directly pay for Hall events, Hall photos, New Woman Booklets, K8 Annual Meeting, website and magazine. With your help, we want to continue and expand projects like these.

K8's scholarship program, the EMW Memorial Scholarship Fund is open to all deserving women at KU, not just Watkins or Miller women. So, if your wish is to provide financial support for any deserving KU woman, that is where your dollars should go. It is also a nonprofit tax-deductible fund.

Only you know which fund you would choose, but please choose one. Return a small portion of the gift you were given by the reduced cost we all paid for housing, thanks to Elizabeth's dream of a scholarship hall. A yearly gift of \$25 or \$50 would help us maintain the level of support we all yearn to give these bright young women.

With gratitude, first to Elizabeth, then to all of you,

**BY NORMA (DECKER) HOAGLAND**  
*Kitchen 8 President*

### KELLIE HOGAN

*Kellie Hogan's hometown is Wichita, Kansas. She lived in Watkins Hall from 1989-1992 and was Proctor 1990-1991.*

*Then she was the Scholarship Hall Director of Miller Hall from 1993-1995. Kellie graduated from the University of Kansas, with a B.A. Political Science 1992 (summa cum laude) then got her law degree at the University of Kansas in 1995.*



*For as long as she can remember, Kellie Hogan has been a perpetual advocate of the underdog. Since 1997, she has strived to turn hopeless causes into hopeful ones as an attorney for Kansas Legal Services, a non-profit law firm. She is a proud human rights attorney with a practice specializing in the representation of children whose parents are not able to care for them. Currently, she serves as President of the Wichita Public Library Board. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and is an avid knitter. Kellie says "Watkins and Miller Halls provided me with lifelong friendships, invaluable life lessons, and many happy memories."*

### JANICE MCLEAN

*Janice McLean came to Miller Hall in 1991-95 from Scammon, Kansas. She was Miller's Proctor 1993-94. Janice was a former treasurer for CPWMH.*

*An anthropology major, she achieved both her BA and MA from KU. She is a professional archaeologist and regional operations manager for R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., an award-winning cultural resource management group specializing in the preservation disciplines of archaeology, architectural history and history.*





# WATKINS MUSEUM TO OPEN PERMANENT EMW Exhibit

*Continuing the Watkins Legacy*  
 Giving Back: *Philanthropy in Lawrence*, a core exhibit planned for the third floor of the Watkins Museum of History, will explore the heritage of private philanthropy and its impact on our community. The exhibit will share stories of key local philanthropists with a primary focus on Elizabeth Miller Watkins, who set the standard for community support. Her innovative efforts drew national attention and established a tradition in Lawrence of giving for the common good. The causes she promoted—affordable education through the Watkins and Miller Scholarship Halls, public health through Lawrence Memorial Hospital and KU's Watkins Hospital, and community development through the use of the Watkins bank building by the city—will be highlighted using historic photographs, documents, and artifact displays. Featured artifacts will include Jayhawk-themed furniture custom designed for Watkins Hospital. The community support of people like Tensie Oldfather, Raymond Rice, and the Beach Family also will be chronicled.



Architect's rendering, *Giving Back: Philanthropy in Lawrence*

The Douglas County Historical Society, which operates the Watkins Museum, has launched an effort to raise the funds needed to complete the third floor core exhibits and make much-needed repairs to the historic Watkins Building. This initiative, History Moving Forward, seeks to raise \$1 million in donations, pledges, and grants. More than \$390,000 has already been secured, and the community fundraising effort will start in 2018.

The DCHS Board of Directors and Watkins Museum staff would greatly appreciate the support of the members of Kitchen 8. Given both our organizations' origins in Elizabeth Miller Watkins' philanthropy, it seems fitting that we work together to assure her legacy is better known by the community-at-large. Should Kitchen 8 raise the \$8,500 required to install the *Giving Back* exhibit, we would be honored to identify them in the display as exhibit sponsors.



Bed  
 Watkins Hospital  
 1920s

If you would like to make a donation or pledge to support this exhibit project, please contact me.

Thank you for your support and continued involvement with the Watkins Museum.

Steve Nowak  
 Executive Director  
 Douglas County Historical Society  
 785-841-4109  
[snowak@watkinsmuseum.org](mailto:snowak@watkinsmuseum.org)

*If you are delighted that there will be a permanent exhibit on Elizabeth Miller Watkins, please send your contribution to the Watkins Museum of History, 1047 Massachusetts, Lawrence, KS 66044.*

**PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING, ANY AMOUNT WILL HELP US REACH THIS GOAL. THANK YOU!**

*Clearly mark that you are a member of Kitchen 8! We are offered the opportunity to be shown as "exhibit sponsor" if we reach a milestone of \$8,500 in collective Kitchen 8 donations. How appropriate that we, Elizabeth's Daughters, should be mentioned at this exhibit?*

# scholarship COMMITTEE

*EMW Memorial Fund Scholarship continues to change to reflect the times*

On February 26, 1998 the founders of Kitchen 8 established the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund (“Scholarship Fund”) at Greater Kansas City Community Foundation with an initial contribution of \$15,074.

Since then, members of Kitchen 8, along with their families and friends, have supported the Scholarship Fund

through ongoing annual contributions as well as contributions in honor of and in memory of loved ones. These contributions included a significant contribution from the Janice Gartrell Charitable Remainder Trust in 2009. The value of the Scholarship Fund has grown to \$1,400,000 as of December 31, 2017.

As the Scholarship Fund has grown, number and dollar amount of the awards have increased from one or two residents of Watkins and Miller Scholarship Halls receiving \$500 per year to 26 recipients for the 2017-2018 academic year who received a total of \$72,000.

Currently, first year recipients receive \$2,000 per semester for a total first-year award of \$4,000 per recipient. Individuals meeting ongoing

eligibility requirements may receive subsequent awards, typically \$1,000 per semester, for up to a maximum of \$10,000 during their academic career at KU.

Eligibility requirements for recipients have been revised to reflect the increasing complexities of academic programs and the varied requirements for students to graduate and accomplish their career goals. Initially scholarships were granted only

to students enrolled full-time in undergraduate programs. During the past several years, we have expanded our eligibility requirements so that we can continue to support renewing recipients who are enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs and/or are engaged in academic activities such as student teaching that support their career goals.

With the implementation of on-line applications, internet tools to help advertise the scholarship, and a growing number of recipients, friends, and members of Kitchen 8



**AT RIGHT:** *The 2017-2018 Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Recipients with the Selection Committee members.*

who are supporting the process, we have been able to expand the scholarship opportunity to all women attending The University of Kansas. Some, but not all, of the current recipients are scholarship hall residents.

The selection committee includes 15 women who have lived in Watkins or Miller and/or have received a scholarship. Committee members live all over the US. The size of the committee allows individual members to serve when they are able and have a break when life becomes too busy to commit to the important process of selecting scholarship recipients. Each year, selection committee members express immense gratitude for the privilege of reading the applications and learning about the lives of the many inspired and talented applicants. If you are interested in joining the selection committee, please contact Susan Kissinger, committee chair, at [scholarship@kitchen8.org](mailto:scholarship@kitchen8.org).

For those wishing to better understand the application process, you can find published eligibility guidelines, review the online application questions, and read Elizabeth Miller Watkins' biography using the following links.

- **First time application:** [gkccf.academicworks.com/opportunities/1339](http://gkccf.academicworks.com/opportunities/1339)
- **Renewal application:** [gkccf.academicworks.com/opportunities/1345](http://gkccf.academicworks.com/opportunities/1345)

**BY SUSAN (HARSHAW) KISSINGER**  
EMW Memorial Scholarship Selection  
Committee Chair

## HER LEGACY...*Our Inspiration*

*To honor the generous legacy of Mrs. Watkins, past residents of Watkins and Miller Halls, through Kitchen 8, established the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund in 1998. The Fund that began with a few hundred dollars awarded \$72,000 in scholarships in 2017-2018. We would like to thank all who have donated. It is amazing how one woman's vision can impact so many women's lives.*



**ELIZABETH MILLER WATKINS** was born in 1861 in New Paris, Ohio, daughter of a Civil War doctor. When Elizabeth was 11, her family moved to Lawrence where she enrolled in the KU Prep School. Sadly, after only 2 years, she was forced to drop out and help support her family. Elizabeth would later turn her own unfulfilled dream of an education into a legacy for generations of women to come.

At 15 she began work at the J B Watkins Land and Mortgage Co. She and JB were married in 1909. They had no children of their own and after JB's death in 1921, she

turned her attention to the plans of giving she and JB had made. With a \$75,000 donation in 1925, Watkins Hall opened in 1926, the first scholarship hall in America. Building on that success, Miller Hall opened in 1937. Mrs. Watkins also created and gave a trust to provide for the maintenance and upkeep of both halls, which is still active today.

**JANICE GARTRELL** lived in Watkins Scholarship Hall from 1939-1942. She was known as "Giggles" and "Garter" to her friends at Watkins.

She enjoyed her room-mates, taking pictures and she excelled academically. She had an outstanding career in the oil business and loved



to travel. After her passing in March of 2009, the EMWMSF received the funds of the Janice Gartrell Charitable Remainder Trust, enabling Kitchen 8 to award generous scholarships to deserving young KU women. Janice Gartrell was truly a woman who embodied Mrs. Watkins' legacy.

# EMW

## Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship

### 2017-2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### ASHLEY FARROW

*Cave Creek, Arizona*

Ashley will be a junior in her third year of a five year program in Architecture/Architectural Engineering. Realizing there would be no money for college and inspired

by her mother who worked multiple jobs to support the family, Ashley determined she could work as hard for her education. In addition to her course work, she is a Resident Assistant for thirty girls, represents her studio in the school of architecture student council, and with her team will build a fun outdoor space for a girls home in Lawrence. She shared, "My passion for architecture and the environment drives me to always want to learn more. My education will help me reach my goal to create sustainable buildings that will help our planet."



#### BRENDA SARMIENTO

*Kansas City, Kansas*

Brenda will be a freshman majoring in pre-medicine. She is a first-generation college student and shared, "Like Mrs. Watkins I also

believe that all women should receive a good and strong education. It's always been my dream to attend The University of Kansas. I value my education so much because it helps me connect with the people I see every day, at my job and around the world on the internet." Brenda is currently taking a Certified Nurse Assistant course so that she can get a start on her career goal of becoming a Pediatric nurse. In addition to taking leadership roles in her high



school's National Honor Society, 20/20 Leadership and Student Council, she plays varsity soccer.

#### EDAN BELIHU

*Shawnee, Kansas*

Edan, a first generation college student, will be a freshman studying biology and psychology. During high school, she has been active in health related programs and has served in leadership roles for Dream Team. Edan grew up in Ethiopia and at the age of eleven, after a long separation, she was able to join her father in the United States. She acknowledged the blessings of her dad and great teachers who supported her through the challenges of navigating a new culture and a new language. Edan shared, "No matter how difficult my path has been I never gave up, and I aspired to dream higher than I thought I could reach. Mrs. Watkins is the type of person who never gave up."



#### MARISSA MORENO

*Kansas City, Kansas*

Marissa, a first generation college student, will be a freshman studying civil engineering. Marissa has volunteered at Vacation Bible School every year since fifth grade; she babysits for a young girl with spinabifida, sings in her high school choir, and cantors at several parishes in the Kansas City area. She shared in her application: "Education has been my rock throughout my life. School is my safe place and it makes me feel amazing. In academia, I am not some misunderstood girl in an unideal situation. Education is how I am going to change my life." She also wrote: "Elizabeth Miller Watkins realized that helping young girls like myself was a way to change the world."



#### MARIYA MCGILLIVARY

*Lawrence, Kansas*

Mariya, a first generation college student, will be completing her final year in a five year Mechanical Engineering program. She shared that she was the only girl on her



middle school football team and she was a starting player. She went on to say that “she used the criticism from school staff to strive to work harder. I think Mrs. Watkins would have grinned from that one.” As a Young Life volunteer leader, Mariya has served at life changing work weeks and summer camps and next year she will share a house with four other Young Life friends. She wrote in her application, “I strive to contagiously spread love and joy, be a motivation for others, and a role model for my brother.”

## MELISSA O'NEAL

### *Lawrence, Kansas*

Melissa, a first generation college student, will be a senior majoring in Community Health Education. An active volunteer, she is certified to coach several sports in the Douglas County Special Olympics, works with elementary school students to improve their reading skills and promote fitness and movement, and helps children on the autism spectrum learn water safety and swimming skills through the Sensory Supported Aquatics program at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She started an organization on the KU campus called, Hawks with Hawklets. As a parent herself, she hopes that this club “will provide an environment that will help support parents who are going back to college.”



## NHI BUI

### *Olathe, Kansas*

Nhi, a first generation college student, will be in her fourth year of the 5 year Doctor of Pharmacy program. Nhi was called upon to communicate, translate, and support her parents as her mother dealt with a life-threatening medical condition. She wrote, “Going through this process guided me towards the field of medicine, and ultimately led to my decision to pursue a career in pharmacy. I want to be out in the field and work with poor communities. I hope to make a significant impact in my community.” Nhi volunteers at Watkins Health Center as a navigator. Nhi’s experience last year living at Margaret Amini Scholarship Hall gave her a “new perspective on how women can empower each other.”



## NOOSHIN SHAHLARI

### *Leawood, Kansas*

Nooshin will be a junior majoring in Chemical Engineering. Nooshin has been involved in several research projects at KU; designing a new eye drop for chronic dry eye, improving production of spinal implants, and *Rhodiola rosea*. While in high school, she founded Smart Smiles in Kansas City, MO, an organization “aimed at enriching the lives of kids in orphanage homes by tutoring them in major subjects, and just spending time with them while they are facing a rough time in their lives.” Nooshin shared, “Mrs. Watkins reminds me of my grandmother. Although my grandmother never attended college she passed on many lessons, like working hard and having a growth mindset through challenges.”



## SOFIA DE LA O

### *Bel Aire, Kansas*

Sofia is in her fifth year of a five year program in chemical engineering with a pre-medicine concentration. Sofia shared, “Elizabeth Miller Watkins and her legacy have made an impact on my life since the day I moved into Douthart Scholarship Hall. Her generosity and novel vision for creating a housing arrangement that enables women, like me, to live cooperatively and cut expenses led to the formation of the scholarship hall community that welcomed me with open arms and inspired me to become an active student on campus.” Sofia’s service experiences working with children from the Boys and Girls Club “developed into a desire to become a Resident Assistant and serve as a mentor for younger KU students.”



## SOPHIA SANCHEZ

### *Derby, Kansas*

Sophia, a first generation college student, will be a junior majoring in psychology on a pre-med track. Sophia excelled in high school and her parents were fully supportive of higher education. However, she felt unprepared and without guidance for all the options and decisions



involved in going to college. She shared that “it was all very new to me and my parents” who had emigrated from Mexico. In the end, I’m very happy that I decided on KU and someday I hope that I can provide guidance to someone who needs it.” Sophia volunteers with hospice care and was recently involved in a KU research lab studying ways to improve the efficacy of group therapy for people struggling with substance abuse.

## 2017-2018 AWARD RENEWAL RECIPIENTS

### ADELAIDA MENDOZA

*Holcomb, Kansas*  
2ND-YEAR RECIPIENT

Next academic year, Adelaida will be a junior continuing to work towards a major in English. She shared, “As of this semester, I am going to begin my LSAT Prep Course! It is definitely one of the first steps towards my chosen career. As soon as the course ends, I will be headed to Europe to a month long excursion called the British Summer Institute! This faculty-led trip will count towards Adelaida’s English degree. Adelaida just became a HUG co-coordinator for the KU Center for Community Outreach and she expressed her gratitude for the opportunity “to begin giving back to Lawrence.”



### ALLYSSA DEJARNETTE

*Lee’s Summit, Missouri*  
2ND-YEAR RECIPIENT

Allyssa will be a senior with a major in Elementary Education. She shared, “This year my academic plans have shifted moderately. I realized that I have a passion for working with individuals with special needs. I volunteered for two sessions at Camp Encourage, a specialized camp for kiddos elementary aged through high school aged on the autistic spectrum. I absolutely loved it. Now, I am involved in the Transition to Post Secondary Education Program at KU which allows students with developmental disabilities to pursue degrees. I am less involved in music, as a result, but I believe that I am following the path to pursue my dreams.” Allyssa will enter practicum placements in the Fall and student teach in the Spring.



### BAILEY RENDZIA

*DeSoto, Kansas*  
4TH-YEAR RECIPIENT

Next academic year Bailey, a first generation college student, will be a senior continuing her studies in the School of Engineering. In her renewal application, she shared that she “will also be pursuing an internship with Johnson County Public Works & Infrastructure during this school year to learn more about field work in civil engineering. Bailey shared that as a Civil Engineer, she “will be able to work on projects that benefit my community and come up with innovative solutions to problems people face throughout the world.”



### CECILIA VILLANUEVA

*Hutchinson, Kansas*  
3RD-YEAR RECIPIENT

Next academic year Cecilia, a first generation college student, will be a senior majoring in Microbiology. She shared, “My plans for the upcoming school year are to successfully complete my last year of undergraduate at KU and graduate in the Spring of 2018. I plan to continue to live in Miller Scholarship Hall and be heavily involved in the running of this home by continuing to be a part of the executive board. I also plan to continue my undergraduate research, which I have had the wonderful opportunity to really drip my foot into this year, including the opportunity to present my research at a conference.”



### CHEYENNE BROWN

*Kansas City, Kansas*  
3RD-YEAR RECIPIENT

Cheyenne will be a junior next year and will continue her studies in Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology. She shared in her renewal application, “I hope to continue working as a Teaching Assistant for the Undergraduate Biology program and to join more organizations that will help facilitate my education in the Biology program, as well as support my educational goals of getting into veterinary school.



Cheyenne said: "I truly believe that with all of the support I have received from family, friends, and of course, Kitchen 8, I will be able to make my dreams a reality."

## DANIELLE GERETY

*Wichita, Kansas*  
2ND-YEAR RECIPIENT

Danielle will be a junior majoring in Microbiology with a pre-Clinical Laboratory Sciences emphasis. Danielle's academic plans changed dramatically this year. During Fall of 2016, while working in undergraduate research and shadowing physicians, she realized that she no longer wanted to become a Pathologist. She wrote, "I was devastated because I felt like I had no idea where my life was heading and in what direction I wanted my career to go; however, I knew that I wanted to continue with science. I applied for the Clinical Laboratory Sciences program at The University of Kansas Medical Center and hope to be taking classes at KU Med Center in Kansas City next year."



## DESTINY SHELTON

*Stafford, Kansas*  
3RD-YEAR RECIPIENT

Destiny, a first generation college student, will be graduating from KU in May 2017 with a BGS in Psychology and a minor in Business. She has applied to attend the Social Welfare Graduate Program at The University of Kansas Medical School in Kansas City starting in Fall 2017. In addition to her 20 hour course load this spring semester, Destiny is a tutor and an Oliver Residence Hall Desk Assistant.



## JORDAN MERADITH

*Omaha, Nebraska*  
4TH-YEAR RECIPIENT

Jordan will complete her student teaching required for a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She found her passion for teaching through her job at Hilltop Child Development Center where she has worked since her second semester at KU. She writes: "I am very excited to start my student teaching next



year! I recently got a kitten named Elvie." Jordan is head coach for a middle school girls volleyball team through the Lawrence Department of Parks and Recreation.

## JULIA SANTOS

*Holcomb, Kansas*  
2ND-YEAR RECIPIENT

Julia will be a senior continuing her studies in Biology, with a focus on the pre-medicine track. She writes, "This next year I will be dedicating much more of my time studying for the MCAT and next Fall I will be applying to various medical schools (KU Med being first priority). Julia works as a peer leader through KU's PLUS program. She is a Biology I tutor. Julia shared in her renewal application: "The next few years of my academic journey will continually become more expensive. Any support, financially and emotionally, would be greatly appreciated."



## JULIE HIEGER

*Andale, Kansas*  
2ND-YEAR RECIPIENT

Julie will graduate in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Behavioral Science. Starting in the Fall 2017, she will continue her education in the Masters of Occupational Therapy program at The University of Kansas Medical School. Wrapping up her senior year, she reminisced about her time at KU saying, "I have been blessed by being a past member of Watkins Scholarship Hall, where I met many great friends and my current roommate. As I go forward, I leave with fond memories and am proud to continue as a Jayhawk. What is going on in my life now is that I am realizing my blessings and looking forward to the future, whatever that entails."



## KATE MCCURDY

*Andale, Kansas*  
3RD-YEAR RECIPIENT

Kate will be a senior majoring in Civil Engineering with a minor in Business Administration. Kate participates in many activities includ-



ing KU Women's Chorale, Society of Women Engineers, and KU Swim Club. As a resident of Margaret Amini scholarship hall, Kate noted that she sees Mrs. Watkins as a supporter of young women and a role model. She expressed great appreciation for the support provided through the scholarship. Kate will be participating in the regional Concrete Canoe Competition on April 22.

**KATIE STRNAD**

*Munden, Kansas*  
**4TH-YEAR RECIPIENT**

Katie will complete her 6th and final year of pharmacy school at the University of Kansas next year. The last year of training is structured around experiential learning and during the months from June 2017-April 2018, Katie will complete nine pharmacy rotations. She writes, "I am very excited to continue my education with these experiential rotations and begin putting into practice what I have learned in the classroom!" She also shared, "At the end of each year I complete in pharmacy school I am more convinced that I have chosen a career path I am passionate about. I would not be able to pursue this dream without the support and generosity of scholarships like the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship!"



**KATY WINKEL**

*Glen Elder, Kansas*  
**2ND-YEAR RECIPIENT**

Next year Katy will be in her 5th year in the six-year PharmD program. She writes in her renewal application, "The coursework continues to be very challenging, and I continue to work as many hours as possible at the Hy-Vee in Overland Park as a pharmacy intern. I am really enjoying my job at Hy-Vee and am learning a great deal from my customer interactions." Katy started working at a retail pharmacy near her hometown at the age of fourteen. The owner and pharmacist encouraged her pursuit of this career path and inspired her dream to attend the KU School of Pharmacy.



**KAYLA WEGLEY**

*Ozark, Missouri*  
**3RD-YEAR RECIPIENT**

Kayla, a 1st generation college student, graduated in December 2017 with a BFA in Dance. Kayla wrote, "I am very excited to be continuing work in research and production on choreography analysis and funding in modern dance. I was awarded an internship through my department this Fall that allowed me to work closely with an international artist, as well as gave me new passion and direction for my career. I have been fortunate to continue to work, and participate in leadership with the University Dance Company and Miller Scholarship Hall."



**MADISON REED**

*Edgerton, Kansas*  
**1ST-YEAR RECIPIENT**

Madison was awarded the EMW Scholarship 2016-17. However, her plans changed and she did not attend KU. To pursue her dream of becoming a nurse practitioner, Madison has been admitted to the new partnership program at Johnson County Community College, which will allow her to simultaneously pursue an Associate Degree from JCCC and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from KU. Madison shared in her renewal application: "So far, the road to pursuing a nursing degree has been longer and more difficult than I ever anticipated it to be. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to remain a part of the Elizabeth Miller Watkins family, even as a non-traditional student in a new and exciting program."



**RAJVI SHAH**

*Overland Park, Kansas*  
**3RD-YEAR RECIPIENT**

Rajvi will graduate from KU in May, 2017, with a Bachelor of Science in Neurobiology. She has been accepted to the University of Kansas, School of Medicine, as an early decision candidate. She is currently studying abroad in Costa Rica and will begin medical school in the Fall. Her experiences shadowing physicians at KU Med Center motivated her to pursue a career in pediatric neurology.



# sisters

## WE HAVE LOST

We would like to extend K8 heart-felt sympathy to all of these families who have lost a loved one. Sadly, we don't always know when a sister passes away, but we always care.

### **RUTH ELOISE (GREEN) SAFFELL**

*Miller 1941-45*

Ruth Eloise (Green) Saffell (Miller, 41-45) passed away October 7, 2016 at the age of 93. Ruth, who graduated from KU with a degree in architectural engineering in 1946, was the first woman invited to join the campus engineering organization Men of Marvin. Ruth married Thomas F. Saffell on December 20, 1946, in Lawrence, Kansas.

In 2000, Ruth wrote an eloquent letter to the judge hearing the Watkins & Miller Trust lawsuit about the importance of ensuring that the trust was used as Elizabeth Miller Watkins had intended – to maintain the halls and keep the housing fees low as a form of scholarship. In her letter, Ruth remembered her conversations with Miller housemother Mrs. Stayton, who had been friends with Mrs. Watkins, about how important it was to Mrs. Watkins that her scholarship halls made it possible for talented women of limited means to receive a college education.

Ruth is survived by her sister, Virginia Higgins of Hutchinson; her five children Susan Mayo of Wichita, KS, Linda Kraus of Waco, TX, Thomas Saffell of Abilene, KS, Cindy Lightner of Garden City, KS, and Kirk Saffell of San Antonio, TX; and many grandchildren and great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

**OBITUARY:** <http://www.gctelegram.com/f8647710-39a1-50b5-a901-37f0aee32150.html>

### **MAURINE (WATERSTRADT) ADAMS**

*Watkins 1941-45*

Maurine (Waterstradt) Adams (Watkins, 1941-45) passed away



September 13, 2017 at the age of 93. Maurine graduated from KU in 1945 with a degree in Mathematics, and in 1972 from Emporia State with a Master's Degree in Library Science. Maurine married Paul D. Adams on June 24, 1945, in Lawrence, Kansas.

Maurine was a librarian of Osage City High School for twenty years. Maurine was an avid Jayhawk; she served a term on the Board of Directors of the Kansas Union and received the Mildred Clodfelter award in 1989 for her support of the Kansas Honors Program.

Maurine is survived by three daughters, Carol Ann (Clifton) Brown, of Alexandria, Virginia; Gwen Adams of St. Louis, Missouri; and Dr. Susan Adams of St. Louis, Missouri.

**OBITUARY:** <https://www.och-c.com/?q=content/nona-maurine-adams>

### **MURIEL KATHLEEN (STEMBER) HANNIG**

*Watkins 1943-46*

Muriel Kathleen (Stember) Hannig (Watkins, 43-46) passed away September 17, 2016 at the age of 91. She graduated from the University of Kansas in 1946, earned a Master's in zoology at the University of Illinois. Muriel briefly worked in research at the Mayo Clinic, and was active in volunteer work with a number of organizations throughout her life.

Muriel married Shelton Marshall Hannig on January 30, 1949 in Ozawkie, KS, in a triple wedding ceremony with her sisters Donna and Beverly (also Watkins girls) and their husbands. (See the 2013 K8 Newsletter, page 20) Muriel and Shel were able to travel to more than

40 countries during their marriage.

Muriel is survived by her daughters, Cindy Hannig Neels and Vickie Hannig, two grandchildren, Alice and Henry Neels, two great grandchildren, and her sister Beverly West.

**OBITUARY:** <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/azcentral/obituary.aspx?pid=181812921>

## HELEN ELAINE (MARTIN) GILLES

*Miller 1939-42*

Dr. Helen Elaine (Martin) Gilles (Miller 1939-42) passed away September 27, 2017 at the age of 95. Helen attended the University of Kansas for her undergraduate degree and then graduated from the KU Medical School in 1945. Helen married Paul Wilson Gilles in December 1944.

A pioneer for women in the medical field in the state of Kansas, Helen began a pediatric practice in Lawrence in 1948 with another pediatrician, Dr. Mary Boyden – they were the only pediatricians in town at the time. Even after retiring from her

practice in 1982, Helen continued to practice medicine at the Student Health Service of Haskell Indian Nations University and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Clinic in Holton serving the Kickapoo, Potawatomi, and Iowa reservations. In 1971, Helen was inducted into the KU Women’s Hall of Fame by the Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity and was recognized as an honored member of the University Women’s Club in 2003.

Helen and her sister Corrine (Martin) Ervin (Watkins 1936-40) were the source of a favorite Kitchen 8 story. Both were living in the halls when First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was to make a visit. All the girls were in a flurry to look their very best, borrowing dresses and stockings (in short supply during the Depression), pressing and preening. About Mrs. Roosevelt’s visit, Corrine’s words were that “I remember that ‘all the buzz’ when she visited Watkins was that she, the wife of the President of the United States, had a run in her hose!!”

Helen is survived by her children, Timothy (Sealy) Gilles, Becky (Kit) Richardson, Kathleen Seidel; nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren; additionally, by Mary Carter; best friend since 4th grade.

**OBITUARY:** <http://obituaries.ljworld.com/obituaries/ljworld/obituary.aspx?pid=187345575>

**KU WOMEN’S HALL OF FAME ENTRY:** <https://emily-taylorcenter.ku.edu/womens-hall-of-fame/gilles-helen>

**LJ WORLD ARTICLE:** <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2017/sep/30/former-lawrence-pediatrician-helen-gilles-dies/>

## HELEN ELAINE (OWEN) MAHLIK

*Watkins 1955-59*

Helen Elaine (Owen) Mahlik (Watkins 1955-59) passed away July 8, 2017 at the age of 80.

Helen attended the University of Kansas and several of her Watkins housemates – Bev Benso, Gayle Matchett, and Joyce Browder – attended her memorial service together. Bev remembers, “We did pretty well until the soloist sang ‘My Sweetheart of Lilac Lane.’”

After completing her degree at the University of Kansas, Helen followed an adventurous path to places across the globe, including post-graduate education in Brisbane, Australia and teaching at the Department of Defense school in Ludwigsburg, Germany (where she met and married her husband, Darrell Mahlik). In the mid-2000s, Helen was diagnosed with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, a disease with debilitating effects similar to Parkinson’s. After her diagnosis, Helen wrote a brief autobiography to share her memories of her family and her experiences growing up on a farm in Kansas during the Great Depression and how they helped shape her into the woman she became. Helen is survived by her husband, Darrell, and her sons, Doak and Tim.

**OBITUARY:** <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/azcentral/obituary.aspx?pid=186290901>



**ABOVE:** Dr. Helen Martin Gilles (center) with Sean Williams and Mary Burchill, Watkins’ Historian.

## LAVONNE (GODWIN) PLATT

*Watkins 1950-54*

LaVonne (Godwin) Platt (Watkins, 50-54) passed away February 8, 2017 at the age of 84. LaVonne graduated from the University of Kansas in 1954. LaVonne met Dwight Platt in a small discussion group at the Wesley Foundation, at KU, in 1953. In 1956, she joined him in his work for an American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) village development project in Barpali Thana, Orissa, India. They were married in Barpali on June 21, 1956.

LaVonne was a successful teacher, researcher, writer, and editor; she spent her life learning new things and seeking understanding among people(s).

LaVonne is survived by her husband, Dwight Platt; children, Kamala Platt and Richard Platt (Juliet Brown); brother, Duane Godwin (Nony) and numerous extended family members.

**OBITUARY:** <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thekansan/obituary.aspx?pid=184208984>

## CHRISTINE (MANN) ZEIDNER

*Watkins 1949-53*

Christine (Mann) Zeidner (Watkins, 49-53) passed away on December 23, 2015 at the age of 87. Christine graduated from the University of Kansas in 1949 with a degree in Mathematics, at time when it was rare for young women in Kansas to pursue four-year degrees in technical fields.

Christine married Robert Farrer

Zeidner in Junction City, KS on October 29, 1949. In addition to being a devoted wife of a career military officer and mother of four children, Christine had an avid academic drive. She earned a Master of Library Science from the University of Oklahoma in 1970, and then began a career in the Marriott Library at the University of Utah, where she eventually became the head of the library's physical sciences and engineering section as a tenured faculty member.

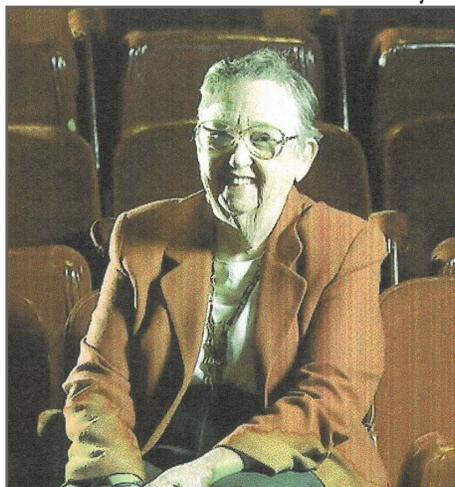
Christine is survived by her husband Robert, sister Mary Ann Womack, and her four children: Jan Busey and husband David; Robert Christian Zeidner and wife Jennifer; Thomas John Zeidner and wife Lydia, and Philip Mann Zeidner.

**OBITUARY:** <http://www.serenitystg.com/obituaries/Christine-Zeidner/#!/Obituary>

## JANE WOFFORD MALIN

*Watkins 1943-46*

Jane Wofford Malin, special friend to K8, passed away on August 4, 2016 at the age of 90. Jane earned a Bachelor's in Zoology in 1945, and an MA in French shortly thereafter, both from the University of Kansas. She earned her Ph.D in French literature in 1961 at the University



of Texas-Austin.

Jane taught French at the University of Houston for over 25 years before returning to Lawrence, where she became very active with the Lawrence Community Theater. In 2006, Jane was given a Phoenix Award for her work as a Volunteer in the Arts. In 2010, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the LCT Board.

The "Watkins Connection" story: Jane and her father, KU Professor James Malin were downtown near the Watkins Bank Building, being used as City Hall. There was a paper drive going on to support WWII and they noticed boxes of paper being thrown out of the 3rd floor windows. They stopped to look and realized they were Jabez Watkins' records of his banking and mortgage company business! So they loaded all they could carry into their car and took these papers home to their basement.

Professor Malin eventually had a graduate student who got interested in Jabez' companies and so was allowed to organize the Watkins Papers from the Malins' basement. His name was Allan G. Bogue and he not only did his thesis on JB's companies, he wrote Money at Interest, The Farm Mortgage on the Middle Border, in 1955. Copies of this book are available to check out from the K8 Archives at the Watkins Museum of History. Jane was always very interested in K8 and supportive of the Watkins legacy.

**OBITUARY:** <http://warrenmcelwain.com/obituary/jane-w-malin/>

**BY MICHELLE LOEWENSTEIN**

*Kitchen 8 Editorial Board*

# DONATE TO KITCHEN 8... *leave your own legacy*

Kitchen 8, a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, is an all-volunteer group of alumnae and friends of Miller and Watkins Scholarship Halls at the University of Kansas. Our mission is to preserve and promote the legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins and "to help the girls who must travel uphill."

Kitchen 8 welcomes all alumnae, friends, and EMW Memorial scholarship recipients, and there are no fees to join.

Kitchen 8 depends upon the generous support of alumnae and friends to fund activities throughout the year. Your tax-deductible contribution to the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund and/or support directly to Kitchen 8 ensures the necessary funding for continued projects and programming.

Thank you for your partnership in advancing the mission of Kitchen 8 & the EMW Memorial Scholarship. Together, we promote the legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins while supporting University of Kansas women.

## KITCHEN 8

*You can celebrate a special person, anniversary, birthday, or retirement with a donation to Kitchen 8; give in honor of a former roommate; or ultimately in memory of a dear one you have lost.*

**KITCHEN 8 SUGAR BOWL:** Each year, dedicated alumnae step up to fund Kitchen 8 activities by providing small contributions to the Kitchen 8 "Sugar Bowl." This fund is used only for the women in Watkins and Miller Halls. As thrifty Miller and Watkins Alumnae, we know the value of a dollar, so we stretch our "Sugar Bowl" funds to cover multiple activities, including: the New Women Dinner, New Women booklet, gifts to the halls to honor Elizabeth Miller Watkins' birthday, All-Hall group photo, Finals Week treats, Hawk Week treats, Annual Meeting costs, and the Kitchen 8 annual newsletter and website maintenance. Kitchen 8 would not be possible without your continued generous donations.

A small contribution of \$25 will ensure the important projects continue to support the residents of Miller and Watkins Hall and promote the generous and charitable legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins.

Your tax-deductible contribution can be made online or checks made payable to "Kitchen 8" may be mailed to:

**Dana Diec, Kitchen 8 Treasurer**  
1204 E. 117th Street, Apt. 5  
Kansas City, MO 64131

If you need more information about the Sugar Bowl fund or have questions about making a donation, please contact Dana Diec at the address above, or at [treasurer@kitchen8.org](mailto:treasurer@kitchen8.org).

Do you have a special project you would like to support? Let us know! New ideas are always welcome.

**ELIZABETH WATKINS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND:** In 1998, the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund grew from the generosity of a small group of dedicated Miller and Watkins alumnae. Starting with just a few hundred dollars, the success of the EMWMSF has grown exponentially over the past 20 years. Last year, the EMWMSF Advisory Board awarded more than \$72,000 to 26 deserving University of Kansas women.



The EMWMSF Advisory Board welcomes contributions so that even more scholarships are available to accomplished, deserving young KU women who have demonstrated financial need.

100% of your contributions to the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Scholarship Fund go directly to scholarship recipients. You may also make your contribution online through the Kitchen 8 website, or directly to the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, the fund trustee, via the following link: [www.growyourgiving.org/greater-giving/contributing/contribute-to-your-fund](http://www.growyourgiving.org/greater-giving/contributing/contribute-to-your-fund).

Checks made payable "Greater Kansas City Community Foundation," noting "Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund" on the memo line, may be mailed directly to:

**GKCCF**  
1055 Broadway  
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

With your support, we can continue to build upon Elizabeth's legacy by supporting the girls who must travel uphill.

# TREASURER'S REPORT:

Our beginning balance for 2017 was \$3,088.18, and our ending balance was \$9,098.93 for the year. In addition to regular donations, we received a generous donation from the Committee for Preservation of Watkins and Miller Scholarship Halls. Thanks to the continued support of our donors, Kitchen 8 has been able to fund activities throughout the year to develop and cultivate a relationship between Kitchen 8 members and the current residents of Watkins Hall and Miller Hall. Please continue to support us in this effort. If you haven't given before, please do so now!

Kitchen 8 purchased gifts from wish lists of the halls to celebrate Elizabeth Miller Watkins Birthday and hosted Elizabeth Miller Watkins Scholarship recipients, recipients' guests, and hall residents to the annual Kitchen 8 meeting and luncheon that is held in conjunction with the scholarship award ceremony. In addition, Kitchen 8 members donated their time and expertise in welcoming new residents at the New Women Dinner by preparing and serving their treasured recipes. Also, this year Kitchen 8 members hosted a "Career Day" and shared their professional knowledge on various topics from proper meal etiquette to social media presence. If you wish to donate or share ideas and activities you would like to see for the next year, please visit our website at <https://kitchen8.org>.

**BY DANA DIEC**

*K8 Treasurer*

## EMW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND & KITCHEN 8 SUGAR BOWL: 2017 Donors

Thank you for your efforts to support the mission of Kitchen 8 & the EMW Memorial Scholarship as together we promote the legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins.

### FROM THE 1930'S

Janice Gartrell Charitable Remainder Trust

### FROM THE 1940'S

Eileen (Griffiths) Bennett (Watkins 1940-44)

Mary (Carter) Gosney-Lancaster (Miller 1947-48)

Donna (Holm) Fisher (Watkins 1946-49)\*

### FROM THE 1950'S

Bev (Runkle) and Eldon Benso (Watkins 1954-58)\*

Ann (Fahrback) Branden (Watkins 1956-59)\*

Lois Margaret (Armstrong) French (Miller 1956-57)

Karen Krueger (Watkins 1956-60), Memorial to Helen Elaine (Owen) Mahlik (Watkins 1955-59)

Gayle (Barry) Matchett (Watkins 1955-57)\*, Memorial to Marion Willey, Memorial to Helen Elaine (Owen) Mahlik (Watkins 1955-59), in honor of Helen Martin Gillis (Miller 1939-42), and in honor of Mary Betz Duroche (Watkins 1952-55)

Judy (Johnson) Niebaum (Miller 1958-61)

Pat (Powers) McClure (Watkins 1952-55)\*

Mary (Harder) and Charles Schroff (Watkins 1951-53), Memorial to Helen Elaine (Owen) Mahlik (Watkins 1955-59)

### FROM THE 1960'S

Jackie Bogner (Watkins 1968-71)

Norma (Decker) and Joe Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71)\*, Memorial to Helen Elaine (Owen) Mahlik (Watkins 1955-59), Memorial to Helen (Martin) Gilles (Miller 1939-42)

Valerie (Vandenberg) Roper (Watkins 1962-64)

### FROM THE 1970'S

Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman (Watkins 1971-75)\*

Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger (Watkins 1970-74)\*

Cathie (Fuller) and Ron Miller (Watkins 1970-73)\*

Jan Perkins (Watkins 1970-72), In honor of Betty Perkins

Pat (Jolly) Putnam (Watkins 1971-74)\*

Nancy (Archer) Rehkamp (Watkins 1970-74)

Sarah (Wohlrahe) and John Shortall (Watkins 1972-76)\*

Camille (Icenogle) Olcese (Watkins 1971-74)

### FROM THE 1980'S

Jackie Zoucha (Miller 1985-88)

### FROM THE 1990'S

Alica Thomas (Miller 1990-94)\*

Shelly (Meseraul) Stumpe (Miller 1995-99)

Stephanie (McDuff) Hamby (Douthart 1995-97)

### FROM THE 2000'S

Lindsay Poe (Watkins 2000-04)

Becky Doyle (Watkins 2000-04)\*

Stevi Ballard (Watkins 2006-10)

Laura (Sixta) Draxler (Watkins 2005-09)

Mary (Emerson) Gomez (Watkins 2004-08)

Emily Hane (Watkins 2008-10)

Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley (Miller 2003-08)\*

Aimee (Richardson) Walkiewicz (Miller 2002-05)

### FRIENDS OF KITCHEN 8

Betty Alderson

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Anderson

Doris Brown\*, Memorial to Carolyn Crocker (Watkins 1944-46)

### MEMORIALS TO HELEN ELAINE (OWEN) MAHLIK (WATKINS 1955-59) BY FRIENDS OF KITCHEN 8

Glen and Judy Bruckhart

Ms. Mary Carlson

Ms. Mildred F Carter and Ms. Anna Marston Carter

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Dorr

JF and JA Ferrin

Ms. Melissa Johnson

Ms. Ednamarie Leslie

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Liethen

Ms. Ann Jessup Macduffee

Mr. Chuck Mahlik

Mr. Doak Mahlik

Mr. and Mrs. John Mahlik

Mr. Dave Makovek

Ms. Barbara P. Mattes

Mr. and Mrs. Laurence F. Miller

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Owen

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Rusnak

Mr. Victor Simonsen

Scott and Julie Thomas

\* Indicates donor also contributed in 2016

# KITCHEN 8

*Alumnae Association for Watkins  
and Miller Scholarship Halls & our  
EMW Memorial Scholarship Recipients*

**2525 STOWE DRIVE  
Lawrence, Kansas 66049**

**WWW.KITCHEN8.ORG**

## **KITCHEN 8 PRESENTS:**

### *2018 Schedule of Events*

#### **FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018**

**3:00 – 5:00 PM**      *K-8 Board Meeting  
Watkins Museum*

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018**

**9:00 AM – 1:30 PM**      *K8 Annual Meeting, Brunch &  
Scholarship Awards  
Maceli's, 1031 New Hampshire*

**2:30 PM**                      *Join our Guided Tour of James A.  
Naismith's "Rules of Basketball"  
DeBruce Center, near Allen Fieldhouse*

**5:30 PM**                      *Dutch Treat Drinks & Dinner  
Port Fonda Mexican Restaurant,  
900 New Hampshire*

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018**

**2:00 – 4:00 PM**              *Alumnae Teas  
Watkins Hall and Miller Hall*

**4:30 PM**                      *Traditional Laying of Flowers  
at Elizabeth's Grave  
Oak Hill Cemetery*

*Elizabeth Miller Watkins*



## **HER LOVING LEGACY CONTINUES, IN YOU**

We take great pride in having lived in Watkins and Miller Halls and being a member now of Kitchen 8. Our gratitude for Elizabeth's gift given to us can be returned in many ways. Our inspiration is that one woman could make such an immense difference with intelligent generosity and faith in education and young women.