



Setting Course for a Bright Future

By Sarah (Wohlrabe) Shortall
K-8 Newsletter Co-Coordinator
Watkins 1972-76

Welcome to the 2012 K-8 Newsletter! BY-LAWS – I can't think of a more boring way to kick off the 2012 K-8 Newsletter than talking about by-laws. If I saw a newsletter that started with a shout out to by-laws I know I would skip the page because anything else has got to be more interesting. And yet, the topic of by-laws has occupied an important part of K-8's agenda this year and figures prominently in the theme of the 2012 Newsletter and Annual Meeting -- *Kitchen 8: Our History and Our Future*.

The theme reminds me of the inscription on "The Future," a statue in front of the National Archives in Washington, DC, where I work. The inscription reads: "What's Past is Prologue." It is from William Shakespeare's "The Tempest" and roughly means – events and lessons of the past have brought us to today and prepare us to move forward into the future, but it is up to us to make that future happen. That makes a lot of sense to me and makes me realize that the proposed K-8 by-laws represent our history and chart our future.

Having by-laws is a sign that K-8, as an organization, "has made it" so to say—we are



K-8 Chair Norma Hoagland congratulates Elizabeth Miller Watkins (Gail Trotter) on her 150th birthday after Mrs. Watkins debut in the play "Elizabeth, Betsy and Bess: A Conversation with Elizabeth Watkins." Event sponsored by Women Philanthropists for KU and photo courtesy of KU Endowment

not a flash in the pan that reacted to the deteriorating conditions at Watkins/Miller in the late 1980s and 1990s and then went home. K-8 has been around now for 15 years. After a decade and a half of exponential growth, it seems safe to say WE ARE HERE TO STAY. That definitely was the feeling at the 2011 K-8 Board meeting when the Board voted unanimously to establish by-laws. When

you are here to stay you gotta have rules.

Kitchen 8 – Our History

When the handful of Watkins and Miller alumnae formed Kitchen 8 back in 1997, their numbers were so small and activities so limited that they could operate informally. However, in 2012 K-8 Secretary Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley (Miller 2003-07) reports in this issue that the K-8 membership roster has more than 500 members. Activities and projects K-8 has undertaken are numerous and growing. Just think about it, K-8 has:

- Established the 1 million dollar Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund (EMWMSF) to help exceptional but needy women attend KU;
- Awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships and awards more than \$50,000 this year, according to EMWMS Selection Committee Co-Chair Gayle (Barry) Matchett's (Watkins 1955-57);
- Established a collection with the Kansas State Historical Society to preserve historical documents about Elizabeth Miller Watkins, Watkins/Miller halls and alumnae and K-8;
- Provided support and assistance every year to Watkins/Miller residents in various ways such as hosting annual new women dinners and teaching residents

Please see 'WELCOME', page 20

'THE Best K-8 Annual Meeting Ever!'

"Sic itur ad astra"

"To reach for the stars" is fitting for the 2012 K-8 Annual Meeting and EMWMS Awards Presentation on Saturday, April 21. The Annual Meeting promises to hit new heights as K-8 explores "Our History and Our Future."

Elizabeth Miller Watkins will make a special appearance before K-8 presents a record number of scholarships. And, for the first time in Kitchen 8's history, we will hold elections for K-8 Board positions and chart a framework for our future by considering and voting on by-laws for K-8.

K-8 President Norma (Decker) Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71) will open the business por-

tion of the Annual Meeting at 9:30 a.m., following registration, coffee and greetings starting at 9 a.m. K-8 Board members and committee chairs will report on their accomplishments in the past year. Of note, K-8 Website Committee Chair Michelle Loewenstein (Watkins 2005-09) will report on the successful launch of the K-8 Website.

EMWMS Fund (EMWMSF) Advisory Committee Chair Alica Thomas (Miller 1990-94) will report on the financial good health of the Fund. EMWMS Selection Committee Co-Chairs Alica Thomas and Gayle (Barry) Matchett (Watkins 1955-57) will highlight changes the committees have made to en-

hance the efficiency and accountability of the scholarship selection and award process.

Historian Samantha (Birchfield) Bunnyfield (Watkins 2003-07), a member of the Annual Meeting Committee, will preside over the first ever K-8 Board elections. The following K-8 members are candidates for a one-year interim term and nominations from the floor will also be allowed:

President: Norma Hoagland;

Vice President: Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman (Watkins 1971-75);

Secretary: Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley (Miller 2003-07);

Please see '2012', page 15



K-8 Board to Meet at Watkins Museum

The Kitchen 8 Board will hold its annual meeting at 2 p.m., Friday, April 20. This year the Board meeting will be at The Watkins Community Museum of History, 1047 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence. The Board meeting is open to all K-8 members, Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents and invited guests.

The tentative agenda for the Board meeting includes:

- K-8 Board and Committee reports;
- Treasurer's Report (K-8 Sugar Bowl) and 2012-13 K-8 budget;
- EMWMSF Advisory Committee financial report;
- K-8 Website management;
- Discussion of a proposed Historic Mount Oread Friends project.

The Watkins Museum offered to host the K-8 Board meeting so Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents could also see the museum's exhibits, which include *"Watkins: The Couple, the Building, the Legacy."* In addition to the exhibits, the museum has a gift and book shop that features items of local history, including the Watkins legacy.

The Watkins Museum, completed in 1888, is the old Watkins National Bank Building where Elizabeth Miller Watkins worked for 30 years before she married Jabez and moved to Lilac Lane. Since 1975, the Douglas County Historical Society has operated the Watkins Museum.

For more information about the K-8 Board meeting or to put an item on the agenda, please contact Norma (Decker) Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71) at normahoagland@kitchen8.org, norma.hoagland@yahoo.com, or 913-727-6446.



K-8 Campus Coordinator Judy Niebaum and Miller Alumnae Chair Megan Ziegler, a past EMWMS recipient who is completing her studies at the KU School of Pharmacy, celebrate another successful year working together to keep Miller alumnae and residents connected.

Tea for Two, Halls That Is

Sunday, April 22, Watkins and Miller will host their annual Alumnae Teas and treat alumnae and friends to tours of the halls, home-baked goods, special presentations and a musical numbers program. In keeping with tradition, the programs will conclude with "My Sweetheart of Lilac Lane."

The Watkins Alumnae Tea will begin at 1 p.m., and the Miller Alumnae Tea will start at 2 p.m.

After the Alumnae Teas, Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents will head to Oak Hill Cemetery to place flowers on Elizabeth Miller Watkins' grave.



At the 2011 Watkins Alumnae Tea, Alumnae Chair Sarah Greenup (2005-09) listens to Charlotte Parrish describe her father's work to refinish a desk that Mrs. Watkins gave to Watkins Hall when it opened.

2012 Kitchen-8 Annual Meeting and EMW Scholarship Awards Presentation Registration Form

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Lawrence Country Club, 400 Country Club Terrace

- 9 a.m. Registration, coffee and greetings
- 9:30 a.m. K-8 Business Meeting
K-8 Board and Committee Reports
Treasurer's Report – EMWMSF and K-8 Sugar Bowl
"State of the Halls" Reports
K-8 Board Elections
Proposed K-8 By-laws
- Noon Celebratory Luncheon
- 1 p.m. Special Program – Kitchen 8: Our History and Our Future
Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Presentations

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 13.

To register: You may register for the Annual Meeting any one of the following ways:

- E-mail:** norma.hoagland@yahoo.com
- Phone:** 913-727-6446 (Norma Hoagland)
- Mail:** Mary Emerson, Kitchen 8 Treasurer
3620 Wyoming
Kansas City, MO 64111

Registration Fee: The registration fee for the Annual Meeting is \$20. The fee includes the luncheon and morning coffee and rolls. You may send your check to Mary Emerson or pay at the Annual Meeting. Make your check payable to Kitchen 8.

Please consider a donation to cover the lunch of a Watkins/Miller resident or EMWMSF recipient, who are the guests of K-8.

Information: For information about or local transportation to the 2012 K-8 Annual Meeting, please contact Norma Hoagland.

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



The President's Pantry Look Out World: Here We Come

Dear Kitchen 8 Friends,

As I sat down to write this letter on January 21, Elizabeth Miller Watkins' 151st birthday, it dawned on me that while Kitchen 8 spent the past year continuing to raise awareness about Mrs. Watkins' life, generosity and legacy, others seemed to take notice of us!

It all began in January last year. K-8 wanted to find a special way to celebrate Mrs. Watkins' 150th birthday with Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents. So, we decided to have a birthday party for her at the Watkins Community Museum of History. The Lawrence Journal World even wrote a front page story to promote the birthday party. The party was a total success and every guest received an historic "party favor" – a reproduction of the 1940s "Inside Watkins" booklet.

When we didn't hear anything about what KU would be doing to celebrate the 150th birthday of the university's leading benefactress, we alerted the KU Department of Student Housing. And that, as we say, started the whole ball rolling.

Quickly the university put together a birthday event in January. And then, on April 6 came the stunning announcement from the KU news service: KU was proclaiming the week

of April 16-23 as *Elizabeth Miller Watkins Week* at KU. Lawrence Mayor Mike Amyx issued a similar proclamation six days later. I don't think it was mere coincidence that the start of EMW Week also happened to be the date of the K-8 Annual Meeting.

The hallmark event of the week was the premiere of the play "Elizabeth, Betsy and Bess: A Conversation with Elizabeth Miller Watkins" after the K-8 Annual Meeting adjourned. K-8 played a prominent role at the play and reception. Watkins President Abby Brandenburg and Alumnae Chair Sarah Greenup were invited on stage to present a birthday cake, lighted candles and all, to Mrs. Watkins (KU Theatre staff member Gail Trottier). At the reception following the play, K-8 had a table, complete with lilac bouquets, filled with information about K-8 and Mrs. Watkins. K-8 Campus Coordinator Judy (Johnson) Niebaum (Miller 1958-61), who set up and staffed the table, said, "We were mobbed with people who wanted to see our display."

That day, even Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little began to take notice of K-8. She attended the K-8 Annual Meeting, the first time a KU Chancellor has ever attended a K-8



K-8 Campus Coordinator Judy Niebaum completes the finishing touches to the K-8 table for the reception following the debut of the play, "Elizabeth, Betsy and Bess: A Conversation with Elizabeth Miller Watkins." Event sponsored by Women Philanthropists for KU and photo courtesy of KU Endowment.

event. And instead of just giving the group the standard welcome to Lawrence, Chancellor Gray-Little provided inspiring words that clearly indicated she understands what we (K-8 and Watkins/Miller Halls) are all about. Later that day she attended the play and told K-8 members how impressed she was to see so many K-8 members there and watch them recite "The Creed" from memory. The Chancellor even spent considerable time browsing the information at the K-8 table after the play.

Please see 'PRESIDENT', page 20

Miller Makes Double Treats for 2012 Alumnae Tea

To celebrate Miller Hall's 75th Anniversary, Miller residents will be putting out a very special treat at the 2012 Alumnae Tea on Sunday, April 22. In addition to the famous Miller brownies Miller alumnae will be able to pick up their own copy of "75 Years of Miller Tradition, 75 Years of Recipes."

The cookbook was the idea of Miller Senior Staci Ashcraft, Food Board Manager, who was looking for a special way to celebrate Miller's 75 years of tradition.

Staci said the idea of a cookbook popped into to mind as she observed changes in the kitchens at Miller. "While I have lived in Miller, especially as Food Board Manager, I have seen more girls asking to be in traditional kitchens," Staci said. Traditional kitchens cook and eat together at least four nights a week. Staci said that the girls use to clamor for "independent" kitchens where everyone cooks and eats on their own. "Now the girls want that feeling of tradition and meal time community that eating

together as a group provides."

With the return to more cooking at Miller, the residents are using the cookbooks and recipes that have been around the hall for a long time, Staci said. The Miller Brownie is one recipe that residents use a lot. According to Staci, the recipe, which goes back to the 1950s, has been through several iterations. To make the brownies "fudgier," Staci explained, "One version said to take the brownies out of the oven, drop them on the floor and then put them back in the oven."

Staci has gathered enough recipes from Miller residents and 75 years of alumnae to create an 85-page cookbook. A vegetable soup recipe goes back as far as 1938, the semester after Miller first opened. The cookbook also features recipes from Helen Cramp's *The Institute Cookbook*, published in 1913. Elizabeth Miller Watkins gave the cookbook to Miller shortly after the hall opened in 1937 and it is proudly displayed in the Miller living room.

Staci said the cookbook also will include the stories behind the recipes. For instance, the story behind a 1940s donut recipe is that the women would make the donuts right before the kitchen closing hours and had to sneak them upstairs without the house mother noticing. And speaking of house mothers, Staci said the cookbook includes House Mother Roach's Quick and Easy Yeast Roll recipe.

In addition to the frequently used Miller brownie recipe, Staci said dinner and party guests always request the Whoopie Pie recipe. She added that the chicken enchilada recipe from her Big Sis is such a big hit that she makes it every semester for her kitchen.

The cookbook will be available for purchase at the 2012 K-8 Annual Meeting and Miller Alumnae Tea. For more information about the cookbook or to order or reserve a copy, please contact Staci Ashcraft at staci1ku.edu or 785-393-9691.



The Financial Page

EMWMSF Yields \$50,000 for 2012-13 Scholarships

As a result of donations to the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund (EMWMSF) and stock dividends and interest paid in 2011, the Fund will at least \$50,000 in scholarships for academically exceptional but financially needy women attending KU in 2012-13. This represents a \$10,000 increase from last year.

In 2011, 19 donors contributed approximately \$6,250 to the EMWMSF. Although the Fund received about \$2,750 more in non-testamentary donations in 2010, the average contribution per donor in 2011 was higher. In 2010 the average donation was \$176 while the 2011 average donation was more than \$325.

The EMWMSF started 2011 with an asset value of \$1.126 million and ended the year with \$1.074 million, which was a loss. However, considering the \$40,000 fund distribution for the 2011-12 EMWMS awards, the fund held its own during the down market last year. The Fund earned about \$26,000 in interest

and dividends in 2011, but experienced \$36,000 in unrealized and realized losses for a net loss of almost \$10,500. It was a rough year for both the stock and bond markets. The bullish news for the EMWMSF is that the total earnings were \$65,000 in the fourth quarter of 2011 and on Feb. 28, 2012, the DOW topped 13,000 for the first time in four years.

The EMWMSF continues to maintain an investment strategy of two-third in stocks (equities) and one-third in bonds (fixed income). Most financial advisory services recommend this mix for conservative investments.

The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (GKCCF), which supervises the EMWMSF, is an excellent custodian of the fund, said Eldon Benso, former EMWMSF Financial Advisor. He added that GKCCF is a recognized national leader dedicated to ensuring philanthropic investments return the greatest financial benefit possible while protecting the asset base. The Foundation manages more

than \$1 billion in assets for more than 2,000 charitable organizations. GKCCF's administrative fee for 2011 was less than .80 percent of the average asset balance, which is far below the fees that the average financial services organization charges, Eldon said.

The sole purpose of the EMWMSF is to award scholarships to exceptional women with demonstrated financial need who attend KU. The members of the EMWMSF Advisory Committee do not take any fees or expenses for their work. Your contributions to the EMWMSF, which are fully tax-deductible, will make it possible for K-8 to continue to carry forward Mrs. Watkins' dream to help "the girls who must travel uphill." Please send your contributions, payable to the EMWMSF, to:

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

Please see 'EMWMSF, page 8

"Sugar Bowl" Donations Sweeten K-8 Projects

The ongoing generosity of K-8 members made it possible for the K-8 Sugar Bowl to fund a record number of projects in 2011. The \$2,679 that K-8 Members and friends contributed to the Sugar Bowl last year paid for several new projects, including designing and launching the K-8 Website, completing the scrapbook preservation project and throwing one heck of a 150th Birthday Party for

Elizabeth Miller Watkins. The donations also funded a number of annual projects of Kitchen 8, including the K-8 2011 Newsletter, Annual Meeting and New Women Dinner.

The money that K-8 members and friends donated to the Sugar Bowl performed triple duty. First, it made a wealth of K-8 events and projects possible. Second, the Sugar Bowl donations helped to enhance connections. To maintain strong bonds with former Watkins/Miller women, the Sugar Bowl contributions ensured that the Newsletter reached more than 500 Watkins/Miller alumnae from every decade of the halls and that the electronic preservation of hall scrapbooks was completed. Having the digitized scrapbooks available on the K-8 Website provides alumnae and friends with a way to revisit fond times in the two halls while preserving the history of Watkins/Miller.

Finally, the contributions allowed K-8 to honor the legacy of Mrs. Watkins and spread the word about "Lady Bountiful." K-8 Campus Coordinators Bev (Runkle) Benso (Watkins 1954-58) and Judy (Johnson) Niebaum (Miller 1958-61) organized the New Women Dinner to educate new Watkins/Miller residents on the history of Mrs. Watkins, the halls and Kitchen 8. K-8 members donated money to ensure Mrs. Watkins' 150th Birthday Party would be a rousing success. The donations did not just go for cake and ice cream. They made it possible for K-8 to give all the partygoers an historical party favor – a reproduction of a 1943 booklet called "Inside Watkins," which included juicy details about the "ancient" strict house rules and advice to the "Modern Woman" of the 1940s.

Unfortunately, there is no way the Sugar Bowl report is able to include the countless in-kind donations that K-8 members and friends made in 2011 and K-8 could not have done all the events and projects in 2011 without those donations. In-kind donations of food and beverages made the New Women Dinner possible and also created the feeling of family that existed for so many of us as we sat down

Please see 'SUGAR BOWL', page 6

2011 K-8 Sugar Bowl Report	
Checking Account Balance as of 01/01/11	4,578.24
Expenses in 2011:	\$4,923.52
\$976.88	2011 K-8 Newsletter
\$74.42	2011 Newsletter Postage
\$1,662.21	2011 K-8 Annual Meeting and Luncheon
\$536.08	Historian Expenses/Preservation Projects
\$417.32	EMW 150 th Birthday Party
\$277.00	Watkins and Miller New-Women Dinner
\$500.00	K-8 Website Design
\$439.61	K-8 Website Domain, Registration and Hosting (for 5 years)
\$40.00	Capitol Federal Account Maintenance
Deposits in 2011:	\$2,679.00
\$1,965.00	K-8 General Donations
\$150.00	EMW 150 th Birthday Party
\$564.00	Newsletter Donations
Current Account Balance as of 12/31/12	\$2,333.72



2011 Annual Meeting Hits Heavenly Heights

The stars in the heavens must have been in alignment on April 16, 2011. How else can one explain the incredible happenings at the K-8 Annual Meeting Weekend.

First, a record number of K-8 members, Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents and other friends attended the Annual Meeting, including two alumnae well into their 90s and more than a dozen alumnae who lived at Watkins in the early 1970s. Second, K-8 awarded a record \$36,000 in Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship (EMWMS) awards to a record nine women. Next, KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little stopped by, the first time a KU chancellor has ever attended the K-8 Annual Meeting. And all of this happened during the first Elizabeth Miller Watkins Week at KU.

New K-8 Chair Norma (Decker) Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71), who the K-8 Board elected the day before, presided over her first K-8 Annual Meeting by opening the business meeting with a report about the K-8 Board Meeting on April 15. At the meeting, the Board elected Mary Emerson (Watkins 2005-09) as K-8 Treasurer, Gayle (Barry) Matchett (Watkins 1955-57) and Alica Thomas (Miller 1990-94) as EMWMS Selection Committee Co-Chairs. In addition, Norma reported that the K-8 Board voted to establish a committee to develop by-laws for K-8 and adopted a mission statement for Kitchen 8.

Next, Michelle Loewenstein (Watkins 2005-09), K-8 Website Committee Chair, reported that the committee is working to launch the

At the 2011 K-8 Annual Meeting KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little congratulates Watkins and Miller alumnae and residents on the strong bonds they have formed over the years and the community of support they provide to each other.



website by the fall. Laura (Draxler) Sixta (Watkins 2005-09) said the Scrapbook Preservation Committee had completed scanning all available hall scrapbooks to be posted once the K-8 Website is running.

Miller President Brittanie Williams and Watkins President Abby Brandenburg gave the annual "State of the Halls" address. The halls focused on their strong year of community service. Abby noted that the Watkins "Relay for Life" team raised \$3,000 for cancer research. Miller Alumnae Chair Megan Ziegler said residents were doing important work to raise money to help sex trafficking victims. Watkins Rates Chair Sonya Weast reported that they continue to "keep an eye" on the Watkins Trust account and review the Trust statements.

Stars still shine brightly on Lilac Lane

Once the business meeting ended, three invited speakers shone brightly. First, K-8 Historian Samantha (Birchfield) Bunnyfield

(Watkins 2003-07) interviewed Watkins/Miller alumnae Dr. Helen (Martin) Gilles (Miller 1939-42) and Ruth (Warren) Wilkin (Watkins 1938-40) about life on Lilac Lane during the Great Depression and WWII.

Ruth reminisced about Mrs. Watkins inviting Watkins residents over for tea at The Outlook every year and the excitement of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt coming to Watkins, even if she did have a run in her stockings. Even though Mrs. Watkins lived right next door, Ruth admitted that sometimes she climbed the fire escape to get in after hours and she liked to dance on the sunporch roof.

Ruth studied political science and was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1973, where she served for nine years. When she was elected, there was only one other woman in the Kansas Legislature. During her time in the House Ruth saw the number of women members double, from two to four. Ruth clearly helped to "blaze the trail for future female politicians."

Helen, a pre-med major who was one of the first residents of Miller, moved in just five months after Mrs. Watkins' death. Watkins had opened in 1926, 11 years before Miller, and was well-established when Helen moved into Miller. She said that the Miller women worked hard to build a "new spirit" instead of being relegated to second-class status. Their efforts worked as Helen said Miller became a great place to live and she made many friends.

Please see '2011', page 22

2011 Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund and Kitchen 8 Sugar Bowl Donors

From the 1930's

Janice Gartrell Charitable Remainder Trust (Watkins 1939-42)*
Dorothy (Hendrikson) Thorman (Watkins 1937-41)*
Ruth (Warren) Wilkin (Watkins 1938-40)*

From the 1940's

Nona Maurine (Waterstradt) Adams (Watkins 1941-45)
Donna (Holm) Fisher (Watkins 1946-49)
Roselyn (Skonberg) George (Watkins 1945-48)*, *Memorials to Jessimai (Shidler) Strange, Doris Wilcox*
Nicki (Benitz) Scheffler (Watkins 1948-50)*

From the 1950's

Sharon (McClure) Anderson (Miller 1953-57)*
Joyce (Klemp) Browder (Watkins 1954-58)*, *Memorial to Jim McClure*
Mildred (Long) Foster (Watkins 1953-57), *Memorial to Jim McClure*
Shirley Holmes (Watkins 1952-54)
Helen (Owen) and Darrell Mahlik (Watkins 1955-59)
Gayle (Barry) Matchett (Watkins 1955-57)*, *Memorial to Robert "Don" Browder*
Pat (Powers) and James McClure (Watkins 1952-55)*, *Memorial to Jim McClure*
Marilyn (Alpert) and Verlin Meier (Watkins 1956-60)*
Judy (Johnson) Niebaum (Miller 1958-61)*
Pat (Gardner) Stein (Miller 1953-57)*

From the 1960's

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

From the 1970's

Elizabeth (Ervin) and Michael Boman (Watkins 1971-75), *Memorial to Corrine (Martin) Ervin*
Susan Tara Masih (Watkins 1972-75)
Cathie (Fuller) Miller (Watkins 1970-73)*
Sarah (Wohlraabe) and John Shortall (Watkins 1972-76)*

From the 1980's

Mary Boyce (Watkins 1983-87)
Deb Stark (Miller 1981-85)

From the 2000's

Emily Bannwarth (Miller/Rieger 2005-09)*
Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley (Miller 2003-07)*

Friends of Kitchen 8

The Ervins, *Memorial to Corrine (Martin) Ervin*
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Davis, *Memorials to Corrine (Martin) Ervin and Frances Brown*
Raymond V. Overmann, *Memorial to Sue (Overmann) Garcia Thompson*
Upham-Lindley Family Fund, *Memorial to Corrine (Martin) Ervin*

*--Indicates donor also contributed in 2010



A Record Nine Women Receive EMWMSF Awards

By Michelle Loewenstein
K-8 Website Committee Chair
Watkins 2005-09

Kitchen 8 presented a record \$40,000 in scholarships at the 2011 K-8 Annual Meeting. The 2011-12 Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship (EMWMS) awards of \$4,000 each went to 9 young women, the largest number of scholarships K-8 has presented in a single year.

EMWMS Selection Committee Chair Joyce (Klemp) Browder (Watkins 1954-58) said, "We had a bright, talented group of applicants who exemplify the qualities that Elizabeth Miller Watkins valued. The EMW scholarships will give these women the opportunity to continue pursuing their education."

Joyce added that presenting the EMWMS awards at the K-8 Annual Meeting provides a great chance for K-8 members to meet and learn more about "brilliant young women who are striving to change the world."

Junior **Hailey Alyse Baker**, from Lee's Summit, MO, received her EMWMS award in memory of Sue (Overmann) Garcia Thompson (Watkins 1970-73). Hailey is majoring in microbiology and plans to go to medical school or get a PhD. Hailey lived at Watkins her first two years at KU. In addition to her ambitious academic schedule, Hailey volunteers at a domestic violence program.

Watkins Sophomore **Qiao Yi Chen**, from Wichita, KS, also is majoring in microbiology. Qiao Yi came to the United States when she was just 10 years old and now volunteers in a program that helps Chinese orphans. She received her scholarship in memory of LaBerta (Weiss) Hattwick (Watkins 1926-30), who moved into Watkins the year it opened.

Sophomore **Kerra Anne Cissne**, Lincoln,



The 2011-12 EMWMS recipients Junior Hailey Alyse Baker, Freshman Dakota Driscoll, Senior Marie Catherine Osterhaus, Senior Alexandra Porter and Junior Natalie Lyn Scott get ready for the Celebratory Luncheon after being honored at the 2011 K-8 Annual Meeting.

KS, is majoring in pharmacy. She is the Social Chair at Watkins this year. Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman (Watkins 1971-75) presented the EMWMS award to Kerra Anne in memory of Corrine (Martin) Ervin (Watkins 1938-40), her mother.

Dakota Driscoll was a senior at Free State High in Lawrence, KS, when she received an EMWMS award in memory of Dorothy (Harkness) Martin (Watkins 1940-44). As a freshman this year she is planning to major in social sciences and French.

Senior **Casey Eisenbarth**, a Miller resident from Topeka, KS, is majoring in speech, language and linguistics. Casey received her EMWMS award in memory of Janice "Garter" Gartrell (Watkins 1939-42). In accepting her scholarship, Casey made an eloquent point in saying that at Miller she had learned to "depend on one another while gaining independence."

Lidya Abdullah Jirjis, a sophomore from Lawrence, KS, majoring in chemical engineering. Lidya, who originally was from Baghdad, Iraq, came to the United States as a part of the "YES" Program. The program helps Iraqi students who fled the war in their

native country to get an education in the United States. Lidya received her scholarship in honor of Donna Jean Stember (Watkins 1940-44).

Senior **Marie Catherine Osterhaus**, from Wichita, KS, is majoring in global and international studies with a business minor. Marie received her scholarship in memory of Margery (Lewis) Wigner (Watkins 38-42).

Senior **Alexandra Porter**, from Perry, KS, who lived in Miller through last semester, is a recent newlywed. Alexandra is majoring in public and community health. She volunteers at a community garden that benefits the homeless. In her essay, Alexandra commented that Elizabeth Miller Watkins' greatest gifts were to her community as a whole and that this was an inspiration to her. Alexandra also received her EMWMS award in memory of LaBerta Hattwick.

Miller Junior **Natalie Lyn Scott**, who keeps track of the pennies as hall Treasurer, is from Topeka, KS. She is majoring in pre-occupational therapy. Natalie received her scholarship in memory of Don Browder, a Friend of K-8 and husband of Joyce Browder.

'SUGAR BOWL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

for dinner together in our kitchens in Watkins and Miller. Finally, everything that Kitchen-8 does and achieves is possible only through the selfless giving of time and energy by K-8 members, unquestioningly K-8's most valuable asset.

Thank you for your generosity in 2011 and we hope you will continue to contribute donations, time, energy, and talents to make K-8

projects and events a success again this year. Also, please let us know if there is a special project you would like to suggest or support. Please send your donations to the Sugar Bowl, made payable to Kitchen-8, to:

Mary Emerson
Kitchen-8 Treasurer
3620 Wyoming St. #4
Kansas City, MO 64111

For more information or questions about the

K-8 Sugar Bowl, please contact me at the address above, (405) 250-1727, or emerson.mary@gmail.com.

Please send contributions to the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund, payable to EMWMSF, to:

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

Changes We Can Believe In

By Gayle (Barry) Matchett
EMWMS Selection Committee Co-Chair
Watkins 1955-57

In 1997, when the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund (EMWMSF) only had enough funds to hand out one \$1,000 scholarship, who would have believed that in 2012 the EMWMSF would be able to award more than \$50,000 in scholarships to 10 academically exceptional women with demonstrated financial need. That is a big change but not the only one for the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship (EMWMS) Selection Committee since 1997.

When the K-8 Board elected me to co-chair the Selection Committee with Alica Thomas (Miller 1990-94), I promised the Committee would make changes and we have. The biggest change the Committee implemented was to rework the application process so it is a completely on-line system. To make women aware of the EMWMS awards, the Committee launched a publicity campaign with the help of Watkins/Miller residents and Stephanie (McDuff) Hamby (Douthart 1995-97), K-8 Newsletter publisher and Website designer.

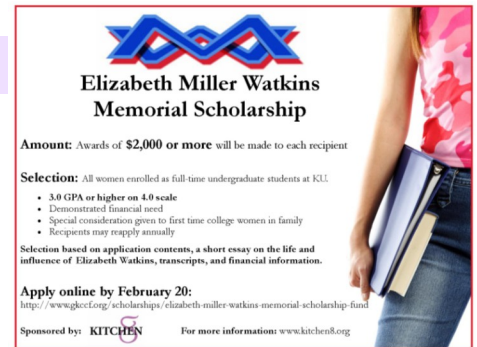
Stephanie designed a stunning poster that Watkins/Miller residents posted on campus and high school websites. When the KU Fi-

nancial Aid and Scholarship Office saw the poster, they added the EMWMS award to their website and asked permission to make copies of our poster. The changes produced amazing results. The number of applications received this year almost tripled from 2011.

The Committee also has accomplished another important change – implementing an objective, professional grading rubric called ScholarSelect that the Committee can use for evaluating applications and selecting recipients. ScholarSelect allows the Committee to look at specific objective criteria, such as level of financial need, across all applicants. Charting the criteria for all the applicants will make it far easier for the Committee to discuss and select recipients, which is important considering the significant increase in applications.

The Committee has access to ScholarSelect through the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, which manages the EMWMSF. Committee members have practiced accessing and using ScholarSelect and I must admit that it took the Committee almost two months to fully learn the new system.

The hard-working volunteers who have made possible all these changes on the EMWMS committee are:
Jill (Callies) Comcowich and Kevin Comcowich



Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship

Amount: Awards of \$2,000 or more will be made to each recipient

Selection: All women enrolled as full-time undergraduate students at KU.

- 3.0 GPA or higher on 4.0 scale
- Demonstrated financial need
- Special consideration given to first time college women in family
- Recipients may reapply annually

Selection based on application contents, a short essay on the life and influence of Elizabeth Watkins, transcripts, and financial information.

Apply online by February 20:
<http://www.ku.edu/scholarships/elizabeth-miller-watkins-memorial-scholarship-fund>

Sponsored by: **KITCHEN 8** For more information: www.kitchen8.org

If you have been on the KU campus recently you probably saw one of these EMWMS posters.

Miller 1990-93
jillcomcowich@gmail.com

Roselyn (Skonberg) George
Watkins 1945-49
rg12056@gmail.com

Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger
Watkins 1970-74
joythrumovement@sbcglobal.net

Gayle (Barry) Matchett, Co-Chair
jeregayle@sunflower.com

Marilyn (Alpert) Meier
Watkins 1956-60
mmeier6@cox.net

Annette Smith
Miller 1987-91
nettedoc@stjoelive.com

Alica Thomas, Co-Chair
alicat_alicat@yahoo.com

The Selection Committee is broadly representative this year. Four Watkins alumnae and three Miller alumnae serve on the committee and collectively the members represent six decades, the 1940s through 1990s.

K-8 Roster Grows Younger By the Day

By Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley
K-8 Secretary
Miller 2003-08

Earlier this year K-8 Chair Norma (Decker) Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71) asked me to take over the role of K-8 Secretary, a big job that Pat (Gardner) Stein (Miller 1953-57) has performed so capably for many years until January, when she said she needed to resign for family reasons. One of her biggest jobs as Secretary has been taking care of an ever growing member roster. Now that I have started taking care of the K-8 roster, I want to say a very warm “Thank you” to Pat for all of her hard work and service to Kitchen 8.

Today, the K-8 roster stands at more than 500 alumnae strong, and continues to grow every year. While alumnae from the 1950’s had always comprised the largest share of the K-8 roster, our youngest alumnae from the 2000’s have now surpassed them. Kitchen 8 members who lived in Watkins and Miller in this

millennium now account for 30 percent of the roster. In fact, more Watkins and Miller alumnae from the 2000s account for more K-8 members than the alumnae from the 1960s through 1990s combined.

Although alumnae from two decades dominate the K-8 roster, there are Watkins/Miller alumnae from every decade of Watkins and Miller on the K-8 roster, all the way back to 1929! In addition, Watkins/Miller alumnae are spread across 40 states and six countries.

But, we know that there are more of our Lilac Lane sisters still out there who we haven’t reached and we need your help. Being a K-8 member is the best way to stay informed about all activities involving K-8 and Watkins/Miller Halls alumnae and residents. As always, there are no dues, fees, or requirements to join K-8 and be added to the roster.

If you know someone who doesn’t know about K-8 and might like to join, tell them to

check out the K-8 Website (www.kitchen8.org) or ask them to send me the following:

- Name, including birth name;
- Address, phone number, and e-mail;
- When did you live in Watkins or Miller;
- Whether we may send the K-8 newsletter and other communications via e-mail;
- Whether you were a past recipient of the EMWMS recipient.

K-8 does not share its roster or other member information with anyone outside K-8. We only use the roster to stay in communication with Watkins/Miller alumnae and to help alumnae reestablish connections with those they knew while living at Watkins or Miller.

Please join K-8 by contacting me at:

Paula Wrigley
3825 Stonewall Ct.
Independence, MO 64055
paulawrigley@kitchen8.org
913-669-1334



Guess Who Came to New Women Dinner

By Michelle Loewenstein
K-8 Website Committee Chair
Watkins 2005-09

At the start of the 2011-12 school year 47 new women attended Kitchen 8's New Women Dinner at Watkins. Forty five of them were new Watkins/Miller residents. The other two, KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and Kansas State Representative TerriLois Gregory, may not have been new to KU but it was their first New Women Dinner. All 47 of these new women lucked out because it was "Two for the Price of One Night" as the New Women Dinner and Tribute Night were combined.

K-8 Campus Co-Coordinator Bev (Runkle) Benso (Watkins 1954-58) and Judy (Johnson) Niebaum (Miller 1958-61) organized local Watkins/Miller alumnae to provide the new women a "homemade salad bar deluxe," the perfect dinner fare for a warm September evening. A dessert of homemade cookies and ice cream quickly disappeared. "The residents always appreciate so fully our home-prepared food," Bev said.

After dinner K-8 gave each new woman a copy of the "**Thank You, Elizabeth Miller Watkins**" notebook. The notebook contains historical information about Watkins/Miller Halls, including the deeds to the halls, and about Elizabeth Miller Watkins, including her biography and Last Will and Testament. K-8 Chair Norma (Decker) Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71) walked the new women through the wealth of material in the notebooks, which included sheet music to "My Sweetheart of Lilac Lane." Gayle (Barry) Matchett (Watkins 1955-57) observed, "All of the new women truly took time to look at our gift of this booklet and absorb a bit of their new legacy."

Next the program was turned over to the new women, who each had an opportunity to share something about themselves -- their hometown, educational plans and how they found



New Watkins and Miller residents gather outside to say Elizabeth Miller Watkins' Creed on the evening of the New Women Dinner and Tribute Night last fall. Photo courtesy of Rep. TerriLois Gregory (10th District).

out about Miller and Watkins. As in past years, the new Watkins/Miller residents come from many diverse backgrounds. Norma said that many of the new women learned about Miller/Watkins on the internet while many said they had family or friends with ties to the halls. In addition, some residents said older siblings, who lived in the halls or wished they had lived there, pointed them in the direction of Lilac Lane.

Taking it to the next level

Next, Watkins/Miller officers and residents invited K-8 members, Chancellor Gray-Little and Rep. Gregory to join them in the Watkins living room to participate in Tribute Night. Rep. Gregory opened Tribute Night by presenting framed proclamations from the Kansas State Legislature honoring Elizabeth Miller Watkins on her 150th birthday year and "recognizing her foresight in establishing the first scholarship hall in America and her generosity in giving Watkins and Miller Halls to the University of Kansas."

To prepare for Tribute Night, Rep. Gregory, who sponsored the proclamation in the Kansas Legislature to honor Mrs. Watkins, said she read about Lady Bountiful's life and beliefs. "She is a testimony to the fact that what happens to you is not important, but what you choose to do is the critical element of your own success," Rep. Gregory said while presenting the framed proclamations to Watkins President Lisa Curran and Miller

President Melanie Remp.

Norma Hoagland thanked Rep. Gregory for awarding such "significant recognition to the legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins." She also thanked Bev and Eldon Benso for their work connecting Rep. Gregory with Kitchen-8 and our goal of obtaining this recognition for Mrs. Watkins' legacy.

Traditions come to life

Following the presentation, Rep. Gregory, Chancellor Gray-Little and the new Watkins/Miller women got to meet "Lizzie" and "Jabez" Watkins. Norma Hoagland pointed out that K-8 Historian Samantha (Birchfield) Bunnyfield (Watkins 2003-07), who helped with the New Women Dinner, was the original "Lizzie" and began this tradition as part of Tribute Night.

While the evening was still warm, everyone headed outside for the lighting of candles followed by singing "My Sweetheart of Lilac Lane" and reciting Mrs. Watkins' "Creed."

In addition to Bev Benso and Judy Niebaum, the following local K-8 members also helped to host the New Women Dinner: Sam Bunnyfield, Jackie Bogner (Watkins 1968-71), Mary Emerson (Watkins 2005-09), Norma Hoagland, Michelle Loewenstein (Watkins 2005-09), Gayle (Barry) Matchett (Watkins 1955-57), Laura (Draxler) Sixta (Watkins 2005-09) and Alica Thomas (Miller 1990-94).

'EMWMSF' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The members of the EMWMSF Advisory Committee are:

Alica Thomas, chair
Miller 1990-94
alicat_alicat@yahoo.com

Mary Emerson
Watkins 2004-09

emerson.mary@gmail.com

Norma (Decker) Hoagland
Watkins 1969-71
norma.hoagland@yahoo.com

Gayle (Matchett) Barry
Watkins 1955-57
jeregayle@sunflower.com

Pat (Gardner) Stein (Until Jan. 2012)

Miller 1953-57
patstein@kc.rr.com

Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley (Jan. 2012 – present)
Miller 2003-07
paulawrigley@gmail.com

Allyson Weber, Director
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
aweber@gkccf.org



K-8 Website – On Time, On Budget

By **Michelle Loewenstein**
K-8 Website Committee Chair
Watkins 2005-09

At the 2011 K-8 Annual Meeting, the K-8 Website Committee promised all of you that Kitchen 8 would be on-line before the year was over. Well, on November 2 we delivered, www.kitchen.org was completed. We were on time thanks to Stephanie (McDuff) Hamby's (Douthart 1995-97) design work and quick turnaround; and, we were on budget thanks to the generous donations from Sarah (Wohlrahe) Shortall (Watkins 1972-76) and Beth (Roeder) Stella (Watkins 1965-69).

Because the Committee promised to deliver a lot, we got to work right away after the Annual Meeting. At a working brunch the morning following the Annual Meeting, Stephanie (McDuff) Hamby (Douthart 1995-97), Norma (Decker) Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71), Sarah Shortall and I began planning the design and organization of the Website based on draft documents that Stephanie had presented at the K-8 Board meeting two days earlier. (Committee member Ali (Bannwarth) Zayas (Watkins 2002-06) was with us in spirit.)

The Committee quickly agreed that we wanted a clean, bright, user-friendly website design that utilized some of the traditional symbols of Watkins/Miller, which naturally led us to select lilac for an accent color and lilacs for the Website background. The Committee also decided it was time to develop a new logo and symbol for the K-8 Website. Stephanie designed a number of options and the K-8 Board voted for its favorite. (The K-8 News-

letter Co-Editors like the new logo and symbol so much that they are using it, too.)

Once the Committee had a sense of what the Website should look like, we decided to organize the Website to emphasize K-8's major goals and projects. After lots of discussion, we came up with topic pages and to keep the Website design clean we used the following links to those topic pages:

- **About Kitchen 8** – contains the K-8 mission statement, list of Board members, how to join K-8.
- **Elizabeth Miller Watkins “Lady Bountiful”** – includes Mrs. Watkins' biography, “The Creed” she strived to live by, her legacy and K-8's projects and activities to preserve and carry forward her legacy;
- **How Can I Help?** – tells people how they can join K-8, volunteer on K-8 committees and donate to the EMWMSF and K-8 Sugar Bowl;
- **Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund** – contains important information about the EMWMSF and how to apply for an EMWMS award. In addition, the page lists all of the current and past EMWMS recipients;
- **Kitchen 8 in Action** – this page provides information on upcoming and recent K-8 events as well as K-8 Newsletters for the past eight years;
- **Making Connections** – this page explains and shows how Watkins/Miller alumnae can stay connected through the

K-8 Mentoring project and updating their information on the K-8 roster;

- **When I Lived on Lilac Lane** – features all of the Watkins/Miller scrapbooks that we have preserved.
- **On Lilac Lane Today** – this page lets Watkins and Miller Halls tell us about their lives on Lilac Lane;
- **Links** – everyone will want to bookmark this page, which provides hyperlinks to the K-8 Facebook page, Watkins and Miller Halls, Watkins Community Museum of History, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and the All-Scholarship Hall Council. Click away!
- **Contact Us** – includes K-8's mailing address and e-mail addresses for contacting K-8 about any project, such as the Website and Newsletter.

K-8 Board and committees provided the content for each topic page and then Ali Zayas helped Stephanie Hamby and I put some finishing touches on the Website.

Now that the Website is up and running, we hope you'll go explore it. The Website has so much to offer that it virtually is a one-stop-shop for everything that is K-8 – browsing through old hall scrapbooks in high-resolution, looking at last year's K-8 Newsletter, finding out how to apply for an EMWMS, learning about the information on Elizabeth Miller Watkins at the Watkins Museum and much more.

Some of the most exciting features of the Website center on promoting connections – among alumnae and also between alumnae and current Watkins/Miller residents. On the **Making Connections** page you can learn about the Mentoring Program that K8 is launching. You can even sign up to be a mentor – whether that means offering a couch for a Lilac Lane sister when she's in your neck of the woods for a visit or job interviews, introducing her to some contacts in her chosen field of business, or just answering a question or two she might have.

We hope you will take some time to explore the K-8 Website, tell your Lilac Lane friends about the Website, and visit it often for updates and news from Kitchen 8.



K-8 Website designer Stephanie Hamby explains her design concepts at the 2011 K-8 Board Meeting. The Website went viral this fall.



Current Hall Happenings Watkins Hall Experiencing Olympian Year

It has been an Olympic year for Watkins in so many ways. Last fall, 24 energetic new women joined the Wild Watkins Women in the crazy arena of life on Lilac Lane so the hall has been as wild as ever.

They found the arena spruced up with new white bathroom doors, sturdy enough to withstand any athlete. The new doors were a welcome addition as the old ones were definitely beginning to show wear and tear. We also are looking forward to seeing further changes at Watkins. At the end of the 2010-2011 school year, the Wild Watkins Women voted on a new color scheme for redecorating the living room – light blue with yellow accents. Sweden, the Ukraine, Palau and the European Union would be so proud of our choices.



Lisa Curran
Watkins President

The Department of Student Housing says it is planning on redecorating the living room when it “raises enough money” to do so. We haven’t heard anything recently about the project so we can’t tell you what the timetable is at this point.

Let the games begin!

Watkins’ athletes had a strong presence on the courts last fall. Watkins took the bronze in the All Scholarship Hall Council intramural contest, behind Douthart and Krehbiel. To date, the Watkins-Battenfeld walleyball team has won all of its games and our Watkins athletes have more intramural competition planned for the spring semester. To keep our athletes at their top form, Watkins Health and Fitness Chairs Sophomores Hadley Sis and Meghan Paulson arranged for a nutrition speaker to talk to the hall about healthy eating.

Sophomore Andrea Brown, Watkins Secretary, was the next Watkins woman to stand on top of the victor’s stand when she won the Second Annual Schol Hall Spelling Spektacular on Nov. 13 at Woodruff Auditorium. Andrea, a chemical engineering major with a pre-med concentration, beat out 23 finalists to win the trophy by correcting spelling “efficacy.” She admitted that she had harder words during the countless final rounds.

Next, a new event was added to the Olympics

of Lilac Lane – Food Board Manager Senior Emily Sis launched the inaugural Kitchen Olympics. Each kitchen, representing their chosen country, completed in a decathlon worth of events to win points for completing their shifts, keeping the kitchen clean, volunteering to help with community dinners, and taking part in other Kitchen Olympic events. The following countries participated in the Olympics: Great Britain (K-1), Egypt (K-2), Chad (K-3), Canada (K-4), Narnia (K-5), USA (K-6), and Switzerland (K-7).

After Emily awarded the gold medal for Kitchen Olympics, she led the charge forward to the Watkins Cupcake Wars. Recently, she threw an Olympic-sized Mardi Gras event. As the French say: *Laissez rouler les bontemps!* Let the good times roll.

Olympic sized hearts

Andrea Brown and Watkins Alumnae Chair Sophomore Leslie Montes pioneered an Olympic-sized environmental effort this year – composting. They formed a compost committee. Now each kitchen has a compost bucket and the committee has been taking our compost to the KU campus garden, which grows food for local food pantries. Leslie and Andrea recently created a Composter of the Week award for the kitchen that collects the most compost. The winning kitchen receives flowers, which also are compostable.

By the end of February, Watkins was in third place in the All Scholarship Hall community service contest with more than 300 hours, behind Rieger’s 879 hours and Douthart’s 407 hours. We are gunning to move up in the KU Relay for Life, which is always a big event for Watkins. The Relay for Life is an overnight event held at Memorial Stadium to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Last year Watkins raised \$3,000, more money than any other group on campus. This year, we hope to raise even more and have some great fundraising ideas for the event, which starts at 7 p.m., April 15 and runs until 6 a.m. the following morning.

To keep posted about Watkins, including our efforts for the KU Relay for Life, become friends with us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@WatkinsHall).

See you for tea on April 22! With Lilac Lane love,

Lisa Curran, Watkins President

75 Years Of Raising Young Leaders

Hello Millerites! 2012 marks 75th years of Miller Hall. Miller has developed a lot of leaders during those years.

When I first moved into Miller in the fall of 2010, I was nervous but excited about what my life and experiences would be like at Miller, the scholarship hall community and KU. I needn’t have worried. My freshman year at Miller was filled with so many wonderful experiences, experiences I never would have had if I didn’t live at Miller.



Melanie Remp
Miller President

The women I met at Miller last year were great role models and leaders. They showed me I could be a successful woman in class and beyond.

At the end of the spring semester, Millerites elected me to be president and lead the hall this school year. The thought of my becoming a role model for new residents was slightly terrifying even though my role models had done such a good job of preparing me. Armed with the lessons they taught me and with some help from other Millerites, I was able to overcome my jitters.

Being Miller president has taught me so much about not only myself, but also about leadership. This year I have learned that I can do anything I put my mind to. With a leadership position it’s important to have confidence in the decisions you have to make and I have gained a lot of confidence from being president. Coming into this year I had had some experiences in leadership roles, but as Miller president I also learned that a leader must be able to adapt her ideas to different situations and willingly collaborate with others to solve problems.

Miller has been an absolutely wonderful place for me to live and grow. I’ve met so many incredible women and made friendships that I know will last a lifetime.

Miller also has provided a great incubator for developing leadership skills. As Miller celebrates 75th years, it’s inspiring how many leaders this Lilac Lane incubator has produced. Best of all, I know I won’t be *the* last.

Miller Love!

Melanie Remp, Miller President



Kitchen 8 to Vote on By-laws at Annual Meeting

One of the most important items K-8 members will consider at the 2012 Annual Meeting on April 21 is the proposed by-laws, which are included in this Newsletter. If adopted, the by-laws will become the basic rules and procedures for Kitchen 8.

Proposed By-Laws of Kitchen 8

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization is Kitchen 8, hereafter referred to as K-8.

ARTICLE II

Mission, Goals and Objectives

Section 1. Mission

K-8 is an organization of Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents and other supporters of Elizabeth Miller Watkins' dream to help "the girls who must travel uphill." K-8 is dedicated to preserving and carrying forward the legacy of Mrs. Watkins, who created Watkins and Miller (Watkins/Miller) Scholarship Halls at the University of Kansas (KU) to help exceptional but financially needy women to get an education. K-8 provides a community of support to Watkins/Miller residents and alumnae and Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund (EMWMSF) recipients by maintaining communication, providing mentorship, awarding scholarships, staying informed of the conditions at and preserving Watkins/Miller as scholarship halls for women who have exceptional achievement and financial need, and striving to follow Mrs. Watkins' example of generosity and compassion.

Section 2. Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of K-8 include the following:

- Preserve and carry forward the legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins;
- Oversee the EMWMSF and EMWMS awards;
- Keep K-8 members, Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents, and EMWMSF donors and recipients informed about and connected with K-8, Watkins/Miller Halls and the EMWMSF;
- Provide a community of support for Watkins/Miller residents and alumnae and EMWMS recipients;
- Support and advocate for Watkins/Miller residents by sponsoring events, mentoring and helping them learn about Elizabeth Miller Watkins;
- Gather donations for the EMWMSF and the K-8 Sugar Bowl; and
- Maintain and preserve historical records about Elizabeth Miller Watkins, K-8, the EMWMSF and Watkins/Miller Halls and alumnae.

Section 3. Disclaimer

- A. K-8 is an independent organization and

not part of KU, KU Endowment Association, KU Alumni Association, KU Department of Student Housing or other similar organization.

B. K-8 shall not share its membership roster with any outside organization or any individual not on the K-8 Board without written permission of K-8 members.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Membership

A. K-8 membership is open to:

- Any Watkins/Miller alumna and resident; and
 - Any individual who supports K-8's mission, goals and objectives.
- B. An individual may become a K-8 member and be added to the K-8 membership roster by:
- Signing up on the K-8 Website; or
 - Expressing intent to be a K-8 member to a K-8 Board member.

C. An individual may end membership in K-8 by informing the K-8 Secretary who shall remove the individual from the K-8 roster.

Section 2. Dues

There shall not be any dues or fees to be a member of K-8.

ARTICLE IV

K-8 Board

Section 1. Composition

The K-8 Board shall consist of the following positions:

- President;
- Vice President;
- Secretary;
- Treasurer;
- Historian(s);
- Watkins/Miller Campus Coordinator(s);
- EMWMSF Advisory Committee Chair(s);
- EMWMS Selection Committee Chair(s);
- K-8 Website Coordinator(s);
- K-8 Newsletter Coordinator(s); and
- K-8 Mentoring Coordinator(s).

Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities

A. The K-8 Board shall:

- Administer, supervise and oversee K-8;
- Act on behalf of K-8 on all matters these by-laws specify or the K-8 membership delegates to the Board, particularly if delaying action

Please see 'PROPOSED BY-LAWS', page 12

Open, Transparent and Accountable

At the 2011 K-8 Board Meeting, the Board discussed the need to establish by-laws for K-8. Ali (Bannwarth) Zayas (Watkins 2002-06) and Sarah (Wohlrahe) Shortall (Watkins 1972-76) presented a report identifying the following reasons and goals for K-8 by-laws:

- By-laws would help K-8 clarify its mission;
- By-laws would provide an operational framework for K-8;
- By-laws provide transparency into the work of the K-8 Board and Committees;
- By-laws would establish the openness of K-8 to full participation by all members in decision making; and
- By-laws would help to ensure the accountability of K-8, which is important given the million dollar Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund (EMWMSF) and the thousands of dollars in donations K-8 receives annually.

After considering the report, the Board voted unanimously to establish a committee to develop proposed by-laws to be presented for discussion and a vote at the 2012 Board and Annual Meetings. Then Samantha (Birchfield) Bunnyfield (Watkins 2003-07) presented a Mission Statement to the Board for consideration, which the Board also approved unanimously.

A seven-member By-laws Committee, which Ali Zayas chaired, began working last summer to identify possible issues and topics the by-laws should address, including K-8 Board and Committee composition and duties, K-8 meeting procedures, and election and voting rules. The Committee also gathered and reviewed sample by-laws of other volunteer organizations and by-laws recommendations from *Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised (10th Edition)*. After digesting the information, the committee drafted by-laws. The draft by-laws went through several iterations and review by the Committee and Board.

The devil is in the details

The proposed by-laws include the standard sections that *Roberts' Rules* recommend, including:

Please see 'BY-LAWS ARTICLE', page 12



'BY-LAWS ARTICLE' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Mission, Goals and Objectives (Article II)

– The approved Mission Statement, which is the major focus of this section, establishes that K-8 is an organization dedicated to preserving and carrying forward the legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins and her dream to “help the girls who must travel uphill” to get an education. The goals and objectives identify specific ways in which K-8 will carry out its Mission Statement.

The section also clarifies several issues, the most important of which is that the EMWMSF is a part of K-8. In addition, it clarifies that K-8 is an independent organization that is not part of KU and that, to preserve member privacy, K-8 does not share its membership roster with outside organizations or individuals.

Membership (Article III) – This article specifies that K-8 membership is open to any Watkins/Miller alumna and resident as well as others who support K-8’s Mission. It also establishes that there will not be dues or fees to be a K-8 member. All a person need do to become a K-8 member is to sign up on the K-8 Website or let a Board member know.

K-8 Board (Article IV) – This article consolidates the Board into 11 major positions, including the addition of the position of Vice President. The Board may consist of more than 11 members if two members share a position or chair a committee.

This section also helps to make K-8 accountable to members by establishing the duties of the Board as well as those of individual Board members. The Board administers and oversees the organization and takes necessary action between the annual membership and Board meetings, including approving the K-8 annual budget and meeting minutes and filling Board vacancies. Appendix A to this article identifies the specific duties of individual Board members. The current Board members reviewed the duties for their position and, in several cases, suggested additional duties.

K-8 Committees (Article V) – This article establishes four standing committees: EMWMSF Advisory Committee, EMWMS Section Committee, Communications Committee, and Annual Meeting Committee. The Board also may set up additional committees as needed. To ensure openness, K-8 members may participate on all committees except the EMWMSF Advisory Committee.

'PROPOSED BY-LAWS' CONTINUED

- until the K-8 Annual Meeting would preclude timely action or response;
- Review and approve K-8 annual budget, meeting minutes and any EMWMSF Advisory Committee recommendations;
- Appoint K-8 members to fill vacancies on the Board; and
- Perform other functions K-8 members request or delegate to the Board.

B. Each K-8 Board member also shall perform the following general duties and responsibilities:

- Report at least annually to the K-8 Board and membership; and
- Promptly turn over K-8 records and property to the Board or successor at the end of the term.

C. Appendix A sets forth duties and responsibilities that specific K-8 Board members shall perform in addition to those this Article specify.

**ARTICLE V
K-8 Committees**

Section 1. General

- A. The K-8 standing committees shall include:
- The EMWMSF Advisory Committee;
 - The EMWMS Selection Committee;
 - The K-8 Communications Committee; and
 - The K-8 Annual Meeting Committee.
- B. The K-8 Board may establish other committees as need or interest arises.
- C. Any K-8 member may participate on a K-8 committee unless these by-laws specify otherwise.

Section 2. General Duties and Responsibilities of Committees

- A. Committees shall:
- Select a committee chair(s) unless these by-laws specify otherwise;
 - Meet as necessary in person and/or by electronic means to conduct business;
 - Make periodic reports to the K-8 membership and Board;
 - Attend K-8 Board meetings when requested; and
 - Perform other functions the K-8 membership or Board requests or delegates.

B. Appendix B sets forth duties and responsibilities of K-8 standing committees in addition to the general duties this Article specifies.

Section 3. Purpose and Composition of EMWMSF Advisory Committee

- A. The sole purpose of the EMWMSF Advisory Committee is to provide scholarships to women attending KU who have exceptional achievements and demonstrated financial need.
- B. The EMWMSF Advisory Committee shall consist of the following persons:
- The EMWMSF Advisory Committee Chair(s);

- The K-8 President;
- The K-8 Secretary;
- The K-8 Treasurer;
- The EMWMS Selection Committee Chair(s); and
- A representative of the financial institution managing the EMWMSF.

**ARTICLE VI
Elections**

Section 1. Election Date

K-8 members shall elect the K-8 Board at the K-8 Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Nominations and Election

- A. At least four (4) months before the K-8 Annual Meeting, the President shall:
- Issue a call for nominations for K-8 Board positions on the K-8 Website and in an e-mail to K-8 members; and
 - Provide the list of candidates and absentee voting procedures to the K-8 Communications Committee to put on the K-8 Website and in time to publish them in the K-8 Newsletter.

B. The procedures for K-8 Board elections shall include the following:

- K-8 members shall be allowed to vote by absentee provided the K-8 Annual Meeting Committee receives their ballots before the Annual Meeting;
- The Annual Meeting Committee shall count absentee ballots before the Annual Meeting;
- K-8 members shall be allowed to make nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting;
- Candidates shall be permitted to make a short statement about their qualifications and reasons for running if there is more than one candidate for a Board position;
- The Annual Meeting Committee shall preside over voting for Board positions, which shall be by secret ballot or by acclamation if there is only one candidate for each office; and
- The Annual Meeting Committee shall conduct a run-off if no candidate receives a majority of the total votes cast.

Section 3. Terms

K-8 Board members shall serve a two-year term commencing at the conclusion of the K-8 Annual Meeting.

Section 4. Vacancies

- A. A vacancy on the K-8 Board exists if:
- A Board member resigns;
 - The Board removes the Board member pursuant to these by-laws; or
 - The Board position was not filled at the K-8 Annual Meeting.
- B. If a vacancy occurs the K-8 Board shall appoint a member to complete the unexpired term.

Section 5. Removal



The procedures for removing a K-8 Board member shall be:

- A K-8 member must present a petition for removal to a Board member that is signed by at least five (5) K-8 members and states the reasons for removal;
- The Board shall provide notice of the petition on the K-8 Website or by other means and allow K-8 members at least ten (10) days to submit comments;
- After reviewing member comments the Board shall vote on the removal petition; and
- The Board shall remove the Board member from office immediately if at least two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Board vote for removal.

**ARTICLE VII
Meetings**

Section 1. General

A. All K-8 Annual and in-person Board meetings shall be:

- Open to all K-8 members, Watkins/Miller residents, and invited guests; and
- Held only after notice is provided to K-8 members.

B. Notice of K-8 Annual and in-person Board meetings shall contain at least:

- The meeting time, date and location;
- The meeting agenda;
- A statement that the meeting is open to K-8 members, Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents, and invited guests;
- The contact person(s) for additional information about the meeting or to put an item on the agenda;
- The list of candidates for K-8 Board positions, if applicable;
- The right to make nominations from the floor for K-8 Board positions, if applicable;
- The procedures for absentee voting, if applicable; and
- Any by-laws amendments K-8 members will consider, if applicable.

C. Notice of all K-8 Annual meetings and in-person Board meetings shall be:

- Posted on the K-8 Website;
- Sent to K-8 members by e-mail or other electronic means; and
- Published in the K-8 Newsletter, if possible.

D. Procedures for K-8 Annual and in-person Board meetings shall include:

- The President shall allow K-8 members to put items on the agenda, if time permits;
- The President shall allow K-8 members, Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents, and invited guests to participate in discussions;
- The Secretary shall record all motions and votes in the meeting minutes; and
- Any action K-8 members or the K-8 Board takes at Annual and in-person Board meetings shall be by majority vote of members or the

Board present, respectively, unless these by-laws specify otherwise.

Section 2. K-8 Annual Meeting

A. K-8 shall hold a membership meeting at least annually after providing at least sixty (60) days notice to members. If possible, K-8 shall hold the Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Watkins/Miller Alumnae Teas.

B. The purposes of the K-8 Annual Meeting shall be:

- Electing K-8 Board members;
- Presenting EMWMS awards;
- Presenting reports and recommendations of K-8 Board members, committee chair(s) and Watkins/Miller Presidents and Alumnae Chairs;
- Amending the K-8 by-laws, if necessary; and
- Considering and voting on recommendations and other items concerning K-8.

Section 3. K-8 Board Meetings

A. The K-8 Board shall hold at least one in-person meeting annually in conjunction with the K-8 Annual Meeting after providing at least sixty (60) days notice to K-8 members.

B. The President or five (5) Board members may call additional Board meetings as necessary.

C. The Board may meet, conduct business and vote by e-mail or other means provided:

- Board members receive at least ten (10) days notice, except in an emergency;
- Board members have at least ten (10) days to respond and vote, except in an emergency;
- Any action taken is by majority vote of the entire Board; and
- The Board reports the substance of the communication and any votes taken to the K-8 Communications Committee to provide to K-8 members.

Section 4. EMWMSF Advisory Committee Meetings

A. The EMWMSF Advisory Committee shall hold at least one in-person meeting annually after providing at least thirty (30) days notice to K-8 members.

B. The EMWMSF Advisory Committee may meet, conduct business and vote by e-mail and other means provided that:

- Committee members receive at least ten (10) days notice, except in an emergency;
- Committee members have at least ten (10) days to respond and vote, except in an emergency; and
- Any action taken is by majority vote of the entire Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Parliamentary Authority

Common sense and courtesy shall be the general rule of conduct for all K-8 meetings. The most Please see 'PROPOSED BY-LAWS', page 14

With regard to the EMWMSF Advisory Committee, this article reinforces that the Committee has only one purpose – “to provide scholarships to women attending KU who have exceptional achievements and demonstrated financial need.” The intention of this provision is to ensure K-8 members that *all* donations to the EMWMSF will be used for scholarships. The Fund may not be used for any other purpose.

Based on advice from the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (GKCCF), this article specifies that the composition of the EMWMSF Advisory Committee shall include the Committee Chair, K-8 President, Secretary, Treasurer, EMWMS Selection Committee Chair and a representative from the institution managing the EMWMSF. With the exception of the institution representative, K-8 elects all of the EMWMSF Advisory Committee members, which enhances the Committee’s openness and accountability.

To ensure both openness and accountability, this article requires all committees to report back to the Board and membership periodically. Appendix B to this article identifies the specific duties of each of K-8’s standing committees, which the current committee chairs reviewed.

Elections (Article VI) – This article provides that K-8 members elect K-8 Board members for two-year terms at the K-8 Annual Meeting. To ensure that all K-8 members are able to participate on the Board and in elections, the by-laws require that the President issue a call for nominations, that nominations also be allowed from the floor at the Annual Meeting and that K-8 members may vote by absentee ballot.

The article also specifies procedures for filling vacancies and removing a Board member who, for example, does not perform her duties.

Meetings (Article VII) – To further the goals of transparency and openness, this article requires that Annual Meetings and in-person Board meetings be open to all K-8 members and held only after notice is provided to members. It also requires that the EMWMSF Advisory Committee hold at least one in-person meeting each year.

In addition to outlining procedures for Annual and in-person Board meetings, the

Please see 'BY-LAWS ARTICLE', page 14

**'BY-LAWS ARTICLE' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13**

article provides that the Board and EMWMSF Advisory Committee may meet and conduct business by electronic means.

Parliamentary Authority (Article VIII) – Common sense and courtesy are the general rule of conduct for all K-8 meetings with assistance from *Roberts' Rules*.

Amendment of By-laws (Article IX) – This article gives K-8 members the right to amend the by-laws at Annual Meetings and spells out the amendment procedures.

Call the question

The By-laws Committee will present the by-laws at the 2012 Annual Meeting and answer member questions. If K-8 members approve the proposed by-laws, they will become effective immediately.

The members of the By-laws Committee are:
Ali Zayas, Chair
alexis.a.zayas@gmail.com

Emily Bannwarth
Miller/Rieger 2004-08
e.bannwarth@gmail.com

Samantha Bunnyfield
sambunnyfield@gmail.com

Mary Emerson
Watkins 2005-09
Emeo.37
rson.mary@gmail.com

Lynn Lammers
Watkins 2006-10
lynn.lammers@gmail.com

Sarah (Wohlrahe) Shortall and John Shortall
sjshortall@verizon.net

'PROPOSED BY-LAWS' CONTINUED

recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern all K-8 meetings, provided they do not conflict with the K-8 by-laws or any special rule of order K-8 has adopted.

**ARTICLE IX
Amendment of By-laws****Section 1. General**

K-8 may amend these by-laws at a K-8 Annual Meeting by two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of K-8 members voting at the meeting or by absentee ballot.

Section 2. Amendment Procedures

The procedures for amending the K-8 by-laws shall be as follows:

- Any K-8 member may propose to amend the by-laws by submitting a written motion to any K-8 Board member that contains the amendatory language and reasons for the amendment;
- The K-8 Annual Meeting notice and agenda must include the proposed amendment and absentee voting procedures;
- Absentee ballot must be received and counted before the K-8 Annual Meeting; and
- The K-8 member(s) proposing the amendment may explain the amendment and answer questions at the K-8 Annual Meeting.

APPENDIX A**Duties and Responsibilities of K-8 Board****Section 1. President**

The President shall:

- Call, prepare agendas for and preside at all K-8 membership and Board meetings;
- Act as the spokesperson for and represent K-8 at meeting or designate a Board member to do so if necessary;
- Prepare and sign K-8 correspondence or designate a Board member to prepare it;
- Be a signatory on the K-8 checking account and sign checks in absence of the Treasurer;
- Sign contracts and other financial instruments as necessary;
- Maintain regular communication with the K-8 Board and committees; and
- Be a member of the EMWMSF Advisory Committee.

Section 2. Vice President

The Vice President shall:

- Preside at meetings in absence of the President;
- Assume the position of President for the remainder of the unexpired term if a vacancy occurs; and
- Chair the K-8 Annual Meeting Committee.

Section 3. Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- Take minutes at all K-8 membership, Board and EMWMSF Advisory Committee meetings or designate another K-8 member to take minutes when necessary;
- Provide draft minutes to the K-8 Board and EMWMSF Advisory Committee for approval and approved minutes to the K-8 Communications Committee to provide to K-8 members;
- Maintain and update the K-8 membership roster;

- Maintain approved minutes and current K-8 by-laws; and
- Be a member of the EMWMSF Advisory Committee.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- Receive and deposit funds in a federally-insured depository;
- Be the primary signatory on the K-8 checking account;
- Pay all approved bills and disburse all expenditures by check;
- Prepare annual budget for K-8 Board approval;
- Keep a list of all persons donating to the EMWMSF and K-8 Sugar Bowl and report the list the K-8 Communications Committee;
- Acknowledge all donations to the EMWMSF and K-8 Sugar Bowl; and
- Be a member of the EMWMSF Advisory Committee.

Section 5. Historian(s)

The Historian(s) shall:

- Develop, identify and preserve information and historical records about Elizabeth Miller Watkins; K-8; the EMWMSF; and Watkins/Miller Halls, alumnae and residents;
- Update historical publications as necessary; and
- Select and transfer historical records to the EMW Legacy Collection at KSHS and/or the Watkins Community Museum of History Historian.

Section 6. Watkins/Miller Campus Coordinator(s)

The Watkins/Miller Campus Coordinator(s) shall:

- Act as liaisons and resource persons for Watkins/Miller Halls and residents;
- Provide support and assistance to Watkins/Miller residents when requested; and
- Plan and host events to educate Watkins/Miller residents about Elizabeth Miller Watkins, K-8 and the history of Watkins/Miller Halls.

Section 7. EMWMSF Advisory Committee Chair(s)

The EMWMSF Advisory Committee Chair(s) shall:

- Call and preside at committee meetings;
- Serve as liaison with and represent the Committee at meetings with the financial institution managing the EMWMSF and other organizations;
- Sign contracts and other financial instruments that the Committee and K-8 Board approve;
- Inform the financial institution managing the EMWMSF of changes in investment strategies and Committee membership; and
- Inform EMWMS Selection Committee of the funds available for EMWMS awards.

Section 8. EMWMS Selection Committee Chair(s)

The EMWMS Selection Committee Chair(s) shall:

- Oversee revision and distribution of EMWMS applications and information about the EMWMS;
- Oversee review and evaluation of applications and selection of EMWMS recipients;
- Report the names of EMWMS recipients to the K-8 Board, EMWMSF Advisory and K-8 Annual Meeting Committees; and
- Be a member of the EMWMSF Advisory Committee.

Section 9. K-8 Website Coordinator(s)

The K-8 Website Coordinator(s) shall:



- Coordinate maintaining and updating the K-8 Website so it provides timely information;
- Respond to or forward to the appropriate K-8 Board member or committee communications received through the K-8 Website, the K-8 e-mail address and electronic accounts; and
- Serve on and coordinate communication activities with the K-8 Communications Committee.

Section 10. K-8 Newsletter Coordinator(s)

The K-8 Newsletter Coordinator(s) shall:

- Organize, edit and publish the K-8 Newsletter at least annually;
- Arrange for the design, printing and distribution of the K-8 Newsletter;
- Serve on and coordinate communication activities with the K-8 Communications Committee.

Section 11. K-8 Mentoring Coordinator(s)

The K-8 Mentoring Coordinator(s) shall:

- Identify the mentoring needs of Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents;
- Establish and maintain a mentoring program to address identified needs; and
- Recruit volunteers to be mentors and help with the K-8 Mentoring program.

APPENDIX B

Duties and Responsibilities of K-8 Standing Committees

Section 1. EMWMSF Advisory Committee

The EMWMSF Advisory Committee shall:

- Monitor and review EMWMSF investments;
- Update and revise investment strategies of the EMWMSF;
- Recommend for K-8 Board approval selection of or changes in the financial institution managing the EMWMSF; and
- Determine amount of funds available each year for EMWMS awards.

Section 2. EMWMS Selection Committee

The EMWMS Selection Committee shall:

- Maintain and update EMWMS application and publicize information about the EMWMS awards and application process;
- Establish and make available objective procedures for evaluating applications and selecting EMWMS recipients that ensure the goal to award scholarships based on exceptional achievement and demonstrated financial need;
- Review applications and select recipients in accordance with the objective procedures;

- Coordinate presentation of EMWMS awards with K-8 Annual Meeting Committee.

Section 3. K-8 Annual Meeting Committee

The K-8 Annual Meeting Committee shall:

- Plan the Annual Meeting, including the location, program, speakers and luncheon;
- Provide timely information about the Annual Meeting to Watkins and Miller Scholarship Halls and the K-8 Communications Committee to provide to K-8 members; and
- Invite Watkins/Miller residents, EMWMS recipients and special guests to attend the Annual Meeting as guests of K-8.

Section 4. K-8 Communications Committee

The K-8 Communications Committee shall:

- Solicit, prepare and coordinate content of the K-8 Newsletter, K-8 Website and other methods of communication to keep K-8 members, Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents and EMWMSF donors and recipients informed in a timely manner; and
- Explore new and additional measures to establish and maintain communication with K-8 members, Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents and EMWMSF donors and recipients.

'2012' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Treasurer: Mary Emerson (Watkins 2005-09);

Historian: Laura (Draxler) Sixta (Watkins 2005-09);

Watkins/Miller Campus Coordinators: Bev (Runkle) Benso (Watkins 1954-58) and Judy (Johnson) Niebaum (Miller 1958-61);

EMWMSF Advisory Committee Chair: Alica Thomas;

EMWMS Selection Committee Chair: Vacant;

K-8 Website Coordinator: Michelle Loewenstein;

K-8 Newsletter Coordinators: Sarah (Wohlrahe) Shortall (Watkins 1972-76) and Ali (Bannwarth) Zayas (Watkins 2002-06);

K-8 Mentoring Coordinator: Emily Bannwarth (Miller/Rieger 2004-08).

New heights on Lilac Lane

Watkins President Lisa Curran and Miller President Melanie Remp will present the annual "State of the Halls" address. They will report on hall concerns, activities, rents and the Alumnae Teas on Sunday, April 22.

The final item business item on the Annual Meeting agenda will be consideration and passage of the proposed by-laws, which are printed in this Newsletter. Members of the by-laws committee will outline major points about the by-laws and answer questions.

To reach for the seconds

Following the business meeting, K-8 members, Watkins/Miller residents and invited guests will enjoy a celebratory luncheon at the County Club. The luncheon provides a great opportunity for Watkins/Miller alumnae and

residents to get to know each other better as they share a meal.

A star-studded panel

After lunch, "Lady Bountiful" Elizabeth Miller Watkins will make a special appearance as part of the special program the Annual Meeting Committee has planned on the history of Watkins/Miller through the decades. Every decade will be represented by those who will tell about life on Lilac Lane, including the rents, the kitchens and the fun. The Annual Meeting Committee has set its sights for perfection. The panel will all wear period clothing and are even going to rehearse the program on the eve of the Annual Meeting.

The birth of many stars

Following the program, the EMWMS Selection Committee will present the 2012-13 awards. They will present more than \$50,000 in scholarships, which is a new record. The number of applications the Selection Committee received this year also is a record. This year the Selection Committee is going to place the emphasis of the awards presentation on the recipients. "Time will be given to the recipients to tell us how they plan to change the world," Gayle added.

Reserve your place for the fun

According to Gayle Matchett, "This is going to be THE best annual meeting ever" and Gayle has been to a lot of K-8 meetings! So you don't miss out on any of the fun, register for the 2012 K-8 Annual Meeting today!

K-8 requests that you please register to attend the Annual Meeting and celebratory luncheon by Friday, April 13. You can register by e-mail, phone or mail (see registration form). The cost for the meeting is \$20. You may send a check, payable to Kitchen 8, to K-8 Treasurer Mary Emerson or pay at the Annual Meeting.

The members of the 2012 K-8 Annual Meeting Committee are

Elizabeth Boman – co-chair
gssplash@aol.com

Pat (Jolly) Putnam
Watkins 1971-74
pajputnam@hotmail.com

Bev Benso
bevbenso@sunflower.com

Samantha Bunnyfield
sambunnyfield@gmail.com

Mary Emerson
mary.emerson@gmail.com

Norma Hoagland
norma.hoagland@yahoo.com

Gayle Matchett
jeregayle@sunflower.com

Judy Niebaum
jniebaum@sunflower.com

Alica Thomas
alicat_alicat@yahoo.com

For more information about the annual meeting and scholarship presentation, please contact Norma Hoagland at 913-727-6446 or norma.hoagland@yahoo.com.



Alumnae News

It's time we heard from you! Tell us what you have been up to, what is happening in your life now that you've moved off of Lilac Lane. We want to know and so do your many friends from Watkins and Miller. Send your news to Sarah (Wohlrabe) Shortall (Watkins 1972-76) at sarabshortall@kitchen8.org.

The Pied Pipers of Lilac Lane

When Miller alumna Betty (Austin) Hensley (1941-44) organized "The Nightingale Flutes" in Wichita, KS, several years ago little did she know that she had brought together the Pied Pipers of Lilac Lane. After assembling the group of seven flute players, Betty discovered that two other Nightingales had lived at Miller, too – Sonya (Ramsey) Maxwell (1980-83) and Martha (Selfridge) Housholder (1964-68).

The Nightingale Flutes practice together monthly and add extra rehearsals before each of their several concerts every year. The Nightingales all play concert C flutes, but the group also has available several piccolos, three alto flutes and one bass flute for special events.

Betty still teaches concert and Native American flute. She said that her "Flutes of the World" collection will be donated to KU for the Spencer Museum. According to Betty, the Spencer Museum already has a collection of 250 flutes and her donation will bring the collection up to 400 flutes.

Sonya also teaches music at an elementary school in Wichita and Martha is a dermatologist. Hopefully, some day the Nightingales will return to serenade their sisters of



Miller alumnae Sonya Maxwell, Betty Hensley and Martha Housholder, members of "The Nightingale Flutes," relax after their most recent and successful concert in Wichita.

Lilac Lane.

1970s Alumnae: "Ever Remain" True to Lilac Lane

Although almost 40 years has passed, the 1970s-era Watkins women "ever remain" sweethearts of Lilac Lane. The proof – more than a dozen 1970s alumnae held a reunion at the KU Student Union after the 2011 K-8 Annual Meeting last April 16. After reminiscing for several hours, the group found that the bonds between them were still strong and the friendship still sweet even after four decades of living busy lives.

The reunion was the brainchild of Lilac Lane Sweethearts Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman (1971-75) and Pat (Jolly) Putnam (1971-74), who organized the event, complete with gathering pictures of Watkins alumnae then and now and developing a program for the reunion.

"When we were students we looked forward to that future with the 'light of the stars' in our eyes," Pat said. On April 16, the Watkins alumnae looked back across the years, at personal and professional triumphs and tragedies, and shared them one by one in a casual circle of mature women.

If you organize it, they will come

Watkins alumnae came from across the country to participate in the reunion – all the way from New Haven, CT, and the northern woods of Wisconsin. In addition to Elizabeth and Pat, the women attending the reunion were Gayle (Chiles) Burger, Carole (Smith) Carey (1971-74), Norma (Decker) Hoagland (1969-71), Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger (1970-74), Susan Tara Masih (1972-75), Cathy Fuller Miller (1970-73), Camille (Icenogle) Olcese, Vicki (Markley) Parsons, Sarah (Wohlrabe) Shortall (1972-76), Sharon (Kisrow) Spencer, and Suzy Stutz (1971-74).

Even alumnae who couldn't attend the reunion sent pictures and notes. So she would be at the reunion "in spirit," Rev. Karen



The following 1970s Watkins women held their first reunion more than 40 year after they lived on Lilac Lane. Front row: Susan Kissinger, Norma Hoagland. Middle row: Suzy Stutz, Carole Carey, Vicki Parsons. Back row: Sarah Shortall, Cathy Miller, Sharon Spencer, Elizabeth Boman, Camille Olcese, Gayle Burger, Susan Masih, Pat Putnam.

(Kruskop) Selig, a pastor in Royersford, PA, sent a photo of her 1974 wedding to Alan Selig, also a pastor, and a recent picture of the couple with their grown children, Jenni and Cali. Elena Wahbeh sent a picture and update on her life along with regrets that a recent car accident prevented her from attending the reunion. Also sending letters and pictures were Ann Beckman, Jean (Clyatt) Klassen (1974-75), Kathy Tussing (1970-74), Evalyn Hubert, and a former resident director Pam Conrad (1973-74).

The group reluctantly remembered the deaths of Watkins friends Shari Prochaska and Sue (Overmann) Garcia Thompson (1970-73), who was honored at the Annual Meeting, and reminisced about special times with them at Watkins.

Oh, the things we remember

As expected, the topic of food and Kitchens quickly came up. The group laughed as they looked at old favorite casserole recipes. "We also laughed about our favorite kitchen traditions – who else would appreciate cutting off the tip of the pie and saving it to eat at the end of the meal in unison," Pat recalled. "We also reminisced about who had had 'candlelightings' at the hall, and who got thrown into the fountain afterwards," said Pat, who was one of several from the group who had a candlelighting at Watkins. And of course, discussion of candlelighting segued into identifying and retrospectively rating boyfriends – discarded, traded or married.

As the group perused photo albums, the Miss Watkins pageant candidates relived their 15 minutes of fame while we wondered what had become of some of our winners. Every one



attending the reunion also took a turn repeating her “buzz,” the series of “dits” and “dahs” that let you know you had a call or a gentleman waiting to see you downstairs. “Note that NO ONE had forgotten her buzz,” Pat added.

Another thing the group said they “could never forget” was the girls who owned cars. “They took the rest of us everywhere,” Pat said. They recalled an aromatic lesson learned at Watkins regarding cars – counting the number of packages of beef lest one be left in the trunk for a week. Apparently that smell never did completely leave that car. A little harder to remember were the names of the foreign students who lived at Watkins and the group wondered where they were now. Elizabeth mentioned our love for our gentle and beloved “handyman,” Cecil.

We are where we've been

The group discussed how life at Watkins changed them and helped them on their career paths after graduation. “We should not have been amazed at the accomplishments of our fellow Watkins Women,” Pat said, “but as each one discussed her life, many of us were struck with admiration.” Among our group were nurses, a nuclear health physicist, teachers, a former health CFO, an attorney, a ranch owner and even a yoga instructor.

“We discovered that some of us have continued our friendships throughout the intervening years, with get-togethers with families, attending children’s weddings, trips together and electronic friendships,” Pat mentioned. But new friendships also were made that day. One Watkins woman opened her home to another who needed a “motel stop” for a couple of nights. A second Watkins woman helped another’s son by agreeing to be a reference on a job application in a tight job market. “Watkins women are often in positions where they can affect good changes for others as Watkins Hall loyalty runs deep and the cream rises to the top,” Pat added.

As the group finished up and headed to the memorial reception for Sue Garcia Thompson, everyone attending this reunion of women who came to age at Watkins in the 1970s hoped this will become an annual event!

Newly Legally Blonde

Alba Grace, the 12-hour old baby with the shock of blonde hair in the photo, joined the family of Rebekah (Hamil) Allen (Watkins 2004-05) and Austin Allen March 19, 2010, in Olathe, KS. Alba was 7 pounds and 18 ¼ inches at birth.

Alba’s name and very full head of hair were a gift from her family. Mom and dad also were born with a lot of hair, but almost black instead of blonde. Alba is a family name on her father’s side, but no one knew that until after Rebekah and Austin selected it. “We actually both liked it from the movie *The Time Traveler’s Wife*,” Rebekah said. “It was what they named their daughter. Alba is unique, no one else will likely have that name in her class once she starts school, and being a former teacher no students had ruined the name for me yet.”

A blonde surprise

Alba surprised mom and dad when she arrived three weeks early. Rebekah, a teacher at Wheatridge Middle School in Gardner, KS, had taught right up to spring break. Two days before spring break would be over Rebekah’s water broke. She said it happened at 9:30 a.m., Saturday morning while reading a Facebook message from her mother saying they had just gotten back home to Kansas from a spring break to California so “I could have the baby at any time.” “The irony,” she added.

Austin took Rebekah to the hospital although she wasn’t “100% positive” her water had broken. “It doesn’t happen like the movies,” Rebekah said. “My due date was still three weeks away, but I thought I would go to the hospital to check and make sure.” Once Rebekah was at the hospital she said it became more and more evident that her water had broken. “I was admitted . . . and contractions started around 11 a.m.,” Rebekah recalled. “After 10 hours without any pain medication I hadn’t made hardly any progress, so . . . I demanded the drugs. They helped me relax.” Three hours later, at 10:39 p.m., Alba Grace was born.

Playing hooky

Needless to say, Rebekah did not return to her classroom on Monday or the rest of the school year. “After Alba was born I went back to visit a couple of times,” she said. “[My students] loved getting to hold [Alba] and having her be present for their 8th grade graduation.”

Rebekah said her students really loved that she was pregnant. “They helped me with coming

up with lists of names, placing non-money bets on if it was a boy or girl. One [of my students] even predicted I was pregnant before I told anyone other than Austin.”

Rebekah is taking off a year from teaching to be with Alba and “loving every minute of it.” By this February, Rebekah said, Alba was

“crawling everywhere and close to walking.”



Alba Grace “Blondie” Allen shows off her 12-hour old head of blonde hair after she surprised mom Rebekah (Hamil) Allen three weeks early.

The road that led to Alba started at Watkins. After Austin proposed, Rebekah had a candlelighting. “It was one of my favorite memories,” she said. “It was hard keeping it a secret from everyone (aside from my two roommates). I could only wear my ring in my room and in class for the week leading up

to the candlelighting. I was afraid of someone catching me wearing it and realize the candlelighting was for me.”

After Rebekah graduated in May 2005, she moved back home for seven months to finish planning her December wedding. Rebekah taught English for five years before giving birth to Alba.

S’more Enchanted Evening

If, by chance, you had happened to look out into the backyard of Miller Hall after the 2010 Alumnae Tea, you would have seen Phillip Wrigley (Battenfeld 2004-08) framed by the blooming lilacs and on bended knee, proposing to a teary-eyed Paula Hopkins (Miller 2003-08), K-8 Secretary. Paula said Phillip told her that day that he chose that spot because 1,631 days before, they met for the first time during an evening of s’mores and socializing between their two scholarship halls.

It was on an evening in late October 2005, that the Miller women invited the Battenfeld men over to their backyard firepit to make s’mores. “Being an Eagle Scout,” Paula recalled, “Phillip took it upon himself to start the fire.” Between gooey bites, Paula and Phillip started chatting and soon realized they had an anthropology class together. Paula said that the two of them ended up walking home together after class every day for the rest of the semester, becoming fast friends in the process. “Thanks to the not-so-subtle nudging of many Millerites and B-



Newlyweds Paula (Hopkins) and Phillip Wrigley get ready for s'more fun at their wedding reception last May.

felders, we eventually became a couple," Paula revealed.

After five "happy years" of dating, Paula and Phillip became the Wrigleys on May 28, 2011. Like other weddings between "Schol-Hallers," Paula's and Phillip's wedding party looked a lot like an All-Scholarship Hall Council meeting. Paula's roommate at Miller, Alice Walkiewicz (2003-06), traveled all the way from New York City to be a reader. Phillip's groomsmen included James Baker (Grace Pearson 2008-10), Russell Davies (Stephenson 2004-07), Ryan King (Pearson 2007-11), AJ Mellott (Stephenson 2004-05), and Chris Worley (Battenfeld 2005-11).

S'more s'mores

The wedding and reception also looked a lot like that s'mores party back in 2005 as many Miller and Battenfeld alumnae attended from far and wide, including a very pregnant Danielle (Schneider) King (Miller 2003-06).

Paula said the wedding ceremony had a special Miller touch as "My Sweetheart of Lilac Lane" was performed during the lighting of the unity candle. At the reception, Paula and Phillip cut the traditional bridal cake. And then, Paula said, "We toasted marshmallows for the groom's cake, in honor of our first meeting in Miller's backyard." She added that they provided sterno catering flames so guests could roast their own marshmallows and "enjoy their very own s'mores."

After the wedding, the happy couple ventured off on a beautiful honeymoon hiking, spelunking, kayaking, star-gazing, tree-top-walking, and hot air ballooning their way through beautiful National Parks.

Miller was a very special place for Paula. "Living at Miller allowed me to pursue a university education while providing me with a happy home," Paula reminisced. "And then an evening of s'mores, tearful proposals, and a lifetime of happiness yet to come, have made it all the more special. I look forward to returning to Miller every year for Alumnae Tea, standing in the backyard, and remembering where my romance began. Who knew love could bloom over s'mores!"

When It Rains It Pours

Sometimes the best laid plans of brides and grooms just go astray. How else can one explain why, in the midst of one of Oklahoma's worst droughts ever, that the one weekend day in all of September and October the skies just let open was the day of Watkins alumna Nicole (Leiker) (2002-05) and Brendan Donnelly's wedding. But rain it did at the Coles Garden in Oklahoma City, OK, on October 8, 2011. "Our entire wedding, with the exception of the dinner, was supposed to be outside," Nicole lamented. "But it just rained and rained. Luckily everything worked out perfect and the rain made for some beautiful pictures."

After long-distance dating for over three years, Nicole and Brendan were not about to let a little rain wash out their wedding plans. Nicole and Brendan met at KU but not until Nicole's senior year. Brendan was studying architectural engineering and living with a former Pearson Scholarship Hall resident, Jeff Klinkhardt. "Jeff brought Brendan to my sister's birthday party," Nicole remembered. "We hit it off right away - bonding over our Monday night ritual of watching '24' and many, many nights at the Phoggy Dog." Unfortunately, their bonding also coincided with Nicole's and Brendan's graduations. With her engineering degree in hand, Nicole took a job with Occidental Petroleum in Midland, TX, while Brendan moved to St Louis, MO, to work. Ironically, when Nicole and Brendan were separated by more than 1,000 miles, that's when they decided to start dating.

I'd walk a million miles . . .

Over the next three years, Nicole and Brendan grew closer and closer, both emotionally and physically. After living in Midland for six months, Nicole was transferred to Houston, TX. That brought Nicole and Brendan 178 miles closer, but still a plane flight apart. Next Brendan took a job in Kansas City, MO, which brought the couple another 95 miles closer. Nicole wanted to close the gap, but she was not able to find a job in Kansas City.

Finally, Brendan's company opened an office in Oklahoma City, OK, a mere 445 miles from Houston. Nicole was pleased because "Oklahoma City was somewhere where I could work." Before Nicole took the next step - moving to Oklahoma City, Brendan took his next step - proposing to Nicole.

Once Nicole and Brendan were in the same city, they started to plan their wedding. Jeff, who had made their meeting possible, was one of Brendan's groomsmen, and Watkins alumnae Aubrey Tetreault-Folmsbee (2001-05) and Kat (Davenport) Cornell were two of Nicole's bridesmaids. After the wedding, Nicole and Brendan honeymooned in sunny Antigua for 10 days.

Nicole now works as a Production Engineer for Chesapeake Energy in Oklahoma City, and Brendan is a Fire Protection Engineer for Poole Fire Protection. Not surprisingly, Nicole and Brendan built a home in Oklahoma City, where they live with their dog, Eleanor.



Brendan and Nicole (Leiker) Donnelly celebrate getting through their wedding vows without being washed away in a much-needed rain storm last October in Oklahoma City.



In Memoriam

Remembering Our Lilac Lane Sisters and Friends

Althea (Shuss) Vratil

Watkins 1940-43

Watkins alumnae Althea (Shuss) Vratil passed away December 3, 2011, in Overland Park, KS, where she had lived in recent years.

Althea was born Sept. 23, 1922, in Larned, KS, and spent most her life there. In high school, Althea was elected to Girls State and was active with alumnae in that group.

Althea moved into Watkins in the fall of 1940, but left school in 1943 to marry Frank Vratil before he shipped overseas in World War II. Although Althea left KU before graduating, her family said she “loved everything KU” and remained loyal to the Jayhawks. Fifty years later, at age 71, Althea obtained her bachelor’s degree.

Althea was a devoted wife, a selfless mother, and a doting grandmother. She loved her hometown of Larned and enjoyed playing golf and substitute teaching.

Althea is survived by her son John (Teresa) Vratil of Leawood, KS, her daughter Peggy (Mike) of Lenexa, KS, and son Jim Vratil of Larned, KS; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Althea’s husband, Frank, preceded her in death.

Jessimai (Shidler) Strange

Watkins 1946-48

Retired businesswoman Jessimai (Shidler) Strange passed away May 25, 2011, in Seattle, WA, from colon cancer. She was 80 years old.

Jessimai was born on November 13, 1930, to Fran and Irene Shidler, who were bankers in Dallas, TX. Jessimai’s father died when she was only nine years old. When her mother became ill soon after, Jessimai was sent to a variety of places to live with different relatives. For a brief time she even lived at a Catholic boarding school in San Antonio, TX. Eventually Jessimai moved to Winchester, KS, where she lived with her Aunt Lucy and Uncle George.

Jessimai graduated early from a small high

school in Winchester and enrolled at KU.

“I remember Jessimai as a very young girl coming to Watkins Hall just short of her 16th birthday,” recalled Roselyn (Skonberg) George (Watkins 1945-48). “Though obviously young, she had such a wonderful smile and a twinkle in her eye. I liked her on sight.”

Roselyn said Jessimai quickly “fit in” at Watkins. “For one so young, and having lived with various relatives for most of her life, she had no problems adjusting to living in a houseful of young women,” Roselyn said. “Jessimai was in Kitchen 5 with me, so I had a chance to know her right away. Her comments during dinner discussions always brought a smile or a laugh. It was hard not to feel good when you were around her.” Graduating from high school was not the only thing Jessimai did when she was very young. She began dating her future husband, Byron Strange, her senior year in high school. They married on November 20, 1948, while Jessimai was still attending KU. She graduated in 1949 with a BS in Journalism and got a job with a magazine.

Soon she and Byron moved to Seattle, WA, where the couple opened the Northwest to Pizza Hut, which originated in Kansas. Jessimai entered the MBA program at the University of Washington, testing in the top 10 percent of those entering the program. After obtaining her graduate degree, Jessimai worked for a CPA and eventually opened her own tax and accounting practice.

After Jessimai got her MBA, Roselyn met up with Jessimai and her daughters when they visited Mother Willard in Topeka. “Her two bright-eyed little girls reminded me of Jessimai when she was young,” Roselyn said. “By then she obviously had leadership talents and soon proved that with her career.”

During the many years Jessimai worked in her practice and with her husband, she became a mentor and staunch supporter of women in business as well as an activist for women’s rights. Her daughters Jan and Joan said their mother was a strong and



Watkins Alumnae Virginia (Okeson) Snyder (1945-47), Marilyn (Whiting) Thomas (1943-47), Jessimai (Shidler) Strange (1946-48) and Wilda (Horton) Brock (1943-47) visit with the spirit of Elizabeth Miller Watkins at the Watkins 60th Anniversary celebration in 1986. Photo by Roselyn (Skonberg) George.

independent woman who was “an excellent role model.” In fact, Jan (Strange) Cobb followed her mother into the accounting profession and they were both active in the American Society of Women Accountants, where Jessimai was a board member.

Always generous with her time, Jessimai also served on the board of the University Women’s Club and volunteered at church guild, various university committees and the Swedish Cultural Center. During their precious spare time, Jessimai and Byron loved attending the theatre, symphony, art museums and a variety of sporting events.

Later in life Jessimai’s favorite activity was spending time with her three grandchildren (Heather, Jill and Nick) and five great-grandchildren (Alexandra, Jared, Juliet, London and Michel).

In 1986, at the Watkins Hall 60th anniversary, Roselyn caught up with Jessimai again. “She was just as she had been when I first met her,” Roselyn remembered. “With that same smile and twinkle. I am certain that Jessimai was just the sort of young woman Elizabeth Watkins had in mind when she built Watkins and Miller Halls.”

John Meyer, Jessimai’s husband of 62 years, survives in addition to her daughters and their families.

**'WELCOME' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

about Mrs. Watkins and her legacy, as Bev (Runkle) Benso (Watkins 1954-58) tells us in her article;

- Published an annual newsletter to keep Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents informed about the history of the halls and the women who have lived there and upcoming events;
- Preserved and digitized hall scrapbooks on the K-8 Website so great Lilac Lane memories are not lost;
- Launched a Website this past fall which K-8 Website Committee Chair Michelle Loewenstein (Watkins 2005-09) reports in this issue has brought K-8 into the new millennium in terms of keeping Watkins/Miller alumnae, residents and friends connected.

With so many members and so many projects and activities, the time has come where K-8 needs to establish an operational framework. As the article on the proposed by-laws explains, any organization that oversees a million dollar fund and awards tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships every year needs to have some basic rules and procedures. The by-laws help to ensure accountability while making the organization and its processes more transparent to members.

The proposed by-laws also mark an important point in the history of K-8. It will be the first time that K-8 members will have the opportunity to make sure their voices are heard, by voting on the proposed by-laws and on candidates for K-8 Board positions.

Kitchen 8 -- Our Future

To me, however, the most important aspect of having by-laws is not just to say that we have made it as an organization. Rather, the most important message the by-laws signal for me is that we see a future for K-8. And after you read this Newsletter and, hopefully, attend the 2012 Annual Meeting, I think you will agree with me that K-8's future is bright and dynamic.

Personally, I could see that future shining brightly at the 2011 Board meeting and it was amazing. At that meeting, it was the K-8 members of the new millennium, not the "old fogeys" like me, who were leading the charge to establish by-laws for K-8. Megan Ziegler, 2010-11 Miller Alumnae Chair, moved that the Board establish a committee to develop by-laws in time to be presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting. Her motion passed unanimously. Then Historian Samantha (Birchfield) Bunnyfield (Watkins 2003-07) passed out a written Mission Statement she already had prepared for

the Board to consider. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the Mission Statement and put it in the by-laws. If you look at Article II of the proposed by-laws, Sam's beautiful Mission Statement is there.

Ali (Bannwarth) Zayas (Watkins 2002-06), a bright young attorney in Washington, DC, volunteered to chair the committee and six people volunteered to help. Of those six, who are listed in the article about the proposed by-laws, only my husband and I had gone to college in the last century. John and I are so old that any of the other committee members could be our daughter (and we wish they all were!) The other five Committee members lived on Lilac Lane after Y2K.

I also could see a bright future for K-8 at the 2011 Annual Meeting the day after the Board meeting. The story in this issue about last year's Annual Meeting and weekend reports that KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little came to the meeting and spoke, the first time a Chancellor has ever attended a K-8 Annual Meeting. The story also says Chancellor attended the play about Elizabeth Miller Watkins after the Annual Meeting and complimented Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents for their spirited participation in reciting Mrs. Watkins' Creed.

The numbers don't lie

But those are not the only reasons I believe the future of K-8 is bright. If you look at the list of K-8 Board members and committee chairs on the back page, eight of the current Board members lived at Watkins/Miller during the past decade. Better yet, the story on this page about the upcoming Annual Meeting explains that almost half of the 13 candidates running for the Board lived on Lilac Lane after 2000.

In addition, the article about the EMWMSF reports that, for the first time, two of the five K-8 members on the Advisory Committee, Mary Emerson (Watkins 2005-09) and Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley (Miller 2003-07), lived in Watkins/Miller less than 10 years ago. Moreover, Paula's membership roster story in this issue states that the single largest group of K-8 members, a full 30 percent, did not have a Lilac Lane address until after 2000.

All of this tells me that Lilac Lane alumnae from Generation Y are ready and are standing up to lead K-8 into the future. I should not be surprised. Miller President Sophomore Melanie Remp writes in this issue that Miller Hall, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, has long been an incubator for the development of leaders. Melanie says she had won-

derful role models who prepared her to become President this year. "Being Miller President has taught me so much about not only myself, but also about leadership," she says.

Millennials of Lilac Lane -- the next great generation

When you read about our Generation Y Watkins/Miller alumnae, also known as Millennials, in this Newsletter and see them at the Alumnae Tea April 22, I think you will realize they are really quite admirable. Watkins President Senior Lisa Curran reports in this Newsletter that community service has been a big priority for the Wild Watkins Women. As of the publication date of this Newsletter, Watkins was in 3rd place in the All Scholarship Hall Community Service contest and hoping to move up by participating in the KU Relay for Life, which is the weekend before the Watkins women prepare a feast of treats and entertainment for the 2012 Alumnae Tea. Last year, Curran reports, Watkins raised more money in the relay, which is an all-night campus-wide fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, than any other group.

The Relay for Life was not the only community service project Watkins undertook this year, Lisa explained. Sophomores Andrea Brown, Secretary, and Leslie Montes, Alumnae Chair, launched a composting project at Watkins, which involved taking compost from the kitchens to the KU campus garden, which grows food for local food pantries.

William Strauss and Neil Howe, authors of *Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation*, write that community service such as Watkins' efforts are in keeping with Generation Y, who they describe as "civic minded," especially as compared to the Baby Boomers and Generation X.

Let's hear it for the Baby Boomers

But let's not be too hard on the Baby Boomers. The Newsletter introduces us to three Baby Boomers who attended their first K-8 Annual Meeting last year and immediately volunteered to help K-8. Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman (Watkins 1971-75) and Pat (Jolly) Putnam (Watkins 1971-74), who organized the reunion of the 1970s Watkins women discussed in the Alumnae News section, signed up to co-chair the 2012 K-8 Annual Meeting. Gayle Matchett, who also serves on the Annual Meeting Committee, said Elizabeth and Pat have planned "THE best annual meeting ever" and she's been to a lot of Annual Meetings. You also will see Elizabeth's name in the 2012 Annual Meeting story as a candidate for K-8 Vice President. According



to the proposed K-8 by-laws, the major duty of the Vice President is, you guessed it, to chair the Annual Meeting Committee!

Susan (Kissinger) Harshaw (Watkins 1970-74), who also attended her first Annual Meeting last year, volunteered to serve on the EMWMS Selection Committee. As Gayle reports in her story about the Selection Committee, little did Susan know when she signed up that, because of the improvements the Committee made to the application process and the publicity campaign they launched, the number of applications for the scholarship this year almost tripled last year's.

The generation who must travel uphill

The huge increase in the number of applications for EMWMS awards should come as no surprise. Strauss and Howe write that the economic prospects for the Millennials have worsened due to the late-2000s recession. In her President's Pantry article, Watkins Chair Norma (Decker) Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71) reminds us that K-8 has become the living embodiment of Elizabeth Miller Watkins' dream "to help the girls who must travel uphill." The proposed by-laws codifies Mrs. Watkins' dream in the Mission Statement. Setting that groundwork, Norma asks us to help those Generation Y girls by donating to the EMWMSF or signing up to be a mentor.

In her article about the new K-8 Website, Website Committee Chair Michelle Loewenstein (Watkins 2005-09) explains what the K-8 Mentoring Project is and how Watkins/Miller alumnae can sign up to help our Generation Y from Lilac Lane, whether it be by giving them a place to sleep when they are in town, hooking them up with job interviews during these tough economic times, introducing them to people in their career area, or just talking them through the rough patches.

Even though our Generation Y alumnae may face challenging economic prospects, they still have big hearts. Watkins' Treasurer Mary Emerson reports in her K-8 Sugar Bowl story that a number of them made contributions to K-8 last year and the 2011 Donors list indicates that several also donated in 2010.

Once you finish reading the 2012 K-8 Newsletter, I think you also will find that the future of Kitchen 8 is bright and shining. And you might even find that by-laws aren't as boring as you thought.

Welcome to the 2012 K-8 Newsletter and I hope to welcome you at the 2012 K-8 Annual Meeting next month.

'PRESIDENT' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

But April 16 was not the only time Chancellor Gray-Little took notice of K-8. Last fall, she attended the combined New Women Dinner and Tribute Night that K-8 organized at Watkins Hall. I left Watkins that evening feeling she understood us – our passion, the sisterhood, the special bond and the joy of women, young and old, lighting candles together on a beautiful fall evening.

That evening another person took notice of K-8. Rep. TerriLois Gregory (10th District) presented a proclamation from the Kansas State Legislature honoring Elizabeth Miller Watkins.

Unwanted attention

The Chancellor, KU, the Kansas State Legislature and the Mayor of Lawrence were not the only ones taking notice of K-8 in 2011. Last summer and fall I heard from many K-8 members across the country that the KU Endowment Association (KUEA) had visited them or sent letters to solicit donations and that the KU Department of Student Housing had sent letters asking for donations for KU scholarship halls "and other scholarship funds." Now it was clear that KUEA had taken notice of our Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund (EMWMSF), which is worth more than \$1 million, and of our generous Watkins/Miller alumnae. Unfortunately, this was notice we could have lived without.

I alerted K-8 members about the solicitations. Although I couldn't tell precisely how KUEA and the University would use the donations people sent, I could say that every cent of donations to the EMWMSF are used solely for the purpose of providing scholarships to academically exceptional women who have demonstrated financial need. And I could assure K-8 members that the EMWMSF was dedicated to carrying forward Mrs. Watkins' dream to "help the girls who must travel uphill."

Tooting our own horn just a little bit

Some of the notice K-8 achieved in 2011 was of our own making. Last fall we launched the K-8 Website (www.kitchen8.org) thanks to the K-8 Website Committee chaired by Michelle Loewenstein (Watkins 2005-09) and website designer Stephanie (McDuff) Hamby (Douthart 1995-97). Although we don't keep a tally of the num-

ber of "hits" on the website, more and more Watkins/Miller alumnae are telling us how much they like the K-8 Website.

EMWMS Selection Committee also managed to get a lot of notice for the EMWMSF during this past year. A publicity campaign they implemented to increase awareness of the scholarship fund caught the eye of the KU Financial Aid and Scholarship Fund, which put the EMWMS award on its scholarship website and has asked permission to make copies of the poster developed for the campaign. Students also must have noticed the poster that Watkins/Miller residents plastered all over campus because, according to Committee Co-Chair Gayle (Barry) Matchett (1955-57), the number of applicants tripled this year.

Onward and upward EMW and K-8

So, as I look back on K-8 in 2011, I realize that the more time and effort K-8 spent making people aware of the life and generosity of Mrs. Watkins and carrying forward her legacy to help financially needy women get an education, the more people have noticed us. I can only conclude that what goes around comes around.

Over the past year, it also seems that K-8 has developed a bit of a reputation – we have become the living legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins and our dream, which we inherited from her, is to **"Live, Love, Learn, Leave a Legacy."**

So, who will notice K-8 in 2012? How about YOU! Join us at the 2012 K-8 Annual Meeting and bring your roommates. Thanks to the ideas and efforts of Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman (Watkins 1971-75) and Pat (Jolly) Putnam (Watkins 1971-74) we are going to have "THE best annual meeting ever," says Gayle Matchett.

Even if you can't attend the Annual Meeting this year, notice K-8 in some other way – put your name on the K-8 roster, volunteer for one of our committees, tell your friends from Lilac Lane about K-8, send us your photos and memories from life at Watkins and Miller, and leave a legacy by donating to the EMWMSF or signing up on the K-8 Website to be a mentor so you too can help another girl who must travel uphill.

With Lilac Lane Love,
Norma (Decker) Hoagland, K-8 Chair
Watkins 1969-71

**'2011' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

Helen's sister Corrine (Martin) Ervin (Watkins 1936-40) was living at Watkins when Helen moved into Miller. Helen said there were a number of advantages to having her sister so close by. Helen and Corrine were able to go out on the roof of the hall sunporch and yell over to the other to borrow clothes.

Star light, star bright

Chancellor Gray-Little, who moved onto Lilac Lane August 15, 2009, more than 65 years after Helen and Ruth, arrived at the Annual Meeting in time to hear our alumnae stars talk about their experiences on Lilac Lane. Chancellor Gray-Little said she found Helen's and Ruth's comments and experiences inspiring. She paid tribute to the special bonds that Watkins and Miller have formed with their alumnae.

"We as women need to keep that sense of community and support each other not just in our personal lives and in our college lives, but as we move forward into our professional lives," Gray-Little said. She cited studies indicating that the work of women is often viewed as inferior to the same work done by a man. "We need to encourage the development of all women in leadership roles," Gray-Little added. "We need to have thick skin, keep an eye on what we want to accomplish, and don't be afraid to take advantage of opportunities that come our way. We need to learn to take chances."

It was a welcome surprise when, at the conclusion of her remarks, Chancellor Gray-Little invited questions. Her office originally had said that the Chancellor would only have time to introduce herself and welcome everyone to KU. Taking the Chancellor up on her offer, Karen Krueger (Watkins 1958-62) asked the Chancellor to appoint a K-8 member as the next alumnae member of the Rent Setting Committee, which would help to ensure that Watkins/Miller rents do not keep rising. The Chancellor committed to looking into the matter.

Sarah (Wohlrahe) Shortall (Watkins 1972-76) asked whether Watkins/Miller were part of the Mount Oread Historic District and requested that the halls be added to the Mount Oread Historic District. Although the Chancellor did not know whether Watkins/Miller were included in the Historic District, she researched the issue right after she left the Annual Meeting and had an answer for Sarah by that afternoon.

Rising stars

A special highlight of the Annual Meeting was the presentation of the 2011-12 EMWMS awards to nine exceptional women who are attending KU this year. A record seven of the awards were presented in memory of Watkins alumnae and K-8 friends. In addition to the "In Memory Of" scholarships, the seven were also lovingly remembered in Memory Books that were on display at the meeting. Historian Sam Bunnyfield prepared most of the Memory Books, which included photos and other memorabilia from their time at Watkins.

Cathie (Fuller) Miller (Watkins 1970-73) presented an EMWMS award in honor of **Sue (Overmann) Garcia Thompson** (Watkins 1970-73) to Hailey Alyse Baker, who is finishing her junior year at KU. Cathie and Sue met at Watkins. In Cathie's remarks she recalled the day she and Sue moved into Watkins as freshmen. "We were unloading our cars about the same time and, in the usual Sue Overmann way, she was doing all the work," Cathie said. "I turned and told my mother 'Wouldn't it be great to have her as my roommate.' I got to GR [Guest Room] and there was Sue." They remained roommates for their three years at Watkins and rented a house together their senior year."

Cathie and Sue were best friends for almost 40 years. They were maids-of-honor at each other's weddings and marked the major milestones in each other's life, including the births and bar-mitzvahs and bat-mitzvahs of Cathie's children. Cathie's daughters traveled with her from Connecticut to honor Sue and many of Sue's family, including her brother Daniel and his family from Kirkville, MO.

Cathie spoke of Sue's bright, hardworking, athletic zest for life and the inspiration she was to so many people. "She had an amazing work ethic and was so respected," Cathie said, adding that awarding an EMWMS award in Sue's name was so fitting because "Sue never got below an A and was named a Watkins Scholar, the highest academic award at KU."

Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman (Watkins 1971-75) presented an EMWMS award to Watkins Sophomore Kerra Anne Cissne in memory of her mother, **Corrine (Martin) Ervin**



Alumnae Rep. Ruth Wilkin (Watkins 1936-40) and Dr. Helen Gilles (Miller 1939-42) share their memories about life on Lilac Lane at the 2011 K-8 Annual Meeting.

(Watkins 1938-40). Elizabeth spoke of her mother's lifelong passion and enthusiasm for learning and justice. After graduating with a B.A. in English, Corrine taught English, music, speech and dramatics at various schools. Corrine's passion for justice led her to establish a Mother-to-Mother chapter in Parson, KS, to help young, poor mothers. She also offered a home to many refugees from Vietnam and helped them learn English and get work. For many years Corrine also was active in an international multi-cultural peace association.

After childhoods of listening to "mother's wonderful stories of scholarship hall life," Elizabeth said the stories convinced her, her two sisters, her brother and her son to live in the scholarship halls while attending KU.

Mark Browder traveled from Tennessee with his mother, Joyce (Klemp) Browder (Watkins 1954-58), to present an EMWMS award to Miller Junior Natalie Lyn Scott in honor of his father **Don Browder**. Joyce, former K-8 chair, was one of the original founders of K-8 and the EMWMSF. Like Joyce, Don was a long-time supporter of K-8 and the EMWMSF. In his inspiring tribute to his father, Mark cited his father's "strong moral compass, intelligence and hard work" as a model for all the EMWMS recipients. Don was raised in a home that had no electricity, running water or indoor plumbing. After years of selling vacuum cleaners door-to-door, Don founded Mark III Financial Group and through his drive and hard work he built the company into the largest public sector employee benefits brokerage in the southeast.

Senior Casey Eisenbarth, a Miller resident, received the second **Janice Gartrell** EMWMS



award. Janice Gartrell's (Watkins 1939-42) testamentary gift of nearly \$900,000 to the EMWMSF has ensured that K-8 will be able to award scholarships for years to come. Gayle Matchett, a close friend of Janice, presented the memorial award, saying, "Janice's great generosity to K-8 enables us to help young deserving women as Mrs. Watkins did during her life and intended to do long after her passing."

Sophomore Qiao Yi Chen, who lives at Watkins, and Senior Alexandra Porter, a former Miller resident, both received their EMWMS awards in memory of **LaBerta (Weiss) Hattwick** (Watkins 1926-30), a nationally renowned child psychologist and author. LaBerta, who lived to age 100, loved learning and research. She was a top student at KU, being selected to both Phi Beta Kappa and Mortar Board. At a time when most women did not go to college at all, LaBerta earned a Master's and PhD in child psychology and worked for much of her adult life.

Bev (Runkle) Benso (Watkins 1954-58) presented to Freshman Dakota Driscoll an EMWMS award in memory of **Dorothy (Harkness) Martin** (Watkins 1940-44). Bev said Dorothy was a founding member of the Committee for the Preservation of Watkins and Miller Halls in large part because Watkins Hall had made it possible for her to attend college. Dorothy's mother died when she was five and her father and brothers did their best to raise Dorothy, but the family was poor. Bev said that when Dorothy was in high school she was recommended for a new scholarship at KU for gifted but financially needy women. "Sound familiar?" Bev observed. Dorothy's efforts to preserve Watkins and Miller made it possible for two of her granddaughters to live at Watkins and one to live at Miller when they attended KU.

Sophomore Lidya Abdullah Jirjis received her EMWMS award "in honor of" **Donna Jean (Stember) Meyer** (Watkins 1940-43). This was the first time K-8 was presenting a scholarship to honor a living person. Eileen (Griffitts) Bennett (Watkins 1940-44), Donna's roommate at Watkins, donated to the EMWMSF so she could honor Donna during her lifetime.

Senior Marie Catherine Osterhaus, a former Watkins resident, was awarded an EMWMS award in memory of **Margery (Lewis) Wigner** (Watkins 1938-42). Margery, born and raised in a two-room farmhouse, came from humble roots and considered herself

very fortunate to be selected to live at Watkins. In 1991 Margery wrote, "Along with the monetary benefits...came many other benefits—memories of a great many good friends." Among those lifelong friends was Janice Gartrell.

Betsy Holste, Margery's daughter, presented the award in her mother's memory. "My mother was quick to say that her studies at KU prepared her for the job, but her friends from Watkins . . . were the longest lasting benefits." Because of her mother's love of Watkins, Betsy has become a Friend of K-8, including serving on the EMWMS Selection Committee.

A star is born

After the celebratory luncheon with Watkins/Miller residents, many K-8 members headed to nearly full Swarthout Recital Hall to see the premiere of the one-act play "*Elizabeth, Betsy and Bess: A Conversation with Elizabeth Watkins*" by retired theatre professor Ron Willis, father-in-law of Watkins alumna Sheree (Welch) Willis (1975-76). The three-woman play chronicled the life of Elizabeth Miller Watkins by way of her conversation with two young students living at Watkins. (You can see a clip from the play on YouTube.) The play ended with the cast inviting the entire audience, including Chancellor Gray-Little, to say "The Creed," the words that Mrs. Watkins strived to live by. The loudest and largest group of voices joining the cast was those of Watkins/Miller residents and alumnae, who also were the only audience members able to recite "The Creed" from memory.

Watkins Senior Abby Brandenburg and Alumnae Chair Sarah Greenup, who both graduated last May, were invited on stage to present a



Watkins President Abby Brandenburg and Alumnae Chair Sarah Greenup present Elizabeth Miller Watkins (Gail Trotter) a special birthday cake to celebrate her 150th birthday at the debut of "*Elizabeth, Betsy and Bess: A Conversation with Elizabeth Watkins*" while KU Theatre student Shannon Buhler looks on. Event sponsored by Women Philanthropists for KU and photo courtesy of KU Endowment.

cake to Mrs. Watkins to honor her 150th Birthday. At the reception following the play, K-8 Campus Coordinator Judy (Johnson) Niebaum (Miller 1958-61) set up a table filled with information on K-8; historical photos, documents and pamphlets about Mrs. Watkins and Watkins/Miller Halls; and beautiful lilacs in full bloom.

The evening stars

Following the play, the 1970s Watkins alumnae rushed to the Student Union for their first reunion since living at Watkins. Watkins alumnae came to the reunion from as far away as Connecticut and the northern woods of Wisconsin. The group spent several hours catching up on 30 years of life after Lilac Lane. From there, the group moved onto the Eldridge Hotel for a reception and dinner with Sue (Overmann) Garcia Thompson's family to share memories of their friend.

The big (punch) dipper

The following day, with the lilacs on Lilac Lane in full bloom, Watkins and Miller hosted their annual Alumnae Teas. It was one of the largest number of alumnae to ever attend the Alumnae Teas. Watkins/Miller residents treated their alumnae to a feast of home-made treats. Sarah Greenup, 2010-11 Watkins Alumnae Chair who served as master of ceremonies, admitted that some residents stayed up all night making cookies, brownies and more. Virtually all the alumnae said the feast in the sun room was scrumptious.

Both Watkins and Miller residents entertained their guests with hall tours, videos of life on Lilac Lane today and musical numbers. Miller offered up opera while Watkins featured classical piano. The tea at Watkins featured the unveiling of a special desk that the father of Watkins resident Charlotte Parrish had refinished. The desk, which had belonged to Mrs. Watkins, had been in the sun room/study room for a number of years. "Like the wheat table and chandelier and the picture above the mantle, [the desk] was one of the pieces Lizzie chose to have in the hall," Sarah said.

Sarah said that Charlotte's father refinishes furniture for a living. "He did an excellent job, giving Lizzie's writing desk some much need attention," she reiterated. "Prior to [the refinishing] most of us were too afraid to touch it because it was seemed so fragile. Now it is much more structurally sound and has a French polish on it as well."

To close out the entertainment, an octet of Watkins women serenaded their guests with "My Sweetheart of Lilac Lane."



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