

**2015 Kitchen 8
Annual Meeting**



**2015-2016
Elizabeth Miller Watkins
Memorial Scholarship
Awards Ceremony**

Saturday, April 25, 2015

KITCHEN

Lawrence Country Club
400 Country Club Terrace
Lawrence, Kansas

Kitchen 8 Annual Meeting

April 25, 2015

9:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, and Greetings

9:30 a.m. K-8 Business Meeting Norma (Decker) Hoagland, *K-8 Chair*

Approval of Minutes Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley, *Secretary*

Treasurer's Report: *EMWMSF and K-8 Sugar Bowl*

Mary (Emerson) Gomez, *Treasurer*

2015-2017 Board Election

K-8 Board and Committee Reports:

Campus Coordinators Judy (Johnson) Niebaum
and Beverly (Runkle) Benso

Newsletter/Website Sarah (Wohlrabe) Shortall
and Ali (Bannwarth) Zayas

Mentoring Cathie (Fuller) Miller and Sarah Greenup

"State of the Halls" Reports Alaine Caudle, *Watkins President*
and Miranda Davis, *Miller President*

Rates Chairs/Treasurers Rachel Volk, *Miller Treasurer*
and Dona Diec, *Watkins Rates Chair*

**10:30 a.m. The Best is Yet to Be: Update on the Renovation of Watkins
and Miller Halls, 2016**

Norma (Decker) Hoagland, Kaitlin Neill, and Cecilia Villanueva

10:45 a.m. Program: "RFFs: Roomates—Friends Forever!"

Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman and Pat (Jolly) Putnam

Featuring: Joan (Fowler) Kessler, Ann (Elliott) Leipold, and Pat (Barnes) Speer

12:00 p.m. Celebratory Luncheon

1:00 p.m. Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Presentations

Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger and Valentine Baumann,

Co-Chairs of the Scholarship Selection Committee

3:00 p.m. Walking Tour of the East Campus Historical District

Meet between Miller and Watkins Halls



Her Legacy: Our Inspiration

To honor the generous legacy of Mrs. Watkins, past residents of Watkins and Miller Halls, through Kitchen 8, established the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund in 1998. The Fund that began with a few hundred dollars will this year award \$63,000 in scholarships. We would like to thank all who have donated. It is amazing how one woman's vision can impact so many women's lives.

Elizabeth Miller Watkins was born in 1861 in New Paris, Ohio, daughter of a Civil War doctor. When Elizabeth was 11, her family moved to Lawrence where she enrolled in the KU Prep School. Sadly, after only 2 years, she was forced to drop out and help support her family. Elizabeth would later turn her own unfulfilled dream of an education into a legacy for generations of women to come. At 15 she began work at the J B Watkins Land and Mortgage Co. She and JB were married in 1909. They had no children of their own and after JB's death in 1921, she turned her attention to the plans of giving she and JB had made. With a \$75,000 donation in 1925, Watkins Hall opened in 1926, the first scholarship hall in America. Building on that success, Miller Hall opened in 1937. Mrs. Watkins also created and gave a trust to provide for the maintenance and upkeep of both halls, which is still active today.

Janice Gartrell lived in Watkins Scholarship Hall from 1939-1942. She was known as "Giggles" and "Garter" to her friends at Watkins. She enjoyed her roommates, taking pictures and she excelled academically. She had an outstanding career in the oil business and loved to travel. After her passing in March of 2009, the EMWMSF received the funds of the Janice Gartrell Charitable Remainder Trust, enabling Kitchen 8 to award generous scholarships to deserving young KU women. Janice Gartrell was truly a woman who embodied Mrs. Watkins' legacy.

During 2014 gifts to the EMWMSF were given in memory of:

Sue Overmann Garcia Thompson, Margery Lewis Wigner,
and Harry "Papa Wiggins"

**We want to say a big "thank you" to our hard working
EMWMS Selection Committee Members.**



2015-2016 Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Award Recipients

Cecilia Villanueva: *Hutchinson, Kansas*

In her application, Cecilia noted, “I, like many other woman, owe the dream that I am living, which is to be studying at KU, to Mrs. Watkins. Mrs. Watkins generosity of creating halls that would aid women going through financial hardships, did not just help women in past generations, but it is still helping women today.” Cecilia will

be a sophomore majoring in Microbiology and is the first in her family to attend college. She lives in Miller Scholarship Hall and works part-time to help fund her education. Cecilia hopes her success at the University of Kansas will demonstrate to her two younger siblings that hard work can lead to achievements, which will provide positive changes in life.



Cheyenne Brown: *Kansas City, Kansas*

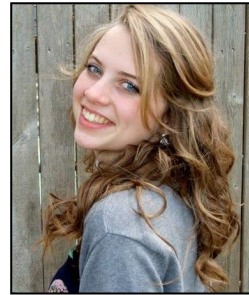
Cheyenne will be an incoming freshman majoring in Psychology. She hopes to one day be a high school counselor. She was inspired to choose this field of study when volunteering with a children’s group in her church. Cheyenne is an active student involved in honors organizations and cheerleading, she also expressed that education is a way to grow as an individual and “make a positive impact each and every day”. She shared in her application “[Mrs. Watkins] has left an impact on so many people, and will continue to do so for generations to come. It is her pure, unselfish heart that truly resonates with me. I want to help others and leave happiness behind me just as Mrs. Watkins did and continues to do.”

Erin Bonifield: *Overland Park, Kansas*

Next academic year Erin will be a junior majoring in Music Education. Erin’s application showcased her passion for education and music, and her desire to share this passion with her future students. She explained, “I wish for my students, a similar experience that I had. I know music will not be everyone’s top priority, but I believe every student should have a chance. I



hope to inspire a joy and desire for music in my students much like my own mentors and teachers have instilled in me.” She is a very active musician, serving as the Baritone section leader in the Marching Jayhawks and the Men’s Basketball Band. Erin is also a resident of Douthart Scholarship Hall and expressed that Mrs. Watkins “generosity and love for people is apparent” through the cooperative community of the halls.



Zoe Cress: Hutchinson, Kansas

Zoe will be a senior studying Psychology and completing requirements for the Pre-Law program. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and is currently the vice president, through this organization and others she has participated in many community service projects. Zoe is involved with a Psychology research lab and has a work-study job to help pay for her college expenses. She reflected on the creed Mrs. Watkins so loved, stating, “Elizabeth Miller Watkins left such an impression on everyone and especially on me personally as I read about her life and about what she called “My Creed, Also.” The first in her family to attend college, Zoe worked through the creed in her essay, providing examples from her life experiences.

Kate McCurdy: Lawrence, Kansas

In August 2015, Kate will begin her sophomore year majoring in Civil Engineering. Kate showcased her determination towards her goal of attending college, stating that she has worked hard, “to begin my journey in education and attend classes “up the hill.” I love KU and am thrilled to have this opportunity.” In addition to her engineering coursework she is taking classes in music and Spanish, with the expectation that knowledge of the Spanish language will provide opportunities in her future career. She maintains many activities outside of her studies, as she is involved in athletics, choir, was a member of 4-H, and is hoping to run for an executive board position next year at Margaret Amini. Kate noted that she sees Mrs. Watkins as a supporter of young woman and a role model, and also that she shares her love of ice cream!





Kierstin McMichael: Lawrence, Kansas

In 2015-16 Kierstin will be a senior completing a Bachelor of Arts in English with minors in History and Sociology. She is active within the KU community, serving as a peer advisor and orientation assistant, and is also a collections specialist for The Project on the History of Black Writing. The first in her family to attend college, Kierstin plans to attend graduate school and explained “I want to pursue a career in Higher Education/Student Affairs so that I can provide the same type of guidance to students that I have received and greatly benefitted from. My goal is to empower every student with the resources they need in order to reach their goals in education. Above all, I believe that Mrs. Elizabeth Miller Watkins valued generosity and equal access to education for all. This is a value that Mrs. Watkins and I share.”

Rajvi Shah: Overland Park, Kansas

Rajvi will be a junior majoring in Neurobiology with a minor in Psychology. She plans to attend medical school after receiving her undergraduate degree and pursue a career in neuro-psychology. She is specifically interested in research in the fields of ALS and the needs of our returning veterans. Rajvi volunteers in her local hospital and with two international organizations focused on providing access to education and medical care in impoverished communities and developing nations. She also serves on the Student Health Advisory Board for Watkins Health Center and Student Senate. Especially touched by Mrs. Watkins’ contributions to health care at the university, Rajvi shared that through her future career she hopes to one day “be in a position to “lift” others [...] like Mrs. Elizabeth Miller Watkins has done for me and thousands of students.”



Destiny Shelton: Stafford, Kansas

Next academic year Destiny will be a sophomore majoring in Psychology. She is the first in her family to attend college and plans to continue on in the graduate program and pursue a career as a clinical psychologist. In high school Destiny was a teacher’s aid for an after school program and the president of an organization focused on graduation retention, these activities helped

influence her chosen career path. Destiny explained her motivation and similarities to Mrs. Watkins “Elizabeth was a strong woman. I have faced many challenges throughout my life and have been strong through all of it. I have overcome [the obstacles] and am working toward a higher education. To create both a better life for myself, as well as the many people I will be helping.”

Brittany Smith: Longview, Kansas

Brittany will be a junior majoring in Nursing. She awaits official acceptance into the final two years of the School of Nursing professional program, which are completed on the KU Medical Center campus. Brittany shared in her application that she hopes to serve as a nurse in a rural community, wanting to make a difference in a constantly under-staffed area. She is a current resident of Margaret Amini and noted, “I personally can



attest to how good it feels to be part of a community of young women who are devoted to their studies and contributing to a communal environment.”

Brittany reflected on Mrs. Watkins’ biography “I found that many of Elizabeth’s values resonate with those I personally hold. Her strong worth ethic; her support of independent, self-supporting women; and her benevolent nature are all characteristics I hope to see in myself as well.”

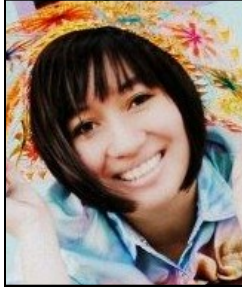


Kayla Wegley: Ozark, Missouri

In 2015-16 Kayla will be a sophomore working towards a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. She lives in Miller Scholarship Hall and has a part-time job in order to offset the cost of her education. Kayla told of her future plans of pursuing a Fulbright Scholars research grant and continuing on in graduate studies, she hopes to one day open a non-profit educational center for the arts to share her passion for education and artistic expression.

Kayla expressed her gratitude stating, “Lady Bountiful, an iconic philanthropist of The University of Kansas, began influencing lives with her generosity in 1921, and has yet to cease her charity as it impacts the lives of students today. Mrs. Watkins granted opportunities to those who she believed would make a difference, and her spirit of perseverance and hard work is what creates the community of students she continues to support.”

EMWMS Renewal Recipients:

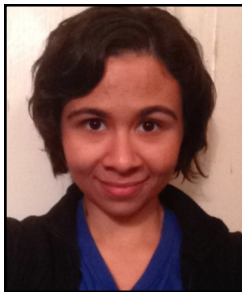
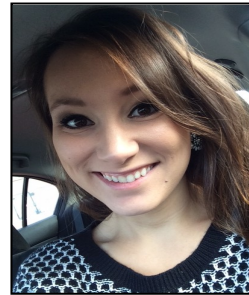


Anna Balmilero: Lawrence, Kansas

Second year recipient: In 2015-16 Anna will be graduating with honors receiving a Bachelors of Arts with a double major in Global & International Studies and East Asian Studies. She is currently studying abroad in South Korea and shared that it has been a fulfilling opportunity. She expressed in her renewal application that she has “grown as a person and into the woman I have always wanted to be. I have learned so much, and am so grateful for receiving the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship this past year to help make my dream of this study abroad experience come true!” She hopes to continue to indulge her love of learning and obtain a minor in Sociology when she returns to the University of Kansas for her senior year.

Kerra Cissne: Topeka, Kansas

Forth year recipient: Kerra will be in her 6th year of study in the Pharmacy school. During this final year of the program she explained she would be completing nine internship rotations in various settings and locations. While this is an integral component to completing her PharmD degree, it also requires time away from home, money spent for travel, and prohibits her ability to have employment outside of the rotations. This is especially difficult for Kerra as she is the mother to a young child and shared “every day he grows bigger and reminds me just how fast time can pass”. She feels that keeping this in mind “will make [her] a better candidate for residency, and furthermore a better pharmacist.”



Akira Cowden: Lawrence, Kansas

Third year recipient: Next academic year, Akira will be a senior and will graduate in the spring. Akira is currently completing a yearlong study abroad program at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. She will be receiving her Bachelor of Arts in East Asian Languages and Cultures; additionally she will declare a double major in Global Studies upon her return from studying abroad. In her renewal application Akira explained her future plans, “I think I will return to South Korea as a teacher for a while before continuing to graduate school where I will either go into upper education or travel journalism.”

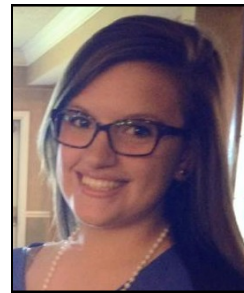


Emilyjane Eichman: Dodge City, Kansas

Third year recipient: Emilyjane will be a senior finishing her Bachelor of Music Education in Music Therapy.

As part of the fulfillment of her degree program she will be completing an internship in a school setting during the next academic year. She told of her plans in her renewal application “Following the internship I will take my board certification test to become a Board Certified Music Therapist.”

Emilyjane shared the happy news that she got married last July, and explained, “Because of this, I no longer live at Miller Hall, but I visit often. I am so grateful for the presence of Mrs. Watkins and Kitchen8 in my life.”



Elizabeth Goodrow: Topeka, Kansas

Second year recipient: In 2015-16 Elizabeth will be a sophomore working towards a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and plans to attend medical school upon completion of her degree. She is interested in the field of neurology, and desires to work with patients suffering from brain or spinal damage. In her first year at KU, Elizabeth involved herself in many organizations, including her dorm council and a pre-health fraternity. She may also pursue a CNA license to further her preparation for medical school. Elizabeth shared in her application “[Mrs. Watkins] aided many people throughout her life; I am hoping that by being a doctor, I can assist people like she did.”

Anna Hu: Wichita, Kansas

Fourth year recipient: Anna shared in her renewal application, that she was accepted into the KU School of Pharmacy PharmD program this year, and will continue to pursue a PharmD degree. In the 2015-16 academic year, she will be a 4th year student in the 6-year program. Anna continues to work as a technician at a local pharmacy to help fund her education and gain experience towards her future career. She expressed interest in summer study abroad programs in China where she would learn about traditional Chinese medicine. Anna stated, “I believe the experience will help broaden my perspectives on modern medicine and alternative medicine.”



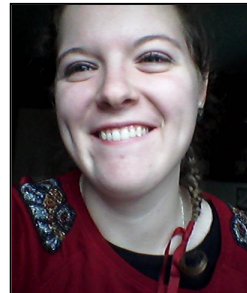


Jordan Meradith: Omaha, Nebraska

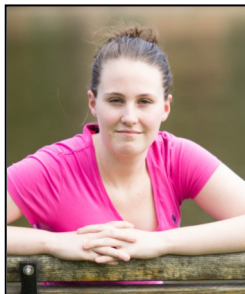
Second year recipient: Next academic year Jordan will be a junior majoring in Elementary Education. Her pursuit of a BSE degree is a change from her previous plans, as she explained in her application, “Teaching is always something that I had considered and after my second semester working at [a child care and education center] I feel that my purpose in life is to become a teacher. I love children and have always loved school and learning so I think that this is going to be a really good fit for me, and I’m very excited!” Jordan expressed enjoyment and appreciation of living in Watkins Hall, stating, “This hall truly is a gift, and I think that Elizabeth Miller Watkins would be very proud of her legacy if she could see it today.”

Haley Nus: Lawrence, Kansas

Second year recipient: In 2015-16 Haley will be a graduating senior completing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Last year she participated in a study abroad program in Valparaiso, Chile. In her application she explained adjustments to her plans. Haley will be pursuing a teaching certification after graduation and would like to teach abroad or with Teach for America. She also expressed an interest in going into ministry. Haley is



taking advantage of the many opportunities for college students, and noted, “I’m grateful for this scholarship! It makes my life easier by being able to trust that I will have enough means to enjoy my college experience.”



Bailey Rendzia: De Soto, Kansas

Second year recipient: Next academic year Bailey will be a sophomore continuing her studies in the School of Engineering. During her freshman year she was exposed to Civil Engineering through extracurricular activities, and was prompted to declare a major in the field as she felt it fit her interests and career goals. She has a generous spirit, which was displayed in her statement, “As a civil engineer, I will be able to give back and help thousands of individuals.” An active student, Bailey also shared that she joined the School of Engineering’s concrete canoe team, and currently serves as the treasurer, they will participate in a regional competition in Lawrence this April.

Jocelyn Sajnani: Overland Park, Kansas

Third year recipient: Jocelyn will be a junior studying for a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a focus on genetics. She will continue to complete requirements for the pre-medical program and is also pursuing a minor in Psychology. An ever-grateful recipient, Jocelyn expressed in her renewal application “Since starting my sophomore year at KU I have to say I found my niche.



I have been able to balance difficult classes, leadership positions in several clubs, research, volunteering, and working as a tutor without spontaneously combusting! This lack of combustion is due in large part to the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship. College is stressful enough, but trying to pay for it is even more so. Thanks to the EMW scholarship, much of that stress is lifted [...] and, for that, I am forever grateful.”



Katie Strnad: Munden, Kansas

Second year recipient: In 2015-16 Katie will be in her 4th year at the School of Pharmacy working towards a PharmD degree. In her renewal application she explained how the coming years in the program involve both traditional classroom work and experiential learning through rotations in pharmacies. Katie maintains a part-time job to help offset the costs of tuition, and is very excited to continue pursuing her goal of becoming a licensed pharmacist. Katie shared, “While this year has been full of new challenges, as a whole I am enjoying my third year of college including stimulating coursework and living in Miller Scholarship Hall. This irreplaceable experience is made possible by generous support of which I am deeply appreciative!”

Natasha Sudac: Tonganoxie, Kansas

Fourth year recipient: Natasha will be a senior in 2015-16 graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a concentration in Cellular Biology. She is continuing to follow the pre-medicine track and is also pursuing a minor in Slavic Languages. Natasha remains a very active student, as Vice President of Events on the Student Endowment Board, a teaching assistant for Microbiology lab, and a resident assistant at Oliver Hall. Natasha embodies Mrs. Watkins spirit of giving, noting on her application “I have tried to pay-it-forward by encouraging [women in my hall] to apply for this scholarship because I know first-hand how much it can really help, and it would be great if we could share this bond of being fellow Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Recipients.”



Kitchen 8 Donations: Kitchen 8 is an all volunteer group of alumnae and friends of Miller and Watkins Scholarship Halls at the University of Kansas. There are no fees to join. Please send your tax deductible donation payable to “EMWMSF”:

Mary (Emerson) Gomez, Kitchen 8 Treasurer
3620 Wyoming #4
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2014-2015 Kitchen 8 Board Members

Contact board members to join K-8 and support the women of Miller and Watkins Scholarship Halls. For a full listing of the Board please see our website at www.kitchen8.org.

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