

# PU THE PHILLIPS CONNECTION

PUBLISHED BY THE PHILLIPS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR ALUMNI, FACULTY, LEGACY SCHOLARS & FRIENDS

# NEWSLETTER 2014



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The alumni association board of directors met in retreat format in August to capture past successes and plan for the future. We revised and simplified our mission statement to capture the essence of what we are about.

In that vein, we agreed to revamp our operations and committee structure to reflect our three core missions - communicate, preserve and perpetuate. If a proposed activity does not fit one or more of these, then it will not be part of our program.

Several initiatives were discussed and approved informally.

We will be expanding our communications with alumni and friends and promoting opportunities for fellowship with each other.

Seizing on the desires of NOC President Evans, we will continue to explore ways to perpetuate the Phillips memory and heritage on the Enid campus.

We decided to amend our scholarship policy to be more inclusive. Although we will not solicit funds for any scholarship other than the one we award – Milburn Carey Tri-State Scholarship – we will acknowledge and support any effort to perpetuate the ideals of our beloved university.

Finally, we will explore ways to bring graduates of Phillips Theological Seminary back into the Phillips family. For plenty of reasons, the spin-off of The Graduate Seminary into Phillips Theological Seminary (with an ultimate move to Tulsa) was anything but smooth. Rather, it was a contentious process, culminating in a law suit. The board decided it was time to move beyond that, and recognize that PTS is a true legacy of our beloved university.

## REUNION REPORT

The 2014 reunion was a lot of fun. Special guest, Dr. Cheryl Evans, President of Northern Oklahoma College, affirmed the special relationship with Phillips. Although we were a church-related, liberal arts university, and NOC is a state supported community college, there was, and continues to be, the commitment to educating the whole person. In addition, she acknowledged the desire to incorporate our traditions into the NOC Enid campus.

Varsity Club celebrated its many years on campus with an immensely successful reunion of its own. In the Phillips spirit of inclusiveness, all alumni and friends were invited to its banquet and concert. A good time was had by all.

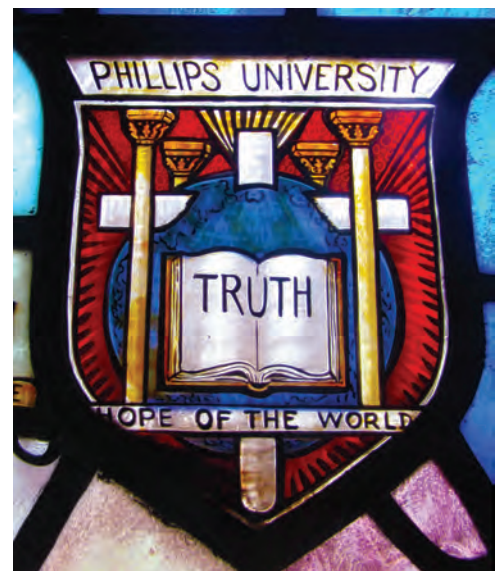
Plans are under way for the 2015 reunion. The highlight will be a Phillips art show. NOC dedicated Marshall Building to us for the entire reunion weekend as a venue to display the graphic art of our alums and friends, including of course, any works by recipients of Phillips Legacy Foundation scholarships.

## SAVE THE DATES

June 12 - 13, 2015 at the  
Phillips University campus

**More Info to follow.**

Contact the Phillips University Alumni Association to  
volunteer your art, music, or literature talents.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## REUNION 2015 UPDATE JUNE 12- 13

If you have not visited our beloved campus in many years, you will be pleasantly surprised to see that it is still the same wonderful place where we all grew into young adulthood. The reunion committee is hard at work planning and creating a Humanities weekend full of art, music, and literature. Tap into your inner talent and share with your fellow alums your accomplishments.

### ATTENTION TO YOUR INNER URGE TO PERFORM!

We are planning a talent show to be presented on Saturday evening. Dust off your tap shoes and get ready for the Phillips University Reunion Review.

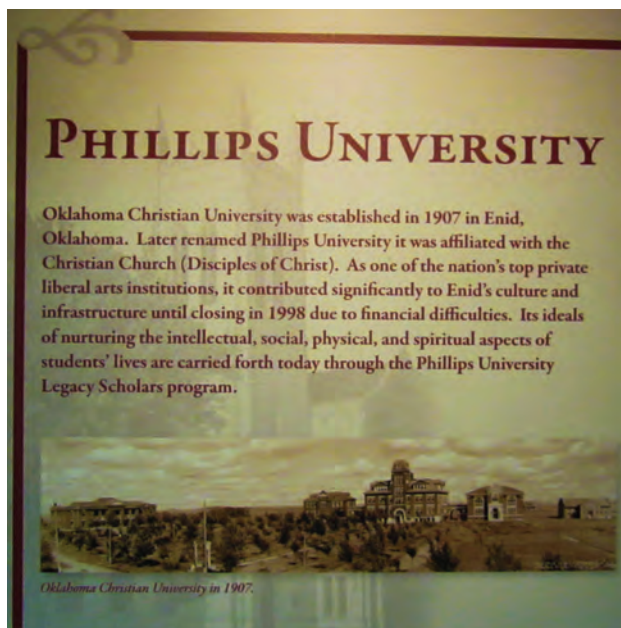
Janet Sears Gingerich, 1966

## A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Fellow Alums,

This is a personal note from me, as the current President of the alumni association.

The loss of our beloved university was as much of a shock to me as it was to you. Although, it occurred over 15 years ago, the wound is still raw and festering. Like many of you, I continue to wonder what happened. Over the years, I have talked to several, several folks, and read many, many documents. As a result, I think I have a pretty good handle on the answer. I would love to think that it was mere financial happenstance caused by factors beyond our control. Sadly, I do not. Like all human enterprise, I am convinced it was occasioned by a combination of human factors, some of which were well-intended, but misguided, and some of which were pure self-interest. Many will agree; many will not.



*“I will continue to declare to the land the glory of our Phillips U.”*

Whether I am right, wrong, or partially right and partially wrong is of no moment. What is important is that we move forward and do our part to perpetuate the legacy of an incredible education, founded on the principle of Christian understanding and inclusiveness. It is from that perspective that I pen these remarks.

The last of our sisters and brothers walked across the stage at Briggs Auditorium 16 years ago. Most of them are now in their mid-30s. Until the last of them moves from this world to the spirit world (forbear my Native American heritage symbolism), we are the legacy of Phillips University. We and we alone speak for our alma mater. It is through us that the efforts of Thomas W. Phillips and Eugene Briggs and Frank Marshall and Stephen J. England and Milburn Carey continue to resonate to the world. We cannot, and must not, surrender that mantel. These thoughts guide me as president.

I believe that we, as the organized body of alums and friends, must recognize, celebrate and support any effort, any initiative, any program that perpetuates the Phillips ideals. The alumni association may not control the financial assets that remain from our beloved university, but we control the spirit.

Many of my friends, some with whom I spent many hours at Zeppi's Pizza, The Flamingo and Chuck's Place (yes, I was a sinner), wonder why I continue to celebrate a dead university. Is Michelangelo dead? What about Beethoven? Shakespeare? Lincoln? Phillips University is dead only if we permit it to be. Until my watch ends (or you impeach me), I will continue to “declare to the land the glory of our Phillips U.” Will you join me?

-Tom Walker

# ALUMNI NEWS

## RETURNING TO CAMPUS

This is what Jay Krahmer had to say about her trip back to Enid "You may have known me by J. Krahmer or baby J or curly baby J or J birdie...I was at Phillips University from 1980 to 1984 By the time I left Phillips I told my friends that I couldn't wait to see Enid in my rear view mirror. Well 30 years later I was ready to go back to see the campus, the building and the town.

It was wonderful to see all the sights and to find out most of my memories were correct. I was afraid that I had forgotten much. The trip brought back memories I had not thought about in 30 years but mostly it brought back all the closeness of friendship made there. There is nothing else like the relationships one makes in a dorm when you are eating breathing and sleeping with your friends. The most wonderful thing was seeing our old dorm and my old room with the girls I lived there with and on the same hall with.

I walked the campus numerous times, went in all the building I could and found a small prayer room in the Marshall building none of the group I was with knew existed. I would love to see more of the inside of the buildings and spend even more time walking the campus. Many pictures and lots of video were taken.

It was a great weekend for which I am thankful and blessed and I know in my heart I will visit again someday."

Phillips University may have closed but the campus is still there and the love, friendships and memories we made there are still there. I encourage you to find your way back to Enid and the campus and share your memories with the friends you made while at Phillips and meet others who attended Phillips during a different time.

-Carla Kelman



## THE ZONTA THREE



Linda, Ginger & Pris (and the dazzling glasses) at the Kimball Art Museum

### ***"Don't wait until you might regret the procrastination."***

Three Zontas were recently together for the first time since our days at Phillips in the mid '60's. Linda Meisenheimer Mitchell, Priscilla Woody Wright and Ginger Walling Blockcolski had a reunion at Pris' terrific apartment on the Trinity River in Fort Worth. Ginger brought the old yearbooks, Linda flew in from Kansas City and Pris was the most-excellent hostess.

A bit of wine flowed and there was indulging in food--just like days in the dorm, but tastier (but not the wine part. We couldn't have faced Mrs. Barcus.) The prevailing feeling was love; the prevailing activity was laughter.

If you get a chance to do this, we strongly recommend that you act fast. Don't wait until you might regret the procrastination.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## DENVER MEET UP



Alums gathered at Panera in Denver: Suzanne Barslund, Kay Elliot, Mark Pumphrey, Maarit & Gerhard (& Senja) Kaahue, and Winnie. It's always great to share time with PU alums and put names with faces.

**“Would love to hug all these people! It’s been too long!”**

## PHILLIPIAN FRIENDS

Group from 1950’s Phillipian Friends  
What began as suite mates at clay hall has been a reunion about every 2 years over the last 20 years. This years was at Christmount, NC and Wayne and Mary Jo Taylor Moss headed up the arrangements. Don and Barbara Danforth Angle, Jack and Jeanne Piper Baird, Betty McEver Curtis, Pat Beam English, Ed and Lou Swaney Michael, Wayne and Mary Jo Taylor Moss, and Polly Jones Sevnsen and Pablo Stone attended.

We toured the Biltmore Mansion, ate at Mt. Pisgah Inn for a spectacular view of the mountains. We traveled the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway, took a partial tour of the Christmount campus to view Raphael Guastavino sites. We journeyed to Asheville to view Basilica of St. Lawrence and we visited an arts and crafts show and then we went back to Black Mountain to get chocolate at Kurwins’s Yummy.

## REMOTE REUNIONS

A small reunion was held on October 9, 2014 at the home of Todd and Lori (Wilson) Moore in Olathe Kansas. Those that attended Deba Langston Brant, Bette Parish, Jeana Bailley, Vicki Bradley Engle, Suzanne Bradley Smith and Sue Wiley and Nikolaus FA Englen. Suzanne Bradley Smith posted on Facebook “had a great time with some old college friends tonight” and Bette Parish posted “we laughed all evening. It was such fun.”

Those that attended had a great time and many people posted on Facebook that they wished they could be there. Dana Chisum Cargill said “Would love to hug all these people It’s been too long!” and Lauren Buck Medeiros said “Me toooooooo.”

The Phillips University Alumni and Friends Association Inc knows that not everyone can return to Enid for reunions. We are seeking people who are interested in setting up regional gatherings for alums to gather. If you are interested please contact Winnie Oliver by email at [info@puafa.org](mailto:info@puafa.org) or at 580-548-2236.

The alumni and Friends Association is also seeking any individuals who would be interested in remembering our beloved professors, staff from Phillips and maybe some of our older alums. Maybe a birthday card, a get well card, a post on social media so others may send a card, pay their alumni dues, consider paying their travel or lodging to reunions or gatherings. If interested please contact Winnie Oliver.



# ALUMNS IN THE NEWS



Judge Megan Simpson

## JUDGE MEGAN SIMPSON IS FIRST WINNER OF NORTHWEST OKLAHOMA PIONEERING WOMAN OF INDUSTRY AWARD

Megan L. Simpson, Harper County associate district judge, was named the first Northwest Oklahoma Pioneering Woman of Industry, an award sponsored by the Woodward News.

The award seeks to honor women living and working in northwest Oklahoma who have given themselves to their industry throughout their lifetime.

Simpson was appointed by Gov. Mary Fallin as Harper County associate district judge on June 28, 2012, and became the first female district court judge in the Oklahoma Panhandle.

She was sworn in on Aug. 1, 2012. She was raised in Enid, graduating from Enid High School in 1986, and attended Dartmouth College, Phillips University and University of Denver Sturm College of Law as a Chancellor's Scholar.

## DENVER BREAKING NEWS

Joe Strain attended Phillips University and met his wife. They have been married 61 years and she can verify every game he coached as she was present. Even when her son played on the opposing team she was there but rooting for her son's team.

Father and son faced each other six times.

Joe won the state basketball championship as a Denver South player in 1947. He coached Denver South to two State championships in boy's basketball in 1969 and 1970 and George Washington to two state championships in 1982 and 1986.

### Strain bio

Born: Nov. 15, 1930, in Denver

High school: Denver South

College: Phillips University in Enid, Okla.



Joe Strain

Family: Wife Jeanette, daughters Jeannine and Joan, son Joe

Hobby: No surprise, watching sports

Favorite teams: His grandkids'

## MISSION STATEMENT

**The Phillips University Alumni and Friends Association speaks as the voice of alumni and friends: communicates, preserves, and perpetuates the heritage of Phillips University.**

# IN MEMORIAM

Hensel, Keith -	B.A. 1971	Nov-14
Bourdette, Wesley R. -	1957	10/26/2014
Reese, Donald Eugene -	1952	10/16/2014
Briggs, William Benajah -	1944	10/14/2014
Hensel, Jr., Keith -	FS 67	10/13/2014
Walker, Darrell -	1958	10/11/2014
Grant, Gordon -	1963	10/8/2014
Shiple, Winston Dean -	B.S. 1956	9/27/2014
Beaty, Elizabeth L. (Parson) -	grad. Student	9/27/2014
Burton, Janis Elaine (Fairbanks) -	Class '55 B.S. 58	9/26/2014
Wright, Terry Eugene -	B.S. 1972	9/26/2014
Hillery, Marilyn Mae (Morgan) -	class of 1950	9/18/2014
Brakhage, Ronald A. -	B.S. 1970	9/10/2014
Thomas, Ruth (Waldrip)		9/10/2014
West, Rex C. -	Class of 1958 B.S.1960	9/6/2014
Palmer, Ralph Thomas -	D.Min. 1973	8/28/2014
Hellstern, Dorothy (Wynne) -	1950	8/8/2014
Noland, Wilbur Dean -	1960	8/5/2014
Babb, Iris Colleen (Ballentine) -	Class of '50	7/28/2014
Berry, Grant Vincent -	BA 1950	7/27/2014
Sneed, Pauline S. (Cassel) -	BA 1954	7/6/2014
Jenkins, Larry E. -	B.S. 1968	5/24/2014
Pralle, Dorothy (Dose) -	M.Ed 1954	4/9/2014
Bonnett, Velma Lee (Hafner) -	class of 48	4/2/2014
Ryland, Raymond Olin -	1942	3/20/2014
Johnson, AvaDale (Plummer) -	1948	3/18/2014
Tromblee, Max -	Faculty	3/15/2014
Arnold, Thomas Jones		3/7/2014
Harbaugh, Dorothy (Moore) -	M.Ed. 1964	3/1/2014
Danahy, Michael		2/26/2014
Hodges, Sandra Lynn (Green)		2/21/2014
Buckles, Ira Dwight -	B.S. 1978	2/15/2014
Makris, Andreas -	FS	Jan-14
Glaves, Anne (Sebeson) -	FS	Jan-14
Daily, Charles "Toby" Ray -	1957	Jan-14
Holroyd, William		Jan-14
Ulrich, Eugene J -	Faculty 1949-87	Jan-14
Sanders, Bobby Gene -	1965	1/26/2014
Shiflet, Michael Anthony -	1991	1/20/2014
Belcher, Gerald Dewey	FS	1/18/2014
Bandy, Phil -	1970	1/16/2014
Lemon, Irene Alice (Campbell) -	FS	12/25/2013
Long, M.D., Larry L -	1960	11/13/2013

Alumni Office  
PO Box 331  
Enid, OK 73701  
(580)548-2336

# PHILLIPS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Calling the Loyal and True

Reunion 2015 - JUNE 12 & 13

*THE MARSHALL BUILDING IS THE OFFICIAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE 2015 REUNION*

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Alumni Association Annual Membership Dues:  Individual \$30  Couple \$50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (optional) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### REUNION OPTIONS:

OPTION #1 (PAY ONE FEE FOR ALL EVENTS)

YES, I will attend **ALL EVENT FEE**  Individual \$35  Couple \$60 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Fee includes all events / admissions and Saturday dinner.

OPTION #2 (PAY FOR ONLY THE EVENTS YOU ATTEND.)

### FRIDAY

YES, I will attend **Marshall Building** 6:30 - 7:00 pm Vespers  
7:00 - 9:00 pm Meet and Greet  
Art display throughout Marshall Building  
**Light appetizers/desserts/beverages**

\$7.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### SATURDAY

YES, I will attend **Marshall Building** 9:30 - 10:30 am Art display throughout Marshall Building  
10:30 - 11:30 am Annual alumni meeting  
12:00 - 1:00 pm **Box Lunch**  
1:00 - 5:00 pm Various music/art performances by alumni and faculty

\$10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I will attend **507 S. 4th Street** 1:00 - 5:00 pm **PU Gallery at Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center**

\$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I will attend **Marshall Building** 6:00 - 7:30 pm **Dinner/ Talent Show**  
7:30 - 9:00 pm Club Tables /Club Circles - Farewells

\$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks payable to:** Phillips University Alumni Association

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Check amt: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please charge my:**  Visa  MasterCard  
 Discover  American Express

Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (only at time of event)

Card Name (as it appears on card) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip \_\_\_\_\_



PHILLIPS UNIVERSITY  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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