



Reunions

Although our 60th reunion last May is fading from our memories, we will still have mini-reunions every quarter. These are luncheons and usually draw about 30-35 classmates. Often, we have classmates from out of town who plan their trips to St. Pete to coincide with our fixed quarterly luncheon dates. These luncheons are on the second Saturday of October, January, April and July. If you are coming to the area, why not plan to attend a mini-reunion and catch up with classmates? Details are at the end of this letter.

More Photos

Our valued class photographer, Jim Lyn Provo, has provided us with a cherished photo record of our 60th class reunion. We published a few of his photos in the last newsletter, and more are on the class website. Here are a few more pictures from the May 2014 event:



At the banquet on Saturday night, dressed as a circus fortune teller and handing out fortune cookies is Gloria Slater Carnegie



Sitting, L to R: Sally Carlson Cronk, Sandra Hollins Jemison, and Gail Willingham Payne. Standing L to R: Sylvia Hommer Acton, Susanne G. Provo, and Marlene Matouk Haugland.



It all began here with check-in at the registration desk. Seated behind the desk is Sylvia Hommer Acton and standing in front of the big "60" balloons is Decorations chair, Phyllis Reichelderfer Doescher.



Reunion Committee Secretary Nancy Cramer Litten and Class of '54 President Roger Fleming chat in the hospitality room.

Dr. Ann Stuart

[Classmate Sandra Collins Stevens shared this article with us from the Texas Women's University spring issue of their *Times*.]



Photo by Scott Bauer

Texas Woman's University Chancellor and President Ann Stuart [and our classmate] has taken her place among the most prominent women of Texas with her induction into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. The May induction ceremony, held in the Senate Chamber of the Texas State Capitol, recognized Texas women who have made significant contributions in the arts, athletics, business, education, health and leadership. Dr. Stuart, who is retiring after 14 years at TWU, was honored for her work in education.

"I feel privileged to have been a part of providing opportunities to others through education," Dr. Stuart said. "To be recognized for this work, and to join this group of remarkable women, truly is and honor."

Gov. Rick Perry, who hosted the ceremony, said Dr. Stuart has elevated TWU during her tenure, calling her "a profound leader who has helped uncounted Texans achieve their dreams."

In the video accompanying her induction, Dr. Stuart notes that every major at TWU has a liberal arts component. "I believe the reading of great works, knowing something about history and art

and music, is a wonderful preparation for becoming a whole human being," she said. "It raises aspirations. ... We do things like that at TWU, and we're immensely proud of it."

Under Dr. Stuart's leadership, enrollment has grown more than 80 percent; TWU has produced more than 20,000 graduates in critical fields, and the university has received national recognition for its quality, value and diversity. She led the construction of new facilities that position TWU at the forefront of workplace development, including the TWU Institute of Health Sciences-Houston Center, which was built at no cost to the State, The TWU Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences-Dallas Center and the Ann Stuart Science Complex in Denton.

Dr. Stuart also leaves a lasting legacy to education as a private citizen. She has provided funding for scholarships to undergraduate students and for annual events that celebrate the wonders, truths and mysteries of science and bring exceptional alumni back to the university. Both the scholarships and the science program bear the names of Dr. Stuart and her late husband, Ray R. Poliakoff. Both were first-generation graduates of public higher education, and both often said it was their education that enabled them to pursue the opportunities that enriched their lives. Also as a private citizen, Dr. Stuart has provided funding for a courtyard garden at the Dallas Arboretum, a dog therapy program at Baylor Scott & White Health, an animal nutrition program at the Dallas Zoo and a pet adoption program at the Denton Animal Shelter.



Photo Courtesy of Texas Governor's Commission for Women

During the recent induction ceremony in the state Capitol, Gov. Rick Perry gives Chancellor Stuart a crystal bowl commemorating her induction into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

Editor's Note:

We love to get articles about the lives and successes of our SPHS Class of 1954 classmates. If you have a story to tell, send it in. ☺

Dr. Jean Dickenson Gibbons



At 34, she was probably the youngest female ever elected as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. She also was an ASA board member for four terms and the first chair of the Committee on Women in Statistics, but you would make a big mistake in suggesting to Jean D. Gibbons that she is a “woman’s woman.” “Statistician’s statistician” would be the more apt moniker.

She graduated in 1958 magna cum laude with an AB in mathematics from Duke University, and then earned her master’s from Duke and PhD from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Statistics in 1962 (at age 24). While working on her PhD, she also taught at Mercer University and the University of Cincinnati. Her publication history is legion. An expert in nonparametric statistical inference, her first book on that subject was published in 1970 and is now in its fifth edition. She has penned 10 scholarly books on statistics and published nearly 100 articles on topics as wide ranging as statistics sports to tourism. Many articles focused on statistical methods.

Gibbons states, “I’m happy to be a role model for young women, but I also like being a role model for young men. One of my pet peeves is that some women expect special consideration just because they are women. It’s not appropriate. If a woman wants to succeed in any career, she has to do it on her own merits. “As a role model, I want to show women that it can be done. You have to be exceptional to succeed in a male-dominated world. Today’s women statisticians have the opportunity

to be hired at salaries commensurate with their male counterparts.”

The full article on Jean can be found in the statistical assoc. mag: *AMSTATNEWS*, <http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2014/07/01/gibbons/>

Graduations

Gloria Niebaum Vencis passed away on July 1, 2013. She is survived by a daughter, Linda Elgin.

Jim Renbarger, Irene (Mike) Hillengas’ husband, passed on June 1, 2014 from lung cancer. He was preceded in death by our classmate Mike, who died in May, 2013. Burial services for both Mike and Jim were held on July 1 at Memorial Park Cemetery in St. Pete.

Joan Steward Hurst died on August 4, 2014 from cancer. She had so looked forward to the 60th reunion, but her treatments had kept her at home. Her son, Chip, notified us. At the time, she was living in Columbiana, AL and was undergoing chemo. Joan had lived in the Bradenton area and memorial services were held there on August 16.

Daniel Lee Richardson died on August 14, 2014 from bladder cancer. Dan had taught English at SPJC for decades. He was also founding Chairman of Northside Christian School. Dan had a passion for missions and after retiring he traveled to Kiev, Odessa, Istanbul and parts of Africa to aid missionaries there. He set up libraries in those foreign seminaries and was often away on these trips for months at a time. Dan is survived by his wife Ellen, a brother Bob and a sister Betty. Services were held August 23 at Faith Fellowship Church.

Sharing Classmates

Donations to the class treasury help to keep this newsletter coming and to meet other class expenses. Here are those who helped out since our last newsletter: **Annetta Eck Goss, Dan Richardson, Don Carr, Joyce Lindsey Sperry and Drake Doty.**

Class Contacts:

Class of 1954 web site, where you can find it all:
<http://sphs1954.org/> . Help us keep your data current!

Reunions Chairman: Boyd Acklin, 1110 42nd
 Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33703, (727) 527-0361
 or eacklin1@tampabay.rr.com

Contributions: Donations are a big help and they
 keep this newsletter coming. (12 years, so far.)
 Please send them to Lil Classen, Treasurer, at 8037
 Elbow Lane N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710. Please
 make checks payable to: “SPHS Class of ‘54”,

Classmate updates, news-to-share, etc., should be
 sent to: Ron Rasmussen, Editor, 10212 58th Street,
 Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632, (727) 544-2374 or
ronr@alumni.ufl.edu

Next Reunion luncheon is Saturday, October 11, 2014

**Location is the Courtside Grill in the
 Carillon area of north St. Pete.
 Gathering time is 11:30 a.m. If you plan
 to attend, please let Nancy Cramer
 Litten know by Thur., October 9.
 Nancy’s phone is (727) 392-7417.**



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