What Ever Happened to the Sterling College Class of 1967
Table of Contents

Introduction .................................................................................................................. 2
Donna Beer .................................................................................................................. 3
John Berhendt ............................................................................................................. 4
Dan Brown .................................................................................................................. 5
Linda Brenner-Brown ............................................................................................... 6
Mel Brown .................................................................................................................. 7
Rus Cerretti ................................................................................................................ 8
Margaret Phillips-Cheasebro ................................................................................... 9
Sharon Wilson-Cole .................................................................................................. 10
Doug Coleman .......................................................................................................... 11
Ann Picklow-Conser ............................................................................................... 12
John Gates ............................................................................................................... 13
Sara Lee “Sally” Buel Haggerty ............................................................................. 14
Chuck & Ann Spotts-Haspels (2) ........................................................................... 15
Betty Phillips-Herrera .............................................................................................. 16
Fred Irwin .................................................................................................................. 17
Anamarie Jensen-Josse .......................................................................................... 18
Diana Gray-Kasson .................................................................................................. 19
Ken Killian ................................................................................................................ 20
Louis Kottman .......................................................................................................... 21
Vicki Dalstrom-Kovach .......................................................................................... 22
Nancy Kennal-Larsen ............................................................................................. 23
Mary Beehler-Lathrom ............................................................................................ 24
Clayton Mantz ........................................................................................................ 25
Mary Sue Morrison .................................................................................................. 26
Freida Schoneweiss-Nichols .................................................................................. 27
Boyd Orr .................................................................................................................... 28
Betty Bain-Palsgrove .............................................................................................. 29
Dan Pauls ................................................................................................................. 30
Gene Pflughoft ........................................................................................................ 32
Paul Phelps .............................................................................................................. 33
Ellen Dingwall-Poole .............................................................................................. 34
Robert Reece ........................................................................................................... 35
Bob Sankey .............................................................................................................. 36
Myron Seitz ............................................................................................................. 37
Mike Shimeall ......................................................................................................... 38
Al Spotts .................................................................................................................... 39
Phyllis Spotts .......................................................................................................... 41
Harley Stauffer ....................................................................................................... 42
Jon Sward ................................................................................................................. 43
Judy Tadlock ............................................................................................................. 44
Chalice Stauffer-Thompson .................................................................................... 45
Rick Troy ................................................................................................................... 46
Ken & Virginia Nordvedt-Van Meter (2) ................................................................. 47
Linda Livingston-Wardlow ...................................................................................... 48
Iris Wells .................................................................................................................. 49
John Wilkey ............................................................................................................. 50
Roger Wisslead ....................................................................................................... 51

Appendix .................................................................................................................... 52

Epilogue .................................................................................................................... 67
Introduction

On the occasion of 50 years since we graduated from Sterling College, we have solicited short biographies from all of our class members. In this first edition we had 49 replies, so it should be a fun read for all of us.

As you know Sterling College likes to list everyone whoever attended a class during our time at Sterling as a member of the Class of 1967. That list numbers 187 alums. Memory seems to suggest that maybe a more realistic list might be 100 to 120 or so. Does anyone still have our Commencement program that listed all the graduates? If so, count how many “graduated” and let us know and we will tweak this book, in a subsequent edition.

The book has been set up alphabetically. We have alphabetized according to current preferred last names. Maiden names will show up as middle names. Some of you wrote a mini-biography while others sent in resumés, and yet others sent bulleted lists. At first we thought we would rewrite the resumés and lists, but no doubt we would have gotten something wrong or left something out, so we left it pretty much as it was sent.

We have been able to do a bit of photo copy-work from some of the old SC yearbooks to capture images of the younger us. Weren’t we all beautiful/handsome back then!! Most of you also shared a relatively current photo of yourself. A few current photos were borrowed from other places for those who didn’t send a current photo.

At the end of the book you will find an Appendix that contains a potpourri of items including extra photos, some of which we used to crop out a current photo, some with spouses, etc. Frieda Schoneweiss Nichols submitted her biography info in the form of a “poster,” from which we extracted her information, but we also share her entire poster in the Appendix. Additionally we have included a list of known deceased classmates—from SC records—which numbers 34. Donna Beer shared a couple of extra paragraphs about her freshman roommates—Delores Hansen-Glaze who died in 2007, and Barbara Perlenfein, who was in a different class.

Unfortunately because of privacy issues, the book we are posting on Sterling’s website will be missing mailing addresses, phones, email addresses.

Thanks to each of you who shared your information for this book. If there are others reading this who would like to be included, send me know your information and I will add an addendum at some point in the future.

Enjoy the book. Enjoy reminiscing and remembering one another with whom we spent four years of our early lives, and established lifetime friendships.

Thanks for your help in making this book possible.

Paul E. Phelps
October 2017
Donna Beer

I left Sterling College after my sophomore year to save enough tuition money to afford graduate school. Attending the University of Illinois Chicago was $94 per quarter ($282 per year) plus books, and I lived with my Mom to save more money.

My undergraduate majors were Biology and Chemistry and my Masters was in Biochemistry. I worked in a gastroenterology lab at the University of Chicago for a year until I decided I wasn’t organized enough to have a research career and a future family.

That’s when I learned about computers from a statistician who carried punch cards with her when she visited our lab. I was very fortunate to find a company that was training new hires to be programmers for their corporate office. That led to helping start up a new computer facility for a research division of the corporation and training staff to use its resources. I enjoyed my duties for eight years, but then quit when our daughter was born.

I resumed employment when Diana was 10, this time at a Library, where I managed computer systems and operations, a responsibility that grew from supporting a main frame with 16 “dumb” terminals for viewing the Library catalog to installation and support of multiple servers, for the catalog, resource databases and staff files, internet access, 128 PCs for staff and patrons and, eventually, all things technical in the building. I happily retired 20 years and 20 days after starting at the Library.

Husband Jim Runkle and I have been married 43 years and we have lived in Lake Bluff, IL, for the past 37 years. I kept my maiden name, Beer, in memory of my Dad, who died when I was 17 years old. He was a gentle and carrying man, and loved by many.

In graduate school, I attended a United Methodist Church, a half block from my apartment, and remain a Methodist to this day. I have served as church treasurer for ten years, financial secretary for seven years and am currently serving on the Worship committee. And, I have sung in my church’s chancel choir and played hand bells for 35 years. Music is one of God’s greatest gifts to mankind – that and the beauty of the earth.

In addition to church activities I am the Membership chair for the Lake Bluff Women’s Club. My other hobby is gardening.
John Behrendt

Following our graduation from Sterling College I spent three years attending law school at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Upon graduation I moved to Los Angeles, CA, to work for Gibson Dunn and Crutcher.

In March of 1971 I took a leave of absence to complete my military commitment, which I spent in San Antonio, TX, until July 1974 at which time I returned to Los Angeles and Gibson Dunn.


Also in 1981 I moved to New York to open an office for Gibson Dunn where I worked until I retired from the firm in 2011.

In 1985 I married Theresa Elmore and we have lived in New York City since then.

After retiring from the firm I took a job as the Global Head of Litigation for UBS and have been in that position since then.

We have four granddaughters—Kiley Komnik, Jessica Behrendt, Natalie Behrendt, and Molly Komnik.
Dan Brown

- Dan and Shirley Brown are married 50 years and currently live in Shelbyville, TN
- A son and a daughter who are mostly nice.
- Five grandkids who are always nice. Four boys and one very special girl.
- Dan taught sixth grade for 37 years in New York.
- Coached track and cross-country for 44 years in NY and TN.
- Worked nights at a maximum security prison for 27 years.
- Works as a TV extra on shows filmed in Nashville.
- Photography has become a big hobby, which includes travel to Africa, Canada and our national parks.
- Member of World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro, TN
Linda Brenner Brown

How do you condense fifty years of living to 350-500 words? I’ve decided to focus on three categories: where I’ve lived; jobs I’ve held; and callings that have brought me joy and satisfaction.

Where I’ve lived:
• Morrowville, KS (2 years)
• Philadelphia, PA (3½ years)
• Camp Hill, PA (3½ years)
• Burns, WY (28 years) A country church parsonage
• Abilene, KS (13 years) Our retirement home

Jobs (paying) that I’ve held:
• Teaching sixth grade in a public school
• Serving as housemother to a group of teen-aged boys at Overbrook School for the Blind. I started the year feeling sorry for them—but soon changed to feeling sorry for myself! Did I mention that they were teen-aged boys?
• Providing piano accompaniment for a school music department
• Teaching piano—my favorite job! After several unsuccessful attempts, I have finally accepted retirement.

Callings that have brought me joy and satisfaction:
• Wife—I married Jim Brown (SC ’66) in the summer of 1967. We have spent this whole summer joyfully celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary. Early in our marriage, Jim attended seminary and became a Baptist pastor. I once heard a pastor’s wife say, “When the church hired my husband, they got two for the price of one.” That was true for me too. Actually, God called me to be a pastor’s wife when I was a teenager. Instrumental in that call was an old book entitled “The Shepherdess,” which described the role of a pastor’s wife. I loved the role and that title!
• Mother—How can I avoid talking about my children, when they are such a part of my life and calling? We have been blessed with two beautiful, gifted daughters Chris and Becca, each with their godly, wise, and witty husbands. And, we have five delightful grandchildren. I enjoy being a mother, and “Grandma Linda.”
• Musician—Music has always held a special place in my life—expressing itself both vocally and instrumentally. I have enjoyed performing, encouraging others’ musical gifts, and teaching private lessons. Music has provided much personal pleasure, and recently, because of the example of an adult piano student, I have added hymn-playing to my personal devotions.
• Bible study guide—God’s Word has been an essential part of my faith journey by providing a sure foundation, intimacy with the Lord, instruction in His ways, and the source of joy. It’s been my privilege to share God’s word with others, especially in women’s Bible studies.

The Sterling College bonds are strong, and those college friendships grow more precious each year!
Rus Cerretti

A Life in Three Chapters—

• **Chapter One:** Consisted of graduating from college and Jodi graduating from nursing school. After graduation I enlisted in the Air Force with an overseas tour in Thailand and we got married. Upon leaving military service we returned to Kansas City, MO, where Jodi first worked at Research Hospital as a charge nurse of a surgical floor, then at St Luke’s Hospital as a charge nurse of the kidney dialysis unit while also working at the Kansas City Blood Bank. I attended two years of post-graduate work at the University of Missouri, Kansas City and became the Parking Operations Manager at the Kansas City International Airport.

• **Chapter Two:** In 1975, I started working for the Federal Aviation Administration as an Air Traffic Controller—ATC. My first assignment was Cape Girardeau, MO, where the first year was training and I drove back to Kansas City every weekend. A year later we moved to Cape Girardeau and a year after that we moved to Puerto Rico where I work in four different facilities over the next six years. Jodi started her own Physical Fitness business while we were in Puerto Rico, which grew to over 2,500 participants and five instructors. In 1983 we returned to the California Bay Area where I worked at four different ATC facilities. I enjoyed the technical aspects of ATC and 25 years as an Air Traffic Controller, but due to age restrictions I moved into Support positions. One of these positions being seven years in Quality Control, which was the equivalent of Internal Affairs in the Police Department, and then the remainder of my 39-year career was in Purchasing and Project Management. As Project Manager I guided the redesign of two control rooms, which was extremely complicated, and the remodeling of major portions of the Air Route Traffic Control Center in Fremont, CA.

Jodi spent the first year of our return from Puerto Rico working at and living onsite at Rancho La Puerta Health Resort in Tecate, Mexico. She then returned to our home in California and established herself in business as a Personal Fitness Trainer given the contacts she had made at the Spa. Jodi also spent several years as the President of our Homeowners Association in which she guided the association through an embezzlement scandal and a $6.2 million lawsuit against the developer.

• **Chapter Three:** In 2014 we both retired. We sold our town home and bought a condo home in a 55-Plus retirement community that has 6,700 homes and over 10,000 residents. We now get to spend time traveling and spending several months a year in our second home in Southern Utah. We enjoyed our demanding career years but must say we are now extremely grateful and happy to have reached a retirement that allows us the freedom to do whatever we like whenever we want. Life is good!
Mel Brown

After graduation from Sterling, I started a job of teaching at Chase Junior-Senior High School in Chase, KS. I taught and coached there for two years until May 1969 when I received a notice from the U.S. Selective Service in Denver, CO—where I grew up. That notice was that I was going to be drafted into the Army within months.

In the meantime, I was offered a teaching and coaching job at Mankato, KS. I informed them of the Draft notice, and we tried for a deferment anyway, but on Sept. 12, 1969, I was drafted into the Army for two years—including a year-and-a-half in the Panama Canal Zone, 549th Military Police, 8th Special Forces.


I retired early, and spent five years working in two different banks doing IT work. Then, I retired for good.

In February 1969, I married my wife, Marlene, and we had three boys. Sadly our first son, born in Panama in 1970, died of Leukemia in 1975. Our second son, Chad, was born in 1975, and is now living in Wichita. Our youngest son, Scott, was born in 1982, and now lives in Marysville, KS, where he is the high school’s head basketball coach. His team won the 3A Basketball State championship this year. He is married, with two daughters.

In 1977 I joined the 995th Maintenance Company, Army reserve National Guard in Mankato. I served with them until 1995, achieving the rank of Sergeant First Class, as well as Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the unit.

Now Marlene and I travel each year on cruise ships, as well as traveling around to watch Scott’s teams play basketball.

Currently I am volunteering in the community, and for eight years have been on the Board of Pawnee Mental Health Services serving as a board member and treasurer.
Margaret Philips Cheasebro

I am a retired elementary school counselor. I also worked 14 years for area newspapers, at different times as a reporter, bureau chief, correspondent, and managing editor.

Currently, I am a freelance writer for regional magazines. I contribute regularly to a quarterly full-color magazine called “Majestic Living,” which focuses on the people, places, and cultures of the Four Corners area—where the states of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado meet. Back copies may be found at www.majesticmediausa.com.


The “Healing Tree” is a young adult fantasy/reality novel, set in the Aztec, NM, area in which three children meet on the way to summer camp. They don’t think they know each other, but they discover that through time an evil woman has chased them all. She wants their blood so she can stay young, and she wants their powerful connection to nature so she can rule the world. When they arrive at camp, the evil woman is waiting for them. To defeat the woman’s evil plans, they must believe in themselves and work together with the help of many elements of nature, a medicine man, and a mysterious camp caretaker who keeps Egyptian mummies in his basement.

My latest paperback book, “Healing with Trees: Finding a Path to Wholeness,” is non-fiction, and discusses the benefits of connecting with trees. It includes exercises for staying better-grounded and balanced and for releasing challenging emotions. It also contains many tools to assist in navigating through daily life.

My husband, Wally, who died in 2014, and I have one son, Philip, a civil engineer. Philip was the director of a barbershop chorus for several years.


I enjoy playing Ping-Pong twice a week with a group of other table tennis enthusiasts. We often participate in the New Mexico Senior Olympics. I also play the piano and take my turn at playing hymns for the church I attend.
Sharon Wilson Cole

It’s going to be difficult to summarize 50 years but I’m trying to make myself accept that it really HAS been 50 years since we all graduated from Sterling College.

After graduating from SC in the spring of 1967, I moved to Topeka, KS, where I had been hired as a third grade teacher for USD #437, and was assigned to Wanamaker Elementary. My second year of teaching I met Jimmie Cole and we were married in December 1968. We will be celebrating our 49th wedding anniversary December 7, 2017.

In August 1970, we welcomed our first son, Trent, to the family. I was a stay-at-home Mom until he was a year old, at which time, I resumed my teaching at Wanamaker Elementary, this time as a second grade teacher. In April 1977, our second son, Thad, was added to our family. We have now have two granddaughters, ages 14 and 10, and a grandson, who is 5.

After 32 years of teaching K-3 at Wanamaker Elementary, I decided it was time to enter a new chapter of my life.

I retired from teaching in May 2000. These retirement years have been busier than I ever expected. However, I find myself the happiest when I’m involved in church ministry, where I’m the director of the Senior Adults in my local church, and also teach my four piano students each week. This work gives me great satisfaction and a sense of still being needed.

In the early years of my retirement, the first items on my bucket list were traveling—both abroad and domestic. I wanted to accomplish that while I was still healthy and more active. So my husband and I joined 12 others from our church and we started our journey to Panama to build churches.

Other places that have made wonderful memories for my travel book include bus trips to Amish country in Pennsylvania, New York City, Boston, and Washington D.C. We have taken cruises to Hawaii, Alaska, Caribbean, and the Panama Canal. Road trips have taken us through the Canyonlands of the Southwest U.S. Train travel has taken us through the Rockies. Now day-trips are the extent of my traveling experiences.

My free moments I spend reading, playing the piano, and working mind puzzles—you know to keep my brain young as my body continues to show me that growing old is definitely not for sissies!
Doug Coleman

My Journey—

The summer following graduation I tried to figure out where the last four years had gone, as I
worked at my long-time summer job as a surgical assistant in the operating rooms at Massachusetts
General Hospital in Boston, and fine-tuned future plans.

My next step on the journey: Graduate school—I started at Emporia State in the fall of 1967, but
changed my mind and enrolled in a Master’s program in Marine Biology at the University of New
Hampshire, in January 1968. Within a couple of months I successfully petitioned the university to
move directly into a Doctoral program. I launched full-speed into my research and received my Ph.D.
in 1971.

Moving along: College professor…almost—The then sluggish economy caused universities to go
slow hiring new faculty. Plan B: New environmental laws in the early 1970s created jobs for people
with degrees in the sciences. My professional career thus started as Director of Environmental
Research for a company in Bethesda, MD, designing and managing environmental studies and
writing environmental impact reports for a wide variety of projects all over the country, which was a
tremendous learning experience.

The Journey continued: Professor…finally—I worked in the Marine Biology program at the
University of New England—a relatively small school, with an oceanside campus. There, I also
developed an Environmental Science program and launched a new Tropical Marine Ecology
program, taking students each January to St. Croix to study coral reefs.

As time went on: Entered the business world—I started a landscaping business to support future
retirement. It grew very rapidly, expanding to include a wide variety of related services. It was a one-
stop shopping business. At one point I had over 30 employees, which was an education in itself! It
eventually turned into a new career until I sold it in 2014.

Finally, a really fun gig: Part-time guide and teacher—I go on educational travel trips for students
and families. I do primarily science and history trips around the country and beyond.

I met my soul-mate, Mary Ann, at UNH as she was completing a Master’s degree in Elementary
School Counseling. We were married in August 1971. Our first son, Matthew, was born in 1976. Our
second son, David, was born in 1980. We now have two precious grandsons, Eli (9) and Sam (5)
keeping us young. All the families live near us in Kennebunk, ME.

I love the outdoors and keep active with many interests: running 3-5 miles daily, distance biking,
photography, kayaking, hiking, traveling, beekeeping, winter snowshoeing, playing with Eli and
Sam, adventures with Mary Ann, and more.
Ann Picklow Conser

My first teaching assignment was fourth grade in my hometown—Wellsville, MO—school district for four years. In 1971 I married the ‘best of the better of men,’ Bill Conser, and we moved to Valley Falls, KS, where we have lived ever since. I retired from the Valley Falls public schools in 2005 after 35 years of teaching either the third or fourth grades.

In 1995 I earned my Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Kansas State University.

After retiring, I found myself teaching a 4-5-6 class at a parochial school for two years and then seven years at Grace Christian School. Probably the most exciting thing in my teaching career is the year I was awarded the “Outstanding Elementary Math Teacher for Northeast Kansas” by the KATM. What a surprise and honor!

We have two sons, Andy and Justin, both of whom still live in Valley Falls. Andy is an auctioneer and real estate agent. He has an auction company that is family-based and we all work for him. Justin studied dairy herd management and continues to work as a handyman and auction manager. Probably the greatest joys of our lives are our four red-haired grandchildren—Wes-16, Grace-13, Lauren-8, and Olivia-3. I have discovered red hair is more than a color—it’s a function! They all belong to Andy and Holly, and live close enough that I can step onto my front porch and wave and say “Come on over and play with Grandma!” It doesn’t get any better than that!

Our whole family enjoys showing dogs and sled-dog racing. For the past 18 years we have helped put on the “Canines for Charity” sled-dog race in Casper, WY. I’m the official starter/timer so have never run my dogs in the race, however, Bill and others in the family do. It has been our family vacation—most people go where it’s warm.

To sum it all up I think I can honestly say that I have lived ‘happily ever after.’ God has so richly blessed me beyond words. To the SC class of 1967, thank you for letting me be a small part of your class. I wish you the best in the years to come.
John R. Gates

I attended Sterling College for my freshman and sophomore years and then transferred to Kansas State University in Manhattan. I attended KSU for the 1965-66 and 1966-67 terms.

I actually received better grades at KSU than I did at Sterling even though I spent most weekends back in Sterling, because that is where my future wife, Margaret “Peggy” McAuley was living.

Peggy and I married in January of 1967.

A couple of courses at Emporia State in the summer allowed me to finally graduate and then I started teaching high school classes in Phillipsburg, KS. I taught vocational agriculture there from 1967 through 1969.

For the 1969-70 school year I taught agriculture at Menaul High School in Albuquerque, NM. Menaul HS is a Presbyterian Boarding High School located in the Albuquerque city limits. It actually started while Albuquerque was only a trading post down along the Rio Grande river. That location meant a working farm was on campus so students got some great hands-on farming experience. I really liked teaching there. Our oldest son Richard “Rick” was born in Albuquerque.

In 1970, after teaching a year in New Mexico, my Father developed a bad back problem, and he asked if I wanted to come back to Kansas and help on the farm in Anthony, and I did.

Our second son, Randall “Randy” was born in 1973.

I farmed until 1986 when Peggy’s health and the farm economy both took a downturn. During those years I served on the Farm Bureau and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service—ASCS—boards. I sold insurance briefly and worked for another farmer. Ultimately I ended up at the Anthony John Deere store working as a sales person in the Parts department. Oh, and I also served as an Elder in my church.

Peggy passed away unexpectedly in July 2012. Support of both family and fellow Christians helped in that time and also during the time after my cancer diagnosis May 2013. I am a cancer survivor.

Before stopping I should mention that I have three grandchildren and three step-grandchildren.
Sara Lee “Sally” Buel Haggerty

I was one of 13 Sterling High School Class of 1963 students who entered Sterling College’s Class of 1967.

I finished my freshman year at SC before marrying Jim Haggerty (SC ’64). Jim and I spent the early years of our married life in the Akron, OH, area before returning to Sterling in 1982, with our three children.

I eventually graduated from Sterling 1984 with a degree in Information Technology—it just took me 20 years. Being a non-traditional student had benefits, but I share a closer connection to the Class of 1967.

My introduction to technology in the early 1980s began with computer programming—COBOL/PASCAL—over a network connection to a mainframe computer in McPherson, KS—no personal computers at SC yet. I wrote several programs for local agricultural businesses and worked for Sterling Petroleum—an oil investment firm run by Bob McCreery, Curt Bennett and Bob Reed.

Still being interested in teaching I went back to the classroom and earned a Master’s degree from Kansas State University.

By the early 1990s I was a Sterling College professor teaching computer, database management, web design and other business courses. When Sterling dropped its Computer Science major, I completed my employment contract working in the Mabee Library.

Our children all married and live elsewhere so we spend retirement traveling to see our kids and grandkids. We chose to retire in Sterling to be around extended family and friends. We enjoy staying involved in college activities while meeting new SC students.
Chuck & Ann Spotts Haspels

Ann, speaking for both herself and Chuck, says she is doing so because “we are still together, having just celebrated their first 50 years of marriage.”

We did get married soon after graduation in May 1967. Chuck completed a Masters in Biology at Emporia State University, and then we taught at Seoul Foreign School, Seoul, Korea for five years.

In 1974, we continued our teaching in International Schools in Ethiopia at Good Shepherd School for three years. We had to return to the U.S. for a year due to the political situation, but then returned to teach another year, however this time in Addis Ababa at the American Community School.

In 1981, at the age of 36, Chuck entered dental school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. When he finished in 1985, we moved to Cortez, CO, where he practiced dentistry. I taught home economics, then completed a Masters in Special Education at Adams State College, in Alamosa, CO, and finished my teaching career in that field.

We enjoy southwest Colorado and being close to mountains, desert, and Canyonlands. We have three adult children and two grandchildren.

Retirement suits us well. Chuck is involved in photography, birding, hiking, archaeology, restoring old cars, and numerous other activities, while I enjoy volunteer activities, quilting, and playing organ.

In recent years, we been more involved in traveling and especially enjoy service-oriented or study trips. Last year included Global Dental Relief trips to Kenya and India, and we have just returned from a study trip to Central America where we learned more about environmental, peace and justice issues.
Betty Phillips-Herrera

My nickname in college was “Bee Oh,” an inside joke name, given me from Betty Bain Palsgrove. At Sterling I majored History and Education with a minor in French and Spanish so after I graduated I taught at a Catholic middle school in Denver, CO.

In August 1968 I married Roberto Herrera, and I moved to Mexico City. We had three girls and one boy. I taught English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) in the graduate department of the School of Architecture at the National University of Mexico. I also taught ESL at many schools and institutes in Mexico City during my 28 years of living there.

We had four lovely, wonderful children, three daughters: Deyna, Aylane, and Jaylin and one son, Diego. I also have five beautiful grandchildren.

Son, Diego, served in the U.S. 82nd Airborne in Iraq. He returned home safely, only to be killed in a construction accident in Vancouver, Canada. His, and his father’s, ashes are interred in a Catholic church in Mexico City. With the help and encouragement of several Class of ‘67 members, we established a scholarship in his name at Sterling.

In 1995 I moved to Houston, TX, where I have resided for the past 22 years. I retired as a Spanish Teacher from the Houston Independent School District in 2010.

A few other interesting events that have happened for me since my Sterling College days, include that I have worked in several Hollywood movies on location in Mexico, and I have seen myself on the silver screen, but…I still have not received any Oscars yet. Ha! Ha!

I have also traveled extensively to over forty countries. On some of my trips, I gave presentations at ESL conventions on the teaching of a foreign language to the visually impaired and also blind students.

Currently I am trying to wrap up a second masters degree in Christian Counseling at Houston Graduate School of Theology. I have had too many high school students who tried to commit suicide and the Lord felt I could be of service in that area after my retirement. If all goes well, I should graduate in December 2017, 50 years after graduating from Sterling College. Life is a journey, not a destination! The Lord told me to “Relax and Enjoy the ride,” so I stopped worrying about my future. Jeremiah 29:11.

I have traveled extensively around the world. So far I have visited over 40 countries on almost every continent. I still have a condo in Mexico City and travel there several times a year. My bucket list doesn’t seem to dwindle.

Many moons have passed since graduating from Sterling. I especially enjoyed my freshman year where we learned to have fun and enjoy life and have kept in touch with many of you all of these years. I would change nothing from that glorious experience.
Fred L. Irwin

After graduating from Sterling, I earned an MS degree in Education from Eastern Illinois University and later acquired certifications in counseling and administration.

I married Suzanne Fose in December 1968, and we have three children—Deanne, Katheryn, Jennifer—and eleven grandchildren

I taught, coached, and counseled in various junior and senior high schools for 16 years, and served as a secondary school principal for 15 years. In 2002 I served as the president of the Kansas Association of Secondary Schools organization.

Taking a break from education in the early 1980s, I was a regional territory manager for a conservation tillage company in western Kansas. Following retirement from public education in 2003, I was a crop insurance adjuster for Farmer’s Hail Insurance Company of Iowa for 13 years.

Suzanne received her BS degree from the University of Northern Colorado and an MS degree in Education from the University of Kansas, and then spent 25 years as a special education teacher, before retiring in 2009. However, she most cherishes her years as a wife and mother of three girls.

We now enjoy our retirement years in a rural area east of Monument, CO. We very much enjoy our lives together, and our church family in the Tri-Lakes Reformed Church of Monument. God has richly blessed us with His kindnesses and mercies over the years.
Anamarie Jensen Joosse

First of all, thanks to many of you who made my Sterling experience so good. I hope the subsequent 50 years have been as good for you as they have been for me.

Right after graduation I married Wayne Joosse, the Sterling College psychology professor. God has blessed our marriage, and we just celebrated our 50th anniversary.

In the summer of 1967 we moved to Huntington, IN. For two years Wayne taught psychology at what is now Huntington University. I taught fifth grade. We enjoyed those years but Wayne needed to work on his doctorate.

The next stop was Michigan State University where Wayne worked on his doctorate in psychology. I earned an Educational Specialist degree—a practitioner degree between an M.A. and Ph.D.—in counseling.

In 1972 we moved to Grand Rapids, MI, where Wayne accepted a position at Calvin College, his alma mater. I worked as a psychologist on the Adolescent Unit of Pine Rest Christian Hospital in Grand Rapids. They were generally tough clients because they were often hospitalized against their will.

After six years I was fortunate to get a counseling position in Calvin College’s Counseling Center. I enjoyed doing individual and group counseling with college level clients. They came in on their own, were bright and communicative and were motivated to work on their issues. I was fortunate to do this for 30 years. Calvin is an excellent and pervasively Christian college, and I believe that God used my efforts to positively influence hundreds of young adults.

For various reasons, some health-related, we did not have children. God seemed to bring young adults into our life who needed a healing place to live for a time. We came to believe that God was calling us to take such persons into our home.

We also felt that God called us to share our material possessions. We offered community gardens on our property, shared garden and yard tools, and offered our road-worthy car to seminary students for long trips when their own cars were not road-worthy. We believe all we have is really God’s in the first place.

Wayne retired in 2007, followed by me in 2008. Soon after, Wayne was diagnosed with Parkinson’s. Three-and-a-half years ago we thought it wise to move into a Christian retirement community, which has all levels of care. Since we are among the youngest and healthiest, there are many opportunities to serve. We welcome that.

In conclusion, we thank God for a good marriage, meaningful work and good health. God is good, all the time.
Diana Gray Kasson

Privileged to be part of a most important profession:
• 37 years in public education, three years in Kansas, and 34 in Colorado
• MA from University of Denver, 1974
• Delta Kappa Gamma Society, 1974 to present

Thankful for the greatest joys of my life:
• Two daughters—
  Leah, 1976
  Jessica, 1980
• Four granddaughters
  Brooke, 1997
  Cora, 2000
  Autumn, 2001
  Dakota, 2005
• Fourteen wonderful pets—
  Eight dogs
  Six cats

Enlightened:
I have been fortunate to travel in five continents including North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Travel countries on these continents included various in Central America, the Caribbean/Dominican Republic, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Shetland Islands, Easter Island, Falkland Islands, Canada, Mexico, China, Tibet, Turkey, New Zealand, and heading to Fiji in the very near future.
Kenneth Killian

The fall following graduation from Sterling, I attended Indiana State University in Terra Haute, where I was a graduate assistant in the Department of Education and completed my Master’s degree.

In 1968, I started a teaching career in San Bernardino, CA, as an elementary school teacher. After three years I moved to Costa Mesa, CA, to teach in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District. Later in the same school district, I served for 27 years as an elementary and middle school principal.

A career highlight during that time was serving on the Advisory Board for the Principals’ Center at Harvard University.

After 36 years in public school education, I retired and started a second career mentoring new principals and teaching part-time at the university level—Pepperdine University and Vanguard University.

While still teaching part-time at Vanguard University this 2017-2018 school year, I have now been in the field of education a total of 50 years.

I enjoy living in Huntington Beach with an extended family son, his wife and three grandchildren.
Louis Kottmann, Jr.

After attending Sterling College for two-and-a-half years, I began to wish that I could take some meteorology classes, so I transferred to Kansas State University. Though I did enjoy the meteorology classes that I took, I did not pursue that field of study, but I did stay at KSU to complete a degree in mathematics—I have to admit that SC’s Robert Thompson had a big influence in my life.

After graduating, I married Mary Marks (SC ’66), and we began graduate work at KSU. Loving applied-mathematics, I pursued a Master’s degree in Engineering Mechanics while teaching a course for KSU each semester.

I so enjoyed teaching that when I graduated, I took a job teaching mathematics at Barton County Community College—now Barton College—in Great Bend, KS. Those were exciting years since BCCC was only in its second year of existence and was still in the process of developing a college. The years zoomed by with the teaching of mathematics being changed by advances in technology.

For several years I played my clarinet in the Barton College Orchestra—SC’s Bob Gordon also had a big influence in my life. After 36 years at Barton College, I retired as Associate Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, having benefited from my time at Sterling College and the encouragement and support of family and friends.

We have three married daughters— Jean and husband José Trujillo; Karen and husband Chris Edwards; Megan and husband Scott Beahm—and six grandchildren.

I now enjoy reading, travel, and time with family. I stay active by helping with “Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed”—AWANA—at church, feeding orioles during the summer, picking up grandchildren from school, making pies, and playing an occasional round of golf.

I am eternally grateful to God for his love, grace, mercy, and faithfulness through the years.
Vicki Dahlstrom Kovach

Officially it’s Maude Victoria Dahlstrom Kovach, but AKA a lot of other names too, is now retired from many years of teaching small children—kindergarten, first grade, Title 1 Reading, Montessori, and Pre-K.

I spent 1967-1982 in Hoisington, KS. There I married a local fellow and later on divorced the same local fellow, but not before having three children—Skye, Chloe and Nate.

Around then I moved to northwest Florida where the children and I lived in the woods in a little house by a little lake and a big river. It was a great place to be a kid and take in stray dogs of which there were many.

In 1986 I met my present husband, Les, a nurse practitioner who worked at the Health Department. Together we produced Jozey who is now expecting her first baby. I have three grandchildren all of whom live here in Fort Walton Beach, FL, so I can spend fun times with them. Jozey lives in Pensacola, which is but an hour away. Nate’s on the road most of the time having his own adventures that don’t include having a family.

After moving to Fort Walton Beach, I became a Pre-K teacher and worked three mornings a week, which is a lovely number of hours especially having a place for Jozey thrown into the deal. I taught 15 years in this school and enjoyed it immensely...as five-year-olds generally have about the same attention span as I do. They also like bugs and dandelions, painting, silly poems, songs, all sorts of critters and are amazingly curious which is right up my alley!

After our retirements Les and I both wanted to see more of the world and had an opportunity to spend almost a year traveling in South America camping in our old yellow VW camper. Jozey was 12 and so she begrudgingly accompanied us and was “camper-schooled.” This trip turned out to be interesting and awesome and we found most everyone welcoming and eager to help. Going up the Amazon on a barge, being taken to Angel Falls (Venezuela) by the Pemon Indians in dugout canoes—with little motors—was fantastic and Machu Picchu in Peru in late afternoon after a gentle rain and very few tourists, etc., made this trip worth it even though we had to ‘rough it’ a lot of the time.

South America is amazing and we took this trip at a good time. A few years later we shipped our camper to Sweden and camped through Scandinavia and most of Eastern Europe as well as a bit of Western Europe. We even met my old friends “the mummified peat-bog men” in Denmark, which was wonderful.

We’ve traveled most of the U.S., the Canadian Maritimes, and now we’re spending our dotage in the cabin on the bayou that Les built way back before I met him. I have small groups of friends, take classes through a senior program, and manage to keep myself busy being dutiful and enjoying life—well, most of the time anyway. Life ain’t always fun. Now, none of you elders fall off the float.
I retired from teaching 30 years in the Minden, NE, Public Schools. Now I substitute occasionally in three area schools when we are in the U.S. I married Chuck in 1965.

We moved to his family farm in 1971, and continued in that occupation until 2005 when Chuck retired from agriculture so he could spend more time in Haiti.

We have two children—Wiley (SC ’93) and his wife Marisa, living in Tempe, AZ; and Katie and her twin 15-year-old daughters, Destiny and Montana, who live in Minden.

The past ten years has found us occupied with the start and development of a faith-based mission called “WATER 4 HAITI.” We share our love for our Lord by drilling wells, repairing broken water hand pumps, providing sanitation, and serving in many ways the extremely impoverished people in Haiti.

We’re so thankful for the great team of Haitian employees who keep doing the work when we are gone. Also, we are so grateful for the generosity of fellow believers who provide donations so the W4H mission can continue. Chuck spends about seven months a year in Haiti and I am there for about four months. We welcome anyone who wants to come and see our work and experience life in Haiti. Let us know!

We celebrated our 52nd wedding anniversary on August 21.

We are looking forward to whatever the future brings. “Knowing God has a plan for your life brings hope for the future.” Jeremiah 29:11
Mary Beehler Lathrom

I left Sterling in the spring of 1965 and spent the summer with other college students working at the “Y” in Estes Park, CO. I moved to Wichita in the fall of 1965 and have been here ever since, with a hiatus when I taught art in Hillsboro from the fall of 1970 to the spring of 1972. Teaching (art) was not a good fit for me.

I became an LPN and worked in the birth rooms at Wesley Medical Center for 14 years.

I married Seylor “Butch” Lathrom in June 1976, and we have two daughters: Holly, 30, and Wendy, 28. Holly is major player in our machine shop business and Wendy is a Captain in the Air Force, currently stationed in London.

Butch says he will “never retire” so I continue to help with the shop by doing the running for it. I also volunteer at the Wichita zoo, belong to a Knit group, and figure out how to go traveling—alone or with friends. I was also on the board of the Presbyterian Manors in Newton, KS. I was active in the First Presbyterian Church of Wichita for many years.

My Grandfather Gus Fields was on the board at Sterling College for years and was the reason I attended Sterling. I grew up in Boulder, CO, but I never would have “made it” through a big school like the University of Colorado.
Clayton Dean Mantz

Shortly after I graduated from Sterling, I married Delleta. We have two children—son John Dean born in December 1970 and daughter Nicole Dawn who was born in April 1974.

I taught mathematics at Chase, KS, where I was also head football coach, assistant basketball coach, and head golf coach from 1967 to 1969.

We moved to Smith Center, KS, where I taught mathematics from 1969 to 1971. I also was the head football coach, assistant basketball coach, head golf coach, in addition to being the sponsor for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

From 1971 to February 1974 I taught mathematics at Nickerson, KS, serving also as the assistant football coach and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes sponsor.


In 1974 I joined a private business called FAR-MAR-CO, a grain company in Hutchinson, KS, and worked as an Agricultural Transportation Manager. After a company merger, it became Farmland Industries Grain Division in 1976, but I was still doing the same job. I moved to the Kansas City office in 1983.

In 1985 I moved to Enid, OK, to work for Union Equity before going back to Farmland Industries Kansas City in 1993.

In 2000 I changed to Fertilizer Division for the next four years, before joining the Coffeyville Resources Nitrogen Fertilizer company doing the same job in their Kansas City Office.

I retired June 2010, and in 2013 we moved from Shawnee, KS, to a farm 2½ miles south of Sterling.

Other things along the way I’ve done included being in the Kansas Army National Guard from 1961 to 1967, plus two years of inactive reserve. I have been an ICC Practitioner and a member and Past Chairman of the Kansas Grain and Feed Industry Transportation Committee.

Currently I am a member of the American Legion and volunteer at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.
Mary Sue Morrison

After graduating from Sterling College in 1967, I followed my passion for teaching. My teaching was with 2nd, 3rd, and 3rd/4th grades. My first teaching was at Rockford Christian Elementary School—10½ years—starting fall 1967, with 3rd/4th grades. At that time the school only went through 6th grade. Rockford Christian Schools now has elementary, junior high, and high school. As the school grew, I taught 3rd grade.

Moving to Washington state in 1978 meant substitute teaching for me. While subbing, and a few years into my full-time teaching, I worked as night manager and hostess at a Perkins restaurant in Spokane, WA.

The remainder of my 38 years in teaching was in elementary schools with Spokane Public Schools. Some highlights from my teaching included THE CHILDREN, training parents to work in the classroom, being supervising teacher for several work-study students, education practicum students, student teachers and beginning teachers, teaching with a really terrific grade-level team, working with the Kiwanis, and the senior citizens who came faithfully to read and work with my students. Outside the classroom highlights included working with legislators to benefit education, being a representative and positive PR person for the Spokane Education Association, belonging to a great Alpha Delta Kappa group.

While teaching in Spokane, I earned my Master’s degree in Education from Whitworth College—now Whitworth University. When I retired from SPS in June 2006, I began a retirement challenge to develop math card and board games for Place Value with zeros—for grades K-8—Decimals, and Multiplication. I also set up a website: mathemax_games.com. The ideas for these games came from my students in Spokane.

Many travels and life experiences began in 1978 when I moved from Rockford, IL to Spokane. There were trips driving and flying from Spokane to Illinois to visit family. Other travels include Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, England, British Columbia, Colorado, California, Arizona, and many weekend trips to Seattle and surrounding areas.

After “retirement,” I enjoyed about six years of RV traveling, including some RV trips from Spokane to the Oregon coast, Maine, Idaho, various place in Washington and Illinois. From Rockford my travels were to Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota.

Some of my experience while living in Spokane were the 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption—ash was everywhere, an ice storm, a winter with over 100 inches of snow, several small earthquakes, being stranded at the old Denver and Detroit airports—due to snow, and then arriving at my destination to find no luggage.

In 2009 I returned to Rockford, where I now live in a duplex at Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center. My volunteer duties include helping to manage our small gift shop and sewing for residents. I enjoy sewing and making homemade caramels for bazaars in the Rockford area.
Frieda Schoneweis Nichols

FRIEDA'S ODE TO JOY*

Joyful, joyful praises I sing to God of glory, Lord of life,
Wellspring of the joy of living triumphs over stress and strife,
God has gifted me with blessings, victored me over cancer twice—
Health and happiness surround me, grace-full mercy does suffice!

Lifelong friendships formed at Sterling—faith in God became my walk!
At K-State earned two B.S.es: Foods Research, also Med Tech.
Husband Richard, sons Tim and Eric, and their families are the best –
Not ‘til I was 68 did grandkids come—I need my rest!!

Love to travel, have set foot in places in all 50 states,
Found Dad’s roots in Germany; Canadian provinces are great.
Life in Oregon is a mix of rainy clouds and skies of blue.
Music brings great joy to me—I sing in choirs, ring hand bells, too!

Work on-call in local Blood Bank saving lives and staying sharp,
At our home try recipes that feed our souls and help our hearts.
Taking photos, making scrapbooks of our journeys fills my time,
Christmas poems tell our years’ stories; we can sing our lives in rhyme!

Joyful, Joyful I adore You, God of glory, Lord of love,
Heart unfolds like a flower before You,
Hails You as the Son above!
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness fill me with the light of day!

* See Frieda’s poster that accompanied this “Ode to Joy” in the Appendix section at the end of this booklet.
Boyd Orr

After graduating from Sterling College in 1967, I accepted an offer to teach math in the Newton, KS, school system. My first teaching assignment, along with some assistant coaching duties, was at the middle school.

There I became involved in officiating basketball and my officiating lasted much longer than my teaching career. I enjoyed teaching but felt like I was missing some great opportunities in the business world and I came to the conclusion that I simply could not do both.

Purchasing a motel in my home county, ended my school teaching days, but officiating basketball lasted another ten years. However, when they started talking about the “baldheaded referee,” I knew it was time to hang up my whistle.

Moving back close to my roots and to the family farm gave me the opportunity to become involved and to eventually take over and live on the very farm and ranch that my grandparents homesteaded and where I was born and raised on. This was always my desire. In 1984, with my wife Sandie in full support, we moved to the farm located a few miles outside of Fowler, KS, and have lived here ever since.

We both have been active in our church and in our community. Sandie continues to sing solos at church and for other occasions as well as to serve on both church and civic organizations.

I don’t sing! I have, however, served on various boards and been elected to several public offices. I have filed for election for a public office at least eight times; being elected each time has been a blessing. Over the years I have been elected to Township offices, City Council, Board of County Commissioners, and to the Kansas House of Representatives.

Presently I serve in Topeka as the Kansas State Representative of the 115th district. Serving the people of the 115th district is very humbling, challenging and interesting. If I was not so “young,” it could be a difficult job! God has blessed me with excellent health, a very supportive wife and many terrific friends. Sometimes one of my votes may cause a little heartburn for a friend, but that is just part of politics.

Life is good and the past 50 years has gone very quickly. With many fond memories, more experience in some areas than should have been needed, I look forward to what tomorrow might bring.

One thing that life has taught me is this: Whether you think you can or whether you think you can’t you most often are correct either way. Second Timothy 1:7 tells us “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear...” God gives us faith, not fear. Fear is not from God, it is from our lack of faith. So, keep positive and keep the faith.
Betty Bain Palsgrove

I left Sterling in May 1966 and went to work for the Federal Government at the Division of Air Pollution—now the EPA).

In November 1968, I married Gary Palsgrove and we have two sons, Andrew in 1977 and Ryan in 1979. We divorced in 1980. Most of that time, I lived in Olney, MD.

In 1971, I joined the Food and Drug Administration—FDA—and spent the next 31 years working there in Rockville, MD. My work with the FDA included being an Health Information Specialist for the Office of Health Affairs, sending FDA’s message out to health professional organizations, and taking exhibits to health professional organization’s meetings. It really was a great place to work! I retired in February 2002 with 36 total years in Federal service.

I was a co-founder of “Single Parents Raising Kids”—SPARK, a single parents’ organization in Montgomery County, MD, and was very active in that group. I like to vacation and also like the Washington Redskins, Baltimore Orioles and University of Maryland Terps basketball.

Once I retired, I sold my house in Maryland and moved to Florida.

As some of you know, I have become a clown. Let me explain! The clowning career began when I read about clowns visiting in hospitals and thought that was pretty cool, somebody that would see a patient and not stick them or do something uncomfortable to them. When I heard about a “Clown Camp” in Wisconsin, I went…twice!

I met someone at camp who lived two miles from me in Maryland, so we got together and started clowning in a local hospital. A year or so later I moved to Florida and that’s when I heard about the “Hospice Clown Alley” which is based in Sarasota. At first I didn’t think I would like clowning in nursing homes, but I have come to realize that the people in the nursing homes really appreciate my visits. I have been clowning with them for 14 years now, and hope to do it as long as I can!
Daniel Pauls

My Life at Sterling College—

While a student at Sterling, I chose to major in chemistry and made the decision to become a physician. Also, while at Sterling, I developed an interest in technology, joining Warriors for Christ to tape record programs to be aired on radio. While at Sterling I also joined Gospel Team, serving as pulpit-supply in local country churches, and sang in the choir. And last, but certainly not least, I met Kathy Hamm, the daughter of Sterling graduates and Presbyterian missionaries, who would eventually become my wife.

So Sterling prepared me for my professional life, my avocational life, my faith life, and my family life.

My Professional Life Since Sterling College—

I entered medical school at the University of Kansas School of Medicine the fall after Sterling graduation. I elected to enter the field of Internal Medicine, and went on to post-graduate studies in Internal Medicine at the University of Indiana School of Medicine in Indianapolis, IN.

A year into the post-graduate studies, I took a two-year hiatus to work as a physician in Pakistan. I then returned to Indiana to complete the final two years of my post-graduate training.

Following that, I chose to settle with my family in Parsons, KS, where I practiced Internal Medicine for over 30 years. While there I was very active as a hospital staff member in the Labette County Medical Center, serving at one time or another on almost every committee, and serving twice as chief of staff.

I also became active in organized medicine serving as delegate to the Kansas Medical Society, and becoming involved in the American Society of Internal Medicine. In the latter organization, I was a delegate to the national convention several times and took several lobbying trips to Washington, D.C. I also spent several years as a board member of Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Kansas, and was medical director of the Respiratory Therapy program at Labette Community College.

After 30 years of private, solo practice the work began to overwhelm me, and I was hired by the hospital—now called Labette Health—to work for them in a hospital clinic in nearby Erie, KS. I subsequently found out about an opening at the Colmery-O’Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka, applied for it, and was accepted.

We moved to Topeka in December 2008, where I started working as medical director of the VA Community Living Center. When I turned 70, I elected to retire and did so at the end of 2015.

My Avocational Life Since Sterling College—

I have developed an interest in photography, primarily with travels. I have also done church and community sound-recording in Parsons, and currently operate the sound-board and do video recording at First Presbyterian Church in Topeka.

My Faith Life Since Sterling College—

While a senior medical student, I spent a month at a mission hospital in Haiti. After my first year of post-graduate training, I worked for more than a year at a mission hospital in Pakistan.

My wife and I began attending the Presbyterian Church in Parsons, where I taught church school, sang in the choir, and was elected an elder. I became active in the Presbytery as well, eventually serving as moderator. I have also been moderator of the Synod of Mid-America, and have been a delegate to the PC (USA) General Assembly. Kathy and I now attend First Presbyterian Church of Topeka where I teach, and serve on the session. I have recently been on two trips to Honduras working with Living Waters for the World.
My Family Life Since Sterling College—

I met Kathy Hamm when I was a junior at Sterling. She pursued a nursing career at KU Medical Center and we were married after my second year in medical school. Our first child was born while we were working in Pakistan, and we have since had two more daughters—born in Parsons. Our second daughter and her husband now live in Topeka, and have given us our only grandchildren—two boys.
Gene Pflughof

After Sterling I taught and coached for four years.

Then Pat and I had two kids and I decided it was time to go into business for ourselves. We had a solar business during the days there was tax incentives.

In 1980 we started a Computerland franchise in Hutchinson, KS. Things were outstanding for ten years. We had the opportunity to work with Apple—and Steve Jobs, and IBM—Bill Gates. We sold out in 1990.

Then, I began doing consulting for many different companies. Since I had help starting my business, I had a passion for helping others. As a result I have started over 900 businesses for people and enjoyed watching them succeed.

Now, I do public speaking; so if you want your community to grow and prosper, hire me to speak to your community or group!

God has blessed Pat—formerly Pat Edmond ’66 as she went through SC in three years—and me with a wonderful life. We were married my final year of college. We have two fantastic kids, and five grandkids.

Yes, I am still working and still “teaching” through seminars and speeches. I completed two books, one on church leadership, and one mystery about “those evil quilting women.” Currently I am trying to complete a third book, the subject this time is on economic development for rural communities.

Thank you for reading about my life!
Paul E. Phelps

After graduation from Sterling my local Oklahoma Draft board was waiting on my doorstep, so after a summer of researching very few acceptable non-Draft military options, I entered the Army at the end of August 1967.

I went to Ft. Polk, LA for basic training, and then on to Ft. Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis for training as a stenographer. Following that training I was assigned to Ft. Myer, VA—Washington D.C., where I was witness to the chaotic spring and summer of 1968—the Poor Peoples’ March on Washington, followed by the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, as well as witnessing the rioting and burning of Washington, etc.

I was lucky enough to avoid several attempts to send me to Viet Nam, but late in 1968 I was assigned to the 106th General Hospital in Yokohama, Japan, where I stayed until my discharge in May 1970. While I was in hospital’s administrative support, the hospital’s primary mission was to treat severely burned soldiers from Viet Nam and stabilizes them until they could continue on to a stateside burn-center hospital. Many of the non-burn patients in the Hospital were recent amputees from the war.

I met my wife, Erica, an Army nurse in Japan, although we didn’t get married until July 1971.

My first year out of the Army I taught History/Bookkeeping at Waterloo High School, in Wisconsin. The following year I did full-time substitute teaching in Minneapolis while Erica finished her Master’s program at the University of Minnesota. Once she was finished with her MPH, we moved to the University of Oklahoma where I earned my MA degree in Journalism.

Once that part of our education was completed we moved to Thatcher, AZ, a rural part of the state 160 miles southeast of Phoenix. I worked for 27 years at Eastern Arizona College, part of Arizona’s community college system, serving as the college’s Public Information Director as well as teaching journalism and photography courses.

I retired from the college in 2001 and ran a small wedding and family photography business for seven years, before moving to Norman, OK, in 2008.

While living in Arizona my wife and I became parents to two daughters—Kristin and Allyson. Because of their interesting lives and international living we have done quite a bit of travelling, as we were curious to go see where they were living at the time…including London, Uganda, Peru, Venezuela, and Guatemala.

In more recent years because of our daughter’s marriages to foreign nationals we have also traveled to Greece and Turkey plus other European countries along the way. As Mark Twain once wrote, “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of people and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.” Travel has been very educational!

For 35 years we lived four hours, each way, from the Phoenix airport. Unacceptable! We are now a mere half-hour each way, from the Oklahoma City airport, plus less than five minutes off of Interstate 35, so we are hosting more friends and family now than we ever did in Arizona.
Ellen Dingwall Poole

After graduation from Sterling College in 1967, I returned to my hometown of Rochester, NY.

I have been married to Jim for 45 years and we have twin daughters, Heather and Stephanie. Both girls went to college in Ohio, and are now living in Cincinnati and Columbus. Heather is divorced and is the mother of our three grandchildren—Elise, James, Thomas. Stephanie is married to Mike and lives and works in Columbus.

I worked for Kodak for ten years before leaving to raise the girls. Then, I went back to work in a retail setting for about five years.

My next job was in a church office as an Administrative Assistant. I was there to provide my organization knowledge when there was a sanctuary fire on Earth Day 1990, our great ice storm of 1991, and the unexpected loss of an organist. I spent eight years in that office before leaving.

Next, I went to the Financial Aid Office of the University of Rochester School of Medicine where I spent 20 years until I retired in September 2016.

So, I started my college days in the Sterling College Financial Aid Office, and I ended my work experience in another financial aid office at UR. In my years at the school of medicine I became the computer expert, as well as the mechanical tool expert. In all my jobs I was also able to use some of the knowledge I gained from my church office job to assist me in dealing with some student and staff issues. The Financial Aid Office was part of the Student Services Center that included the Registrar, the Bursar, and the Advising Deans. So, we just didn’t see students only with financial aid questions.

I think that my Sterling College background also helped in many situations along my way. There are now some of those UR medical doctor graduates who are helping with the Hurricane Harvey relief effort in Texas.

My take on my varied work experiences, is that we have to believe that the influence that our schools have, will someday help make a graduate work for the common good in the world.
Robert J. Reece

After graduating from Sterling College in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree in the field of Natural Sciences — which included an emphasis on mathematics and physics, I joined my father and brother-in-law on the family farm that my grandfather had started in 1904. We raised cattle, wheat and milo and I added a sow/pig farrowing operation. I took over the farm in 1993 as sole operator, adding more acreage and for several years, I also raised soybeans.

I had been married shortly before graduation and eventually had three children. My two daughters are married and successfully employed in their own businesses. My son is an industrial engineer and is currently employed by a municipal pump manufacturer. I have seven grandchildren ranging in ages from 25 to 11.

I enjoyed farming very much, improving farming techniques as the years went by and practicing good conservation of the cropland of our family farm. It has been a good and rewarding life. I retired from the farm in 2013, turning it over to neighboring younger farmers who are practicing no-till. This year, most of our acreage is planted to soybeans.

I continue to live with my wife, Carol, in the home I had built on the farm in 1970 and enjoy keeping up the acreage around the house & buildings of the “Reece Home Place.” I also have enjoyed singing in different groups on occasion and now that I have retired, plan to do more traveling in the “lower 48.”
Robert Sankey

Upon graduating from Sterling, I married Donna Hughson (SC ’70) and continued my education working on a Master’s degree from Emporia State. We moved to Garnett, KS, for seven years where I taught American History at Greeley High School until it was shut down and incorporated into the Garnett system.

After my Father passed away, we took a brief leave from education to move to Cleveland, OH, to take over his employment agency. We were there for a year-and-a-half until we got back into education in Nebraska.

After working in the correspondence division of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, I was hired to teach middle school social studies in Lexington, NE, and this is where we have been since 1977. I taught for 27 years in Lexington before retiring in 2004. Donna taught for 30 years at Eustis and Lexington high schools, before she retired in 2007.

We have raised two children. Brian has an MBA and works in management for Sprint in Kansas City. Our daughter, Rael, is Director of Pharmacy at Lexington Regional Health Center. We have five grandchildren who keep us hopping.

Since retiring, I have spent the last nine years driving a school bus route for the Lexington system. During my years in education, I was very involved in the local teachers association as a member, officer, and negotiator and in the state teachers association as a member of the Governmental Relations Commission, and I have continued my involvement with the GRC after retirement.

The Geographic Educators of Nebraska—GEON—has also been an organization that I’ve been very involved with over the years. Even though it has been an uphill battle in Nebraska, politics has always been my love, and I have been involved as member and later as chairman of the County Democratic Party.

Although I haven’t traveled as much as I would have liked to over the years, my wife and I just went to Alaska for a salmon fishing trip to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

We have enjoyed some lasting friendships from Sterling college and are thankful for the experience and start in life that the school offered.
T. Myron Seitz

Following college graduation in 1967, I married my high school and college sweetheart, Sarah Phillips, in an early August ceremony at the Sterling Presbyterian Church.

Shortly after our marriage I started teaching intermediate grades at Ellinwood, KS.

While teaching I as also able to earn my Master’s degree three years later. Sarah and I taught in Ellinwood for more than 30 years.

After I retired from Ellinwood, I taught English-as-a-Second Language for several years in Hudson, KS, while waiting for Sarah to retire.

Following our retirements, we took up residency at a home we owned in Branson, MO, and started working for entertainment at Silver Dollar City. We have now worked at this part-time fun entertainment job for ten years.

On August 4, we celebrated our 50th wonderful wedding anniversary. We have two children, five grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Our free time is spent mainly with our family, church, working on several properties we own, boating, and relaxing at our lake place. We usually spend our winter months at a place we have in Florida.
William Michael Shimeall

It hardly seems like it has been 50 years since our graduation from Sterling.

A couple of years after my Sterling days I found myself in the Army. I served in 1969-1970 as a Medic with the 326th Medical Battalion, 101st Airborne in Vietnam.

My education continued with a Master’s degree in History from Emporia State University and a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Nebraska. I also obtained my Specialist Degree from the University of Nebraska in Educational Administration.

In 2009 I retired after nearly 39 years in public education in Kansas and Nebraska—those years were about evenly split between teaching and school administration.

In 2016 I retired from my “encore” career as Associate Professor of Educational Administration at Emporia State University. Both my wife’s and my careers have been in education. When I retired I shared with the dean that it must be time when one’s list of health care providers is greater than your Christmas card list.

I have been married to Carol Erpelding for 45 years. We have two grown children. Our son, Bill is married to Gloria Yim and they have blessed us with four grandchildren. Our daughter, Sonia is married to Nathan Paulson and they likewise have blessed us with four grandchildren.

During our time together we have also had six different dogs, but “thank the Lord” no cats.

Now we spend our time volunteering for various causes, organic gardening, following our grandchildren’s activities and lives, and visiting with friends whenever it is possible.
Al Spotts

After leaving Sterling I studied at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1970.

I began my work in the Smoketown/Shelby Park inner-city neighborhoods of Louisville, KY. I was ordained as a Presbyterian minister at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church with the Episcopal Bishop and Executive Presbyter presiding in a joint Consultation on Church Union worship service. While in Smoketown, I developed Little Saints Day Care Center sponsored by St Paul’s Roman Catholic Church, St. Matthew’s UCC, and St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church. The center was across the street from Jackson Woods Apartments. As assistant pastor at Stephen’s, I also established programs for youth, worked with seminarians on establishing a police review board, and served as chair of the mayor’s committee to help pass a bond issue for pollution equipment at the city incinerator.

During this period, I received a Master of Science in Community Development degree from University of Louisville.

After a short stint training Vista volunteers in the Boston area in 1974, I became pastor of Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church in Omaha, NE, and I learned a lot from very talented and challenging lay people in this congregation.

During this time I met and married Margaret Steptoe. I worked to establish neighborhood youth programs, several neighborhood organizations and a housing development corporation. I was named “Omahan of the Year” in 1979 by Sun Newspapers for preserving traditional neighborhoods.

In 1979-80 I was a house husband and cared for our new-born daughter while renovating two houses purchased for $100 each.

I moved to Louisville in mid-1980 to be closer to my wife’s parents. In Louisville, I worked part-time as an interim minister, directed the Louisville Tenant Union, and completed an MBA degree.

In 1981 Margaret and I had a second daughter.

Still in Louisville I worked for a weatherization agency and as the establishing director of Ministries United of South Central Louisville—MUSCL. Fifteen member churches are still serving low-income families. I was reverently called “MUSCLe Head,”

In 1990s I worked with a colleague to establish the Louisville Resource Conservation Council—LRCC. I also studied and obtained technical certification with the American Association of Energy Engineers and the Illumination Engineering Society. LRCC performed energy audits, led workshops, and developed proposed contracts to save energy in non-profit and government buildings. Much of the work was related to changing lighting systems in police stations, sewer treatment plants, and homeless shelters that operated twenty-four hours a day. A highlight for me was going with representatives from the Metropolitan Sewer District—MSD—to Washington where MSD was designated by EPA as the “Green Lights Government Partner of the Year”.

Through this work with energy consulting I redeveloped a relationship with New Directions Housing Corporation—NDHC, an affordable housing organization developed out of St. Williams, a local Roman Catholic parish, and developed at day care center with their help in 1972. In the 1990s I worked with them looking at their energy use, etc. I was employed by them in 2000 and worked primarily developing affordable housing.

I became the Director of Real Estate Development at NDHC, and initially developed a program to re-roof over 400 low-income elderly homes. Later I worked with some neighborhood, single-family developments and some small grant redevelopments. The bulk of my efforts was spent writing grants and developing affordable housing with funds from low-Income tax credits and Kentucky housing trust funds, HUD Supportive Elderly (#202) and Disabled (#811) Housing Programs, federal and state historic tax credit programs, housing programs of the Federal Home Loan Bank, HOME and CDBG funds of local government, Brownfield programs, federal stimulus funds, and agency funds.

For all of those, I developed financial proformas and did the accounting. I developed 56 family units, St. Edward Court, in New Albany, IN; redeveloped 64 family units in Jackson Woods; 50 elderly and disabled housing units, St. Williams; HUD #811 housing for the blind, New Visions; several housing buildings for the developmentally disabled, Day Spring Home and Day Spring Woods; and housing for the mentally ill, Wellspring Bridge and Wellspring Tonini—in a 1880 church supply building.
My final development in 2013 was in an antebellum mansion built in 1852 called Woodbourne House, which has 11 units for the elderly and a congregate meal program for the community. Douglass Boulevard Christian Church owned the land and building. In a risk of faith, the Church mortgaged its sanctuary for $1.2 million to develop the housing.

Some of the historic buildings listed above were given preservation awards and I received a Multi-family Production award from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for promotion of affordable housing in Kentucky.

I am now retired and spend time landscaping some facility grounds, visiting our children in Minnesota and Oregon, and working with my wife on women’s reproductive rights.
Phyllis Spotts

After Sterling College, I attended the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville and received my Masters in Social Work in 1969.

Following that I worked in various employment settings and retired in 2010. My jobs included working as a medical social worker for 16 years, 2 years in Home Health Services, 11 years as a counselor at an Employment Assistance Agency focused on mental health and substance abuse issues, and 12 years as a high school counselor again focused on mental health and substance abuse issues.

Due to a layoff at the Home Health Services, I decided to branch out and went to nursing school and earned my RN.

When working as a high school counselor, I had summers off, so I worked in the summers as a nurse at a psychiatric hospital.

Since retirement I have enjoyed visiting family out of town and catching up with them as distance kept us from getting together very often.
Harley Stauffer

After leaving Sterling following my junior year, I attended Kansas State University where I obtained a degree in Electrical Engineering.

While at Kansas State, I took a small course about a new fangled device known as a “computer,” which I enjoyed too much. As a result, I interviewed with several computer firms and was accepted by Control Data Corporation, a super computer mainframe manufacturer in Minnesota—a state where my parents had a cabin on a lake—as a Diagnostic Engineer.

At that time, I was happily single until I started attending a singles youth group at a church in the opposite side of town. That enjoyable time led to further study of the scriptures for which I found my time at Sterling to be a good foundation—not to mention being a pastor’s Kid.

As I studied I discovered much to my dismay that the Lord’s plan for my life was to be married, so I told Him about my lack of desire and that I expected Him to take care of the details. Thus after seven adult years of being single, He presented me with my life partner, Darlene. At the time, I knew it would be the hardest thing I would ever do, but He has blessed me greatly through my marriage and given me the strength to endure the hardships.

After 21 years with Control Data, the personal computer market destroyed the mainframe market and I found myself unemployed for 13 months. Unable to find work, I was again led by the Lord to a part-time job at Radio Shack. I despise sales work, but the Lord again had a purpose. Eventually, my father-in-law mentioned a small computer firm that I might interview at. They couldn’t afford me but instead gave me a part-time job doing personal computer configuration, installation, and maintenance. That seemed like a low blow after having written computer tests and at first I didn’t like it, but there was a silver lining. I discovered that the most enjoyable part of the job was meeting new people and helping them with their computer issues. That’s quite a change for a dyed-in-the-wool introvert who had previously happily flown a desk.

Seventeen years later, I retired from that small computer firm and am now completely retired.

Along the way, the Lord introduced me to sailing—a very long story—and world travel. But, I still have my hands in the tech and computer world.
Jon M. Sward

- 1967 – 1969—Attended Michigan State University, Lansing, MI, and received the M.A. degree in counseling ‘69
- 1970 – 1980—Executive Director of Sunflower Mental Health Center in Concordia, KS
- 1978 (Sept)—Married; now have four grown children; two girls and two boys
- 1980 – 1983—Attended Washburn Law School in Topeka, KS and received J.D. degree ‘83†
- 1985—Received a Ph.D. degree in Clinical Community Counseling from Kansas State U
- 1986 – 1996—Director of Counseling Services at The Healing Arts Center (An Alternative Medical Clinic) in Wichita, KS
- 1998—Divorced
- 2000 – 2003—Ran a private counseling clinic in Wichita, KS with eight employees
- 2003 – 2005—Addiction Counselor at The East Central Kansas Mental Health Center, Emporia
- 2005 – 2012—Assistant Professor of Mental Health Counseling at Emporia State University
- 2013—Military Family Life Counselor at Fort Riley, KS
- 2014 – 2015—Interim Director of the campus Community Counseling Services Clinic at Emporia State University
- 2016 – 2017—Special Instructor in Clinical Counseling, full-time, Emporia State University
- 2017—Currently a part time adjunct professor teaching one class at ESU. I also have a part-time private practice which specializes in providing mental health evaluations for Courts and attorneys

†Note: During my years living in Topeka during law school, I lived one block away from former SC History Professor, George Simpson. Most SC grads from our era should recall Prof Simpson and how colorful his lectures could be. It was my privilege to spend many hours during my law school years in his home just chatting informally with him and getting to know him in a whole different way.
Judith Ann “Judy” Tatlock

After our graduation in May of 1967, I started work with The Chandler National Bank, aka Chandler Bank, Coronado Bank, and First Bank, in Lyons, KS. The name has changed over the years.

I started in the Bookkeeping department and moved up to Loan Operations Officer. Over the next 43 years, I served as a Teller, Cashier, and when I retired, I was the Assistant Vice President and Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Retirement started in 2010 after a fall at home. As a result of that fall I had to move from my home to Noble Place Apartments, just north of the Lyons Hospital.

Since 2001, I have had some major health issues and this independent living facility has been the best place for me since both of my parents had passed away—my Mother in 1988 and my Father in 1993.

Over the years I have been active in the American Legion Auxiliary, serving as 7th District President in 1989 - 90 and have been its secretary/treasurer for several years. I was able to do a lot of traveling for activities with that organization including trips to National Conventions held in Hawaii, San Antonio, TX, and Baltimore, MD.

My parents and I did a lot of traveling in our various travel trailers all over the United States and we all really enjoyed doing that.

I belong to the Grace Lutheran Church in Lyons where I have served as church treasurer since 1976, organist for a short time, and am now an assistant organist. I belong to the church’s Lutheran Women’s Missionary League group where I serve as treasurer. Over the years I have made quite a few of our church’s banners and designed the new etched glass windows for the main part of the church.

When the girls of my high school class of 1963 turned 50, several of us celebrated our birthdays by taking a trip to Lake Tahoe, NV, and several years after that, we went to Victoria, BC, Canada on another trip together. Four years ago, a group of our high school class planned and carried off our 50th Class Reunion. However, a few days before the event, I came down with pneumonia and had a heart attack. A stent was put in and I was back home after a couple of weeks, but I missed our big event.

I enjoy my present life here at Noble Place in Lyons. They keep us as busy as we want to be and a lot can be said to have your house cleaned, walks cleaned of snow, yard mowed and one good meal a day that you don’t have to cook. I do enjoy hearing from friends by e-mail and visits.
Chalice M. Stauffer-Thompson

I attended Emporia State University following graduation from Sterling College, and earned an MS degree in Education in 1968. I taught in Kansas City, KS, for three years.

I married Ray Wells in 1970, but we were divorced in 1974. Following my divorce I joined U.S. Air Force as a Communications Officer. While in the Air Force I served two tours of duty in South Korea; three years in Germany; duty at Barksdale AFB, LA; Offutt AFB, NE; Patrick AFB, FL; and Bolling AFB, Washington DC.

I earned a Specialist in Education degree from Florida Institute of Technology in 1988, and retired from the Air Force as a Major in 1994 and lived in Florida.

I worked three winters at a ski resort in Pennsylvania. Then for three years I was a bridge book vendor at Florida tournaments. I also taught basic computer skills and bridge to seniors at Eastern Florida State College.

As a singer I sang with the Platinum Show Chorus of Sweet Adeline’s International from 2000 - 2017. At a 2003 concert I met and then later that year married Dr. Charles “Chuck” J. Thompson, a Baptist minister from the Orlando, FL, area.

As a result I became a stepmother to four grown boys, an instant grandmother of five, which now number eight, as well as adding three great-grandchildren.

In 2008, Chuck retired and we moved full-time to Melbourne, FL. In 2014, Chuck became the Chaplain at “Christ is the Answer—CITA—Rescue Mission,” a shelter for homeless men. Currently I work as a volunteer tax preparer and direct two bridge games per week. Together we also enjoy riding their Can-Am Spyder motorcycle.
H. Richard Troy, Jr.

- Married to the former Pamela Stark, Sterling College graduate summa cum laude (1986) and retired Sterling College Associate Professor of Language & Literature. Pam was a Kelsey Scholar and is a member of Alpha Chi, which means that in our household there is a grand total of one Kelsey Scholar and one member of Alpha Chi.

- Education:
  ° B.A., Sterling College, 1967
  ° J.D., Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University, 1975
  ° Additional coursework completed at Hutchinson Community College, Thomas More College, and Wichita State University

- Professional Life:
  Retired Consulting Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Atlanta, GA. Blessed to find interesting assignments for 25 years as a consultant to management, focusing on executive pay, organizational change, and performance improvement. Clients included dozens of organizations you never heard of and a few maybe you have: Auburn University, BellSouth, Kmart, NUCOR, Southwestern Bell, U.S. Airways, and Vanderbilt University.

- Giving Back:
  Former Youth Friend
  Former board member, New Beginnings, Hutchinson KS
  Former board member, Sterling College
  Former Sunday School teacher to grade school children

- Notable Accomplishments:
  Marrying Pam and teaching Sunday School lessons to extraordinary children
Ken & Virginia “Ginny” Nordvedt Van Meter

To begin at the beginning of “life after Sterling”…Ken and I were married two weeks after graduation in 1967.

Ken was in the class of 1967, but returned for one more semester to finish up his chemistry and biology classes, so technically graduated with the class of 1968.

After a semester at Sterling and a semester at Emporia State we moved to Hingham, MA, Ken’s hometown, where he began his teaching career—high school sciences—that would last 40 years. I taught Special Ed for six-and-a-half years until our daughter Jennifer was born in April 1974. Her birth began several years of staying home to care for her and her brother Jeffrey who was born in August 1976.

In 1973 we bought an antique home in Norwell, MA, where we raised our children and made many memories. During those years I was active in Christian Education at church and Ken became an avid rock, mineral, and fossil collector.

Sadly we sold that house and last Fall moved into a two-bedroom modular home in a 55+ community. The move and downsizing was the best for us and taught us that God is still in control and caring as he orchestrated the timing.

As our children grew I began working part-time for a local Christian bookstore, which later became full-time plus! The store closed at a time when I needed to be home more—again God’s timing. Since then Ken has had a cardiac arrest and heart attack that have gradually slowed him down.

Much to our delight, Jennifer attended Sterling College and has worked in several fields, currently as Nanny for a local family.

Jeff started “Top Notch Tree” company, and married Becky and they have two great boys Nathan (9) and Trevor (7). Our new home is just eight minutes from them!

More recently I’ve been working “very” part-time for another local Christian bookstore and afternoons as office manager for Jeff’s tree company. Just enough time for me, and the hours are very flexible. We have continued to be active in the church where Ken grew up.

In June we celebrated our 50th anniversary with over 100 family and friends attending the celebration.

We are excited to continue our year of “50’s” by attending our reunion in October. Go Class of ‘67!
Linda Livingston Wardlow

I have lived in Topeka since I graduated from Sterling in 1967 except for one year I lived in Germany in 1968.

I taught in the Topeka Public Schools for 37 years, where I was a Home Economics Teacher at the Junior High level for eleven years before transferring to Topeka West High School.

I earned a Master’s degree in General Home Economics from Kansas State University in 1972. In 1994 I earned a Master in Library Science Degree from Emporia State University and became a media specialist at Topeka West. I was also the costumer for the theatre department for 17 years. I retired in 2005.

My hobbies have been devoted mostly to needle crafts of some kind. I knit and also do quite a lot of garment sewing. I have worked part-time at Topeka’s “Sewing Workshop Pattern and Fabric Studio” and I still help out when needed. I do not do any of the big time work; I am a just a helper with cutting fabric and getting ready for expos, etc.

My husband and I have been fortunate to be able to travel many interesting places in the world. We have visited all the continents at least once, and all but one several times.

I think that the travel interest for me started at Sterling in Carol Jean Brownlee’s humanities class. I have thought many times that she was one the best educators I know. She introduced me to so many places and gave a great appreciation for the arts. I never dreamed that I would have the opportunity to visit and see so many of the subjects she shared with her students.

Since Sterling was my home I still visit from time to time and visit with friends and enjoy driving through the campus.
Iris Wells

What has happened the last 50 years? I will give a short report.

I followed my brother, Edlin to Sterling College. After graduating I applied for a job in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I was assigned to Shiprock, NM. And, yes, there is a huge rock that looks like a sailing ship. It seems that many of the early pioneers who had come over or seen a sailing ship named it.

I thought that I would be teaching in a classroom. Instead the principal saw that I had some psychology classes and made the decision that I become someone like a dorm mother to 12-14 year old Navajo Indian girls. Now this is a lady that is just out of college dealing with teenagers or to become teenagers. That was an experience.

After that experienced I lived in Rockford IL. and substitute taught in the elementary school mostly second grade. I left the big city and came back to the Colorado mountains and the San Luis Valley. Yes, I did stay with my folks and helped my Dad with the cattle and other farming and ranching. I stayed with my parents and ultimately became their caregiver until they passed away.

Since library was my main interest at Sterling, I was a school librarian for several years in Del Norte, CO, my hometown. Politics did change the situation with many teachers, so I was transferred to middle school.

After a couple of years I left and worked in a public library in Monte Vista, CO and its branch library in South Fork, CO. I’ve been doing volunteer time at the Rio Grande Museum and at church. During this time I also took a course in writing children’s stories.

Since then I have written several book or short stories. My goal is to write simple stories for children aged from second grade and older. I don’t want to insult them but I do try to make the stories with humor while they are learning words. My stories include wildlife in the Rocky Mountains such as humor such as “There’s a Mink in My Pink Sink” was my first story.

On a more serious note, I wrote “Dippy, The Songbird of the Mountain Stream.” Recently I’ve written nonsense poems such as “Sure I Want To Be A What...?” I’ve also started writing poems about words that are homophones (Towed/Toad) and homographs (PRO/ject - pro JET).

I self-publish my stories, which means that I put the books together and get it printed locally.

Due to health reasons, I won’t be able to attend our 50th reunion.
John Wilkey

After graduation I taught for a year in Newton, KS.

In 1968 I married Phyllis Farr (SC ’65).

Later I taught math, and coached basketball and track in Salina, and then farmed during the summers.

Phyllis and I moved back to Sterling in 1975 to do full-time farming and to take care of our livestock. Back in Sterling I have served on the local School Board and Co-op Board. I have also been a Trustee at SC, and a Deacon and Elder at my church.

The Lord has blessed me with a good family, community and church. Phyllis and I have two sons and five grandchildren.

I now have Parkinsonism—brain can’t get the message to the muscles—which then affects my walking, strength, and speech. I can’t do physical labor anymore, but I can still keep the farm’s books.
Roger Wisslead

A year after graduation, I started my 35-year career in Child Welfare in Kansas, working for the Reno County Welfare Department in Hutchinson. This was not what I had planned with a degree in Physical Education but it turned out to be a rewarding and challenging career.

This career included positions in Illinois, Iowa and Hawaii before retirement in Arizona. I have always liked to travel.

Family wise, my wife Cecilia and I have one son, four grandkids and four great grandkids.

Cecilia and I live in Chandler, AZ, and we love to travel, and workout. I have to admit to being a “senior” softball junkie, playing in tourneys all over the country.

Sorry to say I can’t make the reunion, as we will be on vacation in Greece that weekend. My wife was diagnosed with cancer last year and has completed her treatment and we are celebrating with a long overdue trip.

I was planning on attending the reunion but have planned this trip a long time ago. Hope all have a great time at the reunion and hope you hear from lots of Class of 1967 classmates. Blessings everyone!
Appendix

On the following pages you will find a potpourri of items including extra photos, some of which we used to crop out a current photo, some with spouses, etc.

Additionally, we have included a list of known deceased classmates—from SC records—which numbers 34.

Donna Beer shared a couple of extra paragraphs about her freshman roommates—Delores Hansen-Glaze who died in 2007, and Barbara Perlenfein, who was actually a member of the class of 1967, but ultimately graduated with a different class.

Thanks to each of you who shared your information for this book. If there are others reading this who would like to be included, send me your information and we will add it in a second edition sometime in the future.

Enjoy the book. Enjoy reminiscing and remembering one another with whom we spent four years of our early adult lives, and for many of us established lifetime friendships.

Deceased Members Class of 1967

- Wilmer Thornburg ................................................................. 1975
- Carl Haspels ............................................................ 1980
- Marilyn Hemphill-Gillum ............................................. 1982
- Robert Helm ............................................................... 1990
- Dean Hinshaw .............................................................. 1991
- Elizabeth Wolff .............................................................. 1993
- Minnie Silvey-Walk .......................................................... 1994
- Bob King ........................................................................... 2000
- Louis Short ........................................................................ 2000
- Betty Mustard ................................................................. 2001
- Edna Rush .......................................................................... 2002
- Freda Bachus-Hudson ...................................................... 2003
- Marlene Unruh-Hodge ....................................................... 2004
- Melvi Frusher .................................................................... 2006
- Sanny Fishburn-Scribner .................................................... 2006
- Shirley Gartung Foster ........................................................ 2007
- Lawrence Hogan ............................................................... 2007
- Delores Hansen-Glaze* ...................................................... 2007
- Beverly McNERNEY-redman ............................................... 2007
- Mary E. Carter-Bohde ........................................................ 2009
- Max Cole ........................................................................... 2009
- Philip Crawford ................................................................. 2010
- Ronald Haag ...................................................................... 2010
- Doris Keim ........................................................................ 2012
- Peggy mcauley-Gates ........................................................ 2012
- Mary Stiggins .................................................................... 2012
- Steve Braden ..................................................................... 2013
- Agnes Nunemaker-LOCKE ................................................ 2013
- Bill Ball .............................................................................. 2013
- Edith Story-Kestler ............................................................. 2014
- Doris Gerbrand-siemens ..................................................... 2014
- Melvin Muxlow ................................................................. 2016
- Carl Terranova .................................................................. Unk
- Elda Dickenson .................................................................. Unk
* Delores Hansen Glaze  (Reported by Donna Beer)*

Delores passed away in 2007 from ALS. Roommate Barbara Perlenfein and I (Donna Beer) visited with her several months before she died. She had an amazing, inspiring attitude about her fate, and praised God that she would see Him soon.

“Delores became a nurse and served lovingly until her work was stopped by ALS in her early 60s. Dee had a positive and inspiring attitude about her fate in life as it slipped away. In her final months, she praised God that she would get to be with Him soon. Delores was survived by her husband Joe, son Todd, daughter Doreen, their spouses and her grandchildren.”

Additional Notes from Donna Beer

In addition to my bio information, and the information above about one of my SC roommates Delores, I am sending info on another roommate from my freshman year, Barbara Perlenfein.

**Barbara Perlenfein White**  (Reported by Donna Beer)

Barbara, who belongs to a different graduating class because she took a year off for financial reasons, became a social worker and then a stay-at-home mom while her husband, Kirk, worked in the oil industry in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. They settled outside of Anchorage, AK, while raising their two children, Eddie and Heidi.

Barbara and Kirk are now happily retired outside of Spokane, WA. Barbara, always very active in her church, currently heads up its Stephen Ministry program. She has two wonderful grandchildren, Kegan and Lucy.

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• While we didn’t seek information about our deceased classmates, I would ask if you have some information about some their lives after Sterling College prior to their deaths, please share the information with me and I will attempt to prepare an addendum for this “Whatever Happened to the Sterling College Class of 1967” book.

Please send it to me at: paul.phelps@eac.edu

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• On the following pages, and in no particular order, are a variety of pictures that you shared. Because they are mostly color prints their file sizes are significant in some instances.

Enjoy! Yes, some of your biographical “now” photos were extracted from the following shots.

Frieda Schoneweiss Nichols submitted her biography info in the form of a “poster,” from which we extracted her information, but we also share her entire poster here.
FRIEDA'S ODE TO JOY

Joyful, joyful praise I sing to God of glory, Lord of life,
Wellspring of the joy of living triumphs over stress and strife,
God has gifted me with blessings, vICToRed me over cancer twice –
Health and happiness surround me, grace-full mercy does suffice!

Lifelong friendships formed at Sterling – faith in God became my walk!

At K-State earned two B.S. es: Foods Research, also Med Tech.

Husband Richard, sons Tim and Eric, and their fam’lies are the best –
Not ’til I was 68 did grandkids come – I need my rest!!

Love to travel, have set foot in places in all 50 states,

Found Dad’s roots in Germany; Canadian provinces are great.

Life in Oregon is a mix of rainy clouds and skies of blue.

Music brings great joy to me – I sing in choirs, ring hand bells, too!

Work on-call in local Blood Bank saving lives and staying sharp,
At our home try recipes that feed our souls and help our hearts.
Taking photos, making scrapbooks of our journeys fills my time,
Christmas poems tell our years’ stories; we can sing our lives in rhyme!

Joyful, joyful I adore You, God of glory, Lord of love,
Heart unfolds like a flower before You, hails You as the Son above!
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away,
Giver of immortal gladness fill me with the light of day!

The JOY of the LORD is my Strength!
One of Al Spotts’ developments included the Woodbourne House, an antebellum mansion built in 1852.
40th Reunion 2007

40th Reunion 2007
Epilogue

We will always be friends ’til we are old and forgetful and then we can be new friends!!

Paul Phelps, Ken Killian, Vicki Dalhstrom Kovach, and “Sparky” AKA Betty Bain Palsgrove