

‘The Sky’s the Limit’ show takes off April 5

The Kilgore College Rangerettes commemorate their multiple travel opportunities of the past months with “The Sky’s the Limit,” this year’s Rangerette Revels, April 5–8.

“The title represents traveling by plane but also the fact that in Rangerettes there are no limits to what these young ladies can achieve with hard work and

dedication,” Director Dana Blair said.

Meghan Robertson, 69th Line, will host the show.

“She is so talented, and we are very excited to have an opportunity to bring her back to the Revels stage,” Blair said.

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday with

a 1 p.m. Saturday matinée.

Tickets are on sale now for Forever. Forever can **click here** to order online at [Rangerette.com](http://Rangerette.com) or contact the box office at 903-983-8179 or [revels@kilgore.edu](mailto:revels@kilgore.edu).

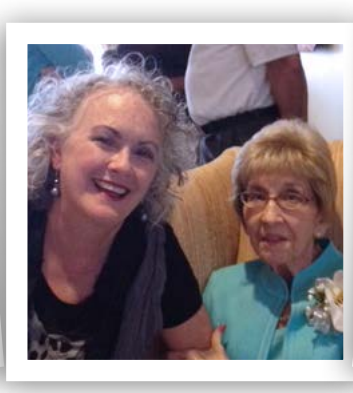
Join the Rangerettes Forever for a free reception in the Deana Bolton Covin Rangerette Gym between Saturday shows.

# FOREVER

KILGORE COLLEGE RANGERETTES

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017



## Applause for Paula

Forever, friends thankful for Jamerson’s dedication

BY KATHRYN MORTON

**P**aula Jamerson brought a sparkle to her work — and workplace — at Kilgore College. “My favorite memory of Paula will always be her crazy and colorful office,”

Rangerette Director Dana Blair said of KC’s coordinator of alumni relations, who retired Feb. 28. “When you walked in, there were flowers, vases, wrapping paper, bows, sequins, glitter and projects all over the room. She was always working on a wonderful gift or decoration that would brighten someone’s day. She also knew where everything was and did not miss a beat with all of her many duties at the college.”

*Please see more **Paula** on page 10.*

**SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT RANGERETTE SUMMER CAMPS:** The more dancers who attend this summer’s Rangerette camps, the more net proceeds go toward Rangerette scholarships. Encourage young dancers to register at [Rangerette.com](http://Rangerette.com): grades 1–4, June 13; grades 5–8, June 14–17; grades 9–high school graduates, June 18–21 or June 22–25. To volunteer at a camp, contact Beverly Rochin Swatzell via [www.Rangerette.com/forevers/forevers-contact](http://www.Rangerette.com/forevers/forevers-contact).

FROM THE PRESIDENT

# We have created a sisterhood

Greetings Forevers,

This year has already been one for the heart. In December, Rangerette Forever and drill team icon Lisa Owens Miller passed away after an extended illness. Lisa led the way directing one of the best precision dance programs at J.J. Pearce High School. She created a program that raised the bar in the drill team world for high schools all over Texas and beyond. Her choreography and leadership kept her in the forefront of the drill team world, and her influence continues today. Lisa was a member of the 34th Line, 1973-75.

It is unfortunate, but the world we live in can be unpredictable. Director Dana Blair and her daughter, Alexa, were in a life-threatening situation after Christmas. They are safe, but there are ramifications to the incident, and our hearts and prayers continue to go out to them as they put the situation behind them. Dana is an irreplaceable part of our organization, and it makes us pause to think about what is really important in the grand scheme of life.

Lastly, Paula Jamerson, a loyal and dedicated person to Kilgore College, the Rangerettes and the Forevers, has retired to be with her husband. The loss of Paula's smiling face and creative touch is leaving a hole everywhere we turn. She was the most creative person ever, and she made everything look so easy. Paula was always willing to do anything that was asked of her, and there were always multiple people asking. She could do it all, and she is already missed in so many ways.

The Forever organization is more than we ever imagined it would be. The gathering of members from all lines and all generations has become



**BEVERLY  
ROCHIN  
SWATZELL**  
36TH LINE

*The Forever organization is more than we ever imagined it would be. The gathering of members from all lines and all generations has become more than a place to "get together."*

more than a place to "get together." We have created a sisterhood of lives, diverse and unique as ever thought possible. We gather in love and respect for the organization that Miss Davis conceived, Mrs. Covin perfected and Dana has elevated. Out of this bond, because of a common experience, we have created a sense of loyalty and passion not just for the organization but for the lives it has touched. Forevers are fierce in our sense of responsibility to each and every member, and to those who never wore the "red, white and blue" but love it unconditionally. Every bit of this has been evident in the recent events.

This coming Revels will be my 40th reunion. We have invited our sophomores and our freshmen, and we hope every single one of them will attend. I know that everyone leaves Rangerettes with different experiences. We are all human, and as a line we had our ups and downs. We all had sophomores with high expectations, and we all had freshmen that we were responsible for preparing to carry on. But we all worked together to achieve a common goal, and we did that perfectly. Over time, as we grow in wisdom, we understand that all of the young women that we shared the field with are embedded in our lives. I can't wait to see everyone!

I am humbled and blessed to be a part of this organization.

Forever yours,

**Beverly Rochin Swatzell**, '75-'77, 36th Line  
Rangerettes Forever president

## SHARE NEWS FROM YOUR RANGERETTES FOREVER CHAPTER:

Send an email to [RetteForeverNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetteForeverNews@gmail.com). If possible, include a high-resolution, color photo and caption information. We look forward to sharing your news.

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### RANGERETTES ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

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[www.facebook.com/Rangerettes-Forever-682825548571907](http://www.facebook.com/Rangerettes-Forever-682825548571907)



## Bits & Boots



### *In the swing of things*

PHOTO/MICHELLE CAMPBELL

**F**reshman Swingsters, selected in January, are, bottom row, from left, Kristin Lopez, Houston; Baleigh Williams, Austin; Isabel Sorto, Caldwell; Natalie Poss, Longview; Madeleine Lindholm, Richardson; Erin Ellis, Austin; Madi Minard, Waco; Jensine Dalfrey, Tomball; Diana Espinosa, Mesquite; and Oddalys Salcido, Round Rock. Williams is head freshman Swingster. Sophomore Swingsters are, top row, from left: Lyneé Elliott, Flower Mound; Barbs Vega, Katy; Skylar Morgan, Mount Pleasant; Madison Cashion, College Station; Morgan Covin, Gilmer; Ramsey Shobe, Pflugerville; Emma Cox, Rockwall; Cameron Maldonado, Austin; Lauren Ligon, Richardson; and Gabby Azios, Cedar Park. Cashion is head sophomore Swingster.



**NAMES NEEDED** Nominations are due June 15 for the next Rangerettes Forever elections. All officer positions and half the board will be open. Interested parties should request a nomination form via [www.Rangerette.com/forevers/forevers-contact](http://www.Rangerette.com/forevers/forevers-contact).

To be considered for any Rangerettes Forever board position, a candidate must be a lifetime member of Rangerettes Forever and at least an annual member of the Kilgore College Alumni Association throughout his or her board service. Rangerettes Forever lifetime membership is \$150. Alumni Association annual membership is \$25 per year or \$250 for a lifetime.



### TURN YOUR SHOPPING INTO A SCHOLARSHIP

Give back to the Rangerettes when you shop on Amazon.com. To help, go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and pick the Kilgore College Foundation as your charity. The KC Foundation has agreed to give the first profits to the Forevers for a Rangerette scholarship, so the organization receives a percentage of your purchases.



**KILGORE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT UP** Unofficial KC enrollment taken on the 12th class day this semester was 5,354 students, compared with 5,006 students certified for spring 2016. That's a nearly 7 percent increase. **Click here** to read more.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIT ROYAL BOLTE

**IN GOOD TASTE** Mackenzie Oden, 68th Line, and Megan Shuffle Shepherd, 63rd Line, coordinated this year's healthy snack break for current Rangerettes practicing for the Cotton Bowl. Forevers representing multiple decades assembled the boxes.



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK** Make sure you've liked the new Rangerettes Forever page on Facebook, managed by Brooke Luna, 75th Line. **Click here** to visit the page.



# *No rest for the 'Rettes*

Nonstop schedule kept dancers on their toes through holidays and beyond

## PLAY-OFF GAMES

The Kilgore College Rangerettes continued halftime performances at the Rangers' **SEMI-FINAL GAME** Nov. 5, versus Tyler, pictured, and the SWJCFC Championship Game Nov. 12 versus Trinity Valley Community College, where the Rangers' season ended, 58-51. [Click here](#) to view play-offs images from Kilgore College, and [click here](#) for more photos via 'Rette, White and Blue magazine.



## MACY'S PARADE

The Rangerettes in November traveled to New York City to perform in the **90TH MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE**, the team's first time in the parade since 2003. [Click here](#) to view more photos via 'Rette, White and Blue magazine, and [click here](#) to watch their performance during the parade. Read more about the trip in "Sea to shining sea," page 6.



## CHRISTMAS SHOW

The Rangerettes kicked off the holidays with two Dec. 4 performances of "**GLITZ, GLAMOUR, AND A TOUCH OF CHRISTMAS.**" The show in Dodson Auditorium included guest performers from area school and studio groups. The program concluded with a Rangerette high-kick extravaganza. [Click here](#) to view show photos from Kilgore College, and [click here](#) for more photos via 'Rette, White and Blue magazine.



## PEARL HARBOR

The Rangerettes performed as part of ceremonies for the 75th anniversary of **PEARL HARBOR** in Hawaii.

**Click here** to watch the performance. Read more about the trip starting on page 6.



The directors applaud the Rangerettes at the Cotton Bowl. KILGORE COLLEGE PHOTOS/RICHARD NGUYEN

## GOODYEAR COTTON BOWL CLASSIC

The Rangerettes brought their jazz and chair routines to the **GOODYEAR COTTON BOWL CLASSIC** Jan. 2. It was the team's 67th consecutive appearance, which the Cotton Bowl commemorated with a video. **Click here** to watch the feature. **Click here** to watch the jazz, **click here** to watch the national anthem, and **click here** to watch the chair routine. **Click here** for more photos via 'Rette, White and Blue magazine.



Rangerettes finish their chair routine.



## TEXAS TWO-STEP

Rangerettes greeted and entertained attendees at the Jan. 28 **TEXAS TWO-STEP FUNDRAISER** benefiting Rusk County Boys & Girls Club – Kilgore Unit and Kilgore Habitat for Humanity.



## INAUGURAL BALL

Selected sophomore Rangerettes performed at the Texas State Society's **BLACK TIE AND BOOTS PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL BALL**, at which the Rangerettes have appeared for every presidential inauguration since 2001. **Click here** to watch their performance. Read more about the trip beginning on page 6.



## DANCE CLASSIC

RANGERETTE PHOTO

The Rangerettes performed for exhibition at the **GUSSIE NELL DAVIS DANCE CLASSIC**, an American Dance/Drill Team contest held at Kilgore College. The event raises money for Rangerette scholarships, thanks to Joyce and C.R. Pennington. **Click here** to watch the Rangerettes' performance.



# Sea to shining sea

'Rette, Forevers remember trips that took team across U.S.

## EXPECTATION VS. REALITY

The Rangerette organization has been surrounded with the highest standards and significant expectations for 77 years. The reality of it all is that the past 77 years have been filled with thousands of girls dying for the chance to wear the red, white and blue, live the dream and create memories that will last a lifetime. The reality of a Rangerette is that these expectations are nowhere short of the reality we all strive to create and achieve.



**EMMA SOARD**  
76TH LINE

The Kilgore College Rangerettes as an organization has changed so many lives throughout the past 77 years. During these three completely different trips, one thing remained the same. That is, the Rangerette reality strives to meet expectation. The girls who try out for this organization are trying out for more than a dance team. They are trying out for a legacy. We didn't all know what we were getting ourselves into, but I'm sure glad we all came along for the ride.



The Kilgore College Rangerettes march in the 90th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF EMMA SOARD

BY EMMA SOARD

**T**his year, the 76th and 77th Lines of the Kilgore College Rangerettes were honored with three incredible performance opportunities. In November, we performed in the 90th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, followed by the 75th anniversary commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor in December. In January, we completed our third and final trip, to Washington, D.C., to perform at the Texas State Society's Black Tie and Boots Presidential Inaugural Ball. This understandably overwhelming, yet incredibly exciting year led us to three different states, took us on six different planes and enabled us to conquer a day of practice doing five different high kicks. These past couple of months had many adventures in store for our team and left us extremely thankful for the cherishable memories.



Sophomore Rangerettes take a moment to capture memories before an evening practice in New York City.

## NEW YORK CITY

On Nov. 20, we flew from Houston around noon to begin our first trip, to New York City. Energetic and excited, we all arrived at the hotel just a few blocks down from Times Square, ready to explore the city. Leaving no time to waste, many of us rushed into the streets with cameras out, smiles on and the same warm-up pants and jackets that we wore on the plane. If we didn't already give away the fact that we were tourists, we were the obviously southern girls yelling and cheering about snow flurries that lasted 15 minutes and never touched the ground.

As the trip continued, we had the opportunity to go on a harbor cruise and see the Statue of Liberty up close, visit the 9/11 Memorial, attend an ever-famous showing of the Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular, awe in amazement at the mesmerizing Broadway production of "Aladdin," and of course enjoy many hours of sightseeing and free time around the island of Manhattan. When it came time for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Thursday morning, we awoke to the always pleasant sound of a steaming alarm clock at 3:30 a.m. Tired, excited and extremely anxious, all 72 of us pieced our uniforms together and embraced the freezing-cold morning air that rushed in between the buildings of New York City. Once the parade began, we took our places in formation and began

Please see more *Trips* on page 8.

*Many of us rushed into the streets with cameras out, smiles on and the same warm up pants and jackets that we wore on the plane.*

## FOREVER REFLECTIONS: NEW YORK



Marina Haake Jefferis, left, and Melinda Bubak Jackson, one of Jefferis' sophomores, won a chance to walk with the Rangerettes in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARINA HAAKE JEFFERIS

## MARINA HAAKE JEFFERIS

36TH LINE (1975-77)

Last Thanksgiving, I was working for Spirit of America during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. My fellow Rangerette and suite mate, Laura Barnett Davis, owns Spirit of America. She invites several former Rangerettes to work for her as chaperones or operational staff during the Thanksgiving week. When I heard that the Rangerettes were going to perform, I quickly accepted Laura's invitation to work in operations for Spirit of America.

At the Rangerettes Forever's Casino Night and auction last fall, Laura donated an opportunity to walk with the Rangerettes during the parade. I was so very excited to be one of the high bidders! It was a wonderful experience, especially because I got to experience it with my two adopted Rangerettes, Hannah Burns and Lyneé Elliott, and one of my sophomores, Melinda Bubak Jackson, who was the other high bidder. It was a memory that will stay with me forever.

Although I have only traveled with the Rangerettes one time, for about six summers I have chaperoned Rangerette Mini Camp. Not only do I get to spend time with former Rangerettes of all ages, I get a chance to meet the Hopefuls, which has led to many friendships in the Rangerette lines. I always ask to be responsible for the floors that have the most Hopefuls. I become so invested in them that it is really difficult to see some very hopeful girls not make the line. It is equally exciting to watch the girls who do make it and follow them during their two years as Rangerettes. It is also wonderful to watch the freshman line take on the leadership roles that their sophomores have vacated.

It gives me so much pride and joy to see this organization continue their reputation for excellence, poise and honor year after year. Miss Gussie Nell Davis would be very proud to see how her legacy is still making a difference in many young women's lives.



FOREVER REFLECTIONS: **HAWAII**

Kit Royal Bolte enjoys the view at Sunset Beach at North Shore. PHOTO COURTESY OF KIT ROYAL BOLTE

## KIT ROYAL BOLTE

34TH LINE (1973–75)

Outside of the performance opportunity trips I have participated in as a Forever, I have traveled with the Forevers on some very memorable trips: 2010 Rangerette Cruise; 2015 Scotland/Ireland (St. Patrick's Day parade) and 2016 Hawaii/Pearl Harbor. My daughter and I also traveled on our own to Orlando/Disney World over spring break 2016 to watch the Rangerettes perform at the Contest of Champions.

Traveling with the Forevers and the Rangerettes is always an exciting opportunity. I enjoy the companionship of Forevers that I have already had the pleasure of meeting, and it is wonderful to get to know new Forevers. We have a unique chance to share stories and experiences from our years as Rangerettes. It is especially great to talk with Forevers who had Miss Davis and Mrs. Bolton-Covin as directors. I've learned some great pieces of Rangerette history from our spontaneous discussions. I also participate in the Adopt-A-Rette program and enjoy being able to share this travel experience with my Rangerette. That makes it extra special.

This particular trip to Hawaii was special as it was the 75th commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The atmosphere of the Honolulu/Pearl Harbor area was somber as many of those in attendance had some kind of personal attachment to that event 75 years ago. Watching the Rangerettes' beautiful performance made me extra proud to be a Rangerette Forever. Outside of the Pearl Harbor events on the 7th, we found time to hike to the top of Diamond Head, visit the Dole Plantation (DELICIOUS pineapple!) and Macadamia Nut Farm, snorkel, and attend a luau. Many wonderful photo opportunities.

I find that traveling with Forevers is especially entertaining (and often exhausting, but worth it). The group packages are great values and expose you to so many areas of travel not normally available to the average tourist. All of the Forevers that I've met are friendly/fun loving ladies and anxious to share their Rangerette stories. I just try to soak it all in.



The Rangerettes perform their high kick at the 75th anniversary commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

*Trips continued from page 7*

performing our traditional parade routine in front of the millions of people lining the streets. The surreal feeling was definitely one to remember. I found myself making my way around the last corner and down the street, inching closer to the performance we had been preparing for. A commercial break was called, and we rushed into our places in front of Macy's and began the high kick. Although I don't remember much of this performance due to the nerves and adrenaline,

I remember the pain of kicking with freezing cold muscles, the start of the music, and so much happiness as we strode off and could tell ourselves, "We just did that."

***We strode off and could tell ourselves "we just did that."***

## HAWAII

Exactly 10 days after returning home from NYC, we made our way back to Houston to depart for Hawaii. We arrived in Honolulu on Dec. 5, and were greeted with leis as we walked off the plane. Our evening was well spent at Hard Rock Café and many pictures at Waikiki Beach. After a morning

*Please see more Trips on page 9.*



Rangerettes take a morning hike to Manoa Falls in Hawaii.





**Sophomore Rangerettes at the Texas State Society's Black Tie and Boots Presidential Inaugural Ball. Rangerettes made the trip thanks to the support of Kilgore Mayor Ronnie Spradlin and Southwest Airlines.**

*Trips continued from page 8*

practice the next day, we traveled to the USS Arizona Memorial where we spent the afternoon. On Dec. 7, we performed a patriotic high kick routine amongst a mass band at the 75th commemoration of Pearl Harbor. It was an incredible experience to be able to face the USS Missouri boat, perform in front of Pearl Harbor survivors and take part in the remembrance of such an important part of history. For the next two days, we spent our time wandering around Honolulu doing various things. On the last evening, we attended Germaine's Luau. When the time came to make our way back to the airport, I think we were all ready to be home for Christmas break; but of course, brokenhearted that we were forced to leave our little island of paradise. Our trip to Hawaii was beautiful, incredibly exciting and definitely the best way to end the semester.

### OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

On Jan. 17, a small group of Rangerettes headed to Washington, D.C., to begin the third and final trip. The selected Rangerettes were chosen according to grade-point average because we would be missing the entire first week of school. We all wished more than anything that our entire class could have the opportunity to travel together one last time. However, the 19 of us were very thankful to be a part of such a supportive and encouraging class that wished us well. Upon arrival in Washington, D.C., we attended dinner at The Monocle Restaurant. We spent the entire next day in the city. Cramming our sightseeing into one day, we visited as many monuments and toured as many museums as we could. Fighting

*Please see more Trips on page 11.*

## FOREVER REFLECTIONS: D.C.



**Beverly Rochin Swatzell with sophomores Lyneé Elliott and Barbs Vega at the Black Tie and Boots Presidential Inaugural Ball. PHOTO COURTESY OF BEVERLY ROCHIN SWATZELL**

### BEVERLY ROCHIN SWATZELL

36TH LINE (1975-77)

The week of the presidential inauguration, my husband, David, and I headed to Washington, D.C., to watch the Rangerettes perform in the Black Tie and Boots Presidential Inaugural Ball. We planned to watch all three of the Rangerettes' performances.

We arrived at the Gaylord with more than 10,000 other excited people dressed in an array of beautiful gowns, black tuxes and cowboy boots. Texas had shown up in D.C. The Black Tie and Boots Presidential Inaugural Ball took up the entire hotel, and guests mingled in and out of all the beautifully decorated ballrooms. We made our way to the first dance performance only to find that it was in the VIP section and we just missed it. We were disappointed, but it wasn't long before we began to see the Rangerettes mingling among the guests in a sea of sequins. They stood out in their beautiful red, white and blue as they were allowed the freedom to enjoy the ball and interact with the guests.

The Rangerettes were being tugged left and right for pictures with the guests. As I greeted many of them, it was exciting to see a constant stream of people come up and take them for a photo.

The Rangerettes' second performance was moved to another area, and once again we missed them. Their last performance was around 1 a.m., and by that time we were already turning in.

Yes, we missed their dance performances, but what we saw was spectacular! As I watched the Rangerettes throughout the evening they were poised, engaged and enchanting. They were the perfect ambassadors for the state of Texas, and they brought me a sense of pride on a new level. I do not know who the "big names" were that attended ball, but it was obvious that our Rangerettes were the celebrities!

*Paula continued from page 1*

Since 1991, those duties have been varied and numerous. Jamerson, who studied journalism at Panola College, started in KC's print shop. She worked there two years before assisting the fashion-merchandising department and later three business-administration department chairs. She was assisting Gerald Stanglin, vice president of instruction, in 2000 when Archie Whitfield retired from his college-relations position.

"It was like it was a job description just written for me — newsletter experience, event coordination, customer service — all the things that I had a good background in and experience," Jamerson said. "So I applied and got it."

And the alumni work began.

"My job was to be the liaison between former students and the current institution to help them stay connected or reconnect, to help them come back home and enjoy themselves and to fundraise for the current Rangerettes, twirlers and cheerleaders," she said.

The alumni, current students and co-workers who witnessed Jamerson's work saw how it extended beyond her job description as she infused her own skills and talents.

"Paula has had about three jobs: party planner, decorator, and director of publications that connect KC with these various groups," retired KC President Dr. Bill Holda said. "The office of the president was in its original form since the McLaurin Administration Building when Dr. Watson



***"(Paula's) spirit is contagious ..."***

**IVETTE ARMENTA**  
71ST LINE

was president. A few years ago, Paula worked with Nancy Law and Karol Pruett to create a memorable renovation of the office, and in particular, a KC wall that captures the history of the institution.

"For my retirement reception, Paula went over the top. Even to the point of creating plant holders that were covered with various pictures from my entire career. She is a worker and always adds a special touch."

Jamerson shared her skills in multiple ways. Off and on for about a decade, she invited Rangerettes to work with her.

"It gave me an opportunity to teach them how to coordinate and plan a party," she said.

She and her workers also created items to sell in the Rangerette Showcase and Museum.

"Some of that was to give the girls working for me an

opportunity to learn some business skills and to save some money for the Showcase to get a better price and get a better profit," said Jamerson, who has a Kilgore College degree in business.

Ivette Armenta, 71st Line, worked for Jamerson her sophomore year.

"When I think of Paula, I think of compassion, empathy, and pure joy," Armenta said. "I'm not sure if these qualities can be learned, but I did learn how much of an impact they can have on the people around you. Her spirit is contagious, and looking back at experiences I've had over the years, I've realized I seek people like her in my life."

Working with Rangerettes in her office and with the organization as a whole taught Jamerson, originally from Carthage, more about these dancers than she'd learned as an East Texan or working in other college departments.

"The self-discipline that they teach the girls is just inspiring," Jamerson said. "You see these



On the cover, Paula Jamerson is with, from left, Lauren Gier; Second Rangerette Director Deana Bolton Covin; Taylor Walker; and Jessica Wright King.

Above, clockwise from top left, with Lexie Drennan and Katie Quinn; Kilgore-area Rangerettes; Jessica Stovall and Leslie Clothier Patterson; Lainey Bergen-Henengouwen; Ivette Armenta (photo courtesy of Armenta).

One next page, clockwise from top left, with 73rd Line Rangerettes; Rangerette workers; Katie Canant Young and Hope Boyd; 72nd and 73rd Line Rangerettes.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAULA JAMERSON

girls go through the program, and they become can-do women who are going to be successful in any area that they go after because they've learned what they can accomplish if they are willing to work hard and be persistent."

Jamerson's own hard work earned admiration from those whose lives she touched. She

*Please see more Paula on page 11.*



*Paula continued from page 10*

was among those to whom Revels 2008 was dedicated, among other honors.

"I remember how shocked, surprised and honored I was when Shannon Harty Phillips and the Forevers endowed a scholarship in my name," Jamerson said.

The job also taught her important lessons about people.

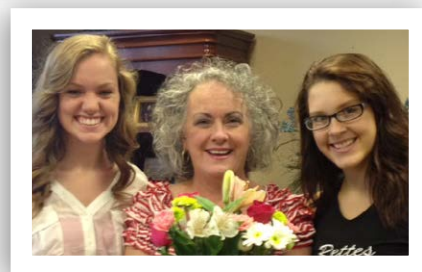
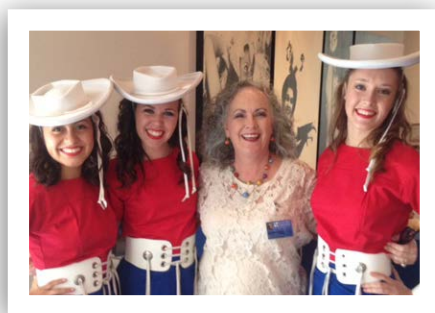
"Any time you're coordinating and organizing volunteers, it's got tricky pieces to it," she said. "I always made sure I let people know how much I appreciate their help."

But the best part of her time at Kilgore College was the friends she made, she said.

"(My favorite part has been) the people that I've gotten an opportunity to work with and work for," Jamerson said. "I have some lifelong friends from it."

And those friends echo the sentiment.

"I already miss seeing her sweet smile on our campus,"



### SAY THANKS WHILE HELPING A 'RETTE

**Click here** to donate to the Paula C. Jamerson Honorary Rangerette Forever Scholarship at Kilgore College.

Blair said. "She has a heart of gold and is one of the hardest-working people I know. She is so loved by so many of my girls, and she could not have

been more gracious and loving to them. I love her colorful and fun spirit, and I know she will continue to impact everyone who knows her."

Jamerson decided to retire after her husband's health declined sharply late last year.

"It would be my honor and my privilege to retire and take care of him myself," Jamerson said. "It's marriage-vow appropriate. He would do it for me if I needed it."

In addition to caring for her spouse, Jamerson plans to stay busy making and selling jewelry and custom gifts, working in her yard and visiting her five grandchildren. And she hopes to stay involved in Kilgore College, too, she said.

"I plan to attend the retiree events that I have hosted for the last 17 years," she said. "I would love to volunteer on some level when I can." ★

*Trips continued from page 9*

through the brisk wind and our aching feet, we were able to see the Washington Monument, sit on the steps under Abraham Lincoln's memorial, and even take a Washington, D.C., subway. The Texas State Society's Black Tie and Boots Presidential Inaugural Ball was held at the Gaylord Hotel on Jan. 19. We opened the evening in a VIP ballroom with a performance of the traditional officer strut, high kick and Texas jazz.

As the night continued, there were meet-and-greets and many, many pictures taken. At 12:30 a.m., we performed for an even larger audience in a different ballroom. It was exciting to hear how many people recognized the uniform and knew who we were. One last night was spent in Washington, D.C., before we traveled back to our little town of Kilgore. Three states, six plane rides and countless memories later, we could not have experienced a better sophomore year. ★



**Ann Marie Hauser, 54th Line, spends time with sophomore Rangerettes at the Texas State Society's Black Tie and Boots Presidential Inaugural Ball. Hauser is deputy staff director at U.S. Senate Republican Conference. PHOTO COURTESY OF ANN MARIE HAUSER**



**Top: Katie Reeves, left, and Holly Williams Lyons at the 2014 Texas Dance Educators Association convention. Center: Reeves and Lyons at the 2009 Kilgore College Homecoming game. Bottom: Lyons and Reeves after a Vandegrift High School spring show.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOLLY WILLIAMS LYONS  
AND KATIE REEVES

# A match made in Kilgore

## Adopt-an-active program nurtures lasting friendships

BY ASHLEY AUSTIN JONES

**T**he Rangerette Forever adoption program can yield a great deal of support for current Rangerettes, as well as give Forevers a way to stay active within the organization. After sign drop, each line member is matched with a Forever who will serve as a mentor and direct connection to the Forever organization during her time as a Rangerette. These relationships often result in friendships that last well beyond a Rangerette's two years at Kilgore College, as is the case for Holly Williams Lyons (1993–95) and adoptee Katie Reeves (2008–10).

Lyons chose to adopt Reeves because they lived near each other in Austin. Although they did not previously know each other, Lyons introduced herself to Reeves at Show-offs in 2008.

"At the conclusion of freshman year Show-offs, she came walking through the masses on stage and introduced herself to me," Reeves said. "I had no idea who she was and didn't even expect to be adopted. When I got back to the dorm, I found in my mailbox a hoodie from the showcase with a note tucked in it, which I keep in my memory box and look back on every so often as the beginning of a storied friendship."



They kept in touch through social media and text messaging, as well as in-person visits as often as possible.

"When (Katie) was home, we would always meet up for coffee or lunch," Lyons said. "She would tell me about her current Rangerette life, and we shared many stories of our experiences. During her sophomore year, I was able to travel and see her perform several times."

Over time, they learned that they had several things in common, including both being "tall girls," both standing on the 49½ yard line and both wearing No. 41 at tryouts.

"I was excited to be adopted by someone I could see and talk to in person as often as we did, and I always enjoyed hearing about the previous generation of Rangerettes and the way things ran in previous decades," Reeves said. "Rangerettes is fairly traditional, but things do phase in and out over time."

After leaving Kilgore, Reeves attended Stephen F. Austin University, Lyons' alma mater. Both women were dance majors and continued to share many commonalities.

"I was lucky enough to have Katie as my student teacher her last semester in school," Lyons said. "It was a special experience to be able to mentor someone you think highly of and have established a friendship with through the years. Eventually, I was able to hire her as my first full-time assistant at Vandegrift High School. We had a blast working and learning together for three years."

***"You can play an important role in a current Rangerette's experience and enrich her years more than you know. In some cases, you may be friends for her time there and, in other cases, you may develop a long term, even life-long connection."***

**KATIE REEVES**  
69TH LINE

Their relationship continues today.

"We are still friends and are both currently high school dance team head directors in Leander ISD," Reeves said. "There are several collaborative dance events in our district, and so we still work together, just in a different way. She has certainly been a mentor to me as I navigated the start of my directing career."

Stories of mentoring and friendship like that of Lyons and Reeves are common within the Rangerette organization, but can only continue if Foreverers continue to adopt active Rangerettes.

"My advice is to jump in and give it a shot," Lyons said. "If you're apprehensive, set some Forever goals for yourself, and do your best. Having an adoptee is fun and meaningful for both parties."

Lyons has adopted several active Rangerettes since Reeves and plans to continue to adopt.

"I think the best way to support your adoptee is to make regular contact with them,"

Lyons said. "Everyone has their own way and style of doing this. Foreverers should choose what works best with their life and schedule so they are consistent with their adoptee, whether that means sending flowers and care packages or texting them regularly. I think adoptees just want a connection with their Forever and to feel supported from alumni."

Reeves has adopted active Rangerettes since leaving Kilgore and said her decision to adopt was heavily influenced by her relationship with Lyons.

"Especially in those few years after leaving Kilgore, I wanted to stay connected and feel the excitement that I sorely missed. It was rewarding to have conversations with my adopted girls and see what had changed, what was the same, and hear their takes on each part of their years. It was a little different from my Forever relationship, as I didn't adopt Austin girls, so our connection was dependent on my routine visits to football games, Show-offs, Revels, etc.," Reeves said.

Reeves and Lyons agree that the bonds created through the Rangerette adoption program can greatly impact members of the current line.

"It is as involved as you want it to be," Reeves said. "You can play an important role in a current Rangerette's experience and enrich her years more than you know. In some cases, you may be friends for her time there and, in other cases, you may develop a long-term, even life-long connection. Start with one active member, then build up from there if you're feeling it! There's nothing to lose." ★

## **ADOPTION IS EASY**

It's never too late to adopt a Rangerette. Send an email to [RetteAdoption@gmail.com](mailto:RetteAdoption@gmail.com) with the name of the Rangerette you'd like to adopt or to request an assignment. The goal is for each Rangerette to have multiple Foreverers, so adopting a Rangerette with a fellow alumna is an option. If you adopted a freshman Rangerette last year, you keep her as your adoptee her sophomore year. After adopting her, please contact your Rangerette at least three times a month — by email, phone, social media or a letter/card.

# Kicks & Cadence

Tales from the continued adventures of Foreverers and supporters



PHOTOS COURTESY  
OF KIMBERLY SABEL



**KIMBERLY COVERT SABEL**, 54th Line, opened Pattern Happy's online shop in December. The line features pins, notepads, cards and wrapping paper. [Click here](#) to read more about Pattern Happy in The Paper Chronicles. Details: [www.bepatternhappy.com](http://www.bepatternhappy.com)



## ASHLEY (MARTIN)

**ATWOOD**, 61st Line, had three films in the Hollywood Florida Film Festival in February near Miami. She portrayed Linda in "A Father's Love"; was nominated for best actress as Melissa Dillon in "Chippy"; and produced and starred as Mimi in "Mimi's Misadventure," which also won awards at the Los Angeles Cinema Festival of Hollywood. Keep an eye out for a new project called "Strayed" produced by Brie Larson.



Ashley Atwood  
stars  
in "Mimi's  
Misadventure."  
PHOTO  
COURTESY  
OF ASHLEY  
ATWOOD



Mazie  
Jamison, left,  
with Kilgore  
College  
President  
Dr. Brenda  
Kays.  
KILGORE  
COLLEGE  
PHOTO



## MAZIE MATHEWS

**JAMISON**, 28th Line, was the first "Where Are They Now?" honoree at the Kilgore College Board of Trustees meeting last month.



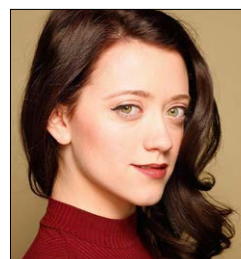
The Cotton Bowl went behind the scenes with **LISA FORTENBERRY**, 44th Line, who as the bowl's pageantry director oversees the 100-yard American flag that unfurls across the field before the game. [Click here](#) to watch a video about the spectacle and the work that goes into it.



**L. BROOKE DIEBOLT SCHLECTE**, 60th Line, achieved nonprofit status for Out On a Limb Dance Companies. The nonprofit includes Out On a Limb Dance Company, which she founded in 2007; Out On a Limb Dot Buds (a creative dance class for children), 2013; {254} Dance-Fest, 2011; and Texas Dance Festival Alliance, 2015. Schlecte choreographs, teaches, and performs with the Waco-based company, which will collaborate with local artists for STIMULI, an evening of dance, live music, visual art, spoken word, dinner and wine, 6:30 p.m. May 6. Details: [www.outonalimbdance.com](http://www.outonalimbdance.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF  
L. BROOKE SCHLECTE



**MADELINE DOERR**, 75th Line, signed a contract to perform with Royal Caribbean Cruises. She is rehearsing in Florida until April and then sets sail aboard Empress of the Seas until Nov. 30. PHOTO COURTESY OF MADELINE DOERR

Share your successes and milestones! We want to hear about your exciting new jobs, promotions and achievements. Tell us about weddings and new family members, too. Email your news to [RetteForeverNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetteForeverNews@gmail.com). Include a high-resolution, color photo and caption information.



## Prayer circle



Our thoughts are with these Forevers and their loved ones

**LISA FARRELL SMENTEK**, 41st Line, director of the Allen High School Tallenettes is fighting breast cancer. [Click here](#) to visit her GoFundMe page.

**ERIN CUMMINGS**, 56th Line, is fighting breast cancer. [Click here](#) to read a Detroit News article about her treatment and recovery.

**LISA OWENS MILLER**, 34th Line, passed away in January. [Click here](#) to read her obituary. Miller directed the J.J. Pearce High School Pacesetters for 14 years and was an owner of Starmakers Dance and Performance Camps.

**LISA MEDLIN GRIFFIN**, 39th Line, passed away this month. She directed Lufkin High School's Panther Pride drill team. [Click here](#) to read her obituary. You can give to the Lisa Griffin Memorial Scholarship at the Lufkin High School Alumni Association, PO Box 150837, Lufkin, TX 75915.

# BEST FEET FORWARD

76th Line members prepare for next steps after KC

Name	College
Gabby Azios	Texas Woman's University
Hannah Burns	Texas A&M University
Madison Cashion	Texas A&M University
McKenna Cook	University of North Texas
Morgan Covin	Stephen F. Austin State University
Emma Cox	Stephen F. Austin State University
Mac Cumpian	University of North Texas
Kyla Drake	Texas A&M University
Allison Eigsti	The University of Arkansas or University of Missouri
Lyneé Elliott	Oklahoma City University
Autumn Fleet	Texas A&M University
Taylor Gallaway	Texas A&M University
Téa Jaime	University of North Texas
Keilin Jeter	Texas A&M University
Lauren Kite	Planning to go to school to become a flight attendant
Payton Kornegay	Texas A&M University
Lauren Ligon	Texas Christian University or University of Arkansas
Caroline Lucke	Texas State University
Cameron Maldonado	University of Houston
Monica McCarson	Texas A&M University
Maddie Minser	Texas A&M University
Skylar Morgan	The Alvin Ailey School
Elise Padilla	Texas State University
Holly Patterson	The University of Texas at Tyler
Abby Penprase	University of North Texas
Erin Phillips	University of North Texas
Emily Posey	Stephen F. Austin State University
Shaena Rinehart	Texas A&M University
Megan Roberts	Texas A&M University
Annie Rojas	University of Arkansas or Texas Tech University
Ramsey Shobe	Texas Woman's University
Emma Soard	University of North Texas
Barbs Vega	The University of Oklahoma
Emma Walls	University of North Texas
Olivia Westmoreland	The University of Texas
Juliana Yolland	Texas A&M University

## BY THE NUMBERS

SFA (3)

Texas A&M (12)

Texas State (2)

Texas Woman's (2)

University of Houston (1)

UNT (7)

University of Texas (1)

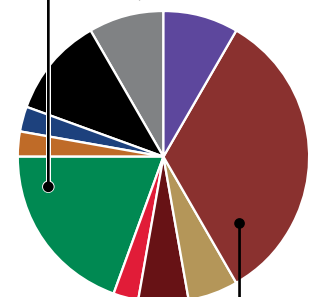
UT Tyler (1)

Out of state /other (4)

Undecided (3)

19.4 PERCENT

of 76th Line members plan to attend the UNT. Go, Mean Green!



ONE OUT OF THREE

plans to attend Texas A&M University. Whoop!

FOREVER SPOTLIGHT

# Director strives to make a difference

BY MEGAN SHUFFLE SHEPHERD

**J**en Gray Morrow's career is her passion. She has the privilege to direct a high school drill team and teach dance.

## What made you want to become a Rangerette?

My high school drill team included members who were sophomores through seniors. Therefore, my freshman year, I took a drill team prep class. During that class, my teacher/the director of the drill team introduced me to the Rangerettes by showing my class a video of the Rangerettes halftime performance at a football game she attended that fall. From there, three things happened: I fell in love with the Rangerettes, my goal was to become one, and I knew deep down I wanted my future to be directing a drill team. (Very specific and high dreams for just a little freshman in high school.) The Rangerettes are the best of the best, the cream of the crop, and who wouldn't want to be a part of the regal, poised, class act perfection?

## What is the best compliment anyone has paid you?

The most wonderfully unexpected compliment anyone has ever paid me would be telling me that I can get along with anyone and everyone. People

*The Rangerettes are the best of the best, the cream of the crop, and who wouldn't want to be a part of the regal, poised, class act perfection?*

Jen Gray Morrow directs the Hebron High School Silver Wings.



## JEN GRAY MORROW

**Hometown:** Friendswood

**Rangerette years:** 1999–2001

**After Kilgore College:** bachelor's degree in kinesiology from the University of North Texas and a master's degree in dance from Texas Woman's University

**Career:** assisted Plano West Senior High Royales, directed Jasper High School Jazz for eight years, current director of Hebron High School Silver Wings. Next year, she will direct the Lovejoy High School Majestics. Encore Creative Productions staff.

fascinate me, and I always want to learn more about them ... their likes, dislikes, what they do for a living, etc.

## What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of the fact that I can balance being a good mother and work



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEN GRAY MORROW  
Morrow was a lieutenant her sophomore year.

full time. I have two little girls, 5 and 7 ... 7 going on 17, actually. I'll be honest, at first it was a challenge to figure it out, but I finally did, and I'm so grateful. All moms know the self guilt that creeps in, etc.

## What Rangerette experience shaped you the most?

I had MANY experiences with my time at Kilgore that shaped me into the woman I am now. However, specifically it was the ability to gain confidence in myself as a young woman as well as learn to speak professionally to different types of people in different types of situations. I am forever thankful for this as it is used every day in my profession.

## What is your grand, audacious goal?

My grand, audacious goal in life is to touch the lives of as many young women as I can. I want to awaken their curiosity, help them find their creative voices, help them better themselves as individuals and in all human beings in this world. ★

**GIVE A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP** Looking for a Revels gift? Give a Rangerettes Forever lifetime membership for \$150. (Or invest in your own!) Send your check to Rangerettes Forever, 1100 Broadway, Kilgore, TX 75662.