

## Making History

### Christian College Alumnae Lead the Board of Trustees

As of this May, a power trio of accomplished women is governing the board of trustees — and for the first time in the history of the school, they’re all Christian College alumnae. Daisy Willis Grossnickle ’66, chair; Anita Abbott Timmons ’58, vice chair; and Janet Carter Wright ’58, secretary, hold the top leadership positions of the Columbia College Board of Trustees. Daisy and Janet were reelected to their positions, while Anita joined the board in a leadership role, creating this historic leadership triad.

“It was a surprise to us, especially with two of us being from the same class,” Anita says. “We’re all thrilled, and we make a good team because we know each other so well.”

The three alumnae have been working together as members of the board of trustees for several years. Anita is the newest member, having joined the board in 2007. Since then, she has served as convening chair for the *Tradition Meets Tomorrow* campaign, on the educational policies committee of the board of trustees and on the presidential search committee. Anita is a member of the Trustees Circle of the President’s Society. In July, she began serving as chair of the executive committee of the board of trustees.

“I’ve been honored to play a part,” Anita says. “Our school has a great story and great history. It’s exciting to think about how to move things forward.”

Daisy has been on the board of trustees for 31 years. She was asked to join in 1982 by trustees Andrew Bass and Marvin Owens (whose names are now part of the school’s admissions center and soccer stadium). In 2005, she became the first woman chair of the board of trustees. She is a member of the Charter Circle of the President’s Society.

“I have always enjoyed being involved with Columbia ‘Christian’ College,” Daisy says. “Being an active volunteer allows me to touch the lives of many young people in the community.”

*Continued on Page 2*



Top leaders of the board of trustees (from left) Anita Abbott Timmons ’58, Janet Carter Wright ’58 and Daisy Willis Grossnickle ’66

# Making History

## Christian College Alumnae Lead the Board of Trustees

*Continued from Page 1*

Janet has been a trustee since 1989. She received the Columbia College Service Award in 1992. As a trustee, she has served on the educational policies committee of the board of trustees and chaired the student life committee for many years. She's also a member of the Trustees Circle of the President's Society.

**“Our school has a great story and great history. It's exciting to think about how to move things forward.”**

— Anita Abbott Timmons '58

Janet says she hopes their legacy on the board will help the school continue to progress and stay in front of the times.

“We want to offer the same great education that we received at Christian College and expand on that,” she says.

According to trustee Judy Cunningham '64, because of their personal experience as Christian College students, these alumnae are uniquely qualified to lead the board of trustees.

“They can provide a helpful historic perspective to student-centered issues,” she says.

Trustee Jolene Schulz '61 agrees. “These three women leaders on the board represent the roots of the institution by being graduates of Christian College,” she says. “They can help ensure that the core values and traditions we knew from the beginning are still in place for future generations of Columbia College graduates.”

### **Daisy Willis Grossnickle '66, Chair**

Daisy grew up in Chanute, Kan. She decided to enroll at Christian College because she wanted to attend a liberal arts women's college.

“I felt that coming from a small town, I needed a broad education,” she says.

As a Christian College student, Daisy remembers attending special events, formal candlelight evening meals and required chapel.



**During her last year at Christian College, Daisy Willis Grossnickle was chosen as the senior queen “ideal secretary” for Beta Beta Tau, an organization supporting students' interests in the field of commerce.**

“We were required to dress in our finery; I am certain we fussed about it at the time,” she says. “One grand memory was the ability to meet the first lady of the American Theatre, Helen Hayes, in the spring of 1965.” After graduating, she began volunteering with the alumni board at Christian College.

“The school was so important to me in my growth as a young person,” Daisy says. “I thought it would be important in my growth as a young adult, too.”

She and her husband, Gary, have two daughters who graduated from Columbia College.

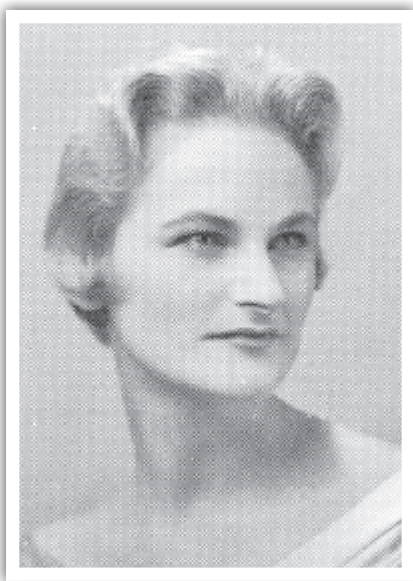




Daisy Willis Grossnickle (far left) was elected to be a member of the Christian College modeling board during both of her years at the school.

“Gayla and Sarah grew up hearing of my positive experiences at Christian College,” she says. “I am certain this had a positive impact on their decisions to attend Columbia College.”

Through the years, Daisy has been an active volunteer in the Columbia community. She is one of the founders of Mothers of Preschoolers, a program designed to nurture mothers of children from newborn to age 6 in Columbia, Mo. She helped develop the Memorial Prayer Garden at Missouri United Methodist Church and served as its chair for many years. In 2005, she was instrumental in establishing Optimus: The Center for Health in Columbia,



Anita Abbott, 1958

Mo. The center promotes a healthy lifestyle by providing lifestyle guidance based on clinical research in health and fitness. She’s been a member of the Institutional Review Board at Boone Hospital Center since 1983.

In addition, she’s remained a committed volunteer at her alma mater. In 1982, she was the youngest

woman to become a member of the board of trustees. Since then, she served as secretary of the board and in 2005, she broke new ground as the first woman to chair the board of trustees.

“It is a wonderful time in the history of the school,” Daisy says. “Many administrators, staff, faculty and students commit a large part of their lives to the college’s growth and success.”

### Anita Abbott Timmons ’58, Vice Chair

Growing up in Kokomo, Ind., Anita saved money for college working at *The Huntington Herald Press* through high school.

“I did a little of everything — typesetting, display advertising, even serving as society editor when she was on vacation,” she says.

When it came time to pick a college, Anita went to Christian College on the advice of a friend. There, she served as literary editor for the yearbook.

“There were so many wonderful people on that staff,” she says. “We spent so much time with each other and laughed a lot together.”

But one of Anita’s favorite memories at Christian was the biannual tea at the dean’s cottage.

“We always looked forward to it, but with some anxiety,” she says. “We had to get all dressed up, so we were juggling our teacups and saucers along with our hats and handbags. We didn’t want to break or spill anything.”





Anita Abbott Timmons (seated second from the left) was the literary editor of Christian College's yearbook.

After graduating from Christian College, Anita worked at Lincoln National Life Insurance and was soon transferred to Washington, D.C. She later worked for Reynolds and Company, a top commodity firm in New York City. In 1976, she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in English literature from Montclair State University in New Jersey. At that time, she was married with four children.

**“I know there aren't tea parties anymore, but there's a lot of the same spirit. It's still a nurturing place.”**

— Anita Abbott Timmons '58, on Columbia College

Anita says her experience as a nontraditional student makes her sympathetic to the nontraditional students at Columbia College who are juggling child care, housework or another career.

“Christian College was established to educate women, who were an underserved population at the time,” she says. “They do the same thing today for the nontraditional students. I know there aren't tea parties anymore, but there's a lot of the same spirit. It's still a nurturing place.”

Anita has been a lifelong volunteer, involved in local, national and international nonprofits. She served on the board of the Phillips Exeter Academy, where she

established and chaired the committee on trustees and was the recipient of the Founder's Day Award. She was also vice chair of the advisory council to the Anglican Observer at the UN.

Anita is a former CEO of Adventure Travel and a primary school educator. She has worked in the newspaper, insurance and commodities industries. Currently, she is a general partner of Taj Enterprises Investments.

### **Janet Carter Wright '58, Secretary**

Janet first started attending Christian College at just 8 years old. That year, her grandparents bought her a pony and she started taking riding lessons for children at the college. Her family drove the 60 miles from Salisbury, Mo., to Columbia every Wednesday afternoon for the next 10 years.

So when it came time to go to college, she knew exactly where she would go. She enrolled at Christian College and became a member of the school's riding team. There, she continued showing horses



Janet Carter Wright was part of the Christian College riding team as a student.



around the country, including the American Royal in Kansas City.

“That’s what drew me there,” she says. “I always had lots of fun on the farm showing horses. It was a pretty good place for a kid.”

**“I love the school and the people there. It still has a family-type atmosphere, where you always feel welcome.”**

— Janet Carter '58

While at Christian College, Janet was a member of the school’s honor society and the president of the Vesper Board along with her involvement with the riding team. She was in the same class as Anita Abbott Timmons, who now serves as vice chair with Janet on the board of trustees.

After graduating from Christian College, Janet married and moved to Dayton, Ohio, where she earned bachelor’s degrees in history and art from the University of Dayton. She moved back to Columbia, Mo., where she taught history at Jefferson Junior High School.

Today, Janet is active in the Columbia community, serving as board member of the First Baptist Church, United Way, King’s Daughters (a women’s philanthropic society) and the Country Club of Missouri.

A trustee at Columbia College since 1989, her two main interests while on the board have been providing a student center for the college (Atkins-Holman Student Commons) and renovating Missouri Hall, a building from the 1920s.



Janet Carter, 1958

In her spare time, Janet often attends different functions at the school, whether it’s speaking engagements or athletic events.

“I love the school and the people there,” she says. “It still has a family-type atmosphere, where you always feel welcome.”



Janet Carter (standing in front of the fireplace) was the president of the Vesper Board at Christian College.

# Influencing the Next Generation

## Christian College Alumnae Provide Resources for Students

Donations from Christian College alumnae directly benefit today's students at Columbia College. Two alumnae, Judith A. Cunningham and Carol Vinkemulder Frobish, have established scholarships and funds that are increasing educational opportunities at the school.

### Carol Vinkemulder Frobish '49

Columbia College received a generous gift of more than \$2.8 million from Carol's estate. She designated that half of the gift be used to help advance the college. The other half created a permanently endowed fund at the college. The fund provides support for new female students returning to college.

Carol came to Christian College in 1947 and was involved with activities such as student council, dance club,

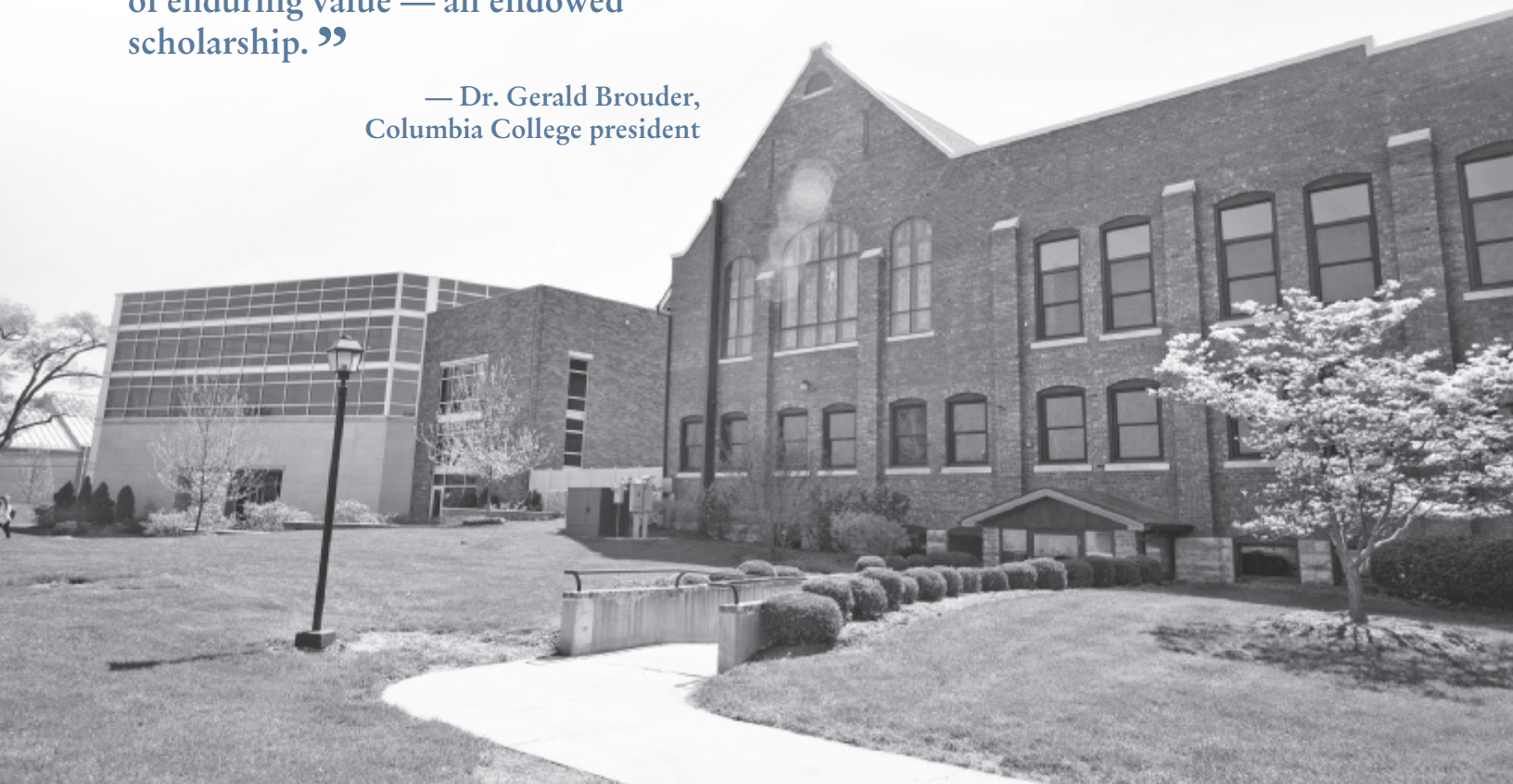
Spanish club and athletics. In 1948, she was named commencement queen. Carol earned an associate degree from Christian College and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in English from Michigan State University in 1951. She and her late husband, Kenneth Frobish, owned a Chevron Corporation station in San Clemente, Calif.

Carol lived in Mission Viejo, Calif., at the time of her death in 2003. Dr. Gerald Brouder, president of Columbia College, says Carol believed that one of the greatest gifts to be given in life was the gift of education.

"She believed Columbia College espoused values similar to her own, which convinced her to leave a gift of enduring value — an endowed scholarship," he says.

**“ (Carol) believed Columbia College espoused values similar to her own, which convinced her to leave a gift of enduring value — an endowed scholarship. ”**

— Dr. Gerald Brouder,  
Columbia College president







## Judith A. Cunningham '64

Judith has established two scholarships for Columbia College students:

1. The Cunningham Emerging Leader's Institute Award was established in memory of her aunt, Marie I. Cunningham, who encouraged Judith to attend Christian College and was a lifelong professional educator. This fund provides support to students participating in the Emerging Leaders Institute, which is a comprehensive leadership experience that strives to help students feel connected to the institution as well as prepare them for undertaking active community roles.
2. The First Christian Church of Columbia, Missouri, Christian College Scholarship was established in 2001 as a permanently endowed fund that provides support for students attending Columbia College. Judith donated the resources for the scholarship in honor of

her parents, Jacob M. and Annie D. Cunningham, longtime members of the Christian Church — Disciples of Christ. The scholarship was created to advance her parents' values of spiritual growth, education and philanthropy for future generations.

Judith is devoted to the teaching of children and young adults. She spent much of her professional life trying to secure funding for teachers of students with disabilities. In addition to her associate degree from Christian College, she received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Central Missouri State University and a master's in educational psychology from the University of Hawaii in Honolulu.



Would you like to leave a legacy for Columbia students? Learn how by contacting us at (573) 875-7563 or [ccgiving@ccis.edu](mailto:ccgiving@ccis.edu).

## Christian College Alumnae Trustees

The following is a list, in order of dates served, of all the alumnae from Christian College who have served on the board of trustees throughout the years.

Trustee	Dates served	Trustee	Dates served
Vivian Dulany Murphy '03	1949–1956	Marlys Enabnit Thedinger '47	1982–1984
Virginia Dyas McAlester 1898	1950–1964	*Joyce “Daisy” Willis Grossnickle '66	1982–present
Margaret Robnett '45	1958–1959	*Frances Thompson Dillingham '29	1982–1985
Elizabeth Davis Coppedge '14	1959–1964	*Althea Whitcraft Schiffman '41	1983–1987
*Elizabeth Estes Gentry '20	1959–1986	Sally Michell Landen '38	1984–1997
*Dorothy Hart Heinkel '24	1959–1990	Margaret E. Newton '37	1985–1988
*Leta Jones Spencer '28	1964–1990	Jane Bruckmiller Spahr '36	1986–1988
*Vivian Sloan Fisk '11	1965–1967	Ellen Coleman Terry '59	1987–1990
*Isabel Belcher Browning '23	1966–1983	Ann Walton Kroenke '68	1987–1997
Mary E. Burlingame '25	1967–1968	Hulda Brannan Doolen '52	1988–1989
*Virginia Southwell Singletary '39	1968–1989	Marilyn Silvey Tatlow '60	1988–1993
Maxey Carter Evans Jackson '35	1969–1970	*Carol Connery Murdock '69	1989–1996
Evelyn Schrom Estes '34	1970–1971	Janet Carter Wright '58	1990–present
Esther Ross Warren '20	1970–1973	Lois Southwell Singletary '39	1994–1995
Pauline Sappington Elsea '26	1972–1973	Billie Jo Wanink '65	1996–1997
*Diane Berry O'Hagan '59	1974–1978	*Lynne Stuver Baker '64	1997–2006
*Peggy Lamke Price '43	1975–2008 Emerita 2008	*Jolene Marra Schulz '61	2001–present
*Mary Banks Parry '20	1977–1984	*Judith Cunningham '64	2004–present
*Jane Froman Smith '26	1978–1980	Anita Abbott Timmons '58	2007–present
Martha “Marty” Stephens Toler '46	1980–2004	*Helen “Dale” Coe Simons '65	2012–present
*Elizabeth Haynie Marshall '26	1981–1984		

*\*Has a permanently endowed scholarship or fund at the college*



1001 Rogers St.  
Columbia, MO 65216  
(573) 875-7563 • Fax: (573) 875-7559  
ccgiving@ccis.edu

[www.ccis.edu/giftplanning](http://www.ccis.edu/giftplanning)

