

Sister Spotlight Series



Then

This summer I was so excited to meet with a TEM family in Uptown Westerville. The family members are Debbie Besst Rowland '81, Karen Caldwell Hughes '82, Linda Thole Zorich '83, and Sonya Spangler Harle '84.

In their own words, this is their Sister Spotlight.

Now

Sister Spotlight



I recall how excited I was that Karen Caldwell Hughes became my pledge. Another sister wanted Karen as her pledge so there were times we "shared" Karen and she kind of had two families. I love that our family still connects and our closeness is what sorority living is all about.

Coke dates, chat dates, Novelty parties, formals, the Garden Inn 🤔, Halloween costumes...so, so many memories that I have.

I, too, was also being recruited by Owls and had to decide. TEM truly was the best choice for me and I never looked back. I lived in Dunlap King Hall my freshman year with many of us who pledged TEM, and Sheryl Farkas Midwinter '79 was our RA. Sheryl was great and was always available to provide direction and help. Some of my fondest memories are from living in the TEM house. I lived in the house the summer before my junior year and through my commencement as a senior. Many friendships grew, more than I ever imagined, during that time. I loved my college years because of TEM.

A couple of years after graduation, I married Mark Rowland and we relocated for his job to Cincinnati. We spent five years in Cincinnati, then were relocated back to Westerville, and lived there for 35 years. Two years ago, we sold our Westerville home and moved into a "retirement" community in Galena.

I spent my entire career as an executive assistant/operations manager, having spent 5 years with an investment firm in Cincinnati, nearly 10 years at The Limited on Morse Road, and then in August of 2000, I began working in the Business Office at Otterbein. After a few years, I transferred to the Facilities Services office and I retired from Otterbein this past January after 23.5 years of employment.

We have two children, Tyler and Alli, and neither of them decided to become an Otterbein Cardinal. Tyler graduated from The Ohio State University and lives in Chicago and Alli graduated from Defiance College and lives in Grandview Heights.

Hometown

Richwood, Ohio

Major

Speech Communications
PR



Sister Spotlight



My freshman year, I was living in Scott Hall and my RA was Susie Kramer, a TEMMER. We also had 2 sophomores in our dorm, Steph Rapp and Shonda Shore who were TEMMERS! I was recruited by Owls, EKT, and TEM but my heart was all TEM. Rush was full of fun, but I couldn't go to finals as I had Mono and had to return home. I thought I would be forgotten, but I wasn't! I received 2 chosen cards in the mail and I wanted TEM.

I got lucky with having Deb Besst as my active and Shirley Lang as my "Aunt" resulting in an extended family!! Pledging was full of Coke dates, chat dates with active members, and meeting people from campus in all areas. I loved it!

I was on the O-Squad drill team and I met Linda Thole Zorich my sophomore year in early August of 1979 at drill team try outs. She was on my squad and we immediately became great friends. I wanted her to be a TEMMER too. If she pledged TEM, I hoped she would be my pledge. And guess what? Linda has been my BFF ever since. Best choice in my life.

Sonya and I knew each other from our hometown of Reynoldsburg. Our families were friends, and my high school boyfriend was best friends with her brother, the circle ties continue...Jump to Otterbein!

Hometown

Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Major

Speech Communications
PR

Sister Spotlight



TAU EPSILON MU
Pledge Day
January 28, 1980

In her freshman year, I introduced Sonya to Linda during tryouts for O-Squad. You know the rest from the writing of Linda and Sonya.

Some of my favorite memories of being in TEM were living in the house my junior and senior years. It was a great time! The sorority Co-Ed's were a blast. We did a "family" pyramid with our dates every time! Family donut runs to Schneider's at 3:00 am and going to Friendly's for an ice cream get together were always fun. Some other TEM activities were The 'Bein Beer Blast parties at the armory, the Garden Inn Halloween parties, Sphinx Razz Matazz, off campus parties, Harry Buffalo gatherings, and Jonda taking our front door in the middle of the night in winter, the list goes on.....



After graduation, I got married in 1985 and had 3 children. I divorced in 2003. I worked for the City of Upper Arlington for 30 years in finance. I am now retired.

I remarried in 2020 to my soulmate. My children are Ryan, 34, Lauren, 32, an Otterbein nursing graduate '15, and Megan, 30. My granddaughter Evelyn is 5.

I do want to add that we love our TEM family as sisters too. As you know we share so many intertwined relationships and events in our lives along all these years... both joyous and heart breaking. Spending time with all of them, especially in these later years are so meaningful and now we are grandparents! We get to share all these moments too. Linda and I lived in Hilliard within 1 mile from each other for almost 23 years. We had a "rule" that we had to be within 3 miles of each other at the most...lol



TEM LOVE to all our sorority sisters but special love to our long line of TEM family



Sister Spotlight



I started at Otterbein in the fall of 1979 after graduating from Worthington High School. One of the first people I met on campus became one of my best lifelong friends, Karen Caldwell Hughes. She was a sophomore, a TEMMER, and my squad leader on the drill team. Karen was one of many reasons why I joined TEM. When I turned around on Pledge Night and saw that she was my Active, I couldn't have been more excited! Six of my friends in my hall of Davis Annex also pledged TEM. We had a great pledge class- 24 of us!

I rushed during the winter of 1980. The walks were very cold to the various sorority houses for Open House. So many parties and so little time. I was invited back to 4 sorority Novelty Parties, but I only attended Owls and TEM due to other commitments. Then when it came to the Final Party, I only had 2 invitations. That's okay though, because I already knew which sorority I wanted. Thank goodness, they felt the same way.

There is a saying, "That which does not kill you, will only make you stronger!" When I started at Otterbein, I was pretty insecure, a bit of an introvert. Through my relationships and the activities in the sorority, I learned to be more confident and outgoing.

It was through Karen (AKA "Momma"), that I met Sonya Spangler Harle '84, my pledge (AKA "Kid"). Karen and Sonya knew each other from Reynoldsburg. Karen introduced me to Sonya when she tried out for the drill team her freshman year. Again, we became good friends right away. Our TEM family was very close. From family dinners at Friendly's restaurant in Uptown Westerville, to dancing at various clubs, and to Spring Break in Florida, we did a lot together.

Sister Spotlight

One of my favorite memories was during my junior year. Karen, Sonya, Lori (Sonya's pledge - AKA my "GrandKid") and I took our dates out to dinner before our Winter Coed (party). We were all broke, but we spared no expense and took our boys to a favorite local restaurant - McDonalds. The girls were dressed in long gowns and the guys in suits. I think we even brought candles. We were quite the sight!

After graduating, I moved in with 2 of my sisters, Molly McCray Stockwell '82 and Juli Fisher Harper '83 into an apartment off Karl Road. Molly and Juli had real jobs while I subbed for a few local school districts and worked at a local drug store at night. Then I moved to Cincinnati where I taught 3rd grade at a small Catholic school.

It was during that time that I met Buzzy, my husband. When Karen got married in 1985, Sonya and I were in her wedding. At the reception, Sonya's mom reintroduced me to Buzzy (he and I had met 3 years earlier when he was Karen's date to the aforementioned Winter Coed). Buzzy had gone to high school and was friends with both Karen and Sonya. Buzzy's and Sonya's parents were friends and the families had known each other for many years. After 1 ½ years of dating, Buzzy and I were married and my dearest friends Sonya and Karen were a part of our wedding party.

After our wedding, I moved to Miamisburg where I taught 5th grade for 3 years. Then, when we moved back to Columbus we settled in Hilliard where I taught 2nd grade for the next 24 years until I retired.



Hometown

Worthington, OH

Major

Elementary Education



Sister Spotlight



Your pledge class ~ 50 Articles



Activation dinner for LOR



We have 2 daughters, Jenni and Carissa. Unfortunately, neither of them chose to go to my Alma mater. Jenni and Joe live in Dayton and have a 2 year old daughter.

Cari and Taylor (Sonya's son) live in Lewis Center and have a 1 year old daughter. How blessed am I to be able to share a grandchild with Sonya??? Who knew that back in 1980 when I first met her, that she and I would not only become friends, but family as well?

After 30+ years teaching full time and another 9 of subbing, I'm now in full time retirement mode. Working out, playing Pickleball, babysitting my sweet grands and traveling take up most of my time. The rest is spent with my friends and family. Sonya, Karen and I make it a priority to get together once a month for lunch and of course, I get to see Sonya now at family functions as well.

Thankfully, through Facebook we have been able to reunite with our other TEM family members who we had lost contact over the years: "Grandma" Deb Besst Rowland - class of '81, and "Grandkid" Lori Wiley Humphrey - class of '83.

A shout out to TEMMERs Molly, Karen and Roberta DeLavo Ruggieri '83... I'm looking forward to our trip to Hocking Hills later this month.

Sister Spotlight

I have known Karen Caldwell since elementary school. She was two years older than me, and much like a “big sis” when I got to high school. When I went to Otterbein for orientation, I decided to try out for the O-Squad, since freshmen couldn’t cheer for football, and band camp would get me to campus a week earlier! That’s when I met Linda Thole.

I’ll admit, I was torn between pledging TEM and Owls, but decided on TEM and never looked back!

Pledging was challenging. Mine was the last year that “hazing” was permitted. Not that Linda was tough on me, but that was some added pressure. I have such fond memories of Hell Day- wearing 50 articles and directing traffic in front of the Campus Center, my boyfriend (now my husband, Rick) surprising me with a final “Coke date”; he had led me to believe he was going home to Cleveland for the weekend, and Hell Night. My favorite memory of all time happened on Hell Night. During our scavenger hunt, we went to the Rike Center looking for a clue. Ironically, and unbeknownst to me, my father was there as one of a panel of judges watching an All-American high school basketball game, tasked with selecting members of the All-Star team. He was leaving as I was heading in with a group of my closest friends. We embraced, and I introduced him to my fellow pledges. Little did I know that that was the last time I would see him. He passed away unexpectedly the following Friday morning! I truly believe God placed him in my path that night. My sorority sisters were instrumental in getting me through the most difficult time in my entire life, and for that I am eternally grateful!



Hometown

Reynoldsburg, OH

Major

Elementary Education

Sister Spotlight



We had (and still have) a very close-knit family. Linda and I were roommates in Linda's senior year in the TEM house. My pledge, Lori Humphrey, lived on Linda's floor when she was a freshman, and that played a big part in my getting to know Lori and selecting her as my pledge. We all went to the co-eds and weekend trips together (with a variety of different boys over the years) and even went to Florida for spring break several years as well.

Both Linda and Karen were in my wedding party, and I was in theirs. We all had our children around the same time and got together socially quite often when the kids were young. As the kids grew older, our lives got busy and we didn't see each other nearly as often, maybe once or twice a year. Karen, Linda and I rekindled our relationship when the kids were in high school, meeting for lunch periodically. I would say the last time our kids got together was probably when they were between middle school and high school.



Sister Spotlight

Rick and I have two children, Taylor and Alissa, who are both graduates from Otterbein- 2013 and 2015, respectively. We are a true "Otterbein Family..." The kids grew up attending Homecoming, football and basketball games. We even traveled to Virginia to watch Otterbein win the National Championship in basketball in 2002... I'm sure many of those memories had much to do with them selecting Otterbein for their college careers.

Fast forward to St. Patrick's Day 2016. The three of us were planning to celebrate the day together, since Linda and I had retired the previous year and could take advantage of having that Thursday open to "party" all day. Plans changed- Karen wasn't feeling well and Linda's daughter Cari decided to join Linda and me. Since I hadn't seen Cari for many years, imagine my surprise when she was all grown up and as darling as ever! Long story short.... We "reintroduced" Cari to Taylor, and they were married in 2021! 🥰 They now have a little green worm of their own, Miss Emerson Lynn, born on June 1, 2023...

