



## Dr. Pamela Hearn

August 23, 2009

Dr. Pamela Hindman Hearn passed away Sunday night August 23, 2009, at her home in Cape Girardeau. She was born in Anna, Il, June 7, 1936, daughter of Ruel and LaWanda Pygett Hindman. She went to Anna Jonesboro High School, where she excelled in academics and music. At SIU, she got her undergraduate degree in music and theater, along the way performing numerous musical comedy and dramatic roles, including Laurey in Oklahoma and Blanche in A Streetcar Named Desire. During those years, her mother and aunt got her involved in the world of beauty pageants. In that realm, a major achievement was to be chosen as Anna Centennial Queen in 1954. After two years of High School teaching and a summer at the Highland Park Illinois Music Theater, she returned to SIU to get her Master's Degree in English. There she met Charles. They were married in Carbondale August 12, 1962, and immediately headed for Minneapolis-St. Paul, where she taught at The College of St. Catherine and later Hamlin University while he worked on his PhD at the University of Minnesota. While at St. Catherine's, she was nominated for a Danforth Teaching Award. In 1967, she and her husband joined the English Department at Southeast Missouri State University. There she was a popular and compelling teacher. She was also a role model and mentor for countless students, colleagues and others. A strong advocate for women, she helped change the policy of hiring in wives of faculty members as lecturers, without full benefits, and she was a driving force in developing a Women's Studies minor at the University. While teaching full time and

mothering two children, she worked on and eventually received her PhD at SIU. More than a dedicated career woman, she was a devoted wife and mother who loved her husband, children and grandchildren unconditionally and was tireless in giving them the attention and nurturing they needed. Loving survivors include her husband, Charles; a son, Steve (Nancy) of Austin, Texas; a daughter, Melissa Vogelsang (Aaron) of Cape Girardeau; four grandchildren, Joey, Katie and Kelly Hearn of Austin, and Ava Vogelsang of Cape Girardeau; and a cousin, Judy (John) Stoddard of Florida. She was preceded in death by her parents. Friends may call at the Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Chapel from 5 to 8 pm Thursday, August 27, 2009. The funeral will be at 1pm Friday, August 28, 2009 at the funeral home, with the Rev. Bob Towner presiding. Entombment will be at Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum.

# Tribute Wall

ST

“ Steve and family: So sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. Our prayers are with you during this time. Really enjoyed your mom as a teacher as well as a wonderful hostess during good times at your home.

---

**Spencer and Kim Train** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Melissa, We are sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers during this time.

---

**Tim & Dana White** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ Steve & Family: I shall always remember Pam coming to the funeral home to express her condolences in March of this year when Jean passed away. We laughed and laughed at things from the past. She was a very precious soul that I too will miss. Bless you all, especially sweet Melissa. Nona Nan Chapman

---

**Nona Nan Chapman (Mrs. Jean Allen)** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ I went to high school with melissa and had the privilege of knowing Mrs.Hearn. (Im the one who put her knee through your wall by the front door.) I was very sad to read that she had passed. I wanted to tell you how sorry I am and let you know I was thinking about you and your family. Our prayers are with you.

---

**Carrie (Chloe) and Tom Hamilton** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ Dr. Hearn & Steve, I'm so sorry for your loss.

---

**Kim Inman Williams** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Pam's sparkle and inspiration will always be part of my fondest memories of SEMO. Her depth of conviction and her gentleness of spirit affected more of us than she could ever know. Please know that she is a person who will continue to affect those she touched, even though her physical presence is no longer with us. There are simply no words to ease this loss, but please know that I am thinking of all of you. I know you will find joy in your memories of her and in the knowledge of the difference she made.

---

**Dr. Sharon Bebout-Carr** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Pam was beautiful, intelligent, and so very kind. She shared all she had to give with her students, and I soaked it all in because it was gold. I have gained so much for having known her.

---

**Sondra Fitzpatrick** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Charles, I had a call from Barb Biales telling me of Pam's death. You have my deepest sympathy. Pam sang with Tom as the Heavenly Bros. at St. Cate's. They were loved.

---

**Carol Hannefin Boyd** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Pam and I were High School classmates. We had lost touch thru the years. What a successful life she had! I know you are sad and feel a great loss. The Hearn family will be in my praye

---

**Jane Lee Rayburn** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ My condolences to you and your family. Pam was my first friend when I came to Southeast in 1996. She and I shared a professional interest in Women's Studies, and we still feel her influence here in the department to this day. We all miss her.

-----  
**Carol Scates** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Dr. Hearn made a big impression on me during my college years in the English department at Southeast-from Womens Literature to an independent study of William Faulkner. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

-----  
**Brent Ashley King** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Steven, My heart and prayers are with you today as you grieve the loss of your mother. She was a wonderful person, who above all love and adored her children. She was also a woman of inspiration and character, both qualities I admired deeply in her. She was welcoming, and for a young person who entered her home often, it made for a great place to me. God Bless you and your family. "Mourn not for your loss, but rejoice in knowing you were loved...."

-----  
**Cheryl (Arnzen) Beahan** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Dr. Hearn made a profound impact on my life, personally and professionally. She expanded my world view, provided encouragement, and most importantly, increased my confidence. I am extremely grateful to have known her as both an instructor and colleague.

-----  
**Liz Kiehne-Perry** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Our condolences to the family. We had the pleasure of Pam's company at several very special family events. She will be missed.

Royce and Kevin Kessel - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Charles, I send my greatest sympathies for your loss. Pam was a beautiful and gracious colleague. Your impressive teamwork will long be remembered and admired at Southeast. May your hearts find peace.

Susan Swartwout - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Pam was such an amazing woman. I will cherish the memories of her sharing such wonderful wisdom and stories. I know she was loved by all and will be sorely missed.

Tyson Shoemaker - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ I was a student of Dr. Hearn's at Hamline University during the 1966-1967 school year, and recently made efforts to locate her so that I could thank her for her presence in my life. This is how I learned of her recent passing. I am so sorry for your loss. My contact with her was brief, but her influence has been life-long. I was an insecure freshman English major and she was a stunning, intelligent, articulate, and accomplished role model. In reading about her life from this beautiful obituary, I see that she richly deserved that pedestal I constructed for her back in the 60s. I remember Mrs. Hearn as an incredibly poised and gracious woman who must have seen me as the directionless, undeveloped seventeen year old I was. She generously reached out to me, offering me an opportunity to enter a writing competition. I was, unfortunately, too befuddled at the time to follow through and risk the tapping of my potential, but I have never forgotten her gentle efforts to offer me a mentorship I was foolish enough to forgo. However, her vote of confidence in me has spurred me through the ensuing decades, and I have never given up on my desire to write. I sought contact with her last summer through the Human Resources Department at Hamline to tell her that I published my first article last year, and that I recently started a web site; that she had been crouching in the back of my mind, spurring me on through all these years. How blessed were you to have had her for a mother, wife, and grandmother; how sad that she left us so soon; and how incredible must her contributions have been to all those wise enough to accept her outstretched hand. Please know that your family is in my prayers, and that there are doubtless many of us "hidden beneficiaries" who were enriched and lifted by her kind, inspiring ways. Please remember me as - Grateful in Minneapolis.

---

Sue Anne W. Kirkham - June 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM