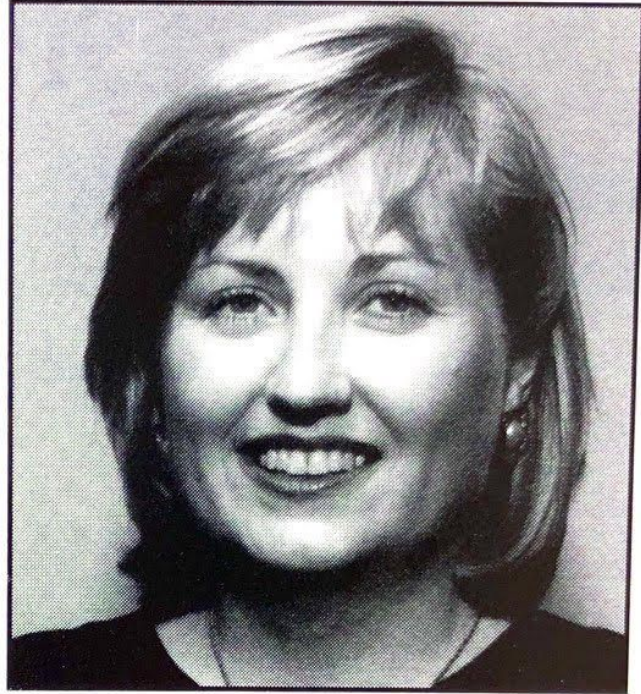


## Outstanding Alumni: Miss Karen Lynn Hester '77

The Annual Founders' Day Program was held on October 19, 1995. During the program in the Truman Dent Donoho, Jr. Cafetorium, the Distinguished Alumna and Alumnus were announced.



*Karen Lynn Hester '77*

Present in the audience and taken by surprise was Distinguished Alumna for 1995, Karen Lynn Hester '77. While a student at the Anniston Academy, she held many offices and received numerous academic and athletic awards. She was salutatorian of the Class of 1977. A graduate of Jacksonville State University in 1982, she has taught English, Latin, and physical education at The Donoho School since that date. She has coached several sports and became head coach of the girls' volleyball team in 1991. All of her teams since have made it to the state playoffs. Her 1995 team won the state championship.



## Obituary

A Celebration of Life for Karen L. Hester, 58, will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2017, at Golden Springs Baptist Church with Dr. Roland P. Brown officiating. Burial will follow at Forestlawn Gardens. The family will receive friends from noon until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday at the church. Ms. Hester passed away at her home on Monday, October 2, 2017, surrounded by family and friends, after a brief but courageous fight against ALS. She is survived by her parents, Fred and Connie Hester of Anniston; brother, Randy Hester of Huntsville; aunt, Judy Ledford of Douglasville, GA.; uncle, Harold Wilson (Phyllis) of Roanoke; and many cousins. Pallbearers will be David Hightower, Jeremy Butler, Kevin Ledford, Larry Turner, Mark Potts, and Reza Ghahramani. She was a native of Anniston and a member of Golden Springs Baptist Church. Ms. Hester was a long-time teacher, coach, and administrator at The Donoho School in Anniston. She began her 41-year association with the school as a student in 1973, graduating as salutatorian in 1977. While she was a student at Donoho, Ms. Hester was an outstanding athlete as setter for the volleyball team, where she earned MVP honors, served as co-captain, and was named to the All-District volleyball team. She attended Jacksonville State University on a volleyball scholarship and received her BS in Education with Distinction and Special Honors in Education in 1980. She continued her education at JSU and received her MS in Education in 1986. While she was a student-athlete at JSU, Ms. Hester also worked as a part-time coach at The Donoho School from 1977-1980. After graduating from JSU, she became a full-time teacher and coach at Donoho from 1980- 2004, where she

taught physical education, Latin, and English. In 2004, she transitioned to part-time teacher after being named Dean of Students, and Middle and Upper School Coordinator, a position she held until 2011. From 2011 until her retirement in 2014, Ms. Hester served as Dean of Students and Middle and Upper School Coordinator. She was an outstanding teacher, both in academics and athletics, and was named Outstanding Alumna of The Donoho School in 1996, Women Committed to Excellence Outstanding Educator in 1997, and JSU Outstanding Alumni of Health, Physical Education and Recreation in 2010. While at Donoho, Ms. Hester coached junior high and varsity volleyball, varsity girls' basketball, varsity softball, track and field, and golf. During her coaching tenure, her volleyball teams won state championships in 1994, 1998, and 2002, and finished as state runners-up in 1992, 1993, and 1995. In addition to the state championships, her volleyball teams won 10 area championships. Ms. Hester was also named AHSAA Coach of the Year for 1A Volleyball in 1994, 1998, and 2002. Her accomplishments as a coach were not limited to volleyball. Her 1995 basketball team won the Girls' Calhoun County Championship, being the only 1A girls' team to accomplish this feat to date. This team was also named Regional Champions and advanced to the State Basketball Final Four. Her basketball teams also won 4 area tournament titles. Karen was also an avid sports fan and loved University of Alabama football. The family wishes to thank the nurses and staff of New Beacon Hospice for providing such wonderful care during this difficult time. They would also like to thank special caregivers Sharlene Knox and Debbie Brooks for their kindness and compassion. The family will accept flowers or donations may be made in Karen Hester's name to The ALS Association Alabama Chapter, 300 Cahaba Park Circle, Suite 209; Birmingham, AL 35242.