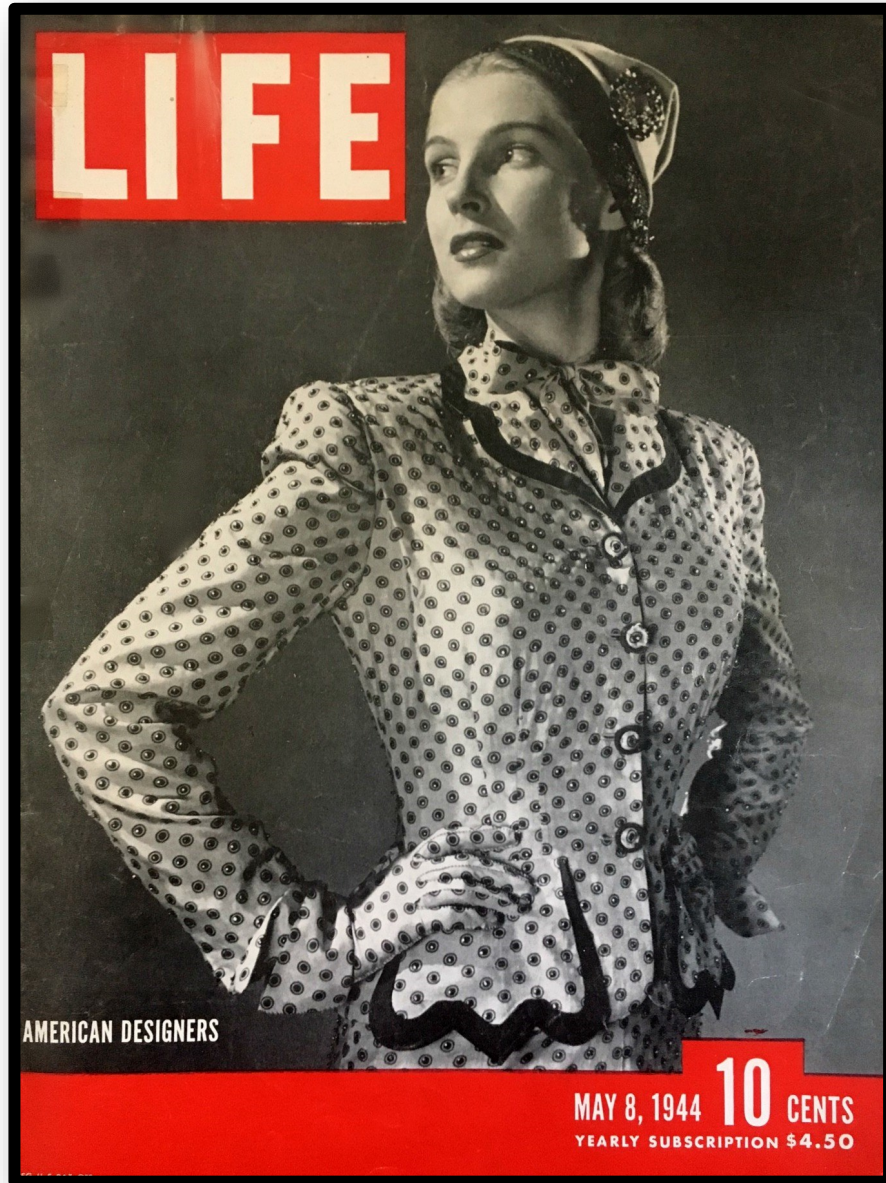


FRIEDA SCHOLTISEK



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

2017

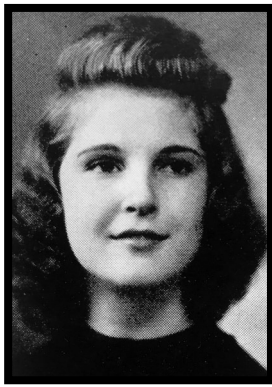
FRIEDA SCHOLTISEK
GRADUATE OF THE CLASS OF 1939



Watkins Glen High School
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JUNE 24 2017

92ND ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET



FRIEDA SCHOLTISEK

DISTINGUISHED IN THE FIELD OF THE ARTS

Watkins Glen High School Distinguished Alumni Award

Biography

Magdalene Frieda Scholtisek, aka Lynn Davis, was born in Oconto Falls, Wisconsin in 1921. She moved with her family to Sugar Hill in 1933 and was a 1939 graduate of Watkins Glen High School.

In high school, she admired a famous fashion model, Vivian Donner, who, like herself, was tall and slender. During her Junior year the News Reel Fashion came to Watkins Glen in their gym classes. They requested students to get up and try fashion modeling in front of the rest of the school. Frieda volunteered and remembered a wedding dress that fitted her beautifully. As a result of that experience she started working after school and during summers saving every penny she earned to go to modeling school.

After graduation in 1939, she went to New York City and on to school at the "Mayfair Mannequins". It only took a few lessons for an agent named Walter Thornton to convince her to quit school and work for him for \$5.00 an hour (a lot of money in those days). In need of a professional name she was reminded of an incident when a friend of hers introduced her to another friend. Completely forgetting a name like Magdalene Scholtisek, he called her "Lynn Davis". She thought, why not?, and formally adopted the name.

She was discovered by the famous agent Harry Conover whom she went to work for at the rate of \$10.00 an hour. By 1944, she would grace the cover of two national magazines in the same year, Life and Harper's Bazaar, an unusual occurrence for a relatively unknown model. Other notables that were on the cover of Life in 1944 included Bob Hope, George Bernard Shaw, Esther Williams, Princess Elizabeth, General Eisenhower, Jennifer Jones, Lauren Bacall, and Judy Garland to name a few. She was also on the covers of Mademoiselle and Redbook and was featured in different Sunday Newspaper publications all over the nation. She said that her top week was \$427.00.

In the 1950s Davis was playing bit parts on stage and in television shows. In 1951 she had top billing and acted in a Columbia Pictures Three Stooges short film titled "Baby Sitters Jitters" with Larry, Shemp, and Moe. During her career she worked with and among other famous people such as Errol Flynn, Walter Pidgeon, Rita Johnson, and John Garfield.

She returned to Watkins Glen in later years and worked part time in the business office of the Watkins Glen High School. She lived locally and frequently was seen walking the streets of Watkins. Very few people knew of her colorful and successful past working career. The Watkins Glen High School Alumni Association is very proud and happy to recognize her now as a Distinguished Alumni in the Field of The Arts from the Class of 1939.

