

# Helen Moss joins Myers University Board of Trustees

## *Her pioneering spirit and boundless energy an asset to the Institution*

**H**elen Moss, the newest member of the Myers University Board of Trustees, says she believes higher education “takes you out of one world and puts you in another world.”

The world Moss comes from has been filled with wide-ranging and impressive accomplishments, sometimes reached despite significant obstacles. A brilliant, glittering individual, Moss jokes that “When I look at what I went through and what I accomplished, that woman scares me.”

Moss was a homemaker with four children in the 1960s when she realized a dream she never thought was possible. The government, during President Lyndon B. Johnson’s administration, began granting loans to students. In 1966, at the age of 29, she enrolled at Kent State University. In 1970 she graduated summa cum laude from the University of Akron with a liberal arts degree in English. She subsequently taught English at the University of Akron and attended graduate and law school.

But she, “could not find a high paying job because women were excluded at that time.”

In 1971, Moss founded the Akron chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW) whose particular goal was to open up high-paying professional jobs to women. She became deeply involved in politics and was hired by the Teamsters Union the same year. She joined Merrill Lynch as a stockbroker in 1975 when the brokerage firm lost an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) suit and was forced to hire women. She became a vice president in 1983 and a member of Merrill Lynch’s “Chairman’s Club,” a group of top-producing financial consultants on a national level.

Moss was the first woman admitted to the all-male Akron City Club. She was also the first woman on the board of the

Junior Achievement of Summit, Portage, Medina and Wayne Counties, and the first woman president in Akron of a major arts organization, the Ohio Ballet, and first woman president of the Akron Executives Association.

The Ohio Ballet became nationally known and raised \$1 million in contributed income under her presidency.

Moss was diagnosed in 2002 with metastatic breast cancer. She has devoted her life to helping others overcome the pain and suffering from cancer through The Helen Moss Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

“I swore if I could help just one woman and her family experience less pain and suffering from cancer I would devote the rest of my life in making a difference in people’s lives,” Moss said.



**Helen Moss: “When I look at what I went through and what I accomplished, that woman scares me.”**

Moss ran and won a seat on the Bratenahl (Ohio) Village Council in 2002, shortly after receiving her cancer diagnosis. Her husband, the widely-known architect Richard Fleischman, encouraged her to run to take her mind off the disease and because she would make a difference in the community.

Moss has traveled extensively. Each time she visited another city or country, she took something home in an intellectual sense.

“Each time we traveled it opened our minds,” she said.

She no longer travels abroad much, preferring to split her time between Cleveland and an occasional trip to New York City.

Moss said, “Myers University is an institution where people can attend nights and obtain a business degree. I always say a degree is a union card. You can get your union card at Myers.”

She was additionally attracted to Myers University because of the new MidTown Campus in the MidTown Corridor at 3813 Euclid Avenue.

“I believe in the city of Cleveland and this particular location. This building is important historically, but it also gives image recognition that will attract more people.”

**The Helen Moss**



**Breast Cancer  
Research Foundation**