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Dance studio celebrates 25 years

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SOUTHGATE - When the last dancer exits the stage at the Manyet Dance Studios spring recitals, Amy Manyet Geiman will celebrate 25 years of having her own dance studio.

"I have probably taught around 10,000 girls and women over the years," said Geiman, who said she currently has 500 students at her Southgate and Highland Heights studios. There are 24 instructors, including Geiman, currently teaching at the studios.

"Dance has brought many friendships together - not only mine but among the students," she said. "I rarely go anywhere without seeing someone who has been involved with Manyet Dance. I have had three students open their own dance studios and I was proud of all of them."

Geiman started teaching in the small garage of a day care. In 1986 she purchased a building on Evergreen Avenue in Southgate and followed that with a Highland Heights location on U.S. 27.

Over the years, Geiman has withstood the challenges of being a business owner.

"The hardest part is juggling being a mom and wife while also running a business," she said. "Women are multitaskers and I have gotten really good at that. At times in my life I have felt totally frazzled. Anyone with their own business knows that there is a lot of responsibility that goes along with it.

"I am very fortunate to have a supportive husband who has been there every step of the way."

She has also withstood the challenges a dancer's body faces.

"It is somewhat hard on your body, which I have felt over the past three years," she said. "I have definitely made more trips to the chiropractor now that I am in my 40s."

However, Geiman said her rewards are not only financial but also seeing her students grow and graduate.

"I feel the proudest when I watch my seniors dance at their last recital before going off to college," she said. "Many have been there at least once a week for 15 years. It was a pleasure to watch them grow and be able to help them develop confidence and good character. It's not about the performances as much as the classroom time and journey to get to that point.

"We all become very close and it is both heartbreaking and exciting when they have a chance to move on."

Geiman said she's not sure what the future holds.

"I will probably always be involved in dance in some way," she said. "I am sure that the school will continue for many years but I certainly don't want to be the owner until my dying day. When it is time for new leadership, I will be happy to turn it over and feel blessed that I was able to be a part of it for so long."

