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HORIZONS

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY

FALL 2022 VOL. 38, NO. 1

**Any
Given
Day**

*A closer look at the
Graceland Experience*

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The Spirit of Graceland

Each day at Graceland feels anything but typical these past few years, but there certainly is a rhythm to life on our campuses. In Lamoni, students eat together, learn together, play together, and study together. In Independence and online, those rhythms look different in simulation labs and clinical classrooms and virtual discussion groups, but the spirit of Graceland shines through.

In "Through the West Door," Roy Chevillle talked about the quintessence of the Graceland Experience so eloquently, referencing a spirit that is buoyant, harmonious, creative, analytic, honest, happy, humble, and reverent.

These days people talk about the Graceland Experience with a reverence as if it is something of the past, but I can confidently proclaim that it is alive and well on our campuses, and we are striving to carry it through to the next generation of Gracelanders who join our community.

Any given day at Graceland may seem inconsequential to those who are mere onlookers, but for those of us that live the Graceland Experience, daily life is anything but ordinary. No matter when you may have attended Graceland, your life was undoubtedly shaped by the experience of being a part of a caring, compassionate, and supportive campus community. And regardless of how the world may change, we remain steadfast in our pledge to help our students and alumni continue developing their potential, pursuing impactful work, and creating lives that are fulfilling.

Patricia H. Draves, PhD

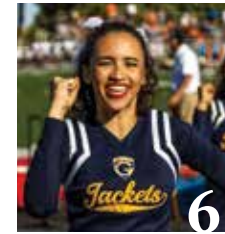
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"Gracelanders have come to sense a spiritual motif running through and binding into ensemble the many-sided round of activities, frolics, athletics, studies, romance, worship, music, friendships."

ROY CHEVILLE

Through the West Door, 1946

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**BE BOLD,
BE BRIGHT**

Gracelanders gathered for a festival-style Homecoming 2022



ANY GIVEN DAY

On any given day, moments of learning and connection make up the unique sense of belonging we call the Graceland Experience



TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Graceland's newest academic innovation – a second major for all Lamoni students to be bold explorers and reach new heights



**RESCH GIFT
SUPPORTS STEM**

A \$2.5 million pledge will support facilities and fund a new elite scholarship program



Go for the Gold!

Track & Field student-athlete **MICHAEL MILLSLACLE '24 EARNED THE GOLD IN THE HIGH JUMP EVENT** at the International University Sports Federation (FISU) America Games held in Merida, Mexico. With a clutch performance, he cleared 2.13 meters and broke the facility record of 2.12 meters to create a new America Games record. Under Distance and Jumps Coach Tom Shore '16, Millslagle had many accomplishments in his 2021-22 season and was selected by Team USA Head Coach Nick Dodson from a pool of the top track and field performers in the NAIA. Team USA had representation in up to 15 sports against 20-25 participating countries at the Games.

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Enactus Visits The Coral Nursery in Puerto Rico

The Enactus leadership team had the opportunity to visit The Coral Nursery site and learn about coral restoration while in Puerto Rico for the 2022 Enactus World Cup held Oct. 30 - Nov. 2. **ALUMNA MARISSA MYER '18 HOSTED THE ENACTUS TEAM** and shared her vision for The Coral Nursery project located in Palmas del Mar. The Coral Nursery will be the first self-sustaining satellite coral restoration unit (CRU) to date. Using micro-fragmentation, their CRU will be able to reproduce 100,000 corals annually! This healing process is 25-40% faster than the rate corals can grow on their own in the wild, and will enable The Coral Nursery to restore a 100-year-old coral in just two years!



☞ Pictured, left to right: Carson Wright '23, Peyton Anderson '24, Delaney Fox '24, Marissa Myer '18, Grace Moores '25, and Adam Sherer '24. Stay tuned for more about Myer and The Coral Nursery in our Spring 2023 issue.

The Buzz

From new programs to all things student life, there are so many cool things happening!

3

Sustainability's Harvest

Graceland Sustainability is leading an **INITIATIVE IN FOOD CULTIVATION AND RECOVERY** in Lamoni. Thiago Telles '25 and Brenna Murphy '23, supervised by sustainability faculty coordinator Jen Abraham-White '08, manage and maintain the Hoop House garden facility, which gives students hands-on gardening experience. When there is excess produce, the Graceland and Lamoni communities are invited to take fruits and vegetables that have been harvested. Additionally, each semester there are four events known as Sustainable Table, where leftover food from the Commons is repackaged into free meals for the community.

4

Making Ministry Accessible

Graceland's Community of Christ Seminary launched a new educational venture called the **CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN MINISTRY AND MISSION (CIMM)** this fall, focused on creating non-credit opportunities for adult theological education, ministerial training, and leadership development in an effort to empower and inspire disciples and leaders. Community of Christ Seminary Dean Zac Harmon-McLaughlin '08 said, "The Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission makes theological, ministerial, and leadership education accessible to everyone everywhere!" Certificate programs in Ministry & Priesthood, Christian Ministries, and Discernment Facilitator Training are offered in a flexible online format. The next round of classes start January 2023.

☞ To learn more about CIMM's class schedule, visit graceland.edu/CIMM.

5

Women's Flag Football Kicks Off

The emergence of women's flag football provides an exciting opportunity for female athletes to take on a new challenge in uncharted territory. Graceland is thrilled to welcome Lara Guscott '08 as its first flag football coach and kicks off the **NEW PROGRAM IN FALL 2023**. "Graceland's entry into the world of flag football shows its commitment to getting more women into its classrooms, onto football fields across the country, and into impactful careers upon graduation," said Guscott.

☞ Scan the code to read more about Coach Guscott:



6

#1 Ranked Nursing Program

In October 2022, RegisteredNursing.org ranked the top 10 nursing schools in Iowa – out of 33 RN programs in the state – by analyzing average program length, educational partnerships, and current and historical NCLEX-RN "pass rates" (the percentage of graduates who pass the exam required for licensure). Graceland's **BSN PROGRAM WAS RANKED #1** on the "2023 Best RN Programs in Iowa" list with a perfect score of 100!



3



4



5



6



flickr • View all Homecoming event photos here:
[flickr.com/gracelanduniversity](https://www.flickr.com/photos/gracelanduniversity/)

Be Bold Be Bright

BY COLBY CONNELLY

The lights shined brightly on the Lamoni campus as alumni, friends, and current students gathered for Homecoming 2022.

Homecoming is a time for reconnection, reflection, and celebration, and for those who attended, the event provided an opportunity to make new memories with one another. Without a doubt, the Graceland Experience was in full effect for an unforgettable festival-style weekend.

The theme this year was Be Bold, Be Bright, and the Graceland community did not disappoint. On Friday night, several alumni were recognized for various awards, and some were immortalized in the Yellowjacket Hall of Fame (see page 8). Air Band returned for the first time in several years, allowing alumni and friends to experience the newly renovated interior of Morden Center. The excitement in the air was palpable as everyone cheered on their favorite performances.



On Saturday, Head Football Coach Patrick Ross inspired those gathered for the Yellowjacket Pep Rally, while the Graceland Spirit Squad – the drumline, cheerleaders, and Gadets dance team – electrified the crowd. The football, men's soccer, and women's soccer teams all put together encouraging performances in front of the Yellowjacket faithful. Honor classes were celebrated on Saturday night which brought a feeling of nostalgia for those who participated. Food trucks and music concluded the evening with offerings from KB's Island Flava, Hawaiian Grill Food Truck, Little Green Trailer, and Lolo Snow.

Alumni and friends were also treated to the Homecoming production, "The Play That Goes Wrong." This hilarious hybrid of Monty Python and Sherlock Holmes was heavily lauded by the Graceland community. Both the Music Showcase – featuring the Graceland University Symphonic Band, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, Harmonium, and Orchestra – and the Ergo and Friends recital brought a sense of revelry to the weekend.

On Sunday morning, former Graceland Campus Minister and newly-appointed Community of Christ Apostle Shandra Newcom '90, provided the morning message, and Graceland Harmonium helped conclude Homecoming with their beautiful ministry of music. ■



SAVE THE DATE ☺ Sept. 29–Oct. 1
 We are already looking forward to next year and hope to see you then!
2023

Alumni Awards

Read about the awards:
graceland.edu/Homecoming

Distinguished Service Award



Everett Graffeo '58 served for 40 years as an appointee in the Community of Christ in a variety of assignments. During his time in French Polynesia, Graffeo received the Medal of Honor of Youth and Sports from the French government for his outstanding work with the youth of Polynesia. He went on to serve as an ordained apostle and directed the first International Youth Forum at the Community of Christ Temple in 1993. He was ordained as Presiding Evangelist and served in that office until retiring in 2000. In retirement, Graffeo served on the Shaw Family Foundation Board during Shaw Center's reconstruction period.

Graceland Award of Recognition



Kent Bradford '79 spent over 25 years in the telecommunications industry spanning various businesses and technical disciplines including network engineering, information systems (IT) development and strategic planning, and marketing product development. He worked for 10 years as a national account director for several international corporations, where he recommended and implemented software solutions for Fortune 500 strategic accounts. Bradford has spent the last two years working as the Owner's Representative for the Morden Center renovation and is the day-to-day contact with the architect and construction teams.

Honorary Alumni Award



Rachelle Johnson came to work with Ken McClain '79 (former Chair of Graceland's Board of Trustees) over 25 years ago, both to manage legal projects and to support his efforts in the larger community. She helped in the development and management of The Chairman's Scholarship Program, which was designed to assist students primarily from the Independence, Missouri, area to attend Graceland. The program encourages, challenges, and supports students to believe in the opportunities at Graceland, confidently invest in themselves, successfully complete their education at Graceland, and find their passions in life.

Yellowjackets Hall of Fame



Jim Reynolds '78 was a Graceland University football standout from 1975-78, earning All-Conference, All-District, and All-American Honorable Mention honors. Even among these accolades, his most treasured honor was when his peers selected him as team captain two years in a row. After graduating, Reynolds began his career in the construction industry and started his own custom home building and development company. Through a lifetime of accomplishments, what he treasures most is his 35-year marriage to his best friend and partner, Helen, and their three kids – Callie, Rex, and Erin.



Mike Stowell '98 was decorated as a three-time Collegiate All-American during his time at Graceland. He was named the Most Valuable Player of the NIRSA Collegiate Club National Championship in 1998, when Graceland defeated the University of California, Berkeley to capture the national championship. After his time at Graceland, Stowell began coaching and in 2009, added another national championship, this time as the coach of KC Power 16-and-under team. In 2013, he was named to the USA Volleyball Heart of America Hall of Fame for meritorious service to the sport of volleyball.



Elizabeth Beckman Baethke '94 participated in basketball (4 years), softball (4 years), volleyball (3 years), indoor track and field (1 year), and tennis (1 year) at Graceland and graduated with 11 varsity letters. She earned All-Tournament (basketball), All-Tournament and All-Conference (softball), and was a conference champion in track and field. Coaching for 23 years at Urbandale High School, she has twice earned Coach of the Year honors (2000, 2004); District Coach of the Year (2013, 2017); and IGCA Senior All-Star Coach (2017).

A Legacy of Service 100 Years of Crescents

BY SHANE ADAMS

In 1922, Dean of Women Mrs. Vida Smith initiated an **HONOR ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN**, planned originally to be a club embodying “womanly womanhood.”

The honored women of the club were expected to provide service to their fellow students throughout the year to help make the environment conducive to the development of all women of the college. Initially, membership was determined by a vote of all women on campus – students, as well as faculty and staff – who selected eight women to represent them as Crescents.

Dorothy Briggs, who was named the first Crescent President, defined the organization based on its symbol – the crescent moon: “One increasing in power and light, one to lighten the dark paths, one to throw light on difficult problems of newcomers, one to lighten the problems of the dean and other administrative officers of Graceland.”

As they have for many years in the past, Crescents gathered early Sunday morning on Homecoming 2022 weekend to share in their final breakfast. Red roses adorned the tables. Trudi Mahi '69 Gunderson, a Crescent who could not attend from her home in Hawaii, sent watercolor paintings of flowers starting with each letter of the

“As the moon reflects the glory of the sun, Crescents were to reflect the spirit and ideals of Graceland.”

EARLY CRESCENT SCRIBE



THE ESSENCE OF CRESCENTS

The essence of the Crescents at Graceland is the impact on the individuals they have touched through the years. Through kindness and a welcoming spirit, the Crescents have long embodied the spirit of belonging that runs deep through Graceland's history. Their contributions were sometimes unseen and unnamed, but they were important because they helped students find their place on “the Hill.”

word CRESCENT that were auctioned to raise money for the Crescents Endowed Scholarship.

The breakfast was a constant at Homecoming, even after the club came to an end in 2011. The all-alumni Crescent breakfasts began in 2013 thanks to the efforts of Diane Eberly '67 Shelton, Louita Goode '56 Clothier, and Benna Yarrington '76 Easter. In subsequent years, Pam Freeman '81 Worlund joined the steering committee.

The 2013 breakfast was a significant one as the idea was seeded for the permanent Crescent garden, which was dedicated the following year thanks to generous donations from former members. The triangular area near Walker Hall, formed by the crossing of three important sidewalks, was selected. The early hardscaping: a permanent walkway of crushed blue granite, a crescent figure inlaid in a circle with two colors of flagstone, blue sandstone pavers outlining the walk and shrub beds, and two benches, which helped to frame the centerpiece of the garden – a three-ton granite rock to hold the permanent plaque, cementing the legacy of this important Graceland organization.

The late Distinguished Professor Emerita Velma Ruch '41, PhD felt a deep personal connection to the Crescents. Born in 1921 in Lamoni, she imagined herself being pushed around the campus by her parents and even encountering Vida Smith, the mother of the Crescent club and Dean of Women. Ruch served as a Crescent in 1940-41 and sponsored the organization for 20 years, hosting the meetings at her home across from the Commons.

100 years later, the spirit of the Crescents club lives on at Graceland. Paloma House even has an unofficial Crescent who carries on the legacy. The legacy of the Crescents also lives on in the Endowed Crescent Scholarship Fund, which is awarded annually to a female student who best represents the ideals of this venerable group of women. ■

The garden is here because Crescents and the ideals they represented should never be forgotten.

The gratitude we feel for the life-long influence of Crescents in each of us should never be forgotten.

The vision is for a peaceful place to relax, to reflect, to be reminded of those ideals. For decades to come, young people can say, “I’ll meet you in the Crescent Garden.”

LOUITA GOODE '56 CLOTHIER



© At the dedication in 2014, Clothier (pictured with Velma Ruch, seated), offered a poem dedicated to the garden.

ANY GIVEN DAY

BY GEORGIA SEAGRAVES

*ACROSS GRACELAND CAMPUSES, IN-PERSON,
AND ONLINE, LEARNING IS HAPPENING.*

From innovative courses designed to prepare students for the modern world to foundational lessons that have served as jumping-off points to self-discovery and deliberation, Graceland students are learning. The campuses have changed, the courses have evolved to meet the needs of contemporary times, and over the years, faculty have come and gone, leaving their own legacy among Graceland students. Follow along for a peek into the exciting classes, social activities, and extracurriculars that are available to a Graceland student today. Some things may feel the same, and others will be surprisingly different, but one thing remains the same: learning is at the center of it all.

8 00 RESCH 104

CALCULUS I

JASON SMITH, PhD / ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS

Students squint as their eyes adjust to the bright lights. The class is quiet as the reality of an 8 a.m. Calculus course hits them after a long weekend.

8:00 Professor Jason Smith asks, “Do we have any questions about our online quiz?” Any specific questions, or should we make one up?

8:01 Kyle Muñoz '23 raises his hand and asks to work on: Find $f'(x)$, given $f(x) = (3x+2)^6(2x^2+5)^5 / \sqrt{x}$

8:04 Kyle and Dr. Smith go back and forth as the professor guides them through the equation.

8:10 “Do we have any other questions from the homework quiz?” asks Dr. Smith as he erases all of their hard work from the whiteboard.

8:18 The class moves on to a new equation to find the tangent line to $f(x) = 4x^2 - 3x + 1$ with $x=3$. “Take 30 seconds to work on this problem on your own, and then we’ll review,” states Dr. Smith as he walks around the classroom peering over his students’ shoulders, double-checking their work.

8:25 The morning sun’s light shines through the back window as Dr. Smith and the class review for their test on Wednesday. Students flip their workbooks to start a new notes page, hoping to soak up all possible last-minute information.

8:32 “Maybe we should make a list of the things I expect you to know, so what did we do on day one?” asks Dr. Smith.

8:39 The class lists the different types of limits the students have learned throughout the semester, eventually moving on to continuity review, starting with their basic continuity facts and ending with the Intermediate Value Theorem.

8:50 As students pack up to go to their next class, Dr. Smith reminds them there are practice problems on Brightspace and the quiz from two years ago with the answers for review help.

“Once I was in the shoes of the students here, and now I am in the same setting but I am leading the classes and using the experience I received as a student here at Graceland on the other side of academia.”

IOSEB GABELAIA, DBA, '10



9 00 BRIGGS 100

PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS FINANCE

IOSEB “SOSO” GABELAIA, DBA / ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS

Students are huffing and puffing up the stairs of Briggs, Graceland’s second-oldest building. The conversation is brief and fleeting as friends pass each other in the hall on their way to the next class. Those who are in Principles of Business Finance are grateful they only have to climb one flight of stairs.

8:55 Five minutes until the start of class, and the room is almost empty. Presentations are due today in Professor Gabelaia’s course, and the room is quiet as the fluorescent lights’ gentle hum fills the room. Professor Gabelaia welcomes each student enter Briggs 100, sit down, and pull out their materials for class.

9:00 Harrison Lee '23 sits down with his reusable Starbucks cup and sighs that he has just made it to class in time. Class starts with a few announcements from the professor as he goes over what is expected from the rest of the class while a team is presenting: “In Brightspace, you will find the assessment form; there are 10 elements you will use to evaluate the presentation team. Everything from audience engagement to professionalism will be evaluated, and the presentation length is expected to be 20-30 minutes.”

9:06 Team three tentatively walks up to the front of the classroom as they get set to present to a room of their peers. Dr. Gabelaia moves to the back of the room to observe the presenters and take notes. The first student opens the presentation and explains they have been set to handle the finances of a famous tennis player.

9:27 The presentation team finishes just above the presentation time minimum. The class goes back and forth, asking the presentation team questions about their case study.

9:46 Gabelaia wraps up class, reminding team four that they will present next Friday, and announces to the students that there is a test on Wednesday. He jovially hints that he might provide some questions that would be good to keep in mind heading into the test, and ends the class with a wink.



10 00 HELENE E205

INTRO TO DRAWING

KAREN GERGELY, MFA / ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART

Helene is quiet as students file into their classrooms. The large windows allow for the morning light to fill the space, creating the perfect environment for a morning drawing session.

9:58 Professor Gergely welcomes students as they enter the classroom and move to their drawing stations.

10:00 Class begins, and students open their sketchbooks to their previous homework assignments. Last week they were asked to review 30 artists' work from a list of 75 artists and then select two pieces of art to recreate in their sketchbook in less than five minutes.

10:03 Gergely invites students to the front of the classroom for a quick check-in and review of the demonstration from last week.

10:10 Students who were previously absent meet at the front of the class and learn how to rip paper using a ruler to guide the tear. Gergely explains that they tear the paper to recreate the deckled edge look, which makes the paper edge appear nicer than just the regular poster board available at the dollar store.

10:24 Gergely moves around the classroom, pulling up a chair to each student and asking about their project. The whole class draws quietly as peaceful music plays in the background.

10:40 Students gather around for a graphite demonstration as Professor Gergely dips a brush into a jar of powdered graphite and brushes the powder against a blank piece of paper. Gergely explains that powdered graphite is a good option for a dark background: "This covers large areas quickly. I'll leave this out for you all to play with if you want to add it to your project," says Gergely.

10:45 Students scramble to get a few minutes of sketching in before packing up and moving on to their next class.

10:50 Gergely reminds students that the goal is to have their drawings ready by Monday.

11 00 RESCH 105

BIOCHEMISTRY WITH LAB - MARY SHAWGO, PhD / PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

Returning to Resch for an 11 a.m. course, students' eyes are brighter, and everyone appears primed for learning. Dr. Mary Shawgo is renowned for her rigorous courses.

10:59 Dr. Shawgo chats with students about the Homecoming scavenger hunt the night before and reminisces how she once brought her dog to campus for the scavenger hunt.

11:00 She then asks if students have questions before starting board work. A student asks about antibody structure.

11:03 As the class appears ready to move on to the next activity, Shawgo says, "Grab a card, players, and markers. Try to answer these prompts without your notes. There is a laboratory technique packet and a protein structure packet, and if you want to practice your antibody structures, I have that here as well."

11:09 Brianna Clark '24 takes pieces of paper that are cut and drawn to represent parts of the cell and places them on

the whiteboard with magnets, using them to explain the cellular process of how a protein gets put into the membrane from memory.

11:19 Samuel Johnson '24 consults Dr. Shawgo about his construction of the protein to membrane process on the whiteboard.

11:31 Mary Kelly '23 writes "Production as poly & mono coral antibodies" on the whiteboard and begins to compare and contrast the process. Shawgo walks over to her and helps her categorize her notes by adding specificity, production, and small mutation categories.

11:41 "You have about 10 minutes left; I suggest you grab another card to complete before class ends," announces Shawgo. Students sigh in agreement, erase their work from the whiteboard, and start again.

11:50 Class ends, and Shawgo announces she has office hours at 9:15 tomorrow morning if students have any last-minute questions before their test on Friday.

12 00 SHAW 153

SHAKESPEARE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

MEGHAN HURLEY POWELL, PhD / VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Classroom innovation looks different in every course, but Shakespeare and Social Justice has taken modernizing curriculum to a new level. Students are bustling with excitement as they enter the classroom, ready to engage with the English playwright in an entirely new way.

11:58 Class plans and the "She's the Man" movie poster are displayed on the projector, visible as you walk in the room.

12:00 "Okay, we're going to talk about 'She's the Man' in groups, discuss critical claims people have made about the movie, and how the characters differ from their original depiction in 'Twelfth Night.'"

12:02 Commotion erupts as five groups are formed across the classroom and assigned different characters.

12:10 Hurley-Powell asks the first group, "How is the Duke portrayed in the original Shakespearean script?" Group one replies that they felt he was whiney in the original play compared to how he was portrayed in the movie (an endearing Channing Tatum who is just looking for love).

12:18 "The movie casts a particular actor with specific physique to push back against cultural assumptions that traditionally masculine men cannot display vulnerable feelings," says Dr. Hurley-Powell in agreement.

12:22 Clara Cleland-Leighton '24 points out that all changes made to the Duke were done to make it easier for a modern audience to root for his character.

12:36 Ben Long '23 explains that the character Olivia is more prominent in the play; in the movie, she is more of a plot device, and her character only adapts as her relationship with men adapt. In the film, Olivia is portrayed as more self-serving than in the play. "Why would they make that change?" asks Hurley-Powell.

12:50 The class ends with a discussion of what role satire can play in advancing social justice.

SHAW Auditorium

CHOIR - SARA BLESSING, DMA / DIRECTOR OF CHORAL & VOCAL ACTIVITIES, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

There is an air of friendliness when entering the Shaw Center. Students who are new to choir and those who have been performing for years laugh and sing together as they make their way to rehearsal.

11:58 Students grab their choir folder with their music sheets from the choir practice room and head to the auditorium for rehearsal.

12:01 There is a commotion of voices as students occasionally erupt into song and get ready for rehearsal.

12:05 Dr. Sara Blessing approaches the piano as students gather and immediately begin warmups. She plays scales on the piano and the students sing an annunciation exercise.

12:11 There is an announcement that dress rehearsal has been moved to 7:30 tomorrow night, and then the choir begins with "Prairie Lullaby," also known as "Home on the Range" by Jacob Narverud.

12:15 Blessing plays the piano and gives vocal cues to the different sections of the choir, all while providing feedback for the singers.

12:20 Blessing asks for full forte (meaning loud), and the students raise their voices in beautiful song. The choir fills the auditorium with an ominous dissonance as they perform Egil Hovland's "Saul."

12:40 Blessing talks about the importance of the lyrics the choir is singing in "Double, Double, Toil and Trouble," composed by Jaako Mäntyjärvi. They are pulled from a classic monologue by three witches known as the Wayward Sisters in Shakespeare's "Macbeth."

12:50 The choir ends with a beautiful rendition of "Sogno di Volare" from "To Shiver the Sky" by Christopher Tin, and there is an uproar of conversation as students are dismissed from class.

"I feel like my job is to take something that students already enjoy, like music, and open them to a whole array of experiences within that realm. Often our music is intentionally designed to bring about conversations through a safe and shared experience."



SARA BLESSING, DMA



2:00 BRIGGS 203

HISTORY OF TERRORISM - STEVE GLAZER, PhD / PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

This is a new course in the History curriculum and another example of preparing students for the modern world. Students critically interrogate the varied meanings of the term, the use of the term to delegitimize opponents, and the problematic nature of the concept of terrorism.

1:58 Professor Glazer pulls up the instructions for the second class paper due next Friday, titled "Paper #2: 9/11; Country Music Responds."

2:00 The classroom is full and quiet as the air conditioner hum fills the room, and students wait for class to begin.

2:05 After taking attendance, Dr. Glazer goes into the details of the paper due. The class is focused on the board as he writes instructions. Glazer states, "You are receiving this paper two weeks in advance; give yourself time to write it and give it the effort it deserves."

2:10 Professor Glazer pauses to pass out four handouts – lyric sheets to Toby Keith's "Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue," Brooks and Dunn's "Only in America," Alan Jackson's "Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning?," and Martina McBride's rendition of "Independence Day."

2:14 Along with the song lyrics, each sheet has a series of questions that prompt students to analyze these country music stars' responses to 9/11, to consider what the premises of these songs are, and whether the assumptions of these songs are accurate.

2:20 Glazer explains that Martina McBride's rendition of "Independence Day" came out years before 2001 and uses some of the same patriotic images in the other country songs, but hers is in response to intimate partner violence. Ask yourself, "Does this change how I interpret the previous songs?" and "Is this more or less patriotic than the others?"

2:30 The class rearranges into small groups to develop a project proposal on a lesser-known terrorist act to research and present. Students exchange contact information and discuss project ideas. Dr. Glazer walks around and consults with groups about their projects.

2:50 Class is dismissed, and students file out of the room, relieved to have finished their final class of the day.

5:30 SOCCER Practice Fields

SOCCER PRACTICE - BRYAN COURTNEY '98 / HEAD SOCCER COACH

The Graceland practice fields are full of soccer players from around the world. A passerby would hear a myriad of languages as Lamoni suddenly feels like the middle of everywhere.

5:30 The women's soccer team runs a lap around the field and chats about their day's adventures. They stand in a circle to stretch as Coach Bryan Courtney finishes up with the men's soccer team on the adjacent practice field. (He is redefining what it means to lead a program by answering the call to coach both the men's and women's teams for the 2022 season.)

5:34 They begin with "rondo," a warmup exercise designed to increase decision-making, ball control, and reaction time.

5:40 Courtney ends the men's soccer practice, moves to the women's team, and tells the girls to get a partner and a ball. The team lines up and begins a passing drill to improve the force and accuracy of their passing.

5:54 Half the players put on neon green practice jerseys and move to position around the goal. Starting goalkeeper Jessica Kenward '26 puts on her gloves and stands in the center of the goalposts. The team begins a defensive drill to practice clearing the ball and pressure-cover balance.

6:16 Courtney gathers the team in the center of the field to talk about improving rapid decision-making and movement surrounding the ball to open passing lanes. They resume the drill as occasional shouts of his coaching fill the air.

6:35 The sky is pink with a beautiful Iowa sunset as practice wraps up, and the team debriefs in the center of the field. They bring it in and end with a "Jackets on three – one, two, three – JACKETS!"

7:00 ONLINE

PMHNP FOUNDATIONS — ROLES, ISSUES, ETHICAL, LEGAL PRINCIPLES

Postgraduate learning can require adaptation to the postgraduate lifestyle. The average nursing shift is 12 hours long, and this online course allows for learning flexibility while providing a high-quality education.

7:00 A nursing student logs onto their online nursing course for the semester. This psychiatric mental health foundations course is taught by Leigh Alexander, who has over 40 years of experience in mental health care. The unit for this week is cognitive behavior therapy.

7:12 As the student scrolls through the unit on Brightspace, they notice a quiz due by midnight on Sunday and a discussion post on Thursday. This is a beginning course for the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program.

7:23 The discussion post asks the students to respond to the following scenario: "A client declines oral psychotropics. How can Cognitive Behavioral Therapies help the client with anger management, assertiveness, and shame behavior?"

7:40 Moving on to the assignment for the week, students are asked to create a genogram of three generations of their family, including age, birth order, medical, and emotional history. The purpose of this exercise is to understand where they are coming from so they can better help others.

10:00 TESS MORGAN

HOUSE MEETING - HANTHORNE

House meetings are a magical time. From planning for Air Band to painting the bell, house meetings provide an opportunity for students to identify with their own special community where they belong, no matter what.

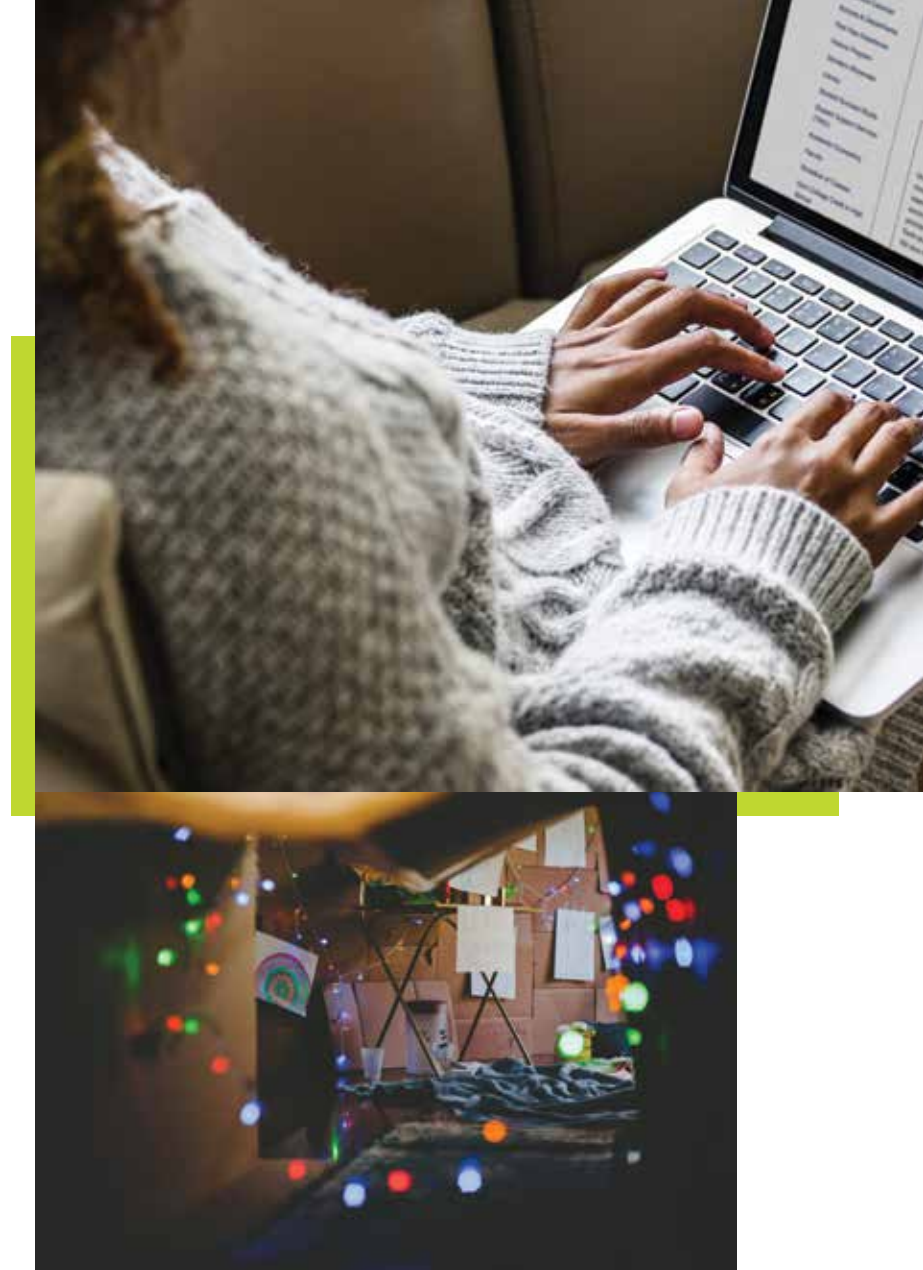
10:00 Hanthorne women gradually enter the lower-level Tess Morgan lounge. Some are in their pajamas, but others look like they've just returned from a study session with their backpacks in hand.

10:07 House meeting starts with announcements. The intramural representative shares that IM volleyball started and asks what level team everyone wants to be on.

ONE THING CERTAINLY HAS NOT CHANGED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS —

the Graceland lifestyle is a busy one. While this is a detailed glance into any given day for any Graceland student, it still misses hundreds of moments that make up the Graceland Experience. It is impossible to capture all of the social interactions, laughter, and support from friends, faculty, coaches, and staff that create the unique sense of belongingness we know all too well.

Though buildings and facilities, academic programs and student activities may change over time, the heart of Graceland has never changed. It's the same unique and special place that our alumni have always known. The place that builds confidence as well as character, that expands horizons and opens opportunities, and prepares strong, self-assured students to make a difference in the world. ■



The Bonus Major TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

BY SHANE ADAMS

Graceland's newest academic innovation – a second major for all students to be bold explorers and reach new heights

“The world needs more transformational leaders – dynamic, empathetic, and collaborative problem solvers. Through coursework, leadership opportunities, and strategic skills, Graceland students will be set on a path to success with a foundational education and experience that will propel them into future careers that have not yet been imagined.”

PRESIDENT PATRICIA H. DRAVES

What is the “Graceland Experience?” It can be difficult to put into words that special something that Graceland students feel during their time on “the Hill” or in our classrooms. It is a multi-faceted, dynamic experience that enables students to draw regularly from both their curricular and their extracurricular activities. Alumni regularly buzz with how important their educational experiences were outside the classroom in developing themselves as well-rounded individuals.

Two years ago, a group of alumni, administrators, trustees, and faculty set out to imagine how the University could adapt and change to address the needs of students in the coming decades. What they found was that Graceland was already well-positioned to meet those challenges, and they brought forward an exciting and dynamic idea – a second major for every undergraduate student called *Transformational Leadership*.

This revolutionary idea drew from what was already known about the Graceland Experience: non-traditional educational opportunities are almost as important as traditional courses. Not only that, the University provides students with a plethora of opportunities for leadership development through positions in student government, on house councils, in clubs, and in their athletic teams. For over 125 years, the University has walked with its students as they become leaders in the world. Starting in the fall of 2022, Graceland students who graduate with a four-year degree will enter the world with two distinct majors – a major in the discipline of their choice and a major in transformational leadership.

A Path to Success

The Transformational Leadership major consists of three distinct but interrelated content groupings:

GENERAL EDUCATION

Graceland’s liberal arts-focused courses where students receive foundational communications, quantitative, and liberal learning skills.

LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

A series of courses designed to help students discover and develop their individual, group, and organizational leadership skills.

STRATEGIC SKILLS

Three key courses give students knowledge in social responsibility, health and wholeness, and digital fluency and citizenship.

Leadership is central to the University’s culture. Students can gain leadership experience as soon as they arrive on campus. In the Transformational Leadership program, the University provides students with these additional practical skills designed to give them the tools they need to be successful adults and leaders in their careers and their communities. Leadership is something that Graceland knows well; it has nurtured leaders for many years, and with the introduction of the Transformational Leadership major, the University is innovating its academic model once again. ■



A New Leader in Academic Affairs

JOEL SHROCK, PhD, joined Graceland in July, bringing more than 27 years of experience in higher education.

Shrock hit the ground running as soon as he arrived, helping ensure the smooth launch of Transformational Leadership in the fall of 2022, and working with a restructured academic cabinet that is designed to help drive decision-making closer to those most impacted by the decisions as well as facilitating broader communication and collaboration between academic areas.

Shrock received both his bachelor's and master's degree in history from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, going on to complete his PhD in U.S. History from Miami University (Ohio). Over nearly three decades, he has held leadership and academic roles at a variety of prestigious institutions, including Ball State, Miami (Ohio), and Anderson University. In 2009, Shrock won a Malone Fellowship and went on a 12-day trip to Oman and the United Arab Emirates to learn about their history and culture. "It's the most exciting thing I've done in my career so far," he recalls.

Shrock's area of expertise is United States history during The Gilded Age, the tumultuous time between the Civil War and the turn of the 20th century. "The Gilded Age is, for me, the most fascinating era in U.S. history because it is the crucible from which modern America emerged," Shrock said. "Industrialization, immigration, urbanization, modern government, modern educational systems, mass marketing magazines and newspapers, national brand products, and corporatization of the economy. It was both an amazing and an appalling time."

Away from his work, Dr. Shrock stays active. He likes spending time with his wife, Kelly, and their friends. He enjoys hiking, watching movies, and is an avid reader, consuming about 100 books every year. He and Kelly met at a study abroad program in England for their university and have been married for 31 years. They have three sons – Owen and fraternal twins, JD and Brenton.

Shrock is a passionate academic. "I really love the entire industry [of higher education]," he said. "It is dedicated to uncovering knowledge and then teaching that knowledge to students in a transformational way. I appreciate how there has been a long tradition of academic innovation that is a part of this university. Graceland is future oriented and clearly taking steps to be successful in the changing twenty-first century higher education marketplace by presenting professional programs, online programs, and graduate programs within its traditional liberal arts framework. Liberal arts schools that fail to innovate will be the ones that close their doors over the next five years. Graceland University is positioning itself for ongoing growth and success."

"The process of education is challenging, but it provides students with new ways of thinking and with completely new sets of skills."

"The Resch Scholars program provides amazing opportunities for high achieving science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) students to study in our impressive facilities with our exceptional faculty. We are excited to have this program help students interested in STEM attend Graceland where they can become highly competitive applicants for graduate school or a job in their field."

MARY SHAWGO, PhD
MELANIE MASON, DAT
JASON SMITH, PhD
*Department Chairs,
Natural and Physical Sciences, Health
and Movement Science, Mathematics,
Computer Science, and Data Science*



Resch Gift Supports STEM

In the fall of 2022, Graceland received a **\$2.5 MILLION PLEDGE** from philanthropist Richard J. Resch '58.

Resch's gift provides \$50,000 annually to help maintain and enhance the Resch Science and Technology Hall, as well as \$200,000 annually funding scholarships and program support for Resch Scholars, a new elite science and technology scholarship program. The pledge is renewable after 10 years.

This gift continues Resch's lifelong support of his alma mater. For several years, Resch has ensured that Graceland's science students have access to technology and facilities on par with advanced schools, but the establishment of this program marks an expanded commitment to the sciences by providing resources to recruit top students to study at Graceland.

RESCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM With the creation of the Resch Scholars Program and in partnership with the Richard J. Resch Foundation, Graceland establishes a fund to recognize industrious students excelling in the sciences through their hard work. This program honors Resch's legacy of success throughout his life from humble beginnings.

Graceland will award full tuition scholarships to the best and brightest in the areas of biology, chemistry, data science and analytics, computer science, and health & movement science. Numerous partial scholarships will be awarded to students with preference given to first-generation and underrepresented groups in the sciences. The establishment of this program will provide new funding to recruit top-notch science students to engage in the sciences in the state-of-the-art Resch Science and Technology Hall at Graceland's campus in Lamoni, Iowa.

"Richard Resch's support of Graceland over the years has advanced the University's mission in ways that will be felt for generations to come," said Graceland President Patricia H. Draves, PhD. "As a scientist myself, I am personally grateful to Richard and his foundation's generosity, ensuring our students in the sciences have access to an unparalleled experience that sets them up to become transformational leaders and change-makers the world needs."

Eligibility requirements and the application for the Resch Scholars Program are available at graceland.edu/reschscholars.





“
A CONVERSATION
About JEDI Culture
 ”
 BY GEORGIA SEAGRAVES

In 2021, Graceland formed two **SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEES (SSJC)** to strive for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in thought and action.

These action-oriented committees – one comprised of faculty, staff, and students, and the other consisting of members of the board of trustees – focus on culture change within the university. They are committed to the long-term and consistent work of evaluation, exploration, and transformation to ensure that Graceland becomes a university thoroughly permeated by a culture and climate of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI). The Board of Trustees Sustainable Social Justice Committee Chair Ryan Watson '77 sat down with Zac Harmon-McLaughlin, DMIn, '08, Dean of the Community of Christ Seminary and member of the faculty, staff, and student Sustainable Social Justice Committee, to discuss the significance of these two committees.

WATSON: Often, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives are stimulated by an event. A specific event did not initiate Graceland's SSJC, but President Draves pushing the University to have a strong diversity statement. So, the committee was formed at a board level to help each member understand their role in JEDI to make the diversity mission statement come alive. The sustainability part might be the most crucial piece; this will be a continuous part of the University's operation.

HARMON-MCLAUGHLIN: I call this the soul work of the University. A lot of what we do as an organization is about production; we create degrees, programs, and courses. This is about cultivating a soul and the University's consciousness. So much of our culture is focused on doing. What you do and accomplish is how you add value to the world.

This work of diversity, inclusion, and belonging, which ultimately equals justice, is focused on 'being:' our behavior, the way we think, and the way we see the world. I prefer to think of ourselves as ambassadors instead of a committee because this work is for everyone, not just the committee. We want to integrate every aspect of the campus community because this is a way of 'being,' not just something we do.

So often, we see diversity as just talking about racism, but the University's stance on making JEDI sustainable is that we are taking an intersectional approach to all the 'ism's in our community. Not just racism but also phobias regarding human sexuality, gender identity, or just the human condition from our social-economic status or housing status. All the things that create barriers between belonging.

As I understand it, that's the heart of this work. To cultivate and nurture a soul of Graceland that aligns with harmony and the core mission of the University.



WATSON: I think it's important to have congruency and alignment where things are headed. It's clear that there's a lot of understanding of why justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion are essential. So, I'm glad that you used the word soul because I think the objective is that this is real and tangible and not just something we present to the world.

HARMON-MCLAUGHLIN: I think that's another critical aspect of this work because, from the board level to the faculty, staff, and student level, this indicates to the world that Graceland is shifting focus from an explicit behavior to an implicit behavior. We're looking at our implicit biases and complacency. You know we've had a beautiful mission of belonging and inclusion – so explicitly, we have always been a place where all are welcome. Implicitly, that has not been true, and we have had many issues of inclusion and belonging based on various factors of our human experience.

So, this is about us getting serious about saying, 'Hey, we don't want a virtue signal anymore. We are serious about this, and not only do we want to talk about it, but we want to actively deconstruct systems so that our work reflects our values in a deliberate and embedded way.' We want it to be incarnational, which means to embody it fully.

WATSON: I also think it's significant that there's a willingness to do the hard work at all levels. It's not where it should or could be, but the response, support, and sincerity around this work has been substantial. Internally there's a lot of scar tissue and issues Graceland has to work through, which will take some time to heal. But there's a willingness to do the hard work to move the needle, so when new students come, they immediately feel a sense of belonging. ■

Meet Graceland's New Board Chair

If you spend much time with **MIKE WILEY '83**, the conversation will inevitably turn to science at some point. “Thanks to Graceland, science has been a vehicle for me to help develop talent in others in a multitude of ways and in a bunch of different avenues,” says the 30-year veteran scientist with over 70 U.S. Patents to his name.

That was not always the case. Wiley started college as a volleyball player at a different school, and after his first chemistry class with over 200 students, he decided he would never take another chem course. Wiley transferred to Graceland at semester. However, a chance encounter with chemistry professor Darrell Strait helped convince him to give chemistry another shot. “That changed everything for me,” Wiley says. Strait's interest helped him find his way down a path that still influences his interactions to this day.

He spent time studying biochemistry under Betty Mortimer and organic chemistry under Graceland legend Bruce Graybill '52, whom he considers one of his most significant influences. As a result, Wiley developed an interest in drug discovery.

After Graceland, he received his PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Utah and then did a National Institute of Health postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University in New York. He spent 30 years at Eli Lilly and Company, including ten years as a research fellow, before retiring in 2020. “My work with Lilly enabled me to collaborate with people all over the world,” he said. Those collaborations took him into a much bigger world where he worked to develop diverse talent across the globe, earning him the LRL President's Diversity Award in 2016.

He still loves using science as a platform for helping others to lead in his work as a consultant with several clients, where he helps to support scientific staff, and advises on project and leadership strategies.

“Much of my life's work sits at the intersection of science and people's development. I found my place at Graceland and I want to help others who, like me, need to discover their passion. That's why I'm so committed to implementing and magnifying Graceland's vision.”

“I am so grateful to the Graceland faculty I encountered during my time in Lamoni for helping me figure out who I wanted to be,” he says. “I'm not sure my experience would have been the same at a different university. Bruce Graybill, Rod Schaal, Betty Mortimer, Darrell Strait – they invested in me personally, and that's why I'm so committed to this place. This community helped me find my passion, and I want to help others do that.”

In 2011, Wiley joined the alumni board and saw opportunities to engage current students with alumni. He identified a program at Eli Lilly and Company, which helped create a world-class professional summer research program for current students to join. Wiley and his wife Dana Cochran '82 Wiley hosted several Graceland students during the summers, mentoring them and providing real-world experience.

Their daughter June graduated from Graceland in 2013 and went on to vet school. During June's time in Lamoni, Wiley helped launch the GU4U alumni mentoring program, which continues to be an important collaboration between current students and graduates. Then in 2016, he was honored with Graceland's Distinguished Service Award. As a member of the Alumni Board of Directors, he served on the presidential search committee in 2016 that helped select President Draves, then joined the board of trustees in 2018, continuing to serve Graceland in a new capacity.



“Much of my life's work sits at the intersection of science and people's development,” Wiley says. “I found my place at Graceland and I want to help others who, like me, need to discover their passion. That's why I'm so committed to implementing and magnifying Graceland's mission.”

Wiley remembers seeing Graceland through his daughter's eyes: “In many ways, I saw that Graceland was even more effective at providing students with not only valuable life experience, but an extremely high return on educational investment. The education PLUS the immersion in community values is as aligned with our mission as it ever has been.”

In mid-2022, Wiley was elected to serve as Chair of the Graceland Board of Trustees, succeeding Harry Ashenhurst, who held the position for eight years. “I am really excited to continue working with our outstanding team of trustees and University leaders as we work to grow Graceland in alignment with its priorities and mission. A lot has changed culturally, and Graceland is *still* delivering on its mission at a very high level,” he said. – BY SHANE ADAMS



THE Dx TASK FORCE

A collection of Graceland administrators, trustees, and alumni collaborated to advance the University's efforts toward digital transformation. Their insights, expertise, and partnership have been critical to advancing the project to this point.

Aleks Memca '00, Board of Trustees Member

Bob Ackerley '06, Board of Trustees Member, SkillPath Board Chair

Joel Ross '79, Graceland Alumnus

Mike Wiley '83, Board of Trustees Chair

Rick Isham '82, Senior Director, Major Gifts

Talia Brown '05, Chief Information Officer

David Siddall '85, Vice President for Business and Finance, Chief Financial Officer

Patricia H. Draves, President

Graceland's Digital Transformation BY SHANE ADAMS

Enterprise technology advances at a rapid pace in today's world. Blue, Gold & Bold, Graceland's strategic framework for the future, prioritizes investments in the **TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT GRACELAND** to help better adapt to change and meet the expectations and needs of 21st-century students.

While Graceland's information technology services (ITS) team was able to support the shift to online learning necessitated by the COVID pandemic, that disruption reinforced the University's need to upgrade and modernize its digital infrastructure. To assist in that effort, the Digital Transformation (Dx) Task Force was established to prepare recommendations for upgrading the ITS systems and processes to offer modern-day digital solutions to students, faculty, and staff.

MEETING MODERN NEEDS Much of the early work has been preparatory in nature, but there have been significant developments to streamline processes, including the implementation of products like DocuSign, which helps facilitate the flow of official paperwork throughout the institution. Additionally, Graceland has moved forward with two significant partnerships for admissions and advancement. The admissions team is in the process of implementing Slate, a best-in-class higher education customer relationship management (CRM) platform, while the advancement team is implementing Blackbaud's Raiser's Edge NXT, a cloud-based platform specifically designed for fundraising.

"Slate and Raiser's Edge are industry-standard cloud-based technologies, and we are excited to leverage their capabilities to the full potential," said Talia Brown, Graceland Chief Information Officer. "These products will help drive enrollment and advancement efforts, which are critical for advancing the University's growth."

The University also recently invested in additional infrastructure to improve the

student experience, upgrading wiring in the residence halls, and adding new wireless access points for all rooms. Much of this investment was made possible through government credits, technology fees, and generous gifts from our alumni and friends, who donated to the Carrying Our Community Through COVID-19 fundraising campaign.

IN THE CLOUD On the heels of those implementations will be a multi-year project to update Graceland's core database and enterprise resource planning (ERP) platform. This is the backbone of Graceland's information technology and integrates key aspects of the institution's operations like human resources, finance, and student services. One key priority will be replacing this outdated University-hosted technology with a cloud-based system that will be easier to maintain, freeing up critical resources to focus on enhancing students' experiences with technology on campus.

Institutions across the country are grappling with outdated technology and Graceland stands poised and ready to transform its technology and services for the next generation of students. ■

Turning generosity into opportunities since 1895.

The spirit of giving has been a part of our history since the beginning — the very land our Lamoni campus sits on was donated by early members of the sponsoring church. To this day, the gifts we receive continue to provide the foundation for Graceland's greatest needs and allow us to support our students through scholarships, facility upgrades, and other services that help the institution thrive.

Leaving a Legacy

The **HERITAGE CLUB** is a group of alumni and friends who provide for the University in their estate planning. By doing so, Heritage Club members extend their influence for generations to come — supporting the University in its mission to provide a quality education for promising and deserving students. Living members have their names placed on a permanent Heritage Club Roll of Honor displayed on the first floor of the Higdon Administration Building. Graceland is highlighting a few of these members in *Horizons*.



Howard & Sue Sakima

Howard '69 and Sue '72 met at Graceland in 1968, and they were later married in Lamoni in 1970. Howard became a pediatrician, and Sue a college business professor. When asked why they wanted to join the Heritage Club, they shared, "Graceland University became ohana (family) for us. This occurred more than 50 years ago when we met on the Lamoni campus. Although our biological ohana did not start until several years later, Graceland University has been a very important part of our lives. It has given us a solid foundation for further studies and lifelong relationships. As parents and grandparents, we strive to support our ohana as much as possible. Since Graceland has been part of our ohana for over 50 years, we feel honored to be able to include the Heritage Club in our financial legacy along with our children and grandchildren."



Kathleen A. McGuire

Kathleen realized the substantial impact that a Graceland education can have even though she did not attend the University herself. Kathleen retired as a professor in the counseling department at Santa Barbara City College, and when asked why she chose to support the Heritage Club, she stated, "My mother rode 10 miles on horseback to get to school and was only allowed to go after the crops were harvested. She drove me to school in her car, and she made sure I had a car to drive to college. Very early on in my life, she ingrained in me the knowledge that education is life-changing. I have always desired to provide opportunities to those who didn't have the same opportunities I did. Graceland's positive moral compass makes the institution one I can support now and long after my travels on this earth are done."



Chuck & Joan Madden

Chuck '65 attributes many of his successful ventures to his Graceland education. Chuck willingly shared why he and his wife, Joan, support Graceland through the Heritage Club, expressing, "Coming from a large high school, I was somewhat hesitant about attending a smaller school like Graceland. The things I learned at Graceland have helped me in all aspects of life. I worked for corporations like General Motors and PaineWebber, where my Graceland education was never questioned. I spent the last 28 years of my career as a marketing executive of a regional engineering and architecture firm. With time, my assets grew, and I established a living trust. Joan and I have always had a warm place in our hearts for Graceland, which made choosing to use the Heritage Club as a method of asset distribution an easy one."

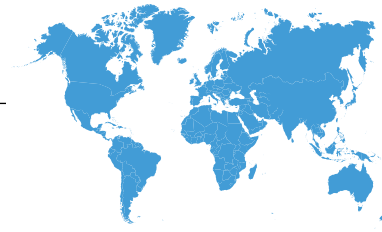
A New Beginning **125th** Commencement

BY GEORGIA SEAGRAVES



THE NUMBERS

154 The total number of degrees awarded at the Spring 2022 ceremony.



154 GRADUATES
18 U.S. STATES
10 COUNTRIES

With COVID protocols and renovations preventing indoor celebration for the past two years, the Lamoni commencement was held for the first time in Morden Center this spring.

Commencement weekend began on Saturday, April 30, 2022, with the baccalaureate service held in the Shaw Family Auditorium. Vice President for Student Life Dave Schaal '80 announced the Student Life Award recipients – Rachel Hawley '22 and Casey Main '22 – recognizing their superior leadership and selfless service to the Graceland community.

On Sunday, May 1, at 10 a.m., family, friends, and students filed into a bright gymnasium as the commotion of community filled the room. On this cold and blustery day, President Patricia H. Draves greeted graduates and their families and was then joined by several international students who welcomed those present in their native languages. Faculty awards were presented to Tanya Coffelt, EdD, Beth Gregory, EdD, and Donovan Nelson, EdD (more about the recipients in the sidebar).

The commencement address was given by Dr. Matthew Naylor, President and CEO of the National WWI Museum and Memorial. With passion and fervor, he spoke directly to the room of graduates:

“Because of your time here at Graceland, because of your experience, of being shaped by the pandemic, taking all of that, what you learned, and what you are becoming, you are remarkably equipped to take on these challenges, these opportunities, to confront and do what needs to be done. You are prepared like no other generation.

Now go do it.”

MATTHEW NAYLOR, PhD



Faculty Awards

Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching



Tanya Coffelt, EdD, is a Professor of Education at the Gleazer School of Education and holds a Bachelor of Science from Iowa State University, a Master of Arts from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a Doctor of Education from Drake University. She has been a member of the Graceland University faculty since 2006. When asked about Dr. Coffelt, students shared: “Dr. Coffelt has challenged my classmates and I to think ruminatively and critically about our coursework and teaching experiences.” “Innovative and creative in her assignments and is always evolving with the changing world of education.” “Has always shown a great interest in our success and making us the best versions of ourselves possible.”

Excellence in Scholarly Achievement



Beth Gregory, EdD, Assistant Professor in the Gleazer School of Education on the Lamoni campus, has focused her scholarly pursuits on teacher education and educational leadership, specifically in the areas of reading and math education in early childhood and elementary education. During the past year, she presented four different times at regional, national, and international conferences and has authored or co-authored several journal articles, all while completing 17 hours towards a postdoctoral master's degree at the University of St. Francis.

Exceptional Service Award



Donovan Nelson, EdD, Assistant Professor of Sport Management at the Sandage School of Business, served as the Sport Management Program Coordinator and had 47 advisees, including 13 students in the Spring 2022 graduating class. He also served on a multitude of committees, including the chair of the Faculty Compensation Committee, the chair of the Faculty Oversight Task Force, and the chair of Graceland's annual Scholars' Showcase event. Dr. Nelson provided his expertise and wisdom as one of the faculty voices on the Next Version of Graceland Task Force and is respected throughout Graceland for his collegiality and deep love of this institution.

flickr • View all Commencement photos here: [flickr.com/gracelanduniversity](https://www.flickr.com/gracelanduniversity)

New Five-Day Certificate Courses Accelerate Employee Training

An accelerated five-day employee training course, launched in October 2021 as a pilot program, has expanded to include four additional programs. Graceland University and SkillPath collaboratively created the original course, Accelerated Leadership Certificate Program, as a new option for workforce training — a faster, interactive way to tackle skills for multi-faceted roles. This original course has been offered monthly since then, with 750 business professionals completing the training and earning leadership certificates. Feedback from learners points to the popularity of this new format:



I've spent hours on online trainings covering most of this, but I didn't really absorb it. This training is real world with real people and much more relatable and usable.

The trainers were phenomenal!

Positive feedback like this sent instructional designers at SkillPath back to the drawing board. Over the past seven months, four additional five-day accelerated certificate courses have been released, including: Accelerated HR Management, Accelerated Microsoft Excel, Accelerated Strategic Management, and Leadership Presence and Influence. Each course is held on five consecutive days (three-hour morning or afternoon options) with a different trainer each day. Content for the courses is researched and drafted by the SkillPath instructional design team and goes through a review process with a final approval from Graceland's Executive Council.

"Continuing education requires continual adapting," says Michele Markey, SkillPath CEO. "To keep diverse, busy workforces growing, we've got to keep finding new ways to train and fine-tune topics to fit a changing world."



SkillPath is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, delivering strategic and innovative training solutions to professionals worldwide since 1989. Revenue funds scholarships for students at Graceland University.



SCAN THE CODE for more details about these five new programs

CLASS NOTES

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Completed a degree program? Published a written work? Received that awesome promotion? Earned a prestigious honor? If so, we want to hear about it. Share your memories and milestones with us here: graceland.edu/classnotes

Class notes submitted between Nov. 15, 2021, and Sept. 9, 2022, are included in this issue.

52 Joe Bayless, Independence, Missouri, was awarded the "Starfish" Award for exceptional service from the Independence School District. Bayless has dedicated two decades of his retirement to the ISD as a substitute, teaching at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

69 Ron Barker, Boise, Idaho, won an award for highest word (92 pts) in the National Word Cup Scrabble™ event held in Chicago, July 2022. [@ 1](#)

95 Celeste Lawson, West Des Moines, Iowa, has been a major advocate for metastatic breast cancer awareness in Iowa since the passing of her mother from it. She was recognized for her contribution to the Iowa House of Representatives resolution that passed October 13 as the annual Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Although a teacher by trade, she has been a writer for The Urban Experience and has interviewed business, education, and government leaders, on the local, state, and national levels (Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren, and Amy Klobuchar), regarding issues pertaining to education, community service, and health. Her published articles serve to advocate and elevate public awareness of these issues, with a special emphasis on those that impact women and minorities.

1



00 Angel Monroy, MSN, RN, APRN, Lee's Summit, Missouri, was named Vice President of Nursing Operations for HCA Midwest Health on July 28, 2022. He was recognized for his focus on staff development and his industry-leading clinical skills. During his tenure at Menorah Medical Center he was instrumental as chair of their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Counsel, increasing the hospital's Vital Voices "sense of belonging" score by 4 percent. [@ 2](#)

00 Felica Durst, O'Fallon, Missouri, was named the 2021 Missouri SHAPE Physical Education Teacher of the Year. She has been teaching at Marquette High School, St. Louis District, since 2000. [@ 3](#)

07 Donan Cruz, Yorktown, Indiana, was named the new Head Men's Volleyball Coach for NCAA Division I school, Ball State University, in June 2021, making the jump from the NAIA division with a 212-55 career record, including national titles in 2018 and 2021. [Read his alumni profile > P32](#)

09 James Thomas Jr., Silver Spring, Maryland, was recently hired as the Special Teams Coordinator and Outside Linebackers Coach for the University of Maryland Terrapins football program. Previously he served on the the University of Florida Gators football staff as Quality Control Coach for cornerbacks. Thomas played cornerback at Graceland from 2004-08 and earned his degree in physical education and health. [@ 4](#)

11 Kendyl Rizea, Highland, California, is the new Head Coach of Women's Basketball at Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga, California. Her assistant coach is fellow Graceland alumna, Adrianna Hooks '09.

2



3



5

12 Trenton Ranney, San Jose, California, was recently named as the General Manager of the San Jose office for Smith & Associates (the leading independent distributor of electronic components and ranked seventh among all global distributors). After graduating from Graceland, Trent joined Smith & Associates as an International Account Representative at the company's Houston headquarters. [@ 5](#)

[@ University of Maryland](#)

4



19 Olivia Fluehr, Ankeny, Iowa, was selected for her first head coaching position with the Marshalltown Community College softball program on June 29, 2022.

21 Caleb Thomas, Miami, Florida, WR/PR/KR received the National Team Offensive MVP during the 2021 FCS Bowl Dec. 12, 2021, in Daytona, Florida. The FCS National Bowl is an annual postseason college football all-star game consisting of the top players from college football FCS schools giving NFL/CFL scouts a chance to view and meet some of the best players from smaller schools.

New Director of Annual Giving & Alumni Programs

In July 2022, **COLBY CONNELLY '13** joined the Institutional Advancement team as Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Programs.



Like several family members before him, Connelly attended Graceland, where he earned his bachelor's degree in psychology and English. He also participated in house council and served as House President of Cheville. After graduating, he worked as a residence hall director at Graceland, where he developed his passion for higher education.

Connelly received his Master of Education degree in Educational Administration/Adult and Higher Education from the University of Sioux Falls in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Most recently, Connelly was the Assistant Director of Student Housing and Conference Services at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. In this role, he oversaw eight professional residence directors, a faculty-in-residence, and indirectly, a multitude of student staff members.

As Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Programs, Connelly will work with the Advancement team to support students by growing the Graceland Fund and collaborating with alumni to create opportunities for networking and connecting. "Colby is an inspiring community builder whose love of Graceland will bring an extra level of enthusiasm and passion to the role," said Kristi Hettrick, Vice President for Institutional Advancement.



ALUMNI PROFILE

A licensed clinical therapist, social worker, and motivational speaker with over 15 years of experience, **KARA VOJCSIK '04** is committed to confronting anxiety, depression, and mental health head on.

With her "You Matter" workshops and lectures, Vojcsik's modern approach gets you out of your head but leaves you thinking. In April 2022, Vojcsik was invited to Graceland's Lamoni campus to speak with faculty and staff about building positive environments that nurture mental health. In her authentic get-real style, she opened her talk in Newcom Student Union with a quote: "If you don't make time for your wellness, you will be forced to make time for your illness." The room filled with murmurs of agreement as Vojcsik continued her presentation. The staff and faculty opened up to each other and shared their "why" – why they have chosen this profession, why they get up in the morning, and why they were there that day. The session finished with breaking down "the world of not good enough," where anxiety, depression, and perfectionism take over. Vojcsik outlined signs and symptoms that appear in students, coworkers, or even themselves when struggling with these issues.

Later that evening, she also spoke at the invitation of Graceland Student Government and the Intersectional Feminism Alliance club in the Shaw Center's JR Theatre. Students from the women's soccer, basketball, and dance teams were in attendance, along with house presidents, house council members, and other Graceland students. The theme of the evening was to discuss the importance of women's empowerment on personal and social levels. All the attendees gathered together in a circle on the floor and had vulnerable conversations about self-gaslighting, playing small to fit in, and being "too much." By the end of the evening, students were embracing, reassuring each other with kind words, and thanking Vojcsik for coming to speak with them.

"I have dedicated my life to raising awareness and compassion for mental health. It was so meaningful for me to return to my alma mater and engage in these critical conversations that contribute to campus culture and mental wellness." Vojcsik said.

—BY GEORGIA SEAGRAVES

BIRTHS

- 02** John and **Cassie Melton Aldrich**, Ankeny, Iowa, son Nicholas, born July 13, 2022. Steve and **Mindy Colyer Summers**, Fort Dodge, Iowa, daughter Mia, born Dec. 2018, and son Ayden, born Aug. 2021.
- 06** Dale and **Janna Cash Gilner**, Overland Park, Kansas, son Everett, born Feb. 7, 2022.
- 08** Jay and **Lani Hefel Craig**, Van Meter, Iowa, son Azra, born March 28, 2022.
- 09** Gus and **Manda Clemens '08 Macias**, Florissant, Missouri, son Gustavo, born March 8, 2021.
- 12** Clayton Troxell and **Kendyl Rizea**, Highland, California, son Ellis, born July 13, 2021.
- 13** Tanner and **Anna Rider Gard**, Blue Springs, Missouri, Elton Addison, born April 1, 2021. Tyler and **Kinsey Wellington Horinga**, Independence, Missouri, Brecken, born Jan. 6, 2021.

WEDDINGS

- 12** Sam and **Hanna Anderson Techau**, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Aug. 21, 2021.

ANNIVERSARIES

- 52** Joe and **Mary Rae Bingaman '58 Bayless**, Independence, Missouri, 58 years, May 16, 2022.
- 53** Al and **Bonita Gates Christensen**, Phoenix, Arizona, 65 years, March 23, 2022.
- 55** Herbert and **Shirley Arnold Smith**, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 66 years, June 2022.
- 57** Jan and **Jean Goddard Newman**, Fort Collins, Colorado, 60 years, April 15, 2022.
- 61** James and **Sharon Lewis '62 Craven**, Saint Peters, Missouri, 60 years, June 5, 2022.
- 64** Paul and **Diane Black Shirota**, Fullerton, California, 60 years, Feb. 4, 2022.
- 65** John and **Ruth Downey Askew**, Tallahassee, Florida, 60 years, 2021.
- 74** Bill and **Pat Tabor '73 Mogg**, Denver, Colorado, 50 years, Oct. 7, 2022.

DEATHS

- 29** Helen Anthony Ducommun, Spencer, Iowa, Oct. 13, 2006.
- 33** Nora Moore Gerber, Burlington, Iowa, Jan. 7, 2005. Elizabeth "Betty" Massie Wallace, New Smyrna Beach, Florida, Dec. 30, 2006.
- 35** Violet Coakley Sivits, Kansas City, Kansas, Nov. 9, 2005.
- 36** Lucille Nelson Pigg, Sun City West, Arizona, Nov. 22, 2012. Marion Merchant Reilly, Higginsville, Missouri, Oct. 19, 2007.
- 37** Pauline Bathe Raudabaugh, Lake Forest, Illinois, July 4, 2008. Dorothy Hunter Schmid, Carrollton, Texas, Jan. 5, 2014.
- 38** James Burstrom, Appleton City, Missouri, Nov. 13, 2015. Velma Law Floyd, Fort Wayne, Indiana, July 19, 2014. Addie Leland Gress, Manomet, Massachusetts, Oct. 13, 2010. LeRoy Powell, Bethany, Missouri, Feb. 25, 2013.
- 39** Daniel Belcher, Independence, Missouri, July 23, 2006. Jean McCormick Bell, Santa Rosa, California, March 21, 2022. Jean Shroyer Powell, Bethany Missouri, Aug. 14, 2003.
- 40** Doras Gamet Becker, Buckner, Missouri, March 18, 2010. Florence Burgess Belcher, Independence, Missouri, Nov. 22, 2006. Carl Johnson, Augusta, Illinois, Aug. 3, 2005. William Shepard, Tucson, Arizona, May 27, 2006.
- 41** Frank Christoffersen, Spokane, Washington, Feb. 24, 2009. Jeanne "Reddy" Barto Dively, Austin, Texas, April 7, 2005. Harley King, Walnut Creek, California, Dec. 21, 2008. June Kubelius Perkins, St. Francisville, Louisiana, March 7, 2011. Max Shannon, Wichita, Kansas, July 28, 2009. Barbara Hammer Shipman, Tacoma, Washington, Oct. 2, 2021. Rosemary Clisby Swayne, Kent, Washington, May 16, 2016. Ruth Bassett Walther, Baker, Florida, Jan. 1, 2004.
- 42** Roy Ballantyne, Wauchula, Florida, Jan. 23, 2005. Virginia Bailey Brown, Independence, Missouri, July 2, 2011. Elwood Clark, Palm Harbor, Florida, Sept. 28, 2012. June Kimball Coghlan, Kirkland, Washington, June 26, 2021. Jack Curtis, Independence, Missouri, June 5, 2004. Lois Williams Daniel, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 24, 2019. Lois Richards Hudson, Lowell, Arkansas, Jan. 18, 2020. Doris Luke Jahr, Ontario, California, Aug. 22, 2015. Evelyn Simpson Martin, Mona, Utah, 2014. Ina Hershey Metcalf, Wichita, Kansas, April 25, 2021. Florence Firth Miller, Tucson, Arizona, Oct. 5, 2014. Jeanne Scott Miller, Independence, Missouri, Jan. 26, 2009. Phyllis Pement Munson, Tavares, Florida, Sept. 19, 2017. Helen Resch Stockton, Independence, Missouri, April 2, 2014. A. Marie Billings White, Crestline, California, Nov. 10, 2006. Evelyn Lehman Wielage, Lincoln, Nebraska, June 26, 2015. Dixie Donelson Woodard, State College, Pennsylvania, March 26, 2022.
- 43** Charles Cawfield, Denver, Colorado, Dec. 6, 2013. Tyra Ralston Cole, Rio Rancho, New Mexico, June 14, 2015. Robert DeLany, Casper, Wyoming, March 7, 2006. Vivian Holloway Downey, Moline, Illinois, June 19, 2020. Harlow Fredrick Jr., Orlando, Florida, Sept. 18, 2010. Donald Gorden, Poquoson, Virginia, Dec. 28, 2009. LaVonne Hall Harris, Independence, Missouri, July 12, 2005. Clarice Stevens Herbst, Independence, Missouri, May 8, 2011. Donald Higgins, West Seneca, New York, Aug. 4, 2009. Velva Hampton Hinderks, Stewartsville, Missouri, Feb. 9, 2017. Delores Benner Hutson, Topeka, Kansas, Nov. 25, 2021. Marilyne Fawkes Johnson, Seminole, Florida, Jan. 29, 2022. Miriam Jeanne Lecky Johnson, Sequim, Washington, Dec. 15, 2013. Pauline Oldfather Lester, Navasota, Texas, April 28, 2022. Geraldine Browne May, Overland Park, Kansas, Oct. 30, 2007. Bette Hyde McDonnell, Grand Marais, Minnesota, April 17, 2013. Doris Coberly Mittelheuser, Homer Glen, Illinois, Feb. 13, 2014. Elbert Phillips, Simi Valley, California, July 15, 2014. Athel Amundson Rush, Richland, Washington, March 31, 2014.
- 44** LouVerne Beatty, Grand Forks, North Dakota,

IN REMEMBRANCE

Graceland's 16th President (2002-06), Ambassador John K. Menzies, PhD, passed away on Saturday, March 26, 2022.



Menzies was a Graceland alumnus and earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville before going on to earn his PhD in German from the University of California, Berkeley. He began his career on the frontlines of international diplomacy in Hungary.

Prior to joining Graceland, he was Chief of Mission at the U.S. Office in Kosovo and served as the United States Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina. During his time as President, he helped recruit over 300 international students to the University, mostly from the Balkan states.

After Graceland, he served as the Dean of the School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University until 2013. Through his career in foreign service and academia, he earned many awards, including the Department of State Superior Honor Award, an American Bar Association award for dedication and service toward advancing the rule of law, and the Bulgarian Order of the Madarsky Konnik.

A full tribute can be found online: graceland.edu/Horizons

- March 5, 2012. Marilyn Shedd **Brace**, Romeoville, Illinois, Feb. 2, 2016. Jack Brown, Dana Point, California, June 24, 2014. Raymond Brown, Independence, Missouri, May 19, 2005. James "Otis" Clark, Leonardtown, Maryland, June 7, 2016. Nettie Otis Daniels, Colorado Springs, Colorado, June 18, 2020. Rosalie Hall Dowdall, Bloomington, Illinois, Aug. 6, 2015. Jack Van Eaton, Bothell, Washington, Dec. 1, 2021. Doris Perkins Estrada, Salinas, California, Jan. 21, 2020. Jean Hartshorn George, Independence, Missouri, May 18, 2017. Rosabelle Hicks Howard, Aurora, Colorado, Oct. 10, 2020. Lloyd Janssen, Fremont, Nebraska, Jan. 13, 2017. Bernice Lovell Johnson, Galva, Iowa, Oct. 29, 2004. Dorothy Savage Kerr, Camdenton, Missouri, March 16, 2014. Mildred Resch Leibold, Oak Grove, Missouri, March 11, 2009. Ella Dixon Levitt, Batesville, Arkansas, Nov.

- 27, 2007. Flora McPherson, Independence, Missouri, Nov. 24, 2008. Harriet Dickinson Pyle, Independence, Missouri, Dec. 8, 2021. Kenneth Stobaugh, Blue Springs, Missouri, June 29, 2020. Betty Tarble Turner, Marshall, Illinois, July 31, 2015. Haileta Laird Willing, Danville, California, Feb. 10, 2020.
- 45** Alice Wellman Baker, Warrensburg, Missouri, June 11, 2018. Norma Scott Bartoli, Franklin, Tennessee, Dec. 1, 2019. Betty Cramer Clark, Memphis, Tennessee, Jan. 4, 2015. Paul Edwards, Waterloo, Iowa, Oct. 27, 2008. Lohre Davis Fisher, Lamoni, Iowa, Sept. 23, 2021. Audrey Spear Fowler, Dripping Springs, Texas, Dec. 10, 2013. Anna Newman Harvey, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Jan. 30, 2016. Merry Bishop Lambe, Independence, Missouri, Jan. 22, 2011. Lois Gadberry Lundgren, Independence, Missouri, July 20, 2015. Melgwin Miller, Mobile,

Alabama, Jan. 27, 2016. **Norma Radmall Paltzer**, Madison, Wisconsin, July 15, 2018. **Orine Bornhauser Pearson**, Davis, California, Aug. 19, 2010. **Dorothy Phillips**, Long Beach, California, Nov. 3, 2021. **Eula Reid Rosebush**, Gulliver, Michigan, June 6, 2003. **Carol Lloyd Sandy**, Blue Springs, Missouri, Oct. 25, 2021. **Ceola Lively Stevenson**, Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 10, 2021. **Juanita Bowers Thompson**, Independence, Missouri, Nov. 29, 2017. **Edna Chesworth Ward**, Independence, Missouri, Jan. 27, 2020.

46 Donna Baughman Allen, Blue Springs, Missouri, Jan. 13, 2018. **Donna Curtis Bailey**, Odessa, Missouri, Sept. 12, 2012. **Anna Wilkie Berger**, Independence, Missouri, May 1, 2006. **Gladys Wilcox Berridge**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, March 15, 2008. **Mary Finnigan Bills**, East Wenatchee, Washington, May 30, 2009. **Doris Norman Brassfield**, Dec. 10, 2010. **Bettie Tice Bridges**, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, March 30, 2009. **Wilhelmina Fung Gin Ching**, Bremerton, Washington, June 15, 2012. **Dorothy Scheffer Christina**, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 9, 2011. **Eila "Jeane" Wemlinger Corey**, Ft. Myers, Florida, Sept. 14, 2006. **Norma Birkby Flowers**, Independence, Missouri, Feb. 23, 2021. **Mary Bayless Fowler**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Aug. 12, 2007. **Maxine Cothorn Furlong**, ZigZag, Oregon, July 18, 2008. **Verona Cooper Harbin**, Mobile, Alabama, Jan. 20, 2015. **Patricia Hunt Haveman**, Bellingham, Washington, Oct. 31, 2017. **Charles "Bud" Holben**, Woodbine, Iowa, Dec. 23, 2008. **Sarah Van Fleet Hoss**, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 30, 2016. **Barbara Bettis Jones**, Greenville, South Carolina, Dec. 18, 2011. **Violet Cothorn Long**, Ottumwa, Iowa, June 4, 2014. **Dwain Miller**, Independence, Missouri, Oct. 7, 2013. **Alva "Al" Murdock**, Lamoni, Iowa, May 29, 2021. **Alice Marshall Pixler**, Whiting, Iowa, Jan. 1, 2018. **Maxine "Mickey" Gould Pritchard**, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 19, 2013. **Anna Hunter Reed**, Parrott, Virginia, May 19, 2014. **Herbert Rees**, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 23, 2009. **Florence Essig Richards**, Morristown, New Jersey, June 18, 2017. **Shirley Green Simmons**,

Independence, Missouri, July 17, 2022. **Esther Ager Smith**, Union City, California, Aug. 27, 2004. **Charles Sprague**, Santa Rosa, California, Nov. 17, 2021. **Alice Faucett Strand**, Lewiston, Idaho, July 7, 2009. **Nora Coop Treadwell**, Cottage Grove, Oregon, June 9, 2012. **Velma Bath Wehmeyer**, Pittsburg, Kansas, Oct. 27, 2018. **Florence Nowack Welch**, Salem, Oregon, July 31, 2021.

47 Malcolm Barrows, Bend, Oregon, April 5, 2010. **Juanita Hattey Brailsford**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, Jan. 22, 2016. **Ruth Atkins Crinklaw**, Independence, Missouri, Oct. 26, 2007. **Beverly Butterworth Custer**, Dow City, Iowa, April 25, 2017. **Glenna Reed Davis**, South Bend, Indiana, Oct. 13, 2017. **Mildred "Virginia" McQueen DuRocher**, Independence, Missouri, Dec. 31, 2016. **Deloris Goodridge Frazer**, Clearwater, Florida, March 10, 2012. **Frances Miller Gilmore**, Bedford, Iowa, Sept. 17, 2019. **Lester Higa**, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 21, 2021. **Jeanne Hunter Hough**, Clare, Michigan, March 2, 2016. **Gilbert Howard**, Aurora, Colorado, June 27, 2018. **Doris Crawford Martin**, Gulf Breeze, Florida, April 5, 2019. **Alice Mathews Jones**, Crescent City, California, Feb. 14, 2018. **Melvin Jones**, Coos Bay, Oregon, Aug. 24, 2020. **Nola McBride Miller**, Tucson, Arizona, July 7, 2013. **David Ohara**, Alfred, New York, Dec. 27, 2014. **Robert Powell**, Palmetto, Florida, Feb. 28, 2013. **Lorna Jones Powers**, Midland, Michigan, Oct. 29, 2021. **James Reneau**, Independence, Missouri, April 2, 2017. **Margery Heide Rennick**, Salem, Oregon, Jan. 8, 2011. **Janice Wheeler Roll**, Porter, Texas, April 16, 2008. **Willie Goff Rouse**, Biloxi, Mississippi, Jan. 6, 2016. **Marjorie Robinson Shoemaker**, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 15, 2021. **Gloria Devault Silver**, San Bruno, California, Nov. 26, 2015. **Edward Sintz**, Charlotte, North Carolina, Oct. 1, 2021. **Doris Brock Stombaly**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, June 7, 2014. **Kenneth Thompson**, Billings, Montana, April 9, 2015. **Madelyn Farley Tordoff**, Kansas City, Missouri, Oct. 13, 2014. **Arvilla Pement Weldon**, Alamosa, Colorado, April 19, 2022. **Denzil West**, Independence, Missouri, April

27, 2021. **Norma Bailey Willard**, Royal Oak, Michigan, Jan. 5, 2017. **Thomas Wolf**, Coralville, Iowa, July 28, 2022.

48 Dorothy Deal Allen, Blue Springs, Missouri, April 20, 2018. **Leota Eliason Anderson**, Independence, Missouri, March 15, 2018. **Elizabeth Wagner Bacon**, Byron Center, Michigan, July 4, 2016. **Eugene Barker**, Tucson, Arizona, Nov. 10, 2006. **Iri Chandler**, Kirksville, Missouri, May 23, 2019. **Robert Colville**, Independence, Missouri, Oct. 9, 2017. **Twila Ruoff Constance**, Stewartville, Missouri, June 17, 2022. **Norma "Cookie" Cook**, San Francisco, California, Aug. 1, 2015. **Kathrine "Jean" Hansen Davis**, Independence, Missouri, Dec. 18, 2020. **Lettie Allen Eldred**, Joplin, Missouri, July 24, 2017. **Chloe Palmer Elefson**, Independence, Missouri, Jan. 7, 2020. **James Fountain**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, Nov. 4, 2013. **Laurayne Norris Galusha**, Lamoni, Iowa, Jan. 11, 2021. **Anna Smart Gard**, Independence, Missouri, May 3, 2014. **Eldon Gauthier**, Long Beach, California, Nov. 1, 2017. **Lois Stevens Greene**, Independence, Missouri, June 22, 2021. **Trudora "Trudy" Vest Harshman**, Independence, Missouri, June 11, 2014. **Eldon Hart**, Torrence, California, April 18, 2013. **Harrison Hatch**, Modesto, California, Sept. 16, 2015. **Curt Heaviland Jr.**, Independence, Missouri, Feb. 7, 2022. **Burton Huggett**, Hillsboro, Oregon, Aug. 27, 2017. **Jerome Keir**, Brevard, North Carolina, June 22, 2021. **Samuel Kemple**, Levasy, Missouri, Nov. 16, 2016. **Rosemary Olney Kenney**, Punta Gorda, Florida, March 19, 2020. **Polly Rohrs Lesh**, Independence, Missouri, March 18, 2016. **Max Mann**, Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 13, 2009. **Lindal Mark**, Independence, Missouri, June 15, 2022. **Leslie Meredith**, Pawleys Island, South Carolina, July 15, 2015. **Norman Nelson**, Leon, Iowa, April 24, 2019. **Jean White Newcom**, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, May 4, 2012. **Robert Nims**, Bellevue, Washington, June 12, 2016. **Danny Norris**, Sand Springs, Oklahoma, March 14, 2006. **Catherine Durkin Piedimonte**, Independence, Missouri, March 4, 2017. **Edward Piedimonte**, Mesa, Arizona, Oct. 7, 2006. **Freda Gatlin Poole**,

Santa Barbara, California, Dec. 4, 2014. **Richard Poole**, Santa Barbara, California, Feb. 10, 2021. **Lahoma McNeese Russell**, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, April 14, 2021. **Ernest Shank**, Carthage, Missouri, Jan. 31, 2019. **Eldon Simmons**, Independence, Missouri, March 14, 2022. **Paul Smart**, Kearney, Missouri, April 6, 2017. **Robert Soderberg**, Overland Park, Kansas, Jan. 27, 2018. **Clarence Stowell**, Independence, Missouri, June 15, 2013. **June Zonker Ultican**, Pickerington, Ohio, Dec. 18, 2012. **William "Erv" Ultican**, Pickerington, Ohio, March 12, 2019. **Vaughn Ward**, Humansville, Missouri, Dec. 10, 2010. **Emily Jorgensen Waugh**, Lamoni, Iowa, Feb. 10, 2018. **Betty Thomas Welch**, Sun City, Arizona, Nov. 23, 2021. **Robert Wheatley**, Lochbuie, Colorado, June 26, 2022. **Gale Witherell**, Independence, Missouri, Jan. 8, 2022. **Keith Zimmerman**, Blue Springs, Missouri, May 10, 2021.

49 Elizabeth Sylva Among, Aiea, Hawaii, July 16, 2014. **Donald Barnes**, San Tan Valley, Arizona, March 6, 2016. **Robert Burgess**, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 20, 2014. **Kenneth Butterworth**, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 28, 2014. **Orrin Butts**, Gaithersburg, Maryland, Jan. 15, 2015. **Charles "Vernon" Drown**, Independence, Missouri, Feb. 20, 2017. **Reginald Fritsch Jr.**, Sparks, Nevada, Jan. 2, 2009. **Richard Gilbertson**, Hobart, Indiana, May 9, 2021. **Warren Hahn**, Benton Harbor, Michigan, April 10, 2007. **Elna Dodds Harvey**, Hamilton, Missouri, Jan. 1, 2013. **Rogene Fultz Knudsen**, Grain Valley, Missouri, May 24, 2022. **Shirley Huhn Mason**, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 22, 2009. **John Peck**, Lakeland, Florida, Nov. 12, 2020. **William Pike**, Blue Springs, Missouri, June 13, 2019. **Franklin Rieske**, St. Louis, Missouri, March 9, 2022. **June Phelps Schmoll**, Pleasant Hill, Missouri, Aug. 21, 2017. **Paul Shaw**, Odessa, Missouri, June 18, 2019. **Marvin Talcott**, Independence, Missouri, Nov. 19, 2021. **Thomas Thomas**, Leon, Iowa, Sept. 23, 2013. **Daniel Thompson**, Alexandria, Virginia, Dec. 7, 2018. **John Thumm**, Independence, Missouri, Dec. 21, 2021. **Harry Ward**, Pensacola, Florida, Oct. 26, 2018. **Carl Wenholz**, Richardson, Texas,



ALUMNI PROFILE

A Higher Calling

DENNIS SHIELDS, JD, '77 always wanted to be a college president at a historically black college or university (HBCU). When the opportunity came to him at Southern, it was the right time for it.

Shields, who has been a Graceland trustee for 10 years, served as the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Platteville since 2010 and has spent most of his career advocating for better access to higher education — especially those who have been historically underrepresented.

Southern University, located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is the largest historically black college or university (HBCU) in the state and is the flagship school of the Southern University System, which also includes two other universities, A&M College, and a law school. The school has an enrollment of over 7,000 students. Shields' childhood friend, Don Hall, told him that the position at Southern University was "what you've been preparing for your whole life."

When Shields was growing up in Iowa, he encountered Lois '51 and Jack '49

Braby, who immediately took an interest in him, inviting him to their home and taking him to summer camps. As he began to look at colleges in high school, Shields could have gone to a bigger school but chose to stay in Iowa and attend Graceland, where he thrived. His experiences as a basketball player as well as the president of the Black Student Union informed his leadership style throughout his career. "Graceland gave me the insight and self-awareness I needed to get my first job in higher education," Shields recalled.

Shields held administrative positions in admissions at the University of Iowa College of Law, University of Michigan Law School, and Duke University School of Law. He has also held a deanship and a teaching position at Phoenix School of Law and acted as the vice president for student affairs at The City College of New York.

As a university president, Shields views his service on the Graceland board of trustees as professional development and an enriching experience. "There are extraordinarily successful people who have come through Graceland and I have been so fortunate to work with other trustees during this important time for Graceland," he said.

"Graceland is full of aspirers — people who want to do something, who want to improve the world. My Graceland Experience had good and bad moments," Shields continued. "Those opportunities helped me learn important leadership lessons through immersion and that gave me the ability to insert myself into circumstances that I might not have otherwise."

© President-Chancellor Shields presided over his first Commencement at Southern University and served as the speaker for the Summer 2022 ceremony.

Shields acknowledged that many people helped him along his journey, which made him a different kind of leader. "Of the finalists for the presidency at Southern, I was the outlier. I wasn't from the South and I haven't spent my career at an HBCU, but I've had so many Southern alumni reach out to me in support," Shields said.

"It was the right time for Southern, too. My passion has always been student outcomes and I think that is what resonated with their board," Shields said. "I think it is important for institutions to deliver on their educational mission for students. If they can do that, the institution will be successful."

As he prepared for his new position at Southern, Shields reflected on his time at Graceland, both as a student and as a board member, saying, "I am so honored to step into this new role. The point is: it's not about me, it's about the difference you can make in your little place in the universe. That was planted in me at Graceland." — BY SHANE ADAMS



© Ball State University

ALUMNI PROFILE

Coach **DONAN CRUZ '07** has an impressive resume of national championships, coach of the year awards, and national tournament appearances.

He recently won the 2022 AVCA Men's Division I/II National Coach of the Year and MIVA Coach of the Year award in his first year as the Head Men's Volleyball Coach for Ball State University after leading his team to a semifinal berth in the NCAA tournament.

Before Cruz's tenure began at Ball State, he was a four-time American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) NAIA Men's National Coach of the Year while coaching at Grand View University. Cruz was also a two-time NAIA Midwest Coach of the Year and three-time Heart of America Conference Coach of the Year. Cruz built the program from the ground up with the help of the athletic department and support from Grand View's administration. This led to two National Championships for Grand View, and Cruz's .793 winning percentage makes him one of the best in NAIA Men's Volleyball history.

Cruz attributes much of his coaching success to his Graceland Experience. As a student-athlete, he was an outside hitter and defensive specialist for the men's team. He began his volleyball coaching journey as a student intern for the women's program in 2004 and 2005 before becoming the recruiting coordinator in 2006. Cruz shared he had not thought about coaching as a profession until Stu Sherman '85 asked him and five other teammates to consider helping with the women's program. Cruz's passion for mentorship was inspired by Sherman, Stew McDole '65, and Chad McDole '00. Cruz learned the importance of coaching and mentoring each player and understanding how it affects the team. To have a successful team, Cruz said, "You have to be able to get the best out of an athlete without demeaning their character."

Cruz has modeled his teams after Graceland's volleyball programs. In fact, he became Grand View's first men's volleyball coach by putting together a business proposal and pitching this idea to the Director of Athletics and Grand View leadership. This proposal was the culmination of his learning inside the classroom and on the court at Graceland. He convinced the Grand View administration that a men's volleyball team would help with enrollment, mentorship, and retention. Cruz keeps this handwritten business proposal with him as a reminder of his journey.

Cruz expressed his sincere gratitude for the opportunities given to him at Graceland. The things he learned, the relationships he formed, and the chances to grow have helped him develop into an inspiring coach and dedicated husband and father. He met his wife, Anna Bair '06, through his work with Graceland volleyball, and they have three wonderful boys together – and it all began during their time on "the Hill." – BY COLBY CONNELLY

March 31, 2022. **Merlyn Williams**, Independence, Missouri, June 15, 2016.

50 Marjorie Dempsey Barlow, Independence, Missouri, May 20, 2021. **Helen Marsh Closson-Smith**, Shell Knob, Missouri, May 7, 2022. **Robert "Bob" Dobry**, Houston, Texas, Jan. 17, 2018. **Robert Flanders**, Springfield, Missouri, Dec. 28, 2021. **Donald Richardson**, Orangeville, Ontario, Canada, Dec. 11, 2020. **Betty Prather Schlotman**, Independence, Missouri. **John Schlotman**, Independence, Missouri, March 21, 2008. **June "Darleen" Craven Swails**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, March 25, 2022.

51 Maurice Bottom, Raytown, Missouri, Aug. 31, 2013. **Billy Glenn**, Derby, Indiana, March 24, 2012. **Harley Green**, Marysville, Michigan, Nov. 17, 2014. **Vivian "Nita" Helverson Hall**, Asheville, North Carolina, Aug. 2014. **Angela Heide Iles**, Washington, Iowa, Jan. 20, 2022. **Joseph Kemmerer**, Springfield, Missouri, April 14, 2022. **Dale Kresin**, Dearborn, Michigan, Jan. 3, 2008. **Daniel McMillan**, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Aug. 10, 2004. **Shirley Green Morden**, Nicholson, Pennsylvania, Sept. 12, 2019. **Joyce Alexander Petersen**, Plano, Texas, Oct. 20, 2013. **Daniel Piedimonte**, Buckner, Missouri, May 17, 2013. **Myrtis Rohrs**, Independence, Missouri, Oct. 4, 2015. **Roy Shumate Jr.**, Big Fork, Michigan, April 2, 2005. **Kenneth Stubbart**, Columbus, Ohio, April 20, 2020. **James Tingle**, Carlisle, Iowa, March 21, 2019.

52 Samuel Anderson, Flora, Illinois, Dec. 23, 2019. **Robert "Bob" Bath**, Joplin, Missouri, March 9, 2002. **Duane Birks**, Peoria, Arizona, April 17, 2022. **Deloris Noe Branch**, Mexia, Texas, Jan. 22, 2021. **Glenn Crum**, Haysville, Kansas, Nov. 17, 2021. **Martha Hare Holm**, Portland, Oregon, Jan. 2022. **Helen Barritt Joice**, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Jan. 10, 2021. **Harold "Hal" McKain**, Leon, Iowa, Jan. 29, 2022. **Ruth Hise Oney**, Madison, Mississippi, Oct. 3, 2012. **Richard Pinson**, Plano, Texas, June 1, 2020. **Alice Moore Sims**, Independence, Missouri, Jan. 10, 2022. **Floyd "Duke" Sutherland**, Independence, Missouri, Jan. 30, 2009. **Benjamin Yarrington**, Lamoni, Iowa, Sept. 8, 2021.

53 James Andrew, San Diego, California, Aug. 31, 2017. **Patricia Nelson Chittenden**, North Platte, Nebraska, June 12, 2019. **Ronald Duke**, Kitchener, Ontario, May 26, 2022. **Scott Fisher**, Onset,

Massachusetts, Jan. 31, 2022. **Ruth Dice Hampton**, Dayton, Maryland, Aug. 23, 2021. **Beverly Hosette Kinne**, Oelwein, Iowa, June 29, 2016. **Mavis Bergman Munch**, Los Altos, California, May 22, 2022. **Ruby Cover Smith**, Lamoni, Iowa, Aug. 2, 2020.

54 David Blair, Louisville, Kentucky, May 2, 2022. **Shirley Phillips Chapman**, Kent, Washington, Dec. 28, 2021. **Carolyn Sawyer Church**, Ellsworth, Maine, April 30, 2021. **Beverly Rickard Hill**, Sanborn, New York, March 8, 2010. **Carol Leach**, Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 29, 2015. **Patricia Reitenauer Lewis**, Bridgewater, New Jersey, Jan. 13, 2009. **Vernon Robinson**, Sheguiandah, Ontario, Canada, Nov. 11, 2003. **Kenneth Smith**, Independence, Missouri, Oct. 12, 2015.

55 Zola Hansen Angeroth, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Jan. 5, 2022. **Beverly Hobbs Boyd**, Mesa, Arizona, Feb. 9, 2022. **Glynnia Piatt Carpenter**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Feb. 22, 2021. **Sandra Trimble Decker**, Irvington, Virginia, Oct. 25, 2019. **Ladona Gardner Henderson**, Tucson, Arizona, March 2, 2021. **Robert Stapleton**, Milan, Michigan, March 13, 2019. **Sally Omans Tillock**, Independence, Missouri, Nov. 7, 2017. **Floyd Watkins**, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 16, 2015.

56 Dolores Dains Alvis, Blairstown, Missouri, Jan. 18, 2022. **Chloe Price Coffman**, Brentwood, California, July 20, 2007. **H. Pierre Eilian**, Chicago, Illinois, Dec. 26, 2021. **J. Phillip Langdon**, East Moline, Illinois, Aug. 20, 2013. **Burrell Mohler Sr.**, Independence, Missouri, June 27, 2021. **William Nichols**, Mesa, Arizona, July 17, 2020. **Larry Schneider**, Corpus Christi, Florida, June 23, 2021. **"Joyce" Ballantyne Stevenson**, Amarillo, Texas, March 4, 2022. **Roger Stover**, Perris, California, Dec. 15, 2019.

57 Harold Allison, Urbandale, Iowa, Dec. 12, 2017. **Ronna Penn Booth**, Independence, Missouri, May 7, 2019. **James Briggs**, Portola Valley, California, Jan. 26, 2020. **Wayne Church**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, Aug. 3, 2021. **Margaret Hughes Essig**, Independence, Missouri, July 12, 2015. **Norman Gaither**,

Kerrville, Texas, July 17, 2022. **Nancy Doty Gorden**, Johnston, Iowa, Dec. 15, 2016. **Paul Hein**, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, April 4, 2013. **Lynda Deems Vollmer Humphreys**, Raymore, Missouri, Nov. 19, 2018. **Beryle Clesson Immer**, Napoleon, Missouri, May 28, 2020. **Raymond Larson**, Davenport, Iowa, Oct. 17, 2021. **Wayne Prall**, Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 18, 2016. **Ettie Allen Towery**, Everett, Washington, Sept. 18, 2019. **Ray Unger**, Mesa, Arizona, June 25, 2020.

58 Charles Angeroth, Council Bluffs, Iowa, April 12, 2006. **Thomas Gaarder**, Fullerton, California, April 25, 2022. **Gloria Carpender Qualls**, Independence, Missouri, Jan. 30, 2017. **Robert Wallace**, Blue Springs, Missouri, Dec. 15, 2015. **Darrell Webb**, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Feb. 7, 2021. **Richard Zuber Jr.**, McKinney, Texas, Dec. 4, 2021.

59 Jay Allen, Blue Springs, Missouri, Feb. 12, 2022. **LaFerne Bryant Barsch**, Independence, Missouri, April 13, 2022. **Warren Bennett**, Rockford, Illinois, Dec. 22, 2017. **Ronald Greene**, North Richland Hills, Texas, April 30, 2019. **Wayne Groner**, Battlefield, Missouri, April 11, 2022. **Roy Koonce**, Stanton, Texas, June 2, 2022. **Paul Mitchell**, Houston, Texas, Feb. 25, 2018. **Virginia Vest Morse**, San Marcos, Texas, Feb. 23, 2020. **Gloria Goodrich Phillips**, Cainsville, Missouri, May 4, 2017. **Oren Sprague**, Greeley, Colorado, May 22, 2021. **Henry Volskay**, Independence, Missouri, Dec. 8, 2021. **Max Wooderson**, Liberty, Missouri, Aug. 1, 2022.

60 Jean Hodges Conway, Friendswood, Texas, Jan. 13, 2022. **Jerry Goddard**, Loveland, Colorado, Feb. 29, 2020. **Gloria Bonilla Perry**, Morrisville, North Carolina, March 1, 2022.

61 G. David Clark, Melbourne Beach, Florida, Jan. 5, 2022. **Allen Huggett**, Sisters, Oregon, March 5, 2017. **Richard Hughes**, Blue Springs, Missouri, Dec. 5, 2021. **Patricia Stodden Schmidt**, Grand Lake, Colorado, Oct. 16, 2018.

62 Evelyn Thamke Backer, Runnels, Iowa, Dec. 7, 2002. **Alice Belscamper**, Independence, Missouri, July

GRACELAND CONNECTIONS

This fall, David DeBarthe '58 is taking "History of Inequality in the United States," one of the classes being taught by Instructor of History Eric Elliott '14. Elliott is the grandson of former history, sociology, and religion professor Alma Blair '49, who became a mainstay for Graceland courses in History of Latter Day Saintism, Western Civilization, World Civilization, and Greek and Roman History during his tenure (1955–1994). DeBarthe took at least one class from Blair back in the early 1960s.

DeBarthe is probably the only Graceland to ever take classes from both a grandparent and grandchild. In fact, Elliott and Blair are likely the only grandchild/grandparent faculty to date. They're the only ones we know of, anyway.

Do you know of any other cool stories or facts? Share them with us: graceland.edu/classnotes

6, 2022. **Mary Danielson Hegg**, Colorado, Sept. 10, 2018. **Cheryl Wise Kelley**, Athens, Georgia, May 12, 2015. **Kenneth Merrell**, Fairfield, California, May 28, 2014. **Herbert Miller**, Seabrook, Texas, April 30, 2019. **Marlene Meinke Nave**, San Diego, California, Nov. 5, 2011. **Charlene Skoor Root**, Pinole, California, Jan. 10, 2022. **Bill Steiner Jr.**, Palm Harbor, Florida, Nov. 11, 2021. **Rosalie King Watt**, Altona, Illinois, Nov. 3, 2021.

63 Lloyd Barnett, Beloit, Kansas, Aug. 12, 2019. **Kenneth Duke**, Keosauqua, Iowa, Jan. 22, 2021. **Arthur Faunce**, Holt, Missouri, Jan. 28, 2017. **Stephen Glauner**, Twin Falls, Idaho, July 29, 2015. **Diane Green**, Oldsmar, Florida, Nov. 5, 2016. **Judy Reiff Jack**, Blue Springs, Missouri, May 1, 2015. **Ron Mobley**, Aiea, Hawaii, Feb. 2021. **Nancy Smith**, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, July 29, 2016. **Rose Tignor Strickland**, Norwalk, Connecticut, May 15, 2022. **Barbara Bauer Velte**, Loudon, Tennessee, April 19, 2021.

64 Ruth Emerick Butcher, Shelburne, Ontario, May 13, 2016. **Gerald Garfield**, Mesquite, Texas, July 27, 2014. **Joyce Ward Maddox**, Pflugerville, Texas, April 21, 2022. **Robert Nesbitt**, Venice, California, Feb. 1, 2012. **Roger Resch**, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 6, 2019. **Richard Sanderson**,

Independence, Missouri, Oct. 4, 2017. **Kennard Stark**, Tuolumne, California, June 15, 2008.

65 Robert Butcher, Shelburne, Ontario, Oct. 2004. **William Robinson**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, Aug. 24, 2022.

66 Patricia Fisk Allen, Lee's Summit, Missouri, Jan. 10, 2022. **Richard Bailey**, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 23, 2021. **William Buak**, Watsonville, California, Jan. 24, 2021. **Janice Palmer Dickson**, Sand Springs, Oklahoma, Dec. 2007. **Kenneth Markham**, Columbia, Tennessee, Feb. 24, 2022. **Theodore Spessard**, Belle, Missouri, Dec. 1, 2021.

67 Dorothy Crawford Boardman, Heber City, Utah, Jan. 29, 2022. **Paul Floyd**, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 14, 2019. **Terry Hagen**, Bismarck, North Dakota, Sept. 2, 2008. **John Isaacks**, Lawrence, Kansas, Sept. 28, 2021. **Wanda Roule Noftsgar**, Alpha, Illinois, April 26, 2017.

68 Jeanne Thomas Allen, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Feb. 21, 2022. **Sandra Groner Boice**, Overland Park, Kansas, Feb. 24, 2018. **Norma Hall Mercurio**, Westerville, Ohio, Feb. 9, 2022. **Robert Rolfe**, Lamoni, Iowa, March 9, 2022. **Glen Trullinger**, Eagleville, Missouri, Jan. 2, 2022.



The *Acacia* was first published in 1912 as a project of the Athenian Literary Society.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Preserving Our Past

TWILA HIDY RIDER '71 found a way to combine her love for genealogy with her life's work of librarianship to preserve an important piece of Graceland's history.

Just a few years after Rider graduated from Graceland University with a bachelor's degree in music education, she began working at the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital, which had recently made its clinical facilities and medical library available to Graceland nursing students. The program was just starting, and Rider was brought on to work in the Dr. Charles F. Grabske Sr. Library as an assistant librarian, where she would support nursing students in their pursuit of higher learning for the next 25 years. She served in the Grabske Library for an additional ten years after it moved to Graceland's newly-built Independence Campus building in 1999.

In 2009, Rider transitioned into a new role as a genealogy reference associate for Mid-Continent Public Library's Midwest Genealogy Center (MGC). Each day might look different, but her core duties include

helping customers with ancestry or genealogy questions, managing MGC's social media, and overseeing research inquiries submitted from all over the world. But one of her most meaningful projects to date is preserving Graceland University's history by expanding MGC's collection of *Acacia* yearbooks.

Mid-Continent is considered an affiliate library for FamilySearch, an online database dedicated to helping people discover more about their family histories. FamilySearch volunteers stationed at MGC scan books to digital format, including the library's extensive collection of yearbooks, with several editions of the *Acacia* already digitized for online viewing.

LEGACY FAMILY Rider's daughter, Tiffany Rider '06 Smith, is creative director on Graceland's Marketing & Communications team. She is also the project lead and designer for *Horizons*, including this very issue.

"It has been very important to me to help facilitate the preservation of Graceland's history in our extensive genealogy library, hopefully for many future generations who want to discover their Graceland family connections there. I pinch myself every day that I get to go to work and be in that environment."

One year when Rider was visiting the Lamoni campus for homecoming, there was a display of *Acacia* yearbooks at the Memorial Student Center (now Newcom Student Union), that were free for anyone to take. Rider gathered the years not already in MGC's collection, knowing they would be digitized and could forever be used as resources for future generations. In December 2021, she again helped acquire more – 41 *Acacias* ranging from 1920-2017 were added to MGC's holdings by donation of Graceland.

Rider and her family have a long and rich heritage at Graceland. Her great-grandfather George Emslie, a stonemason from Scotland, was part of the construction crew of the Administration Building. There is a long list of his descendants down through the years who are Graceland alumni, and Rider is proud to be one of them. She was uniquely positioned with her role at MGC to preserve more pieces of Graceland history. - **BY GEORGIA SEAGRAVES**

FOR REFERENCE

Midwest Genealogy Center now has 89 years of Graceland yearbooks available and FamilySearch continues the work of digitizing as additional yearbooks enter MGC's system. Until those become available in digital format, the hard copies can be viewed in the reference section at MGC in Independence, Missouri.

If you have a copy of an *Acacia* that is not in their catalog and you are looking to discard it, Mid-Continent will happily accept your donation.



SCAN THE CODE to view MGC's entire holdings list and gain access to the digitized copies mymcpl.org/genealogy

- 69 Edith Mohler Bristow**, Johnston, Iowa, April 23, 2022. **Cheryl Knight McCloskey**, Aurora, Illinois, May 2, 2015. **Carol Barnhouse Teipen**, Greenwood, Indiana, Sept. 13, 2020. **Thomas "Tim" Thomas III**, Independence, Missouri, Nov. 14, 2021. **Michael Windes**, Olathe, Kansas, March 31, 2022.
- 70 Rebecca Ballantyne**, West Des Moines, Iowa, March 15, 2022. **Saralene Salton Earsom**, Bolivar, Missouri, March 29, 2021. **Douglas Larche**, Iowa City, Iowa, Aug. 27, 2021. **John Menzies, President Emeritus**, Hackettstown, New Jersey, March 27, 2022. **Laurel "Art" Shotwell**, Newport News, Virginia, Jan. 19, 2022.
- 71 Jeanette Perritt Barnett**, Beloit, Kansas, April 27, 2021. **Samuel Brockman**, Sparta, Wisconsin, April 24, 2012. **Rosario Herrera**, Folsom, California, July 18, 2021. **Rodney McDowell**, Kansas City, Missouri, April 4, 2013. **Gregory Savage**, Clinton, Missouri, March 14, 2022. **Sharon Elefson Worgum**, Olympia, Washington, March 1, 2021.
- 72 Trenton Axtell**, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 13, 2018. **Debbie Newbill Eklund**, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 25, 2021. **Randy Flowers**, Independence, Missouri, April 16, 2021. **Ann Giefer Gourd**, Arlington, Texas, June 7, 2008. **Clarence "Glen" Gunn Jr.**, Graveport, Ohio, Sept. 25, 2017. **Lillian Halonen Hand**, Linden, Iowa, May 16, 2019. **Terri Cavin Majors**, Lake Lotawana, Missouri, March 14, 2022. **Myrna Omstead Morris**, Lamoni, Iowa, Jan. 4, 2022. **Bernard Neal**, Lamoni, Iowa, Dec. 12, 2014. **C. Kirk Page**, Twin Falls, Idaho, March 2, 2022. **Gregg Rodekopf**, Independence, Missouri, Dec. 25, 2009. **Nick Summers**, Wellston, Ohio, June 10, 2019. **Kendall Young**, Buford, Georgia, Jan. 20, 2009.
- 73 Monte Beck**, Independence, Missouri, April 25, 2022. **Miyoko Shimizu Bethel**, Honolulu, Hawaii, June 26, 2016. **F.C. Dutton**, Independence, Missouri, Feb. 26, 2018. **Rudolph "Rudy" Leutzinger Jr.**, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, Feb. 29, 2020. **Creighton Metcalf**, Wichita, Kansas, Oct. 18, 2017. **LaVonne Carlile Moore**, Independence, Missouri, Nov. 14, 2019. **Monte Smith**, Blue Springs, Missouri, Aug. 19, 2019.
- 74 Carlos Brown**, Chicago, Illinois, Aug. 16, 2014. **Marna Etter Burgess**, Independence, Missouri, Jan. 9, 2018. **Tina Thompson Hamilton**, Kansas City, Missouri, April 8, 2017. **James McElroy**, Shenandoah, Iowa, April 20, 2009. **June Barton Robison**, Leon, Iowa, Nov. 24, 2020. **John Skillings**, Springfield, Missouri, April 22, 2022. **Carolyn Beach Smith**, Gladstone, Michigan, Oct. 19, 2020. **Alicia "Jan" Slemp Waddell**, Griswold, Iowa, July 7, 2022. **James Williams**, Warrensburg, Missouri, Sept. 7, 2021.
- 75 Kerby Dowhower**, Independence, Missouri, Jan. 19, 2022. **Robert Espindola**, Palm Springs, California, May 11, 2016. **Delene Parker Pierce**, Blue Springs, Missouri, Dec. 11, 2014. **Steven Smith**, Lamoni, Iowa, Dec. 20, 2021.
- 76 Randall Christiansen**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dec. 11, 2021. **Dean Robinson**, Millbank, South Dakota, July 2, 2017.
- 77 Nancy Tabor Harper**, Lamoni, Iowa, May 19, 2012. **Janice Meredith**, Omaha, Nebraska, June 9, 2015. **Jeffrey Oberdick**, Liberty, Missouri, May 1, 2018.
- 78 Vicki Stites Donath**, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Oct. 2, 2011. **Marilyn Marek Schroer**, Newberry, South Carolina, Feb. 13, 2022. **Herbert Schuelke Jr.**, Sweetwater, Texas, Jan. 17, 2022.
- 79 Tammy Ewing Jones**, Indianola, Iowa, Jan. 6, 2022.
- 80 Gary Jones**, Lexington, South Carolina, Jan. 14, 2022. **Stephen Moore**, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, Dec. 2, 2009. **Paula Osborn**, Woodland, California, Nov. 17, 2019. **Susan Case Wheatley**, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 30, 2004.
- 81 Steven Dodds**, Independence, Missouri, Oct. 24, 2021. **David Rimmer**, Independence, Missouri, July 28, 2013.
- 84 Barbara Kroll**, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, June 12, 2021. **Susan "Susie" Wheeler Pratt**, Lamoni, Missouri, Nov. 5, 2021.

- George "Andy" Shaw**, Blue Springs, Missouri, Dec. 30, 2021.
- 86 Donald Glaza Jr.**, Independence, Missouri, Feb. 19, 2014. **Martha Ballew Morey**, Scottsdale, Arizona, Feb. 6, 2018. **Sandi Murdock**, Richland, Washington, April 20, 2018.
- 87 Christina Carr Gillespie**, Nevada, Missouri, April 4, 2016. **Karen McLean Hagar**, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, Dec. 31, 2021. **Debra Parsley-Zahnd**, Independence, Missouri, July 21, 2013.
- 88 Edwin Ratashak Jr.**, Osceola, Iowa, April 18, 2016. **Melville Dreves Sego**, Webster City, Iowa, Aug. 17, 2022.
- 89 Steven Schaal**, Blue Springs, Missouri, June 13, 2022.
- 90 Lesley Wyatt Steinert**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, Feb. 4, 2018.
- 92 Negede Demissie**, Long Beach, California, Aug. 9, 2018. **Alice Dillenburg**, Creston, Iowa, Oct. 2, 2019. **Marvin Dillenburg**, Diagonal, Iowa, June 22, 2009. **Barbara Flynt Fields**, Hildebran, North Carolina, June 7, 2021. **James Galloway**, Creston, Iowa, Oct. 2, 2021. **David Gray**, Ankeny, Iowa, March 8, 2011. **Barbara Hawley**, Ridgefield, Washington, Oct. 1, 2021. **Janice Berry Meador**, Covington, Virginia, Jan. 12, 2016. **Henry Queen**, San Antonio, Texas, July 10, 2012.
- 94 Matt LaFrance**, Valley Springs, California, June 13, 2019. **Anna Mieczkowski Perrino**, Bristol, Connecticut, Sept. 17, 2017.
- 95 Ruth Holthaus**, Burlington, Kansas, Aug. 28, 2012. **Lyla Lara**, McLouth, Kansas, July 4, 2015. **Kathryn Voss Vigen**, Decorah, Iowa, Aug. 12, 2022.
- 96 Linus Benoit**, Gladstone, Missouri, July 29, 2006. **Denise Ball Jordan**, Fairview Heights, Illinois, March 31, 2021.
- 97 Mary Hill Blaisdell**, Kansas City, Missouri, April 2, 2008. **Susan Turc Edwards**, Albemarle, North Carolina, April 22, 2018. **Larry Parker**, Saint Joe, Arkansas, Nov. 9, 2011.
- 98 Betty Egbert**, Richland, Washington, April 18, 2010.
- 99 Rebecca Broky Blake**, Los Angeles, California, May 8, 2022. **Jeanne Leader Erlich**, Illinois, Nov. 3, 2010. **Donna Duke Kiening**, Victoria, Texas, July 17, 2015. **Billie Mann**, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, April 23, 2010. **Catherine Austin Schott**, Midlothian, Virginia, Nov. 3, 2020. **Teri Strandgard Victor**, Glendale, Arizona, June 11, 2022.
- 00 Cheryl Burket Hintz**, Quincy, Illinois, Feb. 3, 2010. **Nellie Estep Shain**, Ridgeway, Missouri, Jan. 7, 2022.
- 01 Cheryl Stoker Speck**, Edgerton, Kansas, July 24, 2021.
- 02 Evelyn Koopman English**, Yankton, South Dakota, Jan. 22, 2014. **Margaret "Peggy" Vernick Peltoma**, Geneva, Ohio, July 13, 2009.
- 03 Shelley King**, Bangor, Maine, 2020. **Patricia Hacker McDorman**, Abingdon, Illinois, June 17, 2022. **Eric Teubel**, Bloomfield, Iowa, Dec. 10, 2012.
- 04 Jennifer Burget Anderson**, Altoona, Iowa, May 29, 2022. **Tasha Beason Berls**, Independence, Missouri, Feb. 19, 2012. **Glenna Lurten**, Independence, Missouri, June 30, 2018. **Victoria Rosencrants**, Centerville, Iowa, May 31, 2021.
- 05 Ruth Kasper Harkins**, Corydon, Indiana, March 2, 2014.
- 07 Lauren Way**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, Dec. 18, 2021.
- 08 Alejandro Rios**, Las Vegas, Nevada, Nov. 24, 2020.
- 10 Leslie Glod Barnes**, Independence, Missouri, Feb. 19, 2016. **Mona Berg**, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Dec. 11, 2018.
- 12 Lucas Wilding**, Waterloo, Iowa, Dec. 4, 2021.

POLICIES

Submissions are included as space permits and may be edited for length or clarity. Send high quality digital photos – 300 dpi and/or minimum of 1,200 pixels on the image's shortest side. graceland.edu/classnotes

Q View the online version of *Horizons* at: **graceland.edu/Horizons**

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