



# Graceland University Horizons

Alumni and Friends Magazine

Fall 2009 Vol. 25, No. 2



*Sherri Kirkpatrick's HealthEd Connect  
Serves the World's Neediest Children*



# from the President

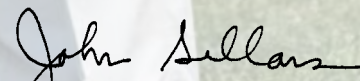
I am dressed for SPEC in this impromptu photo with Sherri and Jac Kirkpatrick. They joined 1,200 high school students and volunteers in late July for the annual Community of Christ SPECTACULAR event on our Lamoni campus. See the photos on pages 8-11 of this issue of *Horizons* for glimpses of the energy and excitement that prevail during this wonderful weeklong camp.

It was my pleasure to meet with Sherri and Jac as they inaugurate their new HealthEd Connect project that will bring village health care and community-based orphan programs to Sub-Saharan Africa, and help provide for the significant number of children in those countries who have AIDS. Sherri is truly the Albert Schweitzer of Graceland. She has traveled the world bringing health-care education and hope to those most in need. Her work with the Graceland-affiliated International Health Center for the last 20 years has been nothing short of miraculous. She has taken students from Graceland's School of Nursing to the far reaches of our planet in the name of higher education and humanitarian service.

Jac has spent those same years as a CofC Apostle to Africa, India and other third-world nations. He helped develop and launch the church's *WorldService Corps*. He understands how to function in these far-and-away places in ways that would baffle the rest of us. I can't imagine a couple more empowered to drive forward the noble goals of HealthEd Connect. They complement each other with well-honed organizational skills and a unique cultural understanding of the third world. Their backgrounds are a perfect fit for the work ahead.

Sherri and I have known each other all our lives. We grew up in the same area and attended the same CofC congregation in Independence, MO. It is humbling to me to see Sherri and Jac opening their hearts and rolling up their sleeves to help some of the neediest children in the world. I am proud that Graceland has been involved with the International Health Center over the years and that we will continue to play a supportive role with HealthEd Connect and Sherri's life-long commitment to these children.

Please read Sherri's heartwarming journal from the recent trip she and Jac took to Sub-Saharan Africa to launch HealthEd Connect. Her words and Jac's insightful images appear on pages 2-6 of this issue of *Horizons*.



John Sellars  
Graceland President

# Graceland University Horizons

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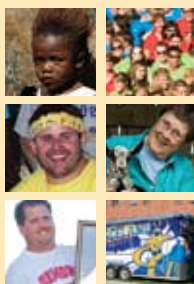
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# CREATING: THE FUTURE

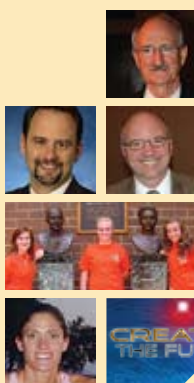
Homecoming 2009 is just around the corner. We would love to see you back on "the Hill" the weekend of October 9-11. The new Resch Science and Technology Hall will be dedicated on Saturday morning. All of the other social and athletic events that make a fall weekend in Lamoni a special time each year are listed at the back of this issue, on pages 23-25. Come and enjoy the fun. Reconnect with old friends. Meet some new ones. As our Homecoming theme this year says, Graceland is "Creating: The Future."



- 2 *HealthEd Connect* Brings Sherri's Village Healthcare Vision to Life
- 8 'SPEC' is Truly SPECTACULAR
- 12 Camp Moja is 'Number One'
- 14 Godmother of Goat Cheese
- 16 Softball Field Makeover at North Park
- 17 New Events Trailer Hits the Road

## Class Notes

- 18 Edgar Hansell Honored
- 19 Message from the Alumni President
- 20 Steve Anders Named Distinguished Professor
- 21 Shaw Great Grandchildren Shine at SPEC
- 22 Kristy Feldman: *Hectic Simplicity*
- 23 HOMECOMING 2009



**About the cover:** Sherri Kirkpatrick is surrounded by just a few of the faces of children she has worked with over the years through her GU-affiliated International Health Center. She and her husband Jac Kirkpatrick are now launching HealthEd Connect, an NGO that will initiate village health care research and projects. Read all about it on pages 2-6. *Horizons* art director Steve Edwards created the graphics and Aaron Neeley took Sherri's photo. Photos of the children are all by Jac Kirkpatrick.

## Horizons, Volume 25, No. 2

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# HealthEd Connect Expands Sherri's Lifelong Passion: Saving Children's Lives With Education and Hope

(Editor's note: We at *Horizons* were humbled when we first read Sherri Kirkpatrick's journal from her recent trip to Sub-Saharan Africa with her husband Jac Kirkpatrick. They were there to launch *HealthEd Connect*, a new Graceland-affiliated, non-governmental organization (NGO). It replaces the GU *International Health Center* organization, Sherri's village health care research and projects for women and children in China, Nepal, India, Africa, South America and the Caribbean.

Sherri has steadfastly championed health care education for mothers in remote villages throughout the world. At the same time she has worked in myriad positions for Graceland for nearly 30 years. Well, she just retired. But, as you read her wonderful journal about the first *HealthEd Connect* journey, you will understand that, as Jac says, "Retirement just means you have a new boss!" Jac retired a while back after remarkable careers with NASA and the Community of Christ. He continues to be heavily involved with *WorldService Corps*, a program he helped found and develop for the church.

As you will discover, they do have a new boss. And, Graceland has a new jewel in its crown. As Sherri forges ahead, in retirement, to bring health care education and advocacy programs to the poorest (and perhaps sickest) children in the world, *Horizons* will try to keep Gracelanders informed about *HealthEd Connect* and the extraordinary Kirkpatricks. You can also watch Sherri's online journal for updates: <http://healthedconnect.blogspot.com/>).





Katwa health workers and Sherri.



By Sherri Kirkpatrick '65

I love my new boss! She's a person of few words but her occasional smile and penetrating brown eyes are sufficient incentive for me to work harder than I have ever worked before. In spite of her diminutive size, she's able to command great respect. The pay itself isn't great but the job she offers is immensely challenging and overflowing with rewards.

My boss's name is Miriam. She is two years old and HIV positive.

Many people would consider Miriam fortunate because she has a mother (also HIV positive) which makes Miriam a 'single' orphan. 'Double' orphans have neither a mother nor father. Both Miriam and her mother, Ethel, will take medication regularly for the rest of their lives. That's assuming, of course, that they can find money for transportation to the nearest clinic where the medication is supplied by the government; that they receive enough nutrition to keep their immune systems as healthy as possible; that they don't get discouraged and quit taking the medication because of the side effects; and that the challenges of survival itself as a widow and child in Africa don't overwhelm them.

It was knowledge of Miriam and the other 12 million orphans in Africa that motivated me to launch a new career. Actually, the new career has been in the planning for months. I just hadn't met the little boss I would work

for. But I'm not the only one working for Miriam. Along with my husband, Jac, and the support of Graceland's president, John Sellars, *HealthEd Connect*, a new NGO affiliated with Graceland, was recently incorporated with the mission *to empower women and children through evidence-based health care, education and advocacy programs.*

#### Botswana

After weeks of searching on the web and developing a wide network of contacts who work with orphans and vulnerable children (OVC's), Jac and I, along with two *World Service Corps* (WSC) volunteers, Ashley Guinan and GU student Rachael Zimmerman, arrived in Africa the first of June. We first visited Botswana, which is known for its support system for OVC's. Thanks to the Internet, we had developed a number of collegial relationships and finally had the opportunity to meet our email friends. Our first stop was St. Peter's where we were warmly greeted by Father Andrew, his wife Gladys, and 92 preschoolers who ran to give us knee hugs, smiles, and laughter as we approached! They have a school-type facility with Disney characters painted on the walls. Their program primarily centers on preschool activities with two meals plus two snacks a day. In the afternoon 20 teenagers join the little ones for after-school tutoring programs. Most of the children live with grandmothers.

Our next stop was *SOS Village* which is composed of 16 homes for 300 children. Each "home" has two women assigned to cook and supervise the 12 children in their care. SOS does not run a school itself but instead sends the children to public schools. Their biggest challenge has been the inability to grow fast enough to house the huge number of children needing care. Realizing they needed to adjust their program, they recently established an outreach program to strengthen the extended family and keep the kids in the community rather than moving them into the Village.



Sherri's new 'Boss,' Miriam.

*Flying Mission* was our next visit. Saralee was our hostess and provided very helpful information. *Flying Mission's* original goal was to provide air transport for seriously ill patients. Over the years the mission has changed and they now concentrate on working with like-minded organizations that focus on HIV/AIDS. They partner and mentor other groups in tasks such as getting registered, handling money, home based care and prevention programs. A highlight of our visit was the impromptu appearance of Malcolm McArthur, the founder of *Flying Mission*. He wasted no time in trying to recruit us to be long-term volunteers (two to five years at least!) for his program.

*Stepping Stones* was our next destination. Housed in a new multi-building facility, the program provides after-school programs for 60 teenagers aged 11 to 18. Our energetic hostess, Lisa Jamu, founded *Stepping Stones* in 2006. Her original plan had been to provide a program for young girls but she soon decided to add boys as well and concentrate on teenagers which are often the most challenging. They had a party the day we visited for a Peace Corps volunteer who had been with them for two years. During the going-away party we were treated to the *Obama Call* which goes like this: Clap, clap, clap. Clap, clap, clap. YES WE CAN!

## Zambia

Our time in Botswana was well spent as we learned from the experts in the field. We were eager, however, to move on to Zambia where we would begin looking at possibilities for our own program. Catherine Mambwe, the summer host for the WSC volunteers and the incredible friend that helped us organize our trip, met us at the airport. We were also met by Mathew and Santha Mathews, the parents of Ron Mathews '97, a Graceland grad and enthusiastic supporter of *HealthEd Connect*.

**Chipulukusu** — The first visit Catherine had lined up for us was the Community of Christ Chipulukusu congregation. We had expected to meet with a few of the

church leaders. We were pleasantly surprised by over 150 children lined up in front of the church yelling greetings as they ran to our car. As it turned out, Pastor Dismas Mulenge and a couple of other church members organized a community school two months ago and already had 220 kids enrolled. As Dismas said, "We found most of the kids were just roaming about because they had no schools they could afford to go to. As a group we decided the name of the school should be *Young Peacemaker School* to show them the good things of being Christian." The pastor and two other men are personally paying a modest salary for the two non-credentialed teachers. The school is open to all children. Even though government schools are theoretically free, families need to pay for uniforms, shoes, school fees and books. It may only cost \$10 but that's totally out of the realm of possibility for many.

Three of the original Kafwa health workers I trained in 1992, Joyce, Grace, and Mary, continue to provide health care for the community. They have recruited 13 new Kafwa and regularly visit homes on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Most of the visits are to homes with orphans and people with AIDS. On Fridays they hold an under-five clinic to weigh babies. One of their new responsibilities is to refer children to the school. When necessary, they contact other church families to help provide food where they find pressing needs.

**Luanshya** — Our second visit was to the mining town of Luanshya where we met with Joyness Banda (a registered nurse) and her husband, Able, along with a small group of church and community members. The Luanshya group started an OVC program in 2004, funded by Global Fund, which they named *Community of Peace*. At the peak of the program more than 60 OVCs were supported with uniforms, books and school fees. In addition home based care (HBC) was provided to the surrounding community. The Global Fund resources ran out last year, however, and the program has shrunk accordingly with only 30 orphans currently assisted on a minimal basis



Grandmother caregivers.

with school supplies. Joyness owns the house where the program is located and continues to make it available even though the rental income from Global Fund dried up. Four teenage orphan boys currently live in the house. The group tries to support the program by raising chickens, growing and selling Maize and growing a garden.

Lunanshya is where we met Miriam, our new little boss. Miriam and her widowed mother live in the community and have received assistance with food, transportation to the hospital and clothing. Even though they are both on ART therapy for HIV, the reality of this treatment became clear in a new way. Joyness told us that patients must travel many miles to the clinic to obtain medication. If they don't have money, they don't go. In addition, the medication on an empty stomach makes them quite ill. When they don't have food, they don't eat, and subsequently they quit taking their medication.

**Mansa** — We had an all-day ride over rutted dirt roads across the pedicle of Congo to Luapula Province. Pastors from five congregations walked/rode bicycles for long distances to attend our meeting under a tree. Each pastor reported on the specific needs of his/her area. Some mentioned the need for women's group uniforms, others mentioned literacy and recreational needs, while another mentioned the need for increased farm production. None mentioned the need to assist orphans. When we specifically asked about the OVC population, all admitted that approximately 75% of each of their congregations was composed of children in need. They saw no way they could assist the kids, however, without outside help. Catherine spoke up and said, "Everything mentioned does not always need money to start. Take a vacation from spiritual journey and see what you are doing for physical needs of people."

Our assessment of Mansa is that the needs are probably even greater there than those in the Copperbelt area. The leaders, however, are feeling totally overwhelmed and don't know where to start. As one said, "We have the

passion, we just don't know how to package it." This group does not seem ready to launch into a program at the moment. They will need mentoring before they are ready.

We visited with two of the original Wasaidizi (health workers) from the Congo that traveled to Mansa to meet with us. Chola had gotten up at 4 a.m. to walk six kilometers to meet Kipili. Together they then walked another 15 kilometers to Kaboka where they caught a canoe to cross the river. When they reached the other side they rode bicycles for several miles until they could catch a bus. Sounds like an iron-man race. Amazing ladies! They briefed us on the Traditional Birth Attendant training we had arranged for them and 18 other women last year. They said nine of the women are now government employees (with the impressive pay of \$15-20 a month) with possibilities for the others to be employed soon. Chola delivered eight babies and Kipili delivered six babies — in the last two weeks alone! Chola said the baby she delivered during my last visit had been named "Sherri." When we asked about OVC's, they didn't seem to think there was much of a problem. The community is absorbing them.

**Kasompe** — Back in the Copperbelt Area we went to a gathering at the Kasompe church. We expected to meet with a few of the leaders and instead were greeted by over 150 people, most of whom were widows and orphans. A group of 15 or so had organized a drama, complete with a little choir, to illustrate the plight of orphans. Most of the players were orphans and widows. We met a young widow, Clementine, who is 33 years old and has seven children, six living. Her husband died two years ago just before her twins were born. When we asked about the adorable baby she was holding, she said that was her three-week-old grandchild of her 15 year-old daughter. Wow! The needs are definitely there and the Kasompe leadership seems eager to provide a program but hasn't yet gotten anything launched.

**Chiwempala** — A small group of 10-12 adults met with us at the church where Jenny Kumwimba and



Ashley Guinan and Rachael Zimmerman.

Dominick are co-pastors. They are situated in the middle of a large community with great needs. There are several Outreach International employees in this congregation with community development skills. To date no programs have been started.

**Organizational meeting.** On our final day in the Copperbelt we convened the leadership team to plan next steps. Margaret Chilolo agreed to chair the group which we named the Steering Committee. Others present included Dismas (Chipulukusu), Joyness (Luanshya), Jenny (Chiwempala), Kalenga (Kasompe), Catherine Mambwe plus Rachael, Ashley, Jac and myself. Jac worked over an hour before the meeting to scrub *permanent* ink off of the whiteboard so we could use it. We used the board extensively, so it was definitely worth his effort. We really felt positive about the meeting! There's a great leadership base ready to organize and get things moving.

**Lusaka** — We took a bus to Lusaka, Zambia's capital city, to meet with officials of various OVC-related programs. Upon arrival, the bus station was a zoo but we wiggled through the crowd, pulled our roller-luggage down paths with two-inch thick layers of dust, huffed and puffed up over a foot bridge and finally turned down Cairo Boulevard to our hotel. Jac was swarmed by a group of pickpockets on the way but managed to get through the crowd without losing anything but his handkerchief.

**Contact Organizations.** There are many organizations actively working on OVC programs in Zambia. We were fortunate to personally meet the directors of a number of the key programs such as CCZ, Save the Children, RAPIDS, USAID, World Vision, Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ), as well as a new U.S. friend, Dana Sandstrom-Keating, now living in Zambia. These contacts were extremely helpful and will undoubtedly prove to be invaluable.

## Malawi

From Lusaka we flew to Lilongwe, Malawi where we were met by Lackings Banda with a rental car. He led us to our motel where we ended up going to bed without supper because the electricity went out. The next morning we headed for Chisemphere, an extremely poor area, where Sinkhani (health workers) have been working for 17 years. We sat on rickety little benches in the corrugated tin-roofed church while we visited and shared in a feast of shima, greens and chicken that they had prepared in the outdoor cooking hut. In spite of their lack of resources, the Sinkhani pool funds and try to help at least one orphan at a time. They are also each donating 50 Kwacha

per month (approximately 37 cents) into a Sinkhani banking account to pay for an as yet undetermined project. Over the past three years they've saved over 8,000 Kwacha (\$59). They shared many stories about the power of Neosporin, as did all of the health workers. One of their latest patients was the chief of the village who had a large wound on the top of his foot that they were able to heal with the aid of Neosporin.

From Chisemphere we began the drive to Mzimba. We got within 35 kilometers of our destination when we blew a water hose, the car over heated, and we ended up stranded beside the road. Thank God for cell phones! We called Lackings and he scurried around, found another vehicle and a couple of mechanics, and six hours later came to our rescue. In the meantime we locked the car doors, hunkered down to wait, watched the sun go down, the night become pitch black, and lots of men come and go in a nearby 'store' that turned out to be the local tavern that sold homemade brew. When our rescue crew finally arrived, the mechanics couldn't fix the car on the spot so they ended up towing it to Mzimba. They didn't have a tow rope. No problem. They just took the seat belts out of the car and made a tow rope! Lackings told us that when he learned where we were stranded, he came as fast as possible since we were in an area notorious for robberies and people getting beat up. Very comforting!

The Sinkhani in Mzimba were waiting at the church the next morning to greet us. They too sang the praises of Neosporin. Esther said, "In cold months we make [wood] fires in our homes for cooking. Sometimes the small children are involved in accidents by the fire. The medicine helps so much. Many people come to us to say 'thank you.'" The Sinkhani continue to volunteer on a weekly basis to weigh babies and teach mothers. Last year they weighed over 26,000 babies! Their big request is for money to buy uniforms. According to them, *everyone* that works in the health care system has uniforms except them. They calculated the cost and said it would be \$121 for fabric and a tailor for the 13 uniforms they would like to have. After 17 years of volunteer work, a \$9.30 uniform seems like a reasonable request! We'll work it into next year's budget.

**A long but very successful trip!** New contacts and support possibilities emerge everyday as news of the new OVC programs spread. Lackings Banda made us chuckle with his statement, "I use to be an electrician; now I wire people." Like Lackings, we're wiring programs that will impact the lives of the neediest.

By the way, did I mention that I love my new boss? ■



# Resch Science and Technology Hall to be Dedicated October 10 at Homecoming

The Homecoming Saturday (October 10) dedication planned for the beautiful new Resch Science and Technology Hall is just around the corner after a year-long, 'total makeover' of the old Platz-Mortimore Science Hall. The entire Graceland community pulled together to make the 'state-of-the-sciences' facility a reality.

Science, math and technology faculty picked up their office keys the first week in August and began moving in. Crews were busy installing carpeting and furniture and putting the final touches on a building that has transformed the south end of our Lamoni campus.

Graceland President John Sellars and Board of Trustees Chair Ken McClain '79 will be among those to make remarks at the dedication ceremony. Richard "Dick" Resch '58 will make the dedicatory speech. It was Dick's capstone gift that moved the project forward. "We will be honoring Dick on that great day," said the president, "along with all of the donors who made this project possible." Ken and his wife Cindy also made significant gifts for Resch Hall. A donor wall in the atrium, along with named offices, labs and classrooms, will honor the visionaries who led the way with the project.

It was 53 years ago, on May 6, 1956 that Graceland President Emeritus Edmund J. Gleazer '36 made the dedicatory speech for the opening of Platz-Mortimore. He recently shared his speech and memories of the event with President Sellars. He noted that the total cost of the building and equipment was \$395,000, \$45,000 over budget.

Science and Math Division Chair Dan Pratt '81 stood smiling brightly the other day as faculty arrived to move into their new offices. He recalled the challenges and sacrifices they have made this last year, conducting classes in make-shift facilities all over campus. "I am very proud of these educators," he said. He also praised our science and math students who helped plan the new building. These students scurried around campus last year, taking care of business in the temporary classrooms and labs, doing their part in a university-wide effort to reach the goal we are now about to celebrate.

See pages 23-25 in this issue for a complete event schedule for this year's Homecoming set for October 9-11. We hope to see you on "the Hill" for another fall classic, and an opportunity to honor our alumni who helped make the Resch Science and Technology Hall possible. ■

A recent photo of the completed exterior of the Resch Science and Technology Hall. Tours will be offered during Homecoming.



**SPECIAL  
ADDITIONAL  
WEEKS  
WE ARE**



**WEEKS**



Nearly 1,200 high school students and adult volunteers converged on Graceland's Lamoni campus the last week in July for the annual Community of Christ youth camp known as SPECTACULAR.

# SPECTACULAR SUMMER 2009

They came from all across America, and all around the world - 150 international students, 120 volunteers and more than 900 high school juniors, seniors and 2009 graduates.

The entire group is shown on the previous page, shot by Graceland staff photographer Aaron Neeley '03 while perched in the bucket of Steve Anders' '73 crane. Aaron and staff graphic designer Brad Bowling '07 captured the images here and on the next two pages to document the magic that took place during the 36th SPEC at Graceland.

Many of the volunteers are Graceland alumni, and many of the high school campers will return to our campuses in the near future as Graceland students. The unique atmosphere during SPEC week is part carnival, part artisan workshop, part performing arts Extravaganza, part speed-friend-making, part grand-scale athletic-competition, and a big part group spiritual exploration and journeys to very personal connections with Jesus Christ.



It all started in 1970 as a CofC youth volleyball camp in Independence, Missouri. SPORTS SPECTACULAR, as it was called, came to GU in 1973 and over the years a cornucopia of amazing classes, special events, entertainment, creative exercise and inspired worship have been added to create a non-stop week that has been called by some "the best youth gathering in America."

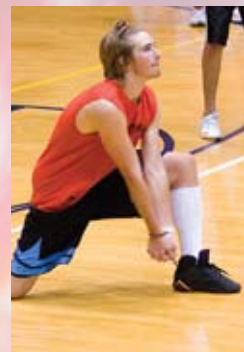
Thousands of caring volunteers over the years have freely offered-up their time and expertise and energy and love. To many of them SPEC is the best week of their year. According to one of this year's Co-Directors, Jamie Varvaro '81, the volunteers do all they can to get ready, "...and then they just step back and get out of the way because SPEC is going to happen." The contagious enthusiasm and vibrancy drives it forward. "There is a higher power at work," he said.

Indeed, you have to step back sometimes and watch in wonder as the week progresses and multi-faith, multi-ethnic, multi-talented, multi-ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE young people come together in this safe, Christ-centered environment. They are encouraged first to discover their inherent worth, and then to cultivate and joyfully express their own, unique gifts.



COMMUNITY OF CHRIST  
SPEED  
SOUND VIBES  
AIR STIND  
WILD ZIPS  
WE ARE





Extreme, southern-Iowa heat and humidity are annual realities of SPEC. Well, not this year. The sun shone bright, breezes wafted over "the Hill" and temperatures hovered in the high 70s. Jamie reports, "One of the directors asked, 'can we have it in the fall again next year?'"

There is always a theme for the week and this year it was, "We Are," based on the South African word "ubuntu," meaning simply "I am, because we are." It's hard to describe, but things happen during the week. Call them transformational experiences, personal synapses of growth. You can literally see the changes in the campers. They begin to feel safe. They open up. By the end of the week, they feel comfortable with themselves, and then with others. "They see they don't have to be perfect," Jamie says. "They can be the best they can be. That's the first step toward becoming a leader." To learn more, check out [www.CofChrist.org/spec/](http://www.CofChrist.org/spec/).

Blessings abound during SPEC week and there is something for everyone. Polynesian dance, print making, stone carving, fireworks, soccer, Hip Hop, sculpture, watercolor, poverty awareness, gourmet cooking, basketball, photography, disc golf, volleyball, stained glass, 'Green' living, Bible improvisation, ceramics, depression and suicide prevention, quiz bowl, being a radio disc-jockey...and a whole lot more. Former "SPEC Kids" will tell you it was one of the best experiences they ever had. Many return as volunteers. They all agree that it is SPECTACULAR. ■



# SPECTACULAR

## SUMMER 2009



# Graceland Alumni Work to Make Camp Moja 'Number One'

By Johnny Godfrey '06

"Moja" translates from the Swahili dialect as "number one." There are a lot of people who would agree with that when it comes to Camp Moja, a summer camp for adults with developmental disabilities who live in the Kansas City area. It was founded in 1977 by the Community of Christ and through the years Graceland University students and alumni have played a crucial role in making it the very special place it is — especially this year.

This camp fulfills campers' emotional and recreational needs, encourages and promotes social skills and provides unique opportunities to the special citizens of our community. Camp Moja is a non-profit organization and is staffed by volunteers who offer their services for the week-long experience each June. Counselors place campers' wants and needs as the "number one" priority. Selfless love, exciting activities, many laughs and the formation of new friendships between counselors and campers make Camp Moja a one-of-a-kind experience. You can tell by all the smiles that the campers understand our camp is truly "Moja."

"Moja Olympics" was the theme this summer. The daily schedule provided great opportunities for campers to explore new activities. Each morning they enjoyed arts and crafts, music, cooking and exercise classes — taught by volunteers who modify activities for the various ability levels of the campers. There were 91 campers and 60 volunteer staffers this year.



Camp co-director Linda Anderson '96, Tom Powell '74, Dan Hanton '65, Camp co-director Cris "Gimp" Dykeman '01, Johnny Godfrey '06, Stew McDole '65.



In the afternoons, during free time, campers enjoyed paddle-boating, canoeing, swimming and interacting with special guests. This year, Camp Moja received a return visit from *The Independence 76ers*. This historical society from the Independence Fire Department provided rides in a vintage fire truck. The campers rode in style in the back of a fully-restored 1960 Open Cab Seagrave Fire Engine that was once frontline equipment in Independence.

The evening activities are where Moja truly shines, including dances, live bands and a talent show. Each year one evening activity evolves from our theme. This year an "Olympic Night" was held to let campers participate in competitive matches among themselves. They were divided into four teams to compete in a three-legged race, beach ball volleyball and a water balloon toss. During planning, we knew these events would be fun, but we were missing one aspect of true Olympic competition... the spectators.

Having been involved with Camp Moja for 11 years, I thought that Graceland athletes would be a great addition. I first contacted GU Dean of Students Tom Powell in early February about the possibility of organizing athletes to join us during the week. Tom was interested and thought he could get 8-10 participants. I was not surprised when, in true Tom Powell fashion, a 16-passenger bus and eight-passenger van pulled onto the Camp Doniphan campgrounds in Excelsior Springs.

The Camp Moja Olympics started with its very own Olympic Opening Ceremony complete with the Olympic



Torch. Loud cheering, cow bells and whistling filled the air as each camper stepped out of the Lodge and assumed his or her position in the parade. There were a lot of happy faces as the cheering continued for the camper/athletes.

The night was nothing short of incredible. Watching the campers create friendships and receive overwhelming support from the Graceland Athletics Department set the tone. Graceland's Mission to educate students for "rich lives" in an environment "based on the Christian values of human dignity, mutual respect, and social responsibility" was certainly demonstrated by college students who selflessly donated their time and effort to create a memorable night for our campers. Campers even sought out autographs from the athletes. Several Graceland coaches also made the trip down and cheered on the campers.

Camp Moja's co-directors this year were also three GU alumni: Linda Anderson '96, Cris "Gimp" Dykeman '01, and me. Linda has volunteered for 20 years at Moja, seven as director. "I keep coming back for the unconditional love that is given by all at camp," she said. "You also learn so much about yourself and others that you can't learn anywhere else." Cris has volunteered for 17 years. "So often people are overlooked because of their disabilities," she said. "Everyone deserves a chance to feel special and Camp Moja provides this for people with disabilities. This is by far the most important thing I do all year." There were 12 other Graceland students and alumni who volunteered throughout the week.

Top: GU football players Cam Wilkomm and Brandon McCoy volunteered.

Left: Mike "Mik" Ditamore, a Captain on the Independence Fire Department, serves as "Mr. Moja," the camp mascot who provides excitement and presents camper awards throughout the week. This is Mr. Moja's 22nd year at camp.

Right: "Camp Moja helped me see the beauty inside of everyone. This camp strengthened my patience, my perspective on what's important in life, and taught me how to love and smile in ways I didn't know I could. I truly had a blast and have already marked it in my calendar for next year."

— Jana Marler '08

Every camper received a Gold Medal to signify their participation in the Inaugural Camp Moja Olympic Night. In addition, Camp Moja would like to present Graceland University with the honorary "Gold" for the outpouring of support and love. Graceland's participation in our event created an environment in which our campers felt "number one."

If you would like to become a Camp Moja supporter or for more information, please check out our Web site at [www.campmoja.org](http://www.campmoja.org) or e-mail us at [campmoja@gmail.com](mailto:campmoja@gmail.com). You can participate with camp in many different ways, including prayer, sponsorship, or by donating a week to be a counselor, nurse or teacher. It is an experience you will never forget. ■



# The Godmother of Goat Cheese

*When Anne Topham gave up academia to make the perfect chèvre, she had no idea that a herd of other artisans would follow in her footsteps.*

By Denise Thornton

Photos by Andy Manis

**A**nne Topham '62 did not set out to become the Midwest's godmother of goat cheese, but she has earned the title. Hailed by the *New York Times* as Wisconsin's grande dame of chèvre, a soft goat cheese originating in France, she is acclaimed by 'foodies' far and wide for helping launch the area's artisanal cheese upsurge.

In the beginning, Anne's ambitions lay elsewhere. Post-Graceland, in the sixties, she was a University of Wisconsin grad student pursuing a doctorate in the history of women in higher education. But she took a break from her research to help her father with spring planting in the rolling hills of south-western Iowa.

"I went from a busy university to watching cows calve in the pasture and learning how to disc a field. I never went back," she says. "Living this close to the most elemental parts of life keeps things in perspective for me in a way that — as much as I love the stacks— the library didn't."

When her father saw how much she loved rural life, he remarked, "You know, you could get a goat for money, marbles or chalk," and the prospect struck her as irresistible. Her first dairy goat, Angelica, whom Anne describes with a wry smile as far from angelic, came with a comic

three-week-old kid that she named after Gilda Radner. Anne sees each addition to the milking herd she now owns as a distinct character and names her accordingly after an appropriate performer, goddess, NPR news broadcaster, or politician. There will likely be a Hillary frolicking among this season's kids.

Anne's father (John Rufus Topham '28) coached her on the finer points of hand milking, and her quest for the best use of the pure, white goat milk was on. Anne wanted to re-create the first goat cheese she had ever tasted, a confection that had been carried from Paris to Madison by the mother of a college friend. "It was a lovely, blooming-rind round of cheese resting on a bed of straw, and I've never forgotten it," she says.

Anne's mother, Alta Royer '28 Topham, was a piano student at GU and went on to become a valued member of the first RLDS Hymnal Committee. "My mother drove a Model T all around the Iowa countryside, playing the piano and giving lessons," says Anne. "She was an amazing woman."

Anne credits Graceland with "...giving me a great start in life. My work with the wonderful Professor (Emerita) Velma Ruch ('41), the high level of academics, it all prepared me well for the challenges of the University of Wisconsin." She studied poetry, music and literature



at Graceland and she says that those foundations "...have sustained me through the years. When I'm tired and I need something to fuel my spirit, I go back to the basics of what I gleaned from Velma and others at Graceland. What I learned there has stayed with me all my life." Anne went on to UW-Madison at Velma's urging. Velma had earned her Ph.D. there.

As Anne's first dairy goat, Angelica, grazed on the rich hay produced by Iowa's deep, loamy soil that summer, a brutal heat blew across the plains, pushing the mercury past one hundred degrees. Although the result was a pleasant-tasting cheese, it looked and chewed like a hockey puck — far from the creamy texture that Anne envisioned. She decided that creating an authentic French-style farmstead cheese might require grazing her goats on a rustic farmstead in more rugged terrain.

She found just that in 1982 in the Driftless Area in southwestern Wisconsin and brought Angie and Gilda to forage on 48 acres of its craggy ridges. On the spread they named Fantôme Farm, Anne and her partner Judy Borree built a goat shelter out of boards reclaimed from a barn leveled by a tornado. Anne expanded her herd, added a milk house to the barn, remodeled her simple home's attached garage into a licensed dairy plant, and continued to experiment.

Her breakthrough came when friends in Paris sent a book about making farmstead cheese. "I could read enough French to translate the book, except for the technical terms," she says. She took her French text and research techniques to campus, turning to the Steenbock Memorial Library for help with French farming jargon.

Anne calls her method a blend of art and science, and she likens her quest for mouthwatering cheese to original research. "It's about not having the answer to start with and figuring out how to get information. The deeper you get into anything, whether it's history or cheese, the more you realize how complex every topic is," she says. "I never think that I know everything there is to know about cheese-making. Every day, I've learned something new."

Twenty-five years ago, Anne was one of only a few people in the United States willing to bet the farm on artisan goat cheese. "It's only when you look back that you can see we were part of a movement," she says. "In the early years, I felt that what I brought to the Dane County Farmers' Market might be the first goat cheese that people ever tasted. If they had a bad experience, not only would they not buy our cheese again, but they would never eat goat cheese again."

Wisconsin now boasts nine farmstead, artisan and specialty plants dedicated to making goat cheese.

In 2003, Anne was the first Wisconsin cheesemaker sent abroad to study by UW-Madison's Babcock Institute for International Dairy Research and Development. At last she was able to visit France and the goat cheese farmsteads she had imagined for so long.

Anne's creations continue to set the bar for artisan goat cheese. She keeps her milking herd small, only a dozen goats, and lavishes each with personal care,

staying up all night to shepherd a young goat through a difficult labor or indulging her bearded mothers-to-be in their preference for tangy delicacies such as burdock shoots and freshly budded branches that she gathers on her rocky slope.

"People said, 'What are you going to do when Chicago discovers you?' That didn't take very long," Anne remembers. "But I just said, 'There is only ever going to be so much of my cheese. I never want to get so big that I lose contact with the goats.'"

Though Anne's award-winning cheese — with its silky texture and satisfying tartness — is limited, her readiness to share what she has learned — with other cheesemakers is not. "Anne has been extremely generous with her time and talent by mentoring several of the state's up-and-coming farmstead cheesemakers," says Jeanne Carpenter, executive director of Wisconsin Cheese Originals, an organization designed to share information about new artisan cheeses and the cheesemakers who craft them. In 2006, Anne was one of the first people honored by the Dairy Business Innovation Center (a newly created non-profit organization dedicated to growing specialty and artisan cheese and dairy businesses) for being a true innovator in the dairy industry. It was a long overdue award for Anne. ■



(Denise Thornton writes about food, health and the environment. She is author of a young adult nonfiction book and she manages 44 acres a few miles from Anne Topham's farm. Read more about Denise's experiences at: [digginginthedriftless.wordpress.com](http://digginginthedriftless.wordpress.com). This story first appeared in *On Wisconsin*, the alumni magazine of the University of Wisconsin-Madison)

# Family Gift Funds Softball Field Makeover at Lamoni's North Park

**A** Lamoni family has stepped forward to fund a "makeover" of the softball field at North Park, completing a total transformation of the baseball and softball complex used by Graceland and Lamoni middle and high school teams.

Rain and more rain this spring delayed the dedication ceremony until late June when business leaders Donald Millslagle II, his son Chip Millslagle, their families and their companies, Industrial Hardfacing (IHI) and Pro-Com, were honored by area residents and officials from the city, university and community schools. Graceland 1953 alumnus Ray Chase and his family funded the makeover at the baseball complex, now called Chase Stadium.

The softball complex is now called HMP Stadium, named for Millslagle's holding company. Fans have had a new experience this spring at a complex that now rivals any in the region. The Millslagle gift of \$36,000 for the softball field to the city and GU, and other contributions, were used to replace the old fence with new chain-link fencing, construct new dugouts, create a much-improved playing surface, build a new press box, make back-stop improvements, construct new batting cages, obtain a field tarp, install signage and install a new P-A system.

To complete the softball field project, the Lamoni Pool and Recreation Board received a grant from KCCI TV in Des Moines, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, for a new high-tech scoreboard for the softball field. The scoreboard advertises Graceland University, HMP, and the Lamoni Demons. Lamoni and Graceland were among 12 Iowa communities to receive the new scoreboards.

Lamoni High School Softball Coach Bryn DeGraw '09 and GU Softball Coach Bill Dudek '65 (her old coach) were on hand for the dedication, along with players, to

thank the Millslagles for their generosity. The family was presented with a framed jersey, adorned with GU and Lamoni Demon logos, and a plaque commemorating the occasion. Lamoni resident Greg Badder '76, who, with other volunteers like Glenn Brush '65, contributed significant labor for the project. Badder spoke at the event and read a formal thank you from the community honoring the Millslagle family.

Though Chip did not attend Graceland, he and his family have many business and social ties to the community and he has children in Lamoni schools. "This effort has involved the contributions of many individuals and groups," Chip said. "It's a win-win deal all the way around." He is Operations Manager for IHI, a company founded by his grandfather, Donald Sr. Chip's dad is CEO and has lived in the community for more than 35 years. Between ProCom (a telemarketing firm located east of Lamoni) and IHI, the Millslagles employ about 200 people in the Lamoni area.

Chip and his dad have watched the North Park fields decline over the years. So, they decided they would get involved and give something back to the community and the university. Chip said, "This is a positive way to support the community and bridge relations between Lamoni and Graceland. This literally benefits everyone."

Graceland 1965 alumnus David Yost donated approximately \$6,000 to help build a new backstop and screen for the field. Combined with extensive improvements to the baseball field, the softball field improvements make our North Park complex the premier facility in the region. College and public school teams are enjoying great experiences in Lamoni.

Dudek said, "This has been a good effort between the Millslagles, the city, community members and Graceland. It's great to see so many people working together." ■



Bryn DeGraw, Ron Martin, Barbara Millslagle, Chip Millslagle, Bill Dudek, Kelly Everett and Greg Badder.



Left: Kirk Bjorland and marketing assistant Chauntel Ranney '88.

## Yellowjacket Trailer Will Take the 'Blue and Gold' to Regional Events

Residents of southern Iowa and northern Missouri will be seeing a new face of Graceland University at regional public schools sporting/special events, and at community gatherings. A new Graceland Yellowjacket events trailer was rolled out for area 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades recently and GU Marketing Director Kirk Bjorland expects the "Blue and Gold" of Graceland to be appearing at events around the region in coming months.

"Graceland is truly an international university," said Kirk, a 1989 GU graduate. "This past year our students hailed from 40 countries and represented 47 states. People sometimes forget, though, that Graceland is very much a regional university. We draw students from all the regional high schools and we are very proud of that." He said the GU events trailer will be a way for Graceland to show appreciation for all the regional schools and communities, and to our current students and alumni who grew up in those communities.

A major use for the trailer will be as a portable welcome center for Graceland campus visitors. The trailer will be a visible focal point where bus drivers, parents, coaches, and teachers bringing young people to Graceland events can get directions around campus, and materials about attending our university.

The side panel of the trailer pops up. At athletic games, performing arts concerts, Homecoming and other events, there will be Graceland students on hand to offer shirts, hats, pennants, sweatshirts and more, all with familiar GU Yellowjacket logos. The trailer is also equipped with a sound and public address system. Information about the university will be available for high school students and parents who are looking for the right fit in a top private university.

Dozens of camps, conferences and events take place on campus each year and those attending often ask if mementos of their stay are readily available. Now they will be. "It means a lot to people to take home something to remember a place where they had a good experience," Kirk said. "We want visitors to remember Graceland and come back to see us."

This July nearly 1,200 high school-age campers and volunteers converged at GU to attend the week-long Community of Christ SPECTACULAR event. They enjoyed sports, academics, fine arts, friendly competition, wonderful fellowship and a feeling of personal growth. The Yellowjacket events trailer was on hand to generate energy during this action-packed week, and to provide campers with GU information. "It was a great experience," Kirk said. "We talked to a lot of students who were anxious to learn more about Graceland."

"Sometimes a place like Graceland, a household word for families in the Lamoni region, might be taken for granted during the college search," said Kirk. "Parents might think a private school is too expensive or that Graceland is too close to home," he said. "We want students and parents to know that Graceland offers excellent value, with great scholarships and grants and other forms of financial aid. And, sometimes staying fairly close to home can be a good thing. Lamoni is a great small town to go to school."

Students from around the world and around the region choose from 50 academic programs at Graceland. If you have a student in mind that would be a good fit at GU, take a minute and give Kirk a call at 641.784.5145. And, when you are here for Homecoming 2009 on October 9-11 (see pages 23-25 for complete information) stop by and check out the colorful new events trailer. ■



**'50s**

**Milton E. Ceraso '54** serves as Chairman of the Lafayette, Florida County Development Authority. He served 42 years in education as teacher, basketball coach, guidance counselor and superintendent of schools before his retirement in 2000. He has received an Outstanding Educator Award as well as numerous awards from Rotary International.

**'70s**

**Cathy Alley '74 Porter** received her master's degree in Education with a concentration in Enrollment Management from Capella University in April 2009.

Reverend **Robert S. Espindola '75** has been a professional librettist for 11 years. He was named one of California's 'Distinguished Educators' in 1992 and served as a delegate at the International Conference on AIDS in Yokohama, Japan.

**'80s**

**Anne Breshears '84 Chapman** received the National Board Certification in Early Middle Childhood Music in November 2008. She received her master's degree in Education from Central Washington University in 2006 and has taught elementary music in Yakima, Washington, since 1986.

**Kevin Prine '86** is a Partner in Tradebot Ventures, and Director of University Relations for Tradebot Systems, Kansas City, Missouri. Until December 2008 he was Professor and

Chairman of Business and Leadership, and Major and Dorothy Hull Chair of Business Leadership at William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri. Kevin spent 20 years teaching business courses at Graceland. He led our National Champion Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team for 18 years, paving the way to their appearance and 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finish at the World Cup Championships in Paris in 2006.

**'90s**

**Marcy Huffman '91 Fadness** recently lectured on Narcolepsy and Obstructive Sleep Apnea at the American Academy of Physician Assistants' National Conference in San Diego, California.

**Bonnie Grant '93 O'Leary**, Medical-Legal Consultant, has been recognized by *'Cambridge Who's Who'* for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of healthcare consulting.

**Nate Dennis '96** has been named assistant principal at Capital High School, Boise, Idaho, for the 2009-10 school year. He has a master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Idaho.

**Rebecca Broky '99** graduated with an architecture degree from University of Arizona and specializes in Healthcare and Hospital Design.

**'00s**

**Jason T. James '00** was named head basketball coach at the University of Tennessee at Martin, the defending Ohio Valley Confer-

ence champions. He is the second youngest NCAA Division I head coach in the country at age 31. He served as assistant coach for seven years at UTM.

**Diana Gwin '02 Kiessling**, Eden, Pennsylvania, was recently hired as director of allied health in the continuing education and workforce development division at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury, Pennsylvania. She holds a bachelor's degree in health care administration from Graceland.

**Brooke N. Johnson '04** received the degree Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Des Moines University on May 23, 2009.

**Jordan R. Currie '07** completed a two-year program at The Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, receiving The Governor General's Award for graduating first in her class.

**Megan Neeley '08** is enrolled at East-West School of Integrative Healing Arts Massage School in Iowa City. She plans to serve as an intern at Iowa City's Massage Oasis. She also plans to intern with a chiropractor this fall. She is set to earn her license this winter.

**WEDDINGS**

**Carla Hardison '04** and Joseph Glass, November 8, 2008.

**Roy Tshibanda '07** and Francis Licon, November 14, 2008.

## Edgar F. Hansell Receives Iowa State Bar Association's HIGHEST HONOR

The Iowa State Bar Association has awarded its highest honor, the Award of Merit, to Edgar F. Hansell, a member of Graceland's Class of 1957.

Hansell lives in Des Moines and is a shareholder in the Nyemaster, Goode, West, Hansell and O'Brien, P.C. law firm of Des Moines, Ames and Cedar Rapids. He has practiced law in Des Moines for 45 years.

For the past 62 years, the Association has annually presented the Award of Merit to a lawyer in recognition of the lawyer's dedication to the Association, to the legal profession and to the lawyer's community. Hansell has served in a number of Association roles, including as its President from 1989-90, and as President of its Foundation from 1994-96. He has also served on a number of nonprofit and for-profit boards of directors. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Chambers USA-America's Leading Lawyers for Business*.

Hansell earned his B.B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Iowa. ■



**Jeff Corrie '05** and **Christa Bender '05**,  
March 14, 2009.

**Brooke Johnson '04** and **Brandon Wright**,  
June 6, 2009.

**Jake Everett '05** and **Erin Farnham '07**,  
May 23, 2009.

**Sarah Ellis '97** and **Jason Nielson**,  
June 27, 2009.

**Susan Porter '06** and **Zeb Craig**,  
July 4, 2009.

**Craig Hidy '06** and **Emily Marolf '05**,  
July 11, 2009.

**Tristi McNeill '04** and **Greg Winscott**,  
July 11, 2009.

**Cooper Jones '09** and **Katy Brinlee '09**,  
July 18, 2009.

**Dylan Pauli '05** and **Andrea Bentley**,  
August 1, 2009.

**Chris Dennis '05** and **Brittany Atwood '06**,  
August 8, 2009.

**Jennifer Everett '06** and **Daniel Doerfler**,  
August 8, 2009.

## ANNIVERSARIES

(Those celebrating 50 years or more of  
matrimony)

**Milton E. '54** and **Dolores H. Ceraso**  
celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.  
They were married on May 6, 1959.

## BIRTHS

**Jared** and **Denise Lachance '97** Logan,  
Auburn, WA, Tailor Nicole, April 10, 2008.

**Nate '03** and **Sarah Foster '02 Butler**, Mi-  
nette, AL, Nathan Daniel, April 25, 2008.

**Zack '98** and **Brooke Bahr '99 Chambers**,  
Chico, CA, Dane Benjamin, June 25, 2008.

**Jim** and **Cathie Ryhal '97**, BC, Canada,  
Jamie Edward and Alexander Michael, July  
29, 2008.

**Jeremy** and **Carey Leathers '97 Greene**,  
Boston, MA, Lucy Flora, February 2, 2009.

**Josh** and **Charlotte Beck '98 Baedke**,  
Virginia Beach, VA, Noelle Madison,  
March 24, 2009.

# Message from the Alumni President



Dear fellow alumni,

At Graceland, we often talk about 'transformational leadership.' We talk about it as a highly valued experience that we are preparing students for, and one that we strive for ourselves. It is at the heart of our educational, service-based mission.

My recent experience shows that many current Graceland students and recent graduates truly know transformational leadership. They live it by 'opening' themselves to the 'relational experience' of leadership. In other words, by serving others, they learn from the people they are serving. By holding in high regard those people they are serving, bonds of community and justice are strengthened between the servant and the served. Both parties are changed for the better as a result of being in 'relational experiences' with one another.

For those of us from the Christian tradition, we look to Jesus as the ultimate example of transformational leadership. He accomplished it with love and radical acceptance. By loving unconditionally the people he led and served, often the outcasts of society, Jesus showed us how to lead by setting judgment and prejudice aside in favor of service. Having come in contact with Jesus, people moved into their futures as changed people, people who felt more loved and, in turn, were more loving.

This year's Homecoming theme is "Creating: the Future." As alumni, we play a special role in the creation of Graceland's future because we participate powerfully in the relationships that help create it. We provide input for directions the university might take, and we support its future by fundraising and 'friend-raising' on Graceland's behalf. As we relate with Graceland and with each other in this way, we should also strive for transformational leadership, setting aside judgment in favor of loving service. We are a diverse alumni group and we may want different things for Graceland's future. Similarly, we may have different hopes than the current student body, the administration or other constituent groups. In this diverse and potentially divergent environment, we can best help create Graceland's future by listening to each other's points of view, asking questions and seeking mutual understanding. The more open we can be to each other's ideas and perspectives, the richer our collective future will be.

So, come to Homecoming the weekend of October 9-11. Reunite with friends. Revisit the lessons we learned on "the Hill" of creating a loving and just community. Seek out people from different backgrounds and with different views and ask them about their lives, their experiences, their hopes for the university we all love. As leaders open to being changed by the people and the institution that we serve, we can create a bright and dynamic future – strong, united, loyal and true. Graceland Forever!

Warmest personal regards,

Michael Lewis

**Brian '05 and Sara Cracraft '05 Bendorf**, Blue Springs, MO, Parker Eli, April 4, 2009.

Mark and **Susanne Holloway '98 Imrie**, Denver, CO, Colin Edward, April 24, 2009.

**Allen '96 and Amy Essex '97 Chamberlain**, Lee's Summit, MO, Mira Jane, May 10, 2009.

**Cliff '99 and Jennifer Diveley '02 Stickney**, Silver City, NC, Connor Robert, May, 2009.

**Kristin Osborn '08**, Brashear, MO, Kheegan Jeffery, May 15, 2009.

Jim and **Anne Phillips '01 Shaffer**, York, PA, Connor James, June 13, 2009.

Francis and **Roy '07 Tshibanda**, Brampton, Ontario, Lola Naomi-Nsangi, July 13, 2009.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Gerd E. Neumann '62**, Centre Hall, PA, January 20, 2004.

**Donald J. Bowman '35**, Hamilton, MO, November 15, 2007.

**Gwenyth M. Mortimore '43 Vega**, Dublin, CA, February 22, 2008.

**Clair J. Galloway '47**, Des Moines, IA, March 30, 2008.

**Michelle A. Black '59 Hayes**, Stowe, VT, April 12, 2008.

**Carman K. Whiting '59 Lucas**, Sun Lakes, AZ, August 12, 2008.

**Richard H. Hunter '44**, Oak Grove, MO, August 28, 2008.

**Charles M. May '41**, Independence, MO, October 1, 2008.

**Joanne C. McKeown '65 Witte**, Independence, MO, November 2, 2008.

**Michael D. Griffin '83**, Independence, MO, December 1, 2008.

**Gailon V. Green '85**, Kansas City, MO, January 2, 2009.

**Janice M. Moffet '42 Kelley**, Sun City, AZ, January 3, 2009.

**Albert J. Knoeller '58**, Mesa, AZ, January 30, 2009.

**Rhea R. Freberg '59 Fry**, Oak Creek, WI, February 25, 2009.

**D. June Ruoff '47 Doman**, Billings, MT, March 8, 2009.

## Steve Anders is Truly a Distinguished Professor



For only the third time in Graceland history the GU Board of Trustees have honored one of our educators with the title of Distinguished Professor. For his 30 years of service to Graceland, and especially for his steady guidance as acting president for the 2006-07 academic year, Steve Anders joins an elite group of GU Distinguished Professors.

English Professor Emerita Velma Ruch received the honor for serving as acting president in 1974-75, and for a sterling teaching career that still elicits warm accolades from her former students. Chemistry Professor Emeritus Bruce Graybill joined Velma by also receiving the honor in 1975 when he served as acting dean of faculty. His former students have excelled in careers in science and research.

Of the honor bestowed on him in May this year, Steve said, "I have known and admired Drs. Ruch and Graybill for the better part of four decades now, first as a student and later as a colleague. The Distinguished Professor status is especially meaningful and rewarding since I have tried to model my contribution, service and commitment to Graceland after persons such as these two. I am humbled and honored to be included in their company."

Dr. Steve Anders '73 began his teaching career at Graceland in 1978. He served as Chair for the Division of Social Science from 1988 to 1996, Associate Dean of Faculty in 1996-97, acting Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty in 1997-98 and he was appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty in 1998. He served longer in this position than any person since Willie Gilbert was dean from 1929-44. Steve is now Dean for our new C. H. Sandage School of Business.

According to President Emerita Barbara McFarlane '49 Higdon, "Steve brought to Graceland a unique expertise in his field of economics as well as the credentials for leadership. He has served Graceland wherever he was needed for many years, with distinction. There is no one more deserving of this honor."

Perhaps no event defined Steve's year as acting president more than his travels with the 2006 National Champion Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team to Paris for the World Cup Championships - GU placed second in the world, edged out by China. Steve and his wife Janelle Jones '81 Anders supported these students and nurtured them, as parents might. No presidential couple could have given more in Paris, nor made all Gracelanders more proud, than did the Anders. That trip capped a magical time and defined *A Year in the Life of Steve Anders*. (Read more about Steve's year in the winter 2007 issue of *Horizons*, available on our website at Alumni & Friends/Publications).

Congratulations Steve for truly being a *Distinguished Professor*, and a great leader. ■

Bertha A. Steck, Independence, MO,  
March 23, 2009.

Galen W. Brunner '53, Morro Bay, CA,  
April 3, 2009.

Alcie L. Gilliland '40 Inman, Phoenix, AZ,  
April 9, 2009.

Donna V. Snethen '92 Vann, Grand River,  
IA, April 22, 2009.

Lee I. Pickering '62, Independence, MO,  
April 27, 2009.

Marion L. Brown '48, Independence, MO,  
May 12, 2009.

Kenneth C. Briggs '48, Independence, MO,  
May 23, 2009.

Clarence E. Troyer '52, Wheaton, IL,  
May 23, 2009.

Grace Mildred Sampson '39 Kunz, Inde-  
pendence, MO, May 26, 2009.

Clark W. Coleman '52, Independence, MO,  
June 11, 2009.

Mary L. Wise '49 Blair, Edisto Island, SC,  
June 15, 2009.

Raymond H. Smith '28, Cedar Falls, IA,  
June 20, 2009.

Gary L. Epps '62, Theodosia, MO,  
July 6, 2009.

Loyd W. Noble '41, Independence, MO,  
July 9, 2009.

Frank C. Jefferies '35, Urbandale, IA,  
July 14, 2009.

Lois E. Taylor '51 Braby, Huntington  
Beach, CA, July 15, 2009.

Robert R. Richards '51, Norfolk, VA,  
July 18, 2009.

Dorothy A. Wilder '46 Romig, Houston,  
TX, July 19, 2009.

Frederick E. Worth '51, Warrensburg, MO,  
July 20, 2009.

Donald J. Carter '75, Ludington, MI,  
July 24, 2009.

Gwen F. Grigg '54 Leamon, Blue Springs,  
MO, July 27, 2009.

Gail R. Noftsger '77 Trullinger, Mt. Ayr,  
IA, July 28, 2009.



## Shaw Great Grandchildren Shine at Spectacular

From left, Keeley Shaw, Montana Shaw-Antonio and Sierra Shaw-Antonio pose with the busts of their great grandparents Francis and Lottie Shaw, namesakes of The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts. The girls were on campus for the Community of Christ SPECTACULAR event in July. Keeley is a daughter of Brad '83 and Michelle Shaw. Montana and Sierra are daughters of Julie '83 Shaw and Ron Antonio. All live in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The girls said, "We want to thank our grandparents JR '56 and Carol Shaw for honoring our great grandparents with this wonderful building, and for making all of this possible. We wanted to hug our great grandparents for who they were, and all they did." The girls excelled in activities they participated in at SPEC. They earned five gold medals in soccer and basketball. Just moments before this photo, Sierra scored a goal in a playoff victory in a play set up by her sister Montana. The Shaw Center was a hub of activity Friday evening; the auditorium was full to bursting for a talent show; the gallery was chock-full for an art show; and the atrium was alive with hundreds of young people. GU President John Sellars happened to walk by the bust of Francis. "I saw him smiling," the president said.



## President Sellars is Guest Minister at Sionito Reunion

Graceland President John Sellars served as a guest minister at the Community of Christ Sionito Reunion (#1) held in July in Bandera, Texas. He is pictured here presenting a sleeve of Yellowjacket golf balls to Clayton Davidson, of Kirtland, Ohio, the youngest golfer who played in the 'Pineapple Open Tournament.' Clayton's cousin Steve Graybill '82 is pictured on the left. President Sellars said he really appreciates attending CofC reunions, and he especially enjoyed teaching a class at Bandera about college and careers to about 20 students, 18-to-23 years old. "They all had interesting questions about career choices and college preparation," said the president. "What a wonderful group of young people."

# Kristy Feldman: Hectic Simplicity

Story and Photo by Jake Waddingham,  
Creston News-Advertiser

**K**risty Feldman '02 is racing her way into the record books, at least the record books that she is not already in.

When most of us are sound asleep, Kristy is up for her morning run at 5 a.m. By eight, she heads to her internship at Greater Regional Medical Center in Creston, Iowa, studying for her doctorate in physical therapy at Des Moines University.

After work, she's off for a speed workout or a long run. Managing to sleep at some point, she wakes up at 5 a.m. the next day and does it all again. "I usually do two-a-days Monday through Friday," said Kristy. "Saturdays are my long days (averaging about 12 miles) and Sundays are a medium to long distance again."

She is a high school grad of Central Lyon in Rock Rapids, Iowa. She came to Graceland to run cross country and track. She switched from an 800-meter specialist to a miler in the indoor season and 1,500 meter runner outdoor. "I was a three sport athlete in high school – volleyball, basketball and track," she said. "They changed me from the 800 to the mile at Graceland, and now I am a miler at heart."

She was a five-time All-American for Graceland during her junior and senior years. She received fifth place in the mile and third in the 1,500 at the NAIA national meet as a junior. She placed fourth in cross country and earned a national title in the mile to cap off her senior year of indoor track. She followed with a fourth place during the spring outdoor season in the 1,500.

"Up until this year, I was the only All-American in cross country for Graceland," she said. "I was also recently inducted into Graceland's Hall of Fame." Eligibility begins five years past graduation. Kristy is currently the youngest member.

Wanting to compete after college, Kristy was one of the founding runners of the Elite Development Club, based mostly in Des Moines. In their fourth year, the



Kristy Feldman with her Graceland Hall of Fame plaque. Here she is in Creston, IA getting ready for another early morning run.

group has increased to 17 female runners, and started a men's group. "We take former collegiate runners and try to lead them to higher levels like the Olympic trials."

Kristy is the current 3K record holder at the *Iowa Classic*, in 9:47. She won the *Dam to Dam* 5K race in Des Moines five out of the last seven years. She clocked a personal best 17:03 5K and won the half-marathon at the Drake Relays.

Working at a regional hospital like Creston, Kristy is gaining valuable experience in several fields of physical therapy, from outpatient to acute care. "The regional hospital offers a lot more than a hospital in Des Moines ever could," she said. "I like Creston. It reminds me of my hometown and of the simplicity I don't get in the city." With her schedule, call it *Hectic Simplicity!* ■



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT | GREETINGS FROM GRACELAND!

We hope you are planning to attend Homecoming this year to reconnect with your classmates and friends. If you do, you will find that we are truly "Creating the Future" here at GU. That phrase is more than this year's winning slogan from the homecoming theme contest. Our "high-tech" design for this year's brochure is intended to reflect the "high-tech" state-of-the-art Resch Science and Technology Hall, which we will dedicate at 11 a.m. on Saturday as a part of our homecoming activities.

You will return to "the Hill" to find a vibrant community full of active learners, student leaders, stimulating faculty members and first-class academic programs. You will also find committed, compassionate staff members who have devoted their lives to providing personal attention to young people from many countries. The entire Graceland community is involved in creating the future as we work with young scholars on a daily basis.

Please join us October 9-11, 2009 to get a glimpse of the future!

Best,



John Sellars  
President



# CREATING: THE FUTURE

HOMECOMING 2009

## ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

100%

Senada Adzem ('99), Boca Raton, FL.

Senada Adzem has worked in real estate development and marketing with Trump International, and currently works with Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group in Boca Raton, Florida. She holds an M.B.A. from H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business at Nova Southeastern University, and is a recipient of Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's 2008 Award for Outstanding Leadership. She is also the founder of The Bosnian Overseas Society, a non-profit advancing Bosnia's economic democratic status.

Katie (Booz) Arnold-Clow ('90), Blue Springs, MO.

Katie (Booz) Arnold-Clow, a current member of the Alumni Board, has taught elementary school for 19 years and is employed by the Blue Springs School District in Blue Springs, MO. She received her master of arts in teaching from Webster University in 1995. Katie is active in the Colonial Hills congregation of the Community of Christ where she serves as a priesthood member. She is married to Randy Clow ('89) and has two children: Cory and Hallee.

Dan Hanton ('65), Lamoni, IA.

Dan Hanton recently retired from GU after serving as both athletic director and head women's basketball coach. Prior to that he was a high school teacher and coach in Port Huron, MI. Under Dan's leadership Graceland made 27 NAIA National Tournament appearances, won 12 HAAC championships and Men's Soccer won the NAIA National Title. It has been said that "Dan bleeds blue and gold." He and his wife, Suzanne Fisher ('64) Hanton, plan to return to Michigan to be near their grandchildren. They have three children: Kelle ('90), Mark ('92) and Brian.

Melissa "Bubby" Lewis ('01), West Des Moines, IA.

Melissa Lewis graduated with a degree in English literature and has taught literature and language arts at Hoyt Middle School in Des Moines, Iowa, for the last nine years. She founded the school's guitar club and is learning to play the ukulele. She is a member of the Community of Christ West Des Moines congregation and regularly volunteers as a counselor at Guthrie Grove campgrounds.

Adam Smith ('96), Lee's Summit, MO.

Adam Smith, a current member of the Alumni Board, graduated with a business and accounting degree from Graceland and obtained his law degree from the University of Iowa. Currently he is a shareholder with the Kansas City based law firm of Polsinelli Shughart P.C. Originally from Ottawa, Canada, Adam represents an international perspective on the board. Adam and his wife Vadsana (Khamphakdy) Smith ('98) have three children: Maly, Alison and Pari. They live in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

To submit your vote, visit [www.graceland.edu/alumniboardballot](http://www.graceland.edu/alumniboardballot). If you do not have online access, you can submit your vote by calling 866.6U4.EVER (toll-free).

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 HONOR CLASS REUNION DINNERS | 5:30 P.M.

1959.

Floyd McDowell Commons

1969.

Resch Science and Technology Hall,  
Rm. 106

1974.

The Helene Center for the Visual Arts,  
Rm. E101

1984.

Community of Christ,  
531 W. Main, Lamoni

1989.

Harpham Heritage Chapel,  
Higdon Administration Building

1999.

Resch Science and Technology Hall,  
Rm. 103

*Tickets required. Day care will be available from 5-10 p.m. at Funshine Learning Center, 423 N. Walnut, Lamoni.*

For more information, go to  
[www.graceland.edu/homecoming](http://www.graceland.edu/homecoming)

# CREATING: THE FUTURE

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

100%

- 1–8 p.m. **Homecoming Registration and Opening Reception.** Americas Rooms, MSC
- 1 p.m. **Homecoming Benefit Golf Tournament.** Lamoni Golf Course  
The \$35 entry fee is a benefit for the Graceland golf program (pre-registration is not necessary).
- 3 p.m. **Admissions Campus Tours.** Lobby, Higdon Administration Building
- 5:30 p.m. **10th Annual Alumni Emeriti & Awards Banquet.** Main Room, MSC  
This banquet will honor the recipients of the Graceland Award of Recognition, the Distinguished Service Award, the Honorary Alumni Award and Graceland's new class of alumni emeriti (1958). For catering purposes, reservations are necessary. Dinner is free for all alumni emeriti, award recipients and their families. Please reserve your place by calling 866.GU4.EVER by October 2.
- 5:30 p.m. **Women's Basketball vs. \*Alumni.** Closson Center
- 6:30 p.m. **Alumni Art Shows & Reception.**  
The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts Gallery will feature photography by James Mai, former Graceland faculty member. The Constance Gallery in The Helene Center for the Visual Arts will showcase the artwork of Alli Arnold ('00).
- 7 p.m. **Baseball vs. \*Alumni.** North Park
- 7 p.m. **Zini Reunion.** Coliseum Theatre  
Popular GU band from the 1970s will perform on stage.
- 7:30 p.m. **Homecoming Play.** The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts  
*Urinetown, The Musical*, directed by special guest Susan Hamel  
This G-rated family musical comedy with a "problem" title is a three-time Tony Award winner. Through music by Mark Hollmann, and lyrics by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollman, this award-winning musical spoofs everything: politics, capitalism, bureaucracy, social irresponsibility, even musical theatre itself!
- 7:30 p.m. **Men's Basketball vs. \*Alumni.** Closson Center
- 9:30 p.m. **Pep Rally.** Closson Center
- 10 p.m. **Student Airband Competition.** Closson Center

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

22%

Parking shuttle available until after the football game.

For medical emergencies, call 911. For campus security and assistance, call 5199 from any campus phone.

- 8 a.m. **Cross-Country Alumni & Friends Fun Run/Walk.** Meet at the outdoor track  
(Cancelled, if rain) Variety of distances (open to all).
- 8–9:30 a.m. **Aaron House Pancake Breakfast.** South America's Room, MSC  
Donations will be accepted at the door.
- 8:30 a.m. **Homecoming Tennis Tournament.** McKain Tennis Courts  
Matches for men's, women's and mixed doubles. Ages 15 and under will play singles.  
The \$25 contribution will benefit the Graceland tennis program (pre-registration is not necessary). Stop by to congratulate Coach Jerry Hampton on his 50th year of teaching/coaching at GU!
- 9 a.m.–5 p.m. **Homecoming Registration.** North America's Room, MSC
- 9–10 a.m. **Social Club Fair.** Mezzanine, MSC  
Calling all Spartans, Gimpers, OOHs, K Alphas, K Zetas, FNPs, ETAs, KOGs and all other social clubs! Come to the MSC Mezzanine, find your club's table and join your friends.
- 9–10 a.m. **Gadet Reunion — Celebrating 50 Years.** Heritage Chapel, Higdon Administration Building  
Join past and present Gadets for snacks and reminisce about your days as a member of this unique dance team!
- 9–11 a.m. **Science & Math Open House & Busy Bees Corner.** Resch Science and Technology Hall  
Children ages 3–10 are invited to participate in supervised activities and games.  
The fun includes science experiments, a parade, music, crafts and other activities.  
There is no fee for these activities.
- 9–11 a.m. **CS/IT Alumni Reunion — Celebrating 35 Years.** Rm. 130, Resch Science and Technology Hall
- 9 a.m. **Women's Volleyball vs. \*Alumni (Match 1).** Closson Center
- 10 a.m. **Women's Volleyball vs. \*Alumni (Match 2).** Closson Center
- 10 a.m. **Alumni Forum.** Main Room, MSC  
Meet the outstanding student recipients of this year's Alumni Endowed Scholarships.  
All alumni are welcome to bring business before the meeting. The current Alumni Board of Directors will be introduced, as will candidates for election.
- 10 a.m. **Admissions Campus Tours.** Lobby, Higdon Administration Building  
Admissions counselors will be available to meet with potential students and their families in the lobby of the Higdon Administration Building.



Resch Science and Technology  
Hall / Central Commons



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10** **Continued...78%**

- 10 a.m. **Women's JV Soccer vs. \*Alumni.** Rasmussen Varsity Fields
- 11 a.m. **Resch Science and Technology Hall Dedication.**  
Official ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the Resch Science and Technology Hall. Come meet the donors who have contributed to naming the offices, classrooms, labs and equipment that made the dream of this "state-of-the-art" facility a reality. Science faculty and students will conduct tours of the new facility immediately following the dedication.
- 11 a.m. **Choir Concert.** Rm. 167, The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts
- 11 a.m. **Men's Volleyball vs. \*Alumni.** Closson Center
- 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. **50 Year Alumni Hospitality Room.** Rm. 129, The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts
- 11:30 a.m. **Social Science Alumni Reunion.** 2nd floor, Briggs Hall
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Tailgate Party.** Tailgate tent, Campus Quad  
Join your friends for BBQ and live entertainment, *Zini & Friends*, before the game. Tickets can be purchased at the tent. (In case of rain, MSC Main Room)
- 11:30 a.m. **Men's JV Soccer vs. \*Alumni.** Rasmussen Varsity Fields
- 11:30 a.m. **"Big G" Pizza Party.** Bruce Jenner Sports Complex  
High school students are invited to the Bruce Jenner Sports Complex picnic shelter for free pizza (sponsored by the Admissions Office).
- Noon **Graceland (Riverboat) Ramblers Reunion.** Rm. 104, Resch Science and Technology Hall
- 1 p.m. **Pre-game Hall of Fame Induction.** Football Stadium  
Michelle Acosta, C.R. Auxiler, Casey Dudek, Robert Hutchins, Tom McCracken
- 2 p.m. **Homecoming Football Game vs. Mid-America Nazarene.** Football Stadium  
Halftime | Coronation of the King and Queen, Spirit Squad performance, Wall of Fame induction (1963 men's wrestling team)
- 3–5 p.m. **Emeriti Hospitality Room.** South America's Room, MSC
- 3–5 p.m. **11th Annual GALA Reception.** Bill & Lois Russell's home  
121 South Ferguson Street, Lamoni
- 3:30–5:30 p.m. **Pioneer Schoolhouse.** Lamoni Welcome Center  
You are invited to an open house at Pioneer School, built in 1909. Donor Vicki Ross and family will be present to share background stories of this country school.
- 4 p.m. **60 Year Alumni Reception (Class of '49).** Resch Science and Technology Hall Atrium  
Members of the graduating class of 1949 will have a special reception to celebrate their group, also known as the "Dis-organized 49ers."
- 4:30–6:15 p.m. **Dinner.** Tailgate Tent, Campus Quad  
If you are not attending an Honor Class dinner, come join the students for a nice evening meal under the tent. Tickets can be purchased at the tent.
- 5 p.m. **Women's Soccer vs. St. Mary's College.** Rasmussen Varsity Fields
- 6–7 p.m. **Theatre Reunion Reception.** The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts lobby  
Join cast members of various productions from honor class years.
- 7 p.m. **Black Student "re"-Union Reception.** Rm. 201, Zimmermann Hall
- 7 p.m. **Men's Soccer vs. St. Ambrose University.** Rasmussen Varsity Fields
- 7:30 p.m. **Homecoming Play.** The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts  
*Urinetown, The Musical*, directed by special guest Susan Hamel
- 9 p.m. **Blue Water Cowboys Band.** Main Room, MSC  
From the Bit-O-Wyo Ranch in Wyoming, the Steele family singers: dad, Dennis; daughters Heather and Shannan; sons Chad and Gabe perform a musical show that will have you tapping your toes. Humor, tight 4-part harmonies, choreographed dance steps and good old fashioned entertainment for the whole family — this cowboy campfire music is sure to please all ages. Watch for "special friends" to join the Steele family on the stage.



Resch Science and Technology Hall / Main Entry Commons

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11** **100%**

- 8 a.m. **Crescent Breakfast.** Rm. E101, The Helene Center for the Visual Arts
- 9:30 a.m. **\*Alumni Choir Rehearsal.** Rm. 167, The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts
- 10:30 a.m. **Homecoming Worship Service.** The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts  
Join with the campus congregation for a dynamic worship service with speaker, Becky Hurshman ('74) Savage, member of the Community of Christ First Presidency.
- 2 p.m. **Homecoming Play.** The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts  
*Urinetown, The Musical*, directed by special guest Susan Hamel

\* If you plan to participate in the Alumni Games or the Alumni Choir, please RSVP the Athletic Department at 641.784.5311 or the Music Department at 641.784.5270.



GRACELAND  
UNIVERSITY

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**OCTOBER 9-11, 2009**

# CREATING: THE FUTURE



## HONOR CLASS YEARS

1959	1984
1969	1989
1974	1999

Special Gathering  
Class of 1949

**Resch Science & Technology Hall Dedication**  
**Saturday, October 10, 11 a.m.**

*For complete Schedule of Events,  
see pages 23 – 25 inside.*