

Alumni and Friends Magazine

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Horizons



**Two Graceland Presidents
Establish Exciting New
Graduate School Opportunity**



From the President

When I was visiting Ambassador John Menzies recently at Seton Hall University, I had the opportunity to talk with these four Graceland graduates. They all hail from Kosovo and they now live and study in the New York City area. They were invited to witness the signing of an agreement that establishes wonderful new opportunities for Graceland graduates at the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall. Ambassador Menzies is Dean of the Whitehead School. (See story on page 2).

The Kosovar alumni are, left to right, Asim Shaban-haxhaj '07, Ariana Bytyci '07, Pleurat Halili '04 and Artrit Bytyci '06. It was great to see them and it reminded me of the crucial role Graceland has played in the lives of so many international students, including those from war-torn Kosovo and Bosnia. During their time on "the Hill" international students are able to live and study in peaceful respite from the uncertainties they may face at home.

A generation of students from Eastern Europe and the Balkans has enjoyed this opportunity and we owe much to former Graceland President Menzies for making it so.

We have heard stories of bombs exploding near the Kosovar graduates' homes and how they escaped in the night with just an armload of clothes, looking back at their house in flames. What I find moving now is their deep love for Graceland. They treasure the education they received here and they have become valued alumni. I would like to express my thanks to all the international students who have spent time with us and to those who currently call Graceland home. You provide a diversity of thought and culture that is highly-prized in the Graceland community.

John Sellars
Graceland President

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About the cover: Graceland President John D. Sellars and former President John K. Menzies meet at Seton Hall University in April (see story on page 2). Photo by Bill Blanchard.

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Two Graceland Presidents Unite to Establish an Exciting New Graduate School Opportunity



Ambassador John K. Menzies, former Graceland president, and current President John D. Sellars met recently to sign an historic agreement that will have far-reaching benefits for Graceland students pursuing careers in diplomacy and international relations.

Ambassador Menzies is Dean of the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University. The new agreement paves the way for Graceland graduates to attend the prestigious Whitehead School, one of the top-ranked programs of its kind in the world. These students will have opportunities to interact with world-renowned diplomats, political luminaries and leaders in the business world. Tremendous internship possibilities at the UN, USAID, IRC, UNICEF, international think tanks, NGOs, the State Department and others are accessible to Whitehead students. All the while they are earning graduate degrees that will lead them to exceptional careers around the world.

Seton Hall is located in South Orange, NJ, just a half-hour from New York City, where official and social functions position Whitehead students among the world's most influential decision makers. Not to mention that

NYC is arguably the most captivating city in the world and offers limitless cultural, culinary and entertainment opportunities.

President Sellars and first-lady Bette Sellars met with Ambassador Menzies at Seton Hall in April. Graceland Board of Trustees member Cheryl Hartnett '73 and her husband James Hartnett '73 joined Graceland international-student graduates and others at the event.

Ambassador Menzies served with the U.S. State Department for more than 20 years. He served in Bosnia during the war with Serbia and was named Ambassador. He later served as Chief of Mission in Kosovo. He is a widely-respected career diplomat who helped broker the peace agreement making Kosovo an independent state. He began

decades ago assisting international students to attend Graceland, from Bulgaria, Hungary and other nations, and then from Bosnia and Kosovo.

"As faith-based institutions, Seton Hall and Graceland share an affinity of values," Menzies said. "Seton Hall is dedicated to the concept of servant leadership. The students at the Whitehead School are committed to making a difference in the world. This should strike a chord at Graceland. We share an ethos of service, commitment and change."

President Sellars said the new Seton Hall connection "will provide life-changing experiences for our students. The ripple effects of this agreement will be felt for generations." Sellars said the expanded international business degree GU offers, and other programs, make Graceland graduates "perfect candidates for the Whitehead School. A background in statistics, research methods, macro and micro economics is exactly what they are looking for." Sellars has accepted an invitation to serve on the Whitehead School Board of Overseers.

Steve Anders, Dean of our C.H. Sandage School of Business, said he looks forward to "this important new



relationship. We have added another wonderful opportunity for our international business students.”

Rebecca Bullock, GU Class of 2009, is completing her first year at the Whitehead School. She said it was her number-one choice among graduate schools where she applied. “There is a vast network of connections here at organizations and government agencies,” she said. “I had dinner not long ago with former Defense Secretary and Deputy CIA Director Frank Carlucci.” She also had the chance to meet John Whitehead, namesake of the school. Whitehead is a renowned businessman, banker, diplomat, public servant and philanthropist. He served as Deputy Secretary of State during the Reagan administration. “It was such a thrill to meet him,” said Rebecca. She added that internship choices she is considering are awesome, like NPR, the Secret Service and the Stimson Center, a global policy think tank.

Prashant Hosur, GU Class of 2007, earned his Master’s in International Relations from the Whitehead School in 2009. He is now a research assistant with the Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis in New Delhi, the largest think tank in India. He is helping draft an “Indian Grand Strategy for the 21st Century,” he said. It is work that paralleled his interests at Graceland and the Whitehead School. “This project will receive funding from the Ministry of Defense. I am working with the nation’s top scholars and for-

eign service officers.” He calls his education at Graceland, especially involvement with the GU Honors Program, “the perfect platform that led me to my future.”

President Sellars notes that the Whitehead School has a summer institute program that will surely be of interest to GU students. “Our students can study there as undergraduates and enjoy internships as well. At the summer institutes they can study Russian, Cantonese, Arabic and other languages, critical to future career postings,” he said. Scholarships will also be available so GU students can study abroad at the American University in Bulgaria, and possibly at the American Universities in Rome and Cairo in the future.

Rebecca brought home a point that she said has been integral to her success so far: “Having a broad liberal arts background, like I got at Graceland, has made me a well-rounded person and prepared me for a vast array of situations.” She said, “Seton Hall is the perfect fit for me and it would be the same for Graceland students with a sincere interest in the global community and public service.”

Menzies said, “I look forward to seeing more Graceland students at the Whitehead School. We want Graceland graduates to think of Seton Hall as the next step in achieving their educational and career goals. And, we’d love to have a strong and loyal Yellowjacket alumni chapter in New Jersey!”◆



Rebecca Bullock '09 and John Whitehead



Prashant Hosur '07



Polly and Don Mehlisch at Homecoming 2009.

If you can figure out early on in life what education path you want to follow, and you are not afraid to take some chances, it is possible to reinvent yourself along the way. You get going, you pause, you reevaluate, you reinvent, and you get going again.

Don Mehlisch '59 knew early on, even before he got to Graceland and took "every science course there was," that medicine was the path for him. What he didn't know was how his path in medicine would 'zig' and 'zag' and 'zig' again as he continued to take those chances and reinvent himself. "I took a step here, and then a step there, and opportunities came along that I am so grateful for," he says. "You have to trust yourself enough to take those chances."

Don didn't exactly plan his education path, and that's part of the point. "Who would have thought I would continue my higher education for 14 years?" he asks himself as much as anybody else. But, the passion was there, the basic love of medicine. That never wavered since he was a boy and he sometimes went with his dad, Albert A. Mehlisch '31, when he would visit friends or church members in the hospital. Don realized "...there was something about it, about medicine. I knew right then!"

That early passion, and the willingness to stop and reinvent, has led Don Mehlisch down a challenging, some would say dizzying, education and career path. There was never a question about he and his brother David '53 (who became a dentist, dental educator and earned a Ph.D. in International Public Health which he still uses in Honduras) coming to Graceland. That was a given. And Zoology class with Gustav Platz, Ph.D. only cemented his conviction about medicine. He chose pre-med at Graceland which he continued at the UMKC. But then came one of those 'zigs,' and surprising even himself, he chose dentistry at the University of Iowa College of Den-

According to Don Mehlisch "Be Ready to Take Yourself along th

tistry. He thought he might have more time at home with family as a dentist.

And yet, he longed for medicine, what he calls "the noble profession." So while working full time as a dentist, he 'zagged' and earned his M.D. at the University of Minnesota College Of Medicine. It was one of those opportunities. This one came from Gracelander Dan Waite '48, Professor and Head of the Department of oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Minnesota. Dan urged Don to "come on up" to Minnesota, and he did. Don had already completed a residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and received a Master of Science in Reconstructive Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as a Fellow from the Mayo Clinic - opportunities also recommended and fostered by Dan Waite.

He became Adjunct Professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston, and Clinical Professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the College of Dentistry at Baylor University in Dallas. The Dan Waite 'zig' had taken Don a long way down the path.

He says now, "I had the right mentors and the right family support. I was committed to what I wanted to do, what I needed to do." Don became one of only 36 maxillofacial MDs practicing in the United States at that time, a remarkable achievement.

He opened a practice in Austin, TX and one would think the 'zigs' were behind him, but it was not to be. It doesn't take long when you talk to Don Mehlisch to figure out that he is a guy who will always be pursued by opportunities. Along came giant pharmaceutical companies like Johnson & Johnson, McNeil, Merck, Pfizer and others with offers for Don to serve as investigator, medical monitor, project manager or consultant for clinical research trials of new drugs, predominantly analgesics. It was a big 'zig.' And he has never looked back. To date, he has worked for 96 pharmaceutical companies world-wide and completed over 425 clinical trials. This afforded him the opportunity to lecture in 36 countries around the world.

This is also the time when he took one of his happiest 'zags.' He formed a Clinical Research Organization (CRO), in addition to his private oral and maxillofacial surgery practice. He hired a nurse who was highly-respected for her nursing work. Her name was Polly Brown. They began working together, became great friends and colleagues and ultimately a team. Pharmaceutical companies would frequently tell Don, "We like you, we will continue to use you, but we really want Polly to manage our research projects." Over more than 20 years she has

Chances and Reinvent The Path to Success"

trained hundreds of researchers. Later, in Paris, in fact on the Eiffel Tower, Don asked Polly to marry him. It was a very good 'zag.'

Polly attended the University of Texas and graduated from Del Mar College, then began her nursing career in pediatrics and post-surgical care. She audited hospitals for compliance with the Medicaid program in Texas. As Senior Project Director for Analgesics for SCIREX Corporation, she proposed and set up a research department and developed a formalized research training program. As Director of Training and Development, she developed a training program for coordinators, clinical research associates and investigators. These training programs were used to train SCIREX personnel, and also clinical research personnel from pharmaceutical companies and investigative sites. Polly was a "shining star in our field," says Don.

A few years back Polly reinvented herself as well when she completed the RN to MSN Degree Program in Nursing Healthcare Administration through Graceland's School of Nursing. Don and Polly started their own consulting business in 2000. They have literally traveled the world, completing clinical trials, opening hospital research units and bringing new drugs quickly to market. "We feel that we do good work," they chime in together during a conversation.

Polly credits her parents, who were both teachers, with "engraining her with the value of an education," a life-long guiding force. "Don and I both got that kind of support from family," she said.

Recently retired VP for the Independence Campus, Sherri Kirkpatrick, calls the Mehlsches "an amazing team." Don and Polly trekked through Bhutan and on one of Sherri's GU International Health Center (IHC) trips, Polly went with Sherri and her husband Jac Kirkpatrick to Nepal. Polly says, "We wanted to learn things we could take back with us to Honduras." They have previously teamed with Don's brother David to conduct clinics in Honduras - removing teeth, treating infections and tumors and training medical workers.

The Honduras work and her friendship with Sherri inspired Polly to become a board member and donor to HealthEd Connect, the Kirkpatrick's new project that is bringing village health care and community-based orphan programs to Sub-Sahara Africa. Polly is perfectly suited to the work. "I am continually amazed to see," she said, "how very little it takes to make a big difference." Sherri adds, "The health workers who trekked in from the Himalayan villages loved Polly's friendly, easy-going teaching style."

The Mehlsches are great stewards to Graceland and not just with the IHC and HealthEd Connect. Their generosity shone in 1998 when then-coach Stu Sherman led his Men's Volleyball team to a National Championship. Don and Polly were there in Austin to cheer them on and host the team at their house. They have become big fans of GU volleyball and have provided the program with significant gifts. Current Head Coach Chad McDole, who was on that 1998 team, calls the Austin experience "one of the best memories of my life." He adds, "The Mehlsches' scholarship endowment ensures our recruiting and retention efforts. They are real examples of true blue-and-gold Gracelanders."

The Mehlsches have also created a significant pre-dental and pre-med scholarship fund, named for Don and his father, Albert. This endowment will serve GU students for generations to come. They make regular unrestricted gifts to Graceland and for his 50-year Honor Class reunion last year Don coordinated efforts with his classmates to make the largest Honor Class gift in Graceland history, creating a scholarship fund for students with special financial needs. They regularly play in the annual GU Yellowjacket Classic golf tournament, an event that benefits our Yellowjacket Club. Don believes strongly that athletics bring attention to GU and that ensures future visibility and success. Graceland is also in the Mehlsches' estate plan. They will one day join the extremely select group of Gracelanders who have exceeded \$1 million in giving to their alma mater.

What advice do they have for current Graceland students? "Take advantage of everything you can on campus," says Polly. "Academics for sure, but soak it all up... the culture, the comradery, the friends you will keep for your entire life."

Don adds, "You don't realize it at the time but the years spent at Graceland will probably be the least encumbered years of your life. Enjoy them! And focus on getting a good education." Like his father impressed upon him, 'education is something that no one can ever take away from you.' Don said, "Graceland will make you a better person, no matter what you decide to do." Not surprisingly, Don concludes by pointing out that opportunities await our students. "Be ready for them," he said. "Be ready to take those chances. Be ready to reinvent yourself along your path."

After a conversation with Don and Polly, it is pretty clear that they are not finished reinventing themselves. More opportunities await. And along their future paths there are going to be a few more 'zigs' and a few more 'zags.' ♦



'Bobbies on Bicycles' Just Don't Cut it in Modern Criminal Justice

(Graceland has established six new majors this year. Criminal Justice is profiled here and Sport Management on the next page. The others - Human Services; Film, Theatre and Performance Studies; Religion and Philosophy; Organizational Leadership; and Health Services - will be profiled in future issues of *Horizons*.)

The London police force was created in 1829 and each "bobby" was given a number. Bobby #1 lasted four hours on his first day, until he was found drunk on the job.

Becoming a police officer, parole officer, counselor, public defender or other professional in the public safety sector today just isn't the same. They require training in the law, police procedures, psychology, sociology, critical thinking, communication and a desire to make a positive difference. That is where Graceland's new major in Criminal Justice fits in.

Jeff McDade, Associate Professor of Sociology, says the key factor in Graceland's program is that it links academic theory and research to real-life justice policy and practice. McDade said, "Most Criminal Justice programs are geared toward preparation for entry-level positions. That is often duplicated by the agency when the officer is hired." The Graceland program "goes beyond basic-level skills to prepare students to become next-generation policy makers and leaders in the profession."

Social Science Division Chair Brian Smith echoes McDade's assessment. When asked how the Graceland program differs from other schools, Smith, Associate Professor of Psychology, said, "One of our strengths is that most courses are taught by Ph.D. faculty who can place Criminal Justice in a broader liberal arts context." Instructors like McDade, Smith says, "the faculty members also have experience in the criminal justice system."

McDade holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Kansas State University with graduate and undergraduate emphases in corrections administration and psychology. He has worked as both a corrections officer and corrections counselor. Two adjunct instructors, Bill Whited, who has

20 years experience with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and George Jones '81, with many years as a criminal defense lawyer, "will add a great deal of expertise to the program," McDade said.

Criminal Justice graduates will gain skills to speak and write effectively, to analyze situations critically and creatively and develop familiarity with the world around them - politics, science, the arts and history. The program is rooted in Social Science with a concentration in psychology and sociology. It also prepares students to look at the ethical and social justice implications of the study of crime.

A goal is to prepare students to "apply criminology and justice studies theories and research to advocate for positive social change," according to McDade. To meet that goal, Criminal Justice majors will take courses with real-life applications such as Penology, Community-Based Corrections, Police Problems and Practice, Corrections Case Management and an internship with a law enforcement or similar agency.

Freshman Joshua Garvin from Florida is a Criminal Justice major. He would like to become a U.S. marshal or other Federal agent, but his "ideal" job would be a local police officer. He wants to make the world a better place. "The world doesn't have superheroes with super powers," he explains, "but it has men and women who won't stand for crime." Josh wants to be one of those people. "If these men and women didn't feel the way they do, then the world would have no one to enforce the laws. No officers, no peace."

The world is lucky that there are Josh Garvins coming up through programs like Graceland's Criminal Justice major. They will graduate with practical skills, a broad perspective of the liberal arts and a passion to invest themselves in the welfare of their communities.

The Criminal Justice major is a perfect fit with Graceland's mission "to create learning communities where students develop their potential for meaningful and productive lives."

If you know a student who might be interested in Criminal Justice as a field of study, have them contact Graceland admissions at 1.866.GRACELAND.♦



Dr. Jeff McDade



Dr. Robert Poulton
and Dr. Ezzeldin Aly

Sport Management: Career of the Future

Owner of the NFL's Oakland *Raiders* and Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee Al Davis contacted Graceland President John Sellars recently to applaud GU's decision to create a new Sport Management major starting in the fall of 2010.

Davis wrote to President Sellars, "Graceland graduates with a B.A. in Sport Management will gain an edge in achieving their life dreams. They will acquire a solid understanding of sports and athletic business models that will prepare them for stellar careers."

That's quite a kickoff for our new Sport Management program coming from the only person in history to have served pro football as a player personnel assistant, an assistant coach, a head coach, a general manager, a league commissioner and the principal owner and chief executive officer of an NFL team. Al Davis knows something about sports management.

Both President Sellars and VP for Academic Affairs Parris Watts are excited about career opportunities GU's Sport Management program will provide our graduates. Sports administration, management and marketing are emerging as very popular career choices in a \$300 billion sports industry that is exploding with growth. "Al Davis's endorsement sends a strong message about the quality of our new program," Sellars said. And Watts added, "We are already seeing significant interest in this new major."

GU Professors Ezzeldin Aly, Division of Health and Movement Science, and Robert Poulton, the C.H. Sandage School of Business, have teamed up to teach essential courses for the new major. Many seasoned professors from both disciplines will provide the academic backbone of a major that required extensive planning and research. It is rooted in the solid business fundamentals of finance, management and marketing, but it also includes coursework in legal and ethical issues in sport, psychology of sports and communications. Only a few universities in our region offer a Sport Management major.

Dr. Aly holds a Ph.D. in Physical Education and he has coached swim teams at the World and Olympic levels. During his 20-year teaching career he has seen many high school students who excelled at and fell in love with a specific sport. He said, "Now, with a degree in Sport Management from Graceland, these students can make a career by sticking with what they love." Dr. Aly expects the new major to be a favorite among student athletes. A wide variety of pro, college and public/private school sports programs are looking for graduates with skills our new program will provide.

On the other hand, according to Dr. Poulton, who holds a Ph.D. in Economics, with specialties in Industrial Organization and Public Finance, "Students interested in business who have a love of sports are also going to be a great fit for this new major." Dr. Poulton points out that the entire faculty of Graceland's prestigious C.H. Sandage School of Business researched and studied curricular designs and national standards before deciding to launch the new major this fall. He poses this question for high school or transfer students looking at Sport Management as a career choice: "Can you see yourself as a sports marketing director, a corporate sales director, a ticket sales director, a facility coordinator, an athletic director, an athletic business manager, a community sports program director, a professional sports team manager or a sports attorney? If your answer is yes to any of these, this major is for you."

Exciting internships will also be an integral part of this program. Real-life experience is a cornerstone of a Graceland education. And, perhaps most importantly, all Graceland students graduate with a solid foundation in the liberal arts, something our alumni tell us sets the stage for the rest of their lives.

Does your son or daughter, your grandchild, or perhaps a student from your neighborhood or congregation seem like a good fit for GU's Sport Management major? Put them in touch with a Graceland admissions professional by calling 1.866.GRACELAND. You could make a real difference in a young person's life.

Like Oakland *Raiders* legendary owner Al Davis told President Sellars: "You have designed a program to dare your students to dream and succeed in the world of sport management."♦



“Most of life is who you live it with” Scholarship Winners Will

Four stand-out high school seniors, two from Kansas, one from Kosovo and one from Ethiopia, have been awarded Graceland’s highest scholarship honors, receiving full-tuition Prestigious Honors Scholarships to Graceland this fall. The scholarships are renewable for four years.

The Honors Scholarship recipients will become members of the Graceland Honors Program, a special group of students who distinguished themselves academically in high school and continue to do so at Graceland. Honors Program students are typically driven to achieve scholastically during their college years and they enjoy spending time with like-minded students.



Dr. Bob Mesle

“Most of life is who you live it with,” observes Bob Mesle, Honors Director and Professor of Philosophy of Religion, who also chairs the committee which selects the Prestigious Honors Scholars. “So the most important thing about the Honors Program is the people in it,” Bob frequently remarks. “Students will form many communities during their college life. If they want to be

sure that one of those communities includes some of the smartest, most creative people who share their commitment to learning and serious exploration of ideas, then joining the Honors Program is the best way to do that.”

Prestigious Scholarship requirements for incoming students are a 3.75 GPA or higher, an ACT score of 27 or higher (SAT of 1210 or higher). Typically recipients are also ranked near the top of their high school graduating class, are accomplished writers and have been involved in a variety of academic and other activities. Applicants are also required to write an essay about something that is important to them.



Besa Maloku is a senior at Xhevdet Doda High School in Prishtina, Kosovo, where she has compiled a 4.0 GPA. She plans to major in Chemistry and Biology at Graceland. She speaks Albanian, English and German. She is ranked 11 of 660 students in her class. She hopes attending Graceland will further her dream of celebrating



Join GU Honors Program

diversity, a heritage GU has embraced for more than a century. Besa plans to become a gynecologist “and raise awareness for women in Kosovo on the importance of health care and family planning.” She is looking forward to making friends at Graceland “with students from all over the world.” Besa’s application essay probed her ideas on the importance of experiencing diversity she obviously prizes. She described how the war between Kosovo and Serbia devastated her family and her country, but inspired her to become a strong woman.



Antonia Davidson is a senior at Wichita, Kansas High School East and she plans to major in Art and Visual Communication at Graceland. Antonia is ranked 29 of 446 students in her class. Her GPA is 3.83. She scored 33 on the ACT. With a major in Visual Communication, Antonia plans to become a Graphic Designer. “I might even own my

own Design Firm someday! I’ll be the sneaky person manipulating your spending impulses in beautiful ads and eye-catching product designs.” She is also signed up for JV soccer and she is “dusting off her old soccer shoes.” For her application essay Antonia wrote about the negatives of using harmful language to describe specific demographic groups, such as women, people of color or a person’s sexual orientation. “Language is Not Gay” was the title of her essay.

Kirubel Wubset Hailu hails from Ethiopia but he has been attending Piney Woods High School in Piney Woods, Mississippi for the last two years. He has earned a GPA of 3.95. He plans to pursue a pre-med academic discipline, majoring in Biology and Physics at Graceland. He grew up in Addis Ababa with his grandparents and faced great economic and social challenges. “I am



motivated to become a person of change,” he said. “I want to make a difference in the lives of others.” One of his goals is to establish the first African peace pavilion in Addis Ababa and teach youth the importance of peace. “We change the future by educating young minds,” he said. Kirubel wrote his essay about a “Knight’s Journey” for his application essay, equating his own journey through social, economic, political and emotional obstacles to that of the quest of a knight in the middle ages.

Anna Cleland-Leighton, a student at Leavenworth, Kansas High School, plans to major in Biology at Graceland with an eye toward pre-med. This straight-A student has compiled a GPA of 4.2 and she scored a near-perfect 35 on the ACT. She is ranked number two in her class of 351 students. Many of Anna’s family members have attended GU and she said she wants “the unique and meaningful experience” they enjoyed. “I love the campus and the new Resch Science and Technology Hall. At Academic Honors Day I felt welcome and accepted. I can’t wait to be at Graceland.” Anna wrote about the controversy in America concerning euthanasia for her application essay, analyzing various aspects of this topical issue. She provided an insightful look at how Americans on both sides of this issue feel strongly about their personal beliefs.



Graceland’s annual Prestigious Honors Scholarship program attracts dozens of high school candidates from around the world. GU prides itself on having a diverse campus with an annual average of 17 percent international students, second among 30 private colleges and universities in Iowa. For the 2009-10 school year, students from 47 states and 41 nations chose from more than 50 academic majors and programs at Graceland.

For information about attending GU, please view our website: www.graceland.edu, and follow the links to *Admissions and Financial Aid*, call 866-GRACELAND, or write to Graceland University, Office of Admissions, 1 University Place, Lamoni, IA 50140. To learn more about Prestigious Honors Scholarships, visit www.graceland.edu/academichonors and visit www.graceland.edu/honors to find out more about the Graceland Honors Program. ♦

Saving Lives with Science: New Approaches to Cancer Drug Discovery & Development

Fred Hausheer, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Founder, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
BioNumerik Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Associate Professor
Medical Oncology
The Johns Hopkins Oncology Center

Professor of Medicine and Medical Oncology
The University of Missouri-Columbia

Professor
Graduate Pharmacology Program
The University of Texas Health Sciences Center

BioNumerik
PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.



Graceland Welcomes Iowa Academy of Science for a Weekend of Exploration and Discovery

Scientists, science educators and science students from across Iowa met at Graceland April 16-17 for the 122nd Annual Meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science (IAS). Nearly 400 Iowa science leaders converged on our Lamoni campus for cutting-edge presentations, symposia, student competitions and field trips exploring the wonders of modern science.

It was the first visit of the prestigious IAS to Graceland, just in time to showcase our new Resch Science and Technology Hall that opened last fall. Teri Foster, Professor of Biology and Physiology at Graceland, coordinated the weekend with the IAS and she could not have been more pleased with the outcome. And, she could not have been more proud of GU science and technology students who showed off their recent work, including demonstrations with model robotics, and served as out-

standing ambassadors of the university.

The IAS was established in 1875 to promote scientific research and its dissemination, education in the sciences, public understanding of science, and recognition of excellence in these endeavors. There are more than 800 IAS members.

President John Sellars welcomed our guests and introduced the first of three major speakers of the weekend, GU 1977 alumnus Dr. Fred Hausheer, M.D. FACP, who spoke to a Shaw Center gathering about his life's work in the clinical development of cancer drugs. His topic, *Saving Lives with Science: New Approaches to Cancer Drug Discovery and Development*, provided a high-tech snapshot of BioNumerik Pharmaceuticals, a global company he founded in 1992 and serves as CEO and Board Chair.

Dr. Hausheer met with a group of students in Resch



Dr. Teri Foster



Hall prior to his main presentation. They spoke and understood his language, a complex mixture of biology, chemistry and physics used in tandem with super-high-performance computing, an approach to new-drug research that has become synonymous with the name BioNumerik.

You quickly get the idea that Dr. Hausheer could be one of the most brilliant people you have ever shared air with. But even laypersons could admire this noble servant of humankind when he spoke of his "life passion" for making a true difference in the world, for utilizing his cutting-edge technological wizardry to extend the lives of cancer patients. "I am hopelessly addicted to that endeavor," he said.

At his main lecture it began to make sense for the layperson how the super-science of super-computers has become integrally linked to the successes of research in the life sciences. He shared amazing graphics of the molecular structures of cancers and how drugs BioNumerik develops interrupt their growth. He currently has two new drugs in final-stage development, one which attacks drug-resistant ovarian cancer.

Dr. Hausheer talked about his field as "probably the highest risk business in the world," with phenomenally high R&D costs and only "a three percent success rate." And yet he said he would not want to work at anything else. He urged today's science students to learn as much as possible in a "wide range of scientific disciplines. Become a good generalist," he said. "That is what I look for at my company." He triggered laughter when he added, "But I have to tell you, I am still figuring out what I want to do!"

Dr. Hausheer will present the main address at GU's 2010 Commencement Convocation on May 16 when he will be presented with an honorary Ph.D.

About 60 middle and high school students competed for prizes and scholarships during the weekend in special poster and oral presentation events put on by the Iowa Junior Academy of Science. Resch Hall was filled with



Miss Iowa 2009, Anne Michael Langguth

the buzz of the best and brightest science students in Iowa. Fifty Graceland students assisted with the event and they were universally praised by attendees for their helpfulness and professionalism. "Craig Johnson, IAS Executive Director, said many of the attendees told him they thought our students were outstanding," according to Teri Foster.

Miss Iowa 2009, Anne Michael Langguth, a native of Iowa City and a Harvard graduate, spoke to students at a special luncheon with a message encouraging careers in science. She also promoted her community service program, "Good for You: Promoting and Supporting Wellness Initiatives." The young people were wowed by her commitment to home-town communities and the welfare of children - she shares violin performances with hospitalized young people. She plans to attend the University of Iowa School Of Medicine.

Gregg Pattison, a Private Lands Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who works from his office at Graceland, spoke about his passion of restoring endangered southern Iowa oak savanna habitats. Several field trips around the area gave Iowa science leaders a

glimpse of the beauty of our locale and the environmental challenges we face.

Dozens of scientific symposia took place across our campus as students from many colleges and universities, and other scientists, shared results of research with colleagues they would not normally come into contact with. There was a pervasive atmosphere of awe and discovery as the exciting world of modern scientific research unfolded during a stellar weekend. Funding to bring the meeting to GU was provided by the IAS with help from the DEKKO Foundation and the Area Health Education Center (AHEC).

Teri said the entire Graceland community came together to create one of the most memorable events in recent GU history. "Science faculty members were thrilled to show off Resch Hall, and even more thrilled to watch as our science and technology students made the weekend a very special experience."♦



From left: John Sellars, Fred Hausheer and Craig Johnson



Photo by Jen Poulton



Photo by Jen Poulton



Photo by Jen Poulton

Tom Powell, 'M Away after Yea



Tom at Homecoming 2009 with his grandchildren.

Graceland's long-serving and much-loved Dean of Students Tom Powell succumbed to cancer January 28 at age 58. Former students traveled distances great and small to join Tom's devoted family, friends and colleagues for a stirring 'celebration of life' service on February 1.

Those who loved Tom filled The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts auditorium to hear stories about and remembrances of "Mr. Graceland," a man Marian Killpack called "my hero." Marian, GU's tremendous Residence Life director, provided poignant memories based on their 30-year friendship, noting that she always wished she could be more like Tom. Ironically, Tom was known to say that he always wished he could be more like Marian.

It is fitting then that President John Sellars appointed Marian to the post of Dean of Students in April, saying, "Who else but Marian could follow in Tom's footsteps?" An ice cream social was held in her honor outside the MSC on April 20. (Watch for a feature story about Marian in the fall issue of *Horizons*.)

Who could have imagined Graceland University without Tom Powell? He was an indelible marker of the daily fabric of life on "the Hill," much like the beautiful lilacs gracing

Tom's view out his MSC office window each spring.

There is a scene in the Frank Capra film, *Talk of the Town*, when Ronald Colman has just been appointed to the bench of the Supreme Court and his life-long friend, with a tear in his eye, calls him "Mr. Justice." It seems so appropriate for those who loved him, with a tear in their eyes, to remember Tom Powell as "Mr. Graceland."

No one cherished friendships with Graceland students more than Tom. He was their Dean of Students and their thoughtful guide during the four years when GU promises nurturing and growth and transformation to meaningful adulthood. Tom and his dedicated team of caring professionals in Student Life made good on that promise, one student at a time.

A Facebook presence has grown to nearly 2,000 entries since Tom's death. You can access it at: R.I.P. Tom Powell.

At the campus service, Tom's younger brother Ric provided memories only a brother would know. He painted a picture of a family full of love as they grew up together in an eastside Des Moines neighborhood full of organized athletics, school rivalries and family loyalty.

GU Coach Bill 'Duke' Dudek added humor with great stories of his years of friendship with Tom. The inimitable 'Duke' said, "I'm told now that I was Tom's entertainment. That's something, to be somebody's entertainment."

Former GU men's soccer coach Ivan Joseph asked former and present student leaders to stand in honor of Tom Powell. Dozens stood, to an ovation from the gathering. "As a student," he said, "I always felt a very special spirit that Tom gave me. I realized later that he gave it to everybody."

One of Tom's five daughters (all GU graduates), Stacey Slifka, pointed out that though Tom was well known for his 'ministry of presence' at Graceland, "he was like that with family, too." He never missed a ball game, a rehearsal, any moment his kids thought was important, she said.

Tom dearly loved his five daughters and he was always ready to share photos and stories about them.



Tom with staff and student leaders.

Marian Killpack is greeted by President Sellars at her ice cream social.



Mr. Graceland,' Passes A Long Battle with Cancer

Tom humbly (you can't emphasize the word *humble* strongly enough) personified the goals and dreams of the university he served for 30 years. Many students thought of Tom as the person who runs Graceland, and in a way they were right. Many graduates proclaimed him as the one who made the big difference in their lives. Faculty and staff were his friends, his trusted colleagues and his buddies. He meant something very special to everyone he knew.

He had a great sense of humor. There was an ever-present smile on his face as he joyfully went about his daily routine of attending as many student activities and events as possible, great or small. It was that 'ministry of presence' his daughter spoke of. He said there was nothing more powerful than 'being there' for the students to demonstrate you cared.

At 27 years he was the longest-serving Dean of Students at any college or university in Iowa. He was a 1973 graduate of Graceland where he had a phenomenal four years as a standout athlete in football and especially baseball. He was a tremendous catcher and one of the top college hitters of his time, winning the Rawlings Big Stick award that honors the greatest batter in the NAIA. Tom conceived the Graceland athletic Hall of Fame, not knowing he would become an inductee in 1990.

Each year at Baccalaureate it was a joy to see Tom present the annual Student Life Awards. The beaming smile on his face was a picture worth a thousand words for his love of students. Tom won that award at his graduation.

After college Tom had a phenomenal run as football and baseball coach at Fairview High School in Boulder, CO. His teams posted a 69-8-1 record in football with two state championships, and a 228-61 record in baseball with another state championship. He returned to Graceland to coach in 1980. He became Dean of Students in 1982, then VP for Student Life, and he served as Athletic Director for 20 years. President Emerita Barbara Higdon calls Tom "the smartest hire I ever made." She often referred to him as "The Perfect Dean of Students."

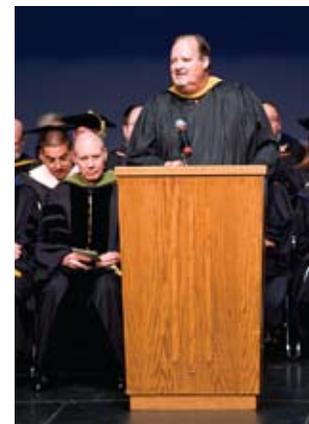
Tom helped transform the Graceland landscape with innovations like Choices, our alternative night spot for students located below the Coliseum Theatre. He used "positive norming" to show non-drinking students they were part of the majority, not the minority. He helped create the LEAD Program, Enter.NetC@fe, Final Fling, Caroling and Cakes, 'Move-in Day' and the CAP Center. His sure hand guided residence life, student activities,

the CAP Center, athletics, campus ministries, international students' programs, health services, food services, student government, intramurals, major student events, community service work, happenings on and off campus...the list goes on. He shepherded this team with fatherly pride. Tom's office was the busiest place on campus. A sign there read, "Caution - Construction Zone - Lives Being Built Here."

For many years Tom accompanied a group of Graceland colleagues and students on Winter Terms to Honduras. They built houses, an elementary school, developed a water project and built a community center. He loved to watch as students were transformed during these missions of help and hope. "Their eyes opened to the great need," he once said, "their work ethic kicked in and the result was nothing short of miraculous." A recent GU alumnus said Tom went beyond any expectation a student might have had for a Dean of Students. The alumnus said Tom taught him about life, how to be a good professional for sure, but most of all how to be a good person. Tom Powell truly cared about and touched the lives of those who crossed his path.

Upon his death the Graceland Board of Trustees quickly honored Tom with VP for Student Life Emeritus status. Only once before has a staff member been so honored, in 1926 when Jeremiah Gunsolley became Treasurer Emeritus. The Board also named our student life offices "The Tom Powell Student Life Office Suite," a designation that will carry through when our new Student Center is built. A special endowment fund in Tom's name has been established to support Student Life programming, one of Tom's passions. You can send a check for that fund to the GU Development Office, 1 University Place, Lamoni, IA 50140.

Tom challenged every member of the Graceland community to consider what legacy they would leave from their time on "the Hill." Tom's friends and colleagues will carry on in his absence, contemplating that challenge, trying to follow the 'joy of life' credo he lived by and played by and loved by. So long Tom from the many thousands of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who have loved you and will remember you always.♦



The ever-present smile; Tom at Baccalaureate 2009.

Ruch Cottage: That Little

Blue House on the Corner

In 1948 Dr. Velma Ruch moved into the little blue house on the corner across the street north of the Floyd McDowell Commons. She and Betty (Mosier) Beller, a faculty colleague, purchased the home for \$6,500, a small price then but a big financial commitment for the two on 1948 Graceland salaries. Betty married and moved away, but Velma stayed in the house and taught English at Graceland for 40 years, including one year as acting president in 1974-75. She has lived there since her retirement in 1986. She is still there. And in a wonderful way, she will always be there.

Dr. Ruch, a 1941 GU graduate, has donated the house and the land around it to Graceland. She has also willed nearly all of the remainder of her estate to Graceland as an endowment for its maintenance. This spring, Graceland President John Sellars, First-lady Bette Sellars, and several university staff paid Velma a surprise visit with a plaque that officially designates the house as "Ruch Cottage."

The name was Velma's idea. She wanted a designation that would suggest something inviting and cozy, as generations of students and colleagues have known it. And that is just what President Sellars intends. "We will keep it as it is now and use Ruch Cottage as an inviting spot for visiting dignitaries. It's perfect - a comfortable hideaway right on campus."

Perhaps Graceland will lure a visiting Winter Term instructor for three weeks with the offer of private living quarters. Maybe campus groups will find Ruch Cottage an ideal get-away for a day-long retreat. It is a wonderful spot for a private dinner. President Sellars has many plans for the little blue house across the street.

Two generations of Graceland students have their own memories of Velma's house. When Dr. Ruch was teaching, junior and senior English majors met upstairs in the "upper room" every Tuesday night for a seminar. While they may have forgotten some of the finer points of T. S. Eliot, they probably still remember the cakes Velma baked fresh every Tuesday morning especially for the seminar.

Women chaplains and Crescents met there for years when Velma was their faculty sponsor. One Christmas, during cocoa and cookies after a round of caroling, Crescents in the "upper room" smelled smoke. A candle had ignited the living

room curtains downstairs. They put out the fire with only a little damage. It's not the curtains that Velma remembers. In the excitement a student had picked up Velma's beautiful new red coat to smother the flames, but Velma put a quick stop to that. She loved that coat.

Nothing, not even burning curtains, could dampen Velma's love of Christmas. Ruch Cottage glows inside and out every year with lights and decorations. Velma enjoys telling about the students one year looking at her house from their rooms in Walker Hall. Filled with the Christmas spirit, Velma was decorating the Christmas tree in her upstairs window. Filled with a spirit somewhat less festive, they were studying for her tough final exam in English literature.

Even after her retirement in 1986, the "upper room" continued to be a special place. Velma was ordained an evangelist in the Community of Christ and she has given many evangelist blessings there.

Another special room in the house is the porch dining room, which Velma calls "the Garden Café." While she is highly respected for her teaching and writings, Velma is also a fabulous hostess and cook. Many a guest has enjoyed elegant dinners topped off with beautiful layer cakes or scrumptious English trifles served at a table decorated according to the season. Velma's plan is to leave most of the furnishings in the house, including dishes and art works brought back from her travels to Norway,



John and Bette Sellars present Velma with a 'Ruch Cottage' plaque.

Photo by Vikki Morein

Ruch Cottage sits across the street from the Floyd McDowell Commons.



England, Greece and India.

Velma finished the basement into a separate apartment in 1972 for her mother who lived there until her death in 1981. In recent years she has had the bathrooms, kitchen and basement remodeled. The original house did not have insulation, an oversight that was remedied during some recent renovation.

Graceland has been a center of Velma's entire life. In fact, her attachment goes back even before she was born. Her father, a coal miner, was asked to accept an appointment in the Reorganized Latter Day Saint Church with the expectation that he would be sent on a foreign mission. The original plan was that he and his wife would be assigned to Tahiti. They enrolled for the 1920-21 Graceland school year in Religious Education classes. However, because Graceland had no French teacher that year but did have someone who could teach Norwegian, church leaders decided to send the Ruches not to tropical Tahiti but to snowy Norway.

When Zella Ruch arrived on the Graceland campus in the fall, she was pregnant with Velma. Dr. Ruch therefore claims that she was attending Graceland classes a year before she was born, a record that few can equal. She spent 12 years in Norway as part of an RLDS missionary family. She has translated church documents into Norwegian and compiled a Norwegian hymnal. After retirement, she accepted her own one-year church appointment to Norway.

Home, however, has for 60 years always been the little blue house across the street from campus. The land was part of the original property deeded to Graceland by Marietta Walker, who like Velma was a champion of church-sponsored education. After giving her life to Graceland, Dr. Ruch has given her house and estate also. Ruch Cottage is a fitting tribute to one who helped make Graceland "home" for herself and for two generations of Graceland students.♦



Velma, hosting a Christmas party in the "Garden Café."



Photos by Vikki Moran



GRACELAND UNIVERSITY

Sanchez Named New Men's Soccer Coach

Former assistant Men's Soccer coach Guillermo Sanchez has been named new Yellowjacket Head Men's Soccer coach for the 2010 season. Guillermo became Associate Head Coach in 2009 after a stellar career playing for the Jackets. He replaces Angel Monroy who served on the GU coaching staff for eight seasons, the last two as head coach.

Guillermo earned his Master's Degree in Sports Psychology from Capella University (Mpls., MN) this year. He was a captain for the Yellowjacket team in the 2005 season and a three-time All-Conference and two-time All-American Scholar-Athlete. He assumed his GU Head Coach duties in April.

"I am glad to lead a great program like we have here at Graceland," he said. "We are graduating 11 seniors and I would like to thank them for all they did for the team. Our new team is already improving as a program, as a unit, and as members of the community." Guillermo invites alumni and friends "around the country and the world to stay connected as we continue to build upon the rich history of Graceland soccer."

The Yellowjacket squad, led by former Head Coach Ivan Joseph, won the NAIA National Championship in 2006. The Graceland men perennially post winning seasons. They have dominated play in the Heart of America Athletic Conference. Coach Sanchez said he plans to keep the glory going.



GU Indoor Track Squad Excels at Nationals

The Yellowjacket indoor track distance medley relay team took 6th place at the NAIA Nationals this year in Johnson City, TN and set a Graceland record at 10:13.21. They took away All-American honors for their effort. The team, left to right: Justin Gibbs (Kansas City, MO), Ben Vink (London, Ontario), Neil Grundman (Croswell, MI) and Ahmed Khalif (Hamilton, Ontario).

"I can't think of a better way to finish a national championship than to witness an All-American performance by the distance medley relay team," said Head Track Coach Kent Allshouse. "It was a fitting end to an outstanding indoor season for both the men's and women's teams." Grundman was also named a Cross Country All-American for the second straight year, finishing 13th in a field of 323 at the National CC Run in Vancouver, WA last fall.

Long jumper Mwale Kapande (Mt. Pleasant, IA) finished 4th in the long jump in Johnson City, also earning All-American honors. Mwale jumped 5.77 meters, only three centimeters out of 3rd place.

Senior shot-putter Leti Talimatasi (Independence, MO) posted a personal best of 12.64 meters at the meet and placed 19th nationally.



Mwale Kapande

Katherine's Golden Years at Graceland



(Editor's note: Katherine Lancaster '54 Koonce wrote this little memory of her years at Graceland in 2003 when she was a member of a writing/book club in her hometown of Georgetown, TX. Katherine passed away in 2008. This is reprinted with the permission of her husband Gearl, also a 1954 Graceland graduate.)

I had looked forward to going to Graceland College for as long as I knew what college was. I remember myself as a child, poring over my mother's scrapbook from her days at Graceland from 1922 to 1924. Her scrapbook contained a fascinating collection of pictures, pressed flowers, notes, cards, and programs from years before. I knew she loved going to Graceland. I was anxious to go there, too. When that time came I wasn't disappointed and I think of my two years at Graceland (1952-54) as golden ones.

I loved the pretty little campus on "the Hill." The trees were tall and beautiful, oaks and evergreens, and the lilac bushes saturated the air with their fragrance in the spring. I loved gathering in the student center on Sunday evenings to sing old songs. I loved the small, friendly classes, and I loved the special friendships of the girls' dorm.

On one Sunday night, in September of my freshman year, I met my future husband, Gearl Koonce. I was seventeen years old. Families in the town invited all the new students to attend church service in town and then go in small groups to their homes afterwards for refreshments and a social time. In my group, among others I can't remember, was a girl from Hawaii, Leiloho, and twins from Texas, Gearl and Earl ('54) Koonce. I soon found out that the twins played football, quarterback and halfback, and later I found out they loved to sing when they sang in a western quartet at a rally on the football field. They sang with their cousin, Fred Church, and a friend, Windy Parker.

Gearl and I began dating. I think he asked me for a date that night, or soon afterwards, and by December I was wearing his high school class ring. It was a wonderful time of discovery and innocence. We had no car so we would walk the mile to town to go to the show, eat pork tenderloin sandwiches, and drink thick milkshakes at the coffee shop in the old hotel. We often played "Up the Lazy River," by the Mills Brothers on the jukebox there. It was just fun being college kids in love, and sharing excitement with other young couples.

Sometimes we go back to Graceland Homecoming. We laugh and talk again with old friends who also remember those golden years at Graceland.

Katherine Lancaster Koonce (Class of 1954)



'40s

Dale Swall '49 continues to teach fourth grade in the Hebron Valley Elementary School, Carrollton, TX. His surprise classroom 80th birthday party was recently featured in the *Dallas Morning News*.

'50s

Paul M. Edwards '52 is author of *The Angel Acronym*, a suspenseful and humorous murder mystery centered in the RLDS Temple School in Independence, MO. Published by Signature Books, the whodunit introduces the Spinoza-reading detective Toom Taggart to solve the mystery.

John Harkrader '56 is president of Professional Counseling and was recently colorfully described in a feature article in the *Des Moines Register* for his daily repartee with clients at the local Hy-Vee grocery store.

'60s

Kautila Clark '67 has completed the 2010 Farm Workers National Poster that will be unveiled

in May at the National Farm Workers Conference in San Diego. This is the second time he has done the conference poster.

'70s

Dr. David Clinefelter '72 has been named Chief Academic Officer at Walden University. He previously served as President of Graceland University from 1997 to 2002.

Roger Launius '76 is Senior Curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC. He served for 12 years as Chief Historian of the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and has authored more than 20 books, including an award-winning biography of Joseph Smith III.

James N. Ash '78, a Partner in the Husch, Blackwell, Sanders law firm in the Securities/Mergers & Acquisitions department, has been named the *Best Lawyers' 2010* Kansas City Corporate Lawyer of the Year.

Sharon Palmer '79 Hamm is a registered nurse in the Labor and Delivery Department

at Huntington Hospital, Pasadena, CA. She just completed her first half marathon in the Pasadena Marathon.

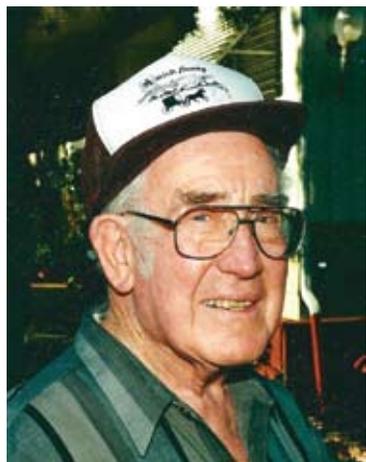
Debra Hahn '79 White has been named Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer for Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute. She is accountable for the care delivered by over 2,100 registered nurses at 11 hospitals.

'80s

Becky Watson '80 Adkins, CPA, instructed the Finance and Accounting Series of educational sessions for small business owners under the University of Southern Indiana's Division of Extended Services.

Eric Thomas Hamm '81 is Senior Project Manager for Terracon Consultants, Inc., in Irvine, CA, providing environmental, health and safety consultation for the governmental and private sectors.

Barry Midgorden '81 and **Lucinda Sage-Midgorden '79** published their children's book, *Scottosaurus The Little Dinosaur*, in February 2010.



Life Began When He Fell Asleep in Class

If Bob Laudie '40 would not have fallen asleep during class when he was a senior at the old William Chrisman High School in Independence, MO, he would never have ended up as a student at Graceland.

It was the fall of 1936. Bob was working at a restaurant nights. He was "tired all the time" and depressed about the look of his future. "I had no time for high school," he told *Horizons* recently. Then that day

happened. Bob fell asleep in his physics class. It happened to be taught by 1926 Graceland alumnus W. Earl Page, a man who loved his alma mater in Lamoni. Rather than getting in trouble, says Bob, "Mr. Page just told me, 'If you ever get tired of your life, you belong on the Hill.'" Bob says at first he wondered what "the Hill" was.

Some time passed and Bob did get tired of his life. He talked to Mr. Page, who wrote a letter to Graceland asking if they had a spot for a student who would work his way through college. About a month later Bob heard from legendary Graceland Facility Services Director Evan Walden. "He asked me if I could shovel coal and shovel snow. I said, I sure can!" And so in the fall of 1938, "with \$5 and a tin suitcase," Bob hitchhiked to Lamoni. He moved into the old Herald Hall, then a men's dorm. He

worked 10 hours a day, shoveling, yes, but also working at the Graceland dairy and cleaning the Coliseum Theater. His pay went toward tuition, room and board, and books.

He gained an interest in studying for the first time, and perhaps most importantly, Evan Walden "became like my dad. That meant the world to me." Bob said he felt at home. "I fell in love with Graceland. I mourned when I left."

Charles R. "Bob" Laudie went on to make Graceland and his country proud. When WW II broke out Bob became a bombardier and navigator on a B-26 Marauder and flew 73 missions over France, Belgium and Holland. On D-Day he and his six-man crew bombed Utah Beach, trying to knock out German machine-gun bunkers before our guys hit the beach. He distinguished himself during the war and later went on to work in the aviation industry. Bob now lives in Iowa City, Iowa. He thought it might be fun for *Horizons'* readers to know how falling asleep one day in physics class changed his life. You can email Bob at: bobmillie@gmail.com.

You can change a life, too! If you know of a high school student you think might "fall in love with Graceland," give our VP for Enrollment Greg Sutherland '73 a call and let him know. You can reach Greg at 641.784.5110.

Graceland is about changing lives. Thanks Bob for sharing about how Graceland changed yours!♦

Tim Hampton '84 has been named front office manager at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center and will be a member of the adjunct faculty of Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Brad Closson '86 and **Joe Silver '89** have published a children's book titled, *There's Sand in My Ear*, with Paragon Press. It is the story of a boy and his mouse who turn a day of show-and-tell into an adventure. Brad wrote and Joe illustrated the book. You can purchase it at www.amazon.com or www.createspace.com.

Sue Buchholz, RN '86, MSN, associate professor of nursing at Georgia Perimeter College, has gained special recognition for incorporating music into her professional and church activities as flutist, guitarist, pianist and composer.

'90s

Troy Scheuermann '94 a chiropractor in Van Buren, IA, is an advisor to the Iowa gubernatorial campaign of Bob Vander Plaats. Vander Plaats was Troy's high school basketball coach in Jefferson, IA 20 years ago.

P. Corey Phelps '95 completed the Master of Arts degree from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in Human Development.

Katie Hettrick '99 Dennis, MD, is Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS, and serves as Associate Residency Program Director.

Shaunna K. Olson '99 received a Master's Degree from Western Illinois University in 2003 and now works as head athletic trainer at Skyline High School, Idaho Falls, ID, where she also teaches sports medicine and elementary physical education.

'00s

Michael Lindgren '03 is a Technical Business Analyst with Midland Loan Services in Overland Park, KS, a division of PNC Bank. He received the MBA degree from the Bloch Business School of UMKC in 2007.

Benjamin A. Wagenaar '05 received the degree of Master of Divinity in Expository Preaching from The Assemblies of God Theological Seminary on May 1.

Alumni Teachers Take Away "Lessons Learned at Graceland"

Horizons has heard recently from three young graduates who are out in the world teaching in public school systems, transforming the lives of students. A world-class education in a nurturing community at Graceland helped them attain their goals and reach for their dreams.

Kelsey Combs '05 Hosie earned a B.A. in Elementary Education and a M.Ed. in Mild/Moderate Special Education ('10). She is a K-2nd grade Special Ed teacher for the Lamoni Community Schools. She says, "Building positive relationships with my students brings me joy. It is their needs and diverse experiences that make my job fun, exciting and rewarding. I am thankful for opportunities GU provided me as a pre-service teacher. I credit them for helping me find ways to make learning meaningful and exciting for my students." Kelsey adds, "It was my positive experience as an undergrad that led me to complete a Masters Program in Special Ed. That prepared me to meet the needs of my students."



Mandy Williams '01 Allison came to GU on a basketball scholarship. She earned a B.A., focusing on sports, health and physical education. "The preparation I received from teachers and coaches at GU led me to a teaching job at North Harrison High School in Eagleville, MO where I taught health and P.E. for grades 7-12." She also coached High School Varsity Basketball, Jr. High Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys Track and Field and served as Athletic Director. She now teaches K-5th grade physical education at E.C. Mason Elementary School in Manvel, TX where she instills her students with "life lessons I learned at GU." In 2008 she received "my greatest achievement to date, being nominated by my peers and named Teacher of the Year."

Lisa Ash '08 is just completing her first year of teaching first grade at Korte Elementary School in the Independence, Missouri School District. She says that the Gleazer School of Education's "emphasis on building caring and compassionate relationships with students is what helped me the most in creating a successful classroom climate." She was one of numerous Graceland graduates who have had the opportunity to student teach in New Zealand. She said she also loved the close contact she was invited to maintain with Graceland faculty and advisors in the School of Education. "I felt I always had someone to motivate me and encourage my passion for building strong learning communities that value the contribution of each student."♦



Baron Grutter '06 graduated from the UMKC School of Dentistry and will enter private practice in Kansas City.

Rick Mischka '06 is head men's and women's volleyball coach at Park University, Parkville, MO.

J. Kane Brooner '07 has been named head soccer coach at Central High School in St. Joseph, MO.

Brett Loving '07 is the junior varsity soccer coach at Central High School in St. Joseph, MO.

Ciera Speaks '08 Rhoades won second place in the manipulated category of the 2009 photography exhibition "Cemeteryscapes" in New Orleans.

Tina Cook '09 presented her Graceland Honors Program research paper at a recent

conference in Baltimore with former instructor Chris Easton.

Kevin Souter '09 plays for the *Kansas City Wizards* of Major League Soccer. Kevin was a two-time HAAC All-American at Graceland.

Jesse (Jake) Wills '09 will be leaving for his second military tour of duty after the holidays. He is a police officer for the city of Trenton, MO.

'10s

Edson Edward '10 was selected in the Major League Soccer supplemental draft by *FC Dallas*.

Carlos Ortiz '10 will participate in preseason camp for *Real Salt Lake* of Major League Soccer with a strong chance to make the team.

WEDDINGS

Michael Lindgren '03 and Sarah Jane Faris, May 9, 2009.

Jim Reagh '03 and **Melissa Mullen '03**, June 20, 2009.

Mark Boswell '06 and **Allison Emslie '09**, March 13, 2010.

ANNIVERSARIES

(Those celebrating 50 years or more of matrimony)

Darwin '57 and **Catherine Reedy** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 20, 2009.

Richard '55 and **Louita Goode '56 Clothier** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 16, 2010.



Annual Fund Phonathon Helps 'Construct Lives'

For three weeks in February and March seven Graceland students donned hard hats and went to work 'Constructing Lives.' The hard hats and yellow, construction-zone tape around their desks were symbolic of their work, and their mission.

Each year Graceland conducts an Annual Fund Phonathon when students call alumni, sharing good news from "the Hill" and seeking participation in the Annual Fund. The 2010 theme was 'Constructing Lives'. The Annual Fund seeks unrestricted gifts to support critical needs of the university, including subsidizing tuition for students with financial challenges. This year's student callers were, from left, Shannon Scarlett, Colton Adamson, Johnny Harlan, Lucas Wilding, Amber Longsdorf and Mindy Walchli. (Ian Christenson is not pictured.)

President John Sellars and First-Lady Bette Sellars were on hand to thank donors and support the student callers. The Sellars were present at the end of the second week when the students reached their goal of \$20,000. President Sellars was able to personally thank the donor whose gift put the campaign over the top. The students went on to raise about \$30,000.

You too can be a part of our Annual Fund drive by sending your gift to the GU Development Office, 1 University Place, Lamoni, Iowa, 50140. You can also make a gift online at www.graceland.edu/giving. (By the way, this is now our primary address for gift giving. You can discontinue using the old P.O. Box 64, Lamoni address.)

Thank you for helping Graceland 'Construct Lives'. ♦

Chuck '50 and **Harriet Gress** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 11, 2010.

BIRTHS

Dustin and Kyla Ordway '04 Lux, Ryan, IA, Carleigh Mae, July 27, 2009.

Caleb '98 and Katie Hettrick '99 Dennis, Lee's Summit, MO, Lily McKinley, August 6, 2009.

Nick and Angela Glazenbrook '00 Bissett, Littleton, CO, Brooklyn, August 20, 2009.

John and Tarasa Oldridge '02 Gardner, Kirksville, MO, Alexis Marie, September 22, 2009.

Dornelio and Anastasia Van Eeghen '01 Waits, Newport, RI, Makena Ruth, January 30, 2010.

Arlie and Carey Powell '99 Miller, Des Moines, IA, Griffin Zip, February 5, 2010.

Tyler '06 and Sarah Glynn '04 Fonseca, Killeen, TX, Skyler Leanne, February 24, 2010.

Rob and Katie Powell '02 Vozza, Bondurant, IA, Bennett Thomas, March 3, 2010.

Jonah '02 and Mohria Potts '01 Martin, Energy, IL, Nola Cathryn, March 23, 2010.

Ryan and Sarah Rastle '97 Sharp, Escondido, CA, Fiona Elizabeth, April 1, 2010.

Wendell '06 and Tiffany Rider '06 Smith, Lamoni, IA, Jacinda Lillie, April 12, 2010.

Nathan and Shanci Osborn '09 Craig, Blythedale, MO, Kellan Clair, April 13, 2010.

Andy '98 and Amber Edsall '01 Simpson, Lamoni, IA, Kinley Maya, April 17, 2010.

IN MEMORIAM

Jack Eugene Hubbard '70, Columbia, MO, August 16, 2007.

Mary Jane Munn '52 Thornton, Riverside, CA, November 29, 2007.

Marlene Wheatley '74 Dyck, Independence, MO, May 15, 2008.

Barbara Ann Reed '51 Smith, Independence, MO, May 26, 2008.



Back row, **Ellie, Jim and Erik Closson**. Front row, **Nikky Closson, Judy, Brett Walsh, Aaron Richards, Derek Twombly and Alan Lloyd**.

Guess Who Came to Campus?

Guess who is 106 years old; a 1926 Graceland alumna; matriarch of a family with GU roots dating back a century; a resident of Lamoni for 83 years?

Want a hint? Our athletic complex was renamed in 2006 to include her: The Eugene E. and Julia Travis Closson Physical Education Center. You should have been in Lamoni the day in late April when her son Jim '56 and Ellie Shippy '57 Closson brought her to campus – our lilacs had just bloomed, by the way. With help from folks at the Lamoni Nursing and Rehab Center, where she resides, Judy got her first look at a display case at the Closson Center's main entrance. It celebrates her GU legacy and that of the legendary "Double E," as Eugene was sometimes called.

Family and friends gathered for photos. To clue you in on Judy's mental acuity, she got pretty feisty when a photographer asked her to smile, and gave him an array of grimaces and frowns that had the group laughing out loud. That did the trick. She smiled and the result is the photo you see here. Asked how old she was in the photo you see behind her, she quickly responded, "I was 25 then."

Judy pioneered women's athletics and physical education when she taught here from 1931-46. Her feats are not noted in record books because she and her young women athletes competed unofficially. For today's record, though, she is the mother of women's physical education at Graceland. She was a tremendous athlete in the mid-1920s when she competed in the Graceland Girls' Athletic Club (GGAC), long before 1973 federal gender equity legislation was even a dream. As a teacher, she moved the GGAC to the national Women's Athletic Association and women could finally earn athletic letters. She taught women the modern game of basketball and coached field games and track and field. She even had her women wear shorts rather than bloomers.

Closson House President Aaron Richards discovered recently that Judy lived nearby and he and 14 other men from the third floor of Gunsolley Hall paid her a visit in February. They have visited several times since. Aaron and his Closson brothers escorted Judy on her April campus tour. She enjoys their company immensely. She enjoyed too visiting the building that now bears her name.♦

D. Thomas Bert '56, Independence, MO,
June 5, 2008.

David H. Ward '63, Independence, MO,
August 8, 2008.

Robert S. Sutherland '43, Gulf Breeze, FL,
January 5, 2009.

Daniel L. Marsh '59, Fircrest, WA,
March 20, 2009.

Genevieve M. Hougas '45 Francis,
Independence, MO, June 29, 2009.

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

Gail R. Noftsgen '77 Trullinger,
Mount Ayr, IA, July 27, 2009.

Raymond L. Holloway '42,
Independence, MO, August 6, 2009.

Sharon Engle '68 Francis, Independence, MO,
October 1, 2009.

Jennifer Jackson '96 Fiacco, Owego, NY,
October 11, 2009.

James M. Phillips '54, Kansas City, MO,
November 8, 2009.

Henry K. Matthews '50, Albuquerque, NM,
November 13, 2009.

Evelynn Wilson '67 Turner, Mojave, CA,
November 23, 2009.

Bernice Whipple '40 Chambers,
Alexandria, VA, December 15, 2009.

Jim R. Reynolds '48, Santa Cruz, CA,
January 5, 2010.

Kathryn Anderson '74 Wintermeyer,
Blue Springs, MO, January 15, 2010.

Joy Harder '36 Browne, Independence, MO,
January 24, 2010.

Thomas L. Powell '73, Lamoni, IA,
January 28, 2010.

Lois Turner '33 Allen, Independence, MO,
February 2, 2010.

Jean M. Burnett '56 Curtis, Nederland, CO,
February 12, 2010.

Robert R. Russell '41, Rolla, MO,
February 12, 2010.

Bernard B. Butterworth '49,
Independence, MO, February 16, 2010.

Ann Louise Chaney '44 Smith, Logan, UT,
February 17, 2010.

Norris A. Ballantyne '48, Chicago, IL,
February 19, 2010.

Jerry D. Ashby '57, Grant City, MO,
February 24, 2010.

Donald E. McIntosh '54, Saint Clair, MI,
March 8, 2010.

Curtis E. Morey '76, San Ramone, CA,
March 9, 2010.

Relma J. Teague '46 Holcomb,
Independence, MO, March 9, 2010.

B.C. McFadden, Coeur d'Alene, ID,
March 13, 2010.

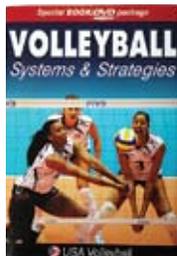
Frances L. Nowack '42 Moon, Lamoni, IA,
March 16, 2010.

Doras V. Gamet '40 Becker,
Independence, MO, March 18, 2010.

Robert A. Cliff '60, New Bedford, MA,
April 13, 2010.

H. Hubert Smith '51, Independence, MO,
April 19, 2010.

Nedra Oppelt '43 Inslee, Tulalip, WA,
April 22, 2010.



Stu Sherman Pens Volleyball Book

Stu Sherman '85 is about the most modest guy you'll ever meet, but *Horizons* forced him to put his busy schedule as Associate Director of Development at Graceland on pause to talk about a new book he has written titled *Volleyball Systems and Strategies*, published by Human Kinetics. It is intended to assist "moderately experienced" coaches to hone their skills on various kinds of defenses and offenses, serve-serve options, training strategies and a lot more.

USA Volleyball, the national governing body for volleyball, asked Stu to pen the book. It took him about a year and a half, "mostly in the wee hours of mornings," he confides. He dedicated the book to his son Sterling, a standout basketball player for Lamoni High School and a soon-to-be Graceland freshman.

Stu served as GU's Head Men's Volleyball Coach from 1993-2004. He led his team to a national championship in 1998, defeating perennial powerhouse University of California-Berkeley. His teams also claimed two runner-up finishes in 1994 and 1999 in the NIRSA Collegiate Club

Championships. Stu credits legendary Graceland volleyball coach Rod Schall '50 with laying solid groundwork in Men's Volleyball. "I had big shoes to fill," says Stu.

Though Stu keeps pretty busy as part of Graceland's dedicated development team led by VP for Institutional Advancement Kelly Everett '77, he still finds time to conduct coaching clinics around the country for USA Volleyball. He was named 'Outstanding Clinician for USA Volleyball' in 1998. The 6'5" Stu began playing volleyball in 5th grade. He played on a Jr. Olympic National Championship team (age 17 and under) in 1980. He was a top player for Graceland from 1981-85, coached by, who else, Rod Schall, who coached the team from 1965-93. Stu was named MVP twice.

If you would like to catch up with Stu, you can email him at ssherman@graceland.edu.♦



From 'Dynamo' to 'Whirlwind,' GU Alumni are in Good Hands



If you make it back to “the Hill” for those golden, fall Homecoming weekends you have no doubt met Nancy Steinke '74 Wallace. Nancy is the guiding force for what many consider some of the best Homecomings in Graceland history, and putting on a college Homecoming weekend is no small feat.

No, Nancy is not leaving Graceland, but she is moving on from her role as Director of Alumni Programs. For 34 years she has worked at GU as teacher, counselor, advisor and Director of our Career, Academic and Personal (CAP) Center. After eight years in her current role, Nancy will return to teaching this fall, spearheading efforts to launch an exciting new Human Services major. She holds an MSW degree from the University of Iowa. Her new students are lucky because they will now be the recipients of Nancy's unbridled enthusiasm, contagious sense of humor and world-class compassion for all human beings. Can you think of anyone better to provide our students the skills they need to go out and change the world?

Nancy's stewardship introduced alumni travel (and what great trips they have been); in 2008 she planned and integrated President John Sellars' inauguration into Homecoming; free SkillPath seminars for alumni; honor class projects like the lighted welcome signs and Founder's Lake bridge; and three significant scholarship funds. The word “dynamo” comes to mind when describing Nancy.

If Nancy is a dynamo then her replacement, Paul Davis '77, is a 'whirlwind'. Paul seems to be everywhere at once, especially as an Associate Director of Development at GU, focused on the East Coast since 2004. He brings to Alumni Programs the ability to juggle a dozen projects at once, and keep all the balls in the air. He created the successful Development Office Newsletter; has led the charge getting the campus radio station KBUZ off the ground; and he created four wonderful Graceland videos, designating him as the official filmmaker on our campuses.

The filmmaking is a natural for Paul. He came back to “the Hill” after 19 years as a TV Sportscaster in Baltimore,

Albuquerque, Bismarck, ND, Harrisonburg, VA and Lafayette, LA.

He covered the Masters Golf Tournament nine times, the Daytona 500 twice, a Super Bowl and three World Series. That qualifies for whirlwind status, right?

Paul says he felt a “spiritual” call to leave the fast lane of TV to “build something of significance for young people.” He naturally thought of Graceland. He is one of the nicest guys around. Make sure you meet him at Homecoming 2010, the weekend of October 1-3.

Three new members of our Alumni Board of Directors were elected at Homecoming 2009: Senada Adzem '99 of Boca Raton, FL; Dan Hanton '65 of Lamoni; and Melissa “Bubby” Lewis '01 of West Des Moines.

Senada has become a real estate development and marketing wizard for Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group in Boca Raton, after a stint with Trump International. She holds an M.B.A. from H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business at Nova Southeastern University. She is founder of The Bosnian Overseas Society, a non-profit advancing Bosnia's economic democratic status. She hails from Bosnia and her personal story about surviving the war is both terrifying and inspiring. She remembers her years at Graceland as a time where she felt safe and was literally at peace.



Dan recently retired from GU after serving as both Athletic Director and Head Women's Basketball Coach. He taught and coached at Port Huron, MI High School for many years. Under Dan's leadership GU 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 has a positive enthusiasm for life and a devotion to sports. He stays in close contact with his former players – he recently performed marriage ceremonies for two women he coached.

Melissa has taught at Hoyt Middle School in Des Moines for nine years. She founded the school's guitar club. She is a member of the Community of Christ West Des Moines congregation and volunteers as a counselor at Guthrie Grove campgrounds. She was a popular ‘House’ president because of her imaginative spirit and quirky sense of humor. During a recent alumni board meeting, Melissa revealed that she supervises the yearbook at Hoyt. She was immediately recruited to the “Save the Acacia” task force, an invitation she readily accepted.◆





Graceland's SIFE Team is Headed to Nationals

By the time you read this Graceland's 2009-10 Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team will have competed in this year's National Championship EXPO in Minneapolis against all the regional winners from across the country. GU's team swept their regional competition in Chicago in early April.

Horizons' deadline conflicted with the national championships so check our website at www.graceland.edu for results and visit www.gusife.org for more information about this acclaimed team.

It was a rebuilding year for the Graceland team. Five of six members of the presentation team were replaced as was half of the program's leadership council. The team is also preparing for the departure of Sam Walton Fellow Andy Simpson, director of the Center for the Study of Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship and SIFE director. Andy is moving on to other challenges and as *Horizons* goes to press interviews are taking place to determine his successor. Watch our website for that news also.

It was a big year for the team nonetheless. SIFE groups traveled to Belize and Zambia during Winter Term. In Belize the students led by Accounting and Business Administration Professor Linda DeBarthe shared expertise with small business owners and entrepreneurs on setting up business plans and implementing marketing and advertising plans. They also taught local business people the rudiments of accounting and finance.

The Zambia group accompanied Sherri and Jac Kirkpatrick who recently launched the Graceland-affiliated *HealthEd Connect*, a group that works with orphans and other vulnerable children and their caregivers to teach healthful living skills. The SIFE students provided financial literacy and entrepreneurial techniques to villagers and returned with a new appreciation of the challenges facing the people of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The SIFE team expanded their Kids Bank project dramatically this year, teaching more elementary school

children than ever the basics of using banks and establishing savings accounts. The young students learned the power of compound interest and good savings habits.

With their Stock Market Simulation program SIFE continued creating awareness among high school students locally and globally about capital markets and how they can drive economic opportunity in their own lives. Seven Midwest high school students visited the New York Stock Exchange in early May and students earned scholarships to Graceland.

The GU SIFE worldwide web presence emerged, with a lot of hard work, as the most 'Googled' site among all SIFE teams and it has been breaking records each month for most visits, most page views and most new visitors. GU SIFE global visibility is bigger and better than ever. As our students say, "In today's global technological world, it's not who you know, it's who knows you." Be sure to visit their site, noted earlier in this story.

The Graceland team won the national championship in 2006 and traveled to Paris for the World Cup EXPO where they finished second to a team from China. Our students consistently compete at the highest levels. Only Graceland and one other team, of the 800 teams in the U.S., have finished in the top eight nationally for five straight years. About 10 percent of GU students on our Lamoni campus participate in SIFE and they historically land good jobs, often before graduation. Career fairs at competitions offer students great opportunities to mingle with Fortune 500 companies.

SIFE is an international organization formed 40 years ago. Its goal is to provide college students the tools necessary to spread information and assistance about free-market economic principles and entrepreneurial opportunity to fledgling entrepreneurs at home and around the world. SIFE has grown from four teams and about 15 students in 1970 to nearly 1,500 teams today with 35,000 students participating around the world. ♦

'Snapshots' of Graceland's Board of Trustees

President John Sellars remarks frequently about how proud he is to serve Graceland's Board of Trustees. "You won't find a more dedicated, more professional, more accomplished group of trustees serving at any university in the country," he told *Horizons* recently.

At Homecoming 2009, when our new Resch Science and Technology Hall was dedicated, President Sellars personally thanked those board members present, and the entire board, for their tireless fundraising efforts. He noted that trustee giving accounted for half of Resch Hall's total cost. "They are a true inspiration to us all," he said.

The president's appreciation of Graceland board members made us wonder if *Horizons'* readers might enjoy 'snapshots' of these servants of the university. And so we begin a new feature, with glimpses of four members' commitment to life on "the Hill."

David B. Carmichael - Class of 1942



He is the longest serving board member in Graceland history. He is a 30-year Navy veteran, internationally-known cardiologist, long-time servant of the Community of Christ and as President Sellars says, "Dedicated in every way to Graceland." David and his late wife Ava made Carmichael

House, the president's residence, and Carmichael Auditorium on our Independence Campus possible. And now, their daughter, Ava Eagles '83 (a GU School of Nursing professor) has established the David B. Carmichael Pre-Med Scholarship to benefit future doctors, a permanent reminder of the tremendous contributions David has made to Graceland, the medical community and the thousands of patients who have benefited from his skill and compassion. He is a great man, a scholar, a humanitarian, a Graceland extraordinaire.

Calvin V. French - Class of 1949



To hear Cal French offer a prayer is a blessing in itself. His prayers are insightful and from the heart, imparting the perfect tone whenever and wherever offered, like at every Graceland Board of Trustees meeting. "He is a minister par excellence," says President Sellars.

Cal is a Washington, D.C. insider who has at times served as a chaplain to Congress. He has aided numerous GU students with visa problems and other international concerns, untangling the strings of government with finesse and compassion. His sincere involvement in people's lives has made life-changing differences, time after time. President Sellars adds, "Cal is always there, always, when someone needs him."

Emma 'Vicki' McVicker Ross - Class of 1950



Vicki is one of the kindest people you will ever meet. Her indefatigable energy fuels a life rich with service to others, including Graceland. She rediscovered the one-room, century-old schoolhouse she attended east of Lamoni, restored it to its original splendor (perhaps better than original), transplanted it to GU's Welcome Center/Amish Country Store complex, and appointed it with period furnishings. Lamoni visitors and area schoolchildren experience it with awe. Her family recently honored Vicki and her late husband Don with a gift to Graceland, "a place my children know their parents cherish," she said. Vicki adds a graceful voice to the board, sharing her steadfast foundations of love and Christian values.

Dwayne H. Shannon - Class of 1949

Dwayne is a successful businessman and entrepreneur. President Sellars believes it is his "innovative and creative thinking" that make him a valued member of our board, and the board of SkillPath. He and his wife Dotty Smith '50 share a love of exploration, an appreciation of the arts and a commitment to the church. The atrium of The Helene Center for the Visual Arts bears their names. Gifts have provided numerous arts scholarships. The stunning sculpture of Claude Monet at work, located outside the atrium, is their tribute to their late son Gary. President Sellars said, "Dwayne and Dotty are a dynamic couple, full of love for life and for each other. Graceland thanks them for their loyalty."♦





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