



# H Graceland University Horizons

Alumni and Friends Magazine

Spring/Summer 2011 Vol. 27, No. 1

**GRACELAND'S FUTURE  
UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

# Building the Graceland University of Tomorrow



When you are on “the Hill” the weekend of October 14-16 for Homecoming, you are going to be surprised at what you see. Construction of beautiful new apartments will be complete at the corner of Cedar Street and College Avenue, and ready for August move in for 96 juniors and seniors. A stunning new fitness center, funded by the Fitzgerald family (see story on pages 2-3) will be complete by Homecoming, perhaps earlier, just northwest of the Higdon Administration Building. And, of course, ground was broken during Commencement weekend for the \$13.8 million expansion and renovation of the Shaw Center. There is nearly \$20 million of construction and other upgrading work taking place on our Lamoni campus this summer.

I am so proud of the entire Graceland family for pitching in and supporting steady progress on these exciting projects. At a time of fiscal belt-tightening, our loyal donors are making it possible for Graceland to move ahead with important infrastructure updates and additions. It is truly a great time to be at Graceland.

Equally exciting will be the launch of a major new Capital Campaign at Homecoming. *Graceland Forever: The Campaign for Graceland University* will touch the lives of every Graceland student, every program, every faculty member...every aspect of our university. Read more about the campaign on page 5. And, be sure to read Board Chair Ken McClain’s column on page 4. He speaks with passion about these exciting times on “the Hill.”

We are also energized to be launching a new marketing campaign. You will often see and hear the phrase, *Our passion is your success* in the weeks and months ahead. We are spreading the word about our passion for our students to a wider audience. And we are letting our employees know how much we appreciate their efforts with a new internal campaign we are calling ‘U Matter’. Our faculty and staff do matter. They put our students first.

Because of this progress and achievement, we are seeing an uptick in demand for student openings in our programs. We are quickly moving from competitive to highly competitive with our signature programs. In turn, we are also noticing the high quality of jobs our students are getting when they graduate, and the distinguished graduate schools they are attending, like Harvard, Princeton, Seton Hall and Syracuse.

Our Homecoming theme this year, *Building a Great Forever*, is so fitting. I believe we are building – with new facilities and academic excellence – the Graceland University of tomorrow.

Join Bette and me for Homecoming this fall. Join us in Building a Great Forever, together.

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Construction is moving quickly forward on the new apartments on the site of the old 'Units.'



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# 21st Century Construction Renaissance Will Transform the Graceland Landscape



There is an historic, facility Renaissance under way on Graceland's Lamoni campus. During a down economic time, when unemployment is still high and construction around Iowa is lagging, things are really popping at Graceland, and we owe much to our loyal donors for making it so. We may all need hard hats before the summer is over!

The cost for major construction projects, significant facilities' improvements and a host of essential, summer maintenance work will total nearly \$20 million before all the work is complete.

Groundbreaking was held May 13 to commence a 14-month construction project that will bring dramatic change to the Shaw Center. The multi-million-dollar project will transform the entire front section of the Shaw Center, creating a new black-box theatre, a new 150-seat recital hall, an exterior seating area, a stunning new atrium/lobby and gathering area, a long, north-facing corridor/art gallery, and much more. The parking lot in front of the Shaw Center will be replaced by a new 140-space lot east of Graybill Hall. The center of campus will now be completely pedestrian. Project completion is planned for the fall of 2012. These changes to the Graceland landscape will be dramatic, functional and beautiful.

JR Shaw, Graceland Class of 1956, his wife Carol, and other members of the Shaw family, are making this all possible with a tremendous \$13.8 million gift to Graceland. The Shaw family themselves, their history and legacy with Graceland, and details and progress of the Shaw Center renovation, will grace the cover and be the lead story in the fall issue of *Horizons*.

There are other exciting construction developments to report. Janet Braun '61 Fitzgerald, her husband Robert William Fitzgerald, and their children, have made a significant gift to Graceland to create a new, contemporary fitness/wellness center to be located just northwest of the Higdon Administration Building. Student input was an essential component of planning for the Fitzgerald Fitness Center, to be known in short as The Fitz Center.

If that is not enough, demolition of the old 'Units' residence hall, at the corner of Cedar Street and College

Avenue, is complete and construction on two new stunning apartment buildings is underway. A total of 48 spacious, modern apartments will house 96 juniors and seniors. A move-in day in late August is planned. The new townhouse-look apartments, not yet named, will reflect Graceland's familiar red brick and limestone.

Each apartment will have two bedrooms, two baths, a kitchen, living room and dining area, cable/internet and private entrances. The idea for the apartments was brought to President John Sellars by Norma T. Thomas '56 Small and her husband Dick Small, of Tulsa, OK, where builder Jack Meyers, and Architects' Collective, have built similar apartments. Graceland staff, students and administrators visited the University of Tulsa twice and were convinced that the beautiful apartments they saw were a perfect match for the needs of Graceland students.

Our students have been polled several times about facility needs and they emphatically said that a fitness/wellness center is their number-one priority, followed closely by upgrades in residential facilities. "So, we are responding to our students," said President Sellars. "We are providing Dean of Students Marian Killpack with the tools she needs to run a top-notch 21st Century student life and residential life program. That is at the heart of what we are doing this summer. We are putting students first."

Killpack '70 said she has never been more excited in her 40 years at Graceland. "I have been working on this dream for so long," she said. "And now, it is coming to fruition. I am just thrilled." Residence Life Director Deb Skinner '93 said she is delighted that she can now offer students an "enhanced quality of daily life." It was essential to Killpack and Skinner that students in the apartments will still belong to the 'House' of their choice, and be free to keep involved in House activities and events. "Our House system is the central focus of the caring-community, residential life and student life programs at Graceland," Killpack said. Students in the apartments can cook at home and use an on-campus meal plan.

The exciting Fitz Center plans include more than \$150,000 in exercise equipment, including the most popular aerobic machines, outfitted with personal viewing





**Renditions of, top, the new apartments on north campus; left, the Fitzgerald Fitness Center; and the new Shaw Center.**

screens, a full circuit of strength-and-fitness equipment and small, functional training pieces, according to Associate Professor Diane Bartholomew, who has chaired The Fitz Center planning committee.

A new era of convenient health and fitness accessibility for our students is on its way, and that is exactly what the Fitzgerald family had in mind. Robert Fitzgerald, not an alumnus, but a Gracelander through and through, said his family's lives improved dramatically when they became more active a few years ago. "We hope our contribution helps Graceland students achieve long-term fitness lifestyles," he said.

GU Board of Trustees' member Bob White '77 played an integral role in making The Fitz Center and the apartments realities. Bob chairs our Student Center Planning Committee. "Bob's long-term commitment to the facility Renaissance at Graceland is second to none," said President Sellars. The new facilities will also provide a huge boost to student recruiting efforts.

Two of the Fitzgerald's three children, Robin Lynn '89 Long, and Randy '91, attended GU. "Our greatest appreciation for Graceland is the role it served in educating our children," their father said. "Although they had very different educational goals and plans, Graceland served as the perfect choice for both. They loved their college experience. As parents, we were pleased that we had found a college atmosphere that benefited and nourished our children."

According to Bartholomew, Chair of our Health and Movement Science Division, the 5,200-square-foot Fitz Center will also have changing/locker rooms and showers, a group exercise area for activities like Zumba and Yoga, and much more. Large windows will offer inspiring views of the natural beauty of our campus. Bartholomew and others visited several university fitness centers and surveyed students to gather ideas. "This is what our stu-

dents say they want and need," she said.

And if these projects are not enough, additional major work this summer will improve residence life and campus services. GU Director of Facility Services Kurt Remmenga '80 is always a very busy man, but for the next 14 months he will be in hyper drive. He reports that Graceland will be re-roofing Marietta Walker Hall; raising floor levels (because of settling) in Tess Morgan Hall ("a very big job," he said) and replacing Tess Morgan steam lines; replacing A/C components in Zimmermann Hall; replacing the steam lines under the MSC; replacing two old fire hydrants on campus; replacing perimeter heaters of the Frederick Madison Smith Library used for A/C and heating; and replacing all the sidewalks around the Coliseum Theatre downtown, because of recurring flooding issues in 'Choices,' GU's alternative night spot located under the theater.

Normal summer maintenance will also be done. Remmenga and his 33 employees are going to be taxed to their limits, but he says, "I see this as an opportunity to excel. We will rise to these great challenges."

Big 'G' Lake will also get a facelift this summer. Because of an alumni Homecoming gift, the letter 'G' will be raised and replaced, and picnic tables and barbecue grills will be added, making a favorite place for students even more appealing.

The planned renovation of the showers and bathrooms, and more, of Graybill Hall (much like what was done to Gunsolley Hall several years ago) is scheduled for summer 2012.

"You don't expect a Renaissance to take place in a time of austerity," President Sellars observed. "But, all the stars are in alignment, and now is the time for Graceland to move quickly forward to provide the 21st Century facilities our great students deserve." ■

## Moving Toward A Twenty-First Century Campus



I recently was in a funeral procession on the way to the cemetery when I saw a Brink's armored car passing us in the opposite direction. It dawned on me that it was useless to be the richest man in the graveyard. I thought of this experience when I reflected on the absolute wonder of the generosity of Graceland's Alumni.

One of the greatest challenges facing all private colleges and universities is maintaining its old facilities and building new ones. Graceland is no exception and has lagged behind until recently. It has been our biggest chal-

lenge as we seek to expand our on-campus enrollment. In the last issue of *Horizons* I wrote about the absolute need to recruit students to Graceland both for them and for the future of the institution. The quality of our facilities has increasingly been seen as a challenge to that goal.

At the February Board of Trustees meeting four capital projects that will continue the transformation of our campus were announced. These are just examples of projects that are being funded by people who have decided it's better to be generous now than to wait.

Groundbreaking has already occurred to build 48 apartments that will open in the fall of 2011. These modern apartments will be reserved for upper classmen, can house 96 students, and substantially improve our housing options on campus.

At the same time a new wellness/fitness center is being planned that will open in the fall. It will house over \$150,000 of fitness equipment that will further enhance our attractiveness for potential students. The project is expected to cost about \$1 million, generously funded by the Fitzgerald family.

Planning for a project to modernize the men's restrooms in Graybill Hall is also underway. The gang showers will be transformed into individual units which will

enhance the privacy students prefer. This was made possible when 1977 alumnus Bob White, one of our trustees, made funds available for the project, now scheduled for the summer of 2012.

Finally, the much anticipated renovations of the Shaw Center are about to begin. These renovations, which will cost nearly \$14 million, will make the Shaw Center one of the most well equipped and beautiful performing arts centers in the Midwest. This project is funded entirely by gifts from the Shaw family.

The Shaw renovation, coupled with the 2004 Helene Center for the Visual Arts, and 2009 Resch Science and Technology Hall, are helping establish Graceland as a first-tier University not only in terms of our educational offerings and social environment, but also in terms of facilities.

Even with this progress there are still great needs on campus. I know many of you are asking what else we can do. Here are some ideas. Plans for a new student center are underway. This \$10 million project will transform the one place that every student visits daily. Built in the 1950's, the MSC has been identified as a strategic need and its present condition is a primary barrier to recruiting. It would be wonderful if we could announce to incoming students that next summer that project will begin.

Our residence halls need substantial renovations to be on par with other universities that compete for our students. Every residence building but Walker Hall lacks air conditioning and needs substantial updating. Briggs Hall, Zimmerman Hall, the Eugene E. and Julia Travis Closson Athletic Center, and the Frederick Madison Smith Library need to be retooled for the 21st Century. These projects all await funding.

The 21st Century has the potential to be Graceland's finest. If we can continue to find the resources to provide top-quality facilities, everything else will fall into place. Don't let the opportunity pass you by to participate in Graceland's transformation.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken McClain". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ken McClain, Chair  
Graceland Board of Trustees

# Graceland Forever: The Campaign for Graceland University Ushering in an Era of 'Building a Great Forever'

If Graceland is experiencing a facility Renaissance, detailed on pages 2-3, then the new Graceland Forever Capital Campaign ready for launch this fall at Homecoming 2011 will pave the way for a broad, sweeping Renaissance of enhanced academic excellence and student success that will extend across our campuses.

Marquee academic programs, quality faculty development, new faculty positions and endowed chairs in developing academic fields, not to mention competitive salaries and research funds, are at the heart of *Graceland Forever: The Campaign for Graceland University*. President John Sellars set the target of Graceland's new and aggressive campaign to raise \$75 million. He said, "It is the most ambitious goal Graceland University has ever set."

Vice President for Institutional Advancement Kelly Everett reports that by Homecoming he expects we will have already raised \$37.5 million. He said, "Our fantastic alumni and friends are responding to the silent phase of the campaign with generosity and a genuine love and compassion for their university."

The broad brush stroke of the campaign will involve every aspect of life on "the Hill," and the needs of our students will be the focus every step of the way. For instance, facility and technology support are important needs. Significant resources will be used to fund building upgrades. Informational Technology support equipment, and computers across our campuses, will be a priority. Updating piano labs, science labs and visual arts labs, and other tech areas, will be addressed.

Increasing scholarship funds for students entering all academic disciplines will be a key to the campaign. And, our success will ensure that innovative new majors and programs across our campuses will greet first-year students.

Special programs that mean so much to students, like our historically popular Winter Terms, the challenging academic Honors Program, our National Champion SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) team, and special summer internships, will all flourish because of increased financial support.

There is also great need for general operating funds. Athletic events, concerts and performing arts events, 'House' activities, religious life functions, and the Swarm Inn...these amenities and events will all be enhanced to meet the needs of 21st Century students.

Dean of our School of Nursing, Claudia Horton, Dean of our Edmund J. Gleazer School of Education, Tammy Everett, and our new Dean of the brand new College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Gary Heisserer, will be movers and shakers of the new campaign. Along with our talented Division Chairs in all academic disciplines, these

university leaders will play active roles in the campaign by informing Gracelanders of current needs and future dreams.

"We have such dynamic academic leadership at Graceland," said the president. "We want our alumni and friends to meet these campus leaders and learn what facilities and resources they need to attract and retain today's brightest college students." Everett added, "Deans and Division Chairs will be traveling with development officers, meeting with donors, sharing wish lists, sharing their powerful testimony and sharing their love for Graceland."

President Sellars added, "We are already seeing strong student demand for our signature programs. This translates to Graceland's movement from competitive status to very competitive status in attracting bright, motivated students who want to be part of the Graceland Experience. This capital campaign and all that is going to happen because of its success will result in our graduates landing great jobs in their fields or moving on to prestigious graduate schools. That is our goal. That is our mission."

We look forward to seeing you back on "the Hill" at Homecoming 2011 the weekend of October 14-16 when we launch *Graceland Forever: The Campaign for Graceland University*. Like our Homecoming theme this year proclaims, the campaign will usher in an era of 'Building a Great Forever.' ■



# COMMENCEMENT 2011





## 'Two Commencements' Mark a Rainy Weekend on 'the Hill'



We had two commencements over Commencement weekend, and it rained for both. It did not dampen the spirits of our graduates on Sunday. They joined the ranks of alumni at a memorable Commencement Convocation keyed by Iowa's U.S. Senator Tom Harkin. And, the rain did not stop JR Shaw '56 from delivering a

stirring speech to a large Shaw Center audience Friday during festivities marking the 'commencement' of construction on one of the most ambitious and dramatic infrastructure projects in Graceland history, the 14-month, \$13.8 million expansion and renovation of the Shaw Center.

Go to our website ([graceland.edu/GracelandNews-and-Events/news/116116/](http://graceland.edu/GracelandNews-and-Events/news/116116/)) for details about the groundbreaking. And, read much more about the Shaw family, Shaw Center history, and see construction progress, in the fall issue of *Horizons*, when we will celebrate the family and their lasting legacy to Graceland.

It rained, rained, rained before, during and after the Sunday morning Commencement Convocation in the Eugene E. and Julia Travis Closson Athletic Center. Senator Harkin mimicked Late Night TV host David Letterman, coining his own Top 10 list for graduates to remember. Their favorite was, "Have fun!" He had the crowd of more than 3,000, especially the graduates, laughing one minute and considering their futures and commitments to society and family the next.

Duane Sandage, entrepreneur and true friend to Graceland, was awarded an honorary doctorate. The nephew of C.H. Sandage '23, namesake of our School of Business, Duane facilitated a significant gift to Graceland two years ago to found the School of Business. He gave a heartfelt address to those gathered, including his wife Alpha, and his family.

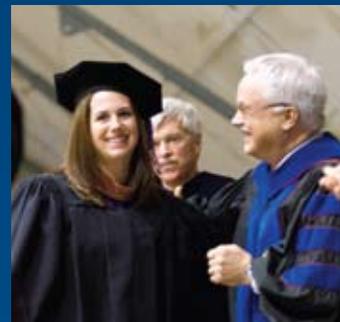
The real emotion came when hundreds of beaming students walked across the stage, accepting a diploma and handshake from President John Sellars. Camera flashes made the bleachers look like a Rock Star was performing. In a way, that's what it was. Hundreds of

Graceland's stars of the future, one at a time, brought cheers and shrieks from their friends and family. It is a scene that repeats itself each year at this time, but it always seems like the first time.

Outside, students took off their shoes and danced in the puddles. Caps flew into the rain-filled sky as if to say, "You can't stop us now. We are off to change the world!"

Visual Arts Professor Julia Franklin received this

year's Excellence in Teaching Award from the Alumni Board of Directors, presented by new president, 1989 alumna Karla Fennick. Julia celebrates 10-years of teaching at Graceland. She was integral to the planning and opening of the Helene Center for the Visual Arts, she is an outstanding teacher, and perhaps one of the finest artists to teach at Graceland. Her one-person exhibitions, *Landscapes*, and *A Vision in White* (see pages 22-23), were outstanding. Congratulations Julia. You are a shining jewel in our crown.



A total of 709 graduates this year represented 38 majors. There were 324 Master's degrees and 400 Bachelor's degrees conferred. The graduates hailed from 43 states and 15 countries. Fifteen students earned both BSN and MSN degrees.

Seniors Kirk Tabor and Rachael Zimmerman received the 2011 Student Life Awards at the Baccalaureate service. Dean of Students Marian Killpack waxed poetic about these two standout graduates who have made such a difference during their years at Graceland. About Rachael, a faculty member shared, "Rachael has left a legacy at Graceland University. Her legacy is about stepping up and doing without being asked, about leading without considering the recognition, and, above all things, for Rachael, it is about excellence." About Kirk, it was said, "It is 'connections' for which Kirk will be most remembered. He connected us to each other across campus, across town, and across continents." Congratulations Rachael and Kirk. ■



# Meet Jerry DeNuccio at the Mailbox

There once were letters. Words, sentences, paragraphs, on paper. Personal, sometimes beautiful, almost always welcome. They told stories, conveyed thoughts. They came in envelopes, delivered by people. You smiled when you found one in your mailbox, usually. You wrote back. Your thoughts. Your stories. Then you waited for a return letter. "Any day now," you told yourself.

They're gone. Letters are gone. Writing is mostly gone. People don't write. They email punctuation-less snippets. They text monosyllabic blurts. They blurt each other, thumbing little hand-held devices with deft velocity. You send an instant blurt. Your device's special sound announces a return blurt. You blurt back. Your special sound again - "another blurt for me!" You zap that blurt to Twitter. A twit-blurt feeds to Facebook. People blurt your 'wall'.

It's all so beautiful, and comforting. It makes you want to brew a cup of Earl Grey, curl up by a fire on a winter night, grab your hand-held device, blurt something to someone, lie back, close your eyes, and wait to hear your special sound. "Any second now," you tell yourself.

They're gone. Letters. But, take heart. Now and then, if you're looking, you discover someone out there who still writes. They are not letters anymore, but essays. And they don't show up in your mailbox. You find them on the Internet, at Blog sites, at open-forum sites. The best write sparsely, crafting sentences, choosing words with scrupulous care. One among us, a Gracelander, is such a writer. You must read him. His essays. They will make you laugh, and cry, and remember your past, think about your future.

This writer is Jerry DeNuccio, a quiet, unassuming man, a professor of English who has taught many courses at Graceland since 1987. He has served as Chair of the Humanities Division for years. His colleagues like him. His students love him. Three times nominated, he won the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2005.

For years most of his writing was scholarly. He studied and wrote about Puritan narrative. Then there were critiques and explorations of writers like Poe and Melville and Hawthorne, for magazines and journals. He has published prolifically. He shifted to exploring Native American literature a while back, focusing on a young, also prolific, Seattle-based, post-modern writer named Sherman Alexie.

When you talk to Jerry, though, you begin to understand that the essays he posts regularly about everything from shoveling snow in a blizzard, to a look back at the "Hardy Boys" mystery series of the 1950s and '60s, to a poignant reminiscence of a good friend, mentor and colleague who recently died, are the loves of his writing life. Jerry's essays are to be savored, like a very special Swiss chocolate, for their thoughtfulness, their beauty



of structure, their ability to stop you in your busy tracks and make you think, remember, ponder, admire. They are those lost letters that no longer appear in your mailbox. They may not be written to you specifically, but when you read them you want that hot cup of Earl Grey, the cozy fire, and, you want to take your hand-held device and crush it between your powerful texter's thumbs.

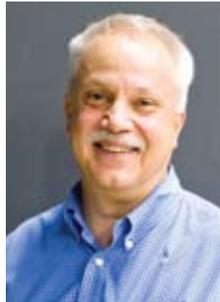
*Horizons* spent an hour with Jerry recently and discovered that he is not drawn to fiction or poetry writing. "I really believe I don't have a creative bone in my body," he said, with a soft, authentic voice that mirrors his writing. This is a nice guy, a guy you can trust. You know it right away. He would humbly discharge this description as sentimental (he tries to avoid sentimentality), but we are so lucky (our students are so lucky) to have Jerry in our midst. And those searching cyber-world for good writing, with some meaning, with heart, are lucky too when they discover [open.salon.com/blog/jerrydee](http://open.salon.com/blog/jerrydee). It is there, and also at [jerrydenuccio.blogspot.com/](http://jerrydenuccio.blogspot.com/), where you will find his collections of essays about unlikely situations and experiences, meditations, comic rants and explorations.

Explorations. That's a good word for many of his essays. "I get an idea," he said. "I start with it, and see where it goes." In a way he is a writing clinician. "I work very hard at it. There are times when I want to get lyrical and I work very hard to get there. There are times when I want to get the pace of a sentence just right. I work for the right word, the right flow." It is his subjects, though, plus his craft, that draw you to his essays. We could quote from them. That was an early plan for this story. But, you have to go there, to his sites, for yourself. Spend some time. Discover his essays. Meet him at the mailbox. And then email Jerry at [denuccio@graceland.edu](mailto:denuccio@graceland.edu) and catch up. Share a story. And, use complete sentences. ■

# Graceland Celebrates

## our new College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Graceland became a “true university” on the afternoon of March 1st when a reception was held to celebrate our new College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), and its new dean, Gary Heisserer.



Gary Heisserer

It was President John Sellars who used the phrase “true university,” and called the occasion “a historic day” for Graceland. He joined VP for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Parris Watts in discussing the central role of the liberal arts at Graceland.

Heisserer said that CLAS continues an evolution that began when Graceland College became Graceland University in 2000.

“The value of the liberal arts is seen by some to be less important these days,” he said. He notes though that in this tight job market, it’s never been more important to get a liberal arts education. “Critical thinking, expressing oneself and writing clearly and persuasively; thinking creatively, solving problems; drawing on knowledge from a wide range of disciplines to get things done; and working in teams. Those are at the heart and soul of a liberal arts education,” he said.

Heisserer said every time he hears an employer talk, they say these are the skills they look for in new employees: they must know how to learn, how to think, how to solve problems. “I see part of my job as advocate for making sure our graduates are equipped with these strengths.” Heisserer has served as Dean of Graceland’s Kansas City Metro Programs since 2007.

“The need for interdisciplinary knowledge has never been higher than it is right now. On one hand knowledge is becoming more and more specialized, but at the same time disciplines are becoming more integrated.” He points to our new ‘Film, Theatre and Performance Studies’ major as a good example. “Graduates from this program will have a good background in lots of disciplines. That’s what I want for all Graceland students.”

### New VP for Enrollment Management



Louise Cummings-Simmons

Louise Cummings-Simmons brought 30 years of experience with her when she became Graceland’s new Vice President for Enrollment Management in February. She was VP for Enrollment Management and Financial Aid at Baker University in Baldwin, KS, and she served as Director of Admissions at Buena

Vista University in Storm Lake, IA, Hamline University in St. Paul, MN and Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS.

She has enjoyed great success in recruiting students at these institutions, and a secret to that success may be that, “I love to win,” she said. “I am extremely competitive. It’s like an athletic contest. I like to get my team motivated.” With that in mind, Cummings-Simmons is focused on bringing the best students possible to Graceland, students that “will want to stay here for four years and get a great education.”

Her admissions team has been hitting the road, attending high school ‘College Fairs,’ to get Graceland’s message out there. “With our academic offerings, and our values, it is an easy message to convey,” she said. She notes that students these days have become “negotiators” when it comes to choosing a private college. “Families are scrutinizing financial aid packages, looking for the best deals. We must make sure we build strong relationships with the students, and their families, and then stick with them until they choose Graceland.”

### New School of Education Dean



Tammy Everett

Tammy Everett ’79 has been named Dean of the Edmund J. Gleazer School of Education (SOE). After teaching at Graceland for 12 years, Everett now leads a large full-time and adjunct faculty for undergraduate and graduate programs on our Lamoni and Independence, MO campuses, and she oversees SOE partnership programs at two other sites.

Everett reports that she is excited about her new job and the future of the Gleazer School, but she will miss teaching. She will continue to teach ‘Literature for Children,’ one of her favorite courses. Everett was a public school teacher in St. Louis before she came to Graceland. All three of her children are Graceland graduates. She is married to Kelly Everett ’77, Graceland’s VP for Institutional Advancement.

Everett recently accompanied several other SOE educators on a trip to Falmouth, Jamaica (see page 12), where they worked with teachers and administrators to plan an ongoing Winter Term presence there for Graceland SOE students. She reports that opportunities in Falmouth are limitless for faculty research and teacher-development projects, and for student service-learning and teaching experiences. She said, “Graceland cannot make a dent in the poverty and need for education in the many corners of the world, but in Falmouth, it can make a difference.” ■



## Community of Christ Seminary Dean Don Compier Accepts Position at Saint Paul School of Theology

(Graceland University President John Sellars shared the following communication April 15 concerning Community of Christ Seminary Dean Don Compier. Don has accepted a new position at the Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO.)

My Fellow Gracelanders,

Don Compier has resigned as Dean of Community of Christ Seminary at Graceland University, effective July 1. The selection process for a new dean will begin immediately. We will name an interim dean, in concert with the Community of Christ First Presidency, in the near future.

We are grateful for Don's 10 years of exceptional leadership. During his tenure, he has gathered together an outstanding full-time and adjunct faculty. Don is extremely well known around the world, in Community of Christ ministries and with leaders of many other denominations, as a highly regarded theologian and writer.

Community of Christ President Stephen M. Veazey said, "Don Compier has led the Community of Christ Seminary at Graceland University with skill, passion, and vision. The church is grateful for his service and wishes him well in his new role at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO. Because of Don's ongoing commitment to theological and international leadership education in Community of Christ, we look forward to his continued contribution and support in a variety of ways."

We are proud of the work Dean Compier has undertaken during the decade since Community of Christ

Seminary was founded. We commend Don for his tremendous leadership in shepherding faculty and students in the decisive work of educating and preparing our next generations of ministerial leaders. All Gracelanders wish Don the very best in his exciting new endeavor.

Community of Christ Seminary will continue to grow and thrive because of Don's teaching and mentoring skills, and his inspired leadership on our Independence, MO campus.

Don said, "I would not trade the last decade for anything. I have enjoyed wonderful companionship with board members, donors, university leaders, faculty colleagues, and the students we all serve. I have much confidence in the future of the seminary, the church it serves, and Graceland."

Community of Christ Seminary plays an important role in educating and preparing - through prayerful scholarship, teaching, service, and mentoring - faithful, creative, and discerning leaders for ministries in congregations, church and around the world. Those who engage in the seminary's essential programs garner the skilled wisdom so vital for church leadership, ministry and mission.

Sincerely,

John Sellars, Ph.D.  
Graceland President



# 'Joyful' Teaching Inspires Educators in Jamaica



These photographs taken by Graceland Education Professor Sandy Hamar, and others, during their recent trips to Falmouth, Jamaica, tell the story of how Edmund J. Gleazer School of Education (SOE) teachers and students have impacted the lives of children in one of the poverty-stricken areas of this Caribbean island.

Hamar and her senior education students from our Independence, MO campus spent Winter Term working with teachers and students at the All Age School in Falmouth. They arrived with nine suitcases of supplies – basics like markers and pencils, and more – and they went to work to make a positive difference with the Jamaican teachers and students. What they saw and what they learned about teaching without modern materials will impact their lives forever.

“It was a life-changing experience, especially for our students” said Hamar. The Winter Term was her idea six years ago when she began talking with Graceland School of Nursing (SON) Professor Jeana Wilcox. Wilcox and colleagues have been leading nursing student Winter Terms to Falmouth for years. They agreed to partner, and planning began. They would go in January 2008. Then Hamar’s life

was turned upside down in January 2007 when her husband Dave died in a construction accident. “My children and I went into survival mode,” she said. They took their time with the difficult healing process, and they came out the other side.

Hamar had traveled several times to Nicaragua on mission trips with Project Hope. She reached back to those experiences and remembered how the people were joyful and hopeful, even in their extreme poverty. In short, Hamar learned how to be joyful, even when life’s events threaten to drag her down. This realization changed her life, and her outlook about teaching.

She brought that joy with her on the trip, and inspired her students to approach their days with positive attitudes. They worked with Falmouth All Age School students on basic skills. Little Margaret here, pictured with her lunch, a bag of Corn Curls, exemplifies the joy and hope the children brought to school each day.

The GU students’ work was joyfully received. Even as Wilcox was organizing a return trip, All Age School Principal Mr. Golding contacted SOE Dean Tammy Everett ’79 and asked that they return to his school. Former GU Board of Trustees’ member Vicki Ross ’50 funded the trip



Students on the Winter Term were Candice Bradley, Elizabeth Hart, Clarica Tulli, Alicia McKnight, Ingrid Bell, Amanda Lappert.



and Wilcox provided logistical support. Hamar, along with Dean Everett and GU educators Shelly Leialoha-Hartstack ’79, Scott Huddleston and Sherry Leialoha-Waipa ’80 (above), returned to the All Age School (and Falmouth Infancy School) in March.

They toted more supplies (including eight older GU laptop computers), but mainly, they returned with a passion to look past the poverty and help the children in any way possible. They also assessed specific needs of the school to determine if future GU Winter Term groups would return. It was decided that they will. Dean Everett decided Graceland could make a real difference in Falmouth.

The March group put on a teacher workshop and helped with the facilities by installing pencil sharpeners, fixing windows, enclosing a garbage area so trash doesn’t blow onto the playground, and many other small jobs. They also investigated opportunities for partnerships with the local university, professional development for practicing teachers in the area, literacy curriculum for both children and adults, and internships and service learning opportunities for Graceland students. Participating students are seniors about to receive their Graceland bachelor degrees in elementary education. They pay their own way on Winter Terms.

If you want to help, perhaps with providing the badly-needed supplies for the school, contact Tammy Everett at [teverett@graceland.edu](mailto:teverett@graceland.edu). To help with the SON Winter Term, contact Jeana Wilcox at [jwilcox@graceland.edu](mailto:jwilcox@graceland.edu). ■



## Duane Sandage Keynotes Entrepreneurial Roundtable

When Duane Sandage keynoted this year's Entrepreneurial Roundtable in April, his remarks particularly engaged and challenged Graceland business students who dream of one day starting their own business.

"That is what America needs right now," Sandage said, referring to how the country will come back from the recent world economic meltdown. "America needs entrepreneurs. We need young people who are authentic and ethical to start new businesses. That will be the key to our success."

Duane Sandage knows something about success. He is a self-made, successful businessman from Ames, Iowa who has specialized in selling, managing and appraising farmland, creating motivational seminars, banking, molding a national commodities business, building a dynamic communications presence, and much more. He owns and operates The Sandage Companies.

He is also a nephew of the late C.H. Sandage, namesake of Graceland's C.H. Sandage School of Business, a great entrepreneur himself, and considered the Father of American Advertising Education. It was Duane, as president of the Sandage Charitable Trust, who was instrumental in moving the trust's assets to Graceland two years ago to found the school of business. Duane believes C.H. Sandage would be proud of what the nationally recognized school is teaching today's young entrepreneurs.

Time after time in his life, Duane Sandage made



From left, President Sellars, Duane Sandage and Dean Steve Anders.

the hard decisions, but the ethical ones. Ethics in business is a cornerstone of what the C.H. Sandage School of Business has been built upon. Also guiding his life, and the thought he left the crowd with, again especially the young people, came as a question. "We all search for a purpose in life. Do you have a purpose?" And, he added, "I can tell you what my purpose has been. To Glorify God." With his faith, and his wonderful wife Alpha by his side, Duane Sandage has created a business dynasty, to glorify God. ■

## SIFE Team Makes 11th trip to Nationals in Past 12 Years

Graceland's SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) team won at regional competition in April, earning their 11th trip to nationals in the last 12 years. This year they fell short at Nationals, not making it out of the opening-round competition. It was still a busy and successful year for Graceland SIFE.

President John Sellars, who was on hand at nationals in Minneapolis, said he could not be more proud of the team. "They presented with true maturity, confidence and told their story well. I know our team will come back strong next year and continue to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship at Graceland and around the world."

Texas State University, San Marcos, won the national championship this year.

This was the first year for Justin Akers to be at the helm. Justin returned to GU this year, after a stint as an agriculture teacher in Mt. Ayr, Iowa, to replace Andy Simpson as SIFE Director. He also serves as Sam Walton Fellow, Director of the Center for the Study of Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship and he teaches Agricultural Business at Graceland. For details about Graceland's SIFE team, visit their website at: [www.gusife.org/](http://www.gusife.org/).

"Regardless of how we placed in the competition, I am so proud of the team," said Justin. "We have done an outstanding job with our projects and have true, lasting results. The impact our SIFE work has had on our project participants, and our own team members, will last a lifetime."

Akers said the team told three basic stories this year: their project work with Jac and Sherri Kirkpatrick and HealthEd Connect in Zambia during Winter Term; work locally with a startup Mexican restaurant in Lamoni; and how SIFE has impacted team members and the students at Graceland. "These are stories the students wanted to share with the world," he said. ■



# School of Nursing 'Star Student' Holly Iglehart: *Give Her a Goal and Stand Back*

**H**olly Iglehart is not a daredevil. It's not like she is out there looking for dangerous things to do, just for the heck of it. She is adventurous, though. She thrives on excitement. Give her a goal, make it challenging, and she will do what it takes to reach it.

"Anything with adrenaline," she says, a big smile widening as she talks. "Anything with adrenaline, and I am there."

The 22-year-old Graceland nursing student is about to embark on the greatest adventure of her life. When she graduates with her BSN in January, she will join nine other new nurses from across America (from hundreds of applicants) to take a direct commission as an officer and a nurse in the United States Army. And, she is choosing an adrenaline-charged field: a combat, ER nurse, probably serving where our troops are fighting and dying in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I may end up anywhere in the world a year from now," she says, "and that would be fine with me. I will be ready." We caught up with Holly at the recent Special Olympics event held on GU's Lamoni campus, where she was a volunteer. When you first meet her and she gets talking about her life, her hopes and dreams and goals, especially her goals, you feel your hair fly back from the energy she is focusing your way.

She spent three "really great years" on our Lamoni campus. She had attended the annual Community of Christ summer SPECTACULAR event at GU. After a year at another college, she came back to "the Hill." She just walked on with the track team, without competing before, and ended up throwing the javelin with some distinction and competing in the race walk. She has earned high academic honors all the way through.

It was the same thing with the Army. She saw a flyer about the Reserves and she talked to a recruiter. A few steps later, she became one of 10 nursing students chosen for the prestigious program, and it is not the Reserves. She signed for four years active duty and four years inactive reserves. As a long Special Olympics' race ended right in front of us, Holly yelled over the screaming crowd, "And now I'm thinking I might want to do the Army as a career. You know, the full 20 years."

"What did you say?" we yelled back. "I said," her voice rising above the crowd, "I don't want to just train, I want to do. Full fledged!" There goes the hair flying back again. The race over, her voice goes down. "I want to serve my country and help others. It is why I wanted to become a nurse in the first place."

Besides finishing nursing school and continuing with her volunteer work (like teaching foster kids about First Aid and administering community flu shots), Holly has a



new goal. Since December she has been training ("working my tail off is more like it") for competition in the World Bodybuilding & Fitness Federation U.S. Championships. She has dropped 20 pounds and she is strong, really strong. "I am going to be in the best condition possible when I go in the Army," she says. And, she isn't kidding. She works out two hours a day. She will be blowing the hair back on her competitors. "I have to have a goal," she said. "Then I go and achieve it."

Nursing has been a big deal for Holly, and her professors have noticed. Not long ago she was in clinical rotation in adult healthcare at St. Mary's Hospital in Blue Springs. Her shift was ending when she noted a patient didn't seem right. She found low oxygen saturation levels. She sprinted to find the charge nurse and steps were taken to stabilize the patient. Holly acted fast and did what was necessary. "I like to rise to a challenge." She was given the 'Star Student Award' by our School of Nursing.

She also accompanied professors and students on the annual Winter Term School of Nursing trip to Falmouth, Jamaica in January. She helped treat a bed-ridden man with pressure ulcers over his entire sacrum, a man who died a few days later. "He was so happy we were there. We cared for his wounds and then made a prayer circle with him." Overcome with emotion, Holly experienced the true spirit of nursing. "A prayer, a smile...can mean so much."

There is little doubt that Holly is going to be the best she can be, and Graceland is helping her get there. Need an adrenaline fix? See Holly Iglehart. ■



By Matt Shelton  
Sports Information Director

### Track and Cross Country Coach Kent Allshouse will be New Athletic Director at Bethel College

The Graceland track and cross country programs will see a changing of the guard for the 2011-12 season. Long-time assistant coach Daniel Alvarado will take the reins of our harriers from departing Coach Kent Allshouse. Kent will become Director of Athletics at Bethel College in Newton, Kansas.

Allshouse '84 has served the university for 15 years, nine as men's and women's cross country and track coach. He also served as an assistant football coach and as GU's first sports information director. He has produced 23 All-Americans, 189 national qualifiers, 42 Academic All-Scholar Athletes and many All-Conference athletes. This season, seven track and field athletes qualified for the Indoor Nationals held in Geneva, Ohio in March.

"I'm extremely grateful for my time at Graceland. I honestly enjoyed every moment," Allshouse said. "It is with mixed emotions that I leave my alma mater but I'm extremely excited about the opportunity Bethel has given me."

Alvarado '01 has served as an assistant coach for nine years. With his background and passion for the sport, Alvarado brings outstanding leadership, commitment and energy to the Graceland track and cross country family. "It's a very exciting time for me to be named head coach," said Alvarado. "Following in the footsteps of my long-time friend and mentor, Coach Allshouse, is an extremely big honor."

Athletic Director Jeff Falkner said, "It's tough to lose someone like Kent who has not only become a friend but is one of the most accomplished coaches in Graceland history. At the same time, he has an opportunity to advance his career and become an athletic director and I know he'll do great things at Bethel College. Danny brings a love for Graceland and the sport. Having him take over for Kent allows the kind of continuity that will benefit our current student athletes and recruits."

### Jerry Hampton Retires from Coaching

Our men's tennis team played their hearts out but fell just short at National competition in Alabama May 17-21. They have appeared at Nationals six years straight, and 10 of the last 12 years. They maintained a ranking in the top 15 of the NAIA national poll all season. This was Coach Jerry Hampton's last season as coach. He retired as of June 1st. He retired from teaching last year. He has led his men's and women's teams through 34 seasons. Remy Caffardo, a senior, was the nation's 3rd-ranked small-college player this season. The men again won the regular spring season HAAC title this year. "I am so proud of the team this year," said Coach Hampton, "and all the wonderful teams during the last three decades." He added, "I give thanks every day that Graceland gave me the opportunity to teach and coach."



### A Very Exciting End to the Men's Basketball Season

Head Coach Jeff Hamilton, during his three-year tenure, has done an outstanding job of leading the men's basketball program forward. They finished the season with an overall record of 14-17, a positive step showing that the Yellowjackets are headed in the right direction. The season culminated with the Jackets earning the 6th seed in the HAAC tournament. We lost in an incredibly exciting contest (113-110) at William Jewell. No one there, including Graceland President John Sellars, will ever forget the electrifying, double-overtime game.

Senior all-conference forward Jake Smith put together an epic performance that night, scoring 46 points, a record at William Jewell's Mabee Center. Smith finished the season as the 3rd highest scorer and 2nd highest rebounder in the conference, and led the HAAC in double-doubles. Smith has been selected to an invite-only professional try-out in Las Vegas later this summer that will feature several NBA, NBDL and European professional teams.

Congratulations to all of our great Yellowjacket teams for a memorable spring season. ■





(The following is a front-page article that appeared in the Des Moines *Register* this spring. It records the Cinderella story of three long-time Graceland coaches who stepped up and coached our surprising women's basketball team after Coach Opie Butler took a job with the U.S. Army. The 'Old Geezers,' as they are affectionately known, brought the ladies down the stretch to a very exciting, but heartbreaking, HAAC championship game against Avila University in front of a huge crowd in Kansas City (we lost 74-70) and their best finish in almost a decade. The three 'Geezers' will be back to coach the ladies next season! Here is their story, told by *Register* Sportswriter Dan Johnson.)

## Good Buddies Harrop, Dudek and Hanton, all age 67, Team up to Coach Exciting Women's Basketball Team

By Dan Johnson

**F**ifty years after first arriving at Graceland College, Rich Harrop, Bill Dudek and Dan Hanton are still together on the basketball court.

The three arrived as athletes in 1961, just as Graceland was making the switch from a two-year college to a four-year school. All three are members of Graceland's Hall of Fame.

A half-century later, they're still together, teaming up to coach Graceland women's basketball.

They are all 67, and have coached for 133 years combined. "We get a lot of glances," Dudek said. "People ask us, 'How did you guys get a chance at 67?'"

Coach Opie Butler resigned January 6 to take an athletic position with the U.S. military.

Harrop, who had been an assistant, took over as head coach. Dudek, or 'Duke,' as he is known, was already an assistant. Then Harrop recruited Hanton, Graceland's

former women's basketball coach and athletic director, who had retired.

"I sat with Rich in church and he said, 'Practice is at 2 o'clock,'" Hanton said. "I thought, '2 o'clock, what's he talking about?' Then he explained what had happened and it was fine. We have to be the oldest coaching team in Iowa, maybe the nation. We're all 67; we've all had over 40 years of coaching."

The coaches' friendship has stretched a half-century. When Dudek's father dropped him off at Graceland in 1961, the first person he met was Harrop, and they roomed together for four years.

The three all played four sports in college. And they knew they would return to Graceland.

"As a student, I remember going out by the football field and telling one of my teammates, 'Someday, I'd like

to come back here and coach,” Harrop said. “It was because of the people that we were connected with. It comes down to that family. When ‘Duke’ and I hooked up, it’s been like brothers.”

Hanton put his pledge in writing. “We buried a time capsule in ‘63 and I left a letter in there that someday I would return to Graceland,” Hanton said. “They stuck the letter in there along with all the money I had, like 25 cents and some stamps.”

They went separate ways after graduating. Harrop coached high school boys’ basketball at Lamoni from 1965-77, then did so in Ohio for 13 seasons before returning in 1990 to become Graceland’s men’s basketball coach.

Hanton coached high school football and basketball, and boys’ and girls’ track, in Michigan for 33 years, before returning to Graceland in 1999. He was women’s basketball coach through 2003 and athletic director through 2009.

Dudek served in Vietnam in 1966-67, and worked with children in orphanages. Then he returned to Graceland, where he has taught and coached for 44 years. He teaches adaptive physical education and special education courses. He has been head coach in football and softball, where his teams won more than 650 games, and he assisted in basketball and track. One of his athletes was Bruce Jenner, who won the 1976 Olympic decathlon.

“You see all these kids now that they are superintendents, principals, lawyers, doctors, and you think, ‘Wow,’” Dudek said. “You wanted to help one kid through college as some coach helped you. Now, we’re getting *their* kids.”

The first thing the three did after Butler resigned was reassure the players. “The fact that I had been here the whole time, I think that was a little bit easier for them,” Harrop said. “I tried to explain that I would do some things different than what we did when I was an assistant.” Harrop changed to a more patient offense and to a full-court defense. But his emphasis is teaching.

He uses practices to lead players through drills that emphasize fundamentals. “They give words of wisdom, really,” forward Adria Jackson said. “They’re really cool. They share their experiences with us. It’s good information.”

However, Hanton was concerned that there might be a generation gap. “I worry about the ladies, because they’re so young and Opie’s 20 years younger than we are,” Hanton said. “You wonder how the ladies feel about these old duffers that are out there.”

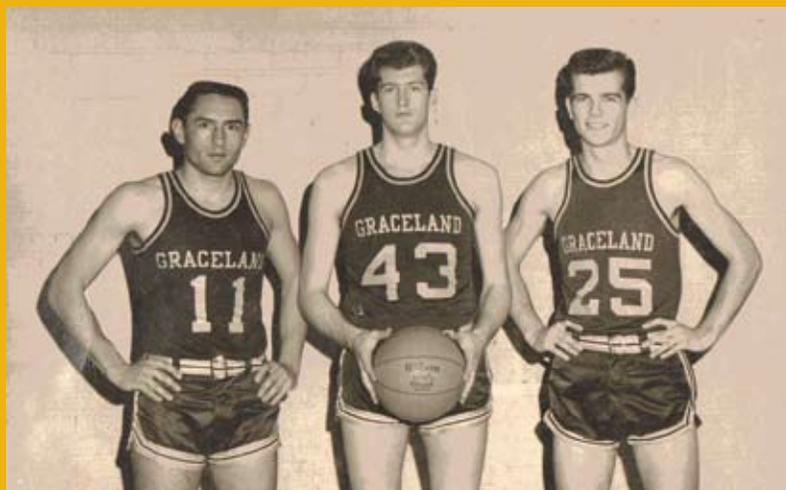
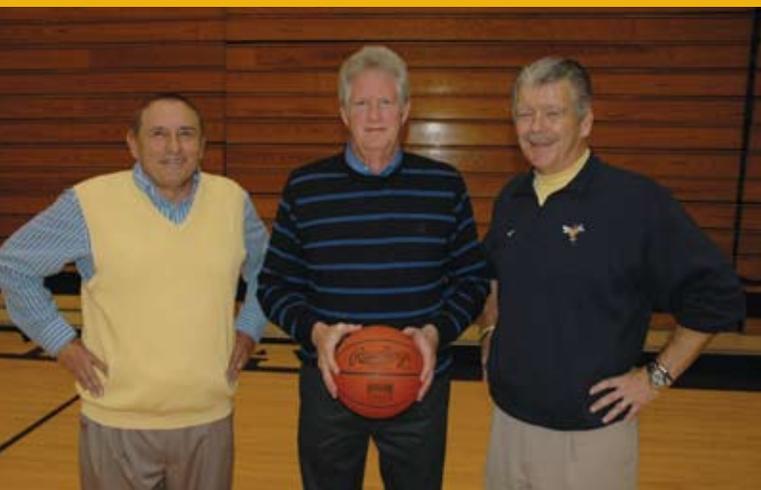
No problem, said forward Florida Siasoi. “The age doesn’t matter,” she said. “The coach is laid-back, a very respectable man. He’s all about team basketball. He’s very understanding. Duke and Dan are very laid-back and very understanding. I look forward to finishing this season and hoping it’s a new chapter for next season.”

Graceland, which was picked 11<sup>th</sup> in the Heart of America Athletic Conference, was 6-6 at the time of the change and for a while had only seven healthy players. It is now 12-14 overall and in eighth place in the HAAC with a 6-11 record. Two days after the coaching change, the Yellowjackets upended second-place Baker University 88-75.

“That was a big win for us and it lifted us up a little bit,” guard Erika Goldman said. “We were definitely shocked by Coach Butler’s decision to leave. Since Coach Harrop took over, it wasn’t so much of a change. We do respect Coach Harrop and Coach Hanton and Coach Dudek, because they have a lot of basketball knowledge. We just want to work hard and compete for them.”

Harrop said he enjoys coaching for the reasons that go beyond winning. “What you do with your life as far as helping others is why the three of us got into coaching,” Harrop said. “It’s not the wins and losses. Athletics teaches you so much in a short period of time, something I don’t think you can get anywhere else. Winning at all costs is not what we’re after.” ■

**Bill Dudek, Rich Harrop and Dan Hanton: team coaches today, and team players yesterday.**



**'40s**

**James A. Everett '48** recently published his story as a CIA spy, *The Making and Breaking of an American Spy* (Eloquent Books, 2010).

**'60s**

**Sally Hutchcroft '66 Mearns** received the Hal Wingard Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Language Teachers' Association. She currently is site director for the Bay Area Foreign Language Project, based at Stanford University.

**Tom Morain '69** reset the dashboard clock in his car ahead one hour for daylight savings, all by himself.

**John Noren, Ph.D., '69**, Associate Professor of Sociology at Park University, Kansas City, received the Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve.

**'70s**

**Mark Whitehurst '74** and **Kerry Methner '82**, owners of CASA Magazine in Santa Barbara, CA, received the 2010 Leadership in Arts Award from the Santa Barbara County Art Advisory Board.

**Dianne Hoover '77**, Director of Recreation and Parks in Bakersfield, CA, has been named President of the National Recreation and Park Association.

**'80s**

**Cyndy L. Gray '80** was inducted into the Iowa Girls' Coaches Association Volleyball Hall of Fame for 2010. She teaches physical education at Oskaloosa High School, Oskaloosa, IA.

**Leland M. Searles, Ph.D., '81** received the Distinguished Adjunct Award from Des Moines Area Community College where he teaches applied socio-cultural anthropology. He is also Air Quality Program Director for the Iowa Environmental Council.

**Kerry Methner '82** was honored with **Mark Whitehurst '74** (see above).

**Jones W. 'Joe' Roach, Jr. '83** was eulogized in Houston, TX, as a former Harris County prosecutor, three-term city councilman, and fervid advocate for people with disabilities at the time of his death on April 18.

**Yoland Propst '88 Porter** is published in *Our 100 Most Famous Poets* (Famous Poets Press, 2010).

**'90s**

**Todd Long '93** is President and Founder of Leadership Innovations, a Kansas City-based firm providing training, facilitation and resources for institutions.

**Lourdes 'Cindy' Santoni, Ph.D., '96** is a Certified Nurse Practitioner at Capital Health

in Trenton, NJ, and continues practice on the faculty of the Temple University School of Nursing, Philadelphia, PA.

**Rachel Hurley '97** has been named Executive Director of the Iowa Biotech Association. She was previously Director of Legislative Relations in the Office of the Michigan Attorney General.

**'00s**

**Cara Calloway '03 Young** received her Ph.D. in Nursing from Vanderbilt University and is currently a postdoctoral fellow investigating depression in adolescents.

**Christy Calloway '04** received her Masters in Human Resource Management at Texas A & M University and is Director of Human Resources for a company in Austin, TX.

**Misty Sanchez '05** graduated from Eastern Michigan University in December 2010 with a Masters of Science in Human Resource Management and Organizational Development.

**Mary Stansberry '07 Schwering** has returned to the Graceland University School of Nursing to obtain her MSN-FNP degree.

**Ciemantha Stubblefield '07** received a Masters Degree in Counseling with emphasis in Mental Health from Webster University in Kansas City.

## New Alumni Board Leaders are Elected



**N**ew leaders were recently elected for Graceland's Alumni Board of Directors. **Karla M. Fennick '89** was elected President. She has been a member of the Board since 2000. Karla studied Communications/English at GU. She is a Senior Solutions Designer for Cerner Corporation in Kansas City. At Graceland Karla was active on House Council, in theatre, and she served with the Graceland Senate and the Council on Student Welfare. She is also a frequent, contributing writer for *Horizons* (see page 20 in this issue). She lives in Kansas City, MO. Email Karla at: kfennick@hotmail.com.



**Michael Morain '01** was elected Vice President. Michael has been on the Board for a year. The primary arts writer for the *Des Moines Register*, Michael (an International Studies major at GU) has helped on numerous occasions to get his alma

mater's name mentioned in Iowa's largest newspaper. Most recently Michael has been organizing a bicycling 'Team Yellowjacket' to participate in the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, or RAGBRAI. Michael also serves Graceland in a number of ways, including writing for *Horizons*. Email Michael at: morain@hotmail.com.



**Jeremy Graybill '98** was elected Secretary of the Board; he has served for a year. The math, computer science and computer engineering GU graduate, Jeremy is now Manager of Biostatistical Analysis and Chief Statistician with Lockheed Martin in Denver, CO, where he lives. You may remember Jeremy from the fall 2010 issue of *Horizons* when he created a Graceland brainteaser puzzle from the unique, Pazurgo puzzle software he developed. His first book of Pazurgo puzzles was published last year. Email Jeremy at: jlgraybill7@yahoo.com. ■

## Weddings

**Mark Tovey '07 and Rachel Bradford '07**, July 10, 2010.

**Josh Badder '09 and Meghan Dunagan '09**, July 17, 2010.

## Anniversaries

(Those celebrating 50 years or more of matrimony)

**Leonard '49 and Eilene O'Dell '57 Speer** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 24, 2010.

## Births

**Nathan '95 and Leigh Mussell**, Lake Balboa, CA, Judson Louis, February 28, 2010.

**Adam '03 and Geraldine Pineda '05 Weddell**, McKinney, TX, Jaden, July 4, 2010.

**Elliott and Martha Dennis '99 Marlow**, Anchorage, AK, Murielle Tsuneko, September 25, 2010.

**Matt '01 and Amber Sutton '01 Shelton**, Lamoni, IA, Molly Elizabeth, December 2, 2010.

**Jaime '03 and Holly Linville '03 Maldonado**, Brownsville, TX, Izabellah Elizabeth, December 30, 2010.

## In Memoriam

**Mildred 'Mickey' Rooks '79** McDaniel, Ankeny, IA, December 26, 2006.

**Edward J. Miluski '65**, Columbia, MO, March 8, 2007.

**Edward R. Ashley '47**, Chicago, IL, October 15, 2007.

**Donald L. Carter '48**, Des Moines, IA, October 28, 2007.

**Gregory J. Scott '76**, Fredericksburg, VA, August 29, 2008.

**Robert Voltmann '42**, Hilton Head Island, SC, March 20, 2009.

**Shawn D. Engeldinger '84**, Altoona, IA, October 22, 2009.

**Cynthia Heide '62** Pease-Hoff, Independence, MO, November 21, 2009.

**Raymond C. Thompson '37**, Prior Lake, MN, March 10, 2010.

**Richard G. Mickelson '44**, Lamoni, IA, April 4, 2010.

**Lyman T. Johnston '46**, Cotati, CA, July 5, 2010.

**Ellis C. Thatcher '48**, Lees Summit, MO, July 9, 2010.

**David B. Shupe '52**, Greeley, CO, August 29, 2010.

**Gladys M. Forbes '49**, Independence, MO, October 21, 2010.

**Bonita Stewart Firestine '39**, Hayward, CA, October 28, 2010.

**Nellie Chang '49** Chun-Ming, Ashland, MO, December 1, 2010.

**Barbara Bryant '54** Thatcher, Blue Springs, MO, December 1, 2010.

**Charlotte Darnell '34** Gould, Coeur d Alene, ID, December 3, 2010.

**Roy E. Eagan, Jr. '54**, Cameron, MO, December 4, 2010.

**James 'Douglas' Schofield '65**, Lees Summit, MO, December 11, 2010.

**Marjorie 'Ellen' McElroy '48** Garlick, Independence, MO, December 15, 2010.

**Betty Butts '47** Tabor, Lamoni, IA, December 15, 2010.

**Paul L. Erickson, Jr. '70**, Independence, MO, December 25, 2010.

**Parker 'Johnny' Erickson '60**, Lincoln, MT, December 28, 2010.

**Lamoine C. Metcalf '60**, Tacoma, WA, December 29, 2010.

**Ronald R. Stabnow '46**, Battle Lake, MN, January 4, 2011.

**Audette Knutson**, Oklahoma City, OK, January 6, 2011.

**Karen Elliott '56** Freberg, Independence, MO, January 9, 2011.

**Barbara Reiff '72** Thornton, Independence, MO, January 17, 2011.

**Mary Jane Gilstrap '49** Carter, Des Moines, IA, January 18, 2011.

**Katherine Birkby '06** Slover, Olathe, KS, January 25, 2011.

**R. Tony Tristini Jr. '89**, Cumming, GA, January 25, 2011.

**Bebe Black '41** Ballantyne, La Jolla, CA, January 27, 2011.

**Martha Jane Swanson '41**, Spirit Lake, IA, January 27, 2011.

**Melody Morgan '70** Skelton, Independence, MO, January 29, 2011.

**Velma Tapscott '43** Gigliotti, Warner Robins, GA, February 7, 2011.

**Joseph E. Baldwin '37**, Independence, MO, February 10, 2011.

**Robert L. Breshears '57**, Independence, MO, February 14, 2011.

**Glenn R. Coven '52**, Cincinnati, OH, February 14, 2011.

**Verle E. Cornish '61**, Independence, MO, February 19, 2011.

**Martha Turner '54** Viebrock, Lexington, MO, February 26, 2011.

**Harry E. 'Buster' Becker '41**, Kalama, WA, February 28, 2011.

**Kathleen E. Douglas '68**, Independence, MO, March 11, 2011.

**Samuel F. Landis '48**, Lamoni, IA, March 13, 2011.

**Susan Withee '63** Kisslinger, Independence, MO, March 14, 2011.

**Roy H. Schaefer '52**, Independence, MO, March 30, 2011.

**Wardell E. Hinderks '39**, Olathe, KS, April 5, 2011.

**Dale F. Moon '41**, Lamoni, IA, April 9, 2011.

**Jones 'Joe' W. Roach, Jr. '83**, Houston, TX, April 18, 2011.

## Western Washington University Professor Rich Brown His Students Learn “All the Languages of the Stage”

By Karla M. Fennick '89

“A single play can change a person,” says Rich Brown, Ph. D., Theatre Arts Associate Professor at Western Washington University, “and it can change the world – irrevocably.” In Brown’s case, the change originated with the comedic play *The Nerd*, performed at Graceland in 1991. Brown, then a high school senior who had already been accepted by Iowa State University to study theatre, was prompted by a mass mailing to attend the Graceland production. “I requested an audition that night after the show.”



Brown says he arrived on the Lamoni campus a typical, small-town Iowa boy with subtle, hidden prejudices. “Then I was introduced to Larry Kramer, Tony Kushner, Wendy Wasserstein and August Wilson,” says Brown. “Those playwrights opened the world to me.” It was during graduation that Brown realized what he was destined to do. “I heard a voice in my head,” he says, “Ph.D. by 30.” Brown graduated from Graceland in 1995 with a B.A. in theatre and education and earned his M.A. in theatre at Central Missouri State University in 2000.

While completing his doctorate at the University of Oregon, Brown saw a production of *The Laramie Project* by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theatre Project in New York City. For his doctoral dissertation, Brown studied Tectonic’s use of “Moment Work,” a method of “devising,” in which a group of actors, designers, writers and directors work collaboratively to create a play. Brown prefers this approach to the traditional model of writer-writes-play, director-directs-play, actors-act-in-play. “It’s a post-modern approach to theatre-making because there is no single author,” says Brown. “Multi-vocality – the voice of multiple creative artists – invites more audiences into the piece.”

Brown sees another benefit to the devising method: “When there are specialized roles in theatre – actor, writer, designer – that’s a factory model,” says Brown. “Efficiency should not be the priority. Devisers are theatre cross-trainers, and my students learn to use design, writing and all the languages of the stage.”

Last summer, Brown and some of his students began a devising project with Bucknell University that they will perform at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland this summer. In 2010, Brown and his students also

collaborated with the Northwest Playwrights Alliance in Seattle, WA, on a world tour that involved performing a series of 10-minute plays in New York City, London and Kyoto, Japan. During their one night in Kyoto, the actors performed two of the plays in Japanese. “It was one of the most terrifying things I’ve ever done,” says Brown, who directed as well as acted in some of the plays.

Because of his scholarly publications on Moment Work, Brown was contacted in 2008 by Teatrul Fără Frontiere (Theatre Without Borders), a theatre company in Bucharest, Romania, to teach a one-week intensive workshop. He returned in 2009 and 2010 to teach for two weeks at the National Theatre of Romania and will continue teaching there every other year starting in 2012.

During Brown’s 2009 trip, he took the group of artists to a park in Bucharest’s cultural center. “We were doing unnatural things with shape, time and tempo,” says Brown, “and it freaked out park security. They called the cops.” When the police arrived, they attempted to arrest Brown and one other participant. “Civilians, including the son of the Japanese consulate, and the Romanian FBI got involved, but we just stood quietly and peacefully,” says Brown. “It got really scary really fast, but then it ended – done. The police just went away.”

The attempted arrest stemmed from an old law that used to restrict people from the grass in public areas and a newer version that restricted the number of people on the grass to five. “It kept people from convening,” says Brown, “from doing what’s just been done in Egypt. People couldn’t protest.”

Based on their experience, the artists created a play that defended their freedom to congregate and protest – a freedom Brown points out they were long denied. “It’s taken that long since Nicolae Ceaușescu (Romanian dictator who was overthrown and executed in 1989),” says Brown. “I’m stoked on Romania because they are at the cusp of what off-off-Broadway was like in the 1960s: an explosion of innovative, provocative theatre. There are all these actors, and they want something to do. So they are forming independent theatre companies,” says Brown. “I’m giving them an independent theatre language to make that work.”

From watching *The Nerd* to crossing the language barrier in Japan to helping Romanian theatre artists speak with a new voice for political and social change, a single play has indeed changed a person and the world. Irrevocably.■

(Karla Fennick was recently elected as President of the Graceland Alumni Board of Directors. She has been a member since 2000. Karla is a Senior Solution Designer with Cerner Corporation of Kansas City.)

# “Walk Straight” with one of Win’s Sticks

From childhood beginnings in the boisterous world of Vaudeville, to a stellar career as a respected theatre educator, always seeking precision in endeavors spanning many decades, Winston Inslee '41 successfully made the transition from 'shtick' to 'stick.'

His Vaudeville shtick was surely wonderful. Hollywood scouts tried to woo him away in those early days, and again when he was a student at the University of Washington, Seattle, but his passions were guided not by glitz and glamour. He loved the theatre, everything about it, especially imbuing his knowledge of the stage upon young people. That was the work he took up at Graceland in 1955. Then President Edmund Gleazer '36 invited 'Win,' as he is known, to teach theatre, English and speech. He spent the next 30 years on “the Hill,” helping create, define and shape Graceland’s theatre department, directing 70 productions, acting in many of them, inspiring two generations of young Gracelanders, many of whom remain in touch.

Win and the love of his life, Nedra Oppelt '43 Inslee have lived in the Seattle area since his retirement in 1985. Nedra passed away in 2010. They were married for 67 years. Win turned 90 in April.

Son-in-law Steve Weldon '65, married to Win’s daughter, Francine Inslee '67 Weldon, reports that in retirement Win began combing the nearby and far-away beaches for driftwood to carve. Walking sticks soon became his favorites. Over the years his creations evolved into wonderful examples of folk art, greatly coveted by those who see them. They are intricately carved and wood burned with scenes and symbols. They are often inlaid with coral, turquoise, other semi-precious stones and bits of sea shells, silver, copper and leather. In recent years he has added paint to the mix.

With the passing of Nedra, Win has moved in with son-in-law Dean '68 and daughter Susi Inslee '69 Wight. He shares a work shop with Susi, great fortune for Win, where she makes jewelry and collects, cuts and polishes her own stones. He stays active and continues perfecting his art. If you are fortunate enough to own one of Win’s

“Sticks,” says Steve, somewhere on it you will find the phrase ‘walk straight’. “It is a message from someone who has walked that walk.”

If you would like to reconnect with Win, or explore the possibility of obtaining one of his remarkable walking sticks, email him at [sewwight@aol.com](mailto:sewwight@aol.com) or call his cell at 360.420.6099.

From shtick to stick, in just 90 years. Few can make that claim. ■



Photo by Steve Weldon

## Annual Report 2010 update

The following Endowment Funds were inadvertently omitted from the 2010 Annual Report issue of *Horizons*. We very much appreciate those Gracelanders who have provided gifts for these important Endowment Funds.

Ash Women’s Soccer Endowment  
Badder Family Endowed Scholarship  
Annajeane Brown Memorial Endowed Music Scholarship

Class of '59 Endowed Scholarship  
Wanda Ann Hansen Endowed Music Scholarship  
Lyle and Ruth McFarlane Endowed Scholarship  
Albert A. and Donald R. Mehlich Endowed Scholarship  
Donald and Kathryn Wilson Endowed Scholarship  
The Dr. David Carmichael Pre-Med Scholarship was awarded late in the year to Ryan Sheehy.



Welcome to the Strange and Ghostly  
World of Julia Franklin's

# a VISION *in* white

By Rob Stephens  
Assistant Professor of Art

Art lovers were treated to a strange and ghostly world this past January when the Constance Gallery of The Helene Center for the Visual Arts was transformed by Art Professor Julia Franklin into an immersive, interactive environment. Based on a series of recurring dreams, her show, "A Vision in White," offered just that – a glimpse of a world where the subtleties of line, texture and form were more pronounced because of the absence of color. Visitors to the opening-night reception were encouraged to snoop through the various rooms of this startling exhibit, foraging to discover for themselves whatever secrets they could glean.

The gallery itself was divided into the traditional "rooms" of a home: a kitchen, a dining room, a living room, a bathroom, a bedroom. Each was fully furnished with the trappings of domesticity, from furniture to doilies. The familiarity of this layout was contrasted with the fact that everything was bleached a milky white. From the chalky suitcases under the bed, to the unwritten letters in the desk drawers, to the pale dirty dishes in the sink – all of these hauntingly white. This one change was enough to render the familiar alien, but Franklin's evocative work accomplished more than just this.

Like the ash dusted ruins of Pompeii, this dwelling seemed frozen in time, its rooms abandoned, beds unmade, dinners uneaten. Like fragile snapshots in time, these 'living' spaces were coated with the residue of the past. The various household objects taken for granted as mundane or trivial took on a new kind of weight, a sheen of a mystery in this pale landscape, as if they were suddenly evidence, or witness.

Walking on the gritty, salt-encrusted floor of the gallery, I felt like I was walking through a memory, and I wondered what life was like for those who lived here. Empty shoes, chairs, beds, clothes – all implied their absent owners. A house implies a family and it was hard



not to read relationships into the exhibit.

As Julia explained, "For me, a chipped, stained china saucer tells a rich and remarkable story. I can reinvent the life of the owner, and surmise how the plate became chipped and stained over the years. The use, the wear and tear, the stains – these are our crumbs of existence and should be viewed more as sacred relics than objects in need of repairing and replacing."

While the installation enveloped you, the poetry was in the details – in the unexpected use of these charged materials. The dinner salads made from nails and shredded diary pages were hard not to interpret as metaphors. As were the pads of butter, each shaped like houses and made of honeybee wax. What was I to make of the dinner turkey created from bound high-heeled shoes, served up ready to be consumed for the family meal? Or the pillows created from plaster? Or the tables heaped high with heavy, inedible desserts? Every where the viewer looked was bristling, saturated with texture and meaning. All these details created rich, layered metaphors for domestic life.

The dining room curtains, created out of quilted toilet paper, were handled so delicately; their intricate threadwork appeared to be handmade embroidery. Band aids and pills were imbedded in bars of soap. A solitary locked trunk dangled from the ceiling, as a family of rickety ladders strained upward as if to reach it. Each was slaked with dried, ashen clay, encrusted with flaking dirt.

Accompanying this vibrant abundance of detail was a palpable sense of invasion – a feeling that I was trespassing, peering into someone else's unguarded family life. I literally had to snoop through the medicine cabinet to see the sealed notes in bottles, and dig under the counter to glimpse the locked jars carefully hidden out of sight. Numerous keys were squirreled away throughout the exhibit for those bold enough to look. This eerie sense of transgression added the slightly unsettling element that I was indeed an interloper, a detective or an archeologist, trying to piece together the hidden narratives of this vacant home.

An air of history permeated the gallery, perhaps because Franklin fashioned these relics out of objects that



had previously belonged to members of the Lamoni community. This shared sense of history stopped the show from being viewed as merely an autobiographical confession about her particular home, and hinted that it should be viewed as the idea of the home in general. ■



Linda and Larry Phillips  
with "Larry" the skeleton.

## There is a Cool, New Skinny Guy in Resch Science and Technology Hall

**T**here is a new guy in the Resch Science and Technology Hall who is so skinny he is not even skin and bones. He is just bones. His name is 'Larry,' Larry the skeleton. Graceland Professor Teri Foster and her anatomy and physiology students just love him.

He is named for Larry Phillips, owner, along with his wife Linda, of the venerable Varsity Drug store in downtown Lamoni. Larry and Linda have owned and operated Varsity Drug for 13 years, when they made the move here from Centerville, IA. They love Lamoni, and they love Graceland University, and they give a lot of themselves to both. They are among those who actively volunteer in the work of developing a brighter future for our community, and especially our youth. That includes the young people at Graceland.

It was in that spirit of giving back that the Phillips recently gifted 'Larry,' Larry the skeleton, to the science program at Graceland. Professor Foster was delighted recently when Larry and Linda stopped by class to have their photo taken with Larry the skeleton. Foster holds a degree in pharmacy and frequently fills in for Larry, Larry the pharmacist, at Varsity Drug, so he can have a day or two off now and then.

The Phillips share a history with Graceland. Linda is a 1972 GU graduate, as are their two children, Michael (2000) and Anne (2001) Shaffer. Linda earned her elementary education degree and taught 5th grade in Centerville, where she and Larry met. "You make friends for life at Graceland," said Linda. She especially remembers campus life and the fun she had as a member of the former

Chemin House, where she lived, and made those life-long friends. Chemin (meaning the 'way' or the 'path') was formed in 1967 and merged with Mahana House in 1979 to become the Aponivi House of today. Graceland is of course widely known for its innovative 'House' residence-life system.

"My education was very good," Linda said. "I enjoyed the close contact with professors, the one-on-one contact." Now she and Larry want to help foster study in the sciences at Graceland. "Resch Hall is a wonderful facility," said Larry. "Students can get a great education there." He added that with the increasing human-resource needs in healthcare-related professions, Graceland science-program graduates will be in hot demand. He noted, "America is growing older and healthcare needs are growing with them."

Chair of Graceland's Science and Math Division, Chemistry Professor Dan Pratt expressed his gratitude to the Phillips. "I am always very touched by the benevolence of our alumni, and friends of Graceland, who provide the funds so we can improve our programs and buy the equipment we need. We are no longer just graduated cylinders and Earl Myers' beakers. We have come a long, long way and it is donors like the Phillips who help make it possible."

If you would like to make a program or equipment donation and add to the legacy of excellence in the sciences at Graceland, give Professor Pratt a call at 641.784.5281, or email him at [pratt@graceland.edu](mailto:pratt@graceland.edu). Graceland's future shines brighter because of your help. ■

# 'Snapshots' of Graceland's Board of Trustees

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

President Sellars appreciates all members of the Board for their tireless fundraising efforts, and exceptional personal giving, on behalf of Graceland. He also talks about the wide variety of professional expertise, personal

## Karen Booth Jewell - Class of 1976



President Sellars says that when he thinks of Karen, he immediately thinks of her father, Paul W. Booth, who served as a valued member of Graceland's Board of Trustees for many years, and also as a highly-respected Appointee for Community of Christ. "He was a mentor for young people in the Church, a sort of Socrates offering the 'ideal education' to his students."

The president said, "Karen comes from that kind of stock. She is an outstanding trial attorney in Houston, and highly respected in her field." The president refers to Karen as "a fascinating person, and extremely bright." He adds, "What Karen brings to the Board is a historical understanding of Graceland, where the university needs to go, and she has the ability to focus and define what it will take to get there."

## Bob Ackerley

Bob is not an alumnus but his long family history with Graceland dates back to his great, great grandmother, Marietta Walker, namesake of Walker Hall, and 'Mother of Graceland.' She donated the initial property for our campus. Bob, his wife Nora, his brother Leland and his wife Carmen, founded Graceland's Ackerley Scholars Program in 2002, and have supported its growth with significant gifts. They also funded our tremendous Leland Drennen Ackerley Outdoor Track Facility in 2002, named for their father. President Sellars said, "Bob and Lee continue their commitment to the sciences at Graceland. They are helping create, I am convinced, science, math, technology and computer science programs that will be second to none in small private schools." He adds, "Bob is a brilliant businessman who brings to the board, among so many things, his entrepreneurial understanding of 'greenness' and technology, and how, combined, they will promote true sustainability."



commitment and spiritual strength they bring to the Board. "Their loyalty to, and enthusiasm for, their alma mater is second to none," he said recently. "They are a true inspiration to us all."

The president's high esteem for Graceland board members prompted this periodic feature in *Horizons*, 'snapshots' of these servants of the university. In this issue we focus on the four newest members of the Board.

## Sharon King Graybill - Class of 1984



"Since graduating from Graceland, Sharon is somebody who has really devoted her life to young people across the Church, and specifically in Texas," says President Sellars. Sharon is known as the "go to person" when it comes to helping young people. She and her husband Steve Graybill '82 (she is Professor

Emeritus Bruce Graybill's daughter-in-law) frequently open their home in Coppell, TX, to Graceland student groups, like when our SIFE team competed in Dallas. The president added, "She is just that kind of person, very open and very gracious. She understands the needs of youth. She understands the aspirations of youth. Sharon is the consummate volunteer, working tirelessly with youth camps and other activities. She brings all of that, along with her contacts, to the Board. We count on Sharon when it comes to understanding youth ministries and what role they will play in Graceland's future."

## Bob White - Class of 1977

"Bob brings a true enthusiasm for Graceland and a commitment to the long-term facilities improvement master plan, a plan that is second to none," the president said. Bob chairs the Student Center Committee. "Together they have developed brilliant ideas, which we are trying to follow through with - it's just a matter of finding the money." Bob is a very successful businessman in the Kansas City area, and to be blunt, the president said, "He has put his money where his mouth is. In so many ways, including significant gifts, Bob has stepped up, because of his commitment to Graceland, and made it possible to move ahead with student center planning, the new apartments now under construction, and the renovation of Graybill Hall scheduled for the summer of 2012." ■





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