

Winter 2016 Vol. 31, No. 3

# Horizons

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY



*Graceland Forever*

# Marching On!

Graceland will reintroduce the marvelous tradition of its marching band. Spread the news and march along! Visual and Performing Arts Division chair, Dr. Adam Groh, is excited to announce the forming of a marching band this fall and is busy recruiting players who want to be on the ground floor of creating an excellent program. Donors who are band enthusiasts can offer assistance through Graceland's Development Office, 800-645-3582.

*"We're seeking out the best and brightest students who are passionate about marching band to help us lay the foundation of this exciting and dynamic new program! We know that the presence of live music at campus events will be transformative, and we can't wait to share the talents of these young musicians with the Graceland community!"*

*Dr. Adam Groh*



# Horizons

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY  
Alumni and Friends Magazine

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About the cover: The Higdon Administration Building, known for the first 100 years as just the Administration Building, was the first facility built on the Lamoni Graceland campus. The construction was from 1895 to 1897. The photo shows the west door entrance and the crew of workers.

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## Horizons, Volume 31, No. 3

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# Graceland Forever! “We’ll carry on till victory is won.”



Bob Radford, Jodi Seymour and President Sellars at the campaign closing celebration. The Independence Campus hosted the campaign celebration and the following board meeting on February 5-7, 2016.

In 1925, Warren McElwain wrote “Graceland Forever.” Never mind that the 30-year-old college was struggling financially at the time with an uncertain future. The rousing words and rhythms of “Graceland Forever” let loyal fans shout to the world their love for all things Graceland. We still sing that song today, 90 years later, with the same enthusiasm: “Graceland Forever!”

We commit ourselves to support those causes that connect us with our deepest values. For many, Graceland University embodies those values. We recently celebrated the over-the-top closing of the “Graceland Forever” capital campaign seven years in the making — \$77,147,709 on a \$75 million goal — the most successful campaign in Graceland’s history! As impressive as the total itself, a second campaign triumph is that,

among the alumni we can still contact, over 60 percent made contributions to it. A participation rate of over 60 percent is one of the highest alumni percentages in higher education anywhere! Is there greater proof that something happens to students here on campus that continues to resonate within them “for years and decades long to come?” Graceland forever indeed!

Here are the major areas that benefited from the successful campaign:

- \$24 million for major facility renovations across campus, including (listed chronologically) Resch Science and Technology Hall, Shaw Center, Thomas and Small Apartments, and the Fitzgerald Fitness Center
- \$12 million in student scholarship support and student programs that have made it possible for students to successfully complete their degrees
- \$5 million for professional development and endowed chairs.
- Additional funding to special programs, operating budget and other needs

- \$20 million-plus was committed through estate gifts with a large percentage of those funds someday going into the endowment

Graceland’s biggest need today is a larger endowment, and we are planning to address that with an endowment campaign in the future. The success of our recent campaign projects us into that future with confidence.

We celebrate not only the dollars the campaign raised, but what those dollars represent: an affirmation of loyal support from those whose lives have been deeply enriched by the “Graceland Experience.” Like the song says, “We’ll carry on till victory is won; O Graceland, we’re all for you.”

John Sellars, PhD, CPA  
President

# Caleb W. Brian

Caleb, '08 graduated from Graceland's Honors program with a Chemistry major and went on to become a Senior Analytical Chemist for the multinational conglomerate corporation, 3M.

## Q Why did you choose Graceland?

A I struggled for a while between Michigan State and Graceland. It came down to my experience with Graceland recruiters at Community of Christ World Conference in 2004. They assured me that Graceland was a great place to get a good education. Now, living in Minnesota and working at 3M, I know it was the right choice.

## Q What "House" were you in?

A One of my cousins strongly suggested Agape. Agape had some great upperclassmen who took us under their wing, and I was chaplain during my sophomore year. One of the horrors of living on the hall was an eating challenge where we had to eat eight ounces of horseradish sauce in only a few minutes. I finished one jar by myself while other guys backed out after only a spoonful or two. A few of the guys on the hall are still my best friends and we've done some traveling together.

## Q What's the most important thing you learned at Graceland?

A I think the most important thing I learned at Graceland was that life is meant to be lived in a community. When I traveled to Nicaragua with Outreach International and to Mississippi to help with Hurricane Katrina cleanup, as a student we learned what it meant to be a community in service. The countless hours I spent on the disc golf course after class built some fantastic friendships. Long nights in the chemistry lab or studying for exams helped me to explore difficult questions with some of the smartest people I know. Campus Ministries also provided an accepting place to explore my faith. My wife and I are looking for new ways to create these kinds of communities in the place we live now.

## Q What do you do now that you can link back to GU?

A I came to Graceland knowing that I wanted to be a chemistry major. I am where I am today because of the guidance of Dr. Pratt and Dr. Mercer. They gave me the opportunities to explore in the lab and serve in leadership positions, which helped with summer internships and graduate school applications. These critical moments in undergraduate studies helped me land my job at 3M after graduate school.

I am a Senior Analytical Chemist for the Materials Resource Division of 3M. Our division creates many of the adhesives and other chemicals that other divisions will use in their businesses. As an analytical chemist, I use molecular spectroscopy to help organic chemists and chemical engineers within 3M understand the new materials they are creating.

*"Agape had some great upperclassmen who took us under their wing."*

*“These critical moments in undergraduate studies helped me land my job at 3M.”*



# Rich Brown

Rich '95 was profoundly impacted by the Graceland theatre program during his undergraduate study, and that nurtured conviction became the seed for his success. He was selected as the 2015 Washington Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

"Theatre truly has the power to impact lives and change them for the better through compassion and empathy, and that is the belief I take into the studio each day – and I hope my students share that belief," Rich said during his award acceptance in November.

The U.S. Professors of the Year program salutes the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country – those who excel as teachers and influence the lives and careers of their students. It is recognized as one of the most prestigious national awards honoring undergraduate teaching. Professors are chosen for the Carnegie award based on the criteria that they show extraordinary dedication to undergraduate teaching.

Brown received his bachelor's degree from Graceland and his master's degree from Central Missouri State University. He completed his doctorate in theatre from the University of Oregon in 2003. Brown's research and curricular focus is on devising or collaboratively creating new work that celebrates cultural differences.

Recalling his experience at Graceland and his complete immersion in the theatre department, Brown remarked, "My freshman year at Graceland, Gary Heisserer directed Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." He took a huge risk and cast me as Demetrius, playing opposite of senior Tracy Salter's Helena. Tracy is a powerhouse of an actor. After each three-hour rehearsal with Gary, Tracy and the other seniors who played the four lovers would keep me after for "extra" rehearsal time to bring me closer to their skill level. I'm delighted to return to Graceland this spring to teach alongside these two mentors and good friends."

Brown will be returning to Graceland University's Lamoni campus this spring as a visiting artist. "He is coming to direct a 'devised' piece of theatre where he will work with the students to create their own script for performance," explained Gary Heisserer, theatre professor. "I am thrilled that Rich has agreed to return to Graceland and work with our students. Rich has gained an international reputation among theatre artists, and we are privileged to have him back. Rich is a person with an extraordinarily creative mind and an intense work ethic, and he is also one of the nicest people you could ever meet."

*"I am delighted to return to Graceland this spring."*

*"Theatre has the power to impact lives and change them for the better through compassion and empathy."*



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## Vitals

BP: 120/  
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*“I really want nurses to know how prepared I was to the certification and to be a real educator right when I graduated.”*

# Kristen Myers

**The nurse educator specialty track prepares the RN to teach in a collegiate or health care setting. The student's area of study incorporates a blend of theory and evidence-based research with an emphasis on learning how to prepare nursing students for professional nursing practice. Graceland has a top notch program, and recent graduate Kristen Myers can vouch for the value.**

Kristen Myers, MSN, credits Graceland's excellent nurse educator (NE) program for her immediate success upon graduation. Though she just graduated in May of 2015, she already has a full schedule of teaching in the Des Moines area.

- Full-Time Assistant Professor of Nursing at Grandview University
- Online Faculty Associate for Graceland's Nurse Educator Program
- Online Instructor for Des Moines University's Master of Public Health Program
- Patient Educator for St. Gregory's Retreat Center at the Polk County Jail in Des Moines.

"It is so rewarding to see how my MSN education is paying off!" shared Kristen in one of her communications with Dr. Carol Green, Professor, NE Program Coordinator for Graceland.

Another email from Kristen to Carol read, "Dr. Green, I took the CNE exam this morning and just passed! I can't begin to tell you how well prepared I was for this exam because of Graceland's NE program. WOW! Share that with the other nursing faculty!"

Kristen chose Graceland because of the fine nursing reputation and accessibility. She shared, "The MSN program at Graceland was fantastic. I never felt like I was an 'online' student. I only met Dr. Green face to face a few times, but I never

felt disconnected. Her communication with me as my advisor was frequent, and she really counseled and mentored me not only about my academic progress at Graceland, but about my own personal and professional development as well. We had many phone calls together. Dr. Green even helped me make the decision to go on and pursue a PhD in Nursing right after leaving Graceland. The on-campus focus session at the beginning of the MSN program, and again in the middle, was very advantageous for me personally. I connected with a few other students that first session, and we stayed connected throughout the program. I really want other nurses to know how well prepared I was to take the certification exam and to be a real nurse educator right when I graduated."

Professor Green explained, "We hired Kristen right out of graduate school to teach one of our nurse educator graduate courses. That's a bit unusual. Graduates of our nurse educator program generally begin their teaching in an associate degree or BSN program. However, I felt Kristen was well prepared to teach our online NE teaching practicum course. Kristen was a unique student all the way through our MSN nurse educator program. She consistently emerged as the leader in group projects."

With alumni like Kristen, Graceland's nursing legacy lives on.

*"It is so rewarding to see how my MSN education is paying off!"*

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*“They made themselves accessible, and they challenged their students. It has certainly inspired my pedagogy.”*

# Mark Wagenaar

**Award winning poet Mark Wagenaar '03 couldn't decide on a college, a direction or a major. He was, and is, a renaissance man with diverse interests who came to Graceland to do it all. Soccer, business, writing, literature and, most importantly, he made formational relationships that have helped him navigate his wild journey in life.**

"Graceland soccer seemed like a very high level of play, and the college looked like a diverse place with caring professors and an extraordinary atmosphere — all of which turned out to be true," said Mark. But Iowa was a long way from home and there were other local schools trying to sign him. "In the end, I flipped a coin."

Beyond soccer, Mark hadn't really considered what he would do in college. He began as a business major by default. By the time he fell in love with poetry and literature during Jon Wallace's 20th Century Literature course, it was too late to change his major, so Mark opted for liberal studies with three minors to reflect his broadening interests.

Since graduation, Mark has done some traveling, played a couple years of professional soccer, and earned a few more degrees. He has had over 150 poems published by publications including *The New Yorker* and *Southern Review*, earned around 50 contest wins, runner-up or finalist showings, and had two books published.

"Voodoo Inverso," from University of Wisconsin Press, was the winner of the Felix Pollak Prize, and "The Body Distances (A Hundred Blackbirds Rising)," which you can find from UMass Press this spring, was the winner of the 2015 Juniper Prize for Poetry. Mark has completed a third manuscript, "Southern Tongues Leave Us Shining," which is already earning him contest wins, so Mark is hopeful this too will be published soon.

Mark has served as University of Mississippi's 2014 Summer Poet in Residence, was named the 2015-16 Jay C. and Ruth Hall Poetry Fellow at University of Wisconsin's Institute for Creative Writing, and won the 2015 Auburn Witness Poetry Prize. "It's been a good ride," said Mark.

The two most important events for Mark, however, have been his marriage to wife, Chelsea, who is also a poet, and the birth of their daughter, six-month-old Eloise Virginia. "She breaks my heart every time she smiles at me. Class of 2036 or so, I think, and definitely a striker — she's too smart and quick to be a defender like her old man."

While at Graceland, professors Jon Wallace and Barbara Mesle were especially influential for Mark, but he notes that there were many. "They made themselves accessible, and they challenged their students," he said. "It has certainly inspired my pedagogy."

Mark recalls one encounter that has stuck with him. "Praise from Jon was hard earned — and something to be proud of. We workshopped poems anonymously, and I still remember once after class, we walked out together, and he leaned over and said, 'That scarecrow poem was yours, wasn't it?' I said it was, and he nodded

and half smiled. 'Okay, not bad.' It was an endorsement. It was my first poem worthy of that title."

Mark's ties to Graceland are strong because of the relationships that were forged with faculty and fellow students. Graceland does that for people; provides the ground on which to find footing in life.

"I didn't know that I'd be friends with my teammates for the rest of my life. Someday somebody who didn't fail stats should add up the odds of a Canuck and a Colombian playing varsity soccer together, getting married in the same year (each marrying a woman well out of his league), and then having daughters a few days apart; because it seems impossible to me, but there's so many Graceland stories just like that."

*"I didn't know that I'd be friends with my teammates for the rest of my life."*

# Nathaniel Myer

**The communications business is in Nate's blood, and Graceland is legacy. Nathaniel Myer '10 came to GU following his grandmother, uncles, aunts, cousins, mother and siblings, and found Graceland to be "in the middle of everywhere."**

"At Graceland I woke up to the fact that it's a small world. My GU friends are from every corner of the U.S. and every continent in the world. We all had many opportunities to shine in the small GU community that channeled the world into our classrooms. The most important thing I learned at Graceland is to say "yes" – to early morning ENACTUS (SIFE) projects, to Council Bluffs snowboarding road trips, to representing the business school in the Scholar Showcase... The moral is to stretch yourself – and hustle while you're at it."

Nate attributes his success to his involvement in ENACTUS, the opportunities he was given to travel with Outreach International, and the relationships he established while he was at Graceland.

"I was challenged and empowered through the 'go do it' attitude needed to participate and lead an ENACTUS project. It reinforced the fact that you cannot just show up with a good idea to meetings. Immediately after posing a good idea during a team meeting, the team will look to you and say, 'OK, go do it, lead it, tell us how we can support you.' To this day I am still working on my development of the ENACTUS 'go do it' attitude within a Global 500 company."

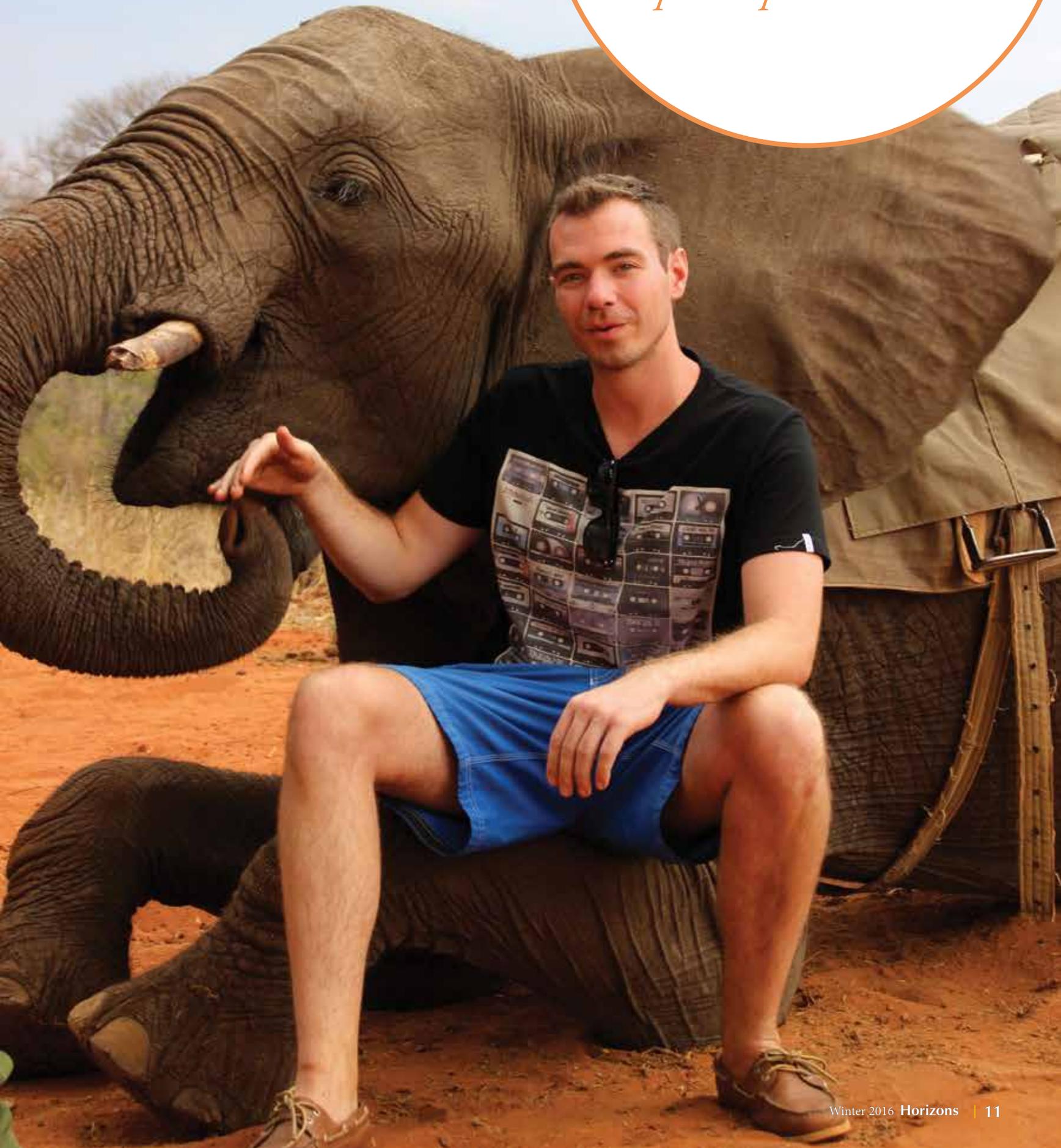
Nate works for Ericsson, a highly successful multinational provider of communication technology and services. He has been working on a two-year program "Accelerate Global Leadership" that employs candidates from 10 regions. He was chosen as the one representative from the U.S. and currently is the account manager for Vodacom Mozambique Project: "Reaching the Last Billion."

"Despite a tremendous growth in mobile subscriptions during the last two decades,

we still find about one billion people who are not covered by mobile networks. The majority of these people are very poor, 80 percent making \$2 USD per day or less. Remote communities not traditionally associated with revenue-generating potential have often been under prioritized due to uncertainties about service uptake and profitability. The technical solution enables voice and SMS services for rural villages. The solution also enables low power consumption, which allows for 100 percent solar powering – eliminating costs for generators, fuel and power-related transport, maintenance and security costs, as well as contributing to lower site lease. Looking forward, we aim to connect these rural villages with Ericsson's *Connect to Learn* initiative to increase access to education in rural areas. (This should be an ENACTUS project!)"

*"At Graceland I woke up to the fact that it's a small world. My GU friends are from every corner of the U.S. and every continent in the world."*

*“I was challenged and empowered through the ‘go do it’ attitude needed to participate and lead.”*



# Graceland Forever

development campaign closed with a huge success!

The seven-year campaign had an aggressive goal of \$75 million, which was met and surpassed.

A celebration on Feb. 5 honored the success with the closing figure of over \$77 million! Graceland's generous family of supporters has rallied to ensure there will be a "Graceland Forever."

Graceland's development team is looking to the future and will be focusing the next campaign on areas that directly impact student life. Student success is the first priority of Graceland University.

*I've been involved with the theatre and dance programs. The movement room is beautiful and the black box theatre is amazing. I sincerely want to thank the donors for Shaw Center – it has really been an instrumental part of my time at Graceland, and I'll be sad to leave it!*

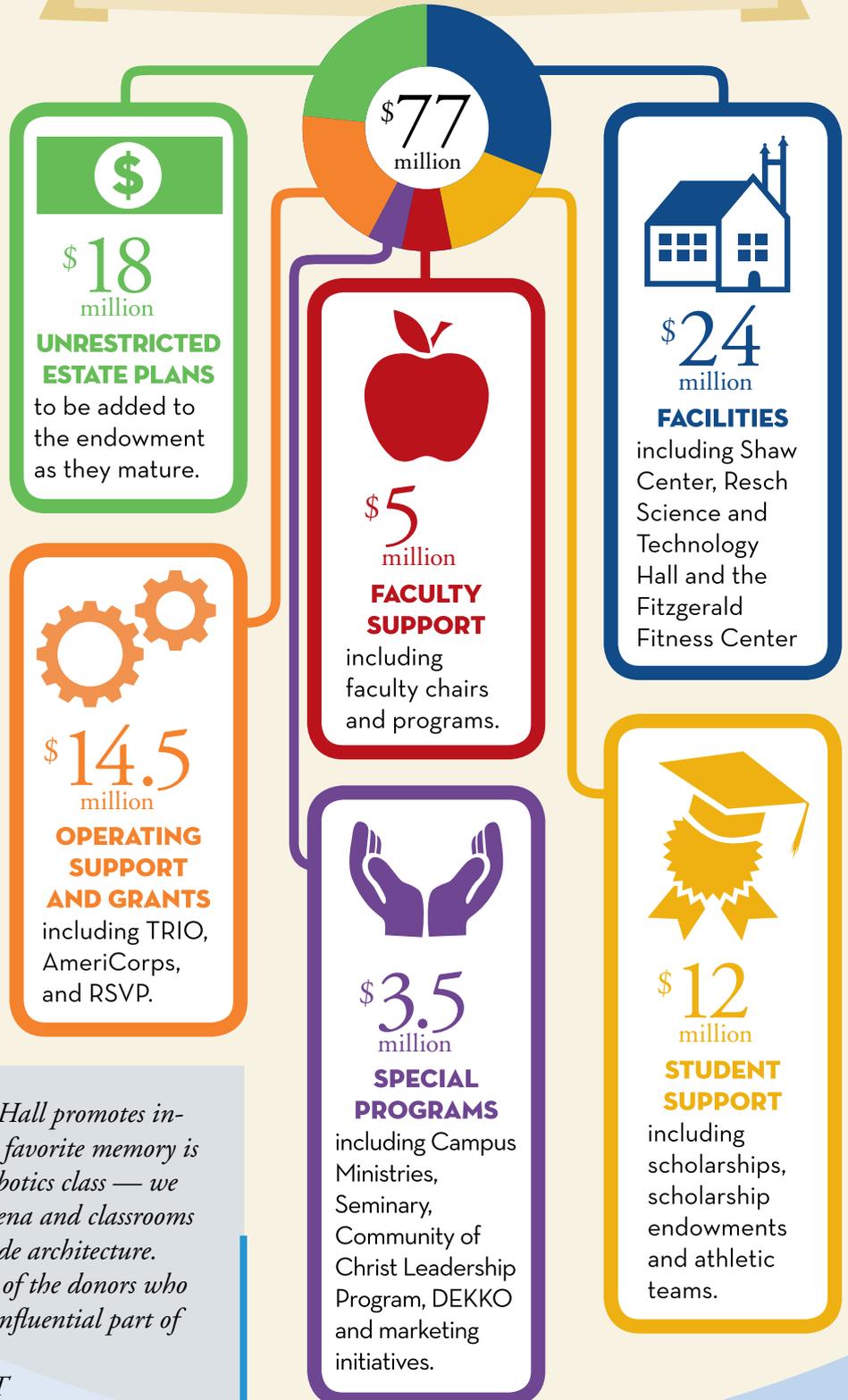
*Lexi Cairns '16,  
Religion and Philosophy*



*Resch Science and Technology Hall promotes innovation and creativity. My favorite memory is building a battlebot for Robotics class — we used the hallway for the arena and classrooms to discuss the design and code architecture. Thank you very much to all of the donors who helped to make Resch Hall an influential part of my "Graceland Experience."*

*Oscar Chang '16, CSIT*

## Areas Supported by the Campaign



# Sustainability Update

Stay Connected #GUhoophouse #GUsustainability



This year's Environmental Psychology class has teamed up with the sustainability program to involve students more implicitly in the steps it takes for their food to get from farm to table. Sustainability Coordinator, Jen Abraham-White and Dr. Dave Devonis are leading the program with the help of local expert, Peter Krueger.

*"The sustainability program hopes that through a small-scale, humane approach to animal husbandry, we can improve our land's biodiversity and productivity while maintaining continuable practices."*

*Ryan Schlom '17*

Environmental Psychology professor Dr. David Devonis has worked with the sustainability program in the past; the class helped with the Hoop House vegetable garden in the spring of 2014. Digging in the dirt, planting seeds and seedlings, weeding, watering and harvesting over a semester's time gave students the opportunity to relate to the biological systems upon which food systems rely. For some students in the

class it was the first time they had ever planted anything.

Abraham-White explains, "Our intent is to connect students more closely with the food they eat and, in doing so, maybe develop greater reverence for where that food comes from. This year, in addition to having students actively participate in growing food from seed to vegetable, they are also going to learn about raising broiler chickens. The student response is remarkable!"

Lamoni resident Peter Krueger, with his strong theological background, has this to say about the experience thus far, "Thinking sustainably is much more than 'what do I eat for dinner?' or 'what do I put into my car's gas tank?' Sustainability branches into metaphysical questions such as, 'how do I value my life,' and 'how do I value the lives around me?' Thinking sustainably is here to stay. Perhaps it is, after all, a present

realization of 'the life everlasting.'"

In preparation for the project, students have built the waterers, feeders, the enclosure in the hoop house for the chickens, and prepared the environment for the arrival of the chicks. On Feb. 18, the chicks arrived in a box via the mail to a very excited group of students.

Devonis remarked, "Exposing students to the natural environment in which they live changes the way they see themselves. Most of the younger generation is so far removed from agriculture that they have no idea how their food gets to the grocer or even what they're actually eating. When we actually got the chickens it was a total spiritual experience. My colleagues are addressing real philosophical issues with their teaching. Getting outside of the classroom, the experience itself draws us into the living world. This is experiential teaching at its best."



# Privilege



## Town Hall Meeting Discusses Topic of Privilege

Privilege is defined as “the sociological concept that some groups of people have advantages relative to other groups,” and was discussed in three areas: gender, class and race. The Town Hall Meeting includes opportunity for the university to dialogue in smaller groups with trained discussion leaders. The preparatory events leading to the meeting included “I am We,” an LGBT-themed event promoting a safe community, education about healthy relationships and being comfortable in your own skin. The Graceland University Theatre produced *Nickel and Dimed* in November, which addressed issues specifically related to social class. A panel discussion on gender and identity was led by Professor Raquel Moreira and included several students along with Caitlyn Jenner and the crew from her television show. A number of readings were made available to participants prior to the Dec. 3 meeting as well. The first year experience classes were especially encouraged to attend and participate in the discussions. The conclusion portion of the meeting was devoted to addressing action to be taken or “what can we do about this?” and suggestions from each area were given. Increased education, attention and discussion were positive steps identified in all three areas.



On the afternoon of Nov. 17, a large, black bus pulled onto campus with guests for a panel discussion on “Community, Gender and Identity.” This visit by Caitlyn Jenner ’73 was timely for Graceland, and the student response was extremely positive and supportive. The panel discussion gave opportunity for sincere dialog and was a forward step in understanding issues of gender and identity. Meeting Jenner and her

team brought real life personalization to an issue that students were eager to discuss. Each of the five transgender women spoke about their journeys, the suffering of rejection, of their differing stages of transition, their life stories and their unified hope for future generations to have better acceptance in society. The need for compassion and steps toward understanding were underscored by the current suicide statistics – a staggering 41

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*“I got a good start here at Graceland, and I met some great people... ‘Dream big. Work hard.’ To me, that is the motto I live by.”*

*Caitlyn Jenner*

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percent of trans or gender non-conforming people surveyed have attempted suicide.\* The purpose of their tour was to encourage tolerance and gather footage for the “I Am Cait” documentary series.

Caitlyn reminisced about being a student at Graceland and about working hard and setting Olympic goals. She visited with Graceland faculty and administration, joked with old friends and toured Eugene E. and Julia Travis Closson Physical Education Center.

“I got a good start here at Graceland, and I met some great people. It really means a lot to me to come back today and have the opportunity to talk with students. Your future is in your hands. I don’t care what problems you have; everybody has their stuff. I always say, ‘Dream big. Work hard.’ To me, that is the motto I live by.”

For many at Graceland, the panel discussion led by Professor Raquel Moreira with students and guests was meaningful for self-discovery and led to clearer understanding toward the worth of all persons. The panel was influential in the preparation for Town Hall discussions to follow.

\*[www.vocativ.com/culture/lgbt/transgender-suicide/](http://www.vocativ.com/culture/lgbt/transgender-suicide/) accessed on 1/8/2016

University campuses are vital venues for initiating and discussing societal change. Graceland is no exception and held a second Town Hall Meeting, based on the California State University, Chico Town Hall Meeting format, in December 2015 focused on privilege. This meeting format is designed to bring together students, faculty, staff and community members to engage in a deliberative, civic dialogue on a current topic.

Graceland University's production of *Nickel and Dimed*, a short play about the working poor and their struggle to get by in life, was another part of the preparation for the Town Hall Meeting.

"It's a play that doesn't act unbiased," said Gary Heisserer, Professor of Theatre at Graceland and director of *Nickel and Dimed*. "It's incredibly provocative and shows only one side of the story. It shapes these working poor characters as actual human beings with heart, while it portrays the managers as two-dimensional villains. It clearly takes the side of the working class, and, because of that, hopefully it

sparks an interesting discussion."

The discussion led to questions about raising the minimum wage, capping the top end of salaries, as well as some practical and simple steps to help with the problem of privilege in class: leaving 20 percent tips, being selective about where to shop, and being kind. Action steps were suggested to investigate Sodexo and Follett, Graceland's outsourced industries, from a service industry viewpoint. As in all the Town Hall breakout discussions, education was listed as one of the steps toward leveling the playing field.

*"It's incredibly provocative. It clearly takes the side of the working class, and, because of that, hopefully it sparks an interesting discussion."*

*Gary Heisserer*



Allysha Bilges '17 and Karima Burns '16.

The discussion of race and privilege echoed some of the thoughts from the last Town Hall Meeting in January 2015 over Martin Luther King weekend. The events in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson are current, and racial privilege continues as a needed area of discussion and change.

Graceland students identified some of the obstacles within the Graceland community, such as the relative absence of diversity in faculty and administration and the reoccurring presence of fear as a minority on campus. The idea of having anti-racism training for faculty was met with the question of "Who would teach the training?" Notes from the discussion included the telling observation that it took 33 minutes before someone of color spoke in the breakout session.



Analyn Blake '16, Angela Bradford '15, Rebecca Perryman '16 and Braden Austin '16

The Town Hall final discussions concluded that people need to be careful and patient when talking about privilege of any sort. It is a dangerous and powerful force that is unseen within the privileged.

The discussions were a step toward education and understanding. Each group listed further education as an action item toward positive solutions. "Town Hall Meetings have the potential to be a high-impact practice," said Tammy Everett, PhD, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty. "At Graceland, we are working to engage students in this process every semester."

[Discover More](#)

Visit [www.graceland.edu/Horizons](http://www.graceland.edu/Horizons) for more information and resources.



# Mentoring Program Evolves

One of Graceland's distinctions is the family of alumni who genuinely want to help their fellow Gracelanders. Connecting current students to alumni isn't a new idea, but coordinating the pairing through GU4U is a renewed effort. The idea germinated with Mike Wiley '83, Cal Closson '82 and Joe Booz '86, who is co-chair of the Alumni Board of Directors' Alumni Engagement team.

Initially, they were engaging alumni to help with recruiting for Graceland. Mike Wiley had already been working with faculty and students in science and math, connecting alumni for interactive seminars, internships and mentoring. Their idea was to roll this across all of GU. Mike Davis '10 joined the team to help make things happen for business students. The humanities area is opening up with the help of faculty member Professor Tim Robbins. The program is evolving and gaining traction with students and alumni from more areas; Graceland family roots are expansive.

The mentoring program found resonating excitement with the student Enactus (formerly SIFE) team, and they've focused on it as one of their team projects. With a student-made video and kickoff at the 2015 Fall Burn event, more than 80 students have signed up to be part of the GU4U mentoring program, and professional alumni from all over the U.S. have been connected. The program webpage gives information for both mentors and students to become engaged.

Enactus student Matt Bear says, "It's been really empowering to work on the



GU4U team; to create an opportunity for students to connect with someone who went to Graceland and is now successful out in the real world. Connecting with people who got their degree from this same small liberal arts school, and who are making a difference in the world, makes me feel like it's something that I can do as well."

GU4U continues the experience for many Gracelanders to know they're a

Back: Jay Lysinger '16, Matthew Bear '18, Devon Corless '18. Front: Anna Williams '18, Sydney Dorrance '19, Estefania Torres Rivero '16.

part of a larger family and that someone is looking out for them. At Graceland, it's what we do.

For more information see [www.Graceland.edu/GU4U](http://www.Graceland.edu/GU4U) or email [GU4U@sting.graceland.edu](mailto:GU4U@sting.graceland.edu).



**D**r. Mike Wiley '83 is giving back and feeling great about it. He's giving his time, knowledge and contacts through Graceland's new GU4U alumni/student mentoring program. Wiley's been at this for several years, and mentoring comes naturally to him. He realizes that navigating the science field, with its unlimited options and diverse directions, can be very daunting. It's not just the coursework involved, it is the preparations, decisions and contacts that need to be made. He feels really lucky to be where he is – a Research Fellow for Eli Lilly and Company. He is aware that many Graceland students don't have family influences or support to help carry them through grad school and into careers.

Mike explains what happens when he mentors a student:

"Mentoring involves establishing a relationship. I am intent on learning about the student through conversation, listening, reflecting back and, honestly, just giving time. Helping develop young people is one of the most satisfying aspects of my job. Likewise, assisting students in their journey to achieve their highest and best potential definitely has its rewards. I open up to them and offer my contacts – my network of professional people – to give them more experiences to tap into. I share my stories of struggles and let them see that success can happen in a variety of ways and at different



times. The path isn't always straight and easy, but persistence and focus will be some of their best assets."

Wiley has mentored quite a few Graceland students and has also set up several internships at Eli Lilly for many of those interested. June Wiley '13, Sydney Brock '15, Darcy Volz '16 and, this summer, Keely

O'Keefe '17 and Sidnee Smith '17 will be entering the same program. Wiley is on the Graceland Alumni Board of Directors and part of the GU4U subcommittee heading up the science area. Connecting Graceland graduates to current students is a win-win for everyone.

"My expectations at the beginning of this mentoring process were uncertain. All I knew was that I wanted guidance; in work, life and school. Once I started working with Communications Specialist Brooke Sutherland '03, I became submerged in several communication mediums. Being able to have my own creative flow in the direction of assignments was refreshing. Using my knowledge from class experiences was helpful as well. I didn't expect how much field experience I'd gain in a few short months.

As a mentor, Brooke has helped me to confidently follow my gut with projects and to learn new skills with technology. She keeps me focused, goal oriented and constantly onto the next big thing on our agenda. Working with her has boosted my confidence in my work and my self as an independent adult.

I know from working with her this school year, I've increased my communication skills as well as continued to learn the mechanics working in several platforms and using the different outlets."

Maddie Jaggars '17



# Graceland Soccer Program Stays Strong



**G**raceland University freshman Gerardo Salgado came to Graceland specifically because of the soccer program. “I had heard about Graceland’s strong program and knew of their national championship; it helped to give Graceland the advantage when I was considering where I wanted to go to college.”

Salgado chose Graceland because of the legacy that has been building for more than a decade. Athletic programs gain strength and notoriety over time. Graceland’s soccer program is still benefitting from the highest victory won ten years ago.

The Graceland men’s soccer team won the NAIA National Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida, in 2006. Memories of the team’s victories, accomplishments and comradery have made a difference in the lives of each player, and subsequent teams have been encouraged by the hard work and success of the legendary 2006 Graceland Soccer team.

Head Soccer coach, Bryan Courtney states, “I’ve been a part of this program for over 20 years. As a student, core values were instilled in me at a crucial developmental stage of my life. Persistence, sacrifice, honesty and dedication were central themes that I absorbed. Most of all was a sense of belonging to something that was bigger than me and seeing the value in working together. Lifelong friendships were built upon solid foundations, and I still cherish them today.”

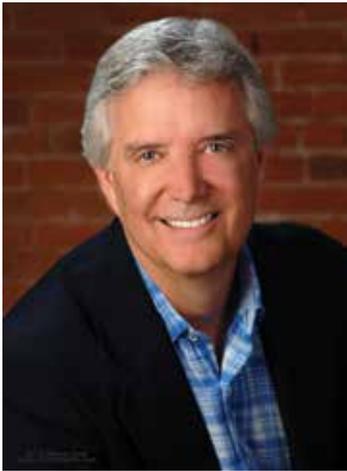
## Where are some of them now?

- **Filip Prostran '09**, outside midfielder, is now the head men’s soccer coach at Ryerson University.
- **Edson Edwards '11**, forward, is playing professionally in Canada and hopes for a chance at the Canadian Men’s National Team.
- **Santiago Ricaurte '10**, forward, is now a successful investment banker in Bogota, Columbia.
- **Kevin Souter '09**, center midfield, is coaching a professional team in the lower divisions in Scotland.
- **Isaac Unruh '08**, goalkeeper and MVP of the tournament, suffered a serious injury that has left him paralyzed from the waist down. Always a leader with a positive influence on others, Unruh is making strides in his rehabilitation.
- **Brian Loving '10**, midfielder and Brine-NAIA Champions of Character Award
- **Brett Loving '07**, center back, Defensive MVP of the Tournament is now a firefighter in the St. Joseph, Missouri, area.
- **Ruben Ruelas '09**, right back, broke his leg in the tournament, which was a rallying point for the team. He went on to play professionally in Mexico.
- **Stefan Delas '10**, left back, went on to play professionally first division in Finland.
- **Brett Porter '08**, central midfielder, owns his own custom woodworking business in the Kansas City area.
- **Matt Klaus '09**, left midfielder, works in health care insurance in Kansas City.
- **Carlos Ortiz '10**, goalkeeper and All-American, continued with the Graceland soccer program.
- **Hunter Re '09**, forward, is a finance manager for Farmers Insurance in Kansas City.
- **Ivan Joseph '96**, head coach, is the Athletic Director for Ryerson University and has a Ted Talk about self-confidence that has almost six million views.

*“I truly believe the success this program has sustained on the soccer field has been the result of the excellence that has been woven into the fabric of who we are and the values that we represent at Graceland.”*

*Bryan Courtney '98*

# “Graceland Forever”



When I think of “Graceland Forever,” one of the people who comes to mind is President George Briggs who led the university an amazing twenty-nine years, from 1915 to 1944. His picture hangs in (you guessed it) Briggs Hall. Think of the challenges that Graceland faced during those years – two world wars and the Great Depression and the social, economic and political changes they brought with them. With young men

being called into service, it was a challenge to keep up enrollment. The depression made it hard for families to come up with tuition dollars and for the sponsoring church to provide financial support. The college had a desperate time paying the bills and, in some months, it simply couldn't.

In spite of the challenges, Graceland under President Briggs' leadership remarkably not only survived but made some remarkable progress. In 1917, two years after Briggs assumed his office, Graceland became the first junior college in Iowa to earn academic accreditation. The campus itself was transformed with the construction of three major buildings: Walker Hall,

Zimmermann Hall, and Briggs Hall. Through it all, he kept new students coming through the doors. And that's just the short list of Briggs' achievements.

Thanks to the commitment, the loyalty and the focus on the long term of President George Briggs, we can continue to sing “Graceland Forever” today. There is a special Graceland DNA imbedded in and transmitted through a community of people who contribute to that “Forever” success. Student tuition pays only a small fraction of the cost on providing the unique educational experience here. Graceland exists because of the support of alumni and friends who make up the rest of that financial base. They believe in our mission. They believe in our values. And they believe in the learning community that transforms the lives of our students.

We have so many people to thank for keeping “Graceland Forever” alive and fresh. We will always face challenges and change, but we believe in the Graceland DNA that can transform those challenges into opportunities to build and grow our special community. For alumni and friends, Graceland will always be a place where we can “come home.” It will also be a crucible for the development of the leaders of our future.

Thank you, President Briggs. Thank you to all of you who continue to support this enduring institution. “Graceland Forever” indeed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry J. Ashenhurst".

Harry J. Ashenhurst, PhD, Chair, Board Of Trustees

## Briells Bring Experience



Scott Briell was hired as Vice President of Enrollment Management (VPEM) last fall and has hit the ground running. He comes with enrollment experience and marketing savvy that will provide Graceland with needed leadership. Scott earned a Master of Arts in American Studies at Pennsylvania State University and most recently has been the VPEM for Iowa Wesleyan College. Prior to Iowa, he served as VPEM for Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia.

In his acceptance, Scott stated, “Effective enrollment management lives at the intersection of market and mission. While the enrollment team is currently enjoying success at Graceland, I feel that I can make the program stronger and implement change that will ensure continued growth. I have a record of success and relish the opportunity to make Graceland an even stronger institution.”

Nicole V. Briell was hired in January as Graceland's Director of Retention. She comes with proven experience in this area after working at Iowa Wesleyan as the Director of the Office of Academic Success and Inclusive Support. Nicole received her MED in Education from Brenau University. She brings a passion for ensuring student's academic success and will help the Graceland community work together to increase retention and persistence.



“I really have a heart for helping students be successful. I am a first generation college student; my husband is as well. We both persisted and had to overcome obstacles, and so that's a passion of mine – to help other students. As a parent, I am also concerned about the academic scholars, and so the main theme in the retention center is to help both ends of the spectrum. The hope is to have *all* students involved in the success center.”

Welcome to Graceland, Briells! Scott will bring in students, and Nicole will help them graduate!

# Class Notes

Stay connected to Graceland!

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## Weddings

**Renee Cowick '88** and Charles Metz Jr., Cary, North Carolina, Sept. 12, 2015

**Kirt DeHaan '91** and Michelle Swopes, Greenwood, Missouri, Sept. 19, 2015

**Collin Isham '11** and **Tara Shupe '11**, Kansas City, Missouri, Oct. 11, 2015

**Leah Pyne '12** and Robert Garito, Warren, Ohio, Oct. 16, 2015

## Anniversaries

**Fred '52** and **Gwen Kimball '52 Howes** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Aug. 2015

**James '51** and **Mona VanTuyl '50 Jones** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 30, 2015

**Jerry '65** and **Sandra Froyd '66 Mogg** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 20, 2015

**Connie Betts '63** and **James Sullivan** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 28, 2015

**Carl '49** and Nancy Hyland **Wenholz** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 21, 2015

## Births

**Erik '11** and **Kaitlin Ham '11 Closson**, Buda, Texas, Zoey Lynn, born Aug. 23, 2015

**Jeffrey '05** and **Christa Bender '05 Corrie**, Blue Springs, Missouri, Crosby David, born Sept. 21, 2015

**Neal '11** and **Laurie Ferguson '12 Fogarty**, Olathe, Kansas, Cailyn Marie, born Sept. 21, 2015

**Justin '06** and **Rebecca Rider '05 Franklin**, Olathe, Kansas, Kendall, born Feb. 11, 2014 and Sutton, born Dec. 16, 2015

**Evan '03** and **Jodi Hrabak**, Belle Plaine, Iowa, Gabriel Thomas, born Nov. 29, 2015

**Tyler '09** and **Autumn Wellington '10 Jones**, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Summer Elizabeth, born March 17, 2015

**Jeff '04** and **Emily '04 Penrose McLaughlin**, Independence, Missouri, Avery and Noah Breck Mapalo, born Sept. 20, 2015

**Kendra King '06** and **Mike Pugh**, Millis, Massachusetts, William, born Aug. 26, 2015

**Shannon McCoy '02** and **Ryan Redington**, Seattle, Washington, Westin, born July 28, 2014

**Kelda Rhodes '04 Slater**, Nashville, Tennessee, Kamden Teree, born March 23, 2015

**Kasey Johnson '08** and **Adam Steen**, West Des Moines, Iowa, Ryker James, born July 4, 2015

**Brandon '05** and **Erin Smith '05 Stevenson**, Liberty, Missouri, Evelyn Grace, born March 3, 2015

## In Memoriam

Mildred Clegg Ackerley, Floral Park, New York, Nov. 13, 2015

**Cleo Anderson '57**, Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 13, 2014

**Ellis Anderson '51**, Marseilles, Illinois, Nov. 23, 2015

**Ronald M. Boland '54**, Tampa, Florida, March 6, 2015

**Dr. Robert Carr '47**, Elkton, Maryland, Dec. 15, 2015

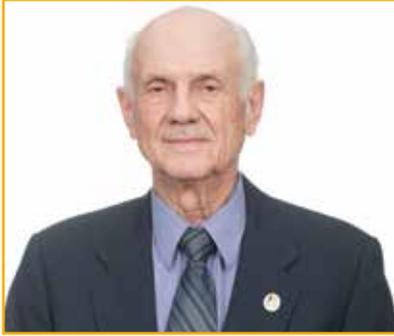
**Doris Eliason '42 Caster**, Independence, Missouri, Feb. 4, 2016

**Larry K. Childers '01**, Kansas City, Missouri, Dec. 24, 2015

**Karma Stokes '57 Clemens**, Wyoming, Michigan, Aug. 8, 2015



Graceland ties are forever, as evidenced by the long-term friendships enjoyed by four couples who recently rendezvoused in Colorado for their second annual vacation together. Kay '62 and Rick '62 Bunch, Judy '62 and Ron '63 Carter, Sherri '65 and Jac '62 Kirkpatrick, and Cherry '63 and Jay '64 Newcom became friends at Graceland, married their Graceland sweethearts, and each recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries.



**W**hen Dean Limric '53 saw the "Registration" sign at a Graceland's Visit Friday in January, he drove home, got his transcripts and came back to sign up for fall classes. A huge supporter of everything Graceland, Dean wants to get back into the classroom and get another degree. At 82 years old, he strongly believes in lifetime learning! **Go Graceland!**

**Shirley Oatsvall '54 Cordova,**  
San Diego, California, Oct. 2, 2015

**Dara Mennis '90 Cox,**  
Independence, Missouri, March 9, 2014

**Barbara Thoman '60 Curtis,**  
Ormond Beach, Florida, Oct. 18, 2015

**Lyle C. Driskill '56,**  
Murrieta, California, Oct. 26, 2015

**Dale Duke '69,**  
Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, Aug. 24, 2015

**Michael T. Elliott '80,**  
Odessa, Missouri, Dec. 1, 2015

**Barbara Barnhard '48 Gose,**  
Kansas City, Missouri, Oct. 4, 2015

**Joseph O. Hajicek '65,**  
Chehalis, Washington, Aug. 23, 2015

**Robert P. Hawley '53,**  
Hamilton, Missouri, Dec. 26, 2015

**Ronald A. Henson '61,**  
Raleigh, North Carolina, Jan. 12, 2016

**Priscilla Crowell '51 Henson,**  
Flora, Illinois, Jan. 14, 2016

**Wilson Huff '47,**  
Pritchett, Colorado, Jan. 21, 2016

**Marie Lovell '42 Huntress,**  
Belvidere, Illinois, Jan. 29, 2016

**Donald Leslie Jelm '49,**  
Somonauk, Illinois, July 17, 2015

**Janice Best '46 Johnson,**  
Lamoni, Iowa, May 28, 2015

**Jeffrey L. Johnson '67,**  
Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 9, 2015

**James R. Kaiser '52,**  
Louisville, Kentucky, Aug. 22, 2015

**Charles Kornman '44,**  
Grand Junction, Colorado, Nov. 21, 2015

**La Dora Ruth Timm '44 Ledsworth,**  
Independence, Missouri, Dec. 30, 2015

**Susan Licata '70,**  
Kansas City, Missouri, Dec. 24, 2015

**Cindy Tripp '01 Luka,**  
Decatur, Illinois, July 26, 2015

**Cheryl Edwards '67 McCullagh,**  
Cedar Falls, Iowa, Dec. 11, 2015

**Charles L. Melenzer '41,**  
San Antonio, Texas, July 12, 2015

**Harlean Wolfe '57 Miller,**  
Kansas City, Missouri, Aug. 31, 2015

**Lois Lambert '42 Moore,**  
Independence, Missouri, Nov. 27, 2015

**James A. Morrison '58,**  
Janesville, Wisconsin, May 15, 2015

**Temily Naylor '14,**  
Kansas City, Missouri, Nov. 24, 2015

**Sadi Moon '43 Negaard,**  
Independence, Missouri, Sept. 14, 2015

**Elsie Hegwood '47 O'Brien,**  
Fairbanks, Alaska, Aug. 28, 2015

**Catherine Joyce Comer '47 Olson,**  
Apple Valley, Minnesota, Jan. 8, 2016

**Leonard Peavy '72,**  
West Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 6, 2015

**Katie Everett '80 Persall,**  
Lamoni, Iowa, Dec. 19, 2015

**Charles W. Plumlee Jr. '51,**  
Lenexa, Kansas, Dec. 5, 2015

**Dale V. Randall '48,**  
Holiday, Florida, Feb. 28, 2014

**Terry Read '06,**  
Chino Hills, California, Nov. 17, 2015

**A. Verdine Argotsinger '47 Reed,**  
Tabor, Iowa, March 8, 2015

**Marilyn Rippey '70 Riffie,**  
Emmett, Idaho, Nov. 29, 2015

**Marilyn Roberts '45 Sargent,**  
Santa Rosa, California, Jan. 17, 2016

**Marjorie Walker '70 Schofield,**  
Lee's Summit, Missouri, Oct. 23, 2015

**Bradley C. Sutton '77,**  
Independence, Missouri, Jan. 19, 2015

**Pearl James '45 Tacy,**  
Independence, Missouri, Dec. 11, 2015

Jon E. Whatley,  
Lamoni, Iowa, Jan. 1, 2016

**Frank C. Woodson '54,**  
Camarillo, California, Dec. 28, 2015

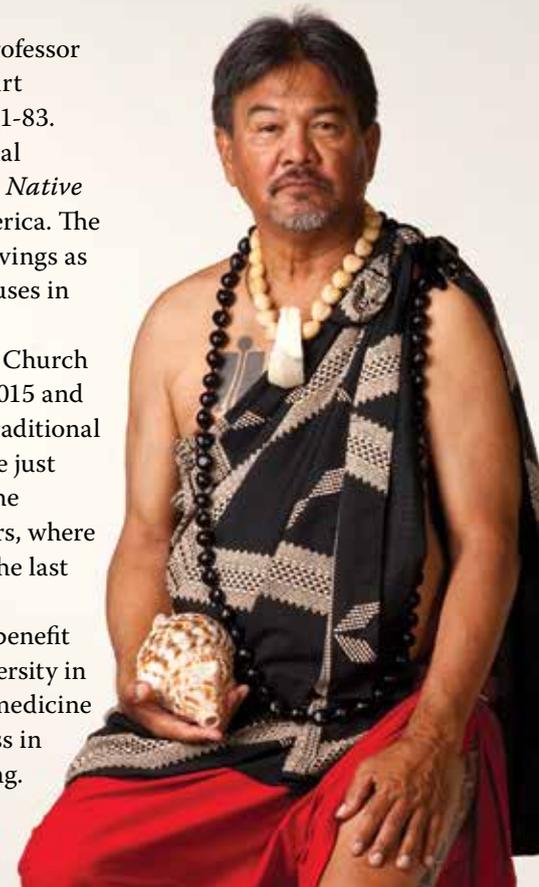
**Ruth York '43,**  
Onset, Massachusetts, Dec. 4, 2015

**M**el Kauila Clark '68 has been committed to sharing with others the principle elements of Native Hawaiian values, Aloha and physical well-being. Professor Clark taught design, drawing, painting, ceramics, art history and art appreciation at Graceland from 1971-83.

Clark is represented in an exhibit by the National Library of Medicine out of Washington D.C. called *Native Voices*, an exhibit of traditional healers across America. The exhibit included two of Clark's Hawaiian wood carvings as well as 10 chants, 12 prayers, and 10 medicines he uses in traditional medical practice.

Most recently he received an award from Unity Church Hawaii for most spiritual/inspirational leader for 2015 and is currently working on 10 petroglyphs honoring traditional voyaging for an exercise path in the community. He just concluded service on the executive committee of the National Association of Community Health Centers, where he served in various roles including chairman for the last 12 years.

He teaches Aloha in Business, a triple baseline benefit program in the MBA Program at Chaminade University in Honolulu, Hawaii. He also lectures on traditional medicine at three medical schools, and offered an online class in January on Hawaiian culture and traditional healing.





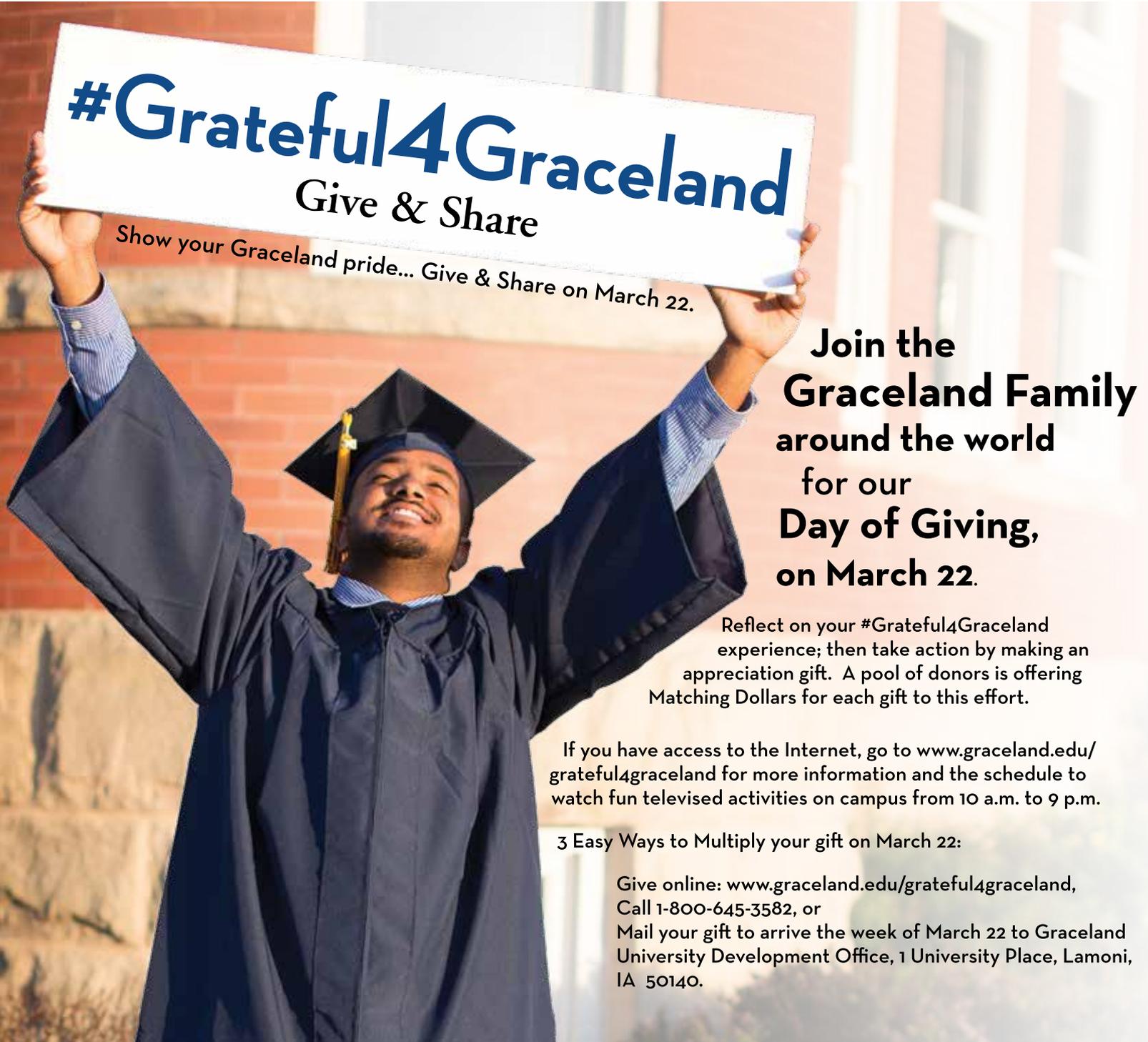
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Reflect on your #Grateful4Graceland experience; then take action by making an appreciation gift. A pool of donors is offering Matching Dollars for each gift to this effort.

If you have access to the Internet, go to [www.graceland.edu/grateful4graceland](http://www.graceland.edu/grateful4graceland) for more information and the schedule to watch fun televised activities on campus from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

3 Easy Ways to Multiply your gift on March 22:

- Give online: [www.graceland.edu/grateful4graceland](http://www.graceland.edu/grateful4graceland), Call 1-800-645-3582, or
- Mail your gift to arrive the week of March 22 to Graceland University Development Office, 1 University Place, Lamoni, IA 50140.