

# H Graceland University HORIZONS

Alumni and Friends Magazine

Summer 2012 Vol. 28, No. 1



## 'Fitz' Center Groundbreaking



Shaw Center:  
Latest Update



Commencement  
2012



Spring Sports:  
Record Breaking Season



Graceland Gadgets:  
A Rich History





## A Dedication and Homecoming You Will Never Forget

When you are on “the Hill” October 19-21 for the gala Shaw Center dedication and Homecoming 2012, you are in for what will be one of the greatest ‘fall classic’ weekends in Graceland history.

World-class music will premier in the exquisite and acoustically perfect Carol Hall, and a Graceland theatre production will be the first to open in the magnificent JR Black Box Theatre. These events and much more will all be part of the unveiling of the stunning new Shaw Center which has undergone the greatest facility metamorphosis ever at Graceland.

All of this has been made possible by JR and Carol Shaw with the largest single gift in our history. Their love for Graceland and desire to leave a lasting legacy to JR’s parents, Francis and Lottie Shaw, has literally changed the Graceland landscape. The center of our campus is now completely pedestrian. There is a new easiness to it, a feeling of grace-plus-function. I can’t wait for you to see it.

If you haven’t visited campus for a couple of years or more, you won’t want to miss Homecoming 2012. The breathtaking new Shaw Center will be dedicated throughout the weekend – throughout the entire week actually – with musical and theatre performances befitting what is surely to be known as the most magnificent performing arts center in our region. We are even planning a fireworks display to mark the occasion.

‘*Curtains Up on a Great Future*’, our apropos Homecoming theme this year, truly sets the tone for what I be-

lieve will be Graceland’s best years that lie ahead. I offer my heartfelt thanks, along with those of all Gracelanders, to JR and Carol for creating world-class opportunities for today’s and tomorrow’s Graceland students. Their best years also lie ahead!

Over on the west side of the Higdon Administration Building you will find another new jewel in the Graceland landscape. Our new Fitzgerald Fitness Center, made possible by the generosity of Bob and Jan Fitzgerald, will usher in new opportunities for fitness and healthy lifestyles for generations of students to come. ‘The Fitz’, as it will be known, will provide ripple effects across our campus. Research has shown that easy-access exercise and training options inspire students to also choose healthier foods. They *learn* to live healthy, active lives and that stays with them forever. That was the motivation, and the dream, when Bob and Jan decided to make ‘The Fitz’ a reality. Good health has enriched their lives and they want the same for Gracelanders.

You will be hearing more and more about Homecoming 2012 and the Shaw dedication in coming weeks. Mark your calendars now – October 19-21. I promise you a Homecoming you will never forget.

*John Sellars*

John Sellars, Ph.D.  
President

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HOMECOMING 2012

# October 19-21

SPECIAL EVENT

## Shaw Center Dedication

October 19 at 3 p.m.

# CURTAINS UP

on a great future



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**About the cover:** It was a very bright, sunny (albeit chilly) March 5 on our Lamoni campus when President John Sellars posed with donors Bob and Jan Fitzgerald at the site west of the Higdon Administration Building where the new Fitzgerald Fitness Center is now becoming a reality. Photo by Parker Johnson

## Horizons, Volume 28, No. 1

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# Fitzgerald Fitness Center

## *Thank You Bob and Jan for a Future o*

**Y**ou can see that on June 28, when this panoramic view of the new Fitzgerald Fitness Center was captured, the frame was appearing atop a deep-concrete footprint just west of the Higdon Administration Building. Students' dreams of a beautiful fitness/wellness center on campus are quickly becoming a reality.

Framing is being completed in tandem with the roof, and then comes electrical and plumbing work, interior detailing, and soon, perhaps as you receive this issue of *Horizons*, the work of constructing the stunning limestone and brick exterior will have begun.

A gift of love for Graceland from Bob and Jan (Braun) '61 Fitzgerald, and their vision of GU students enjoying healthier, happier lives, is rising as the Fitzgerald Fitness Center on one of the most naturally scenic spots on campus. It will not be long now – hopefully as the fall semester begins – that students “...will be sweating all year long,” as President John Sellars said at a groundbreaking ceremony in March, “and not just during final exams.”

Bob and Jan joined an enthusiastic crowd of Gracelanders at that groundbreaking, on a bright, sunny day, and their emotions during the ceremony, and later at a fun-filled reception in the Harpham Heritage Chapel, told the story of how “The Fitz” came to be. A shy Jan Fitzgerald, who said she had not planned to speak, was tearful as she spoke of their long-time dream of doing something wonderful for Graceland, where she learned and played as a student in the early 1960s, and where her children

followed in her footsteps, Randy in '91 and Robin Fitzgerald Long in '89. Their daughter Jenni, who attended Drake University, is also very excited with the project.

Lightheartedly, she reminisced about how years ago she and Bob would drive over from the Quad Cities and watch their kids play volleyball and perform in music events. “We thought then, wouldn't it be nice to buy a bus for the volleyball team,” she said. “And now, we are able to bring this fitness center to life.” Bob chimed in, “...but we are not going to buy a bus!”

Not an alumnus, but a true Graceland, Bob joked about his birthday 18 years ago when Jan bought him a bicycle. “I thought, you must be kidding. What's next, a paper route?” But, he got on and rode, and they have not stopped riding since, all around the U.S. and in Europe. “Fitness and good health changed our lives,” he said. “This fitness center is a perfect fit for two of our passions: Graceland and fitness.” The Fitz is made possible by their \$1.6 million gift.

Randy was active with the fitness component of the original plan to replace or remodel the MSC, a group led by a very dedicated Board of Trustees member, Bob White '77. That project is on hold for the moment, but the fitness element is almost here.

Diane Bartholomew, Chair of our Division of Health and Movement Science, said at the groundbreaking, “The Fitz will be a beacon of light for students to live fit and healthy lives, and for faculty and staff it will decrease ill-





# *f Healthy Students*

ness, improve morale and increase work efficiency.”

Morgan Bradford, who just graduated with honors, said the central campus location will motivate students to use The Fitz. She noted how great it will be to exercise with winter sun streaming through the long, south-facing windows, while you overlook pine trees and snow.

There is a high ceiling and divided exercise areas, one for group exercise, perfect for activities like Yoga and Zumba. The aerobic area will include elliptical machines, bikes, climbers, and treadmills. Some of these machines will be placed together for socialization and others will have individual TV viewing screens. Behind the aerobic equipment there will be machines for people to circuit train. A partial wall will provide a separate area for small equipment, items like medicine balls, kettle bells and free weights. The building will also include day lockers, restrooms and showers.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to you Bob and Jan, and Randy, Robin and Jenni, for providing Graceland students with what President Sellars calls, “...a future of living healthy and balanced lives.”

Go to our Facebook page (link on our Web site homepage, [www.graceland.edu](http://www.graceland.edu)) for galleries of Fitz Center photos.

The new Fitzgerald Fitness Center is quickly becoming a part of the Graceland landscape. Donors Bob and Jan Fitzgerald appear above on the Brick Plaza, at Homecoming 2011. The large, south-facing windows of the ‘Fitz’ will offer exercisers a vista of beautiful views!







# SHAW CENTER

## Graceland's New Home for *Enriched Student Life*

*H*orizons took a tour of the new Shaw Center with President John Sellars the last week of June. As he excitedly walked around, describing specific features, he also talked of how the “grand scale” and “sheer magnificence” of the project is going to change the very perspective of Graceland University’s future.

“This is going to be the most superb performing arts center at any small university in the United States,” he said. “It will allow us to offer arts-and-academic integration for *every student* in ways we have never imagined. A combined experience, developing the whole person, is what Graceland is known for. Because of the generosity and vision of very special donors, we can now take that whole person to a new level of liberal arts richness that has always been our dream.”

Those special donors are of course JR Shaw ’56, and his wife Carol, whose tremendous \$14 million gift has made this transformational project possible. As President Sellars explains, though, the gift is much more than money, even more than creating a legacy to JR’s parents, Francis and Lottie, namesakes of the facility.

“JR and Carol are totally invested in this project,” the president explained, as he pointed out the atrium windows and described how the outdoor Amphitheatre, spreading out from the building’s center across the quad, will provide a magnificent forum to touch the daily life of every student. From the acoustically-perfect Carol Hall, a recital venue that will rival those in

Chicago, to the highly-specialized yet totally-flexible JR Black Box Theatre — that the president called, “the greatest black box theatre I have ever seen” — JR Shaw has been “uniquely involved as a donor in the total vision and daily momentum of the project in ways I have never experienced.”

JR and President Sellars talk frequently and carefully examine photos of the project. JR has visited campus to view progress. He works with the president to ensure a kind of facility is being created that will attract students, faculty, performers and admirers from every corner of the world. Such is JR’s vision.

In the next two-to-four years, the performing and visual arts at Graceland are going to explode: perhaps 100 or more new arts students, new endowed faculty chairs, exposure for Gracelanders and our region to tremendous talent and entertainment, the resources for unparalleled academic excellence and an enhanced college experience for *every student* on campus.

And it all starts Homecoming weekend, October 19-21, when the amazing Shaw Center will be dedicated, and celebrated, with world-class music and theatre

performances, opening of a gorgeous new Gallery featuring original pieces from JR’s art collection, and so much more we cannot describe here all the activities and events.

It will be a weekend of historic proportions! You won’t want to miss it.

Watch for a special September issue of *Horizons*. A full listing of all Shaw Dedication and Homecoming events and activities will be detailed, including photos of the completed facility, inside and out. There will also be more about the remarkable story of how JR and Carol Shaw are creating a grand edifice at Graceland not just for the arts, but for *student life*, for the enriched wholeness of every student’s life, and for the exciting future of a grateful university.

Go to our Facebook page (link on our Web site homepage, [www.graceland.edu](http://www.graceland.edu)) for galleries of progress photos.■

The monumental scope of the Shaw Center project becomes even more apparent in this latest panorama shot taken June 28. And, here is a view of The Gallery, what will be a long, glass corridor of original art and sculpture from JR Shaw’s collection.





# Alumni, Community Donations Preserve Graceland History

By Melissa Shephard, Campus Writer

Graceland buildings hold years of history, tradition and the memories of thousands of students. Whether they are memories of walking across the commencement stage in the Eugene E. and Julia Travis Closson Physical Education Center or seeing the Higdon Administration Building lit up against a cloudy, night sky, Graceland structures carry great sentimental value for our alumni.

This year, thanks to generous alumni and Lamoni community donations, we've been able to preserve two of these valuable buildings: The Roy A. Cheville Chapel and the Coliseum Theatre.

## Preserving Our Area of Worship: The Cheville Chapel

The Cheville Chapel has been a home for Graceland worship for over 30 years. With its stained glass windows and pebbled floor, the building's funky-vibe has entertained many during worship services, weddings and baptisms. And after a gift from Ken and Joan Johnson, Community of Christ members and friends of the university, Graceland Campus Ministries and Facility Services have updated its functionality while preserving its appearance and uniqueness.

The Cheville back room has been replaced with a permanent storage structure for Praise Band equipment, the prayer room has been enclosed with a double-glass door, the lobby has been opened up (to create more space for socializing), a restroom has been converted into a kitchenette (to prepare snacks and communions), and flooring in the back area has been replaced with vinyl VCT flooring.

The most notable renovations, however, take place in the chapel itself. The baptismal font has been replaced, lighting has been upgraded and drywall was installed over the wooden paneling, which was beginning to tear loose. The upgrades have lightened the area and given the Campus Ministries team the capability to project



Cheville Chapel



The Coliseum

hymns and presentations on the chapel walls.

The highlight of the project takes place on the chapel's south wall, where sunshades were removed and a new, wooden pattern was added to the wall. Using geometric panels, varying in size and set off at various depths, the wall has been covered in an artistic pattern, envisioned in the building's original design and complemented by the ideas of Campus Ministries Intern, Jessica Montague.

"Worship can happen anywhere and in any conditions," said Campus Minister Matt Frizzell '96. "Yet, the unique design and natural feel of the Cheville Chapel remains important to generations through its architecture and approach to creating sacred space. The vaulted ceiling, north facing windows, and mix of natural textures in the Chapel will continue to shape students' sense of spirituality and worship for years to come."

## Preserving a Community Treasure: The Coliseum

The Coliseum's renovations came just in time for the venue's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over the years, the building has served a variety of purposes: a recital hall, a temporary RLDS church, a Mexican restaurant called the Sundown Café, Choices (a student night spot), and, quite infamously, a home to a family of friendly bats.

The theatre is an important venue for GU students and the community, but its future was threatened by advancements in film technology. Without projection upgrades, new digital movies could not be used. The Coliseum would become defunct. This is where Randy and Laurie Nipper '85 Heintz stepped in.

Randy grew up locally and Laurie is a current member of the Graceland Board of Trustees. Both saw the value The Coliseum brings not only to Graceland, but to the Lamoni community. They provided a lead gift for the project. At that point, the community stepped in, setting a goal to not just give The Coliseum necessary updates, but to transform the building into a top-notch treasure. BTC Bank, Varsity Drug, Hy-Vee, American State Bank, Industrial Hardfacing, Bank of the West and the Hammer Family Foundation all made generous gifts to preserve our hometown theatre.

A larger stage, SoundFold pleated curtains (for improved acoustics), a 3-D Digital Projector and Projection Screen, a Dolby Digital 5.1 Stereo sound system and balcony speakers have been installed. The Coliseum has already played its first 3-D movie (*Titanic*), and others, to packed houses. First-run, opening-night movies have come to Lamoni!■

## Real Lives, Real Progress, Real Success

This spring Graceland's public website launched an exciting new feature called "Project Success." Rooted in the idea that Graceland empowers students to achieve more, Project Success celebrates current student and recent graduate success stories. Whether it's a student securing her dream job with Microsoft, a first-year teacher feeling confident in the classroom or an international student securing a business internship to help her discover her passion, Project Success spotlights students and alumni who are making their dreams come true.

We invite you to browse these stories and read about the young faces of Graceland that are making positive change, both in their personal lives and around the world. From transfer students who find a happy home at Graceland to students who discover a new passion from our Residence Life program, Project Success shows how Graceland is continuing to enrich the lives of young people today. Visit [www.graceland.edu/ProjectSuccess](http://www.graceland.edu/ProjectSuccess) to read about these remarkable students and recent alumni. We're continuing to add more stories as time passes, with an unlimited resource of Graceland success to choose from. ■



Bill Higdon and Amy Goodman

## Amy Goodman Speaks at Higdon Legacy of Peace Banquet

On May 18, the Graceland Peace Studies Committee sponsored a Legacy of Peace banquet honoring the life of Barbara Higdon. The evening included words from Graceland faculty, music from Associate Professor of Music Jack Ergo, a formal dinner, and the highlight event, a visit from investigative journalist Amy Goodman. Goodman is host of the hard-hitting news program *Democracy Now!*

About 175 attended, including the Higdon family, to hear Goodman tell of her pursuits for independent journalism and her fight to bring honest stories to her audience. She spoke of her confrontations with

American police at activist rallies and the perils she faced first-hand during the genocide in East Timor. She urged all to value the truth, to fight for peace. These were also the values that guided Barbara Higdon's life.

Proceeds support efforts of Graceland's Peace Studies Committee, which, led by Associate Professor of Religion Priscilla Eppinger, created the event in memory of Barbara Higdon, Graceland's first full-time woman president, a professor of English, and an early advocate for the Peace Studies program. Through events like this, her legacy of peace continues at Graceland. ■

Tower Editor Liz Deegan is one of our featured students.



## Bartholomew Named NAIA Athletic Trainer of the Year

After a decade of service to Graceland, Head Athletic Trainer John Bartholomew has been honored as the 2012 NAIA Athletic Trainer of the Year. To celebrate this prestigious achievement, Bartholomew recently attended the 63rd Annual National Athletic Trainers Association Meeting and Clinical Symposia in St. Louis.

"This award is a reflection of the wonderful staff that I have the opportunity to work with," said Bartholomew. "We run 30 teams and over 500 student-athletes through the athletic training room and the staff makes sure the quality of care given is outstanding. The coaches

at Graceland are cooperative and understanding and assist in making our jobs easier." (see next page)





(continued) Bartholomew's award comes after a nomination by his peers in the Heart of America Athletic Conference. The College/University Athletic Trainers Committee annually recognizes exceptional collegiate athletic trainers. The award applauds athletic trainers who promote the profession by being actively involved in their community. "It is always nice to find out people appreciate what you do," said Bartholomew. ■



## White Reveals Life's 'Secret Sauce' at Annual SIFE Roundtable

Every spring Graceland's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit with their Roundtable event. Business professionals swarm Graceland's Lamoni campus to discuss various aspects of entrepreneurship, ethics and business with Graceland students. Each year this event provides valuable opportunities for students to hear first-hand what the world of business is like. The 21<sup>st</sup> annual event included a number of breakout sessions where guest speakers shared their business exploits and took part in question and answer sessions with students.

The event was highlighted by keynote speaker Bob White '77 who spoke about the "secret sauce" to

success in life and business. White told students that his secret sauce was happiness – seeking happiness in both your personal and professional life. White spoke of his great experiences at Graceland, treasuring his time on "the Hill" (along with occasional naps during class). White told students of his business experiences, working with a non-profit group, sampling corporate America, then discovering a passion for small business. He purchased a tree care company, then a legal research company,

IDEX, where he found great success. White eventually sold the business "for a lot more than was needed," he said, and retired on his birthday, "at noon". He emphasized to students the value of putting family and personal happiness over career. White asked audience members to speak of their business success, emphasizing the theme that happiness should be a priority above all else. White is serving as Co-Chair of our current capital campaign and there is no one who carries more love for GU. ■

## Outreach International Club Raises over \$35,000

For nearly a decade, Graceland's Outreach International (OI) club has been a dynamic group on campus, and this year was no exception.

Over winter term this year, OI students found worthy causes in three separate countries. A number of OI students took the club's annual trip to Nicaragua, where students integrated with local families and helped with various community projects, like constructing kitchen stoves and installing water lines. The goal of the trip was to learn and to observe how others live their lives in communities unlike our own.

OI students raised \$10,000 to fund Nicaraguan stoves, \$10,000 to purchase land in the Philippines where community members could

grow crops and raise livestock, and \$2,000 to fund computers in Orica, Honduras.

Students also created a "Pedal for Poverty" event, biking from Lamoni to the Community of Christ Temple in Independence, MO. The club's final fundraising event was a Sustainability Dinner in Olathe, KS where students gave testimonies about their work with OI and held a silent auction.

Aided by an anonymous donor gift, the OI club raised an impressive \$35,600. "It's great to reach a goal, but since we went on winter term trips and saw exactly who this money is helping, it really gives special meaning to our accomplishments this year," said Paige Webberley '12, an OI club member. ■







## Trombones, Robots and Cancer Biology: The Scholars' Showcase

One of Graceland's quickly growing annual events is the Scholars' Showcase. The 4<sup>th</sup> Showcase took place in April, allowing students from various academic areas, including Business, Education, Science and Music, to give 20-minute presentations, then participate in five-minute question and answer sessions with audience members.

This year's presentations included the SIFE team's Nationals presentation, a robotics demonstration by members of the Association of Computing Machinery, an overview of exploratory Cancer Biology research, a Trombone Quartet that included Music Department Coordinator Frank Perez, and an investigation into the physiology of empathy. The event also included various poster displays which were hung throughout Resch Science and Technology Hall. Topics covered everything from the history of feminism to childhood obesity. Students, professors and community members alike roamed Resch Hall, discussing and critiquing

student posters.

This year's event was highlighted by Keynote Speaker Dr. Mark Thoman '56, who wowed a packed 218 Zimmermann with the fascinating *stories* of his life, and a "76 year survival kit," a sort of template for how anyone's life can be lived well. And, he did it with a sense of humor that 218 'Zim' hadn't heard in a long time. What a 'hoot' he was! He even had his wife Theresa (who seemed to have a great time attending the day's events) laughing out loud with vignettes of a man who has reinvented himself over and over, from beginnings in Platz-Mortimore Science Hall, to being a TV repairman, to music, to drama, to being a pilot, to being a Navy flight surgeon, to tremendous careers in pediatrics, medical toxicology and work with the National Library of Medicine Scientific Review Panel. *Horizons* has an eye on Dr. Thoman and his amazing *stories*. Watch for a profile on him in the near future. ■

## Graceland Helps Local Students Make a Splash

Spring semester the Graceland pool was alive with GU students, cheering parents and a crowd of regional middle school students competing in their first ever swim meets. The meets were the brainchild of GU Assistant Professor of Physical Education Ezzeldin Aly. More than 100 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from Lamoni and Leon swapped one hour of their scheduled PE class every Friday to learn basic swimming skills from Graceland students.

Aly discovered a survey showing that Decatur County, in comparison to other Iowa counties, has a high percentage of people who don't know how to swim. After securing a grant from the Dekko Foundation, a private foundation that fosters economic growth through education, Aly set up a partnership with local schools. While the program teaches local students how to swim, it also provides an opportunity for Graceland students to get certified to teach swimming.

After 15 lessons, students, some who initially struggled to walk through the pool, showed off new skills when the program put on its first swim meet. Students sprinted one lap, freestyle, while Aly and Graceland students cheered and recorded times. Aly noted that many students also progressed in the backstroke and breaststroke. Students were awarded participation certificates. Aly hopes to expand the program next year to include younger students at other regional schools. ■







## Graceland has a Green Thumb

Led by the Campus Pride Committee (CPC), GU students, faculty and staff gathered in April to "sow the seeds of tradition" in the Tess Morgan Garden for GU's second annual "Green Day". CPC Chair Cristina Karmas, Associate Professor of English, led the outdoor event, emphasizing the importance of 'sustaining' a Graceland tradition of green thinking and campus beautification.

Students posed proudly with a

unique GU planter crafted by master campus builder Dennis Core. Mari-gold plants and seeds, and shrubs were planted and two inspiring speakers brought a grassroots, human dimension to the event.

GU Sustainability Coordinator Jennifer Abraham '08 spoke passionately, defining sustainability as "...meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future." She urged students to

take away the strengths they *build* at GU to *build* "social capital" in communities where they will one day live. "You can work with a community center, a recycling project, or help plant a community garden. As you bring groups and individuals together, that 'social capital' brings true and positive change in your community, and *that* is sustainability."

A very cool project dreamed up by student Jenny Hendrickson was also described – the 'Flip Out' challenge, held April 20<sup>th</sup>. Jenny's event motivated more than 150 individuals and groups around campus to keep their lights off from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. 'Flip Out' showed both the campus and Lamoni community that sustainability can be as easy as turning out the lights when you leave a room. Congratulations Jenny! Jenny couldn't attend Green Day but student Kayln Zupan stepped in and did a great job.

If you have ideas for future Green Day events, you're encouraged to contact the CPC by emailing Dr. Karmas at [karmas@graceland.edu](mailto:karmas@graceland.edu). ■

## GU Students Aid Tornado Relief Efforts in Creston

Graceland students and AmeriCorps representatives drove to Creston, IA April 20<sup>th</sup> to help with tornado relief efforts. Parts of Creston were damaged, including a local community college and hospital, after an EF2 tornado struck the city. Graceland students spent the afternoon helping clean the damaged YMCA. Students transferred

equipment from the unusable YMCA to an unused local elementary school designated to serve as the Y's temporary location. Students spent the afternoon cleaning and preparing the building for use. Thanks, in part, to Graceland student efforts, the 'Y' was able to transfer its activities to this temporary location the following Monday. ■

*From back left: Derek Twombly, Shannon Harris, Chelsea Tobin, Brandon Bennett, Codie Callies, Hayley Tobin, Elayne Varvaro, Kinsey Wellington, Christine Sweeney. From front right: Melissa Shephard, Marissa Hernandez, Melinda Graham, Abby Hernandez, Hayden Stewart and Alvin McAdory.*





# Our Call to Action!

**"Her Sons and Daughters Carry to Others Her fame throughout the land"**

**T**his headline is the well-known line from *Graceland Forever*, our official school song, proudly entreating all GU alumni to spread the glory of the Graceland story.

Student Warren McElwain wrote it in 1925 (the only song he ever wrote) after a particularly stirring chapel convocation led by Roy Cheville, Mabel Carlile and Belle Royce.

It strikes a strong chord today as our admissions counselors recruit in the fiercely-competitive world of higher education, carrying Graceland's fame to future students throughout the land. It may sound a little corny to today's modern students, but the sentiment stands true! Our sons and daughters (you, our alumni) are our greatest ambassadors. We need you to share our fame.

As Alumni Board of Directors' member Wade Wallace '82 said, "The best schools in the country include alumni in their admissions process. It is absolutely worthwhile to explore ways to involve alumni in student recruiting. The future benefit to Graceland could be profound."

Wade could not be more on target, and President John Sellars agrees. He said, "Our alumni represent one of Graceland's richest resources. We are blessed with a talented and diverse network of graduates - 'sons and daughters' with compelling testimonies of the impact Graceland made, and continues to make, on their lives."

## **The time for our call to action is now!**

The Alumni Board of Directors has teamed with Kirk Bjorland '89, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Greg Sutherland '73, Director of Affiliate Relations and Paul Davis '77, Director of Alumni Programs, to identify simple yet important ways that you, our sons and our daughters, can get involved.

First, talk about Graceland with your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Share your Graceland story. Your years on "the Hill" set the tone for your life. Your

story is unique. Tell it! And, be sure to share exciting news from today's Graceland - like the new Shaw Center and new Fitzgerald Fitness Center, and myriad new academic majors and programs.

To find out what is going on at GU contact Alumni Board members Cal Closson '82 at 816.308.1436 or [cclosson@rw3.com](mailto:cclosson@rw3.com), and Joe Booz '86 at 816.977.4962 or [jsbooz@comcast.net](mailto:jsbooz@comcast.net). They are the movers and shakers who are getting this effort off the ground!

Here is an easy way to help. Make a list of all of the high school students you know who are considering higher education, including children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors. Email your list to Cal or Joe. Be sure to include full names and contact information, and maybe something you know about the student's academic, fine arts or athletic interests.

## **"Hey, are you from Graceland?"**

Here's another fun tip. Wear a Graceland shirt, hat or jacket when you are out and about. You'll be surprised what happens. A Graceland student was at Disney World recently, wearing a GU shirt, and an alumni couple from the 1970s hugged him and said, "Hey, are you from Graceland?" Then they shared their GU story. They had not returned to Homecoming for 30 years. They are coming back to "the Hill" for this year's fall classic!

If you attend a Community of Christ congregation, find out if you have a **GO GU** 'Graceland Rep' among you. If you'd like to be a 'Graceland Rep' or get one in your congregation, contact Gretchen Booz '55, **GO GU! Alumni Coordinator**, at 816.729.0379 or [gbooz3@comcast.net](mailto:gbooz3@comcast.net), or Greg Sutherland at 641.784.5470 or [Greg.Sutherland@graceland.edu](mailto:Greg.Sutherland@graceland.edu).

Cal and Joe are going to make these alumni recruitment efforts happen. You only have to meet them and shake their hands to know how much they love Graceland. They know Wade Wallace is right: **"The future benefit to Graceland could be profound."**

So help Cal and Joe connect with future GU students. They will arrange personal letters, calls or visits from Graceland faculty or staff, Community of Christ personnel, Alumni Board members, and even graduates with successful careers that might interest a future student.

And remember one last thing. According to Kirk Bjorland, "One of the greatest gifts you can give Graceland is the gift of a student." ■



Joe Booz and Cal Closson



# "O Graceland, we're all for you."

*"What do you say we make a quick stop at Graceland?  
I'd love to show you around campus."*

Wanda Bingaman '49 Andersen

By Joe Booz '86

The simple invitation noted above set in motion an important turn of events for the late Gerry Berg '52 Lysinger in the summer of 1950. At that time she was working and living in Des Moines with no plan whatsoever to attend Graceland or any other college for that matter.

"I just remember that Gerry and I decided to spend the weekend in Kansas City; just us two girls," Wanda Bingaman '49 Andersen recalled recently. "I thought it would be nice to show my friend around campus on our way back home to Des Moines."



Wanda Bingaman

And so on that Sunday afternoon more than 60 years ago, Wanda, then a recent Graceland graduate, took a brief bypass off Highway 69, pulled onto cam-

pus and gave Gerry a short tour.

"I don't know what happened during that impromptu visit to Graceland, but I'll never forget seeing Gerry bursting through the front door of our parents' home that evening," remarked Gerry's sister, Gretchen Berg '55 Booz. "She was absolutely bubbling, going on and on about Graceland."

In short order, Gerry applied to Graceland and was accepted. She resigned from her job and enrolled in the fall of 1950.

"Yes, it's fair to say she jumped in with both feet," commented Gerry's brother, Ken Berg '60. "Her devotion to Graceland was really something special. No doubt she set the bar pretty high for the rest of us."

Gerry graduated from Graceland in 1952 with honors, but her impact on "the Hill" was only just beginning.

"Gerry was such a proponent of Graceland. She was

most certainly the reason I went to Graceland, and I know the same is true for my brother and a number of our cousins," added Gretchen, who went on to serve a 12-year term on the GU Board of Trustees.

In fact, 32 of Gerry's direct descendants, including all four of her children, are either Graceland alumni or current students. Gerry passed away in 2006 but her legacy lives on at GU. Next year, four of her grandchildren will be on campus plus four great-nephews and one great-niece. In addition, one of Gerry's nephews is a member of Graceland's Board of Trustees and the Alumni Board of Directors features a nephew, niece and daughter-in-law.

"I had no idea that brief stop at Graceland in 1950 made such an impression on Gerry," noted Wanda, "but I sure am glad I acted on my impulse to show her around campus."

## Graceland Forever, revisited...

The last line of our school song, *Graceland Forever*, cited on the previous page, ends with, "O Graceland, we're all for you." In 1950, Wanda Andersen, with a simple, thoughtful gesture, "...carried Graceland to others" by merely inviting a friend to see the campus. The simple, thoughtful gestures we make today can transform the lives of the young people of our generation. And as we can see from the story of Wanda and Gerry, the transformations go on and on.■



Gerry Lysinger

# O Graceland, we're all for you!





# Commencement

2012

By Melissa Shephard, Campus Writer

When the Graceland Class of 2012 first arrived on our Lamoni campus, it was a very different place.

The Shaw Center had no state-of-the-art black box theatre and acoustically perfect recital hall. Platz-Mortimore didn't have ultra-modern laboratories and equipment. The old, worn-out housing 'Units' on campus were past the point of obsolete. The Coliseum theatre didn't have SoundFold curtains and ultra-modern projection equipment. Cheville Chapel wasn't remodeled with a kitchenette and closed-in prayer room. And, the grassy area between Tess Morgan and the Higdon Administration Building was, well...grass.

Four years later, the Class of 2012 has seen tremendous transformation. They've watched the \$14 million Shaw Center take shape, taken classes in the new Resch Science and Technology Hall, and been amongst the first to live in the brand new Small and Thomas Apartments. They've watched movies like *Titanic* in 3D at the Coliseum, worshipped in a warm and welcoming Cheville Chapel, and eagerly watched as ground was broken and construction began on the Fitzgerald Fitness Center.

Candle Lighting Ceremony



Morgan Bradford, recipient of the 2011-2012 Student Life Award

So, when the Class of 2012 walked across the stage of the Eugene E. and Julia Travis Closson Athletic Center May 20<sup>th</sup>, the graduates took a large piece of Graceland history with them.

The events began Friday night on Graceland's Independence campus with the annual Nursing Recognition Ceremony in the Community of Christ Temple Sanctuary. After this traditional event, focus shifted to Lamoni for Baccalaureate, which was held in the Community of Christ Church due to Shaw Center construction. At the ceremony, Morgan Bradford received the 2011-2012 Student Life award for her many contributions to Residence Life, Campus Ministries, the Honors Program and the Athletic Training program. Bradford humbly received the honor from Graceland Dean of Students Marian Killpack.

The action returned to campus for the President's Reception and the annual Candle Lighting Ceremony Saturday night.

Nurses Recognition Ceremony







David and Betty Nipper

The following Sunday morning was balmy and pleasant as hundreds of students and their loyal supporters strolled into the Closson Center. The 115th Annual Commencement ceremony began with a welcome from University President John Sellars, who noted the diversity of the 2012 class. Graduates hailed from 15 countries and 40 states. Master's degrees were conferred on 295 students and 376 students earned baccalaureate degrees in 39 majors. Twenty-two students earned both Masters and Baccalaureate degrees.

President Sellars then assisted to confer three Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degrees to David and

Betty Nipper and Dr. Harry J. Ashenhurst '70. The president spoke of the Nippers' hard work, great generosity to Graceland and their hard-earned professional success.

"David and Betty are effective role models for the students and the broader Graceland community. They share their time, talents and treasure to make the world a better place," said Sellars.

Sellars also spoke of Ashenhurst's vast professional successes and his extensive humanitarian efforts through his work as chair of the Outreach International Board.

Dr. Ashenhurst then addressed the Class of 2012, encouraging them to find their inner voices and to follow their passions. Ashenhurst told students of two scenarios, one while he was working as a senior-executive of a multi-billion dollar corporation, the other while working with Outreach International in impoverished Zambian villages. In both situations, Ashenhurst examined the struggle for people to find their voice and to become who they are capable of being. He concluded by telling graduates to travel well, leaving



Dr. Harry J. Ashenhurst

**"Seek the voice that is uniquely yours..."**

Dr. Harry J. Ashenhurst





## Commencement 2012

them with one final piece of advice: "Seek the voice that is uniquely yours and then let it speak for you, in good times and in bad, every day of your life. Use your voice with authenticity, with courage, and with heart. You have exciting and challenging times ahead of you."

After Ashenhurst's encouraging remarks, Alumni Board of Directors President Karla Fennick presented Cristina S. Karmas, Associate Professor of English, with the Alumni Board's Excellence in Teaching Award, the prestigious annual award for faculty. Karmas holds Masters Degrees in both English and Philosophy. During her time at Graceland, she has taught everything from French to Newswriting to Greek to Modern Rhetoric. One of Karmas' students, Abby Sala '12, had praised her as both professor and person, writing, "Her way of teaching and her character are something inspirational and motivational. I was very happy I could take many classes with her. She made me feel like anything was possible."

Next, Dr. Parris Watts, Dean of Faculty, conferred Professor Emeriti Status to long-time Graceland faculty members Patricia K. Trachsel '64 and Stephen K. Murdock '69. Trachsel began working for Graceland in 1992 and has been a respected administrator and passionate proponent of Graceland's School of Nursing. Murdock began working for Graceland in 1984, with over 25 years of service to the university. Watt's noted, "It is estimated that Dr. Murdock has taught over 5,000 students at this university and each and every one of them was important to him."

After watching their professors honored, an eager group of graduates finally got their chance to walk across the stage. A total of 649 students graduated this year. Proud family members and treasured friends cheered, whistled and hooted in celebration of their loved ones' accomplishments. These are the very best moments in the annual life of any university.

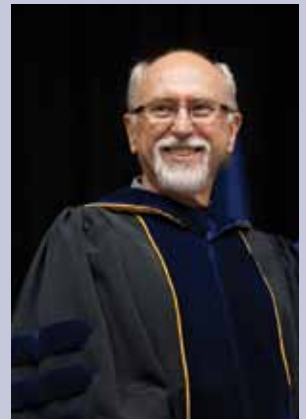
After a benediction by Graceland Student Government President Ryan Pitt, excited graduates flocked to the stairs outside of Closson to snap pictures with friends, toss caps into the air, and say emotional good-byes to friends and professors. We wish these Graceland graduates well and hope they continue to carry their special piece of Graceland history with them, wherever they go. ■



Cristina Karmas and Karla Fennick



Patricia Trachsel



Stephen Murdock



Gold Seal recipients







## A Year of Monumental Success for Graceland's ACM Club

By Melissa Shephard, Campus Writer

**W**ith a quiet computer lab, tucked inside the Resch Science and Technology Hall, Graceland's Computer Science and Information Technology program doesn't get a lot of press. Consequently, neither does the Graceland branch of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM). Yet, the 2011-2012 academic year has proven that these students are some of the biggest movers and shakers on the Lamoni campus. And now, they're pushing to make their voices heard.

The club broke a number of its own records this year. Members attended more computing conferences and brought in more guest speakers than ever before. The club also registered its largest number of new student members in the international ACM professional society and hosted their first-ever guest team, Simpson College, at their Saturday practice programming contest.

Computer Science Professor Jim Jones, Director of the Ackerley Computer Science and Technology Scholars Program, attributes much of the program's success to the Ackerley Program. Jones says that the program's scholarships have drawn in quality students. These students stay involved with ACM as part of their scholarship. The Ackerley Program also provides money to keep technology up to date, bring in guest speakers, and send the club to conferences.

"Involvement this year was unprecedented. Members and professors had an awesome drive to have great activities and great meetings," said ACM President Alex Cash '12. "As someone who is tasked with planning, I couldn't have hoped for anything better. Every night we found ourselves fighting not to go late, and we ended the year with plenty of things left to do!"

ACM utilized these funds this year, competing in a variety of specialized conferences. In March, the club attended the local ACM conference at the University of Iowa, as well as the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges-Central Plains (CCSC-CP) at Ozark Tech in Springfield, MO.

The most prominent computing conference the team attended was the Midwest Instruction and Computing Sym-

posium (MICS) at the University of Northern Iowa. Twenty one ACM students made the trip, the largest group the club has ever taken to the conference. Three GU teams competed in the MICS computing competition, requiring students to solve seven programming problems in a three-hour-long period. Teams were primarily scored by how many problems they solved correctly, and secondarily by how quickly they were able to solve the problems. All three Graceland teams were able to solve five of the seven problems, which tied them for first; after speed rankings, Graceland's top team came in an impressive 9<sup>th</sup> place overall.

Jones was pleased with the club's performance, noting that the team doesn't only have talented seniors, but a depth of youth talent as well. "We had so many years where students wouldn't want to go to these conferences because they couldn't solve any of the problems. They'd come back so frustrated that they couldn't get the first problem right. So now, to reach a point where all three teams can solve five problems, that just floored me," said Jones.

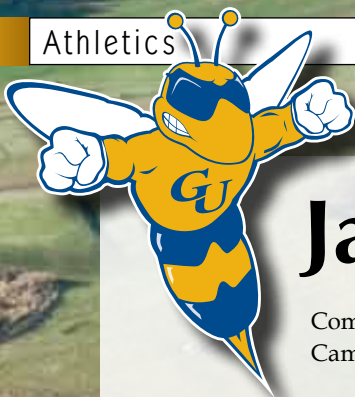
Cash and ACM Vice President Brian Anders '13 also competed in the robotics contest at MICS, later showing their robot off during GU's annual Scholars' Showcase.

With new records, experiences computing around the Midwest and a strong presence on campus, ACM is becoming an organization that's hard to ignore. On top of their club success, ACM members are finding professional success as well. Cash and ACM-W, a subgroup of ACM dedicated to women, President Julia Wilkerson were recently featured in GU's 'Project Success', a web page feature devoted to student success. Cash was featured for successful launch of iPredict, an iPhone application, while Wilkerson was celebrated for nabbing a job with Microsoft.

"I'm hearing about students who are going out and making salaries well beyond the ones we make as full professors, and I think that's terrific. I'm excited about it, it means we're doing good things. That's what I want to see. I want to see them come back and be donors to Graceland. Computer Science is really a program we should continue to nurture," said Jones. ■

From left:  
Prof. Jim Jones,  
David Walters,  
Brian Anders,  
Julia Wilkerson,  
Alex Cash,  
Austin Webberley,  
Sam McFarlin,  
Suchit Malla,  
Andrew Fryer,  
Max Hampton,  
Young Park,  
Nail Yusupov,  
Zhenya Liu and  
Prof. Kevin Brunner.





# Jackets Post a Record-Breaking

Compiled by Melissa Shephard  
Campus Writer

From the Men's Volleyball team making it to Nationals, to Florida Siao's All-American year in both Track & Field and Basketball, the Jackets had a truly outstanding spring sports season. Cheering on the successes of first-year Tennis Head Coach Monroe Walker and marveling at the leadership of the women's basketball coaching trio (the 'old geezers'), this spring reminded us once again why it's great to be a Yellowjacket fan.

## Men's Volleyball Makes it to Nationals

The history books for the Graceland Men's Volleyball Program are a few chapters longer after this year's record-breaking season. The Jackets came alive in the post-season, squeaking out a tough series of late games, eventually toppling Missouri Baptist to capture their first-ever MAMVIC West tournament championship. The championship gave the Jackets an automatic bid to the 2012 NAIA National Invitational Tournament.

Though the team fell in the National tournament, the Jackets ended the season on a high note, two wins better than last year, and with a lengthy list of accomplishments. Junior Anthony Robinson was awarded the MAMVIC West Co-Player of the Year award (shared with a Park University student) and postseason honors were also handed to Alex Bogda (2nd Team), Phil Beckman (Honorable Mention) and Kajetan Borecki (Honorable Mention).

"This is the best team I've coached in eight years. I saw this team mature and grow into a confident, cham-



pionship-contending team this season," said Head Coach Chad McDole.

He added, "It was a great reward for us to get here and now we know what to expect for the future. We appreciate all the support from the Graceland community. It is extremely humbling."

## Men's Tennis Makes 7<sup>th</sup> Consecutive National Tourney

First-year Graceland Head Coach Monroe Walker III and a revamped men's tennis team qualified for the NAIA National Tournament in Mobile, Alabama this spring after winning a title from the HAAC/MCC/AMC conference. This year's squad was ripe with new talent. No players had participated in last year's national tournament.



The team was the No. 24 seed going into the tournament and fell in the first round to No. 9 William Carey University. Though the team headed home early from the competition, the season was still a success, with a 9-6 regular season record, including a 3-1 conference mark. The season stands as a strong testament to the strength of the Graceland tennis program. Walker praised GU Hall of Famer, and his predecessor, the retired Coach Jerry Hampton. "Because of Coach Hampton, Yellowjacket tennis has been at the pinnacle of the NAIA for a long time. We want to continue this great tradition."

## Baseball Makes First Post-Season Appearance Since '05

The Men's Baseball team ended their season on a high note, making their first post-season appearance in seven years. The team was knocked out of tournament play by the #1 HAAC West seed, Evangel University, finishing their season at 22-27. GU finished the HAAC East Conference in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a 13-13 record. After the season's conclusion, outfielder Alex Pean '13 was named First Team All-Conference, and five other players earned All-HAAC nominations. The team looks strong for next year, losing only three seniors.





# Season of Spring Sports



## Men's Basketball Team Hit 20-Win Plateau

The Men's Basketball program has shown strong improvement this year, posting a season of 20-11 and winning the team's first HAAC tournament game since 2004-2005. The Jackets finished 11-7 in Conference play, falling to Mid-America Nazarene in the Conference semi-finals. Brad Burgus '12 had a standout year, named to the All-HAAC Conference 1<sup>st</sup>-Team and receiving an honorable mention to the NAIA All-American teams.

## Softball Names New Head Coach Bryn Braddock

Bryn Braddock has been named the new Softball Head Coach after serving for two years as an assistant to Coach Jeff Douglas. Douglas, previously coached both Softball and Football, and will now focus his attention to Football only. Braddock, who has spent time coaching at Lamoni High School, will be assisted by Women's Basketball Assistant Coach Bill Dudek, a Graceland Hall of Famer and former Softball Head Coach. The Softball team is coming off a 22-20 season, finishing third in the HAAC East Conference with a 12-6 record. The team earned nine All-HAAC nominations, including first baseman Staci Ritchey '12 who was named First Team All-Conference.



Bryn Braddock

## Siaosi is All-American at Track & Field Nationals

Florida Siaosi '12 was ranked No. 21 in the shot put going into the Track & Field National competition in Indiana. Siaosi overcame the odds to make the final round of competition, which included only the top nine shot putters in the nation. From there, she went on to finish 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation, giving her All-American status. Siaosi



Florida Siaosi

also competed at Nationals in the discus, but failed to make finals. Other National competitors for the Jackets included three-time HAAC Champion Alex Stewart '12 in the javelin and standout distance runner Yonas Mebrahtu in the 5,000 and 10,000.

## Rodriguez, Fontecha Recognized for Women's Tennis

The Women's Tennis team had a hard-fought season this year, falling in the semi-finals round of the HAAC Conference Tournament. After toppling Ashford in a 5-4 nail biter, the team fell in a struggle against Evangel. The team's top ranked players, Katherine Rodriguez '15 and Tatiana Varela Fontecha '13, were awarded First Team All-Conference Honors at the season's conclusion.



Katherine Rodriguez

## Women's Basketball Program Steadily Improving

This year, the Women's Basketball team finished above .500 for the first time since 2002-2003 with a record of 14-13. The team qualified for the HAAC Conference Championships, falling 70-79 to Mid-America Nazarene University. The team's season included multiple wins over Nationals' qualifiers and consistently outstanding performances from Florida Siaosi '12, who was awarded HAAC Player of the Year and nabbed All-American status, being named to the NAIA All American Third Team. The Coaching trio from Graceland's Class of '65, Rich Harrop, Bill Dudek, and Dan Hanton will return to coach next year's team. ■



Varela Fontecha





## 30's

**Edmund Gleazer '36 and Charlene Allen '38** Gleazer have moved from Bethesda, Maryland, to San Francisco where they remain in good health and are closer to family. Gleazer served as President of Graceland College from 1946 to 1957.

## 60's

**Rich Harrop '65** has been inducted into the District 11 (Ohio) Coaches Hall of Fame. He coached the Watkins Memorial High School basketball team for 13 years before returning to Graceland for a faculty and coaching position. In 25 years of high school coaching, Harrop achieved a record of 309-169. Harrop is still coaching women's basketball at Graceland.

**Ron Barker '69** made a hole-in-one (go Ron) from 200 feet out on a disc golf course in Boise, Idaho.

**Michael Reams, D.O. '69** recently made a hole-in-one (congratulations Michael), has run several 13-mile races and he competed in the Chicago Marathon.

## 70's

**Anita Freeze '74 Griffith** teaches piano and voice privately in the Great Faith Academy of the Arts in Littleton, North Carolina. She has been recognized as a Kansas Master Teacher and was honored as an Outstanding Educator by Kansas Secretary of Education William Bennett at a White House ceremony.

## 80's

**Thomas Hiles '81** has been named Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Relations at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

**Shelly Lennon '82 Cooper**, Associate Professor of Music, University of Arizona, is one of

three faculty members selected to receive the first-ever 1885 Distinguished Scholar Awards for her leading efforts in understanding how music enhances the cognitive development of elementary students. The honor was accompanied by a \$10,000 award for the continuation of her work.

**Kent Allshouse '84** has been named assistant football coach and offensive coordinator at Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.

## 00's

**Carl A. Hoyt, Jr. '03** is President and General Manager of Grace Marine, a boating sales corporation along the Mississippi River in Bettendorf, Iowa.

**Kathryn McLaughlin '03 Hoyt**, Research Program Manager at the Palmer College of Chiropractic, has earned a Master of Organizational Leadership from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa.

# Rojjanasrirat and Bartholomew Named to Fulbright Program

This spring two Graceland faculty members were accepted to the esteemed Fulbright Scholars Roster of Specialists. Associate Professor Diane Bartholomew, Chair of the Division of Health and Movement Science, and Wilaiporn Rojjanasrirat, Associate Professor of Nursing and Director of Research and Scholarship, made Graceland proud by joining an elite group of educators who are chosen to work with Fulbright programs.



**Wilaiporn Rojjanasrirat**

In late May, Rojjanasrirat secured a position with Naresuan University in northern Thailand, where she is currently teaching. Naresuan is a government-sponsored institution, located in Phitsanulok province. Naresuan collaborates with a number of international partners, including France, China, India, and New Zealand. Rojjanasrirat will be returning from her Fulbright trip in mid-July. She is no stranger to Thailand; she received her BSN there at Sappasitiprasong Nursing College. She later came to the United States, receiving a Masters in Education and a Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of Kansas. Rojjanasrirat began her career teaching at Graceland in 2009.

Bartholomew is awaiting a match for her outstanding skillset with a university from around the world. Bartholomew is another one of Graceland's celebrated faculty. She has received the American Association of University Women-Iowa (AAUW-Iowa) Distinguished Faculty Award for her leadership and service at

Graceland. Serving as a division chair, Diane has proved to be an essential member of the Graceland faculty, serving on a number of committees, including work last year with The Fitz Center planning committee.

The Fulbright Program is a prestigious and rare opportunity for college educators. Through Fulbright, professors participate in an international educational exchange program, sponsored by the U.S. government. Professors travel to foreign countries to study, teach, research and collaborate with other professionals. The general goal of the program is to increase mutual understanding between participating countries.

The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP) awards competitive grants to these professionals, allowing them to engage in short-term projects in over 100 countries. These terms, lasting anywhere from two to six weeks, are filled with everything from conferences and workshops to lecturing and conducting seminars. These activities seek to meet the host institution's needs and strengthen their organization.

Fulbright recipients are selected for their academic merit and leadership skills. These professionals join the Roster of Specialists, where they are reviewed by peers in similar fields. They remain on the Roster for a five-year term. Gracelanders applaud these outstanding women for their accomplishments and their contributions, not just to the university, but to higher education around the world. ■



**Diane Bartholomew**



**Mark Wagenaar '03** has won the 2012 Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry for his new book, *Voodoo Inverso*, recently published by the University of Wisconsin Press.

**Daniel Burns '09** has been named head high school football coach in the Scotland County R-1 School District, Memphis, Missouri.

## Weddings

**Tony Tovar '93** and **Yun Yang**, November 12, 2011.

## Anniversaries

(Those celebrating 50 years or more of matrimony.)

**Glenn '51 and Bette White '51 Barnes** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on September 8, 2011.

**Jim '51 and Romayne Stoker** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 31, 2012.

**C. Richard '60 and Patricia "Mickey" McLeod '58 Simmons** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 17, 2012.

## Births

**Matt '03** and **Samantha Miller**, Newtown, MO, Payton Allen, July 21, 2006, Hunter Chase, June 15, 2007, Remington Grace, July 21, 2009 and Lexington Bell, December 14, 2011.

Steven and **Jennifer Kuonen '03 Grace**, Diagonal, IA, Rylee, June 21, 2007 and Avery, October 1, 2010.

**Kendra Hayashi '04 Jitchaku**, Hilo, HI, Jonah, February 27, 2008.

**Rob Lion '00**, Negunee, MI, Ian J., August 15, 2007 and Leland R., February 5, 2010.

**June Swisher '94 Murphy**, Cedar Rapids, IA, Kyra Kauder, July 8, 2008 and Kiley Kauder, February 10, 2010.

**Rachel Arndorfer '06 Graham**, Corydon, IA, Alea, February 25, 2010 and Nathan, September 13, 2011.

**J. Garth '02** and **Jenna Silvey '06 Rasmussen**, Corona, CA, Kaya Rae, June 27, 2011.

**Joel Shenefield '98**, Iowa City, IA, Addison Grace, June 29, 2011.



## SIFE Finishes in Top Eight at Nationals

The Graceland SIFE team chalked up another successful season this year, winning the SIFE Regionals Competition April 16<sup>th</sup> in Chicago, and qualifying for Nationals for the 12<sup>th</sup> time in the last 13 years. The team went on to make waves at Nationals in Kansas City May 22<sup>nd</sup>, winning top honors in preliminary round competition. Graceland SIFE's year ended in the semi-finals when they finished 1<sup>st</sup> runner up in their division to Valdosta State University.

While the team was disappointed they won't be attending the SIFE World Cup this fall in Washington, D.C., their semi-finals finish was impressive. Of 156 teams from across the country, Graceland finished in an elite top eight, with an extremely successful year of providing entrepreneurial assistance to people and businesses both in the Lamoni community and around the world.

"I am so very proud of this team," said SIFE Director Justin Akers. "They have worked so hard, and they represented Graceland in an exemplary way. What great students we have at GU!"

This year's SIFE projects included working in Zambia in partnership with HealthEd Connect, helping to generate revenue for area schools. Students also worked in the Philippines with Outreach International, helping local growers generate revenue during "lean months," a four-month period when rice cannot be harvested.

Locally, SIFE helped a number of businesses by organizing a Lamoni Winter Farmer's Market. SIFE also worked individually with local businesses, helping hometown restaurant, Pizza Shack, increase profits, and helping La Cocina Real, a local, authentic Mexican restaurant get started.

During the Nationals competition, the presentation team shared these success stories with the judging panel. Though this year's Graceland SIFE season is over, Akers notes that many of these projects are young, as is the team, and will continue generating success for the coming year.

"This is just the beginning for this great team," said Akers. "Like in previous years, we now continue to build upon our success." ■



**Ayman Husain '94** and Tanima Quazi, Medford, MA, Adam Rayhan, August 1, 2011.

**Tara Menzies '96**, Liberty, MO, Iain Menzies, October 21, 2011.

Josh and **Charlotte Beck '98 Baedke**, Virginia Beach, VA, Piper Kennedy, November 9, 2011.

Kendall and **Pohai Kealoha Kaho'onei '03 Kelson**, Mountain View, HI, Hilina'iakealoha Kalikoakauakanilehuaakamahinapoepoemai ku'upoli Ella-Marie, November 9, 2011.

**Brance '04** and Nicole **Boswell**, St. Louis, MO, Bentley Christopher, November 22, 2011.

**Drew '99** and **Shawna Hitchcock '99 Testerman**, Blue Springs, MO, Landon Morris, December 16, 2011.

**Brendan '02** and **Alexa Dixon '05 Cary**, Camden Point, MO, Sarah Elizabeth, January 12, 2012.

**Elizabeth Angell '99 Bowerman**, Grain Valley, MO, Catherine Elizabeth, February 4, 2012.

**Keith '02** and **Sarah Pauli '01 Johnson**, Summerville, SC, Scarlett Joan, February 24, 2012.

**Matthew '08** and **Rebecca Cain '08 Mogg**, Aurora, CO, Jake Holden, February 24, 2012.

Daniel and **Jennifer Everett '06 Doerfler**, Lamoni, IA, Andrew John, April 14, 2012.

**Dylan '05** and **Andrea Pauli**, Diagonal, IA, Aiden Matthew, April 21, 2012.

## In Memoriam

**Connie J. Spinks '79**, Galesburg, IL, July 7, 2002.

**Alice Zion '44 Buckley**, San Mateo, CA, May 15, 2004.

**Ernest A. Campbell '51**, Blue Springs, MO, November 5, 2004.

**Robert G. Eaton '52**, Sonora, CA, December 31, 2006.

**Calvin M. Carpenter '52**, Walnut Creek, CA, October 30, 2007.

**Dennis L. Argotsinger '71**, Macon, MO, November 1, 2008.

**Paul E. Mader, Jr. '64**, Mobile, AL, March 18, 2009.

**Roberta E. Gilpatrick '85**, Blythedale, MO, October 27, 2009.

**Duane R. Mann '64**, Dunlap, IA, January 1, 2010.

**Lyman R. Sherman '62**, Angleton, TX, July 25, 2010.

**Francisco R. Carrasquillo '71**, Melbourne, FL, September 9, 2010.

**Herbert D. Floyd '38**, Orland Park, IL, September 9, 2010.

**Doreen Trudell '49 Voltman**, Sheffield, MA, October 19, 2010.

**Laurel Coats '43 Peterman**, Sarasota, FL, December 31, 2010.

**Leroy O. Trammel '52**, Lamoni, IA, March 1, 2011.

**William G. Kemmish '50**, Glendale, AZ, June 9, 2011.

**Ronald E. Lentell '48**, Independence, MO, July 15th, 2011.

**Rex A. Stowe '51**, Elm Grove, WI, July 20, 2011.

**Billie Wise '49 Chaney**, Zionsville, IN, August 2, 2011.

**Patricia Moore '70 Bradshaw**, Aurora, CO, August 16, 2011.

**Floyd L. Dobson '52**, Spokane, WA, September 14, 2011.

**Barry L. Boren '62**, Independence, MO, November 1, 2011.

**E. Berneice Anderson '53 Clark**, Independence, MO, November 15, 2011.

**Zada Pement '55 Grider**, Independence, MO, November 15, 2011.

**Stephen E. Coffman '72**, Galesburg, IL, November 16, 2011.

**Myrna Hughes '46 Johnson**, Stanton, IA, November 20, 2011.

**K. Anne Barritt '53 Fox**, Lee's Summit, MO, December 10, 2011.

Fulton Wilhelm, Independence, MO, December 12, 2011.

**Tane Rose Wailehua '85 Mosher**, Kaneohe, HI, December 17, 2011.

**Thomas W. Thatcher, Jr. '40**, Shawano, WI, December 20, 2011.

**Richard N. Baber '52**, Council Bluffs, IA, December 21, 2011.

**P. Bernice Stafford '38 Scott**, Independence, MO, January 8, 2012.

**David A. Howard '70**, Lakewood, OH, January 12, 2012.

**Grace Starnier '68 Ebeling**, Independence, MO, January 21, 2012.

Louise Whittington, Springfield, MO, February 5, 2012.

## project Success

Graceland students continue to land prestigious internships, gain acceptance into competitive graduate programs and find personal and professional success. Project Success is a celebration of these individuals and the role that Graceland plays in their lives.

### Trent Ranney, '12

A year ago, Trent Ranney says that the only thing he knew about paint was "how to spell it." But while traveling to Nationals with the Graceland Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team, Trent handed out his resume to the franchise College Pro Painters. And a few weeks later, he had a lot to learn about paint.

To read more about Trent and other Project Success students, visit us online at [www.graceland.edu/ProjectSuccess](http://www.graceland.edu/ProjectSuccess)





**Raymond A. Miles '52**, Coeur d' Alene, ID,  
February 7, 2012.

**Joyce Kaestner '47** Lee, Spokane, WA,  
February 10, 2012.

**Mary Ann Poplett '56** Lindquist,  
Chatsworth, IL, February 16, 2012.

**Alfred E. Spriester '49**, Deerfield, IL,  
February 19, 2012.

**Lois Jones '50** Yates, Bettendorf, IA,  
February 24, 2012.

**Bernice Shepard '36** St. Clair, Eugene, OR,  
March 2, 2012.

**Edith Day '48** Pine, Warrensburg, MO,  
March 4, 2012.

**M. Iola Tordoff '47**, Independence, MO,  
March 9, 2012.

**Louis M. Robson '41**, Massillon, OH,  
March 10, 2012.

**John L. Glandon '75**, Independence, MO,  
March 22, 2012.

**Annette Baker '48** Christensen,  
Salt Lake City, UT, March 28, 2012.

**Dale M. Halferty '99**, Lamoni, IA,  
March 28, 2012.

**Richard K. Swayne '66**, Sequim, WA,  
March 29, 2012.

**Don Carlos Smith '48**, Sun City, AZ,  
April 11, 2012.

**Bonny Hentz '57** Peterson, Mukilteo, WA,  
April 16, 2012.

Fred M. Springer, Santa Fe, NM,  
April 18, 2012.

**Robert P. 'Bob' Bruch '52**,  
Independence, MO, April 25, 2012.

**Barry T. Murphey '57**, Glen Carbon, IL,  
April 26, 2012.

**Mildred Ensley '39** Laudie, Iowa City, IA,  
May 19, 2012.

**James M. Stauts '61**, Kansas City, MO,  
May 22, 2012.

**Theo E. Boyd '55**, Independence, MO,  
June 4, 2012.

**Richard H. Worden '63**, Fort Gratiot, MI,  
June 9, 2012.

## Fawad Khan uses Lamoni Inspirations back Home in Pakistan

By Melissa Shephard  
Campus Writer

The first time Fawad Khan heard the name 'Iowa' was when he received his Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (UGRAD) placement. Hailing from Batgram, Pakistan, names like Graceland University and Lamoni were foreign terms. As he prepared for his spring 2011 semester at GU, he envisioned Lamoni as something from a California TV show: towering buildings, roller coasters and endless, sandy beaches.

Needless to say, when Graceland Director of International Programs Diana Jones showed Fawad the rolling Midwestern plains and the small town of Lamoni, he was surprised. After the early shock, he recovered and settled in to the Graceland lifestyle.

"The culture of Graceland is so friendly and they provide you opportunities to explore your talents," said Fawad.

Fawad spent the semester studying everything from international marketing to golf. He was an active member of the International Club, GUBU (a relatively new Graceland club dedicated to spending time with new, diverse people), the Muslim Student Association, and became President of the Cricket Club. While Fawad fondly remembers watching movies at the Coliseum and meeting other international students, perhaps his most impactful memories are of the community service hours he spent in Lamoni working at the Alley Kids Center. Fawad participated in an afterschool program where he interacted with elementary and middle school students, learning American games and teaching children games from Pakistan. He said the experience taught him that places like the Alley (downtown Lamoni) can be an important resource for students.

"I learned how you can work for the betterment of your society and that a good individual's little contribution can make a big difference," he said.

His lessons and experiences at the Alley inspired him to co-found a similar institution, the Innovative Youth Forum (IYF), upon his return to Pakistan. IYF is a service-based organization where youth come together to benefit their community. Fawad emphasizes that IYF has "no boundaries" and he hopes to one day make IYF an internationally-recognized program. Despite limited resources, IYF has put on a number of service projects, from supplying bombing victims with artificial limbs to promoting good hygiene, to general community development projects.

Fawad and his colleagues are working to expand IYF and he said the organization's growth is impressive. "It gives me immense pleasure working for the community and I get self-satisfaction from working with people in need." For more information about IYF, you can visit their website at [www.innovativeyouthforum.org](http://www.innovativeyouthforum.org). ■





# Graceland

## GADETS: A RICH



The first Graceland Gadets team: 1959-60.

By Melissa Shephard, Campus Writer

The Gadets dance team has a long history at Graceland. Not becoming a varsity sport until 2009, the team's success was often heavily dependent upon the team's captain(s). Students were challenged to make time for choreography, practice and academics in their hectic schedules.

Yet, despite adversity the Gadets have continued as an organization for over 50 years. And now, since transitioning to a Varsity sport, the Gadets have excelled. With the support of an experienced coach, the promise of an ideal practice facility in the new Shaw Center and a growing team of quality dancers, the coming years promise to be a great time to be a Gadet.

### Present: Katie Persall Leads Gadets to Prominence



Katie Persall

Since becoming a varsity sport, the team has grown to 14 members offering both a JV and a varsity squad, and rather than being completely student-run, they now have the expe-

rience of Dance Coach Katie Everett '80 Persall leading them. When Stephanie Williams '12 joined the Gadets in 2009, the team wasn't considered a varsity sport. The team had seven active members and they were rewarded only with applause for their talent and time. Three years later, a lot has changed.

"Early on, it was a struggle, but we began to climb and we haven't looked back. I can tell that next year

is going to be bigger and greater," said Williams, who now serves as Gadet Lieutenant.

rience of Dance Coach Katie Everett '80 Persall leading them.

While a student at Graceland, Persall herself was a Gadet. After graduating she taught physical education in Texas for 29 years, eight of which she spent coaching her high school's dance team. Now, with Katie at the helm, the Gadets have established a strong presence, both on Graceland's Lamoni campus and in the region. Like always, the Gadets have performed at football and basketball games, but they've also extended their reach, performing at soccer games and even a cross-country meet. The team is active outside the athletic realm as well, performing at campus events like COSA's annual talent show and helping with occasional fine arts events. The team put on a great show with Lamoni's Living Arts Studio. They have received requests for performances from area communities like Mt. Ayr.

The Gadets also compete in contests.

They recently attended the HAAC Cheer and Dance Championship and captured second place in the Open Dance Division. Kailia Leopard '13 competed as 'Sting' in the mascot competition, finishing in first place. Both performances can be viewed on the Graceland athletics website, [www.gujackets.com](http://www.gujackets.com).

The Gadets also competed in the Iowa State Dance Competition – the largest state association dance team competition in the nation. Though the HAAC competition allowed the Gadets to compete against conference rivals, the Iowa State competition gave them exposure to a wider range of competitors. They competed in the Jazz Dance category and received a Division I rating, the highest rating possible, placing them in the top five of their category. Though the team failed to clinch a top-three trophy, their jazz routine, choreographed to the song "Ruby Blue," proved that the team has become a competitor of note.

"We were very happy with our finish. It was our goal to get the Division I rating. For this team, without a ton of experience competing at dance contests and never competing in the Iowa State competition before, to get a Division 1 ranking was great," Katie said.

And while the Iowa State competition gave the women vital exposure to a wider dance world, it also gave them exposure to someone in particular that they weren't expecting to meet: Melba Harrison '62 Murken.

While walking around the competition area, Katie had strangers stop her and say, 'You must meet Melba, she's the woman who founded the Gadets and she's here.' Though Katie suspected these strangers may have the wrong dance team, she quickly realized that the Gadets founder was indeed in attendance.



# HISTORY AND A PROMISING FUTURE

## Past: The Gadets 1958 All-or-Nothing Try Out

Melba Murken came to Graceland College in 1958, mainly to please her grandparents. However, within her first hour in Lamoni, she says you couldn't drag her away from Graceland. "I knew I was in the right place. It was a great four years," said Melba. She was hooked. And 54 years later, the Gadets are a team because of Melba's actions her freshman year at Graceland.

Up until 1958, dancing was strictly forbidden on Graceland's campus. But then something happened that changed those strict regulations – a four-year degree program in Physical Education. Because PE teachers needed to teach folk dance, a small amount of dancing had to be permitted. And that's what opened the door for Melba.

Growing up in West Des Moines, Melba had a background in dance, performing with the Valley High School Drill Team for four years. After serving as the team's choreographer, she said dancing had become something that was "in my blood."

It was that passion that prompted her to go to Graceland's esteemed coach, Associate Professor Richard A. Carter, pitching the idea of a Graceland Dance Team. While the coach's initial response was 'no', Melba returned with more details about the potential team and Carter agreed to give the team a try out. They would be allowed to perform during halftime of the first football game. He would decide then whether the team was appropriate for Graceland or not.

With a glimmer of hope, Melba traveled to Kansas City to purchase 16 wool pleated skirts, white blouses, and gold satin. Melba and her potential teammates set to work sewing double-G insignias on the blouses (for Graceland Gadets) and making satin cummerbunds.

Their try out was performed to "West Point March" which was piped over the PA system.

"We didn't do any type of leaping or thrusting or anything like that. Dancing hadn't been allowed, but I got as much of a little dance in as I possibly could. We did a lot of pinwheels and passing through each other and drill routines, different combinations. It was fun," said Melba.

After the performance, the women received a standing ovation. Monday morning, Melba stopped by Carter's office to hear these three words: "You may continue."

And so Graceland's first Gadets team was formed. The name Gadets came from Melba – taken from the sharp, formal movements of a cadet, with a Graceland 'G' in front of the word. The first team had 16 members from 14 states. Though the team was new and student-run, they found opportunities to travel, even performing at the half time of an NAIA basketball tournament in Kansas City.

## Future: Continuing a Tradition of Passion for Dance

Melba, now retired from teaching, keeps busy working at the Iowa Legislator in Des Moines and the Des Moines Civic Center. Though she returns to Graceland when possible, it was by chance that she saw Katie and the Gadets at the Iowa State tournament.

"Meeting Melba and hearing her story made the team feel so good. It made them feel like a part of Gadet history and it gave them a real feeling of how the team continues to impact you throughout the rest of your life. It showed me and the women that we're part of a lifelong team," said Katie.

Melba is a living piece of history for the university. She reports that the first-ever Iowa State Drill Team contest was held at Graceland College, just after the Closson Center, or "the Wave" as Melba affectionately calls it, was built.

Melba says she's excited to see the team continue to progress, remembering times when the team's membership shrank to as low as five members.

"I can't tell you how exciting it was for me to meet Katie and the Gadets. I thank the Lord every day for the gifts He's given me that I have so enjoyed sharing," said Melba. "I guess it was meant to be. Fifty-four years later, wow, I feel so confident in the group's success with Coach Katie Persall at the helm. She has passion!"

Katie has been holding on-campus and video try outs via the internet (video performances) for next year and she is hoping the team will have 16-20 women. Her ultimate goal for the team is to have 20 dancers performing at competition level. She emphasizes that the team is looking to increase both quality and quantity in approaching years.

And for the team's seniors, like Stephanie: they are confident that the team will continue to grow stronger, remaining an important part of the Graceland Experience.

"I really appreciate what Katie has done," said Stephanie. "I'm going to miss this so much. I love the team." ■



Graceland Gadets founder Melba Murken poses with the team at the Iowa State Dance Competition.



# GADETS and TEAM HAMPTON Rally against Cancer to Benefit Iowa

By Melissa Shephard  
Campus Writer

Throughout the fall 2011 semester, the 14 women of the Graceland Gadets dance team have been turning heads. Not because of their team's evolving skill and reputation – but from the hot pink shirts they've been wearing and selling.

The Gadets have been selling their strikingly-pink 'Sting Cancer' t-shirts to raise money for the John Stoddard Cancer Center in Des Moines. And after a semester of selling the shirts at Graceland athletic events, five members were able to see their efforts pay off when they volunteered at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Rally Against Cancer last January. The Rally is a large annual fund raiser for the Stoddard Center.

Gadets donated time, enthusiasm and \$1,500 dollars to the event, which has unique Graceland ties. The Rally is organized by Graceland alumni, Coral '78 and Kim Hampton '80 Johnson in remembrance of Kim's mother Helen Russell '52 Hampton who died of cancer. Helen was a Graceland professor, at one point coaching the Gadets' current coach Katie Everett '80 Persall (pictured below) in synchronized swimming. Helen was married to long-time Graceland professor and tennis coach Jerry Hampton '52, who retired in 2010 after 50 years of service to Graceland. The Hampton family is heavily involved in the rally.

"The Rally Against Cancer is a perfect event for us to work with. Helen and her family have strong Graceland and community ties," said Katie.

Dancers Megan Birchard '12, Marissa Roberts '13, Kaila Leopard '13, Haleigh Spurlock '14 and Madi Warner '15 joined 'Team Hampton' for the athletic-themed event.



'Pre-game' ceremonies began the evening event which progressed to an upscale dinner, silent auction, raffle drawings, a rambunctious live auction and music with dueling pianos.

The Gadets volunteered throughout the evening, mingling with bidders during the silent auction and animatedly cheering during the event's live auction, helping to sell everything from a signed Drew Brees New Orleans Saints jersey to a hot-air balloon ride for two.

The team had the opportunity to meet the Rally's guest speaker, Merrill Hoge (pictured above), a cancer survivor, former Pittsburgh Steelers running back, and current ESPN sports analyst.

In its 12-year history, the rally has raised \$1.4 million dollars for the Stoddard Center, money that benefits those in the Graceland and Lamoni communities struggling with cancer.

Katie attended the Rally and called it a "moving" experience, saying that her dancers found purpose volunteering with this event. "Knowing that we're making an impact has been so meaningful to the team."

The Gadets began raising money for the fight against cancer two years ago. They came to Katie with the idea in support of team member Lindsay Libel, whose mother Janet succumbed to the disease.

The team aspires to continue raising money for the Rally Against Cancer in coming years. Katie and team members are continuing to sell the vibrant pink 'Sting Cancer' shirts for \$10. For those living outside the Lamoni area, Katie is selling shirts for \$15 to include shipping costs. To order your own 'Sting Cancer' shirt, contact Katie via email at [kpersall@graceland.edu](mailto:kpersall@graceland.edu) or via phone 641.784.5407. If you would like to learn more about the Rally Against Cancer, you can visit their homepage at [www.johnstoddardcancer.org/rally-against-cancer.aspx](http://www.johnstoddardcancer.org/rally-against-cancer.aspx). ■



# 12 TWELVE Students

I recently announced a program to the Board of Trustees which would allow expansion of the 'Study and Faith' scholarship program to other college-ready students who are not Community of Christ members. It is called the 'Chairman's Scholarship' program.

The Study and Faith scholarships were introduced last year to attract more Community of Christ students to Graceland University. It has been extremely successful. Simply stated, every Community of Christ student is guaranteed a 50 per cent tuition discount on our Lamoni campus.

Study and Faith was developed to overcome the very real perception that some church members cannot afford to send their children or grandchildren to Graceland. This program dispels that concern. Now, every Community of Christ student can enjoy the 'Graceland Experience' and all it has to offer: great academics, a great community, and a great future.

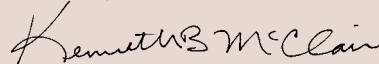
It occurred to me not long ago that a similar problem exists for other talented, gifted or academically-motivated students who are not Community of Christ members. In my daily life and the lives of my family, we encounter many bright and talented young people. Many of these students are never recruited to any university. These are students with superior grade point averages and high ACT scores.

The Chairman's Scholarship program is currently a pilot project, but to date 12 students from the Independence, Missouri area have now been recruited and accepted to Graceland for the 2012-13 academic year.

Now I am asking for your support. If any of you know of a student who would be a good fit for Graceland, please nominate them for the Chairman's Scholarship. Contact Kirk Bjorland, VP for Enrollment Management, at [Kirk.Bjorland@graceland.edu](mailto:Kirk.Bjorland@graceland.edu) and Graceland will quickly follow up with the student you nominate.

Furthermore, if you would like to help fund this new scholarship effort, contact Kelly Everett, VP for Institutional Advancement, at [keverett@graceland.edu](mailto:keverett@graceland.edu).

Best Wishes,



Ken McClain, Chair  
Graceland Board of Trustees



Ken McClain's daughter Shelby, third from left, poses with Chairman's Scholarship recipients, Anthony Ruelas, Emily Taylor, Cynthia Lopez, Dylan Foster and Luis Cuellar.





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