

# Horizons



# Horizons

Graceland University Alumni and Friends Magazine

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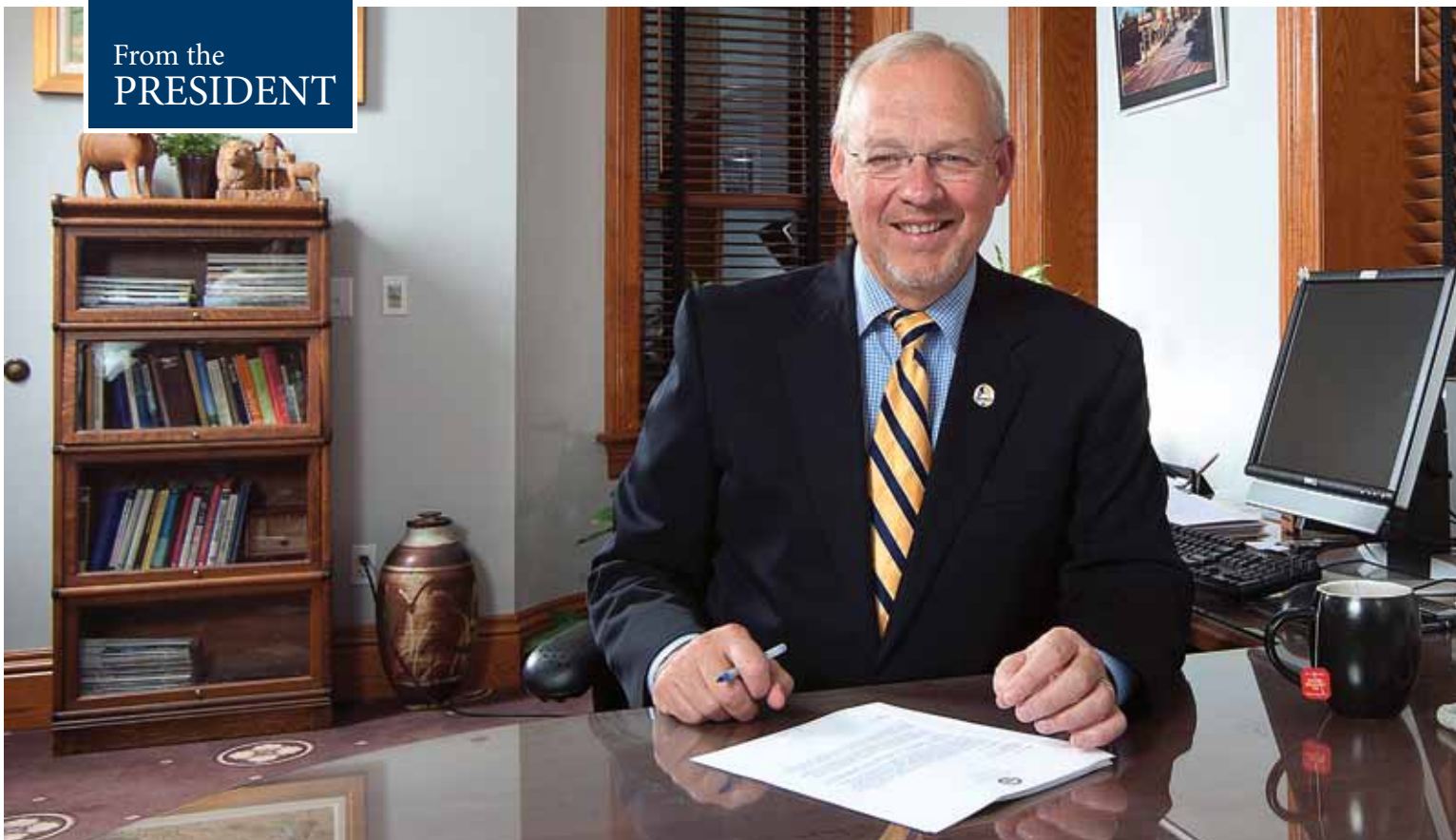
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## Going Places

One of my favorite poems is *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost. The last three lines there encapsulate my experience with many of our Graceland students:

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*

Every year we have new students on campus who are scared maybe because they are the first in their family to go to college; or possibly because they are not sure if they can pay for higher education; or perhaps they just lack the confidence needed to succeed. But in each case if they are willing to work their way through a particular fear, they become successful. Acknowledging one's fear and moving on is a very smart (and very brave) decision, one that permits the student to see the world as it is.

This is why every year Commencement is such a moving experience for me: I know how our students struggle and how they have persevered. Commencement is a time of celebration because Graceland's new graduates leave the campus with opportunities to take them places near and far; and with abilities to see the world as it is.

This issue of *Horizons* is aptly themed "Going Places." It is about celebrating the success of our students going forward in their lives where exams, papers and reports—at least, temporarily—have come to an end. It is about the success of our former graduates, like the Bridges, who frequently share their stories with our students. This issue also tells about the impact our students make in many places of the world, and the success they bring to children and adults in countries like Nicaragua, Guatemala, Jamaica and Zambia. (Do not miss the story on p. 20 about the Winter term experiences of Graceland students.)

However, part of this celebration is yours, our reader: every year the transformation at Graceland happens because of you. As family members and friends of Graceland University, you provide the insight and encouragement our students need to help them on their journey.

In fact, many of our students become successful because of your financial

support. The scholarship funds we provide to students exist because many alumni and friends willingly contribute to make Graceland a truly great university by ensuring student success. Some of our supporters are so young they have not started considering colleges yet, but their heart is truly in the right place (read Samantha's story on p. 30).

As I congratulate the Class of '13 for a job well done, I look forward to hearing their news and their stories—about new jobs, new ministries, new families. I am reminded that the word "commencement" itself — as in "to commence to do something" actually means to begin, not to end.

This is why I hope all our graduates, including the most recent Class of '13, will keep in touch as active members of the Graceland family.

Because once a Yellowjacket, always a Yellowjacket. And Commencement is just the beginning of many exciting roads ahead.

RANKED BY

U.S. News

& WORLD REPORT

## Graceland University Ranked Among the Top Best Online Education Programs by *U.S. News & World Report*

For the second year in a row, Graceland University was ranked in the top 20 Best Online Education Programs in the country by the *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings edition of the Best Online Education Programs.

Released today, Graceland Online Education Programs' rankings are:

No. 5 in the country for Online Bachelor's Programs

No. 11 in the country for Graduate Education programs

No. 5 in the country for Graduate Nursing programs

For the first time, programs administered for distance learners that are 100 percent online were ranked numerically, just like traditional colleges and graduate schools. Online bachelor's degree programs as well as graduate online degree programs in business, engineering, nursing, education, and computer information technology were ranked.

"Online education allows people to attend school without having to quit their jobs or disrupt their lives. According to Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, people with a bachelor's degree earn 84 percent more than those with only a high school diploma in their lifetimes—making online education, with its flexibility, an increasingly popular option. This is why online education is becoming an essential part of Graceland's education" said Graceland University President John Sellars.

Online bachelor's degree programs were ranked in three different categories: student engagement, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology. All of the online master's degree programs were ranked in admissions selectivity in addition to the bachelor's degree categories. The engineering and business master's programs were also ranked based on ratings of their academic reputation by top academics who run online programs at peer institutions.

**#5 Online Bachelor's programs  
Graduate Nursing programs**

**#11 Graduate Education programs**



## Rotary Club Sponsors Nine Bicycles for GU

On April 21, nine bicycles were placed on campus near the newly constructed Fitzgerald Center. Sustainability Coordinator Jennifer Abraham-White, Assistant Professor of Biology Mary Shawgo, GU students Daniel and Thomas Vogelsang, and Rebekah Lloyd, Rotarians Terry Geiger, Peggy Geiger, Jack DePond, Mary Ellen Stanley, Loring Miller, Kyle Switzler and Phyllis Miller were present. Staff, faculty and students are now able to take advantage of the new bike share program.

The bike rack and bicycles were obtained with a Rotary District grant applied for by the Rotary Club of Decatur County. The local grant committee met several times with President Sellars to discuss various campus needs. President Sellars mentioned early on that many Graceland students have no transportation, and that access to a bicycle would be invaluable in getting around town and running errands.

The simplified grant was awarded through Iowa Rotary District 6000 and the Rotary Foundation. Criteria included local club contribution to the project, hands-on member involvement and a humanitarian benefit derived from the completed project.

Rotary International embraces projects of international scope, and considering the broad international composition of the Graceland University student body, the grant was awarded.



# GU Adds Wrestling, Bowling and Drumline

Graceland University is excited to announce the addition of wrestling, bowling and drumline to the University's sports and music programs. Doug Zimmerman, Lamoni Community Schools' longtime bowling coach, has been hired to lead the men's and women's bowling teams; Zack Mullins, former graduate assistant wrestling coach at Briar Cliff University, will head the new wrestling program; and Dr. Adam Groh, who comes from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, will teach drumline.

## Wrestling

**Zack Mullins** wrestled at Briar Cliff University for four years, becoming the school's second-ever four-time national qualifier and second-ever conference



champion. As the graduate assistant wrestling coach for Briar Cliff, Mullins was responsible for building a program of 10 student athletes to one of 35.

"I look forward to building Graceland's program from the ground up," said Mullins, "based on work ethic, core values and commitment to a lifestyle that leads

to champions on the mat, in the classroom and ultimately in life."

Athletic Director Jeff Falkner is excited to bring the Wrestling Program back to the University. According to Falkner, wrestling at Graceland has a strong tradition and impressive history of success. Retired Graceland coach Jerry Hampton recorded 238 wins and only 87 losses in 22 seasons (from 1960 to 1982) and never lost a conference championship.

"I am very pleased that Zack has agreed to become our next head wrestling coach. His experience in the NAIA and the state of Iowa as both a student-athlete and a coach will aid him greatly as he builds on the past successes of Graceland Wrestling," said Falkner. "Zack is ready to be a head coach, and we are excited to have him on board."

## Bowling

**Doug Zimmerman** has been instrumental in growing the sport of bowling throughout the state of Iowa, forming the Iowa High School Bowling Federation



(IHSBF) 13 years ago with four other colleagues. Thanks to the formation of the IHSBF, bowling is now a sanctioned sport in 90 Iowa high schools. Zimmerman looks forward to helping students at Graceland hone their bowling skills and continuing to champion the sport throughout Iowa.

"Bowling is a lifetime sport. It generates a lot of enthusiasm and continues to grow nationally," said Zimmerman. "It's an amazing game to watch for sportsmanship, and it often attracts kids that don't do other kinds of athletics."

"We are very fortunate to be adding a bowling coach of Doug's caliber to our staff," said Athletic Director Jeff Falkner. "His familiarity with our campus and community, coupled with his experience in Iowa high school bowling, makes me believe our new program is in good hands."

## Drumline

**Adam Groh** received a bachelor's in music from Truman State University, a master's in percussion performance from Florida State University, and a doctorate



in percussion performance from the University of Texas at Austin. Groh is excited to build the drumline program from the ground up.

"First, I'm going to be looking to maximize the talents of all the great students who are already at Graceland," said Groh. "Besides the students who are already on campus, we're going to be reaching out to a new group of prospective students. This is a brand new ensemble, demanding a different type of musical performer. Our focus will be to bring in the best percussion students that we can find."

"Graceland is a special place, and I'm really excited about the direction of the music program, especially after the recent remodeling of the Shaw Center. The music faculty is very enthusiastic about percussion, and we're going to make great strides," said Groh.

"Adam is not only an amazing performer on percussion, he also has a great way of relating to the students and a very focused teaching style," said Frank Perez, Director of Bands. "Adam brings a high level of musicianship and integrity to our program. That makes him not only the perfect fit for our Music Department and community but also the right person to spearhead our new drumline."

## Max Pitt Selected as a Fulbright Specialist

The University of Pristina in Kosovo has selected Max Pitt, Assistant Professor of Business Administration, as a Fulbright Specialist. Pitt will teach this summer at the University of Pristina beginning on July 22.

The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP) connects U.S. academics and professionals with counterparts at overseas universities or institutions with education focused programming. The program is designed to award grants to qualified U.S. faculty and professionals, in select disciplines, to engage in short-term collaborative projects at higher education institutions in over 100 countries worldwide.

"It is a privilege to be able to teach in the International Summer University in Pristina this summer. I look forward to exploring the students' entrepreneurial interests and helping them document their dreams into business plans," said Pitt. "A highlight will be interacting with several of our current and former students. They are the ones who are working to develop themselves and the economy of Kosovo." Pitt added, "Graceland students and alumni have inspired me to pursue this opportunity. I look forward to not only teaching but also learning more about Kosovo and the challenges of the people in Eastern Europe."





# Sports - the Year in Review

For complete athletics coverage, visit [www.GUJackets.com](http://www.GUJackets.com)



The crowd stormed the field when the women's soccer team beat Benedictine, 2-0 in the HAAC Championship to earn a spot in the national tournament.



Volleyball player Kelsi Martin '14 (#10 above) was honored by the NAIA as the recipient of the A.O. Duer Award. The award is presented to an outstanding NAIA junior student-athlete who maintains an overall grade point average of at least a 3.75 (on a 4-point scale).



Florida Siaoosi (shot put-on right) and Kirby Newcomb (pole vault-center) qualified for the NAIA indoor nationals for track and field.



Softball earned a spot in the HAAC conference tournament as eighth seed with a 6-2 win over Benedictine College.



Graceland defeated Evangel University 3-2 in the women's volleyball HAAC semi-finals. The Jackets lost in the championship game of the conference tournament.



Ahmed Khalif and Etaslon Kabura tied for third place in the HAAC cross country meet as the two crossed the finish line simultaneously holding hands to earn their spot in the national cross country meet.



Florida Siaoosi and DeAngelo Bonner (above) qualified for the NAIA national track meet in Mario, Ind.



Adam Moffat won the HAAC tournament in golf and qualified for nationals in Salem, Ore.





# Carol Hall —



“When a recording environment is really superb, it makes the entire recording process much easier and the final product much better.”

Frank Perez

When something is said to “look like a duck, walk like a duck and quack like a duck,” we can confidently say it is a duck. But when it comes to Carol Hall, the new recital space in the Shaw Center, recent events have shown that it’s not just a fantastic hall (which it is!), but something else entirely that nobody had originally envisioned.

To understand what I mean, let’s go back in time about three months to when the famous U.S. Air Force group, Brass in Blue, first contacted Graceland’s Music Department Director of Bands, Frank Perez. Initially, the conversation was pretty standard: Was Graceland interested in hosting a concert? Yes. Could we find an open date at the Shaw Center that was also good for the USAF Brass in Blue, from Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska? Monday, February 11. Could we arrange a good mutual time when the musical director, Staff Sergeant Carl Eitzen, could come to visit the Shaw Center? Absolutely!

But that was when things really got interesting. While Sergeant Eitzen was looking at the Shaw Family Auditorium, where Brass in Blue was scheduled to perform, he mentioned how impressive Carol Hall was from the outside. Never missing an opportunity to provide a tour to interested musicians, Frank Perez immediately offered to take Sergeant Eitzen through Carol Hall.

Anybody who has been inside Carol Hall can probably predict what happened next. Sergeant Eitzen was extremely enthused about the room, its acoustics and the exciting prospect of performing there. But he also had another idea – one that





would prove to be not only rewarding but also eye-opening and fulfilling.

As Frank Perez pointed out, “It’s always such a pleasure to work closely with military ensembles because they are so professional and well-organized.” Following the Brass in Blue performance on February 11, the group moved their instruments and stands into Carol Hall for its first-ever dedicated recording session.

Promptly at noon the next day, the ensemble filed into Carol Hall to record a special piece of music, *Fanfare and March* by Eric Richards, that had recently been commissioned by the USAF Brass in Blue. Master Sergeant Ryan Heseltine made all the logistical arrangements in advance. He asked Frank to serve as the recording technician, and he prepared a detailed schedule of the day’s activities.

Unless you have recently observed a recording session, you would probably be surprised at the process. Frank had recommended using two pairs of studio-grade, professional microphones in two different configurations. First, the

ensemble ran through the composition, just to determine balance and how well the recording would capture the acoustics of the room. After the first “take” to determine which set of microphones worked best, the group was ready for one more complete run-through before moving onto the next phase of the session. This involved minor modifications before Frank was prepared to begin recording ever-shrinking segments of the music. Because the first phase requires attending to so many details, which is critical to ensuring that the remainder of the recording is done right, this process often takes more than an hour. But because the acoustics were so fine in Carol Hall, the first step had been completed in less than thirty minutes!

Now in phase two, the ensemble recorded shorter and shorter segments that, after final editing, Frank would “stitch” back together to form one complete and seamless recording. During this phase, Frank’s background and musicianship proved to be invaluable

as he was able to critically interact with Sergeants Heseltine and Eitzen about any imperfections he might have noticed as he followed the musical score and worked closely with the ensemble. By 3:30 p.m., the process was complete. Each segment had been recorded four to five times. The musicians in Brass in Blue would now listen carefully to these segments as they selected the most desirable ones. At the same time, Frank had maintained meticulous notes about each “take” so that everyone could refer to the correct segment that would be used in the final recording. Once the selection process is complete, Frank will finish assembling the segments and, we should be able to hear it on the Brass in Blue website.

In retrospect Frank noted, “When a recording environment is really superb, it makes the entire recording process much easier and the final product much better.” Although nobody may have anticipated just how fantastic Carol Hall would be as a recording studio, I suspect we will be hearing more about its new role in the future!

~ Lee Bash





# Bridges Return to “the Hill” to Celebrate Scholars’ Showcase

Most Graceland couples meet in a casual manner: they sit next to each other in an introductory Psychology class, their roommate sets them up on a Wednesday Night Movie date or perhaps they bump into each other at the Homecoming football game. But Tracy ’80 and Chris Robino ’80 Bridge didn’t meet a conventional Graceland way; they met on Seven Mile Beach in Grand Cayman.

Chris, an Art and Elementary Education major, was taking Caribbean Literature, while Tracy, a Business Administration major, was taking Davey Jones Locker: Scuba Diving in the British West Indies. The two were overseas on Graceland winter terms with professors Aarona Kohlman and Helen Hampton.

And though the couple didn’t meet in a traditional Graceland way, the University has become a family tradition that runs deep.

## Graceland: A Family Tradition

Chris, her mother and her grandmother are namesakes for the Helene Center for the Visual Arts. Tracy helped create the Yellowjacket Club, Graceland’s athletics booster club. Also, Tracy and his siblings Bonnie and Greg, Lamoni natives, funded the Bridge Endowment, which annually recognizes and financially rewards Graceland student groups who make contributions to the Lamoni community. Tracy and Chris’ two sons, Tyler ’08 and Andrew ’10, both graduated from “the Hill.” “Chris and I are attracted to Graceland and Lamoni for many reasons. It’s a part of our history, and it’s fun to return to campus to relive old memories,” said Tracy.

For the Bridges, returning to Graceland isn’t easy. They live in Houston, where Tracy serves 2.3 million customers as CenterPoint Energy Senior Vice President and Division President of Electric Operations. Chris is an accomplished artist and author who facilitates workshops in the greater Houston area.

Despite their whirlwind schedule, the couple took the time to return to campus as keynote speakers at Graceland’s Annual Scholars’ Showcase.

## Diversity Across Disciplines

The Showcase, now in its fifth year, allows students to professionally demonstrate their research and scholarly works. Though the event had humble beginnings in 2009, with just five presenters and a handful of posters, it has grown into a major Graceland affair.

This year’s Showcase, on April 24, had more than 120 student participants. The day was loaded with oral, music and poster presentations. This year’s theme, “Diversity Across Disciplines,” spoke to the assortment of students who took part in the event. From the flute choir that trilled in Carol Hall to Enactus students sharing their Regionals presentation, the event showcased scholarly work in a variety of academic fields.

*“Graceland gave me a very personal and encouraging setting in which to grow. There was always someone there, helping me and encouraging me along the way.”*

“We had a diverse group of presentations this year,” said Jeff McElroy, Scholars’ Showcase Committee Chair. “As this event grows, we get better representation from the academic departments on campus.”

## Reminiscing on “the Hill”

The Bridges are a perfect example of scholarship across disciplines, with Tracy’s business and community accomplishments, and Chris’ arts and community accomplishments. Though the couple spoke with differing styles — Tracy with an organized list, and Chris with a hands-on activity — both had the same

message: celebrate the liberal arts!

“Cherish your liberal arts education at Graceland and prepare for a lifetime of adventure,” said Tracy. “Every one of you has what it takes.”

“My liberal arts education at Graceland helped inspire my creativity and prepare me for the variety of things I do,” said Chris.

After their address, the Bridges spent the afternoon strolling through poster presentations, observing the Social Media Marketing students’ proposal to the Principal Financial Group and taking in a scene from *The Exit Interview*. At lunchtime, the couple sat down for a meal in the Commons.

“It’s exciting for us to see all the changes at Graceland since we were here

last. There are so many improvements and Graceland just keeps getting better,” said Chris.

Over the clink of silverware and the buzz of midday conversation, the couple reflected on their Graceland Experience — and time spent everywhere from the campus quad to Grand Cayman.

“Graceland gave me a very personal and encouraging setting in which to grow. There was always someone there helping me and encouraging me along the way. It’s a community full of opportunities for students to participate and develop confidence,” said Tracy.

~ Melissa Shephard

# A Family Affair



**J**ohn and Diane Bartholomew arrived in Lamoni at a pivotal point in their lives. Their daughter Kami had been born only a few weeks before the couple moved to Iowa, and the athletic training program awaiting them at Graceland was more a vision than a reality.

Twelve years later, the results speak for themselves.

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## From Vision to Reality

John and Diane met in graduate school at Indiana State. John, a product of South Dakota State University, was a year ahead of Wisconsin-LaCrosse graduate Diane. After four years in Kansas at an array of state institutions, the pair came to work in Graceland's Health and Movement Science department.

Ben Vance may have dreamed up the athletic training program that has put Lamoni on the map, but the Bartholomews have spent the last twelve years crafting Vance's vision into a reality.

"Ben convinced Diane to come here and build the program from scratch in terms of accreditation. It was his baby, but she polished it up and made it look right," added John.

That polished product is now a selling point for Graceland admissions. The success of the Bartholomews' students in the wider community of athletic training

has been a self-sustaining phenomenon.

"We have one graduate [Brandon Yoder] who is responsible for Kansas State's basketball team. Another works in the Boston Red Sox organization," said John, demonstrating no small amount of pride. He later recalled graduates working in professional volleyball and minor league hockey, also.

Ben convinced Diane to come here and build the program from scratch in terms of accreditation. It was his baby, but she polished it up and made it look right."



"And of course, we have alums at Benedictine, Missouri Valley and Central Methodist," John added.

The quality of Graceland graduates has been established as a known commodity, and both John and Diane have held leadership roles in state and conference organizations.

### A Full Life

Diane's office in Zimmermann Hall is an oasis of order and that organizational acumen has proved a necessity in balancing a full schedule.

"It may sound odd," she said, "but even though John and I work together in the same field at the same institution, we very rarely actually get to see each other."

John admitted, "We exchange a lot of emails, so in that sense we actually work together a lot, but we only see each other in passing."

**It is a full life. I'm not sure I would call it 'a balance.' The nice thing about living in this town is there are a lot of people willing to help."**

The work schedule of the athletic training room lacks the regularity of the standard nine-to-five day.

Oftentimes, Graceland athletic events require John to work deep into the evening and weekends, so the Bartholomews frequently skip dinner at home and have food delivered at games, turning into something less than a picnic but more than a simple trip to the ballgame.

"It is a full life," said Diane. "I'm not sure I would call it 'a balance.' The nice thing about living in this town is that there are a lot of people who are willing to help."

"I try to make it home before bedtime," John said, "but that is not always possible. Everyone else manages to stay on schedule independent of me. That's why it's nice that they come out to games."

Work is not necessarily forbidden territory at home, but neither is it exactly encouraged. "Our daughter is old enough now that she'll start policing us. She'll say, 'Stop, it isn't work!'" said Diane. "Sometimes that conversation will start and we just have to turn it off."

If John's schedule is more diverse,

Diane's is more densely organized. She is helping to spearhead the reorganization of Graceland's newly rechristened Corrective Exercise & Performance Enhancement major.

"We are trying to get onto the leading edge of things," Diane said. "Given the trends of obesity and other lifestyle health issues, there is a growing need in the United States for people with cross-disciplinary expertise in health."

### A Familial Atmosphere

"We certainly try to provide a family environment," explained John. "Students come into the program in their first year and stay for their whole academic careers."

Dylan Hogan agreed. The 2009 Graceland graduate from Ridgeway, Mo., returned to his old stomping grounds after graduate school to work as an assistant to his old boss, John. "The athletic training

students tend to be very close-knit," he said. "You spend a lot of time together, obviously, but John and Diane work hard to make sure we feel like family."

The highlight of the Bartholomews' den mothering, says Hogan, is the once-monthly dinner invitation for the staff cohort. "Sometimes we talk about what's going on in the office, but a lot of the time it really serves as a way to escape the training room without escaping the people," added Hogan.

Birthdays among the students are celebrated with Diane's array of treats. The remains of a cake sat on the front desk while Hogan and senior Arnaldo Gomez rattled off the week's birthdays.

A baseball player from the Dominican Republic, Gomez said that John has been a mentor to him during his four years at Graceland. "Initially, I had issues with the medical terminology. I came here

having learned English, and then I had to learn basically a whole new language," he explained. "But John stuck with me, and now he is helping me decide the pros and cons of going to graduate school."

Hogan said that both his bosses were instrumental in helping him choose a course in his professional life. "John was on me, asking me what I wanted to do. He would be honest about the pros and cons of all my options, and his mentoring really made me feel like I made an informed decision at graduation."

That relationship, he says, made returning after graduating from the University of Northern Iowa much more comfortable. Other graduates return to visit with regularity, while some send their greetings from their own busy lives in the athletic world.

The Bartholomews' daughter is as much a part of Graceland's athletic training family as the students and staff. Like the children of many GU coaches, Kami has spent much of her childhood surrounded by a rotating cast of doting older siblings at Graceland. The atmosphere, John and Diane both say, is part of why Graceland's athletic training program works.

"I think having a family environment provides a good example for the students," said Diane. "It shows them that they can be good at their job, have a family and friends, and enjoy what they are doing. The kids who spend time up here don't disrupt the environment at Graceland--they enrich it."

~ Cal Kotz





# The Accidental Recruiting Trip

If Graceland Professor Charles Persall had not needed a driver for a class visit to Des Moines, Iowa, Yellowjacket athletic history could have been very different.



Danny Alvarado '01, then-assistant coach of the Yellowjacket track and cross country teams, found himself driving a motor coach to North High School. "I get asked to be a driver all the time. I enjoy the road and I get to go places I might otherwise not go," Alvarado explained. The coach agreed to help Professor Persall and did a study of the Des Moines area track programs for possible recruiting opportunities.

The North Polar Bears boasted few decorated track athletes at the time, but a few "interesting" cases caught the former GU trackster's eye. Etaslon Kabura had not won a race yet, but was a consistent solid performer. Kabura, Alvarado later learned,

moved to the United States--first to Texas, then to Des Moines. The introduction to competitive running was a mixed experience at best. "I had no sense of distance, so that first race I just ran full-on until I ran out of energy," explained the five-foot, four-inch junior, flashing a sheepish smile.

"ET," as he is known to coaches and friends is self-effacing to a fault, quiet, focused, and sincere. Alvarado is happy to boast for him, however. "People overlooked him when recruiting out of high school because he doesn't have the typical length for a distance runner," the coach said. "But when he steps onto the course, he is a giant."

*People overlooked him because he doesn't have the typical length for a distance runner. But when he steps onto the course, he is a giant."*

Khalif and Yonas Mebrahtu, and the three established themselves as a well-oiled unit both on and off the course.

"They were here when I first came on to campus. Things just clicked," said Kabura. The cross country team is a tightly-knit group, according to the coaches, but Alvarado pointed to the track record of Khalif, Mebrahtu and Kabura's pranks as proof of their special rapport. "If the three of them were together, and laughing," he said, "likely as not someone was getting pranked. Never malicious, but you never knew what to expect."

Beyond their prowess at making mischief, the three injected the Graceland cross team with talent and success. "What really made that group key to our team," said Alvarado, "was the work ethic and commitment they brought with them. It was contagious."

## **It has not always been clear where Etaslon Kabura was going in life. His has been a long path from a refugee camp in Tanzania to Lamoni, Iowa.**

was not being heavily recruited at the time. The quiet, unassuming young man said he was considering attending school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

A few weeks later, Alvarado received a call. Etaslon was interested in running for Graceland.

### **Going Places**

It has not always been clear where Etaslon Kabura was going in life. His has been a long path from a refugee camp in Tanzania to Lamoni, Iowa. One thing was always clear, however: Etaslon could run.

In school in Africa, every Friday the whole student body would turn out after class for what Americans might call a "fun run."

"It could go on for quite some time. We would burn off our energy for the weekend break," said Kabura in his quiet but measured tone.

As a teenager, Kabura and his family

Kabura took to the collegiate environment quickly, and the attention and focus of the coaching staff won him over almost immediately. "In high school, you are sort of left to your own devices to train and get better, particularly during the off-season," he said. "In college, the coaches and your teammates want to help you get better every day. It was what I wanted and needed."

### **A New Generation**

When Kabura arrived, the GU cross country program was just beginning to take off as a strong contender in the Heart of America Athletic Conference (HAAC). Under then-Coach Kent Allshouse, the Jackets featured a strong lineup of harriers, spearheaded by 2009 HAAC meet winner Neil Grundman.

Etaslon was one of a trio of new arrivals who hailed originally from East Africa. ET quickly bonded with Ahmed



Circumstances were unkind to Khalif in 2011 when he suffered an early injury that left Kabura and Yonas Mebrahtu on their own for much of the season. ET made the best of things, turning in solid performances in the early going.

Khalif returned in time to be part of a strong team performance in the HAAC Championship, where the Jackets were narrowly defeated by Baker, but nonetheless captured a shot at nationals.

The three appeared as part of the Yellowjackets mens' squad in Vancouver, Wash., for the NAIA national meet. There, Mebrahtu placed 13 overall to claim his second All-American nod.

## Other Worlds

Kabura's athletic commitments have not hampered his schooling — quite the contrary, according to the runner. He applies the same discipline and commitment he learned on the course to his work with the books. Graceland has recognized his academic excellence on numerous occasions.

ET is in a pre-medicine program, already beginning to plan for medical school after graduation. His experiences

as a child in Africa strongly influenced his academic plans. "There were no real doctors in the camps," he said. "People would just set up their own pharmacies in the homes and prescribe what medicine there was. There was no science to it, nothing you would call 'medicine.'"

That, Kabura said, is also why he plans on going back after medical school. "Doctors are needed over [in Africa]. Going back represents an opportunity to help a lot of people," he explained.

For his part, Alvarado was not surprised. "ET is an incredibly giving, generous person," he said. "That sort of reasoning is exactly why he is such an asset for us at Graceland."

## Destinations

After Yonas Mebrahtu's departure in the wake of the 2011-12 season, Khalif and Kabura anchored the GU cross country team as they headed into the fall schedule.

"I had faith in the team," said Alvarado. "It is always hard to lose an All-American like Yonas, of course, but the guys are mentally tough as a unit."

After a solid early going, the team exploded at the Yellowjacket Classic,



Graceland's signature cross event. ET captured the top spot with his friend close behind him, dominating the individual component of the meet. "We had a lot of success this year, and that was huge for us as a team," said Kabura.

The conference meet was a repeat of that dominating performance. Khalif and Kabura crossed the finish line with hands clasped in victory. "That picture, of the two of them going across the finish line as one? That tells you everything you need to know about ET and Ahmed," said Alvarado.

Both runners had stamped their tickets to the national meet with the win, though with a strong Baker team taking the HAAC title once again, the pair competed as individuals.

ET set a personal best in the eight kilometer run with a time of 25:49. That was good enough for 67 out of 309 runners on the slick, congested track. Ahmed Khalif was right behind once again, capping off his own storied career with a 26:51 finish.

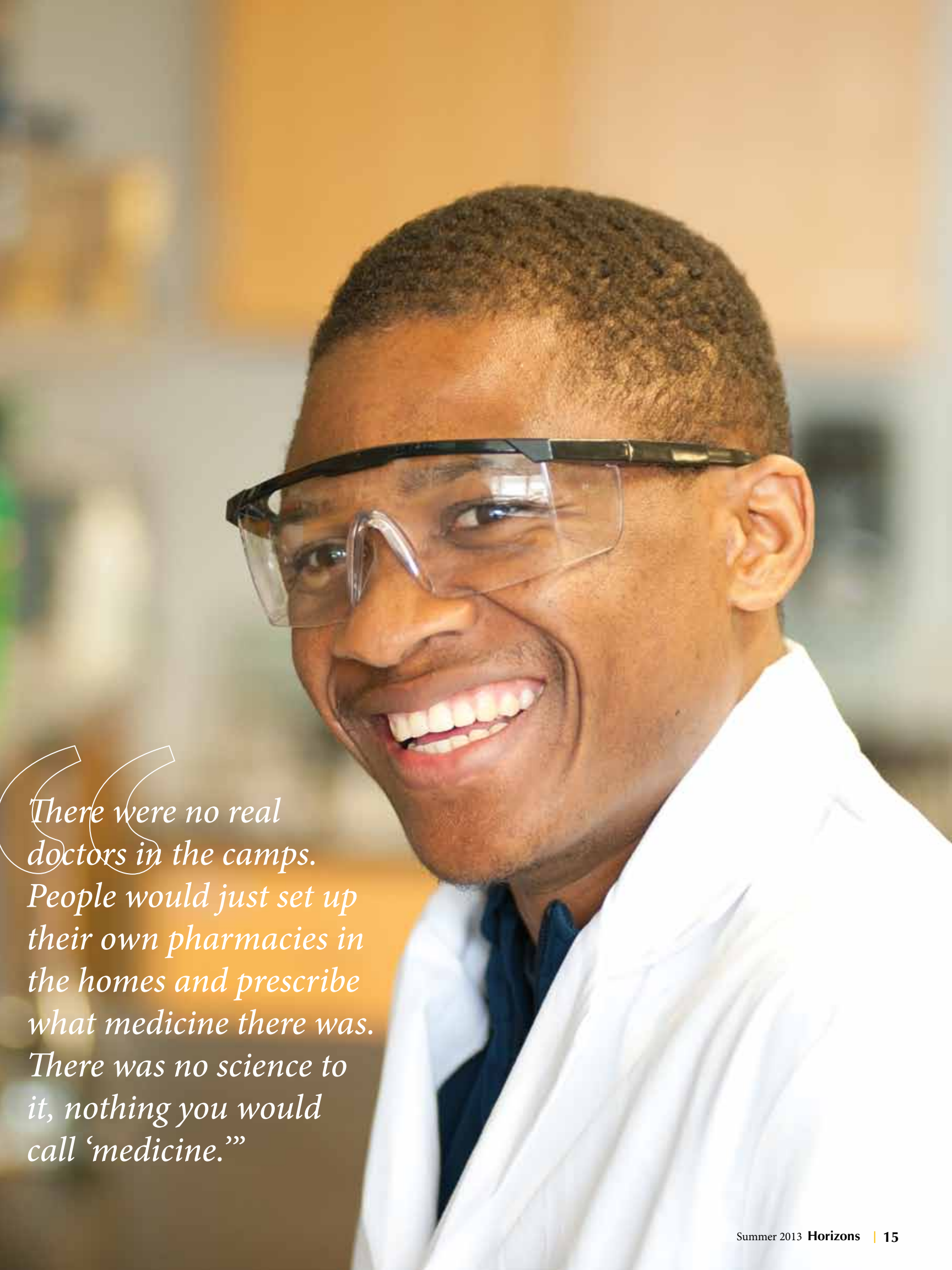
"Saying farewell to a senior is always tough," said Alvarado about Khalif's departure. "He has been a great asset to our program for a long time and will be missed. Graceland cross country has a bright future, however," he continued. "I'm proud of ET's performance and I expect bigger things from him next year."

Kabura is also excited for next season, but is focused on continuing to get better, both as a runner and a student. When asked about his plan for accomplishing that improvement, he flashed the familiar, shy smile. "The same plan as anything else," he said. "All it takes is a lot of hard work."



~ Cal Kotz



A close-up portrait of a young Black man with short, dark hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing clear safety glasses and a white lab coat over a dark blue shirt. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting with warm, golden light.

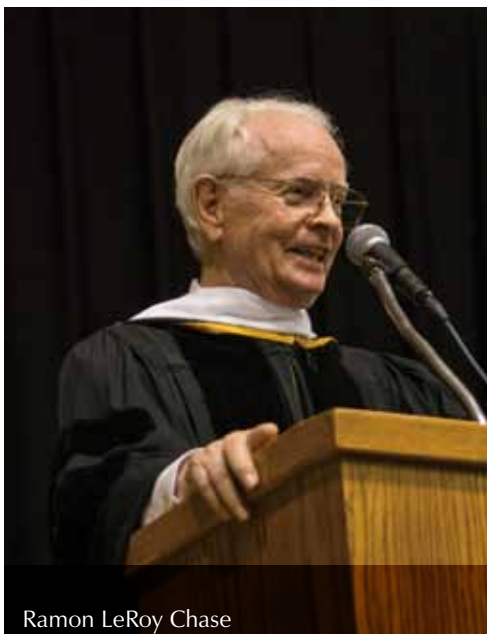
*There were no real doctors in the camps. People would just set up their own pharmacies in the homes and prescribe what medicine there was. There was no science to it, nothing you would call ‘medicine.’”*

# 116th Commencement

Graceland's 116th Commencement Convocation was held on Sunday, May 19, and began at 10 a.m. in the Eugene E. and Julia Travis Closson Physical Education Center with a processional. Students from Brazil, Serbia, Colombia, Tahiti and Somalia greeted the crowd in English and their native languages. Sharon Graybill, a member of the Board of Trustees, gave the Invocation. A total of 649 students from 15 countries graduated, with 376 earning baccalaureate degrees and 295 earning master's degrees.

*Graceland University*





Ramon LeRoy Chase

Honorary doctorates were conferred upon guest speakers Ramon LeRoy Chase, an accomplished aeronautical engineer, and Arliss Howard, an internationally known actor, writer, director and producer.



Arliss Howard

Following Chase's hooding, Arliss Howard received his honorary doctorate from President Sellars. Howard was born and raised in Independence, Mo. He later attended Columbia College in Columbia, Mo., and trained at the prestigious Actors'

Homecoming as the inaugural production in the JR Theatre in the newly expanded Shaw Center. During his six-week residency in Lamoni, Howard shared his prodigious talents with Graceland theatre students and members of the community. According to Howard, coming to Graceland University as a Guest Artist "afforded me the chance to wallow in homegrown talent and welcoming generosity where the earth really hits the sky."

"Arliss's passion for acting, directing, and writing has inspired and motivated those fortunate enough to work with him," said President Sellars. "He brought professional-level acting and directing to our university. His presence on our campus has given Graceland students and local community members the extremely rare opportunity to work with a multi-talented artist in the intimate setting of our new theatre."

Howard's message to the class of 2013 avoided the usual graduation day-speech platitudes and urged each individual

*Don't say it can't be done. It's amazing what people can do when they set their goals high and don't take no for an answer." Ramon LeRoy Chase*

Before Ramon LeRoy Chase embarked upon his brilliant aeronautical engineering career, he spent two formative years at Graceland, making rocket fuel in the basement of Zimmermann and mopping floors in the dining hall. President Sellars recognized Chase for his significant gifts to Graceland University, including the Chase Biology Suite in the Resch Science and Technology Hall and the Chase Baseball Field.

"Chase has lived his dream and expanded humanity's quest to learn more about the universe in which we live," remarked President Sellars. "He represents Graceland's commitment to academic excellence and service to his profession, his family and his community."

Chase's message to the graduates was simple: A little determination goes a long way toward achieving your goals. The recently retired Chase told the graduates: "My journey has ended, I'm in the twilight of my life, and I'm turning this over to you. Don't say it can't be done. It's amazing what people can do when they set their goals high and don't take no for an answer."

Studio in New York. Howard is the son of Richard "Dick" Howard '52 and Barbara (Peavy) '49 Howard, who were both in attendance that morning. Richard and Barbara Howard have long histories of distinguished service to Community of Christ and to the University. Debra Winger, an accomplished actress and Howard's wife of 17 years, was also in attendance.

This past fall Howard served as a Guest Artist at Graceland, directing and performing in Thornton Wilder's American classic *Our Town*. This play was produced at

to blaze his or her own path. "I'm not in the advice or recommending game," said Howard, illustrating his point with a cautionary tale about letting others make decisions for you. Howard's story was about a man who comes to a fork in the road, encounters a talking horse, and takes the horse's advice on which way to go. The story illustrated Howard's message to the graduates: "This Commencement is no different from any other day of your life, and what you decide to do with that is either a curse or a blessing," said Howard.





Gold Seal recipients Jami Ruckman, Patrick Treece and Alison Thomas with President Sellars and Board Chair Ken McClain.

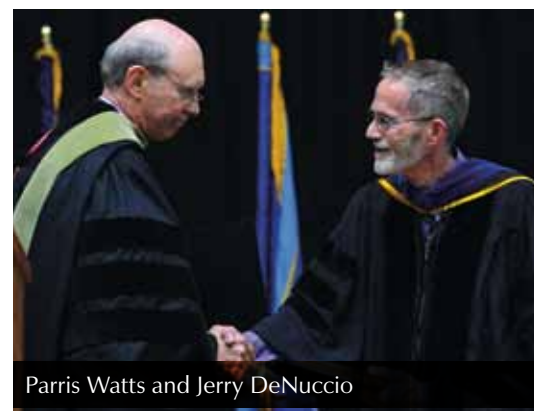
“Just do what you can with what presents itself, don’t sweat it, and don’t feel like you have to go out and beat the world.”

Following Howard’s speech, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching was presented by Alumni Board President Samuel G. Smalldon to Michele Dickey-Kotz, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Education.

“The award is humbling, but it is even more humbling because the nomination came from my students,” said Dickey-Kotz. “My students give me purpose, ignite my passion and give my life meaning. I am honored to be recognized for touching their lives in meaningful ways.”

Dr. Parris R. Watts, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, conferred Professor Emeritus status upon Jerome D. DeNuccio, Ph.D., Professor of English. DeNuccio taught English at the University of Minnesota and Iowa State University before joining Graceland’s faculty in 1987. He was nominated for the Alumni Award in Teaching Excellence three times before winning the award in 2005.

“Jerry’s contribution to Graceland over the last twenty six years can serve as a blueprint for Graceland’s commitment to lifelong learning, intellectual wholeness, and community,” said Sellars. “Jerry is



Parris Watts and Jerry DeNuccio

DeNuccio is Google. Are you Google?”

President Sellars conferred a posthumous degree upon Kori L. Clark, who transferred to Graceland University during



Michele Dickey-Kotz receives the Alumni Award for Excellence from new Alumni Board President Samuel Smalldon.

*The award is humbling, but it is even more humbling because the nomination came from my students.” Michelle Dickey-Kotz*

diligent in his craft, and anyone who has worked with him knows he’s the smartest person in the room. One of his colleagues put it simply when thinking about what the advertisement for Jerry’s replacement would have to say: ‘Jerry

the fall of 2010. “He was only with us for one year, but during that time Kori made deep and lasting friendships,” said President Sellars. “Kori left a warm impression on all who met him.”

Before master’s and baccalaureate degrees were conferred upon the 2013 graduates, the winners of the Gold Seal for Scholarship were announced. The Gold Seal for Scholarship is given to students





who have earned a straight 4.0 grade point average and is the highest academic award given at the University. Dr. Gary Heisserer presented the award to Patrick Treece (Physical Education) of Lee's Summit, Mo.; Alison Thomas (Art: Studio) of San Jose, Calif.; and Jami Ruckman (Biology, Chemistry and Math) of Independence, Mo.

Ben Vinck, Student Government President, closed the ceremony with a benediction. At the 2013 Baccalaureate Ceremony held the day before, Vinck accepted the 2013 Student Life Award for his extraordinary campus leadership.

"It's been a humbling experience for sure," said Vinck of winning the award. "It's a great honor to be in that group of people." The biggest things Vinck will take away from his four years at Graceland are "the relationships I've made here with friends and faculty. This place is great for making community."

Vinck will be student teaching in Lee's Summit, Mo. next fall. His long-term goals are to work in the non-profit field abroad.

Following Vinck's benediction, students streamed out of the Closson Center onto the grassy hillside to celebrate in the clear, balmy weather.

~ Breanne Seidle



# Congratulations to the Class of 2013!

# Guatemala: Keep Calm and Carry On

Every weekday in Guatemala, we spent four hours in Spanish class. And without fail there would come a moment in class where I put my head in my hands and sigh with frustration. At this point, my teacher Nicolas would repeat one word to me: “Tranquila.”

To be honest, the entire time I was in Guatemala I didn’t really know what “tranquila” meant—but since the word sounded so close to “tranquility,” I figured it had to mean something peaceful. Or something to the extent of *Melissa, I know you’re uncomfortable right now, but that’s part of learning. Keep calm and carry on—you’ll understand soon enough.*

Okay—perhaps that was me reading into “tranquila” a bit much, but during my time in Guatemala the word became my mantra. Because when you travel internationally, especially to a country where English isn’t the national language, let’s face it: you’re going to be uncomfortable. But to quote nearly every

good teacher I’ve ever had, “It’s when we’re uncomfortable that we learn the most.” And that statement definitely held true for me in Guatemala.

Our days in the San Juan clinic were full of obstacles. Students struggled with equipment that wasn’t up to par, took vitals in the middle of a noisy clinic (complete with screaming babies), translated across multiple languages (Spanish and Tz’utujil, the local Mayan dialect), and confronted a culture dissimilar to their own. Every day the nurses rallied to overcome the odds, only to be thrown new challenges: the worst scabies epidemic we’d ever seen, an odd association between ingredients in tortillas and urinary problems, and promoting exercise to diabetics who didn’t own tennis shoes.

And through it all, we grew. We learned about *ourselves* and just what we can do. And we learned about the heart of San Pedro—a community where the midwife assists with prenatal care and childbirth simply because she can, charging her patients nothing for her care; where people are intentional about

# Jamaica: The

I went to Jamaica to help people  
and to change lives. Instead,  
I found that I was the one who  
changed.

I didn’t realize how much until I stood in the midst of concrete buildings, built on the coastline of Falmouth, Jamaica. The place was known as the infirmary. It was the home of roughly fifty men and women who had nowhere else to go. Among these people were the crippled, the homeless, the elderly, and those with mental illnesses. These people lived in large rooms that held twenty beds. They were cared for by a staff without medical degrees, all under the charge of one Matron (the highest level of nurse in Jamaica).

As a student nurse, I understood the likely challenges that would face us while caring for these patients: incontinence, paralysis and all sorts of complications. The infirmary, however, was spotless. The air smelled of nothing but the salt of the Caribbean and none of the patients had developed bedsores under Matron’s care. This is a feat that no American nursing home or hospital could boast.

How could one woman manage this? “Love,” she told us. “The thing that

preserving the Mayan culture. And we learned about perspective—that perhaps we weren’t the “poor” college students we thought we were.

Now back to work in Lamoni, “tranquila” still crosses my mind. When hefty assignments cross my desk, when I’m in





# Love I Found

patients need most is love.”

This devoted Matron took us to meet her patients, who were gathered together in a covered area with tables. She asked the patients to greet their guests and a man rose. He began to sing and others soon joined him, their eyes bright. Though none of them could be called professional singers, I stood there fighting back tears. It was beautiful.

This was what love could do.

Now when I am back to my clinical rounds in an American hospital, I think often of the words that Matron spoke to us in that warm Jamaica sunlight. In the pressure of the time restrictions most nurses face, it can be easy to forget that the patients we care for are more than just a job. Medications and turning and all the other tasks that fill nurses’ days are important, but there is something our patients need more: a listening ear, a caring touch, a moment of our time to forget about the disease and remember the person.

They need love.

This is the kind of nurse I strive to be. I want to be a nurse like Matron, who took a group of people others had forgotten, and through love, made them sing.

~ Chanté Campbell '14,  
Nursing Student

the last half-mile of my workout, and when I’m attempting to drive through the ice of Lamoni winter, I think, *Keep going, keep struggling—you’re learning along the way.*

~ Melissa Shephard '11  
Campus Writer



## Nicaragua: Ministry of Presence

**A**s a House President, Kendra Petrie’s job is to make connections and build relationships. But Kendra’s strong people skills during her Winter term with Outreach International presented her with a unique challenge: How do you build connections with people who don’t speak your language? How do you show people they are meaningful to you without words?

Kendra’s answer: The ministry of presence.

“Just being around my host family was so nice. There were awkward moments when we didn’t have anything to say. I wanted to make a strong connection with my host family, to ask them questions and really have a conversation with them. But when you have the language barrier, you have to change how you make that deep connection,” said Kendra.

“Even though we couldn’t have conversations, my connection with my host family wasn’t any less deep—it was just different. We showed that we cared for each other by spending time together, even if we weren’t talking at all. I bonded with my host family by making tortillas

with them. We took some corn, went down into the village and had it ground, came back, mixed it with water, made the dough and then fried the tortillas and ate them with coffee. My host family and I maybe said a handful of words the entire time, but it was such a neat and meaningful experience.”

This rang true in many of Kendra’s Nicaraguan experiences. Whether she was holding toys for young children as they climbed a mountain together, or handing tools to someone as they built a fence, the words were unimportant — it was the simple experience of being together that counted.

“The language barrier takes away that unnecessary pressure you have to fill a silence; to talk about yourself or ask a bunch of questions. If I started doing that in Nicaragua, nobody would understand what I was saying. I think that sometimes we get distracted by the pressure to talk with each other; you focus less on simply being together and more on what you’re going to say next. In Nicaragua, it was so nice to just enjoy being around each other.”

~ Kendra Petrie '15  
Outreach International Student



## Philippines: Singing My Song

Becca Ferguson is quick to tell you that she is “*not* a songwriter.” However, last year she took a chance and composed her first work. She is a bit wary of sharing her song with others, and “Save Us” is a tune Becca typically saves only for the ears of her family; however, on a peaceful evening in the Philippines, she found herself singing a different tune.

“We had just had dinner when I heard a guitar outside. The women in the community pulled me outside and I saw a man out there, singing and playing along. I couldn’t understand the language, but the song was beautiful. We were out on the porch and it was a gorgeous night—there were no noises, no planes flying overhead, no cars driving by. The kids were all sitting out there and I just got into the moment. It was really cool,” said Becca.

“After he finished he passed me the guitar, and a woman explained to me that it is Filipino custom that when someone is serenaded, they then serenade back. I was like, ‘Hold on a second, I didn’t sign up for this!’ But I took the guitar, tuned it a bit and played some songs that they knew. I was lucky that the dominant religion in

talking, not paying attention. But when I started playing my song, everything got very still. By the time I finished playing, some of the women had begun to cry.

“It was the first time that they really let me be on their level; it was like I was one of them. We were all Christians and we all loved to sing and had finally

“One woman told me, ‘I think you *needed* to share that song.’ And I think she was right.”

the Philippines is Christianity, and I was able to play some church songs that we all recognized.

“Finally, I got to the point where I wanted to sing my song for them. I’ve never been comfortable singing my song in front of my friends or peers, but I thought maybe I could do it in front of this community. The entire time we had been playing, people were just walking by and

found common ground. We had found something we could bond over. One woman told me, ‘I think you *needed* to share that song.’ And I think she was right. It was how I was able to reach out. Without that song, it would have been just an ordinary evening.”

~ Becca Ferguson '14  
Enactus Student



# Zambia: Follow the Leader

Andrew Murphy's passion for educating children lead him to work with HealthEd Connect in Zambia. There, he expected teaching methods to be different from those in the States, but his experiences with children to be as rewarding as in his homecountry.

"We were on our way to one of the Kafwa's (a volunteer trained in basic health care) houses and these two little girls started following us. We didn't know them — they weren't the kids that we were in school with all day; they had just seen us walking through the village. These two little girls, about seven years old, each held one of my hands as we walked," said Andrew.

"Our group was outside and all of the sudden it started to thunderstorm.

There were about eight of us, and one of the Kafwa ladies offered to lead us to her house so we could ride out the storm. They always worried about us being comfortable in that way. As we walked, Jac Kirkpatrick stopped to get out his umbrella and I waited for him. By the time Jac had it out, we looked up and the group was gone. I

finally, we came to the house and there were the Kafwa waiting outside. The girls knew exactly where to take us.

"At that moment I just felt so amazed and so thankful. It was a powerful experience to be taken care of by someone like that. It was strangers helping each other. The innocence of a child speaks

*"It was a powerful experience to be taken care of by someone like that."*

looked down at the two little girls and said, 'Mzungu? Mzungu?' Mzungu was one of the four or five Bemba words I knew and it meant 'white person.' The girls started pulling me by my hands. They led us through paths, through people's yards, and after a while I started to get a bit worried — we'd been walking for a long time. But

cross-culturally. Even though we never had done anything for them, they made a genuine connection with us, saw us in need, and took us where we needed to go. It's something that I'll never forget."

*~ Andrew Murphy '14  
Education Student*







# Personal contact is part of online

Graceland University was ranked in the top 20 Best Online Education Programs in the country by the *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings. The graduate nursing program was ranked fifth.

Online nursing students spent a rare week together in February. They gathered together for real time on campus.

"It's nice to put faces with the people you've known," said Suzanne Pierce, nursing student at Graceland University.

Pierce was one of dozens of students who traveled from around the country for a focus session on advanced skills. Pierce is one of two students in her cohort working on her nurse educator program, while the others are preparing as nurse practitioners, she said. She considers herself a Graceland legacy student. Her mother earned a nursing diploma from Graceland first, then Pierce earned two degrees at Graceland before enrolling in the online master's program. She said people typically think of online courses as easier to accomplish than traditional courses.

"No, it's not," Pierce said. "It's different. The courses are very-well structured."

Students have lots of opportunities to get acquainted in their online program between discussions and projects, she said. Asynchronous discussions are especially helpful, she said, allowing students to weigh in at their convenience during the week. It allows flexibility for students who are working and raising their families, she said.

"You get together at your convenience," Pierce said.

Pierce and others attending the focus session said they enjoyed the camaraderie with cohorts from around the nation.

During the week they practiced advanced skills on one another in addition to working on plastic models. They learned how to inject, suture, cast, give pelvic examinations and provide advanced assessments for adults and children. For most of the students, it was their first time to practice the new skills.

"It's awesome coming together," said Angela Cabaniss, student. "We're already working together online. It's putting the name together with the face."

Cabaniss said she was initially nervous about enrolling in the online master's program and was unsure of what to

relying on you to be committed. We have a lot of group projects."

Cabaniss said working towards her degree as nurse practitioner reminds her when she became a nurse with a good preceptor.

"You collaborate with your physician," she said. "It's just bringing everything together."

Students start their online master's program at Graceland with a visit to the campus.

The university started a three-day orientation in 2008 as part of an effort to help with retention. Tripp Ellis, online nursing student, remembers meeting faculty members and students in his cohort then. He said that was an example of the

**Graceland was more receptive. They stayed in contact with me. That's why I chose Graceland."**

expect. She wove the program into an already full life, she said.

"Online is a big commitment," she said.

Cabaniss has three children, ranging from 11 to 26 years old, she said. She works from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., gets dinner on the table and then checks her computer, she said.

"You cannot go a day without checking your assignment," she said. "Your peers are

people that attracted him to the school. "Graceland was more receptive," he said. "They stayed in contact with me. That's why I chose Graceland.

The orientation program has been a win-win for students and the university, said Jan Rice, Ph.D., M.S.N., RN, associate dean of nursing graduate studies at Graceland. Adding an orientation program to the online graduate program has not





# master's program

only allowed students to connect with faculty and one other but it also has increased student retention, she said. Students meet with lead faculty and see the physical space, she said. It facilitates better engagement, she said.

"We bring the student to campus at the beginning of the program to become part of the university community," Rice said. "They meet each other. It gives them an identity as a graduate student."

Rice said around the time Graceland's

**online programs are here to stay. They are having a strong and positive impact in higher education. We're obviously meeting the mark."**

nursing department launched the orientation program, it also implemented several other initiatives to help with retention. The department increased course delivery from eight to 16 weeks, added a completion plan and contract for students to sign, and enhanced student enjoyment, she said. Elements from the initiative have worked so well, the department is planning for changes in the B.S.N. program, as well, said Jeana Wilcox, Ph.D., RN, CNS, CNE, associate dean of the undergraduate nursing program.

"It's been so successful, we're moving that direction as well," Wilcox said. "That will start this summer."

Graceland University was recently ranked in the top 20 Best Online Education Programs in the country by the *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings edition of the Best Online Education Programs. For the first time, programs for distance learners which are 100 percent online were ranked numerically, as with traditional colleges and graduate schools. Graceland's online graduate nursing programs was

ranked fifth.

"This is specific to online programs," said Rice. "What it tells us, online programs are here to stay. They are having a strong and positive impact in higher education. We're obviously meeting the mark."

Rice said at one time there was controversy surrounding online learning environments. Are online degrees as prestigious or valuable? Does it represent the same academic rigors?

"There's been a lot of research to validate the rigor," said Claudia Horton, Ph.D., RN, dean and professor of Graceland's nursing program.

Horton remembers when distance learning meant correspondence by mail instead of discussion groups online. Graceland was one of the first programs in the country to start distance learning, she said. Online learning changed everything, she said.

"The competition went crazy," Horton said. "We're still doing very well."

Horton said Graceland still holds to a tradition that other online programs have left behind. The online nursing program sends a faculty member in the field for site visits during students' clinicals. Mary Dugan, FNP, lead instructor for the focus session and advanced physical assessments, conducts 16 to 20 site visits each semester.

"I do a lot of traveling," Dugan said.

This year she has traveled to Florida, Oklahoma and Michigan for half-day site visits to the students' clinical settings. Feedback is positive from the students, she said.

"There is a certain amount of isolation online," she said. "They tell me it's encouraging and comforting as well as educational."

~ Linda Friedel  
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# Alumni Board: Under New Management

Meet Sam Smalldon '78, the newly elected leader of Graceland's Alumni Board of Directors. "In my experience, most boards understand the idea of setting goals, and some go a step further and formulate strong plans," Sam observed. "Unfortunately, few buy into the hard work part." Sam is working to make sure Graceland is one of these few.

Under Sam's leadership, the Alumni Board is already rolling up its sleeves. "We are blessed with a nucleus of alums who are passionate about Graceland," commented Cal Closson '82, the Alumni Board's Vice President. "Our job is to find ways to put that passion into action."

Things are definitely in motion. Within the past year, for example, Graceland's Admissions Office and Athletics Department partnered with the

by ARRs. And believe me, we're just getting started."

The success of the ARR program has spawned plans for another recruiting effort led by Alumni Board member, Dr. Mike Wiley '83 in partnership with Dan Pratt (Math and Science Department Chair) and other faculty members. "There is a tremendous opportunity to rally around Graceland's math and science programs.

*The very best boards (the ones that make a real impact) focus on a few important goals, develop a thoughtful plan, and then get to work."*

## Sam Smalldon, GU Alumni Board President

Alumni Board to launch a new approach to student recruiting. The program involves the appointment of Alumni Recruiting Representatives (ARRs) who volunteer to identify prospective students, write letters, place phone calls, escort students to campus, attend high school events and signing ceremonies, and much more. "I am amazed at the impact our ARRs have already made," Cal noted. "Our data shows hundreds and hundreds of prospective students have been impacted

I am convinced we can affect greater retention and placement in these majors, and influence the culture in other positive ways. Stay tuned, especially if you are an alum working in a math or science field," Mike hinted.

In the coming months, the Alumni Board will also kick off a professional development initiative. The focus will be to mobilize our global alumni network to help graduates with job placement, expand internship opportunities for

current students and open doors for Gracelanders looking to switch careers. "There is no doubt one of Graceland's richest resource is its alumni," observed Paul Davis, Graceland's Alumni Programs Director. "This endeavor will bring the Graceland family closer together in a tough marketplace."

"Graceland has made tremendous strides in recent years toward becoming a great university. You can be sure the Alumni Board will be working away to help keep that momentum going," added Sam. "Please let me know if you would like to give us a hand. Send me an email at [ssmalldo@graceland.edu](mailto:ssmalldo@graceland.edu). I'd like to hear from you."





A STRONG PAST,  
A BETTER FOREVER

1953  
1963  
1973  
1978  
1983  
1988  
1993  
2003

# HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 11-13

## Class Notes

### The 1960s

**Richard Foster '64** is writing a book about the late John and Sue Slauter. Sue worked in the Commons from the 1960s through the 1980s and helped many Graceland students with her hospitality. Please send stories about John and Sue to Richard's email: rfoster700@gmail.com.

### The 1970s

**Brenda Gardner '79** Jones has been named Manager of Immunization Services for the Health Services Department of the State of Arizona.

### The 1980s

**Scott Ourth '81** was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives on November 6, 2012.

**Janet Murdock '85** received the Community of Christ's Human Rights Award at World Conference on Friday, April 12, for her work at the United Nations as a peace consultant in Fiji and

Guinea-Bissau, Africa, as well as conflict resolution activities in Central and South America.

**Don H. Compier '86** has published *Listening to Popular Music*, an exploration of the convergence of pop music culture with the Western theological tradition. Compier is dean and professor of theology at the Community of Christ Seminary in Independence.

*Listening to Popular Music* is part of the Compass: Christian Explorations of Daily Living series. It is available at [fortresspress.com](http://fortresspress.com) and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

### The 2000s

**Matthew Bolton '01** co-edited a new book, *Occupying Political Science: The Occupy Wall Street Movement from New York to the World* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2013). He has a Ph.D. in government from the London School of Economics and Political Science and has previously published two books.

**David R. Lloyd '04**, owner of Method KC Haberdashery, launched a charitable project with the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Mo., that has been featured on public radio. He is an attorney, part-time faculty at UMKC Bloch School of Business and a writer for *KC Magazine*.

### The 2010s

**Lt Col Donald J Mosinski, M.A., '12** serves as Distribution Management Division Chief for the Iowa Army National Guard's Logistical Directorate. He previously served as Battalion Maintenance Officer with the 224 Engineer Battalion at Camp Ramadi, Iraq.

### Weddings

**Murphy Mathews '59** and **Marilyn Thomas '63**, Lansing, MI, May 16, 2011.

**Seth Zahniser '11** and **Lindsay Anderson '11**, Bettendorf, IA, September 1, 2012.

Brian Beaman and **Heather Emslie '03**, Phoenix, AZ, November 23, 2012.

## Anniversaries

Those celebrating 50 years or more.

**Gerald '73** and **Barbara Hall '73 Thomas** celebrated their 50 wedding anniversary on July 15, 2012.

**Dick '39** and O'Ella **Marolf** celebrated their 70 wedding anniversary on April 25, 2013.

Allan and Marianna Badder celebrated their 65 wedding anniversary on May 26, 2013.

## Births

**Wendy Maybee '97 Davies**, Grain Valley, MO, Addyson Coral, September 24, 2009.

Duane Gorman and **Amy-Lee Meunier '00**, Melville, PE, Canada, Levi Thomas, June 22, 2012.

**Joseph '03** and **Crystal Mahoney '03 Oxenreider**, Chariton, IA, Beau Daniel, November 2, 2012.

**James '07** and **Bethany Husted '13 Mueller**, Lamoni, IA, Elhaym Elizabeth, January 25, 2013.

## In Memoriam

**Douglas L. McCauley '65**, Theodore, AL, February 2, 2002.

**James L. Odom '62**, McKenzie, AL, January 7, 2003.

**Greg O. Powell '69**, Fort Lauderdale, FL, August 17, 2003.

**Wayne H. Livezey '52**, Independence, MO, January 5, 2004.

**Mary Ross '66 Curtis**, Hastings, IA, December 18, 2004.

**Judith Potter '65 Haas**, Independence, MO, January 14, 2005.

**Priscilla Symon '42 Crider**, Austin, TX, May 9, 2005.

**R. Gordon Powers '49**, Cuyahoga Falls, OH, November 29, 2006.

**Myrna Wunschel '55 Johnson**, Fonda, IA, April 26, 2007.

**Dennis A. Anderson '61**, Somerville, TX, October 12, 2007.

**Lorraine Vaughn '54 Barry**, Clearfield, UT, December 15, 2007.

**George E. Davidson '57**, Kirtland, OH, January 29, 2008.

**Emily Frost '62 Creekbaum**, Englewood, OH, February 16, 2008.

**Bruce H. Willard '65**, Romulus, MI, March 6, 2008.

**Mary M. Kilgore '85**, Poway, CA, March 8, 2008.

**Darrell G. Clesson '59**, Grain Valley, MO, April 29, 2008.

**Rick L. Calloway '75**, Franklin, NC, July 16, 2008.

**Ardene Byers '27 Hogl**, Portland, OR, September 30, 2008.

**Maxine Haas '35 Wight**, Green Bank, WA, October 23, 2008.

**Elizabeth Njeim '63 Maggard**, Lawrence, KS, February 14, 2009.

**Alice Vrang '44 West**, Clayton, CA, February 26, 2009.

**Amy Annabelle Ellis '53 Shepard**, Yuma, AZ, February 27, 2009.

**Vernola E. Collins '80**, Carlsbad, CA, March 21, 2009.

**Kimberly A. Wilson '88**, Kansas City, MO, May 3, 2009.

**Nadine Steele '53 Bear**, Kansas City, MO, May 10, 2009.

**Rhonda K. Weldon '78**, Denver, CO, June 27, 2009.

**Charles Irwin '36**, Pomona, CA, June 28, 2009.

**Robert C. Frame '95**, Port Saint Lucie, FL, September 17, 2009.

**Lois Booth '45 Finch**, Jonesboro, AR, November 2, 2009.

**Frances Reynolds '41 Zender**, Millbrae, CA, January 25, 2010.

**Donna Phillips '72 Gallardo**, Tacoma, WA, March 20, 2010.

**Gayrene Brannan '94 Lueke**, Jefferson City, MO, April 21, 2010.

**Mary Lee Tesman '59 Mathews**, Lansing, MI, August 10, 2010.



Kay Harbstreit '94 Leeper was recently named Mi

When Kay recognized her artistic passion in second grade, she never imagined finding a career, not to mention finding such success. With a quality art education and guidance from her father, a Graceland attendee and professor at Kansas State University, Kay found her ideal career path as a middle-grade art teacher.





Missouri Middle School Art Teacher of the Year. She teaches at Cameron, Mo., Middle School.

Now, Kay has received state-wide recognition for her skills in her Cameron Middle School classroom. On March 23, she was awarded the 2013 Middle School Art Teacher of the Year for Missouri by the Missouri Art Education Association (MAEA).

Kay has taught at Cameron Middle School for nine years; she got the job right after student teaching there. She tries to include numerous styles and mediums for her students, and works under her tried and true teaching philosophy.

"I understand that not every child that comes into my class is going to consider going into the art field," said Kay, "but I want them to take away an appreciation for art and to find art in everyday life. I want them to realize that it's not always

just about making pretty pictures; that there's so much more to it."

Kay really became inspired to teach after encountering numerous positive art professors. In high school, Kay had a ceramics teacher who "had the coolest job in the world," and challenged her to think for herself, something she tries to instill in her students today. The inspiration didn't stop when she came to Graceland. Kay lists Bette Sellars as one of the most "available and helpful" art professors she ever had.

"I had been in big schools, so I really liked the smaller classes at Graceland and the fact that the professors were readily available for me. It was just a family-oriented, fun, good place to be. It was very nurturing."

~ Liz Deegan

**Loretta Rife '45 Thomas,**  
Tacoma, WA, January 23, 2011.

**Jack L. Jones '48,**  
Mesa, AZ, February 11, 2011.

**Doris McLanahan '59 Gardner,**  
Davenport, IA, March 20, 2011.

**N. Faye McCall '42 Boles,**  
Griffin, GA, April 14, 2011.

**Odessa Barlow '47 Hollister,**  
Sebring, FL, April 15, 2011.

**Virginia Shotwell '83 Mueller,**  
Charlotte, MI, April 21, 2011.

**Bonnie L. Glenn '69,**  
Sulphur, OK, May 7, 2011.

**William B. Van Fleet '42,**  
Independence, MO, July 14, 2011.

**Melva Coop '55 Lanigan,**  
Independence, MO, January 2, 2012.

**Melva Sample '49 Mount,**  
Tulsa, OK, January 15, 2012.

**Harold C. Bayne '49,**  
Independence, MO, January 17, 2012.

**Donabelle Marsh '49 Minton,**  
Grain Valley, MO, January 21, 2012.

**Hoyt Jones '51,**  
Thomasville, AL, March 17, 2012.

**Richard T. Barker '68,**  
Springfield, OR, March 23, 2012.

**Nancy Ishikawa '48 Ige,**  
Honolulu, HI, August 2, 2012.

**George A. Rosacker '51,**  
Villa Park, CA, September 3, 2012.

**Lynn Maleck '98 Dooley,**  
Port Aransas, TX, October 23, 2012.

**Lawrence A. Davenport '57,**  
Soldiers Grove, WI, November 2, 2012.

**Beverly Niess '97 Powell,**  
Sierra Vista, AZ, November 16, 2012.

**Billy Lee Carson '69,**  
Trent, TX, December 4, 2012.

Nelvada Surbaugh Dean,  
Norborne, MO, December 9, 2012.

**Dwayne H. Shannon '49,**  
Wichita, KS, December 12, 2012.

**Donna Ritchey '52 Belingloph,**  
Independence, MO, December 18, 2012.

# President Sellars Awards Scholarship to Seven-Year-Old Samantha Welch

**S**even-year-old Samantha Welch divides her allowance equally amongst three piggy banks: give, save and spend.

Her parents, Don and Carrie Garwood '85 Welch, both graduates of Graceland's Community of Christ Seminary, work for the church and preach about compassionate ministry and giving. So when Samantha saw her mother reading the last issue of *Horizons* with a donation envelope tucked inside, she was curious.

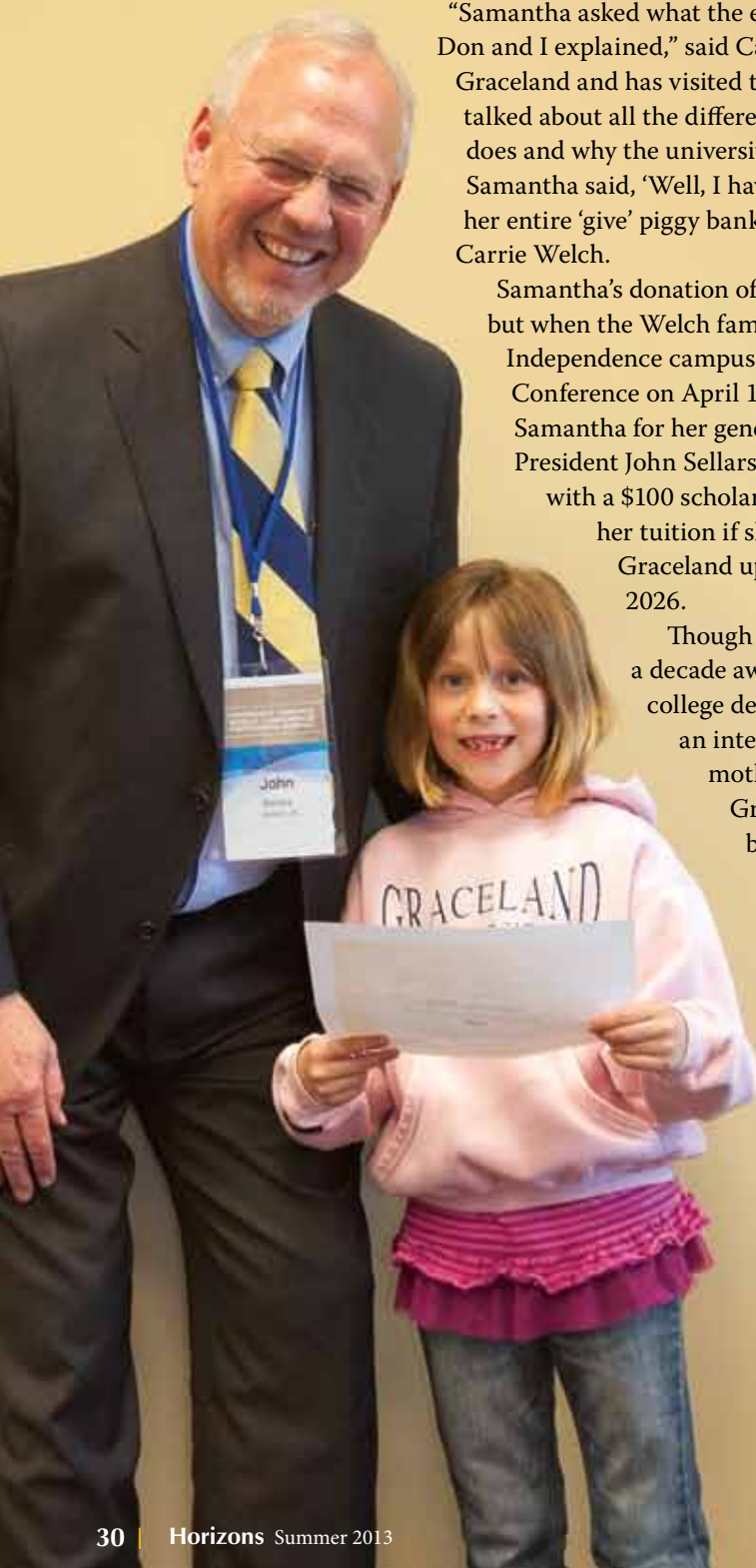
"Samantha asked what the envelope was for and Don and I explained," said Carrie. "Samantha knows Graceland and has visited the Lamoni campus. We talked about all the different things Graceland does and why the university might need money. Samantha said, 'Well, I have money!' and emptied her entire 'give' piggy bank into the envelope," said Carrie Welch.

Samantha's donation of \$1.44 may seem small, but when the Welch family visited Graceland's Independence campus during World Conference on April 15, Graceland rewarded Samantha for her generosity. University President John Sellars presented Samantha with a \$100 scholarship to be applied to her tuition if she chooses to attend Graceland upon her graduation in 2026.

Though Samantha is more than a decade away from making her college decision, she currently has an interest in science, and her mother, a third generation Graceland student, would be happy to see both her daughters, Samantha and Jyne, 15, choose Graceland.

"We love Graceland and I had such a great time and experience there. I would love both my daughters to have that same experience," said Carrie.

~ Melissa Shephard



**Helen Hall '47 Willsie,**  
Littleton, CO, December 22, 2012.

**Claremont L. Robinson '38,**  
Kansas City, MO, December 29, 2012.

**Francis R. Swift '51,**  
West Hempstead, NY, December 30, 2012.

**Shirley Rogge '53 Frickey,**  
Scottsdale, AZ, December 31, 2012.

**Ruth Mae Jones '46 Sheehy,**  
Independence, MO, January 6, 2013.

**Dayle M. Bethel '73,**  
Honolulu, HI, January 13, 2013.

**Kori L. Clark '12,**  
Miami, FL, January 15, 2013.

**Robert P. McGraw '48,**  
Independence, MO, January 18, 2013.

**April Tyler '65 Weiss,**  
Independence, MO, January 22, 2013.

**James L. Smythe '70,**  
Tofield, AB, Canada, January 23, 2013.

**Chrye Edwards '80 Diveley,**  
Lamoni, IA, January 24, 2013.

**Shirley Roose '92 Cormicle,**  
Flint, MI, January 29, 2013.

**O.C. "Chet" Hensen Jr '48,**  
Independence, MO, February 4, 2013.

**Theodore H. Bourlard '55,** Tucson, AZ,  
February 5, 2013.

**Velma "Vicky" Cotton '45 Johnson,**  
San Clemente, CA, February 7, 2013.

**A.V. "Red" Peavy '48,**  
Roxana, IL, February 11, 2013.

**Helen Draper '41 Lents,**  
Independence, MO, February 12, 2013.

**Ward W. Weldon '45,**  
Glenview, IL, February 14, 2013.

**Norman R. Hield '48,** Crossville, TN,  
February 15, 2013.

**M. Virginia Snethen '45 Sponsler,**  
Tehachapi, CA, February 18, 2013.

**Charles O. Snethen '51,**  
Davis City, IA, February 19, 2013.

**Jesse L. Hicks '44,**  
Knoxville, TN, February 23, 2013.

**Ione Clarkson '47 Campbell,**  
Independence, MO, March 5, 2013.



# We want your class notes!

## Submission Guidelines

### ► Upcoming Deadlines

Fall 2013: October 2013 (publication month: November 2013)  
Winter 2014: February 2014 (publication month: March 2014)  
Summer 2014: June 2014 (publication month: July 2014)

These deadlines apply to all submissions. We cannot guarantee the publication of class notes received after the deadline as production schedules and resources require strict deadline compliance.

### ► How to Submit Class Notes

**Email:** Email your notes to [cpauli@graceland.edu](mailto:cpauli@graceland.edu) (Subject line: Class Notes "year")

**By mail:** Yes, the post person is still welcome at our door.

You may mail columns or your news to:

**Class Notes**  
c/o Cathy Pauli  
1 University Place  
Lamoni, Iowa 50140

### ► Photo Guidelines

Traditional photographic prints (made from a negative) or digital photos can be submitted to *Horizons* for publication.

#### Tips for Digital Photos

- In general, digital photos should be taken on the highest-quality setting.
- Digital photos should be 4 x 6 inches or larger and 300 dpi.
- Save the photo as a TIFF or JPEG and email it as an attachment to [cpauli@graceland.edu](mailto:cpauli@graceland.edu).



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& follow us on Twitter @GracelandU

**E. Virginia Padget '46 Gorker,**  
Blue Springs, MO, March 17, 2013.

**Nadine Smith '46 Stice,**  
Bates City, MO, March 22, 2013.

**Donald R. Everett '49,**  
Lamoni, IA, March 23, 2013.

**Shirley Clow '50 Frates,**  
El Cajon, CA, April 1, 2013.

**Cathy L. Howeron '75,**  
Lee Summit, MO, April 2, 2013.

**Frederick N. Budworth '47,**  
Ventura, CA, April 4, 2013.

**Frances Tomlinson '46 McDole,**  
Lees Summit, MO, April 10, 2013.

**Edward E. Closson '50,**  
Raytown, MO, April 13, 2013.

**Donald "Satch" Jones '58,**  
Independence, MO, April 21, 2013.

**Ruth Anne Lachance '71 Eubanks,**  
Independence, MO, April 26, 2013.

**Betty Lou Clark '47 Budworth,**  
Simi Valley, CA, May 2, 2013.

**Raymond T. Jackel '49,**  
San Antonio, TX, May 11, 2013.

## Alumni Board of Directors

#### *President*

Samuel Smalldon '78

#### *Vice President*

Cal Closson '82

#### *Secretary*

Michael Morain '01

#### *Faculty Representative*

Barbara Hiles Mesle '72

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Katie Arnold-Clow '90

Joe Booz '86

Jeremy Graybill '98

Dan Hanton '65

Jenny Jackson '10

Kasey Johnson Steen '08

Rosa La Puente-Flowers '97

Melissa Lewis '01

Joseph Postnikoff '83

Stacey Slifka '96

Wade Wallace '82

Jeannine Ward '84

Michael Wiley '83

David Yost '67

Zana Zeqiri Rudi '06

### *Corrections*

In the Winter 2013 issue of *Horizons*, it was incorrectly noted that Joyce Lightell '69 Carter, who is in fact alive and well, had passed away. The correct death notice was that of Joyce's mother, Margaret Lavon "Vonnie" Merrick '45 Lightell, who died in Hernando, FL on September 20, 2012. We extend our sincerest apologies to Joyce for her loss and for the misprint.

# Goodbye to Our Old Friends

**R**obert (Bob) Page Bruch '52, Dwayne Shannon '49, and Charles "Orman" Brooner '53 — all late members of the Board of Trustees — will be sorely missed by the Graceland community. We would like to recognize them for dedicating their talents and time to the community, Church and the University.



## Robert "Bob" Page Bruch

passed away on April 25, 2012 in Independence, Mo. Bob was well-known for his commitment to agricultural education, his support of Graceland, his life of service to humanity, and for developing creative programs to meet the needs of all ages. The Bruch Family Agricultural Business Scholarship Fund was established to honor Bob this Spring.

Bob received his Associate of Arts degree in science at Graceland College. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and a master's degree in education from

the University of Missouri-Columbia. He received distinguished service awards from Graceland College and the Maryville, Mo. Junior Chamber of Commerce.

In the 1980s, while serving as the Lamoni Stake President, Bob initiated and taught the agribusiness curriculum for a Bachelor of Science major at Graceland College. In addition to his full-time work with the Church, Bob taught as much as three-quarters of a course-load at Graceland. Bob Bruch's greatest joy was "seeing people come closer to the living Christ — that came through working with young people in camping and Spectacular."

## Dwayne Shannon

passed away on December 12, 2012. A native of Wichita, Kans., Dwayne earned an Associate of Arts degree from Graceland in 1949. He went on to Wichita State University to complete a bachelor's degree. He soon became a community and business leader in his hometown and, in 1959, founded Metal-Fab, Inc., a manufacturing company that now employs approximately 350 people.

Dwayne joined Graceland's Board of Trustees in 2001. He and his wife, Dottie Smith '50 Shannon, were presented with the Distinguished Service Award at Homecoming 2001. This award is given to those who exhibit outstanding achievement in their fields, humanitarian



service, a contribution to society and service to the University.

As a couple, Dot and Dwayne were leaders not only in the business community, but in the arts and humanities as well. They generously provided funds for the Dwayne and Dottie Shannon Atrium in the Helene Center for the Visual Arts, as well as the Monet statue near the entrance of the Helene. The statue is dedicated to their son Gary, who died at a young age.

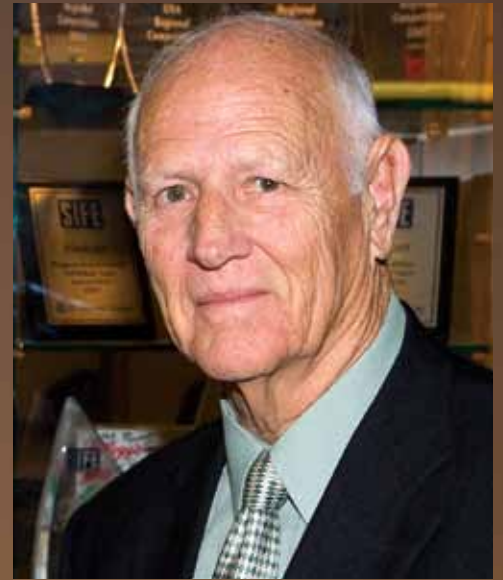


## Charles "Orman" Brooner

passed away on May 25, 2013, in St. Joseph, Mo. Orman was a member of the Community of Christ Church, a 1951 graduate of Benton High School, and a 1953 graduate of Graceland University. By trade, Orman was a carpenter and in 1961 started his own company with David Herbert. Today the company continues as Brooner Construction & Crane. Orman directed his company for 52 years before his

recent decline in health due to pulmonary fibrosis.

Fishing, hunting, hiking, and camping were his favorite pastimes when not working or serving in church activities. As a member of Community of Christ, he was most recently an ordained minister in the office of evangelist. Greatest of all was his desire to assist others and serve his fellow beings. Orman was beloved by his family and friends and well-respected by associates in the construction industry.



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And so we say goodbye to our old friends Bob Bruch, Dwayne Shannon and Charles "Orman" Brooner. They were strong supporters of Graceland and inspired leaders who made a big difference.

*Kenneth B. McClain*



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ON PAGE 16