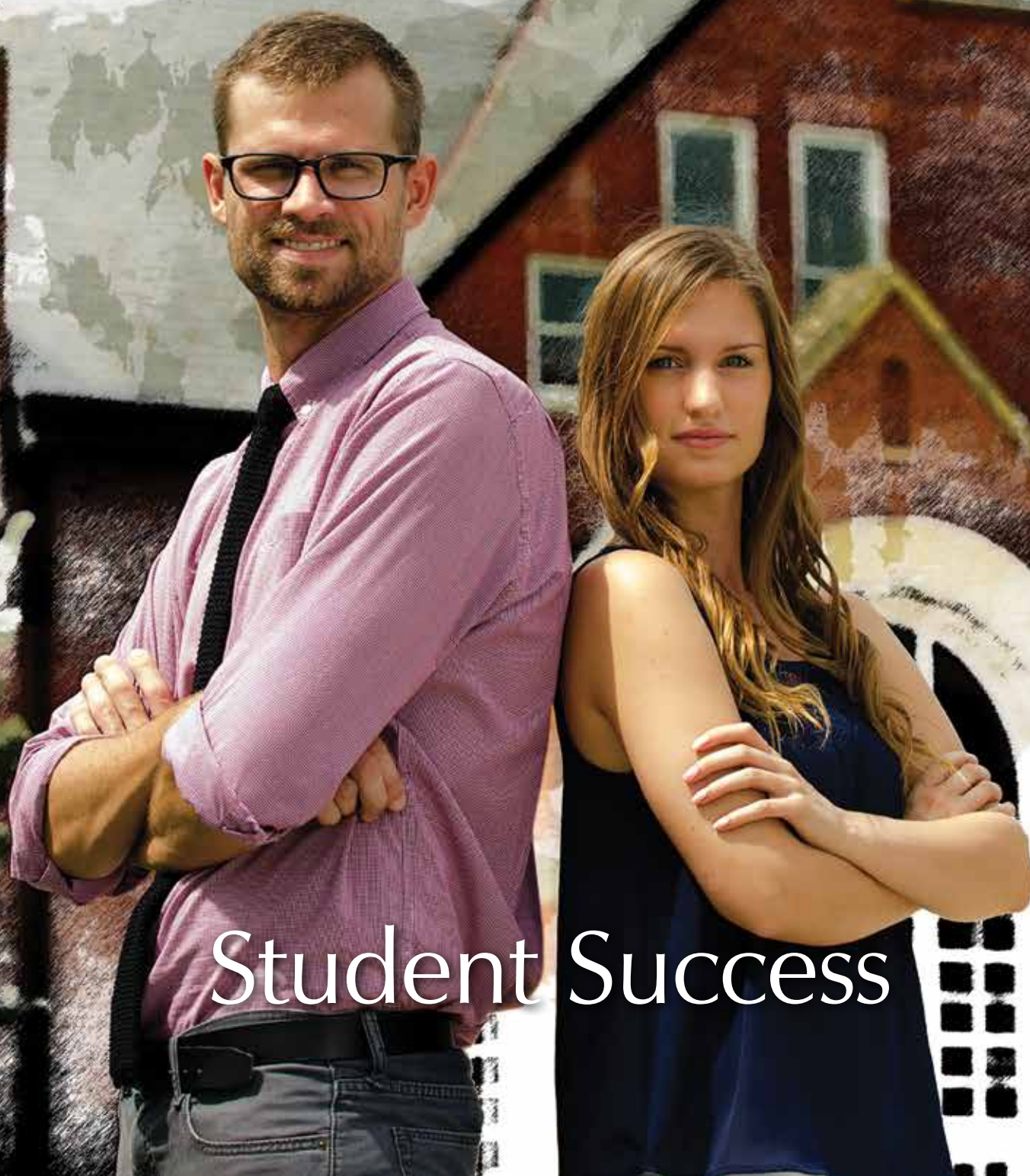


Fall 2015 Vol. 31, No. 2

Horizons

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY



Student Success



Horizons

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY

Alumni and Friends Magazine

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There is a new addition to the northeast of campus. The dedication of the Faren Charles Persall Gazebo, as part of the Persall Family Orchard, will take place at 4 p.m. on the Friday of Homecoming 2015. Graceland University Outreach International (OI) students were the driving force behind the project. The idea was presented to the Graceland Senate and, with their help, funding for the orchard began a few years ago. As the project developed, Graceland student and senator Mikayla Conway suggested the gazebo be named for the late Charles Persall, and the Persall and Everett families provided the additional funding needed. Thanks to the work and ideas of Graceland students Karl Bradford, Melissa Sherer and Mikayla Conway, along with GU Sustainability Coordinator, Jen Abraham-White, and OI club sponsor and business professor, Max Pitt, this addition to campus honoring Persall has become a reality and offers a beautiful retreat for students and visitors, alike.

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Jeanne Davis '81

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Steve Edwards '96
Tiffany Smith '06

Photography

Michael Gruich
R. Paul Davis

Communications

Aaron Neeley '03
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Thank You

*for being a part of the
Graceland community!*

Because of your generous support, great things are happening for GU!

- Graceland moved to a first-tier academic level in several national surveys.
- Graceland received top recognition for innovative programming from the American Council of Education.
- Graceland's School of Nursing's online master's program is now rated among the top 10 nationally.
- The Gleazer School of Education's online master's degree is recognized among the top five nationally.
- Princeton Review recognized Graceland again in their "Best in the Midwest" listing.

As notable as those institutional achievements are, Graceland has never been about the institution itself. Our pledge to the students is, "our passion is your success." In this issue, we have included several stories about how Graceland made a difference in the lives of students. There are many more of these stories to be told! Each of these students has been transformed by internships during their "Graceland Experience." Their transformation is possible through the Graceland connections of alumni, faculty, administration, family and friends as we stand together in our passion to help our students succeed. We are the Graceland community – it takes all of us.

Thank you for making Graceland a special place in higher education. If you would like to share your success story, please email me at jsellars@graceland.edu. I hope to see you in October at homecoming!

John Sellars, PhD, CPA
President

"Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I may remember.
Involve me and I will learn."

~Xunzi

Learning from experience isn't anything new; it is as old as Confucian philosophy.

The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) researched the elements of a student experience, the likelihood of graduation and subsequent success. Research (George Kuh, 2008, 2013) has indicated that when students participate in high-impact learning experiences (for example, learning communities, service learning, intracultural learning and internships), their level of learning increases. The components of a college experience that predict higher levels of success were labeled as Essential Learning Outcomes. To achieve the Essential Learning Outcomes, they identified several High-Impact Practices – experiences that help to bring about student success. Internships rank among these "High Impact Practices."

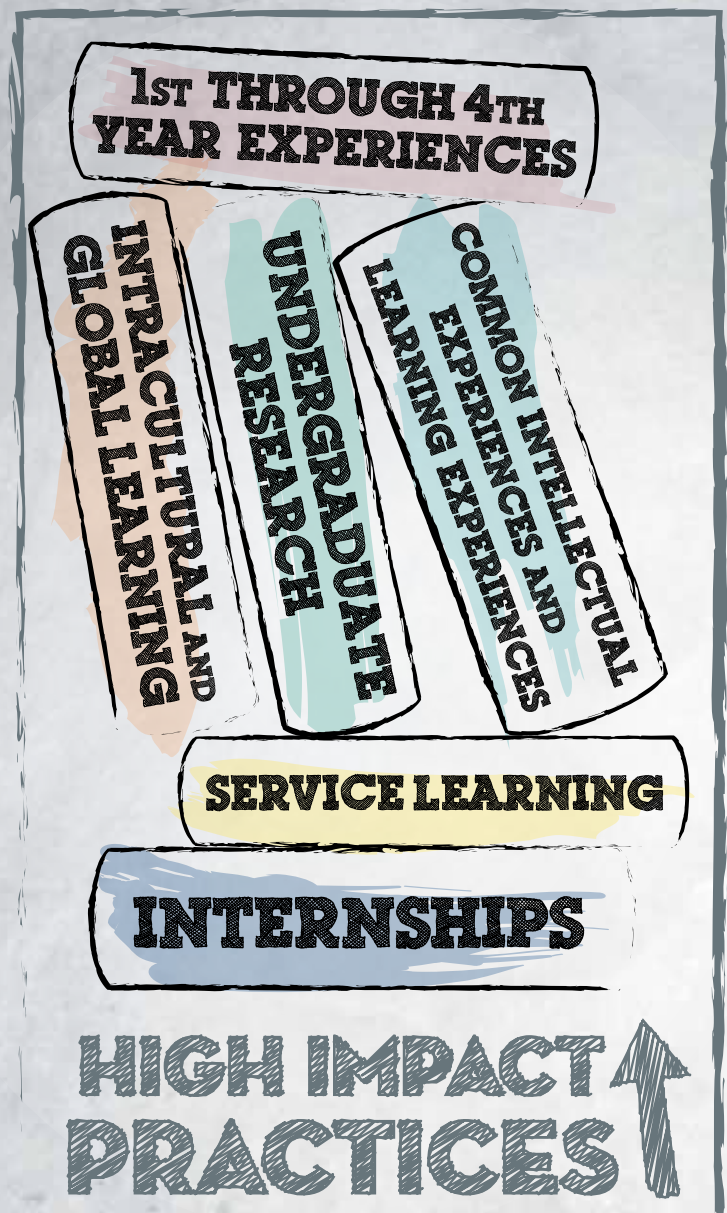
"If a student has the opportunity for an internship, we know odds of success academically and career-wise go up drastically; it is a pivotal component of student success," said David Schaal, VP of Student Life at Graceland University. "That's the reason we're interested in internships and service learning beyond the other holistic liberal arts experience."

Katie Bash, VP for Institutional Effectiveness, has led GU's strategic planning document, a process that has distilled five goals for Graceland. The first is to Enhance Student Success, which Graceland defines as demonstrated achievement of Essential Learning Outcomes

Faculty, staff and the Alumni Board are working together to increase the number and quality of internships available to Graceland students by connecting professional alumni and friends with students. The Alumni Board of Trustees sub-group, GU4U, has recently formed to research and develop a mentoring process that will include various internship models. The diverse group will also focus on recruitment and listing of available alumni who will assist students in accessing high quality internships.

There isn't enough space to highlight them all – but here are some student spotlights – just a sprinkling of the many who have experienced an internship and are on the road to student success.

STUDENT SUCCESS



“I have had a passion for writing for as long as I can remember,
and Graceland has nurtured that passion.”

Mariah Kliegl

My “Graceland Experience” led me to a summer internship working with ABC 7 and News Channel 8 in Washington D.C. It was unpaid but very hands on, and I learned so much about the world of broadcast journalism in just one summer! It’s fast, exciting and sometimes stressful, but makes for a wonderful work environment.

The internship is set up to fit the interests of the students. I chose which areas I wanted to learn about: producing, writing, reporting, etc. Then they partnered me with a team.

I was placed with *Let’s Talk Live*, the daytime talk show with cooking, fashion, lifestyle, sales and celebrity guests. I escorted guests to the set, helped set up between segments, ran the Twitter live behind-the-scenes updates, wrote blog posts and the “leads” for the day’s segments (the leads are what goes on the prompter for each segment, so I got to witness the hosts of the show reading the words I wrote!).

I was also placed with the *7 On Your Side* investigative team. I shadowed reporters, which meant getting out of the office and watching how they seek out and execute the stories, and then how they put it all together. I also reviewed potential stories about various legal issues people are experiencing in the community and determined which ones were “news worthy” or ethical, etc. It was a great learning experience.

And how did I find this fabulous opportunity? In the fall of 2014, I asked Professor Isaac Pressnell about an internship for the summer. Isaac asked his friend, an executive producer and Emmy winner, George Jackson, about an internship program. Both Isaac and Professor Barbara Mesle provided letters of recommendation, which must have done the trick because I was awarded the internship!

When I was figuring out where I would stay for the summer while working at an unpaid internship, the Community of Christ was a big help. After making some calls and sending a few emails, I came to the doorstep of GU alumnus Ryan Pitt and his wife, Emma, who live in the parsonage of the D.C. Community of Christ, and they happened to have a basement apartment available at an extremely reasonable price! They were very welcoming and helpful. I knew the congregation was all standing behind me and rooting for me to succeed.

Words can’t express how grateful I am for this opportunity and how smoothly it all came together. I have had a passion for writing for as long as I can remember, and Graceland has nurtured that passion and expanded my knowledge and skills. Three years ago, I never would have guessed that I would end up interning in broadcast journalism, or even editing the university newspaper. But the teachers at GU have been so supportive and have encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone. I think that is honestly the best thing they could have taught me. I will always be grateful to them for having faith in me even when I didn’t have faith in myself. And look where it landed me! In a city I’ve always dreamed of seeing, interning in a field I never imagined I would love so much.



“I learned a lot of **real-life applications and problem solving.**”

Oscar Chang

Born and raised in Kuching, Malaysia, Oscar knew he wanted to go to college in the U.S. and applied to several schools with the help of his tennis coach. Graceland was his choice. He is a computer science and information technology (CSIT) and math major with a minor in sports management and will graduate in May 2016.

Oscar was welcomed into Agape House and the Graceland community. “Professors, faculty and students are willing to help each other. It is more than a community. To me, it is more like a family. Being a small college is an advantage; people care for each other,” explained Oscar.

Oscar’s new Graceland “family” helped him add an internship to his credentials. Oscar had heard about the Ackerley computer science internship opportunity at Smith & Associates in Houston, Texas, through upper classmates. Information technology professor Kevin Brunner made sure Oscar knew about the process for application and encouraged him to apply.

“Oscar Chang was a really good candidate for the program. His technical ability, work ethic and easy going personality were a good fit. Graceland is fortunate to have this connection to the industry and several students have benefited from the experience,” added Brunner.

Smith & Associates was established by brothers Bob and Lee Ackerley, descendants of Marietta Walker. Their successful business in the computer industry has opened doors for many Graceland students in a variety of ways. In 2003, they established the Ackerley Computer Science and Technology Scholars Program to provide assistance to Graceland’s computer science program and to students who proved themselves academically. The internship program grew out of that desire to help Graceland computer science students integrate into careers.

This summer Oscar and three other Graceland University

IT students – Carter Martin, Kirby Ray and Ross Robino – under the supervision of Graceland graduate Adrian Chia, who now works as a Senior Developer at Smith & Associates, were IT interns in Houston. There were newly employed, recent Graceland graduates that greeted them: Young Park ’15, Sam McFarlin ’15, Suchit Malla ’15, Dylan Liu ’15 and Luis Freitas ’14. Oscar experienced the Graceland family again welcoming him to the internship. Bob Ackerley, who enjoys meeting the interns, commented on Oscar’s participation, “Oscar was always getting people to come out and play tennis with him; he was a great addition to the team.”

Oscar explained, “The internship program focused on software developing; building web and mobile applications. I learned a lot of real-life applications and problem solving. Graceland’s curriculum taught me the fundamental basics of the CSIT field, which really helped me understand the tasks and concepts that were presented during the internship. Taking part in the Association and Computing Machinery Club, spending some free time outside of class and working on some personal projects gave me a better understanding of the field I’m majoring in.”

Oscar hasn’t decided if he will go to grad school or get a job after graduation, but his internship has given him the experience he needs for success in any direction.



“... seeing scientists working together was really inspiring”

Darcy Volz

Darcy Volz, a Solah House senior, shines as a leader. She is the Assistant Hall Director for Walker Hall, from Whitehall, Montana, with Community of Christ roots and comes from generations of Gracelanders. Volz was awarded the prestigious Honors Scholarship and continues to uphold academic excellence as she makes her mark in the hallways of Resch Science and Technology Hall.

This summer she interned in Indianapolis at Eli Lilly and Company. Michael R. Wiley, PhD '83 has opened Lilly's doors for GU interns. A Research Fellow at Eli Lilly and Company, Mike knows that Graceland prepares students for success. He also knows that an internship is critical to best educational practices.

Dr. Gary Krishnan, Chief Scientific Officer of one of Lilly's Endocrine research groups said, “... Darcy was a superb scientist who we had the joy of influencing over the last few weeks. She was inquisitive and remained committed to the task until the end. She was also a very good ‘teacher’ in her style of explaining to the naïve audience some aspects of her research. This positions her well for assistantships and opportunities in medical school. I find that her predecessors Sydney and June also share a common trait of a level of maturity beyond their years, and I am hopeful we remain a top institution for Graceland students to explore research opportunities in life sciences.”

Volz's internship was in the musculoskeletal division where she performed in vitro lab work and data analysis. She had heard about the Lilly internship from Sydney Brock '15, now in medical school at Des Moines University. Volz commented, “I was able to work on a full research project from beginning to end. I performed experiments, took ownership of materials, and I'll probably get published in a paper, which is really awesome!”

“The Lilly internship showed me an aspect of science other than being a teacher or a doctor. Although I'm still interested in becoming a physician, this opened my eyes to the industrial and research side. It was cool to see the different opportunities and incredible new technology there is to help with research. The atmosphere of seeing scientists working together was really inspiring.”

Volz's lab head at Lilly commented, “... if she wanted to go into research, I'd hire her. If you know of any other Graceland students that are interested in an internship, bring 'em on!”



Volunteer work in hospitals in 11 countries in 11 months changed her life.

Veronica Bourdon

While in Malaysia in 2012, Veronica Bourdon met a family that had come from Indonesia to get treatment for their 13-year-old daughter. After going through surgery for a brain tumor, the young girl lost her battle, and it was Veronica who comforted the girl's mother. It was this poignant experience that solidified her passion for nursing.

When she returned to the U.S., Veronica began a search for local nursing programs and found Graceland University. She attended the open house and loved the small campus and classrooms, the ease of the facility and the friendly people. Although people warned her not to put all her eggs in one basket, she only applied to Graceland. "Graceland University was the only basket I wanted."

Now 14 months into the program, clinicals are Veronica's favorite days. It helps her reinforce what she learns in class, but it also reinvigorates her passion. The experiential learning in clinicals makes her look forward to her upcoming internship, known as "capstones" in nursing. It will consist of 180 hours with a nurse preceptor at a local hospital, beginning with Veronica caring for a single patient through to her last shift caring for a full load of four to five patients.

"I am passionate about touching people's lives and serving God through my career," said Veronica. "Graceland University has prepared me to do just that." She describes her last semester of internship as "the icing on the cake," and she will soon be a nursing graduate with a strong foundation to begin her career.

Claudia Horton, PhD, Dean of the School of Nursing and Professor of Nursing shares that Veronica is a wonderful example of the type of nursing student we have at Graceland.

"We are fortunate to have Veronica in our nursing program. We appreciate her value of altruism as she cares for people on a local and a global scale." Claudia continues, "I know that Veronica will take advantage of every learning opportunity in her capstone course because she is determined to be the best nurse she can be. She is committed to providing quality care to her patients. She strives to make a difference for her patients every day."

Graceland's capstone program is the culminating experiential learning process that will propel Veronica on the road to student success.



“It has been an eye-opening experience
not only for a design student but for a longtime community member.”

Stephen Mercer

Graceland has been a great force in my life, as it is a great force in the community. My family moved to Lamoni when my dad accepted a position as a chemistry professor at Graceland. I was, to a degree, raised by a community of professors, administrators and alumni of Graceland. Some graduates, friends of the family, have even become my best friends and role models.

I'm going into my junior year of college, majoring in visual communication and web design. The curriculum teaches the fundamentals and complexities of design: what people like to see, how people look at things, how to use technology and how to work with design elements to create a compelling piece. With this knowledge I've acquired an ability to look at my surroundings for the subtle (and not so subtle) designs around me, like event posters, street signs, marketing materials, etc.

Early last school year, I was offered a position as a design assistant for the Creative Media Center (CMC) on campus that deals with all of Graceland's promotional, marketing and miscellaneous design needs. During the summer I continued my position there, and I had the chance to work alongside professional designers to create materials for Graceland, ranging from the various designs for admissions' activities at the Iowa State Fair to postcards for upcoming shows in Graceland's Constance Gallery.

Working in the CMC has taught me a great deal about my desired profession: learning the subtleties of a good design, how to design to particular tastes, prepare documents for printing and how to work alongside a team. What has been especially interesting is being able to see (and even produce) many of the materials I've seen around campus for so long, and to understand all of the work that goes into those pieces.

This summer I was assigned a design job for Financial Services.



They needed a postcard to send out to certain new and returning students that would get them to start working on their financial aid materials. The postcard listed multiple reasons why being financially clear early would help the students in the long run. It was my job to design it in a way that was convincing and would motivate the students to get what they needed to do done. After finishing the project, going through the approval process, sending it off to the printer and moving on to my next job, I received a very familiar looking postcard in the mail. It turns out the entire time I was designing this postcard, I was actually designing it for myself! I needed to finish my financial aid materials.

My graphic design internship has taught me a lot, from being able to see the work that goes into every facet of Graceland's operations to customer service specifics. It has been an eye-opening experience not only for a design student but for a longtime community member.

“I learned marketing isn’t just about selling,
it’s about nurturing clients ...”

Hannah Krueger

Meeet Hannah Krueger. Hannah has become fully integrated into the Graceland family. Coming from Charlotte, North Carolina, she is entering her senior year completing a business administration degree with an interest in the field of marketing. Hannah is a member of both the golf and bowling teams, and she is an active member of Solah House. She is grateful for the strong and lasting relationships she has made with the members of her “House,” teammates, professors and coaches.

“Graceland just has this atmosphere about it that makes it feel like home. It’s a place that allows individuals to grow and leave a lasting impression. Graceland provides so many different opportunities to find your interest or passion.”

For Hannah, it was these opportunities – and especially the connections of Graceland faculty and administration – that led to her landing a summer internship at Miller Products Company in Osceola, Iowa. Miller Products specializes in manufacturing lock pins, hitch pins and other precision machined parts. Graceland President John Sellars served on a board with the owner of Miller Products, which began a discussion of student internships. That conversation later included Graceland Professor Jeff McElroy and has led to more than one very successful intern for Miller.

Hannah worked in the Marketing Department, running the social media presence for the company. She was in charge of writing weekly blogs, posting pictures and providing information on the company’s products. She also helped with web optimization and finding ways to market Miller Products Company to local colleges that offer degrees that train graduates on machine operation related to the company.

“This internship has been a great opportunity. Growing up in a generation surrounded by technology, social marketing is practically a second language. Because social media is one of the fastest growing marketing trends, this is perfect timing to be entering into this type of work,” explained Hannah.

Hannah feels this internship has provided her with insight into what a marketing job could entail for her after graduation – and she feels ready. It has been an invaluable experience, making her even more confident and hireable, and confirming this is the right path for her. “I would encourage every Graceland student to do an internship in their area of study,” Hannah says.

“I learned that marketing isn’t just about selling and promoting a product. It’s really about nurturing your clients and helping them feel comfortable and confident in you as a company. This is definitely an idea I can see that would transfer into any position or career field.”

Hannah has already landed her first job in the social media marketing field. She will be working as a student worker for the

Graceland Communications Department for her senior year.



Internships give practical experience that
prepares students for success after graduation.

McClain Interns



Brett Hall, Spencer Bergman, Becky Humphrey, Brandon McCaffrey, Ricardo Illesca, Oswaldo Herrera, Dori Bosnyak, Raysean Brown

This summer the Independence Square just outside of Kansas City, Missouri, was home once again to another talented group of young Graceland professionals through the McClain Enterprises Internships. This was the ninth consecutive year for the highly rewarding internships developed through Kenneth B. McClain '79, previous Graceland University Board of Trustees Chair. The McClain internships accept 10-15 students each year through a competitive spring application process. C.H. Sandage School of Business Professor Jeff McElroy makes sure that all his students know about the internship opportunity, but it is open to all students, and international students are encouraged to apply.

This intern program is not “get some coffee and that’s all your job for the day” experience. Each summer, the diverse group of interns develops business plans and earns hands-on business skills through producing events. There were three main projects for the summer, and one of them had a long-awaited breakthrough. Polly’s Pop, a local Independence soda pop product from 1923

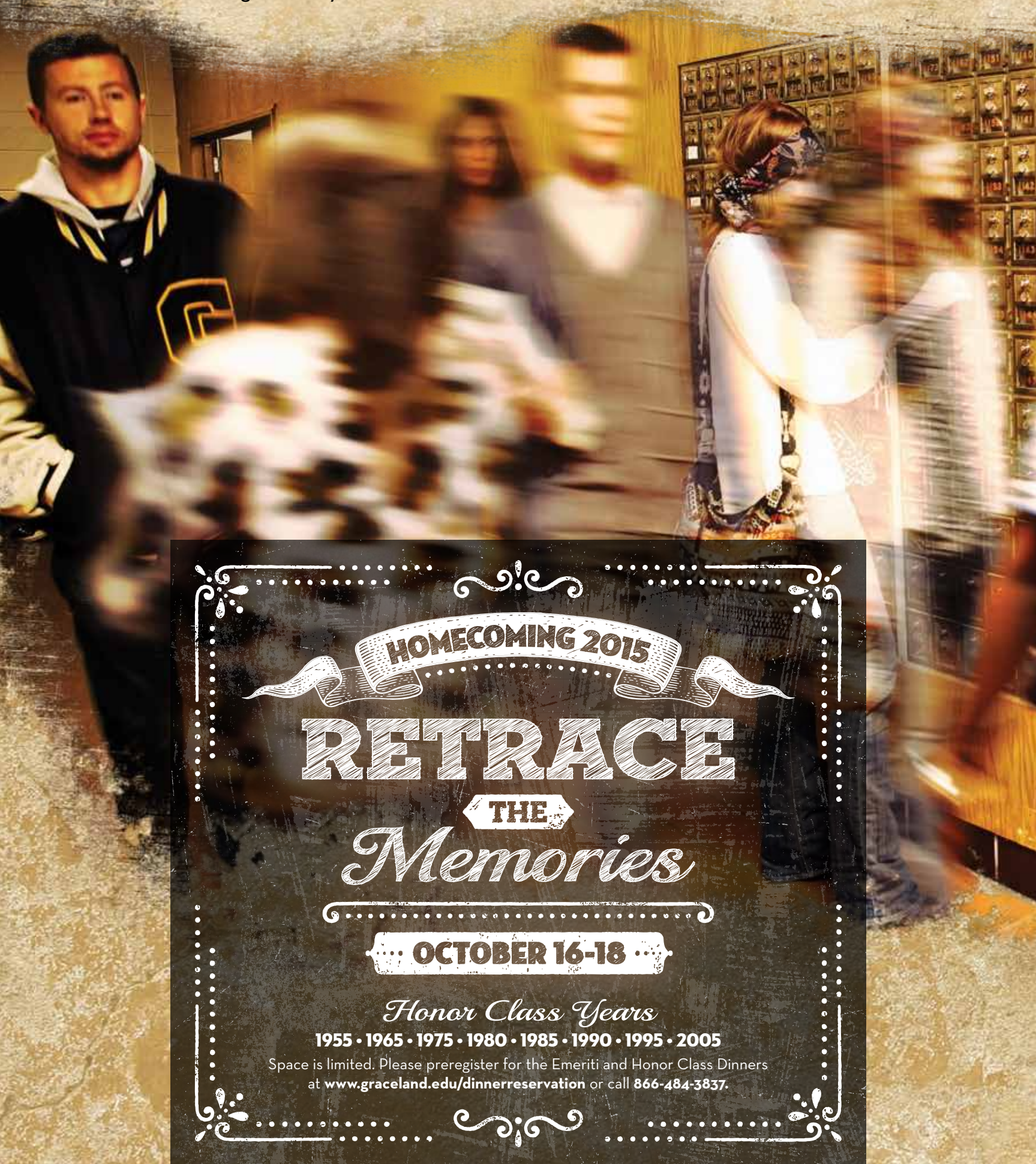
until 1967 was finally served again on the square this summer!

Projects such as restarting Polly’s Pop are incredibly rewarding for the young professionals. Transferring the textbook knowledge to the “real world” and making the best possible use of it is every student’s dream. Some events included organizing and hosting the annual Up Dog Hot Dog Eating Contest (all proceeds went to

Big Brothers Big Sisters), facilitating the traditional Arts and Wine Walk, working at a bicycle race and at a movie premiere. Probably the interns’ favorite was hosting the “Moonlight Movies” – a free movie showing each Thursday (10 movies throughout the summer), where more than 500 locals show up each night!

McClain provides the interns with housing, transportation and a stipend, along with some other great perks like tickets to Royals games and barbecues at the McClain lake house. The internship includes a book-reading party as well, where discussions occur each year on Richard Bach’s novel *Illusions*. The internship is a real-life business opportunity that becomes a significant part of the “Graceland Experience” for the students. McClain mentors Graceland students while changing the face of the Independence Square. Producing events and giving back to the community make the work worthwhile. McClain knows that internships provide the practical experience that prepares students for success after graduation.

Through the years, Graceland students have passed through the MSC, coming and going from class, meeting friends to grab a quick bite, and of course, to check their mailboxes. Picture your time here. What do you remember? We each have our own collection of memories that have shaped our “Graceland Experience.” We hold on to these memories, retracing them for years to come.



HOMECOMING 2015

RETRACE

THE

Memories

OCTOBER 16-18

Honor Class Years

1955 • 1965 • 1975 • 1980 • 1985 • 1990 • 1995 • 2005

Space is limited. Please preregister for the Emeriti and Honor Class Dinners at www.graceland.edu/dinnerreservation or call 866-484-3837.

SCHEDULE *Highlights*

THURSDAY

7:30 p.m. Homecoming Musical: *Big Fish*

FRIDAY

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. A History in Blue and Gold: Treasures from the Graceland Archives

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Environmental Symposium: Changing Paradigms

1 p.m. Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament

5 p.m. 16th Annual Emeriti & Alumni Awards Banquet

7 p.m. Alumni Art Show & Reception featuring Everett Graffeo '56 and Carol Howdyshell '55

7:30 p.m. Homecoming Musical: *Big Fish*

10:30 p.m. Student Airband Show

SATURDAY

9 a.m. Social Clubs Reunion

9 - 11 a.m. Ackerley Computer Program Open House

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Book Signing by Don Breshears '54

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Science & Math Open House & Busy Bees Corner

With special guest David Yost '91, the Blue Power Ranger

10 a.m. Annual Alumni Association Forum

11 a.m. Pep Rally

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. David Yost '91, the Blue Power Ranger Autographs /

Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fundraiser

11:30 a.m. Homecoming Court / Crowning of the King & Queen

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Yellowjacket Tailgate Party

Noon Yellowjacket Jazz

Noon 30th Anniversary of the Honors Program Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Nicaragua Reunion

1 p.m. Graceland Players Improv Troupe

1 p.m. "Go GU!" COC Congregational Reps Reception

1 - 2 p.m. Alumni Art Show Reception featuring Patty Kochaver '84

2 p.m. Football Game vs. Grand View University

Half time presentations include student Freeman Awards and Hall of Fame Induction for Glenn Brush '65, Billy Dudek '95 and Cara Warner '99.

2 p.m. Music Department Recital

3 p.m. Behind the Scenes of the Homecoming Musical *Big Fish*

3 - 5 p.m. 17th Annual GALA Reception

5 p.m. Honor Class Dinners

7:30 p.m. Homecoming Musical: *Big Fish*

9 - 10:30 p.m. 3rd Annual Graceland's Got Talent / Homecoming Edition

SUNDAY

8 a.m. Crescent Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Homecoming Worship Service

2 p.m. Homecoming Musical: *Big Fish*

2 p.m. JV Football vs. Simpson College

FOR THE MOST CURRENT SCHEDULE

... www.graceland.edu/hcschedule ...



Be sure to
register
online.

The Graceland University Sustainability program is delighted to announce the first Graceland Environmental Symposium. The event will be held Friday, Oct. 16, during the 2015 homecoming weekend on the Lamoni campus.

This event will showcase environmental professionals and researchers from a variety of backgrounds, all of whom will speak on this year's symposium theme, "Changing Paradigms."

All are welcome to attend this free event, but registration is required.

Speakers will include:

Ryan Schlom, *On Being a Change Agent*

Leon Probasco '72, *Overcoming Carbon*

Matt Frizzell '96, *Environmental Stewardship*

Jennifer Trent, *Food Waste*

Bob Ackerley, *Scaling Organic Food Production: The View from the Nut Farm*

Denise O'Brien, *Organic Farming, Food and Women in Agriculture*

Tom Wind, *Renewable Energy to the Rescue!*

Sarah Webb, *Practical Sustainability at Home, Church and Community*

Michael Garvin, *From Fossil Fuel to Renewable Energy*

Jennifer Abraham-White '08 and Leon Probasco, *GU Sustainability and the EnviroAlumni Network: Now and Tomorrow*

An appeal to self-described "green" alumni from Leon Probasco, class of 1972

Alumni who are interested in forming an **EnviroAlumni network** to support environmental studies and sustainability practices at Graceland University (and in the Lamoni community) are encouraged to attend the Friday conference and/or the Saturday follow-up meeting to discuss the purpose, goals and formation of this green alumni network.

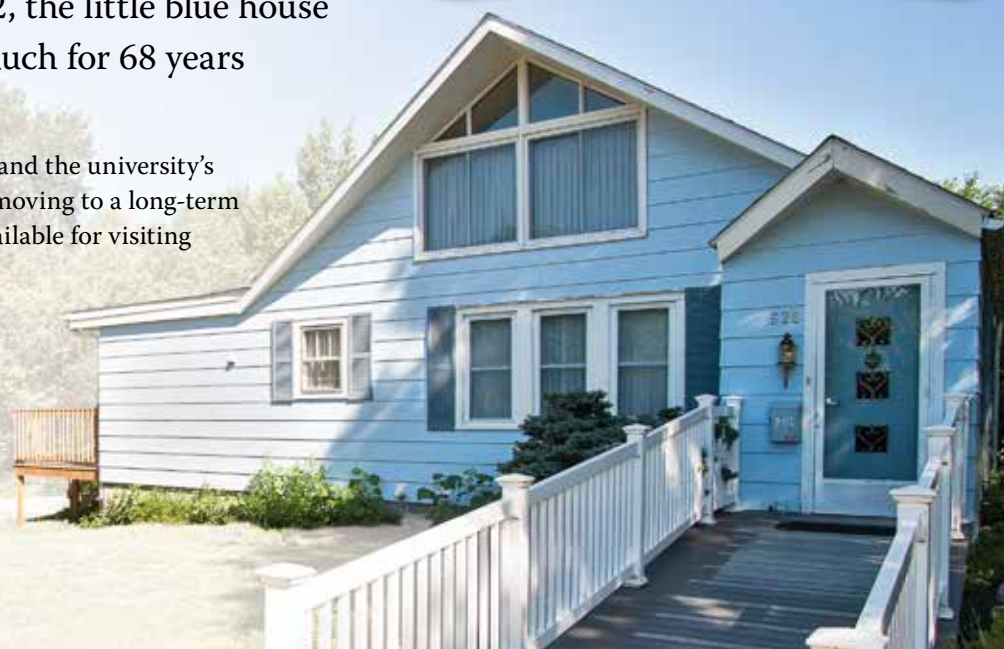
Goals of the EnviroAlumni group will include the following:

- Providing advisory input to the sustainability coordinator.
- Conceptualizing future environmental symposiums.
- Envisioning the expansion of sustainability studies at Graceland.
- Fundraising for sustainability projects and scholarships.
- Recruiting of students interested in sustainability.
- Promotion of environmental stewardship.

Come and join other blue, gold and green alumni interested in supporting Graceland environmental studies and sustainability projects!

During a small ceremony on July 22, the little blue house that was the home of Dr. Velma Ruch for 68 years became Graceland's Ruch Cottage.

Dr. Ruch, legendary chair of the English Department and the university's interim president for the 1974-75 school year, before moving to a long-term care facility in Lamoni, wanted to make the house available for visiting scholars and distinguished guests. The rooms will be furnished with items from Dr. Ruch's travels and will preserve her considerable archives of lectures and writings. President John Sellars accepted the title on behalf of Graceland. Special visitors included Community of Christ President Steve Veazey and his wife, Cathi, and former Community of Christ Presiding Evangelist Everett Graffeo.





Lashaunda Yates, A.O. Duer Award Winner

AT A GLANCE

Lashaunda Yates

- Double major – International Studies and Criminal Justice
- Cumulative GPA – 3.95

Member of:

- International Club
- Honors Program
- Alpha Chi Honor Society

Athletic honors:

- 2015 HAAC Women's Indoor Track and Field Champion in the high jump
- Finished in 17th place at the NAIA Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships

includes family, friends, coaches and professors. Win or lose, just being nominated is proof that a person's hard work will never go unnoticed. I'm just happy to have been given the opportunity to represent not only Graceland, but also to be one of the student-athletes chosen to represent the conference."

Yates, a native of Montreal, Quebec, won the high jump at the 2015 HAAC Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships and finished in 17th place at the NAIA Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships. During the outdoor season, she took second in the high jump and fourth in the long jump.

"Not only is Lashaunda an elite performer, but she also is a great leader," Head Coach Reece Vega said. "She has continued to show why she is one of the captains on the team. She works hard at practice, motivates others and always goes the extra mile. She is a joy to coach and a pleasure to be around."

Yates has the qualities of a wonderful athlete as well as an academic student. She is double majoring in international studies and criminal justice with a cumulative GPA of 3.95. She is a member of the International Club and has volunteered at a number of events. Yates is also a member of the History Club, is in the Honors Program and is a member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society.

The Heart of America Athletic Conference has selected Lashaunda Yates as the A.O. Duer Award winner for the 2014-15 academic year. Yates is a junior at Graceland and is part of the Track and Field Team. She will move on to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) selection committee as the conference nominee for the national award, which will be determined in September.

The Duer award is named in honor of the NAIA's former executive secretary for 26 years and recognizes one junior student-athlete in any sport for each gender based on their scholarship, character and citizenship. The nominees for the Duer Award are Yates and Ben Koerner, a baseball player from Avila University.

"I am so grateful to have been nominated for the award," Yates said. "I have such a big support system that

Tom Nowlin, longtime teacher, coach and friend of Graceland University, passed away peacefully in his home on Saturday, Aug. 22.

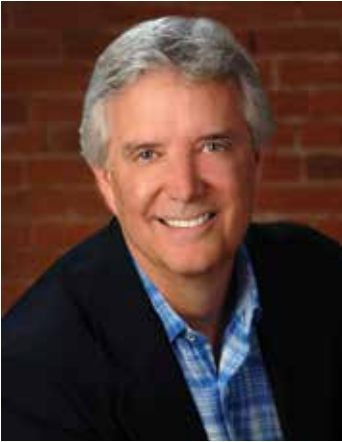
Nowlin coached five sports in more than 41 years while working at Graceland University. He was the first wrestling coach at Graceland and was the Head Coach of baseball, tennis and track while serving as an assistant football coach throughout his tenure with the Yellowjackets.

Coach Nowlin was committed to the idea at Graceland that emphasizes the importance of classroom performance

before athletics. He influenced student-athletes to become a total person both on and off the competition field. As a teacher, a coach and a longtime pillar of the Graceland community, Nowlin touched the lives of so many who came to "the Hill" to continue to pursue their passion. The Graceland flag was lowered to half-staff to honor Nowlin. A memorial service will be held Friday, Oct. 16, at 2 p.m. in the Eugene E. and Julia Travis Closson Center.



Building Character in Community



Student success. When I think of these two words, I think about building character in both the individual and the community. I believe that it is the character of an individual and the community that will give definition to student success. So, what do I mean by character?

Character in an individual is about integrity, openness, being able to think critically and constructively. It is about adaptability, problem solving

and making good decisions. An important mentor in my life, Paul Booth, would tell me, repeatedly, that the way to help people is to “teach them how to make good decisions in life.” Sounds like a no brainer, doesn’t it. But being able to make good decisions means being able to think critically from a solid value base. It

means being able to challenge assumptions and biases. It means being open to new possibilities and to be able to put decisions in a context that treats everyone with respect and worth. This is not so easy when we throw in all the stressors and pressures that hit people in their daily lives.

Character in community goes to the centrality of a liberal education. It challenges us to create a learning community that is interdisciplinary, teaches us how to be a continuous learner, gives people the opportunity for engagement of new ideas with faculty, staff, other students and the larger world. It engages the whole life of the student and provides ways for them to reflect on their values and beliefs, and search for new and creative ways to live healthy and productive lives in their community.

There are hundreds of stories of how Graceland builds character in the individual and community. We are reading about some of those personal stories in this issue of *Horizons*. How many more we can share.....

Harry A. Hawthurst

Class Notes

Stay connected to Graceland!

Join us on

[Facebook.com/GracelandUniversity](https://www.facebook.com/GracelandUniversity)

and follow us on

[Twitter @GracelandU](https://twitter.com/GracelandU)

[Instagram @gracelanduniversity](https://www.instagram.com/gracelanduniversity)

Weddings

Christopher '05 and Tara Eskridge '05 Grubbs, Rowlett, Texas, April 18, 2014.

Taylor Johnson '12 and Bobby Daniels, West Des Moines, Iowa, May 1, 2015.

Anniversaries

Wayne '59 and Eryleene Groner celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 26, 2015.

David '66 and Janet Henderson '66 Irby celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 27, 2014.

Jim '51 and Mona VanTuyt '50 Jones celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 30, 2015.

Johnny '55 and Mary Lou Weaver '55 Noble celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 26, 2015.

Robert H. '65 and Sandra Ellerman Walker celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 20, 2015.

Jerry W. '66 and Diana Willetts '65 Wiggins celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 25, 2015.



Tara Shupe '11 entered a photo contest called the Annual Exposure Award, and one of her images was in a digital display on July 13, 2015 in Paris, France, at the Louvre! “If Graceland has done one thing beyond giving me a great education, it was inspiring my love for experiencing the world with creative eyes and an open mind.” Tara is a professional photographer and entrepreneur of “Wild Creatives,” a creative community invested in wandering, embracing and creating.

Births

Richard '12 and **Tara Betts**,
Lee's Summit, Missouri, Emma Grace,
born June 22, 2015.

Jim '01 and **Julie Craft**,
Independence, Missouri, Conner James,
born June 10, 2015.

Aaron '07 and **Jackie Danielle '07 Gill**,
Olathe, Kansas, Layla Elizabeth,
born July 20, 2015.

Christopher '05 and **Tara Eskridge '05 Grubbs**,
Rowlett, Texas, Tenley Jayne,
born April 22, 2015.

Gregg '10 and **Emily Phillips '10 Irr**,
Liberty, Missouri, Perry Joseph,
born Nov. 26, 2014.

Brett '04 and **Rebecca Loving '04 Jagger**,
St. Louis, Missouri, Margaret Clare,
born May 30, 2015.

David '03 and **Cara Calloway '03 Young**,
Lubbock, Texas, Hannah Christine,
born March 2, 2015.

In Memoriam

Duane R. Baird '58,
Oak Grove, Missouri, May 5, 2015.

Nettie Mae Anderson '50 Baughman,
Independence, Missouri, April 15, 2015.

Audrey Mascher '42 Weller Birks,
Peoria, Arizona, July 6, 2015.

Harry W. Black '51,
Lee's Summit, Missouri, May 10, 2015.

David Boyd '54,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 14, 2015.

Elaine Marie Admundson '48 Carriker,
Davis, California, July 23, 2015.

Joyce Mattingly '47 Colville,
Independence, Missouri, April 12, 2015.

William C. Dawson '55,
West Branch, Michigan, May 19, 2014.

Harry A. Dennis '47,
Boise, Idaho, May 24, 2015.

Finis Claude Easter '48,
Independence, Missouri, June 29, 2015.

Sara Davis '55 Edmiston,
Greenville, North Carolina, Feb. 28, 2015.

Ronald J. Gleason '51,
Houston, Texas, May 22, 2015.

Charlene Allen '38 Gleazer,
San Francisco, California, May 21, 2015.

Warren L. Gose '49,
Cameron, Missouri, June 23, 2014.

Donald A. Hedden '49,
Independence, Missouri, July 24, 2015.

John Hoover '74,
Loudon, Tennessee, Aug. 6, 2015.

Donna Pascoff '51 Kapp,
Sun City, Arizona, May 14, 2015.

Marie Bevan '48 Kiersch,
Laramie, Wyoming, June 15, 2015.

Connie Kyle '52,
Camarillo, California, June 17, 2015.

Edward G. Mason '71,
Omaha, Nebraska, July 30, 2015.

Karmi Eaton '81 McCune,
Independence, Missouri, June 1, 2015.

Robert E. Michener '48,
Bishop, California, April 18, 2015.

Thomas B. Nowlin '58,
Lamoni, Iowa, Aug. 22, 2015.

Connie Asbury '93 Ostergard,
Rineyville, Kentucky, Sept. 17, 2014.

Dale D. Parkinson '54,
Pompano Beach, Florida, March 7, 2015.

William Dean Poore '47,
Columbia, Missouri, Aug. 28, 2014.

Phyllis Conklin '53 Silhavy,
Alma, Michigan, May 10, 2015.

Paul E. Teeter '48,
Lee's Summit, Missouri, March 19, 2015.

Dorothy Raisbeck '53 Tenos,
Jacksonville, Florida, July 27, 2015.

Wayne Thompson '41,
Palm Springs, California, Jan. 9, 2015.

Cynthia Berndt '72 Van De Voorde,
Longmont, Colorado, May 30, 2015.

Leland D. White '52,
Youngstown, Ohio, Aug. 29, 2014.

SOCIAL MEDIA WHY IT MATTERS

College Bound High School Students [1]

89% YouTube
80% Facebook
61% Instagram
58% Twitter

Teens Online Daily [2]

92%

Average Hours Per Day on Social Media [3]

1.72

Graceland Facebook Followers

10,500

[1] www.ypulse.com/post/view/social-media-tracked-trends-the-stats-on-whos-using-what

[2] www.pewinternet.org/2015/04/09/teens-social-media-technology-2015/

[3] www.adweek.com/socialtimes/time-spent-online/613474

President Barack Obama has selected Kansas City attorney **James Ash '78** for a position on the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development.

Ash has been a partner at Husch Blackwell LLP since 1993 and currently serves as a chair for its food and agribusiness unit. He also has experience as chair of the firm's business division and its corporate departments. He served as interim general counsel for H&R Block Inc. from 2008-12.

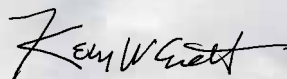
"I'm personally very excited to get involved on a national and global scale on efforts to battle what I think is the single biggest issue in the world today: the millions of people who go to sleep hungry every night and the hundreds of millions who suffer from the effects of malnutrition," Ash said.

They come from all over the U.S. and all over the world. Some have never seen snow, and some hope they never see it again. Some have never had a parking ticket; some are fleeing lands torn by civil war and hunger. They want to learn about psychology, chemistry, computer science, teaching, nursing, clarinets, theatre and business. From diverse backgrounds and interests, at Graceland, they bond together as a community. In the chaotic, high-spirited campus fellowship that is a hallmark of a vibrant university, they make lifelong friends and develop the confidence and passion to make the world a better place.

Your generous and ongoing support makes the difference. Thanks to solid support from 6,624 Graceland alumni and friend families, we have reached 98% of our \$75 million Graceland Forever campaign with anticipation that we will complete the campaign in December. We will celebrate together in 2016 having exceeded the most ambitious capital campaign in the university's history that has greatly provided a needed upgrade to campus facilities, faculty support and scholarships.

Your contributions helped deliver life-changing experiences in the lives of 2,406 students. Their learning experiences were enriched by 80 international students representing 26 countries and by travel opportunities to sites like Zambia and the Dominican Republic to teach, learn and make new friends.

A university's work is a team effort, and Team Graceland is a powerhouse. Our strength comes from the hard work by faculty and staff, vision from the administration and Board of Trustees, and the continuing faith of those who have experienced the transforming power of education rooted in respect for learning, wholeness and community. Thank you for your continuing support.



Kelly W. Everett
Vice President of Institutional Advancement

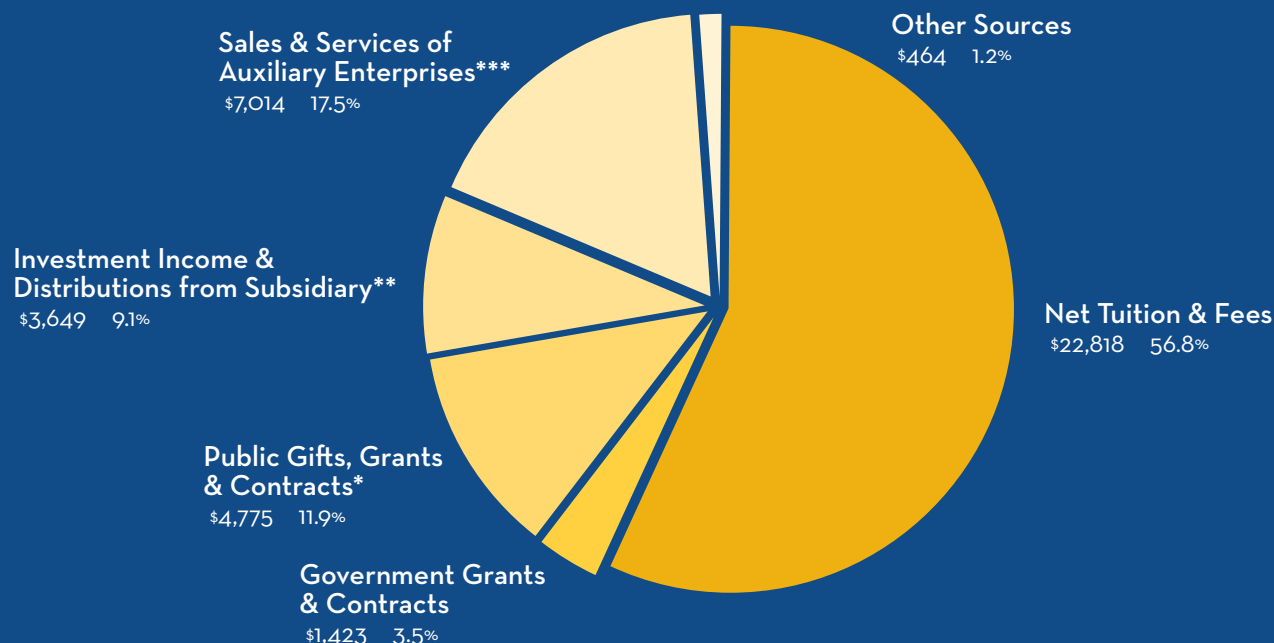


FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS | UNIVERSITY OPERATING BUDGET RESULTS 2014-15

TOTAL REVENUE
ROUNDED **\$40,143,000**

REVENUE SOURCES in thousands

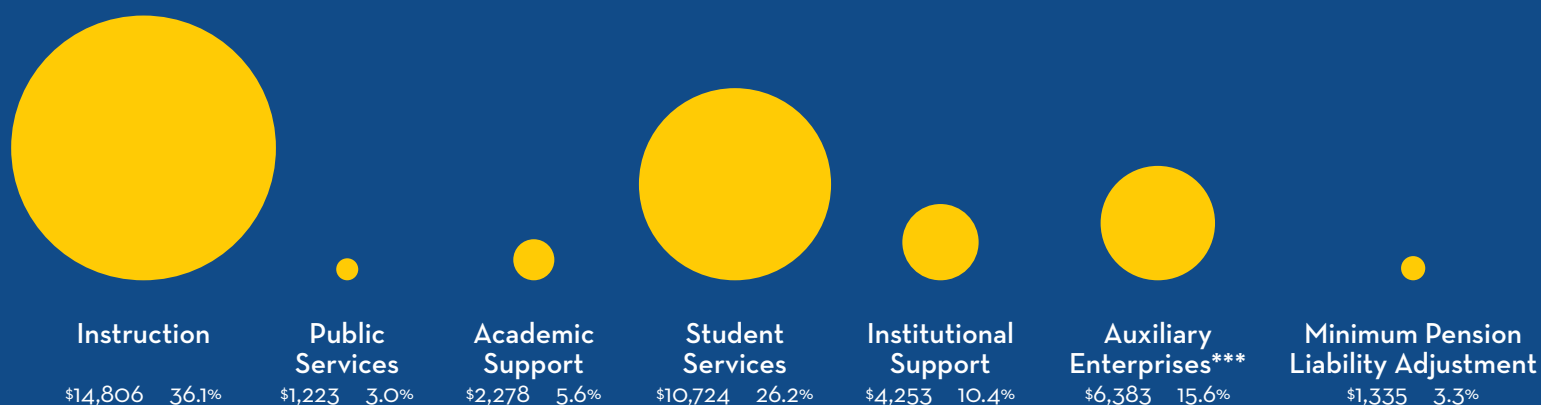
TUITION & FEES \$38,254
LESS SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS (\$15,436)



TOTAL EXPENSES
ROUNDED **\$41,002,000**

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (\$859)
IN THOUSANDS AS OF MAY 31

USE OF FUNDS in thousands



ENDOWMENT GROWTH in thousands as of May 31

(Includes net assets of subsidiary**, market value of investment portfolio, and other endowment assets)



*Includes Sponsoring Church Appropriation of 99,917

**The Graceland College Center for Professional Development and Lifelong Learning (SkillPath)

***Includes Bookstore, Housing, and Food Service

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Graceland Memories!

Remember the Graceland mailboxes?



Now you can have your own GU mailbox.

All proceeds will go to the Alumni Endowed Scholarship fund.

Artist Tim Sundell '09, who benefited from the Alumni Endowed Scholarship while he attended Graceland, was happy to hand craft the boxes for his alma mater.

Each handmade hardwood mailbox is branded with the Graceland University logo and features those little glass doors with combination locks that we all loved. Mailboxes will be available for purchase on a first-come basis at homecoming and supplies are limited. Own a piece of Graceland history.

"Retrace your memories" at homecoming. Purchase a GU mailbox as a souvenir and support the Alumni Endowed Scholarship fund.

For more information email Jeanne Davis at Jeanne.Davis@graceland.edu.