

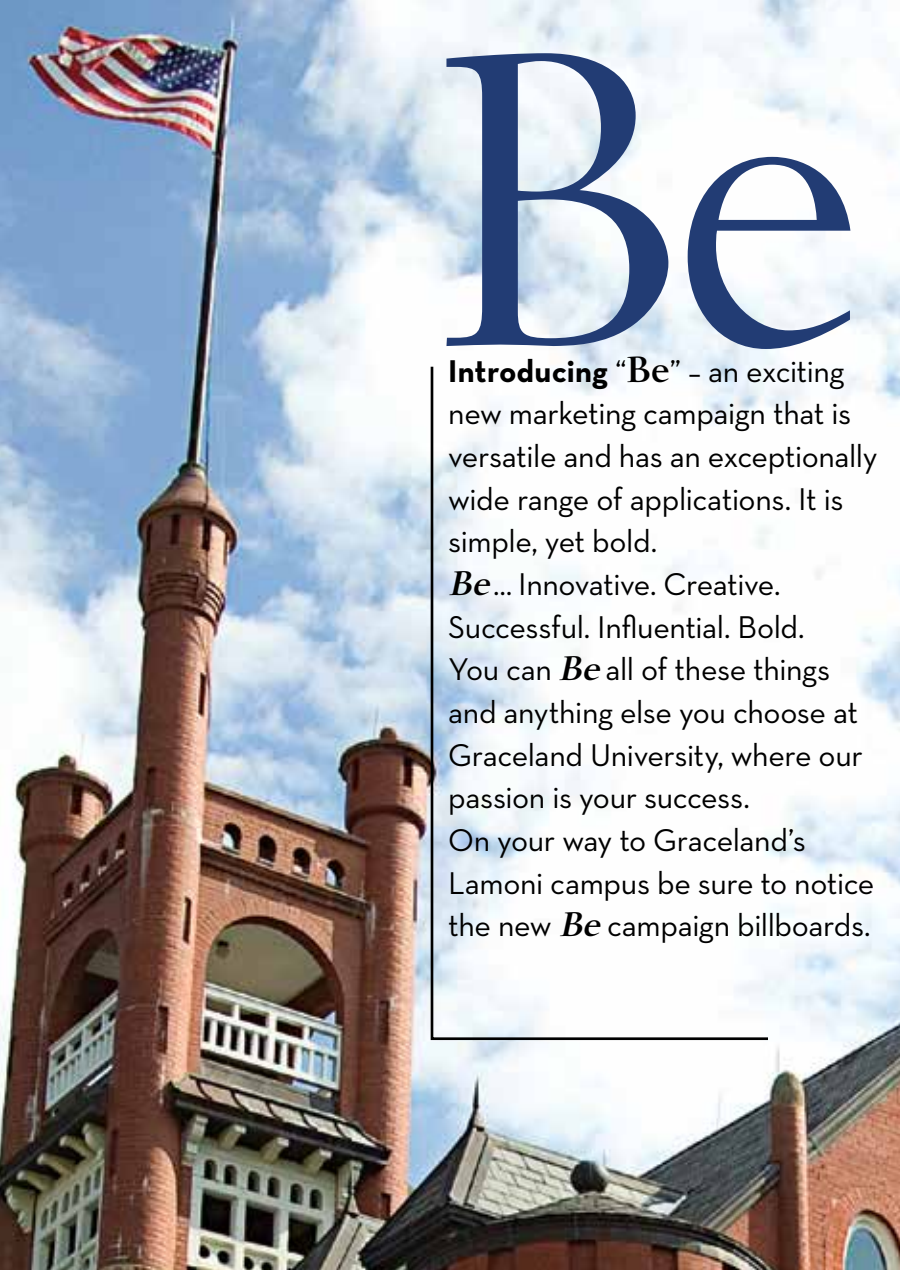
Spring 2015 Vol. 31, No. 1

# Horizons

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY



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# Horizons

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY

Alumni and Friends Magazine

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# From the President

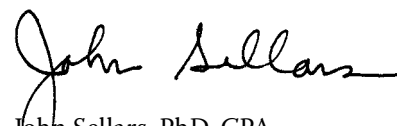
I can say without hesitation that the heart and the soul of a university is its faculty. I say this not to diminish the influence of all the good people who give their lives to enhance a student's experience, but to reinforce what alumni surveys tell us. At Graceland, it is the faculty who provide the transforming catalyst in the lives of young people. Graceland offers excellent academic quality in a caring environment because that is the culture of our faculty. While this level of dedication is true of our staff as well, it is the faculty who have, on a day-to-day basis, the most significant influence.

We can prove it. A few months ago, we sent a four-page survey about their Graceland experience to alumni 65 and older. The first question: "Who influenced your life the most at Graceland?" As you can imagine, the person cited most often was Roy Cheville. People added personal notes describing an experience they shared with Doc Cheville that changed their life. This was followed by similar stories about Tess Morgan, Velma Ruch and other faculty. (Not one person mentioned the president as having influenced them the most. I was crushed.) The survey reinforced for me how critically important the faculty are to the student experience, not just during their college years, but now, over 40 years later.

In this issue of the *Horizons* are stories about some of Graceland's current faculty. While we remember the glory days of a high quality academic experience and dedicated faculty, students today are finding that same quality of faculty. Faculty members who have a passion for both their field of study and for student success become inspired instruments of transformation and influence in the lives of their students. Being a teacher is a high calling! There is no greater reward for a teacher than seeing students grow into thoughtful and well-prepared adults.

In the next few pages you will be reading about some of our faculty. As you do, can you pick out the next Doc Cheville or Barbara Higdon or Bruce Graybill?

I can.



John Sellars, PhD, CPA  
President, Graceland University

# *Transformative*

GRACELAND'S FACULTY



For more Transformative Faculty  
[www.graceland.edu/Horizons](http://www.graceland.edu/Horizons)





## David Devonis, PhD

Graceland University boasts outstanding faculty, and David Devonis, PhD, is a perfect example. Devonis has been a member of Cheiron, The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences, since 1990. He was recently awarded the American Library Association Awards Outstanding Academic Title of 2014 for his “History of Psychology 101.”

The “History of Psychology 101” is a small book with a unique approach. It weaves several threads or viewpoints together to provide a broad understanding of the history of modern psychology. Not just a historical description, it provides individual characters whose stories *show* social snapshots in time. It gives a story to the psychological themes in modern development through application and practice.

It is a textbook and a bit of a novel as well. It mirrors the author, in a way; he is a very eclectic guy. Individuality is paramount to GU Professor of Psychology David Devonis. He went to graduate school at the University of New Hampshire in history of psychology. The program doesn't exist any longer, but he feels fortunate to have had the opportunity to combine the two disciplines and “through a series of very fortunate chances,” he was chosen to write the text for Springer Publishing Company.

When he came to Graceland 17 years ago, Devonis knew this position would be a lot of teaching and would give him freedom to follow his interests and leads. “You get a chance to do a little of everything here in this small arena. I like

being on the edge, I'm not an urban dweller. I feel akin to this rural area, the openness of it.”

Devonis has absorbed Lamoni's opportunities and shares his insights with his students, whether through classes, theatre or research. His unique style of teaching engages his students, is memorable, and his passion is contagious.

“Devonis is all about ideas. He knows what is really important in education and encourages innovative thinking. He strives to facilitate a true learning atmosphere. He's willing to be flexible with students in order to provide for them a uniquely tailored learning experience.”

Julie Davis '15

Devonis explains, “Teaching keeps you young; keeps you aware of where you are in the scheme of things. It is grounding. I like to teach; to share. Education has logic of its own. You set the environment, and then let people be creative.”



*“I am eclectic, and the field of psychology is broad. I would have liked to go to art school. If I knew how much I liked to act, I would have pursued that! I would have liked to be an architect too; psychology and architecture are similar. I didn't realize how much I loved philosophy too ... so many things to ponder.”*





*"Dr Rojjanasrirat was not only a great instructor, but she demonstrated a high level of professionalism. I am inspired by her research and teaching accomplishments, and it shows how broad nursing really is as a profession. She demonstrates a level of expertise that I want to achieve as a nursing instructor."*

*-Traci Sturdevant Dow,  
MSN, RN '95 and '14*

## Wilaiporn Rojjanasrirat, PhD

**N**ursing superstar Wilaiporn Rojjanasrirat has a multilayered array of success to bring to the Graceland faculty table.

After receiving a Fulbright Scholarship as a representative for the U.S. government in nursing and global health, Graceland nursing faculty Wilaiporn Rojjanasrirat, PhD, developed a relationship with several of the faculty from the Naresuan University in Thailand. There she created curriculum and faculty development, while consulting with graduate students on their research. The strong ties made during her time as a Fulbright Scholar led Naresuan University to ask her if a mentorship might be possible, where one of the professors from Naresuan would come to Graceland and learn more about health care and educational systems in the United States.

As a result, Dr. Pratuma Rithpho, will be at Graceland University on the Independence campus for two months working with Rojjanasrirat. One of the goals for the mentorship is to develop a proposal for research in the maternity and child health specialty. Rojjanasrirat will mentor Rithpho both in research capacity and in teaching. Another goal for Rithpho

is to develop a publishable manuscript while consulting with Rojjanasrirat on her research.

Rojjanasrirat has done extensive international work to promote nursing education. Her leadership extends to other nursing organizations. Representing Graceland nationally, Rojjanasrirat is the president of Graceland's Pi Eta chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (STTI). This spring, a Sigma Theta Tau research symposium sponsored by three local chapters was held at the Graceland Independence campus.

Graceland's reputation for nursing influenced Rojjanasrirat's decision to move from the University of Kansas' nursing program. She felt that a smaller school would allow her to make a bigger difference. In her sixth year working for Graceland, she explains that GU Nursing is a close group, providing a tight-knit, friendly and supportive working environment. Mentoring and coaching comes naturally for her, although she

never thought of being a teacher in the U.S. She thought she would go back to Thailand and felt that her language limitations would hold her back, but it wasn't so. Her confidence grew as she received feedback. "When I realized I don't have to know everything to be a teacher and that I can learn from my students, I felt reassured. I have learned that learning never stops. The students give me so much."

Rojjanasrirat excels at whatever she sets her mind to – nursing, or even the restaurant business. She and her brothers own the Tai Orchid in the Kansas City area, a convenient venue for a Horizons interview! As a coconut cream soup called tom kha was served, she explained how she came to own the restaurant.

"It was a fluke – I never thought of myself as a business person, but my brothers and I decided it was a good investment. It has turned out to be a blessing. It is a community ... like family! We have owned this since 1998, so we have watched people grow along with us."

Graceland University recognizes the broad range of success that Rojjanasrirat brings, and counts her among the fabulous faculty who lead by example. Whether as a nursing leader or an entrepreneur restaurateur, Rojjanasrirat serves up success.





## Brian White, PhD

If you get a chance to visit the White house, you're in for a visual treat. You'll find beautiful hand crafted white oak furniture, a fireplace with handmade tiles from Graceland's ceramics facility, and an inviting front porch for a casual visit. Brian White is a determined and prolific craftsman who puts his heart into each piece. It is that determination and clear focus, along with sincere leadership, that has brought Brian White to a new position with Graceland University, as the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS).

White began at Graceland as a student in 1988 and double majored in English and theatre. It was while he was a student that he realized he wanted to be an educator. "Gary Heisserer is one of the professors who taught me that I wanted to be a teacher, and that if I was going to be a teacher, I wanted to be a teacher like he was," explained White.

Following graduation in 1992, White set out to gain a world of broad experiences and went to Bulgaria to teach English as a second language. When he returned, he began applying to graduate schools. White completed his Master of Arts at Utah State University, where he began teaching. In his continuation of lifelong learning, he completed his doctorate at University of North Dakota in 2000.

It wasn't until a position opened up in Spring 2004 that White returned to Graceland. When he returned, he was greeted by many of the professors who had made a deep impression on his life. White noted, "It was this unique experience of being able to work alongside the people who were the ones who helped you develop into who you are."

In addition to his formative GU professors, Brian White's focus is forged from the mountains of Utah. Every summer, White spends a lot of his time working with the National Collegiate Honors Council in their "Partner in the Parks" program that aims to acquaint

students with the national state parks. "The average park goer steps out of their car for seven minutes," Brian continues, "We want to give the students a deeper understanding and appreciation of the parks so that they will become informed politicians, voters and community leaders about the importance of the national parks." Always wanting to share what has become for him a conduit for creativity,

White will continue to further the promotion of national parks with students in the summer.

With the same determination and passion that he transformed his craftsman-style home, Professor White is transforming his students and will show the same attention to the task as he moves into the dean position. Graceland's CLAS is in good hands.

*"Brian is one of those professors who is really good at making you open your mind and see a different perspective. He constantly challenged us."*

*Hailey Leal '17*







## Jack Ergo, MM

Associate Professor Jack Ergo is in the Shaw Center making music almost every night. Catching him for an interview and photos meant cornering him after he played the Steinway in Carol Hall for a recent senior recital, as an accompanist and performer. His hands bounced over the keyboard during the Beethoven piece at breakneck speed, and he shook his head with a snap, playfully challenging the student in the duet.

His dedication as a music professor is legendary, and Graceland University students are enriched by his seemingly endless energy. He explained that Graceland used to have three positions: an orchestra conductor, a piano instructor and an adjunct accompanist. Jack is doing all three; running

with his coffee in hand and loving life. He wouldn't have it any other way.

Ergo's path to Graceland from Julliard and Artist in Residence for the New York Ballet may seem a bit anticlimactic, but he insists that it is ascendancy. "Now I'm enabling others, and I still get to

perform. The facilities at the Shaw are state of the art; nothing but the best. It is exhilarating." He shared how he likes being able to have multiple genre performances, and that Graceland gives him opportunity to develop and teach classes like "How to Think Like Leonardo da Vinci," which later became part of the critical analysis classes.

"I am a person of vocational synthesis; there is no real line between going to work and making music. All of my life has been one of a chamber music metaphor – each member of the ensemble must be self-sufficient but always a team player."

Ergo came to Graceland to teach music after President Barbara Higdon hounded him in 2001. He had been working for Community of Christ at the auditorium for 20 years and left on a high note after an international tour and conducting the Messiah Choir in Carnegie Hall.

"Barbara Higdon was hard to say no to. She was very influential in my coming to teach for Graceland. She said I could work with the grandchildren of the Messiah Choir members, who had become like family to me, and I could keep the connection with Community of Christ."

While working with Community of Christ, he came into possession of hundreds of historical recordings and became really interested in researching and restoring their historicity. That's not the only thing he is restoring. He purchased an old house in town, previously owned by Charles Church, and Ergo is personally recreating the building. From drywall to uploading historical recordings and orchestral compositions, Ergo represents what Graceland faculty offer – a passion for the liberal arts education.



*"Jack Ergo transcends teaching. The passion he has for art spills over into his lessons and captures the imagination of his students. Whether in front of hundreds of patrons in the Shaw auditorium, or one-on-one music lessons, Ergo has a natural ability to act as a catalyst for good art. His stories make you cry, his eccentricity makes you laugh. Ergo is a mentor, an artist, and an inspiration"*

*Daniel Rose '15*





*"Dr. Poulton was always so welcoming to me when I needed help scheduling my classes and planning out my years at Graceland. She would drop whatever she was doing and take the time to not only help me navigate signing up for classes, but also talk to me about how I was doing. I appreciated this so much!"*

*Sydney Brock '15*

*"Dr. Poulton is a great professor because he puts in the effort to make the class engaging and difficult, yet understandable for each student. He goes above and beyond what is required of him to provide the best education, because he truly cares about each and every individual student."*

*Justin Kaminski '15*



## Jen Poulton, PhD and Rob Poulton, PhD

Professors Jen and Rob Poulton balance family life with their professional careers. The Poulton family is completely integrated into the university and the Lamoni community. With three children, one in each of the Lamoni schools, life is full of interesting opportunities.

Rob teaches economics for Graceland's C.H. Sandage School of Business. He was proud to announce that their daughter Grace was just elected as Junior Achievement Mayor of BizTown, through a project the Graceland Enactus team is doing with the Lamoni sixth grade class. Rob plays on an intramural basketball team for Graceland and jokes about his students enjoying the opportunity to block his shots. Family life and being an economics professor at Graceland blend together seamlessly. "I was on a path for law school," explains Rob, "but then I had an economics class and found my passion. In graduate school I had a lot of opportunity to teach and discovered that was what I really wanted to do."

Loving everything related to biology all her life, Jen knew she wanted to share

her interest with others. "It is still exciting when students see something new for the first time under the microscope. They get that look in their eye – the wonder of discovering something." Jen wasn't interested in a big research university; she wanted to teach.

The Poultons wanted to go to a small liberal arts school where they would have small classes and be able to get to know the students. After graduate school at Penn State, Jen searched the Chronicle of Higher Education for a position and discovered Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa. In 2001 they moved to Lamoni for her to teach biology, and two years later an economics position opened up for Rob. It was perfect. "Graceland is the ideal situation for us," Jen said.

They both emphasized how much

they like the relationships they build with students. They try to keep in contact with former students through Facebook and homecoming. They also invite former students to come back to give current students a chance to ask questions about career paths and opportunities. Rob mentioned the Fall Burn that encourages alumni to return to Graceland and share their business successes with the undergraduates.

Rob explains, "One of the things I love about the job is to see the transformations in students over the course of four years. You have students as freshmen in a principles course and then again in one of the upper division courses, and you see the transformation; their growth not just in economics, but in their writing and speaking ability."

"At Graceland we are transforming lives and, as faculty members, we can really see that happen. It is one of the remarkable and rewarding parts of the job," explained Jen.

Jen and Rob Poulton are in the right place, at the right time, doing what they love. When that alignment happens, good things follow.





## Allison Dudley, EdD

Graceland University has fabulous faculty, yet it isn't often that we hear about the satellite campus in Trenton, Missouri, and those who keep it flourishing. One of these educators is Allison Dudley, an Assistant Professor of Education.



Even though Dudley has been teaching at Graceland for a number of years, the path she took to get here was a winding one. She began at Truman State University, where she worked to receive her bachelor's degree in elementary education. Following graduation, she began to teach at various elementary schools in Missouri. During this time, she worked on and completed her master's degree in reading at Truman State University.

"I never really planned on being a reading teacher; I got my master's originally because I had students who struggled with reading and I didn't know exactly what to do to meet their needs," Dudley noted, "But I fell in love with teaching reading and being able to zero in on just exactly what those students needed." This says a lot about the passion she has for helping students; it drives her to continue her education and thrive in her positions.

It was after she finished her master's degree that Dudley began working in Trenton as a Title One Reading elementary teacher. Title One Reading is a support program that provides extra reading help for those students who are struggling. This eventually led her to complete a yearlong professional development-training course to become a Reading Recovery Teacher. This program allowed her to do one-on-one interventions for about 12-20 weeks for students who needed help catching up. "It was absolutely outstanding professional development — probably the best that I've ever had in my life," Dudley commented.

Soon after, Dudley began teaching as an adjunct professor at Graceland

University. She continued this for a number of years, but when she completed her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Missouri, Columbia, an Assistant Professor position opened up, and she gladly accepted it. "I already knew I enjoyed doing adjunct work, and my passion for teaching had changed more from affecting one student to, instead, having a ripple effect of making the difference for one potential educator, and then having them go out and continue teaching," Dudley explained.

Dudley has been a phenomenal addition to Graceland's education program. From undergrad to the graduate level, the School of Education does amazing work and has recently garnered the U.S. News & World Report ranking of the 5<sup>th</sup> Best Graduate Online Education Program. Our unique professional development and teacher preparedness training gives aspiring educators the ability to have a year of practical training in the field. The School of Education works in partnership with many Iowa and Missouri schools to provide exceptional professional development and student teacher training.

While being an important member of Graceland's School of Education, Dudley still finds time to continue helping younger students. She tutors during the summer and aids in benchmark testing throughout the year at the elementary level. The rest of her free time is spent with family, her book group and calligraphy. Graceland is lucky to have such a passionate educator as a part of the team.

*"Allison is very enthusiastic about teaching and her attitude toward literacy is contagious. Her love of teaching reading really helped me in my classroom."* Suzanne Young





# Graceland Sustainability

Stay Connected #GUhoophouse #GUsustainability

Graceland University is proud to announce that The Princeton Review has named Graceland among the most environmentally responsible “green” colleges in the country.

The Princeton Review’s “*Guide to 353 Green Colleges: 2015 Edition*” profiles colleges with the most exceptional commitments to sustainability based on their academic offerings and career preparation for students, campus policies, initiatives and activities.

Sustainability is one of the fastest growing interest areas for college students. “Among nearly 10,000 teens who participated in our 2015 College Hopes & Worries Survey, 61 percent told us that having information about a school’s commitment to the environment would influence their decision to apply to or attend the college,” said Robert Franek, The Princeton Review’s Senior VP-Publisher.

Graceland is working to give them what they want. In the past year, the Graceland Sustainability Program has made great strides and continues to grow. Director Jen Abraham-White has helped students to implement several new components from recycling to growing food, and even the

connection between the two.

GU Sustainability students currently work to help recycle paper, plastic and glass, and hope to add food waste to the list in the near future. Abraham-White is working on a proposal for the Solid Waste Alternative Program Grant through Iowa’s Department of Natural Resources. If awarded, the grant would fund an in-vessel composter, which would create compost from the estimated 96,000 pounds of food waste produced by the Commons each year, helping to grow more food.

Other areas Abraham-White and the GU Sustainability team have been working to produce food are the Graceland orchard and the hoop house, installed in 2013. Fruit and nut trees are to be planted in the orchard this spring, and produce from both areas will be sold again this summer at the Lamoni Farmer’s Market.

The Graceland Sustainability Program hopes to train the next generation of leaders, who will be responsible for putting



Paul Stewart '17, Erin Reynold '16 and Jen Abraham-White '08

green ideas into practice. Publications like The Princeton Review’s “*Guide to 353 Green Colleges: 2015 Edition*” is giving college-seeking students what they want in the area of sustainability education by showcasing the schools currently going “green” and encouraging others to do the same, and Graceland is one of the schools helping to show them the way.

## Graceland UNIVERSITY

Be inspired  
SUSTAINABLE

**SUSTAINABILITY**  
Jennifer Abraham-White  
Coordinator



[WWW.GRACELAND.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY](http://WWW.GRACELAND.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY)

Email Jen: [abraham@graceland.edu](mailto:abraham@graceland.edu)





# 2015

## COMMENCEMENT







Ethan Pitt and Lynley Closson

Graduates, their families and friends gathered on “the Hill” for a weekend of events to celebrate the 118<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremonies. Saturday evening began with a beautiful baccalaureate service in the Shaw Family Auditorium set with a sea of white balloons and strung lights illustrating the theme, “Let Your Light Shine.” Jack Ergo led a call and response with the gospel song, *This Little Light of Mine*, and a talented ensemble of musicians provided music along with renowned opera star Simon Estes, singing *You’ll Never Walk Alone*. Community of Christ Apostle Ron Harmon gave a passionate message, and Dave Schaal presented the Student Life Awards to Lynley Closson and Ethan Pitt. Later Saturday evening, a Candlelighting Ceremony outside on the plaza bricks gave students a moment to reflect upon their best memories during their time at Graceland, and Alumni Board President Sam Smalldon gave an address. Finally, on Sunday morning, the Annual Commencement Convocation began with a ceremonious processional and a welcome from President John Sellars. The Honorable Ann Mesle received an Honorary Degree, and two Alumni Awards for excellence in teaching were given to Sandra Hamar and Mary Shawgo. JR Shaw gave the commencement address, charging the graduates to “work hard, budget, and be a continual learner.” The graduates marched across the stage coming from 43 states and Puerto Rico along with 14 countries. And finally, as the alma mater hymn was sung, all raised their voices for the blue and gold.



Ann Mesle





# TRIO

## Student Success

In April, the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) released a report entitled, *“Expanding Access and Opportunity: How Small and Mid-Sized Independent Colleges Serve First-Generation and Low-Income Students.”* The report makes note of smaller institutions providing effective college learning environments and ensuring positive educational outcomes for students from first-generation and low-income backgrounds.

Many people at Graceland already know how hard the administration works to find solutions for low-income and first-generation students. One of these students, Jozef Lukey from Joplin, Missouri, just graduated with a major in human services and a minor in psychology. Lukey graduated high school in 2011, on the same day that the infamous tornado struck Joplin. Thankfully, he and his family were able to find safe shelter during the storm, but when it passed, they saw the full extent of the damage. “We looked around and it just looked as if a bomb had just been dropped on us,” Lukey notes, “Everything was destroyed, fires everywhere, cars flipped, bark stripped off the trees.” Despite being injured and seeing their home destroyed, Lukey and his family did all they could to help others recover from the destruction. It was during this time that Lukey realized just how right Graceland was for him. “I received phone calls and emails to make sure I was ok, and once they found out that my house was destroyed, the



Cathie Hosie

### Jozef realized just how right Graceland was for him.

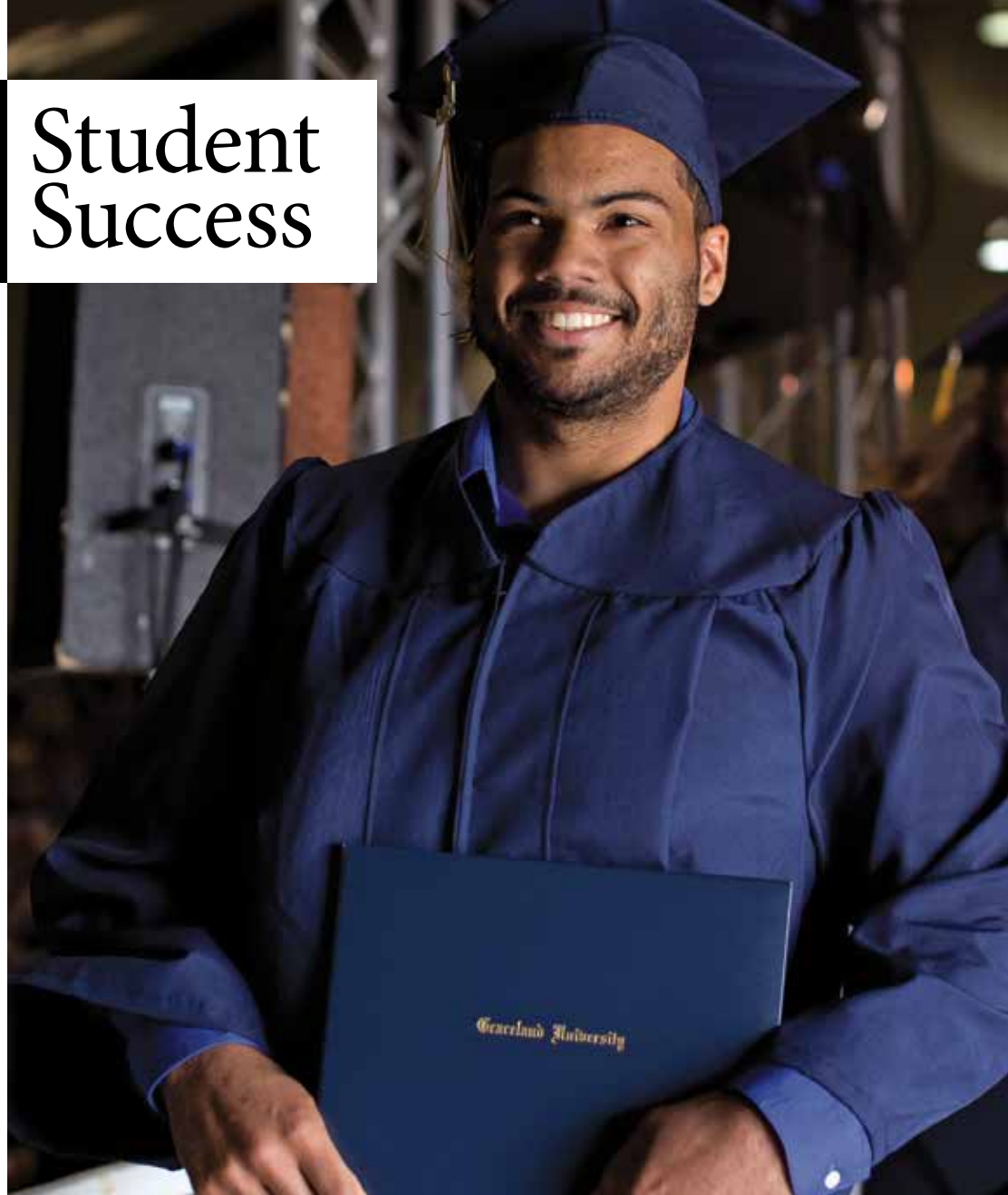
football coaches sent me bags and bags of clothes,” explained Lukey.

Once he arrived here, Lukey received even more support, both through finding community in Aaron House and the football team, and through the TRIO Program. “Through this program I received more help than I think I would have at a bigger school. TRIO makes everything personal with the students,” Lukey commented.

Graceland TRIO Director, Cathie Hosie, said, “I was thrilled to see the CIC report recognize the effectiveness of small, private institutions, like Graceland University. Graceland has historically

welcomed students underserved by other higher education sectors. A demonstration of this commitment is the fact that GU has housed, for the past 35 years, the TRIO Program called Student Support Services. This Department of Education grant program is designed specifically to help low-income and first-generation students overcome barriers to higher education. The TRIO Program is one of the many ways Graceland University supports low-income and first-generation students, as they learn to navigate the university environment.”

The TRIO Program is just one of the many facets of Graceland that allows students from all walks of life to feel comfortable and welcome here. If there is any school to prove this report right, it’s Graceland. For anyone interested, the full report is available as a PDF at [www.cic.edu/CIC-Reports](http://www.cic.edu/CIC-Reports).





# Social Media Marketing: The Principle Challenge

On Thursday, April 30, a group of students from the Graceland University Social Media Marketing class traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, to take part in a collegiate marketing contest.

The contest, The Voice of the Young Consumer University Partnership, is an annual, semester-long project by The Principal in which students address a real business marketing challenge facing the company. The Graceland team's presentation theme was "Life Happens ... Where will you be," focusing on various message topics important to Millennials.

2015 is the third year GU students in the Social Media Marketing class have competed in the challenge. The Graceland presentation team this year included sophomores Shelby Murtha and Kiera Porter, and seniors Sahar Harb, Tessa Otto and Alisha Dolsen.

This year's competition is timely, as it will lead into a new major offered at Graceland. Social Media Marketing will make its debut in Fall 2015. The demand for this major is growing, and currently no regional universities offer a professional major like it. The Social Media Marketing major includes a unique combination of courses designed to ready students for jobs in the real world.



Shelby Murtha, Sahar Harb, Alisha Dolsen, Kiera Porter and Tessa Otto

*"What an amazing experience and opportunity for Graceland students! I am so thankful to have been a part of the competition and have learned a lot from this experience!"*

*— Alisha M. Dolsen*

## GRACELAND ATHLETICS

### Track and Field

The Graceland track and field teams have had successful indoor and outdoor seasons this year, especially with hurdler and long jumper Tirrell Brooks, and heptathlete/decathlete Joshua Stevens. Brooks competed in the 60 meter high hurdles at the NAIA Indoor Nationals, and Stevens came home with All-American honors finishing in sixth place in the heptathlon. Both Brooks and Stevens will compete May 21-23 at the NAIA Outdoor Nationals. Brooks will compete in the 110 high hurdles and the long jump; he is currently ranked No. 1 in the nation with a jump of 25' 3.25". Stevens is ranked No. 15 in the nation and will compete in the decathlon.

### Tennis

The Yellowjacket men's tennis team made their 12th-straight trip to the NAIA Tennis National Championships after winning the Unaffiliated Group Conference Tournament. Jose Daniele Razo Torres and Borja Perez both earned 1st all-conference singles team. Razo Torres also earned Player of the Year. Brezile Hamilton, Daniil Tarantinov, Lorenzo Panariti and Felipe Suarez Parra made their way onto the 2nd all-conference singles team. For doubles teams, Razo Torres and Perez were named 1st team all-conference and Tarantinov and Suarez Parra earned 2nd team honors.





# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

In a highly competitive market for jobs and graduate admissions, internships have become an avenue for students to set their resumes apart from the crowd, while gaining real world experience in a potential career field. A *Chronicle of Higher Education* survey of employers in 2012 rated internships as the single most highly coveted factor for weighing potential hires<sup>1</sup>.



Jeff McElroy

"Internships have been highly valued for a long time in the business world," said Graceland Assistant Professor of Business Jeff McElroy. "But it's only recently that higher education has recognized internships as an area where they can impact the student's experience."

Professors and administrators at Graceland have recognized the changing environment. In addition to providing assistance to students with resume writing and mock interviews, Graceland's career services mission has expanded to help provide GU students with a huge array of experiential learning opportunities.

Catherine Craig, Director of the Career and Personal Counseling (CAP) Center at Graceland, has spent the last year working to improve communication among academic departments and the administration in order to create a more integrated network for potential experiential learning opportunities, and many Graceland faculty are offering support.

"In terms of getting into graduate school or getting a job

in the field," said Assistant Professor of Biology and Chemistry Mary Shawgo. "An internship is invaluable. Not only is the student gaining work experience that goes on a resume, but also they're getting the opportunity to see how, or even *if*, they fit into their profession of interest. Students come back from these experiences and become leaders in the classroom and the lab."

Graceland's Vice President for Student Life, Dave Schaal, is also passionate about providing students with the most meaningful educational experience possible. And "experience" has really become a key word as far as Schaal is concerned.

"In the liberal arts tradition, we really attempt to develop the whole person. It is not just taking information into ourselves, but it is how we apply that information in the real world," explains Schaal. By adding an experiential element to education, universities make their traditional coursework more

*"In terms of getting into graduate school or getting a job in the field, an internship is invaluable."*

Mary Shawgo



Mary Shawgo

robust and relevant for students. And Graceland isn't the only institution to notice.

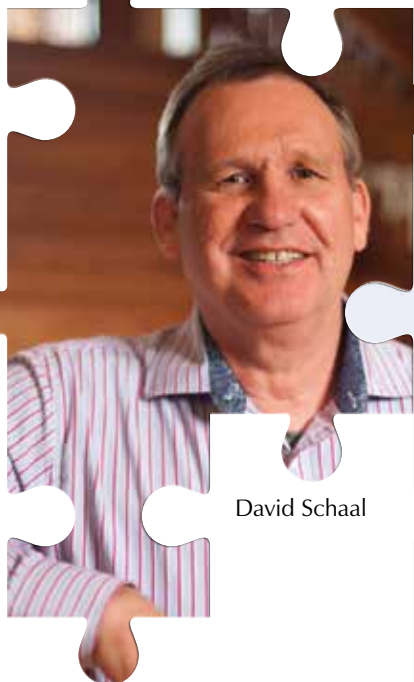
The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) has done extensive research about the elements of a student experience and the likelihood of graduation and subsequent success. The

<sup>1</sup><https://chronicle.com/items/biz/pdf/Employers%20Survey.pdf>



*"In the liberal arts tradition, we really attempt to develop the whole person."*

**Dave Schaal**



David Schaal

AAC&U identified the components of a college experience that predict higher levels of success, and internships rank among these "high impact practices."

Also numbered among the list of high impact practices is service learning. Service learning balances the opportunity for service in the community with formal instruction and reflection, immediately connecting the traditional classroom experience with real life lessons.

Students working with organizations in the local community as a part of their coursework is a concept that has

been around forever at Graceland, much like the variety of internship programs. Only recently have faculty, administrators and alumni asked the question of how they can be systemic and work in a more pervasive fashion to better facilitate the coordination.

"This last year we have invited representatives from every school and division to come together to have a convocation about student learning," said Schaal. That table included students, members of student life, faculty and even alumni as part of the brain trust.

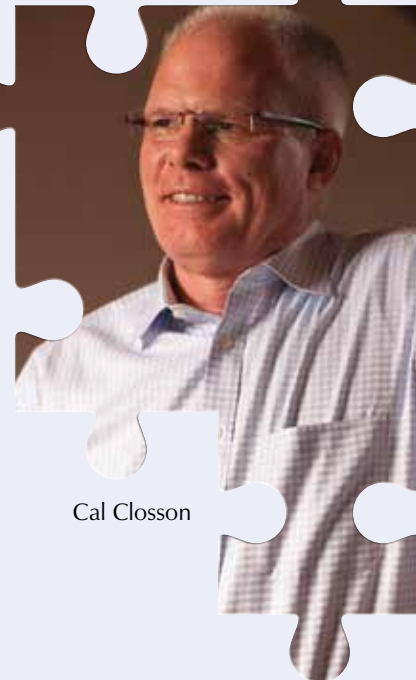
"The 'Graceland Experience' is about more than the classroom," Cal Closson '82 explained. "It is about gaining a connection with hundreds of other people and sharing an experience."

It's a powerful thing. The uniquely familial "Graceland Experience" is already a selling point. But Closson is among a group of alumni, administrators and faculty who believe that much more can come out of the already existing connections. Closson is a member of the Alumni Engagement Committee for the Alumni Board of Directors, an organization that is working with Graceland and alumni to match needs with resources. It's a relationship that works in both directions, especially with internships.

"It hasn't been systematic. It has been a coach working with alumni ... or a professor who happened to know somebody. And that is fantastic. But there is a whole community out there who want to help but don't know how to communicate or coordinate that with the university," explained Closson.

Catharine Craig agrees. "Our alumni engagement is really key. There is a lot I can do in my job, working through public sources to find internships," said Craig. "But sometimes it is just as simple as having an alumnus who can offer more information about an opening, or pointing a student in the right direction."

Experiences out in the working world are of immense value to current students and young alumni. And GU family members throughout the country (and



Cal Closson

*"The 'Graceland Experience' is about more than the classroom. It is about gaining a connection with hundreds of other people and sharing an experience."*

**Cal Closson**

world), Closson says, are ready to lend a hand. Sometimes for Closson and Craig, their task is a matter of playing with the resource puzzle pieces until they fit together the right way. It isn't always a smooth task but it is, they say, a deeply rewarding one.

Internships are only a beginning for what Closson sees as an interconnected effort to involve alumni with current GU students. "Another avenue we are pursuing is mentoring programs that connect students with a member of the greater GU community," Closson said.

This budding network is not limited to current students. The benefits extend throughout the alumni community, leveraging the possibilities that exist among Graceland's 15,000 alumni across the world.

Keeping it in the GU family, Closson and Craig agree, is a project to build on Graceland's existing strengths as an institution. That unique quality of lifelong bonding, he adds, is a powerful sales pitch.

"Education, mentoring and experiential learning are all pieces of the puzzle."

*"Education, mentoring and experiential learning are all pieces of the puzzle."*



# Frizzell Appointed Seminary Dean

Graceland University President John Sellars and the Community of Christ First Presidency are pleased to announce the appointment of Matthew Frizzell, PhD, as Community of Christ Seminary Dean. He will begin serving in this role July 1, 2015.

Dr. Frizzell has a PhD in theology and ethics from Chicago Theological Seminary, a Master of Theological Studies from Saint Paul School of Theology, and a Bachelor of Arts from Graceland University. He holds the Community of Christ priesthood office of high priest and serves as a counselor to the president of the Quorum of High Priests.

Frizzell has served as campus minister for Graceland University, Chicago USA Mission Center president, and as a member of Community of Christ's Theology Formation Team, Seminary Advisory Board, and Standing High Council. He taught religion courses for Graceland and was adjunct faculty for the Seminary.

Community of Christ President Stephen M. Veazey said, "Dr. Frizzell is uniquely qualified to serve in this capacity.

He brings experience and expertise to this important role of ministry for the church." Graceland President John Sellars added, "Matt has made a wonderful campus minister and we will miss his spiritual leadership on campus. We welcome his move to the seminary dean position and look forward to his expanded ministry."

Interim Seminary Dean, Dr. Stassi Cramm, will provide transition support and mentoring to Frizzell through December 2015.

Community of Christ Seminary's Master of Arts in Religion (MAR) provides a strong academic foundation in biblical studies, Christian history, and theology.

Learn more about Community of Christ Seminary at [www.graceland.edu/seminary](http://www.graceland.edu/seminary). Learn more about Community of Christ at [www.CofChrist.org](http://www.CofChrist.org).



# SkillPath Acquires National

Graceland University's SkillPath announced that it has reached a definitive agreement to acquire Rockhurst University's National Seminars Training. The acquisition supports a shared mission to lifelong learning through professional business training. SkillPath will continue offering programming under the National name.



John Sellars and Jack Cave.

"National is a great company with an outstanding management team and excellent employees. We will be able to unite two long-standing companies to create significant synergies and improved market shares," said Jack Cave, CEO of SkillPath. "The company is a market leader, and mirrors our mission. We welcome the National team to SkillPath."

For 25 years, SkillPath, along with their technical training division, CompuMaster,

has been dedicated to providing quality training for businesses across the U.S., Canada and Australia. SkillPath delivers more than 20,000 how-to sessions to over 500,000 people in 450 cities. Since joining forces with Graceland University in 1995, SkillPath's quality training has never been stronger.

National Seminars Training has been operating under Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center Inc., a subsidiary of Rockhurst University. National's employee training and development solutions include live and on-demand seminars, live and on-demand webinars, online courses, and an array of corporate training solutions.

Graceland University President John Sellars commented, "We are pleased with this acquisition. SkillPath and National employees together will have an even stronger presence."



# Our Faculty: A Commitment to Learning



Universities today are challenged to have a clear mission and to stay focused on achieving that mission. A vital part of the Graceland mission is the creation of a learning community whereby students learn how to think critically, understand complex issues, solve problems, and to understand the diversity in our world and its value to holistic learning.

While working in the business world, a part of my role was helping senior executives select some of their key employees. After years of focusing on knowledge-based skills (which are important), we learned to focus on other equally important qualities and skills. How well does a person think through complex issues? Is a person willing to continuously learn and adapt? How does one communicate effectively and work within a team environment?

The Graceland faculty is key to building a learning community where

students become successful learners. They build learning communities, and they create a culture for lifelong learning. When someone graduates from Graceland they leave as a person who has learned to learn ... continuously. Our faculty are lifelong learners in their teaching, research and service to humanity. They teach their students to be the same. This is why Graceland holds a unique place in higher education.

Graceland is all about student success; that is our mission. Although we track measurements like retention and

graduation rates, student success is really about learning. What and how much has been learned? How has the learning community prepared students to become successful citizens of the world? We have our faculty to thank for being a core part of making our students successful in life.

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

Harry Ashenhurst, PhD  
Board of Trustees Chair

## ClassNotes

### The 1940s

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**Jack Van Eaton '44** was honored in Kenmore, Washington, by the Consulate General of France as a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor for fighting to liberate Europe from Nazi occupation. He received the nation's highest honor this year on his 91st birthday, Feb. 17. Jack met his wife, Carol Van Valkenburg, at Graceland before enlisting in the U.S. Army in the early 1940s. Carol graduated from Graceland in 1944, and their two children also attended Graceland. To honor Carol, Jack established the Jack and Carol Van Eaton Scholarship at Graceland University, which is still benefiting students who choose to come to Graceland today.

### The 1950s

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**Diana Worthington '53 Guthrie** was inducted into the Kansas Nurse Hall of Fame in the fall of 2014.

### The 1960s

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**Ron Millard '67** was inducted into the Shawnee Mission South Athletic Hall of Fame in Jan. 2015.

Twins **Jim '69** and **Ron Barker '69** continue to be very active runners, winning awards in Arizona, California, Idaho and Nevada.

### The 1980s

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**Chris Strychacz, PhD '83** began work in November 2014 as a Research Portfolio Manager for Psychological Health at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command in Frederick, Maryland.

### The 2000s

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**Dan F. Johnson '00** finished a Master of Arts in Teaching and equivalent Master of Divinity Ordained Catholic Deacon and is now working on Doctor of Ministry at Aquinas Institute of Theology.

**Rodrigo Cid '11** was granted the Degree of Doctor in Nursing Practice from Touro University in Nevada in May 2015.



# We want your class notes!

## Submission Guidelines

### ▶ Upcoming Deadline

Fall 2015: July 2015 (publication month: September 2015)  
Winter 2016: November 2015 (publication month: January 2016)

### ▶ How to Submit Class Notes

**Email:** email your notes to  
alumni@graceland.edu  
(Subject line: Class Notes [year])

You may mail your news to:

**Class Notes**  
Alumni Office  
1 University Place  
Lamoni, IA 50140



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and follow us on Twitter @GracelandU

## Weddings

**Phillip De Wright Hernandez '99** and Anthony Wright, St. Cloud, Minnesota, April 12, 2014.

**Martin Ray '78** and Valerie Mathey, Alliance, Ohio, June 11, 2014.

**Kelly Everett '77** and Teri Portz, Lamoni, Iowa, March 7, 2015.

## Anniversaries

Carl and **Ruth Hall '56 Blumer** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Aug. 23, 2014.

**Don '53** and **Jan Van Boskirk '54 Keairnes** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Jan. 16, 2015.

Al and **Bonita Gates '53 Christensen** celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on March 23, 2015.

**Gary '59** and Jean **Tickemyer** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 27, 2015.

## Births

**Jeremy '98** and Mendi **Graybill**, Littleton, Colorado: Caden Bailey, born Feb. 13, 2013, and Chase LaRue, born March 10, 2015.

**Austin '09** and **Jennifer Stone '08 Isham**, North Liberty, Iowa: Evie Lila, born Aug. 4, 2013.

Brian and **Karis Davis '99 Townsend**, Cedar Falls, Iowa: Cameron Alexander, born Sept. 26, 2013.

**Valerie Oden '00 Bishop**, Leon, Iowa: Nyle, born May 27, 2012.

Donn and **Susan Nelson '93 Breshears**, Kansas City, Missouri: Michael, born July 8, 2013.

**Tyler '05** and **Kelsey Combs '05 Hosie**, Lamoni, Iowa: Cooper Steven, born Dec. 13, 2013.

Caleb and **Rebekah Troyer '02 Billings**, Grain Valley, Missouri: Aaron Elijah Paul, born Oct. 22, 2014.

**Travis '03** and **Rachel Lamble '03 Johnson**, Brooklyn, New York: Kenneth Gunner, born Jan. 8, 2015.

**Matthew '08** and **Rebecca Cain '08 Mogg**, Castle Rock, Colorado: Harper Olivia, born Jan. 19, 2015.

**Billy '11** and Alyssa **Bledsoe**, Wichita, Kansas: Leo David, born Feb. 28, 2015.

## In Memoriam

**K. Alan Zimmerman '68**, Independence, Missouri, March 25, 2009.

**Mary Lou Barnes '47 Zimmerman**, Blue Springs, Missouri, Feb. 5, 2014.

**Marion McDowell '37 Wise**, Paso Robles, California, Feb. 18, 2014.

**Emma M. Kaawakauo '46**, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 16, 2014.

**Margaret "Peggy" Smith '48 Henson**, Independence, Missouri, March 8, 2014.

**Cecil V. Robbins '50**, San Jacinto, California, March 20, 2014.

**L. Sharon McCormick '58 Kelley**, Mandeville, Louisiana, April 7, 2014.

**Marjorie Jensen '59 Donnelson**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, April 28, 2014.

**Robert L. Tilden '71**, Duluth, Minnesota, May 10, 2014.

**Lyle F. Steede '49**, Independence, Missouri, May 12, 2014.

**Larry P. Lee '65**, St. Petersburg, Florida, June 1, 2014.

**Merle B. Matheson '48**, Kearney, Nebraska, June 23, 2014.

**Iris McBride '46 Sage**, Brookline, Missouri, July 3, 2014.

**Ginny Tsoutsouvas '72 Cummins**, Ridgewood, New Jersey, Aug. 18, 2014.

**Rebecca Newcom '70 Belcher**, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 29, 2014.

**Myron W. Curry '39**, Apple Valley, Minnesota, Aug. 31, 2014.

**Ruth Gleazer '40 Marquett**, Aurora, Colorado, Oct. 3, 2014.

**Clayton G. Henry '43**, North Liberty, Iowa, Oct. 14, 2014.

**Jack A. Seilheimer '58**, Pueblo West, Colorado, Oct. 26, 2014.

**Jeanne Engel '55 Rossman**, Owosso, Michigan, Oct. 28, 2014.

**Ruth Allen '42 Barr**, Sacramento, California, Nov. 1, 2014.

**James E. Elliott '48**, St. Louis, Missouri, Nov. 18, 2014.

**Larry D. Harper '62**, Skiatook, Oklahoma, Nov. 22, 2014.

**Lyle B. Moneymaker '55**, Blue Springs, Missouri, Nov. 23, 2014.

**Martha Robinson '48 Beatty**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, Dec. 3, 2014.

**Vivian Muirhead '45 Provost**, Independence, Missouri, Dec. 3, 2014.

**Harold N. Hawley '49**, Independence, Missouri, Dec. 5, 2014.

**Leon A. Wilson '49**, Brewer, Maine, Dec. 7, 2014.

**Todd W. McLarty '83**, Kingman, Arizona, Dec. 11, 2014.

**Mabel Hyde '39 Curry**, Apple Valley, Minnesota, Dec. 12, 2014.

**E. Gail McLean '67 Post**, St. Paul, Minnesota, Dec. 14, 2014.



**Ilene Sheehy '51 Wendell,**  
Greeley, Colorado, Dec. 22, 2014.

**Cheryl Smith '65 Jordan,**  
Carthage, Illinois, Dec. 25, 2014.

**Forrest L. Swall '51,**  
Lawrence, Kansas, Dec. 30, 2014.

**E. Jane "Janie" Culbertson '53 Calloway,**  
Pueblo, Colorado, Jan. 2, 2015.

**Earlene Dobbin '42 McFadden,**  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Jan. 3, 2015.

**Betty Walker '45 Stephens,**  
Independence, Missouri, Jan. 3, 2015.

**Richard H. Callan '68,**  
Davidson, North Carolina, Jan. 5, 2015.

**Martha Jones '39 Spillman,**  
Independence, Missouri, Jan. 10, 2015.

**Shirley Miller '50 Etzenhauser,**  
Independence, Missouri, Jan. 16, 2015.

**Malcolm L. Ritchie '47,**  
Dayton, Ohio, Jan. 20, 2015.

**Ruth Lewis '41 Hutchcroft,**  
Seattle, Washington, Jan. 21, 2015.

**June Lambkin '46 Schroeder,**  
Midlothian, Virginia, Jan. 24, 2015.

**Bruce C. Jones '62,**  
Pensacola, Florida, Jan. 26, 2015.

**A. Jewell Bowman '60 Fortman,**  
Independence, Missouri, Jan. 29, 2015.

**Rudolph L. Leutzinger '42,**  
Independence, Missouri, Jan. 30, 2015.

**Beth Reimer '43 Boles,**  
San Francisco, California, Feb. 1, 2015.

**Robert A. Kean '53,**  
Hemet, California, Feb. 1, 2015.

**Dorothy Resch '39 Mossman,**  
Iowa City, Iowa, Feb. 10, 2015.

**Lee O. Hart '48,**  
Independence, Missouri, Feb. 11, 2015.

**Ammon D. Roberson '34,**  
Independence, Missouri, Feb. 14, 2015.

**Dan J. Nyanjom '05,**  
Nairobi, Kenya, Feb. 16, 2015.

**Lacy A. Faherty '00,**  
Independence, Missouri, Feb. 18, 2015.

**Patricia Pointer '55 Marks,**  
Castle Rock, Colorado, Feb. 21, 2015.

**Linda Loving '01 Stout,**  
Minco, Oklahoma, Feb. 23, 2015.

**Nelma Maxwell '47 Andrew,**  
Grain Valley, Missouri, Feb. 25, 2015.

# Prepared to Succeed

Getting into a Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) program in theatre is not something that is easy to do. In fact, each year thousands of hopeful actors audition for MFA programs but only a select few are granted spots. This year, Graceland alumna Claire McClain '14 was one of the prepared few selected.

In March of 2015, after auditioning in Chicago and New York, McClain was accepted into the New School for Drama, where she will be pursuing an MFA in theatre. The New School for Drama is a New York multidisciplinary training program for theatre arts whose notable alumni includes Bradley Cooper. This fall, McClain will head to New York where she will receive intensive training in acting, voice and movement over the next three years.

According to McClain, it is because of Graceland and the training she received in the theatre program, that she was selected.



## List of Graceland Productions

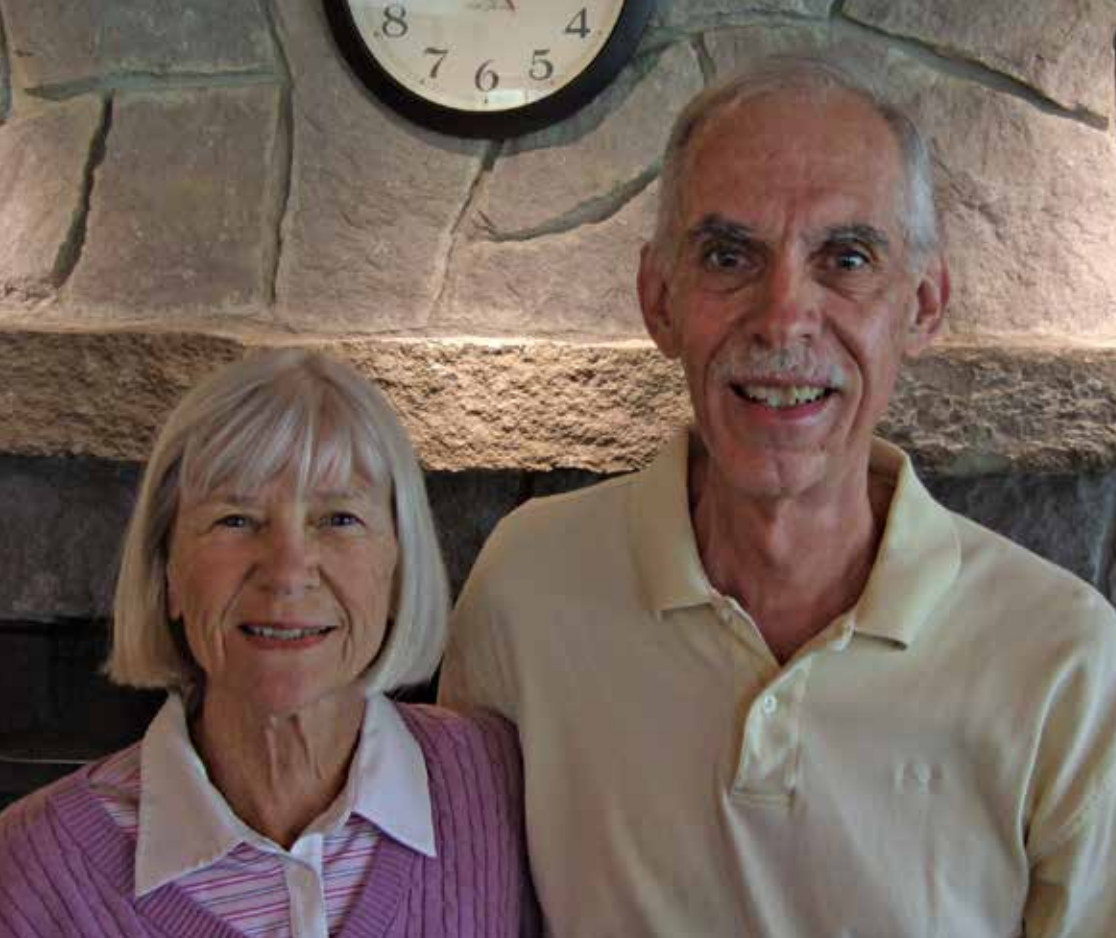
- *Steel Magnolias*, played Shelby,  
Directed by Gary Heisserer
- *Becky's New Car*, played Ginger,  
Directed by Gary Heisserer
- *Mauritius*, played Jackie\*,  
Directed by Gary Heisserer
- *The Exit Interview*, played Gunman,  
Directed by Gary Heisserer
- *Fuddy Meers*, played Claire,  
Directed by Tracy Salter
- *Our Town*, Stage Manager  
(Understudy),  
Directed by Arliss Howard
- *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*,  
played Maureen,  
Directed by Gary Heisserer

\* Kennedy Center American College  
Theatre Festival  
Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Nominee

*"At Graceland I was allowed to explore and experiment with my studies. I took language courses, seminars in philosophy and theology, became well versed in Shakespeare, perfected my prosody in poetry, challenged my understanding of the world with linguistic and cultural studies, and yes, I took every opportunity to act. My undergraduate education was wonderful, and I will always appreciate my experiences at Graceland. My theatre professors were extremely competent, supportive and highly passionate people dedicated to training me as an actor."*

*– Claire McClain*





Jackie and Doug Nelson

## A Graceland Heritage

**F**or more than 30 years, the Ruth Duvic Nelson Memorial Nursing Scholarship Endowment has been helping Graceland nursing students complete their education. This endowment was founded in May of 1982 in honor of Ruth Duvic Nelson '36, a Graceland nursing graduate. Doug Nelson '68, Ruth's son, and his wife, Jackie, started the fund after Ruth's passing.

As a child, Doug heard a lot about Graceland. Ruth had loved her time as a student and wanted her children to have the same experience. Doug attended from 1964-65 and was on Baker Hall. During that time, Doug was able to see what his mother raved about. "While I was at Graceland, it was my first time living away from home, but it was very easy to adapt to, just because of the atmosphere of friendliness," he noted.

Starting in 1993, when Doug and Jackie were working at Intel, they decided to take advantage of Intel's matching gift program to boost the size of the endowment to help more students attain the "Graceland Experience." The scholarship has been steadily growing over the years with the Nelsons' contributions, Intel's match and endowment growth to nearly \$75,000. "My wife and I both want to be able to support our favorite charities, and as long as we can afford it, we want to continue supporting," Doug explained.

Doug and Jackie Nelson have been very generous in their support, which has been critical in helping more than 37 students attend Graceland. "Graceland was, next to the kids and the church, probably one of my mother's biggest loves," Doug continues, "And the 'Graceland Experience' that I enjoyed makes me want to keep supporting the university so that others can have the same opportunity."

**Raymond L. Gunn '48,**  
Independence, Missouri, Feb. 25, 2015.

**Trula Mott '96 Foughty,**  
Ankeny, Iowa, Feb. 28, 2015.

**Michael J. Bailey '90,**  
Oakland, California, March 3, 2015.

**Myra Gold '41 Steinbrink,**  
Scottsdale, Arizona, March 3, 2015.

**Verdine Argotsinger '48 Reed,**  
Lake City, Iowa, March 8, 2015.

**Daniel B. Kelley '58,**  
Houston, Texas, March 10, 2015.

**Arthur B. Greathouse '57,**  
Mountain Home, Arkansas, March 11, 2015.

**Nancy Firby '62 Medlock,**  
Acushnet, Massachusetts, March 12, 2015.

**Deborah Ann Cato '82,**  
Overland Park, Kansas, March 15, 2015.

**G. Elaine Friend '47 Wells,**  
Medford, Oregon, March 18, 2015.

**Z. Charleen Thompson '51 Sellers,**  
Independence, Missouri, March 21, 2015.

**William W. Ely '60,**  
Tucson, Arizona, March 23, 2015.

**Hollis C. Olson '48,**  
Rosemount, Minnesota, March 23, 2015.

**C. Rex Wildermuth '51,**  
Independence, Missouri, March 28, 2015.

**Louise Blaisdel '42 Minton,**  
Kailua, Hawaii, April 1, 2015.

**E. Elaine Martin '50 Cochran,**  
Kansas City, Missouri, April 2, 2015.

**Cathy Swanson '73 Hedrick,**  
Indianola, Iowa, April 4, 2015.

**Robert D. Calhoon '47,**  
Vista, California, April 6, 2015.

**Alan B. Slayton '51,**  
Lee's Summit, Missouri, April 8, 2015.

**Alfred "A.J." Goodwin '41,**  
Independence, Missouri, April 12, 2015.

**May Clara Jorgensen '49,**  
Independence, Missouri, April 18, 2015.

**Bettie Simmons '89 Wendorff,**  
Prairie Village, Kansas, April 19, 2015.

**Lloyd B. Hurshman '51,**  
Independence, Missouri, April 23, 2015.

**Dick L. Young '69,**  
Knoxville, Iowa, April 24, 2015.

**Margaret June Robb '46 Rice,**  
Independence, Missouri, May 1, 2015.



# Like Mother Like Daughters

Sári and Dóri Bosnyák, of Budapest, Hungary, traveled over 5,000 miles to become students at Graceland University. However, they weren't the first in their family to make this journey – they followed in the footsteps of their mother, Viktoria Bosnyák.

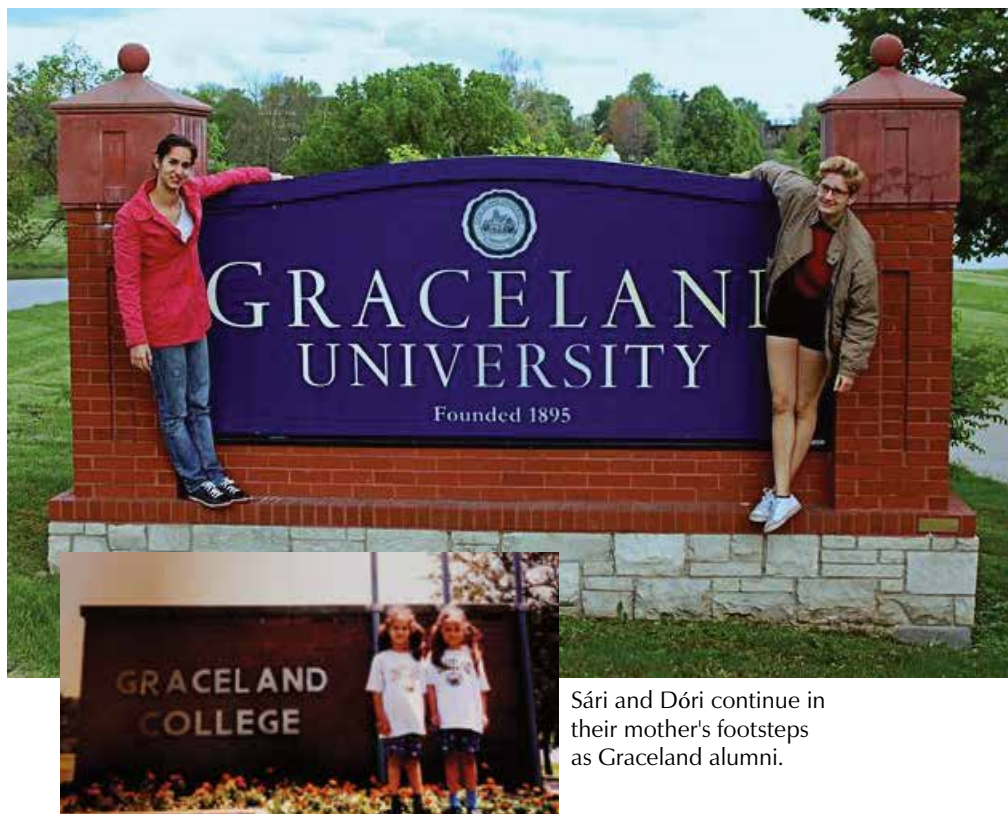
In 1986, Viki Bosnyák (then Viktoria Branyik) came to Graceland. After meeting Ambassador John K. Menzies in Budapest, who had helped to start a Hungarian exchange program, Viki decided to take the leap. Dóri comments, "When my mom came to GU, her life changed forever in the best possible way. I decided to come here because I knew, from all her stories, that this was a great place." Viki brought Sári and Dóri on visits to Graceland as children, and both remembered it so fondly that they had no hesitation coming back.

In Fall 2011, they arrived to begin their own Graceland adventure. Sári took part in Enactus, as a member of the fitness group. "It was a great experience to see so

many students who are passionate about their careers – they want to succeed in their fields, not just in a good way, but in an outstanding way, and Enactus helps them achieve that!" Dóri ran with cross country and track and field for the first two years and has been an avid member of the International Club. There was an instant connection with Program Director, Diana Jones, since she knew their mother. "The International Club became a supporting family to me from the first day," explains Dóri, "Diana is one of the most dedicated and caring people I've met at



Sári, Viktoria and Dóri Bosnyák.



Sári and Dóri continue in their mother's footsteps as Graceland alumni.

*"When my mom came to GU, her life changed forever in the best possible way."*

*Dóri Bosnyák*

Graceland. She's made a big difference in my life."

The twins graduated with their class on May 17. Sári's double majors are psychology and corrective exercise and performance enhancement. Dóri's double majors are film, theatre and performance studies and international studies. After graduation, Sári plans to return to Budapest to continuing her education there, and Dóri plans on staying in the U.S. to get her master's degree in theatre management and arts leadership. Dóri and Sári now have their own stories to tell about the difference that Graceland has made in their lives.





GRACELAND  
UNIVERSITY

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Lamoni, IA 50140  
[www.graceland.edu](http://www.graceland.edu)

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DES MOINES, IA  
PERMIT NO. 972

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**



SAVE THE DATE



*Retracing  
the  
Memories*



OCTOBER  
**16-18**

HOMECOMING 2015