

Horizons

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY



Commitment to Community



Graceland's new look to launch in September

Graceland University is getting a new look this fall with a visual identity that more clearly signifies the attributes of our tradition. Keeping the "G" as our visual stronghold and incorporating 1895 in the logo, our historical significance is commemorated and proudly proclaimed. Look for a new decal for your car in the mail this fall to help spread the Graceland community wherever you go!

Graceland University is a transformative education like no other – made possible by a faithful, supportive community like no other. This sense of unity – this sense of belonging – emboldens all who call Graceland home. It is, for all who come here, the power of acceptance. It is the power of encouragement. It is...The Power of Together.

Horizons

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY

Alumni and Friends Magazine

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About the cover: Retiring professors Bob and Barbara Hiles Mesle pose with Graceland graduates in front of the Higdon Administration Building.

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At the Board of Trustees meeting this spring, I announced that I will be retiring as Graceland president the summer of 2017. In my career, I have been blessed to work as a chief financial officer, a Bishop for the Community of Christ, and a development officer at several different universities. Each of these experiences has been important in my life, but serving as the president of Graceland has been special. It has been a joy to come to work each day with colleagues who see their work as service, a ministry, a life calling, not just a job. I have witnessed so many Graceland colleagues who love the students and go the extra mile to nurture and empower them.

As I climb the stairs in the Higdon Administration Building every day, I look

at the photographs of past Graceland presidents and hope that I have not disappointed them. My father was a scout master for over 20 years, and I can hear his words streaming through my mind, "Always leave a place better than you found it." My hope is that I am leaving Graceland better than I found it. Your support has made it possible to rejuvenate the Graceland campus to the pride of our faculty, staff and students. All of us together have made it possible to strengthen Graceland's academic programs and to become a first-tier academic institution. Graceland graduates' starting salaries are the second highest among the three public and twenty-eight private institutions in Iowa. This attests to the quality of our academic programs.

You will be pleased with the quality of our faculty as you read this issue. This is just a representative group, but they are an indication of the committed and competent faculty at Graceland. While more needs to be done on growing Graceland's endowment to ensure a stable financial future, we have made progress

here also. In my reflections of the last nine years, I can conjure up budget meetings, the chilly winter nights when the steam pipes broke, cold and rainy homecoming football games, and complaints from alumni about inappropriate words in the school play. Yet, much stronger memories are of the confident faces of well-prepared students as they walk across the platform to receive their degree. My prayers go with each one of them.


I have been deeply blessed by the opportunity for 19 years to be a part of Graceland as a faculty member, a member of the Executive Council and as president. My three children are Graceland alumni. My wife was a professor of art at Graceland. We are a Graceland family.

Thank you for this opportunity. May God's gracious Spirit be with you.

John Sellars
John Sellars, PhD, CPA
President

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Commitment to Community

Graceland Faculty

Sara Blessing

Sara Blessing has made her mark on Graceland in a short time. She received the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Commencement Convocation in May and, just a few days later, hopped on a bus to lead a cross country choir tour – a Graceland tradition that she has reinstated. She was surprised to win the prestigious award and more surprised when her students all donned T-shirts with #Blessed and her picture on them. She is indeed a blessing for Graceland!

Her students love her, but that doesn't mean she is easy on them. Sara demands perfection from her musicians and requires long practices picking at the smallest details for each piece. Entrances, diction, tone and phrasing are rehearsed and perfected to pull the best out of the choir members. She knows what she wants and knows how to get to a perfect performance.

"The choir tour was an absolutely incredible experience. We not only saw beautiful landscape and met wonderful people, but the choir really bonded," said Graceland soprano Amber Edwards '17. "Professor Blessing is one of the best choir directors I've ever met. She is constantly inspiring all of us not just to sing a song but to *feel* the song. Before every song, she tells us about it. There was one time


in particular that we were having a rough rehearsal, and she just sat us down and talked to us on a personal level. She helped us understand the song and how we are all connected within the song. As soon as we started singing again, we were no longer separate singers. We felt that connection. We could feel the song come together."

With years of experience and preparation, Blessing brings excellence in teaching as well as vocal talent. Her faculty recital was an amazing experience – delighting her audience with a wide array of performance repertoire that had Carol Hall vibrating with her energy.

"Some of my most memorable life experiences are from singing in my undergraduate career in the Nordic Choir at Luther College," explained Blessing. "Through our choir tours, both nationally

and internationally, the experiences that I had were life changing. Being new to the music department at Graceland University, it is my goal to provide our choir singers with those same enriching and rewarding life experiences. It has been an absolute joy to join the Graceland faculty and spend my days conducting both the Graceland Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, as well as to coach the private vocal singers. In addition, I teach choral conducting and choral methods, diction, vocal pedagogy, aural training and applied lessons."

Graceland's Shaw Center is the perfect venue for this rising star in the performing arts faculty. The students who are under Sara's influence most definitely realize that they've been "#Blessed."



*"She is constantly
inspiring
all of us not just to sing a song but to
feel the song."*
~Amber Edwards '17

Steve Anders

Dr. Steve Anders has been selected by the University of Prishtina in Kosovo for a Fulbright Specialist project – AGAIN. This is a distinctive honor for both Anders and for Graceland, and Anders is the only Graceland faculty to have two Fulbright teaching opportunities within the five-year span of a Fulbright Specialist.

Anders will teach economics as one of 10 courses being offered through the University of Prishtina's International Summer University (UPISU). In this summer edition, about 200 students will be admitted. Anders taught the economics course for UPISU in Kosovo two years ago and has kept in contact with several of the students and faculty. The school couldn't afford the economics text books, so Anders wrote his own and

emailed the pdf files to the university for printing. He updated the text, plans to use it again this summer, and they're looking forward to his return visit.

The Fulbright program was founded by U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright in 1946. The Fulbright Specialist Program sends U.S. faculty and professionals to serve as expert consultants on curriculum, faculty development, institutional planning and related subjects at academic institutions abroad for a period of two to six weeks. Through a lengthy application process, Anders was selected to be on the specialist roster to teach economics for the five-year term.

The selection of Anders to the Fulbright Specialist roster speaks to his knowledge, talent and dedication to his profession. Teaching is a calling, and, as in his ministry service, Steve Anders

brings a lifetime of commitment.

"I came to teach at Graceland," explains Anders, "because when I was a student here, Professor Jerry Runkle advised, 'If you ever thought you might want to teach, there may be an opportunity for you at Graceland.' His insight and encouragement allowed me to believe in myself."

"It's been a very rewarding experience through the years; those ongoing relationships ..." Anders continued, "For instance, I remember John Lysinger '81 and his brothers, Tom '83 and Jim '86, and now Jim's son, Jay '16, just graduated as an economics major. It's been a joy to teach and learn with these lifelong friends – and now I am experiencing the second generation of family and friends."

On his desk are cards from students with personal notes of thanks for making a difference in their lives. One student noted Anders' constant efforts to be a good teacher; his selfless and inspiring example. She ended it with, "I'm proud to have you as my teacher and as my friend."

"Those last three words are most important for me," Anders replied. "This is the real joy: the connections and relationships that are made through teaching."

Learning, wholeness and community: those are Graceland values. "Community is core to our value system – I believe in that. That larger sense of community is what Graceland is about. Teaching is my stewardship response. I'm living out my stewardship – a word and understanding that encompasses the idea that we are responsible for sharing and taking the best care of our time, talent, energy and effort in life."

Anders has dedicated his life to teaching. He has served in several administrative roles along the way: as dean, vice president, even acting president for one year. This summer and fall he will be teaching – sharing his gifts – making more lifelong friends in Kosovo and in Lamoni, fulfilling his stewardship.

"This is the real joy: the connections and relationships that are made through teaching"

-Steve Anders '73

Jane Hall Chaillie

Q How did you come to be at Graceland?

A As a senior in high school, I looked at Graceland because of the track team and the education program. I loved my time as a student and then started teaching third and fifth grades in Griswold, Iowa. My passion has always been reading instruction. I received my master's from the University of Missouri in curriculum instruction, focused on reading, and then became a Title I reading and reading recovery teacher. I also provided leadership for all the teachers in our district on reading instruction, and that really drove home the fact that I wanted to work with developing teachers. I received my doctorate from Creighton University, and when the literacy and early childhood position opened at Graceland – where I had strong ties and wonderful experiences – I was eager to be back.

You know when you walk across campus and you see everybody that you know and they smile and wave ... that was something that I was really ready for. The Graceland community is really wonderful!

I've always had this passion to work with pre-service teachers. I know I was touching a lot of student lives in my classroom, but what I really wanted was to work with the teachers so that they could go out and make that difference in the world.

Q What is the best part of your career?

A I teach the majority of the reading courses on campus and also the early childhood block, which is a really exciting adventure. Because of a grant with DEKKO, Graceland and the preschool in Lamoni, I am able to provide a lot of leadership. I take Graceland students into the classrooms where they get to see the transformation that occurs. I get to see the relationships form and the growth in both the Graceland students as well as the preschoolers. Those field experiences and networks with the local schools allow Graceland students to work with students earlier in their coursework. They're having experiences that we can then process and talk about in the classroom. It's what really gets me excited about my job.

"Being part of the Education Program and endorsing in Early Childhood Education, it is hard to not be impacted by Jane Chaillie. Having numerous classes taught by her, she has helped me gain so much more love for teaching than I thought was possible. She has always gone the extra mile and uses her past experiences as a teacher to help make her students better teachers in the future. My 'Graceland Experience' would not be as great as it is if it wasn't for Jane. Any student would be lucky to have her as a professor!"

-Krysten Topliff '18

"Her love for teaching is contagious and has shown me the importance of my job as a future teacher."

-Madison Briggs '18

Barbara Voshall

Coming to Graceland College as a student and member of Community of Christ in 1969, Graceland University Professor of Nursing Barbara Voshall, DNP, MN, RN never considered attending anywhere else.

She declared nursing as her major and graduated in 1973. Voshall then worked in an intensive care unit (ICU) for a year where she discovered the desire to pursue a master's degree in nursing. She went on to earn a Doctor of Nursing Practice and instructed her first clinical in 1976. Voshall now owns 40 years of teaching experience.

On the first day of class for each new term, Voshall tells her students that she truly cares about each of them and wants them to succeed. The two-time winner of the Excellence in Teaching Award inspires desire in her students. She keeps them engaged through the art of storytelling and provides clinical, real-life scenarios.

"Professor Voshall challenges us, and she encourages us to think critically: a skill that is key for nursing. I would not be as knowledgeable, capable and confident if it weren't for her commitment to my learning. She is a great instructor, not only because of the many talents she has in the classroom, but because her heart is in it."

~Veronica Bourdon, '15

With Graceland's supportive leadership, Voshall credits the faculty collaboration, faith-based caring and small class sizes for much of her success as an instructor. She appreciates that comradery is prevalent among the School of Nursing faculty as well as the School of Education faculty and throughout Graceland, as a whole.

Learning new medicines and therapeutics has been a lifelong journey for Voshall and, through her teaching at Graceland, she is always willing to research new things. "Whoever heard of the Zika virus last year?" she said, for example.

Voshall's insightful doctoral research on pain management was published in *Pain Management Nursing* and has been cited internationally, including publications in South Africa, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. The research was also cited recently by the editor of the publication as a guideline for incorporating pain management into educational programs, helping to reach the goal to improve nursing education on pain management at Graceland University and throughout the world.

"Dr. Voshall is an inspiration to us all. Her dedication to Graceland is unmatched as an alumna and as a professor, and, because of her history, she helps to connect two campuses. She is respected by faculty, staff and students and continues to be an important member of the School of Nursing and Graceland University, as a whole."

~Claudia Horton, PhD,

Dean of the School of Nursing



"Teaching is not so much teaching, as motivating students to learn."

~Barbara Voshall '73

Isaac Pressnell

"For most of my career, I haven't done anything out of the ordinary. I write pretty accessible, straight-forward narrative poems."

~Professor Isaac Pressnell

But writing and getting poetry published is *not* an ordinary or easy process, and Pressnell's success is shining.

"A few years ago I started a collaborative work with a friend from graduate school. We decided to create a poetry project using material that we wrote about each other. The process forced us to give up control of our narratives and rewrite them; to sort of renegotiate our shared past. We exchanged our poems, and then I cut hers into pieces and introduced a secondary text – like a song or another poem – and took snippets of language from that, and then I combined the two. By using language from our present environment and taking apart the other person's version of what happened, we were rewriting the story with the idea that by doing so we would tell a more honest version. We gave up the subjective control of the narrative. A number of those poems are published in a journal called *Carrier Pigeon*, in which visual artists were given our work to illustrate without any directives. One of those pieces was also just published in *Best American Experimental Writing 2015*, the anthology published by Wesleyan University Press."

to process and to dig deeper in ways that maybe they haven't done before."

The competitive and persistent development of publication is a real-world process that every writer needs to learn. Pressnell's success in this process spills over to his teaching. He is the faculty advisor for Graceland's student literary journal, *The Vespiary*. This was a student project that started three years ago and will continue to be published for years to come because of the generous donor support of James McCullagh in honor of his wife, Cheryl Edwards '67 McCullagh. It is an annual literary magazine for student writing, and it gives the real-world experience of the entire publication process. There is a student editor who assembles a staff. They advertise for submissions, review and select the pieces for inclusion. They experience the whole production from start to finish,

"The best part about teaching is relational."

This is nowhere near "the ordinary."

Professor Pressnell has been teaching at Graceland for five years and is sharing his journey, just as all excellent teachers do. The same focus and honesty he gives to his poetry he employs in his teaching and leadership, which was recognized, as Pressnell recently became Graceland's humanities division chair.

"The best part about teaching is relational," says Pressnell. "I see the same students in small classes and really get to know them. Teaching involves helping students deepen their understanding of themselves and the world. That's what I try to foster in my writing classes. I like equipping students with the writing tools,

including marketing and launching a publications party with performances.

Pressnell impacts students at the university through service appointments as well. He serves on the curriculum instruction stewardship taskforce committee and the general education committee. The general education committee is charged with overhauling the general education package, which should roll out in 2017-18. "We have put in countless hours coming up with something innovative that will serve our students even better than our current package," explains Pressnell.

The creativity and intense devotion that Pressnell brings to Graceland was

almost diverted. After taking a poetry class his freshman year in college, he changed his direction, leaving a planned and lucrative engineering path for a calling that inspires and feeds his soul. The Graceland family is thankful for his decision to follow the call on a path that is anything but ordinary.



Mesle Memories

Bob '72 and Barbara Hiles '72 Mesle, Graceland professors who have shaped decades of students and colleagues, are graduating along with the May 2016 class. They'll be forever remembered and loved, and here are just a few of the thoughts shared for this reason in the Facebook group created in their honor.



Rich Brown '95

Barb Mesle sparked my love for British literature and Shakespeare, and she had a hand in my life's journey as being one of the national leaders in the field of devising new theatre. Because of Graceland's intimate setting, connections between faculty and students leads to interdisciplinary, experiential learning. Gary Heisserer connected me to Barb Mesle, who connected me to her brother, Jeff, whose story helped us create a new piece of theatre titled, "Faces," in 1993 from an idea – the essence of Devised Theatre. It's connections that make Graceland a great cooperative learning environment.



Jenn Killpack '96

Living, loving and teaching with hearts wide open. Always willing to ask hard questions and really listen to the response. Pushing and stretching the limits of an 18-year-old brain. Letting this now 41-year-old brain come and sit on the deck to be pushed and stretched and loved a little more. So deeply and reverently thankful. Then. Now. Forever.



Karolyn Sharp '06

Barb Mesle introduced me to Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, Lord Byron and Shakespeare. It's not that I hadn't read them before, but Barb's passion – her insight – made reading them new, different and revelatory. She was an inspiring, compassionate instructor, mentor and friend with one huge failing: she never gave me the words or the capacity to describe what she has meant to me and to so many of my peers. Shame on her!



Sydney Brock '15

I cannot imagine my "Graceland Experience" without you two. From day one in Barb's class to the last day of my undergraduate career in Bob's, I am SO grateful I get to call you MY teachers. You two taught me how to think in a way that I don't believe I would have had to otherwise: calling into question my beliefs, biases and challenging me to find ways to support them while also being open to changing them. I love you two so much!



Karyn Wingard Manuel '02

Barb, I still underline beautiful prose in my novels with pencil and then repeat them out loud to myself. Bob, I still ask "Is it good for our children?" when faced with tough ethical and moral questions. Your beauty and love for life is infectious – it caused you both to do tough and courageous things, like fight for LGBT rights before it was easy and obvious, and push students and staff without apology to pick apart their bricked walls of understanding.



Martha J. Hart, Professor of Music

You may be retiring from Graceland, but you will continue teaching all of us in the ways of caring for each other and making the world a kinder, gentler and more thoughtful place. Thank you for inspiring and challenging students, colleagues, family and friends to be better human beings. I love you and am so grateful to have your love in my life.



Michael Morain '01

One of the many, many things I love about you, Bob and Barb, is how easy it is to lump your names together, like a Dr. Seuss character: Bobandbarb or Barbandbob. Both of you are impressive individuals, of course, but you fit so well together that you might as well share a name.



Mike Seagraves '94

Ruth and I have been members of the Barbara and Bob Mesle Fan Club since we first met them in the early 90s. Not too long ago, when we were back in Lamoni for the holidays, Bob and Barb were working the Caroling and Cakes event in the commons, serving pancakes and smiles to the study-worn students preparing for finals. Bob was armed with a spatula. Like they were teenagers, Bob lovingly smacked Barb's backside with the spatula and kept serving the cakes. Classic.



Angel Velitchkov '01

Formal Logic, Informal Logic, Venn Diagrams, Medical Ethics, "Regular" Ethics, Honors seminars and trips, discussions, presentations, Suffering and Meaning (an "about" class, not a "how to") undoubtedly have brainwashed me – some might say beyond repair – but I'd rather have my brain be washed and processing ideas than be dirty with ignorance and in the dark.



Emily Joy Hartford '08

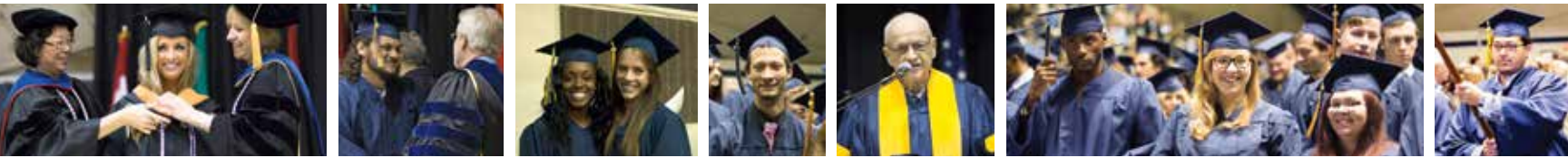
You taught me to write well, to question often and not always need an answer, and to always, always be learning. You taught me to see the world through different perspectives and to understand that, while my own was valid, it was not always the most important or true. You taught me to love life. To find joy in the simplest of things. To love chocolate and to see food as an adventure. To surround myself with the kind of people I wanted to be... I am forever grateful.



Shandra Newcom '90

I was welcomed into their home and family and learned to sing my dreams boldly by watching them sing theirs. Barb has given me poem and song, and Bob has given me question and possibility. I am deeply, deeply honored to know them both.

COMMENCEMENT 2016



Graceland University's 119th Commencement ceremonies began with the baccalaureate service in the Shaw Family Auditorium Saturday evening. Dr. Stassi Cramm, Community of Christ presiding bishop, gave the sermon on the Manifest Greatness, the theme of the evening. The auditorium stage was set with towering trees and stars. Cramm challenged all to reach for the stars and echoed Marianne Williamson's quote, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure."



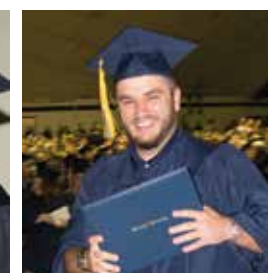
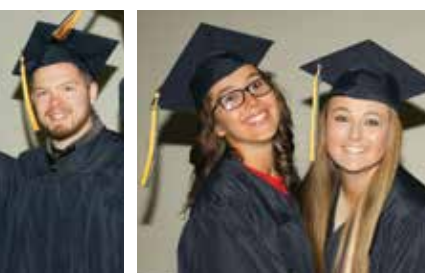
Later that evening the president of the Alumni Board of Directors, Sam Smalldon, led the candlelighting ceremony, where concentric circles of parents and alumni passed candles to the newest alumni. Three students – Hailey Larson, Sarah Mongrain and Dylan Foster – shared what they will miss most from their "Graceland Experience."



On Sunday morning, the Commencement Convocation began with the flag processional and a welcome from President John Sellars. Honorary degrees were conferred upon president of the Salgo-Noren Foundation, Dr. Miklos P. Salgo, and guest speaker, Dr. Calvin French. Dr. French gave an encouraging address to the candidates, acknowledging that they are now among only 6.7 percent of the world's population who have earned baccalaureate degrees. He told stories of his life's journey and challenged the candidates to "go the extra mile and persevere toward their goals."



The Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching was given to Professor Sarah Blessing, the Excellence in Scholarly Achievement was given to Professor Dave Devonis, and the Exceptional Service Award was given to Professor Gary Heisserer. Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Tammy Everett, conferred Professor Emeritus Status on both Barbara and Bob Mesle, and then the waiting graduation candidates crossed the stage to be given their recognition. Associate Professor of Music Jack Ergo played the *Star Wars* theme as the graduates were ushered out into their waiting families' embrace.



MIKLOS P. SALGO
HONORARY DOCTORATE

Miklos (Mickey) Salgo serves as president of the Salgo-Noren Foundation, a nonprofit foundation that promotes education, established by his father, Nicolas. His family's commitment to supporting educational opportunities has been a personal endeavor in Salgo's own life. He earned a Bachelor of Science at Cornell University, a Doctor of Philosophy at City University of New York, and a Doctor of Medicine at New York University.

His research was instrumental in getting three new AIDS drugs approved which has changed AIDS from a uniformly fatal disease to a manageable chronic disease for many patients.

Now retired, Salgo and his wife, Roxann, live in northern California and are active in local organizations and conservation projects.



DR. CALVIN V. FRENCH
DOCTORATE OF
HUMANE LETTERS

Dr. Calvin V. French has made a positive difference to people in all walks of life. For three decades, he was the official liaison for the Community of Christ to Congress, government agencies and foreign embassies of nations where the church has missions. In 2014, he was appointed by the church as its first World Ambassador.

An alumnus of Graceland, French also holds academic degrees from the University of Iowa, Temple University (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) and Drake University (Des Moines, Iowa). For 12 years, he served on Graceland's Board of Trustees and as a charter board member of its Seminary.



Sara Blessing

Excellence in Teaching

Sara Blessing received a bachelor's degree from Luther College, a master's from Oklahoma State University and is a candidate for a PhD from the University of Iowa. Blessing receives this distinctive honor for her work within the Graceland University Chamber and Concert choirs, as well as choral conducting and choral methods, diction, vocal pedagogy, aural training and applied lessons. Though she prides herself on being a conductor, vocalist, pianist and clarinetist, her reputation as an educator and instructor precedes her with students saying things like "she accepts nothing but excellence," and "she consistently goes above and beyond for her students in whatever way she can."

Blessing's influence and compassion for students, both in and outside the classroom, are what qualifies her for this award. Graceland University is grateful for her contributions to the community and proud to award her the Excellence in Teaching Award.

David Devonis

Excellence in Scholarly Achievement

Dr. David Devonis holds a PhD from the University of New Hampshire. During the 2015-16 academic year, he wrote five academic papers, two of which were published in revered journals, the other three have been submitted for publication and are currently under review. Devonis has been invited to appear at the International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences and present his works at this year's conference. In January of this year, the American Library Association awarded Devonis' book titled, *History of Psychology 101*, the Outstanding Academic Title of 2014. Devonis said of his recognition:

"I see history like a road map to the past, which is always there for us to explore, and from which we can always return to the present with whatever we find useful on our travels. My goal in writing this book was to provide a road map to make the past 80 years of psychology accessible for today's psychologists – clinical, applied and experimental alike – and I am thrilled that Choice has recognized this effort."

Congratulations, Dr. David Devonis, and many thanks for contributions to the field of psychology and representing Graceland University so well.



Gary Heisserer

Outstanding Service

Gary Heisserer chaired the General Education Committee this year, served on the Curriculum Task Force, the Program Review Committee, the Student Learning Improvement Committee, and took the lead role in planning and coordinating the five new courses that were delivered in England this summer as a study abroad opportunity for Graceland students, one of which Heisserer taught. While his service on all of these committees is commendable, chairing the General Education Committee during a year in which the entire program was being recreated is appreciated most by his colleagues. One colleague wrote, "Not only has Gary impacted the Graceland community through facilitating the development of a new core curriculum, but the leadership qualities he's modeled for others will have a lasting impact as well." Congratulations, Gary, and we send you our sincerest gratitude for your outstanding service to Graceland University and the community it houses.

day of GIVING

03.22.16

#Grateful4Graceland

\$177,564

Graceland is grateful for those whose generous response raised \$177,564. We want to give special recognition to the generous people who matched gifts throughout the day.

- David '75 and Karen Booth '76 Jewell with their matching employer
- Dean '53 and Soon Ja Limric
- Bill and Goldia Strong '67 Mustain with their matching employer
- Jay '64 and Cherry Phelps '65 Newcom
- Ron '61 and Pat Gabrielson '64 Trachsel
- Mike Wiley '83 and Dana Cochran-Wiley '82 with their matching employer

Thank You All!



● Alumni from 36 states, plus British Columbia, contributed to the event

Classes from **1938** to **2015** donated during Day of Giving! **163** unique viewers connected to the live broadcast.

“I am #Grateful4Graceland University. My time on campus helped lay the foundation I would use in the future to build professional and personal relationships and networks. Thank you, Graceland University, for providing an excellent learning environment, social activities and a vision for the future!”
- Brian Woodson '87

Social Media

FACEBOOK

11,906 reached
1,200 engaged users

TWITTER

11,037 reached
89 posts
83,301 impressions

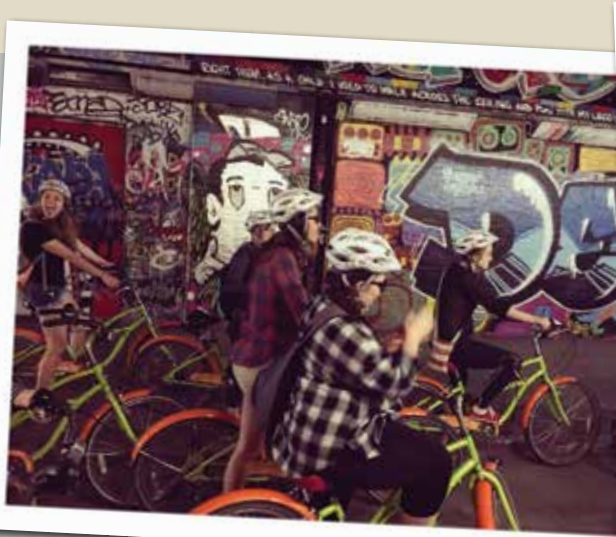
INSTAGRAM

153 posts

Dunfield



Graceland offered five innovative courses this past May, collaborating with Dunfield House in Herefordshire for a memorable active learning and travel experience for nearly 50 students. Dunfield House, owned by Community of Christ and nestled in the beautiful rolling hills of England, offered the perfect home base to experience the British countryside. Memories for a lifetime were made by students and faculty, providing an immersion in cultural change from the Lamoni campus in Iowa.



"For me, the trip was an opportunity to experience a new environment. The narrow streets of London were filled with modern, glass business buildings alongside stout, brick townhouses that have lasted centuries. I was introduced to the busy tube system and the red double-decker buses that drove on the 'wrong side' of the road. The farmland was dotted with sheep that were always heard no matter how high on a hill I was. The calm of Dunfield made me feel like I had not only left the city but any problems in my life behind. I truly had an unforgettable experience, and I will have the memories to share with my peers and teachers for the rest of my life."

~Megan Hartnett '18



Schedule OF EVENTS

Friday

- 1-8 p.m. Homecoming Registration
- 1 p.m. Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 3 p.m. Graybill Breezeway Dedication
- 4 p.m. Choir Concert
- 5 p.m. Emeriti and Alumni Awards Banquet
- 5 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Alumni
- 6 p.m. Varsity Baseball vs. Alumni
- 6 p.m. Varsity Softball vs. Alumni
- 7 p.m. Alumni Art Show and Reception
- 7 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Alumni
- 7:30 p.m. Homecoming Musical
- 10 p.m. Student Airband Competition

Saturday

- 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Homecoming Registration
- 8:30 a.m. GU Community Development Club
- 5K Run/Walk
- 9 a.m. Social Clubs Reunion
- 9 a.m. Women's JV Volleyball Intra-Squad Scrimmage
- 9-11 a.m. Ackerley Computer Program Open House
- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. GU International Club Silent Auction
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. Science Club Student-Alumni Reception

WHERE MEMORIES WERE MADE
THAT HAVE LASTED A **lifetime**

WHERE I MET
MY LIFELONG **partner**

WHERE I LEARNED
HOW TO **learn**

WHERE I MADE FOREVER
friends

WHERE
I FOUND
MY WAY



Honor Class YEARS

1956 • 1966 • 1976 • 1981 • 1986 • 1991 • 1996 • 2006

Register for the Emeriti and Honor Class Dinners:
www.graceland.edu/dinnerreservation • 866-484-3837

- 10 a.m. Alumni Association Forum
- 10 a.m. Future Student Campus Tours
- 10 a.m. Men's Varsity Volleyball vs. Alumni
- 10 a.m. Women's JV Soccer vs. Alumni
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Concert
- 11 a.m. Pep Rally
- 11 a.m. Men's JV Soccer vs. Alumni
- 11:30 a.m. Women's Volleyball vs. MidAmerica Nazarene University
- 11:30 a.m. Homecoming Court Crowning
- 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Yellowjacket Tailgate Party
- 11:45 a.m. Tug of War
- noon Yellowjacket Jazz
- noon Lunch of Champions for 2006 SIFE and Men's Soccer
- 12:15 p.m. Future Student Sub and Pizza Party
- 1 p.m. Graceland Players Improv Troupe
- 1 p.m. CofChrist Congregational Reps Reception
- 1-4 p.m. Emeriti, Class of '66 and Class of '91 Hospitality Room
- 1-5 p.m. Hoop House Garden Open House

- 2 p.m. Football Game vs. Evangel University
- Half-time presentations: Freeman Awards and Hall of Fame Induction
- 2 p.m. Ergo and Friends Recital
- 3-5 p.m. 18th Annual GALA Reception
- 5 p.m. Class of 1966 Honor Class Dinner
- 5 p.m. Honor Class Dinners
- 6 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. Evangel University
- 7:30 p.m. Homecoming Musical
- 8 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. Evangel University
- 8 p.m. The Unpredictables
- 9-10:30 p.m. Graceland's Got Talent...Homecoming Edition

Sunday

- 8 a.m. Crescent Breakfast
- 9:30-9:50 a.m. Alumni Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Homecoming Worship Service
- 11:45 a.m. President's Brunch
- 2 p.m. Homecoming Musical
- 2 p.m. JV Football vs. Simpson College
- TBD Women's / Men's JV Soccer

Through hard work and dedication, anything is possible; Graceland Athletics exemplifies that every day on the field and court. While those on “the Hill” are aware of the outstanding success of the Yellowjackets this past year, the men’s volleyball, cheer, and track and field athletes were able to display their skills on a national front.



Track and Field

“We had a fantastic Outdoor Nationals with some great performances. It was a great end to a fantastic season!”

~Coach, Reece Vega

Track and field sent six athletes to Nationals this year, including three freshmen: Montae Spiller, Champagne Anderson and Jamaica Lovan, junior Tirell Brooks and seniors Paul Hill and Julian White. After a promising first day of the decathlon, White scratched in the second day of competition. Hill and Brooks were named All-Americans, the third time for both. Brooks reached a length of 7.23 meters in the long jump, and Hill reached 4.70 meters in the pole vault.

“This was such an unforgettable experience, and I couldn’t be more thankful to take all of this in as a freshman,” said Graceland’s Jamaica Lovan. “I am extremely excited to represent Graceland for another three years and bring back even more national qualifiers and All-Americans!”

“We had a fantastic Outdoor Nationals with some great performances,” said Head Coach Reece Vega. “We had three freshmen make their National debut and brought home two All-Americans. It was a great end to a fantastic season!”

Men’s Volleyball

“I am immensely proud of the depth of character we displayed throughout the year, and we couldn’t ask for a better group of men.”

~Coach, Mark Lau

The Men’s Volleyball team excelled this season, reaching national recognition and success. Finishing the year 25-8, the best season record for the Jackets since 1998, the men played at an elite level, ranking as the #3 team in the nation during the season. Ultimately, the team finished second in the Heart of America Conference Playoffs, and fifth at the NAIA National Invitational. Senior DJ Wong was recognized for his individual play all season and was named to the First Team All-American, the first from Graceland since 2012 and one of just two in two decades.

“It goes to show you the strength of what we face in the Heart of America Athletic Conference,” said Head Coach Mark Lau. “I am immensely proud of the depth of character we displayed throughout the year, and we couldn’t ask for a better group of men to be around.”



Cheer

“Nationals was an amazing experience with great energy and talent. We left it all on the mat, finishing with a clean routine and amazing showmanship.”

~Coach, Julie Rivera

After wonderful showings at the Baker Invitational and the Heart of America Conference Championships, the competitive cheer team, Graceland’s only coed team, excelled at the NAIA Regional Qualifier, finishing second and earning an at-large bid for the National Invitational, where they finished seventh.

“I was surprised we improved so drastically in the competition season, but that is only a testament to the character of this team,” Graceland senior Brickell Dotson explains. “If it wasn’t for this group working so hard to improve every day, we would have never been as successful as we ended up being. It was a great year!”

“Nationals was an amazing experience with great energy and talent,” said Head Coach Julie Rivera. “We left it all on the mat, finishing with a clean routine and amazing showmanship. I am so incredibly proud of all our accomplishments!”

Graceland’s Enactus Program Remains Strong



Enactus is an international nonprofit organization that brings together student, academic and business leaders who are committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to improve the quality of life and standard of living for people in need. Graceland has a strong history with the organization, which was previously known as SIFE. This year marks a 10 year anniversary for the Graceland

team that won first place in the National Championship and placed second to China at the World Cup in Paris, France. Laying a strong foundation, the Graceland Enactus teams continue to be competitive and successful, engaging 50 students during the 2015-16 school year.

The Graceland Enactus team traveled to the national competition in St. Louis, Missouri, in May, and of the 120 teams

SIFE Team Paris: Where are they Now?

Kevin Prine '86 (Enactus Faculty Advisor)

Kevin led the Enactus Program at Graceland for 14 years. He is now President and CEO at Outreach International.

Brittany Atwood '06 (Leadership Council/Project Lead)

Brittany currently works at Frito-Lay, where she serves as an account manager and as the Frito-Lay Midwest Recruiting Chair. “Every position I have obtained after college was solely credited to my Enactus involvement at Graceland.”

Curtis Calloway '07 (Leadership Council/Project Lead/Presenter)

Curtis now resides in Dallas, Texas, and works at Frito-Lay as a brand manager on the Doritos team.

Kasey Johnson '08 Steen (Leadership Council/Project Lead/Presenter)

Kasey now serves as a member of the senior leadership team at Coldwell Banker Mid-America Group, Realtors in Des Moines, Iowa, where she is General Counsel and Director of Risk Management.

Shara Matlock '06 (Leadership Council/Project Lead)

Shara’s career as the GM of Chipotle in Memphis, Tennessee, took a hiatus with the birth of her daughter in 2013. Since then, she has started a business with Himalayan salt lamps called Salt&Light.

Guillermo Sanchez '06 (Presenter)

After coaching for Graceland, Guillermo went to Venezuela to work for a professional soccer team for a year, then was hired to coach another professional team in India for six months. He now works in Paraguay as a coach.

Shannon Graybill '07 (Project Lead/Presenter)

Shannon lives in Lisbon, Portugal, where she is launching a computer coding school geared for nontechnical, creative entrepreneurs.

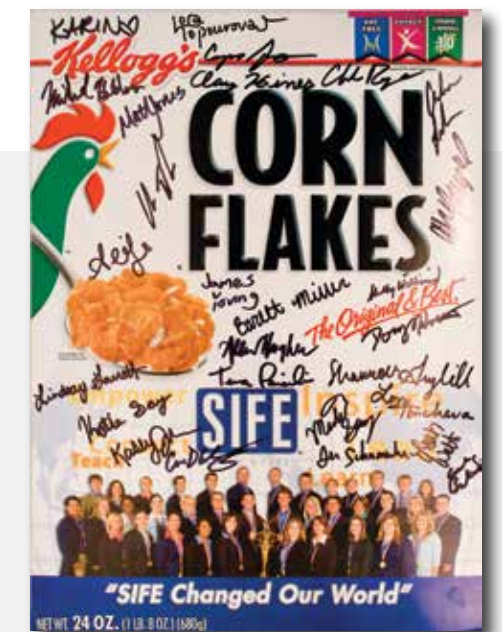
Michaela Hill '07 (Project Lead)

Michaela currently lives in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and is working as a K-12 Visual Arts Curriculum Specialist for Council Bluffs Community School District.

that presented, they placed among the top 16 in the nation.

The presentation team included students Karl Bradford, Sydney Dorrance, Drew Radloff, Melissa Sherer, Tara Sheehy and Courtney Brummett. Other team members in attendance were project leaders and members who helped brainstorm, design and implement the project work that the Graceland team presented, as well as students who put together the audio-visual presentation and provided other logistical support.

Director Jared Doty explains, “The Graceland Enactus team has a successful track record, and the students encourage each other to develop and support new projects. It’s exciting to see the entrepreneurial energy they produce!”



Olya Kudacki '06 (Presenter)

Olya returned to New York City, New York, after living in Madrid, Spain, for three years. She currently works as a regional sales manager for Kaplan International Centers.

Terra Whipple '09 (Presenter)

Terra has spent the seven years since Graceland in the Leadership Program at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa, a position she obtained through her Enactus involvement. Through Principal, she founded Voice of the Young Consumer, which is an internal business incubator used to better understand evolving consumer insights.

Graceland Forever

Sitting in certain places on “the Hill” over the past 40 years, you have probably heard the steady sound of solid footsteps; a distinct walk amplified by the cowboy boots worn every day by a man who is just as steady and solid. Greg Sutherland ’73 has walked countless steps over the acres of the Lamoni campus, and the imprints made by his strides go immeasurably beyond the foot steps heard by any one of us.



Enrollment Management Bonita Booth had this to say of Greg, “Greg Sutherland is one of Graceland’s treasures. He epitomizes the standards that Graceland values and promotes for her students and employees. I’ve known him since he came to Graceland as a student. We have been colleagues for many years and friends for even more. During his time at Graceland he has beautified

the steady sound of solid footsteps, as he extends his impact through his participation in the committees on which he will continue to serve. Greg’s imprint on this institution is just like the saying goes... “Graceland Forever.”

Greg began working for Graceland College in 1977 as the Coliseum Manager. Since that time, he has held several positions: Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, Director of Facility Services, Admissions Field Officer and Vice President of Enrollment Management. He played a key role in several important projects, including the Higdon Administration Building and Walker Hall renovations, the construction of the Carmichael House, The Helene Center for the Visual Arts and Rasmussen Soccer Field. The mark he has made on Graceland, with the dedication to the quality of these and so many other projects, will not soon fade.

The deepest impressions, however, have been the relationships. The people and the connections created between them are what make Graceland special, and with each step, Greg has left his imprint through those connections.

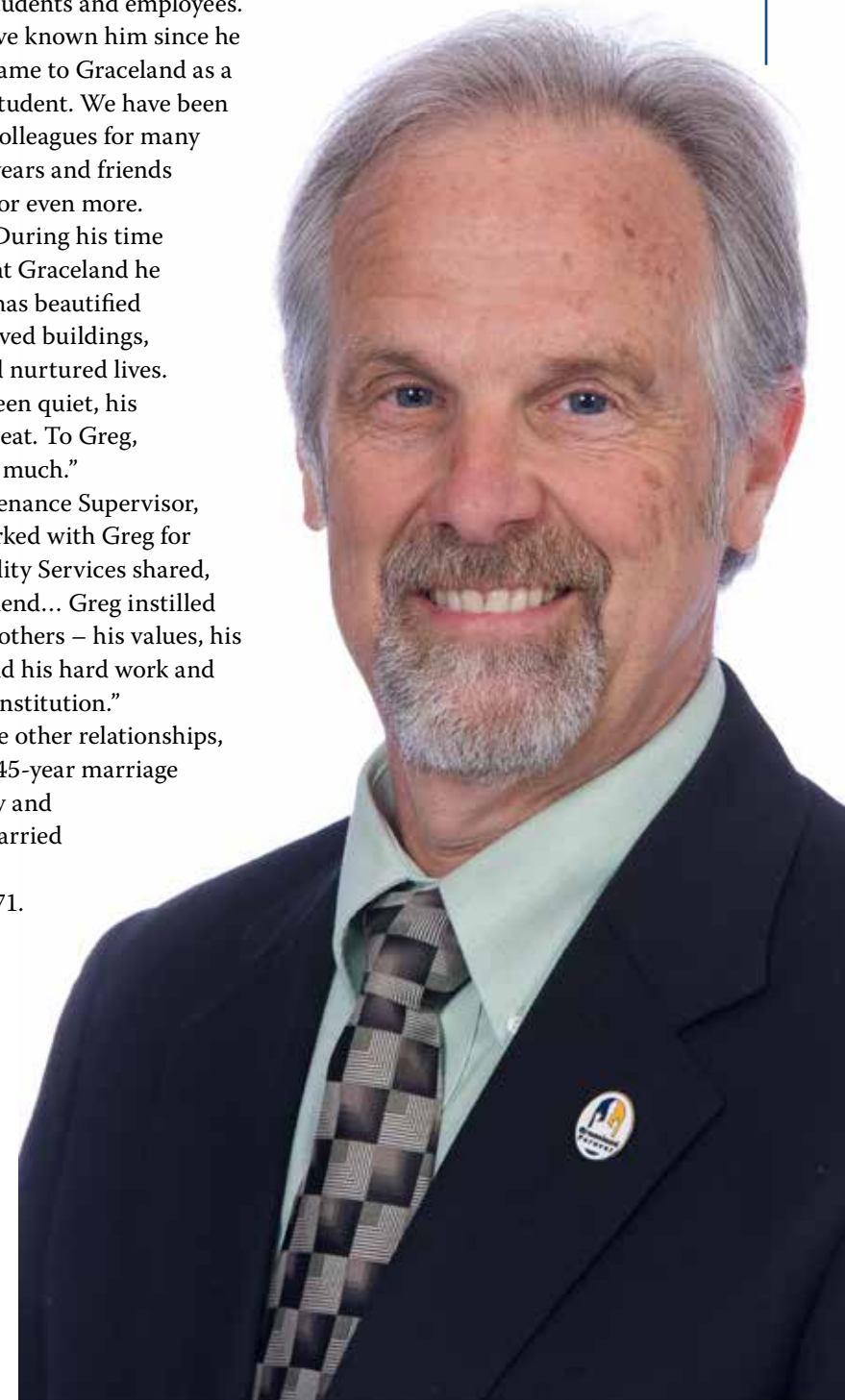
Former Vice President for

the campus, improved buildings, built programs and nurtured lives. Although he has been quiet, his impact has been great. To Greg, Graceland owes so much.”

Campus Maintenance Supervisor, Bob Kelly, who worked with Greg for many years in Facility Services shared, “My mentor, my friend... Greg instilled in me – and many others – his values, his respect, his love and his hard work and dedication to this institution.”

Center to all the other relationships, however, is Greg’s 45-year marriage to Barbara – steady and solid. They were married on the west hill of campus in May 1971. Graceland brought them together.

Even as Greg steps off campus with his retirement this summer, we may still hear



Preparing Global Citizens



It was my privilege – and I do mean privilege – to address the graduates at Graceland’s first midyear commencement in December. I chose to focus on a theme that has captured my attention as an important consideration for the university: How can Graceland prepare students to be citizens in a global world?

Many of Graceland’s graduates already demonstrate a global awareness. Organizations

and programs like Outreach International and HealthEd Connect link classroom instruction with families in some of the world’s poorest and remote villages in Africa, Central America, India, Nepal and the Philippines. For those who participate, the experiences are indeed life changing. How can an institution think strategically to make similar opportunities available to more or even all of its students?

We must be good citizens in our local communities and in our nation, but, as the world gets smaller and smaller, we need to think seriously about the requirements of global citizenship as well. First, citizens of the world value culture, our own and the culture of others. Graceland has, from its beginning, stressed

the worth of all persons, religious freedom, the rule of law and equality before the law. We cannot stop with our own values system, however. We must stretch to understand the values of others who do not share our priorities or the ways we express them.

Second, being citizens of the world requires that we value human diversity. All people have hopes and fears. We may learn, love deeply and dream in different ways, but that need not be an impediment. In fact, when we can be open to diversity, we can expand our own understanding and perspectives through sharing with those who seem different.

Third, citizens of the world must value learning, not just in school but throughout our lifetime. Learning is one of Graceland’s core values. Learning must not be confined to the classroom only and end at commencement, but exist in every dimension of our lives: intellectual, social, physical and spiritual. In a world of constant change, we must be open to new ways of seeing.

We have every right to be proud of our graduates. Our prayers and blessing go with you, graduates all, and may you do your part to remake the world in the image of community that has loved and nurtured you this far.

Harry J. Ashenhurst

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

ClassNotes

The 1970s

Kenny Starnes ’77 is the manager of Lockheed Martin’s MSA in Denver, Colorado, and oversees five spacecraft operations missions for NASA, including Juno. He and a large team of mission operations engineers are currently flying three missions orbiting Mars (Mars Odyssey, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and MAVEN) as well as the Spitzer Space Telescope, which is orbiting near Earth. “The science that comes back from these missions is the reason I do this,” Starnes said. “These missions have rewritten so many science books from their discoveries, and it’s so exciting knowing your team played a part in getting those results.”



The 2000s

Uran Ismaili ’05 graduated from Harvard on May 26, 2016, with a master’s degree in public administration.

Weddings

Brandon ’14 and Kelsi Martin ’15 Bennett, Kansas City, Missouri, Dec. 19, 2015.

Michael Davis ’10 and Brittany St. Louis ’11, Loveland, Colorado, Aug. 22, 2015.

Gerald ’74 and Jennifer Ritchie ’74 Seeley, Leeton, Missouri, May 24, 2015.

Anniversaries

Dean ’53 and Soon Ja Limric, Lamoni, Iowa, celebrated 55 years June 21, 2016.

Willis and **Wanda Roule ’67 Noftsgger**, Alpha, Illinois, celebrated 50 years April, 9, 2016.

Births

Chad ’07 and Brittany Everett, Lexington, North Carolina, Lincoln Edward, born March 28, 2016.

Tyler ’09 and Kimberly Graffeo, Independence, Missouri, Stella Celeste, born April 4, 2016.

Jeff and **Julie Birks ’06 Shaw**, Independence, Missouri, Jayla Delaney, born May 15, 2015.

Jake and **Grace Fears ’12 Volsky**, Joplin, Missouri, Grant Alan, born Feb. 25, 2016.

In Memoriam

Delwood A. Bagley ’59, Kansas City, Missouri, Feb. 29, 2016.

Ward L. (Bud) Barritt ’50, Venice, Florida, April 25, 2016.

Randy L. Brown ’78, San Jose, California, Feb. 29, 2016.

Jeffrey Scott Davidson ’81, Middletown, Ohio, May 8, 2015.

Evelyn Ann Shippy ’57 Fiske, Fullerton, California, March 25, 2016.

Charles E. Johnson ’50, West Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 5, 2016.

Wilma Dickerson ’53 Watt-Johnson, Red Oak, Iowa, April 23, 2016.

Josephine Skelton ’46 Montgomery, Miami, Oklahoma, Feb. 23, 2016.

William (Bill) E. Morris ’78, Thompsonville, Illinois, Jan. 26, 2016.

Philip Petrie ’84, Redmond, Oregon, Oct. 1, 2015.

Hulda Nortonen ’49 Piedimonte, Kansas City, Missouri, March 30, 2016.

William E. Turner ’43, Sun City, Arizona, Jan. 15, 2016.

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