

# GRACELAND UNIVERSITY Horizons

*Insight Dreams.*  
*Hopes. GOALS.*  
*PLANS. HEART.*  
*understanding Prepared.*  
*READY. focus.*  
*drive. strength.*

## *Empowered.*

### *Class of 2017*

#### **SCHOLARS' SHOWCASE**

Over 100 scholars exhibited and presented their works this spring

**P.6**

#### **FABULOUS FACULTY**

Graceland's faculty and students share life-changing stories

**P.10**

#### **GU4U MENTORING**

The amazing story of four generations of Gracelanders paying it forward

**P.19**

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Harry J. Ashenurst, PhD '70, Chair  
Robert G. "Bob" Ackerley, Vice Chair  
David J. Brown '73, Treasurer  
Michelle Waite '83, Secretary  
Sue Bevington '89  
Michele Black '81  
Stassi Cramm, PhD '03  
Heather Donofrio, PhD  
Nancy Tanner Edwards, PhD '65  
Ronald E. "Ron" Gillilan, MD  
Laurie Heintz '85  
Karen Jewell, JD '76  
Susan Johnson '76  
Michael D. Lewis, JD '90  
Dale W. Lick, PhD  
Kay Johnson Mussell, PhD '63  
John Sheehy '79  
Dennis Shields, JD '77  
Samuel G. "Sam" Smalldon '78  
Rachel Bradford Tovey '07  
Michael R. Wiley, PhD '83  
K. Michael "Mike" Zabel, MD '84

#### ADMINISTRATION

Patricia H. Draves, PhD  
PRESIDENT  
Kathleen M. Clauson Bash, PhD  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS  
Lee Bash, PhD  
DEAN, EDMUND J. GLEAZER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
Scott Briell, MA  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT  
R. Paul Davis, MA '81  
VICE PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES  
Kelly W. Everett, BA '77  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT  
Matthew J. Frizzell, PhD '96  
DEAN, COMMUNITY OF CHRIST SEMINARY  
Claudia D. Horton, PhD, RN '86  
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT FOR INDEPENDENCE CAMPUS  
AND DEAN, SCHOOL OF NURSING  
Robert A. Poulton, PhD  
DEAN, C.H. SANDAGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
David Schaal, MA '80  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE AND DEAN OF STUDENTS  
Jodi L. Seymour  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Brian White, PhD '92  
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND DEAN OF FACULTY  
AND DEAN, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

#### ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michele Black '81  
PRESIDENT  
Joseph Booz '86  
VICE PRESIDENT  
Holly Caskey '81  
SECRETARY  
Kevin Brunner '86  
FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE  
Cal Closson '82  
Michael Davis '10  
Carmen Fisher '02  
Lara Guscott '08  
Dan Hanton '65  
Lynn Matthews '75  
Keith McMillan '87  
Brian Shantz '69  
Stacey Slifka '96  
Samuel G. "Sam" Smalldon '78  
Brittany Thomas '06  
Jeannine Ward '84  
Michael Wiley '83  
Brian Woodson '87

#### EDITOR

Jeanne Davis, MA '81

#### DESIGN

Steve Edwards, MS '96  
Amy Gully '18  
Tiffany Smith, MEd '06

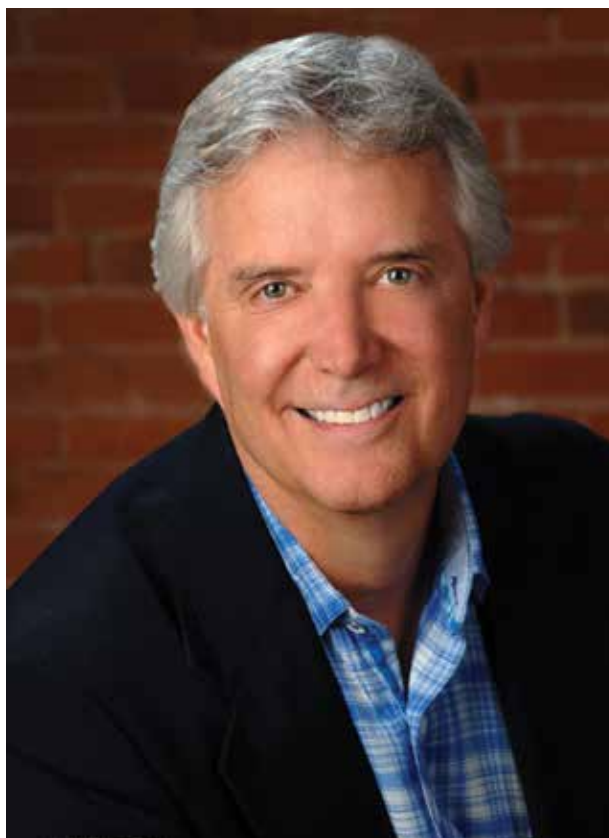
#### PHOTOGRAPHY

R. Paul Davis, MA '81  
Jennifer McBroom, MFA

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Bruce Blair  
Jennifer McBroom, MFA  
Brooke Sutherland '03

# EXCITING TIMES AHEAD



**IT'S HARD TO  
CONDENSE  
ALL THE  
GOOD THINGS  
HAPPENING  
AT GRACELAND  
INTO ONE  
SUMMARY  
BECAUSE  
THERE IS  
SO MUCH TO  
TALK ABOUT.**

**President Emeritus John Sellars and President Patricia Draves** formed a strong partnership to ensure a smooth leadership transition.

Dr. Draves began June 15 and had 30 days working with Dr. Sellars as President Emeritus. He has positioned the university to move to the next level for success and growth, and Dr. Draves brings the skills and commitment to lead us there.

#### **HLC and Accreditation.**

Graceland University, under the leadership of President Emeritus Sellars and Katie Bash, received strong commendations from the Higher Learning Commission accreditation team, opening a pathway for another 10 years of accreditation. A huge thanks to all those who helped make this happen – that means everybody. It was an incredible team effort.

#### **New Academic Programs.**

The faculty streamlined the complete general education program to focus on key relevant themes in higher education – lifelong learning, efficiency and effectiveness – all geared to student success. The university is also completing a full program prioritization to match and implement its vision and mission.

#### **Student Life Revitalization.**

There is an exciting new focus in Student Life programming that integrates curricular and co-curricular activities, prioritizes retention and completion of degrees, and recruits student leadership that reflects Graceland's diverse student body.

#### **New Enrollment initiatives.**

Graceland is embarking on a revitalized focus on recruitment of Community of Christ and "new-majority" students, and creating a better recruitment balance between academics and athletics. The alumni are stepping up to steer new students to Graceland and to create internships.

#### **An Energized BOT.**

The Board of Trustees continues to build a stronger, long-term sustainable model for Graceland with strategies for growth.

*Harry Ashenurst*



# 120<sup>th</sup> COMMENCEMENT

Graceland recognized **two alumni** with honorary doctorate degrees and acknowledged **four faculty** for outstanding service and dedication to the university community.

## Honorary Doctorate Degrees



LEFT TO RIGHT Harry Ashenhurst, Zana Rudi, John Menzies, Dhurata Hoxha, John Sellars

Graceland alumnae **Zana Rudi '06**, Kosovo's ambassador to Panama, and **Dhurata Hoxha '04**, Minister of Justice of the government of the Republic of Kosovo, received honorary doctorate degrees for their service to the government of Kosovo, in an effort to create stability and prosperity for the country's future.

## Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching



**Linda DeBarthe, PhD '86**, Professor of Accounting, a third-generation Graceland graduate and 14th-generation teacher

## Excellence in Scholarly Achievement



**Bradley H. Brewster, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Sociology

## Exceptional Service



**Isaac Pressnell, MFA**, Division Chair and Assistant Professor of English

## Professor Emeritus Status



**Ronald K. Smith, PhD '74**, retired from teaching mathematics after 39 years at the university



# COMMENCO



A Spring 2017  
Commencement  
photo album  
can be viewed on  
Graceland's  
Facebook page



## A reception for President Sellars

was held in the Shaw Lobby Friday afternoon to honor his 19 years of commitment to the Graceland community, including the decade he served as president (2007-17).

Celebrations for the graduating class began with the **baccalaureate service** Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m., followed by a **graduation reception with President John and Bette Sellars** at 8 p.m. and the **17th annual candlelighting ceremony** at 9 p.m.

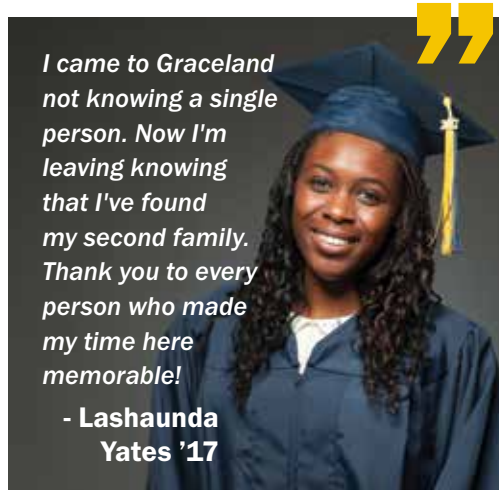
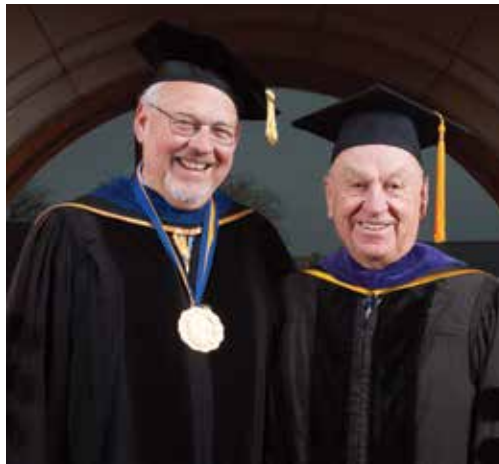
# CEMENT '17

**The newest graduates of Graceland University crossed the stage of Closson Center to receive their diplomas during the 120th Commencement Convocation on Sunday, April 30, in Lamoni. It was a bittersweet day for the university and retiring President John Sellars, PhD, CPA, as he presided over his last commencement for Graceland.**

The graduation ceremony opened with a welcome from five graduate candidates in their native language, reflecting the international influence of the university. The invocation was offered by Michael Zabel, MD '84. President Sellars; Board of Trustees Chair Harry J. Ashenhurst, PhD '70; and President Emeritus Ambassador John Menzies '70 conferred honorary degrees upon Zana Rudi '06, Kosovo's Ambassador to Panama, and Dhurata Hoxha '04, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Kosovo. Hoxha gave the commencement address, charging each graduate with the task of creating their own stories to share with generations to come — to be heroes and doers of their own lives.

Alumni Board President Cal Closson '82 presented the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching, and President Sellars recognized two faculty members for Excellence in Scholarly Achievement and Exceptional Service. Professor Emeritus was bestowed upon Ronald K. Smith, PhD '74 by Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Brian J. White, PhD '92.

Presentation of diplomas concluded, and the ceremony closed with the benediction given by Alex Craven, Graceland Student Government President.





# Katie Bash

**leads Graceland to a successful recommendation from the Higher Learning Commission**

**Working with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is one of Dr. Katie Bash's fortes.**

Ten years ago, she successfully led Graceland's HLC review and received a top endorsement: a recommendation for 10 more years of accreditation. Through painstaking detail, she has again led the university through the accreditation process, unearthing Graceland's true and worthy attributes — resulting in another top endorsement.

The HLC evaluation team found Graceland to be a learning community where students develop their potential for meaningful and productive lives — Graceland is living out its stated mission and is a viable financial institution planning for the future. This stellar review comes in no small part from the relentless work Bash has tended over several years.

"President John Sellars knew we needed strategic planning with a committee for program review," Bash said, "and he appointed me to the job."

Over the last eight years, "the doctors" Katie and her husband, Lee, (both hold PhDs in higher education) have worked with Graceland committees to develop a model that is integrated, timing things to alleviate repetition and to align budgeting with strategic planning. They cultivated the work of the faculty and a task force into an equitable program-prioritization process that provides a numeric measure of effectiveness with direction for improvements.

The resulting rubric balances seven factors that the people of Graceland believe are vital to institutional success and culminates with a score for each program. "People can then know what they need to work on for improvement," explained Bash. "Qualitative and quantitative review gives everyone a voice. The program review becomes a consultable record."

Leading institutional effectiveness with dedication and experience, Bash assures that Graceland is in good hands and will continue to make a difference in students' lives for years to come.

**"I'VE BEEN DOCUMENTING GRACELAND'S STORY FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS. BEING IN THIS POSITION, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SEE INTO EACH DEPARTMENT AND HELP THEM WITH PROGRAM REVIEWS. I'VE DOCUMENTED THE DEVOTED COMMITMENT FROM GRACELAND'S EMPLOYEES — COACHES, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF."**

➤ The Bashes are writing a book about their insights, processes and tools. Together, they have been involved with HLC reviews for several years. In April, they presented at the HLC conference on their focused topic: Integrating Institutional Effectiveness. The presentation included their research and Graceland's process for a successful HLC recommendation.

The Bash doctors have insight, experience and initiative to consult their colleagues on the necessary integration of program review and strategic planning. Their book will include practical tools to help colleges wade through the HLC process. Designed in a way that will bring individual ownership toward the improvement of each university, their process and tools provide an answer for a particular niche in higher education.

"At the HLC conference, we talked about the five aspects of institutional effectiveness: assessment, program review, resource allocation, strategic planning and institutional research. What they were most interested in was the specifics," Bash remarked. "Program prioritization is a hot topic for colleges, and the rubric gives them an organized way to do something painful — measure and then make strategic cuts. Everyone has to figure out a way to cut back and be more effective. Graceland's experience can help others."



Each April, Graceland University celebrates its emerging scholars at

# Scholars' SHOWCASE

In its ninth year in 2017, over **100 scholars** presented to an audience of area high school students, National Honors Society members, counselors, peers and faculty.

Carl Martin and his group gave their presentation from the Principal Business Challenge as part of Graceland's Social Media Marketing class.



Scholars exhibited their works in an array of different mediums, including poster presentations, demonstrations, art shows, musical instrument recitals and senior projects. The quality and depth of the presentations continue to increase.

The showcase began in 2009 when professors Dan Pratt '81, Bill Norman, Sherri Kirkpatrick '65 and Jeana Wilcox came up with the idea to incorporate undergraduate research back into the curriculum.

**“***This is the one time during the year we really have the opportunity to see what Graceland students are accomplishing intellectually on the academic side. These amazing minds are becoming the movers and shakers of today and tomorrow. They will be the leaders in business, medicine, dentistry and the sciences.*

**- Dan Pratt '81**  
Professor of Chemistry

The event's keynote speaker was Jim Ash '78, partner at the law firm of Husch Blackwell LLP and Chair of the firm's Food and Agribusiness Unit. For 10 years, Ash taught a Negotiation Techniques course at Graceland and currently sits on the Board of Advisors for Graceland University ENACTUS.

Ash spoke of lessons he learned during different stages of life, including the value of work, importance of an education and appreciation of diversity. He told the audience of students that no job is too small and no challenge is too big if divided into smaller pieces, and to learn everything possible at every point because it will pay off later. Ash credits the value of his success to those lessons. "Being successful in a career isn't everything," he said. "In fact, it's not a whole lot when it really comes down to understanding what's needed in the world. I always wanted to see if there wasn't a way to have a little more impact beyond a professional and business career." And he has. His list of extensive philanthropy efforts reveals the impact he has made well beyond his successful business career.

Graceland volunteers bring Scholars' Showcase to life each year, and every year the event has grown and improved. The planning team is looking forward to an even better event for Spring 2018 when Graceland students will again showcase their academic achievements.



# Across the Pond

## London and Dunfield House

Before their stay at Dunfield, the group spent some time in London visiting many historic and iconic places. This gave context to their learning experience in each of the courses led by Graceland faculty.

**HISTORY** Dr. Steve Glazer's class, *"We Shall Never Surrender: Britain's Role in the Second World War"*, emphasized the critical and pivotal role played by Great Britain in resisting Nazi fascism, particularly after the fall of France and before the entry of the Soviet Union and the United States. Students learned about daily life during the Blitz at the Imperial War Museum in London and viewed the underground bunkers of the Churchill War Rooms from where the prime minister directed the war effort. At Dunfield House, students read portions of Angus Calder's *The People's War*, watched videos of Chamberlain and Churchill, and listened to songs by Vera Lynn.

**ART** Another course — *Rebels, Superstars and Rule Breakers: Artists and Activism in Contemporary Britain* — was conducted by Professor Karen Gergely, and explored the motives and origin stories of such revolutionaries as Banksy, Hirst, Emin, Hockney, Kapor, Ofili and Deller. The students and faculty explored street art in its natural habitat in the heart of London and visited Tate Modern, the Royal Academy of Art and Saatchi Gallery. Students were also able to produce some works of their own.

**CINEMA** Dr. Dan Platt led a session entitled *British Cinema and Society*, addressing the economic development of Britain's national cinema, the influence of important British directors and the emergence of oppositional voices to mainstream British cinema. The group took field trips to historic movie theaters in London, the archives of the British Film Institute and Ealing Studios where many classic British films were made.

**MUSIC** Dr. Adam Groh instructed *The British Invasion Exploring the History of Rock and Roll*, which discussed the impact of some of the most influential bands coming out of post-war England, most notably the Beatles and Rolling Stones. The course explored the social, political and musical trends that led to the rise of the counterculture in England and the United States. The group visited Abbey Road Studios and other famous venues.

On May 1, 2017, another group of Graceland students and faculty embarked on a three-week summer session to Britain. It was an invigorating time of renewal and discovery that will never be forgotten.



**My England trip was incredible!**

*I dove into a new culture and had the chance to go sight-seeing while making lasting memories with my friends. It was by far the best way to end my Graceland experience.*

**- Amber Edwards '17**

The best parts of these classes were student-designed and student-led discussions and exercises, which included creating and defending political cartoons, quiz shows and treasure hunts around the Dunfield grounds. The group also toured Harry Potter Studio and took a bike ride around the city while visiting Banksy Tunnel. Other activities included hiking, playing ultimate frisbee and soccer, reading, studying, making art, watching British films, playing and listening to live music, learning about Churchill, eating wonderful food, and connecting course knowledge to experiences throughout the trip.

Visit the online version of this issue of Horizons to view a photo gallery of the trip.



# SUSTAINABILITY

## Update

In April, the Sustainability Program

hosted the 2nd Food Citizen Symposium at the Lamoni campus. It was a day that brought together people with an interest in our food system. A diverse array of six speakers shared information about how their fields engaged with the theme of food citizenship.

One of the speakers, a student favorite, was alumna Kate Ytell '16. Her presentation, "Insects: The Ultimate Superfood" argued that accepting insects as a valuable food source and alternative to animal protein can address both food security and the environmental pressures created by the food industry. Ytell spoke passionately about this topic as a student at Graceland and tried to move her peers away from the negative stigma associated with eating insects – she even served chocolate-covered ants at her senior honors presentation!

Ytell was heavily involved in the honors program throughout her academic career at Graceland University. She will begin graduate school in the fall at the Colorado School of Public Health at CU Denver.

The archived livestream of the 2017 symposium is available on the Graceland University Sustainability webpage.

Save the date for next year's symposium:

**MARCH  
23**  
2018



➤ When the Sustainability Program first got its start at Graceland a little over five years ago, **Julia Dale '12** was the original student sustainability assistant. Her passion for the outdoors made her a natural fit for the job. From a young age, Dale's parents would drag her out to birding events and, eventually, she fell in love with the culture of birding.

After graduating from Graceland with a double major in biology and psychology, Dale worked for Iowa State with the Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring program, where she observed birds on eastern Iowa's Mississippi backwaters.

A year later, she switched gears and worked with the Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program as a bird conservationist and environmental educator.



American Goldfinch  
State bird (Iowa)

Now in her second year of a master's program in wildlife ecology at Iowa State University, Dale continues to study birds and their habitats and plans to defend her thesis in December. Most of her research centers on integrating strategic planting of native prairie vegetation into the agricultural landscape to address issues of water quality, soil loss and wildlife habitat.

See: [www.prairie.strips.org](http://www.prairie.strips.org)

As she prepares to defend, for six months Julia will be stationed in southern Iowa as part of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service project, researching monarchs and their habitat. When asked how Graceland prepared her for all of this work in the wildlife research world, Dale listed, "Brian Smith's research methods class, learning how to communicate scientific ideas, and how to work with multiple partners from various backgrounds to achieve a common goal."



Continuing in the tradition of academic excellence,  
Graceland University's faculty lead the way.

# FABULOUS FACULTY

EMPOWER GRACELAND

Graceland is a place where meaningful and productive lives are transformed and where dynamic and inspired faculty continue to share their excitement of lifelong learning. They share their curiosity and discoveries in ways that build the best in their students. GRACELAND'S FABULOUS FACULTY have countless life-changing stories to tell, and their students can attest to the sparks that have ignited their education – and their hope to make the world a better place. STUDENTS ARE EMPOWERED.

As graduates and friends of Graceland, faculty have changed our lives. Here are just a few current professors whose extraordinary teaching is making a difference.



# KAREN GERGELY

A positive force of energy joined the Graceland faculty two years ago when Karen Gergely, MFA, was hired to teach art.



**> Karen Gergely has sprinkled her infectious smile and innovative ideas throughout the Lamoni community and has built a stronger connection between town and gown.**

She defines herself as “a social practice artist who encourages a community to learn together and share experiences, skills, traditions and stories in the name of art.”

Karen Gergely makes things happen. With several community projects, she has brought life to art. For the Empty Bowl fundraiser, she collaborated with the Lamoni Food Pantry to

create an event where hand thrown pottery bowls were filled with homemade soup, and patrons could buy the bowl along with dozens of donated auction items. Then there was the community mural she coordinated in downtown Lamoni. She researched the community’s history and collaborated a commemorative design that incorporates quilting shapes with a historical gas station image of the Jefferson Highway. Community members, Graceland students, faculty, staff and friends got involved to help paint.

**SHE IS AFFIRMING, AND HER BUBBLY VOICE CAN BE HEARD AROUND CAMPUS AS SHE LEAVES A ROOM WITH, “YOU’RE SO AWESOME!”**

“Collaboration and idea sharing is at the heart of my teaching philosophy and art making process,” shared Gergely, who is trained in painting and drawing and has worked in video, sculpture and installation. She has authored a series of pedagogical games to teach art history courses in a unique way.

“I have been excited to integrate Reacting to the Past (RTTP) into my Art History and Art and Ethics courses. RTTP is a series of elaborate games, set in the past, in which students are assigned roles based on and informed by classic texts. The first RTTP game we played was titled Art in Paris: 1889, which explored Impressionism and the World’s Fair of 1889 last year in my Art History Renaissance to Modern course. Students dove deep into research to inhabit the roles of famous artists like Monet, Van Gogh, Mary Cassatt, Renoir and Seurat for three weeks to fight for freedom and liberation from the French Academy of Artists!”

Gergely regularly works with an artist collective called CollabAttack, of which she is one of three founding members. Their goal is to find ways to “elevate the everyday and the people thriving within it.” She received her MFA from University of Cincinnati, Ohio, and was recently appointed as Graceland’s art department coordinator.

Encouragement is effervescent in her classrooms, and her students gain confidence along with skills. One of her favorite classes is the professional practices seminar course that guides students through the process of finding and applying for jobs, working through mock interviews and professional portfolio reviews. “I truly believe that Graceland students want to be challenged to think bigger and deeper, and to create real change in the world.” ■



**Ke'Auna Schiele '17** graduated with a BA in studio art and plans to pursue her career as an interior designer.

*Gergs understands that different artists have different styles, but she also gives her honest opinion – preparing us for the real world. I have learned to be picky, pay attention to detail, and have developed new techniques that I wouldn't have thought of on my own. She pushed me every day because I know she believed in my potential. Because of Gergs, I now feel that I am ready to venture into my art career after graduation. #ShesAwesome*

# TIM ROBBINS

Assistant Professor of English Tim Robbins, PhD, is one of the newer faculty members in Graceland's Humanities Division — a prolific writer with flare.



> **Tim Robbins** is a crusader for the liberal arts. He explains, “The best part of this job is also the most demanding and the most significant. Every morning, I get to wake up and defend the contemporary relevance of the humanities — a field of knowledge and an approach to the world I hold dearly.”

Robbins attended Hunter College for his undergrad near his home in New York and came to Graceland in 2015, just as he was finishing his PhD from the University of Iowa. He is very appreciative of the university's unique PhD program that focused on pedagogy rather than strictly research. “Their English program — and my mentor, Ed Folsom, especially — prides itself on training lifelong and inspiring teachers of literature. So, even as a second-year PhD student/fledgling apprentice, I recognized my students as the center of my work.”

With passion and innovation, Robbins lists his favorite class to teach as Poetry and Social Justice — a class he designed and led that uses literature as an inroad to social critique. He combined two areas that really get him going.

“All students and all teachers are potential agents of social change. While that maxim resonates in a class like ‘Poetry and Social Justice,’ for me, the claim has to be true across the curriculum.

“I don’t want students to leave a composition class with just mechanical knowledge about thesis statements, paragraphs and transition sentences. I want them to be sharper thinkers and debaters, so that they might convince others to help them bend the world toward fuller justice and equality.”

**“IF YOU BELIEVE, AS I DO, THAT KNOWLEDGE IS A COLLABORATIVE, OPEN PROCESS RATHER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL UNDERTAKING, WHAT ELSE IS GOOD SCHOLARSHIP, FINALLY, THAN EXCELLENT TEACHING?”**

His students are testaments of his teaching and have overflowing praise for his pedagogy and character as a person. Robbins knows how to create engaging classes that inspire, challenge and affirm each person as a valuable voice. ■

Please read the full interview online, and visit his blog as well. You won't be disappointed!



**Ryan Schlom '17** graduated with a BA in English and business administration, with honors, and will begin a master's program in city and regional planning.

*Tim has been a huge influence for me. City planning, in my eyes, is a discipline where sustainability practices and social justice make a nexus in the built environment. I've long been interested in issues of sustainability, but thanks largely to conversations with Tim and his classes, I have become acutely aware of social justice issues as well. His earnest investment in fostering equality and standing for social justice has made me a more empathic person, and one who can think critically about how various aspects of a person's identity shape their worldview and personal experiences. The perspective Tim has provided me will guide my practice as a city planner, just as it informs the way I treat people in my everyday life now.*



**Kee Richards '17** graduated with a BA in criminal justice and a minor in communication.

*Tim Robbins is a great professor, simply because “he gets it.” He's humanized himself, by that he's allowed for students to feel welcome and worthy in his classroom. He's never put himself on an “all-knowing pedestal.” He's constantly learning with us and for us. I took Poetry and Social Justice, and we were all the teacher in that course. Everyone had an equal opportunity to speak and be heard. I think we all walked away learning something from one another — Tim included. It was probably the most free-thinking, progressive class I've ever taken.*



# TANYA COFFELT

Teaching and learning are seamless in Tanya Coffelt, PhD, who is a living example of lifelong learning.



"Having that relationship with my students and knowing them individually, as opposed to just teaching the curriculum, was an advantage that I wanted."

She says she enjoys teaching several different classes: "I really like teaching Intro to Education the first semester or two that they get on campus."

**"I SEE THE STUDENTS AGAIN AS JUNIORS AND SENIORS AND WITNESS HOW MUCH THEY'VE GROWN. IT IS REALLY ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT MY JOB."**

One of the GSOE offerings that Coffelt raved over is the Professional Development School (PDS) partnerships Graceland University has with school districts in Iowa and Missouri. PDS offers a unique learning experience for elementary education majors during their senior year. The concept of the PDS program is to provide quality teacher preparation, renew the practice of in-service teachers, focus on reflection and inquiry, and impact student learning.

Graceland's students are immersed into the school for a full year. Coffelt explains, "They are able to be involved in every aspect of an entire school year in a classroom. It is so much more beneficial for the students who choose to become involved in this program — something unique that they can put on their resume. They come out really prepared to start in a classroom of their own." ■

➤ The Graceland University Gleazer School of Education (GSOE) has several outstanding faculty members who instill the best pedagogy in their students. Leading by example, Associate Professor of Education **Tanya Coffelt** believes in the power of education and might be described as an overachiever within the GSOE.

Coffelt graduated with a bachelor's degree in elementary education with an endorsement in mathematics from Iowa State University and began her teaching career at a public school in Liberty, Missouri. After several years, she moved to the Fort Osage School District in the Kansas City metro and taught middle school mathematics.

Coffelt had always wanted to work with teachers and curriculum development, however, which led her to complete a master's degree from University of Missouri — Kansas City (UMKC) in curriculum instruction. She then became the Assistant Director of Curriculum Instruction and completed an education specialist degree in educational administration, also from UMKC, and to complete her studies, Coffelt finished her doctorate from Drake University in educational leadership.

Coffelt started working for Graceland in 2006, when she joined the faculty in the GSOE. She explains, "Having gone to a large university, what really caught me about Graceland was the ability to work with students and get to know them much more than I ever did with my professors."



**Katelyn Matthiesen**, a Graceland University junior majoring in elementary education with endorsements in early childhood and reading, is one of Coffelt's current students.

*Tanya uses examples from her past experience in teaching, which helps to give us good insight into our lives as future educators. By relating our class lessons to real-life examples, I gain a deeper understanding. She shows an interest in her students in and out of the classroom, and asks for our input and reflections to allow us to share our voice. Tanya has influenced me in my educational journey by showing me what it means to be a compassionate and understanding teacher.*

# STEVE GLAZER

It is true that Steve Glazer, PhD, will make efforts to connect history to cats in just about every class he teaches.



> For an East Coast guy, coming to Iowa was a big change, but **Steve Glazer** enjoys the balance of living in a small town with a city not too far away.

His graduate work in Middle Eastern history, both MA and PhD, were completed at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Glazer wanted to teach at a small liberal arts college where there was a close relationship between the faculty and students. He credits his luck at landing the job with knowing how to say “Lamoni.”

“One of my colleagues at George Mason University in Northern Virginia told me the correct way to pronounce Lamoni, so that probably helped me in the interviews. I came in 1996 when Les Gardner retired and have been here now 21 years.”

**GLAZER HAS A WONDERFULLY SOFT-SPOKEN VOICE THAT ENGAGES PEOPLE TO LEAN IN AND LISTEN WHILE HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR HIS WORK COMES THROUGH LOUD AND CLEAR. HE CONNECTS WITH HIS STUDENTS, AND THEY’RE GRATEFUL FOR HIS INFLUENCE IN THEIR LIVES — REVEALING HISTORY IN NEW WAYS.**

Horizons caught up with Glazer before the summer break and asked about his teaching career.

## What’s your favorite course to teach?

That’s like saying, “Who is your favorite child?” They’re all wonderful. But there are different aspects about each course that are really enjoyable. Two that come to mind are the History of the Palestinian Conflict, which has some simulations where students get to act out the roles of protagonists in that conflict, and the History of African Diaspora, which looks at the experience of African descent, both in Latin America and in North America. I think it helps students to confront the comparative issues of racism and white supremacy, and the struggle to overcome those. That confrontation is challenging for both the instructor and the students. I’ve worked in some very new ways of teaching that I haven’t used previously in my other courses, so that’s been exciting for me. World Civilizations is a course I’ve taught all along, and it often introduces students to history, and sometimes they even become history majors!

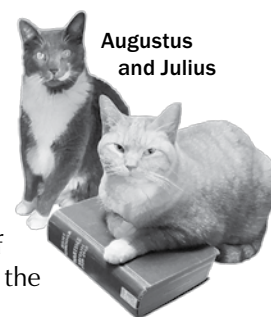
## What do you like best about the job?

Advising. Through advising I get to know students very well. I get to work with them very closely; we talk about not just their courses, but their plans, their dreams, their aspirations, and that’s always been something I’ve enjoyed doing at Graceland. Some of my colleagues have said I have a reputation of having a line outside my door — students come to see me. I really enjoy those one-on-one conversations.

## Something about you?

I like cats. If you’re looking for my office and you come to the door with all the cats on it, you’re in the right place. Currently we only have two. They came to us last October.

We adopted them from the Des Moines shelter, and they were “bonded buddies,” so we had to take both. We’ve had lots of Lamoni cats over the years as well.



Augustus and Julius

Dr. Glazer’s history classes have influenced hundreds of students over the last two decades as he has been part of their transformational Graceland experience. His sincere yearning to learn, to explore and expand make him an exceptional teacher. ■



**Rae Willey '03** recently contacted Glazer and shared that she went to D.C. for the Women’s March on Washington. When asked what inspired her to march, she said, “Doctor Glazer.” She sent a note to Glazer thanking him.

*Even though it’s been years, I can still hear your guidance the loudest in how I view the world around me. I don’t think you realize the impact you had on my life and the passion you evoked in me for understanding how choices of the past impact equality and freedoms today. You have been a profound voice in my life, and I wanted you to know how grateful I am to have you as a mentor.*



# CAROL GREEN

Carol Green, PhD, won the 2016 Nurse of the Year award based on the impact she has had on the lives of patients, colleagues and students.



➤ Graceland University Professor of Nursing **Carol Green** is a March of Dimes 2016 Nurse of the Year for the Kansas and Greater Kansas City area. The award, which was announced in October, came as no surprise to students who have expressed the value of their experience in Green's classes.

The March of Dimes Nurse of the Year awards honor individuals from the medical community who display dedication and commitment to their field. Approximately 900 nurses from the Kansas City area were nominated for the award. Green won in the Clinical Educator/Academic Educator category based on (1) the impact she has had on the lives of patients, colleagues and students;

(2) her leadership and positive change among peers and colleagues; and (3) the memberships and board positions she holds.

Green has been teaching at Graceland for 11 years. "I think I was meant to be here," she shares. Several years after graduating from the Graceland Sanitarium, she had a chance encounter with someone from her alma mater who must have sensed she needed a change. The woman offered Graceland as a place that would appreciate her talents and encouraged her to reach out.

Green was hired and taught as a Faculty Associate for two terms before being hired full time. With intentions to stay just two years, Green now finds herself still teaching for Graceland, 11 years later — all from a chance meeting. "What does that tell you about how much I've enjoyed my position at Graceland?" she asks.

The justification for Green's March of Dimes award can be seen all around her. She teaches nurse educator courses, advanced pathophysiology and DNP epidemiology, and sees every class as unique. She enjoys the challenge of making difficult concepts understandable and usable for students. "I get so involved with students in my courses, I don't think I can pick a favorite," Green explained. "They are all my favorites."

Green describes the best part of her job as the wonderful collegiality she shares with her fellow faculty and colleagues but makes sure to include her students in her answer.

**"LAST YEAR I RECEIVED A CALL FROM A UNIVERSITY DEAN ABOUT ONE OF OUR NURSE EDUCATOR GRADUATES. THE DEAN TOLD ME HOW IMPRESSED SHE WAS WITH THE APPLICANT'S PORTFOLIO AND INTERVIEW. OF COURSE OUR GRADUATE WAS HIRED, AND SHE ENDED THE CONVERSATION BY TELLING ME TO SEND HER OUR GRADUATES! ON THAT DAY, AT THAT MOMENT, IT WAS THE BEST PART OF MY JOB."**

Green never again saw the woman who first directed her to a career with Graceland but is most grateful to her. She has come full circle and plans to eventually retire from the place where she began her nursing career. "So, was this meant to be?" she asks again... "I think so." ■



**Carolyn Nimmo-Webber** is a current student in the MSN Nurse Educator program.

*I would like to thank Dr. Green for the amount of effort and heart she puts into each of us. I know I personally feel as though I am the only student she has. That is a special gift. I feel really lucky to have had her as my professor!*



## GRACELAND ATHLETICS teams and individuals earned their fair share of wins this year. *There was a lot to celebrate!*



All-Americans



National  
Qualifiers



Daktronics NAIA  
Scholar-Athletes



**1<sup>st</sup>** NAIA D1 Men's  
Basketball Ranking  
in program history

**7** Gadet honorees,  
the most of any  
dance team  
in the nation

**But athletics at Graceland is more than  
what happens on the court, field or track.**

We asked **four student-athletes** how being part of Graceland Athletics has affected them. Graceland is praised for being a good place to build **lifelong relationships**. These four reminded us that, while relationships are built in all aspects of campus life, athletics has been a great place for students to find community.



**Amina Amirkhanli** Gadets Dance Team

As an international student coming to Graceland from Azervaijan, Amina had no idea what to expect. Being a part of a dance team was one of her biggest dreams, and Graceland did not disappoint. Her coaches have offered her and the entire team motivation to be better and opportunities to measure their individual growth throughout the year. The Gadets' social committee ensures a feeling of family for everyone. She both hopes and expects that her Gadets family will be part of her future through graduation and beyond.



**Brooke Douglas** Women's Soccer

Graceland University has been home to Brooke for the past four years, and she claims it was one of the best decisions she ever made. Graceland allowed her to build long-term relationships and leadership skills while playing the game she loves and getting a great education. Throughout her time as a college athlete, she was able to travel and play with teammates from all over the world, opening her eyes to multiple cultures. She is grateful for her coaches, who taught her many things about both soccer and life.



**Carl Martin** Men's Basketball

Carl says Graceland Athletics helped him grow so much both as a player and as a man. He built great relationships within his basketball family amidst the challenges of changes in coaches, coaching methods and the culture of the team. He learned that there is a life after basketball, and he left Graceland with longtime friendships and a top-notch education.



**Amy Gully** Women's Track and Field

Amy says Graceland has offered her many opportunities, including continued involvement in track and field. She credits both her teammates and coaches for making her college athletic experience the most memorable and influential aspects of her time at Graceland. She is grateful for the relationships she has developed over the years and how they have molded her into the person she is now. She added, "It is truly a blessing to have friends that are family — to have a place that feels like home away from home."



## // RESTRUCTURING ATHLETICS FROM WITHIN //

Brady McKillip

Stew McDole

Zach Mullins

# TEAM WORK

Vice President of Enrollment Management Scott Briell announced this summer that Graceland will restructure the Athletics Department. The internal change is designed to create a **strong leadership team** for athletic success.

► **Brady McKillip '00** was appointed as Graceland University Director of Athletics. **Zach Mullins** was appointed an associate athletic director, and **Stew McDole '65** will remain an associate athletic director.

McKillip has served as Graceland's Assistant Athletic Director since 2009 and head baseball coach since 2001. He earned a BA in business administration from Graceland, and an MA in health, physical education and recreation from Emporia State University. McKillip will continue as Graceland's head baseball coach.

Mullins has served as head wrestling coach for Graceland since 2013, re-establishing a strong program from the ground up. He earned a BA in sports management and an MA in management, with specialization in human resources from Briar Cliff University.

"Graceland athletics can change lives, providing students with inspiration and tools for lifelong learning," commented Mullins. "I am eager to join Brady and Stew on a leadership team that can make a difference."

This internal move of athletics administration mirrors the right-sizing taking place across athletics, as the university works to find the ideal balance between athletics, academics and student life. Through strategic recruiting, Graceland has been working to admit the ideal number of student-athletes for the success of each team, the athletes and the rest of the student body.

With years of experience, Stew McDole grounds the leadership team. "Graceland is, has been, and will continue to be a highly-regarded institution, and the core decision

making is driven by a liberal arts commitment to its students," noted McDole. "Graceland athletics are part of the curriculum and essential settings within which we help students develop a critical set of life tools."

An athletics leadership team made up of experienced coaches brings insight and perspective to the

department in order to lead with direct knowledge of how students are affected. After all, student success – both in the classroom and competing as a Yellowjacket – is the goal of Graceland Athletics and Graceland as a whole.

*The Athletics Department is an integral component of the university, and this is an exciting time for Graceland. I believe Zack, Stew and I can effectively implement the university's strategic athletic plan. Working hand in hand with Student Life, Admissions, Student Financial Services, the CAP Center, faculty and staff, we will continue to impact students' lives in and out of the sports arena in ways that support the mission of Graceland.*

**- Brady McKillip '00**





GU4U IS THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

# GENERATIONS OF MENTORING SUCCESS

➤ **Universities across the nation recognize the need to help students go from graduation to their next steps: graduate school and entering their professions.**

Graceland's GU4U mentoring program is up to speed with the trend and officially started over a year ago. It now has an official name, a page on the website, and dedicated organizers to help with facilitating and pairing.

Graceland alumni are eager to share with their fellow Gracelanders. They know that Graceland produces inspired graduates who are well prepared for their next steps, and they want to help them open doors. But, in reality, Graceland has been involved with mentoring for generations. Here is just one series of examples; there are countless others.

Tara Sheehy '17 was mentored by Ginelle Sakina-Roberts '01, who was mentored by John Smith '70, who was mentored by Dennis Sacry, who attended Graceland from 1965-67 and was mentored by his uncle, Gayle Sacry '56. Graceland roots run deep and strong.

Tara Sheehy will attend UMKC's dental school this fall. At SPEC, Community of Christ's youth camp, she met Doug Roberts, who introduced her to his wife, Ginelle Sakina-Roberts. Tara later interned with Ginelle as a dental assistant, who then helped her through the entire application process for dental school.

Ginelle Sakina-Roberts' parents were good friends with John and Ruth Smith. After her junior year at Graceland, Ginelle decided to stay in Kansas City to study for the MCAT, the medical school admissions exam. John and Ruth offered her a room in their home while she spent the summer studying. She was also given the opportunity to work as a dental assistant in John's office. "I didn't know anything about dentistry or what I was doing," Ginelle admits. "(John) and his very patient staff guided me as I learned how a dental office operates. I loved it." After just two weeks, Ginelle decided to switch her exam prep to the DAT, the dental admissions test.

John Smith was unsatisfied with his career as an Air Force pilot and was at a witnessing weekend in Texas when he saw pictures of his Graceland Agape House brother Dennis Sacry practicing dentistry in Honduras. He prayed for direction, and the doors opened with Graceland's contacts there to smooth out the process of entering a new career path. He applied to dental school, and the admissions director at the dental school was Bob Fry '70. Bob had a short chat with John and got him on track for a career in dentistry.

**"ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT GRACELAND IS THE COMMUNITY THAT IT OFFERS AND THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO ESTABLISH, NOT ONLY WITH THE FACULTY AND STAFF, BUT ALSO WITH THE PEER STUDENTS AND EVEN THE ALUMNI."** - Tara Sheehy '17

Dennis Sacry attended Graceland for two years, 1965-67, and wanted to go into a medical field like his uncle Dr. Gayle Sacry '56. Gayle mentored and encouraged his nephew to attend Graceland, following the family heritage. Dennis and John became lifelong friends while at Graceland and have a scheduled golf trip in July. Family and friends intertwined even further, when Dennis' sister married his roommate!

Graceland alumni make connections across generations. The relationships made on "the Hill" run strong, and the students at Graceland still find this to be true. The GU4U alumni mentoring program is just the tip of a giant iceberg of mentoring that has been going on since the beginning, in 1895.

John Smith '70



Dennis Sacry

*My path to this career was miraculous, with Graceland friends helping along the way.*

- John Smith '70

Ginelle Sakina-Roberts '01

Tara Sheehy '17



*I have often thought of John as my career 'dad.' I love that he and my dad have had a friendship since their years together at Graceland. The Graceland connection is real and extends to the next generation in so many ways.*

- Ginelle Sakina-Roberts '01

# CLASS Notes

## WEDDINGS

Chris and **Jonna Lisle '09 Bernal**, Leander, Texas, Jan. 8, 2015.

**Colin '07** and Elizabeth **McClain**, Independence, Missouri, June 27, 2015.

**John (JP) '03** and Janea Gadelman **Roberts**, Independence, Missouri, June 19, 2015.

Steven and **Mindy Colyer '02 Summers**, Fort Dodge, Iowa, May 31, 2014.

**Matthew '12** and Courtney **Willoughby**, Knoxville, Iowa, June 15, 2013.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Al and **Bonita Gates '53 Christensen** celebrated their 60th anniversary on March 23, 2017.

## BIRTHS

**Tyson '05** and Heather **Della Vedova**, Middletown, Ohio, Gianna, born July 27, 2012, and McGuire, born Sept. 1, 2016.

Dan and **Jennifer Everett '06 Doerfler**, Lamoni, Iowa, Allison Emory and Elizabeth Marie, born Feb. 8, 2017.

**Macey '05** and Jennifer **Ellis**, Stanton, Iowa, Adalyn Remington, born March 2, 2015.

**Nick '04** and **Kerbi Everett '06 Elsenbroek**, Keller, Texas, Ryder Dean, born Feb. 24, 2017.

Bryan and **Katie Booth '99 Heinrich**, Manhattan, Kansas, Gabriella Anne, born March 27, 2016.

Chris and **Jonna Lisle '09 Bernal**, Leander, Texas, Coen Carlino, born May 6, 2010, Emily, born March 4, 2015, and Benjamin, born July 15, 2016.

**Colin '07** and Elizabeth **McClain**, Independence, Missouri, Matilda Grace, born Dec. 7, 2016.

**Ryan '10** and **Whitney Edgerton '09 Sheehy**, Tiffin, Iowa, Jack, born Sept. 20, 2014, and Brooklyn, born March 18, 2017.

**Christopher '03** and Bethany **Stowell**, Flower Mound, Texas, Isaac Daniel, born April 6, 2017.

Steven and **Mindy Summers '02**, Fort Dodge, Iowa, Kayla Michele, born Nov. 14, 2016.

Ryan and **Lauren Mish '06 Trimble**, Dallas, Texas, Tabitha May, born Sept. 13, 2016.

**Nickolas '02** and Andrea **Uhlenhopp**, Bowling Green, Kentucky, Landry Lee, born Oct. 23, 2016.

**Matthew '12** and Courtney **Willoughby**, Knoxville, Iowa, Ryker, born Aug. 7, 2014, and Kyler, born May 11, 2016.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Joseph Anway Jr. '48**, Kansas City, Missouri, May 10, 2017.

**Larry Beal '68**, Camdenton, Missouri, March 18, 2017.

**Phyllis Bullard '51 Voltman Beitz**, Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 16, 2017.

**Helen Epling '73 Berrey**, Tama, Iowa, March 9, 2017.



**SOSO  
BELIEVES  
IN THE  
GRACELAND  
EXPERIENCE.  
HE HAS  
LIVED IT.**

➤ On a whim during his first year in college in the Republic of Georgia, **Ioseb "Soso" Gabelaia '10** filled out an application to study in the United States. In place of the three required essays, he simply stated the judges would need to invite him to interview to get to know him, and it worked. When he received his acceptance, Soso learned that Graceland University had chosen him.

The fear of telling his mom hit him first. She had given up her goal to complete a PhD due to the country's war state

and had hopes for her children to do more. So, knowing it would just be a year, she gave her blessing.

Soso had expectations of the America he had seen in the media – Los Angeles and New York City – and Lamoni was even more of a shock than he anticipated. In order to take his mind off the longing to be home, he took on every opportunity he could find.

When his year was over, he went home to his family, but something was missing. He had made a home in Lamoni and missed the people. So again, with his mother's blessing, Soso prepared to return to the U.S. But this time, Soso chose Graceland.

Back in Lamoni, Soso was named president of International Club and worked as a student caller for Admissions, which led to a position as an Admissions intern after graduation. When he was offered the West Coast territory as a full-time admissions counselor, he was nervous. However, not one to shy away from a challenge, Soso accepted the position and continued to grow.

Through hard work and commitment to success, Soso enjoys his role as the first face of Graceland for people who are nervously approaching a new phase in their own lives. "When you're talking to families," he says, "you have to believe what you're selling."

In December, Soso was appointed the Associate Director of Admissions at Graceland University and completed an MEd in Instructional Leadership from Graceland. His creativity and dedication hallmark his continued success as he starts his eighth recruiting class.

**HIS JOB IS MORE THAN  
A PAYCHECK – HE HAS A  
PASSION FOR ASSISTING  
THE NEXT GENERATION,  
AND HE BELIEVES IN  
GRACELAND'S VALUES.**



**Grant Bowerman '75**, Blue Springs, Missouri, Feb. 15, 2017.

**Elsa Baker '44 Cotter**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, March 26, 2017.

**Leon Curtis '49**, Lawrence, Kansas, Nov. 24, 2016.

**Richard Davies '41**, Houston, Texas, April 13, 2017.

**Beverly Doig '56**, Fort Collins, Colorado, April 6, 2017.

**Tanya Bolingbroke '90 Finger**, Independence, Missouri, March 26, 2017.

**Marjorie Jorgensen '50 Foss**, Holden, Missouri, Feb. 22, 2017.

**Gloria Fuge '50**, Torrance, California, March 15, 2017.

**James (Jake) Goodson '83**, Holt, Florida, Feb. 27, 2017.

**LoVina Beatty '42 Gow**, Inverness, Illinois, Oct. 9, 2016.

**Jerrold Hall '51**, Asheville, North Carolina, April 18, 2017.

**Winston Howell '67**, Pasadena, California, Sept. 19, 2016.

**Lillian Henderson '48 Kirby**, Blue Springs, Missouri, March 25, 2017.

**Carol Johnson '72 Kostura**, Orange, California, Feb. 4, 2017.

**Micheline Bensimon '71 Logan**, Calgary, Alberta, March 11, 2017.

**Wilma Hartschen '47 Michener**, Bishop, California, March 6, 2017.

**Dorothy (Maxine) Salisbury '47 Mindling**, Indianapolis, Indiana, Feb. 10, 2017.

**Dale Oswalt '62 Muir**, Ashland, Oregon, May 2, 2017.

**James Nelson '54**, Normal, Illinois, Feb. 9, 2017.

**Lawrence Piepergerdes '49**, Independence, Missouri, April 18, 2017.

**Marvin Powell '47**, Stewartsville, Missouri, April 8, 2016.

**Rebecca Ramsey '82**, Lamoni, Iowa, March 25, 2017.

**Gilbert Remington '53**, Topeka, Kansas, March 30, 2017.

**Bonnie Schneider '41 Revell**, Independence, Missouri, April 13, 2017.

**Marguerite "Maggie" Fortman '54 Roberts**, Pinkerton, Ohio, May 13, 2017.

**Elizabeth Smith Sandage**, Urbana, Illinois, April 11, 2017.

**John Cameron Stuart Jr. '68**, Las Vegas, Nevada, May 16, 2016.

**Bonita (Bunni) Stubbart '76**, Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 23, 2017.

**John Watkins '82**, Des Moines, Iowa, April 14, 2017.

**Wilma Meek '74 Whitehurst**, Santa Barbara, California, May 9, 2017.

## Stay CONNECTED

Join us on any of these social media platforms!



Graceland University



@GracelandU



@gracelanduniversity

## 00s

**Cassie Eskridge '07** is working at Mills College in California as the Director of Residential Life and Community Standards.

## 90s

**Nate Long '91** recently published a children's book titled *Helpers*.

## 70s

**Holly Nelson-Becker '75**, PhD, LCSW, Professor of Social Work at Loyola University Chicago has published a book titled *Spirituality, Religion, and Aging: Illuminations for Therapeutic Practice*.

**Amber Redding-Sloothier '16** and **Roy Sloothier '16** first saw each other at the orientation for Graceland's School of Nursing Family Nurse Practitioners program. Amber recalls, "I remember he sat in the front row, and we all had to stand and introduce ourselves. His story stood out to me because he said he'd lost his wife a year or so before to lung cancer, leaving him to raise two young boys. We messaged online about school here and there, then he eventually asked if he could drive the eight hours from Des Moines, Iowa, to take me to dinner in Oklahoma City!"



After a whirlwind courtship, the couple got married and finished out the program together.

Now, they are both practicing family nurse practitioners in Oklahoma. Roy is the NP for Thoracic Oncology Surgical Team at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City, and Amber is the NP for Pediatric Surgery at the same hospital. In February, they celebrated their second wedding anniversary.

**Anne Phillips '01 Shaffer** won Teacher of the Year in 2016 as a fourth-grade teacher at Spring Grove Elementary in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. Anne graduated in elementary education from Graceland and then completed an MEd in classroom technology at Wilkes University. Anne believes in building student engagement, a hallmark of her teaching career and explains, "...rapport and mutual respect are the catalysts that fuel student engagement, and determine how each student interacts with their environment and the academic content they encounter."

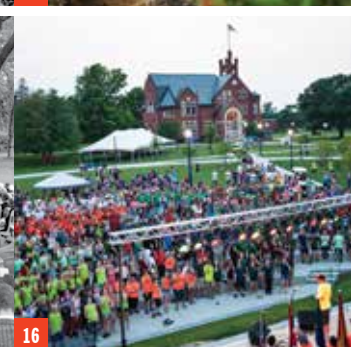
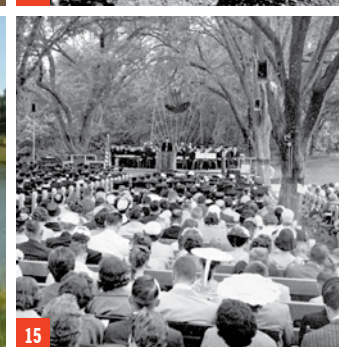
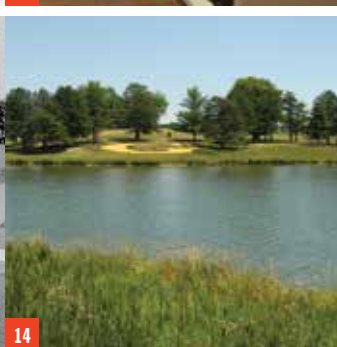
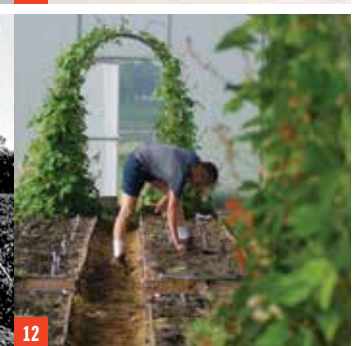
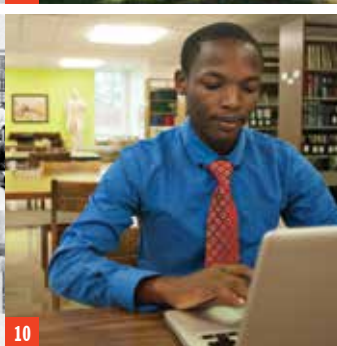
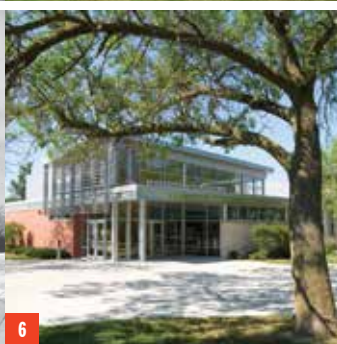
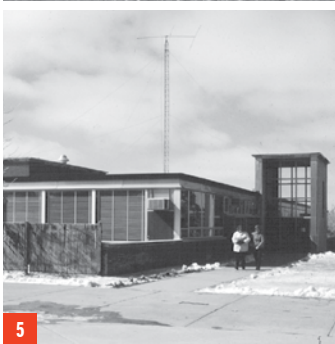
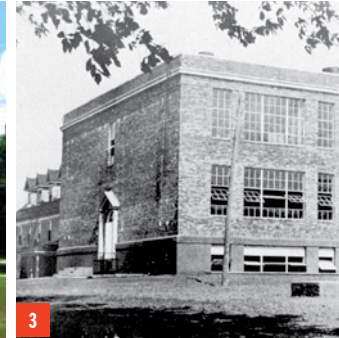
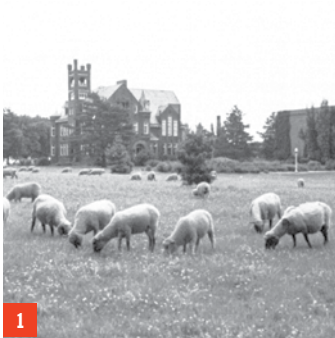




# Then & Now

Do you have any old photos or a favorite spot on campus to compare to current campus settings?

Send your requests or photos to:  
[communications@graceland.edu](mailto:communications@graceland.edu) or to  
 1 University Place, Lamoni, IA 50140,  
 attention Horizons



**1** The **HIGDON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING** was constructed in 1897 and was the first building on what is now the Lamoni campus. This image was taken of the building in 1943. A "fleet" of sheep was purchased to assist in "mowing" the campus lawn during World War II. **2** Renovation of the **HIGDON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING** was completed in 1997. It now stands in the center of campus and has become known as the symbol of Graceland University. **3** **BRIGGS HALL** opened in 1921 and is the second oldest building at Graceland. It has been used as everything from a dormitory, classrooms, the campus library, hospital and dining hall to offices. **4** The **BRIGGS** stairs are known to generations of Gracelanders as the most intimidating on campus. The building has not experienced any major renovations and is in need of updates. It is included as a part of the current \$24 million Life on the Hill campaign. **5** **PLATZ-MORTIMORE SCIENCE HALL** first opened in 1955 and housed the science labs and classrooms. **6** The science building underwent a major renovation in 2009. **RESCH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HALL** now features four classrooms, nine labs, three preparation and storage areas, as well as faculty offices and administrative spaces. **7** **KELLEY HALL** was completed in 1947 and originated as a World War II surplus building that came from the Jefferson barracks in St. Louis. It was used primarily for drawing, painting and ceramics courses. **8** **THE HELENE CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS** opened in the fall of 2003. The facility offers everything from a printing press to a woodshop and boasts one of the few bronze and aluminum casting studios in the Midwest. **9** Graceland's library was located in Briggs Hall from 1929 to 1966. It was previously housed in the administration building and, in 1928, was selected as a government depository. **10** When the **FREDERICK MADISON SMITH LIBRARY** opened in 1966, nearly 200 people gathered to help move the nearly 50,000 volumes from Briggs into the new facility. **11** The Industrial Department offered work-study opportunities at **GRACELAND-OWNED FARMS** beginning in 1906, with chickens, pigs, a team of horses and a cow. **12** Today, **GRACELAND SUSTAINABILITY** manages an eco plot of an acre of land at the northeastern corner of the Lamoni campus. It is made up of the Persall Orchard and Gazebo, fruit and nut tree plantings, a 20' x 80' hoop house/high tunnel with raised beds and an outdoor garden with raised beds. **13** **BIG G LAKE** was constructed in 1959, and in 1960, the concrete "C," measuring 72 feet from top to bottom, was laid to be seen from the west football stands. **14** The concrete **BIG G** was redone in 2011, and for Homecoming 2012, honor class gifts provided funding that turned the space into a park for student use. It now includes a parking area, picnic tables and barbecue grills for everyone to enjoy. **15** The **CHAPEL IN THE GROVE** was an outdoor bandstand completed in 1959 and was located south of the F. M. Smith Library. It was used for graduations and some major theatrical productions. **16** The **SHAW CENTER AMPHITHEATRE** was created as part of the Shaw Center renovations in 2012 and hosts crowds for homecomings, Spectacular and other gatherings, including classes that take their lessons outdoors on nice days.



# HOMECOMING '17

October 13-15

For the full and most current schedule, visit  
[WWW.GRACELAND.EDU/HCSCHEDULE](http://WWW.GRACELAND.EDU/HCSCHEDULE)

## FRIDAY

- TBD Presidential Inauguration of Dr. Patricia Draves
- Noon Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 4 p.m. Choir Concert
- 5 p.m. 18th Annual Emeriti and Alumni Awards Banquet
- 7:30 p.m. Homecoming Play: *Lend Me a Tenor*
- 6-8 p.m. Alumni Basketball Games
- 10 p.m. Student Airband Show
- 11:30 p.m. Post-Airband Ice Cream Party

## SATURDAY

- 8:30 a.m. Community Development Club 5K Run/Walk
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Concert
- 11:15 a.m. Pep Rally with Gadets and Cheer Squad
- 11:35 a.m. Homecoming Court
- 11:45 a.m. Yellowjacket Tailgate Party
- noon Alumni Couples Recommitment Moment
- noon Celebrating 50 Years of Men's Volleyball Luncheon
- 12:30 p.m. Annual Alumni Association Forum
- 1 p.m. House Chaplin's Clash for Cash Tug of War
- 2 p.m. Football Game vs. Benedictine College
- 2 p.m. Ergo and Friends Recital
- 5 p.m. Honor Class Dinners
- 6 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. Avila University
- 8 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. Avila University
- 7:30 p.m. Homecoming Play: *Lend Me a Tenor*
- 8 p.m. The Unpredictables Concert
- 9:15 p.m. Oldie-Wed Game

## SUNDAY

- 10:30 a.m. Homecoming Worship Service
- 11:45 a.m. President's Brunch
- 2 p.m. Homecoming Play: *Lend Me a Tenor*



No matter what stage of life,  
**Graceland connects us all.** *And that's...*

# THE POWER OF TOGETHER

# We Are Graceland.



No matter what stage of life,  
**Graceland connects us all.** *And that's...*

## THE POWER OF **TOGETHER**

**HOMECOMING '17**  
**October 13-15**

**HONOR CLASSES** 1957, 1967, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2007

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