

Evaristo Casimiro

Graceland was one of the few schools that gave me an opportunity to pursue my higher-level education and to play football as well, so I was truly excited to come here.

Being on the team was a lot of fun. It was just a whole different atmosphere I'd say from high school, you know. In high school, you always used to be "the guy." Then coming here and meeting all these guys, they were also "the guys" in their previous schools – made it a fun experience, just to learn from especially the upperclassmen.

It was a huge culture shock because even being in Houston alone – it being a big city – you have everything around you pretty much. Everything that you want, and you come here being more isolated – even though I like being in a more calm, quiet place. I feel like it's better for studying and it's better for, you know, your own personal development.

It's been great. Honestly, it's been great because all the professors are here to help you, and they take it personally. They take your success personally, so I definitely try to do all my homework on time. And every time I have a question, I can just go to a professor and have it figured out, which has really helped my grade. It's got my grade up. Especially being in football and busy all the time, you know having professors that are willing to help definitely helps a lot.

If I stayed in Houston, the school would have cost me \$36,000, which is a lot. And me being an international student, my parents wouldn't have been able to afford it. That's one of the reasons why I came to Graceland. They gave me a really good scholarship that really helped me and enabled me to afford college here in the U.S.

I'm going to miss Graceland a lot because Graceland has truly become my home for these past four years, and it's given me a lot of opportunities to be successful both on the field and off the field. I've enjoyed my journey here. I'm going to miss all of my friends, all my teachers, and the campus itself. I'm going to miss being here, you know, going to intramurals and going to games. I'm going to miss Graceland for sure.

My name is Evaristo Casimiro. I'm a senior here. I'm from Angola, Africa, and I'm grateful for Graceland.