

Stu Sherman '85

Hello. I'm Stu Sherman, senior director of development here at Graceland University, and I am grateful for Graceland.

Well, my relationship with Graceland came in the late summer of 1981. I had decided to go to another college out of high school because all of my friends went to Graceland, and I wanted to be different. I didn't want to do what everybody else did. But I realized after the first year of going to that school in Ohio, that Graceland was the place for me.

So, I came here in 1981. I participated on the men's volleyball team, and I majored in physical education and therapeutic recreation. At that point, I decided I knew that Graceland was the place for me because I had mentors. I developed some of the relationships that sustain me to this day; with colleagues, with classmates, with friends that I know I will have for the rest of my life.

Then, after leaving (Graceland) in 1986 to pursue my collegiate volleyball coaching career, I got a phone call in the summer of 1993 from Tom Powell. He was (Graceland's) dean of students and athletic director and asked me if I would have interest in coming back to Graceland to take over the men's volleyball program from Rod Shaw - my coach who decided after 27 years, it was time to retire from Graceland. So, I came back in the fall of 1993 serving as the men's volleyball coach and serving as a faculty member in health and movement science. I had 11 wonderful years handling both of those duties.

In 2004, I had the opportunity to join the development staff, where I continue in that role today helping to raise money for Graceland. Again, as I said as a student, I have developed wonderful and meaningful relationships with colleagues, with people out there that love Graceland, and lots of alumni that care about us. I know that those two will be friendships that will carry me for the rest of my life.

So, Graceland has been great for me as a student. It's been great for me as a staff member. It is who I am and who I hope to be for the rest of my life.