

Testimonial: Alma Blair '49, Professor Emeritus

I'm Al Blair. I taught at Graceland for 39 years, and I am grateful for Graceland. Very grateful. It changed my life. Well, it meant a lot right from the very beginning as a student. I loved it! I was educating things - I had to have an education. I wanted that from the time I was I don't know, about eight, ten years old. I can remember going into the library and reading and reading, and understanding things, and running across new ideas, and that was so important to me - to get new ideas. And when I went to Graceland, it just exploded you know. I got a whole new sequence of ideas that I had not had before. It was something that I felt like I was making a difference. And when I went to the army, when I went to Korea, I wanted to come back, and I wanted to teach rather than doing some other things - that I had some possibilities to look for. But, I wanted to teach. I wanted (to) open people's minds. I felt that Graceland was one of the places to go, and I was just overwhelmed at the fact that I was able to teach there. That's what I always wanted to do, and I got the chance. It was great for me to do that. I could take ideas that I developed and try to get other people to think. To think and evolve and understand, and to try to grow. And so, I look upon humans as being a people who are beings - who are thinking about themselves, and they think about themselves thinking about themselves as we think about what we're thinking about. So, it's becoming what, in a sense, divine, because we are part of that process of the universe. And so, that's what it meant to me.