

FALL 2018 VOL. 34, NO. 2

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GRACELAND UNIVERSITY

Horizons

**WE
ARE
WE**

***The Power of Together
in action***

WE ARE WE: EXTRAORDINARY

Graceland students use their knowledge to make a difference

P5

NEWCOM STUDENT UNION

Generous donor gifts make MSC renovation a reality

P14

COME BACK TO THE FUTURE

Highlights of an incredible homecoming weekend of Gracelanders' return to "the Hill"

P16

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the greatest joys of working in higher education is the opportunity to watch the growth of students as they are exposed to new academic lessons, new people and cultures, and new ideals. During a time of life dedicated to growth, these experiences impact each individual student in a combination of different ways that bring to life our Graceland values.

The greatest impact, however, often is experienced by those of us who get to watch the transformation and, in some cases, experience action inspired by such growth to the point that we are ourselves inspired to do good.

As you read about the current Graceland students highlighted in this issue, I believe you will get a taste of what those of us who know these and other students are privileged to witness: like many of our alumni with varying years of life experience behind them, these students are already making a difference in the world, even as they are just learning how.

With a heritage rooted in the liberal arts and values that promote action toward a better world, our exceptional faculty and staff, accomplished and caring alumni, and even other students create an environment in which Graceland graduates are set up to succeed. It is awe-inspiring to be part of a place that supports not only an academic, athletic and social experience that leads to the development of such impressive world citizens, but to watch that citizenship take form right before our eyes.

From students working to depolarize political engagement, to students working toward a greener tomorrow, students who simply go out of their way every day to have a positive impact on those around them, and students who choose to volunteer their time to organizations that support some of the most vulnerable kids ... we are proud of our students and the ways they are changing the world for the better.

As we learn about these and other stories of students doing great things, we are reminded that Graceland has always been student-centered. This year, we have placed even more of an intentional focus to lift up our students and, through the power of together, continue to make Graceland an even stronger institution. We aspire to graduate individuals who build better lives, better communities and a better society, and we do this together through a strong commitment to our core values of learning, wholeness and community.

Patricia H. Draves

STUDENT- CENTERED

GRACELAND



At the center of all forms of education is the student.

It isn't out of the ordinary, then, that Graceland would place an intentional focus on the student experience. However, as you'll see referenced throughout this issue, that student-centered focus has grown from the subtle ways Graceland faculty, staff, administration and alumni impact the day-to-day lives of students during their Graceland experience to the deliberate and purposeful support being fostered throughout the Graceland community.

Graceland's student body is diverse.

There are students who represent areas from all over the country and all over the world. They bring a wide range of curiosities and decide on many different areas of study to guide them in their future. Graceland's student-centered focus considers all of these different cultures, backgrounds, religious preferences and interests, and still seeks to create learning communities in which all students — no matter their similarities or differences — have the opportunity to develop their potential for full and meaningful lives for the betterment of the world. The stories of these students shared in this issue demonstrate the truth that it all starts right here.

Students BY THE NUMBERS

Fall 2018 demographics provided by the Institutional Research Office
*All Graceland: Lamoni & Independence Campuses, Online (Undergrad, Graduate, Doctorate)

States

*All Graceland
44 States
+ Armed Forces Pacific, Armed Forces Europe and Puerto Rico

Countries

*All Graceland
21 Countries

Gender

*All Graceland
1,354 Females
581 Males

Lamoni Campus

435 Females
449 Males

Areas of Study

Independence Campus & Online

6 Undergrad Majors
1 Doctorate Program

3 Graduate Programs
9 Majors

5 Graduate Certificate Programs

Lamoni Campus

28 Undergrad Majors

25 Undergrad Minors

1 Undergrad Certificate

Programs with Highest # of Declared Majors

*All Graceland
240 Nursing
166 Business Administration
128 Elementary Education

Athletics

Lamoni Campus (reflects start of Fall 2018)

20 Varsity Teams
11 JV Teams
581 Total Student-Athletes including student coaches and managers

66% of Total Lamoni Students

VPA Visual & Performing Arts

Lamoni Campus (2017-18)

377 Total Student Participants
41% Total Lamoni Students

Other Activities

Lamoni Campus

44 Clubs/Organizations
16 Houses
284 Leadership Positions
711 Work-Study Positions

From the president and administration all the way to house presidents and student government, and everything in between, the efforts to build buildings that meet students' needs, develop programs that pique students' interests and provide services that support students' own efforts show that Graceland, and all who are part of it, puts students first.

Facilities

The **renovation plans of the Memorial Student Center (MSC)** to Newcom Student Union were developed with student input. **For more about Newcom Student Union** ▶ **P 14**

Closson Center is next in line, and updates to arguably the most *unique* building on the Lamoni campus will revamp the most *used* building on campus for today's students and the student of the future. Watch for more information on the updates to come to Closson Center.

Programs

A desire to provide opportunities for involvement to a diverse group of students with diverse interests has led to Graceland's first **esports** team, available for Lamoni-campus students. Learn more at graceland.edu/esports.

Even more widespread and as a replacement for the "general education" every Lamoni-campus student receives, the **essential education curriculum** is designed to prepare students for a life of inquiry, analysis, discovery, problem solving, effective communication and innovation — a program to meet the needs and desires of today's students.

Services

As of this fall, students on the Lamoni campus have a one-stop shop for many student services aimed to help them succeed. Among other services available in the **Student Success Studio**, this collaborative effort includes tutoring, the Writing Center, peer mentors, disability services and career services. Read more at graceland.edu/studentsuccess.

Independence-campus nursing students were offered an **ATI testing strategies seminar** earlier this term designed to help them prepare for the NCLEX-RN licensure exam. Graceland strongly believes in supporting students on their educational journey both in and out of the classroom.

Community

Marissa Meyer '18 landed a job with AmeriCorps in Anchorage, Alaska, in less than just two weeks by reaching out to the **GU4U Graceland alumni network**, a committee sponsored by the Graceland Alumni Board that builds relationships between current students and past graduates. "I couldn't be more excited, and it's all thanks to the advice and support of the Graceland community!," said Marissa. The Power of Together in action.



“At Graceland, being student-focused does not mean that we see students as mere objects of our efforts. Rather, being student-focused means that we understand students to be participants in the process of creativity, transition and mission. In other words, it means that Graceland seeks to help students be ready to take on the world — through what they learn, what they experience and how they engage in meaningful study and action.”

David Schaal, MA, '80

Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students





Education in any form
exists to better the world.

When done right, the outcome leads to individuals who apply what they've learned to make a difference in the world and in the lives of those around them. In the following stories, you'll read examples of current Graceland students who aren't waiting until they have a diploma to empower them to make that difference.

**WE
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The Power of Together in action

These Graceland students — and many others — give their time, use their voice, lend their skills and share their passion to make an impact where they believe it is important.

Graceland is proud of the efforts these students are sharing with the world, and, with a start like this, we can't wait to see what they're capable of when they become Graceland grads!

Anthony Ginger '19 and Christian Sarabia '19 are attempting to accomplish something on the Lamoni campus that most people across the country have not been able to fathom. These two students have started a movement to bridge the gap and depolarize the political climate at Graceland.

The two senior history majors came to Graceland as freshmen with very different political viewpoints. Christian, now president of the campus Republicans, was very conservative; and Anthony, now president of the campus Democrats, had chosen to deviate from his own hometown conservative influence and become very liberal.

It was Graceland's "House" system that brought them together. Christian and Anthony were assigned to Cheville House, where they both chose to become involved in house activities and soon became friends.

"With the unique system of Graceland's housing kind of throwing us together and helping us form friends on our hall, it helped us become friends with everyone regardless of what different political beliefs we have," said Anthony.

GRACELAND'S HOUSE SYSTEM strives to connect people from many backgrounds, geographical areas and interests on the same residence hall.

.....

INSPIRE, a partnership between Graceland and Community of Christ, is a transformative journey that enables students to organically develop as leaders in the church through practical and educational experiences.

When the unlikely duo announced they were going to be roommates the following year, it surprised many of their Cheville brothers, but Anthony and Christian had built a friendship on mutual respect and interests.

Those interests have taken them on a whirlwind journey that led them both to become actively involved in the national organization **Better Angels**, a bipartisan citizen's movement to reduce political polarization in the United States. The journey began this summer when Assistant Professor of Political Science Adam Martin, PhD, saw Anthony and Christian's interest in increasing political collaboration and introduced them to the organization.

Excited to learn more, Christian reached out to Better Angels through Facebook and immediately received a response from the lead organizer, David Lapp. Lapp was eager to invite them to attend the first Better Angels convention in Virginia. The problem? It was just two weeks away, and Anthony and Christian didn't have the resources to go.

The supportive community of Graceland swiftly stepped in. Christian and Anthony reached out to Vice President for Student Life Dave Schaal, who saw their passion and loved the idea. So, Schaal connected them to Campus Minister Mike Hoffman, who pledged \$1,000 for Anthony and Christian to make the trip to D.C. and attend the convention.

Few might have thought that within a year — an emotionally charged election year — the two would become friends, even roommates, and be working closely together throughout their senior year on a project with the potential to reach far beyond their Graceland experience.

"People at Graceland absolutely helped us to get it to where it is now," shared Anthony, as he spoke of the duo's initiative to use their political leadership positions on campus to bring people together. "Graceland has very much helped foster this."

"Anthony and Christian had this opportunity to be on the ground floor of helping organize 'civil discourse' at Graceland — and beyond," shared Hoffman. "Missional ministry in general, and campus ministries in particular, is about building community and creating peace. Anthony and Christian will share their experience with students in **InSpire** (in which students experiment with ministry), and these students will discuss how what they've learned can shape our on-campus ministry. We were excited to help send them to the convention and support their goal."

Once there, the rare story of two political opposites as friends and roommates captured the attention of the Better Angels organization and even several national news outlets. Anthony and Christian were interviewed and featured in the ABC News coverage of the convention and came back to campus somewhat celebrities.

The attention hasn't wavered quite yet, but their motivation hasn't changed. Anthony and Christian are still working together to bring what they learned at the Better Angels convention to Graceland's Lamoni campus. Together, they held a voter registration drive

this fall, partnered to provide transportation to the polls on election day, and, at the time this story was written, were in discussions with the founder and president of Better Angels, David Blankenhorn, to come speak to other Graceland students and put on a Better Angels workshop.

"Christian and Anthony are diamonds in the rough," expressed Graceland Assistant Professor of Political Science Adam Martin, PhD. "Many people say they want to achieve the dream of making a difference in the world; Christian and Anthony already live that dream. The amount of dedication they've shown to growing communities and starting conversations at Graceland is fantastic!"

Anthony and Christian agree this is a passion, but they are students first. Christian plans to go into education and is involved in a group of people interested in bringing the Better Angels philosophy to a younger audience. He hopes to turn that idea into a career in which he can implement his experience with Better Angels into a classroom setting.

Both students believe **The Power of Together** is real at Graceland and that they are examples of it. Now, they have brought that power to the greater campus community and will carry it with them beyond graduation ... and they're just getting started. ■

Meet Anthony Ginger & Christian Sarabia.

Friends. Roommates. Two guys who don't necessarily agree on everything, and that's ok.



A photograph of a young Black man with a beard, smiling broadly. He is wearing a maroon short-sleeved button-down shirt and blue jeans. He is standing in front of a red brick wall. In the background, there is a large white relief sculpture of three people. To the right, there is a grey concrete pillar. The overall lighting is bright and natural.

**WE
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Meet Evaristo Casimiro.

Kind. Giving.
Being the nice
guy never felt
so good.

GRACELAND PEER MENTORS serve as role models to new students. The peer mentor program aims to support new students as they develop a meaningful connection with the Graceland community and establish a sense of belonging. The program is a collaboration between the Director of Student Success and the First-Year Seminar coordinator, and it is the first step in creating a cohesive orientation, transition and retention program at Graceland.

Evaristo Casimiro '19
enjoys helping people. He grew up inspired by the actions of his parents, who, through hard work and a passion for helping those they cared about, set an example that doing things for others comes back in the form of joy and love for life.

When Evaristo came to Graceland from Angola, Africa, to major in business administration and economics and to play football, he brought that inspiration with him and has become a shining example of how to live it.

During his first year at Graceland, Evaristo began to notice there were things he didn't know — things that could make his experience as a college student easier. He learned there are old copies of tests in the library for students to study ahead of an exam; and that professors make a copy of their text books available to check out.

Evaristo also quickly learned that Graceland is really about community and people from all backgrounds and experiences coming together. So, when he got a flyer in his mailbox last year with an invitation to apply to be a **peer mentor**, he was excited to volunteer.

He thought he could help other students learn the things that had made a difference for him and use his experience to give back to his new community.

"Peer mentoring just sounded like something I wanted to do," said Evaristo. "I actually didn't know at first that it was a paid position. I was going to do it for free. And then I was like, yeah, this is awesome: interacting with students and telling them about Graceland and showing them how to succeed ... sharing with them my story about how I make it every day — even with football and everything ... how I try to get involved and stay involved ... how I try to take care of my academics ..."

He was in.

"Evaristo is a natural peer mentor," said Nicole Briell, Director of Student Success. "It is simply in his nature to notice and reach out to people and want to make a difference for them. It has been such a pleasure to have him as an official peer mentor for Graceland, and he has definitely made a difference for the students he is paired with, and for the program and university as a whole."

"Being such a close community actually helped me to become a better version of myself because I had more opportunities to actually make an impact."

Evaristo may be employed as a peer mentor, but, for him, the official title and paycheck are just perks. Living in such a way that his own success benefits others and helps them achieve success is a choice he makes every day.

"Evaristo is a great example of what Graceland is all about," shared Dean of Graceland's C.H. Sandage School of Business and Associate Professor of Business Administration Jeff McElroy, MBA. "He took the initiative — without being asked by me — to reach out and help a student who was confused and falling behind in class. It definitely made a difference to that student and had an impact on me as well."

Evaristo plans to take advantage of Optional Practical Training (OPT) for a year after graduation, a period in which international students are allowed to remain in the U.S. to gain work experience that compliments their field of study. He will use this time to pursue a career in sales and marketing, an area commonly perceived to be competitive and cutthroat — but he doesn't see this as at odds with his joy for helping people.

"Competition is just part of life. I'm in athletics; I want to succeed," he said. "But at the same time, I feel like my success is what's gonna help other people. My mindset is that my success isn't only for me, and other people should be able to benefit from it as well."

With a primary focus on student success, Graceland values learning, wholeness and community, and encourages the development of these values for the enrichment of lives and the betterment of the world. Evaristo exemplifies these values and is enriching the lives of each student he helps. He is making a difference.

Lauren Carmer '18 exhibits a strength in her heart that many would admire. Since she was a young child, she has given her time and her love to those who really need it, and she has humbly made a difference in the lives of hundreds of children.

Lauren started her Graceland career on the Lamoni campus and then followed her dream to work in the nursing field to the Independence campus, where she is now enrolled in the nursing program. Helping others as a nurse is a noble profession, but the practice of doing good for others began much earlier for Lauren.

Her father set the example that pain and hard times are opportunities to spread love and joy. He was the opening manager of **Kansas City Hospice House**, and Lauren would go to work with him from the age of five or six and follow him around as he did his work. She loved being there, and by the age of about seven, she had found a creative and tangible way to give even more.

Lauren began collecting flowers donated to the house by the families of patients who had passed away, and she used them to recreate bouquets that she then delivered to the rooms of other patients. She began in a closet, but the hospice house flower initiative grew from her efforts.

It is now an official volunteer position people can sign up for, and the facility has even added a dedicated space for flower arrangement work.

Lauren still does some volunteer work at the hospice house, but her heart still had room to give more. She has recently become a court-appointed special advocate, sworn in by a Kansas City judge, for an organization known as **CASA**.

As a CASA rep, Lauren is appointed as an advocate to children who enter the foster care system through an act of abuse or neglect. She is trained to discuss with them how they're feeling, what their hopes are for an outcome and living situation, and then guide them throughout the process of court dates, etc. She then takes what she learns to court and makes recommendations on behalf of the child.

“When Lauren provides care, she provides care with her whole heart. Not everyone can give that much of themselves to people they barely know. This is one of the wonderful traits that will make Lauren an excellent nurse.”

Elise Craig
Assistant Professor of Nursing

Lauren was introduced to the volunteer opportunity with CASA by a friend and role model, as well as by her aunt, a CASA social worker. She was drawn to the organization because she expects she will foster and adopt later in her life, and she saw this as a great opportunity to broaden her horizons through her volunteer time and get an inside look into what happens in the foster system.

“I am very, very drawn to volunteer work; I love it; I've done it since I was little,” explained Lauren. “I've always been a person to want to help out in any way, shape or form. Since I'm in school, I'm not able to give as much as I'd like, but I know I can still contribute with my time.”

While it is clear that Lauren has always had room to open her heart to others, she believes Graceland

built on her caring nature with its own caring community, house connections, and friends and faculty who go the extra mile. That care has carried over from her time on the Lamoni campus to her experience on the Independence campus as well, and she believes the nursing faculty play a huge role in fostering character in students to give back.

“The professors really do take the time out of their day to make sure everything is going well and that you're taken care of,” shared Lauren. “I probably wouldn't be where I am without them. They're teaching us to take care of others, but they're also taking care of us.”

The desire to give her time and heart to others through these experiences developed out of a passion for children. Lauren will graduate from the nursing program in December 2018 and hopes to one day go into pediatric nursing and become a pediatric hospice nurse. It is clear that she will make a difference in the lives of many children and their families — she already has — and that, through one act of kindness at a time, Lauren is making a difference.

**WE
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Meet Lauren Carmer.

Compassionate. Selfless.
An inspiring volunteer
with a heart of gold.

**WE
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**Meet
Kennedy
Warner.**

**Forward-thinking. Mindful.
She's "green," and she's
creating opportunities
for others to be too.**

FLOYD M. MCDOWELL
COMMONS

GRACELAND'S SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM aims to practice and teach restorative relationships between humanity and the ecosystems from which we draw resources for our livelihoods — especially within the context of local communities.

Kennedy Warner '21

has a passion to make the world a more “green” and environmentally friendly place. She has been actively working on initiatives that support this mission at Graceland since her arrival and is a fervent member of the Sustainability Program.

Kennedy, a sophomore biology major, has poured her passion into several sustainability projects at Graceland. She has worked closely with the new **Campus Kitchen project**, a \$5,000 grant to address issues of hunger and food waste on campus and in the Lamoni community. She has worked to minimize the use of plastic straws and Styrofoam, and has even worked toward a goal that would make Graceland an entirely plastic-free campus.

Kennedy chooses each day to be an encouraging voice to other students and the entire Graceland community as she attempts to make people more aware of actions that contribute to the waste they dispose of.

She believes that improved awareness will inspire people to make individual and intentional decisions that improve the way Graceland as a whole helps the environment through the everyday actions of students, faculty, staff and even visitors.

“I make advertisements and stickers to make people aware of their own personal environmental impact. For example, putting up stickers on paper towel dispensers that remind people to only take one or two to cut down on paper use,” explained Kennedy. “These changes will hopefully influence positivity and mindfulness about the environment and will really challenge people to be more conscious of their decisions.”

“The community here has encouraged me to take action just because of the people I see working to make Graceland a better university. I was inspired to take something I’m passionate about and make positive effects here on campus.”

Even before Kennedy came to Graceland, she began to understand the importance of such work. She joined the environmental club in her high school and started learning more about climate change, the environment and ocean conservation.

With an acknowledged interest in these issues as a Graceland student, Sustainability Coordinator Jen Abraham-White invited Kennedy to join the **Sustainability Program** and has offered a platform for her to promote her passion.

Abraham-White advises Kennedy as a member of a team of six student-workers who are devoted to making and keeping Graceland’s campus eco-friendly and identifying opportunities for improvement. She is impressed with the team as a whole and their dedication to issues larger than themselves, and she shared how Kennedy stands out.

“She’s been great. Super motivated, completely reliable ... She’s ahead of the game in communication and leadership skills. She’s very kind, and I look forward to working with her even more in the future,” said Abraham-White. “By working on these projects, Kennedy and the entire team show a mature understanding of the care of things outside of themselves.”

Kennedy is just getting started with the Sustainability Program at Graceland, and she has already used her involvement in the program to enhance her own environmental efforts. She will speak this spring at Graceland’s fourth annual **Food Symposium**, an event that brings together a diversity of voices that address economic, social and environmental issues as they relate to food systems, and, as she continues her education, she will work more closely with the Campus Kitchen project in an attempt to help the effort evolve and grow.

After graduation in 2021, Kennedy hopes to one day become an anesthesiologist but has every intention to continue her efforts to better the world through her everyday actions.

graceland.edu/Horizons

Check out the online version of *Horizons* to read the full story of these and other current Graceland students making a difference.



Kayla Schaefer '19 and Savea Hull '19 are getting a jump start on their medical careers while volunteering to literally save lives. The two earned their national certifications as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and returned to Graceland this fall with the desire to serve in the volunteer Lamoni Emergency Medical Service (EMS). Kayla and Savea have just gotten their start with Lamoni EMS but already know they love it and have learned a lot while giving back to their community. **Go online to read more.**

INVESTING IN THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Introducing

NEWCOM STUDENT UNION



“Graceland has been in our family’s hearts and minds for over 50 years; from the time Cherry and I left the campus, to be followed years later by Shandra and Derek. We believe that Graceland not only educates; it also teaches fact-based critical thinking, instills a belief in the worth of all persons, and gives opportunities for natural leadership skills to emerge and grow. It is a place where inquiring minds are fed and hearts filled with love for others. These are experiences that last a lifetime. We hope that the new student union building will enhance the student-centered Graceland experience to the ultimate benefit of all the communities into which that experience flows.”

Jay Newcom '64

An exciting change is coming to the Graceland University Lamoni campus.

As the university continues to emphasize the idea of a student-centered environment, it is appropriate that the Memorial Student Center (MSC), a building that is so much a part of every student’s life, should receive major renovations that will greatly impact students and their Graceland experience.

A BIT OF HISTORY Graceland’s original student center was completed in 1950 and was intended as a memorial to all the Community of Christ youth who had served during World War II. It contained a stage in the main room and four rooms that housed a lounge, snack shop, bookstore and a room used for bookstore storage. An addition was added in 1961 that created a larger bookstore, a new snack shop (the Swarm Inn), a campus post office, the Americas Room, a lounge and several offices.

While the MSC has always been — and continues to be — the center of campus life and the heart of the student experience in Lamoni, it is in need of an extensive upgrade. This space should inspire prospective students and connect current students with the broader campus community. The new MSC will be called **Newcom Student Union**, made possible by the generosity of the Newcom family.

Newcom Student Union will retain the very best from its past but will become even more inviting, more relevant and more versatile to meet the social, academic, communication and leadership development needs of today’s students. As one of the first impressions for campus visitors, Newcom Student Union will reflect the active student life and community that is Graceland.

NEWCOM STUDENT UNION will continue to be Graceland's family room — and a big portion of the Graceland experience. Students meet there for many reasons. It's a place where they renew old relationships and build new ones. It's a place where scholarly presentations, forums on social issues and intercultural encounters happen. It's a space where we eat, talk, skate, worship, study and play — sometimes all in the same day.



RENOVATION PLANS & TIMELINE
To see more about the renovation:
graceland.edu/NewcomStudentUnion

Swarm Inn



Doubling the size of the Swarm Inn might be the biggest impact of the renovation. Whether grabbing a meal between classes or just enjoying the casual vibe of the new space, an expanded Swarm Inn with its natural light and campus views will provide an inviting space for all.

Game Room



Gaming reminds students of home. Having a **dedicated, safe space for gaming** without interruptions by other activities in the main room is an asset students will appreciate. The opportunity to socialize with others from different houses, backgrounds and nations is priceless.

Digital Commons



The **expanded digital commons** with a **campus view** will provide more areas for study and small-group work, along with space for hanging out with friends. In addition, students will be able to use the technological resources there for communication with family back home.

Mezzanine



This highly visible space will showcase the **student-focused character** of the university and the **student-led nature** of Graceland's programming. The mezzanine will host **multi-function office suites** for student leaders, Studio G and Enactus.



As a Graceland student, I know that the MSC houses so many different experiences for students. The remodel of the MSC is more than just an investment for the university; it's an investment in our students. Students spend countless hours there — playing pool, grabbing a bite to eat, checking mail, doing homework or just hanging out with friends. It makes me excited that student input will help make Newcom Student Union a place reflecting the wants and needs of the students for years to come."

Tamela Hill '19

President, Graceland Student Government (GSG)



It is from the generous gifts of Graceland alumni and friends that Newcom Student Union has become a reality.

These gifts not only build and renovate buildings; they build opportunities for scholarship and friendship, and provide experiences that lead to the fulfillment of Graceland's mission: to create learning communities where students develop their potential for meaningful and productive lives.

If you would like to consider a gift to Graceland for Newcom Student Union, the future work to be done on Closson Center or any other purpose:



visit www.graceland.edu/giving



contact the Development Office at **800.645.3582**



email development@graceland.edu



HOMECOMING 2018

COME BACK TO THE

Homecoming is that time of year when the crisp fall air arrives, the leaves change, and Gracelanders come home and come together to celebrate and share in tradition. This year, alumni and friends came “Back to the Future” to take part in a homecoming with a theme to remember.

The 2018 festivities began with Thursday's opening of the **homecoming production, *Ghost the Musical***. With an unbelievable performance by the theatre department and its cast and crew, the stage was set.

Despite mud puddles, soaked grounds and gloomy skies, students and alumni alike gathered to celebrate the spirit of the annual custom. Friday was packed with the **Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament** and putting contest, a concert with the angelic voices of the **Graceland choirs**, and the 34th edition of the famed **student air band** battle followed by a root beer float party to end the night.

SAVE THE DATE
Homecoming 2019:

Honor Class Years

Classes of 1959, '69,
'79, '84, '89, '94, '99
and 2009 will be invited.

OCTOBER
25-27
2019

Friday evening also hosted the **19th Annual Emeriti and Alumni Awards Banquet** in the Shaw Lobby. Awards were presented for Distinguished Service to Dr. Gary McLean '61 of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Graceland Award of Recognition to Don Hickman '76 of Avon Park, Florida; and Honorary Alumni to Kathy Robinson of Independence, Missouri.

Saturday brought old friends together for the **Agape Alumni Banquet**; a **book signing** by alumni Daniel Hobart '95 and Julie Heide '98 for their collaborative project, *The Stick and Mr. Pig: The Case of the Missing Marbles*; the **Ackerley computer program open house**; pickleball pickup games; a **pep rally** and **Yellowjacket tailgate party** along with the **homecoming court crowning** of Will Nelson '19 of Cheville House as king and Camryn Kuehl '19 of Solah House as queen; **future student sub and pizza party**; **Ergo and friends recital**; and the recognition of eight class years at the **honor class dinners** among many other entertaining events. A crowd of alumni and students gathered to memorialize the "Dean of Fun" as the **paver honoring Brad Carr** was unveiled along the brick plaza.

During the **Hall of Fame luncheon**, Graceland Athletics recognized the 2018 Hall of Fame inductees Jenny Binda '00 of Hayward, California — softball; David Gadberry '82 of Palm Beach, Florida — football; Pat Hoffman of Lamoni, Iowa — longtime academic advisor and dedicated athletic supporter; Mike Lester '95 of Rochester, Minnesota — men's volleyball and soccer; Shane Skinner '96 of Carlsbad, New Mexico — men's basketball; and Kenny Tripp '83 of Denver, Colorado — men's basketball. Congratulations!

FUTURE

In recognition of her hard work and commitment to the Graceland mission, the annual "**Behind the Scenes**" award was presented to Kathy Shields for 50 years of dedication to the students and the financial aid department.

Agility and competition in sport was witnessed when women's and men's basketball, and women's and men's volleyball rivaled in **scrimmage games with alumni**, and the **football team** challenged Evangel University on the turf of Huntsman Field as spectators cheered them on.

The weekend culminated with Sunday's **Crescent breakfast** and **homecoming worship service** with a message from Mike Seagraves '94, the **president's brunch** and the final performance of the homecoming theatre production.

This year's celebration is surely one full of memories and fun to add to a long history of tradition.



A photo gallery of Homecoming 2018 events is available online:
graceland.edu/homecoming

Alumni Awards



LEFT TO RIGHT Gary McLean, President Draves, Kathy Robinson, Don Hickman

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is given to alumni at least 10 years removed from graduation and still living who have made an outstanding contribution to community, whether local or international. **Gary McLean** checks all those boxes. He has been a leader in the field of human resource development (HRD), elevating its practical concepts in 56 countries across the world. McLean has also pioneered concepts and helped develop policies to diminish corruption in Thailand, Korea and Taiwan; worked to combat human trafficking in Southeast Asia; and gender equality has been a major focus of his lifetime scholarship.

Honorary Alumni Award

The Honorary Alumni Award recognizes people who did not attend Graceland but whose record of service and commitment to the university is outstanding. **Kathy Robinson** dreamed of attending Graceland, but the nursing program was not quite ready, so she received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Central Missouri State University. She has since given a lifetime of service to her church, country and the world. A fifth-generation member of Community of Christ, Robinson served on its Standing High Council and the boards of Outreach International and the Nurses Association, and she continues to serve on the board of the church Health Ministries Association and the Graceland School of Nursing Advisory Board.

Graceland Award of Recognition

The Graceland Award of Recognition salutes those who have supported Graceland and its programs in an exceptional way. **Don Hickman** graduated from Graceland with a passion to work with young people. From emotionally handicapped elementary students to high school students from rough backgrounds who were in need of his guidance as a father figure, Hickman has been a mentor to youth in Iowa and Florida, funneling more than 200 central Florida high schoolers to Graceland over the years.

THE FUTURE IS NOW



**OUR STUDENTS
RECOGNIZE
THE WORLD
FACES HUGE
CHALLENGES
THAT CALL FOR
BOLD, CREATIVE
AND SUSTAINED
ACTION.**

Students — and their success — is the heart and soul of the “Graceland Experience.” Everything that happens on campus and in the whole community is focused on the development of our students and helping them become contributing citizens in our world. Students are providing the energy that identifies and pursues immediate opportunities to make a difference now; not in some distant future “when they grow up.” Come to Graceland and see all of this in action. It’s working.

We are proud of our Enactus program where students are encouraged through entrepreneurship to make a positive impact on their communities. Many universities have such a program, but the record clearly shows that Graceland ranks among the best of the best. Two quick examples: Enactus and Graceland sustainability advocates are partnering to aeroponically grow fresh produce for the local Lamoni Food Pantry and Funshine Learning Center, a day care center in Lamoni.

Enactus has also developed a software application for elementary school teachers, with just a voice command to the computer, to enable them to give their students “brain breaks.” The “breaks” are short exercises designed to energize and refresh young minds to help them focus on classwork.

Becoming a leader is not a spectator sport. No one becomes a leader by watching from the sidelines. The size of the student body, the intimacy, and social and spiritual values embedded throughout the campus community combine to open a buffet of leadership opportunities. Students direct the activities of their house organizations, athletic teams, campus clubs and student organizations. They learn what it takes to set goals, and to manage people and resources to make them real. At every turn, students can apply their learning. Each experience provides the training for the next challenge; a process that does not stop as they walk across the commencement stage to receive their diploma.

Graceland students do not wait around to have someone tell them how to think or what needs to change. They recognize that the world faces huge challenges that call for bold, creative and sustained action. With the support, guidance and encouragement of a caring faculty, staff and administration, Graceland students are creating the changes they want to see happen. There is a vibrant and dynamic driving spirit on campus that moves everyone past “what is” to “what should be.” Go Graceland!

Harry J. Ashenurst, PhD, '70
Chair, Graceland University Board of Trustees



President Draves with Leonard Boswell at Graceland's December 2017 commencement ceremony.

Graceland and the City of Lamoni mourned the passing of a longtime supporter of the community this fall. The Honorable Leonard L. Boswell '55 passed away Aug. 17 at the age of 84 in a Des Moines, Iowa, hospital. Boswell's drive, commitment, passion, devotion and beaming smile will be missed.

REMEMBERING A GRACELAND LEGEND

Boswell dedicated his life to the betterment of his country, its people and communities. Of his many accomplishments, Boswell most loved being a farmer, operating the multi-generational family farm in Davis City for decades, and was a devoted advocate to agriculture and the agricultural business program at Graceland.

Born Jan. 10, 1934, in Harrison County, Missouri, to Melvin and Margaret Boswell, he was raised on a farm and later graduated in 1955 with an Associate of Arts in Rural Life, followed in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Graceland.

Boswell committed his life to three things: his wife of 62 years, Dody; his love of farming and support of the farming community; and his country — he served 20 years in the United States Army and 16 years as a U.S. Congressman.

CLASS Notes

WEDDINGS

Jon '88 and Jennifer Kramer '88 Hampton, Lamoni, Iowa, June 2018.

Cameron '17 and Katelyn Metcalf '18 Harder, Addison, Texas, June 29, 2018.

Ben and **Michaela Rising '11 Lundeen**, Monticello, Minnesota, Sept. 16, 2017.

Ryan and **Erika Shields '95 Welch**, Lamoni, Iowa, Nov. 23, 2017.

ANNIVERSARIES

Ronald '48 and Shirley Pratt '48 Young celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary July 25, 2018.

BIRTHS

Brian '98 and Misty Sanchez '05 Elkins, Fenton, Michigan, Harper Sophia, born Sept. 15, 2017.

Katie Bloom '09 Ghali, Greenwood, Missouri, Mina, born March 9, 2010; Amira, born Aug. 10, 2014; Moses, born Aug. 3, 2016.

Dale and **Janna Cash '06 Gilner**, Overland Park, Kansas, Aloysius "Ollie" and Augustus "Gus," born April 13, 2018.

Nick and **Caycee Carlson '11 Hays**, Lincoln, Nebraska, Harrison, born June 2, 2018.

Stephanie Hamann '08 Puett, Virginia Beach, Virginia, August Arthur, born June 13, 2017.

Alan '09 and Colleen Brian '11 Savage, Ruston, Louisiana, Maddox, born May 27, 2018.

Mathew Wion '06, Las Vegas, Nevada, Sebastian, born Nov. 24, 2015.

IN MEMORIAM

Oneda Archibald '51 Alley, Blue Springs, Missouri, June 23, 2018.

James Allingham '51, Fairfax, Virginia, May 30, 2017.

Summer Amman '19, Beloit, Wisconsin, June 28, 2018.

Debra Henderson '82 Arakaki, Scofield, Utah, May 19, 2018.

Sidney Bingham '90, Snellville, Georgia, Sept. 21, 2018.

Darlene "Dody" Votava '55 Boswell, Davis City, Iowa, Aug. 24, 2018.

Leonard Boswell '55, Davis City, Iowa, Aug. 17, 2018.

William "Bill" Brett (Honorary Alumnus, 2006), Terre Haute, Indiana, July 1, 2018.

Adeline Harris '39 Briggs, Independence, Missouri, June 13, 2018.

Mary Jane "Janey" Settles '50 Buchanan, Arvada, Colorado, July 12, 2018.

James Leroy Bullard '48, Mineola, Texas, July 15, 2018.

Clarence Carroll Jr. '60, Independence, Missouri, March 7, 2018.

Donald Clayton '79, Clackamas, Oregon, Nov. 30, 2003.

Lu Ellen Scott '37 Cox, Lewiston, Idaho, July 4, 2008.

Ian Davies '78, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, Nov. 7, 2013.

Ramona "Jacquie" Dersoon '57 Dillon, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, Jan. 29, 2018.

Marilyn Cummings '52 Doll, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 25, 2018.

Teresa Lade '80 Durant, Independence, Missouri, April 3, 2017.

Anthony "Tony" Eagan '58, Victorville, California, May 10, 2018.

Arlin Epperson '57, Columbia, Missouri, May 16, 2017.

John "Jack" Eskridge '43, Valley Falls, Kansas, Feb. 11, 2013.

James Everett '48, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 26, 2018.

Anita Jones '65 Fortney, Augusta, Kansas, Dec. 19, 2017.

Royce Foster '48, Montebello, California, July 31, 2018.

Judith Aiken '95 Garrett, Mountain Home, Arkansas, Nov. 18, 2017.

Roger Gault '53, Independence, Missouri, July 19, 2018.

John "Jack" Green '33, Austin, Texas, June 23, 2018.

Shirley Trudell '50 Green, Waukee, Iowa, Aug. 15, 2018.

Rene Hausheer '54, Topeka, Kansas, Jan. 4, 2013.

Erlene Willoughby '55 Hawkins, Lee's Summit, Missouri, July 8, 2018.

Ruth Melenzyer '50 Horn, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 5, 2018.

David Houston '57, Lamoni, Iowa, July 13, 2018.

Bonnie L. Stuck '44 Bixby Ingeman, Warrensburg, Missouri, June 7, 2018.

Education was of special concern for Boswell. He supported increasing Pell Grants to the level they are today, more than double the level they were when he was first elected to Congress,

providing students with the means they need to continue their education and strive for a better future.

For 24 years, Boswell served the Graceland community as a member of the Board of Trustees. During Graceland's December 2017 commencement ceremony at the Community of Christ Auditorium in Independence, Missouri, his alma mater bestowed upon him an honorary doctorate for his dedication to the university. He was recognized again at the April 2018 commencement ceremony held in Closson Center on the Lamoni, Iowa, campus.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Aug. 25, at Graceland's Shaw Center followed by a procession to Rose Hill Cemetery with a graveside service. He was laid to rest with full military honors.



★
The Boswells aligned their generosity with their values for education and agriculture. From annual donations to the Bruch Family Scholarship Fund for Agricultural Business students to the World Food Prize, Boswell's motivating advocacy for agricultural business was only surpassed by his zeal for Graceland University.

Marilyn Schwitzer '62 James, Columbia, South Carolina, June 21, 2018.

Joseph Johnston '58, Deer Lodge, Montana, Jan. 7, 2018.

James Jones '51, Lee's Summit, Missouri, Sept. 27, 2018.

Jan Jones (Gleazer School of Education, Independence Campus, 1997-2016), Independence, Missouri, Aug. 31, 2018.

Anna Ammerman '38 Judge, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, March 3, 2004.

William J. Knapp '82, Edwardsville, Illinois, Aug. 2, 2018.

Dennis Knudson '56, Columbia, Missouri, Aug. 5, 2016.

Margaret Condit '44 Landis, Leon, Iowa, Sept. 9, 2018.

Janice Faunce '66 Lipp, Tacoma, Washington, June 25, 2018.

Jane Noftsger '02 Lyon, West Des Moines, Iowa, May 29, 2018.

James McBride '58, Flint, Michigan, April 6, 2018.

William "Mac" McDonald '76, Bettendorf, Iowa, Feb. 21, 2018.

Robert G. Mann '62, Tillamook, Oregon, Jan. 30, 2017.

Karen Mendenhall, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, June 26, 2018.

Ruby LeNeve '44 Meredith, Lewiston, Idaho, Sept. 29, 2018.

Ethel Sueno Nishijima '46 Miyamoto, Culpeper, Virginia, 2018.

Lewis Muir (Honorary Alumnus, 2010), Lexington, Michigan, July 28, 2018.

Donna Gossadge '58 Payne, Lamoni, Iowa, May 13, 2018.

William Pennington (Board of Trustees, 2008-2014), Baldwin, Maryland, June 10, 2018.

Joan Jenkins '54 Pratt, Independence, Missouri, July 7, 2018.

Donald B. Richards '52, Cass City, Michigan, June 20, 2018.

Catherine Carpenter '43 Richardson, Port Huron, Michigan, July 16, 2018.

Timothy Eric Savage '79, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 4, 2018.

Julie Willard '84 Stine, Lamoni, Iowa, June 6, 2018.

Joyce Dieterman '49 Thumm, Independence, Missouri, June 30, 2018.

Dorothy Sumption '51 Troyer, Carol Stream, Illinois, May 22, 2018.

Charles Vickrey '55, Valley Center, California, Aug. 9, 2018.

Jack White '54, Stephenville, Texas, Jan. 8, 2018.

Roger White '57, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 1, 2018.

Ralph Whiting '37, Makawao, Hawaii, June 15, 2018.

Alice McCormick '56 Wiley, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 6, 2018.

James "Jim" Williams, Lamoni, Iowa, Sept. 12, 2018.

Neal Zimmerman '47, Port Charlotte, Florida, May 15, 2018.

00s

90s

70s

Tara Gallegos, MPA, '05 was hired as press secretary and spokesperson for the State of California Department of Justice's Office of Attorney General Xavier Becerra August 2018.



Shane Adams '99 joined the Graceland staff as director of communications in November. Adams brings nearly two decades of experience in corporate America as a marketing and communications professional for brands like AMC Theatres, Chipotle Mexican Grill and Cerner. Most recently, he led a team of fundraisers, marketers and nonprofit professionals as the chief engagement officer at the PKD Foundation.

Peter Hamann '78 is a professional ceramic artist who now lives in Japan and recently realized a lifelong dream to achieve a solo show in New York. Hamann learned from Graceland faculty such as Les Wight (Graceland faculty from 1961-87), Mel Clark (Graceland faculty from 1971-84) and Dan Keegan (Graceland faculty from 1974-76 and 1980-90), and some of his work is displayed around Graceland's Lamoni campus. Hamann's solo exhibition, "Carving White Translucence," took place Sept. 6-22 at the Onishi Gallery in New York City. In addition to his New York exhibition, Hamann was also recently highlighted as a featured potter in *Honoho Geijutsu*, a Japanese magazine featuring the pleasures of ceramics, which was also a proud achievement for him.

Rick Dickerson '75 has done the research and planning for a way to safely dispose of medications. He is the new president of Stat-Medicament-Disposal Corporation, which is addressing the pollution that comes from pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter medications that end up in soil and drinking water. Dickerson's tireless research and planning have helped bring about the invention of a small bottle that fits inside your medicine cabinet and holds old or no-longer-needed pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter medication and vitamins, and safely destroys them in the bottle, which can then be sent off for burning to safely generate electricity. Stat-Medicament-Disposal Corporation won the 2017 FED EX New Green Business of the Year award and the 2017 Outstanding Green Business Award from SBA/SCORE. The company's process is a win-win for everyone involved.



A MESSAGE FROM WE, THE STORYTELLERS

This issue of Horizons marks a new first.

This is the first issue since 2013 that does not have the beautiful touch of **Editor Jeanne Davis '81**. Jeanne retired as Graceland University Director of Communications this summer. In addition to her leadership and counsel, passion for a story and impeccable taste, Jeanne complimented us with her friendship. Those of us in the Communications Office who follow in her footsteps are pleased to bring you this issue in her honor.

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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🔍 View the extended version of *Horizons* online: graceland.edu/Horizons

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