

HORIZONS

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GRACELAND UNIVERSITY

Annual Report 2019



HOW TWO GRACELAND ALUMNI GAVE BACK TO THEIR ALMA MATER IN A BIG WAY ► P6

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Strength Through Change

One of the best things about living in Lamoni is the absolute beauty of the changing seasons. For anyone who has spent extended time on campus, you know that we can even experience almost all of the seasons in the span of a single week! As the seasons change, though, the strength of the Graceland experience remains. Brick buildings stand tall against the cold of winter, and our hearts stay warm as we reflect on experiences of the past year — new friends made, life changes, new careers, and even friends we have lost.

Graceland is on the cusp of a change of its own — and not just in the renovation of buildings like Newcom Student Union and Morden Center. Our administration, faculty and staff have been engaging in a months-long evaluation and planning process to transform our university to address the challenges of higher education that we see in the future. This transformation is leading us to a university that is dynamic and nimble while remaining true to the pillars of community and togetherness that have always made Graceland the special place we all know it to be.

As we work through this transformation, we celebrate the generosity of our amazing alumni and friends listed in the annual report for the 2018-19 fiscal year. I hope that you will take time to read the stories of our amazing community and see on full display the impact that this generosity has on our students.

Change is challenging, hard decisions need to be made, but it is also exciting. As the seasons change on our campuses, Graceland stands strong, poised to continue realizing its potential as a dynamic, comprehensive Midwestern university. Thank you for all you do to help make that happen — from your support and encouragement to your generosity of your resources. We are so grateful to have you as a part of our community.

Patricia H. Draves

Patricia H. Draves, PhD
President

 @GracelandUPres

ON THE COVER Gorgeous fall colors in October gave way to an equally beautiful landscape — winter arrived at last and blanketed the Lamoni campus with snow. We were fortunate to capture aerial views of the Higdon Administration Building and Newcom Student Union (the temperature was a balmy 7°F).



SNAPSHOT

The *Newcom* Footprint

As we watch the renovation progress of Newcom Student Union, it has become clear that generations of Gracelanders recognize the pivotal role this building has played in the student experience. We're excited to see that role continue for future generations of Gracelanders.

Go to the annual report section to see who contributed to this project. **P24**

The Buzz

A section dedicated to sharing what's going on at Graceland – because so many cool things are happening, and we want you to know about them!

COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS



Esports Champions

Graceland's **ESPORTS TEAM** was named the Iowa Division B Esports League champion at the GG Leagues tournament at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa, in November. Jared Doty, Graceland Esports coach, said of the team's collective win, "Our communication, in-game adjustments and strategy were very effective, and these are skills they'll need in the global economy." In the spring, the team will compete with some of the highest-ranked schools in the U.S.

HOMECOMING 2019

Read about the **ALUMNI AWARDS** honorees ▶ P9



Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2019 Honored

A NEW CLASS OF ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES WAS RECOGNIZED during Homecoming 2019 for their contributions to the athletic department.

INDUCTEES

1979 Men's Volleyball Team
Ian Davies '78
Rob Kaleikau '80
Diana Jensen '01



Students Honored for Their Academic Achievements

The **FREEMAN AWARDS**, named for Tom '55 and Terry Moore '56 Freeman, are presented annually to one senior student-athlete in each varsity sport who, in their junior year, earned the highest cumulative GPA in their respective sport. This year's medals were presented to the recipients before kickoff at the homecoming football game. A special plaque with each student's name will be placed in their coach's office to commemorate the students' achievements and as a reminder of the important role a coach plays in a student's collegiate life.

RECIPIENTS

- Baseball**
Anthony Moore
- Basketball (M)**
Brady McMains
- Basketball (W)**
Emma Burns
- Cheer**
Cheyanne Chesley
- Dance Team**
Tabitha Watson
- Football**
Dyllon Mack
- Golf (M)**
Carter Wiley
- Golf (W)**
Julia Austin
- Softball**
Daryn Nowlin
- Soccer (M)**
Dylan Fox
- Soccer (W)**
Maria Mafi da Silveira
- Track & Field (M)**
Donavan Switalski
- Track & Field (W)**
Kristol Vanterpool
- Volleyball (M)**
Kaelan Padilla
- Volleyball (W)**
Abigail Karlis
- Wrestling**
Shea Swafford

flickr Homecoming photo albums can be viewed here: [flickr.com/gracelanduniversity](https://www.flickr.com/photos/gracelanduniversity/)

Theatre Production Addresses Global Issue

“LIGHTING THE WAY” presented Graceland’s theatre audience with different perspectives on climate change through 12 short vignettes — some silly and some intense, but all thought-provoking. The Graceland performance was part of a global network of public forums on the subject of climate change under the umbrella of The Arctic Cycle consortium. The Climate Change Theatre Action, a participating group, offers a menu of 50 short scenes for stage performance. Of those, Graceland chose 12 for the local production. This scene, “Canary,” was selected to be performed at the annual Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 5, held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Jan. 19-25, 2020.



CAMPUS LIFE

ABOVE Jessie Fuller '20 enacted the scene from "Canary" by Hanna Cormick, a poetic piece dedicated to those who put their life/body on the line, voluntarily and involuntarily, to bring about awareness of climate change, like canaries in the coal mine. Assistant Professor of Theatre Tracy Salter dedicated this scene to her friend and former professor who suffers from multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS). Susceptible to environmental toxins, individuals with MCS are characterized as canaries because their bodies can no longer process certain poisons in the air, water or food sources, and are early indicators of a danger.



Fly Like a Bird

In November, **JANA ZINSER '80** **SHARED A LIVE READING OF HER LATEST NOVEL**, inspired by her experiences growing up in Lamoni. *Fly Like A Bird*, Zinser’s second novel, tells the coming-of-age story of Ivy, a young girl growing up in a small southern Iowa town during the 1970s, where everyone knows everything about their quirky neighbors. After discovering that her family and neighbors are keeping secrets from her about the night a tragic car crash killed her parents, Ivy attempts to untangle the truth about what really happened and escape the town that lied to her about the true fate of her mother. The reading, followed by a question-and-answer session, took place in the Frederick Madison Smith Library on the Lamoni campus.



Nine Students Inducted Into Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society

The **GRACELAND CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY** **INDUCTED NINE NEW MEMBERS** in October.

Graceland’s chapter, Alpha Phi Upsilon, was founded in 2017, and these new members are part of the third class of inductees. Sigma Tau Delta was founded in 1924 to confer distinction for high achievement in English language, literature and writing, and to foster literacy and all aspects of the discipline of English. With over 850 chapters across the U.S. and abroad, Sigma Tau Delta is the most active honors organization in the field and one of the largest members of the Association of College Honor Societies.



NEW MEMBERS

Randallynn Smith
Payton Young
Daryn Nowlin
Emma Cleland-Leighton
Ashley Gress
Kaylen Schaefer
Passion Shaffer
Brennan Williams
Molly Sharp



Giving BACK

Just before Christmas, a group of about 40 Graceland staff members, faculty, administrators and athletic coaches gathered together for an **ADMISSIONS SUMMIT** aimed at addressing several enrollment challenges the university is facing.

Helming the sessions were two Graceland alumni — **IVAN JOSEPH, PhD, '96** and **MIKE SEAGRAVES, PhD, '94** — who have been partnering together on workshops like this for 10 years. Both of these men have served Graceland in different capacities over the past several years.

Seagraves came to Graceland in 1990, but its influence on him began much earlier. He remembers when he was about 10 years old, a large group of Graceland alumni moved into the area and started attending his church in Silicon Valley.

“There was something about them — folks like Scott '84 and Laurie Parker '84 White, Randy Arms '84 and Brian Vreeland '84 — that I just wanted to be a part of,” he recalls.

At Graceland, Seagraves never met an activity he didn't love. He played football and soccer, served as Closson's chaplain, then as their house president. He was homecoming king alongside his future sister-in-law, Deb Knotts '93 Skinner (Seagraves is married to Deb's twin, Ruth '93) and was the president of the Council of House Presidents. In his spare time, he participated in theatre and choir.

But Seagraves almost didn't make it to Graceland. As a talented football prospect, he actually was committed to another university, having only visited Graceland for “maybe half a day when I was about 15,” he recounts. Then, as a senior, he attended Spectacular, Community of Christ's annual high school camp on Graceland's Lamoni campus, and he just didn't leave. “I remember sitting in the Gunsolley parking lot, watching the Calizonia (a Spectacular delegation) bus drive away. I stayed in Lamoni by myself until football started two weeks later,” he remembers.

Joseph admits his own path to Graceland wasn't exactly straight. He had been exposed to Graceland thanks to Brian Shantz '69,

whose Canadian delegation at Spectacular has always been impressive. However, Joseph started his college career at Laurentian in Sudbury, Ontario, but found the large school and class sizes difficult.

After taking a year off, he joined a group of Canadian students for a Graceland visit and thought he might have found home. After an interview with then Vice President for Enrollment Management Bonita Booth, Joseph joined Graceland in 1993 to play soccer. He went on to serve as the Orion house president and the Graceland Student Government (GSG) president in the 1995-96 school year. Joseph also met his wife, Polly Tripp '95 Joseph, while a student at Graceland.

After graduation, Joseph joined the residence life team as the Gunsolley hall director and was a volunteer assistant coach for the men's soccer team.

"I was in the right place at the right time," said Joseph when asked how he came to be the head coach. "I was actually about to move on from Graceland and join an NCAA Division I school as an assistant, and Jerry Hampton '52 told me that I would be better to learn by fire as the head coach at Graceland than to be an assistant at a larger school. And he was so right. There are

Joseph stayed at Graceland a few more years, leading the men's and women's soccer teams to unprecedented success, including #1 national rankings and a national championship in 2006 for the men's team — Graceland's first national men's soccer title in history. He was named national coach of the year by the NAIA in 2006 as well.

Beginning in 2008, Joseph spent a decade as director of athletics at Ryerson University in Toronto, leading the transformation that saw the program rise to national prominence. He created a culture of belonging and pride across Ryerson's diverse urban campus and helped student-athletes break records with their athletic, academic and outreach activities. His efforts also helped the university win the first-ever provincial and national championships in the institution's history.

Joseph earned his PhD in sports psychology and is regularly called upon to support national team programs. Two recent examples include his 2018 selection as head coach of the women's national soccer team in his native Guyana and his role as

"What Graceland needs most right now are the very things it is uniquely gifted at – all the things it taught us about the value of relationships, the strength of community, and how to live and lead with purpose."

MIKE SEAGRAVES

several coaches like Jerry who have seen immense success during their time at Graceland — from Stew McDole '65 to Rod Schall '50. These were coaches who received national acclaim."

It was during Joseph's time as a coach at Graceland that he invited Seagraves to return to Lamoni as a residence hall director. "I was just out of occupational therapy school and in a really difficult internship, but Graceland called to me, despite having a job lined up for myself in Bend, Oregon," Seagraves said. "I had to put the personal ahead of the professional, and it was the best decision of my life." But with the best of both worlds, Seagraves was still able to work as a part-time occupational therapist (OT) at the Lamoni nursing home.

Both men eventually left Graceland for new opportunities. Seagraves returned to California in 2001 to pursue his career in health care in earnest. Beginning as an OT, he soon made his way into progressive and transformational leadership roles — first clinically, then in health care information technology and, ultimately, into corporate executive leadership.

Currently, Seagraves is a national vice president for Kaiser Permanente, an \$80 billion national integrated health care system with over 200,000 employees, where he leads the teams responsible for Kaiser's \$600 million consumer digital transformation. Along the way, he earned a PhD in global leadership and organizational change from Pepperdine University.

high-performance coach for the Canadian men's basketball team that won the country's first-ever FIBA Under-19 Basketball World Cup in 2017.

Along with being an in-demand consultant and speaker, Joseph maintains an influential presence in the public realm. He contributes regularly to publications like *The Huffington Post* and *Globe and Mail*. He also wrote the 2017 book "You Got This: Mastering the Skill of Self-Confidence" and delivered a TEDx talk called "The Skill of Self-Confidence," which has been viewed, at last count, over 18 million times. Joseph is now the vice-provost at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Seagraves and Joseph have stayed in touch since leaving Graceland. In 2009, when Joseph was the athletic director at Ryerson, he asked Seagraves to be a part of an all-day session to help the university reach its peak performance. A decade later, they've done over a dozen workshops together in businesses and institutions across North America, helping to create high-performance culture.

"We have complementary skillsets, and because we are so different, we play off of each other in that space really well," Joseph said.

For both of them, their time as part of the residence life program at Graceland was formative. The influence of legends like former dean of students Tom Powell '73 and former director of residence life Marian Garrett '70 Killpack looms largely in their language and in their conversation.

Both talked at length about Powell's message of the ministry of presence and its importance to their lives. Joseph shared a particular story about Killpack's impact: "Marian wrote my parents a letter. I'm not sure if she did that for all the students in the residence life program, but her letter to my parents helped mend a rocky relationship because she described the positive impact I was having on others at Graceland."

In returning to Graceland this winter to offer the complimentary two-day admissions workshop, they both felt it was so important for them to give back.

"We saw this as an opportunity to reflect back to the Graceland community how unique and special it truly is," said Seagraves. "Through the lens of our leadership experience, we recognized that what Graceland needs most right now are the very things it is uniquely gifted at — all the things it taught us about the value of relationships, the strength of community, and how to live and lead with purpose."

Joseph shared his own deep sense of gratitude. "This place changed my life and set me on a trajectory that put me in a different place than I was headed. As a board of trustees member, I understand the urgency in ensuring Graceland's admissions challenges are addressed."

It's clear that Joseph and Seagraves have an immense amount of respect for each other. When asked to describe Seagraves, Joseph said, "He's the smartest guy I know. He's analytical and

INSPIRED BY MIKE & IVAN'S STORY AND WANT TO GIVE BACK TO GRACELAND IN A CREATIVE WAY?

Check out the challenge from Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Deb Skinner. **P28**

impeccable in his conscientiousness. He is a strong man of faith and principle, and his family is the most important thing to him."

Seagraves said about Joseph, "He is brilliant in his way of understanding what really matters in both people and organizations. His ability to focus on the nonintuitive thing that makes people and teams better is a gift. And the way in which he is able to build a community, a movement, a culture around those things is really intentional and yet authentic and organic. Beneath the surface, there is a passion for people and unleashing their potential."

Seagraves and Joseph are two shining examples of the types of people Graceland has the potential to develop. Their willingness to give back to the university that gave them so much is evident in their passion and persistence in helping ensure that Graceland reaches its potential. ■

During the admissions summit, those in attendance engaged in a variety of team-building exercises — some fast-paced and some more intensive — all designed to draw out creative thinking and get people to identify challenges and possible solutions. It was a true meeting of the minds, a time for new perspectives. Attendees watched two powerful videos that encouraged this thought.

Seagraves set the stage for renowned *National Geographic* photographer Dewitt Jones' short film, "More Than One Right Answer." It offered the message that creativity is a matter of perspective, there is more than one right answer to a problem, and embracing change allows us to break the pattern(s) and look for the next right answer.

Joseph described the framework behind Apple's 1997 advertising campaign, "Think Different," showing the iconic commercial of visionaries throughout history who made significant impacts because they thought differently. The unique thinking that drove this pivotal campaign and celebrated unique thinkers was exactly what Joseph and Seagraves wanted to impress upon the summit group. If you're interested, take a minute and watch the commercial on YouTube.

"This place changed my life and set me on a trajectory that put me in a different place than I was headed. As a board of trustees member, I understand the urgency in ensuring Graceland's admissions challenges are addressed."

IVAN JOSEPH



Alumni & Friends Making a Difference

Each year at homecoming, Graceland's president presents the following awards of recognition in honor of impactful service to Graceland and the world.

The **Distinguished Service Award** recognizes achievement in a chosen field, service to community, state and nation, good citizenship, humanitarian service and contribution to society. The recipient must be a living alumni of Graceland, and it must be 10 years since they were enrolled at Graceland.

The **Graceland Award of Recognition** honors those who have demonstrated special contributions of time, talents, resources and personal sacrifices to benefit Graceland. The recipients must be living but need not be Graceland alumni. The Board of Trustees asked the Alumni Association to establish this award as an additional way to honor the people who support Graceland and university programs in an exceptional way.

The **Honorary Alumni Award** recognizes, includes and honors individuals — living or deceased — who have not been enrolled as students at Graceland but whose affiliation would be beneficial to Graceland. These individuals have related to the goals and purposes of the university and to other alumni as though they had been a member of the student body.

This year's honorees were recognized at the 20th annual Alumni Awards Banquet held on Friday evening of homecoming weekend in Shaw Center.

Distinguished Service Award



David Vaughan '75, a renowned aquaculture researcher, has made a name for himself worldwide with numerous published papers and notoriety on his coral growth research. Vaughan, of Summerland Keys, Florida, earned a Bachelor of Arts in biology and chemistry from Graceland. He went on to earn a Master of Science in biology and microbiology from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and a PhD in botany and plant physiology from Rutgers University.

Through his work as a senior scientist at the Mote's Elizabeth Moore International Center for Coral Reef Research & Restoration Center in the Florida Keys, Vaughan discovered a process called micro fragmentation, a way to speed up the growth rate of coral. He postponed his retirement to work on restoring corals at Florida's Reef Tract, the third-largest coral reef in the world. Vaughan is now the president and founder of Plant A Million Corals LLC, which was created for the purpose of training marine biologists all over the world in coral restoration and replenishment. He credits his time at Graceland for giving him the drive and passion for this lifelong love and mission.

Graceland Award of Recognition



Bob Bell '86 was a high school senior in Port Huron, Michigan, when Graceland football coach Dan Hanton '65 urged him to visit the campus with six friends. Bell fell in love with Graceland and enrolled in the fall of 1977. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in physical education and health with an elementary education endorsement.

Bell has devoted his life to public service — as an educator for 17 years, in the Army Reserves serving several tours of duty and training soldiers, and as a law enforcement officer. In his role as Lamoni police chief from 2015-19, Bell worked side by side with Dean of Students Dave Schaal '80, turning college students in the right direction through personal mentoring and counseling.



Steve '77 and Jeanie Upson thrive on getting the most out of Mother Earth, and Graceland has reaped the fruits of their labor. Steve came to Graceland in the fall of 1973 from Tulsa, Oklahoma. He transferred to Oklahoma State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in horticulture in 1978 and went on to earn his Master of Science in horticulture from Kansas State University in 1980. Over the years, he has served

as a technical advisor and educator in the areas of raised-bed and container gardening, commercial market gardening, and high tunnel (hoop house) construction and management. Jeanie is from Skiatook, Oklahoma, and received her Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from Cameron University. She has been a Title I elementary reading specialist for Ardmore City Schools for the past 32 years.

Graceland sustainability coordinator, Jen Abraham-White '08, said of the Upsons, "Their continued commitment to Graceland's sustainability program has been remarkable. Because they decided to buy in to a vision that had little support, their hands planted a seed; they have driven thousands of miles back and forth from Oklahoma to help construct a better and greener Graceland; and they so generously and graciously share personal savings from years of hard work in fields of service to educate a new era of students and impact posterity."

Honorary Alumni Award



Nita Harder, born in Tulsa and raised in El Reno, Oklahoma, now resides in St. Charles, Missouri, with her husband of 60 years, David Harder '57. Nita and David met at a senior high camp when they were teenagers but didn't start dating until they were both attending Oklahoma State University.

A lifelong educator, Harder found her calling to work with young people while attending a Community of Christ camp when she was 27. This past summer marked 41 consecutive years working with the Oklahoma delegation at Spectacular (Spec), a Community of Christ high school camp held on the Lamoni campus. She is excited about the dozens of young people who have attended Spec due to her encouragement and have had the experience of the Graceland and Lamoni communities. Nita and David's love for Graceland has spread to their two sons and five of their grandchildren, who are, or who plan to become, Graceland graduates.

*“O Alma Mater,
guide us on, thy standard
e’er unfold, and call us
on with memories of days
‘neath the Blue and Gold.”*

— **ALMA MATER HYMN**, Roy Cheville, 1926

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2019



Your support makes this all possible.

Graceland's history is full of amazing stories of alumni and friends — people who understand our values of *learning, wholeness and community*. On behalf of those fortunate enough to be impacted by the generosity of the people listed on these pages as contributors to Graceland's future, we say thank you. Thank you for another remarkable year of generosity.

And while change is as sure as the seasons, Graceland's financial health remains strong because we have supporters and friends who believe in our mission, just as we do. Again, thank you.

Kelly Everett
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

The Numbers

University Operating Budget Results 2018-19

Endowment Growth

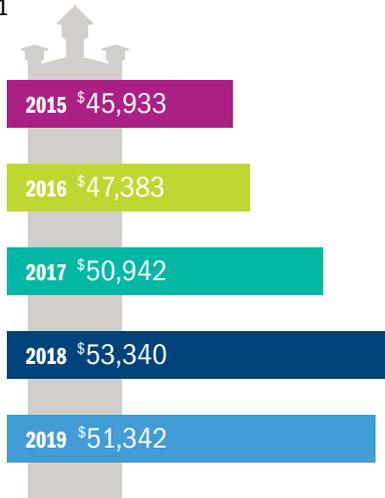
in thousands as of May 31

TOTAL ASSETS

-3.75%

Includes net assets of subsidiary,* market value of investment portfolio and other endowment assets.

*The Graceland College Center for Professional Development and Lifelong Learning (SkillPath)

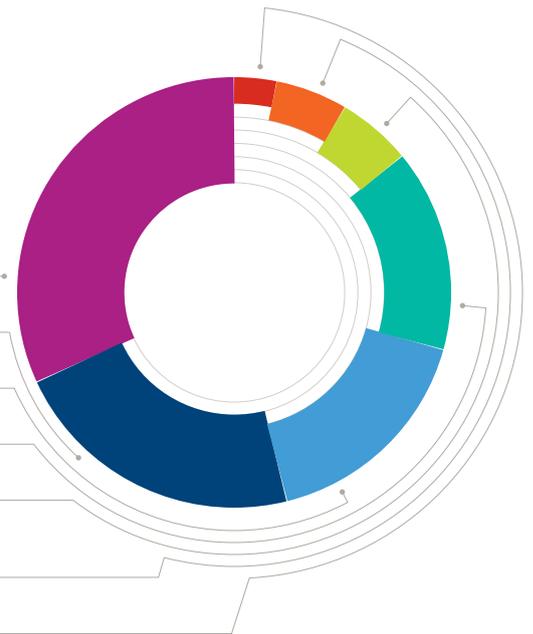


Use of Funds

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$38,153,985

Instruction	\$12,124,384	31.8%
Student Services	\$8,557,886	22.4%
Auxiliary Enterprises	\$6,397,350	16.8%
Institutional Support	\$5,707,942	15.0%
Academic Support	\$2,118,173	5.6%
Minimum Pension Liability Adjustment	\$2,011,162	5.3%
Public Service	\$1,237,088	3.2%



Change in Net Assets

\$1,250,914

Revenue Sources

TOTAL REVENUE

\$39,404,899



Net Tuition & Fees



Government Grants & Contracts



Private Gifts, Grants & Contracts



Investment Income excluding distributions from subsidiary*



Sales & Services of Auxiliary Enterprises



Other Sources



UNIVERSITY NEWS

Graceland Forever

DEB KNOTTS '93 SKINNER *has been a member of the Graceland community for as long as she can remember, and now, she is bringing her lifelong passion for the university and what it has to offer to Graceland's admissions office as dean of undergraduate admissions.*

She recalls her first memories of Graceland: "I was in Kelly Hall, the old art building, and my oldest brother, Dan Knotts, was attending as an art major. I think I was about five years old; he sat me down in front of a potter's wheel and let me play with a lump of clay. Then, he took me and my sister to the MSC, and we scooted around in roller skates and had a grand time. I had such positive association with Graceland, it was hard to even imagine going anywhere else."

HER STUDENT EXPERIENCE In 1989, Skinner was recruited to Graceland, along with her twin sister, Ruth, to run cross country and track. Then head coach Terry Yee told the twins he wanted to grow the program, and they had just what he was looking for to bring excitement to his teams.

The sisters were placed on Amici house, despite early requests for Shalom. Marian Killpack told Skinner she had seen the twins at Spectacular, the

annual Community of Christ summer camp held on Graceland's Lamoni campus, and knew they had just the leadership skills she needed for Amici.

All these expectations may have been too much pressure for some 18 year olds, but Skinner didn't disappoint. She qualified for nationals in cross country that first year at Graceland — she and Ruth were the first women in Graceland's history — and by the time she was a sophomore, Skinner was a captain for the team. She ended up loving Amici and house life, and served as a house president her junior year; then she spent her senior year as Graceland's student government president. Not only had she impressed those around her, but she had also become deeply invested in Graceland and everything it stood for.

AFTER GRADUATION Skinner worked as the assistant coach for the track and cross country teams under Yee for seven years while she worked in a variety of other areas throughout the institution: the grant-funded Educational Talent Search program, career services, as a secretary for alumni programs... She got a lot of different exposure to a lot of offices around campus. "That coaching experience allowed for me to transition from athlete to leader; and the different roles I had around campus really helped me understand higher education in a holistic way."

When Skinner left Graceland and worked as a hall director for Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, she had the opportunity to work in a public liberal arts institution much larger than Graceland. She could feel the difference in the community, but the experience offered her perspective.

The largest career shift for Skinner came when she entered law enforcement. However, it tapped into all the experiences she had gained to that point and put them into a different role as a civil servant. This experience was incredibly helpful when she returned to Graceland as director of residence life, because it gave her a true appreciation for Graceland's educational approach to student conduct.

So, after going out into the world with her Graceland education, returning to "the Hill" with new knowledge and experience seemed to be the most natural transition. "At no place that I ever worked did I appreciate and value the community and the mission as much as I do at Graceland," shared Skinner.

“I feel that people *need* Graceland more than they realize – that we fill a special niche in developing the human connection. So, the challenge is, how do you market Graceland so that every year, 350 young people who *need* it know that they *want* it?”

CALLING ALL ALUMNI Part of the answer has already shown itself to her through a glimpse of an impressive alumni network eager to help. Since she became dean of undergraduate admissions, Skinner has been flooded with phone calls, emails and people reaching out asking what they can do.

While some alumni efforts have already materialized (see page 6 to read about two alumni who recently offered an enrollment summit on the Lamoni campus), Skinner has some additional ideas for alumni who want to get involved in a new Graceland success story. Check the list below, and find her full letter in the online version of this issue.

- 1 **Support Graceland students** – Sign up to be a mentor in the GU4U networking/mentoring program, which links current students with successful alumni, at My.Graceland.edu. Post opportunities for jobs and internships in the GU4U networking group on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com).
- 2 **Stay connected with Graceland** – Make an active effort to stay connected on social media or via email, just to make sure that you know what is going on.
- 3 **Tell us what you're up to!** – We want to hear all the amazing things our alumni are doing in the world. If you want to share your story of how Graceland positively impacted your life, send it to our communications office at communications@graceland.edu or to Cal Closson at closson@graceland.edu.
- 4 **Contribute to (or have your children apply for) the Alumni Endowed Scholarship** – Did you know that if you have children who attend Graceland, they can qualify for a scholarship of \$1,000 renewable for up to four years? See the back cover for more information.
- 5 **Refer a student to Graceland** – Do you know of a high school or transfer student we should talk to about enrolling at Graceland? Head to graceland.edu/refer, and we'll be sure to reach out and give you an update. ■

CLASS NOTES

Send Us Your News

Completed a degree program? Published a written work? Received that awesome promotion? Earned a prestigious honor? If so, we want to hear about it. Share your memories and milestones by emailing us at alumni@graceland.edu.

65 Dan Hanton, Fort Gratoit, Michigan — was inducted into the Port Huron Sports Hall of Fame Oct. 12, 2019, as a member of the 1990-91 Port Huron Northern Boys Basketball team. They were defeated by Detroit Southwestern, the nation's #1 ranked high school team, in the State of Michigan quarterfinals. Hanton was Graceland's women's basketball coach (1999-2003), athletic director (2003-08) and assistant women's basketball coach (2010-16).

83 William "Bill" Sherer, Happy Valley, Oregon — was elected as chief executive officer of Mennonite Services Northwest (MSNW). Sherer brings more than 30 years of experience in the health care industry to MSNW. He has a master's in health administration and is a licensed nursing home administrator.

86 Dr. Tim Silegy, Long Beach, California — a maxillo facial surgeon, was inducted into the American College of Surgeons and is now a fellow, a designation very few single degree oral surgeons receive.

90 Dr. Larkin Powell, Lincoln, Nebraska — recently published two books (available on Amazon): *Great Plains Birds (Discover the Great Plains)* and *Principles for Management of Fisheries and Wildlife: The Manager as Decision-Maker*. Dr. Powell notes that his biology studies under

Dr. Nicholas Hartwig and his involvement with *The Tower* newspaper at Graceland led to the combination of writing and natural sciences.

91 Kerby Bunch, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma — was recognized as an outstanding instructor at Tulsa Technology Center Aug. 24, 2019. She was given the Instructor of the Year award for all Tulsa Technology campuses in Tulsa. At Tulsa Technology, she teaches and trains students in early childhood fields to earn their CDA (Child Development Associate Degree), and trains educators working with children. She is also an early childhood teacher with the Jenks Public Schools.

94 Mike Seagraves, Granite Bay, California — graduated with a PhD in Global Leadership and Change from Pepperdine University and has since taken a new position as Vice President of Digital Delivery and Operations at Kaiser Permanente.

97 Jim Murray, Humeston, Iowa — showed his art exhibit “Color Poem Collages 2000-2018” at the Hearst, Cedar Falls, Iowa. **Thurston Smith**, Memphis, Tennessee — joined Southwest Tennessee Community College as an adjunct professor and is teaching counseling in the Department of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services. He serves on a variety of local civic boards and commissions.



ALUMNI PROFILE

Making a Splash

Since putting down roots in Carthage, Missouri, the **SACRY FAMILY** has had a big impact on their hometown.

Dr. Roger '89 and Patty Wilkinson '89 Sacry and their two daughters, Isabella '20 and Gwyneth '22, moved to Carthage in 2004 when they found the cozy community checked all their boxes. "We've always loved small town," Roger said. "We liked the school system, and we liked that we were near a larger city."

Over the years, the Sacry family has established businesses in Carthage. Roger's private practice, Sacry Family Medicine, expanded in 2012 with a medical spa, The Pavilion. This past August, the Sacrys opened a Tropical Smoothie franchise for two reasons, according to Roger. "We value the healthy food options and like the positive, uplifting environment of the cafés."

The Sacrys' investment in the community of Carthage is exciting to them. "Carthage has a ton of things going for it, but we're always thinking of ways to strengthen the bonds of community that already exist," Roger said.

He continued, "I've always been interested in empowering people by building relationships. The goal is minimizing isolationism — so, the opposite of that is building community, promoting togetherness and upholding diversity. Looking back, a big motivator was my father, Gayle Sacry, MD, '56. He is also a physician and community leader in Whitehall, Montana. He was often involved in community activities and projects. He's my motivating guide for my career choice and for striving to improve my community."

01 Matt Koehn-Fairbanks, Elba, Nebraska — was selected as the Nebraska Coaches Association's 2019 Volleyball Coach of the Year. Matt is the volleyball coach at St. Paul Public High School.

04 Dustin Love, Harrisonville, Missouri — is a deputy sheriff with the Jackson County, Missouri, Sheriff's Office. In May 2019, Love graduated from the very elite Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program, designed to identify drug-impaired drivers. Currently there are only 126 DREs in Missouri and 3,000 worldwide.

07 Prashant Hosur Suhas, New York — has been appointed assistant professor of political science at Clarkson University.

16 Brittany Gunn, Jefferson, Iowa — was selected as Miss Rodeo Iowa and officially took the title Jan. 1, 2020. During her year as queen, she will log about 30,000 miles of travel, making appearances at events promoting the sport of rodeo, animal welfare, agriculture and Iowa's Western lifestyle. Her reign ends in December 2020, when she will compete in the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in Las Vegas, Nevada.

19 Corey Harrell, Knoxville, Iowa — was named Weyburn Beavers head coach for the 2020 Western Canadian Baseball League Season.

Weddings

11 Kyle and Hana Piepergerdes '13 Lee, Independence, Missouri, May 26, 2018. **Stephanie Remmenga Weeda** and Nathan Weeda, Mount Ayr, Iowa, June 21, 2019.

Anniversaries

64 E. Thomas (Tom) and Julie Fletcher '64 Hartley, Aurora, Colorado — celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary Jan. 27, 2019.

68 David and Alice Kramer '69 Neal, Eminence, Missouri — celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 13, 2019. **Jim and Barbara (Jeannie) Bailey '66 McKinney**, Lamoni, Iowa — celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 30, 2019.

Births

93 Angela Gould Brenton and William H Brenton, Windermere, Florida, Robert Harold Angelo, born June 20, 2019.

97 Wendy Maybee Davies, Grain Valley, Missouri, Addyson, born Sept. 24, 2009.

98 Jason and Wendy Grutter, Panorama City, California, Evelyenia, born July 9, 2019.

02 Samantha Parkes and Scott Kang, Dulles, Virginia, Elijah, born May 31, 2016; and Lucy Dawn, born June 5, 2019.

08 Luke Still, Mount Ayr, Iowa, Bella, born June 24, 2019.

09 Clayton and Makayla Hines, Beaumont, Texas, Cole Robert, born Sept. 26, 2019. **Tyler and Autumn Wellington '10 Jones**, Edmond, Oklahoma, Sutton Nicole, born April 23, 2018.

13 Kathryn Lech Love and Mychal Love, Kansas City, Missouri, Mycah, born June 29, 2017; and Emmett, born April 19, 2019.

In Memoriam

21 Jennie Kunz Hunger, Duluth, Minnesota, Nov. 16, 1995.

37 MaryBeth Carpenter Evans, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Oct. 15, 2019.

38 Betty White Liston, Independence, Missouri, June 7, 2019.

41 Myron Hershey, Independence, Missouri, Oct. 27, 2019.

42 Manon Snow Page, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 8, 2019.

46 Juanita Beitz Nordeen, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 6, 2019. **Rosalee Smith Elser**, Independence, Missouri, July 4, 2007.

47 Doris Miller Cook, Dearborn, Michigan, April 25, 2018. **Joyce Beitz Swails**, St. Charles, Missouri, July 13, 2019.

48 Bonny Haferkamp Briggs, Independence, Missouri, July 4, 2019. **Elizabeth (Bettie) Sage Darton**, Rutland, Virginia, Aug. 21, 2019. **Thomas Harshman**, Grand Junction, Colorado, Aug. 12, 2019. **Stanley Johnson**, Bremerton, Washington, May 29, 2019.

49 Bonnie Brooks Cash, Decatur, Illinois, July 10, 2019. **Charlotte Engle Reynolds**, Liberty, Missouri, March 14, 2019. **Mavis Meredith Stewart**, Charleston, South Carolina, July 31, 2014. **Robert Stewart**, Charleston, South Carolina, July 24, 2019.

John Wallace, Rogers, Arkansas, July 26, 2019.

50 Marvin Schultz, Kalispell, Montana, Oct. 8, 2019.

51 Edwin Marlowe, Grain Valley, Missouri, Aug. 15, 2019. **John Roberts Jr.**, Columbus, Ohio, June 3, 2019. **Joseph Thrutchley**, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Aug. 21, 2019.

52 George DeLapp, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 20, 2018. **Carolyn Brooner Hedrick**, Bolingbrook, Illinois, Feb. 6, 2019. **Marven Jones**, Bourbonnais, Illinois, June 23, 2019. **Roger Ratcliffe**, Lafayette, Indiana, Jan. 5, 2018. **Kenneth Simpson**, Independence, Missouri, July 28, 2019.

53 Marilyn Mann Carlson, Harcourt, Iowa, Dec. 6, 2018. **Robin Duff**, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, May 27, 2019. **Charles Jones**, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 10, 2019. **Paul Palmer**, Independence, Missouri, Nov. 3, 2019.

56 Marlene Buchanan Brunner, Akron, Ohio, April 8, 2019. **Muriel McPherson Daugherty**, Raytown, Missouri, Sept. 13, 2019. **Patricia Nelson Herring**, La Jolla, California, 2017. **Charlotte Morgan**, Urbandale, Iowa, Sept. 9, 2019. **Jean Wainwright Nelson**, Samish Island, Washington, Nov. 4, 2018. **Joan Stacker Sharkey**, Independence, Missouri, Oct. 8, 2019. **Thomas Scherer**, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, Nov. 2, 2019.

57 Gail Nevill, Austin, Texas, Oct. 13, 2019.

58 William Main, Seattle, Washington, June 17, 2019.

59 Alice Chapin Crosby, Midland, Michigan, July 2, 2019. **David Draper**, Shelter Island, Florida, May 8, 2013. **Lyla Kubeil Dudley**, Medowie, New South Wales, Australia, Sept. 6, 2016. **Norman Dudley**, Medowie, New South Wales, Australia, Nov. 6, 2016. **Leo Gussman**, Independence, Missouri, March 26, 2012. **Gary Heaviland**, Jefferson City, Missouri, March 14, 2019. **Jack Holdren**, Pueblo, Colorado, Sept. 5, 2004. **Donna Booker McCauley**, Mobile, Alabama, Dec. 28, 2018. **Jeanette Quick Thomas**,



BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT Alumni spotlight stories, regularly featured on Graceland's website, highlight alumni who are impacting the world in meaningful and interesting ways. Have a story to tell? Email alumni@graceland.edu, or visit graceland.edu/alumnispotlights, where you can submit your information and read the latest spotlights.

Oak Grove, Missouri, June 19, 2019.

60 Margy Hamilton Harbstreit, Richardson, Texas, Sept. 4, 2019.

61 Valliera Hampton McGuire-Myers, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 3, 2019. **Arnold Walker**, Independence, Missouri, July 29, 2019.

62 Judy Beckett Carter, Columbia, Missouri, April 7, 2019.

64 Terry Dobson, Terre Haute, Indiana, Dec. 31, 2008. **Michael McKay**, Raytown, Missouri, Oct. 5, 2019. **Cheryl Stover**, Independence, Missouri, March 24, 2019.

65 Glenn Brush, Lamoni, Iowa, July 28, 2019.

67 Rick Flanery, Walnut Cove, North Carolina, Aug. 7, 2019. **Dale Flynn**, Kalamazoo, Michigan, April 10, 2019. **Ralph Jensen II**, Stockton, California, Aug. 27, 2019.

68 Ronald Ruhlman, Transfer, Pennsylvania, Oct. 17, 2019.

69 Cheryl Neville Brown, Painesville, Ohio, March 23, 2017. **William Farrand**, St. Petersburg, Florida, Feb. 13, 2014.

70 Raberta Custer Mitchell, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Oct. 13, 2019. **Janelle Payne Hetherington**, Cottage Grove, Oregon, July 14, 2019.

71 Judy Haslee Scott, Aurora, Colorado, January 2019.

72 James Hetherington, Cottage Grove, Oregon, Sept. 13, 2019. **Mary Sharrar Hunter**, Libertyville, Illinois, July 6, 2019.

74 Irene Thompson Davis, Kansas City, Missouri, June 24, 2019.

76 LaVerne Smith Glendenning, Mount Ayr, Iowa, July 1, 2019. **Lori Chandler Thomas**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, Oct. 5, 2019.

80 Joseph Carney Jr., Leawood, Kansas, Dec. 2, 2017. **Mike Christenson**, Independence, Missouri, Dec. 16, 2017. **Barbara McKain**, Leon, Iowa, March 3, 2019.

83 Verla Shinabarger Hart, Lee's Summit, Missouri, June 24, 2019.

93 Angela Gould Brenton, Windermere, Florida, June 20, 2019.

94 Carol Day Weeks, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 26, 2016.

99 Linda McLaughlin Jones, Clive, Iowa, Feb. 8, 2010.

19 Whitney Ronk, Woodbine, Iowa, June 16, 2019.

Policies

- Submissions are included as space permits, and may be edited for length or clarity.
- Send high resolution digital photos: minimum 300 dpi or 1,200 pixels on the shortest side.

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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