

HORIZONS

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY



P3-15

50 YEARS

Graceland NURSING

Past, Present and Future

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The Tradition of Excellence

When I joined Graceland in 2017, I was acutely aware of the tradition of excellence that has existed as a part of this university's DNA. One area that has been a shining example of that excellence for more than 50 years is the nursing program.

Initiated in 1910 as a partnership with the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital Diploma School of Nursing, the Graceland nursing program's heritage dates back almost as far as the university itself. In the 1968-69 academic year, a brave group of junior students enrolled as Graceland's first class of Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) candidates, graduating two years later in 1971.

As we celebrate the 50th year of that class, I am inspired by the rich legacy our nursing students and faculty have brought to Graceland over the years. The brave and big thinking of people like Margaret McKeit, the first chair of the Division of Nursing and former trustee; Dr. Barbara Higdon, Graceland's president from 1984-91; and Dr. Sherri Kirkpatrick, Graceland's first Vice President and Dean of Nursing, laid a path for future generations of nursing students and for Graceland's community.


We reflect on the past and stand in the present of our nursing program, well-aware that the future before us is one that will challenge us in new ways. We are inspired to conceive new and creative visions in allied health and other areas in which Graceland can continue to grow to meet the increasing needs of the community we serve and in the world we live.

Look how far we've come since the Graceland University School of Nursing first offered a bachelor's degree! Our distance learning program led the way for existing nurses seeking to earn their BSN. Thousands of students from around the country have participated in our online programs over the years, and nursing students now have the ability to not only pursue their master's degree, but they can now get their Doctor of Nursing Practice degree through Graceland's only available doctoral program.

With all we've accomplished over the past 50 years, I am so excited to see what the next 50 years might bring as we continue to innovate and lead the way — not just in nursing, but in all Graceland's academic programs.

Patricia H. Draves

Patricia H. Draves, PhD
President

 @GracelandUPres

ON THE COVER Current nursing student Patrick Kirk and School of Nursing Dean Sharon Little-Stoetzel were selected for this issue's cover, honoring the legacy of the Graceland University School of Nursing and its nationwide and global impact on the health care field.

50

YEARS OF

Graceland

NURSING

A History of Innovation. A Present of Leadership. A Future of Excellence.

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY'S HISTORY AS AN INSTITUTION FOR EDUCATING NURSES

DATES BACK MORE THAN 50 YEARS. Originally a diploma program that was a partnership with the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital, Graceland's nursing program has been a leader for decades. 1968 - 69 marked the first cohort of students in the baccalaureate program and, 50 years later, the nursing program continues to produce graduates who are empathetic, committed to patient care and among the most respected in the profession.

A TIMELINE

History of Graceland Nursing

199

The number of students who completed the diploma nursing program at the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital prior to the initiation of Graceland's baccalaureate program.



1



2

Oh, the nostalgia

In preparation for this issue, we found a collection of old photos of the nursing program through the years. To view more photos, visit: graceland.edu/Horizons



4



3



5



6



7

1909

Sponsoring church Community of Christ (then RLDS) opens the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital ("the San") less than 50 yards from where Graceland's Independence campus currently resides.

1970

McKevit Manor is initiated as the residence hall "house" for nursing students in Independence.

1910

The Independence Sanitarium and Hospital opens a school of nursing.

1973

Graceland's Independence campus, now called the Independence Education Center, is moved from the San to 9900 E. Winner Road.

1960

At the Community of Christ (then RLDS) World Conference, the church affirms its interest in extending the Graceland campus to Independence with the desire to provide a bachelor's degree in nursing.

1987

Graceland establishes a distance learning RN-BSN program, the first national accredited program of its kind.

1965

Nelle Morgan, director of the San's diploma nursing program, receives a grant to fund an investigation in creating a bachelor's degree, and Margaret McKevit is selected as project director for the study.

1993

Graceland's Independence Education Center moves to the Central Professional Building at 221 W. Lexington on the Independence Square.

1994

Sherri Kirkpatrick is promoted to vice president and dean of nursing, becoming Graceland's first vice president to be located on the Independence campus.

1967

The Board of Trustees of the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital vote to make its clinical facilities available to Graceland.

1995

Graceland begins offering a Master of Science in Nursing degree, the first master's degree Graceland offers.

1968

Graceland president William T. Higdon announces the creation of a baccalaureate degree program in nursing. Students were to complete two years at the Lamoni campus, then pursue their last two years of technical and lab coursework at the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital.

1997

Construction begins on Graceland's permanent Independence campus location at 1401 W. Truman Road.

1998

Construction is completed on the Independence campus.

Margaret McKevit becomes the first person to chair Graceland's Division of Nursing.

2011

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program enrolls its first cohort.

1969

Graceland's nursing major attracts 70 students, as juniors first enroll in the baccalaureate program in Independence.

2017

Graceland adds a Master of Science in Nursing in adult gerontology and acute care nursing practice.

1 Nurses enrolled in the school of nursing at the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital. 2 Associate Professor of Nursing Paula Cokington, RN, MSN, and students Joseph Carney '79 and Kathleen Frazier '80. 3 THE GRACELAND NURSING PIN was designed by Iola Tordoff. The first 12 students received their nursing pins in May 1971. 4 GRACELAND'S INDEPENDENCE EDUCATION CENTER (IEC), Winner Road location. 5 Nursing students studying at IEC, 1980. 6 THE NURSES PINNING CEREMONY signifies the completion of academic requirements and the preparation for service in the profession. Kirkpatrick awards the nursing pin, 1996. 7 An architectural rendering showing the north elevation of the INDEPENDENCE CAMPUS. The contractor selected to oversee construction was J.E. Dunn of Kansas City. The estimated cost was \$8.5 million, with funding from operations and a bonds issue.



Looking Back

There are very few people who impacted the history of Graceland's nursing program more than **SHERRI KIRKPATRICK, PhD.**

A 1965 graduate of Graceland's associate degree program, Kirkpatrick never wanted to be anything but a nurse. In the pre-baccalaureate days, that meant she had to leave Lamoni and transfer to the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital, affectionately referred to by those who knew it as "The San," in Independence, Missouri.

In the years since receiving her associate degree, Kirkpatrick received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at California State, her master's degree at the University of Kansas, then was a member of the first PhD nursing class at Kansas as well.

She was working at Truman Medical Center and was about to take a job at the University of Kansas Medical Center when Graceland came calling. In 1980, she joined the nursing faculty. Six years later, she was named chair of the nursing division and then was appointed vice president and dean of nursing in 1994. With the exception of a three-year

appointment as vice president of institutional advancement, she served in various nursing capacities until retiring from Graceland in 2009.

Kirkpatrick's tenure at Graceland was exciting. In 1987, she and Graceland president Barbara Higdon received a postcard from a company called AIS out of Roanoke, Virginia, with an invitation for Graceland to partner with them on a distance learning program for nurses that would allow existing registered nurses (RNs) to pursue a BSN.

In 1988, Graceland became the nation's first nationally accredited distance education RN to BSN program. Kirkpatrick remembers how difficult the process was. She leaned a lot on her mentor, Dr. Patricia Moccia, who was then the executive director of the National League for Nursing. "I remember Pat told me that if we didn't pursue a combined accreditation for both our existing face-to-face programs and our new distance learning program, we would regret it," Kirkpatrick recalls. "It was a lot more work. I had to drive up from Kansas City to present to the Iowa Board of Nursing in the middle of a blizzard."

The distance education program was a bigger success than they ever imagined — innovative and inarguably popular — but it was also extremely inefficient. "We were enrolling 1,000 to 2,000 students a month, and since this was pre-computer, our enrollment cards were organized in a shoebox." Students had to mail in their assignments to be graded by the faculty in Independence. They had to arrange proctors to take their exams. So, naturally, when classes began to move online, the program moved there as well, creating a much better environment for students and faculty.

Kirkpatrick oversaw the School of Nursing's operations, and as the program's needs changed, so did their location. Graceland's Independence campus moved three times during her tenure before ultimately settling in the building on Truman Road where the campus now resides.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

Despite her retirement in 2009, Kirkpatrick is still a fixture on the Independence campus. HealthEd Connect, the 501(c)3 charity she co-founded with her husband, Jac, has offices in the administrative section of the Independence campus. HealthEd Connect trains health workers and builds community centers and schools in developing nations like Zambia, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Nepal.

When Kirkpatrick talks about her work with HealthEd Connect, her face lights up. Former Graceland president John Sellars was the one who really gave her the push. "Your life has been a dress rehearsal for this," he told her.

Kirkpatrick remains invested in Graceland's success and sees the future of the School of Nursing as critical to the growth of the university.



Kirkpatrick doesn't seem like a typical retired nurse and educator. She still travels around the world with HealthEd Connect and just completed her book, *You've Settled in My Heart*, which contains stories of the amazing people she's met around the world.

**Ivory recalls
some advice
she received
from one of
her Graceland
instructors:
“It takes a nurse
to save your life.’
I am the eyes at
the bedside for
the doctors...
That has stuck
with me
throughout
my career.”**



Taking Care

KRISHELLE IVORY '10 knew early on that she wanted to work with kids. What she couldn't decide was whether to be an educator or a nurse.

Ultimately, nursing won out, though, with a grandmother who was a nurse and a grandfather who was a doctor, health care comes pretty naturally to her.

Now, she works as a nurse practitioner for a St. Joseph's Care Clinic at Avila University, and, in some ways, her desire to be an educator is influencing how she takes care of her patients.

After graduating from Graceland's Lamoni campus in 2010 with a health degree, Ivory moved to Kansas City and pursued her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at the Independence campus, completing her nursing undergraduate education in 2012. She also began working at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, pursuing that goal of working with kids.

"When you're working with kids, sometimes you're working with patients who are born into a health situation that they can't control, so you're educating the parents on how to maintain that child's health," she said, comparing it to her current work with patients of all ages. "As an adult, your health is on you. I want the best health for you, but ultimately, you have to want it for yourself as well."

As a nurse at Children's Mercy, Ivory worked on a med surgical floor, often with children who had issues with their respiratory system. She remembered one incident with a child who suffered from cardiac arrest, which was ultimately fatal, but the nursing team was able to keep the child alive a few days longer than was expected.

"After the child passed away," Ivory recalls, "his mother came to the hospital and found me and gave me the biggest hug. She told me how much it meant to her that I was his nurse and how much she appreciated getting just a little bit more time with her child." The child's mother gave Ivory a memento of their time together that serves as a constant reminder.

In her career, Ivory's mantra is pretty straightforward: "I just want people to feel their best."

"If you come to me and tell me what's going on, I want to fix it," she continues. When I'm working with kids who aren't feeling their best, I try really hard to get them to be themselves again."

Ivory recalls some advice she received from one of her Graceland instructors that has stuck with her in the years since: "It takes a nurse to save your life. I am the eyes at the bedside for the doctors. I assess and must have the knowledge to point out when something doesn't seem right. That has stuck with me throughout my career," Ivory said.

"People come to me not feeling their best. I'm here to be a voice for them, to be an advocate for them, to get them back to feeling their best. I'm going to be diligent about that. I take this very seriously. My patients trust me."

Her work ethic and perseverance can be tracked back to her time at Graceland, where she played soccer, served on house council and, in her words, "participated in everything she could." The experiences she had at Graceland have stayed with her, helping her to organize and manage her time through the busy schedule that she keeps. Ivory completed her master's in nursing in 2018 and is looking forward to taking a well-deserved break from school, for a while at the very least.

Ivory loves exploring new restaurants in Kansas City and traveling around the globe with her husband, but, no matter how far from Graceland she travels, it always goes with her. Last year, while in Amsterdam, Ivory ran into a Graceland graduate who turned out to be the sister of one of her soccer teammates. "The Graceland community is strong," Ivory laughs. "We as a community just need to keep growing and embracing others. *Graceland forever.*"

THE NUMBERS



The job placement rate for students who have completed Graceland's nursing program.

5,432

The number of nurses Graceland has graduated since the baccalaureate nursing program began in 1969.

*Data provided by the Graceland University Institutional Research Office

Beyond Basic Training

Even in his early 20s, **PATRICK KIRK '19** has already had a great deal of experience in the health care field, which he has used to his benefit in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at Graceland's Independence campus.

Patrick graduated from high school in 2013 and began college at the University of Central Missouri (UCH) as a criminal justice major, but he quickly determined it wasn't for him. He wanted a career in which he could work directly with people, one that was more "hands-on." He just wasn't sure yet what path to take.

So, he enlisted in the Army National Guard in February 2014 and signed up as a combat medic. In his initial 30 weeks in the National Guard, he earned his EMT license and discovered a passion. Once he returned to civilian life, Kirk re-enrolled in UCM to complete his nursing prerequisites in August 2015, and he began working as a health care tech at the University of Kansas (KU) Medical Center, where he still works today. "I love the hands-on aspect of the job and the ability to make a direct impact," Patrick shared.

From these experiences, he realized he wanted to stay in the health care field and knew that, for him, it would be in nursing. He looked at a lot of programs but, ultimately, decided on Graceland because it was close to home, it was a shorter program at just 18 months, and it lined up really well with the courses he had already taken at UCM. Additionally, he was impressed with the professionalism of the people he interacted with at Graceland as he was considering programs, and he had a familiarity with and confidence in the university because his mom also graduated from Graceland's nursing program.

Patrick was accepted to the Graceland University School of Nursing in February 2017, which he planned to begin that June. However, life had something else in store for him first.

To this point, the National Guard had required a couple weeks of training in the summer and one weekend a month. So, it came as a bit of a surprise when, about the same time he received notice of his acceptance to Graceland, he was informed by the Army that he would be deployed to the Middle East. His enrollment to Graceland would have to be deferred.

During his deployment from April 2017 to March 2018, Patrick was stationed primarily in Jordan, where he had the opportunity to work directly with military doctors and nurse practitioners, and he received a solid foundation in the

medical field. He says of the experience, "looking back, it definitely set me up for success."

Patrick got home in March 2018 and started at Graceland in June. He recognizes the difficulty of the program and leans heavily on his medical background to get him through the challenges he faces.

"I've had experiences where I've made a direct impact on people's lives — people I'll never see again — and being able to say that, I think it's cool on its own."

"I've had experiences where I've made a direct impact on people's lives — people I'll never see again — and being able to say that, I think it's cool on its own. But, for me, I always want to be the kind of person who's moving forward. That's what has motivated me in the past and will continue to motivate me in the future," said Patrick.

His experience and ambition serve him and those around him well. He is the president of McKevit Manor's class of 2019 — the nursing program's branch of Graceland's "house" system. It is a peer-elected role that Patrick sees as a position of advocacy.

Patrick has used his voice as class president to advocate for additional training in APA style formatting when

students voiced that they did not yet feel they had the foundation required to be successful in their program. He worked with faculty and staff, who helped make APA training available to Independence nursing students through faculty connections on the Lamoni campus.

In this and other ways, Patrick recognizes that Graceland's faculty promote and support student success. He says they take the extra steps to accommodate student learning and foster an environment that creates great nurses.

"It's an environment where they definitely want you to succeed," he shared. "Because when we succeed, Graceland succeeds."

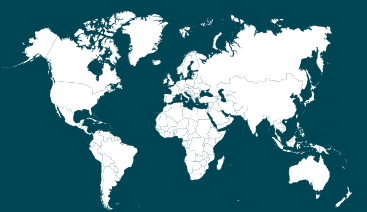
Patrick will complete his obligation to the National Guard in February 2020 and then plans to focus on his civilian career. With his experience in trauma and emergency medicine as a combat medic, he can see himself going into an ICU or ER setting. He also has the desire to continue education beyond his BSN at some point in the future — he is looking into nurse practitioner programs — and would like the opportunity to further his education at Graceland.



THE NUMBERS

1,524

The number of students Graceland has graduated from its master's level programs since launching in 1997.



41

U.S. STATES

3

COUNTRIES

2

U.S. TERRITORIES

Graceland School of Nursing graduates have enrolled from all over the world.

*Data provided by the Graceland University Institutional Research Office



MILITARY FRIENDLY Graceland was chosen for this designation "based on the programs available for military service members, veterans and military spouses, and exceeds benchmark standards" for a variety of criteria.



Next Steps

CHRISTINA KOCH '20 always knew she wanted to work in health care, even if she wasn't certain which field.

It just always stood to reason that, as someone who wanted to help and make a difference in people's lives, providing access to the most basic human need — health — was going to be for her.

"I've always wanted to use the opportunity of a college education to help people who need it the most," she shared.

Christina is considered a "legacy" student at Graceland — her grandmother, father and sister all attended. She is a member of the sponsoring church, and she already knew several students through Spectacular and other Community of Christ camps before becoming a student herself.

She looked at a few other schools and did college visits during high school, but she visited Graceland's Lamoni campus three times during her senior year.

"I was drawn to Graceland in a way I can't really explain," shared Christina. "But I guess now that I'm here, I can explain it. It's because of the great community and the people I'm surrounded with every day, the opportunities to meet new people, the amazing faculty — *the faculty are awesome here!* — and all of the ability to be involved in so many different things. You can't have that at a bigger school."

Even though Christina knew she would attend Graceland and had always wanted to work in health care, she hadn't yet determined how the two would come together. She began her Graceland career undecided in her major and did not declare nursing until her sophomore year. This means she has had to spend three years on the Lamoni campus instead of just two for nursing students who declare their first year — but she has been grateful for the extra time.

Christina is heavily involved in campus life. She is the Afterglow band coordinator this year; she serves on Campus Ministries; she's in choir, orchestra, percussion ensemble, and she takes piano; she is also in science club and president of the newly formed nursing club. Christina sees these experiences as an advantage as she moves into the nursing program and, ultimately, a career as a nurse.

“I’m going to be exposed to new things that I’ve never seen before. I’m going to be seeing gross things and really cool things and just amazing things that modern medicine can do. And while I’m very sad to be leaving here, I’m prepared.”

THE NUMBERS

4x

There are four times as many registered nurses in the U.S. than physicians.

*Source: American Association of Colleges of Nursing

2022

By this year, there will be far more registered nurse (RN) jobs available than any other profession.

*Source: American Nurses Association

1.1 MILLION

The projected number of new RNs needed for expansion and replacement of retirees to avoid a nursing shortage.

*Source: American Nurses Association

Like other health care careers, a well-rounded liberal arts education benefits nursing students too.

Christina chose nursing because it seemed to fit her best: “It requires school, but not too much; you get a lot of patient interaction, and you can specialize in anything,” she explained. As of now, Christina hopes to become a nurse anesthetist (CRNA).

Over summer and winter breaks, Christina volunteers at St. Clare Health Center in Fenton, Missouri, where she stocks the anesthesia store rooms and helps turn over the operating rooms after surgeries. Then, on slow days, she gets to sit in on surgeries with the CRNA on duty. “It’s amazing,” she expressed.

She radiates with excitement as she talks of what’s to come. Her smile can hardly be contained, and there’s delight in her voice. She also recognizes that when she gets into clinical settings, she could find another passion. So, she is keeping her options open.

As she makes her way through her final semester in Lamoni, she says it finally feels real. “I’m actually going to go and become a nurse, and that terrifies and excites me,” she says. “Because I know that the class load is going to be very difficult, and I’m going to have to get up very early,” she laughs, “but I also know that I’m going to be working in a hospital, and I’m going to be learning about pathophysiology and all of these things that I’ve been just yearning to know for the past three years.”

“I’m going to be exposed to new things that I’ve never seen before. I’m going to be seeing gross things and really cool things and just amazing things that modern medicine can do. And while I’m very sad to be leaving here, I’m prepared.”

Christina’s next stop is the Graceland University School of Nursing in Independence, Missouri. She will be joined by several of her Lamoni-campus classmates, and she is excited to maintain the support system they have created for each other throughout this journey. But most of all, she looks forward to days filled with surgeries and the opportunity to brighten people’s days when they’re not feeling well.



VITAL KNOWLEDGE Nursing Club partnered with Science Club to bring School of Nursing Independence-campus faculty to the Lamoni campus to teach students how to take vitals.

Nursing Club

The first nursing club at Graceland began 40 years ago during the 1979-80 school year and was an option for student involvement for about six years. Now, 33 years later, nursing club has made its way back into student life on the Lamoni campus. President Christina Koch '20 explains that the purpose of the club is to help bridge the gap between the Lamoni pre-nursing students and the nursing faculty and program on the Independence campus.

So far, the club has identified several things they would like to do to become more prepared for their next step: nursing school. Club members plan to tour a hospital and Graceland’s Independence campus, where the School of Nursing is housed, and meet current nursing students to get an inside look into what’s to come. They also hope to identify opportunities that will help them in taking the TEAS exam, which is required to obtain admission into a nursing program. Earlier this year, the club partnered with the science club to bring Graceland nursing faculty to the Lamoni campus and teach students to take vitals, a new skill for nearly all of them.

Christina already sees benefits. She notes that Graceland nursing faculty have become more connected with Lamoni-campus faculty teaching courses required for pre-nursing students, bringing awareness to the rigor the students will face once they enter a nursing program.

Not the least of the benefits is the additional connection to fellow students. This year, all 10 pre-nursing students who applied to get into Graceland’s School of Nursing were accepted. This means that, for students who connect through the club and then choose to go into the program, the transition from one Graceland campus to the other can be eased by the fact that they will be making it together.



STUDY IN ACTION Students work together, applying what they've learned in class to their labwork.

The Path of Discovery

Graceland students who have gone through the **PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS** on the Lamoni campus have a history of success as they take the next steps in their career path.

It has been said among the faculty of these programs that 100 percent of qualified students get into a continuing program, which seems to be true even through to the class of 2018.

These students — who major in biology, chemistry (with a biology minor), or a double-major in both — have many career options through continuing degree programs: Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Doctor of Dental Surgery, Doctor of Dental Medicine, Doctor of Optometry, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine ... to name a few.

These programs are very competitive, but Graceland graduates seem to have an edge.

Bob Pranaat '06 attended Oregon Health Science University in Portland and is now in his residency in anesthesiology in Rochester, New York. When he asked the question "why me?" he was informed that his student-life experience made him stand out.

Science Department faculty Dan Pratt and Jeff Draves agree. They recognize the value that comes from broad experiences, which leads to well-rounded applicants; and they acknowledge that Graceland fosters an environment in which science majors — and all students — are not only allowed but encouraged to take part in a variety of activities.

"We work together as a campus to make those opportunities happen; that's a big deal," said professor of chemistry Jeff Draves, PhD.

It may seem counterintuitive, as Draves points out that many pre-professional students at institutions around the world give up a lot to concentrate on their coursework.

Pre-Professional Studies

These science-based programs prepare students for the following career fields:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Chiropractic | Optometry |
| Dentistry | Pharmacy |
| Forensic Science | Physical Therapy |
| Medicine | Veterinary Medicine |
| Occupational Therapy | |

But becoming a doctor — or a dentist, or an optometrist, or a veterinarian — often requires much more than knowledge in one's particular field.

The people skills that come from student-leadership positions at Graceland can lead to a positive bedside manner, and playing a team sport during college can translate to great cooperation and trust among one's surgical team.

The environment at Graceland provides much more than just individual experiences that prepare pre-professional students for their next steps, however. Professor of Chemistry Dan Pratt, PhD, explains that the students in these programs are more than classmates — they're friends.

"They've been in most classes together for four years, done activities together, played sports together, done house functions together ... They're a family, and they make me want to come to work every day," said Pratt.

Draves agrees and notes, "Nothing in this building is easy," referring to Resch Science and Technology Hall. "These students spend a lot of time struggling together, working together and trying to help each other out; and they do a really good job of that."

Draves describes the mindset of the students as one from which they get better as individuals by pushing their classmates to be better. "It's a competition of 'how do I get better,' not a competition of 'how do I beat you?'" he explained. And it does, in fact, make them better.

Graceland pre-professional students do continue to beat out other students for spots in competitive programs, and many have gone on to make exceptional strides. It is clear that Graceland's impact in the health care industry goes well beyond just nursing; graduates are using their Graceland experience to do so much more.


18.7%

The projected employment growth in science and engineering occupations during the period 2010-2020, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*Source: National Science Foundation

Doctors, dentists and vets, oh my!

These alumni have taken advantage of the strong foundation provided by their academic experiences to pursue careers in the health sciences.

Brett Jagger '04 | LaPorte, Indiana | MAJOR Biology

AT GRACELAND
Speaker of the Senate, Agape House Senator, Treasurer, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra

BEYOND GRACELAND Received MD from Indiana University and PhD from University of Cambridge/NIH; completed Internal Medicine Residency and Infectious Disease Fellowship at Barnes-Jewish Hospital/Washington University in St. Louis; will begin July 1 as Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine.

Paloma Ortiz '05 Montijo | Guaynabo, Puerto Rico | MAJOR Biology

AT GRACELAND
Paloma House, Track and Field, Polynesian Club, International Club

BEYOND GRACELAND Received MS in Forensic Science with emphases in forensic pathology, forensic DNA and forensic entomology from Emporia State University; worked as Medical Legal Investigator and Forensic Pathologist Assistant with Shawnee County Coroner's Office; currently working as Forensic Pathologist Assistant/Coroner's Assistant for both Shawnee County Office and Frontier Forensics Midwest in Kansas City, Kansas.

Tim Silegy, DDS, '86

was a biology major at Graceland, who was also involved in theatre and football. Silegy is now an oral surgeon in Long Beach, California, and is certified by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He was featured as the first oral and maxillofacial surgeon on the popular show "Extreme Makeover" in 2005 when he performed corrective jaw surgery on a young patient.

In addition to his practice, Silegy teaches continuing education courses to health care professionals throughout the country and has even traveled to Latin America on medical missions to help the impoverished.



Brooke Johnson '04 Wright | Clive, Iowa | MAJOR Biology

AT GRACELAND
Solah House, Tennis, Softball, Intramural Sports

BEYOND GRACELAND Worked as Autopsy Technician; completed medical school at Des Moines University; completed emergency medicine residency in Columbus, Ohio; currently an Emergency Medicine Physician for UnityPoint in Des Moines (Methodist, Methodist West, Lutheran); Camp doctor for Spectacular

Sarah Balik '11 | Cresco, Iowa | MAJOR Biology

AT GRACELAND
Sariah House President, Crescent, Honors Program, Choir, Indoor Track, Volleyball

BEYOND GRACELAND Accepted early into veterinary school at Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine; currently practices mixed-animal medicine in Northeast Iowa.

Leading the Way

A Conversation with Graceland's Deans of the School of Nursing

“It takes gutsy people to be nurses.”

MARGARET McKEVIT



LEFT TO RIGHT Margaret McKevit , Michele Gerdes, Jolene Lynn, Sharon Little-Stoetzel

Past

It's impossible to talk about the history of Graceland's nursing program without mentioning **Margaret McKevit '55**, Graceland's first chair of the nursing division and the one person who probably had more to do with its initiation as a baccalaureate program in the 1968-69 school year than anyone.

McKevit's name is all over the nursing program, including as the namesake for McKevit Manor, the "house" all nursing students have been a part of since 1970. Her memory of that early time is sharp, and she easily recalls the names of students and faculty members in conversation with the *Horizons* team.

"The students who entered the program in 1968 had enough faith to take the risk," McKevit remembers. "It takes gutsy people to be nurses, and those first students and faculty members were gutsy."

McKevit's tenure with Graceland lasted from 1966 to 1976, when she left to join the faculty at Louisiana State University. She served on Graceland's Board of Trustees from 1980 to 1994, and she served for six years on the board at the San. However, McKevit's involvement did not end there, and her tenacity, which led to the program's success, is evident in her passion for Graceland's School of Nursing even now.

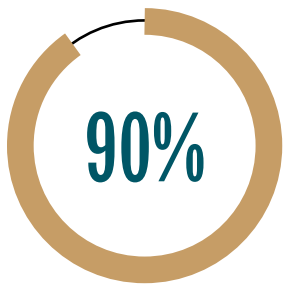
Present

Graceland's School of Nursing leadership added a few new faces in 2018. Despite the newness to their roles, these three women have decades of experience as nurses and educators, and their leadership will continue to help position Graceland nursing students to be among the most sought-after in the country. The *Horizons* team sat down with **Sharon Little-Stoetzel, RN, PhD, CCRP**; **Jolene Lynn, RN, PhD**; and **Michele Gerdes, RN, MSN, CNE**, to talk about their own history as well as their vision for the future of nursing at Graceland.

The newest face in the group is Michele Gerdes, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs for the School of Nursing. Gerdes is a second-degree nurse with a background in human resources and finance. She joined Graceland last May and is currently pursuing her doctor of education in nursing education. She is soft-spoken and thoughtful, and she brings a new perspective to the program.

As a nurse and then a nurse educator in the Kansas City area, Gerdes became aware of Graceland long before she joined the staff. "I came here to do some of my educator practicum hours with Dr. (Barb) Voshall and Dean (Sharon) Little-Stoetzel," Gerdes remembers, "and I wanted to be on the faculty ever since — the faculty here have a great reputation of working really well together."

The excellence and collegial nature of Graceland's faculty is something all three deans agree on. Lynn is in her second year on the School of Nursing faculty and her first as the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs. She knew retired dean Claudia Horton as well as several other faculty members. "In the interview, everyone was so welcoming and I really liked that," she said.



The first-time NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) pass rate for students in Graceland's nursing program.



Little-Stoetzel's time at Graceland dates back to the late 1990s. "We had just moved here, and I met Carol Goodyear-Bruch, who told me, 'You've gotta come teach at Graceland.' I really wanted to teach in a BSN program, and that was the first I'd ever heard of Graceland," Little-Stoetzel recounts. "And when I met Sherri (Kirkpatrick, former Vice President and Dean of the School of Nursing), I thought to myself, 'Now this is the dean I want to work for.'"

Little-Stoetzel has been with Graceland since 1998, save a three-year hiatus, and remembers Graceland's pre-internet distance learning nursing program, which started under Kirkpatrick in 1988.

"I had my gradebook on a floppy disk," she laughs. "Every day, you would go to the mailroom and get your stack of exams to grade. I tell you, I wouldn't believe it if I didn't live it myself." But Kirkpatrick's vision paired with the leadership of then-president Barbara Higdon positioned Graceland as one of the national leaders in developing nurses.

Gerdes came from a competitor school and recounted, "We always knew that our main competition was Graceland, and it was really difficult to compete because the students are known for their character — how much they really care about people in general, how well they give holistic care to patients, how they interact with the staff. I can pretty much point them out when I walk onto a floor. They always have the highest grades, the highest NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) scores. They were the ones to aspire to be."

Little-Stoetzel attributes the history of student success to the faculty's support for each other and their ability to work together. "We focus not only on students passing their certifications and licensing exams — which is very important, they have to get their license — but we also make sure that we produce good nurses."

What makes a good nurse?

The current deans gave several answers: Good nurses need to be able to think for themselves, they need to communicate, they need to know their resources, and to make their patients feel safe. They all also indicated that one of the most important aspects is **INTERPERSONAL SKILLS**. That's what patients remember.

Future

As the nursing profession has progressed over the decades, the emphasis has changed due to an aging population and the need for nurses to simply know more. "New graduates today are probably handling the same kinds of stressors and factors that seasoned critical care nurses handled maybe 30 years ago," Gerdes stated.

The need for a flexible learning environment has positioned Graceland well as a nimble organization that helps prepare students for a society in desperate need of experienced nurses, especially in the acute care (hospital) environment.

Lynn stated, "I think in 2008, when the economy tanked, nursing became really popular again. There was job security. But when the economy improved — nursing is still mostly women, something like 93 percent are women — women had other choices rather than being nurses, so I think that it changed back."

The rapid changes in society and the increasing connectedness of technology opens up potential for new opportunities in telehealth and other new avenues. Gerdes said the new generation of nurses are well-positioned for these advancements because of their experience interacting with technology. "They'll be better at reading people's body language over the internet by maybe seeing little micro-expressions that we might not see because we're not used to doing that all the time," she said.

But even with those changes in technology and environments, interpersonal skills remain one of the most important competencies that nurses need. Lynn says it very simply: "Nursing is very personal."

Little-Stoetzel concluded, "That's what people want: good nurses are ones who have interpersonal skills. That's what patients value. Despite all evidence to the contrary, nursing is a caring profession, and we are a key in the health care system."

Gerdes finished, "We have the potential to drive those health care teams in that direction nationally and globally. We really can be the leaders in health care if we want to be."

CREATING GLOBAL CITIZENS

Jonathan Montalvo
Talks New
Hispanic
Studies
Program



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING During the final two weeks of the 2018 summer term, Montalvo and the students enrolled in his hybrid course helped build a school playground near San Juan.

Jonathan Montalvo moved to Indiana from Lares, Puerto Rico, when he was 15 years old. He completed high school there before attending Purdue University and then going on to get his master's degree in Spanish literature from Western Michigan University and his PhD in Hispanic cultural studies from Michigan State University.

Applying for his current role as Assistant Professor of Spanish, he liked Graceland right away. He enjoyed both the size and the sense of community that was apparent from the beginning.

He was intimidated by the idea of being a one-man show — Montalvo is the only faculty member in Graceland's newly transformed Hispanic studies program, but he also saw it as an opportunity — one he has used to nurture a fading program and turn it into a new major with invigorated life, new interest and an increasing number of students.

Montalvo first focused on his approach and introduced a more communicative style of teaching within the existing Spanish minor. He eliminated some classes, created new ones and merged others. He added courses like Hispanic Cinema and Hispanic Literature, which provide a more comprehensive approach to Hispanic studies than traditional courses like Spanish I and II. However, he didn't stop at the classroom doors.

“You cannot base a program on the curriculum only. That is just the first part. Now, this is more than just a language program. We are a program that cares to create global citizens.”

JONATHAN MONTALVO, PhD

“You cannot base a program on the curriculum only,” stated Montalvo. “That is just the first part.” He says that what was missing, and what has since been added, is vision. “Now, this is more than just a language program,” he continues. “We are a program that cares to create global citizens, and a program that allows students to explore other sensitive sides of them and create empathy. There's so much more that we do in the program outside of the curriculum.” And he backs it up.

He has brought speakers to campus on related topics, he taught classes in the dark to bring attention to life as survivors of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, he started a Spanish conversation group that is open to anyone on campus, and he is organizing the second year of an expanding experiential learning opportunity in his home of Puerto Rico.

In this hybrid course, students spend the majority of the summer term doing their studies online. They then get to spend the final two weeks in Puerto Rico. Montalvo states that “it was very important to me for them not only to learn about Puerto Rican culture, but also to serve the community.”

This was a timely initiative, as it coincided with Hurricane Maria, and, even though it felt like a last-minute effort, Montalvo thought, “this is perfect timing.” Five students — exactly the number Montalvo had budgeted for — took part in the course the first year. They were required to do readings on different aspects of Puerto Rican culture through their online curriculum in order to prepare for the actual trip.

Then, once there, they met twice per week to maintain momentum from their online readings, and they also did experiential learning activities and took part in a humanitarian project that helped build a playground for a rural school outside San Juan.

“I wanted to do it because I wanted to help Puerto Rico after the hurricane,” Montalvo recalls. “This coincided with my passion for my own culture, and it was all brought together by the opportunity given to me by Graceland.”



This summer, in its second year, more than twice as many students will take part in the experiential learning opportunity, now with two course options. They will once again visit the Puerto Rican school and continue the work the students began last summer. And, even though this year is still being finalized, Montalvo is already thinking ahead. He has hopes to create a summer camp for Puerto Rican students provided by his own Graceland students in the years to come.

All of this together has meant more opportunities for Graceland students; and they recognize it. When Montalvo first arrived, approximately a dozen students had declared a Spanish minor, and there were only about 20 students enrolled in all of the courses together that Montalvo taught that first semester. The courses were online, and Graceland didn't have opportunities for these students to gain comprehensive experience through their chosen program.

Today, through the work Montalvo has done and the excitement his work has created, the number of students who now enroll in a single class has outgrown the 20 total students he had that first semester. And he's not done.

This year, Graceland approved a new major in Hispanic studies to begin in 2019-20. Montalvo's communicative approach combined with upper-division course offerings anchored in cultural studies makes the Hispanic studies curriculum distinctive from other higher education institutions that offer similar programs. This major is now much more than simply learning Spanish; and with a dynamic professor like Montalvo behind it, it's certain there are more big things to come in this area for future Graceland students.

2018 was a big year for Women's Volleyball Head Coach **STEW McDOLLE '65** — the latest of many, many big years in his 37 seasons coaching the Yellowjackets — and his accomplishments and accolades shine a light on the impact he has had on the volleyball world.

A WINNING philosophy

Most recently, McDole was presented the Outstanding Service Award at the NAIA women's volleyball national championship in December, and during Fall 2019, he was recognized for his dedication and service by American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) professional staff members in their publication on community engagement.

McDole chaired the 2018 NAIA National Volleyball Tournament Committee, he is the Women's Volleyball chair of the Heart of America Athletic Conference (Heart), chair of the Heart Women's Volleyball Rating Committee, the national awards chair for NAIA Women's Volleyball, and the NAIA representative on the AVCA awards committee.

All of these assignments and responsibilities underscore his long history of dedication and success. A 1965 Graceland graduate, McDole completed both a master's and doctorate degree in leisure studies at Indiana University-Bloomington. During the summers while he worked on his degrees, he worked for Graceland's sponsoring church, now Community of Christ, and ran "the campus," where the Temple is now located.

As a boy, McDole had discovered a love for volleyball. He learned by watching and began playing as soon as he had the opportunity. In his role with the church, then, he combined his love for the sport with church members' desire to come together as an engaged community.

He increased the number of courts at the campus and started an end-of-summer tournament that would evolve to become the annual Community of Christ youth summer camp, Spectacular.

McDole eventually returned to "the Hill" as an employee in 1982, where he has served in many roles: faculty, coach and administration. He has been head women's volleyball coach since the beginning, and has experienced tremendous success and received many honors that substantiate his dedication to his passion.

McDole has coached numerous All-Americans and academic All-Americans, and it's easy to see why he continues to be named Heart Coach of the Year when you combine his personal success with the success of his players.

Graceland women's volleyball student-athletes learn and grow in other ways as well — in and out of the classroom and on and off the court. Under McDole's leadership, they become productive and caring citizens, and if you ask him what's most important to both him and his players, he would say "the relationships." Because, for McDole, it's not just about volleyball.

"If we were to ask kid after kid on the team, 'What's your top priority?' what I would expect to hear is academics or family," he shared. "If I ask what their second priority is, I would expect to hear academics or family. If I asked them about their third priority, I would hope that volleyball would start to get in there. And some other people might say 'they're not serious players.' Well, that's not it — they're serious players who have their priorities well-adjusted."

McDole believes his faculty status gives him a perspective that has led to his success in shaping successful volleyball players and world citizens. He also recognizes he is one of a dying breed — a faculty member who coaches a varsity sport. But Graceland and Stew McDole aren't quite ready to part ways. "People ask me, 'When are you going to retire?'" he said. "Well, I could have already, obviously — but I still like it. I like what I do. And right now, I don't see anything that would be more fun."

THE NUMBERS

36

out of 37 seasons McDole has guided the Yellowjackets to the Heart postseason tournament

TWELVE

times McDole has been named Heart Coach of the Year

944-528

overall coaching record held by McDole

NINETEEN

regular preseason or postseason Heart titles won by McDole's teams

#1 IN THE NATION

with 15 WVB student-athletes named 2018 Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes

SEVENTH

consecutive year (2018) the WVB team earned AVCA Team Academic Award

3.697

team GPA, among the top 10 in the NAIA, earning the AVCA Team Academic Honor

LEFT TO RIGHT

Women's volleyball student-athletes Kacie Miyama, Rachel Chavez, Hannah Farley, Caitlin Buchholz and Megan Kneib surround Coach McDole on the Yellowjackets court in Closson Center.





The number of Graceland students who use the facility for a variety of activities.

1969

The year this iconic structure was built.

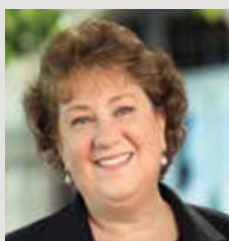
\$5.5 MILLION

The capital investment amount required for each portion of this renovation.

SHIVEHATTERY
ARCHITECTURE+ENGINEERING

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

ABOVE This exterior concept image is a preliminary rendering developed by Shive Hattery.



The Closson Project

With funding for Newcom Student Union nearing completion, we are excited to turn our attention to Graceland's architectural icon:

CLOSSON PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTER.

One of the most uniquely crafted buildings in Iowa, Closson celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. In honor of that anniversary, I am excited to kick off our fundraising efforts to renovate this facility.

Over 95 percent of our students use Closson Center in some way: intramurals, classes, supporting our athletic teams, activities during homecoming and athletic competitions. Over the years, this facility has been the scene of countless moments in Graceland's rich history.

THE ARCHITECT We are excited to partner with architect Shive Hattery on this renovation. The lead designer on the project remembers attending sporting events in Closson as a child and believes it is extremely important to maintain the integrity of the building's unique profile while updating the materials and amenities for the modern age.

THE PLAN & TIMELINE

Shive Hattery's plan is a two-phased approach we hope to begin in the summer of 2020, as soon as we raise the funds needed.

Phase 1 tackles the roof and anything attached to it. A brand-new lighting scheme, badly needed air conditioning for the hot Iowa summers, a modernized sound system and a new scoreboard are just some of the aspects of this phase.

Phase 2 covers virtually everything else. Floors, track, bleachers, concessions, restrooms and more.

FUNDRAISING Each portion of this renovation requires a capital investment of at least \$5.5 million. Graceland alumni and friends continue to be some of the most generous and giving people I have met in my time as president so far. I am excited to invite you to participate in this project.

If you'd like to make a leading gift or want to learn more about the project to renovate Closson, contact the Development Office toll-free at 800.645.3582 or email development@graceland.edu.

This building has always been an important part of Graceland's heritage. I invite you to contribute to this important capital campaign that respects the heritage and will secure the future of this building for generations to come.

Patricia H. Draves

Expanding Our Horizons



“When we broaden our vision, we see that same spirit of vision and innovation in Graceland past and present.”

Graceland celebrates the 50th anniversary of the School of Nursing in this issue of Horizons. It is a great example of how many different people and their accomplishments have made us what we are today. What an impressive record!

In its first half-century, the nursing program pioneered an incredibly successful distance learning program to help working nurses with an RN complete their bachelor's degree and qualify for professional upgrades. It also developed some of Graceland's first master's degree programs and then crossed the finish line with Graceland's first doctoral degree: a Doctor of Nursing Practice. Along the way, nursing students expanded their horizons in service-learning projects in developing nations. Today, we are looking for ways to expand into the allied health service fields. Our hats go off to 50 years of creative, dedicated and competent leadership and teaching at all levels.

When we broaden our vision, we see that same spirit of vision and innovation in Graceland past and present. In just a few years, the faculty has led the way in renovating the core liberal arts curriculum to better equip our students for the world today. I cannot adequately express my admiration and appreciation for a core group of teachers who developed the essential learning outcomes curriculum in a brutally short time. The work continues with the addition of new programs in data management, Hispanic studies and creative writing to serve student needs.

Student Life, the athletic programs and Campus Ministries also deserve applause for the flexibility and initiative to evolve with the changing times and composition of the student body. Student Life is working to find common ground between campus activities and academic classes through service-learning opportunities. Student government leaders and athletic coaches are developing and exchanging ways to more fully integrate athletes into campus life. Campus Ministries and others are working to bring all students together in building the precious heritage of campus community.

As we move into the future, searching for more innovation and growth that match our school's mission and values, may we catch the can-do spirit that keeps Graceland relevant and vibrant in the challenging world of higher education.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry J. Ashenhurst". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

HARRY J. ASHENHURST, PhD, '70
Chair, Graceland University Board of Trustees



UNIVERSITY NEWS

In November 2018, Graceland hired **DAVID SIDDALL '85** as the Vice President for Business and Finance.

He serves as chief financial officer and leader of business operations, bringing new skills and ways of thinking with extensive expertise in business, finance and law.

Siddall earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting from Graceland. He then continued his studies, completing a juris doctorate from the University of Iowa College of Law. After 25 years of corporate law practice, he returned to law school to earn his master's of laws (LLM) in estate planning at the University of Miami.

Prior to joining Graceland, Siddall was vice president at two major energy companies and owner of a law firm, and he has a lifelong record of volunteer service. He brings an expansive knowledge of corporate governance, securities and finance, compliance and ethics, human resources, employee benefits, real estate, intellectual property, business operations, annual budgets exceeding \$150 million, and management of relationships with diverse types of people, many with specialized knowledge.

Siddall's commitment to Graceland's mission combined with his experience, knowledge and ability to manage a variety of important university areas, make him a strategic finance partner with the president, and he will provide innovative thought leadership to help Graceland get to the next level.

Siddall grew up in Lamoni with six siblings. His father served nearly 20 years as a member of Graceland's staff, and Siddall himself held his first job as a teen and college student working for Graceland's facility services.

Siddall's primary office will be located on the Independence campus, and he will maintain a weekly presence on the Lamoni campus.



Leading with Heart

ZAC HARMON-MCLAUGHLIN, MA, '08, joined Graceland's staff as the director of the Community of Christ Seminary in March 2019.

Harmon-McLaughlin received his Bachelor of Arts in Religion in 2008 and his Master of Arts in Religion in 2010 – both from Graceland. In 2019, he will complete his Doctorate of Ministry in Executive Leadership at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. As a Graceland Seminary alumnus, he is uniquely equipped to offer his experience, skills and deep connection to Community of Christ, the university's sponsoring church. Most recently, Harmon-McLaughlin was the Regional Development Executive Director for Community of Christ in Northern California and Western Nevada.

"We are thrilled about the passion that Zac brings to the seminary. We had many qualified candidates, but his zeal for religious education, his experience as a leader, and his connection and commitment to Community of Christ set him apart," said Patricia H. Draves, Graceland University President.

Harmon-McLaughlin will lead the Community of Christ Seminary at Graceland University, which was founded in 2002 as a joint venture between Graceland and Community of Christ.

At the seminary, students receive the best theological scholarship available, paired with personal and communal faith formation. It is the intellectual and sacred gathering space that embodies the profound and enduring relationship between the university and the church.

"I'm humbled and honored to return to Graceland to serve as the director of the seminary," shared Harmon-McLaughlin. "I'm looking forward to engaging in leadership development and practical ministerial application through religious education. My deep hope is to empower and inspire future innovative leaders and ministers to cultivate and create authentic, loving and transformative Christian community."

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.

75 Mary Ellen Foss Kimball, and her husband, Jim, worked as a part of Kim Reynolds' historic campaign to become the first female governor of the state of Iowa. Kimball continues to serve on the board of trustees for the Iowa Cultural Trust, which oversees and administers grants to arts organizations across the state. She and her husband also host a regular radio program on KSOI 91.9 FM.

88 On Feb. 8, 2019, **Dr. Tim Conway** provided a half-day seminar to 90 school principals of the Port of Spain Principals Association in Trinidad. The topic of the seminar was "The Neuropsychology of Learning, Language and Literacy." This seminar is an extension of Conway's 16 years of teacher training in Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies with the Dyslexia Association of Trinidad and Tobago; his medical clinic, The Morris Centre Trinidad and Tobago, located in Petit Valley, Trinidad; and his EdTech company's online eTutoring services for the Caribbean, NOW! programs.

98 Chris Bessonette, was named a 2018-19 recipient of the Milken Educator Award, accompanied by an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize. Bessonette received the award for his work with second-grade dual-language immersion students at Munger Mountain Elementary in Jackson, Wyoming. The Milken Educator Awards, hailed by *Teacher Magazine* as the "Oscars of Teaching," has been opening minds and shaping futures for over 30 years. Research shows teacher quality is the driving in-school factor behind student growth and achievement.

Weddings

05 Chad and Chelsey Remmenga '09 Holstrom, Raymore, Missouri, June 3, 2018.

17 Nicolas and Natalie Bender '16 White, Beaverton, Oregon, Sept. 8, 2018.

Anniversaries

48 Kenneth and Joyce Beitz '49 Swails celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary Dec. 27, 2018.

49 Leonard and Eilene O'Dell '59 Speer celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary Dec. 24, 2018.

53 Eddie Boehm Jr. and LaVeta Miller '54 Boehm celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Sept. 3, 2018.

57 Bob and Jerie Gail Davis '57 Ramsey celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary March 29, 2019.

64 Ralph and Carolyn Mitchell '58 Williams celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Dec. 21, 2018.

Births

00 Aleks and Beti Velevska '00 Memca, San Diego, California, Veronica, born April 17, 2013; and Gabriel, born Jan. 11, 2019.

09 Gustavo and Amanda Clemens '08 Macias, Florissant, Missouri, Stella, born Nov. 9, 2018.

In Memoriam

34 Naomi Cook Alexander, Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 4, 2017.

37 Lois Haxton Milroy, Galva, Illinois, March 14, 2009.

38 Margaret Baker Johnston, Diamond Bar, California, July 2, 2013.

40 Emil Cross, Bella Vista, Arkansas, Aug. 17, 2018. **Roy Jones**, Independence, Missouri, Nov. 27, 2018. **Susan Baker Potter**, Fresno, California, Nov. 28, 2008.

42 Carl Miller, Huntsville, Alabama, Dec. 17, 2008.

43 John (Jack) Carmichael, Kansas City, Missouri, Dec. 6, 1995. **Rogene Graybill Nielsen**, Omaha, Nebraska, Feb. 17, 2013.

44 Judy Andrus Doan, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Dec. 17, 2014.

Edna Fraser Perkins, Wyandotte, Michigan, Jan. 8, 2017. **Dorothy Dillon Snearly**, Glenwood Springs, Colorado, Aug. 8, 2018.

45 Carol Olson Christ, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 1, 2007. **Alice Thompson Miller**, Leon, Iowa, Nov. 28, 2012.

46 Jean Cramblett Rains, Independence, Missouri, June 8, 2016. **Helen Wood Sabourin**, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 26, 2018.

47 Ervin Hartschen, Champlin, Minnesota, May 16, 2015. **Donna Williams Jagger**, Michigan City, Indiana, Nov. 25, 2018. **Arlene Mickelson Larson**, Holmen, Wisconsin, Oct. 15, 2014. **Allen McCall**, Rowlett, Texas, Sept. 28, 2016.

48 Kay Tabor Blair, Lamoni, Iowa, Nov. 5, 2018. **Norma Derry Hiles**, Lamoni, IA, Oct. 31, 2018. **John Thornton**, Kirkland, Washington, July 26, 2016.

49 Newell Netsch, Stockton, Missouri, Jan. 24, 2019. **Ronald Pincomb**, Las Cruces, New Mexico, May 4, 2010. **Jim White**, Sterling, Virginia, Dec. 29, 2018.

50 Daniel Bauman, Westerville, Ohio, April 19, 2007. **Robert Gibson**, Sonora, California, Oct. 17, 2018.

52 James Packer, Saginaw, Michigan, Nov. 15, 2018.

53 Kenneth Stiegel, East Moline, Illinois, Dec. 9, 2017.

54 Catherine Fisher Cook, Onset, Massachusetts, Jan. 18, 2015.

55 Margaret Trussell Hardy, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, June 3, 2014. **Joe Serig**, Independence, Missouri, Oct. 6, 2018.

56 Everett Ron Anderson, Bolivar, Missouri, March 15, 2014. **Donald del Castillo**, San Jose, California, Nov. 30, 2018. **Kenneth Harter**, Pella, Iowa, Jan. 13, 2019. **Wayne Janks**, Lakeland Florida, April 15, 2018.

57 Connie Weightman Zirkle, Ardrossan, South Australia, Oct. 27, 2018.

58 Marlene Nance Tufts, Portland, Oregon, Nov. 8, 2018.

59 Ron Calloway, Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 28, 2011. **Betty Cottrill**, Parkersburg, West Virginia, Aug. 26, 2016. **Paul Dorsey**, Leavenworth, Kansas, June 2, 2018. **David Gussman**, Independence, Missouri, Jan. 16, 2016. **Robert Haas**, Moss Point, Mississippi, Oct. 23, 2018. **Nancy Davis Stone**, Wichita, Kansas, Nov. 23, 2016.

72 Stephen Emslie, Tucson, Arizona, March 29, 2018. **Eric Lowe**, Boise, Idaho, Jan. 15, 2019.

73 William Willis, Pensacola, Florida, Nov. 7, 2018.

74 Marsha Morgan, Evansville, Indiana, Oct. 23, 2018.

79 Wray Kiralfy, Bethany, Missouri, Sept. 17, 2018.

81 Jeanne Sundell Davis, Lamoni, Iowa, Jan. 1, 2019.



Jeanne Sundell '81 Davis

passed away Jan. 1, 2019. Survived by her husband, Paul '81, and their children Mike '10, Jacob '12 and Julie '15, Jeanne was devoted to her family, yet she made time to pursue her many talents in opera, watercolor, ceramics, guitar, piano, and volunteering at church in her role as a High Priest. She moved with her family several times over the years, finally settling in Lamoni, and in each location, Jeanne discovered new friends and shared her many talents through relationships with her community and church family.

For many years, Jeanne worked as a professional artist with both watercolor and oil paintings, showing in galleries along the coast of California and Washington. Jeanne also worked for Community of Christ International Headquarters as a Worship Specialist and at Graceland University as Director of Communications, from where she retired in August 2018.

In her role as Graceland's director of communications, Jeanne gave her talents over the past five years as editor of this very magazine. She told the story of Graceland through the individuals who embody it, and she captured our interest and our hearts. She is missed every day, as our editor and our friend.

63 Russell Husted, Mena, Arkansas, Dec. 4, 2018.

64 Jon Harris, Fraser, Michigan, April 25, 2015.

65 Kenneth Johnston, Independence, Missouri, Dec. 11, 2018.

66 Cynthia Elkins, Charlotte, North Carolina, July 17, 2007.

69 Mike Lee, San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 4, 2018.

David Minton, Kailua, Hawaii, June 1, 2018. **Connie Mogg**, Independence, Missouri, Oct. 27, 2018. **David Swayne**, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 27, 2018. **Dan Wagler**, Jefferson City, Missouri, August 2018.

71 Gayle Young Briggs, Adrian, Michigan, Dec. 20, 2018. **Karen Olsen**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dec. 19, 2018.

82 Kim Lauer Chambers, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Nov. 4, 2015.

83 Lori Lucas, Lincoln City, Oregon, July 4, 2018.

86 Florence Uentillie, Forest Grove, Oregon, Feb. 27, 2018.

92 Lenore Brick Melenzyer, San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 15, 2014.

06 Catherine Still Akker, Thomson, Illinois, Jan. 8, 2019.

09 Sue McDavitt Freeswick, Mandeville, Louisiana, Dec. 31, 2018.

17 Tyler Hardin, Costa Mesa, California, Dec. 22, 2018.

FRIENDS Henrik Knudsen, Independence, Missouri, Aug. 18, 2018.



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

Newcom Student Union

As you read in the previous issue of *Horizons*, construction will begin this spring on the renovation and expansion of the Memorial Student Center (MSC) as it is transformed into Newcom Student Union. This exciting change highlights our efforts to invest in the student experience in significant ways. The MSC is the hub of our Lamoni campus and is used by arguably every student, faculty and staff member on campus.

TIMELINE

SPRING 2019

Renovation preparations begin

APRIL 27, 2019

Groundbreaking ceremony in Lamoni

SUMMER 2019

Student-critical functions relocated to F.M. Smith Library (lower level)

FEBRUARY 2020

Expected completion

SPRING 2020

Dedication ceremony in Lamoni

RENOVATION PLANS & TIMELINE

To see more about the renovation:
graceland.edu/NewcomStudentUnion



UP NEXT
**THE CLOSSON
PROJECT P20**
Learn more inside!