

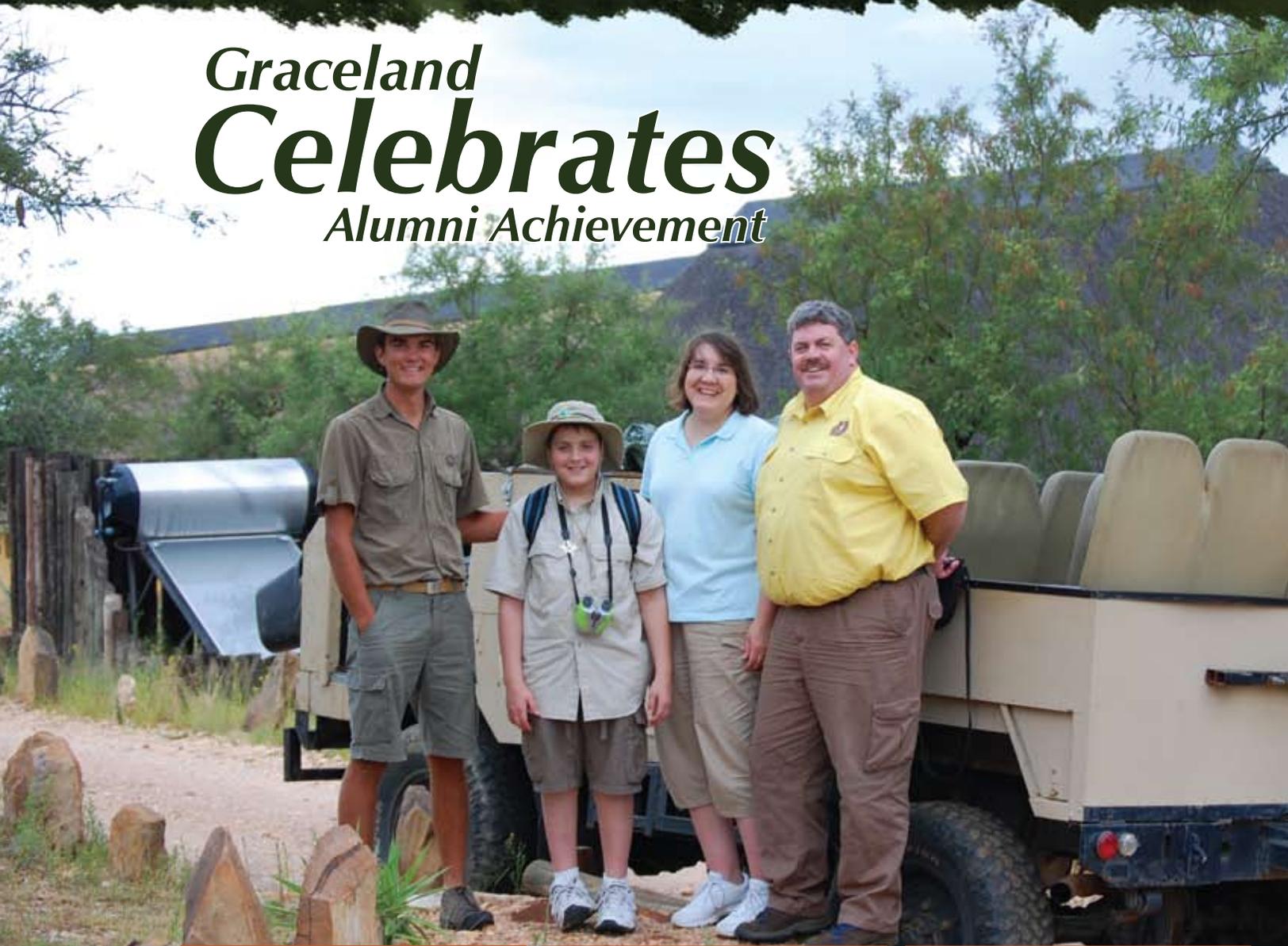
# HORIZONS

Graceland University

Alumni and Friends Magazine

Spring/Summer 2009 Vol. 25, No. 1

## Graceland *Celebrates* Alumni Achievement



Fulbright Scholar Larkin Powell's Year in Namibia

# We Celebrate Alumni Excellence



## Following our dreams to reach our goals

The theme for this issue of *Horizons* evolved over the last few months. Unsolicited, the magazine staff began receiving story ideas from Graceland alumni and friends and a common thread emerged. Our alumni are out in the world engaged in outstanding work in the sciences, the arts, publishing, the military, urban mentoring, promoting history, and perhaps most notably, pursuing lives of selfless philanthropy and service to others.

I am, of course, well aware that our students leave Graceland as transformed individuals and go on to become exemplary members of society. I felt inspired as I perused the dozen stories that comprise this special Alumni Excellence issue of *Horizons*. These Gracelanders represent a sampling of the diverse cross-section of what Graceland is now, and what it has been for 114 years. We are individuals — current students, alumni and friends

— who strive to make the world a better place, one step at a time. We are a strong community. We stay connected with each other. We support each other.

Join me in celebrating a handful of the thousands of ‘Graceland Stories’ we would like to tell. The stellar alumni you will read about here graduated as long ago as 1953 and as recently as 2008. Their visions and efforts cover the gamut of the human experience. I champion their achievements.

To all Gracelanders I would like to say, hold on to your most-cherished goals and be guided by the life-path visions you took away from this university. Do you remember the dreams you had on *your* Commencement Day? Reach for them.

John Sellars  
President

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**About the cover:** Larkin, Kelly and Tristan Powell pose with “our fearless driver, Peter” during their excursion to central Namibian farms. Larkin is teaching in Namibia on a Fulbright Scholar Award. The 1965 vehicle reminded Larkin of his dad’s old grain truck. Read their story on the next page.

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# Fulbright lets Powell Family Follow their Passions in Namibia

By Collin Isham '11

A Fulbright Scholar Award has given Larkin Powell '90 and his family something the rest of us might just dream about. Larkin, his wife Kelly Johnson '90 Powell and their 11-year-old son Tristan, are spending a year in the relatively young nation of Namibia, located in southwest Africa. All three have found reasons to love this beautiful coastal country.

Namibia is similar to other African countries in some ways but it has unique qualities that appealed to Larkin. "I wanted to come here because they do a lot of wildlife management on lands that are grazed by cattle," Larkin said during our talk using a live-cam program called SKYPE. He had just returned from an excursion into the bush with his students. They were learning to ride horses, identify plants, use GPS and bone up on conservation management.

Larkin teaches and researches nature conservancy and wildlife management in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Researching grazing success techniques while still protecting the land is his passion. He is very concerned about long-term sustainability of land-use practices, in Nebraska and around the world.

There are similar sand hills in Nebraska and Namibia. "What I have learned in Nebraska allows me to teach courses here in Namibia, and I can learn things here to take home," he said. He is working with students in the Nature Conservation major at Polytechnic of Namibia, in the capital of Windhoek. He also mentors faculty members. His Fulbright is mainly for teaching but he is researching landowner decisions for grassland management of wildlife and domestic animals. He has developed a survey to gather information on how ecotourism in Namibia influences how people view wildlife.

A key difference from Nebraska is that people in Namibia live on communal conservancies, areas set aside for only native people. Larkin explains, "They pursue ecotourism by allowing outsiders to vacation and hunt if they wish. Tourist money benefits the entire communal group. In the absence of ecotourism, all money is earned with livestock. In Namibia, however, predators like cheetahs, leopards and lions eat livestock. There is a perception that ecotourism can influence people to 'put up' with predators. So, they don't kill the predators like their next-door neighbors in Botswana and other nations who do not have ecotourism conservancies." Larkin's survey seeks to determine if people value certain species more if they participate in ecotourism.

The Powell family pose with their friend Uapii while visiting his brother's farm.

Fulbright sent about 800 faculty scholars around the world this year, based on their professional achievement and demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. Larkin's award allowed him to bring along Kelly and Tristan. The family moved to Namibia in January 2009 and will return in December. Like most African nations, Namibia has a troubled past. Rebellion, violence and wars for independence have claimed the lives of tens of thousands of innocent people. It became a nation in 1990, just when Larkin and Kelly were graduating from Graceland and getting married.

Kelly is helping with the logistics of the survey and she has also embraced Namibia as a place for exploration. She finds new places for the family to visit on their frequent jaunts and Larkin said she is especially enjoying the farms they visit. You've got to see the family photo archives, linked from Larkin's excellent Blog site at <http://namibiafulbright.blogspot.com>. You can really get an idea of the scope of their travels and adventures by diving into Larkin's Blog. He also goes into fascinating detail about his research, and if you know Larkin, you'll know that there is a liberal amount of humor mixed in. With a single car in the family, Kelly has also become "our taxi," said Larkin, "doing a lot of dropping off and picking up."

Tristan has become a rock hound and according to dad he would just as soon stay in Namibia he loves the outdoors there so much. It is a rock lover's paradise and if you view Tristan's personal Blog at <http://tristanin-namibia.blogspot.com> you will find out how much fun a fifth grader from Lincoln, NE can have in Africa.

Surprisingly, a typical day in Namibia is similar to being in Nebraska, reports Larkin. Like being a faculty member at home, "...it's wake up, go to work, teach, help with research, go home. The electricity and roads and water are much more reliable than in other African countries," he says happily.

Larkin measures his success by crediting Graceland with "helping students learn to think critically." He adds that Professor Les Gardner inspired him to bring the world aspect to his own classroom. "Many of the teachers at Graceland (like Gardner) had been around the world, and that's a unique perspective to share with your students." International trips to Hungary and Grand Cayman over Winter Terms motivated Larkin to explore the world.

The Fulbright goal is to work for world peace and understanding through exchange of scholars, and Larkin is obviously achieving that. The world is becoming a better place with Larkin Powell in Namibia and he believes he is becoming a better teacher because of his experiences, "learning how people really live in Namibia."

It is great news that such an extensive Fulbright was offered to a Graceland alumnus, but there is also news from the other side of Earth. Eric Juhnke '92 is spending his year in China on a Fulbright and *Horizons* hopes to feature his experiences in a future issue. ■



Above, an inviting road beckons you out into the vast Namibian plain. Below left, Himba women pose for a photo...these people have resisted outsiders who would change their culture.



Above right, the Powells at Hero's Acre, a memorial to those who died for Namibian independence. Baboons roam the area in search of caffeinated soft drinks. Below, could this be the face of Namibia's future? He is one of Kelly's kids when she visits a local orphanage.





# Kauila Clark

## Artist, Healer and Teacher

By Carrie Wilson '09

Over the years Kauila 'Mel' Clark '68 has created many significant pieces of art that are recognized worldwide. This past year he was able to draw upon personal inspira-

tion from his years as a farm worker to create a painting entitled *La Vista Del Campesino* or *Through the Eyes of a Farmworker*. The painting was donated to the National Center for Farmworker Health to help raise money for the Migrant Health Scholarship Fund.

While attending Graceland, Kauila and his family members labored as agriculture workers to pay for their schooling. "I have sensitivity for those who are attempting to get an education so they don't have to toil in the fields to provide for their families as a career," he said.

*Through the Eyes of a Farmworker* has been the most successful painting since the beginning of the Migrant Health Scholarship Fund program in 1984. The painting was sold in the form of a poster, art print and art card. It has generated over \$15,000 in sales, and continues to sell. Currently, the money raised has been used to grant ten \$1,000 scholarships, mainly to children of farm workers.

Kauila has also been active working with various health organizations across the country. Recently, he signed a contract to be the spiritual leader at the Tripler Army Medical Center on the island of Oahu, where Kauila resides. He will be working with soldiers that have returned from war and need help with pain management and post-war stress disorders. He noted that this is the first integrated program of its kind at any U.S. military facility.

This world-renowned ceramicist/artist has a dozen beautiful, five-foot-tall vases displayed at the Community of Christ Temple in Independence. There are others in the Higdon Administration Building and Carmichael House. His remarkable clay mural analogizing the growth of a seed to higher education was installed in the foyer wall of The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts gallery in 1979, when Kauila taught art at Graceland. It is dizzying to grasp how widely Kauila's work has spread. He has pieces at the Smithsonian and at National Endowment for the Arts, the Rosenthal International art slide collection and notable public and private collections in 35 states and 52 countries. He's had more than 100 one-man shows – an astounding accomplishment – and produced 300,000 works in his lifetime. He is truly Graceland's greatest living artist.

He received an award this year from the Office of Minority Health as a trailblazer for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander health. He has been working with the Alliance of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders to develop this national organization for research and advocacy. The organization works to ensure that native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who live in the continental U.S. have access to healthcare.

Kauila was also chosen to be the Chair Elect of the National Association of Community Health Centers. There are over 2,000 associated health centers nationwide, which will be active in assisting President Obama's health forum in developing health policies for America.

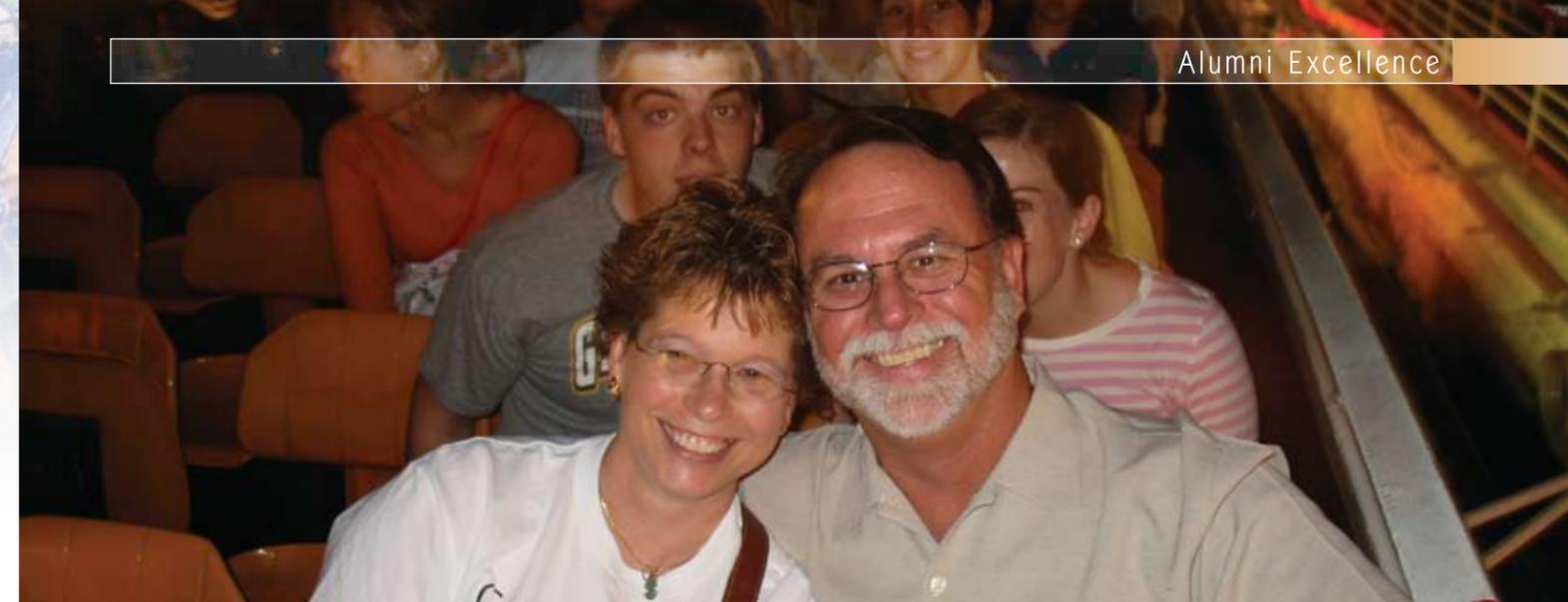
The driving force behind Kauila's passion for helping others started with his grandmother. He said, "She was a very helpful and giving person. As an amputee and wheelchair ridden person, she was always serving others. She never let her limited vision and physical impairments interfere with her service to others." Kauila's mother was another motivator in his life. "She is always helping the ill and less fortunate."

Aside from helping others and being active in several organizations across the country, Kauila still makes time for his art. "Art was my first love and so it is always there." He is presently working on a mural at an elementary school library. The mural is of the sacred sites in the community and will teach children about the community through contextual learning.

Currently, Kauila has a piece of art, a double gourd drum entitled *Ipu Heke O Pele*, displayed in the third-floor Resource Room of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. ■



*Through the Eyes of a Farmworker*



## 'Super Supporters' Pam and Jim Ash

The word super is overused – super this, super that. We super-collide, superimpose and super-size. But, no description is more fitting than 'super supporters' when talking about Pamela Smith '77 and James Ash '78. It isn't much of a stretch to say that for many students, Graceland just wouldn't be Graceland without Pam and Jim. Name almost anything related to the Graceland experience – our nationally renowned women's soccer and SIFE programs, Homecoming, the Theatre Department, the Alumni Brick Plaza, the Alumni Board of Directors, our golf teams, teaching courses or providing scholarships – and Pam and Jim are all over it. It is as if they can't do enough for their alma mater.

Women's soccer wouldn't be the same without them. Ask Coach Fred Wagenaar. "Super supporters of our program? Yes, that sounds right!" Pam is simply 'Soccer Mom.' She and Jim attend all the games, Pam spends scores of hours recruiting players and they support the team financially. When the team is in KC, playing or awaiting flights home, they sleep and eat at the Ash house and they feel welcome and loved there. Pam and Jim's support of the team is, well, unmatched.

But it's not just women's soccer. Many other GU groups enjoy the Ashes' support and hospitality. Traveling winter term groups, the men's and women's golf teams, the history honor society and Hanthorne House have made the Ashes their 'home for night.' Countless students and GU summer representatives have been taxied to and from the airport and provided room and board at the Ash hostel.

Our SIFE program also benefits from their support. They travel to nationals – this year hosting a wonderful Italian dinner in Philadelphia – and even to Paris for the 2006 World Cup. Jim serves on the SIFE Board of Advisors and chaired the Entrepreneurial Roundtable for many years. And each spring semester, Jim voluntarily makes the 200 mile round trip each Tuesday afternoon to teach

*Negotiation Strategies and Techniques.*

Alumni Programs would not glide in the greased grooves it does without the Ashes. Pam has been a leader on the GU Alumni Board of Directors for 20 years. "Pam and Jim are a blessing to me, personally, in their support of alumni programs," says Director Nancy Wallace. "They make my job easier at every turn." The Alumni Brick Plaza leading to the Higdon Administration Building exists because of Pam and Jim's refusal to give up. They developed the concept and marketing themes, managed sales, and even helped lay the bricks! All proceeds from brick sales endow scholarships for descendants of GU alumni. (To join this noble project contact Nancy Wallace at 866.GU4.EVER).

The Ashes have helped many students attend Graceland, including their daughters, Cassie '04 and Lisa '09. They created, and fund, the Women's Alumni Soccer Fund, the Women's Soccer Endowed Fund and the Ash Scholarship Fund. For several years their support added a faculty position to the Theatre Department and, every few years, new exercise equipment shows up in the women's dorm.

But just as important to them is their support for GU student life activities. For years at Homecoming Jim has emceed the popular 'Airband' competition, and the Ashes' smiling faces (like in this photo, taken on a Paris boat ride with the SIFE team) are everywhere, sharing their joie de vie, or more appropriately, 'joie de GU.' And this last year, when Cassie was Assistant Artistic Director for the American Shakespeare Center, she arranged, and Jim and Pam funded, a gala performance of *A Comedy of Errors* that played to a crowd of more than 500 in The Shaw Center for the Performing Arts.

Together, Pam and Jim are a tour de force extraordinaire. For their unwavering support of all that means Graceland, they were presented with our prestigious Alumni Award of Recognition in 1997. Now, that's super! ■

# Gift from Alumnus Ray Chase Creates Field of Dreams in Lamoni

Lamoni has its own *Field of Dreams* at North Park because of the generosity of a 1953 Graceland alumnus and hard work by the GU baseball team, coaches and community volunteers. Kevin Costner would be proud of the metamorphosis at the field where Graceland and the Lamoni high school and middle school squads play their home games.

Ray Chase, of Gainesville, Virginia, wanted to give something back to his alma mater and his gift is a home-run for Graceland and Lamoni. We now have a premier field, with all the amenities. The field is called *Chase Stadium*. Ray was back in town in May for a GU double-header with Baker University. Between games Graceland and community leaders paid special tribute to him. He was presented with his own jersey and other gifts from the team. He also got to throw out the first pitch.

Ray's son Kirt Chase '82 played baseball for the Yellowjackets. He saw the old field a while back and conferred with his dad. "We knew something needed to be done, it needed great improvement," Ray said. "We decided this was how we would do something for Graceland."

Yellowjacket Baseball Coach Brady McKillip '00 is of course delighted with Chase Stadium. He and his players worked hard on the field and they were tickled to meet Ray. "My coaches and I, and the players, can not thank Ray and his family enough for this wonderful gift to our program," said Brady, who is in his ninth year as head coach. "We now have one of the top three fields in the HAAC." He has signed several top players because of the new field. "This is going to be a great recruiting tool."

Chase Stadium now boasts a wooden fence around the entire field, a crushed-red-brick, 12-foot warning track and new 70-foot-long dugouts with storage at each end. Not even the *Field of Dreams* had those. The existing bleachers are reconfigured behind home plate, with added seating. About 200 fans can now watch comfortably. There is also a new press box with a changing room and a 26-foot-long, electronic scoreboard. It is 16-feet high and 10 feet up off the ground. It replaces the old wooden scoreboard.

Ray Chase is such a wonderful guy and when you talk to him you catch some of the enthusiasm he has for this great community project. "I am so pleased with all the improvements," he said. "This is what I call a good investment!" ■



Ray Chase throws out the first ball. The 2008-09 GU Baseball Team. Ray shakes hands with Lamoni Mayor Jim Hammer. Ray is honored and receives mementos of the day.

# Jim Barker — a hero in Vietnam, a hero at home You Can Help Bring Vietnam Books to GU

A 1969 alumnus has offered Graceland a tremendous gift. James Barker, of Palo Alto, CA, has collected more than 400 books over the past 25 years about the Vietnam War — many of them written by veterans and considered rare. This is perhaps the greatest collection of its kind in the world and Jim would like Graceland to have it. Other major universities, including Stanford, have shown interest in obtaining the collection but Jim is steadfast in his desire to bring the collection to his alma mater.

It is Jim's vision that his Vietnam book collection will become a permanent part of the Frederick Madison Smith Library on our Lamoni campus. The collection would be cataloged by Graceland library personnel and placed in an area with comfortable seating and a display case for Vietnam-era memorabilia that includes maps, flags, Vietnamese cultural items and photos.

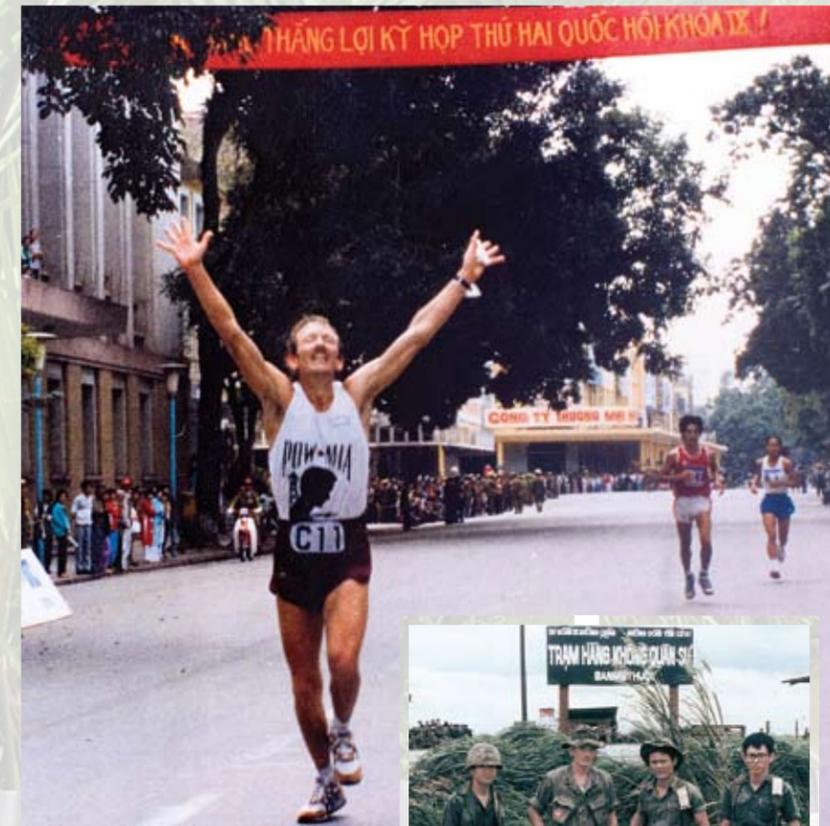
It is also Jim's desire that this area become an informal Veteran's Center on the Lamoni Campus. When alumni veterans visit Graceland — perhaps during Homecoming — they would have a place to congregate, have a cup of coffee and share fellowship.

This would become a destination for veterans, researchers and other interested parties to immerse themselves in a stellar resource about the Vietnam experience. A goal of Jim's gift would also be to provide Graceland students with reading and research opportunities available to few college students in the world. Courses on the Vietnam experience are regularly taught at Graceland.

As with many such opportunities, this project comes with a price. Costs for cataloging, shelving, furniture and a display case are estimated at approximately \$15,000. So powerful is Jim's zeal to bring his collection to Graceland, he has already gifted \$2,000 for the project himself. Jim is a lifelong distance runner. He has generated these funds by picking up cans for redemption during his daily runs. Jim and his twin brother Ron (also class of 1969) have run in marathons all over the world. Jim was one of the first Americans to return to Vietnam and run in the Hanoi Marathon. He proudly wore a POW/MIA t-shirt in that marathon.

Jim's tour of duty in Vietnam was written about in the Winter 2005 issue of *Horizons*. He was an intelligence officer and completed many behind-enemy-lines missions. He frequently speaks on the world stage about MIA and POW issues remaining from Vietnam. He recently retired after 30 years as a clinical psychologist specializing in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center.

About 150 Graceland alumni veterans responded to several GU queries in *Horizons* for their stories of service in the armed forces of the United States. About 40 of their stories were portrayed in the magazine. All of their stories are available for review in a database on Graceland's

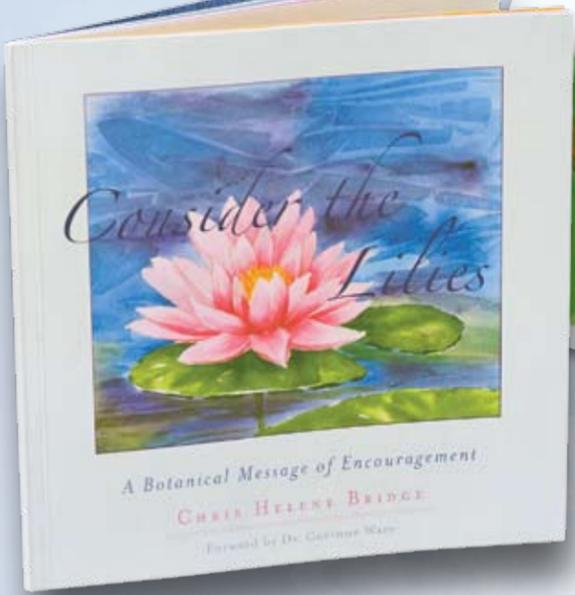
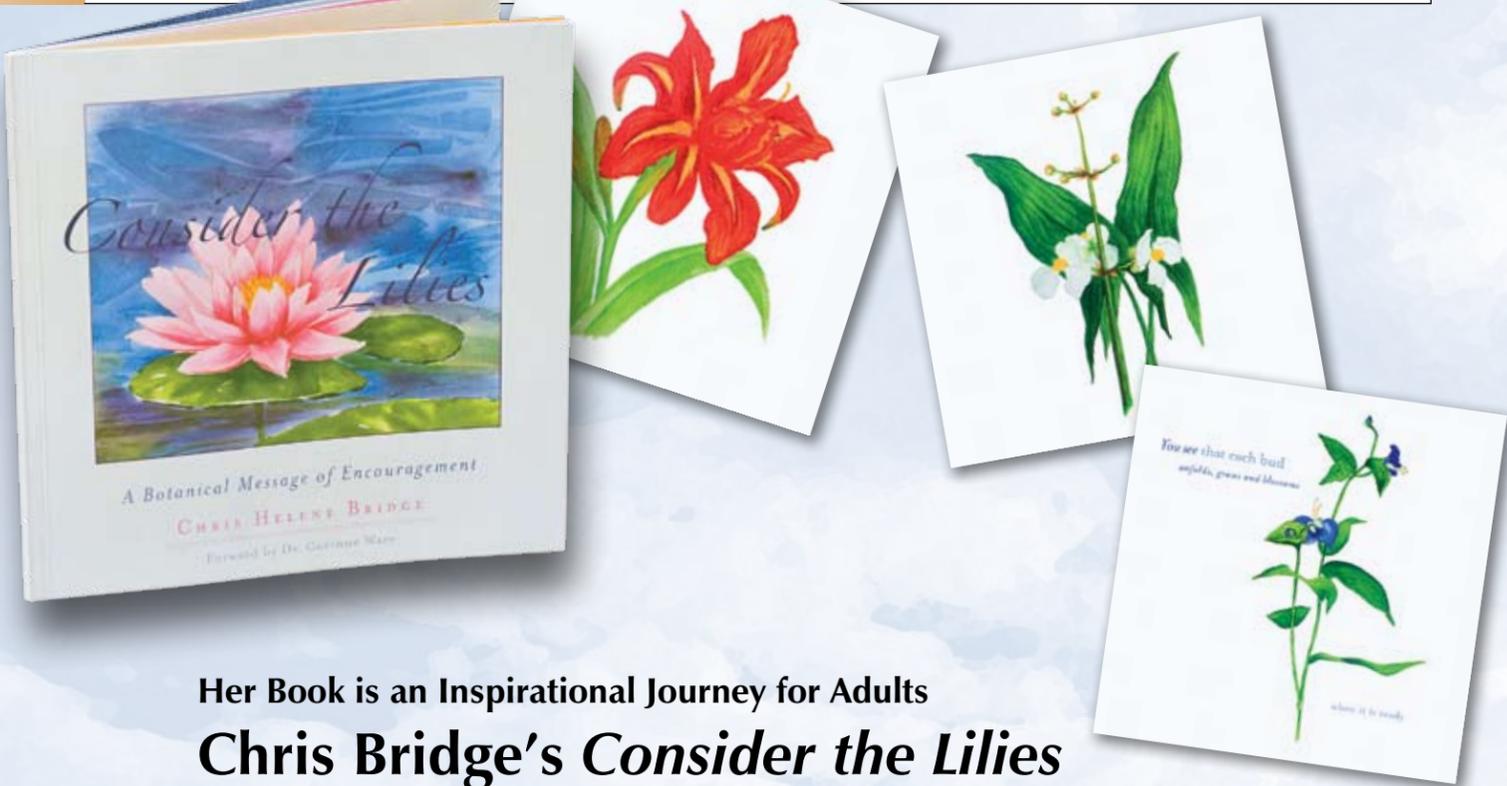


"Alumni and Friends" web pages. If you are a GU alumni veteran, and you did not respond to the initial call for submissions for these stories, this would be an ideal time to send a brief mention of your military service to the GU Media Relations office. Your stories will be added to the original database and become part of the permanent record of Gracelanders who served their country. This list will also become part of the Vet Center.

We ask that you consider making a donation to this project. You can contact Peggy Sturdevant in Graceland's development office at 1.800.645.3582, or visit our website at [www.graceland.edu](http://www.graceland.edu) and click on "Giving Opportunities." You can also send a check to Peggy at: Graceland University, Development Office, 1 University Place, Lamoni IA, 50140, or use the enclosed envelope. Note "Vietnam Book Project" on your check.

Bringing this notable Vietnam book collection to Graceland and creating an informal Veterans Center are noble goals. Jim and Graceland thank you for being involved. ■

Jim Barker crossing the finish line in the first-ever Hanoi marathon in 1993. Posing with his Vietnamese Intel team at Kon Tum during the Vietnam War.



## Her Book is an Inspirational Journey for Adults Chris Bridge's *Consider the Lilies*



Tracy and Chris Bridge

Alumna Chris Helene Bridge has created a delightful book of watercolors with an inspirational message that will appeal to Gracelanders. It is called *Consider the Lilies* and to at least one Lily, my five-year-old daughter Lily Meline, it was the catalyst to take up watercolor painting with her dad.

Chris '80 has created dazzling watercolors for her book and through these stunning images emerge her messages of hope and her faith in God. With her work she urges us to "Take a moment, take a breath and be transported! Come 'sit in the garden' and let the message of the lilies remind us that God provides." *Consider the Lilies* is not a children's book, but rather an inspirational journey for adults. It just so happens that my Lily fell in love with the magic of Chris' watercolors.

It only takes a few moments with the book to be transported to Chris' garden. Since receiving

our copy Lily and I have not stopped painting, at least once a week, though our pictures (especially dad's pictures) are, well, still evolving. We found a sunny, quiet nook in our house and Saturday mornings have become our time to 'sit in the garden.' Thank you, Chris.

As President of GU's Fine Arts Association, Chris has done much to celebrate and support visual arts at Graceland. Funds raised by her annual Christmas Card Competition have supported summer art camps on campus for area youth.

Chris is also one of the namesakes for our wonderful Helene Center for the Visual Arts. She and her husband Tracy Bridge '80 received the Graceland Award of Recognition at Homecoming 2008.

If you would like to acquire a copy of *Consider the Lilies*, email Chris at [chris.bridge@hotmail.com](mailto:chris.bridge@hotmail.com). They are \$20 and Chris will sign your copy. Then you too can 'sit in the garden.'

Randy Meline  
Horizons Editor



Lily Meline



# WAKE UP MENTORING

By Kendra Freeman '10

Dante Johnson and Anthony Rozier, both 2005 grads, launched a program in Orlando in 2007 called *Wake Up Mentoring*. With the help of volunteers they are providing hope for inner city youth who need role models as they face the challenges of growing up. By all accounts this grass roots program is really making a difference for young people who don't always get a chance to see the positive side of life.

Dante and Anthony's vision began when they were students and standout football players at Graceland. They enjoyed encouraging young people to go to college and they realized they wanted to reach out to 'at risk' youth after graduation when they moved back home to Orange County, Florida. They did some research, put together a business plan, and founded *Wake Up Mentoring*. It is an acronym for "We Are Kids Emerging Upon Perseverance."

Their financial support comes from fundraisers, donors and a couple of state contracts. They held a launch party last year and the word got out about their noble goals. A local attorney donated time. Volunteer mentors have stepped forward. They get free office space at a local teen center - the perfect location. "Our mission is to help socially and economically at-risk youth become tomorrow's leaders," said Dante.

Their mission is working. Maurice Price of the San Francisco *49ers* and Chris Johnson of the Tennessee *Titans* were high school seniors that Dante mentored when he returned to Orlando. They wanted to go to college but were not sure how to get there. With encouragement and advice from *Wake Up Mentoring* they have both surpassed their expectations. Price speaks highly of his mentorship and credits Dante with keeping him motivated. Both of these professional football players now help sponsor *Wake Up Mentoring*.

Graceland's nurturing community, and especially the federally-funded program Student Support Services and its great staff at GU, made all the difference for Dante and Anthony. They got the support and guidance they needed to succeed. SSS offers tutoring and other services to at-risk, first-generation, college students. "Dante and Anthony are two of the finest young men I have known," says Cathie Hosie '74, Graceland's SSS director. "They are

role models in an area where positive male role models are lacking. They have combined life skills and educational training to form a business that will impact many young lives. I am extremely proud of their accomplishments."

Anthony Rozier, left, and Dante Johnson.

They also credit the GU football program with preparing them for the "game of life," says Dante, "through practice, discipline, surviving the highs and lows." Head football coach Cris Welch '92 got some student recruiting help from Dante and Anthony when he visited them in Orlando in March. "These young men are so respected in their community," said Cris. "You see it in the eyes of the young people they help. These kids really look up to Dante and Anthony."

Dante and Anthony credit a lot of their success to the help they got at GU. They are now providing some of that Graceland-style support to young people in the Orlando area. "Those who touched our lives at Graceland inspired us to know that we could also make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged young people," said Dante. Now he and Anthony wake up mentoring each morning.

Check out their creative website and get a better idea of how these recent GU grads are making a difference: <http://www.wakeupmentoring.com>. They seek volunteers with a section called "Help Wanted."

Associate Director of Admissions Kevin Brown '96 spent a lot of time with Dante and Anthony when they were on campus. Kevin recruited them in Orlando back in 2001. About Anthony, Kevin says, "He possessed a talent to engage youth, on and off the grid-iron, helping nudge others to success. He was one of the best football talents to come through our program. I truly respect Anthony and hope that my son will possess some of his qualities." About Dante, Kevin says, "I had no idea of what an outstanding citizen he would become. I took a chance bringing him to Graceland. I did it because I saw his great determination. I guided him through the door of opportunity, he did the rest. Dante left a legacy at Graceland and he is creating a legacy in Orlando."

When Kevin asked Dante and Anthony why they chose to do something so wonderful, like *Wake Up Mentoring*, they replied, "You showed us the way Coach Brown, and now we want to give back. This is our way of doing so." According to Kevin, "That says it all." ■

# Message from the Alumni President



Dear fellow alumni,

I'd like to tell you about an extraordinary young Graceland graduate who is out there changing the world, making Gracelanders proud. Times are changing and our recent graduates are changing with them. Service to humanity is becoming an increasingly popular career choice. Here is a great example.

Matthew Bolton '01 was recently awarded a Ph.D. in government from the London School of Economics and Political Science for a dissertation researching the politics of U.S. and Norwegian foreign aid for landmine clearance in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Sudan.

The London School of Economics has educated more than 30 heads of state, including President John F. Kennedy. Fourteen Nobel Laureates and six members of President Barack Obama's administration have been either students or faculty at the school.

Matthew's research found that U.S. programs mitigating the threat of landmines, often shaped by strategic interests and contracted to private security companies, were less effective than Norway's more humanitarian approach that utilized international charities.

Matthew conducted fieldwork in each of his case-study countries, spending several months in Kabul, Sarajevo, Juba and Khartoum. To read some of his research, check out his Blog at <http://politicalminefields.wordpress.com/publications>.

"The nurturing environment at Graceland, with its intimate collaboration between faculty and students, gave me a firm academic foundation for graduate study," according to Matthew. "Doing my senior seminar and honors projects was excellent preparation in the process of doing independent research."

"Bill Russell, Bill Juhnke and Bob Mesle - I called them the 'Three Wise Men' - particularly pushed me to think critically, dig below the surface and ask hard questions," Matthew said. He earned a B.A. at Graceland, majoring in history and religion, with a minor in German. He was editor of the *Tower*, represented Faunce House on Student Senate, led the Graceland Peace and Justice Coalition and participated in the Community of Christ Leadership Program.

His history senior seminar paper, which analyzed the politics of the Community of Christ's expansion into Japan and India, won the Alma and Kay Blair History Award. The paper formed the core of Matthew's 2005 book *Apostle of the Poor, The Life and Work of Missionary and*

*Humanitarian Charles D. Neff*. Matthew now works part time for Outreach International, a development agency affiliated with the Community of Christ. Since leaving Graceland, he has worked with several humanitarian aid agencies in a dozen countries, including Bosnia, Iraq, Zambia and Bolivia.

He is also a freelance writer, contributing a weekly column on international affairs and travel to *The Examiner* in Independence, MO. He has published articles in *The Guardian*, Manchester, UK, *Jane's Foreign Report*, *Global Journalist* and *Transitions Abroad*. He is currently adapting his Ph.D. into a book titled *Foreign Aid and Mine Clearance: Governance, Politics and Security in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Sudan*, to be published by IB Tauris in late 2009.

It gives me great pride in my alma mater to bring to your attention such a driven and successful alumnus. Congratulations Matthew from your fellow alumni. Your achievements are tremendous. The best of luck to you with what I am certain will be fascinating and meaningful future adventures.

Warm personal regards,

Michael Lewis



Matthew Bolton



## From Graceland to Iraq

The key to this *Glimpse of a Recent Graceland Graduate* is how he became a graduate. Marcus Smoot earned his GU Master of Education in Collaborative Learning and Teaching while deployed as an Army ordnance officer in the war in Iraq.

For 16 months, during the longest deployment since WWII for his 1<sup>st</sup>/133 Infantry Battalion out of Waterloo, Iowa, Marcus emailed, snail-mailed and telephoned with Graceland staff and Edmund Gleazer School of Education faculty to garner 15 hours toward his degree. At the same time he was earning the Bronze Star for duty that put him in harm's way on a regular basis.

His unit maintains "everything that shoots, moves, or communicates," he said from his National Guard office at Camp Dodge in Des Moines. He is a captain now and a company commander. In Iraq, that included working on weapons and vehicles needed at the always-changing front lines. It was dangerous duty and there were times when he thought the college courses were too much. That's when GU professor Ed Thomas, who runs our master's cohort program for military personnel, M.Ed. Program Consultant Cathy Porter and Peggy Mothershead of the Registrar's office stepped in and helped change his life.

"Ed was my inspiration," says Marcus, who was a middle-school art and special education teacher before being called up from the National Guard for active duty. He has 21 years with the military. He is married, has an 11-month-old daughter and they are expecting another child. Likewise, Ed has great respect for Marcus and all U.S. military personnel. He has another M.Ed. cohort

group going at Camp Dodge right now. "Marcus had a tough assignment. He has been tested in ways we have not. What I like about him is that he never complained about anything. He demonstrated intellectual stoicism and that made him a pleasure to teach."

Cathy walked Marcus through his GU experience, from start to finish, and Peggy served as a Graceland liaison with the military. "What a great program Graceland offered me," said Marcus. "Cathy should be nominated for sainthood! She made the administrative headaches disappear." Cathy has never met Marcus but she feels close to him and what he went through in Iraq. "With emails and phone calls, you still get that Graceland sense of community and caring," she said.

Ed Thomas is an interesting guy. He is a nationally-recognized fitness leader who shares his expertise at GU between the Gleazer School and our Health and Movement Science Division. "Every soldier is expected to be a teacher, a leader, and pass on knowledge," says Ed. "Graceland's program enhances those skills. This is a great degree we offer." Marcus could not agree more. "Graceland helped me expand my creative thought processes and augment how I learn in the military. That means so much." If this great M.Ed. program sounds right for you or someone you know, call 1-800-833-0524 ext. 4516 or [cgporter@graceland.edu](mailto:cgporter@graceland.edu) and talk to a caring program consultant like Cathy. ■



Marcus worked toward his Graceland M.Ed. while deployed in the Iraq War.

Here he is, below, with his GU professor, Ed Thomas.



# RESCH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HALL

## Welcomes Students to Their Future

Graceland science, math and technology students have been enjoying 'peeks' into their futures lately as they tour the new Resch Science and Technology Hall. When classes convene this fall in the state-of-the-sciences building, students will be using industry-standard equipment and meeting in outstanding classrooms and laboratories. In short, led by excellent faculty, our students will be learning in a science building that rivals any in the nation.

Our students now become part of a metaphor for the future. As bright sunlight shines through the south-facing windows of all-new, modern labs, our students' bright destinies retract and shine back, out through the windows, out from Graceland, to career futures around the world.

"Resch Hall is on budget and on schedule," reported a delighted President John Sellars at a recent campus plenary. And then later in the week he toured the building and posed with a group of excited students who will be moving in this September. Facility Services Director Kurt Remmenga '80 and Math and Science Division Chair Dan Pratt '81 provided the president with a detail-by-detail explanatory tour. The looks of pride and satisfaction on their faces tell the story of a project that will transform the southwest corner of our Lamoni campus.

"This has been an incredibly successful project," said Remmenga, whose job it has been to monitor progress on the "total makeover" of the old Platz-Mortimore Science Hall. "Our entire community, students, faculty, staff, house keepers, grounds crews, the local community, they have all pulled together to get this done." Pratt credits students who helped with planning and who have traipsed to the



far-northern end of campus to attend classes in the makeshift North Science Hall, with much of the success. "We owe a lot to our great students," he said, his sweeping arm motion pointing out a spacious new chemistry lab. Faculty also played a huge role in the design.

Many donors have made the project possible. When it is complete, a donor wall and named labs, classrooms and offices will identify the visionaries who led the way. It was Richard "Dick" Resch '58, though, who provided the capstone gift that set the project on a fast-track. Dick will be honored during dedication ceremonies for Resch Hall at Homecoming 2009 in October.

Furniture from Dick's industry-leading company, KI, will begin going into the new building in July. Finishing touches are expected in August. Even now, from the moment you enter the front entrance you can visualize how breathtaking the completed Resch Hall will be. A stunning, glass-front atrium will lead you in to a student lounge and internet café. Bright, sunny faculty offices line a broad hallway that sweeps you into a labyrinth of stunning labs and classrooms. "Everything is new," says Remmenga. "Wiring, plumbing, A/C and heating, liter-

ally everything." A new sidewalk (a student's suggestion) will connect Resch Hall with the F.M. Smith Library.

The persistent rains of spring have challenged JE Dunn Construction Co. workers and created some muddy conditions but crews have taken it in stride. President Sellars, Remmenga, Pratt and others dodged puddles and mud as they inspected what will surely become another symbol of



At left, a rendition of what Resch Hall will look like. Above, President John Sellars gets ready to tour the building in May – from left, science and technology students Tori Votruba, Paige Webberley, Kelsey Booth, Matt Waite, Ryan Sheehy, Professor Dan Pratt, student Daniel Vogelsang, President Sellars and Director of Facility Services Kurt Remmenga. Below, viewing the main hallway. Far left, Richard 'Dick' Resch.

Graceland's commitment to academic excellence.

Pratt has lived and breathed the year-long construction of a new home for his division. "If I said we are all very excited to move in, very, very excited, would you understand?" Welcome home, Dan. And, to our science, math and technology students – welcome to your future! ■



## 'Mom and Dad' of the Graceland SIFE Team

When many people think of Graceland University they think of our national champion Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team. It is a highly successful, world-renowned program. During its evolution over 20+ years, team members, advisors alumni supporters, employers and the SIFE organization have all rallied around this hard-working team.

Quietly though, behind the scenes, another team champions SIFE at Graceland. They provide financial support, offer their steadfast ministry of presence at events, mobilized efforts to give SIFE new offices in the MSC, and freely share their love and affection for team members. They are Orman '53 and Colleen Brooner, the 'Mom and Dad' of "our SIFE kids," as Colleen refers to team members. Their support of all that is SIFE, of all that is Graceland, transcends traditional backing and encouragement. There is something 'very special' at work here.

At a Graceland reception before the national competition in Philadelphia in May, Orman and Colleen were presented with a SIFE memory book of a trip team members took to Thailand during Winter Term – the Brooners funded their travel expenses and chose not to go themselves so additional students could take the trip. SIFE helped a battered women's shelter with business and marketing plans. After the memory book was presented at the reception, the hugs began. The trademark bear hugs with big, powerful Orman, the gentle, soft hugs from the lovely Colleen, often accompanied with a tear or two of joy. Maybe the hugs are windows into the hearts of this lovable couple. Maybe they are keys to understanding that something 'very special' about the Brooners.

Orman is a member of our Board of Trustees. His St. Joseph construction company built the new SIFE offices. He is always involved with one project or another on campus, most recently rebuilding and moving 15 miles the one-room schoolhouse donated to our Welcome Center complex by alumna Vicki McVicker '50 Ross. There are



Colleen and Orman Brooner

too many gifts to mention that Orman and Colleen have offered to the Graceland family. It is that magical love of "our SIFE kids," though, that defines their affection for this university.

Our SIFE team marches on and continues to provide team members with unique opportunities to learn the truths of ethics in business, the secrets of free enterprise and to share that knowledge with the world. They grow and mature and become our leaders of tomorrow. When you attend a SIFE competition, hear what the team has accomplished during the year, spend time with the team, experience one of the powerful presentations, you learn and grow with them. You get "SIFED," hooked on SIFE, engaged with its purpose and goals. No two people are more "SIFED" than Orman and Colleen.

GU SIFE again made it to the final eight in Philly. They are one of only two teams in the U.S. to finish in the top eight in the last five years, according to SIFE Director Andy Simpson '98. Our team marches on, hovering in the lofty heights of best-in-the-world SIFE. On the buses, in the airplanes, in the presentation halls, Orman and Colleen march on with them. "This team is one of the greatest pleasures of our lives," says a beaming Orman, just before another enormous bear hug comes your way. ■



Members of the 2009 SIFE team who attended nationals.



Rueben Ruelas (on right) presents during semi-finals.

## The 'Professor of Peace' Retires

When Graceland was hiring a new history professor in 1974, an historian friend told Paul Edwards about "a Mennonite kid from Kansas who would fit in well at Graceland." And so Bill Juhnke was hired. He and his wife Carita bought "the Runkle home" from Jerry '34 and Wilma Runkle, and have enjoyed their abode for 35 years. They have raised three children, Kevin '90, Eric '92, and Carrie '00 Edwards, all Graceland grads. Eric followed in his father's footsteps. He now teaches history at Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa.

Bill's experience walking in the Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march in 1965 was a transforming experience, as shown in his selection of a Ph.D. dissertation on President Truman's Civil Rights Commission. Throughout his career at Graceland he has taught a popular course on the civil rights movement. An outstanding teacher and a great story teller, Bill received the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1984.

Bill's classes made history come alive. Roger Launius '76 was the Chief Historian at NASA for many years and is now at the Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian. Roger recalls that Bill "brought a wealth of insight and reflection to his teaching. His class on the American West set me on course for my studies in the history of the American West in graduate school. His dedicated teaching and humor has been a great inspiration for me ever since."

Susan Curtis '77 has been a professor of history at Purdue University for many years. She said, "Bill made me want to be a historian. He modeled scholarly inquiry and critical thinking. He made history more than a collection of interesting stories about the past. In his capable hands history became for me a way of critically seeking truth, ever conscious of its elusive nature."

Ken McClain '79, who chairs the Graceland Board of Trustees, said "Few professors can claim to have transformed a student's life. Bill taught me the value of considering a point of view that was not my own. This opened my eyes to discover a world that I never would have known existed. It has made all the difference."

"My high school classes were all about memorizing names and dates – ugh," recalls Business Division Professor Linda DeBarthe '86. "But when I got to Graceland and took U. S. History from master story teller Bill Juhnke, I discovered that history is really about the human story."

Hungarian graduate Flora Szilagyi '94 said, "I met Bill

two decades ago when he took a Winter Term class to Budapest. I was immediately blown away by Bill's warmth and friendliness, qualities I had not associated with professors. A few years later, as his student and teaching assistant, I was grateful he let me lead class discussions and share my experience of growing up in Central Europe. Bill was a consummate teacher, 100 percent dedicated to his students."

Travis Sorensen '07 is a graduate student in history at the University of Iowa. "I took his classes, he was my academic advisor and I was his faculty assistant for two years, so I've experienced the full Juhnke treatment. I fondly remember his cluttered office and the week I spent reorganizing his file cabinet. He was an important part of my Graceland experience."

Over the years about a dozen history senior seminar papers have been published. One recent paper was published as a book, *Apostle of the Poor: The Life and Work of Missionary and Humanitarian Charles D. Neff* by Matthew Bolton '01. Matthew recalls, "As an advisor, mentor, teacher and boss, Bill was incredibly kind to me and challenged me to be both a rigorous scholar and a committed, engaged



Bill Juhnke speaking at the Black History Month event in February.



citizen. He believes intellectuals should be vigorously involved in public debate, guiding a new generation of activists and correcting the misinformation of the powerful."

A few years after the Community of Christ decided in 1984 to include a strong peace theme in its ministry, Bill was appointed to the F. Henry Edwards Chair of Religious Studies and was charged to lead the development of a Peace Studies program here. Since then Bill has served on the Peace Studies Committee and taught the entry course for the Peace Studies minor.

Bill's inspiring teaching will not be missed entirely because of his retirement. He has agreed to teach part time next year. Graceland is indebted to Bill Juhnke for his contribution to our mission.

Bill Russell  
Professor Emeritus



# COMMENCEMENT 2009

After rain and more rain this spring, the skies cleared May 17 and temperatures eased into the 70s for Graceland's 112th Commencement Convocation. Iowa Lt. Governor Patty Judge addressed our newest alumni and sent them forth into an uncertain world buoyed in hope because of their determination and spirit of service.

President John Sellars welcomed nearly 3,000 friends of the university to the Eugene and Julia Travis Closson Athletic Center. The president awarded Richard 'Dick' Resch '58 an honorary doctorate degree. It is Dick's generosity that helped fund the Resch Science and Technology Hall, scheduled to open this fall.

Students from 46 states and 13 countries joined the ranks of GU alumni - a total of 775 degrees were conferred. Undergraduate degrees in 43 majors totaled 427. Masters degrees in eight majors totaled 348. Professor

Emeritus status was conferred upon Bill Juhnke and Bob Farnham.

VP for Student Life and Dean of Students Tom Powell presented 2009 Student Life Awards to Lisa Ash and Allie Petrie at Baccalaureate. The award is given annually to seniors who have made significant contributions to the university community and exhibited excellence in academics, leadership, service and co-curricular involvement.

Lisa is an Elementary Education major with minors in Peace Studies, Psychology and Religion. Tom described her from nomination



Lt. Governor Patty Judge

papers as having an infectious positive outlook and endless energy. Lisa was described as friendly, alive, dynamic and caring. She is a tremendous person, one

who has consistently demonstrated her strong abilities as a scholar, writer, and communicator, other nominations said. Lisa is credited as a guiding force with Outreach International Club which has raised nearly \$100,000 in the last three years. Lisa did a portion of her student teaching in New Zealand.

Allie is an Art and Visual Communication major with a minor in Spanish. Tom described her from nomination papers as a selfless student, helping and supporting her cohorts at every turn. He said she is life affirming, waking each day wondering how she can have a positive impact on the world. Her teachers and fellow students said they looked forward to seeing her each day. One person wrote, "Allie has the capacity to, at any given moment, make you feel like you are the most important person in the world." She did a portion of her student teaching in Spain.

Dr. Brian J. White received the Alumni Association's 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award. White teaches English and is faculty sponsor for the student newspaper, *The Tower*. Alumni Board of Directors President Michael Lewis noted White's "sensitivity to the world around him that inspires him to include issues of sustainability in all



Alumni Board President Michael Lewis and Brian White.

of his classes." White has published scholarly articles in eight professional journals and made 20 presentations at professional meetings around the country.

The award comes with a golden apple and \$1,000 for professional development. White earned a B.A. in English and Theatre from Graceland in 1992; a Masters of Science, British and Commonwealth Studies from Utah State University in 1995; and a Ph.D. in English from the University of North Dakota in 2000. About himself, White said he tries to "engage students in a critical awareness of their existence in our shared world." ■



Tom Powell presents the 2009 Student Life Awards to Lisa Ash and Allie Petrie.



Richard 'Dick' Resch

**'50s**

**John B. Studdard '51** was reappointed Douglas County representative to the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature, an advisory organization to the state legislature and governor.

**Burt Derick '58**, retired physicist, was featured in *Wicked Local*, an eastern Massachusetts publication, for his patent work with fiber optics and his devotion to his Cape Cod roots.

**'70s**

**Doug McFarlane '70** received the coveted Karl King Retired Award from the Northeast Iowa Bandmasters Association for his 37 years of service to music education.

**Dallas Walters '72** exhibited his photography, digitally manipulated imagery and sculpture at the Barnett Fine Arts Gallery at Evangel University in Springfield, MO.

**Betty A. Winholtz '74** was featured in *Women's Press* (San Luis Obispo, CA) for her political work on behalf of the regional environment.

**Karl Hayes '74** performed with other members of the double-reed trio, *The MO'Boes*, in an April concert series in Warrensburg, MO, and Mission, KS.

**Mary Ellen Foss '75 Kimball** continues to fly her Cessna 150, founded a Fine Arts Foundation, produced a community play, serves as a reporter for *Our Iowa* magazine and has completed nine years on the Iowa Public Television Foundation.

**Thad Wilson '76** has been elected to serve as the 2009-10 president of the American College of Nurse Practitioners.

**R. Brent Elliott '77** was appointed a circuit judge of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon.

**Terry (Zahniser) '77 McDermid** has published another book, *Weddings in the Family*, with Harlequin Enterprises and is on a library speaking tour.

**'80s**

**Jeanette Hartwig-Botts '86 Calipetro** and husband Keith opened "Calipetro's It's Italian" restaurant in Lee's Summit, MO.

**Reginald Bowerman '87**, was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of DiaMedica Inc., a pharmaceutical company focused on novel treatments for Type-two diabetes.

**Brent W. Wouters '88** was recently interviewed by Fox Business News regarding his aircraft company.

**Yoland Rochelle Propst '88 Porter** recently published her poem, "Non-violent Abstinence" in *Famous Poets of the Heartland*. She has also published her own book of poetry, *Beats of Ten: Take Two*.

**'00s**

**G. Scott Dowis '00** teaches computer applications and is head girls' volleyball coach at Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, KS.

**Max Bertman '01** was featured on the College of DuPage news website for his outstanding work as an athletic trainer.

**Bruce Koehler '02** is senior author of the lead article in the April 2009 *Journal of Hospital Medicine*. He has a Masters in Public Health from Boston University and is a first-year student at University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School.

**Shelley Lee '03** graduated from Michigan State University with a Masters of Science in Nursing.

**Jesse Wagenaar '05** has been appointed physical education and health teacher and head high school boys soccer coach at the Milton I. Schwartz Hebrew Academy in Las Vegas, NV.

**Ben Wagenaar '05** is enrolled in a Masters of Divinity program at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, MO.

**Erin Manson '07 Kirchhoff** is an art instructor in the Mid-Prairie School District in Kalona, Iowa.

**Beth Schilling '08** will be attending the Washburn University Law School in Topeka, KS, in the fall.

**Lara Guscott '08** earned a prestigious full-time position in the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's Summer Diversity Clerkship Program after her first year at the Kansas City School of Law.

**Ciera Speaks-Rhoades '08** has been selected to participate in the 2009 Des Moines Arts Festival as an Emerging Iowa Artist.

**Weddings**

**Jennifer Davis '02** and Eric Todd, December 22, 2007.

**Heather Knowles '93** and Tim Tucker, December 20, 2008

**He Raised the Bar for Jacket Athletics  
Dan Hanton Retires**

By Matt Shelton  
Sports Information Director

Since arriving at Graceland 10 years ago from his hometown of Port Huron, Michigan, former Yellowjacket women's basketball coach and current Athletic Director Dan Hanton '65 has changed the face of Jacket athletics. He will retire in June.

"Dan Hanton has provided great leadership to Graceland Athletics," said VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Tom Powell. "While serving as our women's basketball coach, Dan's teams were always exciting to watch and well coached. As assistant athletic director for four years and athletic director the past six years, Dan led the Yellowjackets through a time of great success in competition and in the classroom. He will be remembered for his caring nature, positive spirit, and his constant promotion of our players, coaches and teams. Dan bleeds Blue and Gold. All of the Graceland community wishes Dan and Sue the best in their retirement," Powell said.

Dan's stretch as both AD and basketball coach proved to be a fruitful time for Graceland. We made 25 NAIA National Tournament appearances, won 11 HAAC championships and one team (2006 Men's Soccer) won the NAIA National Championship. Dan and his wife Suzanne Fisher '64 Hanton plan to move back to Port Huron, where they will spend time with family, friends and grandchildren. There will also be more time for golf - one of Dan's passions.

Dan became women's basketball coach in 1999, after 36 years as a high school teacher and coach. "That had been a life-long dream," he said. Four years later he became the first full-time AD for Graceland. Dan waxed nostalgic about his decade back at GU. "I had the opportunity to renew old and create new friendships and assist in hiring all but two present head coaches, as well as many assistant coaches and staff. I was taught many years ago by my former Graceland coaches that if you surround yourself with good people, good things will happen! I have been fortunate to work with many outstanding staff members, students and student-athletes. Without them, my duties would have been tough to accomplish. My time here on "the Hill" has been rewarding, but soon it will be time for Suzanne and me to fully experience the life and challenges of being grandparents! I want to thank Graceland, Lamoni and the HAAC communities for playing an important part in our lives. Sue and I will always be Yellowjackets!" Dan, you will be sorely missed! ■



Athletic Director Dan Hanton, and his Scottish buddy, have retired after 10 stellar years at Graceland.

**AAUW-Iowa Award Brings Diane Bartholomew's Journey Full Circle**

Dr. Diane Bartholomew, Associate Professor and Chair of the Health and Movement Science Division at Graceland, has been recognized with the American Association of University Women-Iowa Distinguished Faculty Award.

Each year the AAUW-Iowa recognizes exemplary contributions by women faculty toward creating a climate of gender equity in education. Criteria include excellence in teaching, efforts to develop new understandings and competencies in their discipline, or outstanding leadership in service addressing the needs of female students. Diane was selected

this year for her leadership and service to the community, Graceland University and our students. She serves on several committees and she is a creative faculty member.

In 1988 Diane was one of six area high school senior girls to receive The Book Award from the Beloit, Wisconsin branch of the AAUW. Recipients were chosen for scholarship, leadership, community service and future educational plans. "This award helped me start my college education," Diane said. The award proved to be the beginning of an exceptional career. Diane is a valued leader in the GU community and the recent AAUW award brings full circle the extent of her achievement.

She earned a B.S. in Athletic Training and in Physical Education from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse in 1992, a Master's in Athletic Training at Indiana State University in 1995, and her Doctorate in Health Science at Nova Southeastern University in 2004.

Diane credits three influential women for making a difference in her life: her mother, Betty Shuler, "for living the characteristics of scholarship, leadership, service, and caring;" her professional mentor, Dr. Karen Toburen, one of the first women to take the national certification exam for athletic training and be inducted into the National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame; and her daughter, Kami, "...who is a constant reminder of the need for balance in life, and also got me started with the violin and Tae Kwon Do." ■



Eric Mercer '07 and Katie Waugh '07, January 1, 2009.

Mark Mesle '02 and Abbey Studer, January 23, 2009.

Christopher Allen Stowell '03 and Bethany Christine McCullough, March 28, 2009.

Stuart Sherman '85 and Amy Crum '82 Thompson, April 18, 2009.

Michael Morain '01 and Heath Smith, May 9, 2009

## Births

Daniel '94 and Jennifer Sweborg, Monmouth, IL, Benjamin Aaron, May 25, 2004, and Mia Grace, April 29, 2008.

Jason '98 and Yolanda (Brumaghim) '99 Grutter, Los Angeles, CA, Paisley Joan Makanalani, March 17, 2006

Steve '86 and Lisa Winship, Lee's Summit, MO, Laci Ann, June 21, 2008.

Brian and Monica Johnston '97 McKeivitt, Omaha, NE, Elizabeth (Ellie) Carol, May 27, 2008.

Rebecca Rees '98 and Brian Fausett, San Diego, CA, Trevor Samuel, October 2, 2008.

Robert and Michelle (Fish) '96 Wormly, Snohomish, WA, Violet Symone, January 18, 2009

Micah '02 and Mandy (Williams) '01 Allison, Alvin, TX, Cobee Jo, January 25, 2009.

Jim and Leah Rathbun '04 Fitzpatrick, Independence, MO, Brayden James, January 18, 2009.

## In Memoriam

A. Dale Bradford '59, Green Valley, AZ, August 24, 2002.

Edith Marie Odom '50 Roberts, Sierra Vista, AZ, September 30, 2006.

Priscilla Boeckman '39 Siler, Miami, OH, December 15, 2007.

Ruth E. Carmichael '41 Schoff, Merced, CA, March 4, 2008.

Nettie Alford '46 Wade, Prattville, AL, April 15, 2008.

Joyce Hansen '52 Heaviland, Independence, MO, September 13, 2008.

Merle Lee Walden '50, Martinez, CA, December 14, 2008.

Robert R. Gould '58, Denver, CO, December 21, 2008.

N. Frederick Cool '50, Pauls Valley, OK, December 27, 2008.

Jack O. Waddell '53, Corvallis, OR, January 4, 2009.

Robert W. Clothier '59, Independence, MO, January 11, 2009.

Carolyn Mae Keairnes '55 Campbell, Clinton, MO, January 11, 2009.

Tim Edwards '91, Kansas City, MO, January 12, 2009.

Earnie T. Garner '68, Fort Collins, CO, January 14, 2009.

Alice Kathlea (Kay) Sprague '36 Mesle, January 14, 2009.

Merle Bonne Wildey '33 Ferris, Shawnee, KS, January 20, 2009.

Elizabeth Parrish '69 Hollers, Sterling Heights, MI, February 5, 2009.

Flora B. Williams '29, Ironton, OH, February 6, 2009.

William J. Coward '60, Durham, NC, February 28, 2009.

Jessie Bruch '47 Weldon, Independence, MO, March 7, 2009.

Lynden Talcott '68, San Antonio, TX, March 8, 2009.

Ruby Barnum '36 Graves, Webster City, IA, March 15, 2009.

Louise Murdock '90, Santa Barbara, CA, March 26, 2009.

Edith L. Strange '41 Youngs, March 27, 2009.

Vern Watts '51, Sebastopol, CA, April 4, 2009.

Merle Harmon '47, Arlington, TX, April 15, 2009.

Jack J. Ross '50, Gibsonia, PA, April 22, 2009.

Alice May Parsons '30 Ingram, Independence, MO, April 24, 2009.

# Remembering Gaylord Shaw

By Stacy Badder '11

It has been an honor to share pieces of life with Gaylord Shaw, a dear friend, much-respected Graceland Biology professor, a man whose faith defined who he truly was. For 18 years this tall, imposing, inspiring teacher graced our Lamoni campus with his search for scientific knowledge and the excitement of creation. He passed away in December 2008 after an illness. He had retired in 2005.

Gaylord came to Graceland as a sophomore and upon graduation in 1962 he received the Silver Seal. In 1965 he married his Graceland sweetheart, Faye Ruhlman '61 Shaw. They shared a wonderful marriage, friendship and faith. They have a son, David '89, daughter, Chrystal, and two grandchildren.

Though science and faith do not always follow parallel lines, it was a deeper belief in creation that inspired Gaylord's unique way of teaching science. He said, "there is something more at work here than just DNA and evolution." Faye shares a favorite scripture of his that was the basis of this belief: *Doctrine and Covenants 85:12c*; "Behold, all these are Kingdoms, and any man who hath seen any or the least of these, hath seen God moving in his majesty and power." Faye said this scripture motivated Gaylord's efforts to obtain Graceland's first electron microscope. Not far from the new microscope was a message board where the scripture was posted.

He was known to be a tough professor, urging his students to excel. Faye remembers letters of gratitude from alumni thanking him for the excellent preparation he had given them. It was this legacy of excellence in knowledge and belief in his students that Gaylord valued and promoted.

The GU science department became a family and every Tuesday night there was an unofficial meeting at the Pizza Shack, a tradition that Faye still continues with retired Gracelanders Nick '58 and Merilou Gilmore '58 Hartwig, and other friends. She remembers that 39 people once attended.

Gaylord's passion for the *Book of Mormon* led him and Faye to establish the *Christian Center for Book of Mormon Study and Research*, located next to their home in Lamoni. His fascination with the scriptures led him on journeys to the Yucatan where his scrutiny of Mayan tooth inlays provided breakthrough knowledge of ancient technology.

Gaylord often reflected on creation, seeing the evidence of God in every tiny cell. He never lost his appreciation for the awe and wonder of life. ■



## GU Loses Long-Time Spanish Professor Les Ford



Leslie "Les" Ford taught Spanish at Graceland for 24 years from 1979 to 2003. He was known as a gracious, humble and caring man who made learning a second language fun for his students. He passed away in Des

Moines in April. He was 68 and resided in Lamoni.

'Señor' Ford's Winter Terms to the Caribbean, to destinations like Grand Cayman and the British West Indies, were popular with students. He loved to travel and he embraced these trips with passion. He taught a course on Bullfighting, Pirates and Piracy in the West Indies, Caribbean Literature and 500 years after Christopher Columbus. He also took students to Mexico. He taught all undergraduate levels of Spanish, Spanish composition and conversation, methods of teaching Spanish, and Hispanic literature and civilization.

Les was the sponsor of the "Los Amigos" Spanish Club at Graceland and he was a member of the Modern Language Association, the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese and the Iowa Foreign Language Association. During

a 1987 sabbatical to Spain, he immersed himself in Spanish culture. Even later in life, in failing health, Les traveled to several exotic places, including the Galapagos Islands, Machu Picchu in Peru and Easter Island.

Humanities Division Chair Jerry DeNuccio worked with Les for 15 years and remembers him fondly as "a colleague who identified problems clearly and tackled them skillfully. He was unstinting in giving his time and effort to students."

When Les was 11 his family spent time in Caracas, Venezuela and he developed an interest in the language and culture of the area. A career teaching Spanish was born. He earned a B.A. from Wittenberg University in 1963, an M.A. from Indiana University in 1965 and a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University in 1975. ■

## Annual Report 2008

These Graceland donors to the Yellowjacket Club (our alumni group that supports GU athletic teams) were inadvertently omitted from the Annual Report issue of Horizons. We thank them for their continuing support. They are: Clark and Diana Barr Ballantyne, Tracy and Chris Robino Bridge, Ken and Pam Combs, Kirt and Cheryl Troeh DeHaan, Jake W. Everett, Kelly and Tammy Ewing Everett, Keith and Debra Daikawa Harder, Carl and Florence McGuire, Jerry Mensendick, Barney and Phyllis Hansen Parker, Wayne and Sophie Rogers, Stuart R. Sherman, Lester and Joyce Ballantyne Stevenson, Larry and Mary Lou Sturgis and John R. Whitehurst. ■

## Graceland's Tom Morain Honored for Service to Understanding Iowa History

The State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) on April 3 awarded Tom Morain its highest honor, the Harlan-Petersen Award for lifetime contribution and continuing service to the understanding of Iowa history.

Tom has been with GU since 2001. He is Director of Government Relations. He also teaches an ACE (online-delivered for high school students) course on Iowa history and co-teaches the junior-senior Honors Seminar with Philosophy Professor Bob Mesle. Tom is married to Vikki Updike Morain. They are both 1969 GU graduates.

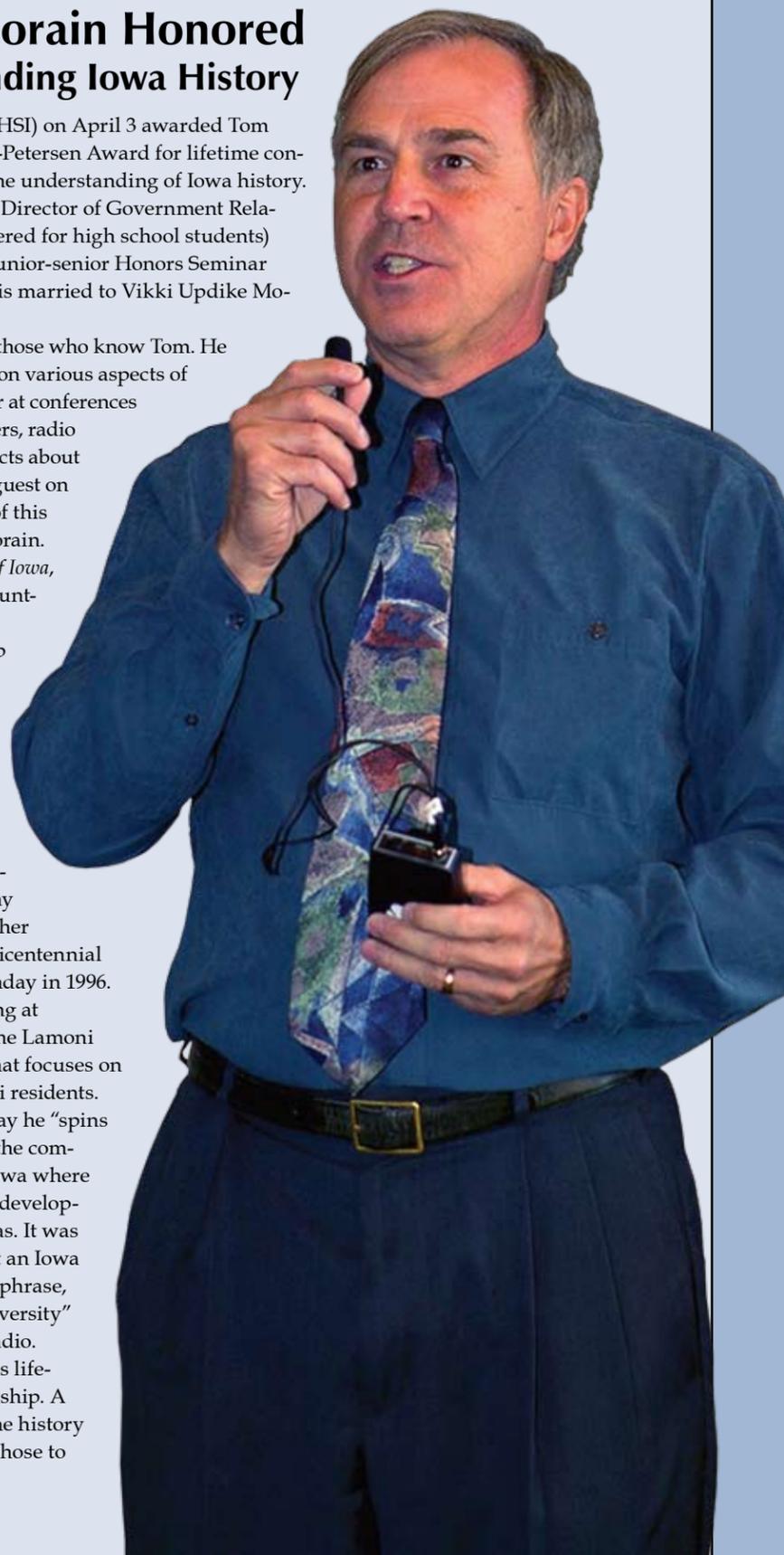
This high honor comes as no surprise to those who know Tom. He regularly lectures students around the state on various aspects of Iowa history and he is a sought-after speaker at conferences and historical events across Iowa. Newspapers, radio and TV programs often feature him when facts about Iowa history are needed. He was recently a guest on National Public Radio. He accomplishes all of this with a unique humor that is vintage Tom Morain.

Marvin Bergman, Editor of *The Annals of Iowa*, said this about Tom: "Tom can always be counted on to find the human element in history, often with a humorous twist. His leadership in the public history community has done much to make Iowa history more accessible — and more fun."

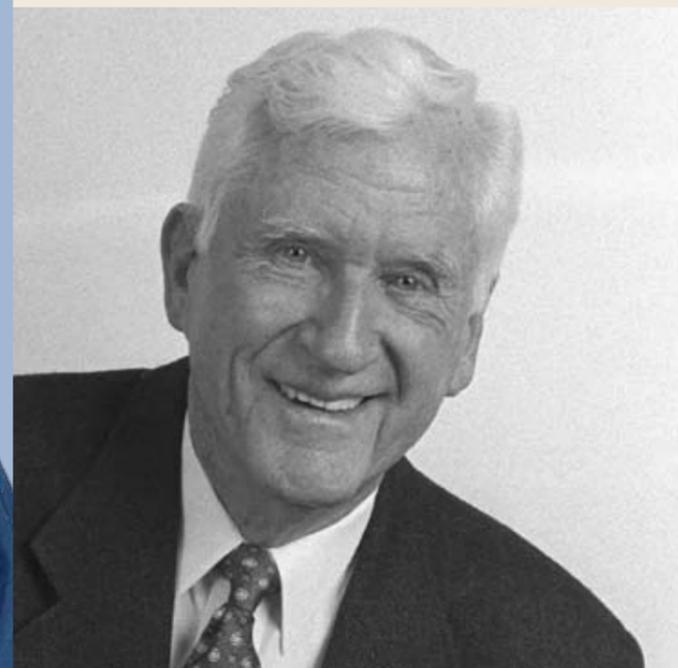
Tom taught Iowa history at Iowa State University for five years, served as Director of History at Living History Farms in Des Moines for 13 years and he was Director of the Iowa State Historical Society from 1995-2001. He has served on many state committees, foundation boards and other historical groups, including the Iowa Sesquicentennial Commission, helping plan Iowa's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1996.

Besides Tom's regular duties and teaching at Graceland, he is founder and facilitator of the Lamoni Community Forum, a monthly gathering that focuses on a topical issue or event of interest to Lamoni residents. Tom's idea for the Forum is typical of the way he "spins ideas" at meetings at the university and in the community. He is a creative force in southern Iowa where he has championed the causes of economic development and grant funding for grass-roots ideas. It was Tom who did the ground work and brought an Iowa Public Radio transmitter to Graceland. The phrase, "transmitting from KOWI at Graceland University" is now a common feature on Iowa Public Radio.

All of his service to Lamoni speaks to his lifelong commitment to community and friendship. A commitment to sharing his knowledge of the history of Iowa is why the State Historical Society chose to honor him. ■



## Famed Sportscaster Merle Harmon 1927-2009



Gracelanders mourn the passing of an alumnus who was known as one of the world's busiest and most recognizable radio and TV sportscasters from the 1960s to the 1990s. Merle Harmon, Class of 1947, passed away in April in Arlington, TX. He was 82.

Merle was a faithful friend to Graceland. He served on the Board of Trustees for 12 years and he shared his unique expertise with his alma mater on many occasions, most recently as the host for a *Graceland Forever* Capital Campaign DVD. He served as Chairman of the *Over the Top* Capital Campaign in 2002. He frequently attended Homecomings and he often put his skills to work at SPECTACULAR, the annual Community of Christ extravaganza for high school youth that takes place each summer on our Lamoni campus.

He had been hospitalized for two weeks and died of complications stemming from pneumonia. Graceland President John Sellars noted Merle's passing with sadness. "He was a great man and a great friend to Graceland," Sellars said. "All Gracelanders extend their sympathy to Merle's family."

Merle traveled the world for 45 years broadcasting some of the most famous events in sports history. During a 35-year career as a play-by-play man for Major League Baseball, he was the voice of the Kansas City *A's*, Milwaukee *Braves*, Minnesota *Twins*, Milwaukee *Brewers* and the Texas *Rangers*. Analysts often refer to Merle as one of the best play-by-play men ever to hold a microphone — perhaps the best radio/football play-

by-play man. Merle brought his play-by-play for football, baseball and basketball games right into your living room. He sat down with you on the couch and shared your potato chips, and he made his radio listeners/then TV viewers a part of the action. They loved him for it.

He liked to talk about how his love for Graceland and his time here set the tone for his life. He came to GU on the GI Bill (like so many other guys) after a stint in the Navy (1944-46) where he saw action in the Pacific. He was helmsman on one of the big LST flat-bottomed boats and did three landings at Okinawa, ducking Kamikaze attacks. "They were good boats because torpedoes would just slide underneath an LST," he once recalled during an interview with *Horizons*.

It was at Graceland, he said, that the greatest event of his life occurred. He met Jeanette Kinner (Class of 1948) one night at a reception in Walker Hall. He mused, "I saw this pretty girl standing next to the fireplace and that was that." They were married for 62 years. All five of their children attended Graceland.

As a world-class broadcaster Merle "was there" for many defining-moment stories, times when he knew he had just experienced a piece of history: a number of World Series, Olympics, the World Games in Moscow and a very famous Super Bowl. He was the voice of the New York *Jets* during the 1968-69 season when Joe Namath, at his cocky best, convinced his teammates they could take it all, and then amazed the world of sports by guaranteeing the *Jets* would beat the *Colts* in the Super Bowl. "It was an unbelievable atmosphere," Merle remembers. "The world was watching." Namath and the *Jets* did it and "That event really made the NFL," Merle recalled.

The night of August 7th, 1974 Merle was calling a football game on national television when the broadcast was interrupted and he was told to introduce the President of the United States. Richard Nixon came on and announced he would resign the next day — culminating the Water-gate saga. "I bet not many sports announcers have done that," he recalled, laughing.

He had one more anecdote he liked to tell. Merle was broadcasting on radio a clash between AFL heavyweights the *Jets* and *Raiders* in November 1968. With one minute remaining and the *Jets* leading 32-29, NBC TV went to commercial and then cut to begin a made-for-TV movie, *Heidi*. Millions of furious fans across the country flooded NBC's switchboard and many of them tuned-in Merle's radio broadcast. One of football's "Top 10 Most Memorable Games of the Century" came to a knuckle-biting conclusion after the *Raiders* scored twice on razzle-dazzle plays and won 43-32. "The *Heidi* game," chuckled Merle, reminiscing that experience. "That was quite a day."

Thank you Merle for sharing your colorful memories, and thank you for sharing your life with Graceland. ■

## Graceland Community Mourns Loss of Emmanuel Stiverne and Ben Loucks

The Graceland community is deeply saddened by the loss of two of our students during the early morning hours of Monday, May 18, in a vehicular accident near Minot, North Dakota. Emmanuel Stiverne of Montreal, Quebec, Canada had graduated on Sunday, May 17, and Ben Loucks of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada had just completed his freshmen year at Graceland.



Emmanuel Stiverne

Dale Loucks, Ben's father, was also killed in the accident. Ben's 16-year old brother, Michael Loucks, was listed in critical condition. Nicole Loucks, Ben's sister and a current Graceland student, was not involved in the accident. She had left campus a few days earlier.

Ben and Emmanuel were both GU football players and both are remembered as friendly, outgoing and loving members of the Graceland family. Emmanuel was a transfer student to Graceland this year. Diana Jones, Director of GU's International Programs, remembers him as a guy with "a great smile, a very loving young man." She said, "He was a bright light on campus. You just felt good in his presence."

GU Business instructor Carrie Melcher had Emmanuel in class this year and remembers him as "...engaging and always happy. He was a very intelligent student," she said, "mathematically smart and engaged in the class. He was a very likeable young man." Pat Hoffman, GU's Coordinator of Academic Advising, said Emmanuel was a "...

great young man. He was a mature person, set to do great things with his life."

Ben had just completed his first year at Graceland and he had declared student athletic training as his career interest. About Ben, Diana said, "He was a big, teddy bear. You wanted to hug him whenever you saw him." Ben's father, Dale Loucks, was not a GU alumnus but he was a great supporter of the university. "Dale had an effervescent personality that was contagious," according to Diana. "He spent time on campus and was friendly and engaging wherever he went, with whoever he met."

Economics Professor Paul Beck had Ben in his First-Year-Experience class this year. "He was a nice, soft-spoken student," according to Paul. "He was well liked by his fellow students." Gracelanders agree that Ben had a very successful first year at GU and we were looking forward to having him as a member of the community for many years.

Jeff Douglas, Graceland football Defensive Coordinator, had this to say about Ben and Emmanuel. "Ben and Emmanuel were members of the 2008 Yellowjacket Football Team. Ben was an offensive lineman and Emmanuel a wide receiver. Their contributions on and off the field will be missed. Their friendship and leadership will be sorely missed. These two young men are what football coaches look for in student athletes. We are thankful for the time we had to spend with Ben and Emmanuel and our heart-felt condolences go out to their families."

To send condolences to the families, please use the following addresses: Loucks Family, 1802 14<sup>th</sup> Street East, Saskatoon, SK, S7H 0B1, Canada; Stiverne Family, 12587 Beauchatel, Montreal, QC, H1E 4A2, CANADA.



Ben Loucks

## First Lady Bette Sellars Brings to Life her Vision for an Amish Country Store in Lamoni

Graceland's first lady Bette Sellars has quickly realized her vision of creating an Amish Country Store and Welcome Center two miles from downtown Lamoni at Hwy. 69 and I-35. A ribbon cutting was held recently for the rustic-yet-stylish store that retails locally-made Amish goods from about a dozen families. It joins an Amish-themed Maid-Rite at the complex, one of the most unique among Maid-Rite's 80 Midwest stores. The entire nonprofit complex is owned and operated by Graceland.

You may have read about plans for the Amish store in the last *Horizons* (available, with other past issues, at our Alumni & Friends web pages) but you need to visit to get the country-charm feel of this special destination. Bette has worked tirelessly to acquire and display merchandise that catches the eye of a steady stream of visitors off the Interstate. The new complex has helped draw tourists into the city as well. New brochures and an Amish Country Store website are being created to keep alumni and friends informed with what is happening and what is being offered. We will announce the website link when it is complete. GU Visual Communications students are involved in the design and photo work.

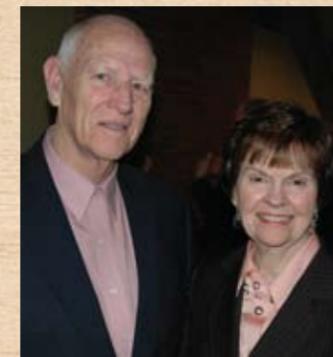
To visit the Amish store is to drift lazily into the past. Homemade baskets, quilts, wood-craft items, bird houses and more adorn pine shelves. Adirondack chairs, rockers and an Amish buggy welcome visitors at the front door. "It all reminds me of when I was growing up," recalled Bette during a recent tour of the store. Her nostalgic and artful touches are present throughout the complex. Old-time photos of Lamoni hang along a wall in the Maid-Rite.

A century-old, one-room country school now sits behind the Amish store, restored to its original glory and moved to the site by 1953 alumnus Orman Brouner. Alumna Vicki McVicker '50 Ross funded the project and is now overseeing restoration of the interior. She is "scouring every antique shop in the area," she said, to acquire period desks, maps and chalkboards. Vicki attended the schoolhouse as a little girl growing up in southern Iowa. She and Orman both serve on GU's Board of Trustees.

On Thursdays quilters of the Lamoni Mite Society stitch away on a little 'front porch' constructed in the store just for them. Live music and special family nights are offered at the Maid-Rite. Amish baked goods, jellies, jams and fudge are sold at the store. Free coffee and information about what Lamoni has to offer are provided at the Welcome Center. Bette said plans for this summer include a paved outdoor dining patio and the possibility of a farmers' market. ■



Bette cuts the ribbon at the Amish Country Store grand opening.



Orman Brouner and Vicki Ross



The welcoming Amish Country Store entry.



The Lamoni Mite Society quilts at the Amish Country Store on Thursdays. There is a lot to see, including a century-old, one-room schoolhouse. See story for details.





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