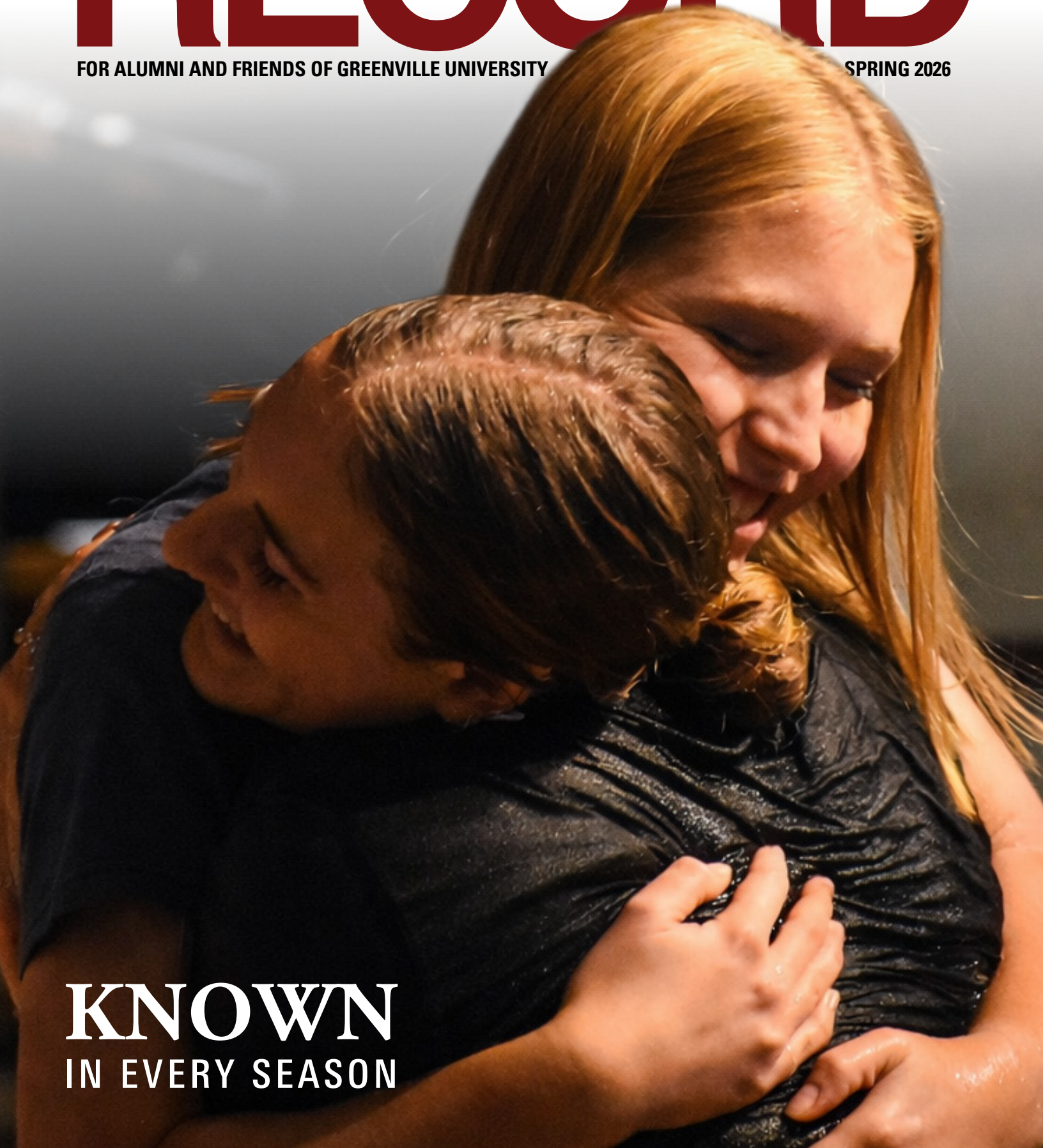


THE

# RECORD

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF GREENVILLE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2026



**KNOWN**  
IN EVERY SEASON

# CONTENT

- 01** PRESIDENT'S LETTER
- 02** A DAY OF GREAT JOY
- 04** REAL VOICES IN THE COURTROOM
- 06** A YEAR OF REVIEW
- 08** MCALLASTER HONORS PROGRAM
- 09** MORGAN FAMILY
- 12** FAITH IN CONTEXT
- 14** SEEING STUDENTS AS GOD SEES THEM
- 16** LISTENING FOR GOD
- 18** ALUMNI NEWS
- 20** IN MEMORY



**About the Cover:** Captured during a special Wednesday Experience, this moment shows Kinsley Shultz '27 embracing Myrisa DeLoria '27 following her baptism (pictured above), one of five students who publicly declared their faith that day. An expression of faith, support, and belonging. Surrounded by a community that showed up and responded with a collective "We will," these stories become part of something bigger.

Views and opinions expressed by individuals in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Greenville University.

# THE RECORD

**THE RECORD** (USPS 2292-2000) is published three times a year for alumni and friends of Greenville University by Office of Advancement, Greenville University, 315 E. College Ave., Greenville, IL 62246. Phone: 618-664-6500. Non-profit class postage paid at Greenville, IL 62246. Vol. 115, No. 2.

---

Vice President of Advancement | **Tom Ackerman '99**  
Assistant Vice President of Advancement | **Ashley Alm '06**  
Director of Alumni Relations | **Robyn Florian '88**  
Development Officer | **Pat Bond '62**  
Director of Philanthropy | **Dewayne Neeley '98**  
Manager of Donor Relations | **Brianne Hair '05**  
Database Manager | **Clayton Loraine '20**  
Associate Athletic Director — External Affairs | **Johnny Garvilla**  
Special Projects Manager | **Linda Myette '73**  
Director of Community Engagement & Experiences | **Kurt Vonder Haar**  
Editor-in-Chief & Writer | **Liz Dowell**  
Contributing Writer | **Lydia Cahill '29, Dave Bell**  
Photographers | **Dave Bell, Wyatt Boyer '23, Andres Esquivel-Garza '27, Loryn O'Neal '28, Ella Basham '28, Tyler Malloy, Alex Weatherspoon**  
Graphic Designer | **Carol Perez '24, Tyler Malloy**

---

Greenville University  
**empowers students** for lives  
of **character** and **service**  
through a transforming  
**Christ-centered education.**

---

**Website** | [greenville.edu](http://greenville.edu)  
**Email** | [advancement@greenville.edu](mailto:advancement@greenville.edu)

Send address corrections, correspondence, and alumni updates to:

**Office of Advancement**  
315 E. College Ave., Greenville, IL 62246

**Phone** | 618-664-6500  
**Email** | [alumni@greenville.edu](mailto:alumni@greenville.edu)

FROM THE  
**PRESIDENT**



**Dear Alumni and Friends,**

There is something deeply meaningful about being known.

Not simply recognized in passing but truly seen and understood — known in our strengths, our questions, and the path we are walking.

At Greenville University, this has long been a defining part of who we are.

In recent years, we have been engaged in ongoing conversations about the changing state of higher education — how students learn best, what they need to succeed, and how we can faithfully prepare them for lives of purpose and service. Through it all, one truth has remained clear: long before higher education spoke of personalization or student experience, Greenville was already living it through relationships that matter.

Our faculty take the time to know students not only by name, but by story. Coaches and mentors walk alongside them through challenges and milestones. Friendships formed here often last a lifetime. To be known here is not simply an ideal. It is a promise.

As we look ahead, that promise continues to guide us. We are developing a renewed academic model that responds to today's world while remaining rooted in our commitment to support each student both academically and personally. This includes courses designed for deeper engagement, led by faculty who serve as both instructors and mentors.

When students are known, they gain the confidence to ask questions, take thoughtful risks, and grow into who they are called to be. Education becomes more than the transfer of knowledge; it becomes formation.

As president, I hold this work with deep gratitude as I keep our campus in prayer, often returning to God's promise to fully know us:

"You have searched me, Lord, and you know me." —  
Psalm 139:1

This truth grounds our community and shapes a place where every student is seen, known, and inspired. No student walks alone here.

Many of us lived this experience during our time at Greenville, and I count myself among them. These are the moments that stay with us and part of what makes Greenville so special. Support from a caring community, strengthened by our alumni and friends, ensures that students are known and shaped not only in what they learn, but in who they become.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to sustain a community where each person and each story matters.

With gratitude,

**Suzanne Davis**  
President, Greenville University



FIVE GU STUDENTS CELEBRATE BAPTISM AT TWE

# A DAY OF GREAT JOY

By Liz Dowell

Greenville University's weekly The Wednesday Experience (TWE) looked a little different on November 19. Instead of gathering in H.J. Long Gymnasium, the campus community packed into Whitlock Recital Hall, filling every seat, aisle, and balcony. Students, faculty, and staff gathered to celebrate something deeply sacred: the public baptism of five students who publicly declared their faith in Jesus Christ.

**Rev. Keli Pennington '16**, GU's campus chaplain, opened the service with a joyful invitation.

"Today is a day of great joy and celebration," she said as the five baptismal candidates stepped forward. "In baptism, we experience cleansing from sin. We are brought into the story of God. We die and rise with Christ, and we are given new birth through water and the Spirit."

Assistant Vice President of Student Development **Isaac Barber '14** addressed the crowd, smiling as he scanned the full room.

"This is my favorite time of year," he said. "We love that the chapel is full. We love that you all showed up to celebrate those being baptized today. This is a big deal."

## FIVE STORIES, ONE CALLING

The five students, **Kevin Munoz '28**, **Logan Rose '26**, **Dani (Danielle) Oaks '27**, **Margaret Bellew '27**, and **Myrisa DeLoriae '27**, spent the previous month meeting in a small group with Pennington and Barber, studying Scripture, sharing testimonies, and preparing for baptism.

Each student then shared a brief testimony.

For **Logan Rose '26**, the moment marked renewal. Though he had been a Christian for years, he had never been baptized.

"This feels like a recommitment," he said. "After all this time with God, I want to keep being with Him."

**Kevin Munoz '28** shared a story about rescue and transformation.

"In 2022, I was at a really low point. [I was] depressed, anxious, and searching for peace in all the wrong places," he said. "But in February of 2024, everything changed. God gave me the peace I'd been looking for. I don't believe I'd be here if it weren't for Him."

**Dani Oaks '27** reflected on the role of community in her faith journey.

"I didn't want to do something this monumental without people who actually cared," she said. "At GU, I've found that community. You are the reason I'm up here today."

**Margaret Bellew '27** and **Myrisa DeLoriae '27** both described baptism as a recommitment.

"For me, it's like being married again in the house of the Lord," Bellew said.

DeLoriae added that although she had been baptized as a baby, this moment was her own declaration of faith after a season of growth.

### A COMMUNITY PROMISE

Before entering the water, **Rev. Pennington '16** led the students through historic baptismal vows. Each responded confidently, "I do."

She then turned to the congregation, reminding them that faith is not living alone. When asked if they would surround the newly baptized students with love, prayer, and care, the room

responded in unison: "We will."

One by one, each student was baptized and emerged to cheer, applause, and celebration.

"Heaven is singing," Barber told the crowd.

Pennington smiled as water dripped from her hands, she closed the service with prayer, asking that the students would "grow in the grace and power of the Holy Spirit and live as witnesses who bring glory to God's name." 🙏

"I didn't want to do something this monumental without people who actually cared. **At GU, I've found that community.**"

– Dani (Danielle) Oaks '27

THE IMPACT OF

# THE WEDNESDAY EXPERIENCE

14

TWE gatherings each semester

540

Avg. student attendance

5

Neighborhood Worship Locations

14

Community Cafés & Vespers services each semester

550

Students participated in small groups

270

Avg. weekly small group participation

MOCK TRIAL INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO REAL-LIFE LEGAL SITUATIONS

# REAL-WORLD LAW IN ACTION

By Dave Bell



The witness squirmed as he faced a barrage of questions from the prosecuting attorney. He deflected probing questions and steadfastly denied allegations that he, the board chairman of a Delaware corporation called TransUnion, had failed to adequately review a proposal to sell the company that enriched its retiring CEO but harmed shareholders.

The aggressive examination – and cross-examination – continued for several minutes. Slowly, cracks in the chairman’s story began to emerge. It became clear that he and the board had not adequately reviewed the CEO’s proposal to sell the company at a discount.

The courtroom drama was interrupted by Greenville University professor Lisa Moon, who stepped in and called a halt to the proceedings. The prosecutors reverted to their true identities as students in a business law class, and the pummeled board chair regained his identity as GU history professor Kollin Fields.

They had been participants in a re-enactment of a real court case known as *Smith v. Van Gorkom*, which was tried more than 40 years ago before the Supreme Court of Delaware.



“The goal of this mock trial is to help students learn about the basic elements of a court case,” Moon

said of the capstone exercise of Business 222. “It’s the culmination of all we have covered in the class. By experiencing the courtroom setting firsthand, students can apply what they’ve learned about legal research, opening and closing arguments, presenting evidence, examining witnesses, and making objections.

“In this exercise, we re-tried the first case in U.S. history in which the shareholders of a corporation successfully brought a derivative lawsuit against the corporation and its board of directors,” she added. “Those board members violated their duty of care to the shareholders by agreeing with the CEO to sell the company for less than its actual value. Eventually, the board members had to repay the corporation out of their personal financial resources for the losses suffered by the shareholders.”



Later in the day, another team of students grilled the company's chief financial officer (played by Bre Burkle, GU director of student development) and its would-be purchaser (played by Shawn Foles, professor of criminal justice).

In both scenarios, the impact on the participating students was significant. They learned legal terms and procedures, they experienced the preparations necessary to try a case, and they felt the tension as they matched wits with other would-be attorneys in the makeshift courtroom in Dietzman Hall.

Moon said that the class teaches students how to read and write legal documents and then reason through them in a trial setting.

"We begin with contracts," Moon said. "We want students to understand the different types of contracts and the court remedies for breach of contract. Then we study business and corporate law, including the stock market, how corporations are formed, and the principles of limited liability. This knowledge is immediately applied by studying a case that illustrates

the principles we've just covered."

But the true experiential learning occurs at the end of the semester when the class reenacts an actual trial, which this semester was the Smith v. Van Gorkum case.

*"The goal...  
is to help  
students learn  
by applying  
what they've  
studied in a  
real courtroom  
setting."  
— Lisa Moon*

"We read the case line by line together, noting how the attorneys presented the law and the facts," Moon said. "The class was then divided into two parts – the prosecution and the defense. Most of the class served as the legal research and writing team for their side. Only a few were assigned to the trial team, where they demonstrated courtroom fundamentals – opening statements and closing arguments, presenting evidence, and questioning and cross-examining witnesses."

"This exercise forces them to reason like a lawyer and follow the procedures used in an actual trial," Moon added. "It's experiential learning at its best." 🏛️

# A YEAR *of* IMPACT

Key moments that shaped the Greenville University community

## JANUARY

- U.S. News & World Report Ranks Greenville University a Top Performer in Social Mobility.
- Engineering Students Design Autonomous Crop-Surveying Rover.



- Greenville University Signs Agreement with Bond County Community Unit School District No. 2.
- Interterm Offers Unique Student Learning Opportunities.

## FEBRUARY

- GU Graduate Lloyd Nicks Wins Grammy Award.



- From DIII Standout to Super Bowl Champion: Nicholas Morrow's Historic Triumph.
- Greenville University Gymnastics Builds Faith and Teamwork in a New Era.
- Building Strong Resumes: GU Student Senators Hone Skills Employers Want in 2025.

## MARCH

- Greenville University and Regional Office of Education No. 3 Update Memorandum of Understanding.
- Greenville University and Midwestern University Announce Dual-Acceptance Pharm.D. Program.
- Greenville University Stands Out as a Leader in International Student Education.

## APRIL

- Greenville University Earns 2025–2026 Military Friendly® School Designation.
- Grammy Award-Winning Alum Lloyd Nicks Holds Masterclass for GU Musicians.

- Greenville University Partners with The Restore Network to Offer Horsemanship Program for Children in Foster Care.



- Chance Meeting Results in Tennis Internship and FIFA Job for GU Student.

## MAY

- The Secret Life of Hoguey D. Panther.
- Celebrating Student Achievement Across Academic Departments.
- Top Students Honored by the Briner School of Business.
- Jaden LeTellier Represents GU and Team USA in Norway Powerlifting Championship.
- Fourteen McAllaster Scholarship Graduates Set New High for GU Honors Program.

## JUNE

- Greenville University Giants: Honoring a Legacy of Service.
- Love, Legacy, and Lifelong Devotion: Honoring Professor Donald and Robbie Joy.

## JULY

- Pursuit Band Members Give to Campers and Receive Much in Return.

- Greenville RAs Embark on First Urban Walkabout in Kansas City.



- Local Youth Learn Horsemanship at GU Summer Camps.

## AUGUST

- Ceremonies Mark Relocation of GU's Theology and Ministry Department.



## SEPTEMBER

- Welcoming a Large Class: NSO 2025 Brings Energy and Connection to Campus.
- GU's All-College Hike: A Physical Challenge That Delivers Spiritual Rewards.

## OCTOBER

- GU Included on 2025 Transfer Honor Roll.
- From America's Got Talent to GU: Christian Whiteside's Journey.
- Greenville University's Norah Atkins Named 2025 Lincoln Laureate.

- Friendships That Last a Lifetime: Class of '85 Returns Home to Greenville.



## NOVEMBER

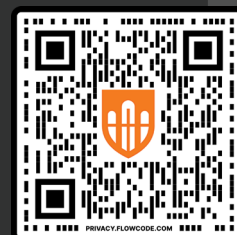
- Joe Rujawitz – GU's Special Education Endorsement to Belleville East Principal.

## DECEMBER

- Greenville University Launches Computer Information Systems Program.
- Student Chaplains Take on New Ministry Roles on Campus.
- Greenville University Students Launch First-Ever "Plant Motel" for Winter Break.

## THE STORY CONTINUES...

Be part of what's next at  
Greenville University.



[greenville.edu/give](https://greenville.edu/give)

ROOTED & GROWING  
**MCALLASTER HONORS**

By Lydia Cahill



Beginning in 1995, the McAllaster Honors Program has served as a marker of academic excellence at Greenville University. Last fall, it celebrated its 30th year with a Homecoming Weekend reunion, bringing alumni together to reflect on the program's legacy and future.

Honors Director, Professor Kollin Fields, PhD sees those connections as essential. By engaging alumni, he hopes to better understand the program's roots while shaping what it can become.

"When meeting alumni, I try to explore the program's social dynamics—what can we hang our hat on?" Fields said. "Their insight helps us understand where we've been and what we aspire to."

Alumni **Sarah Crawford '99, PhD** and **Jannette (Marshall) Isaacson '00** offered perspective on the program's early years. For Crawford, the experience extended beyond academics.

"One of the things the Honors Program really taught me was understanding other cultural groups," she said. "To get to know people, you have to be willing to ask and learn. I still use that today."

She described the program's goal as expanding students' cultural and intellectual awareness while challenging them to think more deeply. Isaacson

echoed that experience, recalling professors who were both engaging and passionate about their work.

Even after three decades, those same foundations remain. Fields emphasized that rigorous academics and spiritual formation continue to define the program.

"We want this to be a formative part of students' academic and spiritual experience," he said. "A place where ambition meets a sense of responsibility and calling."

That sense of connection also carries forward through relationships between alumni and current students. Crawford noted the lasting camaraderie built through shared experience, while Isaacson encouraged students to both seek and offer support.

As the program looks ahead, Fields aims to balance consistency with growth—preserving its core while remaining open to innovation.

"We want students to know what to expect," he said, "but also to imagine how it can be better."

Grounded in a strong academic and Christian foundation, the McAllaster Honors Program continues to evolve, shaped by the students, faculty, and alumni who carry its vision forward. 🏡



# THE HOUSE THAT MORGANS BUILT

By Liz Dowell

On a quiet corner near Greenville University's campus, a house is being restored. But it is not a monument; it is an offering to the Greenville University community.

Morgan Manor is not intended to commemorate a person or preserve a legacy in name alone. Instead, it is being shaped as a place of hospitality, rest, and welcome. The house will serve as an extension of Greenville's long-held belief that opening one's home can be an act of faith.

“People left feeling good about Greenville *because they were treated so well.*”

– Vickie (Morgan)  
McFerran '85

“My dad did not care at all about getting credit,” said **Vickie (Morgan) McFerran '85**, daughter of Tom Morgan. “He just constantly loved people by being present, by being generous, by living out his faith, so there was no question that he was congruent.”

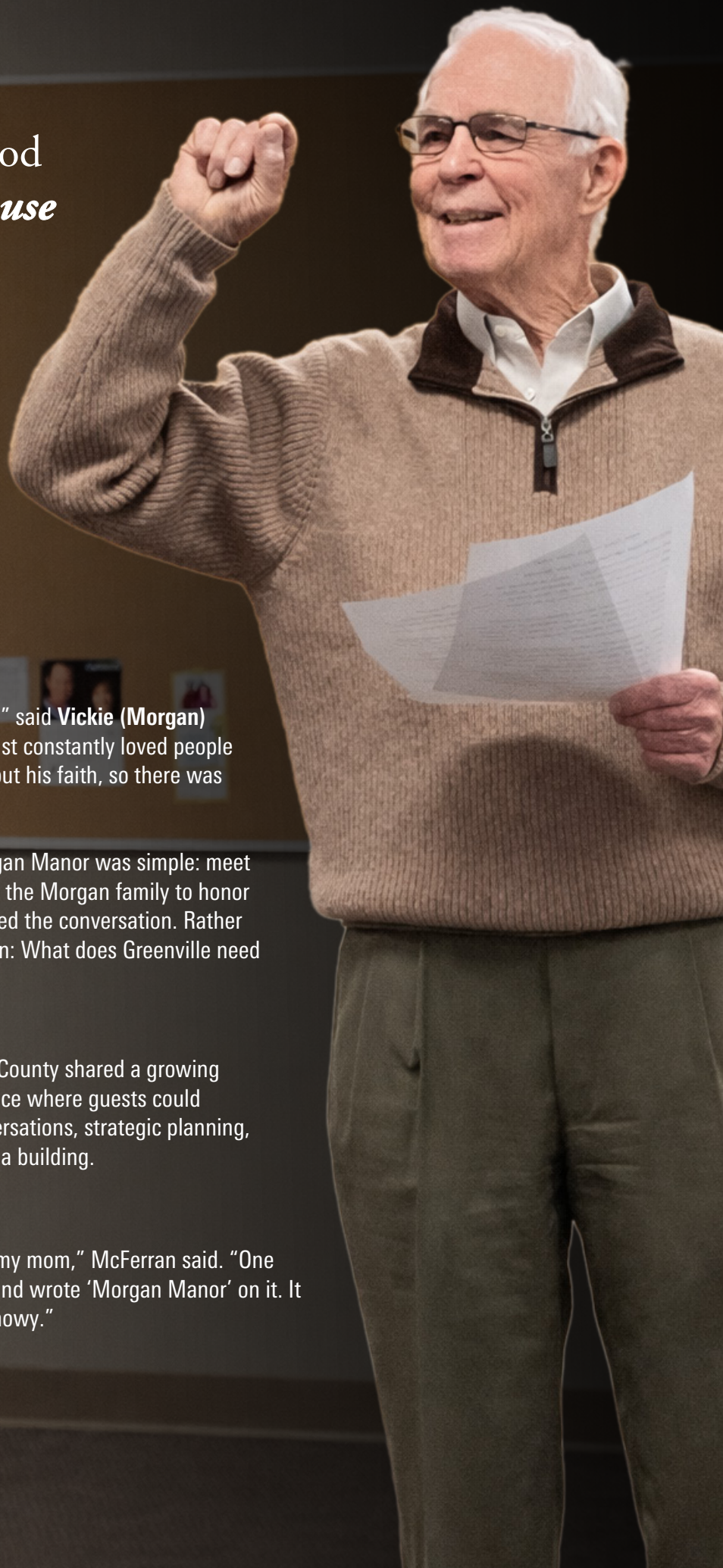
From its earliest conception, the vision for Morgan Manor was simple: meet a need. When Greenville University approached the Morgan family to honor **Tom and Betty Morgan '60**, the family redirected the conversation. Rather than recognition, they asked a different question: What does Greenville need most right now?

The answer was practical.

The university, the city of Greenville, and Bond County shared a growing need for a comfortable hospitality space—a place where guests could gather, reflect, and rest. A home for quiet conversations, strategic planning, reconciliation, and retreat. A home, rather than a building.

That vision became Morgan Manor.

“The name Morgan Manor actually came from my mom,” McFerran said. “One Christmas, she had a wooden ornament made and wrote ‘Morgan Manor’ on it. It was just how we lived. It wasn’t meant to be showy.”



## HOSPITALITY AS A WAY OF LIFE

Those who knew the Morgan family describe hospitality not as something they practiced, but something they lived. Students, alums, community members, and visitors alike were welcomed into their home for decades — not for recognition, but because hospitality was an expression of faith.

“He really valued most that he and my mom together hosted hundreds of students, faculty, and guests,” McFerran said. “My mother didn’t just support the work; she lived in it. Hospitality wasn’t an event for her; it was a way of life.”

“They treated everyone the same,” she added. “People left feeling good about Greenville because they were treated so well.”

That posture now defines Morgan Manor’s purpose.

Designed to function as a guest house, meeting space, and retreat location, the home will feature two upstairs en-suites — one called “The Tom” and the other “The Betty” — along with gathering spaces, a wraparound porch, and a service kitchen. The intention is not grandeur, but care: a high-quality, thoughtful environment that honors guests as bearers of God’s image.

In time, the university expects the space to serve campus guests, community leaders, and county partners at the discretion of the President’s Office, with limited guest-use options explored to balance hospitality and sustainability.

## A SELFLESS COMMITMENT

One detail speaks quietly but powerfully to the heart of the project: Morgan Manor was fully funded before construction has begun.

At a time when many projects depend on phased fundraising, this one moved forward without hesitation. For those involved, the funding was never about visibility or naming rights. In fact, **Tom Morgan '60** did not want signage or personal acknowledgment attached to the house.

What mattered was that Greenville University would be served completely and without burden.

“My dad was a real team player,” McFerran said. “He loved Greenville. Even when leadership changed, he stayed, served, and retired here because he believed in the work.”

That same posture shaped Tom Morgan’s decades of service to Greenville College and later Greenville University. Arriving in 1967, Morgan served in roles spanning athletics, student development, admissions, and executive leadership.

“He was a master in helping struggling students through tough times,” said **Kent Krober '78**. “Many students overcame difficult situations during their college years because of Tom’s thoughtful, sincere, and prayerful counseling.”

“He knew when to step in and offer meaningful input, but also when to step back and let young people grow,” said **Tom Dawdy '69**. “He stayed involved, but he didn’t try to control situations.”

GU President **Suzanne Davis '00** echoed that legacy. “Tom Morgan played a pivotal role for me as a student, showing me grace and love and guiding me during a difficult time in my life. He was an exemplary servant leader whom I looked up to as I’ve led at GU.”

## A HOUSE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Morgan Manor is intentionally not framed as a family legacy project.

“The most important thing to my dad about Morgan Manor was that it wasn’t about him,” McFerran said. “Even though my dad was the one employed by Greenville, the viable ministry my parents had was the two of them. He believed the legacy they left was as a couple.”

When the house opens, it will not announce itself loudly. It will simply be there, ready when needed.

And that, perhaps, is the truest reflection of the man and woman whose name it bears.

“His legacy already belongs to the Lord,” McFerran said. “What mattered to my parents was the fellowship.”



# FAITH IN CONTEXT

STUDENTS EXPERIENCE  
SCRIPTURE IN ISRAEL

By Lydia Cahill

It is not often that one finds themselves walking on the stones where Jesus once walked, surrounded by walls thousands of years old, while the sounds of modern life echo nearby.

Yet in the winter of 2025, a group of Greenville University students did just that, experiencing Scripture in a setting that brought both history and faith into sharper focus.

Israel holds deep historical and biblical significance, serving as the setting for much of the Old Testament and the ministry of Jesus in the New Testament. Yet for many Christians, walking through Israel offers an even deeper connection, as students encounter places where the events of Scripture unfolded.

**Macy Tannahill '29**, a freshman theology major, reflected on the sensory details that made the experience memorable.

"I will never forget the bells in the Old City portion of Jerusalem," Tannahill said. "They rang on such a precise schedule every day that it took me a few weeks after returning home to stop expecting to hear them."

**Ella Hudspath '27**, a worship arts and theology major, described how familiar Bible stories felt newly vivid when experienced in context.

"On our last day of the class, we took a boat onto the Sea of Galilee," Hudspath said. "There was a storm and strong winds, much like the story of Jesus calming the storm."





Simply walking through Jerusalem and encountering a variety of languages, traditions, and cultures created lasting impressions for students.

## STEPS OF FAITH

Seeing biblical locations firsthand helped many students better understand the historical and cultural context of Scripture.

**Isabella Iffert '27**, a theology major, shared how the experience changed her approach to reading the Bible.

"After the trip, I truly know the places of the Bible," Iffert said. "When I read names like Bethlehem, I think, 'I got to go there.' I better understand Psalm 23 because I've seen where shepherds take their sheep. I better understand the social world of the Bible because I now understand how people interact in that region."

**Jasmin Sanchez '26**, a criminal justice and psychology major, described how the trip supported her developing faith.

"Getting context for the world in which the Bible is set made a huge difference," Sanchez said. "Instead of just reading and feeling confused, I began to understand the bigger picture of the history, the people, and why even the geology mattered. That foundation helped me see how I can apply Scripture to my life."

Professor Aubrey McClain, who has spent more than a decade working in Israel, noted the meaningful connections students formed with people throughout the region.

"In Sebastia, a small Palestinian village, a young boy gave a bottle of olive oil to one of our students," McClain said. "Because the village had difficulty harvesting olives this year, that gift was incredibly significant. The generosity we experienced reminded us of the kindness people extend even in difficult circumstances."

**Professor Robert Munshaw '93** also witnessed significant moments of spiritual growth, including baptizing a student in the Jordan River.

"It was meaningful to hear her story and participate in this affirmation of faith," Munshaw said.

Students visited sites such as Qumran, Masada, and Beit She'an, locations that connected classroom learning to lived experience.

"Seeing where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered was incredible," Iffert said. "Standing atop Masada, where Jewish rebels made their last stand, made history feel real."

Through opportunities like this, students engage Scripture in meaningful ways, gaining perspective that shapes both their studies and their lives moving forward. 🇮🇱



PROFESSOR HELO OIDJÄRV ON FAITH, FORMATION,  
AND SOCIAL WORK AT GREENVILLE UNIVERSITY

# SEEING STUDENTS AS GOD SEES THEM

By Liz Dowell



When Professor Helo Oidjärv, PhD arrived at Greenville University in the fall of 2020, higher education was in flux. Hired during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, she stepped into a social work program in transition, assuming leadership amid staffing changes, accreditation demands, and students navigating deep uncertainty.

“I was hired knowing I would have to handle accreditation almost immediately,” Helo said. “The program needed stability, vision, and care. That felt very familiar to social work itself.”

After high school, during a gap year, she enrolled in a Bible correspondence course simply to learn more about what she saw as an important historical book. That course led her to a local church, where she was deeply moved by its Scripture-centered teaching and the genuine kindness of its members.

At 18, she was baptized following what she describes as a powerful conversion experience through the Holy Spirit. This event shaped the next three decades of her life and vocation.

“Becoming Christian changed everything,” she said. “It changed how I saw people, how I understood purpose, and how I approached the work I felt called to do.”

“Social work from a Christian perspective means looking at people through God’s eyes,” she explained. “Not just asking what is effective or ethical, but asking how Christ would want us to love, serve, and advocate.”

In her classrooms, Scripture is woven into coursework, prayer opens class sessions when appropriate, and discussions move beyond theory to questions of character and calling.

"I want students to graduate as Christian professionals," she said, "not just professionals who happen to be Christian."

International online student **Chyone Harris '28**, a Bachelor of Social Work major, said that even in a remote format, Helo created a classroom that felt both personal and faith-centered.

"From my very first class, Dr. Helo created a supportive learning environment that boosted my confidence," Harris said. "She consistently integrated course material with a faith-based approach that shaped both my academic and professional journey."

Under Helo's leadership, the social work program has continued to grow with intentional faith integration at its core. In 2023, the program received national reaccreditation through 2030, a rigorous process that prompted reflection and refinement.

"One of our most meaningful developments is a year-long faith integration capstone," she said. "Students complete 400 hours of practicum while intentionally integrating faith into real professional settings."

The program has also expanded coursework in ethics and social work spirituality—areas Helo sees essential to holistic preparation. What has kept her at Greenville, Helo says, is the University's commitment to its faith foundation.

"The people at Greenville University practice what they preach," she said. "There is a genuine desire to seek God's will, and I see that lived out daily."

At the heart of her work is a simple principle: formation over information.

"For me, teaching isn't just about content," Helo said. "It's about seeing students as God sees them and helping them grow into who they're called to be." 🙏

## ENROLLMENT SNAPSHOT

**+10%**  
year-over-year  
enrollment growth

**847**  
students on campus  
this spring

**400**  
incoming freshmen  
(Class of 2030)

**+15%**  
new student involvement in clubs  
and organizations

**90.1%**  
fall-to-spring retention rate

**RECORD-BREAKING**  
February Scholarship Day attendance



LISTENING FOR GOD

# THROUGH CREATION

By Dave Bell

During his 42 years on the faculty at Greenville University, Dr. William Ahern, emeritus professor of biology, introduced countless students to the scientific wonders of God's creation.

But as he delivered the annual McAllaster Lecture on campus, Dr. Ahern flipped the script, encouraging his audience not only to study creation, but also to listen for God through it.

"A great way to hear God through creation is by reading the Psalms," he said. "The psalmist expresses praise to God for the wonders of creation."

To illustrate this connection between Scripture and the natural world, Dr. Ahern read Psalm 104 in its entirety.

"The psalmist speaks not only of God's creative power, but of his ongoing involvement in creation," said Dr. Ahern, who taught at GU from 1966 to 2008.

"From the beginning in Genesis, we see that part of God's creative plan involved humans as stewards of his magnificent creation.

"He told us to fill the earth, take charge, be responsible stewards of creation, and work the garden to keep it in order," Dr. Ahern continued. "As a result, it seems to me that we should be very careful about what we do to creation — or, as we often call it today, the environment."

He pointed to climate change as one example of a modern stewardship challenge.

"We have reached the place in the stewardship of creation where we are deciding whether certain regions of the world may become uninhabitable because of changes in climate," he said.

"How do we respond as Christians and God's representatives in this created order? Are we going to reject the science of climate change because we don't like the political solutions? Or can we recognize that this issue legitimately requires governmental action?"

Dr. Ahern also addressed what he described as a growing "science phobia" among some Christians.

"Too many people in the Christian community have dismissed valid scientific information out of fear that it might discredit their biblically based beliefs," Dr. Ahern said. "But if all truth is God's truth, then we should not worry about science discrediting the Bible."

"I encourage all of us to find ways to care for God's

creation,” Dr. Ahern concluded. “That might mean reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, recycling more, or having thoughtful conversations with others about what motivates their concerns about climate science. Will you follow your conscience, the politics, or the Lord?”

Following the lecture, Dr. Ahern answered questions from audience members gathered in Whitlock Chapel for the event, which was sponsored by the McAllaster Scholars Honors Program.

One attendee asked whether Dr. Ahern approaches controversial topics like climate change primarily through a scientific or Christian lens.

“My faith impacts the way I think the world ought to be,” he said. “I don’t believe that science will be contrary to our faith. Similarly, I don’t believe that our faith can be contrary to science.”

Another attendee asked why society should trust science when scientific developments have, at times, caused harm.

“We sometimes make decisions based on short-term financial gain for certain individuals or

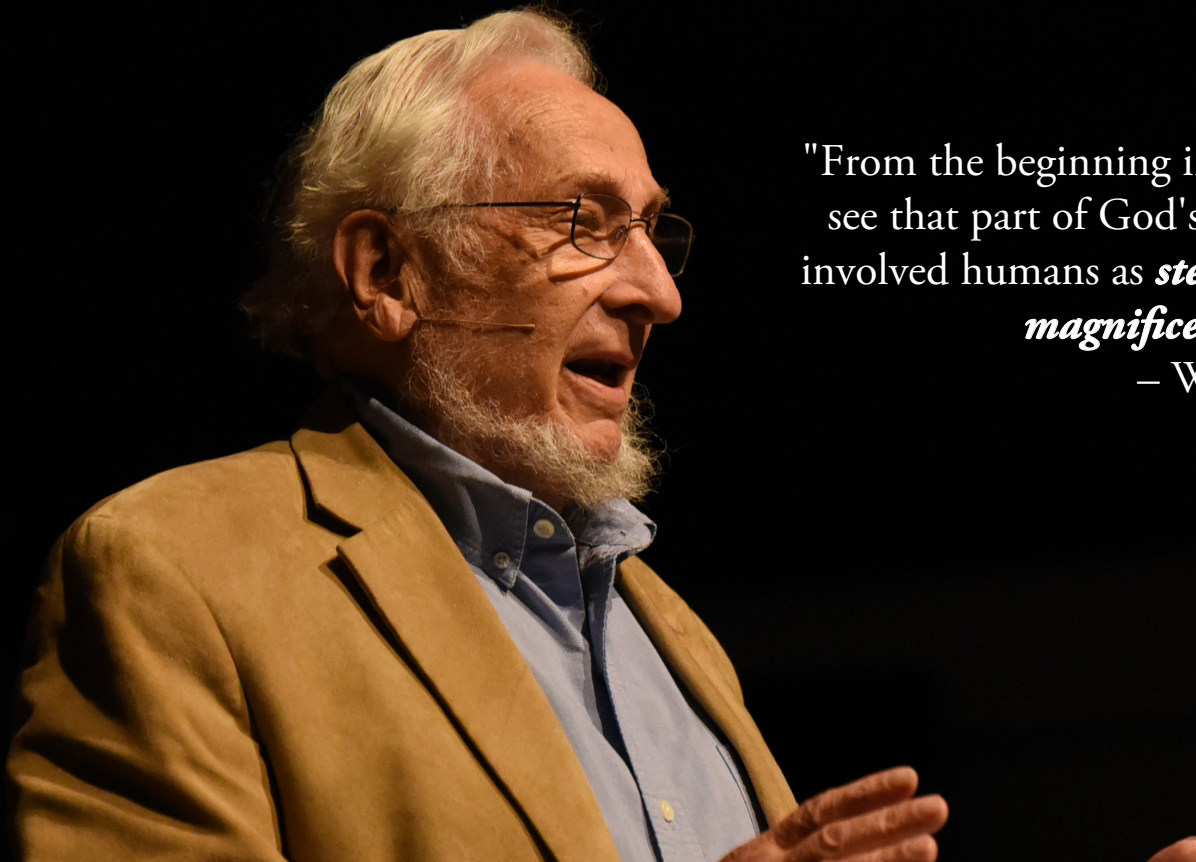
companies,” Dr. Ahern said. “Because of those instances, people have come to distrust science. It is up to the scientific community to regain that trust.”

In a follow-up question, a student asked whether it is appropriate to use political processes to bring about change on environmental issues.

“Everything has become politicized in recent times,” Dr. Ahern said. “It is not always productive to become drawn into political controversies, but we can continue to promote the scientific facts of an issue — conclusions supported by sound research.”

Professor Kollin Fields, PhD, director of the McAllaster Scholars Honors Program, said Dr. Ahern fulfilled the lecture series’ goal of presenting speakers who spark meaningful conversation.

“We want this to be an opportunity to hear speakers who share what is on their hearts and who challenge us to think,” Fields said. “It is in the spirit of genuine conversation when people are willing to listen and learn from the perspectives of others.” 🇺🇸



“From the beginning in Genesis, we see that part of God’s creative plan involved humans as *stewards of His magnificent creation.*”

– William Ahern

BRIDGING THE GAP

# CONNECTING SENIORS WITH GU GRADUATES

By Lydia Cahill '29

On October 24, the Greenville University Alumni Board and distinguished graduates met with “almost alumni”—students graduating in the fall or in May. The “Lunch & Learn” event, relaunched in 2025, prepares students for life beyond Greenville while building meaningful connections.

“We had twice as many people show up this time, so that was a big celebration,” said **Margaret Bolvin '10**, an Alumni Board member and panelist.

During the event, alumni shared how Greenville shaped their lives—spiritually, relationally, and professionally. Bolvin reflected on how the University influenced her relationships, while Alumni Board president **Jeff Finley '96** spoke about the lasting impact of his faith.

“My life has taken different twists and turns, but the truths my professors taught me still come back to me,” Finley said. “The foundation I received at Greenville has been invaluable.”

Students were invited to ask questions about life after graduation, including how to live out their faith in a secular world.

“In my work, I try to live out my faith as an example, and people notice,” Finley said.

Bolvin added that even in environments where faith cannot be openly discussed, it can still be demonstrated through actions and character.

For both students and alumni, the most meaningful part of the event was the opportunity to build connections.

“GU is a family,” Finley said. “We can help each other career-wise and spiritually by maintaining the connections that are established here.”

With graduation approaching, many students will soon enter the workforce, while others pursue further education. Participants shared that the event brought a sense of comfort and clarity about what lies ahead.

“There was a level of comfort and hope in what we were saying,” Bolvin said.

The event, created by Director of Alumni Relations **Robyn (Jaenke) Florian '88**, is part of a broader effort to connect students with the GU alumni network.

Through both classroom experiences and community, Greenville University equips graduates to move forward with confidence—grounded in faith, supported by connection, and prepared for what comes next. 🙏



## What's New With You?

Submit online at [greenville.edu/alumni](http://greenville.edu/alumni).

### 1970s

**Daniel Hoisington '71** gave the keynote address, "New Ulm, Minnesota, as an Intentional Community," at the 2025 Preserve Minnesota conference, sponsored by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office. He currently serves as chairman of the board of directors at the Grand Center for Arts and Culture in New Ulm and as national historian for the American Turners.

**Paul W. Davenport '73** is entering his 45th year as a faculty member at the University of Florida. On July 11, 2025, he presented the keynote address, "Modeling Sensory Transduction of Respiratory Work of Breathing, 50 Years of Breathlessness: 1975–2025," at the International Society for the Advancement of Respiratory Psychophysiology conference in Reykjavik, Iceland. He also received the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award.

### 1980s

**Dr. Craig A. Boyd '85** delivered the annual Campion Lectures at Saint Louis University in October. The four-lecture series, titled "Tolkien on Myth, Morality, and Meaning," explored the intersection of the Catholic intellectual tradition and prevailing cultural trends.

**Jill I. Gostin '85**, a mathematics graduate, was elected 2027 president of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world's largest technical professional organization. IEEE is dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. Her election reflects distinguished technical leadership and a commitment to public-serving innovation.

### 1990s

**Mary Beth Harper '90**, LMFT, LPC, received the 2024–2025 Michael Garanzini Award from the Medical Family Therapy Program at Saint Louis University. The honor recognizes leaders who provide exceptional community service, mentor graduate clinicians, and advocate for improved licensure pathways. Harper supervises students in clinical training and serves clients through Collaborative Marriage & Family Counseling in St. Louis.

**Marla Lynette (Haynes) Snow '94** graduated with her Doctor of Education (EdD) in Curriculum Design and Instruction from McKendree University on July 31, 2025. She also holds an MS in Education and Reading Specialist Certification from SIU Edwardsville. Snow serves as a Reading Specialist with Triad.

**Jay Strother '97** serves as lead pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church in Nashville, one of the region's largest and most influential congregations. GU students recently visited the church as part of the CMC program and were excited to discover Strother leading the ministry. His work at Brentwood Baptist reflects a long-standing commitment to discipleship, community outreach, and innovative church leadership.

### 2000s

**Ann Sattley '01** is a behavioral health provider at Indiana Health Centers and the author of *Technically, That's Illegal: An Experiment in Following the Rules*, a humorous look at over-regulation in America. She narrates her own audiobook and has lent her voice to additional titles. Sattley earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Greenville University and a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Southern Illinois University.

**Jeff McCullough '03** founded Hello Saints, a YouTube ministry dedicated

to creating Christ-centered dialogue with Latter-day Saints. Since its launch in 2022, the channel has gained nearly 12 million views and a highly engaged LDS audience seeking deeper conversations about faith and the person of Jesus. McCullough and his family relocated to Utah in 2023, where he now speaks in interfaith settings, partners with local pastors, and regularly preaches at his home church in Herriman.

**Amy Washington (Ellinger) '04** and her husband, Dr. DJ Washington, have begun their first higher education appointment as the first family at Union Commonwealth University in southeastern Kentucky. Amy is excited to support mission-driven initiatives and credits her Greenville experience with preparing her to serve students, alumni, and community stakeholders.

**Dr. Jennifer (Alig) Tadeo '04** earned her Doctor of Education (EdD) in Leadership in Innovation and Continuous Improvement from Concordia University in Wisconsin in December 2025. Her dissertation focused on leadership practices that support innovation and continuous improvement in educational settings. Tadeo currently serves at Concordia University in Wisconsin, where she continues her work in higher education leadership.

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker appointed **Brandon Ragle '06** to serve as Secretary of the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) and State Chief Information Officer. Ragle previously served as Interim Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Deputy Chief Information Officer, bringing more than 20 years of IT strategy and management experience to the role. His career with the State of Illinois began in 2002 at the Department of Insurance, where he worked as a software engineer and later as IT Applications Manager. Ragle went on to lead enterprise applications at DoIT, modernizing statewide systems and managing a \$1.1 billion budget. He holds a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Greenville College and an MBA from Benedictine University.

## 2010s

**Louise Jett '10** – educator, Ethical Humanist Leader, statewide branding manager for the State of Illinois, and longtime storyteller – recently presented a public talk exploring justice, resistance, and ethical rebellion through themes inspired by Star Wars. Jett holds a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Greenville University and a master's degree in education policy and leadership from the University of Illinois. She previously served as a professor, media specialist, and facilitator of Restorative Justice Community Circles.

**Alicia (Patridge) Hiller '11** was appointed to an administrative position as assistant principal at Woodland Elementary in Edwardsville, Illinois, after serving as an intern at Hamel Elementary and Midway Elementary. She previously taught first grade for eight years and second grade for three years at Goshen Elementary. Hiller earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Greenville

College and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from SIU Edwardsville, where she also received her principal endorsement.

**Dr. Carley Fletcher-Swalley, DBA '14** began a new role as department chair for the Woodson Center of Business and Economics at Blackburn College. She brings extensive experience in business leadership, administration, and higher education.

**Jenna Jackley '15**, owner and founder of Bloom Coffee Cart, Jenna Jackley, recently led her company's largest event to date in Nashville, TN, coordinating four espresso bar setups staffed by eight baristas. Bloom partnered with Sprouts Farmers Market and Heirloom Coffee Roasters to serve thousands of guests with custom drinks and branded coffee experiences.

**Dale Shelburne '19** serves as Communications Specialist for the Town of Plainfield, Indiana. A 2019 digital media graduate, Shelburne focuses on public communication, visual storytelling, and community engagement.

**Nicholas Rodriguez '19** has been named the next head of school for Seabury Hall in Hawaii. His appointment marks a significant milestone in his career as an educator and leader.

**Taylor Moeller '19** accepted a new position as Biomanufacturing Manager at IMIO. The company develops natural microbial products, including its flagship product, Re-Gen, which converts crop residue into NPK value and delivers consistent performance across crops and climates.

## 2020s

**Kate Arthur MBA'21** has been named Chair of the Greenville University Engineering Board of Advisors. In this role, she will strengthen industry partnerships, support current students, and help guide the program's long-term direction. Arthur credits her time in GU's Engineering and MBA programs with shaping her professional identity and is excited to give back through mentorship and leadership.

## IN MEMORY

**Muriel (Secord '49) Fattic** passed away on June 5, 2025. Born in London and raised in Urbana, Illinois, she grew up in a joyful, faith-filled Free Methodist home. All three Secord siblings attended Greenville College, where Muriel studied sociology and worked with children at the Woodstock Children's Home. It was at Greenville that she met Roger Johnson. They married in Urbana and later moved to Wilmore, Kentucky, while Roger pursued seminary.

**Jeannine Ruth (Boley '57) Miller**, 89, of Greenfield, Indiana, passed away on October 9, 2025. Born in Urbana, Illinois, she grew up in a Free Methodist parsonage, carrying her faith into every chapter of her life. A 1957 magna cum laude graduate of Greenville University, she later earned a master's degree from Butler University and completed training in library science.

**Laura Irvine Phillips '62** passed away on August 28, 2025, in Greeley, Colorado, at the home of her daughter. She taught school for three decades in Greenfield, Illinois. She is survived by her husband, Howard Phillips '60; her daughter, who resides in Greeley, Colorado; and her son, who resides in Charleston, South Carolina.

**Rev. Mary Alice Cunningham '79**, 69, of Maroa, Illinois, passed away on October 23, 2025. Born February 21, 1956, she spent her life sharing music, ministry, and hope. Mary Alice began her career as a music teacher in Nashville, Illinois, before discerning her call to pastoral ministry.

**Barbara Jean (Peffer '76) Collman**, 72, of North Liberty, Iowa, passed away on November 10, 2025. Born in Waterloo, Iowa, she began her education at Central College (Kansas) before completing her degree at Greenville College in 1976.

**Barry Wayne Long '95**, 66, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully on January 16, 2026. He served in the United States Air Force, where he met the love of his life, Kathy. Together they raised 10 children, building a home marked by devotion, laughter, and faithful service.

## Dear Greenville Alumni,

Every one of us carries a Greenville story.

For some, it is a professor who believed in you before you believed in yourself. For others, it is a team, a late-night conversation in the residence halls, a chapel message that shaped your calling, or friendships that have lasted a lifetime. Greenville has always been more than a place where you studied. It is a place where people are known.

That truth has not changed.

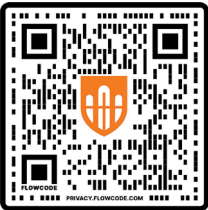
One of the greatest privileges I have in my role is hearing the stories of alumni who are making a difference around the world. Some are leading businesses, churches, classrooms, and communities. Others are faithfully serving in quiet ways that may never make headlines but matter deeply in the lives of those around them. Each story reflects the same foundation that began here.

And we want to hear yours.

Staying connected to Greenville helps us celebrate what God is doing through our alumni and helps future students see the possibilities that begin on this campus. When alumni share their journeys, it strengthens the entire Greenville community.

I would like to personally invite you to take a moment to reconnect with us. Let us know where life has taken you. Share an update, a milestone, or a story about how Greenville helped shape your path. Even if you are not an alumnus but have been connected to Greenville in some way, we would still love to hear from you and celebrate your story as part of this community.

You can share your update by scanning the QR code below.



Thank you for the ways you continue to represent Greenville wherever life has taken you. Whether you graduated last year or decades ago, you will always be part of this community.

And here, you will always be known.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tom Ackerman'.

**Tom Ackerman**  
Vice President for Advancement



THE  
**RECORD**

SPRING 2026

GREENVILLE.EDU

CHECK IF APPROPRIATE

- My name is spelled \_\_\_\_\_
- My correct address is \_\_\_\_\_
- I received more than one copy.
- Send me more copies.
- I no longer wish to receive *The RECORD*.

Check your request, then clip this address panel and mail it to Office of Advancement, 315 E. College Ave., Greenville, IL 62246.

***Address Service Requested***

THE  
**GREENVILLE UNIVERSITY**  
FUND

**GIVE *to the* GREENVILLE UNIVERSITY  
FUND *and* CLEAR THE PATH  
TO THEIR DEGREE**

