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A Festschrift for Dr. Herman Arthur Hoyt

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Grace Theological Seminary and Grace College

THIS issue of the *Grace Theological Journal* is dedicated to Dr. Herman A. Hoyt, President of Grace Theological Seminary and Grace College from 1962 to 1976. The studies offered herein to honor this man of God represent a broad spectrum from his former students and colleagues—from the dedicated pastor who strives to make practical the teaching of the Word of God to the hard-working scholar who strives to discern the intricacies of the text.

If a man's success in Christian ministry may be measured by the disciples he has trained, Herman A. Hoyt must stand tall among the evangelical leaders of the twentieth century. Only God can judge the hearts and motives of his servants, but his infallible Word gives some clear guidelines to determine quality in ministry and leadership. To those who have benefited from leaders faithful to their high calling in Jesus Christ, this admonition is given: "Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the outcome of their way of life, imitate their faith" (Heb 13:7).

We had the privilege of studying under Dr. Hoyt in the late 1940s and early 1950s and then serving with him as colleagues in the teaching of God's Word until his retirement in 1976. During that quarter of a century, we observed a dedication to the Word and work of God rarely seen in the world of Christian higher education. He was thorough and meticulous in the classroom, especially in his chosen fields of biblical prophecy, the Greek NT, and the ordinances and distinctives of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. It is in honor of his writings in these three areas that this *Festschrift* has been prepared.

Dr. Hoyt was not just a man of books and of "letters." He was a discipler and leader of Christian men. His powerful stand on issues that threatened to destroy the church he loved, and the scriptures upon which that church must be built, literally drove him into controversy and confrontation, and into effective teaching in Grace Brethren and other churches around North America for decades. He would often drive hundreds of miles at night after strenuous conference ministries in order to be in his office at Grace the following morning. Few if any of his younger colleagues could match his stamina! And this continued

from the middle 1930s to the late 1970s. Surely, in this case, we saw an exemplification of Isaiah's words, "Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary" (Isa 40:31-31).

When theological or moral crises threatened the spiritual well-being of Grace Schools, Dr. Hoyt seemed to be at his best. Strengthened by God through a deep devotion to the infallible written Word, which he loved and knew so well, he would rise to the occasion and make his position known with great force and clarity. Who can begin to imagine where Grace Theological Seminary and Grace College would be today were it not for this man of God who stood his ground in the name of the Lord who had called and equipped him for Christian ministry?

As an administrator, Dr. Hoyt followed the practice of encouraging full and free discussion of issues before final decisions were reached. Some who never saw him functioning in this capacity fail to realize this side of the man. He is a person of strong opinions and a forceful speaker, but he regularly listened to his advisers and was a more effective leader because of it.

In his years in the presidency of Grace Theological Seminary and Grace College, Dr. Hoyt's many skills were often tested. He met such challenges with confidence and skill. Whether the situation was a church conference of thousands or a congregation of fifty; an educators' meeting or a civic gathering; the tensions of trustee, administrative, faculty, and student meetings; or the private interviews that occupy much of a president's life; he showed himself to be a man of concern and wisdom, worthy of high respect.

It is with deep thankfulness to the gracious Saviour whom he still faithfully serves that we dedicate this special issue of the *Grace Theological Journal* to our beloved teacher and our brother in Christ, Dr. Herman Arthur Hoyt.

Homer A. Kent, President of Grace Schools

John C. Whitcomb, Editor of *Grace Theological Journal*

APPRECIATIONS FROM FRIENDS, STUDENTS, AND COLLEAGUES

IN an essay on compensations for Christian service, Herman Hoyt once spoke of the compensation "centering in the area of reciprocating gratitude." He went on to describe such compensation:

There has never been invented anything to take the place of expression of gratitude from a human heart for benefit received. It is a fragrance rising from an appreciative heart in which there is no merit and where no merit is intended, but by virtue of its very nature it becomes an overflowing compensation to him upon whom it is conferred. It is the return of grace for grace received, and takes a large place in the life and ministry of the servant of God. It does what money can never do ["The Many Compensations for Christian Service," *Grace Journal* 14 (1973) 10].

This section of the *Festschrift* is offered in the spirit of the preceding words. The contributors intend to return grace for grace received. Yet the glory goes to God, whom Dr. Hoyt faithfully serves.

* * *

Forty-nine years ago this fall I enrolled in Dr. Hoyt's Beginning Greek class at Ashland College. We were told that the purpose of the class was to provide a "working knowledge" of NT Greek. We soon learned that the basic ingredient of the course was indeed work! However, what I learned from Dr. Hoyt in Greek (and Hebrew, as well) has provided me with a fine foundation for a lifetime of expository preaching.

I recall an occasion when a student took it upon himself to enlighten Dr. Hoyt as to the proper use of the word "repent." "Professor Hoyt," he said, "surely you know that 'repent' is a Jewish word and is never used in connection with Gentiles." Dr. Hoyt did not argue but simply asked the student to find Acts 17:30 and read it aloud. Paul's words that God "now commands all men everywhere to repent" effectively ended the discussion!

As a student of Dr. Hoyt and as his colleague in teaching from 1942-45, I found him to be fair and earnest. In a time of real personal need he was my

loyal friend and counselor. I continue to thank God for his faithfulness to the Word, his inspiring ministry, and his devotion beyond the call of duty.

*John M. Aeby
Retired Brethren Minister
Waterloo, IA*

* * *

My first acquaintance with Dr. Hoyt was as a fellow student at Ashland College and Seminary. I found him to be a good friend and brother in Christ. He always excelled academically and graduated at the top of his class. Yet I remember one time (the only time!) when I received a higher grade than he did on an exam in the origin and growth of religions! I also recall Dr. Hoyt's participation in an annual intramural football game between seminary and preseminary students. One year a collision rendered him and another student unconscious! By the coach's orders, that was the end of such annual games!

Since college and seminary my association with Dr. Hoyt has remained cordial and inspirational. He deserves any recognition that comes his way.

*Robert A. Ashman
Executive Director, Riverwood Ranch
Warsaw, IN*

* * *

The Grace Seminary class of 1943 has many memories. We remember classes which were smaller and perhaps less formal than today. However, we also vividly remember Dr. Hoyt teaching with ringing authority, as one of the patriarchs of old, thrilling us with the eternal verities of God's inerrant Word.

In spite of heavy administrative duties due to Dr. McClain's illness and his own teaching responsibilities, Dr. Hoyt was still personally involved in the lives of the students. He cared deeply about students and often ministered with them on weekends. Among the memories of the past it is especially meaningful to have experienced the excellent teaching of God's servant, Herman A. Hoyt.

*S. Wayne Beaver
Associate Professor of Missions
Grace Theological Seminary*

* * *

I am grateful for this opportunity to express my personal appreciation for the immeasurable impact that my dear brother in the Lord, Herman Hoyt, has made in my Christian life and ministry. From the time we first met as college freshmen the Lord seemed to knit us together in a David-Jonathan kind of relation in which Herman became my big brother. Through six years of college

and seminary we were inseparable. He invited me to become involved in the college Men's Gospel Team, and the Lord used that to turn the direction of my life from science to the Christian ministry. We majored in Greek together, we studied under Dr. Alva J. McClain together, and I grew stronger in the Lord at his encouragement.

For a period of several years after those school days our paths went separate ways. I went into the pastorate while he began his brilliant career as a teacher in Grace Theological Seminary. But the Lord brought us back together at another crucial crossroads in my life. When it became clear to me that I could not continue serving the Lord in the denomination with which I was then associated and while I was searching for the Lord's will for my future ministry, Brother Hoyt stopped in to visit. He encouraged me to come to Grace and pursue my doctoral studies to prepare me to teach Greek, a dream which I had had for a long time. I followed his advice, and there began the happiest and most blessed period of my life.

We were co-workers at Grace for thirty years. It was my privilege to be associated with him as a member of the faculty and the Administrative Committee. The camaraderie of college days did not return; we were both too busy for that. But my respect and love for him grew as I watched him being used by the Lord in the executive positions he filled so masterfully. On many occasions I went to him for personal and professional advice and I never went away empty.

Now both of us are in "partial" retirement, and both as busy as ever, it seems! I often remember him and our lives together and on this occasion of recognizing and honoring him I want to thank God that he permitted me to share in the overflow of Herman Hoyt's life and ministry.

James L. Boyer
Professor Emeritus
Grace Theological Seminary

* * *

It was my privilege to serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Grace Schools during the first four years of Herman A. Hoyt's presidency. It was during these years especially that I learned the greatness of this man of God. Three basic qualities come to mind—conviction, courage, and compassion.

When Dr. Hoyt preaches or teaches, it is always with the authority of "thus saith the Lord." This conviction of biblical authority was costly early in his career but it must be a joy for him now to look back and know that he attempted to teach the whole counsel of God. It took courage to enact his convictions when he joined the faculty of the newly born Grace Seminary for the fabulous salary of \$2,000 a year! Later during his presidency many crucial decisions also required a great deal of courage. But another quality frequently seen in his life was compassion. He could "weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice" (Rom 12:15). Such compassion was not always

publicly expressed, but in the privacy of his office or with close friends it was always in evidence.

I thank God that one day my path crossed the path of Herman A. Hoyt and that we have been able to serve our Lord together.

*Paul E. Dick
Brethren Minister
Winona Lake, IN*

* * *

Though time has erased many of the memories of Dr. Hoyt's ministry during the early days of Grace Seminary, a few incidents still stand out. Dr. Hoyt's use of alliteration was often mimicked by the students, sometimes to the detriment of the biblical passage being outlined. He sometimes had to warn the class that, "Alliteration is fine, but don't distort the passage!" Once a student complained to him about a grade on a Hebrew exam. Dr. Hoyt showed the student how he had neglected to include the vowel pointings for the letters. The student said, "Oh well, what's a couple of points between friends?" Of course, Dr. Hoyt was always known for hard exams. During one of them a student called out, "Dr. Hoyt, do you think Paul could pass this exam?" Everyone roared with laughter.

One cannot sit under Dr. Hoyt's ministry without realizing he is a diligent student of the Word. His messages are always valuable because of his accurate exposition and application to everyday living. Not only does he teach the Word, he also lives by its precepts. My late husband, Harold, and I have always counted him as a real friend.

*Ada Etling
Winona Lake, IN*

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Dr. Herman Hoyt is a man "ordained a preacher and . . . a teacher" (1 Tim 2:7). For almost a quarter of a century it has been my privilege to know Dr. Hoyt as a friend and co-worker. His friendship has made my life richer and I thank God for making it possible for our paths to cross.

To all who have had the opportunity to sit under his ministry, he has proven himself to be "able to teach" (1 Tim 3:2). Without question, he is one of the leading premillennial Bible scholars of our day. All the members of the Advisory Council and Executive Board of the A.A.J.E. (of which he is chairman) thank God for his dedicated leadership, wise counsel, and faithfulness in declaring the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).

*Ralph M. Gade
Executive Director
American Association for Jewish Evangelism*

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My acquaintance with Herman A. Hoyt began when he was a freshman at Ashland College. Several of his characteristics made a lasting impression on me. I noted long ago in football practice and ever since in his effective ministry that he is aggressive in the best sense of the word. Also it has been clear all along that he and his wife Harriett would make any legitimate sacrifice in order to accomplish the goals they had determined.

Dr. Hoyt and I both received our Th.D. degrees in 1946. Working through A. T. Robertson's large Greek grammar with him was a genuine inspiration despite the difficulty involved. The classes I had under his instruction were not only highly educational but also thrilling and challenging.

*Raymond E. Gingrich
Professor Emeritus
LeTourneau College*

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My friendship with Herman A. Hoyt has spanned more than half a century. It began in 1928 when we were classmates at Ashland College and Seminary. He and I were among the 18 men under the leadership of Alva J. McClain who met in June 1937 in the Ashland home of J. C. Beal to pray for the Lord's direction in the forming of a new Seminary. This led to the incorporation that same year of Grace Theological Seminary.

During my nearly 30 years of pastoral ministry Dr. Hoyt was a most welcome guest Bible teacher in the churches I served. He invited and encouraged me to join the staff of Grace Schools. Herman and his wife Harriett have been dear friends to me and my wife Mary for nearly six decades. We praise the Lord for this fine relationship and pray God's continued blessing on Dr. Hoyt's extensive speaking ministry.

*Thomas E. Hammers
Alumni Coordinator, 1964-75
Grace Schools*

* * *

One summer afternoon several years ago, it was my privilege to visit my friend, Herman A. Hoyt. We sat in lawn chairs in his front yard talking about Bible doctrine and Christian education. I left that day challenged to serve the Lord in my responsibility as president of Cedarville College.

Dr. Hoyt's friends consider him a man of God blessed by the Lord with many gifts. I have been encouraged by his faithful teaching and preaching of the Word of God. He has always been concerned to make the Word of God very plain. I have also been encouraged as I have read his forthright writings. Never have I wondered where this man of God stands so far as Biblical truth is

concerned. I have been encouraged by Dr. Hoyt's emphasis upon Biblical prophecy. One does not need to talk with him very long before realizing that he believes that Christ could come at any moment.

I have been encouraged by Dr. Hoyt because he always seemed to have time to listen and be of help. His books have been and still are a source of encouragement as I study the Bible and proclaim it. I count it a privilege to speak this word of commendation for my good friend in the ministry of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

James T. Jeremiah
Chancellor
Cedarville College

* * *

It was my honor on August 15, 1962, in representing Grace College as Student Body President, to bring formal greeting to Dr. Herman A. Hoyt when he was inaugurated as the new President of Grace Schools. Recently, I have read again his inaugural address given at the seventy-third annual conference of the National Fellowship of Brethren Churches. The following statement testifies to his life:

Long ago I came to personal conviction in the faith. It is my treasure. It is my life. I have become so closely identified with it that when it suffers, I suffer. I could not accept this new position without the understanding that I must persist in this faith. I am grateful to God that personal and professional responsibility become one at this point ["Response at the Inauguration," *Brethren Missionary Herald* 24 (1952) 532].

I have discovered this testimony to be an accurate reflection of Dr. Hoyt's life-style, whether I saw him through the eyes of a student, or later as a fellow minister of the Gospel. His commitment to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3) has continued as a hallmark in his life. Other Grace alumni join me in honoring him for his commitment to Christ and his Word.

Luke Kauffman
Grace Brethren Church
Myerstown, PA

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Dr. Hoyt's dedication to the ministry of teaching knew no bounds, and his interest in teaching Greek was extraordinary. During World War II, it was necessary for the seminary to have classes during the summer so that the students would not lose their ministerial deferments. I had just graduated from high school, and he conscripted me to take Beginning Greek with a class of seminary men each morning. Inasmuch as I needed to finish the course before the others in the class so that I could begin college in the fall, Dr. Hoyt met with me every afternoon for an additional chapter of Machen's Grammar.

That unforgettable experience produced a great respect for the man and a love for the Greek NT that has never diminished.

*Homer A. Kent, Jr.
President
Grace Schools*

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The influence of Herman A. Hoyt in my life has indeed been far-reaching, beginning during my student days and continuing until now. Unconsciously at first, and then consciously I adopted him as a role-model in three ways.

As a teacher, Dr. Hoyt has unique gifts. He is a dedicated scholar who disciplines himself to know his subject thoroughly and to communicate it clearly. As a preacher, I came to see a different side of Dr. Hoyt. When he spoke in churches I pastored I found that he was able not only to probe the Scriptures deeply but also to expound the Scriptures with simple clarity and compassion for his audience. As a friend, Dr. Hoyt taught me how to be a friend. He has the quality of making students view him as a close friend while still maintaining proper respect for his position. Frequent visits to his home during my student days left me with a wealth of wisdom concerning Christian ministry.

I thank God for this dedicated man, whose life became for me a pattern as a teacher, preacher, and friend.

*William F. Kerr
Professor of Theology
Northwest Baptist Seminary*

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Few words better describe Herman A. Hoyt than those of Neh 7:2, "he was a faithful man, and feared God more than many." His faithful service for the Lord ultimately led him to the presidency of Grace Schools.

As a student of Dr. Hoyt and later as an administrator at Grace Schools, I observed Herman Hoyt as a "faithful man" who "feared God more than many." The Bema of Christ (2 Cor 5:10) will prove the heart of him who has given many years for the cause of Christian education.

*Arnold R. Kriegbaum
Dean of Students Emeritus
Grace College
Silver Springs, FL*

* * *

I first met Dr. Hoyt when I visited Grace Theological Seminary as a prospective student in 1951. I did not observe him that day as a teacher, since

no classes were in session. After a bit of checking around, I found him at a building site across the road where he was preparing forms for the footers for a new home he was helping a friend to build. I was impressed that here was a man who was not only a Christian scholar, but also who was not afraid to get his hands dirty in helping others. That impression remains. A man of many talents, Dr. Hoyt is equally at home with a power tool or a Greek NT. During the many years he served God at Grace he taught almost every course in the curriculum, from Hebrew and Greek to theology and homiletics.

Most of us who sat in his courses remember the demands of his assignments and his exams, especially the latter. We also remember the firmness with which he treated infractions of academic and character standards at Grace. As one who worked very closely with him, I also remember his as a man of compassion. He had a greater personal concern for his students than many of them knew. I learned from him one of the most important lessons of my own career. He would express it something like this, "We have two kinds of relationships; one, official and the other, personal. Even though in extreme cases, we may have to sever the one, we should do everything we can to maintain and foster the other."

I thank God for the privilege I had to sit under him as a student, to work with him as a colleague, and to know him—as I still do—as a dear friend and brother in Christ.

William Male
Dean
Grace Theological Seminary

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Though Herman A. Hoyt is renowned as an educator, administrator, writer, and teacher, he is also a friend and confidant to me, a loyal brother in the Lord. As a member of the board and later as president of the Christian League for the Handicapped, he contributed much wise counsel and insight. His record of attendance at the League's quarterly board meetings is remarkable; he did not miss more than 4 or 5 meetings in over twenty years of service until his retirement from the board in 1980.

It is also a joy to have the Hoyts in our home and at our church. His ministry has been much appreciated here. In Paul's words, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil 1:3-4).

Charles E. Pedersen
Founder and Former Director
Christian League for the Handicapped
Pastor, Blue River Valley Church
Muscoda, WI

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In 1940, shortly after I was saved, God called me into the ministry. Dr. Hoyt and Dr. McClain were speaking at a Bible Conference in Akron at the

Ellet Brethren Church. My wife Genny and I went to this conference and had our first exposure to the excellent Bible preaching of these two leaders of the Brethren movement. Following the service we talked with these men concerning the pastoral ministry and the necessity of proper and adequate training. The counsel we received that evening, the interest shown to us, and the direction toward college and seminary proved to be invaluable for a lifelong ministry. Dr. Hoyt's personal interest in us followed our progress at William Jennings Bryan University where he was a trustee. His periodic visits at board meeting time were always accompanied by a visit to the tiny Pifer apartment and a checkup on when we would be coming to Seminary.

In the summer of 1944 I came to Winona Lake to enroll at Grace Seminary. The evening before registration I went to Dr. Hoyt's study for a brief conference. I was confronted with this question: "You'll be in my Greek class starting Wednesday at 7 a.m.?" I was startled and then stammered: "I've had two years of Greek." Totally unprepared I faced then and there my first Seminary Greek test as he handed me his Greek Testament and said, "Turn to 1 John and read chapter one." I passed! However in the days ahead I took more Greek classes than required because I saw the value of such studies under this excellent Bible teacher. He registered an indelible mark upon my life in those Seminary years, in the areas of discipline, dedication to God's Word, and loyalty to the Brethren church.

During my years in the home mission pastorate following seminary, I was elected to the Grace Theological Seminary Board of Trustees. During my twelve years of service in that capacity, there was continually a need to make decisions involving, e.g., increased staff, buildings, the beginning of Grace College, and the change of the presidency at Dr. McClain's retirement. Dr. Hoyt's strong stand for excellency in biblical education, and his allegiance to the Grace Brethren Fellowship were always clearly in evidence. He was our unanimous choice to lead the ongoing progress of Grace Schools.

Later, after I became Executive Secretary of the Brethren Home Missions Council, my love and appreciation for Dr. Hoyt increased steadily. Often, as heads of two major phases of Grace Brethren ministry, we talked and prayed together concerning the many challenges facing us. His ministry of the Word, and his deep knowledge of Christian theology, especially in the area of biblical eschatology, helped us immensely in home mission ministries. On one occasion, after Dr. Hoyt completed a series of messages on the Brethren distinctives, he was given a standing ovation. This literally brought him to tears. It was a spontaneous expression of love from our home mission family.

His counsel has always been an asset in my ministry, and his mark upon my life surfaces often. I am indebted to him as my teacher, my colleague in Christian service, and my brother in Christ.

Lester E. Pifer
Executive Secretary
Brethren Home Missions Council

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In the earliest days of Grace Seminary there were thirty-nine students and two full-time faculty members. In those days Herman Hoyt taught us Hebrew,

Greek, NT Introduction, and many other courses. If the rigors of the early days tried the stamina of the students, how much more that of the faculty! The passing of days, however, has demonstrated that Dr. Hoyt was more than equal to this task. His life and ministry have been a pattern which many students have followed.

I recall one incident from the early days of the school when it was time for midterm exams. Dr. Hoyt had just carefully admonished the class on some of the items the exam would cover. I facetiously remarked that we did not need to study since our grades were already determined. Dr. Hoyt asked, "What do you mean by that?" I replied, "I believe in predestination." Without hesitation he said, "I do too, but you had better make your calling and election sure!" We did!

*Blaine Snyder
Retired Brethren Minister
Winona Lake, IN*

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In all of his lectures and sermon outlines Herman Hoyt invariably alliterates every point, even the minor ones. There are many qualities of his life and ministry which I could highlight, but I will mention only a few. I could mention more, but none of them occur to me as adjectives beginning with the letter "d"!

My first memory of Dr. Hoyt goes back to a youthful, dynamic speaker at seminary convocation in 1944. His dynamic pulpit ministry continues today. In his ministry he has been dedicated to the Brethren Church and to Grace Schools. His books and articles have clearly articulated the distinctives of the Brethren. It is also clear that Herman Hoyt has been demanding. He demanded excellence from himself in his academic and administrative responsibilities. He also demanded excellence from his students in his stringent course requirements and examinations. However, this demand for academic excellence was tempered by compassion and personal concern for students. I discovered this concern while serving briefly on the Grace faculty and attending the prayer meetings Dr. Hoyt led.

Though the youthful appearance is gone, Dr. Hoyt remains today the same dynamic, dedicated, and demanding person I remember from forty-one years ago.

*Harry Sturz
Biola University*

* * *

I first saw Herman Hoyt through the eyes of my husband, Norman, who was Dr. Hoyt's classmate at Ashland College and Seminary. Norman described him as a dedicated student who was not only prepared for the daily assignments but was also well into the assignments for the rest of the week. He

was totally dedicated to the task of being a worthy student, and he has had the same dedication in his ministry of teaching and preaching the Word.

For over ten years I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hoyt in the administration of Grace College. Due to the pressures of his office he was sometimes terse but he was always confident, forthright, and committed. One always knew where he stood on an issue.

Perhaps I have most admired his total dedication to the Lord and to the teaching of the Word—a task which he continues to do vigorously and effectively.

*Miriam McKeefery Uphouse
Associate Dean of Students, Emeritus
Grace College*