

SERVICE SUMMARY

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In many ways my service, like my teaching, is linked to my artistic practice of social engagement. Often socially engaged artists find themselves becoming facilitators and workers, while others are allowed to take the main stage and shine. This model has always been my method of leading and serving. I regularly empower others to take the lead and help them achieve their version of success. I believe that I have been built for service and am proud of the work I do. I hope that what I do makes the lives of others better.

On the department level, I've served as the Art Department Coordinator since 2016. This role comes with all of its expected responsibilities of maintaining my course load while overseeing daily operations of the department including budgets, schedules, working with adjuncts, coordinating donor meetings, working with visiting artists, and ensuring completion and accuracy of program review and assessment documents. My duties also include coordinating exhibitions for the Constance Gallery and teaching student gallery assistants how they can take ownership of the space. I worked really closely with the CMC to revamp our departmental promotional materials and website to meet the needs of our current and incoming students.

I have done a fair amount of recruiting and meeting with perspective students on behalf of our department and Graceland as a whole. I like being honest with students and parents, providing them with the reality of what they can achieve with an art degree, which is sometimes counter to what they might assume. I find it easy to get excited about a program that I believe in and curriculum that I have helped build that focuses on concept, research, craft, critical thinking and social engagement. Bringing in students who are willing to take risks and really challenge themselves makes our program stronger and makes for better global citizens. I am grateful to be a part of that process and feel that I am a good ambassador for Graceland.

I took the initiative to approach admissions and the CMC to revamp and contemporize our departmental promotional materials, including our website and paper pamphlets. We rewrote text and had new photographs taken, and we are really satisfied with the outcome. This conversation and work spurred all of VPA to reevaluate our materials and present a united front.

On a division level, I am invested and try to attend every performance I can to support our students and faculty. Our students know when faculty are there to support them and by showing up, we present a united front for the division, and we become strong. I've collaborated with both Dr. Adam Groh and Dr. Erin Bodnar's ensembles to create visual support for their concerts. I do as much VPA recruiting as I can and represent the division when others cannot be there. I was in support of our VPA Donor Gala in the spring of 2018 and prepared three visual art students to present their work to a donor audience. Students presenting found a new level of professionalism and confidence in front of a very supportive audience.

On a campus level, I've been very fortunate to be a part of several search committees here at Graceland. I find it an honor and a gift to be able to help bring invested faculty and administration to Graceland for our students, fellow colleagues, and the community in a larger sense. I see it as a great responsibility that carries with it a great deal of trust, and I have been happy to serve in this role for Graceland many times in my short time here.

Because Graceland is small with many moving parts, we wear many hats. Being grounded and focused at one institution was honestly one of the attributes that drew me here. I knew that I would be able to remain agile and be

able to make meaningful contributions. The collaborative, interdisciplinary culture of Graceland is one of its strengths. Its willingness to truthfully evaluate its current climate and take educated initiative to change things that aren't working appealed to me. Serving on the newly formed Student Success Task Force committee this year has given me great confidence that we are moving in the right direction and we will be stronger as a university for our meticulous efforts.

My most rewarding work on campus, outside of my departmental efforts, has been with the Honors Program. I was formally invited to serve on the Honors Council in 2016 when the previous directors of the program retired and handed their work off to willing hands. As a council we saw great opportunity to uphold the legacy that was built and take an honest look at where the program was headed.

I attend the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Seattle in 2016 with my colleagues, Dr. Daniel Platt and Dr. Brian White and attended sessions that focused on honors programs at small universities. When comparing our program to that of other schools similar in stature, we found that we were doing some things extraordinarily well, yet there were other areas that could use revamping. We brought back new ideas to the council and students and started to implement them right away!

We implemented student driven committees to embolden our students to help mold the program into what they needed it to be. As a team, we've recently implemented a student mentorship program between upper class students and freshmen, and we've reevaluated the requirements for Junior seminar. We are working to create a more Honors focused first year experience in effort to build a sense of belonging. We are piloting two new one-credit honors theme-based colloquia to provide a collaborative, interdisciplinary student-driven alternative to honors contracts, and we've begun taking students to regional and national conferences to present and meet other Honors students from around the region and country. We've worked hard to assess and combat attrition and are looking forward to seeing the results of these changes.

In spring 2018, Graceland hosted the Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference for the first time. Myself and Dr. Dan Platt shouldered much of the planning for the conference, with a collaborative effort among the rest of the Honors Council: Dr. Brian White, Dr. Tim Robbins, Dr. Raquel Moreira, and Dr. Brad Mercer. Conference planning was truly a collaborative effort with the campus. We worked closely with the CMC to develop an innovative logo for the conference and to create a conference website. We worked with admissions, facilities, food service, and the Shaw Center coordinator to make the space conducive to hosting 200 regional Honors students and faculty. We found keynote speakers, reserved hotel rooms, and prepared our students to present at the conference. One of the most rewarding (and labor intensive) parts of conference planning was involving our Honors students in the process. We coordinated five student-student lead committees that encouraged students to take agency in the planning process. The committees prepared the conference schedule, read conference session proposals, and planned social media coverage and social events for our guests. The experience was an incredibly empowering for our students and provided an invaluable bonding experience for them and us. We received an outpouring of positive feedback from attendees, and our students were able to see the positive fruits of their efforts; both serve as a victory for our program. I am really proud of the work I did co-coordinating the conference.

On the Lamoni Level, I am serving as a Board Member for the Lamoni Food Pantry, and head of a sub-committee on fundraising. I initiated and co-organized a soup bowl fundraiser last year that raised over \$4000 for the Pantry. While I was ecstatic for the funds raise, I felt most gratification from the amount of folks who were involved in making the event a success, and for the publicity it brought to the Pantry. I was also asked to serve on the Lamoni Trails

Commission // Trails Visioning Committee to evaluate the current state of the bike path through town and propose an updated vision for the widely used trail.

Fall 2016, I proposed a community mural to the town, and worked with DEKKO to acquire funding. Graceland students and staff, Lamoni Public School students and community members came together in the spring of 2017 to begin production on the Jefferson Highway inspired mural on Main Street downtown, Lamoni. The project saw a massive outpouring of support and participation ranging from young to senior, novice to very skilled. We were showered with old stories of the space as we worked, became willing recipients of many baked goods, and showered with plenty of encouragement. I am really proud of the collaborative human element the mural process brought to our community. The mural was a great equalizer and community builder. One of my favorite days working on the mural brought together an untrained 8-year-old, his sister (a Graceland Art Major) and an 82-year-old community member to paint and share experiences. Other days laughter and conversation could be heard among Graceland facilities staff and faculty that had worked at the same institution for 8 years (or more) and had never met before embarking on the mural. For me, these relationships and shared community experiences surpass the end product by far. I am grateful to be part of such a supportive community, and am proud of my efforts.

On a national level, I am serving as an elected member of the College Art Association (CAA) Education Committee which focuses on the pedagogical needs of students, innovative accessible curriculum for professors, adjunct privileges, and equipping graduate students for the future. As part of my service, I conducted mock interview workshops at CAA, 2018 in L.A. for young professionals and co-lead a round table on Teaching Social Practice.

In addition to my regular voice on the Education Committee, I am also serving on a sub-committee which focuses on publications. The committee conducts pedagogical interviews with professors and artists to be released to an international community through podcasts: <http://www.collegeart.org/programs/podcasts>. I have been interviewed about my socially engaged pedagogy for the 2018 season, and have been a host for numerous podcasts. This work has connected me to a larger like-minded community in the arts, has brought recognition to Graceland, and I am confident that our students will benefit from these connections.