

# Life Legacy Award



**Janet Naus**, lovingly referred to as “DJ,” which is short for Dean Janet, came to GCA in 1992. Having grown up in Kansas, DJ did two short stints as a girls’ dean in Kansas and Colorado. She has enjoyed nearly 27 years of impacting the lives of young women on this campus through her role as head dean.

Being in charge of a dormitory full of teenage girls is hard work! DJ credits time on her knees and the support of her family for being able to succeed in this ministry. “Keeping God as my best Friend and letting Him know my frustrations and cares, then seeing Him turn those struggles or trials into answered prayer, has built my faith and confidence in Him that He will get me through another year.” DJ says seeing her girls grow up to find happiness and establish their own families, then raising children to love the Lord is her biggest reward.

“What I know about Janet is that she has an on going commitment to serve God and to be a spiritual influence to those around her. She is a person that spends time on her knees. Her most influential moments are when she is able to direct her students to turn their challenges to the Lord through prayer. She always encourages them to allow Him to guide their lives,” says Alicia (Hodges) Beckworth, ’94.

Heidi (Ehlert) Nordby, ’94, observed, “Being a dean is an exhausting and sometimes thankless job. DJ did and still does it with grace. DJ has always been so caring and supportive, not only with current students, but even after graduating. Some of my best memories at GCA involve her.”

Robert Deforest, ’94, recalls, “DJ was always open-minded and caring. She was one of the very few who always gave me the benefit of the doubt when others were quick to judge. I can count many times when DJ took the time to understand a situation before casting judgment and I think that is an important attribute to have when you work with kids.”

DJ has built her ministry on the principle of kindness. “My mom taught me that kindness breaks down walls so that has always been my golden rule. Kids are sometimes hard to love, but everyone deserves kindness!”

The Class of 1994 nominated DJ for the Life Legacy Award because of her love and dedication to the girls in her dorm and the powerful influence for good she has been in the lives of so many GCA students. Her love for students and her love for God shines through in her work as a dean. Janet is eagerly waiting for the day when Jesus will return and take us to Heaven, where she can enjoy a great big GCA family reunion with all the students she has known and loved over the years.