REMEMBER THE FALLEN
Stories of JBU alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice in WWII’s Pacific Theater

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The sinking of the USS West Virginia at Pearl Harbor: Two JBU alumni survived, only to perish later in the war.
COME VISIT: we’ll reimburse the gas for vehicles of 4+ prospective students!

Your stories can inspire their stories...

Share yours and refer a student (or two) to JBU!

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In Service of Our Country

JBU ROTC Graduates Commit to Service

Dear Friends of JBU,

This edition of the Brown Bulletin focuses on our alumni that served in the armed forces. As a young boy, I was fascinated by reading about war, and brought WWII history books on vacation. I also played with my paternal grandfather’s WWI helmet. He served in the infantry in France and Germany. His helmet had a large dent in its crown, and I would imagine stories of how a deflecting bullet had caused it. He died before I was born, so I never had the chance to talk with him about his military service. My maternal grandfather was a doctor during WWII, but a football knee injury prevented him from serving overseas. Instead, he treated wounded soldiers in Paris, Texas for the last two years of the war. He, too, spoke little of his military service other than of the heat and dust of his military base. Two of my uncles served in the Korean War, but my father was not old enough for Korea and was too old for Vietnam. So I grew up with very little family history or direct experience with veterans other than what I read in books.

So I felt a bit unprepared when I was first asked to participate in the Army’s second lieutenant commissioning service for graduating JBU ROTC students. JBU has a long-standing agreement with the University of Arkansas that allows JBU students to participate in the “Razorback Brigade” program, and we typically have four to six students involved in any one year. The officers of that program speak very highly of their JBU recruits with their academic excellence and high graduation rates, their exemplary moral character and integrity, and their personal self-discipline and physical fitness. They are some of our finest graduates.

The commissioning service is a solemn and joyous affair as young men and women commit their lives to defending the Constitution of the United States. The service includes a “pinning” of the cadet with gold bars to signify their rank and a first salute from an enlisted officer. Both ceremonies often conducted by the cadet’s family members. It is the participation of the family members in this service that has often struck me: a grandfather giving the first salute to a granddaughter; a mother pinning the bars on a son. You see right away that generations of families have served in the U.S. military, and you realize that they have the most to risk in this service. I leave those commissioning ceremonies humbled by, and grateful for, those JBU families who make this commitment for all of us. We wish them Godspeed as they protect and defend.

Godspeed,

Dr. Charles W. Pollard
President, John Brown University
Grateful for our Military, Veterans

A little more than 23 years ago I stood beside my husband, Mark Gumm ’94, and pinned two gold bars on his left shoulder. Mark had joined the JBU ROTC cadet program through the University of Arkansas his sophomore year, partly to help pay for college. Upon graduation, Mark was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army.

Our time in the military was brief — just four years — but the leadership skills and lessons Mark learned during ROTC and at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas have served Mark well throughout his civilian career. It has also given me a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices our military families make.

On behalf of the entire JBU community, I say thank you to those of you who have served or currently serve our country so faithfully.

Julie Gumm ’95
Managing Editor, Brown Bulletin
Director of Marketing Communications

COVER FEATURE: Remembering the Fallen

Ultimate Sacrifice

On the stone wall of JBU’s Cathedral of the Ozarks are the words “In Memory of Our Boys,” a dedication to the nearly 50 young men from JBU who gave their lives during World War II. Here are a few of the most poignant stories from those who served in the Pacific Theater.

DID YOU KNOW?

Brown Military Academy opened in 1937 in San Diego, California and trained up to 400 cadets per year.

JBU’s airport, part of the aeronautics department, taught 175 students to fly in order to join the military and numerous civilian pilot training programs.

Mechanical students overhauled damaged planes and made them fit for flight. The first repaired plane was in the air after six weeks of work.

JBU was under contract with the U.S. Department of War to accept 20 young men from the Air Corps Reserve each year for training. The first Army class came in the fall of 1942 and the last in 1944.

In May 1945, JBU broke ground on the Cathedral, the first of a three-building “Memorial Group” in memory of the schools’ war dead. Built primarily by JBU students and staff, this was the largest enterprise the school had undertaken up until this point.
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Psychology professor Dr. Kevin Simpson feels a moral obligation to remember and retell the stories of the Holocaust to ensure they are not forgotten.

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The Brown Bulletin is published by University Communications for alumni and friends of JBU.

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Campus News

Society of Women Engineers Club Hosts Elementary Girls
The Society of Women Engineers recently hosted “Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day.” Forty-four elementary age girls participated in engineering related activities facilitated by JBU engineering students. The girls rotated between five stations where they participated in hands-on activities that centered on electrical circuits, the engineering design process, computer programming, airplanes and mathematical statistics.

Degree Completion Announces Name Change to JBU Online
JBU announced that the Degree Completion Program has been renamed JBU Online. The name change reflects the university’s commitment to providing quality Christian higher education options to students in Arkansas and beyond as they complete their college degree. More than 4,000 students have attained degrees through JBU centers in Fort Smith, Little Rock and Northwest Arkansas. The online undergraduate program offers degrees in business administration, liberal arts, management accounting, organizational leadership and psychology.

Professor Presents 36 Years of Excavation Findings
Dr. Dave Vila, JBU professor of religion and philosophy, presented findings from Abila of the Decapolis as part of the Abila Lecture in Biblical Archeology series, now in its third year. “Excavating Abila of the Decapolis: The First 36 Years” presented the site’s 4,000-year history and 36 years of excavation work. Vila became director of the Abila Archeological Project in 2008 and developed JBU’s Jordan Summer Studies program which has allowed over 100 JBU students, faculty, staff and alumni to take part in the excavation.

Graduate School Approved to Offer M. Ed. in Special Education
The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) gave JBU approval to provide the master of education degree in special education K-12 beginning in the fall of 2017. JBU also offers a non-degree endorsement in special education that leads to state endorsement as a K-12 special education teacher. JBU’s Graduate Teacher Education department was also approved by ADE to offer the master of arts in Teaching degree.

First Public Futsal Courts in Northwest Arkansas Open at JBU
JBU opened the first public futsal court in Northwest Arkansas this spring. The courts provide space for JBU’s varsity soccer and intramural programs, the Siloam Springs Futbol Club activities, City of Siloam Springs parks and recreation programs, informal games and an adult league. The 120-by-150-foot hard surface can be played as two smaller courts or one larger court and is located in the valley near the intramural fields.
JBU Students Win at National Debate Tournament
Sophomore Matt Logan, a business administration major, received the Season Long Novice National Champion recognition during the International Public Debate Association’s National Tournament and Convention; the convention includes more than 490 competitors from 106 different universities. Logan has won three titles: Novice Tournament Champion, Arkansas State Champion and Southern Forensics Champion. Logan was third in the Novice Division and a double octofinalist.

Freshman Garrit Headley was an octofinalist and received seventh place speaker in the junior varsity division at the tournament. Freshman Noah Hackendorf and junior Julia Bentley both finished with a 4-4 record.

Salvation Army, JBU Honor Joint Heritage with Chapel Service
JBU and The Salvation Army (SA) celebrated JBU’s Founder’s Day at the Cathedral of the Ozarks on April 11, John E. Brown, Sr.’s birthday. JBU’s Founder’s Day celebrates the life of Brown, who established JBU in 1919. Brown’s conversion to Christianity happened during a revival meeting hosted by The Salvation Army on May 15, 1897. Major Dan Matthews, Area Commander of The Salvation Army of Northwest Arkansas (SANWA), and John Brown III spoke in chapel. At a reception that followed, representatives from the SANWA presented John Brown III with a commemorative print of the SA founder in celebration of the joint heritage.

Gov. Mike Huckabee Speaks for Barnett Civic Leadership Series
On Feb. 2 former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee addressed the JBU community in the Cathedral of the Ozarks as part of the Barnett Civic Leadership Series. Afterward Huckabee answered questions from students in a lively community discussion. Huckabee served as governor from 1996 to 2007. The Ray and Laurine Barnett Civic Leadership Series is funded by endowment gifts from the Barnett family and various donations. It provides a speaker to JBU every academic year to focus on the topic of Christian Leadership.

Davis Outdoor Adventure Center Makes Outdoor Activities Accessible
Located in the old Sager Cabin, the Davis Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC) has a full line of equipment, including kayaks, bikes and camping gear, that are available to JBU students, faculty and staff with a yearly membership. The OAC also sponsors trips that will explore some of the best-kept secrets of the Ozark Wilderness.

Sandra Van Thiel Faculty Hall of Fame
Editor’s Note: In the Winter 2016 bulletin we accidentally left a very valued member of the JBU Faculty Hall of Fame off of the list. We apologize for the omission.

Governed by the Office of Academic Affairs, the Faculty Hall of Fame honors those who hold the full rank of professor and who have served as faculty for a minimum of 30 years. Other requirements include having been a division or department chair or served in a significant leadership role in the ongoing ministry of JBU.

Sandra Van Thiel ’74-’76; ’81-’13
Sandra Van Thiel began her career at JBU with a two-year stint as a counselor and instructor. In 1981 she returned and was hired as an instructor of education, completing her doctorate from Oklahoma State University while teaching. She served faithfully in the division as a full-time faculty member and became chair of the Division of Education in 1999. Van Thiel served in that role until 2012, retiring in 2013 at the rank of full professor.
Awarded “Teacher of the Year” and “Arkansas Middle School Association Principal that Makes a Difference,” Dr. Connie Matchell ’77 has spent 32 years in education, mostly in the Siloam Springs School District. While there, she helped pave a long-lasting relationship between the district and JBU as the first professional development school director. Matchell has impacted thousands of students and continues to do so as undergraduate teacher education department head and program director for graduate teacher education.
WHAT ARE THREE THINGS THAT A TEACHER SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT?

1. Relationships
2. Relevance
3. Rigor

WHAT ARE THREE CHARACTERISTICS THAT YOU TRY TO INSTILL INTO FUTURE TEACHERS?

1. Love – their content and their kids.
2. Flexibility – go the extra mile to work with and reach all kids.
3. Patience – some students are difficult to work with but, in the end, the work is rewarding.

WHAT ARE THREE THINGS TEACHING HAS TAUGHT YOU?

1. To look at kids and realize that God has put each of them in your path for a reason. You have something you can give every one of them.
2. It’s important that you understand the influence you can have and the need to use it wisely.

WHAT ARE THREE MISCONCEPTIONS OF TEACHING?

1. Teaching is just a nine-month job: It is more like a full-time and part-time job in one. There are long hours with prepping for class and grading papers. You are with the kids all day and only have 30 minutes for lunch so you learn to eat fast.
2. Teaching is easy: Teachers make millions of decisions a day from behavior to education. You ask questions like: What is that kid in the back of the room doing? Should I discipline? Am I individualizing for each student? Designing lessons that are engaging? Keeping their attention? Helping them learn?
3. Teachers have nothing to do in the summer: Summers are for professional development and the opportunity for teachers to never stop learning.

WHAT ARE THREE DIFFERENCES YOU’VE FOUND TRANSITIONING FROM K-12 TO HIGHER EDUCATION?

1. Higher education has more of a chain of command. You need to know who the proper people are to talk to or to get things approved.
2. An administrator in higher education also has a teaching load. I currently teach 15 hours between undergraduate and graduate classes.
3. The ability to share my faith openly.

NAME THREE WAYS JBU’S TEACHING CURRICULUM MODELS ITS MISSION OF HEAD, HEART AND HAND?

1. Head – Teachers have to have the content knowledge. Our curriculum requires that our students pass certain tests, keep a high GPA and earn a C or above in all of their education classes.
2. Heart – JBU integrates faith and learning. We prepare students to teach in public schools. We train them to understand how to live our lives in a way that shows Christ’s love to others.
3. Hand – Beginning freshman year, students start working in classrooms. We want them to have as much hands-on experience as possible early on to make sure this is where they want to be.

WHAT ARE THREE THINGS THAT BRING YOU JOY?

1. Traveling
2. Building Legos with my grandkids
3. Watching movies/playing piano
FROM LEFT: THEA BROCK, CONNOR LUTHER, NICK LEE, LUKE POWERS, ALE FIGONI, HUMBERTO SMITH ZUNIGA, NATE WERTJES, TYLER ESTES, COOPER RICHARDSON, ANDREW BROTT, MARCELLA ALEJANDRA FUNEZ VIVAS, CECILEE RUSSELL, KRISTINA ARGE SIMONSEN AND RACHEL SULLIVANT CELEBRATE WINNING THE ENACTUS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: JBU Enactus was crowned 2017 Enactus United States National Champions in Kansas City, Missouri on May 23. The team bested 200 universities and colleges from around the nation to advance to the Enactus World Cup in London this September. The team of 64 students from 22 states and nine countries presented three projects: the mobile app Yellow Crate which alerts customers of local food pantry needs when they walk into a participating grocery store; the Guatemala water purification project; and Shredify, a document destruction service that employs adults with disabilities.
For the fifth time in program history, the John Brown University women’s basketball team was extended an at-large berth to the NAIA Division I National Championships held in Billings, Montana in March.

The Golden Eagles entered the tournament with a 22-8 record, winning 12 of its last 14 contests, finishing the second-best regular season record in program history.

In the Round of 32, the fifth-seeded Golden Eagles narrowly beat fourth-seeded Benedictine (Kan.), 74-72. Twenty-four hours later they were back on the court, facing eighth-seeded William Woods (Mo.). Twice JBU took significant leads, but each time William Woods responded, sinking a triple in the last two seconds to defeat JBU 64-61 in the second close game in as many days.

This was head coach Jeff Soderquist’s fifth time guiding the team to the National Championships with previous trips in 2004, 2006, 2011 and 2014.

Celebrating his 20th season at the helm of the program, Soderquist saw his 300th win in a mid-February game at Mid-American Christian (Ok.). At the end of the 2016-17 season, he had amassed a 308-321 overall mark.

Over 20 years, Soderquist has coached players to 43 All-Conference selections, 42 Academic All-Conference recognitions, 18 NAIA Scholar-Athletes, 9 NAIA All-American honorees and three SAC Freshman of the Year winners.
NAIA Athletics

Freshman Stone Swieter helped lead the JBU men’s tennis team to the NAIA Unaffiliated Group Regional Tennis Tournament semifinals with a 5-4 upset win over Southwestern Christian (Okla.) in the quarterfinal round. Swieter and sophomore Nathan Kuykendall, both first-teamers, led a total of four student-athletes named to the All-Tournament team.

Senior Taylor Russell powered the Golden Eagle women’s tennis team to a third-place finish at the NAIA Unaffiliated Group Regional Tennis Tournament with a win over Southwest (N.M.) in the third-place match. Juniors Clare Holden and Grace Cusick were named to the All-Tournament first team for their efforts.

Sophomore Josh Uzelac raced his way to a second appearance in as many seasons at the NAIA National Championships. Five times in 2016 Uzelac set a current-era program record, with his best stint of 25:19 at the 8-kilometer #JennaStrong Fall Classic in Wimington, Ohio.

The men’s basketball team finished the season 15-15 and bowed out of the Sooner Athletic tournament with a loss at Southwestern A.G. (Texas) in the quarterfinals. Freshman forward Brenton Toussaint pictured.

Club Sports

In their second season of play, the Women’s Rugby team went 8-2 and placed second in the Mid America Collegiate Women’s Division II league.

The JBU Men’s Rugby club celebrated their 35th season of play, and despite facing some bigger schools than in previous years, made it to the conference championship tournament in Nebraska.

The JBU Men’s Ultimate Frisbee club team, Ironfist, finished in fifth place at the Division III National Championships May 20-21. Ironfist received the Spirit of the Game award — voted on by the other teams.

Savage Skies, the Women’s Ultimate Frisbee club team, placed second in the Division III South Central Region, beating highly-ranked Rice University and narrowly missing a chance at nationals. They ended their fourth season with a 16-5 record.
Head, Heart and Hand to K-6

Elementary Ed Major Kaitlyn Collier Hopes to Pay Forward JBU’s Impact When She Becomes a Classroom Teacher

By Olivia McCarver

Kaitlyn Collier grew up in Northwest Arkansas and was familiar with JBU – she participated in JBU soccer camps growing up and always recognized it as a future college choice. As a high school senior, Collier visited many schools, but none measured up to JBU. Time and again, Collier experienced JBU’s Christ-centered focus during her visit.

“Whether I was sitting in on a class, staying the night in Mayfield, running with the cross country team or attending chapel, Christ was at the center of all of it,” Collier said.

Scholarships made it possible for Collier to attend JBU, and she is thankful for all the opportunities scholarships have allowed her. Collier is a senior elementary education major and member of the cross country team.

“I absolutely love JBU and would not trade my college experience at John Brown to go anywhere else,” said Collier. “Thanks to JBU I have been challenged to grow in my faith, provided with valuable experiences in the education program and made the best friends of my life,” said Collier.

Collier plans to pursue teaching and knows that leading a classroom isn’t limited to academics.

“I hope to impact children by showing them God’s love through my actions,” said Collier. “JBU has ingrained in me the importance of teaching the whole student – the head, heart and hand.”
Teaching Students the Value of Giving

Student Philanthropy Council Engages Fellow Students

Giving to JBU impacts current and future students in very significant ways. Giving to the JBU Scholarship Fund (JBUSF) provides extra resources to students with critical financial need; giving to buildings and equipment improves the quality of their experience; and giving to the endowment provides current and future scholarships and program support.

JBU scholarship recipients understand it is this generosity that makes their JBU education a reality. Each fall, they write thank you notes to endowed scholarship and JBUSF donors. Donors thoroughly enjoy receiving this note of thanks, and students are reminded that their scholarship was provided by a generous benefactor.

This past year, University Advancement staff Lanya Carson and April Moreton launched a new program to broaden students’ understanding of the impact giving has on their ability to attend and enjoy JBU. The inaugural Student Philanthropy Council (SPC), composed of 10 student leaders, spent the year educating students on the impact of philanthropy and how it contributes to their success. They encouraged students to engage in lifelong philanthropy by giving of their time, talents and treasures.

To further increase awareness and to educate students, the SPC hosted the first annual Thank-A-Giver Day. Buildings were tagged with bows and gift tags, showing that 100 percent of the cost to build and maintain the building was given by alumni, parents and the JBU community. The council also hosted philanthropy booths in Walker Student Center, where students signed thank-you banners. The SPC also worked with the Office of Christian Formation to expand JBU Founder’s Day, an annual event honoring JBU’s founder, John Brown Sr., who sacrificially gave the family farm and his life work to begin JBU.

The SPC hosted several student-focused fundraisers in support of the JBUSF and saw participation increase by 100 percent during the organization’s first year. During SPC meetings, the members learned from special speakers who addressed fundraising topics, and many were able to apply the knowledge immediately to personal fundraising for special projects, mission trips and educational initiatives.

As you give to JBU, please know that the students deeply appreciate your generosity, and a group of students is actively working on campus to remind students that your gift is impacting their lives in many ways.

Jim Krall is the vice president for university advancement.
THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

Untold Stories of JBU Alumni in WWII’s Pacific Theater

By Paul T. Semones ’99
In the fall semester of 2016, JBU history professor Preston Jones gave his America At War class an assignment: research the background and service records of some of the nearly 50 men from JBU who died in World War II. Starting from those students’ findings, Paul T. Semones ’99 spent several weeks uncovering greater details on the lives and legacies of many of those men, focusing primarily on those who served in the Pacific Theater. In the pages that follow, we present a few sketches of the most poignant stories from the war in the Pacific.

California Brothers Serve at Sea

In 1935 Robert Sydney Hand, the oldest of three brothers from California, came to John Brown University for high school studies. He was followed later by his younger brothers William Reeves Hand and Harold Holmes Hand. All about a year apart in age from each other, the boys had lost both parents before Robert’s 11th birthday. Their grandmother, Adella Mary Smith, raised them in her Long Beach home. Robert was in John Brown’s school band, and in the 1936 yearbook was called, “The boy with the big bass horn.”

All three brothers joined the Navy shortly after their time at John Brown. Younger brothers William and Harold were assigned to the battleship USS West Virginia, which would be on “Battleship Row” at the time of the Dec. 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack. Oldest brother Robert enlisted last, and went to the aircraft carrier USS Lexington. When William’s first enlistment period ended, he “re-upped,” incredibly, on Dec. 6, 1941.

The West Virginia was sunk at anchor during the Dec. 7 attack, but both William and Harold survived and were shortly assigned to new ships. Harold reported aboard the undamaged cruiser USS San Francisco the next day, and William reported aboard the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga – sister ship to his brother’s Lexington – a week later. Brother Robert and the Lexington had been at sea during the Japanese attack.

On May 8, 1942, the Lexington sank after suffering crippling damage in the Battle of the Coral Sea. Over 2,700 crewmen, including Robert Hand, were successfully evacuated to other ships before the carrier descended to the ocean floor.

Several months later, in the early morning dark of Nov. 13, 1942, as part of the first action in what would be called the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, a furious, close-range cruiser battle unfolded. The San Francisco was in the middle of the action, with youngest brother Harold, four days shy of his 21st birthday, at his battle station as a gunner in the crow’s nest. The San Francisco took dozens of hits in the running battle and suffered numerous fires on board. She did not sink, but more than 70 men lost their lives that night. Harold Hand was one of these casualties, his body buried at sea.

At the end of December, most likely after receiving word of Harold’s death, William transferred off the Saratoga and entered submarine training. In July 1943, William returned to Pearl Harbor as a submariner, and reported aboard the USS Wahoo in time to join her sixth war patrol. That patrol was deemed a military failure for not sinking any substantial enemy ships – only sampans – and so, in September, Wahoo’s skipper requested permission to patrol again in the heart of the enemy’s empire. Wahoo went to the Sea of Japan and was sunk on Oct. 11, 1943, with the loss of all aboard. William Hand was three weeks shy of his 23rd birthday.

Oldest brother Robert survived the war and continued his Navy career for several years after the war’s end, serving as an aviation mechanic aboard carriers.

Beach Defenders Survive Imprisonment

Winford McAnally was a 16-year-old preacher’s son from Oklahoma when he arrived at JBU in 1933. He enlisted in the Marines in 1938. His first assignment was to the Marine detachment aboard the battleship USS Nevada, stationed at Pearl Harbor. In mid-1941, while ashore in California, McAnally met Gertrude Swift of Dunkirk, New York, who was there visiting her brother, a shipyard electrician. McAnally and “Trudy” soon married, but after less than a month together, with his wife already pregnant, he shipped out with a garrison of fewer than 500 Marines to guard a tiny atoll halfway across the Pacific called Wake Island.

A Japanese amphibious force spent the week after Pearl Harbor staging an assault on Wake Island, some 2,300 miles away from Pearl. On that distant atoll, 24-year-old Corporal McAnally and another former JBU student, 21-year-old Private Roger Dorman, participated in a stubborn defense that repelled the first Japanese attempt to land troops ashore on Dec. 11.

Dorman, whose mother had died when he was a small child, was a college freshman at JBU in 1939, and joined the Marines in March 1941. He was from rural Freestone County, Texas.

The Japanese invasion force would make another attempt to seize Wake Island a couple of days before Christmas 1941. McAnally commanded a handful of Marines and civilians manning a machine gun emplacement that guarded one end of the island’s airfield. His actions during the defense of Wake are chronicled in numerous books about the siege. But on Dec. 23, the Marines were forced to surrender to a numerically superior enemy, and became prisoners of war.

About two weeks after the surrender, McAnally and Dorman were loaded up with some 1,200 other military and civilian POWs.
Cousins by Blood; Brothers in Arms

Two of John Brown’s earliest students suffered perhaps the most of all the school’s alumni lost to the war. Willis Daman Wright was a teenager in 1920’s Fayetteville, Arkansas, where his father worked in the University of Arkansas creamery, making butter. Wright was an accomplished Boy Scout, becoming the first boy in Fayetteville to achieve the high rank of Life Scout in 1923. He attended the John Brown high school along with his younger cousin, Neil Bliss Peterson. He was born in Texas, but his father died before Peterson was 10. His mother’s second husband was a farmer in Cane Hill, about 30 miles south of Siloam Springs. The cousins were at John Brown until about 1924. Peterson moved to California by the time he was 20, but Wright continued to live in Siloam Springs until after his father died in 1931.

By 1940, after working on a Wyoming ranch, Wright was in the Army, stationed with a work crew in the California desert near the future Edwards Air Force Base. Peterson was a highway construction truck driver in Long Beach, California, and was providing for his mother who had left Peterson’s unsavory stepfather a few years earlier.

In March 1941, Peterson enlisted in the Army for Philippine service, which at the time was considered almost an assignment to paradise. By June he was in the Philippine islands, assigned to the artillery regiment providing coastal defense in and around the waters of Manila Bay. Peterson was assigned to Battery “I,” manning the anti-aircraft gun emplacements that fortified the small Caballo Island that flanked the larger fortress island of Corregidor.

Late in 1941, as the prospect of war with Japan became all but certain, Wright and several of the men from his California desert barracks were given orders to join the ground echelon of the 19th Bomb Group, which transported several B-17 bomber squadrons across the Pacific to reinforce the Philippines. Wright enjoyed peacetime assignment in the Philippines for less than two months. Just a few hours after the Pearl Harbor attack, about half of the Group’s bombers were parked at Clark Field, north of Manila, where all but a few planes were totally destroyed in the initial Japanese assault. Suddenly Wright, his barracks mates from California, and most of the rest of the 19th Bomb Group’s men were turned into provisional infantry. Salvaging machine guns from their wrecked bombers to use in the coming fight, they retreated to the Bataan peninsula, where an exhausting months-long siege would unfold.

Across the waterways of Manila Bay, on Caballo Island, Peterson’s Battery “Idaho” expended nearly 3,000 rounds of ammunition during the months of the Japanese siege of Bataan and Corregidor. In a last, desperate act of defiance, on the morning of May 6, 1942, the battery’s artillerymen pointed their anti-aircraft guns horizontally and began firing explosive rounds across the waterway into Japanese troops making their final landing on Corregidor. By midnight, the emaciated, exhausted American forces throughout Manila Bay had surrendered to the Japanese, and thousands of men – including these cousins from John Brown – became prisoners of war.

Wright and Peterson were both transferred through the Bilibid prison on the outskirts of Manila, with Peterson being sent to the largest POW camp at nearby Cabanatuan, and Wright being shipped off to the Davao POW camp on the Philippines’ southern-most major island of Mindanao.

American POWs endured horrific conditions in the Philippines. For many, including these cousins, the exact details of their final, painful years can never be known. But the appalling tragedy of their deaths is well documented in U.S. Navy records, for Wright and Peterson each ended up being loaded into atrociously cruel POW transport ships that were then, sadly, attacked by American forces.

Wright died on Sept. 7, 1944, aboard the infamous Shin’yo Maru. The ship, believed by U.S. intelligence to be carrying Japanese troops, was torpedoed by the submarine USS Paddle, and in the hours before the transport
The remains of “Battery Way” following the Battle of Corregidor

SS Shin'yō Maru

B-17 from the 19th Bomb Group attacking Lae Airfield, New Guinea

sank, nearly 700 American and allied POWs died from the attack or were murdered en masse by their captors. Peterson died on Dec. 15, 1944, as a prisoner on the Ōryoku Maru. This ship was loaded with over 1,600 POWs when it was attacked by carrier planes from the USS Hornet.

Wright was 38 years old at the time of his death; his cousin was 35.

Civilians Imprisoned at Home, Abroad

Harold Minor Palmer, from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was a John Brown College freshman in 1929. He was the oldest of five children whose father had died when Harold was 12. His mother worked to support the family as a school janitor.

Another college freshman in 1929 came from considerably farther away. Richard Toshio Funai was born and raised in Hawaii and was of Japanese ancestry. His parents were Shinto, and worshiped at a Buddhist temple in a small plantation town on the north shore of Oahu. During his high school years, Funai converted to Christianity and left home. He eventually heard about John Brown College and began scrounging together enough money to sail to California. He arrived at the west coast aboard the SS City of Los Angeles, just two weeks before the start of the fall semester in 1929. With no idea how to get to Arkansas, he started hopping freight trains across the country until he found his way to Chicago, then made his way south to Siloam Springs.

Palmer and Funai both had the same ambition to be ministers, and they were members together of several different college clubs focusing on church support, preaching, Sunday school teaching and missions.

In 1938 Palmer and his wife had their first child, Carole Jean, while he was pastor of Fite Memorial Baptist in Marion, Ohio. A surviving account of his first sermon there reveals his faith in God during times of war, a message that would take on new meaning during his family’s ordeal to come.

Preaching from 2 Chronicles 32, which tells of the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem, Palmer asked the question, “Is God really bigger than the devil?” In answer, Harold emphasized King Hezekiah’s words of encouragement to God’s people, that their enemies had “only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles.” (2 Chron. 32:8, NIV) A few years later, Harold was ready to take his small family to the Philippines as missionaries, where he assumed the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Manila at the start of 1941.

The 1930’s were also a time of further study and evangelism for Funai. After his year at John Brown, he studied and preached at Eugene Bible College in Oregon, then went to Butler University in Indiana, speaking often to groups about the religious state of his father’s native Japan, and the crisis that would soon embroil the Pacific in war. By 1940, Funai had moved to Seattle, where he earned a living as the bookkeeper for a pool hall. Richard’s boss also owned the Olympic Café in downtown Seattle, where the owner’s daughter Eiko was a waitress. Funai and Eiko married in late 1941.

After the Dec. 1941 Japanese invasion of the Philippines, the Palmer family – Harold, Esther and four-year-old Carole Jean – were imprisoned by Japanese forces, and the Manila First Baptist Church building was destroyed. Many civilians and missionary families, including children, were imprisoned by the Japanese in early 1942. The Palmer family was taken to the prison camps in Baguio, some 150 miles north of Manila. There, roughly 500 civilians were kept, with 200 of them being missionaries.

Funai and his new wife would be caught up in another sad chapter of World War II history that began in early 1942: the relocation and imprisonment of Americans of Japanese ancestry within the United States. In Aug. 1942, after first reporting to the processing camp in Puyallup, Washington, the Funais were taken to the Minidoka, Idaho internment camp, where over 9,000 people were held.

In the poor conditions of the Philippine camps, Palmer suffered a case of appendicitis in Oct. 1942. He underwent surgery in the available medical facilities, but complications arose. Ten days after his surgery, on Oct. 20, he died from infection at age 35. Another missionary in the camp, Esther Yerger, wrote after the war that Palmer’s wife Esther “was inconsolable at first but she was brave and has shown a lovely spirit.” Some of the other missionaries prepared Palmer’s body and he was buried on a hill near the camp, where almost all of the camp’s internees attended his memorial service. Palmer’s wife requested that they sing “When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder,” and Miss Yerger said “she sang it out bravely.”

Esther and Carole Jean survived their ordeal for three years and were liberated in
early 1945. After returning home, Esther eventually remarried and lived until 1997. Carole Jean grew into a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who would, upon her death in 2015, be remembered as “a light to all around her” with a “deep love for Jesus [that] was evident in the way she lived her life.”

Richard and Eiko Funai spent almost three years in their internment. After the war, Funai took his wife back to Hawaii and raised a family. He lived to be 93, and Eiko lived to be 87 — both seeing the birth of their great-grandchildren.

Navy Seamen Die in Battle

Truett Mayo Guthrey spent his last two years of high school at John Brown, graduating from the academy in 1938. His father had been a doctor in El Dorado, Arkansas, but died when Guthrey was 11 years old. Guthrey was the president of the Academy Engineers club, and the 1938 yearbook showed his ambition to become a naval officer. The quote next to his graduation picture was, “The wide open sea beckons and promises many interesting adventures.”

The summer after graduation, Guthrey enlisted in the Navy and was ordered to the USS Vincennes. During his first three years aboard, he indeed saw some interesting adventures as the Vincennes exercised in the Virgin Islands, visited Cuba and sailed to South Africa to pick up a shipment of gold bullion as a lend-lease payment from Great Britain.

According to the Navy Department’s official history of the ship released to the public near the end of the war, “Star shells burst high, illuminating attacker and defender alike, and while broad beams of searchlights swept the sea, the two fleets slugged it out at almost point-blank range.”

It is not known what battle station Guthrey manned during the action, but as an EM1c, with recent training in interior ship communications, it is possible he was stationed deep in the ship, in one of the communications equipment rooms. Vincennes took more than 80 hits from the enemy’s guns and was holed by at least one torpedo during the roughly 15-minute long fight.

The order to abandon ship came just 20 minutes after the Japanese force withdrew, and the majority of the crew clung to life rafts through the night until rescue came. But Guthrey, 22 years old, was one of the more than 300 men who went down with the Vincennes in those early morning hours of Aug. 9, 1942.

Robert Neal King of Oklahoma was at JBU for two years of college through 1941. He joined the Navy in June 1942 and reported aboard the light cruiser USS St. Louis. The ship was assigned to patrol the Solomon Islands around Guadalcanal in 1943. King may have been injured in the line of duty or contracted a serious illness in the festering climate, for he spent a month aboard the hospital ship USS Relief for treatment, then was at the Mare Island Naval Hospital in California for another ten days in October of 1943.

After recovering, he was back aboard the St. Louis when one of the earliest organized Kamikaze attacks of the war took place on Nov. 27, 1944, in the waters of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines.

The ship was supporting fleet refueling operations around noon, with many sailors starting to form the lunchtime chow line, when a group of 10 enemy aircraft was sighted. King manned one of the 20mm anti-aircraft guns that started pouring fire into a group of four diving planes at 11:37 a.m. One of those planes, aflame and upside down, but still carrying an unexploded bomb, crashed onto the rear deck of the St. Louis, descending into her aft hangar deck and exploding.

All of the anti-aircraft crew in four rear gun tubs were wounded or killed in the blast. According to a newspaper account after the war, King died trying to save another sailor. The Navy announced a year later that he had been posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his valor. He was 26 years old at the time of his death, and his body was returned home for burial in 1948.

Bruce Garda Biddle came to JBU during the war, spending 1942-1944 at the college. During World War I, his father ran a non-profit farming operation, providing food to the Federal Food Administration. During Biddle’s time at JBU, his father died and was
Listed below are the names and attendance of the JBU Alumni who fought and died in all theaters of WWII.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Attended</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Joseph Albin</td>
<td>1929-1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul E. Baker</td>
<td>1931-1932</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Garda Biddle</td>
<td>1942-1944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin E. Bowers</td>
<td>1939-1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lester Leroy Braman</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
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<td>Jesse Lee Carpenter</td>
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<td>George Owen Cox</td>
<td>1925-1928</td>
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<td>James Walter Davis</td>
<td>1940-1941</td>
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<td>David Merle Diamond</td>
<td>1933-1934</td>
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<td>Leroy Vernon “Lee” Dodd</td>
<td>1940-1941</td>
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<td>Lee White Dodson</td>
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<td>Robert Lee Freeman</td>
<td>1937</td>
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<td>Daniel D. Goodlett</td>
<td>1927-1928</td>
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<td>Stanley S. “Judd” Graeser</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Truett Mayo Guthrey</td>
<td>1936-1938</td>
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<td>Harold Holmes Hand</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Reeves Hand</td>
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<td>John Beverly Haskett</td>
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<td>Robert Earl Hoover</td>
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<td>Ben B. Hunt, Jr.</td>
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<td>Granville Andrew Jackson</td>
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<td>Howard Edward Keech</td>
<td>1931-1932</td>
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<td>Robert Neal King</td>
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<td>Gerald M. Kobes</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
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<td>Warren E. Koontz</td>
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<td>William Harold Larue</td>
<td>1926-1928</td>
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<td>Thomas E. McKnight</td>
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<td>John W. Miller</td>
<td>1935-1936</td>
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<td>Robert Douglas Miller</td>
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<td>Henry Donald Mitchell</td>
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<td>Paul Calvin Owen</td>
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<td>Neil Bliss Peterson</td>
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<td>Thoburn Piper</td>
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<td>Jack Thomas Roberts</td>
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<td>Ralph Turner Rowland</td>
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<td>Delton Dixon Shilling</td>
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<td>Victor Turner Spivey</td>
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<td>William Arthur Stearns</td>
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<td>Rex Arthur Steffen</td>
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<td>Thomas Ewing Tedford</td>
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<td>Cedric Arthur Tooker</td>
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<td>Leon Thomas Vanselous</td>
<td>1938-1939</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willis Daman Wright</td>
<td>1921-1924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert James Yule</td>
<td>1934-1935</td>
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buried across the street from campus in Oak Hill Cemetery. Biddle helped run the KUOA radio station while at JBU, but left at age 18 to join the Merchant Marines, where he was a radio operator on the transport ship SS Lewis L. Dyche.

The ship supported the island-by-island liberation of the Philippines in late 1944. That Christmas, some of the crew went ashore on one of the liberated islands to attend a morning Christmas mass in an old Philippine Catholic church. Little more than a week later, on Jan. 4, 1945, the Dyche was loaded with ammunition for delivery to U.S. forces on Mindoro when their convoy was attacked by Japanese aircraft. A Kamikaze angled toward the explosive-laden Dyche and struck.

In a book by Gary L. McIntosh, chronicling the experiences of the author’s father aboard a destroyer in the area, the fate of the Dyche was recalled: “The ship blew up with a tremendous explosion, sending a mushroom-shaped cloud high above Mangarin Bay and creating a wave of water twenty feet high that inundated gun emplacements and living shelters ashore.” Men died on nearby ships as the debris and unexploded ordnance rained down upon the fleet. The 71 crew members of the Dyche had been vaporized in an instant. Bruce Biddle was 19 years old.

Just a few months later his mother, Emily Garda Biddle, was invited to be a guest of honor at the groundbreaking ceremony for JBU’s Cathedral of the Ozarks on May 23, 1945, a building whose cornerstone would eventually bear the dedication, “In Memory of Our Boys.”

Brothers from the Lone Star State

Another pair of brothers attended JBU together before fighting and dying in the skies over the Pacific.

John W. Miller came to the college in 1935; his younger brother Robert Douglas Miller followed a year or so later. They came from Wortham, Texas, and each attended JBU for about a year. Older brother John may have found a sweetheart while he was at the school, for his 1936 yearbook quote was, “Boy, she’s a real cute girl – no kiddin’.”

After their time at JBU, John became a rural mail carrier and Robert worked with a funeral company, until they each joined the Army.

John enlisted in Feb. 1941, earned a lieutenant’s commission and his pilot’s wings in 1943, and finally went overseas at the end of 1944 with a B-29 squadron on Saipan. On Jan. 23, 1945, he was co-pilot on a bombing mission against the Mitsubishi aircraft engine factory in Nagoya, Japan. After a successful bombing run, John’s plane came under intense enemy fighter attack. In the 12 minutes it took to reach the coast after departing the target area, John’s plane fought off more than 70 attack runs by enemy fighters. The aerial combat was so furious, the mission log reports that one of the B-29’s turrets was down to 12 remaining rounds of ammunition at the end of the action.

On one of the fighters’ passes, an explosive shell penetrated the cockpit and grievously wounded John at the controls. The aircraft was heavily damaged, eventually losing two of its four engines, and it was several minutes before crew could attend to John’s wounds.

Other bombers of the formation slowed down to provide escort and additional defense for the wounded plane. The crew’s report says that after the attacks ended, the plane’s radio operator, navigator and bombardier all “worked feverishly” to try to save John’s life, giving him morphine shots, applying compresses and injecting blood plasma, but the explosive shell had severed three arteries and Miller died before the plane could limp back to Saipan. Upon landing, the bullet-ridden B-29 was met by an ambulance to carry John’s body. Examining his wounds, the squadron’s flight surgeon assured the crew that there was nothing they could have done to save his life. John W. Miller was 28 years old, and buried in the squadron’s cemetery.

Six days after his brother’s last mission from Saipan, Robert Douglas Miller arrived on the island. He too was in a B-29 squadron as a gunner and radio operator. On a bombing mission just a month after John’s death, Robert’s plane crashed into another plane at the formation’s assembly point, and both B-29s plummeted into the sea and exploded. “Another plane circled the area for one hour and forty minutes,” according to the squadron records, “but saw no survivors.” None of the crew from either plane were recovered. Robert Miller was 25 years old.

In 1948, the cemetery on Saipan was closed, and John’s body was exhumed and returned to Texas. Local newspaper reports from the time say that a large group of Wortham’s citizens met the June 14 morning train, which carried John’s flag-draped casket. Having but a single body brought home to represent the sacrifices of their only two sons, the Miller family held a memorial service that afternoon for both brothers, more than three years after they gave their lives.

Teacher Leads by Example

Howard Edward Keech was born in 1907 in Bedfordshire, England to an English father and an American mother. The family spent many years as missionaries in Central America, printing and distributing Christian literature.
Keech's father died when he was 16, and the family made the U.S. their permanent home. He attended college at John Brown in the 1930's, got married and became JBU's professor of printing a few years later. By 1941, he was the head of JBU's University Press and the faculty advisor for the school's yearbook staff, and was elected vice president of the JBU alumni association in 1942. In March 1944, he enlisted as a 36-year-old private in the Army. By this time almost 20 of his former classmates and students had already died in the war.

On April 9, 1945, Keech's unit, the 165th Infantry Regiment, landed on Okinawa. Their primary mission was to destroy the Japanese forces holding “Item Pocket,” a defensive strongpoint guarding the island's airfield. The enemy resistance has been described by historians of the bloody Okinawa campaign as fanatical, and it took nine days for Keech's regiment to finally defeat the last holdouts of “Item Pocket.” On April 29, about three dozen surviving Japanese soldiers emerged from the strongpoint in the early morning to make a final charge against the 165th Regiment's lines. Keech died on this day, earning a Bronze Star for his valor in the fight. His body could not be recovered, and today his name is listed on a memorial cenotaph in the Courts of the Missing in Honolulu. At his death, Keech was 37 years old.

**Chaplain Heals Bodies, Souls**

Thomas Eugene McKnight was from Yellville, Arkansas, the sixth of 11 children. He came to the high school academy in 1926, graduating in 1928. McKnight was active at John Brown, serving in the leadership of several clubs geared around Christian ministry. His first semester on campus, he was one of a dozen boys to found the Ministerial Club, becoming its first vice president. The club members supported small community churches that had no regular pastors. During his time at John Brown, McKnight won first prize in a statewide essay contest put on by the Women's Christian Temperance Union on the topic of cigarette prohibition. He won $15 for the work.

John Brown yearbooks from the 1920's included a "class prophecy" for each student. For McKnight, it was certainly prescient. It foretold, "Thomas McKnight, evangelist and lecturer, had won a place beside that of Bryan in the hearts of his countrymen. Tom's words carried with them the ring of truth and an earnest appeal for better and greater things."

McKnight went on to get married and have a daughter in the 1930’s, then studied at Southern Methodist University. He graduated from there in 1942 and joined the Army as a Methodist chaplain the day after his commencement.

McKnight served in New Guinea and went ashore after the first waves of American invasion forces during the liberation of the Admiralty Islands in early 1944.

He wrote from the battlefield, in an article published in the June 15, 1944 Arkansas Methodist magazine, about the chaplain's duty of accompanying – unarmed – his unit's combat patrols, and assisting the medics in attending to the wounded and dying.

"We have seen enough sacrifice and devotion to duty here to put to shame the weak efforts that the average Christian puts forth in the name of Him who bore His cross and bade us follow Him in so doing. ... It takes much of physical, mental, and spiritual strength to care for a stream of wounded all the day long and hold brief funeral services for several through the day. ... Never before had the sustaining power of prayer been so evident for us and for the men we served," he wrote.

By early 1945, he held the rank of captain and was with the 7th Cavalry Regiment, advancing into the Philippines to liberate Manila.

In 1960, author Melbourne C. Chandler wrote of the unit’s “shining examples of gallantry, self-sacrifice and heroism,” and placed chaplain McKnight’s actions of Feb. 8, 1945, first among his examples.

Chandler recorded that McKnight “left his fox hole during a mortar attack to answer the call of a wounded man and was killed while administering to him.”

A 1st Cavalry Division history says that when the 7th Cavalry Regiment was stationed in Tokyo after the war, the regiment's headquarters building was named McKnight Barracks in his honor. McKnight was 35 when he sacrificed his life to carry a wounded comrade out of the midst of battle, earning a posthumous Silver Star. He was one of at least 20 army chaplains who died during the liberation of the Philippines.

In the libraries of Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, where the Methodist chapel's stained glass window is dedicated to McKnight, a quote from one of his last letters home is preserved.

"Writing from the battlefield, McKnight said to his parents, “The going is tough. If the worst comes to me, I shall look down from heaven watching my parents, seven brothers and three sisters – and shall be waiting to meet them one by one as you enter the gates of heaven.”"

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Photo of William Reeves Hand courtesy of Charles R. Hinman, USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park, OnEternalPatrol.com
Photo of Haskett and crew used with permission of San Diego Air & Space Museum

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The 396th Infantry advances near Item Pocket

B-29 Superfortresses of the 39th Bomb Group

First wave ashore on Los Negros, Admiralty Islands, Feb. 1944
Fast Feet: JBU soccer player Corey Ferguson ’20 (left) and Kelvin Omondi ’20 practice their footwork on the new JBU Futsal Court. The court, which is open to the public, is a joint project of JBU, the City of Siloam Springs and the Siloam Springs Futbol Club with major funding from the Walmart Foundation and the U.S. Soccer Foundation. JBU’s 120-by-150-foot outdoor facility consists of two futsal courts that combine to form one larger court fit for 20 players or more. The futsal courts will facilitate a five-on-five, international version of soccer focused on controlled footwork, dribbling and passing skills with a smaller, denser ball. “This facility will be a great place for both the ‘town’ and ‘gown’ to enjoy the great game of soccer. It represents the best of private and public partnerships that benefit JBU’s campus, our community and Northwest Arkansas,” explains JBU President Chip Pollard.
Dr. Kevin Simpson, JBU professor and department head of psychology, stumbled across photos in his research of barefooted prisoners in the Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany. Personally loving the game soccer and even playing collegiate level soccer for JBU’s Golden Eagles, Simpson’s curiosity piqued as he noticed that the prisoners were kicking around a leather soccer ball on a dusty field inside of a camp meant to humiliate and dehumanize.

“The more I researched, the more I saw this is more than just an isolated set of examples here,” Simpson said. The discovery spurred on an in-depth analysis of soccer during the World War II era.

Simpson published his findings in his first book “Soccer Under the Swastika,” which released in 2016. In his publication, Simpson weaves together stories about how and why captives played soccer in European concentration camps — a “beautiful game” that served as an outlet of hope and purpose amidst unrelenting hunger and torture.

Simpson describes his work as a history book brimming with hidden stories from World War II told through the perspective of genocide survivors. Simpson also examines the game of soccer within pre-war years, through the rise of the Nazis and to the post-war period.

“My aim was to do a little bit of teaching through the storytelling,” Simpson said.
“Though it’s a heavily academic book, my aspiration was to write in such a way that a more general audience would find it interesting.”

“For example, in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp, a multi-level league formed: a pro, amateur and youth league. The Nazis took advantage of this and used it in propaganda films to show the world how well the Jews were treated.

For captives, soccer was a tool of resistance against the Nazis, serving as a means to stay alive and to outlive the Nazi regime. In fact, many of the players used the game to smuggle items in and out of camps.

“When you read some of the memoirs of these former players, they simply love that bright moment of joy on a Sunday afternoon,” Simpson said. “And so did the fans. The people who weren't players but would gather around, sometimes by the thousands, to watch these games. They found inspiration in it, even when they were starving and had to go back to their slave labor on Monday.”

The research process was long and exhaustive. Archivists and historians from museums in Holland, Germany and the Czech Republic assisted him. Simpson also used his connections with Yad Vashem in Israel and the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C., where he was a research fellow for two years, to gain contextual evidence within his work.

In addition, Simpson interviewed several Holocaust survivors, most of whom were spectators, not players, about their experience with soccer in the camps.

“We are losing the witnesses to time, and my book is another way to get these stories out to audiences who maybe have never been exposed to the Holocaust in this particular way,” Simpson said.

Today the concentration camps serve as a memorial for the millions of Jewish lives lost. To Simpson, the past is important to understand and reflect upon, so stories don’t slip away from history.

“These are stories that can easily fade into the past. I think for some students we may as well be talking about the Civil War or the Revolutionary War. It just seems more and more remote,” Simpson said. “Genocide hasn’t gone away in the human story.”

Simpson believes it is our moral obligation to remember and retell these stories to generations to come.

“Soccer Under the Swastika” is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites.”
REMEMBER YOUR PAST. SUPPORT THEIR FUTURE.

Visit jbu.edu/mayfieldmemories to post a memory and give to the Mayfield Renovation.

WAYS TO GIVE

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Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar, thanks to a generous challenge grant from the Windgate Foundation.

“It was some of the sweetest, deepest community I have ever experienced.” Brianna Knott ’12, Up New
“I HAVE LEARNED THAT I CAN HANDLE MORE – PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND ACADEMICALLY – THAN I THOUGHT I COULD ... THE LORD IS STRETCHING ME IN TERMS OF MY PERSONAL FLEXIBILITY AND MY RELIANCE ON HIM.”

– CHENOA CHARLES, FLIGHT COMMANDER
Chenoa (Barker) Charles ‘10 returns from her second Air Force deployment to a new command assignment

BY TRACY BALZER

Chenoa (Barker) Charles, JBU class of 2010, has learned an important lesson: never say “never.”

As a determined, artistically talented and academically gifted young JBU freshman, Chenoa would have told you that she would never get married, she would never be in the military, and as a student from Edmond, Oklahoma, she would never live in Oklahoma. Now, more than 10 years later, Chenoa has quite a long list of accomplishments to her credit, and much to her chagrin, all three of those “nevers” have come to pass.

Growing up in a military family, Chenoa felt that same career path would be too “rigid” for her. After graduating from JBU, however, doors began opening for her, leading her toward a career in the Air Force. To her surprise, her experience in the military has not been “rigid” as she feared, but rather dynamic, challenging and rewarding.

Every military officer who flies in the Air Force has at least two jobs: a flying job and an office job. Chenoa’s flying job includes instructing the “new ‘flyers,’ early in learning their trade, and older officers becoming re-current in their training.”

Their instruction takes place in small groups in an academic setting on the ground and while actively flying. Additional flying responsibilities place Chenoa in highly classified positions, which limit her ability to discuss her role in very much detail.

Chenoa’s office and leadership role in the Air Force changed after returning from her second deployment in March of 2017. She now leads 60 junior to mid-level officers as one of four Flight Commanders, handling their “ground training requirements, flying schedule, personal issues, professional development and personal annual reports.”

Prior to becoming a Flight Commander, Chenoa worked in the Tactics and Weapons Department. Serving as a member of a tight-knit group adds meaning to Chenoa’s work. Her team, or crew, sticks together during an entire five-to-six month deployment. “Getting to know each person more fully and understanding more of their lives, feeling comfortable with them and learning from them, can be very gratifying,” Chenoa says. When she and her crew return from a deployment, Chenoa throws a large party for her crew members and other close co-workers. “It is a sweet time for Jesse, my husband, to put faces with stories of my co-workers that he has heard about for the last several months, and a great time for me to meet the families of my co-workers after hearing so much about them.”

At home in Oklahoma, preparing for a future deployment, Chenoa has learned that in her chosen field, many things are out of her control – where she and Jesse will live and for how long, when she deploys, who she will work with.

“I have learned that I can handle more – physically, emotionally and academically – than I thought I could,” but at the same time Chenoa recognizes that “the Lord is stretching me in terms of my personal flexibility and my reliance on Him.” In that delicate place between action and submission, Chenoa knows that saying “never” is not an option.
Alumni News

Below are excerpts from recent alumni stories featured on our website. Read the full stories at jbu.edu/features.

Engineering Alumna Seeks Sustainable Energy for Developing Countries
Ethiopia Haileyesus ’15 was 12 years old the first time she visited the country of her namesake. An encounter with a young girl pleading for money stayed with Haileyesus long after that visit. Growing up with parents who were both engineers, Haileyesus knew she would pursue engineering and soon realized that renewable energy would allow her to follow God’s calling to help those in developing countries, like that little girl. During her senior year Haileyesus was part of a JBU Enactus team that developed an energy conversion system to convert organic waste into methane gas. That summer she implemented the system at a children’s home in Ethiopia. After graduation Haileyesus earned a prestigious internship at World Bank, working on sustainable development. 03

Bread-Baking Alumna Raises $56K for Charity
In 2009 Hollie (Voth) Schaub ’01 began baking bread out of her home and delivering it to her friends around town. Her company, Fed by Bread, was born, and the proceeds were donated to charitable organizations. In 2012, while her husband was deployed, Schaub began investing more time in baking. During a trip to Rwanda in 2014, Schaub was drawn to a school where students needed better lunches. Fed by Bread partnered with the school through Africa New Life and, over the last three years, the bakery has donated $56,000 to boost the school’s lunch program and sponsor three children. 07

Artist Sells Out at Competitive NYC Art Event
John Holcomb ’07 submitted 20 paintings to be sold at the competitive Outsider Art Fair in New York City. After the four-day event, he returned to Mayetta, Kansas without a single one. Holcomb sold a year’s worth of paintings and outsold every gallery at the fair. 06

Education Alumnae Earn Master’s Through Memphis Urban Education Residency Program
Sarah White and Kristie Lotz, both 2016 education graduates, have spent the last year in Memphis, Tennessee pursuing their master’s degrees in urban education through Union University. They are two of 55 students in the Memphis Teacher Residency program, an intense program that places students in under-privileged Memphis schools four days a week while they also complete master’s coursework.
Alumni Updates

Christi (Vondrak) Beem '07, her husband Eric and daughter Joanna welcomed Jacob on May 10, 2016. They live in Wisconsin.

Paul Eldridge '88 accepted the position of vice president for university advancement at California Baptist University. The family is enjoying being back in Southern California after a 14-year absence.

Toby '05 and Summer (Cox) Friesen '07 welcomed Griffin into the family on Aug. 2, 2016. He joins big brother Whitfield, who is now two years old. The Friesens reside in Nashville, Tennessee, where Toby plays guitar for Christian artist Jeremy Camp.

Matt Hartgrove '01 and his wife Rachel welcomed Luke Julian into the family May 3, 2016 in Dallas, Texas. He joins his two older sisters Hannah and Elizabeth.

Bob Lucas '70 recently retired from a professional sports and movie licensed apparel corporation. He spends most of his time traveling out of the country, much like when he was working, and loves the educational experience.

Charles Matter '09 works as the Managing Partner for Case Energy Partners, LLC and its affiliates. Case has announced a $30 million venture to pursue the acquisition of oil and gas mineral and royalty interests in the Permian Basin region.


Luis Antonio Ruiz '12 got a job working for Xerox in Rochester, New York and is looking forward to the new career opportunity.

Julia (Garlow) Willhite '05 and her husband welcomed the birth of Cora Ann Willhite on Oct. 2, 2016.

Send your alumni news to jgumm@jbu.edu
Retirements

JAN WUBBENA – 40 YEARS

Jan Wubbena joined JBU in 1977 and became a full-time professor in 1991, teaching a wide variety of music courses. He met his wife Terri, also a music faculty member at JBU, and the two have been married 37 years.

One favorite memory of Wubbena’s is the Harmonic Form and Analysis test results. “To me, this is like winning a national championship. That first group that ranked at the 99th percentile — that’s a very favorite moment.”

Wubbena tells students, “Achieving one’s full potential is quite different from standing out. You can easily stand out and still not come close to achieving your potential.” He also encourages staff members to, “Seek out new assignments, new things to do. Over 40 years, there are other things that I have done that have broadened me as an individual, as an academic and as a person.”

Wubbena plans to keep working as a director of music and organist at Grace Episcopal Church in Siloam Springs and enjoy his rest.

PAUL SMITH – 30 YEARS

While serving at JBU, Paul Smith established a Male Chorus, directed Women’s Chorus, was the conductor of Cathedral Choir, and served as a voice teacher and the head of the music department.

One of Smith’s favorite memories was the Cathedral Choir performing with the Symphony Orchestra of Northwest Arkansas with conductor Paul Haas. He has also enjoyed the camaraderie between the music faculty and department staff.

Smith’s advice to co-workers and students is to “Never...never...never give up!” Smith paraphrases former JBU President Lee Balzer from a chapel talk 15 years ago to urge faculty and staff, “Remember that every student you see walking across campus is a highly valued gift from God placed into the lives of hundreds of parents. They are all special! Try to see them as God’s sees us!”

Smith wants to take many trips to Costa Rica to watch his grandchildren grow, play golf, enjoy practicing piano again and be available to God’s call to look for ways to invest in people.

WARREN ROBY – 17 YEARS

Warren Roby served JBU as a professor in the language department and as head of the department of language studies.

One of Roby’s favorite memories involves being able to help students experience life abroad. “I got 66 [students] to Spain and a dozen or so more to Costa Rica, France and Germany.” Roby considers getting the Spanish major and linguistics minor started at JBU his greatest accomplishment.

Roby hopes that JBU will reduce the core curriculum so that more students are able to double major or minor, or take more electives to enjoy. He encourages students to double major, study abroad and work abroad after graduation.

Roby plans to move to his Austin, Texas condo, work as a counselor, teach in Austin, Albania or Indonesia, pursue jobs in Tokyo and be in Tokyo for the 2020 Olympics.
DAVID JOHNSON – 37 YEARS

David Johnson came to JBU to help the newly-founded psychology program and became a professor in 1980. He has also been psychology department head, and chair of the division of social and behavioral sciences.

Being part of the music department’s opera workshop “Pirates of Penzance” in the early 1990s was one of Johnson’s favorite JBU memories.

Johnson plans to read, continue his involvement with the Society for Creative Anachronism, travel and spend more time with his son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

Johnson warns faculty and staff, “All too often, social isolation in academia leads to burn out. Social connections can buffer us from those effects that lead to disillusionment in an academic position.” He tells students and co-workers to extend grace to others as many have done for them and not take themselves too seriously.

JOHN CARMACK – 20 YEARS

John Carmack came to JBU as a graduate student to write JBU’s marriage and family therapy track and helped build the graduate counseling program as a full-time professor, department chair of graduate counseling, as well as other positions.

“I love the interdenominational splash and the international splash that we have. It’s who I am,” said Carmack who plans to stay very involved with JBU.

He tells faculty, “If you’re going to come to JBU, you might not ever leave. It might be where you spend your entire career. It’s that kind of satisfaction to me.”

To students he cautions, “Touch the glory, leave the power. Remember that you’re just His tool. You start touching the glory you lose the power.”

Carmack is thankful for the way Dr. John Brown III, Dr. Pollard, Bill Hutcheson, the graduate deans, the dean of JBU, his colleagues, the Soderquist family, (notably Amy and Jeff Soderquist) and his wife Lynn have made his experience at JBU the best it could have been.

CHARLIE SMITH – 25 YEARS

Charlie Smith started in 1992 as a technician and engineer for KLRC. As an electronic technician for the communication and fine arts department, Smith has probably worked every sound board on campus — the music department, chapels and the TV studio.

Smith has enjoyed seeing students grow around him. “You get to see them come back for homecoming and all of a sudden they’ve got families and jobs and they’re making an impact on the world because of what they’ve learned at JBU.” Smith plans to continue working at KLRC.

Smith encourages students, “Do something you really want to do, and I think the only way you can do that is follow God’s leading.” He encourages the music department and KLRC, “The ground has been prepared. The seeds have been sown. Go cultivate it.”

Smith expressed his love for all the people on campus saying, “I thank God for being influenced by everybody here at JBU; they have helped me do what I do and be good at what I do at JBU.”
Featuring the Class of ’67 fifty-year reunion, Sound Generation fifty-year reunion, and CAUSE ministries fifteen-year reunion. Additional class reunions for ’72, ’77, ’82, ’87, ’92, ’97, ’02, ’07, and ’12, as well as intercollegiate volleyball and soccer matches, rugby and ultimate matches, alumni soccer and basketball games, recognition of outstanding alumni and Kidzone.

For more information and to register, visit jbu.edu/homecoming.
In Memoriam

Mary (Schwartz) Andrews, age 77, died May 3. Andrews was a member of the Master Builders Society of JBU. She attended Southwest Minnesota State University, Kansas State University and University of Missouri.

Camille Blue, age 55, died Feb. 6. Blue studied broadcasting while attending JBU.

Robert Bodie ’68, age 72, died March 31. Bodie obtained his bachelor’s degree in radio production and lived in Aurora, Colorado.

Paul Bond ’52, age 86, died Oct. 31, 2016. Bond battled with Parkinson’s Disease for 13 years. He received his bachelor’s degree in radio engineering, graduating magna cum laude. He served in the U.S. Air Force in Germany at a radio relay station and was a member of the electrical engineering faculty at Iowa State University for more than 30 years.

Richard Brooker, age 86, died Feb. 23. Brooker was a professor of education at JBU and helped establish the David Scott Brooker Memorial Endowed Scholarship. He previously served in the U.S. Army.

Dennis Clouse ’66, age 73, died Jan. 17. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in business administration from JBU. Clouse served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, was a history teacher and worked in commercial real estate.

Michael Cox, age 72, died July 20, 2016. Cox studied broadcasting and business administration at JBU. He is the son of Dr. Roger Cox, long-time faculty and staff member of JBU.

Glenna Belle Davis, age 87, died Feb. 15. Davis was a JBU professor of health promotion and human performance from 1964-1994 during which time she also pioneered the women’s athletic program. In 2002 she was the first woman inducted into the JBU Athletic Hall of Fame. She was also a member of the JBU Faculty Hall of Fame.

Olive Epperson, age 86, died Dec. 8, 2016. Epperson and her husband contributed estate gifts to JBU for about 40 years. She worked at WPAQ radio station and founded radio station WPVA with her husband.

Vida (Milam) Frazier ’42, age 96, died Dec. 28, 2016. Frazier earned her bachelor’s degree in home economics from JBU. She worked for Singer Sewing Machine Co. in San Antonio and taught at Longfellow Junior High School. She served as chairman of the Enid Camp Fire Board and was an active worker in the First United Methodist Women’s Group.

Neal Gesell, age 68, died Feb. 16. Neal was a faithful JBU supporter and worked as the student accounts representative for degree completion and graduate students prior to his retirement from JBU in 2011. He was the recipient of the Golden Eagle Excellence in Service Award in 2001.

Elnora (Kincaid) Gilbert ’39, age 99, died Jan. 7. Gilbert acquired her bachelor’s degree in business administration. After WWII, she and her husband helped JBU expand its broadcasting and bought radio stations in Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

Bill Hutcheson, age 94, died Feb. 18. Hutcheson served on the JBU board of trustees for 12 years and as a trustee emeritus since 2008. He chaired the student development committee where he enjoyed interacting with students. Bill and his wife supported JBU’s residential life program, student scholarships, graduate counseling and the visual arts department.

Jerry Lane ’03, age 46, died Sept. 26, 2016. Lane received three bachelor’s degrees from JBU — ministry, marriage and family therapy, and community counseling. He was a professional counselor at the Ozark Center in Joplin, Missouri.

Euell Lowman ’53, age 93, died Sept. 19, 2016. While attending JBU, Lowman received his bachelor’s degree in radio production. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII. Lowman worked for KOTN, served in the U.S. Post Office and was a workshop supervisor for Jenkins. Lowman was also a member of the VFW Post 4455 and American Legion Post 32.
Linda Carlyne McGill '68, age 71, died Feb. 17. McGill studied physical education and health at JBU. She coached basketball, softball and track in Cresco, Iowa and was district manager for the Des Moines Register.

Virginia (Schmidt) McIver ’51, age 87, died on March 21. She had a bachelor’s degree in music with an emphasis on organ performance. She eventually settled in Houston, Texas where she lived for more than 30 years. McIver worked at the Baptist Bookstore, played the organ for services at a local hospital and was a published author.

Melba (Henson) McKinstry, age 87, died Dec. 21, 2016. McKinstry studied social studies while attending JBU and met her future husband Otto. She worked as a secretary at First Baptist Church, Brooklyn Center and at the Owatonna School District.

Helen Milam, age 98, died Jan. 20. Milam and her husband attended many JBU events and established the Mike and Helen Milam Endowed Scholarship. She and her husband were also the donors of the Bill and Beulah Nemeth Endowed Scholarship.

Nancy (Stenstrom) Miller ’56, age 82, died March 7. Miller received her degree in secretarial science while at JBU. She taught at Brown School for Girls, Wheaton Academy, Howard Payne University and Winfield High School.

Diana (Patterson) Milner ’69, age 68, died Sept. 2, 2016. Milner died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. She graduated from JBU with a bachelor’s in secondary education and taught English as a second language to Cuban refugees. She and her husband David were appointed missionaries by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in 1981. In 1986, they were assigned to Pueblo, Colorado, where they retired.

John Moose, age 79, died March 20. Moose was a trustee at JBU for 13 years. He served as a captain in the Air Force for two years. He was a part of the Siloam Springs Medical Center, First Care Family Doctors and other societies. Moose took several medical trips to Haiti, El Salvador and Mexico.

James (Jim) Morriss ’52, age 84, died Nov. 1, 2016. Morriss majored in biology when he attended JBU and also attended New York University. He served in the U.S. Army. He taught and co-authored several books on animal behavior.

David Naff, age 88, died July 11, 2016. Naff studied radio engineering at JBU. He and his wife ministered in Monrovia, Liberia for over 42 years where Naff worked as a transmitter engineer for Radio ELWA. The Naffs evacuated three times and, in 1996, returned to the states permanently. Naff continued to do radio projects, along with writing and illustrating African stories for children. He and his wife retired in 2000 but continued to work in the SIMUSA home office as volunteers.

Robert Parker Sr., age 92, died July 9. Parker received his honorary doctorate of laws from JBU in 1968. He was a trustee of JBU, Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology at SMU, and the Maguire Oil and Gas Institute at SMU. He was appointed by President Reagan in 1981 to chair the U.S. Energy Policy Task Force and was awarded the U.S. Secretary of Energy’s Distinguished Service Medal.

John Powell ’55, age 94, died on March 30. After serving in the U.S. Army during WWII, John enrolled at JBU. He graduated with a bachelor’s in education and attended California Baptist Seminary. He spent the next 40 years involved in music and youth ministry for several churches. He spent the last 13 years of his career helping develop community work opportunities for the students of Victor Valley Senior High School.

Patrick Reagan, age 54, died Nov. 21, 2016. Reagan studied electrical engineering during his time at JBU. He was a maintenance worker at Franklin Electric, worked on the family farm and was a member of the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church.

Charles “Chuck” Rine ’07, age 39, died Jan. 2. Rine obtained his bachelor’s degree in organizational management from JBU.
John Robinson III, age 57, died Jan. 31. Robinson attended JBU and Kansas Community College. In high school, he received All-State, All-Metro and All-Star Team Honors for his basketball skills. He worked at multiple places including the Kansas City Fire Department and served as a U.S. Marine.

Tryce Adair (T.A.) Senter ’43, age 96, died Dec. 30, 2016. He studied chemical engineering at JBU, later finishing his degree at the University of Alabama. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and worked for several companies before starting Halsen Products.

Don Smith ’45, ’57, age 88, died Oct. 7, 2016. Smith received a bachelor’s degree in Bible and in radio engineering from JBU, as well as a master’s degree in religion from Bob Jones University. He worked with radio stations FEBC, KGEI and FEBA in locations such as Belmont, California and Korea. He served the U.S. government in Lima, Peru.

James Smith ’49, age 95, died Oct. 21, 2016. Smith received a degree in English from JBU. He was a southern baptist minister, executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association, president of the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tennessee and served as a quartermaster in the U.S. Navy during WWII.

Marion Snider ’40, age 97, died Jan. 21. Snider earned his bachelor’s degree of business administration at JBU. He worked at JBU for more than 45 years serving as an accountant, business manager and vice president for business and financial affairs.

Jami Solomon ’01, age 38, died May 18. Solomon studied education at JBU where she met her husband Dustin. The two opened Mutiny FX, a visual effects production company in Bentonville, Arkansas. Jami worked on more than 25 films, including serving as co-producer on the recent film “God’s Not Dead 2.”

Calvin Spivey ’38, age 98, died Dec. 19, 2016. Spivey obtained his bachelor’s in social studies from JBU. He taught high school industrial arts and served as a band director. During WWII, he was an instructor of airplane mechanics and an airplane inspector. He then started his career as a petroleum seismologist in 1945. He founded Rivercliff Realty and Habitat for Humanity in Rogers, Arkansas.

Jolena Stockebrand ’41, age 97, died Nov. 30, 2016. Stockebrand received her business administration degree at JBU. She was a missionary for the North Arkansas Gospel Mission.

Jim Strassheim, age 83, died Dec. 13, 2016. Strassheim studied business administration at JBU. He was a Korean Conflict Army veteran, worked for JetStream and was an active member of the Siloam Springs community.

Sharon Wahlmeier ’68, age 70, died Oct. 24, 2016. Wahlmeier received her degree in social studies from JBU. She married Donald Wahlmeier in 1972 and was a member of the Highland Terrance Baptist Church.

Charles Willis ’42, age 95, died Dec. 15, 2016. Willis earned a bachelor’s degree in construction management from JBU. His graduating class built a campus bridge that is still in use. Willis served at JBU for 40 years as head of the building construction department and guided several campus building campaigns, such as the Cathedral of the Ozarks.

Joe Wilson ’52, age 83, died Sept. 21, 2016. Wilson received his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from JBU. He was involved with Cessna Aircraft Company in Wichita, Kansas for many years, serving in many positions, including manager of engineering administration and head of Cessna’s first computer department.

Lola (Maddux) Woodard ’38, age 99, died Nov. 22, 2016. Woodard received her bachelor’s degree in journalism while at JBU. Woodard created the “Lou B. Hancock Maddux Memorial Endowed Scholarship,” which is named after her grandmother, who introduced her to JBU. She earned her certification to teach at the University of Houston, taught kindergarten for more than 40 years and operated Camp Webwood for five years.
Getting Ready for 100

Planning the Party of the Century

A century is the most poetic timespan. Months, years and even decades seem to come and go, hardly noted in the milieu of day-to-day life. And unlike a millennia or eon, a century is comprehendible (something we can wrap our brain around – just 10 of those decades), but for almost all of us, wholly unattainable and something we will never experience.

A century represents a cultural milestone of enduring quality and speaks to permanence, stability and perpetual viability. The centennial anniversary of a place like JBU, then, is worth celebrating.

We’ve started planning the party.

I have the good fortune, along with Alumni Director Brad Edwards ’01, to co-chair JBU’s Centennial Steering Committee, and we’re excited about preparing an extended weekend of festivities at our Siloam Springs campus. Save these dates – Sept. 26-29, 2019.

First, we’re going to have the homecoming of the century. None of the activities are finalized, but here’s a partial list of what we are working on: historic car show, A-list Christian performing artist, JBU alumni author book fair, opening the time capsule, a new JBU history coffee table book and more. This is along with the usual events: soccer, rugby and alumni basketball, the Showcase, musical theater and fun reunions.

We’ll also be celebrating the completion of The Campaign for the Next Century. With more than $110 million given or pledged to date, we’re on track to complete the $125 million goal by the Centennial. Besides the chance for alumni to see all the building improvements from the campaign (Health Education Building, Simmons Great Hall, Northslope Apartments, futsal court, bike trails and renovations of J. Alvin, Mayfield and the Walton Lifetime Health Complex), we’ll be holding a once-in-a-hundred years gala highlighting the best of JBU’s 100 years.

We’re also working on some special ways to help JBU’s history come alive with interactive campus tour points. Again, this is all in the planning stages, and some of these ideas are quite ambitious – but we’re going all out because this will be the only JBU centennial celebration anyone reading these words will attend.

Finally, we hope to have a special community worship service on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019 – 100 years to the day of the founding of our institution – to recommit to the university credo: Christ Over All.

Personally, I feel blessed to be around to celebrate a century of what God has done through JBU. So many people who came before us on this great enterprise – students, faculty, friends – have already gone on to their eternal rewards. One can only wonder what the founder would think if he could see what God has raised up where corn grew 100 years ago.

We have big plans to celebrate what God has done and what he is going to do. So pencil in the dates now and plan to join us for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Lucas Roebuck ’97 is chief communications officer and editor of the Brown Bulletin.
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