Homecoming 2003
Celebrate JBU!

Music Group Reunions!

Golden Eagle
Athletic Reunions!

October 10 & 11
Come Join Us!!
President’s Perspective

CELEBRATING JBU: POWERFUL MISSION, TRANSFORMING FUTURE!

We at JBU are blessed with a powerful mission and are positioned as a major transforming influence in the nation, the Church, and the world. We are rooted and grounded in the Good News of the gospel. God is blessing and challenging us with superb opportunities and unprecedented progress!

Our Unique Roots...

Our historic commitment to “Head, Heart, and Hand” positions us to educate entire persons to their highest potential, saturating in the distinctly Christian intellectual and spiritual community. We are interdenominational, giving us freedom to provide powerful impact to the full spectrum of the Church, the Body of Christ. Let us never sell ourselves short by thinking of ourselves as similar to ordinary secular or public universities!

We are intercultural with a strong commitment to international missions and a deep caring for the human condition. JBU students this year come to us from 45 countries and 42 states. Our Leon House is an intercultural residence hall, celebrating our cultural diversity in Christ. Every year, JBU students participate in numerous study tours and mission trips around the world. These include places like Northern Ireland, Mexico, inner-city Chicago, and Florence, Italy.

Our academic strengths are not limited to the liberal arts or technical studies as is the case with most smaller Christian colleges. We offer more than 50 undergraduate majors, with about half in the more traditional liberal arts and sciences and the other half in professional and technical specialties. We view the Christian liberal arts as liberating us from our self-centeredness and ignorance in our human condition in contrast with God’s purposes on earth. We study in order to more fully understand God’s call and to make a God-honoring difference.

Spiritual Vitality, Academic Excellence and a Visionary Attitude...

We find that God keeps opening doors of higher vision and exceptional opportunity for JBU. For example, we offer market-leading programs in digital media, animation, and art and design, and are remodeling the former science building into an art center. Our goal is to have a Godly impact on art and media in our changing culture.

In January 2002 we moved into our wonderful new Bell Science Hall. This opens a new chapter of academic excellence and leadership in the sciences, already led by the media-celebrated excellence of the graduating class of science majors this year! We look forward to dedicating and celebrating the official opening of this wonderful facility next fall.

Academic excellence is now documented constantly as you would expect in a mature, distinguished university like JBU. Please read this bulletin and our view web site to see the many ways our faculty, students, and alumni are recognized for excellence.

The new Walker Student Center literally changes life on campus. Like chapel brings us together in worship, so the student center now brings us together as an informal mentoring community.

Both centers, the Center for Marriage and Family Studies and the Soderquist Center for Leadership and Ethics, are bringing hope and light in a cultural climate of darkness and crises. The timeliness of the leadership of these centers on and off campus, and the testimonials of impact are deeply moving and certainly amazing!

The Future...

The future of JBU is exciting. But these are times of urgent need; times of worldwide symptoms of sin, darkness, and gloom. And JBU has been called and positioned for impact as a change agent of light, hope, and leadership in a confused and search- ing world.

Campus is packed with highly-qualified students. They are an enthusiastic crowd! Graduation rate is the highest ever. We offer more than 50 undergraduate majors, with about half in the more traditional liberal arts and sciences and the other half in professional and technical specialties. We view the Christian liberal arts as liberating us from our self-centeredness and ignorance in our human condition in contrast with God’s purposes on earth. We study in order to more fully understand God’s call and to make a God-honoring difference.

Pray with us and dream with us as we continue to seek to understand and carry out God’s call on us, and as we consider the opportunities open to us.
On Friday, September 27, 2002, JBU faculty, staff, students and guests gathered on the campus to celebrate the dedication of the Pat and Willard Walker Student Center. JBU President, Dr. Lee Balzer, expressed his delight to the crowd of approximately 1,000 who gathered first in the Cathedral of the Ozarks then walked en masse to the ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the new facility.

“The Walker Student Center,” Balzer said, “brings us a community center – a place for all to connect with the JBU environment – students, alumni, parents, faculty, staff and visitors. This entire building represents the total mission of JBU, distinctly Christian learning, living and healthy relationship building. It is a true ‘Head, Heart, and Hand’ place.”

Dr. Lee Balzer hosted a presidential forum where he presented his paper titled “Virtues and Vocation: The Christian University at its Best at the Turn of the Century.”

Panelists participating were: Dr. Jay Kesler, our dedication chapel speaker and chancellor of Taylor University; Robbie Castlemam, JBU assistant professor of biblical studies and theology; Dr. Ed Ericson, vice president of academic affairs; and Dr. Shirley Thomas, professor emeritus. Campus pastor, Stan McKinnon served as moderator.

Dr. Balzer’s paper is available on-line at www.jbu.edu/balzer_paper.pdf. To request a copy, contact Alumni Relations at 1-888-JBU-ALUM.
Barry Jeffery '86 was named Talent Agent of the Year by International Entertainment Buyer Association. Barry is the vice president of the William Morris Agency. He is one of the three agents that books theme parks, private and cooperate engagements, fairs, festivals, handling the sales of artist from areas of rock to contemporary Christian. Barry is a member of the Country Music Association, Meeting Professionals International, Academy of Country Music and serves on the BOD for International Entertainment Buyers Association.

Aric Mayer '92, received the President's Award at Time Inc. on June 20, 2002. The President's Award is the most prestigious award given in the company. Aric was commended for his role in producing the special 9/11 issue of People magazine. The special of over 80 pages produced in less than 36 hours. Aric traveled into New York City in the early morning of 9/12 to help with imaging process to prepare the magazine to go to press, and out to the nation the next day.

Robert L. Smith '92 was recognized as one of the 20 Under 40 by the Cedar Valley Business Journal BizLink, which is part of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier. Bob is vice president for Lockard Development, Inc, which specializes in commercial real estate sales and leasing. “Bob has total responsibility for running this company,” said Kenneth A. Lockard, president of Lockard Cos. “He has great leadership skills with absolute integrity, which will make him an excellent long-term leader for our company and for the community.”

J.R. Whitby ’73 was named by the Gospel Communications International, Chief Operating Office for the Christian media ministry. J.R. has served for fifteen years with GCI, which is based in Muckegon, Michigan. It is a wide-range Christian media ministry, with outreach efforts through film, television Chairman of the Board of Gospel Communications, Richard M. DeVos, said Whitby's appointment to COO “is in recognition of his God-given servant leadership skills and his demonstrated ability to inspire and empower the members of Gospel Communications’ team.” Congratulations JR!

Carla (Stockdale) Williams ’69 Has been chosen as the 2002 recipient of the Alice Admire Award. The award is presented each year to the outstanding teacher at Fort Lewis College

Stuart R. Schimpf (1920-1994)
John Brown University, Pastor, Bible Professor, 1945-1962
College of the Ozarks, Chaplain, Religion Dept. Chair, 1963-1979
Hospers, Iowa, Presbyterian Church, Pastor, 1979-1985
Sterling College, Church Liaison, 1985-1991
College of the Ozarks, Professor, 1991-1993

Stuart and Madge Schimpf were devoted to John Brown University. Throughout their lives they referred students to JBU, attended homecomings, maintained JBU friendships, and prayed for dozens of alumni missionaries.

A Place of Prayer

“Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)
For a day or two every six months, it appears that the campus dress code moves up a notch! This is when the 30 men and women who make up the JBU Board of Trustees arrive for their semi-annual meetings. These “suits” as they’re called by the more observant students represent alumni and friends who have committed themselves to helping maintain John Brown University’s ideals and purposes.

It’s quite an important task these men and women undertake. Legally, the Board holds the university’s assets in trust on behalf of the students, alumni, donors, faculty and administration. They are volunteers who give of their time and their own resources and assume responsibility for ensuring that the JBU mission is fulfilled and the university’s future is secure.

A look at the members reveals an interesting mix of people. The current group contains business executives, attorneys, a minister as well as a former airline pilot, physicians, a former legislator, communicators, JBU alumni and bankers. An alumnus from Central America represents the Walton Scholars. While their expertise varies, the trustees share one thing in common – a commitment to serving and leading JBU.

Bill George ’48, has served on the trustee board longer than anyone else and thoroughly enjoys his role at JBU. “It’s been very exciting to be a part of the progress of the university over the years,” he says. “We’ve held true to the founder’s mission and we’ve also grown – in facilities, in academic programs and in positive impact on the lives of students.”

George serves on the Student Development Committee, which deals directly with issues that impact students. His committee is one of six standing committees to which board members are assigned. The other committees are Academics, Business and Audit, Endowment, Development, and Membership.

Trustees serve on the committees and report back to the full board, which then makes decisions on behalf of the university. Trustees elect the president and empower him (so far all five JBU presidents have been men) to administer the affairs of JBU. The board sets the budget and approves matters such as tuition and fees, as well as major fund raising campaigns. The trustees also establish a campus master plan to govern the growth of physical facilities. Prior to becoming a trustee, each man or woman first affirms the university’s mission and doctrinal statement. They know full well that the election is not simply an honorary exercise but rather one that requires a commitment of time and financial resources. With the exception of the Walton Scholar representative, each member pays for his or her own travel expenses to the campus twice a year.

Proof that JBU trustees take their responsibility seriously is reflected in the high attendance at meetings and the fact that 100% of board members make financial contributions to JBU. Bill George says that “since the early days of the university, the members of the board have been dedicated, committed and consecrated in their service to JBU. We have found great joy as we are a part of the mission of JBU: to give to the world young men and women who are committed to their professional and calling in their Christian service.”

Robert V. Cupp, directional leader for the multi-congregational Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas, extends his teaching ministry to include serving as the unofficial “chaplain to the staff” for Arkansas Athletic Outreach at the University of Arkansas. Cupp has been involved with JBU since before he became interim campus pastor during the 1998 - 1999 academic calendar year.

Cupp attended Dallas Theological Seminary in ’80 and ’81 (S.T.M. and MABS), then moved on to Western Seminary to earn his doctorate of ministry in 1981. Cupp also holds an honorary doctorate from Hindustan Bible College in Chennai (Madras), India.

About being on the board, Cupp says, “I believe in John Brown University...its heritage, its mission, its ever-expanding, world-wide influence. I also believe in the JBU family...its students, alumni, faculty and staff. Who wouldn’t want to be involved in such an outstanding venture? And now, to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees, this indeed is a high privilege and honor.”

Welcome to the Board

Silvio Vargas ’92

After Silvio Vargas graduated from JBU with a bachelor’s degree in engineering, he returned to Nicaragua. As a Walton Scholar he had committed to use his education in his homeland. In the 10 years since he left the campus as a student, Silvio has become an ambassador for the campus. “I recognize my experience at JBU as one filled with extraordinary memories and joy. The quality of education at JBU is without doubt loyal to the founders principle of “Head, Heart and Hand”; integrating the richness of learning with faith and living to provide students with a wonderful perspective of education and community” says Vargas.

In addition to his role as general manager of Puerto Libre International, S.A, Silvio works with Ron Johnson, Director of the Walton Scholars Program at JBU, to recruit students. Silvio keeps involved in his community by participating in the Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce, the Nicaraguan Chamber of Tourism and the International Association of Airport Duty Free Stores. “In regard to my nomination on the JBU Board of Trustees as a Walton Alumni Representative, I consider this to be a great privilege and honor” said Vargas. “The responsibilities of being a Board member is a wonderful challenge and opportunity for me to contribute to strengthen the foundations and future of our university for the years to come.”

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Marvin G. Spees ’80

Marvin Spees stays busy. When away from his duties as President of Capital City Oil, Inc., he serves on several governing boards including the Kansas Oil Marketers, a local bank and Court Appointed Special Advocates. He also works with the Boy Scouts Golf Tournament Committee. Marvin and his wife, Debbie ’78, are actively involved in their church – Topeka Bible Church. Through the years Marvin has served as deacon, Sunday school teacher, and group leader. A former Youth for Christ staffer, Marvin con- tinues to follow and support the organization’s international outreach.

When thinking of JBU and his new involvement with the university Marvin says, “Debbie and I am excited to be able to give back to the place that helped form a lot of our perspective. Foremost among these is that being a Christian does not mean settling for second best. The business world needs more leaders that will stand up for the ethics in which they believe. We’re looking forward to being more involved in JBU, an organization that is seeking God’s Highest and Best.”

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Again, great job on the homecoming weekend. Everything was great. Our kids enjoyed being on campus.

- Stuart Bell '83

We really enjoyed homecoming, as usual—especially the showcase. We've practically worn out our Grady CD and Laurie and I have both read Nancy's book. She autographed it for Laurie -- it is especially meaningful to us, and a very well-done book.

- Eric Freeman '80

It was certainly a wonderful homecoming weekend. It is always so much fun to visit JBU. There are the wonderful memories, but this year, a real sense of excitement in the air about the present and future. I spoke to a couple of alumni who hadn't been back in years and years and they were clearly impressed.

Warm regards,

Dick Senzig '68

Congratulations, thanks and compliments to everyone that had a hand (and a head) in planning and implementing the 2002 Homecoming. It was great!

- Harry (and Norma Jean) Waterhouse '52

Spring 2003
**Holding On to Hope**

A Pathway Through Suffering to the Heart of God

Nancy Guthrie speaks to those who are hurting only as one who has hurt deeply herself has the credibility to do. Having lost a daughter and a son to a metabolic disorder, in *Holding On to Hope*, Nancy provides companionship to those walking through difficulty while also providing wisdom for the journey. With a mixture of gentle encouragement and hard-hitting truth, she invites readers to worship and thank God in the midst of their suffering, to submit to God's plan and purpose, and to trust Him in their darkest days.

By following the footsteps of history’s most significant sufferer - Job - *Holding On to Hope* examines how a person can experience significant pain and loss, struggle, and question God and emerge from the experience knowing God in a more intimate and meaningful way.

You may find out more about *Holding On to Hope* or contact Nancy at www.nancyguthrie.com

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**Saturday, October 12**

- Enjoying the Golf Tournament (Rick Parker ’73, James Elliott ’97, Jeff Soderquist ’93 and Grady Nichols ’69)
- Eric Freeman ’80, Lowell Heck ’73, and Dr. Charles Willis ’42 enjoy a good laugh.
- Grady Nichols ’94 performing at the Showcase.
- Karen and I had a great time at Homecoming...thanks!
  - Jim (and Karen) Naramore ’72, ’73
- Freshman Brooke Williams successfully blocks the opponent.
- Future alumni climb the wall at KidZone!

We wish to thank you for the beautiful job in planning our Homecoming weekend! We were thrilled to see all the improvements and beauty of the campus and the new student center. We were indeed proud to be called the 1952 graduates of a school that has held to Dr. John E. Brown’s high standards for Head, Heart and Hand. We praise God for the leadership and thank God in the midst of their suffering, to submit to God’s plan and purpose, and to trust Him in their darkest days.

In His love,

Betty (and Bill) Thompson ’52

Karen and I had a great time at Homecoming...thanks!

- Jim (and Karen) Naramore ’72, ’73

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Because Others Gave

Greetings classmates and fellow alumni. I want to tell you my story. I attended JBU from 1983 to 1985, and my days consisted of going to class and working on the grounds crew and in the alumni office as part of my work-study. My wife, Arlene, worked in the business office. Student Life and eventually served as secretary to President John E. Brown III and Chancellor Brown. Because of this, we saw the behind the scenes work necessary for the university to operate.

During those two years, we saw demonstrated and experienced a sincerity and desire to help students grow in Christ - from the wisdom shared with work-study students around lawn mowers to Alice Mc Quay’s push for excellence in Alumni Relations. Arlene watched as President Brown and Chancellors Brown handled their responsibilities with care. In fact, it amazed her that President Brown personally signed hundreds of letters that went out in his name. Integrity, a love for students and a desire for excellence were traits we came to admire in many JBU faculty and staff.

After we graduated in 1985, we began giving to the Fund for Student Financial Support (FSFS) as a natural part of our life. During the last 17 years, we have been through several job changes, the starting of several businesses (and the failures of some of them), the moving of our family to Hawaii, the birth of our 6 children, the fostering of four infants and various other adventures. JBU has likewise experienced four complete turnovers of the student body, added departments and new major fields of study, begun the Advance Degree Completion program, built new buildings, had changes in leadership and faculty, and renewed its vision of the future.

Yet, through all of this growth, Arlene and I have enjoyed watching the desire to educate Godly men and women remain a constant at JBU. We are thankful that the creeping postmodern cynicism and resulting despair that is invading so many parts of our world haven’t yet succeeded in diluting JBU’s message of hope in Christ. So we continue giving, knowing that many students at JBU are receiving the benefits of a quality education that will equip them for a lifetime of service. Our giving has sometimes direct but brief contact between student and contributor works. Contributions for the FSFS continue to increase with each year and 100% of the funds donated goes to students in financial need.

As a beneficiary of work-study, I remember always feeling grateful for financial assistance, but there were times, (in fact one particular week when we had a total of $12 for food) that the assistance was sorely needed. I remember thinking at the time that the aid we were receiving was being provided by others who had gone before us and feeling a sense of responsibility to help those who would follow after us.

So we invite you to join us in supporting today’s students, many of who are relying upon other’s help just as we did. Together as we give to the Fund for Student Financial Support we can continue the legacy of work scholarships.

Peter Eldridge ’80

THE NUMBERS ARE IN:
It was a Fantastic Fall Phonathon!

“We’ve seen the most pledges and dollars in the Fall Phonathon since I’ve been here,” states Steve Onnen, Director of Advancement Services. His voice conveys genuine pleasure. In mid-September, a team of 22 students were enlisted to personally call and talk with 4,387 individuals about the financial aid needs of students. They received 569 pledges of financial support resulting in a total of $25,290 for the JBU Fund for Student Financial Support (FSFS). Twice a year, in the fall and the spring, students call alumni and friends, and the numbers reflect that the generous gift will help ensure that students in the future will also be able to afford a quality education.” Beverly came to JBU on a student scholarship, and she wanted to help current and future students in need.

As a student and editor of The Threelfold Advocate Beverly (Meador) Sloan ’30 kept her finger on the pulse of the campus. Over the years, this 1930 graduate and her husband, Raymond Sloan, have maintained close ties to the university. In November 2002, the Sloans bequeathed $3.6 million to JBU to endow the Beverly Meador Sloan Scholarship.

The generous gift will be used to provide needy students with the finances they need to attend JBU. “We are very pleased,” says university president Lee Balzer, “that the Sloans chose to remember John Brown University in their estate plans. They believe in our mission, and now their gift will help ensure that students in the future will also be able to afford a quality education.” Beverly came to JBU on a student scholarship, and she wanted to help current and future students receive the kind of support that she received. “Her gift,” said John Brown Jr., “is a reflection of the impact JBU had on her life and her desire to see that impact extended to students for years to come.”

The Sloans, who live in Houston, TX, have two children—Roger and Pat—and seven grandchildren. A granddaughter—Katie (Hathaway) Rutherford—followed in her grandmother’s footsteps and graduated from JBU in 1989. For more information on the Phonathon or Planning Giving opportunities contact University Advancement, Linda Welch or Paul Eldridge at 1-888-JBU.ALUM.
So Long Shirley… These Halls Won’t Be The Same Without You

For 33 years she made the daily commute from Fayetteville to JBU and, on many occasions, Dr. Shirley Forbes Thomas was known to pull off to the side of the road to jot down the beginning of a poem. She has an amazingly high level of energy. Her body keeps moving and her mind seldom rests. If she wasn’t writing, she was planning or organizing, or encouraging students. This woman has been a remarkable asset to the JBU community for more than three decades - and now she has retired.

In 2002, Shirley Thomas – certainly a living legend on campus – ‘closed up shop’ at JBU. She handed over responsibilities for running the Honors Scholars Program to Dr. Gary Guinn. She vacated the office of Dean of Undergraduate Studies. No longer will she breeze into the classroom with nervous students and put them at ease with her warmth and smile. No more shall her intellect and amazing capacity to generate enthusiasm stimulate students to try harder and achieve more. During her tenure at JBU, this woman who speaks with a most definite southern twang has influenced hundreds of lives through her teaching, her vision for the university and her ability to captivate an audience with amazingly humorous and touching life stories.

Dr. Thomas joined the English faculty at JBU in 1969. Over the years, in addition to her work in the classroom, Shirley was instrumental in developing many of the university’s special academic programs, including the Irish Studies Program and the Oxford Honours Programme for the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities. She was also instrumental in the development of JBU’s nationally known Honors Scholars Program and served as the director of the Honors Scholars Program from 1988-2002. In 1998, Shirley became the first recipient of the JBU Distinguished Professor Award, the highest honor JBU bestows on a faculty member.

Over the years, countless students, faculty and staff have been inspired, entertained, enlightened and challenged by the words and example of Dr. Thomas. Even though “retired” she continues to serve her church and applies her professional skills to Christian colleges and universities through her new consulting business, Thomas-Forbes, LLC. While her husband Loyd and their large family will enjoy having her a bit more to themselves, John Brown University will certainly miss her.

Faithful to Learning and a Model of Service

Dr. Jim Pearson has the distinction of serving on the JBU faculty longer than any other professor in the university’s history. Last year, the engineering professor completed his 42nd year. Since coming to JBU in 1959, Dr. Pearson received multiple honors and awards for his contributions to his field.

These include: DOE/Solar Energy Research Institute Faculty Fellowships in 1982-1984 for work on solar-thermal power plants, NASA Summer Faculty Fellowships in 1977-1978 and an NSF Educational Grant in 1970. Some of his work in the JBU engineering division includes compiling An Anthology for Technology and Society, developing a junior-level design laboratory course, and serving as the chair of the division from 1976-1995. Dr. Pearson was very instrumental in gaining ABET professional accreditation for the JBU engineering division in 1996. Twice he was honored by the university for his outstanding teaching skills – in 1986 he was named the JBU Teacher of the Year, and in 2002 he received the JBU Faculty Excellence Award.

Quietly and without fanfare, Dr. Pearson serves in the community and his church. He sits on the governing boards of New Life Ranch as well as Earth Mission. Locally he provides input to the Siloam Springs Parks and Recreation Department. He and his wife, Melly, have also led intercultural services trips to Pakistan, Venezuela, Panama, Belize and Ecuador.

Now with Professor Emeritus status, his office door will no longer be open to his engineering students. His knowledge as well as his life has been an example and encouragement to four decades of students. With more time free from class work, Dr Pearson will no doubt spend more time backpacking and hiking with his wife, four children and nine grandchildren.

Her Gift of Organization Ensured JBU’s History

When Jan (Coates) Lancaster Goring first came to JBU as a student in 1947, her parents encouraged her to simply “try it for a semester. If you don’t like it, you can come home.” Little did Jan know that she would not only return to JBU after the trial semester but she would contribute a lifetime of work to John Brown University.

Jan describes herself as having been a “free spirit” when she first came to JBU. Mother Mac (then the dorm mother of Californiadorm) asked another student to “take Jan under her wing” and during that first semester, Jan not only became a Christian, she began to develop a belief in the mission of John Brown University. It is one that would remain long into her adult life.

In 1985, Jan heard about a new position opening at the university, alumni director. “I got a call from an alumni friend in Houston who said, ‘You’ve got to go for this!’ So I did,” Jan said. In December of that year, Jan Lancaster became JBU’s first alumni director. Over the next six years, she developed JBU’s alumni and parent association programs.

In 1991, she was appointed by the Board of Trustees to fill a tremendous need at the university – that of archivist. For years she’d been talking about the need to preserve the history of the university, and the board decided to present her with the challenge. "The first time I opened the door to what was supposed to be the archives, I wanted to run. It was just a room full of boxes,“ said Jan.

During her 11 years as archivist, Jan turned that room full of boxes into an impressive archive department. Today alumni and friends can peruse items that are real treasures. These include original newspapers from the time of President Lincoln’s assassination and an 1801 handwritten deed from England with the king’s seal. Visitors to the archives can also find photos, documents, tapes and film that tell the story of John Brown University from the first day of classes until now.

Jan said that she believes the best way to reconnect alumni to JBU is to “remind them of the warm memories. Rekindle the feelings they had when they were students on campus.” Through her own warmth and energy, Jan has strengthened the ties between generations of alumni and the university.

Jan retired in July 2002 but alumni and friends had an opportunity to thank her for her years of commitment at a recognition reception that was hosted by Alumni Relations during Homecoming 2002. Adriane Carr, the current Director of Alumni Relations sums it up quiet well, “Jan has left her legacy. A love for JBU, a commitment to the Lord, and her unwavering expectations for excellence. She is my colleague, friend and mentor - there is no doubt she will be missed.”

JBU Retirements 2002

Dr. Shirley Forbes Thomas

Dr. James Pearson

Dr. Sandra VanThiel, Jan Lancaster Goring ’52, and Mary Nolan ’77

JBU Retirements

Dr. Sandra VanThiel, Jan Lancaster Goring ’52, and Mary Nolan ’77
about those life issues that trouble you. Dr. Gary Oliver, executive director of JBU’s Center for Marriage and Family Studies (CMFS), along with the staff of PeopleCARE Clinics will provide answers to your questions. I encourage you to e-mail your queries to goliver@jbu.edu.

Q: I know that the Bible says divorce is wrong, but what about a separation to get your spouse’s attention? Ever since our daughter was born four years ago, my husband has left all child care responsibilities (feeding, bathing, dressing, taking to sitter, etc.) and housework to me. What’s worse, is that every time I bring the subject up and tell him how overwhelmed I am, he refuses to listen. I’m at the end of my rope with resentment and anger. I feel like a separation might do us good and get his attention. I don’t even like being in the same room with him anymore. I don’t want a divorce; I just want things to change. What do you think – is separation even an option?

A: Most couples have no formal preparation for the enormous transitions that first-time parents experience. It’s easy for the baby to take center stage and for the “couple” to get lost. Before the baby, you could just pick up and go out for coffee or to a movie. Now, the together times that used to come naturally need to be scheduled.

Most new moms receive a lot of support in their transition to motherhood, but most men have little to no input. Few dads talk with their sons about becoming a new father, and few new dads receive any books to read on the subject. Few churches offer any classes for new parents. These facts don’t justify insensitivity on the husband’s part, but they do contribute to understanding the problem.

While there is no excuse for what sounds like your husband’s total abdication of responsibility in caring for your daughter, please know that separation is not the solution. Research tells us that most couples who separate end up getting a divorce. The only time we recommend separation is where there has been abuse, unfaithfulness or when it is the only other option to divorce. Even then, we only recommend a time-limited separation for the purpose of growth and reconciliation during which couples are involved in regular counseling that includes homework and other relationship-building activities.

It’s understandable that you would respond to your husband’s irresponsibility with anger. Unfortunately, when we speak out of an anger we have allowed to control us, we often come across in ways that make it less likely others will hear us. People are rarely open to change when they are told that they are selfish, lazy, not carrying their load and that they’d better change or else.

We encourage spouses to start with the Psalm 139:23-23 principles. Ask God, ask your pastor, ask your friends: “What could I do different in communicating with my husband?” Norm Wright’s book, Communication: Key To Your Marriage, offers many simple, practical and powerful tips for communicating in ways that will increase the probability your husband will hear what you are really trying to say.

Is there a couple in your church that you and your husband are friends with who are a bit further down the parenting path than you are? Perhaps you could ask the man if he would be willing to give your husband some hints on being a partner in parenting. Your pastor might know of a seminar or workshop that would provide a new perspective.

Another solution might be to see if he would be willing join you in seeing a licensed marriage and family counselor. If you are miserable, the odds are good that he is too. Couples who catch problems early save themselves enormous pain, guilt, grief, remorse, not to mention time and money. Don’t allow the reality of your “problem” to blind you to the opportunity for growth. You know what doesn’t work. With the encouragement, support and prayers of a few friends try some of these solutions that many others have found helpful.

For more information about CMFS regional seminars, workshops and retreats and the CMFS staff, check out their web site, www.liferelationships.com or call 479-524-7145.
Born in 1921, the youngest of 13 children, Clinton Harding Fowler ’42 learned early on how to get along with people. This ability was to earn him friendship and respect from peers throughout his 81 years.

He came to JBU from Sheldon, Missouri, the first in his family to attend college. He graduated in 1942 with a degree in broadcasting. When WW II broke out, he enlisted as a flight instructor with the U.S. Army Corps. In 1951, out of the army and ready to establish a career, Clint moved to California to become the vice president and general manager of radio station KGER (owned by JBU). He worked closely with the Brown family – first with John Brown Sr. until his death in 1957 and then with John Brown Jr. as he assumed leadership of the university.

Although Clint’s responsibilities included managing the John Brown Schools Foundation (Southern California Military Academy and Brown Military Academy), his primary love was broadcasting. Over the years, he helped develop the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) Association until it reached the stature it is today. Long before well-known national leaders became involved, Fowler served on the NRB board. He also stayed involved in the national and regional chapters of the BroadcastersAssociations.

Clint served on the John Brown University Board of Trustees from 1952-1987. According to fellow board member and long-time friend Bill George, Fowler’s belief in the founder’s principles, purpose and goals led him to be a stabilizing force on the board for well over 30 years. Clint was both a visionary and practical man.

Mostly, Clint Fowler loved his family, says George. “He was a marvelous family man.” He also had a sense of humor, and he used it effectively.

As active as he was at the university, Cecil also donated his skills and services to the city of Siloam and to mission organizations. His love for aviation and his assistance in the development and construction of the Siloam Springs Airport resulted in the city naming the facility after him. The Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce awarded Smith the Pioneer Citizen Award in 1988 in recognition for his service in the community. Carl McQuay says of his long time friend and co-worker, “Cecil was a great gentleman. He wore a lot of hats and few people realize the contributions he made to JBU and to the community.”

McQuay credits Smith for laying the groundwork for Siloam Springs’ current electrical system.

Long-time friend Bill George remembers Cecil as a quiet man with a generous heart and a decisive mind. McQuay remembers Cecil as a perfectionist... and he expected things to be done correctly. From teaching electrical engineering at JBU, to volunteering his services, to maintaining radio equipment on mission fields, to constructing electrical systems for Siloam Springs’ Arts Center, Cecil shared his time freely. He will be missed by many.”

Cecil arrived in the world in 1911 in Roundup, Montana. He showed up at JBU in 1929 with a few coins in his pocket and a dream for a college education. He climbed the KUOA radio tower when he was well up into his sixties. And he departed this world on October 22, 2002, leaving behind a rich legacy of service, friendship and faith.

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Carolyn Crunk Lee ’29 learned early on how important it was for people to help one another. Orphaned as a young girl, she was to depend on the kindness of others until she was able to provide for herself. Through Cora Sandard, her aunt who worked for John Brown University, Carolyn was introduced to her future alma mater. It was through the student work study program that Carolyn was able to get the college degree she wanted.

After graduation, Carolyn married and moved to California, however, within only five years, at the death of her young husband, she found herself alone again. In time, Carolyn married Charles Lee and the couple lived for many years in Sunnyvale, California, where she was employed by the postal service and her husband worked as a naval inspector.

Alice McQuay ’58 developed a friendship with Mrs. Lee and remembers her as a gracious, considerate and positive woman. When alumni meetings were held in California, Alice would accompany Carolyn to the meetings. “She was extremely classy,” reflects Alice, “…well read, up on current events, very active and alive.” Carolyn was anything but the typical ‘little old lady.’ Until late in life, this gracious woman remained active in her church work.

Soon before her husband, Charles, passed away, he asked the couple’s dear friends Dick and Phyllis Smith to look after his wife. The Smiths readily agreed and Carolyn became like a niece to them. Over the years, the Smiths often heard Carolyn speak of the university, so in her honor—as a tribute to a woman they deeply loved and respected—the Smiths donated $250,000 to the Joe Smith Fund in Carolyn Lee’s name.

In 1989, Carolyn bequeathed her estate to JBU’s Joe Smith Fund. She was a charter member of the Heritage Society in 1995. At her death in 2001, her generous gift became a way for JBU students to have a helping hand financially.

Although Carolyn’s life started alone, this woman’s life is a reminder that through friendship and love, one person can become a blessing for many young men and women. While she left no children of her own, she will have the gratitude of hundreds of future JBU alumni.

Photo: Alice McQuay ’58, Phyllis Smith, Dick Smith, Dr. Jim Krall, JBU Vice President of University Advancement in front of the Cathedral of the Ozarks.