Dear Friends of JBU,

Stories of adoption fill the pages of this Brown Bulletin, and I think you will be encouraged in reading them. It is a subject that is important to the story of our family because my wife, Carey, was adopted when she was just a baby. We know very little about her biological parents because her adoption was “closed,” the standard procedure for adoption during the early 1960s.

Sometimes we wonder about her biological parents when the doctor asks her about the medical history of her family or when one of our sons questions whether he might go bald (which, they say, runs through the genes of the mother).

While those biological questions will likely go unanswered, Carey and I are deeply grateful that her mom and dad, Gordon and Carolyn Stockman, chose to adopt her. They provided her the nurture, spiritual example, encouragement, and love that enabled her to flourish as a child and to become the young woman with whom I fell in love some 30 years ago when we were teenagers. They chose Carey to become their child, and it was a choice that made a lasting difference in our lives and in the lives of our children.

Scripture teaches us that God also has made a choice to adopt all those “who received him, to those who believed in his name.” As faculty and staff at JBU, we give witness to our calling as children of God as we teach, work, and live among students. And, while we don’t officially “adopt” students, we do remain deeply committed to educate them so that they too will hear that call to live as the adopted children of the living God. Thank you for helping us in that work.

Godspeed,

Dr. Charles W. Pollard
features

10 The Chosen Family
Members of the JBU community have chosen adoption as a way to build their families and help those in need. Their motivations are often similar, even if their circumstances are varied.
by Jamie (Brunk) Smith

24 Memories of a “Campus Brat”
An alumna and child of a JBU employee recalls details of the JBU campus where she grew up.
by Ruth (Smith Bircher) Ronan

departments

5 JBU in Focus

8 Chaplain’s Corner by Tracy Balzer

20 Perspectives On ... “Normal. And Adopted.”
by Stephen Sbanotto

22 JBU Athletics  “Coach Gustavson Kicks Back”
by Hannah Jeppsen

27 A Surprising Call by Paul Eldridge

31 Alumni News

35 Flashback: JBU Campus Families

On the Cover:
Original artwork created for the Brown Bulletin by junior illustration major Ben Congdon from New Braunfels, Texas
Photography Faux-Pas?

I’m intrigued by the new photography major. I was also puzzled by the reversed negative of the lenses on page 3 (Features & Departments page). Was that done purposefully? I found it quite a contrast (no pun intended) to the “JBU in Focus” department and the page 14 article description “JBU photography students put their skills to work...” listed on the same page.

Had the photography major been in place when I attended JBU, I most certainly would have attempted to at least minor in it.

I like how the Cathedral complex (Cathedral/Library/Science buildings, as I knew them) turned out.

Thank you for the articles on KLRC and the MPE Internet stations. I’ll have to tune in and listen via the web.

James R. Warner ’80
Elmhurst, IL

From the Editor: The image of the lenses on page 3 was reversed to fit better on the page. We knew the letters and numbers were backwards, but we opted to forgo correcting them in the photo to save time in production. We suspected that few would notice. Kudos to James for his keen eye!

Identity Crisis

We enjoyed the latest issue of the Brown Bulletin, especially the Cathedral and homecoming photos.

Not to rain on your 2009 parade, but I just heard from one of my schoolmates of the ’50s with a familiar complaint. She (and I) have been bemoaning it for years—group photos in the Bulletin without identification—but I guess we’re just the unheard “voice in the wilderness.”

We realize it’s a problem to get the names of a large group in the first place, and then it’s a problem to use a lot of space to print the IDs. But it’s frustrating to look at a picture—with a magnifying glass, by the way—and know some of those old folks are your JBU contemporaries, but you can’t be sure! Is that __________? And is that one __________?

My friend, my wife, and I will never know, unless we try to reach them, perhaps via AlumNET, and ask if they attended homecoming and were in the picture.

Keep up the good work—We love ya’ anyway!

Harry Waterhouse ’52
Independence, MO

Gratitude from the First Advance Scholarship Recipient

After receiving requests for JBU to create a scholarship fund to support students in the Advance Program for adult degree completion, JBU did just that. Funds were provided by donors who wanted to support students in the Advance Program specifically, and this year, JBU awarded the first scholarship to a student in that program. He wrote to thank JBU and donors for the financial aid:

THANK YOU! Your gracious gift is well received, especially in such a trying economy. Imagine my relief in receiving funds that made the difference in allowing me to pursue my degree plans.

I am a returning student of 20-plus years. If you could only communicate vicariously to young people how important an education can be right out of the gate. Somewhere during life’s journey, an awakening occurred that proved to be a catalyst to my educational and career pursuits. It is all about PURPOSE. Education no longer was about obtaining a degree, rather how empowering knowledge can be. My career interest proved to be equally rewarding.

I am extremely excited about spring classes beginning in just a few weeks. I trust your support will be well invested. Thanks again.

John Cooper

John is pursuing his bachelor’s degree in Organizational Management at JBU’s center in Little Rock.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY: Letters are published with the permission of the author. Some letters are edited for length. Not all letters can be published. Published letters will be selected based on the value of their content, tone, clarity, and other such characteristics. Send your letters by e-mail to Andrea Phillips at aphillips@jbu.edu or by U.S. mail to: Andrea Phillips, Brown Bulletin Editor, John Brown University, 2000 West University Street, Siloam Springs, AR 72761.
JBU MBA Now Available Online

Responding to the demand for flexible learning options and access to JBU programs from far off campus, JBU has developed an MBA (Master of Business Administration) program to provide an online academic experience for students.

Potential students anywhere in the world can now take JBU courses and get a JBU master’s degree almost entirely online. (Currently, students are required to complete one unit of the program on site, but that requirement can be met in as little as a few days.)

The distinctive of the online program when compared with on-site programs is that online program offers convenience for students who need flexibility because of personal schedules or learning styles, and for those who are not able to come to campus for classes.

Like classes in JBU’s traditional degree programs, JBU’s online classes are presented from a Christ-centered worldview and challenge students’ heads, hearts, and hands. Constructive and purposeful interaction between students and instructors is accomplished via e-mail, web conferencing, discussion boards, or telephone.

In addition to the MBA program, JBU also offers online courses in the Leadership and Ethics, Counseling, and Ministry programs, not to mention several undergraduate courses as well. JBU expects to expand its online programs in the future.

Pollard Selected for CCCU Board, Named Most Supportive President by SIFE USA

In January, President Charles Pollard was selected to serve on the board of directors for the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU).

“We’re honored to see that Dr. Pollard’s leadership and keen perspective on Christian higher education has been recognized in this way,” Andrea Phillips, director of university communications, said. “His appointment is one more confirmation that JBU is respected by CCCU members and leaders as a quality university headed in a positive direction.”

Pollard is one of many JBU faculty and staff who have served or are serving in leadership positions in the CCCU or other organizations that guide and shape the arena of Christian higher education.

Pollard was also named Most Supportive University President for 2009 by Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) USA in May. More than 600 U.S. teams were eligible to nominate their presidents for this honor.

Students in JBU’s SIFE team submitted Pollard’s nomination. Pollard, who has even traveled to Central America to observe the work of JBU students there, was selected for the exceptional ways he has supported the team and its work.

JBU Adds Communication Degree

Beginning this fall, JBU students may major in communication. The new degree will include courses in communication theory, visual communication, rhetorical theory, argumentation and debate, and mediated communication. Students graduating with a degree in communication will be prepared to work in a variety of fields and professional settings.

“It is exciting that JBU is going to be able to offer this new major,” said Jason Hough, assistant professor of communication. Hough, who was responsible for the preparation and proposal for the new major, expects that the new major will bring even more students to JBU.

Those interested in learning more about the details of the Communication degree at JBU can call 877-JBU-INFO.

JBU Partners with Walton Foundation, Siloam Springs to Expand Trail Around Campus

Thanks to a partnership between JBU, the Walton Family Foundation, and the City of Siloam Springs, the Dogwood Springs Trail will be extended to loop around the JBU property.

The expansion will add 1.74 miles to the existing trail system, linking the existing trail that ends at University and Dogwood Streets to a trail that loops around the JBU campus alongside Sager Creek and behind the JBU soccer fields, then joins with the existing trail near Oak Hill Cemetery. The trail will be a lighted, six-foot wide asphalt walking path.

The Walton Family Foundation will fund all material costs through a $313,775 gift to the city. JBU provided land easements for the new trail project, President Pollard points out the proposed trail route on a map to John Brown Jr. and other community members.
The city of Siloam Springs is providing all the labor and maintenance for the new trail.

“JBU is grateful to have the chance to partner with the City of Siloam Springs and Walton Family Foundation to extend the city’s trail around the edge of our campus, a route which offers some of the most scenic views of Sager Creek. I expect that the trail will be greatly enjoyed by students and citizens alike,” President Chip Pollard said.

A proposed map for the new trail can be viewed online at www.jbu.edu/news (click on “Press Releases” and the “Expanded Dogwood Springs” link).

CM Seniors Make Headlines for Rapid Employment

In an industry that is currently experiencing massive layoffs and declining business, ten of the 12 graduating JBU construction management (CM) students had secured jobs in the industry more than a month before graduation. Their success was recently featured in the Benton County Daily Record. (View the story online at http://www.nwanews.com/bcdr/News/72421/)

The quality of JBU’s construction management program is a key factor in the seniors’ employment success, demonstrated when a San Diego company flew a recruiter to JBU to hire two soon-to-be JBU grads. The company had hired a JBU CM grad last year, and they were so impressed by their new employee that they came to JBU specifically to find more employees like him.

The students beginning their job search early and their willingness to relocate were also named as key factors in the seniors’ employment success.

SIFE Named Regional Champions, Featured in Magazine

Once again, JBU’s Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) team was named “Regional Champions” during the annual SIFE Regional Competition that was held in Rogers, Arkansas. The JBU team was also named a national finalist in two of the six individualized competitions—Environmental Sustainability and Team Sustainability—placing them in the top 20 teams in the country in those categories.

This year, the JBU chapter of SIFE led a number of projects, including job training for inmates at the Washington County Jail, providing services and resources to clients of the Siloam Springs Genesis House, and facilitating community development for villages in Central America.

In addition to the awards, JBU students also won the opportunity to demonstrate their business knowledge and skills to professionals from many industries.

Celebrate Arkansas magazine was on hand to cover and write about the competition and the work of SIFE for their May issue. The JBU team is featured in the article, which can be viewed online at www.jbu.edu/sife/celebrate.pdf.

The JBU SIFE team was one of six regional champions to be named during the recent competition in Rogers. They will compete for a national title during the SIFE national competition that will be held in Philadelphia in May. In each of the past five years, JBU has tied for fifth place at the national level.

Visit the JBU web site to learn the results of the national competition.

Engineering Seniors’ BUV Wins National Competition

Graduating engineering seniors Mark Delavan and Alan Hill took first place in this year’s national Basic Utility Vehicle (BUV) competition sponsored by the Institute for Affordable Transportation. The vehicle they designed and built as their capstone project was tested in a grueling
series of six events, challenging the vehicle’s agility, endurance, strength, and overall capabilities.

This year’s competition required competitors to build a vehicle for leg amputees, with all controls hand-operated. Each vehicle was loaded with 600 lbs. of cargo and had to tow a trailer carrying an additional 300 lbs. Numerous design specifications had to be met, including a variety of utility and safety features.

Competitors came from schools such as Purdue University, University of Cincinnati, University of Missouri–Columbia, and Northern Illinois University.

KLRC Recognized Nationally for Community Service

JBU radio station KLRC was selected as a finalist for the National Association of Broadcasters’ (NAB) Crystal Award for Community Service. The award honors radio stations—of all music genres—for their outstanding year-round commitment to community service.

KLRC is the only radio station in Arkansas to be selected to be among the 50 nationwide finalists. They are one of only two Christian radio stations in the country to be nominated for the award.

KLRC routinely engages its listeners in service projects that impact the Northwest Arkansas community. In November, KLRC listeners stepped up to perform random acts of kindness in response to KLRC’s “Pay It Forward” campaign. In December, KLRC listeners granted more than 50 wishes of Northwest Arkansas residents through the “Christmas Wish” project. In February, “With Love from NWA” encouraged listeners to make Valentine’s Day cards for nursing home patients and home-bound seniors in the Northwest Arkansas area.

Crystal Radio Award finalists were chosen by a panel of judges representing broadcasting, community service organizations, and public relations firms.

Northwest Arkansas Ranked 4th Best Place for Business and Careers

In Forbes magazine’s list of Best Places for Business and Careers published online in March, the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers metro area ranks fourth among all U.S. metros. The high rank proves that, in the midst of a dismal economy and rising unemployment rates, Northwest Arkansas is among the most attractive places—and among the healthiest—for businesses.

Metro areas are ranked on a number of criteria including the cost of doing business, job growth projections, educational attainment, and metro area population.

Raleigh (North Carolina), Fort Collins (Colorado), and Durham (North Carolina) took the top three spots on the list.

New Printed Alumni Directories Free with Scholarship Donation

For those who still enjoy paper, JBU has printed a new, comprehensive alumni directory that includes stats on JBU’s 15,000+ alumni, along with the information they have submitted for publication. Flip through the 2009 directory to be reminded of classmates and friends from your major or club. Find out what your long-lost friends are doing now and how to get in touch with them. No batteries required!

You can receive your copy of the 2009 JBU Alumni Directory as a gift when you make a donation of any size to the JBU Scholarship Fund. Simply indicate that you want to receive the directory when you make your gift online (at www.jbu.edu/giving), by phone (at 800-446-2450) or by mail (sent to University Advancement, John Brown University, 2000 West University Street, Siloam Springs, AR 72761).

The JBU Scholarship Fund helps students with much-needed financial assistance and sometimes makes the difference between whether or not they are able to attend JBU.

We’re on Twitter

Want to know the latest, up-to-the-minute headlines from JBU? Follow us on Twitter: NewsFromJBU.

JBU Budgets Conservatively Given the Economy

Like almost every university, JBU has been affected by the slowing global economy. Our endowment has lost approximately 30 percent of its value, which is slightly below the national average, and we have seen some slowing in major gifts and in our admissions numbers for the fall.

We are deeply grateful, however, that lead gifts to our construction projects, gifts to the endowment campaign, and gifts to the JBU Scholarship Fund continue to be on track.

We have been conservative in our budgeting for next year, establishing the lowest percentage tuition increase in 20 years, increasing student scholarships by almost $400,000, and carefully controlling operating expenses.

We say, “Thank you,” to the alumni and friends of JBU who pray for us, who promote JBU, and who provide for JBU through gifts. Thank you for helping to keep JBU strong spiritually and financially during this time of economic uncertainty.
The Call to Spiritual Parenting

by Tracy Balzer
Director of Christian Formation

Margaret was a fine Kentucky woman. She was tall and graceful, an accomplished pianist and university instructor. She spoke and wrote about the spiritual life and was a deep woman of prayer. I heard her teach many times, and her infectious passion for God always drew her listeners to her for conversation afterwards. Their questions for her were varied, but one question was always present: “Do you have any children?”

Margaret, in her lilting Kentucky accent, would smile warmly and say, “No, honey, but I have many spiritual children.”

Margaret’s simple reply spoke volumes to me. Margaret provided a charge that seemed to me to be even higher in its purpose than being a parent: to be a spiritual parent; to influence and encourage others to greater love and service for God.

Not everyone in this world will know the responsibility of raising a biological or adopted child. But all of us can realize the calling of God to raise “spiritual children.”

Jesus made this fact clear as He, in His resurrected state, sat and cooked breakfast on the beach for Peter and a few friends (John 21).

Flaky, feeble Peter, the one who had just denied even knowing Jesus, inexplicably received a profound, grace-filled charge from Jesus. “Feed my sheep,” Jesus said. Nurture them. Love them. Equip them to be light in this dark world. Teach them to love me. Raise spiritual children.

Those of us who have biological or adopted children are well aware that we, in ourselves, are not always equipped for the task of raising them. It is by the grace of God that our kids grow to adulthood, for we are imperfect parents, to be sure. Likewise, we know we are imperfect spiritual mentors. Our own brokenness, unfaithfulness, and what often seems like a lack of Christlikeness would lead us to believe that we cannot possibly fulfill the requirements of a spiritual guide or mentor to someone else.

But that must not keep us from accepting this calling from Jesus. Our weaknesses cannot be allowed to convince us that we are of no use to God in raising spiritual children.

As staff and faculty at JBU, we try to remind ourselves regularly that we are all in the business of raising spiritual children here, each of us doing so out of our own unique set of gifts and abilities. It’s not a task exclusive to those in the Biblical Studies division or the Office of Christian Formation. Keith Anderson and Randy Reese write: “Spiritual mentoring is far too important to be left in the hands of a few with special credentials and certification; the nurture of the spirit belongs to the baptized, to the church writ large, to the priesthood of all the believers.”

Jesus asked Peter—even wishy-washy Peter—to feed a generation of new believers. He is likewise asking us, with the promise of His provision, to nurture young souls, to raise spiritual children. May the Lord bless us each with a quiver-full!


JBU Teams Take 1st and 2nd in State Governor’s Cup Competition

In the Arkansas Governor’s Cup business competition that started with more than 50 teams from across the state, JBU teams took first and second place, collecting $30,000 in prize money.

The Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup, an undergraduate and graduate business plan competition for students in Arkansas, requires students to create a business plan that could be used to solicit start-up funds from potential investors. It is aimed at simulating a real-world entrepreneurial spirit in students.

The first place team, Creatively Mine, developed a plan for an online children’s clothing company that allows shoppers to design and purchase custom clothing. Team members James Smith, Emily Hornok, Carine Netto, and Matt Nye split a $20,000 prize and are hoping to find investors to make their business plan a reality.

The second place team, Progressive Solutions, developed a business plan to produce and market an innovative hanger invented by team member Drew Cleaver while he was living in J. Alvin Brown Hall. Cleaver wanted to maximize closet space and now holds a patent on his design. He and his teammates Clayton Anderson, Kirena Duffel, and Angela Langer split a $10,000 prize.

Both JBU teams will travel to Las Vegas to compete against the top teams from Governor’s Cup competitions in Oklahoma and Nevada in May.

Seven JBU teams in all submitted plans for the competition, and four advanced to the semi-final round where twelve teams competed. JBU had more teams in the semi-final round than any other college or university.

Creatively Mine and Progressive Solutions then advanced to the final round to compete with four other teams.
JBU Faculty and Staff Publications

When JBU faculty and staff are named as experts in their fields, it gives evidence to the quality of JBU’s academic program. JBU is proud to recognize those faculty and staff members who have recently been published, demonstrating that their work is as valued in the marketplace as it is within our campus community.

**Linda L. Beckman, D.Mus.A.,** Associate Professor of Music
*Klavier for Kids*
This workbook is an introduction to a new piano/keyboard method that is designed to engage the ears of students as they learn to play the piano. (CTIA Music Group, 2008)

**Stephen T. Beers, Ed.D.** (editor), Vice President for Student Development
*The Soul of a Christian University: A Field Guide for Educators*
Combining a survey of the history and purposes of Christian higher education, critical approaches to faith-learning-living, and practical lessons for teaching, scholarship, and service, *The Soul of a Christian University* assists faculty and administrators in educating hearts and minds. (Abilene Christian University Press, 2008)

**Robbie Castleman, D.Min.,** Associate Professor of Biblical Studies
*The Story of Scripture (A LifeGuide Bible Study)*
Knowing the whole story of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation is vital if we are to learn the truth in Scripture and how all the parts and people fit. Each of the 12 studies includes commentary, discussion questions, suggestions for reading between the studies, and prayer helps. (IVP Connect, 2008)

**Jonathan Himes, Ph.D.** (editor), Assistant Professor of English
*Truths Breathed Through Silver: The Inklings’ Moral and Mythopoeic Legacy*
Representing a decade of scholarly activity within the C. S. Lewis & Inklings Society (CSLIS), this book challenges readers to examine the complex factors that shaped the theological perspectives, cultural concerns, and literary conventions in the works of the Oxford Inklings. (Cambridge Scholars, 2008)

**Ronald T. Habermas, Ph.D.,** Professor of Biblical Studies
*Introduction to Christian Education and Formation: A Lifelong Plan for Christ-Centered Restoration*
This introductory text on Christian education-formation includes extensive graphical illustrations and accompanying online appendices, providing a wealth of resources not only to be used in the classroom but also to be lived out in the life of the church in the world. (Zondervan, 2008)

**Preston Jones, Ph.D.**
*Moving from Anger to Intimacy With Your Spouse*
Described as a spiritually-focused food memoir, Kirk’s book traces her culinary beginnings as a child cook in a large family and as a natural cook who grew up in a multicultural Brooklyn neighborhood. Kirk’s experiences cooking shaped her worldview. Each chapter includes recipes relevant to the story. (Thomas Nelson, 2008)

**Gary J. Oliver, Ph.D.,** Professor of Marriage and Family Counseling
*God’s Hiddenness in Combat* (with Cody Beckman)
The primary question at the heart of this book is: “Where is God for the person in combat?” This study draws from numerous interviews, memoirs, letters, and archival materials, and reflects on the crucifixion of Christ to consider how God can be both present in and absent from the world of war. (University Press of America, 2009)

**Linda Beckman, D.Mus.A.,** Associate Professor of Music
*Klavier for Kids*
This workbook is an introduction to a new piano/keyboard method that is designed to engage the ears of students as they learn to play the piano. (CTIA Music Group, 2008)
There is a special bond alumni feel as part of the JBU family. JBU alumni, faculty, and staff are connected by shared experiences, mutual interests, and common values that forge relationships between people who otherwise may have nothing in common. It’s apparent that God brings the right people together on campus at the right time to create life-changing connections that bless many.

For numerous JBU alumni, faculty and staff, God has done a similar work in their own families, forging new relationships through adoption. He works in the lives of individuals to bring the right people together at the right time to create families that bless many.

The stories are as varied as the people who choose to adopt: Some families adopt infants, others teenagers. Some adopt from other countries, others adopt domestically, and some even from their own hometown.
Some adopt one child, while others adopt nearly enough for a baseball team’s starting line-up.

If you ask people who have chosen adoption why they made that choice, the answers demonstrate that even though their paths to adoption may be different, their hearts are often in the same place.

“It has been our greatest joy to share our home with two wonderful [adopted] boys,” said Sue Daugherty, who works in the JBU registrar’s office. She and her husband, Jack, adopted their sons through the state of Arkansas. They had already decided to adopt domestically, she says.

“We realize there is a great need here and around the world, but we wanted to help here at home. ... Our first, Chris, was a 10-year-old from southern Arkansas. He was so excited to be part of a stable family since he had been in and out of several foster homes over those past 10 years. He was ready to have his own room, his own things, unconditional love, and family support. We were blessed to be able to offer him these simple gifts,” Sue said.

“Our second son, Daniel, came to live with us a week before his first birthday. We again felt blessed because we were able to raise a child from infancy and to provide a safe and loving home for him as well.”

Many families and couples find there is a deep, spiritual reason to adopt. They will point to the hundreds of verses in the Bible about caring for the needy and God’s love for the fatherless.

“Providing a loving family and a home for those without is one way of serving the Lord,” said retired JBU professor Shirley Forbes Thomas. “Our philosophy became ‘... in as much as you have done it unto one of the least of these ... you have done it unto me,’” she said, referring to Matthew 25:40.

The Thomases started adopting children when their youngest biological son was born with Down syndrome, and they thought it wiser not to have more children by birth. They planned to adopt one girl, but ended up adopting a total
When Dan and Becky Lambert married in 1984, they knew even then that they had a heart for children, especially, it seemed, those who needed help and a little extra love. He was a youth minister, and she was a high school English teacher.

“Part of the reason we came together was to be a blessing to (kids who are struggling),” Dan said, adding that they found they both empathized with children.

Dan and Becky knew they wanted to be foster parents at some point and they even took in a teenager in need of help during the early years of their marriage. The couple delayed becoming foster parents while they were raising their own young children, until, they say, God told them the time was right.

A few years ago, Dan was visiting Ukraine, and a friend took him on a tour of one of the orphanages there. He saw the abandoned children and saw how he and Becky could reach out. He saw children they could give their home to, children to whom they could give a new life.

Dan felt God was telling him the time was right to adopt, and when he discussed it with Becky, she agreed.

The couple agreed they wanted to adopt an older child from Ukraine, because they knew that older children were harder to place with families, making them more in need of help in a way. They also knew they were interested in adopting an older child because, as Dan put it, they had already passed the infant stage with their biological children. Their heart as a couple was bent toward children of an older age.

Dan and Becky began the mountains of paperwork required to adopt a Ukrainian child even before they knew whom they would adopt. Their adoption agency told them about a choir from a Ukrainian orphanage that was performing in their area, and the Lamberts went to hear them. That’s how they met Roma, a Ukrainian boy who was 10 at the time. He was part of the choir and one of several children available for adoption that the Lambert family could have considered.

“He seemed outgoing and cheerful and was a better fit for our family [than the other children there],” Becky said.

The Lamberts were excited and a little nervous believing they finally found the child God would bring into their home. Then there was a hitch: That year Ukraine halted all international adoptions, challenging the Lamberts’ plans. Still, the Lamberts didn’t lose heart, and they didn’t want Roma to lose hope. They sent him a letter with family photos telling him that they still wanted him as part of their family.

“We wanted him to know that someone was going to adopt him,” Dan said.

Roma was excited to receive the letter even though he couldn't read the English words himself. “I had prayed to God, and I wanted to be adopted,” he said.

Eventually, the Lambert’s patience and persistence paid off, and Roma became Roman Stephen Lambert on Valentine’s Day 2007.

The Lamberts—Roman included—returned to the United States, and the next leg of their family journey began: bonding as a family. Roman now had two parents, two teenaged siblings, Alexa and Cayley, and a teenaged brother, Cameron. Since Roman did not speak much English and the Lamberts did not speak Ukrainian or Russian, communication was difficult.

“It was like having an infant because he couldn’t communicate his emotions,” Dan said. Becky agreed, adding that they couldn’t express themselves to their new son either. “We couldn't make ourselves understood,” she said.

Roman started school in Siloam Springs right away, and his new big sister Cayley, with whom he forged an early bond, went with him for the first few hours every day. It was the desire to make new friends that led Roman to start learning English.

“I wanted to make friends. I couldn't talk (to the other students),” he said. “I wanted to know what was going on.”

The family agrees that their new life together has had its challenges, but it’s also been a blessing. “It’s helped open our eyes to a different culture,” Dan said. “It’s helped us realize that we can be a blessing to others.”

For Roman, the best thing is simply having a real family. “I’ve never had a real family,” he said. “When I’m playing sports, my brother and sisters and my parents go to my games and cheer me on.”
of seven children who now range in age from 20 to 51 years old.

“Our first five adopted children [had] special needs in that they were older than eight, had emotional problems from being shifted from place to place, and other such problems,” Shirley said. “Four of the seven have attention deficit disorders. One of the younger children that we adopted has learning disabilities.”

For the Thomases, the joys of bringing these children into their family are simple: “The multiplied laughter, fun, and learning experiences we’ve had from each [child],” Shirley described. “Watching some of them reach goals they never thought they’d reach. Most of our children are now productive adults with at least high school diplomas. They also have the tools with which to have relationships with others. If they had remained in the limbo of numerous foster homes, moving from family to family, this would have been, in all probability, impossible.”

Amy (DeMaranville) ’98 and Josh Bottomly began considering infant adoption as an alternative way to have a family after their battle with infertility put a strain on their marriage. As they thought about and learned about adoption, however, they became passionate about adoption as their first choice for building their family. By the time they adopted four-month-old Silas from Ethiopia, they had discovered a profound spiritual aspect to adoption.

Pointing out that the word “religion” shares a Latin root with the word “ligament,” Josh explains, “The idea then is that when we care for the orphan we are pulled toward and connected to God in a similar way that a ligament connects muscle and bone. In other words, for us, adoption has connected us to God, His kingdom mission, and each other in a profoundly dynamic new way.”

Dan Lambert, JBU professor of youth ministries and director of the graduate ministry program, and his wife, Becky, associate dean of academic services and registrar, adopted their son Roman from the Ukraine when he was 10 years old. Like the Bottomlys, the Lamberts also found spiritual truths in their adoption process. Dan said that adopting Roman has helped his understanding of his role in God’s kingdom.

“Sometimes we get so focused on our everyday lives that we forget how big God’s kingdom is and that we are called to engage in and minister to a culture that extends far beyond our front yard and our workplace,” Dan said. “This adoption process pushed us so far out of our normal boundaries that we have been able to open our eyes and hearts to some of those larger realities and issues.

“Obviously, becoming aware of the plight of orphans in developing nations led us to be

The Lamberts sent Roman photos of their home and life in Siloam Springs to help him understand what he could expect in America. When they arrived in the Ukraine, Roman showed them the album where he had saved the photos.
As Amy (DeMaranville) ’98 and Josh Bottomly battled infertility, they started considering what they thought of at the time as an alternative path to becoming parents: adoption. It was after they learned more about adoption—more about God’s heart for the fatherless, more about God’s commands concerning the poor, and more about the millions of Ethiopian orphans needing help—that their hearts changed.

“We realized that adoption was God’s gift to us,” Amy said. “It wasn’t long before adoption was no longer Plan B. It was Plan A!”

As Josh and Amy worked through the Gladney Center for Adoption, they began to focus on adopting from Ethiopia. Gladney’s Ethiopia adoption program was in its pioneer stages and, at that time, was the most expedient and affordable adoption program worldwide, Amy said. The decisions to adopt through Gladney and to adopt from Ethiopia were made together. The Bottomlys were the first Oklahoma couple to adopt from Ethiopia through Gladney.

The Bottomlys began the adoption process in September 2006, submitted their application, had their home study conducted in November, were approved in December, had their dossier complete and submitted by February 2007, and in early April, received their referral—the name and photo—for their new baby. A month later, the couple traveled to Ethiopia where they experienced a birth of a different kind, the birth of a new family with the adoption of Silas Tesfamariam Bottomly. The entire process took only nine months, and the Bottomly’s kept a blog throughout the experience (bottomlysandethiopia.blogspot.com).

Josh and Amy spent 10 days in Ethiopia getting to know their new baby boy, who was four months old. They describe their bond with Silas as almost instantaneous.

“For many years, Amy and I couldn’t see how our story could ever move again toward hope, but holding Silas in our arms for the first time in Addis Ababa was that moment of grace, that moment where our storied arc bent toward healing and hope,” Josh said.

Now the Bottomlys are settled at home in Oklahoma, and Silas is a toddler going through his “terrible twos,” acting just like any other toddler would.

“He’s curious; he’s touchy, experimental, somewhat moody, but still quite cuddly,” Amy said.

Josh and Amy wanted to share not only their lives with a child, but also their story with the world. Beyond their blog posts, they wrote a book (From Ashes to Africa) describing their journey through adoption and how God provided healing, hope, and grace through the process. In part, Josh explained, writing the book was for their own healing, a healing they began to feel the moment they took Silas in their arms.

The chance to help other couples who are experiencing challenges similar to what Josh and Amy had gone through was another reason to write the book, the Bottomlys say. They hope readers will identify with their struggles with infertility and other trials that strain a marriage. And they hope that readers will be encouraged by their journey toward hope.

“Mostly, though, we wrote the book as a celebration of our journey of awakening. Adopting Silas, visiting the orphanages [in Ethiopia], and discovering a world made up of 4.4 million orphans—that was our collective moment of awakening,” Josh said.

The Bottomlys’ story is not over with one adopted child and one book to describe their experience. They are in the process of another Ethiopian adoption, and they say they have realized what they call the mission of their marriage: seeking to champion the cause of the orphan. They have partnered with Children’s Hope Chest, a Colorado-based ministry of orphan care, and they serve as co-leaders for the first virtual community committed to sponsoring an Ethiopian orphanage. They have also become involved with Red Letters Campaign, an online faith community dedicated to reducing extreme poverty in the world.

To learn more about the Bottomlys’ experiences and their book, go to www.fromashestoafrica.com.
directly involved in that problem. Traveling to Ukraine made us more aware of the role America and the role the church is playing in a global economy (not just financially). I now see things differently than I did five years ago because of this experience.”

The Lamberts say they have been blessed by the opportunities their adoption brought to their family. From a practical perspective, they say they’ve also learned that adopting an older child from another culture can be challenging.

“Bringing another person into the house changes everything,” Becky said. “It spreads you a little thinner as a parent. And with Roman, because he had not grown up in a family, a home, or even in our culture, there have been so many little things we’ve had to teach him. [For example] his fascination with buttons, switches, etc.—we had to teach him that he couldn’t push anything he came across. [He] turned on my coffee maker one time when it was empty. Luckily I caught it before it got overheated. You don’t think you need to teach a 10 year old that, but we did. It has stretched and challenged my patience.”

Jesse ’99 and Amy (Zilen) ’00 Rudy talked about adopting as a way to grow their family and to help children in need. After adopting their son Isaac from Ethiopia, they echo the sentiments of others, saying adopting has helped them grow in their understanding of God.

“Before we went through this process, I would read [Bible] verses that [say] ‘We are adopted by God,’ but they really didn’t hit me,” Amy said. “After we brought Isaac home, and I read those verses, I felt that I got a better picture of what that really means, and how cool that is. We are God’s children. Just seeing how Isaac has come into our family, and how I love him every bit as much as I love [our biological children] Rachel and Levi, it just gives a cool picture of how much God loves us ... every bit as much as his Son, because now we are his sons and daughters.”

Many families say their attitude toward adoption has been developed in part by a Bible verse in the book of James: “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (James 1:27, NIV)

April Moreton, JBU’s director of foundation and corporate relations, and her husband, Sam, are in the process of adopting a child from China. She, like many alumni, voiced the need for all people to live out the scriptural mandate to care for orphans and widows. The Moretons already have three biological children, and they have spent three long, hard years in their effort to adopt. They are now just waiting to be matched with a child.

“We’ve had a lot of time to think about [our philosophy of adoption], and it’s become more complex than when we started,” April said. “Initially we just wanted to expand our family, but we realize we can also tangibly live out a scriptural mandate [by adopting]. Some are called to support [orphans and widows] financially, others through short-term missions.
Taking on a Teen

For Chris ’83 and Kathie (Kitchen) ’83 Clendenen, taking in people who need a home has been a ministry for a long time—pretty much ever since they married in 1982.

“Within a short time [after getting married], we found ourselves with children of our own: Caleb, Rebecca ’08, and Sarah,” Kathie said. “We moved into a two-story house and began our ‘open-door ministry.’ Seems like we always had one or two extras at home. College students, unwed expectant mothers, homeless [individuals]. Our ministry was to get them on their feet and independent.”

The Clendenens decided to become foster parents, in part, because the funds provided by the state to foster parents would help make it possible for Kathie to be a stay-at-home mom to all their children. In 1994 they adopted one of their first foster children, Lora, a 12-year-old who had been living with the Clendenens since she was seven.

Prompted by the needs of some of those people they took into their home, Kathie went back to JBU and earned a master's degree in community counseling. She then went to work as an in-school therapist for several local school districts.

On the job in March 2006, Kathie met Brandon, a young man who clearly had a lot of things going for him. He was smart, funny, charming, and creative. But he was struggling. He had been in several foster homes, and the home he was in at that time was becoming overcrowded with foster children. Kathie was working with him as a therapist.

“As for Brandon, he was fast approaching age 18, behind in [high school] credits, facing a decision whether to stay in foster care and finish school or bail out and get his GED. He disappeared into the system once again, without a word,” Kathie said, describing how she and the Department of Human Services (DHS) lost track of him when he moved out of his foster home.

Knowing that teens often move out of a foster home, then move back in, Kathie tried to keep Brandon's file open, hoping to connect with him again at school. After a while, she felt she had to close his case, but she asked her contacts at the DHS to contact her if they found Brandon.

A few days after Christmas that year, Brandon was back in the care of DHS, and officials contacted Kathie. She learned that there was no foster home in the state that was able to take in a ward his age. Brandon would have to stay in juvenile detention until an opening in a foster home was found. The judge, having known the Clendenen family for years and knowing their history with adoption and foster parenting, knew that Chris and Kathie had a habit of taking in people at time when they needed it most. He asked Kathie if she and Chris would consider taking Brandon in. The couple quickly agreed.

Three months later, in March 2007, the family celebrated Brandon’s 18th birthday. Chris and Kathie had already developed a deep parental bond with the young man, and they offered to adopt him. He was grateful, but not ready for that step. The Clendenens continued to live and grow together as a family, but Chris and Kathie grieved a bit, feeling that they had lost the opportunity to adopt Brandon legally as their own now that he was an adult.

Then in fall 2007, while participating in an adoption conference, Chris and Kathie learned that, contrary to their belief, there is no age limit for adoption. In Arkansas, anyone can be adopted, even legal adults. Brandon might have been hesitant about adoption, but adoption was still an option for the future, even though Kathie and Chris realized that legal status didn’t change the quality of their relationship with Brandon.

“There was no rush, and maybe it wasn’t so important. Brandon was our son—with or without paperwork,” Kathie said.

Even today Brandon says he isn’t sure what made him change his mind about being adopted. One day in February 2008, he was just ready to be adopted. A month later, Brandon became a member of the Clendenen family legally by adoption, 17 days before his 19th birthday.

The year since then has been both incredibly rewarding and difficult for the family. Brandon, now 20 years old, moved into his own apartment, and the Clendenens are learning to be together in spirit while living apart. Brandon wants to live his life as an adult.

Kathie describes the family as pulled in two directions: toward each other as they bond in their new roles of parent/child and away from each other as an adult child naturally begins to leave the nest. Most families experience these transitions separately in different stages of a lifetime, but for Brandon and his still-new parents, they are happening almost simultaneously.

Plus, the fact that Brandon lived most of his life in foster homes, on the move, and looking out for himself, makes living in a permanent home with permanent family relationships a challenge, no matter how good and safe that home and family can be.

Of their relationship, Kathie has said that it’s not necessarily a happy ending. But the struggles and heartache don’t negate the love Chris and Kathie have for their newest adopted son or their interest in his well-being. Believing that God doesn’t give up on us, nor does He walk away, the Clendenens are willing to spend the time and energy to make a difference in Brandon’s life, even his adult life.
Others are called to actually bring an orphan into their home, and that’s where we are.”

Chris ‘83 and Kathie (Kitchen) ‘83 Clendenen, who adopted their daughter Lora and their son Brandon from the state foster care system, believe that the church—including everyone in it—is called to help these helpless widows and orphans in some way because it demonstrates how God cares for people. Chris is quick to add, however, that adopting a child may not be for everyone, and that support can come in many forms, such as ministering to families with adopted children, helping those seeking to adopt, or providing financial support to help those in need.

Reflecting on how their story may encourage others to think about foster care and adoption, Chris said, “We hope that alumni are motivated to find a place to minister.”

Many people within the JBU family have answered the command in James 1:27 that tells Jesus’ followers to take care of orphans and widows; they’ve answered it by taking a child into their home and making that child their own. As you read their stories you may feel the tug on your heart to do the same. But where to start? After all, as anyone who has adopted a child will tell you, it’s not an easy task, nor is it to be taken lightly.

The first important step is to determine if adoption is for you. It must be a decision that the entire family—especially the husband and wife—agree about wholeheartedly.

“It was incredibly important that we were completely unified in our efforts,” said Elizabeth Granderson ’98, who with her husband Josh ’95 adopted two toddlers from Uganda. “God placed the call to adopt on both of our hearts equally.”

Once you know that God has placed the call to adopt on your family, there’s a lot more to do. Research is key, many will tell you, including Dan and Becky Lambert, who adopted Roman from Ukraine when he was 10 years old.

“Do your homework. Do your research about the issues,” Dan said. “Do your homework about what to expect both in the process and the aftermath. Don’t go into it thinking it’s like a new puppy.”

Jodie (Maines) ’91 and Carl Clements, who adopted two children, one from China and the other from Ethiopia, agree that research is important.

“The Internet is such a great tool for research,” Jodie said, adding that research needs to be done not only on what agency to use, but also what the rules are in each country about adoption.

JBU staff member April Moreton, who along with her husband, Sam, is still waiting after three years to adopt her daughter from China, said it’s important to explore all the different options, such as domestic adoption, international adoption, open adoption, or closed adoption.

Jesse ’99 and Amy (Zilen) ’00 Rudy, who adopted Isaac from Ethiopia, agreed that considering various options is important. “Explore them all to see what fits your family’s culture,” she said. “We wanted to be multicultural so international adoption fits us.”

When asked about their adoption experiences, many describe the importance of having the support of others through the process.

“Allow people within your family, church, and community to surround you with prayer support.
Prayer was our most crucial need,” Elizabeth Granderson said. “There were days during our process when we knew our prayer team had more faith than we did for our kids coming home. Then, the prayer team becomes the welcome party, sharing the joy of coming home.”

The Rudys recommend that those in the adoption process should try not to have expectations about the first meeting with the new child.

“No matter how hard you try not to, you will start to romanticize that moment, and how your new son or daughter will run into your arms as if he/she has always known you were his/her parents,” Amy said. “While that is fun to think about, it is entirely possible that it will only happen in your mind. There is no rhyme or reason as to how the moment you meet your child will go.”

One of the Lamberts’ daughters, Cayley, who is now 17 and older sister to adopted Roman, says those adopting must be patient.

“There’s so much waiting in the process,” she said, alluding not only to waiting for the call announcing that they could go get Roman, but also waiting for Roman to learn English after coming home to the States and waiting for Roman to acclimate to American culture. It all took lots of time and lots of patience, the Lambert family agrees.

Shirley Forbes Thomas, who along with her husband adopted more than half-a-dozen children over the years, has lots of words of wisdom for those considering adoption: Realize that it will test your commitment to all in your life, including to God, she says; prepare to learn things about yourself that you never wanted to learn or even thought there was to learn; find a support group of other adoptive parents; and find an accepting and loving church, Shirley advises.

Perhaps the number one piece of advice from those who have experienced the joys and heartaches that come with adoption is the simplest: Just do it! ☀

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**In Their Own Words**

**Jack and Sue Daugherty (JBU Staff)**

My husband Jack and I had talked about adoption since before we were married. At that time we did not know we would not be able to have [biological] children, but we both had thought about adoption enough to know we would consider it later in our lives. After two years of trying to start a family and several miscarriages, we decided to move ahead with the adoption process. We had already decided to do a domestic adoption through the state. We realize there is a great need around the world, but we wanted to help here at home.

Our first adoption, Chris, was a 10-year-old from southern Arkansas. (He is now 18.) He was so excited to be part of a stable family because he had been in and out of several foster homes over those 10 years. He was ready to have his own room, his own things, unconditional love, and family support. We were blessed to be able to offer him these simple gifts. Our second son, Daniel, came to live with us a week before his first birthday. (He will be 7 in June.) We again felt blessed because we were able to raise a child from infancy and to provide a safe and loving home for him as well. We do believe God choose these two boys especially for us.

Whether domestic or international, there are so many children who are neglected and just need a family who will love them and provide for their basic needs. We believe God gave us this way of reaching out to help others.
Zach ’04 and Erin (Moore) ’04 Kennedy

Erin and I had three biological kids before the adoption conversation came up again. I say “again,” because it has always been a part of the conversation. God has put the world on our hearts and we fully believe that this is not just a decision to adopt a child, but to adopt a country as well. Ethiopia will forever be a part of our family.

In the mix of the blessings and congratulations [from friends on our adoption] have come innocent comments like, “We could never do that,” or “You guys are so special to do something like that,” and my all-time favorite, “Four kids—are you crazy!!” While we might be crazy, we certainly feel special, but it isn’t because of anything we have done. Looking into our little boy’s eyes, we feel special and privileged to call him our son.

We just looked at our lives and decided that we had room in our family for one more. We looked at our family and found love and support to go forward with adoption. We looked at our circle of friends and found generosity and encouragement beyond what we could have ever imagined. We looked to God for direction and He said, “I wrote instructions for that a long time ago.”

God has taught us so much through each of our children, and our adoption journey has been no different. Our kids have shown us that love is color blind, and racism is something that has to be taught. Adoption has taught us that family doesn’t have anything to do with blood, only love.

Jodie (Maines) ’91 and Carl Clements

When I was a little girl, my mom read The Family Nobody Wanted by Helen Doss to me, and from then on I knew that I wanted to add children to my family through adoption. On our first date, I asked my husband-to-be what he thought about adoption. It was a deal-breaker question for me. Fortunately, he was open to adoption.

In 2005, we adopted Abigail from China. We chose China because my grandparents were missionaries in China and had shared with me a great love for the Chinese people and culture. China also has a well-established adoption process. I first met Abigail in Changsha, China, but had fallen in love with her months before when I first saw her picture.

We anticipated adopting again from Asia, however, as that door closed, an Ethiopian door opened. In November 2008, I traveled to Addis Ababa to get Daniel.

Through both adoptions, I have learned to wait and be patient, to know that God’s timing is perfect even though I may not always understand. Being in a position where all you can do is pray and trust is humbling and faith building all at the same time.

I hope that all of our children will have an expanded worldview because of the all the cultures we have blended in our family. It really has amazed me that with all the differences in appearance, none of our children have ever questioned for a moment that they are siblings. Children are truly colorblind.

The Morsmans (Brian Morsman, JBU student)

For several years, my parents wanted to adopt two children. They spent countless hours researching the process of adopting from orphanages around the Kansas City area where we lived. Surprisingly, they met both difficulty and opposition because my parents were a Caucasian couple seeking to adopt non-white children.

Through some longtime friends, however, my parents heard of an adoption agency in Ethiopia. The process of adopting from Ethiopia went very quickly, taking around six months from hearing of the agency to bringing home my brother, Solomon, and sister, Macy, in the summer of 2007.

Since bringing Solomon and Macy into our family, we have been stretched and blessed beyond what we had ever expected. Two more children in the house meant there was less room and less money to go around, but it has also shown me a picture of the Gospel. Through adopting these two children into my family, I have learned a lesson in loving others and showing the love of Christ to people from around the globe.
Perspectives On ...
Normal. And Adopted.

by Stephen Sbanotto '04

I don’t have any great stories specifically related to my adoption. Nothing worth blabbing on about in an article, at least. My life really hasn’t been shaped by adoption. Rather, the important things that shaped my life are the things that I came to know after the adoption took place.

I was only two months old when I was adopted. The physical exchange from my biological mother to the state foster family and finally to my adopted parents isn’t in my memory banks. For me, adoption was just the start of what would become my life as a Sbanotto, which is all I’ve ever known.

(Often, I’ve wondered if I had a name during those first two months. To my friends, I’ve often referred to myself as “baby 24601.”)

I have an amazingly loving family! There’s my dad, Pete, my mom, Elaine, and my brother, Mike. There’s my wonderful grandma, my Nona, and all my aunts, uncles, and cousins. I can’t remember a time when I didn’t feel like a full member of the family.

I don’t remember a time when my parents sat me down to tell me I was adopted. I’ve just always known that I have biological parents who are some other people, but that my real parents are Mom and Dad. I’ve always been a Sbanotto.

I’ve talked with other adopted children and adults who remember the conversation that changed their life—the moment they learned they were adopted. They woke up one morning thinking they were part of a family by blood and went to sleep that night crying, wondering who they really were. This was a difficult experience for them, and for some, still is. I’m sure those parents intended to help their adopted children by holding back the information, but the shock of learning the truth still stings.

I feel lucky that my parents told me about my adoption early on. From a young age, I could recite Mom’s little catch phrase to me: “You’re special because we got to pick you.”

This isn’t to say that life as an adopted kid hasn’t had its ups and downs. I remember a few times when I cried because I didn’t want to be adopted; I just wanted my adopted parents to be my biological parents. I just wanted everything simple: no more confusion about who those other biological parents were.

During these times, Mom would talk to me about how strong my biological mother must have been and how much she must have loved me to give me up when she couldn’t take care of me. Mom would tell me how much she appreciated my biological mother’s trust that everything would be okay and letting her newborn son have a better life with parents who desired children so much.

I’ve heard other adoptees’ stories. Some have described times arguing with their parents when, in anger, they brought up being adopted and said things they didn’t really mean. Kids seem to know how to push their parents buttons (and vice versa), and often adoption can be a hot button in the heat of an argument. Only later, do kids realize they weren’t mad about being adopted. They probably weren’t even mad at their parents, but were angry about something else that they couldn’t identify at the time. Parents and adoption are just targets on the surface that are easy to hit, and those attacks have the potential to really hurt.

To parents of adopted children who have ever been in this situation, I’d encourage you to continue doing what you do best and love those children through their anger. The offense will often blow over if you let it.

My story may be mundane, but I hope it resonates with those out there considering adoption. All the hype about the emotional struggles of adoption is often just that—hype. Sure, some have had stories in which adoption has played a more significant role, whether for good or for bad. But for me, the fact of my adoption hasn’t defined me.

I have stories just like other kids: I fought with my brother. I asked “Why?” constantly about everything. I once fell on the coffee table and blackened my front tooth. Soon afterward, I lost my three front teeth to a run-in with a metal bat (ouch!). I could even share many tales about crabwalking and whistling. Those are my stories, but they are just normal children’s stories. As that is just what I am. Normal. And adopted.
Share your story... refer a student to JBU.

Becky (Bennett) Lindell graduates from JBU 1998

Julie, now a senior at JBU, will graduate with a degree in Early Childhood Education 2009

Becky tells next door neighbor Julie Savinske about JBU 2003

go to www.jbu.edu/refer or call 1-877-JBU-INFO
Bob Gustavson, head coach of JBU men’s soccer for 29 years, is not hard to spot in a crowd. His boisterous personality and northeastern attitude are distinctive. But soon the JBU campus will be missing him when he retires in June.

Gustavson spent his childhood and teen years in Uniondale on Long Island, New York. He worked as a lifeguard at beaches and surfed in the Atlantic. At the University of Connecticut (1964–1968), he was a double-letterman in lacrosse and swimming. He did his graduate work at UConn, during which he coached high school soccer and was a graduate assistant for the Huskies’ lacrosse team.

Gustavson got his first full-time coaching position (soccer) at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. After three years there, he went on to Barrington College in Rhode Island, where he served as head coach of the men’s soccer team until 1980.

Then came the big switch.

Gustavson’s wife, Pat, had done some financial consulting at JBU and was offered a job by then-president John Brown III. Pat had worked part-time while Bob worked full-time. But now with a significant offer, the Gustavsons decided it was Pat’s turn to take the full-time professional role. They packed and moved to Siloam Springs, or what Bob thought at the time was going to be “hillbilly heaven.” When they arrived, Bob said, the people and the community at JBU pleasantly surprised him.

From 1980–1986, Bob was a part-time JBU employee as the head coach of men’s soccer and was “Mr. Mom” at home to the Gustavson’s children, Kevin, Kelly, and Kristen. In 1986, he became a full-time employee at JBU, adding building manager of the Walton Lifetime Health Complex to his job responsibilities. The next year, he became a member of the faculty.

Gustavson said that the men’s soccer program at JBU, which started in 1978, was lacking when he arrived.

“They had like five soccer balls. The field was unbelievable. They had metal grates covered with plywood for drainage,” he said. “The university never came out of the 1950s. It was crazy.”

Gustavson was able to recruit a few players he knew could play soccer, and they became the core of his first team. When Gustavson was at Barrington, he recruited Kevin Lewis ’82 who played midfield for two years at Barrington. Lewis chose to follow Gustavson to JBU in 1980 where he acted as assistant coach while redshirting his junior year, and then played as a senior.

“He always got you to achieve more than you thought you were capable of,” Lewis said of Gustavson’s coaching style. “He loves to develop young people into men and women of character.”

Gustavson brought two national championships to JBU in 1983 and 1984 as part of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA). Then, in 1985, Gustavson convinced JBU administrators to leave the NCCAA and enter the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Under Gustavson, the JBU men’s soccer team made its first appearance in the NAIA national tournament in 1988, and that...
gave the school needed recognition. “Finally, people realized that we were on the map,” he said.

As part of the NAIA, he has led the Golden Eagles to four national championships in 1988, 1993, 2002, and 2003. He has also achieved multiple top 20 rankings, 20 post-season tournament appearances, and several district and regional championships. Many of his players have been named All-American and Scholar Athletes.

Gustavson boasts a career record of 310-195-45, and has received numerous coaching honors. He was a 12-time District Coach of the Year and a four-time NAIA Regional Coach of the Year. In 2000 and 2002, he was selected as the Sooner Athletic Conference Coach of the Year as well as named Regional Coach of the Year. Gustavson was also voted Umbro Midwest Coach of the Year in 1993 by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. In 1994, he had the honor of coaching the West Squad in the Umbro Senior Classic.

Director of Athletics Robyn Daugherty ’85 said that Gustavson leaves behind a quality program. “When you can tell someone your coach has been here 29 years, they see a stable program and think how that is a program they could get involved in,” she said. “[Gustavson] wants to make sure that everything we do is first-class.”

For Gustavson, creating a quality program and “always doing things right the first time” have been his top priority. “I never came here to develop a good team,” he said. “I came here to develop a good program.”

And he has done just that. Gustavson and his wife plan to move to Florida, relax, and visit their two daughters and grandchildren in Austin, Texas, before deciding what to do next.

“If I get bored I might decide to be a Walmart greeter or sell ice cream out of a truck,” he said. “But for now I just want to enjoy doing nothing.”

As far as how he is leaving the program, Gustavson has every confidence that the work he has done will continue to benefit JBU in the coming seasons.

“The team is in great shape, and I think the guy who comes in after me will have a nice little team to make his own,” he said.

Golden Eagles senior goalkeeper Glen Goodner said that most importantly, Gustavson has reached the athletes he has coached and has made them better people. “One thing is for sure: The first time another name is announced over the PA at Alumni Field as the head coach of JBU men’s soccer, it won’t sound right,” Goodner said. “[Gustavson’s] impact reaches from coast-to-coast on soccer fields in the U.S. and internationally, to the numerous foreign players that he has given a chance at a college education.”

This story first ran in JBU’s student newspaper, The Threefold Advocate.
Memories of a “Campus Brat”
An Alumna Recalls Growing Up on JBU’s Changing Campus
by Ruth (Smith Bircher) Ronan ’52

I was born in April 1932, when my father, Joe Smith, was a member of the JBU administration. We lived in the back of a small red brick building in front of California Dorm. At the time it was the administration building. (Later it became KUOA radio studios, the infirmary, the annex building, and finally a girls’ dorm, dubbed Catalina Island.)

During the depression, the college had its own garden and dairy so it could furnish food for the students and faculty. My parents received housing and meals at the dining hall, and when they needed something the school couldn’t furnish, they were given scrip (an IOU), which allowed them to get what they needed from merchants in town.

By the time I was three, my dad was dean of men, and we lived in the upstairs front apartment of the J. Alvin Brown Hall. The year I turned five, we spent the summer at the John Brown School for Girls in Glendora, California. We were back in Siloam Springs that fall, and we moved into the new South Hill building on the south side of University Blvd. (where Holly Place is located today).

In fall 1938 we moved to the second floor of the Helen the First Memorial building, located in front of J. Alvin Brown Hall. This building had classrooms, the chapel, the library, and a men’s dorm.

In addition to furnishing housing for faculty and staff, the school also provided a school for the children (and trained teachers in the process). I started to school that fall in a one-room log cabin (not the Sager cabin), built by the band members, behind J. Alvin Brown Hall. Next to the cabin was a house (where the townhouses are today) used as the Home Economics building. (It was later called the Billie Holliday House.) Behind the house was a sorghum mill. The farm raised sorghum cane, which they ran through a press and then cooked to make sorghum molasses.

Where the Mabee Center is today, there were Mechanical Buildings I and II. Building I contained a store, a print shop, the administrative offices, and, at one time, a dress shop. Building II contained a machine shop and a woodworking shop. My mother had several lovely pieces of furniture made there.

Where the Engineering building is today, there was the foundation for an Oklahoma building, which was never built, likely due to the depression and lack of funds. The student body used to have picnics there, and it was a fun place for kids to play.

Students participated in four hours of vocational work each day: on the farm, at the dairy, in the laundry, in the kitchen, in the machine shop, in the dress shop, in the print shop, in the woodworking shop, or elsewhere on campus.

At that time, students were only allowed to date on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, and these dates were chaperoned. In nice weather, Sunday afternoon dates often were hikes to places near the campus, and I (the campus brat), often tagged along. I’m sure they appreciated that!

In 1939 we moved to a two-story house next to the KUOA tower and transmitter building. There were three apartments in the house. In 1942 we moved back to J. Alvin Brown Hall. For the first and only time, I attended public school (fifth grade) in a three-story brick building where the Siloam Springs Police
Department now resides.

Our next move was to the Billie Holliday House. By fall 1943, the John Brown Academy was moved from Sulphur Springs to the Siloam Springs campus. Most of the college men were in the military [so there were few men enrolled in the college]. The Army trained pilots who flew between Tulsa and our small airfield; there were air cadets living on the second floor of the South Hill building.

In 1942 Mabel Oisen moved to JBU to become head of the music department; she started a women’s Triple Trio. Stuart Schimpf became the campus pastor. When the Home Ec club put on a circus party in the gym, two of the acts were Stuart Schimpf imitating the newly popular Frank Sinatra and the Triple Trio singing “Pistol Packing Mama” while Mabel played “Mama.” These brought comments from Dr. Brown Sr. the next day at church.

In 1944 my dad purchased a house, and we finally moved off campus. Fall 1945, I skipped eighth grade and started high school classes in the Memorial building. A coffee shop had been added to the store, and Tuesday was Coke day. That was the only day Cokes were delivered. By the end of the day, they were all gone, and it was back to Grapette.

By fall 1947 the war was over, the GI Bill kicked in, and returning military personnel were filling the campus. The academy was moved back to Sulphur Springs and renamed Brown Military Academy of the Ozarks.

I started college that fall. The Cathedral of the Ozarks was under construction, and the basement of the Cathedral was complete except for the heating system. The music department was in the classrooms at the north end, and the chapel was under the future sanctuary. A trench for the steam pipes had been dug to the power plant, and then we got rain. Water poured into the basement and we noted that one of the requirements for music majors was a good pair of boots. Even after the ditch was complete we often got leaks in the ceiling, so we walked on planks across the water.

In spring 1949 the walls and ceiling were in place for the second floor classrooms of the Cathedral building. The third floor and sanctuary were not yet built, but Mabel decided to put on a BIG production of *Hansel and Gretel* outside, using the open-to-the-air sanctuary stage, putting folding chairs where the pews are today. There was a double cast, one to act on stage and one to be in the pit singing over the mics. Dr. Dorothy Woodland worked with Mabel to use black lights in the production that created impressive effects.

Fall 1949, I moved to California Dorm for two years. The mechanical building (number one) was Remodeled and became known as the Arkansas building. The wood shingle siding was replaced with white asbestos siding. A gym was moved to the valley next to the swimming pool, and a long building for the Building Construction department was moved west of the Arkansas building.

I graduated in 1952; there were 100 of us in our class. We filled the 100 steps to the valley behind California Dorm for graduation in the gym. I went to graduate school at the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio, and then taught in the music department at JBU. I taught at JBU through spring 1961. From 1947 through 1961, I was involved with many music productions, choir tours, summer tours, and duo-piano concerts with Dr. Joe Zimmerman. In 1961, I moved to Cedarville College in Ohio where I taught for four years before marrying and moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico.
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www.jbu.edu/cdc
I recently met a JBU alumnus in southern California who told me a fascinating story about a conversation she had with a JBU phonathon student worker.

Apparently, JBU had called her a number of times and she was not interested in answering. With caller ID it was easy for her to ignore the calls. Then, one night, on a whim, she decided to answer the JBU call. She explained to the student that she knew why he was calling and was not interested in giving a gift to the JBU Scholarship Fund (JBUSF). The student said he understood.

Then he earnestly asked her about her experience at JBU. She shared honestly about her time at JBU, the good and the bad. The student was fascinated with her story. Then he told her about his life as a missionary kid, growing up overseas, and his experience at JBU. Their conversation lasted over 20 minutes.

As the alum shared this story with me she was animated, excited, and obviously very pleased with the delightful conversation! It was not the conversation she expected. She also told me that at the end of the phone conversation, she gladly gave a modest gift to the JBU Scholarship Fund with her credit card, right over the phone.

What surprised this alum was that the student caller showed a sincere interest in getting to know her—even after she said she would not give a gift. That is typical of all our student callers at JBU.

Our callers, as current JBU students, want to hear alumni stories, hear about others’ experiences at JBU, and hear what they have done since leaving JBU. And they want to help alumni stay connected with JBU by telling them about some of the latest news from campus. Do they want a gift to the JBU Scholarship Fund? You bet they do! They understand (most of them in a very tangible and personal way) the importance of student scholarships at JBU. But, they also genuinely would love to hear your JBU story.

So, if you see “John Brown University” on your caller ID, on a whim, pick up the phone. Even if you are not in a position to give to JBU financially, you will be pleasantly surprised by the sincerity and authenticity of our student callers. And our student callers can be blessed by hearing about how God has worked in your life, both at JBU and also since graduation.
To Help Continue the Blessing

“We established an endowed scholarship at JBU because we know that JBU students are trained in a Christ-centered environment and that student lives are changed while at JBU. We wanted to support music students because Pat was involved in music at JBU and was blessed by the opportunities she received in that involvement. In fact, Pat is still involved in music now, singing in a women’s chorus and participating in various church music opportunities. Music has been a real blessing in Pat’s life. We are happy to support the mission of JBU through the endowed scholarship program!”

Pat (Myers) ’51 & Bill Johnson

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Patricia R. Gustavson

Pat Gustavson is retiring from JBU after 29 years of faithful service. As vice president for finance and administration, Gustavson has been JBU’s chief financial officer, overseeing the institution’s operational budget and endowment. Her day to day responsibilities have included management of business operations, auxiliary services, physical plant operations, information technology and general administrative services.

She came to JBU in 1980 to serve as director of planning and management. She was appointed to the position of vice president in 1985.

She has served on the boards of the National Association of College and University Business Officers, the Association of Business Administrators of Christian Colleges, the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers. She has held leadership positions in those organizations as well.

Locally, Gustavson serves on the board of the Foundation of the Walton Arts Center and is secretary for the local chapter of Rotary International.

Personally, Gustavson has been credited with intelligence, creativity, wit, curiosity, and heart. She has been called a Renaissance person, able to engage meaningfully with persons from any discipline, and possessing such broad knowledge of archane facts on so many diverse subjects that she is certain to win any game of Trivial Pursuit.

Gustavson is married to retiring soccer coach Bob Gustavson (profile on page 22). They have three children and two grandchildren.

Kay Jackson

Kay Jackson first joined the JBU staff as a receptionist in 1982. During her 27 years of service, Jackson took on more and more responsibility at JBU: In 1983, she became JBU’s insurance clerk; in 1987 she was made employee benefits coordinator; in 1988 she became the JBU personnel coordinator; and finally in 1996, she became the human resources coordinator.

As she dealt with the challenges of doing work that is critical and increasingly complex, Jackson managed to stay interested and concerned in others, unflustered by the variety of crises that people brought to her office. She has been a nominee for the Golden Eagle Award of Excellence every year since the award began, and she was a runner-up for that award in at least two years!

After beginning her full-time career at JBU, she took her first JBU class in 1983. She kept working full time, raising her three sons and taking classes one or two at a time. She was inducted into the psychology honor society, Psi Chi, in 1993, and finally completed her BS at JBU in psychology cum laude in 1999.

Jackson participated in the regional human resources professional organization, NOARK, serving on their board and on various committees. She was awarded her Professional in Human Resource certification in 1992 and then the senior level of certification in 1997.

Jackson has taught Engineering at JBU continuously since 1971. She has taught classes in the honors and core curricula and/or seminars in thermodynamics, engineering design, machine design, fluid mechanics, technology and society, physics, physical science, and other subjects. She also has expertise in the subjects of explosions, rotary lawn mowers, seatbelts, ladders, metallurgy, railroad train brake systems, accident reconstruction, and motorcycle helmet impact testing.

French and his wife, Ruth, have three sons and eight grandchildren.

Ken French, Ph.D., P.E.

Ken French retires from JBU this year, having taught mechanical engineering classes for 46 years. He has had summer and sabbatical experience in industry, academia, NASA and forensic engineering.

French received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University, his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota, and his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at the State University of New York at Stonybrook. He acquired his engineering experience from DuPont, NASA, Louisiana State University, Ryan Engineering, and the Minnesota Mineral Resource Research Center.

He has been a presenter at a wide variety of conferences including the Christian Engineering Educators and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He served as chair of the local chapter of the Societies of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering and as elder and clerk of session at the First Presbyterian Church in Siloam Springs.

French has taught Engineering at JBU continuously since 1971. He has taught classes in the honors and core curricula and/or seminars in thermodynamics, engineering design, machine design, fluid mechanics, technology and society, physics, physical science, and other subjects. He also has expertise in the subjects of explosions, rotary lawn mowers, seatbelts, ladders, metallurgy, railroad train brake systems, accident reconstruction, and motorcycle helmet impact testing.

French and his wife, Ruth, have three sons and eight grandchildren.
The Power of Association

Research shows that 88 percent of job openings are never advertised. Most positions are filled through networking and associations. In other words, we find jobs through people we know. We choose our doctors, churches, schools, and the movies we see based on the recommendation of our friends or family. Many businesses owe their success to word-of-mouth advertising.

Relationships and associations are based on a few key characteristics: trust, shared values, and common experiences and/or interests. Those of us who are part of the JBU family are connected by those characteristics. And those connections can and should create opportunities for all of us.

Last year, a California firm hired one JBU graduate from the construction management (CM) program. That connection led to the firm’s hiring of two more CM students graduating this year. Danielle Vogus ’07 landed a job working on the movie “Coyote County Loser” because her connections with JBU alumni in a California church led to an introduction to one of the movie’s producers, Rob Bethke ’99. These are great examples of alumni helping other alumni!

JBU, along with the Alumni Association Board, has developed several tools to make it easier for the JBU family to stay connected.

A few years ago, JBU launched AlumNET to provide such tools as a JBU e-mail address that never expires, free access to ProQuest (a library research database of magazines and journals), and an online, searchable alumni directory.

Last fall, with the help of JBU’s Career Development Center staff, we introduced a new web site that allows students, alumni, and friends to post jobs, post resumes, and browse resumes posted by alumni.

In providing these tools, our hope is that you will put the power of your JBU associations to work. Whether you are on the giving or receiving end, it will be a blessing to you and others.

Jerry Rollene ’75
Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

P.S. The new 2009 printed alumni directory is hot off the press! Get yours as a free gift when you make a donation to the JBU Scholarship Fund and request it.

Alumni Have High Hopes for “Coyote County Loser”

Twin brothers Jacob ’97 and Lucas Roebuck ’97 took the one-act play that they wrote called “Coyote County Loser” and turned it into a full-length feature film with the help of several fellow JBU alumni.

The family-friendly movie is a romantic comedy of love and sacrifice in a small town. “Loser” stars TV Guide Network’s Nikki Boyer as Lauren, a radio DJ known for her expertise on love and relationships. Her advice catches the attention of Jack, played by Beau Clark, a hot-shot Los Angeles DJ passing through Coyote County. The on-air exchange between them gets the attention of listeners and gets Jack to agree to a contest over love advice for one “loser.”

The Roebuck brothers enlisted the help of JBU alumni Rob Bethke ’99 as co-producer, Danielle Vogus ’07 as production assistant, Jeff Keller ’02 for line production, Traci Rae Letellier ’01 for original music, and Laura (Hartman) Roebuck ’01 as actress.

The film, which received a PG rating, has been released in several theaters, including the Siloam Springs 6 and the Pinnacle Hills 12 (in Rogers), and theaters in Roswell and Ruidoso, New Mexico, and San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Livermore, California. The producers hope to get enough attention for the film to generate interest in a nationwide release and boost eventual DVD sales.

In April, the film brought more than 120 people—a sell-out crowd—to a screening event in Siloam Springs for JBU alumni.

Learn more about the film on its Facebook fan page or on the film’s website: www.coyotecountyloser.com.
alumni NEWS

There were no submissions from alumni from the 1930s to 1970s.
Do you have news to share with your alumni friends? Send an e-mail to alumni@jbu.edu.

1980s

Ken Haron ’80 – In October 2008, Ken completed a dramatic documentary entitled BREAKTHROUGH: The Life of James O. Fraser and the Lisu People. The production took 15 months, 300 crew members, actors and extras, and production in five countries. Ken works as a video producer for OMF International, a missions agency geared toward the various people groups in East Asia. OMF held the international premiere for this unique nine-language DVD on September 12. Watch the one-minute trailer at www.jofraser.org.

Bruce Schmidt ’82 – Col. Schmidt retired in February 2009 from the U.S. Air Force after 26 years, though he will continue to work at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. Bruce lives with his wife Ruth and two of their children in Ohio. Their other daughter and her family live in Arkansas.

Steve Tuzeneu ’84 – Steve recently joined the corporate office of WAY-FM in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and will be responsible for the engineering duties at several broadcasting facilities. Steve worked previously at Great Plains Christian Radio in Abilene, Kansas, and for 16 years prior to that with Blount Communications, a Christian Radio Group in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. A press release from WAY-FM states that Steve’s “extensive experience in studio, satellite, and transmitter work makes him a perfect fit for the ministry of WAY-FM.”

1990s

Mark Durham ’95 – Mark recently published a novel, Saint’s Treasure. According to the publisher, “Saint’s Treasure follows Christian believers after their earthly death to the new life that awaits them in the presence of the Lord.” More information can be found at www.tatepublishing.com.

Kyle ’97 & Jennifer (Deffinbaugh) ’96 Felker – Kyle and Jenny are pleased to announce the arrival of Calvin James on December 3, 2008. He joins sister Madison, who is 2 ½ years old.

Delrina Johnson ’95 – Delrina recently moved to Orange, New Jersey. Her new contact information can be found on AlumNET.

2000s

John Holcomb ’07 – John is working as a full-time artist in Topeka, Kansas, at his own studio and has just launched his first large-scale project. His project, The United Plates of America, is a lighthearted series of 50 hand silk screened prints based on each of the states. His studio’s web site is www.shorthandedstudio.com, and the completed project can be seen at www.theunitedplates.com.

Aaron Passmore ’02 – Group Magazine, the most widely read youth magazine in the world, featured an article in the January/February 2009 issue on Aaron’s ministry in California and Mexico. Group writes that Aaron crosses the border daily to minister to Mexican youth and their families. He works in the local garbage dump and visits the local jail weekly in order to be the “hands and feet of Jesus” to the marginalized in that society. For more information about Aaron’s ministry, visit www.spectrumministries.com.

Michael ’01 & Amy (Dunaway) ’02 Plinsky – Michael and Amy welcomed their second daughter into the world on October 6, 2008. Abigail Mac was also warmly welcomed by her big sister, Jamy. ▼

Visit www.jbualumni.com to find your alumni friends in the online directory.

Send your alumni news and photos to: Brown Bulletin Editor, John Brown University 2000 West University Street, Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Submit your news by e-mail to: alumni@jbu.edu

Submit your news online at: www.jbualumni.com

For an explanation of publication policies, photo specifications, and submission deadlines, please visit www.jbualumni.com/magazine/brown_news.aspx
In Loving Memory

Jack Dale Crawford '66 – Jack died January 2, 2009, after a long battle with Pick’s disease. Jack was born in Crocker, Missouri, in 1943, the younger of two sons. He received a basketball scholarship to JBU and graduated with a degree in education. He then earned his master’s and specialist’s degrees in education from Southwest Missouri State University. During his career, Jack was chosen Missouri Coach of the Year and was inducted into the Crocker High School Hall of Fame. After his retirement from teaching and coaching, Jack traveled to several states to compete in the Senior Olympic Games where he won many ribbons and medals in the shot put, javelin, and discus events. He is survived by his wife, his mother, a brother, three sons (including Rick Crawford '84), three grandchildren, two stepsons, and three step-grandchildren.

Beverly Holcomb ’50 – Beverly passed away November 14, 2008. Growing up in the depression, Beverly was the middle child of five. She was able to enter JBU because of scholarships and the financial support provided by JBU’s work-study program. During her time at JBU, she taught in a rural, one-room school for eight grades. After graduation, she joined Wycliffe Bible Translators and served in Peru as a descriptive linguist with the Okaina Indians and as the assistant director of the Peruvian Bilingual Jungle Indian Schools. During her furloughs she was able to complete master’s degrees in education and in descriptive anthropology. After leaving Wycliffe in 1968, she served as the specialist in aging with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and completed her doctor of education degree. From 1976 until she retired in 1995, Beverly served as executive director of Florence Crittenton Home Services, Inc., providing residential services for pregnant girls. She modeled her program after JBU’s educational emphasis on head, heart, and hand. In 1991, she received JBU’s outstanding alumnus award. In 2006, an endowed scholarship was established in the names of Beverly’s parents: the Joe & Elva Holcomb Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Gifts in honor of Beverly can be made online (at www.jbu.edu/giving), by phone (call 800-446-2450), or by mail (sent to University Advancement, John Brown University, 2000 W. University St., Siloam Springs, AR 72761).

Richard T. “Dick” McCartney

Dick McCartney ’47, a longtime member of the JBU community, passed away on March 9, 2009 at Siloam Springs Memorial Hospital. He was born in Altus, Arkansas in 1927 and married Barbara (Treadwell) ’47 in 1947.

After graduating from JBU, Dick went on to earn his master’s degree from Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth. He also studied communications at Baylor University and Boston University.

Experienced in the communication field, Dick worked with the Oklahoma and Texas Baptist Conventions and was president of Arthur Davenport & Assoc., Inc. in Oklahoma City. Co-workers from this time period remember Dick as an “excellent journalist,” a “skilled communicator,” and a “credit to his profession.”

After his retirement, he was a member of the John Brown University board of trustees, where people have said he proved himself to be a “true gentleman” and an “upstanding follower of Christ.”

Among his friends, family, and co-workers, he was well known for his encouraging spirit, warm personality, and wise leadership.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara; two daughters (including Judy (McCartney) McCullough ’72 who is married to John ’71), one son, two brothers, one sister, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

In honor of his faithful life and service, a memorial scholarship has been established at John Brown University in his name. Gifts may be made to the “McCartney Scholarship Fund” online (at www.jbu.edu/giving), by phone (call 800-446-2450), or by mail (sent in care of John McCullough, John Brown University, 2000 W. University St., Siloam Springs, AR 72761).

Julia E. “Billie” Holliday –

Longtime employee and fixture in the community Billie Holliday passed away on March 18, 2009 at Siloam Springs Memorial Hospital. Gifts in honor of Billie can be made online (at www.jbu.edu/giving), by phone (call 800-446-2450), or by mail (sent to University Advancement, John Brown University, 2000 W. University St., Siloam Springs, AR 72761).
Help us discover the next JBU Alumnus of the Year

The JBU Alumnus of the Year award recognizes an alumnus of integrity, spiritual maturity, stature, and demonstrated ability in his or her sphere of influence. Candidates for alumnus of the year...

- Reflect the Christian standards and ideals of JBU in public and private life.
- Have attained outstanding occupational achievement or have an impressive record of accomplishment.
- Demonstrate leadership in Christian and secular communities.
- Demonstrate loyalty to and interest in JBU.
- Graduated from JBU at least 25 years ago.

If you know of an alumnus who possesses these characteristics, please nominate them for this prestigious award. Send us the individual’s name and a short paragraph about their accomplishments. (And please include your contact information so the JBU Alumni Board can contact you for more information if needed.)

Send your nomination to:
Jerry Rollene, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations
by e-mail: jrollene@jbu.edu
by mail: Jerry Rollene, John Brown University
2000 West University Street
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Springs Memorial Hospital at the age of 96. She was born in 1912 in Center Point, Iowa.

The niece of Founder John E. Brown Sr., Billie worked for more than 25 years in the cafeteria at JBU. Faculty, staff, and alumni still remember her Sunday dinners and banquet meals, often recalling her fried chicken specifically. After her retirement from JBU, she worked in the Siloam Springs High School cafeteria, then retired once again and volunteered in the kitchen of the Siloam Springs Senior Activity Center. Billie was a member of Harvard Avenue Baptist Church.

She is survived by her son, retired JBU faculty member Jim Holliday ’64; a daughter, Pam (Holliday) Ferguson ’69; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be given to the Billie Holliday Scholarship fund by visiting www.jbu.edu/giving or by mail (sent to University Advancement, John Brown University, 2000 West University St., Siloams Springs, AR 72761).

Billy “Jack” Leonard ’49 – Jack passed away October 12, 2008. He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Frances, who passed away one day before, on October 11, 2008. The Leonard’s are survived by three children, including daughters Catherine Leonard ’80 and Carmen (Leonard) Martens ’85, and two grandchildren.

Blanche (Winstead) Reid ’52 – Blanche passed away January 4, 2009 at the age of 85 in Franklin, North Carolina. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Reid ’52.

Roy Lee Rooker ’47 – Roy passed away May 16, 2008 in Sherman, Texas, at the age of 89. He was born in 1918, in Detroit and later moved to McAlester, Oklahoma before attending JBU. He served in the U.S. Air Force for three years and then was a civilian training instructor for 27 years, all at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls. He retired in 1982, and recently moved to Sherman to be closer to family. He is survived by his wife, a son, a sister, two granddaughters, and three great-grandsons.
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* Rates will vary depending upon age and number of beneficiaries.
JBU has not only been home to thousands of young adults, but also to a number of children who grew up on campus while their parents were students or employees. We decided to show off a few of those JBU family photos on the fridge for you to see.

Long before camera phones, Bill ’56 & Joyce (Ettinger) Millet ’56 recorded their family memories on film.

When alumni gathered in 1931, the kids came too!

When the kids are watching Howdy Doody, it’s the perfect time to get some studying done. (students unidentified)

When both parents work at JBU, the kids are naturally part of the JBU scene. JBU staffer Marcia VerHoeven, wife of employee Earl VerHoeven, reads to Judy (Trook) ’73 and Jon ’75.

Everyone knew the family of John Brown Jr. and wife Caroline: Karen (Wilt) ’68, John Brown III ’71, Melinda (Pollock) ’77, Julie (Lolley) ’78, and Laurie (Wilkinson) ’86.
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• Much more!