Expanding Academic Excellence
Three ways you can help JBU grow

Word of mouth is a powerful tool to reach and enroll more students. Here’s how you can help:

1. **Follow JBU on Facebook**
   Share posts that resonate with you.

2. **Follow JBU on Instagram**
   Occasionally comment and tag students or parents who would be interested in a particular post.

3. **Review JBU on Niche.com**
   Niche.com reaches millions of students. Your candid review will help them know if JBU could be a good fit.
Dear Friends of JBU,

We just completed our second semester of learning and living together during a pandemic, and I want to give you some of the results from this year. We only had 57 students test positive during the academic year, and 170 that had to quarantine because of “close contact” with a positive case. That was for the entire year. We know universities our size that had those numbers in one week last fall. We are deeply thankful to God for these results, not just for health and safety reasons, but because they reflect less disruption in student lives. In addition, this spring, JBU hosted four vaccine clinics, serving more than 1,130 people from JBU and Siloam Springs and doing our part to help end the pandemic.

Students were incredibly creative in imagining fun in the midst of the challenges of COVID protocols. We had kickball and softball tournaments and played pickleball both outside and inside. We had more students participate in intramurals in fall 2020 than the previous fall. Students wrote, produced and put on a play about the pandemic in the outdoor amphitheater in the fall and performed two other theater productions, “The Princess and the Goblin” and “Little Women,” with limited seating and a livestream. We worshipped on the quad on Sunday nights and in 30 chapel groups on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We continued time-honored traditions in new ways, such as the Candlelight Service and the Talent Show, and we may well have begun new traditions, such as eating outside under tents or discussing the cultural issues of the day in Adirondack chairs around a fire pit.

We were also blessed by God’s abundant generosity: weather that was spectacular for most of the fall and large parts of the spring (except for a history-making cold stretch in February); the largest amount of gifts ever received in a single year (projected to be $25 million); a budget surplus that enabled us to keep everyone employed and to pay out a bonus; and enrollment trends for the fall that promise a strong entering class. We have much for which to be grateful.

Of course the pandemic has also come with significant losses. We have several students who lost a family member to COVID-19. Relationships have been more difficult with masks and distancing. Episodes of anxiety and depression have been more acute for some, and financial setbacks have affected others. Faculty and students have been wonderfully diligent in overcoming the limits of the classroom or lab setups with COVID-19 protocols, but it still has been difficult. Everyone at JBU was tired at the end of the semester.

However, even in the midst of those challenges, we can look forward to the future with hope, not just hope in removing masks, hugging friends or returning to “normal” life, but, more importantly, hope in the saving love and grace of Jesus Christ. As Paul writes in Romans 5, “we rejoice in our suffering, knowing that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and that hope will not disappoint us because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:2-5). If we have learned anything this year, it is that we are not in control of our world or our future. The only hope that will not disappoint us is our hope in Christ’s death and resurrection through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. May we live more faithfully into that hope in the coming year.

Godspeed,

Dr. Charles W. Pollard
President, John Brown University
Striving for Excellence

In January we asked you to fill out a Brown Bulletin Reader survey. Nearly 800 people responded and we were thrilled to learn what you look forward to in each issue, what you read the most and your suggestions for how we could improve. You’ll notice in this issue that we are already making changes and will continue to do so in upcoming issues.

One of the recurring themes in the survey comments was that many of you feel like you don’t know the big picture of what JBU is like today. So in this issue, we hope to bring you up to date on the quality academic programs JBU offers and how the university looks to expand its offerings in strategic and economical ways.

We’re also trying to include more stories with greater variety in who we profile and the subjects we talk about. The truth is, there is no shortage of amazing stories at JBU. The most difficult thing is that the Brown Bulletin only comes out twice a year and we have limited space. So, we hope you follow us on our social media channels so that you can hear from us all year long. (See the “Connect” section on page 3)

As we close out this school year, I’m incredibly proud of the effort of the JBU community to make this an excellent year despite the challenges of the pandemic. While certainly difficult, our faculty taught with excellence and our staff served with excellence. It’s one of our core values, and it’s lived out every day by the people of JBU.

Julie Gumm
Editor, Brown Bulletin

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Campus News

The Schmieding Foundation Gift Creates Finance and Data Analytics Lab
JBU received a $60,000 grant from The Schmieding Foundation for the creation of The Schmieding Foundation Finance and Data Analytics Lab within the Soderquist College of Business. The gift helped JBU with the construction and technology costs associated with building the lab classroom. The lab at JBU prepares students for careers in finance, marketing, data analytics and other data-related fields.

Education Majors Commit to Teach in Arkansas
JBU hosted a signing event with seven education students committing to teach in Arkansas when they graduate between now and May 2022. An initiative promoted by the Arkansas Department of Education, universities across the state are highlighting their partnerships with local school districts and emphasizing the commitment to preparing high-quality teachers, encouraging them to teach in Arkansas. Students included: Laura Perkins, Brooke Pigeon, Kinsey Cox, Alyssa Garrison, Katie Friesen, Kaitlyn Thomas and Eden Hinton.

Music Students Place First in Voice Competition
Sophomore Connor Klaassen and senior Olivia Myers placed first in the National Association of Teachers of Singing voice competition and will advance to nationals this summer. Klaassen placed in the Freshman/Sophomore Musical Theatre division and Myers in the Junior/Senior Musical Theatre division. Senior Kendra Jolly placed fourth in the Senior Classical division.

Wilfred M. McClay Presents Barnett Civic Leadership Lecture
Wilfred M. McClay, Ph.D., presented the 2021 Barnett Civic Leadership Series titled “The Blessings and Burdens of Our History.” McClay, who holds the Libby Blankenship Chair in the History of Liberty at the University of Oklahoma, serves as the director of the Center for the History of Liberty. The event was presented by the Center for Faith and Flourishing and the Ray & Laurine Barnett Civic Leadership Speaker Series.

Student Receives TU-Team8 Cyber Fellowship
Senior Alex Howe received a TU-Team8 Cyber Fellowship. The scholarship covers the tuition for his doctorate program in computer engineering from the University of Tulsa, in addition to a $30,000 per year stipend for four years. TU awards 10 of these fellowships each year. JBU engineering graduates have been selected for this fellowship two years in a row, as Seth Hastings was accepted into the first cohort last year.

Construction Management Students Win Awards
For the fifth year in a row, JBU construction management students took first place at the American Institute of Contractors Ethics Competition, a national construction ethics competition and conference. Senior Andrew Guresky, junior Luke Gumm, senior John Flaugh and junior Elijah Bolyard participated in the event virtually on March 23, and JBU defeated other finalist teams from Texas A&M and University of North Florida.
Senior CM majors also took home several awards in the Regional ASC/TEXO student competition, including first place in the Heavy Civil Division and a third place finish in Design Build Division and Commercial Division. Several students also won individual awards. Marc Woods and Zach Ertel placed as Best Presenters for the Heavy Civil Division (second and third, respectively); Matt Bell placed third Best Presenter for the Design Build Division; and Austin Conner and Kyle Beardsley took first and third, respectively, in the Impromptu Speech Competition.

Club Baseball Team Celebrates Inaugural Season
In March, the brand-new club baseball team, the Talons, played their inaugural series against Kansas State. Fifteen team members played 16 games during their first season and ended with a 5-11 record.

New Endowed Scholarship Honors Marquita Smith
A new endowed scholarship, the Dr. Marquita Smith Endowed Scholarship, has been established for Black and African American students from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Louisiana, Kansas or Missouri. The scholarship honors Smith, who worked at JBU from 2010-2020, and includes opportunities for funding, mentorship and community collaboration — all elements of scholarship and leadership that Smith modeled for her students at JBU. The first scholarship will be awarded in fall.

Walker Foundation $150,000 Scholarship Gift Matched by JBU
The university received a $150,000 grant from The Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation for the creation of the June and Robert J. Loyd Endowed Scholarship in honor of June and Robert J. Loyd, lifelong friends of Pat and Willard Walker from Springdale, Arkansas. The Walkers and Loyds enjoyed attending JBU events together. The new scholarship will be awarded to students from Northwest Arkansas who have financial need, and the cash gift of $150,000 has been matched with an additional $150,000 from JBU.

Communication Students Receive Awards
Communication students received a number of awards this spring from different organizations. Junior Orry Phillips and senior Catherine Nolte were recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists Region 12 2020 Mark of Excellence Awards, with Phillips advancing to the national level. The Evangelical Press Association awarded senior Maria Aguilar fifth place for Student Writer of the Year. The Threefold Advocate staff earned an Award of Excellence for their digital publication and Award of Merit for their print publication. Sixteen additional awards were won in the Arkansas College Media Association Awards including Reporter of the Year for Aguilar, Editor of the Year for Nolte and first place in Newspaper Feature Writing for senior Andrew Mobley.

Student, Professor win Hatfield Prize
Daniel Bennett, Ph.D., and Seth Billingsley were recently awarded The Hatfield Prize. The Hatfield Prize is awarded to three student-faculty pairs from CCCU schools who conduct research on a social policy that impacts the well-being of children, families and communities. For their research project, Bennett and Seth will be exploring food insecurity in Northwest Arkansas and how different faith communities partnered to alleviate hunger. (See story on page 10.)
Athletics News

Women’s Soccer
John Brown pieced together a historic season in coach Kathleen Paulsen’s eighth year, including a perfect run through the Sooner Athletic regular season (9-0-0) and tournament, capturing both titles. Making a fifth appearance in the last eight seasons, JBU was selected to host an NAIA National Championships Opening Round where the Golden Eagles defeated No. 19 Baker University, 4-3, and No. 10 Oklahoma Wesleyan, 2-1, in the semifinals and finals, respectively. The run vaulted JBU to the national championships in Foley, Alabama, where the Golden Eagles fought to a 1-1 draw with No. 8 Central Methodist University, but fell in penalty kicks as a winner needed to be determined.

Finishing the season 14-0-1 (.967), the team, with unprecedented success, was honored with a No. 9 ranking in the postseason NAIA National Coaches’ Poll, setting a new program record. Sophomore Aubrey Mendez and freshman Ryan Winingham were named to the All-America third team – the only time two Golden Eagles have earned the distinction in the same season.

Men’s Soccer
Under the direction of first-year head coach Chris Cole ’87, the Golden Eagles finished the season with a 6-5-1 mark and closed the season in the Sooner Athletic tournament semifinals with a tough 3-2 loss to upstart Central Christian College. After capturing the first win of the season in the fourth match, John Brown found its groove, winning four of its final six regular season contests, including a 1-1 draw at rival and second-ranked Oklahoma Wesleyan in Bartlesville. Sophomore Oscar Carballo and sophomore Jacob Zamarron earned SAC first-team honors, while senior keeper Jens Keemers was selected to the conference’s second team.

Volleyball
Jetting out to a strong 5-1 start, the Golden Eagles pieced together an 11-4 season before suffering an upset in the Sooner Athletic tournament quarterfinals. The squad was headlined by sophomores Jillian Blackman, a libero, and Lauren Cloud, a setter, as the duo racked up All-Sooner Athletic first-team honors before landing on the All-America honorable mention list. Sophomore Ellie Lampton and freshman Savanna Riney, the SAC’s Freshman of the Year runner up, both earned a second-team nod from the conference.

Men’s Basketball
Led by senior All-America honorable mention Densier Carnes, the Golden Eagles ended the campaign at 8-7 and fought their way to the Sooner Athletic tournament semifinals before bowing out at eventual SAC champion, the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma. After a slow start, John Brown found momentum midway through the season – winning seven of its final 10 regular-season contests and extending it into the postseason. Junior guard Ira Perrier was named the Sooner Athletic’s top defensive player of the season, while Carnes and junior Luke Harper both took home All-Conference second-team honors.

Women’s Basketball
Behind a five-game winning streak midseason, the Golden Eagles ended the short campaign with a 5-6 mark and an appearance in the SAC tournament quarterfinals. A year removed from Freshman of the Year honors, sophomore Tarrah Stephens landed on the SAC’s second team, while senior Taylor Fergen, junior Marta Matamala and junior Maddie Altman were given an honorable mention by the conference.

Cross Country / Track & Field
The Golden Eagles are making waves in the inaugural outdoor track and field season. Head coach Scott Schochler has produced a pair of NAIA A Standard qualifiers as junior Allika Pearson and sophomore Will Vail will compete in the national championships in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Pearson’s time of 17:14 in the 5,000 meter...
event marked the first-ever women’s track and field athlete to earn an A Standard mark in program history. Vail, meanwhile, qualified for the national championships with a 7.26 meter long jump.

Earlier in the year, Schochler produced a pair of NAIA National Cross Country Championships qualifiers, and made program history. Senior Ben Martin competed for the third consecutive season at the national championships and posted a time of 26:32 in the 8,000 meter event. Pearson, meanwhile, shattered a program record at the national meet. Pearson won each of the three regular season meets before capturing the top podium spot at the SAC Championships – the first time in program history. Then, the Siloam Springs native ran the 5,000 meter race at the NAIA National Championships in 17:46 – earning fifth place in the field of 326 runners, and the program’s first-ever All-America honoree.

Tennis
The tennis teams returned to the court and under first-year head coach Mike Campbell made a little history. Now competing in postseason play with Heart of America and American Midwest tennis programs, the Golden Eagles were honored with a pair of All-Conference first-team selections in freshman Hudson Dick on the men’s side and senior Sydney Smith on the ladies’ side. Dick compiled a 7-2 record in singles action at the top spot, and was highlighted by a 6-0, 6-4 win over Missouri Valley’s Jacopo Sottocornola, a fellow first-team selection. Smith fought to key victories over Evangel University’s Ana Bjelica – also a first-team selection – and over Southwestern College’s Mari-ana Ochoa, both at the top spot.
Chaplain, New Deans Announced

New Roles Begin July 1

BY JULIE GUMM ’95

Chaplain, Dean of Christian Formation
As chaplain/dean of Christian Formation, Keith Jagger, Ph.D., is responsible for providing leadership for the ongoing spiritual growth of the university community, specifically through the supervision of the chapel program, pastoral ministry to students and staff and leadership for the Office of Christian Formation in the execution of broader campus programming.

Jagger has a doctorate in early Christianity from St. Andrews in Scotland, a master's in New Testament from Asbury Theological Seminary and a bachelor's in religion, classics and music from Augustana College. Keith has served as lead pastor and teaching pastor of Grassroots Church in Ontario since 2016.

“I have always believed deeply in the ability of Christian universities to shape inspirational disciples who are also influential professionals,” said Jagger. “I am excited to join JBU in grounding a new generation of young people in a lifestyle of worship, helping JBU remain one of the most vibrant, unified, spiritually formative environments you can find and helping JBU shape thousands of leading citizens for God’s kingdom worldwide.”

Dean of Residence Life
As dean of Residence Life, Juan Rodriguez will manage all aspects of undergraduate residence life, including supervision of hall staff, hall programming, housing processes, communication of community expectations, management of the campus conduct process and student activities.

Rodriguez has a master's in leadership & higher education from JBU, a master's in mechanical engineering from the University of Tulsa, and a bachelor's in engineering from JBU. In 2016, he joined the engineering faculty of JBU and in 2020 took on the additional role of associate coordinator of diversity.

“I am honored to be able to serve JBU students in building a Christ-centered community,” said Rodriguez. “I pray we continue moving toward a community driven by the gospel so we can know God more and love each other better.”

Dean of Student Care
As dean of student care, Emily Moore is responsible for traditional undergraduate student care, including managing the Student Counseling Center and collaborative oversight of Health Services, the Career Development Center and orientation programming.

Moore has served as the interim dean of student care/director of residence life for the past year. Moore has a bachelor's in psychology from the University of Tulsa and a master's in marriage & family therapy and community counseling from JBU. Moore's 25 years of experience in the mental health field, include serving in a variety of private practice settings and providing care to students as a contract counselor for the JBU Student Counseling Center for 10 years before becoming the center's director in 2018.

“I’m excited to accept the dean of student care position and continue working to ensure students’ needs are met at every level from the moment they walk on to campus for orientation to the time they transition into the workforce or graduate school,” said Moore. “Given my training and the unique pressures of this pandemic year, I’m actively planning how we will be working as a community to cultivate resilience and growth emotionally, psychologically and in our individual relationships with Christ.”
Committed to diversity and inclusion, John Brown University has recently implemented several initiatives to welcome students, faculty and staff from multicultural backgrounds to form a community that reflects the richness of the kingdom of God.

From establishing the Office of Diversity in fall 2020 to providing funding and mentorship for Black and African American students through the Dr. Marquita Smith Endowed Scholarship announced in spring 2021, these efforts acknowledge the significance diversity has on a university campus that enrolls students from all over the world.

As part of this mission, the JBU Admissions Office established Creciendo Juntos, or “growing together” translated from Spanish. Creciendo Juntos aims to connect college Latino students with high school Latino students in the Northwest Arkansas region to help them through the college admissions process. Currently, 11 JBU students are participating in the program.

Admissions counselor Marcos Gutierrez, who focuses on recruiting students in Benton County and Washington County, leads the initiative. Latino students at JBU organize events, touch base with the Latino community in NWA and offer mentorship to high school students who desire to pursue higher education at JBU.

“What we want to do is grow together as a community,” Gutierrez said. “And what I mean by that is the community as a whole, but we believe that growth happens when we’re interacting and in relationships with other people that we wouldn’t otherwise know all that well.”

Nearly 18% of the population in JBU’s region is Hispanic, according to a report by Northwest Arkansas Council. In Siloam Springs, that percentage is over 23%, per a Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year estimate.

“We want to continue to grow the Hispanic population at JBU, because right now it is about 8%,” Gutierrez explained.

For Hispanic students in the United States, several barriers in their educational experience might discourage them from pursuing a college degree, especially at private universities. These disadvantages often stem from having immigrant and lower socioeconomic status and a lack of knowledge about how the higher education system works. Creciendo Juntos seeks to eliminate these obstacles and equip Latino students to smoothly transition from high school to college life.

“I was a commuter student at JBU, and I loved my experience here, which is why I want as many other students as possible to come and be here,” Gutierrez said. “With my role as an admissions counselor, there are several students that came in similar ways [struggling to feel welcome and to succeed in school].”

While Creciendo Juntos provides specialized guidance to Latino students on campus, the program is more than guidance — it’s a launchpad for students’ futures.

“When I think of our students that are in the minority or are first-generation [college students], I don’t see them as being less capable or not being able to handle the transition, because some of those challenges of leaving home and learning what it means to be your own person outside of home is what everyone faces,” Gutierrez said. “It’s more about coming alongside them and bringing awareness about what’s available to them.”

Although the pandemic slowed down the process of visiting schools and recruiting students, it did not discourage the Creciendo Juntos team. They adapted to the challenges and safely hosted online events and workshops to alleviate concerns about the admissions process.

“We just want to get into schools, talk with students, build relationships, and then through that, hopefully grow more interest in JBU,” Gutierrez said. “I have felt like we’ve been really well supported [by the institution] so far.”
Food Insecurity in Northwest Arkansas

Senior Project Examines Issue

BY GRACE LINDQUIST ’21

Senior Seth Billingsley created an innovative research project in which he observed and processed food insecurity in Arkansas. Billingsley, who majored in political science, international business and economics at JBU, partnered with Daniel Bennett, Ph.D., department chair and associate professor of political science, to research the project.

“Arkansas is second in the U.S. for food insecurity,” Billingsley said. Arkansas has both economic instability and various cultures, including the largest population of Marshallese outside of the Marshall Islands. These two factors are some of the most significant reasons why food insecurity is a problem in Arkansas.

One outside study suggested that 20% of Arkansans were food insecure at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Feeding America, Arkansans need an estimated $244,364,000 to meet their food needs.

According to Billingsley, Arkansas makes $1.60 for every $1 spent on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. In addition, he found that SNAP is restrictive and does not allow participants to have savings accounts. These factors create a program that is difficult to leave and benefits the state that provides them.

“All public policy can alleviate or worsen the issue,” said Billingsley. “This project has highlighted my passion for justice.”

Billingsley’s favorite part of the project has been the qualitative research, interviewing local church leaders, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to see how they combat food insecurity. He also interviewed people receiving aid.

“It has been a gift to step into someone else’s shoes and see how they see the issue,” he said.

The project received the Hatfield Prize from the Center for Public Justice in Washington, D.C. The Hatfield Prize is awarded every year to three faculty-student pairs from Council for Christian Colleges & Universities that research local social policy and how it affects children, family and the community as a whole. The project takes the entire spring semester to complete and has three stages: discovery stage, framing and engagement.

Billingsley heads home to the Dallas metroplex area after graduation. He hopes to spend the summer doing his favorite hobby: rehabilitating birds of prey. He is waitlisted at Columbia Law School and hopes to study environmental advocacy if he gets the opportunity to attend.
Pray for JBU

One of the ways you can support JBU is through your prayers. Here are some specific requests for the next six months:

**New Students** - Pray for the 200-300 new students that will attend Eagle Base Camp on June 12 (formerly known as Early Registration). We hope this will affirm their choice of JBU and that they will meet new friends to ease the transition into college.

**Graduates** - Pray for wisdom as our graduating seniors bring their JBU time to a close and move out into the world as God leads. Pray for our Walton Scholar graduates as they return to their home countries and take what they’ve learned here to bless the people in their communities. And finally, pray for all of our grads, that they will find appropriate employment for this next season of life.

**All Students** - Pray that summer will be a time of rest after a long and busy year. Pray for those that are hunting for summer jobs or perhaps taking summer classes.

**New Faculty** - We have several new faculty joining us this fall, many moving their families to Siloam Springs from other states. Pray for those transitions. Specifically we ask that you pray for our new chaplain, Keith Jagger, as he and his family move from Ontario. We would also appreciate your prayers for our new computer science professors Justus Selwyn, Ph.D., and Hepsiba Selwyn, Ph.D., and their high school son who are scheduled to move to Siloam from India this summer. Pray that all of the necessary paperwork and logistics come together for their travel.

**New Staff** – We will welcome a number of new staff hires to campus over the next few months. Pray also for staff who are transitioning to new positions within the university, that they will learn their new positions with confidence and joy.

**Rest** - Pray for a summer of rest for our faculty after a long and unusual year.

**President Pollard and Cabinet** – Please keep our campus administration in your prayers as they consider what COVID-19 protocols will entail for the summer and the fall. Pray for all of our executive leaders who have carried great burdens through this pandemic season, that they would find ways to rest and recuperate through the summer.

**Admissions Staff** - Pray for all the admissions counselors as they work throughout the summer with their incoming students. They will also be gearing up for a busy season of travel and recruiting in September and October.

**Financial Aid Office** - Pray for the team as they continue to work with new and returning students to help them with the financial costs of attending JBU.

**University Advancement Staff** - Praise God for an amazing year of fundraising. Despite the challenges of the year, more than $25 million was given or pledged to JBU, the most in any single fiscal year. Pray that the university will reach its yearly goal for the JBU Scholarship Fund by June 30.
The Generous Legacy of an Oil Magnate

Chapman Trusts Provide Lasting Support for University

BY AMANDA SORENSEN ’09

World War II had ended victoriously for the Allies, but the threat of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union was looming. With this historical backdrop, James A. Chapman sat down with his most trusted advisors to plan for his vast estate.

The Oil Magnate

James A. Chapman was a hard-working entrepreneur who built his business through middle America’s great new asset: oil. Chapman was the co-founder of McMan Oil Company. In 1916, McMan Oil Company sold for $39 million. Then Chapman and his partners created McMan Oil and Gas Company, which was later purchased for $20 million by the Standard Oil Company. Because of this investment in oil and gas and Chapman’s excellent business acumen, the Chapmans were one of the richest families in America by the end of World War II.

Living near Tulsa, Oklahoma, with his wife Leta, Chapman was a philanthropist throughout his lifetime, giving away an estimated $75 million on the condition that he remain entirely anonymous. While his early benefactors never publicly revealed their source, Chapman earned the nickname “Mr. Anonymous.”

In 1949, when he set up the James A. and Leta M. Chapman Trusts, he insisted that his fortune should benefit others long after his death. Chapman’s trusted friend and lawyer William Bell had the idea to provide enough funds to enable Chapman’s chosen beneficiaries to think strategically. Chapman passed away in 1966 and Leta in 1974. It was only after their deaths that their generosity became widely known.

Chapman believed in investing in the community near his home and promised his assets to higher education, health care and research. One of the four original college benefactors of the trust was a small Christian school in Northwest Arkansas —
John Brown University. Located only an hour from Tulsa, the university and the Chapmans formed a relationship that would last for decades.

The Evangelist

JBU was founded in 1919 with the mission to provide quality Christian education for students with academic potential but without the economic means to pursue an education. Founder John E. Brown Sr. was also an evangelist and purchased several radio stations to help spread the gospel across the country.

In 1951, JBU purchased the KOME radio station in Tulsa as part of Brown’s commitment to spreading the message of salvation through the airwaves. The passionate evangelist’s radio program sparked Chapman’s interest though he never met Brown in person. Brown’s son, John Brown Jr., who served as president of JBU from 1949-1978, started calling on Chapman at his Tulsa office and gave him frequent updates about the work JBU was doing in higher education.

The Trusts and the University

The university and its students inspired Chapman to begin giving financial support to JBU, and he eventually made plans for continued support in his and Leta’s trusts. Although he never attended college himself, Chapman believed that investing in higher education was an investment in the future well-being of a community.

Chapman’s trusted advisors from the Rogers and Bell law firm would serve as JBU board members representing the trusts. More than a decade after the trusts were established, JBU applied for accreditation. During this process, the stability and reputation of the Chapman Trusts helped strengthen JBU’s position.

More than 70 years later, the Chapman Trusts continue to profoundly impact JBU and its mission to provide higher education to generations of students.

In that time, the Chapman Trusts have generously given over $100 million to JBU. Not only have the trusts provided funds for general operating expenses, but they have provided for many of JBU’s building and remodeling projects.

“The Chapman Trusts help JBU keep tuition low so that JBU can focus on providing quality education for their students,” said Sharon Bell, daughter of William Bell, former trusts manager and former member of the JBU Board of Trustees. “The trusts were able to help JBU, to keep hold of its mission to put Christ over all as it grew to be a top-tier Christian college.”

The Chapman Trusts are now worth more than a billion dollars. JBU’s annual distribution exceeds $3.5 million.

“During difficult and trying times, the stability of the Chapman Trusts has allowed JBU to continue its mission with great success,” said John Brown III, JBU president emeritus.

“We always have, and will continue to, focused on prudent long-term investments and stewardship to ensure the trusts provide critical resources to the university today and into the future,” said Jeff Sanders, managing director of private wealth, representing Bank of Oklahoma, trustee of the trusts.

Creating a sustained legacy that provided perpetual resources to JBU was critically important to the Chapman family, according to Fred Dorwart, co-trustee of the Leta McFarlin Chapman Memorial Trust.

The Chapman Trusts have seen JBU through some of its hardest years and have helped JBU continue to provide Christian higher education for many students who could otherwise not afford college.

While the year 2020 has brought unique challenges, JBU continues to be thankful for the Chapman Trusts’ tremendous impact on JBU and its students.
David Burney, director of financial aid, has been on the campus of John Brown University since he was a freshman in 2004. Being an integral part of a student’s development journey is what he finds most rewarding about his role in the financial aid office, and he continues to volunteer with the music and theatre department as a staff member. He finds a way to balance his time between work and being a husband to his wife, Emily, and a dad to his two toddlers, and he shares how it is perfectly fine to be caught in the act of being human.
WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST REWARDING ABOUT YOUR ROLE IN THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE?

Most people would think that the most rewarding part about working in the financial aid office would be watching a student graduate – helping people achieve their goals and dreams. Yes! This is a motivating factor that contributes to me getting out of bed in the morning. However, the most rewarding part is being able to witness the moment when students believe in themselves. Being an integral part in someone’s development journey is humbling and truly special.

HOW HAS FINANCIAL AID HAD TO ADAPT BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT COVID-19 HAD ON PROSPECTIVE AND CURRENT STUDENTS?

We have been fortunate that a majority of the financial aid process was already held online pre-COVID. We did, however, have a somewhat large learning curve in learning to facilitate the financial aid process, which is very customer-service oriented, while working from home. We have also had to adapt to increased workload that COVID-19 has caused for our office. Over the past year, we have facilitated the disbursement of the Fill the Gap Fund (thanks to MANY donors) as well as the JBU At Home program along with multiple Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund distributions from the federal government.

WHAT ARE TWO THINGS THIS LAST YEAR TAUGHT YOU?

First and foremost, I have learned that it is perfectly fine when you are “caught in the act of being human.” The hours have been long and the stress has been high. Some days there is frustration and some days there are tears. As a society, we are encouraged to hide our emotions because they are uncalled for or inappropriate. I believe as Christians living in community with one another, we are called to engage with the “whole” person. I have been extremely blessed by friends and co-workers who have stopped to pray or to provide Diet Dr. Pepper. It is a blessing to be truly seen by others.

WHAT MADE YOU PURSUE A MASTER’S IN HIGHER EDUCATION?

According to the StrengthsFinder assessment, “learner” is one of my top strengths. Based on my incredible experience at JBU as a student, I had an interest in learning more about higher education from an administrative perspective.

HOW DO YOU JUGGLE BEING A HUSBAND, DAD TO TWO TODDLERS AND WORK?

To be completely honest, some days are better than others. This past year has been extremely difficult, but I have learned to manage somewhat through the art of practicing presence. When I am at work, I work to be present with my co-workers and focus on the task at hand. When I am home, I focus my presence on my wife and my kiddos. In consideration of everything that has happened this past year, there have been a lot of sacrifices on both parts. There are some days where the hours are long and the to-do list at work seems endless. My family patiently supports me through the ups and the downs. Same with work: my team in the financial aid office understands when I must pop out for a recital or leave early for a birthday party.

WHAT’S A BOOK (BESIDES THE BIBLE) THAT HAS CHANGED YOUR LIFE AND HOW?

I would highly recommend Necessary Endings by Dr. Henry Cloud. Through the book, I was reminded of the parable of “The Vine and the Branches” as described in John 15 in the fact there are times when pruning is necessary. When done well, “necessary endings” allow us to reduce pain and even foster growth. When stretching ourselves too thin, we do not function as our best – this can result in lost opportunities or frustration.

YOU WERE INVOLVED IN MUSIC AND THEATRE AS A STUDENT. WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO VOLUNTEER WITH THE PRODUCTIONS AND WHAT DO YOU DO?

I choose to continue to participate for a couple of reasons. My job, surprising though it may be, can be somewhat detail focused and stressful. It is nice to use the creative side of my brain – it helps me relax. Also, I had the privilege of performing with Liesl Dromi (the current director of musical theatre) during our college days, and she is incredible to work with. I created the dance choreography for Hello Dolly and most recently I have designed the hair/wigs and makeup for Big Fish and Little Women. A fun fact: Liesl tries to fit a “cameo appearance” for me into every show, so there is no telling where you will see me next!

Read the expanded Staff Spotlight at jbu.edu/news/articles.
GOLDEN EAGLES: The women's soccer team gathers midfield before the start of its game against University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma. The team captured the SAC Championship title.
Expanding Academic Excellence

New Majors Offer New Opportunities for Students

By Caroline White '21
The last year, as everybody knows, has reshaped the look of our lives. Due to concerns over the virus, many universities had to rethink the nature of college with an increased reliance on remote learning. While JBU was fortunate to return to face-to-face instruction in the fall, online capabilities implemented out of necessity during the last three semesters have perhaps led to increased openness to new ideas about college coursework.

In reality, JBU was already beginning to explore expanding academic offerings in a low-cost manner without compromising quality. About two years ago, the university joined a platform called Acadeum, which allows colleges to share online courses. Among those participating universities are dozens of institutions that belong to the Council of Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU), of which JBU is a member. As a result, JBU students can take core courses from those institutions and some major-specific courses through Bluefield College (Virginia) and Columbia International University (South Carolina).

This class-sharing model is beneficial to all involved as it allows JBU to support a more comprehensive array of small majors and minors. A student in a small program can take the bulk of her classes at JBU, add two online courses through Acadeum, and receive a degree certification she wouldn’t have been able to access otherwise.

Ed Ericson, Ph.D., vice president of academic affairs, says Acadeum has transformed how the university approaches new programs. Previously, when an idea for a new program was proposed, the administration had to weigh the costs of creating the program with its expected success rate.

Some programs, like nursing, which launched in 2014, have considerable startup costs. For example, adding the Health Sciences Building, necessary lab, and teaching equipment like the high-fidelity patient simulators cost $6 million. Generous donors jumped-started the program efforts with a $6 million gift, and University Advancement raised an additional $6 million to endow the program and pay for the continued upkeep of the building and equipment upgrades. The cost of faculty and staff to support the program becomes part of the university’s yearly operating expenses paid for by tuition.

But with Acadeum, Ericson said JBU can add programs without hiring several program faculty upfront. “By adding a few courses from another CCCU institution, we can trial new things without putting undue strain on our resources,” Ericson said.

Acadeum allowed JBU to add majors in criminal justice, cybersecurity, outdoor leadership with wilderness medicine, and humanitarian and disaster relief, all of which rely on partnerships with CCCU colleges like Bluefield.

“Students still want the traditional face-to-face environment, but they want more flexibility within it,” says Ericson, responding to questions about what college will look like in the future. “I believe that we can be more flexible at the margins to preserve the main things about campus and college life.”

Now that students and professors have experimented with distance-learning protocols and virtual class solutions, the academic landscape has changed. For example, student-athletes out of town for a tournament can connect to their classes remotely, and professors who can’t make it to campus in severe weather can avoid canceling class. With everyone more comfortable with some level of online learning, these new programs which depend on Acadeum can open more and more doors for JBU students.

In addition to the partnerships available through Acadeum, new programs at JBU are often developed when gifts are made to support program costs or when a new major can be added within a department because existing faculty or adjunct faculty can teach the new courses.

These cost-efficient ideals have added eight new majors to the university’s programs since Fall 2020.
To learn more, scan here or visit jbu.edu/majors/business
The Soderquist College of Business (SCOB) has added three new majors — economics, integrated marketing communications (IMC) and data analytics, bringing its programs to 10.

While market research is standard practice before launching programs, the business department takes that research to another level. Ryan Ladner, Ph.D., dean of Soderquist College of Business, explains that ideas for new majors begin during conversations with the business advisory board. Ladner pitches programs and solicits trends from the advisory board, comprised of industry professionals and JBU business alumni. Because of their places in the business world, advisors can clue professors into things companies are looking for, helping to make students more marketable once they graduate. New majors also come from student demand.

In 2020, SCOB launched a major in data analytics, helped mainly by an $8 million grant from the Walton Charitable Support Foundation. The grant used $2 million to create an endowed chair for the program, and the remaining $6 million created an endowed scholarship for students in the data analytics and computer science programs.

Additionally, JBU received a $60,000 grant from The Schmieding Foundation to create The Schmieding Foundation Finance and Data Analytics Lab within SCOB.

Data analytics is a booming field. Graduate admissions reports say that analytics students are the most in demand of all business graduates, and 70% of employers surveyed, including local companies like Walmart, JB Hunt, Simmons Foods and DaySpring, plan to add more analytics positions in the coming years.

LindaVytlacil, Ph.D., former vice president for data science/global data & analytics platforms for Walmart Labs, was hired for the academic chair position.

Randall Waldron, Ph.D., teaches micro- and macroeconomics, among other things, and has recently been one of three professors developing the PPE minor (philosophy, politics and economics). The addition of Vytlacil, who has experience in econometrics, provided the missing piece needed for the addition of an economics major.

“We’ve always had a very strong minor in economics,” Ladner said. “And we’ve always had students requesting an economics degree.”

The new integrated marketing communications (IMC) major begins in fall 2021 but has been in development for a few years now, Ladner reports. The business department consistently sees marketing students minoring in graphic design or interested in public relations, and IMC will allow students to consolidate those interests in a single major.

Along with marketing classes, IMC majors will take courses in design, public relations and data analytics. An IMC graduate could be “a one-stop-shop for a small business,” Ladner says. However, the major also sets up graduates for larger-scale marketing jobs, coordinating a company’s message across different marketing platforms. With the 2021 closing of the communications major, IMC offers a multifaceted degree to appeal to various students.
Greg Robinson, Ph.D., associate professor of outdoor leadership ministries, says the decision to add an OLM major with wilderness medicine came out of conversations with JBU nursing majors. Nursing has a higher program transfer rate than many majors, and often students who begin in the program find themselves exploring other options. However, Robinson said many of those students still want “a helping option,” and the OLMWM program provides just that.

Compared to the original OLM major, wilderness medicine focuses less on the ministry coursework and more on advanced medical training. While outdoor leadership majors graduate with a Wilderness First Responder certification, wilderness medicine majors will have the higher-level Wilderness EMT certification. The more specialized medical training will give graduates a leg up in becoming a wilderness firefighter, a park ranger, an emergency responder, etc. — places where just an OLM degree might not be enough. These skill-heavy, technically challenging career paths are difficult to enter. Individuals who don’t have access to a program like JBU’s OLMWM would have to seek out some combination of emergency medicine and outdoor training on their own — a daunting task for anyone.

Robinson’s initiative to respond to an industry need benefits both the university and students nationwide. There are few OLM programs in the country, and JBU is the main program in the Midwest.

“Outdoor leadership allows us to recruit across the nation because there are so few programs in the U.S.,” said Robinson.
The new humanitarian and disaster relief major is another offering that will set JBU apart from other universities. Like OLMWM, this major also falls under the Bible department, and Robinson is excited about JBU’s expansion into this field. The humanitarian and disaster relief major enhances the university’s presence in Christian higher education and meets a need in a growing area.

Humanitarian programs are on the rise, and the demand for disaster responders remains steady. Industry reports say that there will be a need for at least 70,000 workers in the next 10 years. Many of those will be front-line workers, but there is significant opportunity for career growth in field positions both in government or nongovernmental organizations.

Wheaton College, a CCCU school in Wheaton, Illinois, recently introduced a master’s degree in humanitarian and disaster leadership. Robinson says he started considering the disaster-relief sector when the enrollment in Wheaton’s program jumped to 50 students in two years.

“Millennials and Gen-Z students have a real bent for not just understanding but also doing something,” Robinson says.

These generational leanings, combined with other changes in the world of missions, are changing the face of mission work. Instead of going into missions with, metaphorically, the shirt on their back and a Bible in their hand, missionaries are going out with a specific skill set. For example, they might start a business or work an engineering job and build their relational ministry off that work. Such skill-based mission work integrates naturally into JBU’s “Head, Heart, Hand” ethos.

Humanitarian and disaster relief students will graduate with emergency medical training as their tangible skill, though nursing or construction management experience can be substituted. The field also wants cross-cultural understanding, which JBU students gain through intercultural studies courses.

Students graduating with a humanitarian and disaster relief degree could pursue a variety of career paths. For example, they might focus on refugee work, disaster relief, human trafficking or more long-term community development — creating infrastructure and rebuilding after the crisis.

As the approach to mission work evolves in the coming years, this new program will allow JBU to stay at the forefront of development.
Like the SCOB, the engineering department has an advisory board that gives feedback on what’s happening in the industry and the engineering curriculum. The Engineering Advisory Board helps to ensure that students graduate with the technical knowledge, hands-on experience and soft skills they need to fill spaces in the profession. They are also instrumental in recommending new programs to explore.

In fall 2020, JBU added an undergraduate degree in cybersecurity. It provides a natural funnel into the master’s program added in 2018 in response to industry trends. For example, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a 32% growth rate in the cybersecurity industry between 2018-2028, with a median salary of $98,350.

Cybersecurity is one of the majors supported by the partnership with Bluefield College, nationally recognized as one of 15 Cyber Centers of Excellence. Using the Acadeum platform, JBU students will take 26 of the required 47 credit hours of cybersecurity courses through Bluefield’s online classes.

Computer science launched as a new major in fall 2020 and was designed uniquely with 12 emphasis options, ranging from gaming/web development to cybersecurity and bioinformatics. JBU received $2 million to endow a faculty position. Justus Selwyn, Ph.D., will join the faculty in August in that role.

Ted Song, Ph.D., chair of the engineering, computer science and cybersecurity departments, expects these new degrees to be a fantastic recruiting tool for the engineering department.

Staying true to the founder’s mission of keeping Christian higher education affordable, JBU diligently pursues ways to expand our excellent academic programs via partnerships and strategic additions, always watching for developing trends and industry needs.
JBU’s admissions team tracks prospective students’ interests and requests, and criminal justice has been topping the lists for years, reports Daniel Bennett, Ph.D., associate professor of political science.

Market trends have strongly informed the introduction of a criminal justice major. The growing demand for criminal justice is reflected by more than just the admissions department’s findings — in 2019, Forbes reported a 73% increase in homeland security and law enforcement graduates over the last 10 years. As a result, American students seek out criminal justice programs that they can now find at JBU.

JBU’s criminal justice program is an interdisciplinary major, drawing from law, psychology, history and political science. Students will take three criminal justice classes from Bluefield College, which draws experienced professors from Washington, D.C., and the federal agencies nearby.

Since it started in fall 2020, the criminal justice major has drawn students — approximately nine current undergraduates have transferred into or added the program — which seems to bode well for the future of the major. Graduates of the program are primed for careers in law or law enforcement.

An invaluable aspect of JBU’s criminal justice program, Bennett says, is the university’s emphasis on a whole-person approach — “Head, Heart, Hand.” As a result, students learn the academic knowledge and practical skills required for the profession from a Christian worldview with high ethical standards. This integrated education will separate JBU’s graduates from those of other criminal justice programs.
Academic Programs

**Bible, Religion & Christian Ministry**
- Biblical and Theological Studies
- Christian Ministry and Formation

*9 Emphases Available:*
- Care & Counseling
- Chaplaincy
- Child & Family Ministry
- Christian Schooling
- Pastoral Church Leadership
- Parachurch Ministry
- Worship
- Youth Ministry
- Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Intercultural Studies

**Business**
- Accounting
- Data Analytics
- Economics
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Finance
- General Business
- International Business
- Integrated Marketing Communications
- Management
- Marketing

**Computer Science**
- Computer Science
- Cybersecurity

**Construction Management**
- Construction Management

**Engineering**
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

**Education**
- Education Studies
- Elementary Education
- English Education
- Mathematics Education
- Social Studies Education

**Humanities & Languages**
- Criminal Justice
- English
- History
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Pre-Law Track
- Spanish

**Mathematics**
- Mathematics

**Music & Theatre**
- Integrated Music Studies
- Music: Applied (Organ, Piano or Voice)
- Music Education: K-12 Certification
- Worship Arts

**Nursing & Kinesiology**
- Nursing
- Kinesiology

**Natural Science**
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Pre-Health Professions Program (Pre-Med)

**Behavioral Sciences**
- Family and Human Services
- Psychology

**Visual Arts**
- Art and Illustration
- Digital Cinema
- Graphic Design
- Photography
- Visual Effects

**Online Undergrad**

**Business Administration**
- Liberal Arts

*2 Emphases Available:*
- Politics & Ethics
- Communications
- Organizational Leadership
- Psychology

**Graduate**

**Business**
- Master of Business Administration
- M.B.A., Cybersecurity
- M.B.A., Design Thinking & Innovation
- M.B.A., Healthcare Administration
- M.B.A., International Business
- M.B.A., Leadership
- M.B.A., Market Research & Consumer Insights
- M.S., Design Thinking & Innovation
- M.S., Leadership
- M.S., Outdoor Program Management

**Cybersecurity**
- M.S., Cybersecurity

**Counseling**
- M.S., Counseling
- M.Ed., School Counseling

**Education/Higher Education**
- Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T)
- Master of Arts in Education Studies
- M.Ed., School Counseling
- M.Ed., Special Education
- M.A., Higher Education

**Additional Options**
- Building-Level Administrative Licensure
- Post-Master’s Credit Fulfillment Track
- School Counseling License Endorsement
- Special Education Resource K-6, 7-12 Endorsement

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NEXT STEPS

Class of 2021 Heads to Graduate Programs, New Careers

SERENA ADRIAN
Electrical Engineering
Assistant Electrical Engineer, Burns and McDonnell Engineering

DANIELLE ARGUETA
Accounting & International Business
Economic Development & Diversity Coordinator — Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce

JOHNATHAN CLEGHORN
Communication
Arkansas Fellowship Program — Dillard’s

COBY DOLLOFF
English
University of St. Andrews in Scotland — Theology and the Arts program

GRACE DUNN
Elementary Education
Second Grade Teacher, Prairie Point Elementary School (MO)

JOHN FLAUGH
Construction Management
Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

EVAN FOLKER
Management
Supplier, Walmart

AVEREE GUMM
Psychology & Spanish
Qualified Behavioral Health Provider for Springdale Schools, Ozark Guidance Center

LEA HART
Psychology
George Fox University — Doctorate of Clinical, Psychology program
ALEX HOWE  
Engineering  
TU-Team8 Cyber Fellowship

MORGAN HUGHES  
Nursing  
Cardiac Neuro Nurse, Mercy Hospital

LUKE LAMPTON  
Management  
Business Intelligence Consultant, Solve

OLIVIA LAWLER  
Biology  
Stowers Institute for Medical Research — Biology Ph.D. Program

SCOTT LIGHTBOURN  
Accounting  
Corporate Accounting, Tyson Foods

CATHARINE NOLTE  
Communication  
Reporter, Southwest Times Record

HG PARK  
Intercultural Studies  
South Korean Civil Service

KARYNA SPENCE  
Intercultural Studies  
University of Nebraska Omaha — Master’s in Social Work

JACK STOCKTON  
Management  
Arkansas Fellowship Program — Rock Dental Brands

JENNA TASSY  
Elementary Education  
Sixth Grade Teacher, Jean Alexis Kuislin Christian Academy in Ti Rivyè, Haiti

CAROLINE WHITE  
English & History  
Royal College of Art in London — Master’s in History of Design

BRENDAN WILLIAMS  
Family & Human Services  
University of Texas at Dallas — Cognition and Neuroscience Ph.D. program
SCIENCE LESSONS:
VIROLOGIST HELPS MAKE INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE

BY AVEREE GUMM ’21

Jillian (Heidlauf) Carmichael started her undergraduate studies at JBU with what she calls “med school blinders.” Growing up she was told that if she loved science and people, then the natural career choice was to be a doctor.

It was only during her last year when she took Introduction to Virology with Joel Funk, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, that Carmichael considered a different path with her biology degree.

“It brought together everything that I liked about science,” Carmichael said, “In terms of my interest level for the topic matter I was interested in, virology checked all those boxes.”

Carmichael graduated in 2011 with her bachelor’s degree in biology and took a year to explore her options for graduate school. In July of 2012, she married Chris Carmichael ’11, also a JBU biology graduate, and moved to Hershey, Pennsylvania, to start her Ph.D. program in biomedical sciences with a specialty in virology at Pennsylvania State College of Medicine.

In her Ph.D. program, Carmichael spent six and a half years “learning how to be a scientist” by researching the herpes simplex virus.

Carmichael had her first child, Lila, now 7, during her third semester in the program and her second child, Lennox, now 4, during her fifth year.

Having kids shaped the way she experienced graduate school, and she was grateful for the support of her supervisor and colleagues offered.

Carmichael said her science background helps her be more comfortable with the unknown.

“Grad school is all about learning how to think, how to ask questions, how to reason and what to do when your hypothesis is wrong — because it’s usually wrong,” Carmichael said.

Her experience helped her realize she was okay not
having all the answers both in science and in life.

After receiving her doctorate, Carmichael admitted she was not quite ready to give up research. So, in April 2019, she started a postdoctoral fellowship at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai working in the microbiology department studying emerging pathogens.

This new opportunity meant a move to New York City for Carmichael and her family — a big change.

It was not too long after arriving in NYC that COVID-19 became a conversation in her scientific community.

“Early January, we were all talking about it, like, ‘What could this be?’” Carmichael said. “Then they released the sequence in mid-January that it was a novel, new coronavirus.”

The pandemic grew over the next few months, and life in NYC began to shut down. The kids’ school and day care closed, Chris started working his physical therapy job remotely, and Jillian was “a virologist stuck at home in the middle of a pandemic.”

“I felt like I wasn’t contributing at all,” Carmichael admitted, “so what I opted to do was to start a science blog.”

With the panic and questions surrounding a global pandemic, Carmichael saw a need to help make information about the virus accessible to non-scientists. She wrote articles about what viruses are and how they work, and asked her colleagues to contribute as well.

Carmichael also noted that some of the most important science communication happened in one-on-one conversations.

“I may be the only scientist that somebody knows. I’m probably the only virologist that a lot of people know.”
Gunnar Shaffer ’14, the new young alumni representative to the JBU Board of Trustees, spent his time at and after JBU leading by example. He hopes to use his engineering, economics and ministry backgrounds to serve the board and the students well.

Shaffer graduated with a bachelor’s in engineering with a concentration in renewable energy. Some of the highlights from his time at JBU include getting to know professors and finding opportunities to improve the campus.

“My first job as a work-study (student) was taking out the trash,” said Shaffer. “I remember taking out the trash and recyclables in Dr. Pollard’s office every day, and I never dreamed that I would be asked to be on the board.”

After JBU, Shaffer went to the University of Oldenburg in Germany to earn his master’s in renewable energy power systems.

“At that time ISIS was persecuting Christians, burning churches and creating refugees, and here I was at the front lines of that with a Christian background,” said Shaffer. “John Brown had prepared me for this.”

One Sunday, Shaffer approached an Iranian man at the international church and conversed with him using Google translate. The man was baptized the next week and became a leader in the church.

Shaffer moved back to Arkansas in 2016 and works as a power system engineer for the bulk electric system at Southwest Power Pool. He rents rooms in his house to six international students, where he can live life with them and shred misconceptions about Christians — an idea inspired by JBU’s Chicago mission trip that Shaffer attended as a student in 2013.

When JBU was looking for a new board member, Shaffer’s name was mentioned for his servant leadership, dedication to Christian values and desire to give. He was excited to accept the board position because he wants to “give back to John Brown all that it gave to me.”

Shaffer wants to be a voice for students during his time on the Board of Trustees.

“I want to understand your concerns and what you love about your major,” he said.

His life mottos summarize Shaffer’s personal goals for his work with the board. First, “you have to grow where you are planted. God puts you in specific places to do specific things.” His second motto is “gather the stones,” a reference to the idea of changing misconceptions about Christians from nonbelievers, found in 1 Corinthians 3.
Alumni Updates


Haley Marie Keith ’14 was named as a Featured Honoree on the Forbes 30 under 30 List in Manufacturing and Industry. Two years after graduating from JBU, Haley Marie and her husband, Kevin, founded MITO Material Solutions.


Alison Arant ’05, ’07 co-published the book “Reconsidering Flannery O’Connor.” Arant is associate professor and department chair in English at Wagner College.

Steve Caldwell ’14, project engineer for Turner Construction, completed construction of SoFi stadium, home of the Los Angeles Rams and Chargers and host site for the 2023 College Football Playoff, Super Bowl LVI and 2028 Olympic Games ceremonies.

Dawson Marquette ’15 graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary in December 2020 with his Master of Theology degree. His area of study was Hebrew and Cognate Studies with an additional emphasis in Old Testament History.

Cherie Nichols ’95 has been published in a book called “Stories of Roaring Faith, Volume 5,” a faith-based story on trials and tribulations. It is available at roaringlamb.org/store and Amazon.

Roy Englebrecht ’67 was featured in Entrepreneur magazine in the article “How This Fight Club Entrepreneur’s $50,000 Investment Turned Into $1 Million.” (http://entm.ag/s0y)

Mike ’79 and Teresa Myers ’81 celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on May 31. They have two sons, Stephen and Paul, and two granddaughters, Audri (8) and Averi (2).

Heidi Paulec ’97 recently published the book “Abiding Light” which was edited by Josh Johnson ’00 as well as promoted by several other JBU grads. (heidipaulec.com)

Mark Bowling ’89 was named vice president of security response services at ExtraHop. He has experience investigating and responding to cyberattacks for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Education.

Be featured in the Brown Bulletin! Submit your professional and family news to jbu.edu/alumni/magazine/news/.
Our upcoming engagement campaign will compile a unique oral history archive, uniting JBU alumni across generations, professions, geography and life experiences.

We have partnered with Publishing Concepts (PCI) to help collect stories from as many alumni as possible and produce the JBU Oral History Project.

By sharing your memory, you’ll ensure that the rich history of JBU will be preserved for generations to come.

PCI will soon be contacting you via mail, phone and email asking you to participate and update your contact information.

We are grateful for your participation!

SAVE THE DATE

JBU ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

JBU HOMECOMING: OCT 1-2, 2021

Make plans now to join us!

Homecoming Events include:
Heritage Society Induction for Classes 1970 and 1971
Class and Department Reunions
President's Alumni Breakfast
Glow Run 5K

For more information about registration or hosting a reunion, please visit:

jbu.edu/alumni/homecoming
Retirements

DAVE ANDRUS—38 YEARS

Dave Andrus ’78 first came to JBU as a transfer student in the fall of 1975. In 1983, he came back to work for seven years in the marketing department, and then in 1990, he and Charles Peer began the current visual arts department. Under Dave and Charles, the program grew to become one of the largest departments on campus, with five majors and close to 200 students. Dave developed the curriculum for the entire graphic design program and particularly enjoyed teaching typography.

Dave and his wife, Cindy, intend to remain in Siloam Springs but also hope to spend more time with children and grandchildren in Suffolk, England, and Golden, Colorado.

BRIAN GREUEL—23 YEARS

Brian Greuel has taught in the biology department since 1998 and served for 10 years as chair of the Natural Science Division and chair of the biology department. His primary teaching responsibilities have been in the areas of genetics, cellular/molecular biology and bioethics. Greuel was responsible for the development and leadership of the pre-health professions program, writing the feasibility study and gaining early approval from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing for JBU’s nursing program, obtaining external funding for scientific research and serving as research mentor for over 50 undergraduate students, most of whom have gone on to graduate school or health-related professional schools.

Brian and his wife, Jane, anticipate moving to Indiana to be closer to their children and grandchild. He hopes to continue teaching biology part time, engage in various writing projects related to faith/science issues and pursue astrophotography and pottery making.

PATTI HUTTO—28 YEARS

Patti Hutto ’91 served as the administrative assistant to the Office of Academic Affairs, but everyone knew her as the go-to person if they had a question regarding JBU as an institution. She particularly excelled at handling her department’s faculty job searches and making candidates feel well taken care of and connected. Ed Ericson, vice president of academic affairs, attests to this personally when he arrived at JBU 27 years ago. Patti also handled a wide array of administrative tasks – including contracts, commencement, schedules, minutes and internal grants.

Patti’s plans in retirement include spending time with family, reading, studying the Word and helping others.

SUSAN NECE—13 YEARS

Susan Nece came to JBU in April 2008, where she spent 13 years as the gift processing manager in University Advancement. During her tenure at JBU, she has overseen the processing of 270,542 gifts in the amount of $240,413,819 from 25,138 donors — always providing clarity and expertise in every aspect of gift processing.

Susan values Christian higher education and enjoyed her time at JBU. She always responded to donors, faculty, staff and students with grace and professionalism.

Susan is relocating to Wisconsin to be closer to her granddaughters Ellie and Madison and will cheer on the Green Bay Packers as long as they aren’t playing her favorite Pittsburg Steelers.
In Memoriam

Lucille (Lowe) Arrington, age 99, died Nov. 1, 2020. (Business Administration & Secretarial Science)

Vernon Austin, age 69, died Jan. 25. (Physical Ed & Health)

Harlan Aylor ’58, age 83, died Dec. 13, 2020. (Business Administration)

Kathleen (Poor) Boyts ’78, age 64, died Nov. 19, 2020. (Art)

Winfred Breitkreuz ’61, age 81, died Nov. 24, 2020. (Mechanical Concentration)

Marjorie (Palmer) DeMonbrun, age 78, died Dec. 5, 2020. (Business)

Tanya Dorris ’08, age 40, died July 29, 2020. (Organizational Management)

Edmund Felske ’52, age 92, died Dec. 31, 2020. (Bible and Religious Education)

Bonnie Jean (Bristol) Forseen ’64, age 79, died April 9. (Office Administration)

Robert Jackson ’58, age 84, died Dec. 10, 2020. (Business Administration, Trustee)

Herman Kanis, age 88, died Nov. 30, 2020. (Master Builder Society)

Dr. Ed Klotz, age 75, died April 30. (Faculty Emeriti)

Nancy (Pellatz) Lane, age 68, died Nov. 27, 2020.

Robert Lane, age 82, died March 21. (General Science)

Merle Maxwell ’51, age 91, died Dec. 1, 2020. (General Science)

Rager H. Moore, age 61, died April 2.

Sharon Bee Moore ’66, age 77, died March 21. (Liberal Education)

Gregory Alan Neeley ’75, age 68, died March 15. (Construction Management)

Patty Newman ’56, age 86, died March 12. (Business Administration)

Charles Nighswonger ’71, age 72, died Nov. 22, 2020. (Social Studies)

Dr. Larry O’Kelley, age 92, died Aug. 20, 2020. (Faculty Emeriti)

Charlotte Paris ’69, age 73, died Jan. 23. (Music)

Lucas Parker ’08, age 44, died Nov. 30, 2020. (Organizational Management)

Mary (Treadwell) Pendleton, age 95, died Dec. 20, 2020. (John Brown High School)

Gerold Peters, age 74, died Jan. 7. (Biblical Studies)

Michael Ronan ’90, age 58, died Oct. 29, 2020. (Broadcasting)

Lois (Street) Shanes ’73, age 73, died Dec. 18, 2020. (Physical Ed & Health)

Robert Sies, age 86, died Nov. 8, 2020. (Social Studies)

Dr. Shirley Thomas, age 81, died Aug. 1, 2020. (Faculty Emeriti)

Joel Tiegreen ’11, age 36, died April 13. (Biblical & Theological Studies)


Doylene G. Vaughn, age 92, died March 29.

Ann (Patty) Weiss, age 88, died Nov. 20, 2020. (Office Administration)

To read online obituaries, go to jbu.edu/bulletin/obits
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