In April of 2000, construction workers broke ground on the Pat and Willard Walker Student Center. The purpose of the Walker Center was to provide space for new dormitories, as well as extra classrooms and offices. It would also serve as a central meeting place allowing students from across campus to come together. In order for Walker to be a success, JBU would have to overcome some trying situations during the first few months of its existence.

The university originally desired to have the building completed by the beginning of the Fall 2001 semester. However, setbacks occurred that altered the construction schedule and when August came the dorm was practically complete, while the student center was still under construction. Students arriving to take up residence in Walker faced some minor inconveniences: the closet doors had not been installed and phone lines and Internet access were not yet available.

As students began the adventure of living in their brand new dorm, construction crews continued their work on the student center section of Walker. The date for its completion was pushed back to October, then to November. Finally, in January of 2002 the JBU community celebrated the building’s grand opening. Everything seemed to be going well as workmen completed the final touches, but there was one final hurdle to overcome.

Less than one month after the building’s completion and six months after it opened to students, Walker dorm nearly suffered a catastrophe. In the early hours of the morning, on February 6, 2002, the sound of fire alarms awakened residents from their sleep and sent them hurrying outside into the cold. Alumna Virginia Scott, who was a freshman at the time, recalled how students were “sure this was another false alarm. During the first semester, the alarm had been triggered occasionally by sawdust and other construction residue while workmen were completing Walker.” However, it soon became apparent that this was no false alarm. A student cooking in the second floor kitchen had left a pot of oil unattended on the stove and started a grease fire.

Fortunately, no one was injured and when the smoke cleared, university officials were able to assess the aftermath. The fire caused an estimated $10,000 in damages which included the replacement of appliances and cabinets in the damaged kitchen, as well as smoke and water damage in parts of the first and second floors. “The rooms below the kitchen had significant water damage” Scott said, “and the girls who lived there had quite the time drying out all of their furniture and belongings in the lobby. It looked a bit like a garage sale in the main entrance.” After the necessary repairs were completed, life in Walker returned to normal.

Ever since these first challenges, the Walker Student Center has stood strong and fulfilled its purpose as a center of residential life, education and campus community. The cause for subsequent fire alarms has been the usual culprit: burnt popcorn.

**Milestones**

**February 12, 1981**

The University announces that renovations will take place in California Dorm in order to allow the dorm to house both men and women.

**February 26, 1960**

KUOA begins 26 week series aimed at exposing stereo recordings of classical music.

**February 21, 2002**

Swim and dive team qualify relays, individuals. JBU swim team travels to Canada to participate in NAIA national tournament.
The nations leading cause of death, cancer, is of great concern to many. Research about its cause and treatment is being done extensively all over the country.

Many JBU students do not realize that a professor here is a substantial contributor to cancer research.

Dr. H. Gaston Griggs, Professor of Biology, has been researching radiation treatment of cancer and publishing articles about that research for the last twenty years. […]

According to Griggs the focus of his research has been “trying to find more efficient methods of using radiation to treat cancer.” He says that this involves, more specifically, studying and discovering “how radiation kills cells through induced chromosome damage.”

“The main thing that we do is radiate and fix cells and then look at the damage we did,” says Jan Payne, Griggs’ research associate. Payne is a 1980 JBU graduate and has worked for Griggs for about six years. “Fixing cells involves a process that is a lot like a recipe, that results in breaking the cells open so we can examine the chromosome damage,” Payne says.

Griggs says his most “original” research has been in the area of cell photoreactivation.

Photoreactivation involves the study of cell repair mechanisms. According to Griggs and Payne, cells contain repair systems which combat radiation damage. “When cells are exposed to radiation and are damaged, and then are exposed to white light, the cell repair systems begin repairing the chromosome breaks caused by the radiation,” Griggs says. This research was done mostly at Vanderbilt. […]

Essentially, Griggs’ studies individually and with others has led to “advances in discovering more efficient methods of Cobalt treatments and cancer radiotherapy,” he says. […]

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**Echoes of the Past**

**Griggs Is Cancer Researcher**

*…Looks at Effects of Radiation on Cells*

**February 26, 1981**

The nations leading cause of death, cancer, is of great concern to many. Research about its cause and treatment is being done extensively all over the country.

God’s ideal of brotherhood, is to “make of one blood (in Christ) all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth” or in the words as expressed in the head of this talk, God is working toward the Golden Age of Brotherhood, “where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all and in all.”

Christ’s ideal of brotherhood can be placed on no lower level, than the “solidarity of the race” — that from the beginning to the end, “humanity is one.”

Humanity cannot be broken up into many nations, tribes or millions of individuals for men and women around the world must constitute one family (in Christ) when the “golden age” is ushered in. […]

The only organization in the world that has a right to claim the high distinction of expressing to the world the Christ ideal of “Christian Brotherhood”, is the organization that throws its doors wide open to all men and women, high or low, rich or poor, learned or illiterate, to say to all alike, “Come join us,” Come thou and go with us and we will do thee good.” And so far as I know, the church of Jesus Christ is the only organization that offers itself to all comers, and that throws open its doors to all classes, and that seeks without distinction, to minister in fullest fellowship, to every man and woman of Adam’s race.

Excerpt from “Upon This Rock”