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1st Walton Cookout

On Saturday, April 5th we had the first ever Walton Cookout. The Cookout Committee, made up of two or three Waltons from each generation, planned the activity which turned out to be a huge success. The idea behind this starting tradition is to take some time to unite as the family we are and enjoy some time together without the stress of school and work. We got to enjoy the company of Mr. J, Mrs. Sue, Anna, Walito, and even Shadow (Mr. J’s new puppy)!

A lot of thought and effort was put into this day and it would not have been possible without the help of the organizers and volunteers who were part of it. We had amazing food, a piñata, water balloon catch game (which, of course, later turned in to a water balloon fight), and soccer. The day was a great reminder of God’s love shown through the people and blessings in our everyday lives.

A huge thank you to everyone who made it possible: Mr. J, the committee: Francisco, Obed, Gabby, Ruth, Francis, Arline, Heydi, Jesus, Daniel and exceptional volunteers who went from DJ’s to sous chefs. Your help and support meant, and still mean, a lot.

-Mari Arguello

From left to right: Mr. J, Francis, Francisco, Obed
Enactus has definitely been a life-changing experience! It has given me the opportunity to put into practice everything I’ve learn in my business classes and work with projects that are creating an impact in people’s lives.

Going to Competition to share the work JBU students have done was a huge blessing. It was breathtaking too see how hundreds of teams gathered together in a nation to present and share how they’ve impacted others!

-Cesia Melendez

This year, Carlos Lopez, Belinda Henriquez, and Cesia Melendez were part of the Enactus team. They got 4th place in semi-finals round, 3rd place for the Coca-Cola Foundation grant, and 3rd place for the Sam’s Club grant.
Senior Thoughts

The Walton Scholarship has been a real blessing, and one of the best experiences in my life! In my four-year journey through JBU I could learn many things both inside and outside of class. I had an integral formation; I acquired a lot of knowledge through the different academic courses, but I also became more mature, independent, and was able to grow spiritually.

The Walton Scholarship allowed me to be involved in different activities, travel to different places, meet wonderful people and develop strong friendship which I’m sure, will last forever. This program also made me more aware of the needs of my country, and I hope that through my formation here I can make a positive impact back home or wherever God calls me to go.

- Loana Vega (Engineering)
My Plans for a short term after I graduate from JBU are to go back to my parents and help them with their ministry in youth ministry, school, and developing different outreach projects for the church. I think it is very important for me to give back to my community and my family. I also plan to obtain a job either in San Salvador or where my parents live, in La Union, El Salvador. I am looking mostly for engineering jobs and management and R&D positions. For a medium term, I plan to go to graduate school into Architecture or alike and obtain more experience in structures and design. I would like to work as an Architectural Engineering, if the Lord wants so. I also plan to create a small business with my family to produce our own traditional paintings and souvenirs. I also plan to have a family by that time, probably 6 to 8 years from today.

For my long term, I would like to create a business or an organization that creates opportunities for people to learn about their environment and how to take advantage of their surrounding resources. I would like to integrate learning with business and engineering in order to have a complete and competitive organization that solves problems according to their environment. I would also like to be involved in ministry of some sort. I hope God allows me to live longer so I can glorify him with what he has given me.

- Obed Diaz (Engineering)
Ireland: Choir Tour
Being a Walton is a great blessing and experience. I never imagined this opportunity would change my life. Studying in JBU is like a dream to me. I came here this January and I feel so blessed because the connection with the students, and others Walton’s has been so great. I have been learning so many things that have been helpful to me. I feel like at home because I found a new family here.

The Christian focused education at JBU is so amazing. I am always thinking: why am I here? and I find the answer in the Bible, in Jeremiah 29:11, when God said: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” God brought me here because He has a purpose to my life and I am thankful for that.

- Heydi Cucul

Spring Freshmen. From left to right: Luciano Garcia (Managua, Nicaragua), Yauri Torres (Villahermosa, Mexico), Mario Escobar (Guatemala, Guatemala), Heydi Cucul (Campur, Guatemala) & Claudia Alvarado (La Ceiba, Honduras).
We all care about our future job and professional network after graduation. We found that it is critical for the Walton program at John Brown University to build a database that would supply information and a robust digital place where graduating students could rely on. The purpose of creating this database goes beyond the issue of finding jobs and network connections with Walton alumni in the work-force. We intend to foster relationships and create a mutual interaction that would benefit current and future generations. Even when the Walton Program has a strong image in many companies around the Central American isthmus and Mexico, many students look forward to having a compensatory response from companies, for being a Walton, and have graduated from an American academic institution.

Nevertheless competition has abruptly changed certain paradigms of what studying abroad means. This situation reduces the possibility of a competitive advantage over peers that graduated in our countries. The Walton Database has a systematic way of interaction that would include all alumni that want to be part of the program. This will give us the possibility of finding people who are well connected and willing to help graduating students. We are also looking forward for a premature desire of students to get in contact with our alumni friends. The matter of finding a job is very critical but internships are required for many of us to graduate. We hope this database will connect our current students and past generations to create beneficial relationships.

Moreover, the platform used is really simple, we created a very user friendly SSL database that anyone could use in Microsoft Access. All forms and ways to enter and keep track of data are simple and effective. We hope this database will finally benefit the overall image of the Walton Program in our countries and help many students to find jobs quickly and even before graduation. We also want to encourage alumni to join this mentoring program and help future graduates. If you have any questions feel free to contact Mr. Ronald Johnson.

- Jesus Bonilla