Living on the Edge

Little did I know that I would have the opportunity to experience this firsthand in my recent heart issue. The reason that I chose this theme is because I believe that we all, as Christians, need to live our lives out of the status quo and truly be making a difference for Christ’s kingdom. We have received so many blessings but we so often live such weak and ineffective lives for the Lord.

My challenge for all the Waltons, myself included, is to start living a life more dedicated to the Lord, more passionate about your studies and relationships and a life that "loves the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength." The world needs more Christians who are willing to live on the edge and it is my prayer that each of you will join this group. Obed Diaz and Marco Manzanilla have already asked to share on this theme in our next Walton meetings.

“The edge is where real life happens”
Dear 2012 Grads,

Congratulations! Where have the years gone? You will each be greatly missed! It is my prayer that you will continue to remember that the God who brought you to JBU, who helped you through all the good times and difficult times will be with you as you return home. Trust Him with all your heart! See you back home.

Abrazos,
Mr. J

Update on Our Story - The John Brown University Walton International Scholarship Program

The Walton book continues to move forward and I am more confident that it will be finished some time this summer. I have written 94 pages so far and have the majority of the major interviews completed. Nadia Soberanis (2010 Walton Grad from Guatemala) is assisting me with the editing. Andrea Marroquin is interviewing some of our current Walton scholars and is doing a great job. I am excited about telling "Our Story" as I believe it will encourage Walton alumni, current Walton scholars and Walton scholars to be selected in the future. Thank you to the many of you who are sharing your experiences, stories and memories.
Welcome to our new Class 2015

Bienvenidos,

This spring we have three new freshmen, Karina from Mexico, Josafat from Guatemala, and Walter from Honduras. We are so glad to have them here and we know God has amazing surprises for this coming four years.

Ruth Cantarero Borjas

Hi! I’m Ruth Cantarero from Honduras and I just want to tell you a little bit about how God spoke to me in this Christmas break. I went to a camp that was for the leaders of some churches in Honduras. God talked to me through all the preachers and I was wandering why is everybody talking about missions?!?!...God had touched my heart telling me that is time to go and preach God’s Word because a lot of young people have knowledge about God’s Word in their minds but they don not apply it in their daily life. Is time to change and start living according to God’s will and fulfill our purpose here on earth that is to preach God’s Word in every moment even with our actions.

Ethel Ilias Simon

My name is Ethel Ilias Simon, I am from Tegucigalpa, Honduras and I am 19 years old. I can proudly say that I am a Walton freshman here at JBU. I am majoring in Marketing and International Business.

The Walton Scholarship is the best thing that has ever happened to me; this will give me the opportunity to prepare myself and go back to my country and create my own business and be one of the persons who make the difference in my country. Blessings
UN ORGULLO WALTON: Congratulations Mr.J

Last semester Mr.J was honored with the Community Partner Award. This award is given to an individual organization that has made an outstanding contribution to diversity and inclusion in the Norwest Arkansas area.

The Threefold Advocate published an article about this event, read below:

The event’s sponsor, Walmart, recognized Johnson in front of 1500 executives, educators and community leaders for his 16 years of supporting Walton scholars who tutor Hispanic students, mentor kids, visit the elderly and more to help Siloam Springs and the surrounding area. None of the Walton students own cars so he and his wife Sue are often seen driving them to and from their community service projects.

“It is not what we have gathered, but what we have scattered that is important in life,” said Johnson after receiving the award. The quote was famously coined by Walmart founder Sam Walton’s wife, Helen.

Johnson said he was very surprised he won the award, as he was the only individual nominated. The others were Norman and Joe Patterson, Arkansas Support Network, Family Support and the Bentonville Library.

“We really this award should be presented to the Walton students who supported me in the outreach to the Northwest Arkansas community,” said Johnson. “Without the support of JBU and the Walton program we couldn’t have done this.”

The Threefold Advocate
(Issue 10, Nov. 17. 2011)

We are so proud of Mr.J, he has constantly showed us that education is the key to accomplishing our dreams and changing lives. His heart for people is why he won this award.

“Mr.J is an example to all of us that one man can do amazing things”
We have decided to acknowledge some of the staff that has been greatly involved with the Walton Program. For this edition we want to recognize Joe Walenciak or as we all call him “Walito”. Dr. Walenciak is now the Dean of the College of Business at JBU.

We asked him to tell us more about his relationship with the Walton Program and there is an amazing story behind it. He was a teacher when the Walton Program started back in 1985. At the beginning, as most of the other teachers, he did not know much about the program. He had lots of Walton students but it was not until 1989 when he decided to learn Spanish after his first trip outside the country to Mexico. Suddenly, a bunch of Walton students showed up more often to his office to teach him Spanish. He was determined to learn more Spanish for his second trip to Mexico the next year. Some Waltons did their community service with Dr. Walenciak teaching him Spanish; and this is how he started to establish relationships with Walton students.

We asked him what he has learned all these years from the Waltons? And his answer was:

I have experienced a genuine acceptance from this group. I have found out the value of relationship even though I still have sometimes a task-focused mind.

We also asked some our current student what have they learned from Walito? Andrea Marroquin gives her insight:

Joe Walenciak (Walito) has been one of the greatest inspirations for my life. I remember when I went to him to share the idea of the HOPE project; he encouraged me to believe in that dream. He was there to help me make that dream become reality and now we can see the impact that idea has had.

I would say Walito encourages me to be passionate and never give up. He loves people unconditionally and he is always willing to help.

He has a heart that I admire. He is a great example. I know that a lot of what I am now is thanks to the influence he has had in my life being a mentor, advisor, amigo and brother in Christ.

If you go to his office, you will have a cup of coffee and a big abrazo. “Mi casa es su casa” that is one of the quote students taught him, and now he says he is a 100% sure that he has houses all around Central America.

Ana Villanueva, expresses how Dr. Walenciak has impacted her life too:

Joe Walenciak (Walito) has impacted my life in many ways. Just the fact that he keeps his office door open even in his busiest times, speaks a lot about his character. He considers every interruption an opportunity to be a blessing to anyone who enters through that door; and I can tell of the countless times he has been a blessing while I have been at JBU. I consider him my mentor, professor, guardian, and friend. His advice has helped me shaped my character into a stronger and more responsible one. He has helped me make decisions that have turned me into a better and more skilled person. I will always appreciate the faith he has put on me.
Waltons beyond JBU

This semester several Waltons will be representing JBU in different events and competitions:

**SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise)**
Marcel Guadron (Cinema/ sophomore)
Estefania Verdin (Int’l Business/junior)
Jasmine Chavez –competition director (Senior/ Int’l Business)

*Regional competitions March 26*
*Nationals May 21-23*

**Arkansas Undergraduate Math Competition**
Max Rodriguez (Senior/Mechanical Engineering)
Ernesto Lopez Chan (Freshman/Electrical Engineering)

*Feb 25*

**Scientific Poster presentation at the Arkansas Capitol**
Suyen Espinoza (Senior/ Biochemistry)

*Feb 15*

---

**ALERT!!!**

Walton students will get 20% discount in Quiznos (Siloam Springs).
It is easy, just say you are a Walton and automatically you will receive your discount.
Take friends with you and they will have the chance of getting a great discount too.

---

**Happy Birthday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ana Villanueva</td>
<td>Max Rodriguez</td>
<td>Estefany Silva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darryn Castro</td>
<td>Jose Alvarado</td>
<td>Loana Vega</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlon de Leon</td>
<td>Zelly Zapata</td>
<td>Rolando Ochoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Cantarero</td>
<td>Claudia Hernandez</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Morales</td>
<td>Daielis Rodriguez</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Author: Suyen Espinoza
Contributors: Ronald Johnson, Andrea Marroquin, Ana Villanueva