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The Best of Times...

Thank You
This year marks the 70th anniversary of SJBC/SJCC/WJU. From fourteen students in San Jose in 1939, God has blessed and multiplied the global impact of the ministry significantly. We live in such a different world today from the one into which our institution was born. The message and mission remain the same, but the delivery system has changed significantly. The rate of change has been at times almost overwhelming, and - given the current economic realities - the changes continue! However, change provides opportunity for innovation and growth if we respond positively and choose the high road.

Our Board of Trustees made a courageous decision in January of this year. The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that 99% of the private US colleges and universities were raising tuition for the 2009-10 school year. The remaining 1% were freezing tuition. Our Board decided to reduce tuition by 2.5%. Our research has found only one other accredited, private college in the country which has reduced tuition and that was by only 1%. Our decision made news locally in the newspapers and TV stations and was even aired nationally on the CBS Evening News. In addition to that, $2.2 million in institutional financial aid was awarded in 2008-2009, and our current tuition costs are already 10% below the national average for four-year private institutions. New scholarship programs have been launched for our partner churches and transfers from community colleges, from $2,000 to up to $8,000 dollars a year.

Furthermore, we are pleased to announce a new, full tuition scholarship program designed specifically for local veterans. Any veteran who has served on active duty for at least 36 aggregate months since 9/11, and qualifies for 100% of benefit eligibility under Chapter 33 will have the complete cost of tuition covered in any program the University offers. Effective August 1 for the 2009-10 school year, this program is made possible by the passage of the new post 9/11 GI Bill called the Yellow Ribbon Program. For California that amount is over $13,000 per year. Under this provision, WJU has entered into an agreement with the Veterans Administration to scholarship up to 50% of the cost of tuition and fees that exceed the standard education benefit. The VA will then match the amount of the scholarship – completely covering the cost of tuition and fees for the veteran.

As a result of these changes, I was personally encouraged to have received word recently that William Jessup University has been named as one of America’s Best College Buys in the 18th annual National College Survey by the Institutional Research and Evaluation Inc., which recognizes institutions of higher education that provide exceptional educational opportunities. 1,453 U.S. regionally accredited colleges and universities were surveyed and WJU was one of five institutions in California to be selected. We like to speak of WJU as being a place of “affordable excellence.”

And with all these changes comes the most important I have made in several decades. I have had the privilege of serving as President of SJBC/SJCC/WJU for 25 years. It is now time to pass the baton to another who will take WJU to the next level of development and growth. On May 7th I submitted a letter to the Board of Trustees indicating that I will retire as President of WJU in May 2010. A search committee has been formed and we are praying that God will bring us a new President by the time I complete my term of service. Following my retirement, I will be out of the area for about six months and then return to serve at WJU in whatever capacity the new President and the Board of Trustees deems useful. This final year in my presidency will be a run to the finish like no other. With the announcement of the public phase of our Capital Campaign, it is my expectation and honor to see this campaign to successful completion – and it will be with your energy and assistance that we achieve this.

I am filled with gratitude to God and to all our partners who have stood with us through the years to bring WJU to its current level of ministry and growth. Though these have been challenging years, they have been the most rewarding years of my ministry journey. Please be in prayer with us at WJU as we seek God’s direction during this time of transition, for the greatest years of Kingdom building through WJU lay ahead of us!
William Jessup University’s ongoing lecture series featured David T. Olson, Director of the American Church Research Project and Director of Church Planting for the Evangelical Covenant Church.

“This was a rare opportunity to hear from a true expert,” explained David Nystrom, William Jessup University’s Vice President for Academics. “Olson’s presentation revealed compelling statistics and offered concrete advice about the renewal of the church in America.”

Olson is the author of the groundbreaking book, *The American Church in Crisis* (2008). With this publication, Olson established himself as perhaps the foremost expert on the state of Christianity in North America.

Olson surveyed more than 200,000 churches focusing on actual church attendance instead of reported membership, yielding conceivably the most accurate picture yet of the state of the American church.

The book reveals that the US population is growing faster than church attendance. Simply put, America has more people, but fewer churches.

Olson discussed the problems as well as the potential of the American church, confirming hunches, exploding myths, and offering a clear path to a brighter future.

Eric Hogue, a 25-plus year radio professional and 2004 recipient of the Andy Anderson Award for excellence in broadcasting recently began airing “The Eric Hogue Show” from William Jessup University every Tuesday evening from 5-7 p.m. The News/Talk radio host can be heard all over Northern California on 710am KFIA in Sacramento, and 1100am KFAX in San Francisco and San Jose. He also hosts “The Capitol Hour with Eric Hogue” weekdays from noon to 1pm on 1380am KTKZ where he exposes the inner workings of government.

Eric, currently enrolled in WJU’s School of Professional Studies has become one of the University’s strongest advocates. He has been pivotal in providing partnerships between the University, local media outlets, the state capitol, and national talk radio talents.
Brent Jones is keynote speaker for May 7 National Day of Prayer Breakfast at WJU

Former professional football star Brent Jones was the keynote speaker to over 750 at the 4th Annual South Placer County National Day of Prayer Breakfast held at William Jessup University.

Jones is best remembered by sports fans for his contributions as a tight end in three Super Bowl victories playing for the San Francisco 49ers. In his 11-year career in the NFL Jones had 417 receptions for 5,195 yards and 33 touchdowns. He earned All-Pro honors three times and played in the Pro Bowl four times.

Football was never Jones’ highest priority. From his high school days, his faith was most important. “It took a lot of hard work and dedication to become a successful NFL pro, but football has never been my top priority in life,” says Jones. “I discovered that there was more to life than sports. You see, I had a significant void on the inside that athletics and friends could not fill. Later I realized that the key to fulfillment and contentment in life was a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Jones has been an active participant in Young Life, an organization started in 1940 to work with adolescents. His Brent Jones Young Life Open, now in its 23rd year, took place on June 1 at the Almaden Valley Country Club in the San Jose area. Last year the golf tournament raised $51,000 for Young Life.

National Day of Prayer, created by Congress in 1952, is a day when people of all faiths are asked to come together and pray, especially for their nation.

Ten-year-old Wins 4th Annual Fishing Derby

The derby took place under less than perfect weather conditions as it rained for the entire day. However the brave-in-heart persevered through the storm and still managed to weigh in plenty of fish. The competition was stiff but the grand prize ultimately went to a junior fisherman, Alan Elkins (pictured at left), age 10, from Yuba City. He won a small pontoon boat provided by Sportsman’s Warehouse in Rocklin.

The men’s ministry from Yuba City Church of the Nazarene provided a fantastic lunch despite the weather conditions, and Bridgeway Christian Church kept us warm by providing us with a truckload of wood for the fire.

William Jessup University offers numerous other free outdoor adventures. This is a great opportunity to support WJU Missions and Outreach programs while at the same time enjoying God’s wonderful creation. Find more information about additional activities at www.jessup.edu/outdooradventures.
William Jessup University hosted the 4th Annual Public Policy Day on May 5th, 2009 – a remarkable day of celebration and political engagement. This year’s program, themed “Obama’s First 100 Days,” included a range of events in partnership with the Public Policy Department, Advancement Department and Sacramento area radio station 1380 KTKZ. The events featured national radio commentators Hugh Hewitt, Michael Medved and Dennis Prager and brought together over 1,500 community members and millions of radio listeners. Public Policy Day celebrated the accomplishments of the Public Policy Department and Christ-centered education at WJU while discussing the critical policy issues of the Obama Administration.

The day kicked off with a luncheon forum featuring guest speaker Hugh Hewitt. Sosamma Samuel-Burnett, Chair of the Public Policy Department, shared the distinctive vision of the Department and highlighted the exceptional students, courses and events of the 2008-2009 academic year. Mr. Hewitt, who is also a professor of Constitutional Law at Chapman University Law School and author of numerous books, shared the value of Christian education and political engagement, and emphasized the importance of knowledge, winsomeness and purpose in public sector work. The event, held at the WJU Lecture Hall, included 125 attendees and was broadcast live on Eric Hogue’s Capitol Hour from 12:00-1:00pm on 1380 KTKZ.

The lunch program also featured Public Policy senior student Colby Ackenheil. Ackenheil did an exceptional job of presenting his capstone senior seminar paper, focusing on the topic of media influence and bias. Ackenheil, who hails from Yuba City, CA was also featured in the Yuba County Appeal-Democrat for his senior project.
Hugh Hewitt broadcast his national radio program live from the WJU Commons. Hewitt discussed policy issues and shared about WJU with his listening audience of over 2 million. Hewitt also interviewed WJU’s Joe Womack (Vice President for Advancement) during a segment of his program on the general subject of Christian higher education and more specifically about the WJU campus and programs.

1380 KTKZ hosted a VIP dinner that included many community leaders and officials and offered opportunities for guests to meet Hewitt, Medved and Prager. The event included 200 guests and presented a silent auction in support of the Public Policy Department – raising nearly $3,000 in just 30 minutes.

The finale of the 4th Annual Public Policy Day was an evening panel discussion featuring Hugh Hewitt, Michael Medved and Dennis Prager. Considered among the most recognized and respected of radio commentators, they have a combined listening audience of millions. The event was broadcast nationally through Salem Communications radio programming. The enthusiastic crowd filled the WJU Academic Warehouse to capacity with 1500 guests. The evening panel was moderated by Eric Hogue and Sosamma Samuel-Burnett. Following an hour of responding to a range of policy questions from the moderators, the commentators also fielded questions from three selected Public Policy students: Colby Ackenheil (Senior), Gabrielle Jackson (Junior) and Greer Gamble (Sophomore). The evening concluded with special presentations by Sosamma Samuel-Burnett and Bryce Jessup, WJU President, to Eric Hogue and Dale Hendry (KTKZ station manager) in recognition of 1380 KTKZ’s collaboration.

The 4th Annual Public Policy Day provided tremendous outreach for WJU, exceptional opportunities for community political engagement, and honored God through Christian higher education.
WJU Friends and Neighbors Inspired
Inspiring the Next Generation…

Main speakers, David Nystrom, Vice President for Academics and Sherry Forkum, Assistant Professor of English, discussed Christians of “Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” giving insight on the early Christians and the Millennial Christians. Attendees from a variety of communities and churches in the area were pleased and receptive to the day.

The program also included the announcement of a WJU Friends and Neighbors Inspired Scholarship. This scholarship was formed to encourage re-entering students after a break in their college education, to seek a Christian education at William Jessup University. This scholarship, in the amount of $1500 ($750 per semester), will be awarded for one year to one student.

Plans are well under way for the third mini conference this fall. The conference closed with an inspirational message by President Bryce Jessup.

WJU Friends and Neighbors Inspired, a subcommittee of the University Community Relations Council, hosted its second mini conference on March 20, 2009. The audience heard a testimony by Luz Johnson (pictured above), a graduate of the Degree Completion Program, on the importance of being able to receive a Christian education at William Jessup University, followed by a presentation of the University Choir.

President Bryce Jessup was the keynote speaker to a crowd of over 500 attendees at Rocklin High School’s “Excellence in Athletics” dinner on May 28.

On March 26, the Music Department celebrated its 2nd Annual Night of Classics and Night in the Piazza dinner and fundraiser. Over $19,000 was raised from the event. The proceeds supported music department purchases for much needed items in order to provide a better education for their music students and to reach the community.
WJU Announces “Global Mission Endowment” Campaign

WJU’s Annual Mission Banquet in February brought an exciting announcement this year. Standing amidst 3rd-world shanty-town props, Director of Campus Ministries Daniel Gluck announced WJU’s plan to start a Global Missions Endowment. This endowment, starting at $25,000 will be the foundation to begin earning annual yields that will be directed toward mission trip scholarships for students, staff and ministry projects in developing countries. Combined seed gifts of $15,000 were presented to Campus Ministries from Outdoor Adventures, a fundraising partner of the university. The banquet raised an additional $6,670 in gifts toward the endowment goal. WJU expects to officially put these funds on the books after its May Trout Derby – an annual event whose proceeds will also be directed toward the new endowed fund. Other banquet highlights included a live phone interview with Josh Ribb - former Jessup student and missionary in Kigoma, Tanzania - and a wonderful international menu highlighting foods from countries our teams have visited.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission efforts, which change not only the lives of the poor and needy, but the students and staff who go abroad. If you would like to make a one-time or monthly commitment to our campaign, please send checks to WJU and write “Global Missions Endowment” in the memo line. We are deeply grateful for your investment to raise the final $3K needed and make a difference for years to come!

08-09 TEAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Amsterdam, Netherlands: December 27th, 2008 - January 9th, 2009
- Relational ministry within 2 different Amsterdam Hostels. The team served along hostel staff, running the facility and offering various discipleship and evangelistic programs.
- Team: Stephanie Garber (leader), Jared Votaw, Jesse Williams, Colleen Nicholls, Laine Ruona, Sara Lewis, Haley Hayden

Belize, Central America: January 4th-11th, 2009
- Ministry with Pathlight, a ministry whose mission is to develop education in Belize. Our team taught music, art and photography in 3 low-income schools and hosted a teacher in-service training drawing together over 40 teachers from Central Belize.
- Team: Daniel & Alyssa Gluck (leaders), Jennifer Marple, Shane Kunkle, Leah Anderson, Jessica Landin, Suzanne Westwood, Joyann Lee, Anna Rutherford and Brandon Bathauer (photographer).

Tanzania, East Africa: May 17th - June 12th, 2009
- Ministry with Hope of the Nations in Kigoma, founded by WJU graduates.
- Team: Jennifer McCarty (leader), Michelle Ross, Lunden Desmond, Ricky Borba, Elizabeth Malech and Rachel Williams.

Cambodia, Southeast Asia: May 20th - June 6th, 2009
- Ministry with Agape International Mission (AIM), founded by WJU graduates.
- Team: Glen Gibson (leader), Troy Dean and Scott Mehren of One Life Christian Church, Kaleasha Johnson (staff), Taylor McQuilliams, Jason LaFarge, Ciandra Kouklis, Samantha Jessup, Joni Johnson, Elizabeth Bernados and Joshua (Sway) Phal.
But Not Slowing Down

defining by reaching the goal of this campaign.

Amidst his announcement on campus that he was ending his 25 year service as President of William Jessup University, Bryce Jessup declared his intention to finish strong and “break through the tape” by committing his efforts to complete a $25 million capital campaign. The goal for the Building on a Sacred Trust campaign, which has already secured nearly $16 million in its “silent” phase, is to build facilities for student housing, campus dining and conferences, athletics, and the music program.

Already under construction on campus is the first of these efforts, a 192-bed apartment building to provide much needed expansion of on-campus student housing. The construction of the apartment building has been made possible from funds pledged in the silent phase of the capital campaign. A dining center and conference room, gymnasium, and a vocal and instrumental music practice facility are the goal of $9 million plus that is targeted by the “public” portion of the campaign.

“These are necessary facilities for the University to realize its goal of building a foundation for a comprehensive campus plan,” said Jessup. “The successful completion of the Building on a Sacred Trust campaign will provide a campus capable of supporting a student enrollment exceeding 1,000 students. We continue to be amazed by the goodness and provision of our Lord through the generosity of our alumni and friends.”

Opportunities for alumni, friends, neighbors, and churches to be involved in this important effort will be made throughout the coming months with a goal for completion set for May 2010. Regional receptions will be held in the fall of 2009 and spring 2010 to visit with President Jessup, reflect on his 25 years as president, and explore opportunities to support the campaign. Look for information regarding these receptions and other opportunities for involvement in the coming months.

Jessup shared with a group of board members, donors, and friends in San Jose this April that he has selected Acts 20:24 “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me - the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace” as his personal verse for his final year in office. “I have no intention of limping across the finish line, but intend to finish the race with success - and success to me will be defined by reaching the goal of this campaign.”

If you are interested in being part of the Capital Campaign “Building on a Sacred Trust” please contact the WJU Advancement Office at advancement@jessup.edu or call 916.577.1800.
Mary (Enjaian) Kendrick passed away on May 29. Her husband of 66 years, Jack (1943) preceded her in death in 2006.

1952 - Don Meyer passed away on February 2, 2009 in Prescott Valley, AZ. He is survived by his wife, Anita.

1962 – David Ruder and his wife, Dian, live in Sunnyvale, CA, where David is worship planner and director of handbells at Valley Church, and Dian is organist and accompanist. David's handbell specialty has allowed him to teach and direct large music events around the US and several countries. Since retiring from teaching music in public schools in 1999, the Ruders have participated in nine short-term mission trips which included Mauritania, Pakistan, the Czech Republic and Zimbabwe.

1968 – Roger Wiseman and his wife, Beth, live in St. Louis, MO where they pastor Inner City Christian Church. Roger preaches, leads Bible study, and runs a food pantry and clothing room.

1975 – W. Edwin “Eddie” Kalish (Kaliss) was recently ordained in the Anglican Church in Ellsworth, ME. He recently completed a CD from which he will donate sales to WJU. He can be reached at ekalish@myfairpoint.net.

1976 – Chip and Gina (Brown) Moody reported that Chip was recently named Dean of Students at Phoenix Seminary in Arizona. He continues teaching biblical communication there, serving also as director of field education and director of doctoral research. Gina is a registered nurse at a local hospital. Chip and Gina celebrate 33 years of marriage in June.

1978 – Charles “Corky” Riley and his wife, Alison, live in Tulare, CA where Corky is a marriage and family therapist. Corky, who has a severe disability, recently wrote to WJU with thanks for the support he received during his time at SJBC, and was pleased to see that WJU has an extraordinary interest and commitment in serving the disabled student.

1981 - Kathryn Wagner lives in Lawndale, CA where she is Missionary Director at Child Evangelism Fellowship.

1995 – Joe Novelo and his wife, Jill, continue their work with Amazon Reach, a division of Marine Reach Ministries, to supply resources to missionaries in South America. To find out more, visit their website at www.amazonreach.org.

1996 – Ed Denton passed away on April 15, 2009, just three weeks after he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. A dedicated youth pastor for many years in Los Gatos and then in Rocklin, CA, Ed most recently worked with youth through Koinonia Ministries. Ed is survived by his wife, Dana, and two children, Maggie and Jason. A memorial trust fund is being established for Ed’s family. For more information, contact Julie Clarke at Julie@clarkeconsult.com.

2005 – Nick and Miriam (Martinez) Owens live in Salinas, CA. Nick, a former student, is completing his degree in Business and Miriam is completing her teaching credential. They work with an inner city ministry that confronts gang violence and drug addiction.

2006 – Chris and Molly (Mehciz) Pitter celebrated the birth of their first child, a boy, Jack Christian, born August 21, 2008. They live in Posey, CA where Chris is camp director at Sierra Christian Service Camp.

2007 – Amber Conrad is the Special Events and Program Director of Jr. High ministries at Bayside Church in Granite Bay. She writes, “I find myself saying, ‘Do I really get paid to do this?’”

2008 – Natasha Riedel achieved her goal of teaching in Central America, where she recently began her first year of teaching in Honduras to children in grades 4-6.
Class of 2009

Baccalaureate Degrees

Colby Post Ackenheil
Bachelor of Arts, Public Policy

Leah Jonet Albright-Byrd
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Arnel D. Alon
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership, With Distinction

Jeffrey Matthew Auilich*
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Cum Laude

Candace Christine Avila
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Liberal Arts, Summa Cum Laude

Martin M. Aycock Sr.*
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership

Anne Elise Beaumont
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Summa Cum Laude

Jeremy Matthew Beaumont
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Pastoral Ministry, Summa Cum Laude

Sarah L. Bentley
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership, With Distinction

Lucas Ray Birchard
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Business Management, Cum Laude

Charla Catherine Blair
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, Magna Cum Laude

Max A. Botner
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, Summa Cum Laude

James Michael Bradley
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership

Kaile Nicole Bracke
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Tevia S. Brooks
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Clint Burkholder
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Brian P. Burley
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Cum Laude

Jessica Starr Campbell
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Phillip W. Carriker
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership

Jason Trevor Carville
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Intercultural Studies, Cum Laude

LaToya S. Cheatham*
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Elizabeth Esther Clark
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Music and Worship

Katrina Joy Conli
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Rebecca Ann Contreras
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Studies

Sarah Elizabeth Coyne*
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Studies

Joshua Jack Croft
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Studies, Bible and Theology

Ann Cunningham
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Michele Nicole Cunningham
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Youth Ministry, Magna Cum Laude

Parker Truman Daniels*
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, English

Stanley S. Davis III
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership

Nicole Carissa DeAraujo*
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Alexandria Veronica DeShields
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Business Management

Alexander Stylianos Dimotsantos
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration

Ryan Michael Doyle
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Music and Worship

Denise Michelle Engstrom*
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Intercultural Studies, Cum Laude

Brian H. Esola*
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Management and Ethics

Megan Lynn Falstad
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Liberal Arts, Magna Cum Laude

Barbara Dean Field
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, Magna Cum Laude

Rachel Mori Foster
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Sarah Emilie Cathleen Friberg
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, Magna Cum Laude

Jeremy Michael Gallegos
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership, Magna Cum Laude

Manuel Fernando Galvan
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, English

Joshua Garrett*
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Fred William Gerard
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership, With Distinction

Joshua Gerard
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Amanda Lee Jennings
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Kelsey Rachelle Gleason
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Studies

Allison Nichole Hahn
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Business Management

Jance Hans
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Raymond Daniel Hauser
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership

Rev. York Hayes
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership, Summa Cum Laude

Alice D. Hills
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

David Hung-Tai Ho*
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Management and Ethics

Corey Joseph Hobbs
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Intercultural Studies

Andrew E. R. Hong
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Cum Laude

Brooke Ann Renee’ Hunter
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Business Management

Steven Michael Hurley
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology

Tawnya Jenkins
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Management and Ethics

Betsy A. Jones
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Deborah Lynne Jones
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, With Distinction

Laura Ann Cole Jones
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Sandra Denise Jones
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, With Distinction

Carol Eileen Karkazis
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Jacob James Kelsch
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Pastoral Ministry, Summa Cum Laude

Jennifer Lindsay Kemp
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Counseling Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Jeffrey Allen Kerley
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership, With Distinction

Jay Kim
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership

Stephanie E. Koon*
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology

Candra Mia Kouklis
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Music and Worship

Brian J. Kulpa
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership, With Distinction

Jessica Lauren Landin
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Business Management, Cum Laude

Matthew Lantz*
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Youth Ministry, Magna Cum Laude

Jason Lee
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Management and Ethics, With Distinction

Maria Cristina Leonard
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Tyler John James Leuning
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology

Christine Ann Livingston
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

LaRasha Dionne Ludd*
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Celebrates Commencement

Elizabeth Anne Mabray
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Liberal Arts

Scott Kevin MacNeil*
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Youth Ministry

Louis Pascual Madanes, Jr.
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership, With Distinction

Elizabeth Margaret Malech
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, Summa Cum Laude

Tracy Lyn Malone
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Stephen Daniel Mass
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Irene A Matson*
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, magna Cum Laude

Andrea Lorraine McCartney
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Brent Steven McCluskey*
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Psychology

Valerie Tejeda McCluskey*
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Bethany McEfee
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Liberal Studies

Mary Blair McElroy
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Psychology, magna Cum Laude

Jessica Cadan Mehan
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Business Management

Erik William Meyer
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Youth Ministry

Aubrey Lyn Miller
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Jared John Miller
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Hannah Mae Mireles
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Studies, magna Cum Laude

Bruce Eugene Moffet
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Shelley Ann Moore
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership, With Distinction

Robyn Kimiko Moran
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Barbara S. Morebeck
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Joe Robert Morgan
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership, With Distinction

Lynn Murphy-Johnson*
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership

Vincent G. Negrette
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Management and Ethics

Zachary Jon Nichols*
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Management and Ethics

Rebecca Lee O’Brien
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, cum Laude

Johnny Joseph Ochsner, Jr.
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Jill Anne Okamura
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Management and Ethics

Jennifer D. Palacios
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

John D. Patterson
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Management and Ethics, cum Laude

Enrique R. Perezalonso
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership

Christopher Noel Peters
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Connie Peterson
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Joshua Chhom Phal
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Music and Worship, cum Laude

Shirley Ann Poltier
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, With Distinction

Meg Priebe
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Peter Wing Pun
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Youth Ministry

Karen Juliet Reeves
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, With Distinction

Brian David Renick
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Youth Ministry

Stephen Paul Roelofs
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Laine Ledden Ruona
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Cum Laude

Sara Ashley Rydman
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology

Rebecca Louise Sassenrath
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, cum Laude

August Louise Schichtel
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Lynnette Kay Simas
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership

Heather Michelle Simons
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Intercultural Studies

Stephen Garrett Simonson
 Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, Cum Laude

Steven Richard Simpson
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership, With Distinction

Isaac Smith
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

William H. Smith II
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Management and Ethics, With Distinction

Kevin Christopher Sneed
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, With Distinction

Zachary Leigh Sowers*
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology

Darlene Marie Spurgeon*
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Christian Leadership, With Distinction

Daniel John Stabbert
Bachelor of Arts, Music, Cum Laude

Rhonda Jeanne Stearns
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology

Seryl Sturis
Bachelor of Science, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Melissa Marie Sullivan
Bachelor of Arts, Bible and Theology, Counseling Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

Post-Baccalaureate Certificates

Linda Gerould
Credentials with Character Certificate

Courtney Pando
Credentials with Character Certificate

*Degree in Progress: anticipated completion, August 2009
Missionary Mentor
Gil Contreras, Bible and Theology, 1957
By Al Hammond, Professor Emeritus

Source about Oaxaca: Jose Jose Aparicio, Come and Listen, printed in Mexico City in 1996.

Outdoor preaching on Post Street, a blighted part of San Jose, made up the Friday night schedule for a number of San Jose Bible College (SJ BC) freshman in 1948. An accordion player named Mary was a regular attendee. We didn’t worry about Mary in that rough environment. She was as tough as they came, and went wherever faith would take her.

In later years Mary became known as “Marie,” the wife of Gil Contreras (pictured above). Gil, a Roman Catholic, and a graduate of San Jose State College, was attracted to this petite evangelist. Mary so convinced Gil of the biblical depiction of the church that he enrolled in SJ BC to learn more.

Convicted of the truth and efficacy of the New Testament, Gil used his bilingual preaching skills to plant numerous churches in Mexico City. Jose Jose Aparicio, a Hispanic student with a one year scholarship at SJ CC, wrote of the circumstances that led missionary Contreras into a fruitful harvest among the christo-pagan Indian population in the rugged mountains of Oaxaca south of Mexico City. Jose’s uncle, Refugio, had been given a tract and the Gospel of John, which gave him a thirst for the freeing truth of evangelical faith. He wrote to missionary Gil Contreras to come and answer his many questions. After an arduous journey to the village of Zaragoza in 1960, Gil came and led Refugio to Christ. This was followed by the conversion of Jose’s father, whose dramatic change in lifestyle caused his mother to also become a Christian.

The spontaneous growth of the Christian population in Oaxaca triggered opposition. Violent persecution led to the martyrdom of Refugio. Gil Contreras and his co-laborers, Richard and Leta Atkinson, sheltered Jose’s family in Mexico City. Persecution did not intimidate the people but only caused the church to grow more. As Gil continued to respond to requests to evangelize in Oaxaca, a price of $50 was put on his head to anyone who would kill him.

Gil felt the need for training indigenous pastors for the growing number of churches. His compassionate mentoring was evidenced by his willingness to attend Jose’s wedding in Zaragoza. In spite of the ongoing persecution, 500 people came to the wedding. Gil and his daughter, Cay, were among them, although they had to leave in the middle of the night to avoid being killed.

Because of such mentoring, Jose continued his education and graduated with a degree in English Literature from the National University of Mexico. His writing skills were recognized by College Press for whom he translated a number of texts into Spanish. His work in a correspondence school begun in 1970 by the Atkinsons continued to grow. Over 50,000 were enrolled, and gave impetus to the planting of many churches.

The entire Contreras family remains involved in the mission work. White haired Gil has not lost his vision nor his zeal for the vast and needy population. His mentoring of youthful workers has been an effective approach and it is due to his efforts that over 200 churches have been planted.
Brett Swarts uses a quote from Jim Rohn, motivational speaker and author, to describe how he sees his life as it develops personally, professionally and spiritually: “The most important question to ask on the job is not, ‘What am I getting?’ The most important question is, ‘What am I becoming?’ Because the value to yourself and to your family is not what you possess, the value is what you become.”

A native of Rocklin, CA, Brett chose William Jessup University for “its commitment to educational excellence, Christian values and overall desire to see students grow – mentally, spiritually and emotionally.” Brett believes his education at Jessup is what helped shape him into the person he is and what led him to consider being a commercial real estate agent. As a person who naturally loves both people and competition, he chose commercial real estate because it offers a competitive environment where he is able to use his people and relational skills.

Working with Marcus & Millichap in Roseville, CA has put to the test his degree in Business Management. He understands the value of service to people, and believes that his degree taught him how to create valuable systems for being successful in a fierce business market while being able to communicate effectively to execute those systems. And with a minor in Counseling Psychology, he has the tools necessary to interact with his co-workers and clients while maintaining healthy boundaries.

“A Christian education gave me knowledge and understanding of how to apply what it means to be a Christian in the workplace,” says Swarts. The call to the secular workplace is one he feels he is a perfect fit for. He does it with the heart of a servant, something that permeated his academic and extracurricular activities while a student at WJU.

As a student-athlete who received an athletic scholarship during the three years he played for the Warrior basketball team, Brett made a positive impact while a student at WJU. Head men's basketball coach, Aaron Muhic, says, “Brett was a great example as a student athlete while at Jessup. He competed with the utmost intensity and effort in basketball, school work, and his faith. He gets the most out of what he has and does it in a Christ-like way. I really have enjoyed getting to know Brett as an athlete, but more importantly as a person. He is a very driven businessman and will make a positive impact on our community and our world.”

Brett is still involved with the WJU basketball program, as well as other community programs. He has kept stats for both the men's and women's teams, connected WJU Athletics with the President of Northern California Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Basketball, and has recently coached a 7th grade Rocklin team. The connections he has made by introducing AAU to WJU Athletics has resulted in more tournaments being held at WJU, provided fundraising opportunities, and brought additional revenue to the University for facility usage.

We look forward to following Brett’s personal and professional development as he pursues a career as a successful businessman and warrior for Christ.
Guin Boggs Named Head Coach of Women’s Basketball

Guin Boggs has successfully coached basketball at many different levels while passing along his inspirational knowledge of the game to various age groups. He’ll add one more level to his resume - NAIA coach.

William Jessup University named Boggs its new head women’s basketball coach. A resident of Rocklin, Boggs has coached basketball for over 40 years. His most recent head coaching job was at Granite Bay High School for the boy’s varsity team.

He was named the California North Coast Section Coach of the Year in 1991 and in 2004 Boggs was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for Basketball by the California Coaches Association. He was named Mission Valley Athletic League Coach of the Year seven times.

“I am thrilled to have Coach Boggs join the William Jessup team of coaches. He brings four decades of teaching and coaching experience,” said Farnum Smith, William Jessup’s Athletic Director. “Guin is a gifted motivator, and his character and passion to positively impact the lives of his players and peers through teaching and coaching the game of basketball make him an excellent fit for Jessup.”

In 1991, Boggs founded Triple Threat Basketball Camps. He still owns and directs these high intensity camps that focus on developing the complete basketball player. The camps have drawn hundreds of individual players and teams.

Melissa Triebwasser, who served as the interim Head Coach for the Warriors this past season, will remain on staff as an assistant coach and the University’s Sports Information Director. Assistant coach Erik Nelson will also stay on for his second year with the women’s team.
Men’s and Women’s Basketball

Men’s basketball saw their season end on a heart-breaking 30’ shot at the buzzer on February 21st. The Warriors, who rode a 13-3 conference record to a second seed in the Cal Pac tournament, blew through the first game against Dominican, who they beat three times on the season. The next day, they took on the regular season champion Pioneers of Cal State East Bay, who had dominated WJU in two previous contests. But the Warriors hung tough, trading buckets and stops with the high flying Pioneers and tying the game on two Jason Washington free throws with 7.7 seconds to go. But Cal Pac player of the year Tauren Moore of East Bay drained a 30’ three pointer with less than a second remaining to give the Pioneers the victory, the championship, and a berth in the National Tournament.

Seniors Lucas Birchard, who finished his career as the leading three point and free throw shooter in school history, as well as setting all time marks for rebounds and steals, and Zach Sowers, were selected as Cal Pac All-Conference players. The Women’s team was unable to beat the Lady Pioneers for a third straight time this season as they lost at home in the first round of the playoffs to East Bay. The Lady Warriors finished with a 7-9 conference record in the Cal Pac.

Senior Rebekah Calvert was a unanimous first team all conference selection and also was honored as the Cal Pac Newcomer of the Year. Calvert finished the season as the conference leader in steals and was the third leading scorer in the Cal Pac.
Having a heart for orphaned children is nothing new to Jessica Landin. "I've always had a strong desire to help children who are orphaned," she said. "I remember years back I used to go online and see the faces of many kids who were waiting for a home."

That heart-felt desire settled deep within Landin, ultimately leading her to seek out the sister that her family eventually adopted from Samoa. "We adopted my sister when she was 6. Adopting her was something that my family decided to do, probably because I was so persistent," Landin said.

Now her sister is 12 and Landin continues to be compelled to make a difference for orphans. As a business major at William Jessup University, she decided to go on a winter break mission trip to Belize with other WJU students. The university team partnered with Pathlight ministries, an organization committed to providing education and resources to people in Belize.

It was during this trip, while teaching art and music to orphans, that Landin met Leoni, the woman who runs Kings Children’s Home in Belmopan, Belize.

"Leoni has taken in about 50 orphans. I was so touched when she told me that her hardest day of the week is Friday when she has to decide whether to pay her workers or feed the children," Landin said.

Now back in the states and a graduate of the class of 2009, Landin has poured herself into raising money for the orphanage. As part of her senior internship, she hosted a benefit dinner to raise awareness about the orphanage. The dinner was held at WJU's lecture hall on May 1. Over 60 people attended and nearly $5,000 was raised to support the orphanage.

"We served a traditional Belizean dinner, Johnny Cakes and all, catered by Bon Appetit," Landin said. "A common dessert in Belize is chocolate cake so we couldn't pass up the opportunity to add it to our menu!"

The event was decorated with a red and blue theme, reflective of Belize's national colors as well as tropical flower centerpieces. Landin presented a slideshow of her experiences in Belize and discussed the issues that are currently facing the orphanage. "Currently there are 50 kids living in a small concrete house," Landin said. "Although they have the land to expand, they don't have the funds." Money raised from the event will go to support plans to expand the orphanage.

An immediate need for the children of Kings Children's Home is to fix the boards on the bunk beds that are cramped in rooms to accommodate all of the children. "Some of the boards are breaking and the kids are falling through the bunks of their beds," Landin said. "There is also a need to build shelves. The kids keep what little donated clothing they have on the ground and because of rodents, insects and dirt, their much-needed clothing is losing its longevity."

If you would like to support Jessica in her efforts, she can be reached at jessielauren@sbcglobal.net.
As a freshman at Lodi High School, Lucas Birchard was told “no” by the coach when he tried out for the basketball team. He had been playing basketball since he was in the third grade, so he kept practicing. The next year, when he tried out for junior varsity, he was cut again. But he kept practicing and playing. It wasn’t until he was a junior that he made the team. “Having experienced some challenges and obstacles and overcoming them has given me confidence,” he said. “If everything had come easy, I wouldn’t have had to persevere and grow.”

When he applied to colleges, he knew he wanted to continue to play basketball. His prior coaches might scarcely recognize him now: a William Jessup University student-athlete who completed his Bachelors degree with a double major in Business Management and Bible & Theology in four years, an NAIA Academic All American his senior year, team MVP for his junior and senior years, and three time All California Pacific Conference player.

The perseverance that Lucas demonstrated in his youth has helped him develop the character and leadership qualities that his coaches, professors and friends admire most. Rhonda Capron, Assistant Professor of Business, said, “Lucas is a model for student athletes. He is one of the top business students from an academic perspective while balancing a demanding training and game schedule. When I think of Lucas, I think of grace and maturity. He has a great business mind and stellar analytical skills. We will miss him, but we know he will go out and do great things for the Lord.”

Aaron Muhic, Head Men’s Basketball Coach for WJU considers Lucas one of his best recruits. “He leads and leads in the right way. He pulls people up with him and is always mindful of his Christian walk. It seemed every year he came back in the fall as a better player in some way. But his most important characteristic is leadership. He really stepped up this year and at times carried the team on his back. He will be difficult to replace.”

The entire Birchard family has become quite a fixture in the WJU men’s basketball program. They travel to all home and away games, and the team looks forward to their attendance. “They (Birchards) are all very supportive of our program. They were there to enjoy the experience and support our guys... not just Lucas. We will miss Lucas but also his mom, dad, and sister as well,” says Coach Muhic.

“College has been a great experience,” says Lucas, “I almost wish it didn’t have to end.” As Birchard looks to his future, he hopes to continue to play the game that has helped to develop him in so many ways. He is currently sending game films to overseas professional teams with the help of his high school and college coaches. Says Coach Muhic, “I know Lucas will be very successful in whatever he does. He is a unique person and I hope that my own son develops many of the qualities that I see in Lucas. He is a very talented person but he always puts the Lord first in his life.”
What are the ways in which the life of this community is unchanged from the days of San Jose Bible College/San Jose Christian College?

What are those things that have remained constant and true?

Portia Hopkins: I think the way that faculty interacts with students and the way faculty interacts with each other has not changed.

Bev Wiens: The students perceive the same sense of family as we have always had. I know we’ve talked about the fact that we’re getting bigger, are we still a family? The students are saying that we are.

Kay Llovio: The feel of family, sense of faculty and staff commitment to students and spiritual formation alongside academic preparation are unchanged. The physical campus has changed so much – in size and scope and feel. Once you get on campus, you see it’s truly amazing.

How has the life of this community changed?

Les Christie: I think we’re doing a better job in some areas, like in engaging the world itself. Programs like Public Policy have so many things on campus that we never had in San Jose. We’re talking and dialoguing with all kinds of people, staying solid in our Christian values, but engaging people who otherwise would never have been on campus. That’s really exciting.

Portia Hopkins: We used to get those students who would come for a year or two and would then transfer out because the curriculum didn’t meet who they were or what they wanted to become. Now there are more places in the curriculum where they can get the theology alongside the major of study they hope to work in some day.

Many colleges, when they make the gradual transition from one type of institution to another, find themselves under scrutiny that some see them on a slippery slope. Knowing this can be a concern to some, how would you respond to those who see it as an abandonment of our roots to become Christian liberal arts (see definition of Christian liberal arts in sidebar)?

Les Christie: We have a broader reach now, and a greater number of students who we have a chance to present a Christian side of a lot of things that we wouldn’t have had on the other campus. Transitioning into liberal arts opens a door for students to be part of this dialogue who otherwise may not have had the chance. I think it’s very exciting – so, I like that part.

It’s like looking at a diamond and you see all the different facets. Being a liberal arts university with diverse majors gives you different ways of shining scripture – Public Policy can see a different angle on some passages of scripture that I’m really familiar with – and see something different I didn’t see in it – it’s an “aha” moment.

Bev Wiens: I think the diversity (of courses) and student interest is mixing the pot in terms of critical thinking. With a more diverse student population, the students really challenge each other and it’s been very healthy.

David Nystrom: While I wasn’t part of SJBC/SJCC, I’ve enjoyed having conversations with students who say they learned something in an English or Public Policy class and it’s caused them to think in new ways, more deeply and even more creatively about how they understand the Bible and theology. And so it’s actually spurred a deepening of their spiritual life and even a burden for how to do ministry in the world.
How does the faculty reflect the commitment to Christ-centered higher education?

Bev Wiens: That’s another way of looking at are we moving down that slippery slope? Are we hiring people for their subject matter expertise and neglecting spiritual maturity issues in hiring? I don’t think so at all. I’m very impressed with our colleagues in the fact that they are both spiritually mature and they are experts in their subject matter. I don’t see any change at all in terms of our values.

Les Christie: I think our faith is even stronger. I love the dialogue with the new faculty. We have some great theological discussions. It’s like iron sharpening iron. I don’t see any weakening of our theological position. I think it enhances it.

Ken Logan: This experience, by far, has not only been the best educational environment I’ve taught in but it’s also the best employment setting I’ve ever been part of. We really have something special here. This is unique and I think when students come here they are blessed by that uniqueness.

Portia Hopkins: It goes back to our values and priority of faculty interaction with the students. We don’t ever consider the research that we might be doing as a priority over students. The real work of our faculty is teaching students. We mentor in some ways that are very deep.

And the faculty interaction with each other is equally distinctive. We’re not competitive with each other. We think in terms of forming community, we think in terms of growing closer to one another, all of us being as Christ-like as possible – modeling and mentoring that for our students.

We’ve come a long way and changed a lot in the 15 years that I’ve been here. Even though sometimes it’s been hard or stressful, it doesn’t give you a lot of time to rest in any of that. It’s been a transition that will be going on for some time, but it’s exciting to be a part of something that dynamic, that alive.

Christian Liberal Arts

College is about the acquisition of technical skill and the mastery of knowledge needed for success throughout life. It is about becoming adept at business or mathematics or English or chemistry. These are essential features of a collegiate education and should not be dismissed. But education can be, and should be, more.

A liberal arts education seeks to build on this necessary foundation. The “liberal” in “liberal arts” comes from the Latin liber, meaning “free.” Our word “liberty” is derived from this same root. In classical times a liberal arts education was that necessary for free persons, persons expected to have a hand in guiding society. It had as its aim not only helping students learn how to think in a logical and orderly fashion, but also to expose students to a wide variety of disciplines so as to gain insight into the world of human culture without, as well as the world of the human person within. The ancients recognized that human beings have the capacity for both great kindness as well as astonishing displays of self-interest. The historian Livy (64 B.C.-A.D. 12) once wrote, “In recent years wealth has made us greedy, and self indulgence has, through every form of sensual excess, caused us to be chasing after our own deaths. We know we should resist, but we lack the strength of will to do so.” For this reason the ancients counseled that human desire must be curbed lest excessive pride, hubris, damage not only the individual but society as a whole.

A liberal education, then, adds to technical skill and requisite knowledge an understanding of the human person and the ways in which culture and history reflect the human predicament.

At William Jessup University the Christian liberal arts education extends and deepens this endeavor. Our aim is to help students develop patterns of thought, of heart, and of action that are thoroughly biblical and Christian. The study of English, ministry, music, public policy and the like affords students the opportunity to understand the wider world without as well as the inner world of the human person. Paul, like Livy, recognized that on our own we are captive to our appetites. Unlike Livy, however, he asserted that there is a remedy in Christ where we can experience freedom from this slavery. It is for this reason that he said we are to have transformed minds; it is for this reason that Jesus asserted the poverty of merely doing good to claim we must become good.

The New Testament also affirms that God wants us to be ambassadors of his kingdom to our world, for the world bears the stamp of goodness that is the legacy of his creative endeavor. For this reason we are called not only to understand our culture, but to consider it with affection. Only when so fortified can we be agents of the cause of God in our world. At William Jessup University students have the chance to become not just a skilled business person who happens to be a Christian, but a Christian business person. At William Jessup University education is about more: a richer educational experience for you, and an understanding that your education is about more than you.

David Nystrom, Vice President for Academics
The year 1986, to borrow from Charles Dickens, was both the best and worst of times. It was the best year because I finished my doctorate. Then, in August, I became the head of the pastoral ministry department of San Jose Bible College. Barbara was employed as student finance officer. We commuted from Salinas, CA, a round trip of 120 miles each day, six hundred miles a week.

What was better was the small and exceedingly qualified faculty: Al Hammond, Reuben Ratzlaff, Kathy Foote, Michael Bowman, Jim Crain, Bev Wiens, Eileen McDaniel, Kay Llovio and Don Hinkle.

The students were a splendid surprise. I looked forward to going to class every day where I taught introduction to preaching, biblical interpretation, Romans and pastoral counseling.

But 1986 was also the worst of times. Our dog, Bear, was killed, and it was painful to resign from the ministry at Salinas First Christian Church, which I consider the best church I have served. Then our teenage twins, Tara and Cara were almost killed in an automobile accident. Our beautiful girls came so close to death it still haunts our memory.

But worst of all, my mother died. There came a phone call in the night, “Come quickly because she has only a few hours to live.”

You know the drill, call an airline to find a flight, hurry to the airport for the last two seats on a red-eye to Illinois and rush to the hospital. We made it. We stood at my mother’s bed side and held her still warm hand.

Her physician had advised us we would have to make a decision to continue life support or not. In early afternoon she spared us that sad duty and slipped away to a better world.

Twenty-three years later the memories of 1986 are still fresh. San Jose Bible College became San Jose Christian College which moved to Rocklin, CA and became William Jessup University in 2004.

To be honest, I relate better to young adults and college students than people my own age. The students call me “Doc.” They are in and out of our home and shower us with affection. I always wake up glad to be able to go to school one more day.

But May, 2009 I announced my retirement from teaching and plan to return to my first love, pastoral ministry. My office will have a new resident; my department will be led by another person.

We are leaving the academic life behind and plan to return to church ministry. I suspect 2009 may be like 1986, the best of times and the worst of times.

We depart with good memories of churches where I preached or did interim ministries. Churches from Oregon to Southern California and Hawaii were opened to us for revivals, missionary rallies, faith-promise meetings, teaching and seminars. I taught preaching classes in Haiti and England and led students groups to Israel.

President Jessup lured me to the college in 1986 with the promise I would influence a multitude of graduates. He proved to be a prophet. They are out there everywhere preaching, teaching, making disciples and planting churches.

Surreptitiously, I plan to hide a few cards in my favorite books in the school library. If you come across one, read the note, initial it and leave it for the next person.

I ask you to pray for Barbara and me as we move on to the state of Georgia. My personal motto is, “Preaching is my vocation, my avocation and my vacation.” I want to spend the years I have left preaching the gospel and bragging about Jesus.

May the Lord be with you.
Dear WJU Supporter,

I wanted to express my sincerest gratitude for your your faithfulness in providing support for students such as myself. Attending William Jessup University has been such an incredible blessing. My time here at WJU has allowed me to grow both academically and spiritually. Just this past year I experienced tremendous loss in my life with the death of my mother. As I battled through the most painful time in my life, the faculty and student body here at WJU rekindled the love of Christ to me in a powerful way. I was deeply moved by their compassionate prayers, cards, hugs, and shared tears. I feel deeply indebted to this university for being a place that has helped me to mature into a man after God's heart. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend this wonderful university! Your generosity is helping to prepare the next generation for service in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you and God bless,

Max Botner

To support students like Max donate online...

www.jessup.edu/giving

or send your donation to

The William Jessup University Fund
333 Sunset Boulevard
Rocklin, CA 95765
or call (916) 577-1800
Music Department Celebrates
Release of Two CDs

The William Jessup University Music Department is proud to announce two CD releases for the 2009 year. Beginning with the Alumni & Community Choir’s release of “Our God Is God” in March, and then quickly followed up with the University Choir’s release of “Declare His Glory” in April. Both projects were recorded in the William Jessup University Lecture Hall over the span of one week, and each choir officially kicked off their release with a CD release concert at William Jessup University.

Both CD’s are available for purchase at William Jessup University as well as online, through iTunes and CDBaby.com. For more information about CD purchases or for booking information, please contact William Jessup University at (916) 577-2200 or by email: music@jessup.edu.