

FALL 2019

JESSUP

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OF CHRIST-CENTERED HIGHER EDUCATION

A PUBLICATION OF
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JESSUP

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A PUBLICATION OF WILLIAM JESSUP UNIVERSITY

FALL 2019

In partnership with the Church, the purpose of **William Jessup University** is to educate transformational leaders for the glory of God.

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Cover from left to right: Bryce Jessup, President Emeritus
and Dr. John Jackson, University President



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2



RUNNING WITH ENDURANCE

4



FIVE GENERATIONS AT JESSUP

8



NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY
ADVANCEMENT: TOM SASSER

9



FIFTEEN YEARS IN ROCKLIN

10



CHAPEL HIGHLIGHTS IN ROCKLIN

14



FROM CAPETOWN TO JESSUP

16



PREACHING CLUB: THEN AND NOW

18



TRIBUTE TO JIM JESSUP

20



FIRST FRESHMAN CLASS PERSPECTIVE

21



"HANDS ON" LEARNING:
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AT JESSUP

22



DELIVERING A BRIGHT HOPE
FOR TOMORROW

24



LIFELONG LEARNING

27



ALUMNI NEWS FALL '19

30



ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM

32



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT
FAITH (PASQUALINI) FONSECA

33

JESSUP FULL AND

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

- JOSHUA 1:8-9

Jessup has a hard center and soft edges.

We have those because we are living out the gospel of Jesus Christ. Scripture tells us that the law came through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus (John 1:17). Throughout history, the church has sought to be faithful to the clear teaching about the authority of Scripture, the triune nature of the Godhead, the sinfulness of mankind, the need for a Savior, the sinless sacrificial gift of Jesus, new life in Christ, the empowering work of the Holy Spirit, and the redemptive presence of the church in the world until the Lord returns. Each of those teachings are part of the “hard center” of truth the church stewards in a strong and courageous way, even as culture around us begs and entices us to minimize or dilute them.

The “soft edges” of Jessup and Jesus followers are seen in the manifold witness of grace, love, compassion, and redemptive presence as we engage our world in loving embrace as the arms of Jesus. When we see brokenness and pain in our world, we respond with compassion and kindness, seeking to offer the world the hope and healing that are only found in Jesus. We weep over the cities God has called us to, and we live in our neighborhoods as “salt and light” with the savor of the Savior calling them to Him.

In this issue, you will see some of the history and flow of family relationships that have come to shape the Jessup community. From the early days of Bill and Carrie Jessup to the present, sacrificial servants and givers have shaped the life of this university to impart the good news of Jesus, full of grace and truth. The truth

UP AT 80 OF GRACE AND TRUTH

DR. JOHN JACKSON, PRESIDENT



of the gospel has been declared from the earliest of days in chapels, meetings, conversations, and incarnational witness locally and globally. The grace of the gospel has been freely extended in love, compassion, and justice across Northern California, the United States, and the world. Jessup has sought, from the

beginning to the present, to manifest the life, love, and light of Jesus into our world.

As the Apostle Paul said,

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. - COLOSSIANS 1:28



Please enjoy these pages as you experience yet another series of Jessup snapshots. **I think life is experienced in video, but remembered in snapshots.**

The snapshots of Jessup that occupy these pages are rich and tell part of the story that God is unfolding. I'm convinced that your part, and my part of the story yet untold is an even bolder and more challenging set of chapters than ever before. **Now is the time for Jessup to grab hold of the Jesus calling for this present hour and live full of grace and truth in order to see culture transformed for the glory of God.**

RUNNING WITH ENDURANCE

BY: DR. BRYCE JESSUP



Dr. Bryce Jessup,
President Emeritus

As a small boy, I remember many times hearing my dad quote both privately and publicly, **"Let us run with endurance the race marked out for us,"** from Hebrews 12:1. Dad was an athlete and he loved to compete on the playing field of baseball, track, or any mountain stream with trout that needed to be caught and put in the frying pan to the glory of God! He would run with endurance in any race that was marked out for him, the most important was his call to ministry. My dad believed his call 80 years ago was this: **"The best way to change culture is to start a church. The best way to start a church is to start a college."** Thus San Jose Bible College was launched on September 19, 1939 with 14 students as dad preached on the opening chapel day, "Why San Jose Bible College?"

I doubt that he fully realized the level of sacrifices, pain, endurance, and prayer it was going to require to survive and impact the world. American culture was still reeling from the depression of the 1930s. There were no salaries for the first three years for the teachers. Tuition was

minimal and some money was given by individuals and churches to help pay the bills. A shoe box was passed around at the faculty meetings for the teachers to take the little money that was available for needed food and expenses. One student worked at Claps Baby Food and brought dented food cans to campus. Students and faculty could take what they needed. Dad let others go first and frequently all that was left for our family was "fig pudding." As my brother and I would eat it for dinner, we would complain and dad would say "think of all the poor starving children in China." We would reply, "box it all up and ship it to them." Claps Baby Food went out of existence... and they deserved to!

Our family and the college didn't have a lot of things which money can buy, but we were wealthy in things money couldn't buy...love, joy, peace, hope, passion, and Kingdom impact.

Throughout the 80 years of our existence there have been many times when we wondered if the school was going to survive. Times when bills could not be

*Why San Jose Bible College
March 16: 15 - Sept 19, 1939*

two -

1. Thankful for this day -

2. Short history -

A. 7 months ago seemed about hopeless

B. God has been more than good.

(all) In everything God has supplied

(all) We praise His name.

(all) Nothing that we have done, God has brought the victory.

C. Today able to reach 3 months -

"Thanks be unto God"

D. It has not been easy but the Lord has stood by all attempts

(all) The second national

(all) Many open on this

indefinite duration

as long as an over



"Let us run with endurance the race marked out for us."

Hebrews 12:1

paid, salaries were delayed for many weeks, enrollment fell below 100 students, six relocation sites denied by San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, and Morgan Hill, where we bought the former Saint Louis Hospital and lost over a million dollars. Our faith was tested year after year since the beginning of the college. **"For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow,"** says James 1:3. Our endurance continued to grow and reflect itself in the increasing confidence that God was going to one day open the door to opportunities for powerful global impact. Our motto was, "don't quit!"

In the midst of a very challenging year, we chose **"Great is Thy Faithfulness"** for the opening song at graduation on May 30, 1986, and we have been singing it every year since then. We launched a prayer team of 120 people about the same time. We figured if God needed 120 people to be in prayer in Acts 1 to launch the church on the Day of Pentecost, we needed it also. So they were selected and informed every month of our needs and

answered prayers, frequently meeting together to pray. A "Dream Team" of high profile Christian business leaders of influence and affluence were drawn together and started meeting in the early 1990s to seek God's direction to help in the journey. If Jesus needed 12 we needed at least 15, and God did some miraculous things through them for more than 20 years.

Then it happened! The door opened wide for us to move our campus to Rocklin, California. We received approval in 14 minutes from the Placer County Board of Supervisors to relocate the campus on 156 acres of land with 340,000 square feet of buildings. It was a miracle! We finally moved past the wilderness and into the Promised Land, and what a blessing was unfolding! Counting the families of our faculty and staff, over 100 people moved over from San Jose to Rocklin, confident that God was in it and that He had something wonderful for us to experience. School opened on our new campus with a record number of 441 students in the fall of 2004, and this past



“Our family and the college didn't have a lot of things which money can buy, but we were wealthy in things money couldn't buy...love, joy, peace, hope, passion, and Kingdom impact.”

fall we had a record number of nearly 1750 students—and we still have 100 acres of land on which to build in the future. To God be the Glory!

As the college continued to “run with endurance the race marked out for us,” we marvel at how God grew and multiplied our global impact. Even during the struggle years, our faithful workers kept their chins up, putting one foot in front of the other to run the race. “Fixing our eyes upon Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith,” and believing God had a marvelous future planned for SJBC, SJCC, and WJU. Several thousand students have been trained for ministry and sent forth to communicate God’s truth in the church, the marketplace, schools, and globally to over 100 countries around the world.

Ministries like the four listed on this page represent some of the ministries which God started at the college in San Jose during the difficult years and now have grown exponentially to touch literally thousands and thousands of lives today.

As we celebrate our 80 years of history, it is amazing how God, through our graduates, has kept these ministries multiplying, energized, empowered, resourced, inspired not tired, hopeful not discouraged, sacrificial, and rejoicing at what God is doing. Thus our joy cups are full and running over—for the joy of the Lord is our strength in a very challenging world. The core values remain the same as when the school was started in 1939, though the delivery systems have always been evolving to meet the changing needs of each generation. The college was started and continues with Christ as the center and circumference of all that we are and shall become. The Bible is our foundation of truth upon which our lives are built. We continue to be united with all Christ followers who join with us and share a burden to reach a world that needs Jesus.

We are blessed! Our prayer is that the next 80 years will continue to produce abundant fruit for our Lord which will change the very landscape of eternity as we run with endurance the race marked out for us. I look forward to standing on tiptoes to see hundreds of thousands of people who have been transformed by Jesus through the college, breaking the tape and hearing, “Well done, good and faithful servants! Enter into the joy of your salvation.” To Him be the glory!

Northern California Evangelistic Association

This organization, now known as Stadia, plants hundreds of churches globally every year. One of the largest global church planting ministries in the United States. It was started by the college in 1954. Stadiachurchplanting.org

Agape International Mission (AIM)

Agape started when Cambodian refugees were flooding into Santa Clara valley in the 1980s. More than 70 Cambodian leaders were trained and graduated in ministry at the college and more than 1,000 churches have been started among the Cambodians in California and Cambodia as a result. Now the major focus is rescuing hundreds of girls from the brothels of Cambodia and giving them hope, education, and vocational training in Jesus. agapewebsite.org

Iran Alive

This live satellite TV broadcast into Iran is resulting in more than 10,000 people a month currently coming to Christ through those that were trained at the college and now present the gospel daily by satellite. Iranaliveministries.org

The Jonathan Project

A ministry working among the restricted access countries to plant house churches. In just over seven years more than 601,000 points of light have been started among 1,023 unreached people groups. It was started and still is maintained by graduates of the college. hill111.com

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

*Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

*Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

*Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—*

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Thomas Chisholm



FIVE GENERATIONS AT JESSUP



"Uncle" Amos Bigelow

Graduated 1944

Dr. Wayne Bigelow

Graduated 1949

Marc Bigelow

Graduated 1973

Jeff Bigelow

Graduated 1976

Amy Cherry

Graduated 1997

Samantha Bradley

currently enrolled dual major fine art and arts management

Last August, four generations of the Bigelow family gathered together to celebrate the 90th birthday of alumni Dr. Wayne Bigelow. A milestone indeed. Dr. Bigelow is the second of five generations who have collectively attended SJBC, SJCC and WJU over the past 77 years.

It was uncle Amos Bigelow who was the first generation to attend San Jose Bible College, graduating back in 1944.

Following in his uncle's footsteps, Dr. Bigelow enrolled in 1946 and graduated from SJBC in 1949. During the 1970s, Dr. Bigelow graciously stepped up to provide health care, medicine and counsel to the entire San Jose Bible College community. Despite the fact he lived in Turlock, he faithfully made the drive to the San Jose campus on a weekly basis for 10 years. Dr. Bigelow impacted the future of many students with his wise and seasoned counsel and continues to be a dear friend to President Emeritus Bryce Jessup.

Dr. Bigelow's two sons Marc and Jeff later attended SJCC. In 1973, Marc earned a degree in pastoral ministry while Jeff graduated in 1976 with a degree in bible and theology. Marc has served Christian leaders for 40 years through Stadia, a nationwide church planting organization. He now leads a Convene team in Sacramento. Jeff is the founding pastor of Rolling

Hills Christian Church and currently works at Vanderbloemen, a Christian executive search firm. Jeff has over 30 years of ministry experience as a youth pastor, college professor, church planter, teaching pastor and senior pastor.

Marc's daughter Amy Cherry also attended SJCC and graduated with an associate degree of arts in 1997.

Currently attending is fifth generation student Samantha Bradley who is Amy's daughter and the granddaughter of Dr. Bigelow. Samantha is a sophomore, dual majoring in fine arts and arts management. She also serves in leadership where she participates as a discovery ambassador, a program to familiarize first-year freshman with the growing university.



Top left: Dr. Wayne Bigelow

Bottom left, from left to right: Marc Bigelow, Samantha Bradley, Dr. Wayne Bigelow and Amy Cherry.

Above: Bigelow family photo, uncle Amos is on the far right in the back row.

NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT TOM SASSER

BY: TOM SASSER



In 1974, my parents came to faith during the Jesus movement of that time. Not long after my parent's conversion, I too responded to God's grace in a small Baptist church in Arcata, California. Faith was the centerpiece of our lives and the local church was our home away from home. Even as a young boy, I found my affections and attention turning toward vocational ministry. Upon graduating from high school, I moved to Los Angeles to attend L.I.F.E. Bible College to prepare for what God might have for my life.

To say life has been a circuitous adventure since those college days some 35 years ago would be an understatement. However, through it all God has been faithful to craft each shift in the road for my good.

As a young man, I never envisioned an executive role within a higher education institution as a part of my future. Truth be told, formalized learning was a challenge for me and a persistent source of insecurity. Yet in the course of time, I not only accomplished many personal academic goals, but came to see that I might have a small role to play in ensuring that others are able to achieve their educational dreams as well.

Each day, I am inspired by students who are filled with dreams, questions and hopes for influencing the world. Each one of their stories reminds me of the importance of what we do as a University Advancement Office. We believe in

things ordained by the hand of God and we believe in the people He has assigned to bring them to fruition. Together with our generous partners, we are securing the very best future for William Jessup University and the students it serves.

I am a product of Christ-centered higher education and the grateful recipient of countless hours of investment by gifted and godly leaders. I am convinced that the "more" that God has for this University is beyond what we might ask or imagine. The world is desperate for the compassionate, effectual, eternally significant message of Jesus Christ.

In 2003, I married my wife Debbie. We have been blessed with two amazing daughters, Alyssa (11) and Mia (6). In June of this year, we were blessed to take in a foster adopt child, who is a constant reminder that God still has "more" for the Sasser family.

Through it all, in wins and losses, my beautiful bride has been a faithful expression of God's grace. Together, we rejoice in the gift of serving the Jessup community. We are eager to meet each one of you, to share in the joy of partnering to achieve all God has set out for us to do. We pray God's favor rests upon all that concerns you, multiplying the work of your hands in every way.

Tom Sasser holds a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University and a master's in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. Prior to coming to Jessup, he served as the Assistant Dean of Development for the School of Engineering and Computer Science at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. He loves meeting new people, hunting, fishing and things that go fast.



FIFTEEN YEARS IN ROCKLIN



Bill Halldin,
Rocklin City Council

In the summer of 2004, dozens of San Jose Christian College staff and nearly two hundred students loaded up moving trucks and cars as they journeyed to the new home of their college.

About 140 miles northeast of San Jose, college leaders had stumbled on a closed Herman Miller furniture manufacturing plant on more than 125 acres in Rocklin. The land was mostly undeveloped and hardly had the look of a university campus.

In less than two years, those defunct warehouses would be transformed into the Sacramento region's only private residential, four-year university. It was a stark contrast to the crowded 8-acre campus the college had called home in San Jose, its base for all of its 65 years.

After extensive renovations and additions, the college moved into the Rocklin warehouse and adopted a new name, honoring the man who founded the institution in 1939: William Jessup.

For most Bay Area transplants, Rocklin was not a well-known place, its primary claim to fame being the long-time summer training camp of the San Francisco 49ers.

But now, Rocklin was home to a brand new university.

The welcome mat put out by Rocklin and Placer County was juxtaposed to the reception other cities had given. Some had rebuffed efforts to move the college to their communities; Morgan Hill, a town 20 miles south of San Jose, flatly rejected the



college's plan to turn a closed hospital into a college campus.

But Rocklin and Placer County provided encouragement from the start, unanimously approving the change of use for the property.

"I'll never forget the phone call I received 17 years ago from Bryce Jessup asking my opinion of the community's support, as a County Supervisor, of locating a Christian University in Placer County," recalled retired Supervisor Ted Gaines. "My answer was an emphatic yes!"

As employees prepared for the school to open, the Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a special lunch for faculty and staff to welcome them to the community.

At the grand opening, students gathered for the first time on the ramp that would become the iconic gathering place for all-student body photos, gradually filling more of the ramp with each passing year.

In the years that followed, Rocklin, Placer County and the entire Sacramento region would embrace their new university.

Businesses offered internships, churches welcomed new students to their congregations in addition to volunteers for their

programs, and local organizations found a variety of ways to connect to the institution.

The Rocklin Chamber of Commerce welcomed Jessup's business department head to its Board of Directors and later Jessup's leaders would find their place in regional leadership boards like the Greater Sacramento Economic Council.

"We have been blessed to have William Jessup as a partner in our community for 15 years," said Robin Trimble, CEO of the Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce since 2005. "The economic and social impact of our partnership with William Jessup leadership, staff and students has been immeasurable. The mentoring relationships between William Jessup students and the business community have been invaluable. We look forward to reaping the positive benefits of our endeavors for many more years to come."

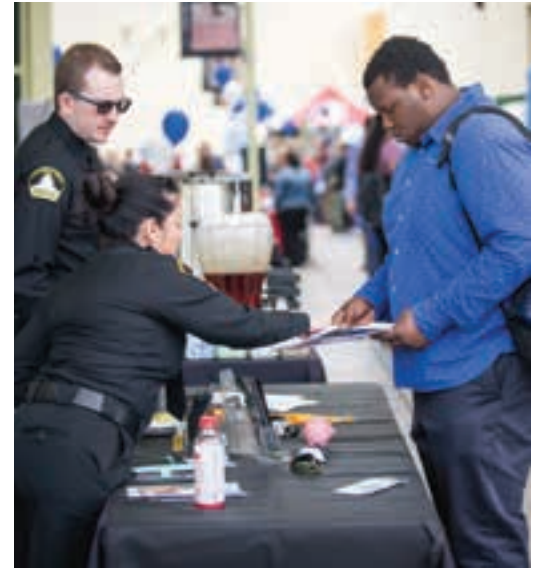
While San Jose Christian College was often overlooked by Bay Area outlets, Sacramento area media provided extensive coverage of William Jessup's arrival in the region.

And the waves didn't stop after opening day.

In the early days in Rocklin, then-First Lady Laura Bush paid a visit to the Jessup

“The economic and social impact of our partnership with William Jessup leadership, staff and students has been immeasurable. The mentoring relationships between William Jessup students and the business community have been invaluable.”

Robin Trimble, CEO Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce



campus, along with the 79th Attorney General of the United States, John Ashcroft.

Jessup's sports teams received marquee-name assists from former WNBA and Sacramento Monarchs star Ruthie Bolton and the baseball team had an ace in former New York Mets and Chicago White Sox manager Jerry Manuel, who grew up playing baseball in Sacramento.

The university's impact on Rocklin has been recognized repeatedly by the City and community leaders. In 2008, the City awarded the university its highest honor for community service—the Roy and Peggy Ruhkala Community Service Award. In 2010, then-President Bryce Jessup received an individual Ruhkala award.

"Bryce Jessup personally models community service for the university's professors, staff and students," the City of Rocklin said in a news release at the time. "Since moving William Jessup University to South Placer in 2004, Jessup has ensured that the first task for students each year is taking care of others, not themselves. Each year, hundreds of students fan out around South Placer to donate their time and skills for the benefit of nonprofit organizations."

Jessup's School of Education has been a big source of new teachers for local schools in Rocklin and the region. Meanwhile, the university's new Environmental Sciences Department is supporting a key Placer County initiative called the Placer County Conservation Plan.

“They [Jessup] have grown significantly and added an array of new academic disciplines. They are great people and I could not be more pleased that they have contributed a positive new dimension to Placer County.”

Robert Weygandt,
Placer County Supervisor

"William Jessup University came to Placer County 15 years ago seeking a home where they could flourish," said Placer County Supervisor Robert Weygandt, who has represented the university area since the 1990s. "They have done that. They have grown significantly and added an array of new academic disciplines. They are great people and I could not be more pleased that they have contributed a positive new dimension to Placer County."

After his term as a County Supervisor, Ted Gaines went on to represent the area as an Assemblymember, State Senator and now as a member of the State Board of Equalization—and along the way became a Jessup parent, too.

"Students, including my children, have received a life changing education that goes beyond just academics and provides the foundation for discovering why we



are here and what God’s purpose is for our life, here and now,” Gaines said. “WJU provides salt, light and wisdom in a world that is desperately in need of truth and authenticity.”

*“WJU provides salt, light and wisdom
in a world that is desperately in need
of truth and authenticity.”*

Ted Gaines, State Board of Equalization

“During the last several years, President John Jackson has provided excellent leadership by bringing the community to WJU and expanding the role of the University in Business, Politics, Pastor Training, Education, Science and beyond,” Gaines said. “God’s vision was so much bigger than I ever imagined and WJU continues to grow and impact our community, the State of California and the world.”



CHAPEL HIGHLIGHTS IN ROCKLIN

BY: DANIEL GLUCK



Dr. Daniel Gluck served as Director of Campus Ministries for 11 years beginning in fall '04, shaping and expanding Jessup's ministry programs. He transitioned to the ministry faculty in 2015, and now serves as Associate Dean and Faculty for Jessup's School of Christian Leadership.

When I began at Jessup on August 2, 2004, our Gelsinger Village residential block was still cluttered with gravel and rebar, ready for fresh cement. Contractors and staff scrambled to complete construction for our fall launch, and we wouldn't receive our "temporary occupancy" permit for residence halls until the night before student move-in. That's cutting it close!

In every detail, God proved faithful, the amazing Jessup team went above and beyond, and the school year successfully commenced! The electricity buzzed in the air, the campus hummed with energy for the fresh vision God was bringing to fruition. Our Student Life team chose "Under Construction" for our first chapel theme, all too appropriate for this moment.

I'll never forget the first day of chapel in our new Lecture Hall. The entire student body, faculty, and staff filled the 300-seat space—a standing room only crowd. Faculty processed, and then-President Bryce Jessup (now President Emeritus) gave the address, commissioning us into not only a new year, but a new era. After chapel, as is still our tradition on the

first day of fall, we gathered at the front ramp for an all-school picture. While we only filled a quarter of the concrete that day, we now fill nearly the entire ramp! I always picture brother Bill Jessup smiling down from heaven on these days.

In my 15 years at Jessup, two things have remained constant: growth and change. After one school year, we opted to relocate chapel into our Academic Warehouse due to increasing numbers. We expanded student-led worship teams, prayer ministries, outreach and discipleship, and a number of other programs. Hundreds of pastors and artists graced our podium, along with nationally-known speakers such as Francis Chan, Josh McDowell, the late author Brennan Manning, Nancy Ortberg and Tony Campolo, to name a few.

Throughout Jessup's history, leaders have remained dedicated to a corporate worship experience, as research shows its prominence in maintaining a Christian ethos. Though our student body continues to diversify and expand, we hold steadfast to this commitment!

A few key highlights stand out to me over 15 years. First were the creative themes.



To augment our “Under Construction” theme in fall ‘04, we added scaffolding and orange cones to the stage set. The set for our 2005 “LOST” theme (a spoof off the TV show) included a full-size airplane fuselage “crashing” into the stage. As the years progressed, we moved away from “physical” stage sets toward digital graphics.

The celebration of student baptisms shines as another favorite chapel tradition. Every Easter, we held a baptism chapel, where dozens of students publicly declared their faith and new life in Christ. At Bryce Jessup’s retirement chapel, about 40 students came forward for baptism! Few things showcase Jessup transformation like baptism, and I often teared up watching students like Brennan, a 6’ 6” red-haired basketball player from my discipleship class give his life to the Lord. More recently, Forrest, one of our international students from China publicly declared his faith before the student body, having first encountered Christ at Jessup.

A third favorite chapel highlight were Mission Chapels. Each fall, we recapped the previous summer’s outreach teams, and launched opportunities for the following summer. Over the years, we’ve sent teams

to Belize, Brazil, Czech Republic, China, Cambodia, England, Honduras, India, Kenya, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Tanzania, Thailand, and Zimbabwe, along with domestic teams to Los Angeles, New Orleans, San Francisco, Portland, and others. Imagine the ripple of students carrying the name and love of Jesus to all these places!

It has been a great privilege to serve at Jessup over the years, and I believe our community has a special way of including people—even the “fringe” people. Many describe Jessup culture as “family.” Certainly, chapel has played a crucial role in reinforcing this beautiful attribute. It is said that “the ground is level at the foot of the cross.” Our corporate worship binds us together, helping us realize we are all God’s beloved sons and daughters. No one gets left behind.

This fall, Campus Pastor Thomas Fitzpatrick will lead us into the theme of “Desire: Seven Core Longings of the Human Heart,” continuing to carry the vision of William Jessup to train and disciple young people for Kingdom work. To God be the glory for all He has done!

“Many describe Jessup culture as ‘family.’ Certainly, chapel has played a crucial role in reinforcing this beautiful attribute. It is said that ‘the ground is level at the foot of the cross.’ Our corporate worship binds us together, helping us realize we are all God’s beloved sons and daughters. No one gets left behind.”

FROM CAPETOWN TO JESSUP

BY SIVE NOGADA



When I look back on my life journey that began 27 years ago in South Africa, I laugh, cry, fall into shock, but mostly feel thankful that God saved me. I believe that if God didn't save me, I would have died in my youth. At the age of seven years, I discovered the people I called "Mom" and "Dad" were not my biological parents; they were my grandaunt and uncle. My mother gave birth to me and informally gave me up for adoption to them. Just a couple of years later, I was deported from my home to my biological mother due to a conflict between my adoptive parents and my mother. Sadly, my mother and her boyfriend didn't want to live with me, so they rented out a one-room condo 30 miles from their house for me to stay in. I was only 10 years old.

This was the beginning of the most tragic, life threatening, darkest time of my life. I would starve for weeks without food, pass out due to lack of nutrition, and lay awake frightened at night. About two years later, my adoptive parents took me back, and just a year later, my biological mother passed away in labor with twins. Most of my early adolescence was fueled with anger, fear of rejection, shame, a million questions about God's reality, and a huge hole in my heart. I consequently got involved with a bad crowd of people who, for the first time, gave me a sense of worth. I got tied up in alcohol and drug abuse, gang life, fights and all sorts of activities that helped me escape reality at the time.

The first presentation of the gospel to me was through a white South African missionary who had a burning passion to take the gospel to poor black communities,

targeting orphans. I became part of a life skills group she hosted once a week. It was amazing to see cultural, economic and language barriers fading away as she became a positive and loving presence to us. However, I couldn't see myself worthy to receive the gospel or God's love. At this point all my guards were up and I couldn't risk yet another disappointment.

My second encounter with the gospel was at an international youth camp where I was selected out of our life skills group to attend. At the worship service, the American preacher made an invitation to an audience of 5000 youth from all over the world who desired fatherly love. I bawled my eyes out as I strolled my way to the front. That was 11 years ago. Like many newborn baby believers, I was on fire for Jesus. I felt so privileged to have received this Jesus that I didn't want to do anything to mess it up, otherwise He will throw me out like my mother and 'parents' did.

As my counselors advised, I found a local church home and immediately looked for opportunities to serve. I also avoided my 'old' life, not taking time to deal with it because I just wanted to embrace the 'new' with the hope it would make the 'old' go away. A few months later during the summer holiday, the 'old' caught up with me, and I relapsed. Our life skills group leader didn't give up on me even though I broke all the promises I made to the group about living a holy life during the holidays and charged them to do likewise. This was my first experience of grace, forgiveness and trust. However, as soon as I got it back together, I jumped back into that familiar performance treadmill, saying all the right

things—including prayers. Instead of filling up the big hole in my heart with alcohol and drugs, I filled it up with acts of righteousness and seeking public approval.

In my culture, at the age of 18, boys are sent to the bush (circumcision school) where they are initiated into manhood. This process also involves rituals to appease ancestral spirits for protection as the men go through an intense training in isolation. I wanted to go to circumcision school but was obviously against the rituals and beliefs. As the first Christian in an ancestry venerating family, I took the risk of refusing to do things the traditional way. Through God's divine favor, my request was granted. I spent four weeks alone in isolation and spiritual warfare, trusting in God alone for safety, health, and physical healing. This turned out to be a season of miraculous encounters with God in the wilderness, and a testimony to those who were certain I would never make it out alive without the protection of ancestors.

After signing up to be a full-time missionary fresh from initiation school, God used my story to impact the lives of young men. I had such a great privilege to lead young men to Christ, who also came from broken families like mine. In my passion to help others like me and to propagate the gospel, I enrolled in seminary.

I encountered God in seminary in a racial reconciliation class. For the first time, I was exposed to the segregation and inhuman acts that had a big contribution to how I grew up, where I grew up, and the quality of education I received. The fact that I was poor wasn't by chance but by design and man's doing. However, the class ended on a strong note for me, that God has called us to be Ambassadors of forgiveness and reconciliation. I believe this was my baptism into social justice. I later formed multi-racial platforms for believers to have meaningful engagements around the subject of racism, economics, hate, justice, reconciliation, and the likes. The professor who taught the racial reconciliation class became a big influence to me in this new venture. The way he gave us the raw truth coupled with how Jesus taught on matters of social justice was so fascinating.

The most memorable was Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:38-42. According to Jesus' teaching, even if you do avenge, you will never gain back what you have lost. In a sense, by reaping out your neighbors' eyeball because he reaped yours, won't restore yours. He also

taught on passive resistance, that by turning the left cheek, giving your cloak, or walking the extra mile you're subtly confronting your oppressor about his unfairness, and denying him the gratification of thinking that you're worthless—not through violence but by doing good.

In 2011, I was part of a church plant seeking to create a transformational space for those we minister to through parachurch organizations. Even though I was contributing incredibly as an elder and associate pastor, my righteous treadmill was running faster. I found my worth in how well I preached, sang or served that day. About three years later, I got tired, broke down and fell into a state of depression. It was so bad that I checked into a residential health care facility.

This was one of my most defining moments, where I had psychologists and psychiatrists who cared for me 24/7 and other patients who were in denial like me. It was a perfect sabbatical. In this time, I was able to deal with all my childhood trauma and emotional wounds in a way that made sense to me.

I came out of that place feeling comfortable in my own skin and appreciating myself more. God also used Dr. Ronald Elmore (missionary to South Africa from Sacramento), who I met a few months after I was discharged. By the grace of God, he just happened to be a retired psychologist. Dr. Elmore has helped me to learn what it means to 'be' and how to be emotionally, spiritually and mentally in sync. I get chills looking back because I realize that without God's grace I would not have made it this far.

Jessup student Sive Nogada and his wife Linku





PREACHING CLUB THEN AND NOW

BY: JIM JESSUP

Frequently during our history in Rocklin, churches have asked me if I could come preach or send a preacher to help them while their pastor was gone for a Sunday or for an interim period. Sometimes I was available to go to preach and make new friends. But other times I would ask our faculty for names of students that they believed were ready to preach a sermon on behalf of the Lord and WJU. This took “time and chance” that I would locate a student who would be a good fit for that specific church. I also lacked firsthand knowledge that

the student was really ready after just a few preaching and teaching classes.

A few months ago, I received a picture of San Jose Bible College students who were involved in a “preaching club” that my grandfather William Jessup led in the early 1940s. Many of the students in the picture went on to be preachers or pastors of churches all over the West Coast and beyond. I was inspired by the picture and asked myself why I couldn’t recreate this club for William Jessup University in 2019.

Left: William Jessup students involved in 2019 Preaching Club led by Jim Jessup.

Below: San Jose Bible College students involved in the Preaching Club led by William Jessup in the early 1940s.



A preaching club would allow me to get firsthand experience into the “readiness” of our young preachers in order to send them out.

So, last semester a preaching club began just as it did almost 80 years ago! The club meets once a week and has averaged 15 students. Many more students expressed their desire to be in the club but they are already involved in ministry in local churches from which they are gaining experience in preaching and teaching in those environments.

Each Wednesday we have one or two students deliver a message to the club. The club members share helpful critique and provide feedback with suggestions to sharpen the sermon’s content and delivery. From just the first semester of this club,

I have sent seven students to preach at churches that were in need of a preacher. And some requests for a

student preacher come just because the church wants to hear a message from the next generation. I am delighted to help make that happen.

The motto of our club is, “*You don’t have to feel called to be a pastor to be a preacher.*” But of course, my prayer is that some who preach in my club will sense a call to become a pastor to help lead change and growth in a church and a community that will affect the landscape of eternity.”

Visitors are always welcome. I

encourage students to come join

the club. Or, let me know if your church would like a student preacher to come to you!

“My prayer is that some who preach in my club will sense a call to become a pastor to help lead change and growth in a church and a community that will affect the landscape of eternity.”



TRIBUTE TO JIM JESSUP

Over the years, Jim Jessup, son of Bryce Jessup and grandson of William Jessup has had a lasting impact while providing inspiration to countless students. Celebrating his 20th year as Director of Church Relations at Jessup, Jim is actively serving our church partners in various capacities. When he isn't meeting with pastors or assisting the ongoing needs of churches, he can be found helping students. Jim dedicates his time to leading Jessup's Preaching Club and is also passionate about discipling young men as he has faithfully led male-only Spiritual Formation Groups (SFG's) on the Rocklin campus.

Here are just a few comments from students who have had to opportunity to know Jim in this capacity. Thank you Jim for a job well done!

DANIEL BODAREV

Jim Jessup was one of the kindest and most joyful men I have ever met in my life. What I'll remember about him forever is his wisdom. Every week after his SFG, I felt like I became a slightly better man.

JACOB YARBROUGH

Jim's charisma and Christ-like positivity have made a positive impact on me during my time at Jessup. I don't know if I've ever met someone more encouraging than Jim.

PHIL WIGGINS

I think being a part of the preaching group helped me hone my preaching gifts through giving and receiving feedback from both Jim and my peers. Through the group, I've also received opportunities to speak at churches that have reached out to Jim. That has been

both formative and really exciting for me. Jim has always illustrated that he cares for me, my family, and my formation, and it has been a true blessing being in his SFG.

NICHOLAS MARSELLA

It was clear from the beginning of our time in his SFG that Jim wanted to see us become the men that God wanted us to be. His willingness to share how God did that in himself was what allowed us to walk away having gained a better understanding of what that meant for us; preparing us for the future to which we have been called.

CHANDLER GWYN

Jim was down to earth on a personal level that was awesome. His SFG was the definition of spiritual formation. I grew as a person, and as a child of God in the class. I've recommended the SFG to a lot of guys.

RYAN WONG

I was in Jim Jessup's SFG in fall 2018, titled "Why I Do What I Do." I first met Jim one-on-one the week before the group officially started. In the hour we spent talking, his questions and willingness to listen told me that this is a man who is more than trustworthy. I knew I lucked out by joining his group, which is especially important to me as intimate settings are where I thrive.

When we progressed through the semester as a group, our curriculum was not built around a set of assignments but topics that hold a deep significance in our lives. Each hour we spent together left me with things to think about and a sense of peace that lasted the rest of the day. Jim is a gift to us all, and I hope to work with him again in the future.

FIRST FRESHMAN CLASS PERSPECTIVE

BY: CIANDRA KOUKLIS



As I prepared for life after high school in January of 2004, I had never heard of San Jose Christian College. But when my youth leader announced he would be taking a group of students to tour the new campus in Rocklin, I jumped to sign up, mainly because it was a chance to hang out with my friends in the middle of the school day.

I toured the furniture-factory-turned-college campus and had an inexplicable feeling this was where God wanted me. There was a lot of envisioning that took place to be able to visualize students living on this campus. And it had to be a “God thing” that I chose Jessup based on that visit when we ate Costco pizza in the corner of a warehouse and were shown the wooden frames of where the residence halls *would* be. But to be fair, Bryce Jessup’s enthusiasm was contagious! I knew Jessup was the direction God was leading me.

In August 2004, I moved into Rispoli Hall—the yellow one. It smelled like fresh paint and new carpet. There was no furniture in the common areas, the cafeteria wasn’t quite ready and construction vehicles were still coming and going, but it was the start of something amazing.

As part of the first freshman class in Rocklin, I met many friends who moved with the school from San Jose. I was often mistaken for one of them. I sat with my new friends as they reminisced fondly about the faults of the old campus as we enjoyed our brand new facility. I frequented

Godly Grounds, and felt glad the student-run coffee shop also made the transition from San Jose. I participated in the hunt for a Beethoven statue, an iconic Jessup tradition. I spotted him in elevators, a refrigerator and the top of the prayer chapel, to name a few.

That first year the student body was small enough to fit everyone in the Lecture Hall for chapel every Tuesday and Thursday. By the next fall we had outgrown the Lecture Hall and moved into what is now known as the Chapel Warehouse. The student body continued to grow each year, evidenced by the campus ramp photos taken at the beginning of each school year.

As a student I experienced intense highs, profound lows and every emotion in between, but God used them all to prepare me for the rest of my life. And I feel incredibly blessed that my Jessup story didn’t end with graduation. I

had the opportunity to come back as a staff member, and I took it. I now have the privilege of working in the Advancement Office with Church Relations.

It is an exciting time to be part of the Jessup Family. The student body is now more than four times greater than that first fall in Rocklin, but Christ is still at the center of it all. I love getting to see how students’ lives are transformed during their time at William Jessup University, just as mine was.

“As a student I experienced intense highs, profound lows and every emotion in between, but God used them all to prepare me for the rest of my life.”

I wouldn’t trade my Jessup experience for anything.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AT JESSUP

BY: BOBBI LONG AND DAVID TIMMS



Bobbi Long,
Director, Center for
American Sign Language



David Timms,
Dean of Theology and Leadership

Four years ago, God created an opportunity for William Jessup University to serve one of the largest demographics in the world: the Deaf. According to an article from missionfrontiers.org, it has been reported that out of an estimated 250-300 million Deaf people in the world, only 2 percent are Christians and only 1 percent of adult Deaf Americans attend church.¹

As a university, we embraced the call to change this through the creation of our American Sign Language Studies (ASLS) program. As a result, in fall 2015, driven by the vision and enthusiasm of Bobbi Long, Jessup's Lead Faculty for American Sign Language Studies, the University launched its first American Sign Language (ASL) class with 17 students.

Guided by the mission to create connection within the ASL community, the program has flourished into a vibrant option for students seeking meaningful electives and the opportunity to expand their worldview. In the four years since that humble beginning, the number of students participating in ASL courses has skyrocketed. More than 90 students enrolled in ASL classes in spring 2019.

The participation of Jessup students in American Sign Language is not limited to

the classroom. Each year, Jessup students have been involved in ASL community events on and off campus which include: ASL Harvest Carnival, Deaf Children's Family Camp, ASL mini-workshops, and ASL Day for ALL. Many of these events welcome the ASL community to Jessup's campus and allow ASL students to develop their signing skills through practical experience and, more importantly, service.

Students also visit the Sacramento Deaf Church each semester, and serve in schools and local organizations on request. Most recently, the ASL program dove hands-first--pun intended--into ministry by partnering with a local church to launch a monthly ASL Bible study.

Jessup already boasts several ASL graduates living out their education in jobs that require ASL fluency. Three alumni are ministering in churches with Deaf children. Another recent graduate is working in a local Deaf business, and several others are working in ABA (Applied Behavioral Analysis) with special needs individuals who benefit from using ASL as a method of communication even though they are not deaf. Yet another graduate is working with a local family in need of respite care as they continue to look after their Deaf daughter. Jessup students



Photos top to bottom:

Bobbi Long pictured with Jessup ASL faculty member Angelica Toca and ASL student and club officer Joseph (Francis) Moniz at Sacramento Zoo's Deaf Awareness Day event.

ASL celebration in the Crossroads Cafe.

CBS 13 interviews Bobbi Long at last years' ASL Harvest Carnival.



are transforming the lives of those around them, and we could not be more proud.

Future goals for ASL at Jessup include Deaf mission trips to the Philippines or Jamaica, and creating an ASL worship team. As the only faith-based ASL program in the region, Jessup's curriculum and partnerships are creating lasting impact in Northern California—and it is only just beginning!

This year, in conjunction with the 80th Anniversary of William Jessup University, the School of Christian Leadership launched the *Center for American Sign Language* on September 18, 2019. This exciting step gives added emphasis to the great work already being done.

Long, the founding Director of the Center, will continue to expand the vision to provide resources, education, and connection to the Deaf community. The Center will continue to educate and equip students in ASL, and prepare them for careers incorporating their knowledge of the language. The *Center for American Sign Language* is a significant step in raising up transformational leaders to serve in the ASL community. If you have interest in helping underwrite the Center or financially supporting its mission and ministry, please contact Bobbi at blong@jessup.edu.

1.) www.missionfrontiers.org/issue/article/the-deaf



DELIVERING A BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW

BY: REBEKAH BUELL HAGAN

At 14, I knew I wanted to one day have a career as a news anchor. This dream, of course, included college, but certainly not at Jessup or anywhere else close to home, or so I thought. Instead, I planned to move away from the Sacramento area and attend school somewhere “dynamic” with a large news and media market I could

break into. To prepare myself for the life I wanted, I took journalism and newspaper classes in high school and even did my high school’s morning broadcasts. I was doing everything to reach the goals I had set, but little did I know my perfectly-planned-out future was going to be far different than I ever imagined.

During the summer before my senior year of high school, I found out I was pregnant. I was 17-years old and from a good, stable, Christian family. This was simply not supposed to happen to girls like me—girls who were college bound and that grew up “knowing better.” But it did.

Though I was terrified, my parents supported me, and I chose life and parenting for my baby. In nine months, I graduated high school early, turned 18, delivered my son, Eli, and got accepted and started attending Sacramento State University. I was the first person in my family to attend college, and I was doing it with a baby in tow.

Six months into my first year as a Sac State freshman, however, my life fell apart. The relationship I had been in all my teenage years had become so violent and toxic that I knew it had to end. At the same time, I learned I was pregnant again. By now, I was 19 and a newly single mother to a ten-month-old baby. As I sat there, completely alone in a grocery store bathroom looking at that positive pregnancy test, everything I had worked for flashed before my eyes.

A second child meant that Eli and I would be kicked out of my parent’s home, like my dad had always threatened, and that we would be forced to give up our health insurance, support system and my dream of finishing college. Like so many other young people, I felt I had to choose between my education and my child.

Regretfully, I chose the former.

Before ever leaving that grocery store, I decided I could not have this baby. Though I was a Christian, I thought there was no other way out of this hopeless situation but to end

my pregnancy. In that moment, abortion seemed like the most practical, selfless choice I could make for the child I already had and for the family I would surely disappoint.

Everything I needed to know about abortion I found online and not in the Bible; in fact, I hid from my church. Feeling like there was nowhere else to turn, I walked

into an abortion clinic on March 13, 2013. I will never forget that day. I was seven and a half weeks pregnant, and everything in me screamed, “get out of here!” but, I repeated to myself “mind over matter.” I had already decided I would rather face my Heavenly Father later than face my earthly father now.

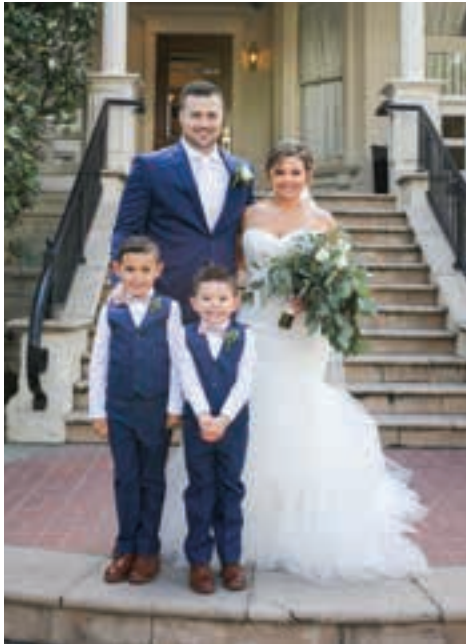
Crippled with fear, I sat in that cold clinic room with a stranger who affirmed my choice. I swallowed the first of two pills prescribed in a medication abortion. There was no mention of the physical, emotional or spiritual aftermath that this decision would have on my life, rather it was just a way to erase my “problem.”

Minutes after leaving the clinic, I knew I had made the biggest mistake of my life, but I was told there was no going back. I called out to Jesus as I sat in my car,

and I asked Him both for forgiveness and for help. By the grace of God and modern technology, I found an organization and doctor online who helped me reverse my medication abortion. It was this pregnancy and situation that made me realize I desperately needed a solid foundation to turn to and a community I could grow with and lean on.

In August of 2013, I transferred to WJU as a second-year-freshman, and I walked around campus looking pregnant as ever. Later that fall, my second son, Zechariah, was

“Everything I needed to know about abortion I found online and not in the Bible; in fact, I hid from my church. Feeling like there was nowhere else to turn, I walked into an abortion clinic on March 13, 2013. I will never forget that day...I had already decided I would rather face my Heavenly Father later than face my earthly father now.”



born perfectly healthy, despite all odds. I remember delivering him on a Sunday and being back in my biology lab on Thursday just thankful that he was alive and that I was not forced to drop out. Of course, staying in school meant sometimes sacrificing time, being uncomfortable and getting creative. For example, I had a key to a small closet in The Commons on campus so I could pump breast milk in between classes for my mom to pick up and feed to my newborn.

As crazy and unconventional as it sounds to say, it was my abortion decision and the help I found afterward that led me to William Jessup University. That is the truth. Jesus met me where I was and brought me somewhere better than I could have imagined. At other schools, I was a name and a student ID number; at Jessup, I was a person known and deeply loved by God.

At Jessup, I found a community to do life with. I met teachers who embraced my story and loved on my

babies, even letting me bring them to class at times. Because of the Christ-like compassion and support offered to me, I graduated in 2017 with a bachelor's

degree in English, and two of the most beautiful little boys got to watch it all unfold.

Jessup has also brought some unexpected additions to my life, including my husband, Kramer, who I met during a school-based internship, and most recently, our newborn daughter, Lydia.

God's plan has been different than my own and did not include a career as a news anchor. Instead, I live out my passion working at Sierra Pregnancy and Health, a local nonprofit that helps women in unplanned pregnancies. God took what was once my mess and made it His message, as I also

share my testimony at events around the world. Though my life is different than I imagined, I cannot think of anything more fulfilling than sharing hope with, and encouraging, women in situations like mine.

“That is the truth. Jesus met me where I was and brought me somewhere better than I could have imagined. At other schools, I was a name and a student ID number; at Jessup, I was a person known and deeply loved by God.”



LIFELONG LEARNING

BY: RON TRUJILLO

After Ruth Lundgren's husband died seven years ago, she looked for something meaningful, but nothing ever clicked. That is, until, the 82-year-old great grandmother returned to college.

Lundgren is committed to completing her dream of a college degree, a journey she began before the Barbie doll hit toy stores, hip-swinging Elvis Presley had his first hit and Jonas Salk invented the life-saving polio vaccine.

Lundgren is the oldest student to attend William Jessup University, which was founded two years after Lundgren was born. Lundgren said her classmates and instructors have dramatically changed her life.

"I've never felt so alive," she said. "I feel like I've gotten 10 years of my life back." Spending nearly 40 hours a week on school work, the hard-working, highly motivated Lundgren has become an inspiration for many others, from fellow students to her instructors and pastors.

"As a mature age student, Ruth is a great inspiration," said David Timms, Dean of Theology and Leadership at Jessup. "She embodies a core leadership value that we embrace—that effective leaders must be lifelong learners. That's easy to say to an 18 to 22-year-old, but Ruth puts skin on that axiom."

Lundgren never expected completing college would take so long. She was an exceptional high school student and received a full-ride scholarship to any college of her choice. She first attended MacMurray College in 1954, and later Northwestern University and Chicago Teacher College, now Chicago State University.

But cramming for finals into the early morning hours and lugging textbook-filled backpacks gave way to

“As a mature age student, Ruth is a great inspiration. She embodies a core leadership value that we embrace—that effective leaders must be lifelong learners. That’s easy to say to an 18 to 22-year-old, but Ruth puts skin on that axiom.”

David Timms,
Dean of Theology and Leadership



every-few-hour-feedings and diaper bags. Lundgren got married and became pregnant in her second year of college.

“In my youth, it was more important for me to get married and have a family,” said Lundgren, who lives in Roseville, California.

‘I never thought I’d be able to go back’

In her full life of marriage and motherhood, a complicated pregnancy, a cross-country move, a career, and more recently, taking care of her ailing husband and mother, Lundgren always put college on hold in favor of family.

“I never thought I’d really be able to go back,” said Lundgren, whose father was upset when she left college decades prior.

Lundgren and her first husband had two children—a son and daughter. After 15 years of marriage, Lundgren and her husband divorced. She later married Arnold Lundgren, who she described as the love of her life, and built a life together in Illinois. Her husband was a home-builder and later became a pilot, while she kept busy as a mother and piano teacher.

After one-too-many brutal Midwest winters, her husband asked, “Why are we living here?” The family sold their house, left behind most of their furniture, loaded up the family van and drove cross-country to the West in search

of warmer winters. They bought a house and started building a new life in Citrus Heights in 1977.

Her husband became a commercial pilot, and Lundgren got her real estate license and later became a broker. They started attending Christ Community Church in Carmichael in 1980, where Lundgren remains an active member and fervent volunteer, playing the organ during many Sunday services.

“They are part of my family,” Lundgren said of her close friends and pastors at her longtime church.

Lundgren retired from real estate in 1988 and soon returned to school. She attended American River Community College, enrolling in classes when possible while caring for her sick husband and aging mother.

‘Age is just a number here’

When her husband of 40 years died in 2012, and her mother passed away eight months later, Lundgren struggled with her loss for several years.

“I just wandered around and tried to find my way,” said Lundgren. “I looked for something meaningful, but nothing ever clicked.” Until she attended a guest sermon by Jessup’s Timms at her church in May 2018. Lundgren made a life-changing decision during Timms’ sermon: she was returning to school.

She enrolled in Jessup's Adult Degree Completion Program, where she is working toward a bachelor's degree in Christian Leadership. Many of her credits from years earlier at American River College transferred to Jessup.

"I'm touched that Ruth might have heard something or seen something in me that motivated her to this next level of learning," Timms said. "But, truthfully, I was a brief catalyst to add spark to something exciting and meaningful that was already brewing deep within her."

Lundgren said her faith also led her back to college after being away for decades.

"God has a purpose and a plan for me...and I'm just following," said Lundgren, while waiting in Crawford Commons for her weekly class.

A fellow student, about 60 years her junior, came by and gave Lundgren a hug. She exchanged greetings with a few former classmates and waved across the room at another student. Lundgren—who was born before World War II when only 40 percent of families had a home phone—was surrounded by many students who were born after the Internet.

The decades away from college and the generation gap created some mixed emotions for Lundgren, who remembered her first day on campus at Jessup in the fall of 2018.

"I was so excited," she said. "But I was also apprehensive about how students would accept someone so much older."

But even with all of the changes and the generations that separate them, age has never been an issue at Jessup.

"Age is just a number here, it doesn't matter," said Lundgren, who celebrated Christmas with some of her much-younger classmates. "We've become very close friends."

Her college friends have helped Lundgren become more comfortable with the modern-day classroom, where computers, online searches and videoconferencing are as necessary as textbooks.

"To start with two classes was very hard," Lundgren said. "The first week was very tough. I had to learn about and navigate the technology." But Lundgren learned and thrived. She has completed seven courses in the 19-month program, and has a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

"It's probably improved my level of concentration," Lundgren said. "It's helped me learn to be a critical thinker. You learn to think for yourself."

'It's going to be such a feeling of accomplishment'

Degree Completion Program classes meet once a week for seven weeks. Either a substantial paper or presentation is required. It's a demanding and fast-moving program designed primarily for adults, especially those working full-time, looking to earn a college degree.

"Don't underestimate the amount of work that is involved," she said. "I put in 35 to 40 hours a week studying. I'm fortunate that I have the time. You need to have a real commitment."

Lundgren is definitely committed, and says the degree completion program is perfect for her schedule.

"I can't say enough good things about it," she said. "I just wish I had started right away when my husband passed away."

After completing the program and earning her degree in spring 2020, Lundgren plans to put her education to work.

"I'm not looking for a paid position," she said. "I have enough to live on and other people need jobs. When I graduate, I'm going to work full-time as a volunteer."

Her church and Alternatives Pregnancy Center in Sacramento, where she volunteers, will benefit from Lundgren's college education and her life experience. And many others—her classmates, college instructors, family and friends—will continue to be inspired by her hard work and long journey.

"Even though Ruth is in her 80s, she is moving ahead full speed," said Rev. Grady Manley, pastor of traditional worship at Christ Community Church in Carmichael. "We are all inspired by her. All of us are ministers and God wants and needs us to continue to work for Him no matter our age. She is a prime example to others, of all ages."

Lundgren said she looks forward to graduation in May 2020.

"It's going to be such a feeling of accomplishment, completing something that I started in 1954," she said.

"My mom and dad would be so proud."



Bentley ('14) and Zoey (Gilbert, '15) Nunes celebrated the birth of their first child, Greyson on December 20, 2018.



Michelle (Rompel, '16) Anderson and her husband Alex were married on April 28, 2019 in Pleasanton, Calif.



Alumni UPDATES

Roger Rome ('85) received a Ph.D. in Communication and has been working in broadcast TV for CBN since 1993.



Kyrie Newman ('14) resides in Roseville, Calif. and works at Bridgeway Christian Church as the Connections and Guest Services Manager.



Raymond Hausler ('08) lives in Vacaville, Calif. where he is pastor to children and students at Allendale Union Chapel. Ray and his wife Michelle welcomed their third child, Sophia Rae into the world on February 27, 2019.



Roger and Linda (Whitford, '70) Thompson currently reside in Salinas, Calif. Roger has a lighting business and Linda serves as Children's Ministry Director for First Presbyterian Church of Monterey.



Alison Langerman (Sales, '15) received her Master's in Literature from California Baptist University in 2018. She married Dr. Eric Langerman on March 10, 2019.



No Photo: Adam Hartigan ('16) was promoted from analyst to consultant at Oracle this past April. He and his wife had their second child in September.

No Photo: Peggy Fava ('05) is the Founder and Director of the Bridge Network, a nonprofit organization based in South East Sacramento serving at-risk youth.

Kyle Owen ('12) obtained his law degree from McGeorge School of Law in May 2018. He is a judicial law clerk at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California.



Monique Martinez ('18) is assistant residence director at Jessup and working part-time at K-LOVE radio in the pastoral care department. She is also completing her Masters in Counseling Psychology at Jessup.



Alana (Parker, '99) Makaya and her husband Brian celebrated the birth of their daughter, Briana.



Brennan ('18) and Emma (Robinson, '16) Stewart welcomed their first child, Garrett Levi in June.





Janessa Gonzalez ('13) became a San Diego Deputy Sheriff and currently resides in Lakeside, Calif.

Pete and Melissa (Johnson, '92) Slocum celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary May 21, 2019.



Sandi Tobin (Harrington, '17) is currently attending Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA.

Susan Delacroix ('77) has been teaching English in Tirana, Albania for the past five years.



No Photo: Rebekah Long ('17) graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing with a Master of Science in Nursing.



No Photo: Brittany Knowles (Johnson, '18) is working for Disneyland in guest research.

Nicholas Marsella ('15) currently resides in New York, NY and has been admitted to the Master of Music program for Music Composition at The Julliard School.



Pamela Murdock ('01) received her master's degree in 2010 and is training pastors and leaders in Uganda, Liberia and Malawi with Celebrate Hope Ministries.



Jason Yarbrough ('17) is completing his Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in leading ministry organizations at Northwest University in Kirkland, Wash.

Jama Silva (Renicker, '05) and family recently moved stateside from Brazil with her husband Everson and two children, Chloe Maria and Noah Miguel.

Candace Branche (Avila, '09) and her husband Ryan adopted their son, Gabriel Esteban from Colombia on July 4, 2019.



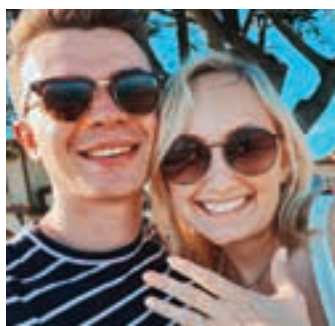
No Photo: Dylan Newton ('18) finished his third year of teaching at Bret Harte Elementary School in Sacramento and is hosting his first student teacher from Jessup this fall.

No Photo: Leta Leggitt (Luttrell, '79) is currently working as a kindergarten teacher at Bella Vista Christian Academy in Tracy, Calif. She has been in education for 32 years.

Jim ('79) and Lynn (Scates, FS) were awarded the Missions Awareness Award at the Christian Worldview Film Festival in Franklin, TN for their film entitled, "Love... Unfiltered."



Megan Macha ('16) is engaged and started a new job at Chase Bank.



Brennan ('17) and Michelle (Sandage, '17) Entz were married last March in Nevada City, Calif. and currently reside in the state of Nevada.



Brianne Chaney ('18) is painting murals in downtown Sacramento.



Alumni UPDATES



Jeanne Gonzales (Dado, '05) is semi-retired and resides in Sunnyvale, Calif.



Harry Douglass ('66) is currently in his 29th year of Hispanic Church Planting in the Northwest after spending 10 years in Latin America and making 46 trips to Cuba.



I N M E M O R I A M



Stanley Eugene Faddis, 62 of Turlock, Calif., went home to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on July 17, 2019. Stanley was a loving husband, father, grandfather, nephew and a devoted friend. He attended San Jose Bible College from 1977 to 1984, receiving his Bachelor of Science in Bible and Theology and Youth Ministry.

Stan brought a heart for people to everything he did, including serving as a juvenile probation officer for many years in Santa Clara County, working at Heavenly Hills Christian Camp, and ministering on the Ceres Christian Church prayer team. He took joy in calling, praying and encouraging other members of the congregation. He will always be remembered for his humor, love and passion for Jesus.

He is survived by Linda, his loving wife of 39 years and his three daughters Heather Masamitsu, Holly and Meagan Faddis, as well as his seven grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents and son Daniel Faddis.

A Celebration of Life service was held at Ceres Christian Church August 10, 2019. A large number of alumni from San Jose Bible College were in attendance and shared memories of the "pillar" of SJBC, a man they will never forget.



James Richard Waddell passed away May 13, 2019, at the age of 68. Jim resided with his wife, Janice, in Vancouver, WA. where he served with the Portland Police Department

as a police officer for 26 years.

Jim was also involved in Civil War Reenactments with the Union Hospital and played the bass drum with the NCWC Third Brigade Band as the "heartbeat" of the band. In the last five years, he was involved with World War II Living History, again working with a field hospital unit.

Jim also volunteered with the Red Cross and gave 15 gallons of blood during his lifetime. As a member of Portland Christian Center, he was involved in the choir, a men's Bible study group, and sewed quilt tops for the homeless. Jim had a big heart for Israel and the people, supporting various Messianic organizations.

Jim was preceded in death by his beloved son Nathan, and grandsons Stephen and Joe. Jim is survived by his wife, Jan; sister, Cathy Waddell; the mother of his children (Emilie), two sons, Ben (wife Bing), and Aaron, and Nathan's wife, Laura and numerous grandchildren.

Alumni HIGHLIGHT

FAITH (PASQUALINI) FONSECA

Graduating Class: 2006



In the fall of 2001, I moved to Jessup Hall at San Jose Christian College. I chose a small Christian college purposefully. The campus was “well loved” in appearance and easy to miss even as a San Jose native. But the community was different; people were genuine and passionate.

I quickly made friends with many who have become lifelong friends. We experienced SJCC together and it drew us closer. “Chef’s choice” in the cafe meant we were eating off campus and an all-nighter meant someone was writing their first exegesis.

As the campus moved to Rocklin, the impressive structures simply added to the community we started in San Jose. We had more space and a realization of God’s power and strength as Paul explains contentment “living in plenty and in want.”

As I walked across the stage in 2006, I was proud I experienced the journey of SJCC to WJU and the work God did in my life during that time. My college experience shaped me and challenged me. I learned the academics but really learned my identity in the Lord. I grew up in a Christian home but taking classes like Systematic Theology required me to dig deeper and fully understand my faith. It was the community that drew me out of my shell and challenged me to live my life with purpose for Him.

Following graduation, I accepted a position at WJU in the Advancement Office. I loved being on campus serving and gained an understanding of higher education which became my passion.

I completed my Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership in 2011 from Chapman University. At that time, my husband’s career took us to Southern California. I accepted a position at Pepperdine University in Human Resources where I served for six years. During my time as Assistant Director for Employment in HR, I often thought of the towel I received at graduation from WJU representative of Jesus’ example to serve others while washing the disciples feet. The call to serve others in challenging situations was essential to my role and I found myself sharing my faith in new ways.

Currently, I have the joy of being home with my four-year-old, Nicolette, and my two-year-old, Bennett. My husband, Mark and I will celebrate nine years of marriage this month and we are very involved in our home church where we lead a small group. I also serve in Children’s Ministry and co-lead a MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group at our church.

My experience at WJU was a major milestone in my life. The truth that was taught and the environment allowed me to find my calling and vocation.



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