

SPRING 2022

JESSUP

JOURNAL



LIVING
IN CHRIST

LEADING
IN CULTURE

LEARNING
IN COMMUNITY

A PUBLICATION OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

WILLIAM
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STUDENT-LED GIVE:24
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

Together, Catalysts
for Change



FOR 24 HOURS



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Jessup's mission is to train, equip, educate and send emboldened leaders who do not assimilate to the world, but are catalysts for change by articulating the relevance of Christ and His Word to the world in need. Together we can send transformational leaders who are uncompromising and unapologetically leading with distinction for the glory of God.

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A PUBLICATION OF WILLIAM JESSUP UNIVERSITY,
OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

SPRING 2022

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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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHURCH

DR. JOHN JACKSON, PRESIDENT



The mission of Jessup is clear: “In partnership with the Church, we educate transformational leaders for the glory of God.” How we fulfill our mission is through the Jessup culture. Here at Jessup, we are committed to Jesus-centered equipping of students through establishing strong biblical foundations and personal mentoring relationships in a loving community. We believe, and have experienced, that “life-on-life” discipleship is the only real and lasting way to bear Kingdom fruit in the lives of our students that will live on for generations.

As we navigate all that COVID-19 has brought to Jessup and to our world, we have determined to be increasingly centered on student success. We define success for our students through spiritual, academic, and vocational lenses. In each area, we are looking for an integrated faith experience to ensure a biblical worldview is manifested in the people we are becoming and the people we are being called to reach in Christ. The Jessup culture provides our students—including undergraduate and graduate, on campus and online—the opportunity to build an integrated faith experience as they pursue their sense of God’s calling in their lives.

“Here at Jessup, we are committed to Jesus-centered equipping of students through establishing strong biblical foundations and personal mentoring relationships in a loving community.”

Many believe that discipleship is about mastering content. Here at Jessup, we believe biblical content is absolutely essential and fundamental. At the same time, we are clear that content without application is

not the Jesus way. Jesus commands us to be salt and light, and to be the redemptive presence of heaven in our everyday lives as His followers. The deeper we go in relationship with the Father, the more we will understand ourselves, others, and the world around us. Discerning the seasons of our own lives and the culture we live in equips us to be effective disciples and disciple makers. Fulfilling our mission of developing transformational leaders for the glory of God happens when discipleship, discovery, and discernment go together.

In the pages that follow, you will learn about our three pillars that describe our mission. You will read stories about how students are being transformational leaders right now and how God is working “upstream” and “downstream” from Jessup in our region and culture. Thank you for praying, reading, and continuing to faithfully support Jessup as we seek to disciple, discover, and discern.

THE SECRET POWER OF BEING GENEROUS

BY CHIP INGRAM



"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1).

What do you think of when you hear the word "generous?"

I think of adventure! I think of joy and excitement. Sound strange? Let me explain.

Everything I have is a gift to me from God. He's given me time and talent, brains and opportunity, people, friends and family. I'm His money manager. What He wants me to do is invest it in any way that pleases Him and serves His Kingdom. If I do that faithfully, I get to experience the joy and power of watching His resources flow through me to love people.

Talk about adventure! What joy and excitement there is to experience God working through me and seeing lives change!

I call it the Oikonomia principle. Oikeo is the Greek word for "house." The phrase has to do with being a steward or guardian or manager. The principle can be stated as, "All that we are and all that we have belongs to God and He has temporarily entrusted to us to manage according to His wishes."

Entrusted. That's another important point. The real issue, when it comes to talking about finances or honoring God with our money, is not our stuff. **The real issue is trust. Do we trust God to take care of us? Can He trust us to be good stewards?**

Do you believe the promises that God loves you and that He's good and kind and wants your best? There's no such thing as scarcity in God's economy. God owns everything. Besides, true spiritual wealth is not about money or things – it's about relationships.

The primary barometer of an unhealthy relationship to money is how much you trust Him – or don't trust Him – with it. If you feel you must hold on to it, obsess about

"having enough" in the future, and find it hard to give freely, then your hands aren't open to serving others.

By the way, the Oikonomia principle goes way beyond money. Everything is from the Lord, so that means we're stewards of our time, property, health, people, physical body, spiritual gifts, and even God's truth.

"This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

So, how do you grow a generous heart?

1. Give the first and the best to God.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10).

2. Give regularly and systematically.

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

3. Remember Jesus' words,

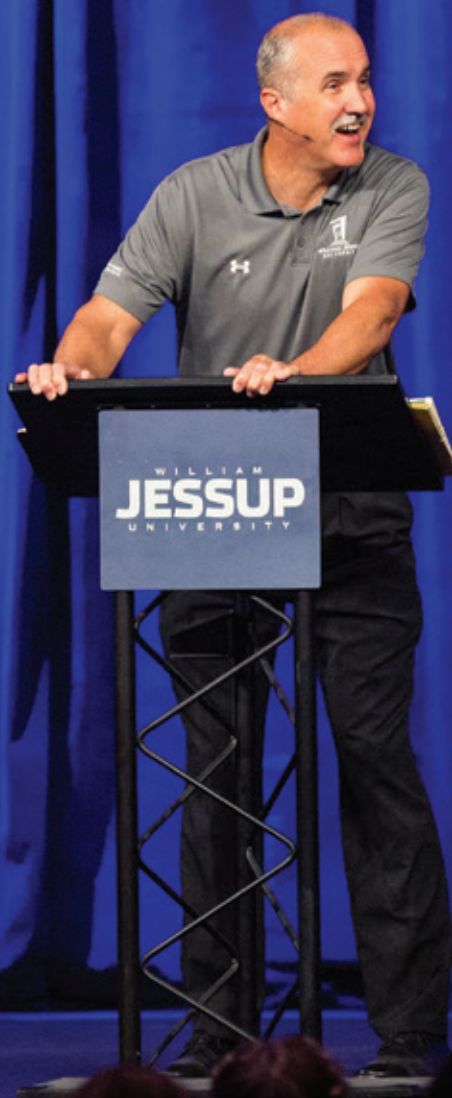
"It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

You can give and not be generous, but you can't be generous without giving. Stewardship is not an obligation to fulfill but an opportunity to grab – because of who we know is the source of all things. Embrace the secret power of being generous!

LIVING IN CHRIST

“Living in Christ” isn’t just a slogan for Christians. At Jessup, students are challenged to examine and apply what God has for them as they learn what it means to live in Christ because Christ lives in them. Chapel, spiritual formation groups, mentoring opportunities, and casual times in the Crossroads Café with faculty and staff provide opportunities for transformation in the lives of students as they learn to ‘live in Christ’ and grow deeper in their faith.”

- Jim Jessup



Spiritual formation, chapel services and other programs meant to foster the spiritual development of students goes hand in hand with academic excellence. Together, they prepare leaders who will build lives through authenticity, inspiration, empathy, and innovation. Being a Christ-centered university, rooted in the gospel, prepares students to lead with distinction regardless of vocation.

At Jessup, we are committed to making Christ-centered education more accessible and affordable to future leaders by intentionally investing into the following areas:

Faith and Integration - Equipping faculty across all academic disciplines to integrate the Christian faith into their teaching.

Broadly Accessible - Regardless of life challenges, financial or academic, we help students achieve their maximum potential by providing them with substantial scholarship funds that tether them to their academic success and future professional achievements to the glory of God. The initiative is designed to support former foster youth, veterans, and high-performing students who demonstrate financial need.

Interested in learning more about these initiatives?

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HORMOZ SHARIAT

Hormoz Shariat, a WJU alumnus, has been referred to as the 'Billy Graham of Iran' for his role in bringing the gospel to millions of Iranian people. Over the past 20 years, he has spearheaded Iran Alive Ministries which operates 24-hours a day delivering programming into Iran via satellite television.

As a church planter and pastor, Shariat planted six churches in Northern California and has planted hundreds of underground house churches in over 90 cities in Iran.

According to Shariat, Iran has the fastest growing evangelical population in the world. A substantial number of Iranian Muslims are coming to Christ every month.

Shariat recently shared, "The rate of salvations in Iran has increased significantly. The number of registered salvations in the last two years is greater than what we experienced in the previous 18 years of broadcasting."

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY JESUS



Youth Ministry major Gavin Souza may not have taken the typical path toward his college education, but one thing is clear. He can tell you about Jesus. His relationship with his savior is solid, and Souza can attest that it grows stronger every day.

Battling a life of sin, addiction, drug dealing, shame, guilt, and oppression, Souza's struggle began during his junior year of high school when he broke his collarbone. The injury ended his participation in high school football, a sport he loved along with wrestling and track and field. "I wasn't really academic, and since I couldn't play sports anymore, that's when I started hanging out with the wrong people," he said.

Sadly, Souza would enter a time of extreme darkness in his life, entrenched in the bondage of addiction that held him captive to the cycle of drugs and alcohol, lack of purpose, depression, unhealthy relationships, and the inability to keep a steady job. "I came to the point where I would say I was spiritually dead. I was living in shame, pain, fear, guilt, anger, and I couldn't take it anymore," he said. He checked himself into an inpatient treatment program. Unfortunately, the program didn't solve his problems, so the cycle continued. "I tried different programs, but nothing really spoke to me. Looking

back now, I realize these programs didn't bring God's Word to me. They talked about a higher power without Scripture. They offered other suggestions to solve my problems, but I never heard the message of forgiveness, hope, restoration, and renewal through the blood of Jesus Christ."

That's when things changed for Souza. He recognized his need for a savior. "I started reading the Bible as well as other faith-based books and watching people share their testimonies online. I wanted to repent and trust in Jesus," he said. "I agreed wholeheartedly with all the prayers I was hearing online and the ones I was praying over and over." Souza describes his experience as being touched by the Holy Spirit. "One night, I felt God envelop the room, and all of my guilt, shame, and burdens were lifted! I felt the power of the Holy Spirit enter my heart and soul, and experienced the tremendous love of God for the first time."

Souza renewed his mind. He began to seek God's truth and absorbed His word. "I continued to pray, read the Bible, and was obedient to restoring areas I needed to fix and forgive," he said. Despite a few setbacks, Souza remained clean and sober and on fire for the Lord from that point on.



About two months later, the Lord opened doors that brought Souza to Alaska, working for a luxury lodge accessible only via floatplane. It was there that a lot of healing took place. "As God would have it, there was a mountain range just across from the lodge called 'Grace Ridge.' I went there often. I would cry and worship the Lord there. I was so thankful for what He did then and continues to do in my life."

Souza eventually began leading a youth group at Tahoe Forest Church in Truckee, California. He also worked part-time with Teen Challenge, which provides adults and teens freedom from addiction and other life-controlling issues through Christ-centered solutions. He also literally crossed paths with a snowboarder at this time, mainly because she had a sticker of a cross on her snowboard. "I went up to her and said, 'Jesus is awesome!,' but that was it. We went our separate ways." Souza would later meet and marry the young snowboarder named Hanalei Sian. Their official meeting was at a Bible study group barbeque with mutual friends. "My wife is the best! I know God brought us together, and it's such a gift," Souza said.

While working at Tahoe Forest Church and Teen Challenge, Souza realized he needed to pursue his degree. When he shared his plans, both of the organizations, he worked for stepped up to offer scholarships to help fund his tuition in addition to the extra hours he and his wife continue to work to support his educational goals.

Although the couple lives in Truckee, Souza spends the majority of his week living with his dad in Meadow Vista

to be closer to campus. "Once I realized there was a way I could make Jessup work, everything fell into place," he added. During the week, he also supports Meadow Vista Celebration Church with its youth programs.

Now a junior, Souza considers evangelism to be his strongest gift. He is also making ends meet as a Lyft driver. "It is so freeing to do this work and be able to touch so many people for the Lord. I can worship in the car with praise music and talk with my passengers about their faith. I've pulled over and prayed with people many times; it is incredible how God touches people's lives."

Souza uses his experience to connect with his classmates and enjoys engaging in classroom discussions. "I like being part of the Jessup community. It's a great atmosphere to encounter God," he said. It's not unusual for Souza to meet classmates in Tahoe and go snowboarding or connect with faculty to mountain bike. "I notice that my professors really want to help me. They want to see me grow, and that means a lot to me."

Although Souza isn't sure where the Lord will lead when he graduates, he enjoys working with youth. When asked what he considers the biggest challenge facing youth, Souza says identity is the key. "Let's face it, even adults don't recognize their identity in Christ," he said. "Acceptance is another big issue. Because youth are willing to change or sacrifice their identity to be accepted, they lose track of being in God's will. You can't lose sight of that. That's why working with young people is so important. I'm glad that I'm equipped and able to serve wherever God might lead me."



A JESSUP ALUM'S JOURNEY THROUGH FOSTER CARE

Unknown to most people, the United States foster care system reports a myriad of disturbing statistics. According to the National Foster Youth Institute, more than 250,000 children are placed into the foster care system in the United States every year. After reaching the age of 18, 20 percent of children who were in foster care age out and become instantly homeless. Nearly 60 percent of young men who age out have been convicted of a crime. To stack the odds more, there is less than a 3 percent chance for children who have aged out of foster care to earn a college degree at any point in their lifetime. In addition, one in four kids who age out of the system will not graduate from high school or be able to pass their GED.

As a former foster care youth, and now college graduate and Jessup alumni, Landon Shaffer defies statistics. He attributes his success to the mentors in his life who demonstrated he mattered to them and could make a difference in our world.

"As a developing kid, you need people to come alongside you and say, 'Hey, I believe in you and think you are gifted in this or that area,' just to offer some guidance and show that you care. So many foster kids I know didn't have someone speaking into their lives and it breaks my heart to see how their story played out," Shaffer said.

One of those mentors was Shaffer's seventh grade English teacher Shannon Maveety who lost her battle

to cancer in 2013. She was the first person who made Shaffer feel encouraged, capable, and motivated to attend college.

"She made it a point to affirm my giftings, encourage my potential and challenge my work ethic," Shaffer said. "In my time with her, I went from the bottom of my class in academics, to one of the top students by the end of eighth grade; placing amongst the top 3 percent in the state's yearly [standardized] testing."

Shaffer entered the foster care system during middle school, a volatile developmental time for many 12-year-olds. He would spend the next six years in eight different placement homes, half of them family homes; the other half, receiving homes. He knows firsthand that foster kids face a variety of challenges—namely the lack of stability and uncertainty looming over their lives.

"As a foster kid, you don't really have a say in where you're going or how many times you'll be placed. Instead, you tend to live in the unknown. It's a tough thing. Kids are pulled from their communities, separated from siblings, have to change schools and quite often family members can't even see them," Shaffer said.

It is understandable that over time, many of these youths lose motivation and begin to shut down. As Shaffer put it, "The hopelessness is real. A lot of these kids feel they are a victim of the world and that they have no say in their journey."

It was the encouragement of various mentors like Maveety and Shaffer's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) who planted the seeds leading him to pursue a college education.

"I actually had people who told me I was smart, capable and that I could be successful if I applied myself," Shaffer said. His CASA representative took him to tour various college campuses to get him thinking about where he would enroll. "Those experiences made me realize that having a college degree would change my life."

Eventually, Shaffer landed at Sierra College and later participated in a church affiliated program which led him to the realization he wanted to attend a Christian university.

In spring of 2018, Shaffer transferred to Jessup as a junior. He was actively involved serving in campus and men's ministry teams while working at Bayside Church as a youth pastor to fourth and fifth graders. After graduating in 2020 with a degree in Leadership, Shaffer landed

a job working in Jessup's admissions office just after commencement.

In 2019, while at Jessup, Shaffer also met and married the love of his life, Tayler Gibbs. The couple's wedding was an unforgettable event as Shaffer was escorted down the aisle by four significant women in his life including his biological mother, stepmother, aunt, and former foster mom Sharleen Schuiling who was his best friend's

mom and another key encourager. As a single mom of two, Schuiling worked multiple jobs and still managed to become Shaffer's legal guardian from the time he was in high school until he emancipated from the foster care system at 18 years old.

"I wanted to honor each of these women for the special role they've had in my life," Shaffer said. "Shannon and Sharleen went above and beyond to help me. I feel God placed these Christian women in my life to guide me in the right direction. Looking back over my years in foster care, I could see God in every step as He led me through that valley."

A new chapter recently began in Shaffer's life as he and Tayler relocated to the Seattle, Washington area where he will pursue a new job in sales. Shaffer's future is no longer filled with uncertainty. He also looks forward to starting a family at some point.

"Oftentimes people look at their family of origin and if it's full of negative experiences, that's what they believe they will be," Shaffer said. "I've learned that having faith and the help of encouraging mentors, that just isn't true."

“As a foster kid, you don't really have a say in where you're going or how many times you'll be placed.”

LEARNING IN COMMUNITY



Jessup students learn in an academic community that prepares them for a lifetime of transformative leadership in their professional and personal lives.

Now, we set our sights on inspiring and investing in campus improvements that are specifically designed to foster communities of faith, hope, and love.

The initiatives below are programs and living/learning environments that equip students to live out their faith for a lifetime:

Student Life Center - Inspire students through a campus environment that promotes Christ-centered experiences and community.

Chapel Improvement - Provide a renovated space for over 10,000 guests and students to experience chapel services, theatre performances, and music concerts.

Online Programs - Extend Jessup's impact and footprint through innovative technologies to reach students around the world at the click of a mouse.

Veterans Resource Center - Provide a dedicated resource space for our growing veterans population that promotes success, respite, relief, and guidance.

Interested in learning more about these initiatives?
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HARPREET CHUMBER

Earning her bachelor's degree in biology, alumnus Harpreet Chumber is actively utilizing her degree and remains connected to her alma mater. Chumber is a contractor supporting Sutter Health working as a medical scribe while pursuing entrance to medical school.

She is also actively tutoring Jessup students on campus, leading a spiritual formation group, "Faith Integrated Medicine," and is conducting research with Professor Mukome to determine the effect of dust and endotoxins on human health.

Raised in a Sikh family, Chumber committed her life to Christ and became a Christian during her time at Jessup. "Jessup literally changed the trajectory of my life." To learn more about her story visit: jessup.edu/about/giving/harpreet

BRINGING LIFE FULL CIRCLE THROUGH JESSUP



While earning her Master of Arts in Leadership (MAL), recent graduate Erika Figueira, experienced a period of significant growth in her relationship with the Lord. "I started my master's degree in response to what I believed were the dreams, promptings, and leading of the Lord," she said. "I suppose I've always been led by His merciful hand."

Figueira has an adventurous spirit, especially when it comes to seeing the world. Her love for travel began as a high school student selected as one of 40 United States delegates to go to Europe for a month. While in Greece, France, England, and even an abandoned island in Italy, she learned about various cultures, languages and completed service projects. When she returned to the states, she enrolled in community college. "I cried when I came home because I loved being abroad. From that point on, I worked to travel and found myself taking a trip every chance I got." At the age of 20, she had already visited 22 countries.

One of those trips involved accompanying her youth group on a missions trip to Brazil. It was there she met her future husband Alexandre Figueira and enrolled in a missionary training program called The Radical Project. The experience prepared her to do Christian aid work and lead others, especially those in faraway places,

to the Lord. She learned how to survive in the most dangerous, remote places of the world while receiving theological and linguistics training.

Not long after, she and Alexandre found themselves serving in South Wales and later in Niger, living under military escort reaching out to the Tuareg, a semi-nomadic people who practice Islam. While there, she did communication outreach for at-risk youth, overseeing fundraising programs to support and sponsor vulnerable children, ensuring they could receive an education. She took French courses at night to better communicate with the kids and also taught Bible and art classes.

As political tensions and takeovers ensued throughout the region, Al-Qaeda was gaining control and the Tuareg started a rebellion. For 13 months, Figueira found herself living in a combat zone. To complicate matters, she was dealing with health issues from malaria, typhoid, and other parasites. The couple felt led to come back to the United States where Alexandre officially proposed.

They married and moved to Brazil for a year but chose to return to the states and start their family. Figueira transferred to Jessup and in 2012, graduated with her bachelor's degree in Intercultural Studies.



"Jessup was a great fit for me because I was encouraged. I struggled through high school and come from a family where everyone's highest education was a high school diploma or GED from continuation school. I didn't become an honors student until I started upper division work for my bachelor's degree."

When it came time to pursue her master's, Jessup was the natural choice. "I have kept in touch with many faculty members I had during my undergraduate experience," she said. "God has brought so many pieces full circle through Jessup. I've been able to help other students learn by sharing my experiences and I've learned so much personally, academically and spiritually during this process."

The mother of three enjoyed the flexibility of her fully online coursework while in Jessup's MAL program. "When the kids were napping, I was able to get homework done and work on projects in a way that fit our family's schedule."

Years ago, she started a tradition with her kids on her first day of school. "We would head to the Jessup bookstore where the kids could pick something special to celebrate the start of my semester," she said. "They looked forward to it every time!"

While pursuing her advanced degree, Figueira and her husband felt called to launch an emerging nonprofit ministry known as Refuge and Strength. Step-by-step Figueira navigated through what it took to create a

non-profit. "I learned how to write policies in my classes, how to hire and recruit, how to state my vision, mission, and values. I just needed to put it all into action."

Naming their ministry after familiar words from Psalm 46, Refuge and Strength empowers, equips, and assists Afghan refugees to thrive in the resettlement process. The ministry comes alongside refugees where other agencies leave off. "I never expected to start a nonprofit. I just said, 'Lord, you can use me to accomplish your purposes.'"

The ministry works closely with families, supporting them as they foster connections enabling them to thrive in our communities. "We step in wherever necessary, whether it be helping them learn the language, providing trauma informed care, or teaching financial and real estate skills," Figueira said. "Many refugees are highly educated people who end up working in jobs far below their skill level because they are new to our country. With the right mentorships, they can regain their careers in law, medicine or police work, for example."

Figueira hopes to pair seasoned professionals who are passionate about what they do and share that expertise with those who have been displaced. To learn more about Refuge and Strength, visit www.refugeandstrength.org.

DEVELOPING SPACES TO LEARN IN COMMUNITY



Russ Taylor is the chief architect who designed the award winning 128-acre William Jessup University campus. He credits his impatient attitude for bringing the Jessup campus into motion at lightning speed but the ability to get extraordinary things done in an unheard-of timeline is something God orchestrated when He brought the right people together nearly 19 years ago.

In the spring of 2003, a FedEx package arrived on Taylor's desk.

"It was full of photos and drawings of the original Herman Miller Furniture Factory, which was very industrial, mainly consisting of three large steel buildings on a rock plinth," Taylor recalled. The idea that the project involved reusing existing buildings originally designed by world renowned architect Frank Gehry, made it particularly intimidating, challenging, and appealing.

After a trip to San Jose in May 2003 to meet with administrators at San Jose Christian College, Taylor clearly impressed the team and was hired. He immediately went to work preparing drawings and collaborating with associates to obtain reports as well as environmental and technical studies to submit to Placer County for approval. Plans were approved in record time leaving just nine months to transform the furniture factory into an operational campus ready to welcome students in the fall.

The experience marked the beginning of a working relationship turned friendship between Taylor and Jessup administrators.

"In my opinion, working with existing and reuse projects is so much fun—when you have the right client that supports your ideas," Taylor said. "I recognize that my clients have a choice, they don't have to work with me."

Taylor also recognizes the importance of Christian higher education.

"Jessup's mission to get students into the world to be ambassadors for Christ is something I fully support," he said. "To have the opportunity to do this project was clearly a God thing and I don't mean that lightly. I prayed, 'God, this is an opportunity to do something special and the purpose of these buildings, to promote Christian higher education, is important. Help me on this project.'"

While Taylor admits he may not have taken the traditional path to becoming an architect, his trajectory gave him a distinct advantage. What began as a love for drafting and drawing in the ninth grade was nurtured and mentored by Taylor's uncle who was an artist doing development in Los Gaviotas, Mexico. Starting in his junior year of high school, Taylor spent holidays and summers collaborating with his uncle, building homes, drawing, and breathing life into his ideas.

As Taylor pursued his college education, he simultaneously gained valuable work experience and his career was well underway.

"I guess you could say I was impatient. I wanted to get out there and do the work I knew I could do," he said. "Since I



already worked for a variety of architects, I was starting to develop my client base in college. I was already working as principal of a small firm in Fresno before I earned my architectural license from the State of California." Now, as the principal of the Taylor Group Architects, his primary focus is management and design. He brings 37 years of experience to his field where he is the winner of several national and local design awards, including his work on the Jessup campus.

"In some ways, architecture is a double-edged sword. When you design a building, you have to remember that it isn't going away. If it's bad, it's bad, and everyone will see it," he said. As he took on the repurposing of what would become the Jessup campus, Taylor worked with the geometry and site lines of the existing buildings.

"Essentially, the space felt boring. I knew I wanted to take the existing angles across campus and later had the idea to take the roof off the warehouse buildings to create new spaces with lots of natural light," he said. "This really opened things up. I kept the skeleton the same for the structures. Looking back, I don't think anyone really understood my vision until it was done, but the administrators trusted me to run with it."

Good thing they did. Over the years, the notable undertaking received various architectural awards for the phase one adaptive reuse design in addition to the Honor Award for the development of the student apartments. In addition, students, faculty, staff, and visitors who walk

up the iconic Jessup ramp can't help but remark on the incredible facility. The campus has hosted numerous large-scale events for the surrounding community, been featured in a variety of magazine and newspaper articles as well as Placer County tourism videos and, because of its modern architecture, scouted by major automobile manufacturers to use the campus as a backdrop for promotion of hybrid vehicles.

When asked what he is most proud of about the project, Taylor simply said, "All of it."

The enormous project included areas thousands of students have called home to: residence halls, the library, the academic warehouse, the Block apartments, the Shack and Crossroads Café, the gymnasium, music practice rooms, and more.

"I am proud of the masterplan," Taylor said. "Jessup is one of the most special things I've ever worked on. When I first started the project, I was over my skis. It was a big task and I was nervous. I see an architect as similar to being the quarterback of the team. I had a great team around me and most importantly, a client that let me bring my vision to fruition."



BY DAVID PINESCHI
Associate Vice President,
Advancement

GIVE:24 OVER THE YEARS

In so many ways Give:24 was a pioneer project in the fall of 2011. Birthed from the creative mind of Eric Hogue, alumnus and former Vice President of Advancement, came the idea to rally the community to join in a one-day online giving event that would support various areas of need.

When I asked Hogue why Give:24?, he said, "It was branded to speak to two simple things: A clock (time/hours) and a suggested amount. If donors were amenable to giving \$24, maybe they would be comfortable asking their friends, circle of alumni, and/or church friends to give \$24 too. The position

statement of "Give \$24, ask 24 friends to give \$24, all within 24 hours" was then coined. It's clear, memorable, fun, and it features an easy multiplicity of donors toward generosity."

For 24 hours, share with 24 friends, give \$24 and raising \$24,000 became the invitation for our community, alumni and parents to make a difference.

From 2011 to 2013 Give:24 generated much excitement, but technology wasn't quite ready for it. Hogue remembers the day he came into the office and invited website manager, Rob Ryan, into an ideation meeting sharing plans to build the site from the ground up. The project proved that technology wasn't ready for such a venture.



Give:24



FOR 24 HOURS



GIVE \$24



SHARE WITH 24 FRIENDS



GOAL: RAISE \$204,000

give24.jessup.edu

Over time, technology caught up and giving days became a new phenomenon across the world. Many regional foundations developed their own “Big Day of Giving” and the nation adopted #GivingTuesday.

Since 2016 Jessup has invited thousands of friends, donors, alumni and parents to make an impact through Give:24. 2016 was a special year in the Give:24 chronology as a couple, who desire to remain anonymous, generously encouraged donors by offering matching gift opportunities. This intentional effort nearly tripled our \$24,000 goal.

In 2019, Jessup celebrated its 80th anniversary with a goal to raise \$80,000. Thanks to the support of our community, like the previous years' Give:24 efforts, we raised just over \$100,000.

In 2021, we changed our approach by connecting with Paul Robins, lead faculty of the Digital Communication and Design program, for the purpose of having our first student-led Give:24. Give:24 has and will always be about our students. This time the decision was made to have students lead the effort focused on initiatives that mean

the most to them. The students helped lead an effort that tripled our previous record highs in the number of gifts in one day and raised a historic \$172,000.

As we say our thanks for the past 10 years, we can't do so without saying thanks to the heroes. YOU! It's because of your prayers and gifts that lives are being changed through Give:24. Giving through this campaign is providing access and positively impacting the student experience at Jessup so they can be transformed into Christ-honoring leaders in their chosen vocation to the glory of God.

Coming on Thursday, March 24 we set our eyes on our second student-led Give:24. During this day you will see over 12 students share their passions for a variety of student initiatives that will be a catalyst for change.

Will you be the proactive catalyst by providing a foundation for change by investing in transformational leaders? The world awaits a stronger salt and brighter light. The catalyst for change begins with you.

What will the next decade of Give:24 do through your support?

LEADING IN CULTURE



Imagine the influence our students will have as they leave Jessup strengthened in their minds and nourished in their faith. Envision the institutions they will change, the policies they will impact, the legislations they will craft, and the companies they will build.

In partnership with the Church, William Jessup University educates transformational leaders for the glory of God. Together we are equipping men and women who will build lives through authenticity, empathy, inspiration and innovation.

Over the next few years, we are focusing on the following areas that will enhance and expand our mission and to redeem world culture for the glory of God:

Nursing Program - Train and equip exemplary nurses who will become an extension of Christ through their

compassion, empathy and love. The Jessup Nursing Program produces ambassadors of healing equipped to lead with a Christ-like presence across the world.

Spirit of Equity - Provide venues for an emerging generation of minority leaders who will transform our communities for Christ and bring healing for our nation and world.

Bryce and Jo Jessup Legacy Endowment - Ensure that the next generation of church leaders are tethered to their calling - not debt - by providing vital scholarships for their church vocational ministry.

Athletic Practice Facilities - Provide a state-of-the-art athletic field and facilities for our 300 plus collegiate athletes, all the while, furnishing additional green space for all our students.



Interested in learning more about these initiatives?
Please contact our University Donor Advisors:

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dpineschi@jessup.edu

Ed Kaczmarek
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RICKY BORBA

Active in the world of media and film, Ricky Borba has done his share of acting, hosting nationally syndicated television shows and films as well as directing big-budget feature-length theatrical films. He continues to pursue the art of telling positive stories through various forms of media. At Jessup, he double majored in pastoral care and theology. "Attending Jessup showed me what my potential was in Christ if I remained in Him," Borba said.

After leaving Jessup, he began working at a Sacramento film company, later taking the leap in 2012 to start his own film production company. Since then, he has produced and directed two feature-length theatrically released films.

"For me, leading in culture is leading in love," Borba said.

A 'NEW WAVE' OF CHURCH UNITY

BY DR. DANIEL GLUCK

Associate Dean School of Christian Leadership



In partnership with the Church, William Jessup University educates transformational leaders for the glory of God.

A recent article in *The Atlantic* painted a troubling picture of the Church in America.

"The aggressive, disruptive, and unforgiving mindset that characterizes so much of our politics has found a home in many American churches," posited author Peter Wehner in his article *The Evangelical Church is Breaking Apart: Christians Must Reclaim Jesus from His Church*.

Numerous political and social issues pressurize our society: recent presidential elections, social movements, and of course, COVID-19.

"We're in a state of freefall now," pastor Francis Anuso from the Rock of Roseville lamented, seeing the unraveling of progress over the last two decades.

As a university whose mission is to partner with the church, we have grappled with what this means. Historically, the Restoration Movement from which we emanate promoted three specific themes: the Lordship of Christ, the centrality of Scripture, and the unity of the Church. One can't help but recall Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-21 (NIV): "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you."

Yet, at a time when we should be most unified, we appear more divided than ever.

In my recent study of church unity movements in the greater Sacramento area, Jessup emerged as a

significant catalyst in the early 2000s. While an exhaustive history of church movements in Sacramento is beyond the scope of this article, consider these highlights.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Sacramento churches tended toward segregation ethnically and denominationally. Early churches like St. Andrews (African Methodist Episcopal) and Shiloh (Baptist), however, held strong influence in church unity and community development. Through the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, churches including Capitol Christian and Trinity (Assemblies of God) were identified as places that promoted unity across denominational, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines. Yet, as these bodies grew, other churches sometimes felt threatened. As such, a new wave of collaboration appeared necessary.

During this era, God was leading San Jose Christian College to the Sacramento area. With the arrival of Bryce and Jim Jessup to the region, multiple efforts were mobilized to bring churches together. Hundreds of pastors first gathered on our campus in 2003, buzzing with anticipation about the impact a Christian university might bring to California's Central Valley.

Jessup soon became a safe place for Christians to gather from across denominations, ethnicities, and political leanings. We hold this as a sacred trust, and remain committed to serving God's people across the region. Out of this new wave of conversations, several movements were born.

While pastor gatherings continued at Jessup, a group called City Pastors Fellowship, led by Pastor Don Proctor from The Father's House, came forth. An



offshoot of City Pastors was the Nonprofit Fellowship led by Jeff Johnson from Love Inc. It was a place where nonprofit leaders could gather to support one another and collaborate. Pastor Anfuso played a significant role in calling pastors together to pray for a move of God in the region, and empower the next generation of church leaders. Consequently, Pastor Banning Liebscher from Jesus Culture now disciples pastors in Folsom and Elk Grove, while Pastor Lance Hahn empowers those in South Placer County. Pastors like Bishop Parnell Lovelace from Center of Praise intentionally shared pulpits and attended gatherings with other congregations. Other groups like Pastors for Revival, The Acts Group (and Conveners), and Leading in These Times seminars continued to facilitate dialogue across sectors.

Such movements appear to play two key roles. First, they provide a safe space (neutral and hospitable) where pastors and leaders can dialogue, build relationships, and support one another. Both Jessup and groups like City Pastors Fellowship have certainly cultivated these environments. The second role, however, sometimes threatens the first: to effectively influence culture. Political and social issues sometimes solicit a collective response, but convictions about how the Church should respond sometimes divide us.

This leads to an important question with which we must struggle. Does biblical unity demand that churches agree on all issues? If so, the odds may be heavily stacked against us. But what if unity means something closer to this: while we may disagree on certain things, we find unity in our diverse

representation of Christ's body, and the common goals we pursue for His Kingdom.

Consider some major social changes throughout history such as the end of European slave trade and the fall of apartheid in South Africa. These feats were accomplished not because all sides agreed but because people focused on key alliances and common goals.

Perhaps, similar to when Jessup entered the Sacramento scene in the early 2000s, now is the time for another new wave of church unity. How might Jessup and our Christ-following partners adopt a renewed vision for genuine and authentic relationships – those who don't always agree, but remain committed to both Kingdom work, and to one another?

Drawing themes from a number of conversations with leaders in the area, some key catalysts for unity are prayer, a posture of humility, open dialogue, and openness to receive correction.

The task seems challenging. Yet, Bishop Lovelace recently suggested that significant movements like those mentioned above “still position Sacramento to be a model of unity.”

Is there hope for the restoration of Church unity? We believe so. Will you join us as we seek to continue providing safe places for dialogue about what it means to bring a Gospel Worldview and embody transformational leadership in church and society?

GETTING HER GLOW BACK



Sophomore Daesha Arnold admires her grandmother Cleona Cash for a variety of reasons. Born in the Bahamas, Cash's life was riddled with struggle and very little opportunity. But with a strong faith, she pressed on. It was her pursuit of nursing that provided the ticket off the island and transplanted her to California where she would pursue her dreams. Cash went on to become a nurse who later founded a training center for nurses known as the Bridgeway Medical Simulation Center in Sacramento, and planted Promise Land Ministries in Oak Park with her husband.

"My grandmother modeled faith and how to trust in the Lord. She is someone who demonstrates how to follow Jesus while holding true to the unique way He made each of us," Arnold said.

Making the decision to pursue nursing at Jessup fell into place last spring after Arnold attended Jessup's Scholar Event. "Having the opportunity to meet instructors and staff helped to confirm that Jessup was the university for me," she said. "I chose nursing as a career because I wanted to honor my grandmother but I also see it as a profession that allows me to help people and provides job security."

Pursuing Christian higher education is also important

to Arnold. "I guess you could say that attending Jessup has helped me to get my glow back," the 18-year-old said. "So many people here are filled with the spirit that they have what I would consider 'a certain glow.' I used

to have that and now I feel like I'm getting it back."

Growing up around her grandparents' church since she was 6-years-old, Arnold has seen first-hand the positive impact a church can make in the region. She has fond memories of helping prepare Thanksgiving meals and serving the surrounding community. "I think it is important to be able to look outside of yourself to help others," she said. "We need to work to

break down barriers and meet people where they are."

While Arnold is mainly taking prerequisite courses for the nursing program slated to begin fall 2023, she plans to become more involved in Jessup's Black Student Union club. She is also participating in a Bible study exploring the Psalms with a group of friends on campus this semester.

"I can't imagine going to another college," Arnold said. "Everyone here has been so friendly and open. Jessup provides an environment that is a safe space to grow your faith."

"I think it is important to be able to look outside of yourself to help others. We need to work to break down barriers and meet people where they are."



REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPER PARTNERS WITH JESSUP

A fast-growing company that is innovating the auto industry contracted with William Jessup University business students to market their new product.

License plates have been around for well over a century with, the only significant change being a shift from steel to aluminum. But now they've gone digital with ReviverMX, Inc.'s Rplate® and Rplate® Pro. Digital license plates from Reviver digitize registration renewal with a smart phone app that lets users change the look of the plate and more. The registration year automatically updates when users register their vehicle annually through the app, without extra charges, and without going to the DMV.

The app has various safety features, including the ability to identify stolen vehicles by displaying "stolen" on the plate. It can also notify users if the vehicle moves as well as track its movement and speed with the plate's embedded GPS.

This is an exciting opportunity for WJU's marketing students.

Neville Boston, co-founder and CSO of Reviver said that he had been focusing on growing nationwide when an investor introduced him to Scott Alvord, a marketing professor at WJU.

"I was intrigued with the Target Avatar concept he teaches his students. I thought it would be interesting to let them go for it and determine ideal avatars and market to them," Boston said. "I was pleasantly surprised with their professionalism. The students dressed up for our interview and asked in-depth questions to really understand my company and products. I'm excited to see the results."

“It was a fantastic opportunity for these students to get hands-on experience with a breakthrough technology brand that is rapidly expanding as fast as they can sign up DMVs in each state.”

The class used a mixture of digital media and print advertising to reach new customers. The whole marketing strategy centers around three carefully developed target avatars in separate geographical areas.

Robert Sams, a senior majoring in business said "One of our target avatars named "Michael," is a 50-year-old car enthusiast who lives in the Southern California area. He attends car shows weekly, loves upgrading his car, and showing it off. He wants to add something different to his vehicle that will make him stand out. Another avatar is "David," a 45-year-old tech enthusiast who loves

innovation and being ahead of the curve so he can set himself apart among his peers. He especially loves dealing with his registration through the app without waiting at the DMV."

Clair Banducci, a senior majoring in digital communication and design, explained, "Our last avatar is "Daniel,"



a 17-year-old high schooler. His parents pay for his iPhone and around the last Christmas season, he was pretty sure he could talk them into paying the low monthly fee for the Rplate®. He feels the custom messages will set him apart at school and believes this is a great product to give him more responsibility, since his parents will appreciate the safety features like the ability to track vehicle speed and location, and notify if there's theft."

By taking concepts from their class and applying them to actual marketing campaigns, the marketing class has a great track record that will undoubtedly help Reviver reach their target audience. In past semesters, this marketing course has been able to bring heavy traffic and record-breaking results to other organizations and events such as Roseville's Berryfest Strawberry Festival, Little Bear Tree Farm, and Sacramento Ballet's, *The Nutcracker*.

"Having a client with such a large national product is new territory and something we haven't tackled before," admitted Alvord, who is also CEO of Advanced Development Concepts and a Roseville City Councilmember. "It was a fantastic opportunity for these

students to get hands-on experience with a breakthrough technology brand that is rapidly expanding as fast as they can sign up DMVs in each state. Neville agreed to write a letter of reference for each of my students too, which is going to be valuable when they graduate."

The class also worked on designing static and video ads geared toward their target avatars.

"Many of our professors integrate real-life situations and challenge their students to apply the concepts they learn. This allows them to network with real companies in the Sacramento area. The creativity that Professor Alvord draws out of these students every year is impressive," said Stephen Strombeck, dean of the School of Business at WJU.

President John Jackson expressed his pride in the business school for landing this contract.

"Our teaching staff and students continually impress me with their talents, creativity, and gifts," Jackson said. "Classes that apply real-world situations and provide hands-on experience ultimately help our students become exceptionally employable."



FOLLOWING GOD'S LEAD BEYOND JESSUP

For many people, COVID-19 caused their lives to be put on hold. But for alumni Jacob and Hadassah Glaspy, they found themselves presented with opportunities they didn't see coming.

In 2021, the couple founded Wyse Consulting and Management Company, a small business that helps other small businesses perform administrative and tax preparation tasks.

"As we come out of the pandemic, many small businesses are struggling to pick up the pieces," Jacob said. "Most business owners want to stick to running their business, not necessarily the mundane, tax-oriented tasks. That's where we come in."

Graduating from Jessup in May 2021 and getting married in July of that same year, brought enormous change to their lives.

"When we were presented with this business opportunity, we thought, why not?," Jacob said.

Wyse serves diverse industries and small businesses ranging from homeschool, logging, agriculture to construction.

"The goal of our startup," said Hadassah, "is to use our education and work experience to come alongside entrepreneurs and business owners to assist them in avoiding pitfalls and the stresses of managing everything on their own."

Working together as a married couple has its challenges, but the two are committed to the process.

"We are forced to work exceptionally hard to maintain balance," she said.

As they invest in their marriage and new business, Jacob is also furthering his education in Jessup's Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program.

"I found Jessup to be the perfect opportunity to pursue my master's degree," he said. "This is a unique accelerated program that aligns with my goals and provides me with a lot of information that is relevant in my industry."

Both Jacob and Hadassah were transfer students and business majors when they met in their organizational behavior class. She was the president of the business club and he was the treasurer. Hadassah was only 16 years old when she graduated from high school, later graduating from college at 20.

"Jessup provided us with a great education and features a community actively pursuing Christ's calling for each of our lives," Hadassah said. The motivated couple plan to attend law school where Hadassah expects to study business law and Jacob will pursue tax law.

"This whole Jessup experience is 100 percent God's plan," Hadassah said. "When I learned about the University, I knew it was the right fit for me."

In high school, Hadassah was invited to attend Jessup's Scholar's Event and later received a business scholarship for academic excellence.

"My mom runs a Christian K-12 school that I attended. When it came time for college, I knew I wanted to choose a university that placed emphasis on growing my faith, especially while I was in college, which was my first time living away from home. I really liked that my professors prayed before class. It made me feel

comfortable and I wasn't intimidated to share my faith when I attended community college before transferring to Jessup.

The couple both express appreciation for the way their professors poured into their lives as well.

"Our professors were not only incredibly qualified and experienced," Hadassah said, "but made themselves available to us."

Strong relationships with both professors and fellow students were key to their experience. When it came time to compile the guest list for their wedding, they even invited a few of their professors to the wedding, because of the great support they added to their lives.

The couple is also very active in their church. Jacob serves as the youth pastor and Hadassah is a member of the worship team.

"This is a great opportunity for us to mentor and minister to adolescents," said Jacob. "It's something that is really important to both of us. We believe God orchestrated our relationship beginning with a focus to develop a strong friendship before our courtship and marriage. This special bond allows us to share our experiences with the kids in the youth group and model the importance of God being Lord over our lives."

"Jessup provided us with a great education and features a community actively pursuing Christ's calling for each of our lives."

Kyle Zach Punzenberger ('08)
was married on
November 12, 2021.



Alumni UPDATES



Kimberly Lynch ('21) recently
accepted an exercise physiology
position at Dignity Health - Sierra
Nevada Memorial Hospital in
Grass Valley, Calif.



**Tori (McLaughlin, '10)
McClosky** and husband
Nolan and son Craig are
living in Houston, Texas
where she is a nurse at MD
Anderson Cancer Center.



Victoria Pon ('04) is a preschool
teacher in San Jose, Calif.



JESSUP PARENTS

Moriah Chase ('18)
is enjoying developing
engaging content as a
copywriter.



NO PHOTO:
Edward Jonathans ('20)
accepted an advisory role with
mCubed.ai a Social-Benefit
B-Corp that uses 3D and AI
technologies available on
newer iPhones to solve the
problem of improper fit of
Covid-PPE (N95 masks).

**Christina (Hunt, '15) and
Taylor Moe ('15)** have two
daughters Catirina and
Izabella and are expecting
their third child this summer.



Laurie Sanford ('21)
married and earned her
bachelor's degree in 2021. She
is now enrolled at WJU to earn
her master's degree.





JESSUP ALUMNI

Kristina (Boyadjiev, '11) Tokarski
was married July 17, 2021.



Cindy Villanueva ('02)
recently published *Don't
Fight Mad: A Black Belt's
Quest to Recapture Joy* and its
companion journal in 2021.
Her books are available at
cindyvillanueva.com



NO PHOTO:
Courtney Skinner ('19) has
been working at the State
Capitol for the past two years.

Daniel Martin ('14)
recently graduated with
his master's in Public and
Pastoral Leadership from
the Vancouver School of
Theology at the University
of British Columbia. He is
employed with the Pacific
Mountain Region of the
United Church of Canada
and is working toward
permanent residency.



Kristin (Tomasovich, '08) Vargas graduated May
7, 2021 from Southwestern Baptist Theological
Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas as a Doctor of
Philosophy majoring in Ethics.



Carrie Gulliford ('21) accepted
a position at Victory Christian
School in Carmichael, Calif.
where she will teach AP English,
British Literature, American
Literature, Drama, and Yearbook.



Kylie (Stevens, '13) Conover
and her husband Clay moved
to Minnesota. She started
a new job as program and
outreach manager at the Great
River Children's Museum.



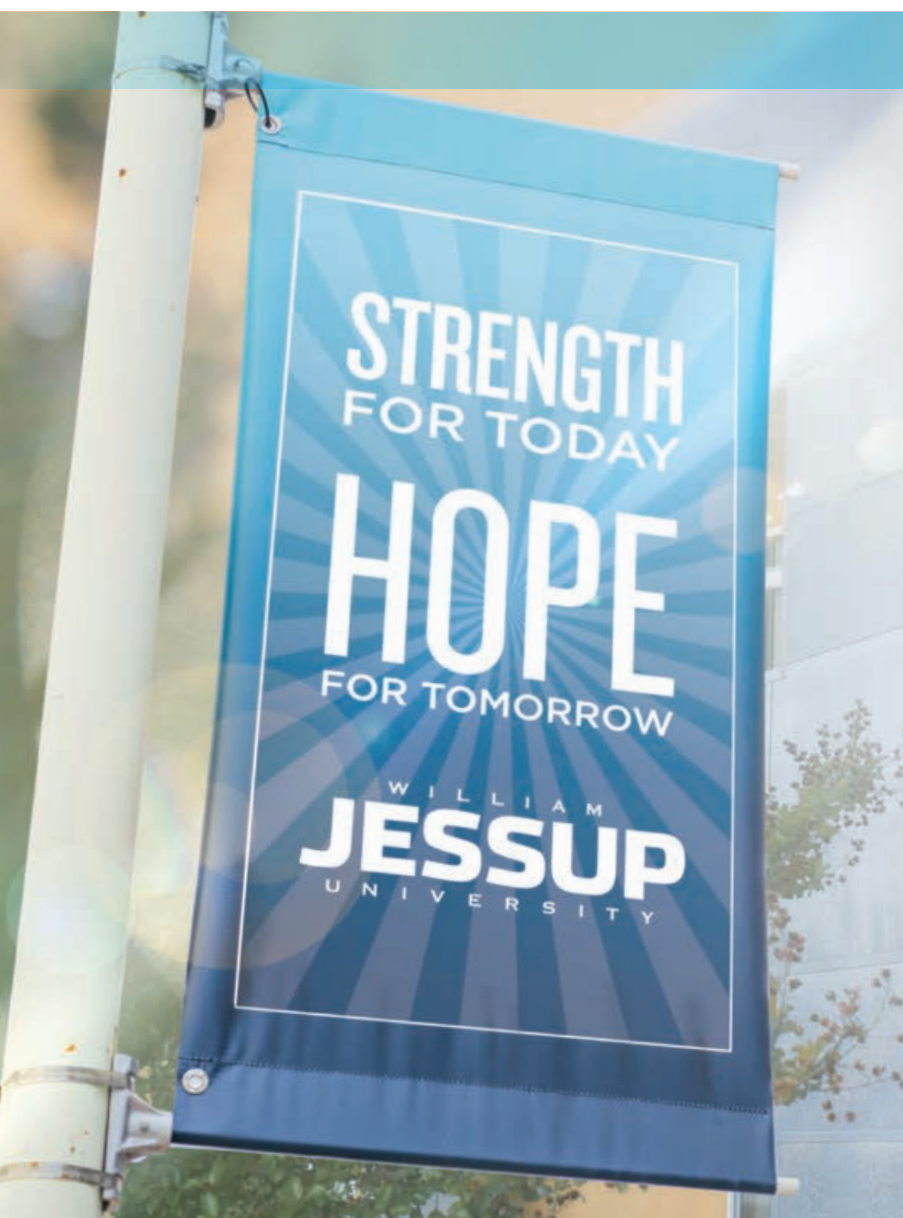


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STRENGTH FOR TODAY, HOPE FOR TOMORROW

We are standing at a crossroads in our culture. William Jessup University is poised to become a catalyst for change in our region, state, nation and beyond. Together, we can send more Christ-honoring leaders into a world to build lives through empathy, compassion, authenticity, innovation, and inspiration.

We are not striving to be something different. We are striving to be a stronger Jessup that inspires hope through tomorrow's leaders. *Together we have the opportunity and privilege to invest and strengthen our mission today, providing a hope-filled future through tomorrow's Christ-honoring leaders.*

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CHRIST-CENTERED HIGHER EDUCATION.

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