

A Spider-Man figure in his iconic red and blue suit is crouching on a paved surface. The background shows a building and trees with yellowing leaves, suggesting an outdoor campus setting. The text 'MY STORY' is overlaid in large, white, outlined letters across the center of the image.

MY STORY

**Spider-Man Reflects the
Image of Christ**
TONY Marsella

Teaching is Ministry
RACHEL Prettyman

In His Image
PASTOR RYAN Haynes

The Stories of William Jessup University | University Development
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IN HIS IMAGE

WHO AM I? WHO IS GOD?

Ryan Haynes | Jessup Campus Pastor

Many times people are tempted to create God in their own image. After all, it is convenient and comfortable to craft our theology to suit our behaviors and preferences. The God of the Bible does not allow us this luxury. To ask an omnipotent God to submit to our human will is nothing short of idolatry.

Rather than hiding so that we might grasp for Him, God has revealed Himself to us as well as His character and will for our lives. In every context at Jessup we hope to instill a conviction in our students to interpret the Bible correctly so they can submit to God willingly.

This fall, Campus Ministries was excited to partner with Jessup's Development Office

to encourage students to contemplate their purpose and identity in our theme "In His Image". Two of the biggest questions college students explore in these formative years are "Who am I?" and "Who is God?" They are seeking to understand beyond their parents' faith or their pastors' preaching...who is God, really?

The answer to that question determines the trajectory of their lives and their eternity. Week after week we turn to the Bible to help us answer these important questions. Colossians 1:15-20 explains that Jesus came to reveal to us the image of God. Jesus himself told his disciples in John 14:9 that "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." As people created in the image of God, we have an invitation and responsibility to

understand who God is and who we were created to be in light of His good purpose and pleasure. Over this semester we have seen God moving in incredible ways as He has illuminated the reality of His grace and love in life after life.

At Jessup our highest aim is to help each and every student come to a knowledge of who Jesus is. Regardless of his or her background, major or vocation, we believe that every Christian is called to reflect the image of God to this world. Given the divisive and tumultuous times we live in, there could be no greater goal than to help direct God's image bearers to know Him truly and to represent Him authentically in every corner of the Kingdom. ■



SPIDER-MAN: IN HIS IMAGE

TONY MARSELLA

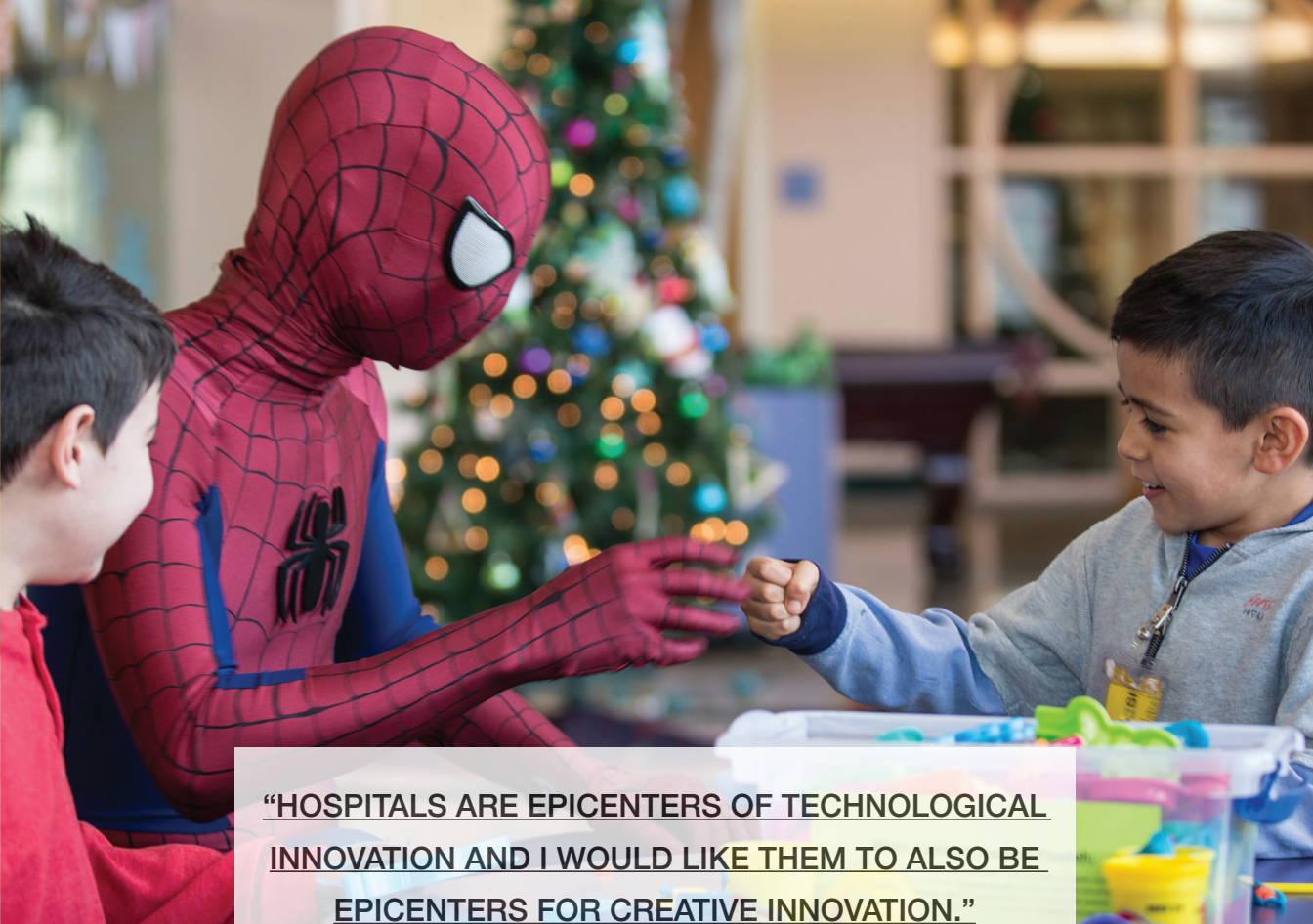
Can a masked comic character reflect the image of Christ? While we are all image bearers, some may be more creative than others, particularly when they tap into the narrative of comic storytelling about a hero coming to save a world and people in need of salvation.

Kinesiology major and Jessup

Student Body President Tony Marsella understands the role of superhero firsthand. Serving as the official representative for Shriners' Hospital for Children - Northern California, Tony dresses as Spider-Man and visits sick children and their families in an effort to bring smiles to those struggling with debilitating illness.

Tony's heart to bring joy and

hope to children began in high school during his own hospital stay because of severe stomach pains and infection resulting from food sensitivity. The constant physical pain and inability to diagnose his illness later manifested in a state of deep depression. During this time, Tony sought the Lord and surrendered control of his body and emotions. It was then he followed God's lead and



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chose to become a light in the darkness.

From studying Spider-Man films, to brushing up on trivia to answer questions posed by the kids, Tony seeks to encourage the youngsters to make their hospital stay more enjoyable. “I use this character to share the love of Jesus, encourage others and bring joy which can be healing to those who are

sick,” he said.

Tony is working to revolutionize a child’s experience while battling sickness. “Hospitals are epicenters of technological innovation and I would like them to also be epicenters for creative innovation,” Tony said. His dream is to utilize this platform to bring the Disney imagination into patient care. He is creating a proposal to

The Walt Disney Company to bring their characters into children’s hospitals around the country.

When you support Jessup, you are lifting up future leaders like Tony who seek to reflect the image of Christ in our world. ■



Watch Rachel's story at: jessup.edu/rachel



TEACHING ISN'T A JOB IT'S A MINISTRY

Growing up in a Christian home Rachel witnessed the impact of education and showing others their value. Her brother Geoffrey has a progressive, genetic, mitochondrial disease. When he was eight, Rachel's mother was told by doctors and teachers that he had reached his full potential. Fast-forward to present day, Geoffrey has a certificate in web design from a community college because Rachel's mother invested tirelessly to see him succeed.

Because of the inspiration of her mother, Rachel enrolled at Jessup with the goal of becoming an elementary school teacher. While at Jessup, Rachel wasn't just trained and equipped, but her gift of teaching was cultivated and developed as she served in Cambodia with our global outreach teams. During her four years at Jessup, Rachel went to Cambodia twice where she developed a passion for those in poverty and a desire to be a reflection of Christ.

When asked about her passion for teaching she quoted youth speaker and teen expert Josh

Shipp, "Every kid is ONE caring adult away from being a success story." Her desire as a teacher is to be a caring adult who inspires children to be all they can be.

Most people enter their careers for the paycheck, but as Rachel says, "Education is God's plan for my life. Teaching is not just a job, it's a ministry." The focus of her ministry is academic success, but her heart is to connect with her students and instill in them a sense of self-worth and confidence.

"My goal is that students leave my classroom feeling loved, supported, and valued. Every child is special and has something to contribute to the world, they just need someone to believe in them and help them find their success story."

Please continue to pray for her as she ministers to her students and reflects the image of Christ to those she serves. ■

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