

MY STORY

THE STORIES OF WILLIAM JESSUP UNIVERSITY

MAKING AN IMPACT ON THE FIELD AND IN THE FIELD

Shelbi Graifman

OCEAN OF POSSIBILITIES

John Reichart

FINDING CLARITY

Dylan Cook





“As an academic and athletic scholarship recipient, Shelbi had the opportunity to pursue higher education and start her dream of becoming a doctor.”

MAKING AN IMPACT ON THE FIELD *AND* IN THE FIELD

Shelbi Graifman | Jessup Graduate & Honored Athlete

"It might sound cliché and you probably hear it all the time, but Jessup chose me," says Shelbi Graifman, two-time GSAC Pitcher of the Year, NAIA Scholar-Athlete, three-time All-GSAC Team recipient and graduate with a Bachelors of Science in Biology. Graifman has left her mark, but it's not about the glory for the recent cum laude honoree and future medical school applicant.

"I'm honored to be awarded," she said of her many accomplishments on the diamond, "but those are material things. What matters is the impact you make in others lives, and them on yours, while all working for the Kingdom of God."

As an academic and athletic scholarship recipient, Shelbi had the opportunity to pursue higher education and start her dream of becoming a doctor. The transition to college was not easy but being a part of a team helped her in knowing she wasn't alone.

While her success on the field was evident, she credits her professors and athletic department support for their constant care and encouragement to continue to push through the high demands of being a full-time student-athlete.

William Jessup has opened doors that many big-school atmospheres wouldn't have to shape her future. In the summer of 2017, Shelbi spent two months in Honduras working for an organization that served those living in poverty, giving them medical treatment they wouldn't have been able to afford.

"I had chosen to be a doctor before my time in Honduras, but the experience gave me an opportunity for one-on-one interaction with patients and opened my heart to continuing working with those less fortunate in need of care."



“The whole experience stretched and challenged them to think and work outside of the box.”

OCEAN OF POSSIBILITIES

John Reichart | Lead Faculty of Biology

When I stepped out of pastoral ministry last year to join William Jessup University full time, I brought with me a desire to provide college students with transformational experiences in the classroom and beyond. Our science faculty have worked for several years to develop rigorous academics that put our students on par with other undergraduate programs, but I believe it will be hands-on and experiential learning opportunities that give them the advantage in graduate schools, medical schools, and their careers in science.

This past year I was given the opportunity to envision, develop and lead a unique travel study for Jessup students. Our Executive Team recognized my marine biology research program in Haiti, where I study coral reefs and the impacts of fishing, as an ideal opportunity to enrich our students' college experience. While tropical, blue waters may make Haiti a fantastic travel location, generations of poor resource management, significant social and political challenges, and devastating natural disasters have led to widespread poverty throughout the nation. Thus, a travel study would offer an opportunity to do environmental science in a mission field. Add the opportunity for biology students to be a part of medical missions, and we launched a travel study where Jessup students experience culture, learn science, and make a real difference.

The three-week experience was incredible! Students took seven to ten units of coursework while in the field, exemplifying the true meaning of hands-on learning. They actively participated with professors and researchers in real scientific research, learning marine biology skills they would never be able to learn in a Rocklin classroom. In addition, they conducted several science classes for Haitian high school students who had never even seen a microscope. Finally, students worked in two separate medical clinics and experienced the realities of global health issues. The whole experience stretched and challenged them to think and work outside of the box.

While all of this was an incredible opportunity to build a transcript and resume, it was ultimately about building the student. Experiences like we had in Haiti challenge both the heart and mind of each student to transform one's view of self, the world, and their career. Offering an experience like this is why I decided to join the faculty of WJU. Only an institution like WJU can offer such a unique experience, because we understand that transformational travel studies ultimately develop transformational leaders.



“ Jessup provided me with a healthy living environment, a strong spiritual foundation and a support group of friends and mentors that surround me on a daily basis, which was exactly what I needed.”

FINDING CLARITY

Dylan Cook | Jessup Student

Computer Science major Dylan Cook made the decision to come to Jessup after a highly unexpected and impromptu drum audition following a Jessup Choir and Orchestra performance. Even though the audition didn't result in a spot on the worship team, it was the catalyst that brought the Diablo Community College transfer student to Rocklin in spring of 2016 to tour campus. Later that fall, Dylan was enrolled as a full-time Jessup student.

"Coming to Jessup is one of the best things that happened to me," the senior said. "WJU has taught me to significantly grow my relationship with God. Now I find myself regularly discipling others and I feel blessed to be able to do that."

Despite his keen interest in technology, growing his faith took priority and has resulted in a transformational life. "I've found that I've grown spiritually from my Bible and theology courses, my spiritual formation groups and from coming alongside my peers and helping them through different situations."

Through these experiences, the 23-year-old has learned that God can take something that is painful, difficult, even tragic and use it for

good. "Before I came to Jessup, I had a lot of things to sort out and growing my faith allowed me to have better clarity while working through tough situations."

Dylan also credits the ongoing mentoring relationships he has found in faculty and other members of the Jessup community as an integral part of his spiritual development. "Jessup provided me with a healthy living environment, a strong spiritual foundation and a support group of friends and mentors that surround me on a daily basis, which was exactly what I needed," he added.

While at Jessup, Dylan became involved in a variety of activities on campus including working as a resident assistant both in Sunset residence halls and the student apartments. In addition, he has served as a student worker in Jessup's IT department and plans to continue working there during his final year on campus. "Since I've been at Jessup, I've learned that hard work will be rewarded," he said. "I work with an amazing team in IT. I've learned a lot and as a result, I'm feeling very confident about my future."



THE JESSUP FUND

SA

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY

Combating the College Affordability Crisis by
Providing Need and Merit-Based Scholarships

AE

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Delivering Academic Excellence that Equips
Students to Thrive in the Marketplace or Ministry

SD

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Providing Opportunities to Grow Spiritually,
Serve Willingly, and Worship Wholeheartedly