

2023

J PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JESSUP
UNIVERSITY

CHRIST-CENTERED HIGHER EDUCATION





Letter From the President



We are so grateful for God’s continued grace and favor at Jessup University. For 85 years we have remained faithful to our mission, committed to shaping people of character and influence for God’s glory. We do our

ministry and work in partnership with the Church, finding new ways to strengthen our relationship with local pastors and churches every year.

Even as our world grieves the darkness all around us, Jessup is a place that creates and burns brightly with legacy impact for all eternity. We do that in such a way that students are equipped for life and known for who they are and who they are becoming.

As we equip Christ-followers to navigate the world’s complexities, story after story demonstrates how our students graduate ready to excel in their field, without compromising their faith. You are part of building a legacy in the lives of these students.

We’ve also witnessed growth in redemptive and regional impact. Because we are intentional about connecting with our regional economy, many cultural streams rely on Jessup graduates for employees – especially in education, business, health sciences, mental health care, and ministry.

Our bachelor’s degrees in nursing and biochemistry launched last year and continue to strengthen our outreach to the healthcare sector.

Thank you for your faithful support and dedication to Christ-centered higher education. We’re looking to the future with great hope and anticipation for how God’s love will transform the generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Jackson, Ph.D.
President



**MULTNOMAH UNIVERSITY BECOMES
PART OF THE JESSUP FAMILY IN 2024.
DETAILS TO COME!**

EQUIPPED & KNOWN

Jessup shapes people of influence through experiential learning, spiritual formation and the development of redemptive critical thinking, all within a vibrant community and personalized education experience.

As students develop in the following areas, they graduate equipped to lead and ready for redemptive impact:

LIVING IN CHRIST

Students have opportunities to encounter God and His Word when they are immersed in faith integrated curriculum designed to bolster their spiritual formation. From weekly chapel services, outreach trips, Spiritual Formation Groups and service opportunities, Jessup students learn firsthand what a faith-filled life is about. Our staff and faculty are committed to guiding students to an authentic relationship with Jesus, regardless of where they are in their faith journey. We strive to extend a welcoming atmosphere of Christ-followers ready to challenge and encourage one another toward the unique life God has for them.

LEARNING IN COMMUNITY

Jessup fosters a dynamic learning environment. Our learning community emphasizes collaboration, interaction and shared experiences among students. This approach to learning takes place throughout campus in various environments including our Crossroads Café, student union, music practice rooms or biology labs. Jessup's collaborative learning style encourages the exchange of ideas, feedback and support of community members. Students, faculty and staff engage in meaningful discussions, ask questions and share insights that encourage self-growth.

LEADING IN CULTURE

Centrally located in Northern California, near Sacramento's capital city and Silicon Valley, Jessup is well-positioned to impact culture and remains intentional about connecting with our regional economy. Many local industries, including schools and mental healthcare, rely on our graduates to become employees who demonstrate integrity and compassion while advocating for positive change that contributes to the betterment of society. Leading in culture transcends conventional knowledge, thriving at the confluence of experience, spirituality, and innovative thought. We nurture students who will excel in their fields and exert a transformative influence on their communities and beyond.



YOU WERE MEANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE'LL GET YOU READY.

99%

**OF STUDENTS
RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS
OR FINANCIAL AID**

93%

**OF STUDENTS EMPLOYED
OR IN GRAD SCHOOL
WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF
GRADUATION**

40%

**LESS DEBT
THAN THE AVERAGE
COLLEGE GRAD**

93%

OF STUDENTS REPORT
GROWING SPIRITUALLY
WHILE AT JESSUP

Self-reported on Post-grad or Campus Ministry Surveys



FINDING FAITH AT JESSUP

Sepideh's Story

Sepideh Sefidari encountered God's love and kindness in a powerful way when she came to Jessup as an international student from Tehran, Iran. Initially planning to attend a master's program in Chicago, the homesick Sefidari scheduled a quick Labor Day weekend trip to see her aunt and grandmother in Northern California. "I'm very emotionally connected to my family," she said. "When I came to visit, I realized I would be more comfortable attending a university closer to them."

Sefidari acted fast, immediately applying to Jessup and within 10 days, she was enrolled in Jessup's MBA program. "My whole experience feels like a miracle," she said. When she came to the United States, she planned to earn her graduate degree to help with the successful architectural business she ran back in Tehran. As she settled into the Jessup community, things began to change. She quickly formed close-knit relationships with classmates who impressed her with their support, helping her find a new, full-time job as a project manager for Jplus Architects, Inc.

Sefidari also benefits from relationships she has formed with faculty, especially Graduate Studies

Director and Assistant Professor for Jessup's School of Business, Ken Raskin. "Professor Raskin was my first professor," she said. "It wasn't just about education, I could tell he really cared about all of his students. He also prayed before classes and that made me curious about Christianity. I wasn't raised in a religious family, but I always had the desire to know the real God."

Last year, Sefidari gave her life to Christ. She continues to deepen her understanding of Christianity by studying the Bible, praying and attending a local Iranian church, allowing her to stay connected to her heritage.

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It wasn't just about education, I could tell he really cared about all of his students.

PASTORAL MINISTRY MEETS PROFESSORSHIP

Professor Backfish's Story

Associate Professor for Jessup's School of Theology and Leadership, Dr. Libby Backfish spends a lot of time listening to the needs of the Church. With a foot faithfully planted in academics and another in pastoral ministry, she also serves as Theologian in Residence at Granite Springs Church in Lincoln, California.

Each of these communities, Jessup and Granite Springs, actively support her dual roles, which enriches her contribution in both spaces.

"It's part of Jessup's mission statement to partner with the Church, so it's something we all believe in," Backfish said. "But how do we practice it? This is just one way."

Additionally, her time is spent as a wife, mother, avid hiker, and author of two forthcoming books, including a 400,000 word commentary on the Book of Psalms. Although she doesn't expect to find perfect balance between these commitments, her focus is on stewardship—a thoughtful allocation of the gift of time God has given her.

Backfish's pastoral ministry experience is also a rich blessing for her students, as it helps her develop trust while she gets to know them individually.

After learning she is also a pastor, some students often reach out to grab coffee together and wrestle through a specific theological question.

"Nobody falls off my radar," said Backfish, whose favorite class to teach is Biblical Hebrew because of the intimate class size and flexible pace. "I can get students the support they need, if they are willing to take it."

Backfish's life and work is just one expression of the importance of learning in community at Jessup. This year, the School of Theology and Leadership also formed the Center for Church Health (CCH), another way for Jessup's faculty to be a faithful presence in the local community.

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Backfish's life and work is just one expression of the importance of learning in community at Jessup.



90%

**OF STUDENTS ARE
BETTER EQUIPPED TO
ARTICULATE THEIR FAITH**

Self-reported on Post-grad or SFG Surveys



94%

OF ALUMNI ARE SATISFIED
WITH THE QUALITY OF
THEIR JESSUP EDUCATION

Self-reported on Post-grad or Campus Ministry Surveys



TELLING STORIES THAT MOVE PEOPLE

Kyle's Story

Kyle Barr, a 2016 business marketing alum, owns a successful, full-service production company based out of Sacramento called GRDN Media. Projects have taken him across the world, filming on multiple continents, even going off-grid a few times to capture quality stories. Working on both national campaigns and local commercials for companies like NBC, Puma, Yeti (and his alma mater's 2023 rebranding campaign video), his team creates story-driven videos, social content, and photography.

"We tell stories that move people," the film director and CEO said. "Stories bring us together, teach us new things and show us what it truly means to be human – and we want to do that for every business we work with."

In today's market, just in the Sacramento region alone, the GRDN Media team stretches clients' budgets 10 times what other companies can, simply by expanding their creative potential. "No matter the budget, we always push the limits to tell a captivating story that moves our clients' audience," Barr said.

Also a member of the men's soccer team while at Jessup, Barr has fond memories of his well-rounded undergraduate experience. His coursework provided a strong foundation to the business arena and filmmaking in a variety of capacities. For example, his robust liberal arts education provided a key opportunity to take directing classes with Jessup Theatre faculty where he learned the nuances of storytelling. The experience uniquely equipped him for the creative and technical work he does everyday within his career.

"My Jessup education provided a genuine foundation to grow upon," said Barr. He also gained direct marketing experience as a student assistant, learning under Jessup staff members who oversaw videography. This type of mentorship and on-the-job training helped catapult Barr to where he is today.

Students, Academics & Athletics

FALL 2023 ENROLLMENT

Undergraduate	896
Online	256
Graduate	293
Degree Completion	39
TOTAL STUDENTS	1,484

ENROLLMENT IN TOP MAJORS

Sciences	342
Business	187
Psychology	124
Visual & Performing Arts	105
Humanities	92
Theology & Leadership	74
Education	79

BIBLICAL STUDIES MINORS 783

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

Undergraduate	18
Graduate	13
Online	15
Degree Completion	8

JESSUP ATTAINS

25%

FULL TIME
EQUIVALENT
(FTE) HISPANIC
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT
ENROLLMENT FOR
FALL 2023.

This opportunity opens the door to application for **Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI)** status with the United States Department of Education. HSI status enables greater funding opportunities for resources that create a more supportive environment for Hispanic students.

In the game or not, our athletes push the boundaries of endurance and strength—proving their character, prepared to lead.

3.18

WARRIORS OVERALL
STUDENT ATHLETE GPA

NCAA DIVISION II

MAKE IT *YOURS*





THE
FOUNDATION
IS LAID.
NOW WE
BUILD
FOR THE
FUTURE.

WARRIORS TO NCAA

20
24

42
STUDENTS HONORED AS
SCHOLAR ATHLETES

JESSUP ATHLETICS MAKES HISTORY

It's official! Jessup's application for membership into the NCAA Division II is approved—and Jessup Athletics is moving full steam ahead.

The Warriors are continuing to play out the remainder of the 2023-24 season as a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC). Jessup has accepted an invitation to join the PacWest Conference upon its arrival in NCAA Division II, fall 2024.

Donor Impact

Your support provides accessible, Christ-centered excellence.

GIVING BY FUND

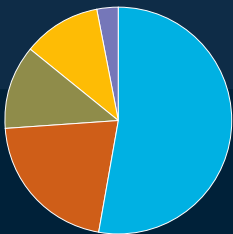
The Jessup Fund 53%

Endowment 21%

Academics 12%

Athletics 11%

Global Outreach 3%



\$16M

JESSUP FUND
SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

2,922

PARTNERS
COLLECTIVELY
GIVING OVER

\$24,680

AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIPS
PER STUDENT

\$11M

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE
MEMBERSHIP



135

CHURCH PARTNERS

Learn how your generosity can change lives at jessup.edu/give





2023 RECAP

Last summer, Jessup students, staff, faculty and alumni traveled all over the world as part of our Global Outreach program. Teams served in the Caribbean, East Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia to work in conjunction with organizations that aid in the fight against human trafficking, serve marginalized people groups, support local community development, reach the lost and support local churches.

Students met physical and spiritual needs of those they encountered serving in areas of agriculture, education, healthcare, library ministry, media, sports and youth ministry. Teams used their specific gifts and strengths to come alongside long-term workers, disciple local believers and introduce others to the love of Jesus. Students witnessed young people getting baptized while speaking love and hope into those in need of God's grace.

6

MISSION TRIPS

43

STUDENTS

COMING THIS YEAR

This summer, Jessup anticipates sending **10 student teams to five different continents** to work in Central Asia, Central and South America, East Africa, Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia. The University continues to send teams to work with many of our existing partners and have added several new ones. Students have the opportunity to experience cross-cultural ministry in a field relevant to their studies at Jessup. From church ministry and leadership to business, healthcare, music, education and more, students will experience how God is working all over the globe and get to use their unique gifting and knowledge to further His kingdom.

JESSUP UNIVERSITY

2121 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
ROCKLIN, CA 95765



PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

A MINISTRY OF JESSUP

jessup.edu/giving/pc

TRANSFORMATIONAL INVESTMENT

President's Circle support is a transformational investment providing academic excellence to future leaders seeking to be more like Christ. President's Circle members give \$100 per month or \$1,000 annually to any scholarship, project or program. Your generosity makes it possible for our future leaders to receive accessible, Christ-centered excellence in higher education.

To learn more, please call or email David Pineschi, Associate Vice President of University Advancement (916) 577-1809 | dpineschi@jessup.edu.