

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY



Alumni & Donor Update
Winter/Spring 2024

Dear alumni and donors,

BJU's Advancement and Alumni Relations Departments desire to express our gratitude for the enduring success of Bob Jones University's mission.

We are grateful for the opportunity to see and hear about the missional, God-honoring lives of our graduates. We are overwhelmed with thanksgiving for how God continues to use many of you to support the mission of BJU. And we are continually amazed by the commitment of our faculty and staff in carrying out the Christian liberal arts mission of Bob Jones University.

While we anticipate together the upcoming announcement of the next President of Bob Jones University, let's seize this opportunity to celebrate the layers of missional victories God is granting BJU.

John D. Matthews

John Matthews
Vice President for
Advancement
and Alumni
Relations



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EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY

Committed to their Students

RECENT SURVEY OF ALUMNI-

How alumni describe their professors:

- “biblically centered”
- “took a **personal interest** in me”
- “pushed me toward **excellence**”
- “academically **challenging**”
- “**excellent** teacher”
- “**prepared me** for my future”
- “**cared** for me”

RECENT SURVEY OF STUDENTS-

How students describe their professors:

- “he **loves every single one** of us, and he proves it every class”
- “**captivating** in class”
- “**inspired** by her to learn and grow, develop my skills, and trust the Lord”
- “showed me the **love of Christ** and reflected behaviors I want to show my future students”
- “she made me **love** microbiology”
- “an **amazing** mentor”
- “**genuinely cares** about her students”
- “an **amazing** instructor and individual”
- “**inspired** me to live sold out for Christ”

89% of students claim BJU faculty helped them think biblically about their course subjects.

93% of students claim BJU faculty displayed genuine interest in them.



“BJU faculty never stop learning and trying to improve their craft — they explore cutting-edge research in the science of teaching and learning to better fulfill their God-given mission of equipping the next generation of Christian leaders.”

Linda Abrams
Director, Center for Effective Teaching and Engaged Learning

IMPACTING THE MARKETPLACE

BJU Accounting Program Excels

Achievement runs deep in the accounting program at Bob Jones University.

The most influential and largest accounting firms in the world — known as the Big Four — have been recruiting at BJU for years. They recognize quality and keep coming back to recruit. But one of those world-renowned firms, KPMG, recently confirmed they only recruit students from three universities within the entire state of South Carolina — Clemson University, the University of South Carolina and Bob Jones University.

Clearly, our accounting program not only has a history of high achievement but continues to excel, giving BJU accounting students an incredible advantage.

According to Jeff Bryson, the program coordinator and a much-loved professor, nearly every accounting student who will graduate in 2024 has been hired before the start of the spring semester. Note that these students are not just being hired before graduation — they began their final semester of undergraduate study with a confirmed job.

The good news continues. The current junior accounting students have already acquired internships for the spring and summer months of 2024 and, as a result, are

well on their way to being hired before they graduate. In fact, 21 accounting firms came to BJU this past December to recruit. There were no seniors to recruit. There were no juniors to recruit. The representatives began prepping and recruiting our sophomore accounting students because our upper-class accounting majors had already secured employment or a competitive internship.

While our accounting students as a whole are performing well, two recent accounting grads set records with their test scores during their time at BJU. Anna Tuck, a 2023 graduate, passed all four parts of her CPA exam prior to graduation. This means that Anna graduated with 150 hours of study, her CPA certificate and a 4.0 GPA! She was hired before graduation and began her career with Forvis, an accounting firm located in Greenville, South Carolina.

Anna's achievement came on the heels of an incredible accomplishment by Josh Seest, a 2022 accounting grad who won the Elijah Watt Sells Award for CPA scores. Josh's scores ranked him 47th out of over 67,000 individuals who sat for the CPA exam in 2022! Josh was recruited by a fellow BJU alum at RSM, a multinational accounting firm, and began his career at their Charlotte, North Carolina location.



Anna Tuck



Josh Seest



“Our accounting program has a history of high achievement and continues to excel, giving BJU accounting students an incredible advantage!”



Matthew Segujja

Beyond the academic rigor of their program, current accounting students have another major advantage: access to an incredible

network of BJU accounting alumni. One recent example is Matthew Segujja, a 2022 grad from Kampala, Uganda. He chose to attend BJU after his mother discovered the University by using homeschooling curriculum produced by BJU Press. Matthew performed well in the accounting program, and in the spring of 2021, he landed a tax internship with Arthurs & Company CPA, LLC. founded by Chris Arthurs, a 2009 grad. In the summer of 2021, Kristen (Ince) Noel, a 2016 grad, helped Matthew secure a second internship with her company, Epic Games, known for the video game Fortnite. Most recently, Al Hodges, a 1977 grad, offered Matthew a full-time job at Stokes & Company, a firm founded by Stephen Stokes, a 1998 grad.



The accounting program is housed within the School of Business, which is poised for significant growth in the near future. Dr. Richard Stratton, Dean of the School of Business, along with alumni and faculty, have identified several key growth areas that could potentially increase enrollment by 50%! To better serve students now and accommodate future growth, renovations are planned for this summer to create a School of Business lab and student space.

In the past and present, the accounting program has proven to be exceptional. By God’s grace, the overall growth of the School of Business promises to further solidify the magnificent legacy of the BJU accounting program.



Future home for School of Business lab & student space — renovation drawings of Alumni 216 & 217. Remodeling and installation is scheduled for summer 2024.

BJU Continues to Equip



REMARKABLE GRADS *like you!*

Whether you graduated 10 or 50 years ago, your BJU experience challenged and prepared you for success.

Do you know a student who could benefit from a hands-on education rooted in Scripture? We’d love for them (and you) to visit BJU this spring!



EXPLORE UPCOMING EVENTS
alumni.bju.edu/events

New Biblical Worldview Minor

Questions Answered by Dr. Kevin Oberlin, *Dean of the School of Theology & Global Leadership*



- Q:** Every BJU student pursuing a bachelor's degree will finish with an equivalent minor in worldview studies. What does this fact mean?
- A:** At Bob Jones University, our desire is to disciple students to be more like Jesus Christ. In the classroom, we do this primarily through a worldview curriculum, which appears in every class, no matter the student's major or subject matter.
- We also do this very intentionally through our worldview studies minor. Every bachelor's degree student is automatically eligible to receive this minor. The worldview studies minor includes six classes – 18 credits – that all students in bachelor's programs are required to complete.
- Q:** While BJU students have always been required to take Bible courses and attend chapel, what enhanced value are students gaining from the intentional worldview curriculum?
- A:** The content and order of six core classes produce the value:
- First course (Creation to New Creation): This class explores the metanarrative of Scripture; how Scripture is a unified story from Genesis to Revelation, and that all the various stories within the Bible form one story which the Spirit of God has breathed out and given to us in 66 books.
 - Second course (Biblical Hermeneutics): Now that students understand the metanarrative of Scripture, how do we rightly interpret the Bible? We do so through a proper understanding of interpretation and various literary elements found in God's Word. And, this class takes the student through various case studies from Genesis to Revelation so that the student is able to interpret the Bible skillfully.

- Third course (Ideas and Their Consequences): This class surveys key figures and ideas that have shaped the world with resulting positive and negative consequences. This course helps students understand that human attempts to answer life's biggest questions are at best inadequate and points students to God's revelation, His Word.
 - Fourth & fifth courses (Bible Doctrines): These two courses work through the major theological themes and worldview systems that you find in the Bible, including God's Word, Theology Proper, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Man, Salvation, the Church and the doctrine of Last Things. Students are challenged to ask how they should think about these doctrines and how these doctrines help frame answers to ethical and practical life questions.
 - Sixth course (Worldview and Apologetics): In this course each student undertakes a capstone project that corresponds to his or her academic major. Students research and address key worldview issues, especially those particular to their academic major or targeted career, preparing them to face challenges as they enter their place of work and service.
- Q: Why is this worldview studies minor critical to the mission of BJU?**
- A:** The entire worldview studies minor has been designed intentionally for students to own their faith, grow in love for Christ and His Word, and learn how to serve others effectively and intentionally through their local church in an ever-changing culture and work environment. This objective is why every bachelor's degree program at the university automatically includes this minor.



EXP Initiative Advances



Experiential learning credits (EXPs) come from transformational, nontraditional learning environments that include hands-on learning coupled with reflective writing assessment to effectively develop critical thinking, a biblical worldview and career-furthering skillsets.

Beginning with the current freshman class, every BJU student will complete at least two EXPs by graduation. Over 40 EXPs are currently operating, and many more are in development to be completed this summer. Three years from now, 120 EXPs will be available to all students.

Impact of Recent EXP Course

Guided by professors from The School of Business and the College of Arts and Science, the students in the global challenges course took a trip to Honduras this past November. Their objective was to address agricultural challenges by using aquaponics — a system of growing fish and plants in the same contained environment.

The students received first-hand experience of what it takes to make a difference in their communities and in the world around them. Senior electrical engineering major Maddy Thomas spoke about the eye-opening aquaponics project in Honduras. “I don’t think you can get this experience anywhere else. [This project] was not something we did for a letter grade in a semester-long course, but an experience where we’re touching lives.”



Through cross-discipline courses, students gain the necessary experiences to apply the training they receive at BJU and biblically apply it to their next steps.

“That’s why I chose BJU,” said Maddy Thomas. “The engineering program is not just focused on learning the technical aspect of engineering, but on going out and doing something that will grow the kingdom of God and impact people in an eternal sense.”



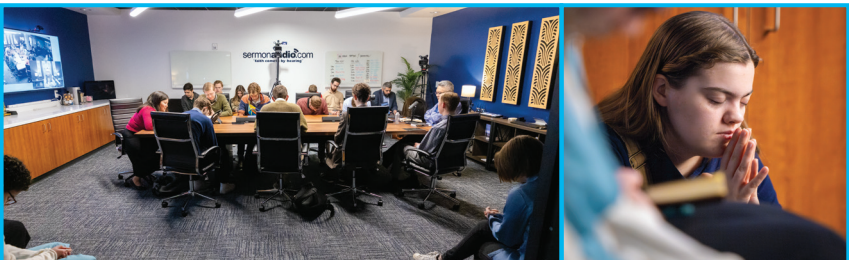
“I came to BJU because I knew I would graduate with like-minded servants who have that same heartbeat to shine as lights for Christ in places I could never go.”

– Nicole Hardin
graduate student, intercultural studies

BIBLE CONFERENCE 2024

BJU’s long-running signature event

This year, Bible Conference took place February 13-16. Our speakers came from seminaries around the U.S. and focused their messages on the conference theme, Look On The Fields: Cultivating A Heart For The Harvest. Our speakers reminded those in attendance that evangelism is a natural result of loving God and loving others and flows from hearts tuned to the Savior and His priorities.



During the week, students, along with faculty, staff and alumni, demonstrated their dependence on God, desiring Him to work. Each day began with a prayer session, and on Thursday, SermonAudio sponsored a 24-hour prayer meeting to petition God to use the Bible Conference services to change lives. This prayer meeting joined virtually our on-campus community with members of the BJU community around the world!

Future Alumni Support a Current Alum’s Ministry

Students also rallied around this year’s Bible Conference fundraising project supporting Dare for More (DFM), a ministry started and led by BJU alum Reba Bowman (’89). This ministry exists to rescue and support women and children impacted by trafficking, abuse and poverty. Funds raised will help purchase a van and four-wheel-drive truck to transport women and children to a newly built safe house. Specifically, the truck will allow the ministry to access mountainous areas to transport people and supplies.



This past summer, the Bruins Volleyball team took a weeklong mission trip to Guatemala to partner with DFM and give any assistance they could. The team quickly realized they were receiving as much or more than they gave. The student-athletes were amazed by the beautiful examples of God’s grace through



restoration in the lives of at-risk women and children. This experience challenged the team to grow in their faith, specifically prayer. God’s work through DFM impacted the team so much that their passion for the ministry became contagious, resulting in this year’s Bible Conference offering decision.



Students Lead in Bible Conference Fundraising

A record number of over 50 student-led fundraisers took place this semester to raise funds towards the \$150,000 goal. As usual, the students’ creative energy was on display. They grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, rode bikes to Charleston, South Carolina, and sold succulents, boba tea, flowers, and an astounding array of desserts. They organized two very successful events involving faculty and staff — a heart-pounding basketball game and a highly entertaining game show called Faculty Feud. In the Friday evening service, the FMA erupted as Dr. Alan Benson announced that over \$151,303 was raised for Dare for More ministries, with additional fundraising occurring in the weeks following Bible Conference.

FINE ARTS APPRECIATION

The Culture at BJU Cultivates Commitment & Opportunity

Commitment

In an average academic year, BJU students participating in the Concert, Opera and Drama series spend ...

100+ hours preparing **30+** hours performing

Opportunity

This academic year, **77%** of students who participated in musical performances at BJU are majoring in a field other than music.

The Top **5** non-music majors that participate in musical performances at BJU are:

- Nursing
- Engineering
- Business Administration
- Biblical Counseling
- Ministry and Leadership

This year, students attended **16+** hours of required fine arts performances and had access to **85** hours of fine arts events.

4 years at BJU gives every student access to **400+** hours of fine arts events.

“The visual and performing arts continue to play a vital role in BJU’s educational mission. From world-class guest artist appearances to award-winning student and faculty performances and exhibits, our students have multiple opportunities to encounter and create artistry for the glory of God and the good of others.”

– Dr. Michael Moore, Chair of the Division of Music



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Nursing Division Achieves Top Honors

BJU's Nursing Division Simulation Center achieved full accreditation status! Outside of a hospital setting, only two universities in South Carolina have fully accredited sim labs — Bob Jones University and the University of South Carolina.

Almost **98%** of BJU's nursing students passed their licensing exam (NCLEX) compared to the **88.6%** national rate.

BJU's Student Legislature Delegation Wins!

BJU won the Palmetto Award for best overall delegation against Clemson University, University of South Carolina and three other universities. Former South Carolina Representative **Wendy Nanney** ('87 grad) served as BJU's sponsor.



Abigail Bergmann, junior political science major, won best oral argument and was elected governor.



Kate Huffstutler, a sophomore English major, won best-written legislation.

New ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Public health administration, MS
- Speech language pathology, MS
- Strategic communication, BS
- Keyboard performance, undergraduate certificate
- Church music ministry, undergraduate certificate
- Professional writing, undergraduate certificate
- Pre-architecture for non-interior architectural design majors, undergraduate certificate

BJU Awarded Significant Grants

- BJU was awarded **\$230,660** from the South Carolina Research Authority to support equipment and technology upgrades for the biology department, the Division of Nursing and the Center for Community and Global Health.
- BJU was awarded **\$148,000** from the Department of Homeland Security through the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division to enhance on-campus security equipment.

BRUINS



★★ BRUINS BANNER YEAR ★★

4 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Women's Soccer
- Women's Volleyball
- Men's Cross Country
- Women's Cross Country



• NCCAA National Coach of the year
BJU's Cross Country Coach
Ken Roach



• 1,200 career wins for
BJU's Volleyball Coach
Vickie Denny



Bob Jones Academy Grows Enrollment

Celebrating the largest enrollment in 10 years!



BOB JONES ACADEMY

Eternity Matters More.



BJU Press Achieving Extraordinary Success

- Students in **130** countries use over **2** million BJU Press products every day!
- Press sales have seen a double-digit increase each year for the past four years in a row!

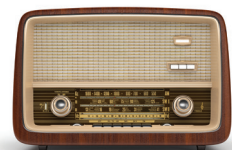


THE RADIO POWERHOUSE AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

The Story of Stuart Epperson Sr.

Named one of *Time Magazine's* 25 most influential evangelicals, he walked in circles most BJU alumni cannot access. And yet fame and fortune are ultimately not his legacy.

Stuart Epperson graduated from Bob Jones University in 1957 and 1959 with degrees in broadcasting. But long before he came to BJU, Stu had developed an interest in radio. Growing up on a small tobacco farm in Virginia, Stu and his family lived in a simple home that for many years, did not have electricity. So, when Stu's oldest brother purchased a radio for the home, he powered it with a small windmill attached to the roof. Quickly, their house became a community hub, with people gathering every weekend to hear music and preaching on the radio. Stu's brother later created and operated a radio station in the family home, which required the assistance of young Stu. Stu's training for the world of radio was well on its way!



As a result of attending BJU, Stu met and married Nancy Atsinger ('62 grad), which in turn provided Stu his future business partner — brother-in-law, Edward Atsinger III ('61 grad). After years of owning and operating radio stations around the U.S., Stu and Ed co-founded Salem Communications — now known as Salem Media Group — a company publicly listed on NASDAQ. According to Nancy Epperson, God opened doors in surprising ways, and a handful of radio stations grew to over 100, located in all major markets and reaching millions of people daily.

Combining his extraordinary radio empire with his passionate support of conservative values, Stu found himself in the presence of key political leaders, including presidents of the United States. His success was unquestionable, and his influence was extraordinary. But that is not the crux of Stu's story.

Stu's life centered around his faith and his family. Taking every opportunity to make an eternal difference in the lives of others was and continues to be the Eppersons' heartbeat. Linda St. John, a close family friend, was inspired by Stu's "boldness in witnessing." "To be with him," she adds, "was to be talking about the Lord." A local and a national youth mentoring program, the Winston Salem Rescue Mission, and the Salem Pregnancy Care Center are just a few examples of ministry outreaches they initiated, funded and personally supported with their time.



Stu's life centered around his faith and his family. Taking every opportunity to make an eternal difference in the lives of others ...



One Saturday, Stu invited his friend, Dr. Bob Jones III, to join him at a local Section 8 housing area to visit with the kids, provide food — and most importantly — share the gospel. Stu often visited this neighborhood because he recognized the inability of the government to provide lasting hope or freedom from sin's bondage. From a friendship spanning decades, Jones describes Stu as one who "lived his love of Christ everywhere" and emphasizes that Stu's legacy "will be the souls that are with him in heaven."

In addition to the spread of the gospel, Stu was devoted to his family so completely that he mainly worked from a home office his entire career to be present in the lives of his wife, his children and his grandchildren. A friend and current BJU professor, Dr. Ray St. John, characterizes Stu as "content to be interrupted by a grandchild." "His greatest achievement," says his wife, Nancy, "was our children and grandchildren who all love the Lord."

In all he achieved in business, politics, ministry and relationships, Stu Epperson never forgot where he came from. He cherished his humble roots in Virginia and the lasting impact of BJU on his life. In a short family history he authored, Stu said, "going to Bob Jones University changed everything." Ray St. John adds, "he had teachers that took a personal interest in him, that fashioned him in a way that made his success attainable." Nancy Epperson concurs, describing the positive impact of BJU on their lives as "immeasurable."

The transformational experience of BJU was so precious to the Eppersons that they financially supported many students to provide the same opportunity. One recipient of their generosity is Dr. Miriam Patterson, a current professor at BJU. "I am daily grateful to know the Eppersons personally," says Patterson. "Their lives have had such an impact on my life that it is my desire to serve my family, my students, my local church, missions, and anyone I encounter for the edification of the body of Christ and for the advancement of the Gospel."

Stuart Epperson Sr. went to be with his Lord on July 17, 2023. He is rightfully known for great professional accomplishment but as Nancy, his wife and partner of 60 years confirms, Stu would want to be remembered as a faithful servant.



"He lived his love of Christ everywhere."

—Dr. Bob Jones III





ALUMNI TOP AWARDS

ALUM OF THE YEAR AWARD

The 2023 Alum of the Year Award was given to

Dr. Jessica Minor ('07)

In 2018, a few years after returning to BJU, Dr. Minor became the founding Dean of BJU's School of Health Professions, an academic school critical to the mission of Bob Jones University. For her persistence in overcoming many personal and professional challenges, for her excellent leadership in founding and growing the School of Health Professions, and for her commitment to the faith and to her alma mater, Bob Jones University's Alumni Relations Department was honored to recognize Dr. Jessica Minor as our 2023 Alum of the Year recipient.



Watch Video

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Last year, BJU alumni nominated fellow alums for a Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is presented to a BJU graduate who has at least 30 years of post-graduation experience and has significantly impacted their sphere of influence with outstanding Christian service through work and/or ministry.

Based on those alumni nominations and the award criterion, the Alumni Relations Department and the Executive Administration for Bob Jones University presented five Lifetime Achievement Awards during Homecoming 2023.

To read their full stories, visit the alumni website
alumni.bju.edu/awards

Know a fellow alum you wish to nominate
for a 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award?

Nominate them at alumni.bju.edu/awards



Learn
More

Bob and Bonnie Bixby ('67 & '69)

For a lifetime of faithfully following the Lord's leading from Bob Jones University to the mission fields of Central African Republic and France, for sacrificially serving and for pursuing excellence in their calling to glorify the Lord, the Alumni Relations Department was honored to present 2023 Lifetime Achievement Awards to Bob and Bonnie Bixby.



Cleo Campbell ('60)

For her award-winning and faithful role in the field of education as a beloved teacher, mentor, administrator and textbook author, for her steady gospel light in and out of the classroom, and for her dedicated support of Christian camps, the Alumni Relations Department was honored to present a 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award to Cleo Campbell.



Dr. Malcolm Cummings ('54)

For a life spent seeking the Lord and pursuing his will, for his role as an advocate and champion for Christian education and for his dedicated support of missions around the world, the Alumni Relations Department was honored to present a 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Malcolm Cummings.



Dr. Jonathan Edwards ('75)

For his willingness to be led and empowered by the Spirit and for being a faithful laborer and church planter in the difficult field of Utah, the Alumni Relations Department was honored to present a 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Jonathan Edwards. Jonathan's wife, Chrissa Edwards, was also recognized for the critical role she plays in their lifelong vocational ministry.





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Top Rankings 6 years in a row!



“BJU’s strong rankings reflect our faculty and staff’s commitment to student success, the dedication and hard work of our students, and our desire to make an excellent Christian education as affordable as possible.”

– Dr. Gary Weier

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs