



BJU ALUMNI & DONOR UPDATE 2023





ABOUT THE FRONT COVER

BJU Advancement & Alumni Relations wish to pay tribute to the many faces of BJU. We are grateful for the faculty and staff who, by God's grace, have shouldered the mission of BJU in the past and continue to do so today.

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

I have been given the awesome privilege of leading Bob Jones University as acting CEO through the next months as the Board of Trustees conducts a search for the University's next president. As I have pondered the many facets of that responsibility — in addition to day-to-day priorities — I have determined to focus primarily on our people — faculty, staff and students. I am committed to empowering and equipping our faculty and staff as they own and deliver our mission. I am equally committed to maintaining all aspects of the student experience that contribute to the remarkable graduates we produce who serve God around the globe every day.

The first aspect of my focus will be the incredible people who work here at BJU. One of the initiatives in the University's 2021–2024 Strategic Plan is “Invest at Home.” That initiative specifically targets providing our faculty and staff with what they need to do their jobs.

Bob Jones University is blessed with a highly credentialed faculty and staff. They come from diverse backgrounds with diverse gifts and talents. Whether they teach in the classroom or serve in one of our many staff positions, they continually function at the highest levels with full dedication to their individual roles in the big picture of delivering Christian higher education.

As we go through the academic year, I will focus on what faculty and staff are doing in their various roles and how I can get them the resources they need to succeed. God works through our people. My job is to facilitate their work.

Second, I will focus on the BJU student experience. Here's why it's so important. It is a compilation of all an individual student experiences during their years on our campus — from rigorous academics to chapel and personal discipleship, from cultural programs to sports, from outreach and student organizations to countless opportunities for social interactions. We are a liberal arts university with the goal of helping a student grow and develop as a whole person during their college years. So, all components of our student experience are intentionally designed to work together to be life shaping.

For example, BJU is unapologetically Christian. We deliver a strong, biblically grounded chapel program and provide faculty and staff and peer-to-peer discipleship for every student. The Scriptures are our authority and guidebook for personal character development, as well as how we live on campus together.


On the academic side, whatever a student's program of study, at the heart of the curriculum is the BJU Core — courses that teach students to think and develop skills and traits attractive to future employers. These courses — and all courses at BJU — are taught from a biblical worldview. We believe it is important for students to look at what they study academically through the lens of Scripture, accept truth, correlate it correctly and without apology, be able to explain what they believe.

Another invaluable part of the BJU student experience is developing relationships and enjoying experiences with other students. I will continue to emphasize the many opportunities available now and be open to intentionally creating new relationship-building activities that offer students real value.

We here at the University anticipate a wonderful academic year ahead. We are trusting the Lord to bring us the specific students He would have here and who will benefit from the whole life curriculum we offer.

This year marks our 97th; we are so grateful to the Lord for sustaining this ministry and allowing us to shape lives for over nine decades. As we approach our 100th year in 2027, I ask you — our alumni and friends — to pray with us that by God's grace Bob Jones University will continue to fulfill our founding purpose and bring glory and honor to His name.

“BJU is strong and successful because the many faces of BJU believe in, own and carry out our mission.”



Dr. Alan T. Benson
Acting CEO

BJU'S ACCREDITATION THEN & NOW

Questions Answered by Phil Gerard, Senior Director of Planning, Research and Assessment at BJU

Q: When did BJU achieve the 10-year reaffirmation status from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)?

A: The official letter from the president of SACSCOC was dated January 11, 2023.

Q: In terms of the value of a BJU education, what does this 10-year reaffirmation of our accreditation mean?

A: More than anything, this 10-year reaffirmation signals stability. However, this 10-year reaffirmation does not mean that BJU will pay no attention to accreditation issues for 10 years! SACSCOC will continue to monitor BJU's compliance with accreditation standards and assess how well BJU completes its submitted Quality Enhancement Plan.

Q: When did BJU begin pursuing accreditation, and how long did the process take to become accredited?

A: The BJU Board of Trustees approved BJU pursuing regional accreditation at their December 2011 meeting. BJU had to build the core team that could undertake the effort to successfully apply for regional accreditation. Six years later, BJU was initially accredited by SACSCOC in June 2017.





Phil Gerard, Senior Director of Planning, Research and Assessment

Q: How extensive was the initial accreditation process?

A: The original application was approximately 14,000 pages, representing the work of the provost, the Office of Planning, Research and Assessment, the deans, the division chairs, approximately 75 faculty program coordinators and many more. Gary Weier and Phil Gerard drove the application to SACSCOC headquarters in Atlanta in October 2014. In 2015, BJU had to resubmit an updated application. Then once BJU achieved candidate status, the institution completed and submitted a full Compliance Certification in 2017.

Q: Why is regional accreditation important for BJU now and in the future?

A: Today, many graduate programs require an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution. In certain fields, it is difficult to find employment without a degree from a regionally accredited institution. Perhaps most importantly, only accredited institutions have access to Title IV funding from the federal government. Achieving and maintaining accreditation as an institution has opened the door to tens of millions of dollars in Pell Grants and federal student loans for BJU students.

Q: In addition to the direct benefits of being accredited, what are some of the most important benefits BJU has indirectly accrued due to the pursuit and maintenance of our accreditation?

A: Regional accreditation brought BJU into the broader higher education community in the southeast. Accreditation also caused BJU to systematically assess and improve the education that it offers in many different areas. Most recently, as part of its reaffirmation effort, BJU was required to design and implement a Quality Enhancement Plan, a long-term project to improve the student experience at BJU. BJU chose to focus on experiential learning, and this five-year project will forge a lasting improvement in the education BJU students receive for years to come.



BJU Leads Christian Colleges with a Transformational Initiative



THE WORD



In the June edition of *The Voice*, Dr. Alan Benson described EXPs as an initiative that “will create transformational value for students and distinguish BJU within the Christian higher education institutions.” An EXP refers to experiential learning that some might define as learning while doing. But learning while doing is an approach to education that is hardly new or cutting edge. After all, many former students or graduates of BJU completed an internship, a clinical or student teaching. So, what is different about this new and transformational initiative?

— **What is an EXP?**

The 100th-year graduating class arrived at BJU within the past two weeks. This class will be the first to graduate with Experiential Learning — EXP for short — intentionally designed into their four-year curriculum. Starting this academic year, every BJU student pursuing a bachelor’s degree will complete at least two EXPs by graduation. While most of these EXPs will take place in a course, some can be earned through other experiences, such as official leadership roles. To qualify as an official EXP, each course or experience must meet set criteria, including a clear plan to reinforce a biblical worldview and intentional mentoring with student reflection. Hands-on learning alone does not qualify as an EXP.

— **How will EXPs provide transformational value to students?**

BJU is likely the only Christian university executing intentional experiential learning at this scope — impacting 100% of the student body. In a recent interview, Dr. Gary Weier, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dr. Bill Lovegrove, professor and interim director over EXPs, highlighted three aspects that make this initiative especially valuable:

1. Every student in every program and in every concentration will experience EXPs.
2. According to Dr. Weier, much of the value comes through the intentional mentoring each student will receive. Students will be required “to systematically reflect on what they’re learning and how they’re growing through the project or experiential learning.”
3. Dr. Lovegrove emphasized that EXPs will significantly strengthen the biblical worldview distinctive at BJU. EXPs are meant to give every student an opportunity to solve real-world problems. Therefore, intentionally designed EXPs are an excellent opportunity for students to see if they “can react to real life in a biblical way.”

— **How will the EXP initiative be successfully executed?**

BJU’s commitment to this initiative is evident through the resources already provided. The building formerly used by the nursing program has been designated as the EXP Zone, which provides faculty and students with a space to work on long-term projects. Additionally, for the past two summers, BJU has provided the necessary training for faculty to create new EXP courses or modify current courses. Following the first summer of training, BJU had 12 EXPs ready to offer. By the end of the second summer, BJU had 40. When the current freshmen class graduates, there will be 120 EXPs available to students — enough to integrate two EXPs into every bachelor program offered at BJU.



EXP LEARNING CONNECTED TO LIFE

Just as they have always carried out the mission of BJU, we have faculty and staff who are committed to executing this important initiative to continue the legacy of BJU’s quality Christian education. Dr. Brenda Schoolfield, Chair of the Division of History, Government and Social Sciences is one such example. Brenda has taught at BJU for over 35 years and knows well the value of the BJU experience. When given the opportunity to enhance that experience, she became an early adopter of the EXP initiative. Dr. Schoolfield arranged for her Introduction to Historical Studies class to partner with Greer Heritage Museum to research, catalog items and even conduct oral history interviews:

“One great story from last semester involves a sophomore student named Rebekah. She became intrigued by Shirlee Rollins, the first and only woman to be mayor of Greer. We knew that Ms. Rollins wanted to have her memories recorded for posterity. Rebekah researched Ms. Rollins’ time on Greer city council and as mayor. She built a series of topics for her interview and conducted the interview with Ms. Rollins on a Saturday morning in April. Afterward, Ms. Rollins said to me, ‘That young lady got me to talk about things I hadn’t expected to talk about.’ I considered that high praise for Rebekah, and Ms. Rollins expressed her pleasure in being able to tell her story to someone who had taken time to know her.”



Initial EXP course faculty

Dr. Schoolfield summarized how EXPs will prepare every BJU student for the next stage in life: “An EXP gives the student the opportunity to work in the discipline in a meaningful way that will help him/her figure out whether the work is a good fit.” Additionally, students “will participate in a laboratory-type situation that allows a safe space to experience the messiness and complexities of using what they’ve learned.” This provides “opportunity to take ownership of the work and solve problems along the way to give them authentic experiences in the discipline.”

To learn more about this exciting EXP endeavor — the origin of this initiative, specific examples including the Criminal Justice program’s crime scene room, and much more — listen to the recent interview with Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Gary Weier and Dr. Bill Lovegrove, Professor and Interim Director of EXPs at BJU.



Visit Alumni podcast for more about EXP’s

JOIN YOUR BJU COMMUNITY, AT HOME ...



BJU is gearing up for this year's **Homecoming and Family Weekend** on **October 6-7, 2023!**

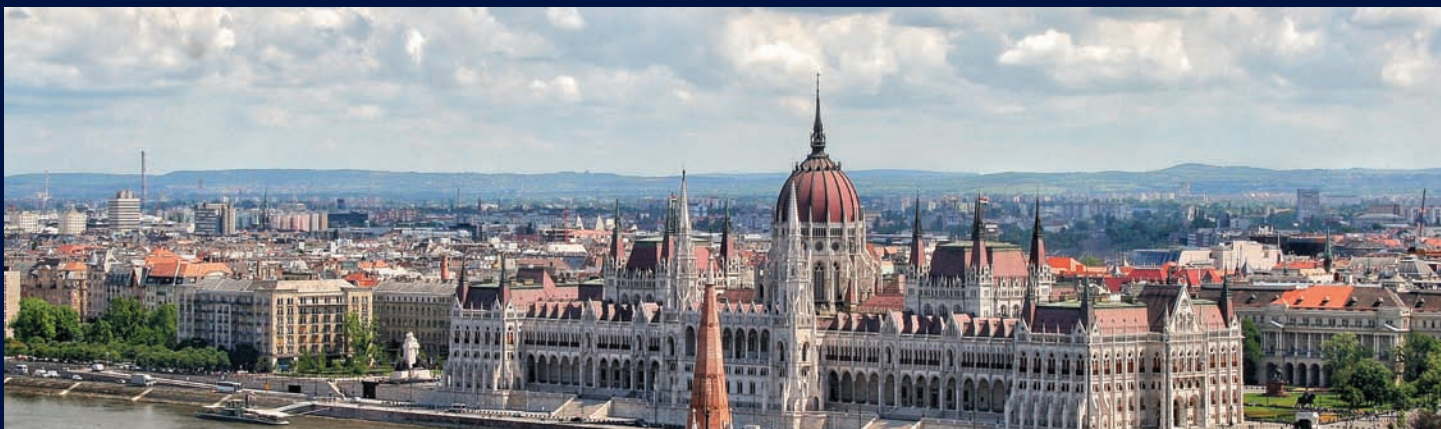
United We Thrive is this year's theme, highlighting the value of belonging to the BJU community no matter the decade you graduated or the distance you live from your alma mater. Call those college friends and make your plans to meet them back where your story of friendship began. *See you at Homecoming 2023!*

Visit homecoming.bju.edu



AND ABROAD!

Bob Jones University is offering a special travel experience during the Summer of 2024 — a charter river cruise for the BJU family! This 8-day **Legendary Danube River Cruise** (May 28–June 4, 2024) aboard an Avalon Waterways 128-passenger ship provides an unmatched river cruise experience. Make plans soon to join your BJU community on this adventure through Europe!



Visit cruise.bju.edu or email dfisher@bju.edu

2022-23 FACULTY & STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BJU ENGINEERING PROGRAM SOARS

BJU's engineering enrollment has grown by 40% in two years! This rapid growth is due in part to the increased concentrations available to Engineering majors. In addition to civil, computer, electrical and mechanical, in 2022, BJU added aerospace engineering as a new concentration. There are currently no other Christian higher education institutions that offer this opportunity.

This new aerospace concentration is led by **Dr. Jeff King**, a new faculty member at BJU. With two degrees in Aerospace Science and several years of teaching at the Naval Academy, King felt God leading him in a new direction. According to King, the Lord used the fact that BJU is "one of the few Christian colleges with a good engineering program" to draw him to BJU. When asked if he would consider developing another concentration in his field of expertise, King went to work designing courses to make the aerospace engineering concentration possible.

To King, students being immersed in their studies is one of the most valuable approaches for future engineers. He describes aerospace engineering and programs like it as "one big experiential learning program and adds that "learning happens when you struggle." This approach helps students take ownership of their education and prepares them for more than tests, quizzes, and projects. Dr. Jeff King firmly believes that as a professor, your role is to teach life, not just courses.



BJU SCHOOL OF RELIGION & SEMINARY ADVANCE

The Worldview Studies minor was embedded in the BJU Core — every student who graduates from BJU will now have an equivalent to a biblical worldview minor.

The Seminary Rotunda was remodeled, and the portico landscaping was revamped to make the seminary a hub where students, faculty and staff enjoy study, collaboration and fellowship.

The new BJU Seminary Church Staffing site is successfully being used to serve ministries looking for staff members as well as students and alumni looking for ministry positions. Two May graduates have already been hired via the BJU Seminary Church Staffing site.

BJU STUDENTS INNOVATE

In a course called Global Challenges, Engineering, Science, and Business, students designed and developed a medical data collection system for malnutrition surveys and then launched a corresponding company called Huruma Health. The students in this course were Mark Dickerson, Emily Hughes, Jonathan Du Fault, Deeanna Perry, Lauren Williams, Debanhi Flores, Jemi Lin and Andrew Taylor. This system was field tested in Ghana in December 2022, and additional models were produced for use in the study abroad trip in May 2023.





BJU STUDY ABROAD EXPANDS

Dr. Amos Kasperek (Division of World Languages & Cultures) led a study abroad course in Costa Rica.

Michelle Radford (Division of Art & Design) led a study abroad course in Spain.

Cait Reid (Division of Educational, Child and Family Studies) led a study abroad course in Colombia, South America.

Dr. Brenda Schoolfield (Division of History, Government and Social Sciences) led a study abroad course in France.

Dr. Adele Dunn (Division of Management/Business Administration) led a study abroad course in Portugal.

Dr. Dave Eoute, Jr. (Division of Health Sciences) led a study abroad course in Uganda.

Dr. Amy Hicks (Division of Health Sciences) led a study abroad course in Ghana.

Dr. Michael Moore (Division of Music) led a study abroad course in Italy.

Dr. Megan Lanpher (Division of Nursing) led a study abroad course in Togo.

Dr. Valerie Peterson (Division of Nursing) led a study abroad course in Zambia.

BJU FINE ARTS SURPASS

Three BJU stage directors advanced to the national finals in The American Prize:

- **Ron Pyle** — *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- **Jeff Stegall** — *The Tempest*
- **Darren Lawson** — *Samson et Dalila*

Three BJU music directors advanced to semi-finals in The American Prize:

- **David Janssen**
(composition, professional division)
- **Bruce Cox** (conducting — band/wind ensemble, college/university division)
- **Michael Moore** (conducting — opera & musical theatre division)



BJU FACULTY & STUDENTS EXCEL

- **Dr. Amos Kasperek** (Division of World Languages and Cultures) presented “Preserving Conquered Voices” at the Christian Association of World Languages conference in Michigan.
- **Dr. Derrick Glasco** (Division of Natural Science) published two papers in scientific journals this year.
- **Dr. David Boyd** (Division of Natural Science) was elected to the Creation Research Society’s Board of Directors.
- **Dr. Nick Gothard** (Division of Natural Science) and four students published a paper in *Physica Status Solidi B*.
- **Dr. Robert Lee** (Division of Natural Science) and biochemistry students published a paper in the *Journal of the South Carolina Academy of Science*.
- **Dr. Ken Renfrow** (Division of Music) published *Functional Skills for Pianists* through Oxford University Press.
- **John Nolan** (Division of Art and Design) had a drawing accepted for the Artisphere exhibition in Greenville, SC.
- **Dr. Zack Carter** (Division of Communication) published three articles in mainstream publications.
- **Michelle Radford** (Division of Art & Design) held a solo exhibition at the To Scale Gallery in Savannah, GA.
- **Jason Waggoner** (Division of Communication) and his students in the class Documentary Production partnered with the Greenville Homeless Alliance to create six short documentaries about the Alliance and their partner organizations.



New BJU PROGRAMS AND CONCENTRATIONS

- Photography, BS
- Guitar Performance, BMus
- Interdisciplinary Studies in Global Leadership, BA or BS
- Educational Studies, BS: Youth & Family Studies concentration
- Professional Studies, BS: Sport Management concentration
- Philosophy concentration (in School of Religion programs)
- Interior Architectural Design, BFA: Pre-Architecture concentration
- Philosophy, minor



Through God’s leading, many alumni and friends opened their hearts to support this ministry and BJU students through prayer and faithful giving during the past year. God’s Word reminds us to give thanks for what He has done (Psalm 107:1). It is my hope that this update will be an opportunity to thank our generous donors for their friendship, loyalty and support and to direct our thanks to God for His ultimate provision and blessing. To God be the glory,

John D. Matthews

John D. Matthews

*Vice President for Advancement
and Alumni Relations*



FISCAL YEAR **2022-2023**
GIVING TOTALS
\$6,585,432

• BJU Together Annual Fund	\$3,237,171
- BJU Together General	\$1,972,462
- BJU Together Scholarships	\$845,124
- Named Scholarships	\$419,585
• Grant Funding	\$238,991
• Academics and Programs	\$1,812,641
- Restricted Programs	\$1,236,242
- Academics	\$426,056
- Mission Teams	\$97,761
- Patron of the Arts	\$52,582
• Endowments (Scholarships & Science & Engineering)	\$954,516
- Scholarships	\$871,041
- Science & Engineering Endowment Fund	\$83,475
• Bruins Athletic Club	\$159,035
• Bible Conference	\$183,078

Alumni Impact Future Alumni



By the fall of 1955, Greenville, South Carolina had been home to Bob Jones University for eight years. As new freshmen, Bud Ivy from Akron, Ohio, and Marge Schmidt from Buffalo, New York, stepped onto that campus. They had come despite family difficulties and opposition to see what God had for them.

Bud Ivy and his five siblings lost their mother when he was only four years old. As soon as possible, Bud joined the military to escape his indifferent father and a difficult stepmother. But God was already guiding his steps. While home on leave, Bud came to know Christ as his Savior due to the ministry of a Sunday School teacher. After completing his military service, Bud's life was greatly influenced by a student from Bob Jones University. As a result, Bud applied and was accepted to BJU.

Marge Schmidt had also grown up in a difficult home. However, at the age of eight, she came to know Christ as her Savior through a Release Time ministry at the local library. Despite her family's opposition to her decision, Marge was able to attend a local church, where she began to grow in her faith. After graduating from high school, Marge applied and was accepted to BJU.

Even before Bud and Marge met their sophomore year, God was transforming their lives.

They would describe that as a time when “old things were passing away and we were becoming new creatures in Christ. Our lives were [being] forever changed through the impact of the daily chapel messages and the repeated admonishments of Dr. Bob Sr. to do right and keep on keeping on. [Everything about BJU] took us through a metamorphosis that was distinctly Christian. We were never the same again.”

With no financial support from home, Bud and Marge had each been responsible for meeting their own financial obligations. When they married the summer after their junior year, together they continued to work hard and use the benefits Bud received from the GI Bill to pay for their education. Miraculously, they graduated debt free in 1959. As they rejoiced in God's provision, Bud and Marge decided that as God enabled them, they would help provide for other financially needy students at BJU.

God's provision came through an unexpected turn of events. As a child, Marge had been abandoned by her father, but late in her father's life, God gave her the opportunity to care for him in his last years of life. In response to this kindness, he left Marge a sizeable estate. Bud and Marge fulfilled their lifelong dream by bequeathing a portion of this estate to Bob Jones University to be used to help financially needy students.

Marge rejoiced in God's abundant provision. "I love BJU! I'm continually comforted by the reminder that God will never forget, fail or forsake His children. Others invested in me. Now it's time to give back.

"I'll be doing the Lord's work long after I've gone to be with my Savior."

Almost four decades after Bud and Marge made their decision to help financially needy students attend BJU, Francine was born on the island of Palau. Francine grew up faithfully attending the local Catholic church with her mother. She knew nothing of Bob Jones University until 2014, when her best friend left the island to attend BJU. In 2017, Francine had the opportunity to move to Texas to live with her cousin's family and help care for her cousin's young children. During that first year in Texas, she heard the Gospel for the first time while attending her cousin's church, and she accepted Christ as her Savior. For the first time, she began to understand that God was the giver of all good things. The following year, her friend was graduating from BJU and asked Francine to attend her graduation and see BJU. Following that visit, Francine applied to BJU and came as a freshman in 2019, 64 years after Bud and Marge had stepped foot on the same campus as freshmen.

During her first year at BJU, Francine found the same transforming power of God's word working in her heart. Biblical principles began to shape her life and her relationships with others. And just as Bud and Marge had faced the struggle of paying for college on their own, Francine faced the same challenges.

Francine's family members, both those in Palau and in Texas, were not able to offer financial support. Francine had been taught by her mother that you had to provide for yourself. It all depended on you. However, as God provided financial aid through BJU each semester, Francine would share with her mother how God was providing through donors who gave money to support needy students. Her mother would ask, "Why would they do that? They aren't related to you!" Francine explains, "These donors don't know me, and in my culture, that means they

have no reason to help me. But we know Jesus provides for us even though we haven't seen Him yet. The Lord brought me here. I wouldn't have learned about how He leads and provides if I hadn't come."

Bud and Marge Ivy, with grateful hearts, asked God to enable them to help others as they had been helped. God, in His providence, allowed those lives to touch the life of someone they would never know but who, by God's grace, will go on to touch the lives of others for all eternity.

Written & Compiled by
Susan Young
Director of Financial Aid 2016-2023



Your Impact

Last academic year, **2,106** students received financial aid.

\$9,147 was the average BJU annual scholarship in the 2022-23 academic year.

3,427 donors gave to support students and the mission of BJU last year.

DONOR NAMES

Founder's Circle (\$25,000+)

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“Thank you so much for your generous gift. I have been working very hard this summer to save as much as I can. I worked two jobs on top of taking a summer class. I cannot explain how thankful I am that God has provided for me through you. You are helping me further my education to become a special education teacher: I will not forget to pay it forward. Thank you again. You are a blessing!” – **Emma Roth**



Sustainer's Circle (\$10,000-\$24,999)

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“Thank you so much for your giving! Your donation is such a blessing as I pay for my tuition this year. I am the first and only member of my family to go to college, and I lost my father at a young age. God has been gracious in providing many financial blessings to help me pay for school. Again, thank you so much for providing such a great blessing to my college experience.” – **Halle Dragon**



Patron's Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

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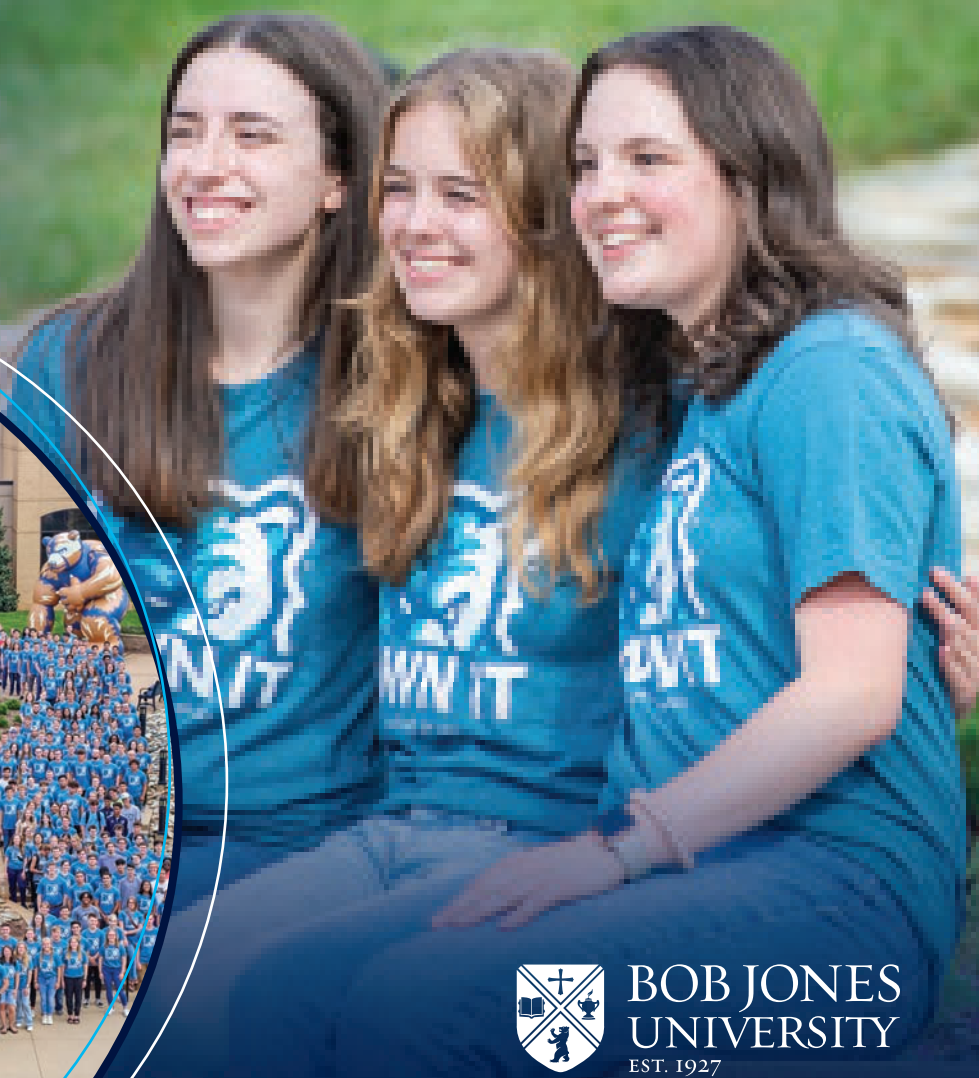
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