

JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY'S
CENTER FOR
FAITH AND
FLOURISHING



2021 — 2022
ANNUAL REPORT

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THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

This year marks the third time I have taken pen to paper — or, more precisely, fingers to keyboard — in order to reflect on the year that was. I meet this task now with a mixture of joy and gratitude, but also fatigue — joy and gratitude because of what we have been able to accomplish in such little time, but also some fatigue, because we have run the race diligently. Robert Frost finishes his “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” with the refrain “*And miles to go before I sleep, / And miles to go before I sleep,*” and we can say the same. Students and faculty alike have much to do before the semester finishes: “*Papers to write before the summer / papers to write before the summer,*” chant the students. We professors respond with our own refrain: “*Papers to grade before I sleep / papers to grade before I sleep.*”

But what a great privilege it is to walk with students for four (or — delicate cough — maybe five) years as they journey into adulthood. The Center for Faith and Flourishing continues to ask students to lift their heads beyond the tasks of today in order to explore the big questions of life: *Who am I? Why am I here? What does becoming a good person look like? How do I get there?*

In this year’s report, we remind you of what’s best about our work: **the students themselves**. In the pages that follow, we highlight the experiences of students and community members who have benefited from our programming. We let them speak with their own voices. Don’t take my word for it. Listen to them describe how they’ve been shaped by our center’s programming. That’s my director’s cut: **I want you to hear from**

the students themselves — and hear what they think, unedited. The feedback we’ve received has been heartwarming!

We hope these comments give you a sense of our program’s impact on campus. And, of course — as always — we’ll provide you with a list of events hosted, total engagements, and other key numbers. We want our donors to be quantitatively and qualitatively minded, after all.

If you are reading this annual report and think it’s time to give millions of dollars to endow the center in perpetuity, then let me encourage you to give full expression to that urge. Send me an email at jbruce@jbu.edu. If, by contrast, you want to raise an objection or concern about our programming, let me invite you to contact our assistant director, Dan Bennett, at dbennett@jbu.edu.

In all seriousness, to everyone who has helped us by giving to our work or by participating in our programming, I offer my warm and hearty thanks. A special note of thanks goes to Julia Bentley, our program manager, who will be leaving us to pursue law school this fall. Thank you, Julia, and may God grant you every possible success.

And thank you for your interest in this year’s annual report. Happy reading!



James E. Bruce, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Faith and Flourishing
Professor of Philosophy
John Brown University

FAST FACTS

Programming Partners

16

Books Distributed

Colloquia

3

Student Trips

Book Clubs

4

Events

90

Event Engagement for
2021 - 2022

7,602

21

Engagement with
Archived Events

1,165

66

Total Engagements

8,767

Center Lifetime
Engagements



200,080

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

» *The Rise and Triumph of the
Modern Self Student Book Club*
September 13th

» *Jesus and John Wayne Book Club*
September 15th

» *The Rise and Triumph of the
Modern Self Faculty Book Club*
September 15th

» *Matt Lee Anderson Honors
Scholars Program Breakfast*
September 22nd

» *Kristin Kobes Du Mez Breakfast*
September 22nd

» *Kristin Kobes Du Mez Gateway
Class Visit*
September 22nd

» *American Enterprise Institute Executive
Council Lunch*
September 22nd

» *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern
Self Book Club Guest Lecture*
September 22nd

» *Center for Healthy Relationships
Luncheon*
September 22nd

» *Women and Gender in Christian
Higher Education Lecture*
September 22nd

» *Jesus and John Wayne Book Club
Guest Lecture*
September 22nd

SEPTEMBER 2021

» *Kristin Kobes Du Mez Coffee
Hour*
September 22nd

» *Reimagining Faith and Public Life
Student and Faculty Dinner*
September 22nd

» *Reimagining Faith and Public Life: Sex,
Gender, & the Future of the Church*
September 22nd

» *The Rise and Triumph of the
Modern Self Faculty Book Club*
September 27th

» *Jesus and John Wayne Book Club*
September 29th



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

» *The Rise and Triumph of the
Modern Self Student Book Club*
October 6th

» *The Rise and Triumph of the
Modern Self Faculty Book Club*
October 18th

» *You Are Not Your Own Book Club*
October 20th

» *The Rise and Triumph of the
Modern Self Student Book Club*
October 20th

» *Jay Bruce Chapel Lecture*
October 21st

» *You Are Not Your Own Book Club*
October 27th

» *You Are Not Your Own Book Club*
November 3rd

OCTOBER 2021 NOVEMBER 2021

» *Jacob Howland Dinner & Lecture*
November 4th

» *Alan Noble Student Breakfast*
November 10th

» *Alan Noble Gateway Class Visit 1*
November 10th

» *Alan Noble Gateway Class Visit 2*
November 10th

» *You Are Not Your Own Book Club*
November 10th

» *Center for Faith and Flourishing
Fellows Luncheon with Alan Noble*
November 10th

» *Alan Noble Dinner*
November 10th

» *You Are Not Your Own Lecture*
November 10th

» *The Rise and Triumph of the
Modern Self Faculty Book Club*
November 15th

» *The Rise and Triumph of the
Modern Self Student Book Club*
November 17th

» *The Rise and Triumph of the
Modern Self Faculty Book Club*
November 29th



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

» *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self* Student Book Club
December 1st

» Annual End-of-the-Semester Gateway Party
December 9th



» Laura Fabrycky Breakfast
February 1st

» Laura Fabrycky Chapel Lecture
February 1st

» Laura Fabrycky Class Visit
February 1st

» Laura Fabrycky "The Conversation with Orry Philipps" Podcast Visit
February 1st

» Laura Fabrycky Dinner
February 1st

DECEMBER 2021 FEBRUARY 2022

» Laura Fabrycky: Prayer, Politics, and the Psalms Lecture
February 1st

» Liberty Tree Colloquium Dinner
February 11th

» Liberty Tree Colloquium
February 12th

» Liberty Tree Staff & Faculty Dinner
February 12th

» Working for the Common Good Dinner
February 22nd

» Working for the Common Good Lecture
February 22nd

» The Road to Freedom and Prosperity Dinner & Lecture
February 25th

» The Road to Freedom and Prosperity Colloquium
February 26th



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

- » Brett Baggett Luncheon
March 1st

- » Brett Baggett Lecture
March 1st

- » Diane Langberg Lecture: Ten Things for Caregivers
March 10th

- » Diane Langberg Workshop: Living With Traumatic Memories
March 11th

- » Judge Bush Class Visit
March 14th

- » Judge Bush Faculty Luncheon
March 14th

- » Judge Bush Student Coffee Hour
March 14th

MARCH 2022 APRIL 2022

- » Judge Bush Meeting with JBU President Chip Pollard
March 14th

- » Barnett Lecture: The Faith to Serve
March 14th

- » Religious Freedom Institute Colloquium Session 1
April 5th

- » Religious Freedom Institute Dinner & Lecture
April 5th

- » Religious Freedom Institute Colloquium Session 2
April 6th

- » Greg Baylor Class Visit
April 12th

- » Greg Baylor Luncheon
April 12th

- » Greg Baylor Dinner
April 12th

- » Greg Baylor Lecture: Religious Rights and Sexual Freedoms
April 12th

- » Anne Bradley: The Paradox of Democratic Socialism
April 26th



CAMPUS - W I D E L E C T U R E S

Reimagining Faith and Public Life: Sex, Gender, and the Future of the Church

September 22, 2021

A student called one of the participants “one of the most inspiring people in the world to me” and “on a list of people, dead or alive, I’d most want to chat with.” That speaker — Kristin Kobes Du Mez, the New York Times bestselling author of *Jesus and John Wayne* — took to the stage with Matthew Lee Anderson, the founder and lead writer of Mere Orthodoxy, to talk about gender roles and the church. More than ten organizations gave over \$7,000 to make this discussion and related events happen at JBU. 113 people attended the event in person and, since published, the recording has received 2,083 views. Additionally, 70 people participated in breakout events, such as meals and coffee hours with our guest speakers.

Each semester, our center offers a number of lectures for JBU’s entire campus body and community members. We also provide a livestream to reach a broader audience.



CAMPUS - W I D E L E C T U R E S

Jay Bruce Chapel Lecture

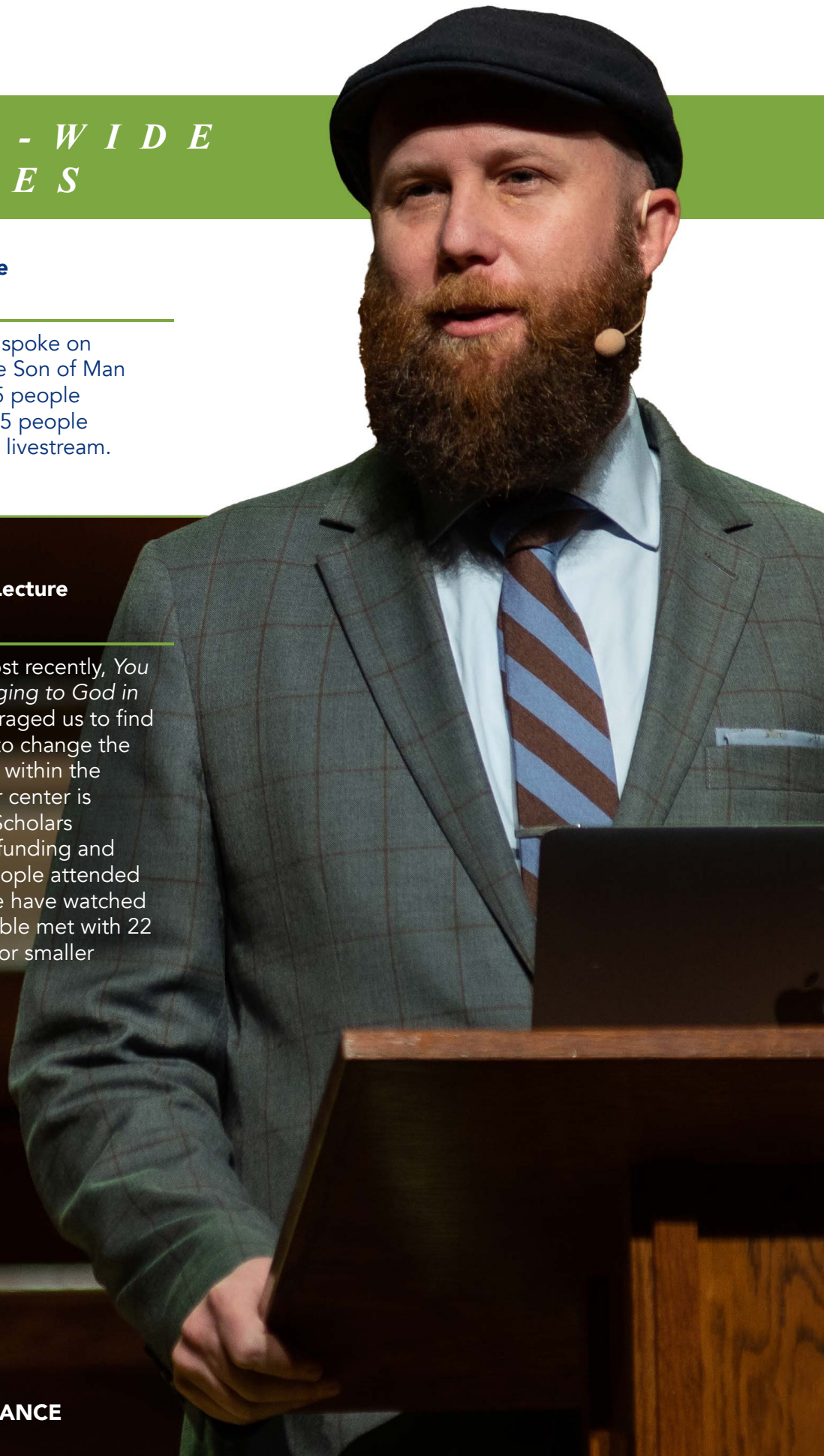
October 21, 2021

Center director Jay Bruce spoke on greatness, service, and the Son of Man from Mark 10:43b–45. 705 people attended in person, and 15 people watched the recording via livestream.

You Are Not Your Own Lecture

November 10, 2021

Alan Noble, author of, most recently, *You Are Not Your Own: Belonging to God in an Inhuman World*, encouraged us to find our identity in Christ and to change the way we perceive our roles within the church and the world. Our center is thankful to JBU's Honors Scholars Program for assistance in funding and planning this event. 44 people attended in person, and 152 people have watched this event online. Alan Noble met with 22 people while on campus for smaller meetings, too.



CAMPUS - W I D E L E C T U R E S

Laura Fabrycky Chapel Lecture


February 1, 2021

Laura Fabrycky, author of *Keys to Bonhoeffer*, talked about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 2 Kings, and Romans during her chapel lecture on JBU's campus. 809 people attended chapel with Laura.

Prayer, Politics, and the Psalms

February 1, 2021

Laura Fabrycky offered a theologically rich lecture on how sloth negatively affects our life together and how prayer and the psalms offer a way out. 32 people attended in person and 88 people have watched this lecture online. Laura also met with 48 people for breakout events such as meals and class visits.



“ Meeting with Laura Fabrycky was a great start to my final semester at John Brown University: as I was considering what it looked like to enter public service and government post-grad — leaving the community of faith that I have — Laura was helpful in articulating what a good, faithful life during turbulence can be. She provided thoughtful practices to holding tensions, overcoming apathy, and focusing one's efforts on our call as Christians; her visit was widely enjoyed and applicable.”

— Caitlyn Aversman,
senior political science major

CAMPUS - W I D E L E C T U R E S

Brett Baggett Lecture

March 1, 2022

Brett Baggett, a founder of the Abolitionist Abortion Movement, visited campus to talk about what this movement is and how this cause differs from the pro-life movement. The Q & A was lively; students and community members, most of whom disagreed with the guest speaker, engaged in a critical yet civil conversation with his views. 46 people attended in person. Brett Baggett also attended lunch with 10 students during his visit to JBU.

Diane Langberg Lecture: Ten Things for Caregivers

March 10, 2022

In collaboration with the Center for Healthy Relationships, we helped bring Diane Langberg, a Christian psychologist who specializes in trauma response, to JBU's campus. The author of *Redeeming Power: Understanding Authority and Abuse in the Church*, her evening lecture offered a clear goal — to create communities that care for the vulnerable — and practical steps to attain that goal. Our center director, Jay Bruce, facilitated the Q & A. 224 people attended in person and 453 people have watched this lecture online.

Barnett Lecture: The Faith to Serve

March 12, 2022

Judge John Bush, a federal judge on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, discussed the importance of public service from a Christian perspective. Students, faculty, and community members enjoyed listening and learning from Judge Bush during his time on campus. This event was funded by the Barnett Civic Leadership Series. 90 people attended the lecture, and 39 people have watched the event online. In addition to lecturing on campus, Judge Bush also met with JBU president Chip Pollard, talked about his career with students over coffee, and joined several JBU faculty members for lunch for 35 additional engagements.



CAMPUS - W I D E L E C T U R E S

Greg Baylor Lecture: Religious Rights and Sexual Freedoms

April 12, 2022

Greg Baylor, a senior council member at Alliance Defending Freedom, visited our campus to talk about the relationship between religious freedom and LGBTQ+ issues in society. 64 people attended in person, and 64 people have watched the video online. Greg also met with JBU president Chip Pollard, visited Dan Bennett's political philosophy class, and joined students and faculty for meals during his time on campus, for 33 additional engagements.

Anne Bradley Lecture: The Paradox of Democratic Socialism

April 26, 2022

Anne Bradley, the George and Sally Mayer Fellow for Economic Education and The Fund for American Studies Vice President of Academic Affairs, came to campus to talk about the paradox of democratic socialism. Anne's stellar lecture was followed by robust student discussion after the event. 79 people attended the lecture, and 12 people have watched the video online.

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

Seminars and workshops provide practical training for personal flourishing for JBU's students and the broader community.

Working for the Common Good

February 22, 2022

The Center for Faith and Flourishing partnered with the Soderquist College of Business to bring Walmart Senior Director of Corporate Sustainability, Marco Reyes, to campus, to talk about what it means to work for the common good in a corporate environment. 94 people attended the event in person, and 24 people attended a dinner with the guest speaker prior to the lecture.

Diane Langberg Workshop: Living with Traumatic Memories

March 11, 2022

Diane Langberg talked with JBU's community about the burden of living with traumatic memories and offered tips on caring for oneself as a caregiver. 35 people attended the event in person, and 1,284 have watched this event online.

GATEWAY PROGRAMMING

Kristin Kobes Du Mez Gateway Class Visit

September 22, 2021

Kristin Kobes Du Mez visited the Gateway class of our center's assistant director, Dan Bennett. She used the time to talk about Christian scholarship, referring specifically to the process of writing *Jesus and John Wayne*. 25 people were in the class.

Jacob Howland Dinner & Lecture

November 4, 2021

In his lecture, Jacob Howland, McFarlin Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at the University of Tulsa, offered an account of the liberal arts and why we should pursue them. This event, targeted specifically at Gateway students, was made possible by the support of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. A total of 34 people attended the lecture.

Gateway is a class for first-year students at JBU. In an effort to promote engagement with these students, our center placed several guest speakers in Gateway classrooms. We also hosted two events, including our first-ever lecture targeted specifically for Gateway students, to bolster this portion of our programming.

Alan Noble Gateway Class Visits

November 10, 2021

Alan Noble discussed the contents of his book, *You Are Not Your Own*, in Dan Bennett's Gateway class, and then spoke that same day to Tracy Balzer's Gateway class. A total of 39 people were in the two classes.

Annual End-of-the-Semester Gateway Party

December 9, 2021

Our center partnered with the Gateway Committee to host our annual End-of-the-Semester Gateway Party. Students dressed as movie characters or wore their favorite holiday sweaters. They celebrated the completion of their first semester at JBU with good cookies and even better company. This party gave our center another opportunity to engage with freshmen students. 35 people attended this event.



BOOK CLUBS

The Center for Faith and Flourishing hosted four book clubs during the fall semester. Each of these book clubs related to a very timely topic. These books clubs generated approximately 127 engagements with students, faculty, and community members.

The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self Faculty Book Club

Fall 2021

Center director Jay Bruce discussed Carl Trueman's book *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self* with a number of engaged faculty.

The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self Student Book Club

Fall 2021

Jay Bruce also led a book club for students on Carl Trueman's *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*.

Jesus and John Wayne Book Club

Fall 2021

Center assistant director Dan Bennett led a book club on Kristin Kobes Du Mez's *Jesus and John Wayne*. Participants read the book and also met with the author when she was on campus.

You Are Not Your Own Book Club

Fall 2021

Honors students participated in a book club that focused on Alan Noble's *You Are Not Your Own*. As a bonus, students had a chance to meet with Alan Noble to talk about his book during his visit to campus.

COLLOQUIA

Colloquia remain a defining element of our center's programming. Students typically say their perspectives on a given topic are significantly shaped by these events. Colloquia help JBU students become well informed about crucially important issues. We continue to be excited about the feedback we receive for these events.

Liberty Tree Colloquium

February 11–12, 2022

Our center has partnered with Liberty Tree for the last three years to host seminars on JBU's campus. This year, Mark Moland, a former member of the Coast Guard and a political science professor at LeTourneau University, came to campus to talk about immigration policy in America. 28 people attended this colloquium. Liberty Tree also generously paid for a meal for staff and faculty responsible for organizing the colloquium. 5 people attended.

“The Liberty Tree Seminar on immigration taught me the challenge of balancing compassion and practicality when thinking about immigration and forming policies concerning it. It made me think about who I have a duty to advocate and fight for. The seminar was a wonderful place to voice my own ideas and learn from the ideas of others, challenging the way I see the world. It was an invaluable opportunity.”

— **Rachel Norwood**,
sophomore family and human
services major

“I attended the immigration colloquium event and loved it. It transformed my understanding of the process of policymaking and the many complex factors that can affect each topic. Through “passing” our own policy, I even got to actively experience the legislative process.”

— **Jaden Muse**,
freshman philosophy major

“The Liberty Tree colloquium was an excellent opportunity to wrestle with complex issues and to engage in thought-provoking conversations alongside like-minded peers and experts. This colloquium stimulated contemplation on new viewpoints, issues, and policies and fueled my love for learning in a unique and engaging way.”

— **Caleb Hall**
junior political science major

COLLOQUIA

The Road to Freedom and Prosperity February 25–26, 2022

Our center brought together students, staff, and faculty from five different universities to discuss race relations in America. We partnered with Arkansas Center for Research and Economics for this particular program; they generously covered the costs for the event. There were 19 colloquium participants.

“*The Road to Freedom and Prosperity* was a great experience. The book selection was really well done and the conversations that they started were very helpful. Rarely are students put in a position to have to defend their beliefs and see different perspectives, so I am really glad I could attend.”

— **Cole Webb**,
senior political science major

“*I found the conference interesting and thought-provoking, especially given the current state of affairs regarding the subject matter covered in the event.*”

— **Joseph Johns**,
Arkansas Center for
Research and Economics

COLLOQUIA

Religious Freedom Institute Colloquium

April 5–6, 2022

Our center hosted a colloquium in coordination with the Religious Freedom Institute. Jim Bennett, an assistant director, and David Trimble, a director, talked about the importance of religious freedom for peace and stability throughout the world. 12 people attended this colloquium.

“ I was deeply thankful for the Religious Freedom Institute’s colloquium and lecture at John Brown University. Not only did they provide an informative overview of the historical development of the ideas underpinning religious freedom, they provided foundational arguments supporting the universality of religious freedom based on philosophy and theology. Most notably, the speakers grounded our fundamental right to religious exploration and expression as rooted in human dignity. Jim Bennett and David Tremble evidenced this commitment as they introduced the students to the complex world of United States foreign policy, and our goal as a nation to preserve security, economy, and civil rights in pursuit of religious freedom for everyone everywhere.”

— Daniel Hicks,
senior philosophy major

COMMUNITY DINNER & LECTURE EVENTS

Road to Freedom and Prosperity Dinner & Lecture

February 25, 2022

Wilfred Reilly, author of *Taboo: Ten Facts You Can't Talk About*, delivered the opening lecture for The Road to Freedom and Prosperity colloquium. Community members and colloquium participants attended this event, which was hosted at 21c Museum Hotel in Bentonville. 39 people attended in person, and 159 people have watched the video since publication.



COMMUNITY DINNER & LECTURE EVENTS

Religious Freedom Institute Dinner & Lecture

April 5, 2022

The Religious Freedom Institute hosted a dinner lecture on JBU's campus, emphasizing to faculty, staff, and community alike that religious freedom is rooted in the dignity of the individual human person. 24 people attended the dinner.

STUDENT ACADEMIC TRAVEL

Providing travel opportunities for JBU students is essential to our work. We want to give undergraduates the experience of traveling to new places, meeting new people, and learning outside the classroom.

Witherspoon Institute

July 7-10, 2021

Caitlyn Aversman, senior political science major, journeyed to Princeton, New Jersey for a conference on natural law and public affairs hosted by the Witherspoon Institute. The center covered the costs of her intellectual adventure. Stellar work, Caitlyn!

“Thank you so much to the Center for Faith and Flourishing for paying for my travel to the Witherspoon Institute's Natural Law and Public Affairs seminar. I was there in Princeton, New Jersey, from Wednesday to Saturday of the previous week, and the material gave me much to think about.”

— **Caitlyn Aversman**,
senior political science major

American Enterprise Institute Honors Program

October 21-23, 2021

Woody Woodring, a senior finance major, participated in the American Enterprise Institute's Faith and Public Life Weekend Honors Program. Our center encouraged Woody to apply, and center director Jay Bruce nominated Woody for the program.

“Getting to participate in the AEI Weekend Honors Program was one of the highlights of my semester. I was able to interact with other students, faculty, and business leaders from around the country as we wrestled with what it means to conduct God-honoring and redemptive business. It was a challenging, encouraging, and refreshing weekend that helped shape how I think about business and my own personal vocation. I also made some great friends along the way!”

— **Woody Woodring**,
senior finance major

STUDENT ACADEMIC TRAVEL



Arkansas Student Leadership Forum October 21-23, 2021

Ten students — the maximum number allowed from any given university! — attended the Arkansas Student Leadership Forum. Students met with Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, and heard from several speakers who offered Christian perspectives on what leadership can look like. Center director Jay Bruce nominated the students, and our center covered their program costs. We're excited that so many of our students were interested in attending this event, and we hope to send just as many students next year!

“ I really enjoyed being able to attend the forum and getting the opportunity to meet and have constructive dialogue with our speakers who took the time out of their busy lives to visit with us. I think that in the future this is beneficial for any students who want to lead in some capacity in their future to be able to attend as a student.”

— Lauren West,
senior political science major

STUDENT ACADEMIC TRAVEL

National Student Leadership Forum October 21–23, 2021

Nate Brown, a senior finance major, joined a select group of student leaders from around the country for the National Student Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. The Center for Faith and Flourishing covered the costs associated with attending this forum. Congratulations, Nate!

“ I am incredibly grateful for this experience in D.C. and the ways in which it caused me to pause and reconsider the kind of leader I will be. This short time with the NSLF was well worth the investment and I honestly believe it will be a time to look back on with real significance and gratitude. Thank you for your role in my process of becoming a leader and your willingness to support me in this way.”

— Nate Brown,
senior finance major

STUDENT ACADEMIC TRAVEL

Religious Freedom Institute Conference

January 6-8, 2022

Caitlyn Aversman attended the Religious Freedom Institute's Foundations of Religious Liberty Conference in Dallas, Texas. The event focused on Toqueville's Democracy in America and its bearing on religious freedom today.

National Student Leadership Conference

February 12, 2022

Nazaria Bol Caal, a senior family and human services major, participated in the National Student Leadership Conference in Dallas. The Center for Faith and Flourishing paid for all expenses associated with this trip.

Arkansas Leadership Prayer Breakfast at the Governor's Mansion

March 10, 2022

Nate Brown and Jay Bruce attended the Arkansas Leadership Prayer Breakfast at the Governor's Mansion in Little Rock. Nate had the privilege of reading a passage from the New Testament during the event.

Religious Freedom and Democracy Savannah Seminar

April 6-10, 2022

Ashley Nikkel, Emma Beagle, and Caleb Hall attended the Savannah Seminar, a selective program hosted by the Center for Culture, Religion, and Democracy. Our center assisted with travel expenses and nominations.

Acton University

June 20-23, 2022

Daniel Hicks and Sam Gurel were accepted for the Acton University summer program in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Jay Bruce nominated Daniel and Sam.

STUDENT-LED WORK

The Center for Faith and Flourishing directly supports student-led projects consistent with our mission.

The Defendant and the Philosophy Club

JBU students Julianne Petersen and Alex Hamilton did excellent work organizing the JBU philosophy club; they held 29 meetings with 217 engagements. They discussed a variety of issues, such as aesthetics, ethics, and contemporary controversies. Club members had the opportunity to publish in *The Defendant*, the club's flagship effort, a student-run newspaper.

American Enterprise Institute Executive Council Lunch

Student leaders involved with American Enterprise Institute's student chapter organize a few events each semester for JBU students, faculty, and staff. Our center contributed to this student-led event during the fall; 14 people attended.

Student Research

Alex Hamilton, a senior psychology major, worked with our center during the fall semester to determine what types of events are most appealing to students. The feedback Alex received through his surveys will be taken into consideration as we plan events in the future. Thank you, Alex!

The Conversation with Orry Philipps Podcast

Orry Philipps, a junior communications major, continued to host his podcast, "The Conversation with Orry Philipps." He had the opportunity to interview center guests Matthew Lee Anderson, who was on campus in September, and Laura Fabrycky, who was here this February. Orry also attended the Arkansas Student Leadership Forum. Nice work, Orry!

INTERNSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, & JOB OPPORTUNITIES

It's exciting for us to see what students involved in our programming are pursuing after graduation. Here are a few highlights.

Owen Teixeira, a political science major who graduated last year, is working at the Institute for Humane Studies. He is also obtaining a graduate degree in economics at George Mason University.

Madelyn Hastings, an Intercultural Studies and Spanish double major who graduated in 2020, is also working at the Institute for Humane Studies as an events coordinator. Maddie frequently participated in our center's programming during her time on campus.

Seth Billingsley, active in our programming while an undergraduate, will be attending Harvard Law School this fall. Congratulations, Seth!

Caitlyn Aversman has received job and internship offers from a number of institutions. She is applying to be a fellow at the John Jay Institute, and she is also interviewing for a position at American Enterprise Institute.

Ashley Nikkel has also submitted an application for the John Jay Institute Fellows Program, and she hopes to attend this fall. Ashley has participated in many Center for Faith and Flourishing activities throughout her time on campus, and we wish her well.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Faculty at the Center for Faith and Flourishing stay intellectually engaged.

Center director **Jay Bruce** published "Justice, and Only Justice: The Beauty of Impartiality and the Ugliness of Her Rivals" in *Religion & Liberty* 34:3-4, and he delivered the lecture "Why Justice?" for the Wilberforce International Institute. 14 people were in attendance. This spring, Jay served as the discussion leader for a graduate colloquium on "The Sacred Rights of Conscience: The Development of Religious Liberty in America, 1610-1835" for the Acton Institute and Liberty Fund. 20 people attended the colloquium.

Assistant director **Dan Bennett** published two articles on religious liberty: "Don't Let Religious Liberty Claims Mask Bad Faith Arguments" and "Care About Religious Liberty? Defend Religious Minorities." Additionally, Dan was a panelist and attendee at a symposium on "Academic Research Symposium on Religious Liberty in Diverse Communities" in Washington, D.C., hosted by the Institute for Humane Studies.

MORE EXCITING NEWS

Community Impact

The Center for Faith and Flourishing partnered with 16 separate institutions to organize and fund events this year. Our center welcomed individuals from six different universities to participate in colloquia, and we invited leaders from local churches and community leaders from around Northwest Arkansas to campus for lectures, discussions, and dinners. We continue to livestream our events, and the content we post online has viewers from around the world. We're excited about the growing impact our center has in Northwest Arkansas and beyond!

Center Spotlight

The Mercatus Center at George Mason University highlighted the work of the Center for Faith and Flourishing this December. Mercatus emphasized our Philosophy, Politics, and Economics programming and the reach of our events both in person and online.

Video Archives

We've continued to edit and publish videos as part of our Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) video series. These videos capture some of the most thoughtful comments our guest speakers offered students last year. In addition to publishing PPE content, our livestreamed events from last year are also available on our YouTube page. Since last year's annual report, we've had 1,165 views of previous PPE programming and events. This number does not include the many who engage with our content via republication in other media!

ROOM FOR GROWTH

It's important to consider how elements of our programming should be adjusted for next year and to think about what our programming will look like in the future. Although we expanded our Gateway programming this year, there is still room for growth. We can build on what we've done this year by placing more speakers in Gateway classrooms, and we would should host more events for this group of students, most of whom are new to college and all of whom are new to JBU.

We also want to equip students with practical skills that will prepare them for the job market or for graduate studies. Hosting a hands-on seminar to sharpen professional skills might be in order this upcoming year, and this event could have a broad appeal to many students on campus.

Our Philosophy, Politics, and Economics course proved to be very popular last year, and we look forward to resuming this project in the fall. There is already a buzz on campus about this class, and many are helping us recruit as large a cohort as possible for the PPE experience.

GENEROUS HELP

Our center has had the privilege this year of partnering with 16 other organizations. Some of them are on campus and some of them off, and all told they helped supply an additional \$48,000 towards events, travel, and books. Below is a list of organizations that helped to fund our events.

External Organizations

>> Alliance Defending Freedom

>> Arkansas Center for Research and Economics

>> American Enterprise Institute

>> Because I Care

>> The Fund for American Studies

>> Intercollegiate Studies Institute

>> Liberty Tree

>> My Faith Votes

Internal Organizations

>> College of Bible, Humanities, and Arts

>> Honors Scholars Program

>> Center for Healthy Relationships

>> Department of Political Science

>> Office of the President

>> College of Education and Social and Behavioral Sciences

>> Soderquist College of Business

>> Faculty Development

WHO WE ARE

Dr. James Bruce

Director, Center for Faith and Flourishing

James Bruce is the inaugural director of the Center for Faith and Flourishing and a professor of philosophy at John Brown University. Educated at Dartmouth, Oxford, and Baylor, Jay loves to follow ideas across academic disciplines. His book *Rights in the Law* considers the relationship between God and morality in the thought of Francis Turretin (1623–1687). Jay's next book — in progress — explores the relationship between Christianity, justice, and equality.

Dr. Daniel Bennett

Assistant Director, Center for Faith and Flourishing

Dr. Daniel Bennett is an expert on the intersection of law, politics, and religion in the United States. He is the author of *Defending Faith: The Politics of the Christian Conservative Legal Movement*, and has written academic articles and book chapters on political behavior, legal advocacy, and the federal courts. He has been interviewed about his research in *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, and *Associated Press*, among others.

Dr. Matt Wilson

Center for Faith and Flourishing Faculty Fellow, Gateway Director

Dr. Matthew Wilson is Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Gateway Director, and Faculty Fellow at the Center for Faith and Flourishing. He also holds an appointment as an Associate and Faculty Affiliate of Harvard University's Human Flourishing Program.

Established in 2019 at John Brown University, the Center for Faith and Flourishing aims to express, defend, and promote the university's historic mission of educating for head, heart, and hand through lectures, seminars, and individual funding for conferences. Our programs allow students and experts a means of addressing the pressing questions about human flourishing and personal faith.

Dr. Trisha Posey

Center for Faith and Flourishing Faculty Fellow

Dr. Trisha Posey is the director of the Honors Scholars Program at John Brown University. Her primary academic interest is in the relationship between religion and reform in the 19th-century United States.

Dr. Jessica Hooten Wilson

Center for Faith and Flourishing Affiliated Fellow

Jessica Hooten Wilson is Louise Cowan Scholar in Residence at the University of Dallas in the Classical Education and Humanities Graduate Program. She is the author of three books, including *Giving the Devil his Due: Flannery O'Connor and The Brothers Karamazov*, which received a 2018 Christianity Today book of the year award in arts and culture.

Dr. Preston Jones

Center for Faith and Flourishing Affiliated Fellow

Preston Jones has published eight books, dozens of scholarly articles, and more than a hundred op-eds, essays, and reviews. Preston has interviewed hundreds of combat veterans and has also done interviewing on behalf of the U.S. Department of Defense. Preston has run 55 marathons and his favorite album in 1981, when he was in the 8th grade, is still his favorite album: *Seconds Out* by Genesis.

Dr. Andrew Kaufmann

Center for Faith and Flourishing Affiliated Fellow

Educated at Covenant College and Catholic University of America, Dr. Kaufmann has a special interest in Christian political thought and how Christians should engage the public square.

ADVISORY BOARD

The Center for Faith and Flourishing gratefully acknowledges the support and encouragement of its inaugural advisory board.

John E. Brown III

John E. Brown, III, executive director of the Windgate Charitable Foundation from 1993 to 2018, served as president of John Brown University from 1979–1993 and a trustee from 2004–2017.

Gary Oliver

Gary Oliver serves as the executive director of the Center for Healthy Relationships at John Brown University and is a licensed clinical psychologist.

Joe Walenciak

Joe Walenciak is Distinguished Professor of Business and the Joe F. Walenciak Endowed Chair of Business at John Brown University.

AN INVITATION

The Center for Faith and Flourishing facilitated reasonable discussion on contested issues this year, from abortion and immigration to race and sexuality. Our programming has sharpened the critical thinking, intellectual charity, and civility of students on campus.

Stay updated on our work. Watch our livestream via YouTube; keep an eye out for e-mail updates; subscribe to our newsletter via our homepage on our website, if you haven't already; and follow us on Facebook. If you are ever in Northwest Arkansas, let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

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