I am asked this question from time to time. It is a legitimate question, since most of the preachers in the Christian Churches/Churches of Christ are educated in our Christian colleges or universities, and all of us are supported by the churches. Sometimes, however, the question is prompted by misinformation, even by misrepresentation. I cannot answer for the emphasis placed on preaching elsewhere, but I do know about the attention given to it at Johnson University in Florida and in Tennessee.

1. Preaching is a major academic program on both campuses.

2. In the fall semester of the 2013-14 school year, 40% of the male students were enrolled in one of the preaching programs on the Tennessee campus (not including 15% of them in youth ministry and missions); 11% of the males on the Florida campus were in one of the preaching programs (not including 14% of them in youth ministry and missions). A professor of ministry has been added to the Florida campus faculty and appointed assistant dean of the School of Congregational Ministry. Changes in the Florida curriculum will place a stronger emphasis on preaching.

3. Both campuses have scholarship funds designated for preaching students and promote the increase of those funds.

4. The relatively new Bob Russell Preaching Center in the middle of the Johnson University campus in Tennessee is testimony to the ongoing commitment of the University to preaching.

5. Required chapels on both campuses are mainly worship services with preaching being a major part of the service. Good preachers serve as models for the students in these chapel services.

6. The dean of the School of Congregational Ministry is conducting Preach Workshops all over the eastern part of the country. They are designed for those who are exploring the call to preaching, those considering a career change into preaching, those who desire a refresher in preaching fundamentals, and those seeking help in preparing biblical lessons. These
workshops are also targeted for central Florida and Johnson University Florida.

7. Preaching ministers who are alumni of both campuses serve in pulpits all over the nation and around the world. The senior ministers of 40 of the 205 Christian churches in Florida are alumni of Johnson University Florida. In all, 117 of Johnson University Florida alumni serve in some full-time ministry position in the Christian churches in Florida. In addition, a large number of alumni of Johnson University Tennessee are full-time ministers in Florida.

In the face of these results the University confronts a culture that runs counter to the recruitment and education of preachers. How many high school guidance counselors will “guide” students into the preaching ministry? Instead, many will be asked, sometimes by family and friends, “With your intelligence, ability, and personality, why would you consider preaching for a career?” Even in most churches, recruiting for the preaching ministry is not a priority, as it was in many fifty years ago. Moreover, fifty years ago, many churches would call a preaching minister just graduated from college. Few will do so now. So, we give many young prospective ministers youth ministry preparation so they can serve effectively until a preaching opportunity opens.

I have given my entire adult life to the education of people for Christian service. The truth of the matter is that we give far more time, effort, and money to the recruitment and education of both men and women to serve the Lord in whatever field to which He calls them, including preaching, than most of those who take “pot shots” at us with little concern for the unfortunate influence their often misrepresentations have on the uninformed.

Now, while we are recruiting and educating preachers, we are also preparing Bible translators, missionary evangelists and church planters, youth ministers, worship ministers, children’s ministers, Christian school teachers, Christian counselors, leaders for Christian nonprofit agencies, and Christian media specialists. The fastest growing programs on the Tennessee campus (percentage wise in the last few years) are the intercultural studies (missions) programs with concentrations in Islamic studies, Chinese studies, Latino studies, teaching English as a second language, etc. The dean of the School of Intercultural Studies has recently been on the Florida campus meeting with the intercultural studies professor and some Christian Latino leaders to explore ways to expand the University’s outreach to the Latin community. Osceola County is 60% Latino.

Some people have drawn the erroneous conclusion that Johnson is now a secular university and that academic programs, other than preaching and a few others, are secular programs. That is simply not true. The mission of Johnson University is “to educate students for Christian ministries and other strategic vocations framed by the Great Commission in order to extend the Kingdom of God among all nations.” No secular university ever had that for a mission. All programs at Johnson University are aimed at equipping missionary ambassadors for Christ.

Graduates from both campuses are literally impacting the world for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Only God knows the full extent of their service. The late B. D. Phillips Sr. used to say that he supported Johnson Bible College, now Johnson University, because it had an influence that was all out of proportion to its size. In my opinion that statement is as true as it has ever been. These graduates, the present students who are following them, and the University that provides their education are worthy of support.
Since I was born, I have seen God work in my life to prepare me for what He has called me to do. I had the privilege to be raised in a Christian family in my home country, France, but all of my father’s family is Muslim. Growing up, we would go to Morocco every year for the summer to spend time with my dad’s family. I have been around the Arab and Muslim culture all of my life, so when God called me to full-time ministry to them, it was not much of a surprise. The Muslim people are not just a random people group I picked to minister to. They are people like my family, people that I dearly love.

In preparation for full-time ministry among Muslims, I decided to do my internship in Jordan for two months last summer with Team Expansion. I expected to hear a lot from God during this internship, and He did not let me down. He confirmed my call two weeks into it. I felt this sense of completeness serving Him the way we did, and that was all I could ask for.

My team (Ami, Becca, and Joshua) and I were sent to help a team of two missionary couples (Matt and Susan, Dan and Meg) who had just arrived in Jordan the previous year and who were helping with Syrian refugee relief. I was extremely blessed to be part of a team that got along as well as we did. We made “life long pals” that summer!

It was quite interesting to work with missionaries who were still learning the language and who were still new to the field themselves. It gave us a good idea of what ministry looks like when it is not established yet and all of the work it takes to start something, build relationships, and learn the language. What an incredible summer it was! Some weeks were more difficult than others, but what a blessing it truly was. The Lord really used this internship to teach me so much more than just about missions; I also learned the importance of perseverance, discipline, compassion, and team work.

We had four main ministries in Jordan. The first one, and the one we spent the most time doing, was learning Arabic. Our Arabic teacher’s name was Saoussan, and we got to spend a lot of time with her because we were in language school for four hours every day from Monday to Thursday for two months. We used this time to try to bless her and encourage her in her walk with Christ, as well as try to learn Arabic. Our team also learned a lot about the culture and the interaction between Muslim and Christians in Jordan through her.

Our second ministry was Syrian refugee visits. We did not have to go very far and actually just stayed in the same city to find refugees. We tried to bring them whatever they needed, whether it was food, fans, mattresses, pots and pans, etc. Sometimes we even got to pray for them in the name of Jesus! One of the most moving visits was when we visited a family of about ten. We arrived in their house, and all they
had was a pot or two, and barely anything to sleep on. They had just fled Syria where their house had been bombed. One of their sons showed us multiple gun wounds in his shoulder. He was still in a lot of pain. It was heart breaking. God taught me a lot about compassion through these visits and gave a glimpse of how He feels for His people.

Our third ministry was kids’ club. After we visited those Syrian families, we would usually get to bring their kids to kids’ club where we taught them English through stories of the Bible. We decided to tell them the major stories that Islam teaches too but from a biblical point of view. Our last week, we had the incredible opportunity to tell them the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

During Ramadan, we also got to bring Operation Christmas Child boxes to these kids. It was great to see their faces as they opened up the boxes full of gifts!

Our last ministry involved the college age group of the church. We had the opportunity to teach them for a few weeks and did a study of the book of James. We also had a few nights of games and ice cream at Matt and Susan’s apartment with the group. I have to admit that it took us a little while to get to know them, and when we finally could consider ourselves their friends, it was time for us to leave. Our last week was the best when it came to spending time with the group. We rented a bus and got to go to Petra with everyone. It was so much fun. The whole trip back was a party. We sang, danced, spoke the little Arabic we knew, and just enjoyed ourselves. After that day, we were all friends.

The Lord blessed me incredibly more than I expected last summer. He also convicted me of certain things in a very loving way. During one of our last refugee visits, we actually stopped by to see a Jordanian Christian family before visiting the Syrians. They were very poor, so we brought them a little bit of food. The father had asked us to bring a Bible for them. I will never forget his face when he received it. He smiled so big, held it in his hands, brought it close to his face, and kissed it a few times. It was very moving and convicting all at the same time! While this man could not wait to hold a Bible in his hands and read it, I sometimes struggle to make time during my day to read the Word. It really helped me to not take the Word for granted and definitely put things into perspective.

Even five months later, God is still using my experience in Jordan last summer to teach me and bless me. Not only does He teach me about myself and others, but mostly about Himself and His character. I cannot thank Him enough for giving me the opportunity to serve Him the way I was able to during my internship.

(L/R) Joshua, Karen, Becca, and Ami at the site of Herod’s Palace looking over the Dead Sea
Seeking justice and consuming copious amounts of curry

by Ryan Brackett, JUFL Senior

One month after I graduate from Johnson University Florida (May 2, 2014), I will begin what I hope (and expect to some degree) will become one of my life’s greatest adventures this side of heaven. This adventure is one in which I am fully confident I will tell repeatedly to my children and their children. If ever I am pressed for time when sharing the particulars of this long anticipated undertaking, I will summarize everything into the following: I lived my dream of interning with International Justice Mission.

International Justice Mission is a Christian human rights agency headquartered in the Washington D.C. area. This amazing organization works to bring rescue to victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of oppression. Gary Haugen (President and CEO of IJM) started the agency seventeen years ago; it now runs a multi-million dollar annual budget, with eighteen field offices across the developing world. To date, IJM staff members and their collaborating partners (local law enforcement, aftercare facilities, casework alliance partners, etc.) have rescued thousands of men, woman and children from some of the most heinous types of oppression imaginable. To God be the glory, because IJM’s vision is to rescue thousands, protect millions and prove that justice for the poor is possible.

At this point you might think, “This organization sounds like they do a lot of great work for some of the most oppressed people on earth, but so do several other organizations. What makes IJM so special?” First, IJM exists because their several hundred staff members want to live out God’s command to seek justice. IJM’s framework for seeking justice comes from Isaiah 1:17, which reads, “Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause” (ESV).

The IJM staff gives their lives to answering the biblical call to do justice because they know seeking justice is not just something the Israelites were supposed to do; it must also be a part of our daily rhythm as followers of Christ Jesus.

“...seeking justice is not just something the Israelites were supposed to do; it must also be a part of our daily rhythm as followers of Christ Jesus.”

Second, IJM looks at oppression and sees that it matters to God. Rightful ownership of property matters; a fair and honest trial matters; citizenship rights matter; living a life free of rape and abuse matters; having a family who knows not a life of constant toil as slaves inside the confines of a brick kiln matters. Justice for the poor matters! IJM staff members live by this. When victories do not seem possible, they turn to the Father for help. In fact, all of them begin their workdays with prayer – prayer over the work that lies on their desks and prayer for the day ahead. Several hours later, the IJM staff convenes to pray with and for each other. Although this organization collaborates on cases with community-based and other non-religious groups, at the heart of this organization is a drive to seek justice in Jesus’ name, through the power of the Holy Spirit, because of the Father’s command to do so.

Finally, IJM is committed to excellence. All staff members at headquarters, whether it be the gentleman who is marketing manager of digital and social media or the woman who is senior vice president of structural transformation, and everyone in between, is required to wear business suits. They do this because Haugen believes since the rich can afford lawyers and other advocates who will dress in such
attire, the poor are just as worthy of having their advocates look professional.

Now that we all understand why International Justice Mission is so worthy of respect and support, let me unpack for you how I came to be involved with IJM. During my first year of college, I joined JUFL's IJM Campus Chapter because I was aware of the existence of trafficking of persons and other forms of oppression, and I wanted to do something about it. Well, it just so happens that Professor David Peters, as well as student leaders in that cohort of justice-loving people, encouraged me to do more. “More” could mean buying garments and groceries not made by slaves, praying for the exposure of corruption of public justice systems in the developing world, and advocating for the oppressed. I was given several opportunities to work as an advocate. I spent two years with Florida Abolitionist (an Orlando-based anti-trafficking organization) as a regular volunteer, and then later as a volunteer staff member. What is more exciting is that I, along with fellow students and alumni of JUFL, traveled to Cambodia to visit Rapha House (a non-profit that exists to love, rescue, and heal children who have been rescued from trafficking and sexual exploitation). The purpose of the trip was to understand how God could use each of us mightily to help abolish slavery. We visited RH as well as several other organizations and businesses that work to either prevent or combat human trafficking, including the IJM field office in Cambodia. It was during that visit that I knew I wanted to be a part of the incredible work IJM does, so two years later I applied to intern with them.

A few weeks after my orientation at IJM headquarters commences June 6, three other interns and I will move to South Asia. From that point forward for the next ten months, each of us will assist office staff in correcting oppression and freeing the oppressed. Whether it is filing paperwork, compiling documents for a staff meeting, or serving the regional government by meeting their requests with excellence, we all get to be a part of something truly special. In 2011, Google Inc. gave IJM and its coalition partners an $11.5 million-dollar grant to create a successful anti-slavery model for purposes of taking it to scale in other countries. I will serve by assisting with political advocacy efforts in South Asia, as well as helping with logistical matters concerning freeing people from bonded labor (slavery). This internship will require much of me, more than I ever thought I was capable of. However, God will guide me and give me strength whenever striving towards this form of righteousness seems most difficult. God wants excellence in everything his people do, and IJM’s clients need it desperately; I am hopeful it can be done.

I will soon send out my support letters (the internship is unpaid) to friends and family who desire to collaborate with me in this endeavor. I still need $18,500 to fund my internship. If you are interested in collaborating with me, please e-mail me at brackett.ryan@gmail.com.
The death of Florida Christian College was one of the most painful things I’ve ever experienced. As difficult as it was for me—a relative newcomer to FCC and not an alumnus—it was all the more difficult for faculty who had taught here for longer periods of time. For novices and veterans alike, the news that our accreditation was being pulled threatened all that we came here to do, and be, and create. We had spent this part of our lives building something, and the work of training Kingdom workers for vocational ministries looked like a ministry that had run its course.

I had been likening our situation to that of the Exile. I had no doubt that God would eventually restore us to our rightful home, but wondered just how many would make the trip back home. Everything seemed dark, and I prayed in that season with an honesty fitting of Abraham, David, and Jeremiah. This Exile seemed endless, the dream shattered, hope abandoned.

But then Johnson University entered the conversation, and hope came alive again.

It would have been easy, understandable even, for Johnson University to administrate this merger (acquisition, to be honest) with a heavy hand. They could have handed down budgets from on high, cut programming, and replaced most of the faculty and staff here with their own people. In many ways it would have been seen as necessary, and no one would have faulted them for it.

Our experience, however, was anything but that.

Johnson University recognized that our accreditors had always given us highest marks in academic standards and educational quality. They saw the value of the top-notch educational programming we offered and knew the value of the personnel who made it happen. Not only did they leave our personnel in place, they welcomed us into the life and community of Johnson University. Case in point: the beginning of year faculty meeting. The University made provisions to host the Florida faculty on the Knoxville campus, put us up for the week, and begin this new partnership with some extensive planning. My introduction to the Johnson hospitality came on the first day of that week. I sat in the meeting of the School of Bible and Theology and watched the dean list the goals for the coming year. First on the list was this: “Fully integrate the Florida faculty into the life of Johnson University.” Any fear I had about my place in this joint venture was displaced in that moment. This is only one example of what has been typical, normative even, in every school within the University, with every faculty member—a welcome partnership. And it’s taking place day by day in every area of this new multi-campus venture.

The more I study the New Testament the more I come to grips with the Jewish roots that nourish the fruit of our Christian faith. And the more I reflect on this, the more I am profoundly grateful that Messiah Jesus has, by his death and resurrection, thrown wide the doors of the Kingdom to include Sabbath-breakin’, pepperoni-lovin’, pork-chop-eatin’ Gentiles like me. I’m humbled by the promises of the Old Testament that Christ would be “a light to the Gentiles” (Isaiah 49:6) and that we Gentiles have been grafted into those promises (Romans 11:17).
That’s what it feels like to be a part of Johnson University—like being grafted into a vine with deep and fertile rootstock—like being adopted into a spiritual family—like being redeemed—like coming home again.

I swallowed the vision of Florida Christian College hook, line, and sinker. Its mission was to train Kingdom workers for vocational ministries by making them “Strong in the Scriptures.” This vision, articulated by the patriarchs of our former alma mater, was the same as that of Ashley Johnson, which now extends to the campus of Johnson University Florida: “to train workers for Christian ministries and other strategic vocations framed by the Great Commission.” We, the faculty of Johnson University Florida—formerly an olive shoot, now grafted to another vine—are proud to be a part of the vision and legacy of these two great institutions. For the vision didn’t originate with Florida Christian College or Johnson University. It originated with Jesus: “Go and disciple the nations” (Matthew 28:19).

**KEEPING CONNECTED WITH JUFL Alumni**

**BIRTHS**
Andrew and Amanda (Barber) (‘07) Ritter announce the birth of their daughter, Audrey Diane Ritter, born May 23, 2013.
Seth (att.) and Lacey (Fleckenstein) (‘05) Bourne adopted 2-year-old, Kady Beth Bourne, in November 2013.

**EMPLOYMENT**
Gary Henline (‘93) recently closed a 15-year ministry as senior minister with the First Christian Church of Adamsville, Tennessee, and began a new ministry as the senior minister with the First Christian Church of Maryville, Tennessee.
Joseph Romeo (‘09) began a full-time pastoral ministry with the Calvary Baptist Church in Parkersburg, Iowa, in May 2013.

**POTPOURRI**
The CrossPointe Christian Church celebrated the grand opening of their new building on 17 acres in Valparaiso, Indiana, on September 15, 2013. Tim Wanless (‘05) serves as lead minister and his wife, Tammy (Dykstra) (‘98), serves the church as children’s ministry director.

Brian Back (‘00) sends the following update: “After graduation I moved to China to do missions work. I returned to America after 2 years to get married and went to Crown College where I earned a master’s degree in Missions. I spent 6 years as a children’s minister before joining the clergy project. I now live overseas and teach in an international high school. I teach Chinese kids 10th grade literature.”

**HELP US KEEP CURRENT**
Send your news, updates, and photos to Johnson at:

- ATison@JohnsonU.edu
- Johnson University Florida
  1011 Bill Beck Blvd.
  Kissimmee, FL 34744

SONLIFE | Winter 2014  9
How do you express appreciation to someone who has:

- taught God’s Word in ways that have deeply impacted lives.
- helped lay foundations for ministry that are bearing an abundant harvest.
- given of themselves sacrificially to Christian higher-education in Florida for the up-building of God’s Kingdom.

In 2013 Dr. James Smith, affectionately known on campus as Doc Smith, celebrated 50 years of teaching. He has been a force for God on our campus and across Florida for almost four decades. To express appreciation for his faithful and exemplary service, a friend provided the initial gift to establish the Dr. James E. Smith Scholarship Fund. Many have already made contributions to this fund, and we want to give everyone the opportunity to join in celebrating Doc Smith’s life and ministry.

Dr. James Smith began teaching at Cincinnati Christian University, formerly Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary, in 1963. In 1976 Doc Smith and his family moved to Orlando, Florida, where he became the first academic dean of Central Florida Bible College (now Johnson University Florida). As academic dean he shaped the curriculum for the College as well as taught many of the Bible classes. His teaching was not reserved for the college classroom only. Doc Smith has taught Bible school classes, midweek studies, and seminars in the churches in the greater Orlando area. His family has also been heavily involved in Bible Bowl.

A prolific writer, Doc Smith has written a number of books on a variety of biblical subjects from messianic prophecy to his commentary on Jeremiah. His ability to take complex issues from scripture and make them understandable is truly a gift.

Alumni from both Cincinnati Christian University and Johnson University Florida can share many stories about his exuberant teaching style as well as his desire to bring out the best in students. He continues teaching at Johnson University Florida on a part-time basis and has the title “Distinguished Professor.”

Dr. Smith has been married to his high school sweetheart Rachel for forty-two years. The Smiths have two children, Keith and Yona, both of whom are active in Orlando area churches.

I Want to Express Appreciation for “Doc Smith”

WITH MY GIFT OF: □ $500 □ $250 □ $100
□ $50 □ $25 □ Other ___________

Name ________________________________________________
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Contributions can be made online at JohnsonU.edu/FL/Support or by phone at 407.847.8966
IN MEMORY OF
Bob L. Badgett  
Kylee Boden  
Shirley Buckman  
Roger Chambers  
James Chesser  
W. W. Ellis  
Robert Forbes  
Ed Frazer  
Richard Hayes  
Lou Howell  
Ali B. & Marion Jarman  
Mae Ellen Joyce  
Lloyd Masters  
Ruth McNeal  
Robert Richenberg  
Fred Smith Sr.  
Dairrel Snapp  
Arthur & Mildred Tison  
Don Wheeler  
Jack Wingate Sr.

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Mrs. Norma Jean Badgett  
Christian Church in the Wildwood  
Zephyr Christian Church  
M/M Larry Lewis  
M/M Delano Schanie  
Ms. Lily M. Ellis  
Mrs. Martha Forbes  
Ms. Helen Siemore  
Zephyr Christian Church  
M/M Wallace Andrews  
Mr. Eugene Brockley  
M/M Charles E. Brooks  
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Cheryl Anne Richenberg  
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M/M Alan Tison  
M/M David Tison  
M/M Wallace Andrews  
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IN HONOR OF
Lois Bootle  
David & Margaret Eubanks  
Mark & Ann Fessler  
Lisa Pennington Geisik  
James Smith  
Alan Tison

GIVEN BY  
Ms. Janet Miglioretto  
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M/M Philip Eubanks  
M/M Clarence Adkison  
Fairway Christian Church  
M/M James Pennington  
Mrs. Anna Snapp  
M/M William Thompson

Honoring Loved Ones
Permanent funds are a wonderful way to recognize a loved one and continue his or her influence for Christ. The following funds listed on the right have been established at Johnson University Florida since November 1, 2013.

Named Permanent Funds may be designated for a specific purpose such as scholarships, library, faculty salaries, etc, or be unrestricted. Funds are established in the name of the donor or in honor or in memory of a loved one. For more information, call the Advancement Office at 407.569.1388 or email ATison@JohnsonU.edu.
About six years before I joined the Academic Support Center (ASC), I began my employment here as an assistant to the Registrar. One of my tasks at the end of each semester was to compile a report of all students whose GPAs were below 2.0, which is a standard benchmark of academic performance. The purpose of this report was to make sure we were placing proper restrictions on students who may have been taking on too many credit hours the previous semester(s). We would restrict their credit hours to 12, 9 or 6 (depending on their year and GPA), hoping that a reduced work load would help them perform better in their classes. Unfortunately what we witnessed year after year was that this reduction in work load did virtually nothing to improve their grades. As our faculty and Academic staff pondered this frustrating trend, what we eventually came to realize was that a reduced work load did not get to the heart of the problem. College students usually don’t struggle because of cognitive ability. Rather, they lack certain skills and habits that are necessary for satisfactory performance at a college level. A reduction of work load alone does nothing to improve work ethic, organizational skills, study skills, or motivation. What students need is a comprehensive program that will teach them these skills up front and, in conjunction with academic assistance, will keep them out of academic trouble.

Recognition of this need morphed into a vision, and eventually we conceived a Center where all students could come to receive exactly the kind of proactive help they needed to be successful. Many colleges around the country have recently implemented similar programs, and the best examples of those greatly informed the vision for our own Academic Support Center.

WE ARE HERE FOR ALL STUDENTS!

Despite the nature of the ASC’s origins—as a way to assist struggling students—it has always bothered me that we seem to be known as the place where only “struggling students” go to get help. This is a myth I would like to dispel right away! The Academic Support Center, with all of its services, is available to ALL students, not only those who struggle! We truly believe that everyone can benefit from the ASC, and we highly encourage all students to utilize our services. Those who seem to average a C+ on their papers can, with our help, jump up to a B. Students who can’t quite seem to move above an A- might just need an extra edge in achieving perfection, and that’s what we love to help them achieve. Nothing excites us more than seeing students reach heights they never knew they could reach!

WHAT WE OFFER IN THE ASC

PERSONAL PLANNING

During orientation every year, I get to speak to new students and present them with a set of principles developed by Dr. Harvey called “Twelve Tips for Student Success.” One of those tips (my personal favorite) is, “Get organized!” The importance of organization in a student’s success cannot be overstated. The motto I share with them is, “An organized life is a successful life.” This pertains not only to physical space (room, desk, books), but also to one’s schedule. There are two main ways we help students organize their schedules.

First, we help students plan out their average week. On this “weekly profile” we take every single commitment a student has throughout the course of each week, and we lay them all out. This might include classes, work, sports,
ministry, meals, etc. Then we strategically plan their study time, making sure that each class is covered each week with adequate time to complete all assignments and reading before the due date. Putting every commitment into its proper place is an important step in getting organized.

Second, we help them plan out all of their assignments in one calendar. Course syllabi all contain assignment calendars, but one calendar with all of the assignments is even better! We help students sort through their syllabi to create one Master Calendar so that all of their assignments are listed in one place. We will even help students plan the start dates of major assignments so that they are always finished with papers and projects well before they are due, eliminating unnecessary stress and allowing proper time for editing.

**TUTORING**

The Academic Support Center currently has three staff members—myself and two student tutors. Though few in number, we make up a fierce team dedicated to helping all students who desire success. Tutoring can take many forms. Students who don’t know how to begin a paper, write a bibliography, build a PowerPoint presentation, navigate an online class, or find a notable source (to name a few), can all benefit from the expertise our tutors have to offer.

**ASSIGNMENT EVALUATIONS**

I like to think of every assignment as a newly hewn gem—each has the potential to be a dazzling beauty, but first it needs to be polished up and its rough edges smoothed out. Students can bring or email any assignment to us—paper (big or small), sermon, speech, PowerPoint—and we will read them thoroughly, giving them feedback on how to give it that extra “shine” before it goes to the professor for a grade. Assignment evaluations focus on improving a student’s grammar, spelling, punctuation, style, logic, and citation skills.

This service is especially important for students who struggle with the latter. Improper citations are to blame for many failed papers because plagiarism (intentional or not) is something we take seriously. In the ASC we want to help students avoid submitting a paper whose sources are improperly documented.

**STUDY GROUPS**

Studying with a group is known to be very effective. In the ASC, we have space to host groups who want to prepare for class events such as exams, major projects, or presentations. Our tutors facilitate these study groups as necessary. We are also in the process of creating online quiz sets on quizlet.com for some of the more foundational courses so that study group sessions are ready to go when they walk in the door.
LEARNING NEEDS ACCOMMODATION

Every year, students arrive who have documented learning needs and thus require various types of accommodations in order to complete the required curriculum. While our institution is compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, these accommodations we provide are much more effective when accompanied with one-on-one assistance by a mentor in the Academic Support Center.

A CHRIST-CENTERED MISSION

While many colleges and universities around the country have similar centers where students can come for support, the rationale behind our Academic Support Center is ultimately Christ-centered. The mission of Johnson University is different than those other colleges, and everything we do is informed by that mission, including all aspects of academics. The Academic Support Center is one piece of that overall mission in training students to go out and expand the kingdom of God. Our goal is to prepare our students to the best of our ability so that they, in turn, can go and serve God to the best of their ability.

You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown

The School of Creative Arts will perform “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown” April 4-5 in the Chapman Center. The musical is based on the characters created by cartoonist Charles M. Schulz in his comic strip, Peanuts. The story tells of an average day in Charlie Brown’s life filled with the ups and downs of our favorite Peanuts characters.

April 4 and 5 | 7:00pm | Chapman Center
Tickets at the door or online: FCC.edu/events/play
When one thinks of Spring Break and college students, one imagines students heading to the beaches of sunny Florida trying to escape the harsh winter. For a group of students at Johnson University Florida, Spring Break takes on a different meaning. Each year, under the direction of Dr. Ruth Reyes and Mr. Dirk Donahue, several of our students travel for the University as the New Creation tour. This ensemble of students performs in churches around the state singing both traditional hymns as well as contemporary music. Students with New Creation are more than vocalists; many of the students play a variety of instruments, from guitars, keyboard, brass, and percussion. The New Creation tour is not only about performing a concert; the students also work alongside of one another setting up the technical aspects of the concert as well as participating in the planning and implementing of the tour. The musical and organizational skills help the students prepare for service in the local church following graduation. Many worship leaders who are graduates of Johnson University Florida trace their music education back to New Creation.

The theme of this year’s tour was “CHRIST ALONE”. The tour traveled to Vero Beach, Jacksonville, Orlando, Clermont, and St. Cloud. Listed below was this year’s itinerary:

**March 17**
Vero Christian Church
Vero Beach

**March 18**
Creekside Christian Church
Jacksonville/ St. Johns

**March 19**
First Christian Church
Orlando

**March 20**
Real Life East
Orlando

**March 22**
Johnson University Florida
Kissimmee, Imagine Luncheon

**March 23**
Canoe Creek Christian Church
St. Cloud (Home Concert)
CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF SENIOR SAINTS IN THE SMOKIES

Select one of 3 five-day sessions:
MAY 19 - 23    MAY 26 - 30    JUNE 2 - 6

Join the celebration and enjoy spiritual enrichment, southern hospitality, mouth-watering meals, and stellar entertainment in a Christian atmosphere.

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865.251.2226

FEATURED SPEAKER
DAVID EUBANKS

FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT
THE BALL BROTHERS QUARTET

FLORIDA STAFF WILL BE ATTENDING THE SECOND WEEK.