

TBC

newsletter

Summer 2023 • TBC.edu



Upcoming Events

August 9

New Student Move-in

August 10 & 11

New Student Orientation

August 14

Classes Begin

September 9 & November 13

College For a Day

GIVE TO TBC

LEARN MORE
AND GIVE



Nominate someone for
an alumni spotlight at
[alumnirelations@tbc.edu!](mailto:alumnirelations@tbc.edu)

REGISTER FOR COLLEGE FOR A DAY



Increase in Internships Raises Awareness/Increases Demand for TBC Alumni

From its establishment in 1974, the college has been marked by not only teaching students in the classroom, but also by connecting students with real world experience opportunities so that they get a chance to “do” whatever it is they are learning in the classroom. Through the years, alumni from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and 00s can share stories of a hands-on education, where they gained real-world experience through ministry opportunities or student-teaching.

With the college expanding its programs to incorporate more Christian Liberal Arts degrees than ever before, the idea of real-world internships has expanded as well. Several examples exist. For instance, counselling students obtain observation hours in real-life counselling sessions prior to graduation. Criminal Justice students can take part in an internship with the Jacksonville Sherriff’s Office (JSO) during the summer between their junior and senior year (leading to more TBC students being recruited into local law enforcement). Education students still student teach, and ministry students intern with local churches, overseas missions, and/or Trinity Ministries.

Additionally, Business Administration students are participating in local business internships, leading to TBC getting noticed in the City of Jacksonville. While students intern at a variety of businesses, TBC also partners with both CoPassion and Blueprint 30 (Christian organizations that help Christian owned businesses connect internships opportunities with Christian college students) to connect students to these strategic opportunities. These special internships enable students to be mentored spiritually, while honing their skills in accounting or management. The result? Raised awareness for TBC in the local community. Additionally, the incredible performance of the TBC students who have taken part in these internships has led to requests from the market for more TBC students to intern. Business internships have also positively impacted student placement after graduation.

In short, whether students are studying to be future pastors, teachers, worship leaders, law enforcement professionals, business workers, counselors, or more; real-world experience is still a huge component of a TBC education, and the increase in internships is raising awareness and increasing demand for TBC graduates. The need for Christians in all of these vocations is great. May God use TBC alumni in these platforms to further His Kingdom!

Graduation at a glance

DEGREES CONFERRED:

100 total graduates

23 associate degrees

73 bachelor's degrees

4 master's degrees



Senior Highlights



Pablo Garcia

B.S. in Business with emphasis in Sport Management

As an international student athlete from Guatemala, Pablo worked hard and overcame many obstacles in his college career. From learning English, to prioritizing academics while also excelling as an athlete, he reflects determination in everything he does! Pablo served as a student mentor, advocated for institutional values within the TBC soccer community, and was voted Mr. TBC 2023 by his peers. He is looking forward to completing an internship this summer before getting married!



Lydia Flowers

B. A. in Christian Counseling

Lydia has displayed self-discipline and stewardship throughout her years at college. With the goal to graduate with little to no debt, she applied for scholarships, found a full-time job that accommodated her class schedule, and made a promise to herself to stick to a budget. She maintained this while being faithful in her church and serving as a student mentor. This year she graduated debt-free, with plans to pursue her masters in Counseling!

ANNUAL SOFTBALL GAME AND PICNIC



This year the win went to the student's team, 15 to 16! Thanks to alumni Danny Flowers, Chad Houghton, and Issac Lawrence for joining the faculty and staff team.

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR:

JOSEPH COTRONEO



Joseph Cotroneo graduated from TBC with a Bachelors in Pastoral Theology in 2006, his Master's degree in Biblical Studies in 2014, and is currently working on his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Joe served under the leadership of Tony Liuzzo at Fellowship Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio for 10 years. In the fall of 2020, at the onset of the pandemic, Joe (and his family) launched DOXA Bible Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. Against all odds, DOXA Bible Church has grown exponentially, regularly seeing over 500 in weekly attendance. With an emphasis on developing believers who are grounded in their faith and educated in doctrine, DOXA has already taken the Great Commission to heart. Lord willing, a new DOXA church plant will launch in Greensburg (southeast of Indianapolis) this fall. For a full bio, please visit our blog at tbc.edu.



CONGRATULATIONS TO TONI ELKINS,

celebrating 30 years at TBC! She began her time on our campus as a teacher at Trinity Christian Academy. After 13 years she joined the staff at TBC in 2006, serving our students for 17 years as Dean of Women among other titles. Most recently, she transitioned into Director of Student Success and Career Placement where she tutors students and serves as a liaison to those seeking employment after graduation.

FACULTY NEWS



Dr. Phillip Dugas has been an adjunct professor at TBC for several years. This fall he joins us as full-time faculty! Dr. Dugas holds a Ph. D. in Education Sports Management and he will head up our Sports Management program, fostering its growth and effectiveness.



Mr. Cale Johnson is coming on as a full-time Math instructor, which will be a fantastic asset to our students and faculty members. Johnson holds a Master of Education in Teaching from Delta State University as well as a Graduate Certificate from University of Memphis in Teaching of Mathematics.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD



Congratulations to Dr. Jeremiah Stanley upon receiving the Teaching Excellence Award! Dr. Stanley has been at TBC for 17 years, and in that time has held the titles of, Dean of Students, Professor, and VP of Student Affairs. Of course, these titles represent only a small portion of the roles he has filled with dedication and faithfulness.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. JACOB LEPORACCI



Congratulations to TBC alumnus and professor Dr. Jacob Leporacci upon the completion of his doctoral work! Dr. Leporacci earned his D.W.S. from Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies.



A SUMMER IN MISSIONS

Back in February, TBC hosted Missions Emphasis week together with Converge International. We are still watching the results of that week unfold and impact lives!

When TBC alumni Jimmy and Marie Westbrook (missionaries to Trinidad and Tobago) coordinated an opportunity for TBC students to serve on a short-term mission trip, the response was immediate. In fact, more students signed up than there was space for on the trip. As a result, two groups of TBC students are doing missions this summer: one group to Trinidad and Tobago and another to Grenada. Students have raised funds in creative ways, inspiring others to get involved. From hosting dress-up princess nights for young girls, to silent auctions and dinners, they worked hard!

Please pray for God to bring glory to Himself as He works through the students and staff during the trips!



(Pictured - Rachel Uithoven dressed for our masquerade banquet)

GIBSON AWARD

Congratulations to Rachel Uithoven, recipient of the 2023 Gibson Award! This award is presented during the annual spring banquet and is considered the highest award an undergraduate student can achieve.



OUTSTANDING STUDENT PREACHER

Congratulations to Jacob Hansen, recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Student Preacher Award! (Pictured above at center with fellow nominees, Jimmy Jordon at far left and Sir Isaac Singleton at far right)

CELEBRATING A YEAR!

We are celebrating a year with Dean Lynch, Dean Brinkley, and office manager Kristie Page at TBC! New jobs are always a challenge, but when it is an academic role, the entire year is one long learning experience with no down time. The Student Life team went above and beyond in every way and we are so thankful for their investment in our students!

Kristie Page is creative and loves to organize and plan. She jumped right into her role with both feet and says, "I love taking the 'skeleton' of an idea that I can work with and make my own."

Dean Brinkley has a passion for teaching young women. She quickly formed bonds with students and set the stage for even more structured discipleship and mentoring in the fall.

Dean Lynch has a background in youth ministry and a heart for missions. His creative brainstorming has helped boost energy on campus and we are excited to see that grow in the future!



AUTUMN BRINKLEY



JASON LYNCH



KRISTIE PAGE



UPDATE FROM DEAN OF STUDENTS, VAUGHN BROWN

This year's mission was ALL IN: BE THE CHANGE. We are excited to share how the Lord allowed us to see our mission embraced by those it was created to serve. One awesome example of it is that 83% of the newly elected student body government for the 2023-24 academic year is made up of first year students. Not only will we retain these students, but the mission of the upcoming academic year will be decided upon and implemented by these same leaders. These student leaders have accepted the responsibility to help shape the culture for the next academic year.

- 21 Male- and Female-led discipleship groups representing students willing to lead their peers
- Over 200 students actively participating in small-groups
- 10 students made public professions of faith (5 in the month of April)
- The Student Life team in partnership with Trinity Baptist Church have two short term missions trips scheduled for this summer!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DON SCHAFFER ('98, '09)

ALL IN: ONE INTERACTION AT A TIME



In Hollywood, where perception and fame often outweigh substance and sincerity, one TBC alumnus is making a remarkable difference. Meet Don Schaffer, a producer and video editor in L.A. Don discovered and developed his team-building and media production expertise while on staff at Trinity Baptist College and Church. This led to starting his own production company, **Point Light Pictures**.

Transitioning from ministry to the entertainment world was challenging on many levels. However, Don firmly believed that his creativity held redemptive value in spreading the gospel. So, a few years later when he felt impressed to move his family and his company to L.A. – the heart of the entertainment world – he did. This new career trajectory earned him more than one raised eyebrow, but Don and his wife, Tricia, were confident that God had led them to this season.

Revealing a lesser-known side of Hollywood, Don says that he is part of a growing community of believers who are dedicated to influencing the industry from within.

“There are a lot of us {Christians} in the trenches who are influencing the writers, directors, and actors. I like to imagine it as similar to Nehemiah’s role. We are influencing the influencers... we gather on the red carpet before the Oscars. We pray for the people getting the highlights. Hollywood is dark, but there is a growing influence in the industry too, and it has been really interesting to watch.”

These believers reside in a space of constant tension between living out their calling and being salt and light in a dark place. Speaking of the need for spiritual wisdom, Don says, “...Does that put us in difficult spots from time to time? Oh, yeah, it does! But if we are truly called to that role... we do what we can as God’s Spirit leads us.”

Addressing a common misconception, Don suggests that Hollywood’s attitude towards Christianity is not necessarily one of hatred but rather one of ignorance. Many in the industry lack knowledge about God and Christianity.

“Yes, they do take cheap shots sometimes ...but in reality, many don’t know much about God or Christianity. And people who don’t know God at all, they aren’t just going to wake up and decide to know God today. They don’t even understand the concept. It’s more of a process.”

And that process can be painstakingly slow. Opportunities to present the gospel off the cuff are few and far between. Instead, regular, intentional, honest interactions are the most effective



way to create such opportunities. With this perspective, Don's approach to being salt and light in Hollywood is the long game: one interaction at a time.

Life in L.A. is challenging for everyone – not just for believers.

The high cost of living and the fiercely competitive film industry means that many are living paycheck to paycheck. Often, multiple families or 5-8 singles share a 3-bedroom apartment to make ends meet.

With that level of instability, everyone is on the alert for the next big break.

Horrifyingly, while waiting for their big break, many turn to the porn industry out of sheer desperation. Don mourns their fate, emphasizing the desperate need for believers to influence the industry.

"They're just trying to live and pay their bills... They are forced into a level of slavery that they never thought they would get into. So, as a believer, I HAVE to be a light and friend wherever I can be."

Point Light Pictures, Don's production company, serves the entertainment industry with hope.

As a producer, he sets the tone and atmosphere on set, creating a safe space for everyone involved and opening doors for direct conversations. Point Light Pictures collaborates with a wide range of clients, from non-profits to Fortune 500 companies, and has also partnered with churches and ministries to share inspiring stories and prompt gospel conversations. Recently, Don directed a project for Heartwood Church in northern CA, pastored by fellow TBC Alumnus Andy Springer.

Most weekends you can find Don leading the A/V team at his home church, The Church at Rocky Peak where he attends with his wife, Tricia, and their son, DJ.



TBC EAGLES UPDATE

This spring semester in TBC Athletics has been one of change and growth. Change is a constant in life, and the world of college athletics is no different. But we are focusing on the promise of Isaiah 43:19, "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth..."

In April, two of our longest serving head coaches retired from coaching and will assume new roles within TBC Athletics. Coach Judy Allen and Coach John D. Jones led our women's and men's basketball programs respectively for many years. Both programs won multiple championships under their leadership and scores of student-athletes were impacted for Christ through their discipleship efforts.

Coach Jones will stay on as our Athletic Director, only now in a full-time capacity; and Coach Allen will transition to the role of Senior Women's Administrator for Athletics and Title IX Coordinator for the College.

In the area of competition, six of our seven programs made it to postseason play this year. Men's Basketball finished with a record of 19-11 and claimed the 2023 Bible College NIT Championship, the fifth in school history.

Exciting things continue to happen in the areas of facility development as well. The coaches moved into new office space last fall and progress continues to be made on completing the new softball field. Stay tuned for information on how you can support this important initiative.

As we enter the summer months, please pray for the new head coaches who have recently been hired. You can read about them on our website at TBCeagles.com. As always... Fly High Eagles!

John D. Jones
Athletics Director
Trinity Baptist College

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