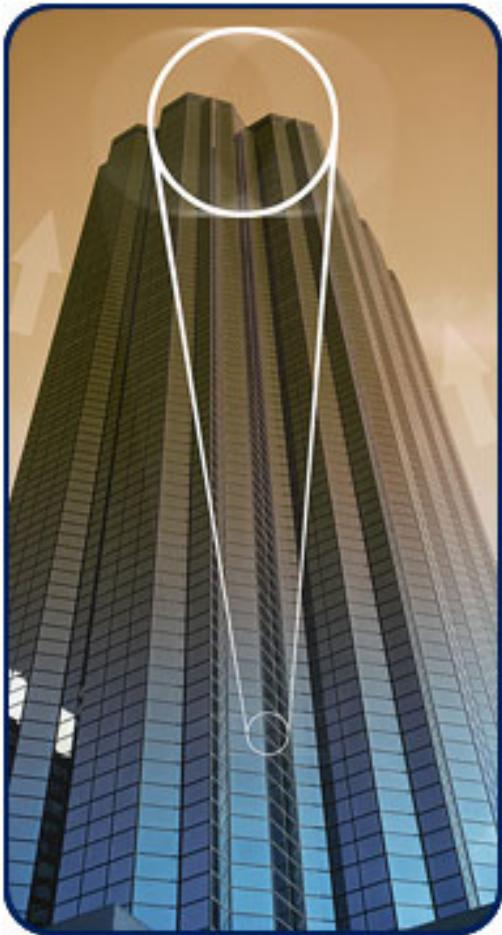


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JIU INSIDER

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
newsletter



Don't forget!

The last day to register for a March course is
February 24.

Call your ASC today at
800.811.5663

February 2009

Business Education - The Big Picture



While it is quite easy, and normal, to place your focus on whichever course you are currently taking, do you ever step back and think about the big picture? That is what I would like all of you to do this month. Let's start with the reason you are here; those reasons range from personal growth and achievement to advancing your career. I know that many think in terms of the final, symbolic product of your efforts---the diploma. However, that diploma represents the sum total of all your efforts here at JIU. Instead of focusing on the specifics of a course, think about how it can help you to meet your goals. Regardless of whether you are in an associate's program or a doctorate program, our degree programs have been designed as a collective whole and every course has a purpose. A frequent question I hear is, "Why do MBA students have to take Accounting and Finance, when I'm not going to work in one of those areas?" The MBA is focused on improving your ability to make decisions in your organizations. You don't have to be an accountant, but your ability to make decisions is enhanced by your ability to read and interpret accounting and financial statements.

Another example is at the undergraduate level where students frequently question the

value of the various General Education courses. Through these courses you improve your learning, improve your communication skills and expand your perception and understanding of the world around you---business does not take place in a vacuum.

After you read this, I would like for you to look at your Program Handbook (found on the specific program page of the [JIU website](#)). In your Handbook you will find some of this big picture information around the Institutional and Program Outcomes. After looking at the big picture, begin planning with the end in mind. Think about the following: 1) how each assignment and each course helps you to meet your goals 2) what personal perspective you can add to your projects to make them more meaningful to you 3) how you would present a particular course project to a potential employer as an example of why you are the best person for the job.

Finally, make sure to archive your work so that you can access it later. To that end, try to make a conscious effort to copy all of your assignments to your Personal Workspace; this tool was designed to provide you with long term, secure storage of your work so that you can access it when you need it later.

Start thinking about graduation now and enjoy the journey!

Sincerely,
Richard C. Thompson, PhD
Dean, School of Business, JIU

JIU's New Financial Aid Advising Center Makes it Even Easier to Fund Your Education

Did you know that 80% of JIU students use Federal Student Aid (FSA) as a means of funding their education?

In order to better serve JIU's growing student population, we are pleased to announce that on March 2, **JIU will implement the Financial Aid Advising Center** which will serve as a resource for all students interested in, applying for or receiving FSA. Through the Financial Aid Advising Center, students will be assigned a Financial Aid Advisor (FAA) who will personally guide them through the financial aid application process and assist them with their financial aid needs. Students can locate their FAA's contact information in the student portal under *Advisors* on the right side of the page or by calling the **Financial Aid Advising Center at 800.811.5663 Option 5.**



"Good, Better, Best" - A JIU Student Reflects on her Journey

As a child I remember my grandmother quoting the inspiration phrase "Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best." I have tried to enhance my professional career through this thought process. For example, I consider my decision years ago to earn an Associate's degree to be a good one. My decision to then pursue an undergraduate degree was even better. My decision to earn a master's degree through JIU was definitely the best decision.

For the past eleven years, I have worked for a professional education company that specializes in helping financial planners pass their professional designation and securities licensing exams. We strive to develop study tools that meet the needs of our thousands of clients. In early 2008, I was promoted to Director of Marketing. One of my many tasks is to come up with new growth ideas for our company. Earning a MEd in Corporate Training and Knowledge Management from JIU has helped me to develop those new ideas and to have the self-assuredness in my judgment.

My main attraction to JIU and the pursuit of this particular master's degree was the fact that it was not as traditional as most. Few universities offer such a unique and cutting edge major. The program description was right on target with my career objectives. I love it when people in my career industry ask about my educational experiences. The first program I mention is JIU. This unique degree has made all of the difference for me. Hence, the Jones difference...

Shannon Bryant
JIU Alumni



FACULTY PROFILE: **James W. Redmond, PhD**

Gaining experience as a teacher can come in a myriad of practices. Dr. James Redmond learned his teaching skills in the military and even on the ski slope. "It is complicated. You have to teach people how to do things in a mixture of exhilaration and fear."

His time with the military is made up of 10 years in the Army reserves and another 12 years in the Air Force reserves. "The military is the best place to learn leadership, teamwork, focus on the mission and management." Dr. Redmond earned multiple medals while enlisted for his commendable service and achievements.



So how did he end up in teaching?

His field of expertise happened by accident; after the army he needed to find a job. He didn't realize it would be a passion for him and provide him with such amazing opportunities and successes. Dr. Redmond has worked as an anchor, reporter, producer for both TV and radio and even as a Press Aide for the U.S. House of Representatives. After 20 years, several awards and recognitions (including a few Emmy's), many invitations for presentations and multiple publications, it was time to move to a new profession.

"I've done all of my professions and jobs for a mixture of professional success and personal enjoyment." Dr. Redmond loved college and always thought teaching would be rewarding. And it has proven to be. "Teaching is the most rewarding thing I've ever done." He teaches in both a classroom and online setting. Online education is enjoyable because of the caliber of students. They are more mature, focused and anxious to learn.

What advice does this prestigious professor have for JIU students? "You can't do anything well unless you care about it and want to, and it provides some joy in your life. Excellence comes from complete immersion, and you can't do that if you don't have a great desire and embrace it as an extension of yourself."

New TPA 2.0 Podcast: *Managing Your Career During a Recession*

Trying to manage your career during a recession can be challenging. Whether looking for your first job, seeking a new job or trying to advance your career, Total Professional Advantage™ (TPA™ 2.0) offers the tools and resources you'll need in such a difficult economic environment.

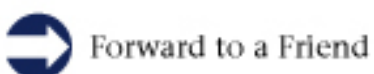
Amongst the resources in the TPA 2.0 portal, you'll find podcasts featuring JIU alumni, faculty and experts in the field of career development. These individuals discuss career-related topics relevant to JIU students today.

Recently a new podcast---*Managing Your Career During a Recession*---launched in the TPA 2.0 portal. The podcast features Randy Miller and Ellie Augur from ReadyMinds, the leading global provider of distance career counseling services.

Randy is Founder and CEO of ReadyMinds and has been profiled in numerous articles in the national media. Ellie is one of the Professional Career Advisors who works with JIU students in the TPA 2.0 program. She has thirty years of experience in many facets of career services.

Access the *Managing Your Career During a Recession* podcast via the TPA 2.0 portal by going to your *My Courses* page.

For more information about the podcasts and TPA 2.0 please contact careerservices@international.edu.



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