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JFA's Sept 2008 training event with Benedictine College (BC) had its roots in 2006 with JFA's formal introduction to the [Fellowship of Catholic University Students](#) (FOCUS) and director Curtis Martin.

JFA's dear friends, Anne and Jeffery Wunder, sensed the potential value of bringing the directors of FOCUS and JFA together.

Having previously offered to open their home and hearts to refresh JFA's traveling team after their last Exhibit day at the University of Northern Colorado (spring 2006), Anne decided to also invite Curtis and Michaelann Martin.

Seeds sown that night around the dinner table that night in the Wunder home grew into an invitation for JFA to lead training and outreach event at FOCUS' 2006 summer training in Wisconsin.

Another invitation followed. It was for the 2008 (FOCUS) conference in Grapevine, Texas, where 3,000 college students gathered from around the nation. The theme of the event, "[Go, and Set the World on Fire](#)," set the tone for student activism like that which JFA offers - taking the Gospel of Life outside the holy huddle.

JFA had [conference booth space](#) just around the corner from Benedictine College's booth space. JFA's director, [David Lee, was one of the conference breakout session speakers](#). Several BC students attended JFA's wall-to-wall breakout session.

One of the JFA interns, Matt McKinley, sought to meet Fr. Brendan Rolling, one of Benedictine College's Chaplains that January 2008 weekend, and the rest is history.

Fr. Brendan subsequently sent two BC students, [Joe Dobrynski](#) and [Greta Giesen](#), to JFA's [Arizona State University training and outreach event](#) in February 2008 to check out firsthand the JFA training program.

Joe and Greta's report back to Fr. Brendan included one question: "When can we bring JFA to BC for an outreach!"

JFA had two questions: 1) When could we get Joe and Greta's help again! 2) when could we partner with BC for an outreach event at the University of Kansas (KU)?!

Answer: early September, 2008!

Over 400 BC students attended a Labor Day evening JFA presentation. Over [300 attended](#) JFA's [Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue](#) seminar the following afternoon and evening.

[About 70 of these BC students joined Fr. Brendan](#) and JFA for the KU Exhibit outreach on Sept. 3 and 4.

Our hope and prayer, (every indication from BC support this hope), is that a JFA training and outreach opportunity will become a regular part of the fall missions landscape at BC.

The proverbial proof is said to be "in the pudding." Read some of the BC student reflections below to see why.

Anna Huybrecht
Benedictine College Senior
Justice For All Exhibit Reflection
October 2008

I have done pro-life work for the past 9 years, but have never experienced anything so great!!! The Justice for All training had an enormous impact on me, for the practical application of going to the KU campus and talking with those whose opinions differed from me.

I hoped I would learn how to better do that, and it definitely taught me many things. What I did not expect was how much the JFA training has helped me in my everyday life. I have had many great conversations since then, which the guidance of JFA has helped! This isn't just a class on how to talk someone out of pro-choice views, it's advice on how to talk about every topic you will come across in your daily life! I benefited much more than I ever hoped to! THANK YOU JFA!!!

At the University of Kansas (KU), I had an amazing day! One thing that really struck me, that I have never experienced with other pro-life organizations before. Every person I had a conversation with shook my hand and thanked me for talking to them before walking away. I was amazed. From talking to a girl who was indifferent to the matter, to discussing the issue with a man who firmly believed there was no moral truth, I was able to guide the conversation and relate to all of them!

By starting conversations in a friendly manner, I never talked to a person who seemed to despise me. I felt a lot of respect being shown to me by even the people who believed the complete opposite extreme.

There was one boy who was particularly stuck on the issue that "it's just so small in those first weeks. There's nothing there but cells and it's only something with potential, it's not developed enough yet." After discussing it for about 10 minutes, he still wasn't getting it, so I tried to get to know him a little better. I asked what his major was and he told me it was English. I took the opportunity to try to explain it with something he could relate it to. I asked him if he'd written any big novels yet. He hadn't. I said that even though he hadn't done that, his teachers probably still see great potential in his writing by his little, seemingly insignificant writings.

He started getting what I was trying to say and defined his position saying, "But no, that's not relevant here because I'm not there yet, I could drop out of school, become an alcoholic, et. And I replied, "Yes, but do you have any less value as a human being because you have not lived up to your full potential yet. Does the fact that you are still in the beginning stages of writing make you any less valuable?"

He got it! It was a great moment seeing the eyes of realization and understanding in him!

Overall, I had an amazing experience putting my JFA training into use. I cannot wait to have the experience again! Thanks for ALL you've done already, and what you continue to work hard for!!! It's well appreciated by many lives!

Gabriel Chambers
Benedictine College
Justice For All Reflection
September 2008

"Before the exhibit, I was wary of speaking out on the topic of abortion. However, as I began conversing with the students on campus, I found that I was not afraid to share my beliefs; I had never had the opportunity. The Justice for All Exhibit gave me that opportunity.

I had an exceptionally deep conversation with a young man who had no position on the abortion issue. By exchanging e-mail addresses, we have continued our discussion on the issue.

The Justice for All Exhibit not only saves unborn lives but opens the hearts of the living in compassion for these most vulnerable members of society. Thank you for the chance to be part of a saving mission."

Lauren Steinkoenig
Benedictine College
Justice For All Reflection
September 2008

My experience with volunteering at the JFA exhibit not only impacted my outlook on abortion but, perhaps even larger my vocation. I went to the training because our chaplain had asked me too. To be honest I didn't really think I would get anything out of it and was upset to have to sacrifice so much of my time. Pretty selfish huh? Little did I know that this two-day event would be so far-reaching.

JFA's training taught me that I don't have to be afraid that I am not going to be good enough, that God takes what I offer and expands and multiplies it. This fear of not being good enough to help out was what I was most apprehensive about concerning going to the KU campus. I thought that I wouldn't have the right words, that I would offend someone, that I couldn't help someone, that I would be useless and not good at it. This relates in a large manner to my discernment of the religious life. I've always desired to give myself completely to God in the form of the religious life, but through all my discernment I've always been held back by a fear that I couldn't do it, that I would somehow fail, let God down, and waste everything He gave me. I now know that I don't have to be afraid anymore.

What JFA taught me, through this beautiful message of life, was that God is enough. Or in the words of St. Teresa, "God alone suffices." I always thought that I had to do it, that I was going to fall short. Now, I've learned the hard lesson that I can't do anything through God, that He is the one that does it all. I couldn't have done what I did at KU on my own. I am not that strong.

I am happy to share the news that I will be going on the March for Life in DC this January and that I am currently entering deeper into serious discernment. I was thinking that I would love to make a visit to the Sisters of Life in NY. I now have a passion that I never knew existed within me for life and the unborn and I thank you for revealing that to me and giving it an opportunity to come forth.

Robert Healey
Benedictine College
Justice For All Reflection
September 2008

I think that one of the most powerful things that struck me about volunteering with the JFA exhibit was the value of patience.

At briefing, just before going out to the exhibit, Steve [Wagner] told us, "When you get out there to the Exhibit, you may feel nervous and not ready, or you may feel like you can handle anything, but try to spend the

first hour this morning, the first full hour, just listening to the JFA staff, listening to how we handle the discussions, getting a feel for the way the dialogue flows, and this will give you a clearer idea of what you need to do."

It is amazing how that request affected the way that whole day went for me. After the first ten minutes of listening to the JFA staff talking with people, I felt ready to go, ready to take on the world, ready to teach people some sense! I would overhear a discussion between Steve and a pro-choice protester, and the protester would make a totally ludicrous comment, a statement without backbone, which even a two year old would see through, and I would feel a tremendous impulse to jump in and say, "Now hold on a second, you have no idea! Don't you realize what you just said? What you are implying is so ridiculously absurd that I can't believe you call yourself an intelligent being!"

And then I suddenly realized it. I realized how much patience I was lacking. I realized that this was completely opposite to what I had been trained to do, to make the person feel loved and listened to. I realized that had I been in Steve's shoes at that moment, talking to this protester, without the hour of silence helping me hold my tongue, I would have instantly taken the opinions of the protester and ripped them up in his face, and the result would have been that the protester would have

hated me, my cause, and everyone else who stood up for my cause, and would have angrily gone about gluing his opinion back together. I would have undone myself, and the discussion would have been ruined.

And so I learned that I had been wrong. I had thought that listening for an hour was merely to help me see what I'd be coming up against, so I wouldn't be caught off my guard. Instead, I found that it taught me a huge lesson about patient charity that I can carry with me for the rest of my life.

I learned that if I can bottle up my words for an hour and focus on listening, I think I can listen to anything with patience and love, and hold back my comments, until such time that they will be listened to in return.

Thanks to JFA, I think I am better equipped to live my life, and in reflection of my experience at KU, I would say that this was what stood out to me the most, and I think that if everyone practiced not speaking but listening intently, in the manner that JFA taught me to do, this world would have very few, if any, problems.

Victoria Panza
Benedictine College
September 15, 2008
Justice for All reflection

"Discovering Strength"

When I originally heard about the Justice for All training, I really had no intention of participating.

I am pro-life, but I doubted I would have the boldness and knowledge to discuss the immorality and violence of abortion with complete strangers. I attended public school from kindergarten until twelfth grade.

My pro-choice friends and I rarely discussed abortion, but if the topic came up, I quickly steered the conversation to something less controversial. If they persisted, I had no idea what to say.

Justice for All was also frightening for me because of the enormous, three-sided display of extremely graphic pictures. I felt that there must be a less sensationalist and disturbing way to further the pro-life movement.

However, in reflecting upon the idea, I realized that our American society is exceptionally visual. Many believe only what they see. In addition, a large number of people intellectually know that abortion is destructive, but do not really grasp the concept until they see the photographs of one.

I saw them for the first time a year ago and was completely overwhelmed. My pro-life conviction became even stronger as my definition of abortion changed from "killing a baby" to "murder". The success stories I heard at the information session and training confirmed my conviction to go on the mission trip. Perhaps I could help others understand the sanctity of life as I finally had.

Despite those good intentions, I was terrified as we drove to the University of Kansas September 4th. When I first saw the exhibit, I had to take a deep breath. The fact that I was there seemed unreal.

Unlike the angry mob I had expected, the spectators all seemed very calm. After about an hour of merely observing, I paired up with one of my friends to start dialogues with those viewing the exhibit. We engaged in several conversations that day.

One of the most memorable was with a female pro-choice protestor. I do not think I convinced her, but dialoging with her helped me learn about their argument. This helped me to strengthen my own argument and to anticipate the responses of pro-choice spectators. I met one woman who had recently convinced her sister not to get an abortion. She took one of the exhibit brochures to reinforce that.

My friend and I had a long conversation with a biology/genetics major who, before the exhibit, had been pro-choice, but was now "all cloudy again." He seemed to really see where we were coming from, which was encouraging.

Justice for All was a completely valuable experience for me. Through the training, I now have the knowledge to discuss the issue of abortion so to better promote the pro-life message.

In a way, discussing abortion with complete strangers is much less intimidating than discussing it with friends. I hope that since I have now gotten comfortable doing the former, I can do the latter.

In short, I was once frightened to discuss abortion, but now I am empowered. Justice for All has given me the tools and courage to fight for the truth. I would gladly participate in it again. Thank you.