



Our Interns

Don't Make Coffee



“Can I get an intern in here to make me some coffee?” the Director of Training boomed from the break room. Staff and interns were gathered nearby chatting excitedly, as if it was the first day of school.

“Where’s the coffee!” Steve shouted again. The others laughed, knowing he was only joking. It was the first morning of the first day of our new summer internship. Admittedly, we do things a little differently here at JFA. For starters, our staff make the coffee for the interns.

We also work hard to make sure all of our activities align with our mission of *training thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions, one person at a time*. Historically we’ve had one or two young people intern at JFA headquarters each summer. They have helped with office tasks in preparation for our fall training events and, if we’ve had time, we’ve given them a little bit of training, too. *No more*. This year we decided to focus our efforts on building up five interns, helping them become pro-life trainers, and that’s just what we did.

In the following paragraphs, we introduce these bright, motivated young people through some of their own words and some of ours. And we reflect on where God is taking them next.

Andrew Carlson

Though Andrew has natural talent as a public speaker, he was initially hesitant about talking to pro-choice people. But after just two days of outreach, he said: “I was taught how to overcome my timidity through the constant interaction with all different sorts of people, and now I feel as though I could go for days, talking to hundreds of people, and still be ready for more...” Emboldened, Andrew returns this fall to lead and train the Pro-Life Buccaneers at Blinn College in College Station, Texas.



Andrew, right, at JFA’s *Draw The Line* kiosk



Sarah discusses abortion with two young men.

Sarah Dufrense

About mid-summer, Sarah wrote, "At yesterday's seminar, I felt that the Lord graced me with confidence, and I felt like I was better prepared to teach others." Indeed, in Louisiana a week and a half later, Sarah was the picture of confidence as she mentored her group at the Joshua Leadership Institute. This year, she will help train her fellow students at Thomas Aquinas College during a seminar and outreach event to University of California at Santa Barbara.

Cody Reed

Cody shared about a conversation he had on campus: “[The medical student] began the dialogue with the opinion that human value did not begin until birth. Then he brought up the case of rape. He really felt that it was up to the mother to choose, but most especially in that case. I began to dialogue with him, and as we continued to converse, he took a step back and said, ‘You keep causing me to redraw where I draw my line.’”



Cody, right, mentors volunteers in Oklahoma.

If our interns didn't make coffee, what did they do? They...

- taught and mentored during five seminars.
- created dialogue during three outreach events.
- mentored volunteers during three more outreach events.
- toured Choices Medical Clinic, which gives sonograms and free help to women.
- workshopped public speaking, small group mentoring, and role playing.
- shadowed JFA mentors in conversations with pro-choice advocates.
- fixed a hole in an old canoe, then rowed and relaxed on the Arkansas River.
- grilled Cajun food.
- jammed together with their guitars, a fiddle and some bongo drums.
- solved the great mysteries of the universe.

Cody recently graduated from Saint Joseph Seminary College in Louisiana, and he is now the Assistant Youth Programs Director at Louisiana Right to Life. His training internship with JFA was one of his first work assignments. He's already used what he learned during the internship to train high school and college students, and he'll continue his certification with JFA during two weeks of events in the fall.

Joanna Wagner

Joanna wrote the following to us: "I cannot think of a better way to internalize our training than to watch our mentors live it out in daily life. Thank you for listening to me so well, for asking me how I'm doing, and for being so open in admitting where you have room to grow so I know I am not alone in my weaknesses. You have helped me mentor others by giving me excellent instruction, powerful motivation, and a consistent reminder of Christ's presence." An alumna of Wheaton college, Joanna continues her 14-month internship before beginning graduate work at Baylor University in the fall of 2013.



Joanna, left, speaks with students at Wichita State.



Katie reaches out on campus.

Katie Worley

At a seminar in Wichita, halfway through her internship, Katie noticed one teenage participant sitting out in the lobby. The girl had left the seminar early because she wasn't feeling well, so she asked Katie to bring her up to speed on what she'd missed. Without skipping a beat, Katie spent the next hour giving her a specialized one-on-one training seminar, going beyond our basic material to answer the girl's questions. Katie is about to begin her freshman year at Washington University in St. Louis on a basketball scholarship. She has pledged to join the pro-life club and train them to do outreach on campus.

JFA's Executive Director David Lee feels this internship featured some of the most important work we've ever done. We agree; it was focused squarely on one of JFA's guiding strategies from II Tim 2:2: "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

Thank you for helping these students become skillful pro-life ambassadors to their communities. We're eager for another class of excellent interns next summer, so be sure to give us the names of young people you know who might thrive in a JFA internship like these five did.

— Stephen Wagner & Catherine Wurts