2021 Graduates
Compassionate
Genuine
Open-Minded
Caring
Hard-working
Eccentric
Analytical
Humorous
Tenacious
Passionate
Sarcastic
Determined
Organized
Grateful
Idealistic
Optimistic
Upfront
Outspoken
Empathetic
Jose Camberos

Major: Accounting
First Destination Outcome: IT Risk Services Consultant at BKD, LLP

“What inspired me throughout college was my family and wanting to set an example for my young siblings to follow and prove that you can go to college regardless of your socioeconomic status.”
Jose Camberos

What aspects of your Jewell experience prepared you most for life after college?

Every professor I interacted with genuinely cared about how I was doing in class and what my plans were after college. They made a tremendous impact on me in the way they taught their courses. I can attest that the way they teach their students is an accurate reflection of the real world. There are many skills that I learned through them that I will always be grateful for.

Share a favorite college memory.

Being on the soccer team taught me discipline, accountability, comradery, and leadership skills. My favorite college memory was playing against Missouri S&T back in 2019. That game was memorable because I broke the NCAA era for most saves made by a Jewell goalkeeper. However, that is a small memory in the bigger picture of many good/fun times with teammates.
Kaitlyn Popejoy

**Majors:** Psychological Science & Applied Critical Thought and Inquiry w/ Pre-Med minor.

**First Destination Outcome:** Medical School at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Monroe, LA

**Words to Describe You:** Tenacious. Open-Minded. Passionate.

“In my time at Jewell, I learned that I had a passion for helping people and that with the right amount of determination, I could accomplish anything I set my mind to.”
What do you admire most about Jewell?

The thing I admired most about Jewell was the community. All of the faculty and staff built an atmosphere that was supportive and caring and fostered personal growth in all of the students. I always had someone to turn to when I needed to talk, and it truly felt like home.

What advice do you have to offer incoming or current Jewell students?

My advice to incoming students is to get involved to introduce you to new people and build a variety of important qualities such as time management and leadership skills. Most importantly though, take in every moment and don’t take a single day for granted because time truly does fly by and before you know it, the best four years of your life will come to an end.
Shae Crane

**Major:** Elementary Education  
**First Destination Outcome:** Second grade teacher at Kellybrook Elementary in Liberty Public Schools.  
**Words to describe you:** Outspoken. Compassionate. Empathetic.

“At Jewell, I learned that I can accomplish a lot more than I think I can. I encountered a lot of amazing people at Jewell and all of them saw something in me that I never really saw myself. It took me all of college to learn and believe in my true potential and calling in life.”
What inspired you in college?

What inspired me in college was going to fieldwork everyday and getting to interact with a variety of students. Knowing that I have the important job of shaping our future generations has a huge impact on me.

How has your Jewell experience impacted what you are doing now?

I believe that getting my degree through Jewell landed me my job today. The Jewell elementary education program works hard to stay up-to-date with current teaching strategies and methods to ensure they best prepare their grads. The critical thinking Jewell had me use to analyze and solve problems is what I now have my second graders do.
Jack Still

**Major:** Economics and Political Science  
**First Destination Outcome:** Policy Analyst at the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, a criminal justice think tank in Washington, DC.  
**Words to describe you:** Grateful. Idealistic. Optimistic.

“Each day, I am asked to approach tasks that require an ability to put myself in the shoes of others in order to understand their perspective. With the critical thinking skills and understanding of empathy that Jewell helped me to gain, I feel like I am better equipped to do this in a way that allows me to see beyond the factors that too often divide us.”
What inspired you in college?

My classes at Jewell opened up new doors to me. What inspired me most, though, was the belief that Jewell's faculty had in me and my aspirations. I had never had anybody believe in me the way my professors and mentors did while I was a student at Jewell, which is something that changed my life.

What did you learn about yourself in college?

I learned that by committing to hard-work and surrounding yourself with the right people, you are capable of reaching every one of your goals. If you do these two things, and seek to learn everything you can from your mistakes, there is no limit to what you can achieve.
Kayla Burdette

Major: Biochemistry and Applied Critical Thought & Inquiry
First Destination Outcome: DDS student at UMKC School of Dentistry
Words to describe you: Sarcastic. Determined. Organized.

“Rarely is anything truly black and white, and Jewell taught me how to ‘think’ and how to assess and investigate the options to find the best solution.”
Kayla Burdette

What aspects of your Jewell experience prepared you most for life after college?

Jewell taught me how to be a critical thinker. It was not only brought up in the CTI classes but every science class I took. It has helped me to see the whole picture of treatment planning, clinical decision making, and even assessing the pros and cons of new technology in the field of dentistry.

What do you admire most about Jewell?

It really challenges you as a student because you can be actively involved around campus and the community while also taking rigorous courses. It is hard to find a student at Jewell that isn’t involved in at least 2 other activities, organizations, or clubs. I also love how small of a campus it is. I always saw someone I knew in the PLC, cafeteria, or just walking around campus.
Isaac Chiznik

**Major:** Oxbridge Molecular Biology

**First Destination Outcome:** Doctoral student at Cornell's department of Molecular Biology and Genetics in the field of Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology.

**Words to Describe You:** Eccentric. Analytical. Humorous.

“My friends inspired me. Our camaraderie really saw me through my undergraduate experience and many of them are impressing me with the extraordinary things they are going on to. I also admire the faculty. When faced with great adversity, they continued to support my learning and were always open with advice on work or life.”
Isaac Chiznik

Share a favorite college memory.

My favorite memory is performing on stage to my family. They came up in the spring and saw both my Symphonic Band and Theatre shows, and it was wonderful to be able to showcase those extracurriculars for my folks.

What advice do you have to offer incoming or current Jewell students?

It is important to acknowledge that you will not always have all the answers and skills. You will struggle and, often, fail. What makes a successful student is the ability to learn from failure and to go to others for help. Do not be afraid to ask your professors and peers for advice and support. Trust me: they will not think less of you for asking. They want you to succeed.
Maddie Wingert

Major: Nonprofit Leadership and Communication
First Destination Outcome: Washington University School of Law

“When I first got to Jewell, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life/after graduation. My nonprofit leadership major inspired me to go to law school, and the wonderful professors and staff encouraged me to apply to WashU and to reach for success. I am so thankful for the way that Jewell helped me find my path and enabled me to succeed.”
Maddie Wingert

What inspired you in college?

*During my time at Jewell, I was most inspired by my teammates. The volleyball program fostered an environment where we would all root for each other and support one another in every aspect of our Jewell lives. Watching my teammates succeed and being part of a group of women who worked so hard and loved each other so much inspired me more than anything!*

What do you admire most about Jewell and what is an aspect of your Jewell experience that prepared you?

*I admire Jewell professors. Every professor I had during my time at Jewell took the time to get to know me personally. You don’t find that kind of professor student relationship everywhere, and I admire Jewell for creating it. The Pryor Leadership program enabled me to find confidence in myself and find my voice while working effectively alongside others.*