As JWU nears the century mark, share in our enthusiasm and pride as we recount our university’s rich and vibrant history.

After purchasing Johnson & Wales School of Business in 1947, co-directors Edward Triangolo and Morris Gaebe continued the tradition of teaching a thing “not for its own sake but for what lies beyond.” With their wives, Vilma Triangolo and Audrey Gaebe, they served as teachers, administrators, accountants, recruiters and even janitors.

Despite long hours, personalized placement service and increased curriculum choices, enrollment actually declined in the first two years. Undeterred, the entrepreneurial duo were intent on anticipating the “jobs of tomorrow” and scrutinized the classifieds identifying “in demand” careers. With Triangolo on campus ensuring things remained on course, Gaebe scanned local high school yearbooks, visited the homes of graduating seniors and talked to them (and their parents) about enrolling at Johnson & Wales.

He frequently traveled to Washington, D.C. to study the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and based on data and trends they restructured programs and added relevant courses that would catapult graduates into exciting careers.

In 2004, I accepted the challenge of leading JWU into the 21st century and steering an almost 100-year-old organization through a process of transformational change. Our strategic plan, FOCUS 2011, is about pushing the envelope. It demands we move beyond measuring initial employment, and instead measure career progression.

This spring, JWU launched a study of alumni from the graduating classes of 1997 through 2007 to understand more about their career paths and the role their alma mater played in launching and advancing their professional careers. Their feedback will strengthen JWU’s academic offerings, opportunities and career services, ultimately helping us prepare the next generation of JWU students.

As you read, you will see we are re-engineering our experiential education efforts, addressing affordability in this changing economy, and continually striving to provide our students relevant and rewarding experiences. What we do now builds the foundation for what will happen throughout this century. There is much to be done and much success to be achieved, and like our students, faculty and staff, our alumni and friends remain at the heart of all we do.

University President John J. Bowen ’77