



COLLEGE MINISTRY

A YEAR IN REVIEW

By **Blake Jenkins**
Minister to College Students


If you had told me in March or April that we would have our strongest fall semester yet, I would have bet all of the Charmin in my house that you were wrong. But that is exactly what we have seen happen over the course of this aberrational academic semester.

There are 4 main components of the Dawson College Ministry:

1. College Life Group: Sunday morning lessons in a large group (FRC)
2. Village: weeknight small groups (in homes)
3. AUXANO: Tuesday night worship service (Sanctuary)
4. BETA: church-wide intern program

When seeking to describe what God is doing in our ministry, I find it helpful to take a page from the book of Acts. In this account, we see the picture of the early church coming together through sharing numbers (Acts 2:47; 4:4; 6:1; 6:7; 11:21; 14:1; 16:5; 28:23) and stories (Peter's sermon at Pentecost and Solomon's Portico, the lame beggar healed, the stoning of Stephen, the conversion of Saul, etc.). Stories don't show the whole picture, but they do show part of it. Numbers don't show the whole picture, but they show part of it. And every number has a name, and every name has a story. So here are some numbers and stories:


This semester, we have seen the highest and most consistent weekly attendance since we started keeping track.




LIFE GROUP
2019: **58**
2020: **76**
Change: **+ 31%**



VILLAGE
2019: **17**
2020: **46**
Change: **+ 171%**



AUXANO
2019: **56**
2020: **86**
Change: **+ 54%**



BETA
2020: **12** interns
across **7** ministries

We are thanking God for the growth that we have seen in each of these areas – both in depth and breadth. We have been able to learn more of our students' stories and walk alongside them as God continues to write their stories.

We have seen students...

- Go from spiritual death to life
- Follow in obedience through baptism
- Join the Dawson family through church membership
- Learn how to study Scripture for the first time
- Accept calls to vocational ministry
- Explore calls to domestic and foreign missions
- Serve God through other ministries within Dawson
- Engage the lost on their college campuses
- Pursue healing from sexual abuse and various addictions
- Help others to become faithful servants of Jesus Christ

Aside from what we have seen in the lives of our college students, we think it is best for you to hear it straight from them.

COLLEGE LIFE GROUP

College Life Group has been an amazing experience and full of learning. Personally, I have found much of what has been taught very helpful and motivating. This semester we spent time recapping the many disciplines that are good for deepening a relationship with God then growing in understanding of some of the characteristics of God. One of the things that was personally convicting for me was the week on journaling. Journaling is a practice that I have done in the past, however I had fallen out of it. But in addition to the content, the people have also been amazing to get to know and learn from." – [Austin Sanders](#)

VILLAGE

Village...I find it challenging to describe something so wonderful and impactful in just a few words, but I'll try my best. Before entering my sophomore year, I prayed specifically for a community that would keep me accountable and that I could pour into. In response to that prayer God gave me Dawson, and along with this incredible church family, led me to Wednesday night village with Ben and Beth (and Heidi) Hewitt. I couldn't have imagined a better gift from the Lord than the Hewitts' Village. Within the walls of their apartment, more than fifteen students would show up consistently with a hunger for the Word and a desire to be in community with others. We built on each other's points when going through the Gospel of John.

We carried each other's burdens and celebrated joyfully with each other. Wednesday nights swiftly became the highlight of my week, because the Lord's presence was so evident among His people there. Ben and Beth loved each student so well; exemplifying how I believe Jesus served his disciples in truth and care. Village has been my lifeline this semester, and a place where I am constantly challenged and encouraged to grow in my faith. – [Abby Bradford](#)

AUXANO

AUXANO was one of the few places I felt like I was able to relax in fellowship with others. It provided peace, music, and direction in my walk with Christ. AUXANO, for me, was a place where I felt like I could be vulnerable with myself—mentally and emotionally. It was a space I felt safe in. It helped equip me to answer some of the harder questions I'd been posed during this uniquely difficult semester. By also having the

opportunity to lead with the worship team, it gave me a chance to do what I love and to do it well. It also provided opportunities for me to reach out to people I otherwise would never have spoken to. Overall, AUXANO and its leadership team were a blessing to me, and I'm sure will continue to bless me as I continue my college journey.

– [Micaiah Bolton](#)

BETA INTERN PROGRAM

The BETA intern program has been hands-down, the most formative, rewarding, and humbling experience of my college career. Dawson's College Ministry was very intentional in sharpening my skills and affirming my calling to ministry. I

highly recommend this program to anyone interested in ministry, because this program gives you a real look at what a life of full-time ministry looks like on a day-to-day basis. I was plugged into a ministry on campus that I felt called to and was immediately put into leadership roles. Not only was I able to pour into younger believers, but I was also given access to countless older members of the Dawson family who offered me their wisdom and companionship. The BETA intern program has given me an opportunity to explore, learn, and grow. – [Cole Frier](#)



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