

5 People you don't realize are influencing you...

Like the Fates in a Greek myth, these unseen puppeteers are controlling your every thought and word—well, maybe that's a bit of an overstatement. But these five people have considerable influence over your present life, and chances are there's more than one person on our list you haven't considered. From what you see online to the way you interpret the Bible, together this small group of influencers affect almost every area of your life.

1 Betsy DeVos



Position: *Secretary of Education*
15th in the presidential line of succession

As the head of a federal department, DeVos leads an army of 4,400 bureaucrats with an annual budget of over \$68 billion. She is ultimately responsible for setting the agenda and policies of the U.S. Department of Education, which has a direct influence on all college students' lives.

DeVos and her department control billions of dollars in student aid, including the Pell Grant (the largest grant for undergraduate college students). In addition to student aid, DeVos also manages grant money set aside to fund initiatives at colleges and universities themselves. You know that professional test you probably have to take to earn certification--the NCLEX, Praxis, MCAT ect.? DeVos has a hand in setting their requirements.

Mark Zuckerberg 2



Position: *Facebook CEO*
Net worth: \$72.2 billion
Annual salary as Facebook CEO: *actually just \$1*

At just 33 years old, this social media giant has power over what billions see online. Zuckerberg co-founded Facebook while attending Harvard University and eventually left the Ivy League school in his sophomore year to further develop his brainchild. Currently, 22 percent of the world's population has an active Facebook account.

Zuckerberg affected them all—and likely yours—when he changed Facebook's algorithm for filtering newsfeed in mid-January. "We're making a major change to how we build Facebook," Zuckerberg said on his personal Facebook account. "I'm changing the goal I give our product teams from focusing on helping you find relevant content to helping you have more meaningful social interactions."

As a result of the change, you'll be seeing a lot more from your friends and much less from companies and organizations. In fact, some organizations are reaching less than half as many users with their posts as they were, with Zuckerberg to thank.

3 Lady Anne Radcliffe Mowlson

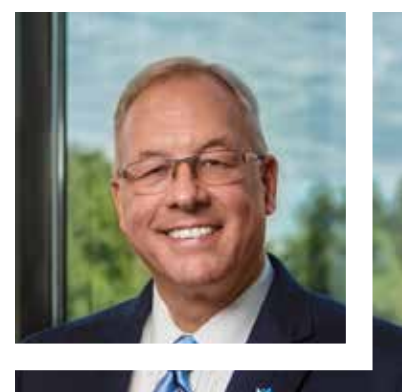


Namesake of Radcliffe College
The Harvard University's endowment started by Mowlson has grown to staggering \$36.4 billion, bigger than many nations' economies.

If you are in the majority of BJU students who receive financial aid and scholarships, you've been influenced by Mowlson. Having married the mayor of London, Mowlson inherited half her husband's fortune when he died. The widow proved to be quite the entrepreneur, investing her inheritance in a successful business that she then managed herself.

In 1643, Mowlson donated some of her earnings to a young Harvard College to establish the college's first endowment. Other wealthy philanthropists followed her example and began to fund scholarships across the East Coast. That tradition continues today with around \$46 billion given in scholarships to students in the United States each year.

Steve Pettit 4



Position: *BJU president*
Net worth: *Wouldn't you like to know?*

Pettit might seem like an obvious choice for students on a campus where so many decisions run through him. It's true that Pettit makes many of the decisions that affect us students every day. But we didn't choose Pettit for our list because he's BJU's commander-in-chief, but he's BJU's evangelist-in-chief. Pettit's job description actually includes "setting the spiritual temperature" of the University.

As president, Pettit personally chooses the two chapel themes for each semester, invites each year's Bible Conference speakers, writes the devotional books each discipleship group uses and preaches in chapel at least once a week. A student who graduates after being at BJU for four years will have heard well over 100 sermons by the former fulltime-evangelist.

5 Your Friends



Only about **one in 12** friendships lasts.
Americans report having around **nine** close friends.

Growing up, you were probably told often by your parents to choose your friends wisely, warning that bad friends would create a domino effect of bad life decisions. At this point in your life, you can probably see that they were right. However, recent research suggests that your friends influence far more than just your character—they influence your health.

Friends share a lot of things, including eating habits, according to one study. That's right, a study published by the New England Journal of Medicine found that having an obese friend makes you 57 percent more likely to also be obese. Another study by Flinders University found that older people who maintain a large friend group outlast those with fewer friends. When your parents told you to make friends, who would have guessed it would be life or death?