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Exhibit to feature Russian art

STEFFANI RUSSELL

Imperial icons, Fabergé Easter eggs and Russian art come together in one exhibit at the Sargent-Wilson Museum & Gallery at Heritage Green (formerly M&G at Heritage Green), to create a microcosm of Russian art and culture. The new exhibit, "Rublev to Fabergé: The Journey of Russian Art and Culture to America," opens Saturday.

For the first time in Upstate South Carolina, one of only 42 surviving full-size imperial Fabergé eggs, on loan from the Cleveland Museum of Art, will be on display along with several paintings and other pieces on loan from various prestigious museums.

The new exhibit showcases Russian icons in the M&G collection that haven't been on display in almost five years. But this exhibit is more than just a display. It's a timeline of the journey of Russian art to America, and it's designed to give visitors a feel for the unique gala and glamour of imperial Russian culture.

The exhibit features pieces owned by the Museum & Gallery as well as items on loan from the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Hillwood Museum in Washington, D.C., and others. It brings together some of the finest Fabergé jewelry, paintings and Rus-



A new downtown exhibit features historic Russian icons and paintings. Photos: Sam Rigby

sian icons.

One featured piece, a picture frame owned by the Romanovs and containing a family portrait, puts faces to the history. Ac-

cording to M&G's director Mrs. Erin Jones, the entire exhibit is designed to put art in the context of a real culture.

"Placing the art in context helps you

appreciate it even more," Mrs. Jones said. "It really gives the whole exhibit more meaning. This allows visitors to understand and appreciate the art more—connecting it to the lives of the people who made it.

Part of that connection is an interactive focus. The exhibit will give the whole family a sense of insight into the real lives of the Russian people. Visitors will be able to dig as far as they want into Russian history, from the traditional Russian home to the glamour of Nicholas II's working station, which is overwhelmingly European in style.

Visitors will see a sort of backwards look at the environment, from the ornateness of the czar's study and his personal journal to the deconstruction of the room. It's almost like walking into a snapshot, a representation of what it looked like after the Bolsheviks ransacked the palace and destroyed and stole thousands of years of priceless history and art.

According to Mrs. Jones, a different "hang" or type of display emphasizes the chronological sequence of events rather than the traditional iconostasis, which puts paintings in order of religious and symbolic meanings. A large-screen wall of information brings together video and audio that lets visitors explore Russian history from

See FABERGÉ p. 8 »



A student donates blood during last year's first blood drive. Photo: Photo Services

Blood Connection to hold blood drive on campus

KYLE SEISS

The buses from The Blood Connection will roll onto campus next week for this semester's blood drive.

The Blood Connection will begin taking donations by noon and will stay open until around 7 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

The buses usually set up along West Drive near the Alumni Building, so they

should be hard to miss.

Senior and CSC director James Gass, who is helping to coordinate the event, said, "Only 37 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood, and less than 10 percent are actively engaged in doing so each year."

James said that he gives blood every two months, the maximum recommended frequency. He said, "It's something

See BLOOD p. 8 »



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What would be your dream job?



COLUMN



HEIDI WILLARD

Every girl is expected to adore her friend's engagement ring. It's practically a law of social etiquette.

You've seen it—girls squealing and giggling as one holds out her left hand and the other looks wide-eyed at the ring asking, "How did he propose?"

I found myself doing a lot of this when I returned to school this fall, and after what felt like the 50th time of admiring someone's engagement ring, I wondered to myself what was so exciting about a stone on a band.

Obviously the implications of an engagement ring are a big deal, but if that's what we're really excited about, then why drool over the diamond?

The cynical part of me says such a response is socially acceptable but not always sincere.

No, I'm not suggesting that the next time your friend shows you her engagement ring you should roll your eyes. Let's think beyond engagement rings to the attribute of sincerity.

Americans are great at faking sincerity. It seems to come naturally to us.

See COLUMN p. 8 >>

Christians must formulate their own opinions on disputed issues

The Collegian Editorial

Christians today are confronted with many issues that require discernment, some big and others less significant. For example, this month some Christians might question whether they should participate in Halloween. Or you might wonder whether the Harry Potter series really celebrates witchcraft in a sinful way. Christians can come to different conclusions on these matters, but the only way to come to a conclusion that glorifies God on complicated issues—whether large or small—is to exercise true biblical discernment.

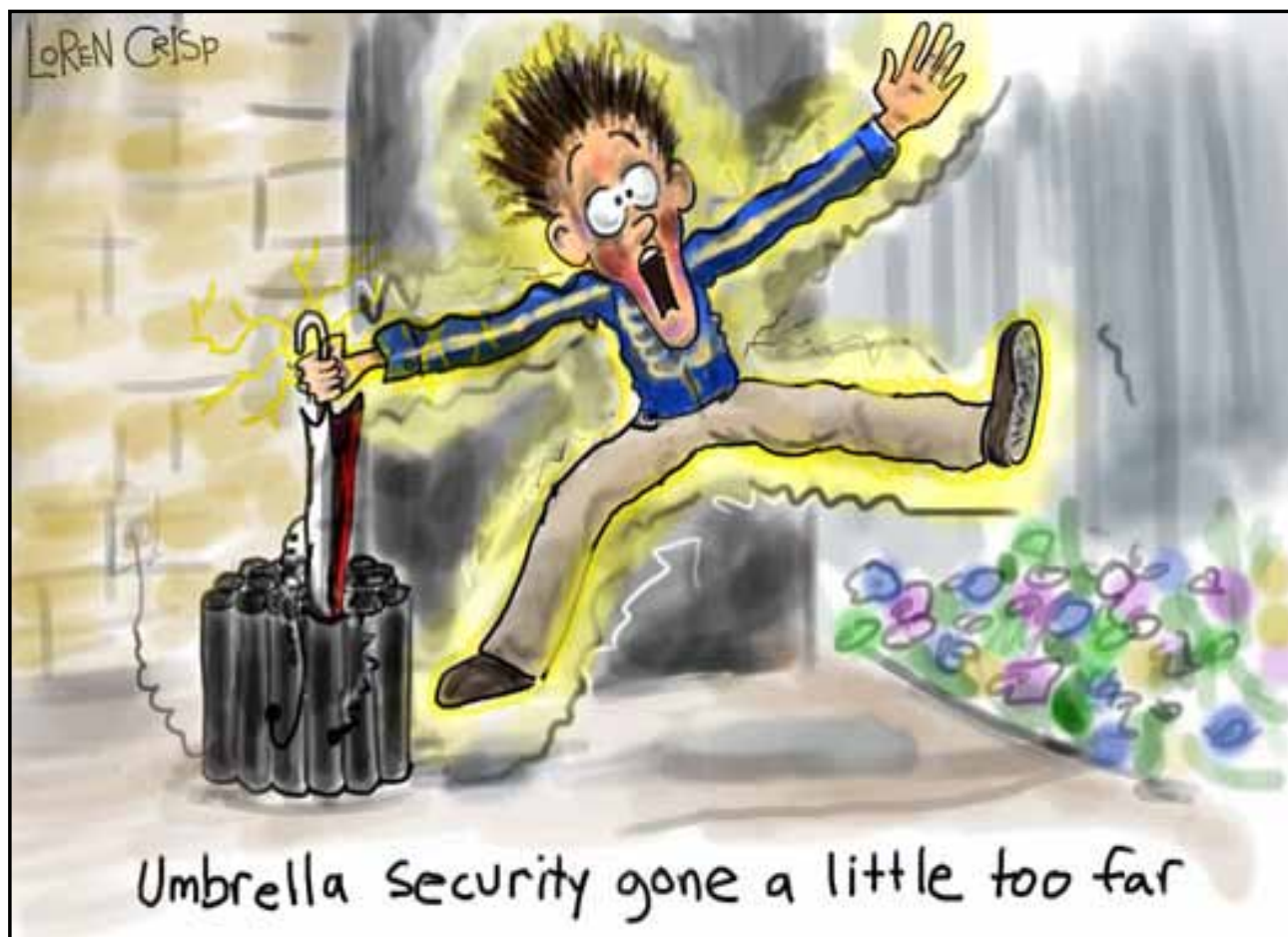
The scriptures say in Hebrews 5:14, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." The way God expects us to have our senses exercised is to discern these things by measuring them up to Scripture. Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light

unto my path." Christians cannot expect to know God's will on an issue without going to the Bible.

Unfortunately, a great number of Christians fail to use this discernment and instead base their decisions on other standards. Traditions, standards of parents and a simple fear of the unknown reign as the determining factors for many believers.

While it is true that our elders have a great deal of wisdom and that Christians should go to them for advice, their opinions cannot replace Scripture. Abstaining from unknown gray areas until a Christian more fully understands an issue also shows much wisdom. But eventually, believers must confront these problems rather than remain willfully ignorant.

Simply following blindly in the footsteps of those who have gone before is not a sufficient basis for deciding one's personal standards. Every Christian ought to look prayerfully to the light of God's Word for biblical wisdom and discernment to deal with the gray areas of life.



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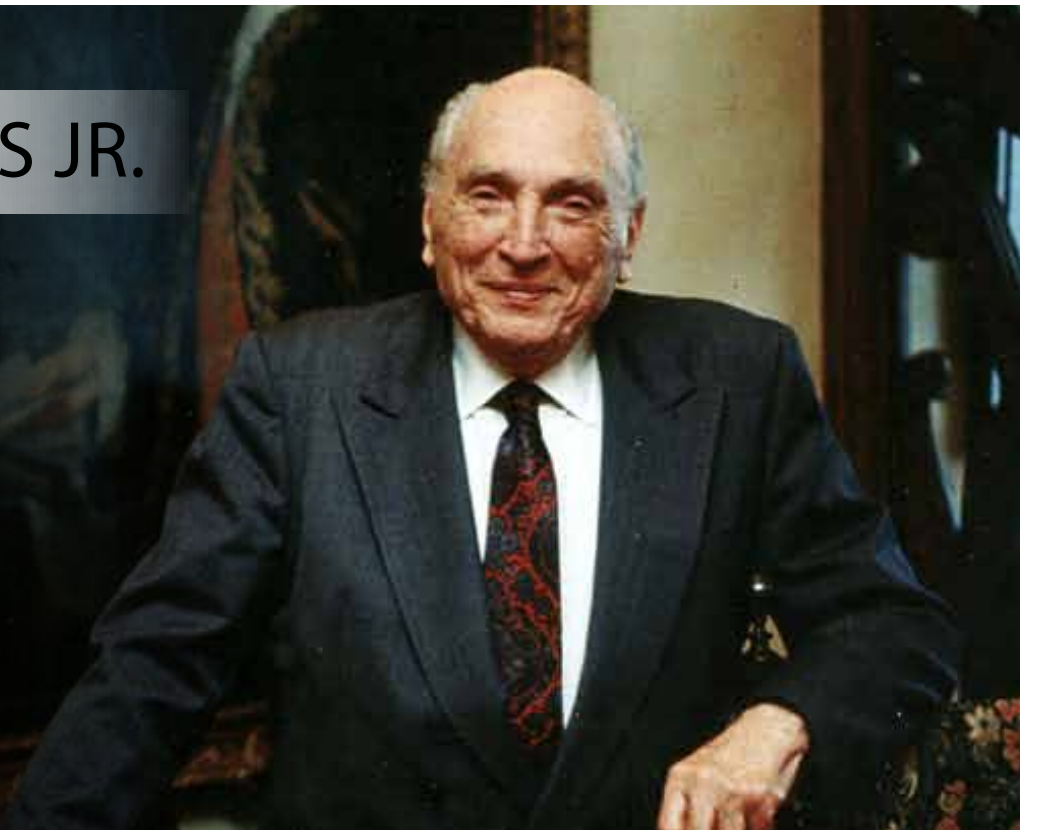
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Joanne Kappel

Heritage Day to highlight life of Dr. Bob Jones Jr.

THE LIFE OF DR. BOB JONES JR.

- He became a Christian at age 5.
- He attended Starke University School, a military school, during part of his education.
- At 19, he graduated from Bob Jones College.
- He pursued postgraduate work at the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Chicago Divinity School and Northwestern University.
- At 23, he received his first honorary doctorate from Asbury College.
- Because of his expertise in Shakespearean acting, he was offered a Hollywood contract.
- He was married to Fannie May Holmes in 1938, and they had three children—Dr. Bob Jones III, Jon and Joy.
- He became president of Bob Jones University when it moved to Greenville from Tennessee in 1947 and held the title of chancellor from 1971 till his death in 1997.
- He became a renowned preacher of the Gospel while serving at BJU.
- His passion for art collecting prompted the creation of BJU's Museum & Gallery.
- He started the cinema department at BJU in 1950.



Dr. Bob Jones Jr. made many improvements to the University during his tenure as president. Photo: Photo Services Design: Zach Johnson

JESSIE HARGETT

This year would mark the 100th birthday of former BJU president and chancellor Dr. Bob Jones Jr., son of the University's founder. On Heritage Day, Oct. 27, the BJU family will watch a video presentation in chapel recounting his life and influence.

Mr. Dan Boone, producer and director of video services, co-wrote the script of the presentation with Miss Donnalynn Hess, Director of Education of the Museum & Gallery. Mr. Boone also worked through the tedious tasks of collecting, scanning and editing the archived photographs used in the Heritage Day presentation. Then, Mr. Bill Kimzey, a post-production supervisor and digital artist, added effects and polished the presentation.

As the writers, Mr. Boone and Miss Hess said they wanted to introduce the student body to someone whom they may have never met or heard speak. Mr. Boone said the goal of the video presentation is to educate students about BJU history and to inspire them to do great things for Christ through the example of Dr. Bob Jr.

The presentation begins with footage of Dr. Bob Jr.'s office, which was left intact for

several years after his death. The film shows different facets of the former president's life—his preaching, acting and art collecting. Also, the photographs illustrated different periods of his life. As host and narrator during the video, Mrs. Erin Jones, wife of current BJU president Dr. Stephen Jones, will introduce students to this unique man in the University's history.

Mr. Boone said, "There are people who are excellent in a particular area, but he made a lasting legacy in many areas."

"There are people who are excellent in a particular area, but he made a lasting legacy in many areas."

Dr. John Matzko, division chair of social science, said Dr. Bob Jr. emphasized the arts and culture while administering BJU. He furthered his father's desire that conservative Christians be cultured. As is mentioned in the video, Dr. Bob

Jr. was highly interested in Shakespearean acting; he even spent some time in Great Britain studying Shakespeare and his works.

The Heritage Day presentation focuses a great deal on Dr. Bob Jr.'s passion for art collecting. He collected numerous works, especially Baroque pieces, and began BJU's Museum & Gallery. Mr. Boone deems this Dr. Bob Jr.'s most visible and lasting legacy.

Also, Mr. Boone said Dr. Bob Jr. contributed much to the creation and administering of Bob Jones University. When the college

moved from Tennessee to South Carolina in 1947, Dr. Bob Jr.'s role shifted from vice president to president. He contributed to the design of BJU's present campus and was involved in the academic restructuring needed to transform Bob Jones College into Bob Jones University. During his administration, the student body population increased dramatically and many new buildings were constructed on campus.

Dr. Bob Jr. also became a well-known preacher, emphasizing the conservative values held by the founder. For this reason, Bob Jones Jr. Memorial Seminary & Evangelism Center is named for him.

Just as each president of BJU has left his stamp on the University, Dr. Bob Jones Jr. greatly contributed to the University's academic character, spiritual development and advancement in fine arts.



This day in history:

1879 — Thomas Edison tested the first electric incandescent light bulb. It would last 13.5 hours before burning out.

This week in weird:

A Georgia man who stole a phone during a car break-in used it to take his own photo, which he then posted to the car owners' Facebook page by accident.

They said it, not me:

"For loyalty, I felt I had to do the line. I had to say thank you." — NYC resident Tony Medina, who stood outside Apple's flagship store for nine hours waiting to purchase the new iPhone 4S in order to pay homage to the late co-founder of Apple, Steve Jobs.

Notable news:

Two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dan Wheldon was killed in a 15-car pileup Sunday at Las Vegas Motor Speedway when his car flew into a catch-fence and burst into flames.

In the know:

Chorale Concert

The University's premier choir will perform two identical concerts tonight at 6:30 and 8 p.m. Free tickets are available at Programs & Productions and in the Music Library. The concert, titled "Spirit," will feature selections with the theme of the Holy Spirit.

Midterm Grades

Students' midterm grades will be posted on Student Central beginning Tuesday.

Heritage Day Chapel

The University family will attend the annual Heritage Day chapel Thursday, which will feature a video presentation on the life and ministry of Dr. Bob Jones Jr.

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Growing Together, Not Alone

GLORIA GIBRAEL

This year's first Student Body chapel will focus on having an atmosphere of transparency here at BJU and also at home churches. Student Body will be held Oct. 28 at 11 a.m. in the FMA, open seating back to front.

Student body chaplains Jessie Jane Piper and Greg Buchanan have been working on the theme "An Atmosphere of Transparency" since this past summer. An atmosphere of transparency is being humble enough to talk to others on campus about your spiritual struggles and also offering to help those who are struggling, according to Jessie Jane and Greg.

Jessie Jane said a main point will be helping one another as the body of Christ. Students' spiritual lives tend to be focused on themselves and their relationship with Christ only and not with helping one another, she said.

Greg said this transparency won't be an automatic change on campus. "It's really easy to get caught up in almost a 'Lone Ranger' approach to Christianity," Greg said. "We're not replacing Christ with this other person, but the way Christ set up the body is, within the community

of believers, we go to other people."

But having this atmosphere of transparency is only going to happen if everyone has a mind or spirit of humility, Greg said.

The program will feature sound bites from four different students giving their opinions of the student body and students' willingness to reach out to others around them, Jessie Jane said.

The four students come from diverse backgrounds including a junior with a public school background, another junior with a Christian school background, a senior who grew up in an unsaved environment and a first semester transfer student from a small Christian college.

Jessie Jane said all four students, although diverse in backgrounds, made the same remark about the BJU environment. "They all had higher expectations coming to BJU in regard to [students] being transparent to each other and going to each other for help," she said.

During a Saturday morning brainstorming session led by Greg and Jessie Jane, the students wondered if, as a student body, we have become too comfortable.

They also said that sometimes students on campus portrayed an image of spirituality but might actually be struggling with a problem that they didn't feel comfortable sharing with others. The students questioned whether we might be making the mistake of focusing on the externals of "looking ok" instead of admitting when we need some spiritual help. "We want there to be a transparency between students at BJU to ask one another for help and go to one another to give help," Jessie Jane said.

The program will also feature music conducted by junior IT major Josh Pitts. He will be directing a choir with a violinist and pianist accompanying. Junior cinema production major Justin Snyder worked on the video and media aspect of the student body program.

Greg will give a challenge based on Philippians 1 and 2. "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." – Philippians 1:27.

Academic Success Center to offer new services

LEE MILLER

The Academic Success Center currently offers a variety of programs for any student looking to achieve academic excellence and will be expanding its services in coming semesters.

"We want to broaden everyone's idea about who we are and what we do," said Dr. Lisa Midcalf, director of the Academic Success Center.

The center provides students with a variety of options for assistance, said Mr. Dave McGuire, an academic coach and head of the tutor referral service. The center currently offers six services: academic workshops, academic coaching to improve study skills, instructional technology services to teach use of classroom technology, testing services,

a tutor referral service and learning resources services for students with disabilities.

Junior elementary education major Brian Bates has benefited from instructional technology services. He said any materials needed for education can be found there.

Services from the center are not just for students. Dr. Midcalf said instructional technology services are also available to faculty who want to learn more about using technologies in the classroom.

Academic coaching has tremendously helped sophomore Crystal Taft. Mrs. Kim Daulton, the head of academic coaching, said coaches help students develop study skills and time management and quiz students over class material. "I probably wouldn't have stayed in school if I [hadn't gone] to the center," Crystal said.

Students can learn how to improve their grades at any academic level. Students making C or B- who want higher grades can also get assistance, Mr. McGuire said.

Nursing professor Dr. Brenda Ludwig starts off each year by encouraging her advisees to seek help early on from the center.

She said she loves to share a story with her advisees about two former students. One willingly sought out help at the Academic Success Center and went from making B- to A and eventually received a degree. The other, who went only when absolutely necessary and with a bad attitude, eventually had to drop out of the nursing program.

Dr. Ludwig said this story has helped a number of students decide to seek help from the center. These students usually end up doing better academically, she said.

The Academic Success Center is now preparing to add more services, Dr. Midcalf said. "We want to expand on our services, and we would love to know from students what they would like," she said.

Two new additions are planned to go into

effect next semester. One of them will be Study Group Table sessions where students can come together as a group for a structured study session. The current plans include study groups for various introductory math classes. If there is enough interest in these groups, more groups for different classes will be considered, Dr. Midcalf said.

The second new feature will be geared toward international students. "One of the things I have been asked about from international students is getting more conversation," Dr. Midcalf said. She said the Academic Success Center will help in this area by coordinating conversations.

Continued change is planned into the fall of 2012 with the addition of a writing center. "It's not a fix-up center," Dr. Midcalf said. She said the writing center is planned to be staffed by volunteer junior and seniors who excel in writing and who are willing to help students. Faculty may also be part of the staff.

More information about the Academic Success Center can be found on the intranet under the "Academics" tab.

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WHAT IS THAT? AND WHY IS IT THERE?

As you walk around campus every day, you probably notice the different sculptures and mosaics on the sidewalks and buildings. Art is a large part of life at BJU, and knowing more about the pieces that we see everyday should help us appreciate and understand them better.

According to campus hearsay, these FMA urns were donated to Dr. Bob Jones Sr. by Chiang Kai-Shek, president of the Republic of China, during the 1950s. Both Chiang Kai-Shek and his wife were granted honorary doctorate degrees from BJU in 1952. Recently, one of the pots was accidentally broken but has been carefully repaired by the art department.

Dr. Bob III found the Glory Garden's bronze statues of children at an auction in Atlanta. He said, "I liked them because they were whimsical representations of study." The boy on the globe statue, "School's In," represents a student during the school year.

This Mosaic of Da Vinci's *The Last Supper* was built between 1929 and 1930 in Berlin and took 27,000 hours to assemble. During World War II, the mosaic was buried in concrete until the United States airlift was able to carry the piece to America. Masterpiece Gardens in Lake Wales, Fla., owned the mosaic until the University bought and placed it on the wall of the Gustafson Fine Arts Center in 1999. The mosaic is made of 10 panels, each weighing approximately 500 pounds.

Dr. Bob III said "School's Out," the counterpart to "School's In," represents the joy of students during vacations when school and study are over.

statue and decided to place it, as well as some furniture, in the library. Mr. Joe Allen, library director, said, "Libraries are known for having art throughout them, whether it's architecture or a statue."

This cast iron statue of Michael the archangel fighting Satan was moved from the Museum & Gallery to the Mack Library during the summer of 1980, before the renovated library was dedicated. Mr. Kevin Isgett of the art faculty built the current stand for the statue. Dr. Bob Jones Jr. bought the





An Omega player pressures the ball during the team's intense 2-1 victory over Pi Gamma Friday night. Photo: Anne Sidwell

Omega tops Pi Gamma on soccer field

ALLISON HARROD

The Alpha Omega Lions soccer team remained undefeated after beating the Pi Gamma Royals 2-1 Friday. As both teams stepped onto the stadium field, the fans were ready for an intense game of soccer. Pi Gamma offense kept the pressure on, passing with a fluidity that proved vexing for Omega defenses.

Despite a scoreless first half, Pi Gamma continued to press Omega defenses, and 12 minutes into the second half, Andrew Albert scored, giving Pi Gamma a 1-0 lead. Despite being down by one, Omega kept fighting for more shots on goal, and the opportunity rose before them when a foul resulted in a penalty kick in the box, which James Starness slipped into the lower right corner.

With 12 minutes left to break the tie, both teams fought the clock and for the opportunity to get ahead. Omega finally managed to take the lead when James stepped up and scored goal two. Omega kept their defenses high till the whistle, not giving Pi Gamma any chance to tie up the game again, and thus took the coveted win over the purple and gold.

Z throttles Alpha 6-1

JON CLUTE

The Zeta Chi Tornadoes dominated the Alpha Theta Razorbacks 6-1 in an important American League soccer matchup Friday. The win was Z's first against Alpha in three years. Z came into the game on the back of two straight defeats but started well, taking only seven minutes to find the net. Z's Jordan Baun pounced on a loose ball in the box and easily exploited the chance from close range. Alpha couldn't gain from their first opportunity when Brandon Moss shot over the crossbar after being set up by teammate Tommy Sims. Marc Pagliuca made amends however, firing home a minute later amid confusion between Z's defenders whom mistakenly thought the referee had called a foul. Z soon gained the lead again due to Ben Sexton's good solo run. Right before halftime another loose ball in Alpha's box gifted Z their third goal. Disappointingly for Alpha, Z controlled the second half from start to finish and added three more goals from Jordan Baun, Micah Alexander and Phil Rush. Z had eight shots on goal against Alpha's three. Afterwards, Z midfielder Mikah Brondyke pointed to his team's intensity in both halves. "I think the turning point was when we scored that second goal to put us back in front," he said. He also highlighted playmaker Ben Sexton's return from injury as a crucial factor in the win and said he thinks Z is ready for a deep playoff run.

GUYS

Z vs. Beta Friday, 6:45 p.m., Stadium
Alpha vs. Pi Gamma Friday, 8:30 p.m., Stadium
Chi Alpha vs. Omega Friday, 8:30 p.m., Field 1

WHAT 2 WATCH 4

GIRLS

V-ball Semifinals Friday, 6 & 7:30 p.m., Main Court
V-ball Championship Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Main Court



THE COLLEGIAN SPORTS POWER RANKINGS MEN'S SOCCER



- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. BETA (5-0) | The team continues with a perfect record on yet another march to the Turkey Bowl. |
| 2. OMEGA (5-0) | Its talented freshman roster has given this team a driving edge. |
| 3. PI GAMMA (5-1) | The depth and skill of this team rival those of any other team. |
| 4. PI KAPPA (5-0) | A talented set of strikers has helped this team earn its perfect record. |
| 5. ZETA CHI (3-2) | Despite two losses, this team is equal in talent to any American league team. |

ALSO RANKED: 6. Basil 7. Alpha 8. Chi Alpha 9. Sigma 10. Phi Beta
Rankings as of October 15.



THE COLLEGIAN SPORTS POWER RANKINGS WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. CARDINALS | The rightful top team, from the very beginning these women have shown the most spirit. |
| 2. CLASSICS | Another solid team, these players have worked hard the whole season. |
| 3. TIGERS | The wonderful thing about this team is the great communication among the women. |
| 4. KANGAS | A passionate bunch of players, this group shows great teamwork. |
| 5. COLTS | A surprise contender, this team could go far in the playoffs. |

ALSO RANKED: 6. Pirates 7. Bandits 8. Bear Cubs 9. Wildcats 10. Eagles

Rankings as of the end of the regular season.

SPORTSPICKS

staff	Men's Soccer Z vs. Beta	Women's Volleyball Championship	College Football Wisconsin vs. Michigan State
Scott Jennings (6-8)	Beta	Cardinals	Wisconsin
Abby Stanley (8-6)	Beta	Cardinals	Wisconsin
Andrew Mishler (6-8)	Beta	Cardinals	Wisconsin
Caleb Davis (10-4)	Beta	Cardinals	Michigan State
Allison Harrod (7-2)	Beta	Tigers	Wisconsin
Jon Clute (5-4)	Beta	Classics	Michigan State
guests			
Chad Pack (5-9) male guest	Beta	Cardinals	Wisconsin
Hannah Schell (7-7) female guest	Beta	Classics	Wisconsin

All-around Kanga athlete talks about society sports

ABBY STANLEY

As a pre-physical therapy major and vice-president of the Tau Delta Kangas, Junior Maddie Williams has a lot on her to-dolist. But even in the midst of physics tests and society meetings, she still finds time for one of her greatest passions—sports. She has played every sport for her society and coaches most of them. Maddie recently sat down with Collegian sports writer Abby Stanley to talk about her start in sports, her mindset on sports and her life off the courts.



Junior Maddie Williams. Photo: Stephanie Greenwood

AS: Have you always loved sports?
MW: Well, I was pretty interested in sports as a kid, but I actually started in dance, which was a complete fail. Then my parents let me try soccer, softball and basketball. I was much better at those.

You're pretty aggressive in sports. How many injuries have you had?
Major ones would be a blown-out knee and shoulder. I've had concussions, too, and then the normal minor injuries like jammed fingers and black eyes.

Which sports are your favorites?
I love watching football, but as far as playing sports, I have equal passion for volleyball and soccer.

What do you tell your girls that you coach before the season?
I tell them that it doesn't matter if it's a blowout game or we are playing collegiate sports. We are commanded as Christians to do everything heartily for the Lord, so if we don't play our hardest or with a good attitude, then we are being disobedient to Christ. We should always do our best, no matter the sport.

Is there a reason that you chose a smaller society?
First, I wanted to be where God wanted me, but I also really wanted to help a society and not be just another "good player."

Are you a die-hard fan of any team?
I love the Clemson Tigers for college and the Boston Celtics for pro. I root for Liverpool (soccer) a lot too.

Do you have a favorite quote?
1 Samuel 12:24—Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

Bandits slip by Bear Cubs in three games



Bandits' coach Laura Lee drives a spike at Beta Chi's defense. Photo: Amy Roukes

DREW MISHLER

The Theta Mu Theta Bandits defeated the Beta Chi Bear Cubs in a thrilling three-game volleyball set Friday night. The match featured scores of 23-25, 25-20 and 15-5, with the Bear Cubs winning the first game and the Bandits taking the last two.

The Bear Cubs pulled out the first game due in part to the strong play of junior captain Kaylan Whitaker. Three-fourths of the Collegian sports staff selected the Bear Cub to win the match, but the Bandits came back with a flurry to win the second and third games.

Kaylan had 10 kills, six aces and four blocks for Beta Chi and sophomore Angela Potts contributed six assists and four aces.

The Bear Cubs were frustrated to

let this game get away from them, but Kaylan said they are determined to channel that frustration and learn from their mistakes.

The Bandits had very balanced contribution with five of the six starters netting three or more kills. Senior captain Laura Lee led the team with five kills and 17 assists. She had some excellent chemistry with teammate Steph Monroe, who had 12 kills, courtesy of Laura's passing.

"I wanted to stop your game, putting everything we had into it," Laura said. "Intensity, fundamentals and heart—that was the goal."

The Bandits definitely met their goals as they clinched a playoff spot with this crucial win.

"We will probably still be underestimated going into playoffs," Laura said. "I have faith in my team."

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»COLUMN p. 2

Just take a look at the renowned reality television show “Survivor.” A selection of people placed on an island together are competing with one another to avoid being voted off. Surviving requires a strategy, and with all the backbiting that takes place on this show, I’d say the strategy of choice seems to be insincerity.

For some reason, many Americans love watching all the drama unravel—seeing the few people who didn’t seem to be backbiters turn out to be backbiters in the end. It’s insincerity at its finest, and people actually like it!

But we don’t always like insincerity. In the political world, although insincerity has come to be expected, it’s still incredibly annoying.

Social norms seem to be telling us that sincerity is sometimes a weakness (on “Survivor”) and sometimes a strength (in politics).

Some of us aren’t satisfied with this inconsistency. That’s why people are drawn to sincerity when they see it. In fact, many are searching for sincere people.

Maybe you’ve heard of Rob Bell, founding pastor of Mars Hill Bible Church in Grandville, Mich., and author of the controversial book “Love Wins.”

This superstar-pastor’s megachurch is bursting at the seams. It’s innovative and modern (postmodern, actually). That’s why some of my friends back home in Michigan decided to check it out.

When they did, they were impressed. They said Bell was “real.”

“Real” has become a popular buzzword in Christian circles. It’s popular because being “real” promotes community, and community is attractive to us.

That’s a good thing—usually. The deciding factor is what you’re being real about.

That was my concern with Bell. His book “Love Wins” discards some crucial Scriptural points such as hell being the destiny for those who reject Christ.

For Christians, that’s a big deal because the reality of hell is a foundational truth. Bell was no doubt sincere when he wrote his book (why else would he write it?), but the sincerity of someone’s message doesn’t determine the value of his message.

Sincerity has value only when its foundation is truth. Without truth, sincerity is worthless—and not really sincerity at all.

Sincerity shouldn’t be a means to an end—a strategy used to survive on an island or to gain people’s votes or to build a church. Rather, make truth the means, and let sincerity be the end.

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people desperately need, and people have to give it.”

Mr. Paul Bixby, donor resources manager for The Blood Connection, said, “Every two seconds, somewhere in the U.S. somebody needs a blood transfusion. Right now, our needs are even greater.”

The demand has risen for The Blood Connection since they began supplying hospitals in a larger area. They now must collect 392 units of blood per day.

“I’m excited about giving again,” sophomore Serena Boyles said. “The first time was just kind of nerve-wracking, and then I went in and [it wasn’t] that bad. The nurses were really nice.”

Jaimie Wilson, a sophomore helping to organize the drive, said, “If you feel lightheaded, it will be OK. Sometimes you have to overcome your fear to do something that’s good.”

When asked why she donates, Serena said, “I always thought, when [I] go to heaven, it would be interesting if I met the people I had saved with my blood.”

Jaimie said, “I think it’s cool. You have the sense that you’re accomplishing something.”

Senior Jenn Broadfield sees the blood drive as an opportunity to witness, in addition to saving lives. “I always get the same nurse, and she always tells me to come back,” she said. “I like to go in and see [her]. It’s an opportunity to show [her] my life and reach out to her.”

Giving blood goes a lot more smoothly when the donor observes a few health tips. “It’s good to eat a lot before you give,” Jaimie said. “Also, drink lots of liquid before and after.”

Mr. Bixby advises against drinking caffeine before giving blood. Caffeine increases a donor’s heart rate and his or her pulse may be too fast to safely donate. He also recommends eating iron-rich foods and a big breakfast before giving.

Giving blood has health benefits not only for the receiver but also for the donor. “People who donate regularly in general have better overall health [and] more energy,” Mr. Bixby said. “Men and women can also reduce their risk of heart disease by 86 percent by donating three to four times a year.”

Each donor gives about a pint, enough to save up to three lives. And, as Jaimie pointed out, almost anyone can give blood.

»FABERGÉ p. 1

the czars to one-of-a-kind jewelry from Fabergé’s studio.

Hands-on portions of the display let visitors design their own costumes in the style of Bakst, known for his extravagantly wacky creations. In the different environments like the czar’s study, visitors can pull books off the shelves and turn the pages to learn even more—just one part of the tactile experience that makes this exhibit so enjoyable.

The children’s display allows younger


visitors to feel real bear fur at a texture kiosk and learn about the day-to-day lives of Russian people. They can even learn the Cyrillic alphabet and some common Russian words.

At every turn, there’s a hands-on exhibit or example that brings the heart back down to ground-level so visitors get as much a sense of Russian culture as of the art itself.

“Having a context for the heart and a sense of the world’s diversity is especially important for believers,” Mrs. Jones said. “It will give you a springboard for reaching others, even sharing the Gospel with them.”

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