

the COLLEGLIAN

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Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC 29614



For his and hers Valentine's gift ideas, turn to pages 4 & 5. Photo: Molly Waits; Design: Amanda Ross

Acclaimed talk show host to visit, speak on secularism



Dennis Prager will speak at BJU on Feb. 20. Photo: Submitted

By: **ETHAN SANDERS**
Staff Writer

Bob Jones University will host Los Angeles radio talk show host Dennis Prager in the Founder's Memorial Amphitorium on Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.

Prager is the first speaker in this year's Presidential Leadership Series, which invites influential speakers every semester to speak to the university body and the local Greenville community.

A graduate of Brooklyn College and Columbia University, Prager is a nationally acclaimed public speaker and columnist based in Los Angeles, Calif., and New York, N.Y. He is best known for his nationally syndicated broadcast, "The Dennis Prager Show," which airs in Los Angeles Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12

p.m. PST. Prager is well known for his conservative views on modern issues of morality and public policy.

Prager frequently appears on television shows such as "Larry King Live," "Hannity & Colmes" and "the Today show," and has published various columns in the *Los Angeles Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

He is also the founder and current president of Prager University, a unique online resource offering five-minute "courses" on a wide range of topics, such as economics, history and religion.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, he is "an amazingly gifted man and moralist whose mission in life has been crystallized — 'to get people obsessed with what is right and wrong.'"

Prager will speak on "The Consequences of Secularism" to provide insight on moral dilem-

mas, political questions and religious issues that many in the university family may face on a daily basis.

"[Prager] is a leading conservative thinker, who comes at [arguments] from an intellectual, logical perspective, instead of from an emotional angle," said Randy Page, BJU's director of public relations. "This is an opportunity for a college audience to hear from an established opinion leader, [an experience that's] a value-added component of a liberal arts education."

"We are delighted to host speakers at BJU who can inform and challenge our students," Dr. Stephen Jones said.

Students, faculty and staff, and the Greenville community are invited to attend this event.

BJU will host U.S. Senator Tim Scott at the next Presidential Leadership Series on April 22.

Pre-Law forum to host S.C. Supreme Court Judge Kittredge



S.C. Supreme Court Justice John Kittredge. Photo: Submitted

By: **ANDREW BUDGICK**
Staff Writer

The next BJU pre-law forum will feature South Carolina Supreme Court Justice John Kittredge, at 6 p.m. on Feb. 17, in Levinson Hall.

Justice Kittredge is a resident of Greenville and has served in the state's highest court since 2008. During the forum, he will draw on his years of experience to speak on topics such as how the legal system has changed over the years, what kind of cases he deals with on a regular basis and the role his faith played in his legal career.

The pre-law forums are aimed to benefit all students, not only those interested in pursuing a legal career, explained BJU's director of public relations Randy Page, who organized the event.

"I think it's [also] for communication majors, because Supreme Court justices have to communicate a lot. I think it's for students interested in political science," Page said. "I think [Kittredge] brings a wide variety of experience that a lot of people will be able to take and learn from and apply to whatever they want to do."

The judicial system can be difficult to understand at times, Page said, but he

thinks Justice Kittredge's engaging speaking style will make it easier to understand, making the forum appealing to all students, not only those interested in law.

Justice Kittredge's visit will be the first time a state Supreme Court justice has been a guest speaker at the University.

Justice Kittredge graduated summa cum laude from the University of South Carolina in 1979 and from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1982. Before becoming a state Supreme Court Justice, he was elected to the family court bench in 1991, the circuit court bench in 1996 and the Court of Appeals in 2003.

COLUMN



By: **ABI DICKINSON**
Staff Writer

If you ask me what my favorite season is, I'm one of those crazy people who would say winter. I love winter. I love the snow and the ice and the cold. I love winter activities, winter smells and of course, Christmas. If I had my way, Christmas break would be longer than summer break.

As can be expected, I was more than ready to go home to snowy Wisconsin at the end of last semester. Over the weeks leading up to break, I was continually getting texts from my mom with pictures of my dog, Juliet, playing in the snow that covered our front yard. I couldn't wait to go join her.

Finally, after finals and a seemingly endless car ride, my sister and I made it home in the wee hours of the morning to be greeted by a blizzard. It was wonderful. Big snowflakes like you see in snow globes were falling thick and fast, and the snow sparkled under the street lamps. It had never felt so good to be home.

Over the next three weeks I managed to squeeze in all the outdoor activities possible. I went cross-country skiing with

See **COLUMN** p. 4 ►



COMIC: LORI WARENBURG

Negative responses to Coca-Cola ad could underscore idol of patriotism, hinder Gospel

The Collegian Editorial

When Coca Cola's "It's Beautiful" ad aired during the 2014 Super Bowl, not all viewers thought the commercial was patriotic or beautiful.

Panning through scenes from the East Coast to the West, the ad played "America the Beautiful" sung in nine different languages, including Spanish, Arabic and Mandarin.

Backlash arose about the medley of languages, as tweeters went to social media to air angry reactions. Fox News' Todd Starnes tweeted multiple times, sharing his less-than-positive opinion: "Couldn't make out that song they were singing. I only speak English." "So was Coca-Cola saying America is beautiful because new immigrants don't learn to speak English?"

Other viewers weren't so

"witty," but just as harsh: "@CocaCola has America the Beautiful being sung in different languages in a #SuperBowl commercial? We speak ENGLISH here, IDIOTS."

But as Christians, what's our take on the idea presented in this ad? Did we see it as an assault to strongly held patriotic values?

As Americans, God has blessed us with incredible privileges, and Christians should honor the gift that is our country. But when we hold our U.S. citizenship on a higher plane than our citizenship in Christ's Kingdom, we've created an idol of patriotism in our hearts.

Yes, English is the official language in the U.S. Yes, U.S. citizens hold dear the privilege of singing "America the Beautiful" with patriotic pride, and we most always sing it in English.

But the U.S. hasn't always existed, and the history of the United States of America recalls a country founded and built by millions of people from other countries. Not all of them spoke English.

Our background isn't "American." It's German, Jordanian, Chilean, Norwegian, Filipino, Moroccan, Ukrainian, Mexican, Kenyan and Vietnamese — and so many more. We're united as citizens of the U.S.

In a similar way, when we become Christians, we become citizens of Christ's Kingdom, no matter our gender, ethnicity or cultural background. As children of the King, we are commanded to embrace others in welcoming love. Scripture doesn't command us to love only those who speak the same language or who have

similar cultural values.

While this Coca-Cola ad doesn't present a Gospel message, our feelings toward the ad could reveal that American pride supersedes Christlike love in our hearts. If we choose to stake our ground in the values of patriotism and our national language, could we possibly squelch the spread of the Gospel by refusing to embrace others who are not like us?

In Colossians 3, Paul penned this idea of unity: "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all."

If Christ is all, and in all, Christians should be first to set aside national pride for the bigger, most important cause: embracing others to further the Gospel.

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Recruitment conference to provide employment opportunities

By: **BETHANY WILLIAMS**
Staff Writer

Students will have the opportunity to connect with potential employers at the Christian School Recruitment Conference next week in the Riley Reception Room.

About 70 national and international Christian school representatives will attend the conference to actively recruit graduating students to fill staff openings. Although all education majors will attend the conference, students of other majors and all classifications are welcome to attend. While filling teaching positions will be the main focus of school representatives, many other positions, such as business managers, youth pastors and athletic staff, need to be filled as well.

"We want students to be exposed to the opportunities and to prayerfully seek the Lord's will as to what direction He would have them go," said Dr. Brian Carruthers, dean of the School of Education.

For undergraduate students, the conference provides the opportunity to gain valuable practice, build relationships with schools and

get exposure for future opportunities. Students can peruse the various displays, gather materials from the schools, speak with representatives or sign up to be contacted for future opportunities.

"[Undergraduate students] can observe how the graduating student interacts with recruiters to see what they can learn," said Dr. Steve Buckley, manager of Career Services.

For graduating students, the Recruitment Conference offers real possibilities for employment. The conference is prime time for allowing prospective employers to see the talents and abilities the students have to offer schools. Juniors and seniors are encouraged to bring multiple copies of their résumés and to network with every school that interests them.

"Come prepared to ask important questions, and don't be afraid to ask for an interview," Buckley said. "There are huge opportunities available in Christian education for both education majors and other majors alike."

Business professional or classroom dress is strongly encouraged while attending the conference in order to make the best impression on



Christian school recruiters meet students who are interested in positions at the schools. Photo: Photo Services

the representatives.

"These are vital ministries across the country and world, and we want to show that we support them," Carruthers said. "They look to BJU as a resource to meet their teaching needs, and I want them to feel that our students are interested. I just come back to what Dr. Bob

has challenged the student body with on many occasions: what can we do to support these ministries with our talents and time for the cause of Christ?"

The conference will be open Monday, Feb. 17, from 7 to 9 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. and 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Multimedia Vespers to challenge views of future ministry

By: **LEIGH KOSIN**
Staff Writer

The University's next Vespers program will answer some of life's great questions through testimonies of believers around the world in a multimedia presentation during chapel on Friday, Feb. 21.

The video, titled "So Do Ye Also," was produced by Ms. Donnalynn Hess, director of education at the M&G, and is based on a hymn written by Hess and Joan Pinkston of the music faculty. Hess said the song is an overview of Christ's ministry on earth, and each verse ends with a thought-provoking question. She said the film is divided into three sections and structured around each question.

The first verse deals with how Christ

meets the needs of the destitute and raises the question, "Lord, who then is my neighbor?" The second verse talks about opening blind men's eyes and raising people to life and raises the question, "Lord, which of us is greatest?" And the final verse mentions Christ's betrayal and how He took the sins of the world on Himself and raises the question, "Lord, must we be forgiving?"

According to Hess, the full song will be played at the end, summing up what a true neighbor is like, who is the greatest and what true forgiveness means.

Hess said that within each section of the video is a story or two of missionaries currently working on international fields, including a man who runs an AIDS orphanage in

Ethiopia, a youth pastor in West Africa who uses a wheelchair, and some American missionaries ministering in Albania. She said the presentation also includes the story of a young interpreter named Cheryl, who was killed in Afghanistan, and her friend Beth, who still works in Afghanistan as a nurse. Each of the testimonies helps to answer the questions asked in the hymn.

According to Hess, the reaction to the film should be twofold. First, it should cause viewers to want to serve Christ wherever they are now. Hess said much of the Gospel was given through day-to-day interruptions that happened during Christ's early ministry and that often it's the same for us today. "Sometimes the little interruptions in our lives are the places to

serve," she said.

Also, viewers should think about the future and how they can serve Christ wherever He leads them. Hess said the presentation should broaden viewers' perspectives about believers who risk their lives each day as they further the Gospel. "In American Christianity we get stunningly provincial and unaware of the tremendous work our brothers and sisters are doing in other places," she said.

Ultimately, Hess wants the university family to recognize the true power of God's grace and the Gospel. "Our Christian family is very large, and it's multicultural," Hess said. "But our goals are always the same — to show forth what God has done. And as Christ has done, we are to do also."

Week at a Glance | By: ABI DICKINSON | Staff Writer

SLC Bowling Activity

The Student Leadership Council will host two identical student-bowling activities on Feb. 21 and Feb. 28, from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets for the first event can be bought at Activities & Organizations for \$10 starting Feb. 17. Only 150 spots are available each night, so make sure to get tickets right away.

Following prayer group at 10:45 p.m.,

students participating in this event will be driven to Peach Bowl Lanes in Greer. Bowling shoes will be provided for each student. The number of games during the two hours will be unlimited. Concessions will be available, but students should expect to pay for any food themselves.

Leadership Workshop

Dr. Gary Weier, executive vice president for Academic Affairs, will speak on

vision casting during a leadership workshop held Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 4 to 4:30 p.m. in Levinson Hall.

Vision casting is communicating to those who work under you what the big picture for your business is and reminding them how day-to-day work contributes toward this overall view.

"I am looking forward to interacting with the students and helping them think about how they can unify and motivate

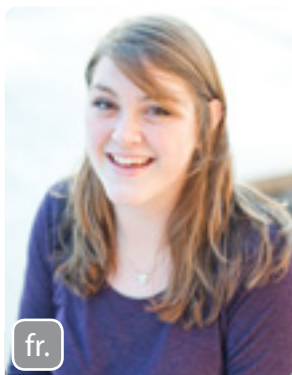
those they serve," Weier said.

The workshop will provide instruction on how to lead in a biblical manner. "We strive to partner with and equip current and emerging leaders to cultivate a culture of Christlike service," said Chris Pennington, the event coordinator and GA for the Center for Leadership Development.

Students who wish to attend this workshop should sign up on a link found on the home page banner on the intranet.

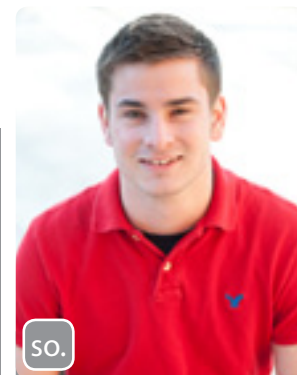
TALKBACK

WHAT WOULD BE THE PERFECT VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT?



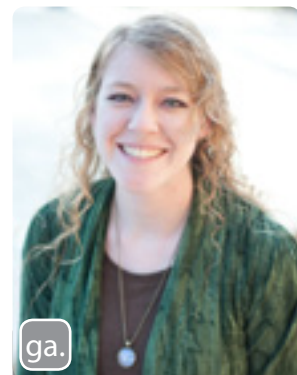
fr.

ESTHER WHITE:
"An unexpected visit."



so.

JOSH BICKEL:
"Nunchucks and bacon."



ga.

BETH TURNER:
"A 5-pound box of chocolate."



jr.

BRIAN BIGGS:
"A girlfriend."



fr.

KERESI RAKABIKABI:
"A ticket to Fiji for the weekend."

PHOTOS: MOLLY WAITS

Brothers to guest direct two artist series programs

By: REINA PEREZ
Staff Writer

Two brothers, David and Steven White, will conduct two different

artist series events this semester: the Georgia Boy Choir and the opera *Aida*.

David White, the artistic director and conductor of the Georgia Boy Choir, will open this semester's artist series events with a performance on Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. in the Founder's Memorial Amphitheater. His brother, Steven White, will conduct three performances of *Aida* on March 18, 20 and 22.

Both White brothers were born at Barge Memorial Hospital on campus. Their parents were members of the music faculty at

the University. The brothers spent their elementary, junior high and high school years attending Bob Jones Academy.

David White attended BJU but later graduated from Georgia College, where he received his bachelor's degree in voice performance. After graduating, he spent his time training boys and young men to sing. In 1994, he founded the Boy Choir of the Carolinas in Greenville, S.C., according to georgiaboychoir.org. Four years later, he became the music director of Florida's Singing Sons Boychoir in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

White continued from 2001 to 2009 as

the artistic director and conductor of the Atlanta Boy Choir in Atlanta, Ga. Along with a career as a professional conductor of various boy choirs, White served as the conductor of the Greenville Symphony Orchestra Chorus and director of music at the Second Presbyterian Church of Greenville. He also founded an annual summer music camp in Greenville for children and adults.

White's choirs have participated in many festivals such as the Prague International Choral Festival and the Anchorage Choral Festival. His choirs have also toured throughout the United States, as well as Austria,

Italy, Greece and Russia.

White is currently the Repertoire and Standards Chair for the Georgia Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association, as well as the artistic director and conductor of the Georgia Boy Choir.

Maestro Steven White received his bachelor's degree in music from BJU in 1985 and later received his master's degree in music from the University of South Carolina.

The legacy of the late Dr. Dwight Gustafson, then dean of the School of Fine Arts, made an impact on White's decision to become a conductor. "I always wanted to be a conductor," he said, "but I didn't know how to go

about doing it."

He later found that learning how to play different musical instruments and studying music from different points of view was how he learned how to conduct. "All that musical experience in different kinds of areas is the training you need to be a conductor," he said.

White received his first professional conducting job in Miami with the Florida Grand Opera. Since then, he has conducted various operas and orchestras such as the Metropolitan Opera and the Moscow Philharmonic. He currently works at the Metropolitan Opera, conducting various operas and symphonic

orchestras. One of his events for this year will be the opera *Aida* performed at BJU. White will be the first guest conductor to conduct a performance of *Aida* at BJU.

For both White brothers, coming back to perform at the University has special meaning, according to Steven. "It is a great opportunity and means a lot for both of us."

He views the opportunity as a way to pay respect to the late Dr. Dwight Gustafson and to his parents who met at the University and served together as members of the faculty for more than 27 years. "It's a tribute to our parents as much as anything else," he said.

»COLUMN p.2 my dad, went running in -50 degrees and introduced my Virginia boyfriend to snowball fights, snowmen, ice-skating and sledding.

Coming back to snowless South Carolina at the end of break after all that was hard, though the mini-snow storms and

snow days helped. Now, after getting fully back into the swing of college, I have nothing but good memories and gratitude.

We have been given so much beauty in the world around us. All the seasons, not only winter, show us the power of God. The glory that I find in snowflakes, others see in the changing

leaves, sprouting plants or long, hot days. The best way to find contentment in any season is to take a moment to meditate on the many beauties of nature and thank God for them.

We all have our own ways to meditate on God's Word and pray. I find my mind is most focused

when I run in what most people would consider to be bitterly cold temperatures. This obviously isn't for everyone, but luckily for the warmth-lovers, it isn't the only way.

As the semester picks up, and things seem to get too crazy to handle, take one hour on Saturday to have time alone with

God. Go for a walk on the Swamp Rabbit Trail, go hiking out at Paris Mountain, take your Bible out to the lake on Furman University's campus — find what helps you to concentrate on God.

The lesson I learned over break is that God is great, and we must live our lives according to His

will. If I try to live my life without taking those quiet moments to get closer to Him, this becomes impossible, and I find myself completely stressed.

Although January is already over, it's not too late to make a New Year's resolution. Decide this year to reflect God and grow closer to Him.

Asking the big question: when she said, "Yes!"

By: NATALIE WALTERS
Staff Writer



Ashley Greenfield & Ryan Fisher

The number of times Ashley has told this story? "I would say over 30."

Ashley Greenfield and Ryan Fisher met through mutual friends during her sophomore year and his junior year here at BJU. This past summer, an unsuspecting Ashley went to visit Ryan in Philadelphia for a casual rendezvous, not knowing she would come back with a little extra weight on her left hand. "It was the farthest thing from my mind," Ashley said.

But it was pretty close in Ryan's mind. The morning of Aug. 1, Ryan told Ashley to sleep in and take it easy while he went to work. "I felt so pampered," Ashley said. That afternoon they went shopping and ate at their favorite place: Chipotle.

So far, the day was normal.

But as they were driving back to the house at dusk — Ashley's favorite part of the day — Ryan casually said, "Oh, I forgot to tell you about this old bridge up here." Ashley immediately begged him to stop at the bridge. As a photographer and graphic design major, Ashley's creative instincts weren't going to let her pass up an old bridge at dusk.

"Ryan kept playing it cool, saying, 'I think it's up here,'" Ashley said. "But he knew." Ashley had taken the bait, and now Ryan's job had become sufficiently easier.

As they walked up the hill to the bridge, Ashley was enamored with the scenery. "I was like, 'Look at that little tree! Look at that moss!' — just completely oblivious," Ashley said.

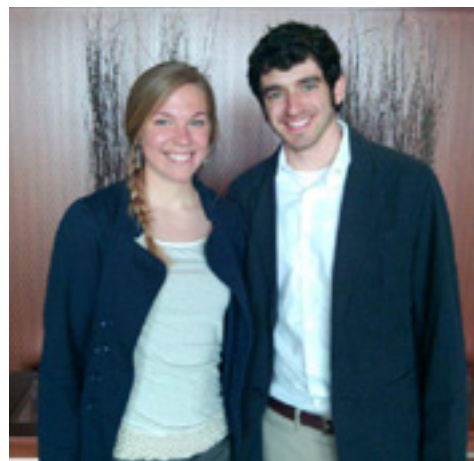
Then, at the top of the hill, they pulled back a branch and a postcard-worthy scene unfolded before their eyes: an old trestle bridge, painted with the colors of the sunset. "My artistic mind was freaking out," Ashley said.

Ryan snapped a picture of Ashley and started to walk toward her for approval. But, suddenly, he bent down and picked up an old instamatic camera lying under a rock, pretending he had just found it. Ashley fell for it. "I was like, 'Oh my goodness, you just found a camera!'" Ashley said. Ryan snapped a picture with the camera. It worked. He told her to check for film inside. But this time Ashley didn't take the bait. "No, I can't, because if there's film inside it will be overexposed," she said.

Somehow Ryan convinced the photographer to take the risk, and she opened the camera to find a picture of them that had "Will you marry me?" written on it.

When she looked up, he was already on one knee. He popped the question, and she said yes! "It was really the best proposal I could have asked for," Ashley said with a glowing smile. "He knows me so well. It was perfect."

The wedding will take place on July 19 at Crystal Brook Farm in Ohio.



Danielle Polhamus & Andy Sheldon

The number of times Danielle has told this story? "I would say 38."

The number of times Andy has told this story? "I think more like 15."

Danielle and Andy were fellow students at BJU, but they didn't meet until the summer of 2011 in Alaska. He was on a missions trip, and she was working at Higher Ground Baptist Bible Camp. Their friendship grew over the following years, and this past Christmas Danielle received a late Christmas gift from Andy.

Their story starts a few days after Christmas when Danielle and her family were visiting her brother, David, and his wife, Stephanie, in Colorado. Andy said that he would fly into Colorado on Saturday, Dec. 28, to join them. However, Andy actually flew into Colorado a day early on Friday, Dec. 27. He then went to check out a beautiful lookout in Mount Falcon Park that David, his trusty wingman, had found for him.

Meanwhile, David had convinced Danielle and his parents to go on the hike that led to

the designated lookout around lunchtime on Saturday. However, Saturday morning Danielle woke up feeling sick. But David, ever the trusty wingman, said, "Let's take Advil and go! Come on, let's go!"

So Danielle gave in, but she texted Andy to let off some steam. "I was texting him like, 'I have to go on this stupid hike today,'" Danielle said. But Andy kept up the facade. "I asked her what hike it was, and then I said, 'Is that a mountain or a creek?'"

But Andy was already at the lookout. At one point a lone hiker and his black lab came across the 'secret' spot, and Andy said, "Um, I'm about to propose. Can you go somewhere else for a while?" Andy then marked off his territory with orange cones to prevent further incidents.

Finally, Danielle appeared on the trail. "What are you doing here?" Danielle asked in shock. "You know, just surprising you," Andy said. "At that point, I was like, 'This is the engagement. I can't believe this is happening!'" Danielle said.

Andy had her sit on a boulder and then played her a song on his guitar. Although he wrote the song for Danielle, Andy isn't sure how meaningful the lyrics were the first time she heard them. "The whole time she was looking at me with this blank stare — just in a trance — and I could just tell she wasn't listening," Andy said. Danielle laughed and confirmed this, saying, "Every once in a while I would catch a word like, 'love,' 'marriage' and 'forever.'" She got what she needed.

He then presented the ring and recited his speech. "Again I don't think she heard a word," Andy laughed. But a ring is worth a thousand

See **ENGAGEMENT** p. 8 »

For Her



A necklace that's just her style

Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but how many college guys can actually afford them? Sterling silver sparkles, too, and Kohl's has a nice selection that won't drain your wallet too badly. For something fun and colorful, you can also try Charming Charlie.



Her favorite tea

Something hot to drink is the perfect gift to keep her warm and cozy through the closing weeks of winter. You can find a variety of tea flavors, both loose leaf and tea bags, at Amanzi Tea.



All-natural lotions and soaps

You probably can't go wrong with something that smells good and keeps her skin healthy. Find lotions, bath soaps and sugar scrubs in her favorite fruit scent at The Body Shop.



A watch that's just his style

"Unlike diamonds, watches [are] practical," novelist Jeannette Walls said. True. Watches are like bling for guys, but they're also practical. But like jewelry, they can be expensive, so search from something he'll love without breaking the bank.

For Him

Novelty USB drive

For a fun, techy and practical gift, pick out a USB drive to match his personality. You can find novelty flash drives at any electronics or office supply store.



Vintage glass-bottle Coca-Cola

Let him "open happiness" with this simple, but classy and tasty gift. You can pick up a pack of classic Coke at a local grocery store.

High school teammates play Bruins basketball together

By: **ADAM GINGERY**
Staff Writer

One was an established varsity player known for his full-court play and quickness. The other was a new kid — an incoming freshman from IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla., with a coconut haircut and a whole lot of talent. It didn't take long for the two to become fast friends, brothers both on and off the court.

Junior Darnel Antoine and sophomore Larry Taylor first met in 2007 when Darnel, a 10th-grader from North Port High School, in North Port, Fla., competed against Larry, an 8th-grader on IMG Academy's squad. Larry, otherwise referred to as "that kid from IMG," had preceded himself with his reputation. "We played against him," Antoine said, "and he stood out. He played pretty well against us."

Antoine had already made his first impression on Taylor, since the young middle-schooler would come and watch him and North Port play. "I honestly thought he was a football player when I first got there, and I was kind of shocked when I found out he wasn't," Taylor said. Antoine and a "young-looking" Taylor

(according to Antoine), with their similar playing styles, quickly became friends and shared many good times in high school.

Among them was an especially memorable occasion when Antoine's car was towed at Busch Gardens. Taylor and Antoine were visiting the amusement park in Tampa, and Antoine had parked his car at a CVS nearby. "That's what everybody else was doing," Antoine said. They walked four miles back to the parking lot later that night, only to find an empty space where their car had been. They had to walk the four miles back to Busch Gardens, find a missing friend, and wait for Antoine's cousin to get off work — at 4 a.m.

Antoine accepted Christ when he was 11 years old at Lighthouse Baptist Camp, but he said he really began to grow once he met the Taylor family in high school. Coach Taylor, as Larry's father was often called in the community, had started a church and welcomed Antoine to the meetings, which were often held in a park or at a member's house. Following his high school graduation in 2010, Antoine attended Florida A&M as

well as community college, and he had planned to enlist in the military following his first year at college. That's when Bob Jones University showed up on his radar.

Knowing the Bruins would need players, Taylor messaged Coach Andrew Wingreen when he heard that BJU would be starting a basketball program. "I called Antoine kind of a 'diamond in the rough,' because he was a good player, but not a lot of people knew about him," Taylor said. "I remember sitting in the living room of a friend's house with him while he was filling out the application online."

Taylor took his abilities on to Liberty University following high school, playing an important role on their NCAA National Tournament basketball team. But after a season at Liberty, Taylor had his doubts. "Ever since my senior year [of high school] I remember battling with whether I should go to Liberty or go somewhere where I'd be held more accountable," he said. "After a year there, I had no peace about the decisions I was making, and I knew I needed to make a decision where my relationship [with Christ] would grow. I

kept praying, and for some reason I just kept feeling like Bob Jones University was His will."

The path leading Antoine and Taylor into each other's lives and later on to BJU was nothing less than providential. Taylor had met the parents of Northland International University's head basketball coach, Peter Wehry, in his father's church in Florida. Coach Wehry introduced Taylor to Coach Wingreen, who became a spiritual role model to Taylor. When Coach Wingreen came to the Bruins, the pieces were in place for the two friends from North Port High to come to Greenville, as foreign as BJU was to them. "I didn't even know what Bob Jones University was," Antoine said.

Both Taylor and Antoine are looking to use their skills and talents to reach others, an inspiration drawn largely from Coach Taylor. Taylor's father would often take Antoine and his friends to church, he would train neighborhood kids in basketball, and he was always looking for people who needed Jesus. "My father is a soul-winner, and I really respect that about him," Taylor said. "He is always trying to lead kids to the



Bruins teammates are long-time high school friends. *Photo: Amanda Ross*

Lord." Taylor will be working in the Boys and Girls Club in his hometown next summer as he tries to use his love of basketball to reach kids, and Antoine is looking to pursue athletic training, if not a professional stint overseas.

Wherever God leads Antoine and Taylor next, one thing is clear: that He has

a plan and won't lead them astray.

This much has been openly evident in these players' lives, and the God who brought a military-bound basketball player and a standout guard from Liberty University to BJU is certainly dictating wonderful plans for the future.



Guard Darnel Antoine takes a high-flying shot at Piedmont's net. *Photo: Amanda Ross*

BJU victorious in game that pits Bruins against Bruins

By: **TYLER PARSONS**
Staff Writer

The BJU Bruins battled against the Bruins of Piedmont International University on Friday, Feb. 7. Last year, during BJU's inaugural season, the new team edged ahead of Piedmont at home, 86-84, in a thrilling overtime win. But this year the game was not as close. BJU handily defeated Piedmont 81-61, putting a reassuring stamp on a season of improvement. BJU has taken dramatic steps forward this season, and the 12 wins are already twice as many as last season.

BJU hit Piedmont with an 11-0 run to start the game. They were there to make a statement, and it was the Bruins' opportunity to show what a year can do. "Players like Larry Taylor and Darnel Antoine are able to get to the rim pretty easily, and they draw a lot of attention because they are good around the rim. But they both drive with their eyes up looking for players to pass to," Zach Mercado said after the win Friday night. This has certainly been a key to the Bruins' success this season.

Also important is the ability to complement aggressive drives with shots from outside. Much of the rhythm of the games this season has been set by the Bruins being able to hit outside shots to gain or maintain momentum. Having another year to practice has, as expected, allowed the players to get used to one another's playing styles. "A lot of

times it is almost as if [Taylor and Antoine] don't even have to look up and try to spot us. They just know where we are," Mercado said.

This was obvious in the game Friday night as it wasn't rare to see BJU drive to the basket, the defense collapse, and the ball jump back outside to an open perimeter shooter. In this game, the Bruins were much more effective in striking a balance between suffocating defense and a potent offense, and the scoreboard reflected that. Going into halftime, the Bruins led 39-25.

As the second half began, Piedmont came out with a vengeance. They scored quickly and effectively shut down BJU's offense, which had earlier been unchallenged. Although there was never a definitive turning point, midway through the second half, BJU's offense clicked back on and extended out of the reach of Piedmont.

The Bruins have appeared quicker, stronger and more aggressive throughout the entire game than they did last year. Sophomore Kyle Turner attributes that to tough practices. "If I'm going full speed in practice, I will be able to do that in games," he said.

Turner called himself "assist-dependent" and credited senior Jason McVey, Taylor and Antoine with the ability to find him when he is clearing out the lane. The Bruins improved to a 12-13 record and look to gain .500 on Feb. 14 against Warren Wilson College at the Davis Field House.

Bruins women clip Owls' wings, winning 70-67

By: **BRANDON VALADEZ**
Staff Writer

The Bruins women traveled to Asheville, N.C., on Feb. 6 to take on the Warren Wilson College Owls. This game was originally on the calendar for the previous week, but it was rescheduled because of snow.

The past couple of games

have been rough for the Bruins, but tough defense and good outside shooting made the Bruins the better team this time. Warren Wilson fell to the Bruins in overtime by three points, ending the Owls' four-game winning streak.

Both teams went back and forth with the lead at

the beginning of the game. The Bruins tacked on early fouls and had to limit their own physical play, but the guards stepped up and hit outside shots. At the end of the half, BJU led 35-30, but the Owls weren't far behind.

BJU still had plenty of work to do in the second half. The Owls pressed on

and eventually caught up to the Bruins, snatching the lead with less than five minutes on the clock. BJU regrouped and tied the game just in time, with both teams at 61 points.

With senior Kim Spiecker's five points and a few other buckets made by timely contributors,

BJU pulled ahead and took the victory, 70-67. Spiecker totaled 23 points for the game, five of them 3-pointers.

"Our team did a good job staying mentally focused, and in the overtime everyone was calm," junior Kourtney Hoefler said. "It was good to see

that after our Pensacola game where we just lost it. This [win] is huge for our team. We played really well over all. We are ready for anything," she said.

The basketball season is winding down for the Bruins basketball team, but there is still work to do before hitting regionals.

Cross-country team races, prepares for fall season

By: **BRADLEY NELSON**
Staff Writer

The Bruins men's and women's cross-country teams had a strong showing at the Green Valley Road Race on Saturday, Feb. 8, at Furman University. The teams competed in both the 10-mile and the 8K events.

Although this is not part of the Bruins' official season, Coach Landon Bright said the Bruins are not about to go into off-season mode.

"My approach for us this season is to really improve our ability to handle speed sessions," Coach Bright said. "The majority

of the team can run a good amount of mileage, but our top-end speed really did not get developed over the fall."

This is the first year the Bruins have competed in cross-country, and already the team appears to be gearing up for next season. "[We want] to send the message that we are a serious, legitimate distance running program, which means we train and race year-round." This also affects how the athletes must view their roles. "I really want the athletes to get in the mindset that this is a year-round commitment and not just something we

do for a few months in the fall — and so far the team is adapting very well."

The team placed in several categories on Saturday. In the 10-mile race, freshmen Josh Rush and Joshua Strubel placed first and second, respectively, in the 15-19 age group for men. In the men's 20-24 age group, sophomore Andrew Fox and junior Joshua Anderson also took first and second places respectively, and sophomore Deborah Spannagel claimed first place in the women's 20-24 age group.

The Bruins also found success in the 8K race, with senior Aaron Iles coming

in third overall and sophomore Daniel Marinelli claiming fourth. Senior Abby Stanley and junior Brittany Gibson claimed the second and third overall women's rankings. Sophomore James Labadorf took first in the 15-19 men's age group and freshman Caroline Oloff also took first in the women's 15-19 group.

In the 20-24 categories, senior Nathan Zakariasen, sophomore Sam Koenke, junior Jonathan Davis and senior Greg Thomas placed first, second, fourth and fifth, respectively. Junior Abi Dickinson, junior Brooke Wells and sopho-

more Rebekah Spannagel placed second, fourth and fifth, respectively.

"Going in [to the race], we could definitely feel a lot of energy. We were feeding off of each other. We knew we could do well," Labadorf said.

But even the team was surprised at the huge success. "I think we surprised ourselves. I also think the results speak for themselves," Labadorf said.

"I thought the team performed well," Coach Bright said. "Our main goal for the race was just to shake off some dust and get back into a racing mindset. So with that being said, everyone

looked pretty relaxed when finishing, and they did not push it too hard today."

With next year's season quickly approaching, Bright kept up the attitude of continuous improvement. "Running is just like anything else; the more we practice racing, the better we will be down the road," he said.

"I told the team last summer that cross-country is a year-round sport, and if we checked out after half of a year, the improvement would never come. Essentially, the more we race, the more experience we will bring with us in future seasons."

SPORTS BLURBS

1

Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., and Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., have sent a letter to NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, once again demanding that the Washington Redskins change their name. "The National Football League can no longer ignore this and perpetuate the use of this name as anything but what it is: a racial slur," the letter stated. Cantwell and Cole are now threatening the NFL's tax-exempt status to apply pressure, but Redskins owner Dan Snyder has staunchly held to the name.

2

Oklahoma State basketball star Marcus Smart has been suspended for three games, after he shoved a fan who taunted him at a their matchup against Texas Tech. He will be allowed to play again on Feb. 22, the night of their rematch against Texas Tech.

3

Manchester United, despite controlling 75 percent of possession in the match, reached the lowest point of its season last week after a draw against Fulham. Manchester had come back from an early Fulham goal and taken the lead in the second half, but Fulham scored an equalizer in the final minute to rob Manchester United of three much-needed points. As of Monday, Feb. 10, Manchester sits 15 points off the leader, Chelsea.

By: **TYLER PARSONS**
Sports Editor

It is said that defense wins championships. It also helps when your team consists of three NCCAA first-team All-Americans, the most outstanding player, four all-tournament players, and the coach of the year. The BJU women's soccer team made history this past season as they became the first Bruins team to bring a national championship trophy home to Greenville.

Bruin Nation united on Friday night to honor the staff, players, and coaches of the 2013 NCCAA Division II national champions.

"Our team thrived this season mostly because of the team unity we possessed," senior and 2013 most outstanding player Becca Luttrell said. "Over the course of the season our chemistry is what pulled us through all the way to the championship."

Friday night, fans rose See **BANNER** p. 8 »



Athletic Director Ring congratulates a member of the national championship team. *Photo: Amanda Ross*



Bruins women carry the national championship banner to be hung in the DFH. *Photo: Amanda Ross*

»BANNER p. 7
and cheered as the 2013 soccer champions took the floor in single file, following a dominating performance by the men's basketball team. After a statement from Coach Carmichael, during which he thanked his staff, fans and players, the team received championship rings.

But there was one more item on the agenda. The second year program needed to have a championship banner raised in their honor. Lights dimmed and Athletic Director Neal Ring stepped into

the spotlight. He praised the team's hard work and dedication and reminisced on how it had been only two years since he was there announcing the Bruins intercollegiate sports program. The banner was raised out of the darkness and into the shining spotlight. For the first time, BJU students could applaud national champions hailing from their own school.

The 2013 women's soccer team will forever hold a place in history, and many Bruins teams to come will strive for the same end result.

»ENGAGEMENT p. 5
words, and Danielle said yes!

Looking back over that special day, Andy says he has God to thank, even for the free carriage ride at the restaurant that night.

"We got in the carriage, and everything was perfectly snow-covered in this little old town with all these Christmas lights up," Andy said. "I was thinking 'I could never do this.' It was a perfect gift from God."

The wedding will take place on Aug. 8 in Greenville.



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