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Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC 29614

Lighting Ceremony brightens campus

BOBBY HULL
Staff Writer

Bob Jones University will feature its annual Christmas lighting ceremony tonight at 6:30 p.m. with some additions to the usual lineup.

Dr. Steve Pettit will perform an instrumental rendition of "Jingle Bells" on his mandolin; vocal ensemble Opus Six will perform "O Holy Night;" and the audience will sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*.

Before the ceremony begins, the Bob Jones Academy Elementary Vocal Ensemble will perform a Christmas concert at 6:10 p.m.

Dr. Ed Dunbar, division chair for the Division of Music said he is happy to highlight the elementary school during an event like the lighting ceremony.

Dr. David Parker of the music faculty will lead the ceremony. For this year, Parker will change some of the events and add new songs while also keeping crowd favorites such as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "The 12 Days of Christmas."

Dr. Pettit will perform "Jingle Bells" with students Sara Beam on the violin, Raul Lopez on the guitar and Scott Graham on double bass. Dr. Kenon Renfrow will accompany the group on the piano. This song will be the first instrumental number ever performed for the ceremony.

During the ceremony, graduate student Daniel Griffin will sing "Silent Night" and Tina Nguyen, also a graduate student, will sing

"Away in a Manger."

The program culminates with Opus Six singing "O Holy Night." True to tradition, the first stanza will be sung by the audience, and then the group will continue acapella in a tight harmony.

At the climaxing note, the lights turn on, bathing the campus in Christmas cheer.

Dr. Parker started having students and various ensembles perform special songs six years ago to make student groups more prominent.

"It just gives students more opportunities to be featured," Parker said.

The end of the ceremony will bring the biggest change to the program. Instead of the traditional hymns sung at the end, everyone will sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*.

"The choir will be up there helping," Parker said. "We've already got the slides where it says 'hallelujah' seven times."

Pam Cushman, director of events, and David Orr of the Welcome Center are planning the details of the ceremony. Cushman said working with both events will be a lot of work for BJU's music faculty.

"Both events are very important," Cushman said. "Everybody's putting their whole heart into both [programs]."

Aside from how busy Friday will be, students are excited for the lighting ceremony.

Hannah Smith, a junior journalism and mass communication major, said she goes with friends to the lighting ceremony and enjoys the outreach opportunities it provides.



The Lighting Ceremony has been a traditional Greenville event for several generations. Photo: Photo Services

"I think it's a great time where the BJU community can reach out to the Greenville community," Smith said. "It brings both communities together."

As many as 4,000 people are expected for

the lighting ceremony and for *Living Gallery*.

Living Gallery productions will be held before the ceremony at 4:30 p.m. and after the ceremony at 8 p.m.

Christmas comes to *Living Gallery*

LAUREN WILSON
Staff Writer

The BJU family invites the greater Greenville community to join in celebrating the incarnation of Jesus Christ with this year's Christmas-themed *Living Gallery*.

Performances will be held in Rodeheaver Auditorium this evening at 4:30 and 8 p.m. and Saturday at 2, 4:30 and 8 p.m.

With the addition of spring break to second semester, *Living Gallery* has moved from the Easter season to Christmas this year.

With the new date comes the fresh theme "Nine Lessons and Carols," which is based on the famous program observed in King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England.

Instead of a traditional drama interspersed with the art pieces, nine scripture readings proclaim the gospel and the Christmas story from Genesis to John.

Music recordings have recently accompanied BJU's *Living Gallery* pieces, but this year the music will be sung live by the BJU Chorale conducted by Dr. Warren Cook.

Additionally, the audience will participate in a number of songs as they follow the Scrip-

ture reading in the second half.

While it is not unusual for one or two art pieces to be added to the program each year in order to display variety, because of this year's Christmas theme, more pieces were needed to complete a full program. Five new paintings were selected—three of which are 19th century impressionistic paintings.

Amanda Ross, first year graduate student in theological studies with an undergraduate degree in graphic design, has been on the *Living Gallery* makeup crew for six years.

Just as different eras implemented different styles of painting, makeup artists must implement different styles as well.

"The one I'm working on this year is actually using the crème makeup, so that's more like stage makeup," Ross said. "Some of the sculptures, you paint [people] a solid color and then you stipple with texture."

Ross also said the stained glass pieces require their own style. "[Stained glass models are] painted really brightly colored [and] under the black lights they glow and the colors are really bright and fluorescent," Ross said.

Ron Pyle, the department head of theatre arts, has worked closely with the stage, music



Bruins celebrate their major win over USC Upstate. Photos: BJU Bruins Athletics

and art designers to prepare for the productions.

"I think it's important for us to recognize that artists in every time period have interpreted Scriptural events according to their own era; the same thing is going on with the Renaissance paintings," Pyle said.

Lewis Carl, a faculty member in the art department, is the featured artist responsible for recreating the three impressionist paintings. He has participated in six productions of *Living Gallery* and is responsible for two of

See **LIVING GALLERY** p. 8 »

COLUMN



ANDREW BUDGICK
Web Editor

“Haply I think on thee,
and then my state, / Like to
the lark at break of day aris-
ing / From sullen earth, sings
hymns at heaven’s gate / For
thy sweet love remember’d
such wealth brings.”

Shakespeare, Sonnet 29

To a modern reader these
lines might at first suggest ro-
mantic love, but to insert that
kind of love would be forcing
our modern notions on the
verse.

Scholars agree that the love
Shakespeare speaks of in this
sonnet is the love for a friend.

This esteem for friendship
seems strange to us who live in
a culture where friendships are
often neglected.

From a certain perspective
this neglect of friendship is un-
derstandable. Unlike other re-
lationships that are necessary
for life, friendships aren’t vital.

Family and romantic rela-
tionships carry stronger bonds
than friendships.

You’re born into a family
that you belong to.

You choose a spouse whom
you’ll likely stay with until
their or your death.

But with friendships you’re
free to pick and choose how-
ever you please.

William Rawlins, a profes-
sor of interpersonal commu-
nication at Ohio State Univer-
sity, spoke to the difficulty of
maintaining friendships in *The*

See **COLUMN** p. 3 »

-Time Flies-



COMIC: MANNY JUAH

The Collegian Editorial

Commercialization of Christmas drowns out the true reason for the season

It’s officially the Christmas
season again, and with the sea-
son comes a flurry of activities.

For the university family,
the busyness of finals will soon
be replaced with the busi-
ness of decorating, Christmas
shopping and visiting with
family and friends.

Retail businesses take full
advantage of the Christmas
season with sales and the pres-
sure to find the perfect gift for
each person on your list.

Millions of people pour
into stores starting on Black
Friday to get “the best deals
of the year” on items that they
don’t need or otherwise would
never buy.

Spending limits are met or
exceeded, and stress levels rise
for shoppers.

For children, writing ex-
travagant wish lists and trying
to be good for Santa Claus be-
come the focus of the season.

Reindeer and elves have
pushed mangers and shep-
herds out of Christmas story
times.

For most of America, Jesus
is no longer the reason for the
Christmas season.

He has been pushed aside
by the commercialization of
Christmas.

No longer is Christmas
focused on our Savior’s birth
and what that means to us as
Christians.

Because of the commer-
cialization of Christmas, we
often pass over Christ’s birth
in our minds.

While the acts of shopping
and gift-giving aren’t problems
in themselves, they become
idols in our lives when they
take priority.

We need to put Christ back
in Christmas.

During the Christmas sea-
son, we should focus on what
the season is intended to draw
attention to – God, in the form
of man, coming to Earth to
save people from their sins.

The implications of this
event are so heavy to think
about and aren’t given their
due thought or consideration.

Because of the commercial-
ization of Christmas, we often
pass over Christ’s birth in our
minds.

Take time this Christmas
season to truly consider the
weight of Christ’s birth through
all of the noise of the commer-
cial Christmas season.

Share the exciting news of
a born Savior with those you

come in contact with while
shopping.

Although the world has
changed the focus of Christ-
mas, we as Christians do not
have to forget the true reason
for the season.

“For unto you is born
this day in the city of David
a Saviour, which is Christ the
Lord.” (Luke 2:11)

SUDOKU

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TALKBACK

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GIFT YOU’VE EVER RECEIVED?



sophomore
BEN
KNOEDLER
“salvation in Jesus Christ”



junior
SARAH
DARLIN
“bike for 16th birthday”



junior
JOSHUA
RICHARDS
“grandfather’s motorcycle jacket”



junior
SARAH
WOOD
“my first Bible”



sophomore
ANDREW
BARRETT
“308 rifle with rounds”

PHOTOS: KAYLA PIERCE

the COLLEGIAN

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SNAPSHOT

PAULI MAUNULA
FRESHMAN
ACCOUNTING

"I really like kids' ministry. A lot of them come from different backgrounds, and we get to tell them about Jesus Christ at a young age. They can change their lives early on and not have to live through a lot of mistakes. I love teaching them the Gospel and getting to hang out with them."

PHOTO: HOLLY DILLER

>>COLUMN p. 2
Atlantic.

"Friendships are always susceptible to circumstances," Rawlins said.

"If you think of all the things we have to do—we have to work, we have to take care of our kids, or our parents—friends choose to do things for each other, so we can put them off. They fall through the cracks."

From a secular perspective it's hard to understand why friendships are important as they seem to serve no evolutionary purpose.

Study after study has confirmed, however, the health and social benefits of cultivating deep friendships.

For Christians there is no such mystery. The importance of friendship and relationships

in the community is demonstrated by God Himself.

Before creating the universe, God existed in perfect fellowship with Himself in the Holy Trinity.

Community is fundamental to who God is, and thus it is fundamental to who we are as His creation.

Friendships aren't just important for their health and social benefits. They're important for becoming like our Creator.

Lucky for you, you're likely a college student reading this, which means, statistically, you currently have the most time you'll ever have to spend building friendships.

College is an anomaly of life where you're surrounded by people of your own age and likeness.

Friends are rarely more than a few minutes away, and similar schedules makes getting together convenient.

But this friend-utopia won't last for long. At the end of college, friends graduate and go on to "real life."

Not only will you likely be geographically far from your friends, but the time you once had for socializing will be a thing of the past.

Jobs, families and new obligations will take over your schedule.

Only the strongest of friendships will survive the tectonic shifts brought on by adulthood.

As a senior, I'm very aware of the coming change. In less than a year, I'll be thrust into a yet to be known environment.

But having a change loom-

ing in the near future has also caused me to look back on friendships here at the University and to think about what I would recommend to underclassmen.

The idea I consider perhaps the most important is the idea of narrow and deep rather than broad and shallow.

For most, college will last four years, and in a college of a few thousand students, that is not nearly enough time to create a deep relationship with a lot of people.

So rather than spreading yourself thin, focus on creating a handful of deep relationships.

Unfortunately, while college is the prime time to make lasting friendships, recent trends in technology have introduced challenges to cre-

ating deep relationships in all of life.

Technology is fantastic in allowing us to form a wide range of shallow relationships, but it makes creating relationships with the sort of depth I spoke of earlier challenging.

In her book, *Alone Together*, Sherry Turkle describes this issue.

"We are lonely but fearful of intimacy. Our networked life allows us to hide from each other, even as we are tethered to each other. We'd rather text than talk."

Of course, technology has it benefits such as longevity.

It's incredible to think that unless you defriend someone or unless Facebook ceases to exist, 25 years from now you could still be seeing tiny glimpses into the lives of ev-

eryone you friended all those years ago in college.

But while social media can keep you acquainted forever with someone, it can't keep you connected with them.

The wall technology puts between us and the people we're connecting around us with is very tempting.

It allows for the simulation of connection without the vulnerability of face-to-face encounters.

But college is too crucial a time for making lifelong friends to be wasted hiding behind a phone or computer screen and making relationships that have the depth of a kiddie pool.

What a shame it would be to look back one day and realize you have almost no true friends to turn to.

News Briefs

by Jeremy Kramer

Monday, Dec. 7

7 p.m. —The Center for Leadership Development workshop led by Dr. Ryan Meers will introduce the basic building blocks of leadership.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

5 p.m.—This Lyric Choir performance in War Memorial Chapel, directed by Dr. Eliezer Yanson Jr., will highlight women's vocal beauty.

Thursday, Dec. 10

6 p.m.—The University Marketing Association will have a festive last meeting of the semester with a guest speaker from a marketing firm in downtown Greenville.

Friday, Dec. 11

7 p.m.—The first performance of *It's a Wonderful Life*, featuring the entire original cast, will take place in Rodeheaver Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at bjuniversitytickets.com for \$7 per ticket.



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{WHO'S WHO

The Collegian is pleased to announce the 2015-2016 Bob Jones University recipients of the *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges* honors. *Who's Who Among Students* is a national honor given to upperclassmen based on a student's display of leadership and service.



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VINCENT WILSON



TIMOTHY SMITH

Vikings conquer Wolves in 7v7 Turkey Bowl game

COLT SCHIEFER
Sports Editor

The Nu Delta Chi Vikings defeated the Chi Epsilon Delta Wolves 8-0 in the 7v7 Championship in the first game of the Turkey Bowl festivities on Saturday, Nov 21.

The Vikings came into the match in the regular season at 10-1-1 to go with victories over the Bulldogs and the Falcons in the playoffs. The Wolves boasted a 7-2-0 record heading into the playoffs before beating the Spartans and the Tornadoes on their way to the championship game.

Early in the first half, neither team dominated possession. The Wolves' Felipe Arias wormed his way through the defense, but he was unable to capitalize on his opportunity.

The Vikings' defense was very stingy, and

their play often led to offensive opportunities on the other end. Just over 10 minutes in, Mike Munoz fought off several defenders and struck the ball into the corner to give the Vikings a 1-0 lead. The Vikings would never look back.

Just a couple of minutes later, Andrew Sealey, the Vikings' player-coach, tallied another goal, making it 2-0.

The Wolves' goalkeeper Zach Zervas made several strong saves, but the Wolves were unable to finish any of their chances. The Vikings' onslaught proved to be too much, as Sealey added another goal to take a 3-0 lead going into the half.

The second half was much of the same, as the Vikings continued their strong attacking. Andres Del Cid Herrera and Sealey each scored, as Nu Delt added five second-half goals to win the Turkey Bowl championship.



Freshman Bhrianna Jackson fights for the ball for the Bruins. Photo: BJU Bruins Athletics

Lady Bruins defeat Toccoa Falls Eagles Tuesday, 90-58

COLT SCHIEFER
Sports Editor

The BJU Lady Bruins dominated the Toccoa Falls Eagles Tuesday night by a final score of 90-58.

In the first quarter, the teams battled back and forth with the Eagles taking an early lead. The Bruins erupted on a 17-2 run sparked by a suffocating full-court press, giving the Bruins a 31-17 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Kendra Jeffcott and Sha'Ron Brunson led the Bruins in the second quarter as they continued their domination. Thanks to a 46-9 run, BJU held a 62-28 lead going into the half.

"We had several players who had really good games," Coach Mike LeViere said. "It took us a little bit to get in rhythm, but we did a lot of good things tonight. Our inside out game

was working well, and we played good defense which fed the offense."

In the third quarter, LeViere got excellent play off his bench, as Brunson scored 15 points and Sarah Thomsen contributed another 12 points off the bench. The Bruins controlled the second half easily, winning the game 90-58.

"I'm pretty happy overall," LeViere said. "We had players build some confidence off of this game which will help us in future games. We had some really good things we can take away from this, and we need to continue to work hard and play good defense going forward."

Hannah Tompkins and Brunson each recorded 15 points, and the Bruins forced 21 turnovers to spark the offense.

The Bruins will next take on North Greenview University on Saturday in Tigerville.

Lady Bruins best Johnson University Royals, 67-57

BOBBY BISHOP
Sports Writer

The Bruins women's basketball team bested Johnson University in a 67-57 battle Thursday Nov. 19.

"I don't want to take anything away from Johnson, because they are a well-coached team. I feel like we didn't have a great night," Coach Mike LeViere said. "I felt like we were a little flat tonight. We were [stagnating] on offense, and that forced us to change things up offensively. But I have to credit Johnson because they forced us into a lot of those changes."

The Lady Bruins started off hot, jumping out to a five-point lead, but the Royals battled their way back, ending the first quarter at 17-17.

"We weren't clicking very well offensively," LeViere said. "I felt like we did some good things, but then we wouldn't reward ourselves by finishing the play."

The Lady Bruins fought hard in the second half, as freshmen Sarah Thomson and Bhrianna Jackson entered the game and made an impact. The team found themselves up 28-25

at the half.

LeViere made some adjustments, and the Lady Bruins came out hard in the second half.

Brianna Delaney showed strength to score the first five points of the half.

Johnson University, however, stayed in the game. The score at the end of the third quarter was 46-42.

Bhrianna Jackson and Sydney Bedsaul hit back-to-back threes to energize the team. Johnson University threatened to make a comeback, but several mental mistakes (including calling a timeout with none left) allowed the Lady Bruins to close it out.

"We definitely wanted to get off that losing train," LeViere said. "Honestly, though the wins and losses count, I am more concerned with how we played. We know we weren't really 'us' tonight, and we know we can do better. We obviously want to win, but we know we can do better and we can play better. Having said that, it was a good team effort, and we beat a good team tonight."

The women's basketball team was happy with the win, but look to play even better as their potential is through the roof.

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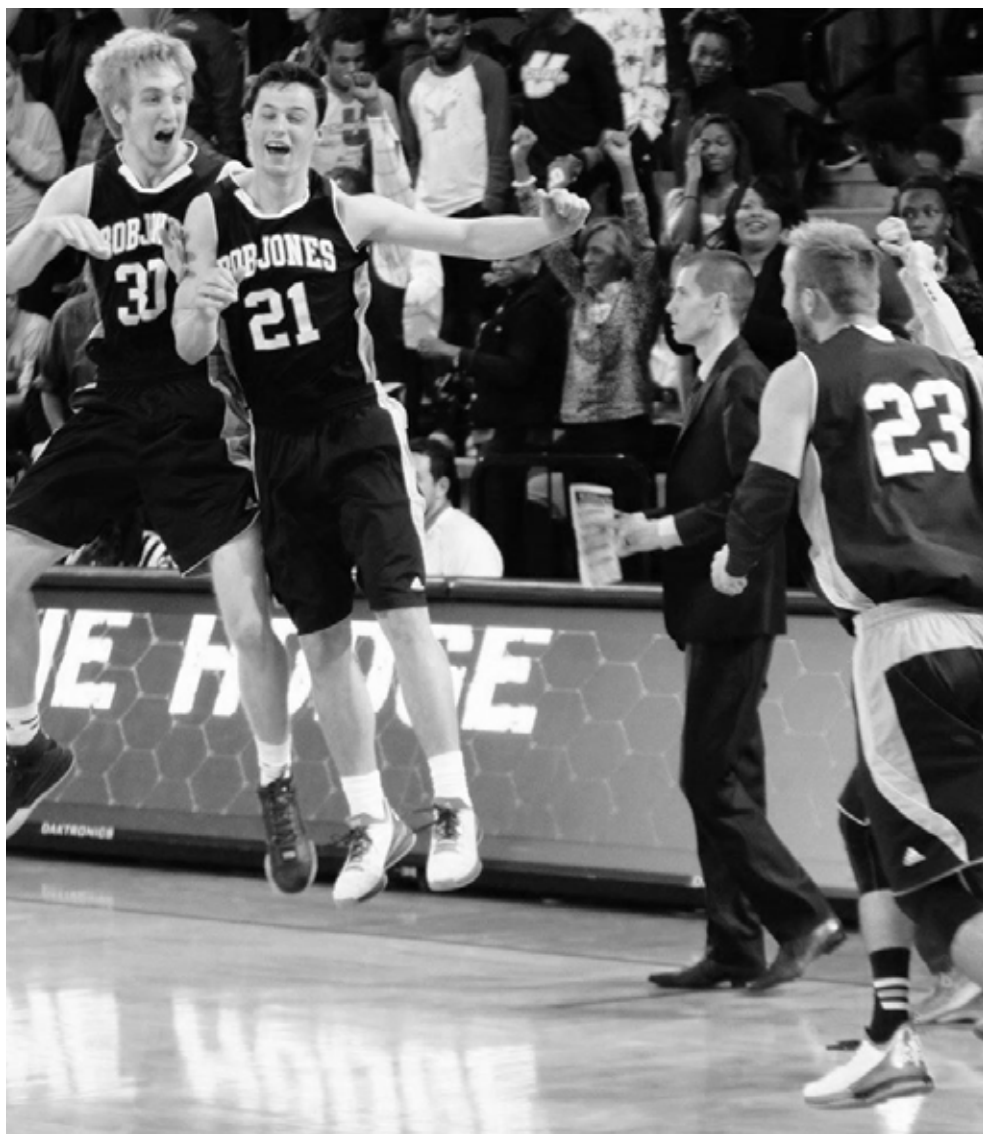
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BJU Bruins upset D1 USC Upstate Spartans

BOBBY BISHOP
Sports Writer

Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC 29614



Bruins celebrate their major win over USC Upstate. Photos: BJU Bruins Athletics

Bruins end soccer season with 5-2 loss

JEREMIAH JONES
Sports Writer

The Bob Jones University men's soccer season came to an end Thursday, Nov. 19, in the NCCAA DI South Regional Playoff as they fell to the Southern Wesleyan Warriors 5-2 in the semi-final round.

Head coach Jesse McCormick remained positive through the disappointment.

"I am very pleased [with] how things went this season," McCormick said. "We wanted to put ourselves in position for an opportunity to go to nationals, and we did just that. The final game was disappointing, but we were very competitive in our region."

The Bruins entered regionals as the No. 3 seed in the region, and Southern Wesleyan

at the No. 2 spot.

The Warriors beat the Bruins earlier in the season 1-0.

The weather was not favorable as the match began.

Both teams looked to gain possession of the ball, but possession went back and forth in the early stages of the match.

With 24 minutes left, the Warriors capitalized on a mishandling of the ball by the Bruins goalkeeper Philip Gible to put them ahead 1-0. The Warriors took the momentum from the first goal to score twice more in the next few minutes of the match, bringing the score to 3-0.

The Bruins retaliated as Derek Doran sent a nice ball to Stephen Grider who buried the ball for the Bruins.

The Warrior led 3-1 at halftime.

The second half the Bruins looked for a comeback.

The Bruins took control as they dominated possession, and put themselves in position to score.

Senior Ryan McCarty put a nice header in the back of the net to shorten the Warriors' lead.

"The seniors have been instrumental in the program, not only on the field, but also off the field," McCormick said. "They have become leaders on the team, and God has really worked in all of their lives."

The Warriors quickly shut down the Bruins' advances as they scored twice more in the next few minutes.

The Bruins pressured the Warriors' goal, but none of their shots found the back of the net.

The Bruins 2015 season ended with a hard loss of 5-2; they ended with a 10-7 record.

"Overall, our level of play and speed of play have gone up this year," McCormick said.

He reminded the team of their victories this past season and remained positive on the prospects of the team for future seasons.

"Some key moments were we had a stretch of five tough games and had a big win over Daulton State on the road," McCormick said.

"We followed up with a win over Reinhardt 3-2 at home. Our Homecoming win against Chowan; we had great support from the University family with over 4,100 people at the game. From last year to this year, we have taken huge strides forward."



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NEWS

'Tis the season to be jolly in Greenville

PAIGE BAGBY
Staff Writer

With Thanksgiving past and the Christmas season officially here, the Greenville area is gearing up for an assortment of holiday festivities.

To start the Christmas season, downtown Greenville will host its annual Poinsettia Christmas Parade.

A tradition for many years, the parade consists of approximately 90 floats as well as other activities.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday Dec. 5 and will start from the fork of Main and Augusta streets.

For students who want to enjoy an outing downtown,

Greenville will host its annual Ice on Main, the only open-air rink of its kind in South Carolina.

The rink opened to the public on Nov. 20, and it will remain open through Jan. 18. Sponsored by the United Community Bank, the rink provides ice skates with the price of the ticket. Tickets cost \$10 for adults.

The rink is open Monday afternoon through Thursday 2 to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For those who enjoy the fine arts, the Peace Center Concert Hall will be hosting the Greenville Symphony Orchestra as they perform Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*.

The shows run from Dec. 11 through Dec. 13. Tickets start at \$15.

Also, the Greenville Little Theatre will present the old favorite, *A Christmas Carol*.

Adrian Hall's interpretation of this beloved tradition will be certain to leave audiences entertained.

The show will run Dec. 11 through 20, and tickets are \$20 for students 18 and younger and \$28 for ages 19 and over.

Furman University will host a concert at the McAlister Auditorium, featuring the Greenville Chorale performing various holiday selections.

The performance will also include a special piece by the

Blue Ridge High School Concert Choir.

The event will take place Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m., and tickets will start at \$15.

Students who want to spend the evening enjoying festive Christmas decorations can go to Roper Mountain Holiday Lights.

The light show includes large displays for cars to drive through as well as a Winter Wonderland that offers lights, food and handmade Christmas cards.

Not only will students be able to enjoy a delightful evening of lights and fun, but they'll also be giving to a worthy charity.

The proceeds collected from

the light shows are returned to the community in the form of education and aid to other projects.

The lights will remain open from Nov. 26 through Dec. 30.

The price of admission is \$10 per car during the week and \$15 on the weekends.

For students who want to find unique gifts for friends and family, the Indie Craft Parade will offer a collection of local artists.

From handmade jewelry and cards to fine art and clothing, the annual craft fair offers a wide variety of unique gifts that are certain to please friends and family.

The fair will take place

on Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kroc Center. Admission is \$1.

Three campus societies will also be getting involved in the community this year.

According to Matt Wells, a senior cross-cultural service major, the Cavaliers, Bandits and Duskiies are organizing the Giving Tree as an outreach for the holiday season.

The brother and sister societies are collecting gifts for children who might not otherwise receive them.

Students interested in participating can pick up a child's name from one of the trees in The Den or the dining common and leave the gift beneath the tree for delivery.

the stained glass pieces he created 14 years ago that will be featured this year as well.

Carl said he enjoys seeing his work impact others. He recalled his experience

as a tableau/stage artist, sitting next to a model in one of his stain glass pieces during a performance and peering through an opening.

For Carl, focusing on the audiences' expressions rather

than being still or having his eyes closed like the model, impacted him more than any verbal praise for his work.

"I've never actually been a model for *Living Gallery*; I've always been someone that's

just behind the scenes, and I actually prefer it that way—to see that so many people enjoy something that I enjoy creating," Carl said.

Nathanael Johnson, a sophomore communication

major, is a model in *Annunciation to the Shepherds*. "A lot more people come to *Living Gallery* as opposed to a lot of other plays [at BJU]," Johnson said. "There's also a very [strong] spiritual aspect—the

true Christmas story."

With close to 14,000 visitors expected, Johnson said he is excited to have a ministry to so many who may not have a true understanding of the Gospel.

Holiday helps for the last minute shoppers

NOELANI DEBSKI
Staff Writer

The holidays are gift-giving times, but finding a perfect gift is so much pressure—especially when you have to do it for your entire family.

The following list offers ideas to get your mind thinking.

The gifts suggested are all \$30 or less and can be found and ordered online at any well-known and trusted shopping site, saving you the hassle of long lines at the store.

FOR THE HEALTH NUT/NEWLY DIETING

Infused water bottle

After the holidays everyone is in the mood to start healthy living.

If you're like most people, you ate a little too much, and your conscience is talking you into starting that diet.

Step one? Purchase a new water bottle to increase your fluid intake!

It's scientifically proven that drinking water is good for your health and wellness, and infusing it with fruits not only adds to the flavor, but also the health benefits.

Infuser bottles can vary widely in price, but you can usually get a nice one for about \$15 in either the store or online.

SENTIMENTAL GIFTS

Photo book

Mothers love photos for their lasting memories.

If you're unsure of what to buy your mother for a gift, consider a personalized photo book or scrapbook.

You can personally pick which pictures you want added in a theme or just pick from completely random pictures of all your favorite childhood memories or vacations.

Devotional Journal

As an avid writer and reader, this is something I'd want to go right alongside my daily Bible reading schedule.

This is a great buy for a sister or friend.

"DIFFICULT TO BUY FOR" GIFTS

Tickets

There are so many options when it comes to tickets: sporting events, concerts, fairs, plays, conventions, airplane tickets, etc.

It's got the variety of a gift card, but with a more personal touch added.

Plus, if it's for a sibling or friend, you can buy an extra one and then it automatically becomes a date night for two!

You get to experience it, and they don't have to go alone; it's a win/win!

College/Savings payment plan

Sometimes it's hard to figure out what to get the little ones in your family.

On one hand, you don't think it's necessary (will they even realize you didn't buy them a gift?) but at the same time you know you'd feel guilty if you skip them.

One thing you could do is write a check or take out some cash each year and start setting it aside.

If their parents have started a savings account for them, you could have it put there, otherwise you could set it aside on your own, and when they turn 18 or 21, you could give it to them.

Budget planner

Holiday times sometimes can equal spending lots of money, but finding the balance and making sure you don't spend too much is a difficult task.

Buy someone a gift budget planner or monthly organizer, and you can help them get their life on the right track.

Small gift tree

How cool to be able to watch a tree grow year to year?

Plus you feel great because you are giving to not just one person, but actually to the whole world!

You can order your tree online for about \$30, or visit your local tree nursery and pick one out in person.

COFFEE AND TEA DRINKER GIFTS

Cool mugs

For the coffee and tea drinkers in your life, a custom-picked mug can be just the right mix of fun and practical.

Whether it's self-stirring, fandom, monogrammed or just plain nerdy, mugs are a great, inexpensive gift.

Tea infusers

This gift is often overlooked by tea-amateurs, but a tea infuser is essential to a cup of wonderful, loose-leaf tea.

They come in all shapes and sizes, some being plain and practical and others being as quirky and goofy as the lucky one receiving this awesome present.

Depending on the one you find, prices will vary.

DAD GIFTS

Wireless key finder

Dad, this one's for you!

For those days when he cannot find the glasses sitting on his head or his slippers by front of the door, make his life a little easier by buying him a wireless key finder.

You can find sets for around \$30 that come with multiple finders for multiple sets of keys.

No matter which gift you decide on, be sure to be a smart shopper.

Many different kinds exist,

so search multiple sites on the Internet for the best price, and don't forget to read customer reviews for the best brand.

If you do order from a website, there are multiple sites that offer promo/cou-

pon codes for discounts and sometimes free shipping.

Though buying a gift shouldn't be based on how expensive a product is, we are college students; we have bills to pay and a budget to live by.

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