

the COLLEGLIAN

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Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC 29614

BJU's display honors victims of 9/11

ABBY SIVYER
Editor

For 15 years, Sept. 11 has been a somber day for the United States. This year, BJU commemorated that tragic day with a 2,977-flag display at the main campus entrance—one flag for every victim.

Although The University places flags on the front of campus every year in honor of those who died, this year's display was even more substantial.

Near the flags stood a 14 x 6 wall listing all the names of those who perished in the attack.

At night, two spotlights pierced the black sky in memory of the fallen Twin Towers.

In the lobby of the Welcome Center, The University's piece of steel girder from the North Tower sat on display surrounded by American flags.

Public relations director Randy Page, student body presidents Nate Hudson and Emily Weier, and student leadership council event coordinators Bobby Kern and Kailey Holloway all contributed to the planning and execution of the impressive memorial.

Weier said her visit to the memorial in New York City, called the Tribute in Light, sparked her idea for the two spotlights. Randy Page proposed the idea for the wall.



Students place flags by the Wade Hampton Boulevard entrance in honor of 9/11 victims. Photo: Stephen Dysert

Some BJU students still remember personal details of that day despite the passing of 15 years.

Kern said he remembers the day especially well because it was his 6th birthday.

"I was in first grade. I was passing out the treats for my birthday to my class when the announcement came through that we were all

going home early," Kern said.

Senior accounting major Sarah Manly said she remembers being home from school that day because her dad had appendicitis.

"I remember being scared and confused," Manly said. "Later on my parents explained to me exactly what happened."

Manly said she also remembers that atten-

dance at her small church the next Sunday was almost doubled.

Because many BJU students were too young to have vivid memories of the attack on the World Trade Center, Page and Weier agreed that it was important to reflect on the impact the attack had on our country in this 15th-anniversary display.

Celebrating the 30th anniversary year of The Collegian

MELODY WRIGHT
Copy Editor

Reading about campus events and student opinions in *The Collegian* is commonplace on a weekly basis today, but years ago BJU did not have a student-run newspaper.

This year marks the 30th year of publication of the campus paper that has become such an integral part of BJU campus life.

The newspaper originally began both as a lab for journalism students to put their writing into practice and as a tool to inform BJU of current events on and off campus. The first issue was published Oct. 9, 1987.

BJU offered only one journalism course to students interested in journalistic writing prior to introducing a full major in journalism in the mid-'80s.

Shortly after the creation of the journalism major, *The*



The first issue of *The Collegian* was produced by a 10-member staff. Photo: Stephen Dysert

Collegian came into existence, thanks to the efforts of Bob Whitmore, BJU graduate and former coordinator of the Publications Department (later known as Creative Services and today as Marketing Communications) at BJU.

Whitmore approached Dr. Bob Jones III about a campus newspaper one year before his

efforts came to fruition.

This hesitation occurred because the administration was unsure of how a newspaper would affect The University.

Whitmore spent the next year preparing his proposal to address all the administration's concerns regarding a campus newspaper.

"When I had all my arguments ready, I made an appointment to see Dr. Bob III," Whitmore said. "I started in that we needed a student newspaper, and he agreed without hearing any of my arguments. It was obvious that he was ready before I came to his office."

The Collegian has come a

long way since 1987. Betty Solomon, who has been the faculty adviser for *The Collegian* all 30 years and is a professor in the journalism and mass communication department, said the newspaper was and still is an important part of BJU.

Solomon joined Whitmore as co-sponsors of *The*

Collegian during the first years and has served as faculty adviser ever since.

"One of the reasons we thought it was so important to have a school newspaper [was because] it served the entire campus and beyond," Solomon said.

The evolution of *The Collegian* See **HISTORY** p. 8 >>

COLUMN



ABBY SIVYER
Editor

Ringgold, Louisiana. Before this summer, I never knew such a place existed. From most perspectives this 1,500-person town is not especially memorable. But Ringgold is special because it is the home to Southland Christian Ministries—a youth camp I had the privilege of counseling at for most of my summer break.

My usual summer plans are to go home to Wisconsin and work full-time. In the past I viewed camp ministry as an opportunity that was nice for those who could afford to do so. But when I couldn't find a summer internship after months of searching, God opened my mind to other avenues.

While sipping my usual mid-flight cran-apple juice on my trip down south, I considered what awaited me in the Bayou State. Having never been to that part of the country, humidity, alligators, and Duck Dynasty were the expectations that filled my

See **COLOUMN** p. 3 »



COMIC: JORDAN HARBIN

Student Organization Forum to unify

ELISA CRAWLEY
Staff Writer

This year on campus, representatives from a vast number of student organizations will meet together six to eight times annually in what has been named the Student Organizations Forum.

This committee, made up of roughly one or two delegates from about 26 organizations, will come together to unite the campus of BJU in a whole new way.

The purpose of the forum is to increase coordination between the many diverse student organizations.

“The goal of the forum is collaboration among all of the campus organizations,” Emily Weier, SLC representative, said. “There is so much going on around campus, and student groups are often unaware of what other groups are hoping to accomplish.”

Dr. Eric Newton, dean of students, communicated to members that this committee has the potential to voice the various perspectives and needs of different groups on campus and develop a greater understanding of the whole student body.

Beginning at the first meeting, Weier recalled, student leaders already had the chance to connect in all new ways.

Other goals include gathering together to promote President Pettit's vision for the campus and to improve and expand BJU's co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Smaller groups from the forum will meet with President Pettit regularly to provide a more complete view of the diverse student body and their individual needs and accomplishments.

With a growing interest in student organizations on campus, the Student Organization

Forum through discussion, collaboration and organized meetings with university

leaders, will make significant strides in enhancing the BJU experience.

BJU Fun Facts

- The instruments in BJU's first orchestra included trumpets, violins, drums, banjos, saxophones and clarinets.
- Mary Gaston, wife of Dr. Bob Jones Sr., was responsible for naming Bob Jones College.
- Early BJU sports included baseball, basketball, football, track, and tennis.
- During the Great Depression one student paid an entire year's school bill in collard greens. BJC became known by students as “Big Juicy Collards.”

TALK BACK

WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING YOUR ROOMMATE BROUGHT TO CAMPUS?



sophomore
CARTER SHEAN
“giant metal clothes line”



junior
BAILEY DABBS
“cotton candy cheesepuffs”



faculty GA
ANNA VINCENT
“corner desk she built”



sophomore
LYDIA RYDMAN
“10 stuffed animals”



senior
JOSHUA STRUBEL
“a cherubim picture”

PHOTOS: REBECCA SNYDER

the COLLEGIAN

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SNAPSHOT



"One event that has shaped my life is when I switched majors. Originally I was graphic design, and I loved it. When my sophomore check came along, I was not at a level of growth that could compete in the art field. I thought it was unfair that I couldn't do what I loved. But during this time I was reminded about God's plans. I had given my life to Him and God knows way more than I do. He has a reason for everything He wants me to do. This really helped me trust in God and rely on His goodness."

AUSTIN VAN WAGONER // SENIOR // BUSINESS ADMIN

PHOTO: IAN NICHOLS

»COLUMN p. 2

mind. I also was a little concerned about how many bugs I would have to share my cabin with (which, I soon discovered, was quite a few). But as for counseling—I really had no idea what to expect.

I soon learned that counseling meant a lot of things. It meant being responsible for a cabin full of girls around the clock. It meant cheering, "We're the team that's number one!" (Go Red!) an average of 15 times per day. It meant not screaming when a centipede fell on my bed so I wouldn't disturb my campers. It meant

making lifetime friends. And most importantly, it meant encouraging others in their walk with Christ.

My biggest fear going into the summer was that I was not qualified to counsel children and teens. After all, what did I have to offer?

Each week, my cabin was filled with girls who had so many needs. My heart ached for them. Often, the campers were going through situations that I had never experienced, and I had no clue what to say to them.

God taught me many lessons this summer, but perhaps

the biggest lesson I learned is that I don't have to have all the answers. Being the ultimate source of wisdom and knowledge is not my place—it's God's.

Over and over again throughout the summer I witnessed the incredible power of God to change not only my campers' lives, but also my own. Although camp life was a lot of work, seeing God touch so many hearts each week made it all worth it.

Praise God for always giving us the grace to accomplish what He has called us to do. In our weakness, He is strong.



2016-17 Collegian Staff

(back from left to right)

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Journalism and Mass Communication

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The 2016-17 Collegian staff looks forward to providing news coverage for the BJU family. Photo: Stephen Dysert

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AJ Papagno
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Amy Sheeter
(not pictured)
Graphic Design

Greenville mayor discusses strong relationship with BJU

TORI SANDERS
Staff Writer

Falls Park, Spill the Beans, Mast General Store and The Marble Slab—there is almost a guarantee that students from Bob Jones University will be found roaming these numerous downtown Greenville hot spots.

But at The University's Opening Exercises, thousands of students briefly pondered a Greenville devoid of their favorite coffee shops and study nooks as Mayor Knox White took the audience back in time.

Thirty years ago, as alumni may well remember, Main Street's bustling restaurants and shops were nonexistent while the iconic Reedy River Falls' beauty was hidden beneath a four-lane highway bridge.

Greenville, however, is renowned for its ability to reinvent itself.

The reinvention of Greenville's Downtown was just a physical manifestation of the spirit that has long been part of the city's foundation.

Mayor White said in a fol-

low-up interview that Greenville, as we know it today, is the result of good planning.

City officials have worked hard to create a city life that extends the office hours of nine to five and, as represented by the businesses and shops peppering Main Street, great partnerships. These ingredi-

“Keeping the finest talent from area colleges is a high priority for Greenville.”

ents, with the addition of the architectural masterpiece of a suspension bridge in place of the old highway bridge, were a recipe for success.

Today, Greenville is ranked as the No. 1 micro city of the future in a report done by fDi Intelligence, a magazine that specializes in foreign investment.

This report ranked hundreds of different micro cities, cities with populations of 100,000 or less, found in both

North and South America. In 2015, Greenville boasted the fourth best downtown in the nation according to Livability, an online site that ranks the appeal of different cities across the nation.

The Greenville Area Development Corporation provides multiple sources used to highlight that the city's economic growth is something to be impressed by.

Looking at the many successes of Mayor White and his creative team over the past few decades, it is obvious that Dr. Pettit was not exaggerating when he introduced White as the best mayor in the world.

Bob Jones University has been privileged to call this dynamic city home for 70 years, now.

Hundreds of graduates leave campus only to find their dream jobs waiting on the other side of town.

The mayor summed up this symbiotic relationship with the words “Bob Jones is Greenville, and Greenville is Bob Jones.”

“Keeping the finest talent from area colleges is a high priority for Greenville,” he said.



Dr. Pettit and Mayor White pose for a picture after the mayor's BJU address. Photo: Stephen Dysert

“It really is one of the reasons we work so hard to create a high quality of life. In today's economy, all successful cities rest on the skills and creative talents of young people,” Mayor White said.

“In many respects, we build this city for you!” Mayor White said.

This deep-seated friendship flows all the way from the mayor, who has been a close friend and unofficial ambassa-

dor for the University for decades, to the graduates who offer their talents to employers.

In return, blessed by the vitality of Greenville's economy.

In a recent follow-up interview with BJU public relations director Randy Page, Mayor White explained that Greenville has a high priority of keeping the various talent found in the numerous universities located around the

Greenville area.

Mayor White said graduates of Bob Jones University, in particular, are instilled with Christian values that help create a community that thrives on excellence.

The continuing construction of the Swamp Rabbit Trail and the 60-acre park destined to accompany it is proof that Greenville will keep adding to the list of BJU students' favorite hot spots.

The Cheesecake Factory brings new flavor to Greenville

IAN DYKE
Staff Writer

After months of rumors, eventual confirmation and finally construction, Greenville's own The Cheesecake Factory is open and operational.

Located adjacent to Haywood Mall, The Cheesecake Factory marks both Greenville's and the franchise's continued growth.

Since its grand opening on May 31, The Cheesecake Factory has seen few empty tables.

Its small army of waiters and waitresses serve hundreds of eager customers

every night. Lines have died down but not nearly as much as management expected.

“Out of eight restaurants in our region, we are number one,” store manager Alex Brock said. “[The store's success] will definitely continue.”

The local restaurant features the chain's recognizable Egyptianesque interior, including multiple murals and decorative columns.

The restaurant manages to feel upper-end without making costumers feel out of place.

Café style seating paired with extensive mood lighting give the restaurant a warm and inviting atmosphere.

Along with the expected steak, seafood and salad, menu choices include an assortment of Italian- and Asian-inspired dishes as well as house favorites like fried macaroni and cheese balls.

Average meals range from \$12 to \$16.

When asked for her favorite part of her meal, one customer—eying the cheesecake in front of her—said simply, “Yet to come.”

In addition to its 250 dishes served daily, the restaurant specializes in a vast variety of cheesecakes from the traditional strawberry to the outrageous, multilayered

See **CHEESECAKE** p. 8 >>



In addition to delectable cheesecakes, The Cheesecake Factory also offers specialty coffee drinks. Photo: Ian Nichols



GO

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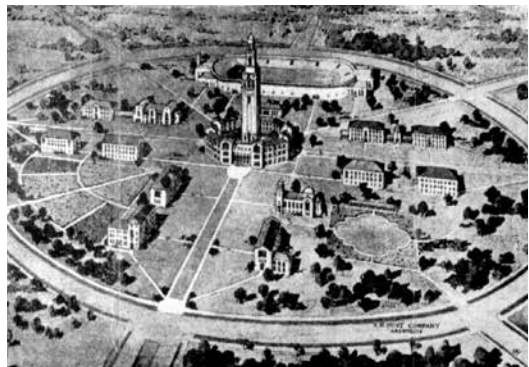
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for exclusive photos and weekly highlights!

Life in 1927...

...on campus...

...and around the world.

In December of 1926, ground was broken on the College Point, Florida, campus. The following year on Sept. 14, 1927, Bob Jones College opened its doors.



Arial view of the campus in 1927.

About BJC in 1927:

- Bob Jones College offered three majors: Bible, speech, and music.
- The College Point campus had a vegetable farm, a canning plant, a dairy and a sawmill.
- During the first operating year, the tuition at Bob Jones College was approximately \$350 a year (equivalent to \$4,853 in 2016).

Events in 1927:

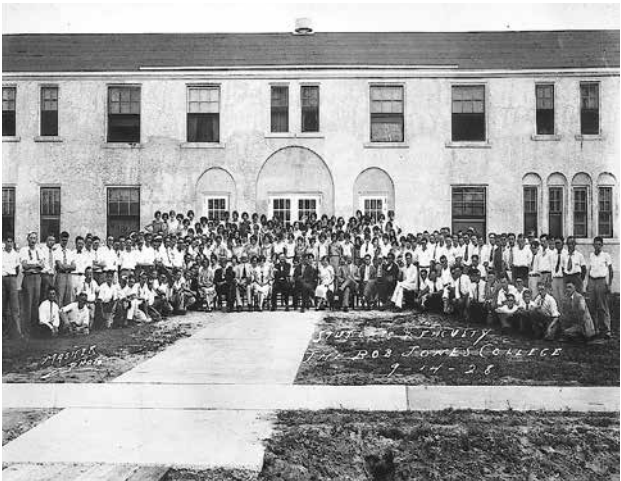
History:

- The carving of Mount Rushmore commenced.
- The first transatlantic telephone call was placed.
- Calvin Coolidge was president of the United States.
- The Holland Tunnel was opened in NYC to allow cars to travel under the Hudson River and also to allow an alternative to ferry boats.
- A fire in Laurier Palace Theatre in Montreal killed 78 children.
- An earthquake measuring 8.6 on the Richter scale struck Xining, China, killing 200,000.

Sports:

- The New York Yankees won the World Series.
- The New York Giants earned the National Football League title.
- First Golden Gloves tournament took place.

During that first year, there were 15 faculty members and 88 students (today there are roughly 220 faculty members and 2,700 students).



Girls' dormitories in 1927.



Football was the only sport played at Bob Jones College in 1927, and our team was known as the Swamp Angels.



Dorm rooms in 1927.



Intercollegiate Athletics

Lady Bruins volleyball sees early success in first season

NATALIE ODIORNE
Sports Editor

The Bruins women's volleyball team began its inaugural season this fall. The team may be young and learning but shows promise.

Head coach Vickie Denny said she feels the team is where it should be at this point in the season. She desires for the team to develop a higher knowledge of the game, or "Volleyball I.Q."

Out of the team's 14 players, seven are returning students who played for the club team this past spring. The other seven are new and transfer students.

"It's harder for them," Marjorie Elliott, one of the returning players, said about the new and transfer student athletes. Already familiar with BJU, returning students are learning how to fit the intensity of volleyball into the normal stress of the semester.

The new and transfer students have to get acquainted with both BJU and the intense schedule at the same time. Time management is a skill that is essential for student athletes.

"That will define us—how we handle the stress," Elliott said.

"They have a really good spirit, and they work well together," Denny said.

Denny said the team accomplished a lot

during their three-week preseason. The team practiced from nine in the morning until nine at night. During the preseason, the team took a trip to Tennessee to play two games and also to rest and spend quality time together as a team.

"Fourteen individuals came together, and our focus is unity," Elliott said.

With a diverse representation of majors from culinary arts to nursing to piano pedagogy, the team has focused on coming together as just that, a team.

"We each bring something different to the table," Elliott said.

Elliott described the team's attitude toward being the first Bruins volleyball team in one word: "Thankful." The Lady Bruins volleyball team believes that God has brought them to where they are for a purpose, and they are excited to live out that purpose.

"We are excited to represent Bob Jones and our awesome student body on the court," Elliott said.

The team suffered some injuries in the preseason. Denny praised the team's athletic trainer, Taylor Wilson, and the team's strength and conditioning coach, Kara Potts, for their work in helping the players take care of their bodies.

The team will play over 40 matches this season. "Our goal is to be competitive in our region," Denny said.



Lady Bruins dominate the net in a high reach for the block. Photo: Rebecca Snyder



Rachel Tubbs celebrates a victory with her teammates. Photo: Rebecca Snyder



Lauren Johnson sets up the play for her fellow Lady Bruins. Photo: Rebecca Snyder

Shooting team adds new dimension to Bruins athletics

AJ PAPAGNO
Staff Writer

Since Bob Jones University reentered intercollegiate sports in 2012, several new teams have been added to the Bruins athletics including intercollegiate shooting.

Dr. Mike Wilkie, coach of the Bruins shooting team, brings an extensive amount of experience to his coaching. Since 1988, Wilkie has served in several different law enforcement positions, including training with the Israel State Police as a delegate of the 17th Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange, serving on the executive board of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, and serving as president of the South Carolina Police Chiefs Association.

Adding a shooting team to the university's intercollegiate sports gives a different angle on recruitment for BJU.

"We offer something some schools don't," Dr. Wilkie said.

In the spring of 2015, the Bruins formed a shooting sports club with the intention of eventually forming an intercollegiate team.

In Talladega, Alabama, the Bruins competed at a national shooting competition in March. They competed alongside several prominent schools such as West Point, Michigan State, Florida, Texas A&M and Kentucky.

The Bruins shooting team will be using .22 caliber and 9mm handguns as well as .22-caliber rifles. Some of the team will be shooting Glock 9mms as well as a SIG Sauer SP2022. They will shoot at steel targets, which are standard for intercollegiate shooting.

"Just like any college sport, shooting has its own culture," Dr. Wilkie said.

David Smith, captain of the shooting team, added that everyone in intercollegiate shooting is friendly, and that most are eager to learn from their fellow competitors.

Smith said he joined the team because he likes to shoot and he also plans on having a ca-

reer in law enforcement.

Nathanael Seibert, Stephen Snow and Nathaniel Haefka attributed people and camaraderie as their reasons for joining the team.

Dr. Wilkie said the goals for the shooting

team are to honor Christ as they compete with other universities, to connect with others in the firearms community and most importantly, to make the shooting team a ministry platform to let the Gospel's light shine.



The shooting team takes aim during target practice. Photo: Ian Nichols

Intramural schedule changes to enhance athletic unity

LUKE MCCORMICK
Staff Writer

As the 2016-2017 academic year begins, students will notice changes in the way society sports are being scheduled.

According to intramural directors, these changes work toward maximizing intramural schedules and the efficiency of the Davis Field House personnel as well as creating continuity and equity in the intramural program.

Mike LeViere, director of intramural sports, shared some insight on the changes.

“Probably the biggest change we will see in intramurals is the move for women’s society volleyball from the

fall to the spring, and there’s a couple reasons for that,” LeViere said.

The first reason LeViere gave was that changes in scheduling would bring greater organization to women’s and men’s society sports, strengthening the program.

The move of women’s intramural volleyball accompanies several scheduling shifts being made to intramural sports.

Women’s soccer was also moved to coincide with men’s soccer in early September.

Leviere said this move reflects growing participation in women’s society soccer in the place of women’s society volleyball.

Men’s teams have not been left out of the schedule

improvements. Eleven-man soccer will now receive twice as many matches, bringing the sport closer to the schedule of its seven-man counterpart.

Matthew Weathers, student leadership coordinator, also spoke about the changes.

“We are very excited this year for the increased focus on intramural sports so that we can enhance the overall experience for all of our student athletes,” Weathers said. “We have rearranged some of the schedules in order to maximize the opportunity for students to play and get as many games as possible in the best weather possible.”

Weathers also shared his vision of seeing intramural improvements add unity and

opportunity to university athletics as a whole.

“My vision is to see intercollegiate and intramural sports coexist and support one another mutually,” Weathers said. “It’s incredible to see societies out cheering on the Bruins and also to see Bruin athletes cheering on their societies.”

Weathers likens BJU athletics to local and national teams.

We cheer for our local teams during regular seasons but cheer for our national teams during events like the Olympics.

Likewise, we cheer for our society teams in intramurals but cheer for the Bruins against other universities.

Intramural Sports	Season Dates
Men's 11v11 Soccer	Sept. 17 - Nov. 19
Men's 7v7 Soccer	Sept. 17 - Dec. 10
Women's 7v7 Soccer	Sept. 17 - Dec. 10
Men's Flag Football	Nov. 12 - Dec 10
Men's Basketball	Jan. 21 - March 4
Women's Basketball	Jan. 21 - March 4
Men's Volleyball	March 4 - April 8
Women's Volleyball	March 4 - April 8
Men's Softball	April 10 - May 6
Women's Softball	April 10 - May 6
Women's Water Polo	Jan. 21 - March 11
Badminton	March 11
Disc Golf	Sept. 17 - Dec. 3
Ping Pong	Sept. 17- Dec. 3

Bruins athletics have created a unified, athletic atmosphere The University did not have before.

Intramural sports will debut during the Sept. 17 Jambo-ree at the kickoff of men’s and women’s soccer.

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PEOPLE TO JOIN OUR STAFF.



PLEASE EMAIL EDITOR@BJU.EDU
IF INTERESTED

»CHEESECAKE p. 4

white chocolate-cruised red velvet.

As most customers will advise you, dessert is not optional at The Cheesecake Factory.

Lead manager Jessica Phlegar expressed the restaurant's excitement not only to serve its clientele but also to serve the community of Greenville.

The Cheesecake Factory chain as a whole is committed to multiple charitable endeavors, including a partnership with Feeding America.

This September (National Hunger Action Month), Greenville's local The Cheesecake Factory will be collecting thousands of pounds of peanut butter to distribute to

needy families.

All donations go toward providing school lunches to resident Greenville County students.

Greenville's The Cheesecake Factory encourages university students to join the cause by either taking peanut, sunflower or soy butter or a monetary donation to the restaurant's location at Haywood Mall.

Although regular visits to The Cheesecake Factory may be out of most college students' price range, The Cheesecake Factory's warm atmosphere, all-encompassing menu and signature desserts make it a stand-out for any birthday or special occasion.



The Cheesecake Factory offers a large selection of desserts and other delicious foods. Photo: Ian Nichols

»HISTORY p. 1

legian from a bi-weekly newspaper—with printed stories and photos physically cut and pasted onto a board and carried to the print shop—to the weekly newspaper—with stories and photos uploaded and posted on its own website and multiple social media accounts—is part of the long history the staff will be celebrating throughout the year.

The process of reporting and writing the content of

The Collegian has remained quite similar over the years, but physically putting the paper together has definitely changed.

Whitmore said the early *Collegian* staff used a Mac Plus with a tiny built-in monitor, and they used Ready,Set,Go! as their desktop publishing software.

“At that time, desktop publishing and electronic pre-press production was in its infancy,” he said.

One early staff member, Dave McQuaid, contributed much to the production of *The Collegian*, both as a writer and designer when he was a student and later as the production adviser after he graduated.

McQuaid joined *The Collegian* staff in the newspaper's second year as the features editor, helping with the layout and ad design in addition to writing for the newspaper.

The Collegian benefited

from McQuaid's skills for an additional 15 years, as he stayed at BJU after graduating joining the same publications department that Whitmore had headed. “As time went on, I helped the staff progress to an all-digital production method, eventually helping them set up their own production studio in *The Collegian* office,” McQuaid said.

He also helped with the creation and updating of the logotype, type choices and

page templates.

“I helped mentor the editors and guide them in their choices and vision for the paper,” he said.

Solomon said the first staff members really felt the responsibility of doing their best in serving the campus.

“Those early years of students were so excited that they were doing something new,” Solomon said. The later staffs carried that same enthusiasm with them

throughout the 30 years.

Whitmore said he thinks the newspaper helped make strides in BJU's history.

“I think *The Collegian* helped increase school spirit on the campus and also became a promotional tool to show parents and prospective students what was happening on campus,” Whitmore said. “That was our purpose, along with giving our journalism students practical experience, and I think it was successful.”

Evangelicals and Politics: forum to inform BJU students

REBEKAH ANDERSON
Staff Writer

On Nov. 8, evangelicals across the country will be faced with a difficult decision that will determine the course of America's future.

Though a few seniors may have voted in the 2012 election, this is, for most BJU students, the first presidential election in which they'll have the opportunity to cast votes.

Dr. Gary Weier, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and professor in the Division of Communication, recognizes the conflicts this particular election has raised. Weier said he hopes students will rise to the occasion and get involved during this election season.

This vision sparked the idea to establish a platform for discussing the role of evangelicals in 2016 and beyond. The result? A three-part series, organized to address political issues: “Balancing Piety and Pragmatism: Evangelicals and Politics.”

Each forum will meet in Stratton Hall at 7 p.m. The first forum will take place

Tuesday and will reflect on past examples of evangelicals who were actively involved in politics.

The second, scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 13, will address present-day issues—a timely discussion in light of the upcoming November election.

The final forum on Tuesday, Nov. 15, will guide evangelicals in reevaluating their role in society beyond 2016. This discussion will be especially helpful, since it follows this one-of-a-kind presidential election.

The unique aspects of this year's election concerning the evangelical vote prompted Weier—along with social science faculty, Carl and Linda Abrams—to organize these three forums.

“It's been assumed for decades that we'd vote for the Republican candidate,” Weier said. He also said that this election, however, has left evangelicals questioning the true values of the Republican Party.

As a Christian higher education institution, BJU is viewed by the community

as a source of knowledge and instruction—especially in political matters such as these. Weier believes it's the University's responsibility to teach and equip thought leaders who are knowledgeable about the topics of today.

To assist in this academic process, Weier has invited several other qualified thought leaders from around the

country to participate in the series. Panelists will include a Yale law school graduate, professors from Furman, Clemson, Cedarville and Wheaton along with BJU's own faculty members.

Randy Page, director of public relations for BJU, said, “It's an opportunity for students to hear from leading experts across the country on

the role evangelicals play in politics.”

This role, however, is becoming increasingly difficult to define. Linda Abrams, an associate professor in the Division of Social Science, said the evangelical vote is more divided than ever.

“It's being splintered,” she said.

In fact, the data from

evangelical votes during the 1980s contrasts sharply with the trends of evangelicals now.

Abrams believes this discrepancy is linked to the increase in travel, which often takes the form of mission trips or study abroad programs.

“What we're beginning to see is that younger evangelicals who have traveled a lot more are far more world-oriented, and therefore they slip over to the Democratic column,” she said.

Because younger evangelicals have seen more of the world, they've embraced a negotiation mindset; they're more interested in making peace or talking things through than in resorting to violence and war. Abrams said the Democratic response to ISIS most exemplifies this mindset.

Abrams said the logistics for the forums will be mostly handled by the new student-led Public Policy Organization. Abrams said she is thrilled to work alongside the students for the series.

“The Lord has superintended over this event,” Abrams said.

Balancing Piety & Pragmatism: Evangelicals and Politics

Forum 1	Forum 2	Forum 3
Tuesday, Sept. 20 Stratton Hall	Thursday, Oct. 13 Stratton Hall	Tuesday, Nov. 15 Stratton Hall
Speakers include: Dr. Carl Abrams of BJU Dr. Kellen Funk law clerk, U.S. District Court Texas Dr. James Guth of Furman Dr. Thomas Mach of Cedarville	Speakers include: Mrs. Linda Abrams of BJU Dr. Charles Dunn Professor Emeritus of Regent University Dr. Danielle Vinson of Furman	Speakers include: Chad Connelly, Republican National Committee Dr. Theon Hill of Wheaton College Dr. Brenda Schoolfield of BJU Dr. David Woodard of Clemson