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Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC 29614

Study Abroad



SUMMER 2019 TOURS

Dr. Amos Kasperek

6 Spanish credits (MLS)
Petrer, Spain

Dr. Jeremy Patterson

6 French credits (MLF)
Paris, France

Dr. Carl Abrams and Mrs. Linda Abrams

3 history credits (Hi)
Paris, France

Dr. Paul Radford

3 communication studies credits (Com)
United Kingdom

TABITHA LEAMAN
Staff Writer

This summer BJU students will have the opportunity to participate in four different study abroad tours led by faculty.

Students who go on the study abroad tours often do so to fulfill certain credit re-

quirements in their program of study.

Dr. Amos Kasperek, faculty member within the Division of Modern Language, and Literature, will lead a tour for Spanish language credit.

Dr. Jeremy Patterson, chair of the Division of Modern Language and Literature,

will lead a tour for French language credit.

Another tour will be led by Dr. Carl Abrams and Mrs. Linda Abrams, both of whom are faculty in the Division of Social Science. This tour will take students to France, and it will count for academic credit.

Dr. Paul Radford, head

of the Department of Communication Studies, will lead a study abroad tour to the United Kingdom for communication studies credit.

Kasperek said the students on the Spain tour will spend just over a month in the Eastern part of Spain.

"We are going to two little towns joined together

called Elda-Petrer," he said. "[They're] located roughly 30 minutes inland from the Mediterranean coast city Alicante, a little bit south of Valencia."

He said students stay with host families and have a lot of interaction with them.

Students who participate in the Spain study abroad

program spend their mornings in class and their evenings spending time with their host families, working on homework or going out with other students.

Kasperek said students receive significant linguistic benefits from the tour. He said they improve their language See **STUDY ABROAD** p. 4 >>

Discipleship groups foster spiritual growth, mentoring

CHRISTINA LAIRD
Staff Writer

For 20 minutes three times a week, groups of students gather in their residence halls and have the opportunity to grow closer to each other and to God.

Dr. Steve Pettit, president of BJU, said discipleship groups allow students to grow together as a community of believers.

The New Testament has more than 50 "one another" passages; discipleship groups are a way these passages can be put into action.

Pettit emphasized the importance of peer discipleship.

"The greatest influence on the campus of [BJU] for the life of a student is always another student," he said. "It doesn't mean the professors don't have influence, or your

pastor or your parents, but your peers supersede everything."

The goal of discipleship groups is to nurture these godly relationships with peers.

Rachel Sellev, a sophomore studio art major, said discipleship group is a great way to meet people.

"You're meeting people that you wouldn't otherwise have anything in common [with]—you're different majors, different years, different societies," she said.

Kayla Burget, a sophomore theatre arts major, said she loves the unique opportunity to get to know her friends spiritually.

"It's great because . . . you want to get together with people and have a Bible study," she said. "[Discipleship group] kind of automatically does it for you."

Hannah Campbell, a senior health sciences major, said that being an assistant group leader on freshman floor is one of her favorite things about the residence halls.

"I went into the first few nights expecting to speak truth into each of their lives and praying to see them grow," Campbell said. "A week into the semester, I was stunned to realize that these girls were ministering to me instead!"

Campbell and her roommate, Anna Joyce, have both suffered from Lyme disease during college. Imagine their surprise this year when they discovered a freshman in their discipleship group also has Lyme.

Campbell said sharing her struggles with these girls has been the most incredible gift in her life.

"God is using your life in ways you would never expect," Campbell said. "Do not underestimate His power in your story."

Jena Burmeister, one of the girls in Campbell's group, said her own relationship with God grew more last year than it ever has before.

"[I was] encouraged daily to look to God in every aspect of my life," Burmeister said. "[My discipleship See **DISCIPLESHIP** p. 6 >>



Discipleship groups meet three nights a week—Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays—from 10:30 to 10:50 p.m. Photo: Kayla Jacobs

COLUMN



KATE JONES
Staff Writer

Kate Jones is the granddaughter of Beneth Peters Jones, the wife of Dr. Bob Jones III.

My grandmother has cancer—a rather jarring diagnosis I learned of during my first week of school.

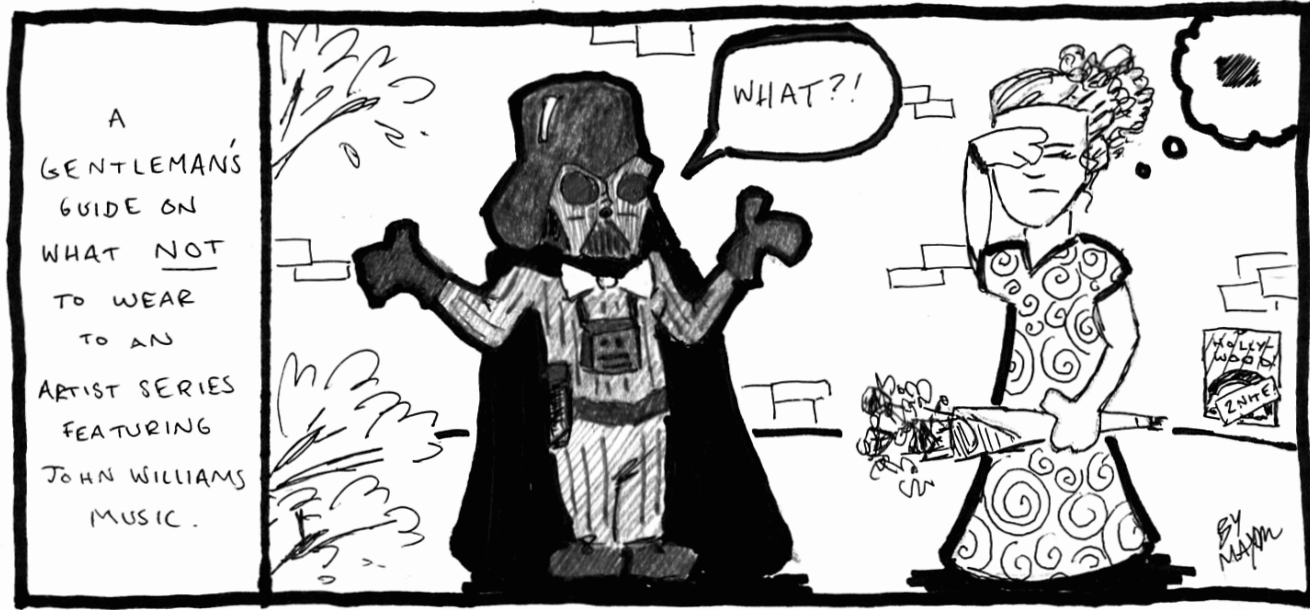
She is one of my life's role models and (even in her 80s) I have never known her to act her age—she is as feisty and beautiful, independent and adventurous now as I imagine she was in her 40s.

Cancer brought an unexpected stop to that, but even in her weakest moments she is still one of the strongest women I will ever know.

I am fortunate to have my four grandparents still living, and each of them has taught me more about life than I have ever learned in school.

Having lived much longer than I, my grandparents have acquired a wealth of wisdom and experience.

By listening and asking them questions about their See **COLUMN** p. 3 »



COMIC: MAX BURAK

The Collegian Editorial

Breaking a deafening silence: biblical response to abuse and assault victims

According to the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, one in six male children and one in four female children will be sexually assaulted before they turn 18 years old. Fifty-five percent of North Americans are reported victims of sexual abuse of some kind.

Nearly 20 people in the United States are physically abused by an intimate partner every single minute, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

According to a report done by the United States Department of Justice, 25 to 25 percent of college women and 15 percent of college men become rape victims during their time in college.

With these staggering statistics, we may assume that the Christian community is not

immune from this epidemic of abuse and assault of all kinds.

A multitude of emotions and serious, difficult questions face those suffering abuse or assault. We as Christians should be willing and ready to help, equipped with love and compassion.

Above all, victims need to know that God cares for them deeply and personally. Isaiah 43:4 affirms God's infinite care: "Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee."

Second, we should reassure victims that they did not deserve the abuse they received and that it was never "their fault."

Judging or blaming victims for their abuse, even unintentionally, is a dangerous way to cause further emotional damage to a victim. Victims

should never feel like they cannot talk to people they trust about the situation without being judged.

As believers, we should also support victims through listening and allowing them talk about their experience. This welcoming support is part of the "bearing" that Galatians 6:2 instructs us to do: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Deep emotional and spiritual struggles that result from abuse deserve deep biblical answers, especially regarding God's care for victims and God's justice for abuses.

Many times we might be tempted to give a pithy, reassuring response that may sound empty or even insulting to victims. Simply attempting to placate the victim can many times hurt rather than help.

We should also encourage the victim to seek the help they may need that is beyond our personal expertise. Experts in trauma and abuse, trained biblical counselors and caring pastors are all good sources of advice and assistance. If the situation calls for it, encourage the victim to talk to law enforcement or seek medical help.

Of all people, we as Christians should be ready with open arms to comfort and care for those who come forward about sexual abuse.

Bob Jones University partners with MinistrySafe to provide Sexual Abuse Awareness training to students, faculty and staff. Training sessions are available today at 9–10:30 a.m. in Levinson Hall, 1–2:30 p.m. in Levinson Hall and 3–4:30 p.m. in Stratton Hall.

UTALK BACK

WHAT'S THE WORST MISTAKE YOU'VE MADE THIS SEMESTER SO FAR?



freshman
ORIANA SMITH

"Waiting until the last minute."



sophomore
DORCAS LANYERO

"Slept through a class."



freshman
ZACH TAPP

"Too much Youtube."



freshman
JOHN SCHAAF

"Routinely leaving my room without all my stuff."



senior
SARAH WORSHAM

"Forgetting my umbrella at home."

PHOTOS: ROBBY JORGENSEN

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

BY CHRISTINA LAIRD

Mrs. Rebekah Mininger
Assistant Professor in the Division of Art and Design



Christina: “How did you come to love photography?”

Mininger: “Growing up, my parents always told me, ‘You’re going to go to [BJU].’ My parents just loved the education they got here. So as a kid, I always knew that I was going to [BJU]. It never was a question. But I didn’t know what I wanted to major in, and I felt like I had no calling in my life. I finally [said], ‘Okay, I’ll do cinema, because I like to watch movies.’ I actually really love motion pictures. I did my undergrad and master’s in cinema. But what I found out was that I really loved the still image. I was moved by the poetry that it communicated.”

C: “How did you end up teaching here at BJU?”

M: “I worked for the Greenville Journal, Ernest Rawlins Photography, and at the same time Bird’s Eye View Event Photography, which is now Tricycle Studios. So on the weekends I would shoot triathlons, sports and cycling events and during the week I would do primarily file management at Ernest Rawlins Photography and some shooting of portraits and weddings.

And then I worked two to three days at the Greenville Journal. I decided I wanted to cool down all these jobs because I was working like crazy, and I was married. So I applied here at [BJU] . . . and [became] a staff photographer. After about six years, I was half staff photographer and half teaching. Then I just picked up more classes [until] I was full time. I started working on my MFA so we could someday have a photography major, and graduated in 2017. I’m also the program coordinator for all the photography classes.”

C: “What do you like to do outside of school?”

M: “I love fine art photography. So this past Saturday, I was downtown at the Southeast Center for Photography, and I did a workshop on box making. I like to shoot fine art photography and study it. I like to go to galleries and learn different crafts.”

C: “What do you like to do with your family?”

M: “I love to bake with my girls. We really love to bake together in the kitchen. We’ll put on Christmas music and dance around the

kitchen. It doesn’t matter what time of year it is—could be July or June or May—we’ll just get flour everywhere. We love making cookies. Also I love Disney World—huge Disney World fan! I like to take my family in May. I’ve already signed up for this year. There’s a way you can beat the system, but you have to be in the know. So I love to get together with friends and talk about our strategies.”

Christina: “What’s an interesting fact that students might not know about you?”

Mininger: “I am related to pirates! Pirates who sailed out of the northeast in the late 1700s. My daughters love the fact that they are related to a pirate captain. Maybe we were Viking pirates . . . [because] we’re Scandinavian.”

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lives, I can learn how their pasts shape the wrinkled but still strong form I see now.

Most of us have grown up in cultures that do not know how to respect their elders, much less care about what they have to say or teach us.

These influencers have more energy than I will ever have, more motivation to witness to people and are still driving their giant grandma cars.

It took me a long time to realize how valuable spending time with older brothers and sisters in Christ can be.

parents; it’s older people at church, teachers, parents, bosses.

Learning something about others can bring incredible clarity to our small, unexpansive lives.

It is a gift of God to be able to sit and hear stories I’ve never heard before about people I’ve never met, places I’ve never been, in a time I can never go back to.

To watch the storyteller’s eyes glaze over as he or she remembers those days.

I can picture it with them—yearn for the same things they do, and learn by extension what hardships and beauty the future might hold for me. I can grasp that and live it to my full ability for God’s glory.

So often, Scripture talks about the young and the old—Proverbs, for example, was written from a father to his son, to pass along wisdom.

One of my favorite prom-

ises I’ve always clung to is from Isaiah 46:4 where God is talking to Israel (and by extension of Christ’s sacrifice to the Gentile believer as well).

The passage says, “And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.”

The Lord has used those much older and wiser than I to teach me some of my most important life lessons.

When I speak to my elders, I hope to come away a changed person.

It takes effort and time to accomplish, but I would encourage you to listen to your elders.

Make friends with them. They have so much more wisdom to share than we could ever realize.

In gleaning their wisdom, we may be able to grow and experience more than we ever would have on our own.

Learning something about others can bring incredible clarity to our small, unexpansive lives.

I’ve been blessed to grow up in an environment where most of the biggest influencers in my life were or are older than I am, where I was taught to be seen and not heard.

Many of my biggest inspirations have been in their 60s and above, some even into their 90s.

After experiencing the loss of several of these friends who have gone on to glory, I mourn those missed opportunities.

Now I view being able to sit down and talk for an hour with my grandmother as a precious time.

But it’s not just my grand-



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»STUDY ABROAD p. 1

proficiency by speaking a language that is not their first for an extended period of time, and the student's language skills improve because they're able to interact with people from other cultures.

"Students will grow in their ability to communicate effectively," he said. "That is a skill people want in the twenty-first century."

Kasperek said another great benefit is students are given an opportunity to reach beyond themselves and be a Gospel light to the places they visit.

"The trip will put students into contact with cultures and people they may not have otherwise had contact with

"As part of their course objectives, they will do some activities for the church that will contribute to their projects," he said. "Like interviewing people and doing worldview surveys. And other things the church might ask them to do like pass out tracts, teach children's classes or do music."

He also said he hopes the students will benefit from interacting with a church that may be very different from what they are used to.

"It opens your mind," he said. "Not all Christians do church the same around the world."

Patterson said students will develop their language skills in an ideal, immersive

Radford said the purpose of the tour is for students to learn about some of England's most beloved storytellers.

"We are going to look at C.S. Lewis, William Shakespeare and J.R.R. Tolkien and how they used fictional stories to communicate spiritual ideas," he said. "We stop in places significant to those people. The way I see it is that this is a very immersive learning experience."

Radford said there are many benefits to the tour. He said students gain class credit but that there is far more to the trip than that.

"It is economical," he said. "And I do think you build strong bonds with fellow learners."

“I have been able to share the love of Jesus with people who might never hear about the Gospel otherwise.”

and will give them an opportunity to make a Gospel contact," he said. "That is why I support study abroad and the benefits of it."

Patterson said the students will receive six French language credits and spend four weeks in and around Paris.

He teaches a three-credit course on Paris, in which students study the city's history, geography, famous people, monuments and museums.

Patterson said the students will the earn the other three credits by pairing up and studying another city or town the same way they did Paris.

The students will be involved in two different churches.

environment. In his opinion, the study abroad students are given a win-win situation.

"For a pretty good price, students can go to countries, places, monuments and museums that so many people want to visit," he said. "Students can be tourists, but also earn academic credit toward a major or minor. There is really no down side to it."

Radford said he and the students travel for two weeks to various places in England and Scotland including London, Bath, Nottingham, Oxford, York, Keswick and Edinburgh.

He said students will visit Stonehenge, Stratford-upon-Avon and maybe even Sherwood Forest.

He also said his goal for his trip is to give students an opportunity to travel together for the same price or cheaper than they would individually.

Radford said the tour is open to all students.

"This is very applicable to any student," he said. "It's not just for literature and communication majors."

Yani Juve, a senior interior design major, traveled on an art study abroad trip last summer to Spain, Italy and France. The tour was led by Mrs. Michelle Radford and Dr. Paul Radford and happens every two years.

She said they traveled by plane to Barcelona, Spain, but spent the rest of the trip



Khurry Bullard and Edith Avalos Lara lived with their native speaker host for a month on the 2015 Spanish tour. Photo: Submitted



Students on the 2016 Spanish tour attended the annual "Moros y cristianos" festival in the town they visited. Photo: Submitted

traveling in a cruise ship. She said it was very fun, and she enjoyed learning about the history behind many famous sights.

"You don't need to be an art student to learn about those places," she said. "You get to understand what a picture in a textbook was talking about."

She said the tour was not too expensive.

"It's a full experience of three different countries, a cruise ship, different cultures and foods, and getting out of your comfort zone," she said. "And it's for an affordable price."

Juve said students who are thinking about going on a study abroad should talk to their instructors and their parents for advice.

"We are college students, so we don't have as many responsibilities as people with

full time jobs do," she said. "Take the opportunity now while you have it."

Anna Grace Casillas, a sophomore Spanish major, participated in the Spanish study abroad tour last summer led by Kasperek.

She said it was difficult speaking Spanish for the majority of the time but that she improved a lot in her proficiency.

"By the end of the first week you have a headache," she said. "But it was still cool."

She said they visited many cities and places, including different castles, on the weekends while there.

After the tour, she changed her major because she wanted to focus on Spanish.

She said she learned so many different things from the tour, particularly about experiencing other cultures.

"We learned to treat people better from other cultures when they come to America because we were in the same situation over there," she said.

Casillas said when she came home she really missed Spain.

"To be honest, it was the best four weeks of my life," she said.

Dr. Gary Weier, executive vice president for academic affairs, said that study abroad tours are a great way for students to apply what they are currently learning in a variety of classes.

"It takes you out of your comfort zone," he said. "You learn about different cultures and people and that enables you to see people in a different light."

He encouraged students to prayerfully consider pursuing study abroad tours this summer.



Michelle Radford's study abroad tour for art credit this past summer visited Barcelona, Spain. Photo: Submitted by Abby Marasigan



@thecollegianbju

LET'S GO OUT FOR MEXICAN!

by Andrew Schmidt

VIVA VILLA

Viva Villa is located at 3717 E. North St.—about a 10-minute drive from campus. This restaurant serves fajita, chicken, steak, beef and bean nachos as well as wings, grilled shrimp, salads, soups and tacos. Each meal is served with chips and house salsa.

Viva Villa seeks to create an authentic Mexican atmosphere through both food and ambience. As the website states, “In authentic Mexican food, the core must be traced back to the culture. From the smell to the flavor, we will take you to Mexico and back.”

The restaurant has limited but rarely overcrowded seating and is colorfully decorated. It also has an outdoor seating area with a fountain and umbrella-sheltered tables.

The staff is known among customers as being good-natured and helpful.



TACO CASA

TacoCasa is located at 1002 North Pleasantburg Drive. Just over a half-mile from campus, this restaurant is a 20-minute walk or two-minute drive away.

Its menu offers tacos, burritos and other Mexican food staples. It has a well-lit, minimalist interior.

Megan Bradford, a junior business administration student, said, “I enjoy the simplified atmosphere, affordable prices and tasty food.”

LA PARRILLA

La Parrilla is found at 1 Market Point Drive. This restaurant is about a 10-minute drive from campus. The restaurant has a very inviting, comfortable ambience. When it's nice outside, La Parrilla offers outdoor seating. People enjoy this restaurant for its fast service and for its dessert options.



TIPSY TACO

Tipsy Taco is located at 215 Pelham Road. It's a five-minute drive from campus. This restaurant serves a variety of nacho platters as well as quesadillas, tacos, salads and more.

Tipsy Taco's interior is visually stimulating, featuring colorful lights and Mexico-themed décor. Despite the initial impression you may get from its relatively humble storefront, the restaurant is spacious and typically will be able to seat large groups right away.

Kerri Haynes, a sophomore music major, said “I've had good service every time I have eaten [at Tipsy Taco] and the food is delicious.”

Most students agree that the staff is friendly and courteous. Prices range from \$8 to \$13 on average, and the food is served in large portions.

EL MOLCAJETE

El Molcajete, or “Elmo's” as it's known around campus, is located at 2435 E. North St. This restaurant is just under a mile off campus, making it a 20-minute walk or barely over a one-minute drive.

This restaurant offers tacos, fajitas, soups, salads, seafood and more. The menu also features several various types of combos.

Isaac Slayton, a junior Bible major, enjoys eating at this Mexican restaurant. “I love El Molcajete!” he said. “It has an amazing California Burrito: steak, chicken, shrimp and covered in cheese sauce.”

El Molcajete offers prices that compete with many fast food chains with its \$4 to \$10 range. This restaurant also features quick service but still boasts a sit-down atmosphere and quality food made from fresh ingredients. Its proximity to campus makes El Molcajete an ideal restaurant for a student on a tighter budget.

High School Festival provides unique challenges

DANIEL QUIGLEY
Staff Writer

The High School Festival & Preaching and Teaching Conference allows high school students to compete against their peers and receive feedback from college professors while experiencing life at BJU.

The festival begins on Oct. 29, and concludes on Nov. 1. It is divided into different categories, including culinary, music, speech and drama, video and art and design. There is also a preaching conference for men and a biblical teaching conference for women.

The culinary competition is a new opportunity for competitors.

Students in teams of three or fewer must demonstrate their ability to design a menu, perform multiple knife techniques and prepare a meal.

The competitors can also network with faculty and current students during a lunch on Oct. 31.

Another new competi-

tion this year is the women's teaching conference led by Cindy Garland of the School of Religion faculty.

Students must craft a 12- to 15-minute expository challenge that focuses on women from a Pauline epistle. Participants will receive one-on-one feedback and may also attend workshops.

Similar to the women's teaching conference, the preaching conference gives young men multiple opportunities to teach God's Word by preaching either an expository or topical sermon aimed at the edification of believers or the evangelization of the lost.

After their first preaching session, which is recorded, the students sit down with a mentor and discuss ways to improve their sermons.

The students then preach again, and eventually they break into a semifinal round and a final round. Whoever reaches the final round gets to preach in the high school festival chapel.

Kerry McGonigal, School

of Religion faculty member and pastor of Beth Haven Baptist Church in Simpsonville, oversees the preaching conference.

McGonigal said the competition benefits students by helping them figure out whether they are called to the ministry and giving them experience in preaching God's Word.

"I think it gives them increased confidence that they're able to stand up in front of a group of people and open up the Bible and share God's Word in ways that are helpful and edifying," he said.

McGonigal also appreciates the relational aspect of the preaching conference.

He said there is a lot of one-on-one time with the students, and students and faculty attend a cookout together on Nov. 1, the last night of Festival.

"I spend a lot of time with the guys in the workshops," McGonigal said.

Students also attend preaching workshops as part of the conference.

The music competition, administered by Paul Jantz, a member of the faculty in the Division of Music, has 17 competitions, including solo voice, piano and guitar as well as ensemble competitions.

Jantz said the competition aspect of High School Festival is extremely beneficial for students.

"Progress is made in a performance area by setting

goals and reaching for them," he said. "So the contest portion of the high school festival gives all these high school kids a goal to shoot for to prepare music."

Students from all competitions will be able to practice and perform alongside different university music groups under the groups' respective conductors, including the chorale, concert choir, the

symphonic wind band and the symphony orchestra.

This allows all participants to interact with faculty and members of the university student body.

"Obviously they come here for competition," Jantz said. "But we want them to connect with our students and our faculty."

The speech and drama See **FESTIVAL** p. 7 >>



Young men prepare to present their sermons in the preaching conference. Photo: Derek Eckenroth/BJU Marketing

>>>**DISCIPLESHIP** p. 1
group] inspired in me an awe of God and a realization of how he deserves our praise in every aspect of our lives."

Prayer is a major emphasis in discipleship groups for its importance to spiritual growth.

"Prayer to a believer is like air to your lungs," Pettit said. "You can't live without prayer."

Brandon Riddell, a sophomore cinema production major, said it's helpful to pray for everything—from basic requests such as school projects to bigger life decisions.

Jonah Lawson, a junior business administration major, said it's always an encouragement to share their spiritual goals for the semester and to pray about them.

Mark Kamibayashiyama, a sophomore cinema production major, said, "Every Sunday night we pray for the upcoming week, and then every Thursday we share what God has been doing during the week."

Kamibayashiyama said God has answered prayers in areas like job opportunities, internships and projects.

Nathan Swaim, a sophomore accounting major, said they did a split night where they did smaller groups and prayed for each other.

"That has been one of my favorite nights so far," Swaim said.

Pettit gave four "A's" to

help groups grow closer: accomplishments, adversities, amusement and appreciation.

First, Pettit suggested groups accomplish something together.

"I would encourage the group to, once a semester, do an 'others' project," he said.

Many discipleship groups set aside a Saturday and serve together somewhere in the community.

Glenn Faris, a sophomore history major, said his group frequently prays for Beneth Jones, Dr. Bob Jones III's wife who is struggling with cancer.

They also wrote her an encouraging, hand-written letter, and each member of Faris' group signed it.

Second, share adversities. When people are willing to be transparent about their struggles, they can grow closer.

Faris said he thinks it's important to share with his group what's happening in his walk with Christ.

"The biggest thing as an assistant group leader is taking initiative to share even when it's uncomfortable," he said. "You never know what's going to be encouraging to someone else."

Joe Oestreich, a sophomore accounting major, said discipleship group is a good way to get to know your friends better and talk about issues you've been having.

"It's encouraging to talk about things and then pray with each other," he said.

Burget's group frequently went past the required 20 minutes and had long talks together.

"I learned that just because someone isn't transparent doesn't mean they don't struggle," Burget said. "[Discipleship groups] have helped me become more open and help me help others."

Third, amusement—do fun things with your discipleship group. Some groups play games, have parties for birthdays and holidays, share food or do gift exchanges at Christmas.

Sarah Carpenter, a sophomore studio art major, said her favorite game she's played in discipleship group is with M&M's.

Everyone takes one and answers a question based on

the M&M's color.

"It's a great way to hear funny stories about people," Carpenter said.

It's also important to spend time together outside of discipleship group. Burget's group ate brunch downtown, visited her parents' house and went on outings with their prayer partners.

"[These girls are] a huge part of my life," Burget said.

Lastly, appreciate each

other. On someone's birthday, for example, everyone in the group can say what they're thankful for about that person.

A lot of groups simply show appreciation by sharing food with their groups or verbally encouraging others.

These four ideas can bring students closer together and help build the relationships necessary for community and spiritual growth.



Discipleship group provides residence hall students with an opportunity to develop iron-sharpening-iron relationships with other believers. Photo: Robby Jorgensen

Cross country teams recover from sickness, push forward

SETH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The BJU men’s and women’s cross country teams have had successful first halves of their seasons and are looking to capture some key wins in the second half as they recover from recent sickness.

The men’s team won their season opener at the Palmetto State Cross Country Festival hosted at Columbia International University.

Later, they captured second place at the Warrior Cross Country Invitational before finishing 21st of 30 teams in the large Queen City Invite in Charlotte. They competed against NCAA Division I and II schools at this meet.

The women’s team finished third in their season opener, the Palmetto State Cross Country Festival, as well as at the Warrior Cross Country Invitational. They also placed 21st of 29 teams at the Queen City Invite.

As both teams head into the second half of the season, they face three big meets: the

Sand Shark Invitational at the University of South Carolina Beaufort, the Bruins Invitational on BJU campus and the NCCAA Nationals in Point Lookout, Missouri.

Landon Bright, coach of the men’s and women’s cross country and track teams, said, “The emphasis is on the back half of the season.”

He said the three upcoming meets are the goals of the season and where most of the season’s focus lies.

Both cross country teams, especially the men’s, have been battling sickness all season.

Bright said he’s never had a season like it, with players falling sick for an entire week from a bug that has been passed around campus.

However, the team this year has more depth and talent than in past seasons. Bright said that players have been stepping up and filling in the gaps.

Sarah Sheridan, a senior who has been on the team four years, said, “We definitely started off really well this

season.” But having hit the midpoint of the season, the running has gotten tougher.

“You get to this point, second half of the season, where you just want to drift and not try to get faster but just maintain,” Sheridan said. “Coach was saying last week ‘don’t be content with where you’re at, just try to do more.’”

The home meet on Oct. 27 will be the best opportunity to see the cross country teams in action.

Bright said the course is on back campus, so spectators will get to see a large chunk of the race.

“It’s really neat for us being in an environment where people get to see us race,” he said.

Even though most students can’t see the teams race, Sheridan said students can still keep up with the team by asking how the season is going.

“It’s not something you can always go see,” she said, “But we’re still up at 6 a.m. even when no one can see us.”

Ben Douthit, a junior on



Jake Rumpfelt and Nathan Stewart run at 7 a.m. to prepare for the next cross country meet. Photo: Robby Jorgensen

the men’s team, encouraged students to get to know the teams.

“Talk to them about running,” he said. “Encourage them. We’re a team that always needs prayer, especially since we’re out on the roads a lot running on Wade Hamp-

ton. That’s probably the biggest thing.”

The women are close to a win at the regional championship as their run times stack up closely to the current first seed team.

“We’re so close,” Sheridan said.

The men’s team is looking to place well at regionals again this year and then shoot for another gold at nationals the second week of November.

Coach Bright said, “We want to stay healthy and then get to the line in November ready to go.”

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competition, which Ron Pyle of the theatre arts department oversees, allows students to act either in groups or by themselves, give an original speech or participate in a 24-hour play-writing competition, like the bake-off competition university students participate in once a semester.

The speech and drama competition can help students gain confidence.

“I think it gives them a good opportunity to build confidence by working on a piece or a scene and performing it in front of a larger group,” Pyle said.

Students also can compete in a video competition either with a narrative, a documentary or an animated film.

Christopher Zydowicz,

faculty member in the cinema department, works with other judges to determine the winners of these film competitions.

The art and design competition, led by Jay Bopp, chair of the Division of Art and Design, offers students the chance to demonstrate their artistic abilities in photography, painting and ceramics, among other forms.

The professional critiques students receive as a result of the competition are extremely beneficial for them as they pursue their artistic talents.

“Some of these students are coming from either Christian high schools, maybe even public high schools or homeschool groups, where they don’t really have a full on art teacher,” Bopp said.

“So sometimes it’s good for them just to hear from a

practicing professional artist who’s a college professor.”

Students who place first in any solo event receive a full scholarship to attend a week of BJU’s summer EDUcamp, allowing students to gain more educational experience after the competition is over.

“The awards are meaningful because then they can come back and study art or design or music or whatever here in the summer,” Bopp said.

Participants can also attend events throughout the week, including performances by the winners, a concert featuring different campus music groups and a solo performance by theatre arts senior Allison Burrell in *Summer of Disbelief*.

Competitors can also attend classes and university chapel.

Have any ideas for The Collegian?

email to editor@bju.edu

Midterm grades: how to strategize for semester end

SAMANTHA VIERA
Staff Writer

As just about every student will agree, the halfway point of the semester can be a challenging time.

Projects and tests seem to have reached their peak, and the end of the semester seems far away.

But now that midpoint evaluations are complete and midterm grade reports have been released, many students find themselves wanting to readjust or refine their academic habits for a variety of reasons.

Midterm reports are intended to supply students with a status report—an analysis of their performance in each of their academic courses.

These reports give students an idea of how effective their current study practices are so that they can adjust them accordingly, if needed.

Jane Smith, director of Career Services, said these

midterm grades are not permanent.

“You still have half a semester to improve your grade so don’t give up just because it’s a grade lower than what you want it to be,” she said. “Instead, you should let it motivate you to find ways to improve your grade.”

According to Smith, the first step to improving a grade is to figure out why it is low in the first place. Once the root of the problem is found, the issue is much easier to fix.

Some students may find themselves pleased with their midterm grades.

In those cases, Smith encouraged students to keep up with what they are doing and to make sure they balance their study habits with fun activities.

Study groups are student-led and are available for several courses.

Smith said study groups can be helpful because other students may call attention to

certain items that may have been overlooked.

Rebecca Weier, director of first-year experience, said, “I recommend students think about how they have been studying and evaluate what is working and what is not working.”

Once students have figured out which subjects require their attention, they should develop an action plan to improve their performance.

Weier encouraged students to drop by the writing center whether or not they are struggling because everyone can benefit from having their papers proofread.

She also recommends joining a study group or asking other students who are doing well in the class for study tips.

Phil Adams, a first-year adviser and academic coach, stressed the importance of dedication. He said students need to be willing to put time into their courses.



Madison Landry helps students study for their classes in AL213. Photo: Robby Jorgensen

Adams recommends students practice active reading and studying.

This method requires students to pay attention and think over material as they read instead of just looking at their notes.

Adams mentioned a book used in the freshman seminar classes, *Teach Yourself How to Learn* by Sandra Yancy McGuire and Stephanie McGuire.

He said the study habits recommended by the book are very helpful.

Adams also suggests trying to reteach the material to yourself or a friend in the class.

This strategy allows students to figure out how much they know about the topic they are studying and helps them determine which content they need to study further.

Additionally, Adams thinks it’s helpful for stu-

dents to speak with their professors about their midpoint evaluations so they can determine opportunities for improvement.

Visiting a faculty member during their office hours or scheduling a meeting with them is a great way to establish new strategies to improve your success in the class.

Faculty members typically include a list of their office hours on the course syllabus. They are eager to help students learn and master course content.

Adams said, “There’s nobody better to help you succeed in the class than the person teaching the class.”

Dr. Renae Wentworth, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said that faculty members can give students specific study tips and advice because the teacher is the person who knows the class best.

Wentworth also recom-

mended studying in a quiet environment and putting away anything that could be distracting, such as cell phones.

“It is difficult to study if your attention is divided,” she said.

Wentworth encourages students to be dedicated in their studies.

“The Lord expects us to do our best with whatever He has put before us,” she said.

In addition to visiting professors and evaluating their study habits, students should also take advantage of the Academic Resource Center.

This center, located on the second floor of the Alumni Building, offers a variety of free programs to help students succeed, including online tools, study group sessions and a writing center.

To explore the various services the Academic Resource Center offers, visit success.bju.edu.



Savannah McPhail works in the Academic Resource Center assisting and guiding students in schoolwork. Photo: Robby Jorgensen

'God of All Nations' Chapel

Yesterday’s student body chapel focused on beauty in diversity, unity in Christ and the sovereignty of God.

The title of this program was “God of All

Nations”—a title appropriate for the chapel’s international, multilingual theme.

Ian Dyke, Student Leadership Council communications director, said student leaders specifically chose “God of All

Nations” and the global theme because it reflects BJU’s student body.

“BJU students come from over 40 countries,” Dyke said. “Through this chapel the Student Leadership Council wants to recognize the beauty in that diversity while also recognizing that we are united by one Gospel, one Savior and one God—the God of all nations.”

Jessica Keck, a senior English Education major from the U.S., said international-themed chapels like this one help students realize they are all one in Christ.

“Christ is the thread that ties our student body together, and it’s important to see how God is working around the

world through his gospel,” she said. “Highlighting other cultures can help international students feel more at home and can help open the eyes of American students to a world outside their Christian bubble.”

Brigitta Daswani, designer for the SLC communications team, is from Hong Kong and designed the visuals for this student body chapel. She said platforms like this not only help people recognize international students and their homes but they remind people that all nations are equal.

“There isn’t one superior culture,” she said. “Each culture is unique in itself, and there’s something to learn



from each culture. Events like ‘God of All Nations’ roll up the gates in our hearts to let other cultures enter into our lives.”

Daswani said that, most importantly, events like this

student body chapel serve as a reminder that all nations are loved by God. “We are all saved by the same grace, and we should care about all people,” she said.

