

the COLLEGLIAN

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Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC 29614

BJU welcomes Alan Benson as new VP

SETH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

You enter the Den and look around. You can tell something is different.

Papa Johns is still next to Chick-Fil-A, the booths are filled with students studying or drinking Cuppa Jones coffee and the Bruins store is sitting in its usual corner.

Finally, you realize that nothing has moved but something has been added: the executive office of Alan Benson.

Benson's new office space in the back of the Den is reflective of the new role he has as vice president for student development and discipleship.

A 1992 graduate and a pastor for 25 years, Benson oversees all aspects of student life—from societies to SLC to student discipline.

Benson said, "It's my desire to craft an overall student life experience in the atmosphere of academic training to help students in every way become equipped to successfully live for God's glory."

This atmosphere includes social, mental, physical and spiritual development. He



As the new Vice President for Student Development and Discipleship, Alan Benson says his goal is to ensure student success. Photo: Rebecca Snyder

said he wants to see all of these factors interwoven so that students can grow comprehensively.

In order to be effective, Benson wants to get to know students on a personal level through day-to-day interactions.

"I want them as they deal with their struggles to come to me," he said. "That's why I'm here."

Benson will be meeting with student task forces, which are focus groups designed to help him learn how the administration can best shape student life for success.

"The most valuable thing I can do is build relationships with students," he said.

Daniel Kim, the men's student body president, said Benson is an effective leader because he knows how to serve people.

"Pastor Benson is very friendly, very open," Kim said. "He's the type of guy a student could come to with no worry." Kim also said Benson understands the student perspective since one of his daughters graduated from BJU in May of 2018.

Benson's desire for student success started long before he came to BJU.

The church he pastored in

Schaumburg, Illinois, specifically asked Benson to work on engaging young adults and encouraging them in their faith.

This request caused him to pursue intergenerational studies, placing a burden on his heart for today's generation of students.

When he received the offer to work at BJU, Benson said it became really clear that

God had shaped his heart and guided his giftedness to begin to work with college-aged young adults.

He wants to help students acknowledge their gifts, develop them for a future career and recognize the fact that God has been preparing them to effectively serve Him.

Most of Benson's pastimes are connected with sports.

See **BENSON** p. 6 »

New school of health professions prioritizes student experience

TABITHA LEAMAN
Staff Writer

Last semester, BJU unveiled its new School of Health Professions. Today, seven months after the announcement, over 470 students are enrolled in various majors within the school.

At the time of the announcement, President Steve Pettit said the new school was accomplishing BJU's commitment of preparing students to make a difference in their communities.

"With this new school, we're updating our academic mix to meet changing workforce demands," he said.

Over the summer, faculty and staff worked to put this purpose into effect for this semester. Dr. Jessica Minor, interim dean of the School of Health Professions, said faculty members from each major met to share their ideas and visions.

"We were just trying to make sure all the faculty was on the same page," she said. "We really are looking a lot at the future of health care."

Minor said they are focused on creating opportunities for students to work in the community with Brookdale Assisted Living. One of the opportunities is an internship that will help many

students achieve their direct patient care hours. This internship will be especially helpful for those studying to be physicians' assistants and those enrolled in the premed program.

Minor said an advisory board has been established to help create more internships and possible career opportunities for students.

"We try to have every major represented," Dr. Minor said. "The advisory board will also help make sure that each major is going in the direction that health care is going."

The school will also implement two new online programs this October. One pro-

gram, called RN to BSN, will help students who already hold a nursing degree add courses to earn a bachelor's degree.

Additionally, the school is now offering a master's degree in sport administration and coaching.

Dr. Amy Hicks, a faculty member in the Division of Health Science, is excited about the new school. Hicks said students will be collaborating more across disciplines, which will help them prepare for careers in health professions.

Hicks is eager to see the new school's effect on the

See **MINOR** p. 3 »



Interim dean Dr. Jessica Minor Photo: Robby Jorgensen

COLUMN



REBEKAH ANDERSON
Copy Editor

In 280 days, I get to marry my best friend—the man I admire more than anyone else in the world.

And some people are surprised he's black.

When Ray Holden and I started dating during my sophomore year, I don't think I fully understood racism. To me, it was an abstract—a deep feeling that people masked (sometimes successfully, sometimes not). But it was “out there,” not something I experienced myself.

Now I have, at least to an extent.

When people see Ray and me together, the reactions are mixed. Sometimes we get warm smiles of approval. Other times we're snubbed and given sideways glances.

The first time I felt the disapproval of others stung. Suddenly, racism had a face. Sometimes the face was white, sometimes it was black. A coworker would ask me why I was dating a black guy.

See **COLUMN** p. 3 »



COMIC: MAX BURAK

The Collegian Editorial

The Constitution: protections and rights that still apply to us today

In classrooms and twitter feeds across the country, the Constitution and its validity in modern-day America are constantly debated.

Does a document that was written by European colonists in dusty wigs hundreds of years ago still make sense as a set of national fundamental laws in the modern era? Is the Constitution pliable enough to adapt when necessary to the changing times and conditions?

These questions and many others are far too complex to answer in this short editorial. However, I think it is important to explore how much the Constitution is integral to everyday living.

Even though the Constitution was established when only 13 states belonged to the Union, it was designed to allow the young nation to grow

and adapt. Adapt it did, as 37 states were added within the next 172 years. The addition of a Bill of Rights allows modern United States citizens to take for granted such common rights as the right to own property.

The fact that you and I can simply drive to work and pursue our careers is given to us by the Constitution in the right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” The balance of power it places between states allows local communities to have an appropriate level of voice in the laws that govern them.

While the Constitution is not necessarily a Christian document, it has protected our religious liberties.

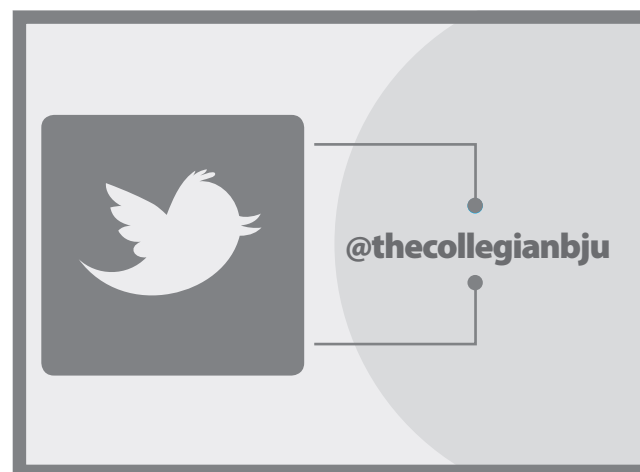
The Constitution protects our rights to free speech, assembly to worship, and the ability to write and publish

literature on our religious beliefs. Many believers in other countries do not enjoy the simple legal rights of trial by jury and due process.

This lack of basic rights causes real physical persecution every day around the globe. “Cruel and unusual punishment” is prohibited by our Bill of Rights, a prohibition that would save many believers' lives in other countries.

Unlike many countries, the United States has no “official church or state-mandated religion, a right that we have ensured in the First Amendment.

Monday, Sept. 17, is federal holiday looking back to the day the Founding Fathers gathered for the last time to sign the Constitution. Today, we celebrate all the liberties and rights the Constitution guarantees us.



TALKBACK

What is your ideal job?



junior
CORBAN FLECK

“Working at an NGO that fights against sex trafficking.”



English faculty
JESSANY KATKA

“Acting with the Royal Shakespeare Company.”



counselling faculty
MICHAEL JOHANNES

“Cybersecurity.”



senior
EMMA WHITEHOUSE

“Music therapist for people with dementia and alzheimer's.”

PHOTOS: ROBBY JORGENSEN

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In public, Ray would hear a couple of random black men call him “white boy” as he and my family walked by.

But more times than not, people aren’t unkind. They’re just curious. Once, a girl was washing her hands beside me—a stranger who is now a very dear friend—and she just blurted out, “Hey, you’re dating a black guy, right?” I laughed as I dried my hands. “Umm, yes, I am. And who are you?”

Her question led to a wonderful conversation (not to mention a sweet friendship), and I was able to tell her our story.

I love Ray for his person. I love that he surprised me on Labor Day by showing up to my 8 a.m. class with my favorite Starbucks drink. I love him for his character, for the way he treats other people, for his strength and his gentleness.

So, when it comes to our relationship and our commitment to each other, ethnicity just isn’t a factor. Our faith is.

His character is. In the most vital ways, because of our love for Christ and for each other, we’re the same, not different.

I remember when I first learned this lesson. I was a teenager in Ohio, and my youth pastor, Joe Tyrpak, took our youth group on a mission exposure trip in Cleveland.

We visited a mosque and a synagogue. We attended a Roman Catholic service and a liberal Protestant service (during which the female pastor celebrated homosexuality and denied the Trinity).

The people in the Catholic church and the liberal church looked just like me—but we could not have been more different!

Our last visit was to a black Baptist church. Those people seemed so different from me in their appearance and expressiveness in worship.

But they were joyful. They were welcoming. They were actually the only fellow believers we met during our tours. So they weren’t different from us at all. They were

the same. Because, as my dad says, “Grace erases race.”

One of the most frequent questions I get asked is, “What do your parents think?” Usually I just tell them that race isn’t a relevant factor in our family.

My dad is actually the one who set us up, and my mom is thrilled that I’m going to marry a wonderful man who loves me, serves me and cares for me better than I deserve.

I’m not crazy about the term “interracial dating” or “interracial marriage.” We’re both human (Acts 17:26).

More importantly, we’re both Christians (Galatians 3:27-28). And our ethnic differences are beautiful. Opposition can be challenging, but we work through it, and it brings us even closer together.

I couldn’t be more excited to marry my best friend. And we’re praying that our union will be a small example of the creativity of God and the barrier-breaking power of the Gospel.



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»MINOR p. 1

community and on prospective students. “I think it is going to add some status and visibility,” she said.

Lexi Sweat, a sophomore studying premed/prent, said she’s very excited about the new school. She said she hopes the name change will increase her graduate school opportunities.

Matthew Zirkle, also enrolled in the premed/prent program, said that having a specific school behind them will help students with credibility.

Grant Proctor, a health sciences major with a principal in health care administration, said, “I was pretty happy because I wanted to do something in the health care field, but I was going to do it through business administration.”

Now that health care administration is included in the School of Health Professions, Proctor can take all of his classes under one school.

“They basically gave me my major and exactly what I wanted to do,” he said.

Ashley Anderson, a graduate student taking classes in the new sport administration and coaching program, said, “I think it’s exciting to take graduate level courses in sport administration.”

She went on to say that partnering these classes with her master’s in theological studies from the seminary will help her pursue her goal of serving in sports ministry.

Asher Vincent, a senior nursing student, is excited about what the school will provide for him and his fellow students.

Vincent said, “The sense of collaboration and community it gives to people striving for a common goal is crucial, and it really prepares you well for the workplace.”

He also said many majors within the school will now be better able to learn from each other.

Dr. Marc Chetta, a faculty member within the School of Health Professions, said the school is in the process of “value engineering.”

“We are trying to look at our programs to see if we can trim off some of the fat and make a sleeker program,” he said.

Chetta said about 15 of the top 20 careers are in health care. “We are trying to strengthen our internships and our institutional arrangements with professional institutions,” Chetta said.

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Parkening and Sykes to collaborate for program

REBEKAH ANDERSON
Copy Editor

The first artist series program of this academic year will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 18.

Guest artists Christopher Parkening, an American classical guitarist, and Jubilant Sykes, a vocalist with gospel style, will be performing in Founder’s Memorial Amphitheater at 8 p.m.

Dr. Darren Lawson, dean of the School of Fine Arts and Communication, said the duo showcases both their technical skills as well as their story-telling musicality.

“The combination of classical guitar and baritone vocals makes it unlike any other group we have had here at BJU,” Lawson said.

Parkening and Sykes performed on campus during the 2008-2009 academic year, but this time they will be returning with pianist Mark Rice.

“Together they are warm, engaging and a joy to listen

to,” Lawson said.

Lawson said that, when looking at the lineup for this year’s artist series season, he wanted to incorporate something that was both beautiful and engaging.

“This is an extremely full season of amazing performances,” he said. “Hopefully this will get everyone excited about what is to come.”

Parkening and Sykes have a rich repertoire for their BJU performance. They will perform traditional spirituals, pieces by multiple composers from Spain as well as music by Aaron Copland and Charles Ives.

The program will also include solo performances from each of the artists, testimonials about the songs as well as collaborative pieces with guitar and voice.

“Students can be sure to have a relaxing evening filled with excellent music,” Lawson said. “This concert is a wonderful way to start the new school year.”



Parkening and Sykes form a powerful duo that have the ability to engage audiences with their rich repertoire. Photo: Submitted

Mack Library right-sizes collection to better serve students' modern needs

KATE JONES
Staff Writer

While students' lives are continually being simplified with the newest technology, libraries must continue providing physical books and study space.

However, libraries must

also learn to adapt to millennial changes.

BJU's Mack Library is no exception to change, and Patrick Robbins, interim director of libraries, is escorting the library into the 21st century.

The library's right-sizing project is an effort to reduce

the number of books in the collection to a number more appropriate for the services it offers.

In exchange, the library will be enhancing the number of digital, online services to keep up with the pace of modern technology.

According to Robbins, this massive project started several years ago and kicked into high-gear in January.

"We're trying to go back through and adjust the library to our course offerings now," Robbins said.

Prior to the right-sizing project, Mack's website offered access to over 250,000 physical books. Robbins said that, with the push to have more digital content available, the number of e-books far surpassed the number of physical books long before the project began.

Grace Johnson, a student worker in the library who helped with the project this past summer, explained the process.

"We sorted through a lot of the books, looking for books that hadn't been checked out in a very long time," she said.

"They would take the ones that hadn't been checked out [in at least five years], or that



Books being discarded by the library staff are available for free in the periodical room of the Mack Library. Photo: Kayla Jacobs

we have online, or that we have multiple copies of."

According to Robbins, the books would then be sorted into keep and discard collections. Unwanted books were first offered to an online retailer and other libraries.

Then, the remaining books were taken to the periodical room, where they were made available for any interested students at no expense.

Dr. Jeremy Patterson, a foreign language professor, as well as other professors in his division, helped with the reduction process by going through several sections of language-related books.

"He [Robbins] gave us the opportunity to go through all of them and double check and recommend which ones we would keep and which

ones we would discard," Patterson said. "It [discarding] is actually a good thing, because when you have a French grammar from 1928, a French grammar from 1957, a French grammar from 1960, I'm never going to use them because pedagogy has changed."

During the process, Robbins made some interesting discoveries.

"I found one or two books that were stamped from Cleveland, Tennessee, and there was no record of them being checked out in the Greenville years," Robbins said.

Some of the library's books even date back to pre-1923, before copyright law.

When sorting through the collection, library staff members have to consider the

historical value of the older books, but the primary standard for deciding whether to keep a book is if the book is useful to students in their studies or not.

According to Robbins, faculty members are the primary authorities for determining which books are helpful.

Ultimately, Robbins hopes to reduce Mack's footprint to fill the bottom floor alone. "We are ambitious, but we're hoping to have it completed sometime by the middle of next summer," Robbins said.

According to Robbins, the goal of the library project is to make necessary knowledge more accessible to students and still have a physical place where BJU students can learn and collaborate together.

Students honor 9/11 victims with front campus memorial

JO ELLEN WALKER
Staff Writer

BJU students volunteered on Thursday, Sept. 6, to assemble a display of 2,977 American flags on front campus in memory of the lives lost during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

This year, BJU's Student Leadership Council added a replica of the Ground Zero Cross to the memorial as a symbol of hope and healing.

The original cross at Ground Zero was formed out of wreckage from the World Trade Center.

The cross adds a freshness to BJU's flag memorial, and it serves as a good reminder that, although students have been participating in the activity since 2013, the deeper meaning behind the memorial should never be lost to tradition.

BJU Chief of Staff Randy Page said, "For people who

lived through [the attacks], it was the beginning of a new era, where we had to worry about things that we never worried about before."

An attack of such proportions was frightening, and security across the globe was tightened in hopes of preventing it from ever happening again.

Because many students are too young to remember the event, Page said the memorial is a tangible way to remind younger generations that the attack did happen, and that it happened only 17 years ago.

But the memorial is not just important for BJU students.

It's just as significant to the surrounding Greenville community. Page views it as an opportunity for BJU to give back to the community and remind people what happened years ago on Sept. 11.



A replica of the original Ground Zero cross as well as thousands of flags stand as a memorial of hope and healing. Photos: Rebecca Snyder



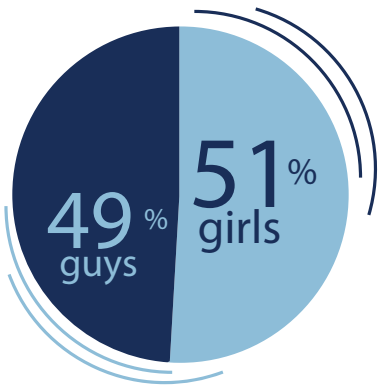
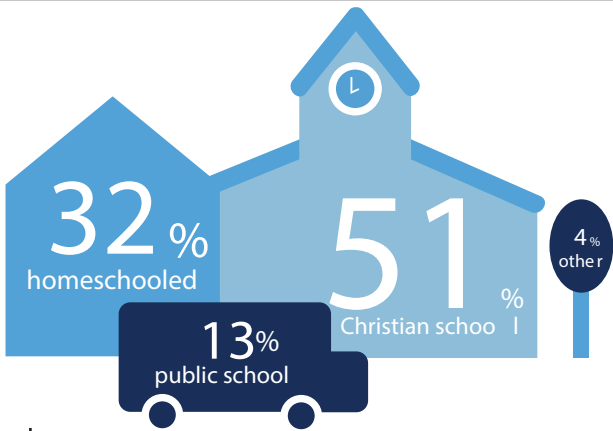
freshmen STATS

top 10 programs

- 1. business administration
- 2. nursing
- 3. premed
- 4. accounting
- 5. engineering
- 6. health sciences
- 7. bible
- 8. computer science
- 9. criminal justice
- 10. exercise science

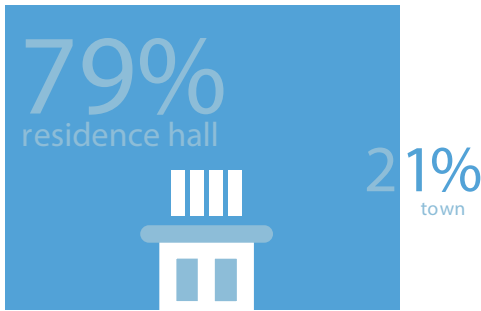
43% have at least ONE PARENT that attended BJU

96% received grants and scholarships



TOP STATES

- #1. South Carolina
- #2. Pennsylvania
- #3. North Carolina
- #4. Michigan
- #5. Georgia
- #6. Indiana
- #7. Florida
- #8. Illinois
- #9. Virginia
- #10. Massachusetts



TOP COUNTRIES

- 1. South Korea
- 2. China
- 3. Nigeria
- 4. Argentina
- 5. Honduras

who they are where they're from

Class of 2022 completes second week of college

by Daniel Quigley

The start of a new school year brings both excitement and nervousness for returning students.

Because of the novelty of the college experience, first-year students often feel these emotions more deeply than the “veterans” of BJU. Although these freshman students have very different stories, they share a unity as a class, as first-year students and as brothers and sisters in Christ.

As the class of 2022 kicks off their first semester of college, perhaps returning students can identify with some of the hopes and fears they experienced when they were freshmen.

Elaina Goodman, a health sciences major from Greenville, South Carolina, entered university life after attending Bob Jones Academy. After knowing the same people since kindergarten, she looks forward to meeting new people. At the same time, encountering unfamiliar people makes her a bit apprehen-



sive. “It’s hard to get out of your comfort zone, but I know that once I do it, it’ll be fine,” Goodman said.

Katie Butler, a student from Lapeer, Michigan who has not yet declared her major, followed in her sister’s footsteps when she chose BJU. The university’s academic rigor has made Butler question her ability to get good grades, but she said she enjoyed her first week on campus.

Noah White, a journalism and mass communication major, is also concerned about the academics, although his fear is much more specific: History of Civ. On the other hand, he thinks that his Chinese class is fun, perhaps because he just moved from China himself.

Douglas Hammond, a computer



science major, attends BJU because he believes it to be one of the best Christian colleges in America. At first, he was nervous that he was in the wrong major. “But after I actually understood my first real lecture, it encouraged me quite a bit,” Hammond said.

He’s optimistic about the school year, especially because of the friendly atmosphere on campus. “Almost everyone I’ve met is super friendly and encouraging,” Hammond said.

Jonathan Filidoro, a business administration major with a marketing principal from Raleigh, North Carolina, came to BJU after trying a semester at a community college, where things didn’t go as he expected. After his experience at community college, he believed that God wanted him to be in a Christian environment.

“It’s really easy to make friends here,” Filidoro said. “Everyone basically wants to be your friend.” He looks forward to making friends that he can come back to next year. Filidoro said his experience on Smith’s freshman floor has gone well and that students from other floors often come to introduce themselves. He has enjoyed the kind professors as well as Dr. Pettit’s chapel messages.

Global Opportunities Week to educate on evangelism

ANDREW SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

Global Opportunities Week is dedicated to showcasing ministry opportunities around the world and encouraging BJU students to explore ways to spread the Gospel beyond Greenville.

This year's Global Opportunities Week will take place Oct. 1-4.

The theme, "Lose your Life, Find your Calling," is taken from Acts 20:24 where Paul vows to value the things of God over his own personal concerns.

Mark Vowels, head of the Center for Global Opportunities, said the primary goal of the week is to teach students ways to use their current skills to bring the Gospel to foreign countries.

Vowels said, "The Global

Opportunities week primarily is thinking in terms of 'How could you use your interests [or] major to make disciples around the world?'"

The week will feature special chapel messages on Monday and Wednesday and individual workshops on Tuesday and Thursday.

Seminars will focus on ways to use various majors to further the spread of the Gospel.

Students will lead seminars focused on reaching specific religious groups like Buddhists and Hindus as well.

These seminars are intended to equip students for evangelism by correcting misconceptions and increasing knowledge about specific religions.

The students leading these seminars have backgrounds in countries dominated by the religion in question.

Vowels said, "I thought it would be meaningful to have students with experience ministering to those ensnared in other religions share instruction with other students about how to have gospel conversations with those religious adherents."

Savanah McPhail, a student from a missionary family in the Buddhist country of Cambodia, will lead the seminar on Buddhism.

This seminar is meant to help students better understand what Buddhism is and how to effectively minister to people from such a background.

McPhail said, "I think a lot of people have this idea of meditation 'peace' and naturalism, and that is not what [Buddhism] is."

Aashish George, the student leading the seminar on

Hinduism said he plans to address the complex multiple-sect polytheism of the Hindu world on a personal level.

George said he intends to base much of the seminar's content on experiences that he and his friends had while living in India to give the seminar a more personal feel.

George explained that the type of evangelism we are used to may not work with most Hindus.

"They'll probably just take [the Gospel]," George said. "They do not have a problem adding another God to their gods."

The week will also include an underground church ex-

perience. This special activity builds off the refugee experience from last year's Global Opportunities Week. The experience will essentially replicate an underground church meeting.

Janice Driscoll, student leader of the underground church experience, said, "The goal is to move students toward empathy for the persecuted church and encourage more prayer for the persecuted church."

The underground church experience continues in an after-curfew event along the same lines.

This late-night experience allows students to spend a

night outdoors with the purpose of helping them to empathize with Christian refugees.

Driscoll said, "This is not something just for Bible majors or missions majors; this is something that affects every single Christian, and every single Christian should be a part of encouraging those who suffer for their faith in Christ."

Mr. Vowels highlighted the significance of the need for non-missionary ambassadors of Christ.

"Only 40 percent of countries will give you an actual missionary visa, and that number shrinks every year," he said.



Missions Organizations Displays are available after chapel in the Davis Room of the Dining Common. Photo: Anita Goodman



Jennie Hudson says she was reminded that the body of Christ is so much bigger than just the church in America when she attended the refugee experience last year. Photo: Derek Eckenroth

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He played in an indoor soccer league this past summer and also enjoys golf.

Benson enjoys spending time watching his daughters play sports and plans to attend as many Bruins and intramural games as he can.

Besides sports, Benson also reads in his spare time.

"I enjoy the mental expansion that reading brings," he said. He is currently working on his doctorate of ministry through BJU's seminary. He began this degree prior to accepting his new position as vice president.

Long before Benson received the job offer, Tori Conover and Daniel Kim, student body presidents, sat on the advisory committee that interviewed the candidates for the new position.

Conover said her experience on the committee al-

lowed her to see President Pettit's passion to make BJU the best experience for students.

"He had the wisdom to know he couldn't accomplish all of his goals for the student experience on top of his many other responsibilities as president," she said. "He desired a partner 'at the table,' as he said, that would share and implement his vision."

Conover said she was thrilled when she heard Benson had been chosen to fill the new position.

"He brings to the table a fresh perspective, valuable ministry experience and a sincere desire to invest in the next generation," she said.

Conover believes the new office of student discipleship and development will make a big difference in the lives of students both now and in the future.



Alan Benson and his wife Michelle. Photo: Rebecca Snyder



GO

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Bruins athletes start season with focus on teamwork

SAMANTHA VEIRA
Staff Writer

The start of the academic year brings with it an exciting new soccer season for Bruin Nation.

The men's soccer team is coached by Jesse McCormick, assisted by Jon Sandy and Ryan McCarty, and managed by Noah Kline.

This year's team is made up of 21 players and, despite this year's team largely consisting of underclassmen, McCormick is confident in their abilities.

He said, "It's been really exciting seeing the returning guys and the freshmen get on the same page and really look

like a team." McCormick said that, already, they're improving as a team.

The women's soccer team started their season off with a win—a consistent beginning to the year, considering their history of winning the past three Regional and NCCAA DII National Championships.

Their team of 23 players is coached by Chris Carmichael with assistant coaches Rebecca Luttrell, Tyler Mills, Sarah Herr, Elizabeth Mills and managed by Alex Blake.

The team's theme verse for the year is the last phrase of Colossians 1:18: "that in all things He might become preeminent."

Kayla Romeiser, a journalism and mass communication major and a junior on the team, said, "The girls are so uplifting on the field and in everyday life too."

During the summer, both McCormick and Carmichael as well as many of the players are involved in the BJU summer EDUcamps.

These camps teach junior high and high school students to hone their soccer skills and teamwork, inspire teamwork and encourage spiritual growth.

EDUcamps allow the team to build relationships not just with high school students but also with the community.



Dr. Carmichael says he is excited to be coaching this year's women's soccer team. Photo: Hal Cook



The men's soccer team welcomed a number of freshmen to the team this year. Photo: Hal Cook

SUDOKU

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Have any ideas for
The Collegian?

email to editor@bju.edu

Freshman floors transform student experience

REBEKAH ANDERSON
Copy Editor

For students who live on campus, residence halls are an integral part of their college experience.

In the last few years, dorm life has undergone several changes, whether it be adjustments to the discipleship group schedule, the installment of locks or simply the coming-and-going of new students and graduates.

One change that has transformed the freshman experience is the establishment of freshman floors.

The freshman floor program was introduced at the start of the 2016-2017 academic year and has grown significantly over the last two years.

Today, many of the students who lived on the inaugural freshman floors are serving in leadership roles all over campus including, in some cases, on freshman floors.

Stephanie Berard, a junior elementary education major, lived on Gaston's freshman floor the first year it was established.

She's still living on the same hall, but this year, she's serving as an RA, helping her freshmen navigate their first year of college.

"I love freshman floor because of the unity it brings amongst girls who are experiencing this new chapter together," Berard said. "We have the opportunity to set the tone of their outlook on the next four years."

Katie French, a freshman communication major living on Berard's hall, said she's enjoyed her first few weeks on freshman floor.

"I think it makes for a little bit more of an exciting life," she said. "We're all figuring out the ins and outs of things together."

Phil Arcuri, a senior humanities major, has been a discipleship group leader for three years. This will be his first year serving on Ironside's freshman floor.

Arcuri said the energy, anticipation and gung-ho attitude of the freshman students is contagious. "As a senior, it's easy to get bogged down with the pressures of school and with having to make decisions about my future," he said. "But the freshmen definitely help me to have a better attitude and outlook."

Nate Schlichting, a freshman exercise science major, lives only 10 minutes away from campus. He said Jon Daulton, the dean of men, encouraged him to live on a freshman floor.

"Even though I live close to campus, I decided to jump in and get involved," Schlichting said. "I'm looking forward to growing my relationships with the other guys on my hall."

Kobe Marin, an engineering student from Hawaii, said freshman floor is a great way to meet a diverse group of people who are in the same stage of life. "You're able to create a tight spiritual and social bond with the guys on your floor," he said.

Rebecca Weier, director of the first-year experience, oversees the freshman floor programs in the men's and women's residence halls.

She said freshman floor is valuable because it gives freshmen a shared experience—a camaraderie—they wouldn't get in the same capacity anywhere else on campus.

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BJU – The Collegian

Faculty, students report on summer ministries

CHRISTINA LAIRD
Staff Writer

Over 100 BJU students, faculty and staff participated in various mission trips all around the world this summer, leading more than 1,000 people to Christ.

These ministries varied from medical trips in third-world countries to basketball outreaches across the globe to a solo trip to Africa.

Six student-led mission teams also went to cities across the United States.

The mission trips reached over 40 cities in a dozen different countries—places like Turkey, Tanzania, England, the Philippines and Romania.

BJU faculty played a huge role in this past summer's mission trips. Some went on more than one trip, like Dr. Dan Olinger, who led two trips to Africa.

Others used skills they teach every day to assist in the ministry. Rob Loach, a

faculty member in the Division of Modern Language at BJU, went to the Ivory Coast as a translator for a medical team.

Dr. Neal Ring, athletic director, went to five different countries this summer—sometimes with a team and sometimes by himself—to help with missions.

Ring uses basketball classes, clinics and tournaments to attract non-believers so they can hear the Gospel.

He then connects these people with local churches that can follow up with those who are interested in hearing more about Christ or who would like to be discipled.

While in Asia, Ring had the opportunity to meet with a group of believers from all over the world.

"I got to experience Christianity from a variety of perspectives," Ring said. "[It was] really a picture of what heaven is going to look like."

For the first time, Ring

took a team to Ghana, specifically to its prestigious University of Accra.

The team was comprised of two coaches, Mike LeViere and Burton Uwarow, and two students. This trip was unique because the ministry focused solely on college students.

Ring was excited that their team had the opportunity to influence many who may become the future leaders of Ghana.

Ring hopes more students will become interested in using sports to further the Gospel. "A trip like this really changes you," he said.

Dr. Marc Chetta, health science professor, has gone on 25 mission trips over the years.

This summer, he led a team of 10 BJU students to Changuinola, Panama. The students partnered with a team from Medical Missions Outreach and several other colleges.

Over the course of four days, the team saw 2,000



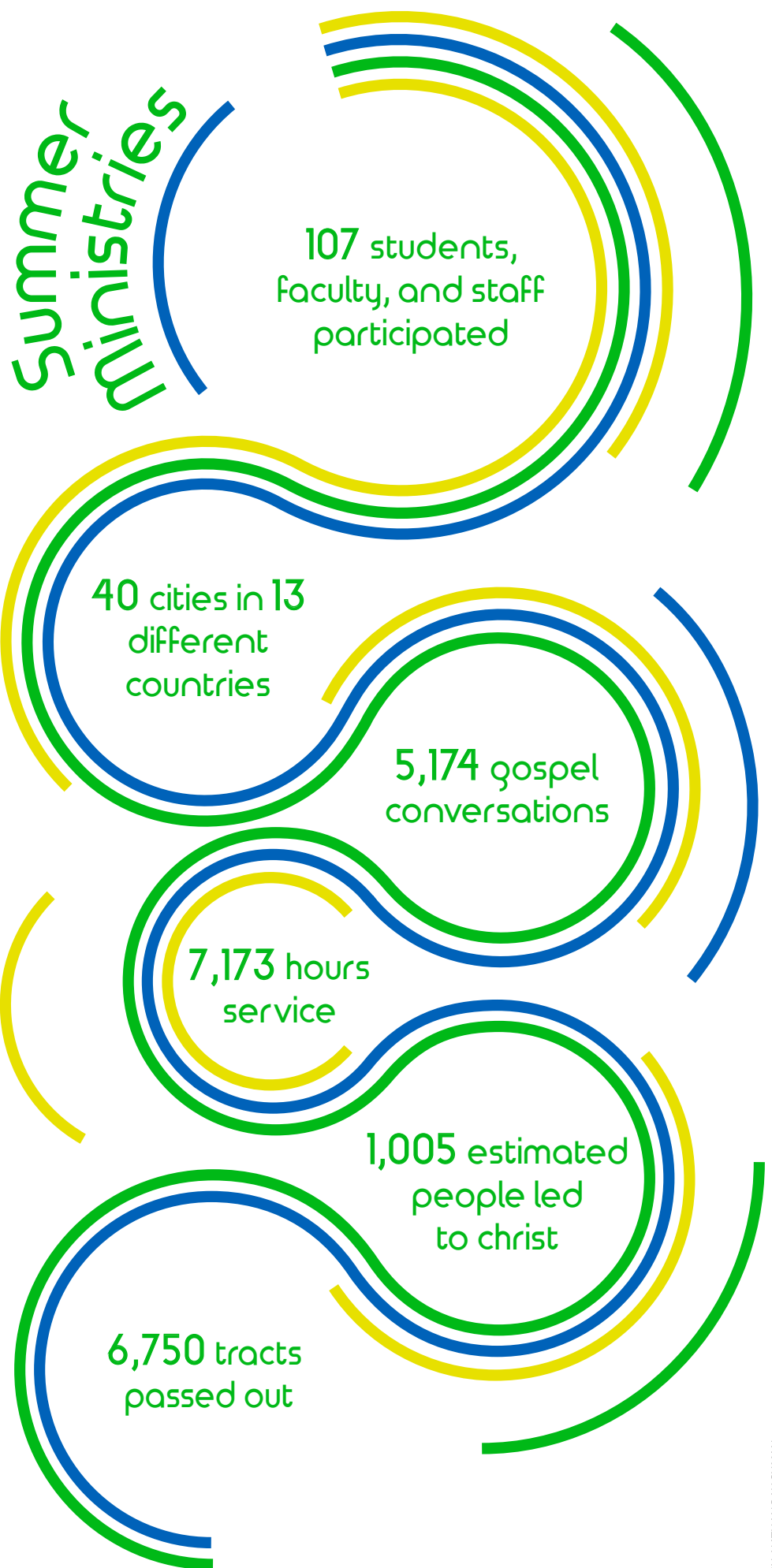
Olivia Vosburgh, a student who traveled with the Africa Team poses for a photo with Tanzanian child. Photo: Submitted



The UK mission team built relationships with the locals and encouraged pastors. Photo: Submitted



Dr. Olinger led both trips to Africa, including this mission trip to Ghana. Photo: Submitted



DESIGN: NATHAN BAUGHMAN

patients, many of whom walked eight to 10 miles to reach the clinic.

Chetta said, "Jesus used healing as a way to give the Gospel to the people, and it works."

He described how the people of Panama were amazed that a group of college students would give of their own time and come to give free medicine. Over 300 came to know Christ during this four-day trip.

Emma Whitehouse, a senior music education major, went to South Africa by herself and worked with the Kirbys, a missionary family in Johannesburg. For two weeks,

Whitehouse helped at their orphanage and school.

"[The children] have stories, heart-breaking stories," she said. "I looked into their eyes and saw terrible pasts that were transforming into hopeful futures. Hearing the kids thank the Lord was so eye-opening to the simple things in life that I often take for granted."

Another team ministered in Germany by cleaning, painting, doing yard work and setting up for a summer camp.

Sarah Rumpf, a sophomore communication major, said her six-week trip taught her that God can use anyone

for ministry.

"I'm a city girl and going to a rather rustic camp threw me out of my comfort zone," Rumpf said. "I learned that God equips us to do His service despite our weaknesses and seeming inabilities."

In Ireland, a BJU team led by Dr. Dennis Scott, the men's golf team coach, used basketball and golf to build relationships with the locals and to connect them with missionaries.

Luke Jacobs, a sophomore sport management major, said it was encouraging to see the impact the team could have on the kids after just a week with them.