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BJU partners with pro-life nonprofits

02/07
2020

Daniel Quigley

STAFF WRITER

The Bob Jones University community is already raising money for the annual Bible Conference offering, with the goal of paying for a new bus that will offer free ultrasounds for the Carolina Pregnancy Center and the surrounding Greenville-Spartanburg area.

The University hopes to raise \$150,000 through its Bible Conference offering. A campaign called "Find your Fifty," encouraging each student at the University to find a way to raise or give \$50 themselves, is the rallying cry for this

offering.

The idea to purchase a bus from Save the Storks for the Carolina Pregnancy Center began when Paul Isaacs, president of Save the Storks

and a 1993 graduate of the University, shared details about his ministry in a chapel early in the spring semester of 2019.

Shortly after this, President

Pettit announced that the 2020 offering would go toward a Save the Storks bus for the Greenville-Spartanburg area.

Isaacs said Save the Storks exists to reimagine the pro-life cause without protests, picket signs and politics.

"The loving, compassionate posture of Save the Storks is something that really resonated with the people here at Bob Jones University," Isaacs said. "[We both] really want to reach people with love and compassion, with grace and with truth."

According to Isaacs, Save the



The bus from Daybreak Lifecare Center in Columbia was on campus for tours on Jan. 21. See **STORKS** p.8 >>
Photo: Chris Harmony

Students serve community with MLK Day outreaches

Sidney Seiber

STAFF WRITER

"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity," said Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Baptist minister and civil rights activist.

Like many around the nation, members of BJU's student body honored King's memory by volunteering for community outreaches on Jan. 20, BJU's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

Sarah Rumpf, the director of the BJU Community Service Council, said that this year broke BJU's MLK Day outreach records with a total of 770 service hours and 320 volunteers.

"I even had friends come up to me and be like, 'I really want to volunteer for MLK Day, but I wasn't able to because all the spots are filled up,'" Rumpf said. "It's a good problem to have."

Rumpf said the CSC hopes to expand the number of service opportunities for the next MLK Day since some people were turned away from volunteering this year.

The CSC organized 11 outreaches in Greenville for the MLK Day of Service. Of those outreaches, the Phillis Wheatley Center outreach was the largest with over 200 volunteers. With so many people coming out for the event, organizers broke up volunteers into a morning shift and an afternoon shift.

With the combined forces

of the two shifts, the outreach facility was cleaned and organized, and the volunteers went out into the community to collect information for the Phillis Wheatley Center so that the center can better

serve the community.

The Center's Director of Programming, Nirobe Leaman, said the BJU outreach was an excellent opportunity

See **OUTREACH** p.4 >>



Richard Wang and Xavier Dunkley served at Miracle Hill Boy's Shelter.
Photo: Darren Eckenroth

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THE WEEK

Guest Recital: Masterson Ensemble

The Masterson Ensemble will present "At Dusk: A recital of German masterworks" tonight at 7 p.m. in the War Memorial Chapel.

Career Fair

The annual Career Fair is next week on Feb. 11 and 13 from 3 to 6 p.m. Day one is for criminal justice, health science, STEM and education majors; day two is for business and communication majors and for those interested in graduate school.

Basketball Games

The Bruins will play North Greenville University on Feb. 11. The women's team will play at 5 p.m. and the men's at 7 p.m.

Chef Dinner Series

Join Chef Rodney Freidank on Feb. 14 at 6 p.m. at the BJU Culinary Building for a fine dining experience. The cost is \$35 per person. Tables can be reserved online at opentable.com.



Comic: Hanna Buckland

the Collegian

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COLUMN



Andrew Schmidt

STAFF WRITER

Imagine my surprise as I reached a full week of deleting social media apps from my phone and noted that the sun still rises, the world still turns and South Carolina's weather still manages to fit all four seasons into the course of one day.

The concept of taking a "social media break" has quickly gained popularity in the last few years, becoming a common trend on social media, ironically enough.

My "social media break" came about more from personal reasons than social pressure, those personal reasons being that I frequently

The Collegian Editorial

South Carolina fights against abortion

Bob Jones University has been focused on abortion a lot recently.

Or rather, focused on trying to prevent them. When Save the Storks president Paul Isaacs came to campus last year and spoke at BJU, it was like a spark that caused many students, faculty and staff alike to get on fire for the cause.

This year's Bible Conference fundraiser reflects that spark—Save the Storks and Paul Isaacs came back to BJU, and the BJU family set a goal of raising \$150,000 to buy a Save the Storks bus. (Read Daniel Quigley's article on page one for more information.)

The University screened the movie *Unplanned*, the true story of Abby Johnson and her turn from Planned Parenthood clinic director to pro-life activist. The entire Stratton Hall was packed within a few seats of capacity, showing the overwhelming support the University has for the pro-life cause.

Additionally, the Piedmont Women's Center will hold its Night for Life with Abby Johnson this March 5 here on campus in FMA.

The BJU family is not the only group in the state to be pursuing the pro-life cause and the end to thousands of abortions. The South Carolina Senate is considering a "fetal heartbeat" bill—a bill that would ban most abortions after six weeks of pregnancy with few exceptions.

Controversy surrounds the bill, especially because some people claim that the new bill would be "unconstitutional," saying it would

violate the Roe v. Wade decision. However, the bill has already been accepted in the House of Representatives and is now making its way through the Senate. South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster promised to sign the bill into law if it passes the Senate.

Sometimes, looking into this world and seeing all the hate and the terrible things that happen every day, we as Christians might feel like giving up. What difference can we make, anyway?

But we can see even from our South Carolina government that we are not alone in this fight to end the killing of unborn babies. Those who agree with abortion might like to make us think we're outnumbered and alone, but we're not. And what's more, we are on God's side.

We need to pray. Pray for our country as a whole, and pray for the South Carolina state Senate as it decides on this bill in the upcoming weeks. We need to pray for more legislation like this to be passed in other states and for more organizations like Save the Storks to encourage the saving of little babies and their mothers every day.

No matter how unimportant we might feel, we should remember that there is always something we can do—whether that be to pray, volunteer at a pro-life organization or donate to a nonprofit like Save the Storks. We *can* make a difference, and we should try our best to make even a small difference—because even if we save just one life, then it was all worth doing.

found myself feeling miserable after spending time on social media.

As I scrolled through photos and text posts, I frequently found myself feeling lonely,

inadequate, untalented or otherwise lacking. In spite of
See **COLUMN** p.3 >>

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TALKBACK

What does 2020 mean to you?

Noah Scahill
SOPHOMORE

It means I am turning 20 on 02/20/2020.

Katie Johnson
SOPHOMORE

It means there are 365 more sunsets to watch.

Zane Johnson
SOPHOMORE

It means it's a year after 2019 and a year before 2021.

Katie French
SOPHOMORE

It means striving to live more intentionally.

Photos: Robby Jorgensen

»» From **COLUMN** p.2

this, I still dutifully checked Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at least two or three times a day.

Slowly becoming more self-aware of this trend led me to ask, what about social media is so compelling?

For me and many others, social media dependence stems from an unfounded fear that we might miss something. It's impossible to say just what that "something" is,

but the idea of being the only one to miss out remains a truly terrifying prospect.

During the short time I've been "unplugged," I've been astonished to notice that the sky hasn't fallen and human existence hasn't come to a sudden and tragic end.

In fact, I noticed I gradually missed social media less and less every day. And as far as my social life, I think it helped incite me to ask people about their lives in the real world.

Now, before you walk

away, this isn't about to become one of those articles about how "the kids these days" are always on their phones and don't know how to communicate in the real world.

There's nothing wrong with social media. It can be a wonderful tool for staying in touch with friends and family.

But it does not portray the real world.

People, companies and organizations that use social media present a view of

the world as they would like people to see it. People share happy memories, not the unpleasant or boring ones. People show off good pictures of themselves, not the awkward accidental selfies they took when they open the front-facing camera by mistake. Artists and companies on social media publish their greatest successes, not their failures.

This results in the creation of an idealized world that would be impossible for

anyone to recreate. And for many social media users like myself, viewing this impossible perfection on social media makes us feel inferior.

Once again, I'm not saying social media is evil. In fact, I will probably reinstall mine soon. But it's worthwhile for all of us to remember that things we miss while scrolling through our newsfeeds and wishing for a better life far outweigh worries about "missing out" on the social media world for a few days.

Pirates of Penzance brings humor and narrative to Rodeheaver's stage

Joanna Scoggins

STAFF WRITER

Bob Jones University recently set sail on the high seas with the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players' performance of the musical *The Pirates of Penzance*.

As the first artist series of the semester, the NYGSP brought humor, theatrics and musical excellence to their performance.

According to Dr. Darren Lawson, dean of the School of Fine Arts and Communication, this was the second time the players had performed *The Pirates of Penzance* at BJU. They have also performed *Mikado* twice at BJU.

"I met David Wannen, [NYGSP's] executive director, at the annual conference of the Association of Performing Arts Professionals in New York City," Lawson said. "We became friends and have kept in touch since their first visit to BJU."

Lawson was excited that the students got to

experience a professional company perform *The Pirates of Penzance*. "[NYGSP] has been a hit each time they visit BJU," Lawson said.

Lawson said *The Pirates of Penzance* is one of the best-known and most loved of the Gilbert & Sullivan musicals. "I [wanted] our students to be introduced to this fun operetta with its hilarious plot," Lawson said.

The Pirates of Penzance told the story of Frederic, a young man who indentured himself as a pirate apprentice, only to realize he was supposed to be apprenticed to a pilot instead. Misunderstandings, a group of tenderhearted pirates and an island of beautiful women only complicated his hilarious situation.

Lawson said he hoped students came away understanding the importance of getting details right, as not doing so is what sparked Frederic's misfortunes in the beginning of the musical.

NYGSP is in its 45th year of operation. Its mission is to give



The NYGSP performed the musical *The Pirates of Penzance* on Feb. 4 and 6. Photo: Carol Rosegg

vitality to the living legacy of Gilbert & Sullivan through performance and education. They have performed over 2,000 Gilbert & Sullivan musicals in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

NYGSP tours with a full

chorus and orchestra, a crew of 50 to 80 people.

Their founder, artistic director and general manager is Albert Bergeret, a professional specialist in the works of Gilbert & Sullivan for over 40 years.

William Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan are known as the most popular musical theatre team of the Victorian era. They worked together on 14 comic operas, 13 of which the NYGSP have performed in their history.

Honoring Black History Month

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.



»» From **OUTREACH** p.1

for BJU and the Phillis Wheatley Center to work together to serve the community on MLK Day.

Another outreach went just across the street from BJU's campus to volunteer at Shepherd's Gate. This Miracle

Hill ministry provides shelter for women and their young children who are experiencing homelessness.

Here, students served anywhere from organizing clothing closets and toiletries to folding sheets and cleaning stairwells. One of these volunteers was the BJU CSC

Director Sarah Rumpf.

"The group of girls I went with worked so hard," said Rumpf. "Honestly, the best part of community service is that you're a community. You work with people who are similar to you, and you build those relationships."

Emiliano Costilla, the operation director of the CSC, organized an outreach to the Greenville County Juvenile Detention Center.

The volunteers split into three groups; the largest organized the center's library for the kids. Another organized the craft closets, and the last group deep cleaned the facilities.

Though this year volunteers did not get to work with the kids at the detention center, Costilla said that it would be a great thing to get people approved to volunteer in that aspect in the future.

King's quote encourages individuals to look beyond themselves to the broader concerns of humanity in order to start living. This sounds like a terrible burden to take on at face value, but as Christians, we know when we let our own problems dominate our lives, we

become overwhelmed. Once we lay our burdens at God's feet, He gives us grace and strength to accomplish whatever task He has for us. This will motivate us to serve others.



Sarah Rumpf and Autumn Yeiter sorted supplies for Shepherd's Gate Women's Center. Photo: Lindsay Shaleen



Avalon Misseijer helped organize food for Miracle Hill Boy's Shelter. Photo: Derek Eckenroth

MLK DAY OUTREACH: STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Anna Garian
Junior health sciences major
Meals on Wheels

"This was my second time volunteering there, and I just really loved getting to minister to people in need. It always serves as a reminder to not only appreciate the blessing of being able to get food on our own, but to always make sure we are being a kind, loving light for Christ to those around us."

"Helping out at the Miracle Hill Children's Home was a great reminder to just be thankful for how much God has blessed me every single day, and how the smallest inconvenience for me cannot be compared to the struggles some children face everyday."

Jonathan George
Senior business administration major
Miracle Hill Children's Home

Elizabeth Whiting
Freshman culinary arts major
Greenville County Juvenile Detention Center

"I really took away the fact that the detention center really cares for the kids. All of them have had some kind of trauma, and the fact that they have people who are trying to help them is amazing!"

"The men working at the Greenville Rescue Mission work hard everyday to show God's love and grace through their service. The homeless and the addicts can become brothers in Christ thanks to the space they have created. The experience reminded me that people are ministry and ministry is an everyday thing."

Abril Brito Mones
Senior English major
Greenville Rescue Mission

Kendall Deas
Junior biblical counseling major
Miracle Hill Overcomer's Center

"I really enjoyed my time by Overcomer's Center. We were organizing their small library, and it was great time to get know people better and chat. It was a relaxed environment, and we really felt appreciated and welcomed at the Center."

"Something I learned from my outreach was how much even just our attitudes for the work affected the people there. Our supervisor continually checked on us to make sure we didn't need anything, but those in my group were always so cheerful and engaged in asking questions for specific tasks to make sure it was done right."

Joanna King
Senior graphic design major
Miracle Hill Overcomer's Center

Susannah Castle
Sophomore graphic design major
Griggs Memorial Baptist Church

"I really enjoyed how our team was thoroughly mission-minded. I got to meet new, interesting people. While we were there, one of the pastors told us that they had been trying to repaint the rooms since last summer."



Bake-Off consists of four short plays. Photo: Lindsay Shaleen

BJU students gathered Saturday, Jan. 25, to experience what may be considered the worst baking competition of all time—because it is a theatre event.

Every semester, the BJU theatre students join students from every major to create a celebrated performance that, for many, is a highlight of the semester's lineup of artistic events.

Although the name leads many new students to a more culinary conclusion, Bake-Off consists of four plays written, produced and performed by students from various majors. The name comes from the "half-baked" nature of the plays, which include "ingredients" of some preset lines and props and only takes 24 hours in each stage of production.

This semester, Bake-Off entertained a packed Performance Hall on Jan. 25. Although the show started at 7 p.m., the crew plans for up to four showings because of the event's popularity.

Mary Conn, a junior theatre student, has been acting in Bake-Off since she was in high school (she was dual-enrolled in the Bob Jones Academy and the University). She describes it as a "cultural experience" and the best way for new students to discover the art that BJU theatre explores. "You gain a sense of what the students are actually studying," Conn said.

Kayley Baker, another junior theatre student and veteran Bake-Off actor, also stressed Bake-Off's impact on the BJU community. "It's one of those things that really brings our school together," Baker said. "You are connected with the actors and the audience. You get to laugh and cry together and just have a fun time."

But most of the new students have no idea what Bake-Off is. Zach Daab, a senior criminal justice major, missed the first semester performance his freshman year because he thought it was a baking competition. He attended second semester and has acted, written or worked tech crew in every Bake-Off since. He also said that it makes a great introduction to live theatre.

"I think a lot of people are intimidated by live theater because they think it's a two- or three-hour commitment," Daab said. "Bake-Off's only an hour long."

Daab also encourages anyone interested in the process of theatre to sign up next semester as a writer, actor, or tech crew member for the chance to experience what usually takes months of work. Even if a student has never tried theatre before, Daab says to go for it.

"It's so low pressure [and] low commitment," Daab said. "You're only committing for one day."

Daab is one of the Bake-Off actors who only minors in theatre; and, according to Beth Adkins, one of the theatre graduate students who runs Bake-Off, he is far from alone.

"It's where a lot of our minors started," Adkins says.

She describes Bake-Off as a great way for students to "get their feet wet" before deciding if theatre is for them.

"Bake-Off is very lowkey even though it's a lot of fun," Beth said.

She noted that most students start with one role, then work their way into others.

For RJ Ring, a senior engineering student, Bake-Off has always been about writing—or being a good audience member.

"I'm an engineering student—anyone can write for this," Ring said, "and they all bring unique things to the table."

Ring has found Bake-Off an effective way to hone his writing skills, as well as something to look forward to every semester.

And the audience, Ring said, is just as much a part of the show. "For the audience—come and laugh. The actors draw their energy from the audience."

To Ring, these are the ingredients that produce a show worth seeing again and again.



The plays ranged from humorous to action-filled. Photo: Charles Billiu



Beth Adkins is a graduate theatre student. Photo: Andrew Pledger



Writers had 24 hours to write their plays. Photo: Andrew Pledger



Josiah Shank performed in one of the plays. Photo: Charles Billiu

Design: Ben Clemons

Music scholarship benefits students

Jewel Schuurmans
STAFF WRITER

Incoming freshmen have been awarded \$71,000 in the last four years through the Gingery-Mack Music Scholarship, made possible by private donors and benefit concerts held on campus. The next benefit concert features pianist Dr. Matthew Edwards, a 1985 BJU graduate, who will perform on Feb. 8 in the War Memorial Chapel at 7 p.m. The sponsored performers learned their trade at BJU,

value classical music," Taylor said. "Knowing that people support you and care is a really big push both to get students to come to the University and to support them while they're here emotionally, too." An audition for the Gingery-Mack Music Scholarship considers the students' recommendations and a performance of voice, piano or any orchestral instrument. "The life of the musician is... kind of like a rope that's woven," Turner explained. "Part of those strands is their professional development—lessons

Scott Hoster, an attorney, asked his good friend Dr. Turner what he would choose if he could do one thing to help the Division of Music at Bob Jones University. "I would start a scholarship fund to bring in really fine, young Christian musicians to be trained," Turner said. Hoster and Turner came together to establish the Gingery-Mack Music Scholarship, which has now helped over 35 music students come to Bob Jones University. The scholarship was named in honor of husband



Anna Haas is a freshman keyboard performance major.
Photo: Mark Kamibayashiyama



Dr. Dan Turner is the Music Admission and Music Scholarship Coordinator. Photo: Mark Kamibayashiyama

Dr. Dan Turner, retired faculty and Music Admission and Music Scholarship Coordinator, said. "So we're able to say to prospective students: 'This is what we have to offer you,' and to current students, 'Work hard; you can be this in the future as God empowers you.'" Katie Taylor, a senior orchestral instrument performance major, said receiving the scholarship in 2016 and a renewal in 2017 felt like a push from God that BJU was where she was meant to be. "It's really amazing for potential music students to know that people

and practicing—but the other part is how they're actually using what they learn." To reflect that ideal, those auditioning must also submit an essay on their motivation behind their music and participate in an interview that determines how they use their musical abilities to benefit their local church and community. The financial amount awarded to the students is determined by the merit indicated by the auditioning process. The idea of a scholarship began with an answer to a simple question posed in 2014.

and wife Dr. Gail and Alice Gingery as well as Warren Mack, who all served extensively on the Bob Jones University music faculty. Christa Habegger, the Gingery's daughter, said, "For [my parents], the study of music and the pursuit of excellence in their fields was as much a ministry as if they had surrendered to serve on the mission field." Dr. Gingery was a former chair

of the Division of Music, head of the voice department, faculty member, choir director and more. "At lessons, he encouraged every student to embrace the study of voice as the best possible way to express joy and other emotions and to communicate the truths of the Gospel in a memorable way," Habegger said. Alice Gingery is still teaching piano to about 30 students at 89 years old. "[She's a]

ball of fire and a great teacher," Turner said. Warren Mack taught piano, music theory and church music courses, as well as directed the Bob Jones Academy choir and Hampton Park Baptist Church choir. A World War II army veteran, Mack landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. "He's kind of, in our eyes, the G.I. Joe," Turner said. "[He's] a very quick-witted, humor-loving gentleman [and] was a very fine teacher." Anna Haas, a freshman keyboard performance major who received the scholarship this year, said she believes the scholarship is a chance to honor God. "The people they choose are ones that will hopefully make an impact in the music world someday," Haas said. "You're helping someone [whose goal] is to bless people by glorifying God through their music."

**"YOU'RE HELP-
ING SOMEONE
[WHOSE GOAL]
IS TO BLESS
PEOPLE BY
GLORIFYING
GOD THROUGH
THEIR MUSIC."

ANNA HAAS**

sudoku

		7	9	1				
3		9				7		
	2	5		4		9		8
	5	1			4			
	8		6				1	7
			1		9			
5	1		7	6	3	4	2	
4	9			2		8		
7	3							

Opinion: Kobe Bryant's death reminds nation of life's brevity

Anna Grace Casillas
STAFF WRITER

I was driving back from a church event when I heard the news. "Hey, Anna Grace," my boyfriend said, reading the notification on his phone. "Kobe Bryant just died unexpectedly in a helicopter crash."

I almost swerved off the road in surprise.

As I watched SportsCenter later that night, read articles from different sources and listened to podcasts about the life and legacy of Kobe Bryant, I marveled at the way the death of this superstar has stunned our entertainment-saturated, celebrity-exalting culture into sobriety.

Later, as I scrolled through social media reactions to Bryant's death, most of them from secular sources, I began to notice a theme. "Some things are bigger than basketball." "Prayers up for the Bryant family." "Go tell your family you love them because you never know what might happen."

People were talking about things that actually matter—God, faith, prayer, love.

Reading those posts, I was reminded of Ecclesiastes 7:2, where Solomon said, "It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is

the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart."

One of the results of death, especially the unexpected death of someone as world-renowned and revered as Kobe Bryant, is that it causes us to stop and think about our own mortality.

We've all heard Kobe Bryant's story by now. As a competitor, as a perseverer, as a winner, as a father, the "Black Mamba" captured the hearts of basketball fans around the world. Through sheer willpower, he consistently outplayed and outcompeted his opponents.

But you can't outplay or outcompete death.

"I fell in love with you.
A love so deep I gave
you my all—
From my mind and
body
To my spirit and
soul."¹

No, those aren't the words of a lovestruck boyfriend. They're words from Kobe Bryant's award-winning short film, *Dear Basketball*.

Without minimizing Bryant's achievements, his love for his family and their grief over the loss of their father and sister, what does this poem reveal about his ultimate commitments?

As Christians we can admire his excellency, his God-given skills and his desire

to invest in the next generation as reflections of God's image and His common grace.

However, as I considered this poem and Bryant's life, I was struck with the reality that Kobe Bryant, for all his on and off-court successes, was not a man that the Bible would consider a role model for Christians.

Yes, he was an incredible competitor and seemingly a great father, but even the secular world admits the reality that his legacy is complicated by rifts with teammates, and most notably, by sexual abuse allegations.

This was a man who was unfaithful to his wife, whose pride often caused tensions with others and who ultimately lived his life for the sake of a game.

Of course, it's relatively easy for me to write that, never having met the man and not knowing the eternal state of his heart. There are a lot of things that we just can't know.

But here's something we do know as Christians, something that I think any death should remind us of: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:1-2).

Kobe Bryant's death reminds us that ultimately this is not our home. Ultimately, basketball is just a game. Ultimately, what we value most should be that which is

eternal.

So, as James says, consider your life. What are you living for?

¹Source: www.theplayerstribune.com/en-us/articles/dear-basketball



Bryant boasted two gold Olympic medals. Photo: Sgt. Joseph Lee



Kobe Bryant played his first NBA game in 1996. Photo: Kieth Allison

HEALTH & wellness TIPS

with Melanie Schell



How are those resolutions working out?

One month into 2020 and many have already abandoned their resolution to eat healthier. Why can't we get it together when it comes to our eating habits?

For most, the answer is as simple as the old saying, "Too much, too soon!" The average person attempts to make huge sweeping diet overhauls literally overnight—and that generally doesn't end well.

If you're feeling a sense of failure, don't give up! Take a step back and focus on a single, sustainable action that will make a difference, like giving up soda or eating a weekly meatless meal.

After gaining momentum with your one goal, add in another. Small changes have huge health benefits when they turn into habits!

2020 OFF TO A ROARING START

Katie French

STAFF WRITER

The start of 2020 brought more than just the celebration, resolutions and annual ball drop in New York City. The new decade brought with it several major events already.

Iran and the U.S.

On New Year's Eve, Iran attacked the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Iran carried out this action in response to U.S. sanctions deterring them from pursuing nuclear weapons.

The U.S. fired an airstrike following an attack on the American embassy, killing Iran's General

Qassem Suleimani. Iran retaliated by firing on two U.S. military bases in Iraq. No U.S. troops were killed, but 64 are suffering traumatic brain injury symptoms. Iran again caused havoc after shooting down a Ukrainian Airlines plane, killing all 176 passengers.

President Donald Trump has made public statements supporting the U.S. troops enduring the hardships in Iran.

Australian Fires

Over 11,000 fires have set Australia aflame and have destroyed over 17.9 million acres of land. The fires began in September 2019 and have primarily

hit the New South Wales region. As of Tuesday night, at least 28 people have died, including three U.S. firefighters.

The government invested \$2 million to help rebuild many structures ruined by the fires. Over 3,000 homes have suffered from the fires. However, significant rainfall has been predicted in the upcoming days.

Coronavirus

Over 24,300 people have been diagnosed with the Coronavirus, and at least 490 people from China have died. There are 11 confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in the U.S., and over 293

Americans received testing.

The World Health Organization is helping affected nations contain the virus. People in China are under a 14-day quarantine, and American transportation to and from Wuhan is currently prohibited. Despite this travel ban, the U.S. is evacuating some U.S. citizens from Wuhan to one of five airports with a thorough entry screening process.

China opened a hospital that was completed in 10 days in order to treat the Coronavirus and plans to open an additional hospital within a few days.

Medical researchers are currently working the

development and testing of a vaccine to combat the virus.

Trump Acquitted

On Wednesday, Trump was acquitted in the Senate impeachment trial.

The House of Representatives impeached Trump last December for pressuring Ukraine to investigate his rival Joe Biden and Biden's son Hunter.

The Democrats finished making their opening arguments on Jan. 24. Senators established rules for the trial's last stage and voted against calling witnesses.

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Storks' goal is helping people reach abortion-vulnerable women with Jesus' love and compassion. To do this, Save the Storks uses buses and vans that offer free ultrasounds at various locations, including outside abortion clinics.

Not only will the Save the Storks bus offer free ultrasounds, but it can also connect mothers with other organizations that will offer resources

such as diapers, baby formula, prenatal vitamins and prenatal care.

"We're going to reach women with love and compassion and action," Isaacs said.

Save the Storks also offers women information about alternate choices to abortion, such as adoption or parenting.

Isaacs illustrated the group's mission through a story about a Save the Storks bus in New Mexico. The bus' team offered a free ultrasound to a couple outside of a

Planned Parenthood clinic.

After hearing their child's heartbeat, the couple, in tears, decided against an abortion. After continued conversation, the team from Save the Storks led both to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

Isaacs said that students can get involved with Save the Storks in multiple ways. In addition to donating to the Bible Conference fundraiser, Isaacs said students can find a 30-day Bible reading plan on the YouVersion Bible app called "Reimagining Pro-Life: 30 Days with Save the Storks." The plan includes short Bible passages and devotionals.

Additionally, Isaacs suggests fasting and prayer about how to be involved with the issue of abortion, recognizing that not everyone is called to volunteer directly with Save the Storks.

Isaacs said humans inherently value life and, with advances in technology, it can no longer be denied that an unborn child is alive.

He also said if we value life, we must speak up for



A Save the Storks bus is outfitted with a TV, refrigerator, bathroom and more.

Photo: Chris Harmony



Isaacs has spoken in chapel twice in the past year. Photo: Chris Harmony



Alexia Newman, director of the Carolina Pregnancy Center, addressed the students on Jan. 21. Photo: Charles Billiu



Paul Isaacs has been the president of Save the Storks since 2014.

Photo: Chris Harmony