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Memes build BJU student community

10/30
2020

Vicki Olachea

STAFF WRITER

BJU students have become invested in building memes about the Bob Jones University experience, a practice that powerfully builds human connection according to Dr. Gary Weier, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and faculty member in the Division of Communication.

Each semester Weier has his media and society class spend five minutes in class making memes with their phones or computers to share with the class. He does this, he says, to illustrate how easily sophisticated communication can be created.

"All of us tend to underestimate how technology has changed the way we

communicate," Weier said.

According to Weier, the term "meme" relates back to the 1970s, when Richard Dawkins coined the phrase. Dawkins first used the term in his book *The Selfish Gene* to describe memes as cultural "replicators," according to Wikipedia.

Dr. Jared Stanley, a faculty member in the division of Art + Design, said memes borrow their form from propaganda posters, in which an image and text are used together to create a strong message. Today however, he said, memes have come to be a form dedicated to expression of a common feeling or satire of an individual or idea.

"Many quippy memes rely on trite phrases that add little to our experience of life; rather, they seek to describe it," Stanley said. "And yet, there is



Meme submitted

something enjoyable in capturing that specific experience in this visual form—a snapshot of a transient thought or feeling."

Stanley said the remarkable power of memes to go viral

See **MEMES** p.4 >>

Senior capstone play *Fog* explores life's meaning

Olivia Thomas

STAFF WRITER

BJU theatre students present a conversation about class differences and power, who deserves to live or die, and the meaning of life in the play *Fog* performed Thursday and again tonight at 7 and 9 p.m. and Saturday at 7, 8 and 9 p.m.

Taking place in a lifeboat in the middle of the ocean, the 25-minute student-produced play written by Eugene O'Neill follows a poet, a businessman, a Polish immigrant woman and her child as they wait for rescue following the sinking of their ship.

As they wait, the wealthy businessman and the sorrowful poet converse with each other over their own opinions

about the purpose of life. When their clashing world-views come to a head at the climax of the story, they must choose whether to change their views or remain steadfast to them.

Senior theatre student Megan King is the director of *Fog* as part of her senior capstone. King, who was in the middle of a directing class last semester when COVID-19 forced BJU to transition to remote learning, has been an assistant director but never the primary director of a play.

Directing *Fog* has been an interesting challenge for King, who said she has enjoyed the creative process of working with other members of the cast and crew to pull the

See **FOG** p.4 >>



Sophomore Joshua Stauff rehearses his role as Poet.

Photo: Mark Kamibayashiyama

@thecollegianbju

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THE WEEK

Fall Fest costume & candy trek

The SLC invites students to dress up for a trek across campus to collect candy tonight from 9-10:30 p.m. More details on page 7.

Chamber Harp Ensemble

This narrated musical retelling of Margaret Mahey's *The Girl with the Green Ear* will be performed at 7 p.m. on Oct. 31 in Stratton Hall by the Chamber Harp Ensemble with Aaron Fox on French horn.

Daylight saving time ends

Daylight saving time will end on Sunday, Nov. 1. Saturday evening, set clocks back one hour and enjoy some extra sleep!

ULA French film screening

The University Language Association will screen a French language film, *Avril et le monde truqué*, in Stratton Hall at 7 p.m. on Nov. 5. Attendees will have an opportunity to compete in a drawing for two \$50 gift cards.

Column: Voodoo or voodon't? That is the question

p. 2

Don't worry: if you get the creepy crawlies, there's a pup to help.

p. 5

If you follow @thecollegianbju, you might be on this page. . .

p. 6

Look who's bringing the pep to your step at Bruins games!

p. 7



COLUMN



Jewel Schuurmans
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Do you want to leave?" he asked. I looked around with wide eyes and nodded, and as we stepped out of the building I took a deep breath. We were on a missions trip to Haiti and had just left a several-room museum filled with ritualistic Voodoo artifacts. The crudely made trinkets and statues were grotesque, but even worse was the thought of how they were used in real ceremonies.

Modern culture has trivialized the Voodoo religion to the point where TV shows use it in comedy bits and gumball machines dispense voodoo dolls

See **COLUMN** p.3 >>

The Collegian Editorial
Endeavor to keep BJU beautiful

Keep South Carolina Beautiful, the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, recently gave a \$10,000 new affiliate startup grant to the Keep Pickens County Beautiful program. According to *The Greenville Journal*, Pickens County has consistently emphasized awareness to prevent and clean up littering, including hosting events like the annual countywide litter pickups.

Greenville County also has a state affiliated program, Keep Greenville County Beautiful, which was founded in 2008. According to their website, "[KGCB is] a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a simple mission: to engage citizens in beautification, litter prevention, and waste reduction through public awareness, education, and special events."

The programs give opportunities to the community to keep the environment litter-free, reducing environmental hazards and eyesores. People can donate funds, volunteer for various cleaning initiative programs or "Adopt-A-Street" and commit to cleaning litter from a city street once every three months for a year.

As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of that which God has given to our care. In fact, stewardship of our natural environment began in the Garden of Eden when God "... put [Adam] into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep" (Genesis 2:15).

It is dishonorable to abuse the environment we have been given with no consideration for both those in our community and the environment itself. To toss trash out of a car window out of convenience, leave garbage bags in others' way out of laziness or pile up plastic foam take-out boxes on top of an already stuffed

garbage can are unChristlike habits that overlook God-given direction. 1 Corinthians 14:40 says, "Let all things be done decently and in order."

First, we need to take individual responsibility for how we leave the community we enter. 1 Corinthians 10:24 instructs people to focus on the good of those near them over their own interests. We must not be so selfishly inclined that we act out of convenience with no concern for those around us. This includes our habits in restaurants and coffee shops around town, community spaces in the city and social spots around campus like The Den and dining common. Leaving undue mess for others to run into or cleanup is ungracious.

Second, we need to consider the impact our habits have on our natural surroundings. Litter is not just an eyesore, it is an irresponsible stewardship of God's creation. Rivers get heavily polluted, sewers are clogged, animals can even choke or suffocate because of trash carelessly tossed out and carried by the wind. Luke 16:10 says, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much . . ." The way we treat our environment reflects our concern for honoring God in whatever we do if we are responsible in our stewardship (1 Corinthians 10:31).

We can go beyond taking responsibility for our own actions by being proactive in volunteering to help our communities through programs like the Keep America Beautiful state and county affiliate programs. BJU students can also keep an eye out for University-sponsored ministry opportunities that focus on environmental care.

TALKBACK

What was scary to you as a child?

Shane Curtis
JUNIOR

"Treadmills, they're meant for running & running is the worst."

Hannah Healey
SENIOR

"Tornadoes just really freaked me out."

Taylor Worley
JUNIOR

"Cockroaches. Texas cockroaches are built different."

Aaron Church
SENIOR

"Girls, because they had cooties and were intimidating."

Photos: Olga Manyak

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» From **COLUMN** p.2

as keychains. Even some Disney movies, primarily created to entertain children, have heavy influences of the religion. Dr. Facilier, the villain in *The Princess and the Frog*, practices Voodoo to antagonize the main characters.

But Voodoo is anything but worthy of being commercialized. For example, the Voodoo doll's purpose is to physically manipulate the person it resembles by being spiritually connected to them and is just one piece of a dark religion that practices disturbing ceremonies directly requesting demonic influence.

Oxford Languages defines Voodoo as "a black religious cult . . . combining elements of Roman Catholic ritual with traditional African magical and religious rites and characterized by sorcery

and spirit possession." This definition only begins to explain the perverse, demonic practices of Voodoo. Its history is extensive, with an emphasis on rituals involving physical objects.

But Voodoo isn't just virtually accepted and commercialized in pop culture. As one might expect, museums carry many authentic objects of the religion. I experienced one in Haiti, where Voodoo is the national religion, but they're also in the U.S. The New Orleans Historic Voodoo Museum has two rooms full of distorted face masks, bizarre wooden carvings, obscene art and other disturbing and unnatural ritualistic elements. A music museum in Vermillion, South Dakota, dedicates a space to instruments made from human bones and other artifacts that were undoubtedly

used in demonic services.

Preserving history in museums is commendable, but a question arises: should all historical elements be preserved regardless of the intent behind their creation? This is a valid consideration for a Christian. What do we keep and study for educational purposes? If the Bible says to be "wise as serpents," should we not be well-educated on and aware of practices that are contrary to its principles? Can we not use such artifacts as historical warnings against pagan practices? What about historical preservation; if these pieces are part of our human history, don't they have intrinsic value?

Regarding educational purposes, Phil. 4:8 exhorts Christians to think on whatever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good

report, virtuous and praiseworthy. We do not need to study what is evil in order to discern what is righteous; knowledge of evil cannot drive us farther away from evil than meditation on the Lord can pull us closer to Him.

Now for historical preservation. In the Old Testament, God never made an exception to His commandments to destroy idols for the sake of historical preservation. He did not call on the Israelites to become wiser by learning about pagan instruments - on the contrary, He called for the Israelites to look on the instruments' destruction as a reminder of His jealous and holy wrath.

"You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire . . . for it is an abomination to the Lord your God," Deuteronomy 7:25 says.

God exists outside of time

as its Creator; if something was an abomination to Him 100 years ago, it is an abomination to Him today. Wick- edness does not expire. "For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past," Psalm 90:4 says. He was there when it was made; its value does not increase in His eyes because of how long it has lasted. If we endeavor to be wise, we must align ourselves with His perspective to see as He sees.

Isaiah 8:19-20 exhorts believers to reject witchcraft, running instead to the teaching and testimony of the Bible. Ultimately, a Christian should study the Bible for all understanding, not study the very abominations it condemns. The instruments and practices of the Voodoo religion are an offense to God and rejected by Him, as they should be by Christians.

Faculty panel defines Christian response to transgenderism

Katie French

STAFF WRITER

The BJU Health Sciences Association hosted an hour-and-a-half panel discussion on Oct. 22 concerning the topic of transgenderism and several related issues.

Panelists Dr. Marc Chetta and Dr. Hannah Bengé of the Division of Health Sciences, Dr. Valerie Peterson of the Division of Nursing, and Dr. Ted Miller of the Division of Biblical Studies and Theology answered a variety of student-submitted questions. While each question was addressed to a specific panelist, other members of the panel were given opportunities to share their thoughts on each topic as well.

Junior communication disorders major and HSA member Kaylee Dreese said the biblical insight she received from attending the panel will help her in the future since she expects to go to a secular grad school. "I really appreciate having Christian professors right now [who are] able to give us a biblical worldview on topics like transgenderism," Dreese said.

Freshman biblical counseling major RuthAnn Mezzullo said the discussion served as a reminder of how Christians should reach out to others. "Always be willing to minister to people of different walks of

life, especially somebody who may be thinking of transitioning or may already have transitioned," Mezzullo said. "[It is important to be] able to show these people that they are created in the image of God."

Miller addressed why transgenderism is a sin biblically. "God measures culpability of a sin by intent and knowledge," Miller said. "Anybody participating in [transgenderism] on any level is going to be culpable for this, for the ideas and thoughts in their minds, or the actions that they flow out of."

Chetta also specified that intersex is not a proper term for ambiguous gender at birth and that 99.98% of the time genetics are correct, implying this doesn't excuse transgenderism.

Bengé, being a speech-language pathologist herself, discussed whether it would be wrong for a speech-language pathologist to help someone retrain their voice to reflect the gender they wished to transition into. Bengé said some people view this as a quality of life issue but that long-term effects must be considered. "Changing to try to sound like what the anatomy is not wired for will lead to harm and misuse and potential loss of voice," Bengé said.

Peterson answered questions relating to issues nurses may face when treating



Dr. Chetta answers students' questions after the panel. Photo: Lindsay Shaleen

transgender patients. Peterson said when deciding what pronoun to address a patient by, calling the patient by their first name is safe. This shows respect while not violating one's own conscience.

Regarding ethical decision-making, Peterson said,

"Our professional code of ethics actually says in provision five that we have the right to care for ourselves and that we should not have to compromise our standards of practice or personal integrity."

Chetta also gave insight

regarding transgenderism in the medical field. When given questions on what defines gender, including beyond physicality, Chetta said, "The scientific truth is that sex is not assigned at birth. Sex is determined at conception."

»» From **MEMES** p.1

comes from their ability to provide connection, as people connect with others who enjoy the same content.

Weier said this essence of connection goes beyond a shared experience to something deeper: participation. "That's deeply human, because you connect with people in deeper kinds of ways rather than spelling it out," Weier said.

For the BJU community, memes target shared experiences. For example, many meme pages create content with references to chapel, one of the experiences all BJU students have in common.

The owner of a meme page about BJU said, "I think people really enjoy my content because they see their own friends on a platform that is solely about Bob Jones [University]."

Weier said what makes memes inherently powerful also makes them inherently dangerous. As his class illustrates through their exercise, a powerful meme can be made in five minutes or less.

This rapid pace, made possible by advancements in communication technology, gives little time for reconsidering the message before posting it.

The meme account owner said he is the filter for the account, which usually features others' content. He said he often finds himself rejecting content that crosses the line by dehumanizing people for the sake of content.

"The key to a successful meme page is it has to be

funny, it has to be appropriate, it has to be relatable and it has to be timeless," the owner said.

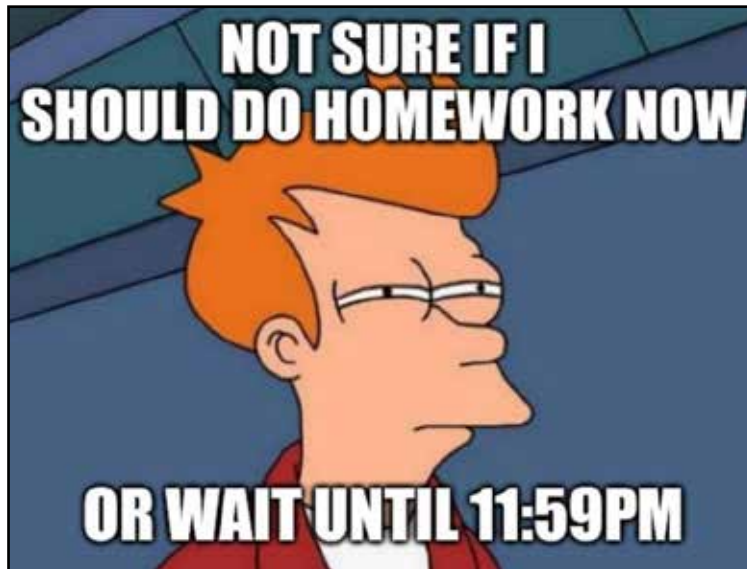
"I don't think there's a unique set of biblical principles that apply to memes," Weier said. "It's just a matter of applying Scripture to that form of communication like we would apply it to all forms of communication."

Stanley said Ephesians 4:29 is a good filter for all communication, specifically including memes: "Let no

corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

"Simply put, before you

post, stop and think about what you are really saying or supporting," Stanley said. "It may seem harmless, when in reality, it could be hurtful to others and to your testimony."



Meme submitted



Meme submitted

»» From **FOG** p.1

play together. From lights to set designs to costumes, King has had a hand in everything, guiding the crew in their technical and artistic endeavors.

"I've always been the one to ask the questions and have someone in charge tell me what to do or give me direction on where to go," King said. "As the director, I'm the one that has to have all the answers. It's been exciting to see all the different elements come together."

One of the other challenges King said she has faced is having such a small crew to help her. Many of the students who worked on *Fog* held multiple positions, pushing them to stretch their creative abilities. *Fog* also features an original song written by Aaron Marquez, a sophomore theatre student.

Kayley Baker, a senior theatre student, is the technical director and one of the actors for *Fog*. Baker said the small cast and crew have had to take on multiple roles, working together to help the play reach its fullest potential. But Baker said working together to overcome obstacles have helped all the students grow closer together.

"Theatre, by definition, takes more than one person," King said. "If you just have an actor, you have no theatre. If you just have an audience member, you have no theatre."

King is grateful to be able to put on a play in front of a live audience at all, especially amid a pandemic.

"Getting to see everyone grow in their love of theatre and become stronger artists has been super rewarding," Baker said. "Just seeing how very different people have come together and become so close and had so much fun working on something has been very enjoyable."

One of the other rewards of putting together *Fog* has been getting to work with the theatre department faculty. King said the faculty have helped her in letting her try new things, pushing her to explore outside her comfort zone and to use her God-given skills to the best of her ability.

"We're taught and mentored and disciplined by faculty who encourage our growth in the Lord," King said. "[The faculty at BJU] always make sure to bring it back to what glorifies God, what honors God and what is the right thing to do."

The cast and crew hope audiences will come away from *Fog* with something to discuss about the purpose of life and what meaning life might have, if any, without God in it. Baker said she believes there is something to be learned from the two very different worldviews presented in the play and how those worldviews and the people who hold them change.

"One of my favorite things about the show is that it shows change is possible," Baker said. "No matter how stubborn a person may be, there's no need or reason to give up on people because change is always possible."



Senior Kayley Baker (front) is also the technical director for *Fog*. Photo: Mark Kamibayashiyama



Freshman Timothy Hulbert, playing Business Man, rehearses with sophomore Joshua Stauff, playing Poet. Photo: Mark Kamibayashiyama

DON'T "PETTIT"

These quiet spiders and a sweet German Shepherd, to pick just a couple examples of our non-squirrel friends on campus, enhance the BJU student body's ability to delve into biology and appreciate the loyalty of service animals.



Dr. David McKinney, a faculty member in the department of biology, maintains the spider lab in the Howell Memorial science building and uses the arachnid collection for outreach and research.

McKinney said, "[The spiders] are a very powerful tool for reaching out to people, especially children." The University has used the spiders for various events, including displaying them to prospective students and loaning them out to the Collegiate Biology Association. "Children love spiders and bugs, and they are a great story piece," McKinney said.

However, the spider lab is used for more than outreach. McKinney partners with students for research projects: "I help them understand what is going on with the spider so they have a framework to ask questions and do experiments." The students study a variety of topics, ranging from a short analysis of the spider's nervous system to a longer study of a process within the spider's life cycle.

McKinney said, "We provide students with hands-on experience in a real-world context in a system that is very challenging." The academic world is lacking in research on arachnids which leaves an open door to lots of things researchers at BJU can do that are significant to science, McKinney said. By studying these arachnids, McKinney and the students are not only contributing knowledge of spiders to the scientific community, but they are also furthering studies on health and living processes.

For any interested students, McKinney recommends contacting him or Dr. Chris Carmichael, another faculty member in the biology department. McKinney said, "Dr. Carmichael runs the serpentarium, and there are tours available for interested parties." McKinney is also willing to work with students if they are interested in touring the spider lab or using the spiders for academic purposes.



Dr. Jessica Minor, dean of the School of Health Professions, can be seen around campus with her energetic service dog, Jersey. This 7-year-old German Shepherd assists Minor by picking up objects or fetching her phone. She is currently learning how to open and hold doors. Minor said, "She was born and trained in Czechoslovakia, so she speaks Czech and I speak Czech for the commands."

While her interactions with students and faculty are limited, Jersey is friendly to anyone she meets. "If I do have a class, she typically goes in to say hello to some of the students," Minor said. However, in most settings, Jersey must remain focused on Minor.

"[Jersey] does bring some excitement to the administrative meetings and deans' meetings," Minor said. Various times, professors have been startled in meetings by the sudden appearance of Jersey at their feet, licking their toes. When she is not helping Minor, Jersey loves to chase the squirrels and bark up the trees. "[Jersey] does have an interesting personality, and she makes things exciting," Minor said.





Study Tips

Instagram Polls from Fellow Students

What are your tried & true studying tips?

"Put your phone away!"

"Outlining and snacking."

"Study outside of your room. Make your room a haven for food, friends and sleep!"

"Listen to music really loud to block out distractions."

What do you do to relax?

"Sleep."

"Purposeful planned breaks so that you don't feel bad for doing it!"

"Mountain drives."

"Family or drink some tea."

"Play video games."

"Cooking."

"Listen to music."

What's your encouragement to others for finishing the semester strong?

"Your future patients are waiting. You can and will succeed!"

"For me.... walking a big lizard around campus."

"You got this! Only 3 weeks till exams!"

"You wouldn't be here if God didn't want you here! He will help you finish strong."

"Galatians 6:9!"

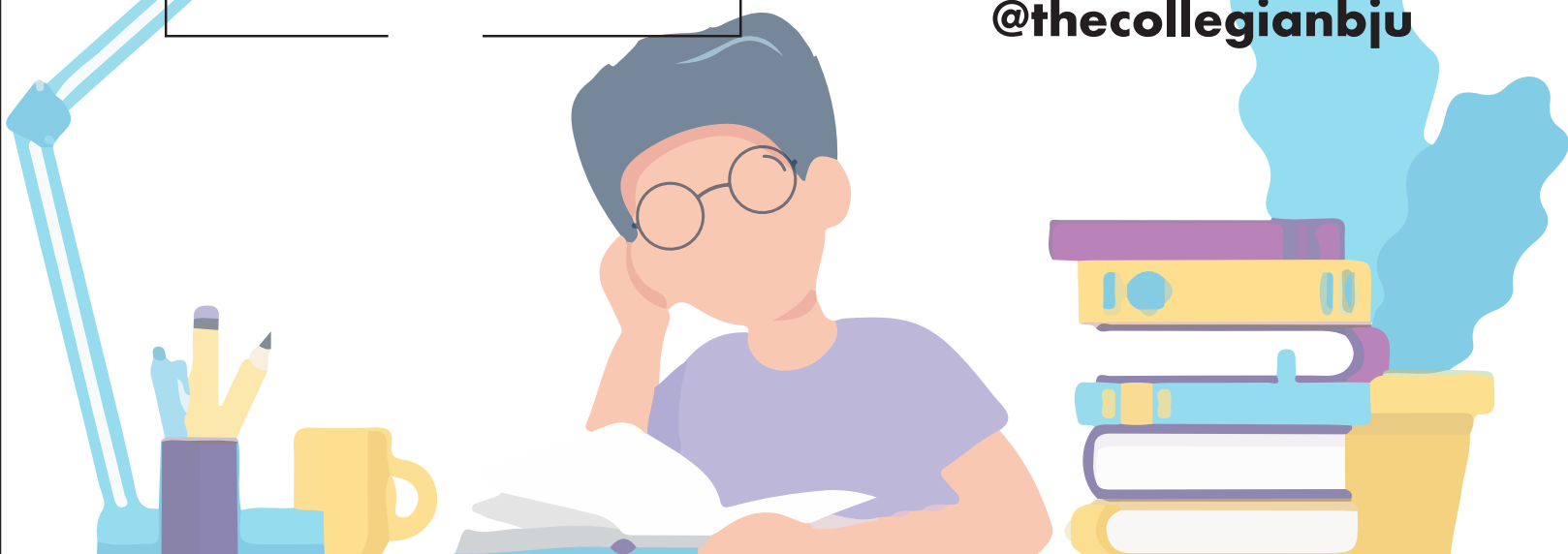
What's an unusual relaxation or study method you know about?

"Downing hot sauce before a test -- supposedly it wakes your brain up. Idk if it works."

"Grab some bubble wrap to release stress."

"Tease your study buddy using the material -- i.e., 'You're denser than a set of irrationals.'"

@thecollegianbj



Student-created pep band hypes fans at Bruins games

Ashley Dougherty
STAFF WRITER

For this fall athletic season, student musicians have grouped to form a pep band to energize the crowds at Bruins sports games.

Aaron Fox and Dan Elston, both junior music education majors, work together as the leaders of the band. The two were spotted parading around Rush with their instruments by Matthew Weathers, director of the center for leadership and development, and he got the idea of starting a pep band. Fox then organized the student-led band that took shape right away at the beginning of the 2020 fall semester.

"We found some old music from the pep band that they had five years ago, and Daniel Elston and I put some music together," Fox said. "Within three weeks, it all came together."

The pep band has approximately 20 students with five trumpets, five trombones, four saxophones, three percussionists, two French horns, two tubas and a euphonium.

Fox said, "We play peppy music in general, and we try

to play songs everyone would recognize." The pep band often plays movie themes and professional sports themes, with the occasional upbeat classical piece.

"We just try to put a smile on people's faces," Fox said. "Last week, [Will Kozik] and I got out there and played the 'Veggie Tales' theme song, and the crowd liked that a lot."

Heather Madison, a senior accounting major and alto saxophone player in the band, said, "We have played 'Mission Impossible' and the 'Avengers' theme song, trying to think of things that people would recognize."

Having played the alto saxophone in high school, Madison said she enjoys being able to play again. She said, "The pep band has caused me to branch out and do things I would never do otherwise." The band is an exciting opportunity for students who do not have music majors or minors to play their instruments.

"This is something Bob Jones [University] has needed for a long time ever since they started the Bruins back in 2012," Fox said. "We have been needing something to

energize the games and get people more hyped."

Dr. Cox, head of the department of instrumental studies, is the faculty sponsor of the group, and Aaron Burk, assistant men's director of student life, has helped to promote the pep band and provide the students with the necessary game information. Burk is currently working to get uniforms for the band.

"Dr. Pettit and Dr. Benson are [also] really enthusiastic about it," Fox said. "I could not appreciate more the faculty interest in the pep band."

The pep band is growing as more opportunities open. The group is planning to play at the Turkey Bowl and is looking for other events where they can play. The pep band has mainly played at soccer games as the group is still in its early stages.

However, the band played at their first volleyball game on Oct. 23 where the Bruins faced PCC. Fox said the band plans to expand to basketball games when the season begins. Fox is enthusiastic about the future of the pep band. "It is only going to get better from here," he said.



The pep band hopes to play at Turkey Bowl on Nov. 13.
Photo: Olga Manyak



Sophomore Aaron Frish plays trumpet in the newly-formed band.
Photo: Olga Manyak

Fall Fest

Guidelines

- Students must abide by casual dress code and avoid costumes that reflect evil or sensuality
- No display of real or fake weapons
- Students will provide their own containers for collecting candy

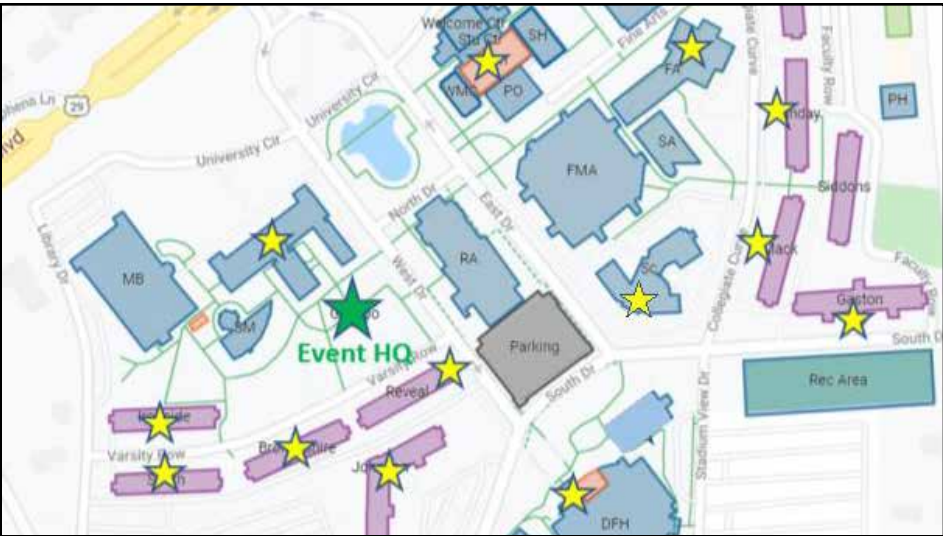
COVID-19 precautions

- Students will be required to wear masks at all indoor locations.
- Students are encouraged to travel in small groups of 2-3.

Contest

- Students who have all 14 locations stamped will be entered into a grand prize giveaway once they submit their cards at the Gazebo.
- Costume Contest: Students can tag @bjusic in their Instagram photos. The first-place winner will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card, the second-place winner will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card, and the third-place winner will receive a \$15 gift card.

Graphic: Alicia Demott



HEALTH + WELLNESS Tips



Joshua Norton
Junior Nursing

Flu's Next?

We have spent this entire semester dealing with COVID-19, but there are other viruses that we must be proactive about too. Flu season will start near the end of this semester and will extend to about late March.

The flu has been known to have a great impact on college campuses including ours. Fortunately, unlike COVID-19, we have a vaccine ready to help prevent a flu outbreak from happening.

The flu vaccine has up to a 60% effectiveness against influenza and in cases where it has not prevented it, it has remarkably decreased the severity of the infection.

Please consider getting your flu shot before or during this upcoming flu season to help protect yourself, your teachers, your friends, and your family.

www.cdc.org provides more information on flu shot FAQs.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

New assistant aids student life

Nathaniel Hendry
STAFF WRITER

"The saying is, 'the lights never go out at Student Life,'" Aaron Burk, the new assistant men's director of student life, said. Even though his work keeps him busy, Burk said he is excited for the opportunity to disciple students.

On an average day, Burk rises early for exercise and time with God. He then heads to his office in Student Life, where he communicates with the male day students, updates information on BJU's website and meets with students through the Student Life office. He also helps plan student activities such as the pep band and hype squad by giving students information on the game schedule and helping with their promotion.

Burk also spends time, often in the evening, in his role as dorm supervisor for the Brokenshire residence hall discipling students and resolving infractions.

Burk said he particularly encourages students to prioritize prayer in their daily lives. "You don't get credit for thinking about praying or

knowing that you would pray if you had time," Burk said. Part of the problem, he said, is that Christians do not spend enough time praying. "We have a prayer meeting, and we only pray the last three or four minutes often," he said.

Burk said he focuses on both spiritual and social wellbeing among students. "I am always looking for ways to create enthusiasm amongst the students for building relationships with others," Burk said. Burk, whose two sons play soccer for the Bruins, encourages students to enthusiastically support the Bruins teams. "I think that the Bruins are a uniter for all of us," he said.

Burk graduated from BJU with an undergraduate degree in youth ministries in 1995 and completed a master's degree in divinity three years later. He then served as the youth pastor at Bethany Bible Church in Hendersonville, North Carolina. While at Bethany, he served as head pastor for about 18 months during a pastoral transition. He then became the program director at The Anchorage Christian Camp

in Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina, a position he held for nearly 19 years.

In January 2020, Burk received a call from Dr. Alan Benson, BJU's vice president for Student Development and Discipleship, inviting him to serve in the Student Life department. However, with the pandemic threatening BJU's plans for fall semester, Burk received another phone call in March explaining that BJU might not have a place for him.

With a board meeting coming up for The Anchorage Christian Camp, Burk and his family had to make a decision. "We were determined that we would give everything to Him and let Him lead us," Burk said. He and his family relied on Psalm 25:1-2: "Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed."

For several months, Burk said the continual uncertainty was like walking through knee-deep water at night. "You have no idea where your feet are going to land," Burk said. In early June, Burk received a call from Jon Daulton,



Aside from his work, Burk enjoys playing guitar.

Photo: Nathaniel Hendry

BJU's director of Student Life. Daulton asked if Burk was willing to serve as a residence hall supervisor in addition to his role with Student Life. Burk and his wife accepted the invitation.

"I think everything that I've gone through has prepared me to be here," Burk said.

Burk's role at The Anchorage let him work with students mainly during

summers, but his position at BJU allows him to connect with students all year. Burk said he is excited at the increased opportunities for discipleship since he loves working with young adults.

"If they gave [a medal] for most excited to be here, I'd be on the podium for sure!" Burk said. "I'm like, 'you really want me to do this, and you're going to pay me to do it, too?'"



Burk was the program director for The Anchorage Camp.
Photo: Nathaniel Hendry

sudoku

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6								
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