

the Collegian

Vol. 34 No. 9 | collegianonline.com

Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC 29614

Election results to rely on key states

11/06
2020



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Nathaniel Hendry & Jewel Schuurmans

Americans were held in suspense on election night as the ballots rolled in with a constant give-and-take for the presidential candidates.

As of press time for this issue of The Collegian, it is possible that some states not finalized for either candidate may come within the threshold of a close vote margin, which could trigger a recount of all ballots, or other legal challenges may be brought in key battleground states.

Pre-election polling favored former Vice President Joe Biden nationally and in key battleground states such as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. But as in 2016, the actual results in many states did not match the pre-election polling data, confirming many voters' uncertainties about the predictability of the results.

The race on Election Day was a constant game of speculation, and both Trump and Biden made remarks as results continued to roll in throughout the evening and into the next day.

Despite tweeting "A big WIN!" early evening on Nov. 3, Trump tweeted again in the early morning Nov. 4 with a

comment on votes being stolen, which caused media to postulate that he was concerned he was losing.

Biden made a confident statement in person at a Delaware election watch party, commending the patience of his supporters. "We believe we're on track to win this election," Biden said.

News stations continued to cover the results well into the early hours of Nov. 4, including an official statement by Trump in the White House about 2:30 a.m., hours after Biden's statement.

"This is without question

"We feel good about where we are, we really do. And it ain't over until every vote is counted."

-Biden

the latest news conference I have ever had," Trump said, provoking a chuckle from his audience that included his personal family. Trump confidently claimed leading the election with large margins, a speculation immediately criticized by the media as being

far too early to call because of the large number of remaining uncounted ballots.

"It's not my place or Donald Trump's place to declare who's won this election," Biden had said in his statement. "That's the decision of the American people."

Despite criticism invoked by the early call, Trump's steady lead provoked positive comments from NBC News political director Chuck Todd. "Even if [Trump] loses here, there is strength in his performance tonight," Todd said. "He may be a one-term president, but you know what he's not? A humiliated leader of the Republican party."

This election season adds on to a historically uncertain year already impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, nationwide protests over race relations and an economic recession.

The presidential election season dramatically highlighted the differences between Trump's and Biden's dispositions. Trump's overpowering style was brought out during the first presidential debate in which both candidates aggressively interrupted each other. Biden responded in turn, causing many commentators and voters to feel disappointed by the lack of civil discourse during the event.

Trump became infected with COVID-19 in October, causing the second debate to be cancelled. Both candidates

"The citizens of this country have come out in record numbers ... to support our incredible movement."

-Trump

moderated their tone during the last presidential debate.

During the COVID-19 lockdowns, Biden cancelled most in-person rallies and migrated to a virtual campaign. Trump largely campaigned in his usual style, drawing large crowds to his events. These habits were reflected again election night as Biden held an outdoor, socially distanced rally with people remaining with their vehicles, and Trump held an indoor event with privately-invited unmasked attendees who were required to take COVID-19 tests.

99.7 million people voted early or by mail, nearly three-quarters more than in the 2016 election. Early votes were in large part prompted by COVID-19 precautions, but

See **ELECTION** p.5 >>

@thecollegianbju
/BJUCollegian

THE WEEK

Pep Rally

A student-led pep rally will be held tonight at 10 p.m. in Alumni Stadium after being rescheduled from Homestaying.

Run for Rice 5K

The rescheduled Run for Rice 5K color run will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday. Registration is \$10. All proceeds go to the Rice Bowls fundraiser.

Men's Basketball

The Bruins men's basketball team will play Piedmont College at 7 p.m. Saturday. The game will be livestreamed.

Faculty Forum Series

The last faculty forum, "Medicine, the Media & Politics," will be held at 7 p.m. Nov. 10 in Stratton Hall. The focus of the forum is why the pandemic has become political and how it has been covered in the media.



Comic: Susy Castle

COLUMN



Johanna Huebscher
STAFF WRITER

The day I left for my first semester of college, I cried the whole way to the airport. Every instinct in me screamed to turn the car around, jump out of the car or do anything to get out of what was to come. My mind frantically ran through all my options, but the only logical option was to take the flight, alone, to the other side of the country.

I had already bought the ticket and planned for the semester. I had told all of my friends I was leaving and cracked jokes about how excited I was to leave my

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The Collegian Editorial
Don't be like "Florida Man"

CNN reported last week that a Florida man was badly mauled by a black leopard after paying \$150 to pet it and have a photo shoot with it - up close and personal. He required two surgeries after the fully-grown leopard bit the right side of his head. The big cat's owner is facing misdemeanor citations for allowing contact with a dangerous animal and for "maintaining captive wildlife in an unsafe condition causing extensive damage," according to CNN.

This modern-day Daniel in the lions' den, sans the restraining hands of God, illustrates an important point for Christians. While Christians are often viewed as radical risk-takers by a world that does not understand the challenging lives of missionaries, the unselfish love of others and "widow's mite"-style charity, rarely are we called to choose the riskier of two options. For a Christian, obeying the will of God is always a safer option than disobeying Him. Even when asked to go into physical danger, financial instability or the valley of the shadow of death, Christians have the assurance that any danger or struggle we face on earth is only temporary. Though we may lose life, limb, and loved ones on earth, we have the hope of eternal life and eternal peace waiting for us.

Also, during those trials on earth, Christians have the promise that they are never alone. Although the world may view David facing Goliath or Elijah confronting the prophets of Baal as a risk, God was with them the entire time. Even for those in Scripture or history who faced suffering or death for following the will of God, in the end, it did not make an impact on what truly mattered. The apostles counted it joy that they

should suffer physical harm for the cause of Christ (Acts 5:41). Paul writes in Philippians 1:21, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love and self-control. Christians should have no fear following the will of God, even if the world scoffs at it. Even when obedience comes with the chance of personal loss, Romans 8:28 reassures Christians, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

However, this does not mean Christians are invincible. Going into the leopard's den for no reason is foolishness. Satan himself quoted Psalm 91:11-12, "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." But Christ's example shows this kind of risk-taking is not biblical, as He replied, "It is written again, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God'" (Matthew 4:7b). Following the will of God will never be a foolish risk for a Christian. This does not mean Christians should engage in absurd risks that do not further the kingdom of God - such as photo shoots with dangerous animals.

Proverbs 27:12 cautions, "The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it." While Christians should not live in fear or anxiety, prudence, discretion and wisdom are gifts from God. Christians should seek to step out on the water when Christ calls, keep our eyes on Him, but not step out when Christ is not calling. Prudence never goes against the will of God and the will of God never takes you where He will not sustain you.

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TALKBACK

What's your go-to Cuppa Jones order?



Kaitlyn Koch
JUNIOR
"Pumpkin Spice Latte!"



Jason French
JUNIOR
"White Mocha."



Emily Brown
FRESHMAN
"Peppermint London Fog."



Ezra Pressley
FRESHMAN
"Iced Chocolate Latte!"

Photos: Mark Kamibayashiyama

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parents. As much as I wanted to stay, I had to leave.

Change comes easier for some and harder for others. I have always struggled with embracing transitions. When I first turned 18 and people started referring to me as an adult, I would smile sheepishly and then promptly change the topic. I didn't feel like a real adult. I could barely keep my room semi-clean, much less do basic adulting skills like taxes, paying utilities or managing a household.

But somehow, I made it out of that car and onto my flight. Once I actually arrived at college, people started referring

to me as a college student or college kid. Here's the thing. I didn't feel like a college student. I felt like a fraud. I felt like I wasn't really a college student. I was only taking 12 credits, and, aside from a class I was auditing, my classes weren't ridiculously hard.

Unlike my friends who were studying nursing, music and art, I didn't have to study or work on projects into the wee hours of the morning. I wasn't completely broke. However, I didn't have a huge group of friends, I barely left campus, and unlike half the freshmen class, I hadn't found my future spouse by the second week.

During those first few weeks, I felt tricked. I had heard

all these stories about how college is amazing, a time of self-discovery and ultimately a time to take risks. I didn't feel amazing. So far, the only thing I had 'discovered' about myself was that if I ate fried food every day, my stomach would hurt. The only 'risk' I'd taken was sleeping in five extra minutes.

While things haven't gotten magically better overnight, they have gradually improved. I joined a society, became a writer for *The Collegian*, chose a church and tried to befriend the people around me. And I found that while I didn't feel like I was on top of the world, I enjoyed what I was doing and could be genuinely proud of my work at the end of the day.

While I still don't know how to pay utilities, manage a household and pay taxes, I now know how to do 'baby' adulting. I now know what it's like to be pretty much on your own. I know what it's like to completely manage your schedule and decisions. I know what it's like to wake up wanting to walk your dog or hug your mom and having to settle for a video of them.

Change is hard. Some transitions may never feel natural. You may never feel ready for certain changes. Although I now feel like a real college student, I don't feel ready for graduation, marriage or having kids. And sometimes, after you make the transitions,

you don't feel like you're doing it right.

However, sometimes you have to jump into the deep end of the pool. You have to sink before you start to swim. Knowing that you've survived change and transitions in the past can be a source of comfort as well as give you courage to make future changes.

For example, during my first semester on campus, I had to switch a class from credit to audit. It was a really hard thing to do, but now I know that dropping or switching a class is a valid option. Change can be tough, but as Dory from *Finding Nemo* once said, "Just keep swimming."

Voctave to perform Disney, Broadway at next Artist Series

Ashley Dougherty
STAFF WRITER

BJU is hosting the a cappella singing group Voctave who will perform familiar Broadway and Disney pieces for the Artist Series on Monday, Nov. 9.

Dr. Darren Lawson, the dean of the School of Fine Arts and Communication, is proud that BJU has the opportunity to present Voctave with their a cappella singing, skillful harmonies and lively atmosphere.

"[Voctave] formed this a cappella group in 2015 and

skyrocketed to fame," Lawson said.

Formed by producer and arranger Jamey Ray, Voctave is based in Central Florida and has 11 members: Kate Lott, Tiffany Coburn, Ashley Espinoza, Sarah Whittemore, Chrystal Johnson, E.J. Cardona, Drew Ochoa, Jamey Ray, Kurt von Schmittou, Aaron Stratton and Karl Hudson. These artists come from a variety of musical backgrounds including classical music, musical theater, pop, contemporary Christian music, barber-shop and choral music.

Lawson discovered the

group in New York City when attending the annual Association of Performing Arts Professionals conference where he sees what professional groups will be performing throughout the U.S. that year. "Several years ago, I stumbled across a relatively new group called Voctave," he said. During the conference, Lawson was able to hear the group perform and connect with their agent.

A couple of years later, Lawson attended a Christmas concert performed by Voctave in Orlando, Fla. Lawson said, "I got tickets to hear them, and



Voctave is based in Florida, where all 11 members currently live.

Photo submitted

after that, I knew we had to get this group to BJU." Lawson said he loved the a cappella group because it was an amazing concert with high energy and wonderful voices. Following the concert, he began talking with Voctave's agent again, and they worked out a time for Voctave to perform at BJU.

Lawson said he thinks this is going to be one of the favorite Artist Series this year because of the talent of the singers and the popularity of the music. Lawson said, "Having the student body hear these eleven voices and what they can do with just their voices will be truly amazing."

Among the pieces Voctave is planning to perform are "Over the Rainbow" and a Disney princess melody. Their album, *The Corner of Broadway & Mainstreet Vol. 1 and 2*, features many of the songs they will be performing at BJU.

Lawson said, "If the students enjoy the concert, they will have a way to take it home with them."

"It is amazing to hear the harmonies and everything they do," Lawson said. "You can just sit back and enjoy the craft." Aside from the beauty of their craft, one reason the group is so popular is that they are interactive during performances. Lawson said, "They loved talking and introducing the songs."

For this Artist Series, Lawson plans to have all the students in FMA for a 75-minute program with no intermission. Attendance is required and students can now get their free tickets at bju.universitytickets.com. If students have any difficulty, they can email the Box Office at programs@bju.edu or call 864-770-1372 from 12-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.



Voctave has multiple #1 songs and albums on iTunes, Amazon and Spotify. Photo submitted

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Jacobs' lives show God's leading

Jessica Lovely
STAFF WRITER

BJU School of Education faculty members Don and Tammie Jacobs both acknowledge they traveled an interesting path to get back to their alma mater, never thinking that God would lead them to the positions they now hold.

Don Jacobs met and got to know his future wife, Tammie Thorsell, through the family-style dinners BJU used to have. They were seated at the same table and Jacobs said, "We spent more time talking than eating." After realizing they had much in common and that they very much enjoyed each other, they decided to date.

At the time she met Jacobs, Thorsell was an education major and he was a Bible major. Originally, Thorsell thought she would perhaps teach for a few years and then focus on being a stay-at-home mom and pastor's wife. However, as they both continued to work through their degrees, the Lord began to lead them in a different direction than either had expected.

During his time at BJU, Jacobs worked with Neighborhood Bible Time. Jacobs said through that ministry, he realized he enjoyed working with children, and the Lord put it on his heart that experience in education would be helpful to acquire. At Christmas break of his senior year, Jacobs changed his major from Bible to elementary education.

Thorsell graduated and was

able to get experience in the Greenville County school system, something she said she realizes was a blessing from God as it gave her the experience to later help her practicum students and teacher candidates at BJU who go out into the Greenville County schools for their teaching hours.

After graduating, marrying and each getting their master's degrees from BJU, the Jacobs spent some time in Colorado where they worked in a Christian school. God blessed them with their first two children, Donny and Allen. After a few years, they returned to BJU for Jacobs to work as assistant principal at Bob Jones Elementary School and for his wife to work at BJU Press.

In the following years, the Lord gave them their daughter, Catherine, and opened up many career changes for them at BJU while they both pursued and gained their doctorates. Don Jacobs shifted from assistant principal to principal at BJES before teaching in the School of Education in 1998. In 2005, Tammie Jacobs went from working at BJU Press to teaching at the University.

Jacobs said, "We just wanted to serve the Lord, and we wanted to find the best place we thought we could do that." Though the Jacobs both felt the call to ministry and to Christian education, they said the Lord changed what that looked like for them several times through their careers and in their family.

The Jacobs have been through much loss as both of their sons passed away—Donny

in 2012 and Allen in 2016. "Those deaths have been very difficult for us and difficult for our family. God again has been very good to us," Jacobs said.

However, the Jacobs continue to be joyful as they know their sons are in Heaven. BJU now has a nursing scholarship set up in memory of Donny as

he graduated from the nursing program.

The University also set up a criminal justice scholarship in memory of Allen because he was a Greenville County police officer killed in active duty. Since then, BJU has held the annual Allen Jacobs Memorial Prayer Breakfast honoring

police officers in Greenville County.

Though neither of them foresaw the loss of their sons and they never planned to work at BJU, the Jacobs point to God's gracious leading throughout their lives and acknowledge His goodness in bringing them to their current positions.



Drs. Don and Tammie Jacobs were married in July of 1978. Photo: Olga Manyak



Don Jacobs teaches a class in the Alumni Building. Photo: Olga Manyak

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Minority organization launches

Vicki Olachea

STAFF WRITER

Minorities Empowered to Educate and Serve launched with their first event on Oct. 22, introducing the University to their goals of representing student minority groups, educating all University students about minorities' cultural experiences and building relationships to better facilitate outreach to minority groups.

Quiyante Burroughs, a senior sports management and business double major and the organization's founder, saw the need for METES because of the social unrest during the summer after the killing of George Floyd. This need led him to drive from his home in Atlanta to meet with BJU president Dr. Steve Pettit. This conversation laid the foundation for the organization and opened the door for its formation with the involvement of Dr. Mary Mendoza, chair of the Division of Communication, and Courtney Montgomery, public relations assistant for BJU.

Burroughs said he grew

tired of the division he saw in the world and in some of his fellow Christians. "I come to a school where everybody knows or has their own perspective on the school's past history," Burroughs said. "A lot of people want to reminisce on the history, but it's our job to impact the future, and that's what we should do."

Burroughs hopes to focus METES on what BJU students can do with the future rather than the past. "As believers in Christ, especially at the school we go to, I believe it's our job to... speak out against things that are wrong, but we also should spread the love of Christ no matter what," Burroughs said.

Burroughs said METES will exemplify Christian unity by applying God's love for Christians to others. "Even in wrongdoing, yes, it's wrong, you should have your consequences, but you should also be loved at the end of the day," Burroughs said. Christians should look at those who have wronged them the way they want God to look at them, Burroughs said.

Pettit has supported the

organization since Burroughs came to him with the idea. "I feel like my role as the president is to put our students in a position where they can be empowered and go out and make a big difference for God," Pettit said.

Although the idea of a college organization for minorities is not new, Pettit said METES has a new take. "This is an organization that's unique in its intention, because it's Christ-centered; its focal point is education and service," Pettit said. "I want our students to be proud of our school that we're trying to make a difference, obviously with the Gospel, but also in the world we've got to live in today."

Pettit recognized that BJU has not had many Black students in the past, but now has a growing number of Black students whom he hopes to empower through METES. "You can't just focus on the big; you've got to focus on the parts," Pettit said.

The vision for METES focuses on two main goals: education and service. For BJU students, Burroughs hopes to use education to widen their perspectives. "I want them to be exposed to the different perspectives of life—every single person, not just one group, so that... we understand that no matter what, we are believers, and it's our job to serve," Burroughs said.

Burroughs plans for METES to serve the community, as well as the students of Bob Jones University. The first objective is to serve the minority communities outside of the campus, partially through being an example. "We all get together to do the work of the body of Christ—how beautiful would that be as the limelight in the time that we're in right now," Burroughs said. "It's not our job to be divisive, it's our job to be united."



Noah Jackson and Quiyante Burroughs work together to lead the new organization.

Photo: Mark Kamibayashiyama

Pettit and about 50 students. Burroughs spoke along with Mendoza and Noah Jackson, a sophomore paralegal studies major and vice president of METES. Jackson said the reaction to METES has been enthusiastic, from the beginning of the group's work with faculty to the first meeting with prospective members.

What moved Jackson most was the questions he received after the meeting from students and faculty, which demonstrated their willingness to learn, Jackson said. "It was beautiful to see individuals from a multitude of different backgrounds communicate their support for education, service and mentorship," he said.

Jackson hopes others will take the opportunity METES provides to serve, as he did. "It was an incredible experience to discover within myself the motivation to impact others in my Christian leadership," Jackson said.

Students who want more information can follow METES on Facebook and LinkedIn at METES BJU or Instagram at @metesbj.



METES founder Quiyante Burroughs speaks at the kickoff event on Oct. 22. Photo: Mark Kamibayashiyama

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millions still chose to vote in person.

Both the candidates crisscrossed the country during the final days of the campaign to persuade voters in key swing states.

Former president Barack Obama joined Biden to campaign in Flint, Michigan. "[Biden] has got the character and the experience to make us a better country," Obama said. "And he and Kamala [Harris] are going to be in the fight, not for themselves, but for every single one of us. And we sure can't

say that about the president we have got right now."

First Lady Melania Trump campaigned in Pennsylvania for her husband. "Donald loves helping people and seeing those around him and his country succeed," Melania Trump said, "but when he decided to run for the president as a Republican, the media decided to create a different picture of my husband—one I don't recognize."

Part of Biden's campaign was echoing calls for police reform to address "systemic racism" after national protests for racial justice reform erupted

from the murder of George Floyd. Biden also selected Kamala Harris, 56, as his running mate. Harris' mother is ethnically Indian and her father is Jamaican, making Harris the first woman of color to run for vice president.

Harris also ran for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, ending her campaign on Dec. 3, 2019. During the primary season, Harris, a former prosecutor, fiercely attacked Biden's record on race. However, the two candidates apparently mended relations for their current run together.

Linda Abrams, a faculty

member in the Division of History, Government and Social Science, said that although politics is a very consuming discipline, it should not divide the body of Christ.

"Our testimony to other Christians [and] to unbelievers is not worth ruining over a political election that God is in control of," Abrams said. "We can disagree, but our testimonies with each other should not be sullied over a political election." Abrams said God has a plan in which all things will ultimately glorify Christ.

"We have to think about the ultimate issue: being one

in Christ with our brothers and sisters in Christ," Abrams said.

South Carolina voted Republican in the presidential election, including Greenville and surrounding counties. State elections revealed Republican Lindsay Graham to have held his seat in the Senate with a strong lead over Democrat Jaime Harrison.

Incumbent Republican William Timmons won the general election for U.S. House South Carolina District 4, beating out Democrat Kim Nelson.

For the most recent presidential election update, check collegianonline.com.

Quarantined, isolated students recover at Reveal, find support

Madison Floyd

STAFF WRITER

BJU students who test positive for COVID-19 are met by a warm staff and helpful students who make the ordeal less painful than it might be otherwise.

Michelle Benson, director of Student Health Services at BJU, is one the staff members responsible for communicating with students who are being tested or are in quarantine. Benson's experience running crisis pregnancy clinics and being a school nurse for the last few years positioned her to help BJU prepare safety measures for students during the pandemic.

BJU created SHS over the summer for students who tested positive for COVID-19 while at school. "I began in July,"

Benson said, "[when] the school started to realize that they were going to have to do something on campus for students."

All students entering isolation communicate directly with Benson, an interaction she said is a blessing to her.

"I see every student that has to get tested and needs to move into Reveal," Benson said. "I give them instructions on how to get tested, what the next steps are and help them move into Reveal."

Students waiting for results are in isolation, and students that have tested positive are moved into quarantine. Benson said she calls each student in isolation or quarantine every day to check on them and determine if they need further medical care.

Located across from the

gazebo, the Reveal residence hall is where students who test positive with COVID-19 stay to prevent spreading the virus to others. Students who test positive with COVID-19 have the option of going home or staying in Reveal.

"Once students have been tested, we give them instructions on what to pack, what to do and move them over to Reveal," Benson said. The staff provides students with sheets and towels, three meals a day, and lots of helpful tips on getting through quarantine--but not all students stay for a long time.

"Most students are only in here for 26-30 hours," Benson said. These are students who have to wait for test results in Reveal, but do not test positive. Students who test positive must remain in Reveal for 10 days after their initial symptoms started.

Students who are awaiting results of COVID-19 tests stay on the first and third floors, while students who have tested positive stay on the second. Benson said students can communicate with other students who test positive, but they must stay on the second floor. Roommates who have tested positive can room together.

Various societies sign up daily to volunteer handing out lunches to students in Reveal, which Benson said demonstrates the qualities of a servant's heart and has helped the staff at SHS tremendously. "The students at BJU have such a sweet spirit," she said.



Sophomore Lindsay Shaleen gets a visit from a friend while in Reveal.

Photo: Andrew Pledger

Benson said SHS also does a lot of delivery service to students in quarantine. "Friends drops off things in our office, and we take it up to them," Benson said. Friends and family members of students in quarantine can drop off items for students in Reveal before 5 p.m.

Whitney Burk, a staff member at SHS, was mentioned by several students as being extremely helpful and dedicated to her job.

Daniel Oyarzun Gonzalez, a junior engineering major, said his time in quarantine was very peaceful. "Mrs. Burk was super nice [and] very helpful," Oyarzun Gonzalez said. "If I needed anything, I could just text her or call downstairs." Although his stay in Reveal was a short one, Oyarzun Gonzalez said his experience was fine. "I was only there for one day," Oyarzun Gonzalez said. "However, the people there were really nice."

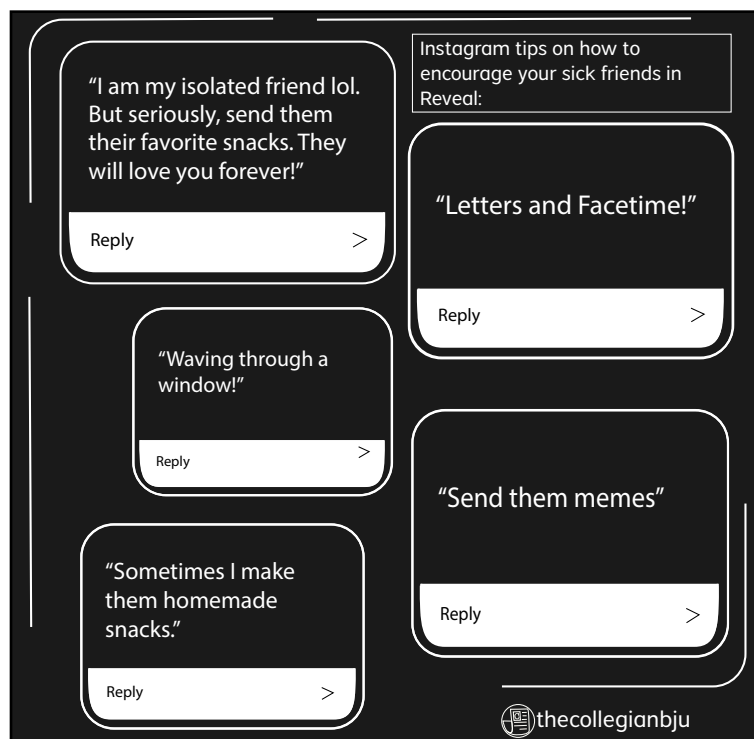
While most students only

stay in Reveal for a short time, like Oyarzun Gonzalez, several students have stayed for the full ten days. Alvin Ball, a junior communication major who tested positive, said quarantine was a long process of waiting until the time was up.

"The professors did a really good job at keeping things COVID friendly," Ball said. Ball said one of his professors had been recording classes since the beginning of the academic year, which made it easier to keep up with assignments. Ball said if he needed extra time on assignments, professors accommodated.

"The professors really worked well with making sure I got my assignments in," Ball said. "It was very simple."

Ball said Student Health Services also provided him with a mini refrigerator. Benson said students who have tested positive can utilize any available resources located on the second floor.



Graphic: Susy Castle



WHAT IS IT? | Student Legislature

Nathaniel Hendry

STAFF WRITER

For three days each fall, the South Carolina State House experiences a flurry of activity as representatives discuss issues and vote on bills. None of the representatives, however, are elected. They are all students.

The South Carolina Student Legislature is a student-run organization focused on providing students an outlet to learn about government and debate public policy issues. The SCSL closely

models itself after the proceedings of the South Carolina General Assembly.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the SCSL conducted its 2020 session virtually. Normally, however, the SCSL lobbies the General Assembly to pass a resolution allowing the SCSL to use the State House for a weekend.

Students from up to 16 colleges and universities then fill the House of Representatives, Senate, Supreme Court and governor's office buildings in the state capital in Columbia. Bills written by the students

move through committees and onto a docket, where a mock House of Representatives or Senate votes on each. Student leaders send passing bills to the other chamber.

The student-appointed governor forwards the passing bills to the bona fide State Governor of South Carolina, who can work to implement them. South Carolina implemented its August tax-free shopping weekend after a BJU student's bill was passed

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The Student Legislature won Best Medium Delegation at the fall 2019 session (above) and again in 2020. Photo submitted

Bruins seek athletes to fit BJU

Olivia Thomas
STAFF WRITER

BJU coaches work diligently all year to recruit prospective student athletes for the University's intercollegiate sports and 12 varsity sports teams, offering the athletes the chance to strengthen both their physical and spiritual gifts.

Coaches recruit for the men's baseball, women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, soccer, cross country, track and golf.

Jonny Gamet, the sports information director for BJU, said the recruitment process for the athletic department is similar to the admission department for the University. As coaches assess their Bruins teams and begin building a strategy for the new season, they look for student athletes who are not only a good fit for building the best team, but who are also a good fit for BJU.

Student athletes still in high school often actively reach out to colleges they are interested in through the college's sports website, like BJU's bjubruins.com. Social media and the internet also provide student athletes with new platforms and websites, like Hudl, on which they can post videos of themselves playing and build profiles that tell coaches who they are from their on-field skills to their religious beliefs.

"We want them to align with who we are as Bob Jones University both in their character and in what they believe from a biblical worldview perspective," Gamet said. "And we want them to work hard and pursue excellence [so] they can be better athletes when they graduate, as opposed to when they came."

Coaches who view the student athletes' profiles and videos can reach out to student athletes through email, phone or video call. They can also go watch the athlete play at their school or club. Some student athletes visit BJU during their choice sport's season to watch games, get to know the coach and meet the team they may play for.

"They get a feel for the culture [of BJU]," Gamet said. "And they get a feel for how the team is going to operate."

Gamet said BJU's coaches look for student athletes who approach their studies and their sport with a biblical perspective that matches BJU's values as a university. Coaches also look for student athletes who are open to being pushed, critiqued and molded into better players and better teammates.

BJU is a provisional member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division III, which does not allow schools to offer sports-related scholarships, but student athletes are still eligible for

the other scholarships and financial aid BJU has available for all its students.

Student athletes who join a BJU sports team can expect to be pushed and encouraged to be the best athletes they can be, but also to be the best students they can be. In addition to the health and physical benefits student athletes gain from the constant exercise, Gamet said student athletes learn skills that will help them later in the workforce after graduation.

On a broad level, student athletes learn to work with others, recognizing each other's strengths and weaknesses and using those to achieve a common goal.

On an individual level, student athletes learn to push their minds and bodies further than they may have believed possible, a mindset Gamet said can be very beneficial as student athletes graduate and move forward into workplaces that present new challenges.

"[Students] are going to be challenged in their walk with Christ," Gamet said. "We want our student athletes to try their best and do their best in the games, and hopefully the result is a victory but ultimately we want them to leave this place, fulfilling the mission of what Bob Jones University is all about: training serving servant leaders to make an impact for Christ around the world."



Hannah Guerrant signs with BJU Bruins women's soccer in 2019.
Photo: Derek Eckenroth



Caitlyn Benson, supported by her parents, signs with the Bruins women's soccer in 2019. Photo submitted

HEALTH + WELLNESS *Tips*



Anna Johnson
Junior
Nursing

Best Excuses to Nap

These last few weeks of school may be the noisiest ones of the semester. With tests, projects, social gatherings and media around us, it's important to quiet our minds for regular short periods. This may look like taking a walk

outside, reading a book or just taking a nap. Quiet time can help memory, relieve stress, and even improve sleep. Even just 10 minutes of silence a day can make a difference. Whatever works for you, be sure to give your brain a break.

Bohemian tea shop founded in Prague opens in Greenville

Madison Floyd

STAFF WRITER

A newly opened tea shop in Greenville offers an alternative to coffee with a range of diverse teas that each have their own history.

The first Dobrá Tea was opened in Prague in the Czech Republic to spread knowledge about tea in different cultures. During the final years of communism in Czechoslovakia, a group of tea lovers began meeting to sample smuggled rare tea from India, China and Japan that otherwise would

have only been available to Party, State and Military elite. After the fall of Communism, the group found the original shop in 1993 in Prague, Czech Republic, as a shelter where individuals could enjoy and appreciate tea in an open fashion. The name Dobrá Tea is Croatian for "good tea" and is reflective of its motives to serve the public with "good tea."

The Greenville Dobrá Tea franchise opened in the winter of 2019 but had to close due to COVID-19 restrictions. The shop reopened recently and

can once again share their love of tea with Greenville.

Joe Passalacqua, owner of Dobrá Tea, said he encourages BJU students to visit the Dobrá Tea shop because it offers a warm atmosphere for studying. Passalacqua recalled living in Nashville, Tennessee, and visiting the Dobrá Tea shop there. "I used to go there for every purpose possible," said Passalacqua. "I went to work, met with friends and sometimes went on dates."

Located at 1278 Pendleton St., Dobrá Tea presents a warm setting for a quick meal or a place to study after a long day at school. Decorated to fit the aesthetic of the original shop in Prague, the tea shop has a Bohemian look that includes pillows on the floor to sit on to match Asian tradition and various intricate dishes.

Upon arrival, the waitress hands you a large menu book filled with various teas to choose from. Each one depicted in the book comes with a brief history that explains the origin of the tea. Most of the teas are from China, Taiwan, Japan, India and Sri Lanka.

The shop offers a tasting option for \$10 for those who do not know much about tea or who are indecisive about what to order. Other prices of tea vary between \$5 and \$10. With over 100 various options from green to black tea, each tea is completely



The tea is served in traditional Chinese style. Photo: Lindsay Shaleen

different in its own way. The tea is served in a traditional Chinese setup that includes a kettle, leaves and a teacup in the effort to educating customers about Chinese Tea Culture.

The tea shop encourages patrons to pour and make the tea themselves. Passalacqua said, "We try to strive to be as authentic as possible to give the patron the authentic experience of how it is to drink tea."

The menu consists of various soups, pastries and desserts catered towards vegetarians and vegans. Each meal is prepared with fresh produce as the shop strives for healthier options. Pastries and desserts range from \$5 to \$8 and soups range from \$8 to \$12.

One of the cultural aspects

of the shop is the various seating arrangements to choose from. There is a choice of sitting in a booth or a regular table and, sticking to tradition, customers can also choose to take off their shoes and sit on a pillow on the floor to enjoy their tea. Everything has a story to it at Dobrá Tea, including the furnishings, which were all built by carpenters from the Czech Republic.

With another Dobrá Tea located in Asheville and owned by his business partner, Passalacqua hopes to open several more in Greenville. The shop is open Wednesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. An online selection of various teas is also available for purchase. For more information on Dobrá Tea, visit www.dobrateasc.com.



Dobrá Tea also has locations in Hungary and Poland.

Photo: Lindsay Shaleen

»» From **LEGISLATURE** p.6 proposing the idea.

BJU's 2020 delegation consisted of 11 students and was designated the "Best Medium Delegation." Each student submitted a bill to

the legislature and all 11 bills written by BJU students passed.

"It's pretty surreal, because we were just sitting, like, where the actual house and actual senate actually sit and do what

they're supposed to do," said Aryn Akerburg, a senior health science major on BJU's team. The SCSL also opened the opportunity for Akerburg to work an internship with U.S. Sen. Tim Scott. Unfortunately, the internship was cancelled due to COVID-19. Akerburg also worked for Sen. Lindsey Graham's campaign.

Serving in the SCSL opens up many unique opportunities for students. "First and foremost, our priority at South Carolina Student Legislature . . . is to be good testimony," Akerburg said. "The part that makes you the most successful [in] student legislature is caring and really being passionate about helping your community."

"Relationships and being able to effectively communicate a biblical worldview, I think is probably some of the best parts of what they do,"

said BJU chief of staff Randy Page. Page, who has served in state politics for around two decades and facilitates the BJU SCSL delegation. "There's another Christian college in the state where the chair came and talked to me and said, 'It's just amazing to me how different your students are. I would love to have that kind of unity in our delegation,'" Page said.

"I would say probably student legislature is the most valuable experience I've gotten at the university," said Judah Smith, a senior premed major and current BJU men's student body president, "and I don't say that lightly." Smith said he has run for several offices, which was challenging yet fun.

BJU's delegation includes a diverse set of students majoring in premed, business, accounting, social studies, journalism, health science

and English education. "We're open to anyone," Smith said.

Reagan Musselman, a junior premed major who was elected lieutenant governor during the 2020 session, said the SCSL enabled him to grow his public speaking confidence. "I think presenting my bill for the first time was like nerve-wracking," Musselman said. Because of connections he made in the SCSL, Musselman was able to become involved in Patrick Haddon's campaign for the South Carolina House of Representatives.

The BJU Student Legislature holds an informational meeting in January during which it passes out applications. Applicants complete essays, and the top 15-20 applicants are offered an interview, of whom three to four students are invited to join the delegation each year.



BJU student Ryan Parimi and CSU student Marissa Thomas await their turns to speak. Photo submitted