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Beyond to discuss outreach ministry during COVID-19

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Alumnus Bradley Shepard and seniors Judah Smith and Sarah Rumpf helped organize the 2019 Beyond forum.

Photo: Carter Hendersen

Ethan House

STAFF WRITER

Representatives of local outreach organizations Piedmont Women's Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Switch, Prisma Health and Miracle Hill will attend tomorrow's Beyond forum, sponsored by the Community Service Council, to offer students a view of what ministry looks like after college.

The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It will begin with a brunch in the student mall, during which the opening segment of the forum will allow students

to visit booths for each of the visiting organizations. After the introduction, attendees can visit two breakout sessions with presentations by representatives from each group.

The theme of this year's forum is "Ministering during COVID" and aims to present students with specific ways they can reach others as the pandemic continues. The CSC hopes the event will demonstrate the continuing need for local ministry and outreach.

"I feel like a lot of ministry has stopped because people are scared of what

to do or just worried about offending other people, but there really are opportunities out there," Abbie Rocha, the event organizer and CSC director, said.

The forum particularly focuses on ministry options available to students after they graduate. "[The goal is] just raising awareness of what you can do once you leave college, especially in the Greenville community,

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Faculty forum to talk freedom of speech

Johnathon Smith

STAFF WRITER

Considering the ongoing national discussion about the limits of the First Amendment, Bob Jones University will present a faculty forum, "Freedom of Speech or Censorship in the World of Big Tech," on Monday, March 8, in Stratton Hall at 7 p.m.

Dr. Gary Weier, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, will moderate the event. Weier said he hopes the forum will help students to think about how to advocate for their rights without compromising biblical principles.

Weier said the

storming of the United States Capitol on Jan. 6 heightened concerns over cancel culture and raised questions about what kinds of information are prioritized by search engine algorithms. "We want to address the issues of the day that we think are not only valuable for students but also interesting to them," he said.

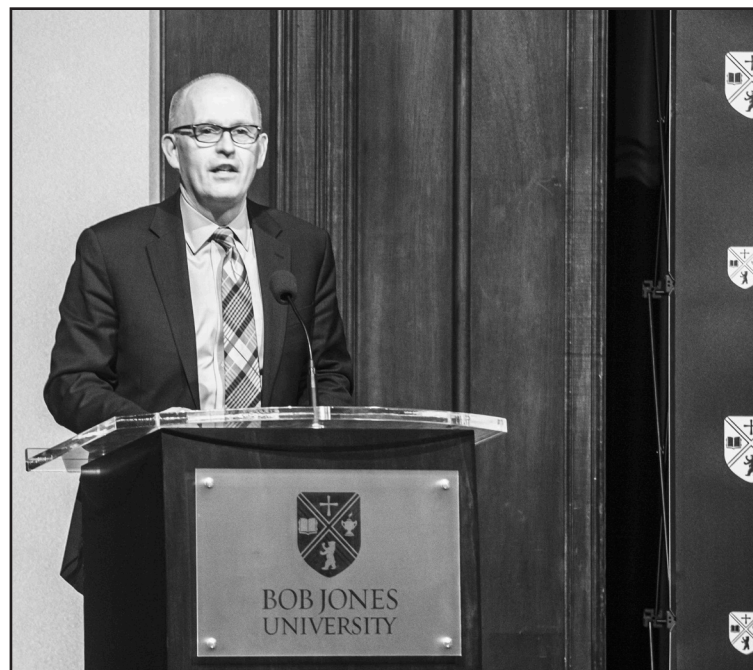
"How should we as Christians respond and what should we do in that kind of a culture?" is the question the forum will seek to answer.

Dr. Eric Newton, a seminary professor, will speak at the forum. "I think that there are several competing loyalties here," he said, providing

the examples of loyalty to the United States, loyalty to the technology platforms individuals use and loyalty to biblical principles.

"I think that is a big takeaway—that we try, not only in theory, but in practice to make sure that our worldview and our lives are aligned," he said.

Newton was also concerned that some Christians may prioritize politics over their faith. "Over the centuries, there has been a temptation to either use religion in the name of politics or . . . to have a greater loyalty to politics than we should," he said. "It ends up skewing how we live out our faith."



Dr. Weier has also moderated previous faculty forums.

Photo: Lindsay Shaleen

Weier emphasized the importance of thinking critically and verifying what you read when

investigating complicated topics such as big tech. He said faculty forums

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THE WEEK

UNA PARTY

The University Nursing Association's party will be held today in the Davis Room at 7 p.m.

OPERATION: TURKEY LURKEY

Operation: Turkey Lurkey will be presented today at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 4 and 7:30 p.m. in Performance Hall.

MISSIONS ADVANCE

Missions Advance will meet for prayer Monday at 9 p.m. in Alumni 217.

DAY OF REST

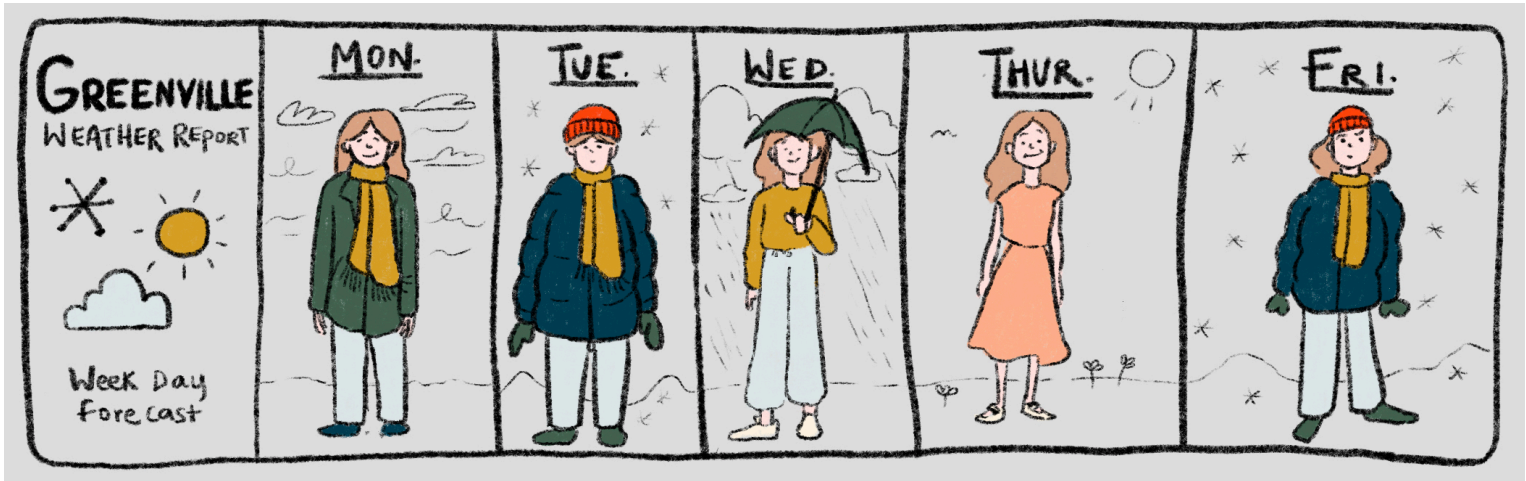
Tuesday is a day of rest with no classes. University activities will resume at 5 p.m.

Intercultural Market Series:
Having a *pita*-ful day? Eat here! p. 3

BJU's first-ever fashion show is going to be sew fabulous. p. 5

What do you think of Ignite events? Here are some *flaming* reviews. p. 6

Next week's Artist Series is a tale of epic proportions. p. 8



Comic: Susy Castle

the Collegian

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COLUMN



Joanna Scoggins
COPY EDITOR

When I was a freshman, I was walking back from a closing shift at Mack Library, where I had just started working. Front campus was deserted since it was after 10 p.m. I was meandering over the Bridge of Nations, enjoying the quiet. Then I had a realization.

I was a young woman walking alone in the dark with no one around.

It wasn't the first time I had walked across campus alone at night. That was what caught my attention. I had lived on campus

See **COLUMN** p. 3 >>

The Collegian Editorial
Is there a happy ending without God?

Bible Conference was just over a week ago, and many of us are still left pondering the truths shared with the student body. Sanctification, the conference theme, is a challenging process in a world that so easily mixes the truth of the Gospel and the perversion of the sinful heart. We can look to Scripture like John 15:19, John 17:14-17 and Romans 12:2 that teach us principles reminding us that this world is not our home—but how does that knowledge play out practically? What does it actually mean to be “in the world and not of it”?

A good place to start is to identify the influences the world currently has on us individually. We live in a generation saturated with all kinds of media, and it's likely most of us have tried periodically taking a break from various sources of media. But what is it exactly that we are trying to distance ourselves from?

Let's take a look at one aspect of the media that we almost inadvertently allow to guide our worldview. When we consume media that puts a rosy filter over ungodly lifestyles, we may become desensitized to completely unrealistic worldviews. A speaker told us during Bible Conference to be wary of the lies that movies set up for regarding outcomes of living in sin. In scripts, stories of pain and pleasure can be manipulated to completely forget God without consequence. Even if secular movies, shows, songs and influencer content online do accurately portray the guilt or pain from wrong choices, the long-term resolutions are either nonexistent or void of God's design for healing.

As students who have grown up in the midst of this kind of carefully crafted media, it can be really hard to even recognize the impact these custom-made stories have had on our perception of reality. It becomes tempting to justify compromising decisions, because we see their apparent rewards in both the professional media we see and the best-foot-forward content social media influencers create.

Removed from the filter of storytelling for entertainment's sake, lives without God are not so isolated from His sovereignty. Living unrepentantly in sin has both external and internal real-world consequences. There's nothing fulfilling about youth rebelling against authority. There's nothing worthy of a Christ-follower in sexualizing your appearance or behavior. There's no glory in revenge.

Instead of the synthetic version of life the world would like us to accept, let's balance our perspective by seeking real stories of God-guided struggle and triumph. Beyond the inexhaustible Bible accounts of men and women who both failed and found victory, we have the testimonies of Christians around us. Are you able to share a testimony of the Lord's grace and power in your life? What mistakes have you made that others can learn from? By being open, humble and God-focused as a body of believers, we can trade the influence of media-born characters for the declaration of God's constant, devoted relationship with each of His adopted children.

TALKBACK

Are you an early bird or a night owl?

Dakota Ross
SENIOR

"An early bird. I like to get things done ahead of time."

Kevin Hansen
JUNIOR

"Night owl. I'm able to relax my mind and focus so much better."

Jonathan Pait Jr.
SOPHOMORE

"Early bird, because I have more time to do the things I enjoy."

Daniel Elston
JUNIOR

"I'm a night owl because I am more productive in the evening."

Photos: Robert Stuber

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»» From **COLUMN** p.2

for months and felt safer than I ever had. Every instinct my mother had ever drilled into my head of don't walk alone, don't walk at night, don't talk to strangers, was gone.

We talk about the BJU bubble, but this was one I never wanted to be popped. I don't flinch at walking anywhere on campus alone in the dark. I smile at every person I pass, even with the mask. I don't tense if a guy I don't know nods at me in the hallway or smiles.

For me, while I still need to be cautious, there aren't strangers on campus, there are other students. There aren't risks walking back from work, there is a slow walk back to the dorm enjoying the fountain and lights.

There aren't threats. There are people.

But when I leave campus, those instincts dial back up to 11. I never go downtown alone at any time of day. I don't go to Walmart alone at night. I carry my keys with my finger on the panic button. And if a guy I don't know in a button-up shirt and khakis glances my way too long, I walk faster.

My friend once told me it was exhausting being a woman because it was exhausting being afraid all the time. I had never heard it put in those terms before. I have strategies planned for if I see a guy following me. I angle myself when pumping gas so I can see behind me in the reflection of my car window. I watch self-defense training videos.

I know not everyone is

a threat, but I still instinctively do these things because I've been taught to be on guard. Even when it's irrational, it rarely stops affecting my choices. I love that I can relax those instincts on campus. But I hate that any woman has to have those instincts. I hate that I've had women tell me they've had bad experiences even on BJU campus. I hate that my sister will teach my niece to carry pepper spray and not look men in the eye.

In a perfect world, no woman would be afraid and no man would be assumed to be a threat, as fear is not of God. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7) But until Christ returns, the world will always be filled

with sin. Christ Himself said, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." (Matthew 10:16)

As Christians, it is our job to spread the Gospel so we see sin diminish. Christ said in Matthew 5:13-14, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." Philippians 2:4 says, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

To be salt and light, we have our work laid out for us. We challenge rape

culture and bring awareness to the issue. We protect those who experience these fears daily. We stay safe, and we help others stay safe. We don't stay silent and never excuse it when someone crosses a line verbally, physically or emotionally. We defend each other, and we support those who at one time didn't have someone there to defend them.

Don't downplay the real fears of others when it comes to these issues. Be aware of the things that happen so that by bringing attention to it, we can silence the catcalls, protect the night walks and bring justice to those harmed. And most importantly, share the Gospel so Christ can heal those who have been hurt and change those who have hurt others.

Local Intercultural Markets

Pita House offers Mediterranean cuisine

Madison Floyd
STAFF WRITER

Pita House, a Mediterranean restaurant located in Greenville at 495 Pleasantburg Drive, is a family-run restaurant that delivers a taste of classic dishes from the Middle East.

Pita House is owned by three brothers from the Middle East who opened the restaurant 33 years ago. Hani Namouz, an employee and the son of one of the owners of the restaurant said, "They all came from Palestine and moved to Greenville, and wanted to showcase Mediterranean food, as well as further their careers in cooking. They've been working hard and working at it for a long-time, and [Pita House] has gotten to be really big."

The name of the restaurant is a reference to pita bread, a pocket of flat bread baked from wheat flour, which is popular in the Middle East. "Pita bread is served with every meal in the Middle East," Namouz said. "There's always some pita bread involved in your meal, regardless of what it is."

But Pita House is not only a restaurant:

on the other side of the building is a grocery store filled with Mediterranean products. "Some of the stuff here is stuff that we make," Namouz said. "A lot of the stuff we have here, you can't find in other stores." Namouz said some of their products come from places like Jordan, Egypt and Palestine. "For a lot of the people that come here, this restaurant reminds them of home," Namouz said.

Namouz said his favorite meal is the Middle East plate because of its variety. "It's like our sampler. You get hummus, falafels and tahini salad with a bunch of veggies, lettuce, tomatoes and pickles," Namouz said. Maurice Khoury, a junior premed major from Jordan, also recommends the \$6.99 Middle East Plate, which he said has a little bit of everything.

Khoury said he found the restaurant after Googling Middle Eastern restaurants in the area. After one visit, he was hooked and continued to return to the shop. "In a way, it is authentic," Khoury said. "The people who run it and I have similar backgrounds and we're able to relate to each other."

Khoury said food is an important part of

Jordanian culture because of the unrushed social interaction associated with it. "In Jordan, time is not as valuable as it is in the United States – but social interactions, which are always grouped around food, are very valuable . . . which [in turn] makes food extremely valuable," Khoury said. Pita House offers an environment that also values both food and the interaction it encourages.

Jon Daulton, director of student life and an enthusiastic fan of Pita House, said he first found the restaurant after returning from a trip to Israel.

"I came back from Israel and found that Pita House was ranked number one in the top ten Mediterranean restaurants in Greenville," Daulton said. "So, I checked it out with a friend and had a great experience." The Pita House is also currently ranked No. 1 of 103 Greenville "Quick Bites" options on TripAdvisor.

"I enjoy the chicken or beef shawarma," Daulton said. "It's basically seasoned strips of chicken or beef that they cook on a skewer that comes with vegetables." The plate costs \$8.

"Mediterranean food is generally pretty healthy

compared to our American cuisine," Daulton said. "I enjoy the variety of healthy options and their reasonably priced food."

Daulton said his favorite thing about going to the restaurant is that it is informal and like

walking down to the corner hot dog stand. "It is a real simple environment," Daulton said. "Every time I go in there, it is packed with people."

Pita House is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays.



Hani Namouz prepares food for his customers. Photo: Nick Zukowski

Jeanine Aumiller, who teaches in the

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BJU's First Fashion Show



The 2021 fashion design seniors in the Division of Art + Design will present their capstone gala "Awaken" on Saturday, March 6, at 7 p.m. on the Gallery Green.

Department of design faculty member Anna Pretlove said this is BJU's first fashion show. "It's a shift in the major from more of a practical major to more of a high art form," Pretlove said.

Senior Sarah Wallen said she is excited to see how the major has evolved. "Being able to be part of a change like this is such an honor," Wallen said. Wallen's five-piece collection "Timeless Grace" is inspired by a childhood doll. "Somebody had made [the doll] a dress . . . and I remember that was just kind of what clicked for me, like 'I want to do this one day,'" Wallen said.

The seniors collaborated last semester with cinema majors to produce promotional clips for each designer. 2020 cinema graduate Mark Kamibayashiyama oversaw the development, filming and editing of the videos.

Each video will be shown at the event before the live models present the outfits. "After all of that, the models have assigned places to stand," senior Laura Barr said. "People will just mingle and get to see the clothes up close on the models."

Barr said the seniors were given four weeks to each create a collection concept. "You have to start with 50 to 80 rough sketches," Barr said. The students make every piece in their collections from start to finish. "We come do the draping, we do the patterning, we do the fitting, and we do everything from construction to trims to decorations," Barr said. Her four-piece collection is inspired by the visual of a water balloon bursting.

Senior Joseph Sell based his four pieces around the theme of weightlessness. "I wanted something that would almost be more abstract," he said. Sell said his collection is drawn from many different influences, but his colors come from the sky. Sell said he hopes the event teaches other ways to glorify God with clothing beyond modesty. "I think there's a good amount of us that take clothes for granted," Sell said, "and clothes are actually one of the first pictures of the Gospel in the Bible."

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because a lot of students stay here,” Rocha said.

The event serves as a way to connect students with the visiting organizations, which are focused on outreach, especially in the Greenville area. Rocha said taking advantage of the opportunities provided by these organizations will help students grow in Christ.

The forum originally began in 2018 as the brainchild of Bradley Shepard, a 2019 BJU graduate and former CSC member, who wanted a way to get the student body involved in community service. “I thought we had kind of

lost that during COVID,” Rocha said. “So that’s why I wanted to bring [the forum] back and re-emphasize service because a lot of us are really egocentric . . . especially in college.”

This year’s Beyond forum is the third, following the cancellation of last year’s event because of COVID. Although the forum is returning, some aspects of the event have been altered to address safety concerns. “We won’t be able to do it on as large of a scale as we did in the past,” Rocha said. “We’re also going to have the breakout sessions in larger rooms instead of smaller rooms, which might make it feel a little

bit less intimate.”

Sam Tyrell, another CSC member, said another change was some outside organizations are unable to attend because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The CSC encourages students to attend and find out more about the service opportunities around them. “I would say that people who are Christians are going to imitate Christ, and they are going to want to serve,” Tyrell said. “A large part of that is in the community. So, if [students] want to represent Christ in the community, they should come and meet some of these organizations and find opportunities to serve others.”



Bradley Shepard was the Community Service Council director during the 2019 Beyond forum. Photo: Carter Hendersen

IGNITE

This coming Ignite will be on Friday, March 5, from 10 p.m. to midnight. Pancakes and toppings will be provided, followed by a time of singing and testimony.

Director of the Center for Leadership Development Dr. Matthew Weathers said, “Ignite is a time to come outside, be together, play games [and] hear testimonies from fellow classmates. I would encourage students to come out to enjoy time with spiritual and physical refreshment at the end of a busy week.”

SLC events coordinator Taylor Holland remembers the first Ignite following the student body’s return in the fall after five months away during the pandemic. “We had a testimony time that just kept going, and it was really cool because . . . people were coming up and sharing their hearts,” Holland said.

Sophomore Francine Francis has attended Ignite frequently during her first two years at BJU. “You meet a lot of people, [and] they have great food,” she said. Francis also mentioned the encouragement she’s gained from hearing others’ testimonies. “You can really hear how God is helping a lot of students,” she said.

Freshman RuthAnn Mezzullo attended the first Ignite of the 2020-21 school year. As a new student, Mezzullo said she met some of her first college friends at Ignite and enjoyed seeing everyone interact after a long time away. “It is a good opportunity to be outside at night . . . and to be challenged and just to fellowship with other people,” she said.

Text: Katie French Graphic: Alicia DeMott

A colorful illustration of a diverse group of women of various ethnicities and ages, smiling and looking forward.

CELEBRATE

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

A stylized illustration of Katherine Johnson, a Black woman with short dark hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt.

Katherine Johnson (1918-2020) made advances in space travel as a mathematician at NASA for 28 years. Johnson’s courage, hard work and brilliant mind inspired her to attend graduate school after being chosen as one of three Black students to integrate West Virginia’s graduate schools. Among other accomplishments, Johnson was the first woman credited as an author of a research report and was trusted over computers to run pre-flight calculations for a 1962 orbital mission.

Text: Joanna Scoggins Graphic: Marissa Castor

sudoku

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	4			2		6		1
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3		4		7			6	
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Intramural athletes support COVID-19 testing

Johnathon Smith
STAFF WRITER

Bob Jones University athletic and health faculty members are joining forces to encourage intramural student athletes to get tested for COVID-19.

In order to maintain the de-escalation of COVID-19 protocols announced in chapel March 1, it is vital that a certain percentage of students participate in surveillance testing each week. Intramural teams will continue to be tested along with the cast of *A Tale of Two Cities: The Musical*. In addition, at least 120 other students need to volunteer for surveillance testing.

Individual residence halls and a sampling of day students will each be contacted a week in advance asking for participation in the testing. If students indicate they are willing, they will receive an email with a link to download an app, which will give them test results, usually within 15 minutes. It will also include the times and location for testing. There is no requirement for isolation unless someone tests positive.

Michelle Benson, the director of Student Health Services, said the testing requirement exists to keep students safe. “We

want to make sure . . . that there isn’t someone [on a team] that has COVID,” Benson said. “That would be a very high-risk environment for spreading.”

“We want everyone to be able to play, represent their society and have a wonderful sports season in a safe environment,” she said. “[Testing] seemed to be the safest, most prudent way to be able to make that move forward.”

Caleb Woo, a graduate assistant in the School of Health Professions, administers on-campus COVID-19 testing. Each weekday, Woo guides students through the process of taking a self-administered nasal swab test in the Grace Haight Building.

“It just makes us more comfortable with allowing people to play, while also reassuring the campus community and the greater Greenville community that we’re doing the best we can to make sure we keep our students, faculty and staff healthy,” Woo said.

Mike LeViere, the director of intramural sports, hopes to begin the intramural basketball season around March 29. He believes the benefits of intramural sports are great enough to justify the extra effort needed



Tau Delta Chi Kangas' volleyball captain Aimee Tewes jumps to spike. Photo: Lindsay Shaleen

to have them during the pandemic. In addition to allowing students to compete and enjoy themselves, intramurals also help them build relationships and grow their leadership skills.

“Intramurals provide opportunities to develop existing relationships and create new relationships with fellow students,” LeViere said. “[They] provide leadership opportunities for those who choose to coach a team or otherwise develop as a leader within their sport setting.”

Student Health Services and the Division of Health Science determined that 75% of intramural athletes need to be tested before the season can begin safely.

Jessie-Marie Heath, LeViere’s assistant, said they were not able to reach this percentage on time for volleyball, forcing them to postpone the season by two weeks. She hopes students will decide to volunteer for testing more quickly before basketball because of the delay in the volleyball season.

“There was a little bit of slow response by the students,” Benson said, speaking of the beginning of the volleyball season. “Hopefully for the basketball season, there will be a bit of a quicker response so that it can

start a little sooner.”

Fear and discomfort may have dissuaded some athletes from getting tested for coronavirus. “Some people were scared, or they really just didn’t want to do it,” Heath said.

Woo believes more work needs to be done to reassure students about the on-campus tests.

“I have a ton of students come in, and you can tell they are very anxious,” Woo said. “I have to dispel the horror stories. We’re not swabbing your brain. It tickles and makes you sneeze . . . but we’re not trying to invade your head.”

According to Woo, communication difficulties also contributed to the delay. Some students told Woo the messages sent through IMLeagues did not reach players on time. In the future, Woo hopes to communicate the testing dates directly through students’ university emails to avoid this delay.

Additionally, Woo said he thinks advertising the on-campus testing more and further in advance would increase the response rate among intramural athletes.

Woo also believes some students may not have been able to fit a COVID-19 test into their busy schedules. Some students never showed up for their appointments to be tested,

making it more difficult to reach the necessary percentage of tests.

Woo believes this data will help the campus return to normalcy. “We started singing in chapel,” he said. “I was actually really comfortable with that because I’ve seen from the cast [of the musical] . . . that we never saw a spread [from singing].”

According to Benson, society presidents and athletic directors have a large role to play in reminding athletes to get tested. Students need to diligently check their email to see when testing for the basketball season begins.

Normally, intramural basketball happens before intramural volleyball, but this year the orders of the seasons were switched. Benson said this change will allow societies to play in the Bob Jones Academy gym. COVID-19 also influenced the decision.

“Basketball is a more high-risk contact sport because you’re in each other’s face,” Benson said. “We were hoping that by the time basketball season began, our [coronavirus case] numbers would continue to drop.” She said the numbers on campus have dropped, making it a safer environment for basketball.



Theta Delta Omicron Tigers' president Joanna Jarrell prepares to serve. Photo: Lindsay Shaleen

A Tale of Two Cities: The Musical to use larger cast than Broadway



Cast members rehearse the scene in which the seamstress, played by junior Heather Grace Spencer (middle), is falsely condemned to death by beheading. Photo: Robert Stuber

Vicki Olachea

STAFF WRITER

A Tale of Two Cities: The Musical will feature one of the largest casts yet for a Bob Jones University musical, including a full orchestra, an expanded student cast and six guest artists that add up to 45 more cast members than the show on Broadway uses.

Live performances for the University family will

**"THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME WE'VE
HAD THE
BROADWAY
COMPOSER
SITTING IN THE
HALL,"**

-DARREN LAWSON

be March 11-13 at 7:30 p.m., but the production includes options for public viewing, according to Dr. Darren Lawson, dean of the School of Fine Arts and Communication. Tickets not reserved by BJU students, faculty and staff will be offered first to the family and close friends of the cast and crew. Any remaining

tickets will be sold to the public, with limited seating planned to be provided for community guests in the balcony as part of the COVID-19 protocols.

All seats are socially distanced, meaning the show can only play to half a full house, Lawson said. Because of this, Lawson negotiated the rights to sell tickets to an online showing. The company owning the rights relaxed its policy to give BJU broadcasting rights due to COVID-19, Lawson said. Anyone who purchases streaming privileges for \$14.99 gains 48-hour access to the performance to be filmed and streamed on Friday March 12. Tickets are available at bju.edu/twocities.

Lawson said he stretched the size of the chorus to allow more students to participate, a move he made because of the high level of student interest. BJU's production will feature about 70 cast members. For comparison, BJU's production of *Titanic: The Musical* featured a cast of about 65.

Lawson said using a full-sized orchestra for live music during COVID-19 presented a problem, which he solved by moving the 35 orchestra members to the sound stage for Unusual Films, located in the cinema building connected to

Rodeheaver Auditorium. The music will be fed live to the audience, and a live camera feed of the director, Dr. Michael Moore, will direct singers onstage. A screen in front of Moore shows him the action on stage. "It's going to be an experiment, but I think it's going to work just fine," Lawson said.

For Isabel Vosburgh, a senior violin performance major who has been in BJU performances her whole college career, the experiment is working. Vosburgh said the first rehearsal using the distanced setup showed a slight lag in communication because of the space between the orchestra and the actors, but it worked well enough to predict a streamlined performance opening night.

According to Johnathan Swaffer, a sophomore biblical counseling major and the understudy for Dr. Alexandre Manette, watching the director on the screen on the balcony solves the problem of having to sneak glances into the orchestra pit to see the director. Sarai Patino, a biblical counseling grad student in the ensemble and carolers' group, said she was grateful for a full orchestra despite distancing regulations. "There's more life there [with the orchestra], but also it's sad that we

don't have them here with us," Patino said.

For guest artists Patrick Dunn, playing John Barsad, and Tony Mowatt, playing Dr. Alexandre Manette, the orchestra's absence from the pit will be a slight change from their earlier experiences on the BJU stage. Both actors were in *Titanic: The Musical*, and Dunn was in BJU's first musical, *Little Women*. Lawson said both were eager to return to BJU, expecting a level of excellence and hospitality from the school's productions that the other four guest artists for *A Tale of Two Cities: The Musical* haven't yet experienced.

Lawson also expects Jill Santoriello, the composer, lyricist and book writer of *A Tale of Two Cities: The Musical*, as a guest for the performances. According to Lawson, Santoriello has been working closely with him to bring the musical to the BJU stage, and the cast and crew are anticipating her arrival. "This is the first time we've had the Broadway composer sitting in the hall," Lawson said.

Although the guest artists will take on characters rehearsed by their understudies since last semester, all students cast as understudies will appear onstage in other roles for the final performances. This decision to double-cast allows

for more student involvement, according to Meetra Moyer, a first-year theatre graduate student and stage manager for the musical. "We refuse to leave anybody behind," Moyer said.

Rachel Stoner, a junior music education major and the understudy for Lucie Manette, said she was grateful for her first role in a BJU musical. Guest artist Olivia Vadnais will be playing Lucie in the final production, but Stoner will still make her debut in a BJU musical as a part of the ensemble. "I'm really honored and blessed by having this opportunity," Stoner said.

Karie Jensen, a junior theatre major and assistant director, said the story will wow the audience for its scope as well as its plot. "There's sacrifice and redemption . . . and there is hope, and there is life in death," Jensen said. Although the story is not overtly Christian, Jensen said Christians will not be able to miss the transforming power of love and connect it to the Gospel.

Lawson also said the dynamic character of Sydney Carton illustrates potential for Christians. "Any of us could be in his position . . . through the saving power of Christ, we can become a hero in the story," Lawson said.