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Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC 29614

Living Gallery to return after 2020 cancellation

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2021



The cast get into position during rehearsal, guided by an image projection of the painting onto the physical frame. Photo: Lindsay Shaleen

Katie French

STAFF WRITER

BJU's annual *Living Gallery* will resume in April after last year's performances were cancelled during the pandemic. Performances will be held in Rodeheaver Auditorium on April 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m. and April 3 at 2, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Director Anne Nolan, a faculty member in the Division of Communication, said she's excited for this year's theme, "A New Creation," in which the main character Dane is on a

journey to restoration. His friend Kate comes alongside to assist him in this endeavor. The character Kate is divided into two roles, past and present, to depict her mindset change as she helps Dane. Senior theatre major Kate Jones plays Kate in the past, and her mother Erin Jones plays Kate in the present. Kate in the past primarily uses materialistic means to keep Dane's mind off his troubles. Kate in the present regrets her past decision and realizes her need to speak about grace.



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The character Dane is also divided into past and present, with theatre major Michael Cunningham playing Dane in the past and academic adviser Phil Adams playing Dane in the present.

Nolan tied the three main roles into the theme of the program. "All three are really struggling, and a new creation really is for all three of them," she said.

Kate Jones explained See **GALLERY** p. 6 >>

Computer programming team to compete in North American Division Championships

Ethan House

STAFF WRITER

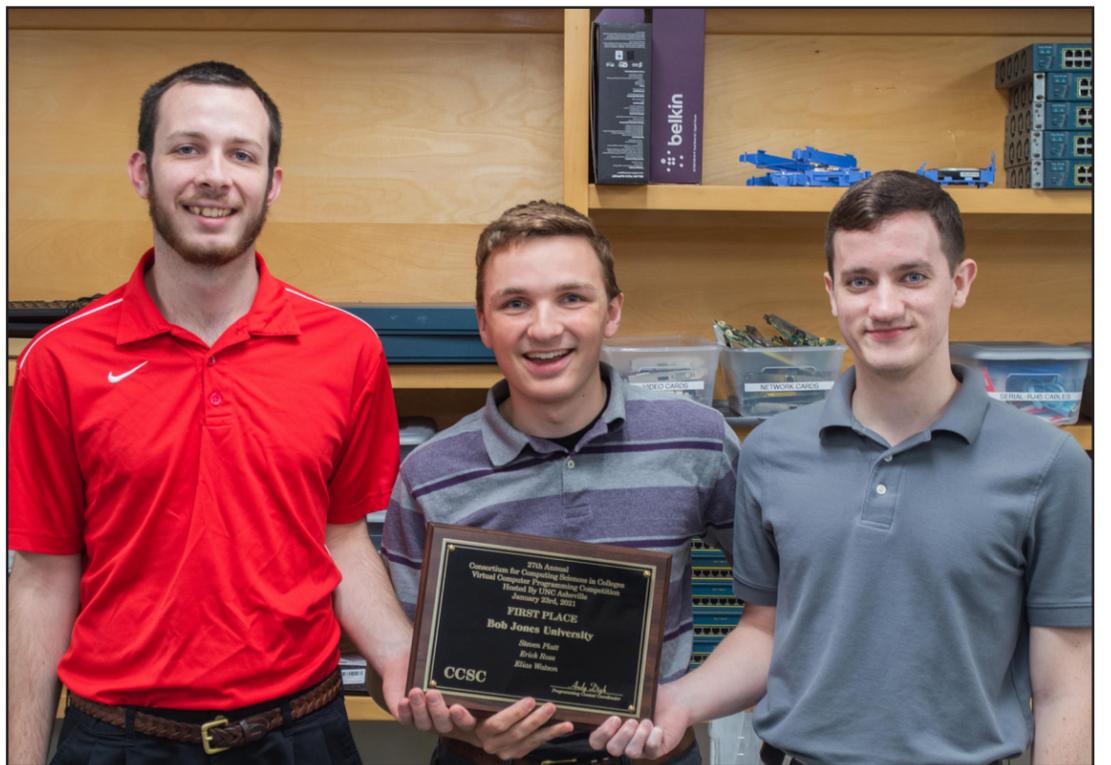
One of the eight Bruins programming teams that participated in the 2020 Southeast USA Regional Contest hosted by the International Collegiate Programming Contest Foundation will compete against 138 other teams in the North American Division Championships on April 22.

Bruins Team A, consisting of Steven Platt, Erick Ross and Elias Watson, came in 17th place after solving nine problems, securing one of the available positions in the division championships. Two other BJU teams ranked in the top half of all 138 competitors.

The regional competition took place over five hours on March 6 and consisted of 16 problems, ranging in complexity. The teams were ranked based on how many correct solutions they submitted, followed by a score based on how long each problem took to solve.

Teams from 19 schools participated at 11 sites across the Southeast. Due to COVID precautions, fewer schools took part this year and six additional sites were used beyond the normal five used in previous years. Ten of the other 80 teams from the Southeast advanced to the division championships in addition to the team

See **COMPUTER** p. 6 >>



Seniors Ross, Platt and Watson also placed first in the annual Consortium for Computing Sciences Southeastern Region conference. Photo: Heath Parish

THE WEEK

FALL 2021 PREREGISTRATION

Fall 2021 semester preregistration activities begin Monday. Students can begin building their trial schedules for fall semester.

ATHLETIC TRAINING CAREER WORKSHOP

An athletic training career workshop will be held at 7 p.m. Monday in Levinson Hall.

GUEST VOICE RECITAL

Alumna Tamra Jones will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday in War Memorial Chapel. Jones is an award-winning operatic soprano.

COLLEGE UP CLOSE

Prospective students will be visiting for College Up Close to learn more about being a student at BJU.

Intercultural Market Series: This Indian market is totally *Rad*-ha. p. 3

The Interior Architecture and Design Show was anything but *inferior*. p. 4

Someone let Alicia *puzzle* us with another crossword... p. 6

The Lady Bruins basketball team is *on the ball* and shooting high. p. 7



Comic: Susy Castle

the Collegian

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COLUMN



Johnathon Smith
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes I read something that causes me to stop everything I am doing and take a closer look. That happened last fall when I read a headline from *Christianity Today* reporting several allegations against Ravi Zacharias, a well-known Christian evangelist who had recently passed away.

I felt my stomach clench as I read the piece. Some of his messages had been used in Sunday school at a church I attended when I was growing up, and I knew people who had been

See **COLUMN** p. 3 >>

The Collegian Editorial

Women's rights are human rights

In current cultural connotation, feminism has come to mean the support of abortion, the validation of transgenderism and the removal of traditional male and female roles in the home and church. Radical feminism often goes a step further, promoting a preference of women to the point of hating men. Christians cannot support these new goals of the feminist movement that are directly in contradiction to Scripture. But while distancing themselves from a corrupted social movement, Christians should not distance themselves from Scriptural arguments for gender equality.

Abigail Adams, one of the first American women's rights advocates, supported women's right to education, property ownership and the vote. Centuries later, women in the U.S. aren't facing the same kinds of discrimination Adams fought against. But the problem of gender equality is still very real at home and worldwide. In the U.S. in 2019, 406,970 women were raped or sexually assaulted, according to the Statista Research Department. The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics reports working women with a bachelor's degree or higher earn 25% less than men with the same level of education in the same fields. Edify, an organization whose mission is to improve and expand Christ-centered education globally, states girls across the world are 50% more likely to be out of school than boys.

We are all created as image-bearers of God: different, but equal. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond

nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:28) The restriction of women in social standing is not biblical. Women deserve the same respect as men as fellow image-bearers in any secular field. Discrimination against women in careers or the economic world is not biblical. Proverbs 31:16 says of a biblical woman, "She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard." Discrimination against women in leadership or political position is not biblical. Deborah the prophetess was a judge of Israel who rode into battle with Barak. (Judges 4)

Christians are right to stand for biblical roles of men and women in the church and family, but sinful humanity has twisted these roles to justify devaluing, objectifying or treating women as less than human. We as Christians must not fall into the trap of limiting or silencing women who have faced very real bias. Instead, we must work to make biblical equality a standard in our culture and support those who have not experienced this equality. We should always stand as advocates for those who have in any way been oppressed and we should never justify that oppression.

We have a responsibility to stand for the biblical truths of gender roles, the sanctity of life and the equal value of all men and women and use the biblically sound principles of gender equality to point culture to humanity's highest Advocate, Jesus Christ.

TALKBACK

Who is a woman who inspires you?



Rachel Anderson
JUNIOR
"My mom is very strong professionally, but she always puts our needs before her own."



Jesse Boyd
JUNIOR
"My horn teacher Mrs. Schlimgen because she's willing to put up with me -- and she's a really godly lady."



Debbie Rocha
FRESHMAN
"My English teacher Miss Walter makes learning really fun and cares about how we're doing in other classes, too."



Wade Morgan
SOPHOMORE
"My girlfriend Jennifer makes everyone feel welcome and loved. She knows exactly what to say to lift your mood."

Photos: Lindsay Shaleen

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impacted by his teaching. What was I supposed to make of this?

In December 2020 Ravi Zacharias International Ministries admitted to the world that the allegations of misconduct were true. The organization released a full report this February which detailed evidence supporting the sexual misconduct claims. In the fallout after the report was released, the ministry announced plans to drop Zacharias' name from the organization and shift their focus from fielding a team of apologists to funding evangelism and sexual abuse prevention.

This incident is part of a growing trend among evangelical circles today. Christian leaders who have been placed on pedestals as model biblical leaders have been exposed as hypocrites who cover up their faults. Although

dwelling on this issue was uncomfortable for me, God has used it to teach me several important lessons.

First, as Christians, we should never conceal sin. Sadly, recent allegations in evangelical circles sometimes include leadership ignoring or even hiding the reports of misconduct for long periods of time.

In this case, Zacharias used intimidation to keep the accusations from coming to light for at least a decade. According to his victims, Zacharias threatened them into silence by warning if they reported his misconduct fewer people would be converted through his ministry. The organization's board members ignored misconduct allegations in 2017 after Zacharias convinced them he was being extorted by his accuser.

Prioritizing reputation over doing right has serious consequences. God never calls us to hide sin

to salvage our status. Instead, God tells us to acknowledge and turn from our sin. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." (Prov. 28:13) Ironically, in trying to preserve an organization's reputation by not reporting sin, people often destroy that reputation irrevocably when the truth is known.

If we publicly excuse wrongdoing done by people in power, what credibility do we have when we present the Gospel? Who are we to criticize others' actions if we openly celebrate people who show no remorse for their sin?

Second, we have a responsibility to care for those who are hurting, including the victims of abuse. "Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. Open thy mouth, judge righteously and plead the

cause of the poor and needy." (Prov. 31:8-9) Caring for them may look like listening to and believing someone who is hurting, or it could involve reporting what happened. But it never means excusing an abuser's actions.

Most importantly, we should not put our hope in a single leader because people will inevitably disappoint us. The pastors, evangelists and teachers we lionize may turn out to be practicing serious sins or may renounce the faith altogether. If our faith is placed in people, we will be sorely disappointed and confused when they fail us.

The same principle applies to other areas of life. Idolizing anyone, whether a family member, boyfriend or girlfriend, politician or religious leader, is dangerous. Not only can it lead to disappointment, but it also may dethrone God from His rightful place as our top priority,

something the Bible clearly warns against (Matt. 6:24).

Instead, our confidence should be in the Lord, the only one who will never fail us. When a respected Christian leader is disgraced, when a relationship falls apart or when nothing in our lives is going well, God is there for us. Jesus said, "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:20) No matter who falters here on earth, God is always faithful.

Only God can keep us from faltering, whether we are a respected Christian leader or an ordinary disciple. If we turn to Him, God will give us the power to resist temptation. (James 4:7)

The next time I read something that makes me shake my head and wonder what good can come from it, I will remember I serve a God who works through even the worst situations. (Rom. 8:28)

Local Intercultural Markets

International students find taste of home

Vicki Olachea

STAFF WRITER

Students find a taste of India, great food to cook and a friendly atmosphere in Radha Indian Grocers.

The store stocks everything from groceries and frozen foods to in-house baked goods and displays an impressive array of spices and dried foods.

Navjyot Kumar Patel, the store manager, said he sees a lot of students come to the store, most of them from Clemson, but a few from BJU. Patel said students are always welcome. "They are very friendly, and we will help them out a lot."

According to Patel, many of the students who visit the store are from

India and looking for specific food items that they have trouble finding in the U.S. He said often those students are pleasantly surprised to find exactly what they are looking for in Radha.

Patel said he and the other store staff members do their best to support students who visit the store often, occasionally by helping them pay for an Uber or even delivering their groceries.

Samuel Roshan, a BJU grad student studying ministry and leadership, goes about once a month to Radha Indian Grocers to find foods that remind him of his home in India.

"If I was missing some Indian food, I used to go and get some fast food or

some basic items which can make [food] quickly," Roshan said.

Roshan said he started going to Radha soon after arriving in the U.S. for the first time and has been shopping there since. He said the staff there are very friendly—whenever he was unable to find something he was looking for, staff members were quick to help or even make recommendations for something better.

Roshan said he found a few food items that he would recommend for college students because they are easy to keep in a dorm. Naan bread, Roshan said, goes well with lunch or dinner items. For breakfast he recommends puran poli, a dish made of sweet dough fried in a pan and eaten with ghee (a type of clarified butter) or milk. Roshan said this is one dish he often buys.

"It's an easy breakfast, and kind of fills you very well," Roshan said.

For a snack, Roshan recommends a samosa, a pastry made of potato and filled with meat or vegetables, made fresh in the store. "That is a must option to try."

Stewart Ramakuri, a senior international student from India and business



Manager Patel searches for a product in the aisles of his store.

Photo: Heath Parish



Radha Indian Grocers is located off of Woodruff Road, about 12 minutes from campus. Photo: Heath Parish

administration major, said he often visits Radha Indian Grocers to buy food for himself while he lives in the Greenville area during the summer. Ramakuri said the food is authentic, most likely shipped from India. Ramakuri said he would recommend shopping there to anyone wanting variety in flavor.

"If you're looking for diversity and you're looking for something different, then yes, it's a great store to go by," Ramakuri said. He occasionally buys basmati rice, a rice with

a longer grain and distinctive flavor, and Priya Pickle, a hot but flavorful spice, as an easy college meal, one he said he would recommend.

According to Ramakuri, anyone can explore all the options Radha carries. "I would say just explore and try to learn how to cook Indian food," Ramakuri said. "It's a long process, but it's worth it, because it's tasty."

Radha Indian Grocers is open throughout the week from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and is located at 9 Hendrix Drive.

The Division of Art + Design showcased its annual Interior Architecture and Design Show “Converge,” displaying the diversified and visionary work of its senior students, on March 20 in the Sargent Art Building.

This year the show presented the works of 12 students, hence the name “Converge.” Laurilyn Hall, head of the design department, said, “The students realized they have such a diversity of passions, directions and career paths.” Hall said all the students took different directions with their projects, but in the show all of it converged into a cohesive whole. “It’s this idea of collaborating from different viewpoints with design,” Hall said. “You’ll see some elements that point to how very different perspectives on design can come together and make a unified whole.”

Hall said the program is split into two concentrations, residential and commercial interior design. Brittany Annand, a senior architecture and design major whose work was presented in the show, is a residential interior design concentration. “I switched from health science over to interior architecture and design,” Annand said. “I’ve always loved art and wanted a career where I could love what I’m doing.”

“Interior architecture and design is more than decorating,” Annand said. “We design the floor plans and learn how to work with walls and foundations.”

Annand is presenting her layout for the Bruins locker rooms for the volleyball and baseball teams. Annand plays on the Bruins volleyball team and was thrilled to connect that with interior architecture and design. Annand said she ultimately hopes the Athletic Department will use the specifications she developed for the layout of the locker rooms. “My goal is for [the Athletic Department] to use the specs in my design,” Annand said.

Annand’s plans after graduation are to start her own interior design business. “I love that I can actually make people happy by designing their dream space,” Annand said.

Macey Hotchkin, also in the architecture and design show, said the show held very diverse design styles. Macey said she has always been into art. “I’m a very artistic, project-orientated and hands-on person,” Hotchkin said. “I’ve always enjoyed reading and looking through the interior design magazines.”

The following students participated in the show: Brittany Annand, Taylor Bott, Drew Bullock, Johanna Burcham, Abigail Burgess, Jenny Chung, David Ferris, Macey Hotchkin, Renai Pesho, Tyler Rose, Justin Woodham and David Woods.



Art students and faculty set up for the interior architecture and design show. Photo: Robert Stuber



Senior Jenny Chung discusses her designs and display. Photo: Andrew Pledger



Senior Justin Woodham explains his capstone project. Photo: Andrew Pledger



A large crowd came to the opening show to view the seniors' work. Photo: Andrew Pledger

Get your best out of the days of rest!

Featuring your online submissions to:  [thecollegianbjv](#)

“Plan to sleep in, allow yourself time to wake up slowly and take your time getting ready. Remember you normally would have been in class so consider it to be required rest time.”
Dave Ritschard

“I make sure to get the best rest that I can the night before and I book it off campus early those mornings to get the most out of the day!”
Aryl Jackson

“Get your homework done before the day of rest if possible so you can actually rest.”
Josh Norton

“Don’t spend your whole day doing nothing, but don’t race from one event to the next. Be in the moment & then go to bed at a decent time so you’re actually refreshed for the next day.”
Emily Bowman

“If you’ve got to do homework, make sure you plan to take a break for a few hours outside or with friends so you actually feel rested when the day ends!”
Bailey Wright

“I would say to stay off of social media for the day. You can easily catch up on your feed the next day. And go on a long walk, even if you just circle campus seven times.”
Seth Johnson

“Do one thing that you just WANT to do, even if you need to do homework or work, take a little time to do something just for fun!”
Tari George

“Spend some extra time with Jesus! Have time set aside to do a ‘fun’ or relaxing thing and then also have a time dedicated to getting something specific accomplished.”
Jessica Lovely

“We are constantly stressed about what homework is due and what we need to work on – it’s always refreshing to sleep in without thinking of any of those responsibilities for even a moment.”
Esteban Pacquing

“The best thing to do to get the most of the day of rest is to actually rest and sleep in. This is either a time to catch up with friends or catch up with studies.”
Prince Sarnicula

“Make sure you plan ahead, do something fun and spend the time with your friends.”
Leo Smith

The next days of rest: April 9th and April 29th

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from BJU.

All collegiate teams were made up of three students, and the members of the BJU team were picked by Dr. James Knisely and Dr. Ethan McGee, BJU faculty members in the computer science department. Although the contest is geared toward computer science students, a number of students from other programs, including engineering and mathematics, competed as well.

Although the members of Bruins Team A are hopeful about the next round, they admit they have plenty of work ahead of them. “I feel like this contest definitely showed us that we’ve got room to improve,” Platt said, a senior computer engineering major. “We actually now have five or six problems that we can take a look at. It’s like, ‘Okay, what was

used? How can we solve this better and quicker and be ready for next time?’”

During the regional contest, the three read through each problem quickly, determining which ones would take the shortest amount of time. They worked on the questions individually for the most part, moving on to the next one as soon as they finished the previous to avoid wasting time.

According to Watson, a senior computer science major, the difficult part of the problems is not finding a solution but rather mapping the problem to a solution or technique the contestant already knows. Most of the questions are based on existing problems with known solutions.

“Problems give a lot of details which may or may not be helpful,” said Ross, a senior mathematics major. “So, what you have to do once you’ve read the

problem is think about what the core question is asking, because a lot of times . . . you can ask the same question in terms of graph theory or . . . number theory.”

Platt attributed much of the group’s success to their differing strengths. He and Watson were able to handle many of the problems that relied on knowledge of computer science while Ross worked on the problems closely related to math.

After the contest was over, the teams gathered in Mack Building to watch the final results be revealed and celebrate with pizza. Contestants also discussed difficult problems and talked about the solutions they had reached. Applause erupted whenever the final ranking for a Bruins team was announced, congratulating them for the work they accomplished over the previous five hours.



Kate in the present, played by Erin Jones, shares the Gospel in the play with Dane in the present, played by Phil Adams. Photo: Lindsay Shaleen

»» From **GALLERY** p. 1

that her character is an artist who met Dane while using him as a model for the Christ figure she was sculpting. “All of the drama comes out of that relationship,” she said. Jones particularly likes the character’s interest in art and the costume she wears in the production and is grateful for the role she plays in supporting Dane along his journey.

Senior biblical studies major Kathryn Holcomb acts as a model in the production for the Ghiberti movement piece, which is made up of baptistry door panels depicted by a large frame that models walk into. Holcomb explained that she and three other models walk into the frame, freeze into a pose and become part of a canvas as a picture is projected on them. Holcomb said keeping in time with the music is essential to making it into the frame on time. Unlike the other art pieces, the audience catches a glimpse of the transition of the models into this work of art. “The audience is actually watching us move, so [we have] to be choreographed,” Holcomb said.

Nolan said she really enjoys the various aspects of *Living Gallery*, including the art and music. She explained this is the first year a painting by the Italian



Just come to get something out of [the program], to enjoy it, to listen to the music and apply it to your life.

Kate Jones

painter Caravaggio will be incorporated into the production. The painting “Calling of Matthew” will appear along with the song “Gentle Voice” at a point of tension between past Kate and Dane. Nolan said the lyrics “Come to me. I will give you rest” fit well with the scene.

Nolan views *Living Gallery* as a good opportunity to invite outside guests, especially people who do not regularly attend church. She encourages students to be on the lookout for community guests around them and introduce themselves.

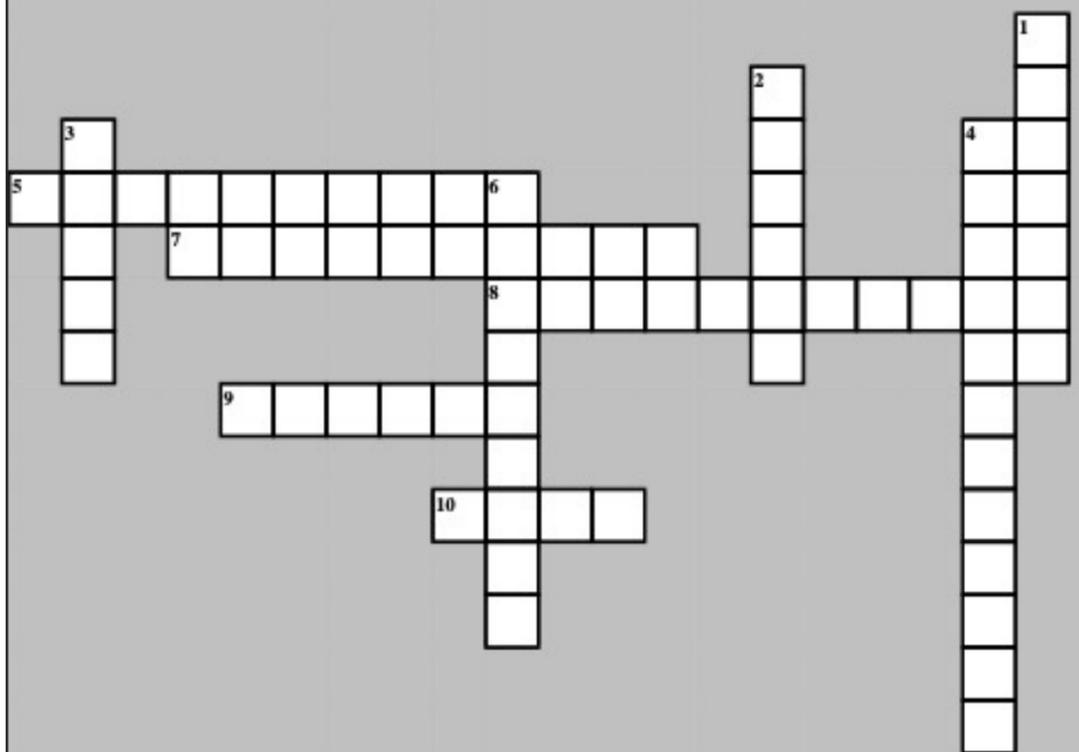
Jones and Holcomb both appreciate the experience they have gained through *Living Gallery*. Jones served as a model in the program her freshman year, as did Holcomb previously. Holcomb has especially enjoyed meeting many people through her involvement with *Living Gallery*. “I love how many different people I meet from different aspects around campus—faculty, staff, students that I would never normally interact with,” Holcomb said. Jones is grateful to get the opportunity to act with her mom and appreciates the overall benefit of *Living Gallery*. “Just come to get something out of [the program], to enjoy it, to listen to the music and apply it to your life,” Jones said.

Living Gallery has been a tradition since 1998 and this year’s script was last performed in 2010. Outside guests are invited to attend any of the five performances and will be seated in the balcony. Tickets may be secured at bjuniversitytickets.com for \$18.90, or \$16.85 for children.

ALICIA DEMOTT’S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

THEME:

B R U N C H



ACROSS:

- Shredded, chopped, covered in cheese—however you like these, they are certainly one great way to have a potato.
- Where are my lactose intolerant people at? Unfortunately, this milk alternative always makes coffee more expensive. (2 words, one space)
- Some like it with pulp (I’m not sure why either), but this drink is a favorite in Florida. (2 words, one space)
- Like a healthy custard, except there’s not as much joy – unless you add granola.
- If you’re lactose intolerant like I am, you avoid this drink like the plague.

DOWN:

- If you prefer pancakes over these, you don’t know what you’re talking about.
- Girl, get your Starbucks at 4 p.m. in the afternoon, no one is stopping you from getting this caffeine fix.
- Everyone likes this meat. Everyone. Except vegan swine (hah, see what I did there?)(I don’t actually dislike vegans, I wish I was vegan).
- A millennial fad I can always get behind. My sister used to say this fruit was tasteless and putting it on bread like this was disgusting. (2 words, one space)
- Healthy people who exercise in real gyms instead of their garages drink these and pretend the fruit is enough sugar.

Lady Bruins awarded in sports, academics

Katelyn Lain

STAFF WRITER

Tamrah Konieczka and Delaney Edwards prove female athletes are competitive and dedicated in their sports and studies as they excel on and off the court.

Delaney Edwards, a senior health science pre-physician assistant major playing for the women's basketball team, was recently named 3rd Team All-American for the 2020-21 season by the National Christian College Athletic Association. Edwards has been at the top of her game all season, averaging 14.3 points and 7.8 rebounds per game and scoring a personal season's best of 23 points for the BJU Lady Bruins in a game against Carolina Christian College. She was also voted 1st Team All-Region.

Edwards said when she was younger, all her friends played with Barbie dolls while she was outside playing football and baseball with her brother. Edwards said, "Nine times out of 10 I was outside playing with my brother and his friends."

Tamrah Konieczka, a junior criminal justice major on the women's basketball team said she appreciates how tough Edwards is. "She's had a

lot of injuries, but she always powers through and doesn't make excuses," Konieczka said. "I feel like she doesn't express how much pain she can be in." Edwards not only puts in extra hours at the gym but extra hours in the classroom as she works to become a physician's assistant after graduation.

Konieczka is also no stranger to the rigors of balancing athletics and academics. Konieczka was named Scholar-Athlete, her first academic honor.



Team chemistry really lifts a team even beyond what they are capable of doing as a bunch of individuals competing together.

Mike LeViere

The title is given to upperclassmen or graduate student-athletes who maintain a 3.4 GPA or above. As a junior, this is the first year Konieczka was eligible for the award. Three

of Konieczka's teammates were also named Scholar-Athlete: junior Bethany Daulton, junior Rebekah Shoop and senior Gracen Ledford who earned the honor for the second time in a row.

Lady Bruins basketball coach Mike LeViere said Konieczka has the right team spirit he looks for in a player. Konieczka was benched most of her freshman year and played minimally her sophomore year. LeViere said now that Konieczka is a junior, she has stepped into some roles of seniors who graduated.

Konieczka is third in the nation in the NCCAA DII 3-point percentage and the second leading rebounder on her team.

Edwards said she knew since freshman year that Konieczka would start making strides to full impact and this year, Konieczka has blossomed on the court. Edwards said, "This year she really did come in, and she was a key player for us and just hit shots when we needed and got steels and turnovers."

Edwards said Konieczka and another girl on the team had a competition about who could get the most steals in the game. "I didn't realize it until probably three or four games in and they're saying some numbers on the court."

LeViere said there is somewhat of a misconception that women are not as competitive as men. LeViere said women use competition to express themselves and their accomplishments and to challenge themselves.

"Delaney is super competitive and expresses it," LeViere said. "She is a versatile player on the court as an outside threat and can take the ball inside and guard inside. She adds a good competitive edge to us." LeViere said women are more emotionally intelligent than men on the court, paying attention to emotions around them.

LeViere said, "Team chemistry really lifts a team even beyond what they are capable of doing, as a bunch of individuals competing together."

Konieczka said relationships on her team motivate her to play better. "I feel like I'm in this role and I need to fulfill my



Current seniors Charsie Johnson, Delaney Edwards and Gracen Ledford pose with team manager Monica Marchena. Photo: Derek Eckenroth

duties," Konieczka said.

Konieczka said her coach trains her to be mentally tough by putting the team in a scenario. "With 30 seconds left on the clock," Konieczka said, "and we'll run that scenario out and we'll see what we do . . . and what we can do better."

LeViere said many female athletes come to the team having been the best player on their high school team and become disappointed when they are benched for longer than they expected. He looks for players who are willing to give up their personal desires for the sake of the team.

In loving memory of facilities operations and services director Sam Brenneman, who served the University for 21 years.

"Sam was a renaissance man who could do anything he put his mind to." - Tom Berg, senior director of facilities

"Sam used his many talents to make BJU a better place, and he made those around him better people. He simply lived life to serve - no fanfare but tremendous faithfulness." - Gary Weier, provost



Sam Brenneman (1960-2021)



Konieczka mounts a defense during practice. Photo: Madeline Peters

Women's History Month



Joni Eareckson Tada was paralyzed from the shoulders down at age 17 after a diving accident. After struggling with depression, suicidal thoughts and doubts, Tada wrote about her experience and faith to inspire others. She has authored over 40 books, starred in an autobiographical movie of her life and recorded music albums. She is also the founder and current CEO of Joni and Friends, a Christian ministry for the disabled, and currently hosts an inspirational radio program.

"He has chosen not to heal me, but to hold me. The more intense the pain, the closer His embrace." - Joni Eareckson Tada, *A Place of Healing*

Graphic: Alicia DeMott Text: Joanna Scoggins

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

McNeely gives modern look at literature

Johanna Huebscher

STAFF WRITER

One member of the English faculty is so passionate about his favorite author, James Joyce, that he has a finger puppet of him. “When I was in the final stages of the dissertation, I had family members who came by and brought [the finger puppet] for me,” Dr. Brent McNeely said. “They saw it in a bookstore.”

McNeely, a faculty member in the Division of English Language and Literature, teaches En 103, Modern World Literature, British Literature since 1688, Multiethnic Literature and English Seminar. McNeely also teaches modern English literature classes and has taught graduate-level literature courses in the past.

“When I was a senior in high school, I started praying about my future,” McNeely said. “I knew early on that I wanted to teach.”

McNeely switched between majors a couple of times before settling on an undergraduate degree in English. He then went on to get his master’s in English from Clemson University. While at Clemson, McNeely discovered his passion for modern



McNeely's puppet of his favorite author James Joyce features the author's signature spectacles and hat. Photo: Nick Zukowski

literature, especially Irish author James Joyce, best known for his novel *Ulysses* that parallels Homer's epic poem, *The Odyssey*.

“I took a few modern courses and immediately I just really loved it,” McNeely said. This passion for modern literature proved useful when McNeely joined the BJU faculty in 1998. “That really

worked out because when I was hired here, I was the only one who liked modern,” McNeely said. “It really helped fill a hole in the program here. I’m not bragging, but there was no one else to teach [modern literature].”

“He’s not the traditional English teacher,” said senior Katelyn Lain, creative writing major. “He

thinks of things differently and evaluates text in a fresh, more modern way.” Lain particularly enjoys his class discussions and text evaluations.

Four years after he was hired at BJU, McNeely completed his doctorate in English at the University of South Carolina. He wrote his dissertation on the early works of James Joyce. “[Joyce] was influential in so many ways on other authors,” McNeely said. He enjoys teaching Joyce’s *Dubliners*, a collection of 15 short stories. “It’s the greatest collection of short stories ever,” McNeely said. He also enjoys reading other books. “I tend to like encyclopedic or all-encompassing books like Dante’s *Divine Comedy* or Joyce’s *Ulysses*,” McNeely said.

As a Christian in the English field, McNeely said he can remain objective on secular authors. “Ten years ago I would’ve been more defensive of [Joyce], but now I’m more objective,” McNeely said.

McNeely says he’s not as much of a fanboy of Joyce as he used to be. “I view Scripture itself as the center of all literature. Even non-Christian authors still allude to

Scripture a lot.”

McNeely said he believes the English department could be improved by hiring a Black faculty member to teach Black literature. He currently teaches a multiethnic literature class where one-third of the content focuses on Black literature. “It would be awesome to hand that off to a Black colleague,” McNeely said. He would also like to encourage more participation in professional activities, such as academic publications, attendance at conferences and involvement in scholarly groups.

In his spare time, McNeely reads, collects vinyl records and spends time with his family. McNeely is married with three sons and a daughter. His wife, Heather, has her doctorate in music. She teaches at Greenville Tech, gives private trumpet lessons and works at a rock climbing gym.

His eldest son is following in his father’s footsteps and is currently applying for M.A. and Ph.D. programs in English. He has a son currently enrolled at Clemson University, and his youngest two children are enrolled at Bob Jones Academy.



McNeely was saved at 9 years old through his uncle's witness. Photo: Nick Zukowski

sudoku

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