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Student body elects 2021-22 SLC officers

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BJU to present
*The Diary of
Anne Frank*
on April 27

Madison Floyd

STAFF WRITER

The historical play *The Diary of Anne Frank* allows viewers to travel to the 1940s and experience one of the many tragic stories of the Holocaust. The show will be presented nightly from April 27 through May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in Performance Hall.

The Diary of Anne Frank is a stage adaptation of the published book *The Diary of Anne Frank*. The book highlights the true experience of Anne Frank, a young Jewish girl who was in hiding with her family for two years during the Holocaust. The play not only centers on the perspective of the main character, Anne Frank, but also delivers insight into the other characters presented in the publication.

Kayley Baker, a senior theatre major who plays the role of Mrs. Edith Frank, Anne Frank's mother, said it has been interesting and difficult to portray her character. Baker is completing this play for her senior capstone. "For the most part, we only hear

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Daraven Perez and Ellie Weier are the elected 2021-22 student body presidents. Photo: Nick Zukowski



Nicholas Gore and Hannah Davis are the elected 2021-22 Inter-Society Council directors. Photo: Nick Zukowski

Johanna Huebscher

STAFF WRITER

BJU students elected the 2021-22 Student Leadership Council officers during elections April 12-15, with winners being announced April 20.

Biblical counseling and kinesiology double major Daraven Perez and math ed major

Ellie Weier will serve as men's and women's student body presidents. Junior ministry and leadership major Nicholas Gore and junior journalism and mass communication major Hannah Davis were elected as ISC directors, while junior marketing major Abigail Vork was elected event coordinator. Junior cello

performance major Anne Smith was elected women's senior class representative, and junior Biblical studies major Daniel Lehman was elected men's senior class representative. Sophomore public health/global health major Karis Martin, senior middle school education major Anna Habegger, and sophomore premed/

premed major Hart Zakaria will serve as CSC director, treasurer and associations liaison respectively.

The SLC members are chosen through a series of elections. The men's and women's student body presidents and event coordinator are elected by the entire student body.

See **SLC** p. 3 >>

THE WEEK

CHORALE

Tonight at 7 p.m. Dr. Cook will conduct the Chorale's annual spring concert in FMA for the last time before he retires.

CONCERT CHOIR

The Concert Choir's performance, "My Father's World" will be in Stratton Hall at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

PPO BANQUET

The Public Policy Organization will hold a banquet in the dining common's Davis Room at 7 p.m.

DAY OF REST

BJU students will not have any classes on Thursday because of the day of rest.

Let's confer on redeeming our witnessing relationships.

p. 4

Doctors say COVID-19 can mask some long-term effects.

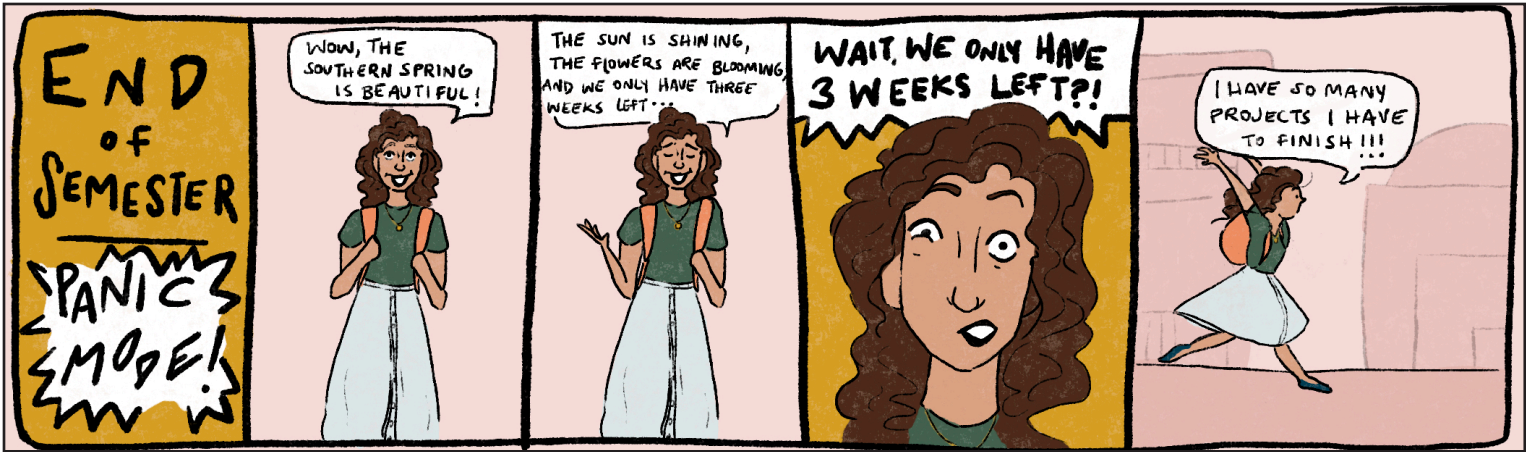
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Intraaaa-ducting the 2021-22 society sports champions!

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A faculty member di-Spences with expectations for God's plan...

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Comic: Susy Castle

the Collegian

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COLUMN



Vicki Olachea
STAFF WRITER

I have known many people who said they were often too anxious to do something for themselves on their own. Sometimes it’s asking a question in class, or even making a phone call to order pizza. But as soon as someone else needed the same thing done, they suddenly found the strength to accomplish whatever they couldn’t on their own.

It’s me: I’m people.

Some people call this “the mom friend override.” I call it the superhero complex. But I think

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The Collegian Editorial
It's okay to not be okay

“Stop being so negative.” “Cheer up.” “Look on the bright side.” “It could be worse.”

As the pandemic drags on, our country continues to be divided and violence increases across the world, it can be easy to give into negativity and discouragement. To combat this, we often try to turn the entire cloud silver instead of just looking for the silver lining. While it is important to keep thinking positively, forcing yourself to look for something positive in every situation by ignoring reality can actually be detrimental not only to your mental health but to your faith.

The new term for this kind of thinking is “toxic positivity.” *The Washington Post* quoted Natalie Dattilo, a clinical health psychologist with Boston’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital, in a recent article on toxic positivity: “While cultivating a positive mind-set is a powerful coping mechanism, toxic positivity stems from the idea that the best or only way to cope with a bad situation is to put a positive spin on it and not dwell on the negative. It results from our tendency to undervalue negative emotional experiences and overvalue positive ones.”

As Christians, it can be tempting to instinctively feel that if we grieve in any way to acknowledge our pain over a situation in our lives, we are dishonoring God or not exhibiting faith. We know that all things work together for good for those that love God (Rom. 8:28), but that does not mean that all things are good.

While 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 exhorts, “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you,” this does not mean we can’t acknowledge if a situation is bad. It means that we are still to be thankful for God, His love and His mercy despite what goes on around us. We can be thankful that He’ll use the situation for good, even if the situation itself – a cancer diagnosis, a natural disaster or a global pandemic – is not good.

It’s okay to not be okay. We should grieve the effects of sin in our lives. We can mourn the pain of the chastening of God while still acknowledging His goodness. The entire book of Lamentations is the outpouring of grief after Israel is punished for turning against God. Instead of suppressing emotions with toxic positivity that insists we be happy about everything, we should value our grief, anger and pain because we know God will turn our weeping into joy (John 16:20).

While we grieve, we do not despair, so that we can say, “This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.” (Lam. 3:21-26)

TALKBACK

What's more important to you: spending time alone or with friends?

Destiny Kogler
JUNIOR
“Alone, because then you have the time to recharge your social battery.”

Caleb Whisnant
SOPHOMORE
“Time with friends so that you’re not constantly locked in your own mind.”

Luis Wolfe
FRESHMAN
“Being alone allows me to redirect my thoughts and get a better grip of my surroundings.”

Joseph Kauffman
SENIOR
“With friends, because the Bible says there is wisdom in the multitude of counsel.”

Photos: Andrew Pledger

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God gave us this instinct to illustrate a broader truth: strength comes from love.

I notice this concept also, oddly enough, on the road.

If you’ve driven in South Carolina for any length of time, or anywhere for that matter, you are familiar with unkind driving. It’s those moments when someone cuts you off to turn left or waits until the last second to get over and avoid an accident on Wade Hampton (there’s always an accident on Wade Hampton) because they wanted to be farther along in the huge line of cars.

I started driving on my own when I moved to South Carolina, and unfortunately I fall under the temptation to be that kind of impatient driver. But

the times I’ve wanted to be unkind in my driving have also been the times I was focused on me, my schedule and how important it is I get where I’m going—and as a result, I’ve almost been the accident on Wade Hampton.

If everyone drove like that all the time, the roads would be even more dangerous than they already are. There must be a few kind people on the road for all of us to get home safely.

And that thought strikes me whenever I do let that jerk into my lane, even though he waited until the last second to get over. I am doing this for my neighbor, as rude as he may be, to make sure he gets home safely. I’m doing this in the hope that others will do it for me—that I’ll get home safely.

As strange as it seems, love of my neighbor is

what gives me the strength to forego road rage.

Now, when I look back on how my idea of strength has changed, I think specifically of a time I felt incredibly vulnerable.

My freshman year, I had never prayed in front of anyone, not really. I could say a passable public prayer, but I had no idea how to share what was really on my heart during prayer aloud with another person. That was too intimate.

Then one of my roommates received a phone call from her long-distance boyfriend in a bad situation, and she broke down in front of me. She needed consoling, and I had no idea how to help. So, I asked if I could pray with her.

We sat on the floor, I held her shaking hands in mine and I prayed aloud, too unprepared to

be anything other than genuine. Tears fell on our clasped hands—even though I almost never cry in front of other people, especially roommates I didn’t know very well.

After I choked out an “amen,” my roommate thanked me for being strong for her. Strong? That was being soft! Hadn’t she heard the fear in my voice as I prayed? Hadn’t she sensed my shame as I cried in front of someone I barely knew?

But where I had perceived weakness, she had seen strength—2 Corinthians 12:9, am I right? Where I thought I was being soft, she saw me as strong.

Sometimes I mistake strength as something that comes from a hard place, not a soft one. I think to be tough enough to win battles, I must not let myself be affected by

the emotions that come with battling. But I have found that my strength to fight for those I love, for those who have been oppressed, comes from love (Ps. 82:3). Indeed, God is love and the ultimate source of strength: the source for both is one and the same (1 John 4:16).

It is love that gives me the strength to overcome social boundaries, (Gal. 3:28) to pray for my enemies, (Luke 6:27-28) to live in unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ (John 13:35, Col. 3:14) and to care for myself. (Eph. 2:10, Phil. 1:6, Luke 12:7)

Now, I try to remember I serve a God who has many perfect characteristics but is love. And I try to add love to every situation, especially those in which I need strength.

»» From **SLC** p. 1

Senior class representatives are chosen by the current junior class. The community service director is elected by the Community Service Council. The men’s and women’s ISC directors are elected by the ISC, while the student body presidents appoint the communications director and treasurer. Dr. Matthew Weathers, who directs the Center for Leadership Development, helps coordinate the elections.

“It’s helpful for [the presidents] to have some input on what their council shape looks like,”

Weathers said. The associations liaison position has previously been an appointed position, but Weathers said he is considering making it an elected position.

Students were nominated for SLC positions through peer nominations emailed out on March 22. Nominees can decline to run.

Qualifications for SLC positions vary by position. All nominees need leadership experience, while student body presidential nominees require experience in society or campus organizations. The treasurer should have

some experience in a treasurer position, such as for society. Candidates running for the SLC must also have an acceptable GPA. “If they have a 0.3 GPA, we love them, but we’re not going to approve them to run,” Weathers said.

Weathers encourages students to pursue leadership opportunities faithfully. “Students don’t come on as freshman and get on the SLC; it’s a process,” Weathers said. Students who start out with small leadership positions often learn soft leadership skills such as communication, time management, delegation and

motivation. “Generally, those who excel in leadership roles in society and campus organizations are often the ones nominated by their peers for SLC positions,” Weathers said.

The former men’s ISC director Heath Parish has been very involved in his society, the Phi Beta Chi Bulldogs, since his freshman year. “Having the opportunity to be on the ISC just made sense,” Parish said. “I have been super involved in society pretty much since the day I joined.” Parish served as his society’s CSC representative one semester before serving as the Bulldogs’

chaplain for two semesters. “Having built those relationships with my society was definitely a big advantage and was definitely very helpful,” Parish said.

From his time as the ISC director, Parish learned problem solving, time management, how to work with people with different personalities and a lot of hard work. “If you’re willing to put in hard work, [SLC] can be a really enjoyable thing,” Parish said. “I’ve loved every minute of it, but it has been a lot of work. But that’s not something to be afraid of because it’s a lot of fun and you have a lot of people supporting you,” Parish said.

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Conference to discuss redemptive relationships

Johnathon Smith
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Jeff Musgrave, an evangelist from Parker, Colorado, will speak at Bob Jones University’s evangelism conference, which will be held during the chapel hour Monday through Wednesday, April 26-28.

Musgrave was invited to be the sole speaker by BJU president Dr. Steve Pettit, Musgrave’s friend of many years.

Musgrave said he hopes to motivate students to be a witness for Christ. “My desire is to really help young people . . . capture a vision for how God could use them to impact their world with the Gospel,” he said.

On the first day, Musgrave said he will lay out his philosophy for witnessing, a model based on talking and listening to potential converts. The evangelist believes relationship-based gospel conversations have a much higher chance of receiving a positive reception, pointing to a survey that found 62% of those in their 20s would be willing to study the Bible with a friend.

“If I want to talk to someone from my heart, I’m going to be much more effective at doing that if I let a person be close to me and trust me,” Musgrave said. Steps to build that trust will be a key focus of his first message. According to the evangelist,

listening to other people and showing them respect are crucial.

“[Listening means] giving them your heart, giving them your ear and letting them know that you care about them,” Musgrave said. “Shared experiences plus respect equals trust.” Musgrave said it takes different amounts

"[LISTENING MEANS] GIVING THEM YOUR HEART, GIVING THEM YOUR EAR AND LETTING THEM KNOW THAT YOU CARE ABOUT THEM."

DR. MUSGRAVE

of time to build trust with different people. Believers can tell when unbelievers trust them enough to have redemptive conversations by examining what topics they are comfortable talking about, according to Musgrave.

“The heart has certain soul needs . . . and when a person begins to talk from those soul needs, it’s much easier to talk to them about their need for Jesus,” Musgrave said.

“You can simply say, ‘It’s my relationship with God that helps me with that need. Can I tell you about Him?’” Musgrave considers loneliness, emptiness, fear, love and guilt to be the five easiest soul needs to identify.

Musgrave stressed the importance of following up evangelism with discipleship to help new converts. The evangelist compared not discipling new believers to parents who give birth to a baby but then decide the child is no longer their responsibility. “Look at a baby Christian who has just put their faith in the Lord and recognize that they are in that vulnerable place . . . in which they don’t have the tools they need to develop themselves,” he said. “They need a caregiver, just like an infant needs a caregiver.” Without a more mature Christian advising them, Musgrave believes it is hard for baby Christians to grow spiritually.

On the second day of the conference, Musgrave plans to demonstrate how to use The Exchange Message App, an interactive digital tract for witnessing created by his organization, The Exchange, to share the Gospel with someone. Anyone curious about the app can download it from the Apple App Store or the Google Play store.



Musgrave earned an undergraduate degree in 1980 and a doctorate in 2013, both from BJU. Photo submitted by Musgrave

On the final day, Musgrave will challenge students to act on their faith by fulfilling the Great Commission, wrapping up the conference with application.

Musgrave planted Highlands Baptist Church in a suburb of Denver, Colorado, where he served as pastor for 23 years. In 2010, the evangelist transitioned from leading the church to founding The Exchange, an organization dedicated to helping Christians fulfill the Great Commission. According to the organization’s website, “The Exchange seeks to raise up believers who are confident in using the most effective means of evangelism the world has ever seen—relationships.”

Musgrave travels for

three weeks each month, speaking at evangelism seminars in churches across the world. He also wrote a four-book series of evangelistic and discipleship Bible studies bearing the same name as his organization.

Musgrave spoke at BJU’s evangelism conference in April 2016 as well.

Musgrave acknowledges he will have to fight end-of-semester distractions for students’ attention during the brief chapel services. “I’m aiming at a specific group of people—those with a genuine heart who want to be used of God,” he said. “I want to give them hope that God can use them. I want to introduce them to some tools that I believe will be a help to them as they try to interact with the Gospel.”

sudoku

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Department of Journalism and Mass Communication



Joanna Scoggins
Content Editor
The Collegian

HEY YOU!

One of the best ways to boost your professionalism is to learn how to send professional emails. Often your email communication is going to be the very first impression a future boss, co-worker or client ever receives from you, so you want to make sure it’s good! Be sure to address your email recipient directly by their title and

last name. Don’t start with “hey you!” Next, introduce yourself and give your credentials. Finally, break your email into bite-sized chunks. No one wants to read a huge block of text over email. Make sure your closing is polite and to the point with a properly formatted signature, and always proofread before you hit send!

Medical professionals discuss long-term COVID-19 effects



Bengé and Kadio walk from the new School of Health Professions.

Ethan House

STAFF WRITER

The School of Health Professions hosted their second COVID-19 symposium, titled “COVID-19 — Global Health and Pathways to Recovery,” in the Mack Building on April 22, focusing on the long-term effects of the virus

on both individuals and the population as a whole.

Division of Health Sciences faculty members Dr. Hannah Bengé and Dr. Bernard Kadio organized the five-hour event. The event featured Bengé, Kadio, four other faculty members and one guest speaker giving talks on how COVID-19 intersects

with their areas of expertise. The event was streamed for public audiences beyond the BJU students who attended.

The symposium began with a welcome and introduction by BJU Provost Dr. Gary Weier before transitioning to the first segment. Guest speaker Dr. Jane Kelly, assistant state epidemiologist for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, spoke on the impact of COVID-19 on health in South Carolina. Following her, Kadio expanded the discussion to the virus’s effect on global health.

After a short break, Melanie Schell, a faculty member who teaches a class on nutrition, delivered a lecture on the role of nutrition as it relates to COVID-19.

Bengé spoke next on the topic of the growing number of patients who still experience symptoms weeks and months after having had the virus. Similarly, Dr. Stephen Chen, chair of the Division of Exercise and Sport Science, focused on recognizing and managing the fatigue

that often persists after COVID-19 recovery.

Dr. Valerie Peterson, a Division of Nursing faculty member, spoke about the changes and adjustments that are occurring in the nursing profession due to COVID-19. Dr. Amy Hicks, chair of the Division of Health Sciences, finished with a talk on rebuilding communities affected by the pandemic.

Bengé, who is a speech language pathologist and works in inpatient rehab for St. Francis Hospital, said the idea for this symposium came during Christmas break when she noticed most of her patients were COVID-19 survivors. She began talking with Chen and Kadio about potential outreaches and programs to help these people. “This symposium arose out of what we were finding in the literature,” Bengé said. “How do we get more information out there to really rebuild communities, rebuild our global infrastructure and rehabilitate these individuals who are struggling?”

One of the goals of the symposium was to provide

people suffering from persistent symptoms with a way to understand what was happening and how to get help.

“Individuals that have a severe case of [COVID-19] don’t tend to have persisting symptoms,” Bengé said. “What [researchers are] finding is about 30% of people that have mild to moderate cases have long-term symptoms lasting weeks to months. It’s those individuals who are working age, or even some college students . . . So, we want to get the information out there to build that resilience and the rehab to get them back to doing life.”

Bengé said she is hopeful that the pandemic is drawing to a close so the societal focus can shift to rebuilding and rehabilitating affected people. Discussing the pandemic with fellow doctors and nurses showed Bengé how important that focus will be. “We have not faced a disease like this that can manifest in so many different ways,” Bengé said. “So this is not something that the effects of will go away easily.”

Local Intercultural Markets

Local bakery makes Hispanic pastries daily



Panaderia has full shelves of bakery items. Photo: Heath Parish

Katelyn Lain

STAFF WRITER

Just four minutes south of Bob Jones University on East North Street, Lighthouse Bakery, or Panaderia, is a Hispanic bakery where students can find a freshly made breakfast or snack, with most pastries

costing only \$1.

Dr. Mary Mendoza, chair of the Division of Communication, said she buys pastries from Lighthouse Bakery for her work and for her Intercultural Communication class. “It’s fun to go buy the food and bring it to class to have my students enjoy

something authentic that is very close to campus,” Mendoza said.

Mendoza said, “Once you walk in, you feel like you’re almost transported into another place, and you know that those pastries on the racks were just pulled out of the oven.” Mendoza grew up in Jerusalem, Israel, where bakeries are on almost every corner of the city. Mendoza said the experience of buying fresh food for the day reminds her of her home in Jerusalem.

Mendoza attends a Hispanic church and said before COVID-19, she would buy pastries or tamales for the church. Most tamales today are made with beef, chicken or pork. The meat is wrapped in corn masa and a corn husk and steamed. Tamales are usually made for special

occasions, like Christmas or New Year’s. Tamales have been around since the 1500s and most likely were brought to Central and South America from Mexico.

A main delicacy at the shop is a “concha,” a traditional chocolate or vanilla sweet bread with a crunchy and sweet covering. “Concha” is Spanish for “shell,” which is what the pastry looks like.

Mendoza said another favorite she has bought for other people is a cream cheese pastry. “The pastry has cream cheese inside and looks like a folded envelope.”

The store offers desserts such as cupcakes, cookies and doughnuts. They also can make multi-layered birthday cakes for special celebrations.

Some of the snack

options include “orejas” and cheesy bread. “Orejas,” named for their resemblance to elephant ears, are large, flat puff pastries with cinnamon and sugar.

Mendoza said the bakery also has a dessert called “marranitos” or “piggy,” as she usually hears it called. This dense pastry is shaped like a pig and is in between a cookie and a cake. The color is dark brown because it is sweetened with molasses. The pig cookie can also be called “cerditos,” “cochinillos” or “puerquitos.”

Although the shop is known for its baked goods, breakfast options are available. Omelets, ciabattas and burritos are a few. Ciabatta is a moist Italian bread.

The shop is open every day from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

BJU to present *The Diary of Anne Frank* on April 27



Graphic: Marissa Castor

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Anne's story," Baker said. "So, it's been really cool to research and find out who [Mrs. Frank] was."

As noted in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Anne, played in the adaptation by freshman Erika McGonigal, doesn't have a good relationship with her mother. "Having to play this really loving character who has this really tense relationship with her daughter was really difficult at first," Baker said. "It's really interesting to see beyond what Anne

sees and realize there is a lot of depth to all of the characters."

Baker said she relates to Mrs. Frank because when there is something that needs to get done, she strives to get it done. "There's a lot of people around her who don't like that, and that makes her very tense," Baker said. "She holds her tongue a lot and [makes] a lot of sacrifices that people didn't see."

"If I could ask Mrs. Frank any questions, I'd ask her how she held on for so long," Baker said.

"Overall, watching the relationships play out among the people Anne Frank wrote about has been one of my favorite things about the play."

Hannah Allen, a freshman theatre major who plays the role of Miep Gies, said her character works diligently to protect the family. "She isn't in the attic itself," Allen said. "She's one of the people who takes care of the Frank family. She brings them food, pictures and books to remind them of the outside world they're missing." Gies kept Anne's writings in her desk after their arrest.

Allen said Gies' personality is very different from that of her own. "I'm a very outgoing and loud person, while Miep is very shy and humble," Allen said. Allen said although taking on the role of her opposite personality is a big challenge, it has been good for practice.

Allen said as she has studied Gies, she has realized that Gies put a lot on the line for the Frank family. "If I could meet Miep Gies, I would thank her for what she did for the Frank family," said Allen. "I'd ask her a lot of questions about how they lived."

Allen said viewers



Anne Frank, played by freshman Erika McGonigal, talks with her father Mr. Frank, played by former faculty member David Schwingle.

Photo: Robert Stuber

should pay special attention to Mr. Frank's reactions to everything, a character played by former theatre department faculty member David Schwingle. "Mr. Frank is very complex and by understanding and watching his character carefully, you'll be able to see his character change drastically from the beginning to the end," Allen said.

Allen said one of her favorite aspects of the play is the set that she and the other actors have built.

"We meet every Saturday to work on the set," Allen said. "I think the set is really important because it's what brings the audience into the time period." Allen said the set has somewhat of a rustic feel to it when the actors first walk in. "As soon as the characters start moving into the set, it really starts to come to life," Allen said.

Allen said to also be on the lookout for a live cat on the stage, portraying Anne Frank's cat, Mouschi.



The cast for *The Diary of Anne Frank* have met on Saturday every week to build the period-appropriate set themselves. Photo: Robert Stuber

Intramural championships close out

Johanna Huebscher
STAFF WRITER

This academic year, societies competed in 10 intramural sports, including soccer, volleyball and futsal, with 16 championship games completed and six more awaiting results.

In one of the most highly anticipated championships of the school year, Sigma Alpha Chi Spartans' 11v11 soccer team, almost half of which were freshmen, won over the Pi Gamma Delta Royals in the 11v11 soccer championship at last semester's annual Turkey Bowl.

In women's intramural soccer, Pi Delta Chi Classics won the women's championship tournament with Theta Delta Omicron Tigers winning the women's recreational league soccer tournament. In volleyball, the Theta Sigma Chi Colts dominated in the women's league while Phi Beta Chi Bulldogs took the men's recreational league championship and the Spartans won the men's championship league.

But beyond these classic sports societies have been participating in for years, the University added new intramural sports to the roster, including spikeball, pickleball, futsal and a co-ed sport for brother and sister societies, ultimate frisbee.

In the new intramural sports, Beta Epsilon Chi Cardinals won the women's spikeball championship while Royals beat their

rival Spartans in the men's league. The Chi Alpha Pi Cavaliers took the championship title in men's pickleball. The Colts took the women's championship, making pickleball their second championship title of the academic year. The Tigers also earned a second championship title in flag football in addition to their win in recreational soccer.

The Beta Gamma Delta Patriots took two championships also: pickleball and futsal. Dodgeball saw Spartans coming in for their second win as well. Ultimate frisbee saw the Royals and Classics winning out over Cavaliers and Bandits. Both softball championships were played last night, while basketball will finish with their tournaments tonight and tomorrow.

Despite the success of the Classics' intramural teams, Classics athletic director Hannah Stuhl said one of her goals was to help keep the sports as chill as possible. "I always emphasize the fact that you're there to have fun," Stuhl said.

Stuhl attributed the success of the Classics' sports teams to the players. "They're dedicated to what they signed up for," Stuhl said. Another factor is the girls' personal motivation. "People are always complaining about society, but it is what you make of it," Stuhl said. "You don't have to be the best sports player in order to get involved."

Colts athletic director Caitlyn Benson saw her society's volleyball team A take the championship while the Colts basketball team remains undefeated. "It was a really good season," Benson said. "We killed it." Benson said everybody on the volleyball team had previous experience, which contributed to the success of the A team. She encouraged students to participate in society sports. "It's really how you get to know people, because when you play sports with people you get to know them in a different way," Benson said.

Director of the Center for Leadership Development Dr. Matthew Weathers helps oversee society sports. "I would just encourage students to participate," Weathers said. "It's not about how good or amazing anyone is at a given sport, it's the opportunity to build relationships, strengthen the body that God's given you and have a great time."

Weathers said he believes society sports are important for several reasons. "It gives students an opportunity to form and strengthen relationships outside the classroom," Weathers said. Weathers views sports as character building. "They can build relationships, which is a foundational purpose for societies themselves," Weathers said. "Oftentimes when students are sweating, working, grunting and striving together, that bonds them together."



The Men's Basketball Award will be given to a society after the championship game tomorrow. Photo: Madeline Peters

Intramural sports are also helpful physically. "There's countless research that shows physical activity helps you not just physically, but mentally, emotionally and I believe spiritually," Weathers said. "When our bodies are moving, good things happen."

While students now can participate in society sports regardless of talent, before Bob Jones University instituted intercollegiate sports in 2012 intramural sports were based on a competitive model. When intercollegiate sports were instituted, the University was

able to switch intramurals from a competitive model to a recreational model. "All students [now] have an opportunity to recreate," Weathers said.

This change in models allowed societies to have multiple teams. When societies are too small or there is not enough interest to form a team, members are able to become free agents and play on another society's team. This has led to a rise of student participation in intramural sports from 965 students in the 2011-12 academic year to 1097 students in the 2019-20 academic year.



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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Retiring writing instructor reflects on God's sovereignty



Spence references a textbook during a class. Spence currently teaches Fundamentals of Technical Writing, Business Writing and Expository Writing. Photo: Madeline Peters

Katelyn Lain

STAFF WRITER

Dr. Blake Spence, a faculty member in the department of journalism and mass communication, owes his career path to an explosion God used to change his life in ways he never anticipated.

Spence, who graduated from BJU in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in English, was severely injured in January of 1979 in an explosion at the Philadelphia manufacturing plant where he was working to earn money to finance graduate school. He and his injured co-workers were rushed to a specialized burn center where he was hospitalized for three weeks with second-degree burns over 40% of his body.

When he returned to work after a couple months of recuperation, he was moved from his previous position in distribution to the accounting department. Although working with numbers was an adjustment from his English undergraduate degree from BJU, Spence would finish his work so quickly that the accounting department started looking

for more to assign to him. After several of efficient work he was offered additional professional education, but he had already decided to change his plans and return to Bob Jones University as a faculty member.

The business environment at the plant, as unplanned of an experience as it was, had given him skills he would later need as a faculty member at BJU. "At that point, I could then see at least some of God's direction for having me go through that experience," Spence said. "Otherwise I wouldn't have had the opportunity to be in the accounting department."

God continued to direct his career path. When he had been an undergraduate at BJU, Spence said he hadn't wanted to teach – now, he was returning to BJU as a faculty member in the English department, teaching freshman English tutorials and sophomore literature classes.

"One of the things that God will do is overlook our foolishness and direct us in the way that he wants us to go," Spence said.

Originally, Spence hadn't considered teaching as a career because he thought

it was primarily oral lecture-based, which he didn't consider himself skilled in. But about eight years into his teaching career, Spence was asked to teach writing.

The opportunity to teach a writing class was exciting for him because instead of just giving lectures on material, he could capitalize on his strengths as a professor by working alongside students to instruct them through their assignments. "I can use those interests and skills in teaching writing courses because making comments and suggestions on student writing is primarily what that is about," Spence said.

After years of unplanned career shifts, Spence said he sees how the Lord led him in using his gifts in ways he did not think would be connected to his English degree.

But Spence's education didn't end at that bachelor's degree from BJU: he finished his master's degree in reading and language education from the University of Delaware and then earned a master's degree in professional communication from Clemson University and a doctorate in education from BJU.

In 2000, Spence was appointed department head for the professional writing and publication department, and in 2010 he led a team to merge his department with the radio and television department to form the journalism and mass communication department. Spence served as the department head of the new JMC department for the next 10 years before passing it to his colleague Kathryn Gamet in the spring of 2020.

Josiah Fagan, a sophomore IT major who took Spence's Technical Writing class, said a significant portion of his networking class grade is based on lab reports he writes using the professional writing skills Spence taught him.

"The fact that I was able to actually put into practice what he was teaching was what really helps me, and the concepts really stuck with me," Fagan said.

Outside BJU, Spence uses his communication skills as a South Carolina-licensed adoption inspector. Spence conducts pre-adoption interviews with potential adoptive parents, as well as follow-up interviews with

recent adoptive parents to certify that the adopted child is placed in a safe home. He and his wife, Marion, whom he married just seven months after the plant explosion, are also involved in Sunday School leadership at their local church, Hampton Park Baptist. They have four children and 16 grandchildren. Spence has also coached youth soccer and enjoys supporting his favorite baseball team, the Baltimore Orioles.

Spence will retire this year after a 40-year career at BJU that he credits to the sovereign leading of the Lord. Spence said that although he wouldn't want to relive it, in retrospect the explosion was not a bad thing because the Lord used it to redirect his life.

Spence said Nahum 1:7 has been his life verse ever since a friend sent it to him after the explosion that changed his life. "The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."

"That verse was very meaningful to me at the time and continues to be meaningful," he said.