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Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC 29614

M&G celebrates 70th year, location change

09/27
2021



Benjamin West, P.R.A.'s *The Ascension*, an oil painting owned by M&G, hangs in BJU's War Memorial Chapel.

Photo: Robert Stuber

Ethan House

STAFF WRITER

Despite the closure of the Museum & Gallery's location on Bob Jones University's campus in 2017, M&G remains active as it plans for its 70th anniversary and seeks funding for its relocation to a new building in downtown Greenville.

Following a 2018 study examining the feasibility of fundraising for renovations at the main campus location, M&G was approached by a local developer about the possibility of a new location in Greenville's commercial district between Academy Street and River Street.

The upcoming project would double M&G's available space and provide a more accessible location for community members, as well as rooms for lectures to maintain an educational focus.

"I think it's important that [people] understand that it was for the students, primarily, that [M&G] existed," Dr. Bob Jones III, the M&G board chairman, said. "That is shifting somewhat since the accessibility for stu-

dents will be less, but it would certainly be M&G, Inc.'s desire that the museum would be widely used for its continued educational purpose."

The new building is a proposed conference center that will house M&G as well as a satellite location for the Greenville County Museum of Art.

In celebration of its 70th anniversary this year, M&G compiled a catalog showcasing prints of 55 of the pieces in its European Old Master Painting Collection. The catalog also includes an essay focusing solely on the museum's founder, Dr. Bob Jones Jr.

"Nothing [from an art perspective] has ever been written about him exclusively before," said Erin Jones, the executive director of M&G. "He's been included in other essays about collectors, because there were only a handful of them who were collecting this type of art in the '50s, '60s and '70s." The catalog will be available for order at the M&G Makers Market during BJU's Homecoming.

M&G is also planning six ArtBreak events

throughout the academic year. Each ArtBreak consists of a lunch with a lecture from a featured guest and will be held on the first Thursday of each month in Room 104 of the Mack Building.

On Oct. 7, the first one of the year will feature Bob Jones III speaking about his father's journey toward becoming a prolific art collector. Those interested in attending ArtBreak can register at museumandgallery.org/artbreak-in-person/.

Although M&G is currently closed awaiting its relocation, parts of the collection are still available for viewing. The Benjamin West Collection, which features seven paintings from the artist's Progress of Revealed Religion series, is on display in the War Memorial Chapel at Bob Jones University.

Several works from the European Old Master Painting Collection can be viewed in the Gustafson Fine Arts Building, and electronic banners featuring digitized

versions of several pieces can be seen on the monitors around campus.

Additionally, M&G is loaning out a number of works from its collections to various museums, including sending *The Presentation of Christ in the Temple* by Antoine de Lonhy to Palazzo Madama in Italy.

Notably, 64 works are being loaned to the Orlando Museum of Art in Florida for an exhibit showcasing the Old Master Painting Collection. Several more are currently on display in the Georgia Museum of Art in an exhibit on 17th century Spanish artwork, and the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., is borrowing some artifacts from M&G's antiquities collection.

Even though public viewing hours are unavailable and portions of the collection are currently in storage, private tours of the campus location can still be scheduled by appointment through the M&G website. ☎



M&G's location on BJU campus has been closed since 2017.

Photo: Robert Stuber



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SPIRIT WEEK

OUTREACH

The Community Outreach Fair will be held Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. on Palmetto Green.

SEMINAR

Hillary Dobson of Truist Bank will lead a financial wellness seminar Thursday at 4 p.m. in Levinson Hall. See page 3 for more information.

CONCERT

The Symphonic Wind Band will perform Friday at 6 p.m. in the Gazebo.

GAME

The women's soccer team will play Johnson University Friday at 7 p.m. in Alumni Stadium.



Design: Arianna Rayder

COLUMN



Erin del Toro

STAFF WRITER

Every time I experience a story, it changes me. Whether the medium is a film or book, play or music album, all media tells a story, either explicitly or implicitly.

Our lives are also stories. The way we choose to present ourselves to other people, the things that happen to us and what we choose to do with those things (good or bad) all work together to make up the story of who we are as individuals.

Every experience is also a story, and we need to start consciously listening to the stories that we come across in our lives.

Despite their pervasiveness, stories matter. Just because we see them constantly and consistently does not mean that their value is cheapened because they are familiar to us.

They may be even more influential because we live and breathe them. Stories are important because they affect us. In traditional storytelling formats, such as books and movies, the way stories affect us is more obvious.

See **COLUMN** p. 3 >>

The Collegian Editorial

The Gospel without borders

As our world becomes increasingly globalized and polarized, most of us feel the tension between cultures, our own and those foreign to us. Do we believe our own nation is the best in the world? Do we work to understand cultures other than our own?

As Christians, we face questions with an even greater impact. Is our nation a “Christian nation”? If not, should we be living contrary to our own culture? If so, should we be spreading our culture beyond our borders, as a way of improving others? If our nation is the best, then we should share it with others, right?

As Christians, we understand these questions have a deeper impact than just relationships between people because they apply to how the Gospel is treated across cultural borders. Do we render the Gospel offensive by adding our own cultural biases to the message?

Jesus shared the Gospel in a way that broke barriers and crossed borders. And His gospel did this not by enforcing one culture, but by transcending culture completely.

For example, He gave a parable that painted Samaritans in a better light than the Jewish religious leaders (Luke 10:25-37).

He intentionally traveled through Samaria, a country those in His culture avoided because they considered it inferior to their own (John 4). While there, He ministered to a Samaritan woman who asked Him specifically about cultural differences. He waved these differences aside for what was more important, the Gospel (John 4:19-24). Jesus did not come to correct her culture, but to correct her heart.

On Mars Hill, Paul used the Athenians’ religious culture as a starting point for the Gospel (Acts 17:22-28). He did not shame the Greeks for their ignorance; instead, he told them what they were missing.

And as Gentile believers were added to the Jewish believers, Paul was adamant that they not be required to move into a different

culture to follow Christ. When the Jewish congregation attempted to separate from the uncircumcised Gentiles, Paul reminded them that God works beyond the constraints of culture (1 Cor. 7:18-20).

In fact, Paul wrote, “Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God” (1 Cor. 7:19). The cultural connotations of circumcision were not as important as the work of God and the unity of the body of Christ.

Modern Christians face this problem just as the early church did. A Christian from the U.S. might face this for the first time when traveling to visit other Christians.

Perhaps the music from her church is played only on a piano, but a church she visits in another country uses traditional drums in its worship. Perhaps her church stands with hands lifted in reverence to pray or sing, but those in the foreign church move to the music and lift loud voices in unison during public prayer.

Modern missionaries deal with cultural differences on a daily basis. For example, a missionary from the U.S. must decide whether to bring his piano or modify his hymnbook to include the traditional drums.

Christians are a “peculiar people” because we follow a culture that is in this world, but not of it (Deut. 14:2, John 17:14-16). This culture, whether it be in schools, churches or other communities, offers us the privilege of showing how God is glorified through unity in diversity. There is no better place to see diversity than in the body of Christ when following God’s commands.

We have the opportunity and responsibility to continue the ministry that transcends cultures by sharing the Gospel that breaks down barriers. And in so doing, we will be like our Savior, who draws all people to Himself (John 12:32).

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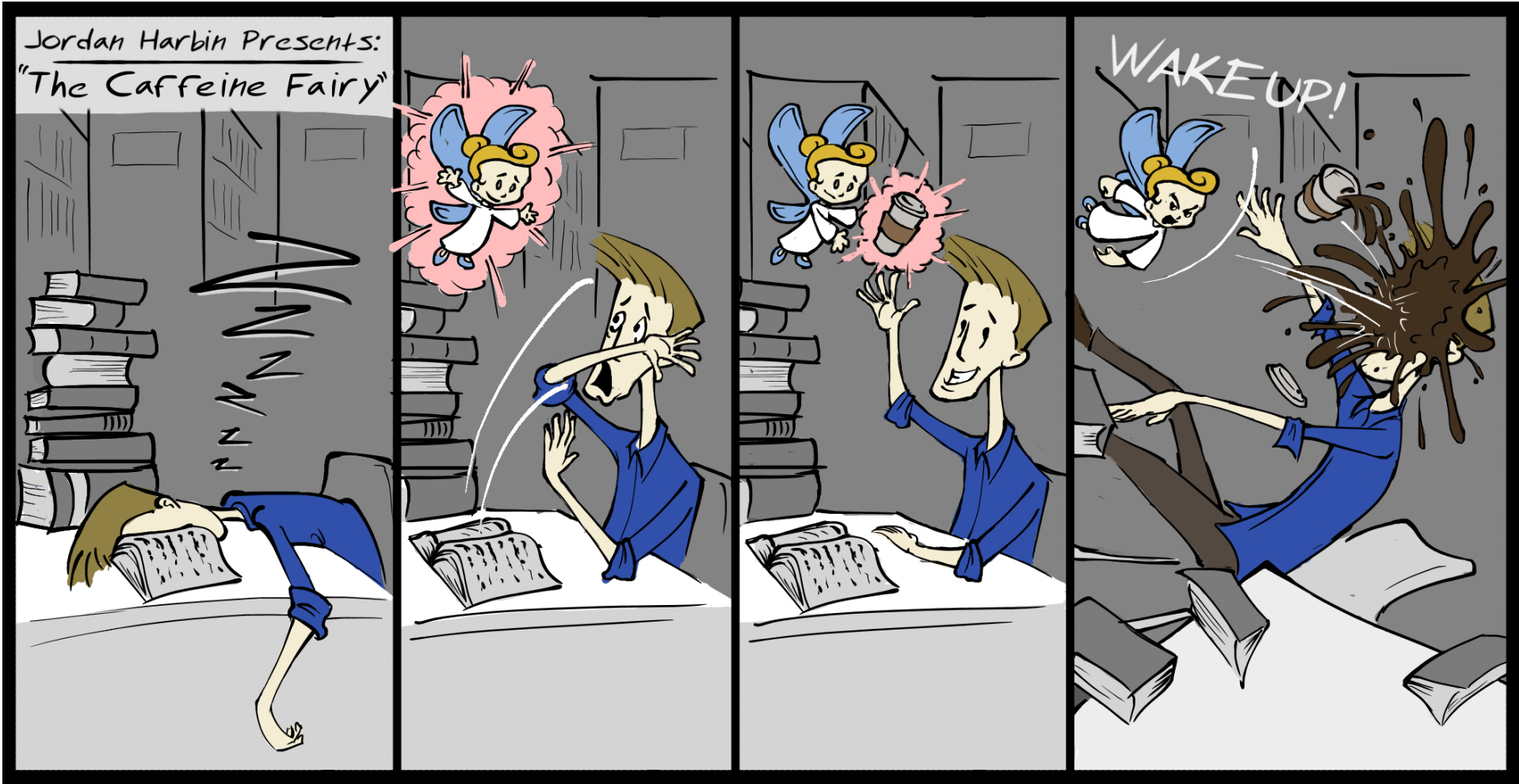
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Comic: Jordan Harbin
Originally appeared in Vol. 30 No.4

»» From **COLUMN** p. 2

In one of my favorite movies, Pixar’s *Coco*, the main character Miguel dreams of becoming a famous musician.

The audience relates to this character and his experience because we all have dreams, and we as the audience connect to that universal experience.

Another example of this can be found in the novella *The Old Man and the Sea*, written by Ernest Hemingway.

The protagonist is a fisherman named Santiago who hasn’t caught a fish in a long time. He dreams of regaining his dignity by catching a great fish after having endured the mockery of the locals for so long.

What makes both these stories great is their uni-

versality. We have all had dreams of achieving greatness in some capacity. We have all felt that we had to prove ourselves in something, whether the outside pressure from those around us was real or imagined. And we relate to the characters, becoming invested in the outcomes of their actions.

Because we become so easily invested in stories and narratives, we need to make sure that we are aware of what they are saying to us and how we are responding to those messages.

My point is not that we should never listen to stories or people who tell us wrong things. What I’m saying is that we need to be aware of those messages so we can better interact with the narratives they are attached to.

We can do this by thinking about the messages behind the stories we are consuming and by recognizing what the creators of those stories are saying. Once we recognize the ideas being communicated to us, then we can analyze if those ideas are valuable or not.

One of my cinema professors, Christopher Zy-dowicz, told us in class a few weeks ago that in learning to create great stories that have meaning, we are learning to “rise above the noise.”

I think this applies not only to the creation of stories but also to the interpretation of stories.

There’s a lot of noise in life and media. When we recognize the beliefs of the people behind stories and evaluate them, we learn to rise above the noise of accepting ev-

ery ideology that comes our way.

We also learn how to be better stewards of our minds, cultivating a mindset of critical thinking that protects us from our naivete and the bad ideas of others. ©


Because we become so easily invested in stories and narratives, we need to make sure that we are aware of what they are saying to us and how we are responding to those messages.

–Erin del Toro

FINANCIAL WELLNESS SEMINAR

The Student Financial Aid Office will sponsor a Financial Wellness Seminar about budgeting and net worth Thursday 4–5 p.m. in Levinson Hall. Hillary Dobson, the assistant vice president at Truist Bank, will speak at the event. She will share financial knowledge directed at helping students before and after they graduate.

Attendees will be entered into a drawing for Bridge City Coffee gift cards



GO Week prioritizes missions



Elisabeth Chavez and Grace Welsh lead the attendees of Missions Advance.
Photo: Melia Covington

Hannah Bray

STAFF WRITER

Global Opportunities Week 2021 highlighted medical missions opportunities through the primary speaker Dr. Tom Kendall, a surgeon and administrator of a Christian hospital in Togo, who spoke on the compassion of Jesus.

GO Week, which ran this year from Sept. 20 through Sept. 23, focused primarily on missions and upcoming short-term missions opportunities for students.

Jordan Baun, the coordinator of Outreach and Evangelism for the Center for Global Opportunities, said he did a lot of work behind the scenes with setting up GO Week.

Baun said all students had the opportunity to be involved with GO Week through the chapels, break-out sessions and exhibits, which focused on missions. So regardless of academic

work and other commitments, all students were able to at least participate in and learn about missions opportunities through the chapels and sessions. Some topics the sessions covered were using medical missions to plant churches, reaching restricted people groups through medical missions and an update on the Hope Christian Center, last year's Bible Conference offering.

Students were able to visit displays from about 30 missions agencies in the dining common lobby, The Den and the Mack Building. These agencies offered both short-term and long-term missions opportunities for students and a few one or two-year internship opportunities.

BJU's upcoming mission teams recruited members during GO Week. Other GO Week activities and opportunities included a short-term

missions expo on Monday night, a prayer rally on Tuesday morning and a medical missions panel on Wednesday. Thursday night highlighted Piedmont Women's Center's Night for Life.

Nicole Hardin, a graduate student in intercultural studies who majored in cross-cultural service for her undergraduate degree, said she made a lot of mission board contacts during a past GO Week and even received an internship opportunity because of it. She said GO Week also showed her what missions opportunities are available.

"What GO week provides is a way for students to connect with mission boards and with people with experience in the field, so that we can glean from them ... and see a realistic view of what missions is like and what to expect," Hardin said.

Mark Vowels, the director of the CGO, said whether students plan to be missionaries or to go on short-term missions, they can benefit from GO week.

"I am the main missions teacher here, so you would think my main goal is to push everybody to become a missionary, but it really isn't," Vowels said. His main goal for GO Week was for people to stop and think about how they can use their major to make disciples.

Vowels emphasized that Christians can glorify God through any career. "There are some places you can go as a physical therapist you're not going to go if you're saying, 'my job is to be a missionary,'" Vowels said.

Kendall went on a short-term mission trip in high school, which encouraged him to pursue medical missions. He works as a surgeon and

administrator at L'Hôpital Baptiste Biblique in southern Togo, where his family has lived for the past five years.

Kendall said one of the goals he's working toward over the next couple of years is training Christian African doctors. Kendall applied his focus on the compassion of Jesus to missions generally but emphasized the application to medical missions.

Kendall also reiterated that the goal of GO Week is not to make missionaries, but to show BJU students how they can be good servants of Christ and disciple-makers wherever they are, regardless of their major and future plans.

"You do more than just preach and teach," Kendall said. ©



Jon Daulton shares his experience with students interested in ministry.
Photo: Melia Covington



Missions Advance meetings often include praying for missionaries.
Photo: Melia Covington

What GO Week provides is a way for students to connect with mission boards and with people with experience in the field.

-Nicole Hardin

Classic Players tread ‘off the boards’

Andrew Thompson

STAFF WRITER

The Bob Jones University Classic Players acting troupe brought the Shakespearean arts to the Upstate Renaissance Faire in Greer on Sept. 11, performing off campus for the first time in a half-century.

Anna Brown, an actor in the Classic Players and a scriptwriter at BJU Press, said she was enthusiastic about the chance for BJU to participate in the local com-

Shakespearean arts on campus. This public performance joined the city of Greer and dozens of local businesses to put on the first Upstate Renaissance Faire in town.

John Cox, a faculty member in the department of theatre, headed up the project and was charged with pioneering this new direction in performance.

“We named this project Classic Players Off the Boards because when actors are about to act,

tor interactions, including actors sitting in the crowd, joking with the crowd and giving the audience pieces of poetry on paper.

Cox said this performance highlighted Shakespearean plays’ interactive nature.

“We can play it closer to [how] Shakespeare’s actors would have played it because they would have had people close up watching them, and they would have interacted with them while they



BJU junior Robert Stuber crafted his own costume for the faire.

Photo: Melia Covington

munity arts for the first time in decades.

“We went to Greer and got to see the space, and I got goosebumps because it felt like going back to the roots of Shakespeare,” she said. “It’s true we don’t have to travel very far. But in theatre history, you’d have travelling troupes. To go outside of the BJU campus to perform ... it symbolically feels like going back to historical roots.”

This production represented over 90 years of the Classic Players’ work. The troupe has historically invited students, faculty and alumni of BJU to celebrate the

a lot of times they’ll say, ‘I’m going to go tread the boards’ because they would act on board floors,” he said. “We called it off the boards because we’re not on our typical stage.”

“We put together cast ... half undergraduate students, half faculty, staff and alumni,” Cox continued. “They’re knocking things out of the park. It’s really great.”

The performance lasted 30 minutes and included an assortment of scenes from some of Shakespeare’s plays, including *As You Like It* and *The Life and Death of King John*. The show featured audience-ac-

were playing,” he said. “There’s music, there are music jokes and we’re going to have some Shakespearean insults and pick-up lines that people can experiment with up close.”

Brown believes the piece was important for bringing renewed interest in Shakespeare.

“I would love for people to walk away and think, ‘Wow, I could follow what they were saying, and that was way more fun than I thought Shakespeare could ever be,’” she said. “Whether we are introducing Shakespeare for the first time, or we are making Shakespeare look cool,



The Classic Players sang an a capella rendition of ‘Hey Robin, Jolly Robin.’

Photo: Melia Covington

both of those would be a win.”

The Renaissance Faire also featured a wide variety of other attractions. From replica weapons and fencing arenas to candle-making and hand-made leather crafts, the event offered many rare opportunities.

The Logos Theatre, a Christian venue that performs family-orient-

ed plays teaching biblical values, also brought a large dragon puppet manned by several puppeteers that threaded through the crowds.

Hannah Allen, a Classic Players actor, thinks this community performance is important to show BJU’s desire to contribute to the community. ☺



The dragon puppet from Logos Theatre was operated by four puppeteers.

Photo: Melia Covington

Palimpsest honors retiree’s legacy

Nathaniel Hendry
STAFF WRITER

The Division of Art + Design will host a calligraphy art exhibition featuring works by Kathryn Bell and other Southeastern artists in the Sargent Art Building from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30.

Bell served in the Division of Art + Design for many years and as the coordinator of the art education program before retiring. She will discuss the exhibit, titled Palimpsest: Exploring Contemporary Calligraphy, during a talk on Oct. 12 at 6 p.m. in Levinson Hall.

During her talk, Bell plans to discuss her experience and legacy at BJU. “Legacy is a period of time, but it’s also what you gained during that period of time and what you leave behind during that time,” Bell said.

Dr. Jared Stanley, the Art + Design faculty member who organized the exhibition, said the theme symbolizes the goal of the legacy show.

“Palimpsest” denotes the ancient scribal practice of scraping the original writing off a manuscript to reuse the parchment. Over time the older ink remnants

would resurface, creating a layered effect. Similarly, the legacy shows recognize retired art faculty members, such as Bell, by bringing their art back into visibility.

“I want to make sure that [Bell] is honored for her years of service and her dedication to the Lord through her artwork,” Stanley said. Bell has over 40 years of calligraphy and lettering experience and taught classes in art education, calligraphy and lettering.

“I enjoyed teaching very much; it was really exciting to me to be a part of the faculty,” Bell said.

Stanley said he wanted to highlight contemporary calligraphy as art itself, apart from its usual tangential use of embellishing other messages. “We wanted to see how calligraphy or lettering has been used or elevated into a different sense, into almost a complete work,” he said.

Jay Bopp, chair of the Division of Art + Design, said, “What we’re doing with this exhibition is sort of taking something that tends to be a little more commercial and making it a little bit more

artistic.”

Stanley said the expansion of digital graphics has caused many calligraphy artists to experiment with unique ways of making calligraphy more aesthetic.

For example, instead of traditional quill pen or nib writing, works may feature brushed ink lettering, inscribed wording, three-dimensional lettering or incomplete letter writing, Bopp said.

This exhibition is the first time in three decades BJU has sponsored a calligraphy exhibit that includes artwork from artists outside the University. Bell helped jury submissions by calligraphy artists in the Carolinas and from BJU alumni to include in the exhibition space.

In jurying, judges evaluate submitted works for their artistic merit and relevance to the theme.

Including outside artists in future legacy shows will help BJU honor the contributions of leading artists. Past legacy shows have been dedicated to retired Art + Design faculty members such as Carl Blair, Darell Koons, Jim Brooks, John Roberts and Dave Appleman.

Bell has also been featured previously at the annual Homecoming Makers Market and at shows in her home studio.

Palimpsest, originally scheduled for last year but delayed because of COVID-19, is the first of a series of exhibitions featuring artists from outside the University.

“The idea is that these will overlap with Homecoming as well so that all these will be encouraging our alumni to be involved with the school,” Stanley said. “That can benefit them by being in a show—that helps them as an artist—and it helps us as we bring more attention to what we’re doing in this department.”



Bell explains that her legacy includes her work and her experiences.
Photo: Nathaniel Hendry

Legacy is a period of time, but it’s also what you gained during that period of time and what you leave behind during that time.

—Kathryn Bell



A palimpsest is a multi-layered manuscript.
Photo: Nathaniel Hendry

sudoku

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Bruins to join NCAA Division III

Jarred Scott

SPORTS WRITER

BJU’s intercollegiate sports teams are moving closer toward becoming full-standing members of NCAA Division III, potentially by 2023.

Although more work needs to be done, Director of Athletics Neal Ring believes the athletics program has already reached several important milestones in the journey to joining NCAA Division III.

“After Dr. Pettit became the new president, we met to discuss the athletics [department’s] future,” he said. “I outlined our options, from staying where we were all the way to move to NCAA Division I,” he

ture of NCAA Division III schools and with our own culture,” Ring said. “The group made the recommendation, which I passed to Dr. Pettit, who agreed with moving that direction.”

Ring then presented the recommendation to the BJU Board of Trustees and received unanimous approval to pursue NCAA Division III.

The University applied in January 2018 for exploratory status with the NCAA. Then in 2019, the University asked for an additional exploratory year before being accepted as a provisional year one NCAA Division III school on Sept. 1, 2020.

“For 2021, now that we’re a Division III institution, we’re un-

ipate in are a specific conference and postseason play for the NCAA.

“Once we achieve our full standing as an NCAA Division III member, then we can pursue a conference, and participate in postseason play for both conference and national titles if we earn the opportunity,” Ring said.

As far as the athletic program’s future in Division III, Ring said the goal is to be in a Division III conference going into the 2023 fall season.

“The president and I are working to build relationships with presidents and athletic directors of other Division III schools because ultimately it’s the presidents that make the decision if we may join a conference,” he said.

“We’re trying to build relationships, so when we’re shown as a potential member, people know us as an institution and what our athletic program is about and can vote with an understanding of who we are,” Ring said.

He also said they are in conversation with conference commissioners to see what fits best and asking if other colleges have any questions.

“We are hopeful as we go forward that we will remain a good candidate for the NCAA, as they have assured us that we are an excellent candidate,” he said.

BJU’s student-athletes are optimistic about the changes and the program’s future plans.

Adrian Lasval, a soph-



Andrew Arrowood, a forward on the men’s soccer team, advances the play.

Photo: Prince Sarnicula



The Davis Field House gym received an update over the summer.

Photo: Bradley Allweil

said. “Dr. Pettit asked me to come back with some recommendations instead of listing potential options.”

Ring said a working group that included members of every campus department was formed. The group evaluated over 50 other colleges in Division III and based on that study, the committee ultimately recommended that BJU join NCAA Division III.

“Part of that had to do with the academic na-

der the same reporting guidelines as the rest of the NCAA Division III,” Ring said.

Ring needs to submit a large volume of paperwork to meet these requirements.

As a provisional year two member, BJU must operate as an NCAA Division III institution. The NCAA insignia will appear on the basketball court and the Alumni Stadium booth. The only opportunities that BJU cannot yet partic-

omore criminal justice major on the baseball team, said he feels prepared for the transition. “For the baseball team specifically, I think the change won’t be as hard, because last year was our first season, ... and coaches had started recruiting and getting us to play like a DIII school, so the switch might feel a bit easier,” he said.

Lasval added that since the competition is different, he believes it will be

good for the university and for the athletes because better competition will bring in better players to recruit.

Anna Grace Abrams, a senior political science major on the women’s soccer team, said, “I think we can handle [the switch], based on play style and our players. ... I think this will help us recruit more athletes in the sense that’s what we’re going to need [in the future].”

Overall, Abrams, who transferred from Liberty University for her senior year, thinks the switch will be positive and that the team is on the right track.

“I played for three years in a DI program [at Liberty University], so, I am personally excited the team I’m joining is already starting to move up and compete at the next level,” she said. “And I know the other girls are too.”

Once we achieve our full standing as an NCAA Division III member, then we can pursue a conference, and participate in postseason play for both conference and national titles if we earn the opportunity.

-Neal Ring

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Trainer finds BJU calling

Kirsten Oss

STAFF WRITER

Brian Trainer, a new faculty member in the School of Religion, looks forward to training the next generation of ministry students at Bob Jones University.

Trainer teaches classes in cross-cultural services and the art of public speaking in preaching, homiletics.

But his primary focus is on cross-cultural studies and pastoral ministry because the knowledge from the classes he teaches is foundational to constructing a Gospel-centered worldview.

“I love teaching cross-cultural studies because I think part of our Christian education is actually a perspective of what’s happening in the world,” he said. “And when you have a chance to sit in front of a class and talk about what’s happening in Argentina, Russia and China, it adds perspective [of the world around you].”

His story started in central Ohio in 1964. No stranger to moving around as a child, he found himself moving

to BJU in Greenville to become a Bible major. The decision was not difficult even though he laughingly looks back on the reasoning.

“So, [I’m] coming to BJU,” he said. “It’s a Christian school. Shouldn’t you study the Bible? So I came in as a Bible major partially because I had no other idea what the other options were.”

Trainer went on to graduate from BJU in 1987 with his biblical studies undergraduate degree and dual minor in Greek and public speaking and in 1991 with a master’s degree in pastoral studies. He later earned a Master of Divinity from Virginia Beach Theological Seminary and is currently working toward his doctorate in expositional preaching with a focus on apocalyptic literature from BJU Seminary.

Trainer used his interest in learning about the Gospel to serve college and church ministries.

Trainer served as the dean of men at Clearwater Christian College, the chief operating officer at Faith Baptist Bible

College, the dean of the College of Bible and Ministry at Maranatha Baptist University, as a dean at Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, as the president of the Institute of Language and Cultural Exchange and as the executive pastor at Lakewood Baptist Church.

But when BJU called Trainer about a job, he knew he had found his calling.

“When the University contacted me and said, ‘Would you consider coming,’ I [thought about how] Bob Jones University is uniquely prepared to meet the needs of what God is doing in the world today,” he said.

Highlighting the needs BJU is poised to meet, Trainer explained the University’s mission for training seminary students.

As more pastors and missionaries leave churches and mission fields than are replacing them, the next generation of ministerial leaders have more opportunities to fill the gap.

But these servants do not all need to be pastors or seminary students.

“It doesn’t have to be full-time vocational ministers. It can look like educators. It can look like nurses. It can look like engineers and lots of oth-



Trainer enjoys teaching Bible classes with a focus on cross-cultural impact.

Photo: Robert Stuber

er things,” he said.

Trainer’s own love of sharing the Gospel has taken him abroad to over 50 countries in the span of almost 25 years, and he has taken countless students with him on his mission teams.

His goal is to expose students to how God is working in the world around them, broadening their perspectives.

Trainer drew on his experience to offer advice to those interested in the mission field.

“When you go on an

overseas trip your primary goal is not to think in terms of how you’re going to impact where you’re going but how that location is going to impact you, how that team should shape you and how that should transform you and move you,” he said. “So the focus from a student perspective, from a team perspective, is usually on discipleship.”

But Trainer’s experience sharing the Gospel does not end at the mission field. Back in the United States, he’s been sharing the Word of God for over 25 years. As a teacher in a ministerial context, he shared the responsibility and excitement that comes with training the next generation of Christian leaders.

“You want them to be more prepared,” he said. “And you also know that the challenges they’re going to face are going to be greater than the ones that you faced, so that opportunity to have influence and to partner with BJU in ministries is a great privilege.” ©

I think part of our Christian education is actually a perspective of what’s happening in the world.

—Brian Trainer



Trainer has been on the staff of at least five different Christian institutions.

Photo: Robert Stuber