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BJU team competes for XPRIZE Foundation prize

10/18
2021



A team of three engineering majors, one biochemistry major, one chemistry major and two business majors worked with one faculty member from each discipline to develop BJU's submission for the XPRIZE competition.

Photo: Roy Rogers

Andrew Thompson

STAFF WRITER

A Bob Jones University cross-disciplinary team of students and faculty are competing in the Elon Musk-funded XPRIZE carbon removal challenge this semester to aid in the reduction of excess carbon in the environment.

The XPRIZE Foundation, a nonprofit organization, has been conducting cash prize competitions to drive innovation from the private sector since 1994, but The Musk Foundation's \$100 million contribution toward the project is the largest cash incentive prize ever given out in the foundation's history. The prize will be portioned out in varying amounts to winners at different times along a four-year competition that includes several stages.

BJU completed the first stage of the competition by submitting a proposal on Oct. 1. The team will present their work to the BJU student body on Thursday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. in Levinson Hall. The Foundation will announce the winners of the student prizes in November.

Dr. Bill Lovegrove, head of the BJU department of engi-

neering, serves as the main faculty adviser behind the project. "People like Elon Musk have been saying that if excess carbon dioxide in the environment is really going to cause problems down the road, then it's not enough just to slow down emissions," he said. "We have to find a way to get the carbon dioxide out of the air."

"One of the requirements is you have to capture a kiloton of carbon [1,000 tons] over the course of a year," Lovegrove said. "That's the minimum to win the main prize of \$50 million. Not only that, but the winner also has to actually prove that a kiloton of carbon was captured."

The BJU team is particularly interested in the prizes being given out to students.

"Most of these prizes are not suited to students," Lovegrove said. "Most of the prizes are for big commercial entities that have the money to put into pursuing the project. However, Elon Musk decided he wanted a student component in this competition with smaller prizes. The students are in the running for a prize of \$100,000 upfront to continue their work."

If the students earn the prize, BJU plans to use the money to

produce the carbon-measuring device based on the prototype they have built. Ultimately, the team hopes to market the product to those interested in carbon capture technology.

"The students don't have to build a working carbon capture plant," Lovegrove said. "They have to work on one piece of the puzzle." The team is working on a measurement

tool. "A tool is needed to measure if a proposed plant is actually successful in capturing and storing carbon," Lovegrove said.

The BJU team is focusing on a device that would specifically measure carbon storage in the soil, a potential solution to solve the excess carbon problem. A multi-disciplinary class

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Junior business administration major Reagan Riddell (top), sophomore business administration major Joseph Simpson (right), junior biochemistry major Tricy Yue (bottom) and Lovegrove (left) represent a few of the disciplines involved.

Photo: Robert Stuber

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FALL BREAK

For the first time in University history, BJU students are enjoying a Fall Break, a two day break from class on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 18 and 19.

Although the administration originally planned to hold Fall Break last year, those plans were canceled in favor of ending the semester at Thanksgiving because of COVID-19.

After BJU added an extra week to the fall semester this year to match the length of the spring semester, the administration believed a break would allow students to rest during a busy time of the semester.



Design: Arianna Rayder

COLUMN



Nathaniel Hendry

STAFF WRITER

Attempting to sleep while riding in the car is not optimal, but being awakened from that sleep by a scream is far worse. High-pitched screams of distress accompanied by low-pitched rumble-strip tones instantly brought my 10-year-old self back to vivid consciousness.

We were drifting off the road, heading straight for a road sign. The driver quickly reacted. Overreacted, that is. She yanked the steering wheel back the other way.

The car started turning the other way. Then it kept turning. Three times it spun around, crossing the entire two-lane highway before smacking into a tree backwards at 50 mph. The front seats slammed back, breaking my nose and gashing my brother's forehead. The front seat passenger's head needed 13 staples. Ironically, the driver only had a small scratch.

This car-totalling wreck

See **COLUMN** p.3 >>

The Collegian Editorial

Respect bridges generations

Sometimes, it's tempting to assume that rebellion against authority began with sarcastic memes and long rants about Boomers. But that's not true. Every generation has seen conflict with those outside their age group.

We only have to look back to when Baby Boomers were young to find an iconic example of rebellion in the 1960s. Similarly, the generation the Baby Boomers rebelled against had rebelled against their parents during the 1920s. If you look hard enough, you can trace this cycle back throughout human history.

Two recurring problems contribute to this rebellion: a younger generation that doesn't respect the older and an older generation that doesn't respect the younger.

As students, it may be easy to laugh off the older generation. They don't talk like we do, and they don't dress like we do. They're not even on Instagram. They value different things than we do. And there's nothing wrong with that. They've also lived longer, and they have a wealth of experience to share if we're willing to listen. "With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding" (Job 12:12).

Older generations also have amazing stories that will be lost forever if we don't find them and write them down. Whether they were soldiers or farmers, firefighters or janitors, everyone who has lived a full life has a story to tell.

But it can also be easy to discount the younger generation. We use strange new words, and we follow the weirdest fashion

trends. We're obsessed with social media. We worry about mental health. And there's nothing wrong with that. We have a fresh perspective, and we point out areas where we can be more Christlike. "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12).

Younger generations also have the energy and fresh perspective needed to implement the wisdom of the older generation. We have unique talents, and we need people to guide and encourage us in how to use them.

Both the younger and older generations need each other. We're all part of the same body of Christ, a body of a diverse people, talents and callings. That diversity is a strength of the church. We need people with different experiences, backgrounds and skills to accomplish the Great Commission and to glorify God through everything we do. As Paul says, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him" (1 Cor. 12:18).

God has chosen each and every individual in the church, regardless of age, ethnicity or gender, to come together for His glory, the most worthy goal of all. Who are we to look down on those who are different than us within the church? After all, we're all part of one body.

Respect those older than you in your church. Encourage those younger than you. And in all things, seek the glory of God. ☺

the Collegian

Bob Jones University
Greenville, SC 29614-0001
www.collegianonline.com
Instagram: @thecollegianbj

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Editor in Chief

Vicki Olachea

Content Editor

Johnathon Smith

Design Editor

Arianna Rayder

Photo Editor

Andrew Pledger

Web Editor

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Social Media Videographer

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Photos: Nathaniel Hendry

TALKBACK

What something going on right now on or off campus that you're passionate about and keeping up with?



Dan Olinger
Faculty member in the Division of
Biblical Studies and Theology

"Work at church—a lot of things going on, and a lot of people growing in grace and others with great needs, and so I'm passionate about that."



Katie Garrison
Junior Kinesiology major

"I think on campus the [mental health] chapel series has been really important and that aren't talked about enough. So, it's really helpful, especially at this age in life, that we talk about them more."

»» From **COLUMN** p.2

did not happen because the car drifted off the road. Our originally minor predicament escalated because of the driver's reaction.

The reaction was worse than the original problem.

Reactions are a prominent part of our culture. Likes, reshares and comments underlie the essence of social media. Clickbait news headlines cause upset people to share their reactions, driving more traffic to the news outlet.

But where does reacting fit into a Christian's life? In the Bible, we are cautioned against reacting, especially with a negative attitude. "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath," James 1:19 says. In a culture that prizes hot takes and witty comebacks, Christians are called to listen patiently before reacting.

When we see something upsetting or distasteful, we should not simply react. A reaction, detached from careful thought and study, is merely the emotional outpouring of a prejudice. Instead, our reaction should prompt us to reflect and recalibrate.

By reflect, I mean we should honestly examine the situation as fairly as we can. Research the details. Seek to empathize with the other person. Filter and affirm the

valid aspects.

By recalibrate, I mean we should realign our position carefully, emphasizing what we stand for instead of what we oppose. We should not base our redirection on the erroneous path or we will likely forge a different, also wrong path. Even seeking some sort of balance between two erroneous positions still risks merely inventing another erroneous opinion. Instead, we should revisit our Bible, reflect on its guidance, and recalibrate our standards if they are not biblical.

If we watch a notable Christian fall into a major moral failure, we should not necessarily reject everything good we gleaned from them. Rather, we should reflect on the decisions that led to their downfall and take warning that we too can wander from the way.

Reacting, on its own, leads to confirmation bias. Reflecting leads to more careful beliefs. Recalibrating leads to a corrected bearing.

Instead of unleashing our indignation about things that upset us, we can view others' failures as a prompt to examine our own failures. We can view the wayward wanderings of others as a reminder to recalibrate our misdirected mindsets. When our mental rumble strips alert us someone is

Word from the Wise

A Biblical Perspective



David Lurtey
Division of Communication

Communicating with Technology

How do we know that what we are watching, reading or listening to lines up with God's perspective? I Timothy 4:4-5 says everything God created is good and shouldn't be rejected because it is made holy by the Word of God and by prayer.

Only through our daily walk with God in the Word and in prayer will we have the guidance to know when Satan is trying to take the beautiful things of God and twist them through unbiblical communication.

A church's livestream with

poor lighting or an out of focus camera; a podcast with an over-driven microphone or the hum of an air conditioner in the background; a Sunday School teacher's PowerPoint with such a small font size that most in the room can't read it—these are examples where technical issues get in the way of the message.

We should do all things with excellence. As we share the message of God's love through the various media available today, we should make sure it is not hindered by the technology that delivers it.

drifting off the road, we should refocus on the road, not on running from the rumble strips. Reactions are only helpful when they prompt us to reflect and to recalibrate. Otherwise, they will drive us off the other side of the road. ©

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Cancer survivor, former faculty member returns to teach BJU business classes

Erin del Toro

STAFF WRITER

After tackling almost 30 years of work in the business world and earning advanced degrees, David Mellor faced a new challenge—cancer.

Mellor, a former faculty member returning to BJU this year, said he found out he had cancer when he was a year and a half into his seminary degree. God used one of his favorite verses, Psalm 37:23, to minister to him during that trial.

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way." He said that during that time of sickness, he learned that God does not tell us what is coming in our lives, or we would try to direct our own steps to get to the point we think we need to be at faster.

"He knows every single step for the rest of your life," Mellor said. "But He won't tell us, and He wouldn't tell me, at that time, what is this cancer all about? The only answer was, 'Do you

trust Me?'" Mellor said he inherently trusted God and he knew this because he had taken a step of faith in beginning his seminary degree at the age of 44.

He said he believes that God gave him cancer to slow him down. He felt like he had gotten a late start and wanted to finish his seminary degree quickly, but he slowed down when the cancer came. "I wouldn't [want to have cancer] again, but I'm glad I did it once, be-



Mellor focuses his business classes on God's plan and purpose for business.
Photo: Melia Covington

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»» From **X-PRIZE** p.1

was created for the 2021 fall semester called Global Challenges. It was designed to build a team to submit a proposal for the student competition. It is triple listed as an engineering, science and business class. The class was temporarily virtual, beginning on Aug. 2 to meet the submission deadline.

With the proposal now submitted, Dr. Adele Dunn, a faculty member in the Division of Management and the marketing advisor for the project, is excited about the possibilities for the project moving forward. “The basis of the student proposal is, if they are funded, they would be able to take the project further into a second semester and then also into a summer internship to create a business and market the product,” she said.

Dr. David McKinney, a faculty member in the Division of Natural Science who is helping to direct the student team,

stressed the importance of the cross-disciplinary model of the mission.

“There’s a biology side to this project,” he said. “In all cases that we know of the science behind storing the carbon is going to require biological processes, specifically microbial metabolism. So, there is a biochemistry major on the team, and I’m the biology faculty member to represent that side.”

McKinney pointed out that this project requires very careful financial budgeting. Dunn and two business majors calculated the risks and rewards for different investments into the project. McKinney went on to say that there is currently no equipment that does what the team is trying to do, but the students are stepping up to create it.

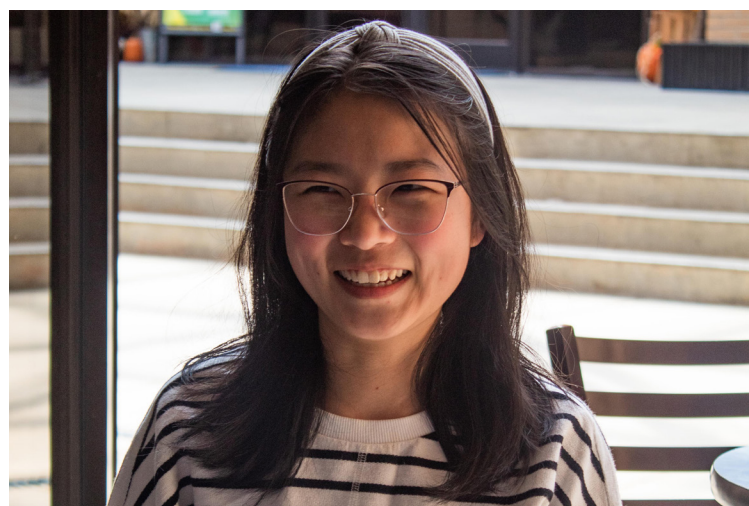
Lovegrove and the team’s three engineering majors are collaborating on the product proposal. McKinney stressed that the detection of carbon is a chemical phenomenon, so

chemistry faculty member Dr. Brian Vogt and a chemistry major were recruited.

“The way people detect carbon dioxide levels is with a fairly expensive single piece of equipment,” McKinney said. “A few people have suggested that we could do this with cheaper sensors spread over a larger area, but nobody has ever done that.”

Dunn also praised the multi-disciplinary model. “The fact that the project is cross-disciplinary, from a business perspective, makes me the most excited because that is the way the business world works,” she said. “You don’t just have business managers in the company. You also have engineers and software people. If it’s a tech company, you might also have chemists and biologists. Exciting things happen when the different disciplines cross.”

“I’ve watched them work together, and they all have been working well past midnight lately, and it is really encouraging to



Yue works with McKinney, the advisor for the biology side of the project.

Photo: Robert Stuber

see them working so dedicated as a team,” she said. “It’s not like just one person is pushing the project forward. They’re all playing to their strengths.”

Stephen Platt, a senior engineering major involved with the project, has never experienced a class quite like Global Challenges. “This class has been like ‘here is this big project. Do it—[the professors] will guide you, but we ourselves don’t necessarily know the right way to complete it.’ It has been a great experience but

very different.”

Tricy Yue, a sophomore biochemistry major involved in the project is excited about the accomplishment of submitting the proposal. “It’s so cool to have the opportunity to do something that could really help the world and the environment,” she said. “Putting all these complicated things together and creating a proposal has been a big task. But we were able to accomplish it, and that sense of accomplishment is pretty rewarding.”

Career Services offers workplace wisdom

Hannah Bray

STAFF WRITER

Career Services prepares Bob Jones University students for the modern workplace through career fairs, workshops and personalized career coaching.

Shawn Albert, director of the Career Services office, emphasized the importance of knowing how to present oneself during the application and interview process.

“You could be the best employee that an employer would want to have, but if you can’t communicate that on paper, an application, resume or in an interview, someone else will get that job even if you’re the best fit,” Albert said. Students learn and accomplish much while in college, but it’s translating what they’ve learned to getting a job that can sometimes be difficult.

An important thing for students to remember is not to give up right away if they don’t get a job immediately after graduation. “Some people turn in two or three applications and get two or three no’s and decide that’s it,” Albert said. “And then other people do hundreds of them and finally land a

really good job.” The job of Career Services is to help any student, especially those who need help when it comes to the process of preparing for and getting a job.

According to Albert, about half of BJU students have a job by graduation, but students shouldn’t count on that statistic to bring them a job.

Career Services offers a variety of informative workshops to help students prepare for their professional life, including sessions on

resume advising, graduate school application preparation, job and internship searching and career coaching.

Natalie Smith, the assistant director for professional development and a certified career coach, serves as the center’s designated career coach. She asks students questions to help them gain clarity about their major, future job options or anything related to their field. Students can schedule the various ses-

sions through the center’s website, careers.bju.edu.

Smith said her goal is to guide and connect students with opportunities. “We want them to be great at getting great jobs,” Smith said.

Students would find it helpful to keep coming back to Career Services. The sessions are always open to students, and Smith encourages students to have follow-up conversations with her about the workshops.

Smith said that the value of the Career Services is in

the timeless skills they help students learn. Specifically, skills like writing a good resume tailored to a specific job, promoting oneself and articulating the skills one has developed are lifelong necessities.

“This generation which you guys are in, you’re going to change jobs roughly every three to five years,” Smith said. “So if you can learn these skills now, you’ll be prepared to continue to do [the application process] time and again.”

TAKE IT FROM ME

“So you decide the topic, and my role as the coach is to guide the process,” Natalie Smith, my career coach for this session, said. Sitting down at her desk, I resisted the urge to grab one of the chocolates from her jar.

I told her I’d like to discuss my future job options because I’m that senior who still doesn’t know what they’d like to do after graduation. Smith began by asking me questions about my major, my interests and about the reasons I’m stuck between two job options.

Smith’s questions got to the heart of my problem with choosing a job, and instead of answering the big question of whether I should be a book editor or a journalist, she asked questions that touched on the cause of my conflicting thoughts.

The most interesting part was that while she

would occasionally give advice, Smith primarily asked questions intended to draw the solutions to my problems out from myself.

For example, when we discussed how I struggle with the pressure of needing to decide what I want to do, she asked, “How can that pressure be a positive for you?”

I responded, “I could use it to encourage myself to start looking into some options instead of just worrying about it.”

While I was the one who seemingly coached myself, I never would have admitted the answers or thought about them much on my own without her questions.

I’d recommend that other students who need help planning their future visit the Career Services office on the second floor of the Alumni Building.

BJU Press sales boom driven by Christian educators, homeschoolers

Ethan House

STAFF WRITER

While large numbers of businesses are closing and many more companies have been struggling to remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic, BJU Press has experienced a 30% increase in total sales in the past year as the number of families sending their children to Christian schools or choosing to homeschool rises.

After an initial decrease in sales in March and April 2020, BJU Press saw a 10% gain during that summer, with growth continuing throughout the remainder of the year, especially in the Christian school market.

Laurie Wilson, the communications manager for BJU Press, said sales to Christian schools, in particular, have increased by 40% over the previous year. “When COVID hit, and so many schools were having to push to remote learning, we were able to pull some of the things that we use for homeschool and push it to

Christian schools so that they could go through and continue to use the textbooks in a remote [way],” Wilson said. She also said distance learning kits had seen the greatest hike in sales over the course of the pandemic, selling 81% more than during the previous summer.

Wilson credited BJU Press’s ability to meet the heightened demand for vir-

tual classroom materials to the company’s existing digital infrastructure, which had been gradually built up over the course of the last 20 years.

In November 2020, BJU Press soft-launched two new digital tools, Homeschool Hub and Textbook Hub. Homeschool Hub, which has over 3,300 users, serves as a platform for homeschooling fam-



Design: Michaela Gonzales



Student workers such as junior visual studies major Clara Arai fill the need for extra work during increased sales.

Photo: Laura Davis

ilies to manage grades, plan schedules and track assignments, among other features. “We’ve got probably twice as many users as we thought we would, and we’re getting good responses back about [the update features],” said Milton Ashley, a senior manager of the educational technology department.

Textbook Hub, which is available for Christian schools, allows students to complete and submit workbook assignments from electronic workbooks or eWorktexts as well as use eTextbooks with new interactive sections. The platform currently has almost 30,000 users across more than 135 different eWorktexts and eTextbooks.

Sales of physical textbooks grew to the point that the printing division had difficulty meeting demand, and employees from other divisions were called on to help pack the materials for shipping. In the months of July and August, the printing division shipped over 2 million pounds of material to customers from all 50 states and over 80 countries worldwide.

The increase in sales came from a growth in the number of families seeking a Christian education. “COVID was a catalyst, ... but it wasn’t the [main] reason we see this growth in sales,” Wilson said. “We see Christians getting an awareness of what we do and reevaluating their lives and the choices they’re making, and they are choosing Christian education.”

Steve Skaggs, the director of content development, believes the reason the families and schools are choosing BJU Press over its competitors is the unique emphasis placed on blending a biblical worldview with the material.

“We’re doing something that nobody else is doing,” Skaggs said. “You ought to be able to go through our algebra one book and see everything covered there that’ll be covered in any secular text, ... but you should also then see Scripture and a biblical worldview integrated with it. We don’t believe that anybody is really doing that to the level that we are.”



Isaiah Neumann works in the printing department along with extra workers called in to meet increased demand for physical copies.

Photo: Laura Davis

»» From **MELLOR** p.3
cause I learned volumes about God, and I learned volumes about His sovereign plan for each and every one of us.”

Mellor had a long career in the business world as both a fuel system designer and management consultant. As a young Christian, he wanted to find a way to integrate his faith into his work when he joined the business world.

“I ask [my] students, ‘Does God care about business?’” Mellor said. “How? How do you know that God cares about business? [Then] to give them a verse we all know, ‘But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.’”

Mellor said God has

at some points in history dropped food from heaven for His people, but that usually He chooses to meet people’s needs in a more practical way. “He chooses business people to meet the needs of other people,” Mellor said. He thinks this shows God cares about business.

Mellor said that part of his philosophy is the idea that God calls all people to serve him. He said we have all been called to something, and we have been commanded to walk worthy of our respective callings.

“I like to ask students this question: ‘Has it ever occurred to you that whatever it is that you’re interested in, that’s not an accident?’” he said. “[Your talents are] actually God’s purposeful intention for you to now

steward those talents and abilities.”

Mellor served as the dean of the School of Applied Studies from 2002 to 2014 but has just returned this fall to BJU to fill a different position—that of a business faculty member.

In 2014, Mellor and his wife moved back to Indiana, their previous home, to help his mother move into an assisted living facility. They came back shortly after, and for the last three years Mellor has been working in Advancement at BJU.

“I had the privilege to be one of the people that raised the moneys to [renovate] the School of Health Professions and all the other cool things,” Mellor said.

Mellor said he welcomed the opportunity to return



Mellor served at BJU as the dean of the School of Applied Studies for 7 years and as the chair of the Division of Business and Trades for 5 years.
Photos: Melia Covington

to the classroom this fall. He said he has real-world experience with operations management, which is one of the classes he teaches. “I

never taught the class I’m teaching now, but I actually did it [at work] for almost two and a half decades.”

Good Times

Fall Faves

- Nix Pumpkin Patch
§ Pick your own pumpkins in NC
- Sky Top Orchard
§ Enjoy apple picking in NC

&

- Sassafras Mountain
§ Experience the season from the heights in SC

sudoku

		8	5	7				
	1		8		6			3
			2	1	3	4	8	
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BJU Bruins contend with rivals, promote sportmanship



Photos (left to right): Prince Sarnicula, Lindsay Shaleen, Prince Sarnicula, Lindsay Shaleen

Jarred Scott

SPORTS WRITER

As the fall season ramps up for Bruins athletics, many fans look forward to the team's rivalry matches with other colleges, from Toccoa to Pensacola and from Trinity Baptist to Columbia International.

In soccer, the men's team considers Pensacola Christian College and Trinity Baptist College as rivals.

Coach Greg Fulton, the new head coach of the team, said the games against Trinity Baptist are just as physical as the PCC games. "Any time any game gets physical, there's expectation for guys," he said. "There's the hope they rise above [reacting]. ... We still got to match aggression, we got to make sure we're not giving up ground when it comes to a physical match."

Against Trinity Baptist, a

Florida college, the Bruins have logged six wins, three losses and two ties since first playing them in 2016. The last match played was a dominant 4-0 victory for the men's team.

PCC is a name many students will recognize as the Bruins' main rival, especially in soccer. Since the 2012 season, both schools have created a historic rivalry where games often end in close finishes.

Fulton said the team does not do anything out of the ordinary when preparing for big games. "Routine is king," he said. "We want guys to be comfortable and consistent. We have to be the same team we've been all year because that's what made us successful."

The overall record between PCC and the Bruins is three games won to five, in favor of Pensacola. However, the Bruins enjoyed a 2-1

victory in the most recent match between the schools, their first win at PCC's Florida campus in program history. The Bruins currently have a two-game winning streak in the series.

The women's volleyball team has also had a continued rivalry with PCC and Toccoa Falls.

With the continued success of the volleyball team, it could be tempting for the Bruins not to take their rivals seriously. However, Coach Vickie Denny, the team's head coach, said her players do not take anything for granted when playing either team.

"To me, the Toccoa Falls game is just as important because in a normal year, the three of us will be vying for the championship for regionals," she said. "Pensacola and Toccoa went to five [sets] already this year so they're really close."

Denny said that a win against either team is always a goal for her players. "There's a sense where we want to beat Pensacola every time we face them," she said. "To just focus on that wouldn't be wise, but it's definitely one of their personal goals because they know people at Pensacola."

The golf team's primary challenger is Columbia International University in South Carolina.

Coach Dennis Scott said that sports, especially in the game of golf, is as much mental as it is physical.

"There's a physical aspect ... but then the game of golf is played a lot in inches—between six to seven inches between your ears," he said. "The mental side of things is really a major part of the game."

Scott said each player on the team even has score card holders that have "Next shot"

on the bottom to remind them to not worry about any mistakes they have made during a tournament.

Scott emphasized that even though the course matches against Columbia International are often close and back and forth, there is a sense of mutual appreciation and respect for the shared experience.

"I think it's more partnership than sportsmanship," he said. "Sportsmanship is like an external compliance with an expected behavior; partnership is internal. I appreciate and respect my opponent who brings out the best in me, to reach my full potential."

While the atmosphere at a Bruins game is normally quite entertaining, during a match against a rival university, the environment becomes electric. **©**

BJU seminary collaborates with national talk radio host

Kirsten Oss

STAFF WRITER

Steve Noble, the host of a nationally syndicated radio show, is partnering with the Bob Jones University Seminary on Thursday episodes called Theology Thursday to discuss cultural hot topics in light of the Gospel.

BJU Seminary created a communications team to share the Seminary's biblical worldview and knowledge with listeners such as pastors and budding ministry leaders who otherwise would not have access to the information.

Bob Maistros, a consultant serving as the team leader; Lauren Musselman, a staff member who serves as the content specialist; and Kimberly Snyder, a graduate student who works as the full-time social media and communications coordinator, comprise the team.

"Each Thursday the program will be devoted to conversations with [faculty] members and Seminary and School of Religion [leaders] to deliver next-level scholarship and teaching in a relatable way to help everyday Christians," Musselman said.

BJU faculty members

such as Dr. Steve Pettit, BJU president; Dr. Alan Benson, the executive vice president for student development and ministry advancement; Dr. Gary Weier, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Sam Horn, a faculty member in the Division of Graduate Studies at BJU Seminary; and Dr. Neal Cushman, dean of the Seminary, have been featured on air.

Reaching pastors and churches nationally over the air, the Seminary wants to share their goals for BJU as well.

"We want to spread the word about the Seminary's 500x5x5 strategic vision and encourage as many people as possible with our thought leadership," Musselman said.

The 500x5x5 plan is the Seminary's goal to get 500 pastors trained in five years and every five years after the initial mark of 2021.

"My platform provides a way for them to [spread the word about the plan] outside their regular contacts," Noble said.

Theology Thursday began when Noble was a student at Southeastern Baptist Seminary working on a master's degree in ethics,



Benson joined Theology Thursday for an episode to discuss how believers can communicate in ways that honor God.

Photo: Chris Harmony



Noble hosted Weier for an episode exploring how Christians can apply a biblical worldview to technology.

Photo: Chris Harmony

theology and culture. He worked with the seminary faculty and leadership, but as seasons of life shifted, Noble found himself open to another seminary partner.

During this time, Stu Epperson, the founder and president of The Truth Network, which airs Noble's show, directed Noble toward BJU. Epperson, a BJU alumnus, asked Noble if he would host Benson on the show to discuss the Seminary's new 500x5x5 plan.

"Alan and I set up a phone call, and ... we just hit it off," Noble said.

Although he himself had no prior affiliation with BJU, Noble visited the campus to see where the Lord would take the connections being made.

"And within six or seven

weeks, we agreed that we would embark on the partnership," Noble said.

This partnership, starting with the first episode on Sept. 2, has sparked many conversations about current culture in the light of the Gospel and BJU's educational insight.

"[Topics include] everyday issues such as technology, purity and spiritual warfare," content specialist Musselman said.

These topics are selected through conversations between Noble and the Seminary.

"I'll let the seminary know I'd like to talk about critical race theory or the abortion issue or division in the church because of COVID and vaccines and masking, and [I ask] who would be good with that [topic]," Noble said. "So

people there get to know the purpose of my show, which is really to make Christianity applicable to daily life and how you engage the hot topics of the day."

Once the topic is picked, the speakers go on air. Noble records and airs his Facebook Live from his out-of-state location while the Seminary works from its end in South Carolina.

Snyder, a Seminary staff member, is in charge of helping the faculty and leaders lend their voices to Theology Thursday.

"I am responsible for setting up camera equipment, audio equipment, organizing where our guest speaker is going to record that day and reserving a place and having it there," Snyder said.

Once these pieces are in place, Theology Thursday goes on air. People can find it at 4 p.m. EST on their local Truth Network radio station, Facebook Live feed and podcasts.

The BJU Seminary also provides resources on its Viewpoint blog to supplement the Theology Thursday discussions, which can be found at seminary.bju.edu/viewpoint-cats/blog/.

"Every week there is a corresponding viewpoint blog written by the same guest that was on The Steve Noble Show, so it's a corresponding topic or blog post that goes with his interview that day from the show, so those are some good resources," Snyder said.

Theology Thursday and the partnership, overall, have one main purpose.

"I can go get people that are great thought leaders, that your average Christian is never going to hear from," said Noble. "They're never going to sit in class. That's just not an option, so we're trying to bridge the gap between those two worlds." ©