

# the Collegian

Vol. 35 No. 6 | collegianonline.com

Bob Jones University | Greenville, SC 29614

## Faculty forum focuses on Christian view of identity

Ethan House

STAFF WRITER

BJU will hold a faculty forum aiming to answer the student body's questions about the biblical view of identity in the modern world at 7 p.m. on Thursday in Stratton Hall.

Gary Weier, BJU's provost and vice president for academic affairs, said the forum's topic was chosen for its relevance to today's culture. "I think identity is an issue that humans have always focused on," he said. "The idea of who we are as humans is a perennial issue, but in today's world, it is a key focus, and there's a lot of societal pressure to think about it in certain ways."

The event will begin with a 30-minute introduction to identity in a modern context. Dr. Brent Cook and Dr. Renton Rathbun, faculty members in the Division of Biblical Studies and Theology, will each give a brief presentation on the topic. Cook's portion will focus on the ideas that led to the current cultural idea of self-identification, and Rathbun's section will focus on a Christian response to these cultural conceptions.

Following the opening remarks, students will have the opportunity to ask Cook and Rathbun questions. Weier said the reason for using this format, as opposed to the panel discussions held last year, is to lay a clear foundation for thinking about the topic before engaging with students' questions about the issue.

Cook believes the topic of the forum is fitting for students today. "Identity is the defining issue of our times," he said. "Numerous historical and cultural factors pro-

duced our current identity crises."

"We're going to start with all the questions that are circulating in our culture—questions about race, gender, sexuality—but all of us face identity questions at some point in our lives, whether it's in our vocations

ing thing someone could possibly say to them," Rathbun said. "We're going to say some things ... to address the problem as it is, which is going to maybe be uncomfortable, which is good. People need to feel that because that's what happens when you have

the words "Who are you?" printed on them were placed in locations around campus, including outside the Den and in the Alumni Building.

According to Linda Abrams, a faculty member involved in planning the event, the posters are



Unlike previous faculty forums such as the 2016 forum Balancing Piety and Pragmatism: Evangelicals in Politics pictured above, this year's event will offer the speakers time to develop a full argument at the beginning of the discussion.

Photo: Kayla Pierce

[or] in our marriages," Cook said.

According to Rathbun, the purpose of the event is to provoke students to examine their own views on the subject and to challenge them to think biblically about identity. He believes that many young people have a distorted view of how their own identities should relate to Christianity, due to cultural pressures and weak, submissive authority figures.

Rathbun argues that people should find their identities in Christ, rather than in themselves, as has become common in modern culture.

"One of the things we want to get to is why it is that when young Christians are told to imitate Christ, that is the most unappeal-

real conversations."

One of the focal points of the forum will be giving students actual answers to difficult questions, rather than dancing around the point, which Rathbun said is a common response in the Christian world to hard questions.

"[The person answering] either knows the answer and doesn't want to say it or they just don't know the answer, so then they just start saying spiritual things and never answer the question," Rathbun said. "We want to avoid that and ... get directly to the answer to the question in a biblical way and show how that works."

In order to draw attention to the topic in the weeks before the forum, white posters with only

not intended to advertise for the event but rather to drive discussion. Although the posters have generated some curiosity among the student body, many students expressed their confusion as to the purpose of the posters.

Last week the posters were changed to include the date and location of the faculty forum, but the version still did not name the event.

"[Initially], these posters were pretty abstract, and really the reason behind that was to spark discussions," Abrams said. "We want to get people thinking and curious to see if that sparks an interest in the topic, because the topic is really an important one." ©

10/25  
2021



@THECOLLEGIANBJU

### The Week

#### Premiere

BJU's Concert Choir will present *Awake & Sing*, which includes the world premiere of Michael Bryson's "No Other Hope," tonight at 5:30 p.m. in War Memorial Chapel.

#### Seminar

Financial Aid will host a seminar on saving for emergencies with Hillary Dobson of Truist Bank Tuesday at 4 p.m. in Levinson Hall.

#### Concert

The Flute Choir and Saxophone Choir will perform together in a concert Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in War Memorial Chapel.

#### Festival

Students can wear costumes to BJU's second annual Harvest Fest from 10:30-11 p.m. on Friday and collect candy from stations across campus.



2021 is BJU's 95th anniversary and 75th year in Greenville.

Design: Arianna Rayder



## COLUMN



Johnathon Smith

COPY EDITOR

I still remember the first time I made a friend burst into tears. I had casually asked how his parents were doing, but nothing about the answer I received was casual.

Tears streaming down his face and hands clutched at his sides, my friend explained that his parents were heading toward a messy divorce.

Over the next hour at my eighth grade after-school program, I listened to my friend struggle to hold back tears as he told me about the difficulties his parents' marriage had faced for several years and the fights he'd witnessed.

All I could do was listen and commiserate while he shared his fears, concerns and worries. Even though I understood how it feels to have divorced parents, I was caught completely off guard by my friend's outburst. He had appeared as jovial as always throughout the day, cracking jokes and telling stories as if nothing were wrong.

A lot of us wear a mask over our faces, a mask of

See COLUMN p.3 >>

## The Collegian Editorial

## Live an immeasurable life

Arriving five minutes early is on time; arriving at the time specified is late. Rack up some volunteer hours to be accepted into that program. It'll look good on your resume even if you don't enjoy the job.

Don't use your skips unless you physically can't come to class. Where do you see yourself in five years? If you work hard enough, you'll be successful. Time is money, and there's never enough of either.

In this age of materialism, life becomes a chase after reward. Whether that be fame, success, money or, for college students especially, a GPA, everyone is encouraged to pursue some kind of measurable reward. During college, grades can become the reward. Pull an all-nighter if you have to. Don't hang out with your friends when you should be studying.

You think you're busy now? Just wait till you get to "real life," when you have to get a job and be successful in that job to provide for yourself.

Eventually, this mentality breaks down into a pattern of waiting. Work now, reward later. Once you get a good job, you work toward the next promotion. Once you're promoted, you work to expand the company. There is no finish line in the rat race.

But where does God fit into the rat race? When we put aside anything that doesn't result in a practical benefit, we might find making room for God in our lives difficult. Our relationship with God is not measured by something as concrete as money or grades.

So, we leave the Bible on the shelf while we study for that test. We tell ourselves we'll read it in the morning—and then oversleep our alarms because of exhaustion.

Sometimes we even tell ourselves that we'll have time to read when we finally enter "real life." After all, this season is simply preparation, right? We plan to serve God with our careers, which don't begin

until after college.

But life is so much more than material things. Life is not a race resulting in measurable material possessions. Life is a story created by God, one that includes roles for each of His creations—roles like a parent, an employee or a student.

These roles are not just preparation for something more; they are simply parts of the whole. God does not ask for us to serve Him when we're ready. He calls us to serve Him in each role He gives us. The "real life" we're living is the unseen spiritual life layered over everything we do.

And God's Word is nothing like our textbooks or work emails. His Word is food. Going without food isn't just inconvenient or upsetting; it's dangerous. When we sacrifice taking care of ourselves spiritually for measurable rewards, we starve ourselves spiritually, making us weak and ineffective. In preparing for what we perceive as "real life," we neglect our real spiritual lives.

Without the spiritual strength we should develop through prayer and Bible reading, we may miss opportunities to represent Christ well. The sacrifice of our own spiritual strength could mean the sacrifice of someone else's opportunity to learn the Gospel, an enormous loss that's difficult to measure.

If we have to sacrifice something for the sake of another priority, the sacrifice should not be our walk with God. Sometimes we must leave our emails unwritten or go unprepared into a test to feed ourselves spiritually. A letter grade is not worth giving up spending time with God daily.

Our spiritual lives are not another element to add to a chase for measurable reward. Spending time with God is not just another part of the rat race. Real life is now, in whatever stage or season we are, and we must live it now. ©

## the Collegian

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

The Collegian is the Bob Jones University student newspaper. The paper is published weekly with issues out on Mondays. For advertising information contact Jonny Gamet: (864) 242-5100, ext. 2973 jgamet@bj.edu  
All contacts © 2021  
Bob Jones University.

Editor in Chief  
Vicki Olachea

Content Editor  
Johnathon Smith

Design Editor  
Arianna Rayder

Photo Editor  
Andrew Pledger

Web Editor  
Melchisedek Dulcio

Social Media  
Videographer  
Olivia Thomas

Staff Writers  
Ethan House  
Nathaniel Hendry  
Erin del Toro  
Hannah Bray  
Kirsten Oss  
Andrew Thompson

Sports Writer  
Jarred Scott

Staff Designers

Olivia Thompson  
Zane Trively  
Michaela Gonzales

Photographers

Lindsay Shaleen  
Nathaniel Hendry  
Robert Stuber  
Melia Covington  
Esther Young  
Hannah Guell

Advisers  
Betty Solomon  
Lewis Carl  
Hal Cook

Ad Manager  
Jonny Gamet

## THE WHITE GLOVE



Comic: Max Burak

>> From COLUMN p.2

illusory happiness. When someone asks us how we’re doing, we say, “I’m doing well,” without a second thought to whether or not that’s true. When people ask us what’s happening in our lives, we gloss over the negative to focus on the positive.

But for some reason we’re surprised to find out others do the same thing—they hide pain with hollow smiles.

I was caught off guard when my friend told me honestly about the tragedies happening in his life because most people I knew weren’t honest with me about the depressing events they faced each day. That’s a shame. When no one else talks, I find it difficult to share my own burdens, and I’m sure that’s true for others as well.

Sharing our concerns, struggles and sorrows with others isn’t a useless task. In fact, opening up often helps strengthen our bond with the friends we’re transparent with and even makes us feel better. Sometimes, knowing someone cares enough to listen can be a great encouragement.

For my middle school friend, talking about his problems really did help. After a long discussion punctuated by both of us crying, we dried our eyes together. My friend thanked me for listening and under-

standing and even for crying with him.

He said it had felt good to get those worries off his chest and share them with someone who cared. As we left the after-school program, we both realized that we had become even closer friends because of all we had been through.

If we want our friends to share their burdens, we have to actively work to create an atmosphere where they feel comfortable. It takes bravery to share those worries even in a welcoming environment; if the environment isn’t inviting, most people will stay silent when they need someone to talk to.

Creating that environment requires setting the example by being willing to discuss our own problems. We have to take off the mask, open up and tell those around us how we feel if we want them to feel comfortable with doing the same. If we want the environment to change, we need to take action and be the ones to make it happen.

We also have to be willing to listen in order to make people comfortable with sharing. People are drawn toward those who will respectfully hear them out, but nothing shuts someone up faster than knowing the person they’re talking with doesn’t care.

Finally, we have to recognize that we don’t really know what the peo-

ple around us are going through. Just like we hide behind polite, inane answers when asked about our days, so do others. Your friend may not feel all right, even if they said they were

“ok” when you casually asked them over coffee.

If we commit to intentionally listening to our friends, sharing our feelings and not assuming people are happy just because

they smile, maybe we can keep our friends from shedding tears.

But even when tears roll down their faces, we can be there to cry with them. ☺

# Word from the Wise



A Biblical Perspective Scott Buhr  
Division of Teacher Education

## Christ in Education

During faculty in-service this year, we were given one example of what it means to have a biblical worldview. It went something along these lines:

A biblical worldview starts with a big story that you believe to be true about the world. From that big story you derive principles and values that get lived out as actions in the world.

Christian educators believe their big story is told in the Bible. We are uniquely benefited by this worldview, since Jesus came to earth

and spent His public ministry as a teacher.

We look to Christ as the model teacher, not for specific classroom activities or assignments, but for the way in which He taught—He loved His students, He spoke truth with authority and He taught missionally. These principles frame the job of any Christian educator as they seek to emulate Christ.

When our actions and reactions with students are shaped in this way, students get an excellent education and see Christ in us.

# HERITAGE DAY

BJU students will celebrate Heritage Day during Thursday’s chapel with a message from Dr. Bob Jones III.

“Students should look forward to knowing more about their university, events and people who have labored here in the past to give us this biblically unapologetic institution that we enjoy today,” he said. Jones plans to speak on what happens to Christian organizations and nations who forget their history.

In the past, the University has honored faculty members or focused on specific elements from BJU’s history during the special chapel.

Before Heritage Day was created in 1999, BJU commemorated Dr. Bob Jones Sr.’s birthday with Founder’s Day. Because the University founder’s birthday was Oct. 30, Founder’s Day fell at the end of October, a tradition Heritage Day has maintained.



# Aviation students earn wings off campus

Hannah Bray  
STAFF WRITER

Unlike most programs at BJU, the aviation minor's instruction happens entirely off-campus. BJU offers this minor through its partnership with USAeroFlight, a flight school based in Greenville.

The students receive credit for the minor through BJU, but the classes take place at the Greenville Downtown Airport.

Dan Smith, BJU's registrar, said the University has an articulation agreement with USAeroFlight, meaning the students pay

aviation minor takes a student all the way through his commercial certificate so that he can earn money and get paid to fly," said Mike Gonzales, flight school manager for USAeroFlight.

He said USAeroFlight was founded by former BJU aviation faculty, who started the flight school after BJU ended its in-house aviation program. Gonzales served as a BJU flight instructor and eventually as an adviser to the

aviation students at BJU for 12 years before the University program was ended.

USAeroFlight directly to oversee their aviation instruction. The students then bring the report the flight school gives them to Smith, who adds the information to the students' academic records at BJU.

While the USAeroFlight flight school is open to anyone, the articulation agreement allows students to get college credit from BJU as well as a flight certificate from USAeroFlight. "The

"We teach at the Greenville Downtown Airport, in fact, [at] the old Bob Jones University facilities," he said. "We're still in them, and we still lease them."

To fly for most airline companies or cargo companies, students need a four-year degree, according to Josiah Sturgis, a sophomore business major with an

aviation minor.

Gonzales agrees, recommending that aviation students get a four-year degree to help them in their future career path.

Although the major may not be what they want to do full-time, Gonzales said it is good for them to have a major they can fall back on, as well as one that will shape their degree.

For example, Sturgis' business degree helps to shape his aviation minor, as business can

written test once they're done with the training. The other aspect is more practical hands-on training involving a plane and a flight instructor.

Students interested in taking the aviation minor can go to Student Central where they'll find the link to the minor. The link takes them to the information about how they can sign up for the aviation minor through USAeroFlight and puts them in contact with Gonzales, who explains how the minor and flight programs associated with it work.

be applied to a broad range of careers if he decides he doesn't want to go into aviation.

Sturgis said he came to BJU partially because of its aviation minor. "It works out because then I can get my four-year degree at BJU and my initial aviation training while doing college," he said.

Flight training consists of two different components, according to Sturgis. One is ground school, where students do the assigned training and take a



Photos: Robert Stuber

Photo: Mella Covington

## TALKBACK

### What is your most embarrassing story?



Brandon Swain  
Junior computer sciences major

"When I was about fifteen years old on Christmas Eve, we were throwing away old vegetables ... I'm outside, on our porch, throwing old vegetables off our porch out into the yard, and I take a bowl of potatoes and throw them so hard that I launch myself forward. I try to catch myself on the porch rail, and instead of the porch rail catching me, it broke off, and I did a front flip off of our very tall porch into the yard, landed on my back."



Jane Smith  
Division of Teacher Education

"My first time [in Europe] I knew German pretty well, but I didn't know French, and we were flying into Paris, so I asked my one friend who knew French [how to say] 'thank you' in French, and he said [to say] 'Je t'aime' [I love you]. ... Of course, I get to Paris, and for the first four days I'm there ... I would say 'Je t'aime,' thinking I was saying 'thank you.' And they were all very kind and nice to me, and one man just started kissing my hand ... but it [was] because my friend purposefully told me the wrong thing. And it was very embarrassing."



# SENIOR NIGHT

Our sports writer asked two seniors on the Bruins soccer teams to share their thoughts.

Burk

Conley

THOUGHTS ON SENIOR NIGHT

We've been talking about this a lot, the senior guys. For us, it's kind of a big deal because we're all really close friends and being, on the soccer team together has made us best friends. It's more about the relationships we built than the actual soccer itself. In terms of senior night and just what that'll mean, a lot of us think we're gonna cry. It's kind of less about the soccer, even though the soccer has been going really well and we've loved that part, but it's more about the relationships and what the people that we've gotten to interact with mean to us throughout our careers and everything, so that's exciting. It's pretty cool to think about the future and how these guys are going to be close friends for a while.

EMOTIONS ON SENIOR NIGHT

It'll be a mix. We're certainly going to be, 'We're ready for this game and we want to win on senior night,' but then it's also going to be like, 'This is kind of sad ... it's coming to the end.' But that will also be motivation at the same time to make it worth the time that we put in the rest of the season to finish that out. I think it'll be a little bit of both because we're all definitely going to realize, 'Hey, this is the end; we're seniors.' Some of us, it'll be the last time we play soccer. ... But then it'll motivate us.

BEST MEMORY FROM SENIOR YEAR TEAM

There's been a lot of good memories. We just got back from a trip to Virginia, and we rode around on those lime ... electric scooters for like an hour and a half, and that was so much fun.

Photo: Bradley Allweil



EMOTIONS ON SENIOR NIGHT

It's bittersweet when it comes to special moments. Bittersweet would be my word for it because at the same time as you're moving on to the next journey, we've made the memories as a team and have come a long way. I think [senior night is] a happy moment because you are looking forward to the future and what you have to come, but also you're leaving that group of girls that you came in with for all three or four years. I think it's something that you look back on and realize how fast time is gone and [realize] it is sad you have to leave those girls ... Those are the friendships you've made and some strong friendships that you've made throughout the team.

GENERAL THOUGHTS

I thank the team and the coaches for the time they put in me and the team in general. I think that's a big thing too with the team. We all come together super well. And our friendships ... that's one thing that's huge because we all have each other's back. Even now with my injury, they're there for me when I need them, so I think that's big.



Photo: Robert Stuber

BEST MEMORY AS AN ATHLETE

My top memory [is] winning the national championship my freshman year with the team. I think that's something you'll never forget because it's such a huge accomplishment for the team and for the program. And we've always worked hard for that and throughout the season, so I think that the hard work you put in during the season pays off.

Elise Burke



# Local exhibit honors Ansel Adams' photos, Japanese Americans' sacrifices



The Upcountry History Museum is one of only five Smithsonian affiliate institutions in South Carolina. Photos: Lindsay Shaleen

Kirsten Oss  
STAFF WRITER

The Upcountry History Museum — Furman University is exhibiting a series of 50 photographs by Ansel Adams documenting the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The display will be shown through Oct. 31.

Ansel Adams, who was a landscape photographer from California, photographed the Manzanar Relocation Center, an internment camp for Japanese Americans, in 1933 and 1934.

According to Kristen Pace, the education and program manager at the Upcountry History Museum, Adams received permission to take the pictures from the center's director, whom the photographer knew from the Sierra Club, an environmental group in which they both had membership.

Adams documented life at the internment camp through his art of photography, turning his lens from landscapes to the lifestyle the Japanese Americans were forced to adjust to.

Pace pointed out the domesticity of Adams' subjects: portraits of people adjusting to new life in the barracks they now called home, playing baseball or volleyball and farming or making clothing.

"It's highlighting daily life," Pace said. "There is definitely more focus on the portraits of the people. ... You see a lot of smiles, almost like happy faces."

His portraits show the resilience of these Americans. While they were denied their freedom and basic rights due to where their ancestors immigrated from, they did not let social injustice stop them from having hope. "They were still dedicated to the cause of American democracy and freedom," Pace said.

"They were American citizens; they had their own homes and businesses," she said. "Many of them were thriving. Some were more than willing, wanting to be drafted or even enlist to serve, to fight for the American cause, ... but because they had that Japanese ancestry, that tie with families in Japan, they were seen as the enemy."

During World War II, the

U.S. government looked on Japanese Americans with suspicion after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, fearing they would spy for the Axis powers because of their ancestry.

Dr. Brenda Schoolfield, the chair of the Division of History, Government and Social Science, said the U.S. used curfews and evacuations to round up the minority group.

"President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 in February 1942 to evacuate any person deemed dangerous from the West Coast to 'relocation centers' inland, away from the coast," she said.

This culminated in over 112,000 Japanese Americans being sent to 10 relocation centers to keep assumed spies from colluding with the Japanese. Of these people, 11,070 were sent to the Manzanar Relocation Center.

But this led to innocent men, women and children being extracted from their lives all over America and placed into a new setting 220 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

"None of them were ac-

cused of crimes against the U.S. government," Schoolfield said. "[But] if families could not secure or dispose of their property before the military came for them, the families lost their property."

For the first time, people outside the relocation center saw the life the Japanese Americans were forging for themselves at a 1945 exhibition of the photos, but the exhibit was closed after

stirring controversy about the ongoing war.

Anyone interested in the exhibit can visit the Upcountry History Museum Monday through Saturday. The museum offers discounted admission rates for students who present a valid college ID.

More information is available on the museum's website at [upcountryhistory.org](http://upcountryhistory.org). ©

sudoku

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



💡 FACULTY SPOTLIGHT 💡

# New faculty couple shares life lessons God taught them through adversity

Erin del Toro  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Jeff and Christina Miller, new faculty members in the Division of Communication and the Division of Teacher Education, have years of experience in directing theatre productions together and have spent many years educating and mentoring both their own children and students from across three different Christian colleges.

Dr. Miller has taught for many years at Christian institutions, including Northland Baptist Bible College and Maranatha Baptist University. “I always [taught] some public speaking classes because you’ve got to have that staple,” he said. “Then at Maranatha I recently created a [communication] theories course.”

Dr. Miller said he had a double major in English and theatre in college. He said his English major helped him in his career. “[My English major] helped

me to get my first job in education, and it got me close to literature, which I love,” Dr. Miller said. “That was a natural tie-in to theatre. And honestly, a good teacher, who’s a good reader, has some really interesting elements to share with their class because you’ve experienced a little bit of the world outside of your contemporary world.”

Dr. Miller said he proposed to his wife in Times Square. “The week we went to Broadway I had strep throat and mono,” he said. “We bought the tickets. It was all set to go, and I had the ring. I was so nervous that day because I hadn’t set up any place to get engaged and she thought I was going to break up with her. And that’s how the day ended, with us getting engaged.”

Christina Miller said she originally became interested in special education because of one of their children. “One of my children was speech delayed,” she said. “So we had to get him tested when he was



Miller teaches classes that unite education and psychology, such as Characteristics: Learning Disabilities.  
Photo: Esther Young

younger and I knew nothing about special ed at that time. That kind of got me into the special ed world to get him help and to be able to get his speech up to where it needed to be.”

“I became really passionate about helping alternate learners. I thought, ‘You know what? I want to study this,’” she said. Miller said she started a degree in special education and worked in the Academic Success Center at Maranatha Baptist University. Miller enjoyed helping students with different learning styles succeed in her position at the college.

Miller said there is a strong connection between psychology and special education, which are both fields she teaches.

“A lot of what we understand about disability originates in the brain,” she said. “A lot of our typical disabilities are neurologically based, and so learning disabilities like dyslexia, which is probably the most

common learning disability, we now know is a neurological difference.”

Miller said she likes teaching students to be compassionate toward those who are different from them and struggle in different ways than they do. She especially enjoys teaching her subjects from a biblical worldview because she can teach her students not only how to have compassion, but also to point others to truth.

Miller said she and her husband met and connected after college over their shared interest of speech and theatre. “All 23 years of our marriage we have directed together and done a lot of productions,” Miller said. “In the past 11 years, he and I have done 27 productions together. It’s just been a lot of fun. It’s just kind of a fun piece of our family.”

“My life quote is, ‘broken crayons still color,’” she said. “I like to encourage people who come from

brokenness. ... Just because you don’t color sharp like everybody else, or like the people you think come from perfect families ... doesn’t mean that you don’t color.”

Miller said that as a child dull and broken crayons always bothered her and that she always wanted a crayon sharpener. She connected this to some of her personal life experiences, specifically her experience in growing up in a broken home.

She said she has had the opportunity to minister to people that others who did not come from a broken home would have a harder time ministering to. She also said that there are some people who she could not minister to because of her story but that can be ministered to by people who did not come from a situation like hers.

“It reminds me that God is writing our story,” she said. “And part of that is accepting that broken crayons still color.” ©



Christina and Jeff Miller have been married for 23 years and have three children.  
Photo: Submitted by the Millers



# BJU increases number of study abroad courses after pandemic



Design: Olivia Thompson

**Johnathon Smith**  
COPY EDITOR

BJU will offer a record number of study abroad courses this summer after the previous year's trips were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Dr. Jeremy Patterson, the director of the Office of Study Abroad & Study USA and chair of the Division of World Languages and Cultures, a study abroad course looks good on a resume.

"[In a survey] 80-something percent of companies said that they were looking for that kind of experience," he said. "Now, across the

board, companies are looking for what we call global fluency."

Even though not every trip is oriented around culture and language like the French and Spanish courses, Patterson said the others will still develop students' global fluency.

"So we really focus on intercultural competence across our disciplines," he said. "If you're in a business course or a music course, obviously, you do a lot of discipline-specific projects and activities while you're abroad, but all of it also includes components of intercultural reflection and developing those skills across

some cultures."

Many students who were unable to take the study abroad courses last year due to COVID-19 have reapplied for one of the eight trips that will be offered in the summer of 2022.

Patterson is excited about resuming the program now that countries are opening their borders again. Travel restrictions vary among countries with some requiring the COVID-19 vaccine and others requiring proof of a negative test result.

Changseok Yi, a junior French major, was planning to enroll in one of the courses last summer, but COVID-19 ruined that plan. He hopes he has the chance to travel with the French study abroad trip to Paris this summer but is concerned about the ongoing pandemic.

"I hope to get benefits from knowing the French culture better and be more fluent in the French language," he said.

Study abroad trips benefit students academically. BJU offers between three and six credits for the special courses. Patterson also said many students boost their GPA through taking a study abroad course.

"And this is not much more expensive than taking one or two online classes, but you're getting a full ex-

perience, not just online," he said.

Kenzie McGregor, a senior English major who focuses on creative writing, is planning to attend the communication study abroad trip to the United Kingdom, which will focus on the lives of J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis and Shakespeare.

"I feel like this would be a good way to really understand some of the giants of literature and how they wrote and communicated, how they impacted their friends, but also society," she said.

Patterson believes finances are the biggest obstacle for students who want to take a study abroad. He recommended eligible students look into summer Pell Grants to help cover the cost of the courses.

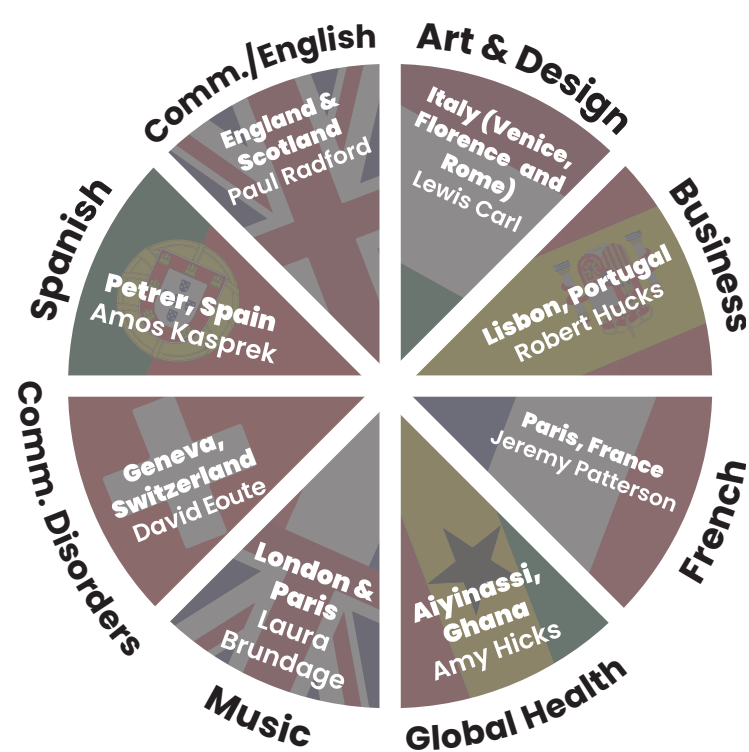
possible."

BJU officially launched the Office of Study Abroad & Study USA in 2019 under the Office of the Provost in collaboration with the Center for Global Opportunities. BJU had previously offered study abroad trips spearheaded by individual professors going back to the early 2000s, starting with a Spanish study abroad course. In 2019, however, the new office was formed to standardize the process and create an official budget.

Patterson stressed that study abroad courses are not meant to serve as a replacement for mission trips. "A mission team ... has academic components, but it emphasizes the ministry component," he said. "[With] study abroad, we have the spiritual compo-



Patterson, who also teaches French, will lead the Paris study abroad trip in 2021.  
Photo: Melia Covington



Design: Arianna Rayder

For others, applying loans to a study abroad trip can help pay for it as well. Patterson recommended that students considering options to cover the cost of a study abroad course should visit the Financial Aid Office for assistance.

However, Patterson thinks a study abroad trip is still worth the cost. "No one ever regrets it," he said. Patterson also said BJU offers less expensive trips than similar experiences at most universities. "And our prices—even though it's still expensive—beat pretty much anything else you'll see for study abroad at other universities," he said. "We try to keep it as economical as

possible—we go to church, we incorporate biblical worldview in everything—but we emphasize the credits and the academic component."

In the future, Patterson hopes to see more divisions add courses. "There's extra training that I would like to give the faculty and the students," he said.

A number of new trips will be offered this summer, including an art + design trip to Italy, a business trip to Portugal and a global health trip to Ghana. Further details about each of the courses can be found at [bjucgo.com/studyabroad.html](http://bjucgo.com/studyabroad.html). ©