

the Collegian

Vol. 35 No. 8 | collegianonline.com

Bob Jones University | Greenville, SC 29614

Artist Series to transport audience to dreamworld

11/15
2021

Erin del Toro

STAFF WRITER

A dynamic cast and crew of BJU students and faculty will present an updated version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for a modern audience from Tuesday until Thursday.

Ron Pyle, a faculty member in the department of theatre and the director of the play, said the vision for the production is to present *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a 21st century way.

"We wanted to update the production and make it seem fresh and contemporary for a modern audience," said Pyle. "We didn't go in the direction of realism. ... The audience fills in a lot of things with their imagination."

Pyle said this production does not have a particular historical setting. "It's actually sort of modern in costuming, but the fairies are in a totally different ... world altogether," Pyle said. "Some of the characters look like they belong in the 19th century, and some look like they belong in the 21st century."

Pyle believes students can get more from the play than just entertainment. "The story itself is really interesting because it examines the idea of love from many different di-

rections and perspectives," Pyle said. "I think that [the subject matter] is something everyone can enjoy, and this is actually one of the funniest plays that Shakespeare wrote."

Jeff Stegall, a faculty member in the theatre department and the lead designer for this production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, said the interpretation of the classic play is a little different this time around.

"[The director's] basic concept was *Carnivàle*," Stegall said. "During the day the city is normal, and then at night magical things happen."

Stegall said the production crew has been holding onto the idea of the play being like a dream. "When you have a dream, sometimes things don't make sense," Stegall said. "[In the production] there are some elements that remind us of Greece, and



Sophomore theatre majors Steven White and Hannah Allen play classic characters in a modernized context.

Photo: Melia Covington

then there are other elements that remind us of Elizabethan [times], and they might be mixed."

Cearul Carpenter, a freshman fashion design major playing Philostrate in the

upcoming production, said one thing he is looking forward to is the costumes.

"I'm looking forward to learning more about the intent behind the different costumes," Carpenter said. "At the beginning of the play, the people of the court are dressing very sensibly, and towards the end colors start to be added in to [the costumes],

and it's because this revelry is coming around, which is very fun."

Eden Rowland, a sophomore theatre major playing the role of Mustard-

seed the fairy, said she has enjoyed getting to know her character. "The way I play Mustardseed is very playful and kind of mischievous," Rowland said. "There's a lot of freedom in playing her, so figuring out who she is has been such a fun and wonderful process."

Trent Thompson, a member of the Rodeheaver Auditorium light crew and the person directing the follow spotlights for the *A Midsummer Night's Dream* production, said the most challenging aspect of his job is conveying the message of the play to the audience.

Thompson also said his favorite part of the show is the ending when the cast comes from behind the curtain. ©



@THECOLLEGIANBJU

THE WEEK

ORCHESTRA

The String Orchestra will present an arrangement of Vivaldi and Mozart's works tonight in War Memorial Chapel at 5:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE

Ken Ham will speak tomorrow from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the STAND Conference for middle and high school students in FMA.

CHAPEL

The Thanksgiving Praise Service will be held in FMA during chapel on Wednesday.

BREAK

Thanksgiving break officially begins Friday at 5 p.m., but students are allowed to leave after their last class. Break ends at 10:30 p.m. on Nov. 28.



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

Design: Arianna Rayder

Photos: Melia Covington

COLUMN



Olivia Thomas

SOCIAL MEDIA
VIDEOGRAPHER

Before I was Olivia Jeanne Thomas, my name was Hai Rong Liu. In 1999, I was found at Bus Station 19, taken to an orphanage and made eligible for adoption. In 2000, I was adopted by American parents who brought me to Indianapolis, Indiana. I became a Lost Daughter of China.

The estimated number of Chinese babies adopted overseas is 150,000. An estimated total of 78,257 children were adopted out of China between 1999 and 2016. Between 2009 and 2016, China was the No. 1 country for international adoptions with girls being the majority of adoptees. These girls have come to be known as Lost Daughters of China.

My parents never hid the fact that I was adopted from me. For as long as I can remember, I have known I was one of many girls victim to China's one-child policy, a policy with a goal of modernizing the country by sharply reducing births. The one-child policy ended in 2016, but it had already become infamous for the resulting abuses and violations of what we Americans think of as basic human rights.

In the years following the end of China's one-child policy, the Western perception has been that Chinese girls were discarded indifferently—or even carelessly—in favor of boys. Boys brought with them the possibility of continuing the family name and the assurance that parents would be

taken care of in their old age.

But that perception has slowly begun to break down as books, documentaries and personal testimonies come to light, giving some new insight on what it was like for Chinese families to give up their children.

In the 1990s, Kay Ann Johnson, who had adopted a Chinese daughter, and her research associates journeyed to China to interview thousands of families about adoption.

The results of her research were published in 2016 in her book *China's Hidden Children: Abandonment, Adoption, and the Human Cost of the One-Child Policy*, and they paint a heartbreaking picture.

Johnson details the stories of families faced with exorbitant fines, the demolition of their homes and threats of imprisonment for having "out of plan" children. Women faced forced abortions or sterilizations for having illegal children. But not all families gave up their children quietly and submissively.

Women helped pregnant friends circumvent annual pregnancy tests, families left their daughters with other families living nearby in hopes of keeping their daughter safe but close, and compassionate officials warned pregnant mothers to hide or may have even helped arrange for the child to be secretly registered to another family for safety.

The Collegian Editorial

Don't suffer in silence

In less than a week, most BJU students will leave campus and head home for Thanksgiving. Many of us will spend Thanksgiving surrounded by people we love, eating food we enjoy and doing activities we like. Gathering around the table for a holiday will be a welcome break from the stress of class and work.

We should be thankful for these blessings. The support network many of our families offer is invaluable for our mental health. We can relax at home, feeling safe and knowing those around us care about us. Healthy relationships afford us an outlet to grow as people and find encouragement when life is difficult.

But not everyone has healthy relationships with their family members. Instead of a support network, some students may return home to unsupportive, unloving or even abusive family members. For them, Thanksgiving may not be a safe break from stress; it may bring them stress.

For students with difficult home situations, family can't be trusted to provide the support network they need. They need other people who love them to offer them the healthy relationships all of us need. This encouragement can come from healthy friendships.

These friends can become their home away from home. For some students, college may have been the first time they felt welcomed. Someone—a roommate, society member, dorm supervisor or professor—may have treated them with respect they'd never been given.

Perhaps this feeling of belonging came from people who shared their experiences, or perhaps it came from people who had never experienced that struggle but were willing to listen anyway.

Genuine friends care enough to provide a safe, affirming and loving environment. When we find these people, we should stay close to them and be thankful for them. And we need to recognize that loving environments allow us to open up to those who care.

It's okay to tell others that we're dealing with difficult situations, such as unsupportive or abusive family members. True friends are willing to hear those hard things and comfort us when needed.

Instead of suffering in silence, we should share our troubles with those genuine friends and be thankful for the supportive community they offer. ☺

What Johnson's research and countless other stories demonstrate is China's struggle to have and keep their girls in the face of a punishing government and the agonizing decision many families made to give up their daughters, a direct

contradiction to the idea that China blithely threw their girls away.

I often wonder about my own birth mother and the struggle she must have had before giving me up. She had me with her for as long as it took me to be born and

perhaps even a little longer, depending on how old I was when I was found at the bus station.

Did she fight to keep me before giving me up? What conversations did she have

See **COLUMN** p.3 >>

TALKBACK




What are you thankful for?

T H A N K S



Jonah Lee
Senior business administration major

"Something I'm thankful for is just the people around here on campus. ... As an RA, I'm also very thankful for the guys that are on my hall specifically. [I'm thankful for] the surrounding restaurants, like Cookout and Zaxby's, because being from Michigan, I don't have those things."



Reshi Pasupuleti
Junior English education major

"I'm thankful for my roommates because we're able to do life together and pick each other up when we're struggling. And I would say church because it feels like my family away from home."



Cindy Unruh
Copy technician
Bellis Copy Center

"I'm thankful for my family and my grandbaby, who is two and a half. I love the Living Gallery. I just love the performances and the talent that we have here on campus."

Designs: Zane Trively

>> From COLUMN p.2

with my birth father? Did she try to hide me or place me with other family or friends before giving me up? Do I have other siblings somewhere? Does she still think about me? Would she ever want me to come home?

These are questions I may never receive answers to, sitting at my desk all the way over on the other side of the world from my birth mother.

I will always be Olivia, and I will always be Hai Rong. I will always be American, and I will always be Chinese. I will always be grateful for my adoption, and I will always be a Lost Daughter of China. And my heart will always be with my Lost Sisters, who share the same deep love I have for the people who brought us to where we are in our lives today as well as for the mothers and fathers who were forced to give us up.

I will always be a daughter of two cultures, a Chinese girl raised in America, experiencing all the joys and sorrows that come with being American and with being adopted. The person I was before I was adopted will never disappear.

My adoption will always be a part of me and a part of the unique story the Lord has written for me. ©

Word from the Wise



Sara Pennington
Division of Communication

A Biblical Perspective

Communicating Christ

Teaching a general communication course comes with unique challenges. In a Christian education environment, it also comes with unique responsibilities.

My desire has always been to equip students to be compelling and influential communicators. This pursuit, however, can be self-centered and shallow if Christ is not at the center.

The most important thing I can teach my students is that their personal communication impacts how others see Christ. This aspect intensifies how and what I teach.

If effective, my teaching should do more than equip people to excel on class projects (although this is important too). It should explore how behavior, words and more can attract someone to Christ or repel someone from Christ. It should confront personal blindspots and remove obstacles to sharing the Gospel.

When Christ is truly at the center, students (and teachers alike) can better serve as ambassadors of Christ in their workplaces, their local communities and their churches.

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

Copy 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

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

continued...

TALKBACK



CJ Billiu
Center for Leadership Development

"I'm very thankful for my church. ... I'm just really thankful that God's put me in a place where the church cares about the people. ... I'm also really thankful for the position I have where I get to work with student leaders and really help them make an experience that's great for all the students on campus."



Bela Fleck
Graduate assistant in the Division of Natural Science

"I'm thankful for my boss and my coworkers here in the engineering department, and I'm also thankful for my church body that supports me. I'm thankful for my family, my husband."



Verne Biddle
Division of Natural Science

"I'm thankful for the privilege and opportunity to serve at Bob Jones University and have the opportunity to teach young people and hopefully have an impact on their lives for the Lord. ... I'm thankful for my church, where I get to serve ... in choir and various ministries and have the opportunity to impact people's lives and serve the Lord by serving people."

Photos: Esther Young

GIVING

Lab earns provisional accreditation

Hannah Bray

STAFF WRITER

Bob Jones University's nursing simulation lab recently received provisional accreditation from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare.

This provisional accreditation lasts for two years, after which the nursing program intends to apply for full accreditation.

"It's a stamp of approval, if you will, that the way the simulation is being performed is very high quality and that we're using the best practices in performing the simulations that we do," said Ramona Anest, the simulation program director and a faculty member in the Division of Nursing. "And that includes not just the storyline that we use for the manikin, but the training of the faculty that

work with the simulation."

The simulation lab itself includes four rooms with manikin patients as well as a control room where a faculty member operates the manikins, which can be remotely controlled. Students can interact with the manikins and check their vital signs, such as a heart rate and lung sounds.

Anest said the simulation lab allows students to benefit from seeing things they might not be able to see during clinicals due to timing or COVID-19.

For instance, one of the manikins in the simulation lab gives birth, which unlike a real birth can be easily scheduled for students to see and help with.

Another benefit of the simulation lab is that it allows students to practice more real-life scenarios.

Typically, for each simu-

lation a couple of students take a turn working with the manikin while a couple of others observe them. This allows one group to practice and the other to observe and learn, according to Dr. Robin Vedders, a faculty member in the Division of Nursing who fa-

cilitates the simulation lab for the beginning nursing students.

Vedders said it's important for students to be able to make mistakes and learn from them in the simulation lab, something they can't afford to do once they enter the medical field.

Sophomore nursing major Emma Lynch said she appreciates the practice element of the simulation lab. "It's a safe learning environment where we can practice communication and where there aren't actual consequences when we do something wrong." ☺



The nursing simulation lab was built as part of BJU's \$5.75 million renovation of the School of Health Professions' new facilities in the Mack Building, which were finished in 2020.

Photo: Robert Stuber

Ministry conference on campus to focus on preaching, prayer

Kirsten Oss

STAFF WRITER

SermonAudio is collaborating with BJU to host The Foundations Conference, focusing on strengthening preaching and prayer in ministry, in Stratton Hall on Dec. 16-17, 2021.

Steven Lee, the founder of SermonAudio and a BJU computer science alumnus, is working with BJU to organize the event.

The conference seeks to glorify God through its emphasis and experience. The emphasis on prayer and the Word is a unifying principle for all Bible-believing ministries. And the conference seeks to unify believers by utilizing the essentials instead of including elements that may be controversial

or an obstacle to the theme.

"The church, I feel, often needs to be reminded of the foundation of prayer and the ministry of the Word," Lee said.

The conference will feature speakers who are well-versed in the topic of preaching and prayer.

"These men don't usually preach together," Lee said. "But what we're doing is we are rallying around these two common themes that we can all enjoy: preaching and praying."

This conference is distinct in its style.

"What makes this conference a little unique would be that it's going to be extremely simple, meaning it's really just focused on the preaching sessions,"

Lee said. "Even the music will only be a cappella. Since music has become very divisive within the church, we want to remove from this conference any potential for offense. We just want to make all the focus on the topic."

During the conference, books on related topics will be sold in the Welcome Center.

Those interested in the conference may sign up on SermonAudio's website, www.thefoundationsconference.com.

Registration closes on Nov. 18. Each ticket is \$100 and includes meals in the Davis Room of the Dining Common, as well as a commemorative mug and snacks. ☺



Design: Arianna Rayder

University Singers offers freshmen musical, relational opportunities

Erin del Toro

STAFF WRITER

The University Singers, BJU's freshmen choir, allows members to form lifelong relationships by building a fun, diverse community.

Dr. Pattye Casarow, the director of U-Singers and a faculty member in the Division of Music, said she has been directing the group ever since she came to BJU six years ago. Prior to that, she was the director of choral activities at Clearwater Christian College.

"I had freshmen through seniors in my choir [at Clearwater] whereas Bob Jones has the graded sys-



tem," Casarow said. "They gave me the freshmen choir and since day one I have loved it. I've been doing U-Singers since I got here and I'm hoping to do it until I retire."

Casarow said U-Singers is open to all freshmen and first-year students. "They don't have to be music majors, and [choir] is a great place to get to know a group of people who also love to sing and love music," she said.

Dr. Ken Renfrow, the accompanist for U-Singers and another faculty member in the Division of Music, said he has worked with U-Singers for 14 years. "It's really my favorite thing," he said. "I love it so much. I had only met [Casarow]

when I had gone to Clearwater to do an Artist Series. ... I got to spend a week there and got to know her a little bit."

"She had known about me for many years, and when she got hired to come teach here ... she just texted me out of the blue and she said, 'Do you want to come meet my choir, the U-Singers?'" Renfrow said. "And I texted back and I said, 'Well, are you fun to work with?' She said, 'No, I'm a real drag.' And I said, 'Okay, sounds like a match made in heaven.'"

"So we really get along well and I really consider her like a sibling honestly," Renfrow said. "She's just a really good friend, and we just enjoy working together. And we love the fresh-

men. They're our favorite thing."

Renfrow enjoys the chance to influence young people. "I think what I really enjoy about the freshmen is that they're very impressionable and very personable," Renfrow said. "What's neat about freshmen is that they're discovering their way and figuring out their major and still are not really far from high school. And so they love the sense of community [that comes with choir]."

Noah Nelson, a freshman currently in U-Singers, said he has been able to connect with other freshmen in choir. "U-Singers is a bunch of fun-loving people who love talking to one another," said Nelson. "And [we love] singing with one another too."

Ethan Hall, a sophomore and former member of U-Singers, said a lot of his friends were in choir last year and those relationships were deepened through spending time in choir together. "The actual concert was a blast, and the tech rehearsals were really fun," said Hall.



He said first-year students should join U-Singers while they can. "It's fun," Hall said. "You only get one year to do it, so you should because you'll regret it if you don't,"



Hall said. "The other choirs are cool, but they're not as fun as U-Singers. So join U-Singers."

Casarow said U-Singers does not have many open positions left for next semester, but students can still audition for a few remaining openings. ©

Photos: Melia Covington



CETEL trains faculty members

Kirsten Oss

STAFF WRITER

The Center for Effective Teaching and Engaged Learning (CETEL), directed by Linda Abrams, trains faculty members to make them more effective teachers.

Abrams, a faculty member in the Division of History, Government and Social Science, organizes events and recruits volunteers for them. She works toward the center’s goal of exploring small changes to pedagogy that may have a large impact on students’ learning in the classroom setting.

CETEL helps faculty as they request it with a personalized plan to get feedback from students about improving their classroom experience.

The center helps professors through new faculty orientation in August; faculty Edu-Breaks, which are 50-minute faculty development sessions that happen twice a semester; mid-semester reviews and the May Institute.

“The May Institute is three days after commencement, and those are three days of intense faculty development that usually focus around one particular topic that helps faculty,” Abrams said. Out of BJU’s approximately 300 faculty members, 50-80 typically attend the optional May Institute.

Emma Hartman, a faculty member in the Division of Art + Design, attended the May Institute when she first arrived at BJU.

She said the May Institute allows faculty from different divisions to meet each other and suggest solutions for each other’s problems.

“For instance, we were talking about how to re-vamp some of our classes, and I was working on Design Theory [a class devoted to the principles of art] but had people from the seminary and science facul-

ty talk through some of the problems I have with it and how they would solve it,” Hartman said.

“Since they are usually at the very end or beginning [of the school year], they are a nice way to reflect on what we’ve worked on through the semester, getting us back into the process of teaching or putting our classes together,” she said.

CETEL offers personalized services as well.

“We also offer a mid-semester course feedback program, which we just finished, where faculty volunteer to have somebody from CETEL go into their classes,” Abrams said. “In real time, they ask students what’s going right and what’s not going as well, what’s impeding their learning and what’s helping their learning, so they can make those course corrections mid-semester.”

CETEL sits down with individual instructors and asks what they want to learn from their students. The center then creates an evaluation that their consultant gives to faculty members’ students so both CETEL and the members gain anonymous feedback about how students learn in the classroom.

“We’ve had faculty who make these small changes because they realize that something is not accomplishing what they want it to accomplish,” Abrams said. “It’s a very powerful tool where faculty can make known to students that they really want to know how to improve their courses.”

“That’s a very scary thing to have somebody walk into your classroom and ask your students what’s going well and tell me what’s not going so well in your class, but the faculty use it,” Abrams said. “And we have a lot of faculty who volunteer to do it and they’re very interested in student feedback and fixing problems that they may not see but

that the student sees. So that to me is very healthy.”

“And it’s evidence that faculty really want to partner with students to find out where learning is taking place and where it’s not, and how to fix it is really important to us as a faculty,” Abrams said. “So it’s very encouraging to me to work with faculty who care that much.”

Dr. Seth Custer, the head of the department of music theory and technology, has noticed CETEL’s impact on his department, although he himself has not directly worked with them.

“Every year they have ideas that end up becoming part of our in-service process,” Custer said. “In general, they come up with ideas that help us think about what we do in a different light or help us come up with best practices for what we as faculty do.”

CETEL also promotes a biblical worldview. “[The faculty] want what’s best



Hartman studied at BJU and the Savannah College of Art and Design.
Photo: Esther Young

for their students, not only what’s best for them academically, but they desperately care about their spiritual condition,” Abrams said. “And when we can come together as a faculty it makes us all better and stronger and focus on our

purpose, that we’re training Christian young people to stand in the gap in this world that is in such need of the truth and the honesty that they bring to their various disciplines.” ©

sudoku

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

Student designs non-profit

Nathaniel Hendry
STAFF WRITER

Tess Wood knows what it's like to know no one who knows what it's like. Wood, a sophomore business student, says her nontypical family background made it hard for her to find close friends.

Starting when she was age 15, Wood went through kinship care, in which children stay with relatives, because her mother became unable to take care of her and her brother Daniel. Tess went to live with her mother's parents, while Daniel was cared for by his father's parents.

"For someone from that background, it's really hard to make friends ... because, A, you don't know if you're going to have to up and move at some point," Wood said. "B, it's very hard for someone to relate to someone from a rough background, [who] doesn't [also] come from a rough background."

Inspired by her personal experience and by an entrepreneurship class, Wood plans to open a safe space named Daniel's Den, named after Wood's brother, for children in nontypical family situations. Daniel's Den will help children in foster care and kinship care to connect with peers from similar backgrounds

and receive mentoring, counseling and tutoring.

"This [center] would give the child a way to have someone older to look up to and also have somebody to relate to on a one-on-one level," Wood said.

Because of their unique situation, children growing up in nontypical family settings can struggle with their identity, Wood said. "When you're struggling to find your identity, you often feel like you're alone," she said. "It was just very hard, and I

[center] is a way for children not to fall into the coping mechanisms of drugs or alcohol or other things," Wood said.

Daniel's Den would help fight that loneliness by providing an opportunity for these children to build long-lasting relationships. The center would also provide resources to help children pursue other healthy activities. For example, a student interested in photography could borrow a camera and other equip-

Wood's Christian convictions. Christians are known for being pro-life, and Wood says it is important to continue caring for the lives of children after they leave the womb as well.

The idea for Daniel's Den came while Wood was taking an entrepreneurship and innovation class with Dr. Adele Dunn, who teaches in the Division of Management. Dunn encouraged students to be creative about business ideas. "I was actually sitting in my

be able to find other people like them?" Wood said.

Wood shared her idea with Kaitlyn Graf, a senior business administration major, who created a 3D rendering of Daniel's Den.

However, Wood still is looking for people to help with the technical aspects of financial and legal planning since regulations for non-profits can be rigorously specific. She is also looking for a skilled public speaker to help with presentations and pitches to donors.

To fund Daniel's Den, Wood hopes to plan a fundraising drive. After the safe space is established, donors could sponsor a child at the center with a monthly gift.

Speaking to students who feel like they are suffering alone, Wood says she has been there too. But she has also seen hope shine into her shadows. "You don't know how God's going to use you," she said. "I definitely didn't think this would be me in college!"

"You are not alone, because God puts you in very different situations in very different times and in very different ways, and He somehow brings you through every single trial [and] mishap. ... God is always there, and [the trial is] always there for a reason," Wood said. ☺



Wood (right) hopes to recruit students who share her vision to help make her dream a reality, such as Graf, who created a 3D model of Daniel's Den (left).

Submitted: Kaitlyn Graf (left)
Photo (right): Robert Stuber


turned to some pretty nasty ways to cope with that."

"Your coping mechanisms are developed when you're younger, and this

ment for projects while receiving hands-on instruction from a mentor.

Another motivation for the center comes from

friend's apartment one night and I just thought, 'Hmm, wouldn't it be cool to have a place for kids to hang out after school and



Adoption Stats

1 National Adoption Day is Nov. 20, 2021

2 There are 4,046 children in the S.C. Foster Care system, including 600 children in Greenville County, the highest in the state.

3 There are 2,798 children in need of family-like placements in S.C., including 459 children in Greenville County, more than any other county in the state.

Source: South Carolina Department of Social Services, November 2021.

National honors society recognizes Division of Communication students



McNally and Scott collaborate to plan events for the new chapter.

Photo: Jeanine Aumiller

Andrew Thompson

STAFF WRITER

This semester the Division of Communication at BJU formed a chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association's official honors society, to give high-achieving communication and journalism and mass communication majors an opportunity for networking and career preparation.

Dr. Mary Mendoza, the new chapter's faculty advisor and chair of the Division of Communication at BJU, was instrumental in creating the chapter.

"We already had the credentialed faculty and the majors," she said. "It wasn't difficult to get approval to create this chapter. The hard work really has been done over the years of building up [the communication] program."

"All the prep work of applying to this national organization to form the chapter, writing a charter and working through the internal means to get it approved through Dr. Lawson all happened last semester," she said. "It was a quick process because BJU has been ready for this for a while now."

Kathryn Gamet, the head of the journalism and mass communication department, suggested creating the society to Mendoza during the 2020 fall semester. "I was looking at what other colleges and universi-

ties are doing, and I found that many are beginning individual chapters of large national organizations on their campuses," she said. "A chapter is traditionally more focused on a specific major and can be excellent for networking students and preparing them for the professional world."

"Dr. Charlotte Burke told me BJU actually looked into creating an honors society to network communication majors a long time ago, but accreditation was required, which BJU did not have at the time," Gamet said. "The idea went by the wayside, but when the option was brought up again, it was a decision that didn't take much deliberation. We knew we should do it."

Jessica Scott, the president of Lambda Pi Eta and a senior communication major, is enthusiastic about the potential for the society.

"One of the things I'm excited about is seeing the journalism and mass communication and the communication majors come together because our majors are fairly similar," she said. "But we don't really have a lot of classes together or ways that we can really interact, and this is a way for us to do that."

"It is also very exciting that graduate students from these majors can join and guide the undergraduate students," Scott said. "It's really important for students preparing for their



Lambda Pi Eta's 10 undergraduate and two graduate members received certificates of membership and pins with the organization's logo on them at the chapter's induction ceremony.

Photo: Jeanine Aumiller

future careers to be able to meet people one step ahead of themselves."

Kaitlyn McNally, a senior journalism and mass communication major and secretary of Lambda Pi Eta, believes a community for communication majors is long overdue. "I think one purpose of this society is to give more recognition to the comm majors," she said. "We have needed something to get involved in that's bigger than just within the Bob Jones campus to fully prepare us for

life after school."

In order to be eligible for membership, students must be pursuing undergraduate or graduate work in the communication field and must have completed 60 credit hours, including 12 communication credits. Prospective members must also have a 3.0 GPA overall and a 3.25 GPA in communication classes.

Although induction will cost \$50 in the future, the honors society is offering a discounted rate of \$30 in honor of its first year.

Mendoza emphasized that the communication majors' common goals and missions all center around using communication to glorify God.

"From my perspective as an adviser, the biggest value of this society is to push the communication students to use their skill for God's glory," she said. "I want them to take every opportunity they have here as a student and sharpen their skills to be prepared for communicating in this world." ☪



BJU's chapter of Lambda Pi Eta inducted its inaugural members into the society on Oct. 12.

Photo: Charity McMullin