

the Collegian

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Partnership allows study abroad courses in Israel

Kirsten Oss
& Johnathon Smith

BJU students from all majors can study in Jerusalem to earn credit toward their degrees due to a partnership the University finalized with Jerusalem University College this year.

“Students who join this program will never be the same again as they return with a new appreciation of the text of Scripture and the God of the Bible as they seek to live their faith,” said Dr. Kevin Oberlin, dean of the School of Religion.

In the summer of 2023, BJU will offer a 4-credit study abroad course, Historical and Geographical Settings of the Bible, in Israel for the first time. In the meantime, students can take individual courses directly through JUC.

Jeff Evans, the vice president of business and institutional relations at JUC, worked with Oberlin to bring BJU into its consortium, a collection of academic institutions that

have special agreements with JUC to award academic credit for courses taken at the Israeli college.

“Dr. Pettit opened the door to a JUC/BJU partnership because he understands the impact that JUC’s Bible training can have on student’s lives,” Evans said.

Dr. Jeremy Patterson, the director of the Office of Study Abroad & Study USA, said the University chose to work with JUC because of BJU President Steve Pettit’s personal connections with the college.

“[JUC] has both the academic rigor and the biblical worldview that define who we are,” Patterson said.

At some point, Patterson hopes to send a faculty member to JUC to facilitate a semester-long course for BJU students.

Dr. Gary Weier, BJU’s provost, also worked to establish the partnership.

“[JUC has] some



As provost, Weier works to improve academic experiences, such as study abroad opportunities.

Photo: Zenny Bayer

of the best programs when it comes to understanding the lands in the Bible,” he said.

These programs range from two to three weeks to a full semester, providing flexibility to BJU students wishing to study abroad. Courses span topics from Biblical Archeology to Social Settings of Modern Israel.

“There’s the potential to do [study abroad courses] with other students from other Christian colleges in the United States, where our students would join along with them,” Weier said. “There are also opportunities as this grows for it to be exclusive, where it is only a group of Bob Jones University students.”

Although the courses are primarily intended for School of Religion majors, students from any school division can benefit from a study abroad in the Holy Land.

“It would be a benefit to any student from any school,” Weier said. “It would count toward elective credit, but it’s an enriching ex-

perience.”

“As a believer, understanding Scripture and then understanding all of life, to be exposed to a different culture, to be exposed to the land where Christ physically ministered here on this earth ... is a huge benefit,” he said.

“Students should expect to read the Bible with new eyes after studying with JUC,” Evans said. “JUC students will be able to not only make sense of the places in Scripture that many glaze over, but they will be able to understand their significance in the biblical narrative. Students get the opportunity to live at JUC’s Mt. Zion campus just steps from the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. After living in Jerusalem for any length of time, students will start to understand and appreciate the lands and cultures of Jerusalem.”

Oberlin suggested interested students watch JUC’s free online seminar on Jan. 8-9, which will provide more information about the college’s course offerings.

After deciding to study abroad, students can complete an application for short-term, long-term or online courses at juc.edu/ apply. ©

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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This year’s Christmas edition of *The Collegian* follows a one-year gap in the tradition. For most of the current BJU students, COVID-19 has defined the college experience.

I am grateful for the opportunity to once again celebrate Christmas with my University family through my work after last year’s early end to the semester. I am especially grateful to share my joy in the holiday season with my staff and our readers for my final issue as editor in chief.

Thank you, readers, for taking interest in my work in this role. And thank you, staff, for making the experience a good one.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Best regards,
Vicki Olachea



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

Design: Arianna Rayder

Photo & Design: Arianna Rayder

The Collegian Editorial

A Somber Celebration

Christmas is a time of celebration. Throughout the nation, people celebrate the holiday season with decorations, gifts and an abundance of food. Although every year brings a debate on when to start the musical festivities, one of the most popular ways to celebrate is through music.

But Christmas music does not always sound like a celebration. A few traditional Christmas songs are subdued, even somber, such as “What Child Is This,” “Mary Did You Know” or “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Even cheerful words can be overshadowed by a haunting tune.

In a perhaps unconventional way, these songs illustrate a facet of the Christmas celebration that can’t be communicated through all of the jubilant music, bright lights and warm colors. The song “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” best highlights this concept by focusing on Israel’s plight right before the arrival of the Messiah.

Here’s the first verse for a refresher:

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

The song emphasizes the triumph of Christ’s coming by exploring Israel’s intense need for a Savior, echoing the prophets of the Old Testament who described Israel in slavery as punishment for their sins and expressed their longing for One who could deliver them.

The prophets also described the effects of sin’s curse and the desperation we still feel today for an escape from pain, sorrow and death. Contrasting Christ with the curse gives us a true picture of the victory His coming is for all people.

The Christmas season often becomes a time to focus on the good things that we have or that we can give each other. But if we focus only on the good, we miss out on a large part of the story. Without understanding our desperate need for a Savior, we cannot truly celebrate God’s gift.

This Christmas, some of us will be returning to unsaved family members who cannot understand the miracle of Christ’s coming until they understand their own needs for a Savior. Some of us will be returning to trouble that seems to overshadow the Christmas season—like a haunting tune overshadows cheerful words.

But like those somber songs give crucial context to the celebration of Christmas, those troubles fit into God’s plan and purpose for our lives. They are an important part of the story. And God promises to provide in those troubles just as He provided Himself to meet humanity’s need for a Savior.

This Christmas, we should remember to look at the whole story. We should celebrate God’s gifts with joy and thanksgiving, but we should not pressure ourselves or others to be only joyful during the holiday season. No matter the season of life we find ourselves in this Christmas, whether that be a time to laugh or a time to cry (Ecc. 3:4), we can thank God for His provision in our needs. ©

COLUMN



Johnathon Smith
COPY EDITOR

Dear Grandpa,

It’s been a long time since we’ve talked—a year, maybe. But it’s actually been three, as impossible as that is to believe.

It’s taken me this long to collect my thoughts and write them down in this letter, but I’ve finally decided that after so long there are some things I need to get off my chest. I need to talk to you—even if I can’t do so face-to-face—and explain how I’m feeling.

Immediately, as I sit down to write this, I’m overwhelmed by a diverse stream of memories. I see the fiery red sweater you wore to grandparents’ day at my elementary school, the one that reminded me of your

red firetruck. I remember the time you came to my Christmas concert in high school and took me out to a restaurant afterward.

Other Christmas memories—the model train circling the Christmas tree, the Christmas music floating through the house and the brightly colored presents—are only hazy recollections at this point.

But one memory from that season is stronger and more recent than the others—Christmas of 2018, the last time I saw you.

There were red and green lights then too, just like at all the other Christmases we’d celebrated together, but this time, the grim red and green lights were flashing across hospital monitors ad nauseum, displaying your vital signs. This time, hospital food was the best hope I had of sharing a holiday meal with you.

And three years later as Christmas comes closer, I’m desperately holding onto the all-too-quickly fading memories of you I’ve stored away in my head—memories that bring a confusing mix of joy and pain.

But I remember anyway. Those golden memories are worth the pain, but the pain

of loss never really goes away completely.

Every time I reflect on those golden memories we built together, it affects me the same way. I’m left wishing I’d spent more time with you, but time is something you never get back. Once it’s spent, it’s gone.

Although I can’t go back and spend more time with you, I can learn from that missed opportunity.

Another loved one’s health has taken a turn for the worse around Christmas—your wife, my grandma—and I’m not sure how much longer she’ll be around.

Although I’m 700 miles away, I’ll do what I can. I’ll call Grandma and remind her of her favorite memories, including some the three of us share. I’m not going to waste what little time I have left with her—just one more lesson you’ve taught me, Grandpa.

Although I’ve enjoyed writing this letter to you, I’m afraid I have to go now. As refreshing as dwelling on my good memories of you has been, I need to call Grandma and make some new memories.

Love,
Johnathon ©

sudoku

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

International student led to Christ by coworker, led to BJU by alumna

Nathaniel Hendry

STAFF WRITER

As an international student, Jang YoonSik expected to experience a culture shock when he came to the U.S. Yet, although he faced many surprises, his time at Bob Jones University has been better than he imagined.

Before coming to BJU, Jang, a South Korean communication graduate student, worked as a teacher in Korea. Jang kept busy

teaching 20-30 students each year, often working until midnight. “I was really burned out,” Jang said.

While an undergraduate Jang had tried to become a diplomat. He spent hours studying in the library every day and sacrificed other opportunities to take the exams used to screen applicants. The first test covered topics including English, international laws and politics and the Korean constitution and history.

After passing, Jang pre-

pared for an essay test on similar topics. Jang was unable to pass the second test. So, he turned to teaching.

Things changed for Jang when he met a co-worker who shared the Gospel with him and ultimately led Jang to Christ. The co-worker’s wife, a BJU alumna, recommended that Jang come to the University. Jang said he thanks God he learned about BJU instead of going to a college somewhere else. “Otherwise, I might be in Alaska ... fighting with ... polar bears,” Jang said.

Jang was originally worried about what his experience in the U.S. would be like. “When I watch Hollywood movies, there are a lot of [curse] words and many gunshots and ethnic/racial discrimination,” he said. However, instead of the hostile environment he expected, Jang was pleasantly surprised by the positive Christian culture at BJU. He was impressed by the high quality education of the faculty, staff and

students. “I really like Bob Jones,” he said.

The best part for Jang about studying communication at BJU is that he gets to practice English with native speakers. Although he learned some English in Korea, he struggled to learn proper pronunciation from his teachers, who were not native English speakers. For the first few months at BJU, he had trouble understanding the professors and other students. “I couldn’t understand a word,” said Jang. “I needed to pretend to know English in many cases when I first came here. ... It was not easy.”

However, Jang is grateful for the personal help he received. In particular, he is thankful for Dr. Grace Hargis, a professor in the Division of English Language and Literature, who personally coached Jang through his difficulties. “She asked me to come to her office and go to the problem areas,” said Jang. “She solved my problems

on the spot!”

Between the heavy course load and his slower reading pace, Jang has to spend a lot of time studying. “I can say that [the] library is my second home,” he said. “If I can bring [a] blanket, the library might be my first home.”

Quarantining during lockdowns in the summer of 2020 came as a shock and disappointment to Jang, since he came to the U.S. to meet people and practice English with native speakers. However, he was able to continue his studies through Microsoft Teams and return to campus for in-person classes in the fall of 2020. “I’m thankful for my professors, for their sacrifice [and] devotion to continue their students’ studying,” Jang said.

After he graduates this December, Jang will return to South Korea to work as an English teacher. He plans to teach until he retires, then potentially move back to the U.S.—maybe even Greenville. ☺



Jang worked as an English teacher in South Korea before traveling to BJU and plans to return home to resume teaching.

Photo: Nathaniel Hendry

Red Room remodeled, renamed

Andrew Thompson

STAFF WRITER

The dining common’s Red Room has been renamed College Point and is undergoing renovations this semester to make it a more pleasing environment for on-campus meetings.

Laurilyn Hall, a faculty member in the Division of Art+Design, has been involved in renovating the room, paying tribute to her father Tim Davis and grandfather Fred Davis, who served in the dining common for a combined nearly 60 years.

“[The renovations] were a little more personal to me as my father and grandfather both spent many years directing operations at the

dining common,” Hall said. “It was very special to work in these spaces again and refresh their ambience so that they continue to function well as gathering places that build community around the table, which is ultimately what they are for.”

The new name is a tribute to College Point, the property where the original Bob Jones College was founded. The room will no longer be red, with updates planned to make the room BJU-themed blue combined with neutral tones and an updated art theme.

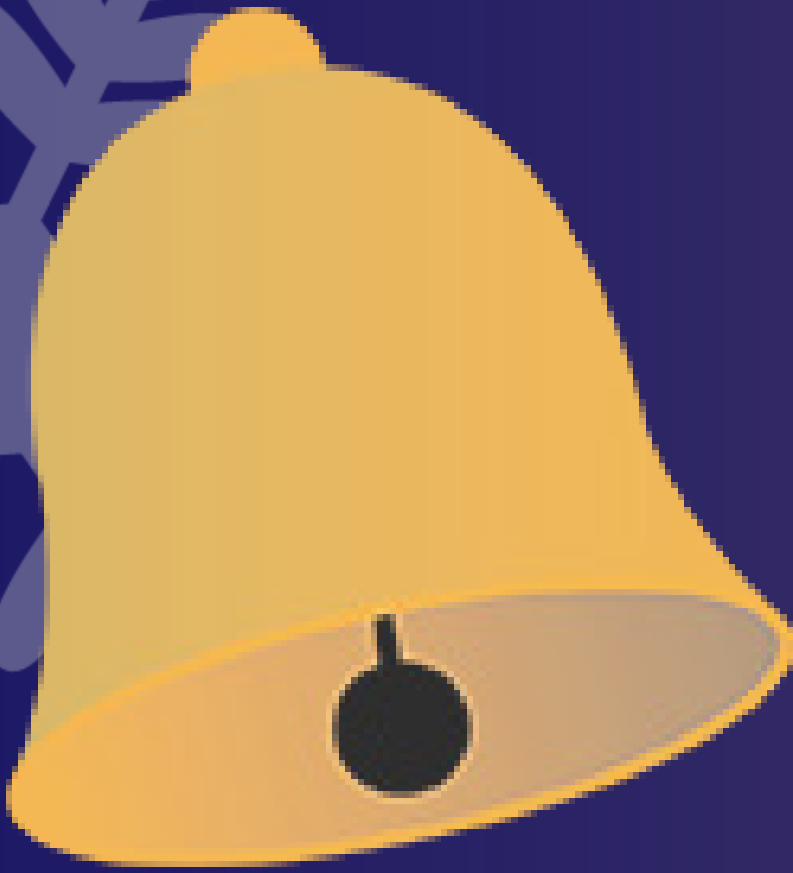
The room can be rented by students through the Events Office for on-campus meetings. ☺



The old Red Room, pictured here during a Bruins men’s soccer banquet in 2012, was renovated this year to make the space more accessible for student organizations to rent.

Photos: (left) Jim Block (right) Andrew Pledger

Talk



Heather Lewis

Sophomore criminal justice major

"My mom's side of the family, we all dress up in [University of Michigan] stuff."



Kylie West

Sophomore child development major

"Every single Christmas Eve when I was growing up we would have lightsaber fights for like a solid hour, me and my brother. Even though I don't see him every Christmas, we still talk about it all the time every time we do see each other. ... He's supposed to have a kid, ... and it's gonna be born May 4th, which is Star Wars day, so we're kind of freaking out about that."



"We always spend Christmas Eve with my dad's side of the family, and we do all of our Christmas presents from that side [on] that night, and ... my grandparents from Florida pretend to be Santa. ... And then Christmas morning we have just our family ourselves, and then my mom's side comes later in the day. So, we have like three Christmases between two days."



Lucy Tran

Freshman premed major

"A Christmas tradition that I experienced back in Vietnam because I'm actually an international student [is] ... my family usually goes to our church. We would have a whole evening service and then have food afterwards. And then we just hang around with all of our church members usually through the night and then we go back."



Olivia Berard

Sophomore nursing major



back

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Hannah Bray



Mark Millar

Sophomore sport management major

"We don't eat like a [whole] meal, it's more a hodge-podge, different little meals, little snacks we eat together for Christmas Eve dinner, and ... we open presents Christmas Eve, and then [in the] morning we wake up, and we open one big gift. ... Then we have our giant meal with friends and family [on] Christmas day."

"My mom has always made my little sister and I pillowcases. Every Christmas Eve we sleep with our new pillowcases and every Christmas morning we wake up with our new pillowcases."



Grace Ames

Junior biblical counseling major



Andrew Floyd

Sophomore science education major

"Every year our family does fried bread dough. It's in a big pot or a big pan, the dough rises overnight. Every Christmas morning we have some of that, it's really good. We always read the Christmas story, definitely enjoy doing that. And we typically have an evening church service that we go to."



Andrew Nelson

Freshman communication major

Bruins bring home national titles, set records in fall season



Men's soccer Coach Greg Fulton was named the NCCAA DII coach of the year.

Photo: Bradley Allweil

Jared Banks

STAFF WRITER

After a competitive season, the Bruins teams brought home a wide variety of honors this semester.

Finishing with the best regular season record in program history and a national championship victory, the Bruin's men's soccer team enjoyed a great season.

The team went 12-2-2 in the regular season, with

a tie against DI Furman University. In the DII national championship, the Bruins defeated Randall University 2-1 after losing to them in double overtime in the 2020 National Tournament. Caleb Adams and Victor Oladipo scored, with Oladipo's goal in the 81st minute putting the game away, and the Bruins brought home a second national championship. During the season, coach Greg Fulton was brought

from interim coach to head coach.

Bruin's women's soccer went 18-4-1 with no home losses this season and a spot in the DI national tournament. The team reached a 16-game winning streak this season. After beating Trinity Baptist College 10-0, the Bruins finished the regular season with a double overtime tie against Erskine College.

In the regional tournament, they beat Carolina University 3-1 and lost to Warner University 0-2. In the NCCAA DI National Tournament in Kissimmee, Florida, they took Oakland City University to overtime, but lost in the 96th minute, then lost to Ottawa University, eliminating the Bruins from the tournament. The Bruins finished with their best record in program history this year.

Bruin's volleyball went 31-7 on the season and won their fourth NCCAA DII national championship in a row. The team swept Johnson University, who defeated the Bruins in the pool play round at the beginning

of the tournament.

In the semifinals the Bruins beat Manhattan Christian College, then went on to their sweep of Johnson University to win the national title. This was the Bruins fourth time playing against Johnson University in the season.

Victoria Glaze, captain of the team, was named First Team All-American for the second time in her Bruins career. The team was forced to step up when Glaze was injured in the beginning of the national tournament, and the Bruins still came away with the title.

The Bruin's golf team won the NCCAA South Region Championship for the second time in program history. They placed second in the Bruins Golf Classic tournament, coming in behind Spartanburg Methodist but beating Colombia International University, and the Bruins placed first for the NCCAA South Region.

The team placed fifth out of 9 teams in the NCCAA National Tournament, in which Grant Bagwell

earned All-American honors with a top-10 finish. He is the second All-American in the history of the program. The Bruins came close to winning the Eagle Invitational tournament, coming in third place by just one stroke.

The Bruin's men's cross-country team brought home their sixth national title in a row while the women's team won their second consecutive national title.

Head coach Ken Roach was named NCCAA DII Coach of the Year. This is his first year as head coach for the men's and women's teams. The men's team finished in first place twice this season and third place three times.

Douglas Stone and Sol Shafer earned All-American honors for finishing top-five in the National Championship. The women's team finished first in two of their races. Sarah Alferink and Nicole Fox both earned All-American honors as well. ©



Design: Arianna Rayder

Around 8,000 visitors came to campus to watch this year's lighting ceremony, the highest turnout since Dr. Steve Pettit became president of BJU.

Top Left Photo: Melia Covington

Around 400 students volunteered to pack 1,155 boxes for Operation Christmas Child after the lighting ceremony.

Bottom Left Photo: Bradley Allweil

Last year's U-Singers joined the current freshmen choir members to sing at the lighting ceremony after last year's event was canceled because of the shortened semester due to COVID-19.

Bottom Right Photo: Melia Covington

Holiday tradition returns to culinary arts program

Ethan House

STAFF WRITER

The gingerbread village, a Bob Jones University culinary arts tradition, has returned after a seven-year absence.

In the week before Thanksgiving break, 19 culinary arts students began working on a gingerbread village under the direction of Chef David Miller.

According to Miller, the gingerbread village used to be a staple of the culinary arts program as a part of Introductory Bakeshop, but the project was removed after 2014 due to time concerns and shifting priorities for the course.

This year, because of a gap in the events schedule, Miller reintroduced the gingerbread village to the program. “We actually used to do events right up to Thanksgiving, but with letting our students go leave at 5 [p.m.]

ing common, where it will remain until the end of the semester.

One major difference with this year’s village is an emphasis on collaboration between the freshman and sophomore classes. The project is part of the CA 211 Culinary Arts Practicum course for the sophomores and the CA 104 Introductory Bakeshop course for the freshmen.

“Their lab times for two of their classes [were] both gingerbread cookies,” Miller said. “So, we teamed up a freshman and a sophomore and let them choose what structure to do.” Miller also said he hopes the faculty can continue this in future years.

For many of the students, whose courses are usually divided by classification, the experience of getting to work with students outside their class was new.

“I remember that last year, we didn’t really get to know the sophomores as

been a lot of fun working with the freshmen so far.”

One of the reasons the culinary faculty brought back the village was positive feedback from former students. “We actually had many grads tell us, ‘That was my favorite part,’” Miller said. “There was a lot of memories with [the village].”

The current students echoed similar sentiments

about the project.

“I like all the creativity because you have to think about, ‘How can I make pillars out of something?’” Grace Ramsek, a freshman, said. “You have to think of maybe cookies or a big candy cane or something like that. I just like thinking outside the box about different things to use for the

decorating.”

“It was actually really fun—more fun than I thought it was going to be,” Garcia said. “I really liked how we actually made the gingerbread houses ... from scratch and, overall, decorated them how we wanted. That was a cool experience.” ☺



From 1996 to 2014, the gingerbread village project (pictured in progress) served as the final exam of the Introductory Bakeshop course.
Photo: Lindsay Shaleen



when classes are over, ... we realized we can’t do [an event] again that Friday night.”

The village, which features 10 structures designed and built by the students, is being displayed outside the Kalmbach Room of the din-

much because our courses were so different,” said Natalie Garcia, a sophomore culinary arts major. “But this year, we’re meeting the freshmen that are coming in and getting to know them and becoming friends with them. So, it’s



Garcia decorates one of the gingerbread houses, which are on display in the dining common lobby.

Photo: Lindsay Shaleen

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A Biblical Perspective

The Major Theme

What do Mark Twain, William Faulkner, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville and Robert Frost have in common? That their works, still popular and retaining immense influence, all undermine, in one way or another, a biblical worldview.

As a teacher of imaginative writing, I find worldview coming constantly into play, for all communication reflects its author's assumptions. Narrative (i.e., storytelling) should portray, as Scripture shows us, scenarios mirroring actual, biblical reality.

Any worldview that

focuses exclusively on brokenness and failure, says Francis Schaeffer in *Art and the Bible*, portrays only life's minor theme.

The major theme of the Bible and of Christian experience is victory. This victory doesn't follow the curve of romantic fiction by painting total, all-encompassing triumph. Instead, it paints the realistic truth.

As with the Bible's heroes of faith, that victory is somewhat tempered, often partial—but still attainable! This, I believe, is the essence of a biblical worldview on narrative.

Good tidings of great joy

- 1) Study abroad in Israel
- 6) Bruins season recap
- 7) Gingerbread village



Photo: Bradley Allweil