

the Collegian

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Bob Jones University | Greenville, SC 29614

Samson et Dalila to feature over 200 student participants



BJU's production of the opera, which was written in French and first performed in German, will have French lyrics with English subtitles.

Photo: Hal Cook

Jared Banks
& Johnathon Smith

Bob Jones University will present *Samson et Dalila*, an opera with over 200 student participants, in Rodeheaver Auditorium Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

"*Samson et Dalila* is grand opera at its finest, and our upcoming production will not disappoint," said Darren Lawson, dean of the School of Fine Arts and Communication, in a news release. "The sets and costumes are equally grand and the cast of 160, accompanied by our 53-piece orchestra, will bring the story to glorious life on stage."

French composer Camille Saint-Saëns' *Samson et Dalila* tells the biblical

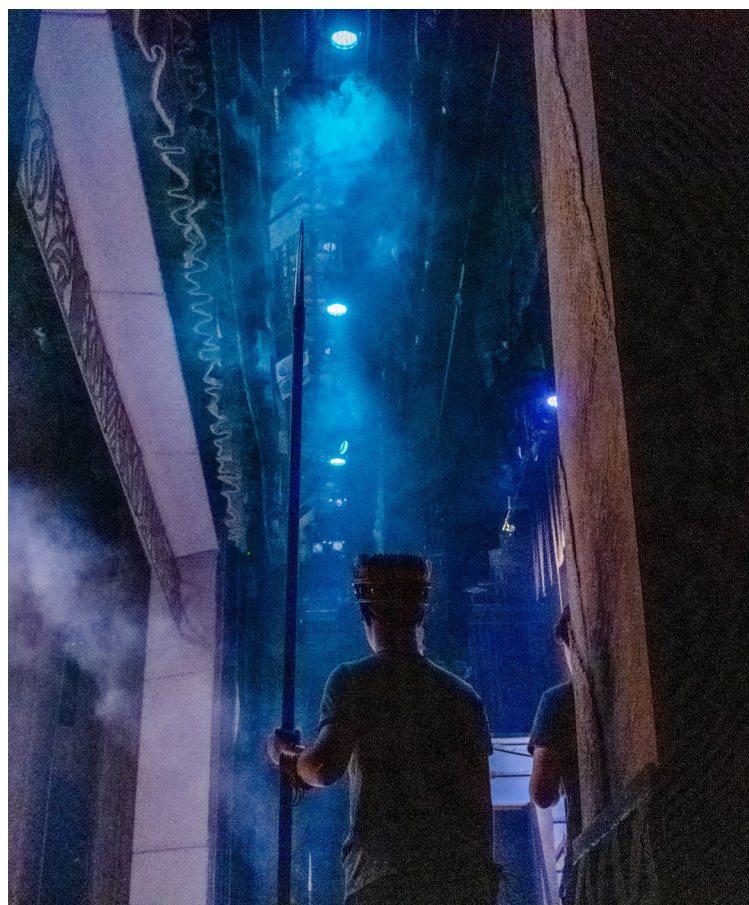
narrative of Samson as he strays from serving God because of the influence of Delilah, a Philistine woman.

Professional guest artists, including Clay Hilley, Dana Beth Miller, Brandon Hendrickson and Kevin Thompson, will supplement the majority student cast.

The student understudies for Samson and Delilah, Caleb Wutzke, a senior music education major, and Sarah Grace Johnson, a senior voice performance major, have prepared for their roles for months. This preparation allowed them to coach the guest artists, who will actually portray the characters.

"I'm not your typical

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BJU previously presented this opera five times, most recently in 2010.

Photo: Melia Covington

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2022



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First Fridays bring free art to Greenville

Andrew Thompson

STAFF WRITER

The Greenville Metropolitan Arts Council's (MAC) monthly First Friday events offer students a chance to experience Greenville's diverse art collections and connect with the local art community.

On the first Friday of every month, the local galleries that partner with MAC hold free art showings open to the public from 6-9 p.m.

Many galleries hold themed First Fridays. In February, the Greenville Center for Creative Arts presented an exhibition called "My Daughter Gathers Seeds," which focused on telling a story through art to bring attention to social issues and teach tenderness and empathy. Art Crossing boasted a Southern accent designs art showing.

Erin Turner, director of marketing at the MAC, said it is important to bring the

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THE WEEK

MIDTERM GRADES

Students can check StudentCentral tomorrow to see their up-to-date midterm grades.

BASEBALL GAME

The Bruins baseball team will play against Truett-McConnell at Conestee Park tomorrow at 4 p.m.

HIRING FAIR

A hiring fair for BJU graduate assistants will be held Wednesday in Rodeheaver lobby at 11:45 a.m.

CS CONTEST

BJU will host a programming contest in the Mack Library Saturday. Sign up by Thursday to compete.

COLUMN



A Powerful Tool

Trenton Goldsmith

STAFF WRITER

Famed British writer C.S. Lewis once wrote: “You can make anything by writing.” As college students, writing feels inevitable. Many of us have struggled to throw words together to reach a professor’s minimum word count.

Writing is not merely the action of putting words down on a piece of paper, but an art—a beautiful concept that shows its attraction by personality, by authenticity and by secrecy.

In writing, expressing emotions and choosing certain topics show the author’s personality. Someone can show joy, sobriety, anger, fear or love all in one piece through different characters, plots and settings. The best way to show your personality and emotions in writing is through poetry.

Robert Frost once said, “Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought, and the thought has found words.”

Taking a simple object like a flower, the writer can explore certain parts, stages of growth or placements of the flower, then use that to tell the reader how he is feeling. The emotion revealed through writing is unlike emotion shown through speech because written words allow the readers to interpret the work as if it were talking about their own lives.

Writing shows authenticity. Through this concept, the writer and reader can develop a certain kind of relationship: one that engenders trust and

During Bible Conference, BJU students routinely heard calls from speakers to contend for the faith in their churches, in their hearts and in the world. But how can Christian young adults stand out and fight for the truth in a dark, God-hating society?

Paul gives us a hint in Philippians 2:14-15: “Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”

The Philippian believers lived among “crooked and perverse” people who hated the Gospel. As the conference speakers noted, these same people characterize the world Christians engage with today. Christ said, “Because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. ... If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you” (John 15:19-20).

Christians experience ridicule in a secular society for holding to the fundamental truths of the Bible when the world teaches that people can create their own truth. Some people accuse Christians of being intolerant or hypocritical. Others label us as narrowminded fools for believing the Gospel. We face pressure to conform to the world instead of remaining vigilant and contending for the faith in this environment.

Paul says that one way we stand out is by doing everything without murmur-

conviction. Having genuine spirit, tone and information is important in showing the authenticity of writing. If someone has an experience or knowledge of certain topics and they want to teach it, writing down their knowledge can help someone else learn.

Many famous authors, like C.S. Lewis and A.W. Tozer, gained their fame and audience through the authenticity of their writing. They understood what their audience of readers wanted and delivered many works that are still read and revered to this day.

Journaling, usually thought of as writing with secrecy, can be the most important structure of all for college students. While

this form tends to show plenty of personality and authenticity, it is for the writer only. Secret writing is a method of self-counseling that many people around the world utilize. Scribbling thoughts down on a paper is a way to help a struggling person get his emotions out in a safe and private way.

Your journals might not stay a secret forever, but people in the future will probably benefit from reading about some of the struggles you had. It is in that way that someone could relate to you, and it could build up your authenticity even if you’re not around.

For Christians, writing is extremely important. We

ing or disputing. Other versions translate these words as grumbling and arguing (HCSB, NIV) or complaining and disputing (NKJV).

The world and the flesh give believers many reasons to complain. We complain about the busyness of life, the rules we must follow or how unjust our bosses or teachers are. Grumbling and complaining about these things may seem insignificant, especially when everyone does it, but the heart attitude Christians cultivate should look different from the world and reflect the humility and servant mindset of Christ (see Phil. 2:3-8).

Not only will this attitude make Christians stand out, but it will also make us blameless and without rebuke before a world that searches for reasons to ridicule us. The apostle Peter says that even though unbelievers accuse Christians of doing evil, the honorable and blameless life of believers will, remarkably, cause unbelievers to glorify God upon His return (1 Pet. 2:12). If we live uprightly, they will have no valid accusation to bring against us.

As we accomplish even mundane tasks this week, let us resist the urge to grumble, argue and complain. Instead, let us seek the power of the Holy Spirit to work “heartily, as to the Lord and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord [we] shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for [we] serve the Lord Christ” (Col. 3:23-24). ☺

base everything we believe on God’s written words. Jeremiah 30:2 says, “Thus speaketh the Lord God of Israel, ‘Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.’” The Bible is the Word of God.

Without writing, how would we know God? How would we know about Creation? How would we know about Christ and the salvation He provides? The Bible is written in different genres portraying truth in all of them. The Bible is the most beautifully written book, written library.

Writing is beautiful. Surely C.S. Lewis was correct when he said that anything could be made by writing. ☺

The Collegian Editorial

Complaining is conforming

the Collegian

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Jonny Gamet

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community together and talk about societal issues through art.

“These events offer an opportunity to bring awareness to the public about different issues in the community and beyond,” she said. “Greenville art is unique because so many different artists come here from all over thanks to the diverse and accepting community that is already here. They want to contribute to that community.”

Turner believes Greenville hosts a rich art scene. “Everything is very accessible in Greenville,” she said. “The city has always loved the arts, whether that be theatre, music or art galleries. The main thing art does is bring people together. So many different people from different backgrounds can all enjoy and experience the same piece of art and all connect to it.

“We do not have just one demographic that goes to these events,” Turner said. “We have people from across the age spectrum, from college students to our retired community, [who] all come together to marvel over the same artwork.”

Jared Stanley, a member of BJU’s Division of Art + Design faculty, emphasized

the unifying effect of art.

“Art is powerful in the regard that it causes the viewer to take on the lens of the artist and see the world through their eyes,” he said. “We as viewers can understand a bit more of the challenges others face, which can bring about empathy, an important function of art. It’s important for us to listen to others if we ever wish to lovingly share Christ with them. Christ, His sacrifice and redemption unite people across all cultural backgrounds.”

Michelle Radford, another member of BJU’s Division of Art + Design faculty, believes Christians have a duty to appreciate the arts.

“We have art and design everywhere,” she said. “We have visual stimuli everywhere. We can’t get away from it, and within the fine arts and the First Friday events here in Greenville and the art galleries and museums we have around us, beauty and intention of communication are concentrated. We find them in high concentration in a way that maybe we would only find in the more diluted form in other places.”

“From a theological standpoint, if we’re thinking about who God is and how did this beauty get to us, God is a trinity, and the Trinitarian joy and fullness



Darin Gehrke, owner of Darin Gehrke Ceramics in Greenville, finds inspiration for his pottery from Chinese and Japanese styles, according to his website.
Photo: Melia Covington

and delight and communication is overflowed into the created world,” Radford said. “One of our jobs is to sense that and to declare it and to find where it shows up in our world.”

“When on a Friday night we see a painting or a sculpture that an artist has made in a gallery, we are seeing the ways in which humans have cultivated those potentials,” she said. “We see those raw materials that God put in the earth, and hopefully we’ll be able to find some examples where humans have formed these materials in a way that actually points towards more beauty and maybe cultivates further beauty out of the poten-

tials.”

Stanley encourages students to take advantage of the MAC’s events. “The MAC is supportive of the arts within Greenville and the surrounding areas,” he said. “They organize a schedule, map and trail for Frist Friday events. I have enjoyed using these on a number of occasions.”

Those interested in Greenville art events can look for these and other resources at the MAC’s website, <https://www.greenvillearts.com>.

Stanley also stressed the importance of discernment.


“First of all, be in God’s word. Be filled with His thoughts before you let

other thoughts in. Understand that we are contending for our culture, as we heard during Bible Conference,” he said.

Stanley encouraged consumers of the arts to meditate on Philippians 4:8.


Turner noted that Alex and Larry Burgamy have been the presenting sponsors of MAC’s First Friday program since 2021. Larry is president of Lincoln Energy Solutions, headquartered in Greenville. He and his wife Alex recently moved back to Greenville from San Francisco. Both love Greenville and the arts and want to do their part to contribute to the arts in the city of Greenville. ☺

TALKBACK



Meg Rush
Staff member, Facilities

"Probably *Little Women*. It was a great story and really well done. The guest artists they had were phenomenal, and also having friends in the production helps too."



Drew Huhta
Senior cinema production major

"*The Titanic* because 'I laughed. I cried. It moved me, Bob.' It's a reference to *Veggie Tales*."

Photos: Hannah Guell

» » From **ARTIST SERIES** p.1

Samson,” Wutzke said, “but I try to make it my own character.”

Johnson said she has enjoyed the chance to participate in the opera. “I think my favorite part has been getting to spend time with some of my closest friends,” she said.

Timothy Hulbert, a sophomore theatre major and the assistant director for the production, has enjoyed working with the cast.

“It has been amazing to see the progress of the show and how far each student has come from their experience in the opera,” he said.

Michael Moore, the chair of the Division of Music and conductor for the opera, said the score is complex.

“From the first cinematic moments of the opening act to the cacophany of the final scene, Saint-Saëns’ score rewards us with sumptuous colors, heroic fanfare, biting irony and a cathartic climax that packs a truly visceral punch,” he said.

Lawson said students will benefit from the event. “It’s important that students are exposed to the operatic artform,” he said. “It’s a stretching experience to accentuate your liberal arts training here at BJU.”

Moore asked students to come to the production with an open mind. “I hope people can take away some ‘selah’ moments—a chance to stop and meditate and take a break from the busy culture.” ©



Moore said students should pay close attention to the score, matching it to the emotions the characters are displaying on stage.
Photo: Melia Covington

Staff, faculty compose original music for student productions

Hannah Bray

STAFF WRITER

Two BJU faculty and staff members recently composed original pieces for student productions.

David Janssen, a faculty member in the Division of Music, created his piece for the upcoming Univer-

sity Symphony Orchestra production *Revolutionary Romantics*, which will premier in April.

Janssen teaches freshman theory as well as private music lessons and has been composing since he was in high school.

Janssen said he is a classical. “I am a lover of clas-

sical music, and that is the general genre I am attempting to write in,” he said.

Janssen said he wrote the piece for the production as a kind of pandemic response. The music reflects the wilderness of this world, the ultimate hope of resurrection and the promise of Christ’s rescue from

the troubles of this world.

“I would say it is a snapshot of the contemporary state of the kingdom of God,” he said.

Caleb Woo, a BJU health sciences graduate and recruitment specialist for the School of Health Professions, composed the background music for two student productions: a senior film and a senior theatre thesis on *Macbeth*.

Woo began playing music 10 years ago and has been composing for a couple of years. “I’m hoping to [compose] professionally, which is what I’ve been working towards,” he said.

Woo said both pieces are similar in that they are meant to shape the atmosphere of the film and thesis respectively. While each piece has a theme, the theme isn’t as noticeable since their primary purpose is to be atmospheric, not thematic. The pieces are also more minimalistic so as to not draw attention away from the film and thesis.

Woo met with the direc-

tor and the sound designer of the theater thesis so they could give him an idea of what they wanted to accomplish with the music.

“The sound designer actually gave me specific instrument sounds to imitate,” he said. “They wanted to use the sound of ancient Celtic instruments.” In order to recreate the sound of those instruments, Woo found ways to use modern instruments to make similar sounds.

Woo appreciates how technology has made composing easier in some ways. When composing, Woo uses Spitfire Audio, a British technology company that produces different instrument sounds, to try out different sounds and combinations of instruments. Eventually, the pieces will be recorded live with actual instruments, but the technology is a helpful tool for Woo to compose with.

Woo also created reference playlists on Spotify to help him find the right aesthetic for his compositions. ©



Although Woo began composing music only a couple of years ago, Janssen began composing original music in high school.

Photos: Hannah Guell

New Bruins beach volleyball team launches into first season

Micah Brink

STAFF WRITER

The Bruins beach volleyball team begins their inaugural season this spring.

Led by Coach Vickie Denny, the team began their regular season last Friday by facing Spartanburg Methodist College in Cleveland, Georgia.

Coach Denny and Bob Jones University's athletic program proposed the idea of sand volleyball to President Steve Pettit and the rest of the executive team three years ago. In the fall of 2021, the University announced the sport would join BJU's intercollegiate lineup.

Neal Ring, the director of intercollegiate athletics, described sand volleyball as "an up-and-coming sport."

He said it seemed like a natural fit for BJU. "One of the driving forces for us was we have all kinds of volleyball players and all kinds of potential," Ring said. "[Beach volleyball] is different, but it's still the same general characteristics."

Many of the 24 indoor volleyball players as well as a few first-time Bruins comprise the new beach team this spring. "A lot of players today want to do both," Ring said. "They want to play indoor and beach, and we've actually lost recruits [in the past] because they went somewhere where they could do both. So it was kind of a recruiting enhancement for us as well."

From a skills perspective, beach volleyball improves the athletes' game tremendously, Ring believes. In the sand, the Bruins will compete in doubles, totaling five teams of two.

Andrea Villaverde, a sophomore communication major and defensive specialist for the indoor team, said, "In sand, you have to be faster. You have to really have endurance and stamina, and [beach volleyball] is a lot of quick movement reading."

In her first year coaching beach volleyball, Denny enjoys the outdoor environment the team gets to play in. "The atmosphere is just a lot of fun,"



Unlike indoor volleyball, in which teams play to the best of five sets, beach volleyball teams win by securing the best of three sets.

Photo: Keyla Alvarado

Denny said. "It's like a different sport."

The game, however, does not come without its challenges. "The biggest thing about outdoor is all the elements you have to deal with," Denny said.

"The wind is definitely a huge factor. That's probably the biggest challenge coming outside."

According to Ring, beach volleyball offers many benefits for the Bruins players this spring. "Many of our volleyball athletes are used to a year-round model," Ring said. "They played in high school, and the rest of the time they're playing club volleyball. So this gets them back into that physical rhythm that they're used to. There are some mental health benefits, and [the athletes] are continuing that development of their personal abilities."

Ring said the National Collegiate Athletic Association deems beach volleyball an "emerging sport," and many schools are adding it to expand their volleyball program. He believes the Bruins will find games to be highly competitive, especially as a first-year team, but the team has a head start since

the sport is young and several players have beach experience.

This season, the team will play all matches away because the campus does not have enough outdoor courts to host other schools. However, plans are being made for the Bruins to be able to host in the spring season of 2023. Fans can carpool to beach matches, many of which take place as close as Spartanburg and in nearby North Carolina and Georgia.

According to Ring, Bruins beach volleyball now serves as a countable intercollegiate sport for the university's progression toward a NCAA full membership and allows athletes the chance to get outside and drastically improve their game. The players are greatly anticipating the chance to play.

"We're definitely more excited than nervous," Villaverde said. "We're really focusing on trusting each other and bringing energy to the court." ©



Beach volleyball players use hand signs and other nonverbal signals to communicate with each other.

Photo: Keyla Alvarado

Advisers offer suggestions to boost grades after midterms

Laura Hammer

STAFF WRITER

Many students are familiar with the sinking feeling in their chest when that little notification pops up. The grades are in for their latest test. They did not do as well as they wanted, and their midpoint grade in the class is lower than it should be.

Faculty members in the Academic Resource Center (ARC) offered several tips to help students bring up their grades.

Academic coach Kevin Schmidt advises students to “do something differently.”

According to Schmidt, students who repeatedly use the same study methods to prepare themselves often find unsatisfactory results. If a student wants to change their grade in a class after midterm grades come in, they need to change their approach.

The first thing for students to do is ask questions and determine how they got to a certain point in a class. Phil Adams, another coach in the ARC, said the first question to ask is “Have you talked to your



Before serving in the Academic Resource Center, Adams spent 32 years teaching German at Bob Jones Academy and the University.

Photo: Nathaniel Hendry

teacher?”

Secondly, ARC academic coach Amy Streeter advised students to ask themselves questions such as, “Are [you] having difficulty turning in assignments on time; Are [you] struggling understanding the lecture

or textbook material; Are [you] doing poorly on quizzes and tests; If so, what are [you] doing to learn the material?”

Once a student determines how they got to a certain point in their class, it is time to change their habits.

Students need a plan. “If you don’t have a plan, it’s not going to happen,” Adams said. In order to form that plan, Adams suggested students ask a series of questions. “What do you want? How are you going to get there? What obstacles will you face? And how will you overcome the obstacles?”

Schmidt advised students to switch up the physical locations where they study when deciding what they will change about their habits. “We often aren’t aware of how much our space impacts us,” he said.

After students decide where to study, they must answer the question of how they will study. Streeter and Adams both advise students to study materials for a class as if they were going to teach them to someone else.

“Incorporate as many learning styles as possible when you’re studying,” Schmidt said. If students are trying to bring up their grades, they should branch

out and try new things. “If you are deliberate in incorporating ... [visual, audio, and kinesthetic study methods] every time you’re studying, your retention, your understanding will go to new heights,” Schmidt said.

What many students think of as midterms are really just more tests, and they are over now. However, if students realize they need to bring up their grades, they need to act now by making a plan to change their habits and prepare for whatever comes next.

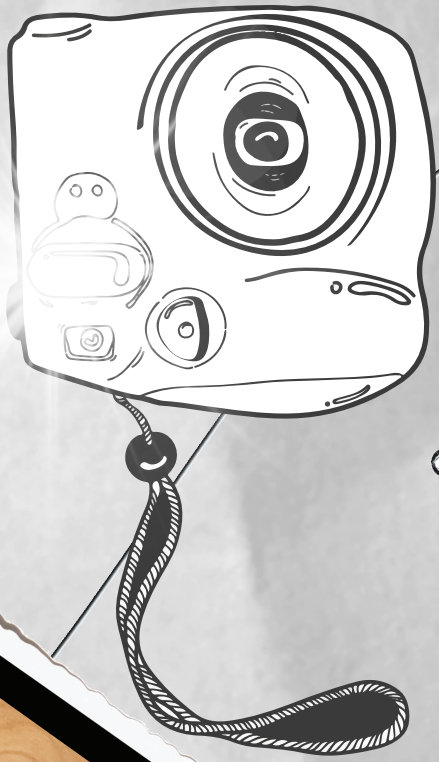
“Have you prepared for any week of school?” Schmidt asked. Many students do not even prepare for their weeks, but if they start using even simple practices such as checking Canvas, it equips them for bigger things, such as tests and projects.

The biggest step in preparation is starting now. “Tomorrow is the most unreachable goal,” Schmidt said. ☺

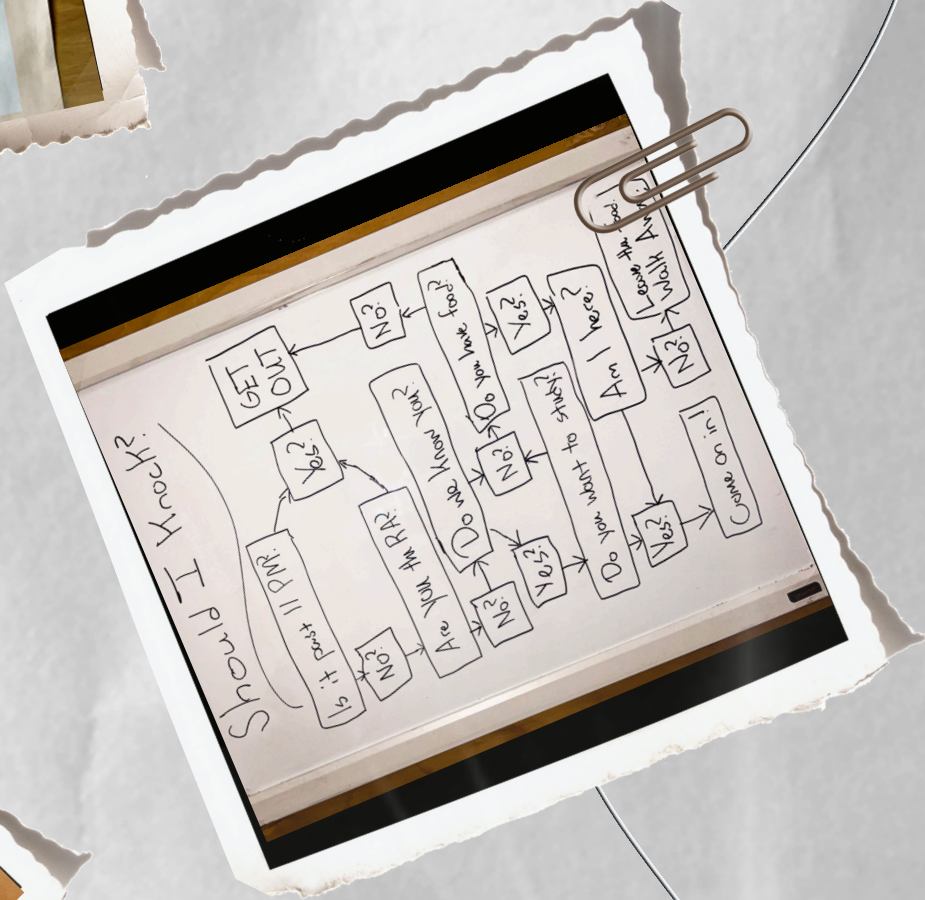


Before becoming a first year adviser, Schmidt served as BJU’s international admission counselor.

Photo: Nathaniel Hendry



creative door signs



Photos: Nathaniel Hendry and Alicia Cannon
Design: Arianna Rayder

Buiter reflects on years at BJU before stepping down

Johnathon Smith
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Reflecting on his years at Bob Jones University as he prepares to step down as dean of the School of Business at the end of the semester, Mike Buiter praises God for guiding him throughout his life.

Buiter will continue to teach two business classes each semester as a part-time professor.

“If we walk away with an attitude of worship in our hearts as we reflect on [my life], then the right thing has happened,” he said.

EXPERIENCES AT BJU

Since Buiter became dean in 2012, the School of Business has added and developed new course offerings, such as the paralegal program.

However, Buiter considers his greatest legacy as dean to be the creation of several associations for business students, including organizations focusing on investing, accounting and entrepreneurship.

Looking back, Buiter realizes that God began preparing him for his current job when he attended BJU because of the recommendations of his pastor and some members of his youth group.

The University was significantly different from the public high school he had attended. “I was actually around other Christian people that love Jesus Christ, and I flourished in the environment,” Buiter said.

LIFE ON WALL STREET

For his first job after college, Buiter worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers, one of the largest U.S. accounting firms. He then applied to work at Dr Pepper but was told he didn’t have enough relevant ex-

perience. Once Buiter supplemented his resume with two years of work in international accounting, the soft drink company hired him.

After six years of working at the company, Buiter was named the chief financial officer of Dr Pepper.

“It helped me learn how Wall Street thinks,” he said. “I lived on Wall Street. I worked with investment bankers who are ... the best and brightest minds in the business world.”

Buiter said his experience working at Dr Pepper prepared him for his work at BJU, including a capstone class he currently teaches for accounting majors. “Financial Statement Analysis ties directly to Wall Street, and if you’ve been there and you’ve done that, it helps you teach that,” he said.

Even as he worked elsewhere, Buiter knew he wanted to return to BJU to teach. “I felt that—even though I was growing in my career at Dr Pepper and other places—that God would someday call me to come to Bob Jones University,” he said. “And it wasn’t so much a matter of what; it was a matter of when God’s going to call me.”

After Buiter worked at Dr Pepper for nearly two decades, that time came. “There was a time when Dr. Bob Jones III called me up on the phone and said, ‘Mike, we would like you to consider coming to work here at Bob Jones University,’ and I said, ‘Dr. Bob, ... my wife and I prayed about that last night.’ And he about dropped the telephone,” Buiter said.

Three days after earning a master’s degree in business administration from Duke University, he began teaching accounting at BJU in 1995.

Buiter offers one key piece of advice for students

based on his experiences. “If you are walking in an intimate, daily walk with Christ and you’re growing in your personal relationship with Jesus Christ, it’s amazing how many other things fall into place,” he said.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Buiter plans to use the time he will gain from stepping down to focus on a few business enterprises. He also plans to continue investing in students’ lives by eating lunch with every freshman business student.

Although the future is uncertain, Buiter trusts that God will continue guiding him. “I can see how God has specifically led me through each phase in my life, and that is the same confidence I have moving forward,” he said. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” ☺



Dr Pepper grew three times more quickly than Pepsi and Coke while Buiter was the company’s CFO.
Photo: Jordyn Britton

sudoku

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