

the Collegian

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Homecoming to finish with a firework finale for the first time

Mackenzie King
STAFF WRITER

Bob Jones University's annual Homecoming and Family Weekend scheduled for Oct. 6-8 will give alumni, faculty, staff and students the chance to make lifelong memories as they enjoy events all over campus.

Dawn Schlichting, the events coordinator for Alumni Relations, described Homecoming as an event designed to draw alumni back home and to show current students that they are welcomed back when they graduate.

"We want the young alumni to be so excited about their alma mater that when they leave, they're already thinking in terms of 'I'm an alum, and I want to come back. I don't want to wait fifteen years. I don't want to wait twenty years. I want to come back because this place was so impactful,'" Schlichting said.

The weekend will include Bruins games, class reunions and dinners, among other events. This year, for the first time for a homecoming, BJU will set off fireworks after the Bruins men's soccer game on Saturday night, which begins at 7 p.m.

Homecoming will also include BJU's second annual Alumni Awards Ceremo-

ny, recognizing graduates for exceptional achievements. This ceremony begins at 11 a.m. on Friday in the Founder's Memorial Amphitheater and will feature a red carpet and giant cutouts people can pose behind for fun photos. Even Brody the Bruin will be dressed for the occasion in a tuxedo.

Director of Alumni Relations Jeanine Aumiller said she wants the students and alumni to consider BJU their home. "[Homecoming] is a celebration of your BJU; it's a celebration of my BJU," Aumiller said. "So, whether you're a student or you're that new grad and you're now an alumnus, Homecoming is a celebration of your BJU. It's like ownership." ©



Emma Stephens spoke during BJU's inaugural Alumni Awards Ceremony in 2021.
Photo: BJU Marketing



Former students square off during the annual Alumni and Friends Men's Basketball Game in 2021.
Photo: BJU Marketing

09/30
2022

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BJU awarded for its quality

Eylan Martinez
STAFF WRITER

The 2022-23 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges Ranking honored Bob Jones University with high rankings for regional universities in the South, best value, social mobility and undergraduate teaching. BJU President Steve Pettit announced the University's recognition during chapel on Sept. 12, highlighting BJU's ranking as a best value school. The ranking organization evaluated both the quality of the programs offered and the cost of education.

Dr. Gary Weier, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said BJU's continued improvements in the rankings come from the faculty and staff's focused efforts. "Our focus on student success has been very intentional, and that's been a key part in helping us improve on

See **AWARDS** p.6 >>

THE WEEK

SEPT. 30: IGNITE

Come out to enjoy recreation, food and worship with the student body in the Den at 10 p.m.

SEPT. 30 : USO CONCERT

Bring a picnic dinner and relax on the Gazebo lawn as the University Symphony Orchestra performs at 6 p.m.

OCT. 1: SOCCER VS. PCC

Cheer on the men's soccer team as they play against our friends from Florida at the Alumni Stadium at 7 p.m.

OCT. 8: U. DAY

Thousands of alumni and community members will enjoy games and activities on campus during this event.

COLUMN



Gratitude

Jordyn Britton

PHOTO EDITOR

Why do you thank God for things in your life? You've probably heard dozens of sermons and devotionals on gratitude in your lifetime, so you know you should be thankful. Maybe you thank God for your salvation every once in a while, or give thanks before meals, just so you cover that little commandment. But gratitude is more than checking off a box. Do you thank God only because you know you're supposed to, or because you have genuine gratitude in your heart?

Maybe you don't think you struggle that much with complaining or discontent – maybe overall you're satisfied with where you are and what God's been doing in your life. Even then, how often do you take things for granted? At the very least, God has given us breath and life on this earth, and if you're a Christian, He's given you salvation and a restored relationship with Him. You have an eternal home that has been secured for you in heaven, and a promise that God will be with you in this life until He calls you there.

In addition to that, there are so many ordinary things that we don't recognize as His gifts because they're, well... somewhat ordinary. Maybe God's protected you and given you safety driving around Greenville for the past few weeks. Maybe He's given you a friend or two that you can count on to listen to you. Maybe He's blessed you with a job to pay your

Why don't people enjoy following the news? Obvious reasons come to mind, like the fact that a lot of mainstream news reporting tends to amplify polarization and focus on negative events. However, the deeper problem comes from our concept of news.

According to the Media Insight Project, 79% of young Americans get news daily, but only 32% enjoy it.

In addition to the dominance of partisan news and abundant negativity, another factor accounts for many people's dislike for the news: it creates an emotional burden. The world is always about to end, we are told. Sometimes it seems like it actually will.

Some people respond by simply ignoring the news altogether, but that fuels ignorant opinions based on fragmentary factoids trickling in from friends, fueling even further polarization.

Other people throw out mainstream news and read only the news outlets that buttress their beliefs, but that ingrains blind biases.

Others seek out a variety of news sources to find balance, but that takes time.

Others emotionally detach from news, but that erases our empathy for others.

We at *The Collegian* believe that we can best engage with the news by minding our own business. Minding our own business doesn't mean only caring about ourselves. Definitely not. Selfishness is unbiblical and unloving.

However, Solomon warned people not to get involved in other people's matters. "He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears" (Proverbs 26:17). Paul said to live a simple life undistracted by busybody behaviors. "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business,

school bill, or with parents who are willing to help you financially. He's given you a chance to come to college and learn about things you enjoy, and have experiences that you'll remember for the rest of your life.

Maybe you can be thankful you're having an easier week, or even an easier semester, one with less homework and meetings and a little more breathing room. Or if you feel like

you're in the midst of chaos everywhere, you can be thankful for the trials that deepen your relationship with God.

And again, I'm not talking about empty obligatory gratitude. If something good happens and it lifts your mood, direct your thoughts in thankfulness to God. If something difficult happens and you're frustrated or stressed, direct your thoughts to God and

and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you" (1 Thessalonians 4:11).

So why read the news? We should follow news when it helps us better love those around us.

Local news is often the most relevant. It helps community members learn about needs and opportunities immediately around them. Reading *The Collegian*, for example, can help students follow the events that affect the lives of their friends and professors.

Beyond *The Collegian* (about which we are a little biased), other news issues can become our business as we make it such.

Passionate about pro-life issues? Follow the developments and then volunteer, donate, babysit and maybe even adopt.

Burdened for world missions? Adopt a region and learn about the spiritual and physical needs there, then pray, give and maybe even go.

Aspiring to use technology to improve quality of life? Read about the latest gadgets and then get involved in putting them to good use.

When we hear about a natural disaster devastating a city, a war uprooting refugees from their homes and families or a school shooting traumatizing families, we should not merely empathize for a few moments or change our profile picture temporarily. We should move into action by praying, volunteering and donating.

When we focus on our own business, we will see that reading the news becomes an opportunity to fulfill the second-greatest commandment: to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We need to realize that reading the news is not inherently valuable. It is only valuable as it enables us to better love and serve others. ☺

The Collegian Editorial

Don't enjoy the news? Rethink your motivation

the Collegian

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tion. But even if you don't feel gratitude, you can express it in prayer to God. If you can't bring yourself to do that, I want to challenge you to take a moment to pray for a grateful heart. Ask God to help you see the good in your situation. Even when it seems like you have nothing left to give, you can give God your praise. ☺

Alumni Building gets furniture upgrade

Jared Banks

STAFF WRITER

Several rooms in the Alumni Building received a furniture upgrade on Sept. 14-15, with new chairs and tables replacing older furniture. Seven classrooms received new furniture, while two other classrooms will use some repurposed furniture.

“While the residence hall projects were underway this summer and more of the funds were devoted to that, at the same time, there’s a desire to improve the learning facilities,” said David Fisher, vice provost for academic administration at Bob Jones University. “The best way to make an immediate impact for the students was to improve where they are during

many hours of the day.”

The used chairs and desks that were replaced are being stored and will be donated to a project sponsored by the Center for Community and Global Health. The School of Health Professions is partnering with Christian nonprofit organizations in West Africa, and the replaced furniture will be donated for them to use in furthering their humanitarian efforts.

Student help also played an important role in completing the project, with several students volunteering to help the facilities department with the transition. “The project could not have been really facilitated in the installation without student volunteer help,” Fisher said. ☺



Students remove old furniture from the Alumni Building. The used furniture will go to help educational efforts in West Africa.

Photo: Jordyn Britton



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Updated handbook focuses on discipleship and fine arts

Nathaniel Hendry

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Alumni visiting campus this year will immediately notice one of this year's changes to campus policy: pedestrians now have the right of way. This change comes alongside many smaller changes in the new handbook guidelines for undergraduate students. The changes added more discipleship group meetings, streamlined fine arts attendance requirements and clarified existing policies.

Last spring, the Student Life staff worked with a group of four students to review the entire handbook to update and clarify policies as needed.

Responding to requests from students for more engagement in discipleship groups, the University added an extra meeting time for discipleship groups on Sunday nights at 10:30 p.m.

The handbook also tightened the policy on attendance for the Concert, Opera & Drama Series and other non-class required activities during the semester. "We had to stop and think, are these really part of our educational mission?" director of student life Jon Daulton said. "The answer that committee came up with was 'yes,'" he said.

Under the revised policy, students may only miss two non-class required activities due to a conflict with regularly scheduled work. "We placed all of these activities in the calendar of events at the start of the semester so that students have plenty of time to arrange their work schedules accordingly," Daulton said. "If they are unable to change their work schedule, they may miss a total of



For the first time in BJU's history in Greenville, cars will now have to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks on campus.

Photo: Nathaniel Hendry

two required activities"

For men, the handbook clarifies the guidelines for beards by outlining the definition of "neatly trimmed." Additionally, guidelines for recreation attire were adjusted and now expect men to wear shorts within 2 inches of knee, the same length as for women.

"Honestly, our lady students expressed concern with the lack of modesty in the style of men's shorts," Daulton said. "If we're going to ask ladies to follow dress expectations out of consideration for their male brothers, then we're going to ask men to follow dress expectations out of consideration for their female sisters. It ought to work both ways."

For women, the new guidelines clarify that crop tops are not acceptable and retracted a policy the University piloted last year on

a trial basis that allowed women to wear a nose stud. "The provision for a small stud in the nose became difficult to manage," Daulton said. "If you're going to have a policy that guides a large group of people, that policy needs to be easily recognizable and easily enforceable. The provision for nose studs simply created more confusion."

The policies also added sections to clearly explain expectations that were previously implicit, such as a rule prohibiting students from walking behind the residence halls of the opposite gender.

Several of the University's infraction enforcement measures also changed, such as the prohibition of vulgarity, which can result in a conduct warning or ineligibility.

Many updates came for clarity. "You strive for clar-

ity, you really do, and you find that sometimes your handbook grows because human nature never runs out of creativity," Daulton said.

The new handbook has information clearly arranged in charts, such as the sections about required events and curfew times. The opening pages of this year's handbook feature a new Student Development & Discipleship organizational chart visualizing the leadership on campus so students can find out where to find help.

The handbook also outlines distinct reasons students can request to be away overnight and updates the process to obtain one-time and recurring passes. The University also set up a new system for day students to verify who they will stay with off campus.

As needs and trends

have changed, BJU has adapted its policies to address current issues while emphasizing the centrality of grace in Christian's growth. "Enablement to be transformed into [Christ's] image is found in God's provision of grace — dynamic power to do God's will," the introduction to the handbook states. "Through curricular, cocurricular and extracurricular programs, we attempt to cultivate a way of life that challenges potential and points our students toward following Christ. Life skills and positive habits are nurtured through high expectations. Our primary motivation is not mere compliance with regulations but ultimately long-term spiritual success." ©

Students find clarity through completing summer internships

Hannah Bray

STAFF WRITER

Over the summer, many Bob Jones University students interned at different organizations, often at the recommendation of Career Services. Three students who spoke with Career Services and eventually received summer internships were Jonathan Hallas, Tana Paolino and Hart Zakaria.

Jonathan Hallas, a senior double major in history and paralegal studies, initially spoke with Career Services about resume tips and job opportunities and was ultimately pointed to a job listing at E. Scott Sanders, a real estate law firm where he ended up interning. “During a typical day I filed deeds, mortgages and other documents, prepared deeds and did title updates,” Hallas said.

Hallas said he enjoyed the feeling of satisfaction he received from working hard at the internship. “Putting into practice the skills I learned in class is empowering and satisfying and motivates me in pursuing a legal career,” he said.

Hallas learned that working in a law firm requires acute attention to detail. To his surprise, he said he discovered that he

enjoys other types of law practice more than real estate law. Hallas is currently still working at E. Scott Sanders.

Tana Paolino, a senior English major, interned over the summer at BJU Press as a proofreader. Paolino said, “I wanted to intern at the Press to gain real-world experience in the publishing industry since my dream is to work with books.”

One of Paolino’s biggest takeaways from the internship was learning how similar the processes of editing textbooks and editing other books are. She also said she enjoyed the training and the friendly environment

Putting into practice the skills I learned in class is empowering and satisfying and motivates me in pursuing a legal career.

—Jonathan Hallas

at the Press. “All of the employees are so welcoming; they really do act like a family at the Press,” she said.

After her internship, Paolino transitioned into

her current job as a proofreader at the Press. “I’ve always had a strong direction regarding what I want to do in my future and where I want to go, but I think that short-term, my internship

has led me to the stepping stones to get there,” she said.

Hart Zakaria, a senior health sciences major, said he applied to several job boards and career websites after getting direction from Career Services as well. He eventually applied to Maxim Healthcare Staffing and was hired to intern there for the summer.

Zakaria said he enjoyed the structure of his internship. “Every other Wednesday the interns would get lunch with executives, like the CEO or CFO, where we got the opportunity to ask questions and learn about

their professional experiences,” he said.

He also enjoyed getting to know the other interns on separate intern outings. Zakaria said that while some days his internship work in the billing and collections department was boring, the experience helped him to narrow down what he wants to do after graduation.

“Many times an internship can demonstrate what you don’t want to do more than what you do want to do,” Zakaria said. ©



Hart Zakaria, third from right on top, enjoyed free time with coworkers from Maxim Healthcare Staffing.

Photo: Submitted

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»» From **AWARDS** p.1

the rankings,” Weier said.

Weier said the rankings also show the importance of the students’ contributions and attitudes, mostly shown in their willingness to cooperate with their professors. “I think it’s the combination of the spirit of the student body and the spirit of the faculty and staff,” Weier said. He said that these parts working together underlie the University’s achievement.

Similarly, BJU was awarded for its financial support to students from low-income backgrounds. The report named the University second in top performers on social mobility

and as the number five best value school among regional colleges in the South. Students from the United States are eligible to receive

Federal Pell Grants, and South Carolina residents can obtain the South Carolina Tuition Grant. In addition, the University tries to

Our focus on student success has been very intentional, and that’s been a key part in helping us improve on the rankings.

—Gary Weier

supply financial aid independently to the students who need it, Weier said.

Many in the University family expressed their excitement about the ranking, including some students who affirmed that these rankings reflect their experience at BJU. “This makes me feel like I am in the right school,” said Marioly Acosta, a sophomore early childhood education major. “I believe the school deserves it because, as I can see, I have a quality education over here.”

Martha Smith, a sophomore keyboard major, said she was supportive of BJU’s acknowledgement. “I think BJU deserves the award that it gets because I think it’s very high quality,”

Smith said. Junior communication disorders major Emily Drown agreed, saying she believed the University earned the recognition.

BJU has consistently improved its rankings over the past six years, and the institution aims to keep getting better throughout the new academic year, Pettit said. The University will emphasize the application of the BJU Premium to provide students with experiential learning. Beginning with the class of 2027, students will be required to complete two practical, major-focused projects before graduating to be better equipped to work in their fields, Weier said. ©

TALKBACK

What has God been teaching you recently?



Ellie DiMalanta
Junior communication disorders major

“He’s been showing me a lot about His faithfulness.”



Riley Christ
Freshman premed major

“Probably the most important thing that I’ve been trying to remind myself every day is the importance of doing your studies for the glory of God.”



Maxin Chen
Junior biblical studies major

“God has been teaching me to depend on Him and be humble, because I cannot do anything in my own strength. Of course God uses my gifts, but all my glory and all my power is due Him.”



Andrew Fletcher
Junior ministry and leadership/communication double major

“Recently God has been teaching me that His grace is sufficient, and how much we need his grace. I think a lot of things recently have shown me that my own strength is insufficient. And while I do have to put work in to some point, it requires God’s grace in order to actually accomplish anything.”

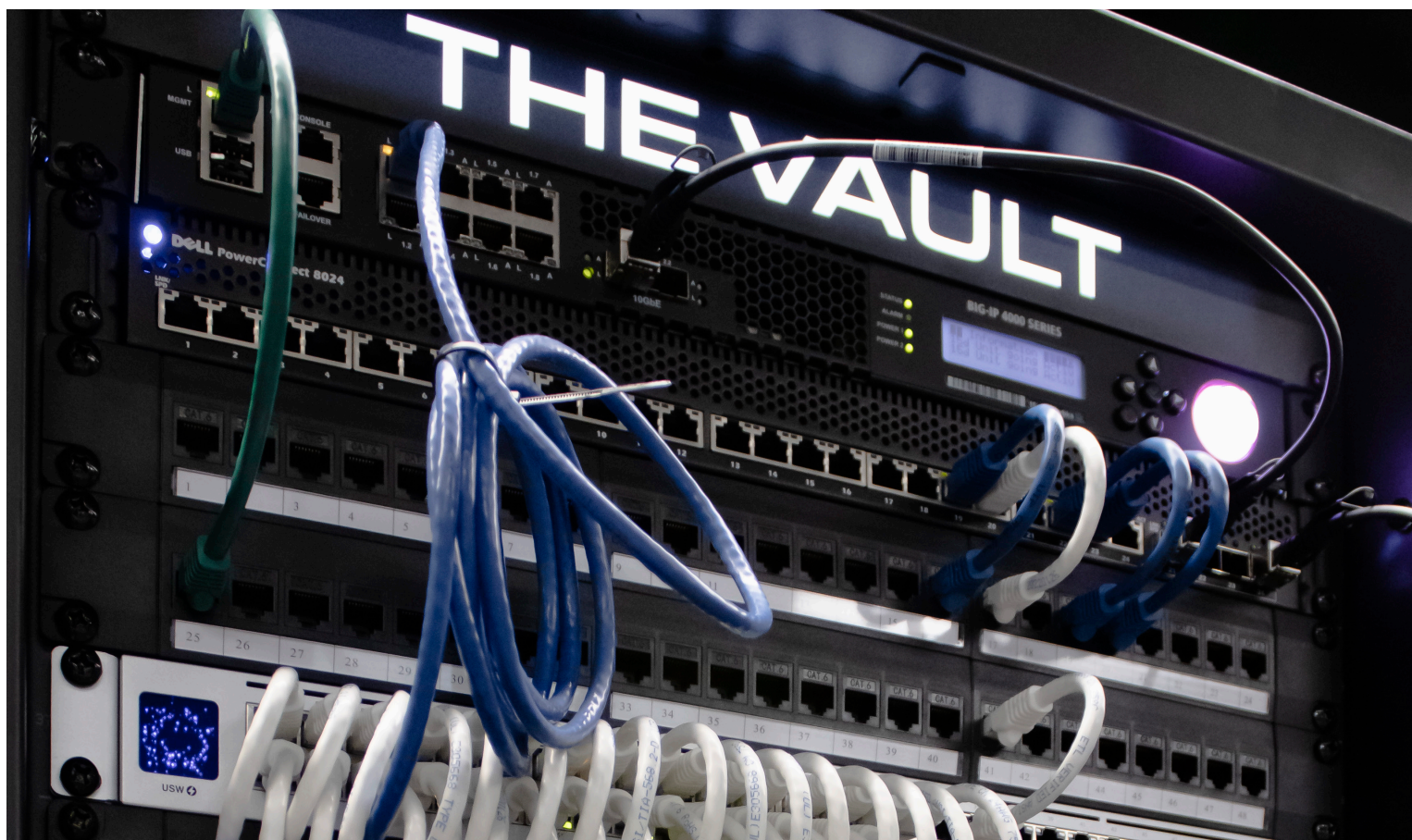
SermonAudio Vault safeguards sermons and serves students

Hannah Bray

STAFF WRITER

SermonAudio, a platform for storing and broadcasting sermons, recently set up servers known as The Vault at Bob Jones University on the second floor of the Mack Building. Steven Lee, who founded SermonAudio in 2000, said The Vault will serve to protect sermons from cancel culture and provide ministry opportunities for BJU students.

The Vault will also provide the staff of SermonAudio with a physical location to work and collaborate in person for the first time, according to a special report by Lee about The Vault on SermonAudio's website.



SermonAudio currently stores over 2.3 million sermons from conservative preachers and streams them freely on their website and app.

Photo: Jordyn Britton



SermonAudio drew inspiration for its sermon Vault from the "Doomsday Vault," a seed bank in Svalbard, Norway, designed to replenish plant life on earth in case of a widespread disaster.

Photo: Jordyn Britton

Using their own servers and storage arrays will allow SermonAudio to resist potential efforts to have their content taken down. "This is why the cloud providers are so powerful," Lee wrote in the report.

Like many other SermonAudio team members, Lee graduated from BJU, which he said was part of the reason he asked to build The Vault at BJU. "We want to be in an environment where we can influence the rising generation in some way," Lee said. He hopes to involve computer science majors in the upkeep of the technical side of The Vault to the point where computer science student interns almost completely operate it.

Lee also said he hopes any students who are interested will stop by and see The Vault. "We have a very open area here where we have large screens set up so people can see a large map of the world. It will show where people are listen-

ing to sermons all over the world in real time," he said.

Students are welcome to join in on staff meetings on Fridays and to join the staff for a daily international hybrid prayer meeting at noon, either physically or online. They are also invited to SermonAudio's Foundations Conference later this year, which will feature preachers from around the country. SermonAudio will waive the \$50 charge for students who use the promo code "found2022" to register for the conference at thefoundationsconference.com.

While SermonAudio still needs funds to finish The Vault, Lee wrote that they are taking the first step of faith. "[A] donor has committed to funding the construction of the \$400k space but the actual servers, storage arrays, and raw equipment still needed will approach \$1M," Lee wrote in the report. "The Lord doesn't need us, but I believe He can use us. I want to prove the Lord in this moment." ©

Symphonic Wind Band to play during homecoming concert

Mackenzie King
STAFF WRITER

Bob Jones University's Symphonic Wind Band will perform for the next Concert, Opera & Drama Series event of the semester on Oct. 6 in the Founder's Memorial Amphitorium at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Bruce Cox, head of the department of instrumental studies, will conduct the music. "There's some exciting and beautiful music to open the concert. We're starting the concert with a piece by John Williams. I think everyone will love that," he said.

The last half of the performance will consist of five pieces written by BJU alumni who have become composers. "There is one piece that we had written just for the concert, and it's a fantasia on the University hymn," Cox said. "Everyone will sing one of the stanzas

of the University hymn together, so I think that will be exciting."

The Symphonic Wind Band, BJU's top-performing instrumental ensemble, consists of 50 undergraduate students. About half of these students are music majors, but the other half simply enjoy playing an instrument.

Cox said he believes the students will enjoy the chance to see a live concert. "I just always think watching your peers do the things that they're really good at — that maybe you don't do — is very enriching and exciting," he said. "Just like I have great admiration for the science majors doing content that I don't understand but I appreciate, I think people will see their friends and peers up there on stage, and I think they'll really enjoy seeing that live." ☺



Dr. Bruce Cox has been involved with BJU's band program since 1997 and began serving as conductor of the Symphonic Wind Band in fall 2019. Cox is also a member of the College Band Directors National Association and a trumpet section member for the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra.
Photo: Jordyn Britton



The Symphonic Wind Band Concert is the second of seven productions scheduled for the 2022/2023 Concert, Opera & Drama Series.
Photo: Jordyn Britton

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