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Nu Sigma and Theta Kappa crowned 2025 Turkey Fest champions

Olivia Adams and Elizabeth Pfeiffer | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND REPORTER

The Flames/Ambassadors and the Stallions are the 2025 Turkey Fest champions.

TURKEY CUP

The Sigma Lambda Delta Duskie's faced off against the combined Nu Sigma Flames/Ambassadors team in the women's championship, the Turkey Cup, on Nov. 15. Nu Sigma was looking for back-to-back championships while the Duskie's aimed for their first ever Turkey Cup title.

Haley Mohnacky, one of the Nu Sigma coaches, said, "My favorite part of the season was just the unity between the two societies."

The combination of the Nu Alpha Phi Flames and the Alpha Sigma Omicron Ambassadors for a championship soccer team is largely due to the fact that many of the Ambassadors

transferred from the Flames in an effort to revitalize the society-- an effort that has been successful thus

See **TURKEY FEST** p.5 >>

PHOTO: Amelia Morris



Venture Forward series inspires future leaders

Emily Fernet
REPORTER

In the second talk in the new Venture Forward lecture series hosted by the Bob Jones University School of Business, Ashish Majmudar, a director at Google Cloud, spoke to a packed venue inside Performance Hall. Majmudar lectured on Nov. 14, speaking about his journey from playing cricket in India to presenting his billion-dollar idea to Jeff Bezos. Most importantly, he emphasized the principles of a successful leader.

Majmudar opened, "It really is a privilege to be here, to speak with you, the next generation of Christian leaders; and really, I hope that as a part of this conversation, I'll be able to encourage you to live out your

faith, whatever discipline the world takes you."

After fielding a few questions, he spoke about his goal to become a professional cricket player and then his education in New York for an information system master's degree. While there, a pastor encouraged his love for Scripture and influenced Majmudar to attend BJU Seminary.

Through his full years at seminary, he learned the power of perseverance.

"I'll give you a piece of encouragement to persevere in whatever path you're on," he said. "Sometimes it's hard, and you might think it's impossible, but the Lord will help you through it."

After missions work in India for a few years while working with JP

See **VENTURE** p.5 >>

PHOTO: Amelia Morris



OPINION

Column: The same but different

Jonathan Rose

PODCAST
EDITOR

Last fall in my recap, I specifically addressed every new change on campus. Naturally, very little of what I said is still true 12 months later.

Last year, we had a new president, Dr. Josh Crockett. This year, we have another new one, Dr. Bruce McAllister.

Last year, I wrote about how chapel started with videos, used a new podium and ended with a song. None of those elements returned this year.

Last year, I pointed out major changes at the dining common. This year, the DC changed so much I couldn't even recognize it. (This is a good thing.) AVI Fresh transformed eating on campus and made meals something to look forward to, but there were two things that did not change. First, the same faces we love greeted us at the entrance and cooked our food at the grill. Second, even though we have more options and better food, people still complain. But the chapel and DC shocks were just the beginning.

Last year, I touched on the university's slogan, with no knowledge that we were changing it. However, in August we discovered that we are now "Pursuing a Higher Calling." The new slogan tied in well with Pursuit, the name of the game we played to kick off the school year. Reviews of the event were as varied as the colors of the shirts we received and the locations we visited, but I did enjoy getting four Bubbly's at the end of the game, even if my team lost spectacularly.

As chapel began a few days later, we learned of the new weekly schedule. On Mondays, we work through the theology in the university creed. Tuesdays, Dr. Crockett continues his series through Ecclesiastes, dodging 6-7 memes and pop culture references along the way. On "Worship Wednesdays," Dr. McAllister preaches through the book of Romans. Thursdays are the

special chapels instead of Discipleship Group.

Our first major event after classes started was society Rush, where the Alpha Sigma Omicron Blue Jays (formerly known as the Ambassadors in case you missed it), became the most recent society to be rescued from the fate of the dodo. Additionally, freshmen stampeded to the Royals and Classics, showing the power of good marketing and peer pressure. Right after the dust settled was our first artist series of the year. Ilya Yakushev was a super pianist with great stories, even if the image of Unhatched Chicks haunted my nightmares until midterms.

The next week was the second annual REACH Week, emphasizing the ministries students could participate in next summer. This year's edition ended with a welcome change from last year; no hurricane came Friday to pummel Greenville and cancel days of school. So on the last Friday in September, students went to class instead of losing their minds and jumping in the fountain. Of course they couldn't have done that anyway, since not even a hurricane could fill the fountain this year (we've been told they're working on a redesign plan).

October began with a Spirit Week much different than last year. For starters, there was no Homecoming this year, meaning no alumni flooded campus for reunions and no BBQ bash. On Tuesday, David Kim and the concerto-aria winners put on the second artist series with the University Symphony Orchestra. Aside from taking place in the

middle of a special week, this artist series was notable for flipping gender norms on their head. Women were encouraged to ask men to go with them instead of men going in a big group with each other, which is what normally happens. However, even when everything else changes, campus dating culture remains steadfast, so most of the men went in a big group with each other anyway. After all, it's hard to stand out in a crowd and get asked out when over 100 of you dress in a white shirt and khakis on the same day.

Speaking of Spirit Week, last year's Spirit Week was "Wear Jeans" Week. This year? As of the time of editing, Friday of Spirit Week was the only casual day of the semester, a stat I don't think I would have believed if you'd told me this last year.

By the time fall break rolled around, we were all really, really, REALLY ready to not have school. However, rather than resting, many used the four days to stuff in all the fun that they couldn't have during school and returned even more tired than when they left. Around this time, we also had to survive the ordeal of midterm tests and projects. As scarring as those were, at least more people passed their tests than passed White Glove the following Saturday.

The annual High School Festival rolled around in November, but (of course) there was a change from previous years. Instead of being added to students' rooms, most of the high schoolers were placed in Ironside and the newly deep-cleaned Sunday. The students

were very excited not to have to share the territory but also missed out on learning life lessons by having the hallways filled with teenagers at 11 at night.

Immediately after, winter seemed to arrive with a vengeance, driving everyone inside for two days and making the soccer fields a place of suffering during the society playoffs. After the weather returned to normal Greenville temperatures, the Flames/Ambassadors and Stallions took the top prizes at the Turkey Fest.

The last two weeks before Thanksgiving were also filled with Bruins' championships and

performances of the third and final artist series, King Lear. On the grass, the women's soccer team and men's cross-country team extended their dynasties, surviving a snake and early morning flights on their way to the third and 10th straight national titles, respectively. On-stage, King Lear's dynasty came to a sudden and violent end.

After another round of projects and tests, students left to return home for Thanksgiving break. Hopefully this time they actually rested up for the return because the semester isn't over yet!

In an era of social media and the internet, comparing the current time to a previous semester or even life before college is easier than ever. Dr. Crockett reminded us this semester — in between AVI Fresh shoutouts — that desiring to live anytime but right now is foolish (Ecclesiastes 7). As we go into exams and winter, remember that God doesn't change regardless of circumstances, and when we turn our eyes from ourselves to His glory, we find real peace and joy.



PHOTOS: Tessa Bonnema

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SPORTS

Student leadership groups partner to boost Bruins sports

Bethany Brooks
and John Talley

COPY EDITOR and
PHOTOGRAPHER

Mr. Aaron Burk, director of the Center for Leadership Development and former assistant men's director with Student Life, has been hard at work over the last year finding ways to promote Bruins athletics because, as he said, "Athletics is an opportunity to build community."

Among other things, he hopes to close the gap between athletes and students. And he's not alone either.

The Center for Leadership Development, Student Leadership Council and Student-Athlete Advisory Council are jointly pushing for a unified Bruins community in student athletics.

SAAC is a student organization that mediates between athletes and the university. This semester, SAAC partnered with the CLD and SLC to increase student participation and support in athletics.

"It makes sense that you do it from a student leadership piece, because then it's much easier to normalize," Mr. Burk said.

SAAC is led by Misha Gray, the current president of the association and a senior criminal justice major. Gray has been a Bruins track & field athlete for the past three years. SAAC

includes two representatives from each sports team.

"It's being a voice for the athletes," Gray said. "If people have problems, they can bring it to me, and then I can bring it to the administration. This year, we're trying to make more events for the student body to be involved with sports."

In addition to revamping this year's pep rally, one thing they have changed already is offering concessions at every Bruins home game.

One of Mr. Burk's greatest hopes is that the Bruins' slogan "I wish I could, but it's Bruins game day" would become a reality. His hope is that athletes and non-athletes alike would rally behind Bruins events and grow together as a result.

"That's what I want it to be," Mr. Burk said. "That makes going to the game normal, so it's a given. Of course we're going to the game."

The Bruins athletics program is relatively new to the university and often struggles to fill the stands and stadiums at events. The CLD, SLC and SAAC want to normalize student attendance at sporting events.

"It's more of how we can create an experience that people would enjoy," Mr. Burk said. "The SLC does that. They're creating experiences outside the classroom that are beneficial to the student. We think that athletics has some of those events."

The SLC partners with SAAC through advertising major sporting events, organizing themes and staffing concessions. The objective is to integrate both student-athletes and students as one "Bruins" community.

Gray is concerned the perceived divide between athletes and students



PHOTO: Tessa Bonnema

is due to misconception.

"I think there's a bit of a misconception among the student body that athletes have a lot easier on campus: looser attendance policies, less concern about grades," Gray said. "We're held to the same standard as the rest of the student body."

Gray wants to unify students and student-athletes. He emphasized that every student at Bob Jones University is a Bruin.

"Our goal, our mindset, is really to create a better relationship between the athletes and the student body," Gray said. "There's nothing different between you and me; we're both Bruins."

Mr. Burk said he loves athletics because it creates community.

"Anything that we do that helps us befriend the brother or sister next to us is beneficial for both of us," Mr. Burk said.

Gray emphasized that student involvement in athletics is crucial. "Bruins" is a unifying identity every BJU student can be a part of.

"There's two things that everybody in our school can rally on," Gray said. "One is the gospel. We can rally that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. The second is we can rally around sports. I'm a firm believer that if we all were one spirit in one Bruin nation, our campus would

be a lot more lively, because we feel this oneness. Having that team atmosphere is going to be huge. We're both Bruins, we're both Christians, so let's serve God together and have fun while doing it and be a part of a bigger thing than just ourselves."

This unified atmosphere cannot be created without student attendance at games.

"Come to the events!" Gray said. "Participation would be huge. It's demoralizing when nobody is at your competitions. If people were to come to the games, it would mean so much to the athletes. Just come to the events, participate and be there. Get engaged with the game."

Ultimately, students and student-athletes participate in the community of Bruins to give glory to God.

"For athletes, there's two different types of people that we're competing against: a brother in Christ or someone who needs Christ," Gray said. "I think that helps the athletes to understand the way I act is going to impact them. We should be praying that they don't look at us and see us, but they say, 'Wow, he serves somebody that I want to serve.'"

By participating in the athletics program, Gray said, students develop closer relationships with one another and give glory to God.



PHOTO: Tessa Bonnema

BJU Bruins volleyball marches to NCCAA national tournament

Strong season marked by individual accomplishments and team chemistry

Elizabeth Pfeiffer

REPORTER

The Bob Jones University Bruins volleyball team finished as national runners-up after a surprising run to the championship game of the NCCAA national tournament in Joplin, Missouri. Despite losing in regionals, their strong performance in the regular season secured a spot at nationals.

The team opened up pool play in the national championship tournament strong, winning its first two matches Nov. 19-20. They lost the final match of pool play 3-1 to Manhattan Christian College, but advanced to the semifinals as the top two in their pool.

The Bruins then defeated Pensacola 3-1 before losing in the championship

game to Manhattan 3-1.

The 2025 volleyball season is full of accomplishments. The setter, Elyse Vest, reached 1,000 assists in September. The libero, Anne Lloyd, achieved 1,000 digs in October, and the middle hitter, Hannah Goodwin, hit 1,000 kills in November.

With a final record of 20-17, the Bruins played stronger as the season progressed, even defeating several tough NAIA teams. Head Coach Christa Schlichting attributes some of this success to the team's five seniors: Lloyd and Goodwin, along with defensive specialist Lois Bido, outside hitter Bethany Estell and right-side hitter Maddy Goldstrom.

The team demonstrated strong chemistry throughout the season. According to Coach Schlichting, the "team

is a special group that loves playing together!"

One way the team grew together is through their study of "Pressing Forward in Unity" in Philippians 3. It is clear that these players care about more than just the scores, games and tournaments.

"I am proud of the growth and determination of our team these past three months," Schlichting said after the championship. "Getting to play for the national championship was an incredible feat for our team during a season of transition. Unfortunately, we could not find our rhythm against a determined and experienced Manhattan team. Congratulations to them and their coach for winning their first NCCAA national championship."

No matter the outcome, the Bruins volleyball team can boast a strong performance this season.



PHOTO: Derek Eckenroth

NEWS

In the modern world, against what threats must Christians defend their faith?

Caleb Fabrizio

REPORTER

Dr. Renton Rathbun, the Biblical Worldview Consultant at BJU Press and the former director of the Center for Biblical Worldview, studies this question. He says that the threat doesn't always come from outside the church. They often come from within.

"The thing that bothers me so much is that half the problems we have in our society are because the church failed," Rathbun said. "If we fail at church, we're going to fail at home. If we fail at home, we're going to fail at church. There's just no way around those two things."

Dr. Rathbun is burdened to teach Christians about the worldviews and secular beliefs that they will encounter. Launched this year, the Renton Rathbun Show addresses many of the unbiblical compromises between the church and secular culture. He presents biblical answers to the problems that secular worldviews have introduced.

As an educator, Dr. Rathbun created the show first and foremost for parents.

"The reason why I left teaching is because I thought, how do we get the kids younger, to help them develop

a worldview before they've gotten to college and are already convinced of their worldview and are no longer listening to people?" Rathbun said. He believes that the best solution is to train parents first.

Twice a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays, new episodes of the show release on YouTube, Spotify and other podcasting platforms. Each week, Rathbun interviews a new guest on a different topic. Guests range from BJU faculty like Dr. Greg Mazak and Mr. Christopher Zydowicz, to special guests from other podcasts and ministries. Topics range from hot-button issues like addiction, entertainment, the LGBTQ movement, Christian Nationalism, Israel, biblical masculinity and racism.

Though he covers varied and potentially controversial topics, Rathbun ensures that the podcast answers questions from a biblical worldview, rather than through a political lens. While the podcast is primarily intended for parents, a Christian worldview is universal to all ages. Students will benefit from the show as well, Rathbun said.

"They're future parents," he said. "And they, if I can put it this way, are the future. And so I think listening would be helpful



PHOTO: Renton Rathbun

to them to understand the kind of battle they're about to get into." Some episodes would be especially helpful to specific majors. Those studying medicine could watch, "Where is God When We Suffer?" (Season 3, Episode 3).

Students studying social sciences may want to watch, "Race, Racism, and the Christian Life" (Season 3, Episode 1).

Other episodes may appeal to various majors, like ministry, political science, or information technology majors.

No matter your major or your convictions, Dr. Rathbun recommended

that students listen to the debates between him and his guests as they defend the Christian worldview.

"It takes a lot of strength to listen to someone that you don't agree with," Rathbun said.

By challenging our own worldview and recognizing the areas where the secular world influenced us, we learn to conform all areas of our thinking with the Bible.

And that, truly, is the best thing that we can ever learn to do.

The Renton Rathbun Show is available on Spotify, YouTube, other streaming sites, and select live TV channels.

BJU Culinary Arts students serve up dinner and more at the Bistro

Savannah Pack

REPORTER

The room is lit with soft lighting and jazz plays quietly through the speakers. The other diners talk to each other but not loud enough to hear more than a few lines of their conversation. The smell of cooking meals reaches us before our meals do. Once the food is brought to our table, we take a few moments to eat with our eyes before digging in with our forks.

The food - taco salad for my sister and pizza for myself - is seasoned well and we both say so. This evening could be found at a downtown restaurant, but it was actually on the Bob Jones University campus. Welcome to the Bistro.

During the fall semester through mid-November, Culinary Arts students hosted the Bistro from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Friday evenings. Customers could dine-in and purchase a handmade meal. Breuanna Howell, one of the three students involved, estimated that 10 hours of work went into The Bistro every week.

They served different kinds of pizzas, classy nachos, salads and sandwiches, along with a new dessert every week. The prices were low for the kind of quality that came with the dishes. I was able to sample a few, and my favorite by far was their taco salad. The meat was tender, and the greens were fresh. Every bite was packed with spices and topped with corn strips. My favorite dessert was the birthday cake ice

cream. It tasted exactly like birthday cake and was topped with rainbow sprinkles.

"We have really, really good food," Howell said.

The work is unpaid for the students as part of their educational experience, but tips help fund culinary field trips and other expenses of the major.

Chef David Miller is the faculty head of the Bistro. He said that the Bistro is a culinary arts tradition for the past 20 years and "offered other concepts over the years in conjunction with the Bistro or as a slight alteration: Dinners-to-go, Soup & Bread to-go, [and] World Cafe."

Next semester the culinary students will open a bakeshop on Tuesday evenings. If you were unable to visit the Bistro this semester, definitely give the bakeshop a try!



PHOTOS: Tessa Bonnema



SPORTS

» From **TURKEY FEST** p.1

far. Commenting on this joint team, Mohnacky observed that it “allowed old and new friendships to either be strengthened or created.” “allowed old and new friendships to either be strengthened or created.”

The game was a back-and-forth dance all evening, both teams matching each other goal for goal until the second half. The Duskie had an incredible midfield goal from midfielder Amelia Cudar and many excellent defensive plays by Abby Woo and Paige Johnson. But Nu Sigma outplayed them in the end, their third goal just tipping over the goalie’s gloves. Gracie Roland’s speed at right-wing could not be beaten, and Paige Dawson tipped in a header off of a penalty kick.

In the end, the Nu Sigma Flames/Ambassadors

defeated the Sigma Lambda Delta Duskie 3-2.

Amaris John, one of the Nu Sigma coaches, said of the game, “When the final whistle blew, I felt so excited and relieved that we finally pulled off the win.”

TURKEY BOWL

The men’s 11s league championship was between the Theta Kappa Chi Stallions and Sigma Alpha Chi Spartans. The Stallions defeated the Spartans in a close 1-0 match. The Spartans and Stallions competed twice during the regular season, each team winning one of these games.

Emotions were high throughout the night as both teams fought for control of the game. With the wind against them, the Stallions were feeling discouraged in the first

half. The Spartans controlled the field for most of the first half. However, after switching sides, the Stallions used the wind to their advantage.

“We knew it was going to be a 70-minute battle that would come down to the wire,” said Charley Tomko, the Stallions’ team captain. The first half of the match ended 0-0 and spectators were on the edge of their seats. The Stallions’ goalie, Jackson Baron, made several impressive saves.

The only goal of the game was a wild shot from deep midfield by Gael Mallen. “I didn’t even think it was going in,” Gael said of his incredible goal. “I thought I was done after last year, but God gave us the victory.”

The Stallions were excited to defeat a team that has made it to the Turkey

Bowl for the last several years.

“When the final whistle blew, the joy and excitement filled Alumni Stadium as our teammates, fans and families all rushed the field,” Tomko said.

Ethan Smith, a player on the Stallions, said, “We were overjoyed at the end of the match, not only because we had won, but because we had done so alongside some of our closest friends.”

Smith said that strong relationships among teammates separated the Stallions from the other teams in the regular season.

After a tough loss, the Spartans were already looking toward 2026.

“Don’t worry,” said Sigma Spartans’ social media. “We’ll be back next year.”

PHOTOS: Tessa Bonnema



» From **VENTURE** p.1

Morgan, Majmundar and his wife and five children moved to New Jersey, where he currently lives, working with Google Cloud and pastoring a church.

He works in four areas of global financial services: retail banking, capital markets, asset wealth management and insurance. Most of his work involves capital market exchanges in innovation.

This career guided him to work at Amazon Web Services where he won the Think Big contest. During his presentation, one slide mentioned “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Majmundar wished he would have said more to Bezos about the slide.

“I felt so bad, I didn’t think of, ‘Yes, you can send your treasures to heaven and leave your treasures up there.’ And I didn’t say that. I wish I had the presence of mind and the courage to say that.”

The next opportunity to say something more came just a month ago, when Majmundar presented before the president of the Dominican Republic.

“There’s a whole transformation of the country that [my team] was working on. At the end of it, I said, Mr. President, I am a Christian, and I believe that not only our two philosophies from technology align, but my personal philosophy of life which I take from the missionary, William Carey, who said, ‘Attempt great things for God; expect great things from God.’

“And so I concluded, Mr. President, with God’s blessing and your support, we can make a difference to the Dominican people for many generations to come.”

These are just a few of the opportunities that come to those who speak for the Lord.

After that, Majmundar explained the principles of a successful leader, inspiring the audience

to strive for success.

Though Majmundar enjoys material success, he defines success quite differently. This definition deeply changed his work ethic. True success is knowing and doing the will of God, he said.

This definition guides all other principles, because God says, “without me you can do nothing,” Majmundar said.

“...we can make a difference to the Dominican people for many generations to come.”

“You could be super, super successful in the back office. Nobody knows about you, but you’ll make a splash in heaven, because you’re faithful in what you do.”

Because of that principle, he makes a regular practice not to work on

Sundays.

“When I get a job, I’m up front, ‘I’m not going to work on the Lord’s Day.’”

This does not keep Majmundar from making a difference in the corporate world, however. His personality and definition of success fuel his fierce “full throttle” work ethic.

“When I was playing cricket, I was really training hard. I am full on, all or nothing. You can think of it as full throttle.”

“For me, I go from a full tank in the morning to an absolute empty tank at night. There’s no reserve.”

With all his work, ministry, and family responsibilities, Majmundar lives out the biblical principle, “whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.”

Lastly, Majmundar encouraged his audience to be skillful, citing King David and Proverbs. This skill looks like avid curiosity, especially about AI in this technology-driven world. Honed skills set you apart from other

people.

He mentioned that rising leaders need to know their strengths and their weaknesses. They need to be confident in what they know - domain knowledge - and who they know - others who offset their weaknesses.

Or as Majmundar said, “Don’t grow oranges in Seattle. Know a guy in Florida.”

One skill sets great leaders apart, the skill of active listening. Majmundar noticed that both Bezos and the president of the Dominican Republic listened well, even when they disagreed.

“He [the President] let anybody talk, as if that person was the only person there.”

While prioritizing eternity, Majmundar embodies each of these leadership skills. Whether working with Fortune 50 companies, or pastoring a congregation of 50 people, his principles shape him to be a truly successful leader.

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Events you won't want to miss this Christmas season

Event times can be found online.

United Community Ice on Main

Outdoor ice skating rink in downtown Greenville.

206 S. Main St., Greenville, in front of the Courtyard Marriott

Nov. 19, 2025 - Jan. 19, 2026

Monday - Friday, \$10
Saturday - Sunday, \$12
Each ticket purchases a one hour skate session

PHOTO: Cvent



Grand Bohemian Lodge Christmas Market


Decorated market with local vendors, food, beverages and live music.

Grand Bohemian Lodge, 44 E. Camperdown Way
Nov. 28 - Dec. 28
Free Admission

YOU VOTED!

BJU STUDENTS PREFER:

- WHITE LIGHTS (55%)**
- HOT CHOCOLATE (73%)**
- FAKE TREES (55%)**



YOU VOTED!

BJU STUDENTS LOVE WATCHING:

- 1. HOME ALONE**
- 2. ELF**
- 3. WHITE CHRISTMAS**



Nights of Lights

Upstate walk-through light show with animal rides, Christmas crafts and Santa's Village.

CCNB Amphitheatre at Heritage Park, 861 S.E. Main St., Simpsonville
Nov. 21 - Dec. 31
\$15 for adults and \$12 for children

PHOTO: Prisma Health



Holidays at the Zoo

The Greenville Zoo is transformed by Christmas lights, music and decorations!

Greenville Zoo, 150 Cleveland Park Dr.
Dec. 13, 2025 - Jan. 4, 2026
Tickets = \$10 - \$14

PHOTO: Adobe Stock



STUDENT LIFE

Student Leadership Council presidents explore 2025-2026 theme

Josie Santopietro

REPORTER

This school year, the Student Leadership Council chose the theme, “Rooted in Christ” based on Colossians 2:6-7. “Rooted in Christ” emphasizes the firm foundation of Christ during uncertain times. The theme connected with Bob Jones University President Dr. Bruce

McAllister’s hope that every student develop a personal relationship with God.

This theme also builds off last year’s theme of “Abundant Life,” the source of this life being found through Christ. The SLC began brainstorming the theme last semester, where they met as a council to discuss different possibilities. Tyler Sherman and Karis Henson, the student body presidents, then met with Dr. McAllister through video calls to modify the theme further.

This theme also connects with the wider mission of BJU. Students pursue a higher calling by building their careers on the firm foundation of Christ. Sherman said the theme reinforces the purpose of BJU by shaping students into disciples for every aspect of life. The theme reminds students of their purpose and to pursue their God-given calling. Sherman and Henson encourage students to draw practical applications from Christ’s attributes.

“Stop and consider if they are walking with Christ as they see what walking with Christ looks like,” Sherman said. Students engage with this theme through many outlets, including student-led chapel and worship nights. “Rooted in Christ” examines the character of Christ, because “you’re not going to want a relationship with someone you don’t know,” Henson said. Worship nights involve “expanding on the specific attribute from the previous chapel through themed songs, scripture reading, student testimonies, and prayer,” Henson said. The theme encourages Henson and Sherman to deepen their own relationship with Christ. “We cannot lead others if we aren’t leading ourselves,” Sherman said. He emphasized the importance of having a “transparent joy and purpose” that positively overflows into others. Henson was encouraged that despite many changes in her life, God’s Word

does not change. Becoming rooted in Christ is a process that takes time. “A tree doesn’t grow overnight, but it happens over time,” Henson said. Sherman and Henson testified how the theme unifies the SLC and student body. No matter the differences, all believers are united in Christ. “Even in tough conver-

sations and split-second decisions, the theme reminds us to go back to the purpose of our life and service,” Sherman said. Ultimately, the SLC desires that the student body becomes rooted in the character of Christ as they meditate on His Word.

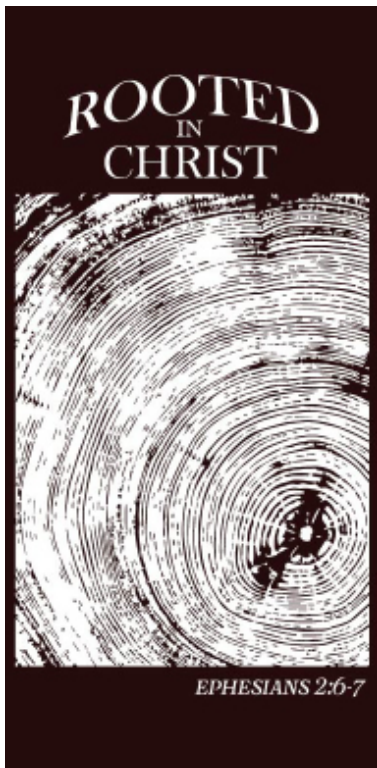


PHOTO: Submission

BJU’s first year gem: The University Singers

William Klapperich

REPORTER

Once a U Singer, always a U Singer. The motto is just one of many things that makes the Bob Jones University Singers special. The University Singers, or U Singers, are the roughly 75–100-person choir for first year students of all majors, led by music

faculty members Dr. Pat-tye Casarow and Dr. Kenon Renfrow. The U Singers are recognized around campus for their concerts as well as lunches, dinners, merchandise, and most notably, singing in the lighting ceremony. They tend to be close with a strong sense

of community and identity. But what makes this group so special?

Many first-year students join the U Singers because of their love of music and their desire to meet new people.

“I joined because I love to sing, especially with others, and I was told it was the best way to meet people as a freshman,” said Abby Snyder, a 2022-23 U Singer.

The people and memories are the same reasons that she, and many others, continued and returned for a second semester with the choir. Kelsey Campbell, a 2023-24 U Singer cited the same reasons.

“I stayed because of the friends I had and the fun memories,” Campbell said.

The energy and atmosphere of U Singers is different from that of other choirs on campus. Campbell said U Singers was different from Chorale because of “more

fun aspects rather than the non-stop go of the other choirs.”

The motto, “Once a U Singer, always a U Singer,” is repeated at the end of each concert on campus just before they sing their closing benediction. Previous U Singers’ in attendance are invited to stand and sing along each semester as the concert closes. The phrase has a special meaning to

those students.

“It means that once you have been through a semester as a singer you can uniquely relate to anyone else who has ever been one,” said Ethan Wright, member and treasurer for the 2021-22 U Singers.

“To me, it means that no matter what year I am, I will always be welcome,” Campbell said.



PHOTOS: Katelyn Sedivy



TRENDS

'Old money' and 'grandpa core' among fall and winter campus trends

Isabella Marchak gives insight on what's popular this season

Bethany Brooks

COPY EDITOR

Deep reds, mocha browns, "old money" blue and even "grandpa core." On any college campus, trends come and go. And that includes Bob Jones University, where Isabella Marchak, a junior apparel design major, provided her expertise on the latest styles seen on the sidewalks. "Bright colors from summer will deepen as autumn progresses," Marchak said. Pops of red, which were trending this summer, will

continue as a popular accent. With the colder season, the brighter, apple red transitioned into burgundy and plum. Apple red was especially seen among the girls on campus, particularly in August and September. Since October, girls and guys alike have been wearing the deeper tones of burgundy or plum.

The 2025 color of the year is mocha brown. This popular color is often paired with neutrals, like black or tan. This fall, it deep-

ened into a rich, chocolate brown. Many students enjoy pairing it with neutral flannels, Uggs or Birkenstocks. It is a lovely color to celebrate the advent of fall.

Another popular color is light or navy blue, core "old money" colors. The old money aesthetic is still trending on campus and nationwide.

"Old money is a timeless, clean, luxury kind of feel," Marchak said.

In the summer, many girls paired linen pants with a classic button up shirt. With the colder weather, dress pants are combined with a button up and perhaps a sweater or crewneck.

Lately, light blue or navy is paired with white or light-colored pants. Light pants are very popular this year. In the summer, many students wore light pants with a brighter colored top, like light blue or apple red. Transitioning into the fall, color choice deepened into navy and burgundy, both classic old money colors.

Old money is currently the most popular trend for girls and guys on campus. Options within this aesthetic include trousers and a blazer, trenchcoats or a sweater. A recent trend for guys is the "quarter zip movement" for a classier look.

"Fashion trends come and go, and they'll come back around, but I feel like some trends will never go, like old money," said Marchak. An old money accessory sta-



PHOTO: Olivia Adams



PHOTO: Olivia Adams

ple is an elegant gold watch. Popular jewelry choices are often minimalist and classy, like gold hoops, chains or pearls, though chunky jewelry is still trendy.

Another common trend on campus is "grandpa core." Grandpa core pairs an oversized, knit sweater with thick pants. Many girls wear this outfit for a cozy, woodsy vibe.

"Coquette aesthetic" reached its peak last spring, but it is still seen on campus. It is best recognized by bows, cute skirts and dresses.

For shoes, boots, particularly ankle-length rainboots and ballet flats, are popular footwear for class dress.

Marchak also noted a rise in popularity for skirts, particularly silk skirts. Skirts are sometimes paired with a sweater or a jacket, depending on the length of the skirt.

After class, the standard girls' casual outfit is light, straight or wide-leg sweatpants, Uggs or Birkenstocks and a crewneck. Hoodies are typically less popular.

"Crewnecks are more flattering, more classy, more old money," said Marchak. Crewnecks are also an acceptable layer for class dress and hoodies are not.

Other trending layers are cropped puffer jackets, leather jackets and especially barn jackets. Corduroy or suede are popular materials, especially in the fall.

Marchak loves apparel design and has wanted to be a fashion designer since she was 9 years old. She dreams of opening her own business designing wedding dresses. But ultimately, she wants to follow wherever the Lord leads her to use her gifts.

HOW THE LIGHTING CEREMONY STOLE THE GRINCH



ANDREW FIGUEROA and MARCOS VELASCO

Merry
Christmas!!

To:
You :)

From:
The BJU Collegian



