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The Threefold Advocate



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Obama debates arming Ukraine

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As tensions continue in Ukraine after more than a year of revolution and Russian involvement, President Barack Obama is considering many courses of action, including sending lethal defensive arms to Ukraine.

Ukraine has experienced political difficulties for some time. Former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, seen by many Ukrainians as the Russians' puppet, avoided signing a deal that would associate Ukraine more closely with the European Union (EU) and instead made many economic choices sympathetic to Russia's interests.

"Our president sold our country," said sophomore Arty Pavlov. Pavlov is from Ukraine and, though he was in the U.S. for the bulk of the trouble, said he still felt the effects.

Protests began in November of 2013, escalating as Yanukovich more closely associated himself with Russian

president Vladimir Putin. By February of 2014, protesters had stormed government buildings, calling for Yanukovich's immediate resignation, while police action, anti-protest laws and heightened fervor from protesters turned the situation violent.

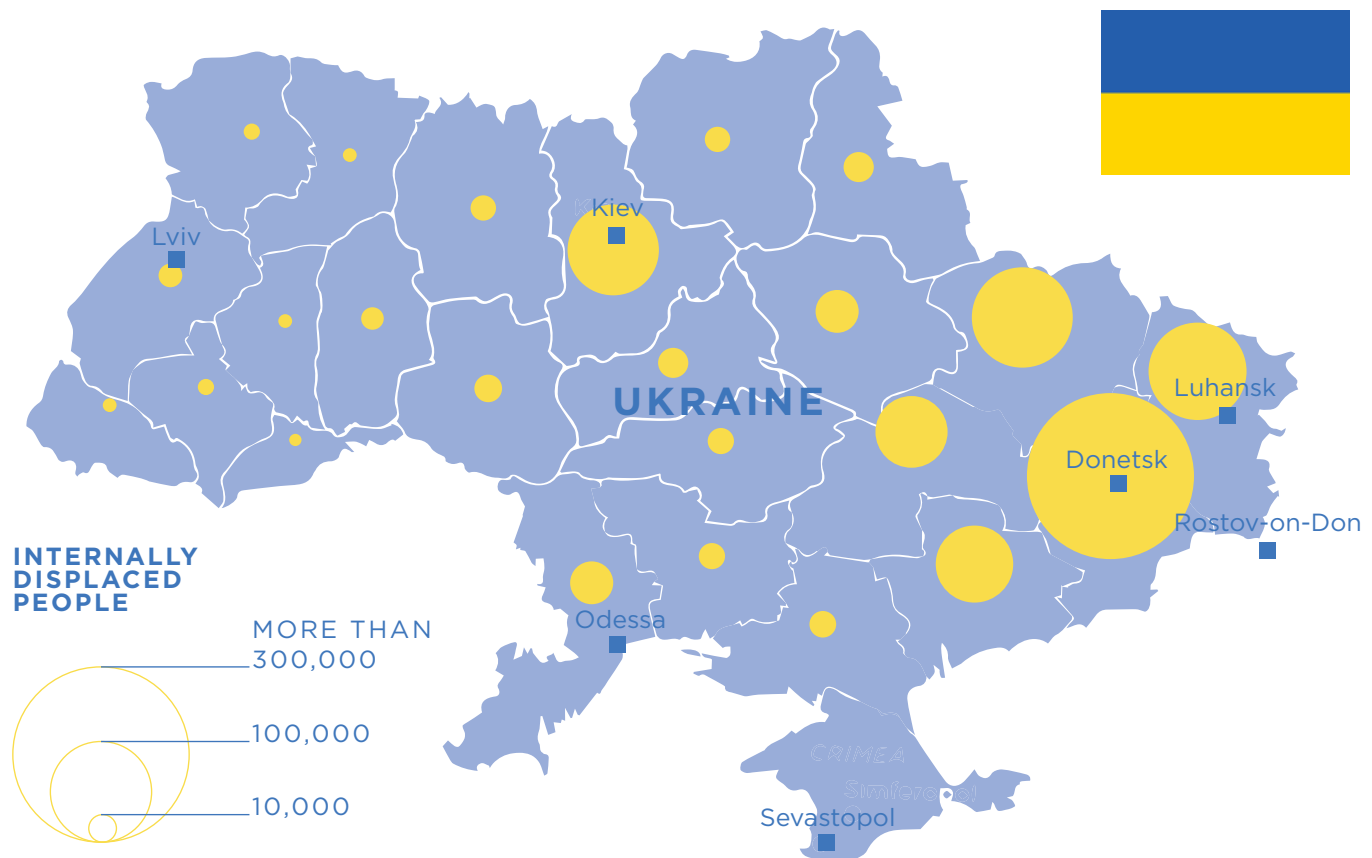
By the end of that month Yanukovich had fled, and throughout March Putin began sending troops to "protect Russian interests" in Ukraine, particularly in the region of Crimea, according to the BBC.

"Russia used our revolution to invade, to 'protect' their citizens," Pavlov said. "They started calling our new government Nazis and terrorists, said our new leaders were insane."

As hostilities between Ukraine and Russia have increased, Ukraine has suffered gas scarcities, forced blackouts, and increased prices on food and other necessities.

"This war ruined our economy," Pavlov said. "It's basically just what Russia wanted to do."

Obama has conversed



Graphic by HANNAH GARRETT/The Threefold Advocate

with EU leaders about possibilities of involvement. German chancellor Angela Merkel remains staunchly opposed to direct military involvement in Ukraine, and Obama is considering many options in addition to lethal force, according to the BBC.

"I think the most

important thing is that we may be seeing the return to a multi-power world," said Preston Jones, associate professor of history at John Brown University. "After the unraveling of the Soviet Union in 1991, there was one global power, the U.S. But the American people are tired of being global

policemen."

Jones predicted that Vladimir Putin will try to acquire more power in Eastern Europe.

"President Obama is a ruminating intellectual. Putin is a cynical, old style dictator," Jones said. "Such a toe-to-toe scrap usually goes to the dictator."

Pavlov thinks that it's too late for other world powers to get involved.

"Poland and Belarus — they helped us even though they depend on Russia," Pavlov said. "[Other countries] are either afraid or they don't want to make relationships worse with Russia. Now it's useless."

Campaign protests African American deaths

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The Black Lives Matter movement has protested against the killings of African Americans by the hands of police officers since the Trayvon Martin case. Now, its members are seeing the product of their hard work through the indictment of New York police officer Peter Liang for the November shooting of Akai Gurley.

Back in November of 2014, Liang, who had only been on the force for 18 months, along with his partner, was a part of a new task force that the New York police department developed to reduce crime, as reported by CNN. Their job was to patrol housing projects and not to go inside them.

While doing a patrol, Liang and his partner entered the housing project and decided to survey the stairwell. Liang carried a flashlight in his hand to be able to see inside of the dark stairwell. As the officers were leaving the eighth floor, Gurley, who was 28, was entering the seventh floor with his girlfriend when Liang shot him. Liang claimed that it was an accidental shooting.

From the time of the shooting in November until now, the organization



Photo courtesy of FOX TELEVISION

Black Lives Matter supporters congregated at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn. last Saturday to protest the shootings of African Americans, chanting "no justice, no peace," as well as, "hands up don't shoot," and, "black people cannot breathe while you are on your shopping spree."

Black Lives Matter has been heavily involved in protesting and making the public aware of the incident, as well as challenging the court to produce justice.

On Feb. 11, Liang was charged with second-degree manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, second-degree assault and two counts of misconduct.

Gurley's story is not the

only one that Black Lives Matters works to give a voice to. Other cases preceded Trayvon Martin, such as Michael Brown and Erin Gardner, and set the stage for a movement like Black Lives Matter to form.

In 2003, Ousmane Zongo, an immigrant from Burkina Faso, was shot four times in the chest by the New York police department during

a raid in a Manhattan warehouse. Zongo was unarmed and had nothing to do with the raid. The police officer who shot him was convicted, given community service and probation for killing an unarmed man.

In 2006, 26-year-old Sean Bell and his friends were out driving the night before his wedding when undercover New York police officers shot at his

vehicle 50 times. Bell's wounds were fatal, and he died the morning of his wedding. All officers investigated where acquitted.

In 2010 7-year-old Aiyana Stanley-Jones was asleep in her bed in Detroit when a member of a SWAT team shot her during a raid while looking for a suspect. Two trials have been conducted, but both have

ended in mistrials.

The Black Lives Matter movement has made it their priority to shed light on crimes like these that were committed against African Americans across the country.

"When we say Black Lives Matter, we are broadening the conversation around state violence to include all of the ways in which Black people are intentionally left powerless at the hands of the state," according to the organization's website.

The Black Lives Matter movement originally started in 2012 as a response to George Zimmerman's acquittal in the Trayvon Martin trial. The hashtag #BlackLivesMatter was rapidly attached to every comment on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram that concerned race.

The movement expanded when the case of Michael Brown yielded no guilty verdict. Protesters lined the streets and created vigils in his honor. The case of Erin Gardner created the same urgency to promote awareness of what was happening in the African American community.

"I don't know a lot about Black Lives Matter, but I know that everyone is not treated equally in this country," said JBU senior Sarah Goll.

Engineering majors dedicate time to teach

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Twenty eyes belonging to eight and nine year old students peered at the engineering students every action and tuned into every word. The excitement was seen in the children's eyes; it was a yearning to learn the unknown.

John Brown University engineering students Caleb Taylor and Travis Altemeier are able to witness this exact scene every Monday afternoon at Southside Elementary in Siloam Springs.

Each week, Taylor and Altemeier devote time to lesson planning, lecturing, and doing hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities with one of the third grade classes at Southside Elementary.

Altemeier, a senior renewable energy major

stated that prior to this experience he had some background in working with kids, although not in the classroom setting.

"I had been a game leader in Awana activities," Altemeier said.

"However, I hadn't had any experience in a more structured type of setting like the classroom," he added.

Altemeier also noted how, even though this experience is strictly volunteering, teaching in a classroom is allowing him to gain key experience for his future career.

"I want to get certified in teaching high school chemistry and/or physics after graduation," Altemeier said.

Taylor, a junior mechanical engineering major, noted how he had an interest in teaching prior to deciding on engineering. He also noted that one of the biggest rewards of going into the third grade

classroom every week is the opportunity to see kids get excited about learning.

"I really enjoy watching them learn," Taylor said. "At their age, learning is still fun and exciting for them because they are post wanting to act out and pre-'too cool for school,' so it's a great age we are interacting with."

Though the education department has been sending students over to local schools for student-teaching for some time, this is one of the first times the engineering department has been involved in teaching as well.

Taylor said this program helps not only the elementary students grow in the classroom, but also allows JBU students to reach out and extend their knowledge and time to the community.

"I think this is a great program and I hope to see



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY TED SONG

Caleb Taylor teaches a third grade class about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mechanical activities at Southside Elementary with company of Margo Turner and other John Brown volunteers.

it continue," Taylor said. "Dr. Song and Dr. Turner are both really excited about it continuing to grow as well," Taylor said of the professors running the program. Though some students may have a

fear of getting in front of twenty something kids and teaching a lesson, both Taylor and Altemeier suggested to students interested in the program to just be their genuine selves and not be afraid of the kids.

"Don't be scared of the kids," Altemeier said. "They are on your side, so just be natural and have fun with it!"

3-D printer saves lives

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3-D printing, a process that just a decade ago belonged in the science fiction genre, is now taking its place in the science community as a common way to create customized tools and even save lives.

Another life was saved on Feb. 16 as, "A two-year-old girl born with a hole in her heart had a life-saving operation in London last month thanks to a 3-D printer. Perhaps equally astounding is that she's not the first," according to gigaom.com.

Gigaom.com, a 'global voice on emerging technologies' news website.

Mina Khan was born with a hole in the wall between two chambers of her heart and the surgeons at St. Thomas' Hospital in London were able to design a bespoke patch, to practice and perfect how to stitch it into place, and ultimately perform the surgery successfully on the girl's actual heart said gigaom.com.

Abby Roberson, pre-nursing student at John Brown University, said, "I didn't know 3-D printing could be used for the medical world."

"I think it is awesome and a huge step in the medical field," Roberson added.

Channing Gallardo, pre-nursing student at the University said, "I love that it can be a multipurpose project. I knew of a young boy that received a new hand from 3-D printing."

In January, doctors at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles used a 3-D printed model of a child's heart to aid them in an open-heart surgery, according to Science Daily. Esther Perez was born with a hole in her heart, a congenital defect that would usually require extensive open-heart surgery.

Surgeons usually must go in blind, figuring out how to repair heart tissue on the fly, but the

longer the chest cavity is opened, the more dangerous such surgery is for the patient.

However, with the help of a detailed CT scan, surgeons were able to 3-D print a detailed plastic model of Perez' heart. With this model, her doctors strategized the best way to perform the surgery, and the procedure was finished in

"I would hope that the results of 3-D printing could sustain life as well as save it."

-Abby Roberson

much less time and much more safely than was ever possible before.

Roberson expressed some concern for the long-term affects of 3-D printing.

"I would love to see if the amount of labor and cost truly makes the product worth the time. I would hope that the results of 3-D printing could sustain life as well as save it," Roberson said.

Perez is not the only one whose heart has been modeled on a 3-D printer. Though there are not enough of such surgeries yet to tell whether this tactic is better than previous methods, several successful surgeries reveal promising things about the procedure's track record.

3-D printing has many uses in the medical

field, including printing customized implants for hip and facial reconstruction surgery at the University Hospital of Wales. According to the BBC, these customized implants are much cheaper for both the hospital and the patients.

NASA is also taking advantage of 3-D printings. Popular Science reports that a 3-D printer on the International Space Station (ISS) has printed many useful tools, including a component for a printer itself and a custom-designed ratchet wrench.

The wrench was designed, approved and printed in less than a week. Usually, it takes months to deliver replacement parts and tools to the ISS.

Personal 3-D printers are now available as well. Though expensive, these personal printers are becoming more advanced and common, some of them costing as little as \$500. The technology has even been applied to hand-held use. For about \$100, a person could acquire a pen that "prints" plastic onto paper or in mid-air.

The technology continues to advance. Scientists are now working on 3-D printing with living cells, an application that could have wide-ranging consequences—from printing personalized replacement organs out of a patient's own living tissue to printing death-free steak and leather from cow's cells.



Photos courtesy of JAMES CARLSON/ OSF St. Francis Medical Center
A three-dimensional print of a heart used for babies born with heart defects. The printing could, in theory, provide a way to improve understanding of the defects prior to surgery.

Family Weekend Schedule

Friday, February 20, 2015

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration
Walker Student Center Atrium

9:00 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. Class Visitation

9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. New Testament Survey, Dr. Robbie Castleman
Honors: Basic Economics, Mr. Sam Heinrich
11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. Western Civilization II, Dr. Robert Moore
American Government, Dr. Frank Niles
1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. Masterpieces of Literature, Dr. Charles Pastoor
Evangelical Theology, Dr. Chad Raith
2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. Introductory Psychology, Dr. David Johnson
Introduction to Creative Writing, Dr. Brad Gambil

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Family Weekend Chapel
Cathedral of the Ozarks
President Pollard will be the chapel speaker.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Bible Department Student Papers Symposia

Soderquist Board Room, 2nd Floor, Mabee Center
"Karl Barth and the Theology of Vocation" presented by Josh McBride
"The Ethics of Time Travel" presented by Rissa Willis
"The Soteriology of Faith & the Legacy of Grace" presented by John-David Hubbs

7:00 p.m. "Pride and Prejudice" Student Theater Presentation

Berry Performing Arts Center
See Weekend Highlights for ticket information.

Immediately following the play "Meet the Cast" Reception
Berry Performing Arts Center Lobby

Saturday, February 21, 2015

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration
Walker Student Center Atrium

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. President's Open House
Home of Dr. and Mrs. Chip Pollard

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Family Brunch
Kresge Dining Hall, Mabee Center

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Bible Department's Used Book Sale
Dye Conference Room, just off Kresge Dining Hall

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Art Exhibit
Windgate Visual Arts East & West Art Galleries
Student Works: Windgate West
Senior Photography Exhibit by Lexi Christensen: Windgate East

10:30 a.m. Ultimate Frisbee Game
Ultimate Frisbee Field, behind tennis courts
Men's Intra-squad scrimmage

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Rugby Match
Rugby Pitch
JBU Rugby Club vs. TBA

1:00 p.m. "Pride and Prejudice" Student Theater Presentation
Berry Performing Arts Center
See Weekend Highlights for ticket information.

1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. Golden Eagles Intercollegiate Basketball Games
Bill George Arena
JBU vs. Southern Assemblies of God University
Women's game at 1:00 and Men's game at 3:00

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pool Open
Walton Lifetime Health Complex

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Student Talent & Variety Show

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Cathedral of the Ozarks

Two identical shows at two different times. Tickets required.
Winners announced at 9:00 p.m. show.
Sponsored by the JBU Parent Association Council
Presented by the Student Activity Committee's VIBE
Tickets are \$2 and must be purchased by your student in advance.

9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Talent & Variety Show Reception
Walker Student Center Atrium

JBU signs largest recruiting class

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The John Brown University Athletic Department buzzed with the excitement of National Signing Day for the 2015 women’s soccer team. JBU Athletics announced on Wednesday, Feb. 4 each new addition for the 2015-2016 season over social media platforms. Nine excited faces appeared at the end of the day, displaying one of the largest classes that the program has ever recruited. JBU released a short biography of each player and later posted a collage of all the new recruits. For many of these players, the recruiting process has been a long journey that started as early as the beginning of their high school careers. “There is a lot that goes into the recruiting process, especially when it comes to the world of college women’s soccer” said JBU Women’s Soccer Coach, Kathleen Paulsen. “It happens at a pretty early age for a lot of them, so for some of these girls, I’ve been in contact with them since

their sophomore year of high school. JBU holds a high standard when it comes to recruitment. JBU Athletic Director, Robyn Daugherty, noted that the coaches looked for individuals who could succeed on and off the field, which ultimately sets JBU apart from other institutions in the NAIA. “We all strongly believe in recruiting individuals who will graduate from JBU and make a difference in our world once they are finished,” said Daugherty. Coach Paulsen also recognized that adding such a large class would also require some readjusting. However, she noted that, with the leadership skills displayed by the current members and the path that has been laid before the team, they would have a smooth transition into this next season. “This is a huge class for us this coming year and we will be a young team. But I also think we have a strong understanding of who we are as a program and what direction we want to head,” Paulsen said. “I’m confident that our foundation is firm as we move forward. Our current players are leaders

and will do a great job integrating the new class into our program.” Senior JBU Women’s Soccer player, Madi Susmilch, can account for the closeness and foundation of the team through the years she has been on the team. In the process of graduating from JBU and having new members come into the program, she hopes that the team will still carry on some of their traditions and sacred moments they have held in the past. “One of the traditions is the music we listen to before games... I hope that ‘Say My Name’ and ‘Ain’t No Mountain High Enough’ will continue to be played and danced to,” said Susmilch. “Pregame worship was also a big part of our success; just giving our anxiety over to God before we went out and played for Him.”



Though the process of recruiting and signing players can be stressful, Paulsen noted that the true reward of her job comes after the recruiting process when watching the new players establish who they are on and off the field. “I think my favorite part of coaching is watching these young women change and grow both in their sport and in their lives. I look forward to getting to watch that process,” said Paulsen.

Courtesy of JBU ATHLETICS
JBU women's soccer team welcomes (from left to right, top to bottom) Annika Bos, Anna Brown, Melody Hagen, Kristen Howell, Aspen Robinson, Kathryn Huff, Anne Metz, Tainara De Lima Oliveira and Jastin Redman. This has been the largest class of recruits the program has seen.

Men’s Ultimate Frisbee beats U of A twice

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It’s not easy playing away from home, especially if nearly half your team isn’t there. On Saturday, Feb. 7, John Brown University’s Men’s Ultimate Frisbee club, Ironfist, did just that. The team went down to Fayetteville, Ark., to play two scrimmages and won by nine points against the University of Arkansas. “Instead of going with our 19-person varsity roster, we went with 10 players, which was extremely difficult,” said Ethan Penner, one of Ironfist’s team captains. “We run offensive and defensive lines, which is the same kind of idea as the NFL. You’ve got your offensive and your defensive players. Both of those units work

cohesively together, so when we only had our 10 players, we had to combine and sub in and out. It’s difficult to do; it’s hard to sustain the legs and energy for that.” They would have to face U of A, who had nearly their full squad of 30 with them. But lacking in numbers was not Ironfist’s only problem. “Aric Powers, Drew Taylor and I (the team captains) were thinking, ‘it could be a little rough’ because of the 20-mile-per-hour winds when we got over there,” said Penner. But Ironfist decided to use the wind to their advantage. “We were throwing a zone defense, which is covering a specific area instead of a man,” said Ethan Bolthouse, a freshman who plays middle and wing. “It really limits their longer throws, really making them do more short

throws. It really works well in the wind.” Such tactics paid off, as Ironfist began to pull away. “First game, we really got up on them pretty quick, which was surprising considering we didn’t really have all of our starters there,” said Mark Belvardi, a sophomore defensive line wing. “We were up at halftime, 5-2.” But the game was far from over. U of A came back and tied it up at eight points apiece, making the next team to score win the match. “They were about two feet away from scoring,” said Belvardi. “But we were able to get a deflection as they were trying to score. We won that game, 9-8.” After that thrilling victory, Ironfist played another game against U of A and won by a score of 6-4. “The second game was a bit closer the whole way,”

said Belvardi. “We didn’t really get up by more than two points. That was a bit more of a chill game, because we were just playing out the rest of the time. We were all tired.” Penner stated that the victories in Fayetteville were encouraging to see the growth of the Frisbee team, considering the fact that the team beat U of A with a depleted roster. The last time the JBU Ultimate Frisbee team beat U of A was in 2013. The members of Ironfist look forward to seeing Arkansas again on Feb. 21, when they come to JBU for Family Weekend. “This is an opportunity to show the JBU community here what our club is like; that our club can compete against the U of A, who has predominantly been the best in the state up until now,” Penner said.



EMILI WIDNER/The Threefold Advocate
JBU's Ultimate Frisbee team practices three times a week. Since 2013, the Ultimate Frisbee team has beat the U of A three times, twice last weekend, making them the best team in the Arkansas.



Brady’s dunk makes Sports Center Top 10

Last week, Griffin Brady’s dunk was No. 3 on Sport Center’s Top 10 highlights. The featured dunk occurred during a game against No. 16 ranking Mid-America Christian. The Golden Eagles lost to the Evangels 84-74. Brady, No. 25, is a 6 ft. 5 in. forward from Salt Lake City, Utah. Currently the men’s basketball team has won seven and lost seven conference games. See the women’s and men’s basketball team play Wayland Baptist today at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Both teams will also play against Southwestern A.G. on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

EMILI WIDNER/THREEFOLD ADVOCATE
(This photo is not the dunk featured on Sports Center)
Griffin Brady shoots the ball into the hoop during a game. Brady is a forward for the men's basketball team and was featured on Sports Center for a dunk.

Do more during Lent:
Make a true commitment to God

Every year, the same thing happens: people make commitments to stay away from social media, to give up sugar or to be less judgmental toward others. These goals sound like New Year’s resolutions, right?

Unfortunately, these are typical decisions made during the season of Lent, the 40 days of fasting leading up to Easter Sunday. The season begins with Ash Wednesday, when Christians who celebrate the holiday—mostly Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Anglicans and other more liturgical traditions—put ashes on their foreheads as a symbol of penance and God’s mercy.

Sadly, the ideas of penance, prayer and God’s ultimate sacrifice for humanity seem to be lost on some people during Lent. Students ask each other what they are giving up for Lent as if they were asking where they are going over spring break. The questions rarely include “What devotional are you reading through?”

Part of the reason for this may be the secularization of Lent. Indeed, many non-Christians celebrate the season, but not for religious reasons. They see it as a chance to get back on track after slipping up on their resolutions from January, or as a chance to just be a better person.

The idea of giving up something meaningful is supposed to inspire people to seek God more and not just to better oneself. Giving up social media doesn’t mean anything unless you spend the time you normally would have spent on Twitter by worshipping or praying to God.

We The Threefold Advocate urge students to take the season of Lent seriously, and not just treat it as a chance to start a new diet or stop procrastinating on homework. It is a religious holiday leading up to one of the most important days in the Christian religion, and people should treat it as such.

The practice of fasting, repentance and prayer during these 40 days leading up to Easter comes from Jesus’ 40 days of fasting in the desert when he faced temptation by Satan. Different Christian traditions have differing guidelines to how Lent is celebrated, but the primary reason is to recognize one’s sins, repent and pray for God’s mercy.

If you think that giving up something in your life will truly help you grow closer to God and recognize his love and mercy, then by all means, go ahead and give up that thing. However, if you are just giving up something for a superficial reason or to follow a fad, we urge you to reconsider.

Don’t forget the good:
Find joy despite the world’s brokenness

It’s often disheartening to take a good look at what is going on in the world around us; ISIS is still making headlines, friends and loved ones are being taken from us too soon by tragic accidents and deadly diseases and brokenness can be seen around nearly any corner. Despite these truths, We The Threefold Advocate want to encourage and challenge you to seek out and hold on to the small joys in your everyday life.

We acknowledge that it’s important to maintain an awareness of the disasters and realities happening locally, nationally and internationally. We think it’s necessary to keep knowledge of the brokenness and continue to pray for healing, understanding, peace and change. However, We The Threefold Advocate believe it’s also crucial that you allow yourself to see the beauty in the everyday joys around you.

These everyday joys come in various forms: the chance to Skype a long-distance relative, an encouraging note from a friend, a weekend road trip with your suitemates or succeeding on a test. Whatever joys you might encounter, we encourage you to appreciate and value them and use them to remember that the world isn’t always a terrible place.

Sharing these small joys with your peers allows them to experience a similar glimpse of goodness in what might be an otherwise dark day for them. We want to urge you to share joy with those around you as well. Write an encouraging note to a friend or buy someone coffee. Watch funny YouTube videos with your hall, go for donuts before class or pay for someone’s laundry.

We the Threefold Advocate know tragedy will continue to happen. As long as we live, we will experience pain, heartbreak, disaster and grief. But, in making a point to see the good things around us and spread joy to others, happiness will make its way in.



Illustration by CHLOE FENNELL

You make the church



KELLY ESCARCEGA
CONTRIBUTOR

I am what you could call a connoisseur of church-hopping. I once embodied the persona of a jaded lover who sought to see only the negative. I had often wished that I had a thin mustache to twiddle and a fedora so that the sting of my criticisms could really be felt. All I wanted to know was what “the church” could do for me.

This is not the way to begin the search for a church. I came to that realization quickly and harshly. I wore myself out, trying to tear every church down, instead of looking at what it did well. I suppose, however, my perspective was different then. I grew up in Siloam Springs, and, year after year, I saw the reign of hypocrisy. Kids who were proud that they went to New Life

(or really any church, I’m not bashing New Life specifically) and yet, Monday morning you would see them spouting harsh words and hurting people.

Church is just something you do. Church is a cute block you can mark out on your calendar. It’s a culture. This was what I saw growing up, and, because of that, I vowed never to go to church. It was the human in me that allowed the negative experiences of my past to affect the rest and to color the view of “the church” for me.

However, when I came to JBU—which was not my plan at all—I saw that I was wrong. Church is community. Church is the body of Christ. Church is love. Church is wonderfully imperfect. It felt ironic to me, a girl from Siloam Springs, who, like the multitude of other freshmen, was seeking a place to belong to—in her own hometown.

Truth be told, I had never attended a church in Siloam except for one in my entire life, and I thought, because of that experience, I knew what other churches were like. In my first semester, I found several that I liked but didn’t feel good enough. I became wrapped up in minute details that didn’t matter. I would often ask myself, “Well, does God want me to go to a church I hate to challenge myself? Is it selfish for me to

go to a church where I feel comfortable?”

I eventually realized that I was trying to make the choice of a church a political issue, but it isn’t. I felt that I just needed to decide and I did. It seemed that God didn’t care what church I chose as long as I committed myself to it. So, I just chose the church with the nicest people, regardless of the fact that it wasn’t “perfect.” Every church lacks in some way and that’s okay. You make up for it with your own study of the word and through the community of Christ.

You can choose what to “get out” of church. You choose your attitude. The church will never be perfect enough for me or for you because we’re humans. Ultimately, it’s not about the music, worship style or the food, but about the people.

Escarcega is a junior majoring in English. She can be reached at escarcegak@jbu.edu.

- Letter to the Editor -

The first rule of civil public discourse: don’t compare people to Nazis. The recent article on the front page about the proposed legislation separating the holidays honoring Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert E. Lee contained a quote comparing the joint holiday to honoring “Nazis Germany day on the same day as Holocaust Remembrance Day.” Not only do I think that this is not exactly civil discourse, I believe that it is not an accurate characterization either.

The Arkansas legislation recently voted down a proposal to separate the holidays of the two men. I believe that the two holidays should be separated, but to describe Lee and King as antithetically opposed to one another is an oversimplification.

The historical anecdote of Lee freeing the slaves he inherited in 1862 is well known. Lee is certainly not a hero of the civil rights movement, but to paint him as devoted to preserving slavery is unfair. While slavery was easily the largest issue driving the Civil War, Lee (like the war itself) was complex and best not painted with black and white strokes.

I hope that, in the future, Arkansas will choose to separate the two men’s holidays. The misunderstanding that it presents is too great a cost to pay. Thanks to men like Rev. King, we have come a long way in the South, and we have a long way left to go.

However, when I am older, I will teach my children that both Lee and King were great men. They were men with many imitable qualities, despite their public failings, and they are both important parts of the complicated racial legacy that will forever haunt the South. I will, however, teach my children that neither of them were Nazis.

- Trent Minner, senior marketing major

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Threefold Advocate

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Remembering Olivia Singleton



REBEKAH DAVID
CONTRIBUTOR

Two years. I’ve never heard the saying, “it feels like yesterday”, ring so true... until now.

I remember everything so clear. I remember laughing with her and watching FRIENDS with her while we worked out. We had a system that would help us workout longer; FRIENDS distracted us from the pain. I remember her waking me up in the middle of the night because she couldn’t sleep and just wanted to drive and listen to music. I remember the way she treated people: always so loving. She would befriend any person because she just loved to make others smile.

That was Livy. She believed in the Lord with every inch of her

heart. She inspired me to be more serious about my own devotions, so we started studying the Bible together. My first year at JBU was by far my favorite year: all of my friends got along, I was growing deeper in the Lord and Liv and I were constantly together, just enjoying life. Our deepest fear was our grade in Professor Castleman’s class. Everything else was perfect. Then February 16th happened.

I remember praying to God, begging Him to wipe away those heart-wrenching memories. But the answer would always be silent. She and the pain will forever be engraved in my mind. It took me a long time to realize why. When Livy first died, I was angry. The angriest I have ever been in my life. I even scared myself with my own anger. What made me fester more with anger was that, yes, I was angry at the Lord, and yes, I was angry at myself for not trusting my gut that something was wrong that day, but I was also angry at her, Livy.

It shames me to admit but I am still angry with her. Not as much, but anger is still in my heart. Now that some of the anger has melted away, I am able to see more clearly what the Lord is saying to me. I know why he doesn’t want me to forget that day and why I am reminded of her whenever I

see two best friends.

Throughout all the tears, the yelling and the questioning, God remained constant. He swept over me in what felt like a river of peace, never ending. He placed people in my life to comfort me. He stirred JBU’s heart and then they reached out to those who were hurting from this tragic loss. I never saw a campus come together like JBU did. The RA Staff in Hutch, including Shelby Delay and Meredith Baltz, were so amazing through it all. The men from J. Alvin even brought Hutch soup and drinks regularly. It was truly amazing.

God gave me friends I didn’t know existed. He showed me love at a time when I actually said, “I hate you.” It drove me crazy when the angrier I got at the Lord and Livy the more He showed me His sweet love. He was adamant in not letting go of me. I could swear I actually heard Him say, “Shhhh dear one, I got you. I am never letting go of you. Come to me with your tears and sorrow, and I will give you rest.”

Finally, I listened. I gave it all to the Lord. I gave him my fears, my tears, my questions, my anxiety, my grief and my longing, and in that instant, I realized He will never help me forget about those painful memories. To forget the pain would mean to forget the



glimpses of hope. You see, if He did that, I would forget about JBU loving those who were hurting. I would forget about the love I felt from complete strangers comforting me. I would forget about the professors giving me grace on missed assignments. I would forget about my roomie, Lauren Drogo, being there for me through it all. I would forget that through every fallen tear, the Lord remained, stronger and louder than the day before.

I can’t deny I will always miss Livy, but I also can’t deny the fact that I grew in the Lord more than I

ever thought I could in two years. I am so overwhelmingly thankful for every memory I have, because every single one points to our Lord and Savior.

David is a senior majoring in photography. She can be reached at davidr@jbu.edu.

Motherhood does not mean limitations



DR. JESSICA WILSON
CONTRIBUTOR

I’m biased in my answer, but I’ve given the question quite a deal of thought. When I was a little girl, all I wanted to be was a mom and to have seven kids like in Sound of Music or Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. My concurrent dream was to be a writer, and this desire was just as strong. Before I fell asleep naming all my many children, I would read for hours, followed by scribbles in my journal and, right before my parents climbed the stairs, perhaps a few poems jotted down. I cannot remember ever being without these two viscerally strong desires of my soul—to write and to mommy.

What I was unaware of growing up was the competition between these two worlds. I

remember reading biographies of great women writers and being disheartened that so many whom I admired were single, such as Jane Austen and Flannery O’Connor. Did I have to remain barren in the flesh for my writing to be fruitful? It was a scary thought. The other side was equally worrisome, to surrender my love of literature for motherhood. When I finished my doctorate still untethered, I wondered whether the conflict would even arise in my life. Perhaps God had decided I was to teach and write the great stories rather than raise my fantasy brood.

But then I got married. And then I had a daughter. And now I have a son too. So, how to be both a mom and a professor?

Here are the ways that I have begun managing the craziest juggling act of my life (and I am open to suggestions, for I am always scouring the Internet for more help).

One: Love your kids more than your students. I got this advice from Dr. Preston Jones. I know that I am doing just as much, if not more, service unto the Lord by changing diapers and singing “I’m a little teapot” forty times a day as I do when I cheer on the basketball players for my students at their game. When the two desires are in competition, my kids come first.

Two: To everything, there is a

season. Thank you, Holly Allen, Carla Swearingen and Trisha Posey. The aforementioned women have all reminded me on several occasions that everything has a season. While I may attend fewer conferences one semester because of a tiny little inconvenience like the miraculous birth of my first son, there will always be conferences to attend, and my son will only be born once. My kids will only learn to walk and talk and feed themselves once, so that conference in Russia or that article on Solzhenitsyn may have to take a backseat to the milestones of this season.

Three: Work at JBU. This third lesson is huge. John Brown University is the best university to work at as a professor who wants a family life. Never before have I seen Christian academics walk the talk as much as I have in this environment. My bosses in administration support my decisions to have children, my colleagues understand when I miss a meeting because I could not find childcare, and my wonderful students do not complain when they have to listen to my daughter cry the whole way to Tulsa on our class field trip. If there was ever a way for a mom to be a professor, it has been provided by this university.

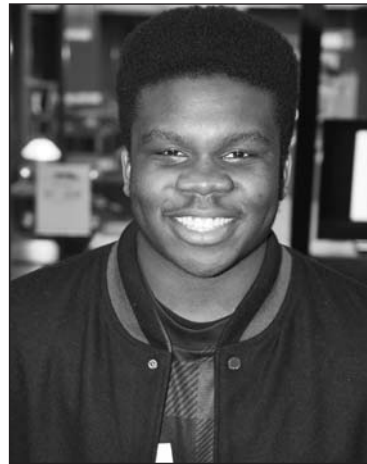
I believe Paul when he writes in 1 Timothy 2:15 that women will be saved by childbearing, for my



kids are determined to make me as selfless as possible. But, I also believe the apostle when he writes to the Corinthians (12:28) that each person has a different role in the church, and some are called to be teachers. In both ways, I work for God’s Kingdom.

Wilson is a professor of creative writing at JBU. She can be reached at jwilson@jbu.edu.

Students: realize importance of self-identity



BRADLEY ANGA
CONTRIBUTOR

I’ve never been a fan of putting pen to paper to express my feelings. I’ve always felt as though the process of identifying and communicating feelings is far too intimate to be confined to prose. Moreover, it usually requires more energy than I have to spare. However, I’ve always

had a soft spot for discussing self-identity. So here goes.

Simply put, we can define identity as the naturally occurring qualities that make us who we are as individuals.

“Who am I?”

“How do I feel about this issue?”

“How will this affect me?”

These are good places to start when attempting to establish self-identity. With that said, the process of developing self-identity is rather simple. Wouldn’t you agree? Well, of course you wouldn’t. Finding your identity is far more complicated than that. It is a gradual process that takes effort and time. So we work at it relentlessly until we are able to develop it. And when we finally do develop it, boy do we feel good! Confidence swells in our bosom and we finally begin to come into our own.

You may now ask, what happens when we lose our

self-identity? Or when we fail to maintain it? Well, in one word, catastrophe. When we lose our self-identity, a series of debacles always tends to

follow. Our decision-making ability becomes hindered, and we struggle to maintain healthy relationships. For the sake of this article, however, I will not discuss extensively the negatives associated with losing self-identity. I choose rather to focus on the positives associated with maintaining it. The four main reasons why I feel that maintaining self-identity is

important are as follows.

Firstly, maintaining self-identity is important because it strengthens your character. That is, when we know who

we are, have confidence in our self and are able to identify our strengths, we emerge as stronger individuals.

Secondly, it keeps us unique and distinguishes us from everyone else. God created each of us differently for a reason. Embrace who you are. Love yourself!

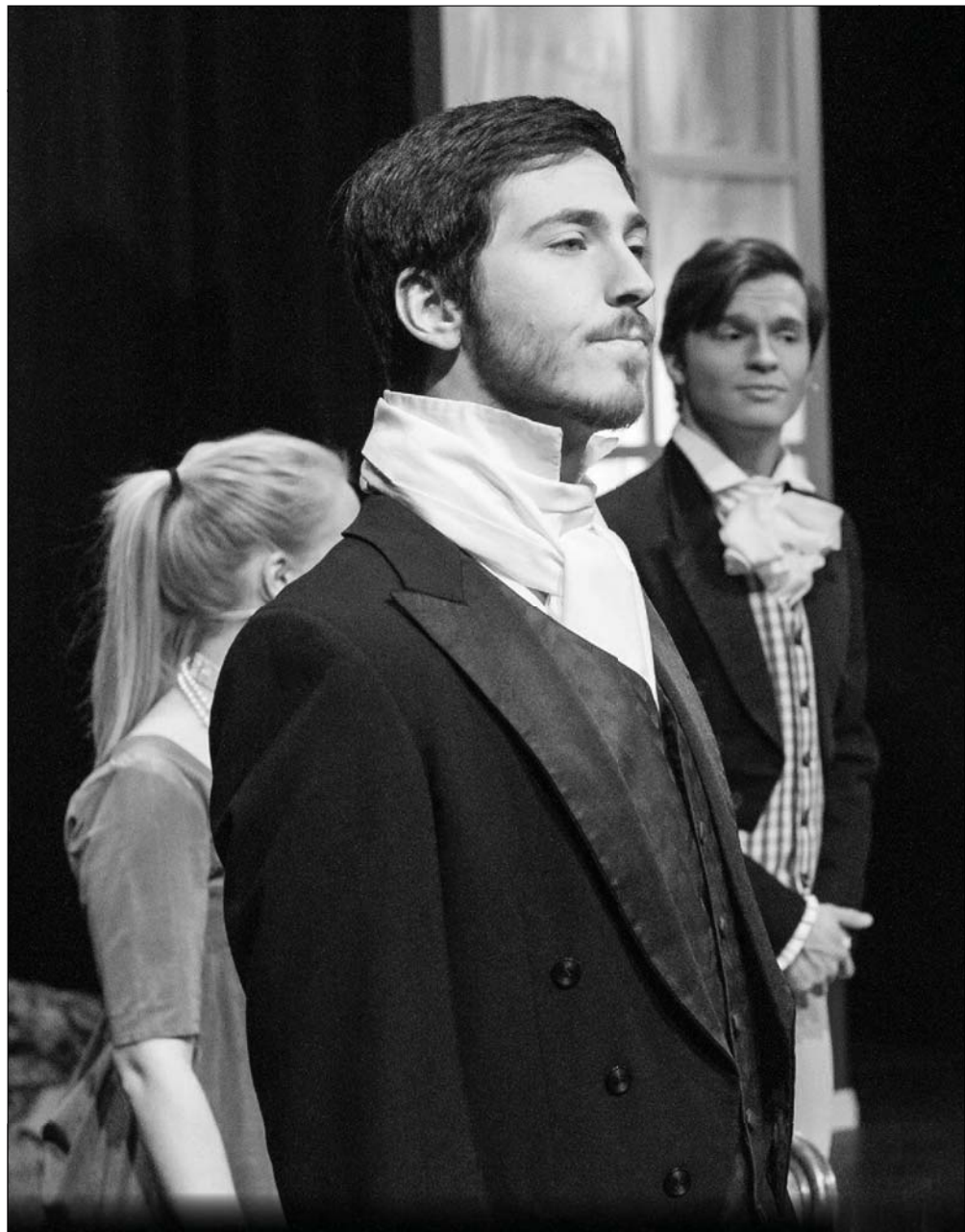
Thirdly, maintaining our self-identity keeps us comfortable.

The sooner we embrace ourselves, flaws and all, the sooner we rid ourselves of insecurities and become comfortable with who we are. And, believe me, you cannot put a price on being comfortable in your own skin.

Finally, we become more aware of our immediate environment and our place in it. We are all here for a purpose and recognizing our self-identity equips us with what we need to live out that purpose. With that said, I entreat you to maintain your self-identity and to remain true to yourself always.

Anga is a junior majoring in renewable energy. He can be reached at angab@jbu.edu.

Student play revives classic tale



LAUREN DROGO
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As the lights illuminated the stage and the actors scurried to their places, the audience anticipated something inspiring. This semester's play, *Pride and Prejudice*, hopes to rewrite how we know this classic story.

Each semester, John Brown University's drama department puts on a play or musical. Students transform themselves into characters in the play to give the audience a new light to an old story.

"*Pride and Prejudice* has long been one of my favorite books," said play director Jan Lauderdale. She searched for months for the right adaptation of the play. She finally found one that she believes will keep things interesting for the audience as well as remain true to the feel of the Regency time period.

Mr. Darcy, the troubled yet beloved male protagonist, will be played by senior Alec

middle school after seeing his first Broadway show, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*. "I liked the fact that it is a team," Warn said. He loves working with the cast and growing in his own abilities as an actor through learning from his fellow cast mates.

Olivia Rollene, who will be playing Caroline Bingley, hopes that, even if people know the story, they will see it in a new light. "People are going to have expectations," said Rollene, "but none of us are the actors themselves and so it is going to look different." The director challenged the actors to create their own characters. "I hope that people would watch it and become invested in it with us and feel the things that we are feeling and the emotions that we trying to portray," said Rollene.

The students have spent hours studying their characters and learning from them in order to portray them in the best light on the stage. Warn feels that his character

everyone that what you first see of someone, isn't always who they are. "I would like them to see the more human side instead of the novel side of the story," said Warn.

From learning several classic ballroom dances, to creating intricate costumes and to learning the lines from one of the most poetic time periods in history, this year's crew has been working hard to make this semester's play one to remember.

"As you can tell, there is much to pull together for this production, all within a very short rehearsal schedule of five weeks. But the cast and crew are rising to the challenge, and we are excited to present the final product to audiences for the next two weekends," said Lauderdale.

The play will be held in the Berry Performing Arts Center during Family Weekend (February 20-21) and the following weekend (February 27-28). Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.jbu.edu/tickets>.



Photos courtesy of JBU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC & THEATRE

Branching out: *The inspiration behind Ability Tree*

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People often view disability as an inconvenience, but for Joe Butler, it is a full-time ministry.

Joe Butler centers his entire profession in ministering to disabled individuals through Ability Tree, a non-profit organization he founded in June, 2010.

For Butler, a ministry to serve the disabled was something that had been on his heart for a long time. It all started when his son Micah was diagnosed with a disability.

"My wife and I have three kids, and our middle child, Micah, was diagnosed with developmental delays when he was nine months old. It started in early intervention, receiving physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy multiple times a week. He had a seizure when he was two and a half, was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and later on the Autism Spectrum."

Butler explained, "As a young family, it was difficult finding resources and raising a child and other children who didn't have disabilities, but it impacted our family in a significant way as well as finding an inclusive, accessible church that

we could go to as a family that was open for Micah to come into and inviting for him."

Butler said he really wanted to sense God's calling in his life.

"The week that Micah was born, we had already felt a call to full-time vocational ministry. I wasn't quite sure where God was directing us though," said Butler.

In 2009, nine years after Micah's birth, Butler had the vision of a disability outreach center, now known as Ability Tree.

"We envisioned it being in the heart of communities across the U.S.; Siloam Springs is our first Ability Tree," Butler said. "We do operate programming for families and community events in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and we're connected to individuals and churches around the country in about 20 states. The vision is to branch out and develop Ability Tree branches in other parts of the country."

Butler's colleagues view him as visionary, and they say he is also a pleasure to work with. Paul and Sherry Bolstad, an elderly couple who works at Ability Tree, have favorable things to say about Butler's demeanor.

"He's very helpful, he's a lot of fun," said Sherry. "He likes working with the kids and has a lot of fun with them."

Paul described him as "approachable, warm, energetic."

Butler's ministry also reaches outside Ability Tree, whether it's through a one-on-one interaction with him or even a mission trip.

"I've met ministry leaders from around the country and around the world even. I had some opportunities to go to East Africa and to teach some disability studies courses overseas. It's one of the highlights of my

life so far" said Butler.

Jason Kelly, the youth pastor of First Baptist Church of Siloam Springs, said that he could see the potential in Butler's ministry from the first day he met him.

"I first met Joe three years ago, maybe closer to four," said Kelly. "I met him on a Sunday morning here. He came and did a ministry segment on what Ability Tree is and shared his testimony. We put together a training afternoon a couple weeks

after that, and we had a lot of people show up to get trained to help minister to families or kids who have special needs."

Jacob Stratman, an English professor at John Brown University who is good friends with Butler, said that he has the right lens when it comes to ministering to people.

"The key thing right away is that you get an understanding of enthusiasm and passion, and with that, commitment," said

Stratman. "He's very passionate and committed to people, not causes. He's committed to individuals and families in their search for human flourishing, just to be able to do their thing."

With each step he takes, Joe Butler continues to push for disabled individuals to flourish in the community. After all, as he said himself, "Including families with disabilities isn't rocket science, but it is intentional."



CLAYTON LYON/The Threefold Advocate

Joe Butler, founder of Ability Tree, found his calling when God blessed him with a son in need of special attention and therapy to assist his disabilities. Butler started his non-profit in June, 2010.

Admin assistant critical for department

CAROLYN CLAUSSEN
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Administrative assistants are the little known workers that keep each department at John Brown University running smoothly. Not many students are aware of the work that goes on in their professors’ offices outside of the classroom, nor are they aware of the personnel involved. Administrative assistants help professors with everything—from budgeting to keeping copy machines in working order. Lynnel Lein, administrative assistant for the Humanities and Social Sciences department, said her job starts with, “Opening your email in the morning and just getting busy.” Lein, who has worked at John Brown University for eight and a half years, admits to being “the detail person” for many of the office affairs. She collects syllabi, writes professional development reports and does many other things for the department. Dr. Amanda Himes,

professor of English at JBU, said that Lein’s work is very important to her. “One of the main things is that Lynnel will arrange travel to conferences. That just takes a lot of time and she can find the really good rates. She kind of coordinates everything. She takes care of all the details,” Himes said. While she keeps English professors organized and documented, she has enjoyed a larger project. “Giving Voice is my big deal,” Lein said. Dr. Gary Guinn, former professor of English and former head of the English department at JBU, started the yearly event Giving Voice Writers Festival, which invites published authors and high school students to come together on JBU campus for a day’s celebration of the arts. “The first year, we had three or four writers. They each just gave one workshop. The high school kids came and handed me five dollars or a bag of quarters. It was pretty simple,” Lein said. “It keeps growing and getting more interesting. The last two years we’ve

had three workshops (for each guest author). It’s a bear for me to schedule.” The amount of scheduling Lein has to orchestrate between professors, authors, high schools and volunteers is huge. “It would take (programmers) two months to make a computer program to do what I have to do just with my brain and the computer,” Lein admitted. “Her organizational skills make Giving Voice almost flawless. She’s incredibly detail-oriented and incredibly organized,” Dr. Jacob Stratman, professor of English and chair of the division of Humanities and Social Sciences, said of Lein. Despite the sometimes hectic scheduling, Lein says she enjoys helping to put the festival on for students. Outside of JBU and Giving Voice, Lein, with her husband Roger, has three children and nine grandchildren. She also organizes all the children’s Sunday Schools at her church, enjoys entertaining guests at her home and keeps a garden. “And by garden I mean flowers, not

vegetables,” Lein said. Lein received her BA in English at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles in Los Angeles, CA, before moving with her husband to Siloam Springs while he attended JBU. His schooling was cut short when he joined the air force to avoid being drafted during the war in Vietnam. Twenty years and three children later, the Leins returned to Siloam Springs. “I started subbing, and a girlfriend showed me a job opening at JBU. It was so much better than getting a call at 5:30 in the morning. I thought, ‘Hm, I’ll try this,’” Lein recalled. Since then, Lein has worked for the English and Music departments as an administrative assistant. When remembering his eight years of working with Lein and how she has helped the department, Stratman said, “I think really the most helpful way is how she connects to students.” “She greets students, she wants to know how they’re doing, she talks about their lives, she connects with them, and she’s even taken students



KLARA JOHANNESSEN/The Threefold Advocate

out to lunch to talk about life issues,” Stratman explained. “She helps us really to make this place kind of hospitable. There were flowers here for Valentine’s Day and she brought oranges.” When asked what she would tell students

to raise their awareness about the hard working administrative assistants in all the departments, she said: “They’re there to help. And if students want to find out something about the department, they can start there.”

Bible-based clothing line seeks broader audience



AMBER BALAKIAN
CONTRIBUTOR

Several years ago, while co-instructing for an Entrepreneurship college class, I began

looking into the Christian clothing industry. This was, in part, due to wanting to purchase clothing for myself, but I also believed that it was part of God’s plan more than anything. After researching, experimenting and making a trip to a Los Angeles garment district, I decided to start my own brand of Christian clothing for women. This was the beginning of Heavensent. During this process, I began communicating with other Christian

apparel brands. What I found was a plethora of high quality, up-and-coming lines of clothing that I had to spend days to discover. Not only were the designers talented, but they had a purpose above profits. This was when we decided to take our next big step. My thoughts centered on the reality that, although these brands had consumer loyalty, it would take someone days to find them all. They wanted to reach people and had a lot of innovative, amazing ways to share the Gospel through their

apparel and accessories. In 2015, Heavensent made the decision to collaborate with a large variety of these up-and-coming Christian brands, and offer their apparel and accessories in one, convenient online platform. We also decided to offer exclusive discounts to those that sign up for our website for free. After working closely with a lot of the brands, we realized that there were a lot of commonality between their brands and ours. We had many of the same challenges; we all


had unique designs and a similar mission and vision. Instead of competing with each other and competing for a space in the limited number of Christian affiliated apparel stores, why not join together and create something entirely new! This is the beginning of our journey, and we trust in God to guide our steps and create something truly beautiful. I have always had a love and desire to help women and children who are struggling from addiction, depression, abuse, etc. Each month,

Heavensent donates 10% of its profits to help a featured women’s shelter. We hope that, in doing so, we not only assist in helping the shelter meet its goals but also in bringing public awareness to a struggling community. We live off of the principals of loyalty and service to our brands, communities and customers. One of the most powerful verses that brings together our vision and mission in its entirety is Matthew 25: 35-40, which says: *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’* I invite you to join us on our journey!



Photos submitted by AMBER BALAKIAN

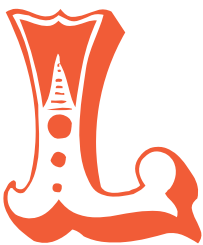
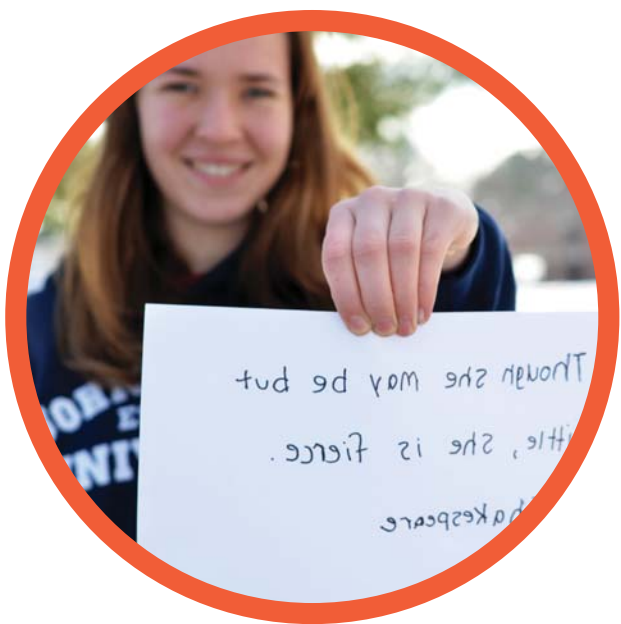
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
PRESENTS:



Ginger Seamon

YEAR: FRESHMAN
MAJOR: UNDECLARED
HOMETOWN: KANSAS CITY, KAN.
FUN FACT: I NAMED MY FISH AFTER TYPES OF CHEESE
WHAT’S YOUR DREAM JOB? TO RUN AN ENVIRONMENTAL NON-PROFIT

HIDDEN TALENTS at JBU



Laura Roller

Mirror Image Writing

Laura Roller, a senior attending John Brown University, has a particular skill of being able to write in mirror images.

Roller claims, when learning to write, she used her left hand and tried to copy with her right hand. Ultimately it lead her to being able to write naturally in mirror images. Roller said she kept up the skill because it was something unique and she thought it was really cool.



Joel Brown

Cup Stacker

Joel Brown, a senior attending John Brown University, is an accomplished sport stacker. Brown first saw sport stacking at his church during the fourth grade. Brown found sport stacking intriguing and decided to get better. Practicing for 4 to 6 hours a day, Brown eventually made over \$10,000 from his skill and has been asked to give demonstrations all over the country. He also performed on the talk show “Fox and Friends” on Fox News in New York City.



Elise Kerr

Ballet Dancer

Elise Kerr, a freshman attending John Brown University, started dancing when she was about 3 years old. Over the years, Kerr found dance to be her passion. Kerr said she “fell in love with the movements, grace and precision that it takes.” Kerr said she has danced in many places, including her former high school, her church and hometown events. She has performed both in groups and as a soloist.



Caleb Crawford

Illustrator

Caleb Crawford, a freshman attending John Brown University, has a talent for drawing. Crawford said he started to realize his enjoyment for drawing when he was around 4 years old, and he would draw stories with his brother. Crawford said drawing is his outlet for imagination and one of the few ways he is able to express himself. Being able to explore artistic passions, Crawford said, “My drawing talent has helped me not to feel like a complete failure in high school and has given me motivation to get a college education.”



Written by Allena Palmer, Staff Writer
Designed by Hannah Garrett, Visual Art Director