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New center promotes unity in the church

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For hundreds of years, evangelicals, Catholics, and Orthodox Christians have been at odds over doctrine. Two professors want to make John Brown University a place where they can come together.

The Paradosis Center for Theology and Scripture is a research center focused on fostering dialogue between different branches of Christianity. The Center is a joint effort between John Brown University and Baylor University.

"The idea behind the center is that we are coming together as Catholics, orthodox and

evangelicals in order to help one another live out that which has been passed on to us," said Charles Raith, assistant professor of religion and philosophy and director of the Paradosis Center. "We're intentionally trying to



get students involved in this conversation so they are trained to be peacemakers in the world ... and contribute to healing divisions in the church."

The Center is not a new organization, but a reconfigured one. It originally began as the

Center for Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue. It was hosted by Regent University in Virginia Beach and Baylor. This March Raith was offered the position of director and the opportunity to host the center at the university.



Nathan Jacobs, assistant professor of religion and philosophy, was also made a director.

Orthodox Christians were added to the dialogue and the Paradosis Center was born. Raith said the culture of the university

means it is ideal for an ecumenical center.

"This kind of center can flourish here," said Raith. "Not only are we interdenominational, we have a lot of Catholic students, and a few orthodox students, too."



Ed Ericson, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, thinks the missions of the center and the university are compatible.

"The idea is to have a larger interfaith conversation...fits well with JBU's interdenominational

background," said Ericson. "Our students can be engaged in really high level discussions of issues that are crucial to what's going on in intellectual and theological debates."

The Center plans to launch a fellows program next year. There are also plans for an ecumenical summit with around 20 of the top evangelical, Catholic and orthodox scholars coming to the university.

"It's an opportunity to engage in the conversation of the ages. Our faith has a rich heritage of conversation and dialogue that's been going on for a long time now," said Maxie Burch, chair of the division of Biblical studies. "This is our opportunity to become a part of the conversation of the church."

Exhibit gives faculty chance to express their talents

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On Sept. 3, eight John Brown University faculty members presented a collection of their artwork in a Visual Arts Department exhibit titled "Our Heads, Our Hearts, Our Hands." This exhibit was designed by the faculty to celebrate the JBU Visual Arts Department and to demonstrate passion and skill professors have for practicing what they teach.

"It's important for the students to know that we are committed to these creative processes," said Charles Peer, the gallery's director and a professor of visual arts.

Peer said almost all of the pieces displayed were completed over the summer, demonstrating that the members of the faculty in the Visual Arts Department not only teach but continue to work and create throughout the year.

Professors said they gathered inspiration from a variety of sources. Assistant Professor Steve Snediker's film "Levi: A Day--A Lifetime" was inspired by the playfulness and purity of children. Associate Professor Neal Holland's photography of the Irish seaside showcases his time spent in Ireland this summer.

These artists even draw inspiration from each other and from students. Snediker said that he has a unique relationship with his fellow faculty members and often feels encouraged and inspired by his colleagues. Professor of Visual Arts Dave Andrus said that it was his



Peter Pohle, associate professor of visual arts, and senior Jordan Kline walk through the Visual Arts Department's faculty art exhibit. "Our Heads, Our Hearts, Our Hands" is a chance for the faculty to create works in their area of expertise and display them for the school body.

colleagues who inspired him to explore landscape painting again.

"It's a celebration," Snediker said. "Students are encouraging because they get engaged in it. Although our craft is in different stages, I can draw inspiration from their work, and they can draw inspiration from my work. I'm interested to see how the

students will respond to my work, take it, and allow it to inspire their own work, which may then inspire my next piece. It's a circle."

"Our Heads, Our Hearts, Our Hands" displays art styles from landscape and en-plein-air paintings to wire drawings, photography, screenprint pieces

and a short film.

"I like the exhibit because all eight of [the Visual Arts Department faculty] participate and do wildly different things," Andrus said. "I like the variety and the quality."

"I wish I could have had the opportunity to view my teachers' work like this when

I was a student. Come and learn something about your professors!"

"Our Heads, Our Hearts, Our Hands" will be displayed Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from 2-4 p.m. in the Windgate Visual Arts West Gallery through Sept. 27.

JBU best in value

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The U.S. News and World Report named John Brown University the Best Value College in the South for the second year in a row.

The magazine rated colleges mostly by a ratio of quality to price, also taking into account need-based financial aid.

The article cites the university's diversity, small class sizes, and high freshman retention rate as markers of its quality.

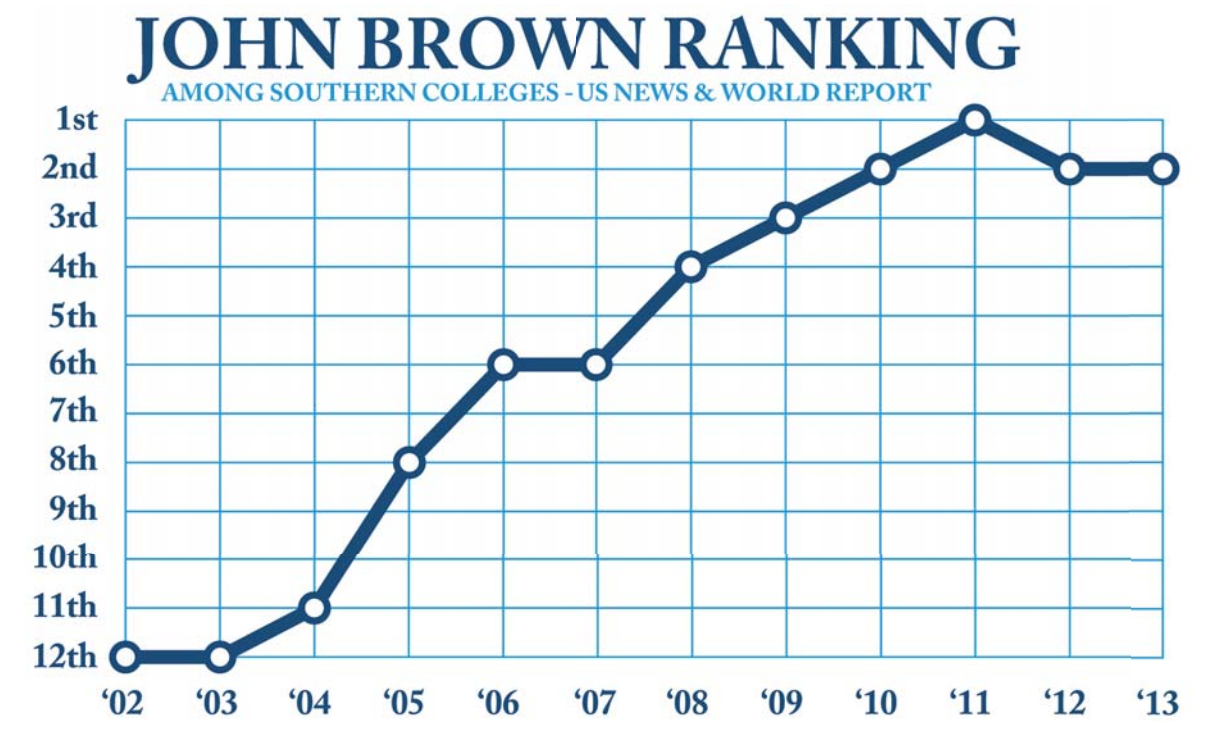
"Our U.S. News ranking is one example of the recognition that

JBU has received for bringing the highest caliber of Christian higher education at the best possible value to students and their families," said Chip Pollard, university president, in a press release on Tuesday.

"We are deeply grateful to be able to teach excellent students through exceptional faculty and staff in outstanding facilities, and to have that good work noticed by others."

The magazine also named the university the number two college overall in the South.

This marks the ninth consecutive year the university has been ranked in the top ten, and the fourth consecutive year in the top two.



Professor breaks down international barriers

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Tim Gilmour, assistant professor of engineering at John Brown University, had the opportunity to teach a class in a North Korean university over the summer. Gilmour has spent a lot of time in Asia, and jumped at the chance to teach and to build relationships in this hard-to-reach area. Though relations between North Korea’s and the United States’ governments are tense, and North Korea has traditionally been closed off to foreign interests, the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, or PUST, is looking to develop the economy and scientific community in North Korea by training its future leaders. Unfortunately, experts in science and technology are in short supply, so the administrators at PUST look for outside instructors. Many of Gilmour’s colleagues were non-native, from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Albania. Gilmour flew to North Korea most concerned about the class, “Computer Networking.” “I had never taught that class before,” said Gilmour. Many of Gilmour’s students had little previous experience with the internet, so Gilmour not only taught them basic



Submitted by Tim Gilmour

Tim Gilmour plays soccer with his students. During their time at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, the foreign professors took every chance to interact with their students on a personal level as well as an academic level.

internet skills, but also the technical explanations for how the internet and email work. “North Korea is interested in increasing its technical expertise these days,” said Gilmour. Students at PUST were very respectful and team-oriented. “When I would walk into the classroom, they would all stand and say, ‘Good morning, professor,’” Gilmour said. All the students at PUST spend a full year learning English,

so Gilmour had no trouble communicating, and taught his class completely in English. Equally important to Gilmour was getting to know the students. He ate lunch and dinner with them every day, and played soccer with them on occasion. He also participated in their English practice, hosted by the ESL (English as a Second Language) program once a week. “I built some nice relationships,” said Gilmour. “I’d like to go back to build on that.” Gilmour was especially glad about the impact his students would have on their country. “PUST is a very wonderful place,” he said. “[Professors are] benefiting North Korean civilians by not only technical teaching, but also conversations about more important life issues.” PUST’s growth reflects Gilmour’s enthusiasm. The administration is currently

seeking to add a medical school and expand their research. Their researchers are working on projects such as efficient solar power for rural areas, among other ventures. When asked about the political implications of Gilmour’s teaching, he said, “I was careful not to teach them anything detrimental to the U.S.,” but added, “I do want to help their country to develop good economic and commercial [practices].” “It’s difficult to desire to talk with them about Jesus and to not have much opportunity to do that, because of the situation,” Gilmour said. Gilmour urges students to pray for the long-term faculty at PUST, that they would be strengthened and encouraged. About ninety-five per cent of the volunteers are Christians. “I would encourage JBU to be a part of [North Korea’s development] in the future,” Gilmour said. “They not only need engineering teachers, but also life sciences, English, and business teachers.” People with Masters Degrees or higher have the best chances of getting involved. Gilmour hopes to go back again next summer to “continue relationships with students, and to deepen them.” “I feel very privileged to have been able to go.”

Looking to the Skeis: a new vision for the church

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Phil and Rici Skei believe the church is entering “a new era” led by college-aged Christians. That is what they told the student body in chapel during John Brown University’s annual Spiritual Emphasis Week. “This is the church of Acts chapter 2,” said Phil Skei, describing a worship service in which flag dancers performed as the congregation sang “How Great Thou Art.” The Skeis said this new era will come out of current tensions between those in the church focusing on the salvation message without regard for minimized people and others who want the church to focus on serving without emphasizing the gospel. “Let me tell you something: (the tension) is not going away,” said Skei during chapel on Sept. 5. “The tension is still going to keep growing.” The Skeis came to the University from Fresno, Cal., where they live and minister in the Lowell neighborhood. The Skeis shared their experience at the church they helped plant in Lowell two years ago.

They explained that the church must hold tight to the gospel while still serving wherever God has placed them and understanding their identity to come from “the Kingdom of Heaven as the people of shalom.” On the second day of their three-part sermon about the church, Rici Skei addressed the church’s need as a body to acknowledge and challenge systematic injustices. “Are we going to ignore these injustices as a people of reconciliation?” said Rici. “We are a community of refuge and safety.” In an interview, Rici explained that as a college student she had emotionally disconnected from her church because of the hypocrisy she saw there. “I loved the God of the church but I did not like church people,” said Rici. “I never understood that I am the church.” In chapel the next day, Rici described how she and Phil began doing what they considered the work of the church, “but our hearts were messed up.” They were getting involved in non-profit and volunteer work in their community, but they were doing it out of personal pride. Rici said that while they were seeing results in people’s



J. Pablo Garcia/The Threefold Advocate

Phil and Rici Skei speak about the church. The Skeis planted On Ramps Covenant Church in the Lowell neighborhood of Fresno, Cal.

lives, there was no full transformation. The people of Lowell were not meeting with God because they were not plugging into a church, Rici said. “I believe in what non-profits can do, but I preach the church,” said Phil Skei dur-

ing Thursday’s chapel. “You ask me where hope is and I ask you, ‘Where is the church?’” The Skeis said recombining these two views of the church’s mission, as well as joining the ancient with the contemporary, will be the job of to-

day’s young adult Christians. “This is an invitation to think critically about, not be critical of, the church,” said Phil after chapel on Wednesday. “Be innovative, embracing the ancient, and contemporize.”

J. Alvin construction builds more than a dorm for students

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Resident life in John Brown’s oldest dorm looks a lot different this year. While one half of J. Alvin Brown Hall is under construction, the other half is occupied by more than a hundred students. Most are freshmen and sophomores. Other students, mostly upperclassmen, have been moved to the all-male townhouses. Eric Gingerich, resident director of J. Alvin Hall and the Townhouses, said that he believes interaction between students from both J. Alvin and the Townhouses is beneficial. “The J. Alvin community will be a little more tightly knit, but interaction between the upper- and underclassmen is still vital,” Gingerich said. Gingerich extends in-

vites to the Townhouse men to the “Redeeming Manhood” events that take place in J. Alvin each month. Nick Eshnaur, a junior graphic and web design major and the resident assistant for a townhouse, said that he

“I think the construction has brought us closer as a community...”
-Chase Poage

and the “brother” RA he has been paired with from J. Alvin plan to have dinners and other events in the townhouse. “It will be an easier way to integrate the two different yet same communities,” Eshnaur said. Junior Chase Poage, an RA at J. Alvin, said he thought that trying to get the townhouse

men involved with the J. Alvin suites would be a challenge. “To break the age barrier, events need to be held off campus,” he said. “That way the guys are out of the JBU bubble and are able to break the invisible tension has dispersed between the age gap.” Poage said he wasn’t sure how the tension formed but that he first noticed it when he was a freshman. To solve this, Poage has been putting together a cook-out at his house so that his residents can spread out, play games, swim, fish and let loose. “I would like to do a service project with my guys and my brother townhouse,” Poage said. “Events off campus will have a bigger impact than ones on campus.” As for construction in J. Alvin, the current residents will move to the other newly renovated half of the dorm around Thanksgiving. Following this,

demolition will begin on the other half and will be completed before students come back for the spring semester. “As a part of a thank you, to the guys living in J. Alvin during construction, we are trying to have events such as providing doughnuts or pancakes in the mornings, and possibly renting out the local bowling alley,” Gingerich said. Poage believes that the construction has brought J. Alvin closer together as a dorm. “Because there is only half of the dorm, the guys that are here are forced into a closer environment and have to develop that sense of community faster than previous years,” he said. Poage said he thought this helped residents get to know one another other more easily. “All in all, I think the construction has brought us closer as a community and accelerated the process in which we become J. Alvin men,” he said.

This year the theme for J. Alvin is “Committed,” with a focus on the power behind keeping one’s word to another person. “We make promises we can’t keep, all in the name of puffing ourselves up and looking good in other people’s eyes;”, Poage said. The residence life staff hopes to help the residents know when to say yes and when to say no, so that they will commit only to things that they will give 100 percent of their energy and efforts, making their word mean something again. “Having this mentality will carry on to our jobs, our future, and whatever else God has planned for us,” said Poage. Gingerich plans to have various dinners in the atrium with speakers, suite gatherings, and one-on-one conversation. He said he hopes the Townhouse men will use the atrium for their own events, as well.

New CARE facility houses play therapy program

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In late August, John Brown University became the first university in Arkansas to have a facility dedicated to play therapy. The new C.A.R.E clinic, located directly across from the old building, aids hundreds of kids, while training graduate students to be play therapy certified. “Play therapy is a form of psychotherapy which helps children process complex emotion through playing, a method which comes most naturally to children,” according to a JBU press release.

Nick Cornett, assistant professor of counseling, marriage and family, and family and play therapy, said that while adults typically use speech to communicate with counselors about their emotions, children in play therapy play or act their emotions, feelings or certain life situations.

“For a kid, [standard therapy techniques are] intimidating,” Cornett said. “Words and cognitive

ability are more difficult.”

The play therapy rooms give children the opportunity to express themselves in a variety of ways, whether playing with blocks or painting a picture.


For example, children who were affected by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks erected buildings on visits to the C.A.R.E. clinic and then toppled them with toy airplanes or their own hands, Cornett said.

The new facility includes five suites: The Tucker Hill Play Therapy Wing, two sand tray rooms, two family-sized play therapy suites, and one parental consultation suite filled with flat screen TVs and cameras.

“The facility provides an environment most comfortable for children,” Cornett said.

The facility was made possible through John Carmack, chair of the division of counseling, who took the proposal to the board. The toys and flatscreen TVs were purchased with a grant given from the Soderquist Family Foundation.

The old C.A.R.E clinic still stands but is now used solely for adults.



J. Pablo Garcia/The Threefold Advocate

The new C.A.R.E. clinic play therapy facility offers a wide variety of toys and props for children to express their emotions and life situations.

Northslope apartments offer unique resident life

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Now part of the elite “suburb-dwellers” of John Brown University’s campus, Northslope Apartment residents have bid farewell to regular college dorm life.

Made up of 76 females and 12 males, apartment residents can still smell the fresh paint on the walls of the recently constructed residence halls.

Each apartment is furnished with a couch, refrigerator, sink, dishwasher, microwave, stove, oven and a washing machine and dryer. Apartment residents Katherine Holderness and Jewel Gilbert said the facilities make them feel like they live in the “real world.”

“This is like normal life,” said Holderness.

Holderness listed the apartments’ spaciousness as one of their key characteristics.

“I love having space to live my life,” said Holderness. “Feeling cramped causes stress. Here I have a ton of resources and don’t feel stressed. While I loved Mayfield, I sometimes felt stressed living in so small an area. Here, I have an eating space, a sleeping space and an entertainment space that are all completely different.”

Many students take advantage of the extra space by regularly inviting people over.

“We’ve hosted people a lot,” said Holderness. “That’s been awesome. It’s not just good for us, but it’s good for the community at large. They can come up for food, or fellowship, or studying. That’s really nice.”

At the same time, students enjoy the privacy of a quieter environment.

“It’s really nice to be working in a living room with people you’re really close to,” Gilbert said.

Holderness said the

a bird’s-eye view of the new Northslope Apartments. The apartments are equipped with washing machines, dryers, full fridges, stoves, ovens, and dishwashers.

apartments lack the communal atmosphere of the dorms.

“They’re kind of like homes, so you wait to be invited into someone else’s apartment,” said Holderness. “Most people don’t keep their doors open, and it’s not easy to get to know your neighbors because everyone has their own schedules.”

Unlike the university’s other residence halls, the apartments have yet to institute yearly traditions.

“There’s no ring-downs or Mayfield loves J. Alvin,” Gilbert said. “It just doesn’t have any of that established yet.”

Each complex has two Resident Advisors who often drop by the individual apartments on the weekends.

Unlike the dorms, the


apartments do not have scanners for students to swipe in order to enter the buildings. Residents must use their keys to unlock the main doors, and visitors cannot enter the buildings unless residents go to the doors to let them in.

“It’s kind of annoying, actually,” said Holderness. “It’s the only thing I don’t like about them.”

The apartments have their own quirks. Many of the wash machines have malfunctioned, and some of the sinks make odd sounds when liquid flows down their drains.

“No one knows where the squeaks and bumps are yet,” said Gilbert. “There are still some kinks being worked out, but it’s just because the stuff is so new, which is such a nice problem to have.”

Free Self Defense Class



Saturday
September 10
11:00am-1:30pm

OR

Tuesday
September 17
7:00pm-8:30pm

Both classes held at Murray Sells Gym

Instructed by Martial Arts Hall of Famer
Cassidy Gunneman

For Questions, contact CampusSafety@jbu.edu

JBU Nature Society plans garden

John Brown University’s Nature Society, or JBUNS, will build a rain garden near the Balzer Technology Center Sept. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon.

A rain garden is an area that collects runoff rainwater from sites, like parking lots, and filters the water before it contaminates local creeks and ponds.

The club, which is committed to improving local creeks and waterways, coordinated with the Illinois River Watershed Partnership, a non-profit organization based in Fayetteville, Ark.,

in acquiring materials.

“This [partnership] gave us a mini grant to do the project,” said Laticia Warren, a senior and co-president of the group. “They provide all the materials, and JBUNS provides the manpower.”

JBUNS meets weekly during the semester to coordinate projects and raise awareness through conversation.

Warren said past meetings have included making book boxes, “where you glue pages together and cut out the insides of the pages”, discussing gardening tips for your dorm

room or for environmentally friendly landscaping.

JBUNS is one of the smaller clubs in CAUSE, or Christian Ambassadors United for Service and Evangelism, family of ministries. Ten club members are the average attendance, according to Warren.

The club, also, regularly volunteers to help clean up the banks of Sager Creek.

“We like to have a lot of projects where we can be stewards of the earth,” Warren said.

Written by Caleb Wanzer

New group to promote LGBT discussions



CONTRIBUTOR

Jacob Little

Editor's Note: OneJBU is an outside organization led by JBU alumni.

Human sexuality is a topic that has generated much debate at JBU over the years. This spring, I announced the formation of a group called OneJBU. OneJBU was started by several alumni in 2012, and now has over 150 members whose mission is to be a resource and support to LGBT and questioning students at JBU.

Since then, much has happened related to local and national LGBT issues. Rhode Island, Delaware and Minnesota voted to legalize same-sex marriage. The Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act, and now allows same-sex couples access to over 1,100 federal benefits. Exodus International disbanded and issued a public apology to those that were harmed by their methods of reparative therapy.

Yet, not all the news has favored the gay community. Russia passed a strict anti-gay law, which has led to the bullying, beating and arrests of countless victims. Suicide rates among LGBT youth and college students remains catastrophically high – The Suicide Prevention Resource Center estimates that 30-40 percent of LGBT youth in the US have attempted suicide. Our very own community experienced three LGBT-related suicides this summer (that we know of), including one JBU alumnus.

I am a JBU alumnus and former staff member. I am a missionary kid from Russia. I am a Christian. I am gay. This is an incredibly personal issue to me. I pray for the students, staff and faculty at JBU who feel unsafe (as I did) to openly and honestly explore their sexuality for fear of

the repercussions to their education or their careers.

JBU has made tremendous progress recently in how it approaches and deals with homosexuality. That progress is encouraging, and there is more honest dialogue happening now than ever before. Yet I know after hearing from many students and staff at JBU after the event in April that a spirit of fear still exists when it comes to this issue and there needs to be more conversation. OneJBU wants to be a part of that conversation.

30-40 percent of LGBT youth in the US have attempted suicide.

OneJBU is a community of alumni who love our alma mater and want to see JBU move to place of deeper acceptance with its gay and lesbian students, staff and faculty. We know that the process of discovering one's sexuality can be confusing and lonely. For those questioning their sexuality, we are here for you. For those that identify as LGBT and are looking for a welcoming community, we are here for you. For anyone who has questions about the issue, or needs guidance on how to respond to a loved one who has just come out, we are here for you.

On Thursday, September 19 at 7:30 p.m., we will host an open forum at Pour Jons on the second floor to discuss your reactions to the "Faith & Sexuality" event. We'd love for you to come and share your thoughts. Follow our "OneJBU" Facebook group to stay informed.

We want to keep the discussion that was started in April alive—and we want to do it in a spirit of cooperation, compassion, respect and love. I hope to see you at the table.

Jacob Little graduated from JBU with degrees in history and international business. He is now the manager of Talent Development at Walmart. He can be reached at LittleJake@gmail.com

Own the church, be the church



CONTRIBUTOR

Maxie Burch

Extra ecclesiam nulla salus: "outside the church there is no salvation." At first glance this quote from Cyprian of Carthage may cause us to bristle at its arrogant and exclusive tone. It sounds like this third century bishop was on a power trip and wanted everyone to know it. In fact he was stating—what was for him and other Christ followers of his day a clear, essential spiritual and temporal truth—that the church is the body of Christ. If we bristle some at his statement, then we are perhaps revealing the great distance that exists between third century believers and us.

If we believe that the church is primarily a spiritual/temporal institution, an institution that we are free to join and leave as we see fit based on our own individual preferences, a fragmented/denominational institution that only deserves our loyalty if it provides a secure, safe place for us to worship and be nurtured in while buffering us from the theological debates and social issues that may threaten our current views of God or the Bible, then the distance between Cyprian's world and ours is vast. It is a distance defined by a very different understanding of what it means to be the church.

For Cyprian, the church was the body of Christ, not an institution. Outside of the body of Christ, the church, there was no salvation. You see, for Cyprian and other Christ followers, you could not

"go to church," you could only "be or not be the church." The church was not an institution you went to or chose to join. It was the universal, redeemed community of faith created by Jesus' death and resurrection. To be saved meant to be a part of Christ's body the church. The key criterion for being the church was Jesus, not a believer's personal preference or choice.

If we are Protestants raised in this country, then we have been subject to what historian Nathan Hatch has referred to as the "democratization of Christianity." Essentially this means that Protestant Christians in particular have spent the last 200 years applying the same democratic principles that shaped America's political identity to their understandings of the church. The result has been a view of church that looks a lot like American politics/culture. The autonomous individual, within the limits of the law, is free to exercise the right of choice to pick a political party and the candidates that represent it. If you don't like the way that political party or candidate is governing, then, every two to four years, based on the election, you can change your mind and pick someone else. As one visitor from Europe pointed out to me years ago, "You Americans are interesting people. In Europe we have two main religious faiths, Catholics and Protestants, but dozens of political parties. In America you have two political parties but thousands of churches."

In our culture, it will be very difficult to "own the church" or, as Cyprian believed, "be the church" if we think that the church's value and existence depends on our choosing it. I hope that Spiritual Emphasis Week has encouraged us as a learning community to reexamine together the nature of the church and what it would mean for us to "own it" or, better yet, like Cyprian, "be it."

Burch is the chair of the Biblical Studies department. He can be reached at MBurch@jbu.edu

Miley Cyrus: Victim or strategist?



CONTRIBUTOR

Lauren Drogo

Miley Cyrus has received a lot of media attention in the past few weeks since her performance at the VMA's this year. She sang a collaboration of her song "We Can't Stop" and Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines." Both songs talk about partying and "living for pleasure" without a single care in the world. Both are in the top 5 charts on iTunes and have sold millions of copies worldwide.

We sing along to her and so many other artists' songs that talk about exactly what she did on the stage, and now that we are seeing her doing those things, we're embarrassed

That alone should show us that we had a hand in Miley's actions on the stage.

While we all drop our jaws and become embarrassed at her performance, is this really something new and deserving of so much media buzz? This scandal has been in the news and all over social media for weeks now. One possible reason could be because parents are suddenly ashamed to have let their young daughters see her as a role model

for so long. But this kind of behavior from a woman her age in the music industry is not new. Several stars such as Madonna and Britney Spears have done the exact same thing and never received such attention. So what makes Miley's performance so different than theirs? Is it because she was more of role model to young girls than Spears and Madonna, or that we're just ashamed to show we didn't already see this coming and didn't want to admit it? We sing along to her and so many other artists' songs that talk about exactly what she did on the stage, and now that we are seeing her doing those things, we're embarrassed. If we're so ashamed to watch Miley act that way and yet not ashamed to sing her songs at the top of our lungs, what does that say about us? Doesn't that mean we're at fault for this whole thing? Miley made a statement at the VMA's that was the result of our own support of hers and every other artist out there that has done a similar routine.

Miley Cyrus is no longer a little girl and she acted in a way that most would call uncomfortable and inappropriate. But in reality, this kind of behavior has been a long time in coming; it's just that now that we are seeing the actions of what we sing along to and buy on iTunes being shown in front of us, we're ashamed. Miley's actions wouldn't have embarrassed us so much if we hadn't watched her YouTube videos countless times, or bought her newest single and requested it over the radio. So is the way Miley has been acting lately what we should be allowing our daughters and friends to be inspired by? Of course not, but we should let this whole thing be an eye opener to what exactly we've been listening to and whether or not the amount of attention we're giving it is absolutely necessary.

Lauren Drogo is a sophomore majoring in communication. She can be reached at DrogoL@jbu.edu



CONTRIBUTOR

Isaac Weaver

Inebriated teddy bears, twerking and a skin colored bikini seem to be the only things anyone remembers from the 30th annual VMA's. And if you're Miley Cyrus, that means mission accomplished.

The competition between generic artists to decide who can be the trashiest has reached a gladiatorial state, and we fan the flames by showering the combatants with attention.

There must have been a meeting at one point between Cyrus and her team regarding what sort of performance she would give the world on August 25, and it was decided that anything leading to offended parents and media buzz was the goal to shoot for—presumably with a glitter cannon.

Like pop idols before her, when faced with the daunting task of choosing just how to shock and offend, Cyrus had all options ranging on a scale from sex, to a lot of sex, and sex overload.

I'm not entirely sure where "latex skin colored bikini" lands on your scale, but I'm pretty sure that no matter where it is, it's miles outside of your comfort zone . . . and there's quite a good reason for that. The majority of us simply don't want the amount of attention she wants.

Ten days after her performance Steve Chmelar, inventor of the foam

finger, appeared on HLN's "Showbiz Tonight" and expressed how he felt that Cyrus "degraded" his creation. By using the foam finger as a prop to simulate inappropriate behavior up, down and all around Robin Thicke during the duo's mash-up of their equally mediocre songs "Blurred Lines" and "We Can't Stop," Cyrus managed to keep herself on national news ten days after her performance.

I use the word "mediocre" very pointedly in describing the quality of Cyrus and Thicke's songs. Other than the nudity in Thicke's video for "Blurred lines" and Cyrus' general bizarre behavior at the VMA's, there isn't really anything original about the pair's songs. When standing alone for scrutiny, both fade into the wall of noise of popular music.

So what's a mediocre artist by the likes of Cyrus and Thicke to do? When the music is lacking depth, when the pop is really just a fizzle, we've seen the solution is simple: shock and offend. Legendary performances, whether due to talent or offensive behavior, are never forgotten. Cyrus knows this.

Say what you want about her risqué behavior, her talent (or lack thereof), but Miley Cyrus knows exactly how to market herself and how to sell music. She shocked us all two weeks ago, but here we are having this discussion. Cyrus found her niche in the entertainment world, and the seemingly out of control attitude is merely an image that sells. The crazy girl on stage is making money hand over fist while we watch her post-show interviews and tune in to see what she'll do next. We don't want to admit it, but the girl in pink latex might be smarter than she lets on.

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LIFESTYLES

The Threefold Advocate

WELLNESS SPORTS NEW LOOK

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John Brown University students dance the night way at a Swing Society event last year. The Society has grown into a University-sponsored club, showing student interest in dance. This semester, dance is offered as a wellness activity along, with martial arts.

Aerobic Walking and Jogging, Tennis, Swimming and Bowling are just a few of the wellness activities offered at John Brown University each semester. This fall, however, students signed up for two classes not normally found on the course schedule, Martial Arts and Dance. Taught by Jim Blankenship, associate professor of biblical studies, Martial Arts kicked off at the start of the semester. This is the first time the course has been offered in recent years. Last February, Blankenship received an invitation from the University to teach the class. Always intent to keep up his training and to share his knowledge, he accepted. Blankenship began his formal training in martial arts while pursuing an undergraduate degree at Indiana University, starting with the Korean specialty Hapkido. However, this specific form proved difficult to find in other cities he moved to post-graduation, so Blankenship went on to study other martial art forms such as Taekwondo, Filipino Martial Arts and Jujitsu. His pursuit of expertise eventually led him to earn black

belts in both Hapkido and Taekwondo. For eight weeks, Blankenship will pass along some of his knowledge to seven men and seven women. With such a short amount of time, the concepts and exercises explored will remain fairly basic, although pulled from many different schools of martial arts. “I want them to learn some safe training methods that will let them practice for a long time to come... I hope they can remember the material and keep it active in the future,” explained Blankenship. Classes include a warm up drill called hubad-lubad, a review of past techniques and an addition of a new technique. Students focus on elements such as footwork, timing, rhythm and reacting to one’s opponent or partner. Also this semester, after Fall Break, Dance will be offered as a class for the first time in the University’s history. Alumnus Anna Buck, receptionist and program assistant for the Soderquist Center, was chosen to teach the course. With a life-long love of dancing and a degree in Exercise Studies, Buck is excited for the upcoming

months. While studying at the University, she was involved in the Swing Society, which became an official club last year, as well as the Great Abandon dance ministry. Even after graduating, she continued to help choreograph the ministry’s dances. Since the spring of 2012, Buck discussed the possibility of a dance class with the University, but with course schedules already planned, the idea did not become a reality for almost a year. Once official, the class filled quickly and now has a waitlist. In mid-October, 20 women and four men will devote a few hours each week to learning different styles of dance including, ballroom, ballet, modern and jazz. “I want to inspire them to pursue dancing as a lifelong activity,” said Buck. “Any kind of dancing is a great way to stay active.” She also hopes students will learn how to teach dance. With such interest shown, two sections of this class will be offered in the spring.

Four new tv shows to catch this fall

as determined by Cristy Saucedo

Almost Human
Premieres: Monday, Nov. 4 at 8/7c, Fox.

A futuristic twist of the crime drama genre, *Almost Human* portrays the experiences of two LAPD officers, one of which is a highly evolved human android. The year is 2048, robots and humans team up to fight crime. Detective John Kennex (Karl Urban), however, is not entirely on board with this idea, but, by law, is required to have a mechanical partner. So, the LAPD issues him a new partner, Dorian (Michael Eely). Unlike other androids, Dorian actually has the capacity to feel emotions, which adds an interesting element to this series as viewers follow Dorian and Kennex’s friendship while solving L.A.’s most heinous crimes. Cinematically, *Almost Human* looks as if it should be on the big screen, not your TV screen. The action scenes and special effects look top-dollar, which they should be if the creators truly promise to bring the future to life, and the plots seem complex enough to keep you interested, but not confused. If you were a fan of *Fringe* and saddened by its finale, then *Almost Human* should meet your science fiction needs.

Marvel’s Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.
Premieres: Tuesday, Sep. 24 at 8/7c, ABC.

Surprise, surprise. *Another* superhero themed show, including even more -- you guessed it! -- superheroes. *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* takes place within Marvel’s comic book character universe. The premise behind this show is the fictional organization called S.H.I.E.L.D. (Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division), headed by Agent Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg). Basically, Coulson pools together a team of talented, special agents to handle cases involving superhuman individuals. Judging from the trailer, *S.H.I.E.L.D.*’s special effects are mediocre at best, and overall the show lacks Joss Whedon’s usual endearing humor. Rather, it comes off as cheesy and cheap. But, if you do appreciate Marvel’s movie franchise, then perhaps you will appreciate SHIELD as well, since it goes into more details about Marvel’s vast array of super powered characters. As for the rest of us who have not fully seen *Avengers* or other *Marvel* movies, I guess we will spend our time watching something else more worthwhile.

Brooklyn Nine-Nine
Premieres: Tuesday, Sep. 17 at 8/7c, Fox.

The executive producers of *Parks & Recreation* bring another series about the not-so-ordinary lives of Brooklyn police officers, starring the quirky, comedic taste of Andy Samberg. Samburg plays Jake Peralta, an immature, offbeat detective who constantly bashes heads with his rigid, no-nonsense boss (Andre Braugher). Brooklyn’s police force seem to be a group of misfit idiots, finding themselves in hilarious and awkward situations while trying to solve crime. *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* seems hilarious and has the same type of funny flavor just like its forerunners, *The Office* and *Parks & Rec.* But, will it live up to the hype of its popular predecessors? Not sure, but this viewer remains cautiously optimistic.

Dracula
Premieres: Friday, Oct. 25 at 10/9c, NBC

Yes, just what we need. More demonic vampires. If *Twilight*, *Vampire Diaries*, *Buffy*, and *True Blood* didn’t cure your gross vampire obsession, then maybe Daniel Knauf’s *Dracula* will. Starring Jonathan Rhys Meyer as Bram Stoker’s original bloodsucker, this show promises a fresh adaptation of the classic. Set in London, Count Dracula poses as an American entrepreneur who wants to bring modern science into the Victorian era. However, Dracula’s medicinal efforts are all a guise. He really just wants to enact revenge against those who have wronged him centuries ago. Unfortunately, love gets in the way of Dracula’s vengeance: he falls for Mina Murray who supposedly is a reincarnation of his dead wife. With steampunkish undertones, this show is visually stunning as far as cinema, costumes, makeup, and overall ambience goes. Yet, it looks very similar to *The Tudors*, another risque show in which Rhys Meyer was the leading man. Plus, can someone who played a baby-faced Henry VIII really deliver us a truly scary, potent Dracula? Doubtful. Perhaps as a short film *Dracula* might dazzle us, but as a series? Probably boring. If you are looking for something truly dazzling, try reading Bram Stoker’s original masterpiece.



Courtesy of Google Images

Seniors anticipate strong season



Submitted by: CASEY O'BRIEN

The women's soccer team traveled to Joplin, Missouri August 6th-9th to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. The team had the chance to build a house, as well as help out around the H4H warehouse.

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The season of fall symbolizes new beginnings in many ways. For Women's Soccer captain Laura Bradshaw, the new school year represents the end of an era. Bradshaw has been playing for the Golden Eagle Women's soccer team since the start of her freshman year in 2010 and will graduate next semester. She has high hopes for her last season. "With this being my last year at JBU and playing soccer, I absolutely anticipate the best,"

said Bradshaw. As much as winning is important to Bradshaw, she has goals for her team that go beyond the field. Senior

"I want us to grow as a team, not just as players, but as people and women of God"

- Whitney Brannan, Senior

Co-Captain Whitney Brannan agrees. "I want us to grow as a team, not just as players, but as people and women of God," said Brannan. The team had the opportunity

this summer to travel to Joplin, Missouri to work with Habitat for Humanity. Their trip involved the team building a house, painting another house,

and helping out around the Habitat for Humanity warehouse, cleaning and organizing where it was needed. Bradshaw believes that the trip brought their team closer in many ways. "It was

good to have bonding time off the field before we stepped onto the field," said Bradshaw. The team is traveling to Brazil for a mission trip over the Christmas holiday. They will have the chance to visit orphanages, play against club and professional teams, and fellowship with the communities there. The team has been fundraising since last semester. As their peers and friends, they hope that their fellow students will help them reach their goals. "The support means a lot, whether it's prayer or donations," Brannan said.

The team has jars set up in Pour Jon's collecting even small amounts to help their efforts. "We are being sent out and representing JBU in Brazil," Brannan said. Bradshaw and Brannan both hope to see that support from students at their games this season as well. "Student support makes a huge difference," Brannan said. "It's like you get a fire in you when you hear the fans cheering for you." The team will play their next home game on Friday, Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. against Bellevue University.

Golden Eagle soccer players share high hopes

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Five games into the season, the Golden Eagles' men's soccer team has already had its share of thrilling games. The men's soccer team is 3-2 after their win against Georgia Gwinnett on Sept. 7. For senior Luke Theimer, this season marks his last year as a player and as a student at John Brown University. He has a great appreciation for the support from the JBU community. "Seeing classmates in the stands helps us realize that our team represents this community, so we fight for it," said Theimer. "To have fans gives me personally a sense of belonging in the JBU community." Theimer has high hopes for his

last season not only as a player, but also as an individual off the field. "I hope to learn how to be relentless, stand strong, endure through toil and love well," said Theimer. "What I gain individually is the team's gain, and what my brothers gain as individuals, we all gain." He anticipates big things for his team this year. "I expect this team will go to the national tournament and do great things," said Theimer. Senior Brandon Sikes has high hopes for his last year as a Golden Eagle as well. "We have come a long way since my freshman year, not only as players, but we have also improved the team culture tremendously," said Sikes. Last season, the team made it

to the conference championship game but lost in penalty kicks to Oklahoma Baptist. Sikes believes the team has the chance to make it that far this season, and perhaps farther. "We are playing with a much more dynamic system, as well as going deeper into the bench which should give us the opportunity to not only win conference this year, but make it to the national tournament," said Sikes. The men's team recently traveled to Northwest Iowa to play against Northwestern and Dordt, both games resulting in wins for the Golden Eagles, which Theimer believes helped the team gain confidence. The Golden Eagles will play a home game against Mid America Nazarene on Sept. 14 at 4 p.m.



MAX GRUBB/Threefold Advocate

Sophomore Cory Cole heads the ball in a game Saturday, Septmeber 7th against Georgia Gwinnet. The Golden Eagle's won the game 3-2.

Volleyball team gains new perspective

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For sophomore volleyball player Melissa Bakke, John Brown University's mission of putting Christ above all spills over into her life as an athlete. "For this upcoming season, my expectations are that every match our team plays will glorify God, and that it will be evident to our opponents and fans," said Bakke. "We solely play for Jesus Christ." The volleyball team had the opportunity over the summer to travel to Haiti, a trip that junior outside hitter Courtney Marshall believes was beneficial to the team dynamic. "We came back to the states with a new perspective, and I think that is showing on and off

the court," said Marshall. Head coach Stacie Johnson states that the trip was a strong bonding expereince for the team, and it "was an incredible spiritual, educational, and cultural experience." The Lady Eagles will begin their conference schedule on Sept. 19 with a match against Oklahoma Baptist University. They are currently 4-7 overall. "I anticipate that we will have many thrilling matches ... against our tough competition within our conference," said Bakke. The Eagles will play their next home game against St. Gregory University on Sept. 21 at 11 a.m. in Bill George Arena.



Submitted by: MELISSA BAKKE

The Volleyball team traveled to Haiti from July 26th to August 5th. While there, they held a Vacation Bible School for 2,000 children, witnessed 220 professions of faith, and were able to encourage and build relationships with missionaries there.

ATHLETE
OF THE
WEEK

Ryan Duncan
Men's soccer
Junior forward Ryan Duncan scored the lone goal in a 2-1 loss against Concordia on the 6th, then proceeded to score 2 goals in a 3-2 win over Georgia Gwinnet on the 7th. Duncan was also named Sooner Athletic Confrence men's soccer Offensive Player of the Week.

SPOTLIGHT

The Threefold Advocate

A week out on the town

Written by Kelsey Gulliver

While you are here for four years—or three if you are an overachiever, or five if you just can’t settle on a major—it is an important aspect of your JBU experience to branch out. We often talk about community, but the Siloam Springs community expands extensively outside of our 200-acre campus. Take time to build relationships with locals, find a favorite restaurant and explore the random shops along U.S. Highway 412. And if you need some inspiration, here are the Threefold’s recommendations for a week out on the town.

Monday:
Siloam Springs 6 is always a solid option, but will be much less crowded on a Monday afternoon; so feel free to sing along to those One Direction songs as loud as you want to. And if you buy a ticket before 6 p.m., it will only set you back \$6.25. Check out the theater’s website, <http://centercinemas.com/Theaters.aspx?theater=1>, for weekly selections and show times.

Tuesday:
Head down to Pour Jon’s and make sure to be there by 7 pm so you can sign up for Open Mic Night... or sign up one of your friends. Sing, dance, read a poem or propose to your girlfriend. The possibilities are endless. Even if you don’t feel up to participating, grab a seat and watch the fun commence at 8 p.m.

Wednesday:
You have made it halfway through the week, so why not reward yourself with an overflowing cone of Barnett’s delicious ice cream? Walk, ride your bike or make the short drive over to Tulsa Street for this local tradition.

Thursday:
Staying up until the early hours of the morning studying for that first test can be exhausting. Feed your energy levels with a trip to the Taco Truck right across the border in Oklahoma. You might get some free horchata and will definitely eat some deliciously authentic Mexican cuisine. Open from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Friday:
Miss those Friday-night lights? Head down to the Siloam Springs High School stadium and cheer on the Panthers. Reclaim some of your former carefree, overly excitable self, maybe along the way embarrassing the too-cool college friends you dragged along. This promises to be an epic and adrenaline-pumping evening.

Saturday:
For those night owls, check out the Cosmic Bowl at Arkoma Lanes. Music, lights and prizes promised. So grab those knee-high socks and practice your game face.

Sunday:
Take this day to relax a little at Natural Falls State Park. The peace and quiet found on a tranquil walk will sustain you for the craziness of the week to come. This spot in Colcord, Okla. can be your little piece of Sunday heaven.

