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The Threefold Advocate

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Siloam Springs, Ark.

Chicago shooting sparks unrest

Students call for empathy and conversation in issues of race

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Protesters took to the streets of Chicago in response to the trial of Officer Jason Van Dyke of the Chicago Police Department for the shooting of Laquan McDonald on Nov. 28. McDonald, an African-American youth, was shot 16 times by Van Dyke after being cornered by officers. Four hundred days after the shooting, a dashcam video was released by the city of Chicago due to a ruling by Cook County Judge Franklin Valderrama.

The soundless footage shows McDonald jogging, then walking briskly down the street as squad cars surround him. McDonald then pulls something from his pocket (police reports say it was a knife), and continues to walk down the road. After a moment, McDonald spins as Van Dyke opens

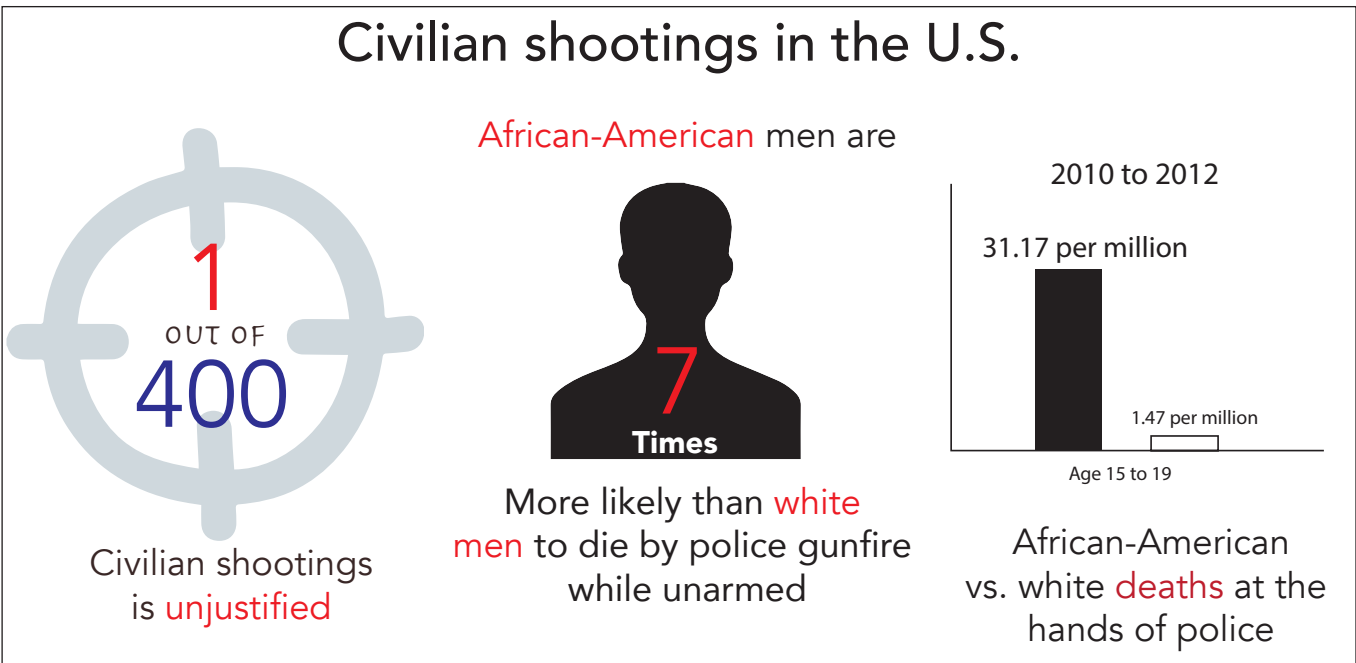
fire, then hits the ground. The footage of the shooting has been the source of controversy for the past year. The city’s mayor, Rahm Emanuel, and other city officials initially refused to release the video to the public, saying they were unable to on grounds of federal and state investigations being made into the shooting.

It was only after Valderrama’s ruling that journalists were sent a link to a third party website. Journalists were given a one-hour window to download the video, according to the Atlantic. Though the site crashed almost immediately, DNAinfo.com Chicago uploaded the video in its entirety to YouTube.

Van Dyke has been charged with first degree murder by Cook County prosecutors.

According to the Chicago Tribune, Van Dyke is the first officer to face this charge in the last 35 years.

Response on the John



GUSTAVO ZAVALA/TheThreefoldAdvocate

“I think that majority students need to move past the privelege-processing phase into the ally phase.”
- *Salina Adolph*

Brown University campus has been relatively low. Salina Adolph, vice president of MOSAIC, expressed frustration at the lack of response.

“I was sad, but I wasn’t shocked. I was sad because I knew that the video still wouldn’t matter to many people,” Adolph said. Adolph said that the

response on campus needs to improve, particularly on the part of majority students.

“I think that majority students need to move past the privilege-processing phase into the ally phase. They need to engage in relationships with students of color and listen intently,” Adolph said.

Adolph is not the only one to take note of this

tragedy. Rebecca Ramirez, junior graphic design student, also expressed frustration at the student body’s lack of response on issues of race.

“The attitude on campus towards race might seem like it’s being addressed—and getting better—but

SHOOTING continued on page 3

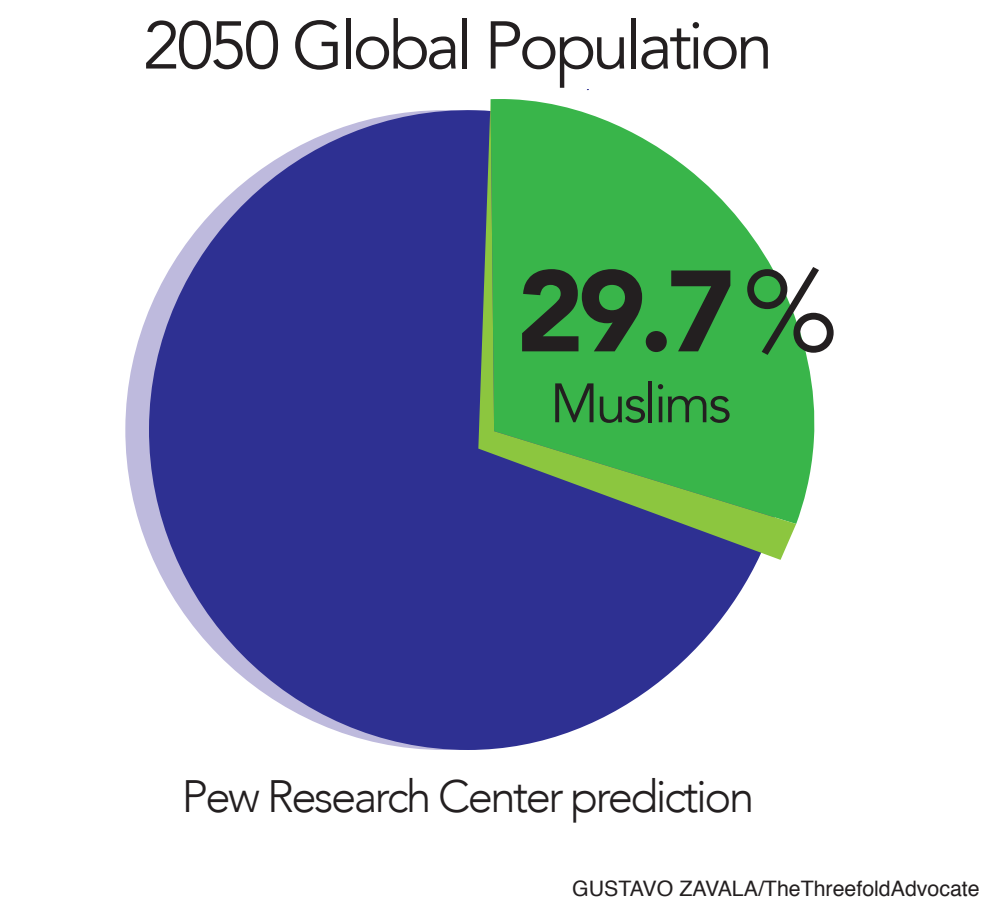
Study finds Islam to be the fastest growing religion

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Many Americans object to allowing more Muslim refugees from Syria and other countries into the U.S. on the grounds that the decision could ultimately lead to a drastic rise in the country’s Muslim population. Research shows that these concerns may be legitimate.

Studies conducted by Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan fact tank, identify Islam as the fastest growing religion in the world. The center estimates that by the year 2050 Islam may tie with Christianity as the world’s largest religion.

“The number of Muslims will nearly equal the number of Christians around the world” in 35 years, according to Pew in a study about the future of



world religions. “Muslims will be more numerous in the U.S. than people who

identify as Jewish on the basis of religion.” Pew predicts that by

2050 Muslims will make up 29.7 percent of the global population. Muslims

made up 23 percent of the global population in 2010. Another study by Pew from 2011 shows that in 1990, Muslims made up 19.9 percent of the world population.

Pew points out if current growth trends continue in 2050, “Muslims are the only major religious group projected to increase faster than the world’s population as a whole.”

David Vila, professor of religion and philosophy at John Brown University, has traveled and excavated across the Middle East and studied Islam extensively.

Vila said the main reason for the increase in growth of Islam, based on number of followers around the world, is due to birthrates. “Conversion to Islam happens even in the West,” Vila said, but “growth is almost entirely birthrates, not conversions.” Most of the growth of Islam is “within

populations that are already Muslim.”

Pew backs this up, saying, “Globally, Muslims have the highest fertility rate, an average of 3.1 children per woman.”

Vila said that in the secular West, “The highest value we hold is freedom.” “Muslims value justice as the highest value.” The difference in these values can be very attractive to some, and this leads to some growth in the West, Vila said.

Predictions made by Pew are based on trends continuing the way that they are going now. Vila said that one significant factor that could change the course of religious growth is religion in China. An explosive growth of religion in China could greatly change the ratios we are seeing now.

ISLAM continued on page 3

Student government provides holiday travel stipend

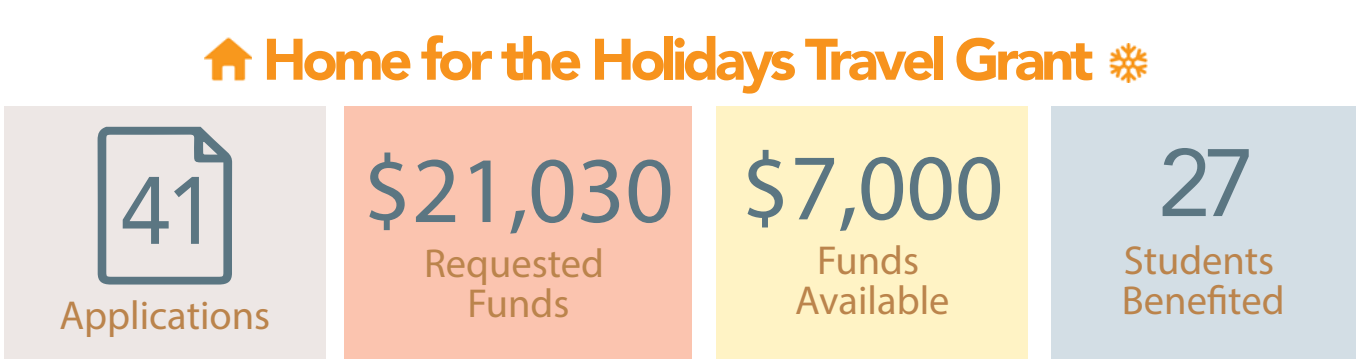
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The Student Government Association notified 27 out of 41 applicants of the Home for the Holidays travel grant that they had won a stipend to help pay for their travel expenses to see their families.

The initiative to send students home for Christmas break started two years ago, when an

anonymous donor gave \$2,000 toward the cause. This gift was matched by Student Development, for a total fund of \$4,000.

“As a sophomore class senator, I was selected to sit on the committee to read through the applications and help appropriate the money. It was the single most impactful experience I have had while on SGA,” Student Government Association President Brad Johnson said.



This year, Johnson wanted to make the grant possible again. “The stories from

many applicants were compelling and the need for some was very high. As a result, when the SGA

senate began discussing ways to best serve JBU students this year, the Home for the Holidays

travel grant was a natural choice,” Johnson said.

TRAVEL continued on page 2

New Arkansas home shelters survivors

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Partners Against Trafficking Humans is working to launch a safe house in Arkansas for adult survivors of sex trafficking, sexual exploitation

and prostitution. There are currently no safe houses in Arkansas dedicated to serving the specific needs of this demographic. The safe house is slated to open in an undisclosed location in central Arkansas during the first quarter of 2016. Polaris Project, an

organization that works to eradicate modern slavery, conducted a survey in 2012 of anti-trafficking organizations that provide shelter services. Polaris Project found 75 organizations in the U.S. that provide a combined 1,644 shelter beds. “It’s a big number,

but I feel like that’s not really big enough at all,” Rebecca Ramirez, a junior who went on Students Against Sex Slavery’s spring 2015 mission trip, said. Louise Allison, executive director of Partners Against Trafficking Humans, said

that the number of victims in the U.S. far exceeds the number of beds. “Right now, every assessment shelter we know of is out of beds,” Allison said. “If we got a girl right now, there would be no place in the United States that we’re aware of that would be able to place her.”

The organization opened a safe house in October 2012, but after 2 years it ran out of money and Allison was forced to close it. She explained that there are few grants for human trafficking, and there are many government grants that do not give funds to faith-based institutions like Partners Against Trafficking Humans. Therefore, their funding was totally dependent on individuals, businesses and churches.

“We’ve been doing fundraising for quite a while,” Allison said. This time around, she plans to have one year’s worth of operating expenses in the bank before opening.

The organization also plans to open assessment centers for victims of sexual assault in Fayetteville and Hot Springs, Ark. in the first half of 2016.

Allison said that an assessment center is a 30 to 90 day program that provides services for survivors of sexual exploitation

during the assessment stage of their care.

“It gives us a chance to make a full assessment and find out what her needs are before we place her,” Allison said, explaining that some survivors may need substance abuse counseling before they are ready to receive sex trauma counseling, need to be sent out of state for their protection or have other needs.

Area representatives for the organization are establishing relationships with existing domestic violence shelters to secure that a certain number of their beds will be set aside to create the assessment centers.

“The state of Arkansas right now doesn’t have any place to put girls in an immediate emergency situation,” said Allison. “That’s what the assessment center will do, to where when police make an arrest or a raid, their only option is not to take them to jail.”

Allison said the organization’s biggest need right now is prayers and financial support. She also said there are two full-time positions with the organization that she is looking to fill, as well as opportunities to volunteer and mentor survivors.

Shelter beds for human trafficking survivors in The United States



GUSTAVO ZAVALA/TheThreefoldAdvocate

Walker residents prepare for Christmas tradition

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Walker Wonderland, a well-loved tradition at John Brown University, lasts only a few hours, but planning and preparing for the event starts months before.

“We started talking about Walker Wonderland beginning at staff training in August. Halls have been getting their ideas together for the past month or so,” Haley Maguire, Walker Hall assistant resident director, said. “It is important

to have a theme before Thanksgiving so people can bring stuff back from home that they can use.”

Walker resident assistant Neeya Toleman said the most time-consuming part of the event is decorating the hall. She added that since the event takes place the week before finals, participating students have to carefully balance decoration with studying.

“It takes a lot of time and effort to put purpose in your decorating,” Toleman said, explaining that sometimes there are rooms or halls that are

noticeably less attractive than the rest because students didn’t have time to work on them. “Time determines the quality.”

Despite the difficulties of planning the event, Walker resident director Andrew Lehr said that this activity promotes student bonding in each hall.

“The best part of the experience, from my perspective, is getting to see the students come together and create something amazing,” Lehr said. “It truly is incredible to see the transformation that each

wing goes through as they create their themes. I love seeing students get involved and make new friendships through this experience.”

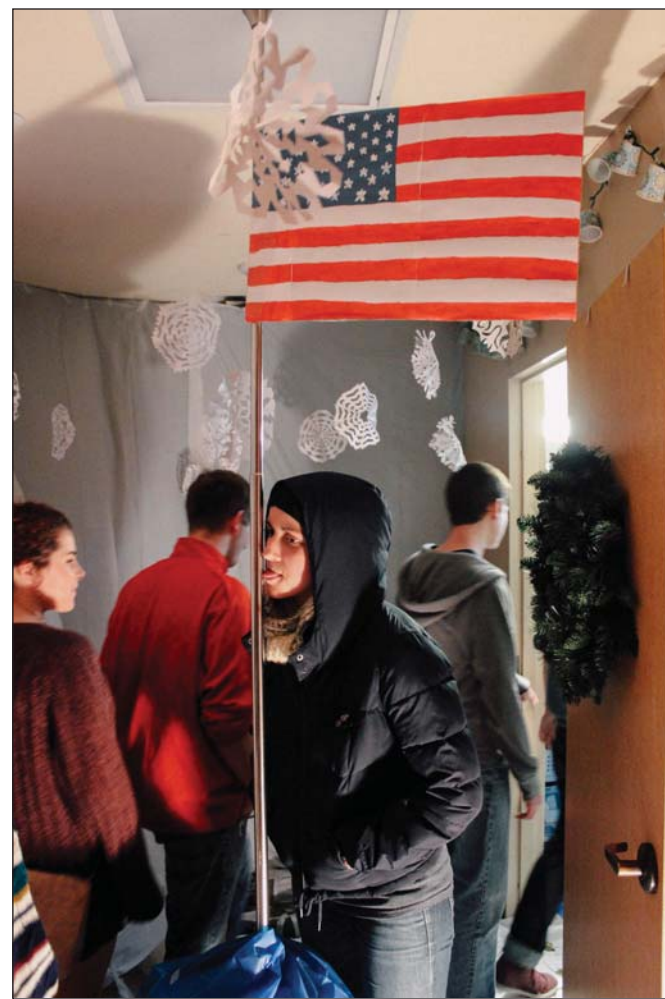
Participation in the event is optional. However, resident assistants highly encourage their halls to join in and be part of the community.

Resident assistant Acadia Kimball said that she asked the student in her hall the level of commitment they want to invest in the activities.

“There are girls that do not want to use their room or they do not want to spend too much time in it, but they really want to participate,” she said.

This year, Walker is not only planning to create a fun event but also to support the community. Maguire said that this year they will be collecting canned food items for the Manna Center, a nonprofit organization in Siloam Springs that helps people in need. Students who bring a canned food item will get into the fast line.

“Each year, Wonderland wastes a significant amount of trash, paper and more. So in an effort to give back, Walker Res Life has teamed up with



GRACE NAST/TheThreefoldAdvocate

A student licks a flagpole to represent a scene from A Christmas Story.

the Manna Center to help transform what could be a wasteful event into a purposeful one,” Lehr said.

Even though the event will take place a week before finals, Walker Winter Wonderland promises students a

moment to relax and enjoy the magic of this tradition. The event will be Monday, Dec. 7 at 9:30 p.m. The back entrance to Walker, which is nearest the health complex, will serve as the entrance of the event.



GRACE NAST/TheThreefoldAdvocate

Gabi Satola plays an elf from the movie Elf for Legacy hall during Walker Wonderland 2014.

TRAVEL continued from page 1

SGA voted to give \$4,000 towards the cause, and Student Development gave \$3,000. This totals \$3,000 more for the fund than the original year.

In 2014 John Brown University enrolled undergraduate students from 42 states and 39 foreign countries, according to jbu.edu

“With so many different states and

countries represented here at JBU, it’s not hard to imagine that many students have to spend the holidays away from their families. Many have parents, siblings, or friends who are suffering from sickness, loss or other difficult circumstances, and it can be difficult for those students to spend almost a month away from both JBU and home,” Julia Theisen, SGA senator of the engineering and technology division, said.

“As you can imagine, the selection process was slow and deliberate as SGA members had to choose how to appropriate funds. In general, students who displayed the greatest need and were able to show their dedication to getting home, i.e. raising some money on their own and requesting within our \$500 limit, were more readily awarded funds,” said Theisen.

Johnson said that as of now, the Home-for-the-Holidays grant will

not be an annual event.

“However, SGA is currently exploring some options for potentially making an annual Home-for-the-Holidays grant a reality,” Johnson said.

“This scholarship is one of the most heartwarming things I have been a part of,” Theisen said.

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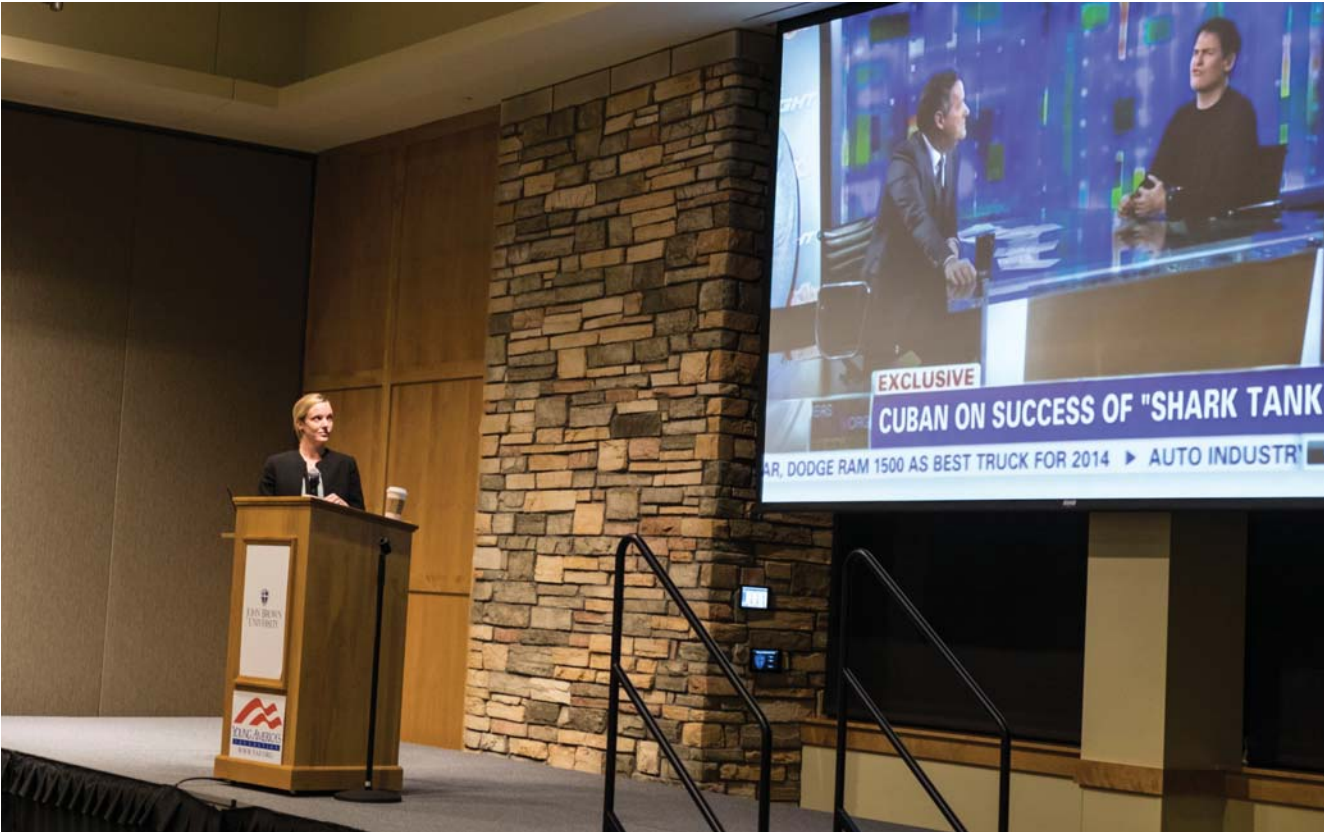
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Soderquist Center launches new minor

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About 75 people gathered to celebrate the launch of the Soderquist College’s new entrepreneurship minor and hear a Shark Tank survivor speak on Tuesday. Sarah Hartwick, co-founder of Surfset Fitness, talked about how to transition from having an idea to creating a business model. “I am glad JBU gives us the opportunity to meet and listen to business people like her. It is so interesting to listen how a successful company started and have a better understanding of what it means to be a business major,” Sofia Cruz, junior

marketing major, said. “She talked a lot about the benefits of being an entrepreneur, and how you can get so creative. You don’t have to follow the rules of whatever your boss is saying because you’re your own boss,” said Gustavo Zavala, junior marketing major. “That’s a lifestyle that I would actually like to live.” “The staff and faculty at JBU have noticed our student’s talent and hunger for entrepreneurship,” Elana Carson, graduate student at the University, said. Carson explained that the curriculum already has a hint of entrepreneurial spirit and the students have succeeded in entrepreneurial ventures over the past few years



JESSIE BRANDON/TheThreefoldAdvocate

Sarah Hartwick, Shark Tank survivor and co-founder of Surfset Fitness, encouraged students to pursue entrepreneurship.



JESSIE BRANDON/TheThreefoldAdvocate
Clayton Anderson asked speaker Sarah Hartwick a question.

in the Governor’s Cup, a business plan competition for students with ideas for new or improved products and services. Eva Fast, instructor of business, agreed with Carson. “There’s been a rising interest in entrepreneurship among the student body and the faculty in the College of Business,” Fast said. Fast also stated that the Governor’s Cup has helped in inspiring the minor. “Successful teams from the College of Business often engage students from other disciplines, such as engineering and the arts. This collaboration is exciting and it highlights students’ desire to create,” Fast said. Fast said it is “a privilege to equip students at this intersection

with tools valuable for being agents of God’s redemptive work.” “The Soderquist Family Foundation gift for innovations in business education made this possible,” Clayton Anderson, manager of strategic innovation at the Soderquist Center said. The minor will consist of seven classes: Methods and Tools for Entrepreneurs, Business Communications, New Venture Financial Management, Building Innovative Teams and Cultures,

Integrated Marketing Communications, Market Discovery, and Validation and Innovation Launch Lab. Carson said that she wants “students to learn about what it is really like to be an entrepreneur and feel prepared after graduation.” “Their journey is far from easy,” Carson said, explaining that that entrepreneurs face many challenges. “I want our students to experience failure, take risks and learn foundational skills

that will assist them in future entrepreneurial endeavors. Whether they plan to launch their own company, sustain a family business or work for the innovation department in an established firm, students should have the methods and tools necessary for any venture,” Carson said. Anderson said students will learn the skills and attitudes they need, “but more central is the notion that entrepreneurs can play an important role in God’s redemptive work.”

“I want our students to experience failure, take risks and learn foundational skills that will assist them in future entrepreneurial endeavors.”

- Alana Carso

Media influences homosexuality acceptance

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Christian groups are increasingly more accepting of homosexuality, researchers find. This correlates with an increase over time in media portrayals of gay characters. A new Pew Research Center study of 23,000 U.S. adults found that “acceptance of homosexuality is growing rapidly even among religious groups that have traditionally been strongly opposed to it.” Acceptance among mainline Protestants has jumped 10 percentage points in the last seven years. This trend is mainly led by millennials, the most media-savvy generation. Is media the reason for this rapid change in belief? “It’s a good discussion,” said Steve Snediker, assistant professor of visual arts, as he explained how movies have gradually presented the idea of homosexuality more overtly as audiences have become more accepting. “You can see why families and

churches banned the cinematic experience,” said Snediker. “One of my best friends is a homosexual,” Snediker explained. “Movies didn’t make him homosexual. Media wasn’t

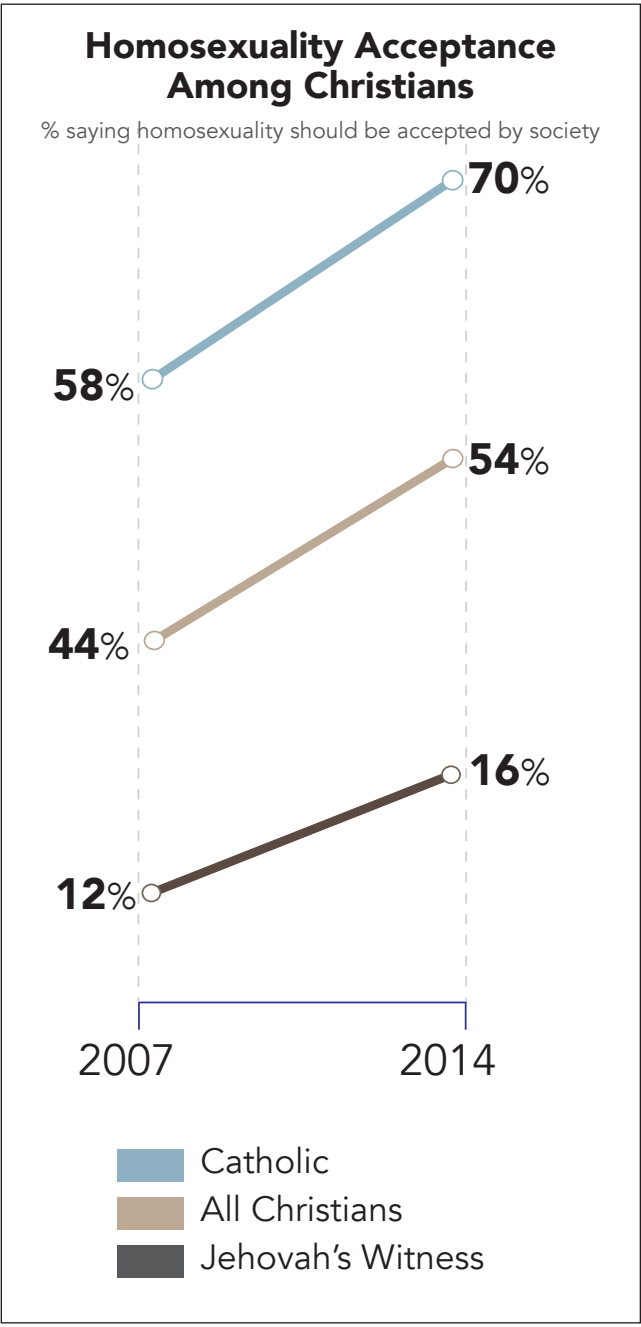
homosexuality is a natural step for western cultures to take. “It’s simply a manifestation of our cultural story,” Brisben said. He added that naturalism, or the lack of

“We have the ability as believers to use media to share and promote our own morality through stories.”
- Steve Snediker

the culprit. Media has given him the confidence to be who he says he is.” David Brisben, professor of Christian ministries, echoed this sentiment. “I don’t think movies, novels, songs or poems introduce new ideas, beliefs or values as much as they re-affirm already existing ones. In fact, I think even directors would agree with that. They have to appeal to a mass audience in order to have a successful product.” Brisben said that the acceptance of

belief in the supernatural, is common in the U.S. “No one sits down and tells you the cultural story, you live in it and learn it intuitively,” Brisben said. “That’s why we have the secular-sacred split in our culture.” “As Christians, we tend to be reactionaries. We don’t think about why people do what they’re doing or behave the way they are behaving,” Brisben said. “So we just throw out there, ‘Homosexuality is a sin,’ and it falls on deaf ears because there’s no place

for that in the naturalist story. They hear that and say, ‘Well, that’s a personal opinion.’” Both Brisben and Snediker recognize movies as powerful tools. “The Church misunderstands media, what movies are and what movies do,” Brisben said, explaining how the Church reacted negatively towards a particularly influential movie in his own life, “The Philadelphia Story”. The film is about a lawyer in New York who is fired because he is gay. The film raises many questions regarding civil rights. Brisben believes that the church should have been behind that movie. “We fight the wrong kind of battles and fight in the wrong kind of way,” Brisben said. Both Snediker and Brisben brought up the importance for church involvement in mainstream culture. “We have the ability as believers to use media to share and promote our own morality through stories,” Snediker said. “Media is a good way to extend grace,” Brisben said. “The church ought to be doing that.”



GUSTAVO ZAVALA/TheThreefoldAdvocate

SHOOTING continued from page 1

it’s mainly just stagnant,” Ramirez said.

“I think if we have more opportunities for students and faculty to talk about their honest thoughts and opinions in a safe space, then the general attitude towards race within JBU will become much more

open and gracious,” Ramirez said. Van Dyke will face up to 20 years in prison if convicted of first degree murder. At this time, his bond is set at \$1.5 million.

ISLAM continued from page 1

Joshua Dover, a junior graphic design major, took the Qur’an class with Robert Moore last semester.

“I think people are looking for a belief system that not only gives them answers, but actions to take based on those perceived truths,” Dover said. The church has become weak in the eyes of those looking for truth in faith, Dover said, and people are

looking to the apparent integrity and strength of Islam as their answer. “I think people who are turning to Islam are tired of plurality, tired of each person having their personalized view of the universe,” Dover said.

Trust your employees:

Apple should stop checking employees' belongings

Apple employees recently lost a suit against Apple Inc. The courts determined employees who working in brick and mortar retail stores are subject to bag checks whenever they clock out.

This means that every time an employee leaves, including for meal breaks, they have to get their bag checked by the manager. Employees have said that this can take up to 15 minutes, and it is unpaid time.

Five employees filed the suit on behalf of 12,000 employees in 2013 that faced the same situation, stating that Apple's actions violate their right to be paid for any time that is under their employer's control.

U.S. District Judge William Alsup recently ruled in favor of Apple, throwing out the class-action lawsuit and saying that Apple's bag checks only apply to those employees who choose to bring a bag to work.

We The Threefold Advocate believe that employers should hire people they find trustworthy and then treat their employees with respect. Subjecting employees to bag checks, sometimes in front of customers, openly displays a lack of trust in Apple's own people. It also shows a lack of respect because they are assuming their employees are up to no good.

One worker, mentioned anonymously in the court filing, said that Apple managers "are required to treat 'valued' employees as criminals."

We The Threefold Advocate also believe that Apple's policy is unjust because employees, who are off the clock during bag checks, are not being compensated for time that is subject to their employer's control. One of the plaintiffs said that with waits of 5 to 10 plus minutes, employees are losing almost \$1,500 in wages per year, according to CNN Money.

"Rather than prohibiting employees from bringing bags and personal Apple devices into the store altogether, Apple took a milder approach to theft prevention and offered its employees the option to bring bags and personal Apple devices into a store subject to the condition that such items must be searched when they leave the store," Alsup said.

To say that employees can simply choose not to bring a bag to work is insensitive and unfair to those who need to bring an item to work that does not easily fit in their pocket. One affected group is women on their menstrual cycle who need to carry feminine products. Another affected group is people who need to bring medication to take during work hours.

Alsup noted that no employees filed court papers asserting a special need to bring a bag. However, asking a woman to file court papers asserting that she needs to bring a bag to carry her feminine products is excessive, if not demeaning.

Some people need to carry bags. Many people would be inconvenienced not to. The reason for bringing a bag aside, people need to be paid for their time at work. Apple should let employees clock out after a bag check, not before. Also, Apple should only check bags sporadically. This would demonstrate trust, reduce hassle and respect privacy.

Apple won the law suit. However, We The Threefold believe Apple is loosing its good name among concerned employees, stakeholders, and citizens and must change its policies.

Education equality is essential

Stop refusing girls education due to pregnancy

Recently, National Public Radio reported that in Sierra Leone, women are not allowed to receive education if they are visibly pregnant.

This ban was made official in April, but has occurred unofficially for some time. The country believes that having pregnant girls in class will encourage other girls to get pregnant.

This could also be receiving more attention in light of the Ebola virus. During thing time the children were told not to touch, and social welfare minister believes the girls should have to deal with the consequences of their rule breaking, according to NPR.

We The Threefold believe that this is not a legitimate concern. Having a pregnant student in a classroom does not encourage others to get pregnant. We would even say that the additional struggles of being pregnant might discourage other girls from getting pregnant.

People also need to understand that many of these young girls are pregnant because of rape. They had absolutely no control over what happened. It is in no way their fault that they should be punished for the sins of another person.

Even if there is fear of pregnant girls encouraging other girls to get pregnant, the government should create a way for the girls to learn while they are pregnant. Maybe these girls could continue their studies at home. This solution would probably benefit the girls, because they would be able to go to school without having to travel there.

We The Threefold believe that pregnant girls equally entitled to an education. No evidence supports the claim and there are many other factors at play. Even if the claims are still believed other solutions can make it possible for the girls to continue their education.

The Threefold Advocate

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Believe in your staff



Submitted by BECKY RAMIREZ

Rethinking my purity ring



ALIYA KUYKENDALL
NEWS EDITOR

My 13th birthday party is a day that I look back on fondly.

It was a celebration of my life thus far as well as a special ceremony commemorating my commitment to purity.

My father made a video montage of photos and videos including my birth, becoming an older sister, baptism and finally, being 13. My parents explained my commitment to purity through object lessons involving chocolate kisses and rose buds. Everyone prayed for me. I signed a card committing myself to physical, emotional and spiritual purity.

Then my dad put a sterling ring on my left ring finger that says "I will wait for" on the inside and "my beloved" on the outside.

I was completely happy to commit myself to that ideal.

But as I've looked at this ring on my finger for seven years, celebrated my two younger sisters' commitments during their purity parties, and spoken about my own commitment at their parties, I've had the opportunity to reevaluate what purity and my purity ring mean to me.

During this time, I decided that I was no longer going to live my life for a future relationship and



KLARA JOHANNESSEN/TheThreefoldAdvocate

When she first recieved her ring Kuykendall found "I will wait" the most important part, now she finds "my beloved" to be the most meaningful.

a mere human being.

Don't get me wrong: I still believe in purity. But purity is more than that.

Purity is ultimately about Jesus. It's about the fact that I am currently in the most important and satisfying covenant relationship of my life, which I don't have to wait for and will continue on after death.

It's about the fact that He desires the is best for me and is the Lord over every aspect of my life, which certainly includes my sexual activity and my relationship with my future husband.

It's about the fact that Jesus has made me completely pure.

We tend to make purity about performance. But I'm not pure because I wait. I'm pure because Jesus has redeemed me.

I'm not waiting for a pretty diamond ring to be in the love relationship of my life. I have a simple silver ring to remind me that I'm already in it.

My purity ring is more meaningful to me now than it was before.

When I look at my purity ring and see the words, "my beloved," I'm not thinking about how those words are the end of a sentence about me waiting for my future husband. I'm thinking about how, right now, I am my Beloved's and He is mine.

That's a purpose, an identity and a relationship that will last my whole life, both here and in eternity.

"When I look at my purity ring and see the words, 'my beloved,' I'm not thinking about how those words are the end of a sentence about me waiting for my future husband."

Kuykendall is a junior majoring in communication. She can be reached at KuykendallA@jbu.edu

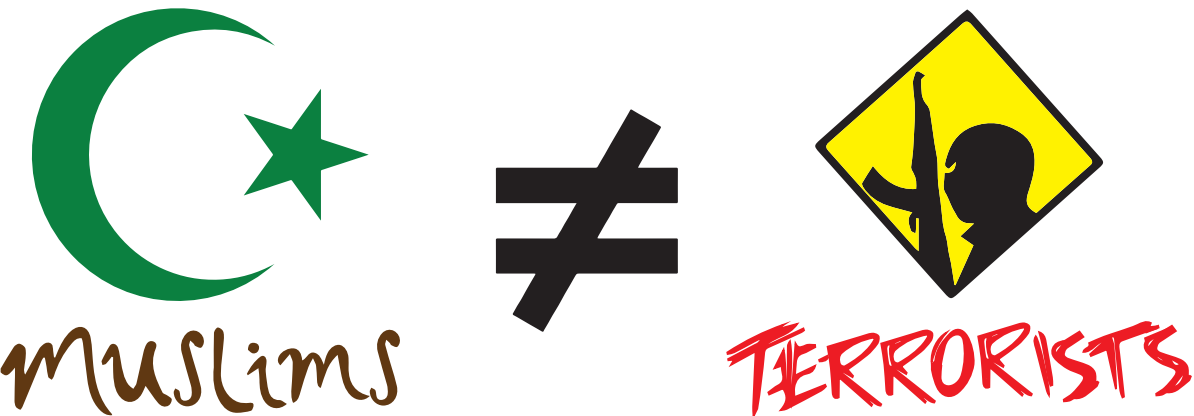
December 3, 2015
The Threefold Advocate

Syrian crisis exposes Islamic fears



From what I’ve observed, many of my Facebook friends interpret the Syrian refugee debate as one about national safety or as an unfortunate political siding. I, however, see it as an age-old debate about racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia in a rapidly-expanding multicultural context—a debate that extremist groups like ISIS make more confusing to discuss.

The intense fear of ISIS and Syrian refugees following the Paris attacks was remarkably similar to the fear following 9/11. Within



GUSTAVO ZAVALA/TheThreefoldAdvocate

moments of the latter, terrorism had a new face that would deeply embed itself in the American mind. The enemy, the terrorist, was Al-Qaida and that Middle-Eastern man, Osama Bin Laden. The pictures of brown men with scary headdresses, associated with brown women wearing hijabs, both claiming ties to Allah, quickly became the stereotype of the entire religion of Islam, Muslims and anyone who could be categorized as “Middle-Eastern.”

Terrorism wasn’t about those who committed acts of terror anymore; it was about entire people groups who produced fear in the hearts of everyone who fed into media content.

The backlash against innocent Muslims and all remotely “Muslim

looking” people soon became clear by the radical spike in hate crimes and discrimination reported against Muslims and South Asians in the U.S. Just six days after 9/11, a white man murdered a Sikh Indian man and attempted to murder a Lebanese man because he mistook them as Middle-Eastern terrorists and wanted to “shoot some towel-heads.”

Examples of racism and discrimination since then range from the Sikh temple massacre in Wisconsin, to the murder of three Chapel Hill Muslim students, to the arrest of clock-making student Ahmed Mohamed, to the reactions of Nina Davuluri being crowned the first Indian-American Miss America (“Congratulations Al-Qaeda. Our Miss America is one

of you.”), to South-Asian men getting “randomly” selected for further inspection at airports, to immigration policies that make it easy for professional South Asians to enter the U.S. but permanent residency status increasingly difficult to obtain, to the argument against taking in Syrian refugees for fear of terrorist infiltration. The racial profiling of those who seem dangerous has alienated both Muslims and people with my skin color and ethnicity in general, placed a burden that shouldn’t exist on us and amplified fear in the wrong direction.

My grief and horror of the Paris attacks were compounded by this knowledge of what “terrorist attacks” mean to a large population of people. I knew that

the heightened suspicion would be directly cast on innocent Muslims, and by association, people who look like me. The safety debate over Syrian refugees and ISIS fear-inducing propaganda, combined with the almost immediate backlash of reported hate crimes against Muslim Americans, confirmed the reality that I have observed and lived. My reality is that terrorism continues to be pictured as a face—whether my face, the Muslim face, the Latino face, the African American face, the Native American face, or the “other” face—and that many in the majority race will never have to encounter this reality.

When I read posts arguing that Syrian refugees (who are refugees because of terrorist regimes) shouldn’t be allowed in the U.S. in order to keep terrorism out, I see the repercussions of our ingrained mental association of terrorism with the black and brown and other. My hope is that those in the majority who are learning about these repercussions will continually choose to see them, elevate the voices trampled out by fear and fight against the oppression that is suffocating their fellow humans.

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Pray for leaders, not just world problems



As Christians, do we truly believe in the power of prayer? I know that we pray before we eat and have no shortage of prayers when something awful is happening. But what about when there isn’t anything taking place that will personally affect us, like an epidemic or a sick loved one?

Back in high school, as

I was beginning to grow closer to God, I realized the importance of praying for people who are role models or in positions of authority. This would include people like President Obama or even a celebrity like Justin Bieber. The Bible commands us to pray for all of those in authority. It’s a bit of a strange concept, especially since I do not know either of them personally, and all that I do know I get from social media. These sorts of people seem to be beyond the reach of our daily lives. Why choose a quick prayer for Obama instead of posting your frustration on Facebook?

I believe that when we pray for someone, we learn to love them the way that Christ does. I also believe that God can answer any prayer. This doesn’t mean that I’m praying for my favorite celebrity to stop making terrible life decisions

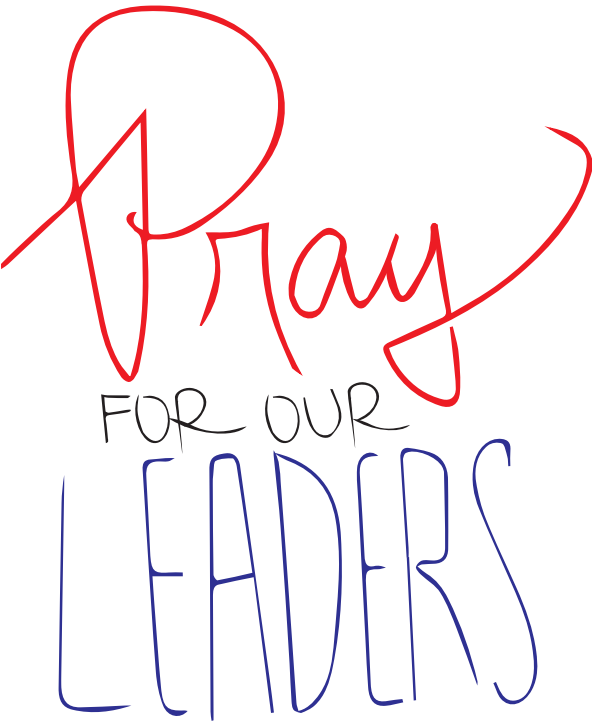
or for our next president to fix our health care situation. While those prayers should definitely

be prayed, what about praying for their safety, that they would be used for God’s glory and

that their motives and actions would be pure? God cares for these people just as much as he cares for us and wants them to grow closer to himself.

As I’ve shared my opinions on praying for people in influential roles, I’ve received some negative comments. I’ve had people tell me that I should be spending more time praying for issues that are more important like the recent Ebola crisis or for the Syrian refugee situation. While I definitely pray for those areas, I believe that it is important to pray for those who have influence over us too. So, where do you stand? Should we really be praying for singers, actors and people like Donald Trump?

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GUSTAVO ZAVALA/TheThreefoldAdvocate

Enjoy the Christmas holiday with a book



Christmas break is around the corner, and that means four precious weeks of literally zero homework. Books are a beautiful way to spend your wide-open hours, so here are a few of my favorites—ones that have changed the way I think and speak and write and listen and love. These are the most important books of my life.

1. Novel—“The Giver” by Lois Lowry

“The Giver” was the first book that made me realize that my mind can change because of what I read. This is a better, more complex, and deeper Hunger Games/Maze Runner/Divergent. Lois Lowry was writing dystopian young adult literature before it was cool. When I watched the movie last year, I left the theater feeling deeply grateful for the beauty of life,



GUSTAVO ZAVALA/TheThreefoldAdvocate

which is one of the best feelings to feel. It is pretty short (270 pages) and intended for a teenage audience, so it’s quick and easy.

Close seconds: “Siddhartha” by Hermann Hesse, “The Westing Game” by Ellen Raskin, “A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeleine L’Engle

2. Writing—Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott

Bird by Bird was the first book by Lamott that I read and will forever bow at the feet of St. Anne. Hilarious and honest, this is not just a book for those who write, but it is an absolute must read for writers. I live more awake and aware because of this book.

Best quotes: “Writing and reading decrease our sense of isolation. They deepen and widen

and expand our sense of life: they feed the soul. When writers make us shake our heads with the exactness of their prose and their truths, and even make us laugh about ourselves or life, our buoyancy is restored.”

Close seconds: “anything else” by Anne Lamott, “A Circle of Quiet” by Madeleine L’Engle, “Pilgrim at Tinker Creek” by Annie Dillard

3. Spiritual—“One Thousand Gifts” by Ann Voskamp

I love this book. I read it in high school, and it changed the trajectory of my life. Learning to see the whole of life as a gift and being thankful for every piece of it has led to a fuller and richer life. The writing is gorgeous and makes me feel close to God.

Best quote: “Simplicity is ultimately a matter of focus.”

Close seconds: “Jesus Feminist” by Sarah Bessey, “Bread and Wine” by Shauna Niequist.

4. Poetry—“I Wrote This For You” by pleasefindthis

This one is a little hard to describe. It’s a book of words and photography and it’s so lovely that I cried when I read it in a bookstore for the first time. Everything about it is confusing and mysterious and that’s part of the allure. I will always keep it on my bookshelf, even if I live in a tiny house some day.

Best quote[s] (one of): “You keep telling me to be glad for what we had while we had it. That the

brightest flame burns quickest. Which means you saw us as a candle. And I saw us as the sun.”

Close seconds: “New Collected Poems” by Wendell Berry, “Chasers of the Light” by Tyler Knott Gregson

5. Self-Help/Inspirational/Memoir—“Carry On, Warrior” by Glennon Doyle Melton

I do not know what to call this category. “The One Most Important Book Ever” felt like a little too much, but this one really does matter so much to me. There is no other book that more clearly defines what I believe about humans, God and love. It makes my throat swell up and my head hurt because it’s so beautiful. Because it is a series of essays, it would be easy to set it down and pick it back up anytime, but you won’t want to set it down.

Best quotes: “Be confident because you are a child of God. Be humble because everyone else is too,” and “The only meaningful thing we can offer one another is love. Not advice, not questions about our choices, not suggestions for the future, just love.”

Close seconds: “Rising Strong” by Brené Brown, “Tiny Beautiful Things” by Cheryl Strayed, “Eat Pray Love” by Elizabeth Gilbert.

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RETAIL/SHOPPING



TARAH THOMAS
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GRACE NAST/TheThreefoldAdvocate

It's the new craze—thrifting, where shoppers are finding the value in gently used clothing and household items. But for this Northwest Arkansas based thrift store, the profits made from kettle pots, mattresses and flannel shirts directly fund programs to build relationships with NWA's youth.

The Potter's House Thrift Store, which opened a new location on Highway 412 in Siloam Springs, started after Shawn Schwartzman built a relationship with a family. That relationship grew to more families and expanded into small group meetings and programs for the kids.

Now, with more than 27 small groups, 45 leaders and 120 students involved in a variety of programs, this non-profit proves that one relationship formed in 1998 could develop to meet the needs of families and kids across NWA.

"There are incredible things in NWA, and just

like everything else there's some brokenness," Josh Hall, the K-6 director and small group overseer for Potter's House, said. "I don't think that that is unique to NWA. That's our world; it's broken. We serve to meet that need. We want to engage people in their brokenness and in our brokenness."

The thrift store was not only meant to fund Potter's House programs, but also to provide job training and jobs for high school students who are in the program.

"Without the store, we would not be able to do these things in peoples lives," Schwartzman said.

Potter's House has four programs: Wet Cement (preschool and mentoring programs for children 0-5 years), The Academy (afterschool program), Set Apart (summer program for high school students) and weekly small groups.

Potter's House seeks to give every kid the opportunity to have a hope and a future.

"What is important to us is relationship," Hall said. "Our job is to connect people to Jesus and model him—figure out what it means to be Jesus in a nut shell."

Jasper Logan, co-leader for 7th through 12th grade, said that, as staff, they hope to give students the tools necessary to empower themselves to be self-sufficient, as well as a future to help do whatever is necessary for the next level.

"There are people who care and are willing to help at any stage," Logan said, as he described how Potter's House is invested in every stage of life—from preschool to post college to the parents to even thrift store employees.

"By the end of the summer, it was interesting to watch the seniors who have been in the program for years and to see and hear how much they have changed and grown in Christ and themselves, academically and all these different aspects,"

Becca VerHoeven, a senior family and human services major who interned at Potter's House this summer, said. "I was able to see all the effects that Potter's House has on the majority of these kids."

Potter's House believes that the best way to impact a child's life is by doing life with them, emphasizing the importance of the mentorship programs.

"Sometimes what we do is difficult to define," Hall said. "What we do is life and that looks different all the time."

VerHoeven, along with four other adults, did life-on-life ministry at her internship. The students and adults had Bible studies, fun activities with the students as well as building those mentorship relationships.

"[It was] probably one of the most impactful summers of my life," VerHoeven said. "They challenged me to be a better person and dig deeper in my relationship

with Christ."

"Potter's house began to build relationships, these are the ones that are formed," Hall said.

With this new location of Potter's House in Siloam, Potter's House has the opportunity to grow the programs as well as impact more kids lives.

"We care about the heart and for them to be

secure within themselves to become anything when they put their hope, faith and trust in Jesus Christ," Logan said.

To help, donate or shop at Potter's House Thrift Store, or even volunteer for any of the programs, visit www.pottershousethrift.com.



GRACE NAST/TheThreefoldAdvocate

JBU STUDENT

MAYRA RAMIREZ: Broken Arm Strengthens Faith

by ALIYA KUYKENDALL

Mayra Ramirez sees God at work in even the simplest things—a broken arm.

Ramirez, a freshman accounting major from Belize, broke her arm in September from tripping on concrete.

"Back in Belize I've been so wild," Ramirez said, recalling times when she hiked up mountains and even flew out of a vehicle during an accident, all without breaking a bone.

Nonetheless, Ramirez finds purpose in the injury, saying it has reignited her commitment to God.

"Back in Belize, I had such a close relationship with God," Ramirez said.

In Belize, Ramirez followed the example of Daniel and set aside three times each day to pray that God would guide her heart and her words.

She went on "dates" with God, spending an hour at the park or the seashore in prayer. Every day she read several chapters of the Bible and went to church in the evenings.

She also enjoyed writing poems, songs and letters to God before bed.

"Since I came here I forgot about my prayer routine; I forgot about

all that," said Ramirez, explaining that when she first arrived at John Brown University, she was so excited and busy that she didn't make time for God anymore. "When I broke my hand, it was like I needed to slow down because I was going too fast," she added.

Ramirez said the injury has caused her to realize that she can move at a slower pace and make time for God in the midst of a busy college schedule.

While Ramirez has seen miracles in her life and hoped for a miraculous recovery after a friend prayed for her arm, she's not upset that God didn't choose to heal her instantaneously.

"I thank God for that, because if he had given me a quick healing, I probably would not have learned," Ramirez said.

She said she has become much more faithful in praying and growing her relationship with God since the accident.

Ramirez's broken arm has not only strengthened her own faith, but her patient response and overall character has also encouraged those around her.

"How often do you see someone that quick and that ready to praise God for something that seems so bad?" said Liz Meyer, Ramirez's resident assistant in Hutch. "That's the kind of person she is."

"I've gone with her to all her doctor appointments about her cast," said Ron Johnson, director of the Walton International Scholarship Program. "Every time she's been such a cheerful person to be around."

"She really is making a strong impact on the other Waltons by her life," said Johnson.

Senior Maria Arguello is a fellow Walton scholar and counts Mayra as one of her best friends.









"She's like a hidden surprise," Arguello said. "You won't notice much about her unless you take the time to sit with her and talk and get to know her, and then you learn a lot."

Speaking of Mayra's faith, Arguello said, "I think it's one of the strongest relationships with God I have ever witnessed, honestly. She's very very devoted, and I think that's super refreshing to witness."



DANIEL MADRID/TheThreefoldAdvocate

TOP 5 CITIES FOR COLLEGE GRADS

	WASHINGTON D.C.	MINNEAPOLIS	SAN FRANCISCO	BOSTON	DENVER	
	29%	31%	26%	33%	26%	Forbes.com stated these cities as the top five places for college grads (ages 21-29) to live based on four criteria (as seen in the graphic on the left): millennial population, jobs per 1,000 resident, unemployment rate and median rent.
	87	64	73	837	80	
	4.9%	4.1%	4.8%	4.9%	4.5%	
	3,287	1,772	5,255	4,498	2,025	
						<div> MILLENNIAL POPULATION</div> <div> JOBS PER 1,000 RESIDENT</div> <div> UNEMPLOYMENT RATE</div> <div> MEDIAN RATE</div>



Courtesy of GOOGLE IMAGES

CUISINE



1. Tropical Sun

Cold temperatures might be blistering in with winter, but for cool refreshment, a snow cone would be a good idea.
2. El Cunado

Take a short trip to Oklahoma to taste authentic Hispanic food. This food truck can mostly be spotted on Hwy 412.
3. Kung Fu Eggroll

Who can beat a price of six eggrolls for \$5? Panda Express might have just opened, but this food truck promises greasy fingers, fresh ingredients and homemade recipes.



GRACE NAST/TheThreefoldAdvocate

MAX BRYAN
Sports Editor
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The men's and women's tennis teams have taken many steps toward success in the spring season, which begins on Feb. 12.

“What we’ve been doing is practicing outside whenever we can, and then on days when it’s bad weather, we go inside,” Taylor Russell, a junior on the women’s team, said. “We do conditioning with weights,

run and stay in shape.” Along with strength and conditioning, the teams have been practicing by playing games against each other. Sophomore Kamal Fulghem pointed out that competing within the team is an excellent way to be prepared for the opponents they will face this spring.

“We’ve been doing a lot of doubles, singles

and point play,” Fulghem said. “Everyone will play everyone, so we have a variety of styles and skill levels competing against each other. We’ve been having a lot of good practices lately. There’s been a lot of high intensity because we all want to get better and get ready for the season.”

John Brown University’s

Focus has been considered the most important aspect to work on for the Golden Eagles. Russell said that Coach Paul Pautsch has made the concept a theme for the season.

"We can win certain matches, but only if we stay focused on them," she said. "Sometimes we lose matches that we could win because we weren't focused. I would say focus has been hammered in. It's what [Coach Pautsch] has been

expecting this year.”

The training, gameplay and season’s theme have proven to be effective in readying the team for the spring. Freshman Nathan Kuykendall said he can see a measured improvement in terms of gameplay and team chemistry.

“I can see improvement in a lot of the athletes, from stroke form to physical strength,” Kuykendall said. “We’ve been able to grow tighter as a team and as a family.”

Ultimately, the Golden Eagles are looking to each other for success this season.

“As a team, as long as we work really well together, keep things positive and keep the energy flowing, we’ll do well,” Fulghem said. “If we all help each other out and push each other, we should have a pretty good season.”

"I can see improvement in a lot of the athletes, from stroke form to physical strength. We've been able to grow tighter as a team and as a family."

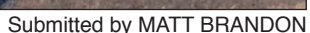
-Nathan Kuykendall



The John Brown University tennis teams practice at the courts. The teams have prepared for their seasons, which begin on Feb. 12, through both preseason play and rigorous training.

Courtesy of JBU ATHLETICS

Sept. 15: Golfer Trevor Barton ties for third overall at the U.C. Ferguson Classic. The Golden Eagles goes on to take 12th place out of 14 in the tournament.



Oct. 8.: Women's rugby becomes an official athletic club at John Brown University.



Oct. 31: The 35th annual TP Game takes place in Bill George Arena on Halloween Night. The event is sponsored by Charmin and documented by ESPN photographers. During the game, forward Nate Anderson ties the men's basketball program record for blocks in a single game (9), helping the Golden Eagles win in commanding fashion. 103-52.

10 SPOTLIGHT

December 3, 2015
The Threefold Advocate



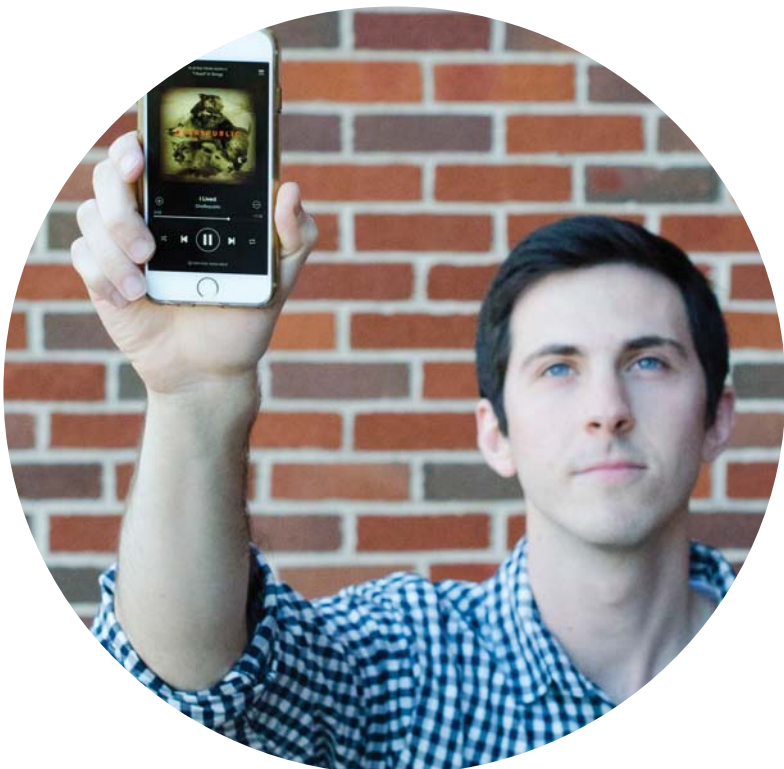
The song **"Rivers and Roads"** by **The Head and The Heart** reminds me of most of my fun adventures at JBU. Not only have my friends and I seen them three times in our college careers, but our road trips and adventures have always included singing that song at the tops of our lungs.

– Emmy Scott



"Kings & Queens" by **Brooke Fraser**. Not only do the lyrics seem to symbolize my time here, but listening to the song always brings back memories. This song in particular made its way into a lot of my late night homework playlists. 'We've got a long way to go, but we got the energy. We've come a long way you know, living inside a dream.

– Brady Voss



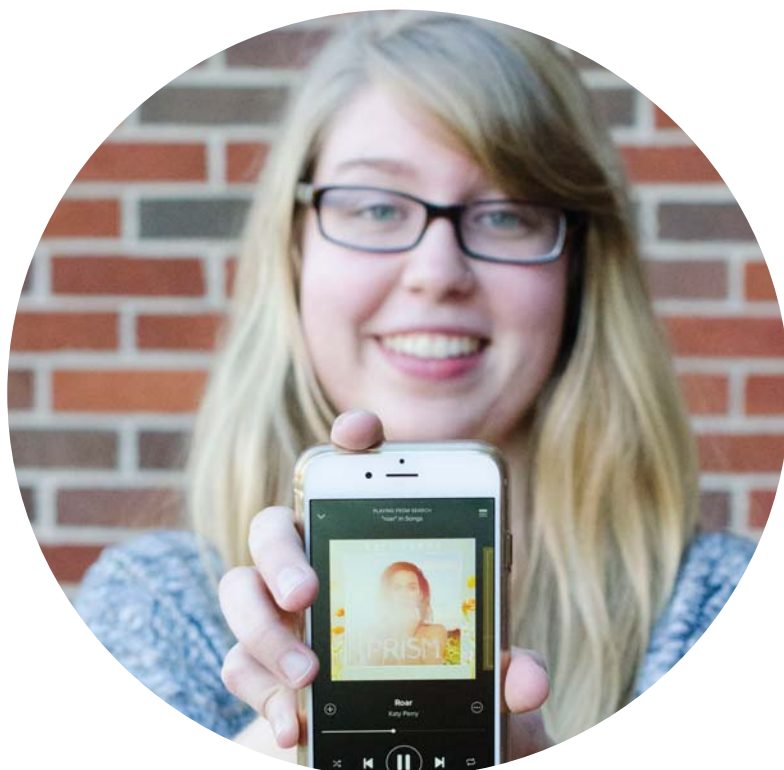
A song that most reminds me of my time at JBU is **"I Lived"** by **One Republic**. College has been such an incredible experience, and when I graduate I feel like I will be able to look back and truly say that I took advantage of every opportunity JBU had to offer. From the staff to leadership experiences, this place is incredible, and I am so grateful to have experienced all that I did.

– Alec Warn



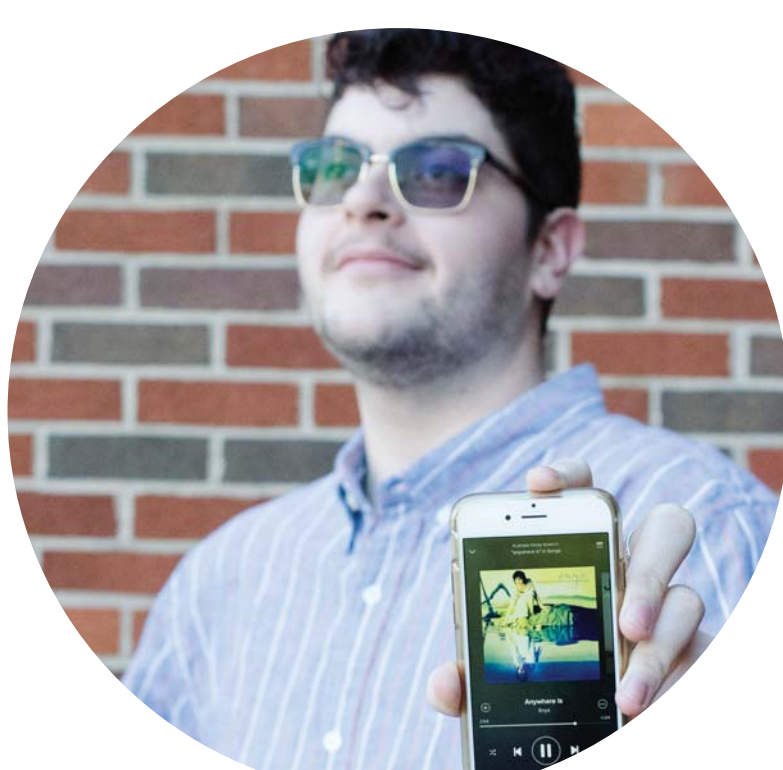
"Good Vibrations" by **The Beach Boys** makes me think of all the creativity I've encountered here, and the great pleasure I've had in working with and collaborating with some really talented people. This song also makes me think of not only the good adventures I've had with my friends, but also the lonelier, darker times when I felt uncertain of who I was or whom my friends were.

– Hannah Newsom



Definitely **Katy Perry's "Roar"** because Men's Rugby.

–Abi Caskey



Have you ever been overcome with an insane bout of weeping quickly followed by a hilarious bout of euphoria only to realize that you're having a religious experience all the while you're surrounded by people staring at you and wondering if you're okay? **"Anywhere is"** by **Enya** and JBU were similar experiences for me.

– Issac Pruden

Designed by **Gustavo Zavala**, Visual Art Director
Reported by **Rebekah Hedges**