

Intentionality cannot be scheduled

Change to Missions Conference complicates student plans.

By **VANESSA BONGIOVANNI**
vanessa.j.bongiovanni@biola.edu

With Missions Conference less than a week away, many people, myself included, are already looking ahead to the schedule to figure out which sessions to attend. For those who may not yet know, the schedule this year looks a bit different than the 2016 Missions Conference schedule. Last year, there were enough opportunities

for students to achieve all five conference credits in the first day. However, the schedule this year only allows a total of four credits on the first day, which requires students to attend at least one session on Thursday or Friday to receive full credit. This scheduling change was clearly intentional.

As was mentioned in a previous news article, directors Kristina Lowen and Colton Meo sought to create a conference true to its purpose. They are hoping that students will desire or be encouraged to devote the time set aside for Missions Conference as an opportunity to reconnect with or grow closer to God. The schedule is one of the tools through which they hope to accomplish this goal.

While I completely understand and respect the intention behind the scheduling change, I am not convinced that it is the most efficient, or even appropriate, way to reorient students' minds and hearts back to God and missions. The fact of the matter is, whether or not students intend on taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity, the conference is mandatory. While it would be incredibly beautiful to see all of Biola's student body come together voluntarily in this time of worship and growth, I doubt very many of us would actually be naive enough to believe that, if given the option, every Biola student would still choose to attend Missions Conference.

However, I would also like to emphasize that not every person who would potentially choose to forego Missions Conference would necessarily be averse to engaging in a time of worship and learning about God and his work across the globe. While Missions Conference is one of the most life-changing events at Biola, there are many valid reasons people could have to forego this opportunity, such as returning home to see family one has not seen in awhile, or even taking a much-needed vacation with friends to unwind from the stress and pressures of college life.

In the end, a student who only wishes to get in and get out as quickly as possible, for whatever reason, will spend the same amount of time attending the conference no matter how far apart the schedule places each session and seminar. The only difference is that students must now take time away from other plans or opportunities they might have for the following weekend. Furthermore, regardless of the scheduling for the event, students may still choose not to enjoy or engage in the opportunity before them. Ultimately, a change in schedule does not provide a basis for a change of hearts, minds or focus — it merely is a method of controlling one's time.

In conclusion, I believe the only way to successfully bring about the change in students' hearts and minds is through prayer



JOHN UY | The Chimes [file]
CREDIT CONFLICT: The change in how students earn session credits for Missions Conference is inefficient and unnecessary.

and intercession. Despite our best efforts and intentions, our ministry and work may never be enough to sway others without the help and guidance of the Lord. God and God alone has the power to open the eyes of the blind and restore hearing to the deaf. Frankly, I do not believe altering the schedule in any way will maximize or inhibit God's work in the lives of his children. Nevertheless, my opinion aside, I do have faith that the efforts and work of the 2017 Missions Conference staff will be rewarded next week, and that many people here at Biola will fully immerse themselves in this time of worship and community.



CAROLINE SOMMERS | The Chimes
CANINE CRISIS: Students can adopt shelter dogs instead of purchasing purebred dogs, who may have genetic defects.

The problem with purebred dogs

Inbreeding harms the animal's gene pool.

By **TIM SEEBERGER**
timothy.j.seeberger@biola.edu

The dream of owning a dog after graduation is a dream for many students. The allure of buying a purebred is always there. These specific kinds of breeds look visibly perfect. Although they may look

pleasing, purebreds are extremely harmful for the gene pool of dogs. For students, adoption is a much better option.

In regards to aesthetic qualities and behavior, purebred dogs are more predictable than mixed breed dogs. Since purebreds are selectively bred with the same genes every time, they retain the same behavioral traits and looks as their predecessors. Genetically, they are perfect.

This is why so many people are attracted to purebreds. This fact, though, comes with a cost. The perfect nature of purebred dogs is a result of inbreeding.

"Purebreds often times depending have many more health issues because they've been inbred," said Lauren Kay, spokesperson from LA Love & Leashes, an adoption center that partners with L.A. County Animal Shelters. "So, often times in a shelter, when it's a mutt, they're a little bit harder than a pet bought from a breeder."

For example, pugs are one of the leading products of inbreeding. The gene pool of all pugs in the world only consists of 133.8 pugs. This means that all the pugs in the world share the genes of merely 133.8 pugs. This inbreeding results in deformed

facial features such as a flat face, which leads to breathing problems within pugs. Although the folded-over skin on this breed may look cute, this genetic deformity causes bacteria to accumulate in the folds and cause skin infections.

On top of this, the immune system of purebreds are significantly weaker than those that are not inbred. If there is a genetic mutation within the gene pools, the chances of it spreading are much greater because the dogs breed with their own relatives.

Adoption is a much safer and cost-efficient outlet for students to purchase a dog. The cost for a dog adoption is around \$100 for most city-affiliated adoption centers.

Beyond helping the gene pool of many different breeds, adopting a dog is a more cost-effective outlet of emotional support or catharsis.

"I would just encourage people if they're thinking of bringing a new pet into the house to definitely think about adoption," Kay said. "I would absolutely encourage adoption over purchasing from a breeder and there are breed-specific rescue groups as well, so if someone wants a labrador, doesn't mean you can't get a labrador."

Silenced voices: International Women's Day

On this day, we remember the women around the world who were and are silenced.

By **MORGAN MITCHELL**
morgan.l.mitchell@biola.edu

March is Women's History Month and this Wednesday, March 8, was International Women's Day. According to the International Women's Day website, this holiday is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. This past Sunday, people participated in a march and rally in Los Angeles at the Los Angeles Police Department headquarters to celebrate women all over the world and protest the

deportation and ban of immigrant and refugee women.

There were emotionally charged moments, like when a black Muslim woman spoke on her experience of oppression and hate crimes here in America or when the crowd chanted "Say it loud! Say it clear! Immigrants are welcome here!" People in the deportation cells were tapping on their walls and shining mirrors out of the narrow slots of glass between concrete in their windows so the protestors could see them. The women with the microphone were shouting at them that they are welcome here and that those partaking in the rally are fighting for them.

Another woman spoke of all the black women killed by the LAPD — in particular, Wakiesha Wilson, who authorities claim committed suicide in a Los Angeles jail a year ago. Her family, though, believes she was killed due to facts surrounding her arrest and alleged suicide not adding up and them not being notified of her death until about 76 hours after Wilson died, according to the L.A. Times. The same article reports twelve people died in LAPD custody in 2014 and the L.A. Times also reported 34 percent of the 228 people killed by law enforcement in Los Angeles County between Jan. 1, 2000, and Aug. 31, 2014 were black, which is a disproportionately high number in a county and city where less than 10 percent of residents are black.

These statistics are important to remember on International Women's Day, because in order to achieve gender equality, society needs to realize the extra amount of oppression and inequality women of color face in this city, country and around the world. According to Reuters, the World Economic Forum estimated it would take up to the year 2186 to achieve global gender equality.

Other statistics important to remember as we celebrate this day are: one in three women will be abused physically or sexually in their lifetime, 62 million girls are denied access to education worldwide, one girl under the age of 15 is married every seven seconds and perpetrators of sexual violence are less likely to go to jail or prison than other criminals.

There is also a general strike happening on International Women's Day in the United States, planned by the Women's March organizers, called "A Day Without a Woman." Women are to take the day off on March 8, from paid and unpaid labor, avoid shopping for one day (with exceptions for small, women- and minority-owned businesses), and wear red in solidarity with A Day Without A Woman. This is in response to a sexual predator, a title Trump did not object to in a 2006 interview with Howard Stern, being elected into the White House who has a history of making sexist comments.



MORGAN MITCHELL | Courtesy
THE FUTURE IS FEMALE: Women march in protest against patriarchy and misogyny for International Women's Day.