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TNU Events App

Renovated Jernigan dining hall open for students



Artist rendering of the completed Jernigan student center

BY KATIE TATE
CONTRIBUTOR

Sydney Lockard, a freshman at Trevecca, attended the opening day of the new Jernigan Dining Hall and was pleasantly surprised by how nice the inside looked. She had only experienced the temporary Caf setup in the Boone business building, so she was excited to see and try the new food options.

"I was very surprised by how nice Jernigan looked when I first walked in, especially since I had only experienced the Caf in Boone," said Sydney. "I'd have to say the pizza station is my favorite. The new brick stove oven has really made a difference in how the pizza tastes."

The new Jernigan Dining Hall can seat around 525 people. The upstairs will continue to hold the president's dining room along with student government offices.

Tom Middendorf, university provost and senior vice president, hopes it will be a great place for student government and student leaders. There will also be a conference room, lounge areas, and a large multi-purpose room for student meetings. It will double as a working space for student leaders and a lounge place for students to spend time together and connect.

"What I'm excited the most about is bringing the community back together

in a way where we have employees of the university eating with students in the same space," said Middendorf.

Chuck Seaman, director of financial services, said he hopes the new dining hall achieves student satisfaction. He is very happy with the healthy food options, and that the Hub provides quick to-go food. Seaman said that there is still work to be done to the outside of Jernigan that includes freshening up the columns, redoing the floor on the outside deck and the video wall.

"I think [Jernigan dining hall was] fantastic because I've been here so long that I've seen what it used to look like. The renovation, to me, is first class. I'm glad that Trevecca invested the money to do it right," said Seaman. "We think this should be a good recruiting tool for potential students that are coming to check us out."

The Simple Servings station on the Caf's main floor is friendly for those allergic to the top eight allergens, including peanuts, nuts, shellfish and eggs. Sodexo workers don't leave plates out at this station, and instead hand them to students themselves. The equipment behind the line is only used for Simple Serving cooking, so it is cooked fresh right in front of the students and ready to serve.

"The breakfast in Jernigan is my favorite meal that they provide," said Mattie Buck, a freshman at Trevecca. "The yogurt, granola, and fruit that they have in the mornings is so good."

Other meal options range from pizza and pasta, to burgers and fries. There is always protein, starch, and vegetables available in the entrée food line. Vegan and vegetarian options are available, along with salad, sandwiches and ice cream in the middle deli section.

Reed awarded Teaching Excellence Award

BY CLAUDIA VILLEDA
CONTRIBUTOR

Nykolaus Reed, assistant professor of biology, is this year's recipient of the Trevecca Teaching Excellence Award. The Teaching Excellence Convocation was held on March 3 with an address from the 2021 recipient, Timothy Gaines, associate professor of religion.

The Teaching Excellence Award is presented by the Conference of Chairpersons, composed of academic deans and department chairs. Students, faculty and academic chairs nominate a faculty member for this award.

Reed arrived at Trevecca in the fall of 2012. He began as an adjunct professor



Nykolaus Reed

of life science. He taught the general education course for two semesters.

"I was working as a research fellow at

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Trevecca students advocate for DACA legislation

BY SOL AYALA
CONTRIBUTOR

Mayerly Soto, a sophomore social justice major, plans to pursue a career in social work after graduation. These plans have seemed just out of reach to Soto for some time, but due to a proposed state law passed by the Tennessee State Senate 20 to 7 on Thursday, March 14, Soto can look to the future with a bit more certainty.

On Tuesday, March 15, the hallways of the Cordell Hull Building were full of advocates as the Day on the Hill event organized by the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) introduced the Workforce Expansion Bill.

This bill is designed to allow people with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to receive professional and commercial licenses.

"Over 7,000 DACA recipients and 3,000 TPS holders will benefit from this piece of legislation," according to the TIRRC. "The Workforce Expansion Bill is a huge step in addressing ongoing labor shortages taking place in a wide variety of industries by allowing anyone with a federally authorized work permit to access professional and occupational licenses, so long as they meet all other requirements of the respective licensing

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NEWS

Campus spiritual life to refocus on small groups, promote church involvement in the fall

BY MIA AGEE
CONTRIBUTOR

Next school year Trevecca's university chaplain plans to create discipleship groups and boost local church involvement among students post-Covid. During the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic students could not meet in groups of more than eight people on campus. "Then you've got the added layer of masks. I know we all get used to that, but it's not normal, and it's really hard to establish personal connections with people when you can't see their faces," said Erik Gernand, university chaplain. Last summer, Gernand worked with student chaplains to put together student-led groups over specific topics, Bible studies, and accountability groups. Around 15 of those groups existed at the beginning of the last two school years, and though many of them have fizzled out, a few remain, said Gernand.

Gernand hopes to rebuild these groups, involve local pastors in the process, and recruit Trevecca students to co-lead them. He also wants to focus on local church involvement to help students develop a love for the local church. "I think that's a primary vision that I've got because I can't mentor every group leader, but every group leader needs a mentor. And those pastors are young and old and perfectly suited to be able to do that, so that's something I'm going to work really hard on over the summer," said Gernand. Some local Nazarene churches who stayed active during the pandemic and have vibrant college ministries are First Church of the Nazarene, Trevecca Community Church, and Concord Community Church. The Pit is a college and young adult Christian community popular among Trevecca students, and it is run through Highland Park Church of Christ. The group acts as a "beginning step" for

those who are new to the faith or looking around for different churches and small groups, said Cassidy Attig, a junior at Trevecca and attendee of The Pit. "In college, support is so needed because you go through so many different life-changing things. It's so nice to have the constant community that you know is going to be there and back you up," said Attig. The Belonging Co is another favored church in Nashville with a large young adult ministry, and they kept their doors open for people the entirety of the pandemic. "As for some other groups I met with, it was really challenging because we weren't meeting anymore, and during those few months, I was struggling a little bit to just have that community," said Jenna Gray, a junior at Trevecca attending The Belonging Co. Gernand believes that if Christians want to have any experience of what it really means to follow Jesus, they need a

community of faith. "You need the grandmas and the babies and the teenagers and the moms and dads. You need those kinds of communities," Gernand said. Despite the inability to meet in large groups or see peers' faces, Gernand says there is a "ray of sun" and not all sense of community was lost during the pandemic. Small groups of students met, studied the Bible, and prayed together in the cafeteria in their own "organic groups," according to Gernand. "There's this inevitability of faithful people who figure out a way to get things done that need to get done. It's like Covid was this thick slab of concrete over the soil, but the seeds of the kingdom just continue to find ways to make cracks and find their way up into the sun," said Gernand.

NEWS

Physics department FLARE project does night launch for balloon experiment



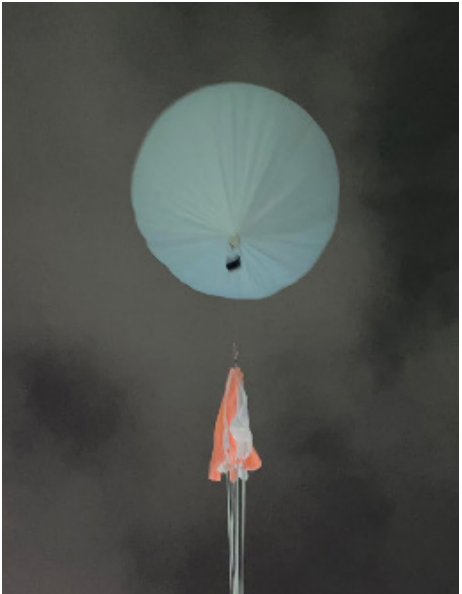
Exploring Earth and Space through High-Altitude Balloon Research Platform class conducted during a launch on April 8



Photos courtesy of Cassidy Feenor



Photos courtesy of Cassidy Feenor



Photos courtesy of Cassidy Feenor

The ‘Great Resignation’ hits Trevecca community

BY GRACE BECKNER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nine Trevecca faculty members will not be returning for the 2022-2023 academic year. Seven of the nine are women, two being retirees.

“We had less faculty transitioning from Trevecca over the last couple of years during the pandemic, I think people needed stability in the middle of uncertainty,” said Tom Middendorf, university provost and senior vice president.

Information released by the government’s jobs report indicated over 20 million people quit their jobs during the second half of 2021.

Middendorf said the university may be feeling the effects of what has been dubbed “The Great Resignation.”

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics released statistics in January indicating 4.5 million people left their jobs voluntarily in November 2021, an “all-time high” since they began collecting data in December 2000, according to the agency.

The movement seems to be hitting the education system especially hard.

In December 2021 the US Department of Labor reported 143,000 workers in the education sector quit their jobs, increasing the number of job openings by 58,000 compared to the previous month. “There are a lot of opportunities in the job market now, and I do see a pick up of mobility across the country, not just at Trevecca,” said Middendorf.

The total number of education job openings for the 2021-2022 academic year jumped 53% compared to the previous year, with a total of 2.4 million job openings so far.

Elizabeth Nunley, field director and assistant professor of social work, will have served the Trevecca community for seven years in May. She is one of those who are leaving at the end of this

academic year, and is aware of the ways her life looks different now compared to when she started teaching.

“This was more of a personal awakening, a new awareness of wanting to prioritize family and just realizing how quickly it all goes by and what matters,” said Nunley.

Nunley plans to grow her small counseling practice she has kept during her time as a professor, which she initially started as a means to supplement her income as a professor. She said keeping up this practice providing therapy to individual clients while teaching has helped inform the ways she shows up for students.

“My practice started growing and I started having to turn individual clients away because I didn’t do both, but as my practice grew I realized this is where my heart is.”

Amanda Greime-Bradley, associate professor psychology and chair of the social behavioral sciences department, has served in her current position since August 2012, but started out at Trevecca as the counseling center director in August 2009.

“We have grown so much, and even just become more diverse over time, and just because of what my field is I have really seen growth in the student culture of being more accepting of mental health,” said Greime-Bradley.

Greime-Bradley feels both the counseling program and herself has grown tremendously over the time she has worked at the university, but she will also be leaving at the end of the school year.

“A definite challenge is the volume of students that I serve in my classes. It is a beautiful thing, but it is exhausting for me, just with how much grading I do,” said Greime-Bradley. “I want my people writing, but then it takes me hours and hours to grade, so then I’m always behind and people are frustrated, so that has been a challenge.”

She said the decision to make the move

from Trevecca was a fast one, and that she has not been dissatisfied with her time at the university. While burnout related to Covid-19 has caused her to take some time to evaluate her life, it has served as a reminder that she is “free to dream big dreams.”

“In academia they are calling it ‘The Great Resignation’ and it is hitting women a lot, [especially] women who have children,” said Greime-Bradley. “I have a 3 year-old and a 5 year-old so I have changed a lot since I’ve been here. Been married and became a mama, all the things.”

Greime-Bradley loves working with undergraduate students, but always saw herself working with people who “knew that they knew that they knew” they wanted to be counselors. This longing became hard for her to ignore.

“I felt this dis-ease and I didn’t know what it was. So I started to pray and contemplate, and I started thinking, ‘I get the most joy when I’m teaching counseling.’”

Greime-Bradley will be joining Belmont University as an associate professor of mental health counseling for their mental health master’s program.

“I have really been grieving, like, ‘Is this really what I need to be doing? Can I really leave this community that has been so beautiful?’ But this is just the next right thing for me,” said Greime-Bradley. She said this new position offers opportunity for her own professional growth, flexibility with the time she has to spend on campus, and a lighter work load overall.

Nunley’s reasoning for leaving Trevecca started to form in the spring of 2019 after giving birth to her third child and having to deal with what she saw to be a lack of maternity leave support. After this, she found herself becoming gradually more disengaged.

“There was no maternity leave, and as the result of some feedback that I gave they have a policy now, but it is still embarrassing,” she said. “I just felt really

burned after that, and I think it gave me this clarity of how hard I was working for not fair or equal pay, and also that is taking something from my family, my soul.”

Nunley said she realizes the university is not making “conscious oppressive decisions towards women or mothers, but that is not an excuse, the impact is still there.”

Nunley said she is looking forward to growing her private practice, and is excited to spend more time with her family and reconnect with things she has had to let go of and sacrifice.

“Time outdoors, time with God, time with friends, just time to breathe, is probably higher on my list than growing my practice,” Nunley said. “I trust that that will happen and it will be great, but just having some space is the biggest priority.”

Nunley said social work is a field where professionals need to be connected with themselves and their limits. This is something Nunley sees herself modeling for her students in her decision to transition to full-time practice, as it felt inauthentic for her to instruct her students to do something she was not doing herself.

“Social work is a field where we are constantly having to be present with our own experiences, like, ‘are we burning out? Are we hitting our capacity? What do we need? Are we taking care of ourselves?’” Nunley said.

Middendorf thinks there are many reasons faculty might think about transitioning to other opportunities now. He said burnout can be a part of it, but he sees opportunity in general as a major factor.

“There are more opportunities now than there have been in many years,” he said. “There are also opportunities to increase pay with a transition because there is

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Reed named the 2022 recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award

CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

Vanderbilt and a buddy of mine, Dr. David Vaught, had told me that Trevecca was looking for an adjunct to teach life science. And so it’s one of the Gen Ed classes that lots of students take, and I taught that free for a semester, and I really enjoy teaching here,” said Reed. Reed applied for a full-time position to teach genetics in the fall of 2013 and he has been at Trevecca since.

“It’s allowed me freedom to do research. I do research now in corals and anemones which kind of ties into the fact that I always grew up—I grew up in Louisiana, a big fishing state right in the Gulf. Love to go fishing, always had fish tanks in the house and it kind of just grew into my research interests,” he said.

He grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana. From a young age, science was a big deal in his family.

“My mom has a master’s in microbiology and my dad’s a fireman. My mom’s actually a nurse. And so my mom was always big into science and going to art exhibits and going to the zoo. My dad is very mechanical, so I was always watching him fix things,” said Reed. After high school, Reed went to Florida A&M University to study biology. About a year in he realized he did not want to be a doctor of medicine.

“I took genetics from Dr. Willie Washington and I realized I loved genetics. So that’s when I decided to go to grad school for that,” said Reed.

Reed was waitlisted for Vanderbilt’s genetics program, but ended up going to Meharry Medical College, which had a

joint program with Vanderbilt. He then did his PhD involving fish genetics with Doug Mortlock.

Reed said that he was initially worried about teaching genetics at Trevecca because his research work involved evolution. During the interview process he was reassured by faculty that “evolution was not something frowned upon here.”

“I know that is a sensitive topic for some, but my fellow colleagues here told me that Dr. Boone’s written a book discussing evolution and that it is not an issue, [which] made me feel really good,” he said.

One of the things Reed loves about Trevecca is the tight-knit community and smaller class sizes.

“I get to really know our students. You may have majors in multiple classes

throughout the years, so you really get to know them. And, you know, it gives me the freedom to kind of cater to some of the research in the labs and things that I know students are really interested in,” Reed said. “And I love the fact that I can play softball against students and dodgeball and eat lunch in the cafeteria with students, I just think that’s fantastic, the community here.”

Reed is motivated in his research with curiosity about the little things.

“I’m fascinated by these similarities and differences in the DNA between different organisms. Like why is your nose on the front of your face, but the nose of a whale blowhole on the top of its head? Those types of things that fascinate me are little slight changes. What causes those differences and that kind of stuff amazes me.”

SPORTS

Two Trevecca basketball players earn all-conference

BY DAVID WILSON
CONTRIBUTOR

At the conclusion of the 2021-2022 basketball season, two Trevecca Trojans were named to the Great Midwest All-Conference teams. CJ Penha was named first team All-Conference while Keeley Carter was named to the second team. In addition to his All-Conference award, Penha was also named to the D2CCA All-Region team. Penha, a senior from Pickerington, OH, transferred to Trevecca this year from Taylor University. He averaged a double-double this season, leading the Trojans in

both scoring (20.3 PPG) and rebounding (10.1 RPG). “All this is bittersweet, considering the season we had. But I am obviously grateful for the recognition. I came in and worked my butt off, I knew that I would have to take on a scoring role and be a leader for this team. Moving forward I hope to be a person that continues to keep working and play the game I love,” said Penha. Penha was among the conference leaders in several offensive and defensive categories. He ranked second overall in scoring, rebounding, and free throw percentage. “CJ is one of the best leaders we have had. He had a great season, and it really

all started with his performance against Ole Miss. CJ is one of the best players not only in our conference, but in the country. I’m glad he is going to get that acknowledgment across the country,” said Trevecca men’s basketball coach Omar Mance. Carter, a sophomore from Lafayette, TN, led the women’s basketball team in nearly every statistical category. She averaged 17.7 PPG and 3.8 APG on the offensive end of the floor. Defensively, Carter led the team in both rebounds (6.3 RPG) and steals (1.6 SPG). “It’s a great honor to be named to the All-Conference team. I couldn’t have accomplished this without my teammates and coaches’ help. I think that despite

our record, it shows that our program has a lot of things to look forward to in the future,” said Carter. Carter was also among the conference leaders in multiple statistical categories. She ranked second in scoring, fourth in assists, sixth in free throw percentage, eighth in blocks, and ninth in steals. “[Keeley] is a very driven and competitive player. She is a listener, who wants to continue to improve and get better. Keeley was a drive first guard, who really worked and improved on her outside shot. Her ability to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our team, and rally the girls together was vital. She just makes our team better,” said Trevecca women’s basketball coach Chad Hibdon.



Photo courtesy of Trevecca athletics



Photo courtesy of Trevecca athletics



Photo courtesy of Trevecca athletics



Photo courtesy of Trevecca athletics

SPORTS

Golf team heading into postseason tournaments



Photo courtesy of Trevecca athletics

BY WES SHARPE
CONTRIBUTOR

For Trevecca Golf Coach David Head, winning is common. The Trojans, under Head, have won eight GMAC Championships in total, and this year they are looking to add another. “We always look forward to having a chance to win the GMAC championship, and we certainly look forward to having the opportunity to play in the NCAA postseason,” said Head. Coach Head has several new players in the program this year. Currently the men’s team consists of three seniors, two juniors, one sophomore, and three freshmen. The women’s team is made up of two seniors, three sophomores, and two freshmen. Recruiting has been different this season because NCAA programs were given an extra year for players due to the Covid-19 pandemic. “Recruiting is always interesting. It is a bit harder to plan and know how much scholarship is available, and how many roster spots are available, because all the current players that were affected by Covid get an extra year of eligibility,”

said Head. “Recruiting high school players is not necessarily any harder or any different, but knowing how many to recruit and what kind of scholarship offers you can make is the difficult part.” Tori Campbell, a sophomore and member of the women’s golf team, said she feels fortunate to be a part of a team of great people who are encouraging and willing to hold each other accountable. “We like to work hard and push each other to be the best we can all be. We are also all competitive and can push each other that way as well,” said Campbell. Jack Kenmare, a freshman on the men’s golf team, said he is looking forward to seeing what the team is able to accomplish this season. “Being a part of a program that is historically so good motivates me to become better each day,” said Kenmare. Coach Head is excited to see how his players bond as a team throughout the season, as well as their individual improvement. “If we are all improving like we should, then the conference championship and any NCAA postseason opportunities will be there,” said Head.

SPORTS

Trevecca’s track and field team ready for outdoor season



Photo courtesy of Trevecca athletics

BY WES SHARPE
CONTRIBUTOR

The 2022 Trevecca track and field team consists of 32 student athletes led by head coach Austin Selby. The men’s team has 20 athletes and the women’s team consists of 12. For many athletes on the team, there is an excitement surrounding being able to compete in the outdoor events following the indoor season. Trevecca does not have any indoor facilities for track, making the indoor transition a little more difficult for the track and field athletes, said Selby. “We have the largest squad in the conference for a team that does not have a facility. Besides simply not being able to do things indoors when the weather

is adverse, which is a luxury in the first place, we are not in control of being able to do anything other than run,” said Selby. “When you think about block starts, hurdle form, high jump practice, pole vault, hammer, disc, shot, javelin, and relay exchange practice, there is a lot that we must depend on from places we have no control over. We always have to wonder if the track is going to be available where we practice every single day, and that is tough.” The team has some athletes that have never been a part of a track team, and they are especially ready to compete. One of these athletes is Hannah Sims. Last year Sims was playing junior college basketball before she transferred to Trevecca.



Photo courtesy of Trevecca athletics

Knowing that she was extremely athletic and wanting to use her athletic talents, she joined the women’s team and has now set school records in the javelin throw. “Track is very demanding and requires a lot of different types of training for each individual event. While it’s demanding, it’s also very rewarding. I feel the best I’ve ever felt, and I still got a long way to go,” said Sims. Lucas Baggott who has set several school records in events such as the 400-meter hurdles, the 400-meter dash and the 60-meter hurdles, says he is “excited to

see the hard work he and his teammates put in payoff.” Unlike other teams, the Trevecca track and field team does not have a captain. “On our team we don’t name a team captain. It is really on all of us as teammates to hold each other accountable, whether it’s upperclassmen to lowerclassmen, or vice versa, we really strive to get better as a team and not just individually,” said Baggott. The Great Midwest Outdoor Championships begin May 4.

NEWS

Trevecca theater department wraps up season with ‘Life is a Dream’

BY JULIA BALLARD
CONTRIBUTOR

Since the fall semester the Trevecca theater department has put on shows based on the theme “Season 180,” which is about the audience putting themselves into another’s shoes and gaining perspectives in order to understand the reality of others.

“The shows make you think about doing what is right even when no one is looking,” said Sierra Hodgson, a freshman information technology major and cast member of “Life is a Dream”. Earlier in the year the Trevecca theater department put on “Freaky Friday a New Musical”, “The Prince and the Pauper” and most recently “Life is a Dream”, which is a Golden Age Spanish play that warps reality and alters the perception of the actors and audience.

Despite Covid still being very prevalent, audience numbers have stayed up. For “Life is a Dream”, three of the shows were sold out and the rest averaged 30 to 35 audience members.

“The stage had a small house set up. There were only 36 seats, so we knew we would have just a few each night,” said Dr. Jeffery Frame, communications

professor.

“This show [“Life is a Dream”] kind of has a darker tone than our other shows this season,” said Kimberly Weir, a sophomore dramatic arts major and costume supervisor for “Life is a Dream”. Cast members say the show has been hurried, with only four weeks to put the final play on stage.

“We knew it was going to be tight because of the calendar with Easter and TNT. The cast took it seriously and they were ready mentally,” said Frame.

A decrease in Covid cases on campus has made masks no longer mandatory at shows and rehearsals.

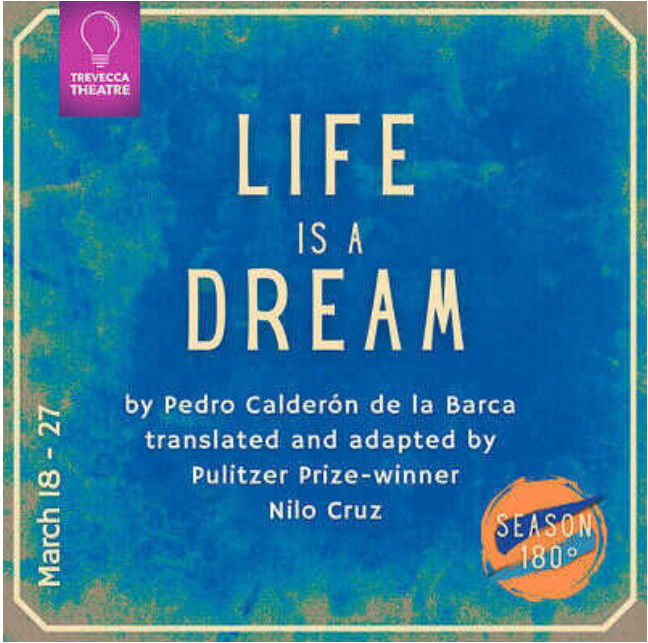
“It was just very difficult during the rehearsal process because you can’t see people’s faces, so all you have to go off of is their body language. Acting is a matter of playing off of other people you have a scene with,” said Evelyn Palmliden, a sophomore history and vocal performance major and cast member in the show.

Thanks to timing, none of the productions this year required actors to face coverings during the actual shows.

“We’ve been blessed with this very fortunate circumstance,” said Hodgson.

As the theater season comes to its close, the program has one more event titled “Mosaic” which is the theater’s annual staged reading of one-act plays written by students.

“The excitement and energy has been really high. I think in some ways that’s opening doors to do new work and things,” said Frame.



NEWS

Normalizing mental health: How language impacts culture

BY ALAYNA SIMONS
CONTRIBUTOR

While in the library, Junior Meagan Carver overheard a student casually saying they might have a panic attack thinking about the test in their next class. In that moment she recalls the first time she experienced a panic attack at age 13.

Carver was alone, thoughts suddenly racing through her head. A spiraling moment of screaming and crying, hands over her head. Feeling as though her body couldn’t function anymore, her body gave way. She lied down, eventually passing out.

“In that moment I knew it was something bigger than normal sadness, normal frustration,” said Carver.

As a number of students on campus live with mental health disorders, throwing phrases around like “panic attack,” “OCD,” and “depressed,” can minimize the impacts of these disorders on students, said Amy Smith, assistant

professor of history, sociology, and psychology.

Since being diagnosed with anxiety and depression, Carver has experienced more intense episodes, but has had a better understanding of these mental health issues and the way these terms should be used.

“We definitely need to be open minded with other people’s experiences as well as learn from their emotions to get a better idea of how we can solve the misuse of these words,” said Carver.

Lena Helgi Welch, professor of communications, said when language changes it affects the culture, and it can influence others’ understanding of that language inaccurately.

“Words have power, but these days, we tweet and then retweet, and that immediate connectedness loosens the power of those words,” said Welch.

Social media and increased efforts around mental health awareness can

be helpful but can also cause people to speak like experts when they are not.

“Now we’re connecting statements like ‘I’m worried’ or ‘I’m feeling down,’ immediately to mental health,” said Smith. “People are starting to diagnose themselves, partially because of social media, online references, and the immediate connectedness.”

Terms like Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and autism have most commonly been referenced because one person will relate to one small part of it and diagnoses themselves, said Smith.

Along with other counselors at the on-campus counseling center, intern Brooke Kehl tries to encourage students to think for themselves, but also work with how students are defining these terms. From there they decide how to approach the issue.

“We need to be more thoughtful of those around us as we use mental health terminology,” said Kehl. “Ask yourself if you really know what that term means and if you’re using it the right way. If you’re not sure, then maybe take a step back and think before speaking.”

Though the normalization of mental health terms can help others feel more comfortable to seek help and reach out, there are negative effects that can be resolved through education.

“I think it can be minimizing for people that have significant health problems. This is not like a fun personality quirk, this is an actual disorder that someone would rather live without,” said Smith. “Providing education and seeking out education, getting professionally diagnosed rather than self-diagnosed, and being more thoughtful about what terms we’re using, can improve our use of language.”

NEWS

The Great Resignation’ hits Trevecca community

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demand in certain areas.”

There is potential for good for the Trevecca community when undergoing so much leadership change. Middendorf

cites the integration of new ideas, curriculum and teaching styles into the university’s academic environment as just a few examples.

“This is part of being a healthy educational institution and advancing

the institution,” said Middendorf.

Middendorf said he is looking for new candidates to fill the nine vacant teaching positions who possess “strong Christian testimony that is in congruence with the Nazarene faith, excellent education,

quality teaching experience, and a love for students.”

“These four qualities are foundational to our hiring processes with faculty,” said Middendorf.

Trevecca students advocate for DACA legislation



Photos by Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition from the 2019 Day on the Hill event

CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

board.”

According to the American immigration council, as of March 2022 there are 7,650 DACA recipients and approximately 320,000 with a Temporary Protected Status living in Tennessee.

At Trevecca there are about 100 DACA students who can possibly benefit from the bill, said University President Dan Boone in a recent article for the Tennessean. Social workers, electricians, plumbers, engineers, and over 200 other professions would benefit from the bill, said Jazmin Ramirez, latinx community organizer at the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition.

During the Day on the Hill event, members and volunteers of TIRRC had individual group meetings with Tennessee Senators and House Representatives, seeking their legislative vote against anti-immigrant bills and asking them to vote in favor of the Workforce Expansion Bill.

“Working while trying to stay concentrated and keep a GPA up seems almost impossible some days,” Soto said. “It can’t be impossible because this is literally the only way that this is going to work for me.”

Soto moved to Tennessee when she was 3 years old and has been under the DACA program since she was nine years old. She said having DACA status has made her life a bit easier.

To pay for college, Soto has to find outside resources, working two jobs and finding scholarships that support DACA

recipients in higher education. As she approaches graduation, Soto’s future plans—and the plans of more than 10,000 TPS and DACA recipients—are at risk.

Current Tennessee law bars TPS and DACA recipients from obtaining professional and commercial licenses, despite being qualified in their professions, having federal work permits, and social security numbers.

DACA students can get a job, get a driver’s license and pay taxes, but have to overcome multiple obstacles to getting into higher education institutions, such as not receiving state and federal aid, not qualifying for in-state tuition and not being able to have professional licenses after getting a degree. This often forces DACA and TPS recipients to move out of state after graduation to other states that allow them to receive professional licenses.

Luis Mata, policy coordinator at TIRRC, says that the goal of the Day on the Hill event was to get the House representatives’ and Senators’ votes by bringing in TPS and DACA recipients to tell their stories and influence those in power to vote in favor of the Workforce Expansion Bill.

“Our Day on the Hill event was an opportunity to allow our members of the community to channel the power they have inside, and to be able to feel themselves creating change through their voices, through their stories,” Mata said.

The Workforce Expansion Bill has



Photos by Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition from the 2019 Day on the Hill event

advanced in both the Senate and House. Is currently waiting for the votes from the floor chambers to see if it becomes part of state law.

There is still no date set for the vote, but it is expected to be during April.

“It personally affects me and people that I care about,” said Vanessa Delgado, program coordinator for Equal Change of Education.

TIRRC is also working against five anti-

immigrant bills. Three out of the five bills were voted against, including bill HB1648 which would have allowed public K–12 schools to deny enrollment to children who are not lawfully documented in the U.S., and bill HB1919 which would have criminalized parents for taking children across state lines. TIRRC is still waiting for the results of the other two anti-immigrant bills.

Jernigan Grand Opening



Photos by Taylor Milam from the Jernigan Grand Opening



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