

TrevEchoes

November 2021 | Trevecca Nazarene University's Official Student Newspaper Since 1944 | TrevEchoesOnline.com

NEWS

Chapel service on homosexuality sparks controversy

Page 2

First generation student enrollment at an all time high

Page 3

Pandemic-friendly activities for college students

Page 4

SPORTS

Administration working to secure funding for athletic facility

Pages 5

OPINION

TNU worship choir member recounts recording experience

Page 5

CONNECT



/TrevEchoesOnline



@TrevEchoes



@TrevEchoes



TrevEchoesOnline.com



TrevEchoes@gmail.com



TNU Events App



James Austin Johnson as Joe Biden on his SNL debut

Trevecca alum makes it to the Saturday Night Live stage

BY GRACE BECKNER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When Zachary Swafford, a senior vocal performance major, first heard the news, he was rehearsing for Trevecca's production of the musical Freaky Friday.

"We were at rehearsal, and they had announced that [James Austin Johnson] was going to be a new face on SNL," said Swafford.

One of Swafford's professors told the group there was going to be a Trevecca alumni on Saturday Night Live, but Swafford had no idea that alum would be the first person he would see when the show opened--doing an impression of President Joe Biden, no less.

Johnson starred in the opening sketch of his SNL debut on Oct. 2. He co-starred in three other sketches that night.

"We just thought that [Johnson] would be some background person, but no, he's right there in the front," Swafford said.

James Austin Johnson, 32, graduated from Trevecca in 2011 and moved to Los Angeles in 2013 to pursue acting and stand-up comedy, said his father Michael

Johnson, the director of alumni and church engagement for Trevecca.

Michael said people encouraged his son to go to a conservatory for acting after high school, but he wanted Johnson to go to Trevecca due to financial reasons and long-standing connections to the university. He said this decision to go to Trevecca seemed to add to Johnson's hunger to pursue a career in the entertainment industry, and gave him time to develop confidence.

"[Johnson] said being around [Trevecca] really helped actually add to the hunger to move away someday and really pursue it," said Michael. "[Johnson] said if he had gone away and it didn't go well wherever he went, he might have come back home and settled for whatever."

Johnson had a gift, but opportunities were hard-fought.

"While he really wanted to be funny, and has a natural gift for that, he also worked at being funny," said Michael. "It is one thing for us to have a gift for something, but it is another to really work at refining the gift."

Johnson did pretty well in Los Angeles, Michael said. He was able to get some commercial work, representation with talent agencies and secure auditions. When Micheal sees Johnson on the SNL stage, he sees the achievement, but he also "recognizes that he's been told 'no' a thousand times."

"When he was given an opportunity to show people what he could do, [Austin] did not shrink from the moment," said Michael. "The moment was not too big for him, he was ready."

Jeff Frame, a Trevecca professor of dramatic arts and communication, heard about Johnson's role as a "featured player" on SNL through his daughters, who saw the announcement on social media.

"A part of me is not surprised," said Frame. "He is like the perfect storm of intuition, hard work and creativity."

Frame remembers having Johnson in class, specifically improvisation and film

CONTINUED PAGE 3



Photo from Trevecca Marketing

Alumni welcomed back home to the Hill for Homecoming 2021

BY CLAUDIA VILLEDA
CONTRIBUTOR

Trevecca students and alumni were back together on campus for Homecoming.

Last year Trevecca hosted its first virtual homecoming because of the pandemic. Although there were some regular homecoming events like the bonfire and the street fair, events were largely for students only. Alumni had the

opportunity to participate in some events virtually.

"We actually had terrific participation in terms of the number of people who watched and or commented, which was wonderful. But the real realization was that we weren't together, we were all watching, instead of being in the same room together... So, if you want me to

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Chapel service on homosexuality sparks controversy



A Pride flag was hung on the Jesus statue following the Monday night chapel on Homosexuality

BY DIANA LEYVA
CONTRIBUTOR

A Monday night chapel service about sexuality caused swift and strong reaction on campus and on social media from students and alumni.

On Monday Oct. 25, Trevecca hosted an openly gay speaker, Pieter Valk, during its 6 p.m. chapel service.

Valk is the executive director of EQUIP, a non profit Christian consulting ministry whose mission is to “help churches become places where LGBTQ+ Christians could belong and thrive according to a traditional sexual ethic.”

During the service Valk discussed the different standards to which gay and straight people are held, said homosexuality is a result of the fall, and shared his story of struggling with his own sexuality and therefore committing himself to a life of singleness and celibacy.

The beliefs shared by Valk were closely aligned with the standards set forth in the Church of The Nazarene manual, which states: “Because we believe that it is God’s intention for our sexuality to be lived out in the conventional union between one woman and one man, we believe the practice of same-sex sexual intimacy is contrary to God’s will for human sexuality. While a person’s homosexual or bi-sexual attraction may have complex and differing origins, and the implication of this call to sexual purity is costly, we believe the grace of God is sufficient for such a calling. We recognize the shared responsibility of the body of Christ to be a welcoming, forgiving, and loving community where hospitality, encouragement, transformation, and accountability are available to all.”

Boone said those types of statements are not helpful at any level, and wishes that those students would instead sit down and have a conversation with students of a different sexual orientation than them, rather than to post anonymous comments.

“There are some immature students who believe that they can wrap themselves in the cloth of Jesus and be judgmental in that way and they’re wrong,” he said.

Other students showed solidarity and created artwork, shared articles and photographs, and posted various resources for anyone identifying as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

Many LGBTQ+ students on social media used the phrase, “Bad theology kills,” and called on their peers to be allies and advocate for them.

of a sudden you’re not having a Trevecca community conversation, you’re actually arguing with the whole world. What I’ve learned from personal experience is that the conversation that we’re trying to have in our community gets hijacked by angry people from outside our community,” he said.

Monday was not Valk’s first time speaking at Trevecca. Years ago he also spoke during chapel although the response was not nearly the same.

Monday’s chapel caused rapid and mixed responses.

Boone received phone calls, emails, Facebook messages, and screenshots from Christians who were angered the university had a gay speaker in chapel, as well as Christians who were angered Trevecca did not take a more progressive position on human sexuality.

Following the service a Pride flag was mounted on the statue of Jesus on campus only to be taken down moments after, but not before social media could be flooded with pictures.

An abundance of students used social media to express their beliefs and concerns.

Many students voiced their opinions on an anonymous forum, tnu_confessionz and posted things such as, “If you don’t like Trevecca and the Christian values it upholds then leave!” and, “GAY IS NOT OK IF U FOLLOW JESUS”.

Boone said she is upset Monday night’s chapel enabled anti LGBTQ+ students to feel comfortable promoting hatred and believes the university could be better by addressing and condemning the behavior from those students.

And while Malone has found safety and solidarity within her close friendships and certain areas within the Trevecca community, she does not believe the university as a whole promotes that same level of inclusivity.

“If I’m being honest, the way I have been treated on campus as a queer student has pushed me further away from the church than I have ever been before,” she said.

Malone said she is upset Monday night’s chapel enabled anti LGBTQ+ students to feel comfortable promoting hatred and believes the university could be better by addressing and condemning the behavior from those students.

“I think what most queer students want is an apology and a statement affirming our hurt, anger, and pain towards the way we have been treated ... A lot of us are exhausted having to constantly defend ourselves and fighting to be seen as people who are deserving of respect,” she said.

University response from faculty and student leaders came quickly.

University Chaplain, Erik Gernand, said the goal for Monday night’s chapel was to have a conversation with a leader in the field of aiding churches to become more welcoming for the LGBTQ+ community while still upholding Nazarene ethics regarding sexuality.

“It’s difficult to hold the two realities in tension at a place like Trevecca - where the Nazarene faith calls us to a traditional understanding of sexuality as God’s best for our lives, while also sharing our genuine and heartfelt love for students who believe differently. Where we fall short in holding those two things faithfully at the same time, I am deeply sorry,” said Gernand on Oct. 26 via Instagram stories.

ASB Chaplain Carolyn Johnson said on Instagram that the chapel planning team held a meeting to discuss ways to move forward more carefully and with more intentionality.

“This matter is weighing heavily because our people are important, their experiences are important, and we are beginning/continuing to have conversations that have not always been initiated. I am thankful for ways that we are growing in having conversations and I am lamenting the ways that this service was harmful instead of helpful. The way we listen to and treat each other in these moments matters,” she said.

Additionally, the Center for Student Development shared a list of contacts for students to reach out to and SGA is planning a Town Hall to discuss the issue more.

Boone said he is aware that the church across the decades has not done a good job of caring for those in the LGBTQ+ community, and while he believes it is possible to have an inclusive and welcoming community, the university must still uphold its Nazarene beliefs.

He said what happened in Monday night’s chapel was an attempt to help the entire Trevecca community understand what a gay student faces in terms of judgment from a Christian community, and the speaker just so happened to hold a traditional Christian sexual ethic.

“If we hear biblical understandings that are offensive to us, I don’t think that’s an act of violence in any way. I think it’s one person sharing with another person what they most deeply believe,” he said. “We [Trevecca] have always made space for dissenting theological opinions, our people are welcome to hold them. But it does not excuse us from declaring publicly, ‘This is what we believe in. This is how we read the scriptures’ because we are an expression of the Church of the Nazarene and we seek to say that in the context of love, hospitality and grace, and then to enter conversation with those who might differ.”

NEWS

Trevecca alum makes it to the Saturday Night Live stage

CONTINUED FROM COVER

criticism, where he stood out as one of the best student improvisers Frame has ever seen.

“By ‘best,’ I mean he was intuitive. He knew what to do before he was ever asked to do anything,” Frame said. “He was original, he could come up with new ideas and new material spontaneously, and there was a sense in which he already brought so much to the table, that he was a true collaborator in that class.”

Saturday Night Live divides cast members into two groups. There are “featured players,” like Johnson, who are new to the show and usually take on background or supporting roles in sketches. “Repertory players” are the core cast members who already have an established presence on the show. Featured players can be promoted to repertory players.

“SNL is a way in,” said Frame.

“If you are a cast member in any form, it is a foothold to do other projects in the industry.”

Swafford said seeing a previous Trevecca student who started out in a similar context reassures him that he might one day reach success in his own field.

“It is so inspiring and reassuring,” said Swafford. “If that Trevecca student can make it.”

What Michael wants people to take from Johnson’s rise to SNL is that he went through Trevecca just like everybody else.

“[Johnson] worked hard at developing what he had learned, and he was ready when given an opportunity to show what he could do,” said Michael. “It didn’t just drop into his lap, he was patient, he worked hard, and he was ready when the time came.”

NEWS

Alumni welcomed back home to the Hill for Homecoming 2021

CONTINUED FROM COVER

compare it, there’s no substitute for actual face to face contact,” said Michael Johnson, director of alumni and church engagement.

Because of the on-going pandemic, there was uncertainty about how many would attend the homecoming events.

“It’s been two years since we’ve been able to welcome people back to campus, and although it looks like people are starting to sort of return to normal on travel and other events, it’s just kind of unknown how many people are ready to come back here and be involved in these events,” said Johnson prior to the events.

After all the homecoming events ended, there were an estimated 2,600 in attendance.

“Attendance exceeded expectations since we had no idea how covid issues might impact people’s decisions,” said Johnson.

Homecoming events followed campus’s general Covid-19 procedures. Masks are not required outdoors and optional indoors, with the exception of classrooms.

The theme for the student events this year was “Welcome to Music City”. The Music City Gala dance was held Nov. 4 at the Annex. TNU theater’s production of “Freaky Friday” was shown every day of homecoming. A groundbreaking

ceremony at the site of the new residence hall and the homecoming bonfire were held Friday. The street fair, homecoming parade and homecoming coronation were on Saturday.

Class reunions for alumni were held throughout the weekend.

She Ann Vecino, sophomore class president, was in charge of organizing the homecoming parade, one of the biggest events of the weekend.

“I didn’t think that there was going to be that many people coming to the parade. I think I’ve realized that a lot of these alumni are really invested in the university and I thought that was really something that’s super special,” said She Ann Vecino.

Johnson emphasized that homecoming is not only for alumni, but also students.

“Homecoming, I hope, is a really big deal to students while they’re here. It’s a time to celebrate, you know, the past and the present. I just want current students to take in every moment they possibly can while they’re here, including homecoming, and recognize that you’re building friendships and memories that have a chance to last a lifetime. That’s what I think homecoming really is all about. It’s a celebration of Trevecca,” said Johnson.



Ground breaking for the new dorms took place on Friday Nov 5

NEWS

First generation student enrollment at an all time high

BY MACI WEEKS
CONTRIBUTOR

After a steady uptick in the enrollment of first-generation students, Trevecca has introduced new programming specific to the first-generation population.

This fall, Trevecca welcomed in its biggest freshman class to date. The year 266 students in the class of 2025 are first generation students. In total, Trevecca is home to approximately 603 first generation students, said Jeff Swink, coordinator of assessment and retention.

The federal government classifies a person as a first-generation student if neither of their parents, or legal guardians, have completed a bachelor’s degree. Students who had parents start, but not finish a 4-year degree, students whose parents only completed an associate degree, or students whose siblings, but not parents, completed

4-year degrees are also considered first generation students.

However, most first-generation students at Trevecca are the very first person in their families to attend college, said Mark Bowles, Director of Academic Services.

“Being a first-generation student can be hard, because sometimes I don’t even know what to ask,” said Fatima Vargas, a first-generation student, and vice president of the first-generation club.

“You have to advocate for yourself more than a regular student because you are unaware of what college is and you do not have many mentors who went to college before you,” Vargas said.

Over the summer, Bowles saw a gap in institutional support for first-generation students. As the first-generation student population continued to grow, Bowles looked to develop new ways to support

this population.

“Prior to this year, there has not been formal programming for first generation students. There has been support through efforts of people like Broderick Thomas in his diversity work, but no formal programming,” Bowles said.

Nearly 40 percent of each incoming freshman class are first-generation students, and the number has increased every year since 2018, said Bowles and Swink. Bowles worked to develop a mentor program for these students.

“This year we have started the process of providing more formal support for first gen students by launching the Generations Mentor Program (GMP). In this program, we match incoming first-generation students in their first year with returning first generation students, Generations Mentors, or GMs. The GMs and mentees engage in

activities throughout the semester that aim to build supportive and intentional relationships,” Bowles said.

The first-generation club works to plan one training activity per month. These activities are centered around topics of concern for first-generation students, including financial aid, career counseling, academic and mental health resources, and overall transition into the culture of higher education. These also provide an opportunity for older first-generation students to develop relationships with the first-year students.

“First generation students are excited about coming to college. Overall, they are really motivated people and bring that radiance into the classroom,” Vargas said.

First generation students can reach out to Mark Bowles (mabowles@trevecca.edu) to get involved in the mentorship program.

Pandemic-friendly activities for college students



Photo from Cheekwood Botanical Garden

BY CLAUDIA VILLEDA
CONTRIBUTOR

The start of autumn offers more than an extra hour of sleep and sweater weather, especially in Nashville.

Students looking to explore Nashville have several options off campus and many of those events are outside, which remains a safer gathering option during Covid-19, according to the CDC.

Trevecca clubs and SGA offer several on-campus events, but campus leaders also encourage students to experience Nashville this time of year.

“We try to incorporate off-campus trips. So we have one to Fifth and Broadway coming up. That will be our next one. It’s in November, but that’s easy and it’s safe because you already have a group of friends and a lot of times Trevecca will provide transportation. So I would say look for those off-campus events. And then also, when I have friends coming to town, I love just having them look on Trip Advisor and my friends love things like that,” said Maci Weeks, SGA social life director.

Many places in Nashville offer discounts for college students. Just make sure to show a university ID. Social media is also a popular way for students to find things to do.

“I love to find things to eat. It’s my favorite thing to do with friends. There are a lot of TikTok accounts like one called @weeatnashville. Honestly if just type in like ‘things to do in Nashville’, ‘places to eat in Nashville’ or ‘wall murals in Nashville’ on TikTok a ton of stuff comes up and so I think that’s helpful and that’s a more realistic look at things that aren’t just museums and things like that,” said Weeks.

Below are events and activities around Nashville that students can explore.

Pumpkin patch visits

Visiting a pumpkin patch is most people’s go-to autumn activity. This activity offers

fun for all ages. Weeks recommends Flying Ghost Pumpkin Patch on White Bridge Road just 9 miles from campus.

Flying Ghost Pumpkin Patch has no entry fee. They are open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Cheekwood Botanical Garden offers an all-day trip for students. Cheekwood is a 30 minute drive from Trevecca. During the fall season, Cheekwood holds the Cheekwood Harvest Festival, perfect for the autumn mood.

College students with ID get discounted tickets at \$16.

More information: <https://cheekwood.org/calendar/cheekwood-harvest/>

Drive-in theater

Stardust Drive-in Theatre in Watertown, TN is about a 40 minute drive from Trevecca. Offering a double-feature on two big screens, Stardust showings happen every weekend starting Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Stardust Drive-in shows the latest movies found at any other movie theatre, but can be viewed from the safety of a car. This activity allows students to practice social distancing and offers an outdoor experience as recommended by the CDC. Box office opens at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The Stardust website strongly recommends to arrive as soon as the box office opens to get the best parking spaces possible.

Tickets start at \$9 per person.

More information: <https://www.stardustdrivein.com>

Frist Art Museum exhibitions

Located two miles from campus, the Frist Art Museum is one of Nashville’s most well-known museums. Constructed in the 30s, the building was originally Nashville’s main post office. The Frist now offers different world-class exhibits



Photo from the Flying Ghost Pumpkin Patch



Photo features the Stardust Drive-In Theatre



Photo showcases the Frist Art Museum

year round. This fall the Frist presents the American Art Deco exhibition and Blue Purple Red by Johannesburg artist Mary Sibande, which addresses “inequities of race, gender, politics, and economics in postcolonial South Africa”, according to the museum website. An exhibit on medieval art of Bologna, Italy begins on Nov. 5.

Masks are required at the Frist. The Frist Art Museum is open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday.

College students with ID get discounted tickets at \$10. Discount is only available when buying tickets on-site.

More information: <https://fristartmuseum.org>

NEWS

Students learn to combat burnout in a stressed-out season

BY LINDSEY WHITE
CONTRIBUTOR

Bella Paddock finally laid her head down on her pillow at 11p.m. She went straight from her class to a babysitting job where she simultaneously kept the kids from ruining the house and typed up a paper. All her days seemed to look the same: classes, work, sleep. Her stomach ulcers flared with anxiety freshman year until the burnout led her to drop out of school. “It became so much that I stopped caring,” said Paddock, now studying for an associate in science in business. “There’s so much going on in your life that’s its almost laughable.”

A 2020 study done by the American Psychological Association titled “Stress in America” categorizes Gen Z adults (ages 18-23) as the most stressed generation, 87% of them report their college education as a significant source of stress.

As the semester starts to wind up, many students can report feeling burnt out and exhausted.

“College is a stressful environment. First and foremost, acknowledge that,” said Elizabeth Sparrow, an intern at the Trevecca counseling center for the clinical mental health track. Stress can be caused by a high expectation of course load and obligations outside of college. When that stress becomes chronic it turns into burnout and lack of motivation, said Sparrow.

“I was babysitting and maintaining my social life and doing school while at Trevecca and then the pandemic hit and I went to full time nannying and the school workload didn’t change and that was biting way more off than I could chew,” said Paddock.

According to The American Psychological Association burnout is “physical, emotional, or mental exhaustion

accompanied by decreased motivation, lowered performance, and negative attitudes towards oneself and others.”

Counselors in Trevecca counseling center see this every day in some of the students they serve.

“They’re not just students, they have many other obligations,” said Sparrow. “It can cause someone to need to take a break from college.”

That’s just what happened for Paddock. The physical and mental exhaustion had become overwhelming, and she dropped out of school in 2020, right after her freshman year.

“It’s not that I didn’t want my degree because I did and everyone around me was telling me I should,” said Paddock. There are some endeavors that are not realistic to take on with a full plate, said Paddock and Sparrow.

“It’s really recognizing it early and reaching out for those resources because

there are a lot of people available that want to help students,” said Sparrow.

Once Paddock recognized her symptoms and got the break she needed, she was able to take life slower, get used to one full-time job before taking on the title as a full-time student. She enrolled in online school at Trevecca for an associate degree in November 2020.

“Now that I’m more used to working a job full time I’m able to stack things on top of it,” said Paddock.

On a college campus there are resources that are available such as writing help, tutoring centers, and professors.

“Go back to the basics, everyone needs to sleep, eat, move their body, and get social connection,” said Sparrow.

Paddock will graduate with her Associates in science business this year. “Just do one thing at a time,” said Paddock.

NEWS

Trevecca to remain testing optional for another year

BY LINDSEY WHITE
CONTRIBUTOR

Trevecca will remain testing optional for another admissions cycle if incoming freshmen have a GPA of 2.75 or higher.

Several colleges and universities around the nation will continue to make exceptions for students who have not been able to take a college admission test because of Covid-19.

Trevecca was one of 75% of four-year colleges and universities that had test-optional applications for the 2021-2022 admission cycle, according to a list published by Fairtest, the National Center for Fair and Open Testing.

“We wanted to be mindful of the students that were coming in given the Covid situation they had just experienced,” said Michelle Gaertner, associate dean of student success.

College Board, the organization responsible for SAT registration, canceled exams through the month of May 2020, and many test centers canceled ACT/SAT tests due to the pandemic. Many high school seniors were left with

no test scores or old test scores when they started applying for college.

“We had 425 freshmen come in and 68 of them did not have a test score at all,” said Hailey Perry, director of enrollment systems. “It wouldn’t have been a fair metric for admission.”

Making standardized testing optional for freshmen removed barriers caused by COVID-19, test anxiety, and lower income, said Gaertner.

“For some students testing can be an anxiety, for some it’s a barrier for different reasons,” said Perry.

A 2015 Inside Higher Education study shows that students with the lowest average SAT scores come from families with less than \$20,000 family income and the highest scores were awarded to students with more than \$200,000 family income.

“In Tennessee they offer a free test for all the seniors in public schools, but it doesn’t always mean the student is present or prepared,” said Perry.

Students who were admitted this year without a standardized test score were required to take a placement test. The test didn’t affect students’ admission status, but informed enrollment how to place them in classes they would be prepared for.

“There’s an ethical portion to the admissions side, we don’t want to put you in a class you are not prepared for,” said Perry.

Trevecca student success officials have worked to be sure students get any academic support they need this year. So far, there has been an increase in tutor requests and academic services, said Gaertner.

As of October, there were 135 one-on-one tutor requests (not including math or music tutoring), 20 academic coaching requests, and 34 visits to the writing center, said Mark Bowles, director of academic services.

“All of us, professors and administration, were very mindful of making sure we

were setting them up with resources to alleviate anything they might have missed and those barriers that might’ve come,” said Gaertner.

Test-optional admissions will remain for students of a public, private, or accredited home school group with a GPA of 2.75 or above for the 2022-2023 academic year. Students with a 2.5-2.74 GPA will be required to submit an ACT/SAT score.

“We’re trying to make sure that academically we try to keep everything as balanced as possible and make sure the students are prepared for the rigor at Trevecca,” said Perry.

The university will continue to monitor the trends and barriers of standardized testing for high school seniors, and they will be studying this freshman class as the ongoing conversation about standardized testing continues in higher education, said Gaertner and Perry.

SPORTS

Administration working to secure funding for athletic facility

BY MADELINE BROWN
CONTRIBUTOR

Trevecca’s 306 athletes are in need of a new athletic facility and university officials are working on plans for a new facility, but first must secure funding.

“Trevecca has needed a new athletic building for about 10 years,” said University President Dan Boone.

Boone said the university needs to raise \$20-\$30 million to provide adequate court space and locker rooms to athletes and a workout facility for the entire student body.

The project is slated to be the next big

capital investment for the school and is the most pressing need for the student body, said Boone and Athletic Director Mark Elliot.

“The pressure only continues as the school grows,” said Boone.

The current plan is for the new athletic building to be located between the current building, Moore, and the fields. It will be a staggered three-story, standalone building. There will be three basketball courts side by side that can be sectioned off, portable bleachers added if needed, and another workout gym.

“Currently Trevecca has one court for basketball, cheer, and volleyball, and they don’t even have locker room space for visiting teams,” said Elliot.

The new building will provide locker room space to support the new cheer team and the women’s lacrosse team that is coming up within the next four years. It will include courts for intramurals and Trevecca indoor athletics, additional offices, and classroom space.

Boone wants the new building to “signal students to be healthy as part of a Christian life.”

“Taking care of our bodies is honoring God, and hopefully this new building will encourage students to get active. Having a sufficient athletic building would benefit Trevecca when it comes to athletics and to best serve its students,” he said.

NEWS

Commuter council back on campus

BY ALAINA GOODE
CONTRIBUTOR

After a year-long pause because of Covid-19, the Trevecca Commuter Council is back and advocating for students who don't live on campus. Inadequate vending machine options, lack of space in the commuter lounge, cramped parking and the start time of most events on campus were some of the concerns commuter students raised at the first meeting in October. "We matter too. Just because we might not pay as much, does not mean that we do not deserve the same resources that are provided and the same care. We

should not be forgotten," said Liliana Castro, sophomore and president of the council. Because of the pandemic and lack of steady leadership, the Commuter Council was put on pause in 2020-21. Castro saw this issue and took it upon herself to form an executive team and contact Logan Newkirk, a residential director and coordinator of clubs and organizations. "They (the current council) have exposure to what the council looked like before, without the various restrictions from COVID. Between that, they also have a varied approach with how to make

programming happen effectively on-campus for students," said Newkirk. Around 500 undergraduate students at Trevecca commute to campus and live an average of 20 to 60 minutes from campus. Students said traffic can be a challenge, but the financial savings is worth it. Other challenges include meeting people and being able to attend student events. "I feel like it's so much harder for a commuter to make friends than someone on campus," said Maria Pimentel, a sophomore and member of the club. Castro said one of the goals of the first meeting was to introduce the commuters to each other but also to encourage them

to get involved with all types of students. The commuter council meets bi-weekly and is well into the process of planning events. The elected commuter council for the school year of 2021-22 is as follows: Lilian Castro as president, sophomore Bethany Frigo as vice president, junior Evelyn Luna as social life director, sophomore Leo Mendez as director of communications, and junior Francisco Carrascal Saenz as treasurer. If you have questions or want to be involved with the Trevecca Commuter Council, please email Liliana Castro at: LMCastro@trevecca.edu.

OPINION

TNU worship choir member recounts recording experience

BY KAYLA HELMINTOLLER
CONTRIBUTOR

On Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, the Trevecca worship choir Testify was given the opportunity to record with Keith Everette Smith, GMA Dove Award and Grammy winner, for Tasha Layton's upcoming "This Is Christmas" single that came out on October 28, 2021. As a sophomore worship arts major and Testify worship choir member, I was able to experience the recording process. It was an exciting and meaningful experience as we got to learn what it is like to professionally record in a choir setting. We went through several takes with Keith directing us in what direction he and his wife, Tasha Layton, envisioned. Testify member and junior worship major Chris Clapp said he enjoyed working

with professionals in the music industry, especially "getting to see a small piece of what professionalism looks like in a Christian space." The recording opportunity was made possible by Testify's choir director Mark Hosny, who reached out to Smith about Testify, and directed the choir in preparation for the recording. "One of the reasons why Keith wanted to record Testify is because we're always prepared, and we get the job done," said Hosny. Hosny said this was not just a great learning opportunity, but a great spiritual opportunity as well. "I truly believe that when we have the intentionality in what we're doing and what

we are recording it is a spiritual opportunity and moment to worship God - like we should do every day," he said. "I think that transcends through the audio even though people can't necessarily see us in the choir room, and I think that anytime we do something we are singing to our Creator and we are giving Him an offering of our best. That's what Testify is about." Testify is more than an elective or required course, but rather the chance to worship our Lord and Savior with our peers in excellence and diligence. As a member, I continue in the choir even though I have no need for the credits, and I stay for the community and worship. Hosny spiritually speaks into the lives of the students and brings special guests

that do the same; all the while encouraging students to spiritually speak into the lives of others through praise and worship. "Experience is one of the biggest things that, in my opinion, is a big part of education," Hosny said. "It is not just going to classes, though that is important, but it's all the external experiences as well; so, to be able to sing and have the opportunity to be recorded by a Grammy Award producer who is also in the worship world and going on tour with Toby Mac is a great experience." Though God presents Testify with opportunities such as these, ultimately it is about community and about using music to bring students together to glorify our praiseworthy God.



Testify choir's recording session

NEWS

Trevecca students and faculty salvage a trip overseas



Photo provided by Trevecca Media Arts



Photo provided by Trevecca Media Arts



Photo provided by Trevecca Media Arts

BY MIRIAM RIXON
CONTRIBUTOR

After much planning and research, a canceled trip and nearly two years of waiting, a group of history, religion, music and film students spent the week of fall break in Rome.

The Theological and Moral Formation in Early Christian Worship class was originally planned as one of the university's FLARE (Faculty Led Academic Research Experience) projects in 2020. The idea was that a group of students from several departments in the university were going to travel to Rome to make a documentary about early church practices.

But Italy was one of the first countries to experience a Covid-19 outbreak during the early spring of 2020 so the trip was canceled.

"When the pandemic broke loose, we obviously couldn't travel," said Timothy Gaines, associate professor of religion. "This trip was our best attempt at recovering the trip that we lost in 2020."

The money for the initial trip was non-refundable, so it was considered beneficial to postpone the trip to a more convenient time rather than cancel it altogether. Several of the students who went on the trip had already graduated.

"Several of the people who were scheduled to go on the trip in 2020 have graduated and are no longer Trevecca students, and so some of them did not travel to Italy with the team," said Gaines. "It was definitely a flexible trip because half the people we took were recent Trevecca graduates rather than Trevecca students."

When the trip was originally set to take place in 2020 there were a total of 26 people going, including students and staff. That number dropped down to 19.

The Theological and Moral Formation in Early Christian Worship class consisted of religion, history, music and film majors who were originally going to Italy to work on a mini-documentary series based on the first four centuries of the Christian church's history.

"The original intent was to go over and film documentaries that allowed music majors to compose music, and we didn't get to do any of that because of the pandemic," said Gaines.

The students were unable to film the documentaries but were still able to see their research come to life when exploring how Roman culture shaped

early Christian tradition, said Gaines.

The trip lasted 8 days, during which the team explored Italy.

"We went all over Rome. We went to the Vatican. We went to some of the old Papal Basilicas, which are the big churches that are there," said Seth Conley, associate professor of communication studies.

According to Trevecca's policy, all student and faculty members had to get tested for Covid-19 48 hours prior to their flight. All international travel requires a negative Covid test result to leave and re-enter the country. Trevecca's clinic helped achieve this.

"The clinic was absolutely fantastic, and we could not have done this trip without the good work of Samantha Craighead and the rest of the team at the clinic," said Gaines.

Trevecca celebrates Homecoming 2021

“WHILE TREVECCA’S PARADE HAS NEVER RIVALLED MACY’S, WE HAVE CONTINUED A TREASURED TRADITION THAT GATHERS THE GENERATIONS ON THE QUAD FOR A TIME OF REMEMBERING. CLUBS, CLASSES, KINGS AND QUEENS, ATHLETIC TEAMS, ALUMNI REUNION GROUPS, DRAMA CASTS, CHEERLEADERS (THEY’RE BACK!!!), AND GOATS ON PARADE. IT IS A FUN EVENT WITH MORE SMILES THAN FACES. IT’S ONE OF THE WAYS THAT WE CELEBRATE COMMUNITY - YOUNG AND OLD, CURRENT AND PAST OCCUPANTS, THE GENERATIONS OF TREVECCA”

-DAN BOONE



Photo provided by Trevecca Marketing



Photo taken by Aliza Carrero



Photo provided by Trevecca Marketing



Cast of Freaky Friday photo provided by Maci Weeks



Photo provided by Grace Beckner



Cast of Freaky Friday photo provided by Maci Weeks

“WE BELONG TO A LARGER COMMUNITY – THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF TREVECCA WHO OCCUPIED THIS HILL LONG BEFORE WE ARRIVED. WE BELONG TO THEM... AND THEY BELONG TO US.” -DAN BOONE