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Student Orientation- Day 2 at Trevecca. Photo provided by Trevecca Marketing.

Enrollment exceeds 500 new students

BY GRACE BECKNER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

More than 500 new students joined the TNU community this fall, marking a new milestone for admissions.

Melinda Miller, executive director of undergraduate admissions, said there were a total of 501 freshmen and transfers enrolled this fall, with 425 of those being freshman and 76 transfers. In the fall of 2020, there were 350 new freshmen and 66 transfers.

Miller said the admissions team was anticipating an increase in enrollment from the beginning of the recruitment cycle due to the new test-optional admissions policy. This meant students only needed a 2.5 cumulative GPA in order to qualify for admission, eliminating the need for a minimum ACT score of 18 in addition to a 2.5 GPA.

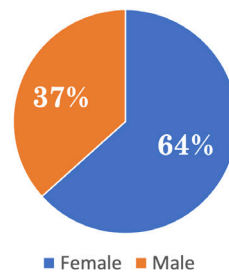
"When our cabinet and academic council approved test-optional admission, we knew that this would allow us to have more students be admitted, and potentially enrolled in the university," she said.

Miller said the university will continue to be test-optional through 2022, but got approval to increase the minimum GPA requirement for admission from a 2.5 to a 2.75 cumulative GPA.

Miller does not foresee this upward trend in admissions to continue into next fall. She expects a slight decline in new students in the fall 2022 due to the new GPA requirement "narrowing the funnel" of incoming students.

"I don't think it will be dramatic," said Miller, "but it is a little bit too early to predict that accurately."

According to statistics provided by Miller from admissions, 64% of new students are female and 36% of them are male.



Ethnicity statistics for the freshman class, as reported by students and recorded by the university, report 322 white students, 108 Hispanic, 36 Black or African American, 21 Asian, 10 American Indian or native American and 5 native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Miller said it was important to note that students are not required to disclose ethnicity, and that they may select multiple categories.

Reported religious affiliation revealed 100 (23.5%) freshman students identify as Nazarene, a 12 person increase from the fall of 2020. 22% of the incoming freshmen identify as Non-Denominational, making it the second largest religious group on campus.

These reports stated that if freshman and transfer religious affiliation data were combined, the percentage of Non-Denominational students would exceed Nazarenes, meaning the majority of new students are not Nazarene.

Jessie Rubio, coordinator of new student programs and resident director

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Masks added to dress code

BY DIANA LEYVA
ONLINE EDITOR

Face coverings have officially been added to the university's dress code policy as a temporary addendum for the 2021-22 academic year.

"This is based on current campus trends, CDC guidance and a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases in Nashville, and it applies to both vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals," states the official policy.

Failure to adhere to the mask policy will result in disciplinary action.

On the first offense, students will receive a warning from a faculty member.

For a second offense, students will be fined \$10, may be dismissed from class, marked absent and be referred to the Center for Student Development. For a third offense, students will have a required meeting with a member of the Center for Student Development and will be fined \$50.

A fourth offense will result in students being referred to the Community Accountability team for further disciplinary action.

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Student development makes changes

BY MACI WEEKS
CONTRIBUTOR

In an effort to optimize its effectiveness, Trevecca's Center for Student Development has implemented changes to its structure.

In February 2021, Jessica Dykes, dean of student development, announced that a restructuring would be happening within the coming months.

"We believe that by restructuring these professional roles, we will strengthen our efforts to provide cohesive, intentional student experiences from orientation to graduation," Dykes said.

Megan McGhee, who is currently on maternity leave, has moved into the role of assistant dean of student life. This position is new this year and puts McGhee over multiple student life affairs, including new student orientation, first-year experience, and SGA. In her absence, Jessie Rubio, the coordinator for New Student Programs, has been heading up peer mentors and link classes. Rubio is amongst the returning Student Development staff who has had a shift in their role.

CONTINUED PAGE 2

University taking educational approach to COVID-19 vaccines

BY LINDSEY WHITE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Chronicle of Higher Education has identified 1,053 universities across the nation that are requiring the vaccine for residential students; however, Trevecca Nazarene University is taking an educational approach to encourage students to get vaccinated.

“We’re an educational facility, we truly believe the truth is there and by taking the time to ask questions and look at it you can find the truth,” said Alisha Russel, associate professor of Biology.

Currently, 54 percent of students are fully vaccinated and 76 percent of faculty and staff, according to Samantha Craighead, resident healthcare provider.

The administration of the university hopes to get numbers high enough for herd immunity to apply, which is about 75 percent, by initiating open conversations for questions through the COVID Education Team. The COVID Education Team consists of six experts in the fields of biology, medicine, and religion who have come together to research and discuss questions regarding COVID-19 on campus.

“All hesitancy is reasonable, and it is fine to be in that place with questions. No one can pretend to have all the answers to all the things, but I would encourage those with questions to seek out accurate answers,” said Craighead.

Frequent questions about the vaccine have to do with the quick release, students feeling they are at low risk of contracting a serious case of the virus, and rumors of infertility as a side effect according to Russel.

“What we’re finding is a wide variety of reasons that people are hesitant, and our goal is not to force someone but just to address the questions,” said Russel.

Russel said research for a coronavirus vaccine has been in development since an outbreak of SARS-CoV-1 in 2002, making the process of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine release so quick.

“The groundwork had already been started, it’s not like we were starting from scratch,” said Russel.

The Delta variant of the coronavirus has put younger individuals at a higher risk than the original variant, making the vaccine more urgent and necessary for them, said Russel.

“The virus is very smart, it’s very adept at infecting lots of individuals and then causing serious disease,” said Craighead.

Women who hope for a future pregnancy have questioned vaccination. According to the American College of Gynecology, all pregnant individuals and anyone who wants to be pregnant should get the vaccine. Studies have shown no difference in fertility rates between those that have gotten the vaccine, those that were diagnosed with COVID-19, and those who have never been exposed to either.

“If infertility were a possibility, we wouldn’t want to mass vaccinate people,” said Russel.

The misconception of fertility issues comes from similarities between a protein important during placental implantation and a protein found in the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.



Recent PA graduates administer vaccines at the September 3 vaccine clinic in Benson Auditorium
Pictured left to right: Lindsey Howe, Hope Larson, Kristie Yates

However, the region of similarity is too small for the immune system to recognize and antibodies against COVID-19 would not affect fertility, said Russel.

“We definitely want to honor people’s right to make a choice about what is right for them medically, emotionally, and spiritually. If they feel that getting vaccination is not the right decision for them at this time, then we want to honor that freedom,” said Craighead.

For further information on the vaccine, email: CovidEducationTeam@trevecca.edu.

If any student wants to get the vaccine, appointments can be scheduled at the clinic by email at clinic@trevecca.edu

“We want you to have the best possible experience, we want you to have all the Trevecca community can offer, and to do that we need to get back to normal,” said Russel.

Student development restructures staff positions

CONTINUED FROM COVER



The Animal Print Link Group holds an impromptu potato sack race
Photo provided by Trevecca Marketing

“I have always known peer mentors were exceptional leaders but have now gotten to see firsthand the hard work they put into our freshmen students and could not be more excited to work with them in this endeavor,” Rubio said.

Morgan Morris, a new addition to Trevecca’s staff, now serves as the director of student life. The position was created to oversee campus activities, SGA, commuter programs, intramurals, chapel engagement, and traditions. Morris focuses on developing systems, structures, programs, and opportunities that benefit students during their time at Trevecca.

After a full month back on the hill, Morris is happy with what she has seen so far.

“I think this new structure benefits both students and student leaders with more clear channels of access and support, as well as added efficient and effective resources. Thus far, I feel like the transition has gone well. I believe our team has enjoyed working with our students, student leaders, and professional staff in new capacities. And, we are excited to see how it continues to unfold!” Morris said.

Masks officially added to student handbook rules

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Both faculty and students will be able to report violations.

Faculty will be reporting violations to the Center for Student Development, and students will be able to report directly to csd@trevecca.edu, their resident director, or through the COVID-19 concern reporting link found on [tnu4u](https://tnu4u.com).

“It is our hope that our students will honor the face-covering requirement and fines will not be needed,” said Jessica Dykes, associate vice president and dean of student development, via email.

To read the policy in its entirety, visit the dress code policy available on [tnu4u](https://tnu4u.com).



More than 500 new students call TNU home this fall

CONTINUED FROM COVER

for the ladies apartments, said freshman participation in LINK groups allows them to experience a “holistic-minded approach” to university orientation because it allows them to “get to know themselves, each other, and the university as a whole.”

Rubio said the new student increase has caused a renewed emphasis on the time spent towards ensuring intentional interactions with students in their LINK groups so the freshman feel known and a part of a community.

“We are making sure that not one student doesn’t have a support system,” said Rubio.

LINK groups present new students with information about services provided on campus meant to support them, such as counseling and tutoring, Rubio said.

Laurie Wells, Georgia Hall resident director and coordinator of wellness for student life, said the resident assistants and other resident directors were “pretty prepared” for the influx of freshmen this year.

“All our rooms are always ready for everyone,” said Wells. “With my RAs, because it is a large class, I want them to be sure they are very intentional that no one gets left behind or falls through the cracks.”

Wells said the freshmen she has

interacted with have been excellent, both in their enthusiasm towards getting involved in college life, and their compliance with the university mask mandate.

“I think they are really happy to be here, I think they are happy that things

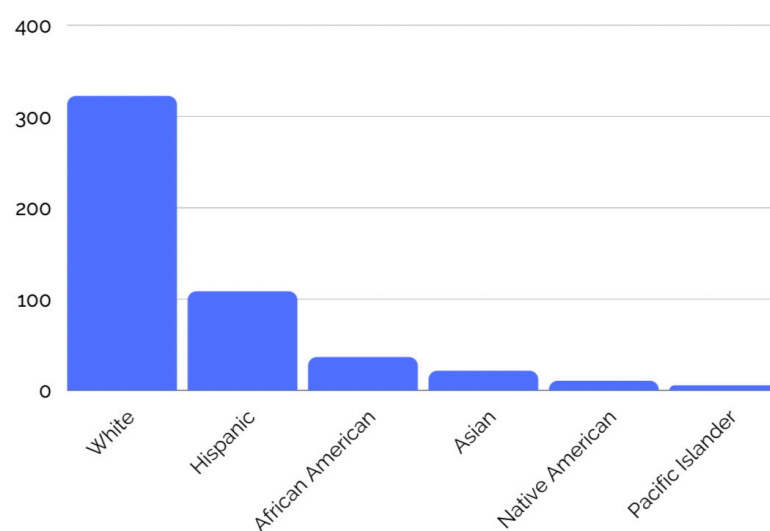
are semi-back to normal, as we are allowed to have large events,” said Wells. “They are excited to get in there and be leaders, and help make things great on campus.”

Rubio described this year’s freshman as an interactive group excited to get to know each other and their new community, which she especially noticed in the way the students responded to the Field Day event being moved from Camp Widjiwagan to the Trevecca campus.

“We expected people to be super disappointed and maybe not as into it, but...every single one of them was having so much fun,” Rubio said. “They were all interacting, they were playing the games, you could tell in the way they were dressed up that they really went all out this year, and you could tell they were just really pumped to be here.”

Miller described this freshman class as “a group of overcomers,” who faced adversity and pushed through difficult times to be at Trevecca and have “come out on top.”

Trevecca New Enrollment Ethnicity Statistics



New university travel policy requires vaccines for all students

BY GRACE BECKNER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The university has approved a new policy requiring anyone going on a Trevecca-associated trip to be vaccinated in order to attend.

The policy was adopted on Sept. 5 by the university cabinet and is already in effect, said University Provost Tom Middendorf.

“[The policy] is about protecting students and their safety,” said Jim Hiatt, associate provost and dean of the Skinner School of Business and Technology. “On the practical side, if you are traveling now, more and more countries, cities and organizations are requiring vaccinations to participate.”

The vaccination requirement applies to domestic and foreign travel in situations such as missions, academic and community service trips, said Hiatt.

Athletes traveling for games are exempt.

Trevecca Nazarene University president Dan Boone said much of the thought behind the policy had to do with figuring out how to make foreign travel a possibility this year after everything had to be canceled due to Covid-19.

“To be a student here, you can be unvaccinated and it really not affect you, except for maybe having to quarantine,” said Boone. “If you are in a foreign country it is a whole other deal.”

Boone said the new policy was not a strategy to raise the vaccination rate on campus, but part of an effort to ensure student safety in other countries.

Instilling a vaccination requirement for faculty and students going on overseas trips made the trips easier to plan, with the differences around other country’s quarantine procedures and vaccination requirements a major factor, Boone said. The easiest way the university saw to

get a Covid-19 infected student back in the country was to guarantee they were vaccinated before they went.

“[In some countries], if you are even contact-traced you have to quarantine by yourself somewhere for two weeks before you can even fly back to where you came from,” he said.

The adoption of this new policy has allowed a group of 18 Trevecca students and faculty to go to Italy in October, after the trip was initially canceled in 2020. Half of these students have already graduated, said Tim Gaines, associate professor of religion.

“This is our attempt to recover the trip as best we can,” said Gaines.

What once was a collaborative trip to Italy meant to produce “historical documentaries on the first four centuries of Christianity” as a joint effort between theology, history, communication studies

and music students, is now not going to be what they hoped, said Gaines.

The group plans to go and use the resources and research they possess to have the best educational experience they can, even if they will not come away with the same project they anticipated.

“I did not think we were going to go, until vaccines were readily available,” said Gaines. “I thought vaccinations were going to be our ticket to Italy, and so as soon as those were available we started having honest conversations about the possibilities.”

Gaines said international travel for academic purposes is one of the “richest opportunities Trevecca students have available to them,” and that he would like to encourage students to take advantage of the tools they have to be able to have this “phenomenal college experience.”

New students come together for the Weeks of Welcome



Photo provided by Trevecca Marketing

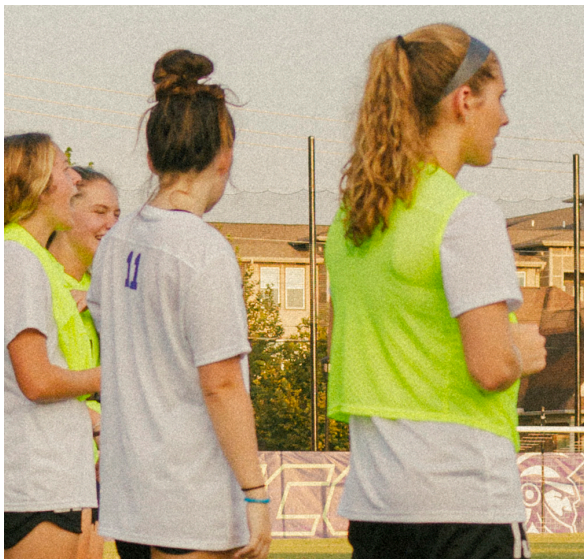


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Trevecca Counseling Center ready to serve students

BY MADELINE BROWN
CONTRIBUTOR



Photo provided by Madeline Brown
The Counseling Center can found in the Smith House behind Georgia Hall

After more than a year of offering virtual counseling sessions, the counseling center now offers both in-person and virtual sessions.

Online sessions for group therapy are available, while in-person sessions with a counselor are made by appointment only.

Miller Folk, interim director of the Trevecca Counseling Center, is looking forward to being able to serve and re-engage with clients who rely on in-person care.

“Some students have not felt comfortable with the online platform, not having a safe confidential space [available] to have [virtual] counseling,” said Folk. “[Some students] did not feel a strong therapeutic connection through the screen, or needed higher levels of support than online counseling could offer.”

The Trevecca Counseling Center employs 3 staff members and 20 counselors, 17 being interns and 3 post-grad volunteers. Last year the center saw 4,309 hours of clients with 250 intake sessions.

According to the Center for Disease Control, “three out of four Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 report poor mental health tied to the pandemic.”

According to Folk, some common trends counselors have seen among their clients are “anxiety, depression, isolation, processing past trauma, academic distress, and needing social support.”

Bethany Maynard is a junior education major who has been going to the Trevecca counseling center for two years, and participated in the virtual sessions last year.

Maynard said the affordability of the center and their flexibility around her schedule has been beneficial for her. The counselors get to know their patients on a personal level, and can help students with big or small problems, she said.

Folk said the goal and place of counseling on a college campus is “to provide a safe therapeutic presence for all students to come and be met exactly where they are. To provide clinical resources, tools, and support to help them engage with life in the ways they desire.”

To set up a counseling appointment go to www.tnu4u.trevecca.edu and chose “services.” Under the services tab chose “Counseling Services” and scroll the bottom for the “Make an Appointment” button.

TREK is back in full swing after Covid-19

BY ELIANA ROGERS
CONTRIBUTOR

The three-day backpacking trips for LINK students are back this semester, with the addition of following COVID-19 safety requirements.

Last year the annual camping trip for freshmen who sign up came to a standstill with trips being postponed due to COVID-19.

TREK students will be following the same campus Covid-19 procedures during the trips, said Sommer Bright, a peer mentor. Masks are required when in enclosed spaces during travel, but are not required outdoors.

TREK groups have an extra adventure in addition to the classes and outings that all LINK groups do. The trip involves backpacking at the South Cumberland plateau for three days during the fall semester.

“TREK is open to all new students enrolled in Trevecca’s Life, Calling, and Purpose course, a required class for all new students,” according to the Trevecca website.

The classes spend time discussing outdoor skills so no one feels unprepared. The university provides gear for the students, and is open to those who have backpacked before and those who have never even slept in a tent.

“I’m really excited to get out in the woods again, all the stillness and the quietness, and getting to know the people in my group better. We have a really awesome group,”

said Miciah White, a freshman in the TREK group.

“We’re planning a trip for upperclassmen in the spring. I’m looking towards having

out-of-state trips eventually and this will be the gateway for that,” said Kathy Gutierrez Eberly, coordinator of campus recreation and head of TREK.



Photos provided by Aoiza Carrero

Quarantine space much more limited this year

BY AMELIA AGEE
CONTRIBUTOR

Students needing to quarantine because of Covid-19 will likely have to go home this year.

Last year, the university attempted to reserve around 10 percent of campus space for quarantined students, but with record enrollment this fall, that's not possible this year.

"Last year, we had a lot more quarantine space. This year, for the most part, you get sent home if you get quarantined or you'll have to go somewhere close, which I feel like it's kind of inconvenient for students that don't live anywhere close

to here. But, to allow more students to be on campus, that's what had to be done," said Cierra Kelly, second-floor resident assistant for Georgia Hall.

Vaccinated students do not have to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19 unless they begin to show symptoms or test positive. Trevecca's current student vaccination rate is around 50 percent while the faculty and staff vaccination rate is around 76 percent, said Steve Sexton, director of human resources, in an email to university staff. There are currently 4 active covid cases on campus and around 16 quarantined.

Trevecca has partnered with local hotels to provide quarantine space for international and long-distance students.

"A lot of our quarantine space on campus is reserved for international students who can't go home. We do have students who don't have a car and live so far away so they can't get anywhere," said Madeline Clark, resident director of Johnson Hall.

The entire basement of Johnson Hall, the sub-basement of Benson Hall and a Shingler Apartments breezeway, among other housing spaces, were used to isolate COVID-positive students last year.

"It was the whole left side of the Benson building, except for the RD and RA's apartments. Then there were multiple random apartments that people were in, so we just utilized them as space. Coming into this year, we had to be more strategic about where we were putting our space and how much we needed," said Clark.

Trevecca is currently using the same hotels this year only as a last resort, but not nearly as much of the campus for quarantine space. For example, the basement of Johnson Hall and the left side of Benson are not being used as quarantine space.

Fall play 'Freaky Friday' opens Oct. 29

BY MIRIAM RIXON
CONTRIBUTOR

The fall play, 'Freaky Friday' has powerful themes based on current social conversations, showing the audience empathy.

"We wanted to [show] stories that would put an emphasis on people who had to learn in different ways what it was like to be another person," said Jeff Frame, show director and professor of communication studies. "'Freaky Friday' is a story that does that, [with] the two main characters switching places and learning empathy and what it means to really listen to each other. It's unique in that way."

The musical 'Freaky Friday' will take place in Benson Auditorium from October 29 through November 7. Its the first show in "Season 180 degrees" which is about trading places. The shows this year will focus on walking in someone else's shoes by having characters' lives get flipped so they have more understanding.

'Freaky Friday' was originally a comedic children's novel written by Mary Rodgers, published by Harper & Row in 1972. In it, the two protagonists, a mother and daughter, switch bodies and must learn how to navigate life in each other's shoes. It has been adapted in several films and theatrical productions since.

The cast and production team are following Trevecca's Covid-19 protocols.

"We have understudies and swings for this production," said Melody Marse, a cast member and junior at Trevecca majoring in commercial music. "We do this in case one of us gets sick, or if we have to quarantine and we are not able to be here. [If that happens] then we have our swings who step up and take over any role."

Tickets are on sale to the public now. Students with a student ID can buy \$5 tickets at the door to any show.

Showtimes

Oct. 29	7 p.m.
Oct. 30	3 p.m.
Oct. 30	7 p.m.
Oct. 31	2 p.m.
Nov. 4	7 p.m.
Nov. 5	7 p.m.
Nov. 6	3 p.m.
Nov. 6	7 p.m.
Nov. 7	2 p.m.

Committee focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion

BY DIANA LEYVA
ONLINE EDITOR

A committee on campus initially formed to discuss the university's response to issues of racism and equity will continue its work this year with a new leader on campus.

Terry Schofield, who will serve as the assistant provost for mission, excellence and reconciliation, will arrive on campus in October. He will work closely with the thriving community, initially a small task force known as the Diversity Equity and Inclusion committee (DEI).

Schofield comes from a background in racial equity work and has been nationally recognized as an expert in human performance and personal relationships. In addition to providing counseling for NBA athletes and the Hollywood elite, Schofield is also the author of several books and journals focused on human development and mental performance.

He is also the co-founder of

Relationship Academy, a nonprofit organization that assists individuals and organizations resolve conflict, improve communication, and form closer, more intimate relationships with others.

Tom Middendorf, university provost, along with Schofield discussed the desire to encapsulate the overall goal of the DEI committee, and together decided to officially name it The Thriving Community.

Schofield will serve as a direct report to the provost, the president and will also serve on the university's administrative council. He is expected to arrive in October from Johnson City.

After the task force met last year, they met with the President's Cabinet to issue their proposal and discuss key ideas and student concerns which had been discussed during a town hall meeting.

Many students felt the university's response to the 2020 murder of George

Floyd was not as timely as it could've been.

Then in February, students expressed frustration with the university on social media for not honoring Black History Month, Black Alumni or sharing any Black history on Trevecca's official Instagram page. Another concern among students, was it is frequently student led organizations which host cultural type events, and not the university.

Discussions were also had regarding faculty training, focusing on the curriculum of professors such as what guest speakers are being brought in and what authors are assigned for reading. Beyond the curriculum, students addressed the lack of racial and ethnic diversity in faculty.

"These conversations are broad conversations and need to be had at a higher level at the university. It's about understanding our student population,

and making sure that we are making decisions that reflect the diversity of our institutions," said Middendorf.

"The task force was moving from how do we address when crises happen to how do we move into working proactively to make sure that we are a campus that offers what we need to all students. We have lots of aspirations and goals but I think what we've been hearing is that the impact of our intentions hasn't always met up to what we were hoping," said Alison Buzzard, program director and assistant professor of social work.

Buzzard hopes the lines of communication stay open and students know there are avenues and spaces for them to share their concerns and implement change on campus.

"I think we [faculty and staff] have a lot to learn from our students," she said.

New students come together for the Weeks of Welcome



Photo provided by Trevecca Marketing



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