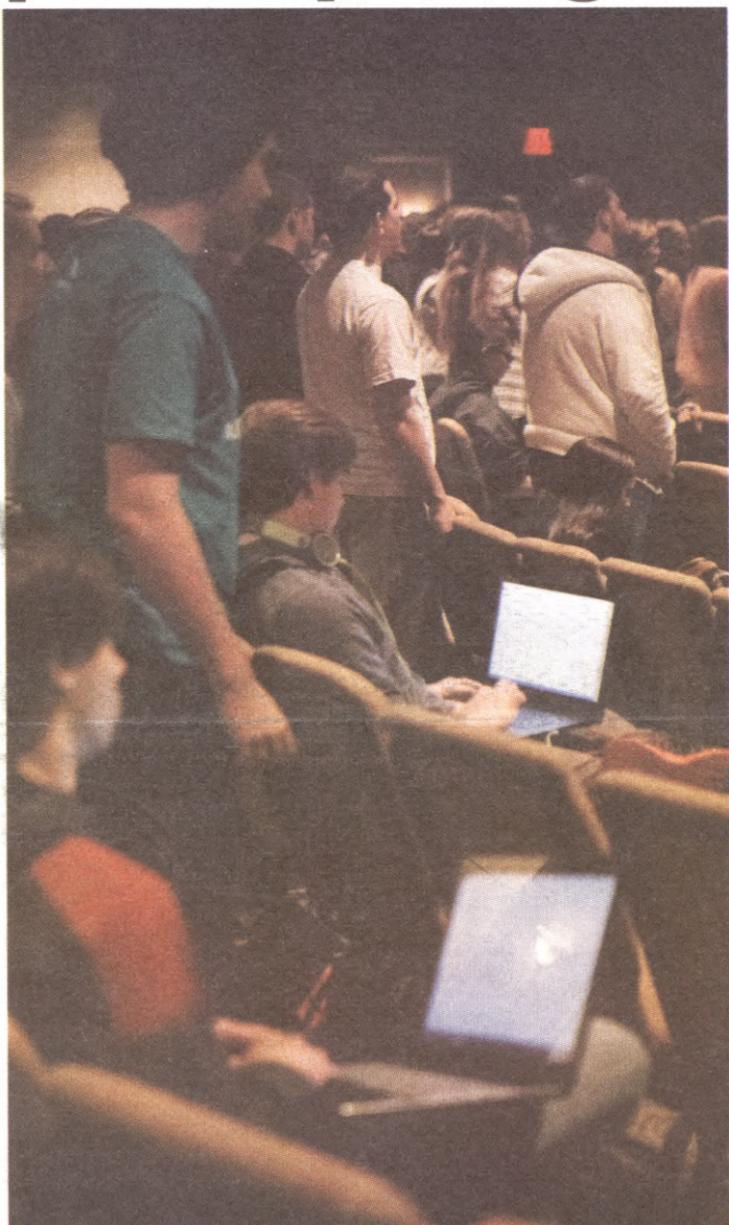


TrevEchoes

Official student newspaper since 1944 • February 2016 • TrevEchoesOnline.com

Going to chapel doesn't mean participating for some students



Two Trevecca students work on homework during a chapel service in Boone Auditorium. Photo by Griffin Dunn.

BY BROOKLYN DANCE & JESSICA PLYLER
CONTRIBUTORS

Laptop open, headphones in, Orange Is The New Black season 2 on. This Trevecca student is ready for chapel to begin.

To many students at Trevecca, the required chapel credits per semester are seen as just that: a requirement.

Trevecca students are required to attend 24 chapels and while a majority of students meet that requirement each year, whether or not they actually participate while they are there is another matter.

While there's no method to measure participation in chapel, associate chaplain Heather Daugherty said that last year was an all-time low.

"During a Holy Week activity last spring, it was awful. Seriously, as I was making my way toward the cross-

the place that Jesus literally gave up His life- I had to step over people on their phones and laptops. I couldn't believe it," she said.

In 2007, a survey conducted by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities asked students all over the country to rate the importance chapel has had on their life. On a scale of one to seven, Trevecca students rated the overall importance as a 5.26.

In the spring of 2015, a Trevecca student satisfaction survey asked students if spiritual formation experiences provided by Trevecca gives opportunities to grow in their walk with God. This study found that on a scale of one to four, which one being strongly disagree and four being strongly agree, the overall rat-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

SPORTS

Student-athlete GPA on the rise

PAGE 4

OPINION

Editorial: Black History Month

PAGE 6

FEATURE

IT major runs production company

PAGE 8

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INDEX

NEWS	2
SPORTS	4
OPINION	6
FEATURES	7

SPORTS

Trojan basketball to be televised

BY ANDREW PRESTON
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in school history, the Trevecca's men's and women's basketball teams will compete in nationally televised games.

On Saturday, Feb. 6, the two Trevecca teams will be the first to play in the new "G-MAC Game of the Week," which will be broadcast live from Trojan Fieldhouse.

In 2012, Trevecca joined a new conference as part of its admission as an NCAA Division II acceptance. The G-MAC is an eight school athletic conference that spans 530 miles from Nashville, TN to Cleveland, OH.

Dubbed the American Sports Net-

work's Division II Basketball Showcase, the games will begin with the women at 1 p.m. followed by the men at 3 p.m. in Trojan Fieldhouse. The games will broadcast live on the official website of the NCAA and may be potentially picked up by the local TV affiliate, Sinclair.

"The G-MAC conference said that they were looking for compatible schools to fit this opportunity. They wanted a hotly-contested matchup and that game has become Trevecca vs Cedarville," said Mark Elliott, Trevecca athletic director.

The Trojans (7-11, 3-1) face a tough challenge in Cedarville (8-9, 1-2) as the Yellow Jackets have beaten the Trojans five of the last seven games. Trevecca's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

FEATURES

Junior social justice major takes story to Washington



Photo provided by Tabitha Sookdeo.

BY JESSICA PLYLER
CONTRIBUTOR

Tabitha Sookdeo went from high school to Capitol Hill to fight for immigration reform. She thought that was her only option.

"I wasn't able to go to school for two years after high school," Sookdeo said. "Even though I was eligible for a 100 percent scholarship to a state

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Trevecca students meet Martin Luther King III

BY MANON LANE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Fifteen Trevecca students and faculty spent Martin Luther King Jr. Day listening to King's son speak at an event marking the legacy of his father and the civil rights movement.

Realizing the Dream, sponsored by the New Hope Foundation, was held on Jan. 18 in the Grand Ballroom of the Music City Center in downtown Nashville, Tennessee.

Trevecca was contacted by the New Hope Foundation

“ HE MADE PEOPLE FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT THINGS. HE CHALLENGED THEIR BELIEFS AND VALUES, AND I LIKED THAT.”

-JAZMIN RAMIREZ

and gifted 100 tickets for the opportunity to learn about a time in U.S. history, from the perspective of the son of Martin Luther King III. and Coretta Scott King, as well as comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory.

Matt Spraker, associate dean of students for community life, attended the event and gained new insights from King that he wasn't expecting.

"I never stopped to think, 'What's that like, to be the child of someone who was controversial, and knew the likelihood of [his dad] getting assassinated was out there?'" said Spraker. "And being a dad myself, how do you balance that, being a dad and changing the world?"

A total of 43 tickets were picked up, but only 15 students and faculty rode

Trevecca's bus downtown. Though disappointed with the small turnout, Spraker said it was a last-minute event held in the middle of the day during classes, making it difficult for many students to attend.

The event was held in a conversational format between Gregory and King, and Mark Thompson, host of Sirius XM radio show, Make it Plain, acting as master of ceremony. Realizing the Dream was broadcast live on Sirius XM.

King echoed his father's belief in nonviolence, and blamed a society that programs and promotes a "vicious cycle of sickness."

"God's highest creation, humankind, has the ability to think and to reason, and yet when we get ready to resolve a conflict, we resort to the lowest form of resolving it. 'I'm gonna hit him,'" said King giving an example, adding, "Actually I wish it was just hitting now, instead it's, 'I'm gonna take him out,' with some kind of gun."

Along with discussing the importance of continuing his father's legacy and standing up for the justice of all, King gave the audience a different view of his father— that of a dad who took his children swimming and played sports with them.

"I always grew up knowing his father as just an activist. I never could imagine Martin Luther King Jr. swimming, playing football, and basketball with them" said Torrance Robinson, senior and



Martin Luther King III at the Realizing the Dream event on Monday, Jan. 18. Photo by contributor, Paola Sanchez.

SGA coordinator of non-traditional activities. "I walked away just thinking about how important the father figure is, even more now. If MLK had time to spend with his children, any man should."

Trevecca sophomore and social justice major, Jazmin Ramirez thought that hearing from both King and Gregory, was an amazing opportunity. She said she appreciated the fact that Gregory wasn't afraid to speak of things going on in the world, yesterday, and still today.

"He made people feel uncomfortable about things," said Ramirez. "He challenged their beliefs and values, and I liked that."

Gregory also urged the African American community to look at the calendar, marking Martin Luther King [Jr.'s] birthday and the national holiday named in his honor.

"Let me tell you why this day is important— think about all those folks that hated King, that wanted to kill

them all, throw a bomb in the house and not care who was inside," said Gregory. "They never thought that there'd be a day that you would get a calendar and see this man's name in there. Twice. And we didn't take guns and nastiness to make them do that; they understood who he was at the end of the day."

Also addressing the audience with their own hopes of continuing the fight against inequality were Nashville mayor Megan Barry, congressman Jim Cooper, and general sessions court judge Angelita Blackshear Dalton.

The event closed with Yolanda King, daughter of MLK III and Andrea King, following in her grandfather's and father's footsteps leading the audience in an impassioned chant, "Spread the word, have you heard, all across the nation, we are going to be, a great generation."

Robinson hopes that eventually, Trevecca will recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day by closing campus, continuing to be a part of events like this, and reaching out to the people in their own backyard.

"I have no problem with overseas missions— we need that," said Robinson. "But take a look at what's going on down our street, down Murfreesboro Road, and even the situation in Flint [Michigan water crisis]. These people need our help, right here. These could be potential students that could come to Trevecca, but if we're not showing that Christian love like we say we do, they might say, 'Oh, well.'"



Martin Luther King III spoke with attendees of the Realizing the Dream event on Monday, Jan. 18. Photo by contributor, Paola Sanchez.

STUDENTS USING CHAPEL TO STUDY AND WATCH NETFLIX CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

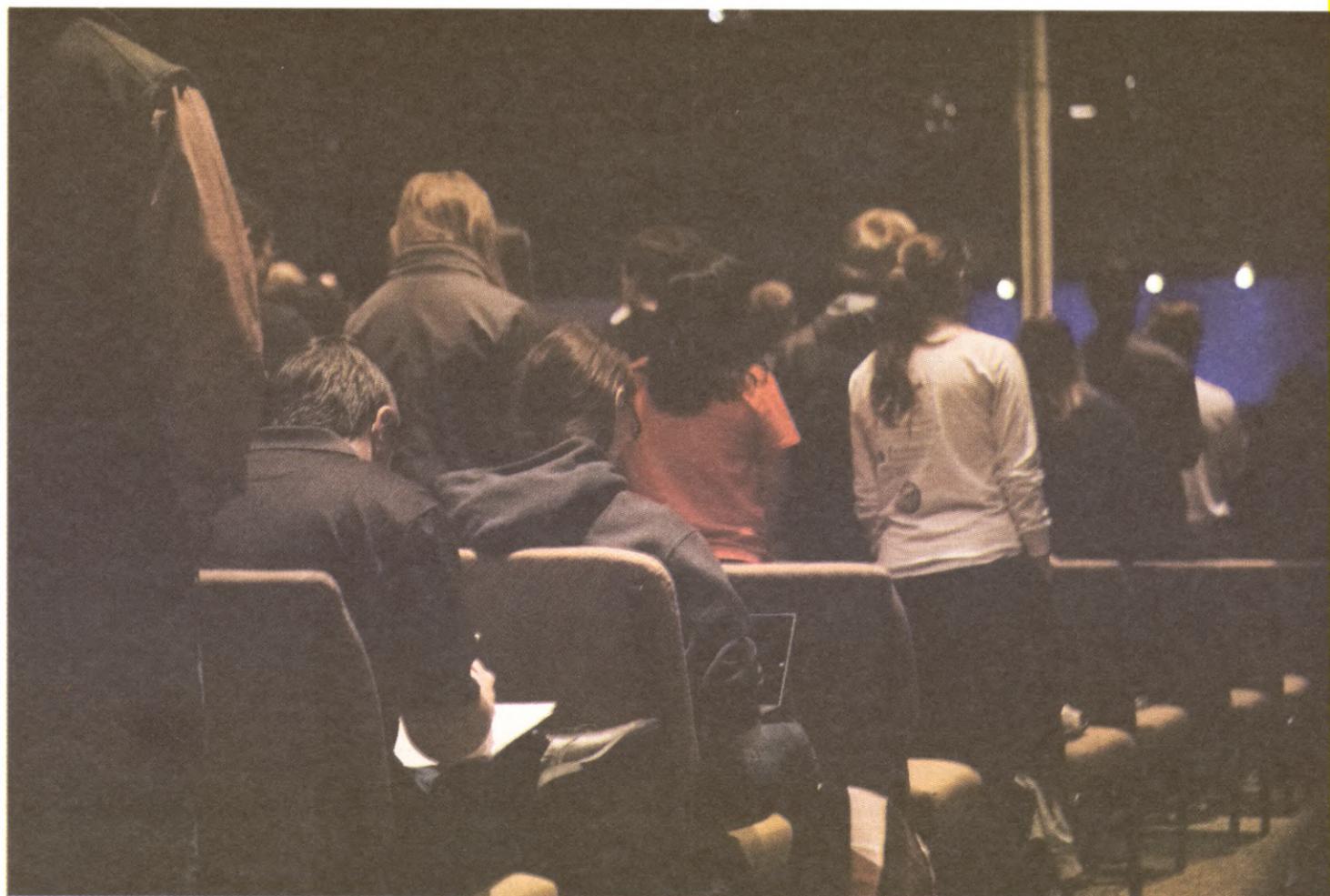
ing was a 3.00.

Daugherty said that after seeing an incredible decrease in student participation last year, the chapel team has made a conscious effort to make chapel more engaging. This has mostly consisted of Daugherty speaking to student leaders at the Leadership Summit this summer, encouraging them to be better leaders during chapel.

School chaplain Justin Schoolcraft has spoken about the importance of chapel on multiple occasions. In the November issue of the Trevechoes, he urged students in a column to go to chapel even when they don't feel like it.

"As you open yourself to the Spirit, your desires begin to be realigned to God's will [...] This is why I think chapel is so important for Trevecca," Schoolcraft wrote.

Even with this conscious push by student leaders, attitudes toward chapel range from those who can't



Two Trevecca students work on homework during a chapel service in Boone Auditorium. Photo by Griffin Dunn.

get enough to those who couldn't care less.

"From last year to this year, I have seen a difference in the leadership. Student leaders are stepping up and making chapel more of a church environment rather than just a room. However, whether students choose to engage or

not is up to them," said Michael Shelton, a member of the chapel band.

Daugherty agreed that there are always going to be students that don't care.

"I can't spend my life being so focused on those people. The people who want to participate are going

to, and the students who don't, aren't going to," Daugherty said.

Junior and Residence Hall Association Chaplain Brittni Carmack said she views chapel as a complete waste of her time.

"It's an hour of my life that could be spent elsewhere. Honestly I couldn't care less about it- I'm just trying to get my 24 credits and get out."

Freshman Lily Thomas said that the reason she doesn't pay attention is that she is dissatisfied with the content of chapel.

"The speakers are too fluffy. Almost juvenile, I'd say. Coming from a church that is rooted deeply in the gospel, it felt like I went from seminary to church camp."

Students who are not engaged in the

chapel services spend their time doing an array of other things. From more subtle distractions like Twitter or texting to the more extreme like watching Netflix.

"Everyone is always doing homework. Probably shows what people actually care about," said Thomas. "Sometimes I even read my Bible."

Shelton said that although levels of indifference in participation vary from student to student, the real change is only going to come when individuals make that choice.

"When students do engage, it creates an easier atmosphere to feel comfortable worshipping in for everyone, and it all starts by simply closing your laptop for 30 minutes," said Shelton.



Trevecca students perform in chapel. Photo by Griffin Dunn.

Trevecca student-athletes have higher av



(l #14) Danielle Moll, one of the nine Trevecca student-athletes with a 4.0 in fall 2015, after winning the championship game of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference volleyball tournament with her fellow teammates. Photo provided by Trevecca Trojans.

“ THIS IS A VICTORY WE ALL SHARE, AND WE’RE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF OUR ATHLETES FOR THEIR HARD WORK IN THIS AREA. ”

-GREG RUFF, DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

BY CONNER ADAMS & ELIJAH RIDLEY
CONTRIBUTORS

In the past five years, the average GPA of student athletes at Trevecca has increased from 3.0 to 3.2.

According to a press release, Trevecca’s 187 athletes finished the fall 2015 semester with a combined 3.189 overall GPA. There are nine student-athletes that have maintained a 4.0 GPA.

That number is higher than the overall 3.18 student GPA at Trevecca.

Cultures of achievement, set by individual coaches, are to be attributed for the increase, said Greg Ruff, director of sports information.

Overall, the women’s teams maintain higher GPA. The women’s soccer team posts the highest overall GPA with a 3.51 team average. The men’s basketball

team, as of 2014-2015 school year, has the lowest average at 2.68.

“Most of the girl’s already have a great motiva-



Clara McMillan, one of the nine Trevecca student-athletes with a 4.0 in fall 2015, at an indoor track event hosted by Vanderbilt University. Photo provided by Trevecca Trojans.

tion coming into college to keep their scholarship money throughout the four years. We just challenge them to have the highest GPA among the athletic programs,” said Calvin da Cunha, assistant coach for the women’s soccer team.

Staying Accountable

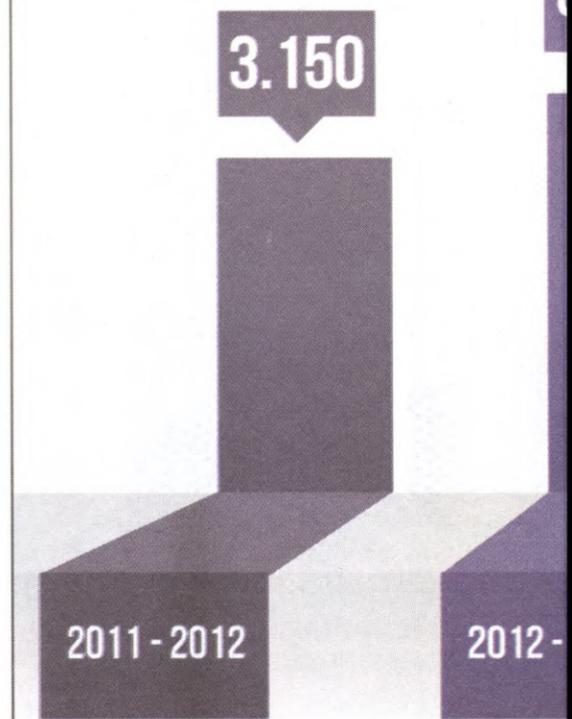
To ensure the athletes are keeping up with their academics, some coaches take certain measures to keep their players eligible. For example, members of the women’s soccer team have to get their professors to sign periodic progress reports and the men’s soccer coach mandates a team average of a 3.0.

In the past, student athletes have been required to submit to mandatory study halls. Now most teams do not mandate study halls because there is no need for them, said Trevecca Athletic Director Mark Elliot.

A lot of the success comes from the motivation of the athletes, coaches said.

“The girls vote on and

Average GPA of

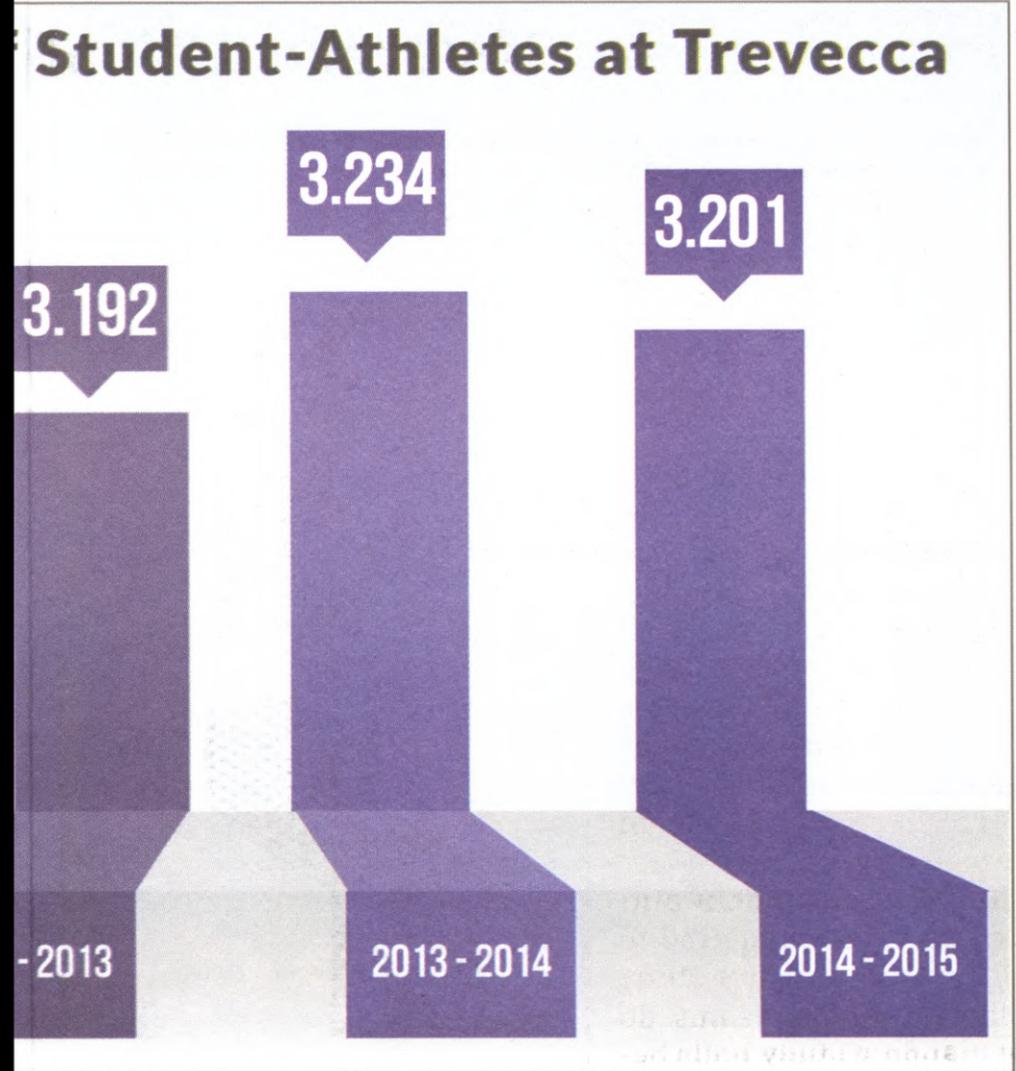


Cumulative GPA of student-athletes provided by

set a goal cumulative GPA that they want to achieve at the end of the school year. If they are struggling academically, they try to get the best academic support they can whether they are doing group study sessions or individual studies with an upper classmen. They are pretty self-motivated to keep a high grade point average,” da Cunha said. “On the road, the girls get their work done on the bus or in their rooms because they understand time manage-

187 ATHLETES PRODUCED A COMBINED 3.189 GPA LAST FALL
-TREVECCA TROJANS

Average GPA than student body



by Trevecca Trojans.

ment is important, so there is no need to implement a study hall."

Credit to the Athletes

The NCAA recently honored Anna Hoffman, a senior on the women's soccer and track team, as a CoSida Academic All-American.

Elliot said that while coaches help set culture and expectation that it's ultimately up to each student athlete to make sure they're getting the help they need.

"Student athletes are not given any exclusive opportunities to raise their grade that aren't offered to the other students on campus. If they are struggling and need help, they must seek out assistance around campus just like every other student, whether it be the guidance of a peer mentor or upperclassmen on the team or going to find a tutor in the CLCS building. It



Ben Moroney, one of the nine Trevecca student-athletes with a 4.0 in fall 2015, at an indoor track event. Photo provided by Trevecca Trojans.

is their own responsibility to maintain their GPA and find the appropriate help if needed," he said.

Maintaining Balance

Jeremiah Wright, a junior soccer player, posted a 3.7 last semester and said that to do that he's learned

**A TOTAL OF NINE
STUDENT-ATHLETES
HAVE A 4.0 GPA
-TREVECCA TROJANS**

to manage his time and priorities.

"I have to set aside specific times for myself to study. Time management is key, committing to study beforehand so you make sure it gets done," Wright said. "I set priorities that I follow; my faith, my relationship with my girlfriend, school and then soccer, but what really drives me to do well is my end goal, wanting to keep receiving scholarship money, and my future career."

Not all athletes as are personally motivated, said Ruff.

"The athletes are the best students and the athletes are the worst students. Student athletes will improve and graduate if they want to, they have to make the choice themselves," he said. "Because of NCAA regulation, coaches are not allowed to talk to professors about an athlete's grade to try to get it changed, the athlete must put in the work to get up their own grade."

Ruff said that while the majority of the credit can be attributed to the athletes as individuals, the athletic department is appreciative of the help Trevecca offers as a whole.

"This is a victory we all share, and we are incredibly proud of our athletes for their hard work in this area," said Ruff.

TROJAN BASKETBALL TO BE TELEVISED
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 2016

**6 Trevecca
vs
Cedarville**

Trojan Field House
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

or live stream on
NCAA.com

last home win against Cedarville came in January of 2013.

The Lady Trojans (3-11, 2-3) have faced similar dismal against the Lady Yellow Jackets (14-5, 5-0) as the Lady Trojans have been victorious only once in the last five contests. February of 2015 was the last win against Cedarville.

"We want to make it a big, big deal as much as we possibly can and would love for as many people as possible to come out and support our teams," said Elliott.

"We've beat [Cedarville] on the road this year already, and we're coming home for several games in a row. I'm excited to be able to play this game for the G-MAC," said head men's basketball coach Sam Harris.

Following the big games on Feb. 6, both Trojans teams do not return to home action until Feb. 18 after a pair of games on the road. for compatible schools to fit this opportunity. They wanted a hotly-contested matchup and that game has become Trevecca vs Cedarville," said Mark Elliott, Trevecca athletic director.

The Trojans (7-11, 3-1) face a tough challenge in Cedarville (8-9, 1-2) as the Yellow Jackets have beaten the Trojans five of the last seven games. Trevecca's last home win against Cedarville came in January of 2013.

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"We want to make it a big, big deal as much as we possibly can and would love for as many people as possible to come out and support our teams," said Elliott.

Both Trojan teams are able to settle down and enjoy the friendly confines of a home court atmosphere for the coming weeks.

"We've beat [Cedarville] on the road this year already, and we're coming home for several games in a row. I'm excited to be able to play this game for the G-MAC," said head men's basketball coach Sam Harris.

Following the big games on Feb. 6, both Trojans teams do not return to home action until Feb. 18 after a pair of games on the road.



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Professionalism Column: Planning for summer jobs

Ok, yes, I know, it's winter. I know the spring semester just started. I hear you. On this cold day, summer seems so very far away. Believe it or not, now is the time to plan for summer jobs. Seasonal jobs are fodder for college students and the good ones are hard to come by. Employers love hiring college students because they have more "summer" than high school students, so they can work more. Here are some tips to help you get started:

If you are going home: If you are leaving Nashville to spend the summer back home, start getting in touch with local businesses to see if they are hiring. Even though you can't inquire in person, you can do lot online. Have your parents, siblings, or friends who live there keep an eye out for you, too. Use your network! Maybe you know you are going back to the job you had in high school, since they are allowing you to work seasonally when you are in town. Whether you are starting a new job from scratch or you are going back to something familiar, be sure to communicate your intentions with the hiring manager early.

If you are staying in Nashville: There are so many great places to work in Nashville! Again, your network is valuable here! See what jobs family and friends know about. Trevecca has a job posting site that is free to students and alums. Simply create a profile at www.myinterfase.com/trevecca/student and start searching. There are already some summer jobs posted. Also, Career Services hosts employers on campus frequently during the semester who are hiring students! Right now, most places are looking for summer work. I email students when these employers will be on campus as well as post it social media. They are set up in the Jernigan lobby or in the CLCS Nineteen01 from 11:00-1:00. That is a great way to do some job searching without having to leave campus.

Keep these in mind:

1. Your summer job DOES NOT have to be your dream job. I, personally, have several summers of restaurant hostessing, data entry, and video store customer service under my belt. None of which were what I wanted to spend my life doing, but it was the paycheck I needed. Sure, if you find something that is related to what you'd like your career to be, great! If not, it's okay if your summer is spent working a J-O-B.
2. When you apply, try to be flexible. Summer means travel for a lot of people, and employers know that. Try to be up front with the hiring manager and share travel plans early. Remember, they need reliable people and will not appreciate an employee bugging out last minute for an impromptu trip. Also try to weigh the cost of a trip vs staying and earning money.
3. Act fast! Do not wait until after spring break to look for summer jobs. The longer you wait, the fewer things will be open and the high school students will pounce on what is left. Yes, it's cliché, but the early bird truly does get the worm. How about the early student gets the best job? That's better.

Editorial: Black History Month is important

BY BAILEY BASHAM & JESSY ANNE WALTERS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & COPY EDITOR

In preparing to write this editorial, we asked around to try to find out if there were any events being planned on campus for Black History Month, which is designated to happen every February. What we got was a complete lack of enthusiasm. Some people had plans in the works and some were thinking about it, but it was clear that this was not an issue on the forefront of most people's minds here.

Trevecca's student population is mostly white. According to Trevecca's ethnicity statistics, the undergraduate population is made up of 74 percent white students. Of the remaining 26 percent, less than 10 percent of the undergraduate population are black or African American students. Trevecca is situated in the middle of a predominately black community and is currently building a village of townhouses which bears the same name as Walden College, a historically black college that is now a part of Trevecca's campus.

At a private Christian university attended by 74 percent white students, situated in a black neighborhood, Trevecca seems removed from the celebration and understanding of Black History. We think it's important that we expand upon the dialogue surrounding Black History month, its purpose, and the way race continues to affect everyone.

In America, the number of black men in mass incarceration in the U.S. surpasses the total prison populations in Canada, India, Japan, Lebanon, Finland, Germany, Israel, and England combined [International Centre for Prison Studies]. Young black men were nine times more likely than any other person to be killed by police in 2015 [Huffington Post]. Black women earn 54 cents to every dollar a white man makes [American Association

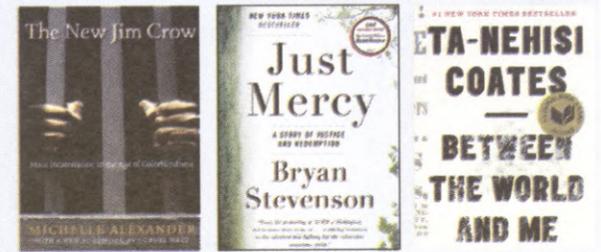
of University Women]. Less than 15 percent of American college students are black [National Center for Education Statistics]. These examples prove, in our minds, that racism is alive and well, and that for the most part, Trevecca students can choose to be removed from this issue.

We think a more robust offering of events, opportunities for dialogue and discussions on campus during Black History Month would be a good start toward making Trevecca students more aware and sensitive to the issues of racism.

If we are truly going to be a "Christian University in the heart of Nashville," we must increase opportunities of awareness and action for our student body. The opportunities should be both student and staff led.

Part of our time at Trevecca is learning to be intentional- in our relationships, with our time, and with the things we choose to be involved.

So, be intentional this month with our without the support of official campus events. Go ahead and make plans to attend the film screening of Selma on Feb. 24 and the diversity panel on Feb. 20. But, also, check out one of the books listed below, attend an event at the Nashville Public Library or another university in town. Decide that you will celebrate the history of black people in our nation and do your part to chose to enter dialogue and discussion about the lingering racism in our country.



Covers provided by amazon.com

TrevEchoes



(l-r) Design Editor Cydney-Nichole Marsh, Online Editor Olivia Kelley, Editor-in-Chief Bailey Basham and Copy Editor Jessy Anne Walters. Not pictured: Photographer Griffin Dunn.

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JUNIOR SOCIAL JUSTICE MAJOR TAKES ON WASHINGTON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Sookdeo in Washington, D.C. Photo provided by Tabitha Sookdeo.

school in Florida, I wasn't able to accept it because of my status."

Sookdeo, a junior social justice major, is an immigrant student who is in America legally, but has not received a social security number. This means that she is unable to get a job, accept federal aid, get a license, or open a bank account.

Sookdeo spent her first two years post high school graduation throwing herself full force into immigration reform activism. What had started as a way to keep from going crazy turned into a passion to educate others on real issues facing real people.

The first time Sookdeo was asked to share her story was on Capitol Hill.

"My parents were freaking out, but at that point I was like, 'What do I have to lose?' I wasn't in school, I didn't have my green card, I was going to be old and gray by the time I got it. So why not?" said Sookdeo.

More than 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school every year, according to a UC Merced University Journal article. With this label of "undocumented" following them everywhere they go, these students are left to fend for themselves when it comes to paying for higher education.

After immigrating to the small country of St. Martin when she was very young, Sookdeo's family was subject to discrimination and injustice.

Sookdeo's family contributed to the community and economy through her father's construction company as well as to their involvement in the local church, where her parents were leaders. However, they were forced to leave the country when Sookdeo was 13-years-old. The government renewed all of their visas except for hers, leaving her parents to figure out the next step.

Moving to Florida was filled with promise for Sookdeo and her family. But ultimately this too turned out to be a season of disappointment.

"We were hoping that our green cards would be out by the time that our visa expired. It should have been timely. But that's not what happened. My visa had expired when I was a sophomore in high school. As of right now it has been 11 years that I have been waiting for my green card."

Spending two years doing immigration reform activism opened doors left and right for Sookdeo. Soon she was sharing her story in churches all over the country.

While speaking at a church in Florida, Sookdeo met Joel

Tooley, pastor of Tavares Nazarene Church. Tooley approached Sookdeo with an offer she couldn't pass up: an education at a four year private university called Trevecca.

Never having stepped foot in Tennessee, Sookdeo eagerly accepted the opportunity.

International student advisor Rebecca Merrick said that Trevecca strives to embody Christ in all that it does, and that includes helping students without legal status.

"We want to provide them the

opportunity to go to college if they want to go to college. And it's better for all of us. It's better for the student because they get to fulfill their dream and life calling," Merrick said.

Trevecca works to provide these students with private scholarships. Because the scholarships are not funded by the government, these students are free to accept the aid.

"If people don't know enough about immigration and think that it's a cop out to say that we need immigration reforms, look at Tabitha," Merrick said. "She came here legally. She did what she was supposed to, applied for permanent residency through the right procedures. But this happens all the time. And now she's stuck in this limbo."

Through all this, Sookdeo continues to care for others. Keeping one of her favorite verses in mind, Leviticus 19:34, Sookdeo strives to welcome everyone she meets, "treating the stranger who sojourns with [her] as the native among [her]."

Sookdeo carries out this duty through community service of all kinds. From Trevecca's urban farm to multicultural festivals to helping students register to vote.

Sookdeo is hoping to obtain residency by the time she graduates from Trevecca in the spring of 2017.



Sookdeo speaks to representatives from the offices of Florida congressmen in Washington, D.C. Photo provided by Tabitha Sookdeo.

Trevecca IT major runs his own production business while going to school full time



Photo provided by Antonee Uy.

BY ANALI FRIAS
CONTRIBUTOR

Antonee Uy races through his school work as quickly as possible each week so he can get back to running his business.

The Trevecca freshmen makes around \$5,000 a month running his own video production company that he opened the end of his senior year of high school.

Moon Valley Productions produces music videos, photography and marketing materials for companies.

With a staff of eight crew members, Uy, who is the oldest employee at age 19, spends two to three hours a day running his company while also studying Informational Technology at Trevecca.

"I'm studying IT for my parents. Basically, they don't think I can get far with my film stuff, but majoring in IT and minoring in film is the best for me and my parents"

His monthly salary depends on what kind of set he has. An average monthly salary for him is \$5,000. One set averages to about \$600-\$700. The most money he has ever made from a set was \$2,000 when he filmed for a company advertising their blind installation for houses.

With a full tuition scholarship at Trevecca, Uy is able

to reinvest in the money he makes back into his company, including paying his employees, all of whom are 18-years-old.

"A lot of my workers are young and they have very little experience."

His hiring process is like an audition.

"If you want to work for me, just show me what kind of creativity you have."

Melvin Valdez De La Roca, is a photographer working for Uy.

"It's fun, it doesn't feel like a job, just a couple friends shooting videos and pictures."

Jordan Barlog, also a photographer for Uy, enjoys working for him.

"He doesn't boss you around, he just lets you be creative and work with your imagination."

People have been thrown off by how young Uy is. One time a potential client denied Uy's production service after seeing how young he looks.

"After we met in person, he no longer wanted to hire me."

Other clients who hired Uy's company later realized that creativity does not depend on age.

His interest in development of film began his sophomore year of high school. He saw a video filmed by videographer and YouTuber Devin Supertramp.

"Devin Supertramp is like an idol of mine."

The details of that video intrigued Uy.

By the end of his senior year of high school, Uy saved enough money to buy a camera and editing software.

"That's what got me started."

With the skills learned from cinematography and online classes, he put those skills to use. He filmed some his friends cliff jumping and posted it on his YouTube channel.

"This was my chance to see if I'm good at this."

Uy worked with the videographer he idolizes. They filmed people playing soccer in huge bubbles for the videographer's Youtube channel.

Uy spends most Fridays and Saturdays in his rented work-

space in Brentwood.

"All of my small productions will be done on my laptop but in the office, I have like a dual monitor and that's for bigger productions."

He travels often for sets. He plans on going to Florida and Guatemala for future sets. When his travel expenses aren't paid for, he uses his own money to pay for them.

studies or in between classes, I'll edit videos."

There have been times where he had to ask clients for an extension deadline on projects.

"I just depend and hope for the client to be really kind and give me an extra day."

His job has interfered with his schoolwork.

"There was a time where I

" I DO BELIEVE GOD GAVE ME THIS GIFT AND I THINK I SHOULD USE IT BECAUSE WHAT I WANT TO DO IS SHOW MY AUDIENCE THE BEAUTY OF THIS WORLD THROUGH MY EYES. "

-ANTONEE UY

"Our trip to Guatemala will be paid for but the hotel expenses won't be."

Uy will have the chance to film in the same exact place from the video that inspired him.

"I get the chance to actually be where Devin shot that video and so that's just really prepossessing, it's amazing."

Uy prioritizes school first.

"After I'm done with all of my

needed to submit a video the next day and also had a paper due and so sleep did not exist that day."

He wants people to see the world from his perspective with his video productions.

"I do believe God gave me this gift and I think I should use it because what I want to do is show my audience the beauty of this world through my eyes."

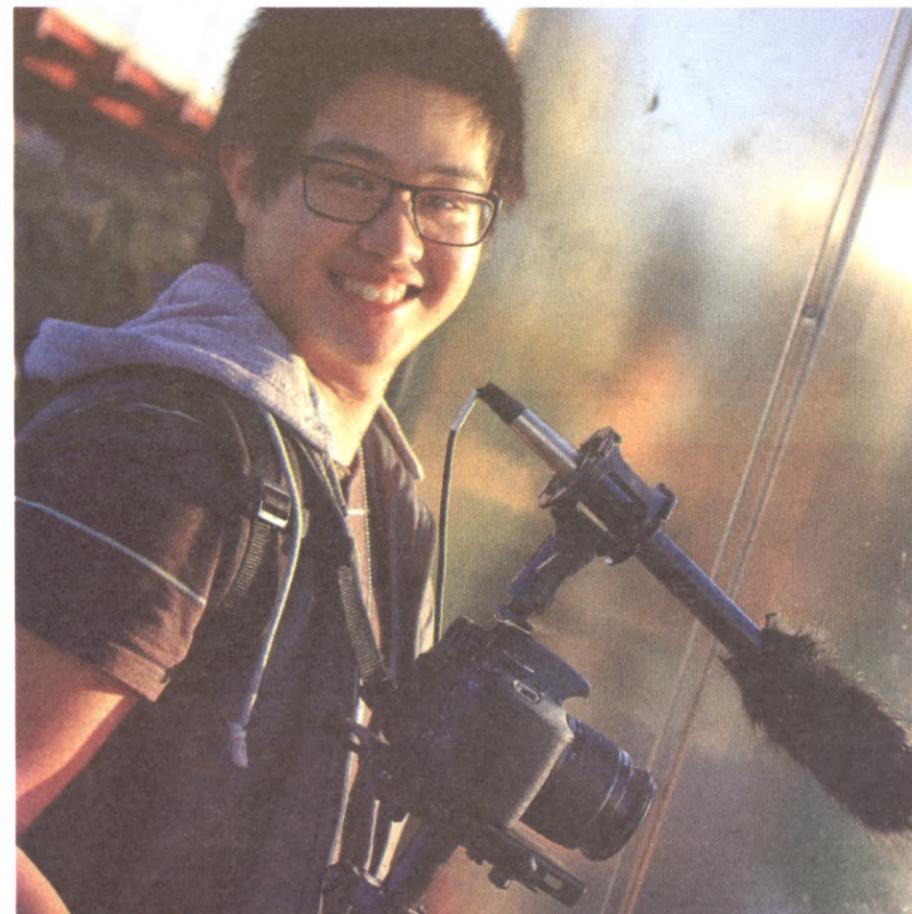


Photo provided by Antonee Uy.