

# THE BAGPIPE



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## Education Reform

BY MOLLY HULSEY

Last April, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission rocked the boat for educators by reforming the certification process and its requirements. Most importantly, future educators must pass the Educative Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA) and complete three years of teaching experience to receive a Professional Certificate in Georgia.

“We were introduced to it on the first day,” says Elementary Education major Rebekah DeVries, “Then, people were very angry. Some people were crying...I was thinking that I wasn’t going to be able to be a teacher anymore, but that’s just because it wasn’t all clear.” Future educators feared they wouldn’t qualify for a certificate or an out-of-state career after graduating. “I’m really miffed,” Junior Elementary Education major Katherine Godwin says a semester later, “but I really love my major.”

Now, several months after statewide confusion has settled, Covenant College’s Education department is taking these shifts in stride.

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## Mandatory Meal Plan



Student eating a meal in the Great Hall, Photo by Abby Whisler

BY CARRIE WOODWARD

On Tuesday, March 31, Vice President for Student Development and Dean of Students Brad Voyles sent out an email with the subject line “Mandatory Meal Plans.” His email, the validation of months of whispered rumors, announced a new mandatory meal plan system that will be implemented beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

On-campus students have long been automatically billed for a full meal plan, a part of paying full room and board, but students living in the apartments or in off-campus houses have been allowed

to shop and cook for themselves (with the option of purchasing a full or partial meal plan). Starting next fall, even students living in the apartments or “off-campus” will be automatically billed with some type of meal plan according to their housing designation. Off-campus students, with the exception of student teachers, must purchase at least a Tier 1 meal plan, which includes 48 meals for \$426 a semester. Students living in the apartments or Covenant-owned houses must purchase at least a Tier 2 meal plan, consisting of 60 meals (plus 20 Blink bucks) at \$545 a

semester.

In his email, Voyles cited several reasons for the decision, including healthy food choices, being able to provide a guaranteed head count to Chartwells, and the “opportunity to feel connected to classmates who no longer live on campus.” Voyles’ email mentioned consulting certain student leaders and the parents’ council and that though some of these groups expressed “concerns about cost, frustration about making it a requirement, and perception of intent,” once considered, the Covenant administration believes that “the

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## An App for Outreach

BY ANNA HAKAL

Over Spring Break a team of Covenant computer science students including Marc Bohler, Joseph Mbabu, Obed Tandadjaja and Anna Hankal traveled to Colorado to spend a week with a mission organization called LightSys. LightSys provides technology, specifically software, for other mission organizations such as Wycliffe, Pioneers, and Joshua Project. LightSys provides their services free of charge so that these organizations can continue to move forward with their work unhindered by costly software development.

Every year LightSys sets aside weeks in the spring for college students to come and spend their spring breaks writing small applications requested by different organizations. The Covenant team joined students from LeTourneau University and by the end of the week the group of sixteen students from the two universities had finished six of the requested applications.

The Covenant team’s specific assignment involved writing an Android app requested by Siberian missionaries working with

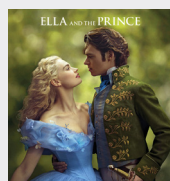
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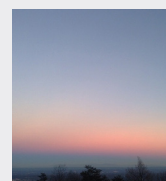
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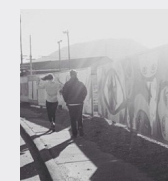
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## Mountaintop Thoughts Essay Contest

BY BRYAN VAN DYKE

The Covenant College Philosophy Club is pleased to announce the first Mountaintop Thoughts Essay Contest, to be held at Covenant College on April 18, 2015.

We are seeking short essays (750-1000 words) presenting an argument for a philosophically interesting thesis. The goal is to challenge students to write about an important topic with clarity and brevity without sacrificing quality of argument. Essay topics

do not have to be within the confines of traditional philosophy, so we hope to attract students from a wide variety of majors. By inviting short essays, we hope to make it less daunting and time-consuming for students who are already very busy. In fact, taking a previously written essay and removing all of the non-argument fluff to get it below 1000 words would be a great way to submit an essay. You don't even have to

worry about writing an exciting introduction--we are actually recommending that you make your thesis the first sentence of your essay and jump right into the argument from there.

Essays will be accepted until 11:59 PM on April 10. Finalists will be announced April 15, and will be invited to present on April 18, 9 AM – 12 PM (location TBD). All finalist essays will be published on the Mountaintop

Thoughts website. From the group of finalists, four winners will be selected by a voting process, and each winner will receive a prize.

Any person without a graduate degree is eligible to enter. Email essays as attachments, in either Word or PDF format, to Program Chair Sarah Withers (sarah.withers@covenant.edu) with the subject line "Essay Contest Submission." Prepare essay for blind review by removing any

identifying information from the document, like your name, your school's name, a reference to a particular class, etc. Any words over the 1,000 word limit will be cut off.

For official contest rules and updates, visit [covenantphilclub.wordpress.com/essaycontest2015](http://covenantphilclub.wordpress.com/essaycontest2015). If you have any questions, feel free to ask Brian Van Dyke or Sarah Withers, in person or by email.

## Mandatory Meal Plan

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benefits outweigh these concerns going forward."

The reaction of the student body, however, indicates that many people do not believe the benefits outweigh their concerns. While some hoped the email might be an early April Fools joke, within hours of Dean Voyles' email, a change.org petition protesting the mandatory meal plan had been shared dozens of times via Facebook, email, text message, and even Yik Yak, garnering hundreds of signatures from students, parents, and alumni overnight. Wednesday morning classes buzzed with discussion of the meal plan announcement, to the surprise of many staff and faculty members, who learned about the decision for the first time when their students brought it up.

Comments left on the petition page revealed students' discontentment with the decision and a variety of reasons for the negative response. Michael Fuller commented, "Making meal plans required for everyone severely limits the

off-campus student's ability to function as an independent and responsible adult." Josh Fikkert complained that Voyles' email was dismissive of legitimate concerns, saying, "This new policy was accompanied by an announcement that was nothing short of condescending." Fikkert finished his comment by touching on the frustration of many student leaders that while they had been consulted, many had responded negatively to the plan, while Dean Voyles' email seemed to imply their unanimous support.

Conversely, sophomore Morgan Opgenorth says that she is upset over the reaction of the student body. "While I think the mandatory meal plan has a few legitimate issues for off-campus students, I also am overwhelmingly disappointed with Covenant's reaction to it," she said. "The administration, our brothers and sisters in Christ, put countless time and effort into this decision with more information and a wider perspective than any single student." More importantly,

she would like students to consider bigger injustices than mandatory meal plans. "We are quick to petition for ourselves, but we are so terribly apathetic when it comes to petitioning to help others."

Dean Voyles has openly communicated with students to address concerns and answer questions, which included a discussion on Thursday. The decision was made with the good of students in mind, and according to Voyles, came about partly through negotiations with Chartwells and partly through discussion with off-campus students last semester in an open forum.

"The feeling in the room was that living off-campus is hard," Voyles said. "Cooking is hard and takes time, people talk about missing campus, missing community, and concerns about how we can build community. We heard this theme surrounding food, meals, community, and disconnection from campus." Several off-campus students who attended

the forum last fall, however, dubbed the meeting ineffective and without a helpful conclusion. The mandatory meal plan is not what they hoped for.

Not lost on students is the financial cost of the meal plan. When Isabel Kulp, a rising Senior currently living in the apartments, brought up the matter of the significant expense of a meal plan versus students cooking for themselves, Dean Voyles responded by saying, "That's where the cost of trying to have the relationship with Chartwells comes in. ... I can't disagree with you, but there's a reason why it costs more." That cost, however justified, is a major student concern, and one repeated often in comments on the change.org petition site. Allison Vaught summed it up by saying, "Attending Covenant is an expensive sacrifice."

"Fostering community" seems to many students an especially insufficient reason for forcing unwanted meal plans. Charlotte Huber, who will be living in the

apartments as a senior next year agrees. "Community is important, but it can and is made outside of the Great Hall," she said. "Many students move off campus because they are settled in their community...Living off campus is not for everyone, but for those who have that desire and that choice, I think they should be able to choose their own meal plans."

Current student body president, Harris Stevens, affirmed the validity of the petition, saying, "I think it has been a great way for the student body to clearly communicate their desires, and I believe it has been recognized." Harris continued, "I think the petition has been a good form of communication." Dean Voyles said Thursday that though "the decision has been made, it was done with the understanding that feedback would be received." Voyles intends to share the feedback, including student response, with the senior administration who will process it and respond to the student body.

## Faculty Quote of the Week

"At the top of the list is king, but if you prefer you can just put 'Bill'  
-Dennison in Darwinism

## The Verdict

Yes, to Great Hall  
sunsets.

No, to Mandatory  
Meal Plans.

## THE BAGPIPE



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The views expressed herein do not necessarily  
reflect those of the College or the student body.

## Student App CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the Evenki people in Russia. The Evenki people live in very hard-to-reach, rural villages and spend their lives herding reindeer. Many of these people may not even have running water or basic necessities, but they do have smart phones. This is a huge opportunity that the missionaries in the area are seeking to leverage in order to reach these people with the gospel. The Evenki language is quickly dying because of a variety of cultural shifts, and the app the team wrote promoted language learning for children whose heart language is Evenki. Anyone who speaks multiple languages will understand that there is something very

significant about one's own heart language, and when it comes to sharing the gospel, it is vital for people to understand that Jesus is not some Western concept or foreign deity. Preaching the gospel in a person's heart language communicates to them that the cross has deep relevance for them in their own culture. The Siberian missionaries the team worked with longed to give this app as a gift to the Evenki people and use it as a pre-evangelistic tool that will give Evenki children a chance to learn bits and pieces of their own dying heart language spoken by the generations before them. The hope is that the gospel presentation to these children and their families can then have Evenki words woven into the Rus-

sian trade language commonly used.

Writing the language-learning app was a process that took the team all week. Each morning the students and missionaries would meet to worship and pray over the work ahead that day, and then the teams would work until dinnertime in the rush to get the app done by the end of the week. Nights were also filled with worship, fellowship, and encouraging testimonies from the missionaries in Colorado Springs.

At LightSys, Jesus is Lord in a very tangible way in these missionaries' lives. Their dependence on the Lord is present in everything from the way they raise support to the way they pray over difficult coding bugs,

asking the Lord for answers as they sit at their computer screens. Prayer is integral, kind words and self-sacrifice are the norm, and the goal of God's name being known among all the nations is never abstracted away from the technical work.

Because of the work being done at LightSys, the gospel is going forth effectively and in power in all sorts of new avenues offered by the technology that God has given to us. The Covenant team was very grateful to get a glimpse of the work being done there, and even become a part of it for the week. May we remember to keep our brothers and sisters serving at LightSys in our prayers as they serve the Lord with their unique gifts.

## Education Reform CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"It is like building a raft while floating down the Mississippi River," says Dr. Jack Beckman, Education Department Chair. He adds, "We're navigating waters well, even though the waters are turbulent."

The statewide tiered system, according to the Commission's 2014 reform handbook, separates educators into Pre-service, Induction, Professional, and Lead Professional categories. Most Covenant students are in the Pre-service tier. With the new requirements, educators who graduate from a preparatory certificate program and pass the Georgia Ethics Educator Exam are required to teach three years before receiving Professional Certification status. According to DeVries, this development initially alarmed education students, as many thought they could only be certified after teaching in Georgia for three years. However, they were relieved that a Professional

Certificate can usually transfer to Georgia from any state.

Few Covenant graduates enter the Georgia school system after graduation, but teach in home states or internationally. Beckman says, "Georgia is primarily interested in producing teachers for Georgia, but Covenant does not match that demographic." State to state transfers are made possible through what Beckman calls interstate reciprocity. While the transfer's difficulty varies by state, he says, "the main thing is that our program is a fully accredited pre-service teacher education program" and the transfer can usually occur with few supplementary classes.

Along with existing Georgia Assessments for Certified Educators (GACE), by next September, all education graduates will be required to pass the edTPA while student teaching to receive a Professional Certificate. With new stipulations, teachers will capture lessons and the classes' response on video. This video, along with written lesson plans

and paperwork, will be reported to an examiner trained by Pearson, an international education company, for review and evaluation. According to Beckman, elementary education majors will only be tested in literacy and mathematics.

This year, senior education majors will simply pilot the edTPA system, and the test's results will not affect their likelihood to receive a Certificate of Eligibility, and later, a Professional Certificate. However, their curriculum is currently being altered to meet the new expectations. Beckman adds that the mid-stream shift creates, "dissonance as a program, but we fully welcome the rigor." Next year, workshops—known as "bootcamps" at other educational institutions—will be established outside of class time to prepare future educators for the test.

"It's hard. It's not fun. It's a lot of confusing and complicated work," says DeVries, "but the department is doing a lot to prepare themselves in order to

prepare us." Godwin says that "I'm not worried, but all of the paper work is just daunting."

The edTPA has been established or piloted in at least 37 states, but the system is too new to reveal how well the test prepares educators. Along with the success of edTPA, Beckman is also uneasy about its role in the "corporatization of education." According to Beckman, edTPA was created by Stanford University, but Pearson trains the examiners and is an essential link in the evaluation process. As policy makers continue to push for further utilitarianization, Beckman is afraid that the education system will become "fragmented and disconnected." However, at state and national conventions, Covenant College continues to paddle upstream and question the reasoning behind these changes. As Beckman says, "we do not feel as though we have to remain silent."

## SIX WORD STORY

HELP  
WANTED:

PREFERABLY  
AUSTRALIAN;

CROCODILE  
INFESTATION.

- Evan Ziegenfus

Submit your own six-word story to Jamison Shimmel and check out [bagpipeonline.com](http://bagpipeonline.com) for more stories!

## Senior SIP Series BY MOLLY HULSEY

Growing up in Cullman, Alabama, English major Adrienne Siegenthaler understands how true to life the snake-handling, charismatic characters of Flannery O'Connor's fiction can be. She also sympathizes with O'Connor's bemused yet appreciative attitude toward churches where the "gospel is the crazy, shocking, and unbelievable." This theme became the crux of her 10 minute SIP presentation Thursday, March 19th.

"While I grew up in a PCA church, in some ways, these other believers are my people, too," she says, "I need to know how to think about these people."

Similarly, O'Connor was a well-educated, professing Catholic, but, according to Siegenthaler, she "had a lot of sympathy and represented Southern fundamentalism in a manner that was nuanced and very understanding. Her writing is the opposite of preachy and moralistic."

Siegenthaler has always been drawn to O'Connor's writing,

but during the first read of short stories, "Parker's Back" and "Greenleaf," it seemed as though O'Connor was using "backwoods prophets to show how crazy the Southerners were." However, after analyzing them for her SIP, she learned to appreciate O'Connor's lack of derision in portraying Southern fundamentalists and charismatics. "I came to realize that one is a good neighbor when they represent people honestly and faithfully," says Siegenthaler, particularly when these neighbors are our brothers and sisters in Christ. To some extent, "O'Connor even makes a case for this religion" or, like most good writers, allows the reader to empathize somewhat with her characters' beliefs.

"Read these stories," says Siegenthaler, "if nothing else, O'Connor's writing shows you how to be a good neighbor."

When foodie Jamison Shimmel spent last summer in Spain, he

not only savored the culinary delights of the culture, but also dinner conversations lasting late into the evening and sometimes early morning! After preparing a small feast, he, his roommate, and host parents would gather at the table to delve into steaming paella and meaty discussions.

"In Spain, we found the table to be a platform for having a deep conversation," says Shimmel. Sometimes the talk would be casual, but other times, amiable debates arose about issues including abortion and the death penalty. Shimmel recognized the opportunity this domestic forum provided for sharing the gospel.

"Being a missionary in Spain is very different than in other countries, and street evangelism is not very effective," said Shimmel. Despite the nation's Catholic history, citizens tend to be skeptical of religious involvement. Missionaries recounted tales of only one person coming to Christ about every thirty years. However, Shimmel was intrigued that

Spaniards will let their guards down at mealtime discussions.

During this past fall semester at Covenant, Shimmel began to dish up favorite meals from España and see the table as a mission field. His work culminated in his SIP, titled "A Comer," "a study of Spanish gastronomy and using hospitality as evangelism."

"I love to experiment with flavors and spices," said Shimmel. For his SIP, he honed his pan con tomate, flan, and arroz con pollo-making skills and researched traditional recipes for 8 other dishes. In December, he discussed each process in Spanish during a 20 minute presentation and 20 page paper.

Shimmel hopes his experience will provide a loophole for sharing the gospel while visiting Latin American countries as a Spanish teacher. Until then, he rings the dinner bell for friends, explaining that, "Food is the 6th love language."

## Cinderella Review BY KRISTIE JAYA

Ever see your college-aged friends squeal over coloring books? Watching Cinderella in the Majestic theatre felt exactly like squealing over coloring books, or like curling up in bed having bedtime stories read to you. The first day of spring, with Rita's free Italian ice beforehand with four other girls, it was a fine day to take a break from being an almost-twenty-something.

Directed by Kenneth Branagh for Walt Disney Pictures and RKO Pictures, Cinderella (2015) might be one of the dozens of classic damsel-in-distress-turned-princess remakes out there. In fact, Cinderella (2015) is based on Walt Disney's classic Cinderella (1950) animated film, which

is based on Cendrillon by the French author Charles Perrault (1697), which might have been based off even older traditional folk tales. The movie takes elements from its older Disney counterpart, keeping the iconic blue dress, the blonde hair, and even the mouse GusGus.

The cast is a mix of the ever-elegant Cate Blanchett as the stepmother, the delightful Helena Bonham Carter as the Fairy Godmother, Richard Madden as Prince Charming, and Lily James as Cinderella.

The movie runs the risk of being cliché, especially with the very black-and-white characters and the "have courage and be kind" mantra. However, the movie

fills in delightful details to the life of the fairy tale characters. The colorful and vivid visuals are impressive, and the usual Disney magic occurs thanks to their eye for detail: the antique trinkets in Cinderella's farmhouse, the dusty yet enchanting attic, and even the pop-colored miscellany the stepsisters are always seen with. The movie score complements the visual, swinging the audience deep into the fairy tale.

While the trend of retelling fairy tales through movies is getting a little bit old, Disney did an exceptional job. You'll still hold your breath when you see the Prince running after Cinderella, laugh as the fairy godmother fumbles through getting

Cinderella ready, and gasp when the wicked stepmother does yet another unbelievably mean thing. Some of my favorite moments from the movie were Helena Bonham Carter's interpretation of the fairy godmother (think Hunger Games Effie Trinket), and Cate Blanchett's cold, evil, yet funny portrayal of the evil stepmother.

If you're not sure whether the 113 minutes is worth the time off studying, listen to Albert Einstein about reading (or in this case, watching) fairy tales: "If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales."



Cinderella Movie Poster,  
Photo by <http://www.fashiongonerogue.com/>

# To Pimp a Butterfly

BY LOUIS METCALFE

On March 16, Kendrick Lamar dropped his new album *To Pimp a Butterfly* a week early. The album was an instant success, shattering Spotify's streaming records set only a few weeks earlier by Drake's *If You're Reading This, It's Too Late*. Despite its success, Lamar's new album is a challenging listen. While his 2012 album *Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City* was full of trendy beats and catchy choruses, *To Pimp a Butterfly* sees Lamar shifting gears, working with producers such as Thundercat and Flying Lotus to make instrumentals that resemble old-school boom bap and jazz rap with a modern twist. *To Pimp a Butterfly*'s production is impeccable, but Lamar's lyrics are even better. At the end or beginning of almost every song, Lamar performs part of a poem that he composed. With each song, Lamar makes it further and further into the poem, finally performing the entire work at the end of the album. The poem serves as a summary of the array of issues Lamar addresses on the album -- issues such as race relations, depression, fame, and self-respect.

The contrasting songs "u"

and "i" examine the two sides of Lamar's self-esteem. "u," sees Lamar confronting his failures. Lamar talks to himself in a twisted monologue, expressing his guilt that he has preached to so many people but failed his own brother and sister. Lamar is frustrated by his brokenness, realizing that he is not even trying to be good, and struggling with whether or not God thinks he is a failure. As the album continues, we hear Lamar gain self confidence. This newfound confidence culminates in the track "i." Lamar talks about self-love, stating that he finds his confidence in the fact that he was "illuminated by the hand of God."

Lamar speaks about the racial tensions that have overtaken America in the song "The Blacker the Berry." Lamar spends most of the song protesting injustices that whites have perpetrated against blacks, but he begins every verse of the song with the phrase, "I'm the biggest hypocrite of 2015." At the end of the song, Lamar clarifies his hypocrisy, rapping, "So why did I weep when Trayvon Martin was in the street? When gang banging make me kill a n\*&e%#

blacker than me? Hypocrite!" Lamar condemns blacks as well as whites for committing violence against blacks, calling both groups to reform their actions.

Perhaps the most powerful song on the album is "How Much a Dollar Cost." This song deals with Lamar's encounter with a homeless man begging him for money to buy food. When the old man asks Lamar for money, Lamar wrestles with whether or not he should give it to him because he assumes the man will spend it on drugs or alcohol despite the man's assurances that he just wants a meal. After an intense inner battle, Lamar decides not to give the man money. In the last verse of the song the man states, "Know the truth, it'll set you free. You're lookin' at the Messiah... I'll tell you just how much a dollar cost, the price of having a spot in heaven, embrace your loss, I am God." The song is a retelling of the parable of the sheep and the goats in a modern day setting. Lamar recognizes that serving "the least of these" is helping Christ himself.

Kendrick Lamar has exhibited his Christian beliefs consistently in his music throughout his

career. *Good Kid M.A.A.D. City* started with a young Lamar and his friends praying the sinner's prayer, and on the next song on the album, Lamar sings "I am a sinner who's probably gonna sin again. Lord forgive me." His 2009 song "Faith" talks about Lamar's acceptance of the fact that God is still present during the murder of his friend. On the song "Jesus Saves," Lamar thanks God for pulling him out of the violence and destruction of Compton and continuing to bless him.

Lamar has been open with his religious views in interviews as well. In a recent interview with *Billboard*, Lamar stated that he believes that God's providence is the only reason he is famous. In an earlier interview with *Complex* Lamar stated, "God put something in my heart to get across and that's what I'm going to focus on, using my voice as an instrument and doing what needs to be done."

When talking about his fans, Lamar stated, "I'm the closest thing to a preacher that they have... I know that from being on tour — kids are living by my music." Lamar feels a great deal

of responsibility to communicate his message to his fans. While his music preaches, it is not preachy; Lamar's music avoids a didactic tone, using stories to prove a point. By avoiding sounding preachy, Lamar avoids alienating the part of his fan base that disagrees with his religious views.

Lamar grew up in Compton, California, one of the most violent cities in America, known for its Crips vs. Bloods violence -- in one of his songs, Lamar talks about hearing gunfire every time he goes outside. Lamar grew up around profanity; because of this, his music includes profanity. Lamar's songs are autobiographical; they take listeners inside of his past and inside of his head. The songs are parables, Lamar provides insights on everything from relationships to race through the stories he tells. The reason that *To Pimp a Butterfly* is so powerful is that it contains truths. The truths Lamar teaches are not always pleasant, but making feel-good music is not his purpose. Because of this, Lamar's music can be tough to enjoy, but digging in to *To Pimp a Butterfly* is a rewarding experience.

*Kendrick Lamar performing at one of his concerts. Photo by <http://nextimpulsesports.com/>*



# A Realignment

BY TAYLOR THORNBURG

I think we all expected an article like this. Let me state initially that the purpose of this article is not to present arguments for either side, but to give a diplomatic opinion that fairly presents a broad summary of the facts as well as a suggestion of how we have responded and should respond to such an issue.

On the evening of Tuesday March 31st, Dean Brad Voyles sent out the email to all traditional students that, effective for the 2015-16 Academic Year, it is mandatory that all full-time Covenant students sign up for some form of a meal plan. The reasons for this decision included preserving and contributing to the community at Covenant, removing the pressure from off-campus students to cook for themselves constantly, and strengthening the financial contract that Covenant College has with Chartwells. The

nature of the following massive response prompted the Q&A session, initially scheduled for April 4th in Brock, to be held two days earlier in larger Sanderson 215. On Thursday April 2nd at 11am, Dean Voyles called together the discussion session, where many students were present along with Tom Schreiner, the liaison between Covenant and Chartwells. After opening with a prayer, Dean Voyles gave a broad overview of the decision and the issue at hand before accepting questions. Many questions were asked and statements were made by students, most being frustrated and irate. Students addressed: the timing of the decision, the involvement in a community was a personal decision, and the extra cost of the meal plan would prevent some from returning to the school. In the end, having listened to and responding as

fairly as possible to the concerns, Dean Voyles said that he would take the shared feedback to administration once again.

How did we respond? The student response was massively negative. All of the aforementioned reasons and more propelled many in our community to take an outraged stance, feeling stifled and unheard by administration. Many of us remember what we were saying on the topic in centers of unrestrained speech such as Yik Yak. Needless to say, this decision caused a massive uproar. But how should we actually respond? We must acknowledge that there is frustration on both sides, and also truth spoken by both sides. I, too, signed the petition. We, the students, had a chance to speak out for our cause- the timing of this decision was not perfect, and communication could have been

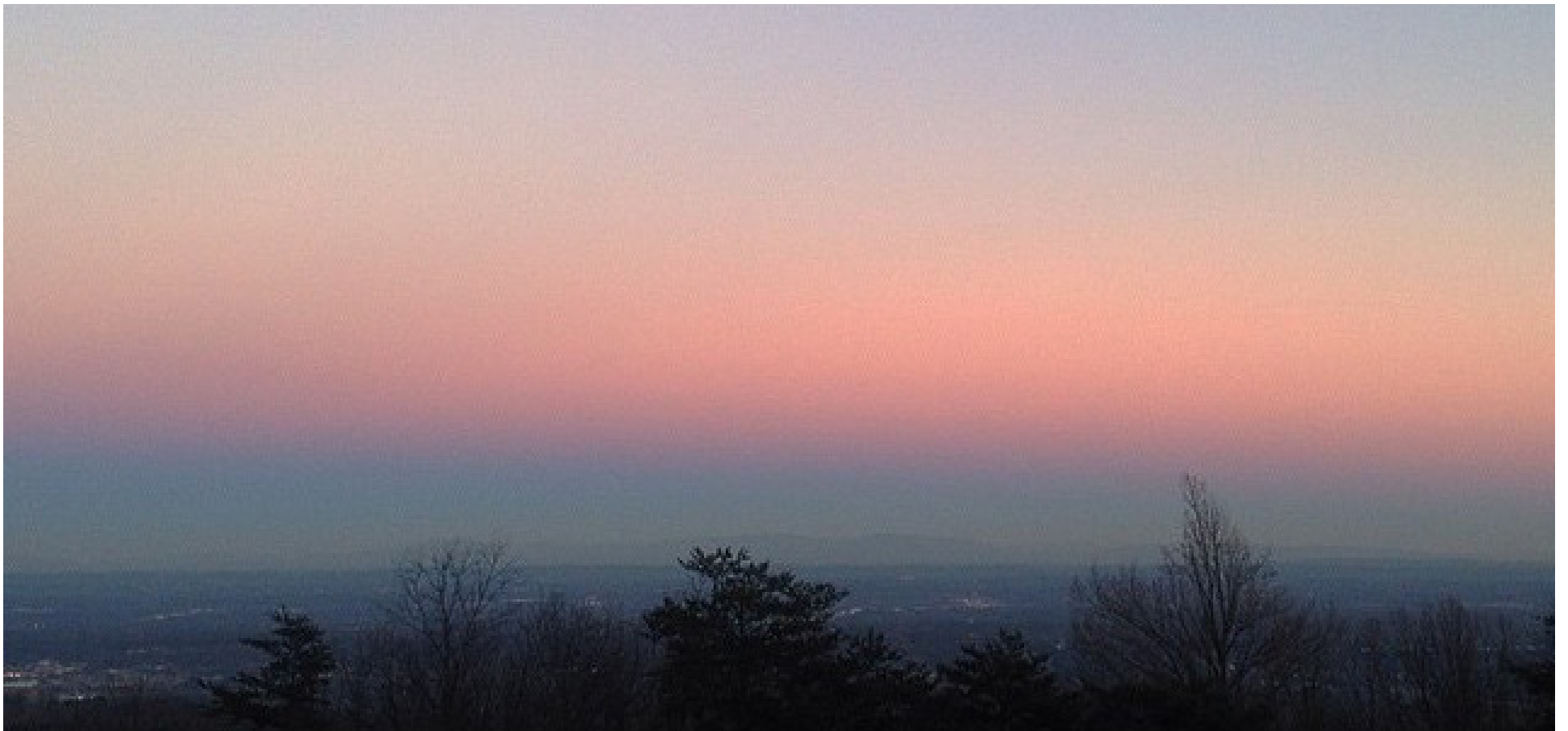
clearer all around.

However, I do not think that we responded as we should have- we have overstepped our bounds as representatives of our free speech and crossed over the respectful lines we have as members within a community. If administration does decide to carry out this plan, we should prepare ourselves to respond well. We all know that we are called to respect our authorities. Furthermore, we are called to love each other. The statement "In All Things Profit Preeminent" was posted during the student backlash. It is not even remotely funny. We all know that we love Covenant College and are deeply appreciative of many of its irreplaceable aspects and the things we are learning here as members of a Christian community. Stepping back from all of this, we can be reminded of how

much we truly believe that we are deeply indebted to this place, academically and spiritually.

If we place Christ before all things, we realize that we have a higher calling, a calling to walk in humility. Is it worth sacrificing our integrity for community-wide disagreements like this? Even regardless of who is "right," we are all a part of this institution. We are, even more significantly, a part of the body of Christ, in whom all things are truly preeminent. Regardless of how justified we are in our cause, how will we communally represent ourselves in the face of frustration? Each side must also realign itself to cooperate and listen to the other. Corporately, let us simmer down and remember ultimately that "a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

*Overlooking Downtown Chattanooga from Lookout Mountain,  
Photo by Abby Whisler*





*Pedestrians stroll the streets of Downtown Chattanooga,  
Photo by Abby Whisler*

## Chatty BY GREER MCCOLLUM

Jane Tjahjono's article from a couple of weeks ago, "Praying and Looking Off the Mountain," reminded me that I've been wanting to write a Bagpipe article for a while now. If you recall, Jane's excellent article challenged students to look beyond the confines of Lookout Mountain and be dedicated to praying for those suffering in our world. Similarly, I want to suggest that we can do a better job engaging the wider Chattanooga community; we can play a small part in the efforts to alleviate the pains of those suffering locally.

The title "The Renaissance City of the South" belies the harsh reality of many of those living in Chattanooga. A New York Times article last year highlighted Chattanooga as having a poverty rate of 27%, almost twice the national average.

Among the many implications of such a high poverty rate, for the sake of brevity, I will highlight just one. Chattanooga is a city

with an affordable housing crisis. According to the Chattanooga Affordable Housing Report that was released in 2012, one in two households in the city's urban core live in unaffordable housing—meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs. The Report also states that about a quarter of renters are severely burdened, spending over half their income on housing costs. Things do not seem to be getting better, either; Chattanooga is among the top ten US cities with the fastest growing rents. There is currently a deficit of 4000 affordable housing units, and this number will increase by around 1000 with the planned demolition of the public housing projects of College Hill Courts and East Lake Courts.

This affordable housing crisis is foreign to us who are concerned with where we will live during the Carter renovations and what happens when a flaming golf cart puts a few halls out of commission.

This is not to make light of our living concerns, but to highlight the fact that many of our fellow Chattanoogaans live much less privileged lives than we do.

Chattanooga is in many ways a divided city between those who are able to enjoy the coffee shops, the music venues, and the restaurants we all frequent and those who are concerned with where next month's rent is going to come from.

Unfortunately, this division is quite noticeable in the varied median incomes according to race in Hamilton county: around \$51,000 for whites, \$28,000 for Hispanics, and \$27,000 for African Americans. This income disparity according to race correlates to the affordable housing crisis in that two Chattanooga zip codes rank in the top fifteen most gentrified zip codes in the nation—according to a 2012 study done by the Thomas Fordham Institute. The income inequality in Chattanooga is star-

ting when you realize that within fifteen minutes you can drive from the Westside, where the median household income is just below \$10,000, to Lookout Mountain, TN, where the median household income is around \$120,000.

You might readily agree that poverty, racial inequalities, and affordable housing crises are unfortunate, but you might also leave the solutions up to tax dollars, city officials, and revitalization. Evidenced by the fact that—due to lack of funding—the Chattanooga Housing Authority is continually having to close down public housing facilities and that gentrification is often facilitated by revitalization efforts, this passive agreement is clearly not working.

Instead, I suggest we follow the aggressive biblical mandate of helping the poor and oppressed. From the harvest and year of jubilee laws in Leviticus to Jesus' missional statement of proclaiming "the good news to the

poor" to the concern for the poor in the early church, the Bible demands an active approach towards poverty and oppression alleviation.

I challenge Covenant students to engage more aggressively in local efforts to stem poverty and create a more equal city. The first step to engaging more actively is volunteering. Volunteer at the Chattanooga Community Kitchen, help tutor at Hope for the Inner City, or learn more about housing justice by going to one of Chattanooga Organized of Action's events. Although mopping floors at the Community Kitchen might not seem like a way to curtail the endemic homelessness in Chattanooga, it will help to garner within you an appreciation for the biblical mandate to fight poverty and injustice, which will carry over into your post-Covenant professional lives of business, medicine, art, or whatever it may be.

# Filling a Void

BY NATE FRIERSON

The Chattanooga basketball landscape is missing something. Unlike many other large metro areas, Chattanooga does not have any sort of showcase for high school basketball talent. High school basketball players have to travel to Atlanta or Birmingham in order to play in front of college coaches. However, Covenant College Senior Jake DeLaney plans to fill this missing gap through his Senior Integration Project. An Interdisciplinary Studies Major, DeLaney was seeking a practical application for his three concentrations of Coaching, Sports Management, and Business when he decided to put on his own showcase here in Chattanooga. The IDS major provides a unique opportunity to go beyond simply writing a paper and allows the students to put their ideas into practice. "IDS encourages the idea of being creative and one way they do this is through the project option for your SIP. Having three concentrations naturally pushes you to be creative with what you learn in your concentrations and this showcase is a great chance to incorporate all of my concentrations in a creative way," said DeLaney.

High school showcases are a great way for coaches to discover players who they might not normally see. This is especially true for schools at the Division III level such as Covenant. DeLaney, who himself attended several showcases as a high school basketball player, said that his goal with the showcase is to "put high school players in front of college coaches and showcase their skills through drills, tests, and scrimmages. The hope is that these things will show what each player is capable of on the basketball court and what they could bring to the college level." Oftentimes, these types of high school showcases are packed with hundreds of kids and are simply a moneymaker for the showcase

itself. With his showcase, DeLaney is trying to do something different and benefit everyone involved with the event. The showcase will be free to attend and will feature between 40 and 45 of the top high school players from around the Chattanooga area. DeLaney expects about 15 college coaches from a variety of schools to attend.

Covenant College will be well-represented at the event as DeLaney is partnering with Covenant alum Dan Gilbert, founder of Chattanooga Area Basketball Club (CABC), to put on the showcase. Working with CABC is important because the organization is well connected within the youth basketball community in the city. Here, CABC and DeLaney have the same goal of improving the quality of Chattanooga youth basketball and giving the young players of the city their best chance to play in college. "Chattanooga is not known for their high school basketball talent and the city has never held a basketball showcase or exposure camp. My hope is that my showcase could help put Chattanooga basketball on the map and encourage the growth of basketball in the Chattanooga area," said DeLaney.

A three year member of the Covenant men's basketball team, DeLaney transitioned to the role of student assistant coach this year after being sidelined by an injury. DeLaney is currently pursuing a career as a college basketball coach and he believes this will give some valuable experience and connections he can use going forward. "I want to get all of the experience I can in this profession, and learning how to manage and organize a showcase like this will be very beneficial for my growth as a coach," said DeLaney.

The CABC Chattanooga Showcase will take place at the Baylor School in Chattanooga on April 18th from 9am-2pm.



Jake DeLaney working at a summer basketball camp in Ellicott City, Maryland.  
Photo by Nate Frierson

## Scots Sports Schedule

Friday, April 10

Softball  
at Averett 2:00 PM  
Danville, Va.

Men's Tennis  
at Averett 3:00 PM  
Danville, Va.

Women's Tennis  
at Averett 3:00 PM  
Danville, Va.

Softball  
at Averett 4:00 PM  
Danville, Va.

Baseball  
vs. Greensboro  
4:00 PM  
Lookout Mountain, Ga.

Saturday, April 11

Women's Tennis  
at Mary Baldwin  
11:00 AM  
Staunton, Va.

Softball  
at Mary Baldwin  
1:00 PM  
Staunton, Va.

Baseball  
vs. Greensboro 1:00 PM  
Lookout Mountain, Ga.

Softball  
at Mary Baldwin 3:00 PM  
Staunton, Va.

Baseball  
vs. Greensboro 1:00 PM  
Lookout Mountain, Ga.