

Montreat College's Student Voice

THE WHEATSTONE

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Crossroads: Crossing the Boundaries of Faith and Culture

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Montreat College experienced a successful Crossroads program this month. Under the control and supervision of Student Activities Director Daniel Bennett, students were given a rare treat: the chance to get to watch some great live music, but also to get up close and personal with the stars. Daniel had many intentions when approaching this kind of event. He wanted to show that as Christians we need to “develop a strong biblical discernment of pop culture,” which does not mean being distant and separated from it. In the gospel of John, Jesus speaks of being within the world but “not of the world,” and Daniel points to that idea in deciphering his objectives for the concerts and conversations.

The project spanned Thursday and Friday, November 15–16, beginning with chapel on Thursday led by Ken Heffner, who is the head of student activities at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It seems that this chapel was very popular, as one student said it was the best she had ever attended, and led to more discussions outside of Gaither. The convocation dealt with being a Christian in today's society and the involvement of the arts, especially music. Daniel was pleased that people had been listening and got so much from this chapel.

There were two conversations with artists that were both successful and are mentioned below. On Thursday night, Randall Goodgame and Andy Osenga performed in front of a crowd of over 60 students. These men have co-written many songs, including numerous tracks on the new Caedmon's Call

album. The concert was very enjoyable thanks to the performers' song writing talents and musical abilities. While on stage, the men enjoyed some playful banter that accentuated their laid back style. The highlight for me was Randall singing and playing the piano, as it was very close and personal with the audience. Overall, the concert was relax-

the bass player.” The concert had a good attendance, with over 100 people from both the college and the surrounding community. Daniel praised this, saying that “art does not need to be an evangelistic tool. As a community it can be used to reach to others and also look within ourselves.” Others commented on the opening by Zach Blew and his band,

Artists in the Spotlight

Some of the most rewarding and interesting aspects of Crossroads were the artist conversations; indeed, Daniel Bennett referred to these conversations as “the high light of the event.” Although the attendance was not as large as the concerts, Daniel believed that the “content was excellent.”

There were two artist conversations: The first was with Randall Goodgame and Andy Osenga, the second with Kellin Watson. Both gave the students the opportunity to learn about the artists, their inspirations, and—most of all—what drives them in this cutthroat industry.

After the first concert by Randall and Andy, I conducted a short interview in order to give all those students who could not attend the convo a chance to learn a little bit about

R: Luke 12:35–37.
A: Oh, that's hard... Okay, it's 1 John 4:12.

Q: If there was one biblical character you feel that you relate to the most, whom would it be and why?

R: That would be Balaam's ass from Numbers. He is so humble and so ridiculous. Also, it shows that when you feel like no one should listen to you, God can use you.

A: King David. Mainly because he messed up, like with Bathsheba. Also all the Psalms he wrote, like poetry.

Q: Finally, as you are aware, Montreat is a very talented liberal arts college. Do you have any advice for aspiring artists?

R: Soil, fertilizer, water, and Miracle Gro. Also, just keep doing it; if you don't stop, you won't stop getting better. That's good enough, isn't it?

A: Play as much as possible and pay attention to other musicians. Oh, and listen to advice like this!



Andy Osenga and Randall Goodgame



Kellin Watson

ing and enjoyed by all.

The pinnacle of the entire Crossroads event was the Kellin Watson concert. She has been described by many on campus as “having a beautiful voice” (Phillip Marsalona) and being “very talented” with a “good stage presence” (Daniel Bennett). She was accompanied by a talented band; Mike Shannon said, “I couldn't take my eyes off

noting their professionalism. Daniel pointed to Kellin's and Zach's spontaneous duet as his favorite moment of the night, and Phillip enjoyed the acoustic and a cappella songs that Kellin performed, as it “showcased her voice.”

The whole project was a success, especially considering that this was the first event like this ever to be held at Montreat. Daniel was very pleased with the outcome, and although he would have preferred a better turnout at certain events, he said it gave him something to work on for next year. Daniel Bennett has worked extremely hard to make activities “student friendly,” and events like this demonstrate how hard he works. Daniel is planning a similar event in the spring, and is looking forward to pushing the boundaries even farther.

these talented musicians.

Question: Obviously you guys are fond of a variety of different genres and artists. Who do you feel is your most prominent influence?

Randall: It would have to be Jimmy Buffet. Yeah, that's a good answer!

Andy: U2, Dire Straits, The Cardigans. I like my European bands.

Q: Okay—this is a hard one, but what is your favorite aspect of Montreat?

R: The leaves; they're unbelievable. I also really like all the people I met

A: It's just all so beautiful. It reminds me of Galadriel's kingdom in *Lord of the Rings*.

Q: You guys are obviously very spiritual. On a spiritual note, what is your favorite Bible verse?



what's
inside
semester in

VERSE
of the
MONTH

“I call to remembrance my song in the night;
I meditate within my heart, and my spirit
makes diligent search.”

Psalm 77:6