

WE ARE SEU



LOCAL HANGS

A Lakelander's Guide
to Downtown

ALUMNI FEATURE

the minds behind the people who live there

STUDENT STORIES

We believe that there are
stories only you can tell

KAYLEE SONTAG

Balancing the chaos in your life

In the still of night, I find it too loud to sleep

The butterfly, attempting escape, clashes with the window above me; this commotion of chance-medley rattles me to think of yesterday's dismal endings and tomorrow's colossal weight.

I once had thought of clipping the butterfly's wings, to prevent the effects it might bring, staying swallowed in the cocoon of my own comfort, faking indifference to the shaking of the trees, just so I could breathe.

At the crux of my confusion, I remember that this very ground beneath my feet was once in the same state as me - utter uproar, complete lack of form, insurmountably ignorant to peace -

Until You spoke.

I am undone,
yet put back together by a single whisper.

Thoughts once flooding my nervous tissue are now stilled by Your renown.

Problems that encroached upon my quietude still exist, but bow before Your name and likeness.

In Your morning light, the worries of tomorrow implode into the flutters of a thousand possibilities.

You call the butterfly into flight again,
it finding rest upon my temple, as I stand in awe and reverence in the chaos of Your love for me.



WE ARE SEU | ISSUE 17

CONTENTS

LOCAL HANGS **6** ALUMNI
FEATURE **10** CHOAS THEME
12 KAYLEE SONTAG **14**
PHOTO ESSAY **18**



FORWARD FROM DR. KENT INGLE

It's hard to believe this academic year has come to a close, and we are heading into the summer. At the end of each year, I always take the time to reflect on all that God has done on our campus.

With the ongoing changes in our world and lingering impacts of the pandemic, it may feel like we've been in a season of chaos. During these times, it can be difficult to focus on the good around us.

Last summer I set aside time to hear from God on what He had for our campus in 2021-2022. He clearly told me that we had been at the mountain of crisis for long enough. It's been a place of difficulty and chaos. But, in the midst of it, we had learned to develop our dependency, trust and faith in God.

I want to encourage you, if you may feel like you are in the middle of a storm, to continue to sow seeds of hope and praise to God. As you plant these seeds, He will pull you out of the dark storm and place you in a new season.

Leviticus 26:9 says, "I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you."

My prayer for you is that you will see this present time as A Time to Sow. May you continue to sow seeds of hope, faith, trust and perseverance. I believe that if you take the time to sow these seeds, then He will pour out the blessings of Heaven in your life.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

There are many ways that I could describe my time here at Southeastern: a hymn of harmony, a beacon of illumination, a call to simplicity, a commitment to creativity. The one descriptor that was most unexpected and most prevailing, however, was a sense of chaos. We as a student body have stood in the ruggedness of chaos, with our feet on shifting sand and our minds muddled by the whispers of lamenting winds. Yet, by the grace, strength, and wonder of our Lord, we have endured, we have persevered, we have found beauty.

Grace, Audry, Ella, Bekah, Madi, Matt, and I hope that you always seek to find the beauty of the Lord all around you. No matter what may chaos you walk into, may His peace go before you and may His comfort surround you, so that you may fully see the Goodness of His Glory in every aspect of your life.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to encapsulate your stories and share how God has moved through your life these past four years; it has been the greatest of honors.

Sincerely,
Hannah Larson, *Executive Editor*

*Pictured Left to Right
Top: Madi, Hannah, Audry, Grace
Bottom: Bekah, Matt, Ella*

WE ARE SEU

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Balance Culture, Lloyds, Love Bird

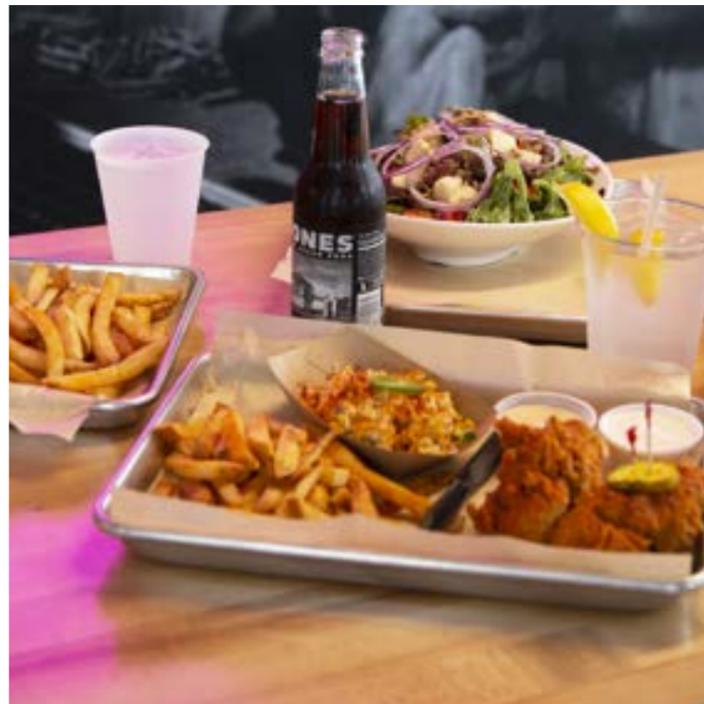


LOCAL Lakeland HANGS



Love Bird

A Lakelander's Guide to Downtown - From Munn Park to Dixieland!



We know you can get chicken almost anywhere, but we doubt it'll be as good as LoveBird's, a new mom-and-pop-owned spot. Inspired by Nashville Hot Chicken, LoveBird offers a variety of flavors, from tame to fiery. To go along side your chicken, be sure to check out their exciting sides and drinks, like the sweet tea slushie. Plus, their design aesthetic is sure to impress!





Balance Culture

In their newly built location, Balance Culture provides a safe place for women to workout among an outstanding community. Moving to the heart of downtown gave the gym additional room to host their variety of group fitness classes, such as pilates, spin, barre, and strength training. Health coaching and personal training are feature services at their new location. Balance Culture also offer opportunities for co-ed, group classes that you could enjoy with your whole friend group!



Lloyds

Searching for a "new" antique? Then look no further than Lloyds of Lakeland for a spectacular collection of vintage wares. With over 15,000 square feet of space, you can easily spend hours browsing the unique — and sometimes bizarre — assortment of antiques packed throughout the store. Some of our team's favorite finds include collections of written postcards from as far back as 1906 as well as a host of vinyl records to sort through. And if you're an accessory addict, you'll appreciate the slew of vintage rings, button pins, and beaded purses dotted throughout the shop. Plus, be sure to check out the upstairs space for a glimpse of the building's historical Art Nouveau architecture, along with Lloyd's talkative pet parrot!

P.S. Lloyd's is situated along Kentucky Avenue where the Lakeland Farmer's Market is located on Saturdays, so we recommend making it a joint affair!



Written by Hannah Larson
Photographed by Michael Holden

The Collection Media

capturing Lakeland's beauty in *The People Who Live There*

Since his graduation from Southeastern University with a Communication degree in 2020, Campbell Rice has continued to chase after his divine design. Alongside his business partner, good friend, and fellow past attendee of Southeastern, Connor O'Brien, their company, The Collection Media LLC., has flourished to new heights.

From their humble – and slightly naïve – beginnings in early 2019 to their recent release of their first feature-length documentary, Rice and O'Brien have worked to produce promotions and media in alignment with the mission God placed upon their hearts long ago. "Here at The Collection Media, we set out from the beginning to have all the media we create to tell this one big story," says O'Brien. "We believe that everyone has a story worth telling, and if someone were to look at all the products we've created as a whole, they could see this bigger story coming out of it. What feels the best is modeling our productions after the plotline of humanity: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Sanctification. Life is not a highlight reel, so we don't make highlight reels. We wanted to have a human and empathic approach to storytelling, so that you get to experience life with that person."

"When you know the story of Jesus," echoes Rice, "it becomes obvious how every other story reflects His story, every single time, whether people see it or not."

Amid the chaos that a global pandemic brought us all in 2020, God sent Rice and O'Brien an opportunity to capture beauty through their camera lenses. After COVID-19 caused fellow alumni and local

realtor Paige Wagner to cancel her annual Historic Home Tour, she came to Campbell and Connor with a very special mission. She asked them to create a film that would act as a love letter to Lakeland by showcasing its personality through the lives of those living in the historic homes, entitled *The People Who Live There*.

"We take people for the whole story of Lakeland, and it was cool to be able to present it back to Lakeland," says O'Brien. "There's a big moment of hindsight: some situations can be panicked but looking back on them can bring a lot of hope to others."

"It was 9 months from start to finish, and it was the biggest project that we had ever taken on," says Rice. "We didn't have a lot of time to sit around, we just started going and meeting people and it led to a lot of beautiful moments. It gave us a lot of confidence that we could highlight beauty in this difficult time for everyone. The overall theme is a story of value. It's about valuing something that may not seem beautiful. It was chaotic in the process, but it gave me the opportunity to stop and admire beauty all around me."

Looking back at his time at Southeastern, Rice recognizes the beauty present in that season of his life as well. "The classroom was helpful and inspired me to work on special projects outside of class. When the classroom is paired well with outside experiences, the two go hand in hand very well. I would learn a lesson in class and then use that technique 30 minutes later on a shoot with a client."

As The Collection Media moves forward to their next endeavor, Rice and O'Brien hope to abide by 1 Timothy 1:5, "The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

"Our ultimate goal is not to make cool stuff that people just look at, but to empathize with people and to love them well," says Rice. "It is definitely a God thing, this future of ours. It's really not in our hands. Staying true to our roots and telling the stories that God wants to tell is what we always want to do. We just know that we are going to continue to create stuff for people, because we believe that the stories we are telling should be told."

When asked how we can support The Collection Media, O'Brien responds, "We want to see people invest in Lakeland, and to support Lakeland is to support us." You can also follow their journey @ [thecollectionmedia](https://www.thecollectionmedia.com), as *The People Who Live There* competes in a variety of film festivals.



LET THERE BE LIGHT

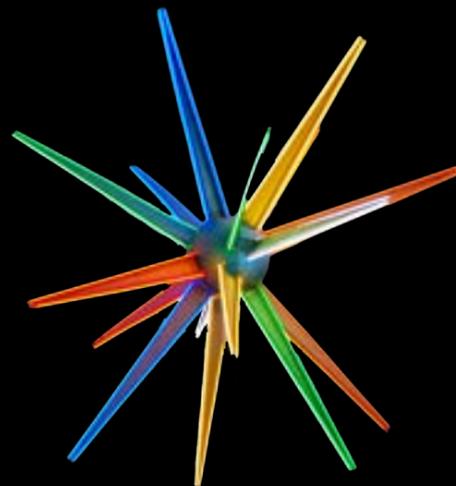
Written and Designed by Grace Baldwin

Where is your voice?
God has endowed us with His power.
We have power over our own chaos.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:1-5 HCSB



The world begins in chaos. Before we were made, before the Earth was crafted from nothing, the universe was of a deep, formless matter. A state of darkness, a state of confusion, a state of nothing. But then, Earth, obscured in the living matter of the universe.

"Let there be light," He spoke into the darkness, and there was light. Earth once obscured gained its proper form.

Words have power, don't they? God spoke into existence light, Earth, the sky, the eternal stars slinging from the heavens, and us. If our image is of God, then our words must have power. Our thoughts and voices can bring light into the darkness. Words are modern magic, though they are miracles often taken for granted.

I think that sometimes we forget this power given to us. Yes, we can speak light into the world and we can be harbingers of faith and goodwill, but we can also speak darkness into life. Our words carry the powerful forces of our love, hate, and sentiments. They speak what we value and what we see; carry information and imagination of grand meaning. Meaningless words to you and me can be a mountain to cross for others. Even the smallest words can make the biggest impact; do not mistake your power.

Chaos is wrought in chaos. It's a black hole drinking in more and more of itself, a swirling void devouring life. You try to avoid its gravity at all costs, yet, a slight crack ripples through the facade. You can see the chaos within you. You try to hide it, cover it, lie about it, but chaos is wrought in chaos, the most dangerous thing in the world. Small moments become big lies. At its heart, chaos is confusion: confusion of the nature and love of God.

There's a crack. There's weight on your chest and a tear on your cheek. Chaos is found in small moments. The quiet sorrow of a breaking heart, the crushing weight of the world. Who am I in comparison to creation? Who am I in comparison to you? Who am I? Chaos can be big, or it can be small. It can make us feel larger than life or make us shrink into ourselves. Eat me and grow, drink me and wither.

Where is He? Where is He when I feel worthless, like my life doesn't mean anything? Will anyone miss me when I'm gone? Where is He when the world crashes down around me? How can everything I've built fall like a house of cards? I thought this was Your will, God. Where is He when every face is turned from me and I am alone in my loneliness? Where is He?

...

"Let there be light," He spoke into the darkness, and there was light.

He is with you in the darkness. He is with you in the corners of your sorrow. He is here. He is there. He was there. He spoke the world into existence. He spoke life into the stars, the sun, and into you. He can speak into the chaos of your life. In the darkness, He speaks. He speaks.

Our image is of God, as He spoke. Our image is in God, and our words have power. Small miracles: we shall not abuse them, for we will choose to let the light in.

Student Feature: Kaylee Sontag

Written by Lois Asensogyambibi
Photography by Calli Fleming

“Knowing the difference between chaos that is out of our control and chaos we’ve created for ourselves.” For Kaylee, this has been the key to creating a healthy balance between nursing, dance, photography, and her role as an RA inof Esperanza Hall. For a lot of us, we find ourselves wrapped up in all these things we are passionate about and in all these areas we want to make a difference, but once we realize the solution to our chaos may not be everything and everyone else around us, but our own inability to prioritize, it takes a huge burden off our shoulders. It is okay to focus on that job, or that volunteer position and give it your all and let go of those other things for the time being. For Sontagher, this meant quitting the dance team to focus on her responsibilities as an RA and as well as her nursing degree.

Kaylee has always been known by the people around her as the girl who’s got it figured out. Although that may be true in some ways, she admits it is not always the case. God has worked miracles in her life and taken her places she could not have imagined. “I don’t think it’s wise to not have a plan,”

Kaylee says, “but I also think it’s even more foolish to be so set in your ways that you don’t do not allow God’s plan to take control of your life.” She started out her college journey as a Biology major before the Lord led her to pursue nursing.

From an early age, Kaylee was diagnosed with reading dyslexia and ADHD. Growing up with the diagnosis was far from easy. She had to take two years of tutoring. But and what, in the moment, may have seemed like a huge setback for a 14-year-old put her at the top of her English classes once she transitioned back into high school. Now, she considers it an important part of her story. To Sontagher, it’s not a disability, it’s just a different way her brain works. That may mean spending a little more time than the next person studying for a quiz or putting in a bit little more effort to stay focused in class. But all these experiences have and continue to shape the student she is today.

“It’s important that people are aware of what they say and how they joke about these things,” Kaylee says regarding reading dyslexia. A lot of people put all dyslexic peoples in the same cate-





gory. However, it is not always mixed-up letters and flying numbers. Everyone experiences it differently. It is easy for people to make jokes and casually imply that someone has dyslexia when they do not just because they are having trouble reading. To Kaylee, it is frustrating when people claim to have ADHD when they have not been properly diagnosed. It trivializes the issues that people who actually have ADHD deal with. Overall, people must learn to be more sensitive and aware of their words and how it can unintentionally affect the next person.

After college, Kaylee plans on going wants to go into the military as a military nurse and work in the ICU for a couple of years to get critical care experience and certification. Her goal is to go to doctorate school to get her DNAP (Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP))! As she pursues Despite these goals, she is letting God be the author of her unfinished story.

Kaylee's advice to any struggling college student out there is, "there's never really a perfect balance, but there's always beauty in trying to find peace." For those parts of your life when you feel like things are out of your control, it is okay to give yourself grace and find rest knowing that you serve a God who brings order out of chaos.



Photographed by
Ella Guild

WHAT ARE WE **IN CHAOS**

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WHAT ARE WE **IN CHAOS**



WHAT ARE WE **IN CHAOS**



THE MOMENT YOU COME TO
TRUST **CHAOS**, YOU SEE GOD
CLEARLY. **CHAOS** IS DIVINE
ORDER, VERSUS HUMAN ORDER.
CHANGE IS DIVINE ORDER,
VERSUS HUMAN ORDER. WHEN
THE **CHAOS** BECOMES SAFETY TO
YOU, THEN YOU KNOW YOU'RE
SEEING GOD CLEARLY.

• CARLONE MYSS •