

## Christian Service adds Ireland trip

Malvern Prep adds Ireland to service trips as problems there continue to arise

**Michael Bradley '17**  
REPORTER

In August 2017, 15 rising Malvern seniors will be embarking on a Christian Service trip to Ireland where they will help those less fortunate.

According to a pamphlet created by Malvern Preparatory School, these rising seniors will be flying from the United States to Ireland on Friday, August 18 and returning home on Thursday, August 31.

While in Ireland these students will be staying at a retreat home run by Christian Brothers in Dublin, Ireland. The exact service work they will be doing is still being determined.

In recent years, Ireland has faced problems which are crippling the economy and well-being of those living there. With problems arising in Africa and Middle East there has sharp increase in the number of immigrants living in Ireland. This in turn is causing a growth in homelessness, according to History Teacher Mr. Thomas McGuire.

On top of immigration problems, the economy of Ireland is suffering. "The country has gone into economic stagnation," McGuire said. "People started emigrating out in larger numbers than have been seen in 30-40 years."

The emigration of many Irish citizens is causing economic problems. Many jobs are available but the people applying to obtain these jobs do not have the necessary qualifications according to McGuire.

"The people who are leaving Ireland now are the professionals, the college-educated, accountant types, and lawyers," McGuire said. "So there is what they call the 'brain-drain'."

"There is a huge homeless problem. There is a huge hunger problem," Director of Christian Service Mr. Larry Legner said.

While there is no service set in stone so far, this new trip involves a class solely dedicated to learning about Ireland and determining what service is needed.

"We are not sure what we are doing yet," Legner said. "That is being determined by the students going."

The class meets once a week at alternating times both

before and after school and is taught by a range of teachers.

"The class meets Tuesdays after school one week," McGuire said. "And Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. the following week."

In the classes, students learn about the history, economy, art, music, languages, and cultures of Ireland. They will also research the sort of service that is needed.

Legner hopes to work with a fellow Augustinian high school in Dublin, Ireland. "So [the students] could talk to them through Skype, or email, and get ideas from them," Legner said.

"We want to build a relationship with a school over there," Head of the Upper School Mr. Ron Algeo said.

Similar to the students, the teachers involved in this trip will be in contact with a school. They also will be going in with the intentions of learning about Ireland and service needed.

From November 11-13, several faculty and staff, including Lenger and Algeo will be traveling to Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. While there, these faculty will be viewing the university's Irish Studies Department, and talking to university faculty about Notre Dame University's Irish Department's annual service trip to Ireland.

Notre Dame University will be on their service just two weeks before Malvern is set to begin its own.

"Maybe we can kind of mesh, and work with them," Legner said. "And work on a bigger project, something they can do for two weeks, and then we can pick up for two weeks."

Christian Service is a requirement for all students at Malvern Preparatory School. "It is an essential part of the experience here at Malvern," Legner said.

"My hope has always been with all of the trips that this is what happens," Legner said. "I could see the South Africa trip going to this next." ♦

*Story produced in senior Journalism and Media Literacy elective class.*

## MTS rehearses for Shakespeare comedy

Malvern Prep, Villa Maria, and Notre Dame prepare to perform "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" this fall.



CIARA KELLEY, VMA '20 & CHARLIE SAYERS '20 REHEARSE FOR SHAKESPEARE / T. PERO

**Tommy Wolters '17**  
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Malvern Theatre Society is in the process of preparing for "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare" by practicing after school and weekends. The show opens at the Duffy Arts Center on Friday, November 4.

The show has all of William Shakespeare's plays and sonnets. It is a fast firing comedy consisting of 37 plays and a mix of 154 sonnets written by the master himself, according to senior actor Nick Gatti.

Director Dr. Jim Fry picked this show because, "It's something that's never been done before. It's comedy. It's audience interactive. It affords everyone the opportunity to act— to

play different roles, guys playing girls [and] girls playing guys," he said. "It's funny. It's hilarious."

Gatti has been a member of MTS since freshman year. "I fell in love with the theatre program at Malvern during the first tryouts," Gatti said. "The people involved and the opportunities sparked my interest right away."

Gatti is very excited for the upcoming performance. "The play is about three guys performing every show in one hour and 30 minutes and it is a parody of all of them," Gatti said. "It's going to be a great show and an even better time performing it."

There are three main characters that perform over 70 characters.

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## Theatre students explore 'little bit of everything'

Underclassmen theatre students learn theatre through a variety of assignments, in a variety of locations.



MATT MOULES '20 AND MASON BENTLEY '20 REVIEW A SCENE DURING THEATRE CLASS / T. PERO

**Jalen Wade '17**  
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This fall, eight freshmen and one sophomore are exploring theatre in a class taught by Director of Student Life and Malvern Theatre Society Director Dr. James Fry.

Director of the Arts Ms. Jackie White described the semester-long course, which counts for a half-credit towards the upper school's one credit arts requirement. "It has everything to do with theatre, from building, to acting, to make-up, to costumes," White said.

Dr. Fry shared the basics of the Theatre class. "It's a little bit of everything like improvisation, to learning basic acting techniques, to history of theatre, and understanding the work behind the scenes," he said.

No previous theatre experience is required as a prerequisite, and the class is open to students in all four years of upper school. The students are assigned homework in the course, and they are asked to complete different forms of work.

"Sometimes it's a written assignment, sometimes it's preparing a scene to be acted in class," Fry said. "It's a class where most of it is performance based, and a lot of the homework is reading a scene and preparing to be acted out for a midterm, final, or class."

Two students in the class, Matt Moules and Vikram Chodapaneeedi, said the homework was limited, but when they have it, it is usually studying scripts.

"There's not much homework," Chodapaneeedi said. "We had a quiz on the parts of the stage."

The class takes place in different locations around Malvern's campus. "We're all over the place. We were scheduled to be in the middle school music room, but we moved to the conference room next to the elevator in Duffy," Fry said. "If there's a performance piece, we go to the stage and we do time in the theatre."

Taking the class doesn't confirm the student a spot in extracurricular fall or spring Malvern Theatre Society Productions, but being a Malvern Prep student does.

"If you're a Malvern Prep guy, and your schedule allows you, you will be cast in the play regardless of your experience level," Fry said. "Some guys in the class are in the play and some guys aren't in the play."

According to Dr. Fry, the class has been in the curriculum for six years, but it hasn't been taught every year.

Fry had the idea of the class and began it during his teaching tenure at Archbishop Prendergast High School in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania. He would like to see the course run consistently at Malvern Prep.

"It would be nice to break the course up into more specialized areas, like a theatre tech class where it focuses just on behind the scenes and stage crew," Fry said. "It will be a gateway class to test everything and figure out what you like and the student can make a choice of what side they would like to focus more on."

Dr. Fry enjoys teaching the class at Malvern and seeing his students in a different environment. "My favorite part about the class is watching the students grow as an actor, watching their confidence levels increase, and watching them be a kid again," he said.

Moules enjoys being a part of the class. "My favorite part about theatre class is reading the script in the theatre," Moules said.

Chodapaneeedi also likes being a part of the class. "I enjoy how relaxed it is and how we have a lot of time and opportunities to finish our work," he said. ♦

*Story produced in senior Journalism and Media Literacy elective class.*