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# Cedars, January 2017

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# CEDARS

The Award-Winning Student News Publication of Cedarville University January 2017



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podcast for her creative  
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final portfolio performance

## ALSO INSIDE:

- "Heartbeat Bill" is vetoed in Ohio, but raises discussion about abortion issue
- Students get "pumped up" for Volt, Cedarville's new weight lifting program





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1 Peter 1:6-7 (ESV version)





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**TO BE CONTINUED...**



# A Recap of the Golden Globes

A critical look at what it means to be an actor



Photos courtesy of Getty Images

“La La Land” dominated the Golden Globes with seven awards.

by *Emily Day*

Entertainment award show season officially kicked off Sunday, Jan. 8, with the 74th annual Golden Globe Awards. Though some may say that the Golden Globes are less prestigious than perhaps the Oscars, the Globes honors a wide array of talents, spanning acting to musical scores, from both film and television.

Coming off the heels of a controversial year, the Globes was marked by two key factors: the unquestionable success of “La La Land” and the controversial discussion of an actor’s responsibility to be empathetic.

Already slotted as a favorite going into the evening, “La La Land” completely stole

the show. It not only walked away winning each of the seven awards it was nominated for, but in doing so, broke a Globes record. In addition to receiving the title of best musical/comedy film, leads Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling won best actress and actor respectively, while its director, Damien Chazelle, earned best director and screenplay awards. Finally, to top it all off, “La La Land” was awarded Best Original Score and Best Original Song.

As a movie written to celebrate the arts and the creative people who pursue art, it seems fitting that “La La Land” should be honored at an award show celebrating the arts. In her acceptance speech, Stone dedi-

cated her award to the fellow dreamers for which the movie was created.

“This is a film for dreamers,” she said. “I think that hope and creativity are two of the most important things in this world and that’s what this movie is about.”

Stone continued encouraging creatives to keep pushing ahead despite rejection, saying that she shares her award with them.

Later in the evening, three-time Oscar-winner Meryl Streep used her Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award speech to encourage her fellow actors to use their unique platform to showcase empathy. Despite her voice being weak from illness, she urged her colleagues to use their

platform to give a voice to misrepresented people groups especially in light of the current social and political climate.

“An actor’s only job is to enter the lives of those different from us and let you feel what that feels like,” Streep said.

Streep did not shy away from calling out President Donald Trump and his campaign, blaming them for fostering a climate where minorities felt defenseless and unsafe. She cited Trump’s alleged mockery of a disabled journalist as a mark of Trump’s disregard for the responsibility his position of power gives him.

“This instinct to humiliate, when it’s modeled by someone in the public plat-



Photo Courtesy of Simply Streep

### Meryl Streep

form, by someone powerful, filters down into everybody's life," she said. "Cause it kind of gives permission for other people to do the same thing."

Streep continued encouraging both the press and her fellow actors to come together to hold the government accountable and to stand for truth. She ended with a quote of encouragement from the recently departed Carrie Fisher, "take your broken heart and turn it into art."

Regardless of political affiliation, it's encouraging to hear people like Streep, with a large audience, coming to the defense of those who have been forgotten, ignored or mistreated.

The 2017 Golden Globes let people see the more human side of Hollywood. Showing actors as people who want to make a positive impact in the world through the arts.

*Emily Day is a senior journalism major and arts & entertainment editor for Cedars. When not writing, she is watching an array of Broadway shows or forcing people to reading her overly cliched blog.*

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# Alicia Williams: Accident Expands Passion

by Rebekah Erway

**A**licia Williams strives to glorify God and encourage others with music despite challenges playing the instrument of her choice. Williams had to change her major after a neck injury left her unable to play the piano regularly.

Williams came to Cedarville last year from the Akron area as a freshman keyboard pedagogy major with dreams of starting a piano studio. She said she loved playing the piano as a child but did not enjoy learning it. She struggled with theory and certain technical aspects and wants to help future students by teaching them in a fun way.

"That's why I wanted to be a piano teacher, and in a bigger, broader sense a music teacher," she said. "I don't care if they switch to another instrument, I just want them to enjoy music. I want them to enjoy it like I do."

Williams, who is now a vocal major, said she envisions herself as a Maria Von Trapp type teacher, from "The Sound of Music." Williams' roommate, Bethany Blair, said the enjoyment of music is a part of who Williams is. She said when Williams is not playing music, she is listening to it, and she uses music to encourage herself.

"I feel like there's a conversation between her and music," Blair said. "It's affected her major and her career and its affected her personality and her lifestyle."

January 2017 would have marked the 14th year Williams has played piano, but unfortunately, that's not the case. In March of 2016, Williams noticed that she had trouble with her hands.

"I thought they just got tired from playing on the piano, so I gave them a break," Williams said. "But they never got better."

Chiropractors informed Williams that her problem is in her neck rather than her hands. Her neck has a backward curve, which puts a lot of pressure on her nerves. Chiropractors told Williams the shape of her neck was evidence of some sort of accident with whiplash. In March of 2015, Williams was in a sledding accident which smashed her jaw and required plastic surgery. Williams said she thinks the accident,



Photo by Campbell Bortel

Alicia Williams took piano lessons under the instruction of Dr. John Mortensen in this office.

combined with posture issues, caused her hand pain.

With her neck issues, Williams had to give up her keyboard pedagogy major. Even with personal training exercises, she can only practice piano for approximately 45 minutes a day, which is not enough practice for a piano major.

"A piano player can't not play the piano," she said.

The transition away from keyboard pedagogy has been difficult Williams said, but remembering how God worked through her accident encourages her that God is in control of her life through these issues as well.

In particular, Williams described how after the sledding accident she and her family were able to talk to her pediatrician

about suffering. Her pediatrician believed in karma and was upset that Williams had to go through an accident when she was a good person. Williams was able to give both her pediatrician and her plastic surgeon copies of a book on suffering by R.C. Sproul.

"I haven't heard much about what she's been thinking since, but I can't help but think that maybe we planted a seed," Williams said. "That just made it all worth it, because being in the situation and seeing the possible reason of why it happened was really encouraging because I feel like that's a rare occurrence."

Even though Williams is unable to play piano as much as she would like, she has not given up on music. Williams became a vocal major last semester in order to continue in the music department. She has sung with

her parents and two younger brothers several times and been in church choirs. Williams said she cannot imagine doing something unconnected to music.

"[Being a vocal major is] new and it's scary, but I've always wanted voice lessons," she said. "God wants me to do it, I guess."

A professor suggested to Williams that she use voice as an addition to her future piano studio. Williams is not sure if she will do it, but she said she thought it was a huge opportunity.

While her passion for music is a giant part of her life, it is not all she is. Williams said she enjoys the other arts, including drawing, painting, and reader's theater. She also makes a variety of crafts, from cards to colonial dresses.

Brittany Roberts, a music major with concentrations in harp and keyboard pedagogy, met Williams last year through the music department. Roberts said they became friends because of the numerous things the two have in common (including making dresses).

"On first meeting her, it's like the tip of an iceberg," Roberts said. "There's so much depth to her. She has at first a kind of quiet personality. But if you take the time to spend with her, it's always so well spent. She's a gem, and she's so fun."

Blair said she recommends Williams as someone to hang out with if you want to have fun.

"She's very cheerful even when she's going through a difficult time," Blair said. "She keeps her energy up, she's bubbly, very thoughtful and kind, and very talkative, too."

Williams said she tries to stay cheerful despite her accident and hand struggles in order to encourage others, and she appreciates those who have helped her stay cheerful.

"I really want to get back in," she said. "I don't think I appreciated [lessons] as much before. [I'm] just realizing that what I have here is really a blessing and an opportunity."

*Rebekah Erway is a junior journalism major and campus news editor for Cedars. She is a diehard Disney, VeggieTales, and Lord of the Rings fan and enjoys speaking in a British accent.*



# Movie Review: 'Hidden Figures'



Photos Courtesy of 20th Century Fox Movies

by *Amelia Walker*

In the new film “Hidden Figures,” directed by Theodore Melfi, three female African-American NASA employees go against segregation standards and gender stereotypes to assist in completing one of America’s greatest engineering feats: sending an astronaut to space.

The story follows the career and life of computing genius Katherine Johnson (Taraaji P. Henson), alongside her two coworkers: aspiring engineer Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe) and programmer Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer). The trio, along with many other black women, work in the West Area Computers division, a sector made up of skillful mathematicians that tend to be unappreciated by their white counterparts.

After finally being recognized for her talent, Johnson is assigned to do analytic geometry and computing for the aerospace division but is met with some adversity. Standing out as not just the only African-American but also the only woman in the department, Johnson is faced with disrespect from her colleagues and the numerous segregation standards at the time, such as having to drink from a separate coffee canister and use a different bathroom.

Likewise, Vaughn and Jackson are

faced with equally unhappy circumstances. Jackson, though possessing an engineering mind and motivation, cannot work for NASA without education, and education is only provided to white males. Vaughn has a more internal struggle, that being a female overseer who is unwilling to give her the manager title, though her present work and abilities merit the promotion. All the women are inspirationally driven to achieve their goals and are unswayed by their circumstances.

The main storyline follows Johnson’s fight to prove she has the training and skills to be a valuable asset to the department and is worthy of doing the calculations for the illustrious Space Race.

The obvious topics throughout the film are racism and sexism, but the idea of sacrifice of the women and their families is also well presented. Other issues, such as single parenting, vying for promotion and ignorant prejudice are eloquently woven in between discussions of flight calculations. The film does well to show the women’s struggles as minorities without demonizing their male coworkers and allows both their strong and their vulnerable qualities to shine through.

“Hidden Figures” is saturated with serious discussions of race as well as sweet moments of reconciliation within the workplace as well as the home. This is perhaps

best demonstrated in Johnson’s relationship with her supervisor Al Harrison (Kevin Costner), whose gruff authority manifests itself in countercultural ways. Such as when he accepts Johnson’s more creative methods and removes the segregated bathrooms.

The film leads you to laugh at Jackson’s sassy one-liners, cry with Vaughan’s rejections, and increase your hope with every step toward acceptance Johnson takes. The film is empowering to watch and gives a fresh look behind the scenes of the John Glenn flight we all learned about in history class. Backed with a soundtrack by the renowned composer Hans Zimmer and “The Voice’s” Pharrell Williams, the film gives a vibrant representation of the 1960s while also maintaining a modern feel and sound.

As a female engineering student, I found “Hidden Figures” to be especially meaningful. When Johnson walked into an office full of men, I was instantly taken back to the many labs I’ve entered as the only female student, realizing every man in the room was aware of my presence in a most unflattering way.

As Vaughn fought for position, I was reminded of lab partners who disregarded my knowledge for their own agenda. As Jackson took the open seat in the front of the room, I recalled boldly doing the same

in my Advanced Digital Logic Design class. True enough, I face nothing like the racial contempt these women endured, but I do know a thing or two about being the odd one out and getting labeled with an inaccurate stereotype.

This film was a breath of fresh air to this young collegiate just to know that I am following a legacy set by women who fought and succeeded in their careers while balancing other friendships and responsibilities.

The movie, however, did fail to represent what happens when male coworkers stop seeing women as a spectacle and start seeing them as equals. Engineering is so heavily focused on teamwork, and I would have liked to see the women’s relationships with their male co-workers more developed.

All in all, “Hidden Figures” was an excellent movie that gives accurate insight into the lives of women in engineering and computer science. It will leave you laughing, sighing and wanting to fight all within the span of a few scenes. “Hidden Figures” came to theaters on Christmas Day and the DVD release date is estimated for April.

*Amelia Walker is a senior electrical engineer and an arts and entertainment writer for Cedars. When not writing, she enjoys solving Rubik’s cubes and pretending she’s*



# Movie Review: 'La La Land'



Photo Courtesy of Lionsgate Publicity

by Callahan Jones

The modern musical "La La Land," directed by Damien Chazelle, is a fresh twist on a tale of love told time and time again. It is held up by solid acting, innovative cinematography, and a Golden Globe winning soundtrack.

The film opens up with an energetic number, "Another Day of Sun," that tells of life in Los Angeles. The scene features impressive on-screen choreography in an expressive Broadway style.

It is during this opener that the two main characters are introduced during a fit of LA traffic road rage. Mia (Emma Stone) is an actress struggling to break into Hollywood and is working at a coffee shop in the meantime. Sebastian (Ryan Gosling) is the stereotypical starving jazz artist with dreams of opening his own jazz club.

They meet again at a party and reluctantly fall in love and urge each other to reach for the stars. The two start to tackle

their dreams over a multitude of scenes and songs.

Rather than wondering what a couple in love might do when their ambitions are pulling them in opposite directions, the film ambitiously tackles the problem, one that many couples face today, head on.

However, "La La Land's" plot, though viewed through an interesting lens, is a story that has been many times. Two people meet, fall in love, live some of life together, and then have problems that eventually resolve in one way or another. The plot concept itself is the weakest part of the movie.

Also on the weak side are some of the supporting roles in the cast. One of the most disappointing performances is John Legend appearing in the role of Sebastian's old college friend. Legend seemed cast for his ability to draw people to the film, rather than for his acting ability. Legend's star power is especially apparent in the scene containing the track "Start A Fire," the oddest break of the entire film.

What is not weak about "La La Land" is almost every other aspect of the film.

Both Stone and Gosling play their characters excellently, making them believable and drawing the audience into the story, regardless of how many times they've heard it before. Their chemistry is outstanding. Stone and Gosling also performed all of their character's dancing and singing in the film, areas in which they are evidently skilled.

One place in which their skill is apparent is during the song "A Lovely Night," which is when the two first start to fall in love. Throughout the beautiful and humorous number, the two sing about how the night was wasted by the other's company while cycling through various forms of dance, including an extended tap-inspired routine.

The strong character portrayals by Stone and Gosling are backed up by the film's smart writing. The dialogue flows naturally and the humor is well placed. However, the movie does make some clever al-

lusions to popular movies of the past that might go over the heads of younger or less informed audience members.

The music of "La La Land" is the real shining feature of the film, as it should be. All but one of the songs was composed by Justin Hurwitz, a newcomer to film composing. Many of the tracks, both those sung by the characters and the soundtrack, have a heavy jazz influence, fitting in with the character of Sebastian and giving the entire film a nostalgic feel.

One of the most emotionally powerful moments of the film, the epilogue, is filled entirely with a sweeping track (the appropriately titled "Epilogue"), which contains throwbacks to the rest of the musical themes present in the film.

Overall, "La La Land" feels like a throwback to the films of yesteryear but manages to keep it fresh and relevant to today's world. Through Stone and Gosling's performances, smart writing decisions and a refreshing and powerful soundtrack, Chazelle has managed to produce a movie that is easily one of the best of 2016.

Callahan Jones is a sophomore journalism major and a writer and web designer for Cedars. He enjoys progressive metal, jazz, classical, various other kinds of music, and boardgames.



# Book Review: 'Serving God in a Migrant Crisis'

by Keegan D'Alfonso

It has become a regular occurrence, background noise really. You turn on the news or open the paper and see another story about refugees. You would like to help them, but what can you do? Your church supports aid organizations to refugees and you tithe regularly. Isn't that enough? The truth is that the migrant problem seems to be an "over there" problem and a part of you would like to keep it that way.

In early 2016, Global Mapping International, an organization that uses research and technology to help direct Christian missions, released a book called "Serving God in the Migrant Crisis" by Patrick Johnstone with Dean Merrill. The goal of the book is to help Christians learn how to respond to the growing influx of refugees in a biblical way.

Many Christians struggle with how to handle the refugee crisis in our world today. So many misconceptions exist that it is hard to make an informed opinion. At the heart of the problem lies fear. We are afraid of the loss of comfort, facing something we don't understand and the threat of violence by a small portion of those we deign to help.

However, the Holy Spirit does not give us a spirit of fear, as we are told in 2 Timothy 1:7. In Mark 12:31, we are reminded to love our neighbors as ourselves. With the heart of these scriptures in mind "Serving God in the Migrant Crisis" guides the reader in how to biblically approach the current situation.

The book provides a concise and well-informed viewpoint on the migrant crisis that is designed to allow someone who has no knowledge of the issue to easily learn. It questions how well you truly understand the reasons and the motivations that have led to the displacement of over 60 million people.

The numbers themselves are not enough, however. Facts and figures without a solution breeds sympathy but not action, which is why "Serving God in a Migrant Crisis" is divided into three parts that clearly explain how readers at any level of their church body can get involved and help.

Johnstone challenges Christians to

consider how they feel about the migrant crisis and why they feel the way they do. While not everyone is called to minister to the refugee, our attitudes toward the issue are still important.

While Johnstone explains many of his points in detail, the simple message that reverberates through his book is the principal of showing hospitality to the stranger.

Although the book offers several facts and figures to highlight the author's points, they are also broken up with personal stories that make it easy to put the figures in perspective.

Johnstone is also careful to support his points on proper Christian responses with scripture references. He approaches scripture holistically and often pulls from both the Old and New Testaments.

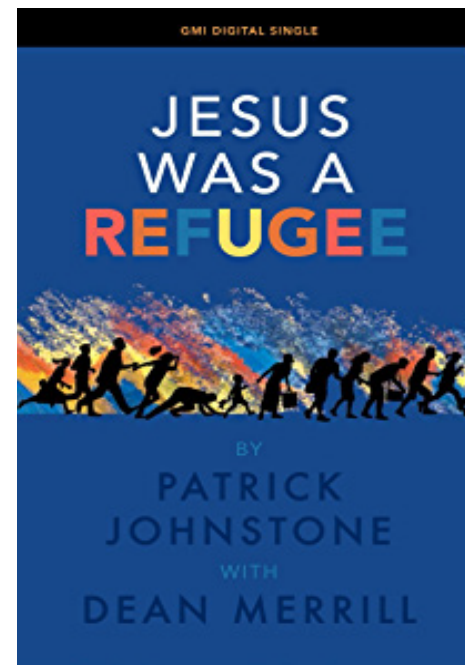
However, "Serving God in the Migrant Crisis" does not only focus on the results on

what a positive Christian response can have; it also reveals the damage an unbiblical response can have in our ability to minister to refugees.

Christians have a unique opportunity to serve God in a migrant crisis. Johnstone's book "Serving God in a Migrant Crisis" teaches Christians how to capitalize on that unique opportunity and fulfill the Great Commission.

The book can be purchased at [www.gmi.com](http://www.gmi.com) in a variety of electronic formats or ordered through Print on Demand for a hard copy.

Keegan D'Alfonso is a sophomore journalism major and the off-campus news editor for Cedars. He was a sergeant in the Marines and enjoys learning about and experiencing other cultures.



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# Students See a Lot, Learn a Lot in Capital

Different majors intern and tour popular sites while studying during D.C. Semester

by Keegan D'Alfonso

During the fall 2016 semester, 15 Cedarville students studied in the heart of our nation, Washington D.C. The D.C. Semester provided these students with a unique opportunity to learn how our nation's government operates and to form connections with policy makers and government officials.

The D.C. Semester was set up as a 16-credit hour semester, including individual 10-credit hour D.C. internships. The remaining six credit hours were from two evening classes taught by Dr. Marc Clauson on Tuesday and Thursday nights: Faith and Public Policy and Faith and Public Life. This setup allowed the Cedarville students to get hands on experience in a field they were interested in pursuing while learning to apply Christian values as they engage in government and with the public.

Every Monday students got a break from internships and classes and went on Cedarville-sponsored trips to experience more of the Capital and the surrounding area, which the students said was both educational and fun.

Jana Minich, a political science major, said the purpose of the semester was to create a bridge between the things they are learning in class and real-world experience.

"There are just so many subtle intricacies of the different professions we are looking into that just can't be learned in a classroom," Minich said. "To have that real-world experience is invaluable for being ready to engage in our world after graduation."

Minich and other students said the semester also allowed them to build a network of connections in the D.C. area, which is important for potentially obtaining a job after graduation.

"That for me is the main purpose of the D.C. Semester," said Unix Diza, a social studies education major. "The internship, the ability to get a hands-on experience on the job training sort of allows you to get



Photo provided by Victoria Stearns

Unix Diza (left end of third row) was able to use his Filipino citizenship to take the students on a tour of the Philippine Embassy.

started on your Washington D.C. network."

The semester also taught the students life skills and gave them a perspective on the working world outside of the classroom. Diza said the semester was a nice buffer for him to relax and focus on what life after college would look like. This included getting used to basic things like going grocery shopping and preparing meals; responsibilities Diza didn't need to worry about in Cedarville.

"There's all those little things that you take for granted at Cedarville that I really walked away with and was like wow, there's a lot that I don't know," Diza said. "But after my time in D.C. I have much to learn still, but I think I can take care of myself."

Victoria Stearns, an applied communication and political science double major, said the semester was an opportunity to experience the real world and be treated like an adult.

Not only did the semester teach the students more about how to survive on their own and work in the professional world, it also taught some of them how to better share their faith.

"Most people believe that in conservatism, which is kind of where I lean, that most everyone is going to be a Bible-believing Christian," Stearns said. "That is completely not true."

Stearns interned in the Strategic Mar-



keting Creative Office of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. She said this was the first time she had worked with people with conservative ideologies that were not Christian.

“It was a complete throw for me,” Stearns said. “One of the things I learned is how to share my faith in a work setting.”

While some of the students took internships that allowed them get experience in what they want to do when they graduate, Stearns chose an internship that she had no experience in to broaden her skill set.

“I did graphic design and publishing, and I had never done anything like that before,” Stearns said. “So, I picked up the entire Adobe Creative suite: Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Bridge. I had to learn all of those in the first week.”

Minich, who interned at Alliance Defending Freedom doing legal work, chose her internship based on her interest. Even so, she expanded her skill set and learned new things, including using legal databases for research.

“I was able to do tons and tons of research on different cases there, I just dove really deep,” Minich said. “There is a just a vast ocean of case law to dig through. That was exciting.”

Stanley Schwartz, a history and eco-

nomics double major, worked as an intern at the Atlas Network, a free-market think tank that networks with organizations all over the world.

“As a history major there are about three ways you can go: museum, academia or think tank,” Schwartz said. “I interned at a museum over the summer so I thought I ought to give this think tank thing a try. So, I interned at a think tank that had a lot of connections with a lot of other think tanks and really I saw how think tanks work, what their policy staff does, and how research there works. So, that’s what I was looking to get out of it.”

Despite being in Washington D.C. during a historic election year, many of the students said they were surprised at how calm people were.

“A lot of what I saw in D.C. was people that didn’t really care much about the election because they’ve been there done that,” Schwartz said. “A lot of these people are the experts so they know they will be hired by whoever comes around, and if not they will be hired by the opposition.”

Minich agreed with Schwartz and said that in some sense it was like being in the eye of the storm, where everything was happening around them in the battleground states, but no one was really campaigning



Photo by Amy Searl

Unix Diza waits outside the Supreme Court as he waits in line to listen to the oral arguments.

there.

“I think there was like one protest,” she said. “At one point there were people out on the mall by the Washington Monument with a giant golden dragon, and tents, and one of them had an igloo, and there was a teepee. But I don’t really know if that was a protest or just some really weird hippies.”

Stearns said she was impressed with how the election did not seem to have a major impact on the people she was working with, despite how it could affect everything they were working toward.

“Everybody went home from work that [election] night, got up and came right back and did the exact same thing they did the day before,” Stearns said. “It was so different for me to be able to see that.”

She said even though it looked like a big deal on the media, the people she was working with knew what they stood for and the election did not change that.

All the students enjoyed the opportunity they had to live in D.C. and took time to explore the area. Many felt awestruck by what they could experience.

“The places you see in pictures is literally where we were every night. It was just the coolest experience,” Stearns said. “You can go sit and eat lunch on the Supreme

Court steps. That’s cool.”

If dining outside the highest court of the land feels too supercilious, there were many other places in D.C. that students chose to eat. Minich said her favorite spot was Astro’s Doughnuts & Fried Chicken.

“The fried chicken is on point and the doughnuts are on point,” Minich said. “You really can’t ask for anything more.”

Of course, there was more to do than just eat. The students also took the time to go sightseeing and enjoy city life.

“You can literally live in D.C. for 10 years and not do it all,” Minich said.

All the students said they felt like they learned a lot from their experience and would encourage others to go on a semester to D.C. or elsewhere.

“I would encourage anybody on campus, if it’s something they want to do or are interested in, to consider heavily either studying domestically in a different location or studying abroad,” Diza said. “I learned a lot.”

*Keegan D’Alfonso is a sophomore journalism major and the off-campus news editor for Cedars. He was a sergeant in the Marines and enjoys learning about and experiencing other cultures.*



Photo provided by Victoria Stearns

Left to right, Erika Wynn, Amy Searl and Victoria Stearns explored the United States Botanic Garden on their day off.



# Alumna Comes Home

Danielle Fredette returns to teach electrical engineering



Photos by Alex Weber

Danielle Fredette teaches her class about different flows of electricity through a circuit board. Fredette is a 2012 Cedarville graduate and earned a master's degree at Ohio State.

by *Rebekah Erway*

**C**edarville University graduate Danielle Fredette has returned to the college this semester as an assistant professor of electrical engineering.

Fredette, formerly Scarpone, graduated from Cedarville in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. She went on to earn a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering from Ohio State University and is currently working on her doctoral degree in computer engineering.

Fredette said after graduate school she had a choice between going into full-time research or teaching.

"All along," she said, "I've been a lot more interested in students than in research."

As a graduate student, Fredette gained research funding, which meant she never had the time or necessity to get an official teaching job, but she tried to get as much volunteer teaching experience as she could. She taught summer engineering camp labs, did course development and gave seminars.

Cedarville was Fredette's first job application. She said she chose Cedarville because the university has only an undergraduate program in engineering, so she will spend most of her time on teaching.

"I also really like it here," she said.

Fredette said she realizes coming back to the school she graduated from may be difficult. She explained there are two main schools of thought on hiring back alumni. The first argues for it because alumni are already familiar with the culture of the college or university. The second argues against hiring alumni because they lack the variety of opinions needed in a flourishing learning environment. According to this second argument, Fredette said, alumni should at least go somewhere else before returning, "which I kind of did."

"Knowing that people think that, I'm hoping that going into this, I can maintain my own ideas about things, and not just say, 'Oh, you're my favorite professor, so I'll do





Photos by Alex Weber

Danielle Fredette is one of only two female engineering professors at Cedarville University.

whatever you say,” she said. “To be respectful, but hopefully bring some of the ideas I’ve gotten from not here to add to the pool.”

Fredette also said she likes that she is familiar with the Cedarville culture after coming here as a student.

“[Cedarville has] a lot more expectations than, just, you’re smart and you can teach,” she said. “There’s all the doctrinal stuff, which I think is wonderful, but somebody coming in might be taken aback by all of that.”

Fredette said she thinks knowing the culture and what other people want from her will make her teaching position more comfortable for her, other professors, and students.

As professor and alumna, Fredette will be working as a colleague to professors who used to teach her as an undergrad student. One, professor of electrical engineering Jeff Shortt, said he remembered Fredette as a good student.

“She’s smart. Very energetic, interactive,” Shortt said. “[As a student, Fredette] would enter lecture discussion, had plenty of questions, struck me as a self-starter. She would ask a question until she understood it.”

Shortt taught Fredette in three different courses during her junior and senior year as an undergraduate. He said he is looking forward to interacting with Fredette now that she has returned.

“It’s going to be different because I knew her as a student and of course she’s now back as a colleague,” Shortt said. “I’m not saying she’s grown up – she was already grown up – just a different level, different way of thinking about her.”

Shortt said he was not surprised to hear that Fredette was coming back to teach at Cedarville. He said he could see it was one of her goals even before she left for graduate school.

“I think to have that ministry is a special gift,” Shortt said.

Shortt also said he is interested in seeing how Fredette teaches her courses. He said he is willing to offer her advice if she asks but that she has interesting ideas on how to lead a class already. Shortt is looking forward to seeing how Fredette’s time as a professor will play out.

“I used to be serving her [as a teacher],” he said. “Now I’ll be serving with her.”

Shortt said he expects Fredette to get along well with the students.

He saw how she was involved in campus life when she was a student, and he said he would not be surprised if she continued to be involved in some way as a faculty member.

“She’ll be a huge part of some students lives,” he said.

Fredette said she is looking forward to interacting with students and other people more than she has in the past two years as a researcher. She said that, to the extent that she continues research, she hopes to involve students.

Fredette’s younger age in comparison to other professors may affect how she interacts with students. Fredette said she has already been confused for an undergrad by students.

“I know I’m young, but I’m not a student,” Fredette said. “I guess I’ll only get older and then it’ll become more apparent.”

Fredette also said she may find teaching at Cedarville more awkward than at another school because both Fredette’s sister, Rebecca Scarpone, 2013 graduate, and her brother, Nathan Scarpone, also chose to come to Cedarville. Fredette said students who remembered her sister had already confused the two of them. She has also run into her brother’s friends in the Hive.

Even though the two are siblings, Nathan Scarpone, a junior accounting major, said he is glad that Fredette chose to come back to Cedarville to teach.

“Her being professor here makes perfect sense,” Scarpone said. “As soon as she came here, she fell in love with the school.”

Scarpone said he will enjoy having the chance to spend some more time with his sister, now that she and her husband, Luke Fredette, have moved closer to campus. He recommends that other students take the opportunity to head over to Fredette’s house to try a meal made by her or her husband, who are both good cooks.

“As a starving college student, if you go to their house, it’s a pretty nice setup,” he said.

But, Scarpone said he is excited for his sister’s opportunity more than for anything else.

“I knew [coming back] was something she wanted to do, and to see her actually complete it and do it is really

## “As a professor, I think she’ll be good at helping students understand things.”

*Nathan Scarpone*

Danielle Fredette’s brother and CU student

cool,” he said. “Me as a student, she’s where I want to be in a few years. It’s like, ‘Hey, it works out if you keep it up.’”

Scarpone also said he thinks Fredette will be a good addition to the engineering department.

“I think she’ll bring a great air to the campus,” he said. “As a professor, I think she’ll be good at helping students understand things, driving them to do better, incentivizing [them] to learn and thrive in this engineering world.”

Starting this semester, Fredette will teach C++ programming, Engineering Analysis, and a Digital Logic Design lab. Fredette said she is looking forward to these classes and whatever further responsibilities she may gain later on.

“I’ll try to be a cool professor, but I don’t make any promises about being easy,” Fredette said. “The people here are really good. There’s a quality student at CU, and I’m going to enjoy that. Being elsewhere has taught me that.”

*Rebekah Erway is a junior journalism major and campus news editor for Cedars. She is a diehard Disney, Veggie-tales, and Lord of the Rings fan and enjoys speaking in a British accent.*



Photos by Alex Weber

Danielle Fredette says she is excited to bring fresh and new ideas to the already solid engineering program.



# Parsons' Pioneering Podcast

Creative writing student helps redefine the capstone portfolio requirements

by Paolo Carrion

Imagine reading your own writing for an audience of three people — for an hour.

A little awkward?

Elise Parsons thought so. This reading is part of the presentation requirement for the creative writing minor.

"It's kind of a hybrid of story time and a lecture," Parsons said.

So she decided to do something different.

Parsons, a senior English and graphic design double major, is working on the capstone project for her creative writing minor.

The idea of sitting down for an hour for a literary reading is "a little bit foreign to most people," Parsons said. She's attended several readings in the past, and is usually one of three audience members.

"I think that weirdness might be why nobody ever came to these readings," she said.

The goal of the presentation portion is to bring more awareness of literature on campus. Averaging three audience members per reading, Parsons isn't sure the reading is fulfilling that goal anymore.

To help alleviate the strangeness, creative writing minors will usually present in groups of two or three. But this semester, Elise is the only graduating student with a creative writing minor.

Dr. Kevin Heath, chair of the English department, said, "Because Elise is doing this individually, we started to talk about options for the reading."

Together they created a new project.

This project is a series of podcasts, in which Parsons interviews a professor and a student about a specific aspect of writing. Each episode is 25-30 minutes. They also read excerpts from creative literature. The creative writing minor discusses three genres of creative writing: fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Parsons addresses each of these in her podcasts.

Parsons has already recorded the interviews for four podcasts.

In one podcast, she discusses emotion in poetry with professor Julie Moore, director of the Writing Center, and Rebekah



Photo by Jennifer Gammie

Elise Parsons talks with professor Andrew Graff and senior Adam Pitman about writing good fiction on her podcast. She hopes it will help her audience view art through a new lens.

Erway, a junior journalism major.

In another, she tackles the issue of balancing good fiction with our Christian responsibility with professor Andrew Graff and Adam Pittman, a senior English major.

Parsons aims to spark a broader discourse about techniques and thought processes used in every piece of writing. It will be a lot more interesting for the audience than just hearing her read her own writing, which they could read for themselves, she said.

The goal is to present an "honest portrayal of some of the uncertainty and disagreement and all the things you have to think about when you're putting together a piece," Parsons said.

Parsons said it's important to finish the art process, which requires an audience to participate in the discussion. According to her, without an audience art loses its meaning.

Parsons plans on posting the finished podcasts on her blog for four weeks later in

the semester. The English Department and Writing Center also plans on posting the podcasts on their website.

"Now we get to think a little more broadly about the idea of a reading, and it may not just be the traditional recital, which I like," Heath said.

## Portfolio

The presentation the podcasts are replacing is just one part of Parsons' capstone. Creative writing minors also create a portfolio of their own works.

"I really love the collections," Heath said.

The portfolio itself is made up of three parts: the foreword, the introduction, and the main body of creative writing.

In the foreword, the student writes about "their philosophy of what it means to be a follower of Christ as well as a creative writer," according to Heath.

The introduction serves as a kind of director's commentary to the student's creative work. Altogether the portfolio will typically be 50-60 pages. Portfolios are printed, bound and published by the Digital Commons.

## Mugs and Stickers

As part of Heath's goal to increase art awareness on campus, he is working on a side project and recruited Parsons' help. His idea is to put excerpts of creative writing where college students would see them.

"He wanted to put students' writing on coffee cups all over campus," Parsons said.

"It's about making the excellent work that's going on in these creative writing classes more accessible to students," Heath said. "[Parsons is] also really gifted in graphic design."

They came up with the idea of using stickers to showcase students work.

"Printing coffee cups is very expensive, but printing stickers is relatively inexpensive," Parsons said.

Heath has talked to Telemetry and Rinnova about the idea of getting excerpts on coffee cups.

"You may encounter 'fiction coffee' sometime next semester," Parsons said.

Parsons encourages students of other majors to take Intro to Creative Writing if they're interested.

"The minor doesn't start from any secret, mystical knowledge that writing majors have and other majors don't," she said.

After graduation Parsons plans on getting a Master of Fine Arts degree in fiction.

"I've never found a good fiction writer who hasn't been able to turn and write a really good essay as well. So I kind of want to be that person," she said.

You can find the creative writing portfolios at [http://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/creative\\_writing\\_portfolios](http://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/creative_writing_portfolios)

*Paolo Carrion is a freshman journalism major and campus news writer for Cedars. He enjoys drinking hot chocolate, reading comic books and making animal crackers watch as he devours their family.*

# Jackets Get Stronger

The new Volt weight-lifting program has benefited Cedarville athletics

by Josh Woolverton

Cedarville University has transitioned to a new lifting program for its athletic teams. The new program, Volt Athletics, helps athletes excel in their performance and allows Cedarville to remain compliant with NCAA regulations.

Volt Athletics emphasizes user friendliness while increasing performance through strengthening and lifting exercises. The Volt program provides a platform to make sport-specific training programs for each team. In a sense, Volt acts as a stand-alone strength and conditioning coach that athletes can access through an app.

"To be honest, [Volt] is much better than what we had last year," sophomore baseball player Gunnar Stinson said. "Last year was a decent program, but it focused on a lot of movement, whereas I feel like Volt can cater to my specific needs as I continue to progress."

Cedarville began using this new program because the NCAA made a rule requiring Division II schools to have a strength and conditioning coach supervise all varsity programs. Cedarville's assistant athletic director for athletic training and sport performance, Wes Stephens, has the credentials to supervise the programs and Volt allows him to do it in a time-efficient way.

"The program provides an avenue for me to personally manage 16 different varsity athletic strength training programs that are specific to the sport all by myself," Stephens said. "It lets me be more of the facilitator than a specific strength and conditioning coach."

Stephens is able to create each team's lifting and strengthening routine in about an hour when using the Volt platform. The platform also gives him the flexibility to change the workouts and make them unique. Volt allows him to use a baseline of exercises from a suggested list. Stephens then puts them together to form a workout based on the desired difficulty and equipment available.



Photo by Alex Weber

Josh Kneeland spots Eli Weldy on a dumbbell press while using the Volt program workout for baseball. Athletes are furnished with a workout program through a smartphone app.

"I can tweak it, change it and swap out exercises to help with a particular focus a coach wants to emphasize for the team," Stephens said.

The program gives smaller staffs the ability to run strength and conditioning programs in a time-efficient way. It allows the university to avoid the need to hire multiple full-time positions by condensing the role to be more manageable.

However, the switch to Volt was not exclusively to stay in compliance with the NCAA. The switch to Volt gives Cedarville a better lifting program than before. Previously, each team had its own lifting program with little accountability. Now the program is more uniform and coordinated.

Volt has provided a way of accountability among teammates. Each team member can see when other teammates have completed the workout and how often the workouts get completed. It gives the upperclassmen and team captains a chance to encourage those who typically do not want to

be involved in lifting.

"It builds a sense of team comradery, and responsibility in all the athletes in the program," Stephens said.

Volt has also had an impact on athlete injuries. While Cedarville athletes still get hurt, the severity of the injuries has changed.

"I think there has been some level of increased soreness because athletes are trying new things, but for the most part we have avoided a lot of the more major injuries, just have had some tweaks here and there," Stephens said.

Coaches have embraced the change to the new Volt athletics program. It gives them a better ability to monitor the workouts and see who is struggling and who is ready to get a larger workload. Volt also allows coaches to talk with Stephens about areas they specifically want the team to improve on.

"We adopted this workout program and have seen great improvement in our athletes' performance on the court," said

Cedarville volleyball head coach Doug Walters. "I love the way we can use it to help our athletes perform."

Stephens said, "Overall we have had extremely positive feedback from coaches, most of the coaches that are using it regularly have been very happy with it."

Athletes also have a generally positive view on the new Volt program. The ability to have the workout on their phones allows for easy access and removes the hassle of keeping track of different workout sheets in the locker room. All an athlete needs to do is have their phone and head to the weight room.

"Volt is really easy to use," Stinson said. "The days are already programmed in, so all you have to do is click on the designated day and it pulls up your workout."

Because the Volt program is so easy to access, it is easy for athletes to take with them when they go home from school. Stephens can change workouts based on the equipment athletes have available during summer or other breaks. This also means that he can easily talk with coaches and athletes about off-season training.

"When athletes go home for the summer, they still have Volt with them, they still have feedback from me," Stephens said. "I can still adjust their programs from here in Ohio even while they are gone."

The Volt program is something that Cedarville can use for its lifting and strength and conditioning exercises both now and the future. It is changing the way lifting and workouts are being done.

"As somebody who has been doing strength and conditioning for 12-15 years now, this program is something I would always use," Stephens said. "It does a lot of things that a person just can't do."

*Josh Woolverton is a sophomore journalism major and sports reporter for Cedars. He hopes to get involved in sports reporting and analysis after graduation and enjoys watching sports, running, and spending time with friends.*



# Ohio's Heartbeat Bill Struck Down

Despite Gov. Kasich's veto, Americans will likely see abortion reform in the near future

by *Alexandria Hentschel*

**N**either anti-abortion nor pro-abortion activist were satisfied with Ohio Gov. John Kasich's decision on two recent bills concerning abortion.

Kasich line-item vetoed the controversial House Bill 493, commonly referred to as the "Heartbeat Bill." The Heartbeat Bill was added to a larger piece of legislation about child abuse protections. Kasich preserved the main text of the bill but vetoed the section that addressed abortion.

Put forth by the Ohio legislature, the bill would have banned abortions after a heartbeat could be detected, usually around the six-week point of gestation. However, Kasich did sign Senate Bill 127, named the "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act," which will ban abortions after the 20-week point. The 20-week point is regarded by some medical professionals as the point at which a fetus can feel pain.

Dr. Dennis Sullivan, the director for the Center of Bioethics at Cedarville University and a physician ethicist said, "The Heartbeat Bill will not save a single life" — and he was correct.

Sullivan has testified on variants of the bill previously while serving on anti-abortion councils and boards.

The Ohio Heartbeat Bill was one of the strictest restrictions on abortion that has been put forth in recent years due to the six-week deadline on abortions. If it had passed, it would have been the strictest abortion legislation in the nation.

Sullivan offers a biological perspective on the Heartbeat Bill, which reveals that it is not gestationally significant. He believes it was intended to elicit an emotional reaction in the public and generate discussion on the issue, and that it was unlikely to be signed into law.

"The Heartbeat Bill is designed to get your heart beating," he said. "It gets its traction from an artificial distinction, being that with ultrasound we can detect and see this little movement. We can see a heart beating. I've taught biology and human development for many years, and you know, there are two tubes that come together and fuse — they both are beating before they fuse, and then they synchronize and beat together. Does that mean anything? No, but it's an emotional milestone."

"Heartbeat Bills" have been proposed in many major states, but few made it through committee. And if they did, they were struck down swiftly thereafter by the judiciary. According to anti-abortion organization, Abort 73, about

34.6 percent of abortions occur either before or at the six-week mark, which forms a strong majority. Contrarily, only about three percent of abortions occur after the 20-week mark outlined by the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which passed.

The controversy of the Heartbeat Bill stemmed from three sources: first, some women are unaware that they are pregnant at the six-week point of gestation; second, a doctor could potentially be imprisoned for violating the law; third, there were no provisions included in the bill for situations of rape or incest, which is the objection that

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**"Making provisions and defending abortion clinics is the quickest way to harm women, not to help them."**

*Susanna Edwards*

President of Cedarville University  
Students for Life

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many pro-abortion rights organizations raised.

According to Guttmacher Institute, the research arm of Planned Parenthood, a 2004 survey (the most recent available data) revealed that abortions as a result of rape form about one percent of all abortions, where abortions due to incest make up about 0.5 percent.

Pro-abortion rights organizations such as Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) opposed the Heartbeat Bill when it passed the Ohio Senate. The hashtag #StoptheBans trended on Twitter, and pro-abortion rights supporters rallied outside the governor's mansion to urge him to veto the bill. The ACLU threatened to sue if either the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Act or the Heartbeat Bill was passed.

Kasich stated in his veto message that the Heartbeat Bill contained certain sections that were "clearly contrary" to the Supreme Court's rulings on abortion. Though he reaffirmed his support for the anti-abortion movement, he said that fighting the losing battle to support the bill in the courts would cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the veto was therefore in the public interest.

His opinion was shared by the state's largest anti-abortion group, Ohio Right to Life. This is largely because the bill would almost certainly be overturned.

Current Ohio law established in 2011 requires a viability test of the fetus by a doctor if an abortion is requested after the 20-week mark. This is contrary to *Roe v. Wade*, but it has not yet been challenged. If the Heartbeat Bill was challenged, it may have pulled this legislation into court as well, where it may have been overturned. Some, such as the President of Ohio Right to Life, Michael Gonidakis, believe that this would have increased the abortion rate.

"Such a defeat invites additional challenges to Ohio's strong legal protections for unborn life," Kasich said in his veto message.

Susanna Edwards, president of Cedarville University Students for Life, does not fault Kasich for vetoing the Heartbeat Bill given his reasoning.

"My first instinct was of course to call Kasich and ask him why he did this, since he considers himself a champion for human life ... though he was called a betrayer, he knows that it's such a comparatively drastic piece of legislation," she said. "I think that it was wise, even though it was painful for him to do."

Kasich still supports the anti-abortion movement, a stance which was made clear by his decision to pass the more moderate Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which is similar to provisions in 15 other states which have thus far been upheld. The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act will become law in Ohio on March 13, assuming its constitutionality is not questioned.

Kathy Copeland, Ohio Executive Director of the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws (NARAL), one of the oldest pro-abortion rights organizations in the country, said in a statement after the signing of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act that Kasich "thinks that by vetoing one abortion ban Ohioans will not notice that he has signed another."

She also said that "Kasich's actions today will fall hardest on low-income women, women of color, and young women. History will not judge Gov. Kasich's disregard for women's health kindly."

Edwards, however, disagrees that Kasich's decision will negatively impact women's health.

"Kasich was criticized because an abortion rights activist said that his stance on passing the 20-week bill which has narrow qualifiers and doesn't make provisions disregards women's health," she said. "That's not at all true in my opinion because abortion doesn't equal women's health

care.”

Edwards believes that the lack of regulations in abortion clinics increases the risk of injury and death for women, a view supported by some anti-abortion organizations such as Live Action.

“Making provisions and defending abortion clinics is the quickest way to harm women, not to help them,” Edwards said.

Both bills are in direct contrast to the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Roe v. Wade*, which bans abortions until after the point of fetal viability, or the point at which a fetus could survive successfully outside the womb, which typically occurs at around 24 weeks. The fetus needs “aggressive” medical care to survive at this point according to research, but it is certainly possible. Anti-abortion advocates have been searching for a test case to overthrow *Roe v. Wade* since it was passed in 1973. The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act’s constitutionality is in question because it violates that viability standard, making it a contender to be that test case.

Some, such as Sullivan, argue that *Roe v. Wade* was fundamentally incorrect in its judgments on what is and is not human life.

“The vulnerability of *Roe* has to do with its out-of-date understanding of fetal viability,” Sullivan said. “It was politically determined, and it made an assumption that the unborn baby is not a person ... [the Supreme Court] waffled on the most important part, which is personhood. The famous analogy is if you’re a hunter and you see a flash of brown in the woods, do you shoot? No! You wait to see if it’s a person.”

Sullivan predicted correctly that Kasich would line-item veto the Heartbeat Bill but sign the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. The latter, he says, has a greater potential to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

“I think the Pain-Capable Bill has a much better chance of surviving constitutional scrutiny,” he said. “It bans abortion after the fetus is capable of feeling pain. What’s the value of that? If you want an emotional argument, the Heartbeat Bill is OK, but here’s this one: We’re going to take a baby that’s capable of experiencing pain and rip it apart limb by limb. Would you like to defend that? That’s a little tougher.”

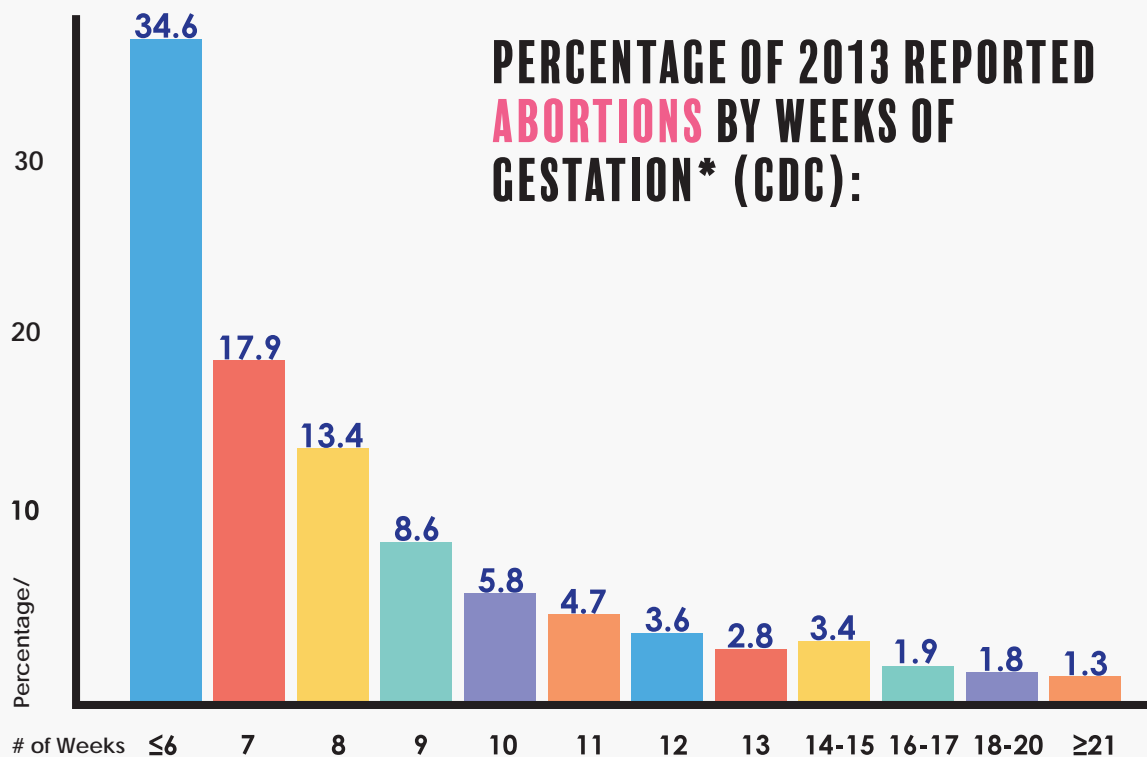
The passing of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act is timed coincidentally as January is National Sanctity of Human Life month. CU Students For Life plans to host a candy-gram fundraiser at the end of January, and plans to host two individuals from Created Equal to lead an anti-abortion apologetics training session in February.

*Alexandria Hentschel is a freshman International Studies major and an off-campus news writer for Cedars. She enjoys old books, strong coffee, and honest debate.*

## WHEN DO ABORTIONS OCCUR?

According to anti-abortion organization Abort 73, about 34.6% of abortions occur either before or at the 6-week mark, which forms a strong majority. Contrarily, only about 3% of abortions occur after the 20-week mark outlined by the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which passed.

- 89-92% of all abortions happen during the first trimester, prior to the 13th week of gestation (AGI/CDC).
- In 2013, 7.1% of all abortions occurred between 14-20 weeks' gestation; 1.3% occurred ≥21 weeks' gestation (CDC).





# Note from the Editor: Healing is a Process of Hope



by Jen Taggart

I would like to thank the Cedarville family for all the prayers and support they've shown me and my family the past couple of months after my accident in late November. As you can imagine, this has been one of the most difficult times of my life.

One of the most difficult parts about my situation is not returning to campus to spend time with my friends, professors and other members of the Cedarville community who I love dearly. It is especially difficult considering it is the last semester of my senior year; what was supposed to be the grand finale of my Cedarville education. However, by God's grace and the hard work of my professors, I will be taking classes at home and am still expected to graduate on time in May.

I will stay involved in Cedars as much as my health and distance will allow, and I am blessed to have an excellent staff to help me manage the newspaper.

A day or two before classes began, I became depressed about not returning to campus. But this phrase kept replaying in my head: "This is where God has placed me." God has placed me in Cleveland, Ohio, right now, and I am excited for opportunities to grow closer to family as well as opportunities to become more involved in my home church.

I'm also looking forward to see what kind of writing ideas my experience will spark and other ways God will use this in my life. Please be praying for wisdom and courage for me as I seek ways to share my story.

As for my physical recovery, my broken femur is quickly healing. I am able to walk with a cane now and go out in public more often.

The remaining symptoms of my head injury are primarily dizziness and occasional headaches. Earlier in my recovery, I had many lapses in my short-term memory, but even those moments are becoming less and less frequent due to God's healing power. Even my current dizziness and fatigue could be side effects of the medicines I'm expected to be taken off of soon.

Physical ailments don't scare me. My broken femur isn't even that painful. Also, my surgery to fix my right femur wasn't even the most serious surgery I've ever had on my legs. Because of my cerebral palsy, I

had a hamstring-lengthening surgery in fifth grade that left me in two full-length leg casts. It took me much longer to relearn how to walk after that surgery.

The most difficult aspect of my recovery is my head injury. I've had physical therapists before, I've had occupational therapists before, but I've never had speech therapists until my stay at Kettering Medical Center.

I have always found my identity in my intellect and communication skills to compensate for my physical disability, so it was hard when I felt that was taken away from me. Even though my doctor told me I was expected to make a full recovery, I still worried that it might become permanent or simply last longer than I would want it to. I wondered how becoming more disabled, even temporarily, would affect my job search.

Then again, I wasn't sure if I would even be able to graduate on time. Yet God is helping my professors and me to make a way. I am learning to trust God who promises to "work all things for the good of those who love him," according to my favorite Bible verse, Romans 8:28. He will make a way and use this as part of my testimony and story.

Like many Cedarville students, I've struggled with apathy and taking my faith for granted. I've also struggled with legalism and feeling not good enough for God to really love me. My faith has grown over the past few months because God is the only one I have to rely on. The fact that God protected me from an even worse accident and saved my life has shown me how much God really does love me. It has encouraged me that I do have an important purpose to play in this world, even when I don't always feel like it.

I am grateful for all of the ways God has shown me his faithfulness over the last couple of months, many times through the encouragement of my brothers and sisters in Christ at Cedarville. I was also blessed to be at Kettering Medical Center, a Christ-centered facility where I was encouraged and prayed for by many of the staff. God is the only one who can truly heal me, and I am grateful for my loving Father in heaven.

Healing is a process of hope. There is a certain hope in watching symptoms you once felt would last forever fade away. Physical healing is ultimately a reflection of a deeper healing that Christ offers us — to make us new, as Revelation 21:5 says.

*Jen Taggart is a senior journalism major and editor-in-chief for Cedars. She enjoys writing, listening to music and fueling her chocolate addiction.*

**"I have always found my identity in my intellect and communication skills to compensate for my physical disability, so it was hard when I felt that was taken away from me."**

*Jen Taggart*  
Cedars Editor-in-Chief



Photo submitted Cathy Taggart  
Jen was excited to leave Kettering Medical Center on Dec. 23 after about a month-long stay.

# Just Sayin' ... Love is Like a Good Book



by Adam Pittman

I was talking to my friend in a coffee shop the other day about the way I see other people, or at least the way I naturally see them without any effort, like when

I am speeding and another car pulls out in front of me, causing me to slow down for them. In those moments, I do not entertain thoughts about what motivated that person to drive that way. Instead I react as if that person's driving habits were intentionally performed to cause the maximum level of frustration to other drivers. What I realized, as I told my friend, was I never give a second thought that I might be causing another car to slow down for me. I assume whatever they are in a rush about can wait for me.

I know I am not alone in this self-absorption. We all justify our own actions while condemning the actions of other people because we understand where we come from, our own past and our motivations; we each are a catalog of memories, both of pain and love.

I once read a quote from Peter Rollins that stuck with me: "Each person is a universe to explore." I am inexplicably drawn to the idea that every soul is unknowable to another person – your spouse of 60 years, an A-list celebrity on television, the Taco Bell cashier working the 2 a.m. drive-thru – and likewise, we are unable to fully comprehend ourselves. We may understand what drives us or other people: our favorite bands, our favorite restaurant, our pronunciations of "either," the way we like our toast

battered, what makes us cry or laugh. Relationships are built on the knowledge of such things, but we, as human beings created in the image of a mysterious and boundless creator, are far more than our preferences and beliefs.

We understand the complexity of our own being. My friend told me a theory she heard that people are like works of literature. Some people are pamphlets, some sonnets and haikus, others novellas, others still are epics and novels. The person my friend heard this theory from, upon her questioning, said that he believed himself to be a library. I thought this was funny because I too believed myself to be a library, as did my friend. I do not believe that we are narcissistic if we believe ourselves beings of such vast complexity. The issue rather is in believing other people to be as simple and shallow as a pamphlet or haiku. We only catch glimpses of other people, but we hold court with our own thoughts every conscious second.

Prior to and immediately after my coffee-shop conversation, I read "Blue Like Jazz" by Donald Miller. I mention this because the book is a beautiful questioning of what it means to love other people. While I was affected by this book in many ways, the most significant insight was perhaps the least expected. I came across the phrase "love your neighbor as yourself." This time, unlike when reading it in my Bible, I was unguarded. It seemed to resonate with the room. What could possibly be more profound than those five words?

What does it mean to love yourself? Past explanations have seemed to glide over this question by saying that because we are sinful beings we are motivated by a desire to love ourselves only, and therefore we must turn that love outward to love our neighbor. I was never wholly satisfied with believing that we

**We each are a catalog of memories, both of pain and love.**

love ourselves only because we are sinful beings. If this were true, our experience of loving others would only come through knowing Christ, which is problematic because non-Christians understand love just as well, and sometimes better than Christians.

What does it mean to love our neighbor like ourselves? I find great complexity in this question, because there are times when I despise myself. The majority of my jokes, about 79 percent of them, fall flat. I would prefer to eat dessert over food with any real substance. I am my own biggest critic. I know my worst failings, and better yet, I hold the key to my own secrets. My relationship to myself is imperfect and full of more hate, bitterness, and rage than love.

So how can we love other people like we love ourselves? I think the literature analogy is fitting.

Have you ever read the summary of a book before reading it, then after reading it realize how poor the summary actually described the book? Have you ever tried describing your favorite book to someone? I have. It usually goes like this.

"So what's the book about?" "Well, you see, it's hard to explain. There's this guy, and he's a clockmaker, but it also has flashbacks to his childhood. And the book covers the relationships between two generations of father and sons in the same family, but the clockmaker is still the main character, and it's really good. You should read it."

I've found people, from the most exciting to the most average human being, are like a great book – full of tensions and complexities beyond description – but we only sift through and read the summaries. We are the greatest scholar to our own story, but to the stories of others we are mere browsers who are affected more by attractive covers and summaries than the story within. I think that when Jesus said to love our neighbor as ourselves, he didn't mean that we should love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves, but that we should love our neighbors how we love ourselves.

I am curious about what kind of place we would live in, what profound and progressive relationships we could have, if we started wondering about the people around us. Instead of seeing people by their party affiliates, cars, jobs, positions on a social issue, music choices, fashion choices or lifestyle decisions, we could wonder, in amazement and humility, about the smell of their childhood bar soap, relationships with their parents, how the grass of their backyard felt on their bare feet, how their tears felt on their cheek as their grandmother died, their first kiss, whether they regretted their first kiss, their view out of the bedroom window, the sound of their first car wreck at seventeen. We have lived only through our own eyes, through our own individual understanding, and we come to understand only why and how we live.

To truly love other people, to create relationships that are difficult and hard and worthwhile, we must seek the beauty in other people, as we search for the beauty and meaning in our own lives.

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Tell Adam what you would like him to write about. Send your questions, comments or concerns to [adampittman@cedarville.edu](mailto:adampittman@cedarville.edu)



# Missions Conference

Photos by Christian Cortes and Naomi Harward



Students respond to an invitation to dedicate or rededicate their lives to Christ on Tuesday night.



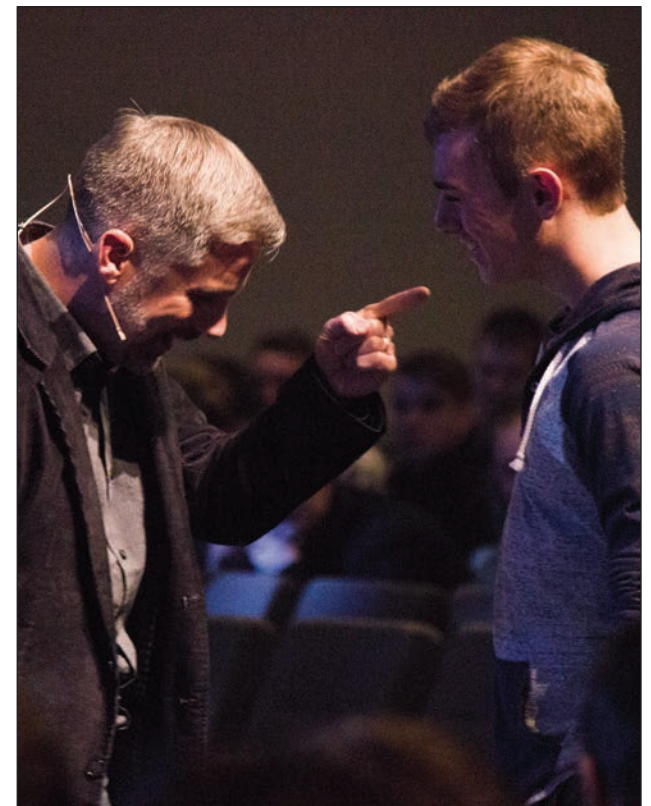
The Cedarville worship team leads the students in worship Tuesday night, Jan. 10, opening the second session of CU's annual Missions Conference.



Students respond to an invitation to dedicate or rededicate their lives to Christ on Tuesday night.



"It's about going until [God] stops you, not waiting for Him to tell you where to go." Founder and CEO of The KAIROS Company, Johnnie Moore, also spoke at the conference.



Speaker Kris Stout engages the students in an object lesson during Tuesday night's chapel. Stout spoke on Stewardship and Ambition.