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Cedars, February 2017

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CEDARS



The Award-Winning Student

February 2017

DR. CHUCK CLEVINGER
TO RETIRE AFTER OVER

30 Years OF
MINISTRY TO STUDENTS

CLEVINGER IS A SENIOR PROFESSOR
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND
WORSHIP, AND REDESIGNED THE INTRO
TO HUMANITIES COURSE FOR ONLINE

Also Inside:

- Professor married couples give relationship advice in honor of Valentine's Day
- Read students' and faculty members' opinions on whether Cedarville should allow concealed carry on campus.



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Josh Burris, Sports Editor; **Amy Radwanski**, Digital Editor;

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Cover: Design by Amy Sririntrachai. Photo by Jennifer Gammie



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ATTRIBUTE OF GOD?

Psalms 101 begins: "I will sing of your love and justice; to you, Lord I will sing praise."

In our culture, these words are voiced in protests, but both definitions are far different from what David had imagined. Today "love" is confused for unconditional acceptance and "justice" for equal opportunity for all. But that is not how these ideas are understood in light of God. The Bible doesn't say "God so unconditionally accepted the world." Rather, he unconditionally rejected the world. But because he truly loved the world, he didn't simply reject it; he also gave his only Son to fix it. Therein lies the definition of love: not accepting everything, but giving oneself for others. Justice isn't simply people getting a fair chance, it's people getting what they deserve. Because the actions of free agents matter, justice for treasonous actions demands punishment. God's justice demands that every sin of human history be punished, but God's love offers Jesus as the substitute so he can justify everyone who has faith in his son. That's love and justice worth singing about.

Dr. Chris Miller

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins."

Romans 3:23-25 (ESV version)

Cedars wins fifth straight as top small-school student newspaper in Ohio, wins 6 of 10 categories

by Staff

Cedars won its fifth straight Frank E. Deaner Excellence in Collegiate Journalism award as the state's top small-school student newspaper in the Ohio Newspaper Association's annual contest.

The Cedars staff accepted the award recently at the annual convention in Columbus. Cedars placed in all 10 categories for the first time, won first place in six of the categories and swept all three places in the best use of multimedia category.

Cedars competed in Division B (enrollment under 10,000) against newspapers from John Carroll, Capital, Ashland, Findlay and Otterbein universities.

The Post at Ohio University won the Deaner Award in Division A for schools above 10,000 in enrollment. The Post competed against newspapers from Ohio State, Cincinnati, Toledo, Youngstown State and Sinclair Community College.



Seniors Jen Taggart (left) and Emily Day (right) accept the Frank E. Deaner Award for Excellence in College Journalism at the annual Ohio Newspaper Association Convention in Columbus on Feb. 9.

Photo by Keegan D'Alfonso

First-Place Awards

Multimedia: Video story on the school of Pharmacy's call center (Josh Burris and Amy Radwanski)

Arts & Entertainment: "CU on Set", a story on the alumni who worked on the set of "Woodlawn" (Emily Day)

Photojournalism: photos of the cardboard canoe race and Ben Carson (Campbell Bortel)

News Coverage: Led by former editor-in-chief Anna Dembowski

Sports Coverage: Led by former sports editor Jonathan Gallardo

Opinion writing: Anna Dembowski

UNDER THE BRIM PRESENTS



TO BE CONTINUED...

Philanthropy In Style

Former Cedarville student uses fashion startup to help inner-city kids

by Callahan Jones

It's an exciting January afternoon at Inner City Impact (ICI), a mission to children in Chicago. The kids line up outside the door, eagerly anticipating the gifts they are about to receive.

It's time. The kids enter the room, which contains table upon table of school uniforms, something required at all the area schools and are a rare and expensive commodity.

A young man, wearing a long-sleeve shirt emblazoned with a large flag logo, hands out the uniforms, excited that his years of hard work, preparation and ideas have finally brought his mission to fruition.

The man is Adam Muncy, a Cedarville native, former Cedarville economics major and founder of the philanthropic business startup, The Hounds Ltd. The company sells various clothing and fashion items and donates to ICI in different ways depending on the clothing item sold.

"When I was starting the company, I knew I wanted to pair with a mission that could get stuff done, a mission that could accomplish things without an issue," Muncy said.

ICI was started in 1972 and reaches kids from preschool through high school with the Gospel in some of Chicago's most impoverished areas: Humboldt Park, Logan Square and Cicero.

Children who go through ICI programs have a higher chance of graduating high school and going to college than the average inner-city kid. It is among the leading experts in Christian inner-city ministry and already has the correct infrastructure in place to distribute clothing and other items to kids in need.

Throughout his life, Muncy volunteered in multiple ways at ICI, including being a counselor at summer camps. Because of this experience, he knew it was the perfect organization for The Hounds to partner with.

Chief Operating Officer of ICI and a Cedarville alumnus, BJ Bechtel, said Muncy



Photo provided by Adam Muncy

Adam Muncy (left), Founder of The Hounds and BJ Bechtel (right), COO of Inner City Impact and Cedarville Grad distribute school uniforms to inner-city kids in Chicago.

has been an incredible blessing for the organization and has been willing to help them in whatever way they needed.

"He comes and says, 'Hey, how can I help you?'" Bechtel said. "He asks and then he gets it done."

One example of how The Hounds and ICI work together, is the main fashion product of The Hounds, the navy-blue Uniform Oxford with special red stitching which drew inspiration from Adam's time at Cedarville.

"When I was at school, these Oxford kind of shirts were basically uniforms for many of the guys there. They wore them every day," Muncy said. "So, when ICI came to

me and said, 'Hey, we need these uniforms,' everything just clicked."

Whenever a customer purchases a Uniform Oxford from The Hounds, the company donates a school uniform to ICI for them to distribute to a child in need.

"Some of the families here can't afford new uniforms, so they usually have to rely on hand-me-downs of the same uniform," Bechtel said. "However, all the schools recently switched from white uniforms to grey. So, a lot of these kids don't have uniforms that they're required to have."

Muncy attributes part of this opportunity to serve others to his time at Cedarville.

"The idea started at Cedarville," Muncy said. "We talked about philanthropy and business in a class which planted the seed that grew into what The Hounds is now."

From there, Muncy said the idea for the business quickly took shape. He had been incredibly involved in fashion throughout high school, mainly taking in the passion from the skater scene.

"You have all these guys, who all love to skate, but all have their own sense of fashion," said Muncy. "Some were punk, some were goth, some were more clean-cut."

Muncy then developed his own "unique yet sharp" sense of style. His passion for

fashion was increased by a stint of time working at Sunglasses Hut, where he realized he could recognize what complimented other people's own looks and could sell fashion products to others.

Cedarville professor Daniel Sterkenburg, who taught the class that inspired Muncy, said he's not surprised with the direction Muncy went. He said Muncy obviously had a heart for philanthropy in the time he was here.

The Hounds Ltd. began on May 31, 2016, with the launch of its first product: the Camping Tee.

"We launched the tee almost as an afterthought, using an old logo we had that we thought would look good on a T-shirt," Muncy said. "Then we were surprised to sell 50 in two weeks. And since then, we got to send over 100 kids camping last year."

For each Camping Tee purchased, The Hounds sent an inner-city kid on an overnight camping trip in nature with ICI. It is an experience incredibly rare and precious for many.

"Lots of these kids are so poor they'll never be able to get out of the city center," Bechtel said. "We provide these trips to give kids the opportunity they won't have otherwise."

This past year, Hounds Tees paid for one percent of the ICI summer camping program. Muncy said he would like to see that number increase over time.

Muncy wants to help the people that manufacture his clothing as well. The Tees are made in the United States and printed in India in manufacturing facilities that pay their workers well. The Oxfords are manufactured in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

"The manufacturer for the Oxfords is partially employee owned and is completely legal in its practices," Muncy said. "I flew down there last spring to make sure the manufacturer was in line with how we do things. They passed with flying colors."

Muncy said this kind of manufacturer, one that takes care of its employees by paying them well and gives them good working environments, is harder and harder to find. He also said he is looking for more manufacturing options within the United States for future products that would be easier to produce.

Overall, the future seems bright for The Hounds Ltd. and the work it is trying to accomplish. The company just released a new long-sleeve tee and will give a pair of winter gloves to a child through ICI for every long-sleeve purchased.

The company also participated in a trade show in Columbus and launched a one day pop-up shop in Grand Rapids, which received positive feedback for its products and the mission it is aiming to accomplish.

"I want to help people look great with great clothing," Muncy said. "But most importantly, I want to help Inner City Impact and future partners spread the Gospel as well as they can."

Callahan Jones is a sophomore journalism major and a writer and the Web Content Editor for Cedars. In his free time, he enjoys drinking coffee, collecting headphones and playing Magic: The Gathering competitively.



Photo provided by Adam Muncy

Brian Aviles (center) is a Cedarville grad who is currently raising support to work full time at ICI, and is helping The Hounds with its mission.



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Concealed Carry Raises Discussion

Students, faculty and staff voice their opinions on whether concealed carry should be allowed on campus

by *Alexandria Hentschel*

Ohio will soon become one of 24 states that allows universities to decide whether concealed carry permits should be allowed on campus, a change that has brought about much discussion at Cedarville University.

Gov. John Kasich signed Senate Bill 199 on Dec. 19 that lifts the ban on concealed firearms in “vulnerable areas,” namely on college campuses. The trustees of the institutions may now decide whether or not to allow concealed carry permits on their campus. The law takes effect on March 21.

Several colleges have spoken out against the bill, including Ohio State, where allowing concealed carry is “not under consideration,” according to spokesman Chris Davey.

The policy has not changed at Cedarville; concealed carry is not permitted on campus. Only the trustees can change the policy. University president Dr. Thomas White provided an official statement on the current status.

“At this point, Cedarville University has not changed its policy, which means that faculty, staff and students are not allowed to carry firearms on campus. Only the trustees can change the current policy, and if they do so, any changes will be communicated to the campus community in a timely manner.”

The issue is certainly under discussion, however, as evidenced by chapel on Jan. 26, in which White asked five trustees their thoughts on the possibility of faculty, staff or students carrying concealed guns.

Rev. Chip Bernhard, senior pastor of Spring Creek Church and chairman of the board, said the issue was going to be addressed at the trustee meeting in January, though he did not expect a final decision to be made soon.

“It’s discussed and thought and prayed about a meeting or two before we actually have to make a final decision,” he said. “However, I don’t think it’s likely that we will move in the direction of all students having concealed carry. I think it’s likely to be faculty and staff and administration [carrying].”

White highlighted the main reasons that students will likely not be permitted to carry: storage and safety issues in the dormitory and liability issues with insurance.

Dr. Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Cedarville trustee, stated he requires his vice presidents, deans and at least three people in every building to carry at Southwestern in Fort Worth, Texas.

“I think it is incumbent upon the school in this kind

of a day when you can have a shooter — even as unlikely as it is as they would find Cedarville, Ohio,” he said. “It could even happen here, and you must have protection.”

Currently, only certain campus safety officers are allowed to carry on campus. It is an open carry and is not mandatory for all officers. To carry they must obtain certification from the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission. According to Doug Chisholm, director of Campus Safety, officers must have “skills in the areas of human relations, crisis management, decision making and good judgment skills” in order to carry. Student officers are never permitted to carry.

Cedars conducted a student-wide survey to see how students felt about the possibility of the concealed carry policy changing on campus. The administration also conducted a survey among faculty and staff to gather their opinions. The majority opinion of both surveys was in favor of concealed carry permits on campus in a limited capacity.

Professor Jim Leightenheimer, associate professor of communication arts at Cedarville, said concealed carry should be permitted for faculty and staff if the policy is correctly implemented.

“In my opinion, the approach that the university is contemplating on limiting concealed carry to faculty and staff makes sense,” he said. “They are employees who can be held responsible for training if they are a designated carrier. Obviously, the environment of the dormitory might make security of a personal firearm much more difficult.”

Eric Hinson, senior electrical engineering major, agrees that faculty and staff should be permitted to conceal carry on campus. However, he also believes students over 23 should be permitted to carry due to their age and maturity, and that there should be additional training and rigorous vetting for students with concealed carry permits.

“I think it’s a really good idea,” Hinson said. “You’re in a very condensed environment where a lot of times you’re sitting down, and no one’s facing the door. It would be very easy for someone to come in and just start shooting.”

Rebecca Murch, freshman industrial and innovative design major, said she believes select students as well as faculty should be able to conceal carry on campus.

“I believe it’s important to maintain the safety and well-being of individuals on campus, and I’m a strong supporter of the second amendment,” Murch said. “I believe that we all have the right to defend ourselves. I think that involves being able to possess a gun if you are mentally and physically capable and responsible.”

Leightenheimer said additional restrictions, including

a rigorous application process, additional screening and continuing qualification classes on a semester-by-semester basis should be implemented if concealed carry permits are allowed on campus.

“So just to make sure that people are qualified and that they’re qualified and checked by people here, there should be a lot of accountability and ongoing training,” Leightenheimer said.

Hinson disagrees with Leightenheimer and said there should be few additional requirements for faculty to carry beyond the permit.

“I think there are very few professors here that either students don’t respect or aren’t well within mental well-being,” Hinson said. “I don’t think putting extra measures on professors to carry is the right decision.”

Murch believes the vetting process used to obtain a concealed carry permit is not sufficient for faculty and staff to carry on campus.

“Although most of our professors are mentally and physically capable, and Cedarville’s very good at choosing who they put in leadership and teaching positions, I think that being able to use a gun is different,” she said. “They should have more training.”

Leightenheimer, Murch and Hinson said there is a need for concealed carry on campus at Cedarville.

“I think it’s better to be prepared and not have to use it, than to wish something had been done prior,” Leightenheimer said.

Both Leightenheimer and Murch referenced the attack at Ohio State University in November of 2016 as an example of the increase of terror attacks at universities. Murch expressed her concern that something similar could happen at Cedarville.

“I think we need it because there’s a continually growing threat, particularly with regards to terrorism in America,” said Murch. “The most vulnerable places are places without guns or any form of weaponry — places like Cedarville. If we have guns, then the threat will decrease. There’s less of a chance of us being harmed.”

Hinson believes that due to the lack of guns on campus, the response time for emergencies will be significantly delayed, especially during busy times of the day.

“I feel that someone who has a bone to pick might target Cedarville especially because of our Christian stance,” he said.

Not all faculty, staff and students see a need for or desire guns on campus though.

Timothy Mattackal, junior finance and accounting ma-

...or, said he believes concealed carry should not be permitted on campus under any circumstance due to the lack of need, as well as safety concerns.

“When I see a gun the immediate feeling I have is not one of being more safe,” Mattackal said. “The thought of being in the immediate vicinity of a device whose sole pur-

pose is to kill makes me very anxious. Is Cedarville really such a dangerous place that we require faculty and staff to carry firearms on campus to guarantee our safety? If that is the case then I think there is a serious problem which needs to be addressed and the proliferation of guns on campus will do nothing to accomplish that.”

The trustees are still carefully weighing these concerns and will announce when a decision has been made.

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.

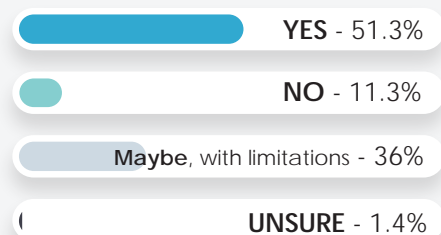
CONCEALED CARRY SURVEY – STUDENT RESULTS

Total Respondents: 1275

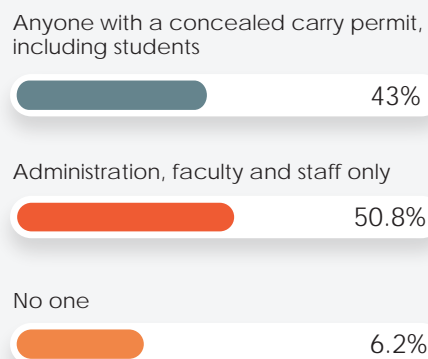
Undergraduate Student Respondents: 1,152 – 35% of total undergraduate students

Graduate Student Respondents: 123 – 34% of total graduate students

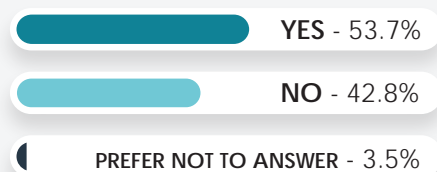
Should concealed carry of guns be permitted on campus?



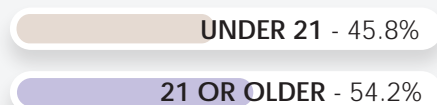
If concealed carry is allowed on campus who should be permitted to carry guns?



Did you grow up with guns?



Age of Respondents



Over half of students 21 and older responded to the survey, while just under a third of students under 21 responded. In Ohio, you must be at least 21 to obtain a concealed carry permit. The results of the survey when broken down by student classification showed very little variation in any student classification from the whole survey. There was also little variation between genders.

CONCEALED CARRY SURVEY – FACULTY AND STAFF RESULTS

Survey conducted by Cedarville Administration and used with permission from Dr. Thomas White. Survey was sent to all faculty and staff with one week to respond.

Total Respondents: 347

Which one of the following courses of action would you prefer?

- No one be allowed to carry concealed weapons on campus – **12.1%**
- All concealed-carry permit holders be allowed to carry on campus – **14.4%**
- Select concealed-carry permit holders approved by the administration be allowed to carry on campus – **73.5%**

Do you currently possess or have you ever possessed a concealed-carry permit?

- Yes – **24.6%**
- No – **75.4%**

Respondents were also able to submit their own comments at the end of the survey. Many respondents expressed support for faculty and staff to be allowed to conceal carry but not students. Some expressed support for allowing students with prior military or law enforcement experience to conceal carry on campus. Respondents also suggested increased training for active-shooter scenarios and additional safety measures. Responses between both surveys seemed to show a majority support for concealed carry permits to be allowed on campus with faculty and staff showing greater support for limitations on those who could conceal carry on campus.

Clevenger Closes Lid to Teaching Career

by Callahan Jones

Dr. Charles Clevenger, beloved senior professor of music at Cedarville, is teaching his final semester. Since his arrival on campus in 1982, Clevenger has been one of the more influential faculty members on campus.

During his tenure, he has taught piano, reworked and overseen the entire Intro to Humanities program, been Chair of the Music and Worship department and oversaw the planning and building of the Bolt-house Center for Music, his department's current home. He was even voted Faculty Member of the Year by the student body in 2002 and has received numerous other academic awards.

However, although he has accomplished many things on campus, these are not what will stick with him when he leaves the school, he said.

"When I first came to this school, I thought I would be teaching college students how to play the piano," Clevenger said. "I ended up making disciples instead."

This is a statement that Clevenger, or "Dr. C," as he is fondly called by many of his students, is known for saying often. It speaks to his methods of teaching, which he says is closer to coaching. However, teaching the piano isn't what he views to be the most important thing he does at Cedarville.

"I'm not trying to make people into music majors, I want people to follow Jesus," Clevenger said. "I think that's what God wants me to do. I'm trying to, one at a time, to affect people deeply."

At first glance, this philosophy of teaching seems to be at odds with the other facet of Clevenger's work on campus, which is leading the Intro to Humanities class, a general elective that almost all students on Cedarville's campus must take. It is the largest class on campus, boasting 16 sections each semester, all online.

Clevenger took over the Intro to Humanities class in 2009, completely redesigning the course from the ground up with a team of other professionals to make it relevant to today and to convert it



Photo by Jennifer Gammie

"Dr. C" has spent his career at Cedarville building into the lives of his colleagues and students.

to an online format. He was awarded his senior professor status for this feat. The class underwent a second series of edits and revisions in the winter of 2015 following the exposure of a ring of cheating students.

"What I'm trying to do with the online aspect of the class is to stimulate the one-on-one interaction. The student has to at least sit and deal with me," Clevenger said.

"We used to do it in big lecture halls. At least in this way I get the chance to individually talk to a student instead of standing up there like the parents in Charlie Brown."

It is this drive for one-on-one interaction that is behind Clevenger's teaching style. It is how he is so effective at "making disciples" for the gospel. So much so in fact, Clevenger believes the way he teaches

to be his own spiritual gift.

"Paul called it being a paraclete, in the Greek, or, in English translations, the gift of exhortation or encouragement," Clevenger said. "When you look at what the word paraclete means, it's a guy who gets down in the dirt next to you and shows you how to do something, rather than tells you."

This gift is the reason why Clevenger's piano studio has two grand pianos, so he can show his students exactly how something should be done. His affinity for coaching is also why his online Humanities classes are mostly video based.

"My ability to come in here and meet with a younger, fellow Christian brother or sister and teach them piano and impact their life is what keeps me going," Clevenger said. "My students see a senior professor who's 67 years old and nearing retirement. I shave a 29-year-old man every morning and walk in here excited and ready to go. I couldn't imagine doing anything different than this for a living."

According to Beth Porter, professor of vocal music and chair of the Music and Worship department, Clevenger's teaching philosophy is a look into the very base of the man himself.

"Ever since the day when I started working here," Porter said, "he's told me 'Beth, we're not here just to teach these kids. We're here to change their lives for Christ.'"

Porter described him as a master teacher, one who cares not only for the work his students are doing but also about the students themselves. She also described him as being adventurous, generous and kind.

"One day, he showed up at my house with some students and built me a nice rock patio in my backyard, just because he had some time and extra stones from his own patio and wanted to bless me in that way," Porter said. "He lives big and loves big."

Dr. John Mortensen, music professor and head of the piano department within the Music & Worship Department, spoke of

INTERVIEW WITH DR. CLEVINGER

1. What is your favorite place on campus?

Any spot by the lake.

2. Do you have a favorite meal at the Hive?

Stinger wrap with onion rings and a diet Dr. Pepper.

3. Life verse?

Ps.33: 1-3: "Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him. Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on an instrument of ten strings (or 88). Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy!"

4. Favorite color?

I like the color you get when you mix Burnt Siena and Ultramarine Blue. It's sort of indescribable, but it makes me happy.

5. Could you name your favorite piano you've ever played, and if so, what made it the best?

My Steinway Model L (6-foot grand) at home. I love the way it looks, the way it smells, the way it responds to my touch, and the way it sings to me. My wife calls it "the other woman."

Clevenger and the impact he has had on the department.

"When he hired me 20 years ago, he described the program as an 'aw shucks' program in the middle of a cornfield," Mortensen said. "And since then, he's turned it into what it is today which is a program recognized internationally for excellence."

Regardless of the accomplishments he has made in the past, Clevenger is looking forward to his future life of retirement.

Clevenger said once he retires he will probably take a long break from most everything to travel and spend more time with his wife, Rhonda. He will also focus on his watercolor painting business more and would like to travel with his grandchildren. But, he will never stop teaching.

"I'm not sure how I will go about it," Clevenger said. "But I'll do it one way or another. Perhaps I'll teach watercolor to serious adults or in group classes. If one of my grandchildren want to learn piano I would teach them in an instant."

No matter what Clevenger ends up doing in the future, one thing is for certain. He will keep making disciples and encouraging people for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Callahan Jones is a sophomore journalism major and a writer and the web content editor for Cedars. In his free time, he enjoys drinking coffee, collecting headphones and playing Magic: The Gathering competitively.



Photo by Jennifer Gammie

How to Love Well

Cedars gets relationship advice from married professors on campus

by Paolo Carrion



Drs. Donald and Margaret Grigorenko

The Grigorenkos call themselves “Team G.” Ever since they were in high school, they’ve been on the same team, working together. “Most of our lives we operated in the same world,” Donald said.

This wasn’t an accident. The two purposely made decisions that would allow them to work together.

Donald and Margaret first met in high school, and at one point they both served as counselors in a band camp. During that time, Donald shared the gospel with Margaret.

“I came to Christ, and he’s been doing a long-term follow-up project ever since,” Margaret said.

Margaret said she never planned on getting a Ph.D.

“But once he got into the college thing I was like ‘Oh! Well, better get my Ph.D. so I can work at the same university,’” she said.

The two started dating in college and got married while Margaret was still a student. Between the two of them, they have attended five different colleges for their various degrees.

They have been married for 39 years and have four kids, all of whom attended Cedarville, and eight grandchildren.

While they enjoy working at the same university together, there are some downsides. It’s easy to bring work home and have their job dominate their conversations. To counter the habit of constantly talking about work, the Grigorenkos came up with a policy.

“We drive home and we hit a county line. So we’re allowed to talk about work until we hit the county line,” Margaret said.

Once they cross that line, they’re not allowed to talk about work anymore.

According to them, there are three sides to making a relationship work.

“Building a great relationship includes the romantic side, but also the best friend side, and there’s also the team side,” Margaret said.

Together they’ve written papers, spoken at national conferences, and published different writings. They also served as missionaries for nine years in Nepal.

“That’s what makes relationships last, when you’re all working and pulling in the same direction.”

Drs. Kevin and Lynn Roper

The Ropers first met in 1989 but didn’t start dating until 15 years later.

They first met as graduate students at the University of Kentucky. Lynn was trying to test out of a math class, and a mutual friend suggested that Kevin, who was working toward a Ph.D. in mathematics, could help.

But the two didn’t start dating just then, and they didn’t get married until 2010.

After UK, Lynn started teaching and lost touch with Kevin, who was still at the university.

Kevin had told Lynn that his goal was to go back to Jamaica and teach there. So years later that’s where Lynn assumed he was.

In 2005, Lynn happened to see a picture of Kevin in the alumni magazine for the University of Kentucky. So she emailed him to say hi.

Kevin responded and included his phone number in the email.

“And then she called,” Kevin said.

“No,” Lynn corrected. “Then I gave you *my* contact information.”

Though she was thinking the two would just be friends, she “thought that the guy should be the one to call,” Lynn said. They dated long-distance for five years and got married in 2010. Three weeks later, Lynn started teaching special education at Cedarville. Even though they both work at Cedarville and have offices just down the hall from each other, their work schedules don’t usually overlap.

“We often never see each other on campus,” Kevin said. “Just at home.”

The first time Lynn taught a class, the students were expecting to see her husband, because the class description only named the professor as “Dr. Roper.”

“I walk in and they’re like, ‘Oh! We’re so glad you’re not your husband,’” she said.

Lynn is a very encouraging professor, Kevin said. “Don’t expect that from me. I’ll help you, but I’m not gonna say ‘nice try,’ I’m gonna say ‘no that was wrong, let’s try again.’”

“I’m much nicer,” Lynn said with a wink.

In relationships, God can use differences in personality as blessings, they said. For example, Kevin is a morning person, and Lynn is not. So Kevin can get his introvert time early, and when he leaves to teach his morning classes Lynn gets some time to herself.

It’s also vital to trust in God’s plan, they said. The Ropers got married 20 years after college and haven’t regretted it.

“If God brings the right one during college — great,” Lynn said. “But if He doesn’t, trust His timing.”





Drs. Darren and Ashley Holland

Before Dr. Kevin Roper reconnected with his future wife, he was giving dating advice to a young junior-year student, Darren Holland. “Dr. Roper said I should ask [Ashley] out,” Darren said. He didn’t know at the time that Dr. Roper was also talking to Ashley, convincing her to give Darren a chance. “And it all worked out. I’m so glad he gave us that advice,” Ashley said. Darren and Ashley first met as freshmen in Cedarville during the Getting Started weekend, and now they’ve been married for eight years. Both Dr. Hollands have offices in the ENS. Darren teaches mechanical engineering and Ashley teaches mathematics. Sometimes they’ll have the same students in their classes. “They call me ‘Mrs. Dr. Holland’ and him ‘Mr. Dr. Holland’ so they can differentiate who they’re talking about,” Ashley said. Because their offices are in the same building, it’s easy for them to visit each other during the work day. And since their subjects are similar, they easily understand each other’s work. Sometimes, though, it can be difficult to get away from work. Just asking each other how their day went can turn into another conversation about their jobs. “We talk a lot about math, engineering, and teaching,” Ashley said. “Good thing we enjoy those,” Darren laughed. Many Cedarville students have a ring-by-spring mentality, which the Hollands say is not a healthy mindset. They remember seeing classmates graduate, distraught that they hadn’t found a spouse. “It’s not the end of things if you don’t get married by the end of Cedarville,” they said. “There is life after Cedarville.”

Dr. Lyle and Prof. Connie Anderson

The Andersons started dating at Cedarville although they did not meet there. The couple, who have been married for 45 years, first met in Spokane, Washington. Lyle, then a Cedarville student, was visiting Connie’s church while on a tour. She was still in high school at the time. “I told him I would never come to Cedarville,” she said. She went to Cedarville. “The Lord had to be laughing,” Connie said. Their mutual love for music helped them get to know each other. Connie was Lyle’s accompanist for his voice lessons, and their first date was Lyle’s senior recital. Both of their children, Eric and Lori, graduated from and met their spouses at Cedarville. Eric is currently serving as the Pastor of Worship Arts at College Park Church in Indianapolis. He and his wife, Heather, have three daughters, Heidi, Ellie and Anna. Lori, the Andersons’ youngest, graduated from Cedarville with an Education degree and went on to get a Ph.D. in Professional Counseling. Lori and her husband, David, have two children, Jenna and Josiah. When in a relationship, they say it’s important to trust God’s timing and to remember to have fun. Something as simple as going to the grocery store on a date night out can be fun, they said. “Enjoy the years of courtship,” Lyle says to students. “Or dating,” Connie quickly added.



Dr. Thomas and Prof. Amy Hutchison

The Hutchisons said they both see Cedarville as a ministry they can share together. The two first met while Tom was in seminary and Amy was in college. They traveled together as part of a ministry team. “We waited a while to start dating because we didn’t want to be one of those ‘ministry couples,’” Tom laughed. They’ve been married for 32 years and have three kids who all graduated from Cedarville. Their sons, Tommy and Joel, graduated with degrees in youth ministries and mechanical engineering, respectively. Their youngest, Danielle, just graduated last spring with a degree in music. “It’s been fun for us. For the last 10-12 years we’ve had a student in college here,” Thomas said. He was Tommy’s advisor and taught him in five classes. The Hutchisons live three minutes away from campus, and often have students and their kids’ friends over for parties. Amy teaches piano, and Tom teaches theology of worship, so they will often have the same students in their classes. They enjoy investing in these students and see it as a shared ministry. “Coming to the university allowed us to still do ministry together,” Amy said. “That’s probably one of the things we enjoy the most about



working at the same place.”

For over 20 years Tom and Amy have worked with the Fit To Be Tied ministry, designed for engaged or seriously dating couples on campus. They said almost 1,000 couples have gone through the program. It’s important for a couple to have shared values, they said. For the Hutchisons, their shared value is ministry. They miss the church ministry they used to do, but are enjoying ministering to college students now.

“It’s a privilege and a gift to do that together,” Tom said.

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

One Game at a Time

Cedarville baseball won't be looking ahead or behind as it hopes to compete for G-MAC title

by Josh Burris

Every pitch. Every inning. Every game. That is Cedarville baseball's theme for this season.

Head coach Mike Manes said his team will be focusing on the opponent of the day and are not marking anybody on their calendars.

"We aren't gonna look ahead, we aren't gonna look behind," Manes said. "Whoever is on the field that day, that's our opponent."

With new talent and coaches, the Yellow Jackets have one goal in mind: winning the G-MAC conference. Despite being ranked fifth in the preseason poll, Manes said their expectation every year is the same.

"We are always expecting to win the conference," Manes said. "That is always at the forefront. The guys talk about it all the time. That's what we are preparing for. I think we have the talent to win the conference. If we come all together like a team should, we will win it."

Big Bats

Last season's top hitters Drew Johnson and Davis Lenhardt are no longer on the team as Johnson transferred and Lenhardt graduated. Johnson lead the team last year in every major offensive category, including batting average, hits and home runs. Lenhardt was right behind him in all those categories.

Despite these two holes in the lineup, Manes said there will be plenty of pop in the team's bats. He said he expects big things from returning veterans and one new addition.

"I think Ross Melchior is gonna have a big year," Manes said. "We got Markus Neff, he is a transfer from a junior college. He's a big bat, he swings it well. Jaden Cleland is gonna have a big year at the plate. Colton Potter is gonna have a big year at the plate. There is plenty of firepower to go around."

Melchior hit .264 last year as a freshman with 11 runs batted in. Cleland hit .241 with two home runs and 15 runs batted in. Potter has the team's highest returning batting average (.344) and number of runs bat-

ted in (31).

Neff is a junior first baseman who transferred from Edison State Community College. Last season he hit .348 with nine home runs and 46 runs batted in.

Cedarville tied for third in the conference last year with a team batting average of .304 and averaged almost six runs a game. Pitching has been more of a struggle for the team.

Pitching

Manes said pitching is always a question. Last season, the team's earned run average was 6.38 and the team allowed more runs than they scored. The Jackets hope that can change with recently hired pitching coach Bo Martino.

Martino has had experience at multiple schools in Texas, including Division I Stephen F. Austin State in 2014 and 2015. Last season, he was at LeTourneau University. His pitching staff struck out 219 batters in 296 innings and had a team earn run average just below 6.00.

Manes said Martino has been great in the short amount of time he has been with the team.

"He's been working with the guys a lot," Manes said. "A lot of changes going on in the pitching staff. I like what I see."

Sophomore pitcher Riley Landrum said he has seen improvements in the pitching staff as well.

"Coach Bo is awesome," Landrum said. "He knows his stuff. Already in the little time he has been here guys have already both mechanically and velocity-wise picked it up."

Landrum said Martino really works with the pitching staff and does not just sit back and watch.

"He is really hands on," Landrum said. "So he is not going to be somebody who tells you to do something and just sit back. He will tell you and walk you through it."

The team's top returning pitchers this season are Andrew Plunkett and Josh Kneeland. As a freshman, Plunkett posted a record of 3-1 in 30 innings pitched with an earned



Photo by Scott Huck

Colton Potter is Cedarville's top returning bat. He hit .344 with 31 runs batted in.

run average 6.00. Kneeland went 4-4 and struck out 50 batters in 50 innings pitched with a 6.48 earned run average.

Nate Robinson would also be mentioned in this list, but he will be a medical redshirt due to an elbow injury that required Tommy John surgery. Robinson went 3-6 last season in 56.2 innings pitched with 44 strikeouts and an earned run average of 6.51.

New Guys

Along with Neff, Manes said there will be some other new players that will be making an impact. There are eight freshmen on the roster. Like last year, Manes expects some of them to play big innings.

"We've had a few guys that have come in that I think are gonna step up and get some innings on the field," Manes said.

One freshman he said he expects to get big playing time is Eli Sanchez.

"He's gonna get some time behind the plate as a catcher and as a third baseman,"

Manes said.

Sanchez came from Rockford Christian Life High School in Rockford, Illinois. He was a three-year starter and had a career batting average of .469.

Start of the Season

The Jackets' season has just gotten underway. They opened with games against Findlay on Feb. 24 and Feb. 25 in Florence, Kentucky. The team will also play four games at Jack Russell Memorial Stadium in Clearwater, Florida, over spring break.

The Jackets' first home game will be Tuesday, March 21, against Wisconsin Parkside in a doubleheader. Manes said the team loves a great crowd and that games are better with more fans.

Josh Burris is a senior journalism major and the sports editor for Cedars. He is interested in sports broadcasting and reporting. He enjoys watching sports, lifting, and listening to rock and rap music.

Basketball update



Photos by Christian Cortes

The basketball season is winding down and the Great Midwest Athletic Conference tournament for men and women gets started just before spring break. The men's team was 12-14 overall and 4-7 in the G-MAC going into its final two regular season games. Top right, junior Patrick Bain blocks a shot during a 76-51 victory over Malone. Bain is the team's second-leading scorer. Above, senior point guard Justice Montgomery is in action during an 89-61 win over Salem International. Bain and Montgomery are the team's top three-point shooters. Below, sophomore transfer guard Baylee Bennett had her best game against G-MAC leader Ursuline with 29 points and seven 3-pointers in a 70-68 loss. The Lady Jackets have locked up the No. 3 seed in the G-MAC tournament. They enter their final two regular season games at 16-10 overall and 8-5 in the G-MAC.



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Striving For Perfection

Cedarville softball's main focus is making every play perfectly and letting the wins take care of themselves

by *Tim Miller*

Cedarville Lady Jackets head softball coach Wes Rowe said his 2017 team is the best he has had in his 10-year tenure at Cedarville.

The 2016 season ended just as it did in 2015 with a second-place finish in the G-MAC. The team concluded 2016 with a 28-31 record, including a 16-12 record in the G-MAC.

Coach Rowe said his team underachieved in 2016, but that the players improved as the year went on.

"We probably did not produce as well on the field as we were capable of producing," Rowe said.

Even with a less than stellar 2016 season, Rowe said he expects his squad to be much stronger this spring.

After almost a decade of coaching softball, Rowe has learned how to lead his players. Rather than focusing on ending each game with a victory, Rowe gives his players a different objective.

"We want to strive not for wins, but to play the perfect game in every which way," Rowe said. "We know if we do that, the wins are going to take care of themselves."

Rowe said it also helps to have coachable players. Although the team won less than half its games last season, the team didn't get hindered by conflict.

Rowe enjoys the notoriety Cedarville garners, and said the school's reputation makes his job a lot easier.

"Cedarville is a unique place to coach," Rowe said. "The strong Christian values, morals and education allows me to work with girls that I think are just higher quality human beings."

Season Goals

Cedarville was ranked third in the G-MAC preseason coaches poll behind Trevecca Nazarene and Kentucky Wesleyan. The Lady Jackets also didn't receive a single first-place vote.

"That was a little surprising to me," Rowe said. "I honestly assumed that we would get more first-place votes."

Rowe said being ranked lower than expected is nothing new for the team.

"Every year so far we've always been above what we were voted in the preseason," Rowe said. "I would say even though we were voted third, we are very capable of competing for the league championship this year."

Deep Roster

The team itself is deep at every position according to the coaching staff. Along with having a deep roster, the squad is also versatile at every position. The coaching staff



Photo by Scott Huck

Top base stealer Logan Eppich (baserunner) will be returning this season from an injury that cut her season short last year.

also said this is the best defensive team it has had.

Those factors make Rowe's job as head coach less stressful.

"Most of our players can play multiple positions, and it makes it so much easier to coach a team like that," Rowe said.

The team possesses talent in every major category in the game of softball according to the coaching staff. Hitting, defense, speed and pitching are all strengths the team has this season.

Impact Players

The Lady Jackets will lean on three veteran pitchers this season.

As a freshman last season, Morgan Arbogast posted an earned run average of 2.53. Rowe said he expects Arbogast to continue to lead the pitching staff as a sophomore.

Danielle Wolgamot and Rachel Furman are expected to help lead at the pitching position as well.

Shortstop and outfielder Brianna O'Dell led the team in hitting last season with a .369 batting average. The junior also led the conference in hits. O'Dell is expected to produce

heavily this season after starting in every game in 2016.

Logan Eppich has finished in the top three in the G-MAC in stolen bases in each of her seasons at Cedarville. Rowe said if she can stay healthy, Eppich could lead the nation in stolen bases this season. She missed almost half of last season due to injury.

Season Outlook

Cedarville has won 30 or more games in four of the last six seasons. Although Trevecca Nazarene has won the conference tournament in each of the conference's first four years of competition, Rowe thinks his Lady Jackets have the best shot they have ever had at winning the conference.

The Lady Jackets will open the season in Florida over spring break with 16 games. Their first home games will come in a doubleheader against Findlay on March 15.

Tim Miller is a freshman journalism student at Cedarville University. Tim loves anything that has to do with sports, and hopes to write about sports for a career after graduating from Cedarville.

Robbie Lindmark: Acts Out Faith

by Kellyn Post

Robbie Lindmark, a freshman theater major and the lead role of Professor Harold Hill in Cedarville's production of "The Music Man," sees theater and storytelling as special ways to encourage others and bring glory to God.

Lindmark grew up next to a Christian radio station with a performing arts center attached to it. It was there that he was first exposed to theater through the center's Christmas productions and musicals. He also had the opportunity to be involved with his sisters in acting workshops, which were similar to Vacation Bible School programs.

"I just fell in love with that idea of captivating an audience by telling them a story that's worth hearing," Lindmark said.

In addition to the acting experience itself, Lindmark said he was impacted by watching people acting as a ministry and bringing God glory through it.

"[It] really told us as kids that you need to do this for the glory of God so that people will see God and applaud Him, not just applaud you and how great you are at singing and dancing."

For Lindmark, acting is a special way to glorify God and share the Gospel with others through a capacity for storytelling--and Christians have the story that is most worth sharing.

"The Great Commission is, 'Go tell a story; go be a storyteller.' So I think I picked theater because we have a story to tell, and I think we need to find ways to tell it creatively."

While Lindmark's first show was when he was in the sixth grade, his experience with memorizing and performing speeches goes back to the speech meets he participated in from the second grade, and that was when his love for storytelling first developed.

"[Acting] has always kind of been a part of who I am, and my family's always been really supportive of it," he shared.

While he made several friends through acting who are still encouraging him today, Lindmark shared that his parents had the biggest impact on his decision to pursue acting.

"I know not everyone has the privilege of having a great relationship with their parents, but God has allowed me to have that, and they're the ones that actually pushed me into pursuing it as a degree."

In addition to encouraging him to pursue acting in school, Lindmark's parents provided him with a firm Biblical foundation and encouraged him to take his abilities and use them for the glory of God wherever he is led.

"[My parents] have been such key elements in the marriage of taking your giftings and taking the truth and combining them and continuing to run with it wherever



Photo by Campbell Bortel

In the musical number "Ya Got Trouble," Professor Harold Hill (Robbie Lindmark) tries to convince the entire town there is "trouble" because of the new pool tables in the town billiard hall.

God leads you," he said.

Besides the storytelling aspect, Lindmark's favorite part of acting is bringing a story to life for an audience and watching the response.

"There's just something really, really thrilling about taking an audience on this journey with you. You're just sitting there in this room for the next two hours — let's go. Let's go on this journey together."

One of the difficult parts of sharing a story, however, is getting into the character's head, and Lindmark shared that he is challenged to make his characters his own.

"One of the things that I think is challenging is trying to really get into the character's head, as to what they're really thinking and feeling, and not just reading the script and saying, 'Oh, I just think I'll read it this way.'"

Lindmark shared that he puts a lot of thought into the motivations behind his characters, and he tries his best to stay true to character in addition to following stage directions.

Lindmark's passion for Gospel-centered theater and storytelling is one of the reasons why he came to Cedarville. He shared that he was impacted by Cedarville's Gospel-oriented atmosphere during a visit to the school and that he values being able to study the arts from a Christian perspective. He is also passionate about bringing that perspective

with him when he graduates.

"When I leave here, I don't want to leave behind the Scriptural elements. I want to take those with me and incorporate them wherever I go with it."

While he doesn't know exactly what his future will look like, Lindmark hopes to continue acting, either in a ministry setting or in a professional setting.

"I would love, one way or another, to use it for the Gospel," he said.

Professor Rebecca Baker, an associate professor in the theater department, said that Lindmark acts with energy, has a passion for connecting with people, and is a pleasure to work with.

"He's passionate about integrating faith into his art," she said. "[He] is also passionate about the value of theater as a reflection of God's creativity. I think he really does want to use theatre to make a difference for God's glory."

For Lindmark, acting is a passion, a gift and an opportunity to share stories with others, and he desires to use that to make an impact for the glory of God.

Kellyn Post is a sophomore English major and an Arts and Entertainment writer for Cedars. She is happiest when drinking tea, listening to music, and reading old books.

Play Review: 'The Music Man'

by Kellyn Post

Cedarville's production of "The Music Man" prompted many laughs and a standing ovation from the audience during its premiere Feb. 2.

Set in the small town of River City, Iowa, in the first half of the 20th century, "The Music Man" tells the story of Professor Harold Hill, a traveling salesman turned conman who finds his attempts to charm the standoffish, stubborn residents of River City harder than he expected.

While the fast-paced, wordy songs, intricate dance sequences, and light-hearted comedic moments make the story memorable, "The Music Man" also prompts its audience to consider the need for change and self-examination.

Hill, aka the "Music Man," begins as a self-centered traveling salesman who only cares about money. Freshman Robbie Lindmark portrays his character in the beginning of the story as quick-thinking, smooth-talking and confident in his abilities.

As the story progresses, however, Hill becomes more vulnerable as he realizes that he is falling in love, and Lindmark introduces the audience to a less sure, more authentic side of the character. In the end, Hill's bravado is gone, and he chooses love and honesty over money and deception.

Marian Paroo (Rachel Rowland) sees the need for change when she realizes her need to look beyond her initial impressions of people. Rowland portrays Marian as frustrated with the stubborn River City townsfolk and aloof when she interacts with Hill. When she is alone, however, a softer side of the character who is longing for love is revealed.

The people of River City, especially Mayor Shinn (Stephen De Jong) are "Iowa Stubbarn," but as Hill throws a wrench into their set way of life, they learn to take a step back, and to sing and dance together instead of gossiping and quarreling.

De Jong's portrayal of Mayor Shinn is an example of one of the townsfolk changing, as the character goes from being stub-



Harold Hill (Robbie Lindmark) and Marian Paroo (Rachel Rowland) embrace after a climatic scene where the boys band takes the stage, saving Hill from being arrested by the mayor for fraud.

Photos by Jennifer Gammie

born and comical to being willing to admit that he was wrong.

One of the characters who changes the most, aside from Hill, is Winthrop Paroo, Marian's little brother (Jonathan Kimble). Winthrop begins the story as a shy boy who is brooding over the death of his father and avoids talking because of his lisp. When Hill befriends him, however, Winthrop begins to overcome his shyness to the delight of Marian and Mrs. Paroo. Through his example Marian realizes how much she appreciates Hill.

An interesting aspect of the set and staging is the way that it is designed to help the audience feel included in the story. Part of the set for the town is built out beyond the stage, and the actors come down the aisles several times, as if the

audience is an extended part of the town. This not only brings the audience closer to the action, but also acts as an invitation to consider the ways that the characters change and the importance of slowing down to enjoy life.

"The Music Man" is a heartwarming show that reminds its audience through lively songs, laughs and dancing that there is always hope for change and time to enjoy life. "The Music Man" is a two-and-a-half-hour long production and is a must-see for audience members of all ages.

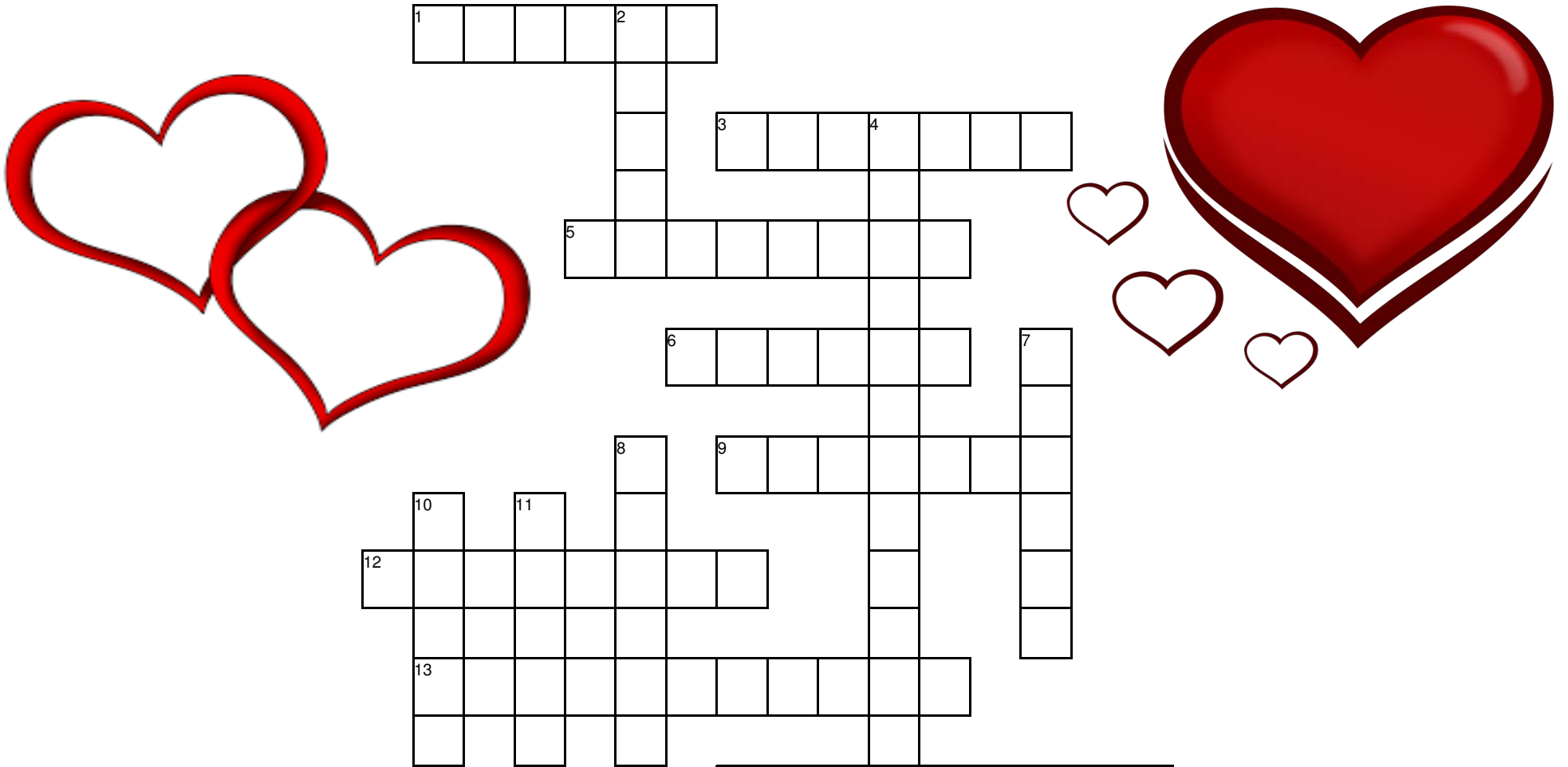
Kellyn Post is a sophomore English major and an Arts and Entertainment writer for Cedars. She is happiest when drinking tea, listening to music, and reading old books.



Winthrop Paroo (Jonathan Kimble)

CROSSWORD

Couples Crossword



Across

1. When in a relationship, the Andersons said it's important to trust God's _____.
3. The Hollands said a ring-by-spring mindset is not _____.
5. According to the Ropers, God can use differences in personality as a _____.
6. Drs. Grigorenko call themselves _____.
9. The Anderson's first date was at Dr. Lyle Anderson's senior _____.
12. The Hutchinsons shared value is _____.
13. The _____ had three kids attend and graduate from Cedarville University
14. The _____ have been married for 45 years.
15. Dr. Thomas Hutchinson met his wife Dr. Amy Hutchinson while in _____.

Down

2. The Grigorenkos served as missionaries in _____ for nine years.
4. The Ropers dated _____ for five years before getting married.
7. The Hutchinsons said it is important for a couple to have shared _____.
8. Dr. Kevin Roper played _____ for Dr. Darren and Ashley Holland.
10. The Grigorenkos have _____ grandchildren.
11. The Ropers started dating _____ years after they first met.

Note From an Editor: My Very Last One



by Emily Day

From the age of 5 to 18, we are placed in a building with at least 20 other kids around our age all there for the same purpose: to learn. We learn how to read and write and the power words have to influence entire nations. We learn about numbers and formulas and how they have

the power to create everything from the chairs we sit in to shuttles that send people to space. We learn how the world works and how everything from the smallest bumblebee bat to the largest blue whale has an impact on one another.

We also learn a lot about ourselves. We discover what interests us and what we find dull. We learn who our friends are and those we don't get along with. We learn what we value and what we are willing to compromise. We discover our talents and what we struggle to understand. We learn how to humbly succeed and we learn how to fail with grace. We learn how to interact in our world when it is easy and when it is hard. We discover how to learn from our differences and our similarities. Ultimately, we learn who we are, who we want to become and what we must do to get where we want to go.

For those of us crazy enough to continue our schooling, we spend between 4 to 12 more years learning with people who have similar interests and career goals. Eventually, there comes a point where we must stop simply learning and just do it. We must step out of the comfort of classes, schedules and order into the chaos that comes when entering the mythical "real world."

As I am in the midst of my final semester of college, I have been forced to confront a lot of my fears associated with going out on my own and finally doing what I have spent most my life preparing to do. Am I even qualified to graduate? What if no one hires me? Where will I go? What if I'm not ready to leave everything and everyone I love?

Every time we reach a turning point in our lives, we are forced to confront the unknown. For me, that is life after school. I have been a student for almost 17 years. Most of my life has been spent learning and doing life with my family and friends. I never had to worry about where I was going or what I was doing because, for the most part, it was all scheduled out in an eight-period day or based on the number of credits I was taking that semester. I had structure, I had order and I had my best friends by my side.

We must step out of the comfort of classes, schedules and order into the chaos that comes when entering the mythical "real world."

But now, in a few short months, I will be embarking on the craziest and most terrifying chapter of my life. (Yes, I know it's a bit clichéd.) Being the type-A, over-planner that I am, the prospect of job applications is petrifying. All I think about is being rejected and not having any control over it. However, the prospect of not applying at all is equally terrifying. I don't think I could stand the haunting questions of "what if." So naturally, being the overly-clichéd person that I am, my fears reside not in success or defeat, but in the unknown. I have no idea where I'll end up. I don't know if, by the time I reach graduation, I will have a job or a place to live. I may end up in a place where I don't know anyone and I'll have to relearn how to make friends.

Yet the more I think about all the major decisions and changes ahead of me, I begin to realize how blessed I truly am. Not everyone gets the privilege to plan their futures or decide what they want to do with their life. Not everyone has the opportunity to receive an education, let alone lives with their friends while doing it. Not everyone has professors who not only want them to succeed academically, but also invest in their students' eternal future. Not everyone knows that there is a God who loves them and has created them for a specific purpose, which He had prepared for them before the foundations of the earth was laid. Yet, I do. So, why do I spend so much time dwelling on the "what ifs" or the uncontrollable unknowns?

So here it is, a sure-fire list of rules that will guarantee you will have the most AWESOME final semester of all time. (Because clearly I have so much experience on the subject.)

The Rules: The Very Last One Live in the Now

No, I am not saying stop all planning for the future and just follow where the wind leads you or some other hippie lifestyle cliché because that is utterly ridiculous. Not to mention it totally goes against everything I have ever be-

lieved in. What I am saying is take advantage of your current circumstance. Take time to love the people around you and make the best of every situation. The more time you take to invest in your family and friends now, the more likely you will be able to maintain your relationships if/when you are no longer in the same space.

Take the Leap

What I mean is don't be afraid to completely abandon your comfort zone. When we get too comfortable, we become complacent and then we just stop trying altogether. So, apply for that job you find intriguing but may be on the other side of the country. Stop limiting your options to opportunities that only highlight your strengths. Use this unique stage of life to grow your skill set and to grow as a person.

Never Stop Learning

Yes, I know I said that you eventually must stop simply learning and just do, but there will never come a point in your life, professionally, personally or otherwise, that you will finally know it all. You will always have strengths, but you will also always have weaknesses. There is always going to be somebody who knows more than you. Become friends with people who are smarter than you. Use them as motivation to be better.

Just Trust God

No matter where you go, no matter what you do, if you are in Christ, God has gone before you. He has been using every person and every situation to help prepare you and shape you in to the person you need to be. He knows when you are ready for the next step and will guide you exactly where you need to go. All you have to do is listen and go.

I may never be ready for the "real world," but over time I have learned that it's not really about me being ready. It's about me being willing to trust God's leading and follow his plan for my life.

So, I leave you with this most profound (clichéd) thought:

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And you are the one who'll decide where to go."

~Dr. Seuss, "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"

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Just Sayin' ... A Brief Look At Change



by Adam Pittman

As I reflect on the last semester of my four years at Cedarville, a line from The Head and The Heart song “Rivers and

Roads” keeps running through my mind. “A year from now we’ll all be gone, all our friends will move away, and they’re going to better places, but our friends will be gone away.” I know the semester is not quite over. As I write this, spring break is a little under a month away, but my mind drifts toward melancholy and reflection nonetheless.

My premature recollections do not diminish the fact that change is coming; it is that person you’ll bump into as you round the corner, or the door that is opening as you are about to grab the handle. Even in those lyrics, the writer seems torn between the better places his friends are going and the losses that those changes will bring, but he says with certainty that life will not be the same as before.

As the school year moves along, and for those of us who are leaving Cedarville at the end of the semester, we must not let our opportunities to learn, grow, and affect others during these last few months slip away. Yet we must look to the future not with despair or fear, but with excitement and anticipation.

There is expectation that floats around college seniors that we must have everything figured out, that we must have a job lined up, a spouse and a home or a spouse-to-be, and that we are supposed to know who we are as people. We are never told those

things specifically (I realize my experience is not exclusive and therefore I cannot speak for everyone). We are not told to find a spouse in college or to graduate college and immediately land in our dream career. We manufacture these expectations out of the lives we perceive others are living, or out of external pressures that we imagine.

I am constantly asked what I am doing after I graduate, and I immediately go on the defensive. Yet when I meet a fellow col-

lege senior, what is the first question I ask? “Do you know what you’re doing after you graduate?” I am genuinely interested to see if this fellow existential pathfinder knows where they are going. But when I am asked this question my insecurities and self-imposed fears lead me to frustration. My humble word of advice: most of us humans are just trying to get by in our own lives, and are probably not aware of the deepest unspoken insecurities of the people around us, for better or for worse.

The world is ultimately more complex than we can comprehend, and there is no single cure for the human condition.

My mind, and probably your mind too, naturally seems to view change as those world-shaking events that alter the course of our lives, but limiting our perception of affectations leads to merely a factual view of events: $A + B = C$. We tend to view history, even our own personal history, through this lens.

I recall reading in high school that the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand led to the onset of World War I, but that was

only the final push over the edge. The century before World War I, full of nationalism, imperialism, the Enlightenment, and the industrial revolution led to the mass killings on the fields of Europe that were previously thought unfathomable in Western culture. History is always more complicated, and our lives are always more complicated as well. Life is the complex interweaving of the histories of social, political, ancestral, and individual histories.

When each human is born, it is not their own life that they are embarking upon, but the culmination of thousands of years of events that led, unpredictably, beautifully, tragically, to that moment of birth. $A + B$ might equal C , but knowing the outcome does not mean that we understand the entire equation. The changes that externally influence our lives are incomprehensible and elaborate, and above all else, they are not always what we choose.

In this study of change, I have covered the changes representative of future (and looming) life decisions, the expectations that influence our decisions, and how changes are not limited to what we alone can see. Finally, I would like to view how we can change our perception. If our understanding of historical events is lacking, then I imagine that our understanding of current events are lacking as well. As much as I would like to enter into an academic paper

about how the current antagonistic nature of American politics is influenced by the past centuries of Western thought, I realize that this is neither the time nor the place. However, what I do want to discuss, is the humility of opinion.

The more I have followed politics, the more I have seen two disparate political parties throw arguments at the other side without realizing their humanity, and without seeing that other people have a lifetime of experiences and understandings that cause them to vote a certain way or see an issue a certain way.

The world is ultimately more complex than we can comprehend, and there is no single cure for the human condition. Sometimes, more politically active Christians throw Christ around as a political wrecking ball, as if Jesus is the cure to our political arguments, the ultimate trump card. Yet Jesus was more focused on pointing people away from the idea that we could fix ourselves. Instead, he pointed to himself as if to say that accepting him was the recognition that humanity could not fix itself.

I am not arguing that Christians should stop trying to change our society, nor from being politically active, but I believe that Christianity’s best work is done away from political arenas, and away from seeing the problems of the world as a simple equation that needs solved. We as humans are far more complex, and as we move on to live our lives in jobs and places outside of Cedarville, we should seek to live with humility in a world that is not as simple or one-sided as we all might like it to be.

Adam Pittman is a Senior English Major and Just Sayin’ Columnist for Cedars. Among other things, he avidly enjoys reading, the outdoors, coffee, and soccer.

Tell Adam what you would like him to write about. Send your questions, comments or concerns to adampittman@cedarville.edu

'The Music Man'

photos by Jennifer Gammie



Above: Robbie Lindmark (left) plays lead Harold Hill in Cedarville's production of "The Music Man." Harold comforts young Winthrop Paroo (Jonathan Kimble) after he is exposed as a fraud.

Top right: The town's piano teacher and librarian, Marian Paroo (Rachel Rowland), rejects Harold's advances. Suspecting her to expose him as a con man, Harold attempts to win her silence.

Middle right: Harold Hill gets the River City teens excited about starting a boys band. Kaitlin Kohler (left); Connor Tomlin (middle); Amy Radwanski (right)

Bottom right: The boys band comes to Harold's rescue by performing the Minuet in G.

