

3-31-2017

Cedars, March 2017

Cedarville University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/cedars>

Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Journalism Studies Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

DigitalCommons@Cedarville provides a platform for archiving the scholarly, creative, and historical record of Cedarville University. The views, opinions, and sentiments expressed in the articles published in the university's student newspaper, Cedars (formerly Whispering Cedars), do not necessarily indicate the endorsement or reflect the views of DigitalCommons@Cedarville, the Centennial Library, or Cedarville University and its employees. The authors of, and those interviewed for, the articles in this paper are solely responsible for the content of those articles. Please address questions to dc@cedarville.edu.

Recommended Citation

Cedarville University, "Cedars, March 2017" (2017). *Cedars*. 386.
<https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/cedars/386>

This Issue is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Cedarville, a service of the Centennial Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cedars by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Cedarville. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@cedarville.edu.

CEDARS

The Award-Winning Publication of Cedarville University

March 2017

Dr. Wes Baker and his wife, Prof. Rebecca Baker, will soon end decades of teaching to enjoy retirement.

ALSO INSIDE:

Log cabin built by students becomes Cedarville Village's new welcome center for bicyclists

View photos and read accounts from the students who served at Inner City Impact over spring break



Table of Contents

March 2017/ Vol. 69, No. 8

Byline of Goodbye: Dr. Wes Baker to Retire 4-5

Communicating a Goodbye: Prof. Rebecca Baker Reitres 6-7

Grunts: AKA Students Assistants 8-9

Energy Above Objections: Dakota Access Pipeline 10-11

Old Cabin Welcomes New Visitors 12-13

Students Helping Students 14-15

Student Spotlight Ben Yoder: Leading by Example 16

Movie Review: 'Beauty and the Beast' 17

Note from the Editor: Blessing Not a Burden 18

Just Sayin': On Critical Thinking 19

Jennifer Taggart, Editor-in-Chief;

The Staff

Emily Day Arts & Entertainment Editor; **Rebekah Erway**, Cam-

pus News Editor; **Keegan D'Alfonso**, Off-Campus News Editor;

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

Nathan Overlock, **Amy Sririntrachai**, **Evan Rayder**, Design

and Graphics; **Jeff Gilbert**, Faculty Adviser

Cover: Design by Amy Sririntrachai. Photo by Jennifer Gammie



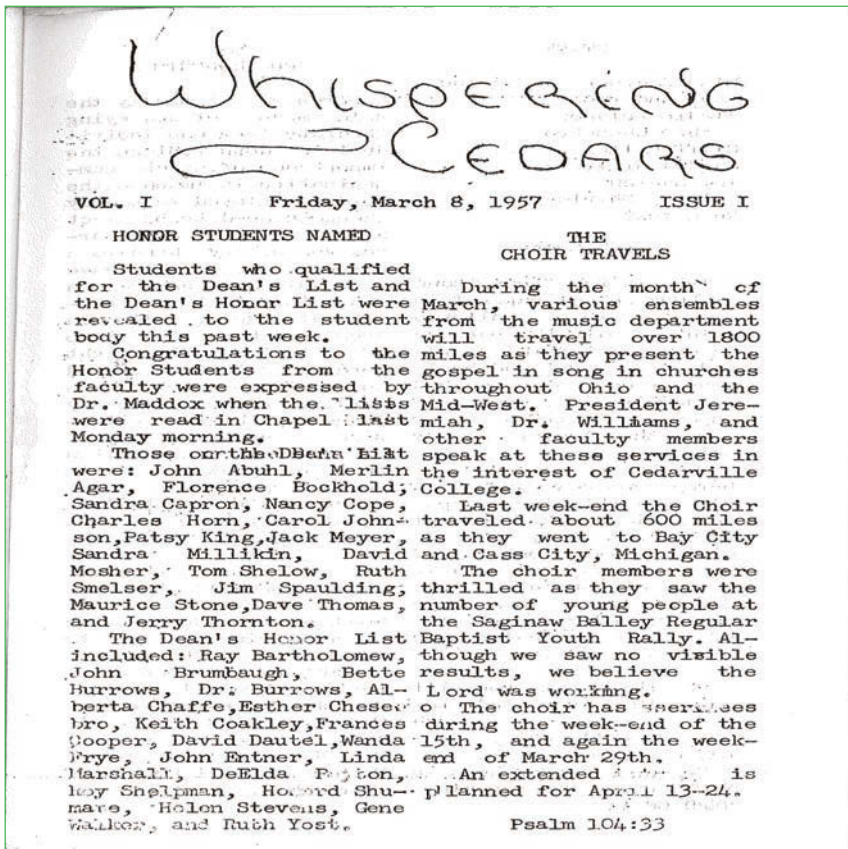
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ATTRIBUTE OF GOD?

“It is difficult to choose only one attribute of God, but one that I come back to again and again is God’s holiness. Holiness displays a God who is utterly set apart, unique in majesty and splendor, completely separated from anything impure or tainted. God puts His holiness on display in creation and redemption, a display which can also be referred to as the glory of God. God is set apart, exalted, chiefly by His own divine beauty. And lest we think of this holiness in some detached or fearful way, God’s holiness is best seen in the perfection, beauty, and purity of the love that exists between Father, Son, and Spirit. We cannot separate holiness from love, and this is the essence of the gospel itself.”

Jeremy Kimble, Assistant Professor of Theology

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”

Hebrews 1:1-4 (ESV version)



Cedars at the Library:

Did you know you can read Cedars monthly print issues through Digital Commons? Did you know that student news is archived at the library? Thanks to the Centennial Library for celebrating with us!



CU DigitalCommons @CUDigiCommons · Mar 8

Happy birthday, @CedarsatCU! Vol 1, Issue 1 - 60 years ago today - digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/cedars/231/. @cedarville @CedarvilleLIB



Follow us on
social media

and at ReadCedars.com


CedarsAtCU


@CedarsAtCU


@CedarsAtCU

Did you know ... To produce each week's Sunday newspapers, 500,000 trees must be cut down. Arguably the owner of the best beard on campus. He likes to see you go.

UNDER THE BRIM PRESENTS



BY BRIAN MCCRAY



Byline of Goodbye

Journalism and Broadcasting Professor Wes Baker to Retire at end of Semester



Photo by Jennifer Gammie

Dr. Wes Baker talks about the importance of following proper procedure to object to the court closing a proceeding in his Media Law class this semester.

by *David Grandouiller*

Dr. Wes Baker, who has long been an integral force in the broadcasting and journalism programs at Cedarville, will retire at the end of this semester. His departure marks the end of a 40-year contribution to the university that cannot be understated.

It is a testament to the impact of his teaching that many of the faculty in his department are former students of his. His colleagues describe him as brilliant, a detail person, a great mentor, a bird watcher, a tough professor, a scholar, a book collector and a friend.

“When it comes to hiring a replacement, someone with his depth of knowledge

and breadth of experience across different areas of the discipline, who wants to come out here to Cedarville to teach and shape Christian students — I’m not sure another person like that exists,” said Jeff Gilbert, Assistant Professor of Journalism.

Baker began teaching at Cedarville in 1977, before the advent of a journalism major and when the broadcasting and digital media major involved only radio, broadcast journalism and sales management.

From his first years here, he played a key role in developing the discipline. When Baker arrived, he was the only professor in the program. Then, he proposed to bring back a recent graduate, Jim Leightenheimer, to teach some of the radio classes. Leightenheimer, now Associate Professor

of Communication, graduated in 1982 and gained two years of experience at a radio station before coming back to Cedarville at Baker’s invitation.

When asked what he learned about Baker once they became colleagues, Leightenheimer said, “I didn’t realize when I was his student the level of respect that Wes is given in the academic and professional parts of our discipline.”

Baker’s reputation, however, did not prevent him from continuing to serve the school by stretching his knowledge into new areas. With Leightenheimer concentrating on the radio program, Baker began developing the television curriculum and continued to help expand the department over four decades.

When Dr. Baker felt he had developed the television side far enough, the university hired Jim Kragel, Associate Professor of Communication, to take it over. Baker then worked on computer-based media until he could make way for Professors Gilbert and Jeff Simon. Baker said he has enjoyed that there are always new things to learn and to develop. He continues to build on his background in media jobs.

On the other hand, working in new areas has been a challenge, Baker admits, particularly when the field has continued to change. He has rarely taught the same class twice, either because he was developing a new area of study, or because he had to change the curriculum to keep up with changes in the industry. More than the

Dr. Baker has invested his life in shaping students who are reaching millions of listeners and viewers each day ... people who are working to shape culture from a Christ-centered perspective.

Jim Leightenheimer

Associate Professor of Communications

program and the classes, however, Baker's work has really been about people he has invested in.

"He cares about everybody," said Gilbert. "The students all admire him in many ways. And he probably has more of a sense of humor than they realize. I've realized that more working with him. I'll miss the times sitting around talking, or going down the hallway to tell him a funny story so we can have a good laugh and relieve a little stress."

Baker said he will miss the relational side of his work, as well. He characterizes Cedarville as having a sense of family. That intimate environment has defined Cedarville for a long time, according to Dr. Baker, especially in earlier years when the school was smaller. He said when Dr. Jeremiah was president, all the faculty could fit in the president's garage for a banquet. Baker remembers when they held chapel services in Apple, and Maddox was the north end of campus, except for a maintenance barn and a farmhouse that served as health clinic. Even though the university has grown to be a much larger institution, Baker affirms he still feels a familial atmosphere on campus.

"As needs develop, we take care of one another and are concerned about one another and pray for one another, and often are in church together with others," he said. "I've enjoyed working in that environment where people are not just professional colleagues, but your friends and brothers and sisters in Christ as well."

In addition, Baker has sometimes been reminded, by a Christian colleague at a major research university, the value of studying and teaching within a Christian environment. He says that Cedarville has always

been worldview-oriented, which is something that shapes the way he thinks about his professional work and his classes. But if Cedarville has helped to shape Baker's worldview, he in turn has shaped worldviews at Cedarville, those of his students and his peers.

"Dr. Baker has invested his life in shaping students who are reaching millions of listeners and viewers each day ... people who are working to shape culture from a Christ-centered perspective," Leightenheimer said.

Baker draws this influence from his own interests and his education. One of those interests is studying the cultural impact of image and word, and their relationship to one another. He taught a class called Image and Word in a Visual Culture, exploring how the "ongoing tension between image and word has shaped much of the Christian understanding of the use of image and word, as well as attitude toward culture, and how it's shaped culture based on the choices that were made along the way."

He has long been concerned with questions of value and purpose in media, which he believes is as important to his work as technical excellence. In his Ph.D. at The Ohio State University, he studied some of the preeminent cultural critics and thinkers on the topic of media.

He explained that his philosophy of media has been influenced by writers such as Jacques Ellul, Marshall McLuhan, Walter Ong and others like them. He has labored for many years with his colleagues to maintain a balanced curriculum of theory and practice. They want to develop graduates who would approach their work in the media with



Photo by Jennifer Gammie

Dr. Baker's office has become somewhat legendary among the students, known for his extensive library of books and broadcast journalism memorabilia.

a concern not only for technical excellence, but also for the ethical and philosophical implications of their work. Baker gets excited when he talks about how he has witnessed that labor pay off in the lives of his students

"The most rewarding thing is seeing the grads and where they've gone, seeing some where the light bulb comes on and they're out there doing great things," he said.

It is no wonder that the pleasure he takes in the growth and success of others is reciprocated with gratitude and respect.

Leightenheimer spoke for many when he wrote, "Dr. Baker has long been known for his Godly example, his care for students, his brilliant scholarship and professionalism, the level of work that he invests in courses and students. He is a thoughtful and generous colleague and friend."

David Grandouiller is a senior English major and an campus news reporter. He's a fan of the Double Rally Burger with cheese and of Suffjan Stevens.

Communicating a Goodbye

Theatre Professor Rebecca Baker to Retire at End of Semester

by David Grandouiller

Associate Professor of Theatre Rebecca Baker is retiring from her teaching position at Cedarville University after a career both in and out of Cedarville dedicated to impacting others through communication.

“Sometimes we don’t realize how valuable communication is,” Baker said. “I remember standing in the hall when I was working with some children with special needs, and for the first time this little boy was able to say, ‘I love you,’ to his mom. He happened to be right there in the hall. She was crying. I was crying. And I just thought: there’s a lot more than just putting me in the spotlight when it comes to skills that we have in communication. Sometimes it’s just being able to say something that another person needs to hear.”

Baker’s career both in the theatre program at Cedarville University and in speech therapy has been devoted to the practice and the impact of communication.

Baker accepted a teaching post at Cedarville in 1977 and taught for a couple of years. When she and her husband began having children, she moved to part-time, then eventually left the university to stay at home.

During her time away from Cedarville, she was heavily involved in community theatre and youth organizations where she could work during the day, as well as women’s ministry.

When her youngest child started kindergarten, Baker followed her passion for communication to the University of Cincinnati, where she earned a masters degree in speech-language pathology. Her knowledge and experience in speech therapy would become an invaluable addition to the theatre program at Cedarville, but she hadn’t thought of the two relating at the time. When she got her degree, she didn’t know she would be coming back to Cedarville.

Baker first discovered the connections



Photo by Jennifer Gammie

Baker said she believes telling others what they need to hear can have tremendous power.

between speech therapy and theatre when she was working in local hospitals. When hospitals began sending her patients whose concerns were voice-related, rather than speech-related, she applied her theatre training to the therapy, and eventually partnered with the hospital to establish a voice clinic. During this time, she also encountered a publication about speech therapists who work as vocal coaches in professional theaters.

When Baker returned to Cedarville to teach in 2000, these experiences inspired

her to develop training in vocal health, expressiveness and dialects in the theatre program. She has brought her expertise in voice and speech to bear especially in classes like Voice for the Performer or Stage Dialects, but she tries to involve it in her other classes as well: Acting I and II, Stage Movement, The Christian in Theatre and Techniques of Musical Theatre.

Professor Baker has also been able to integrate her love for local ministry into her classes. Very recently, one of her classes, The Christian In Theatre, partnered with a

Springfield ministry. She sees this as a fruitful way to let students apply their talents in tangible ways in the community.

“We went to Safe Harbor House,” she said, “and did a workshop in conflict resolution, so that the ladies could respond to stories and not feel put on the spot that we were going to ask them to tell us their situation. But in fact some of them did. They shared with us things that were going on and how it connected with them.”

Baker has involved her students in a number of different ministries, including the detention center for girls, Project Jericho (a faith-based arts organization), and after-school theatre programs or drama workshops at Cedarville. She said she loved those opportunities.

Students who go through those kinds of youth theatre programs are sometimes the same students who apply to the theatre program at Cedarville. Baker said one thing prospective students often mention on their application is that an after-school drama program was what showed them their gifts and passions for theatre.

“We have had many students who’ve gone into inner-city programs and worked with children,” Baker said, “helping them to be able to have an outlet for their gifts. It becomes something really meaningful to those students.”

Students remember and carry these experiences with them. Madison Hart, a recent graduate now pursuing her Masters of Fine Arts at the University of Houston, is one example.

“Rebecca’s heart joyed in sharing worthwhile stories,” Hart said. “She took us beyond our Cedarville borders, into detention centers and women’s safe houses, to invite more souls into the healing connection theatre can bring. It was more than a career path for her. It was a way to serve God and love others.”

Baker is always thrilled to hear from alumni and current students about the value of the foundation they receive in Ce-



Photo by Jennifer Gammie

In the "Taking the Stage" club, students from Perrin Woods Elementary in Springfield visit CU.

darville's theatre program. She uses these testimonies as confirmation to continue to demand much of and encourage much in her students. She emphasizes a motivated work ethic, a desire to impact other people, and producing work that is of high quality.

These are values she expresses in all her classes, whether she's teaching entry-level courses with students from across campus, or upper-level classes for theatre majors who are probably headed into professional work.

"Excellence matters," Baker said. "It's what opens the doors for you and gives you a chance to talk to people in whatever field you're working in. That excellence — and I know I'm saying this for all my colleagues — is something we challenge students to commit to."

Baker has modeled that excellence for her students. The record of her accomplishments is long and varied. She directed Shakespearian shows like "Romeo and Juliet," "As You Like It," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." She directed classics like "Miracle Worker" and "Little Women," as well as several musicals: "My Fair Lady," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," and "The Music Man." She also directed intensely creative shows like "The Thirty-Nine Steps." Baker has been highly active with the Springfield Arts Council, directing and acting in shows at the Springfield Summer Arts Festival.

The list of her accomplishments goes on, but the most important parts of her career, Baker said, have been relationships. She said she treasures her experiences working in Kosovo with Nadine Henessy, who runs an after-school program for kids who have been affected by the civil war. They wrote a book together, about Henessy's life and ministry, called "When You Don't See His Plan." Some of those relationships, of course, are closer to home.

"I appreciate so much everything my colleagues have done," Baker said. "I love being a part of their audience."

She said she has felt like part of a family at Cedarville, and she has enjoyed working with other theatre faculty to open the doors to the community through the arts. Baker's students, also, are a testament to the value she places on people.

"I admire her relentless choosing to dwell in hope," Hart said. "I remember her eagerness and care so vividly. Rebecca Baker exudes brightness."

When asked about her plans for retirement, Baker said she's praying about opportunities for service and professional work. The questions central to her definition of success, "Are we becoming more authentic and more kind and easier to work with?" are at the forefront of her mind as she moves into the next chapter of her life and work.

"In that respect," Baker said, "I hope that I've been able to help my students, but I want to turn around and say that they have helped me, have been part of my growth. I want to thank them for that. It reminds me of the line from Wicked, "You've changed me for good." I believe that about my students."

David Grandouiller is a senior English major and an campus news reporter. He's a fan of the Double Rally Burger with cheese and of Suffjan Stevens.

O&A with Prof. Baker

Q: What's your favorite place on campus?

A: The theatre

Q: What's your favorite thing to get at the Hive?

A: Lunch with a friend!

Q: What's your "life verse" or just a verse that's important to you?

A: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." (James 1:5)

Q: What's a favorite professional stage production you've seen?

A: A Midsummer Night's Dream, with Maggie Smith, at Stratford

Q: What's one book you would recommend?

A: God Came Near by Max Lucado

Grunts: AKA Student Assistants

The students that serve as assistant coaches are the grease that keeps the basketball team on the move

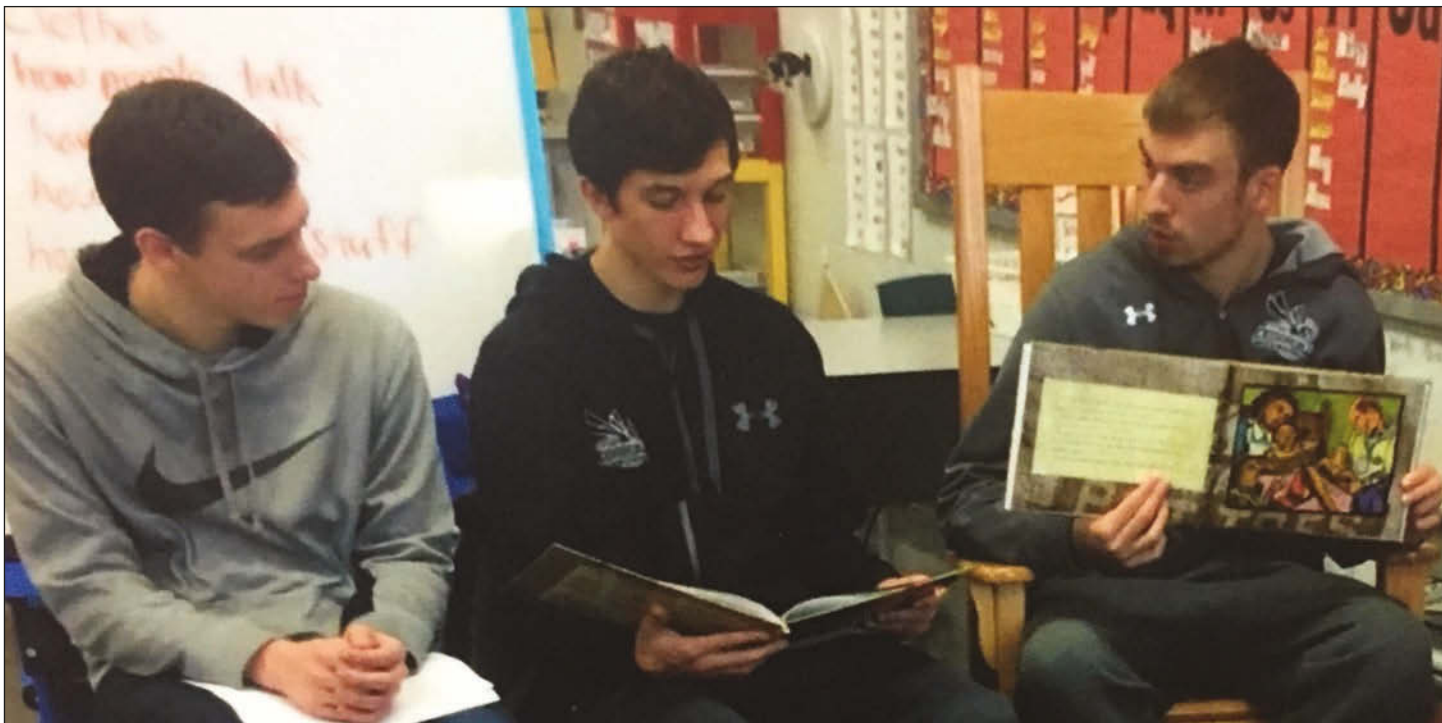


Photo courtesy of Ben Bowden

Trey Barnes (left), Caleb Jacobs (center), and Ben Bowden (right) read to kids at an elementary school.

by Josh Burris

Caleb Jacobs comes to the gym an hour and a half before the start of every men's home basketball game to make sure everything is ready. He checks the locker room to make sure the players' jerseys are at the appropriate locker. During the game he sits on the bench with the team along with fellow assistant Sean Blackburn and chart each possession.

Some people work hard to please themselves, while others, like Jacobs, work hard to bless and help others.

Jacobs is not concerned about who gets the credit. He is just there to serve. No one outside the basketball program really knows who Jacobs or his four fellow student assistants are.

They are the unsung heroes of the team according to Coach Pat Estep.

"They give us so much, and for little to no recognition," Estep said. "They put in a ton of work and nobody really knows who they are."

Who are these guys and what do they do?

So who are the student assistants? This year there are five of them and they answer to assistant coach Brandon Sok. They all have different responsibilities during practices and games. They put in between 15 and 30 hours each week, sometimes more.

Jacobs is the head student assistant and therefore delegates a lot. Jacobs, being in his third year of student assisting, describes himself as a basketball junkie. He makes sure everything is set up correctly for practices and that the rest of the assistants are on time. Some of his other responsibilities

include packing, ordering food for road trips and helping with scouting reports.

Blackburn is a former player who was unable to play this year. He became a student assistant so he could stick around with the team. He helps with scouting reports and drills in practice. He also travels with the team to away games along with Jacobs.

Trey Barnes, or "the enigma" as some call him, is in his second year with the team. He is an accounting major and uses his numbers skills to chart and graph different stats and track time of possession from the scorer's table at home games. Barnes also runs the score clock during practices.

Ben Bowden, also in his second year with the team, keeps track of what the team calls "hard hat" stats during practices and games. Hard hat stats include things like offensive rebounds, deflections, assists, first to the floor and charges taken. One play-

er each week receives a hard hat based on these stats.

Bowden also keeps track of stats for the team's Barnabas award. The Barnabas award, which is represented by a hammer, is designed to reward leadership. It is given out for things like enthusiasm, high fives and huddling up the team.

The last student assistant is freshman Shaun Mitchell. His primary responsibility is film. He films during practices and games and does other graphics work on the computer.

Most NCAA Division I schools will have four student assistants. Cedarville, which is Division II has five and last year had six. That is more than any other sports team on campus.

Why so many?

"Because I don't turn them down," Estep said. "I figure I can find a job for all of them. It allows us to do more things."

People have joked with Estep about how many student assistants he has had over the last several years. Yet, he has always been able to find something for them to do.

"I don't feel like you can have enough information about your team," Estep said. "So I rarely turn away a kid who wants to come in and work and be a manager."

It also makes things easier overall for Estep. He has two assistant coaches and five student assistant coaches working for him. The more help he has, the easier it makes his job.

He doesn't have to worry about small things like reserving a place to eat while on the road. He doesn't have to worry about getting guys to rebound for players who want to have a shoot around. He doesn't have to worry about getting the locker room set up for games. That is what the student assistants are there for: to make life easier for the coaches.

"We are grunts," Jacobs said. "Our job really is to take the load off Coach Estep,

Coach Sok and Coach (Nick) Fox so they can focus on coaching basketball.”

Service and reward

Estepp said the student assistants step up every week and take initiative.

A servant’s heart is what Jacobs said he strives for.

“I’m always trying to find ways I could better myself or better the team and just make a positive impact,” he said.

Jacobs does not just keep himself confined to the team though. He even helps assistant athletic director Chris Reese and his assistant Darren Miller from time to time.

“Those guys are just like us,” Jacobs said. “They are always at the gym after games in the late hours of the night. I want everyone in the facility to be able to say something positive about me. So I’m doing the best that I can.”

The student assistants put in a lot of work but only get a little money in the form of a scholarship to help pay for books. They also get gear from Under Armour like the players get.

Bowden said that the reward is so much more than just money and clothes though.

“I tell people this all the time. The best award is the ability to learn from such great coaches,” Bowden said. “Just the amount of things I can learn. I’m learning the inside and out of basketball programs. I also get to be around guys that love Christ and I still get to feel that team idea.”

According to Bowden, Jacobs said it best when he said, “You are basically majoring in coaching as well as your normal major.”

A lot of the student assistants who come through have an interest in basketball and coaching in the future. Women’s assistant coach John Leonzo was previously a men’s student assistant. A lot of valuable experience can be gained from this job.

Estepp said the guys usually come to him about working with the team. He said if guys are coming to him, then he knows they are going to work hard and they want to be there.

Servants, hard workers, basketball

gurus and future coaches. This is who the men’s basketball student assistants are. They get little to no recognition for their work, but they are fine with that. They are gaining valuable experience from working with the team.

Their greatest reward comes in glorifying God through the work that they do.

“If you are willing to do everything for God’s glory, then coach is gonna see that,” Bowden said. “The players are going to see that. And that is going to bounce off and reflect Christ to the other team we play. So I really think that is a key to anything we do is just glorifying God through all else.”

Josh Burriss 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.



Photo courtesy of Ben Bowden

Last year’s student assistants from left to right: Ryan Smith, Caleb Jacobs, Ben Bowden, Jordan Glick, Trey Barnes.

think GRAD SCHOOL think CEDARVILLE

Online

- M.B.A.
- M.Min.
- M.Ed.
- M.S.N.

Residential

- M.Div.
- Pharm.D.
- M.Min.

Ready to take the next step?

Start now with dual-listed courses, and you’ll save time and money. Access the free, fast-track application just for Cedarville students: cedarville.edu/thinkgrad



Energy Above Objections

President Trump's action on Dakota Access Pipeline draws Standing Rock debate to a close

by *Gwendolyn Peterson*

After a year of protests and media coverage, the national dilemma that is the Dakota Access Pipeline is coming to a close. President Donald Trump recently removed a Barack Obama executive order that halted construction of the pipeline, much to the chagrin of the thousands of people gathered on the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in protest.

The pipeline is routed to cross a half-mile north of the Standing Rock reservation. This poses a threat to the reservation's water supply, and it is also said to be crossing through the tribe's sacred burial ground. For months, protesters gathered at a camp near the reservation to protest the pipeline and delay construction.

According to a Cedarville Professor of Biology, Dr. Mark Gathany, "It's a valid concern, and I think the way it's been handled on both sides is faulty."

The Dakota Access pipeline will cross through four different states, traveling over 1,000 miles. It's 30 inches in diameter, and would transport around 470,000 barrels of oil every day.

Supporters of the pipeline say that this type of oil transport is considered to be safer than highway and railway transport. It is also projected to decrease energy prices, as it will pass through an oil-rich area that could contain up to 7.4 billion barrels of undiscovered oil.

The people opposed to the pipeline are also concerned about safety. According to Gathany, the main concern is water pollution. There is a risk when using underground pipeline transportation of crude oil that the pipe could break, spilling into the soil and polluting the water.

This spurred thousands of people to gather on the reservation in protest, drawing attention from the masses.

The protesters at Standing Rock gained some ground in December when another pipeline spilled in Billings County, just 150 miles away from the reservation. State officials estimated 176,000 gallons of crude oil leaked from the pipeline with 130,000 of those gallons leaking into a stream.

"This happens, this is why it matters," Gathany said. "We wouldn't want to drink out of that."

The residents of Bismarck, North Dakota, had a similar fear when it was initially planned for the Dakota Access pipeline to flow a mile north of the city and its water supply. Due to the concerns of water pollution, as well as other location issues, the pipeline was rerouted to flow north of Standing Rock instead.

"The concerns that were valid [in Bismarck] were equally valid with another group of people further upstream. It becomes a power struggle in a sense," Gathany said.

Additionally, many environmentalists are concerned about the effect of continuing to use fossil fuels like crude oil. They are pushing for a shift to natural gases, and many believe this new infrastructure would push back against their efforts.

Gathany said we need to be cautious with the fossil fuels.

"We need this resource to varying degrees," he said. "But it also does have an impact on people."

Gathany said people need to understand how the impacts of building a pipeline can be far-reaching to those that live near it.

"It could affect their well-being, their lifestyle, their water," Gathany said.

Among the Native Americans, the issue soon spread and became a broader grievance. Hundreds of Native American tribes banded together at Standing Rock to protest what they viewed as disrespect of their reservation, which is something they said happens frequently across the country.

This type of pipeline politics is not a new thing, as environmentalists frequently team up with Native Americans to fight the expansion of the use of fossil fuels. Many reservations possess land treaty rights that the U.S. must oblige. This delays production or could stop it all together, as the pipeline has to be rerouted to comply with the land treaties.

According to Dr. Mark Caleb Smith, a Cedarville professor of political science, this push and pull between environmental activists and business interests has been an issue since at least the 1960s.

"There's been historical injustice done to them frequently in the name of the United States government, so I don't blame them for looking at this as sort of another battle in that ongoing fight," Smith said.

Smith also said that it is hard to evaluate situations like this as good or bad, for political decisions are always full of trade-off. In the case of the Dakota Access Pipeline, he said it's important to understand how the Native Americans may feel, while also looking at the situation as a whole.

"Politicians have to make hard choices. This is a hard one," Smith said.

President Trump has made his decision, and it was a decision in support of the energy business. According to

Smith, this was completely in line with what Trump was promising in his campaign. He made it clear that he was going to be aggressive on energy, and taking this action early on in his administration showed that he fulfilled those promises.

Trump took this stance on energy to promote jobs and to maintain low energy costs.

"When energy costs go up, other costs go up. Gas is more expensive, your food is more expensive, your clothes are more expensive," Smith said.

He said the Dakota Access Pipeline is a sort of project that will contribute greatly to keeping energy costs down.

Smith also said, as Christians, there is another perspective we must keep.

"We should always be mindful that we can't just be driven by what's good for our pocket book," Smith said. "We have to take into account the effect that it has on others, the environment, and the ways that we are witnessing to others while making these kinds of decisions."

Production of the pipeline will soon be nearing the end, and according to Smith, in a few months, people will most likely be done talking about this.

But the pipeline could have a lasting effect on each American, including Cedarville students.

First, the decrease of the cost of energy will have an effect on all Americans, even broke college students in the cornfields of Ohio. As Smith said, decreases in energy costs lead to decreases in costs of a variety of products, from clothing to air fare.

Additionally, Smith said that even though there might not be one clear biblical view to have on this situation, it is still beneficial and important to think through the implications of this type of decision.

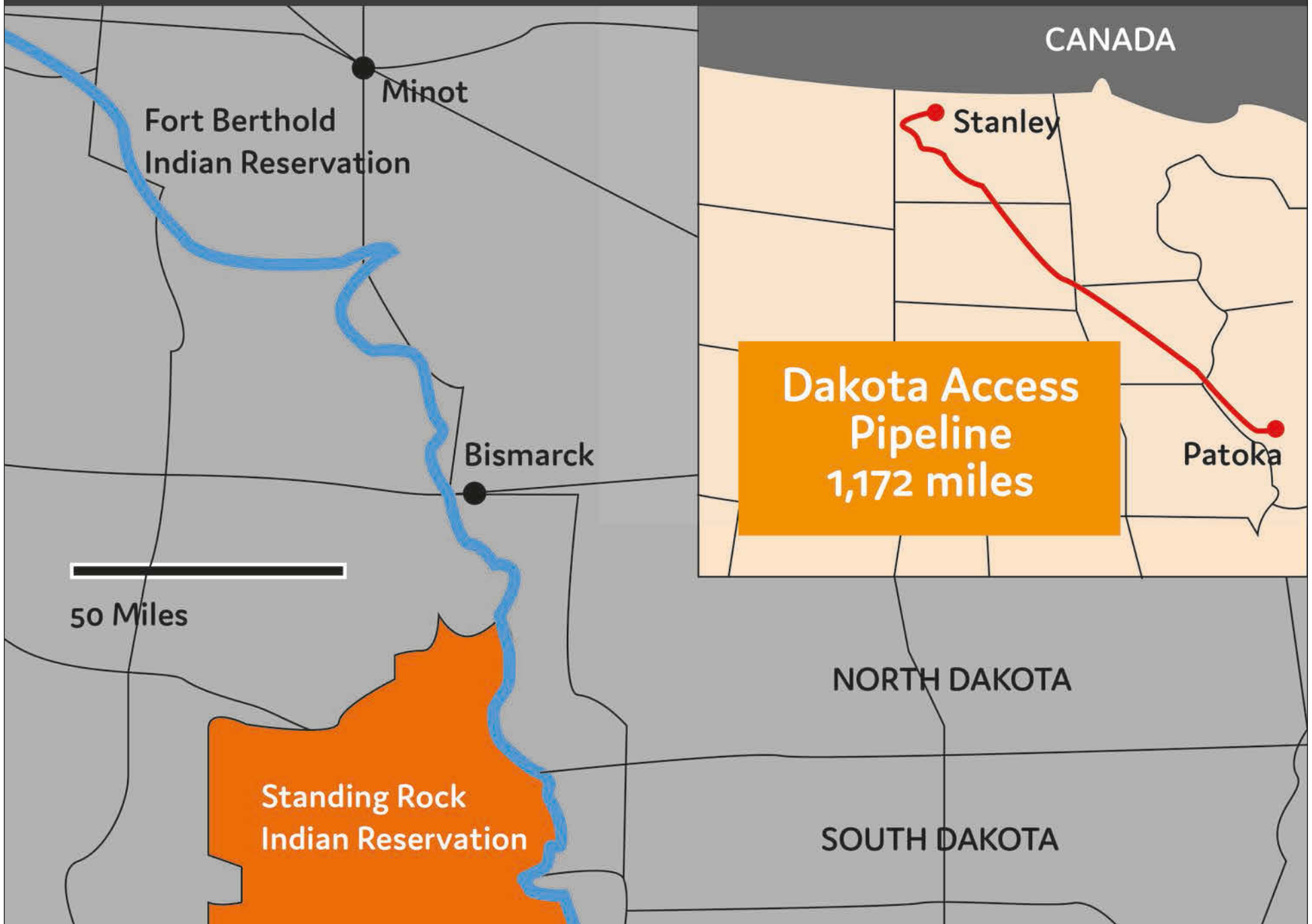
He said it is OK for Christians to arrive at different conclusions when examining this type of situation because the Bible doesn't speak directly to this issue in the way that people think.

Gathany said it should simply help students see the importance of considering other's environmental situations even when it might not affect our own.

"Engaging the culture and asking questions is a good place to start," Gathany said. "Being open-minded about it is very important too."

Gwendolyn Peterson is a freshman journalism major and off-campus news writer for Cedars. Her favorite things include strong coffee, Ron Swanson quotes and Oreo Thins (because the serving size is four instead of three).

DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE



Graphic by Amy Sririntrachai

Old Cabin Welcomes New Visitors

The Village of Cedarville turned a cabin built and donated by students into a welcome center for cyclists



Photo by Jennifer Gammie

The cabin sat unused for over 10 years after Cedarville students donated it to the village before it was restored and turned into the Cedarville Welcome Center.

by *Alexandria Hentschel*

The village of Cedarville's new log cabin and welcome center has encouraged bicyclists from as far as Australia to take a break and visit the community.

The cabin opened last June as a work-in-progress and a community-wide effort. Cedarville University students built the cabin in 2004 as a replica of Henry David Thoreau's cabin on Walden Pond, and then donated it to the village, where it sat next to the Cedarville Public Library for over a decade. It was recently restored and functions as a welcome center for community visitors, especially the cyclists who come through Cedarville on the bike path.

"Our goal is to create a space for bicyclists to stop, re-

lax, learn about Cedarville, and maybe fix their bikes," Mayor Robert Fudge said. "It also will be a space for parents and children to read stories in an outdoor, active environment. It's really about creating an informative, useful environment where there had been none."

The cabin features maps, brochures and historical information about Cedarville, with the hope that visitors will stop to learn more about the village as they pass through. The property also has a bicycle fix-it station and a storybook walking path that will open May 15.

The project is the product of a community-wide collaboration between the village, the Community Relations Group and the Cedarville Public Library. The village leveled the area around the cabin so it could install the map board

and the fix-it station. The Community Relations Group and the Chamber of Commerce cleaned out the cabin, made signs and put in brochures. The library is responsible for opening and closing the cabin daily.

The cabin itself was built in 2004 as part of an exercise for Cedarville University composition students as they studied "Walden" by Thoreau on the book's 150th anniversary. In "Walden," Thoreau lives in a log cabin by the banks of Walden Pond. Dr. Scott Calhoun, an English professor at Cedarville, had the class build the cabin as a hands-on experience to "give [the students] a greater appreciation of what Thoreau did and what his experiences were," he said. The plan was originally to keep it on campus by Cedar Lake, but it was later donated to the village, where it was unused

“The goal was to make something that really benefits the entire community, and something we can be proud of.”

Susan Jeffrey
head librarian

for many years.

The town encountered many roadblocks on its way to open the cabin. The major issue was that the community could not find the resources to staff the cabin full time in order to maintain it. The cabin was far from the center of town, and it was too difficult to move it to a more central location, such as the park. A solution was found when the Cedarville Public Library volunteered to open and close the cabin because of their proximity to it.

Susan Jeffrey, the head librarian, was involved in making sure the welcome center opened.

“The issue of who would take care of it was the looming problem,” Jeffrey said. “I suggested to the village that if they were going to make it a welcome center, that it’s in our sight line and we see it every day, and so we could certainly open and close it during our regular hours.”

Fudge said the library was a major reason the project was successful.

“The library staff has been instrumental in both the idea and operation of the cabin welcome center,” Fudge said.

Jeffrey said the project is an excellent example of a small town collaborating to bring about a project that was beneficial for the community, and that it was a smart use of resources.

“The cabin was already existent -- we didn’t have to start from scratch, and so it was really easy to get everybody to help out,” she said. “Most of the project was just a donation of time and labor. It was just a matter of cleaning it up and making it something the community could be proud of. In this day and age, funds are always a big hindrance on a lot of projects. This was something relatively low-cost that has a large impact on the community.”

The property benefits the community, but it also brings in many community visitors. Most of those visitors are cyclists. Jeffrey met some visitors that came from as far away as Australia. There are 62 miles of trails in Greene County which pass directly through Cedarville. In fact, a major biking path to Cincinnati goes through Cedarville. The fix-it station offers cyclists a chance to rest, put air in their tires and explore the history of the village.

“We’re seeing an uptick in people who use the trails and the cyclists who come through and stop, where they weren’t doing that before,” Jeffrey said. “They stop to look at the cabin, fill up their tires, look at the library, inquire about the restaurants in town. We’re really reaching out to the visitors of Greene County.”

The library also created the storybook walk in memory of Linda Bartlett, a town resident. The walk will be a story in display format that parents can walk through and read with their children. The story will be changed seasonally.

Though the project is complete, it will still undergo work in the future as it continues to evolve as a fixture of the community.

“In the next couple of years, we plan to plant some more trees and put some benches in the area,” said Fudge.

The cabin will be open during the biking season, main-



Photo by Jennifer Gammie

There are 62 miles of bike paths in Greene County. Susan Jeffrey of the Cedarville Public Library said people on the path are beginning to stop often at the new Welcome Center.

ly during April to October, and its opening will be weather-permitting. The Welcome Center will be having a ribbon cutting on May 15 at 1 p.m.

“This is such a great community outpouring and a great project that everyone came together to work on,” Jeffrey said. “The goal was to make something that really benefits the entire community, and something we can be proud of.”

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

NOW HIRING

writers, photographers, designers and more for 2017-2018 school year

Visit <http://cedars.cedarville.edu/apply/>

Students Helping Students

Cedarville students share their experiences at Inner City Impact in Chicago over spring break

by Naomi Harward

Ten Cedarville students spent their spring break week in Chicago serving the people of the inner city. They spent their mornings and afternoons volunteering at Chase Elementary School. After school let out for the day, the team would return to the Logan Square Inner City Impact campus – where they were housed for the week – to help with the nightly kids' clubs.

Normally, Moody Bible Institute students serve as the leaders for these clubs, but because their spring break is the same as CU's, many of them leave for the week. So the ICI staff is in need of volunteers to help with the crazy kids

The team's tasks at Chase involved helping the assistant principal, Ms. Block, with whatever she had for them to do. One team member – Matthew Steinhart – spent

the week helping the math teacher as a math tutor. Erica Whittenberger and Amy Adams often helped in the kindergarten classroom. Rachel Leake helped the Spanish teacher, and the other three boys helped a lot with the grunt work and lunch/recess duty. Other duties outside of the classroom included building lockers, cleaning out closets, clearing out old classrooms and, of course, running around with the kids during recess and mingling with them during lunch.

At ICI, the team was split into leaders for each group of kids. The clubs work a lot like AWANA, splitting the kids into color groups and using a rotation system (free time, game, lesson, craft, snack). The age groups were middle school, K-5th grade (two nights), and high school. For the K-5th grade nights, CU students taught the lesson and led games and crafts (they also had a game leader for middle

school night). For high school night, the team got to mingle freely with the teens until lesson time, when they were then split into pairs (some pairing with regular ICI leaders) to lead small group discussions.

The team arrived at ICI Saturday night, attended a local church Sunday morning and then spent the rest of Sunday exploring the city. Monday was the first day at Chase; because there was no club Monday night, the team spent their evening helping BJ Bechtel at the Cicero ICI campus with a moving/office renovation project. Tuesday to Friday was Chase/ICI clubs. Saturday the team departed, stopping at the Chicago zoo on their way out.

Naomi Harward is a senior journalism major and the photography editor for Cedars. She is an avid photography and loves riding horses and writing flash fiction

This trip was both exhausting and rewarding. I loved being at Chase for the entire week and connecting with the school through the kindergarteners and teachers. My favorite club at ICI was high school. Going into that night, I wasn't quite sure what to expect or whether the kids would even want to talk to me, but the Lord took care of all of that right away. I was able to establish connections with three girls right at the beginning of Club, which led to a formed basketball team and conversations the rest of the night. I was also able to share my testimony with one of the girls in the discussion group, something I was not expecting to be asked about. Overall, this trip gave me a new love for youth ministry and getting more involved with that here at Cedarville.

– Amy Adams, junior, nursing



Photo courtesy of Global Outreach
Children enjoy riding on the pink dragon

Something that stood out to me was that my team and I were examples. We had the power to impact, not only with our abilities, but also because of how we are seen in the eyes of young people. It seems like young adults have the inherent power to influence those who look up to them. And those kids did look up to us. Our example should be genuine in that we do not monitor and adjust our behavior so that we can be seen. Rather, our aim should be to live well and do good in the sight of God. Our reaction to His grace in allowing us to live that way should be gratefulness for that and for using us as examples to influence and impact others for Him

– Julia Brown, junior, psychology



Photo courtesy of Global Outreach
With the lockers complete, Amy Adams takes the opportunity to see if she can completely fit inside one of the cubbies.

OFF-CAMPUS NEWS

Going into the trip I was a little nervous, since I've never done any inner city work before. So this trip was out of my comfort zone. I went into it not knowing what to expect, and I ended up loving it and learning a lot through it. One thing that God really showed me over the week was how doing little tasks mattered. Through doing tasks like building lockers, cleaning closets and classrooms really helped me to understand that God calls us sometimes just to plant or water seeds, not to be there just to harvest.

– **Breanna Hamilton, sophomore, social work**

I really did not know what to expect when I was getting ready to head to ICI. But now, looking back, I loved every moment. I love the time I got to spend helping out in the kindergarten classroom at Chase Elementary and the high school club at ICI, building relationships with the kids and being able to have really good conversations about school, ICI, and life in general. One of the [high school] girls asked me if I will come back to ICI next year, even though she will be in college, and that just really stood out to me that I made a difference in someone's life. Along with that, the entire team basically became my family, and now I feel like I actually belong as a part of Cedarville. I really want to go back to ICI next year to continue the bonds that were started this year.

– **Erica Whittenberger, sophomore, early education**



Photo courtesy of Global Outreach

The team on its last day volunteering at Chase Elementary where they spent the week volunteering during the day and returning to ICI each afternoon after school let out to help with club in the evening.

I saw God in so many ways; through the people we worked alongside and the children we ministered to. I was apprehensive about teaching a lesson, but it went well and was “one of the best nights” in a while for that ICI club. God provided and proved faithful in so many unforeseen ways! Serving with the staff at Chase and at club was so encouraging, and seeing them live out their faith in the inner city in whatever place God had put them was inspiring. They really take the time to invest in the lives of the kids they interact with, building long-term relationships. I was particularly inspired by one staff member at Chase who was talking to the team and said that we have a big mission to fulfill, and in the school he was with fellow believers who can carry out that call as well. God is working in Chicago, and it was great to be able to be a part of that. Many seeds of the gospel were planted! I am excited to see how God grows them and leads more souls to himself through the efforts of his people

– **Rachel Leake, senior, Spanish education**



Photo courtesy of Global Outreach

Tisha, activities leader for the K-5th grade clubs, lines the kids up for the start of club. The team served as leaders for each group, taking them to lesson, craft and snack, and being a friendly encouraging face for the kids to interact with.

God put me in so many situations that pulled me farther out of my comfort zone than I ever thought I would be OK with. Honestly, I think I was more impacted by my interactions with the kids than they were by me. This was my second year spending spring break at ICI. The first year was a struggle – I let my fears and insecurities get in the way of my ministry, and it was frustrating. This year I went into the trip praying that God would use it to grow me. And that's exactly what He did.

– **Naomi Harward, senior, journalism**

Ben Yoder: Leads By Example

by Kellyn Post

Ben Yoder, a senior exercise science major and member of the Inversions, initially chose his major to avoid too much math and to explore his interest in anatomy.

“It’s a way that I can interact with people, and help them be better, and help them achieve their goals,” Yoder said.

Yoder thought coming to Cedarville was a natural choice because his brother was a senior at the time. Four years later, Yoder shared he is thankful for that decision because of the way Cedarville has strengthened his faith.

“I guess at the time I didn’t realize how badly I needed to come to Cedarville, because I was not a solid Christian after high school. I would have turned out very differently had I gone to a public school.”

Yoder joined the Inversions his first semester and he enjoys it as a contrast to exercise science. He grew up singing in the children’s choir, and in an a capella group in high school, where he had a chance to practice his beatboxing skills. While attending an Inversions concert his senior year of high school, Yoder listened to the beatboxer and decided to audition because he thought that he could do it better.

“It’s been a lot of fun,” Yoder said. “I was very active in musical stuff in high school, and coming into a major like exercise science, it’s a complete 180. The Inversions has been my musical outlet through college, which has been really good for me.”

Yoder has been encouraged through watching the Inversions develop over the last four years, and has also appreciated the chance to serve others. His favorite part of being involved with the Inversions is the atmosphere.

“We’re professional. The group is very organized, and very hardworking,” Yoder said. “But because of that, and because everyone is so driven, it brings us together to be better. It’s been such a blessing to be a part of.”



Photo by Naomi Harward

Ben Yoder showcasing his beatboxing skills at this year’s Sing, Laugh Dance event.

Mackenzie Kastelein, a senior music major, has known Yoder since her freshman year. She said although he does not have a leadership position, he leads by example.

“He’s constantly going out of his way to check in on people, and be a mediator if there’s conflict,” Kastelein said. “He’s very willing to give of himself and serve just by loving other people or walking with them through hard things.”

Yoder was also on the committee this year for Sing, Dance, Laugh, a collaborative fundraising event of the Inversions, Ayo and DTR. The proceeds this year went to Maple Tree, a non-profit Christian organization that offers free health, nutrition and fitness services to cancer patients. This year, Yoder has been working at Maple Tree for his exercise science internship. He said he has been challenged by the opportuni-

ty to work with patients of varying physical conditions and to serve people with the things that he has learned from the exercise science program at Cedarville.

“It encourages me to be creative in prescribing exercise, which is challenging and enjoyable, but it’s been a great experience,” he said.

Working with cancer patients through a Christian organization has also given Yoder the chance to have meaningful conversations with people about life after death.

“Cancer kind of forces people to think about their own mortality, and even for people who are raised Christian, it makes them ask a lot of questions,” he said.

While Yoder prompts people to think about what will happen when they die, he acknowledged that it is not up to him to persuade them of anything.

“Ultimately, it’s not my job to convince somebody of anything one way or the other,” Yoder said. “My job is just to get them thinking about things.”

Yoder said he is also encouraged by the endurance and persistence of the patients as they fight to improve their health despite the cancer.

“Even though they really don’t want to, or they feel really bad, they still come in and exercise anyway, and they usually end up better off than they were when they came in,” he said.

Yoder said one benefit of studying exercise science at a Christian university is studying the body from a biblical perspective.

“Probably the best part is going through anatomy and physiology from the standpoint that this was all created — it didn’t just happen — and seeing how we are fearfully and wonderfully made,” he said.

After graduation, Yoder plans to become an officer in the United States Marine Corps with the goal of being a pilot.

“If you’d asked me in high school if I would have ever thought once about the military, I would have said no,” Yoder said. “But it’s something that God has used to teach me a great deal of self-control, and discipline, and time management, of all things,” Yoder shared.

Yoder views the Marines as a ministry field, and he hopes to be a witness by being a servant leader.

Mike Retzlaff, a senior exercise science major and friend of Yoder, shared that Yoder also works with Cedarville students who are interested in joining the Marines.

“He’s really kind of a mentor to these candidates that want to become Marines,” Retzlaff said. “I don’t think he has to do any of that through the program he’s in — he just wants to better those who are coming up behind him.”

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.

Movie Review: 'Beauty and the Beast'

Despite much controversy, Christian themes unexpectedly arise in Disney's newest live-action film

by *Emily Day*

Disney's live-action remake of one of its most beloved fairy tales, "Beauty and the Beast," breathed new life and meaningful depth into this cherished story. Being the fourth live-action remake Disney has made to date, director Bill Condon's adaptation of "Beauty and the Beast" is arguably the best.

Bolstered by an all-star cast, this film tackled the daunting task of creating an enriching backstory for these classic characters without losing the integrity of the story. This meant answering questions that fans of the animated film didn't even realize they want answered, like, "Why was Maurice imprisoned for only warming himself by the fire?" This is to the credit of Condon and his writing team, Stephen Chobosky and Evan Spiliotopoulos, who managed to invoke the emotion of the original film without making the audience feel as though they were viewing the same film. However, it was the performances of both Emma Watson as Belle and especially Dan Stevens as the Beast that gave the audience a more rounded look at these larger than life characters while still managing to ground them in humanity.

The development of Belle and the Beast's characters allowed the film to explore the themes of reconciliation, forgiveness and ultimately what it truly means to be free. However, these themes are not limited to the leading duet. While discovering the truth behind the Beast's selfish attitude and gruff exterior, Belle asks Mrs. Potts (Emma Thompson) and the others why they were punished if they did nothing wrong. It's here Thompson delivers one of the most powerful performances of the entire movie. She explains to Belle the importance of community and how it is their responsibility to come alongside those who are clearly headed in the wrong direction, something she and her fellow servants failed to do.

What most distinguishes "Beauty and the Beast" from Disney's other live-action films is the outstanding score, composed by none other than Alan Menken, the original composer for the animated film. Bringing Menken into this project was probably the best decision Condon could have made. The original score and songs won multiple awards in 1992 and "Beauty and the Beast" was one of the first animated films to ever be nominated for an Oscar. Condon and Menken set out to both pay tribute to the classic songs fans knew and loved while still giving them a few new surprises.

Additional songs were added, while many of the familiar songs were given a bit of a modern twist. Probably the best musical choice, however, was the song given to the Beast, "Evermore." Stevens belts out this stunning



Photo Courtesy of Getty Images

Dan Stevens had to learn the title song's waltz twice. Once for steps and once on 10 inch stilts.

and angsty song after the Beast has chosen to release Belle, surrendering to the fact that he may be trapped as a beast for the rest of his life. Menken's song perfectly captures these melancholy emotions as Stevens sings of the redemptive power of love. It is here that the viewer witnesses the Beast's inner transformation.

Condon hand-picked a cast filled with musical talent: Luke Evans (Gaston) and Josh Gad (Lefou, voice of Olaf) both being veterans of musical theatre along with Audra McDonald, five-time Tony winner for her work on "Carousel," "Master Class," "Ragtime," "A Raisin in the Sun" and "Porgy and Bess." However, Watson and Stevens had little to no musical experience before this film. This musical inexperience elevated the innocence and humanity of Belle and the Beast respectively. Their voices capture their raw emotions and add a level of authenticity to the performances. However, there were a couple instances in both "Belle" and "Something There," when it was clear that Watson's voice had been auto tuned. This was frankly a disappointment because during the moments her voice wasn't being overproduced, Watson possessed a light and sweet voice that felt natural for the character of Belle.

Amidst the hype surrounding the release of "Beauty and the Beast," many conservative moviegoers became

alarmed when it was released there was to be an "exclusively gay" scene involving the character Lefou. However, except for a few subtle hints of some unrequited feelings for Gaston, very little of Gad's performance was focused on Lefou's sexuality. Rather Gad's portrayal of Lefou showed him as the moral guide for Gaston, as Belle's rejection quickly sends him into a destructive spiral. Both Gad and Evans' performances elevated the ideas of people coming alongside one another to guide them towards the truth.

One of the most impressive aspects of Lefou's character was that he served as a foil character for Gaston. From the beginning of the film, Lefou is questioning Gaston's treatment of Belle and Maurice. As Gaston's true internal character begins to surface, it is Lefou that is consistently trying to pull him back. It is when Gaston finally walks away from his trusty sidekick that everything falls apart for him.

Overall, Condon managed to pay homage to the original "Beauty and the Beast" while recapturing the magic of this "tale as old as time" for both old and new generations.

Emily Day is a senior journalism major and the arts and entertainment editor for Cedars. Her ideal best friend is willing to spend multiple hours overanalyzing Disney films and the hidden Christian values they possess.

Note From an Editor: Blessing Not a Burden



by *Emily Day*

I don't know about you, but I am terrible about opening up and sharing with people. I have this intense, albeit highly irrational, fear that if I start unloading all of my issues and struggles with people, they would find any excuse to flee. Yes, flee, not just come up with some lame excuse to

spare my feelings, but flee my because I am an overly dramatic person.

For some reason, I think that my issues are not good enough for other people to worry about, so I tend to just ignore them. I instead busy myself with work or extracurricular activities. I fill my schedule with other more pressing issues, so that I don't have to waste time processing my personal woes.

I think it is this fear that drives my love of writing. When I write out my problems, I can distance myself from them. They are no longer rolling around in my head at all hours of the day or night and I don't necessarily have to confront them. They are out of my system without the consequences of taking the time to process them. Now, is that the most healthy way of handling the hard stuff? Probably not ... OK, definitely not, but it's a coping mechanism that has taken me many years to perfect. Why stop now?

Three words with so much more power than they deserve: Why stop now? They are the words we use to justify anything and everything we do, though the sentiment may be phrased differently. We are naturally creatures of habit, so whenever something arises that threatens our personal homeostasis, we will whip out old adages like, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." We settle into complacency, even when the little voice in the back of our head tells us we are wrong.

Don't you love it when, after weeks of ignoring that little voice, aka the Holy Spirit, God puts someone directly in your path to tell you the same thing? It's kind of like a well-intended, much needed punch to the face (if such a thing exists). There is just something about human nature that when someone else calls you out on your issues, you feel much more inclined to do something about it (or just write an article telling other people to do it, but that's almost the same thing, right?).

Earlier this semester, I was told three simple words that silenced my pet coping strategy of deflection. So what are these three magical words? Blessing not Burden. Earth shattering stuff I know, but hang with me

We are falling back on our selfish pride as we try to shoulder our problems alone.

In order to be a blessing, we are called to bear one another's burdens. So, by refusing to share with one another, to lean on each other, we are in a sense robbing our fellow believers of an opportunity to be a blessing. We are falling back on our selfish pride as we try to shoulder our problems alone. On top of that, when we become so focused on handling our own problems, we rob ourselves of the opportunity to be a blessing to others.

This has become more apparent to me during my time at Cedarville, especially senior year. As I look back on time at college, I realize there were so many times when I put my academic pursuits above the people in my life.

It's not that I don't want to spend time with the people I love, but my obsessive need to be perfect at everything prevents me at times from effectively prioritizing my life. I missed out on so many opportunities to hang out, to have deep conversations or to simply do life with my loved ones because of this.

Now thankfully, I was surrounded by a group of friends who notice my workaholic tendencies and forcefully remove me from these situations, i.e., reminding me to eat and sleep and regular-people things. They get me out of the lab and remind me why I love the outdoors and nature. But, they also pour into me spiritually and are constantly pointing me back to Christ.

Without their constant support, even when it was forced upon me, I don't think I would be able to look back as fondly on my time here. Because looking back, the moments that I have come to cherish most were the ones where I was in too deep to find my way out alone. And the times that I was able to be the biggest blessing was when the ones I loved led me out of the dark hole of work and stress.

It is because of friends like these that I have learned the value of being intentional. To seek out opportunities where God can use me to be a blessing to those around me. Part of living in a Christian community means searching out those who are in need and extending kindness to them.

We miss out on so many opportunities due to fear, pride or some twisted desire for self-reliance. We hide behind masks of our own construction, so that we appear to fit into whatever perverted standards we think that we have to meet to be considered "good enough," when in reality, all

anyone really wants is someone to be genuine with them.

The Rules: Be a Blessing not a Burden

Take the leap toward trust

What's the biggest obstacle that stands between you and being a blessing? You've probably guessed it: yourself. The longer I live, the more I truly believe that 90 percent of our problems we create ourselves. By refusing to rely on the people in your life that you consider friends, you are forced to take a step back. The longer you go without sharing your heart, the further removed you become until you are completely alone. Your biggest fear becomes a reality because of your so-called "defense mechanism." So, find the friend that has always been there and start a conversation.

Be intentional

I feel like I am constantly saying this, but it's still true. In order to be a blessing, you must actively seek out opportunities. Ninety-nine percent of the time, people who need a blessing the most won't be advertising it with a bright neon sign. They will probably be like you, too afraid to share their hearts. Are we beginning to see the vicious cycle? Just take five minutes to really listen to someone and you will be surprised how much you can learn about a person, if you make the effort

Listen to the still small voice

Remember that small voice in the back of our head that we love to ignore? For believers, that voice is the Holy Spirit, God with us. The voice that we casually push aside every day knows us better than anyone possibly could. Even when what He is saying is hard, you can have absolute confidence that what he is saying is for your good, and that's not even the best part. When you listen to the Holy Spirit and interact with him, He gives you direct access to the Father. He is our perfect intercessor and when we have nowhere else to turn, He is always there.

So here is the take away, I guess: you are a blessing not a burden; don't be stupid; make good decisions.

"Having someone who understands is a great blessing for ourselves. Being someone who understands is a great blessing to others."

~ Janette Oke

Emily Day is a senior journalism major and the arts and entertainment editor for Cedars. Ways to her heart include, eating an obscene amount of Chinese food and watching Gilmore Girls or Parks and Rec on a continual loop.

Just Sayin' ...

On Critical Thinking, Cognitive Bias and Searching for Truth



by Adam Pittman

The importance of smartphones in the average first-world person adds to the accessibility of information, which in

turn creates an overload of information. I feel acutely aware of the shower of messages from advertisement in forms of commercials, billboards, or company logos on soccer kits to flashy news headlines and article titles. However, the overwhelming flood of information in our current digital age is not a new problem, or at least it is not an unnoticed problem.

The Early Modern Period in Western history, from mid-15th century to late 18th century, was full of information, both true and false, spread by men and women (though mostly men) with biases, opinions and agendas thanks to the creation of the printing press in 1440.

In response to the informative flood through European history, and specifically English history, numerous censorship laws have prohibited certain ways of thought and artistic enterprises. Major writers, including John Milton, objected. In his pamphlet "Areopagitica" published in 1644, Milton wrote:

"I cannot praise a fugitive and cloistered virtue, unexercised and unbreathed, that never sallies out and sees her adversary but slinks out of the race, where that immortal garland is to be run for, not with-

out dust and heat. Assuredly we bring not innocence into the world, we bring impurity much rather; that which purifies us is trial, and trial is by what is contrary."

His advocacy for multiple viewpoints was echoed by the writers of the American Constitution when they began the Bill of Rights by making free speech a national right. Free thought and free expression are incredibly important to a nation built upon principles opposed to tyranny, both physical and intellectual.

So the modern problem is not necessarily the amount of information coming in on our smartphones, our accessibility to it, or even the author or sponsoring companies' motivation for the messages they are promoting. The problem is our response and trust that what we see online, on television, in newspapers, or even in what we hear by word of mouth is truthful and worthy of acceptance.

The presence of multiple viewpoints on a subject is crucial to living in a universal world. While finding an unbiased opinion is impossible, we must set to break free from our own established opinions by encountering different opinions. Yet, as easy as that might sound, it is becoming increasingly difficult

Recently I came across the phrase "cognitive bias." While the concept of irrational thought is not entirely new to me, I had yet to see an explanation that

concretely explained how the modern dilemma of news literacy is tied to irrational thought.

Cognitive bias is essentially a distortion of the mind and of circumstance that affects human reception of new information and opinions. In other words, cognitive biases allow humans to accept information in line with what they believe far easier than they would if it is of a different opinion. Other factors play into this bias, such as the rate of information. Too much information at once will often lead to a quick denial of that information regardless of authenticity or rationality.

Humans will also tend to believe what the surrounding community believes, and if a community elevates an authority figure, then that figure will typically be seen with a more trustworthy opinion than a leader that the community decidedly opposes.

Perhaps most troubling to the cognitive bias is that we as humans will tend to believe things that we hear repeatedly. In an age where social media feeds are manufactured by algorithms based on past articles and involvement, our circle of influence and thought is shrinking. It is far easier to hear what you already believe than to experience a new opinion or perspective.

Similar to the presence of information overload, cognitive bias is nothing new. However, by understanding how the circumstances of human reception of infor-

mation influences thoughts and opinions more than the validity of the information, we should come to realize that the humility of our opinions and beliefs is just as important as the truthfulness of what we believe.

We can think that what we believe is true to our heart's desire, but if that information is "fugitive and cloistered," as Milton put it, then our self-righteous view of that information will prove arrogant and harmful. It is important to note that it is not just what we believe that affects us, but our approach to how we come to understand our own opinions.

As I have grown up, and my opinions of the world have shifted and changed, I have come to realize the importance of diversity of thought within a community. I also understand how easy it is to be comfortable within your own worldview and not "sally" out to see what and how other people believe. As a graduating senior, my thoughts are turning to the world outside of Cedarville and my place within that world.

But I feel as though this message about experiencing diverse thought is relevant for any reader, no matter what age or community. I know too well how impossibly hard humility is when talking with a person who you disagree with. But as we search for truth and as we journey for our beliefs and opinions, our humility is incredibly important to living peacefully with your neighbor, whether that neighbor is next door or on the other side of the world.

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

The presence of multiple viewpoints on a subject is crucial to living in a universal world.

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

Spring Break Missions

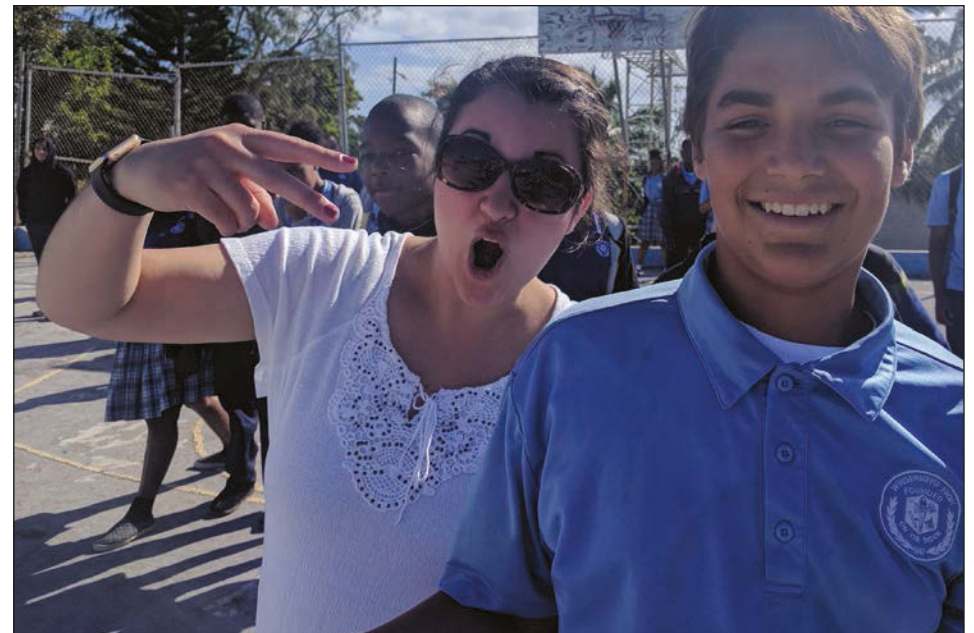
Photos by Global Outreach



Sophomore Megan Kimball engages with a Syrian refugee in Atlanta, Georgia.



Senior Caston Rowse, OPE Peru team, bonds with the kids during the children's programs the team ran in local parks around the churches where they served during the week.



Sophomore Alexandra Simpson interacts with Eleutheran child, Dillan. Dillan is a student at Windermere High School in Eleuthera, Bahamas.



The crew from the Guatemala team's week at Camp Canaan in Chamaltenago, Guatemala. "There were 72 fifth- and sixth-graders, 11 staff of the camp, and 15 from our team. It was an incredible week and God used it in huge ways for our entire team," said Marissa Smith, a junior student.



"God has exceeded every single one of my expectations that I had made going into this trip, and I am in such awe of the great God that we serve," said Bobby Krupnek, sophomore student, OPE Peru team. The little girl's name is Grace.