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CEDARS

The Award-Winning Cedarville University

December 2017

Mission Unhindered by Brain Tumor

Jim Cato learned of a brain tumor while serving in Houston, received expert care while mission team flourished

Also Inside:
Cedarville's Army ROTC takes third place in Ranger Brigade Challenge



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Cover: Design by Jen Yosinski, Photo by Lauren Jacobs
Page Designs by: Jen Yosinski, Nathan Overlock, Tasha Peterson and Kimberly Acevedo

BEOC (Big Event On Campus)

CHRISTMAS

December 25, wherever Christ is honored

On campus or not, the birth of Jesus is an event worth celebrating any month. Wherever you are, Cedars wishes you a merry Christmas.



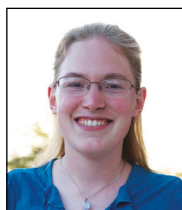
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Just Sayin' ... Alex Hentschel

How to Spend Money to Prove Your Love

It's that time of year again — you're browsing through Cyber Monday deals and agonizing over whether your significant other really needs another flannel. You're wondering if you can feasibly knit everyone in your family a scarf, and whether that would really be cheaper. You're feverishly printing out coupons that are "Good For One Hug!" in the hopes that your mother won't judge you for being too cheap.

We could all use a little guidance for what to get the people in our lives, so I've written a handy list.

For your parents: snap a selfie and put it in a frame from the Dollar Tree. Trust me — they made your face, and seeing it fills them with joy. Bonus points if you autograph it.

For your sibling: raid your closet for something that belongs to them — I guarantee you, something in there has been pilfered — wrap it up, and regift it to them. They'll be so glad to have it back, they'll forget that you stole it in the first place! Alternatively, the selfie in the frame can also go to them, to remind them that you'll always be the most attractive one.

For the baptist in your life: Baptist Blinders™, the all new sunglasses which automatically block out anyone who isn't a devout Calvinist. They'll never have to fret again over whether the person they're speaking to is saved or not — and all other Christian denominations won't have to suffer through conversations about whether clapping in church is symbolic of deep-seated spiritual insecurity. (Manufacturer's note: these will no longer function in heaven, and your baptist friends may be surprised at all the new faces there.)

For your significant other: nothing! Tell them that you don't want anything this Christmas ... so they can save up for the Ring they're going to buy you by Spring ... hint, hint.

For the millennial in your life: Super Glue, so that they can stick their phone directly to their face, without the



pesky hassle of holding it up. Trust me — it'll save them a ton of energy when they're watching Netflix while lying on the couch. Bonus points if you also include a charger that can be surgically implanted.

For the pastor in your life: another anonymous complaint letter about something inconsequential, like the volume of the music in church, will most certainly put your pastor in the holiday spirit. You know how much they enjoy those — especially when they're completely unfounded, rudely written, and anonymously mailed!

For the distant Christian relative in your life: you should get them another Philippians 4:13 or Jeremiah 29:11 wall hanging. They definitely need another one of those.

For your roommate: a mug that says "Thanks For Putting Up With Me, I'm Very Sorry That I Spilled Ramen On Your Bed That One Time And I Would Appreciate It If You Would Please Stop Holding It Over My Head."

For your professor: the assignment you said you'd turn in last month, a \$20 bill, and a sticky note inscribed only with a meager, desperate "please." Wrap it all up with a pretty bow.

For your coworker that you like: a \$10 Starbucks giftcard, to subtly hint that they should return the coffee run favor, with a nice card.

For your coworker that you don't like: a \$10 Starbucks giftcard, to subtly hint that they should return the coffee run favor. No card.

And lastly, for yourself: the footsie pajamas, or the French press, or the fancy lotion that you've been telling yourself that you don't need, because truth be told, after this semester ... you need it. Honor the birth of our Savior with excessive consumerism and treat yo' self.

Alexandria Hentschel is a sophomore International Studies and Spanish double major and the Off-Campus news editor for Cedars. She enjoys old books, strong coffee, and honest debate.



A Christmas Reflection

Alex Paat

SGA President



If there's something all humans have in common, it's the experience of feeling personally misunderstood. Think back to a time when you felt completely alone — when no one could identify with

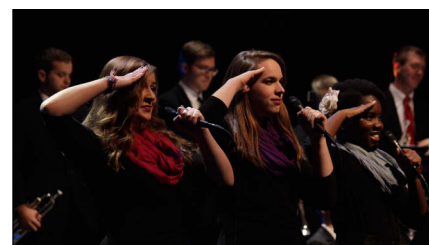
your feelings or comprehend the weight of your specific situation. Isn't it brutally ironic how a feeling of being isolated is a universal experience? We yearn for someone to understand us fully, but the complexities of life and our own imperfections often keep us from the sweetness of unhindered communion.

Friends, we are not alone in whatever struggle or situation we face! John 1:14 speaks of the hope we have when we feel misunderstood: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." This verse is my favorite Christmas passage because it gives us a glimpse at the marvelous mystery of the incarnation. The most wild and beautiful being in existence descended from heavenly perfection to become a vulnerable infant. Not only that, but he has experienced every grief and trial imaginable. Jesus has wrestled with temptation, felt the despair of abandonment, and borne the weight of God's wrath in our place. He empathizes with us. The visible glory of his life, death and resurrection gives us hope.

This Christmas, celebrate Christ's perfect identification with you! Defy the illusion of isolation. Messiah is born! The Word has become flesh and understands you completely and fully. We are never alone.

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PHOTO



Veterans Day Chapel

Veterans enjoyed the performance of "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" at Cedarville's annual Veterans Day Chapel.

Cato Receives Providential Surgery



photo by Lauren Jacobs

Jim Cato, associate vice president of Christian Ministries, is recovering quickly after undergoing brain surgery to remove a tumor discovered while serving in Houston.

by Zach Krauss

Jim Cato experienced a providential brain surgery during Cedarville's recent mission trip to Houston.

Cato, associate vice president of Christian Ministries at Cedarville University, went with students to help with Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.

But Cato's Fall Break plans changed on the Wednesday of the trip. He reported headaches and migraines and went to an urgent care center. He was informed that he was dehydrated. They gave him fluids and sent him on his way. As the night went on, however, Cato's headache pains began to in-

tensify, and around midnight, he woke up Keith Holcomb, the assistant director for global outreach, and asked to be taken to a hospital emergency room.

After what Cato described as an "adventure of finding a nearby hospital in a foreign city," he was admitted. He was diagnosed with a non-cancerous brain tumor, but he needed to have it removed.

Cato was transferred to the Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston where he was placed under the care of Dr. Arthur Day, a neurosurgeon for the Mischer Neuroscience Institute.

Unbeknownst to Cato and his team, Dr. Day is a specialist in type of surgery Cato

needed. Day has served as the president for the Society of Neurological Surgeons, as well as the director chair of the department for Neurological Surgery at the Brigham and Women's hospital.

The next day, the staff administered an MRI, and by Friday, Day had completed the surgery and Cato was on his way to recovery. The swiftness and efficiency of the process, along with the confidence and skill of the doctors astonished both Cato and the students on the team. Everyone involved on the trip attested to one thing: because of the resources available in Houston, Jim Cato's participation in the fall break trip was purely the providence of God.

While Cato was in the hospital and unable to help with the rest of the trip, students said that the staff pitched in and helped fill the gap more than expected. The drivers who attended the trip were chartered from the company Light Riders, which supports ministries such as Cedarville's. Over the break, students said that the bus drivers were eager to be able to help work and support the team, which took part of the load off of the rest of the staff as well.

Cato said that the hospital will need to do a final procedure, probably in December, using a gamma knife treatment process in order to remove a very small portion of the tumor remaining, that, if left, could regrow.

Gamma knife treatment is a non-invasive surgery often used as an alternative to whole-brain radiation therapy or traditional surgery.

Cato made a swift recovery and is back serving students and the university. He oversees Production Services, chapel bands, HeartSong and is involved in Global Outreach. He also serves as a professor for some of the university's worship classes.

Cato said he felt called to study at Cedarville after he was married. He wasn't aware of God's plan for him at the time. He was moving to a town where he had no permanent residence or income. He followed the call God gave him anyway and graduated as a music major.

After graduating, Cato worked at the university's radio station before hearing about and applying for a position in the Christian Ministries office overseeing the traveling music teams. Since then, Cato has become involved in the numerous ministries mentioned previously.

Josiah Kenniv, a senior worship major, has been under Cato's direction as a member of HeartSong since 2014. Kenniv said that what struck him the most about Cato through the years has been his intentionality behind everything that happens on the stage of a worship set. He said that there is meaning and thought behind every aspect of HeartSong from the physical presentation of the members at an event to the words that are said between songs.

"There is nothing random when it comes to Jim," Kenniv said. "Spontaneous, maybe, but not random."

Through his association with Christian Ministries at Cedarville, Cato has been able to travel all over the world for the Gospel. He said that now that his position has caused him to work more closely with Global Outreach, he had wanted to start taking advantage of more opportunities.

During the week of fall break, Cato was planning on attending a trip to Eastern Europe through Global Outreach. Some things fell through for that trip and he wasn't able to attend. He said the opening up of the fall break week led him to decide to attend the fall break trip to Houston to serve communities affected by Hurricane Harvey.

When the team began working on Mon-

day, Cato said he was extremely impressed at the work the students were doing. He was glad to be able to organize students that were all so clearly passionate about their work.

Jonny Gaunt, a junior sports management major who was with the team on the trip, said Cato is a fantastic leader.

"Even before I met Jim, I'd heard from my close friends who have been on HeartSong how great of a person he was," Gaunt said. "After working with him, it became clear to me how God's gifted him to be a good leader, and also how passionate he is about missions and sending people to do God's work."

Micah Gerber, a sophomore broadcasting and digital media major who was the videographer for the Houston trip, said that while he didn't know Cato before the trip, it was clear from the beginning how passionate he was about God. Gerber said that he often stressed how important it was for the team to be praying for others. The team saw this as the opportunity to remain constantly in prayer for him.

Cato reflected that one of the most resonating lessons he learned from his trip to Houston was the power of Christian community in his life. During the whole process, Cato was inundated with messages and emails from friends and strangers alike from Cedarville, all letting him know that they were praying for him. He received pictures of entire groups of people meeting together to pray for him.

Jon Wood, the vice president of Student Life and Christian Ministries, visited Cato in the hospital for almost two days before Cato's family arrived, supporting him and making sure that he was being taken care of. Cato said that by the end of the week some of the nurses questioned whether Wood was his son because of how concerned he was.

"It was all just very overwhelming," Cato said, "just seeing how big the hearts were in these people who were trusting God to help me through."

Zach Krauss is a junior pharmacy/music double major from central Texas and campus reporter for Cedars. He loves music, theatre, biology, community, and meeting new people.



photo by Lauren Jacobs

Jim Cato will have the remaining bits of his brain tumor removed later in December.



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Christmases Past on Cedarville's Campus

by Hannah Day

As the Christmas season approaches, the staff at Cedarville University looks back at traditions and celebrations of years past.

Over the years as the university has grown, many traditions have come and gone. From ice skating on Cedar Lake to the giant slide in the Stevens Student Center, everyone has their favorite memory from Campus Christmas.

Many professors are able to offer a perspective unique to that of the students.

"For many years we had an all-school dinner," said Murray Murdoch, a professor of history at Cedarville for 52 years. "And Dr. White has a nice luncheon for the faculty every year at Christmas and that's very delightful."

Several of Cedarville's organizations have also done service-based projects around the holidays. They have held food drives and hosted other exciting events.

"We have several times had Santa Claus here to take pictures for different organizations," said James Phipps, a Cedarville communications professor for 50 years. "I got to do that once or twice."

Phipps also mentioned that though the celebrations have varied over the years, with each president adding his own ideas

and traditions, there are some things that have remained consistent.

"Several of the presidents have, prior to the students leaving, at night, usually around 10:30, read the Christmas story," he said. "Some have also added the poem 'The Night Before Christmas.'"

Perhaps the memories many hold dearest are those that truly bring everyone together. Whether a member of the faculty or a student, everyone comes to enjoy the Christmas concert each year. This popular event even draws members of the community.

"One of the highlights is always the Christmas program," Murdoch said. "That's something to look forward to, because it's wonderful Christmas music done by the music department that's really beautifully done. The bands participate and the choirs participate and it's really a great evening."

Most importantly, Phipps said that Cedarville University, as well as all of its presidents, have done a wonderful job of making sure that the celebrations held on campus point to the birth of Christ as the center of the season.

Hannah Day is a freshman forensic science major from Pennsylvania and campus reporter for Cedars. She enjoys theatre, music, and correcting people.



Photo courtesy of CU Digital Commons

Ladies from Maddox unit 18 stop to pose during Christmas Open House in 1990.



Photo courtesy of CU Digital Commons

Dr. James T. Jeremiah, past president of Cedarville University, with students in 1990.

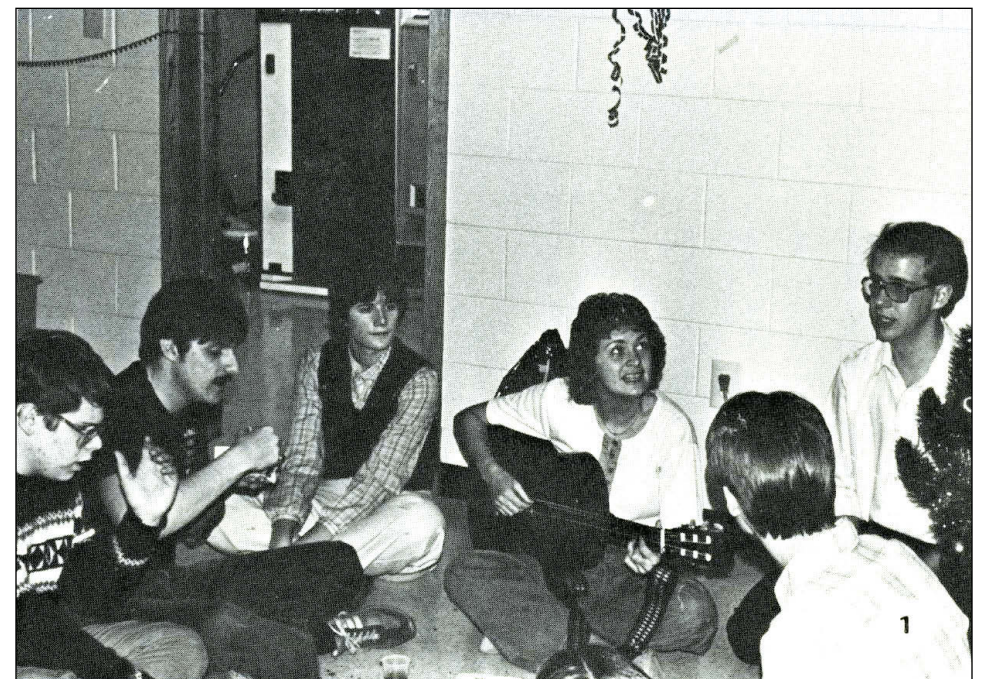


Photo courtesy of CU Digital Commons

Students enjoy fellowship and worship in 1979.



Photo courtesy of CU Digital Commons
Students John DeMarco and Malcom Dixon prepare their hall for Christmas Open House in 1981.



Photo courtesy of CU Digital Commons
The ladies of Printy Hall celebrate Christmas in style, Christmas 1979.



Photo courtesy of CU Digital Commons
Junior Mark Murdoch takes a seat on Santa's knee in 1990.

CU Places Third in Ranger Brigade Challenge



Photo by Cassandra Jensen

Cedarville's Rangers proudly stand with their 3rd place trophy in the auditorium at Fort Knox, Kentucky, following the completion of the Ranger Brigade Challenge.

by Brianna Saucier

Cedarville's Army ROTC Rangers beat out 15 schools for their third-place spot at the Ranger Brigade Challenge in Fort Knox, Kentucky on Nov. 3-4.

The Ranger Brigade Challenge is a competition for select ROTC Ranger teams from various brigades. The team members do a series of 40 events involving either military, physical, or mental challenges.

Cedarville's nine-person team was made up of Eli Albright, junior IT management major; Nathan Arnold, freshman computer science major; John Costello, junior international studies major; Jacob Day, junior pharmacy major; Jacob Johnson, senior economics major; Dani Lesko, sophomore exercise science major; and Matt Macklenar, junior forensics science major.

They were led by Ranger Company Co-commanders Nate Mason and Josh Sheehan, junior finance majors. Reserve members were Andy Arreguin, sophomore pre-law major; and Zach Ashley, freshman exercise science major.

The Rangers received a trophy for finishing close behind winner Ohio University and second-place Michigan State University.

"It was really nice to bring something home for all the effort we put in this semester," Mason said.

Cedarville is part of the 7th Brigade, also known as the Bold Warrior Brigade, which is made up of all Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky Universities that have an

Army ROTC program.

The winner in each of the eight Brigade Challenges gets to move on to the Sandhurst competition in the spring—a major goal for the Cedarville cadets. Due to their success this year, Day said they remain optimistic about their chances in the coming years.

"Our team only had one senior and the first-place team will lose about a third of their team because they are seniors," Day said. "So as long as we [focus on] certain events. I think that we have a good chance [of getting to Sandhurst] next year."

In 2016 the team placed fifth and saw the potential to go even higher in the competition. Going into this year, several cadets mentioned they possessed a greater understanding of how to train for it due to new leadership and a new attitude.

The commanding duo of Sheehan and Mason complemented one another in their efforts to push the team to new heights. Commanding Officer Sheehan bore the brunt of organizing the game plan while 1st Sgt. Mason executed it and monitored the team.

"Thanks to the training input from our Cadre and the strategic planning of C/O Sheehan and his right-hand man, Mason, we could endure the physical strain and think clearly under pressure," Lesko said. "While the competition wasn't easy and had its grueling moments. We'd all put in a lot of training hours, and it made all the difference."

The coordination between the two and their knowledge of the team made their training more efficient and gave them an edge over their competitors.

"You need to have a good grasp of your team's individual strengths and weaknesses," Mason said. "From there you can apply them in different situations ... and put them in a position to succeed."

The competition was spread out over two days, with many of the cadets running on four hours of sleep in between Friday and Saturday. Friday's events ran from 7 p.m. to midnight, and cadets had to continue the next day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Between each event, the team had to march with their gear for half a mile just to get to the next challenge. Even the starting point was a three-mile hike from their sleeping quarters. Most of the events were unknown to the cadets prior to that weekend, and not all were military in nature, Mason said.

"The whole point is to see how your team will react, because a lot of these you just really can't prepare for it," Mason said. "You roll up and you have no idea what you are going to do. +++ ... The whole thing is to figure out how you can think through a problem."

The cadets were given parameters on what was restricted and the objective, but how they chose to execute the mission was completely up to them.

One noteworthy example of the team's quick thinking took place during the Spartan Challenge, an obstacle course



Photo by Cassandra Jensen

John Costello engages targets after sprinting 50 meters and taking evasive action while



Photo by Cassandra Jensen

The Cedarville Rangers compete in a three-mile ruck march with 35-pound packs.

that cut through the woods and a waist-deep creek.

"There was this one point (where) there was a sign hanging from a tree, and the idea was to build a human pyramid and climb up and touch it," Mason said. "But Macklenar and Sheehan were like 'Screw that' and Sheehan got down on his hands and knees and Macklenar ran up on his back and just jumped up and slapped it. It was awesome, and it saved us a ton of time."

Some of the other events included carrying heavy objects over 250 meters while maneuvering around obstacles, shooting while wearing a gas mask after sprinting 50 meters, and throwing a hand grenade within a foot of a building while avoiding fire.

Another event, the three-mile march with their 35 pounds of equipment, proved to be more of a challenge than initially thought due to the changing elevations they had to navigate.

The one rope bridge, or O-R-B, also made a return from the regional Brigade competition these cadets competed in and won two weeks prior.

The highlight for many of the cadets though was the final event on Saturday: the tug of war.

"We might not have been the bulkiest team, but I think

what this event [tug of war] really highlighted was our teamwork and heart," Lesko said. "We kept pulling together even when other teams gave up."

Following a cadence, or chant, learned from Man Week, a Cedarville dorm competition that took place in October, the team coordinated its efforts to beat their bigger opponents.

"We faced some strong opponents throughout the tournament but were able to outlast our opponents and win the event," Sheehan said. "On Saturday night, everyone was exhausted from the events that took place earlier in the day, but we were able to use exceptional teamwork and pure heart to beat our opponents."

Mason admitted that the team had many setbacks, including limited access to resources, such as trainers, extra gym hours, and nutritionists, that other teams have. And yet, he said, the team was able to overcome that mentally.

"It speaks of the caliber of individuals we have in the Ranger Challenge team," Mason said.

Lesko, Mason, Sheehan, Albright and Johnson were the only returning members, with many of the new members underclassmen.

When preparing the lineup for this year, the require-

ments of every Ranger team are that at least one female and a cadet from each class are represented in the competition.

Freshman representative Arnold made his mark at the competition when he placed eighth out of 150 cadets in the ruck march.

As voted by the team, the MVP award was given to female representative Lesko. According to Sheehan, Lesko earned the award because she exhibited exceptional physical fitness and mental fortitude.

"Lesko pushed through bloodied-up hands and cramping legs to finish the day strong for us on Saturday," said Sheehan.

Both commanders agreed with the vote for MVP.

"She's just a beast," said Mason. "The only reason why we do as well as we do is because Lesko is just a freak of nature ... I can't imagine anyone who contributed more to the team. A lot of teams are limited by their female ... but Lesko is always near the top of the pack, she never limits us ... she is definitely our most valuable person."

Brianna Saucier is a freshman English major and Campus reporter for Cedars. She enjoys soccer, photography, and Army ROTC.

Who Are The Rohingya?

What to Know About the Crisis in Myanmar



Associated Press

In September, Rohingya Muslims arrive on a boat from Myanmar to Bangladesh in Shah Porir Dwip, Bangladesh. Since violence erupted in late August, more than 620,000 Rohingya men, women, and children have crossed over into Bangladesh from Myanmar, carrying with them tales of persecution, rape, and murder by the Myanmar military and Buddhist vigilantes.

*by Alexandria Hentschel
and Timothy Mattackal*

One of the worst humanitarian crises of the century is occurring in the Rakhine province of Myanmar. During the last few months, over 600,000 members of Myanmar's ethnic Rohingya population, a Sunni Muslim minority, have fled into neighboring Bangladesh to escape a campaign of ethnic cleansing. Almost overnight, hundreds of thousands of people were displaced as refugees, without a home and unsure of what the future may hold.

The Rohingya have been described by

Amnesty International as “one of the most persecuted minorities in the world.” The ethnic group has faced decades of persecution and disenfranchisement due to their position as Muslims in a country that is majority Buddhist. Myanmar has never granted the Rohingya legitimate citizenship, making the people group — which numbers over 1 million — the largest group of stateless people in the world.

Dr. Frank Jenista, a former foreign service officer and professor of international studies, sees no foreseeable end to the conflict that has been festering for many years. He remarked that there has been a long his-

tory of oppression, but the recent attacks by the Myanmar military — supplemented by radical Buddhist mobs — have seen an unprecedented level of brutality. Militant action by a small sect of the Rohingya who were advocating for an independent state in August began the ethnic cleansing.

“They were a tiny, tiny group, but it was a beautiful excuse for Myanmar to just go after them,” he said. “Before that, there were lower-level problems. There would be a Rohingya village attacked here or there — sometimes by the military, sometimes by mobs led by Buddhist priests. [The ethnic cleansing] began because the Rohingya got so fed up that they

took up arms and killed a handful of Myanmar soldiers. That then was the trigger.”

The Rohingya people have fled en masse to neighboring Bangladesh, namely the Chittagong region, which is close to the border between the two nations. The Bangladeshi government has expressed a willingness to help the minority, but practically, they are unable to service the entire population. Jenista remarked that asylum in Bangladesh is an impractical and temporary solution.

“Bangladesh is one of the most-crowded places in the world, and all of the sudden they have 600,000 more mouths to feed,” he said.

For Xavier Halder, a junior special edu-

cation major, the situation is one which strikes close to home. Halder is from Chittagong, and he has seen the influx of Rohingya refugees and overpopulation problems firsthand.

“From a Bangladeshi standpoint, from a country with so many people living in it — one of the most densely populated countries in the world — welcoming refugees in is ironic,” he said. “But culturally, Bangladesh is really open, really friendly and really welcoming. Bangladesh would consider the Rohingya as brothers or siblings, in a way — would view [accepting them] as helping out family.”

Halder remarked that while the mass migration, which has taken place recently, has put the situation of the Rohingya people into the spotlight, their plight is one which has been ongoing for many years.

“It’s known worldwide now, but it has always been a major issue. It was just publicized now,” he said.

Both Jenista and Halder said they believe that the driving force behind the persecution of the Rohingya people is that they are culturally closer to Bangladesh. The entire region used to be under the control of colonial British India, and when the dividing lines were drawn between the countries after independence, the cultural and ethnic dividing lines were not taken into account.

“They don’t fit in with the culture of Myanmar,” Halder said. “That’s one reason why they’ve been persecuted for a long time. When the borders were made, they didn’t take into consideration the different cultural groups that were there — it was just politically separated.”

The international community is looking for solutions to the conflict, but most solutions are either impractical or impossible.

Halder mentioned that the best solution he sees would be to give the Rohingya their own, independent country, or perhaps redraw the lines that were decided after colonial rule.

“Since they cannot fully associate themselves with Myanmar and truly, they cannot associate themselves with Bangladesh either, I would think ... giving them the option of becoming their own state,” he said. “I think that if they’re given their land back and if they’re not persecuted there ...they [would be] able to live a normal life.”

Jenista mentioned that the Myanmar

government would never support this solution, however, and surrender a portion of their country. He mentioned resettlement options but sees little hope for the future of the conflict.

“I don’t see any good solution,” he said. “Islamic countries are speaking up on behalf of the Rohingyas, but to my knowledge none have offered to take them. Some have leaked over the border into India, but India’s not happy to have them. Nobody is willing to put forth the blood and the treasure that would be necessary to force an end to it. Until that happens, these poor people are stuck.”

Jenista also mentioned the possibility of future violence in the region, as the Christian minority in Myanmar is also persecuted. He expressed concern that a similar case of ethnic cleansing could occur should the military go unchecked.

One possible avenue for the Rohingya to escape this situation is third country refugee resettlement. Jason Lee, a former director of a refugee resettlement agency called World Relief, now works with Clarkston International Bible Chapel, a church that Cedarville has partnered with for missions work through Global Outreach in Clarkston, Georgia. He says that resettlement is one viable option.

“Refugee resettlement is one of the best options to help them,” he said. “There’s only so many that Bangladesh, Thailand and Malaysia can absorb and many have died trying to cross the waters to try to get there.”

However, Lee warns that this is an unlikely solution in the current political climate.

“Their process of coming to the United States would be long and right now, extremely difficult,” he said. “In the first two months of this fiscal year we’ve only had about 1,300 refugee arrivals so unfortunately, although the president’s cap number is 45,000, at this point maybe less than 20,000 may actually arrive.”

This amount accounts for only three percent of the Rohingya who are currently living in Bangladesh as refugees, but Lee said he doubts the viability of other solutions which have been proposed. Bangladesh and Myanmar recently announced an agreement to repatriate Rohingya refugees back to Myanmar. However, Lee said he believes that there are important conditions

which must be met before repatriation can be viewed as a viable solution.

“The question is, is the murder, torture and genocide going to continue if they go back?” he said. “I don’t think repatriation is the answer at this point without some kind of assurance that folks are going to be cared for.”

Lee said the most effective change could take place through the United Nations Security Council. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley has labeled the events in Myanmar as ethnic cleansing, and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson also used the term after returning from a trip to Myanmar. Despite these developments, more is still needed to put pressure on the UNSC to act.

Lee proposed a few ways in which students can help to make this happen.

“[They should] be involved, let their members of congress know of their concern, but let UN ambassador Nikki Haley’s office and Tillerson’s office know as well that you want them to do more, whether they enforce

this repatriation to know they’re going to be assured once they get back or resettle them as refugees,” he said

Halder also said individual awareness could make a difference in ending the crisis.

“Just having people who are concerned around the world raises red flags and makes the government aware of the situation so that they are more likely to react,” he said. “What we can do is just making sure we are able to be praying for them, and monetarily we can help them by providing the necessities that they need right now to survive.”

Alexandria Hentschel is a sophomore International Studies and Spanish double major and the Off-Campus news editor for Cedars. She enjoys old books, strong coffee, and honest debate.

Timothy Mattackal is a senior finance and accounting major. He enjoys travelling, reading, discussing relevant issues, and listening to Ed Sheeran.

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Cedar Cliff Schools Implement Drug Testing

by Callahan Jones

Cedar Cliff school district has enacted a new drug testing policy that it has been carefully developing for the past two years. Under the policy, all students at the high school who are involved in extracurriculars will undergo drug testing. Cedar Cliff, encompassing Cedarville High, Middle and Elementary schools, is the only public school district in Greene County to have a drug testing policy for extracurricular involvement.

The main point of the policy, according to Chad Haemmerle, principal of Cedarville High School, is prevention of drug abuse and helping students in tough situations.

"The policy is here to give a good kid an out," said Haemmerle. "A kid who is maybe in a situation where some of their friends are passing a joint around and they can say 'I can't do that, my school does random drug testing.'"

Chad Mason, Cedar Cliff superintendent, says that the policy is also about safety.

"The first thing I think about is football," Mason said. "I don't need guys out there under the influence of something banging their heads into other people. That's not a good mix."

Under the 2017-2018 policy, all students involved in fall extracurriculars were tested at the beginning of the school year, and all students involved in spring extracurriculars will be tested at the beginning of next semester. In addition, randomly selected students will be tested periodically. The policy defines an extracurricular as "any activity of a competitive nature that does not involve a grade."

Mason said the school board has not yet decided if this blanket test policy will continue and all students involved in a semester of extracurriculars will be tested in the future, or if random drug tests of the pool of students will be sufficient. This decision will likely fall toward random drug tests only, according to Haemmerle, because they aren't focused on catching students, just helping them.

"If we act like Cedarville at some level doesn't have a drug problem, I think we're just sticking our head in the sand," Haemmerle said. "While I don't think we've ever had one student who's used heroin or the harder substances, it's the good decision making now that keeps them out of that."

Because of this focus, the penalties involved in the program are focused on prevention and education. Before they are tested, students are given a chance to confess that they will not pass the drug test. If they choose to do so, they are given much more leniency.

A confession leads to classes and further education about the dangers of drug use. A failed test sans confession leads to the same, but also results in suspension from participation



Photo by Naomi Harward

The Cedarville Indians, and all other Cedar Cliff students involved in extracurricular activities, will now have to undergo routine drug screening.

in the extracurricular on a first offense. Further offenses lead to more drastic punishments, including longer suspensions from their extracurricular, removal from an extracurricular team or suspension from school for several days.

The policy was first brought forward by members of the school board. It was then developed over time with input from several sources, including other Ohio schools who have similar policies, online surveys of the parents of students and several community town halls.

"People had specific concerns, we wanted to address those concerns," Mason said. "One thing we got back from the community was that they didn't really want the middle school kids being tested, so we said, 'Okay, we'll wait, and we made it grades 9-12.'"

According to Mason, the popular opinion of the policy changed quite positively by the end of the polling process.

"We started the process with around 60 percent approval from parents and ended up with around 75-80 percent," Mason said. "While we probably would have continued with the program regardless, we still wanted to make a program that would make people happy."

The coach of Cedarville High School's golf team, Jeff Gilbert, said the school's sports coaches were brought into the decision making process as well.

"We had a coach's meeting last year with the athletic director," Gilbert said. "He just let us know it was in the works.

They wanted to know if we had any feedback or ideas."

Gilbert said that he is a fan of how the program turned out and appreciates that the program focuses on education and prevention, rather than being strictly punishment-based.

Lori Myers, a parent of a high school senior, is happy with where the policy ended up.

"Basically, this drug issue is a problem everywhere, and I think this policy is a good way to help both parents and the school," Myers said. "I like that they aren't looking to catch kids — they're looking to help them and teach them instead of just kicking them out."

Overall, the school seems confident that it has accomplished its mission in creating a drug-testing policy that encourages good decision-making, avoids focusing on punishment and is supported by the majority of the community. While the exact details of the future for the policy are unclear, those who implemented it are happy with what they've done.

"This wasn't a decision we flippantly went into," Mason said. "I feel now that the decision is made, we got it right. We're doing it in a way that fits in our community, and I think a majority here will tell you the same."

Callahan Jones is a junior journalism major and the Digital and Design editor for Cedars. In his free time, he enjoys making coffee, collecting headphones and playing games with friends.

Community Christmas

Holiday Celebration Brings a Town Together

by Breanna Beers

Marcia and David Baits have lived in Cedarville for nearly 30 years, so they have watched the town become the community that it is today. The couple were called to make Cedarville their mission field in 1990, when David became the principal of Cedarville High School.

"We found out that his spiritual gifts were administration and leadership, and mine were hospitality and teaching," Marcia Baits said. "And we said, 'Why don't we follow this?' So we put the fleece out to say, 'Lord, where do you want us to serve you?'"

The Baits were initially surprised that God led them to Ohio, of all places — let alone the small town of Cedarville. However, as they became familiar with the community, they began to see God's hand at work.

"When we came there was vandalism, there was drugs," Marcia said. "No one wanted anything to do with the community; it was a mess. My husband had to fix the discipline in the school, and we said, 'Well, in order to fix the discipline in the school, we have to go into the community and change the parents.'"

The Baits started searching for a way to unite the town. One of their earliest endeavors was to write a play depicting the origins of Labor Day, which was then performed in the Cedarville Opera House.

"What is one thing that connects the town?" Marcia asked. "Labor Day. So we put the play on, revived the opera house, and created the Cedarville Opera House Society."

As the couple began to invest in the community, others in the area started to engage as well. The town began to come together for holidays like Labor Day and, later, Christmas.

In December 1992, just a few doors down the street from the opera house, beautician Linda Curtis started what would become one of Cedarville's favorite traditions: the annual Little Town of Lights celebration.

"She started by putting luminaries in milk jugs into the street," remembered Mar-

cia Baits. "She lit up the whole street. Then it flourished. That's how the town came together."

Marcia said Curtis's simple decorations sent a message to the community: their town was worth investing in. Those tiny twinkling lights were a reminder that someone cared about Cedarville and wanted to see it shine.

Over time, more and more downtown businesses began to catch on to the idea, and sparkling Christmas lights took over the entire town. Now, the festivities are organized by the Cedarville Chamber of Commerce and include not just a dazzlingly decorated Main Street, but live music, horse-drawn wagon rides, free cider and cookies, a tree-lighting ceremony, a wreath auction and a parade led by Santa Claus himself.

Residents compete to out-decorate one another in Cedarville's home lighting contest. These displays often involve enormous inflatables and extravagant light arrangements. However, some homes also still put out a single candle inside of a milk jug, harkening back to Curtis's original decorations and the spirit of simple goodwill that brought the town together. The small, flickering candles burn as a reminder of the power of individuals to make a difference in their communities.

In their retirement, David and Marcia Baits went on to establish the Cedarville Historical Society, which preserves the story of the town in displays, photographs, and documents. Marcia Baits emphasized the importance of Cedarville's history in uniting the town into the community it is today.

"This is what we want the kids to know; this is how we want Cedarville to be known," she said. "God gave me Ezekiel's verse: 'And the name of the town will be 'God is there.' That's what we are trying to do here.'"

Breanna Beers is a freshman Molecular Biology and Journalism double major and an off campus news writer for Cedars. She loves exercising curiosity, hiking new trails, and quoting The Princess Bride whether it's relevant or not.



Photo courtesy of Cedarville Commons, 1993 Miracle Yearbook
Little Town of Lights is a long standing tradition in Cedarville, started in 1992 by Linda Curtis.



Photo by Macey Wymer
A Cedarville Township Fire Department fire truck is decked with lights for the parade.

River Soul Revival: A Band Built by Brothers

Shawn and Brett Sumrall surprise audiences with a forgotten genre

by Ian Sarmiento

Music is a universal language. It's something that everyone hears, something that everyone experiences and it's different everywhere in the world. However, most of all, it's something that changes over time. River Soul Revival is a folk, western and pop band, made up of two Cedarville students. They have brought back a genre lost in history to say one thing: "Harmonicas bring people together."

River Soul Revival consists of two brothers, Shawn and Brett Sumrall. They grew up in Northern Virginia southwest of Washington, with their mom, dad, and younger brother, Ian.

Shawn, a senior English major, is the main vocalist and acoustic guitarist. Brett, a senior athletic training major, also plays acoustic guitar, the harmonica, and sings harmonies.

Shawn began learning guitar when he was seven. He started taking lessons only to find that he wasn't learning as well as he wanted to. So he gave up formal lessons and started learning on his own.

"We would listen to music all the time, growing up, and it became a huge part of our lives," Brett said.

Brett began learning to play the guitar when he was 14. He said that after watching Shawn play at home and at church, he decided to start learning guitar as well.

They spent a lot of time on a church stage together, opening up in worship for their church congregation.

Shawn and Brett have grown up playing together in church, at school and, to the annoyance of their neighbors, late at night.

The duo did not come from a musical family. However, they did have had a few family friends that played a role in supporting them with their music. These friends were instrumental in further helping them to make music a significant part of their lives. One of these friends is Chuck Freer,



Photo by Jennifer Gammie

Brothers Shawn (right) and Brett (left) Sumrall draw their musical inspiration from a variety of styles to create their unique sound

the associate pastor from their church, who taught Shawn to play guitar.

Another friend they mentioned is William Keller. The brothers said Keller introduced them to a few bands that brought them into their current genre, helping to inspire them to write their own music.

The Avett Brothers, an American Folk

Rock band, have inspired a lot of the Sumralls' music.

River Soul Revival plays a lot of covers of the Avett Brothers' songs, which was a stepping stone toward writing their own music for their band.

"We play and listen to their music mainly because our voices fit best with that

type of music," Brett said.

When working on songs, the two brothers typically sit down together to talk about the lyrics. The topics of conversation always differ based on their life circumstances.

"It could be about how we might view the world or what's going on around us," Shawn said.

Eventually, one or the other will start playing on the guitar and begin the process of creating a melody.

In their most recent song, they wrote about how people mess up.

"People can make mistakes a lot," Brett said. "It's never an overnight change to become a better person ... it's always a process."

After a significant amount of time acting as a band, they decided they needed a name.

"When we wrote down a couple names, we looked back at them later and realized that they were all terrible," Brett said.

They had trouble coming up with a name until one day, when they wrote a song about a river. To them, a river symbolizes simplicity, or the idea of bringing something back to simplicity.

"The music we play not only surprises an audience with a forgotten genre, but also helps us to communicate our music in a way that brings audiences souls back to a simple and beautiful state, almost like a 'Soul Revival,'" Brett said.

And so, they came up with the name River Soul Revival.

However, the brother duo wasn't always this close. Like many bands, the brothers had their differences.

The two had some disagreements after Shawn graduated high school.

"He was a butt," Brett said, "mainly because Shawn was going through a different period in his life than I was, and we butt heads then."

They soon realized that their relationship had drifted. The one thing that kept them together was the times they played music together.

Nowadays, they say that it's hard for them to see themselves doing this process alone. They rely on each other not only as brothers, but also in their journey as musicians together.

Brett and Shawn also have a younger brother who has inspired some of their songs.

"Our relationship with Ian is weird and difficult," said Shawn.

Shawn said that Ian was there for a lot of their growing up and many of the major events in their lives. But when Shawn and Brett left for college, the two of them missed out on a lot of Ian's life.

"We regret not being around a ton to watch him take the same steps we were taking at his age, when he went to Europe for three months to play soccer, driving, etc," Brett said.

Shawn and Brett have continued to make music together not only to strengthen their bond together as brothers, as well as with Ian, but to also to share that relationship with others through their music.

Their goal is to share their messages through their music with everyone who will listen. Even though music might not be something that they are currently pursuing career-wise, it is something they hope to do for the rest of their lives.

They are currently working on two new songs, inspired by Ian, and are hoping to record a small album in the future.

As Shawn goes on to study at another school, and Brett goes on to continue studying athletic training, their paths will drift apart.

But they know that no matter where God takes them, the memories they have shared, and the music they have played, will keep them together.

River Soul Revival does not currently have a release date or any official goals. They plan to finish their new songs and are currently looking for people to help them in the recording process for a mini-album or an extended play.

Ian Sarmiento is a freshman electrical engineering major and an Arts and Entertainment reporter for Cedars. He enjoys playing the piano, watching anime, and buying swords and knives so he can pretend to be a ninja.



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student SPOTLIGHT

by *Shelby Ahlborg*

Cedarville University's theatre department has been attracting wonderful actors for years.

Merra Milender is one of those actors and has been comfortable being on stage since she was three.

Milender, a senior theatre student, first became involved in theater and acting when her mother decided to get her involved in their church's pageant. She continued to act until high school, where she discovered she loved theater and decided to pursue it.

Milender's first lead was in high school as Morgan le Fay in "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court." But her favorite role so far has been Vivian Bearing in the show "Wit."

She felt the show's premise gave her an opportunity to connect with her audience. "Wit" was about a woman with cancer, something that many people could relate to.

Afterward, she had the opportunity to talk to people who came up to her and told her how the play touched them, or what experiences they were going through in their own lives. Those conversations made the whole experience significant to her.

Currently, Milender is in the middle of rehearsals for the theater's winter play "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." She will be playing the role of the White Witch, the evil queen who has taken over Narnia and cast the land into an eternal winter.

There have been many renditions of this story over the years, in both movies and plays, with each cast bringing their own ideas about the characters to life. For Milender, she has her own ideas for what she would like to do with her interpretation of the Witch.

"I would like to have a White Witch who's original, and a character who's more complex than just 'Oh, she's the bad one,'" she said. "More than that, I want to provide an image of what we're struggling against in our Christian lives. I want to provide the au-

dience with a visual image of principalities and powers that we struggle against every day."

Milender said that at Cedarville, encouragement and inspiration are never too hard to find. She has found help in every one of her professors and fellow students.

Two of the most inspirational have been Dr. Diane Merchant and former professor Robert Clements. Milender has seen their passion for theater and has been encouraged by it. She feels they have wonderful personal stories, are incredibly talented, and love what they do.

Similarly, Milender's fellow students find just as much encouragement in her as she does in them.

"She is so bold and fearless," senior theatre major Heather Lange said. "She has such an incredible passion for what she does, and she is so insightful and deep-thinking. She is also incredibly kind and an all-around wonderful friend to all. She is a great balance of taking life seriously but also knowing when to laugh at herself."

Stephen DeJong, another senior theatre student, agreed.

"She is a very dedicated actor and really goes all out when she creates a character," he said. "I mean, she shaved her head to create a character once. I think I speak for everyone when I say she is a blast to work with."

Even though design is not her favorite thing, Milender has extended her love for the arts into lighting and costuming, as well. She owes much her appreciation for design to her professors. Both acting and costuming are such an enjoyment to her, that she hopes to follow their footsteps and teach.

Currently, Milender is working on getting into URTA, the University Resident Theatre Association, which can hopefully help her find a school where she can get her MFA in theater. After graduate school, she would like to act professionally for a few years before becoming a theater professor, where she can then pass her acting expertise

Merra Milender: Bold and Fearless



Photo by Lauren Jacobs

Merra Milender will be playing The White Witch in "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," playing this February in the DeVries Theatre.

on to the next generation of young actors.

"My favorite thing is the moment right before you walk out onto stage," Milender said. "Where you're backstage, and you have all of the crews bustling around you, everybody is silently going about their own work, and you have this moment where you can almost hear a bubble closing over you as you try to get into the zone. There's just

something about the way your body comes alive and every single nerve ending is on fire."

Shelby Ahlborg is a junior graphic design major and an arts and entertainment writer for Cedars. In her free time, she enjoys drawing, writing, and studying the animation and special effects in movies.

Blackburn Rejoins Varsity Basketball Team



Photo by Lydia Wolterman

Sean Blackburn attempts a layup in traffic in a game on Nov. 17 against Miami-Hamilton.



Photo by Lydia Wolterman

Sean Blackburn looks to lead the team through his experience.

by Jacob Coolidge

Sean Blackburn started playing basketball when he was in the seventh grade. His first love was football, but he eventually fell in love with the game of basketball and focused solely on it.

“When I got to middle school, I started playing for my school team, and started to take it seriously when I got to high school,” Blackburn said.

Blackburn, a senior broadcasting and digital media major from Columbus, Ohio, eventually found his way to Cedarville University, and this is where he is now, with a spot on the varsity basketball team.

After Blackburn got to Cedarville, the next portion of his journey began. Blackburn made the roster in his freshman and sophomore year but failed to see much playing time. During his junior year, due to outside circumstances, Blackburn was not able to play for the team and had to take on

a student assistant role.

Though this time off the court was hard for Blackburn there were certain benefits.

“God taught me more about myself last year than I could imagine,” Blackburn said.

Even though Blackburn learned a lot and worked hard as an assistant, it was very apparent to him that he needed to be on the court for his senior season.

So, that’s exactly what he set out to do. Luckily for Blackburn, working out is something he enjoys to do. Staying in shape wasn’t going to be a big issue for him. However, he did need to stay in good basketball shape.

Last summer was crucial in determining if Blackburn would make the team for his senior season, he said.

“The summer leading into this year was going to be a big factor in if I played again,” Blackburn said.

With a year away from basketball, there are always questions of whether a player will be able to return to full strength or not.

Even though Blackburn wasn’t injured, he wasn’t playing high-level competitive basketball.

That meant he had to work hard to get his speed and agility back. He also had to make sure his shot was on target and that he could keep up defensively.

“I had the best summer I have had since I have been in college lifting and basketball wise, so I decided to play,” Blackburn said.

With head coach Patrick Estep’s support and the desire to finish out his college career on the court with his best friends, Blackburn rejoined the team and earned a varsity spot.

Blackburn said he is excited for the opportunity to pour into younger players and help lead his team to victory.

“Obviously, I would like to win, but seeing the improvement in some of the younger players is what I like to see the most,” Blackburn said.

Blackburn has established himself a

leader off the court. He provides a voice of reason and honesty to the players and coaches he interacts with. He is a friend and role model to younger players.

Blackburn has aspirations to move on from basketball and be a reporter for the NBA someday.

He has a passion for the game and a superior knowledge for reading the flow of play. He looks forward to chasing after dreams past college basketball. While these have been some of the best years of his life he is so excited for what comes next, Blackburn said.

“It is all about having the right mindset, and knowing that what you’re working towards is worth it,” Blackburn said.

Jacob Coolidge is an RA on campus in Brock. He is an Accelerated Biblical Studies major. He loves sports and always has. He looks forward to incorporating sports into his ministry in his future.

Poole's Winding Journey to Varsity Basketball

by Tim Miller

When Kelly Poole and her family dropped her brother off for college at Cedarville University each year, Poole said there was no way she would ever make Cedarville her home for college. Poole was uninterested in Cedarville for a number of reasons, including the 13-hour drive from campus to her home in Massachusetts.

Poole, now a junior, lives at Cedarville University for about seven months of the year and is a major contributor to the women's basketball team. However, when Poole was a freshman, life on campus was mundane, and Poole wasn't even a member of the varsity basketball team.

Feeling out of place probably wasn't something Poole was used to. She started on her 1,200-student high school basketball team in all four of her years and went a combined 85-8 while making two state tournament runs.

Poole was recruited by a number of schools in New England to play basketball during her college search. Cedarville's new class of basketball players was already filled out, so Poole was offered a spot to play on the junior varsity team, which is not something four-year starters dream about.

"I never wanted to decide to go to a college based on basketball," Poole said. "But if I could play at the college I wanted to go to, that would've been awesome."

Even though Cedarville did not offer Poole a varsity spot, she reluctantly wound up choosing Cedarville to continue her education. She played on the JV team and was successful, but found herself homesick for much of her first semester.

When her freshman JV season ended, Poole was ready to go back home for Christmas break. Life on campus felt miserable and lonely, as Poole was unable to make many connections to others.

Prior to break, head coach Kari Hoffman delivered a varsity offer to Poole. She considered the invitation, but joining varsity meant she would only be home for one



Photo by Lydia Wolterman

Junior guard Kelly Poole is a scrappy defender on the court, beating out the opposing side with her quickness.

week during the break.

"It was really hard for me to choose freshman year but I ended up saying no," Poole said. "I don't think I would've loved it if I had joined in my freshman year."

When the spring semester came, Poole spent time in open gyms with the varsity basketball team. Due to NCAA rules, coach Hoffman was not allowed to watch her players, so senior forward Breanne Watterworth and junior guard Abby Wolford informed their coach of Poole's open gym perfor-

mances, Poole said.

"I really enjoyed playing with the girls," Poole said. "I talked to coach and she ended up having me do a tryout in my fall sophomore year and that's how I got on the team."

Junior guard Regina Hochstetler became one of Poole's best friend off of the court.

"We spend a lot of time together outside of basketball and we've found that we're very much alike," Hochstetler said. "It's been awesome to get to come alongside

her throughout this transition and watching her grow both on and off the court."

Poole had low expectations when her sophomore season began. Expecting to be utilized as a practice player, Poole was thrown into the mix early in the season. She earned 22 minutes in the first game of the season and ended up seeing time in all 30 games with a pesky presence and as a scrappy defender.

"She can really bother people out there with her quickness," Hochstetler said. "I was impressed how well she handled herself coming up like that."

Poole said her sophomore year was much improved compared to her freshman year, and her teammates were integral in her newfound enjoyment at Cedarville.

"The basketball team had a huge impact on my life and has helped me grow in my faith," Poole said.

Now at the beginning of her junior season, Poole's playing time has dropped due to a loaded backcourt. Regardless, Poole will impact the team whether she gets two minutes or 20.

"I've seen her grow as a basketball player, in her faith and in her relationships with everyone on the team and it's been really cool to witness," Hochstetler said. "Her joyful personality is contagious and I'm so happy she decided to join this team a year ago."

Poole may have never thought she'd be at Cedarville in the years before she came, and she at times wished she'd never chosen to attend the university during her first semester. However, two years later, Poole has grown in her faith and has encountered irreplaceable relationships.

"It's been really cool to see God work because it's not something I ever thought would happen," Poole said. "I know God put me here for a reason."

Tim Miller is a sophomore marketing major and sports editor for Cedars. He enjoys having a baby face, sipping Dunkin Donuts coffee and striving to be the optimal combination of Dwight Schrute and Ron Swanson.

Lady Jackets Volleyball Looks Ahead

by Tim Miller

The Cedarville volleyball Lady Jackets' 2017 season concluded with a 3-0 loss to Walsh in the first round of the G-MAC tournament on Nov. 16. The Lady Jackets finished 17-16 and 12-5 in the conference, which was good for sixth overall in the G-MAC and third in the West Division.

The Lady Jackets began the year in turmoil, starting 1-7. Head coach Doug Walters said the rough start to the season actually benefited the Lady Jackets in the long run.

"We always have a very tough schedule as that is what better prepares you to make a postseason run later in the year," Walters said. "So, we knew that we would take our lumps, but it paid off as we entered into the middle part of the schedule."

These eight games came in two different invitationals. The first, the Ferris State Invitational, featured Cedarville suffering three losses in sweeps. The Lady Jackets' first win of the season came in this invitational, a 3-2 win over Quincy.

Cedarville then traveled to Evansville, Indiana for the Southern Indiana Invitational during the following weekend. The Lady Jackets left the invitational empty-handed, going 0-4 on the weekend.

The tough competition seemed to ready Cedarville later on in the season, as the Lady Jackets rattled off 12 wins in their next 14 matches starting with their home opener against Lake Erie, which was the best team in the G-MAC East Division, finishing 26-9 and 15-3 in the conference.

"The home opener is always one of my favorites," Walters said. "The atmosphere in Callan for that event every year is always something to behold. That was also another match where we were playing some of our best volleyball of the season."

Cedarville cooled off at the worst time they could have and lost four of their final six regular season matches. Cedarville lost to Hillsdale and Findlay in back-to-back games.

"Those matches showed our inconsistency that we struggled with and were the

beginning of a rough patch that provided a lot of learning opportunities for us as we go into next season," Walters said.

The Lady Jackets exited the first expanded G-MAC conference tournament in the first round after losing to Walsh.

"In terms of our overall record, I would say the season was below our standards," Walters said. "But this year was a learning year for a very young team. Not just learning how to play the game at a national level in Division II, but learning how to be better teammates and leaders."

Cedarville was led by its front line this season, as two senior hitters helped carry the Lady Jackets.

Senior middle hitter Gabby Olson finished the season with 402 kills, including three 20-kill or more matches. Olson also hammered 42 service aces which was first

among all Lady Jackets.

Senior outside hitter Krissy Pratt was second on the squad in kills, tallying 328. Pratt piled up 989 kills in her Cedarville career.

Freshman setter Sierra Schuitema broke onto the scene with 752 assists and played in all 33 matches this season. Schuitema delivered 34 service aces in 2017.

Nearly half of Cedarville's roster were freshmen this season, as the Lady Jackets showcased six rookies. Of the six, four saw extensive playing time.

Freshman middle hitter Lauren Willow was one of the higher performing freshmen on the team, turning in 272 kills. Willow said that even though the team's play was inconsistent, the character remained constant.

"There would be games and practices where we were playing at a very high level, and others where we would play more on

the timid side," Willow said. "But our love for one another, our opposing girls, and most importantly our love for the Lord was always consistent, which matters most."

Walters said the play of the freshmen was satisfactory and that the future for the class should bring success to the program.

"Overall, we were very pleased with the play of our freshmen," Walters said. "I am really looking forward to January and February with them where we can take the things that they learned from this season and begin fine tuning their games."

Tim Miller is a sophomore marketing major and sports editor for Cedars. He enjoys having a baby face, sipping Dunkin Donuts coffee and striving to be the optimal combination of Dwight Schrute and Ron Swanson.

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Campus Christmas

Photos by Macey Wymer



The SGA office gets a tree of its own to decorate.



Senior Gracie Young directs the team in where to put the Campus Christmas visuals.



Students fix balls of "snow" to the high SSC ceilings.



The team decorates the banister on the SSC staircase with garland and bows.