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Cardboard Canoes Hit the Water for Homecoming Weekend

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – The air might be turning colder, but for Cedarville University students competing in the annual cardboard canoe challenge, swimming is still a distinct possibility.

In what has become a popular homecoming weekend tradition, the 25th annual cardboard canoe race brings the campus community together to watch how students navigate Cedar Lake in their cardboard-built canoes. The event this year will be held on Friday, Oct. 6 at 3 p.m.

Contestants are given 40 feet of cardboard and 100 meters of packing tape to create a canoe able to carry two people across the lake. Following the race, all teams that cross successfully are invited to a demolition derby on the lake.

“The process of building and racing the canoes helps engineering students apply the design concepts they’ve learned in their first month of classes in a practical way,” said Dr. Robert Chasnov, dean of the school of engineering and computer science.

Last year 24 of the 32 engineering teams that competed crossed the lake successfully.

Although the event centers around the engineering program, students from other academic disciplines can compete in a separate race.

“We enjoy competing with and against other departments, and there’s a friendly competitiveness to the challenge,” said Josh Michael, director of library public services. The library has won multiple department titles in the recent past.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,963 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.