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Interview with Murray Murdoch

February 8 and 15, 2018

Interviewer: All right, well we're here with Dr. Murray Murdoch of the Cedarville History Department. How many years have you been here at Cedarville, Dr. Murdoch?

Dr. Murdoch: I finished 52. I'm in my 53rd.

Interviewer: 53rd year. Well, we are just here to learn about your history at Cedarville, so why don't we start out, can you just tell us the story of how you came to Cedarville?

Dr. Murdoch: Well, it's a really curious story, because I went to Baptist Bible College in Clark's Summit. It was Baptist Bible Seminary in those days. It was a five-year program, which was two years of general education, and then three years of seminary training. Was pretty much committed to going into the ministry, but then I began to feel a tug toward history. By that time, we're talking back in the period '55 to '60, which is just shortly after Cedarville was formed. I knew I wanted to be in the liberal arts education, and I knew that Cedarville was a liberal arts college, so in the back of my mind I had a vision of Christian ministry through Christian education, and I really set my heart on that. Which meant, due to my background where I grew up, with a Regular Baptist fellowship and all those sorts of things, that kind of limited me to one school if I wanted to be in Christian education, and that was Cedarville.

Interviewer: Right.

Dr. Murdoch: I had that in the back of my mind all the time that I was in graduate school at Northwestern. Sure enough, got an interview. Dr. Jeremiah, and Dr. Clifford Johnson came through to visit me, and we had a good time, a good conversation. At which time they told me that they had already had someone lined up to teach history, but they would like to try to find a place for me, and they'd let me know when they could. But, it looked like they were going to hire this other person.

Dr. Murdoch: I began to explore other options, and had a secular school that I was interested in going to. I just couldn't free myself from the feeling that I needed to be at Cedarville. It's a strange thing. You don't usually get something that clear.

Interviewer: Right.

Dr. Murdoch: Then, the year I was finishing graduate school, available. I actually had another year appointment at Northwestern as university lecturer.

Interviewer: Oh, sure.

Dr. Murdoch: I had that extra year at Northwestern, and then Cedarville called me and said, "We'd like you to come this Fall," Fall of '65. I packed up. It was kind of interesting. I was ordained in the ministry on August 18th. My son, Jim, was born on August 26th, and we moved to Cedarville on September 1st. It was a little hurried, too little time in there.

Interviewer: Right.

Dr. Murdoch: We came, rented a house, and that began the story.

Interviewer: Wow. Was that Northwestern there in Illinois, or-

Dr. Murdoch: Yes.

Interviewer: Not the-

Dr. Murdoch: Big 10 school.

Interviewer: Sure, okay.

Dr. Murdoch: The Big 10 school that that loses football games.

Interviewer: Right. Oh, wow. What was it about Cedarville that attracted you, particularly?

Dr. Murdoch: I wanted to be an historian, and I wanted a liberal arts college. I believed in liberal arts education. I'd gone through some significant turmoil myself, and kind of, identity crisis. I was struggling with racism as being such a part of the evangelical community, and I couldn't accept that. I struggled with that. I struggled with world view, and wasn't reading the things I should be reading. I got directed in that, and then world view became a passion for me.

Interviewer: Sure.

Dr. Murdoch: When I was an undergraduate at the seminary, undergraduate accommodation, I guess, so with strong world view commitments, and with strong commitment to Christian education, I was just kind of molded in this direction in a very clear way. Interestingly, at that time, being Christian was made fun of sometimes at Northwestern. They made fun of my world view, but they were open to it. They weren't making fun to be mean, they were making fun just to joke.

Dr. Murdoch: I never felt discriminated against in any way, I was encouraged, I was built up, I was given my chance to express my opinion. Then, they would express theirs, and we would debate. In one of the classes we debated world view significantly with the professor, who was not in my world view at all, and who said so. He did say to the class, "Now, you've seen two thoroughly academic, acceptable world views." That would not happen in the university today. Would not happen at

Northwestern. It would not happen in most major universities in America where the new left position is taught predominantly.

Interviewer: Right. World view ... Just before we move on, how's that played out here at Cedarville? I'm sure that you've talked a lot with students over the years about world view. Any moments, or maybe students stand out in your mind as how that important aspect of world view has shaped your time here at Cedarville?

Dr. Murdoch: I was one of three professors to do world view lectures for the faculty in the early days, and each of us, one of the things that stood out in my mind then was, how new this subject was, even with Christian college faculty. I remembered, when each of us had done our lecture, one of the faculty said to me, "Murdoch, we had a panel discussion." The fourth time, he said, "Murdoch, it sounds like you expect us all to be theologians." I remember some of the faculty laughed, giggled, until I said, "Yeah, absolutely. That's what I expect."

Dr. Murdoch: I enjoyed hearing the president remark the other day, "Every faculty member has to be a theologian." That's a fundamental belief I believe we should have here. Theology is what drives everything else we do. Whether it's history, or government, or whatever it is, it's all through a perspective of the inherent scriptures. That's very important to me, and I think maybe one of the most interesting stories I could tell you that would summarize my whole career at Cedarville ...

Dr. Murdoch: I received a rather negative email from a former student. He said, "I was your student 44 years ago, and you were my hero. You were this liberal-thinking guy. You didn't believe in racism, and that we were in a racist environment. You didn't believe in racism, and you were kind of my hero for that. Now I read in the Cedarville Magazine, you're defending 24-hour idea of creation. What in the world happened to you? What's the matter with you?" It was very hostile. More hostile than I could describe in that interview.

Dr. Murdoch: I wrote back to him and thanked him for getting in touch with me after all these years, and I talked to him about world view. I said, "I'm not any different than I was when you were my student. I'm still the same person. My views on race were never built on liberal theology, they were built on biblical world view, biblical theology. The bible stands against racism. I can demonstrate that the bible stands against racism." Consequently, that's ... I walked him through world view again.

Dr. Murdoch: His first email was very hostile. His second was a little better, and he said, "I remember you talking about world view all the time. I think I still hold to that." Then, he began to express some concerns. About the third or fourth email we're still talking world view now. He said, "Yeah, I'm getting it now." Then, he poured out his heart, told me what his problem was. It wasn't related to racism, it was related to gay rights, and some personal struggles he had had in his family with that issue. It ended up being a very sweet conversation, a very sweet time, that I'm still staying in contact with him.

Dr. Murdoch: I think that was a great lesson to me, that yeah, I was called a liberal at Cedarville for some time because of my view on race, and it was painful. The college received some less-than-gracious mail about me for that reason. I felt biblical, and I had administrators at Cedarville who stood behind me, and would acknowledge it was a biblical position. That meant the world to me, because the Bible-believing education in what was a fundamentalist school at the start of the things, that could have blown up in my face, and I could have been out on my ear.

Dr. Murdoch: Dr. Jeremiah was always very faithful to it, Dr. Dixon, the same way. They received some criticism. I know they received, because they let me read some of the mail, some of the names I was called.

Interviewer: Wow.

Dr. Murdoch: It was very interesting, but it was neat to see how God protected his truth through his servants who were in a place that was struggling against a view that was very popular in the fundamentalist community. It was very real world.

Interviewer: Wow. How are we doing on battery?

Speaker 3: We should be just fine.

Interviewer: Time for one more question before we end today?

Dr. Murdoch: Sure.

Interviewer: I think you just shared one of them, but can you tell us about any relationships that have meant to you a lot here in the community? Faculty, staff, students, even townspeople, or friends, or family or some other context here at Cedarville. What are the relationships that have shaped?

Dr. Murdoch: There have been a lot of them, but most of all I'd have to talk about the students. When I came to Cedarville, the classes were large. When I came into social studies and history department there were three of us. There was a guy that taught world civ, there was a guy that taught principles of sociology and marriage and the family, and there was me. That's a pretty limited department, so a lot of the history, the US history was always a big class, and I taught two sections of it.

Dr. Murdoch: Then, later when I became department chair, as the school grew, again I was teaching sections, but in those early days I realized that I really wanted to build relationships with students. There were two opportunities that gave me two chances I had to do that. I accepted the position of tennis coach, while I knew little about tennis at the time. The second was a group of guys that wanted to start a men's organization.

Interviewer: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: They happened to be weird enough to accept my philosophy of a men's organization, which was, no initiations other than a service project.

Dr. Murdoch: We started a men's organization called Alpha Chi. That was the name they had taken. It had been a literary organization in the school years before.

Interviewer: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: And, it stand for Men for Christ, so we began, and we've had Jim Phipps a part of that organization, various other faculty members and staff members have been involved in it, including David Rich, who's in the history government department now. Long story short, because there are so many things about Alpha Chi we did, at that time we didn't have all the fancy service things you have here now. We've got this very well-organized machine that, for student activities and that sort of thing. At that time, student activities were done by the organizations. We put on an all-school banquet every year, we did some other things like that.

Dr. Murdoch: Some of the guys decided they'd like to have a fire department to protect Cedarville, so we got a firetruck donated to us. The men's organization was going to develop this, but we ran into, shall we say, administrative roadblocks with a business manager who was very concerned about liability.

Interviewer: Oh, right.

Dr. Murdoch: Simple things like that, that advisor and students didn't think of. They sold our fire truck, but they gave us the cash, and we bought a hearse. Now, a hearse might sound like a curious investment, but they decided that if we can't be a fire department we'll be an EMS team.

Interviewer: Oh.

Dr. Murdoch: They started an EMS team. They all took EMS training. We used our hearse. At the same time we were meeting with the Red Cross, and the Red Cross assigned a vehicle to our campus, a van to our campus. We take it to natural disasters, and it became a big piece of what we did as Alpha Chi. It became successful, although, again, the town had it, and we were small. As we grew as a campus it became more obvious there was a need for it. Everybody was really well-trained, and they loved getting that training. Some of them got advanced training in EMTs.

Dr. Murdoch: One day, the school nurse ... Now, this is before we had all the fancy medical center that we have now, and I'm taking you back into ancient history. Yeah, an old house sitting on the side, just up here in the parking lot off the Bible building.

Interviewer: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: It sat up there near where the women's dorm is today, Maddox. Sitting out in that parking lot was this house, which served as the clinic. The nurse was Betty Bertschinger, a name well known in our history. Betty came to me one day and she said, "Murray, that EMS team you've got, I got a lot of young ladies that wish they could be a part of it. It's awful hard, because it's a men's organization. Is there anything we could do?"

Dr. Murdoch: I talked to the guys, and I said, "Maybe it's time. This is something that women could benefit. You guys could still have a role being the trainers." That's what we did. We turned it over to Betty, from the organization to Betty Bertschinger. That's where the EMS team of today got its start, and its roots.

Interviewer: Wow.

Dr. Murdoch: That's kind of a cool story, but a sequel to the story is, several years ago I was sitting in the classroom over here in Apple, and I began to shake uncontrollably. Two students were finishing an exam, and they came to me and they said, "Are you okay?" I said, "I'm not sure." Well, to make a long story short, we ended up getting the squad, and the squad came over and it was four young women. Four of the women EMTs took me to Mercy Medical Center where I was in intensive care for almost a week. Six-and-a-half to seven days before I got out of intensive care.

Interviewer: Wow.

Dr. Murdoch: My doctor told me, when he came in to see me he said, "You are really sick. I'm hoping we caught it in time." He and I were reflecting on this not long ago when he was afraid that I might not make it. He said, "You know, you preach to me all the time." He's a Columbia grad, and he said, "You and I aren't on the same page theological, although you've some compelling arguments. I'll tell you something. Nothing you've ever said to me touched my heart, my life the way I was touched when I came back to see you in that hospital room and I found your wife, and your secretary and those four girls holding hands, and the girls were praying for you. I've never seen anything like that in my life." He teared up, and he said, "That gives your sermons power."

Dr. Murdoch: I thought, you talk about relationships, they were four kids I didn't even know. I had a little part in the background of that whole organization, and to me that's what history of Cedarville's all about. People seizing opportunities, using opportunities. Not only in the classroom and the extracurricular activities, and really being able to live out their faith in very practical and meaningful ways. I'd ask you a simple question, who could walk away from a deal like that? People say I ought to retire. Why walk away from people you love, and you see that in their faith every day?

Interviewer: Wow. Well, we're halfway through the questions. Maybe we'll put the next two questions on hold.

Dr. Murdoch: Okay.

Interviewer: Then, maybe one of the students can pick it up there. Thank you very much.

Dr. Murdoch: You're very welcome.

Interviewer: Some amazing stories. Thank you so much.

Dr. Murdoch: Thanks.

Speaker 4: We'll start off with question number four, which is, are there any particular moments in your experience here at Cedarville that have helped define what Cedarville means to you?

Dr. Murdoch: I think there are so many moments that it's really difficult to tell. I think one of the things that has most pleased me is, I remember in the early days I was a rather unique individual, and that I was considered by many of the students liberal, because I was opposed to racism and segregation. That was not a normal position in the evangelical community at that time. I wasn't really liberal, that was just a natural outgrowth of my world view, and I believe the Bible is clearly not a racist book. Therefore, I was being biblical, not liberal.

Dr. Murdoch: I think that was one of the things that formed my early relationships. I remember asking a question at an early faculty meeting that some of my colleagues on the faculty thought would get me in trouble, because it was an unsafe area to explore for a faculty member. I remember Dr. Jeremiah invited me into his office. It involved race, and I remember he said, "Why don't we talk about it in my office after the faculty meeting?" The faculty kind of twittered, like, he's in trouble this time.

Dr. Murdoch: I remember, Dr. Jeremiah took me in the office and he said, "I want you to know your stand is absolutely correct. I back you a hundred percent. It's a very difficult issue in the evangelical community today," meaning racism. He said, "I want you to feel free to stand as firmly as you want." That meant a lot to me just from an administrative standpoint, to have the President of the school say, "We know you're right." Of course, Dr. Jeremiah took a very strong position on that.

Dr. Murdoch: I don't know whether you recall the story, but when the first black student came to America, the student body actually voted not to allow them to come. Dr. Jeremiah said, "They're coming, and if you don't like it you can leave. If you leave you'll never come back." He took a very strong position on that, and that meant a lot to me. That was one of the incidents that meant a great deal.

Dr. Murdoch: Now, do we want another one?

Speaker 4: Yeah, go for it. If there is many experiences, you just keep on going.

Dr. Murdoch: Now, what was the idea again? The experiences at ...

Speaker 4: That have really shaped your time at Cedarville, and kind of what it means to you today.

Dr. Murdoch: I think probably one of the most telling experiences I had was when the college made a decision with which I didn't agree, and I really didn't agree.

Speaker 4: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: I thought the college was wrong, and I thought I was right, and wrote a letter to the trustees, and did some other things. I remember it so clearly, because it was the only time in 53 years that I've been here that I felt like the Lord loosened my bootstraps a little bit and made me open to going somewhere else. I was committed, as I told you earlier, to Christian education, but I wasn't sure Cedarville was where I wanted to be in light of that decision.

Dr. Murdoch: I remember I was invited to another school, and I will not go into all the details of it, but I was invited to another Regular Baptist school, which was within the framework of what we were at that time, and a sister school, so to speak. I went there, and I asked if I could come quietly, because I was just searching. Well, they introduced me in chapel, and they made a big deal about it. At the end of the day the leader of that institution took me into his office and explained to me how foolish Dr. Jeremiah was for the decision he'd made, and that if I came to his school that would never, ever happen.

Dr. Murdoch: I remember, as my wife and I drove home and talked about the situation, I said to her, "You know, I owe it to Dr. Jeremiah for him to hear this story from me, to know that I went there. Regardless of what I decide to do, he has the right to hear it from me." Monday morning after chapel I went in to see him. I made an appointment, went in to see him right after chapel, and I told him the story. I didn't tell him the whole story, I told him how they'd introduced me, and I told him what position they were offering me and those kind of things, but that was all I said to him.

Dr. Murdoch: I'll never forget his response. It was one of the most important moments in my life to hear the President of our school. He said to me, "Murray, I don't want you to leave Cedarville. I know you didn't agree with the decision we've made. Only time will tell whether you're right or we're right, but I don't want you to leave Cedarville and I hope you'll stay. If you decide to go, praise God you're going to another one of our schools, and the leadership team up there I have nothing but praise for, and I'll rejoice in the fact that you're still in Christian education."

Dr. Murdoch: I walked out of that room and you compare the two men. One downing the other trying to convince me to come, the other just being godly and gracious, and saying, "This is Christian education, we're in this together." I went right to my office, called my wife and said, "We're staying at Cedarville."

Dr. Murdoch: I think that moment was a real crystallizing moment. Taught a young guy that he wasn't going to get his way all the time, and he wasn't always going to be right, and right or wrong he still wasn't going to get his own way. But, there was a way to handle disagreement, and I felt like I could handle disagreement with a man like Dr. Jeremiah in a meaningful way in light of his attitude, and his depth of spirituality, and his unwillingness to say anything negative about someone else.

Speaker 4: Yeah. That is very true. What would you say your relationship with the President was at that time?

Dr. Murdoch: With Dr. Jeremiah?

Speaker 4: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Dr. Murdoch: My relationship with Dr. Jeremiah was always very good. He was always very gracious to me. He had come to Chicago to my apartment near the elevated tracks, when the railroad ran through, it ran through the house it felt like. He came and spent time with me, along with Dr. Johnson. From the time I came here he was always very gracious. He and I were not always on the same page, but he had a love for history. He eventually got a master's degree from Central State in American History.

Speaker 4: Okay, cool.

Dr. Murdoch: We had a lot of camaraderie there.

Speaker 4: Yeah. That's awesome. Okay, cool. Are there any other stories that have kind of shaped your experience here at Cedarville, whether big or small? Any interactions with other faculty or students that have really impacted you?

Dr. Murdoch: Well, the impact of students is probably the greatest impact. I see students all over the United States that I've had in class, members of our trustees boards that I've had in class. One of my favorite stories is about Dr. Mach, our Academic Vice President. I remember him when he was an 18-year-old kid. I remember him getting his bachelor's degree in history, and going off and teaching history. He got his Ph.D. In history, and was teaching at another school, a state university. I remember when we got finally expanded enough that we could hire a second historian, and I was Department Chairman at that time. I called Dr. Mach and told him I'd like to bring him home.

Dr. Murdoch: He came back and interviewed with our faculty, and was hired. Then, when I retired as Chairman he became Chair. Now, of course, he's our Academic Vice

President. I don't think in a person like me, our career, a teacher, I don't think any teacher has any greater joy than to see his students excel. Dr. Mach's kind of my pride and joy. I love him like a son, he's a wonderful man, he's a godly man, and he's providing wonderful leadership for us at the Vice President level.

Speaker 4: That's awesome. That's very cool. You still maintain a relationship with him?

Dr. Murdoch: Yes, absolutely.

Speaker 4: That's awesome.

Dr. Murdoch: He's one of the dearest people in the world to me.

Speaker 4: Oh, that's so cool. That's very cool. All right, we'll move on to question five, which says, are there any events or moments in your time here at Cedarville that have helped shape you into the person you are today?

Dr. Murdoch: I think there are many. I think during the years when I was introducing civil rights issues, I developed a series of lectures on the Curse of Ham, and showed, and many people in the evangelical and Bible-believing community believe the Curse of Ham, that the black man was cursed. I developed a lengthy refutation of that, which I still teach, and began to teach it in classes, and espouse it very strongly. There were those who were opposed to me. A few on the faculty, and many outside.

Dr. Murdoch: I remember being encouraged greatly by Dr. Jeremiah, because he received some of what I lovingly call hate mail about me. He always defended me, always gave me the opportunity to speak for myself. Yet, at the same time always defended me in my positions. I think that was one of the biggest things, and that happened over a period of years, over several occasions, over several incidents.

Dr. Murdoch: I've always been grateful for the support of the administrators. Dr. Dixon was the same way, Dr. White's the same way. They've all given me great support, and I think that's all you can expect as a faculty member, to be able to teach what you believe is biblically true, and to have the support of your administrators.

Speaker 4: Very true. Is there any other experience that has kind of brought you to the person you are today? Maybe early in your teaching here at Cedarville. Did you go to school here?

Dr. Murdoch: No, I did not attend Cedarville.

Speaker 4: Okay. You're good.

Dr. Murdoch: No, I attended high school in one of the few Christian academies in the country, and it was in the South. Probably, my opinion was formed more as I saw the

racism in the South, and as I saw those kinds of things. There was one particular incident that I won't go into detail, because I don't want to talk about other schools, but it was an incident that registered heartily on the racist scale, and people were cheering and clapping at the administrator who made the comment.

Dr. Murdoch: I remember sitting there, as a high school senior, with perspiration just breaking through my brow and wetting my shirt, and I was weeping. I remember, I said to God, "God, this can't be of you. This can't be of you. If this is of you my understanding of scripture and everything I've been taught all my life is wrong." I think that was the incident that cemented me so strongly in my opposition to racism.

Dr. Murdoch: I think another incident in that vein is, when you're a young teenager and you want to go in someplace to get something to eat, and your black friend has to nudge you and say, "Hey, would you pick me up a burger and a coke?" You'd say, "Sure," but you wouldn't look at each other, because you both knew that he couldn't go in there and get a burger and coke, so you had to do it for him. He was embarrassed by that, and you were embarrassed by that.

Dr. Murdoch: Those kinds of incidents form in your mind how wrong racism really is. Whether it involves a black man, or an Asian or anyone else. I think some of those early high school experiences really were driving forces in my life. Then, when I got into seminary I had to work. My father was a pastor, none too affluent, and so I worked full time in the factory, which meant when seminary was out of session in the Summers I was there. I did readings conducted by one of the professors who graciously took the time to help me get into the kind of literature I needed, and I studied on my own a great deal and it became a crusade for me, a moral crusade for me in opposition to racism.

Dr. Murdoch: That still flavors what I do today. That's a big part of the social movements course, which I teach three times a year. It's a big part of serving in the Springfield Racial Council, where we're trying to work toward racial reconciliation. It's just a big part of who I am, and many experiences with our African-American students here on campus have cemented that. Now, I'm able to work closely with Greg Dyson, who is also a former student.

Speaker 4: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: And, his wife, who is also a former student. We're able to work together as he does a great job in this area for us as an institution.

Speaker 4: How have you viewed how Cedarville has kind of progressed in ... Like you said, you were here when they first allowed an African-American student to join the school. How have you seen the progression of Cedarville welcome more and more African American students throughout time?

Dr. Murdoch: I think it's a slow process. One of the reasons it was such a slow process is because our churches are segregated. 11 o'clock Sunday morning, as Dr. King says, it's still the most segregated hour of the week, even today. Consequently, Cedarville doesn't have a pool of minority students, a large pool to draw from. I believe, under the current administration, certainly, that we've really worked hard, arduously. It was Dr. White who brought Greg Dyson on board, and we're really working to make this a place that is open to all peoples. Our challenge is finding the peoples, finding that support group.

Dr. Murdoch: There are incidents, like I remember I was on a magazine cover with a variety of students, three other students. A gal, a black guy and the Asian came up, and when the Asian came up he says, "Okay, the Asian's here now, we can take our picture." The idea was, we're getting our diversity out there for people to see. You know, when you stop and think of it, what's a school going to do? We want people to know that they're welcome here regardless of their background, regardless of their color, regardless of their ethnicity. How do you communicate that to people if you don't show them, visually, here's our mix. We want this mix, we want more of this mix.

Dr. Murdoch: I commend the tasteful way that our school has gone about it, but we are fighting from behind, because our constituency, on a broad base, doesn't have the experience with minorities, and with diversity that we should have because of the background of the churches that really send us our young people.

Speaker 4: Okay. In your perspective, it first starts with the church, and that's how we increase?

Dr. Murdoch: Yeah.

Speaker 4: Okay, that's cool. That's very cool. Have there been any other kind of defining moments of your time here at Cedarville? Any different specific interactions with students or anything like that, or other faculty members?

Dr. Murdoch: Yeah, I think there is a progression rather than defining moments. I think one of the things I'm most proud of is that I was one of three professors to give the earliest lectures on world view here. A defining moment for me was an ability to communicate world view to the faculty. Then, I remember in the question and answer time that followed, one of the faculty members said, "Well, Murdoch, it sounds like you expect us all to be theologians. The faculty actually started to laugh. There were, like 25, 35 faculty members. They laughed until I said, "Yeah, that's exactly what I expect."

Dr. Murdoch: What part of theology do you leave out if you've got to have a Christian world view? I was able to walk through the major doctrines and remind them of how all of these were a part of world view. I think that was a defining moment for me, because at that point I realized that even though I was teaching in a Christian institution, and even though I love my brothers and sisters, and the

Lord that were in the faculty with me, that all of us were getting our education at secular schools, and all of us were being taught a different world view, and we really weren't focusing on world view. We're more than Christians teaching at school.

Dr. Murdoch: Another defining moment in that regard was early in my years as Department Chair. One of the first things I had to do, the man who was Chairman before me and retired was a sociologist. The first thing I had to do was find the sociologist, and I looked high and low for a sociologist. I even got in my car and drove to Minneapolis/St. Paul where there was a group called Sociologists Teaching at Christian Schools.

Dr. Murdoch: I wander into their meeting and they say, "Look, you registered for our meeting, you're a historian. What's a historian doing here looking at a bunch of sociologists? What do you want with us?" I said, "Well, I'm looking for a Christian sociologist, and I need to hire one to teach at Cedarville College," at that time, "and that's why I'm here." They said, "Well, what are you looking for?" I began to talk about world view.

Dr. Murdoch: I said to them, "I guess the first question I have for you is, why do you call yourselves Sociologists Teaching at Christian Schools? Why don't you call yourselves Christian Sociologists?" The leader said, "That's the same thing." I said, "No, it's not the same thing at all." We began to talk about world view.

Dr. Murdoch: After I talked about world view for 15 or 20 minutes, the guy said, "Hey, Russ, you're sitting back there smiling. Do you know what this guy's talking about?" The guy said, "Yes, I know exactly what he's talking about." They said, "Great, take devotions this afternoon and explain it to the rest of us." That was my first introduction to Sociologists Teaching at Christian Schools.

Dr. Murdoch: The man who he called on to give the devotions that day was a man named Russ Hedendorf. He was a teacher at a short-lived school on the East coast. I can't remember the name of the school right now, but he was a professor who was the key professor in molding the world views of one of our later professors, one of the earlier professors I hired, and that was a man named Allen Monroe, who also played a major role in world view in Cedarville.

Dr. Murdoch: I think that was a sharp lesson, because we needed to find somebody. The way I said it to them was, "I need somebody that doesn't just have a saved heart, but's got a saved head to go with it." That, to me, was the essence of getting someone with the world view. The end of that story is rather nice.

Dr. Murdoch: There was a pastor who had a master's degree from Grand Rapids College, and I interviewed him and we hired him as a department. That was Dr. Robert Parr, who remains as our sociologist to this day. Dr. Parr came here and got his Ph.D. at The Ohio State University. Then later, went back to The Ohio State University and got a master's degree to help me start the social work program, which was

originally housed in our department, which was originally started along with criminal justice, and the social work, and the pre-law and some of those kind of things. Couple of which are no longer in our departments. One of which, criminal justice, came back into our department recently.

Speaker 4: Okay. What other programs have you started at Cedarville?

Dr. Murdoch: Well, I started years ago an old program called the Interdisciplinary Studies Program, which ultimately died, and it was built on the integration of scripture knowledge. Then, when I was a young Chairman, and through the early years of my chairmanship, we were a liberal arts college. Basically, we had business and we had education, and that was it. Then, we began to have, we added nursing. As we began to expand into a more general university kind of program I thought, well, there are other things that we should start, too.

Dr. Murdoch: We started criminal justice, started pre-law, started social work, public administration. That's when Dr. Rich came. I think those were the key programs that were started during my years. Some of which have broken out of the department as to which it made the department. That original time, at that time, now we're the History and Government department. Originally, when I began as Chair, we were the Department of Social Sciences and History.

Speaker 4: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: We had a broader base then.

Speaker 4: All right, so you guys have kind of specified down, but created a ton of different majors.

Dr. Murdoch: Yeah.

Speaker 4: That's very cool. It's very cool. How many faculty and staff that started out with you are still here today?

Dr. Murdoch: That started out with me? None. They're all gone.

Speaker 4: Really? Oh, yeah.

Dr. Murdoch: The first person I hired was Dr. Parr, and he's still here.

Speaker 4: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: During the years I was Chairman we expanded the department, and obviously significantly. Among the people that I hired that are still here are Dr. Mach, who's shifted upward, and Dr. Smith, who's our Chairman now, and doing an outstanding job of chairing. We're in a real transition now in the department. We're getting four new professors this next year.

Speaker 4: Oh, wow.

Dr. Murdoch: We've had some retirements. Dr. Frank Jenista is in the process of retiring from International Studies. He was my student in 1965.

Speaker 4: Oh.

Dr. Murdoch: Now, he's retiring. Among the others that I had the privilege of bringing on board were Dr. Clauson, Dr. Sims, Dr. Rich. Dr. Sims and Dr. Rich are former students, and those-

Speaker 3: Going to have to pause this. There's some audio I'm picking up outside that's really in the way of the interview.

Speaker 4: You're good, you're good.

Dr. Murdoch: That's all right, I need to calculate anyhow. I think those were the main ones ...

Speaker 4: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: ... That are still around.

Speaker 4: Yeah. Sorry.

Dr. Murdoch: In 42 years I had two administrative assistants.

Speaker 4: Really?

Dr. Murdoch: Yeah, I had-

Speaker 4: They stayed with you that long?

Dr. Murdoch: Yeah.

Speaker 4: That's very good.

Dr. Murdoch: Mrs. Schubert was with me for 25 years, and when she left, she brought Mrs. Boeke-Wade to me, and Mrs. Wade was with me 17 years, and she just left the department to go over and become ... I think she's in charge of International Travel now, and that sort of thing.

Speaker 4: I was going to say, I was like, I've definitely heard that name and gotten emails from her.

Dr. Murdoch: Yeah.

Speaker 4: Okay, cool. Oh, that's awesome. Do you know Dr. Phipps?

Dr. Murdoch: Yes, I know Dr. Phipps. He's a former student.

Speaker 4: Is he actually?

Dr. Murdoch: Yes.

Speaker 4: Oh, no way.

Dr. Murdoch: Yeah. Dr. Phipps helped me organize Alpha Chi back in the early years, and he was our first President at Alpha Chi when I was a faculty advisor, and he's a great young man.

Speaker 4: Wow, so-

Dr. Murdoch: Great old man.

Speaker 4: I hear you. You were one of the founders of Alpha Chi?

Dr. Murdoch: I wasn't the founder, I was the first advisor.

Speaker 4: First advisor, okay.

Dr. Murdoch: Yeah.

Speaker 4: What made you want to get involved in Alpha Chi?

Dr. Murdoch: When I came to Cedarville, all the history students passed through US History, and my classes were large. I knew I would never get to know a lot of people well. It was just too massive a group of people to get on a first-name basis with to know what the ... I always wanted to know some of my students at least, and so at that time I decided to work with two things that brought me in contact with the men students. One was Alpha Chi, and the other was coaching tennis.

Dr. Murdoch: As a result of those two things, I was able to make a lot of contact with a lot of young men, and develop leadership skills, and athletic skills in some of our students. It meant a lot to me just to be able to, there was a connection with students.

Speaker 4: Okay, cool. How long were you their advisor, or are you still their advisor?

Dr. Murdoch: No, I'm no longer their advisor. I stopped advising them when the program began to shift. In the early days, when you worked with an organization, we didn't have all the stuff we have now. We didn't have an activities department. We had some intramurals, but not much, but there just wasn't much. School functions were often through the orgs, so as a men's organization we sponsored a banquet every year.

Dr. Murdoch: We started a tradition called the Election of Cedar What. Every four years we elected the President of Cedar What. We'd have banquets, and different themes. Each year we'd have a banquet, and we started the Alpha Chi talent night, which was a big event on campus. My philosophy of an org was that you couldn't have an org where you brought people into membership by some kind of ridiculous hazing incident. Instead of hazing that you would do a Christian service project, because Alpha Chi stands for Men for Christ, so you don't haze, you develop men for Christ and their leadership abilities.

Dr. Murdoch: Recognizing that true leadership begins with servanthood, then we sought to serve the campus, and do service projects for the campus and for others. We had a Red Cross disaster team for many years, had a vehicle assigned here, a Red Cross disaster van was assigned here. We started a fire department that never got off the ground, because the administration was afraid of the liability attached to it. They sold our fire truck, which they'd donated to us, and that's when we bought a hearse and used that as the first ambulance for the EMT program. I told that story earlier.

Speaker 4: Yeah.

Dr. Murdoch: That's where that all began.

Speaker 4: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: We had a lot of fun with the elections of Cedar What, because those were the main activities. An all-school banquet, and everybody came, and we'd elect the President of Cedar What. We had faculty candidates, we had students run for office. First time we did students, after that it was usually faculty or staff running for President of Cedar What. It was a lot of fun. Finally, we just got too big for those kind of things to work. You can't have an all-school banquet for 3,000 people and seat them all at the same time, and have a mock election.

Speaker 4: True, very true. Okay, what is Cedar What?

Dr. Murdoch: Cedar What is the name of the banquet, and it was a play on words.

Speaker 4: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: It was a small school, and hardly anybody was around here. Where'd you go to college? Cedarville, Cedar what?

Speaker 4: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: That was it. That was the play. Our very first election was a lot of fun. We had two students. One was named Ronald Burt Jezowski, and the other was named Manny Pereira. These two guys ran for President of Cedar What. Unfortunately, their advisor pulled a trick on them, and two weeks before the election I invited

Channel Two and Channel Seven. At that time it was Channel 26 in Springfield. We invited all the TV stations to come, and we had a little platform built just outside the post office, which is now the communications building, where Mrs. Wade has her office, where they do some recording. The old CDR.

Speaker 4: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: We had a little platform there, the post office was there, and we'd have a sound system set up and they'd do campaign speeches and that sort of thing. The week before the election we invited all the TV stations. In the middle of their speeches this guy comes up, takes the microphone and says, "You got a Pollock and you got an Italian, and I'm your real American candidate, and there's not a dime's worth of difference between them." He's spewing out all of George Wallace's racist lines, and he's a black student.

Dr. Murdoch: The cameras are whirring, and Channel Seven that night featured this black kid using George Wallace's lines, and of course, his name was Kenny Hammonds, and he swept to victory and became the first President of Cedar What.

Speaker 4: That's awesome. Oh, my goodness. That is super-cool. Cedar What was not just the banquet, it was ...

Dr. Murdoch: It was a mock election that carried on weeks before the banquet.

Speaker 4: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: Then, at the banquet we had the election. The tables were all arranged, and the students had their dining room. We had it in the gym, and you'd be in the state of confusion, the state of chaos, the state of apathy, and all these various state names that were all kind of designed, and they voted by states, and they went through the process of a mock election, and elected the President of Cedar What.

Speaker 4: Oh, that's awesome. That is super-cool. So, it's not like an SGA student government type thing.

Dr. Murdoch: No.

Speaker 4: It was just the banquet.

Dr. Murdoch: Just a mock election.

Speaker 4: That was so fun. Oh, my goodness.

Dr. Murdoch: It was a lot of fun.

Speaker 4: Yeah, and Alpha Chi, they hosted that banquet?

Dr. Murdoch: They hosted that banquet.

Speaker 4: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: They did that theme every four years.

Speaker 4: Okay.

Dr. Murdoch: It was repeated in '72, '76, '80, '84. I can't remember whether we stopped it ... I was still advisor in those days, but I can't remember whether we did it in '88 or not.

Speaker 4: Okay. How long did those banquets ... You said that they might have stopped during '88?

Dr. Murdoch: Yeah.

Speaker 4: Okay. Let's see. As their advisor, what was your role?

Dr. Murdoch: Okaying ideas, trying to intercede with the administration on some of the ideas, making sure that the talent night stayed within the bounds. We would invite administrators to evaluate the talent, and help us set up the talent night. We had tryouts and everything. It was an advisory role. The kids worked hard, the students really put forth a lot of effort.

Dr. Murdoch: I remember one year we had Beyond God's Earth as our theme, and I woke up in the morning ... I lived out on Route 42 at that time, and I had a space lab in my front yard, and the cars were driving by very slowly looking at this spaceship in the front yard. The guys had built that, and it lasted until a couple of good rains. Then, we took it down, but all of those sorts of things.

Speaker 4: Okay, cool. That is awesome. Have you been an advisor of any other org since then?

Dr. Murdoch: No.

Speaker 4: Is that your one go at it?

Dr. Murdoch: It was my one go at it.

Speaker 4: Perfect, perfect. Cool. Well, Unless there's any other fun stories that you want to talk about, I think we've gotten through all the questions.

Dr. Murdoch: Okay.

Speaker 4: Is there anything else, any fun stories, or any ways that Cedarville has impacted you as a person?

Dr. Murdoch: Well, I think it's molded my whole life and career. Cedarville's been a place that I've loved as long as I can remember. Even when I disagreed I loved the place. I have disagreed at times very strongly in the not-too-distant past, and I'm really grateful for our leadership now. I have a very fundamental philosophy for Christian education and of Cedarville, and I believe that we serve best, and we're in our niche when we're a discipleship school, as we are, and when we maintain our doctrinal purity very carefully.

Dr. Murdoch: To me, our doctrinal statement is a key to Cedarville. I firmly believe that everybody on the faculty, and staff and administration needs to adhere to that doctrinal statement. I think it's there for a reason. In particular, you can't have a Christian world view without inerrancy, inspiration, authority and scripture, and infallibility of the scripture. That is so fundamental, and Cedarville has established what I consider to be its own niche.

Dr. Murdoch: We're not like anybody else. We don't have to be like anybody else. We're a discipleship school, which means we ask for Christian young people to come here. If they come and think they're saved, and they get saved here that's fine, but we assume that everyone's a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that way I, as a professor, I'm free to teach. I don't evangelize in my classes. I teach, knowing that you people believe the bible is God's word, and on the authority of God's word, and from a Christian perspective, here are the values that we can emulate.

Dr. Murdoch: When you accept non-Christian students you've got a different mix. It's not that that makes this wrong, that's not for me to determine somebody else's mix, but you have a whole new set of problems then. Then, you're more of an evangelistic school, trying to reach people for Christ. What we do here is, we take godly young men and women, and seek to give them the disciplines, and there are various disciplines and fields of choice, from a biblical world view. To me, that makes us a very unique school. A very exciting brand of academic excellence and biblical adherence.

Dr. Murdoch: To me, that makes us a special place. I think that's what makes us so unique, and I believe that's why we're being so successful right now under Dr. White's leadership. He insists on those value.

Speaker 4: Very true. What would you say is the most important value that Cedarville holds?

Dr. Murdoch: The inerrancy of scripture.

Speaker 4: Perfect. That's awesome. Cool, well I think we are all set. That was a solid way to end.

Dr. Murdoch: Okay.

Speaker 4:

Okay.