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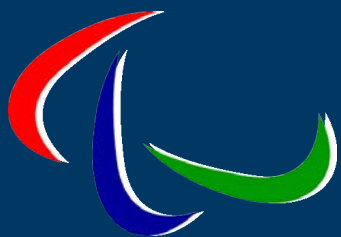
The Award-Winning Publication of Cedarville University

October 2016



CEDARVILLE FRESHMAN MAKES

HISTORY



Grace Norman was the first US Paralympic athlete to win gold in the Triathlon in September 2016

Also Inside: Learn how SB 1146 in California may affect Cedarville
Learn more about the United States' involvement in the Syrian civil war



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HOW CAN STUDENTS RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL THIS MONTH?

"For starters, I include myself in this question. Here is my heart. First, we can thank Jesus for being our Savior. Thankfulness gets at the entitlement we see all around us. We are not entitled to what Jesus did. Second, I close my emails to some with, 'Serving the Savior.' We all can do that — serve Him. Third, we can share the gospel ... by living it and giving it. The former is a bold but quiet demonstration, the latter a spoken explanation when we have opportunity. Thankfully serving and sharing."



Lt. Gen (ret.) Loren Reno

Vice President for Academics/Professor of Management

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28 (ESV)



Covering arts and entertainment

Cedars previews and reviews every Cedarville Theatre production. If you missed Jane Eyre or want to read a little more about it, check out the Arts and Entertainment section on ReadCedars.com.



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Writing Center Celebrates 15 Years



Photo by Riley Ochs

The Writing Center has been helping students think critically and write well since 2002. Janessa Krueger, a tutor, assists a student at the center.

by Paolo Carrion

Students visiting the Cedarville University Writing Center for the first time this semester may be surprised at the greeting of one of its newest members: Katniss, a 6-month-old service dog in training.

Professor Julie Moore, director of the Writing Center, has volunteered to foster Katniss as part of the 4 Paws for Ability organization. But the puppy is not the only addition to the Writing Center. Newly renovated this summer, the Writing Center, located in room 104 of the Tyler Digital Communications Center, is celebrating 15 years of helping the Cedarville University community in a variety of ways.

The Beginning

The Writing Center opened in the fall of 2002 as a one-on-one tutoring program for writers. Moore has been its director almost since the beginning.

“The original mission and goals [of the Writing Center] are the same today: to help

students learn how to write and to think better,” Moore said.

Those skills are what employers look for in new employees, Moore said.

In its decade and a half of mentoring young wordsmiths, the Writing Center has grown to include several new programs, workshops and resources. All of them are designed to help students become the best writers they can.

Yet, the Writing Center’s original program, one-on-one tutoring, is still its primary focus. The program mentors Cedarville students in over 2,500 tutoring sessions a year.

According to Moore, about 50-60 percent of students who come in for help with their writing are in a composition class. The other 40-50 percent come from every major, including graduate courses. The Writing Center, however, isn’t just for academic writing.

“We encourage people to bring in writing that’s not for class, as well,” David Grandouiller, a Writing Center tutor and English major, said. “The Writing Center

can be a good place for creative writers to get feedback on their personal work.”

Tutors

The tutors are perhaps the most important part of the Writing Center. They are the ones who sit down with students and help them improve their writing.

The position of Writing Center tutor requires the completion of a university-level class, Moore explained. No other student job on campus requires a class before employment. Moore said this ensures that the students working in the writing center are committed.

These student tutors come from a variety of majors, including English, pharmacy and liberal arts.

The variety of tutors is important because students coming to the writing center have a variety of different majors. Janessa Krueger, a Writing Center tutor and pharmacy major, said she enjoys meeting lots of people and learning about different majors through their writing.

Despite the variety of major backgrounds, the tutors agree that collaborating on papers is important.

“[There’s value in] just sitting with a couple of friends and bouncing ideas off



photo by Riley Ochs

each other,” Emma McCarthy, a Writing Center tutor and nursing major said.

“They will see things that you won’t,” Grandouiller added.

This talking and collaboration does not include marking on papers with red ink. The Writing Center tutors won’t tell students what to write. Rather, the Writing Center exists to help writers learn how to edit their own writing, not to edit their writing for them.

“We want writers to own their writing,” Grandouiller said.

The Writing Center has a noticeable impact on not just students but the tutors and faculty as well. Tutoring at the Writing Center isn’t just a job; it’s a learning opportunity.

Emily Genet, a Writing Center tutor and pharmacy major, said she enjoys reading students’ research papers because she



photo by Riley Ochs

Julie Moore has been the director of the Writing Center almost since its beginning in 2002.

gets to learn things she otherwise wouldn't.

Christiana Manthei, a Writing Center tutor and liberal arts major, said she enjoys the intellectual discussion she finds within the Writing Center community.

Even the professors who work at the Writing Center benefit from reading students' papers.

"We feel like we learn a lot," Moore said.

Fill in the Blank

Besides the one-on-one tutoring, the Cedarville University Writing Center also offers a podcast hosted by Writing Center Assistant Director Isaac Mayeux. Almost every class has some sort of writing component to it, and every professor has a different perspective on just what writing is and should be. The Fill in the Blank podcast seeks to understand those professors' views so students can know how to tailor their writing.

"This is a show about gaps: Gaps between students and professors, gaps between writers and readers and even gaps between writers and their own writing," Mayeux says in one of the podcasts. The purpose of the show is to either bridge those gaps or simply understand and accept them.

In the podcast, Mayeux interviews professors and other visiting writers. One of his goals is to show professors on a more relatable level.

"[Professors] are more than the academic selves they present in class," he said.

Moore had the idea for the podcast years ago, but never had time to work on it. So when Mayeux was appointed as the assistant director, Moore approached him with the idea.

"[He] was not only interested, but he ran with it," Moore said. "Isaac really has fun with it because he has a wacky sense of humor."

The podcast has featured faculty from a variety of departments. Mayeux has interviewed Dan Sterkenburg, an associate professor of business; Thomas White, president of Cedarville and most recently JR Gilhooly, assistant professor of philosophy and theology. The topics discussed range from writing assignments, to faith, to a do-



photo by Riley Ochs

Writing Center director Julie Moore, shown with tutor Briana Elias, is fostering 6-month-old Katniss for Paws 4 Ability.

nut's soul.

"My joke is always 'don't listen to a word [Mayeux] says,'" Moore said. "Which is really just a joke because actually he has really good things to say."

Writing Across the Curriculum

The Writing Center has come a long way since its start in 2002.

The mentoring program, in which a tutor is assigned to a student for a specific class, is still relatively new to the Writing Center. Moore said she hopes to see it expand. The idea is students will learn better if they consistently work with the same tutor over an entire semester, instead of meeting with a different tutor each session. Mentoring, Moore said, is a tutoring relationship.

The Writing Center is also now working with the Writing Across the Curriculum program, or WAC, coordinated by Melissa

Faulkner who an associate professor of English and interim chair of the English, literature and modern languages department.

Its goal is to designate classes in every major, or in the entire general education curriculum, as a writing intensive. This way every Cedarville student, regardless of major, is guaranteed to have a few writing intensive classes.

As WAC designates classes as writing intensives, the Writing Center aims to support them by providing mentors in each class.

"That will improve the quality of education here tenfold," Moore said.

Moore said she hopes that students won't just take composition their freshmen year, only to forget what they have learned. Moore compared writing to playing sports.

"It's all about practice," she said. "If you learn how to play soccer when you

were 8, and don't play again until you're 15, you're going to have grown rusty."

No one on campus is a perfect writer, Moore said. Even as the Writing Center grows and expands, its core mission stays the same: to help students communicate their thoughts well.

"Don't expect that anyone on this campus has arrived," Moore said. "All we have is maybe some more experience that can help you."

You can sign up for a tutoring session or listen to Fill in The Blank at:

Cedarville.edu/offices/writing-center

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

Behind the Serving Lines

Getting to know the people who work in our dining hall

by Rebekah Erway

Food is fuel for learning minds, and Cedarville stomachs are fed in one main area: the dining hall in the Stevens Student Center.

The Cedarville University dining hall goes through a lot of food in one day. One employee, Chris Hubosky, said that in a single dinner, workers might put 500 pounds of smoked beef onto the serving lines to feed the Cedarville University community. With such a huge task, it takes a lot of effort to make sure food is on the line in a timely manner. Cedarville's 32 non-student dining hall workers and personnel are up to the task. Here are four of the people who are instrumental in running the food-powered engine of the Cedarville community.

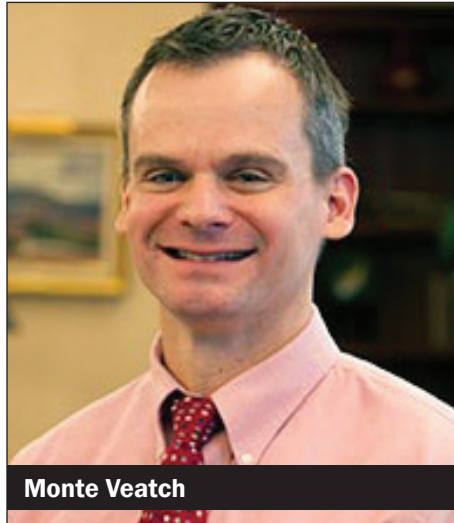
Monte Veatch

Monte Veatch is the food service director. Students and visitors may recognize his name from the comments and announcements pinboard by the dining hall exit. Veatch supervises both the dining hall and the Hive downstairs. Veatch said this coming November marks his fourth year of service on Cedarville's campus, though he has been in the food service business for 20 years.

Veatch started in this career field during high school, when he got a job working at a Village Inn. After graduation he went to culinary school and then entered the career, initially working in restaurants. Veatch transitioned from restaurant to campus food service to have more time with his family. Veatch has been married for 28 years and his daughter turns 12 this month.

Despite different work hours than restaurants, working in Cedarville's dining hall can still be difficult. Veatch said much of his job involves logistics: making sure the dining hall has enough food and that all of the dining hall team does the best job they can.

"It's different every day as far as trying to keep all the balls in the air," Veatch said.



Monte Veatch



Rebecca Howarth

Veatch explained that about 350 students work in the dining hall and scheduling them requires a lot of logistics. He said he and his team realize the students come to Cedarville to go to school first and to work second and they take that into account with their work schedule. But even with the challenges, Veatch said he enjoys his job.

"I'm a people person," he said. "I enjoy the dynamic of managing people and get the group to achieve a goal."

Rebecca Howarth

Another one of the dining hall personnel who works a lot with student scheduling is Rebecca Howarth, often referred to



Mary Brightman

Photo by Naomi Harward

as Becca by the student workers. Howarth, who grew up in the nearby Subina-Wilmington area, works as the service manager for the dining hall. In this role, Howarth is involved in hiring, training and maintaining student labor as well as in watching the front of the house.

Howarth came to Cedarville in 1994 as a part-time cook. She said she came as a single mom and looked into working with Pioneer College Caterers, the caterers behind the dining hall's food service because of its family friendly approach. As her two daughters got older, Howarth began working full time. Both her daughters are now

grown and Howarth has three grandsons, ages 2, 3 and 6.

Howarth has worked in other secular food service places, but she said that Cedarville University is different because of its atmosphere.

"The Cedarville University community is unique: God-focused and caring. I feel like that's a really valuable thing. I appreciate people who come in and are just really encouraging and kind," she said.

Howarth told a story exemplifying one such act of kindness.

"I was pushing a cart really laden for a banquet. A student just took time to say

‘Hey, can I help you with that?’” she said.

Howarth said she feels working in such an environment is a privilege, and she hopes that people at Cedarville appreciate their surroundings.

Mary Brightman

Mary Brightman has been a part of Cedarville’s people-centered environment for nearly four decades. August 23, 2017 will mark her 40th year serving the Cedarville campus.

Brightman started working in the dining hall while it was in the previous location, in what is now the Tyler Digital Communications Center. The serving line was L-shaped and located in the same area as the gymnasium. Brightman said workers could sometimes watch a basketball game while cleaning up.

Brightman said she has played a variety of roles during her time in the dining hall, including pots-and-pans, morning and evening prep and her current position with the salad department.

Brightman started working in the dining hall to pay for college. She said she wanted to become a nurse, but after working in the dining hall, she felt this was the career field for her.

“I don’t know if I could really give someone a shot,” Brightman said. “So, I’m here, and I’ve felt like this is where God wants me, or I wouldn’t stay.”

Brightman said she has really enjoyed

working with the students over the years. She still receives postcards from workers from 1977. She recommends every student spend at least some time working in the dining hall.

“If everybody worked here, they’d see how it is. They’d appreciate it more,” she said.

Brightman herself said she is not sure how much longer she’ll stay in the dining hall. Her adopted son, Brian, just got married in February, and Brightman said once she has grandkids, she’ll retire.

Chris Hubosky

Family is also important for the dining hall’s executive chef Chris Hubosky. Hubosky has been married for 14 years and has two daughters, ages 5 and 8, who are involved in soccer, cheerleading, and dance.

“They keep us busy,” Hubosky said. “I love ’em to death.”

Hubosky also stays busy with his role in the dining hall. Despite having the title of chef, Hubosky said he works with purchasing and inventory, catering events and writing menus. He does not do the hands-on cooking except for banquets, but he said he serves pretty much as Veatch’s right-hand man. Hubosky has been with Pioneer College Caterers for 15 years and Cedarville University is his fourth school.

“I kind of wanted to get back in working more with the kitchen, or so I thought,”



Chris Hubosky

Photo by Naomi Harward

Hubosky said. “That’s why I took this position.”

But at the actual stove-top or not, Hubosky said he enjoys working in food service. He has been working in the industry since college. He said he feels it is in his blood.

“You gotta really enjoy it to do it daily and as many hours as we put in,” Hubosky said.

Hubosky explained that food service is often looked at as a last-resort source of employment. Pioneer College Caterers strives to be restaurant quality, but Hubosky said

that is difficult to do in an institutional setting, especially as filling positions can be a challenge.

“We keep doing the best we can and keep raising the bar,” he said. “I’m looking for better things to happen each semester.”

Hubosky said he appreciates the team of people that he works with on a regular basis. He said his favorite part of working at Cedarville is the comradery of the staff that he gets to work with, develop and rely on.

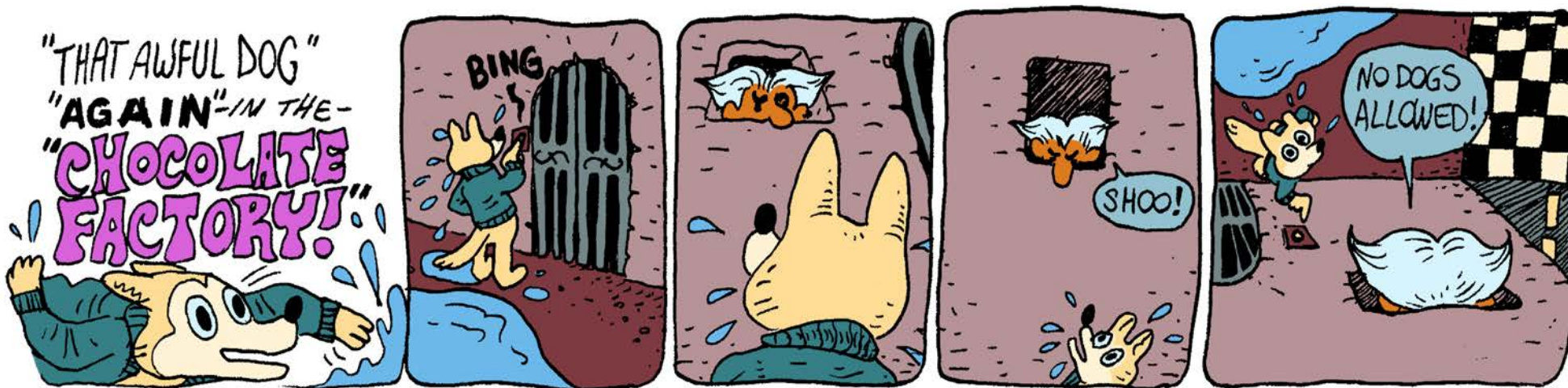
“The food is really secondary to that,” Hubosky said. “The people are really what makes the kitchen function.”

The team of people behind the counter at Cedarville University’s dining hall know that they have a mission beyond just making large amounts of food. The food service business is actually about people and reaching out to the customer.

“God has a thing for all of us to do,” Veatch said. “I kind of feel this is my mission field.”

He said he feels his role in food service is to work with young people and students and make a positive impact on their lives, or at least serve good food in a way that assists the students to go out and achieve their goals.

Rebekah Erway is a junior English major and reporter for Cedars. She is a diehard Disney, VeggieTales, and Lord of the Rings fan and enjoys speaking in a British accent.



TO BE CONTINUED...

A Child of God First, A Paralympian Second

Cedarville Freshman Becomes First USA Athlete to Win Gold in Paralympic Triathlon



Photo provided by Tim and Robin Norman

Grace Norman celebrates her gold medal in the triathlon at the Rio Paralympics in September. She is a freshman nursing major.

by Josh Burris

Cedarville University freshman Grace Norman won the gold medal in the triathlon when the event debuted at the Rio Paralympics in September. Then she won a bronze medal in the 400 meters.

Norman was born without her left foot due to a condition called amniotic bands. Amniotic bands are fibrous

string-like bands that restrict blood flow and can cause in vitro amputations. In Norman's case, the bands constricted more as she grew, causing her to lose her foot. It was a shock to her parents because her foot was there in the ultrasound. As an athletic family, they were not sure what her future held.

"We had a lot of good people around us who encouraged us that there were a lot of things to help people that

were born this way," her father, Tim Norman said. "It started a lifetime for Grace of trying to figure out what the best solutions were to help her achieve her goals of being able to ambulate normally."

Tim Norman, a professor of mechanical and biomedical engineering at Cedarville University, is an ironman triathlete and runs triathlons regularly. His wife, Robin, is a runner. Grace's sister, Bethany, is also a runner and a



Photo provided by Tim and Robin Norman

Grace Norman, left, waves the USA flag with her teammates.

senior on Cedarville's cross country and track team. Grace began running from a young age and began competitive running in seventh grade.

"Bethany has been a huge inspiration to me," Grace Norman said. "I've always wanted to be just as fast as her."

Grace began competing in triathlons about four years ago, when she was a decent runner and a beginning swimmer. Her dad started letting her compete in triathlons because she seemed interested.

"It's hard to get someone to make a commitment to do a triathlon," he said. "She was willing to do it, and she liked it."

Grace was always interested in the Paralympics growing up. Her dream to participate in them became real in 2012 when she and her family watched the track and field trials in Indianapolis. At that point, her times were not where they needed to be, but she began intentionally training from that time on.

To begin the qualifying process, Grace had to gain recognition by running well in races. She started locally, looking to connect with someone to help her get to the next level. She found an organization called Dare2tri, a paratriathlon club based in Chicago. The organization has athletes that have Paralympic quality and connections to the USA Paralympic committee.

As her times improved, Dare2tri was able to get her in the International Triathlon Union (ITU) races with international competition. Her rankings depended on her placings in the ITU circuit.

"The placings is what gets the United States a spot in the Paralympics," Tim said. "You get a spot, and the US picks who is in that spot based on who is the fastest that particular year. Grace earned a spot on the Paralympics probably a year before she actually got nominated for the spot."

For the 400, it was the same process. She went to the world championships where they determine who is fastest in the events, which can lead to a position on the Paralympic team. Grace earned a spot in triathlon and the 400.

"I've always dreamed of being in the Paralympics," Grace said. "To see these dreams become reality is just incredible."

Cedarville sent Grace and her parents off to Rio on Aug. 29. Grace said she was a little nervous going in as a first-time Olympian. She said her team and people from Rio were able to help her handle the pressure.

"Team USA was just incredible," Grace said. "They are all so supportive. The people of Brazil are so friendly. They love people from the U.S. When you walk down the street

they are like 'USA!' That was really cool."

In Rio, Grace became the first USA triathlete to medal in the Paralympics, and she did it with a gold.

"To do it for my country was a big honor for me," Grace said. "To make history like that, it was so cool. I crossed that finish line and there were so many emotions going through me, but definitely making history was very exciting for me."

Her parents, as expected, were very excited for her as well.

"My wife was crying, I was crying, the head of Dare2tri was balling," Tim said. "Once she crossed the finish line there is a relief of 'it's over.' You don't have to wonder anymore how it's gonna turn out."

Cedarville was also excited for her and held a welcome back party for her in the basketball gym. Cedarville coordinated plans with Grace's parents without her knowing anything about it. When they got back, they pulled up next to a police officer, who introduced himself to Grace as her escort.

"Grace asked 'OK Dad, what did you do wrong?'" Tim said. "She kind of got wind of it and thought it was kind of cool."

Not even Tim and Robin anticipated the turnout of people to welcome them back. Tim said between family members coming from Indiana, Bethany being able to connect with her sister, and all of the students coming together, it was really cool.

"I don't think there could have been a better way to bring her back," Tim said.

Grace said what motivates her to compete is bringing glory to God.

"Ultimately, I want to use the gifts God gave me to glorify him," Grace said. "My family has also been a huge part of my life and help motivate me every day."

Bethany wrote her sister a note for the games that said "Never let your identity be in sports. Don't look in the mirror and only see the Olympian. See a child of God first before you see an Olympian." Grace said that is something she would like to continue to improve on.

"I want that to be true in my life," Grace said. "That's the best advice she could ever give me."

Grace also said you can expect to see her back in the Paralympics in 2020.

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

Find videos and photos of Grace Norman's Cedarville homecoming at ReadCedars.com.

Shelton Seeks to Lead Volleyball On and Off Court



Photos contributed by Scott Huck

Abby Shelton is the 21st volleyball player at Cedarville to reach 1,000 kills.

by *Tim Miller*

For most teams, the biggest goal for each season is to win as many games as possible. The leader of the team's responsibility is to make sure that objective happens.

That is just not the case for Cedarville University's volleyball team this season. Senior captain Abby Shelton knows that the wins and records are not eternal, but the souls of her teammates are.

"This season is about so much more than just volleyball," Shelton said.

That is where it all starts for the Cedarville University volleyball team. Shelton knows volleyball is just a medium for herself and her team to grow in God.

"This season, one of my goals is to love and serve my team," Shelton said. "I also want to see what God is doing in other teams."

Shelton has a job to do as a leader. She said she wants to lead the team toward a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. But she is also a star senior on the Yellow Jacket volleyball team. With awards like first-

team All-American, GMAC co-player of the year and many others, Shelton will be a key part to Cedarville's success this season.

After joining the 1,000-kill club in the fourth game of the season, Shelton looks to help lead her team to things that are more important than volleyball. She understands, as do her teammates, that volleyball is only a game. What really matters is that the team grows in Christ.

Shelton's friend and teammate, Angela Becker, helps lead the team in the same way.

"As seniors, we have a platform to serve for the season," Becker said. "We want to set the standard for the future of volleyball, and pass on spiritual leadership."

As a leader on the volleyball team, Shelton understands there are some things that need to be avenged from last season. Cedarville's 2015 season ended in a conference championship loss to Trevecca Nazarene, a team they had beaten twice before their final meeting that ended Cedarville's season.

Beating Trevecca is not the ultimate, life-filling goal for this season, but it is

higher on the preseason wish list than many other goals. The pre-season G-MAC polls pegged Trevecca at the top of the list, barely edging Cedarville.

Early in the season, Cedarville was able to notch one of their most impressive wins of their program's history over Findlay on Sept. 20. This propelled the team to a 9-2 record. The team turned their attention to the G-MAC in late September.

With a 12-4 record, a milestone win for its school's history, and loads of potential for the rest of the season, Cedarville is on fire on the court, and more importantly on fire for God.

Shelton trusts her teammates, and her teammates trust her, thanks to all of them trusting in God.

That is the pinnacle for the 2016 edition of the Cedarville volleyball team, and the season's outlook is sky high.

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



Abby Shelton

Position: Outside Hitter

Height: 5'10

Class: Senior

Hometown: Sparta, Georgia

Total Kills: 1,097

21st person in school history to reach 1,000 career kills

A Main Street Place to Find 'Anything & Everything'

by Keegan D`Alfonso

Outside of the store Anything & Everything are boxes of trinkets on tables with a grill and golf clubs sitting to the side. The collection looks more like a yard sale setup than a store display.

Upon entering the store, customers stop as they take in the view. The inside of the store looks like a cross between a carnival display and your grandfather's attic.

Brian Larrabee opened his store, Anything & Everything, in March and sells a variety of items that are unique, antique or just perplexing. The store sits across the street from the Second Act thrift store and is located at 55 North Main St.

Although Larrabee just opened Anything & Everything, he said he has been buying and selling things for most of his life. Before opening his shop, Larrabee said he sold things on Craigslist, at auctions, through word of mouth and any other way he could think of.

Larrabee said his business grew from his love of old stuff which he got from going to garage sales with his grandmother as a kid. As he got older, he started going to auctions and storage auctions as well. As his collection of items grew bigger, he needed more space to collect items and sell them.

"I've just always been interested in old stuff, and I've always collected stuff over the years," Larrabee said. "I was finally to a spot where I had to start getting rid of stuff and the shop came available and I jumped on it."

Larrabee collects inventory for his store from a variety of places. He said he goes to yard sales, flea markets, auctions, storage auctions, Goodwill or he buys items from people.

"I don't have problems finding stuff," Larrabee said. "It's either neat stuff that I enjoy for my personal collection that I look for, or certain items I know I can sell in the shop."

Larrabee enjoys interacting with his customers and wants his inventory to appeal to his customers on a personal level. He said he wants his customers to see one-



Photo by Keegan D`Alfonso
Brian Larrabee sits in between a kinetic puppet of the witch from the Wizard of Oz and Willy Wonka. He enjoys collecting unique and unusual items to add to his collection.

of-a-kind items that pique their interest or take them back to their childhood. He said he is a big history buff and likes explaining the history of the items to his customers when they ask questions.

"If something comes across [and] I have no idea what it is and no one else knows what it is, a lot of times I'll buy it just so I can go home and figure out what it was, because I enjoy the history behind the items and seeing unique and different items that a lot of people haven't seen before," Larrabee said.

His interest in a wide array of items is what prompted him to name his store Anything & Everything. Larrabee said he is always bringing new items into the store and he doesn't focus on just one type of item because he feels like that would be boring and would not entice people to come back.

"I like to have an assortment of new and old, vintage [items]. It's well rounded," Larrabee said. "I don't have a niche where it's one particular type of stuff."

Larrabee's customers seem to agree. Judy Edinger, a regular customer at Anything & Everything said she comes to the store every couple of weeks to see the eclectic selection of items. Edinger enjoys seeing how the displays and items have changed between visits.

"It's the different stuff; you never know what you're going to see," Edinger said. "It's so full, I don't know how you can rearrange it, but he does."

Cathy Helmick, another regular customer at the shop, said she likes how unique the store is and her favorite thing about Anything & Everything is Larrabee himself.

"I like Brian," Helmick said. "He's re-

ally helpful."

Larrabee will often track down items for his customers if he does not have something in his inventory.

The biggest challenge Larrabee said he had getting started was spreading the word about his shop. He said he has had a lot of success by advertising on social media, but it is challenging because the part of town his shop is does not have much traffic.

"Trying to get people down to this side of town I guess you'd say would be the only problem," Larrabee said.

He said his business has been increasing since the college students returned though.

Overall, Larrabee said he enjoys running his new business. He likes being his own boss and setting his own hours.

"I do enjoy being in downtown Cedarville because it fills in and empty spot in the shop," he said. "It doesn't feel like it's in a ghost town."

Larrabee said he hopes he is able to continue to grow.

"I don't expect to make a killing, just enough to pay the bills," Larrabee said. "It's something I enjoy doing, so if I can pay the bills and enjoy doing it ..."

His customers also appreciate his role in the community.

"I hope he can make a go of it," Helmick said. "We need him here."

Edinger also said she hopes Larrabee is successful.

"I hope he stays with it," Edinger said. "I hope he's patient enough to allow himself to make it."

Helmick said she would tell her friends that they need to go to Anything & Everything to check it out.

"They need to go and look at it, just see for themselves what's in here because they are going to find something they want or need," Helmick said. "It's unique."

Keegan D'Alfonso is a sophomore journalism major and the Off-Campus News editor for Cedars. He was a sergeant in the Marines and enjoys learning about and experiencing other cultures.

SB 1146: The Battle for Religious Freedom

California law aimed at eliminating federal loans and grants to Christian universities fails



by Gabe Chester

Legislators in California tried to pass a bill earlier this year that, in short, would have eliminated California students' federal funding for attending religious universities that are exempt from certain discrimination laws.

A softer version that Christian universities in California can live with recently passed. But Christian universities such as Cedarville fear that legislation such as California's SB 1146 could lead to further laws that restrict religious liberties and eventually eliminate federal loans and grants.

"Directly, it has nothing to do with Cedarville. Culturally, it has everything to do with Cedarville," said Mark Caleb Smith, professor of political science at Cedarville University.

The original intention of this bill, SB 1146, proposed by Senator Ricardo Lara (D), was to severely reduce the number of religious exemptions for faith-based universities and to stop state funding from going to students who attend such universities. The only universities that would qualify for religious exemption would be ones that train pastors or theology instructors.

"I think SB 1146 was a deliberate effort to marginalize religious institutions in California and to make it difficult for students to attend those institutions if they had policies that restricted same-sex marriage or

same-sex activity," Smith said.

Had the bill passed in its original form, students would no longer have been eligible to receive a Cal-grant, a significant state funded entitlement, while attending faith-based universities.

"California should not be using taxpayer money to subsidize colleges that choose to discriminate against LGBT students," Assemblyman Evan Low said, according to EdSource.

Due in part to the efforts of several Christian universities such as William Jes-

Title IX provisions, universities could face multiple discrimination lawsuits.

"We are unwilling to support any provision of the bill that targets specifically religious institutions," Jackson said in the video.

As the amended bill stands, William Jessup University, along with many other Christian universities, are comfortable with the bill progressing into law. The amended bill was signed into law on Sept. 30.

Religious exemption allows universities to be exempt from specific subsets in

universities that allow for separate housing, bathrooms, locker rooms, etc. Also, several institutions reserve the right to remove a student getting an abortion or deny admission to unmarried pregnant women. The widespread uproar from the LGBT community concerns Christian universities' denial of homosexuality and their attempts to eradicate homosexual behavior on campus.

After 1972, dozens of universities applied for exemption status including Cedarville College which made its request on June 4, 1976 declaring in one section that, "In order to maintain the distinctive character of the college as a Christian institution with Biblical moral standards, Cedarville College must reserve the right to exclude from its programs, male or female applicants who violate the moral standards contained in the Bible."

In light of the passage of the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, former Cedarville President Paul H. Dixon signed and submitted a second exemption request on June 26, 1989 to clarify that the previous exemption remained valid and to extend the scope of the exemption previously granted. The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR) granted Cedarville's second request on August 16, 1989 and this request remains valid to this day.

Future legislation restricting exemption status on a federal level could cause faith-based universities to face a choice between compromising their beliefs to attain federal funding or losing their tax exempt status along with federal grants and loans in order to remain steadfast in their religious tenets.

The proposition of SB 1146 portrays the direction the country is moving toward progressivism and away from religious liberties.

"The growing movement is to equate same-sex marriage to racial discrimination," Smith said.

"I think SB 1146 was a deliberate effort to marginalize religious institutions in California and to make it difficult for students to attend those institutions if they had policies that restricted same-sex marriage or same-sex activity."

Dr. Mark Caleb Smith

Cedarville University political science professor

sup University, a Christian liberal arts university located in Rocklin, California, the bill has since been amended to eliminate both of these restrictions. The current bill requires faith-based universities with Title IX exemption status to disclose them to current students, incoming students, faculty and to post them in a prominent spot on campus.

"The most objectionable parts of the bill, the part that allowed a private right of action or lawsuits, that has been taken out of the bill," said John Jackson, president of William Jessup University said in a video.

SB 1146 will also require universities to submit their exemptions to the Student Aid Commission. Without exemption from

the Title IX law on the basis of religious tenets. Universities qualify to request exemption if they meet one of three criteria: the institution prepares students to become ministers, the institution requires faculty and students to sign a statement of faith or the institution is controlled by a religious organization.

In 1972 congress passed Title IX, a law that begins as follows, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Examples of religious exemptions are

MAJOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM LAWS SINCE 1972

1972 – Title IX Act signed into law

June 4, 1976 – Cedarville's first exemption request from Title IX submitted and approved

1987 – Civil Rights Restoration Act

June 26, 1989 – Cedarville's second exemption request from Title IX extending scope of previous request submitted and approved on August 16, 1989

1993 – Religious Freedom Restoration Act

September 30, 2016 – SB 1146 signed into law in California

Graphic by Evan Rayder

Smith reassures Christians by saying, even in the most progressive state in the country, the original intentions of SB 1146 failed.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA) also limits the government's ability to burden religious liberties. RFRA helps guard first amendment rights from governmental encroachment and agendas stating, "Government shall not substantially burden a person's exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability." Twenty states have even passed state RFRAs to ensure religious protection in local municipalities. If a court case was brought to the federal level regarding exemption status, the court would have to balance human dignity and free exercise of religion, two concepts susceptible to judicial interpretation.

"Generally, whenever the government

makes decisions that affect religious freedoms directly, the presumption is that the action is unconstitutional," Smith said. "The burden of proof goes on the government to prove their actions are not overly discriminatory against religion."

Government's ability to impede on religion appears, for now, to be safeguarded by RFRA and our current court structure.

"If we lose the freedom to express our religion, then everyone should be concerned because the government becomes the judge of what worldviews are allowable and what worldviews are not. That's not freedom, much less constitutional," Thomas White, president of Cedarville University, told the Atlantic magazine.

Religious universities along with individuals have banded together to accomplish likeminded objectives. The Association of Independent California Colleges and Uni-

versities (AICCU), along with the Association of Faith-Based Institutions (AFBI) and the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) are just a few examples of likeminded universities banding together in the pursuit of similar interests.

In the case of SB 1146, hundreds of individuals wrote their state representatives pleading for an amendment to the bill with the uniform purpose of protecting religious liberty in their state and across the country.

Mass Resistance, an international pro-family activist organization, combined forces with local churches and led a protest against SB 1146 outside Senator Lara's office building on the evening of June 29, a day before it went to the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Within the realm of religious organizations, there are a variety of different beliefs regarding gender and sexuality. Many

within the LGBT community believe religious institutions are using their beliefs to purposefully target and discriminate against them.

"The recent surge in religious exemptions continues a history of religious institutions using their faith as a shield for discrimination," Geoff Kors, a government policy director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights said.

Smith said Christians should be intentional when discussing these issues with others.

"The best thing we can do is present ourselves in a way that presents Christ's love clearly," Smith said.

Gabe Chester is a freshman global business and marketing major and a writer for Cedars. He loves music, sports, school and God.

Webs of Conflict

The United States is one of the many foreign backers in the Syrian civil war

by Jen Taggart

Over 250,000 people are trapped in Aleppo, Syria, without access to food, water or medical care from the outside world. Aleppo was once an economic center in Syria, but is now the center of the Syrian civil war. An aid convoy was bombed trying to reach civilians on Monday, Sept 19. United States officials accused Russia of bombing the area to help Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, but Russia has denied the accusations.

Glen Duerr, professor of international studies at Cedarville, said that Assad and his government have adopted a “kneel or starve” policy against civilians.

“You starve the population of Aleppo or you force them to kneel to Bashar al-Assad the leader,” he said. “And so, it’s in effect become a siege on the city and young children have borne the brunt of this.”

Frank Jenista, another professor of international studies at Cedarville, said Assad is implementing a harsh policy against civilians to protect his own ethnic group—the Alawites, which are a minority in Syria.

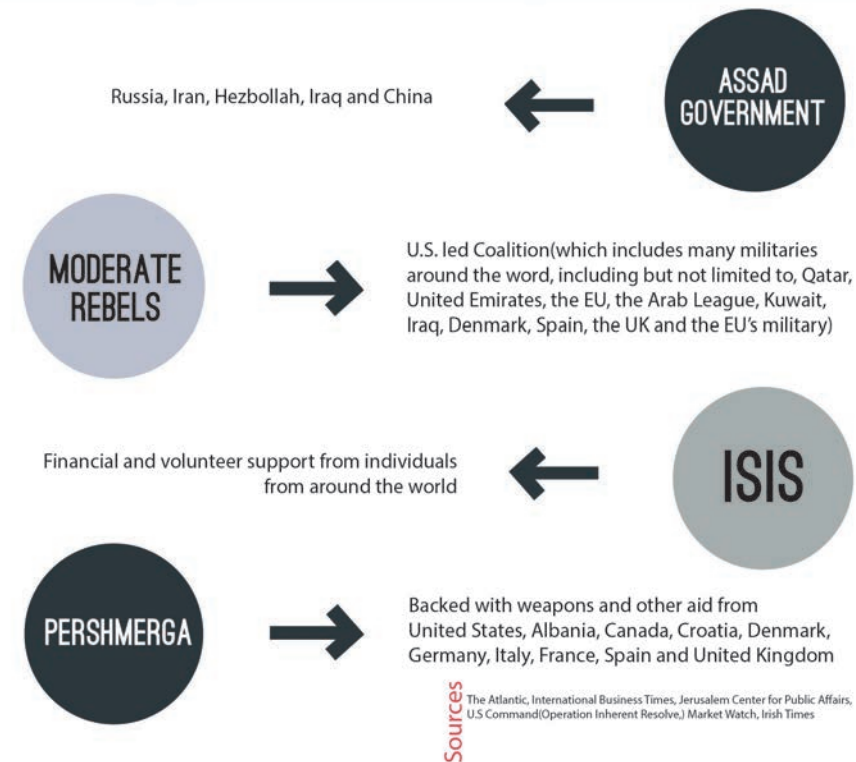
Jenista said the Alawites are convinced they are going to be massacred if they lose the Syrian civil war. He said that because the Alawites are convinced they are going to be massacred, they are willing to do anything, even if that includes starving cities of people who disagree with them, bombing hospitals or cutting off water and electricity.

“This is back to medieval times where you just surround the castle and starve everybody until they surrender,” he said.

In addition to the number of civilians trapped in Aleppo, there are millions more Syrians who have been killed, internally displaced or who have become refugees because of the Syrian civil war.

The Assad government is not the only side committing human rights abuses. According to Human Rights Watch, civilians have been killed in rebels’ attacks on government-held territories in cities such as

WHO ARE THE MAJOR PARTIES AND WHOM ARE THEY BACKED BY?



Graphic by Amy Sririntrachai

Aleppo, Damascus, Idlib and Latakia.

How did we get here?

The war began in 2011 when a group of pro-democracy rebels in Syria protested the Assad government and the Syrian government responded by force. The rebels were inspired by the Arab Spring movement in which there were pro-democracy protests in other countries such as Tunisia and Egypt.

While the rebels want democracy, ISIS also joined the fight against the Assad government, but they want an Islamic State. The Kurdish fighters want their own sovereign state as well but are fighting against ISIS.

Each of the main sides has many for-

eign backers. Russia is supporting Assad, whereas the United States-led coalition of countries is supporting the rebels.

According to CNN, Russia is supporting Assad because they want to protect their military interests in Syria (including a Mediterranean naval base at Tartus,) to maintain a key ally in Assad and to fight Islamist groups in Syria similar to the ones in Chechnya, Russia.

Dealing with Russia

Both Russia and the United States are against ISIS, but they have opposing views on whether Assad should stay or go.

Jenista said that although Russia is against ISIS like the United States is, Russia’s main focus in Syria is helping Assad.

“The bottom line is that U.S. and Russian priorities and goals are fundamentally different,” he said.

Duerr said if the United States and Russia were to have greater coordination against ISIS, he would question what post-ISIS Syria would look like. He said that Russia wants Assad to stay and the United States wants Assad to go and there is no way to completely have both outcomes.

He said one way for the United States and Russia to come to a compromise would be to divide Syria so Assad controlled part of it and the rest of it was a new, independent state. Duerr said he wasn’t sure if all the factors are in place for that to happen, but he said it is important for the United States to try to deal with Russia to try to resolve the crisis.

“I find that, in part, abhorrent because Bashar al-Assad could still be in power and I agree with President Obama that he has to go, but maybe there’s a way of dividing Syria or having some form of new leader coming to the fore in place of Assad as a compromise, even if he’s within Assad’s inner circle,” he said.

How should it be handled?

Duerr said he predicts future generations will question how the current generation has handled the Syrian civil war.

“What’s happening to civilians in some of these major urban centers is horrific and I think our history books will be filled with questions on this,” he said, “Maybe our children’s generation will ask us questions of why we didn’t do more or why we allowed it to fester knowing that there are clear violations of international treaties, knowing that the responsibility to protect has been in the international community for over 10 years now.”

The “responsibility to protect” is a political commitment/norm passed by all member states at the UN in 2005. It says that states have a responsibility to handle human rights violations within their own

Syrian Civil War by the Numbers

Over **250,000** people killed (according to the UN in 2014, but the number is estimated to be significantly higher in 2016)

4,806,762 refugees (as of September 2016)

1.5 million people injured

6.5 million internally displaced (November 2015)

*All figures are from 2016 unless otherwise noted
Sources: International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations



Graphic by Amy Sririntrachai

state, but the international community has a responsibility to help.

Duerr said Obama has been leery of sending U.S. forces to Syria because his presidential campaign had been built around taking U.S. troops out of the Middle East. He said Obama was slow to send troops to the Middle East despite the advice of generals who told him to get involved sooner. Obama decided to support rebel groups but not with troops on the ground.

“In early goings of the protest in Syria, not in the capital, but in the biggest city [Aleppo], or what was the biggest city, there were significant pro-democracy rallies and clear groups with which I think most people would’ve felt comfortable working with them,” Duerr said. “That was the opportunity, but Obama staked his presidency on not get-

ting involved. But I think he’s come to the realization that’s an impossible task.”

Jenista said it would have been a lot easier for the United States to remove Assad at the beginning of the war.

“When this first started, there were no outside groups involved, there was no Islamic State, there was no Al-Qaeda,” he said. “It was just people uprising in Syria, fed up with the dictatorship of Assad and thinking ‘Wow, other countries are doing this? This is the time of the Arab Spring, this is the time to revolt against dictators,’ and all they wanted was the opportunity to have a democratic government, to choose their own leaders instead of being under this dictatorship.”

“But, although President Obama said Assad has to go, there was no significant U.S. help for the rebels. And

because of that, the war went on and on and other parties started getting involved.”

Jenista said, although this is going to be difficult with foreign supporters helping the Assad government, there’s eventually going to have to be a political settlement.

“Nobody is going to win on the battlefield, unless we pull out, then they might,” he said. “But as long as we continue supporting rebel groups, at some point people are going to get sick and tired of all the killing and the uproar in their lives and say ‘Look, can’t we come to some sort of settlement here?’”

Jen Taggart is a senior journalism major and editor-in-chief for Cedars. She enjoys writing, listening to music and fueling her chocolate addiction.

A New Way to Read Stories

by Emily Day

The art of storytelling has been an integral part of culture and the human race since the dawn of time. It is a way for people to connect with other people and places that they may not otherwise experience. Getting lost in a story helps people cope with the stresses of life by allowing them to slip from reality if only for a couple of hours.

However, with the explosion of social media and the Internet, the print industry was forced to adapt. People were no longer satisfied with simply reading words on a page. Online stories began to focus heavily on visual appeal and interactivity. As a result, people began to rely on visual storytelling and expected to be a part of the storytelling process. Social media had broken down the barrier between author and reader, which in turn made the author's job more difficult.

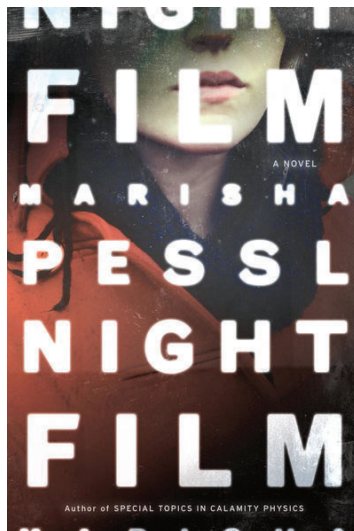
Authors are forced to devise more visually creative ways to tell their stories. Where before a few illustrations or pictures would suffice, readers now have begun to expect the images to tell a complete story. Another problem authors are now faced with is the apparent decrease in attention spans. Authors must now make an effort not only to entice their

readers at the start but hold it throughout the entire story. This has proven to be more difficult in a world where people have access to information instantly through Facebook messaging or a quick Google search.

Most authors found by making their stories interactive for their readers and giving them their own place in the story increases the marketability of their book. The applications for authors and publishers are limitless. Some have chosen a more obvious route through multimedia bonus content, while others have simply altered the traditional story format to increase reader participation.

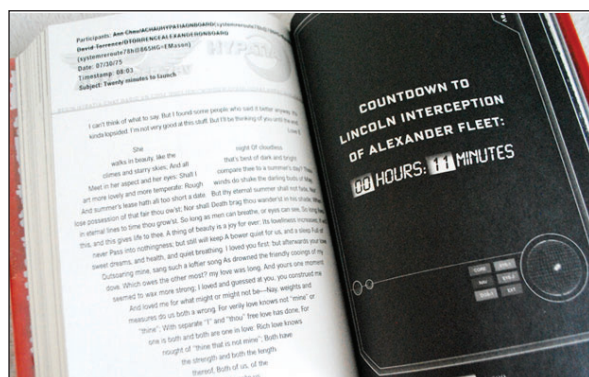
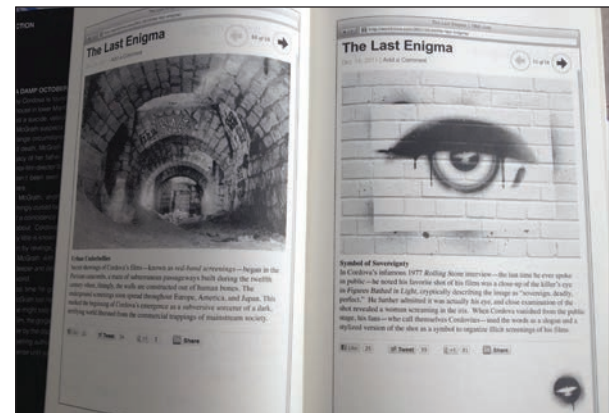
Whatever the case may be, these authors have sought to reinvent the meaning of the word "book." Whether incorporating multimedia elements, web links, and even smartphone apps, these stories go far beyond the mere words on the page to create a more immersive experience for the reader.

Emily Day is a senior journalism major and arts & entertainment editor for Cedars. She speaks fluent sarcasm and enjoys exchanging witty banter with her friend Ali at basketball games.



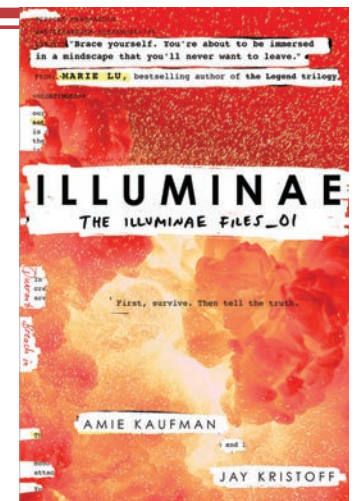
Night Film (2013)

The mystery thriller "Night Film" by Marisha Pessl is one example of a novel that has fully embraced the use of multimedia platforms in its storytelling. Throughout the story readers will come across web links to short videos and other extra features. The book also has an associated app to "decode" portions of the text. These extra features help expand the universe of the book and gives the readers a more immersive experience in the story. While these features aren't necessary to understand the story, Pessl recognized the more interactive she made her book, the wider her target audience would become. These interactive elements let the readers become a character in the story as they put together the clues along with the main character.



Illuminae and Gemini (2015, 2016)

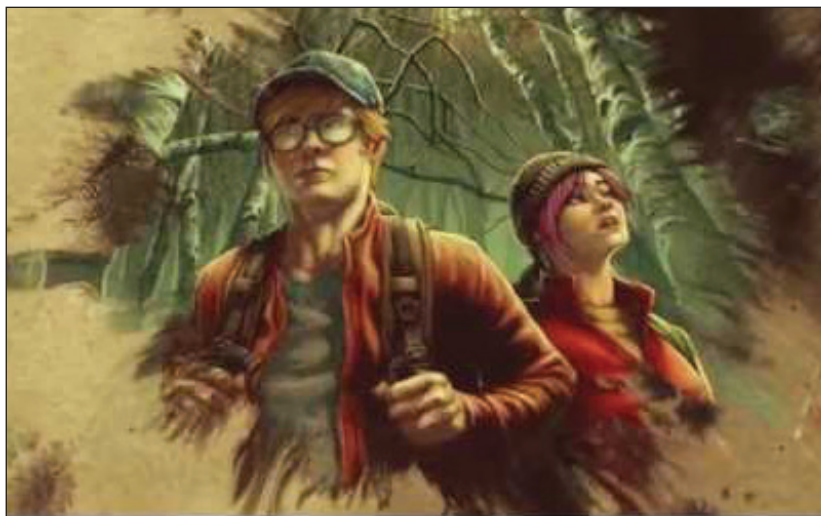
The enhancements of the futuristic sci-fi duology "Illuminae" and "Gemini" by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff may not be as obvious as "Night Film" yet, but the structures of these books make for a unique reading experience. Instead of being told through strict narrative format, this story is told through a dossier of hacked documents, including emails, schematics, military and medical files, interviews and more. This makes for a more fast-paced reading experience, and makes the reader part of the story. The unique format allows the reader to investigate character files and forces the reader to connect the dots as the story unfolds. Since portions of the documents are redacted, the reader must use context and hidden clues throughout the book to piece together the plot.





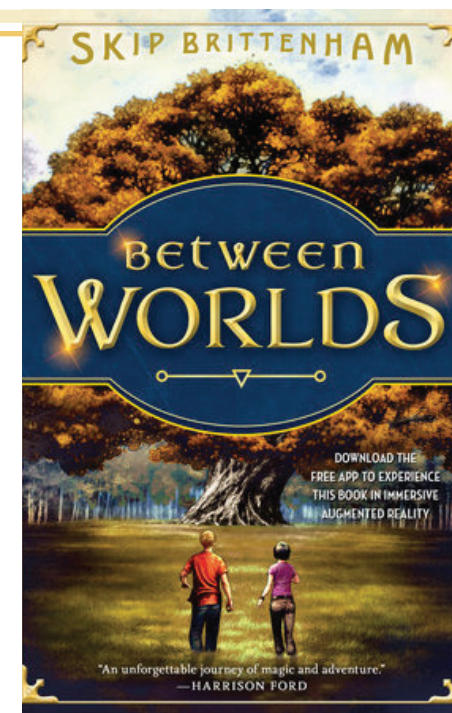
S (2013)

J. J. Abrams and Dorst's historical mystery "S" takes the concept of a story and enriches it. The book's unusual format is presented as a story within a story. The novel itself is a recreation of an "aged" copy of a fictional story called the "Ship of Theseus," however, the primary story is found in notes written in the margins by two strangers who are trying to determine the identity of the author. Also found within the pages of the book are photos, postcards, and other trinkets which play a role in the plot. "S" is a complicated story told through a variety of means and is a lot of fun for readers who like to play detective while reading.



Between Worlds (2014)

The YA fantasy novel "Between Worlds" is one of the most innovative reading experiences on the market today. Skip Brittenham is the first author who has incorporated an immersive augmented reality component to his storytelling. Readers can download the novel's companion app which allows the book's colored illustrations to appear as 3D images. A reader can truly bring the story to life as the app lets them visually experience the world as they are reading. The app also provides the reader with bonus content about characters and locations in the story. "Between Worlds" is one of the first of its kind and has paved the way for more stories with a virtual reality element.



Raven Simmons Acts with Empathy

by *Shelby Ahlborg*

Junior theatre major Raven Simmons is always passionate about performing, whether dancing, working behind the scenes, or, especially, performing in front of an audience in a play.

She recently took the stage in “Jane Eyre” as Bertha, the insane, unknown wife of Mr. Rochester. Bertha is a complicated character, who is very different in nature from Simmons.

She credits forensics during her senior year of high school to leading her into theatre. After competing in humorous acting, she decided she enjoyed theatre. After getting involved with Cedarville’s production of “The Taming of the Shrew,” she was sold.

Even though she decided to take acting more seriously when she became a high school senior, Simmons grew up with the arts as a part of her life and family.

“I was always encouraged by the family to be in, like, band, musical, that kind of stuff,” Simmons said. “And in middle school through high school I did my church’s annual teen play, so that was always fun. I liked acting, and I always got encouraged to do that.”

Simmons has been highly involved with a number of plays at Cedarville during her three years here, both onstage and behind the scenes. However, like any actor, she has favorites of those. Her favorite and first to come to mind is “Fiddler on the Roof,” in which she played the matchmaker Yente.

“It was just so much fun, with the cast all being together, and like the mixture of song and dance,” she said. “The script is hilarious, and like, touching, so that was a lot of fun.”

She also spoke highly of the “Taming of the Shrew,” which she was not in. It was performed her first year at Cedarville, and all fall shows are cast the spring before. Simmons was on the props crew, however, and thoroughly enjoyed getting to see the cast backstage out of costume, and seeing how they fit into their characters.

Simmons also has a dream role of getting to play Gatsby from “The Great Gats-



Photo by Naomi Harward

Raven Simmons says bonding with the cast and crew is her favorite part of performing at CU.

by,” possibly as a gender-swapped role. With the characters she has played, like any actor, Simmons has learned how to really get into her characters and become them. She said it was about looking for things in common with the character, even when there seems to be little possibility of her being able to relate to the roles she plays. One instance she mentioned in particular was the role of Mrs. Muller in the play “Doubt.”

“[Muller is] a forty-plus woman, who is dealing with her son, with this priest, and I was like, ‘There is no way I have anything in common with this woman,’ but I totally do,” she said. “Even the smallest things, like, she works hard for her son to make it through school, my dad does the same thing. So no

matter what character you play, you need to dive into that and figure out, ‘Well, I’m like her in this way,’ and you find more things, and you start to relate more.”

As much as she loves acting, Simmons said she does not want to limit her artistic spirit to theatre. She has been in symphonic band and at one time played clarinet, and, though new to it, she enjoys singing. Creative writing, though at one time limited to her mind, is being tried out thanks to an intro to creative writing class. Her real passions, though, outside of acting, are photography and dancing, particularly hip-hop. She is the leader of the hip-hop crew on campus, the Elements.

Simmons said she feels more deeply as a theatre person. She talked about a

number of people who helped support her through that. She said they also helped her navigate what truth and beauty is. Simmons mentioned Professor Dan Estes, her freshman year Spiritual Formation teacher, was a great help to her.

“I have learned how to be graceful from him. Not like, you know, ballet graceful, but giving graceful. An incredible teacher, great professor.”

In addition to teachers, Simmons also said there were several fellow students who have been an inspiration and support to her.

“Raven has this innate knowledge and skill of acting that I haven’t seen, like, in anybody else here, and I think that comes from her extremely empathetic view of other people,” Megan Howell said. “Like, she can relate to people so easily, and she talks to people with such ease, and she can empathize with people. So, I think that really comes through in her acting, that she has such a range, because she has so many interactions with different kinds of people. I think that really speaks to her skill. She’s friends with everyone, she knows everyone.”

Simmons’ caring attitude and ease with talking with others are important qualities, especially in her possible post-college acting career.

“God has given me this passion for dance as well. I want to help people through theatre, so whether that be through being in a show and giving them that escape, or whether that be through, like, being a psychologist and doing theatre therapy, like drama therapy, that kind of thing,” she said. “I’m not super positive what that’s going to look like yet, but I do know that I will be performing in some kind of way. So whether like dancing somewhere, or some kind of theatre thing. I’m not sure yet. We don’t know, but we’ll figure it out.”

Shelby Ahlborg is a sophomore theatre major and A&E writer for Cedars. She enjoys drawing, listening to movie scores and writing fiction stories.

Just Sayin' ... On Sabbath

by Adam Pittman

The idea of a Sabbath, a day of rest, is often lost in our modern culture of fast food, packed schedules, interstates and roundabouts. Even time spent alone is filled with music and the soft hum of the television. Silence hangs in empty rooms like summer heat, stifling and noticeable.



Whenever I think of Sabbath, I am reminded of William Wordsworth's poem "The World Is

Too Much with Us." Wordsworth writes "we have given our hearts away" by "getting and spending" and in doing so we "lay waste our powers." The essence of this is that by involving ourselves too much in the world, we have lost our identities. Written in 1770, Wordsworth's poem is just as relevant today, because it shows a human tendency to give our attention to something other than God. Technology intrudes into our lives now perhaps more than any other time in history. We can connect to the Internet with unbelievable mobility; even cars have wi-fi. Despite the incredible state of modern technology, the obvious counterpoint is we have lost the ability to slow down and separate ourselves from the screen.

Freshman year, I attended the Cedarville Homecoming cardboard canoe race. It rained that year and my phone turned off from getting wet. As concerned as I was at first, those couple of days were liberating for me because I was forced to stay disconnected.

As important as it is to disconnect from our devices, I want to combine that idea with the idea of the Sabbath, the day of rest. For many Christians, a Sabbath day is merely another Jewish tradition that Jesus abolished when he healed the lame and picked food. While that is true, a Sabbath day, or even purposefully finding time to relax, could help us to slow down in our lives and reorganize our priorities.

By a day of rest, I mean taking a day to do what is restful to you, your friends or your family. For some people, gardening and working in the yard might be cathartic. To others, reading a book or walking in nature. A Sabbath day in the modern times is breaking the habits you create during the week, and that looks different for every person.

A Sabbath slows us down

Taking a day of rest creates a break in the schedule and allows time to reset before the next thing. More than that, allowing for a break helps us rediscover the beauty of the world beyond the screen at our fingertips.

When I think of a day of rest, I think back to Saturday mornings as a child watching Westerns and remodeling the kitchen or watching Sunday afternoon football and taking naps. Both of these childhood memories revolve around spending time with my father, and I think that gets to the heart of what a day of rest means.

Recovery

Taking a Sabbath day during the week helps us recapture what is important in our lives. Looking back to my childhood, those lazy weekend days are what I love and miss most about being a kid. However, if you had asked me then whether I wanted to be laying tile on the kitchen floor, chopping wood,

More than that, allowing for a break helps us rediscover the beauty of the world beyond the screens at our fingertips.

or to be playing video games with friends, I would have chosen the last option every time. I wanted to be anywhere else but doing chores around the house. That was boring to me. However, that was only a child's perspective taken with only immediate gratification in mind. That takes us to another important reason to take a Sabbath.

A Sabbath is worthwhile

As kids, candy was good. There were times when it was better than home cooking. We all had our preferences: Skittles, chocolate, Starbursts, Laffy Taffy. I remember being obsessed about Nerd ropes, don't ask me why. Sugar was another food group back then, but now (hopefully) we realize that the food we ate as children had no mature taste and little nutritional value. We would eat all of our Halloween candy within a few days, feel sick, recover, and forget to learn that life lesson. We sought immediate pleasure and could not care less about how we felt afterward.

Likewise, what we appreciate in the moment is not always what is beneficial and

valuable. In high school (and at times in college), I spent my free time playing video games. Yet I realized as I aged that whenever I turned off that console or screen, I had nothing to show for the hours I just spent in a virtual reality. Therefore, just because a Sabbath day is not exciting or incredibly fun, it can be worthwhile as a stress reliever from the past week and a good starting point for the upcoming week.

The Sabbath was made for man

In Mark 2:27, Jesus says that "the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." The beauty in this statement is that Jesus acknowledges both the need for man to take a rest from work and the tendency of man to make strict institutions of inherently good things. I want to focus on the first point that the Sabbath was made for man.

That we need a break should need little persuasion in our modern age. The phrase "time is money" comes to mind as a defining motto of the American entrepreneurial spirit, but is equaling time to money a healthy way to live life? Balance seems a much healthier approach; work hard, but don't make work your entire life. The phrase "time is money" also presumes the idea of man as a machine and an important cog in an industrialized economy. But man is not a machine, and profit is not the end goal of our lives.

In terms of opportunity cost, taking a Sabbath day is a terrible decision, but we are not called to lives of wealth. We are called to live balanced lives, and a Sabbath might help us recover that balance.

Adam Pittman is a senior English major and Just Sayin' columnist for Cedars. Among other things, he avidly enjoys reading, the outdoors, coffee, and soccer.

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

Org Wars

Photos by Alex Weber



Org Wars participants take part in Sharks and Minnows with a dodgeball twist.



Sophomore Nate Mason is one of the competitors representing student org SPL.



DPS, dressed as old women, pose with a goldfish they were required to take care of all day, and then eat the night of the Fear Factor challenge — one of the most intense nights of Org Wars.

DTR, Cedarville's improv comedy org, dressed as characters from the movie "Inside Out." It is somewhat of a tradition for orgs to dress in themes for Org Wars.



Participants compete in the Piggyback Challenge during the fourth night of Org Wars. The theme of the night was "Throwback Thursday," and the challenges were inspired by games students used to play in PE.