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Cedars, December 2018

Cedarville University

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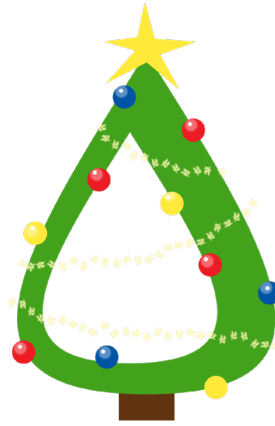
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CEDARS



The Award-Winning Student News Publication of Cedarville University

December 2018



Also Inside:
Veterans museum opens
Superfly Comics struggles
Soccer season summaries

A Baby for Christmas



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Faculty adviser Jeff Gilbert

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Page Designs by: Jeniffer Yosinski, Tasha Peterson, Kimberly Acevedo and Katie Wingert



Editors



Keegan D'Alfonso
Editor-in-Chief



Shelby McGuire
Campus News



Madeleine Mosher
Campus News



Paolo Carrion
Arts and Entertainment



Breanna Beers
Interim Off-Campus



Tim Miller
Sports



Callahan Jones
Digital and Design



Tasha Peterson
Photography

Christmas Lies You (Probably) Believe

As I'm sure you don't need to be reminded, it's Christmas! Somewhere between breaking 54 glass ornaments and indulging in crazy marketing scams, we find a celebration of the birth of our savior. It's my absolute favorite time of the year, but as an extremely popular holiday, it's bound to have some legends and myths surrounding it that aren't true. I compiled a list of some of the biggest lies surrounding Christmas...



1. Jesus was born on Christmas Day. This is pretty well known by all you Bible minors. Ah, wait, that's all of us. The Bible never mentions a date or a month, but let's Sherlock this: in Bethlehem in the winter, it's cold; I'm not sure if the shepherds are out in the fields — what fields have crops in the middle of winter? Some Christian scholars think Christmas was scheduled to coincide with a major pagan holiday and thus detract attention from it (unproven, just plausible). Maybe all they succeeded in doing was paganising the birth of Christ with capitalism? #YouDecide.

2. "Xmas" takes the Christ out of Christmas (and Starbucks is trying to kill Christmas with its red cups). "Χριστός" is the name of Christ written in Greek — and Emperor Constantine was the first to start using the "X" as an abbreviation for Christ. If this is a part of the secular war on Christmas, Constantine — the guy who made Christianity a major state religion — is the one who started it.

3. Santa Claus isn't real. Santa Claus was, in fact, a very real man named St. Nicholas who (perhaps a bit creepily) took to leaving money in people's stockings overnight in 4th-century Turkey. There's actually a few different generous old men, mythical or otherwise, who have contributed to the legend — a Dutch dude named Sinterklaas, and Father Christmas in Europe. There's also a Central European anti-Santa named Krampus who punishes the truly bad children, such as those who steal forks from Chucks.

4. The Wise Men came right after Jesus was born. They were not there immediately, and also there were not just three of them.

They were actually probably a brand of magician slash astrologer slash philosopher, which sounds like a poorly made video game character by someone who can't make a decision. They showed up after Jesus was presented at the temple, which was at least 40 days from the nativity. When you display your nativity sets this year, put the wise men about 40 feet from the scene.

5. Christmas trees were always a part of Christmas. Sure, your pastor's Christmas Eve sermon illustration about how evergreen trees relate to our everlasting life is compelling, but the roots of decorating Christmas trees are pretty complicated. First, Romans put them up for Saturnalia, Vikings for the sun god Balder, Druids for ancient Celtic rituals, and then 16th century German Christians started up the tradition of bringing the whole tree into the house, which makes perfect sense, because the reason we built houses away from the trees was to then put trees back in them. Anyway... legend has it that Martin Luther is the one who thought to put candles in it, thus triggering one of the largest fire safety disasters the world has ever thought up.

6. Jesus was born in AD 1. I'm not going to get into the chronology of Jesus's birth — that's reserved for truly intense biblical scholars and crazy apocalypse predictors — but Luke and Matthew place his birth around the time King Herod the Great died around 4 BC. You can also use Luke and subtract 30 years from the time of Jesus's death, which was around 33 AD. So ... we don't know. The calendar was actually suggested in 6th century, and Russia and Turkey didn't even adopt it until the 20th century. Lol.

You can use this list of factoids as conversation starters — or interrupters, to prevent your slightly racist uncle and your cousin who went to a state school in California from killing each other over Christmas dinner. Enjoy the time with your family and friends. From all of us at Cedars, Happy Holidays. Oops, I mean, stay safe from Krampus. Or, Merry Xmas. Nevermind.

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



Explain your transition from being a pastor to being a Bible professor

Dr. Trent Rogers

Assistant Professor of New Testament and Greek



I love teaching at Cedarville University. God led my family to Cedarville a little more than 5 years ago for me to serve as Pastor for Adult Ministries at Grace Baptist Church. I served at Grace on

staff for five years, and I continue to serve as a committed church member. Ministry to college students was not on my radar initially, but I began leading the college-aged adult Bible fellowship a few months into my tenure at Grace. As I shepherded college students, God grew in me both my love for college students and my ability to minister to them effectively.

I was impressed by the spiritual maturity of CU students and the amazing growth that I observed from when they came in as freshmen to when they graduated. The local church was essential to their spiritual growth, and the ministry of CU was instrumental in helping them understand the Bible and develop a biblical worldview.

My role at Cedarville, teaching in the School of Biblical and Theological Studies, provides me opportunities to have an impact on freshmen, upperclassmen, and graduate students. I love the opportunity to influence the lives of students from various majors in Bible minor classes, and I also love the opportunity to help equip and form students for vocational ministry.

BEOC
(Big Event On Campus)

FINALS WEEK!!!

Dec. 10-14, Cedarville University

The semester has finally reached an end with just a few exams and/or papers to go. Take heart knowing that soon you will be celebrating the holidays with family.

Baby Wren Comes Home for Christmas



Photo courtesy of Catherine Milliron

Adam and Hannah Southerland say they feel blessed and happy after adopting their baby girl, Wren.

by Paolo Carrion

After over a year of paperwork, interviews, fundraising and dozens of rejections, Adam and Hannah Southerland finally held a baby in their arms.

“I still get emotional thinking about it,” Hannah said.

They sent the cute profile book of themselves to dozens of families, drove three hours on a day’s notice, spent days filling out paperwork and checked their email every hour. Families said no for months until Adam and Hannah met Deb in July of 2017.

She was due in November, and they were excited at the idea of having a baby for Christmas. When they met, Deb (name changed to protect her identity) was technically homeless; her mom had kicked her out of the house. By the time the baby arrived she had moved into low-income housing and signed up for food stamps.

In those five months, Adam and Hannah did what they could to help Deb in any way that she needed.

“God has put a hurting mom in our lives. How do you

not love on her?” Adam asked. “No one does an adoption because things are going good. Every one is somewhat of a crisis pregnancy. From the beginning, we said, ‘as much as this is about a baby, we want to love on a mom, also.’” Adam and Hannah began canceling meetings and appointments to minister to Deb. They saw her almost weekly, taking her to get groceries and to pick up belongings from her mother’s house, or to just get a meal and spend time together.

In late November, they took Deb to the hospital to get her high blood pressure checked. She tested positive for preeclampsia, which can lead to brain injuries, blood clotting and eventually infant death. The C-section was unexpected but necessary. The Southerlands donned scrubs and joined the team of nurses. Hannah held Deb’s hand during the procedure, and Adam stood to the side, ready to take pictures with his phone.

And on Nov. 28, 2017, their baby was born. “Dad, do you want to cut the umbilical cord?” the hospital staff asked Adam. They already knew he and Hannah were adopting the baby. Adam cut the umbilical cord and held the baby

first. Their baby. They planned to name him Boaz Brock, and they spent that night changing his diapers, feeding him and loving him.

The next day, something felt off. Deb had grown withdrawn overnight. She had already placed a child for adoption, and while it’s not the same as a miscarriage, it felt like she lost a baby. It’s difficult to relive that feeling.

Deb had become more and more quiet with each passing hour. The original plan was for the Southerlands to move into a separate hospital room while Deb recovered, but she insisted they all share a room with the baby.

“Whatever she wanted, we were going to do,” Hannah said. “Whatever she needed.”

Still, it’s difficult to explain the disappointment they felt when Deb told them she wanted to keep the baby.

“Our flesh was saying ‘we hope you struggle,’ because we could have given this baby everything,” Adam said. “But that’s not right ... but we had to tell her we love her, because we do.”

So they prayed. “God, you love this baby more than we do. We hope that you provide for him.”

They said goodbye, kissed the baby and left the hospital, past the confused doctors who must have been wondering why they were leaving with an empty car seat.

“It was a hard 45-minute drive home,” Adam said.

“It was the worst day ever,” Hannah said with a laugh.

On their blog, they wrote “We had just spent two days loving on a baby that we thought was soon going home with us to be our son.”

Disappointed, they went back to sending out the profile book to families looking to make an adoption plan. Adoption had been on their hearts for years, before they even started dating. After moving to Cedarville University, where Adam works as the resident director for the Brock residence hall, they began talking about the possibility of adopting a child before having a biological one. And, although it started as a joke, their mindset soon shifted from “what if” to “why not?”

“We’re not adopting because we believe we have fertility issues,” Adam adds. “We’re adopting because of the Gospel.”

It was a strange thing to explain to their families.

“The Bible doesn’t say anything about ‘taking care of orphans if you’re infertile.’ You know what I mean?” Hannah said. “Adopting because you can’t have your own [biological] kids is well and great; lots of people do that, and that’s still a great reason to adopt. But for us, we were like, ‘well why does that have to be the only reason?’ We’re all commanded to be taking care of orphans in some way,

whether you're single, whether you're married, y'know? And that doesn't mean everyone is adopting — but in some ways you should be doing that ministry. But we had a home and a place that we could adopt, and that was what we felt like the Lord was leading us to do."

Shortly after they began praying seriously about whether or not they should adopt, Cedarville president Dr. Thomas White announced to the faculty and staff that the university would begin an adoption reimbursement for employees.

Adam and Hannah definitively decided that they would adopt, they just had to decide when. One day, after praying about when to begin the adoption process, Adam found a letter tucked under the door to their apartment.

"For the adoption" was written across the envelope, and \$250 was inside. And so they started the paperwork in February of 2016, through Building Blocks Adoption service. It took almost eight months before they made it onto the waiting list.

The pre-adoption process included a fire inspection for their apartment, medical exams and fingerprinting, as well as a home study, "the beast" of the application process, as Adam refers to it. The adoption agency sent a social worker to their home to interview them — to ask about their relationship with their family, where they've lived, where they went to school, and other in-depth questions.

The home study lasted three separate visits, one a month. By early August, they were ready to look for a birth mother.

The agency would email them with a birth mother's profile, providing all the details they had; her age, how many kids she has, health issues, why she wants to adopt out and when the baby is due. If Adam and Hannah wanted to be considered, they'd ask the agency to send the birth mom their online profile.

"You want to respond quickly because you wanted to be one of the first people they saw," Adam said. "So I'd have notifications on my phone on ... I'd be in a meeting with a guy and my phone would buzz and I'd be like 'sorry, I have to respond to this.'"

There were almost 50 families looking to adopt a newborn, so Adam and Hannah had to market themselves.

They wrote and printed a profile book, which detailed everything from their family life and culture to their favorite TV show. If the birth mother was interested after viewing the online profile, she could request the physical photo book. It was a way for a birth mother to get to know Adam and Hannah as intimately as possible before deciding to meet in person.

They sent their profile to almost every birth mother they could, and met in person with six of them. Still, all of them gave the same answer: "no."

"Why don't they like us?" Hannah asked Adam.

When they rushed Deb to the hospital in November, they were convinced they would come home with a son. After going home without a baby, they went back to submitting their profile to mothers, even though they weren't emotionally ready.

"We thought it would take another year," Hannah said.

Ten days later, they got a match. The mother was due in another 10 days, on Dec. 20. Did they dare hope for a baby for Christmas?

They met in person a few days later at a Mexican restaurant. It was an unusual meeting, by the Southerland's standards. The mom had a list of questions to ask, some related to the adoption, others included their favorite holiday.

"Will you even tell her she's adopted?" the mom asked.

The birth mother and father — it's unusual for the father to be involved with an adoption — wanted to be certain that the baby would not grow to hate them. And the baby couldn't hate them if she never knew they existed.

"We don't want her to think we didn't want her ... we do love this baby."

Adam and Hannah told them that they planned to tell the baby she was adopted early, and to tell her they love her. The Southerlands also said that, if they were comfortable with it, they'd like to have an open and continued relationship with them after the adoption.

The idea of a continued relationship with their baby or the adoptive family was alien to them; they were convinced they would be saying goodbye to their child forever. Meeting with Adam and Hannah was the first time they considered it.

And even though the mother declined to trade numbers with the Southerlands, the adoption agency told them she decided to officially match with them the same day.

They could only communicate with the mom through the adoption agency. After they sent a thank-you for matching with them, they had very little communication. It was a very different relationship from the five-month close friendship they had with Deb.

"We were used to being needed," Hannah said.

Even though they wanted to get excited, they were ready to be heartbroken again.

Dec. 20, the baby's due date, came and went. The agency told them the mom still had not gone into labor.

Maybe tomorrow.

Dec. 21 came and went.

Maybe tomorrow.

Christmas.

Maybe tomorrow.

At 2 a.m., Dec. 29, the agency called; the mom was on her way to the hospital.

Adam and Hannah grabbed their go bags and left. The labor was quick. By the time Adam and Hannah arrived, the baby was already born.

"I kept telling myself 'this is not my kid,'" Hannah said. "This is her baby. We're just here to support as much as possible."

They spent some time with the baby, then stayed overnight with a friend in Columbus. When they went back to the hospital, the doctor told them that the birth mother was ready to be discharged as soon as she woke up. By 1 p.m., she left, leaving the Southerlands in charge of the baby. Their first choice for a girl's name was Georgia Wren, but after they met her, they decided she looked more like a Wren.

Even though they and the birth mother had signed papers making the Southerlands Wren's legal guardians, they still weren't her official parents. The process would still take several months, during which the mother could change her mind.

They found that the mom had left a note for them with a nurse. She left them her phone number and thanked them for their support. She wanted to stay in touch.

Wren still hadn't been discharged from the hospital, so Adam and Hannah stayed one more night in a hotel.

The next day, they wrapped up the baby and drove home on snowy, winter roads. It was the most nerve-wracking drive Adam had ever experienced.

"We didn't even talk much, it was just really peaceful," Hannah said. "Well, Adam was white-knuckling the car. But I was in the back, staring at Wren."

It all happened so fast — from the disappointment just a few weeks earlier, to meeting Wren's mother for the first time, to suddenly driving home with a newborn baby daughter.

Still, Wren's mother could change her mind and choose to keep her, up until the paperwork was completed.

"What's worse than leaving a hospital without a baby? It's taking a baby home for four weeks and then having to give the baby back," Hannah said, laughing. "That's worse!"

But their attorney assured Adam and Hannah that at this point, after the mother left the hospital without a baby, it was incredibly unlikely for the mother to change her mind.

On Aug. 22, after six months of being legal guardians, Hannah and Adam officially became the parents of Wren Noel Southerland.

Now 11 months old, Wren is energetic and loud as she crawls around her parents' apartment. It's delightfully difficult to focus on a conversation with her parents as she gleefully knocks over a water cup and tries to steal tablet pens.

Paolo Carrion is a junior journalism major and the Arts and Entertainment section editor for Cedars. He is learning how to cook, and his roommate is very proud of the sriracha-glazed chicken he made for dinner that one time.

From Powerlifter to Pastor to Professor

Trent Rogers shares his journey to becoming a professor at Cedarville University

by *Shelby McGuire*

After working as an adjunct professor last school year, Dr. Trent Rogers has moved into a full-time position this year as assistant professor of New Testament and Greek. He is teaching courses in the Bible minor and the masters of ministry program as well as Greek.

Rogers only had to relocate his office about a mile from Grace Baptist Church where he previously served as the adult ministries pastor to the second floor of the BTS at Cedarville University. During his time at Grace, he led a college group that equipped him to pursue teaching at Cedarville. This was an opportunity that came to him unexpectedly, but Rogers said that it ended up being a personal blessing to both him and his wife.

“It really formed our love for college students and our appreciation for the ministry of Cedarville University,” Rogers said, “It also shaped our ministry skill set to be able to speak to college students.”

When the opportunity came to serve as an adjunct professor at Cedarville, he found that it was the perfect avenue to build on the ministry that he was already involved in, although he was a bit skeptical at first.

“I had the feeling that I would either love it or hate it,” Rogers said regarding his original thoughts about teaching college students. “[My wife] had the feeling that I was going to love it.”

She was right. He immediately felt at home in the classroom. And within the first week of teaching his Bible and the Gospel class, he knew that he has a passion for teaching and shepherding students through their study of the Bible in a classroom format.

Much of the relational aspect of being a Bible professor was familiar to him because it is similar to the role of a pastor, both in the way he guides a group of listeners to understanding the text as well as pours into relationships with individuals.

Rogers had his own unique journey to becoming a pastor. While earning his un-



Photo by Lauren Jacobs

Dr. Trent Rogers is a new professor of New Testament and Greek at Cedarville University. He has a passion for Christ, his students, and teaching.

dergraduate degree at Wabash College, he took up the sport of powerlifting. Rogers excelled in his weight class and ended up breaking two world records in his class, including a 700-pound bench press.

After completing his bachelor's degree and Masters of Divinity at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, he and his wife moved to the Chicago area. In Chicago, Rogers began working toward his Ph.D. at Loyola University. Rogers got a job at a local gym

folded towels to help pay his way through school. Soon after starting the job, he was offered an opportunity to work at the gym as a personal trainer for a variety of high profile clients including professional athletes and wealthy CEO's.

Rogers said this was a humbling experience to spend several one-on-one hours a week with prominent people who were likely unable to spend that amount of time with anyone else in their life. This allowed Rog-

ers to be able to share the Gospel with these clients that may not have listened to it from anywhere else.

“God, in his providence, provided for my ministerial training by allowing me to train others in athletics,” Rogers said.

Training clients in strength and athletics was just one step in Rogers' path that led him to training students in study of the Bible at Cedarville University. After studying at Loyola, he began seeking a pastoral position in a local church. He was connected with Grace Baptist Church in Cedarville where he served as the adult ministries pastor while he completed his Ph.D. and published his book “God and the Idols.” As he was doing all of these things, he came on as an adjunct Bible professor at Cedarville and, this year, accepted a full-time position teaching Greek, Bible minor courses, and Masters of Ministry courses.

The university's unwavering commitment to the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ is one of the things Rogers loves most about working at Cedarville. Another thing he appreciates about his job is the leadership of Dr. Thomas White over the university as well the leadership of Dr. Jason Lee over the Bible department.

Rogers also has a heart for the students he teaches. He said that he loves “the students and the genuineness that they have, their eagerness to pursue Christ, and the sincerity of their faith. It's a joy to see that in so many young people.”

An unlikely series of events and opportunities from the Lord have brought Rogers to Cedarville University where he is pursuing his passion for students and exercising his gift of teaching. “I love coming to work every day,” Rogers said. “I love what I do, it's a great privilege.”

Shelby McGuire is a sophomore journalism major and Campus News Co-editor for Cedars. She enjoys working out as well as feeding her caffeine addiction pretending that she has her life together.

Space Race Revived

Proposed space force could shape future of international relations

by Jacob Oedy

“Space: the final frontier...” “A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...” These famous phrases may belong to science fiction franchises, but they may also be the first thing someone imagines after hearing about President Trump’s recently initiated Space Force.

The program, officially announced by Vice President Mike Pence in August, will create a sixth branch of the United States Armed Forces. However, few Americans have an accurate perception of the new program’s purpose and function.

“When you start talking about Space Force, you start getting this vision of science fiction movies where there are armed soldiers in orbit around the earth fighting each other,” said professor of physics Dr. Steven Gollmer. “And it’s not anything of that category.”

Instead, the program will be focused on launching and protecting space infrastructure, such as the satellites that support the country’s GPS. Despite concerns over budgets and the necessity of creating an independent military branch, both parties of the government see necessity in protecting its orbiting investments and equipment, according to political science professor Dr. Glen Duerr.

“There’s a realization broadly across Republicans and Democrats that something needs to be done in the space theater,” Duerr said. “It is heavily underway. It will probably be here in 2019 or 2020.”

Duerr explained that the initiative comes in response to a rapidly changing array of technological weaponry. He cited cyber-warfare, unmanned vehicles, and growth in robotics as examples of new developments that have made space a potential arena for attacks. Programs such as GPS and satellites are vital to America’s economy, culture, and military, and new technology could pose a serious threat to those services.

Although the United States has signed



Public domain photo courtesy of NASA
President Trump holds up Space Policy Directive - 3 after signing it. This policy provides guidelines for the U.S.’s leadership in management of space traffic and debris.

a UN resolution against the militarization of space, the motion does not take a concrete stance on anti-satellite missiles.

“We have, and China has, tested the ability to knock a satellite out,” said Gollmer. “And as soon as you start thinking in terms of destroying satellites in orbit, all of a sudden you’re pushing that line of what’s considered using space as a military platform.”

An attack on U.S. satellites would potentially cripple both the military and economic capabilities of the country. The Space Force would be tasked with the protection of satellites and the ability to respond in the event of an attack on outer-space infrastructure.

The program also must consider and prepare for another aspect of space warfare, said Gollmer: the fallout that gets left behind.

“The ability to knock out a satellite with a missile leaves debris behind,” Gollmer explained. “When the United States tested out their capability they did it with a satellite that was initially going out of orbit anyway, so any debris that was generated [would burn up upon reentry]. When China did their test, they did it on a high orbit satellite ... when they destroyed it they generated lots of fragments of debris, which are still

orbiting and will be in orbit for centuries.”

Satellite debris could cause pollution of important orbits, further inhibiting GPS and other satellite functions. Some scientists have called upon the Space Force to prevent such pollution from occurring.

Meanwhile, political scientists are studying how the creation of an official military branch affects other countries and international law. While the United States will be the first country to create a new branch for military space operations, other countries have already integrated space into other military branches.

“The Chinese view it as information; the Russians view it as an extension of airspace,” said Duerr. “We are creating something separate. In creating the Space Force, Russia and China will be able to say ‘Look, the United States has moved first and militarized it.’ We are saying ‘Look, we are just adapting to what Russia and China have already done.’”

While the UN has set up regulations on military activity in space, countries have already considered developing individual space stations, including potential bases on or around the moon. As long as these stations

are constructed with the purpose of scientific research and development, they do not violate international law. But what will stop countries from also using these bases for military purposes once they are constructed?

“There’s a level of might makes right,” said Duerr. “If China were to set up stations, or Russia, who’s going to stop them?”

Duerr also brought up recent disagreements between the U.S. and China over the neutrality of oceans.

“If China doesn’t abide by national law on earth, they’re not going to in space,” said Duerr. “There will be reactions. If China and Russia begin doing things, then the United States will follow. If the United States does something proactively, China and Russia will likewise follow. It’s going to require international law to catch up.”

If the UN fails to prevent the development of space warfare, advanced weapons and technology could cause untold catastrophe.

“The weaponization of space, taking down satellites, nuclear blasts in the atmosphere or in space are all deeply concerning and would have fallouts that we can’t necessarily predict,” said Duerr. “If there’s ever a detonation of a nuclear bomb or even of a mini-nuke, there’s a good chance that it would set off a chain of others. It would be a giant step back.”

To avoid the risk of an apocalyptic war, the United States will need to carefully define and utilize the developing Space Force. If utilized correctly, the program could set an international precedent for peace and preservation. Gollmer discouraged viewing the program in the same light as other military branches, but instead encouraged its use in the development, curation and protection of the final frontier.

Jacob Oedy is a freshman journalism major and a staff writer for off-campus news and arts and entertainment. He enjoys creative writing, quoting “Psych,” and hanging out with the best hall on campus, Brock 3 East.

Honoring Our Heroes

Columbus opens new National Veterans Memorial and Museum



Photo by Kassie Kirsch

Photos of veterans hang from the ceiling of the museum corridor, guiding visitors to the main displays.

by *Kassie Kirsch*

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum opened in Columbus on Oct. 27. Built to stand out, the memorial and museum is circular, with long ramps leading to the front entrance and another long ramp leading down from the last exhibit. The white concrete and bright blue glass windows of the structure offset clearly against the colorful landscaping.

More powerful than the sight of the structure, though, is what it represents. The

National Veterans Memorial and Museum is the first of its kind in that it represents every branch of the military. Inside, the structure communicates the personal stories of service members and their families.

According to Pew Research Center, the United States is home to over 20 million veterans, 865,000 of which reside in the state of Ohio alone. Cedarville University hosts more than 30 veterans and reserve service men and women. U.S. News and World Report ranks Cedarville as the top midwestern

college for veterans to attend.

Still, according to senior journalism major Keegan D'Alfonso, a Marine Corps veteran who served from 2009 to 2014, the adjustment to student life after serving in the military is challenging at times.

"It's a very different culture here than the rest of the world, and the military world especially," D'Alfonso said. "People are a little bit more naive, a little bit more sheltered here, and so sometimes that leads to frustrations. People will make statements or

express opinions that they kind of have no business having."

Jonathan Adams, a pharmacy student and current Marine Reserve member, had a similar perspective.

"It's challenging — it's not just being at Cedarville, but for any reservist, really: balancing. ... Cedarville is a completely different environment than the Marines, and trying to stay the same person and maintain a testimony ... not alienating yourself in either setting."

OFF CAMPUS



Photo by Kassie Kirsch

The Columbus Veterans Memorial and Museum stands out against the Columbus skyline, a symbol of those it honors.

The aim of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum is to honor the service of veterans and active service members by sharing their stories during service and upon their return to civilian life.

Along the inner wall of the museum runs a timeline with historical events and stories of specific military men and women. On the other side of the curved corridor, pillars display the paths various service members take throughout their lives, from feeling called to join the military, to speaking the oath, to combat, and finally to returning home and reacclimating to civilian life. Beside these pillars are interactive screens where visitors can watch and listen to individuals speak about their experiences.

Another corridor leads into the innermost part of the museum, where important moments from history are played on videos and quotes are displayed on the walls. A staircase runs down to an art gallery with pictures taken by military and newspaper photographers. Nearby, there is a small booth with the door propped open, an invitation to visiting veterans and current military members to step inside and tell their story.

The Veterans Memorial is on the uppermost balcony of the museum, and consists of two simple pillars: one citing John 15:13 which speaks about the one who “lays down his life for his friends,” the other quot-

ing Michael O’Donnel, a U.S. Army Veteran.

“If you are able, save a place for them inside of you ... and save one backward glance when you are leaving for the places they can no longer go,” reads the memorial.

Between the pillars is a small alcove with a folded flag inside a small glass stand. A folded flag is presented to the closest relative of the deceased soldier to represent their ultimate sacrifice. The three walls are covered in mirrors so that no matter where the eye falls, there is only a repeated reflection of the folded flag and the viewer standing over it.

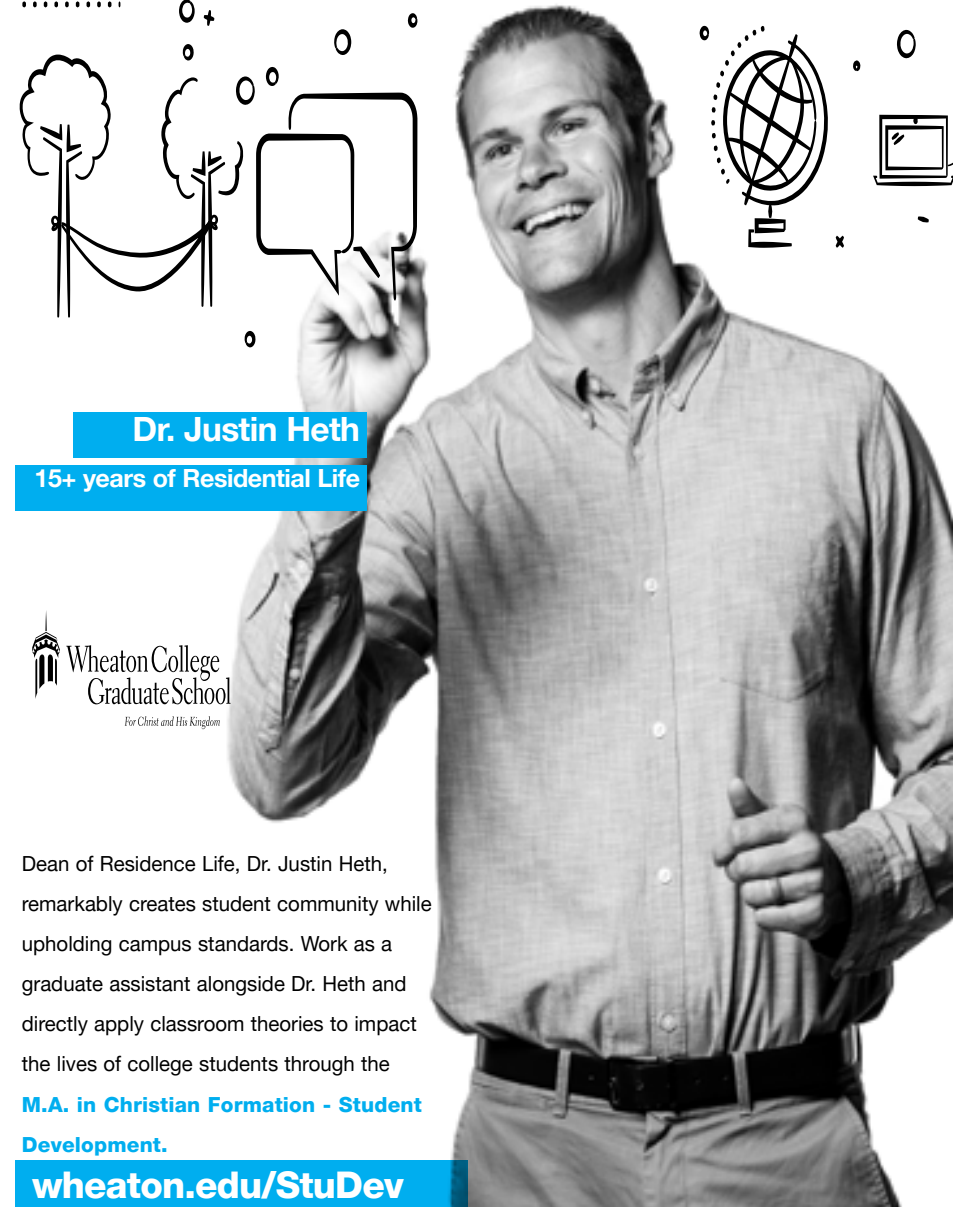
Beyond the pillars, the wall is glass with colored panes, representing the colors of the awards that soldiers can receive.

Stepping outside of the balcony leads to a platform on the roof of the building. The end ramp is attached here, along with smaller ramp that runs upward onto the grass covering the last strip of roof and leaving visitors space to sit and think. Behind the memorial is a garden with the same purpose.

Admission is \$17 for adults but free for all veterans and active service members.

Kassie Kirsch is a junior English major and a staff writer for off-campus news. She loves the outdoors, animals of all kinds, and reading more books than she should.

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Merry and Bright

The top five Christmas displays that light up Ohio



Photo courtesy of Light Up Middletown

Visitors can drive through over 90 animated and still Christmas displays synchronized to a local radio station in Middletown, Ohio.

by Breanna Beers

Christmas break is just around the corner, and these Ohio displays are pulling out all the stops. In the midst of cramming for finals and packing for home, these extravagant exhibitions might be worth a weekend study break.

Historic Clifton Mill | \$10

Just a few miles down the road from Cedarville University, the Historic Clifton Mill's annual Christmas display consistently ranks on national lists as one of the most spectacular in the country.

Every hour on the hour from 6-9 p.m., all four million lights shut off, leaving the property in hushed darkness as visitors look around, wondering what's going on. Then, Christmas music begins to play, and lights

around the covered bridge come on, twinkling in time with the music and setting off a dazzling show across the property.

The tradition started in 1987, with just 100,000 lights strung around the Mill, and has now grown into a phenomenon that has gained national attention. However, according to Historic Clifton Mill's general manager Jessica Noes, the real joy of the tradition has been not the show's broad reach, but the deep impact it has on visitors.

"You can see when they come in if they've not had that great of a year," said Noes, "and then you see this sense of happiness that comes over people, this joy, because the ambiance of everything is so unique. It's a special tradition. People used to come as kids, and now they're bringing their kids."

Maintaining the display takes the staff nine months out of the year: three months to plan the exhibition, three months to string the lights, and another three months to take it all down to protect the lights from weathering. The Mill is also home to a collection of over 3,000 antique Santa figurines and a sprawling miniature village laid out in astonishing detail, including a drive-in movie theater, a police scene, and the Ohio State University stadium.

Columbus Commons and the Scioto Mile | FREE

Each year, Columbus decks the city square with over 400,000 multicolored lights strung from trees, lining buildings, and adorning fences. On Friday evenings, live music adds an additional festive flair. Columbus Downtown Development Corpo-

ration Events Manager Nicholas Stefanik described the sight as "overwhelming."

"I like to park in the underground garage, and then when you come up into the park, you go up this glass staircase and so you're immediately overwhelmed with lights," Stefanik said. "You walk out right into the center of the park in front of the big Christmas tree."

According to Stefanik, the magic of the Commons is that it's both a draw for those living outside Columbus to come explore the city and a perk for those already living or commuting there.

"I love that it's something that gets people to come downtown and feel happy during what's usually a pretty bleak season," said Stefanik. "Especially since it's usually dark by the time people leave work, but instead they get to come walk through

400,000 lights.”

Centrally located downtown, this seasonal spectacle is just across High Street from the Lazarus Building Christmas window displays. Down the block is the Ohio Statehouse, which also decorates for Christmas, and the Ohio Theater, which hosts a variety of holiday performances from *The Nutcracker* to John Legend.

Only a few blocks further is the Scioto Mile, a waterfront system of parks and paths including a 15,000 square foot interactive fountain and one of the country’s largest free outdoor climbing walls. At Christmastime, the entire stretch is lit by hundreds of thousands of dazzling lights from dusk to 11 p.m., beautifully reflected in the Scioto River.

Light Up Middletown | Donation

If you’re not bold enough to venture outside in the blistering Ohio winds, this is the option for you. Light Up Middletown is a driving tour through a 100-acre park in Middletown, Ohio, about an hour away

from Cedarville.

Visitors enter through a sparkling tunnel of lights to explore more than 90 displays, from the floating sea serpent in the reflective lake to the herd of deer leaping across the roadway, all synchronized to music on a local radio station. The entire experience is produced by a crew of over two dozen volunteers called the Grandpa Gang, who work tirelessly from October onward to produce the experience.

Light Up Middletown is open now until December 31 from 6-10 p.m. All entry donations go toward paying for electricity and purchasing new lights and setpieces for the following year.

Woodland Lights | \$8

This half-mile wooded trail takes visitors down a winding path through glittering trees and classical displays, culminating with a cozy log cabin where Santa sits beside a crackling fire in the hearth. After warming up, visitors can head back outside to take

part in the small amusement rides and visit the live deer and silver fox. Warm concessions are available near a roaring bonfire, and nostalgic carriage rides take visitors into the deeper areas of the park.

Sam’s Holiday Central in the A-frame on the property hosts performance groups, including a cappella chorales and saxophone groups, and shows holiday films. Costumed characters, including the Grinch, Buddy the Elf and Olaf, also make appearances. The trail is open from 6-9 p.m., and the nightly performance schedule is available on the Washington Township website.

Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden | \$13-19

While slightly more expensive than other options, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens’ PNC Festival of Lights is more than just a light show. In addition to the three million lights and 22 larger-than-life animal lanterns distributed throughout the park, visitors can visit cold-climate animals

including polar bears, pandas, penguins, and of course, reindeer. The zoo hosts more than a dozen heated indoor exhibits as well, a welcome break from the cold.

The BB&T Toyland Express Train lets visitors catch a glimpse of all the sights across the park before getting off at Swan Lake for the light and music show centered around the 21-foot Christmas tree.

From Candy Cane Forest to Gingerbread Village, the zoo is a holiday haven right in the heart of Cincinnati. Prices vary depending on anticipated crowds, so visitors are encouraged to check the zoo website before planning a visit. The park closes at 9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, and 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday.

Breanna Beers is a sophomore molecular and cellular biology major and the interim off-campus news editor for Cedars. She loves exercising curiosity, hiking new trails, and quoting The Princess Bride whether it’s relevant or not.



Photo by David Kauffmann

Just a few miles down the road, Historic Clifton Mill’s annual Christmas display is a favorite of Cedarville students.



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Super-Fly Struggles

Small-town comics and games store on brink of survival



Photo courtesy of FA Comics

Super-Fly Comics & Games in Yellow Springs is struggling financially, but owner Tony Barry is optimistic that he can work things out and keep his dream store open.

by Callahan Jones

In a small village, wedged between a dive bar and an up-scale antique shop, a man dressed in bright red pants struggles with his keys, trying to unlock a door. His worn-out beanie doesn't do much to protect his head from the pouring rain. Finally, he succeeds at unlocking the door and enters his beloved Super-Fly Comics & Games.

"This place is a mess," Tony Barry says to himself with a sigh. He flips on the lights.

Super-Fly Comics and Games is housed in a small and dimly lit building. The carpet is old, worn and doesn't get swept very often — it's hard to get to that when the store only has one full-time employee and two

part-timers. Music fills the space, sourced from a Spotify playlist that is thousands of songs and hundreds of hours long. It's a varied collection of underground hip-hop, ambient noise, indie rock, polka covers of popular songs and Metallica. The space is packed with product. Every wall is lined with shelves that contain rows upon rows of dusty, hard-to-find comics, detailed statues from skilled Japanese modeling companies and popular Funko Pop figurines.

The newest comics are on display near the entrance, while older and less valuable comics are stored in nearly a hundred long, cardboard boxes, each containing 350 issues, that cover tables set up against most of the walls. They line the space beneath the

tables as well. In the back of the store are some tables and chairs, where weekly role-playing sessions and low-attendance game tournaments are held. Many of the gaming regulars moved to a store with more dedicated resources a little over four years ago.

Novelty card games and even more loose comics cover the floor and tables behind the counter and fill the display cases around the register. Also on the floor is a leopard print witch's hat, which Tony says is for his Halloween costume. It matches the leopard print jacket and shoes he's currently wearing and that he wears almost daily.

Tony sets about conquering one of his tasks for the day, sorting through a box of comics and looking for price changes.

"You never know when collectors suddenly decide a book that never sold is worth something," he says.

Tony and Super-Fly Comics & Games, which most regulars call Super-Fly, are kindred spirits in ways. Super-Fly is a struggling comic book and gaming store located in Yellow Springs, a small Ohio village. Tony is a communist small business owner, which explains his beanie.

The beanie, which features the hammer and sickle logo from Superman: Red Son — a renowned comic book series that explores the idea of Superman having been raised in the USSR instead of in the United States — is his subtle statement on where he stands.

"Well, in American politics I'm a bit

more of a socialist,” he says. “It’s a much more achievable goal. Communism would definitely be my ideal system. So I’d call myself a communist.” But, he doesn’t like to talk about politics very much. There are other things to worry about.

While he may not enjoy talking about politics, it’s preferable to some of the more pressing topics in his life. Tony is stressed and on edge today.

Sales are down, and they’re hard to get back up. Since Super-Fly is such a niche store — they sell almost exclusively comics, high-end figurines and board and card games — located in a small town, it can be hard to gain consistent customers. In Yellow Springs, a town that is built almost entirely on the local tourism generated by its reputation of being friendly and quirky, a rainy weekend can throw Tony’s plans into a tailspin. People don’t like to walk around in the rain. However, he likes it here, in this small Ohio town.

The store is in considerable amounts of debt, but that’s been the case since day one. Tony has actually hired an accountant for the first time, to try to figure out and start fixing the mess he’s in. It’s the main thing on Tony’s mind. He has his second meeting with that accountant today.

“I fell in love with comics a while ago and that’s why I opened up this shop,” Tony says. “Nobody ever told me it would be this stressful.”

Soon after Tony arrives, his manager, Jared Whittaker, rolls in. Jared is a tall African-American man in his mid-40s who usually dresses in black jeans and professional wrestling T-shirts. He’s passionate about comics, just as Tony is. He started working part-time at Super-Fly several years ago, while he was employed full-time at HaHa’s Pizza, a job he lost after skipping one too many shifts to help out at the shop. Tony took him on as the store’s first — and to this day, only — full-time employee, giving him the title of store manager, partly out of pity and partly because he needed the help. The two have been nigh inseparable ever since.

Tony and Jared are called “The Dynamic Duo” by some, and it’s true. The two often spend eight or more hours with each other five to six days a week — seven

days if they’re selling product at a weekend convention. Many people who frequent the shop think of them as one entity, “the guys from Super-Fly” or something similar. One semi-frequent customer admitted that he thought they were a gay couple for some time.

“Sometimes people think we’re the same person,” Tony says. “They couldn’t be more wrong. We’re actually quite different.” Jared laughs at this remark and agrees.

“One of our part-timers calls me Tony all the time,” he says. “I think it started out on accident and now it’s just a running joke.”

The men do share quite a bit in common. They both like odd and experimental music. They’re passionate about liberal political causes. They enjoy puns, especially ones that are a far reach and induce the largest groans. And, obviously, they both love comics with all their hearts.

As Jared enters the shop and takes his place behind the counter, the two men begin talking about a recent comic release that has ballooned in popularity. While the conversation starts there, it quickly goes down many rabbit trails, including social media drama and Yellow Springs troubles and what they want for lunch.

As much as these men like to joke around, they’re both obviously worried about today. While they are discussing things as they normally do, there are strained looks on their faces. Super-Fly is struggling harder than ever before. According to Larry Stanton, one of the store’s part-time employees, this says a lot.

“These guys have been through it all and somehow come out on the other side unscathed,” Stanton said.

However, the current situation is so bad that they often have to scramble for money every Tuesday to get new product in the door. Jared says he knows one reason why they’re in such money trouble.

“When the Marvel and DC movies first started coming out, there was a big boom for comics,” he says. “Now, people are getting tired of the movies. People are getting tired of Marvel’s antics and all the reboots. Plus, some of those dudes are racist.”

Jared is referring to several incidents

over the last two years that involved racist art or messages being published in Marvel books. Marvel has since apologized for these incidents, labeling them as accidents and a failure on the part of editing and quality assurance.

Tony grabs a pair of nunchucks made out of two rolled up comics and duct tape. He starts swinging them around in a flurry of moves. His mind is still on the accountant.

“I’m used to doing a lot of things around here myself, and that’s usually included the accounting,” he says. “I haven’t done well enough on that front. It’s hard for me to admit that I couldn’t do it. But, everything is messed up, so it’s gotta get fixed.”

Jared adds that he isn’t looking forward to the meeting, but what needs to be done needs to be done.

As the afternoon stretches on, the meeting with the CPA comes and goes, as do a few customers.

“It doesn’t look very good,” says Tony. “The taxes are worse than I originally thought they were.” He looks down at his to-do list from the accountant. It’s long. He looks at the list of sales for the day. It’s short.

He’s over \$500 behind where he wants to be for the week.

But, at the end of the day, Tony is optimistic for the future. He’s made it 11 years in this business and this is just another rough patch. He’s 36. He’s living his dream, running a comic book shop and surrounded by his friends.

“I just keep saying to myself, ‘Just gotta get past this hill,’ because the punches will stop eventually, right?” he says. “You have to be constantly optimistic, or else you’ll never make it in this business.”

Callahan Jones is a senior journalism major and the Digital and Design editor for Cedars. In his free time, he enjoys making coffee, being overly critical about music and playing games with friends.



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SPOTLIGHT

Brian Campbell: Cultural Connections

by Lauren McGuire

Brian Campbell wants to use his unique cultural background to understand and connect with others.

Campbell, a senior music education major, was born in Ivory Coast in West Africa. He lived there as a missionary kid up until the second grade.

His family was forced to evacuate Ivory Coast to Senegal in West Africa where he lived until he graduated from high school. After leaving Senegal, Campbell came directly to the United States to study at Cedarville, following his sister's footsteps.

Growing up, Campbell had so many interests that it became a joke with people that he had been interested in everything at one point or another. His love for music and passion for instruments started when he was in Senegal. His life as a missionary kid was largely influenced by his love for the arts.

"I started playing piano in third grade, and then all these missionaries had these spare instruments sitting around that they wouldn't use," Campbell said. "They would be like, 'that Brian kid likes music,' so they would give me free instruments."

Although the piano is his instrument of choice, Campbell's first instrument was a clarinet, which he still owns. After the clarinet he went on to get a flute, a recorder and an accordion.

It wasn't until sixth grade that he started taking piano playing seriously. Classical music was his interest up until he started dabbling in other types of music like jazz and hip-hop.

"That really opened up my mind to how different cultures can use music and can come from different perspectives and how it can address different aspects of life," he said.

His interest in these different perspectives turned into looking at different cultures from a humanities point of view. In his free time, he would look up and study music, referring to himself as a "Wikipedia nerd."

"As a cross-cultural kid, I had a real-

ly strong desire to meet people and have a connection; to understand them personally and culturally," Campbell said. "Being aware of how different cultures think and work allowed me to understand other people better."

As he started to understand how other cultures worked through music, he realized he had a heart for missionary kids and for schools in general. He thought that applying those passions for missionary kids and

music to a teaching job would be the best use of them.

Although his long term goal is to go international, Campbell said he would not mind working with inner-city kids, minority groups or immigrants.

Not having a place to call home impacted Campbell's life, and music was able to help him work through that struggle.

After having walked through two evacuations in his personal life and seeing how oth-

er people deal with trauma, he understands what it is like to be "a hidden immigrant," where one looks and sounds like everyone else but still comes from a different culture.

"Having those wars there definitely helped me to connect with refugees, specifically with those who are moving due to a traumatic event," Campbell said.

The idea of being a "hidden immigrant" stretched to the time when Campbell moved back to the states. Although he spoke the same language as everyone else, he came into the country with an altered way of thinking.

His peers in the U.S. couldn't connect with the everyday experiences he was used to in Africa.

Learning how to handle the memories that he couldn't share with anyone was the hardest part of moving back to the states he said.

Zach Krauss, a fellow piano major, met Campbell through a studio class they had together freshman year. After getting to know Campbell over the past four years, he noticed how Campbell's experience being a refugee in West Africa impacted his life.

"One of the most powerful things for me is seeing how strong he still is in his faith and seeing how genuine he is in his faith," Krauss said.

It was evident to Krauss that although Campbell has gone through many difficulties throughout his childhood, this hasn't stopped him from radiating the joy of Christ to everyone he comes into contact with.

Although the music department at Cedarville has not been a perfect replacement for those who lived everyday life with him overseas, not everyone understands music the way that the department does. That connection has made the transition smoother for Campbell as he continually worked through the challenges of being a missionary kid.

Lauren McGuire is a sophomore professional writing and information design major and writer for Cedars. She loves birthday cake ice cream, watching "The Office" and late-night runs.



Brian Campbell, a senior music education major, enjoys listening to and creating music in his free time.

Photo by Lauren Jacobs

Urbania: Spiritual Significance

by Lauren McGuire

Urbania, an alternative rock band created by a few of Cedarville's own students and alumni, is a blend of rock riffs, indie hooks and alt-rock melodies for a unique sound.

The band consists of Alek O'Connor, Trent Staats and Eric Trent along with the newest addition to the band as of this month, Gabe Apke. Although most of the members of the band are current Cedarville students, O'Connor graduated from Cedarville in May and works in Columbus, playing bass and singing for the band. Staats is a junior accounting major who plays guitar, Trent is a sophomore marketing major who plays the drums and Apke is a sophomore marketing major who plays rhythm electric and also sings backup.

When the band started, O'Connor and Staats were the only members. They first met on class council at Cedarville during the 2017-2018 school year.

After getting to know one another more, they found out that they only lived 20 minutes away from each other.

They established a group to perform at the annual Battle of the Bands, when Trent joined the band.

When it came to creating a name for the band, the name Urbania was quite simple. It was taken from the inverse of "suburban," or from "Suburbia." Trent said the band didn't put much thought into the name, but the idea of the creation of music in the suburbs was the real inspiration behind it.

The creation of music for the band usually starts with Trent and O'Connor working together to create the music without lyrics. They first write the chords and then base everything else off of that, since generally speaking, most of them are "mediocre" at writing the lyrics themselves.

"It takes 17 hours to try and come up with some lyrics that have some sort of underlying spiritual significance," Staats said. "But sometimes it's just something that we think sounds cool."

While a lot of their songs contain spir-



Photo courtesy of Urbania

Urbania was started by Alek O'Connor, Trent Staats, and Eric Trent (from left to right above), as an Alternative/Indie rock band.

itual themes, they also tackle other subjects such as things that are going on in their own lives and relationships. "Wildfires," their second album, was released Oct. 12 on Spotify, an indie style album composed of six songs. Preceding this album was "Black Ice," an album with four songs.

The process for creating "Wildfires" took a lot longer than they originally thought, especially because the process of getting the content to the distributor requires the music to be done a week before the actual release date. The original release date was supposed to be in July, but it was



Photo courtesy of Urbania

Urbania blends a variety of musical styles, bringing their own unique vibe to the table.

pushed back several months. By the time the content for the album was done, they struggled to find a place to record live drums. For almost the entire month of September, they looked for a place to record and eventually the indie style album was done right on campus in the Apple building with a couple of audio engineering major students. The rest of the album was recorded at Staats' house.

"This was a huge step up from the first album because it was all written, produced and recorded in Trent's [Staats] dorm," Trent said.

Although they aren't currently developing any new music, they are working on booking shows in order to promote the album along with creating a music video to create momentum after their recent release of "Wildfires." Most recently, Urbania performed on campus at Stingers at Thursday Night Live. A lot of their shows are held in Columbus, one of their target audiences, especially because O'Connor has connections to venues in the area.

They've played several times at Rumba Cafe in Columbus, once a couple of months after the release of their first album, following up with another performance during the summer. One of their most recent shows was at a church in Beavercreek. Although their shows are sporadic, they enjoy what they do.

Hanging out with the other band members and having their friends come out to support their band is one of the best parts of the experience for both Staats and Trent.

"I think for most of us doing this is just for fun, but we would really like to one day, if Lord willing it goes somewhere, to continue to do this even past graduating from the university, it would be awesome," Trent said. "All in all, we just want to keep making music and hang out."

Lauren McGuire is a sophomore professional writing and information design major and writer for Cedars. She loves birthday cake ice cream, watching "The Office" and late-night runs.

Music Reviews: The Brilliance, Josh Garrels and Josh White

by Callahan Jones

“Suite No. 1: Oh Dreamer” by The Brilliance

The Brilliance, a duo made up of David Gungor and John Arnd, creates what they describe as “spiritual protest music.” Nothing they have released to date better fits this description than their newest EP, “Suite No. 1: Oh Dreamer.” The album, according to Gungor and Arnd, was specifically made for the “DACA Dreamers,” those in America who would be affected by the Trump administration’s cancellation of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), an Obama administration era program that allowed undocumented immigrants that were brought to the U.S. as children stay and potentially be able to gain full legal status.

The first track, “Welcome to the Darkness,” sets the political and emotional mood for the project, focusing on how Gungor views his fellow American Christian’s treatment of immigrants as hypocritical and anti-Biblical. This theme continues throughout the rest of the 24 minutes of the EP.

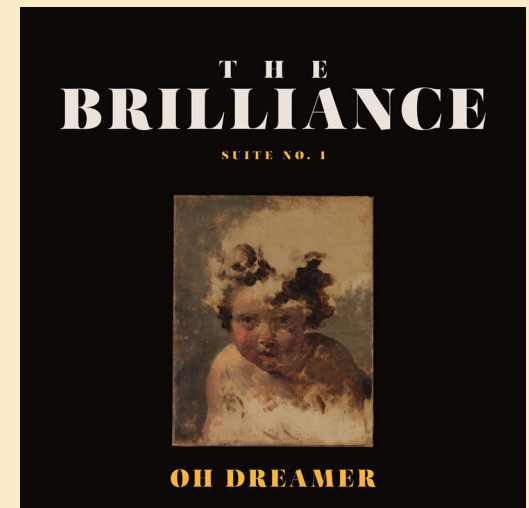
In “Stranger,” the band reminds the listener that we ourselves are strangers in this land, both from a spiritual perspective and a literal one.

“Where Would You Be” and “Don’t You Let Go” seem specifically aimed at the Dreamers, telling them not to let go of their dreams and hopes, as things will get better.

The song “Oh Dreamer” has two versions on the album, with the same lyrics. It is a cry out to immigrants, telling them they can find peace in both God and in the United States. The first features a guest vocalist, Diana Gamos, and the second features only Gungor.

The EP features the normal, interesting musical styles the band normally offers, ranging from sweeping strings and moving bass lines over techy drums on “Welcome to the Darkness” and the second version of “Oh Dreamer” to honky-tonky acoustic guitar and a kicking bass drum on the first version of “Oh Dreamer” to the emotional piano and cello solos “Valte’s Dream,” “Ludwig’s Dream” and “Lilly’s Dream.”

Overall, “Suite No. 1: Oh Dreamer” does a good job at communicating its (potentially controversial) message, while providing interesting musical stylings to back it up. I enjoyed it and was particularly impressed by the instrumental tracks.



Album art courtesy of Podbear

Josh Garrels & Josh White - EP

On the new EP “Josh White & Josh Garrels,” two of the largest figures in the underground Christian music scene team up to cover each other’s music. The titular pair also composed an original track, “Spirit Resurrect,” for the EP.

I will admit, as far as Christian music goes, Josh Garrels has historically been one of my favorite artists. I will also admit, I had never heard of Josh White until very recently. Thus, I went into this album with a set of mixed expectations, high for Garrels and with none for White.

Garrels covers White’s tracks “Forgiven” and “Enclosed by You.” Both of them easily sound like they could have been off his newest album “Home,” featuring light synths and skillful and fun acoustic guitar riffs. It was interesting to hear Garrels talk in such certain terms about his faith and about God on these tracks, as historically he is usually a more vague character. Both of them focus on the love of God and the forgiveness he has bestowed upon us. However, I enjoyed them.

White covers the Garrels tracks “Don’t Wait for Me” and

“The Children’s Song.” Interestingly enough, these didn’t sound too different than their original tracks to me, besides the presence of White’s baritone voice instead of Garrels’ tenor. These tracks carried similar stylings to Garrels, with guitar riffs, simple drums and the presence of simple bassy synth holding down the backbone of both of them.

The song created by the duo for this project, “Spirit Resurrect,” wasn’t anything super special. It is solidly in the camp on a worship song, asking the Holy Spirit to improve us and mold us through his power. The musical stylings are the same of the rest of the album: simple drums, a heavy bass line and guitar riffs making up the bulk of the backdrop. There is a pretty acoustic guitar interlude that I found very enjoyable.

Overall, this EP was an OK listen. There wasn’t anything groundbreaking going on from either artist and the one new song on the project was just OK. I look forward to more new content from the both of these artists, but I do think that they could have done better than this.



Album art courtesy of Indie Vision Music

Callahan Jones is a senior journalism major and the Digital and Design editor for Cedars. In his free time, he enjoys making coffee, being overly critical about music and playing games with friends.

Jackets Awarded for Dominant 2018 Season

by Abigail Hintz

A rocky start and a premature end were not fitting bookends to the Cedarville men's soccer season.

In between, there was a dominant season that put the Jackets one win away from the No. 1 spot in the G-MAC with strong records of 11-6-2 overall and 10-2-2 in the conference.

The Jackets seemed to have good chances heading into the G-MAC tournament with a second seed and a first-round bye but a strong third-seeded Ohio Valley eliminated Cedarville in the semifinals 2-1. A late-game goal by freshman Jonny Stephens off of a Sammy Kilimann corner was not enough to out the Fighting Scots of Ohio Valley, who totaled 10 shots on goal. This forced keeper Carter Selvius to tie both his season and career high of eight saves.

The Jackets struggled as they opened the season. Toward the end of September, Cedarville had only won three of its eight games. From there, however, the team took off on a nine-game unbeaten streak, losing zero games in the span of over a month.

"Over the season we just learned how to grind out wins," senior forward Derek Braak said. "In the middle of the season we found our way, and that comes with the team putting in work day in and day out."

Braak had an impressive final season with the Jackets. He notched nine goals, one assist and 17 shots on goal. While strong statistics, many other offensive players around the league showed more impressive stats, leading head coach Brett Faro to assume the league would overlook him when handing out postseason awards. But his presence on the field could not be denied, and he was named the 2018 G-MAC Men's Soccer Offensive Player of the Year.

Braak was shocked when he heard the news. "It's just a testament to our team," he said. "They put me in the right position to win the award."

"When you look at all the teams, Derek was the most impactful player in the conference, and certainly somebody that, in any



Photo by Jillian Strouse

Junior midfielder Levi Haight was honorable mention in the G-MAC and one of several Yellow Jackets to be honored by the league.

game, you had to be very aware of," Faro said. "I was surprised in the best way."

Also recognized for their performances this season were junior goalkeeper Carter Selvius and senior midfielder Conner Hughes. Selvius was named to the all-G-MAC first team after playing all but 32 minutes in the 2018 season, ranking second in the league with his goals against average, at .77 and in shutouts at seven. Hughes was named to the all-G-MAC second team, a strong achievement for someone who missed his entire junior season. He started in all but one match, scored one goal and was tied for the most assists on his team with five. Junior midfielder Levi Haight was named honorable mention, scoring one goal and starting in all but two games this season.

"I could go on and on about who stepped

up in different games and different moments and I think that's what made this team so special," Faro said. "We didn't have to rely just on one guy."

Perhaps the most significant award recipient this season was Faro, who received the G-MAC Men's Soccer Coach of the Year award for the third time in his six years with the team. With Faro as coach, the Jackets are 63-28-12.

"For me, that kind of award speaks volumes to the team," Faro said. "Without a quality team I'm not going to get an award like that."

Next season, Faro has high expectations for his team despite losing nine seniors to graduation in the spring. He is confident in the young players that played well this year to show up in big ways next year and fill the

holes.

"We think we can be a program that is in the conversation to win the conference and go to the national tournament every year," he said.

Regardless, the program will continue to be one where life-change and life-transformation can happen and where athletes can grow in Christ. Faro feels blessed to be able to invest in the lives of the guys who come through the program, and he hopes that athletes leave the program feeling that blessing as well.

Abigail Hintz is a sophomore journalism major and sports writer for Cedars. She loves sending people GIFs, reading books and watching way more soccer than the average person.

Relationships, Not Record, Define Lady Jackets' Soccer Season



Photo by Scott Huck

Despite various struggles in the season, the Lady Jackets grew together as a team and finished with a 9-8 record.

by *Tim Smith*

The Cedarville women's soccer team finished the season on Oct. 27, losing to Walsh University 2-1 in the first round of the G-MAC tournament. The Lady Jackets finished the season 9-8 overall and sixth in the G-MAC. Though not the exact outcome coaches and players dreamed of, there were plenty of positive takeaways from 2018.

"A lot of good things came this year. A lot of blessings and a lot of victories," coach Jonathan Meade said.

Relationships Greater Than Record

From a soccer standpoint, the season was not entirely what the team expected.

"When you look in hindsight, this was the best team I have coached here in my three years, from top to bottom. But, from

a winning standpoint, it was more challenging this year," Meade said.

But for the players, and for coach Meade, this season is defined by more than the record and final outcome. Before the season started, the varsity team had the chance to go on a missions trip to Costa Rica.

"We started out with a missions trip to Costa Rica, and that really set the stage for the season from a relationship standpoint," Meade said. "It helped us zero in on our purpose, why we play, and things like that. It was a great way to start the season."

Freshman forward Olivia Hoffman was one of the players who was able to partake in the trip, and she believes it strengthened the team in more than just soccer.

"We came in from our mission trip with a lot of focus on why we were playing. It's

not necessarily to always win, but to show our faith in how we play and our lives off the field," Hoffman said.

Positive Takeaways from the Pitch

While the Costa Rica trip was an empowering experience, there were many positive takeaways from the soccer pitch this season as well.

"We had a great group of seniors this year, and they have left an invaluable legacy for the returners to follow and emulate to teach the next crop of players coming in," Meade said. "We also, though, have a large group coming back. We had some injuries to some very talented freshman and they didn't get to play for us this year. It will be great to get those players back and to get them playing."

Experience is a vital trait on the soccer field, and it is something that can't be

taught. Meade knows this, and sees this aspect of the team creating a successful future.

"There are a lot of positives going forward, a lot of returning players with experience. Next season, as we continue to grow, has the potential to be a better season."

Improvements Needed to Succeed

While there are positives, there's still weaknesses to work through. For the Lady Jackets, that comes in the form of scoring goals.

"Our biggest thing this year was that we didn't score enough. We need to score more goals, find more ways to score goals, just put the ball in the back of the net," said Meade.

The Lady Jackets sure had the opportunities to score. This season, they had 240 shots, compared to 150 shots from their opponents. But, the problem lies in the team's goal percentage.

The Lady Jackets had a goal percentage of 0.121, while their opponents garnered a percentage of 0.147. An increase in this percentage could lead to a much more successful season moving forward.

Big Aspirations for Next Year

The Lady Jackets have more than enough time to prepare for next season, and they have NCAA Tournament aspirations for 2019.

"We would love to get past the first round of the tournament. We haven't done that in awhile, and that is something we would love to accomplish. We want to win the G-MAC, and you can't do much better than that," Hoffman said.

But, those goals won't be easy to come by. Meade knows it will take a lot of hard work and determination this offseason to achieve these aspirations.

"We will start lifting in the winter, improving our technique, and having players hone in their individual skills for next season."

Tim Smith is a freshman journalism major and staff writer for Cedars. He loves football, 3 Musketeers candy, and primarily speaking in movie quotes.

CU Volleyball Ends Season on High Note



Photo by Scott Huck

Cedarville was one of the best teams in the G-MAC to close the season. They were 11-7 in the second half of the season to finish 13-18 in Greg Smith's first year as coach.

by *Tim Miller*

While the 2018 Cedarville volleyball season didn't see any major records broken, it may have been the most unique in the program's history. The team didn't have a head coach until June and had less than a month of allotted practice time to get used to head coach Greg Smith's new system.

Even so, the Lady Jackets finished their season as one of the hottest teams in the G-MAC, going 11-7 in the second half of the season and winning the final five games.

"My expectation was for the team to improve, and that expectation was met for sure," Smith said.

After a tumultuous 2-11 start to the season, Cedarville looked like it was in the midst of a complete rebuild. However, the team was able to learn Smith's philosophy and get into a rhythm in the second half of the season.

"We changed things offensively, defensively, and pretty much everywhere but the team jumped right on the train and grew into it pretty fast," senior outside hitter Taylor Wilkerson said. "I liked the changes and I believe how he runs this team is going to be re-

ally successful in the future of this program."

Wilkerson, among others, saw a complete upheaval in the way they used to play. Wilkerson found herself in the back row much more than she did in her first three seasons at Cedarville, which led to a career-high in digs (more than doubling her old mark). She also led the team in kills (366), points (420.5), and service aces (40), all of which were top-10 in the conference.

The theme of the season was improvement, and Wilkerson said the team's ability to continually respond to adversity allowed them to get better as the season droned on.

"I think we showed how much we changed and improved over the course of the season," Wilkerson said. "We definitely didn't accomplish everything that we said we wanted to, but we never gave up, and I thought we really became strong through that."

The team was once again carried in part by sophomore middle hitter Lauren Willow's play. Now earning an all-G-MAC selection in each of her first two seasons, Willow has the chance to become the anchor for the Lady Jackets in the second half of her Cedarville career.

Willow was named to the G-MAC first team this year after finishing with 278 kills

and top-10 conference totals in blocks and hitting percentage.

"She is definitely better than being an All-G-MAC player," Smith said. "The expectations for her are gonna be pretty high for the next two years. We have to make sure she doesn't get satisfied because the team needs her to be very good."

The conference will become more acquainted with freshman outside hitter Sara Beste as she continues to grow with the Lady Jackets. A native of Cedarville, Beste had seen her fair share of Lady Jacket volleyball. However, she said she still didn't know what to expect coming into her freshman season.

Beste's playing time grew throughout the season, and she eventually became a starter. She finished third on the team in kills and saw her role expand, as she was recruited to be a defensive specialist by Cedarville's former coaching staff.

"I want to keep working hard to develop as a player and keep earning a position on the court," Beste said. "I want to be a person that coach can rely on to get the job done."

Cedarville would've finished in the top of the G-MAC if the second half of the season was the measuring stick. Obviously, that's not the case. However, the Lady Jackets won

10 of their final 13 conference games.

The strong finish to the season should put the conference on notice. Further, the Lady Jackets lose just two seniors (Wilkerson and Faith Ferris, who had 157 kills), so they'll maintain most of their depth and experience from this season.

Smith said he liked what he saw from this year's team and will have higher expectations for 2019.

"It was a success in the fact that they never quit," Smith said. "It was a success in the fact that the second half of the season was 11-7 and there were a lot of positives to take out of it. I'm looking for us to be a lot better."

Beste was more bold in her predictions for next season, saying the entire conference should be on notice of the Lady Jackets.

"I want to win the G-MAC and I know without a doubt we have the ability to do so," Beste said. "They better watch out for us because we are just getting started."

Tim Miller is a junior marketing major and sports editor for Cedars. He enjoys having a baby face, knowing too much about supplemental insurance, and striving to perfect the optimal combination of Dwight Schrute and Ron Swanson.

Thanksgiving Competition



Photo provided by homewaffles

This delightfully delicious looking neighborhood captured the Cedars editors attention. Thank you for sharing this photo with us.



Photo provided by lea.photo

The level of exhaustion and peace reflected in this photo connects with the Cedars staff at a deep level. Good job expressing how most of us felt entering break.

Photo provided by pixtureperfect99

Last but certainly not least, the almost obligatory shadowed image in front of a brilliant sunset. The colors are vivid and flying hair keeps us in suspense of the movement to follow.

