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CEDARS

The Award-Winning Student News Publication of Cedarville University

January 2019

GOING NOWHERE BUT UP

TOWEL GANG



ALSO INSIDE:

Gabe Pyle: alum, professor, author

InSight rover lands on Mars

Elsie, the Cedarville band to know



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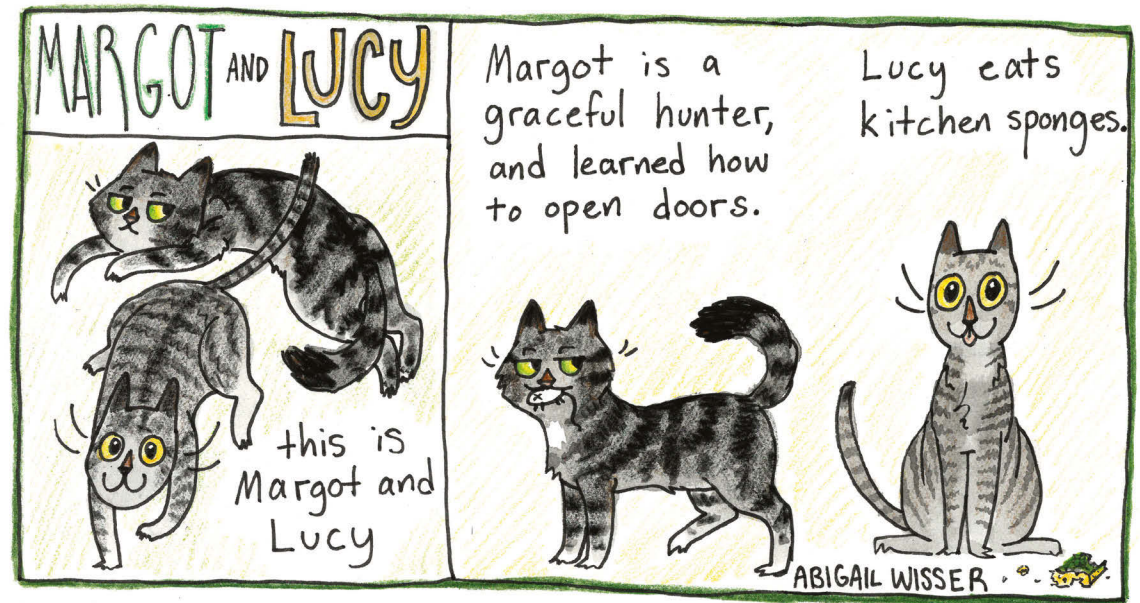
Faculty adviser Jeff Gilbert

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Cover and 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



Alexandria Hentschel
Off-Campus



Tim Miller
Sports



Callahan Jones
Digital and Design



Tasha Peterson
Photography

Just Sayin' ... Alex Hentschel

Poverty and the Gospel

Hello. Nice to meet you.

I am a middle-class, white American woman. Growing up, I always had something to eat, presents on Christmas morning, sweaters for the winter, and now my parents have a house in the suburbs. I'm attending college, a monstrous expense, without worrying (too much) about how it will affect my future.

I have an American passport which allows me into most of the world's countries if I can just afford the plane ticket to go. I am a native English speaker, which means I can walk into any establishment from a restaurant in Israel to the U.N. General Assembly and expect to be understood.



I can say that I have never felt hunger or thirst for longer than a few hours unless I was intentionally fasting. Food has never been a paramount concern. I have never, ever wondered if I will go hungry. I have never, ever struggled to find somewhere to sleep. I have two jobs which pay me moderately well — enough to afford a \$5 latte once a week, my textbooks for my classes and small luxuries.

All of this means that I am wealthy — considering that 10 percent of the world's population lives on less than \$1.90 a day, according to the World Bank. The number of Americans living under the poverty line in 2017 was 39.7 million. On the global scale, I am exorbitantly wealthy.

Why is this important? Jesus said that it is harder for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Is this because it is evil to be rich? (I've debated that question for days, but I certainly can't give an authoritative "yes," so we'll give a tentative "no." I still think that if you can afford things like jumbo jets and yachts, you have a large amount of excess money to give to the starving.) It is because, I believe, it is impossible for a rich man to recognize his need for God, without divine intervention from the Holy Spirit. Because ...

It is incredibly difficult to see miracles if everything is provided for you. If you have no need for the Lord to provide for you

the way he does for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, if you are completely self-sufficient in your nourishment and safety, you have precious little room to see God provide for you.

Maybe our hearts are so hardened to miracles because we have become our own miracle-makers.

I am not saying you should sell everything you have as God commanded the man in Matthew 19. I'm just posing a question and a challenge: Let's situate ourselves in a global context and wonder how much we really need, and whether, in our individualism and self-sufficiency, we are leaving no room for God to work.

I am not arguing that it is a sin to have nice things. Surely everything you have has been provided for by a loving and generous God. I am only arguing that our lack of need for Him physically may be contributing to our lack of need for Him spiritually — we should think about how to fix that.

God commands us to care for and identify with the poor among us. James even calls this "true religion." So how do we do that, instead of just looking at PowerPoint slides of starving children, feeling sympathetic, donating some money and returning to our air-conditioned dorm rooms?

You don't need to go to central Africa to see the poor. Go out to the city center in Dayton. In my time in Valencia, some of the best conversations I had were with the homeless. I watched a man take the food we brought and cheerfully portion it out for the cats, because "they need to eat too." The face of Jesus, the character of Jesus, is there with the needy.

We need a revolution, church. We need to be saved from our wealth. We need to feel a true need for God — if not physically starving, then spiritually starving.

I'll close with a quote that's been bothering me for several weeks:

"How can you worship a homeless man on Sunday morning and then ignore another homeless man in the street on Monday?"

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.



What's it like being newly married?

Keegan D'Alfonso

Cedars Editor-in-Chief



In the past month of being married I have received one question more than any other. "How's married life?" or something along those lines.

It seems like a benign question. It

is certainly an awkward question. How does one answer such a question?

Normally, I will say "it's good, but a bit of an adjustment." To be honest I don't give the question justice, but to be fair it is a poor question.

Marriage is an amazing gift that is meant to display Christ and His church. But it is also the union of two sinful people becoming one flesh. If you think dealing with your own sins are rough, try merging them with the sins of another.

Don't get me wrong. I love being married, but suddenly living with someone and knowing it's for life means you're both going to have to put some serious mileage on your communication skills and fill up on a lot of grace if you haven't already.

Nothing has been more rewarding and more challenging in my spiritual growth and movement to Christ-likeness than being married. And that's only in the last month! I look forward to, God willing, the many years to come as we grow old together.

If I were to answer the question of "How's married life?" with the respect it deserves, I'd have to say that it reminds me every day of my need for Christ and forces me to rely less on myself. My wife and I must now share our burdens more than ever before. And the greatest challenge is not supporting your spouse with their burdens but trusting your spouse with your own.

BEOC
(Big Event On Campus)

WINTER PLAY - 'APPOINTMENT WITH DEATH'
Jan 31 - Feb 10, DeVries Theatre

Cedarville's theatre department puts on one of Agatha Christie's most suspenseful plays, which begins with a group of tourists visiting the ancient town of Petra in Jordan.

Fit to be Tied

Cedarville equips dating and engaged couples with tools to prepare and strengthen their marriages

by Madeline Mosher

Over 1,000 couples in 25 years. That's the going rate for Cedarville's Fit to Be Tied, a year-long marital counseling program that seeks to prepare seriously dating and engaged students for marriage. Fit to Be Tied consists of three parts: personality and pre-marriage assessments, five sessions taught by CU faculty and meetings with mentor couples.

Dr. Tom and Amy Hutchison teach the personalities in marriage and communication and conflict sessions. Both of these sessions emphasize communication as an important component in a couples' preparation for marriage.

"The goal of a program like this is not to give exact answers, it's never a fill-in-the-blank type thing," said Tom, a professor of Christian education. "It's much more about getting [the couples] talking with each other."

But it's also about equipping couples. Tom and Amy both used the word "tools," illustrating their mission to give couples the skills they need to deal with conflict, decisions, and issues like different personalities and family backgrounds.

According to Tom, Fit to be Tied comes at just the right time for couples to talk about their relationship before they begin their married life together.

Tom, who is a Cedarville graduate, pastored at what is now Spring Creek Community Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, before coming to Cedarville. While there, Tom and Amy taught a class for soon-to-be and recently married couples, and they found during the first year and half that the couples wanted to talk about things pertaining to their relationship, like communication, finance, in-laws and schedules. After that, the couples wanted the class to cover other topics. As Tom put it, their windows for interaction with and about their relationship had closed.

During Fit to Be Tied, these windows are still open, couples want to talk to each



Photo by Kelsey Feuerhak

Tom and Amy Hutchison speak together at the Fit to be Tied seminar to help prepare engaged couples for marriage.

other and other people about their relationship, and they can begin to handle any major issues that may come up during the early years of their marriage.

One way they can do this is through the five sessions, presented on different nights during the school year. These sessions cover the meaning of marriage, personalities and marriage, conflict and communication, finances, and sex and intimacy.

The first session is taught by Jon Wood, vice president of Student Life and Christian Ministries and an assistant professor of theological studies, and his wife Ellen.

Although Jon's job requires him to be a part of Fit to Be Tied, he said that he and Ellen also want to work with the program.

When the Woods were in college, their relationship was impacted by another couple, and now they want to be the couple doing the impacting.

"We might walk with a dating couple or an engaged couple ... in all likelihood they probably are going to get married, which is

going to mean, Lord willing, decades ahead of life together and also potentially a family, with them having children, them being members of a church, or churches, throughout their lifetime, all the jobs they will hold — everything that they will do in their lives, we have [the] opportunity to influence," Jon said.

The Hutchisons are also a mentor couple, which is Amy's favorite part of Fit to be Tied. She enjoys watching couples learn about themselves and about each other.

Once, a couple that Tom and Amy had mentored asked them to do a marriage retreat at their church, and that stood out to Tom among many other moments over the last 24 years. He has also been asked to officiate wedding ceremonies. Some couples call Tom and Amy on their anniversaries, reminiscing about the history of their relationship, and remembering their time with Fit to Be Tied and the Hutchisons.

Tom also said that times when a couple has a breakthrough or is able to talk about issues that they haven't verbalized before,

and they are better able to understand each other, are all special moments.

Tom said marriage and the family are a big part of being human.

"If you talk to anybody about the most pressing issue in life," he said, "what they talk about the most, what they think about the most, what has the most significant impact in their lives, is the family."

People need intimacy, Tom said, and God designed the family, and the marriage relationship within it, to help satisfy that craving.

Tom said that whether students are dating or not, romantic relationships are important to them. And when students are preparing to make their own families, he wants to help them lay a foundation for a healthy one.

Madeline Mosher is a sophomore journalism major and a Campus News Co-editor for Cedars. When she's not complaining about homework or having a snack, she enjoys coffee, words, and rock 'n' roll.

Definitely Not an Octopus

Professor reflects on the growth of his department and the unexpected writing of his book

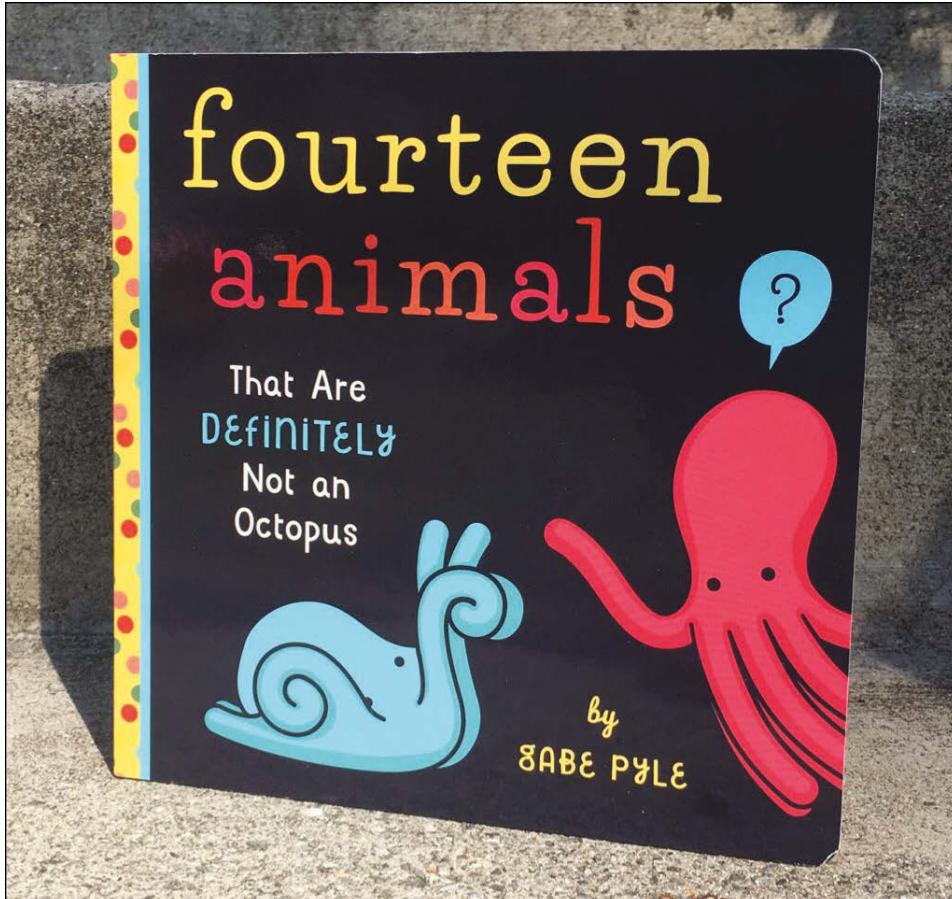


Photo courtesy of Gabe Pyle

Gabe Pyle was inspired by the octopus in the Disney Pixar movie “Finding Dory” when creating his children’s book.

by Zach Krauss

Professor Gabe Pyle teaches industrial design students the intricacies of innovation and the art of creation at the International Center for Creativity (ICC) in Columbus. He recently signed a book deal based on one of his T-shirt designs and is excited about the opportunities to come for both him and his students.

Pyle graduated from Cedarville University in 2012 with an industrial design degree. He serves as a professor for Cedarville’s junior and senior industrial design students, who spend the last two years of

their degree plan at the ICC focusing solely on perfecting their art through module-style learning.

In college, Pyle’s original area of study was art with a focus on engineering. The first cohort of industrial design students began their studies in 2010 and Pyle was asked to switch to the industrial design degree plan.

After graduating in 2012, Pyle worked as a teaching assistant for the ICC while also working on a master’s degree from Minneapolis College of Art and Design in Minnesota. In 2015, Pyle began as an industrial design professor at the growing ICC.

Pyle also uses his art skills through a hobby: T-shirt designing. He began designing shirts in college as way to spend free time while still honing his skills and as a way to earn extra money. Occasionally T-shirt design companies like Shirt Woot or Threadless would come across his ideas and pay him for the ideas.

Threadless was hosting a contest with “disguise” as the prompt, and Pyle began thinking of ideas. Having recently watched the film “Finding Dory,” which includes a character named Hank, who is an octopus, he was inspired.

His concept design, “Twelve Animals (That Are Definitely Not an Octopus),” won the competition and earned quite a bit of popularity not only on the Threadless website, but also on other blogs and websites. Familius Publishing discovered the idea and asked him if he would be interested in working on a book based on the concept. Eventually, Pyle helped produce the book that now features 14 animals (none of them an octopus), and he’s excited that he’s able to share his work with a broader audience through the adaptation of his art.

Pyle said that while the book deal has been an exciting opportunity for him, one of the things he loves about working at the ICC is being able to work so closely with the students he instructs. He said working so long with the students until they leave after two years with more ideas than even they could imagine is extremely rewarding.

“It’s a bittersweet thing, really,” Pyle said. “I love being able to help these students day after day on the same projects. A lot of times these students are in the same building as me until very late at night, and I get to work very closely with them.”

Senior industrial design major Jennifer Yosinski said she has been impressed by the genuine and caring heart of Pyle and his desire to help students succeed.

“My favorite thing about working with



Photo courtesy of Gabe Pyle

Gabe Pyle is a children’s book author and adjunct instructor of Industrial and Innovative Design at the International Center for Creativity, Cedarville’s Industrial Design campus in Columbus.

[Professor Pyle] is the overt sense that he understands and cares about who you are as a person and how that affects your work,” Yosinski said in an email interview. “He’s also definitely the best professor I’ve had the pleasure of learning from; nobody clarifies things like Gabe.”

Pyle said developments like the writing of his book are exactly the kind of example he wants to encourage at ICC. He said that the ICC continues to push students not only to be good illustrators, painters, or sculptors, but rather to become solid thinkers who know how to put their ideas into action and work with them in new ways.

“Industrial designers are creators who solve problems, often through their art,” Pyle said, “and I’m always so excited to see how much they can be pushed to do their very best.”

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

Living As Prescribed

Cedarville student launches faith-inspired athletic wear company

by Bryson Durst

Senior year can often be a frantic time for graduating students, with finding a job, internship or graduate school among the top concerns. Cedarville marketing major and CrossFit trainer Ryan Husband, however, is pursuing an even more ambitious goal: building up his own “faith-based fitness apparel company,” LRX Apparel.

Ryan and others working for his year-old company hope not only to increase their brand’s presence in the exercise community, but also to use it to further the name of Jesus Christ in gyms and fitness centers throughout the country.

The name LRX is a play on an acronym that stands for “live as prescribed.” In Husband’s words, LRX’s primary goal is to inspire others “to live to the fullest purpose possible,” a life based around the gospel.

Husband founded the company in September 2017. He had previously played soccer for two years at the University of Findlay before transferring to Cedarville, was inspired by a sermon at church and a follow-up conversation with his pastor to find a way to use his God-given passion for fitness for Christ’s glory.

Since then, Husband and the LRX team have looked for ways to apply the gospel to the realm of exercise, with a current focus on exercise wear and fitness events at gyms across the country. Husband’s desire for the future is to see LRX develop “into more of a lifestyle-oriented brand.”

LRX sells a variety of clothing items including T-shirts (short sleeve, baseball, and long sleeve), hoodies, hats and tank tops. One of LRX’s product lines is its “American Collection” of shirts and hoodies. According to the LRX website, “10 percent of the purchase price” of items in this line will support veterans in the Team Red, White, and Blue program.

In 2019, LRX hopes to start selling

sweatpants, as well as a line of T-shirts inspired by the testimonies of LRX supporters.

In addition to clothing, LRX has also participated in nearly 20 “faith workouts” in gyms around the nation, from nearby Columbus to distant Oklahoma. Husband is working to add more locations to this list in the near future.

The goal of these events, according to Husband, is “ministry outreach through fitness.” These sessions consist of Ryan’s testimony, a workout and a prayer at the end.

In other efforts to fulfill that goal, Husband hopes to expand his company’s LRX Training program in 2019. He said the purpose of the training program is to “develop Christian leaders in the gym to effectively share the gospel.”

In order to spread awareness of both LRX and its evangelistic purpose, Husband created an ambassador program, which he described as “a community of leaders in the fitness world.” Beyond promoting LRX as a company, the ambassador program is designed to help members grow in their faith and their ability to live their faith out in a fitness environment.

According to LRX ambassador Aaron Johnston, LRX ambassadors are encouraged to post content to Instagram and other social networks on monthly “Live Prescribed Days.” Ambassadors can earn discount codes and other rewards through these events. In addition, ambassadors can help get the word out by simply wearing LRX clothing in fitness environments.

Anyone interested in finding more information can head to lrxapparel.com. In addition, the company has a Facebook page titled “LRX Apparel,” and Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat accounts @lrx-apparel.

Bryson Durst is a freshman Biblical Studies major. He enjoys theology, history, playing strategy games with friends, and anything “Star Wars” related.



Photo by Caden Huston

Ryan Husband founded his faith-based fitness company, LRX Apparel, to inspire others to live a gospel-centered life.



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Following God's Call

Rev. Greg Dyson moves to Taylor University in his mission to support kingdom diversity

by Emma Waywood

Rev. Greg Dyson was the director of Intercultural Leadership at Cedarville University for five years. But, starting Jan. 1 of this year, he has moved on to a similar position at Taylor University.

Dyson has carried a personal passion for multiculturalism and diversity since first stepping onto Cedarville's campus and will continue to maintain that passion long after he has gone.

A Cedarville alumnus, Dyson was the dean of admissions at Word of Life Bible Institute in New York before returning to Ohio. In 2014, before he had been announced as Cedarville's next president, Dr. Thomas White approached Dyson at Word of Life. White was hoping to make the university he led look "more like heaven" when it came to student diversity, and he wanted Dyson's help.

"How do we not take the world's perspective on something like diversity, but a biblical perspective that would allow us to really celebrate what God has done?" Dyson asked.

This was the question the two men sought to answer at Cedarville. Through several talks and extensive prayer with White, Dyson decided to come to the university as the director of Intercultural Leadership.

The position includes multiple aspects: instructing faculty on how to best approach a certain topic or subject in class, organizing field trips such as the Civil Rights Bus Tour, speaking in classes about certain past experiences, defining important terminology like diversity and multiculturalism, and coming alongside incoming students and their parents in order to make them more comfortable on campus.

"I'm kind of like the assist on a basketball team," Dyson said. "I'm trying to figure out how I can help someone else accomplish the thing they are trying to accomplish."

Dyson said he was very passionate about his position at Cedarville. He reminisced on how parts of his own life, such as a fear of animals, have helped to give him the tools he needed to be used by God at Cedarville. Every time Dyson sees animals, he is reminded of how other people feel when

faced with something strange and unfamiliar to them.

"It's always possible for someone to get afraid of something they shouldn't be afraid of," Dyson said. "God made everyone, and He made us all different. I'm naturally afraid of animals; some people are naturally afraid of figuring out how we can live together and serve the Lord together. But when we do it, it's awesome."

During his time at Cedarville, Dyson impacted sophomore nursing major Rebecca Miller, who is also a member of the church Dyson pastors, First Baptist Church of London, Ohio.

"His boldness is what I've learned the most from him," Miller said. "He's so unashamed of his faith; when he's preaching, he says such powerful things, and he doesn't care if it's offensive or difficult for people to hear, because it's what God commands him to say. He's taught me so much about how to be a person after God's own heart, because I see that so much in him."

Even with his work at Cedarville and at his church, Dyson began to have a distinct feeling that he could do more for Christ. Through his work, he'd visited several Christian campuses and seen the struggles they undergo in the area of multiculturalism. He came across an opening at Taylor University titled "Special Assistant to the President for Intercultural Initiatives." He said that the Lord prompted him to investigate that position until he realized how much of an impact he could have on their program. After prayer, and guidance from White, Dyson took the job at Taylor.

Miller attested to the godliness and faith that prompted Dyson to make the move.

"I know this is something God wants him to do, and I've seen the impact he's had on me and a lot of the other students here, so being able to let him do that somewhere else is going to be really cool." Miller said.

Dyson was excited to share that his position at Cedarville will be filled and extended to the title of "Special Advisor to the President for Kingdom Diversity." As of Jan. 1, Dr. Anthony Moore took this on along with his other duties. Dyson also said he will continue to pastor First Baptist Church until they can find someone to replace him.

Though Dyson and his family will miss the home they've built at Cedarville, he said that he was certain that the school would successfully move on without him.

Emma Waywood is a freshman journalism major and an arts and entertainment reporter for Cedars. She enjoys singing in Concert Chorale, watching reruns of "Friends," and writing random novel ideas that never get anywhere.



Photo by Lauren Jacobs

The beloved Rev. Greg Dyson will continue making an impact for Christ at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana.

'Touchdown Confirmed'

Lander gives new Insight into geology of Mars

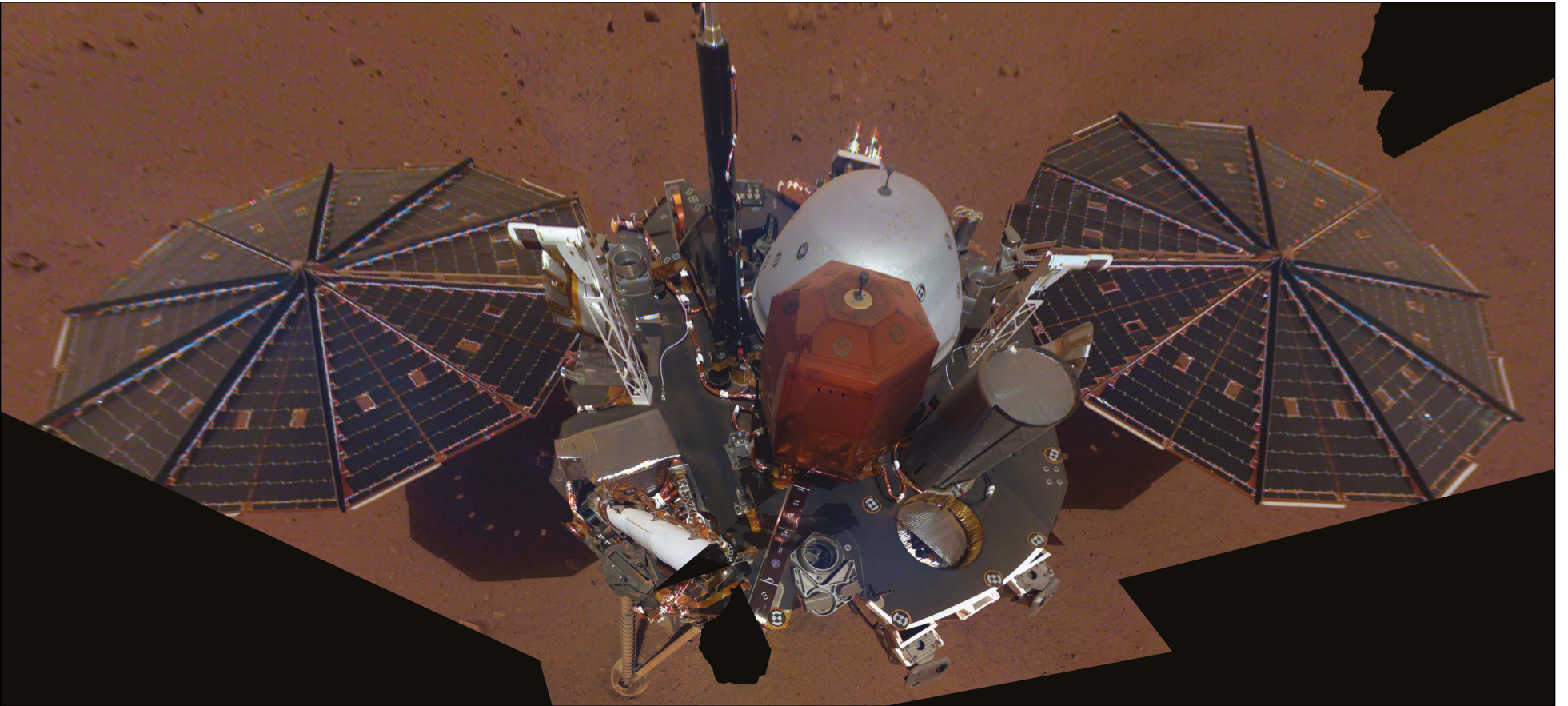


Photo courtesy of NASA/JPL-Caltech

This is NASA InSight's first full selfie on Mars. It displays the lander's solar panels and deck. On top of the deck are its science instruments, weather sensor booms and UHF antenna. The selfie is made up of 11 images which were taken by its Instrument Deployment Camera, located on the elbow of its robotic arm. Those images are then stitched together into a mosaic.

by Breanna Beers

On Nov. 26, 2018, at 2:53 p.m., a room full of scientists erupted into cheers.

The Mars InSight lander finally completed its six-month journey to touch down on the red planet after six years of active development. While previous Mars missions typically used parachutes to drift down through the planet's thin atmosphere, InSight had its own set of rockets to slow its descent and precisely position its landing location — an impressive feat, according to physics professor Dr. Steven Gollmer.

"The way they were able to land it this

time as opposed to other means that they've used in the past, it just indicates again there's just an ongoing progress in our ability to do things with precision and to accomplish our goals effectively," Gollmer said.

This achievement is especially notable since, depending on Mars' position relative to Earth, it can take between four and 20 minutes for a radio signal from Earth to reach Mars, so the entire landing had to be preprogrammed rather than controlled in real time. NASA engineers call the entry-to-landing phase "seven minutes of terror."

"Once something goes into space there's no way you can fix it," Gollmer explained. "That's why the expense for space travel is

so large: one, it just costs a lot to move any kind of payload into space, but then also the expectation for reliability is so much greater than what we'd have for, let's say, a car coming off of the assembly line or a refrigerator coming out of a plant."

InSight is scheduled for a two-year mission to explore the geology of Mars, though scientists hope the lander will continue to operate beyond the duration of this mission. For now, InSight is focusing on three main projects: determining whether Mars' core is molten or solid, analyzing how heat is conducted through the planet's interior, and measuring Mars' seismic activity.

Since Earth's strong magnetic field is

partly due to its liquid outer core, Mars' extremely weak magnetic field has caused some scientists to speculate that its core may have solidified since the planet's formation. The Rotation and Internal Structure Experiment, or RISE, consists of two antenna on top of the lander that reflect radio waves back to Earth and allow scientists to track the exact location of the lander in space. From this data, they can deduce subtle variations in the rotation of Mars over the course of InSight's two-year mission.

"They're going to have the level of precision to determine how stable the axis of Mars' rotation is," Gollmer said. "If it's a very stable one, that would imply that Mars' inte-

rior is probably solid; if it tends to have a little bit more wobble to it than expected, then that will probably indicate that there is some molten material still in the interior of Mars.”

HP3, the lander’s heat probe, will also be able to detect how much natural heat is coming from the planet’s interior, possibly shedding further light on this question. HP3 will burrow five meters into Mars’ surface, deeper than humans have ever dug on any planet besides Earth. The probe will drag a long tether behind it that anchors it to the lander. Every 50 centimeters, the probe will emit a pulse of heat, allowing the sensors along the tether to track how heat travels within Mars’ interior.

This data gives scientists more information about the internal composition of the planet, including potential structural similarities to Earth. The HP3 experiment is a crucial start to learning more about the mysteries underground, which could be significant if a manned mission is ever sent to Mars. There may be frozen water, useful minerals or potential raw materials for fuel.

InSight’s final instrument, the seismometer, was placed on the planet’s surface by the lander’s robotic arm on December 19, 2018. This instrument measures seismic waves from “marsquakes.” While earthquakes are caused by the shifting tectonic plates that make up Earth’s crust, Mars’ surface appears to be one continuous layer. However, Gollmer said, this does not mean the planet is seismically inactive.

“Even as a solid object, there will be stresses and strains applied to Mars just due to its interaction with the sun’s gravitational field,” Gollmer said. “That could cause some shifts of the material inside of Mars, and anytime there’s any kind of significant shifting, that’s what we would call a quake. ... It’s probably those tidal stresses that are going to initiate any kind of marsquakes.”

The seismometer is also equipped with an array of wind, pressure, temperature, and magnetic field sensors, which allow it to sense surface vibrations from weather systems such as dust storms. NASA has already released the first recordings of the sound of Martian wind captured by the seismometer.

The InSight mission reflects a larger interest in exploring the red planet, including the possibility of one day establishing a hu-

man colony on Mars. According to chemistry professor and former NASA scientist Dr. Doug Miller, interest in further moon missions has dwindled since the 1960s. Meanwhile, Mars has captured the attention of both national and private space organizations not just as a scientific opportunity, but as a potential future investment.

“The moon has no atmosphere. Mars has something,” Miller said. “Mars has ice and carbon dioxide. The moon, not so much. So you’ve got an atmosphere, you’ve got water, you’ve got carbon dioxide. You’ve got things to work with. You can actually mine minerals on Mars. There’s all sorts of interesting things you can do on Mars that you can’t really do on an airless, small satellite.”

Additionally, while the moon’s gravity is 17 percent of Earth’s, Mars’ gravity reaches 38 percent — still weak, but better than the moon’s. Gravity is significant not just for the construction of a colony, but for the health of visiting astronauts on temporary missions.

When human muscles and bones carry only 38 percent of the body weight they should, they can weaken. Some astronauts who spend significant amounts of time in low-gravity environments come back taller because their back bones spread, with faces puffed by accumulated fluid. Even if all the other obstacles to sustaining life on Mars are overcome — from oxygen to food supply to radiation — gravity remains a significant hurdle.

Even beyond the technical and physical obstacles, any manned mission to Mars would have to grapple with the psychological toll that long-term confinement would have on the crew. The trips to the moon were a few days; a mission to Mars would likely be upwards of 18 months. Given some limited simulation experiments on Earth, some experts suspect that maintaining the mental health of the crew might be a bigger obstacle than the technical challenges.

While sending a crew to Mars is likely a long way off, Gollmer thinks the InSight mission is still of value.

“If we just go to Mars just to land there and say we did it, that’d be a bit anticlimactic,” Gollmer said. “But if we actually have some interesting questions that we’re trying to answer, the more data we have, the better questions we’re going to be able to pose before

a manned mission actually goes to Mars.”

Gollmer also sees another, larger benefit to exploring the possibility of a manned mission to Mars: the technological advancements that come out of doing pure research to solve hard problems.

“My concern is we think of it more as an engineering project as opposed to an investment in maintaining and advancing our understanding of the universe and the world itself,” Gollmer said. “There are a number of spin-off technologies that came out of the space program that were not the main objective, but because we were trying to do something hard, we gained lots of side benefits.”

Space exploration can lead research down avenues scientists otherwise might not have the funding to pursue. For instance, scientists at the Kennedy Space Center are developing a reactor to convert waste produced by astronauts into gas that can be used as fuel. It’s an urgent problem on a small ship without the storage space to waste on trash, but it’s also easy to see useful applications for

this technology here on Earth.

“I think we see a lot more students coming through interested in more of the professional programs like engineering and nursing because they see the practical application of the science,” Gollmer said. “But to actually do the hard science and the exploration — if we are going to keep our technological edge in this country, we are going to need that.”

The InSight lander is one step in this direction. RISE is already collecting data, HP3’s burrowing site has been selected, and the seismometer will begin operations within the next few weeks. Over the next two years, the secrets of Mars’ interior will gradually be unlocked — perhaps paving the way for a human crew in the years to come.

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.

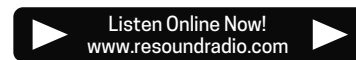
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The United States Immigration Crisis

Powerful for politicians and resistant to reform

by Breanna Beers

The United States has often been called a nation of immigrants. The most recent wave of immigration, however, is different from many that came before it, both in quantity and in kind.

According to Cedarville's political science professor Dr. Mark Caleb Smith, concerns about immigration have heightened as the number of refugees worldwide skyrocketed to 25.4 million, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

"We're looking at tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, sometimes millions of people immigrating into a country," Smith said. "There's a fair bit of difficulty that comes with incorporating large pockets of people like that."

The number of new immigrants entering each year has actually fallen since its peak in 2005, according to Pew Research Center. Even so, more than half of U.S. population growth over the past 70 years has been because of immigrants, their children, and their grandchildren.

The landscape of immigration to the U.S. has shifted in recent years. Historically, immigration to the United States was dominated by very distant countries such as Ireland, Italy or Japan. Today, however, over half the immigrants residing in the U.S. come from Mexico or other Latin American countries, according to the Pew Research Center.

"That alters their incentives to assimilate," Smith said. "It provides them the ability to go back and forth ... to stay attached to that culture because they don't feel attached to our culture."

According to Smith, providing a clear path to citizenship would alter these incentives by formally declaring the U.S. "home" and alleviating the responsibility many feel to often return to their country of origin. As things stand, however, the path to legally immigrate, let alone obtain citizenship, is a

long and difficult one.

Legal immigration can only be sought under three categories: request of an employer, reunification of a family and protection for refugees and asylum seekers. Many would-be immigrants simply don't fit any of these three categories, and even if they do, they face per-country caps and long wait times often spanning over a decade even with a family connection, according to the American Immigration Council. According to history and law professor Dr. Marc Clauson, the process to legally enter the U.S. is outdated and needlessly cumbersome.

"It's bureaucracy," Clauson said. "They develop more and more and more rules that tend to accumulate, and that makes it harder to get into the system. The key is to make the processing quick, easy and cheap. Basically it should be a simple system that requires only a very strict screening of people to make sure they're not criminals coming in. Otherwise I think we should feel free to let them in."

Clauson argued that immigration should essentially be open to anyone, removing per-country and occupation quotas, while retaining strict screening to block criminals and terrorists. Streamlining this system would incentivize legal immigration and enable more consistent enforcement of the border.

However, while systematic reform could help prevent future problems, the U.S. still has to consider the estimated 10.7 million undocumented immigrants currently living within its borders, according to Pew Research Center.

Illegal immigrants are decried as criminals fleeing prosecution, parasites of the welfare economy and thieves of American jobs. However, numerous studies indicate that undocumented immigrants have little effect on the crime rate, typically pay more into the tax system than they take out, and work primarily in sectors avoided by American workers. Though illegal immigration

numbers have fallen over the last decade, many Americans still grow increasingly concerned.

"For most people it seems to be just a sense of injustice," Clauson said. "The borders have become so porous that these people are just allowed to come in. It takes years for them to be processed, and in the meantime they can disappear. They may not be criminals, true, but they still came in illegally. They didn't follow the rules."

This sense of unfairness combines with concerns over shifting culture and fears about national security, amplified by rapid globalization, sensationalist media, and changes to the immigration landscape. In Clauson's view, both sides tend to go too quickly to extremes. He acknowledges that deportation seems an impractical solution on such a massive scale, but full amnesty would likely incentivize further illegal immigration.

Instead, Clauson favors a model that involves a small fine, then sets participants on a path to citizenship, with further fines if they fail to complete each stage of the documentation process. This system has the dual benefit of incentivizing following the legal procedure from the outset while still allowing currently undocumented residents to retroactively enter the process — it would at least partially pay for itself.

Various other solutions have been proposed, both for managing illegal immigration and for reforming the process for legal entry. Despite disagreements over what changes need to be made, both sides of the aisle broadly agree that the current immigration system is outdated and overdue for reform.

However, the only legislation since the Homeland Security Act in the wake of 9/11 were the Secure Fence Act of 2006, a largely ineffective act mandating a still-incomplete fence along the southern border, and a series of executive orders from Presidents Obama and Trump. In other words, Con-

gress can't agree on anything.

The polarized dialogue around immigration precludes reform, Clauson said. It's easier to build walls on the border than it is to actually deal with the outdated and inefficient system for legal entry.

"It's a dangerous political football," Clauson said. "They don't want to hold it. They want to get rid of it to somebody else. No matter what you do, you're in political hot water, so they don't do anything."

However, it's not just that the parties are stymied by fears about re-election. In many ways, they, along with other political entities, actually benefit from the divisive dialogue surrounding immigration, which raises the emotions and engagement of voters.

"There are too many people in positions who benefit from the strife," Smith said. "Think of the media outlets, think of the politicians, think of the parties, think of the interest groups. For the media, Donald Trump is gold. For interest groups on both sides, this is fundraising, this is volunteers, this is activism, this is passion. They can't manufacture that stuff."

While partisan issues can force their way through Congress when one side obtains a majority, immigration policy does not split neatly down party lines. Instead of dividing liberals from conservatives, Smith said, immigration divides elites from the rest of the country. For liberal elites, immigration can bolster the progressive voter base, while for conservative elites, immigration can provide cheap labor for business interests. This division of interests may be one reason why reforming the immigration system is such a challenging political project, Smith said.

"It would take push from the people into the system to the point that the system feels pressured to change something," Smith said. "I think Donald Trump has done some of that, but he's created so many enemies in so many other ways that he's not in a good position to solve this

problem.”

Passions over the changing immigration landscape have been heightened to an unforeseen degree by the rise of President Donald Trump. For better or for worse, Smith said, the president’s rhetoric and policy has brought immigration back into the spotlight of American politics.

“Trump not only talked about [immigration]; he weaponized it,” Smith said. “If you listened to a Democrat and a Republican talk about these issues four, six, eight years ago, they would disagree on elements, but they would agree on most of the fundamentals. Donald Trump doesn’t agree with anybody on the fundamentals.”

That, Smith acknowledged, is exactly what got President Trump elected, and the very reason why his proponents support him. However, Smith worries that in the process, President Trump may have sacrificed the ability to work with other people to resolve the issues he has brought to light.

Amid one of the greatest refugee crises in history, President Trump lowered the maximum refugee quota to 45,000, the lowest it has been since 1980. President Trump’s promised wall along the border between the

U.S. and Mexico, while yet to materialize, remains a hot political topic stalling the Congressional budget. The controversy is amplified by the caravan of Central American migrants that reached the southern border in November. Whether one views these policies favorably or not, it cannot be denied that President Trump’s polarizing rhetoric has transformed the way immigration is discussed in the United States.

Many see President Trump as merely the reflection of a global resurgence of nationalist and populist ideology. In response to rapid globalization, economic slowdown and rising inequality, many populations worldwide are now demanding that their leaders invest in walls rather than bridges. Clauson summarized it succinctly: “Fear gets immediate results.”

In the meantime, immigration is still changing, especially in the U.S. Due to a decline in immigration from Mexico, the majority of new immigrants in the last five years come from Asian countries, accounting for a total of 41 percent of new arrivals. According to Pew Research Center, new immigrants are also dispersing more widely across the country, as opposed to clustering in California, New York,

Texas and Florida. In 1990, these four states were home to more than two-thirds of new immigrants. By 2013, they were hosting fewer than half.

It remains to be seen how these changes will affect immigration policy, political dialogue, and the country as a whole. Despite widespread acknowledgment of the need for change in the U.S. immigration system, Smith expressed doubt that it will come anytime soon. In order to fix the immigration system, he said, we first have to fix the dialogue around it.

“[Politicians] aren’t willing to compromise because they don’t want to suffer the wrath of the far left or the far right,” Smith said. “I hope we eventually have people who emerge on both sides of the aisle who decide to put aside the radical parts of their agendas and work together, but I’m not hopeful. We’ll see.”

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.



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Solar Panels: Past and Future

Cedars looks at the role of renewable energy in light of stewarding God's creation

by Jacob Oedy

In 1953, a new and incredible era dawned. At least, that's what the staff of the New York Times asserted when scientists Calvin Fuller, Gerald Pearson and Daryl Chapin discovered a silicon cell that converted light into usable energy. Those journalists heralded a new age in which civilization was powered through the endless light of the sun. More than 55 years later, the vision of a solar-powered civilization has yet to be realized.

For the majority of families and companies, solar energy has not yet emerged as the preferred energy provider. Despite being home to 112 solar manufacturers, only 0.24 percent of Ohio's energy is generated by solar technology according to the Solar Energy Industries Association.

Cedarville ecology professor Dr. Mark Gathany understands the disparity between the numbers.

"It's always supply and demand," Gathany said. "We have the supply for facilities and a work force that can do the work and probably some tax incentives to get people here too."

Local demand has not yet risen to match the supply. While Gathany cited the typical cycle of Ohio weather, cloudy and windy, as a factor in low solar installation, he also mentioned a more concrete and widespread issue with the industry.

"Cost is still a big thing," said Gathany. "It's one thing to look at an energy and heating bill of \$100-\$300 a month as opposed to a \$25,000 one-time install cost, and most people don't have that in their savings. ... On a kilowatt-per-hour basis, it's more inline. It's just that upfront cost."

To persuade companies and people to consider solar energy, the federal and state governments offer tax incentives for installing solar arrays. Several years ago, Cedarville University capitalized on government incentives and prepared to create its own solar array near campus. The university purchased the property in 2012 and leased the ground to a company for the construction of the solar panels.

"The agreements were all signed and in place New Year's Eve of 2012, and construction began in January," said Rod Johnson, associate vice president of operations. "A portion of the array was completed and online by April, and by May the project was completed."

Since then, the 5-acre array has been maintained and managed by a third party, while supplying a portion of the university's annual energy.

"The conservative estimate is 10 percent of our annual energy," said Gathany. "On a really good year, maybe it's closer to 15 percent. On a nice fall or spring day, it may supply almost



Photo by Lauren Jacobs

Hundreds of solar panels just minutes away from campus partially power Cedarville University.

all of our energy ... [it's] performing at or above expectations."

According to university estimates, Cedarville is saving approximately \$20,000 per year with the solar facility. Beyond saving on energy expenses, Cedarville has benefited from the solar array in several other areas, including academia.

"Some of the engineering classes will go over and talk about how it's set up and how the energy's transferred to the campus," said Gathany, who recently developed a new course title Environment: Science, Sustainability, and Stewardship.

"We're going to talk a lot about renewable energies and incorporating the solar array," said Gathany. The new course will also explore the ethics and economics of renewable, fossil and solar energy.

Finally, Gathany sees the use of solar energy as an opportunity to exercise financial and environmental stewardship by producing less pollution. He says that individuals should educate themselves on the potential side effects of different energy sources before deciding what to use.

"If there are negative impacts to other people and to God's world, is there a better option?" Gathany questioned.

"I think it's an important consideration as a follower of Christ to be mindful of what God's given to you in all aspects ... we need to be responsible with it."

While the university has made good use of the solar array, the question still remains whether solar energy will spread to individuals and smaller organizations.

"There's certainly some good movement in solar as well," Gathany said. "The technology is really advancing. Just in the last few months there was a new breakthrough in terms of storing the energy and the photovoltaic cells. ... All of those advancements bring the cost down."

According to Gathany, advancing technology and increasing government incentives may lead to a more balanced use of the different types of energy.

"That's where the future is," said Gathany. "A mix. It's not going to be one or the other."

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

'Good Fences Make Good Neighbors'

A rhetorical analysis of Trump's border wall

by Alexandria Hentschel

The seats of the Capitol Building are collecting dust. Government workers have stopped receiving paychecks. As of Jan. 12, the partial government shutdown has broken the record for the longest lapse in funding. The reason? An impasse over where lawmakers will find the funding in the budget for President Trump's border wall.

It turns out Mexico isn't ringing the doorbell at 1 Pennsylvania Avenue to hand over a giant check to fund its construction after all.

On Sunday, Jan. 5, three weeks into the shutdown — showing no signs of relenting — the President sent a two-page letter to Congress demanding \$5.7 billion to fund the border wall. If Trump does not get it, he has threatened to declare a state of emergency in order to begin building the wall without congressional approval.

Though the shutdown has affected thousands of government employees and systems (around 800,000, according to CNN), the president presses on. At the crux, the very marrow of Trump's campaign, sits the promise of a wall. As he is seeking reelection, the likelihood that he will give up that fight is slim to none.

Will a wall truly be effective? The proposed plan would add a perhaps 230 more miles of barrier to an expanse that is 2,000 miles long and already heavily fenced and patrolled. The New York Times developed an interactive map on its website that displays the topography, existing fencing, as well as private and public land barriers where the proposed wall would be built. There exists a messy process by which the United States government seizes private land — it will be difficult, if not impossible, to do so efficiently.

Assuming it materializes, the wall will be functionally ineffective as a physical barrier, or at the very least only marginally more effective than the current system. It is, however, fantastically effective as a rhetorical tool.

Rhetoric matters. Whatever imperishable, immortal material it is made of ("They don't like concrete, so we'll give them steel," the president said at a press conference outside the White House recently), the wall will serve as a barrier. It will keep people of a certain kind "out," and people of a certain kind "in."

A wall is a symbol that is easy to understand. It is permanent and immutable. It signifies a barrier that must not be crossed — a cultural divide. Mexico vs. the United States. Mexicans vs. Americans. In People vs. Out People. Illegal vs. legal. "Aliens" (a word used to refer to something outlandish, unearthly, inhuman) vs. citizens. Drug dealers



Photo provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection

President Donald Trump reviews U.S. Customs and Border Protection's wall prototypes on the border in Otay Mesa, California. The President was joined by Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, CBP Acting Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, Acting U.S. Border Patrol Chief Carla Provost and San Diego Sector Chief Patrol Agent Rodney Scott.

and rapists (according to Trump's campaign speeches) vs. tax-paying, law-abiding citizens.

Senior Caroline Clauson, a professional writing major who often analyzes rhetoric for her classes, believes that Trump's rhetoric indicates that he believes the wall to be a bastion against coming evil.

"[Trump] prophesies in so many words ... an omnipotent, real, salvific, and beautiful wall ... set apart with tall, reverential 'W's in his tweets," Clauson said. "Trump's narrative of the barrier is no less than Messianic."

The government cannot keep immigrants out through political negotiation or stimulating the Mexican economy, as that has failed. The government cannot keep them from seeking a better life as refugees and economic migrants, as we find ourselves with a Latin America in crisis. The last bulwark is the least uncivilized, the easiest to interpret. A wall is the symbol of protection against outside evil that has existed since the dawn of civilization — we have always built walls around our camps, our clans, our citadels, our cities, our people. It helps to define us by putting us in opposition to an "other." If we cannot subdivide ourselves, how will we know who we are?

If we build a wall, Trump posits, we will be rid of these aliens. We will be safe. *Follow me*, his rhetoric beckons, *and I will shut the city gates against the lepers at the door.*

A hispanic student at Cedarville, who declined to be named, says Trump's rhetoric has affected his community.

"Walls do what walls do — they divide and separate," he said. "The hispanic community that I have grown up around ... is not scared of a wall. We are scared of how Americans will

begin to see our people — as different, less than, to be feared."

A field of study known as critical discourse analysis, developed in the 1970s, seeks to examine how power structures inform our discourse. That is to say, how the hierarchies of power inform the way we speak to one another and speak about one another.

Linguistic analysis of Trump's speeches and rhetoric finds a consistent pattern of us vs. them language. The barriers are drawn linguistically, and now physically. There is America, and then there is everyone else. Trump has been clear on which comes first.

Alexis Smith, a senior psychology major at Cedarville, believes that the wall is anathema to the teachings of Christ and negatively affects the psyches of the minorities and immigrants she calls her friends.

"The problem [with the wall] is that it has become a symbol of racist discrimination," Smith said. "Jesus came to break down barriers, as there is only one Kingdom. And it won't look like America."

Robert Frost's poem, "Mending Wall," includes the tongue-in-cheek observation that "good fences make good neighbors" — perhaps the basis of Trump's foreign policy. The wall is a rhetorical symbol of division. Whether or not it manifests as a tangible one as well remains to be seen.

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.

student
SPOTLIGHT

by Katie Milligan

Tesla Klinger, a senior English major with a minor in creative writing, incorporates her faith into her passion for writing as she seeks to help others find healing in Christ.

At 17, she strayed from her family to join a traditional Hebrew church. She describes her faith as a blurred line between Judaism and Christianity.

Though Klinger's testimony is similar to that of many of her fellow Cedarville students, the faith she adheres to today is strikingly different. Raised in a traditional Baptist family in Indiana, she accepted Christ at the age of 5.

"I realized at such a young age that the things that I was doing were sinful, and I did need a Savior, and that Christ was the answer," Klinger said.

She attended church with her family regularly, but at her Christian high school, a unit on Jewish history piqued her interest. After attending a Torah reading, she became inspired to investigate the background of her Christian faith.

"I'm always interested in where things come from, the roots and the foundations, and why people believe what they believe," Klinger explains. "When I started looking into faith for myself, that's when I started to really break away from my family's ideas."

While Judaism is rooted in the Old Testament and views Jesus as merely a great prophet rather than humanity's savior, and Christianity focuses on New Testament perceptions of Christ in the flesh while believing that Old Testament covenant law is only for the Israelites, Klinger sees her particular brand of faith as a holistic view of the entire Bible: Christ concealed in the Old Testament as the law, and Christ revealed in the New Testament in bodily form.

"I believe that some of the old laws are still in place, but not in a constricting way, but in a way that shows God's love for his people and his creation. It's very beautiful,"



Photo by Lauren Jacobs

Tesla Klinger plans on writing young adult novels steeped in the supernatural.

Klinger said. "We see where Christ came from and how He fulfilled all his Old Testament roots. It's a great middle ground."

In addition to her slightly varied theology, Klinger also observes Jewish festivals and has stopped celebrating Easter and Christmas. She instead worships the Lord through celebrating three festivals in the spring and three in the fall, including Passover (when there is no leavening of bread), Yom Kippur (the most solemn day of the year, during which fasting is required), Feast of Tabernacles and Pentecost. All of these festivals are high sabbaths, meaning no strenuous work should be done. They are also intended to be times of symbolic remembrance: the custom of staying in a temporary home for a week to celebrate Pentecost represents God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, and the Seven Days of Feasting following Yom Kippur represent Christ's marriage to the church.

"It's the times that God has set aside in busy seasons of life to take some time off, rest, and remember who you're doing this for," Klinger said. "It's kind of hard to translate that into college life, because you still have things due; I've had to adjust, but still keep the mindset of it."

Moreover, Klinger keeps a biblical diet as described in Scripture. She eats beef and chicken but consumes no shellfish or pork, because she believes that God did not intend these animals to be eaten.

"I basically tell people I'm a vegetarian, and that saves a lot of questioning," Klinger laughed. "It's just a good way to show God and others how much you care for God's creation, because you're respecting it in its purpose and its function."

The early stages of Klinger's transition away from her family's faith was difficult and resulted in strained relationships. Her family viewed her new belief system as a cult, but over the years, Klinger has attempted to gently show them her theology in small doses as they are willing to listen.

"Trying to stay true to your convictions and having your family say that that's completely unorthodox — that's been really hard," Klinger admitted. "I'm pretty much the black sheep in my family. But it's been good for me, because it's where God has been leading me."

But Klinger is not just a minority in her family, but at her university as well. She still has not found a church near Cedarville she can wholeheartedly agree with.

"It's good to know there are people out there who believe the same things, [but] it would be nice to have a support system. [Being the minority] has been the main hardship; that, and trying to find food in Chuck's," Klinger joked. "I've been able to navigate it in a way to not be angry or upset. Everybody is in their own place, and that's OK; we're all on different paths."

Abi Wisser, senior English major, has known Klinger since freshman year.

"Despite knowing Tesla for almost four years, I am still surprised by her on almost a daily basis," Wisser said. "Embracing the differences of the different denominations can be a really good thing. Maybe we disagree on certain aspects of theology, but in different practices you can see different parts of God that maybe you wouldn't otherwise because of your own walk in life. There

can be unity in diversity."

Despite her unique beliefs, Klinger remains deeply involved at Cedarville. She is currently working at a library internship, is the event coordinator for the creative club C3 and serves as an editor of the Cedarville Review. The literary focus of her education and her passion for writing have led her to an enriched understanding of God.

"God is the master author. I love looking at the Bible and seeing how he has created this story that just goes through all of history," Klinger said.

Klinger aspires to be an author and has applied to graduate schools to gain a master's of fine arts in fiction. She already has several poems published and is currently submitting prose for publication.

"Before I write, I always pray [and] give my piece to God, and I always do it for His glory before anything else, because I want to glorify Him in these works," Klinger said. "I'm doing what He did in creation. This is the highest form of God-likeness you can get; I don't want it to be a trifle."

Her goal in writing is not only to work through personal struggles, but to allow others who have gone through trying circumstances to have a literary space to heal. Without overtly Christian themes, she clearly communicates the Christian element of hope.

"I write hard things for people who have hardships in their lives for them to have hope and have God, because we live in a pretty hopeless time," Klinger explained. "I create stories that allow people a space to accept themselves and accept aspects of the world that they can't change, and have something to hold onto."

To all those who might question her beliefs, Klinger says, "The reason I came to these conclusions was because I did my own research; but don't take my word for it. Look into things for yourself. I kept digging; keep digging and prove me wrong."

Katie Milligan is a freshman English major. She enjoys taking Polaroid photos, eating pasta, and watching Disney movies.

Excellently Different

Members of Elsie, a new student band, share their vision

by Kellyn Post

Seth Tew, a sophomore communications major, along with his fellow members of the band Elsie, wants to create and perform songs with a left-of-center musical aesthetic that ask questions and evoke complicated emotions.

The vision for the band began with Tew, a songwriter with experience in studio recording and music production, who pursued his desire to take his music in a new direction and to collaborate with other musicians.

“I was definitely making a different kind of music than I previously was, and so it was making more sense to go with a full band,” Tew said. “I also wanted to see what musical collaboration is like in a living, breathing, multipersonal kind of deal.”

Tew also wanted to form a band to achieve a sound and style of music that he could not accomplish on his own.

At Cedarville, he found other students who shared his vision and taste in music: Jacob Harris, a sophomore pre-law major and the band’s bass player; Jordan Mullins, a first-year pharmacy graduate student and drummer; and Caleb Stover, a sophomore industrial design major and an electric guitarist and synth player.

“I love experimental, alternative music,” Tew said. “So I wanted to go that route, and to go that route I would need electric guitars that were willing to make ambient noises, and I play synth, and keys, and I sing, so I can’t do that.”

In his search for a guitar player, Tew met Harris, and the two began meeting together for casual jam sessions. They formed the band Elsie with Mullins and Stover in the fall of 2018. Tew and Harris share a love of experimental, alternative music, as well as the desire to move toward performing live music.

Harris said that Tew suggested the name Elsie for the band during a brainstorming session in Stinger’s, and Harris liked the idea. The name, Tew said, was par-

tially inspired by the name of a character in a story which Tew was writing about musicians. The name also does not suggest any particular style of music, which gives the band room to develop its own style.

“[The name] is different, but it doesn’t instantly call up a restrictive picture,” Tew said. “The visualization is incredibly flexible, and in the past when I’ve been trying to name stuff, it was just way too constrictive.”

Elsie’s aesthetic is influenced by both the style of ’80s music and the themes of ’90s music, as well as current alternative rock. One of Tew’s inspirations for writing music for Elsie is the music of Alvvays, a Canadian band that he says evokes a sense of bitter-sweet nostalgia. Harris also suggested that Elsie draws inspiration from ’90s music.

“One of my favorite things about [’90s music] is that they capture this very melancholy, kind of down, dark sense, but they package it in upbeat, catchy songs,” Harris said. “I’m not saying we do exactly that, but

I like that concept a lot.”

While Elsie is still in the development stage, the band members share a desire to work toward live performances in the future. Tew, with his background in both communications and broadcasting and digital media courses, wants to apply that experience to the management of his own band, while the other members are looking forward to the experience of playing live music.

“Playing shows is fun, and it’s what everybody strives for,” Mullins shared. “Not a lot of people do that anymore, so to be able to do that and take it that far is a big accomplishment, honestly.”

In the future, Elsie’s band members hope to perform music that will have an impact on listeners, not as explicitly Christian music, but as artistic and excellently written and performed music.

“We are indwelt by the Spirit,” Harris said. “We’re just humans speaking to humans about human things, but we do it from

a sanctified perspective.”

Tew also echoed the desire to create music that reflects his faith and that stands out because of its quality and artistic integrity.

“We are Christians, and so that means that our mindset is renewed,” Tew shared. “I want this band to be excellently different. To be quality and to strive to portray exactly artistically what it desires to. And that will be different.”

Through their collaboration and shared vision, the members of Elsie — all from majors outside of the music and worship department — express their love of left-of-center music and artistic creation at the same time that they strive for excellence and the glory of God in their music.

Kellyn Post is a senior English major and an arts and entertainment writer for Cedars. In her spare time, she enjoys drinking black tea, listening to musicals, and reading books written before she was born.



Photo by Lauren Jacobs

Seth Tew (center): Vocals, synth, keys. **Fun fact:** He is a quirky individual never afraid to be himself.
Jordan Mullins (left): Drums. **Fun fact:** When he’s not with the band, he likes to play the drums.
Caleb Stover (right): Electric guitar, synth. **Fun fact:** His lifelong dream is to be a cowboy.
Jacob Harris (not pictured): Bass. **Fun fact:** He doesn’t like getting his picture taken.

Take a Bow

Senior theatre majors express themselves through final productions

by *Shelby McGuire*

For five senior theatre majors, their Cedarville educations are almost complete. Before the curtains close on their time as students acting in university productions, they are each completing one final production for their senior theater projects. Each senior chose a piece to direct and perform and made it their own.



Photo by Alex St. Onge

Natalia Kirychuk

Natalia Kirychuk was the first American producer and director for the Australian show “e-baby” for its American premier last October. This two-woman show is story about surrogacy and presents a deep look at the diversity of motherhood. Kirychuk was drawn to the show because motherhood is a very precious topic to her, and she feels that it is her ultimate calling in life.

Kirychuk first felt a passion for the profession of acting when her family subscribed to Netflix when she was 12 years old. After watching the Disney movie “Sky High” with her family, she realized that the characters in movies were real people who were acting out parts. Her very next thought was that actors are real people who need to hear about Jesus.

She wrote down all of the names in the credits in a notebook and prayed through the list of names before bed every night. She continued to do this and added more names as she watched more movies. Soon, she felt inspired that she could do more than pray for these people, and she desired to pursue a career where she could interact with performers and share the gospel with them.

This calling lead Kirychuk to the theatre program at Cedarville. She plans to pursue a career in public relations in the entertainment industry where she will have opportunities to share the gospel with entertainment professionals. After graduation, she plans to move to Florida where she will be seeking a public relations position in the entertainment hub of Orlando.

Emily Hunnemeyer

Emily Hunnemeyer chose “Acting: The First Six Lessons” for her senior theatre project piece. She acted in and co-directed the piece, and she was also responsible for the artistic direction, concept development and the set design. The piece tells the story of a young girl and her journey to becoming a great actress.

Hunnemeyer’s own acting journey started in kindergarten when she stepped on the theater stage for the first time. She performed in eight plays throughout her growing up years for the Messoula Children’s Theatre where she fell in love with the art of performing. She also pursued other performance arts such as ballet and choir.

By the time she graduated high school in 2013, she was planning to move to New York, join a conservatory and pursue a career on Broadway. Her parents, however, encouraged her to stay home and work for a few years before she moved out on her own. During that time, Hunnemeyer went through a series of rejections and disappointments at auditions. She put her theater dreams on the back burner for a few years and worked full-time in ministry and attended community college.

One day on campus, her heart for theater was suddenly resuscitated when she was cast as Mary Poppins in her school’s production. She said that through her experience of playing that role, she learned how to use theater as ministry and bring glory to God with her gifts. The following year after that performance, she came to Cedarville to study theatre.

Hunnemeyer plans to perform for a full year after graduation, and long-term, she hopes to one day start her own children’s theater.



Photo by Aimee Auclair Hill



Jeremy Smith

Jeremy Smith has always wanted to do a complete Shakespeare show during his time at Cedarville. His senior theatre project was the perfect opportunity to accomplish that dream. He will be presenting Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," a show that he chose to challenge himself.

He loves Shakespeare's use of articulate and poetic language to express the characters fully. Quips like "Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit, for I am sick when I do look on thee," are what make Shakespeare's works so memorable for Smith.

Smith has loved the rush of acting on stage for as long as he can remember, and he has been performing in at least one show every year since middle school. He describes the art of acting as both exhausting and exhilarating as he uses all his focus and energy to portray someone else. He says that acting on stage is what makes him feel most alive.

Smith is passionate about theater and plans to pursue acting as a career to gain experience before furthering his education. He plans to eventually pursue an MFA in acting where he can expand his knowledge of an expansive field and advance his professional career.

Photo by Aimee Auclair Hill

Ranae Haskins

Ranae Haskins is acting, designing and co-directing "K2," a one-act show based on the true story of two best friends who set out to climb the second highest mountain in the world and end up in a life-or-death struggle.

Haskins chose this piece as a tribute to her family's legacy of athleticism and love of all things outdoors. She has spent some time at Cedarville's rock climbing wall for some character study, and she may have immersed herself too deeply into the character experience. She is now wearing a boot after suffering a double sprain and a chipped bone while participating in a bouldering competition.

Haskins originally visited Cedarville expecting to pursue a degree in business management. By lunchtime during her visit, she had already changed her major to reflect her true passion and skill set: theatre. Since her time in the program, she has enjoyed being challenged and sharpened in her comedy and design skills.

After graduation, Haskins plans to pursue opportunities through some auditions she has lined up, as well as possibly applying for the Disney internship program.



Photo by Aimee Auclair Hill

Raven Simmons

Raven Simmons chose "Loving" as the piece for her senior theater project because it explores her passion for racial diversity. The show was based on an Oscar-nominated film about the court case Loving v. Virginia that made interracial marriage legal.

In her time at Cedarville, Simmons had been looking for ways to find her voice on the topic of racial issues, because she noticed that it was not a prevalent conversation on campus. So, when her adviser suggested that she tackle "Loving" for her final selection, she accepted the challenge after her first read through.

Simmons' dream to become a lawyer started in kindergarten but ended when she fell in love with the theatre community at Cedarville. She went into her freshman year as a double major in theatre and pre-law. Her plan was to combine her childhood aspirations for a law career and her love for acting that she discovered through being cast in her church's plays.

During her first semester at Cedarville in fall 2013, she joined the crew for the school's production of "Taming of the Shrew." Through this, she met a group of people passionate about theater who she said understood her in a way that no one else ever had. Not only did they understand her, but Simmons said that they also helped her understand herself. After that semester, she dropped her pre-law major and wholeheartedly pursued theatre.

Simmons loves "telling real stories about real people" through acting. She believes that theater is a unique way to embrace empathy by stepping into the lives and experiences of other people and expressing humanity from a variety of perspectives.

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.

Towel Gang Movement Swarms Cedarville

From no-name JV scrubs to respected varsity athletes, they bring energy to games

by *Tim Miller*

Cedarville basketball is in its best state in recent memory. In the first week of January, both the men's and women's teams were perched atop the G-MAC standings. There's plenty of reasons to head to Callan to catch a game.

If you need just a little more motivation, look no further than the CU Towel Gang.

The role of the Towel Gang is to simply bring energy at the end of the bench and provide preparation help for starters and reserves for each game.

Composed of former JV athletes Adam Standley, Andrew Spurr and Andrew Stein, the three newest varsity members bring extra electricity to Cedarville's bench each home game. Their patented celebration comes in the form of a hearty towel wave, and they've got a few tricks up their sleeve that you'd have to see to experience the full effect.

Along with current JV teammates Trevor Greenly and Will Brethauer, the CU Towel Gang movement began with the five struggling through a tough JV season.

"It all really started last year," Stein said. "We played JV basketball together and had a really rough season. We took it kind of seriously last year. This year, we came with a more loose mindset."

Stein and Standley each root for Division I programs that own founders of the Towel Gang movement. After identifying with the Division I benchwarmers, these two brought the movement to Cedarville.

At this year's moonlight madness, the Towel Gang made its first appearance. Equipped with nothing more than a couple towels from the Rec Center and boisterous voices, the guys went nuts for their varsity stars during an intrasquad scrimmage and dunk contest.

This is when the varsity members latched onto the Towel Gang, Standley said.

The loose mindset and gritty nature prompted varsity players to rally around their newest rosters. Unless the game is



Photo by Carrie Bergan
Adam Standley (far left), Andrew Stein (second to left) and Andrew Spurr (second to right) show their love during a game against Hillsdale on Nov. 29.

separated by 25 points or more, the Towel Gang shows up on the stat sheet as much as the kid in your hall who goes to the gym each day religiously, meaning they don't show up at all.

However, their impact is clear according to head coach Pat Estepp, who was a JV basketball player for Cedarville himself in the 20th century.

"They have been tremendous and I love those guys," Estepp said. "They embrace their job, and having selfless guys like that is special."

The Towel Gang job description isn't

glamorous. Most of the work is done behind the scenes. The guys must memorize opponents' offensive sets and tendencies and mirror them in practice. During practice, they get beat up by their bigger, stronger counterparts.

Their schedules are just as rigorous as a starter, so they must learn to balance school with basketball and all their other commitments. They do all the work of a scholarship athlete without earning a penny for their tuition charges.

"Having no scholarship is a big part of it. Non-scholarship players, those are our

people," Stein said.

The attitude of sporting a chip on their shoulder is something the members don't take lightly. They recognize they can't compete on the floor, but their journey from no-name JV scrubs to respected varsity athletes gives them the ability to stay hungry.

The Towel Gang has enjoyed watching role players blow out opponents this season, to the point where Spurr, Stein and Standley have seen playing time in two games. Spurr has made a free throw, Standley has taken a beastly charge and Stein corralled a rebound in two minutes of play this season.

Stein and Standley said the role players fight hard to get their chief motivators in the game. During halftime of a win over Campbellsville-Somerset, they said multiple players were motivating others to stay locked in so they could swell their lead high enough to get the Towel Gang in the contest.

And when they do, the jitters come right along. Stein and Standley said butterflies appear with about seven minutes left in a blowout. At that time, the guys know they must start stretching and jogging during timeouts, because their time is coming.

Playing time is few and far between, unfortunately. However, the guys understand seeing the floor isn't why they're with the team. They've accepted their role and continue to work to fulfill it.

"We bring the energy in practice and play hard when we get in. It's all about bringing the energy for the guys on the floor and for the fans."

The CU Towel Gang plugged their Instagram account, @CUTowelGang, where you can find nice edits by Brethauer and updates on the Towel Gang.

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.

Director's Cup Makes Debut in Spring Semester

by Tim Smith

Intramural sports are a vital aspect to the Cedarville student community and a popular activity on campus. But, an interesting idea arose during lunch between the male Resident Directors one day. What if we created an event that created tradition across campus and increased involvement in intramural sports? From this lunch meeting, the Director's Cup was born.

Brock RD Adam Southerland said they wanted to create tradition among the different intramural teams and sports.

"The Director's Cup is an interhall competition," Southerland said. "There have always been good teams, but there is no real reputation among teams. There are some stereotypes among the dorms, but we wanted to create some real competition between the dorms."

Starting this semester, the male dorms will take part in this campus-wide event. The Cup will involve five sports from the spring intramural lineup: 5 vs 5 basketball, dodgeball, indoor soccer, ultimate Frisbee and volleyball. But there are many opportunities for participants to score points for their dorm.

"At the end of the sport's season, we will look at the tournament ranking," Southerland said. "If there is a tie, then we look at the season ranking. We take the top team from each dorm based on these rankings. There are also possibilities of bonuses for teams, like if a team not only is the best team in dorm rankings but is the overall champion or runner-up for the sport."

Not every team, though, is eligible for the Director's Cup. To qualify for the Cup and to represent a dorm, all students on the team must live in the dorm, except for one. The extra player, though, must have lived in the dorm last year.

Dorms are not just competing for bragging rights, thought that might be enticing enough. Each RD put \$50 of his dorm budget toward the pot, and the winning dorm takes it all. Southerland says there are also plans to have some sort of physical embodi-



Photo by Mask Productions

Intramural basketball is one of five sports included in the Director's Cup this spring.

ment of the Cup.

"The goal is to achieve a traveling trophy, an actual Director's Cup that the dorm can put in the office and earn bragging rights over other dorms for the year," Southerland said.

Students around campus are excited for the event and believe it will be a true benefit to campus.

"It helps build community within the dorms by making the competition bigger than just individual teams. You're also playing for your dorm," Lawlor resident Carter Miedema said. "Furthermore, it supports SGA's idea of Better Together. The dorms are participating in already existing campus events instead of making their own."

Jacob Oedy, a resident of Brock Hall, has a similar attitude toward the Cup.

"Sports and competition are easy ways for guys to get to know each other and bond.

I think this will be an effective way to get whole dorms involved in not only beneficial physical activity, but also social events where we can make connections and just have fun."

Along with increasing involvement and community, the Director's Cup seeks to increase support at intramural events.

"I think it will increase student involvement and attendance in intramural events because people like cheering on their friends and their dorms," Southerland said.

Though this spring is just a trial run for the Cup, Southerland thinks it has true potential to become an annual tradition on campus.

"If it goes well and we seem to get a lot of involvement for both dorms and intramurals in general, then we are going to implement it for fall and spring semester next year," he said.

The Director's Cup officially began Jan. 14, the start dates for 5 vs 5 basketball and indoor volleyball. The Cup will run the entire semester until all five sports have finished. Then a champion will be crowned.

In the future, the Director's Cup could see many changes and adaptations to help fit campus: adding other sports, including female dorms, and creating teams for the townhouses.

For now, Southerland believes the strategy they have set up is best, and that it will benefit not only students, but all of campus.

"Hopefully, this is something really good for the campus, community and the dorms."

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

Winter Break



here's to 2019. starting the year with an adventure with the best and hoping for many more to come in this year of change in my life. - @tashposhh



Started the year off right with a trip down South. - @_lifeofky_



Hiking in Colorado with these gems was the best way to end Christmas break - @caldunner



perks of being friends with me: you will get dragged to a lot of cool places and check a lot of things off my bucket list with me - @alexis_smiith