


3-1-2019

## Making a Splash: Professor Speaking at World's Largest Paddling Expo

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/news\\_releases](https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/news_releases)

 Part of the [Organizational Communication Commons](#), and the [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Weinstein, Mark D., "Making a Splash: Professor Speaking at World's Largest Paddling Expo" (2019). *News Releases*. 872.  
[https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/news\\_releases/872](https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/news_releases/872)

This News Release is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Cedarville, a service of the Centennial Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Cedarville. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@cedarville.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@cedarville.edu).

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 1, 2019**

**CONTACT:** Mark D. Weinstein  
Executive Director of Public Relations  
[937-766-8800](tel:937-766-8800) (o)  
[937-532-6885](tel:937-532-6885) (m)  
[Mweinstein@cedarville.edu](mailto:Mweinstein@cedarville.edu)  
[@cedarvillenews](#)

## **Making a Splash: Professor Speaking at World's Largest Paddling Expo**

**CEDARVILLE, OHIO** -- Pete Savard, assistant professor of nursing, used stand-up paddleboards (SUPs) to raise awareness and financial support last summer for clean water projects overseas through his Global Water Consortium (GWC). Now, he has the opportunity to speak about the experience and its purpose at the world's largest paddling expo, Canoecon, in Madison, Wisconsin, March 8-10.

Savard will share during a featured breakout session how he paddled 30 straight days down the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. The river odyssey, called SUP4WATER, was a fundraiser for GWC.

"We had to apply in order to speak at the event," said Savard. "Being accepted is validation that we not only did something cool but we were able to link paddling sports with humanity."

Savard founded GWC in 2014 to start mobile, self-sustaining clean water projects around the world. Each one of GWC's projects can provide 26,316 gallons of clean water in a single day, enough water for 33,333 people to drink.

"In India and Kenya, 126,540 children died due to unclean water during those 30 days we paddled. We want to raise at least one dollar for every one of those children," explained Savard.

Savard and his team rode SUPs on the Susquehanna, carrying the same water equipment that GWC uses for clean water projects in developing countries. Their goal? Demonstrate this equipment can be easily transported to remote locations and raise awareness and support for GWC's work.

"I hope people get inspiration out of this. I don't consider myself an expert paddler. However, I spent a month on a river with my daughter to raise awareness through paddling," continued Savard. "You don't have to be athletic or wealthy, but you can do some cool things with the talents and time you do have. Hopefully we will get awareness and inspire people to do great things."

The Susquehanna SUP team included Savard; Savard's daughter Ainsley; Cassie Rakowski, Cedarville nursing student; Lindsey Wiseman and Jared Mitchell, friends of Savard's; Tristan Devlin, a film student at Wright State University, who photographed and took video of the team from a canoe; Emily DeClerico, a 2018 Cedarville nursing alumna; and J.T. Tomlin, another 2018 alumnus who drove the support truck all month.

Canoecon is the largest paddlesports consumer event in the world. More than 250,000 square feet of kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddleboards, outdoor equipment and clothing will be on display. Over 180 seminars and clinics are offered to educate and excite paddling and outdoor adventurers. Tickets for the entire weekend are free for those under 18 years of age and \$25 for adults.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,193 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit [www.cedarville.edu](http://www.cedarville.edu).