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13 Alumni and Counting: Hannay Family Tree at Cedarville

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- For the Hannay family, answering a question about God's plan includes attending Cedarville University.

In two generations, the family will graduate 13 Cedarville alumni. And with additional Hannays currently enrolled at Cedarville, that number will only continue to grow.

"We love Cedarville," Diane Hannay, a 1992 grad said. "It teaches you to start with a biblical worldview, whatever vocation you serve the Lord in, and we find that invaluable."

The family's ties began back in 1960 when Robert Hannay met Marilyn Stark at Philadelphia College of Bible. The couple graduated and married in 1963, moving to Westerlo, New York. While there, they developed a deep commitment to Christian higher education.

They had four children: Scott, Sherri, Shaun, who all attended Cedarville University, and Michael, who attended The King's College in New York City. By encouraging their four children through Christian institutions, Robert and Marilyn passed their love for faith-based higher education down through the generations.

All of their children who attended Cedarville married fellow alumni, and six of Robert and Marilyn's grandchildren chose Cedarville as well. So far, one grandchild married a Cedarville alumnus with several pending.

Further, of the 13 Hannay Cedarville alumni, five participated on Cedarville's track and field team: Scott ('86), Shaun ('90), Sarah ('11), Greg ('13) and Luke ('22).

"One of the interesting things about our family is that all five who participated in track and field were competitive in the throwing events -- javelin, discus, shot put, weight and hammer," Diane noted. "It was a significant milestone when Greg beat his father Scott's javelin record in 2011."

Beyond enjoying the athletics, academics and community of Cedarville, the Hannay family has also significantly benefited from the workplace preparation they received during their time on campus.

Diane, who married Shaun after her junior year in 1991, studied elementary education during her time at Cedarville. After graduation, Shaun and she moved to upstate New York where she began her now 30-year career in Christian education by starting and running a Christian school.

Almost 20 years after completing her undergraduate degree, and having undergone a cross-country move to Oregon, Diane re-enrolled at Cedarville to complete its Master of Education program online.

“It was absolutely essential that I received my graduate degree from a Christian institution where I was equipped to educate the whole child through biblical truth,” Diane noted. “True education has to be biblical education, and Cedarville University has uncompromisingly maintained its priority to the Word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ. Cedarville’s biblical integrity is the reason the Hannay family continues to value its education.”

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, Diane was working at Central Christian School in Redmond, Oregon. Though in distress over being sent home, the lockdown allowed her to pursue a lifelong goal: publishing a Gospel-centered children’s book.

“The Lord burdened my heart with urgency to share the Gospel with kids, and he used the pandemic to give me the time I needed to make that dream a reality,” Diane added.

Her book draft came from a children’s book she’d written some 20 years earlier to explain the Gospel to her daughter. After editing, connecting with a local illustrator and hiring a self-publishing coach, Diane completed and published “What Is God’s Plan for Me?,” which is available through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, online sellers and [Diane’s website](#).

The book introduces children to a relationship with Jesus and is a guide to the gospel message in an interactive, thought-provoking, kid-friendly way.

“My prayer is that my book will be transformative in the hearts of children who are desperate for truth and hope in today’s world,” Diane shared.

Her love for Christian education shines through all she does, and it points directly back to the Hannay family legacy, growing still, at Cedarville University.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,550 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including the [Master of Education program](#), strong graduation, and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and high student engagement ranking. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.

Written by Heidie Raine