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Shared Love of Speech Brings Couple Together

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- Almost three years after they met on the Cedarville University speech team and after winning multiple speech competitions together, rising senior [communication](#) students Alex Boesch of Champaign, Illinois, and Olivia Ball of Columbus, Ohio, will tie the knot on July 23.

Both Boesch and Ball came to the speech team in August of their freshman year with years of speech experience. Ball first joined a speech club when she was 10 to improve her public speaking skills.

“Public speaking challenges me still, but I love having a platform to speak on important issues,” she said.

Boesch started competing in speech in high school and was drawn by the fact that some speeches were similar to acting.

When they joined the Cedarville speech team, there were nine total team members. Both Boesch and Ball wanted to participate in duo interpretation, a type of speech where two partners act out a short story. In their first year, they won three consecutive tournaments and placed as finalists at the National Christian College Forensics Invitational.

While practicing their first duo interpretation, ironically about a couple breaking up, Boesch and Ball began to first consider dating. Ball didn’t initially plan to date her freshman year, but her perspective changed after Boesch offered to walk her back to her dorm after a late practice session, which was in the opposite direction of his.

Boesch saw that offer as common courtesy, but throughout the semester, he began to consider dating her as well. The following spring, they began to discuss dating, though they decided to hold off until after their duo interpretation speech had ended. They had their first date on the morning of March 11, 2020, the day that students were sent home for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the next five months, Boesch and Ball engaged in virtual dating, having the opportunity to discuss what they expected from the relationship. After returning to school in-person in August 2020, they resumed virtual speech competitions but chose not to do a virtual duo interpretation.

In September 2021, Boesch and Ball got engaged. After an exam, Boesch presented Ball with a scrapbook featuring highlights from the past year. He left blank spaces at the end under the heading “Finally Engaged” and asked if she wanted to finish the scrapbook. She said yes and they drove to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark in Dayton, Ohio, where he proposed.

Since then, Boesch and Ball have completed their third year on Cedarville’s speech team. They prepared another duo interpretation this year, which focused on the inability of technology to understand human emotion and replace human interaction. They won the Moraine Valley Appelquist Speech Tournament in Palos Hills, Illinois, in the fall. In the spring, they were national champions at the National Christian

College Forensics Invitational at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, and second in the Ohio Forensics Association State Championship, behind Cedarville teammates Will Galkin and Paul Miller. They also finished as quarterfinalists in the National Forensics Association National Championship, one of the best performances at that competition for a team from Cedarville.

Ahead of their wedding, Boesch will return to Champaign to work at a gymnastics facility, continue to write as a student public relations writer for Cedarville and prepare for his Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), as he plans to go to grad school. Ball will work as a promotions team intern at River Radio Ministries in Columbus.

Both Boesch and Ball plan to participate on the Cedarville speech team during their senior year.

“We love the team so much,” Boesch said. “Not only has the speech team influenced us as people, but we’ve enjoyed pouring into the team, and we plan to continue to do that next year.”

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,715 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 [Bachelor of Arts in communication program](#), strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and high student engagement ranking. For more information about the University, visit cedarville.edu.

Written by Bryson Durst.

Photo Cutlines:

Caption (A): Alex Boesch and Olivia Ball getting engaged in September 2021.

Caption (B): Alex Boesch and Olivia Ball after winning the National Christian College Forensics Invitational in 2022.