God’s call to boldness compels us to do something we’ve never done before. I regularly work with members of Congress, draft legislation and policy, meet with key White House officials, and debate the abstinence issue in the national media. Ours is not a popular position in the current sexualized culture, but God continues to give us boldness through opportunities to let our light shine before men.

Valerie (Dell) Huber ’80, M.Ed. ’10
President, National Abstinence Education Association

Offering online bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business, education, health care, and ministry

cedarville.edu/studyonline
And WHATEVER YOU DO, whether in WORD OR DEED, do it all IN THE NAME of the LORD JESUS, giving THANKS TO GOD the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:17
AN EDUCATION THAT WORKS!

by Thomas White
“An Education That Works.” I really like that phrase. I like its double meaning. You see, at Cedarville University we have an education that works, in both senses of the phrase. Our process of education works, and the education that students receive means they get jobs where they work.

What makes our education work? Let me share three characteristics that distinguish our educational process from most other universities.

**Academic Excellence:** First, we educate our students well for their profession. Most students arrive at Cedarville with a God-given desire for a particular vocation. In order to meet their career goals, they must be well equipped to work in their fields as unto the Lord. Our job placement rates are about 10 percent higher than the national average, with 96.8 percent of our 2014 graduates either having a job or enrolled in graduate school within six months. When you factor in the variety of majors we have and how hard it is in some fields to find work, that statistic says something important about the quality of an education at Cedarville. Companies continually seek out our graduates because they have experienced firsthand the quality of a Cedarville education.

Check out a few of the programs that had 100 percent placement last year:

- Accounting
- Athletic Training
- Exercise Science
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Electrical Engineering
- Industrial and Innovative Design
- Journalism
- Marketing
- Middle Childhood Education
- Social Work
- Special Education – Intervention Specialist
- Technical and Professional Communication
- Worship

In fact, 58 of our 77 majors reported 100 percent placement. A statistic reinforcing the idea that a Cedarville education truly works.

58 OF OUR 77 MAJORS REPORTED 100 PERCENT PLACEMENT, A STATISTIC REINFORCING THE IDEA THAT A CEDARVILLE EDUCATION TRULY WORKS.

Producing well-rounded students is more important than you may realize. With the average person changing careers fairly frequently in his or her life, we must equip students to be lifelong learners and adapters. These skills teach them how to fish rather than giving them one catch, and that provides preparation for a lifetime of success.

**For the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ:** Second, we educate students with a biblical worldview. Sometimes in our world, we have the impression that only pastors or missionaries are in ministry. As such, that relieves the obligation on everyone else to “do ministry.” Such a view is grossly flawed. Christ commands all followers to take up their cross and to fulfill the Great Commission. We want students to see their vocation as their mission field. Each internship should be treated as significantly as one would approach a missions trip. God places each person in a mission field. The mission field may not be filled with huts or people who speak other languages. The mission field might be a local school, a laboratory, a hospital, or a local church. God may call a student to use those business, engineering, nursing, drama, athletic, or English skills among unreached people groups in an area where pastors and missionaries cannot obtain visas. In every job opportunity, we should ask where we can best use our gifts to impact the kingdom of God.

Our Bible minor equips every student to do just that. With courses that address personal spiritual disciplines, teach the Old and New Testament, and teach theology from a biblical foundation, every graduate leaves Cedarville looking to be involved in God’s great mission by strategically planting themselves where they can do the most good for God’s kingdom purposes. An eternal purpose provides meaning for life far beyond material rewards and provides contentment that money cannot buy.

Additionally, our admissions requirement that students provide a narrative of when they placed their faith in Christ, along with a biblical worldview taught in every class, chapel every weekday, discipleship groups, a required Bible minor, and a godly faculty all instills values into our students that employers desire. The best workers don’t steal from you or cheat you on work hours. The best workers serve those around them and work as unto the Lord. This eternal motivation produces a different caliber of employee.

A Cedarville University education is an education that works. Our graduates live life well for the Gospel and for King Jesus. In the remainder of this magazine, you will learn about several of our programs that exemplify an education that works. You will meet highly qualified broadcasting professionals, award-winning engineers, and premed students being trained in cutting-edge facilities. Through all of our degree programs at Cedarville University, we are providing an education that puts students to work, not simply for this world, but for the world to come.

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**Thomas White** became Cedarville’s 10th President in 2013. He received his B.A. from Anderson University (South Carolina) and both his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the author and editor of numerous publications and is a contributor to Nelson’s Annual Preacher’s Sourcebook, Volume 4, released November 2014. Follow @DrThomasWhite

Website: drthomaswhite.com
As you’re traveling unknown byways of the future, pockmarked with a competitive job market and still-recovering economy, it doesn’t hurt to have the right guide in the driver’s seat. And, if you’re going to get very far, you better make sure you have a roadmap and a full tank of gas. That’s where Cedarville’s Career Services comes in.

Exploring the Possibilities

Like with any journey, the first essential step is knowing where you’re headed. This isn’t a leisurely Sunday drive — you need to know your final destination. Career Services calls this “career exploration” — determining what major you want to study — and the earlier a student does this the better. For recent finance graduate Travis St. Ores ’15, that step started really early: his junior year of high school. “I visited Career Services on a campus visit and took a career assessment test,” he explained. “It pushed me to where my strengths were.” Although he knew he wanted to study finance, this assessment helped him realize the different possibilities within the field and determine which area most closely aligned with his interests.

Career Services offers the MyPlan assessment, which helps students identify majors that fit their interests, and then eventually what career fields fit those majors. According to Jeff Reep ’79, Director of Career Services, students are often surprised by what they can do with their interests and strengths. “Just because you like math and are good at it,” explained Reep, “it doesn’t mean you have to be a math teacher.” MyPlan helps students see the possibilities beyond the expected.

How crucial is this step? Imagine taking a long road trip to an unfamiliar location without ever plugging your destination into a GPS or (old school, but still effective) consulting a map. At every CU Friday — Cedarville’s campus visit event for high school students and their families — Reep presents “Where a Degree From Cedarville Can Take You” as well as his “Big 5” ideas to help students prepare for a career, before they step foot on campus as a student.

One of the best ways colleges can save students money is to make sure they graduate in four years. And one of the best ways to make sure you graduate on time? Discovering your passion early and sticking with it. For St. Ores, by choosing his major early and taking summer courses, he was able to graduate in three-and-a-half years.

Navigating the Process

Once you know where you’re headed, you’ll need to determine the best route to take — how do I actually get there? On a road trip, you need a GPS or a map, a full tank of gas, and some snacks for the ride. But for students navigating their journey to their dream career, they’ll need to develop the necessary skills that will help them make it to the next step. How to write an effective résumé, how to prepare for an interview, and how to discover job opportunities are all tools students need to navigate a competitive job market. This step — developing lifelong navigational skills — can, and should, start as early as a student’s freshman year. Career Services partners with seven academic departments across campus, along with 15 majors, to come into classrooms and begin educating students on the importance of a good résumé, interviewing skills, and teaching how to research job opportunities.

Career Services has helped applied communication major Chelsea Castillo ’15 see the importance of a good résumé. “I looked up résumé examples online, but they just didn’t sound like me,” she said. “Career Services helped me put together a professional résumé that focused on the things employers are looking for. And it sounded like me.” Having a place to go and talk to someone one-on-one has been a big confidence booster for Castillo. “Laura [(Jolly) Lintz ’03, Assistant Director of Career Services] helped me see how my past experiences could translate to relevant job skills on a résumé. It made me more confident in myself and what I have to offer.”

For St. Ores, The Business Experience course, which included extensive interaction with Career Services staff members, made him “wake up and grow up” very quickly. “I realized that I couldn’t wait to get a résumé together,” he explained. “Four years goes very fast.”

As part of that course, St. Ores learned how to effectively prepare for a job interview. “I learned what questions to expect and how to think quickly without stumbling over answers,” he said.
John Grinalds ’15, an electrical engineering major, benefited from the Senior Seminar course that Reep teaches for the School of Engineering and Computer Science. “Mr. Reep conducts a very good mock interview,” he said. “I use his advice every time I interact with a prospective employer.”

Career Services staff members — Reep, Lintz, and Ken Rucker ’93, Associate Director — also conduct workshops on relevant topics including job searching strategies and using social media networks in your job search. And, Jobs4Jackets, an online career management system, provides regular job postings to both students and alumni. All of these take a student one step further down the road to his or her dream career.

Networking the Prospects

Maps and GPSs are great, but sometimes you need to stop and ask for directions. Think about networking that way. The right person can point you in the right direction to success. Too often, students put off networking until late in their college careers. According to Reep, networking is something students should be doing all along — it’s never too early to start building relationships that could be beneficial professionally down the road. Reep encourages students to accumulate 100 contacts over the course of their college experience and actively engage them throughout the four years.

To facilitate networking opportunities on campus, Career Services hosts several career fairs each year. Last year, between career fair and recruitment visits, more than 300 employers visited campus, including GE, Procter & Gamble, Honda Research and Development, and the FBI. “It is very unique for a school our size to get Fortune 500 companies to visit,” explained Reep. “It speaks to the high quality of our programs here.”

St. Ores began “hitting the ground hard” with networking the fall of his junior year. He met a representative from JPMorgan Chase at a career fair that year and was offered a summer internship as an Operations Analyst. While he learned a great deal in this position, he considers “learning how corporate America works” to be the greatest takeaway from that opportunity. Using contacts through Reep, St. Ores learned of a job at LexisNexis during his last semester before graduation. Reep helped him secure an interview and, ultimately, a job in his field of study immediately after graduation. “You have to market yourself well coming from a small school,” St. Ores offered. “That’s something Career Services does really well. You really need leverage when looking for a job, and for me, that leverage was Career Services.”

Grinalds had three internships during his four years at Cedarville, the last two — at Belcan Corporation and Procter & Gamble — coming directly from contacts he made through Career Services. He has received job offers from five major corporations and recently accepted a position at Procter & Gamble. Of his experience with Career Services, he said, “I am so thankful … Mr. Reep has been so helpful and encouraging at every point over the last four years.”

Castillo used Career Services to seek out contacts with nonprofit organizations, her desired field. She completed an informal internship at Parent Promise in Springfield, Ohio, in the fall of her senior year, which gave her a good taste of working at a nonprofit organization. She has accepted a position with Guest Services for the Columbus Crew following graduation.

And Above All, Glorifying God

For Reep, none of this matters if Career Services is not working in a way that honors God. “If all we’re doing is preparing students to make more money to buy bigger houses and bigger toys, our efforts are pretty empty,” he explained. The office adopts the University’s core values — Love for God, Love for Others, Excellence in Effort, and Integrity in Conduct — which affects everything it does. “We want our graduates to get great jobs, but we want them to work with integrity and excellence,” Reep said.

For St. Ores, he sees God’s hand in everything that’s happened to him throughout his four years at Cedarville. “It’s all God’s doing,” he said, “putting the right people in my life, including Jeff Reep. God’s plans are awesome.” The Cedarville journey is over, his first destination is reached, and the glory goes all to God.

Michele (Cummings) Solomon ’91 is the Copy Editor in Cedarville University Marketing.
CU COAST TO COAST:
Where a Cedarville Education Works for Graduates

ABC News
Accenture
Answers in Genesis Ministries
ARS, Inc.
Axeda Systems, Inc.
Baxter Healthcare
Bethany Christian Services
The Boeing Company
Bolthouse Farms
Burris Logistics
Case-New Holland Agriculture
Caterpillar, Inc.
Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview
Cleveland Clinic
The Collegiate School of Memphis
Compunetix
Creative Trust, Music Division
Crown Equipment
Cummins Diesel
Deka Research & Development
Department of Defense
Diamond Case Linear
Duotech Services, Inc.
Eaton Corporation
Electric Bolt Corporation
Elsie Manufacturing
Erickson Living
Exelon Nuclear/AmerGen
Experi-Metal
Extreme Consulting
Exxon Mobil Development Company
Florence Baptist Church
Flowserv Corporation
Ford Motor Company
Gain Capital
General Dynamics Electric Boat
General Motors
Girtz Industries
Guilford Orthopaedics
Halliburton
Hargray Communications
Headwater Manufacturing
The Heritage Foundation
Honda R&D
Houston Astros
ICM Corporation
Interactive Intelligence, Inc.
ION Trading
J.P. Morgan Chase
LexisNexis
Lifeway Films
Lockheed Martin
Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab
Where will you find a Yellow Jacket? Maybe the better question is, “Where won’t you?” Cedarville graduates can be found in some of the best-known companies, government agencies, and educational institutions across the United States. But don’t take our word for it. Check out this map for a sampling of where our students’ education has worked for them, from C to shining C.
When Andy Johnson ’14 showed up the first day of gross anatomy class at the University of Michigan Medical School last fall, he was caught off guard. “About half of my classmates have degrees in the realm of biology from schools like Harvard, Yale, and Michigan,” he said. “Very few had ever seen a cadaver before, and even fewer had spent significant time studying a cadaver like each anatomy student does at Cedarville.”

Andrew Barfell ’11, a third-year medical student at the University of Cincinnati, also found himself among a very elite few. “It’s not super common for undergrad programs to have human anatomy-based classes,” he noted. “There are a couple schools that make you do a zoology program, so a lot of my peers had done work on animal structures, but very few of them had done anything with human cadavers.”

Offering human structure and function courses where students actually interact with human bodies is just one way that Cedarville’s premed track is giving students a running start in the high-pressure world of the American medical school.

**Numbers Don’t Lie**

According to the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), there were 49,474 applicants to med school in 2014. How many were accepted? A striking 43.2 percent were given the green light to attend med school last fall, or 21,355 applicants. This wasn’t a blip in the numbers, either. Over the course of five years, from 2010 to 2014, the acceptance rate at American medical schools has been about 45 percent.

In contrast, 79 percent of Cedarville’s premed track applicants have been accepted into medical school over the same five-year period, putting its acceptance rate percentage in the rare air of some of the highest-rated premed programs in the country, such as Duke University (85 percent) and Cornell University (67 percent for 2010).

Former Yellow Jackets are now preparing for careers in medicine all over the Midwest and beyond — University of Michigan, Indiana University, University of Iowa, the Medical University of South Carolina, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine (in conjunction with Case Western Reserve University), and Temple University.

“If you are getting almost 80 percent of your seniors into medical school, that’s a number any institution would be proud to have,” said Geoffrey Young, AAMC’s Senior Director of Student Affairs and Programs. He served as Dean of Admissions at the Medical College of Georgia – Georgia Regents University and on admissions committees at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Rutgers University, and Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine.

“Medical school is extremely competitive. To have that rate would suggest the students are academically well prepared and engaged in the kinds of experiences medical schools are seeking in their applicants.”

**Solid Beginning**

Premed students at Cedarville typically earn a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and take medical school track courses. During third year, students interact with human bodies in the Structure and Function I and II courses.

“Cedarville’s human anatomy course is a lot more intense than other programs,” Barfell recalled. “[Assistant Professor of Biology Cindy (Myczka) Wingert ’01] had us learn all the muscles, the bones, landmarks on the bones; we memorized the origins, insertions, the actions of all the muscles, innervations, and blood supply [of all the muscles]. It was really extensive and a lot of it stuck with me.”
“You would learn about how the body works in the classroom, and then you would go to the lab and learn the structure on an actual human cadaver.”

Johnson concurred. “Much of my anatomy lab in medical school is a review from the structure and function class at Cedarville,” he said. “That has saved me hours and hours of study time compared to my classmates.”

“There are other institutions that have access to human donors, but they are typically larger state schools like Ohio State, University of Cincinnati, University of Michigan,” Wingert offered. “Even at those schools, the cadaver labs are dedicated to medical and graduate students.”

Wingert teaches structure and function courses as well as a senior-level human dissection elective, open to only eight students each semester. “For a college our size, this is extremely unique,” she said. Cedarville has four human cadavers each year, provided through agreement with the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. To facilitate these opportunities, a new leading-edge cadaver lab, Phase I of the science and engineering facilities upgrade, opened fall 2014.

“All schools may not have the resources to provide that kind of hands-on experience with a cadaver prior to medical school,” noted Young. “I think that’s pretty rare. That’s a really wonderful resource.”

Extra Preparation

Three years ago, Cedarville began offering a one-credit topics course taken by most junior premed students. “Based on information I provide and feedback from seniors who’ve been through the process, students develop an MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test) study plan, research and rank medical schools, and write a personal statement, which is a big part of the application process,” noted Dr. Melissa (Hartman) Burns ’96, Assistant Professor of Biology and a board-certified emergency medicine physician. “After finals in May, they can focus on taking the MCAT and all things are in place for them to apply.”

Burns also coaches students about creating a résumé of awards and cocurricular activities that tells admissions committees why these honors and experiences are significant. Jeff Reep ’79, Director of Cedarville’s Career Services, conducts mock med school admissions interviews with premed students based on a pool of questions gleaned from former Cedarville students who’ve been through the experience.

“Dr. Burns showed us what the application looked like so we were able to see exactly what we needed to complete,” Johnson said. “We had deadlines to have written portions of the application completed so we could help each other improve. Because of the prep class, I was able to have all the written portions completed prior to the application opening and simply copy-and-pasted everything on the day it became available.”

Many of Johnson’s University of Michigan classmates lacked the hands-on guidance of professors. “They were left to navigate the application on their own,” he said, “which delays when you can finally hit ‘Submit.’”

Because of the topics course, Cedarville students are ready to apply to med schools when enrollment opens in early June. “Applications are rolling admissions, so if you apply earlier there are more seats available,” Burns said. “A common deadline is November 1, but the first time you can hit ‘Submit’ is early June. Our goal is within two weeks of when the application opens, all our students have applied. Because they’re applying earlier, they have a better chance of getting in.”

Outside the Classroom

As good as the in-class training may be, Cedarville students also have an advantage because of their extracurricular activities. Students have the option of participating in Chi Theta Pi, a health sciences club where they learn about health care careers and participate in health care-related service projects. Many volunteer on the Cedarville University all-student volunteer Emergency Medical Service (EMS).

A number go on medical missions trips. Every other summer, Cedarville premed students travel to South America for six weeks to work with Dr. Jeff McKissick serving the village of Yataity, Paraguay. During spring break, 10 students travel to the Dominican Republic.

Johnson’s Paraguay trip became the centerpiece of his admissions process. “Med schools love international experiences,” he said. “Being able to talk about what I was doing in Paraguay and what I took away from the trip made for easy interviews.”

But it’s more than medical-related activities that impress admissions interviewers. “A lot of med school applicants took the right classes, took the MCAT, spent four years jumping through hoops, but they don’t get in because they’re missing out on that personal development,” Barfell noted. “You have to show them you’re passionate about other topics, something that differentiates you from others out there.”

For Barfell, it was his involvement in Student Government Association and working as a Resident Assistant (RA) in Brock Hall. “I felt that was really instrumental to me getting into med school,” he said. “Being an RA was awesome. It showed med school admissions committees I could be in charge of a group of people and run things smoothly. Doing Student Government Association and finding creative ways to get students involved made my application stick out.”

Young agreed that diversity of extracurricular activities is important to admissions committees. “Being a competent, caring physician is more than just about

79 PERCENT OF CEDARVILLE’S PREMED TRACK GRADUATES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL, PUTTING ITS ACCEPTANCE RATE IN THE RARE AIR OF SOME OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED PREMED PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRY.
being able to demonstrate knowledge on an exam,” he said.

“What type of person would you want to care for your most loved family member — your grandmother or mother?” Young added. “What type of skill set would I want to care for me when I’m most vulnerable? There’s a percentage of students, anywhere from 8 to 9 percent, with a [high MCAT score] and GPA of 3.8 to 4.0 that don’t get into medical school. That would suggest they didn’t have the other kinds of attributes and experiences we’re talking about.”

It’s the Faculty

More than anything, it’s the faculty members — their approachability, their individual concern for students, their professionalism, and their desire to glorify God — that separates Cedarville from other premed programs.

“Professors teach the lectures as well as labs and get to know students,” Burns said. “Students feel comfortable going to a professor’s office to ask questions. A lot of our students do research with professors where they get one-to-five or one-to-six interactions. When they apply for research internships, they get letters from professors who know them well.”

Barfell remembers when he was a confused freshman student, taking his first premed course and asking Burns about the future. “Right away, she asked me if I was free to talk about career interests and a possible career path,” he said. “She met me for lunch at Chuck’s two or three hours later. She had my printed-off transcripts and took a personal interest in me. She gave me detailed and specific advice, not from a blog online, or applying generic info that might be applied to any and all students. It was tailored to me, and it was Christ-centered.”

Having faculty members who are available to coach and work with premed students is a blessing, Young noted. “The reality is the majority of schools don’t have pre-health (care education) advisers,” he said. “If you have the appropriate mentorship, the appropriate counsel, who can offer guidance and attention, [your students] are fortunate. That sounds like a strength of your program.”

“I could have gone to another premed program where I worked with a world-renowned person who took no interest in me and taught from a humanistic approach — here’s how to get into med school and impress people,” Barfell added. “My life would have been centered inappropriately. Cedarville flipped that. They said, ‘Let’s pray about that’ and focused on living a life that first honored Christ and following His will, doing things He has called me to do.”

Cedarville taught Barfell how to prioritize his life, and that’s been the most valuable training of all. “In med school you have all these deadlines and the pressure to perform better than others,” he said. “It can mess with your life and your perspective. But by putting God first, family second, and then in third place, med school, that’s been pivotal to who I am as a med student and as I apply for residencies next year.”

Clem Boyd is Managing Editor of Cedarville Magazine.
CEDARVILLE TOUGH

by Clem Boyd
One graduate from the class of 2008. That’s all it took for Cedarville to form what has now become a graduate-to-employee pipeline with one of the largest engine designers and builders in the world — Cummins Inc.

“Almost every year, I have a new [Cedarville graduate] on my team,” commented Andy Wenig, a Validation Engineering Manager for Cummins. “I’m always impressed by their education, practicality, hands-on experience in the labs, and extracurricular activities.”

“You get one person in and the floodgates will open,” said Dr. Tim Dewhurst, Senior Professor of Mechanical Engineering. “We have 12–15 engineers right now at [General Dynamics] Electric Boat [builder of America’s nuclear-powered submarines]. When I first came here, Prince Manufacturing in Michigan was hiring a lot of Cedarville people. Procter & Gamble has started hiring a lot. When they see a product they like, companies will get on board.”

But until the last 10 years, very few Cedarville graduates had worked at Cummins. Enter Chris Byus ’08.

“Chris is a really sharp guy, very personable,” commented Jay Kinsinger, Assistant Professor of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering and adviser to the Jackets Racing Formula Society of Automobile Engineers (SAE) team. “Everybody knows about Formula, so when Cummins saw he participated in the Formula SAE competition, it was an immediate connection. They know the quality of students who come out of that program.”

Once Byus was on board at Cummins, he started making contact with Kinsinger, Dewhurst, and other professors to find out about promising seniors who might make good engineers for Cummins. “They started hiring more and more Cedarville graduates,” Kinsinger said. “It became a domino effect.”

Wenig manages 40 validation engineers at Cummins’ Southern Indiana Seymour Engine Plant. His team is responsible for making sure that all the appropriate tests are run on new engines and that they’re done to company specifications.

“I interviewed the first Cedarville candidate that we hired,” Wenig said. “I offered to start sponsoring recruiting at Cedarville, though I’m not an alumnus, because I liked what I saw from him. They have become a strong source for us.”

Thirty-eight employees and counting, in fact, with eight interns heading to Cummins this summer.

“Cedarville is an excellent undergraduate school,” noted Joshua Brown ’11, a Validation Engineer who works on the ISX truck engine. “The professors prepare students very well. They’re involved with students developing the fundamentals of engineering technical expertise.”

Brown commented on the importance of the senior capstone project. “Academic knowledge is great, but you never have
was incredible. We're considering patenting motors failed, “Dewhurst said. “The boat Eastwood Lake in Dayton, Ohio. “The team engine problems during the competition at captures that. ”

of ability. I think our senior design course till you master it — that's a whole other level “They have to wrestle with it till they get it; wrestling with God, “Dewhurst continued. engineering education. “It's like Jacob had to build a boat, and then they went back things that don't work, “he explained. “They and improving, Dewhurst noted. “They see confidence by trying, failing, assessing, at my job every day. ”

continued. “I practiced skills that I'm using that was just being developed, “Vivas said. Senior-level classes at Cedarville would count as graduate courses at other schools, Dewhurst contended. Dewhurst earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate from Cornell University. "When they go for their master's degree, it's like a review," he said. "Former students tell us they feel very well prepared for graduate school."

Vivas was part of the Cummins recruiting team that visited Cedarville last year. One of the other scouts, who had never even heard of Cedarville, was pleasantly shocked by the vast opportunities students have to work through normal engineering workplace problems. "It took a new course on microcontrollers that was just being developed," Vivas continued. "I practiced skills that I'm using at my job every day."

Students grow in their engineering confidence by trying, failing, assessing, and improving, Dewhurst noted. “They see things that don’t work,” he explained. “They had to build a boat, and then they went back and fixed it.”

Call it the Genesis 32 approach to engineering education. “It's like Jacob wrestling with God,” Dewhurst continued. “They have to wrestle with it till they get it; that's what we're doing here. Wrestle with it till you master it — that's a whole other level of ability. I think our senior design course captures that.”

Last year’s Solar Boat team struggled with engine problems during the competition at Eastwood Lake in Dayton, Ohio. “The team worked extremely hard last year, but the motors failed,” Dewhurst said. “The boat was incredible. We're considering patenting our solar panel design, but we didn't quite get there.

“We could have taken the boat from the previous year and the competition wouldn't have come close. But it also wouldn't have been very educational.”

Kinsinger concurred. “Engineering is more and more theoretical,” he said. “Application is going out the window. It's so much easier designing on a computer than actually building something and seeing if it works or not. It's a quantum leap difference.

“Employers keep saying they want experience, teamwork, and hands-on, but universities aren’t going that direction. Except for Cedarville.”

Cummins offers challenging, meaningful work right away to new hires and interns. "We give them the support they need, but at the same time, they've got a lot of work to do,” Wenig said. “The Cedarville students have been very successful.”

Transmitting the Knowledge

And they match their engineering acumen with written and verbal skills that would make any English professor proud. “We force them to present,” Dewhurst said. “Our [Solar Boat] team has won first place for technical report many, many years. Several years ago one of the other teams asked, ‘How come Cedarville is always winning the report?’ One of the judges said, ‘There’s nothing really wrong with your report, but if you read the Cedarville report, it is just so good.’”

All Cummins summer interns, regardless of their school, give an end-of-summer presentation. “It's very easy to pick out the Cedarville students,” said Wenig. “They have strong presentation skills and are very confident in their work without being arrogant or overconfident. They know how to lead meetings. Cedarville grads have no problems with presentations.”

Students are required to give presentations in many of their classes. Vivas remembered, sometimes before students, sometimes before faculty, and sometimes to people who don't know the engineering field. “Communication skills are extremely necessary in today's workforce,” he said.

Coaching at the Core

Another factor that stands apart in the Cedarville program is the way faculty members engage with their students — outside of class as much as in class. “At state institutions, faculty are committed to research; graduate students teach the class,” Kinsinger said. “That’s not the case at Cedarville. We do research, but our primary motivation is teaching. That’s a real distinctive.”

Brown compared the experience of his Cummins colleagues who attended other schools. “Not many of them had their professors’ home telephone numbers,” he said. “We were expected to actually make that phone call. But that’s the commitment Cedarville professors make. That’s a large part of our success.”

“Professors are genuinely interested in the students’ learning and development,” Vivas added. “It is not uncommon to see professors staying later than usual or being flexible with their schedules to help students whose hours don’t match with their office hours.”

What stands out the most about Cedarville professors is that they are interested in more than just academics, but in the students’ development as a whole. “Many of my professors gave me advice on internships, career-related decisions, life decisions, and spiritual matters,” said Vivas, “and for that I am truly grateful.”

Clem Boyd is Managing Editor of Cedarville Magazine.
“Only four in 10 20-somethings would say they need their college degree for their current job,” the Barna Group reported in its Year-in-Review for 2014. “In the end, fewer than half of millennials (47 percent) would strongly agree their degree was worth the cost and time.”

One member of the millennial generation expressed his dismay publicly last year in The Washington Post:

“…the only real-world business skills I’d learned at college were how to write a résumé and operate three-fifths of the Microsoft Office suite. My college education left me totally unprepared to enter the real workforce.”
But Ark offered a glimmering thread of hope within his bleak view of American higher education: “In an ideal world, business students would learn how to succeed in business by actually running their own businesses — Cedarville University (based in Cedarville, Ohio) is allowing them to do just that.” (To see the story, go to cedarville.edu/wash-post-article.)

Exemplary Program

The program Ark lauded is the School of Business Administration’s Integrated Business Core (IBC). Led by Jeff Guernsey, Associate Professor of Finance, and Dr. Jon Austin, Associate Professor of Marketing, the IBC is a three-hour elective practicum (BUS-3280) taken fall of junior year, in conjunction with finance (FIN-3710) and management (MGMT-3500) courses. Students taking IBC have successfully completed a specially designed Principles of Marketing course (MRKT-3600) during spring of their sophomore year.

At the beginning of the practicum, students put together a business plan, a document that describes what product or service they plan to provide, and how they’ll go about providing it. Then the business team presents its plan to Cedarville’s version of the Shark Tank: a loan committee made up of business professionals and alumni working in the business world.

“They evaluate the loan proposal; give them feedback; and give a red, yellow, or green light for a loan,” Austin said.

 Sometimes they may send a team back to make adjustments to the proposal before they give it the go-ahead.” The capital for their venture comes from in-house funds generated from a portion of past IBC business profits. Students must repay the loan at the end of the semester.

“I think the value [of IBC] is extremely high,” noted Dr. Steve Parscale, Chief Accreditation Officer for the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). ACBSP accredits business, accounting, and business-related programs at the associate, baccalaureate, master, and doctorate degree levels worldwide, including Cedarville, which has maintained ACBSP accreditation since 2005.

“Any time you can learn through application, it sticks with you,” said Parscale. “When you’re learning from lecture, my experience is you take a test and brain-dump anything you learned in that class on the way out. But when you actually take it and apply it, it stays in your nervous system.”

Students come out with a unique and noteworthy learning experience. “They tell us they’ve put IBC on their résumé and they have meaningful conversations during a job interview about it,” Austin said. “It resonates with prospective employers because our students have done things business-wise that most undergrad students don’t do.”

Cedarville Stands Out

That’s what Ark discovered also. “When I was preparing to write the article, I researched programs that seemed to offer a modicum of actual live business experience for business majors,” Ark explained in an interview with Cedarville Magazine. “I was kind of frustrated by what I found. There were a couple of programs doing what you’re doing, but I didn’t find anybody other than your program offering a real shot at doing anything business-related before actual graduation.”

Christine Krapohl ’13, an account representative with pharmaceutical ad agency GFW Worldwide in Columbus, Ohio, learned the uniqueness of her IBC experience when she was job hunting. “During interviews, I’d hear how this doesn’t really happen on the undergraduate level, at least in the Columbus, Ohio, area,” she said.

“Business programs don’t promote that kind of entrepreneurship during an actual class,” Krapohl continued. “And it’s not a business plan competition, and it’s not just theory, but you put it together, test it out, and see if it works.”
“Everyone competing for a job has internships, good grades, and extracurriculars. This was one more thing to put on my résumé that differentiated me from others.”

Dr. Dan LeClair is Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President for the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). AACSB accredits business schools at universities such as The Ohio State University, Stanford, Harvard, and Yale.

“Many schools have programs that integrate fields,” LeClair said. “Certainly there are many schools where students write a business plan. And there are schools that have students run actual businesses. There are schools where students make pitches for venture capital to start and run a business. But I don’t know how many have a combination of all those factors.”

But why aren’t there more programs like Cedarville’s? “It takes a visionary faculty member to put it in place,” Parscale noted. “It takes a leader to take on the responsibility of developing it and implementing it for the students. And most faculty don’t have the time or take the time to do something like this.”

Why It’s So Valuable

The primary goal of IBC is to help students break out of the silo that defines their particular business discipline and see how their field interacts with others in a business laboratory. Hence, the first word in the practicum’s name: integrated.

“IBC is not focused on any one discipline,” said Austin. “Students may have overseen accounting, or marketing, or implemented an event. In IBC they’ll gravitate toward things related to their professional interests.

“But it’s not just their discipline; these areas have to work together,” he added. “They don’t see that if they take these classes separately. We aren’t claiming they know all those relationships, but we’re opening their eyes that business isn’t just their area of specialization.”

Besides paying back the loan, the student business also donates 100 percent of its profits to a local charity of its choosing. Team members also volunteer for at least 10 hours during the semester with a local charitable organization.

“We felt it was important for them not to get focused on who can make the most money,” said Austin. “We wanted them to learn how to be good stewards of resources at the same time.”

Coaching Is Key

For IBC, Austin and Guernsey view their roles more as coaches than instructors. Consultation and review are critical to students getting the most from the experience.

“The first weeks of the class we do much more leading to get things going,” said Guernsey. “But then we start backing off, let them run it, and we serve more as guardrails.”

Professors and students have two scheduled meetings each week. “We’re consulting as things come,” said Guernsey. “They might come to us and say, ‘We just ran into this roadblock and don’t know what to do.’ That’s where learning happens. It’s preparatory for the workplace.”

About mid-semester, it’s typical to hear complaints by students in one part of a business against their co-workers in another part. “They’ll come to us and say, ‘We don’t know what’s going on,” Austin related. “Those problems are the biggest learning experiences where they see the need to communicate.”

“Here’s a phrase we use — this is a student-led activity that is faculty-guided,” noted Guernsey. “You will get out of it what you as a collective group put into it.”

The Hardest Class You’ll Ever Love

Reflecting on Cedarville’s program, LeClair was struck by its challenging requirements. “Students are not just setting up lemonade stands,” he said, “but trying to be creative in starting a business that might actually have legs to it, that could turn into something quite real. It would be quite a challenge to do this with the set of expectations and in the period of time they have. And they somehow combine that with experience in a nonprofit organization. And they’re starting from scratch, with no money put into it. That seems like a hefty expectation.”

Austin and Guernsey would agree. And cheer.

“At the end of the class we have students write individual reflection papers,” Guernsey said. “Frequently, they share comments that it wasn’t what they learned about business, but what they learned about themselves, or their team. ‘I know what accountants do now, and I understand marketing better, but mostly I learned a ton about myself.’”

That was a major takeaway for Krapohl, who has served on the IBC loan committee. She spent 14 hours in Milner Hall on homecoming Saturday her junior year, putting together a loan proposal with another classmate. “In the middle of the process, I thought it was a complete and utter disaster,” she said. “In hindsight, it ended up being a great experience. Nothing taught me more about myself than IBC did.”

Clem Boyd is Managing Editor of Cedarville Magazine.
2015 marked Year 33 for Jim Leightenheimer ’80, warmly known as “Mr. L” by graduates of Cedarville’s broadcasting and digital media program.

Leightenheimer, Associate Professor of Communications, has taught, mentored, coached, encouraged, helped, served, and pushed out of the nest hundreds of graduates, including Joy McBride ’11, afternoon show host for the entire WAY-FM network (see her story on page 20); Rudy Haerr ’05, Mastering Engineer for Focus on the Family’s Adventures in Odyssey and Focus on the Family Theatre; Paula (Faris) Krueger ’97, Weekend News Anchor for ABC’s Good Morning America; and Jim Houser ’91, Managing Partner at the Music Division of Creative Trust and Talent Agent for Steven Curtis Chapman.

All of them have this in common: Jim Leightenheimer was not only a major influence on their professional development, but also on doing their job for the glory of Christ.

“Our job as audio engineers is to be transparent to the listeners,” noted Haerr. “If we’re doing our jobs well, their attention is on the message. That’s how Jim lives. He may not be the one teaching about God to the masses, but he’s faithfully served those who do and faithfully equipped his students who support the work of the messengers.

“I can’t think of the help that he provided without being thankful to God for providing the right man in my life to accomplish what God wanted.”

Cedarville Through and Through

Leightenheimer graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in broadcasting and speech in 1980 and found a job as afternoon show host and Public Affairs Director at Dayton-based WFCJ, 93.7 FM. “I was there for two years and four months, and then came back to work with my teacher and mentor, Wes Baker [Distinguished Professor of Communications],” he explained.

Although Leightenheimer seemingly left the radio broadcasting field, he never really left it. “The University had
an FM network for around 50 years [WCDR], and I was on air there 28 years while serving as a faculty member,” he explained.

When Leightenheimer returned, Cedarville’s program was exclusively radio broadcasting. “In 1982, we would prepare students by having them do audio with a little bit of video, on-air performance, production, news,” he said. “Now they take courses in social media and web design. There’s an emphasis on writing and promotions; audio and video skills are still important with every website, even for radio stations, putting up video content all the time.”

“What sets us apart is that we’re well-tuned to what’s happening in the industry,” Leightenheimer continued. “Radio has been in a state of flux. Television came along and had a tremendous impact; FM impacted AM. Radio always snaps back. We just make sure our students have tools that stations are looking for today.”

Broad course offerings have been the key to Cedarville graduates’ employability. “It’s not just about radio, television, film, or production courses,” Leightenheimer said. “They all get courses on law and regulations, ethics, writing, and audio and video production.”

There’s also a film emphasis under the leadership of Jim Kragel, Associate Professor of Communications. Audio production courses used to prepare students solely for radio context, but now they teach sound design, post-production for film, and live and sound music production.

“We took a program that had two production courses and increased it to six production courses, with a wide preparation in multiple areas,” Leightenheimer said. “With today’s environment you don’t get in as a specialist anymore; you get in as a utility player who can do five things well.”

Adapting to the changing environment of media has meant changing the way Cedarville delivers radio itself. Eight years ago, Cedarville moved its low-wattage student station online. That’s today’s ResoundRadio.com, which can be heard worldwide courtesy of the Internet.

A student leadership team of six manages a volunteer staff of 30 at Resound. They develop their own programming, based on research and testing. There’s an on-air voice presence from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. every day Cedarville’s in session fall and spring semesters.

**Coming Back and Giving Back**

Because of Leightenheimer’s desire to see current students become as professional as possible, he encourages graduates working in the broadcasting field to return and teach as adjuncts or provide coaching.

Bill Montgomery ’93, General Sales Manager at Columbus, Ohio-based 104.9 FM the River, teaches once a week at Cedarville. The River was named the number one large-market Christian Station of the Year last year by the Christian Music Broadcasters organization.

“Our graduates serve as non-paid consultants,” Leightenheimer said. “Todd Stach ’94, Chief Creative Officer at the River, is one of our programming consultants. He listens to our ‘Amp Up with Angela and Stephen’ team every week and gives them critique. We’re very serious here.”

This drive to develop students into professionals before they leave Cedarville has paid results. Managers from all over the country in Christian radio know that students coming from Cedarville will be well-groomed and prepared to make a difference immediately.

“We’re always looking for the best people we can find out there,” noted Dusty Rhodes, Senior Vice President of WAY-FM, a national network of Christian radio stations, in a video promoting the Cedarville program. “For many years our go-to guy for fresh new candidates has been Professor Jim Leightenheimer from Cedarville University. Jim and the team at Cedarville [Baker, Kragel, Assistant Professor of Communications Jeff Simon, and Assistant Professor of Communications Mischelle McIntosh], they really know how to train and equip students for the real world.

“WAY-FM has hired over a dozen Cedarville grads over these many years. And they’re working successfully in… Denver; Nashville; West Palm Beach, Florida; Huntsville, Alabama; Tallahassee, Fort Myers/Naples, Florida. We love these students. They’re always ready to jump into what we’re already doing. In baseball terms, it’s almost like us having our own farm club team out there in rural Ohio.”

(To see the video, go to cedarville.edu/dusty-rhodes.)
Our people are in demand,” Leightenheimer added. “With what they’re getting in the classroom and what they’re getting to apply here, they graduate with a high knowledge and skill level. I’m so thankful for our graduates and their willingness to partner with us.

“God has blessed us with an amazing network. We stay in touch with our grads as much as we can, and they let us know about internships, they hire, they come back and share. I can’t think of a time someone has been asked to help our program or students and refused.”

Back to You, Mr. L

In the end, it comes back to Leightenheimer and his willingness to not just instruct, but invest.

“I have the privilege of working with students from freshman year to senior year,” Leightenheimer said. “I meet with our leadership team for the radio station every week. We talk about the business of the station and I do leadership training with them, but I also have the privilege of talking with them through all kinds of issues just because we spend a lot of time together. My office is right here with them.”

Leightenheimer takes his student radio crew on a “boot camp” at the beginning of each school year. Last fall, they camped in West Virginia and rafted on the New River. He also takes them to the Christian Music Broadcasters Momentum Conference in Orlando every fall. “They get to learn with professionals from professionals, and get to network, too,” he said.

Leightenheimer approaches his work with students humbly. “I get to spend a lot of time with them, and we build relationships and trust,” he said. “God’s given me the opportunity to be here for them when they have questions or need direction, even after graduation.”

As Managing Partner for one of Nashville’s premier talent agencies, Houser works with big names in a high-powered industry. But he remembers how Leightenheimer reached out to him when he was a hurting and lost freshman. “When I came to Cedarville, I was struggling with the loss of my dad and had deep questions about my faith,” he said. “I’m incredibly grateful for the way Mr. L poured into me at that pivotal life moment. He’s a spiritual role model and caring mentor with an open door. He finds ways to be a ‘fan’ of his students in the right moments.”

“Being a part of the lives of students is a privilege God has given me,” Leightenheimer said. And it’s that sincere, self-deprecating, and honest stewardship of his role at Cedarville that may be Mr. L’s greatest legacy.

Clem Boyd is Managing Editor of Cedarville Magazine.

MR. L BELIEVED IN ME

by Joy McBride ’11

“You could have a real future in radio!” Professor Jim Leightenheimer was the first person to ever say that to me. I was one of those students who had no idea what I wanted to do with my life, but I fell into the broadcasting and digital media major at Cedarville. Working at Resound Radio, the on-campus radio station, started as just a favor for a friend. However, Mr. L saw something in me that I did not even see in myself. He told me that I was a natural on the air, and he helped me to hone my skills. I had never imagined radio to be an actual career option until he pointed me in that direction.

The classes I took in my broadcasting major prepared me so well for an actual radio job! I will never forget Mr. L making us do “exactly three-minute” impromptu speeches in front of the entire Media Performance class. I got so nervous that I ended up crying in front of everyone, but now impromptu speaking is a skill that I use every day to be successful at my job. He expected a lot of us, like a father would from his children, because he wanted us to grow to our full potential.

Students cannot help but rave about Mr. L, with many considering him more like family than a teacher. We all knew that he truly loved us and if we needed help with a serious problem, needed guidance, or just needed to relieve some stress by jumping in the leaf piles in his backyard, he was there for us. I wanted to be the best that I could be, not just for me, but to make him proud. Mr. L used his connections to get me an internship with WAY-FM radio. After only a few weeks of interning, I was hired to a full-time position as the local morning show co-host in Fort Myers, Florida. I have since been promoted, and I am now the national afternoon show host for the WAY-FM Radio Network in Nashville, Tennessee. I talk to more than a million people every day, and it all started at Cedarville University.

Stepping into my dream career right out of college was possible because of the incredible education that I received, the holistic shaping of my mature Christian worldview through my Bible minor, and the care of a professor who took me under his wing. I owe my entire career to Mr. L, and Cedarville is lucky to have him. He believed in me before I believed in myself.

Joy McBride ’11 — or Joy Summers as she’s known to her radio listeners — is the WAY-FM afternoon show host. She lives in Franklin, Tennessee.
As parents, and especially Christian parents, what hopes did you have for your kids as far as college was concerned?

Kay Watson (KW) – In addition to great academics and professors who care about them and who are involved in making sure they succeed academically, we really wanted Caroline ’18 and Josiah ’18 to come here and make lifelong friends and to have close, deep “iron sharpens iron” friendships that would encourage them in their walk with the Lord.

Tom Ruhlman (TR) – Our first hope was that they’d immediately find good friends in the residence halls, and they all immediately did! We also wanted them to be heavily involved in a local church right from the start, and they were all able to do that as well, serving on worship teams, working in the nursery, serving with the youth group — you name it.

Sue Treide (ST) – We hoped he would mature in all areas of life — academically and spiritually. We wanted him to learn how to adapt to his circumstances, live with other people, and essentially grow up. The friends who first introduced us to Cedarville told us they’d sent their son off to the University as a boy and he had come back a man, and that’s what we wanted for Alex ’15.

What caught your attention about Cedarville as a possible school for your kids?

Greg Watson (GW) – We feel comfortable with the school trying to control costs and with our kids’ ability to be employed after they graduate. That’s what it takes for us to be comfortable with them taking on any amount of debt. Cedarville is committed to good stewardship of students’ time. If you’re going to spend four years here, are they four wasted years, or are these the four years that become foundational to the rest of your life? Many people find their spouse, their occupation, and/or their calling in these four years as a young adult, and this is the sort of environment in which we feel very comfortable having our kids.

KW – I really like the weekday chapels and quality speakers our kids get to hear. Josiah has told us that the Fall Bible Conference and Missions Conference have been life-changing for him. Something else that caught my attention is how involved the professors are and how much they care for students. They constantly offer help and prayer, and they see the big picture.

How did finances factor into your family’s college selection process?

Phil Treide (PT) – It definitely always plays a role. You have to look at the value proposition — what the school offers — and obviously you want to come out prepared for graduate school or prepared for direct entry into your field, and you don’t want to be loaded with debt. There’s certainly a balance that needs to be struck there, and we were impressed with Cedarville’s quality of education and the ranking of the school versus the cost of the education.

TR – Cedarville has a great academic scholarship system, and they have a whole list of scholarships we could apply for. Our
kids also relied on money they made themselves. One summer, our son Scott ’00 held eight jobs at once! His goal as a premed student was to make it through college debt-free, and he did.

PT – Another thing we took into account was that when Alex was entering college, he wasn’t entirely sure what he wanted to do. He had looked at engineering as a possibility, but was increasingly interested in the medical field. Cedarville had essentially any pre-professional program he would have wanted, so the fact that kids usually change their major was not concerning, as he wouldn’t have had to switch schools if his career aspirations had changed.

Describe how you worked through the cost of a private Christian college. What financial aid avenues were available to you?

GW – The tiered merit aid system has really leveled out Cedarville’s costs in comparison to many other schools, and that has made attending a possibility and a reality.

TR – My wife is an amazing scholarship finder. She did research online, and she found our kids thousands and thousands of dollars. She had a whole notebook full of opportunities: $500 from the Rotary Club, some from VFW, a bit from Kiwanis. There were so many opportunities! She still helps other people who say they can’t afford it. Well, we couldn’t afford it, either! You have to go find scholarships. It might be weird, like when the kids got a scholarship from the Elks Club and we’d go to the banquet and sit in the smoke-filled room, but we got the scholarship and a buffet meal.

Can you talk about any professional experiences your kids have had at Cedarville that specifically prepared them for their current position or professional work in general?

TR – Both Michelle ’02 and Melissa ’15 worked with various hospitals around Cedarville as a required part of their nursing degrees. While in the premed program, Scott also had to go out into medical facilities to gain experience. As an education student, Karen ’07 went out into several schools to complete her student teaching hours, which put her right on the front lines of the educational world.

PT – This past semester, Alex helped out at a local hospital, and he’ll be going on a medical missions trip over spring break to use the skills he’s learning.

Cedarville is obviously very concerned about spiritual development, but we’re also preparing students to succeed in the professional world. In what ways have you seen that preparation go from promise to reality?

GW – I work with a lot of engineers in the aerospace industry, and I run into people I know here all the time. Why? Because if you have a student who wants to go into the STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Math] and wants to go to a Christian school, Cedarville is the first choice. You won’t find a school that reinforces Christian values quite like this one, and you won’t find a school that prepares its students quite like Cedarville does.

GW – Cedarville has a very good regional reputation, but its reputation extends beyond the Midwest. When we went out to California to visit other Christian schools with my two older kids, people would say, “Wait a minute, you’re an hour away from Cedarville? Why are you visiting a school out here? If we lived anywhere near Cedarville, we’d go there instead!”

TR – We challenged our kids to have a marketable skill, and that’s what happened. One of our kids is an orthopedic surgeon, one is a registered nurse, one has a Master of Education degree, one is an insurance broker, and one is about to graduate with a nursing degree.

Of Greg and Kay Watson’s six children, two are current Cedarville freshmen and one is enrolled in Cedarville’s College Now program. Greg is retired from the Air Force and now works for the Department of the Air Force as a civil servant, while Kay homeschools their two youngest children.

Five of Tom and Becky Ruhlman’s eight children have graduated from or are currently attending Cedarville. Tom is the Lead Pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Seattle, where he has served for the past 35 years, and Becky is a homemaker.

Phil and Sue Treide have two children, including one who is a senior biology major at Cedarville. Phil is a Marketing Manager for EMC2, a multinational IT management firm, and Sue is a homemaker.
PT – We’ve watched Alex develop a real professional interest — not just thinking of his work as a job, but as a career as he’s become interested in the fundamental science of what he’s doing.

How have you seen that a Cedarville education was worth the investment?

TR – People talk about the risk of investment, but to us, there was no risk. We knew that our kids were at Cedarville with good professors and good students. And to know that they were going to chapel every day — that was huge. The faith of our children was strengthened — not shaken — at Cedarville.

ST – We’ve just seen a transformation in Alex, from being a high school kid to being a very polite and understanding young man. We attribute that to Cedarville and to the Lord continually developing and molding him.

PT – When we dropped Alex off as a freshman, one of the administrators talked about how Christian schools would increasingly have to make a choice regarding what they teach and what they believe, and we’re glad that Cedarville has stayed the course.

GW – What Cedarville brings is a balance between the uniquely, distinctively Christian experience — the sense of Christian community and the ability to make lifelong friends that you can admittedly find at other Christian schools — and an emphasis on good stewardship. The emphasis is on seeing a return on investment, because it doesn’t make sense to walk out of college owing the price of a mortgage while only being able to land a $20,000 job. Cedarville has been very methodical about fostering that return, whether it’s helping find ways to graduate in three years, aggressively encouraging kids to go into internships, or matching them up with internships, and giving them the sorts of skills that will equip them to go out and not just be trained into a job, but to be ready to contribute to a job. That sort of mindset is incredibly helpful. That’s why Cedarville has such a great reputation.

Stephen Port ’13 serves as an Admissions Counselor at Cedarville University, interacting daily with prospective students and their parents. He’s recruited at churches and schools throughout Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and the Pacific Northwest.
In Mark 14, in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Son of God, who could speak to legions of demons and they would flee, calls out with such intensity the capillaries in His face burst. What had He seen that caused that kind of intensity?

William Lane Craig, the New Testament scholar, says the only explanation for how these events in Gethsemane transpired is that God had already begun to turn His face away from the Son. In Gethsemane, Jesus stared into hell and voluntarily went into it. Hell is complete abandonment by God. That was the horror of the cross.

You need to feel the weight of His love for you. For those of you who are not living sold out fully to Jesus Christ, it is because you have never had your eyes opened to the weightiness and the glory of the God who gave this for you.

J.D. Greear is Lead Pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. He is the author of several books, including Jesus, Continued...: Why the Spirit Inside You Is Better Than Jesus Beside You. Summit Church has grown from 300 to 8,000 members under Greear’s leadership. He is on the faculty at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

I moved to Cedarville when I was in the seventh grade and became a basketball player. If you had somewhat of a lead in the third quarter, your coach would say, “Slow it down.” When you did that you had just about a 50 percent chance of losing. When you stop trying to win, usually, you end up losing.

We do in life what we do in sports. We find a comfort zone, a place where we are no longer challenged, that demands no faith, and we settle in. God created us to win and to live each day of our lives with winning as our goal. When we’re trying not to lose, we’re living out of fear. When we’re trying to win, we’re living out of faith.

My favorite illustration of trying to win and not trying not to lose is Caleb. Caleb and Joshua brought the minority report back from the promised land. Forty-five years has gone by now. Caleb is now 85 years old (Josh. 14:10), but it is clear he was as passionate as he was at age 40. At the last trimester of his life, he was able to accomplish the greatest thing he’d ever done.

David Jeremiah ’63 is the Founder of Turning Point Radio and Television Ministries and is Senior Pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California. He is the author of numerous books including the Jeremiah Study Bible. He also serves on the Cedarville University Board of Trustees.

Jesus tells a story in Luke 10: A man is going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He’s robbed, beaten, stripped, and left for dead. The priest passes by. Then a Levite. And along comes a Samaritan. From a Jewish perspective, a half-breed. A faulty race and religion. But the Samaritan has compassion.

He gets off his donkey, pours in oil and wine — commonly used for medicinal purposes in the ancient world — then he puts this barely conscious man on the donkey. He gets to an inn. He says something of blistering importance and extraordinary generosity: “If there are further expenses, whatever they be, I’ll pay them.” In the ancient world, if you owed money, and you couldn’t pay your debt, then you had to sell yourself into slavery. The Samaritan saved this broken man from death, then saved him from slavery.

Jesus asks His question: “Which of the three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The question is whether I’m a neighbor. And that’s measured by my response to need. The parable pictures grace responding to need.

David Jeremiah ’63 is the Founder of Turning Point Radio and Television Ministries and is Senior Pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California. He is the author of numerous books including the Jeremiah Study Bible. He also serves on the Cedarville University Board of Trustees.

D.A. Carson is Research Professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. He has written or edited more than 50 books and is President of The Gospel Coalition.

“OUR FAITH DEMANDS OUR LIFE AND OUR ALL, ESPECIALLY IN WAYS THAT SHOW GRACE IN THE MARGINAL AREAS OF THE WORLD.”

“CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A DEVICE FOR MAKING NICE CITIZENS ... IT IS TO MAKE PEOPLE READY TO BE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.”

Watch or listen online at cedarville.edu/chapel to hear these upcoming speakers:

Aug. 17–20 Fall Bible Conference Clayton King Founder of Clayton King Ministries Anderson, South Carolina

Sep. 2 Mark Bailey President of Dallas Theological Seminary Dallas, Texas

Sep. 9 Alistair Begg Sr. Pastor of Parkside Church Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Sep. 10 Albert Mohler President of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Louisville, Kentucky
**Russell Moore**  
*February 25*

In Luke 3, John [the Baptist] stands as a prophet and gives a vision of God: who God is, what the world is moving to in God’s purposes. He is shaking us out of what we assume to be normal. John hits hard at the issue of the deception behind sin. He says, “You think that you don’t have anything to worry about. You assume that tomorrow is going to be just like today. But there is a day of accounting, a day of judgment you do not see.

“And don’t,” he says, “assume that somehow you are exempt from this because you are children of Abraham, because God can raise up from these stones children for Abraham.” He says, “You need to recognize and understand that you are in the process of being deceived.”

If you and I are carrying the Gospel to whatever sorts of places and whatever sorts of avenues that God has called us to, we are called to break the deceiving power of the devil, and the way that we are to do that is to start within our own hearts.

Russell Moore is the President of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. He has authored several books including the forthcoming Onward: Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel. He has spoken on religious issues at The White House and in multiple United States Senate committees.

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**Peter Greer**  
*March 12*

As I was living in Rwanda, I had my eyes opened and my heart broken to the fact that I missed in Scripture something that has happens when we understand what Christ has done for us. I had my eyes opened to the fact that, even in the Old Testament, so many of the laws were to care for the widow, the poor, and the oppressed. In Psalms and Proverbs, we are called to respond to the cries of the needy. When you read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, Jesus found Himself at the margins of society and invites us to join in.

When Peter and Paul are separating ways, the last recorded conversation in Galatians 2:10 is “Remember the poor.” As there were famines and plagues, the early church responded with the greatest amount of generosity. There has been a pattern in history, and when I was in college, I missed it. If my heart has been captivated by the message of grace (the Gospel), I want everyone to hear about that, but also I want to show care and compassion for the downtrodden and those in poverty.

Peter Greer is the President and CEO of HOPE International in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. HOPE provides the impoverished in 17 countries the tools to thrive economically by teaching them how to run businesses and save money, and providing commercial loans. HOPE does this while keeping evangelism and discipleship at the heart of its mission.

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**Ronnie Floyd**  
*April 8*

Everyone wants to be exalted. And the way we think we’re exalted is if we take care of it ourselves. But God says if you want to be up, you need to lower yourself before Me. You’ve got to go down before God before God might choose to take you up with Him.

I ask you students, have you humbled yourself before God lately? When was the last time you bent on a knee and humbled yourself before God? When was the last time you cried out to God and told Him, “God, I need you so desperately”? And it wasn’t just in a song, but in the depths of your prayer and the depths of need in your life?

I challenge you today, when you walk through tough times in your life and when your future is uncertain, don’t be an egomaniac and try to fight your way forward. If you want to go forward, you humble yourself before God. And you let God speak to your heart, even while you are humbling yourself before Him.

Ronnie Floyd is the President of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and the Senior Pastor of Cross Church in Springdale, Arkansas. Floyd has been a pastor 36 years, 27 of those at Cross Church, the largest congregation in Arkansas. He is former SBC Executive Committee Chairman and a former SBC Program and Structure Task Force member.

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Oct. 13–14  
**Gospel at Work Conference**

- **Greg Gilbert**  
  Sr. Pastor of Third Avenue Baptist Church  
  Louisville, Kentucky

- **Sebastian Traeger**  
  Executive VP of the Southern Baptist Convention’s International Mission Board  
  Washington, D.C.

Oct. 21  
**Chip Ingram**  
Sr. Pastor of Venture Christian Church  
CEO and Teaching Pastor of Living on the Edge  
Los Gatos, California

Nov. 13  
**9Marks Conference**

- **Danny Akin**  
  President of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
  Wake Forest, North Carolina
“Friends for Life” has been the Alumni Relations tagline for years. The phrase captures and celebrates the lifelong connection Cedarville students share with one another and with their alma mater. These “school ties” can take root and grow in formal collegiate settings, but more often they happen informally. A group of Theta Rho Epsilon (OPE) students, for example, built lasting friendships when they gathered each Thursday for prayer, accountability, and (on occasion) Star Trek.

More than 20 years after graduation, this group maintains deep friendships with one another and two decades of OPE alumni. They are also forming friendships with today’s student members while encouraging them to form lifelong friendships with each other. They still gather — online and in person — for prayer, accountability, and to encourage (there’s no other way to say this) “the next generation.”

Paul McGrady ’93 and Kevin Parliament ’93 are two of OPE’s founding members. They spoke with Cedarville Magazine about how this student organization has established a multigenerational brotherhood and a lifelong connection with Cedarville.

When and why was OPE founded?

PM – OPE began our junior year, in 1991. The other founding members were Brian Bales ’93, Tom Mathisen ’93, Mike Heft ’93, and Tom Driscoll ’93, along with Jeff Beste ’86 as our adviser. We added additional members the following spring, and yearly membership has stayed at about 15–20 men.

KP – I’d love to say we had a master plan to establish 20 years of brotherhood, but we were 19- and 20-year-old college guys. We thought it would be great to have a men’s organization where we could get to know each other as brothers, hold each other spiritually accountable as men, and also have a little fun. We wanted to make sure each class of guys we brought in would be committed to these same principles.

And how did you become “Friends for Life”?

PM – We’ve maintained our accountability relationships as we’ve grown older, keeping in touch in person, by phone and text, and online through a Facebook group. We share concerns and prayer requests about our marriages, children, and health.

KP – We also stay in touch with current OPE students. Each year the officers plan an annual winter retreat. As founders, we try to attend each year, and we invite OPE alumni from other years. There could be as many alumni as there are students at the retreat.

You can’t talk about OPE without talking about Jeff Beste, the group’s longtime adviser. He’s had a constant connection with this group from the beginning. How did you see his influence?

PM – Jeff had the vision for OPE as a men’s accountability group, and he saw the potential for friendships that could last a lifetime. He was the glue that held it together and made it happen. With a gentle hand, he took a young organization and steered us toward longevity.

KP – I transferred to Cedarville at the start of my junior year. Other students already had two years of bonding with students and professors — I wasn’t yet part of the crowd. Jeff welcomed me into the group of guys that started OPE that year. He was older than us, so he was like a big brother that we looked up to.

How did your OPE experience shape your “Cedarville experience”?

PM – OPE didn’t shape our Cedarville experience as much as it continued it. Kevin, Tom, Brian, and I went to a conference a while back and spent three days together sharing meals and conversation and building on a long-term friendship that began at Cedarville. OPE also continues the experience because we know students on campus today. So when we get funding requests for various buildings and projects, those requests are not abstract for us.

KP – I agree. I don’t know that we would have stayed this invested in Cedarville without it.
There are several ways you have invested in Cedarville. What is the Theta Rho Epsilon Scholarship?

**PM** – Kevin and I started the scholarship about 10 years ago. It’s an annually funded award that Cedarville administers. The fund isn't about OPE; recipients don't have to be members.

**KP** – As Paul and I talked about this award, it seemed that students who already do well, coming out of high school with a 3.5 or 4.0 grade point average, get most of the scholarship money. I was the kind of student where the grade on my final marketing exam determined whether or not I would march in commencement. We wanted to do something for the average students, the ones who might struggle in school, but who want to do well and finish. There are a lot of students who are academically and economically average. They come from modest homes, but perhaps their parents’ income is “just enough” to preclude them from getting a lot of financial aid. Those are students who could use a little encouragement.

**What are your goals for this scholarship fund?**

**PM** – I hope the students who receive it are encouraged and, as their careers take off, maybe they’ll remember that somebody gave to help them. Maybe they’ll become givers, too.

**KP** – The scholarship isn’t a huge amount; it's something a lot of alumni could do. I would like to see this idea duplicated, whether it’s OPE guys giving to this fund or alumni starting their own scholarships. I would like to see other men become intentional about their giving and think, “Who could I encourage with this gift?”

**Where do you see OPE going from here?**

**PM** – Now that we’re “old guys,” we can give students career guidance and introduce recent grads to friends in our professional networks. Some of that is happening now, but that’s in early stages. Over the next 20 years, as we add more OPE alumni, and as Kevin and I become really old guys, I think more of that networking will happen. The primary areas of growth are helping students move toward the next step and being there for them as career and family mentors.

**KP** – Paul and I, along with the other founders, want to help where we can. We talk to students a lot about mentoring. But when we’re at the OPE retreat and telling our “old guy” stories, we make it clear that connecting with us isn't what makes OPE great. It’s about developing relationships and relying on one another so they know exactly who they can call at any time to say, “I’m struggling, I need encouragement.”

**What began in OPE is now multigenerational. My son turns 13 this year, and we are celebrating with OPE guys who are bringing their sons to talk about what it means to be a Christian man. These men are my brothers. They are my son’s spiritual uncles. They are family.**

**Paul McGrady ’93** is a partner at Winston & Strawn, LLP, headquartered in Chicago, and is Global Chair of the law firm’s trademark practice.

**Kevin Parliament ’93** is the Global IT Director for IAC Group, an international automotive supplier in Luxembourg.

**Carol Lee ’96** is the Publications Manager for Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and a freelance writer.

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Contact us at 1-888-233-2784 or at giftplanning@cedarville.edu to learn more and request a free illustration.

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Annisa Albury ’15
Exercise Science

Cedarville Travels to Detroit Auto Show, Meets Daytona 500 Champ

Among the tricked-out, glamourous, and seriously supercharged new cars featured at the 2015 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit in January, there was a little blue car from Cedarville University that grabbed center stage.

Cedarville’s Supermileage Team and its hybrid-electric car, Urbie, went to Detroit at the invitation of Shell, after competing in the 2014 Shell Eco-marathon Americas. Cedarville entered three cars in last year’s contest: Gold Lightning II and Sting in the Prototype Division and Urbie in the Urban Concept Division.

The Eco-marathon challenges student engineers to design and build super energy-efficient vehicles, not known for speed, but for going as far as possible on the least amount of fuel. The Cedarville team returned to Detroit on April 9–12 for this year’s Eco-marathon.

Advisers to the Cedarville team are Dr. Larry Zavodney, Senior Professor of Mechanical Engineering (second from right in the photo above), and Dr. Gerry Brown, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering (not pictured).

2015 Daytona 500 champion Joey Logano (third from right in the photo above) chatted extensively with the Cedarville team. “The quality of the cars, the craftsmanship, the engineering, and the creativity that goes behind these [vehicles] is really neat to see,” Logano shared with reporters. “I couldn’t do what those students have done — and still probably can’t. I’m just a race car driver.”

Cedarville engineers impressed Logano with their fuel-stretching strategies. “What they’ve done to build their car and listening to how they saved fuel, it’s very similar to the way we save fuel under [the caution flag during a race],” he said. “It’s cool to talk to the kids from Cedarville.”

Brad Keselowski, NASCAR’s 2012 Sprint Cup Champion and winner of the Auto Club 400 in Fontana, California, in March, also visited with Cedarville’s engineers. Then Keselowski took Urbie for a test-drive on the indoor track at the Cobo Center in Detroit.

Nearly 1 million people worldwide learned about Urbie and Cedarville’s engineering program via media reports. NBC Sports’ MotorSportsTalk webpage offered coverage on Urbie, as did WJRT-TV, Channel 12, from Flint, Michigan. Stories also appeared in Dayton, Ohio-area news outlets including the Xenia Daily Gazette; WDTN-TV, Channel 2; and WHIO-TV, Channel 7. Zavodney and the Supermileage team also met with Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.

For more photos from the NAIAS, check out Cedarville photographer Scott Huck’s site: cedarville.edu/EcoPics. See photos and commentary from the 2015 Eco-marathon at cedarville.edu/Eco-marathon.
Pharmacy Student Uses Training to Save Toddler

A two-year-old boy lying lifeless in his mother’s arms gets handed to you. How would you respond?

Joshua Arnold ’13, Pharm.D. ’16, a third-year professional pharmacy student, was put in just that situation on January 30, 2015, when a neighbor pounded on his door fearing her two-year-old son was going to die. Arnold’s textbook approach led to a positive end to the emergency.

“I give God all of the praise for allowing Joziah to still be alive; I did what anyone would do,” said Arnold during television interviews with Dayton media. “I was just a tool that God used.”

Arnold wasn’t supposed to be home; he was scheduled to work at his pharmacy internship at Kettering Medical Center. His shift ended early, and he returned home and had even started cooking dinner.

That’s when the pounding on his front door began. Damaris Pearson, carrying her unconscious, non-breathing son, rushed in. “Please help Joziah; he’s dying,” she exclaimed.

Arnold immediately applied cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to the toddler — skills that he gained from a mandatory course in the School of Pharmacy. “I was asking myself [when I was taking the class], ‘Why is this class necessary for a pharmacist?’” he said. “Now I know. It’s valuable for a pharmacist, or for someone who is just cooking dinner. It helped make a positive difference in this situation.”

While Arnold started CPR, he instructed Pearson to use his cell phone to call 911. In a matter of minutes, Cedarville’s emergency unit arrived. Prior to its arrival, the toddler began breathing again.

“I am thankful for the training Cedarville [School of Pharmacy] has provided me,” said Arnold. “This unfortunate event allowed me to realize that I am being prepared for these kinds of real-life situations.”

“Joshua [Arnold] remained calm throughout the ordeal, and I believe that it was because of his quick thinking and accurate recollection of his training that my son is alive today,” said the boy’s father, Joshua Pearson ’18, who was not home at the time of the crisis. “We are eternally grateful for the Lord’s provision.”

According to medical doctors at Soin Medical Center in Beavercreek, Ohio, Joziah had a virus that caused his temperature to spike, resulting in a febrile seizure. Today, the toddler is living a normal life and is enjoying the stuffed animal he received on his ambulance ride to Soin.

“Joziah is doing fine, but there was a time that we thought we were going to lose him,” said his mother, with a tear in her eye. “It has definitely brought our priorities into perspective. We are so thankful for Josh Arnold and for his university training.”

Re-Tweets

Jordan Esatto @hope_notfear · Jan 7
Is it God’s will for you to take his Word to the world? That’s not the right question to ask. The question is where and how #CUMissionsConf

Tommy Kiker @tommykiker · Jan 21
What a joy to preach @cedarville chapel! Such a wonderful student body and great spirit in the service.

CU Worship @CUworship · Mar 17
Rejoicing that 23 people accepted Christ where our Resonance team was ministering! Great things happening @cedarville! Cville

Derrick Green @74DG · Mar 20
In Colorado wearing @cedarville clothing a cashier in Target says “is that the Cedarville in Ohio? I hear it’s a great school” #BeBold

Kara Smith @karannesmith · March 18
So thankful for a University where I GET TO attend chapel every day @cedarville I wouldn’t want it any other way #imgonnamissthis

Chris Widener @ChrisWidenerOH · Mar 24
Great to see the next gen of @OhioPharmacists today @OhioStatehouse @cedarville #pharmacystudents
Taken this spring from the Center for Biblical and Theological Studies Patio, this fanfare of color inspired students, faculty, and staff to pause and consider the Maker of such splendor:

_The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands._

— Psalm 19:1

Photo by Ben Lucas ’17, an industrial and innovative design major from Columbus, Ohio.
Christian Themes Sum Up Standout Cedarville Runner’s Life

If there was a listing in Wikipedia for “Themes of the Christian Life,” you might find a picture of Cedarville runner Andre Klaassen ’17.

Klaassen is running the race set before him (Heb. 12:1). As a sophomore, he already holds the indoor 60- and 200-meter dash records for Cedarville University and ran the second-fastest outdoor 100- and 200-meter dash times.

Besides his adoption as a child of God (Gal. 4:5), Klaassen was adopted as an infant in Louisville, Kentucky. Soon after, his family moved to North Africa, where his parents served as missionaries for 12 years.

Growing up in Africa, the Cedarville sprinter learned how to be all things to all men (1 Cor. 9:22). He speaks French and Spanish fluently and is conversant in Arabic. He was educated in a Spanish, then a French, school system and learned to live as a Christian in a Muslim-majority culture.

Klaassen also knows how to make joyful music to the Lord (Ps. 100:2). While in Africa, he began playing drums during ministry team worship at his parents’ home. When he got back to the States, he started playing at his school and church. At Cedarville, he is drummer for the chapel band.

Breaking Records

In high school, Klaassen broke four school records and won three state championships for Louisville’s Whitefield Academy. After hearing about Cedarville from a close childhood friend, Klaassen chose to come to the University to continue his education and athletic career.

Since coming to Cedarville, Klaassen has set impressive records, but it hasn’t been easy. Last year, he missed several meets in the indoor season because of hamstring issues, and he missed the end of the outdoor season with a pulled quadriiceps.

“It’s really eye-opening because you realize how much you depend on the body that God has given you,” he said. “You have to learn how to depend on God for healing.”

Cedarville Assistant Track Coach Jason Scott ’07 sees tremendous possibilities for Klaassen. “He hasn’t even scratched the surface of what he is capable of, and he will be the first one to tell you that,” Scott said.

Klaassen hopes to run 10.4 and 21.2 for the 100 and 200, respectively, before he graduates. Both times would obliterate school records and likely earn him a trip to the NCAA Division II nationals. He has already run 10.83 and 21.81.

“Motivation and talent are what typically separate athletes,” noted Head Track Coach Jeff Bolender ’91. “Klaassen has these.”

From the Track to the Drums

Even with all his accomplishments on the track, Klaassen is known by fellow classmates more for beating drums than opponents.

“In Africa, instead of going to a local church, we would have our team come over for family-led worship sessions,” he said. “I got into playing drums because a lot of those gatherings were at my house.”

When he came to Cedarville, he received an email about playing for HeartSong and chapel band. He tried out for the latter and made it. “I really enjoy music,” he said. “It’s a second part of me.”

Cultural Differences

In addition to introducing Klaassen to drums, growing up in Africa made him a world citizen.

“My culture growing up was different from a lot of people here,” Klaassen said. “Being plugged into a French school system for a couple of years and then a Spanish school system changed my academics. The culture over there is very different, too: the way people interact, the fact that they’re Muslim and I’m Christian.”

Despite the differences and being in America for the past several years, Africa is still special. “I loved it,” Klaassen said. “I would consider it my home.”

One More Theme

Klaassen desires to go to the nations after graduation (Matt. 28:19). But, as in every area of his life — running, drumming, or growing up in another culture — he’s trusting God first.

“I’m a sport business management major, so I’d like to do sports ministry in a lower level of soccer or higher level of track,” he said. “I’d like to go overseas, but we’ll see what God does. I’m open to whatever He throws my way.”

And that’s a theme that will take Klaassen to great places for the Lord, no matter what he does.
Lady Jackets Score a Spectacular Season of Historic Firsts

The Lady Jackets basketball team hit a trey of successes their third season in NCAA Division II.

They received their first invitation to the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional Tournament. The No. 8 seed Lady Jackets faced host and top-seed Michigan Tech in the first round at Michigan Tech’s home court. They played hard, hitting almost 50 percent of their shots, and kept it close deep into the second half. But the host Huskies pulled away at the end for the 71-59 victory. Cedarville finished the year at 27-4.

During the season, the Lady Jackets cracked the NCAA Division II Top 25 for the first time, landing at No. 23 in the February 10, 2015, USA TODAY Sports Division II Women’s Basketball Coaches Poll. By February 24, they jumped to a tie for No. 22 at the University of the District of Columbia. By the time of the Division II tournament, they had risen to sole possession of No. 17.

The Lady Jackets finished the regular season 25-3 overall. They were Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC) regular season champions with a 15-1 record. They hosted the G-MAC tournament and won it all, beating Kentucky Wesleyan 63-52 in the championship game and were extended an at-large bid to the Division II Midwest Regional. G-MAC will automatically advance its tournament champion to the tourney in 2016.

Head Coach Kirk Martin’s team won 11 consecutive games leading up to its first Top 25 ranking. By that point in February, the Lady Jackets were 21-2 overall and 11-0 in the G-MAC.

“We’re excited about what’s happened,” said Martin ’76. “The thing about this group is just how committed they are to getting it done and being successful. When we’ve needed something special to happen, this just seems to be the year that it’s happened for us.”

One of the keys to the team’s success was the development of the younger players. “We had seven freshmen, and we played four to five of them a lot of minutes,” Martin said. “But, the reality is, we had a lot of experience coming back. We’ve had great leadership from our six juniors and seniors. They set a standard for our freshmen; they bought into it, and we just watched them grow by leaps and bounds every single game. The upperclassmen and freshmen pushed each other every night in practice.”

The whole team demonstrated a no-holds-barred attitude all season. “It’s tough mentally for an athlete to run through the wall for her teammates and coaching staff,” noted Martin. “This group does that, and I’m proud of them.”

But they also showed attention to the details. “Because of the fact we shoot free throws quite well, we had the opportunity to win a lot of close games,” Martin said. “I’m also blessed with an unbelievable staff — Kari (Flunker) Hoffman ’05, Stacie Travis ’07, and Steve Buettell ’14.”

For the Lady Jackets basketball team, this season is another remarkable chapter in a winning history. They won the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Division II National Championship in 2008. They earned National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II national runner-up in 2004 and 2005. They reached the NAIA Division II Final Four in 2007 and the Elite Eight in 2006 and 2011.
Former OneVoice Singer Flourishes on The Voice

It sprouted in middle school, found nurture in youth group, bloomed at Cedarville, and was on glorious display this spring. Cedarville graduate Brian Johnson’s amazing musical gift came to fruition before a national television audience.

Johnson ’12 was one of 20 remaining artists for live performances on season eight of The Voice, the NBC singing competition featuring big-time music stars as coaches for aspiring performers. He made it to the top 12 before his time on the show ended April 14.

None of this would likely have happened had Johnson’s love of music not been nurtured in youth group and encouraged at Cedarville University. He was bullied as a preteen and teenager. In particular, peers put him down after a middle school show choir performance where he was the only boy among 20 girls.

“After that I decided no more music,” Johnson shared. “I’m not going to do that. I’m going to be quiet and make my way through high school. Music would not be a part of my life, except behind closed doors.”

But then he got involved with a youth group at Park Heights Baptist Church in Brook Park, Ohio, near Cleveland. “That’s where a lot of my insecurities fell away,” Johnson said. “In youth group, people thought it was cool that I could sing. And I never met, juniors and seniors on campus. They were complimenting my voice and my leadership on stage. Then I went full force into music. If anybody would give me a microphone, I would sing. Cedarville is such a great place for that.”

Johnson ended up singing with OneVoice Gospel Choir, Jubilate, during interruptions in The Hive, in chapel, and with the Jazz Band. He took classes toward a Bachelor of Arts in worship degree. But then something beyond bullying made him take a different turn. His dad, Don, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

“I decided music was such a gamble,” Johnson related. “I wanted to be able to help my dad, which meant putting my dreams of moving to Nashville on hold. For the moment, God was telling me to move back home and be with my family.”

He ended up loving the communications program at Cedarville, too, and earned a bachelor’s degree in organizational communication. With his jump to the live rounds, Johnson committed to a full-time music career.

“Connections are already happening,” he said, noting he visited Nashville during breaks in filming the show and began meeting with song writers. “That’s the kind of stuff I’m hoping to do from here on out.”

“There’s been a disconnect between pop culture music and Christian radio,” Johnson added. “I want to be able to fuse the two, to have a positive message with really good music.” And for a guy whose gifts are really starting to blossom, that sounds like a plan worth cultivating.
Martha Elizabeth (Murdock) McMillan said a prayer on the graduation day of her son, Homer, that many Christian moms would still "Amen" today: "May all that is good and best and highest and noblest and holiest in life crown my boys." She wrote those words in her journal, pictured here, on Cedarville University's first commencement day, held at the Cedarville Opera House.

Homer was one of five students in the first graduating class of 1897. His brother, Fred, had graduated the year before from Monmouth College. "This was a grand gathering in the Opera House today," McMillan recalled. "It will always stand out above and over days bright and beautiful."

McMillan and husband James raised 10 children on their homestead near Cedarville. Her journals, comprising 8,000 to 10,000 handwritten pages, were given to the Cedarville University archives in the late 1980s.

After graduation, Homer attended Union Seminary in New York City and Reformed Seminary in New Jersey. He pastored churches in New Jersey, Los Angeles, and Georgia, before serving as Coordinate Secretary with the Executive Committee of Missions with the Presbyterian Church in the United States. His biography from *The Cedrus* (1916) is also pictured.
An Education That Keeps on Working

“An Education That Works.” For Cedarville alumni, that’s meant careers where they perform with excellence because of their training, but also because of their character and faith.

Our graduates are known for stellar preparation and superior academics. They also stand out for their willingness to put team success ahead of individual kudos, for tackling problems never encountered in class because they’re taught how to problem-solve beyond the textbook, for respecting their bosses and being enjoyable to supervise, and for taking the initiative when something needs to be done.

In 2014, Cedarville sought out graduates to learn more about the impact of their education, not just on their careers, but on them as people. We shot video of what they had to say, which is posted at cedarville.edu/alumnioutcomes.

For Corey Abney ’98, Senior Pastor at Florence Baptist Church in Florence, Kentucky, the lessons learned at Cedarville shape the way he influences others.

“The philosophy of Cedarville is one I have embraced personally and that I communicate regularly to the people that sit under my preaching. Whatever you do in life you do as a Christian missionary.”

Cedarville also reshaped his view of God’s path for him.

“As a young man, I had an idea of what life and ministry would be. I graduated with a much better understanding and comprehension of why God made me, why God called me to Himself, and why God directed me to ministry. Without Cedarville, I would not be as effective today as I have been in ministry and in life.”

A.J. ’07 and Alison (Kearney) Clemans ’10 own a Chick-fil-A franchise in Fairfax, Virginia. They conduct their business based on examples they saw at Cedarville. A.J. offered these thoughts:

“Cedarville really helped me step into this role of entrepreneur, franchise owner, and a developer of people. I had the opportunity to know and observe some really great leaders who invested their lives in other people.

The foundation had been created by Cedarville on how to be successful. I knew what I wanted ‘successful’ to look like in my life, and then I just had to model my business in a way so I could reach those goals. If you live and work with biblical principles in mind, you are going to be successful.”

Abraham Vivas ’12, an Electronic Controls Engineer at engine manufacturer Cummins Inc., echoed Abney’s perspective.

“I see my life as a mission field. Right where God has placed me, I can have a meaningful impact.”

Cedarville graduates add value to his company’s culture. “Managers notice the level of excellence the students have coming out of Cedarville. They perform very well and they relate very well with co-workers.”

Rigorous academic expectations shine through, too. “Cedarville prepared me very, very well for the role that I’m doing. The experiences I had, the education that I was provided, the classes that were available to me are in many ways superior to what others had. We certainly had a lot of hands-on, real-life application experiences. My co-workers have noticed that.”

Trained for a career and prepared for life. That’s working for Cedarville.
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Our science and engineering faculty members bring years of research and professional experience to their classrooms. They mentor students in personal, professional, and spiritual growth, preparing them to lead their professions. With their guidance, our students consistently best larger and better-funded programs in national and international competitions. Their achievements have elevated Cedarville’s reputation for excellence, and their integrity in service has elevated the name of Jesus Christ at home and abroad. Because of your giving, we can now create expanded classroom space, updated lab facilities, and state-of-the-art technology that matches the high caliber of our students and faculty. Thank you for your generous giving!