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Cedarville University: Defining Legacies

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Cedarville University: Defining Legacies

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The excerpt reproduced here (the "Download" button) includes only the table of contents and the introduction.

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List of Acronyms

ABWE—Association of Baptists for World Evangelism mission agency
BBI—Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland, Ohio
CC—Cedarville College (1887-2000)
CU—Cedarville University (9/1/2000-)
ERAP—Educational Resource and Assistance Program (CU’s English teachers in China)
ESL—English as a Second Language
GARBC—General Association of Regular Baptist Churches
ISK—Integration of Scripture and Knowledge (CC academic initiative)
NAIA—National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics
NCAA—National Collegiate Athletic Association
NCCAA—National Christian College Athletic Association
MIS—Missions Internship/Involvement Service
OARBC—Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches
SBC—Southern Baptist Convention
SGA—Student Government Association (CC and CU)



Introduction: Defining Legacy

by Janice Supplee

In the book *A Leader's Legacy* (2006) by Kouzes and Posner, the authors include a series of essays encapsulating their 25 years of research and writing on leadership.¹ But in considering the concept of leadership, their focus goes beyond the common notion of *success* to building a legacy of *significance*. They state:

Legacies encompass past, present, and future, and when pondering our legacies we're forced to consider where we've been, where we are now, and where we're going.... Legacy thinking means dedicating ourselves to making a difference, not just working to achieve fame and fortune.... By offering up our own unique legacy, we make the world we inhabit a better place than we found it. (Kouzes and Posner, 5-6).

Kouzes and Posner explore four grand themes that influence a leader's legacy: aspirations, courage, relationships, and significance. A legacy of leadership linked to *aspirations* begins with leaders' inner quest to discover who they are and arrive at a settled peace with what matters most in life. It is the ability to look to the future with discernment and envision something valuable in the future, inspiring others to embrace that same vision. Aspirations begin with leaders' personal values and flourish in the hopes and dreams of all whom they touch. The history of Cedarville includes a number of individuals who had a vision to change and improve the university and blaze a trail for others to follow.

Secondly, Kouzes and Posner call on leaders to live courageous lives. They describe *courage* as taking the initiative in moments that matter, doing the small things, learning from failure, and acting with humility and grace. Legacies are built in those critical times when leaders choose to make others better people. This volume will present the lives of individuals whose contributions are marked by courage or, perhaps a better word, excellence—attention to detail, persistence, and a sense of stewardship that indeed made other people's lives better.

Further, leadership legacies are grounded in relationships. Legacies are built by leaders who set people free, who trust ... and entrust, who resolve differences and seek mutual

¹James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner, *A Leader's Legacy* (San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2006).

understanding. These are characteristics of mature individuals who understand that leadership requires a connection with others over matters of the heart, not just the demands of a set of required tasks (Kouzes and Posner, 48). Cedarville has been blessed by the contributions of many people who *gave* of their lives and their resources to make the institution a better place and its students more faithful followers of Christ.

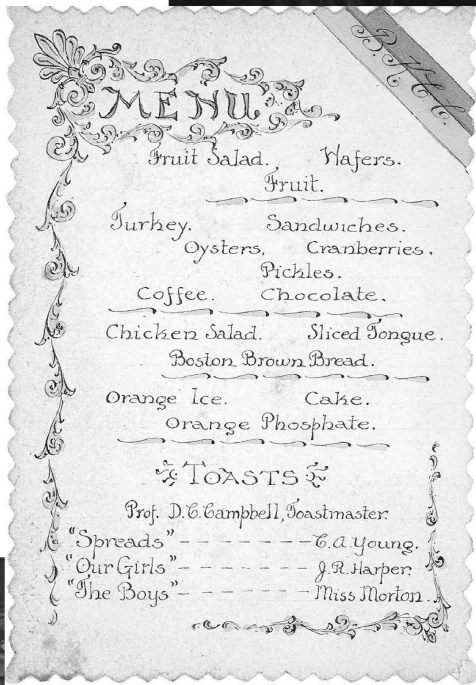
Lastly, significance is the understanding that a leader's greatest achievements are measured by the triumphs of those they serve and that service to others will result in the most lasting legacies (Kouzes and Posner, 10). Sacrifice, hard work, teaching, and passion are at the heart of significant leadership. In essence, significance requires a selflessness that seeks the good of others, but in so doing, advances a greater cause. Ronald Reagan is credited with saying "You can accomplish much if you don't care who gets the credit." This is the mark of leaders who understand that their own significance is tied to the success of others. Again, Cedarville has been blessed by many who have served the university and continue to serve others in many occupations around the world.

In this volume of the history of Cedarville University, we will focus on a number of individuals who have left a permanent legacy to the university and made the world "a better place". Each chapter focuses on individuals who represent a particular type of legacy: Chapter One, the Legacy of Vision; Chapter Two, the Legacies of Excellence; Chapter Three, the Legacy of Giving; Chapter Four, the Legacies of Ministry and Service; and Chapter Five, the Lasting Legacies still being formed by graduates of Cedarville serving all around the world ("Beyond the Bubble"). Obviously because of space and time limitations we regretfully cannot include everyone who is deserving of mention; also, including an individual in one category does not imply that he/she only left a legacy in that particular category. In addition, for the sake of consistency, this volume will observe the same time frame as the Murdoch/Mach volume, that is, the 125th anniversary in 2012.

These names and faces are truly representative of how God has blessed Cedarville through His people. In the Old Testament book of Malachi, the prophet describes how "those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and esteem His name" (Malachi 3:16 NASB). As we speak of the people in this book, may God give attention and hear and write down not just the names we include, but all those names, some now known only to Him, of His faithful servants in this place.



Women's basketball team,
1890s



CC menu, circa. 1900



Candid photo of students, 1915