

12-2014

Cedars, December 2014

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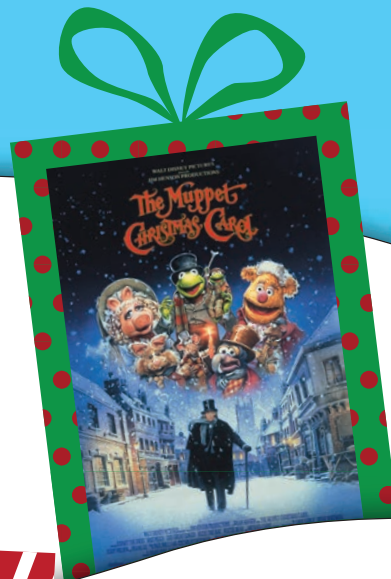
CEDARS

The Award-Winning Student News Publication of Cedarville University

December 2014

How to Get in the Christmas Spirit

Looking for some different things to listen to, read or watch to get ready for the holiday season? Check out our editors' picks on pages 10-11.



CU Renovations | Artist: Cooley Turner

Finals Week Stress Relievers | Athlete: Connor Scott



For the biggest campus events captured in multimedia, visit ReadCedars.com

You'll find videos and podcasts, as well as photos and online-only stories.

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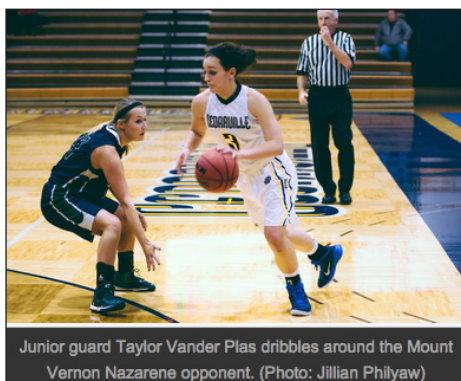
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To catch up with the Christmas buzz, watch students give their thoughts on the overnight Christmas transformation of the SSC.

Listen to Cedars' podcast with Carissa Drum, this year's SGA philanthropy director.



Junior guard Taylor Vander Plas dribbles around the Mount Vernon Nazarene opponent. (Photo: Jillian Philyaw)

And check out Cedars' weekly photo album – featuring anything from basketball to musical performances to campus life.

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by Mary Kate Browning

#FollowFridays: Thanks for Following

Every Friday in November we gave away prizes, ranging from donuts to event tickets, through social media. Anyone following Cedars on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter had an opportunity to win. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Keep following Cedars on social for more giveaway opportunities next semester.

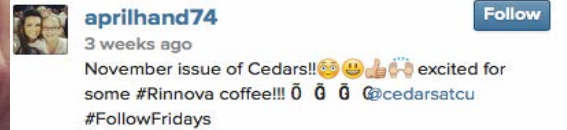
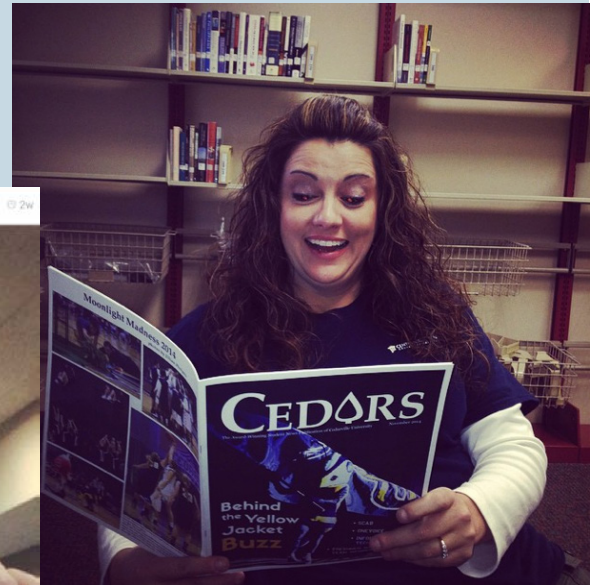
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photos from Instagram
Sophomore David Long (left) and staff member April Hand (above) were two of our winners during November's #FollowFridays giveaways.



Resound Radio
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Tell Resound the amazing things you have seen others do for Christ this month on any of Resound Radio's social media! **#ActNow**

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Building into the Student Experience

Renovations are underway for several buildings on campus

by Taylor Hobbs

Renovating buildings on Cedarville's campus is a long process and one involving many different people.

"My job is to meet the building needs of the group, whether it be for an academic program or for Christian Ministry," said Rod Johnson, associate vice president for operations.

Most recently, Johnson said he has been working closely with the faculty and staff of the science department.

Johnson said the Engineering and Science Center, which houses most of the science programs, was built in 1973. After 40 years, the facilities were no longer able to provide the students with the optimum resources necessary.

For Cedarville's science programs to continue to equip students with top-quality training, Johnson said, the building needed an

"The new labs are beautiful and are a great space, especially for an undergraduate program. They are better than the labs of some medical schools I have seen."



Melissa Hartman

Assistant professor of biology

update. To help gather ideas for the update, specifically the lab, Cindy Wingert, assistant professor of biology, traveled to many different schools and toured their labs.

During the summer and the beginning of

the school year, the anatomy labs on the third floor of the Engineering and Science Center were finished, wrapping up phase one of the two-phase overhaul.

"The much needed improvements came as a joy to both students and faculty alike," said Melissa Hartman, an assistant professor of biology at Cedarville.

The new labs include larger desks, better lighting and, most importantly, sealed ventilation. The updates allow students to comfortably learn in a state-of-the-art environment, she said.

Hartman stressed the importance of the new labs and the many opportunities they give students. The labs will greatly enhance the education of many students, she said, especially ones continuing on to further medical training.

"The new labs are beautiful and are a great space, especially for an undergraduate program," Hartman said. "They are better than the labs of some medical schools I have seen."

The second half of phase two of the project, which includes replacing the former service center with a science center, is already underway. The new science center will house the chemistry department.

This phase, Johnson said, should be done around May 2015.

This final phase of the project will involve moving other programs into the space the chemistry department once occupied. Johnson said this will provide more space for both the biology and engineering departments.

Future projects

Johnson said there are also several future projects on the radar. Next summer, there will be the usual repairs of roofs and parking lots, as well as other small projects. The water tower will be repainted and will also bear a new logo.

Students asked about the future of Faith Hall during this fall's Q&A chapel.

Johnson later said plans are still in the discussion phase, but in the near future the dorm will have to be totally redone. Ideally, he said, he hopes that a more modern dormitory will replace Faith Hall, possibly even in a more convenient location.

"It is not a matter of if the dorm will be torn down," he said, "it is a matter of what, when and where it will happen."

Chapel renovations

For many students, interest in school renovations peaked when they were discussed during the Q&A chapel with Dr. Thomas White, Cedarville's president, and Jon Wood, the vice president for student life and Christian ministries.

During that service, Wood announced plans to renovate the chapel.

Chapel renovations are currently expect-

ed to begin during the summer of 2016. Wood said while ideally they would like to begin next summer, it is not possible.

The year delay will provide the university with time to raise money for the effort and to solidify a design for the space. While the physical space is what Johnson oversees, he explained that the chapel renovation is about more than simply replacing the pews, carpet and painting.

"Right now we are just discussing what Dr. White and Jon Wood want moving for-

"It is not a matter of if the dorm will be torn down, it is a matter of what, when and where it will happen."

Rod Johnson

Associate vice president for operations

ward," Johnson said. "We are asking questions like, 'What are the most important things to them?' and 'Which system will line up to their vision for the chapel?'"

Johnson also said that many technical aspects of the chapel would be updated. Currently production services is working on updating its technology to improve its services. An acoustician recently visited the school, Wood said, and discussed designs to help improve sound quality in the room.

Wood said the chapel is the cornerstone of the school, as some of the most important things happen there. When students pour into the chapel every day, they come with different burdens, needs and weaknesses, he said. Chapel provides an opportunity for God to work in the lives of Cedarville's faculty, staff and students.

"God can still move in people's hearts at Cedarville whether or not we have nice chairs," Wood said. "We do not need to spend money just so we can say we have nice things. We want to be intentional with our spending to make the space we have more functional."

Taylor Hobbs is a freshman psychology major and reporter for Cedars. She enjoys stereotypical Canadian things like saying "Eh" and watching hockey.

No Time Like the Present

Meeting others' physical and spiritual needs is a good alternative to receiving gifts

by Emily Finlay

Tis the season to be, well, greedy. Christmas is a time of family, food and a break from the stresses of life, but the holiday emphasis is often on the gifts one will soon receive. While this is not a bad thing, Christmas can also be used to bless those in need both materially and spiritually.

Jim Cato, associate vice president of Christian ministries, said he and his family have used the holidays to give gifts to families in need and send gift-filled shoeboxes to children around the world through Operation Christmas Child.

"Being prompted by the Spirit that someone has a need and then shutting up long enough to hear that prompting, it's a challenge," he said. "But I think that's a neat way to approach this time of year."

There are several ways to help others during Christmastime, Cato said, but he recommends getting involved with a local church and its charitable efforts.

"The things that I would recommend to students are being sensitive to the Spirit on who he might prompt you to give to," he said. "Then find out what your local church is doing and start there."

Whether by collecting and distributing food to families for a special holiday meal or joining in a group shoebox packing event, he said, church ministries provide a great way to help people during the holidays. "Every church is different, every community is different," he said, "but I would suggest out what your local church is doing work -

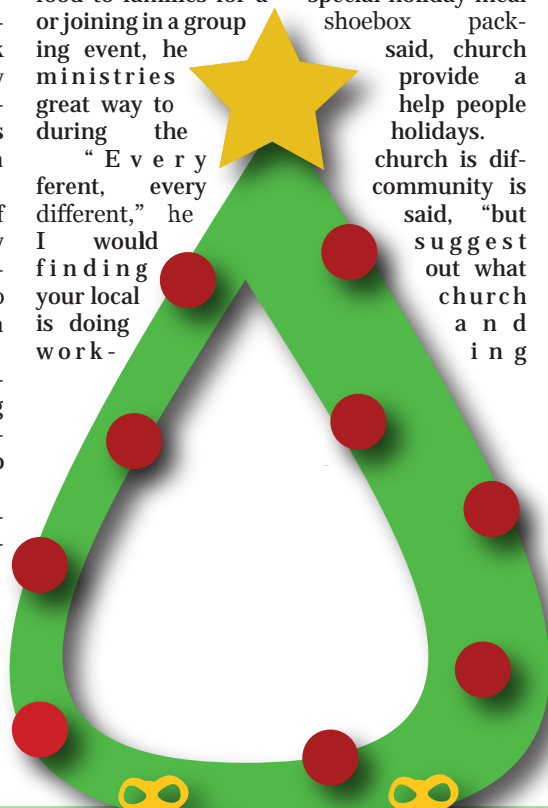
through – that is a really great place to start."

Cato said there are many stories in Scripture about giving to the poor and physically meeting people's needs. But to take care of someone's physical needs and neglect their spiritual needs just prolongs spiritual death, he said, which is much worse than physical death.

"So, in meeting people's physical needs, we want to make sure that we clearly communicate, verbally, the gospel, so that their spiritual needs can also be met," he said. "What's so cool about Christmas is that people seem to be willing to hear that story. And so it's a great time of year to become involved in meeting people's needs."

Local ministries have the benefit of allowing participants to know where the gifts are going and who will receive them, Cato said. He said whatever way people give during the holidays, it is important for them to look for other opportunities to give.

"I think that's one really good thing, to just keep your heart open to anybody that God may lay on your heart to try to help at this time of the year," he said. "To have an opportunity to share with someone in need, but also just give them the real reason for why we celebrate Christmas."



Organizations involved with holiday giving

World Vision

World Vision works in over 100 countries through various ministries for children, widows, orphans, disaster relief, victims of injustice and those in poverty. It accepts donations for all of its ministries but also has a unique assortment of gifts that are sent around the world. Ranging from \$10 to \$39,000, gift options include buying a goat or chickens, contributing to install a well of clean water for a village, purchasing medicine for sick children, and more. For those looking to donate long-term, World Vision also has a child sponsorship program.

Visit donate.worldvision.org/ways-to-give

Samaritan's Purse

Samaritan's Purse has been working for over 40 years to help and care for the needy across the world. Most well known, perhaps, for its Operation Christmas Child project, Samaritan's Purse brings joy and relief to men, women and children in many countries. Gifts

include sending food to impoverished countries, supporting vulnerable women, financially supporting the distribution of the OCC shoeboxes, and more. Gift costs range from \$7 to \$35,000, or whatever you want to give.

Visit www.samaritanspurse.org

Make-A-Wish Foundation

The Make-A-Wish Foundation strives to fulfill the wish of terminally ill children. According to its mission statement, "We grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy." The Foundation accepts "in-kind" items, resources that are needed to grant a child's wish in your community, as well as monetary and airline mile donations.

Visit wish.org/ways-to-help

Angel Tree

Angel Tree is a program of the Prison Fellowship ministry and meets the needs of the children and families of inmates. Whether working with a church group to purchase and deliver gifts to the children on behalf of their imprisoned parents or donating money to fund the ministry, you can make a difference in the lives of these children.

Visit www.prisonfellowship.org/programs/angel-tree

Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots is a program of the U.S. Marine Corps that provides toys for children from less-fortunate families to improve their futures. Participants purchase new and unwrapped toys and deliver them to collection sites at local businesses from October to late December. Volunteers are also needed to sort through the collected toys.

Visit www.toysfortots.org

Emily Finlay is a senior journalism major and campus news editor for Cedars. She loves writing, reading, making obscure references in normal conversation and every type of geekery.

20 Years, Engineers

After two decades to develop, Cedarville's engineering department becomes a school

By Kjersti Fry

Cedarville's school of engineering celebrated the 20th anniversary of its first graduating class this school year. Known as the department of engineering until this year, the university recently changed its title to the school of engineering.

Robert Chasnov, dean of the school of engineering, said he has witnessed many changes and developments throughout his time here.

In 1990, Duane Wood, the academic vice president at the time, had the vision to start an engineering department at Cedarville. Chuck Allport was hired as a staff member the same year to manage the initial stages of the electrical and mechanical engineering programs.

With an Air Force background and numerous local connections, Allport helped Cedarville's engineering program get a strong start, Chasnov said. He became acting chair of the department in 1991 and was appointed the director of engineering programs in 1992 when Larry Zavodney became the chair.

At first, the only engineering specialties offered were mechanical engineering and electrical engineering. The first graduating class consisted of 24 students evenly split between the two majors. Chasnov came to Cedarville in 1991 as the first mechanical engineering faculty member hired. He taught sophomore year courses to the first class of graduates.

Program changes

As more students came to Cedarville for a Christian environment and upstanding engineering education, the department expanded, taking on new faculty and majors, Chasnov said.

The mechanical and electrical engineering majors became accredited in 1995; the computer engineering major was added in 2002 and accredited in 2006; and the computer science major moved from the science and math department to the engineering department in 2005. By 2010, engineering was the largest department on Cedarville's campus, with 375 students.

Chasnov transitioned in 2000 from a faculty member to the assistant to the chair, first to Larry Zavodney and later to Sam Sangregory. His new position was more administrative, he said, and he served as a support to the faculty and students.

In 2013, Chasnov became chair of the engineering department. He said his hours are now split between teaching and administrating, as he serves as the first dean of the school of engineering.

"The classroom experience is always fun to interact with the students in areas where I'm really passionate," he said. "The students kind of pick up on that, and each faculty member

has their own expertise and passion," he said. "I like that aspect, where we are free to express our passion for our fields of expertise."

The engineering facilities also experienced changes as most of the classrooms in the Engineering and Science Center were recently transformed into laboratories.

The school offered major-specific degrees to the mechanical, electrical and computer-engineering students when these majors were accredited. Instead of receiving a generic BSE upon graduation, these students would receive a more specific degree, such as a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering or a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering.

"That's something that Cedarville is known for — the high quality of the project work that we do for our students."



Robert Chasnov
Dean of the school of engineering

A student's experiences

In 1994, Ryan Burkhard came to Cedarville to study mechanical engineering in Cedarville's relatively new engineering department. When searching for colleges, he said, he found that few Christian universities offered engineering degrees. His father had a doctorate in engineering and taught at Wright State. When the father and son visited Cedarville, both were impressed by the challenging and hands-on engineering curriculum.

Burkhard said he once compared his coursework at Cedarville with that of a friend in MIT's mechanical engineering department,

and the curriculum was the same, course for course. He said that Cedarville's engineering programs are challenging, high caliber and world-class.

After four years at Cedarville, Burkhard received a job offer from Proctor and Gamble and has been there for 16 years, working in Germany, Louisiana and now Cincinnati. He and his wife met at Cedarville, he said, and have stayed connected to the school through homecoming and the alumni board.

Burkhard now recruits students for P&G's internship program and job positions. He said he encourages students to take advantage of Cedarville's opportunities to get involved and participate in fun activities.

Competitive engineering teams

Chasnov said Cedarville's high quality and successfully competitive engineering teams set Cedarville apart from other schools. Cedarville has participated in Aero Design, primarily a mechanical engineering competition, since 1992. The first team, which was composed of all freshman and sophomore students, competed at Daytona Beach. They came in seventh place.

"They were able to compete against schools that had a history of aeronautical engineering and mechanical engineering and do very well in that competition, even at the sophomore level," Chasnov said.

Students compete annually in SuperMileage to build the best cars based on fuel efficiency, energy efficiency and gas mileage. SuperMileage has been a large part of Cedarville's engineering experience for many students since the first sophomore class participated in 1991, Chasnov said. The team won first place in the competition in 2000. Burkhard was a member of the team in his sophomore and junior years. The SuperMileage team is now headed by Larry Zavodney.

Cedarville has also brought teams to the Solar Boat competition for which students build and race boats that must use renewable energy and stand the endurance test of the race. Cedarville's team has won first place seven times, advised by Timothy Dewhurst, a senior professor of mechanical engineering.

Chasnov said, "That's something that Cedarville is known for — the high quality of the project work that we do for our students."

A year from now, Chasnov said, Cedarville plans to add a civil engineering program as part of its desire to expand and diversify its programs.

Kjersti Fry is a freshman pharmacy major and reporter for Cedars. She is from Cincinnati, Ohio, and she enjoys playing the piano, playing ultimate frisbee and spending time with friends and family.

Radio Theatre Puts New Spin on Classic

The university and community present 'A Christmas Carol'

by Michael Carbaugh

The Cedarville Opera House is hosting two non-traditional performances of "A Christmas Carol." This production is like a live radio broadcast, said Clifford Fawcett, who plays the role of Jacob Marley.

In this production, there will be a minimal set, live music, no costumes, live sound effects and audience involvement. Both performances, as well as a few of the previous rehearsals, will be recorded and blended together into one full-length radio production that will be aired Christmas Eve and Christmas Day on Resound Radio, Fawcett said.

Director James Leightenheimer said the performances in the Opera House will last about an hour, but the edited radio version will be about half an hour.

"We'll be taking the best parts of it, piecing it together, and airing it on Resound," Leightenheimer said.

Since this production is a radio show more than a live play, the rehearsals have been less intense, said Cedarville student Laura Jean Cunningham, who plays the role of Scrooge's sweetheart. Lines do not have to be memorized and the acting does not have to be perfect as

long as the voices are believable.

"A Christmas Carol" involves Cedarville University faculty, staff and students and Cedarville community members. University staff in the production include Nat Biggs as the sound effects producer, Mark Spencer as Scrooge, Rebecca Baker as the Spirit of Christmas Past, and more.

Leightenheimer said one of the things he enjoys most about the production is the combination of university and townspeople.

"It's always fun to work in the Opera House, and working with the Opera House Committee, they are a very committed and helpful group of people," Leightenheimer said.

Leightenheimer said the Opera House has had a large part in the promotion and staging of this weekend's two shows.

Other cast members said their involvement is largely due to Leightenheimer himself.

Fawcett said he had heard about Leightenheimer's previous radio productions and really wanted to work with him. Now that he has, Fawcett describes his involvement as enjoyable.

"It's nice to get to people you wouldn't normally interact with," Fawcett said. "Plus,

it's a diversion from your regular routine."

Cast member Rebecca Baker said it's great fun working with Leightenheimer as the director.

"He has a wonderful vision for bringing this classic story to the stage as a live on-the-air experience for the actors and audience," she said.

Leightenheimer also said audience members will help record sound effects and Christmas carols before the show. Also, some audience members will be chosen to have a small part in the show itself.

"They'll actually perform in the production," Leightenheimer said. "We'll bring Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' to light in a way that the audience hasn't seen it done before."

This radio production of "A Christmas Carol" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 and 8:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Cedarville Opera House.

Michael Shawn Carbaugh II is a freshman music composition major and arts and entertainment writer for Cedars. He likes to write music in nearly every genre and enjoys listening to new genres as well.

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An Artist from Appalachia

A long-time custodial services employee learned the craft of pottery at age 16

by Anna Dembowski

Cooley Turner, a Cedarville custodial services employee for 28 years, is a man of many stories.

He's climbed from poverty in the hills of Kentucky, spent time in the Peace Corps, earned a plaque on the wall of Cedarville's Dixon Ministry Center and dabbled in the arts — from pottery to painting to poetry — for most of his life.

And he's done all that without obtaining a college degree.

According to his daughter, Turner, 68, has used his artistic talents to enrich lives, including his own.

"You don't have to have an art degree to have that be a part of your life or to enrich other people's lives," said Turner's daughter, Jeananne Turner Smith, a kindergarten teacher in Yellow Springs.

But as each piece enriches, Turner said he likes it to tell a story.

"I like to give a story behind everything," he said.

Chuck Clevenger, senior professor of music and fellow artist, said Turner's work comes out of his own experience.

"Maybe it comes out of struggle, maybe it comes out of an expression of his faith, maybe it comes out of just whatever theme is going on in his life," Clevenger said. "I just notice that whatever — it just kind of bubbles up."

Clevenger met Turner one day when Turner came to clean his office. Clevenger said he noticed Turner observing the paintings in his office and could tell right away that he was a fellow artist.

"I said, 'You're an artist.' He said, 'Yes, I'm a potter,' and we began talking," said Clevenger, whose love for art lies in watercolor and music.

Clevenger said the two have had several brief conversations since then about art, music and family.

Turner has dabbled in writing music, singing and playing the Autoharp. However, Clevenger said Turner's experience in the craft of pottery runs deeper.

"He's an amateur in music; he is a past master in ceramic art," Clevenger said. "What he doesn't know about it isn't worth knowing."

Turner's artistic abilities first came as he took an interest in drawing, courtesy of his older sister. But Turner soon discovered a greater artistic love.

"I wanted to make things," Turner said, "and so

clay was my big love even when I was little, and (my sister would) bring me home colored clay to play (with)."

Turner was given the opportunity to work more substantially with clay while at Berea Foundation Academy, a school in Kentucky for kids from broken homes and those in the impoverished Appalachian region. When he was 15, Turner and his three siblings became orphans.

Turner attended high school at Berea, and at age 16, he made his first pieces of pottery. He said he would visit the "pot shop" to learn about how to pull the clay to make bowls and other pieces of pottery with a Greek-and-Roman-design.

Turner's teacher was a 24-year-old ex-convict employed by the school but lacking a high school education. Turner put some of his pottery up for sale in a shop in the mountain area, and the money he received from the sales went towards his tuition at Berea.

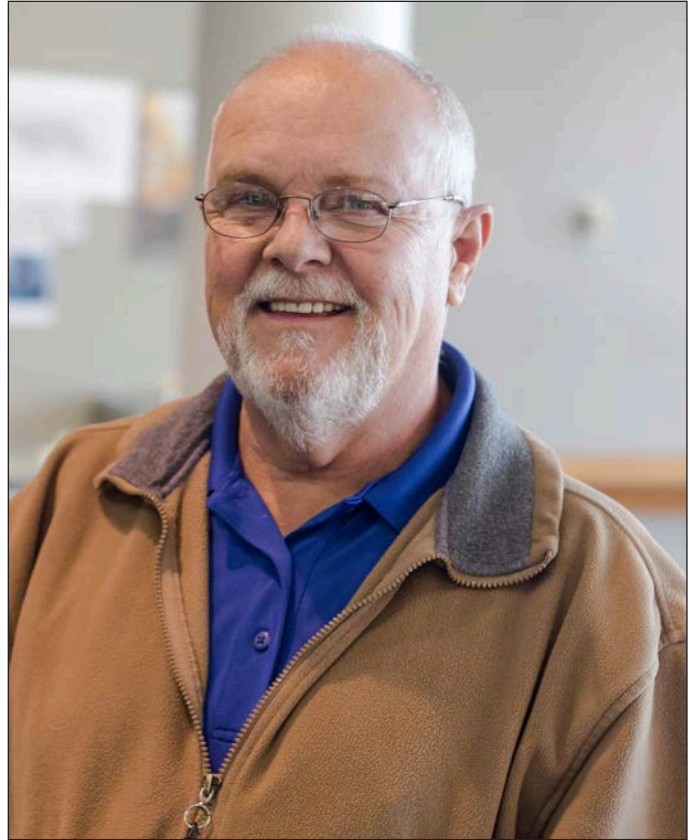
Though he didn't finish high school until later in life, Turner did a two-and-a-half year stint with the U.S. Peace Corps upon dropping out of Berea his senior year.

"It was a means of being able to take care of myself, because I had no place to go when school was out," he said.

Turner did pottery demonstrations as the group traveled.

He said the Corps worked with the Appalachian people and the mountaineers to learn industry, since at the time, the only hope this people group had was to work in the coal mines or become a drunk.

"I'd do pottery demonstrations on the wheel and show they could start an industry, and there was a lot of clay in the hills," Turner said.



photos by Kyria Luxon

Cooley Turner, a custodial services employee at Cedarville, has dabbled in painting, photography, sculpture, poetry, music and songwriting in addition to his forte craft of pottery.

He said today Berea is considered one of the largest craft towns in Kentucky.

"And that's kind of neat," Turner said. "Some of those mountaineers came down and started making stuff, and I don't know if I influenced them or not."

After the Peace Corps, Turner came to Ohio to be nearer to his sister. At age 25, he married his wife of now over 42 years.

Smith said Turner enrolled himself in local pottery classes so he could keep learning the different techniques of the craft.

But after experimenting more with pottery, Turner moved on to sculpture, photography, music, poetry and songwriting.

"I graduated a bit from

"He's an amateur in music; he is a past master in ceramic art. What he doesn't know about it isn't worth knowing."

Chuck Clevenger

Senior professor of music and fellow artist

pottery because I got bored, and I decided to start doing different things," he said.

And one of these things he tried his hand at was painting on leaves and feathers.

"I took my granddaughter for a walk and she was five years old, I think," Turner said. "And she started collecting leaves in the park and she brought them to me and she said, 'See, Poppy, God paints on leaves.' And I says, 'Sure he does, doesn't he?' because they were all different colors. So when I got home, I kept



Cooley Turner learned to make pottery while attending high school at Berea Foundation Academy. He first made pottery of Greek and Roman design, but has since created pottery of Native American and Asian design.

thinking, 'Well, I can paint on leaves. I can't make a leaf as good as God, but I can use what God gave me and paint on leaves.' So I started painting on leaves."

Turner also became involved in music.

**"I kept thinking,
'Well, I can paint on
leaves. I can't make a
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but I can use what
God gave me and
paint on leaves.' So
I started painting on
leaves."**

Cooley Turner

His whole family got involved with singing in local churches, and Turner joined a song-writing club and a poet critique, though singing remains his musical forte. In fact, Turner

has begun singing again in local churches after a 12-year hiatus.

"I've just decided that I was going to do what God led me to do, because I've been an odd chip off the old block," he said.

What's more, Turner gives away nearly all of his pieces of art, keeping just photos of them for his portfolio.

"Cooley will give his art as gifts," Clevenger said. "He really, really, really considers this a part of himself, so he is giving you a part of himself."

Smith said this speaks to how generous her father is.

"Most of everything he makes he gives away, so there's that kind of generous spirit that he has, that like all of his friends or family have something in the house that he's made," she said, "so that's kind of special."

But while Turner's art experience is extensive, he said he has plans to keep working with pottery, specifically that of an Asian design, which he loves exploring.

"I'm not done yet," Turner said. "I have some ideas. I just haven't been over to the pot shop because I haven't had time."

And Turner is not done serving the Cedarville campus either.

Though he said he plans to retire in a few years at age 70, he said working with college students has kept him young, and Cedarville's focus on the gospel has kept him encouraged.

Turner's long-time devotion to the university is evidenced by a plaque in the Dixon Ministry Center and by the number of training program certificates he's received. Turner said the one of 18 or so certificates he most appreciates is the one dubbing him an International Executive Housekeeper.

Cedarville has allowed him to gain an education in chemicals, research, microbiology, pest control, communications and music composition theory through both classes the university has presented and training sessions Turner has attended.

"Cedarville educated me, that's for sure," Turner said. "When I came here, I was an orphan of everything."

And when he came to Cedarville, Turner said he was told he would find his job to be more like a ministry. But he said he hasn't thought



Cooley Turner was inspired by his granddaughter to paint on leaves.

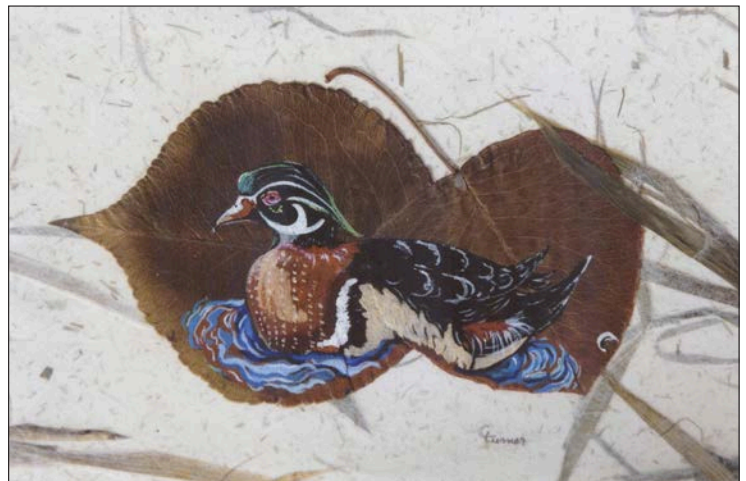
of it quite like that.

"I just thought that you have to go to work to put food on the table," he said. "But how nice is it to be able to put food on the table and know that you're getting all the spiritual food that's going to help you in life."

And Turner said he's thankful for the opportunities, artistic and other, past and present, he's had in life.

"It's been an enriched life that I've had," Turner said.

Anna Dembowski is a junior journalism major and managing editor/arts & entertainment editor for Cedars. She likes nearly anything that is the color purple and enjoys spelling the word "agathokakological."



Cooley Turner, a man of many stories and talents, has challenged himself to paint on leaves, as well as feathers.

Editors' 2014 Christmas Media Picks

Movie Review:

"The Muppet Christmas Carol"

"The Muppet Christmas Carol" is a delightful adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale in which a greedy old man named Scrooge is visited by four ghosts on Christmas Eve. During these visits, Scrooge (spoiler alert – oh wait, the book has been out for over a hundred years!) has a change of heart and learns to embrace the spirit of Christmas.

The movie stays true to the novel on which it's based, and the cast consists of both humans and Muppets. The role of Scrooge is portrayed by Michael Caine, and Kermit the Frog stars as his employee Bob Cratchit. Rizzo the Rat and Gonzo (posing as Charles Dickens) narrate the story, adding their own wacky commentary as the action unfolds around them.

The film perfectly balances the story's serious overtone with the humor that is intrinsic of all Muppet films. It features several original songs, including the heartwarming "One More Sleep Till Christmas" sung by Kermit the Frog. If "The Muppet Christmas Carol" is not already on your list of Christmas movies to watch every year, it certainly should be.



"Doctor Who" TV Special:

"The Christmas Invasion"

Rose Tyler (Billie Piper) was just an ordinary girl until a mysterious man took her by the hand and told her to run. Nine months later, they're still running. Rose and the ninth Doctor (Christopher Eccleston) have seen planets and galaxies, traveled back to World War II and even witnessed the end of the world.

Now, Rose faces the challenge of life with a new Doctor, the 10th regeneration of the man she had come to know through their many adventures. As she struggles with the change, a Christmas invasion might be just the thing to show that the man behind the unfamiliar face is the same Doctor she has come to trust.

After regenerating, the Doctor and Rose return to London, where they meet up with Rose's mom, Jackie (Camille Coduri), and boyfriend, Mickey (Noel Clarke). Upon arrival, the Doctor bids Jackie and Mickey hello ... and promptly collapses into a coma-like sleep. The three try to understand the man in the blue box — and wake him from his coma — as they battle with the Robot Santas and killer Christmas trees that have overtaken London.

Yep, just your average British Christmas celebration.

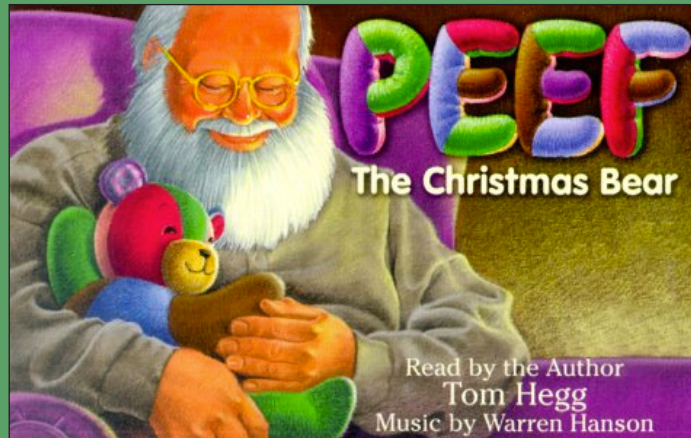
The Doctor is full of energy leftover from his regeneration, and the excess bursts serve as a tracking signal for the aliens invading earth. The Tylers and Mickey work to wake the comatose Doctor, knowing he is the only one who can save the world from the invaders, called the Sycorax, while assisting the British government in the fight. As they all fight to save humanity from the tyrannical aliens, they can only hope that their resident Time Lord won't be too late.

The first episode of the second season, "The Christmas Invasion" is David Tennant's debut in a role he dreamed of playing since he was a child. And, even though he sleeps through most of it, he gives viewers a thrilling glimpse of the 10th Doctor, who would later be voted the fan-favorite version of the famous Time Lord.

Viewers meet and discover the new Doctor with the Tylers and Mickey, learning about and accepting him alongside them. With gems such as the Doctor deciding on his iconic outfit or quoting "The Lion King" to a group of bloodthirsty aliens, "The Christmas Invasion" is an episode to remember. And, though it is just the beginning of the Tennant years, it is an exciting beginning, indeed.

Book:

"Peef the Christmas Bear"



Seniors and juniors may remember a Campus Christmas tradition from Dr. Brown's tenure at Cedarville – listening to Dr. Brown read Christmas stories before racing off to the SSC for the fun, games, movie and midnight breakfast. While Dr. Brown always read a couple of books, students loved the classic story of the patchwork bear, Peef.

In "Peef the Christmas Bear," Santa creates a teddy bear, made from fabric patches his elves chose. This bear is a very special bear – Santa gives him the ability to say his name, "Peef," by adding a button to his stomach and "touching once right there."

Peef becomes Santa's best friend. He loves his time with Santa, and he never grows old because of the magic in the North Pole.

But Peef wants to be owned by a child. He wants to be loved by a kid to the point that while gazing off into the fireplace, he sees himself being hugged by a child. But he still can't bring himself to ask Santa to give him away. Oh, the troubles for this small bear.

This book is chock-full of puns and plays on words. From Peef "peefing" his way through the book to the aurora bearealis that appears near the end, "Peef the Christmas Bear" is a joy to read and will definitely keep you laughing.

Music:**“Sleddin’ Hill” by August Burns Red**

Metalcore and Christmas seem to go together as nicely as a claustrophobe in a coffin, but don’t tell that to August Burns Red. With their Christmas album, “Sleddin’ Hill,” they chose to forego the traditional sounds of Christmas. Instead, they bring a whole new sound to December, taking listeners on a fast-paced, head-banging sleigh ride. This album excels not only as a Christmas album, but as a metal album as well, with a technical yet diverse sound throughout that involves electric guitars as well as pianos and tubas.

There were no cookie cutters involved in the making of this album. August Burns Red experiments with a wide range of genres other than metalcore, including punk, jazz and bluegrass. Album highlights include, but are not limited to, renditions of “Sleigh Ride,” “Jingle Bells” and “Carol of the Bells.” The title track is the softest song on the album, but it’s also one of the most enjoyable, with a bluegrass vibe complete with banjos and fiddles. The best song of the album, however, is the opener, “Flurries.” The song conjures up images of running through a field with snow blowing in your face from every direction without the chilling effects of the wind.

“Sleddin’ Hill” will appeal to metal fans and non-metal fans alike. It has the riffs and heavy breakdowns that metal fans are familiar with, but without the growling and screaming that turn away the casual listener. So if you’re tired of hearing Mariah Carey and Michael Buble on repeat, give “Sleddin’ Hill” a spin. You won’t regret it.

“Let It Snow, Baby ... Let It Reindeer” by Relient K

If you’re looking for a Christmas album that you can listen to while you lie on the couch wrapped in a wool blanket and drinking hot chocolate, Relient K has just the thing for you. “Let It Snow, Baby ... Let It Reindeer” captures the joy of Christmas while also tackling the seriousness that surrounds the holiday.

Just by listening to this album, you can tell that Relient K had a lot of fun creating it. Their take on “The Twelve Days of Christmas” is especially fast-paced, as is “Angels We Have Heard on High.” You’d be hard-pressed to find more enjoyable versions of those two songs. And “Sleigh Ride” is a fun, jazz-sounding tune that will have you eager to go out into the snow, no matter the temperature.

Relient K also manages to slow it down on this record. “I Celebrate the Day,” is a song addressed to the newborn Christ: “the first time that you opened your eyes, did you realize that you would be my Savior?” On “Merry Christmas, Here’s to Many More,” they tell the story of a man who is all alone on Christmas Eve. “Boxing Day” perfectly encapsulates the emotions that most people feel on the day after Christmas, but it also hints at hope: “Oh, no more lights glistening, no more carols to sing, but Christmas, it makes way for spring.”

“The Spirit of Christmas” by Michael W. Smith

Michael W. Smith’s Christmas album released this September offers music to rest in amid this season’s typical hustle and bustle.

“The Spirit of Christmas” includes many of the traditional Christmas carols sung by worship-legend Michael W. Smith and friends. The album also includes a few instrumental tracks, such as the title track “The Spirit of Christmas Medley,” in which each instrument’s sound is not lost, but rather drives the song along in a most glorious way.

For those who like traditional carols and symphonies, this is the album you need to hear. For those who adore wonderful harmonies, light jazz or skillfully-composed instrumentals, this is still the album you need to hear.

Smith is joined by notable artists in the Christian and secular music world, such as Lady Antebellum, Martina McBride, Amy Grant and Vince Gill. This combination of friends with which Smith sings adds a unique flavor to the music. It’s smoother, includes great harmonies and has great musical contrast (particularly on the tracks adding female vocals to Smith’s) in each carol.

And though Smith is joined by an assortment of friends, his way with music is not lost. His legendary musical grace shines just the same in this album as in his previous albums.

“Supernatural” TV Special:**“A Very Supernatural Christmas”**

Sam (Jared Padalecki) and Dean (Jensen Ackles) Winchester are monster-hunting brothers. After their mother was killed when Sam was six months old and Dean was four years old, they and their father, John, have been living on the road and killing evil as they go.

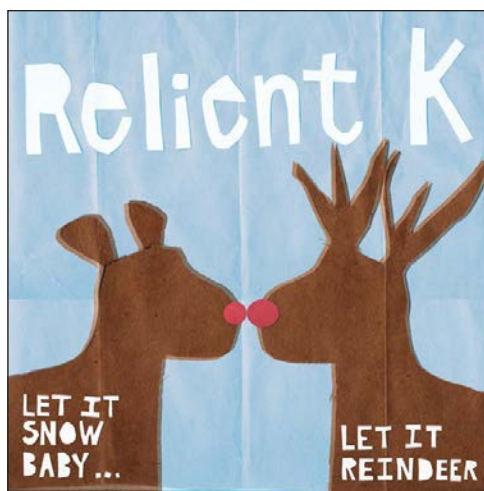
Set in season three, “A Very Supernatural Christmas” follows the boys as they investigate a case involving evergreen stakes, peanut brittle and ... evil Santa?

It’s Christmas Eve and little Stevie can’t wait until Santa comes to bring him presents. Though he doesn’t know it, his grandfather has decided to make it a Christmas to remember and dressed up as the big man himself to treat his grandson. After jingling a bell to alert Stevie to “Santa’s” arrival, Grandpa carefully places gifts under the tree. Thumps on the roof and soot falling from the chimney excite Stevie and confuse Grandpa. As he investigates, Grandpa is grabbed and dragged, kicking and screaming up the chimney, leaving only a bloody boot behind.

A year later, a similar disappearance brings Sam and Dean to Ypsilanti, Mich. They begin to investigate the possibilities, searching through lore on everything from evil chimney sweeps to, as Dean puts it, “Santa’s shady brother.” As the brothers learn of two more disappearances, the “evil Santa” theory seems less likely and they begin to suspect something – or someone – more powerful is involved.

“A Very Supernatural Christmas” is marvelous in its exploration of Christmas mythology, but the highlight is the glimpse it gives of Sam and Dean as children. Several flashbacks to a 12-year-old Dean (Ridge Canipe) and eight-year-old Sam (Colin Ford) reveal just how much the boys mean to each other and what a childhood in the Winchester family was like.

Whether by ruining Christmas wreaths forever or by creating a deeper appreciation for the warm and safe holiday celebrations most enjoy, “A Very Supernatural Christmas” will leave viewers seeing Christmas, and the Winchesters, in a new light.



For more editors’ picks, visit ReadCedars.com

Justin Eisner: Videographer

by Nate Spanos

Justin Eisner, a freshman business management major and digital film minor, wants to start his own film production company.

A few weeks ago, Eisner created a video lookbook, a video showcase of different products offered, for the clothing company Honor Raleigh. He got the job by emailing the company and asking them if they wanted a video made. They had seen his work and welcomed his offer.

"A lot of people who I look up to are always telling me, 'Don't wait for luck to come your way. Go out and make your own luck,'" Eisner said.

Eisner helps Apex Community Church with videos for their Anthologies blog. The project catalogs raw stories about people whose lives have been transformed by God.

"(Anthologies) has (helped) me in terms of not only learning a lot more stuff about myself (and) videos, but also challenging my faith by seeing all these different stories," Eisner said. "(I've gained) a broader perspective of people within the church and (an) understanding that not everybody's perfect."

Eisner started with photography and film back when he enrolled in high school art classes. He couldn't draw or paint well, but he needed a creative outlet.

"(Photography) came from my lack of ability to put pen to paper," Eisner said.

And photography led him to film.

Eisner was working for the school newspaper when a teacher approached him about making videos to post online. During high school Eisner also created a three-part video series for the Panther Creek men's varsity basketball team featuring a combination of player

learned that the basketball videos were the work of a high school student.

"I thought maybe (Justin) was either someone who was majoring in communication in college or maybe some grown guy doing this on the side," Spann said.

During one game, Spann's son Nubian claimed a place in Panther Creek basketball lore when his first dunk shattered the backboard. Afterward, Spann contacted Eisner and asked him to create a highlight reel for Nubian.

"He kept a lot of energy in his work (and gave) a lot of suggestions," Spann said. "He brings you into his world, but he still respects your ideas at the same time."

Spann was so impressed with the completed highlight reel and with Eisner's work ethic that he introduced Eisner to NFL free agent Derek Morris. Morris wanted to get back into the league, so he employed Eisner to produce a promotional video.

During the project, Eisner reconciled his own ideas, particularly about music, with those of his employers.



photo by Kyria Luxon

Justin Eisner chose photography as his creative outlet in high school because he couldn't draw or paint well. Photography then led him to videography.

work very well together," Eisner said. "I like to build the story around the transitions in the music. That can make an average video go to the next level."

Eisner came to Cedarville this fall, and though he's not yet involved with any of the photography or film groups on campus, he said he has befriended people with similar passions and skills.

He said he thrives on giving and receiving feedback on creative work.

"(I want) to help people who have the same passion I do because I know how much I've struggled with learning new things because no one's ever taken me under their wing," Eisner said.

Next summer, Eisner said he hopes to go to Africa so that he can expand his knowledge of the world's cultures.

"Traveling allows your horizons to be expanded," he said, "not only physically but mentally as well."

Visit <http://justineisner.com> to see Justin's work

Nate Spanos is a senior music major and a reporter for Cedars. He co-authors a blog about growth in Christ called Understory. You can explore it at jesusknife.com.

"A lot of people who I look up to are always telling me, 'Don't wait for luck to come your way. Go out and make your own luck.'"

Justin Eisner

interviews and game clips.

Eisner's videos for Panther Creek caught the eye of former actor and athlete Brian Spann.

"I looked at the way he panned in and out with the camera, the way he focused on the guys of the basketball team," Spann said. "He has this bird's-eye view of everything."

Spann said he was surprised when he

"Justin was able to take the (acoustic) music he'd brought for his idea and the (hip-hop) music Derrick's agent had brought and (make them) sync. The sound went from a nice little cub to a ferocious Kodiak bear."

Eisner developed other valuable skills while making these videos.

"In video, my greatest strength is to surround a video with music and to make the two

Review: 'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1'

by Emily Finlay

Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) survived the arena — twice — and inspired all of Panem with her bravery, daring and devotion. Now, having played a part in a plan she knew nothing of, she finds that her actions have affected more than she could have imagined.

After firing the arrow at the arena's force field and enabling the escape from the Quarter Quell and the Capitol, Katniss' world has fallen apart. District 12 is gone. She survived the arena and made it out — but she is one of only a few who did. She has been played and used by those she trusts and the game is just beginning.

Panem has been on the verge of rebellion since she used a handful of berries to defy the Capitol, and her latest spark-filled defiance has brought the simmer to a boil. Playing nice for President Snow is no longer an option, and the girl on fire has to decide where she will stand when shots are fired.

As Katniss struggles to find and accept her role in the war sweeping through the districts, she also has to deal with the fallout of her Quarter Quell decisions. No longer the Capitol's darling or district 12's huntress, she must choose to either sit on the sidelines or embrace the Mockingjay, as well as everything that comes with it.

Those who have read the books know that much of this last installment is dialogue-based and serves primarily to set the stage for the finale. Because "Mockingjay" was split into two

movies, this first part is left with much of the set-up. Yet, surprisingly, this does not leave viewers with a slow, actionless movie that exists only to prepare for the final piece.

"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part One" is a highly emotional movie. Viewers ride Katniss' emotional rollercoaster as she grapples with the current developments, as well as the lingering trauma from her experiences in the Hunger Games. No character is spared pain, excluding, perhaps, President Snow, and "Mockingjay, Part One" is not a movie that resolves this pain.

Battles, negotiations and covert missions turn some of these emotions into anger and fearful anticipation, feelings never far when viewing Snow's mistreatment of the districts and former Victors. Haymitch's dry wit and humorous interactions with everyone he meets, coupled with Katniss' bluntness, relieve the intensity and remind viewers that these two have faced the impossible before and are stubborn enough to do it again.

The cast only adds to the experience, seamlessly drawing viewers into the story. The performances by Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth (Gale) and Josh Hutcherson (Peeta) are especially powerful, invoking strong responses to their trauma and pain.

James Newton Howard's soundtrack provides a riveting backdrop to the movie, but the musical highlight is Lawrence's haunting vocalization of "The Hanging Tree."

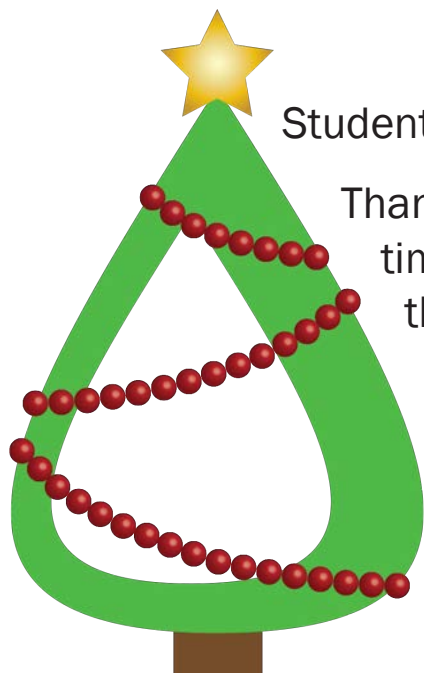
"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part One" is not a happy movie, but it is a thrilling experience. Despite the amount of set-up, the



movie moves quickly and seems much shorter than its two-hour length.

As for the ending, well, let's just say that for those who haven't read the books, it will be a very long year.

Emily Finlay is a senior journalism major and campus news editor for Cedars. She loves writing, reading, making obscure references in normal conversation and every type of geekery.



Students, faculty and staff,

Thank you for reading Cedars this semester. We've had a great time this semester producing Cedars for you, and we hope that you've enjoyed reading it. It's been a busy semester, but it's almost done. Keep an eye on ReadCedars.com over the Christmas break for reviews on movies coming out over the holidays. We'll be back next semester, so be looking for us in the SSC, DMC and online! Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Your Cedars staff

Two Sports, One Goal

Connor Scott's passion helps him succeed in two very different sports

by Jon Gallardo

Connor Scott experienced a situation that most people can only dream of. In his last collegiate soccer game, the G-MAC championship, he scored a goal that became the difference in a 1-0 victory for the Cedarville men's soccer team, winning the conference title.

"It was a surreal moment," he said, "and it's probably one of the best sports memories I'll ever have."

Five days later, Scott traded the grass for the hardwood, stepping into the gym to prepare for the upcoming basketball season. According to Scott and his coaches, his determination and passion for sports and other people help him to excel on and off the field and the court.

On the field

Scott's collegiate soccer career got off to a rough start. He played four different positions his freshman year and was unable to gain confidence on the field. Todd Beall, the head coach at the time, told Scott he was in danger of being cut from the varsity team.

"He asked me what I would do if I wasn't playing a varsity sport here," Scott said. "I told him I would pick a team from our next year's schedule and I would go play for them."

Scott said Beall liked this attitude and gave him a trial in the winter and spring to see if he could improve. Scott credits God with getting him through that time.

"It was a huge God thing that I was able to stay on the team and be able to be successful," he said.

Current head coach Brett Faro, who was an assistant coach when Scott came in, recalled that Scott was a very raw player at first.

"He played at a really small Christian school, had a lot of success in high school," Faro said, "but he wasn't very polished, so when he played the college game, he struggled a bit technically – passing, receiving, turning."

Faro said that Scott accepts criticism and

"From day one, he has always been a team-first player."

Brett Faro

Head men's soccer coach

uses it as a chance to improve. This is evident in Scott's growth since freshman year, Faro said, and he is not the same player that stepped



photos by Scott Huck

Connor Scott kicks the ball in the championship game against Davis & Elkins College.

onto the field in 2011.

In his senior campaign, Scott led the team in assists and was third on the team in goals scored.

Faro said he has been impressed with Scott's work ethic, positive attitude and dedication and said he enjoyed watching Scott develop as a player. But Scott is more than just a good soccer player,

Faro said. He is a selfless teammate.

"From day one, he has always been a team-first player," Faro said. "Whether he played 10

minutes, 90 minutes or didn't play at all, he was about whatever was best for the team."

Although he scored three goals in this year's conference tournament, Scott didn't pat himself on the back. Instead, he gave the credit to his teammates.

"I had three goals because I had three players give me three unbelievable passes," he said. "I was just very excited to step up for my team as a senior, and for the other seniors especially, and get those goals when we needed them."

On the court

This unselfish attitude has followed Scott to the basketball court. In the winter of 2013, he talked to head coach Pat Estep about join-

ing the team. Estepp told him the team could use a practice player to help the other guys improve, and Scott accepted.

The transition from soccer to basketball was rough at first. Scott had to find time during the soccer season to take part in basketball workouts. He went from being one of the tallest and most athletic members of the soccer team to one of the shortest and least athletic members on the basketball team. But this wasn't the most difficult part of the transition for Scott.

"I'd say the hardest thing for me has definitely been the speed of the game," he said, "since I haven't really played competitively since high school."

"My goal for the year is to help the team in any way possible. If that means I play zero minutes and I just try to make the team better in practice, so be it. But I definitely have a goal to be an impact player on the court."



Connor Scott

Despite this, Estepp said Scott has impressed him so far.

"When he comes to practice, he comes to work," Estepp said. "He's going to try to make himself better and make his teammates better."

Because of the conflicting schedules of the soccer season and basketball preseason, Scott was unable to participate in many practices with the basketball team. The night of the team's season opener, he'd only had two prac-



Connor Scott, a senior, is a two-sport athlete at Cedarville, playing both soccer and basketball.

tices under his belt. Although he had played in front of big crowds before, Scott admitted to being nervous before the game.

"That first game, the game at 11, it was wild," he said. "We had big crowds at my high school games, the whole town would come out, but it was nothing like the size of Cedarville's gym, and it was fun to see and I was definitely nervous before going out for warm-ups and stuff."

Although he is currently a practice player who sits on the bench for most of the game, Scott is not complaining.

"My goal for the year is to help the team in any way possible," Scott said. "If that means I play zero minutes and I just try to make the team better in practice, so be it. But I definitely have a goal to be an impact player on the court."

Scott has gotten the attention of the coaches due to his determination and non-stop motor.

"He just really competes, plays every play hard, goes all out, and that's probably one of the biggest things he does for us," Estepp said. "And he may give himself a chance to get in a game because he plays so hard."

Future plans

A physical education major, Scott said he hopes to coach basketball at the high school level after graduation. One of the reasons he

joined the basketball team, he said, was so he could learn enough about the game to coach others in the sport.

"I love working with kids," he said, "they're just so impressionable. And as a teacher and a coach, you have such a pedestal to influence them, and in my case, influence them for Christ."

Scott said he doesn't want to be only a coach, but a good role model as well.

"Something that's very lacking in the schools is male leadership, especially Christian male leadership," he said. "And hopefully that's something I can give to a school basketball program."

Servant Leadership

Scott isn't waiting until he lands a coaching job to start leading others. Faro said Scott has excelled at being a leader on the soccer team.

"One of the big pieces of our program is we want to develop leaders who can change lives for Christ," Faro said, "and he buys into that mission. He wants to grow and he wants to see the younger players grow. He's been a great servant-leader in that way for us."

Jon Gallardo is a junior journalism major and sports editor for Cedars. He enjoys writing, playing basketball and quoting Napoleon Dynamite. He hopes to one day play in the NBA.

From Intramurals to JV to Varsity, Josh Paul Works to be a Better Player

by Dave Guidone

There is more to sophomore guard Josh Paul than meets the eye. His 6-foot-6-inch frame may be intimidating to some at first, but he is soft-spoken, and he wears a smile everywhere he goes. He has a heart for children, which is why he is majoring in middle childhood education. Having recently made the move from JV to varsity, Paul is not only a good athlete, but a good teammate as well.

Hailing from Katy, Texas, Paul is blessed with an athletic body, long arms and big hands. In his first two years at Cedarville, he developed a reputation as an athletic basketball player. In intramurals and pick-up games, Paul would sail in for monster dunks and emphatic blocks.

Current JV player Ryan Miller summed Paul up in a few words.

"He is a freak athlete," Miller said. "Josh always rebounds well and works hard on the court, and does it all with a calm, quiet demeanor."

It was his athleticism and talent that got people excited about seeing him play in organized basketball games. Peter Venman, a friend of Paul's, said he was impressed when he played with Paul.

"Josh is very gifted athletically and he uses that when attacking the hoop and when he gets out in transition," Venman said. "He is a pesky and determined defender, he uses his long arms to his advantage."

After encouragement from JV players and his friends, Paul attended the JV basketball tryout this past spring and made the JV team.

Paul's older brother, Quinton played varsity tennis at Cedarville and graduated this past May.

Paul said his brother had a big impact on his formation as a basketball player.

"Quinton and I played one-on-one all the time," Paul said. "He got me to play tougher and playing against someone older really helped."

Paul played high school basketball for the Homeschool Christian Youth Association based in the Houston area. He said this experience was difficult.

"I had never played a home game in my life until college," he said, "and we played a lot in high school, 40 games a season, all on the road."

Paul said this intense atmosphere in high school taught him what it meant to work hard in practice for the course of a season, not just game to game.

A few weeks into the fall semester, Pat Estep, head coach of the men's basketball team, was looking for a JV player to step up and con-



photo by Jillian Philyaw

Josh Paul dunks during the Moonlight Madness dunk competition.

tribute for varsity.

"I asked our JV coach, Zach Brown, 'Who's the best guy to move up? Who can defend, can athletically hang with our guys and make them better?'" Estep said, "and Josh was the one guy mentioned. Josh has a tremendous upside. He's really raw, but he's probably as athletic as anybody we've got on our team."

Paul said he remembered the day that he got called up.

"One day the coaches were looking for some guys to play five on five, and there were injuries," he said. "I played and after practice they asked me to be a part of the team for the year."

As far as his role on Cedarville's basketball team this season, Paul is not a main player, but he has been looking for ways to help his team in practice throughout the long college season.

One thing he has been working on is being more vocal.

"If I see a guy in a particular situation, it's my job to tell them what I see," he said. "It's also my job to make them a better player during practice in things like one-on-one drills."

Although Paul is athletic, Estep said he saw some areas where Paul could improve. One of these areas is his weight. Weighing in at 160 pounds, he is the lightest guy on the team despite being one of the taller players.

But another area in need of change is his attitude on the court.

"Josh is a really nice kid.

That's a great thing, but it's also sometimes a little bit of a hindrance," Estep said. "You've got to have a little nasty side to you to compete, and we see that every once in a while in him."

Varsity student assistant Nate Hughes notices this in Josh.

"Josh is a team-first player," Hughes said. "He is humble and kind to everyone he comes into contact with. He cares more about others than himself."

Dave Guidone is a junior social studies education major and sports reporter for Cedars. His hobbies include eating, snacking, shooting hoops and laughing. Hebrews 13:8

Finals Week Stress Relievers

by *Kaitly Kenniv*

Have a lot of finals and final projects to work on? Or maybe you don't and just have a lot of free time. Either way, take a break, grab some friends and check out these stress-relieving activities.

Christmas at the Pennsylvania House

Head over to the Pennsylvania House Museum in Springfield for a gorgeous holiday display. Built in 1839, the Pennsylvania House was a popular inn during its time. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 6, the museum will have its annual Christmas celebration. Visitors can see historic Christmas decorations and actors wearing costumes from the 18th and 19th centuries. Musicians will perform Christmas carols on the harp and an 1845 Victorian melodeon. Student tickets cost \$2 and adult tickets cost \$5. Complimentary cider and cookies are provided.



Beans-N-Cream, one of the coffee shops in town, is a good place to grab a cup of hot coffee or tea and study for finals.

Cedarville Opera House – “A Christmas Carol”

The Cedarville Opera House will present “A Christmas Carol” on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 6 at 8:30 p.m. The actors in this unique presentation use no costumes, and it will include cameos from the audience. The performance will be recorded, and Resound Radio will air the final performance on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Come prepared for a highly interactive experience and a chance to hear your voice on the radio.



photos by *Kyria Luxon*

“A Christmas Carol” will be recorded for radio theatre in the Cedarville Opera House on Dec. 5 and 6.

Clifton Mill

Indulge in a finals week breakfast with plate-sized pancakes in a variety of flavors. If you manage to eat two (all by yourself, of course), you get a third free.

If you're not a morning person, head over after 6 any evening after Thanksgiving to see an amazing display of nearly four million lights. On every hour, the lights suddenly turn off.

Music begins to play, and the lights synchronize with the music in a breathtaking show. You can view the light show, the outdoor miniature village and the Santa museum for \$10 per person.

NTPRD Chiller – Ice Skating Rink

Located in Springfield, this indoor ice skating rink is the perfect study break. Go with a date, or grab a group of 15 people or more for discount pricing. Regular admission is \$5, and skate rental is \$2. If you go during their cheap skate hours, skate rental is free. View their public skate schedule at www.ntprdchiller.com

MediaPlex

Make snowflakes, cards and other holiday crafts with your friends in the library's MediaPlex. The MediaPlex offers an assortment of paper, card stock and shape punches. They also have fasteners, feathers, foam sheets, glitter, magnetic tape, paint, pipe cleaners, pom poms, popsicle sticks, sequins and googly eyes for students to purchase. Let your creativity run wild.

Stoney Creek or Beans-N-Cream

Get off campus and enjoy a hot drink at one of Cedarville's local coffee shops. Each location offers cozy study spots and great food. Purchase a hot chocolate or a hot caramel macchiato at Stoney. Add a scone to complete the mood. Try the vanilla latte or white mocha from Beans -N-Cream with a muffin or cinnamon roll.

Community Service

Serve the community of Cedarville with your time and energy. If you have musical talent, go caroling around town or at a senior citizen's center.

Young's Jersey Dairy

Every weekday from 3 to 5 p.m., Young's has their “Milkshakes Make Me Happy” hour. You can get \$1.50 off any Cowshake or Bullshake. Have a reverse meal and eat your dessert first. Then grab a meal from the varied menu. Don't forget their famous cheese curds.

Kaitly Kenniv is a junior Biblical studies major and a reporter for Cedars. She loves reading by a blazing fireplace, taking long walks in the autumn and a cup of hot tea in the morning.

A Christmas Crossword

The crossword puzzle grid consists of 21 numbered starting points for clues. The grid is surrounded by several decorative snowflake illustrations of varying sizes and orientations.

Across:

1. Snack left for Santa
3. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
4. "Do you wanna build a ... ?"
9. Campus _____
12. The _____ season leads up to Christmas.
13. "The _____ Express"
14. "The Christmas Bear"
16. Name of the paper you're reading :)
17. Not a loud night
20. _____ Christmas
21. _____ and the ivy

Down:

1. Olaf's nose; reindeer food
2. Hung by the fireplace
5. Little Town of _____
6. A four-legged, unshered nativity animal's greeting
7. Appeared to the shepherds
8. Cedarville's 10th president
10. Frosty is a _____.
11. What the angels sing
15. The reason for the season
18. Christmas _____
19. "How the _____ Stole Christmas"

Just Sayin'... Row Your Boat



by Erik Johnson

We'll, you've made it. Almost. Only one more week stands between you and the freedoms of winter break.

For some of you, thoughts of finals send shivers down your spine. Your professors seem to find joy in condensing an entire semester into a single two-hour time period. And not just one professor. All of them. Your weekly planner is a mixture of all-nighters at Tim Horton's and multiple Killer Bees from Rinnova the following day.

Others of you may not have it so bad. Maybe you have a project due here, a test there. But all in all, finals week is just another week for you.

And then there are the few of you who are actually excited for finals week. Not because

you enjoy taking tests or giving presentations.

I am talking about those of you who are making plans for the extended hours in Chuck's, dragging in televisions and gaming systems so you can spend an entire day playing games in the SSC while your clothes are heavily saturated with the wonderful aroma from the grill.

But you don't care. Chuck's is open all day, and you will seize that opportunity in any way possible.

It's always strange to come to the end of a semester. Finals week seems so far away at the beginning. I know I am not the only one who takes a look at all the syllabi and wonders how in the world all that work is supposed to be completed. It's like looking across the ocean before you attempt to cross it in your little row-boat.

Somehow you make it to the middle, and although you've made it halfway, there is no sight of land in either direction. Midterms are like giant waves threatening to capsize your boat at any moment.

Maybe you are even flung out of your boat a time or two and the only thing holding you above the water is the little orange floaties

someone gave to you as you were leaving. But you know there is only one thing to do, so you keep rowing that boat.

And then one day you notice something on the horizon. Where once seemingly endless waters dominated your sights, there is a sliver of something in the distance. What it is exactly, you aren't sure of until you make it a little closer. It's land. Your strength slowly returns and you row feverishly to the shore.

And then finals week is here. You quickly realize that the shore you are trying to reach is the shore of Nazare, Portugal, where an underwater canyon combines with strong ocean currents to generate enormous waves, some reaching almost 100 feet. But you have no choice but to row your little boat through those massive swells.

How it all ends is up to you now. You have made it this far and you can make it to the end. It may not be a whole lot of fun. In fact, it might just be one of the worst weeks of your life. But you can do it.

Erik Johnson is a senior journalism major and columnist for Cedars. He competes on the track team. Follow him @walkingtheedge9.

Tips for surviving this upcoming finals week:

1. Only pull an all-nighter if you really, really, really need it.

Or if you are done with all your tests and have nothing better to do. I have only pulled one in my time at Cedarville, and that was the last night at school after returning from a track meet at 3:30 in the morning. I personally feel they hurt you more than help. It'll take some effort, but don't get to a point where you need one. It's that simple. I will add that some majors are more prone to needing it than others just because of the nature of the content. But avoid if at all possible.

2. If you are short on meals, there are a lot of people with a lot of extra meals.

Don't starve yourself. Sure, it may take you actually asking someone for help. That's harder for some than others. In general, people with extra scans are more than happy to help. I survived last fall with only nine scans for the last month of school.

3. If you have out-of-class projects, do them in the morning if possible.

If you are getting enough sleep, the first few things you actually focus on in the day will be your most productive. Make a physical list of three things you need to accomplish and do the most important first, then the second most, and then the last. Cross them off as you go and reward yourself with a break or something after you accomplish each one. It sounds ridiculous, but it works.

4. Remember you aren't alone.

Although it may not feel like it, other people are probably having a really rough week as well. Take a couple minutes to encourage others. Buy a friend a coffee from Rinnova or something. Little acts of kindness go a long way.

5. Finally, have a wonderful and relaxing winter break.

These next few years will bring some big changes in your life. Enjoy and cherish your time with your family and friends. Take nothing for granted. And have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tell Erik what you would like him to write about. Send your questions, comments or concerns to erikcjohnson@cedarville.edu

Org Wars 2014

photos by Jillian Philyaw



Top left: Orgs participate in a Minute-to-Win-It-like Ping-Pong ball game. Above left: Orgs were challenged to balance Jelly Beans on straws stuck in potatoes during an Org Wars' Minute-to-Win-It competition. Above right: DOE members take part in a life-sized Scrabble game during Org Wars Nov. 17-21. Below: Orgs play a game of Octoball on the first night of Org Wars.

