

The Update

CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

• Cedarville Fund

• Spring 2009

“The Cove is now *more* traveled by, and *that* has made all the difference.”

Throughout 2008, advancement encouraged donors to “make a difference” with a gift for the Center for Biblical and Theological Studies (BTS). Now in its second semester of operation, what a difference this building has already made!

The distinctive new space and central location for the academic enrichment center, The Cove, allows the staff to help all students make the most of their Cedarville experience!

WE HAD THE SOUL OF THE COVE

To truly appreciate how far The Cove has come, you need a sense of its humble beginnings — just a few windowless offices down a cinder-block hallway in the athletic center. “We didn’t have much of a presence¹ on campus,” recalled Kim Ahlgrim, director of the academic enrichment center. “There was no direct entrance to our shared space and no privacy to provide confidential services. Students looking for academic support really had to seek us out.”

Despite its modest surroundings, The Cove’s reputation for quality services extended beyond campus. Other schools would call and request a tour of Cedarville’s academic enrichment facilities, but there really wasn’t much to see. “We had the soul of The Cove,” Kim said, “but we didn’t have the body. Now our facility matches the quality of the programs² we provide.”

... BUT WE DIDN’T HAVE THE BODY

More than its inviting décor — enhanced with natural sunlight and a seashore theme — The Cove’s central location in a heavily trafficked academic building has given The Cove a strong, integrated presence among students and faculty. Since the BTS opened last fall, every program offered through The Cove has increased: walk-ins, faculty referrals, event attendance, appointments with learning specialists, disability services, and exam proctoring. Tutoring³ services alone doubled in one semester, forcing The Cove to seek additional funding to keep up with the demand⁴.

The Cove’s physical space includes a tutoring center⁵, comfortable office space to consult with current and prospective students, testing rooms, a work room, a conference room, and an inspiring entrance that makes each visitor feel immediately at ease. The Cove is finally ready to give that facility tour to any school that inquires.

WHAT SECURED OUR PLACE IN THE BUILDING ...

But its inclusion in the new facility was not always guaranteed. Dr. Andy Runyan, associate vice president for academic administration, was part of the planning committee for the BTS. “The Cove was in the plans for a while, then out for a while,” he said.

Your Gift Matters!

¹ Three years ago, a student life survey revealed 25% of students knew where to find The Cove. This year, that number jumped to 100%.

² More than 2,200 students attended Cove events: Syllabus Crunch workshops, Lemon Breeze Break, Pure Nonsense finals week stress relief, Café 153 for undeclared students, and various study skill workshops.

³ Tutoring hours have increased from 96 in 2004 to 1,805 in 2008.

⁴ Tutoring is a service provided at no cost to students. A gift of \$150 underwrites the cost of an hour of tutoring each week for one student for one semester.

⁵ The Cove offers free certification through the National Tutoring Association to train peer tutors.

⁶ Thanks to video monitoring in the testing rooms, The Cove no longer pays individual proctors. During the first month inside the new building, they saved \$885. The ongoing savings allowed them to hire a front-desk receptionist.

⁷ Two freshman-level Bible courses now have academic peer coaches — upperclassmen who host review sessions and reinforce study skills.

⁸ 7% of CU's student body benefits from disability services.

⁹ It takes an average of 40 hours to convert a textbook into a format that can be uploaded into an electronic reader for a student who is visually impaired.

¹⁰ The Cove proctored 510 exams fall semester, on pace to top last year's total of 800.

Campaign gifts supplied the building, and Cedarville Fund gifts help support the programs and daily operations that take place inside.

The Cove is making a difference for students, and your Cedarville Fund gift will, too.

How would you help these students?

[Aaron's] mother died when he was in high school. His loss affected his school work, and his grades declined. He came to Cedarville with the potential to succeed but without a strong academic base. He's having a hard time catching up.

[Ryan] was an involved high school student who never had to study much to get good grades. Now that he's in college, he struggles to find time to concentrate on his homework between his classes, his ministry, and his off-campus job. He's searching for the right balance so he can still make time to hang out with his friends.

[Jill] is an A student preparing to take the L-SAT for law school. She needs hours of disciplined study to prepare for the exam. It's hard to find a quiet place, and she would appreciate some accountability.

Although the names are changed, these are actual students at Cedarville. And they all found the help they needed at The Cove!

"What secured its place inside the building was the staff's ability to demonstrate they could use the new space to expand their services while still improving their cost-effectiveness⁶."

When Cedarville was a smaller college, faculty could provide more one-on-one support for students. We still provide faculty advising, and faculty involvement is still a hallmark of a Cedarville education. But we have grown into a larger, more sophisticated university⁷, and academic services are standard at competitive institutions. The services provided by The Cove allow faculty to specialize in teaching excellence.

... ABILITY TO COST-EFFECTIVELY EXPAND SERVICES

Marilyn Meyer is one of eight professional staff members who oversee programs at The Cove. As coordinator of disability services, she works with about 200⁸ students a year who need specific accommodations for various disabilities⁹.

A student with a visual impairment, for example, may need a test administered aloud. A student with a physical disability may need a scribe to take dictation. These exceptional situations require additional time and privacy, and The Cove now has the physical space to administer exams¹⁰ with the academic integrity faculty expect.



THE COVE IS FULFILLING CEDARVILLE'S MISSION

"Our desire is to make it possible for every student to take part in the Cedarville experience," Marilyn said. "These students' GPAs and ACT scores are no different from any other Cedarville student. Their dreams and aspirations are no different. Getting there just looks a little different, and that's where The Cove can help level the playing field."

Dr. Andy Runyan summarized The Cove's mission this way: "Most students face something in their lives where they need extra help. Our students will go on to graduate and enter the workforce as a light in the world for Christ. We are fulfilling Cedarville's mission by teaching, encouraging, and providing support where it is needed."

Learn more about The Cove's programs and services at www.cedarville.edu/thecove.

Enriched: A little intervention goes a long way



After graduation, Ed plans to work with Campus Crusade for Christ at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Senior **Ed Dunning** (Loveland, Ohio) will graduate with a double major in youth ministries and Christian education. Ed is the vice president of a sports management organization, section leader on the tuba in symphonic band, and a four-year member of the pep band. But the key idea of his story is simply this: **He will graduate.**

My first class was biology at 8 a.m. I took my dad's advice and sat toward the front so I'd pay attention, but I fell asleep in class. And from there it went downhill fast — I finished the semester with four Ds and a C.

Without that intervention my freshman year, I would not have stayed at Cedarville.

I was mad. Furious, actually. How could this happen to me? I was a straight-A student in high school, near the top of my class. I arrived at Cedarville with head knowledge, but I didn't know how to write a paper or prepare a project. And I didn't know how to ask for help.

I got a letter at the end of the term saying I was on academic probation and had to enroll in the MAP (managing academic progress) program. I began weekly meetings at The Cove with Becky Kuhn, coordinator of academic engagement. She helped me refine a game plan and held me accountable to it. She helped me identify my strengths and find areas where I could apply those in other areas. I needed to hear I was good at something; I wasn't hearing that from anyone else.

I learned how to manage my time, and I changed my major. Spring semester went much better, but my cumulative GPA was still in the red zone. By the fall of my sophomore year, my whole outlook had changed. I had a group of friends, classes in my major, and the tools I needed to beat this monster. Academic probation turned out to be a blessing in disguise — without that intervention my freshman year, I would not have stayed at Cedarville.

By my junior year, I was off academic probation, but I have stayed in touch with The Cove these last two years. I stop by several times a week to say "hello" or share a prayer request or praise. I know they care about me; I know they pray for me.

I'm just a few weeks from graduation, but I'm not as stressed as I thought I would be. It meant a lot to have people at Cedarville who listened to me. They were behind me, pushing me to excel. Even though I know they're still behind me, I don't need them to push me down the track. I'm off and running on my own.

Spring Calendar of Events

[www.cedarville.edu/calendar]

March

- 13–14 CedarMania
- 14 STEPS Seminar: Counseling Ministries
- 26–28 Spring Play: *Tuesdays With Morrie*
- 27 Senior Citizen Matinee of *Tuesdays With Morrie*

April

- 2–4 Spring Play: *Tuesdays With Morrie*
- 10–13 Easter Break
- 18 STEPS Seminar: Urban Ministries
- 18 ELLIV
- 28–30 Final Exams

May

- 2 113th Annual Commencement
- 5 May Term Begins
- 16 STEPS Seminar: Resolving Conflict

Alumni Chapter Events

March

- 7 Atlanta, Georgia
- 7 South Central Pennsylvania
- 28 Canton, Ohio
- 28 Rochester, New York

April

- 15 Highlands Ranch, Colorado

Interested in starting an alumni chapter in your area? Call 1-800-837-2566 or visit www.cedarville.edu/alumni.



Your investment enriches
the Cedarville experience!

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Chapel Notes



Dr. Os Guinness
STALEY LECTURESHIP
FEBRUARY 9–10

You can capture in three words the challenge facing the church in the heart of our modern world:

Integrity: Much of the church in the West is in a profound Babylonian captivity to the very modern world it has helped to create. Our supreme challenge is to recover our integrity as followers of Jesus Christ in every area of our lives, being salt and light.

Credibility: Ever since the Enlightenment, the Christian faith has lost its credibility with the educated classes. Will your generation put behind it shallow anti-intellectualism and regain the credibility of the Gospel of Jesus to thinking people?

Civility: We have deep interest in the Gospel — speaking the truth with love and grace, being peacemakers, loving our enemies. We have deep interest in showing what it means to be a follower of Jesus by practicing in public life a genuine civility.

Dr. Guinness' lectures can be found online at www.ThePath.fm. Call 1-800-333-0601 to order cassettes, CDs, or DVDs from the chapel archives.



Learn more or give online at www.cedarville.edu/givingnow.