“When Jesus fed the 5,000, he could have snapped his fingers and filled every single belly. Instead, he gave thanks for the bread and ate with them. That kind of relational ministry is what Changing Lives Now Ministries, Inc. is about — fewer handouts and more “hand-ups” as we show Christ’s love through holistic ministry.

My life has been greatly blessed through the time I spend in Springfield at Changing Lives Now. I pray that God continues His work in the community through SGA’s ministry partnership with the organization this year. May we live by the words of John the Baptist, “Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:29–30).

Christina Kinch ‘12
West Palm Beach, Florida
LEARNING TO LEAD

Grant Miller ’12

This is really happening. This thought raced through my head as I looked around the table at 12 wide-eyed and expectant faces. It was our first meeting as Student Government Association (SGA) leaders, and I might have been overwhelmed with the responsibility of steering this team, but I remembered what our advisor, Bob Lutz ’01, had told me earlier that day. “I won’t let you fail.”

DEVELOPING THE TEAM

That moment was a year ago, and as I look back, I see struggle, sacrifice, and success. It's a privilege to be selected by your peers to represent their interests, although doing so involves weeks and months of hard work. Our team of 13 officers soon realized that before we could effectively serve the student body, we had to learn to serve one another and work together. We began the year with a series of involved conversations about our strengths and our vision for the year ahead. Team members were open and honest, and we worked through some tough issues. Although some conversations were difficult, this process will always be one of my favorite memories, because it revealed each person's commitment to the challenges set before us.

“SGA has taught me how to be a humble leader on this campus,” said Sean Gowdy ’12, SGA website director. “When you get a group like this together — followers of Christ and people of integrity — amazing things can happen. It's been overwhelming with the responsibility of steering this team, but I remembered what our advisor, Bob Lutz ’01, had told me earlier that day: “I won’t let you fail.”

SAFES THE STUDENT BODY

I, too, have been excited and inspired to see the team’s language morph from “my job” to “our job as SGA.” I have seen other forms of inclusive expression that reflect the importance of working together. Because of that team commitment, we have been able to lay out ambitious plans for this spring semester.

We hosted an event in January for Martin Luther King Jr. Day called “The Dream.” Students from many different backgrounds led music, read speeches by Dr. King and Frederick Douglass, and recited poetry by authors such as Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes. Students from other universities attended this event, allowing us to make strategic connections with student leaders from across the state of Ohio. We hope to strengthen these connections and cultivate long-term relationships so we can all share ideas and develop a support network for fellow student government leaders.

In February, we launched our campus-wide ministry initiative. In partnership with a local ministry called Changing Lives Now Ministries, Inc., Cedarville students can give their time and financial resources to make a difference in Springfield, a community just a few miles up the road from our campus. SGA's role is to provide students with opportunities to be involved and see tangible results.

Being a part of SGA is a unique experience at Cedarville. “We learn how to compromise, and we learn how to have hard conversations,” said Sarah Brittan ’12, SGA vice president. “I have learned how to be bold and make decisions that others might not agree with. It is my job to do what is best for the team.”

LEAVING A LEGACY

In just a few months, this school year will be finished, and we’ll pass the torch to a new student government that may carry on our initiatives or create new ones of its own. I have worked alongside an extraordinary group of men and women this year. We have been through times of challenge as well as times of success. We have been inspired by the faculty and administration to press on in our work. Above all else, we have had the opportunity to encourage each other in our pursuit of Christ.

The opportunity to grow in leadership and in relationship with Christ makes Cedarville a uniquely rich and rewarding place.

“Cedarville's Student Government Association (SGA) impacts far more than students' academic and social lives,” said Bob Lutz ’01, associate dean for student leadership development and SGA advisor. “The programs and opportunities SGA provides are designed to engage students in their spiritual lives as well.”

Each year, SGA chooses a campus-wide ministry initiative that involves the entire student body. This year, SGA is partnering with Changing Lives Now Ministries, Inc., an organization in nearby Springfield, Ohio, providing a range of services for people who struggle to meet their own basic needs.

“Students are serving meals, helping restore the building, and giving financial gifts to make a difference,” said Katherine Watson ’11, SGA's philanthropy director. “I can’t wait to see what God does through this ministry!”

A recipient of numerous donor-funded scholarships, Katherine also knows the joy of giving back. “As students,” she said, “we have an opportunity to give our time and resources to a local ministry that is changing lives just as your gift changed mine.”
FOLLOWING CHRIST ...

Cedarville’s commitment to daily chapel communicates how important it is to make becoming more Christlike part of students’ daily experience. This is my constant prayer as I spend time each week preparing messages for Friday’s SGA chapels. I pray that the whole 10 a.m. hour would be dedicated to the Lord — that His presence would fill the room and that our hearts and actions would reflect Christ.

It’s no small task to produce a student-led chapel every week. I meet weekly with a committee of 15–20 students, who have significant responsibilities. The emcees make announcements, the producer manages all of the communication needs, and I collaborate with the worship leader and band to tie the music to the message.

Last fall, we spent several weeks on the Sermon on the Mount. I had been reading some books on this passage in Matthew, and I was inspired to go back to the text to uncover fresh insights. This semester, I’m doing a series on Ephesians. No matter the topic of my message, I want Cedarville students to leave an SGA chapel with a heightened desire to follow Christ and be His disciples. Christians are part of God’s redemptive mission in the world, and His Spirit has given us the power to do this.

My role as chaplain has given me the opportunity and responsibility to positively influence the 3,000 students who look back at me each week. They are my friends, and God has placed us here together in this time and place in our lives.

They won’t remember much of what I say in chapel, although I do my best to be a good speaker and prepare interesting messages. What makes the lasting difference is my example, my faithfulness in following Christ.

David Moser ’11
SGA Chaplain
Columbia, Missouri

Thank you for supporting student leaders at CU!