I was raised in a little town to the northwest of Tampa, Fla. called New Port Richey. I have two beautiful sisters, Emma and Kara, and two wonderful supportive parents, John and Karen.

After high school I did not think that college was for me, so I jumped right into the workforce managing a Wendy’s. Little did I know that I was wrong and that God had another plan for me.

In February 2005 my old soccer coach, Sam Koleduk, took the coaching position here and wanted me to come play for him. Even though I was very skeptical, I left my job and everything I knew to come to Cincinnati.

Growing up, I had very little religious background so it was somewhat of a culture shock coming to CCU. Everyone was so nice to me and really cared about me, which was completely new to me.

After being here for four years, making new friends, learning about the Bible, and finding out what God has in store for me, my eyes have been opened and my lifestyle has completely changed. It is all thanks to everyone here at CCU. You have helped change my life. Who would have thought soccer could change someone’s life?

As onlookers read into this issue they will not only learn about a handful of interesting seniors, but will inevitably take life lessons along with them. These inspiring, unique, and God-loving students have made their mark into CCU’s history books.

The Eaglette hopes to accomplish making a mark in the hearts of all who read.
Changing The World

By Andrew Farie

CCU is a place many come and go, in the midst of a urban atmosphere, where ministry opportunities happen all over the place, many within walking distance of CCU’s campus.

A part of CCU’s motto is, “building Christian leaders one person at a time,” which does not apply only to graduate prospects, but every student during their entire attendance at CCU.

People make pivotal decisions daily, xbox or study, Reds or half price on Glenway. These are more than just good times. There are opportunities to change lives and change communities. Part of the education here at CCU is within the walls of the classroom, however another part of it is through experience.

There are plenty of places to get plugged in at whether urban ministry, working in a church, or working at local businesses. There are plenty of places to invest time into and to learn from.

Take the time and, make the most of the time you spend in Cincinnati. Whether volunteering at a homeless shelter, an after school program, a church, or other ministries, you can find a way to make the best of your time. Do not just waste it away, do something you can remember and something that makes a difference.

You have a limited time at CCU, some longer than others, but regardless it’s up to you to make a difference.

Ghandi once said, “Be the change you want to see in the world,” so get out there be that change.

Plans Continue To Change

By Janet Campbell

Over the past four years I have made many plans that have failed miserably.

Any of my friends can attest to this. In my time here at CCU, I have wanted to take the career path of funeral director, children’s minister, ESL teacher in South Korea, and houseparent, just to name a few.

In my life I love to have things planned out to perfection. I was so bothered by the fact that I had no set plans for my future that I would jump at any opportunity that would make my future look clearer.

If I have learned anything about plans and the making of them it is this: don’t jump into anything just to have a feeling of security. The right opportunity will come along. Patience is key.

I think that Steve Carell’s character in the film “Dan in Real Life”, Dan Burns, has what I think is the best advice on the topic of planning, “Instead of telling our young people to plan ahead, we should tell them to plan to be surprised.”
“Let us take a lesson from Charlie, when the world feels like it is spinning out of control, remember why you are here.”

Strangely enough, the person I identify with the most is a cartoon character named Charlie Brown.

I suppose this could speak volumes about my life as a whole, even on a psychological level. However, let me just say when Ole’ Charlie goes to kick that football and Lucy moves it EVERY TIME, well, I feel like I am watching my own life unfold in an eerie way.

I think it is safe to say that Charlie would tell you hindsight is always better than foresight. If only he could remember that every time he goes to kick that football.

Who doesn’t love a good Charlie Brown episode? We all know what’s coming when Lucy pulls out her party invitation list, or when she sets up that football. But, Charlie makes me feel like life will be OK.

The everyday little catastrophes of an ordinary life match up pretty well with this little fellow. Charlie is pretty ordinary, and you know what, that is why I like him. It always ends up just fine, at the end of the day.

In the years you have left here, you too may discover your life having strange little mishaps and moments of humbling fear and anxiety. Words can tear at the soul in a way that is unexpected and leads us to only believe they are true. In these moments it is most challenging to believe that you truly are the child of God. Do not believe the lies, instead, remember who you are.

My challenge to you is to not wait until these moments hurt. Fear does funny things to your mental state. Instead, take your classes as a blessing rather than another mundane task. Take the opportunity to build a relationship, no matter how trying it may be, instead of ignoring them.

The more often you do this, the more often you will see your spirit grow. You will become exactly who God has designed you to be. Remember He is never finished, so accept your failings as a humbling challenge and pray your way through.

If Charlie gave up every time another invitation passed him by, or the cute little blond turned him down, his life would have been boring and short lived. So instead of identifying who you are by your fear, find it in the life you are blessed with each day.

Let us take a lesson from Charlie, when the world feels like it is spinning out of control, remember why you are here. Go ahead and give that football one more shot, you may be surprised at the lessons you learn along the way.

Caitlin Fleming cheesing for the camera
Adios Amigos
By Stephanie Norwood

The last goodbye has finally arrived; it has been a great couple of years.

This was my third college, but by far my favorite. I would like to personally thank all of my professors that I had the privilege of learning from. Every one of you has influenced me and challenged me in a positive way.

The most valuable lesson I will take away from this school can be said in five words: love God and love others.

Going to a Bible college, I felt I would leave knowing all the answers, but the truth is, not all questions can be answered, and that’s ok.

I have learned how to better read and understand the Bible. I can break apart a piece of scripture and see what the writer is truly saying. I also know not to come to a conclusion about a piece of scripture without looking at the context.

Besides great a Bible education, I have also learned life lessons such as:

1. Refrain from eating pizza and fries every day, or it will lead to unwanted weight gain.
2. Do not date the first person you have a crush on; it will probably end badly.
3. Don’t procrastinate, or you will be sorry.
4. Scheduling anything at 7:00 a.m. or even 8:00 a.m. will make it hard to get to on time.
5. The friends you make in college will truly become your family after graduation.

The Years Go By
By Steven Rawnsley

Wow, these four years have gone by quickly. [Well, actually I was only here for 3 ½ years because I spent a semester at Ball State University in Indiana.]

I will never forget while I was at Ball State and people knew I was struggling. I remember venting on Facebook about the hard times at Ball State. I got a note from all of my friends CCU encouraging me. I kept a card full of encouraging words taped up all semester. I also got a message on Facebook from Anthony Jones that I kept taped up too.

My college years started off rocky, however it all changed with basketball. That is where I met Donnie Fishburn, Jason Frisch, Ryan Godlove and others. There is something about being a part of a team that I love. We always hung out in the apartment. I wanted to drop out of college the first semester until I met them.

I will always remember the friends that I made in college. Growing up I did not have many friends because of a disability I have called Asperger Syndrome. My experience here has been the opposite of the one back home. Here I have met the best friends I could ever ask for.

The best present I have ever received was something far more precious than money could buy. A few weeks ago I awoke to flyers all around campus wishing me happy birthday. I remember thinking “who is doing that?” I usually hate being the spotlight of attention, but must admit the flyers were comical.

Then later that night, as I was going up to dinner, I checked my mailbox and in there was a note. It was definitely a girl’s handwriting telling me to meet her at 10:35 in the lobby for a surprise. I remember thinking, “what the heck is going on? If this is a joke, it is a really mean one.”

A few friends and I discussed the note over dinner, trying to figure out who wrote it. I was confused and it was killing me (no, not literally). That night I was getting nervous trying to figure out who it was.

Then the time came. I went downstairs and to my surprise I had about 40 friends waiting down there. That really was a surprise and it really meant so much to me that I do not know how to put it into words. In all honesty I got emotional inside. Thanks to Carl Witttrig, Hannah Draper, and Christie for planning the whole thing.

I will never forget my friends here. You guys mean so much to me. I love you guys. To: Matt Pineda, Josh Day, Christie Wagoner, Tyler Leland, Josh Day, and Anthony Jones, you will never know how much you guys have meant to me. I could go on and on discussing how much I appreciate you. I love you all.

The last goodbye has finally arrived; it has been a great couple of years.
Just Keep Loving Jesus

By Clare McGill

There will never be another time in my life where I can experience the diversity of people I have been able to be with over the past four years and the opportunities these people have given me. Take random road trips, go to half-price appetizers at Applebees, or just hang out at the coffee shop. Just be with people. Little things make the biggest memories.

A piece of advice I want to leave the students of CCU a message. To take advantage of this time in your life to build relationships and never take for granted a single day.

Soon the people that I have shared my life with for four years will no longer be with me every day, but I will always have the memories of our times spent together forever.

I am soon going to be an alumna of Cincinnati Christian University and I have no idea what I am going to do with my life past May 16.

On a regular basis I am reminded by Director of Athletics, Jeremy Jones, to just “Keep loving Jesus.” That is a phrase I have heard from him over and over this school year and as simple as it sounds, it is something that I will always take with me for the rest of life.

Lastly, I want to leave with the students at CCU is this: Even though we do not know what the future will hold for us, we just need to keep loving Jesus. So with that, “peace out CCU!”

What? It’s Over Already?!?!

By Emily Miller

From a small town, country girl, to a big city schoolgirl, my life has definitely changed in the last four years.

College supplied me with the best and worst nights of my entire life. I tried to enjoy every last ounce of life while I was here, and learn as much as I could to equip me for this so called “real world.”

I learned what it meant to have a true best friend that would be there for me through thick and thin. I learned how to pull all-nighters and still manage to make it through a day of classes. I learned that the dollar menu at McDonalds is my new best friend...or maybe my worst enemy. I learned what it meant to live in a true community, aka on a floor full of 30 girls. I learned how to share, even though it didn’t always bring out the best in me.

Cincinnati has taught me how to drive like Danica Patrick, because of its fast paced metropolitan area. It made me realize how much I love the open country. Living on my own showed me what it meant to be on a budget and live without mommy and daddy’s checkbook. It allowed me to gain my independence and find out who Emily Miller really was.

These last four years have taught me so much. I have grown as a woman and also in my faith with Jesus Christ. I still don’t have all the answers, but I know that God will be there alongside me no matter what.

College goes by so fast, so don’t take it for granted. Live everyday to its fullest. Don’t take life so seriously. Have fun, and enjoy it, for it only comes once!
ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE CLASS OF 2009

By Dr. David Faust, CCU President

Approximately 165 men and women will receive degrees from our university on May 15 and 16, joining thousands of other alumni who graduated from CCU in years past. Jesus said his disciples are the salt of the earth, and like grains of salt our graduates will now scatter to season the world with each of their unique personalities and gifts.

Along with my sincere congratulations, I want to give all of our graduates a special word of encouragement and challenge.

Remember what you have learned, and from whom you have learned it. Always remember who you are, whose you are, and who you represent. Focus on serving others, instead of expecting others to serve you.

Even though you are finishing your formal degree, continue to have a teachable mind and a humble spirit. Keep learning and growing in your faith. The Bible says, “Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.”

Guard your moral purity. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Don’t just keep the faith; pass it on. Don’t be afraid to tackle tough assignments; God will be with you. Don’t be a mere spectator, onlooker, or critic; get involved. Be a worker in God’s harvest field.

Don’t forget your alma mater and the people here who have touched your life. Be a person of integrity. Let the core values you have learned here at CCU—faith, hope, love, and excellence—shine from your lives always.

Never be ashamed of the gospel. With courage and grace, lift up the name of Jesus Christ. Always be true to God’s Word.

We are proud of you. We send you forth with our love and prayers. Class of 2009, may you bear much fruit for the glory of God.