

This I Believe

Psalm 118:24 This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

As the semester ends and we're nearing finals it's pretty easy to start counting down. Counting down to the last day of class, your last final, our spring tour, and for some of you, graduation. This often seems like a great motivational tool to get us through rough times, but I challenge you not to count down like this. Don't get me wrong; I don't think that having goals are bad, but what happens when they're all you've been focusing on?

My senior year of high school was full of big countdowns as I'm sure all of yours were too. We were all counting down to our "lasts". We counted down for things like projects and papers to be over and couldn't wait for things like last games and performances because surely they would be the best. This is where I found fault in the system.

My very last color guard performance with my best friend as co-captain by my side should have been my favorite, but it wasn't, it was the one two games before that. My favorite performance of my senior musical was the second, not the last. And the most enjoyable days of school my senior year barely included the last day. When we count down to those days we tend to forget about the day presently going on. But what happens when you get to the day you've been waiting for and it wasn't as spectacular as you had always imagined. Not only are you disappointed in that day but you also lost all the days leading up to it by not paying any attention to them.

The summer before my senior year, only a few weeks after her graduation, one of my best friends was killed in a car accident. As cliché as it sounds this made me try to think of things differently. When loved ones die the thought is often to start living each day as your last. But instead, it made me realize that each day, even the seemingly average ones are special, and by counting down to the future we are taking away the *present* day's opportunity to surprise us with being the *best* day.

When I think about my first two years here at Central the great memories are too numerous to count but many of them were from completely "un-looked-forward-to" or seemingly average days; but because I chose not to focus solely on the future I got to experience them for all they were worth.

I am Madison Gause and I believe in giving each day the opportunity it deserves to be the best day of my life.