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The Echo

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THEECHONEWS.COM

University breaks ground on academic building

Facility aids filmmakers, entrepreneurs

WILL RIDDELL
NEWS CO-EDITOR

Thursday, Sept. 1 marked the fulfillment of a dream for film professors John and Kathy Bruner as Taylor University broke ground on the new Horne Academic Center. The building, which is slated to open in fall of 2024, will serve as the new headquarters for the university's film and media program.

The building will consist of 45,000 square feet of space and will also serve as an entrepreneurial hub on campus.

The Dome has been torn down in order to make room for the new facility, a project that lasted from July until the middle of August.

The Horne Academic Center will come with several resources for film students, including a sound stage, television production studio and control room, multiple edit bays, computer labs and an equipment room.

John and Kathy Bruner, who came to Taylor in 2005, have pushed the film program at the university to new heights since their arrival. The department has garnered over 700 awards, including a



Photo provided by Jim Garringer

Horne Hall will be a valuable asset to Taylor's Film and Media Program.

College Television Award from the Academy in Hollywood last year.

Even with the new facility taking shape, it started simply as an idea in one of John Bruner's many binders. And that idea required the work of many to move it out of that binder and onto campus.

"We didn't really expect much to come of this," John said. "Who hands an administrator a book and says, 'Go build this.' It's a pretty big ask."

John said he and Kathy knew

after just a few years of teaching at the school that the program would require more space. The Horne Academic Center will not only provide the space they desperately needed at the beginning; the technology housed inside the facility will also prove to be an upgrade, especially when compared with the inventory they had early on.

Equipment that belonged to the program in its infancy were pieces that John had scrounged off of eBay.

He said that when he first started at Taylor, the department had zero dollars set aside for new equipment.

"That's how our program began," he said.

Now, several years later, the department has gone on to produce many successful flicks and filmmakers. One of the program's alumni is Tim Sutherland, who works as a cinematographer on the ABC TV show "Big Sky."

His father, Ron Sutherland, serves as the special assistant to

the president.

Ron is one of the many individuals who helped bring Bruner's idea to fruition.

Sutherland said being involved in such a monumental project is both exciting and sobering. With a son working in the industry, he understands the importance and need for Christians in film.

"Clearly film and media in this culture is a dominating force," Sutherland said. "So to have Christians in that field and making a difference and having a Christian worldview as they approach those subjects is going to be really important to us."

Sutherland isn't the only individual inside Ayres Alumni Memorial Hall who understands the significance of the university's newest building.

"The groundbreaking for the Horne Academic Center marks a significant moment in the 176-year history of Taylor University," stated President Michael Lindsay.

John Bruner said Lindsay was another individual who has been deeply committed to the project. Bruner said he can't imagine how many hours the president has poured into this endeavor.

Vice President for Strategy and Chief of Staff Will Hagen,

who works closely with Lindsay, believes the new state-of-the-art facility is affirmation that Taylor as an institution is moving in the right direction.

"It's just wonderful that we still have that positive momentum to be able to build new academic buildings, which is just not the case at many Christian institutions around the country," Hagen said. "I think it speaks to the financial strength of the university, which is really important."

While the setup for both John and Kathy Bruner has changed over the years, the couple's mission has remained the same: prepare students to tell quality stories in an industry that is constantly evolving.

The Horne Academic Center started as just an idea tucked away in a binder, but over the years — thanks to the hard work of dedicated individuals and generous donors — the idea has slowly formed into a reality that Bruner knows will influence many for years to come.

"(The building's) impact is going to be far larger than we're ever going to be able to know now, and that's to me the really exciting part," John Bruner said. "... This is not a short term thing. It's an eternal thing."

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Infrastructure changes reflect TU ambitions Retention rate high

Remodeling impacts campus

KAY RIDEOUT
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

Renovations and infrastructure remodels initiated over the summer continue to impact social, academic and athletic spaces across campus. The ongoing face-lifts signify Taylor University's desire to develop a physical environment that will positively shape students' experiences.

A letter from the President's Office on Sept. 1 noted that nearly every corner of Taylor's campus has been modified in recent months. Beyond their aesthetic value, these changes are consistent with the university's new strategic plan, entitled: "Taylor Thrives: Sparking A Vibrant Future."

Approved by the Board of Trustees in the spring of 2022, the plan references the Taylor community's desire to see the university invest in aging infrastructure and facilities — both to provide students with a better experience and to remain competitive.

In response, the new strategic plan outlines the university's commitment to make critical investments in key facilities that will create an inspiring environment for work and study.

Some of the most significant projects up to this point have revolved around the Hodson



Photo by Aubri Gundy

Infrastructure changes have impacted buildings across campus.

Dining Commons (D.C.), academic spaces in the Mitchell Theater and Zondervan Library and athletic spaces in Odle Arena and on Turner Field.

Extensive painting and lighting changes are just the first on a long list of renovations planned for the D.C.

"Yet this fall we hope to finalize a new entrance door ... for access to event space/conference space and some stone work around the brick columns," Special Assistant to the President Ron Sutherland said.

Additional projects not yet considered for final review include new flooring, bathroom renovations, D.C. furniture, major electrical and plumbing

work, new serving stations, elevator access and new windows. Altogether, Taylor has invested \$180,000 of over \$6.0 million allocated for this phase.

Academic spaces also received significant attention over the summer. Projects in Mitchell Theater included new seating, a fresh coat of paint in the lobby and a flooring upgrade. Together with renovations in the Zondervan Galleria, an estimated \$200,000 was invested in academic buildings.

Renovations being considered for this fall and the following year include new air conditioning for the Rupp Communication Arts Center, as well as a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)

review for the Reade Liberal Arts Center and Nussbaum Science Center.

Despite noteworthy changes to the D.C. and academic buildings, the most significant renovations this summer took place in athletic arenas.

The \$1.1 million set aside for lobby renovations, additional exercise equipment and a new weight room in Odle's east end came out of generous donations. However, Taylor also financed turf replacement on the Turner Field — a project not funded by donors, which cost an estimated \$484,000. The university anticipates additional turf replacements on the practice field in the summer of 2023.

Through the support of multiple contractors and generous donors, along with a refinancing of the university's debt in 2021 which brought to light additional financial resources, Taylor has taken significant steps toward the commitments outlined in the strategic plan.

"The goal of all facility improvements or additions is to directly improve the quality of our facilities," Special Assistant to the President Ron Sutherland said. "We believe that our campus facilities support our students as they pursue God's calling on their lives while they are here at Taylor University. Making these investments displays our commitment to a quality physical environment for our students."

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Why Taylor is different

SAMANTHA LEON
STAFF WRITER

Taylor University's current 92% retention rate serves as a benchmark for students' experiences at Taylor. Rivaling the retention rates of prestigious schools, Taylor's faculty continues to work to maintain that number before the freeze date in mid-September.

The retention rate demonstrates the percentage of students who stay enrolled after their first year in school. Although it is not yet finalized, the respective statistic for the freshman class of 2021 highlights many different things.

Lance Vanderberg, assistant director of the Academic Enrichment Center and coordinator of academic success, said that Taylor's tentative retention rate is used to signify quality institutions. It shows that students want to and are able to stay in the university.

"For Taylor, retention is not just a number," Vanderberg said. "Retention is showing our efforts to care for students and to develop a culture at Taylor where faculty are helping students persist and (are) interested in their success."

Taylor's intentional environment and culture attracts motivated students and encourages current students to stay.

Chief Financial Officer Stephen

Olson says that a combination of many components contributes to that. Factors like the school's counseling center, student employment advancements, increased scholarships and an emphasized culture of student involvement are some of the methods the university has recently utilized to increase and preserve its retention rates.

Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing Holly Whitby also attributes Taylor's retention success to its academic rigor, spiritual formation and magnetic community.

"Taylor, in general, recruits a very strong student," Whitby said. "But I think academically, ethically, spiritually and socially I think we recruit very well-rounded students."

However, rates can be negatively impacted by alternative factors.

"In a student's ability to retain, we've seen that finances is often the number one reason for students' withdrawal," Olson said.

If a school is able to retain better, it leads to more students, and consequently, a financial addition for the institution. If a student is unable to continue attending school for financial reasons, that not only impacts their own education, but the school's ability to support other students.

Olson said that mental health concerns have also been rising in the list of reasons students

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Taylor Athletic Department releases new logo

New face of Taylor University

SAMUEL MAURER
STAFF WRITER

On Aug. 15, 2021, Taylor University released a new athletic logo, resulting from a brand study conducted over the past year.

“It is important that our imagery matches our personality. And that is the goal of this brand study, to articulate the personality of Taylor University and present that to the world,” Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing Holly Whitby said.

As Taylor looks forward to the next stage of development, the Athletic Department wanted a new look and face for the future.

Taylor University’s marketing department and the athletic department worked together closely to ensure a smooth transition.

While the university’s previous logo appeared to be a group of shapes blocked together to form a trojan helmet, the new logo shows a more detailed trojan head that seems to be charging into battle.

“I think there is a sense of strength in the new logo,” said Associate Director of



This year’s “Game Day” T-shirts contained the new athletic logo

Photo by Aubri Gundy

Intercollegiate Athletics Natalie Young.

Making sure the logo includes everyone was also something the university wanted to make sure they got correct.

A lot of thought and effort went into making the new logo inclusive for everyone that represents Taylor University as it accomplishes this with small details such as the mix between being detailed and not detailed in the face.

“We obviously wanted to represent the entire department really well, and that includes men and women and also includes people of different ethnic backgrounds. So we want to make sure it was very inclusive,” Young said.

The department felt that they are moving in the right direction with the new logo and are happy to move on from the previous one.

While the university changed the appearance of the trojan,

they never considered changing to another mascot.

“We changed the look of the trojan to better represent our brand,” Whitby said. “But we never considered changing from the trojan.”

While the marketing team and athletic department worked together on the project, the change was an all-campus decision.

Many different groups of people helped to make the logo change happen, including Student

Development, Advancement, the Admissions Office and the President’s Office.

“We have a large group of representatives from across campus involved. So athletics didn’t make the decision by themselves. It was a campus-wide decision,” Whitby said.

The group that worked on the initial change stretched across all of campus, but there was a group of about 15 people who helped drive the project from the inside, Young said.

The biggest help was ultimately the teamwork between the Marketing and Athletic departments with added support from different areas across campus.

“There’ll be additional things coming out from the brand study as we get into the fall and further into the year,” Whitby said.

Another difference made in the athletic department was the removal of the color gold from the athletic mark.

However, gold will still be seen around campus, as it was only removed from the athletic department’s mark and not the entire university.

“We’ve had our struggles with the consistency of getting things

printed in gold and done in gold and for the sake of having something very uniform, we felt that gray or silver was a good option for the athletic side,” Young said.

While the logo has changed, it will be at least a few years before the uniforms of the student-athletes change, so some of the gold will last a while longer before it is removed.

The advantages of the new logo are that it is very flexible, Young said.

“Doing a three-color mark, you can take that guy and just drop him on the surface and he doesn’t change,” Young said.

Not only is the new logo more detailed, its sense of direction has meaning behind it.

“It has a determined spirit, a spirit of moving forward,” Whitby said.

Taylor University has come together to make something it hopes will become the new face of the university.

“Perhaps the most profound takeaway from this process has been that there’s clear consensus on, ‘What makes Taylor, Taylor,’ the university’s website reads.

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Jumping Bean under new ownership with Parkhurst Dining

Coffee shop to serve students

MAKENNA MCCORD
STAFF WRITER

In the early summer of 2022, Taylor’s local coffee shop The Jumping Bean found itself falling under new management: Parkhurst Dining.

David Manz, general manager of dining at Taylor University, has worked for Parkhurst Dining for 22 years.

Manz has served Parkhurst by being a district manager, overseeing multiple colleges. He has also been a resident district manager, overseeing the company’s largest location, Duquesne University. He jumped on the opportunity to work here when the bid for Taylor dining was announced.

During the conversations about the bid for Taylor dining, the Manganello family, previous owners of The Jumping Bean, asked Manz if Parkhurst would be willing to take over. Manz agreed.

“We took over their operations that they had run as a fairly small business, very seamlessly with a very positive vibe,” Manz said. “The previous owners were ready

to give up the responsibility of running it, and we saw it as a privilege to take it over.”

When asked to make a comment about the change in ownership of The Jumping Bean, former owner Tony Manganello declined to comment. Nevertheless, Manz assures the Taylor community that The Jumping Bean is in good hands.

“We’re excited to be here on campus,” Manz said. “We are still in the learning process of understanding the campus community and what the needs are.”

Although there are very few changes to the menu, many students can still notice differences.

Thane Syswerda is a sophomore at Taylor and a barista at The Jumping Bean. The main difference he has noticed is that The Jumping Bean no longer uses real peanut butter, but instead substitutes peanut butter puree.

Syswerda started his employment at The Jumping Bean this past summer. He was hired by the Manganello family, but trained by Parkhurst Dining staff.

“The [Manganello family] was super friendly and wanted to make sure that communication was number one,” Syswerda said.



Parkhurst Dining recently purchased The Jumping Bean.

Photo by Ben Laithang

But almost immediately after being hired, Syswerda received an email from his employers, the Manganello family, saying that the ownership had been transferred to Parkhurst.

Syswerda showed up on his first day, excited for his job at The Jumping Bean. He was surprised when supervisors put him in a Chick-fil-a uniform. After explaining the mix up, Syswerda was reassigned to The Jumping Bean. However, the

situation highlighted differences in management.

“I’d say sometimes there can be a little bit of a lack of communication,” Syswerda said. “But, I think they’re getting the hang of it extremely well.”

Syswerda’s main appreciation for his job comes from the opportunity to connect with the people he is serving. Although he doesn’t like the taste of coffee, he loves the community and can always make time for a conversation.

“I realized that when I was talking to people, they just loved having conversations,” Syswerda said.

The same thing can be said for Shelby Sullivan, the supervisor at The Jumping Bean. Her joy comes from the conversations with patrons as she serves them.

“My biggest thing is customer connections and learning everybody’s names and their drinks,” Sullivan said. “That can change a whole person’s day.”

One of the top priorities to Sullivan and the rest of The Jumping Bean staff is consistency and quality: both of which start with cleaning.

“I walked into the espresso machine being pretty rough, so I made sure to clean it to the best of my ability,” Sullivan said. “It looks like we’re still going to have to order a new one.”

In addition to the espresso machine, Parkhurst has fixed the water quality by replacing three water filters and cleaning everything in The Jumping Bean from top to bottom. Now, Sullivan is training new employees extra hard to ensure the cleaning remains up to her standards.

In addition to the new cleaning standards and many new additions to staff at The Jumping Bean, students can now use their meal swipes or dining dollars.

Although the coffee shop has changed hands, Parkhurst is going to great lengths to make sure The Jumping Bean is still an enjoyable place to grab a coffee from. In an effort to receive comments about The Jumping Bean, there are posters with QR codes that welcome feedback and suggestions from both students and staff.

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Busy year for history professor Wetzel

Wetzel shares at Carnegie Series

DARIN JORDAN
STAFF WRITER

The past several months have held several non-curricular activities for Taylor University’s Assistant Professor of History Benjamin Wetzel.

Last year, Wetzel’s book “Theodore Roosevelt: Preaching from the Bully Pulpit” was released. This summer, his book “American Crusades” was released. In August, Wetzel was asked to speak at the Carnegie Lecture Series at Marion Public Library, and in October Wetzel will be presented with the Theodore Roosevelt Association Book Prize for “Theodore Roosevelt: Preaching from the Bully Pulpit.”

Although it was published after “Theodore Roosevelt: Preaching from the Bully Pulpit,” “American Crusade” was the first book that Wetzel wrote for his doctoral dissertation at Notre Dame. “American Crusade” was not released until this summer because of the time it took for both peer



Photo provided by Taylor U. Benjamin Wetzel

review and publishing.

Wetzel worked on “Theodore Roosevelt: Preaching from the Bully Pulpit” for several years. Most of the research was done before Wetzel came to teach at Taylor five years ago. Wetzel was able to spend time finishing his book over the summers and during the occasional free J-term, since the publisher knew he was teaching a full schedule.

“Theodore Roosevelt: Preaching from the Bully Pulpit” is part of a series with the Oxford University Press called “Spiritual Lives.” This series features famous historical figures who were not known for their religion, but whose faith played an important role in their lives.

Every year the Theodore Roosevelt Association chooses

a book to win the Theodore Roosevelt Association Book Award. According to the Theodore Roosevelt Association website, the award “recognizes the year’s most significant published book focused primarily or substantially on Theodore Roosevelt.”

This year, they selected Wetzel’s book as the winner and will present his prize at their annual meeting in Buffalo, New York.

This is not the only extracurricular Theodore Roosevelt-related activity that Wetzel has been busy with this year. He also spoke at Marion Public Library as part of their Carnegie Lecture Series.

Head of the Marion Public Library Museum services Collen Cramer, said that the Carnegie Lecture Series is designed to get people inside the museum to learn from a scholarly figure presenting information to the general public.

Once a month a speaker is invited to give a lecture on a figure in their area of expertise. Cramer graduated from Taylor so he has many connections with Taylor.

Other than Wetzel, Taylor’s Dr. Kevin Johnson has spoken as part of the series and the next speaker is

Dr. Tom Jones on Sept. 23.

“There’s a Q&A at the end of each lecture where people can ask questions,” Cramer said. “It’s a good way for the public who aren’t normally exposed to historical topics, we hope to diversify other topics that are linked to the humanities. Where they might not know about a certain thing, they can ask a professional about it.”

Even if Taylor students missed this lecture, they have another opportunity to learn about Theodore Roosevelt in Wetzel’s J-Term class called “The Roosevelts,” which is offered every other J-Term.

Wetzel was not expecting the award and these opportunities, but he is happy to be working in his area of expertise: the late 1800s to early 1900s in American history. He has some plans to start a new book, but nothing has been decided concretely about when he will do so.

“We’re proud to see one of our own faculty receive this distinguished award,” President Lindsay said. “We are grateful for Dr. Wetzel’s scholarship at Taylor and the difference it’s making in the world.”

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Rate Continued from Page 1

withdraw. Taylor’s counseling offices have been a major tool to combat that. However, due to Taylor’s rural location, Olson said that it can be a struggle to find an adequate amount of professionals to fill the role and hours required.

Other common reasons for student withdrawal include other opportunities. Institutional fit is important. If the university does not offer a specific major, a student may leave. Other times a student who withdraws will enroll in a different school that provides alternative opportunities Taylor

does not offer.

Overall, however, Vanderberg contributes most of the school’s success to Taylor’s ability to maintain who they are, specifically as a faith-based institution. The intentional nature of the staff and faculty creates a special sort of environment.

“When you think through a strong group of students, and faculty who care for them, and who are involved in a culture and spirit of retention, that math is going to give you good results,” Vanderberg said.

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Corrections

In an article entitled “Tips for stepping into the college classroom,” Greta Buckenberger was listed as a sophomore instead of a senior. The online version of the article reflects this change.

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Cavanagh shares yearly chapel theme

New chapel theme focuses on connection

MARISSA MULJAT
FEATURES EDITOR

Connected and devoted. This year's chapels will be aimed toward helping students stay connected and devoted to Christ as they navigate their educational and spiritual journeys.

Campus Pastor Jon Cavanagh drew inspiration for this chapel theme from passages in John 15 and Acts 2.

John 15 portrays Christ as the vine and his children as the branches and Acts 2 discusses what fellowship and devotion to prayer look like.

Together, these passages provide Cavanagh's scriptural basis for encouraging the Taylor community to stay connected to Christ as one body of believers.

"The idea being, 'what are the routines that we're in, staying connected to Christ?'" Cavanagh said. "Is that connection to Christ at the heart of our routines?"

Cavanagh feels as though this theme is reflective of the setting in which the university and its students currently stand.

In a new administration's second year, many questions have been answered and much has been determined that was not in the past.

He feels this year's chapels will be a great space for reflection and recognition of what Taylor is all about.

"I think that this space and chapel [provides] a chance to help reinforce some of the healthy routines that we can be in and also recognizing just the heart of who we are and what we're about," Cavanagh said. "It really does revolve around being connected to Christ in a healthy and regular way."

Establishing a healthy routine is an idea that Cavanagh believes to be extremely beneficial.

He hopes that chapel is integrated into students' routines because

of the power and value that corporate worship often brings.

"I hear students saying that they would rather do something else besides the corporate worship feel in chapel, and I get that, it's just that you can't really recreate 1,000 people in the room together on your own schedule," Cavanagh said. "And so there is a required portion of that that actually adds to the value, which is everybody in the room decided they wanted to come together and worship together."

The chapel setting often provides that boost that students need, whether that is encouragement, prayer or simply the social aspect.

Enthusiasm in chapel is important to Cavanagh. He appreciates students' abilities to shift from being energetic and on the louder side to being more reflective and quiet. In doing that, students are often able to be respectful of one another in that space.

Planning chapel services themed around different seasons and events is something that he strives to accomplish. This is also why he must be very adaptable when it comes to scheduling.

"Chapel tends to kind of work with where we're at in the semester," Cavanagh said. "Big difference between the first chapel of the semester and, you know, a kind of rainy cold November Wednesday morning. So, trying to figure out how to meet students where they're at and encourage them in their walk."

He is grateful for the many student leaders participating in chapel bands this year, as they serve an important role in making chapel a time of worship and reflection.

Continuing to perform "Sing, Pray, Reflect" chapels is important to Cavanagh, and the space of worship that these chapels create is one appreciated by much of the Taylor community.

This year, he is hoping to work with the chapel bands and chapel speakers to possibly incorporate some student testimonies into



Photo by Claire Tiemens

Campus Pastor Jon Cavanagh preached in chapel about this year's theme, "connected and devoted."

chapels.

"So, trying to incorporate a student who could get up there and share for three or four minutes that would complement the worship content that's out there, whether it's the speaker or the music," Cavanagh said.

Students have shared testimonies in past years at Thanksgiving and senior share chapels, and Cavanagh has noticed and appreciated how open and honest these students have been. He views this idea as a great opportunity for connection.

Looking ahead, he is excited about the wide variety of upcoming chapel speakers. Each year, he strives to present a diverse group

of speakers with unique backgrounds and experiences and hopes that each speaker might connect with the student body in a special way.

He values when students meet with him individually and often stresses the importance and value of modeling engagement and participation.

The theme, "connected and devoted," invites students to stop and think about the ways they go about their daily routines and interact with those around them. It encourages Christ-likeness and interaction with the Word.

Cavanagh hopes that chapel will continue to offer campuswide engagement.

He wants it to be a space that everyone comes to and interacts with. He wants students to not just value chapel itself, but also, the walk to and from chapel.

"I know that we have lots of different people with lots of different responsibilities and things happening, and I am grateful that people make the space in their schedule to come to chapel," Cavanagh said. "Not just to show up, but to show up with enthusiasm, excitement for one another, excitement for the opportunity to be together and to worship. That's not something that I create, it's something that exists in this place."

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Student leadership encourages faith over fear for 2022-23 year

Blake, Villalobos share goals for the year

CONTESSA HUSSONG
STAFF WRITER

What does it mean to be fearless?

This is a question often asked in times of transition — and one that Taylor leadership answered with their own call to action this year.

Borrowing from their campaign verse, 2 Timothy 1:7, seniors Student Body President Kenley Blake and Student Body Vice President Josue Villalobos chose to continue their mission by emphasizing pillars "of power and of love and of a sound mind" — all of which connects back to their central focus on fearlessness.

"There's just so many fears that as college students we're almost expected to feel," Blake said.

Yet she finds hope throughout those fears.

"The Lord is able to work through all of that, and he does, and he's never failed and won't ever fail, and I think there's just so much peace in knowing that he holds our future and we can be fearless through him," Blake said.

That idea of fearlessness through Christ is deeply tied to Blake and Villalobos' personal faiths as well. Both leaders mentioned the processes they went through in deciding to take on such prominent roles — and prayer and meditation were always at the center of their decisions.

As Blake and Villalobos spent the summer preparing for their respective positions, they took time to seek God in their work, attending a Christian leadership

conference and learning what it truly means to integrate faith and learning.

For Blake, this involved researching case studies of other universities. For Villalobos, it meant recenting himself in solitude, giving him the chance to catch his breath before the bustle of the upcoming school year.

With the semester now underway, however, Villalobos and Blake both noted the importance of connection in living fearlessly. Their mission this year is to unite campus and encourage Taylor to practice all aspects of 2 Timothy 1:7 by engaging with those around them.

"Whether you're in the opposite side of the world or here in Upland, Indiana, we've all got to share that some way or another," Villalobos said.

But the student body leaders know it takes more than words to accomplish their goals. Villalobos and Blake both emphasized their desire to work more closely with the Counseling Center and the Office of Intercultural Programs. They also stressed their hope that students would partner their passions with businesses and organizations around the Upland community.

While Villalobos described Taylor as a respite, he also recognizes that students must not become insulated from those around them. It's why Blake cited the greatest commandments of Matthew 22 when speaking of being present with others — because she recognizes community as a calling, not a choice, and that makes all the difference when speaking of fear.

In addition to these commandments, Blake also spoke of 1 John 4:18, which talks about the love



Photo by Claire Tiemens

Seniors Josue Villalobos and Kenley Blake and are serving as student body vice president and president alongside senior Molly Jacobs as secretary

of God having the power to cast out all fear.

"It's such an empowering verse knowing that God is love and he drives out all fear so we have the power to love others like that as well," Blake said.

It's a love both Blake and Villalobos are learning to live out alongside their fellow students. In addition to their working relationship, they have a passion for truly sharing Christ with those around them.

Following the model of Christ's discipleship, which moved from an inner circle to a broader audience to a global movement, Blake and Villalobos hope that the love and service their campaign is focused on will have influence beyond campus, creating an active community of image-bearers of Christ.

Blake has a passion for servant leadership, and more than anything, she hopes that students will see that she's willing to serve

them as well.

"We have an open door policy," Blake said. "We'd love to hear feedback from students and we're really ultimately there to serve Christ and you."

Villalobos echoed that thought. Admitting his own initial fears about the position, he wants students to know that he's committed to doing his best, and that he's excited to engage with the Taylor community as he leads the student body forward.

"I just want to give it my best," Villalobos said. "This is something I've devoted my heart to over the summer."

He's committed himself to the unknown, just as Blake has alongside him. And what he's found in the midst of the uncertainties ahead — what God has promised all his followers will find through 2 Timothy 1 — is a spirit not of fear, but of fearlessness.

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"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

—The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

The Echo

The Our View represents the official opinion of the student newspaper on different issues, as determined by a consensus of THE ECHO Editorial Board members. Readers are welcome to submit their views on these issues in a letter to the editor to echo@taylor.edu

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Welcome Weekend greets new students to Taylor University

Photograph provided by Taylor University

The Echo Editorial Board | Our View

Experiences of Welcome Weekend

Moving into college for the first time is one of the most bizarre experiences for first-year students.

For perhaps the first time in their lives, they have to say a real goodbye to parents, guardians and other family and friends from home. After they finish packing their room full of items from home, they say goodbye to the biggest piece of their home.

And then what?

At Taylor, they're almost immediately ushered into their floor or wing's culture and people. PA's stop by to ask how they're doing and invite them to go to dinner. Their next door neighbors may stop by and say hi. Upperclassmen may introduce themselves if they're already moved in.

After immediately being hit with new faces, they're off to events. Things like dinner, chapel and then all-hall and floor meetings fill their first evening. Some are excited, others are anxious, others are scared.

Little reprieve is found throughout the weekend. Freshmen stay busy with their floor and with a variety of Welcome Weekend events — from meeting their preceptorial leaders to walk-n-talks with their brother or sister floors.

"The three areas we emphasize are: life outside the classroom, life inside the classroom, and spiritual life," Coordinator of New Student Orientation Emilie Hoffman said. "We want students to be familiar and experience each of these entities over the weekend — to get them excited and prepared for the learning and growth they'll have in the coming semester and during their years at Taylor."

The schedule is packed, with some crucial and serious events to events that err more on the optional and relaxed side. Either way, there's some pressure to participate.

For some people, the college

transition happens quickly. They find people to spend time with and enjoy the full schedule. For others it may be more difficult.

The counseling center often provides flyers around campus and in residence halls to give resources and mental health tips for those who may be feeling a bit more overwhelmed.

As an editorial board, we recognize that there is no perfect answer for this

For some people, the college transition happens quickly. They find people to spend time with and enjoy the full schedule. For others it may be more difficult.

transition. Without any activities, freshmen will be left without easy ways to meet new people and have abundant time to think about the anxieties and uncertainties in their own situation. With too many activities, some may become overwhelmed by the sheer business and nature of the events. Each person is different and each person's background is different.

"Welcome Weekend can be overwhelming for some depending on your personality or background," Hoffman said. "To those students, I hope they know that our deepest desire is to help them transition to Taylor well and to begin feeling known and seen in this place. We try to allow space within the schedule for students to unpack, get their room ready, and begin getting to know others on their floor while also not bringing

them on campus so early that they're restless and without anything to do."

Hoffman also emphasized the importance of support through this process — which Taylor provides through its residence life staff and other outlets, including the counseling center and the Calling and Career Office.

That being said, it's important that Taylor emphasizes these goals to freshmen.

While many of the events and happenings surrounding Welcome Weekend may be optional, we on the editorial board feel as though there is external pressure to participate fully in these things, and that if one feels overwhelmed by them, it can be hard to find the appropriate avenues for finding support.

So while Welcome Weekend is a vital part of the Taylor experience and for someone transitioning to the university, we recognize that it means different things to different people, and that it is important for Taylor to provide as much support as it possibly can to those who need it during those opening days.

Emphasizing that certain events are optional is a good place to start. Even though events like the "walk-n-talk" can be fun and inviting for many people, some may find it overwhelming after a day filled with other activities. Providing balance to new students and giving them an opportunity to say no to certain things is important.

But either way, it's important to remember that the emotions and experiences of Welcome Weekend are different for every student.

The opinions expressed in the Our View represent the view of THE ECHO student newspaper Editorial Board alone, and not the views of Taylor University.

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Alan Blanchard | Faculty Adviser

Taylor Tunnel offers hospitality

Professor shares of unique experience

An email invite to participate in something called the Taylor University "student welcome tunnel" caught my eye one day recently.

Staff and faculty were invited to stand along Vayhinger Loop and Reade Avenue to form a "tunnel" of sorts standing on both sides of the streets and to greet a procession of cars. Driving the cars would be parents driving incoming freshmen and transfer students to drop them off the week before the start of the semester.

Sounded like an intriguing activity that piqued my curiosity and my interest.

There was only one catch that gave me pause. The event would launch the morning of Friday, Aug. 26. I debated with myself: Should I participate? Or should I instead continue to fine-tune my course prep for classes set to begin the following week.

I almost passed on volunteering. But the night before Aug. 26, I decided to step outside my comfort zone. I took part in this new event to welcome new students and parents as they drove to the residence halls.

Two things grabbed my attention as the event started at 9 a.m. that Friday.

A line of cars, SUVs and pickup trucks stopped one by one to be personally greeted by none other than the first lady. Standing in front of the Boren Center, across from Rupp Communication Arts Building, first lady Rebecca Lindsay handed out bottles of ice-cold water to parents and their daughters and sons with a warm welcome to Taylor.

Secondly, in full force were TU admissions students and full-time personnel, including Holly Whitby, Andy Gammons and many others, as well as administrators like Ron Sutherland, Skip Trudeau, and some faculty members such as Mike Severe and Carol Sisson. Hand-crafted "Welcome to TU" signs accompanied the friendly Hoosier welcomes received by the line of cars filled with parents and incoming freshmen.

One of the admissions student workers, Trent Repass, computer science major, exuded friendliness, passion and a voice that projected well.

To the occupants of each vehicle, Trent shouted, "What is your major?"

"Film major," one parent shouted.

A smiling Trent replied, "That is a great major! We need more student film majors. That's a very important degree."

Regardless of each freshman's major, Trent's response never deviated, his enthusiasm never waned: "That's a great major! We need more (chemistry, theatre, communication etc.) majors."

Then one parent shouted "undeclared major" on behalf of his child. Trent replied: "That's a great major! We need more 'undeclared' majors."

Andy Gammons, executive director of Admissions, said, "In the admissions office, move-in day is like Christmas morning. The full-tilt energy of the welcome tunnel was the perfect way to get the day started. It was so much fun. It was so 'Taylor.' The opportunity to greet students and families and welcome them into the Taylor community was a wonderful way to cap off an amazing recruitment year for us and an awesome way to begin these students' Taylor story."

Will Hagen, vice president of strategy and chief of staff to the university president, said, "It was an incredibly special way to start the semester and be reminded of all the Lord is doing in and through Taylor. I'm so glad our new students, and



Trent Repass, admissions student worker, and a friend of his greet parents and incoming students on Friday, Aug. 26, at the inaugural student welcome tunnel.

Photograph provided by Alan Blanchard

new parents, had the chance to meet so many wonderful members of the Taylor community. My only disappointment is that President Lindsay wasn't able to participate — I know he was looking forward to the weekend all year long."

"What I didn't expect was how fully the wider Taylor community would join in," Lindsay added. "I ended up being sick (I'm pleased to say I am fully recovered now) and unable to attend, but it was incredible to see pic-



Taylor University first lady Rebecca Lindsay greets a family as they bring their freshman student to campus on move-in day, Friday, Aug. 26.

Photograph provided by Alan Blanchard

Hagen went on to say this event was something that President Michael Lindsay had wanted to do even in his first year.

"However, given the quick turnaround between his arrival on campus last year and the start of Welcome Weekend we all (President's Office and Welcome Weekend folks) agreed it made sense to give ourselves a year to plan for a change," Hagen added.

Rebecca Lindsay said of the event, "Welcoming students and families to campus is one of the things I look forward to all year. After months of preparation and prayer, it is always a joy to finally meet the incoming class face to face. It was particularly special to have the chance to do this alongside so many students and colleagues who turned out to share a very warm Taylor welcome with the class of 2026."

President Michael Lindsay said, "I know I speak for all of us at Taylor when I say that one of the very greatest joys of our work is in getting to know and help develop our students. It's important to me that families know from day one that all of us are committed to their students, so making a personal connection as soon as possible and personally welcoming families was something I knew I wanted to do at Taylor.

tures of how many folks from across campus joined in and helped our new students feel so welcome. I must have received dozens of emails from folks sharing how special that was."

Holly Whitby, vice president for Enrollment and Marketing, said, "The new student welcome tunnel was the perfect reflection of the hospitable spirit that runs through the Taylor campus. From the moment a student joins our community, to the time they walk across the graduation stage, we want them to fully experience the joyful spark that emanates from this Christian community."

Alan D. Blanchard, Ph.D., associate professor of journalism, advises THE ECHO student newspaper and oversees the Multimedia Journalism degree program and the Pulliam Journalism Center. Prior to academia, he worked for a couple of decades as a photojournalist, reporter, editor or publisher at California, Indiana, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio newspapers and as later as a director of Public Relations, Media Relations and Marketing at another Christian university — alan.blanchard@taylor.edu

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Film department wins awards, works as a team

Students share about award-winning films

ELEANOR COOPER
STAFF WRITER

“Without teamwork, this piece would not have happened, and the inspiring story would not have been told,” said Taylor senior Anna Rodman.

The documentary, which Rodman produced as a part of department co-chair and professor of film and media production Kathy Bruner’s Documentary Filmmaking class, is titled “Lizzi: Deeper Than Water.” Directed by Gabriel Burch, the eleven-minute film tells the story of Paralympic swimmer Lizzi Smith as she overcomes social and physical battles.

Rodman and Burch’s work won awards in several film competitions this summer, among them the Flickers’ Rhode Island International Film Festival, the Hobnobben Film Festival and the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival.

Another senior Film student, Darien (DT) Taylor, directed two award-winning films during the 2021-2022 academic year. “Kojak: A Fuller Life” also came out of Bruner’s Documentary Filmmaking class, whereas “Can I Get a Job” was made in a Film-Workshop class co-taught by John and

Kathy Bruner. Between the two, Taylor’s films won awards at the Indy Film Fest, the Indianapolis Black Documentary Film Festival, the Hobnobben Film Festival, the Detroit Black Film Festival and the Student World Impact Film Festival.

While they have been recognized with awards for their work, Rodman and Taylor are students first, and they learned their share of lessons along the way.

“I learned how to be more assertive in what I wanted to see out of the film... I grew as a filmmaker by understanding pace a lot better and having to learn to ‘kill my darlings’ (or get rid of things that don’t support the main idea of the story),” said Taylor of his work on “Kojak: A Fuller Life.”

On a less-academic note, Taylor was grateful to learn more about the team that helped him put the film together.

“Marissa Williams (editor), Jon Bomers (cinematographer) and Hannah Caruana (producer) were the best teammates I could have ever asked for,” he said.

About “Can I Get a Job,” Taylor said he learned to believe in his craft.

He also learned a lot about equipment he hadn’t used before, which he said helped him tell the story the way he wanted to.



Photograph provided by Taylor University

Taylor’s film and media department won a plethora of awards last year.

As for Rodman, the themes of her time creating “Lizzi: Deeper Than Water” were teamwork, sacrifice, hard work, time management and, most importantly, the strength of the Lord.

“To produce excellent work, you should expect to put in hard

work and time,” said Rodman. “This can be exhausting, but it is through the exhaustion we learn to rely on Christ and each other.”

She also emphasized how much she learned from teammates and how she felt happy that winning the award meant

more people could be inspired by Lizzi Smith’s story.

“Can I Get a Job,” “Kojak: A Fuller Life” and “Lizzi: Deeper Than Water” are just a few of the award-winning films that were produced by the film department. Others include “Paper

Chasers” and “Dream Soda,” both from the Narrative Filmmaking class, “Tango Para La Vida,” made in the International Production class and “180,” from the Documentary Filmmaking class.

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An inside look at how Taylor Theatre actors prepare for ‘The Birds’

TU Actors use active analysis method

HANNAH MARELLA
A&C EDITOR

“Actors, by and large, are looking for authentic embodiment of characters so that storytelling is alive, and has potential to move beyond the stage and into the awareness of the audience,” said Tracy Manning, Theatre Department Co-Chair and Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts.

For each Taylor Theatre production she directs, Manning selects an acting methodology for the actors to apply during the rehearsal process.

In the case of the upcoming production of Conor McPherson’s *The Birds*, she chose the active analysis method, which was developed by Konstantin Stanislavski, a prominent figure in the history of theatre.

“What [Stanislavski] found was that when he sat around the table with actors and they talked about the play and they came in with all their lines memorized, that then there was a falseness to their performances that he was trying to find a way to leap over,” Manning said. “And he found this, this



Photograph by Danielle Pritchard

Seniors Eleana Manning and Steven Day as leading roles in Taylor Theatre’s “The Birds”

process of trying to get actors on their feet as early as possible so that they’re not intellectualizing the text, but they’re trying to live in it.”

Stanislavski’s methodology was applied in rehearsals for *The Birds* using *Etudes*, which involves

breaking down the script into sections and studying them.

The actors would read the section and immediately step into the scene without having time to analyze the circumstances.

The intended result is to have

authentic actions, not ones the actors plan in their heads.

Striving for this authenticity requires vulnerability, a challenge the actors had to face. Senior Steven Day, who plays Nat in the play, described the result of having to step

right into the scene.

“You can’t really hide,” Day said. “You have to lay everything out on the table because you can’t think through anything.”

He further explained that things feel much realer for him since he embodies the character before psychoanalyzing the scene.

He said it can be difficult to experience things so fully, especially since his character has a lot of anxiety and, in some scenes, is in fear for his life.

Something that separates this process from previous ones is the emphasis on group work affecting each individual’s choices.

Day recalled his preparation for the role of Atticus in *To Kill a Mockingbird* was primarily done by himself, analyzing the character and writing in a journal.

For *The Birds*, he explained that in the discussion of each scene, actors have the opportunity to make suggestions for their peers. As a result, he said that his final performance of Nat contains parts of other people’s ideas as well as his own.

Senior Eleana Manning, who plays Diane in the play, expressed similar thoughts on the communal

work during rehearsals.

She appreciated the input of her peers and the safe space they have been able to create together.

“It’s just so easy to get discouraged,” said Eleana. “And this process, there are moments where I’ve been discouraged but I’ve never been, like, left there for very long, because I have this great community of people who, like, come around me and provide encouragement.”

Eleana expressed hope that the result of this process will be that the audience will not feel like they are watching characters on stage but as if they are watching real people go through real things.

Although the process has been challenging, Eleana and Day both felt that the hardships make the final product more rewarding.

“You have to risk much to gain much, right, and so it costs something,” Eleana said. “And the return is, in my opinion, way more than the price I’ve ever paid to make good art, but in the moment, it costs me something.”

Psychological Thriller *The Birds* was performed in Mitchell Theatre from September 15-18.

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Faculty art exhibit showcases hidden emotions, personal artistry

Professors evoke deep emotions through art

ENOCH EICHER
STAFF WRITER

The faculty art exhibition was displayed in the Metcalf Gallery on September 2 with art tastefully spilling over into the corridor outside.

Brought to life by multiple members of Taylor’s art faculty, the exhibition was a platform for them to showcase their personal artistry through their recent works.

Professor Jeremie Riggelman said, “We chose not to have a theme, as each of the artists are working with different materials, with different processes, with different times.”

This presented the art faculty with a unique opportunity to express themselves free of any possible constraints.

However, underlying themes were present in the gallery.

Undercurrents of emotions running smoothly like the art mounted on the walls clashed

with the various sculptures that dotted the room.

Laura Stevenson’s works served as a focal point at the exhibition. Her blind embossings of household and childhood items on Stonehenge paper were her take on the event of miscarriages.

With one in every four pregnancies ending in a miscarriage, deep amounts of sorrow are faced by countless mothers, the polar opposite of the joy they had felt up until that point.

Through the fine creases and depressions on the paper, you could hear the wistfulness in Stevenson’s silent voice as she spoke for those mothers. You could hear a yearning for what did not come to pass, a sense of melancholic joy, a tinge of nostalgia.

Similar undercurrents of emotions rippled through Riggelman’s art.

St. Simons Island is known as the setting of a mass suicide in 1803 by captive Igbo people who had taken control of their slave ship and refused to submit to slavery in the United States.



Photograph by Danielle Pritchard

The Art Department’s Recent Works show opened a few days before their reception on Sept. 2, and will remain open until Oct. 22.

Riggelman explored the connection to his idyllic childhood vacation there in his return to it forty years later.

Riggelman wrote on the artwork label, “I was compelled to return to the island to explore

how I, as a white male, had come to remember this land and sea and how it may differ from the way others have seen, experienced and know it.”

He did this by photographing brightly-colored idealistic

drawings from his childhood alongside sites that were of significance to the slave trade like a plantation, the sea, and the creek where the Igbos died.

Sounds of the sea linger in your ears as you drift from

Riggelman’s works to Professor John Reishus’s sculptures. His abstract take on shrouded figures ties together the exhibition.

They stand clumped together in groups on two solid stands — the empty spaces where their heads were supposed to be pointed directly at the entrance, starting the viewer down.

Reishus’s work echoes Stevenson’s theme of positive and negative spaces, with negative space being in the foreground in his sculptures, contrary to Stevenson’s works.

There is a marked irregularity in the figures too, symbolizing the differences that Christians have in their relationships with Jesus Christ.

Debra Shepler, Hannah Richardson, Ryan James, Jamie Miles and Jonathan Bouw were also featured for their work with different fabrics, metals, 3D images, illustrations and other forms of visual media.

The exhibition will be in the Metcalf Gallery and open to visitors until October 22.

echo@taylor.edu

Leading the Echo into a new year of stories

Miller shares goals with readers

MARKUS MILLER
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

Three years ago, I stepped into my first Echo training week. I was nervous, worried and downright scared.

The only form of journalism experience I brought with me was small roles in my high school's yearbook. My school didn't have a newspaper, and I for sure hadn't read enough news growing up to feel comfortable writing journalistically.

But then, on my first night on campus as a freshman, I was informed I would be the paper's sports editor for the upcoming year.

My 18-year-old self wasn't really sure what that meant, and the nerves, worries and fear

that I had brought with me were amplified.

It took time, but through the support of my staff, leaders and those around me at this university, I learned to understand what being the sports editor meant — what my workload looked like and how to ask the right people for help and produce quality content for the back page of this newspaper each week.

Now, as a senior and a Co-Editor in Chief, I find myself in a similar situation.

While I wasn't bestowed the title of Co-Editor in Chief the day I arrived on campus, I was unexpectedly and temporarily the sole Editor in Chief of THE ECHO for a few weeks until junior Kay Rideout accepted a spot to be the other Co-Editor in Chief a little over a week ago.

The last few weeks have been interesting as we navigate a new leadership staff and adjust to a new staff as a whole here,

but as those around me and I navigate the unexpected, I have been reminded of the promises from the Lord in unexpected situations.

"I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken." (Psalm 16:8)

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phillippians 4:7)

Oftentimes, similarly to my situation as a freshman, you learn how to do things and fill roles on the fly.

For me, the best method of learning is through trying and leaning on others in that process.

So as I learn the ropes of my role and transition away from the sports page — where I spent three years and consistently wrote similar pieces and talked with similar people — I now have to learn a new



Photo provided by Markus Miller

Senior Markus Miller is Co-Editor in Chief of The Echo this year.

type of leadership and a new type of writing. And I ask you all, the readers of this award-winning student newspaper, to

join us on this journey. I can confidently say that this staff of editors, writers, designers, photographers and copy editors

will each work as hard as we can to produce the best product we can each week.

There won't be perfection. Mistakes happen, and we try to do what we can to correct those mistakes. But there will be hard work and stories worth reading shared.

So whether you're thumbing through the paper looking for the picture of your friend that you heard would be featured in a certain edition, you're a devoted reader who's on their eighth story of the morning or you're someone who just enjoys the games page, I encourage you to recognize the amount of work that goes into producing this paper and appreciate your fellow students who are putting this tremendous work in each week.

And a cheesy, albeit accurate reminder — You are the voice. We're just THE ECHO.

echo@taylor.edu

Unique internships offer clarity for future career choices

Students reflect on their experiences

LILIA SYNDER
STAFF WRITER

Internships offer students a chance to sharpen their skills and learn more about themselves.

Senior Ben Byrd, junior Elise Boutell and junior Olivia Otto applied their talents to experiences they will never forget.

Byrd's fascination with airplanes led him to intern for Boeing, a major aerospace company in Seattle, WA.

Prior to Boeing, he worked at a smaller company to expand his knowledge and chose to further his skills through Boeing.

Boeing specializes in manufacturing planes, military jets, space satellites and rockets. Companies like NASA and UPS frequently use their products.

"Throughout the summer, I got to dive into some real work and have very meaningful projects that led to this great learning curve," said Byrd.

One of Byrd's projects included the opportunity to work on a developmental plane.

A developmental plane has not been invented yet, so as it is designed,



Photo provided by Olivia Otto

Olivia Otto worked with African Freedom Missions this summer.

there needs to be qualifications to make sure it is safe.

Byrd participated by coming up with a management system that

shows the supply chain team their goals and performance.

Byrd learned what it meant to be a full-time employee and understand

the aerospace industry.

Ultimately, his interest in planes deepened, allowing him to find clarity for what he plans to do post-college.

As Byrd created projects and toured factories, he applied his faith in a big corporate company by being an encouragement to the team.

God's light shines through the gifts he gave no matter what the vocation is.

Boutell's desire for showing God's love through writing inspired her to intern at David C Cook, a nonprofit publishing organization in Colorado Springs, CO by editing material for them.

David C Cook had a lot of titles Boutell enjoyed, such as Until Unity by Francis Chan.

She took the opportunity to be involved with publishers that helped influence her view on Christianity and would love to work with them again by the way the team poured into her and the people they served.

Originally, she intended to see how publishing operated firsthand and gained insight into a wide range of editing styles.

"It was a lot of super helpful things, tons of digging into different stages of the editing process from acquisitions, to developmental editing, to copy

editing to proofing," Boutell said.

One of her tasks at David C

“ Throughout the summer, I got to dive into some real work and have very meaningful projects that led to this great learning curve.”

Cook consisted of ghostwriting a YouVersion plan. Through that process, she picked up the language and themes the author focused on.

Some of her favorite assignments included working on the manuscript for Beholding by Strahan Coleman and looking over a series called Clever Cubs for children.

"I have seen my confidence and independence as an editor grow, and also the way I approach editing," Boutell said.

Collaborating with editors and authors not only helped her grow relationships but confirmed her vocation as an editor.

Relationships are valuable for any internship or job regardless of the required skill set.

Otto's time with the African Freedom Mission showed her God's faithfulness by immersing herself in the communities of Zambia.

After training with the organization in Zimbabwe, she traveled to Lusaka, ZM with Footprints to love on children and be a witness.

She would often have hard conversations, both with her team members and the community, that showed her a different side to speaking truth in love.

Otto's internship with African Freedom Missions revealed her calling to the mission field.

However, Otto's internship ultimately showed her that her true identity is in Christ.

"The same God that I served in Africa who encountered countless people is the same God we serve here in Upland, Indiana," Otto said.

Students gain valuable experience from internships that can impact others for the glory of God.

echo@taylor.edu

Off-campus housing retains intentional community

Seniors value intentionality and authenticity

SYDNEY DOLSON
LIFE & TIMES EDITOR

If there are two words Taylor is known for, they are these: intentional community.

You probably heard this phrase long before you stepped foot on campus. While on visits, many prospective students have the opportunity to attend chapel in Rediger, stay the night in the residence halls and watch the antics of Sammy unfold during dinner in the DC.

All of these instances revolve around the spaces provided on campus, which makes perfect sense. Community starts to form when students bond over sacred memories, often bound to the physical places where they made them.

For Ansley Kary, Mitch Renbarger and Mallory Robertson, intentional community looks very different this year.

These three seniors reflect on the benefits and challenges of pursuing community while living off campus and what they learned about community during their years in the residence halls.

Renbarger lives in an apartment

about 10 minutes away in Gas City. When asked to consider what intentional community will look like this year.

"It'll definitely be harder because it is not built into my schedule or my housing," Renbarger said. "So it's going to be a focus of mine."

Previously, Renbarger lived in Swallow Robin before moving to Sammy II.

For most of his time on campus, intentional community seemed woven into the varied traditions that Renbarger would preserve with his roommates.

As he got older, though, relationships needed more than pure amusement to maintain a connection.

"Intentional community has changed into something that, for me, requires authenticity to the community that is being built," Renbarger said.

Kary lives within walking distance, a few blocks away, in an old, renovated church. While on campus, she lived in English, but now the rest of her roommates are a close-knit group hailing from Olson.

Kary's view of community now echoes Renbarger's.

"It's more about the authentic community that I've created over the past four years," Kary said.

It took more than just circumstance for her to become such

good friends with a group who lived in a completely different residence hall.

While she is excited to live off campus this year, Kary admits that the proximity to her close friends while living in a dorm gave them the time and space to grow close.

Intentionality began with where she was placed as an underclassman: 3rd South English.

Kary acknowledges that her wingmates developed a shared personality and really rallied around that.

One of Kary's roommates, Robertson, is grateful for the opportunity to live off-campus this year due to a heavy workload.

Her student teaching placement means the majority of her time is spent away from campus in a classroom, meaning life in a dorm would be hectic, and she'd be unable to make most of the events.

"It has been really nice for me to be able to have my own space now," Robertson said. "But I will miss the community Olson was able to give me."

For these three seniors, it's a wrestling match, acknowledging that community can just happen when you're at a place like Taylor but recognizing the focused effort it is to form friendships you maintain for life.

When asked to give advice to



Photo by Genesis Garcia

Olivia Otto worked with African Freedom Missions this summer.

underclassmen looking to join in on intentional community, these seniors had experienced advice.

"I would say don't take your wing for granted, because there are so many things to get out of that community," Robertson said. "But now, looking back, it would have been good if I was comfortable looking for relationships outside of my wing."

Spaces around campus, shared traditions passed on through the years and floor relics provide a lot for community to form around.

Taylor as an institution is intentional about honoring special circumstances like these as students pass through.

However, the word authentic rings true and seems to aptly describe the friends that these three off-campus

students hold dear.

It will take true, focused effort from individuals to build long-lasting friendships.

"I love Taylor and I came here for community," Renbarger said. "But there needs to be authenticity behind that intention, because Taylor does some of it for you, but it can't do all of it for you."

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Sudoku

	1					5	6	
			1	4	6			7
					8	3		4
	6				5			
5		7				6		1
			7				5	
6		2	4					
8			3	5	2			
	5	1					7	

						9		
	4		5	3				8
	9			6	1		3	
8		6		9	3			
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			7	4		3		5
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Crosswords

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
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17					18						19				
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				54				55	56	57			58	59	60
61	62				63						64				
65					66						67				
68					69						70				

Across

- 1 Aid and ___
- 5 Garbage
- 10 Finish third
- 14 White House no
- 15 Biblical prophet
- 16 The "P" of IPA
- 17 "Plus some other folks" abbr.
- 18 "Spider-Man" trilogy director Sam
- 19 The "Y" of ysl
- 20 Like passwords that likely won't work if Caps Lock is on
- 23 Easter egg dip
- 24 "___ only a game"
- 25 Try to buy, at an auction
- 28 "The Lord of the Rings" beast
- 31 Invite for
- 35 Zion Church letters
- 36 Question from a store clerk
- 39 Requirement
- 41 Fit for a monarch
- 42 Jellystone Park bear
- 43 "Star Wars" character from an underwater city
- 46 ___ Mahal
- 47 Negro Leagues legend Buck
- 48 Chicago summer hrs.
- 49 Writer Mario Vargas ___
- 51 Garden plot
- 53 "Hamilton" Tony nominee Phillipa
- 54 Film that doesn't make much money

- 61 Chicken cordon ___
- 63 Finish second
- 64 Bicycle wheel
- 65 Payment to a landlord
- 66 Ingested
- 67 "Did you ___?!"
- 68 Voting no
- 69 Stockholm native
- 70 Cubicle fixture

- 29 Unyielding
- 30 Repetitive shout
- 32 Environmental protocol city in Japan
- 33 Roman robes
- 34 ___ board; séance device
- 37 The "A" of 3-Down
- 38 Great Plains grazer
- 40 Smallest country on the Horn of Africa
- 44 Longtime "Jeopardy!" host Trebek
- 45 ___ gin fizz
- 50 Hit high in the air
- 52 Puzzles (out)
- 53 Play division
- 54 Crooked
- 55 Defect
- 56 Kismet
- 57 Covered in frosting
- 58 "C'mon, ___ a little!"
- 59 Metal-yielding rocks
- 60 Cheer (up)
- 61 Bikini top
- 62 "When They See Us" actor Cariou

Down

- 1 French "with"
- 2 Phi ___ Kappa
- 3 Guesses from late guests, briefly
- 4 Ohio city west of Cleveland
- 5 Number of strikes in a strikeout
- 6 Horse coat color
- 7 OfferUp caveat
- 8 18-wheeler
- 9 French-speaking Caribbean country
- 10 Mad magazine cartoon featuring secret agents
- 11 "What'll ya ___?"
- 12 World Cup cheer
- 13 Director Craven
- 21 Lip-__: mouth the words
- 22 Lang. of Rome
- 25 Bluegrass strings
- 26 "Know what ___?"
- 27 Big name in riding mowers
- 28 Yr. before A.D. started

Across

- 1 "We can seat you now" gadget
- 6 Italian wine used in cooking
- 13 Puts in a row
- 15 "So it would appear"
- 16 Spoon, for one
- 17 The 4,080-piece Disney Castle, e.g.
- 18 Protest song?
- 20 Boy in the "Star Wars" prequel films
- 21 "What ___, your maid?"
- 22 Short mission?
- 26 Alexander of "Rizzoli & Isles"
- 30 Msg. to the whole squad
- 32 Drink suffix
- 33 Backing track?
- 37 Twix ingredient
- 40 Directly toward the sunset
- 41 Opening number?
- 43 Go bad
- 44 "Hey, that's enough!"
- 45 "Hey, that's enough!"
- 48 Derisive look
- 51 Virginia Woolf's "___ Dalloway"
- 53 Gear tooth
- 55 Revived game show hosted by Jane Krakowski that's also an apt title for this puzzle
- 60 Prodded
- 63 Rely on excessively
- 64 Buttercup family member

- 65 Array for BB gun target practice, perhaps
- 66 Broadway props?
- 67 Really love

Down

- 1 Climbing spikes
- 2 Low-hemoglobin condition
- 3 ___ therapy
- 4 Exxon, in Canada and Europe
- 5 Damage beyond repair
- 6 Many-legged arthropod
- 7 Outfielder Tommie in the NY Mets Hall of Fame
- 8 Wild party
- 9 "La La Land" Oscar winner Emma
- 10 Relieved sounds
- 11 Novelist Harper
- 12 Class with smocks
- 13 Pixar film that lost to "Encanto" for a Best Animated Feature Oscar
- 14 Urgent request
- 19 Mosque authority
- 23 Word with candy or sugar
- 24 Track figures
- 25 Tidy
- 27 ___-Pei: dog breed from China
- 28 Natural rope fiber
- 29 30-Across, for one
- 31 "24K Magic" singer Mars
- 34 Took a nosedive
- 35 "Darn it all to ___!"
- 36 John Irving's "A Prayer for ___ Meany"
- 37 USN officers
- 38 Many millennia
- 39 Matter of interest?
- 42 Gossip
- 46 Eye-related
- 47 Had meager success in a series of games
- 49 Foe
- 50 Home detector target
- 52 Boarded up
- 54 Understands
- 56 Spanish hand
- 57 ___ Kate Dillon of "Billions"
- 58 Look after
- 59 Folded snack
- 60 "The Women of Troy" novelist Barker
- 61 "Woman Power" singer Yoko
- 62 "___ Burns: America"

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66									67					

Taylor hires Lorne Oke as new golf coach

Oke brings years of experience to Taylor

JACK MULKEY
SPORTS EDITOR

On August 29th, Lorne Oke was hired as the men's and women's head golf coach for Taylor University.

Oke takes over two programs that have had incredible success in recent memory with the men's team winning the past six Crossroads League titles and the women's team winning four out of the past five, falling just short last season by two strokes.

"This is obviously the premier golf program in the conference, nobody is going to argue with that," Oke said.

Oke has never coached at Taylor, but he is familiar with the school. He was good friends with former Taylor golf coach Cam Andry and has had two stops at Crossroads League competitors, Indiana Wesleyan University and Bethel University. He also studied with current Taylor women's basketball coach Jody Martinez at Bethel.

He has experience coaching more than just golf. He was a successful volleyball coach at



Photo provided by Taylor Athletics

Oke brings many years of coaching experience to Taylor.

Bethel, winning three NCCAA National Championships and earned Crossroads League Coach of the Year in 1996.

In terms of golf coaching experience, he brings many years of experience. He coached the Bethel men's team from 1994-2000 and led the women's team in their first season. He took a break from coaching to spend more time with family as he was already the Chief Information Officer at Bethel. At Indiana Wesleyan, he coached men's and women's golf from 2016-2019, helping the teams finish top three in the Crossroads League

in each season.

He also brings an extensive background in higher education with many years of teaching as well as being the associate vice president of the Talent Ladder at Indiana Wesleyan for many years. The Talent Ladder was an effort to take people to the next level, no matter where they were in their career.

Oke says his priority at Taylor is coaching, but has already done some consulting, and is not against helping out wherever he may be wanted.

With the amount of talent on both teams, Oke says he will

focus more on the mental side of golf rather than focusing on the physical sides of golf. Part of this is because he has not had a ton of time with the players before tournaments have started.

"(He teaches us) how to react to a shot on the golf course, how to plan a shot and execute it to the best of our ability," sophomore Sabrina Langerak said.

Both teams have already started playing tournaments. The no. 16 ranked women's team won the Battle at Brookwood in Fort Wayne, beating three conference teams, Huntington, Grace and St. Francis. Taylor swept the top five with Langerak winning, freshman Shayne Lim in second, sophomores Alyssa Schmidt and Ellie Beavins tying for third and junior Elizabeth Kemper finishing fifth. At the Players Club Invitational in Yorktown, the team finished second, losing out to No. 9 Indiana Wesleyan, but beat No. 4 Dalton State and No. 8 Cumberland. They also beat three conference opponents, Marian, Huntington and Mount Vernon Nazarene. Lim won the tournament and the team finished with a school record of 291 in the third round.

The men's team finished second out of 15 teams in their first tournament of the year, the Players Club Invitational, finishing 7 strokes over par. No. 19 Lindsey Wilson College won the tournament with an even score. Senior Noah Ross and junior Adam Kasitz both finished in the top five with senior Javan Johnson just behind, tying for sixth place. The team beat conference foes Indiana Wesleyan, Grace and St. Francis.

"For us, the team atmosphere doesn't seem any different," Johnson said.

Both teams have set the goal to win the Crossroads League this year. Both teams will have to battle with Indiana Wesleyan and they have both played them already. The men's team beat them by 15 strokes and the women's team narrowly lost by five strokes to them.

Up next, the men's team will play in the Battle at Blackthorn in South Bend on September 23-24. The women's team will play in the Saints Classic at Warren, also in South Bend on October 3-4.

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WEEKLY PREVIEW

FOOTBALL
09/24 OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY 7 PM

MEN'S GOLF
09/23-24 BATTLE AT BLACKTHORN

MEN'S SOCCER
09/24 @MOUNT VERNON NAZARENE 7 PM

WOMEN'S SOCCER
09/21 @LAWRENCE TECH 7 PM
09/24 MOUNT VERNON 7 PM

VOLLEYBALL
09/21 @SAINT FRANCIS 7 PM
09/23 @HUNTINGTON 7 PM
09/24 INDIANA WESLEYAN 3 PM

SCOREBOARD RESULTS FROM

VOLLEYBALL
09/09 VITTERBO UNIVERSITY L 1-3
09/09 ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY W 3-0
09/10 DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY W 3-1
09/10 ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE W 3-0
09/14 SPRING ARBOR W 3-0

FOOTBALL
09/10 BUTLER UNIVERSITY L 10-45

MEN'S GOLF
09/13 PLAYERS CLUB INVITE 2ND

WOMEN'S GOLF
09/10 PLAYERS CLUB INVITE 2ND

MEN'S SOCCER
09/10 MISSOURI BAPTIST L 0-2
09/14 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN T 1-1

WOMEN'S SOCCER
09/10 GEORGETOWN COLLEGE W 3-0
09/14 INDIANA TECH W 3-1

Trojan football off to solid start in Mingo's second year

Taylor starts 2-0 for first time in 10+ years

DALTON JONES
STAFF WRITER

Taylor University is off to a hot start for the 2022-2023 season, starting 2-0 for the first time in a decade.

Taylor won their season opener against Lawrence Tech, despite being down at halftime. They won by a score of 27-12, but they truly showed what they were capable of in their home opener against Judson University. Taylor's dominating offense racked up 52 points and their stifling defense gave up only six points the entire game. Why was the score so lopsided?

Taylor's run game was unbelievable. Running backs sophomore Brendan Lamb and senior Darien Taylor combined for 149 rushing yards on 6.2 yards per carry, but they wouldn't have been able to do it without the offensive line. The linemen up front were dominant the entire game and constantly created holes for the Taylor backs to run through. The offensive line also did not surrender a single sack the entire game.

Senior QB Elijah McCloskey also had a strong outing. He completed 7 of his 15 passes for 173 yards and three touchdowns with only one interception. Sophomore wide receiver Dakota Sonnichsen was McCloskey's favorite receiver to throw to. Sonnichsen had three catches for 122 yards and two



Photo provided by Taylor Athletics

Taylor football beat Judson 52-6.

touchdowns.

"It's exciting because as a QB in this system you get to control the pace of play," said McCloskey.

While the Taylor offense was having their way with the Judson

defense, the Taylor defense was equally as dominant. With five sacks and 12 tackles for loss, it's no wonder Judson was unable to produce any points in the 2nd half and only six in the first. A

pick six from freshman defensive back Dawson Scally also helped propel the Taylor defense to total dominance.

Taylor's front four was consistently in the backfield, disrupting the flow of the Judson offense. Judson's junior quarterback, Christian Miller, was constantly pressured and forced to make throws before he was ready, which led to the poor showing from Judson University. Taylor was also able to capitalize on the many mistakes from the Judson offense. High snaps and false start penalties really hurt Judson's momentum.

"We had a tremendous offseason and our team is very aligned which shows up on the field," said head coach Aaron Mingo when asked what has led to Taylor's early

success this season.

"I enjoy running this fast paced offense because it gives us an opportunity to wear opponents down," Mingo said.

Sadly the winning streak did not continue. Taylor visited Butler and lost that game 45-10. But there are some positives to take away. Taylor scored on their first drive against the Butler defense, and the score was still close going into halftime. Butler pulled away in the 2nd half though and only allowed Taylor to score 3 more points.

The Trojans will look to stay on their hot start as Taylor will face off against the Tigers of Olivet Nazarene University on Saturday, September 24th at home at 7 PM.

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Volleyball off to hot start once again and sit inside top-25

Team sits at No. 19 in the NAIA Poll

CONRAD OTTO
STAFF WRITER

The Taylor Trojans' women's volleyball team have come into this coming year once again in dominant fashion. In 16 matches played, they have only lost three, falling to teams that have been ranked or are receiving votes to be ranked.

The team first took their loss in the Labor Day Classic tournament in early September. They lost the first two matches but came back in dominant fashion winning in three sets for the next two the following day. In that tournament, Senior setter Kacy Bragg amassed 3,000 career assists, the tenth Trojan in school



Photo provided by Taylor Athletics

Volleyball is off to a strong start in conference play at 2-0.

history to make this milestone.

"It's exciting (hitting the milestone)," she said. "I'm honored to be on this team...I could not get that many assists with the hitters and the

passers. It is definitely a team effort."

Their latest win was against conference opponent Spring Arbor University. Winning in three straight sets, Bragg had 40 assists, passing to

Senior transfer and outside-hitter Arlanda Faulkner with 10 kills, Sophomore middle-blocker Jaylynn Dunsmore with 10 kills, and Senior right-side hitter Ryan Czerniak with 13 kills.

In the Viterbo Tournament, the last of the season, the Trojans played their last opponent against Rocky Mountain College. Taking home the win, Bragg poured in 34 assists. In addition to the Spring Arbor win, Bragg pushes her total 630 assists on the season. This is just nearing 60 sets played. She leads the NAIA with a 10 assists-per-set average and is under 200 assists away from moving into the seventh-place spot for all-time assist leader in program history, and on pace for 4,000 assists on the year.

Not only has Bragg had a stellar start to the season, but she also gave

high praise to Senior right-side hitter Ryan Czerniak. She had her 1,000th career kill in just the first match of the season and has continued to push her success beyond just a milestone. Now, Czerniak leads the entire NAIA with over 230 kills and a hitting percentage of .456 in just this season.

"Playing with her is a huge blessing," Bragg said. "She's a very humble player...She never makes it all about herself, she is very team focused". Bragg and Czerniak are co-captains of the team, and knowing that Czerniak is putting in the work makes the game a whole lot more exciting for both teammates.

This season brought four new faces to the team. Faulkner, sophomore mid-hitter Grace Ieremia, junior outside-hitter Anna Frey, and sophomore libero Jen Springer are all

playing in the program for the first time this year. Springer gives inside onto how this year has been.

"I think we are really playing (well) together as a team" she said. "Since we have that team chemistry, we are able to win games". Springer transferred in from Purdue-Fort Wayne, and is loving the culture that team has. She plans to build on her skills and learning how to push not only herself, but her teammates to be better players of the sport.

Since finishing this past tournament of the season and starting conference play, the Trojans have only lost three matches in the four total tournaments played this year. They are also undefeated in Crossroads, and hopefully looking to keep that for the rest of the year.

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KIANA SIEFERT
SOCCER



Photograph by Ben Laithang



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FRESHMAN	YEAR	JUNIOR
NOBLESVILLE, IN	HOMETOWN	OREGONIA, OH
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING	MAJOR	BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING
JUST WATCHING SOCCER	FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM	CINCINNATI BENGALS
OLSON FLOOR TRADITIONS	FAVORITE TAYLOR TRADITION	SILENT NIGHT
STAR TREK	FAVORITE TV SHOW/ MOVIE	BLIND SIDE

BRENDAN LAMB
FOOTBALL



Photograph by Ben Laithang