

Taylor University

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TU receives significant Lilly grant

Will be used for entrepreneur program

WILL RIDDELL
NEWS CO-EDITOR

Taylor University recently announced that the institution received a \$500,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. that will be put toward the creation of an entrepreneurial program for high school students.

Lilly Endowment provided the funds through its initiative Indiana Youth Programs on Campus (IYPC), according to a university news release.

Lilly Endowment's website describes IYPC as "a new Lilly Endowment initiative designed to help Indiana colleges and universities in their efforts to create new or expand and enhance existing high-quality, on-campus programs for Hoosier youth, ages 5-18."

The university's website noted that the pre-collegiate program will be called IMPACT, and its goal is to "engage Indiana high school students in high quality on-campus enrichment to help them develop entrepreneurial skills that equip them to impact their local community for the better while also envisioning a future for themselves in college."

The program is set to launch in 2023.

According to a university news release, one of the highlights of IMPACT will be an annual summer camp based in the Horne Academic Center. Currently under construction, the Horne Academic Center is slated to open in the fall of 2024. Aside from serving as an entrepreneurial hub, the 45,000 square-foot facility will also host

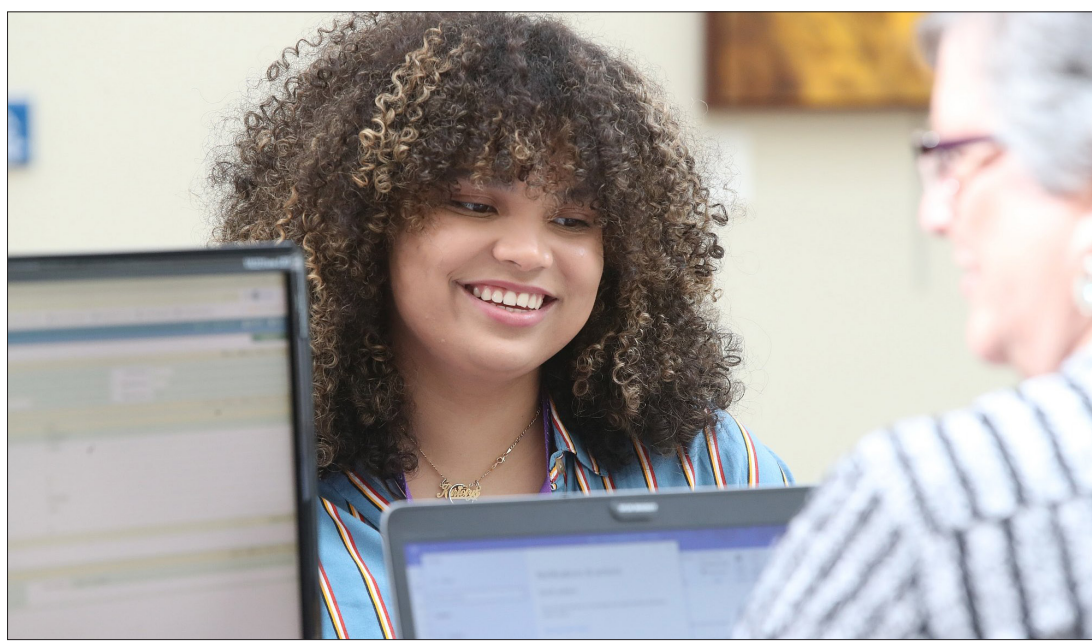


Photo provided by Taylor University

Taylor welcomes high school students and their families on campus throughout the year.

the university's film and media program.

In an email sent to THE ECHO, Provost Jewel Maxwell said it is important for high schoolers to get a taste of the Taylor atmosphere, as that experience can influence their decision.

"When high school students come to our campus, a high percentage determine that this is where they want to attend college," Maxwell said in the email. "We have a beautiful campus with a great community. This can be a major draw for future students."

IMPACT will provide high schoolers with the opportunity to learn more about entrepreneurship through classroom and experiential learning, according to a university news release. The program will also let high schoolers interact with faculty and hear from "world-class" speakers.

According to a 2019 article from Babson College, a university largely focused on entrepreneurship education, almost 16% of U.S. adults

are entrepreneurs.

The large number of individuals pursuing entrepreneurship throughout the country and in Indiana has garnered the attention of both Taylor University and President Michael Lindsay.

"Efforts to expand our work in this area are timely, because Taylor's entrepreneurial explosion has coincided with significant growing interest from the State of Indiana and from Gen Z, which include current high school students," Lindsay stated. "Approximately 60% of this generation aspires to start a business."

While IMPACT is designed to show high school students the benefits of starting their own business, the program's other major goal is to show them the impact higher education can have on their lives.

Lilly Endowment, the foundation that provided the grant, is primarily concerned with causes related to community development, religion and education. A university news release stated the foundation

"launched Indiana Youth Programs on Campus, in part, to respond to the significant decrease in the number of Hoosiers pursuing higher education degrees."

The Associated Press reported in June that for the year 2020, only 53% of high school graduates in Indiana went on to pursue a college degree or other post-secondary training. In 2015, that number was 71%.

Even with fewer Indiana high schoolers currently seeking a higher education, Lindsay believes the grant will go a long way in Upland.

"All of us at Taylor University are grateful to Lilly Endowment, an organization long known and appreciated for its visionary support of higher education, and the transformative opportunities this new grant will provide," Lindsay stated.

To learn more about Lilly Endowment, visit <https://lillyendowment.org/>.

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Upland gas price war



Photo by Matthew Harman

Country Mark had gas set at \$1.74 on Saturday, Sept. 17.



Photo by Matthew Harman

Marathon followed suit and also charged \$1.74 for gas.

Last weekend, gas stations in Upland competed by lowering prices to abnormally low levels compared to other area stations. Country Mark, the newest establishment in the town, set their prices under two dollars, and the Marathon

responded by following suit. The Indiana average for gas during the "war" was above \$3.70.

Photographs of the event were taken by Echo staffer, Matthew Harman.

Accounting program experiences high level of graduate success

CPA score rates high for Taylor alumni

SAMANTHA LEON
STAFF WRITER

Taylor University's accounting department has demonstrated success over the years. May 2021 accounting alumni have an 81% passing rate for first-time attempts on the CPA exam.

The exam consists of four parts that cover different topics related to the field. Each part is taken separately over the course of a few months with a maximum time limit of four hours per section. Passing this exam is a requirement to become a certified public accountant.

Most accounting students at Taylor University excel at this. Associate Professor of Business and Chair of the Business Department Mary Jo "Jody" Hirschy said that students not only pass; most do so on their first try.

"It is rare for a Taylor student to take these exams multiple times in order to pass them," Hirschy said.



Photo by Aubri Gundy

Freshmen accounting majors Adam Wood, Jaedon Humphrey and Connor Murray.

Two students from Taylor finished in the top 10 CPA exam scores in Indiana in 2021. One of the two students, Hunter Huber, received the highest score in the state.

Taylor University has had a 100% job placement rate for accounting students over the years. Hirschy said that most students land a job before

even graduating.

Graduated accounting students who passed the CPA exam have also gone on to work for major companies. This includes "the big four" which consists of KPMG, Ernst & Young, Deloitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Additionally, some accounting

firms offer a substantial bonus to new hires if they pass the CPA exam in their first year.

The accounting department utilizes several important components in order to achieve high levels of student success.

The department's curriculum is one of those components. The accounting field is constantly changing, therefore different areas of the CPA must frequently be updated to match the current needs of the profession. The department is constantly improving the curriculum to match those standards.

One part of the curriculum is an optional six credit CPA review class. Taylor University offers this course to students during the spring semester of their senior year.

Students must also study other business topics that extend beyond traditional accounting. The exam includes other questions related to different business subjects.

The material covered in the review class covers information on the exam that might otherwise be missed in other courses students

take. As a part of the course, students also take practice assessments.

Most importantly, however, the class solidifies study skills for students.

Associate Professor of Accounting David Poucher said that having good study skills is critical to passing the CPA.

"It's really kind of, you know, preparing (and) getting them disciplined," Poucher said. "You're preparing them for a marathon."

Taylor University alumna Kristianna Johnson graduated from Taylor in May with a major in Accounting with Systems. She has already passed the first three sections of the exam and is currently preparing for the final one.

"A lot of the tactics we learned in school for how to study for these are carried over and a lot of the visualizations and charts and everything, from our books and from whatever our professors give us, I'm even using now," Johnson said.

In addition, a practicum is required to graduate. This provides

students with experience before graduating.

"We need to be able to think and apply our discipline and think about it as a specialty within a business," Poucher said. "So that's, you know, that's probably the more challenging thing. (To) have students think more in terms of an integrated, big picture."

The CPA exam can be intimidating to many students, however, Taylor's accounting department prepares their students in several different ways for it.

Gabriella Hill is a senior accounting major at Taylor University. She is getting ready to pursue her CPA exam after she graduates as well.

"I remember the very first time he exposed us to what the exam is going to look like," Hill said. "I wanted to cry, like it looked like so much. But I feel like the more that we go, the more prepared I'll be. And it also helps to think that so many people have already gone before me so many people have already done it. I can do it too."

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Global Need-to-Know: U.K., Russia-Ukraine, Ethiopia

Power shifts in U.K., other conflicts

KAY RIDEOUT
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

Three stories spotlighting relevant pieces of international news. These global stories aim to broaden the perspective of the Taylor community as they absorb information from a variety of sources and spaces.

Power shifts in the U.K.

On Thursday, Sept. 8, Queen Elizabeth II died at the age of 96, following 70 years on the throne. Prior to her death, Buckingham Palace released a statement that the Queen was under medical supervision at her Scottish residence in Balmoral Castle.

A pre-established 10-day plan — code-named Operation London Bridge — is now guiding a national mourning period that will conclude with the state funeral on Monday, Sept. 19.

The queen's eldest son, King Charles III, is in line to assume the throne at the age of 73. The King paid tribute to his mother in his first address to the British people on Friday, Sept. 9.

"She set an example of selfless duty which, with God's help and your counsels, I am resolved faithfully to follow," the King was quoted saying in an ABC news article.

In her position as the head of state, Queen Elizabeth II navigated the years following World War II, Britain's transition



Photo provided by The Times of Israel

Queen Elizabeth's funeral procession began at Westminster Abbey.

from an empire to that of a Commonwealth, the end of the Cold War, the U.K.'s fluid relationship with the European Union and weekly audiences with 15 prime ministers.

The death of Britain's longest-reigning monarch marks the passing of a second Elizabethan age — opening the door to a new era that has social, political and economic ramifications.

"There will be a substantial moment of national introspection, a long moment of pause for what the queen's death means for Britain's role in the world," said Tony Travers, a British politics expert at the London School of Economics, in an article published by the Washington Post.

Alongside shifts in the head of state, Britain is simultaneously navigating changes in government as newly-elected Prime Minister Liz Truss steps into office.

Ongoing Russia-Ukraine War

Following Russia's initial invasion of Ukraine in Feb. 2022, Ukrainian forces retook areas surrounding the capital city of Kyiv in early April.

In response, Russia re-focused military efforts, targeting south, east and north-eastern areas of Ukraine.

However, a series of Ukrainian counterattacks, launched successfully at the beginning of September, has allowed Ukrainian forces to reclaim more than 3,000 square miles of territory in both the south and the northeast.

Many of these counterattacks have been powered by additional weapons and military support from Ukraine's allies, including the U.S. and the E.U.

Russia has responded to these counterattacks with strategic withdrawals and military strikes.

"Together, these attacks have forced Russia to divert several thousand troops from the east to defend areas that had previously seemed secure," an article in the New York Times said.

However, Russia continues to occupy 20% of Ukraine, according to an infographic released by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) and published in a recent BBC article. Additionally, civilians continue to feel the impact of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

A civilian casualty update released by the U.N. Human Rights Office in July records over five thousand civilian deaths and over six thousand civilian injuries in-country since Russia's initial invasion in Feb. 2022. The UNHCR estimates nearly seven million internal displacements, with over six million crossing over to neighboring countries such as Poland, Hungary and Moldova.

"Hundreds of thousands are seeking refuge in neighboring countries," U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi was quoted saying in a UNHCR update. "They need safety and protection, first and foremost, but also shelter, food, hygiene and other support; and they need it urgently."

Ethiopia's Tigray conflict

Nearly two years of conflict between the centralized Ethiopian government and forces in the country's northern Tigray region have led to displacement and destabilization within Ethiopia.

One of ten regional states in Ethiopia, Tigray dominated national politics for nearly three decades until Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's nomination in 2018. Ahmed's desire for an ethnically unified Ethiopia challenged the divisive political reforms implemented by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (T.P.L.F.) in prior years.

In defiance of the central government, Tigray held regional elections in Sept. 2020 that placed power back into the hands of T.P.L.F. candidates.

In response to these elections, along with an alleged attack by T.P.L.F. forces on a federal military base, the Ethiopian government deployed troops against Tigrayan leadership.

Since this initial deployment in Nov. 2020, the conflict has spiraled into an ongoing war that the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (U.N.O.C.H.A.) declared a "dire humanitarian crisis" in a report released on Sept. 6, 2022.

In addition to T.P.L.F. forces, the Ethiopian military — together with regional police and forces from nearby Eritrea — have committed a number of human rights violations. Reports of these violations compelled the U.N. and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (E.H.R.C.) to conduct a joint investigation, published on Nov. 3, 2021.

Civilians are experiencing the worst of the violence, which, together with national food insecurity, has affected more than 20 million people.

"Now, fighters from the Tigray People's Liberation Front say they are open to a ceasefire and are ready to accept an African Union-led peace process, something they have dismissed in the past," a report from Aljazeera noted. "The Ethiopian government has not responded to the proposal."

Ahmed's government continues to reject mediation, despite the U.N.'s encouragement to pursue peace.

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New year brings new COVID-19 regulations for campus

PeRT encourages common sense

KAY RIDEOUT,
WILL RIDDELL,
MATTHEW HARMAN
ECHO STAFF

Taylor's current COVID-19 policies, aligned with guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), are more flexible than in years past.

"COVID is with us, and we're going to have to live with it," Vice President for Student Development and Chair of the Master of Arts in Higher Education Program Skip Trudeau said. "But we're in kind of a different season, so to speak, in how we respond."

While the university's COVID hotline has been discontinued, students are still expected to report positive tests. The university's web interface (<https://covid19.taylor.edu>) allows students to report cases on campus, alerts the Pandemic Response Team (PeRT) and provides students with a list of next-steps.

Current CDC guidelines recommend that individuals who test positive should isolate for a period of at least five days. According to the CDC's website,

individuals who test positive but are asymptomatic can end their isolation period after day five. Those who display COVID symptoms can end their isolation period after day five if they have been fever-free for 24 hours. The CDC's website notes that this doesn't apply if the individual has been taking fever-reducing medication. After completing the five day isolation period, the CDC advises wearing a mask through day ten.

On Taylor's campus, Haakonsen Hall has been set aside as a last-resort isolation center. With limited space available, students are encouraged to consider isolating at home or off-campus after testing positive.

The university no longer requires contact tracing, which means students or faculty who test positive are no longer asked to inform individuals who may have been exposed. Chief Information Officer Chris Jones, a member of the PeRT team, recommends alerting close friends to positive test results. This allows others to monitor their symptoms should any arise.

"We hope that the ongoing impact will be minimized at this time," Trudeau said. "And that's both in and outside of the



Photo provided by Jim Garringer

Taylor's policies are more flexible than in years past.

residence halls."

Jones and the rest of the PeRT team continue to meet regularly to review CDC guidelines and monitor the number of COVID cases both statewide and within Grant County.

Both Jones and Trudeau emphasized the transition of COVID-19 from a pandemic state to an endemic state. Rather than being classified as a pandemic, indicating a disease's rapid, widespread properties, COVID's

endemic status signifies its ability to be contained and managed.

"I feel safe not having masking mandates right now, because of the fact that the virus is endemic," Associate Professor of Public Health Dr. Sylvanna Bielko said.

However, despite looser masking regulations and fewer positive tests, students are still encouraged to remain conscious of COVID and those around them. Jones said that students should take responsibility for communicating with professors to notify them of a positive test and any future absences.

Most of the guidelines still in place encourage common sense when monitoring and responding to COVID symptoms.

"I think the main message is, 'When you're sick, you should stay away from others as much as you can and try not to share it,'" Jones said.

While the ongoing effects of COVID continue to be felt on campus, Trudeau hopes the pandemic's impact on classroom protocol and students themselves will lessen over time. Jones is optimistic that, one day, isolation will no longer be a requirement for those who test positive.

Until then, Taylor continues to monitor the virus and take the steps necessary to ensure safety both on campus and in the surrounding community.

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TU finishes No. 2 in U.S. News & World Report Midwest college ranking

26th consecutive year in top-three

MARKUS MILLER
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

After checking in at No. 1 among Midwest Colleges in the 2021-22 U.S. News and World Report, Taylor clocked in this year at No. 2, behind Cottey College in Missouri.

"While college rankings don't come close to demonstrating the true value of educational institutions, we were very pleased that U.S. News has once again ranked Taylor highly, adding to a streak of more than 25 years in which Taylor has ranked in the top three Midwest colleges and



Photo provided by U.S. News

Taylor finished No. 1 last year

universities," President Michael Lindsay said. "We also were pleased by several other good results, including being named #17 among all undergraduate colleges and universities in a ranking that measures the contribution institutions make to the common good in three areas: social mobility, research and promoting public service."

This specific ranking marks the 26th consecutive year that Taylor has been ranked within the top three colleges in the Midwest region. Half of those years, they've been ranked first.

Cottey College, which finished first, also finished first in the 2020-21 report. Other institutions that have frequented the top of this ranking include College of the Ozarks, Ohio Northern University and Illinois Wesleyan University, among others.

"The U.S. News rankings really illustrate the incredible place that Taylor is," Provost Jewel Maxwell said. "Factors in the rankings include the quality of incoming first year students, retention, graduation rate,

class size and alumni giving. We outperform our peers in these areas — a byproduct of the Lord blessing us with gifted students, a committed group of faculty and staff (retention) and alumni who value the institution and desire to give back."

The criteria for the rankings are broken into different categories and focus on the following 10 factors: Graduation and Retention rates, Social Mobility, Graduation Rate Performance, Undergraduate Academic Reputation, Faculty Resources, Student Selectivity, Financial Resources per Student, Average Alumni Giving Rate and Graduate Indebtedness.

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Corrections

In an article entitled "New Face of Taylor University," it was stated that the athletic logo was released on Aug. 15, 2021 instead of Aug. 15, 2022. The online version of the article reflects this change.

In an article entitled "Jumping Bean under new ownership," it was stated that the Manganello family asked if Parkhurst would like to take over the Bean. However, Taylor University asked the Manganellos if Parkhurst could take over the business and after some discussion, they agreed. The online version of the article reflects this change.

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Peterson, Twigg share Lifeline impact

Youth ministry thrives in Elkhart, Indiana

MARISSA MULJAT
FEATURES EDITOR

As Taylor alumnus Irv Polk ('63) lay sick on his hospital bed, the last words he spoke to his friend and coworker Darrell Peterson were, "Don't let it die, don't let it die."

Polk was the founder of Lifeline Youth Ministries in Elkhart, Indiana and the words he spoke to Peterson referred to his organization. He served at Lifeline for 46 years before dying of cancer in 2009.

Peterson soon became the director of Lifeline, with hopes to continue the legacy and impact of Polk before him.

"Polk had a real heart and passion for at-risk students," Peterson said.

And Polk's passion has carried on to this day.

The organization has a mission to show God's love to students in practical ways. They accomplish this through partnering with schools, businesses and other organizations to assist the social, educational and career areas of children's lives.

Lifeline provides after-school programming for kids in 3rd-12th grades as well as an eight-week summer camp for 1st-7th graders. Currently, over 400 students are participating in the organization's various programs.

Lasting relationships are created at Lifeline; ones that not only impact the children, but also the adults who work there.

"The amount of love that we get from our students is amazing," Peterson said. "For many of us, we become family. I just got a text from a student who called me dad. We really become family."

In addition to after-school programs and summer camp, the organization recently started "Renew Housing Restoration." This program teaches students the art of construction and home restoration.

Students in this program have helped restore three homes over the span of just one year. These students are able to learn valuable skills that they can utilize in their future careers.

Lifeline also offers internships to college students. Senior orphans and vulnerable children (ovc) and global studies major Sierra Twigg interned there the past two summers.

As a part of this internship program, Twigg was a counselor at Lifeline's summer camp.

"What's really cool that I love about Lifeline is that you have the same kids for all eight weeks mostly," Twigg said.

This attribute of Lifeline promotes relationship building among students and staff.

As a second-year intern, Twigg had the opportunity to grow and develop relationships this year from her previous summer at the organization, along with establishing new ones.

"I absolutely love the relationships that are built there," Twigg said. "I also love the structure of Lifeline. I think their goal ultimately is they would love to see Lifeline be sustainable and self-sufficient where kids that grew up in Lifeline are now the counselors for their summer camp."

One of the ways Lifeline promotes self-sufficiency is through having junior camp counselors. These are high-school-aged students who get to assist camp counselors in leading a group of children.

Twigg valued the opportunity to work not only with the younger children, but also with the older children, helping them develop leadership skills of their own.

"I just love how we get to pour into them while they're also getting to learn skills and hopefully become counselors in the future," Twigg said.

Over half the junior camp counselors this past summer attended Lifeline themselves, which



Photo provided by Sierra Twigg

Senior Sierra Twigg interned at Lifeline Youth Ministries this past summer.

is powerful for the staff to oversee, as well as for these students to experience.

She finds this reflective of Lifeline's care for the well-being of children and the dignity and respect the organization displays to them.

This summer, she became especially close with one specific family.

Two of the girls in this family were in her group, and Twigg and her co-counselor started taking them to church each week.

"Every Sunday, we would go and pick them up for church, go to church, go to lunch and then sometimes do a small activity like going to the park or something like that," Twigg said. "And I think that was super special to grow not even

just with those two girls this summer, but with their family as well."

This was an incredible opportunity for Twigg to become closer to this particular family and share her beliefs with the girls.

Through her experiences at Lifeline, she has learned the importance of being a reliable person that children can count on.

"Lifeline provides a whole different perspective on life because life in Elkhart looks very different than what life at Taylor looks like," Twigg said.

In order to ensure readiness for these positions, each of the interns and staff members goes through Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training.

In summary, this training prepares staff to be able to work with

children who are coming from backgrounds of trauma, neglect and abuse.

Peterson is excited about the future of Lifeline, as they are in the process of building a brand new facility that will be much larger in size and contain multiple sports courts, classrooms and a computer lab, among other exciting features.

The organization will be celebrating 60 years in 2023, and Peterson is already looking forward to what the next 60 years have in store.

"It's a great opportunity to impact young lives and to have students love you back in a way that is difficult to describe," Peterson said. "The relationships that we build here are very rewarding."

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The Echo

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Reed Spencer balances teaching and life with newborn twins

Professor describes his "year of delegation"

KENDALL BECK
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Reed Spencer has found empowerment in what he's declared "The Year of Delegation."

This is Spencer's 4th year in his position as assistant professor of music and director of choral ensembles. However, he is not new to the Taylor community.

Having graduated in 2011 as a vocal performance major, Spencer is pleased to be

working within the department he studied.

"As this job opened, it was the place where I fell in love with the art," Spencer said. "It made me want to come back and teach here and direct those ensembles."

Spencer's life, already pressured by the demanding schedule of the higher education field, has become even busier this summer as his family has grown.

Though they were planning for just one more child, God blessed the Spencers with twins.

Spencer and his wife, Lesley,

now have five kids under 7 years old. Noah is 6, Lewis is 4 and Milo is 2.

Twins Oliver and Anna joined the bunch three months ago, making the Spencers' lives a little bit more hectic — and a lot sweeter.

"We did not imagine five [kids]," Spencer said. "We can't imagine our lives without them."

A typical day for Spencer starts with dropping Noah and Lewis off to school.

He usually begins work in his office at 9 a.m. — fitting in a morning gym session if time allows — and ends the day at 6 p.m., after Chorale rehearsal.

Spencer's recent routine has brought him home for lunch breaks, although it can hardly be considered a break. He offers help to his wife by putting Milo down for a nap and holding the twins before it is time to return to campus.

Though his schedule is tight, Spencer is confident that this year will produce a lot of growth.

"I'm convinced that the Chorale and the Sounds are only going to keep getting better," Spencer said. "And I don't think this year is a step backwards just because I have other things in my life."

Spencer has called this year the "Year of Delegation." Amidst his developing role as father to five children, he has gathered strength from his students, specifically the Chorale officers.

This year, the officers shoulder much responsibility.

They have been tasked with the planning of an annual Chorale retreat that Spencer usually heads up.

Later in the year, the music groups will travel to Pendleton

Prison, to Georgia and even as far as Ecuador.

Leaning on student leadership has provided much needed steadiness in Spencer's life this year. Delegation, while taking some of the logistical tasks off his plate, has not slowed the groups' momentum.

"We're doing all sorts of really fun things that are a step even further than we've done in the past. And so I'm excited about all of that," Spencer said. "It's gonna be really satisfying."

While at home, Spencer enjoys embracing typical childhood activities with his kids. They love reading, going to the park and jumping on the trampoline.

Lesley and Spencer are grateful for the support of the community of parents in Upland.

"Small town life is not for everyone and it's not for every season, but it is the best thing for us right now," Spencer said.

Adjusting to the reality of being both full-time educator and more-than-full-time father has proved challenging, especially with the arrival of twins Oliver and Anna.

Still, Spencer is secure in his calling to both his students and his family.

"Sometimes I look at faculty who don't have that responsibility," Spencer said. "Maybe their kids are growing up or they haven't had kids. And I'm really envious of their ability to be — really, to go to anything or to be really flexible and involved. But on the other hand, I also get to have that richness in my life. And I get to show students what it's like to have a family."

Many other professors with families share this understanding. They bear a unique role in



Photo provided by Reed Spencer

Reed Spencer and his wife have five children under 7 years old.

serving and leading their families and, often, home life is the fuel that lights their fire to then go and pour into their students.

Spencer believes there are similarities between his ministry to his children and to his students.

"I think kids are really responsive and light up when you get on their level and are there and present with them," Spencer said. "That's actually not that different with students. Students want your presence and your care."

Delegating tasks that would have otherwise taken Spencer away from his students and his family is one way he is practically embracing this concept of presence this year.

His students have a lot that they can learn from his intentionality

in the way he prioritizes people over projects and work.

Spencer's vulnerability in sharing the complexities of balancing work and family life provides great insight for students in relating to those of their professors that have families.

Students' intentional support of their educators is crucial in allowing them the freedom to be present in the classroom in the capacity that they would like to be.

"Actively remembering that your professor has a life that's outside of the classroom is really important, especially at a place like Taylor, where we want to be involved in each other's lives," Spencer said.

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Photo by Claire Tiemens

Reed Spencer is the assistant professor of music and director of choral ensembles.

“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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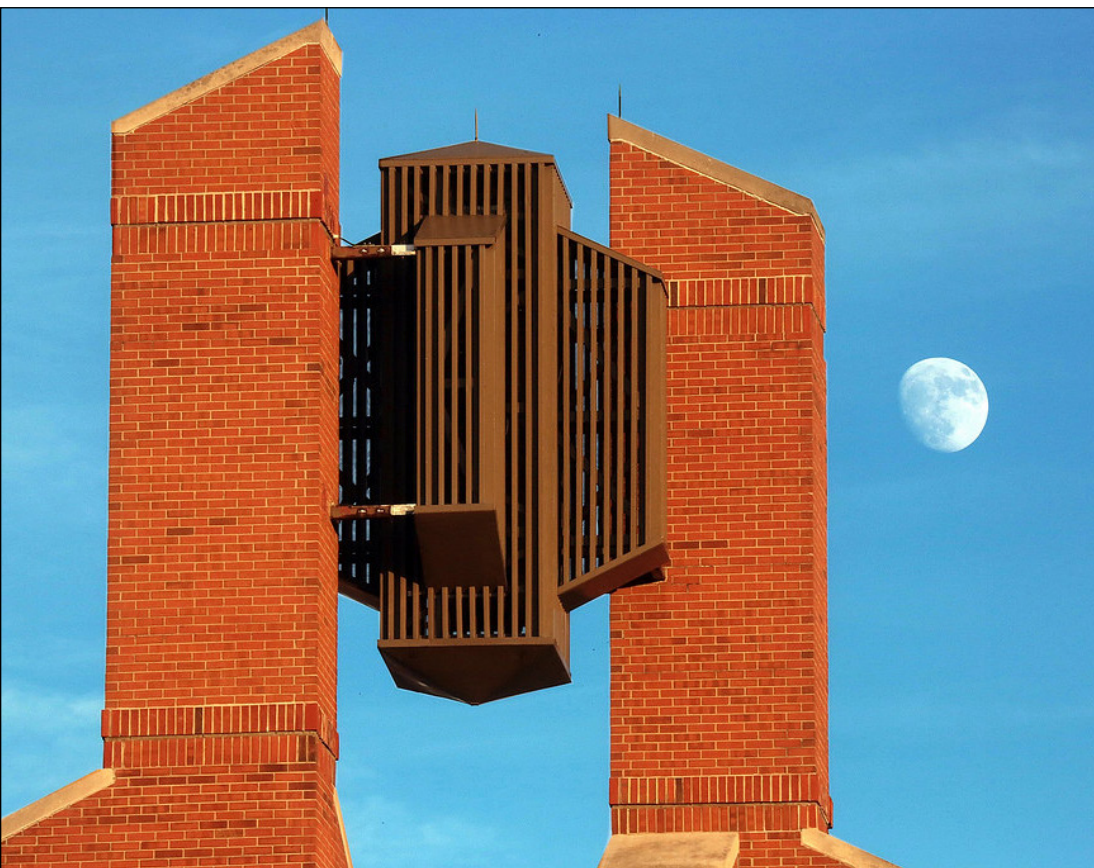


Photo from Echo Archives

Health as a Taylor student involves a variety of forms of wellness, including physical, spiritual and mental.

Balancing health as a student

OUR VIEW EDITORIAL BOARD

Spiritual health, mental health and physical health all correlate with each other and have a strong influence on how we live out our lives.

We cannot live holistically while only having one or two areas strong with the third link weak. Many people tend to value one area over the other, but to be well-rounded, we need to be strong in all three areas.

Spiritual health is arguably the most important as we are called to love God and have a relationship with Him. When we do not have that good relationship with Him, things in life seem to get a lot harder.

The good news is, working on spiritual health can be quite simple. God is always there to talk to you. There are apps on our phones that make it easy to read the Bible. Spotify and other music apps allow us to listen to worship music in our free time. Like many things, though, it takes an intentionality. God gives us the resources; we have to put forth an effort to do the rest.

Many people suggest taking a set amount of time every day to sit in silence and talk to God. This does not have to be a specific number of minutes: it can be five minutes, it can be 30 minutes, it can be a few hours. Most importantly, be patient. Most likely, you will not feel on fire for God after one day; it is a gradual process that takes time.

On campus, there are plenty of resources to help with spiritual health. Chapel is three days a week, there are Bible studies and small groups around campus and there is at least one discipleship

assistant on every floor who are here to help you with your spiritual journey. There are also a few churches within walking distance and people with cars who are willing to take you to churches that are farther away.

Mental health is extremely important and for good reason. Our emotions affect our mood in many different ways and can be the difference between feeling like we can take on the world and wanting to stay in bed until the afternoon. Despite the growing

You aren't alone in your battles. The Healthy Minds Network has found that 41% of college students have reported depression symptoms in 2021.

attention to mental health issues, there are still many who are afraid to talk about it. Many feel that others wouldn't understand, some just don't want to open up and some are afraid that others will make fun of them.

“As I tell my students, we are all ‘fixer-uppers’, we all struggle with something and can use help from time to time,” Taylor Psychology Department Chair Dr. Laura Edwards said.

You aren't alone in your battles. The Healthy Minds Network has found that 41% of college students have reported

depression symptoms in 2021 and 34% of college students have been diagnosed with anxiety.

There are resources on campus that are here to help. The counseling center is a safe, confidential way to get help. To get signed up, you can email the counseling center or walk into the office on the second floor of the student center above Chick-fil-A. Sometimes, some of your best resources are simply your friends. They know you better than many and want to help you.

Finally, physical health: one that many dread. Many think physical health looks like lifting heavy weights or hard, long runs, but it does not have to be that way. Working on your physical health can look as simple as going for a short walk. Just walking can have a drastic effect on our health and our mood as our body releases endorphins. There are some trails around campus, the Well in the Kesler Student Activities Center is a gym fit for all kinds of experience levels, and intramural sports are great resources for physical health on campus or near campus.

In short, you get out of it what you put in. There will be days that you are just not feeling it and that is ok. Being a college student is not easy, but putting the work in will make things easier. THE ECHO Editorial Board thinks that having all three of these areas in good standing will help you immensely as a Taylor 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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Want to contribute to the conversation?

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and op-eds responding to topics and events of their interest. All submissions are due **Monday by 5 p.m. to markus_miller@taylor.edu**. Please review below guidelines before submitting.

Letters to the Editor
200 word limit
No sources required
Include academic year

Guest Columns
600 word limit
3 expert sources required

When cliques don't click at TU

Importance of groups not becoming cliques

ELISE BOUTELL
STUDENT CONTRIBUTOR

Cliques often make people feel unloved because of lack of communication. It stings when we as Christians reject others because the gospel includes all people.

Julia Hurlow, interim associate dean for residence life and discipleship, said friend groups become problematic when those who want to be included cannot enter.

“I don't believe the gospel of Jesus Christ to be exclusive,” she said.

The people who feel excluded need a voice and people to stand up for them.

Taylor University students tend to do this well already. Most students have small friend groups to help them grow, and they want to open their arms to others.

Still, no group of people can do this perfectly. Even at Taylor, people suffer with friend group problems on a daily basis.

I know because I have been the person on the outside.

The irony is that when I was loneliest, I was in the inner circle of a friend group on my wing. We made a group chat and started doing dinners, events and other group activities together. Our time together became more exclusive, less welcoming.

Text after text popped into our wing's group chat, texts like, “Is anyone going to dinner?” I read each one, feeling guilty as I ignored them.

I sat quietly during most of our eight-person dinners. I wondered if the girls would shun me if I included others.

Soon I began to focus on academics and other friendships. I spent less time with them. The time I did spend with the group

became less satisfying as I realized how lonely I felt when I was with them.

My story is only one example of a common occurrence. That is why these things must be addressed.

Many students agree that exclusion from friend groups has negative effects on student health – mental, emotional and even physical.

Senior Dora Rivera said, “Those friend groups are going to have an impact on mental health, whether it be good or bad.” Rivera said friend groups directly affect mental health, which often impacts physical health.

Senior Jessica Cochrane said she felt the physical effects when she was on the outskirts of a high school friend group. “I didn't want to eat. I was upset. I was anxious,” she said.

It gets all too easy to start playing mind games. Exclusion crushes our spirits and leads to physical problems like loss of appetite.

The good news is we can fix many of our problems through communication.

To the one who feels lonely, remember that others can't read your mind. It can be challenging to speak up when no one notices you, but speaking up is often your only solution.

Hurlow said she relies on communication in her life. “It's important to name what the feeling of unloved feels like,” she said.

Junior Zack Brandon said, “Any time I felt unloved by a group of people is because I was putting expectations on them that I did not communicate with them.”

Be patient when others don't see your struggles. Express your frustrations in kindness and ask questions.

Senior Andrew Edwards, a 2021-22 discipleship assistant (DA) in Bergwall Hall, said attempts to include people must involve effort from the person who

feels marginalized.

“Part of my job is to go to people, but also, I'm a student, too,” he said. “It's hard to reach someone who doesn't want to be reached.”

To those who are in friend groups, enjoy them! Hold your friends close and spend good time with them. Also, open your arms to others.

Senior Bella Anderson, said that the main theme that comes to mind when thinking about cliques is “Love your neighbor as yourself” (see Mark 12:31).

She said, “When there are people who frustrate us, who are difficult to love, we're still called to love them.”

The core of any efforts to help must revolve around Christ's love for us.

Hurlow said, “Live loved.” Her hope is that each person acknowledges his or her desire for love and belonging. From that love, we can love others.

There are thousands of ways we can love the marginalized. Hurlow gave several examples.

Don't avoid or ignore people, she said. Don't shut your door and whisper when others are around. Don't gossip or slander.

More than just avoiding those things, Hurlow suggested asking questions, such as, “Is that loving?” or “Is that kind?”

One significant way we can love the marginalized is by standing up to our friends.

“There's a vulnerability that each of us have to say, ‘I'm going to stand up to another person who's speaking ill about someone else,’” she said. “Deep trust is built when people stand up on behalf of another.”



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Truth-telling has power for good

JUDE TEPPER
STUDENT CONTRIBUTOR

The author, *Orphans & Vulnerable Children* major Jude Tepper, is the 2nd place winner & recipient of a \$100 cash prize for winning 1st place in the Lorene Blanchard Essay Contest held at Taylor University in spring semester 2022. The column by Violet Hammack, Professional Writing major, who won 3rd place, will appear in a later Echo edition. The Pulliam Journalism Center essay contest was sponsored by Associate Professor of Journalism Alan Blanchard & Helen Blanchard. Entries were judged by professional journalists – Editor.

In a world full of events ranging from pure evil to the goodness of God, there are many stories to tell and should be by the best qualified to tell those stories. There are many journalists who seek to tell the truth while there are many others who distort the truth. The need for more journalists who have the intention of telling stories truthfully is high.

Christians are called to be tellers of the truth and most Christians push to be just that. Christians should consider working as a journalist where the demand for truth-telling is high. While there are plenty of non-Christian journalists who do share the truth, there can never be enough.

The main source of truth for Christians is the Bible and the message the Bible teaches. During an interview, Russell Pulliam said, “I prayed that the Lord would bring the Bible to every story I wrote.” This is a good mindset for any Christian to have but especially those in the journalist field who want

to impact the world with their stories in more ways than one.

With that prayer Pulliam went on to be a successful journalist and writer for the Indianapolis Star who is still impacting the field of journalism to this day. Christians have the potential to have impacts bigger than they could ever have expected in the journalism field.

I believe there should be more Christians with hearts directed toward journalism to show the world how it truly is. Breann Boswell, a former WANE 15 news reporter, said, “As a journalist we are to share the facts, whether or not we agree with them. I have learned to share the facts but it's the people that I can have the most impact on. I interact with unbelievers daily and it's the relationships I build with others that means the most.”

It is hard to be unbiased and Christians have high moral standards that may make it difficult to share stories that may be against our ideology. But if we do so in a way where we try to focus on the people, we are impacting it can be easier. This could be the people reading the stories or co-workers.

It is important to stand out and have people asking, “What makes you different?” This is when Christians have the chance to share their faith with co-workers and be a light to those around them. This could influence others in the journalism field to be more of a light themselves whether they are Christian or not.

One of the hardest parts of working in the news field for Boswell is some of the people she works with. She said, “There are such few believers in the newsroom, it is difficult to relate to and understand the reasoning behind why people

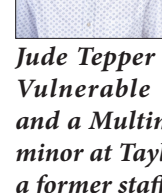
do the things they do.” This is why there needs to be more of a Christian influence in the journalism field.

There are multitudes of stories to tell with many different approaches that can be taken. If there are more Christians telling these stories, they can find ways to relate them to biblical teachings. Christians have the power to tell the stories that non-Christians would not and could seek stories out to impact people's views of the world and bring light to any issues they may see.

This is what I hope to do with my future. I want to spread stories about the truth of the world and the difficulties people face. I want my words to tell stories others would not and I want my photographs to tell stories words cannot.

When I read news stories, I hardly ever read about Christian organizations working hard to make a difference in the world or issues with vulnerable kids around the world. This is my calling and where I hope to make a difference. There is a lack of journalists whose hearts are set towards the stories that people would not think about daily.

I hope to encourage other Christians to consider the impact they could leave on the world through journalism. God can show the truth through any person and any form. Let the truth be told through every word, picture, video, and story you tell.



Jude Tepper is an *Orphans & Vulnerable Children* major and a Multimedia Journalism minor at Taylor University and a former staff photographer for THE ECHO – jude_tepper@taylor.edu

Multicultural Worship Night unites students

Event celebrates cultural differences with worship

ETHAN JACKSON
STAFF WRITER

Worship means something different to everyone, yet similarities can still be found. Taylor's Multicultural Student Association (MSA) aims to explore what worshiping differently but together looks like in their Multicultural Worship Night event.

"The event is a night where students of different cultures can come in and worship in the way that they feel that they express back home," MSA Co-President senior Joanna Vasudevan said.

The MSA invited students to audition for the event, looking for different types of performances in multiple languages including English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Hindu. The performances consist of both relaxed and upbeat worship songs, dancing and reading of Scripture.

The goal of the event is to help students recognize the many ways various cultures worship and how they can be as similar as they are different.

"You're hearing the same thing, but in different languages," Vasudevan said. "And even if you don't understand what someone's saying or singing, especially in a worship night, you know

that we're all worshipping the one God that created all of us."

The unification found in the act of worshipping together, regardless of differences in language or other cultural aspects, is an important theme in the event: emphasizing the bond of the body of Christ through worship in many forms.

"I think there's a lot of value in just setting apart our differences, but coming together with those differences as well, if that makes sense," MSA Co-President Julissa Castellanos said.

By setting aside differences while also celebrating them, MSA hopes to exemplify what unifies believers in worship. While the way believers worship varies across the globe, it is all for one purpose that unifies believers rather than dividing them.

"From my view, I think different languages make me feel like even though we are from different places from different countries, when we come to worship God that we are connected by the same Holy Spirit," MSA administrator Cher Wang said. "So, the different languages will not be obstacles to stop us reaching God."

MSA hopes to reach students from different cultures across campus, and hear from God in a unique way.



Photograph provided by Maribel Magallanes

The Global Music Ensemble performed onstage during last year's Multicultural Worship Night.

"Prepare your heart to see how God will reach out to you or tell you during the show through the different languages," Wang said.

Worshiping God remains the main focus, just as any other worship event on campus. But to see how that happens in different

ways among various cultures represented in the student body makes the Multicultural Worship Night unique.

"I think that there's just a lot of beauty and seeing how many people come together because this is an event aimed towards

the whole student body. So everybody's welcome to come," Castellanos said. "It's just beautiful seeing all the cultures represented, and then having the whole student body embrace that as well, which is kind of like what it will be like in heaven."

MSA invites all students to join in the Multicultural Worship Night event each year to experience an atmosphere of worship that might look or sound somewhat different, but is still filled with God's presence and glory.

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Heart & Soul provides space for poetry writing and appreciation

Poetry club serves as creative haven

HANNAH MARELLA
A&C EDITOR

It can be difficult when away from family and familiarity to find a sense of home.

Sophomore Mikaila (Rain) Taylor has found that sense of home in the Heart & Soul poetry club.

Started just a year ago, the club has already provided a space to write and appreciate poetry for Taylor and many others on campus.

Sophomore Kenedy Manuel, the club's current president, had an idea for a poetry club before she even arrived on campus.

Manuel connected with Taylor and Chelsea Springer, a previous Taylor student, through Director of Student Leadership and Intercultural Programs Maribel Magallanes. All three had been interested in starting a poetry club before joining forces.

The group was allowed to set up a table for the Office of Intercultural Programs (OIP) kickback fair at the beginning of the year to introduce their club to campus. Not even a full month into



Photo provided by Kenedy Manuel

Members of Heart & Soul posed for a picture during one of last year's meetings.

her semester, Manuel recalled how crazy it was at the start.

"It was second week into my freshman year," Manuel said. "I was starting this club and didn't know what to do in a lot of ways, but Rain and Chelsea were

very helpful."

Now, after a full year of meetings, the club has found its rhythm. Most of the structured time in meetings consists of sharing time in which members can bring any poems or songs to share

with others. Some of these poems are written by members and some are written by famous poets or songwriters.

Occasionally, a meeting will incorporate a writing exercise, but Manuel stressed her effort to make

it easy for everyone to join in, not just the seasoned writers.

The Heart & Soul poetry club is more than the structure of its meetings.

It provides a space for people to be vulnerable and express themselves poetically or find a poem that speaks to them personally. Manuel specifically desired to create that safe space for people to share.

Taylor found that the club fulfills Manuel's desire for a safe space and expressed her enjoyment for being able to hear what others share.

"Poetry is a piece of you," Taylor said. "It's this thing that you create and you put out, and so being able to just accept those pieces of other people in the space is a really beautiful thing."

Another member of the club, sophomore Audrey Hannum, expressed appreciation for finding a community of people that share a love not only for poetry but also language itself and the beauty that can come from it.

The name of the club is derived from a poem of the same name written by Springer. The poem itself was featured in THE ECHO in

Nov. 2021.

Springer said that she was inspired to write it by the passing of her grandfather.

Manuel related to Springer in that she also uses poetry for processing grief and emotions, a large reason why she wanted to create a safe space.

Although it's not a classroom, the club still is a learning environment. Manuel explained the biggest lesson she learned was about leadership. Her view of what makes a successful leader has changed over the course of her time as one.

"I've learned being a leader doesn't necessarily mean accomplishment or success," Manuel said.

Instead, she felt the club has been successful because of the community they've all created.

"Come join us," Taylor said. "You don't have to write poetry to be welcome in the poetry club. It's more about people who just appreciate it."

The Heart & Soul poetry club meets every first and third Friday of the month in the Relief Room in Reade.

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'All or Nothing: Arsenal' goes behind the scenes of club's season

TV series spotlights Arsenal Football Club

ENOCH EICHER
STAFF WRITER

Amazon's original series "All or Nothing: Arsenal" was released on the Prime streaming service on Aug. 4, 2022.

The very first season of "All or Nothing" in 2016 followed the Arizona Cardinals and provided a groundbreaking insight into life behind the scenes at an elite sports team. Since then, Amazon Studios has taken this format and repeated it with elite rugby (the All Blacks), college football (Michigan Wolverines), ice hockey (Toronto Maple Leafs), soccer teams (Brazil, Juventus, Manchester City, Tottenham) and a handful of other NFL franchises.

The most recent installment in the series goes behind the scenes at Arsenal Football Club and follows their progress through the 2021/22 season.

Since debuting in 2016, "All or Nothing" has done very little to evolve in terms of format

or formula, so if you are looking for the thrill of watching a groundbreaking documentary film, you might be disappointed. What "All or Nothing" does well is apply its tried and tested formula in a variety of environments. If you've liked the previous entries, you'll almost certainly like this.

As usual, the thrill comes from getting an up-close look at sporting icons we usually only get a fleeting glimpse of in their heavily sanitized media appearances. We get to learn about the personalities of the players, coaching staff and a handful of other peripheral figures at the club.

Striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's falling out with Arteta and the subsequent stripping of his captaincy is captured in-depth, as is the Granit Xhaka debacle.

Viewing what goes on behind the scenes of private issues such as these is what makes "All or Nothing: Arsenal" worth watching.

This season, the show takes a good look at the story behind a



Photo provided by fourfourtwo.com

TV show "All or Nothing: Arsenal" gives viewers a behind-the-scenes view of the Arsenal Football Club.

soccer club with a long history of success that has underperformed ever since they waved goodbye to their long-serving visionary manager Arsene Wenger. Under the management of the youngest manager in the league, Mikel Arteta, Arsenal is a work in progress. It's a team in transition with

a core of young, hungry players that need to be molded with the support of the coaching team around them.

There is the usual matchday footage, and as a soccer fan, it's always fascinating to see how the top managers conduct their team talks.

In one particularly memorable scene, Arteta brings a matchday photographer and a lifetime supporter in to give a pre-match speech that underlines how much the club means to the fans. However, most interesting to watch are the casual conversations between players.

For example, little observations were made by newly signed players from abroad about how obsessed their mums are with Ikea. It is these small moments of humanity that make usually remote millionaires feel more relatable.

If there is a complaint to be made about "All or Nothing: Arsenal," it is the usual complaint that can be made about any of the previous "All or Nothing" series — it is perhaps just a little too polished and a little too media-friendly.

One gets the impression that agreeing to take part comes with a hefty number of conditions by the club — such as showing enough of what happens behind the scenes to be interesting, but not too much that it paints the club in a bad light. Then again, what else can be expected from such a large production in the Premier League era?

If you are a sports fan, you will like "All or Nothing: Arsenal." If you are a Premier League fan, you'll love it. If you are an Arsenal fan, it's must-watch TV.

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LSU honors Hispanic Heritage Month

Student organization highlights culture

SYDNEY DOLSON
LIFE & TIMES EDITOR

Sept. 15 marked the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, a national celebration of the contributions and influence Hispanic Americans have had on society.

For the Latino Student Union (LSU), an organization operating out of the Office of Intercultural Programs (OIP), this month has been the busiest in terms of the events they are pushing out.

For LSU co-presidents, sophomores Gustavo Davalos and Wendy Schmitt, preparation for the organization began last spring, and much of the planning for this special month took place over the summer.

Schmitt said that her main goal for the organization this year is not only to bring awareness of Latin culture to campus but to bring more students into that culture.

“Yes, our mission is to celebrate Latin culture,”

Schmitt said, “but at the same time, being able to integrate it into campus and then just realize we are all created in God’s image.”

Hispanic Heritage Month is not only a recognition of the cultural impact that those of Latin heritage have made, but also a time to honor the many Latin American countries that gained independence around this time of year.

While LSU has already thrown events this month, such as the screening of Disney’s “Encanto,” they have a few larger events coming up.

On Sept. 30, they will host “Dreamers in the Shadows,” an occasion to recognize the unique obstacles that immigrant students face when trying to live out their dreams.

Even students who are not originally from the culture are excited for the upcoming events. Senior Joanna Vasudevan is originally from India but has spent extended time in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic. She is now fluent in Spanish and jumps at the chance to celebrate Latin culture.

“It’s a very warm culture,” Vasudevan said. “Similar to my home culture. So I feel like I connect with people a lot quicker. And I’ve always loved the dancing, because literally you walk by and there is music on every street corner.”

Dancing is another aspect Gustavo and Schmitt hope to emphasize. On Oct. 7, Latin Heritage Night will feature favorite foods and hopefully a mariachi band to dance to.

Schmitt attributes the love of dancing and food to the collectivism that underlies Latin culture. While Schmitt grew up in Colombia, both were important because of the people involved.

“We have such a strong community-based culture. It’s very fun,” Schmitt said.

Davalos has a passion for making people feel like they belong and hopes to further this goal through the events he plans for LSU.

Davalos is passionate about his Mexican heritage, but he knows that many students don’t always grow up so in tune with their background.

“There’s a lot of Latino



Photo provided by the Office of Intercultural Programs

Gustavo Davalos and Wendy Schmitt serve as LSU co-presidents.

students on campus,” Davalos said. “However, there’s some of them that don’t acknowledge or are just not in touch with their culture as much. Our goal is to reach out to them and make them feel more involved with their culture, and maybe a sense of belonging on campus.”

want to stress that these events can be both a coming together of those who share similar backgrounds and a time to learn something new. Hispanic Heritage month is a time set aside for Taylor’s campus to unite and recognize something beautiful.

Schmitt and Davalos know it

is a busy time of year but hope that students are able to come to at least one of their events.

By coming, students can experience the familial hospitality that is central to Latin culture.

“We just want to make people feel welcomed,” Davalos said. echo@taylor.edu

Mind the Gap: engaging spaces in the community

Becoming aware of spaces within and beyond Taylor’s community

KAY RIDEOUT
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

I spent a good chunk of this summer bouncing between the Green Line and the Red Line, navigating Boston’s subway system — more affectionately dubbed the “T” — with the help of Google and the MBTA app.

For nine weeks, Monday to Thursday found me in a small seat, swaying between Riverside, Park Street, South Station and Shawmut. It was in this space that I had the privilege of seeing humanity contextualized in the public transit system.

And it was in this space that I learned the importance of proximity.

It would have been faster, cleaner, safer and more comfortable to drive myself to work. But the choice to



Photo by The Londonist

London’s subway system reminds riders to travel safely.

drive would have cost me a handful of moments that opened my eyes to Boston’s lesser-known side: not the Boston that you encounter on the

Freedom Trail, in Fenway Park or along the waterfront — but the city’s weary, vibrant, human face.

I watched a man unpack and

repack his suitcase repeatedly, reciting a well-worn story to other passengers as he did so. I listened to an enthusiastic teenager practice an elevator pitch for a start-up computer-repair company and kept the business card he handed to me. I sat near a young Italian couple as they planned their first day in Boston with a stranger-turned-tour-guide who had recently traveled to Italy and wanted to show off the best local spots. I saw fitted suits and slicked-back hair give way to Air Jordans and tattoo sleeves as the T moved from wealthy suburban spaces to densely-packed downtown neighborhoods.

Proximity led to an awareness of gaps that existed in my own understanding of Boston and the individuals sitting across from me.

Proximity lent me perspective. And this is what I hope “Mind the Gap” extends to the Taylor community: perspectives born from proximity. Stories that bring us close enough to become aware of the gaps that exist in our understanding of and

interactions with one another.

Director of International Students Nate Chu notes that many of the gaps within Taylor’s community are developed naturally.

“Because of how life is set up, there will be gaps,” Chu said. “But, you know, this column I think brings up a good point of saying: how do we mind (them)?...We’re not here to eliminate these gaps, but to be aware that these gaps exist.”

Which spaces, like the separation of guys’ wings and girls’ wings, are beneficial to the Taylor community? Which spaces need to be eliminated? And which spaces, neither inherently good nor bad, need to be bridged?

Associate Professor of Communication Dr. Donna Downs recognizes that, in recent years, both the Taylor and Upland communities have taken steps to address existing gaps.

“As a Christian people, our goal is and should be to help those in need, whether here at Taylor or in the outlying greater Grant County,”

Downs said. “Narrowing that gap means creating an awareness of our surroundings, seeking to understand one another’s needs and offering a hand where we can.”

In 1968, an automated voice was installed in London’s underground train system. An article in the Londonist states that the recorded message — “Mind the gap!” — reminded riders to be aware of the space between the platform and the train.

This same safeguard is one that should be referenced and brought up frequently within the Taylor community: a reminder to recognize the spaces we might be tempted to overlook and to be proactive in the

ways we engage those spaces.

The process might be sticky, but our efforts won’t be wasted.

So, Taylor University: how will we mind the gap?

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BeReal, BeTogether

BeReal offers a new way for connections and authenticity

LILIA SNYDER
STAFF WRITER

BeReal encourages people at Taylor and around the world to embrace where they are in the present.

The app first launched in 2020 but quickly found a wide audience in 2022. Unlike Instagram or Twitter, BeReal sends notifications for their users to send photos to friends.

Notifications can pop up at random times, so it could happen in the middle of a lecture or at a football game.

When college students use many social media apps to connect with friends or see what is trending in the world, BeReal’s goal of authenticity and minimalistic design encourages students to show their friends what they are doing in the moment.

“It’s fun seeing what people do because you don’t really know what people do all the time,” junior Emily Mitchell said.

The camera shows two points of view, allowing users to see a perspective they would not otherwise get with additional social media sites.

Since photos are taken within the time frame BeReal gives, friends

receive pictures as soon as the picture is shot.

Junior Violet Hammack first heard about BeReal before she returned to California for the summer.

“It’s a lot less of a commitment... it’s a little bit harder to get lost in an endless scroll,” Hammack said.

The notifications offer a challenge to take a picture within the time frame the app allows.

Once it is taken, there is not a lot of room to retake the photo or add filters, so when friends receive the BeReal, they get the unfiltered.

When the school year started, BeReal’s popularity continued to rise, so BeReal presents a great way to stay in touch without the distraction of other accounts showing up on the feed.

While junior Kayla Kovacs does not have BeReal, the excitement surrounding the app creates camaraderie with her friends, and she’ll join them in photos.

“Any time there’s a shared platform or a shared piece of culture, I think it brings people closer together,” Kovacs said. “Of course, the influence of everybody having the app in college encourages more and more people to get the app so they can be part of the club.”

Since BeReal does create this sense of urgency, it can cause disruptions when the notification pops up in the

middle of a conversation.

“I can imagine that it would have that tendency to ostracize people who are out doing things, and sometimes the BeReal doesn’t go off when I’m doing something exciting,” Hammack said. “So it can have that effect where it creates that separation between people, being like, oh, they’re having fun without me.”

BeReal’s message might be authenticity, but like any social media, it only shows a small portion of someone’s life.

Even though BeReal has been out for around two years, it has recently gained a lot of traction despite being in competition with other social media apps.

However, even as it brings people closer together in the moment, the algorithm might be the reason it does not stand the test of time.

“I think Instagram and Facebook are lasting because of ads, and I don’t feel like (BeReal) is as addicting because people only post one time of the day, so you check and you’re finished,” Mitchell said.

Not every social media app is perfect, but in a world that is dominated by online connections and perfectly curated photos, BeReal meets friends where they are.

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Photo provided by Ashley Greenan

BeReal promotes spontaneous authenticity.

#taylorU’s TOP TWEETS

Linda Taylor @LindaEdits
Yep, we’re doing it again. The next Taylor University Professional Writers’ Conference is on the books. Watch our social media and website for more information in weeks to come. Save the date! #tayloru #amwriting #writingcommunity

Jack Mulkey @hulkthemulk3
Best 3 new things about Taylor dining this year. Wraps are back at CFA, the taco line in the Stu, and the meal swipes at the Bean. #tayloru

Hashtag #TaylorU to any of your Taylor-related tweets to have it featured in next week’s paper!

TU women's soccer crushing competition

Team starts at 8-0 with fast offense and defense

CALEB HEFFRON
STAFF WRITER

Winning is difficult. The work and mental fortitude it takes to give everything day in and day out is no simple feat. But the Trojans women's soccer team is making victory look easy.

For the second year in a row, Taylor has started their year with seven straight wins. Everything is clicking for them. They have outshot their opponents 191-39. They have outscored their opponents 21-2. They haven't allowed a goal in any away games. They have never trailed in a game. Dominance is the storyline thus far for Taylor.

"This team wants to go to Nationals. They want to take the (Crossroads) conference," head coach Scott Stan said right before Taylor's 3-1 victory over Indiana Institute of Technology.

But the path to Nationals didn't start at their 4-0 season opener victory over Saint Xavier. The team began their season over



Photo provided by Taylor Athletics

Taylor's offense has been on fire scoring 23 goals in eight games

the summer with a nine-week training program that bonded the team together.

Junior midfielder Claire Massey, described as a tough and strong team player by Stan, had three assists in a 3-0 win over Georgetown.

"We all love and care for one another first and foremost, and then we get to push and challenge each other because we have so much trust established," Massey said. "The mentality of the team has been strong since preseason."

The offense of the Trojans has been firing on all cylinders. Eight different players have scored this season with 11 different players assisting them. Leading the charge has been freshman Kiana Siefert. After scoring off the bench in her first game, she has started every game since. She leads the team in scoring with six goals, finding the back of the net in all but one game.

Siefert said that her experience so far on the team has been amazing.

"Everyone on the team is so genuine and loving; it feels like a family," Siefert said. "Transitioning into the team was so smooth and I already feel so connected!"

Stan said Siefert has an effective and fast style of play that's electrified the entire offense. Her success allows other players to shine as a balanced attack has been key to overcoming opponents. He also attributed some of the team's success to the increased depth on the roster. Moving from a squad of 24 to 26 has increased opportunities for players to rest and protect against injuries.

Taylor's early-season preparation will be put to the test as Saturday, Oct. 8 brings Spring Arbor University to Turner Stadium. This first intraconference game of the year will herald the beginning of a long-season grind for the Trojans.

Massey said that conference play "...is where the true mental battle starts."

The Trojans are one of five teams in the stacked Crossroads League that have started the year

undefeated. The competition is stiff as Marian and Spring Arbor are both currently ranked top five in the nation. The dates to highlight are Oct. 1, when the Trojans will have to fight No. 11 Indiana Wesleyan in Marion, and Nov. 5, which is the start of the Crossroads League Tournament.

Despite the trying schedule ahead, the Trojans are prepared. They're equipped with a fast-paced offense and a defense that doesn't allow goals, especially on the road. Last year, the team finished with an 11-7 record and an early exit from the Crossroads League tournament. But the missed opportunities of last season are in the rearview mirror. The entire team is laser-focused on one goal.

As Coach Stan said, the this team wants to win the conference and go to the national tournament. This isn't just the coach's goal. It's the team's motivation that's carried them this far. Right now, it doesn't look like anyone can stop them.

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WEEKLY PREVIEW

- FOOTBALL**
10/01 @MARIAN UNIVERSITY 1:05 PM
- MEN'S GOLF**
09/26-27 SAINT FRANCIS FALL INVITE
- MEN'S SOCCER**
09/28 HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY 7:00 PM
10/01 INDIANA WESLEYAN 7:00 PM
- WOMEN'S SOCCER**
09/28 @HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY 4:00 PM
- VOLLEYBALL**
09/28 GOSHEN COLLEGE 7:00 PM
09/30 MARIAN UNIVERSITY 7:00 PM
10/01 AT BETHEL UNIVERSITY 3:00 PM

SCOREBOARD

RESULTS FROM
TAYLOR ATHLETICS

- VOLLEYBALL**
09/16 GRACE COLLEGE W 3-0
09/17 MOUNT VERNON NAZARENE W 3-0
09/21 AT SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY L 3-2
- FOOTBALL**
09/17 TRINITY INTERNATIONAL W 41-19
- MEN'S SOCCER**
09/17 INDIANA TECH L 1-0
- WOMEN'S SOCCER**
09/16 MADONNA UNIVERSITY W 3-0
09/21 AT LAWRENCE TECH W 2-0
- WOMEN'S XC**
09/16 RAY BULLOCK INVITATIONAL 1ST/6
- MEN'S XC**
09/16 RAY BULLOCK INVITATIONAL 3RD/7

Trojan cross country starts hot in fall season opener

Both teams, individuals take home honors

PAYNE MOSES
STAFF WRITER

The No. 4 women's and No. 20 men's cross-country teams both competed and performed gallantly on Sept. 9 at the Indiana Wesleyan Twilight Invitational. On the women's end, freshman Noel VanderWall led the way to a first-place finish and the Trojan men earned sixth place. Both went head-to-head with seven teams in the NAIA Coaches' Top-25 rankings, 15 schools rounding out the women's field and 18 the men's.

At the race's conclusion, the Taylor women posted a team score of 32 points, 50 points of separation from the next closest competitor, No. 9 Grace (86). Overall, the Trojans had nine

runners place in the top 20.

VanderWall, a first-time participant in collegiate cross country, ran an impressive 5k, clocking in with a time of 17:51.6 and taking first place as an individual. She later said her 5k total time was a personal record (PR) of 40 seconds. Not only a significant PR, VanderWall's run sets a freshman record in Taylor's program history and fourth all-time including all classes included.

"I just keep telling people it was all God; it was not me," VanderWall said. "I get pretty nervous and kind of expect a lot out of myself, but I didn't feel that at all... It says a lot about Coach Q (Quinn White) and the team itself."

Coach White, in his fourth season with the men and 13th with the women, said VanderWall ran like a veteran and is excited to see



Photo provided by Taylor Athletics

Brennan and both VanderWall sisters crossed the line at nearly the same time at the Ray Bullock Invitational

how she can work with the other girls to support each other.

The historic race led to Crossroads League Runner of the Week and the honor of being named NAIA National Runner of the Week. Besides the individual accolades, Noel was able to run

with her sister, junior Ahna, and celebrate her own career-best time of 18:01.40 and third-place finish.

"It was really, really special," VanderWall said. "We trained together all summer, which was huge for both of us... It's definitely really cool to have her out here."

Flipping to the men, their 158-point total fell short of the host Indiana Wesleyan's 42 points, but put the Trojans ahead of conference opponents, No. 9 Huntington and No. 23 Goshen.

Junior Ben Eiffert shone the brightest for Taylor, coming in at 16th individually with a career-best 8k time of 25:39.00. Following suit, senior Josh Harden finished 23rd at 25:47.50 and posted his own best time. Both Trojans bested their PRs by over 30 seconds.

"It was definitely exciting," Eiffert said. "I wouldn't quite say unexpected because summer training went really well, but it definitely felt good to go and hit that (time) the first race."

Breaking the 26-minute threshold was a goal Eiffert had going into the fall season and said it takes off any added pressure for the rest of the year's

events. Eiffert said he raced with Harden much of last season, and achieving similar goals together was incredible.

Before the fall ends, Eiffert said he wants to break the 25:30 mark in the 8k and make all-conference status in the Crossroads League.

Three freshmen also recorded top-50 finishes for the Trojans, including Ryan Hanak, Bryce Noble and Luke Harber.

White said the men's team is very young but has leadership and experience up near the top and is excited for the progress to be made. On Sept. 16, both teams ran at a home meet in the 2022 Ray Bullock Invitational, with the men finishing third out of seven teams and the women dominating to win their second straight title with a perfect score of 15.

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Sam Wilkinson transitions to the headset for TU football

Wilkinson makes most of what he's given

JACK MULKEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite never playing a live snap for the Taylor football team, senior Sam Wilkinson has had a large impact on the team on and off the field.

Wilkinson came to Taylor from Western Boone High School in Thorntown, Indiana where he was an offensive lineman on a state championship winning team in 2018, his senior year. He also drew attention from Franklin College and Eureka College, two NCAA Division III schools, but felt that Taylor was where he needed to be and signed for the Trojans.

His freshman year of college



Photo provided by Taylor Athletics
Senior Sam Wilkinson

football looked similar to his freshman year of high school football, with limited playing time, but he hoped that he would progress in college like he did in high school

with year after year improvement. Unfortunately, that would not happen.

Wilkinson's sophomore year of football started off on a bad note when he sprained his ankle in a preseason workout which kept him completely out of fall practices. That particular fall was the season where games were postponed to the spring, this circumstance would have given him enough time to heal and be ready to play.

In Nov. 2020, a different issue came up and Wilkinson went to the doctor where they found his blood pressure was high. They checked his blood for a number of issues and found that his platelet levels were low. A normal platelet count for a person is between 150,000 and 300,000. His platelet count was

around 70,000. By late December, Wilkinson's platelet count was back up to 110,000 and although doctors continued to monitor his platelet count, he was allowed to practice football when he came back from winter break.

His platelet count fell once again though and he was recommended to see a blood specialist who diagnosed him with immune thrombocytopenic, otherwise known as ITP. It is a disease where your immune system attacks your own platelets, rather than making them. Due to this disease, doctors recommended that he not play football that year. The disease makes concussions even more deadly than they are because it continues the bleeding in the brain. As an

offensive lineman, concussions were a higher possibility than other positions.

The disease, Wilkinson thinks, may have been caused by COVID-19 because ITP cases have risen since the start of the pandemic.

In hindsight, the sprained ankle in the fall may have saved him from a life-threatening concussion as the injury kept him from practicing.

As the spring season went on, Wilkinson had many doctor appointments where his platelet counts continued to fluctuate below the normal count. He tried to find ways to help out in practices and games by being a ball boy and helping out with drills.

"He had to be an encourager because he wasn't able to play," senior tight end and team captain

Drew Bagley said. "He was really supportive of the people around him."

In the summer of 2021, Wilkinson continued to prepare to play by lifting weights and running. He also tried a treatment that worked for a short period of time, but unfortunately did not work long term. After this, he made the decision to stop playing and move into a new role. He dreaded telling the team, fearing that they may not accept it because he was making the decision, not a doctor. The team understood completely though, accepting and respecting his decision.

Feature continues on echo@taylor.edu

NOEL VANDERWALL
CROSS COUNTRY



Photograph by Ben Laithang



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FRESHMAN	YEAR	SENIOR
PETOSKEY, MI	HOMETOWN	UPLAND, IN
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION	MAJOR	PSYCHOLOGY
THE MADDAWGS	FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM	MANCHESTER CITY
WING RETREATS	FAVORITE TAYLOR TRADITION	SILENT NIGHT
GILMORE GIRLS	FAVORITE TV SHOW/ MOVIE	BROOKLYN NINE-NINE

ANDREW SIEGELIN
SOCCER



Photograph by Ben Laithang