

Taylor University

Pillars at Taylor University

Faculty-Mentored Undergraduate Scholarship

Academic Departments & Programs

Summer 2021

Looking from Yesterday: Taylor University at 175

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“Looking from Yesterday”: Taylor University at 175

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“When I look around me in education, I am discouraged; when I look ahead from yesterday, under God, I am optimistic. The Christian college might just be the key to the future.”

– Dr. Milo Rediger, Former Taylor President



“[T]his collaborative research effort will stand as an example of what this entire 175th celebration is about - connecting our current students, with our university’s rich history, to tell our story and dream about the future”

– Dr. Ben Hotmire, 175 Committee Co-Chair

Abstract

“Looking from Yesterday” is the title of Dr. Milo A. Rediger’s 1970 address about the importance of Christian higher education during times of uncertainty and volatility, a concept that continues to ring true today. During 2021-22, Taylor University will recognize and celebrate its founding 175 years ago. This research project endeavors to both complement and enhance those commemorative efforts by providing glimpses of Taylor University’s rich heritage as evidenced through primary source material. A variety of platforms will be leveraged to share fresh perspectives on familiar topics and lesser-known people and events with the Taylor community, both locally and worldwide.

Research Trajectory

- Review broad historical sketches of Taylor University history to gain familiarity
- Access and search digital heritage items in Pillars (pillars.taylor.edu/rasc) to better understand key time periods and historical context
- Review primary sources for selected topics for a deeper and detailed understanding
- Compile information into narrative form for various methods of dissemination and use
- Promote the use and engagement of findings through collaboration with other departments and through social media

Outcomes

- Multiple publications of vignettes, sidebars, lists, and articles in current and upcoming *TAYLOR: A Magazine for Taylor University Alumni, Parents and Friends*
- Several exhibits across campus installed or scheduled for this year including Archives (multiple), Engstrom Galleria, and History/Global/Political Studies
- Several digital galleries created and scheduled for upload throughout the year at pillars.taylor.edu/tu175
- Extensive social media engagement featuring historic artifacts, trivia, classroom engagement, and #onthistday posts
- Creation of two master calendars, by date and by year, that have been utilized by multiple departments, including the Archives, to inform social media posts, websites, and potential celebratory dates
- Students gained extensive experience with primary source and archival research

Objectives

- Complement and enhance the commemoration and celebration efforts by the University
- Explore and study resources in the Archives
- Communicate Taylor’s rich history and heritage in both traditional and new ways to the Taylor community, our alumni and friends, and the world
- Provide fresh perspectives on well-known topics and increase awareness of lesser-known historical events and people throughout Taylor’s history

Resources

Archival Documents; Yearbooks; Academic Catalogs; *The Echo*; Photograph Collections; Digital Archive Collections (pillars.taylor.edu/rasc)

Locations Visited:

- Gravesite of Thaddeus C. Reade, Upland, IN
- Gravesite of Samuel Morris, Fort Wayne, IN
- Original Location of Fort Wayne Female College, Fort Wayne, IN
- Original Location of Fort Wayne Medical College, Fort Wayne, IN



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