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Winter 2015

The Fort Wayne Vine

Fort Wayne Alumni Center Heritage Association

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For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called *Wonderful*
Mighty God, *Counselor*,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

—Isaiah 9:6

Just like the seasons change, we too have seasons in our lives where we sometimes experience the mountaintop and sometimes the valley below.

During a spiritual emphasis week, Jill Briscoe, author and speaker, said, "The greenest grass is in the valleys, so don't be so quick to run up to the mountain top, as there is no vegetation up there. Graze on the green grass in the valley."

This comment has stuck with me for over 27 years as a source of comfort in "valley seasons" in my life.

Recently, while my family was dealing with the terminal illness of my son, my wife Christine's mom, Rosemary La Rue, former TUFW employee, died. These valley experiences were so severe that at the last minute, I had to choose to miss Homecoming to be at home with my family. Fortunately, I had colleagues and friends, including a former Fort Wayne Professor of Counseling, near my side to listen, reflect, and guide.

In this issue of the *FW Vine*, we recall with fond memories the counseling major, its history, and its impact on our alumni here and around the world.

The Alumni Center is here for you! We want to *care* for you, *connect* with you, and *celebrate* with you the highs and lows of life.

Thank you for standing with us in your prayers and financial support as we finish another calendar year and look forward to serving you with joy in 2016.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,



Michael D. Mortensen g91
Director of Fort Wayne Alumni & Friend Relations
mcmortensen@taylor.edu
260-744-8790



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Send address corrections and mailing updates to:

Fort Wayne Alumni Center
915 W Rudisill Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46807
(260) 744-8790
alumnifw@taylor.edu
<http://fw.taylor.edu>

Opinions expressed by individuals in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Taylor University.

The Fort Wayne campus was founded in 1904 as the Fort Wayne Bible Training School. It was renamed Fort Wayne Bible Institute, Fort Wayne Bible College, Summit Christian College, and later became Taylor University Fort Wayne. Founded in 1846, Taylor University is one of America's oldest Christian liberal arts colleges. Over 2,000 graduate and undergraduate students from 42 states and 30 foreign countries attend Taylor, where majors in 64 fields of study are available.



Dr. Joan Mayers at podium in 1971

Historical View of Counseling Program

By Stephanie Demorest g03

The counseling program took on different forms and had multiple leaders in its almost fifty-year tenure, but it ended up becoming one of the largest majors.

In its earliest stages, instruction in psychology and counseling consisted only of a few courses offered in educational psychology under the Department of Education and taught mostly by adjunct instructors. From before 1962 until 1982, no degrees were awarded in this area of study due to the lack of a developed program.

Even though a number of courses in psychology were offered under the Department of Social Sciences between 1962 and 1973 (taught by adjuncts and notably Dr. Joan Mayers, starting in 1968) and then under the General Studies Division from 1973 to 1982 (taught by Joan, Linda Gorton, Wyatt Mullinex, and Char Binkley g64), there was still no degree program specific to the field.

In 1982, for the first time the college introduced a Christian counseling major under the Professional Studies Division, awarding the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees. The first Acting Department Chair was Joan Mayers, whose title was altered to Director in 1984 and who was accompanied in service by **Dick Baxter g71**. In 1985, Joan passed away. **Dr. Carl Sovine g69** then assumed the Director position in 1987 and stayed until the institution's name change to Summit Christian College in 1989.

At that time, the Christian counseling major continued to grow under the direction of Dr. Mark Genig. The program then underwent some changes during the 1991-1992 academic year: the major was now counseling/psychology, human services and operated under the leadership of Dr. Joe Martin, counseling professor.

After the transition to Taylor University in 1992 the program shifted from counseling to psychology, with both BS and BA degrees

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CELEBRATE

Historical View of Counseling Program continued...

still awarded. Joe Martin continued to serve as faculty in the department, along with Dr. Marc Barnes. In 1997, **Dr. Michael Cook h09** came to TUPW and in 2000, **Dr. Laura (Rich) Gerig g91** joined the department as an instructor.

Devan (Brown) Armstrong g01 remembers Dr. Gerig as “an amazing woman and professor. I respected her so much. . . . She was a great example of what I wanted to be ‘when I grew up.’ To this day, I look back on my interactions with her and think about what she would tell me. . . . I’m thankful that she is one of the influential voices that have stuck in my mind over the years. It’s definitely one I can trust, even now.”

Former counseling student **Aaron Howley g03** also has fond memories of the program and its faculty. “Taylor has allowed me to understand an integrated approach to counseling through a distinctly Christian foundation and worldview,” he says.

Other remembered instructors in this program were Judy Green and **Dr. Greg Sowles g86**. “Teaching on the Fort Wayne campus was an exciting time in the late ‘90s,” shares Dr. Sowles. “There I was, teaching in the very spaces where a little over a decade earlier I had been steeped in God’s truths. As a student, the integration of faith with practice was woven throughout my four amazing years. Gratitude filled me as I was able to pass on the application of those guiding truths to the students whom I taught.”

In 2004, the program returned to its roots to offer a counseling major once again. This change was largely prompted by the administration’s desire to lend greater identity and distinction to the program in Fort Wayne. Dr. Cook served as the head of the program and the Division of Christian Ministries beginning in 2005. He was greatly influenced by Dr. Neil

Anderson’s biblical-based counseling approach through the tutelage of former **FWBC President Dr. Tim Warner g50**. In fact, during the 2005 J-term, Dr. Cook invited Dr. Anderson to campus for a one-week intensive course in discipleship counseling.

In the first year alone of the revamped counseling major, the campus nearly doubled the number of students coming into the program. At one point, the counseling major is believed to have been the second-largest major on campus.

Many of the faculty, staff members, and students involved in the counseling and psychology programs experienced academic and spiritual growth because of it. Looking back, it’s plain to see God’s hand working as for half a century He used several individuals and multiple directions to impact lives through the Fort Wayne counseling and psychology program.



Dr. Michael Cook h09

CONNECT

Editor's Note: Go to fw.taylor.edu/where-are-they-now/ for more information on former professors and staff.



Top-Bottom, L-R:
Barnes, Dr. Marc
Cook, Dr. Michael
Gerig, Dr. Laura
Gerig, Dr. Mark
Green, Judy
Martin, Dr. Joe
Mayers, Dr. Joan
Sovine, Dr. Carl
Sowles, Dr. Gregory

Where Are They Now?

Thinking back over your years in college, do you ever wonder where your favorite professor is now? For those in the counseling program, here is an update on the professors who taught in that department.

Dr. Marc Barnes helps individuals make an extra income, on-line, working part-time. Formerly, he has been a business consultant, clinical director and therapist, and a professor at Ivy Tech and Indiana Tech.

Dr. Michael Cook h09 is in his fifth year as an associate professor in Huntington University's mental health counseling graduate program. He continues to use formation exercises that incorporate deep dialogue with God for the purpose of transformation in all of his courses.

Dr. Laura Gerig g91 is an adjunct professor at Huntington University in undergrad psychology and graduate counseling programs. She and her husband, **Jerry g89**, are still living in Fort Wayne and are raising four children.

Dr. Mark Gerig is the chair of the graduate studies in counseling program at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Ind. Formerly, he served as

Outpatient Supervisor at Eastern Upper Peninsula Mental Health Center, the Manager of Crisis Services at Hiawatha Behavioral Health in Michigan, and then as a professor at Bethel College.

Judy Green – At this time, we have not been able to locate Judy.

Dr. Joe Martin is retired after serving at The Chapel in Fort Wayne. He lives in Goshen, Ind.

Dr. Joan Mayers passed away June 21, 1989, following a long illness. Dr. Mayers taught for 22 years on the campus before moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, to enter into private practice.

Dr. Carl Sovine has been in private practice in Fort Wayne since 1986. Numerous couples credit Dr. Sovine's expertise in the counseling office for helping them strengthen and restore their marriages.

Dr. Gregory Sowles g86 is a licensed psychologist. He founded Cornerstone Vision Counseling and Psychological Services of Fort Wayne nine years ago. Previously, he counseled individuals and families at Harvest Counseling and Family Care Center.

CONNECT

Dr. Michael Cook Finds Healing in Returning to Campus This Past Year

By Andrea (Matetic) Osmun g05

For 12 years, Dr. Michael Cook h09 taught students on the Fort Wayne campus how to counsel people who were struggling with grief, disappointment, and unforgiveness. But for the past six years, he's had to deal with those feelings himself – and finding healing has been a long process.

When the news was announced that Taylor University would be closing the Fort Wayne campus in 2009, Dr. Cook had little time to grieve. Searching for a new job, helping students transition to Upland or another campus, teaching his regular classes, and preparing to close the campus, overtook his life.

Two weeks after the campus closed, he accepted a position at Huntington University as program director of the graduate ministry program. Huntington hired Dr. Cook to help

revive the struggling program and increase enrollment. But just a few months after Dr. Cook began this promising adventure, the state of Indiana cut forty percent of financial aid to students, forcing Huntington to discontinue the program.

"It was very unexpected. After going through the closure at TUFW, to jump into that and have the rug pulled out from under me, it was a double blow," Dr. Cook said.

Fortunately Huntington, recognizing Dr. Cook's professional credentials, hired him to teach in a new graduate program for mental health counseling a year earlier than planned. "In hindsight, I think taking the program director position was God's way of getting my foot in the door for my current position," he said.

Nevertheless, Dr. Cook still grieved the loss of the Fort Wayne campus community. Before he and his family moved to Huntington in 2010, they lived near the Fort Wayne campus and often drove by it. Yet he visited campus only once, just briefly...until recently.

A few months ago, Dr. Cook and Alumni Director Michael Mortensen g91 started meeting weekly for prayer. "Visiting the Alumni Center on a regular basis for these times of prayer have given me the opportunity to grieve and heal even deeper," he said.

He struggled to find the right words, as he explained his feelings. "For me, going to the Alumni Center – and I'm not sure what it is – but looking out the window at the double



Dr. Michael Cook b09



glass doors at the end of Witmer can be quite an emotional experience. I think of the many times I walked through those doors talking with students and faculty while heading to chapel. It's bittersweet."

When asked how he continues to deal with the loss, he said he had a lot of open, honest conversations with God, his wife, and others who were affected by the closure. He's also been intentional about reconnecting with some of his former colleagues and students, and returning to campus regularly has allowed him to "openly acknowledge the loss on a deeper level."

"What I have found is that it surfaces for me when I'm back on campus and back at the Alumni Center – emotions that lie dormant most of the time, that I may not fully recognize are there – both negatives and positives. Being on campus brings back images and memories that are very dear."

Dr. Cook continues to realize his need to extend grace to the decision-makers. Although he acknowledges that the closing was not a personal decision meant to harm anyone, he had to bring his perceptions before the Lord. He recalled a faculty meeting at the end of

2009 when **President Dr. Gene Habecker** g68 broke down in tears over the closure. Seeing Dr. Habecker's compassion was "healing" for Dr. Cook.

"I also learned that a group of faculty and staff in Upland met weekly that year to pray for us. That was healing and comforting to me, but I still had work to do in forgiveness and extending grace."

Dr. Cook recommended that other students and faculty, still grieving the closure, should acknowledge the grief and allow it to progress. "I think unforgiveness and unresolved anger are like an infection in a wound," he said. "The wound will never heal unless the infection is healed. That's why we must forgive and find grace within our own hearts in order to grieve well."

Dr. Cook returned to campus for Homecoming Weekend in September and was able to catch up with former students, faculty, and staff. Together, they shared stories of how God is using and growing them through the detours He has allowed along the way. Dr. Cook has experienced first-hand that when we turn to the Lord and submit to His way, He redeems those detours.

CELEBRATE

Alumni Return to Campus to Reconnect, Reminisce

By Andrea (Matetic) Osmun g05

"Reunions are a good time to reflect, renew, and connect. Reunions are a great reminder that life changes — you're not the same person you were when you were here," **Ron Williams g87** said, as he spoke to approximately 200 Fort Wayne alumni and former faculty and staff during the chapel service at Homecoming 2015.

Alumni from all over the world gathered together September 18 and 19 to reminisce and reconnect at various reunions throughout the weekend, including an '80s Decade Social, HIS Company reunion, Class of 1965 50th reunion, and Taylor 10 (featuring the Class of 2005), who celebrated their 10-year reunion.

In addition to all the alumni reunions that took place, 18 former professors and staff members returned to campus to reconnect with their former students during lunch and social times.

During chapel, **Sonja Strahm g66** coordinated a dramatic reading featuring her '80s drama troupe, HIS Company. **Jennie (Boehm) Bishop g84** spoke about her ministry, PurityWorks, and Ron Williams presented a

moving sermon about finding hope in the midst of life's uncertainty.

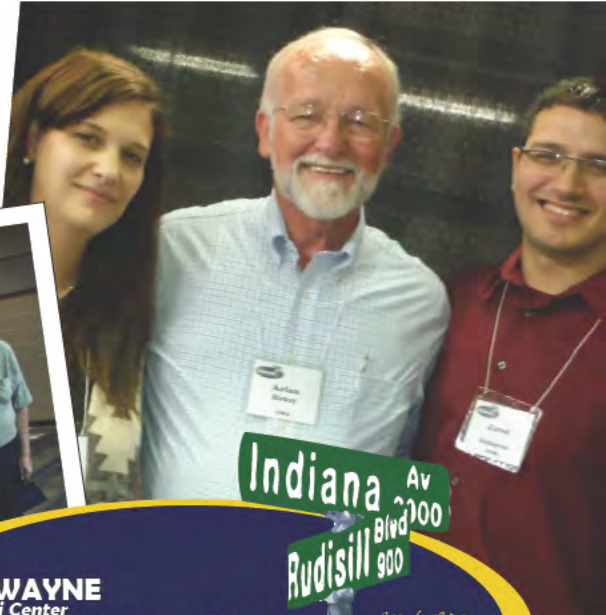
One of the new features of Homecoming was The Vine Coffee Café. **Brandon Hall g03** coordinated with a local coffee roaster, Utopian Coffee, and set up a coffee kiosk. Proceeds from the sale of coffee, cookies, and soda went to underwrite some of the increasing rental costs for the weekend.

Homecoming concluded with a Sunday Sing on Saturday led by **Dr. Jay Platte g69**, which was a highlight, followed by a buffet dinner.

Fifty-four volunteers worked together to organize Homecoming and make it a tremendous success for all who attended.

Editor's Note: Special thanks to all of the volunteers, including our Alumni Center volunteer staff; **Char Binkley g65**, who at the last minute had to take my place due to a family health crisis; and Executive Director of Alumni Relations **Dara Berkhalter g02** and three Taylor University Alumni Relations staff members, who assisted with set-up and various events.





FORT WAYNE
Alumni Center
HOMECOMING 2015
Reconnect • Reminisce • Rejoice
September 18 & 19



CARE

Howley Using Counseling to Help Missionaries Here and Abroad

By Michael D. Mortensen g91

"Well, they had to leave because he was completely burned out... If I don't get some rest, I'm going to burn out..."

Statements like these are common in the mission community. Missionaries often "burn out" and cannot continue their calling. The burn-out ends the good work they were doing, sometimes for a while, but sometimes forever.

Aaron Howley g02, with the support of his wife, **Bobbie (Girod) g03**, is using his training from the Fort Wayne campus to counsel missionaries and pastors at Alongside, Inc. in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and soon in Uganda as well.

The Howleys have served the past two years as guesthouse managers with African Inland Mission (AIM) in Uganda. However, Aaron wanted to respond to the needs of missionaries in more direct ways.

To prepare for counseling in Africa, Aaron is presently in a one-year counseling

program at Alongside. Though still full-time missionaries, Aaron and Bobbie have been granted a "study leave" in preparation for Aaron's new role in Uganda next year.

Aaron gives the Fort Wayne campus credit for shaping and focusing his call. Specifically, he credits **Dr. Michael Cook h09** for "his example of scholarship paired with passion for the Lord" that helped shape his worldview.

"My greatest joy as a counselor is seeing renewed hope where there was none before," he says. "I don't have the power to fix things for people, but I can help them change their perspective and help them identify what has gotten in the way of growth."

After securing his license and a broader sup-

port base, Aaron, Bobbie, and their three boys plan to move back to Uganda between April and June 2016 to help missionaries who are struggling with burnout and other issues. They continue ministry filled with gratefulness for their education and passion gained on the Fort Wayne campus.



Bobbie (Girod) g03 & Aaron Howley g02 and family





Submit *News Notes* items to alumnifw@taylor.edu, call the Alumni Center at (260) 744-8790, or mail to *FW Vine*, 915 W. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

Do you receive your monthly e-newsletter, the *FW Falcon*? Contact the Alumni Center to add your email address to our list.



Use your smartphone to submit the latest *News Note*.

Class of 1961

Howard g61 and **Ruth (Ringenberg) g61 Moser** continue ministry in Villagarca, Spain. English classes have been a great tool in sharing their faith. They visited the States in November 2015, when they met their first great-grandbabies and another new grandchild.

Class of 1968

Helen Inman g68 recently retired after 40 years of service in missionary kid education and care in Liberia, Nigeria, Ivory Coast (1975–2001) and in Charlotte, NC (2001–2015).

Class of 1974

Janet Nickel g74 returned to Sierra Leone on May 27, 2015, after her time in the U.S. She is currently involved in the reporting process for a

project called PEACE—Protecting Ebola Affected Children from Exploitation.

Class of 1979

Gary Ringenberg g79 married **Kathy Lynn Grieser fs75** September 20, 2015, with **Dr. Roger Ringenberg g69** presiding.

Class of 1980

Skip Kite g80 is returning to Africa on December 27, 2015, to train pastors. The organizing church is expecting around 600 pastors and lay leaders at the conference.

Class of 1981

Don g81 and **Rachel (Weber) g79 Kramer** are spending several months in the U.S. this year speaking at churches about their work in

Taiwan. They are serving through the Christian and Missionary Alliance, Great Lakes District.

Class of 1983

Craig g83 and **Peggy (Bears) fs83 Vincent** minister through Streamside, a Christian camp that reaches out to children in difficult neighborhoods and situations. Streamside also provides an affordable, quality retreat facility for churches.

Class of 1985

Lori Wilka g85 of North Little Rock, AR, was awarded the Kenneth Richardson National Service Officer of the Year Award for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Though not a veteran herself, she assists over 1,800 Arkansas veterans in receiving benefits.

Class of 1986

Tommy g86 and **Konni (Sayler) g86 Logan**, who are serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea, just completed the last consultant check of the last book in the New Testament. In addition to this work, Konni just completed the translation of the Kasha Literacy Teacher's Manual.

Class of 1988

Anna (Ybarra) fs88 and **Rob Lenardson** are entering their fourth year serving as teachers at Cookson Hills Christian Ministries in northeast Oklahoma. Cookson Hills is a residential ministry for at-risk children.

Class of 1990

Rev. Paul g90 and **Valerie Martindale** are presently serving Maple Avenue Christian Union Church in Newark, OH. Paul is in his tenth year as senior pastor and fourteenth year at the church.

Class of 1991

Kent Kessler g91 graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary with a Doctor in Ministry degree in May 2015. The title of his thesis was "Addressing Post-High School Faith Defection by Exploring the Nature of Conversion." Kent works at Taylor University in Upland, IN.

Class of 1992

Brenda (Hull) g92 and **Timothy Slivkoff** moved from California to central Indiana in August.

Class of 1993

Mark Hull g93 coached his Colorado Christian University men's golf team to back-to-back NCCAA titles. He also was named National Golf Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.



Class of 1997

Mary (Kutschke) g97 and **Matt Admiraal** moved from Ypsilanti to South Lyon, MI. Mary and Matt have Brendan (5) and Natalie (4). They continue to fellowship with the Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church and use their gifts of teaching and administration in their church's children and youth programs.



Class of 2002

Jose Sanchez g02 moved to Corpus Christi, TX, in September 2013 and is a minister with the Latin American Council of Christian Churches. He is the pastor of Templo Damasco in Corpus Christi and is attending seminary through the same organization.

Class of 2003

Brandon g03 and **Nicole (Lemberg) fs05 Hall**



welcomed Reagan Inez on September 26, 2015, weighing in at 8 lbs., 2 oz. and measuring 19 inches long. Her older siblings, Brayden and Makenna, are excited to have a new sister.

David g03 and **Carrie Stucky** were blessed with Amelia Elaine Rose, born on August 30, 2015. She weighed 7.1 lbs. and was 21 inches long.

Class of 2004

Jennifer (Curtis) fs04 married **Dean Romprey fs04** on September 19,



2015. **Beth (Mittank) Yates g04** was the matron of honor. The Rompreys currently live in Fort Wayne.

Class of 2005

Michelle (Cooper) g05 and **Jeremy White** welcomed Josie Grace on August 17, 2015. She weighed 7 lbs., 5 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Laura (Buck) g05 married **Ryan Stier** on October 10, 2015, in New Berlin, WI. **April (Gridley) Ruggles g05** was in the wedding party. The new couple now lives in West Allis, WI. Several from TUFW attended the wedding.



Peggy Sue Wells fs05 released her new book with June Hunt, *Bonding With Your Child Through Boundaries*.

Class of 2006

Rev. Sharyn Abbott g06 was ordained by the Church of God of Anderson on October 4, 2015. Sharyn

works as a chaplain at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, IN.

Aaron g06 and **Jillian (Peace) g06 Reidenbach** welcomed Adeline Peace to their family on September 9, 2015. She weighed 9 lbs. and was 21.25 inches long.

Frieda (Despain) g06 and **Brian Cox** celebrated the arrival of baby Samuel Richard on July 7, 2015. He weighed 8 lbs., 8 oz. and was 20.5 inches long.

Class of 2007

Jared g07 and **Kate (Schmelzer) g08 Gutierrez** were joined by Emma Liviya, born on June 11, 2015. The Gutierrezes are raising support to fulfill their calling in Guatemala.

Ami (Troyer) g07 and **John g09 Yoder** welcomed baby Mia on August 1, 2015. She weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz. and was 20 inches long.



Class of 2008

Allison (Davenport) g08 and **Tom Kuhn** welcomed Ayla Elizabeth on



September 4, 2015. She weighed 7 lbs. and was 20.5 inches long.

Amanda Reffitt g08 married **Stephen Schwartz g09** September 26, 2015, in Zionsville, IN. **Kayla (Cochran) Weiss g09** was matron of honor. The granddaughter and grandson of **Jane (Fader) Rose g79** were the ring bearer and flower girl. At her wedding, Amanda's boss told her she had been promoted to Registrar at Goodwill Education Initiatives, where she has been working for the past four years. Amanda had worked in the registrar's office at TUFW.

Class of 2009

Andy Culbertson g09 married **Maria MacGilvra** on March 27, 2015.

God's Word Comes Alive During Workshop

The Alumni Center hosted our first Scripture Engagement workshop in Eicher Commons, where **Dr. Phil Collins g82**, co-director of the Taylor University Center for Scripture Engagement, led alumni and friends through the spiritual practices of Lectio Divina, hand copying scripture, reading scripture as a story, and praying scripture.

He encouraged the 90 participants to practice these ways to engage with God's Word until one or two of them became personally meaningful in our relationship with God.

"Praying the God-breathed words of the Bible is proving powerful in my own life," **Char (Miller) Binkley g64** reflected. "What a rich way to connect with my Lord and experience His Word alive in my life each day."



NEXT WORKSHOP:
March 12, 2016 • 9-1 p.m.

The couple lives in South Bend, IN. The wedding party included **Michael McPeak g09**, **Matt Mills g09**, **Eric Breon g08**, and **Kyle Boster g09**.

Blake and **Tashi (Bent) g09 Widmer** are back home in Kingston, Jamaica, after their time in the States and are gearing up for the school year.

Class of 2010

Denise (Lehman) fs10 and Eric Bjorndal were married January 21, 2012. **Courtney Seeley fs11** and **Jessica Lambert g11** were maids of honor. Denise is a stay-at-home mom and the children's coordinator for their church. They live in Greensburg, IN, with their two sons: Owen, who was born December 1, 2013, and Lawrence James, born August 21, 2015, weighing 8 lbs., 15 oz. and measuring 21 inches long.

Class of 2011

Rebekah (Blomenberg) g11 married Jack Tussing on October 4, 2014. **Corinne Hills g12** served as maid of honor.

Heidi (Johnson), former hall director, and Dan Grotton were married on July 21, 2012. They welcomed their first child, Guy Norman, on May 16, 2015. Heidi is a middle school math teacher and they are living in Waynesburg, PA.



Memorials:

Ardice "Ardie" (Mitchell) Bailor fs51 passed away on February 24, 2015. She always wanted teens to learn about Jesus, so she served with Young Life for nearly 25 years in addition to being a teacher for 21 years. She is survived by her twin sister, **Arlene (Mitchell) Williams fs51**.

Emily Ringenberg g52, of South Bend, IN, passed away September 24, 2015, at her home. She was employed as a schoolteacher for 32 years in Indiana and Illinois. She was married for 62 years to the **Rev. Ralph Ringenberg g52**, who survives.

Harriet Fields g56 passed away on April 30, 2013, at the age of 85. Harriet was a missionary linguist with Wycliffe for 44 years, primarily serving the Matsigenka people group of Peru. She translated the Matsigenka New Testament, which was dedicated on April 17, 1994. She retired in 2002, but she continued translating a dictionary for the Matsigenka even after retirement.

Dr. Morris B. Jacobsen g61, former academic dean from 1978-1980, passed away March 23, 2015. He served as a missionary in Japan for almost 50 years with The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), ministering as an evangelist, church planter, and university professor, before his retirement in 1997. Dr. Jacobsen is survived by his wife, Betty; four children; thirteen grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Ronald James Sonius g62 entered his heavenly home August 17, 2015. Ron and his wife, Pauline, were missionaries to Africa from 1954 to 1997.

Noel Grabill g63 passed away peacefully on August 12, 2015, surrounded by his loving family.

Rita (Fruchey) Webb g65, of Reading, PA, went home to meet her Savior on May 22, 2015, after a three-year battle with cancer. Rita was an elementary school teacher in Michigan and Ohio for 31 years before retiring. Survivors include her husband, Jerry; two sons; one sister, **Genevieve (Fruchey) Heindel g69**; and one brother.

Myron Harrison g65 passed away September 9, 2015. Surviving is his wife, **Betty Harrison g65**. The Harrisons served with OMF International.

Ruth Anne Yoakam g67 passed away September 23, 2015. She used her education as a teacher, secretary, and leader when she served as Dean of Women at Ohio Christian University.

Lois (Mitchell) Hiebert g72 passed away April 20, 2015, after fighting cancer for a little over a year. She loved singing with her sisters, Carolyn and Margaret, in the Mitchell Trio, representing the Bible College in churches. Prior to retirement, she taught in Ohio, Nebraska, and Montana. Surviving are her husband, **Warren Hiebert g69**; a son and daughter; and sisters **Mary Mitchell fs66** and **Carolyn (Mitchell) g66** (married to **Dave g65 Berggren**).

Bob Hughes, former TUFW instructor, passed away July 16, 2015, a little over a month after his beloved wife, **Betty**, passed away June 9, 2015. Jim, former soccer coach, and Renee Hughes are thankful for the blessing of their godly parents and the hope of heaven.

Rosemary La Rue, former assistant director of catering and mother-in-law of **Michael Mortensen g91**, Director of the Fort Wayne Alumni Center, passed away October 14, 2015, after fighting myelofibrosis since her retirement in 2009.

Let's Come Together to Give by Dec. 31

As you pull the tree decorations from their storage place or breathlessly hurry from store to store for just that perfect gift, are you ever "stopped in your tracks" by one of those posters that proclaim "He's the Reason for the Season"?

At your Fort Wayne Alumni Center, we are grateful for every season in which to celebrate with our alumni the One who binds us together – our Savior, Jesus!

We experience great joy as we *care* and *connect* with you and thousands of other alumni to *celebrate* what God is doing in your life. God is at work here and around the world because of the spiritual enrichment experienced near the corner of Indiana and Rudisill.

Joan (Ronde) Smith g85, recently wrote, *"It's amazing what God can do, when His people come together."*

Will you "come together" with us financially to help us continue *caring*, *connecting*, and *celebrating* the alumni from the Fort Wayne campus?

Now is the time; we need your gifts to help us reach our financial obligations for the calendar year. Each gift, no matter the size, adds up in moving our mission forward.

Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope or give online at <http://fw.taylor.edu/gift> by December 31.



<http://fw.taylor.edu/support/giving.shtml>

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GOOD THROUGH DECEMBER 18, 2015.



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