

Taylor University

Pillars at Taylor University

TUFW Alumni Publications

Publications for TUFW and Predecessors

Spring 2011

The Fort Wayne Vine

Fort Wayne Alumni Center Heritage Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://pillars.taylor.edu/tufw-alumni-publications>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Fort Wayne Alumni Center Heritage Association, "The Fort Wayne Vine" (2011). *TUFW Alumni Publications*. 20.

<https://pillars.taylor.edu/tufw-alumni-publications/20>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Publications for TUFW and Predecessors at Pillars at Taylor University. It has been accepted for inclusion in TUFW Alumni Publications by an authorized administrator of Pillars at Taylor University. For more information, please contact pillars@taylor.edu.



As a small boy, actually a toddler, my dad and mom, Phil g74 and the late Fran h99 Mortensen brought me to Fort Wayne Bible College, where my dad enrolled as a student. I have since joked that I have been on the Fort Wayne campus since 1970. Needless to say, this place and its people have played a significant part in my life.

As I grew past the top of Joy Gerig's g51 and g66 desk, I discovered the old basketball court in Founders. Oh, how I loved to walk just six to eight blocks from our home on Kinnaird Avenue to come over and shoot hoops alone or with my adopted big brothers or sisters from FWBC.

Dad would also take me to the basketball games that were played at the old Central Gym.

This was a boy's dream to see these students, who were giants in my eyes, take the court. Even after my dad graduated, we would often see Coach Morley and the Falcons play.

Little did I know then, I would return to this place in 1997 at the age of 28. It was the same age my dad was when he enrolled at FWBC after serving four years in the U.S. Army, where he answered God's call to

become a pastor. Fortunately, FWBC accepted him, even though he says he was "Magnum Cum Lucky" to graduate from high school.

In this issue, we celebrate Fort Wayne campus athletics, some played in that old gym. I never did play organized ball, but I certainly enjoyed taking my children to Taylor University Fort Wayne (TUFW) athletic events in the Gerig Activities Center.

Thanks Fort Wayne for the memories,



Michael D. Mortensen g91
Director of Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends
mcmortensen@taylor.edu



FW Vine is published three times per year for Fort Wayne Campus alumni and friends by the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center and the Taylor University Office of University Relations and Marketing. Copyright ©2011 Taylor University*.

Send address corrections and mailing updates to:
Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center, 915 W. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46807, or call (260) 744-8790.
E-mail: alumnifw@taylor.edu or online at fw.taylor.edu

Opinions expressed by individuals in this publications 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 46 states and 24 foreign countries attend Taylor, where majors in 50 fields of study are available.

History of Fort Wayne athletics



Fort Wayne website goes LIVE

Fort Wayne Alumni have access to searchable vault



Volunteer Alumni Prayer Team

Volunteer Prayer Team Cares for Alumni



Dr. Wes - NEW book coming in June

Core of Christian Love

Fort Wayne Resource Center website goes live

by Michael D. Mortensen g91

Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends now have a resource not many colleges or universities have across the country. Yes, probably every school has a website, but not many have a searchable online archive vault.

After 18 months of designing, scanning and uploading, fw.taylor.edu is now available



24 hours per day for alumni to get the latest information, view pictures, listen to audio recordings and watch videos, or simply to connect with other classmates from around the world.

“I got so excited,

I stayed up until 2:00 a.m. looking at the pictures and listening to the former music groups,” **Naomi (Buckels) Heidelberg g69** said.

“We think the new website is very fine,” **Dr. David Stout g61** said. “It is user friendly and provides an ongoing tool for the bonding of alumni and friends.”

The new site has three main sections: Engage, Connect and Support with other quick links for alumni to order free transcripts, leave or read News Notes or buy Fort Wayne merchandise to show their FW alumni spirit.

The ENGAGE section has been the most popular initially because of the online archives. Some of the hidden treasures include:

- Chapel messages and audio recordings of musical ensembles
- Vintage movies and videos, including the final minutes of the 2006 National Basketball Championship game
- Pictures of beloved faculty, staff and students
- Historical documents and student publications

Approximately 1,400 items are currently included in the vault with written descriptions; however, another 10,000 items (scanned photos, audio, video and printed documents) are waiting to be uploaded. This is where we need additional trained volunteers!

“Organizing 114 years of memories is a wonderful and overwhelming task,” **Dr. Jay Platte g69**, volunteer archive coordinator said. “**Bill g61 and Joyce fs61 Gerig, Kari Reynolds g99, Dick Baxter g70, Cyril Eicher g32, Garry Cline g75, Jen Woolever g98, John Garner g69, Jackie Carl g53, Larry Heidelberg g67, Arlene Motter g67** and so many, many others have started to make a dent in the identifying, cataloging, digitizing (photographing, scanning, recording, etc.) all the media that is collected here at the Resource Center.”

“Now that the FW Archive Vault site is live, we need to get much more of the history into our online archive,” Platte explained. “The more volunteers we have, the faster those things can be accomplished.”

A side benefit for volunteers is that many learn how to do the various things on computer, but there are other research projects that can also be done, such as updating listings for presidents, deans, faculty and staff.

“A willing spirit is the most important qualification,” Platte added.

Alumni and Friends are encouraged to

submit additional pictures, reel-to-reel tapes, cassettes, CDs and DVDs to be uploaded for others to see. Volunteers are needed to assist in the digitizing process. Items will be returned and a copy of the items will be placed on a DVD or CD as a thank you.

The site also includes a timeline of the history of the campus dating back to 1895, when our institution was founded as Bethany Bible Institute in Bluffton, Ohio.

In the coming months, with volunteer writer help, stories will be added to highlight those who have touched many lives such as J.E. Ramseyer, “Uncle Pete” Eicher, Dr. Renee Frank, Joy Gerig, Dick Baxter and Dr. Jay Platte to name a few.

“A willing spirit is
the most important
qualification.”

-Dr. Jay Platte g69

Editor's Note: In the next issue of the FW Vine, we will showcase another section of the <http://fw.taylor.edu> website. Alumni and Friends are encouraged to visit this site and provide feedback and suggestions at alumnifw@taylor.edu.

History of FW Athletics

by Michael D. Mortensen g91

The history of Fort Wayne Bible College, Summit Christian College and Taylor University Fort Wayne intercollegiate athletics spanned 56 years. During that time, the program won two national championships and dozens of District and Conference championships.

Known initially as the Ambassadors, those early teams not only played on the hardwood, field or court, they also spent significant time sharing their faith at half-time and after games or matches.

The 1953 men's basketball team coached by Dean Elmer Neuenschwander was Fort Wayne Bible College's first official intercollegiate athletic team. They played only two games that year – the opponent in each was Moody Bible Institute – and the FWBC team won both times. The school went on to field teams in men's and women's basketball, women's volleyball, men's and women's soccer, men's tennis, baseball, track/cross country and golf.

Additionally, the campus had cheerleading and wrestling, floor hockey and men's volleyball clubs – some lasting for many years.

Men's Basketball – 1953-2009

“The squad worked hard for Coach (Oswald) Morley, and with this hard work and his leadership, the team represented the Bible College and Jesus Christ well,” FWBC's 1960 yearbook *Light Tower* reported.

Another era in Fort Wayne athletics began in 1967 when **Steve Morley g65**, son of Oswald Morley, took over the coaching responsibilities. Steve had played basketball at FWBC under his father and was a co-captain on the 1963-64 squad.

In addition to men's basketball, he also coached men's tennis and golf. While the first years were not easy, they laid a foundation for a 1971 NCCAC District Tourney Championship. In 1976 Fort Wayne Bible College beat Baptist Bible (Pa.) 81-80 to win the NCCAA, Division II National Championship.

Morley, who won over 200 games in his 19 year history, stepped down from coaching in 1987, opening the door for Coaches **Mick Mills g70** and **Jim Hughes fs85**. One significant event taking place in 1989 was the opening of the Gerig Activities Center giving the basketball and volleyball teams – by then known as the Falcons – their first “home court” since athletics started in 1953. Coach **Bud Hamilton g68** came to the program in 1991 and made an immediate impact as his Summit Christian College team finished 19-11 and won the NCCAA II Regional championship.

The program enjoyed success in the coming years with numerous All-Americans and a second national championship in 2006. The Falcons defeated the University of Cincinnati-Clermont College Cougars in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) II men's basketball national championship in Manchester, N.H. to finish with the best men's record in school history, 30-3.

Women's Basketball – 1973-2009

Besides cheerleading, which started with the men's basketball program in 1953, the first women's collegiate sports weren't played until 1973, when basketball and volleyball were added.

Coach Phyllis Miller led “the Falcons” (the mascot changed in 1968), and her first team finished 3-2. Coach **Deb Rupp g76** then took over the program in 1982-83 and her teams won the Midwest Regional championship in 1984. They finished fourth in the nation in 1985 with a 15-3 record, which was the best finish and record until Coach **Corey Laster’s g93** team went 26-4 in 2003 and finished fifth in the national tournament.

Women’s Volleyball – 1973 - 2009

Coach Phyllis Miller also started women’s volleyball at FWBC in 1973. Success came early as the women were conference champs in 1977 and then went undefeated in conference play in 1978. In 1982 Coach Rupp began a nine-year run as the volleyball coach. Their best year was 1985 when they finished the season 26-1, and they redeemed their only loss against Bethel College.

The next long-term volleyball coaches were **Scott g94** and **Anne Haddix** who took over the program in 1994 and remained with the program into 2009. Their teams won at least 22 games for five years between 2003 and 2007. During this time the Lady Falcons finished second at the USCAA National Volleyball Tournament in 2005 and 2006.

Men’s Soccer – 1980-2008

Men’s soccer started as a club sport in 1978 with Coach Daryl Cartmel and then Coach Randy Nigh. Coach Denny Williams led the varsity team to winning records in 1983-1986. The Falcons were ranked third in the NCCAA, District 3 in 1983, and finished fourth in the national tournament in 1984 and 1985.

Jim Hughes fs85, who played on these teams, later would become the longest tenured soccer coach from 1988-1995. Their highest finish was in 1991, when they finished second in the NCCAA Regional with a 9-1 record.

Women’s Soccer – 2007-2008

Women’s soccer had a couple of transplants from the men’s team for their Fall 2008 debut. Jeff Phillips, who served as men’s coach in 2007, led the new squad. He was accompanied by **Lorelei Carver, fs11** – an athlete who held the distinction of being only the second woman to play on a men’s team during the Falcon’s storied history. The team managed just one win on the season – it came at the expense of St. Mary’s of the Woods – to go with 13 losses and one tie.

Men’s Tennis – 1963 -1981

Men’s tennis was started and coached by Oswald Morley in 1963. The best years were in the 1970s under Coach **Kent Fishel g66**. In 1974, the FWBC tennis team cruised to a 9-3 record and claimed the NCCAC conference championship. A year later they topped that feat by going 11-1 and claiming a second District championship.

Men’s Baseball – 1965 - 1971

The first men’s baseball season started in 1965-1966 under the coaching of Oswald Morley. It does not appear they had a winning record until the program became a club sport in 1995-96, when the Falcons went 8-3.

Only God knows how many lives were touched by the men and women who played, coached and watched Fort Wayne campus athletics. Thank you for the memories!

Editor’s Note: I want to give special thanks to **Bill Gerig g61**, **Dr. Jay Platte g69** and **Agnes Saddington ha09** for helping me assemble this article. The FW Alumni & Friends Resource Center is working to put together a complete Fort Wayne campus Sports History. If you’re interested in volunteering to assist us with this project, please email fwarchives@taylor.edu or call (260) 744-8790.

Hall of Fame Inductees

by Dr. Timothy Erdel g73

Tom Rust g72

Few would have guessed when **Tom Rust g72**, originally from Lima, Ohio, graduated from Fort Wayne Bible College (FWBC) that his real impact on the world of sports was just about to begin.



Tom's athletic career at FWBC spanned 1966 through 1970, earning him six varsity letters in three sports: three in basketball, two in baseball and one in tennis. A hard working, multi-sport role player, his coaches and fellow players

remember Tom for his unflinching dedication, humble service and wonderful sense of humor during years when the school's athletic teams sometimes struggled to win at all.

In addition to playing, he kept statistics, chronicled the exploits of his teammates in *The Student Voice* and even drove the team van on long road trips.

Tom's contributions to the realm of athletics, and especially to sports ministries, have grown dramatically since then. Today he is best known as the director of Face to Face Ministries (www.facetofaceradio.com), an organization he founded in 1992 that uses radio interviews with Christian athletes to encourage others in their faith.

Tom's first wife, **Fran (Dunham) fs70**, passed away in 1997. He since has remarried and now lives in Columbus, Ind., with his wife Bev. He has two stepchildren and one step-grandchild.

Rev. Calvin Rychener g81

Calvin J. Rychener g81 came to Fort Wayne Bible College (FWBC) in 1977 from Archbold, Ohio, as the seventh of 10 children.

While attending FWBC, Cal majored in Pastoral Ministries, courted his future wife,

Susan Diane Patrick

g81, and soon established himself as the outstanding basketball player of his era.



He led the Falcons in scoring and rebounding all four years he played, was an NCCAA II First Team All-District choice all four years, was named the

school's Most Valuable Player his junior and senior years and was honored as an NCCAA II All-American his final season. He became the second All-American in campus history, after **Todd Habegger g76**.

After graduating, Rychener received his M.Div from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1985, and then he took his first pastorate at the (then) Grabill Evangelical Mennonite Church in Grabill, Ind.

Five years later, in March of 1990, Cal and his family moved to Peoria, Ill., where they planted Northwoods Community Church, a congregation that has since grown to over 3,600 in 20 years and has become the largest church in the Peoria area. This Easter they started their first multi-site congregation in Galesburg, Ill.

He, Susan and their four children live in Peoria, IL.

Corey C. Laster g93

Corey Laster g93 came to Summit Christian College (SCC) in 1989 from his hometown of Anderson, Ind.



Although Corey was a fine athlete who played one year of high school baseball, his basketball playing time came on club teams. Yet he finished in the upper tier of Fort Wayne campus career scorers, rebounders and shot-blockers with over 1,200

points, 1,000 rebounds and as many as eight blocks in a game, though because of the way team records were kept during his first two years, precise career totals are very difficult to determine.

Honored by faculty with a leadership award and voted "Most Likely to Succeed" by his fellow seniors, Corey has lived up to that honor.

After graduation Corey worked several jobs concurrently for TUFW including becoming assistant coach in the men's basketball program. He then became head coach of the Lady Falcons, leading them for the next three seasons (2000-2003). Corey saw a dramatic turn-around, as the team went from 4-20 the year before he started coaching to a sparkling 25-3 in 2002-2003, when they finished fifth in USCAA Div. II national tournament.

Corey has enjoyed success since his days at TUFW. Today he serves as head coach at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, an NCAA Div. II institution, after three other stops along the road as an assistant or head coach. Everywhere he has gone, he has proved himself a winner who can turn around a dormant program and put it on the path to success.

Corey married **Holly G. Wright g93** in 1994. They rejoice in their four children, Tyler, Trey, Jady and Jace.

2005-2006 Men's Basketball Team

The 2005-06 TUFW Falcons who won the 2006 United States Collegiate Athletic Association II men's basketball national championship were a unique mix of five seniors, one sophomore and four freshmen.

Each player on the team knew his role. Everyone was on the same mission from the first day of practice. Whether from Canada,



Texas, or back home in Indiana, players grew to love each other and bonded into

single unit, a true team where each player played a significant role.

Coming into the championship game, the Falcons faced the University of Cincinnati-Clermont College Cougars, a team they had already played and beaten twice during the season – making a third win over the team in one season a difficult task under the best of circumstances. But once more they relied on their tried and true formula: balanced scoring, scrappy rebounding and tenacious defense – a total team effort. And after a game that saw saw back and forth, the Falcons won 74-68.

In just the few short years since, former players have proved themselves to be champions off the court as well, becoming teachers, coaches, church workers, homeless center helpers and Boys and Girls Clubs volunteers. Their attitude of selfless service became evident during that magical run to the national championship.

The team consisted of **Virgil Akers fs08**, **John Yoder g09**, **Jesse Boldt g09**, **Seneca Bratton fs08**, **Andrew Johnson, II fs09**, **Isaac McClung fs06**, **Kevin Woods g07**, **Adam Zimmerman g08** and **Richard Thomas fs05**. The team was coached by **Bud Hamilton g68**, **Bob Hamilton g98** and Managed by **Carl Nuffer ha04**.

Volunteer Prayer Team Cares for Alumni

By Michael D. Mortensen g91

Whether it was in the solitude of a dorm room, with a close friend or two, or across the campus, one of the hallmarks of the Fort Wayne campus through the years has been prayer. Knowing the importance of prayer, a Volunteer Alumni Prayer Team, was formed shortly after the inception of the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center.

Violet Ringenberg g45, alumna and Alumni Council emerita member, was invited to



assemble and coordinate the prayer team.

Since the first requests were sent January 18, 2010 to her initial team of eight, “we have 19 now praying for the requests,” Ringenberg reported. “The team made up of alumni, former faculty, and staff lives in California,

Arizona and Indiana (Berne, Goshen, South Bend, Mishawaka, Grabill and Fort Wayne).

In 2010, 133 letters with 451 prayer requests were sent. As word has spread, even more letters have been received, bringing 140 more requests in just the opening months of 2011, Ringenberg shared.

“This is a rewarding ministry for me at my age,” Ringenberg said. “As I share verses, as well as many of those who are asking us to pray, I can see just how precious and relevant God’s Word is for any need. I’ve been drawn closer to our awesome God.”

“Like teaching a Sunday School Class, I probably feel I get the most benefit from this ministry,” Ringenberg said. “We get to feel like we know the people as they share their hurts and praises. Hearing how God is answering prayers is so encouraging.”

Editor’s Note: Others are welcomed to join the Volunteer Alumni Prayer Team by calling Violet (260) 632-5655 or via email gwing@juno.com. To submit a prayer concern, please email alumnifw@taylor.edu or visit <http://fw.taylor.edu> and fill out the prayer request form on the Contact Us page

Love: Emotion or Action

Dr. Wes explores commands in new book

by Michael D. Mortensen g91

Jesus said in John 14, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” But what are these commandments?

Dr. Wes Gerig g51, Bible scholar and beloved FWBC, SCC and TUFW professor, tackles this question in his new book, *Core of Christian Love: Love is an Action* to be released in June by the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center.

In preparation for this book, he read through the entire New Testament, wrote down every commandment according to his own personal translation from the Greek text and categorized them.

“In my over 50 years of ministry, I have not found any Christians who have taken the time or the trouble to read through the entire New Testament in order to discover the content of all the commands given in the New Testament,” Dr. Wes explained.

“It seems to me that such a thorough study would be necessary, if one is to be equipped to carry out the passage in John 14 or the ‘Great Commission’ spelled out in Matthew 28:19-20”

Dr. Gerig says he feels many Christians rely on emotion and feeling, resulting in a “wishy-washy” version of Christianity. There is a fear today in the church of legalism, but the pendulum has swung too far the other way.

“We use the word ‘love’ in our praying and singing and I wonder if it is vain repetition,” Dr. Wes shared. “The word ‘love’ in the Bible is an action word not an emotion.

“You cannot command a feeling. It is not mere words – it has to demonstrate

itself. The commandments fill our loving with content and structure. We can say we love, but are we showing it?” It is Dr. Wes’ hope that Christians will read through the 1,195 commandments, revisit the ones they have trouble with and focus on three or four at a time.

“We are not saved by keeping these commandments, but these provide guidance to work out our salvation with fear and trembling,” he said. “The more we practice these, the more Christ-like we become.”



Editor's Note: The 120+ page book will be available in June at <http://fw.taylor.edu/store>. Individuals, small groups or churches may also pre-order these books by emailing alumni@taylor.edu or calling (260) 744-8790.

news notes

Jim g46 and **Mary (Cable) Geahlen fs45** celebrated 65 years of marriage and 66 years of ministry. Jim has been fighting bone cancer and also had a massive heart attack last year. In October, Mary fell and broke her hip and suffered a mild stroke following surgery. However, they praise God for salvation through Jesus as well as for their four children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

John and **Pat (Byall) Alexander g60** were married on November 27, 2010, at Westview Alliance Church in Fort Wayne.

Barbara (Howard) Conrad fs62 retired on January 18, 2011, from Norfolk Southern Railway Corporation. Barbara's email is barbara.conrad@att.net.

Bob and **Elaine (Armstrong) Porch fs62** were married

February 11, 2011, in Bradenton, Fla. Elaine was previously married to **Jim Larnard g64**, who passed away in March 2009.

Samuel and **Ruth (Pipkin) Wegner g64** have returned from Italy after serving there as church planters for 29 years. They are presently serving as deans of men and women at the Word of Life Bible Institute on Jeju Island, South Korea. This is the first year for this institute which has 33 students from Korea, Japan, Canada and the U.S. They have committed to serve through the end of June.

Roger fs65 and **Suzanne Doriot** just spent five weeks travelling throughout the country visiting churches, family and retired missionaries. In March, they returned to Indonesia to rent a place for future short term missions.

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

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

Debbie Greenawalt g75 has completed her missionary service to Malaysia. She is now serving as an intercessory missionary at the International House of Prayer in Kansas City, Mo. Debbie's email is debrajoy5@gmail.com.

Donald g81 and **Rachel (Weber) Kramer g79** returned to Taiwan January 5, 2011. They will be resuming Christian and Missionary Alliance positions as the field director couple and in church-planting roles in rural Yunlin County. Don and Rachel have been missionaries with the Alliance since 1988, and they have served in church planting ministry in North Dakota since 1983. Their Taiwan address is: PO Box 2, Sihhu Township, 654, Yunlin County, Taiwan.

Karen (Slaughter) Steiner g79 teaches piano to nearly 40 students of all ages.

Fifteen of her students were involved in the Achievement in Music (AIM) Festival at IPFW. Additionally, Karen has become a distributor of Send-Out Cards which allows her to send out cards of encouragement. Visit her website <https://www.sendoutcards.com/storefront/KarenSteiner/>.

Beth (Donigan) Severson g81 is the new associate director for the Masters in Evangelism and Leadership at Wheaton College (Ill.). "My heart is soaring," she says. "I love Jesus, I love preparing missional students to extend God's kingdom to the ends of the earth, and I pinch myself every morning for I'm so blessed to have a small part in fulfilling God's purposes."

Jonathon Spyker g81 just completed his 20th year as pastor of the Cridersville

Church of the Nazarene (Ohio). His wife, Barb, just retired after 35 years of teaching at Lima City Schools.

Denny Collins g84 shares that his son Andrew announced his engagement to Mary Stalter at Christmas. A May 28th wedding is planned in Elkhart, Ind. Denny's email is dltoddroad@aol.com.

Scott Davis g85 was voted employee of the year for 2010 by his peers at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne. Scott serves as the hospital chaplain. Scott's email is sdavisbunch@msn.com.

Teri (Beard) Hogg g86 completed her master's degree from the University of Michigan in Education Studies with a focus in Early Childhood Education. She currently is the program

coordinator for Jumpstart, an AmeriCorp program that partners UM college students in teams to implement a language and literacy curriculum in local preschools with at-risk children. She teaches a course at the University and is a national presenter and trainer focusing on language and literacy with young children.

Margie (Kaholi) g87 and Don Booth thank God for the blessing of four grandsons. Margie works as a nurse in a long term mental health facility and Don is an elementary teacher in St. Paul, Minn. Their son Zach will graduate from the robotics department at Dunwoody, and daughter Bekah is completing her second year in nursing at the University of Minnesota. Aloha!

Former Dean Cyril Eicher Turns 99



Former Dean **Cyril Eicher g32** celebrated his 99th birthday with **Bill g61 & Joyce (Wiggles) fs61 Gerig, Larry g67 and Naomi (Buckels) g69 Heidelberg, Dr. Jay Platte g69, Dr. Jackie Carl g51 and Michael Mortensen g91** at the FW Alumni & Friends Resource Center in early March.

Eicher received over 100 cards and emails from alumni and friends throughout the country and world, which brought a huge smile to his face.

In a lighthearted moment, when one well-wisher wrote him saying she soon would be celebrating 49 years of marriage, Cyril remarked, "It kind of makes me feel old."

Eicher continues to volunteer twice a week on Mondays and Fridays. He has given almost 1,400 volunteer hours in the past two and a half years.

Warren g99 and Jonel (Beverly) Groscost g02,



with Warren (8), welcomed Matthew Joseph on July 30, 2010. Matthew was 8 lbs. 9 oz. and 20 inches long. The Groscosts live in South Bend, Ind.

Jeff g00 and Shauna Spence, with Mikayla (2), welcomed Ava Lynn on November 20, 2010. Ava was 6 lbs. 3 oz. and 19½ inches long. Jeff and Shauna are staff members with World Partners USA serving in the Far East.

Jeremy g01 and Natalie (Seward) Reynolds g01,



with Kathryn (2), welcomed Asa Daniel on January 21, 2011. Asa was 6 lbs. 15 oz. and 19½ inches long. Jeremy and Natalie live in Fort Wayne.

David Whan g01 graduated in the spring of 2010 with a Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary. He was then ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and received his first parish, Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church. David and his wife Natalie (Baughman) g03 live near Lincoln, Neb.

Mark and Jill Grondin Hindley g02



were married June 12, 2010, in Fort Myers, Fla. Nicole **Baksha g02** blessed the meal at the reception.

Jeremiah and Christy (Kuhns) Nine g03 were married June 12, 2010.

Faith (Pinnick) Riddle g03 received a Reading Recovery certification from Purdue University in May 2010. Faith also graduated with a master's in reading instruction from Grand Canyon University in

December 2010. She works as a Reading Recovery and Title 1 teacher at Springs Valley Elementary School in French Lick, Ind.

Sam and Jenni (Edgar) Runkle g03, with Will (2) and Joe (1), welcomed Eli Wayne into their family January 26, 2011. Eli was 7 lbs. 7 oz. and 22 inches long. They live in Fort Wayne.

Lori (Craw) Current g04

Is an assistant director of admissions at Indiana University East. Lori will primarily work with prospective students who are applying to IU East in online distance learning programs along with other transfer students.

Ben and Aleya (Kruis) Raterman g04,



with Elliana (4), welcomed Jubilee Grace on January 24, 2011. Jubilee is 8 lbs. 3 oz. and 18 inches long. In keeping with her name, they are "joyfully celebrating" her little life!

Nancy Watta fs04



spent November and December traveling and teaching in India. While there, she taught a one day seminar entitled "Relationships of the Heart." It was translated into Hindi for the women at the local church.

Jason fs05 and Allison (Carie) Gardner g05



were married August 1, 2010, at Castle McCullough, High Point, N.C. TUFW participants were **Abigail Carie g04, Rachel Kinney g05, Erica (Stratton) Key g05, Joshua Wulpi fs05, and Daniel Carlson fs04.** Jason and Allison are expecting a daughter on June 22.

Erica (Stratton) g05 and Jonathan Key



were married May 23, 2009. Erica teaches fifth grade and Jonathan is a realtor. TUFW participants were **Heather MacPhee fs05 and Allison (Carie) Gardner g05.** Erica and Jonathan live in Winston-Salem, N.C, and are expecting their first baby in March. Erica's email is mrs.erica.key@gmail.com.

Kristy McDonald g05 graduated with a bachelor's degree from Indiana Tech December 16, 2010. She plans to pursue her master's at Indiana Tech as well.

Sanjay and Nicolette (Solak) Rai g05



were married January 17, 2011. They live at the Michael Job Center on the outskirts of Coimbatore, India.

Jeremy and Michelle (Cooper) White g05 welcomed Micah Scott on January 30, 2011.

Tommy g06 and Rachel (VanProoyen) Boggs g06 welcomed Hailey Marie into their family April 23, 2010.



They live in Fort Wayne, where Rachel is a social worker and Tommy works with juveniles while finishing his master's degree in psychology.

David g08 and Elizabeth Love were married November 29, 2010. They have two children, Alitza and Terrell. David is currently serving in Afghanistan.

Angelo g08 and Marie (Ayelle) Mante fs11,



with Sophia (2), welcomed Naomi Helen on February 25, 2011.

Emily Seeger serves alumni

Emily Seeger, assistant for Alumni and Parent Relations, is a person Fort Wayne campus alumni will rarely see, but she works significantly behind the scenes to help Fort Wayne alumni and the FW Resource Center.

Seeger assists alumni with access to the my.taylor.edu portal, which serves as an online directory. She also helped get the FW Online Store online, and she assists with registration payments for various events.

"The number of volunteer hours that are given at the Resource Center amazes me," Seeger said. She also appreciates the focus the Resource Center has on prayer. A few years ago, Seeger was recipient of those prayers when she was gravely ill and nearly died.

Seeger and her husband, Jon, and their "Little Lady," Anneliese, live in Daleville, Ind., with their three German shepherd dogs.

Heather Schultz g08 and Ryan Detzner are engaged to be married May 14, 2011. Ryan works as an engineer at Goodrich. Heather is a writer and is also employed at the Flat Top Grille in Fort Wayne.

Lorraine Kuhl g09, former TUFW bookstore clerk, is driving a school bus for Southwest Allen County Schools and also works part time at the Fort Wayne Country Club.

Meghan Menchhofer g09 is the employment coordinator at the Burmese Advocacy Center in Fort Wayne, where she helps refugees with employment needs.

Nick and Amber Reynolds g09, with River (2), welcomed Caedence Bethany on October 5, 2010. Caedence was 6 lbs. 9 oz. and 18¾ inches long.

Tim fs11 and Brittany (Smith) Oberg fs11 welcomed Landon Silas on November 7, 2010. Landon was 8 lbs. 4 oz. and 21 ½ inches long.

Memorials

Rev. Charles Glenn g42 went home December 2, 2010. Charles served for 35 years as a missionary through Cornerstone Community Church in Decatur, Ind., along with his wife Laverne, who passed away in 1993.

Their area of work was Bible translation for the Cayapas Indian tribes in Ecuador.

Rev. Arthur Neuenschwander g47 passed away January 24, 2011. Originally from the Berne area, Arthur lived in Virginia for the past decade. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred. He leaves behind his daughter Peggy Fowler and sons Phil, Marc, and Jon.

Rev. Robert Seek g53 entered eternal glory on December 8, 2010. Robert pastored Missionary Churches in Ohio and Maryland. He also volunteered at the Hagerstown Christian Rescue Mission in Maryland for more than 50 years. He leaves behind, Dorothy, his wife of 63 years.

Joan "Jo" (Clauser) Gerig g54 died January 3, 2011 after a courageous battle with breast cancer. Joan married **Leon "Lee" Gerig g54** in 1953. Joan and Lee lived in Indiana, Arizona, California, Washington and Oregon. Joan taught piano for 50 years. She was a loving wife and mother to Greg (Sandy) and Bob (Lisa). In addition to her husband and sons, Joan leaves four brothers Keith, Neil, **James g62**, and Ken; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Barbara (Sites) McGranor fs55 died following a 24-year battle with cancer November

25, 2010. Barbara was passionate about quilting and especially passionate about her family. She and her husband Rev. **Thomas McGranor TUUg58**, met at FWBC. They were married in 1955, and Thomas transferred to Taylor University. They had 4 children and 7 grandchildren including a set of twins. On December 30, 2010 their first great-grandson was born. Barbara was very involved in the church society, the United Methodist Women, parsonage standards, and she and Thomas were representatives to World Council on Methodism in Kenya. Barbara worked as an elementary school teacher and as the church secretary for nine years.

Delma (Stricklin) Schlabach fs55 passed away February 5, 2011 after a lengthy battle with cancer. After studying music and missions at FWBC where she met her husband **Clarke fs54**, Delma received her teaching credentials from Sherwood Music Conservatory in Chicago. Delma lived her life totally immersed in her three loves: God, family and music. She taught music for over 50 years and was very innovative and progressive – she started the first private music studio in Southern California utilizing a multi-piano electronic teaching lab. Delma also used her musical gifts to play as pianist or organist for several churches over

the years. She is survived by Clarke, her son Tim (Debby) Schlabach, three daughters Sandra (Jim) Gilberto, Becky Lawrence, Deanne (Douglas) Malousis, two sisters and nine grandchildren.

Willis (Bill) Sudmann fs62 passed away November 17, 2010 after suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Bill was a WWII navy veteran who attained the rank of AETM 3/C. He was an electronics technician who worked for ITT Aerospace for 17 years and retired after 14 years at GTE. Bill is survived by his wife Evelyn; daughter and son-in-law, Darlene and Daniel Spencer; daughter and son-in-law, **Aleta fs73** and **David Trietsch fs74**; son and daughter-in-law, Rev. **Allen g83** and Sally Sudmann; nine grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

Rev. Franklin Graber g63 went to be with the Lord on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2011, in Haysville, Kans. Frank attended Boston Theological Seminary and Indiana University after his FWBC graduation. He was ordained by the Missionary Church Association and was accepted by the United Methodist Church Kansas West Conference. After marrying Linda Lou (Lewis) in 1960, he spent 35 years pastoring in Vermont, Illinois, Indiana, New York and Kansas. He also spent 18 months as the YFC director in Berne, Ind. Frank is survived

by his wife Linda Lou; his daughter Tamra Gigstad; four sons, Timothy, Steven, Mark, and David; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his brothers Lee and Martin; and his sister Carolyn Costello.

Nancy Helm g73 died October 8, 2010, after a battle with cancer. Before her passing, she was involved with the Cancer Walk and was a chairman for the Relay for Life. Nancy had been a kindergarten teacher at Monmouth Elementary in Decatur (Ind.) and served on the library board. She was an active member of First United Methodist Church in Decatur, was involved with the Adams County jail ministry, and is lovingly remembered as a faithful prayer warrior. Nancy is survived by her sisters **Kris (Helm) Wolford g78**, **Joyce (Helm) Kuhn TUUfs65** and **Jackie (Helm) Potter fs71**.

Editors note: More current News & Notes are added weekly on our new website: fw.taylor.edu. Alumni and friends can post for our review and posting, and then they can be read by former classmates and friends. Check out this new feature today!

Resource Center goes on the road this summer!

June

June 8 – Fort Wayne, Ind.
- Powerwalk Wednesday @
Parkview Field in Fort Wayne

June 22 – Fort Wayne, Ind.
- "Ivanhoe's on the Go" @
Eicher Commons

June 24 - Columbus, Ohio
- "Ivanhoe's on the Go" &
Alumni Picnic

June 25 - NW Ohio
- Alumni Dinner and
Gathering

June 28 - Indianapolis, Ind.
- Young Alumni "Ivanhoe's
on the Go" - This will be a
family-friendly event!

July

July 15 – Grand Rapids,
Mich. - Grand Rapids
Symphony Pops Concert &
Fireworks

July 25 – Fort Wayne, Ind.
- "Alumni Night" @ TinCaps
baseball game

July 29 – Berne, Ind. Swiss
Days Refreshment Stand

July 30 - Chicago, Ill. -
Alumni Day @ Brookfield
Zoo

July 31 – Ludlow Falls, Ohio
- Ludlow Falls Camp

August

August 1 – Goshen, Ind. -
Prairie Camp

August 3 – Fort Wayne,
Ind. - Powerwalk Wednesday
@ Parkview Field - 12 p.m.

August 10 – Columbus,
Ohio - Ohio State University
"Horseshoe" tour and dinner

August 22 – Indianapolis,
Ind. - "Alumni Night" @
Indianapolis Indians baseball
game

Note: more information is available in "Upcoming Events" on <http://fw.taylor.edu> and in the FW Vine (our monthly e-newsletter). You may also call for more information at (260) 744-8790. The Resource Center wants to have more events throughout the country. Give us your help and suggestions!

Picture identification provides fun on Facebook



Dick Baxter g70, faithful volunteer at the Resource Center, has recently been posting pictures on Facebook to try to identify Fort Wayne alumni for the online archive. Not only have most former students been identified, but he then has become friends with many on Facebook. You can "Like" our Facebook page at **FW Alumni & Friends Resource Center** to reminisce, remember and reflect. You too may find some former classmates and friends!

Who is in this picture? The person who posts the answer on our Facebook page first correctly will win a \$10 Starbucks gift card.

The value of teamwork

This issue of the FW Vine celebrates the successes of our athletic teams over the years. These teams won with teamwork; everyone contributed what they were able to meet the team's goals. Even those who did not take the floor or the field cheered on those who were playing and contributed behind the scenes to make the team better and achieve greater results.

It is still true today. As we serve you here at the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center, we rely on each other to reach our financial goals for the Fort Wayne Alumni Fund. This important fund helps us complete our mission of caring for Fort Wayne alumni and celebrating the legacy and impact of our campus and its alumni around the world.

Just like our teams, we need everyone to participate at some level. Our goal and need this year is \$60,000 by May 31, 2011. Will you please consider playing some role in helping us reach this new milestone? If everyone does something, we can rejoice together on September 23 & 24, 2011, at *Fort Wayne Celebrates!*

Fort Wayne Celebrates! *September 23 & 24, 2011*



**CLASS REUNIONS (1945, 1961, 1991, 2006 AND MORE) - SINGSPIRATION
TAILGATING & SOCCER REUNION GAME - WORSHIP AND BIBLE TEACHING
BONFIRE IN HAUSSER WOODS - TIME TO RELAX & RECONNECT WITH FRIENDS**

Watch for more details in the FW Falcon, online at
<http://fw.taylor.edu>, or call 260.744.8790 or email alumni@taylor.edu.



Fort Wayne
Alumni & Friends Resource Center

915 W. Rudisill Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Fort Wayne
Celebrates!
Sept. 23 & 24

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Upland, IN
Permit No. 3