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# TAYLOR UNIVERSITY NEWS BUREAU

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Will Cleveland  
Director

UPLAND, INDIANA

October 22, 1959

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Upland, Indiana - - -

The Board of Trustees of Taylor

University have named Dr. B. Joseph Martin as the new president of the college, Dr. Milo A. Rediger, Academic Dean and Interim President, has announced.

The governing board of the university, in an all day session October 16, selected Dr. Martin as a unanimous choice to become the next president of the college. Dr. Martin's official acceptance was received earlier this week.

The new president-elect, who currently holds the same post at Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia, will assume office on January 1. He succeeds Dr. Evan H. Bergwall, who resigned last spring after eight years as administrative head of Taylor, to return to the pastoral ministry. He is now serving the Simpson Memorial Methodist Church, Fort Wayne.

Dr. Martin was born in Bourg, Louisiana in 1906. He received the A. B. degree from Pasadena College in 1935 and the Th. B. degree from the same institution in 1936. He also earned the Th. M. degree in 1940 and the Ph. D. degree in 1945, both from the University of Southern California. In addition he was awarded the LL. D. degree from Houghton College in 1954.

Dr. Martin was pastor of the Rossmoyne Methodist Church, Cincinnati, from 1931-33, the Reseda Methodist Church, California, from 1936-40, and the Trinity Church, Hollywood, from 1942-45.

He was professor of sociology at Pasadena College from 1935-36, Vice-President of Asbury Theological Seminary 1945-48, and Vice-President of Oklahoma City University during 1948-49. For the next three years he was Executive Director of the

Methodist College Foundation of North Carolina and in 1953 was appointed President of Wesleyan College.

During his 6 1/2 year term of office at Wesleyan, Dr. Martin was instrumental in organizing the Associated Colleges of Georgia, higher education's approach to industry for support. Under his leadership, the college also realized the following accomplishments:

A \$1,000,000 Fine Arts building was constructed.

Endowment was increased \$685,000.

A \$100,000 infirmary and a \$425,000 dormitory were built.

A \$200,000 campus improvement program was realized.

Church support increased from \$8,200 to \$30,000 annually.

An operating debt of \$185,000, which existed when Dr. Martin took office, was liquidated.

"We feel extremely fortunate in securing such an experienced educator and administrator as Dr. Martin to direct the affairs of Taylor University during the strategic period which faces higher education in the immediate future," Dr. Rediger stated.

Mrs. B. Joseph Martin, the former Evelyn Duryea, is a graduate of Taylor University. Her father was a field representative for Taylor for nearly 7 years and her mother served as campus hostess for 4 years.

The appointment of the new president marks another milestone in the history of the Indiana college.

Taylor was founded in Fort Wayne in 1846 and was transferred to Upland in 1893, during the presidency of Dr. Thaddeus C. Reade. Since the administration of Dr. Reade, the college has had six presidents. Dr. Charles W. Winchester served from 1904-1907; Dr. Monroe Vayhinger was president from 1908-1921; Dr. John Paul, from 1922-1930; Dr. Robert Lee Stewart, 1931-1945; Dr. Clyde Meredith, 1945-1951 and

Dr. Evan Bergwall, 1951-1959.

Many significant advances have taken place at Taylor, both in the academic program and in campus development during the past few years, according to Dr. Rediger.

Since 1951 enrollment at Taylor has grown from 400 to <sup>708</sup>725, an increase of 81%.

A long range multi-million dollar development program was launched in 1956. The first phase of the program, a \$783,000 food service center and men's dormitory was completed <sup>in 1959</sup> last year. Other buildings currently under consideration are a science building and a chapel.

Taylor is conducting experiments in radiation biology and is providing training in nuclear technology as applied to the life sciences, under grants from the United States Atomic Energy Commission. Enrollment in science courses has increased 40% in the past 3 years.

In addition to the standard liberal arts and pre-professional courses, Taylor now participates in three affiliation programs - in business and law with Indiana University and in engineering with Purdue University.

Significant advancement has been made in teacher-education with the introduction of the "professional semester plan" for secondary students. A similar plan has been in operation for several years on the elementary level.

Three lecture programs, the business lecture series, the science lecture series, and the Thaddeus C. Reade memorial lectureship, provide students and residents of surrounding communities the opportunity to hear lectures and discussions by some of America's leading scientists, business men and Christian leaders.

Alumni giving has more than tripled since the alumni fund program was instituted seven years ago. In 1951-52, 16.7% of the alumni contributed \$12,500 to their alma mater. This past year 38.6% of the alumni contributed \$41,100.

Although a private and interdenominational college, Taylor has always been headed by Methodist presidents. With the appointment of Dr. Martin, this tradition continues.

The Academic Dean will continue serving as Interim President until the arrival of Dr. Martin on January 1st.