Bibles and Basketballs

A Venture for Victory

The Sports Evangelism Movement Began at Taylor University
Why the Start is Not Always the Beginning

Last year was the start of something big. Dan Wilson ’66, teacher and coach at Fort Wayne’s Elmhurst High School, founded a Saturday basketball league on the Taylor University-Fort Wayne campus for inner-city youth. The program took off like a rocket.

“We were seeing 25 kids a week being saved, just as a result of their coming and playing basketball,” says Dick Baxter, director of Taylor World Outreach. (This year, TWO will involve students in discipling the young people who come to know Christ through the basketball ministry. The league will operate officially under the auspices of TUFW, in cooperation with Wilson and Youth for Christ.)

Not long ago, the principals charged with providing campus leadership for the effort met to discuss their plan of action.

As they were remarking on the first-year success of the venture, and how the Lord’s hand seems to be upon it, they were interrupted by an “old-timer” who helped put the effort into historical perspective.

“Wait a minute, fellows,” said he. “You need to understand the background of this ministry.”

According to his account, Wilson was challenged to start a sports ministry program for inner-city youth by his friend, Sheldon Bassett ’62. A former assistant coach at Taylor, Bassett directs the Solheim Center at Chicago’s Moody Bible Institute. There, he has founded a successful basketball evangelism program for inner-city youth. Bassett reputedly asked Wilson, “Dan, when are you going to let God use you to do something similar for the kids in Fort Wayne?”

Although that question may have been the catalyst for Wilson’s involvement, the real impetus for the TUFW Saturday basketball league dates back decades to 1952—as the group’s self-appointed historian pointed out.

In that year Taylor’s long-time head basketball coach Don Odle ’42 was instrumental in assembling the first-ever sports ministry team to travel overseas. As director of the Venture for Victory program for 12 years, he pioneered the concept of sports evangelism—taking teams to the Orient and South America, using basketball games to attract an audience for evangelism.

“The Holy Spirit touched his efforts,” offered the group’s informant. “Coach Odle’s players—Shel Bassett and Dan Wilson among them—have picked up on his ministry. They, with others, have expanded upon his efforts to the point where sports ministry is now a world-wide phenomenon.

So, you see, there is a connection between what is happening here on campus now and what Coach began years ago down in Upland. This league is a part of it.”

Indeed, every sports ministry venture the world around—and they are legion—is heir to Odle’s legacy and that of Venture for Victory team members. Within this issue we recount the start of that ministry (page 10) and look in on the subsequent efforts of former players Don Callan ’55 (page 14), Don Granitz ’52 (page 17), and Jack King ’59 (page 18). Noting the role of Wandering Wheels (another pioneering sports effort that had its genesis at Taylor), a pictorial look at current campus involvement in sports ministry concludes our review.

Concludes? Those stories only scratch the surface of what is happening in the sports evangelism movement. Similarly, to say that something big started at TUFW last year is misleading. That “something big” started 40 years earlier, and we can only praise God for it.

At a 1988 reception honoring Don and Bonnie (Weaver ‘44) Odle, career missionary Paul Stubbs ’59 was one of many to pay tribute. “There are literally hundreds of millions of souls that have been touched by sports evangelism,” he said.

“I’ve been traveling for the last 12 years through Central and South America and the Caribbean. Down there, I see [Coach Odle’s] tracks everywhere I go.

“When I was in Korea, my wife and I did a lot of evangelistic work out in the islands—out where no American had ever been. Whenever I would go in, the best introduction I could have was that I had worked with Venture for Victory. People out there had heard the broadcast of the basketball games and had heard the message of Jesus Christ on the radio. Many had accepted Christ, even though they had never been into the mainland of Korea and had never seen a basketball game. Don Odle’s influence truly extends around the world.”

Through your support of Taylor University, your influence, too, extends around the world in the lives and ministries of alumni who, like Don Odle, received preparation for service at Taylor. In the 1992-1993 Honor Roll of Donors, we recognize your partnership in this ministry and thank you for joining in this venture for the ultimate victory of God’s kingdom.

—Doug Marlow ’81, editor
ON THE COVER: Dr. Tim Diller ’62, now a computer science professor at Taylor, played on three Venture for Victory teams. He is pictured here in 1968, preaching to Taiwanese troops on the island of Matsu, just miles off the coast of mainland China.

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NOW YOU’RE TALKIN’ by Jack King ’59
Sport is an international language—and as such, offers powerful potential for communicating the gospel.

SPORTS MINISTRIES AT TAYLOR
The tradition continues. Taylor players, alumni, and coaches recently paired the gospel with sport in Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Honduras, Latvia, and Russia.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS for 1992-1993

EXCHANGE
ON CAMPUS
TRADITION
IN MEMORIAM

TAYLOR GATHERING
ALUMNI NOTES
VISTA
Case of Mistaken Identity

I was impressed by the recent issue of Taylor honoring Sammy Morris. I was pleased to learn about the great strides Taylor University has made in relation to international students and programs.

However, I would like clarification on a couple matters. First, who exactly is eligible for the Samuel Morris Endowed International Student Scholarship Fund? Is it just for international students—that is, foreign born and not holding American citizenship? (It is—Ed.)

Second, if the scholarship is for international students and not for missionary kids, then, since nobody in the picture [accompanying the story] on page 14 is an international student, the picture is highly inappropriate. (It is—Ed.)

It seems that more care should be taken to avoid such a mistake. (It will be—Ed.) I encourage you to secure pictures or other information representative of the international students.

Cassandra (Edgecombe ’88) Smith
International Students Coordinator

The students in the photograph accompanying the sidebar about the Samuel Morris Faith Fund are missionary kids (MKs) rather than international students.

As the president of the International Students Society at the Taylor-Upland campus, I feel a responsibility to make you aware of your error and to remind you there are differences between international students and missionary kids.

I realize that there may have been mitigating circumstances, and that you may have made the most appropriate choice from a limited selection of photographs. In the future, however, I would be happy to provide photographs for publication use. Thank you.

Tony Seow ’95, President
International Students Society

Family Matters

Somehow I missed the call for nominations last year. I saw many of my fellow students listed with their parents. At the time I thought I should nominate my parents, but didn’t get around to it. I see more nominations in the most recent issue of Taylor magazine and will not put off this nomination any longer.

My parents are Dr. James ’52 and Arloeen “Nan” (Williams x ’55) Oliver, Jr. Mom didn’t graduate from Taylor, but attended the two-year course in preparation for nurse’s training. They are the parents of seven children.

Six of us have attended Taylor and, although my brother Jamie never attended, he is known by many alumni and considers himself part of the Taylor family.

A few side notes: my brother Malcolm attended only one summer session course. Brad is now married to Deborah (Rampona ’93). My sister Anne, presently enrolled at Taylor, was almost one year old when I started there as a freshman.

When I attended Taylor my parents didn’t live in Upland. I am glad to be able to call Upland home now; it is fun to see campus changes as they take place from year to year.

There are presently 12 grandchildren; the oldest would be eligible to enter in the freshman class of 2001.

Kathy (Oliver ’78) Schmeichel McLaughlin, South Dakota

I would like to add to the list of parents who had at least three children attend Taylor. My parents, Lewis and Doris Captain, now deceased, had four sons and a son-in-law graduate from Taylor:

• David ’68, Wycliffe Bible translator, Columbia, S.A.
• Philip ’69, professor of psychology, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.
• Lewis ’70, Central Africa Mission, Zimbabwe
• Ken ’72, Indianapolis, Ind.
• Dave Terhune ’81, pastor, Plymouth Wesleyan Church, Plymouth, Ind.

Philip A. Captain ’69
Lynchburg, Virginia

Following a call for nominations, in a special insert (Spring, 1992) and subsequent addenda, we saluted by name parents who have had three or more children attend Taylor. We welcome additional submissions. Please include the name, address, and, as appropriate, class year of each child and parent.—Ed.
Cooperative Effort Reconstructs Prairie

"To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee," says the poet Emily Dickinson. "And revery." Dr. Edwin R. Squiers, professor of biology and director of Taylor's environmental science program, has a different, though perhaps no less romantic, recipe: "Fire and patience."

He ought to know.

The University's Randall Environmental Studies Center, in cooperation with Avis Industrial Corporation, is reconstructing a tall grass prairie ecosystem on nearly 25 acres of the Upland-based company's land, just across the street from campus.

According to Squiers, tall grass prairie once covered much of the Midwest—land that has since become the corn belt. "The earliest pioneers met patches of prairie that stretched for miles," he says.

Today, native prairie plants can be found only in managed plots and along fence rows and some railroad lines, where the periodic burnings necessary for them to grow occur.

The Avis planting site, unusually ambitious in terms of size, affords opportunities for teaching and research, says Squiers. In fact, that process has begun. This summer several students were involved in data collection, examining how the native prairie plants compete with non-native weed species. "They will be presenting papers dealing with first-year data at the Indiana Academy of Science this fall," he says.

Under the direction of noted prairie planting expert Dr. Peter Schramm of Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., hand-picked seeds from nearly 50 varieties of native prairie grasses and flowers were planted this spring—just before a series of torrential rains.

Did the seed get washed out? Squiers admits to some apprehension. "I lose sleep occasionally, thinking about those big rains," he says. "But the native seed is very duffy—covered with hair. It tends to stick to the soil. Such seeds can handle that kind of weather."

Planting a prairie is rather like planting a tree, according to Squiers. "Once you get the field preparation and planting done, other than the periodic burning, there's not much you have to do except be patient." He estimates it will take up to three years for the prairie to develop, and perhaps another five to 10 before it "comes on strong."

When it does, "it will be a show place," he says. "People will come to see it. It will be really quite exquisite." Already, the project has caught the attention of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for its potential as a seed nursery.

For most members of the Taylor community, however, it seems that what is called for is a fiery sort of patience. "Some of the seed will not germinate until it lies in the soil for 10 to 20 years," says Squiers.
IT'S NOT JUST COOKIES AND MILK ANY MORE

The job description for grandparents has changed in a world where one's grandchildren are confronted with sex, drugs, violence, and AIDS, according to President Jay Kesler's latest book, Grandparenting: The Agony and the Ecstasy. In it, he shares ways to enjoy the privileges and meet the challenges of being a grandparent. Chapter titles include, among others, "Putting Down Roots," "Finding the Common Ground," and "When Our Children Divorce." It was published earlier this year by Vine Books.

CHIEF ENROLLMENT POSITION AVAILABLE

Taylor University is seeking a dean of admissions. The dean is responsible for the overall administration of the enrollment functions. Taylor is seeking candidates who possess exceptional leadership, organizational, marketing, and interpersonal skills. Completed applications for this position will be accepted until November 15, 1993. Interested persons should direct inquiries to Wynn Lembright, vice president for student development and services, 500 West Reade Avenue, Upland, Indiana 46989-1001; 1 (800) 882-23456, extension 5346.

WINDOWS FOR MISSIONS

The fourth International Conference on Computing and Missions (ICCM) was held at Taylor this year, marking the fourth time Taylor has hosted the group. Among the featured speakers from various missions organizations was keynote speaker, Paul McKaughan, executive director of Evangelical Foreign Missions Associations (EFMA). Designed exclusively for missions information management personnel, MIS managers, administrators and researchers, ICCM is seeks to enhance participants' knowledge of ministry computing tools and techniques, and also encourage networking relationships.

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIE, LIZZIE

According to Clark Holland '94, none of the 70 registrants for this fall's three-day weekend flood relief trip to St. Louis is named Louis, but no matter. The Taylor contingent, co-sponsored by World Christian Fellowship and the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity, will join representatives from several other colleges in making a contribution to the clean-up effort.

No Falling Asleep in This College Course

Dave Askeland '88 found out just how small the top of a telephone pole can appear when he was asked to stand atop one—25 feet up in the air. His task was to leap from the pole and grasp a trapeze bar suspended beyond him. The Wengatz Hall director missed—as did each of his fellow instructors-in-training. In the end, the pole itself had to be pulled out and reset closer to the trapeze.

The object of that fine tuning was the 25-station ropes and challenge course installed on campus this summer. Called Escape to Reality, the course was donated by Jeff Dye '67, founder and president of Experimental Therapists, Inc., Houston, Tex.

Dye's company specializes in the installation of challenge courses and in providing training in proper usage and safety procedures. He has set up over 80 such courses in 20 states.

Don Taylor, HPER department chair, provides backup support for Dave Askeland as he belys the rope for a co-worker.

Wengatz Hall director Dave Askeland '88 receives a helping hand as he prepares to ascend a 25-foot-high telephone pole.

Jeff Dye '67 takes a breather during the week of orientation and training he provided for University staff members.

"It is an incredibly useful tool in the hands of someone trained to use it," he says. "It allows people to find out they can work with and trust each other. It helps them learn how to take healthy risks. They can transfer those experiences to real life."

The course itself is "extremely safe," says Dye. "It's nine times safer than playing basketball or volleyball. Everything is backed up by something else. Any injuries that happen occur on the ground. That is where people get careless. Once they get 30 to 40 feet off the ground, they are incredibly careful."

Plans call for Escape to Reality to be used for HPER-related course work and by various campus groups.
New Academic Dean Ready to Press Forward

At the start of this school year, Dr. Dwight Jessup assumed the position of academic dean of the University, a position of no small responsibility.

“The most important person in any academic institution is its academic dean,” says President Jay Kesler. “The dean represents the heart of the academic community. I could not be happier with the careful faculty-led selection process that had as its outcome the nomination of Dr. Dwight Jessup to fill that role.”

Students and faculty who had not already met Jessup received an official introduction to their new dean at this year’s second chapel service.

For the text of an address that was bound to set a tone for his administration, Jessup turned to 1 Thess. 5:16-28, and especially verse 21, “Test everything; hold on to the good.” In that verse, Jessup finds what he says is the identifying characteristic of the evangelical Christian college, the integration of faith and learning.

“Test. Examine. Prove everything. That is what we are about at a university,” says Jessup. “To be a Christian is not to be anti-intellectual. We can be honest with questions. We test thoughts and ideas. We stretch ourselves.”

At the same time, he says, we are to “Hold fast that which is good.” We stand for something. We believe in something.” And again, “Faith informs my learning. A biblical world view must provide the framework for testing everything I learn.” Christians must “be honest in questions, strong in convictions, and firm in faith.”

Successful integration of faith and learning is not always easy, Jessup concedes, but it is necessary if Christians are to avoid the twin dangers—on the one hand, becoming perennial sceptics for whom truth is always changing, and on the other, becoming biased and bigoted, holding on to what we think is good without having ever tested it.

Jessup closed his address and the chapel service with an admonition and an anecdote about a tree with no center. “We must grow like a tree with a solid center core. Growth comes at the edges, but we cannot neglect the core.”

Technology Enlivens Language Study

Students in this fall’s beginning language classes may take the presence of the Language Media Studio for granted. Not so, modern language professors Dr. Eleanor Barrick and Janet Loy. They appreciate the opportunities in language learning made possible by the installation of new technology a few years ago.

Each of 24 work stations offers audio and video capabilities. A classroom of students can listen or view recorded materials simultaneously, or the instructor can broadcast two separate programs.

“We’re just really excited about it,” says Barrick. Loy agrees. The facility enables the faculty to “integrate a broader range of creative language learning techniques and strengthens students’ skills,” she says.
IN THE GOOD OL' SUMMER TIME

The 160-member-strong band of Knox High School, Knox, Ind., was one of almost 75 camps and conference groups to utilize campus facilities this summer. Taylor's competitive rates, facilities, and service are the factors most often cited by groups who choose to return to campus year after year, according to Joyee Fox, conference director. Besides its role in stewarding resources, the conference program has proved to be an effective public relations and fund-raising tool, she says.

PRE-SEASON ALL-AMERICAN

Taylor University quarterback Kenny Locke has been named to College Football Preview's pre-season All-America team. Locke, a sophomore, was one of four quarterbacks named to the team consisting of NAIA Division II players.

Last season, Locke set nine Taylor offensive records in his first year of collegiate football. His marks included 2,821 passing yards and 21 touchdowns. He also set records for most completions, 29, attempts, 55, and passing yards (367) in a game.

HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

When a fellow resident of Wengatz Hall dared "Moses" Tan Yecow Beng to shave off his shoulder-length hair last semester, the freshman communication arts major agreed to do so on one condition—that his friends raise at least $100 to be donated to the building of the communication arts center. When his friends came up with $117.11, the hair came off, leaving the Singapore native with the satisfaction of knowing that when the capital campaign for the new $4.9 million center is completed, just over $100 of that amount will be the price of a haircut.

LIPP HELPS TAKE A BYTE OUT OF CRIME

The Grant County, Ind., Sheriff's Department, with help from Ann Lipp '94, last semester began exploring the use of a modern crime-fighting weapon. The computer-based Geographic Information System (GIS) in the Randall Environmental Studies Center allowed Lipp to plot spatial relationships of burglaries based on such factors as method of entry, time of day, time of week and proximity to other crimes. Such a computer analysis can identify crime trends or patterns not otherwise discernible.


It might be noise to some, but to Dr. Dale Jackson, communication arts department chair, the rumbling of earthmoving equipment and cement trucks is the sound of dreams coming true. Now under construction, and scheduled to open next fall, is the new $4.9 million communication arts center. It is a project that has been a long time in the offing. The first official discussions of the matter were held over 20 years ago.

"I said I wouldn't believe it until I actually saw it," admits Jackson, a 27-year veteran of the Taylor faculty. "Now I still can't believe it's really happening."

He gestures toward an area populated by, among others, Amish construction workers in wide-brimmed hats. "I've stood over there in the middle of that site several nights. I've had the building in my head for so long, to see it actually taking form is incredible."

When finished, the center will house a theatre, television studio, journalism lab, offices, classrooms, and various other rooms and studios.

"I think it will serve the campus quite well," says Provost Daryl Yost. "It will give us an opportunity for the first time in the history of the University to have all of the offices of the related majors located within one facility." Currently, academic programs in media, theatre, and communication studies are each centered in different buildings.

According to Yost, major construction activity over the next few months will target the walls and roof. "If we don't have too early a winter, the building should be fully enclosed so they can do work on the inside during the winter months," says Yost. "And if the winter isn't too severe, they'll get most all of the brick laid on the outside by late spring so that the focus for the summer of 1994 will be to put the finishing touches on the inside."

Funds for the communications arts center were raised entirely from donations as part of a larger $8.5 million capital campaign that included construction of the Randall Environmental Studies Center.
Distinguished Professor At Home In Pulpit

For Tom Jones '71, teaching is ministry and vice versa.

Tom Jones is as much at home behind a lectern as a pulpit. In fact, his colleagues have sometimes jokingly accused him of not knowing the difference between the two.

Perhaps they are right. After all, Jones, 44, is both a professor and a pastor. He teaches history at Taylor and serves as minister of a small country church near his hometown.

Then again, perhaps he is on to something. Perhaps, in combining the roles of scholar and cleric into one person, he symbolizes the integration of faith and learning that stands as a hallmark of a Taylor education.

That may account in part for his being named Distinguished Professor for 1992-1993 by the Taylor University Alumni Association.

Jones teaches an array of courses: colonial, diplomatic, and U.S. history, world history survey, the world since 1945, and social studies methods. He also helps supervise student teachers.

Most students are already familiar with U.S. history by the time they come to college. Jones aims to move students beyond factual information and engage them in analysis—in "putting meaning to the facts they know." An understanding of the role of government in the abolitionist movement of the 1850s—a tremendously divisive social and political issue—can enlighten a discussion of current social and political concerns.

“Our intention at Taylor is not, and historically has never been, to coerce students into a neat little box where they memorize a pat answer,” says Jones. “We want them to see all sides of an argument, and then, as the Spirit of God leads, come to a personal position or commitment that affects what they do with the time and talent they have.”

“When you look at history that way, you’re giving students a chance to prepare to address some of the most important issues they will face as adults, themselves, and as leaders within the church and community. I think that is the best of what the Taylor tradition has been.”

It is a tradition Jones experienced firsthand as a student at Taylor.

“I was exposed to a wide array of ideas,” he says. “I was taught by men and women who believed deeply in Jesus Christ, who believed deeply that we have been created for some intentional purpose—that there is a mission, not just for the church, but for each individual within it.”

What the likes of Grace Olson, Phil Loy, Dr. Dwight Mikkelson, and Dr. William Ringenberg did for him in the classroom, Jones is now doing for others.

He encourages students to find a sense of mission, presses them to go beyond superficial understandings of the Christian faith, and helps them develop the solid intellectual and spiritual foundation they need to develop fully as children of God.

Or, perhaps that is the subject of next Sunday’s sermon.
NEW ROOF OVER OUR HEADS

The re-roofing of TUFW’s S. A. Lehman Library was but one of the many projects to come under the supervision of Don Hamm, director of physical plant/personnel, this past summer. Perhaps more visible to students is a new PC computer lab and the refurbishing of historic Schultz and Leightmer Halls.

BOB OF BROWN GABLES

After Fort Wayne Bible College acquired it in 1960, “Brown Gables” for nearly 20 years served as the traditional residence for Fort Wayne Bible College presidents. The historic home was then sold. This summer, a year after FWBC/Summit Christian College merged into Taylor, the University was able to repurchase the home. In a return to tradition, the home is serving as the residence of vice president for TUFW, Dr. Robert Nienhuis and his wife Bette, who plan to use their home as a place of fellowship for students, faculty, and staff.

MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER

“It has been a real encouragement to people who work in the University and for Community School of the Arts,” says Professor Jay Platte, referring to the new piano/musicianship lab. The lab includes six piano clavinovas and a computer work station with the capability, among others, to record and print music played on any of the six pianos in the lab is one. The lab, a gift of Jamey ’88 and Rachel Schmitz, “will continue to give,” says Platte.

TWO DOUBLES ITSELF

Taylor World Outreach (TWO), a student-led ministry outreach program, originated on the Upland campus over 30 years ago. This year, the concept was introduced to students on the Fort Wayne campus. According to Richard Baxter, director of TWO, the program will offer Taylor students opportunities to develop a Campus Life program at an area high school, work with incarcerated juveniles and adult offenders at three Fort Wayne correctional facilities, volunteer their time in relating with residents of three local nursing care facilities, and become involved in the with the TUFW winter basketball league, discipling inner-city youth who make decisions for Christ and/or serving as referees for the games. Short-term overseas missions opportunities will also be made available.

New Criminal Justice Program Launched at TUFW

“Having worked in this business for 21 years, I can’t conceive of having survived without spiritual underpinnings.” So says Dr. Ronald Powell, for the last 10 years the state of New Hampshire’s Commissioner of Corrections. He left that post to establish a criminal justice program at Taylor’s Fort Wayne campus.

“There has been a proliferation of criminal justice programs since the late 60s and early 70s, but too few of them at Christian organizations,” says Powell. The advantage of a program like the one at TUFW is that it offers “a world view where God is at the center of criminal justice.”

The criminal justice program prepares men and women for careers in law enforcement, the court system, and corrections—and to make a difference in the world, according to Powell, who is also an ordained minister. “Evangelicals have a special burden for criminal justice,” he says, citing a number of Christians who hold positions of major responsibility in the nation’s criminal justice system.

Taylor’s criminal justice program will be featured on a full-page ad in this month’s issue of Campus Life, but news of the program has already been spreading by word of mouth. “Even without advertising, I am receiving inquiries from across the country,” says Powell. He predicts the number of students in the program will soon swell from its first-year enrollment of 20.

One place to which Powell looks for potential students is the city of Fort Wayne itself. “We want to educate people from the city to provide leadership for the city,” he says. “This is not just rhetoric. We mean business.”

When Dr. Ronald Powell took office as New Hampshire’s first corrections commissioner, the state had the fastest growing offender population in the Northeast.

Powell and his wife Micki make their home in Fort Wayne. They have five children, one of whom is in law enforcement, and nine grandchildren.

Public Relations Major Makes Debut on Campus

Public relations, as a distinct major within the communications arts department, is being offered for the first time this year. The place is the Fort Wayne campus.

“It is an ideal location,” says Mark Vermillion, who provides leadership for the new major. “Fort Wayne has many public relations firms and offers ready access to practitioners.”

There is “strong reason for Taylor to have a program in this area,” he says. “There is a growing demand for public relations professionals and a need for Christians to be salt and light in this arena.” In addition, no school within a 40-mile radius of Fort Wayne offers a public relations major, and Taylor is “one of only eight among the 80-plus Christian Coalition schools to do so.”
Sports evangelism today is an established part of the strategy of the church. It was not always so. Though there have doubtless been Christian athletes since the days of the Greco-Roman games, athletics were incidental to the more central issue of Christian commitment.

In modern times, however, athletics, largely through the power of media, have become a dominant part of life, especially among youth. Don Odle was among the first people to recognize this trend.

Gil Dodds, world record-holder in the mile run, had given his Christian testimony before 100,000 young people at a Youth for Christ rally at Soldier Field in Chicago. Bob Richards, the “pole vaulting parson,” was on Wheaties boxes. The vision of Dick Hillis, Ted Engstrom, and Don Odle to organize a “Venture for Victory” basketball team to tour and evangelize, however, was a new idea and the forerunner of what is today a powerful tool in bringing youth to Christ.

As is always the case, God’s sovereignty becomes more obvious in retrospect. As we look back, we can pull together the several independent strands of God’s leading in the lives of many diverse people.

One was a conversation between Dick Hillis of Overseas Crusades and Madam Chiang Kai-shek. She was concerned for the many displaced Chinese children and teens on the streets. She wanted to get them off the streets and into organized sports. She desired positive Christian role models for them.

Hillis suggested that Christian basketball players might be the method. He had heard of Don Odle’s deep commitment to evangelism and his success in basketball. Would she lend her support to such a venture?

Another strand was comprised of young servicemen like Don Granitz ’52 whose lives had been interrupted by the war. Shipped to places they could hardly find on the map to do their part in the war effort, their vision of the world had been expanded beyond their wildest dreams. They were a potential source of ministry.

Don Odle was the man God used to bring these divergent elements together into a powerful influence for the gospel.

In my student days in the early 50s I watched Don leave campus almost every evening to go to some church to share his vision and raise funds to send teams to the Orient. Occasionally I drove for him and led singing. It was from Don on these wild drives through Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan that I learned to look for blue kosher delicatessen signs and buy corned beef and pastrami sandwiches to eat during the drive.

Very often when I am walking on the campus and pass Don and Bonnie’s home or the Odle Gym, I longingly remember those days and wish that today’s students could gain some appreciation of the energy, dedication and vision that is Don Odle. George Glass, Roger Jenkinson, Jack King, Bill Gerig, and other staff remember their days with Don and share the awe that I will always have for this man.

Today sports evangelism takes place all over the world and involves every possible sport and both men and women. I am grateful that here in Upland, Indiana, God had a willing listener in Don Odle who heard the call and risked his all for this “Venture for Victory.”

Now students from all across the world, including many from Taylor, regularly travel to other countries and share their experience, culture, and faith through the universal language of sports. Whereas the Olympics provide expression and contact for elite athletes, and an outlet for national pride, this more street-level effort reaches young people and provides a believable model for garden-variety youth. Sports are the method, but the message is carried incarnationally in the lives of the students.

There are missionaries spread across the world who had their first exposure to other cultures through these efforts. This vehicle is yet one more opportunity to identify with the needs and aspirations of other cultures and, in an interactive environment of competition, express the mutuality of the human experience as well as the good news and universal invitation of the gospel message.

The depth to which students have immersed themselves in the liberal arts experience becomes the language in which their interaction with others can take place once the contact has been established through sports competition and teaching. This is quite literally an example of “running the race set before us.” We, with our colleagues in other similar institutions have been given an opportunity and an example by the man many will always simply call...“Coach.”

Dr. Jay Kesler ’58 serves as president of Taylor University.
A Lengthening Shadow

In pioneering Venture for Victory, Coach Don Odle earned the title, "Father of Sports Evangelism." That was the farthest thing from his mind in 1952, however.

For a short man, Don J. Odle '42 (known to many simply as "Coach") casts a long shadow over the modern sports evangelism movement.

Odle himself agrees with that statement—almost. While he doesn’t deny the seminal influence of his Venture for Victory teams on the sports-ministry movement, Odle does take issue with the reference to his stature, "I don’t think I’m so short," says the 5’8" former Taylor basketball coach. "Why, when I measure my waist, I find I’m the tallest fellow around."

Self-effacing humor is an Odle trademark. Over the years, he has used it time and again to put an audience at ease before delivering a hard-hitting message. Says he, "People often introduce me saying, 'Here’s a man who had a very distinguished coaching career—38 years.' And I say, 'Yes, and I retired because of illness—people were sick of me.'"

Begun by Don Odle '42 in 1952, the Venture for Victory program today operates under the name Sports Ambassadors. Here, a 1990 team witnesses during halftime at a military compound in El Salvador. The team won the game in the final 40 seconds.
The 1952 Venture for Victory squad and Coach Don Odle (foreground) held an impromptu press conference in Manila, their first overseas stop in launching what became a worldwide movement.

Members of the first team included: Forrest Jackson '54, Howard Habegger '54, Norm Holmskog '54, Don Granitz '52, John Nelson '52, Norm Cook '51, and Bud Schaeffer of Wheaton College, Illinois.

As Odle recounts the early days of organized sports evangelism, he peppers his account with jokes such as these: They serve as a foil to what is truly a remarkable story.

Today, using sports to attract an audience for evangelism is common practice and the basis for ministry of a number of organizations: Athletes in Action, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Sports Ambassadors are among the best-known of 90-some such organizations. The sports evangelism movement also includes Baseball Chapel, Football Chapel, and other pro-sports evangelistic ministries that target athletes themselves.

In 1952, however, using sports for evangelistic purposes was at best an unorthodox approach. That summer Venture for Victory became the forerunner of all sports evangelism organizations.

From 1952-1964, amateur basketball teams under Odle’s direction traveled to over 40 countries, playing ball and presenting the gospel of Christ to hundreds of thousands of people. Many thousands indicated their desire to accept Christ and were given the opportunity to enroll in a free Bible correspondence course with follow-up provided by local churches or missionary societies. The effectiveness of the Venture for Victory model of sports evangelism has since been replicated in nearly every country of the world and in almost every sport.

All that lay ahead of him, however, when Odle answered a middle-of-the-night phone call in January of 1952. On the other end of the line was Dick Hillis, founder of Formosa Gospel Crusade, now OC International.

In Taiwan, Hillis and colleague Ellsworth Culver had been among a crowd of 8,000 that watched a visiting basketball team play the national favorite Seven Tigers team. If basketball was such an attraction, the two missionaries reasoned, why not have a Christian team on the floor? The players could testify, distribute literature, and involve the local church in follow-up.

Hillis approached Madame Chiang Kai-shek, wife of the renowned Chinese nationalist leader, with the idea. She responded favorably, and later used her connections to help arrange a playing schedule.

But where to find a team? The athletic
When Coach Odle was unable to make the 1962 trip due to a back injury, Norm Cook '51 (standing) served as player/coach. As a missionary in the Orient, Cook for years arranged schedules, served the teams as player and manager, and coordinated much of the follow-up work.

director of a prominent Christian college in the United States turned Hillis down flat. The time was too short, the expense too great—after all, a Christian college is not a missionary organization—and besides, such a venture had never been tried before.

Hillis then turned to Ted Engstrom '38, executive director of Youth for Christ. Engstrom suggested calling the athletic director at his alma mater. He knew Coach Don Odle had been taking Trojan teams out to church youth meetings and school convocations, having players present their testimonies after intra-squad games.

What he did not know was that Odle and his wife, Bonnie (Weaver '44), had prayerfully committed themselves to missionary service wherever and whenever God called.

In retrospect, both Don and Bonnie agree that call came when the phone rang in the middle of that January night.

"Dick Hillis told me he wanted the team to come over to Formosa," says Odle. "All I had to do was raise $10,000. Well, I didn’t have 10 cents. I didn’t know how to raise money, I didn’t know how I’d get the team over there, I didn’t even know whether they played basketball. But I was so excited I couldn’t sleep."

Later that week Madame Chiang Kai-shek cabled an official invitation on behalf of her country. Don and Bonnie prayed about the opportunity. Sensing God’s hand in it, Don took the matter to the University’s administrative council for permission to pursue it. The venture was approved by one vote and announced to the public at the basketball game on Saturday night, February 10, 1952.

The biggest obstacle was the amount of money necessary—more than four times Odle’s salary. By today’s standards, he says, “that would be like asking someone to raise $100,000. And we had only four months to do it in.”

Those four months would test the truth of a maxim Odle often quoted, “When God guides, he provides.”

God did provide, but not without a lot of leg work on the part of the coach and team members, as Odle records in Venture for Victory (his second of three books, published in 1954 but now out of print). “Meetings had to be scheduled, applications for passports secured, finances raised, and prayers solicited. The job at hand was to require all of our energies, all of our talents, all of our time, and all of our devotion. In the last two months before leaving, I spoke over 60 times, an average of one meeting every day, plus finished the basketball season, carrying on my duties as a teacher and athletic director, sponsoring the senior class, and meeting numerous other responsibilities. Each boy had a similar schedule.”

The group averaged nearly 2,000 miles per week. They traveled to churches in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, soliciting funds and prayer support. At biweekly prayer meetings they marveled at God’s provision. “It was unbelievable—the anxiety and the turmoil of that first year—but also the encouragement, the prayers,
In His (Pigeontoed) Steps

Don Callan is proud to be a clone of Don Odle.

Ask around the Taylor campus for the names of alumni who have made notable contributions to sports evangelism, and someone is sure to mention, among others, “the three Dons”: Don Odle ’42, Don Granitz ’52, and Don Callan ’55.

That’s the greatest honor I could have—to be linked with those two,” says Don Callan, PhD. “When I came to Taylor they were my spiritual mentors.”

Callan, 60, now serves as a spiritual mentor to others. In 1969 he founded the Missionary Internship Service (MIS) at Cedarville College, Ohio. The MIS program involves over 150 students each year in short-term missions, including sports evangelism. This fall he started his 34th year as athletic director and head basketball coach at the Ohio school. Among the top 10 winningest active NAIA men’s basketball coaches, Callan is a member of both the NAIA and NCCAA Halls of Fame.

“Everyone says I am a clone of Don Odle, and I guess I am,” he says. “I consciously tried to be a Don Odle type, but I am not the speaker he is. I can’t remember jokes. I can’t take an audience like he can and turn them upside down—make them laugh their heads off and cry, too. If I could do that, I would feel I am a true clone.”

What Callan has done, however, is serve as a role model for his colleagues and for the thousands of young people who have passed through the school during his tenure. In founding MIS and Athletes for Christ, its sports evangelism component, he has made it possible for hundreds of students to join the sports ministry and other evangelistic teams each year. A believer in leading by example, he has coached overseas every summer since 1969. This past summer, for example, he took a men’s basketball team to Thailand and the Philippines; then conducted a basketball camp in Portugal.

“It’s hard to say ‘no’ when you have a ministry opportunity,” says Callan. “That’s how I ended up being gone so long this summer. You just do what the Lord has you do.”

Each year, MIS sponsors not only Athletes for Christ teams, but music, drama, and puppet ministry teams as well. More than 160 students participated this summer. The size of the program puts the college on the cutting edge of short-term missions outreach, according to Callan, but it is the way lives are changed that makes it all worthwhile.

Again and again, he has seen lives transformed when men and women are introduced to Christ. He is excited about that, and by the number of Cedarville faculty, staff, and administration who have involved themselves in the MIS program.

“We like to ‘inflict’ them with this disease, as we call it—the experience of seeing people come to know Christ. It is contagious,” he says. “Once they have tasted being a part of the miracle of salvation, there is no turning back.”

“Buddhism leaves people with no peace and no joy,” says Odle. “Only Christ offers that.” His Venture for Victory team observed a strict policy of “No pray, no play,” insisting they be allowed to present the gospel at halftime programs.

I believe, ‘If God is in it, go ahead.’ “From the very beginning of the three-month overseas trip, team members could testify to God’s involvement in the effort. The team made an unscheduled three-day layover in Manila en route to Taiwan. Odle worried that they had no housing arrangements and no extra funds to pay for the expenses they would incur there. The chairman of the Philippine Olympic Committee met them at the airport, however, invited them to play the national Olympic team and offered to pay all their expenses in Manila and half of their air fare from Manila to Formosa. It was an offer Odle could not refuse.

The teams twice faced off in Rizal Stadium, the second time before a crowd of 12,000 people, then the largest crowd ever to witness a game in the Orient. (A year later, the team would play before 17,000 fans in Korea.) The games paved the way for subsequent involvement in the Philippines and for sports evangelism programs still operating there.
Arriving in Taiwan, the group donned uniforms that sported the Chinese characters, “Gwa Jui,” or “For Christ.” “Our purpose was to get the name of Christ before the people,” says Odle, “and what an opportunity we had! Every time we would make a goal, the announcer would say, ‘Gwa Jui scores again. Two more points for Christ.’

“That first year we played under the name Taylor University; went under the sponsorship of Youth for Christ; had Formosa Gospel Crusade coordinate the follow-up with literature from the Navigators; and wore uniforms that had the Chinese characters, ‘Gwa Jui’ sewn on them. It is kind of confusing to follow, but really, it’s a model of the way Christian organizations ought to work together.”

The pattern for witnessing that the team established is still used by many sports ministry teams today. During each game’s halftime break, team members and their player-coach sang or played musical instruments, presented testimonies and shared the gospel message. Literature was distributed, and those interested in making a decision for Christ were enrolled in a Bible correspondence course. A decision meeting was held after each game.

Odle and his players were surprised by the size of the crowds (attendance at the games averaged 4,000) and the number of people who indicated their desire to accept Christ—over 10,000 that first year.

More than 35,000 people tried to get tickets for the first of five matches that pitted the Venture for Victory squad against the national favorites, the Seven Tigers. The stadium seated only 8,000; 9,000 fans crowded in while some 5,000 others milled around outside; an additional 50,000 listened to the radio broadcast of the game. The second match-up was forestalled when fans packed the stadium so full they covered the playing floor. A near-riot ensued.

Odle has always believed in playing to win. The 1952 Venture for Victory team won each of its 79 games in Taiwan. During his twelve years at the helm, the teams posted an overall 600-28 record. Early on, missionaries suggested he should let his opponents win once in a while. Odle refused. “There is nothing wrong with wanting to win,” he says.

“The fact that we were winners was what attracted people to our games.”

In a 1952 press release, United Nations war correspondent Fred Jarvis writes about a game in which Odle’s squad is behind in the third quarter by a score of 35-19. Venture for Victory has just called a time out. “‘Listen, fellows,’ the coach states. ‘It’s no testimony to be this far behind.’ The players returned to the middle of the court and started a thrilling scoring spree that left almost every person in the place spellbound. The number one Chinese team started crumbling on defense and found themselves behind 45-43 as the timer’s signal ended the game.”

To say that the teams won their games under adverse playing conditions is an understatement. Most games were played on dirt, mud, gravel, or cement floors. A downpour of rain was no reason to stop a game if 5,000 fans were gathered. Odle recounts one such game when a half inch of water on the court made dribbling the ball impossible. “We had one of the best passing games that day that I can remember in 38 years of coaching,” he says.

Odle also recalls a night game played almost by moonlight, and another where “there must have been an international convention of about two billion bugs and mosquitoes—they got in our noses, eyes, hair, and clothes. We swallowed them, breathed them, and found it could be a dangerous situation: but we carried on.”

They also carried on despite suffering heat, homesickness, and hunger. Faced with yet another nearly inedible repast, players joked that they should take as their

Don Callan ’55 (no. 6) joins Jack Mount, Joe Grabill ’56, Tine Hardeman, and Ken Stark ’57 in singing and sharing during halftime. According to Callan, the 1955 Venture for Victory trip opened his eyes to missions and led to his later involvement in sports evangelism. In 1990, the NCCAA awarded its first Sports Ministries Award to Cedarville College, in recognition of Callan’s efforts.

Students, too, have caught the vision for missions. Two years ago, during the college’s annual missions emphasis, 300 students pledged their lives in service to Eastern Europe, according to Callan. Over 700 students responded last year when asked to dedicate themselves “to serve the Lord any time, anyplace, anywhere.”

Callan is hesitant to take the credit for the obvious success of the MIS program. “Anything I’ve done, I’d really have to attribute to my wife, Nedra, and the support she’s given me over the years,” he says. Pressed, he admits, “I’ve been successful in my own simple way of getting people involved. I guess that is my message. Anybody can be involved. Just do what you can where you can do it, and the Lord will use you in a marvelous way.”—DM

Their coach wrestled with those and other issues, as well. A journal entry in his handwriting, now in University archives reads, “My biggest question the first two weeks in Formosa: Is it worth it? I am not kidding anyone. I was trying to be a realist and not a fanatic. I am not going to tell you how brave I was—I was scared to death. The conditions of poverty, disease, filth, sin, climate, food, rest, and health all seemed just too big.”

Looking back, Odle says simply, “We were stretched. There have only been a few times in my life when I felt I reached the absolute capacity of my endurance. That trip was one of them. There were times we had to say, ‘Lord, can we do this?’ Only by relying on his strength could we make it through.”

But make it through they did. By the end of the summer, they had witnessed to over 300,000 people; over 10,000 had indicated a desire to accept Christ. Those who did so were led in a prayer of confession and enrolled in a Bible study correspondence course. Missionaries and church leaders provided follow-up, encouraging them to join a local fellowship.

Odle received letters of glowing praise and thanks from Madame Chiang Kai-shek and other high government officials, as well as numerous invitations to return.

Over the next 11 years, Odle did just that. In addition to Taylor players, he recruited top college players from across the United States to join the venture.

Plagued by back injuries, and wanting to devote more time to his family, to Taylor, and to the basketball camp he had co-founded, Odle turned leadership of the program over in 1964 to what is now OC International. The program continued unabated under the name Sports Ambassadors (SA), and as such continues a world wide sports ministry. (Just recently, SA’s long-term director Bud Shaeffer retired. He was a member of the original squad.)

SA still uses as its theme verse the passage Odle so often quoted as a rationale for pairing basketball and evangelism, “We have become all things to all men so we might by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22).

According to OC International, Sports Ambassadors teams played before crowds totalling nearly 150,000 this past summer.

While that in itself is a significant accomplishment, the Venture for Victory legacy extends much further. Today, Sports Ambassadors is just one of an estimated 90 sports evangelism ministries. In addition, countless other outreach ministries have built on the Venture for Victory model, using—instead of sports—teams that perform music, drama, or employ any of a number of other activities that serve as an attention-getting platform from which to present the gospel message.

Odle shakes his head at the thought of it. “That first year when we went with Venture for Victory, we thought that was it. We thought it was a one-shot deal.”

Apparently, God had other plans. The echo of that “one shot deal” is still being heard around the world.

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**Team Work**

**Coach and Bonnie Odle**

They were an unlikely couple. Bonnie Weaver was a shy, studious freshman at Taylor in 1940. Don Odle was a brash, outgoing junior, more interested in athletics than academics. (“Bonnie was in Who’s Who,” he says. “I was in What’s What.”) They dated four years. Bonnie recalls that when she began to talk of marrying Don, Dean of Women Ethel Faust warned her that he “was the kind of person who would make a lot of unusual demands.” Faust was right.

In the 49 years since he and Bonnie were wed, Coach has logged 3 million miles, visited 40 countries, and filled over 3,000 speaking engagements. He gained national recognition for his 38-year coaching career and upon retirement ranked eighth among basketball coaches in the nation for most career wins.

In 1960, at the request of the Chinese Nationalist government, he coached its basketball team in the Olympics. He co-founded one of the first-ever basketball camps, now with over 60,000 alumni.

A member of five Halls of Fame, Coach has numerous awards, including a Congressional citation, a medal from the Freedom Foundation of America, Indiana’s Sagamore of the Wabash, the Indiana Sports Writers and Broadcasters Association’s Joe Boland Award for the person contributing the most to the youth of Indiana, and the Legion of Honor, the Alumni Association’s highest honor.

Last year, the National Christian College Athletic Association awarded him its prestigious Sports Ministries Award.

Quick to credit his wife for his success, Coach says, “Bonnie has gone through all these experiences with me. She became a real prayer warrior. She is very much a part of it.”

Bonnie accompanied the Venture for Victory team on its second trip in 1953. Having a firsthand understanding of the ministry helped her, she says, during the many summers her husband was overseas. Besides caring for their two children, “she ran the home base while I was away,” says Coach. “She answered the phone and the mail and took care of the finances.”

Bonnie is happy with her behind-the-scenes role. “I am not an ‘up-front’ person,” she says. “I’m not as colorful a personality as Don is, and I don’t like the limelight as much as he does.

“The Lord is good. He really is the glue.” Coach agrees. “Opposites might attract,” he says, “but only the Lord can hold them together.” —DM
Thank you! We express our gratitude for the financial support of many donors during the 1992/1993 academic year. Your support of Taylor University enables her to pursue her God-given mission in Christian higher education.

During the past three years at Taylor Plan Dinners, we have used as our motto, A Charge to Keep, referencing the hymn by Charles Wesley. Taylor University has a “spiritual charge” to perform—that of proclaiming Christ in each neighborhood where Taylor alumni finds themselves.

If you are among the many who share in this ministry through financial gifts, you have a part in preparing young people to continue that charge. We thank you for supporting Taylor University programs.

This past academic year, alumni, trustees, parents, friends, businesses, churches, and University employees have shared financial support for student aid and the construction of buildings; have established scholarships and provided funds for academic departments; have assisted in athletic endeavors and provided students with financial help for mission projects; and the list goes on. Due to the faithfulness of many, the witness of Jesus Christ—through the preparation of Taylor University students—continues.

Highlights of this past year include:

- Completion of a successful three-year cycle of the Taylor Plan Dinners and preparation for the new three-year period;
- Completion of a successful $900,000-plus annual fund commitment;
- The capital campaign nears completion and will reach its $8.3 million goal in the next few months;
- The Endowing the Vision program surpassed its three-year goal in two years and set a new goal of $10 million in future endowment by 1996;
- Alumni participation increased by nearly 10 percent.

These achievements are the result of many people working together. Although the average alumni gift for the Taylor Fund this past year was $10 smaller than the previous year, the number of alumni donors increased by nearly 600. We are pleased that people are responding to the mission and work of Taylor University.

A Purpose to Serve, our theme for the next three years, is drawn from the second verse of Wesley’s hymn: To serve the present age / My calling to fulfill / O may it all my powers engage / To do my Master’s will.

Taylor University will continue to do just that, with heartfelt appreciation to you for your prayers and financial support.

Gene L. Rupp
Vice President for University Development

## Taylor University Giving Totals

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**TOTALS** | **904,219** | **1,883,137** | **2,787,356**
Christian service is at the heart of the Taylor mission.

Bernard of Clairvaux is credited with the following:

- There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowing; that is curiosity.
- There are those who seek knowledge to be known by others; that is vanity.
- There are those who seek knowledge in order to serve; that is love.

This does not exclude “marketable skills,” nor does it exclude monetary success or professional achievement. What it does do is emphasize the central tenet of the Christian message. Those who would follow Christ must learn to serve God and mankind. In every life it has something to do with the sublimation of self-ambition to God and the larger good.

The service motive has always undergirded Christian higher education, both Catholic and Protestant. Our mission statement, though quaint sounding to many modern ears, reflects this core value:

Taylor University is an interdenominational evangelical Christian undergraduate institution educating men and women for lifelong learning and for ministering the redemptive love of Jesus Christ to a world in need. As a community of Christian students under the guidance of a faculty committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, Taylor University offers liberal arts and professional training based upon the conviction that all truth has its source in God.

At its root, a liberal education should free us from the “cage of smallness” that causes us to selfishly seek to make ourselves the center of the universe. It should lift us from the bondage of ignorance which leads to isolation and indifference and sensitize us to the deepest needs and unfulfilled aspirations of the human race. It should prepare us to analyze situations, discriminate between solutions, prepare us for making our contribution and elevate us from wallowing in cynicism and despair.

There is no message available to mankind that endows humanity with more hope and personal fulfillment than the gospel, and nothing in the long history of mankind has motivated greater heights of accomplishment, dedicated effort and sacrificial service.

Within the pages of this honor roll of Taylor University donors, we briefly highlight the great variety of avenues through which service is being expressed. Christian vocation is not limited to professional church-related pursuits. Christian vocation speaks of the desire to emulate the life of Jesus Christ through any and all occupations and pursuits. There is perhaps no other distinction which better delineates today’s students from those of my day. We tended to put emphasis on vocational Christian service rather than Christian vocation. Thus, most who did not go into the pastorate, mission field, or chaplaincy tended to be seen as accepting second best for their lives. Deep in our hearts we knew that one could serve through teaching, business, medicine, law, farming, or homemaking, but it was seen as indirect and supportive of the “front-line troops” in church-related occupations.

Today we are confident that a more mature and biblical understanding stresses that all followers of Christ should choose “Christian vocation” regardless of their occupation. Taylor alumni are currently found in virtually all of the world’s occupations and most understand that theirs is Christian vocation. The desire to “bloom where you are planted” and to serve the cause of Christ in every walk of life is still our driving force. British cleric Michael Green puts it this way, “...from the unlimited resource of God to the infinite variety of human experience.” As the “man on the watch” during this chapter of Taylor history, I applaud those who serve in the obscure and public places, the direct and supportive, the secular and the ecclesiastical, the classroom, the parachurch, the marketplace, and the corridors of power.

In this spirit, I thank you for your partnership in this ministry and acknowledge you who have so faithfully given of yourselves—your money, talent, time, resourcefulness, prayers, counsel, and encouragement—that we might train future generations of like-minded men and women who, together with us, will seek to know, to serve, and to love, confident that the promise is sure, “Whoever loses his or her life for my sake will find it.”

Jay Kesler ’58
President
President’s Associates

Thank you for all that you mean to the Lord’s work here at Taylor. We are sincerely grateful for your faithful partnership in this ministry.

President’s Associates are those beneficiaries whose contributions during the 1992–93 fiscal year totaled $1200 or more.

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When I came to Taylor, I really had no specific direction in my life other than to be a teacher. Through my involvement in missions projects to Haiti and through my involvement in ministry to the local community, God has given me a specific call to the city. 

**Teresa Schrock ’93**
The preparation that I received at Taylor has only made me more excited to go out and serve.

Brian Biedebach '94
Thank you! Your added commitment to Taylor University serves to enhance and advance the standard of the school. We are indeed grateful for your monetary support.

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Church.
What I learned in Venezuela was something that I couldn’t have learned in Upland on Taylor’s campus. It was more than books could teach me or what a professor could tell me. It was about the opportunity in my life to teach me things I never thought that I would learn.

Amiee Wheeler '95
Donor Honor Roll

Thank you! Your deep concern and love for Bishop William Taylor’s namesake is evident in your generous gifts to the University. Thank you for putting your caring into action.

Memorial Gifts

Thank you! Your gift, made in memory or in honor of a specific individual, pays tribute to that person and serves as a fitting memorial to his or her life and influence.

New Funds & Scholarships

Thank you! Scholarships and funds, like those that were instituted last year, play an essential role in allowing the University to vigorously pursue her mission.

A new fund has been established in honor of a beloved faculty member, Dr. Jane Klein. The Jane Klein Fund will support scholarships for students pursuing careers in the arts. Donors who wish to make a contribution to this fund can contact the Development Office.

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Thank you! Your support of Taylor University helps ensure that the unique educational experience that is Taylor will be enjoyed by students for many generations to come.

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## Autumn 1993

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*Subject to change*
Opportunity
Knocks

Athletics still opens doors.

By Don Granitz '52

We had no idea of what lay ahead, really. We knew we were going overseas to play basketball and evangelize that summer of 1952. We knew we were going at the invitation of President and Madame Chiang Kai-shek. And we certainly were excited. But we really did not know what was ahead. We soon found out.

I was a member of the 1952 and 1953 Venture for Victory basketball teams, the first-ever to engage in overseas sports evangelism. What we discovered in those early years still holds true today; the popularity of athletics makes it a powerful way to attract an audience for evangelism.

In the Orient I saw thousands of people—who had come out to watch a basketball game—respond to the gospel message as presented during our halftime presentations. That made a powerful impression on me.

When my wife, Jean (Huffman '52), and I went to Brazil as missionaries, we borrowed the idea and involved ourselves with reaching kids via athletics. For me it was basketball. Others have used various sports. It almost seems that no matter what the sport, and no matter where in the world, the effect is the same. Athletics opens a door for the presentation of the gospel.

Those doors reopened for me three years ago, in the summer of 1990. City officials of Maringa invited me to return to their city with a sports ministry team. For me, it was kind of a homecoming.

During most of our 16 years in Brazil, Jean and I ministered in the city of Maringa. I directed the Bible school; Jean directed the missionary children's school. I also played and coached city and all-star teams. At the end on that time, we were made honorary citizens of the city of Maringa at a dinner meeting hosted by the mayor.

For our return in 1990, we assembled a nine-member basketball team, christened, "Team Brasil." It included three members of the Trojan varsity basketball squad and four Taylor alumni. Our son Tom '86 coached the team. During three weeks in Maringa, we held basketball clinics for younger children and participated in sessions with the physical education majors at the local university.

We have much to offer the communities there. In Brazil, as is the case in most South American countries, grade schools, high schools, and colleges do not offer their students opportunities for athletic competition. Instead, local clubs compete among themselves. This arrangement prohibits many children from getting involved.

We took advantage of these and other opportunities for ministry, as well. We were able to visit various churches and share our testimonies there. We distributed tracts that highlighted the players and their testimonies. We also shared the gospel with local officials and members of the All Star team, and held a major youth rally at the end of our stay.

For me, the trip was a throw-back to the years I had spent working with sports evangelism in Maringa. Indeed, had it not been for my previous involvement with athletics in that city, the doors of opportunity for such a venture would have never opened. As it is, however, many present city officials and university administrators were once teammates or players of mine. They paved the way for us.

I was at Taylor from 1948 to 1952, but I can remember, as clearly as if it were today, missionary Clarence Jones speaking in chapel. He had gone to Ecuador and set up the HCJB radio broadcasting system. He told us, "The best thing I did when I entered Ecuador was to teach English at the local university in Quito." After several years he was ready to build the station, but he needed a number of government documents signed and approved first. As he went to various government offices, what did he find, but his previous students working in those offices. Need I say more?

Once again I have received an invitation to bring a basketball team to Maringa and participate in the city's official 50th anniversary celebration in May of 1994.

Should we go? Our plans are already well under way.

I have seen a thread running through my life ever since I committed myself to the Lord Jesus Christ at 16 years of age—through my time in the Armed Forces and the four years I spent at Taylor; in receiving an offer to play professionally and joining instead two Venture for Victory trips; in my experiences in Brazil; in returning to Maringa in 1990 and again in the invitation to return next year.

That thread continues spinning itself into a ministry that I could never have imagined at age 16.

The challenge is out there to reach the world for Christ. This can be done by many methods. Sports evangelism certainly is one of these. The center of any and all methods, however, must be to present the name of Jesus as the only Savior of mankind.—DG

As the city director of sports—a former player of his—looks on, Don Granitz (right) greets the coach of the city all star team.

Don '52 and his wife, Jean (Huffman '52) Granitz live in Elkhart, Indiana. Don serves on a part-time basis with Bethel College, Mishawaka.
Now You’re Talkin’!

Sport is an international language.

By Jack King ’59

Whether it’s football in Russia, volleyball in Honduras, or basketball in Singapore, sport is an international language, spoken in every culture of the world.

I saw that firsthand when I traveled with the Venture for Victory basketball team in 1958. We played 82 games in 60 days and won all but two. More important, we won souls to Christ. We shared Christ during halftime in Korea, then in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, and the Philippines.

About six years ago, I saw firsthand the result of sports missions in the life of a man named Danny Ye. I was at a church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, when Danny gave his testimony. “I grew up in Singapore,” he said. “It was there in 1958 that my girlfriend tried to get me to go see the Venture for Victory team. I went and I became a Christian.”

Danny’s experience of coming to know Christ through basketball evangelism has been replicated now in almost every sport and in almost every country of the world. Some see sports as a step in fulfilling the great commission.

Our Lord’s command may be interpreted. “Go into all the world’s language and people groups and preach the gospel.” Sport is one of our world’s great international languages. No matter what the game, no matter where or what the arena, crowds gather to experience the drama of competition and cheer their favorite to victory.

What are Christian athletes to do in a world gone mad about sports? I believe they are called to go into that world and share the good news of Christ. And I rejoice to see that happening in nearly every corner of the globe.

Although sports evangelism started here at Taylor with Don Odle and Venture for Victory in 1952, the concept has spread all over the world and has now come full circle. One of the ministries targeting our nation is Sports Outreach America. SOA is coordinating its biggest-ever evangelistic outreach at the upcoming World Cup soccer championship in several U.S. cities and at the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta.

SOA is just one part of the International Sports Coalition, a worldwide partnership of Christian sports ministries. Sports missions networking represents one of the most significant recent developments in the movement.

In almost every country of the world you can find a pastor, youth leader, or teacher who has received training on how to help the local church use sports for evangelism. In 1983, I participated in just such a conference in Nairobi. It attracted people from across the African continent. By now, those people have trained others, multiplying their own effectiveness and that of sports ministry.

Sports evangelism is not limited to basketball, of course. A Christian sports ministry in England, for example, uses cricket, a historic British Commonwealth sport. Their team has traveled to India, a former British nation, to share the gospel through cricket.

The Hallelujah Team from Korea, composed of world-class soccer players, has gone to South America, doing what Venture for Victory did, only with soccer—the world’s most popular sport.

With the Venture for Victory tradition a part of their heritage, our Taylor students have remained active in sports evangelism. Two teams of Taylor athletes traveled to Honduras this summer—a women’s volleyball team and a men’s basketball team. Several football players and Taylor’s assistant football coach traveled to Russia, Byelorussia, and Latvia to engage in sports evangelism and introduce American football there through clinics and games.
Alumni are active in the sports ministry, as well. Norm Cook ’51 has probably taken as many Christian sports teams around the world as anybody. He and his wife, Muriel (Culver ’53), live in Portland, Ore., where Norm serves as advisor to the missions department at Multnomah Bible College.

Gary Friesen ’75 works at Faith Academy, a school in the Philippines for children of missionaries. In the tradition of Venture for Victory, Gary takes teams of missionary kids to play basketball and share Christ throughout the Philippines.

There are many others.

I served with Sports Ambassadors from 1971-1978, and with Athletes in Action from 1980-1986. In 1988, I returned to Taylor to join the development staff. At that time I started Friendship Sports International so I could continue as a consultant, catalyst, and facilitator for sports evangelism.

My experiences have taught me that the impact of sports evangelism is wide-ranging. Danny Ye reminded me of that as I listened to his testimony six years ago. He said he had felt led to consciously apply the Venture for Victory model in the arena of music. Apparently, Danny was successful. At the time I heard him speak, he was serving as director of Youth for Christ’s international music evangelism outreach, overseeing gospel music teams traveling the world. Danny had found that music, like sport, is an international language, and that such languages can be powerfully used to communicate the gospel.

Where the Rubber Meets the Road

Success, both in cycling and in life, demands risk-taking.

For a number of years, it was not uncommon for motorists to spy a long line of Taylor students, all astraddle bicycles, each sporting a bright orange safety flag that flashed and flickered in the sunlight.

While that sight was probably most common on county roads near the University’s Upland campus, motorists from California to Maine were treated to similar sights.

Wandering Wheels, or Wheels, for short, was the name given a sports ministry program begun in 1964 on the Taylor campus by then-head football coach Robert Davenport.

Originally, its targeted audience was teenaged boys who were not being challenged in a physical, adventurous sense by their Sunday School and church youth programs.

The 1964 summer bicycle trip was designed to be just that—a one-time summer trip, not the launching of a long-term program. By popular demand, it proved to be the latter.

Davenport wanted to organize an activity that would give boys a sense of achievement when they completed it. In the number “1,000” he found what he was looking for.

He designed a 1,000-mile-long summer bicycle trip. “The emphasis of the first trip was not on bicycles,” says Davenport. “It was that a kid could come home and say, ‘I just rode a bike a thousand miles.’ That was the trophy I wanted to send back with them.”

Word-of-mouth advertising brought a ground swell of requests for a repeat trip the next summer, and Davenport assented. That summer the 1,000-mile trip involved travel in six states. The next summer, a group comprised primarily of Taylor students joined Davenport in cycling across the entire nation, from coast to coast. Their leader vowed it would be the last such trip. “It was too risky, too dangerous,” he says. This summer Wheels sponsored its 44th coast-to-coast crossing.

According to Davenport, the organization flourished in a climate of controlled risk-taking from its beginning.

The idea for the Wandering Wheels program came in part as a spin-off of Venture for Victory, according to Bob Davenport.

cites 1969 as an example, a year in which the program was gaining explosive popularity. That year, he resigned his coaching position to turn his attention to the cycling program. It had been officially incorporated in 1968, and continued its affiliation with the University. Davenport continued to work for Taylor in church and community relations, but on a part-time basis and on a part-time salary. Some of his colleagues shook their heads at the risks involved, but Davenport, aware of their concerns, remained unruffled.

That willingness to risk, coupled with careful attention to safety, became twin components of Wheels’ philosophy. In its early years, Wheels was the only group in the nation involved in long distance recreational cycling. As such, it became a leader in introducing innovative safety measures, among them: bicycle safety flags, hard shell helmets, mirrors, and bright, easily-seen riding accessories.

Today, motorists seldom see a group of bikers sporting colorful neon orange pennants. Although still popular overseas, bicycle safety flags are no longer widely used in this country.

Similarly, Taylor students are no longer involved in the Wheels program at the levels they once were. At the behest of the University’s insurance carriers, Taylor and Wandering Wheels agreed upon a complete legal separation in 1989.

Ironically, insurance carriers were concerned with the amount of risk involved.—DM
Sports Ministry at Taylor

Basketball, Brazil, 1991
The trip was one of the defining moments in my decision not to pursue going to medical school but to enroll in seminary instead. I had heard the call to mission work ever since the ninth grade and always thought I would be a missionary doctor, but on that trip God created in me a desire for full-time ministry. He sharpened my focus and revealed his will in a fuller way.
—Scott Dean '90

Basketball, Brazil, 1991
I accompanied the basketball team as statistician. The trip gave me the opportunity to renew cross-cultural interest and be involved in ministry while still in college. It confirmed the cross-cultural ties I had before. I'm back in Brazil now, teaching school.
—Marcy Sloat '93

Basketball, Honduras, 1993
My eyes were opened to several things during this trip. Among them, I was shown the need for willing people to go to different cultures and share and encourage the growth of Christianity and the development of personal relationships.
—Rod Chandler '91

Basketball, Honduras, 1993
I have never bonded faster with a group of guys I had never met before. The only way to explain it was the common bond we had in Christ. That was the thing I remembered most.
—John Gabrielson '94

Volleyball, Honduras, 1993
I really enjoyed being able to interact with the kids at the orphanage and players on the teams we played against. I've gotten letters from some of them already. I really enjoyed the people aspect.
—Amy Boothe '95

Gospel literature is distributed at games
Football, Russia, 1993
For many reasons, the people of Russia are not offered a lot of hope. Their life is so hard. Yet in the midst of no hope, the Christians we got to know there are some of the most joyful people I have ever met.
—Chad Mulder '96

Coach Ron Korfmercher
Football, Russia, 1993
As coach, I saw our team become unified and cohesive in such a short, yet intense period of time. When a group of young men deny themselves and commit to a task, the results are incredible.
—Ron Korfmercher '82

Sharing the gospel in the former Soviet Union

Volleyball
Honduras, 1993
This trip has made me aware of the compassion that I have for people, especially the poor. My heart has been melted. I'm more eager to share the gospel.
—Michelle Holler '89

Soccer
Argentina, 1991
It gave us a chance to see missionaries as human beings—not just as images on a postcard. They have everyday problems just like you and I experience.
—Joe Lund, Coach

Football
Russia, 1993
It was awesome to see how God is working in the hearts of the young people in Russia. Their faith is unbelievable. It really showed. There is such an excitement there, such a joy.
My eyes were opened to see God at work and also to allow God to use me. To see the hunger of the people over there for the gospel—it is indescribable. It really hurt my heart to leave.
—Walter Moore '90

Volleyball clinic in Honduras

Trojan soccer team in Argentina
Taylor Organized Under Mooney Influence

1884

Before Dr. P. J. "Pat" Zondervan, there was Dr. Burt Ayres. Before Dr. Burt Ayres, there was Dr. George Mooney. Before Dr. George Mooney, there was no one after whom to name the library.

Of the three gentlemen who have in turn lent their names to the Taylor University library, George W. Mooney, D.D., was the first.

A New York City native, he in his early years labored with Bishop William Taylor.

Mooney later played a vital role in the survival of Fort Wayne College and in its metamorphosis into Taylor University, named in honor of the Methodist missionary bishop.

Mooney represented the national leadership of the Methodist Episcopal Church's National Association of Local Preachers (NALP) in 1884 when the group first expressed interest in establishing formal ties with the Fort Wayne school.

When the NALP assumed responsibility for the school in 1890, Mooney became a charter member of the board of trustees, a position he held until his death in 1917.

By his financial contributions and personal influence (he convinced the Christian Herald Publishing Company to donate a number of volumes to Taylor), Mooney helped establish the library named in his honor.

Mooney was active in other ways, as well. He established the Mooney Certificate prizes for the annual literary society contests in forensics and attended every commencement from 1890–1916.

Before his death in February of 1917, he was celebrated as the last surviving charter member of the original Taylor University Board of Trustees and as Taylor's oldest friend.

1893

When Taylor relocated from Fort Wayne 100 years ago, school officials had every reason to believe they were leaving one large city for what would become another.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Taylor University's arrival in Upland, Indiana. After nearly 50 years in Fort Wayne, the University relocated to Upland in 1893.

Today, Upland, population 3,000, exemplifies rural small-town America. In 1893, however, Upland was in the midst of a gas boom, Seven years earlier, a seemingly inexhaustible supply of natural gas had been discovered in the area, and Upland promised to become a major manufacturing center. Five miles to the south, entrepreneurs had plotted the town of Matthews, named it in honor of the governor of Indiana, and had aspirations for its becoming the new state capitol.

Upland residents, reveling in new found prosperity, wooed the University with the promise of $10,000 and 10 acres of land on the south edge of town. School officials, struggling with burdensome debt in Fort Wayne, took them up on the offer. And the generosity of local residents did not end there.

Upland businessman T. W. Williams ran the town's sawmill. He donated the lumber for the Wright Hall administration building and lent his financial support to the University during her early years in Upland.

Williams also drilled two natural gas wells on Taylor property in hopes of providing the campus a source of free fuel. Perhaps foreshadowing the "bust" that would signal the end of the gas boom at the close of the century, both wells were dry.
Sports Evangelism: Not a New Idea

Missionary statesman Dr. John Wengatz ’09 was among those who used sports as a tool for spreading the gospel long before the modern sports evangelism movement got its start with Don “Coach” Odle’s Venture for Victory teams in 1952.

In fact, Odle credits Wengatz with having an important influence on his life and ministry. “He really challenged my missionary vision,” says Odle.

“Dr. John Wengatz spoke in chapel at Taylor quite a bit,” he says. “I don’t remember whether he talked about this in chapel or told me on a personal basis—he knew I was an athlete—but I do remember his telling me about how he used to train those African men to run.

“I was a basketball player, I was not a track man; he had been a track man. He would tell me how he used some of that track over there, and what good runners the Africans were, and what good jumpers they were.”

Jack King ’59, is another who remembers Wengatz’ sharing about his use of sports on the mission field. According to King, Wengatz said he was never at a loss for how to get started in a new environment or culture. “If you have sports, you don’t have to worry about that,” says King.

During his 42 years on the mission field in Africa, Wengatz constructed 36 churches and 44 schools. According to church records, 44,000 people—screened to ascertain the genuineness of their conversion experience—were baptized under his ministry.

1909

Early in this century, John Wengatz found that sports opened doors for him in Africa. He shared that information with Don Odle—who would later found the sports evangelism movement.

1952

The sports evangelism movement started at Taylor University with the Venture for Victory program and Don Odle ’42 in 1952. With Odle as player/coach, teams of Christian athletes traveled overseas to play basketball and evangelize those who came to watch the games. Under Odle’s leadership for 12 years, the program set the pace for a form of ministry that has been replicated in almost every sport and in almost every nation of the world.

Though basketball was their primary tool for attracting an audience, Odle’s Venture for Victory players engaged in other forms of outreach as well, including visits to schools, hospitals, and prisons. Also, the team was invited to visit a leprosarium near Taipei each year. That first year, Odle agreed to go, but not without a great deal of fear and trembling.

In a letter written in 1952 to his wife, Bonnie (Weaver ’44), he describes the visit as “the hardest thing I ever went through.” He had “never seen such deformed bodies, such miserable collections of human bones and flesh,” he wrote. “They have only one thing to look forward to and that is death.”

Yet, even in the midst of death, Odle found life. Lepers who had accepted Christ had a more positive purpose for life, he says. And he himself came to realize that each individual is made in God’s image and has a role to play.

During a visit in later years, he met a leper who had been praying for him daily for a full 10 years. Recounting the story, Odle asks simply, “What can you say to that?”

Now retired, Don “Coach” Odle and his wife, Bonnie, divide their time between homes in Florida and Upland.
In Memoriam
Dr. Walter Randall '38, 1916–1993
World-renowned physiologist
Premier research scientist
Master teacher

Passing Of a Legend

The list of Dr. Walter C. Randall’s awards, accomplishments and published articles runs more than 20 pages. His lengthy obituary “looked like an obituary for 10 men,” observes Dr. Tim Burkholder ’63, biology department chair. Both documents stand in silent tribute to the contributions of a man who dedicated his life to researching the neural control of the heart.

Those who gathered in the Upland United Methodist Church for his funeral on August 23 were not so quiet in their accolades for the master teacher and legendary research scientist.

“I’ve known Dr. Randall for six years,” said Kevin Bluemel ’90. “And because of those six years my life has been changed. Suffice it to say that because of Dr. Randall, I was a better student; I will be a better physician; and I am a better person. He was an educator. He was a scientist. He was my mentor. Most of all, he was a friend.

“Dr. Randall’s impact did not end with his death. His memory will live on through me and through the thousands of others he affected.”

After retiring from Loyola’s Stritch School of Medicine, Randall joined the Taylor University faculty as research professor in the natural sciences six years ago. By his reputation, credentials, and influence, Randall was able to attract administrative support and both internal and external funding for a number of research initiatives, including a research training program that allows selected students to...
work alongside faculty members on significant research projects during the summer months.

"One of Dr. Randall's loves on this earth was doing research," says Burkholder. "And I mean research at the highest level. He has told me many times, 'Day after day, the thing that drives me to the research laboratory is this: maybe I will discover something today that will help me better understand the blueprint that God has created.'"

Alumni with experience in the research program Randall instituted find themselves at the top of the class, no matter which graduate school they attend. According to Dr. Edwin Squiers, "That's part of Walt's legacy." Squiers is director of the Randall Center for Environmental Studies, named in honor of the eminent scientist and his beloved late wife, Gwen (Niebel '40), and dedicated shortly after her death last fall.

"In effect, Walt Randall gave the last six years of his life to Taylor to enhance Taylor University's academic reputation by lifting it to a new level in terms of research," says Squiers. "I feel the absolute need to continue to do what he set in motion. And I would hope that the University would give it the same credence tomorrow that it did two weeks ago when he was still alive. I'm selfish for him, and for me, and for all of us who are looking for that next level up in terms of quality.

"I think we must keep in mind what Walt did it for—certainly for the love of science and for the love of his Creator, but also, for the love of students."

Another part of the Randall legacy is the example—challenge, even—he set for elder statesmen among successful Christians in all walks of life. "Maybe he's given us a model," says Squiers. "Maybe we ought to expect Christian businessmen, doctors, lawyers, social workers—whoever—instead of retiring away from Christian universities, to come back and share that expertise. It's notable that Walt gave it for nothing. He didn't charge Taylor a dime. He brought with him far more than we gave him.

"At a time most people were ending their careers, he was taking the very best and giving it back to students and to the University. That's admirable. It might make a good challenge to others."

David Brewer, MD, campus physician and Randall's Sunday School class teacher, was with the noted scientist on that final Friday. At the funeral, Brewer recounted the events of the day: "After a day of struggle on the edge of life itself, Walt tied together the eloquence of heaven and the simplicity of life here on earth. He asked to sit up in his bed, then announced to his family, 'Let's have devotions—then get to sleep.'"

After giving a short sermonette that included the gospel message, Randall challenged members of both his immediate and Taylor family "to love God, to study effectively, and to tell others," Brewer recalled. "Walt then closed his eyes and joined his dear wife, Gwen, in God's prepared and chosen place."

So passed a legendary research scientist, a master teacher, a father, a colleague, a friend. Yet his influence lives in the lives of many.—DM
Join Your Taylor Friends for a

SCANDANAVIAN HOLIDAY

15 Days, June 21–July 5, 1994

Copenhagen • Oslo • Stockholm • Uppsala

The Taylor University Alumni Relations office invites alumni and friends to join Dr. and Mrs. William Fry for 15 memorable days in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Dr. Fry is chairman of the English department at Taylor, and his wife Lura serves on the Taylor staff as a secretary in the athletic department. Dr. and Mrs. Fry have previously led two successful alumni tours.

The dates of this special trip are June 21 - July 5, 1994. Among the highlights of the itinerary are three days in Denmark which include sightseeing in Copenhagen and a visit to Hamlet’s Elsinore castle. An overnight cruise on a Scandinavian Seaways ship will take passengers to Norway for seven days and will include tours of Oslo and Bergen, as well as coach excursions to ancient Viking sites. Two cruises on the spectacularly beautiful Hardanger and Sogne fjords will be unforgettable. Five days in Sweden will finish out the trip with sightseeing in Stockholm and a visit to the university town of Uppsala, home to the historic cathedral, the largest church in Scandinavia.

The cost of this Scandinavian tour is $2,999 per person from Chicago and $2,899 per person from New York. Included in this price is round trip economy air fare, first class hotels, daily Scandinavian buffet-style breakfast, ten dinners, all transfers and porterage, first class air-conditioned motor coach, overnight cruise ship, fjord ferry cruise, catamaran cruise and visits to various museums and sights.

This Scandinavian Holiday should not be missed! For more information and a free brochure, call the Alumni Office at 1 (800) 882-3456, ext. 5113.
1916
Ray Vaughan Browning, 101, passed away on June 2 in Franklin, IN. He had been a banker for 40 years, and retired in 1966 as vice president of the First National Bank in Bloomington. His wife Lois Miriam (Vayhinger x'18) preceded him in death.

1938
Dr. Walter C. Randall died August 20 in Muncie, IN. He was a research professor in biology at Taylor since 1987. Prior to that, Dr. Randall served on the faculty of Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine. Since 1971, Walter was a member of the Taylor University Board of Trustees, and in 1988 received the Alumni Associations' highest award, the Legion of Honor. Walter was preceded in death by his wife Gwen (Niebel '40) on August 31, 1992. (See page 24 for a memorial tribute to Dr. Randall.)

1942
Helen O'Bryan Spence died June 22 of congestive heart failure. Any memorial gifts can be sent to the Taylor University Class of 1942 fund.

1950
Dr. Timothy Warner has retired from the faculty at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is now serving full time with Freedom in Christ Ministries of LaHabra, CA, teaching and leading seminars all over the world. In May 1992, Tim gave the final commencement address at Fort Wayne Bible College/Summit Christian College (now Taylor-Fort Wayne) where he had served as president from 1971-80.

1957
Donald Moline passed away on May 17 after a long battle with cancer. His wife Ruth (Fleming) lives at 7590 S. Reed Rd., Durand, MI 48429.

1961
Graduation 1993 also served as a mini-reunion for the class of '61. Dick & Elsbeth (Baris) Baarendse and Marlene (Silvis) Georgia rejoiced in the graduation of their sons Phillip and Philip, respectively. Dr. Joseph Brain joined them in celebrating the graduation of his nephew Dan Turello.

1962
Art & Lois (Staub '63) Deyo have moved to 9959 E. Peakview Ave., #F108, Englewood, CO 80111. Art has been named the International Liaison Director for the Asia-Pacific Area of Youth for Christ. The Deyos have been a part of YFC for 29 years. ●

1964
Col. Dave Golden is now the senior chaplain at SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe), Belgium. SHAPE is located south of Brussels, Dave & Alice (Hendrickson '63) live at 80th ASG, CMR 451 Box 128, APO AE 09708.

1965
Bob & Mary Kay Ransbottom reside at 10655 SR 118, Rockford, OH 45882. Bob is elementary principal and curriculum coordinator at Parkway Local School. He taught and coached football for 11 years and continues to serve as administrator as he has for the past 17 years. They have 2 daughters at TU this fall. Heidi is a freshman and Holly is a senior. Bob & Mary Kay are very active in the Calvary Evangelical Church in Van Wert, OH.

1966
Dr. David & Sharilyn (Barton '64) Baugh have relocated in Danville, IN, after practicing pediatrics in Springerville, AZ for 19 years. Dave, a pediatrician, is joining Family Medical Center, Danville. Their oldest son, Jon, is a freshman at TU. Jim is a HS junior and Joey is in the 4th grade. Their new address is 20 Round
1970

David Pyle has been named executive director of Compa Food Ministry. Previously he served as senior vice president of American Business Advisors. Compa Food Ministry currently feeds over 6000 people each week through 58 local churches and agencies.

1974

Kathy (Miller) Hewes has completed the MA in Art Education program at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. where she received the Elizabeth Roberts Prize for Graduate Study in Art Ed. Kathy is the district art specialist for Lindenhof Public Schools, Lindenhof, NJ, and is also a cast member at EPCOT Center, Walt Disney World. She resides with her husband, Wheat, at 18 Wynnwood Ave., Westmont, NJ 08108.

1975

Gary & Janet Friesen have returned to the Philippines after a year-long furlough. Gary teaches at Faith Academy. Gary, Janet and their 3 children—Neal, Arlene and Carla—live in PO Box 2016 MCPO, 0706 Makati MM, PHILIPPINES. • Gary Metzenbacher has been named to Who's Who in Religion '92-'93 for his work as a seminary librarian and professor. After 13 years as librarian at Western Evangelical Seminary in Portland, OR, he accepted a call to the pastorate and is serving at a church in rural PA. Gary’s address is 13493 Klemmer Rd., Union City, PA 16438. • Derrell & Sandy (Schoenhals) Patterson and family have moved to Vernon, TX, where Derrell is pastoring First United Methodist Church. Their new address is 3105 Martindale, Vernon, TX 76384.

1976

Chuck & Carole Fennig proudly announce the adoption of Daniel Cothran. He arrived in their home on June 15. The Fennigs work with Wycliffe Bible Translators and are preparing to return to New Caledonia. Their address is 705 Stucky St., #208, Berne, IN 46711.

1978

Drs. Richard & Rebecca (Kerlin) Haak are delighted to announce the birth of twins David and Daniel on February 22. The twins were cared for at delivery by Dr. Thaddeus Poe '79 and Dr. Joe Kerlin '56, excited grandfather! Sisters Jenny (9) and Megan (7) approved. Becky is an obstetrician gynecologist in Danville. The Haaks reside at 955 S. SR 39, Danville, IN 46122.

1979

Lois Ann (Soper) Roelse graduated from the University of Kentucky in August 1992, with a Master’s in Library Science (with highest honors). Lois is working for Varian Associates in Palo Alto and husband Jim is an engineer for IBM. They live at 5036 Corbin, San Jose, CA 95118.

1980

Warren & Kathy (Cork) Hoffman welcomed the arrival of Katherine Stewart on March 10. After an extended maternity leave, Kathy will return to work at Prudential Insurance Co., where she is Dir. of Banking and Assistant Treasurer. Warren also works at Prudential as Dir. of Values Initiatives. The Hoffmanns reside at 41 Edgewood Rd., Chatham, NJ 07928. • Kevin Neuhouser was named Outstanding Professor 1993 by the Univ. of Washington Sociology Alumni Association. The selection was made by the graduating seniors in the sociology dept. His address is 1732 NE 89th St., Seattle, WA 98125. • Beth (Kerlin) Toben, as president of the Waco-McLennan County Bar Assoc., was given the highest award presented by the State Bar of Texas at the Annual Bar Awards meeting in Dallas in May. The “Award of Merit” honored the association for its many projects accomplished under Beth’s leadership. The association also was selected to receive a certificate of merit giving special recognition to its pro bono program. Beth is chief felony prosecutor for Waco-McLennan county. She and husband Brad, who is dean of the Baylor Univ. School of Law, have a 3-year-old son John. They live at Rt. 12, Box 428, Waco, TX 76712.

1981

Greg & Donna (Rohrer '85) Fennig proudly announce the birth of Cory Jacob on May 1. Sisters Kortni (5) and Kylie (3) were thrilled. The Fennigs’ home is at 908 High Meadow Ct., N. Greenwood, IN 46143. • Jared Timothy was born April 10 to proud parents Tim & Jeanie Johnson. Julie is his big sister. In November the Johnsons will be returning to Japan where Tim will serve as Assoc. Pastor at Kurume Bible Fellowship. Their address will be 2-3-11O B Nishibori, Niiza Shi, Saitama Ken, 352 JAPAN. • David Poucher received a certificate of excellence for the Nov. 1992 Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) Examination. He earned this prestigious award for receiving an outstanding score on the four-part exam. David is corporate accounting manager for GoodMark Foods, Inc., in Raleigh, NC. • J. P. Zinn married Christine Wade in Moncton, New Brunswick on May 22. J. P. is Pastor of Music and Christian Ed. at the Hillside Baptist Church in Moncton. Their address is 2290 Mountain Rd., Moncton, New Brunswick, CANADA E1G 1B4.

1982

Thom & Peggy (Kendall X) DeWaele are proud to announce the birth of Abigail on May 1. Siblings are Nathan (9), Andy (6) and Nicole (3). The DeWaeles’ address is PO Box 1135, Nederland, CO 80464. • Aaron and Susan (Lapham) Hoon are the proud parents of Michelle Ann born February 24. Their address is 2018 W. 10th St., Davenport, IA 52804. • Ramona Price was named “Teacher of the Year” at Maple Elementary School, Avon, IN, where she taught EH elem. school students. She will be teaching EH jr. high students at Brownsburg, IN, during the 1993–1994 school year. Ramona lives at 524 W. Mill St., Danville, IN 46122.

1983

Sean & Jenny (Schwartz) Beckett announce the birth of Katelyn Nicole on January 8. Their current address is 2317 91st St., Lubbock, TX 79423. • Mike Kendall has been elected to the Board of Directors of Hoosier Educators and Computer Coordinators. He is Computer Operations & Maintenance Coordinator for the Wawasee Community School Corp. Mike & wife Gene (Grissold) live at 1222 E. Center St., Warsaw, IN 46580. • Mark & Sharon (Beeson X) Klemme are the proud parents of Matthew Harmon born April 17. Brother Daniel is 2. Mark works for Cardiac Pacemakers, while Sharon is at home with the children. Their address is 3909 Wawasee Ave., Warsaw, IN 46580. • Brian & Cindy (Price '81) Long have moved to 87 Grindking Rock, Paradise, CA 95969. Brian has assumed the position of adult and counseling pastor at their church. • Scott &
Andrea (Price '84) Preissler proudly announce the adoption of Stephen James who was born on June 20. The Preisslers reside at 4945 Royal Orbit Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46237. Kiersten Sue is the new daughter of Craig & Penny (James) Stone. She was born on May 26 and was welcomed home by Lorissa Elaine (8) and Zachary-Taylor Ray (almost 4). The Stones' home is at RR 1, Box 120, Windfall, IN 46076.

1984
Rollin & Sandie (Soderquist) Ford proudly announce the birth of Audrey Jean on June 16. Her sisters are Jessica (5) and Paige (3). Rollin is Dir. of Warehouse Admin. for Wal-Mart. The family resides at 2803 Seminole Ct., Rogers, AR 72756. Herman “Russ” & Nancy (Stoops) x Russell announce the birth of Katrina Lea on December 18, 1992. Big brother Jacob is 2. Nancy is working in a real estate development company and Russ is in the USMC stationed at Camp Pendleton. Their address is 846 Dana Point Way, Oceanside, CA 92054.

1985
Mark & Cindy (Pearson) Bates had their 2nd child, Lauren Ann. May 4. Sister Brittany Jo is 2. Their address is 736 Fox Rd., Lino Lakes, MN 55014. Tom & Heather (Cobb x '87) Lutz welcome Christopher Paul born May 7. Big brothers are TJ (4) and Nathan (2). The family lives at 408 Bezek Dr. NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405. Alexander Harrison was born to Tuan-Anh & Marcia (Moore) Nguyen on May 4. He was welcomed home by Meganh Elizabeth, 2. Tuan is an engineer at Navy Surface Warfare Center, Crane Div. Marcia is taking time off from teaching at Spencer Elem. at home. The Nguyens live at 2711 Trenton Overlook, Bloomington, IN 47404.

1986
Charles Bauer and Kristen Spangler were married on Nov. 28, 1992, in Lakewood, CO. TU participants in the wedding were Bill Bauer '81 and Jim Bauer x'84. The Spangers are both students at Denver Seminary where Kristen is earning an MA in Christian leadership and Charles is earning his MDiv. They will finish in Nov. 1993. Charles is also Associate Pastor at the Evangelical Free Church in Burlington, CO. Their address is Box 10000-BIN #600, Denver, CO 80250. David & Michelle (Mathes x) Becker proudly announce the birth of their first child, Megan Elyse, on March 29. David earned his MD degree from Texas Tech Univ. School of Medicine in June 1993. He is working as a first-year resident in family medicine at the WV Univ. Health Services Center in Charleston. Michelle completed her work as a graduate advisor for the College of Bus. Admin. at Texas Tech in March and is now home with Megan. The Beckers live at 1234 Thomas Rd., South Charleston, WV 25303. John & Stacy Bloomberg proudly welcome Eric James born January 19. His brother Matthew is 2. The Bloomberges reside at 5299 Fieldstone Ct., West Chester, OH 45069. Gerri Detwiler is executive director of Bankcard Holders of America, a national non-profit consumer organization. She is also the author of a new book, The Ultimate Credit Handbook (Plume, 1993). She lives at 8518 Jeffersonian Ct., Vienna, VA 22182. Brett & Sherry (Oswley) Furnish praise the Lord for the safe arrival of Alexandra Lisanne on June 18. Both mother and daughter are doing well after an emergency caesarean section. Lexi has 2 sisters: LeeAnna Marie (9) and Karissa Deanne (5). The Furnish family lives at 118 E.S. “C” St., Gas City, IN 46933. On Feb. 12, Taylor Mechelle was born to David & Mechelle Jost. Justine Rae (2) welcomed her to the family. David works at Magnavox Electronic Systems Co. as a purchasing agent. They reside at 1511 Caribou Dr., Ft. Wayne, IN 46804.

1987
Harold (Skip) Gianopulos Jr. married Gayle Medina on March 27 in Arlington Heights, IL. Participants from TU in the wedding were Scott Polsgrove, Kregg Thorburn, Jerry Yeager and Brent Clodgo '88. Gayle works as a school social worker for the Palatine public school district and Skip is a managing partner with Vantage Financial Partners, Ltd. in Arlington Heights. Their home address is 403 S. Hough St., Barrington, IL 60010. Tab & Cathie (Wolfe) Horne, 4423 Whiteford Ln., Ft. Wayne, IN 46816, are proud parents of Isaiah Robert born April 18. He joins brother Joshua (2). Both Tab and Cathie are social workers in Ft. Wayne. Proud grandparents are Robert ’58 & Rosanne (Shippy ’59) Wolfe.

Rachel Meighan-Mantha received her PhD in cell molecular biology from Boston Univ. on May 16. She is now a post-doctoral fellow at Georgetown Univ. Medical School. She and husband Doug Mantha '89 reside at 2228 Mohogan Dr., Falls Church, VA 22043. Steve & Leanne (VanNattan ’88) McKinney had their first child, Amanda Lynne, on Oct. 2, 1992. Steve is Assistant VP & Accounting Manager at Oak Brook Bank in Oak Brook, IL. Leanne teaches first grade in Carol Stream. Leanne received her masters in education in June from National Louis Univ. Their address is 1N140 Timber Ridge Dr., Winfield, IL 60190. Rod & Coreen (Zoromski ’89) Ogilvie have moved into their new home at 214 N. Williston St., Wheaton, IL 60187. Doug & Jodi (Wernberg) Stephens are proud to announce the birth of Kelsi Beth on April 23. The family lives at 9529 Pinto Ln., Ft. Wayne, IN 46804. Jim & Sheila Wierenga welcomed
Allison Kaye into their family on Nov. 9, 1992. Brother Brett is 1. Jim recently graduated with a JD from the Univ. of Michigan and is working as an associate attorney at Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey in Grand Rapids, MI. The Wierenga’s new address is 3678 Ponca Ct., Grandville, MI 49418.

1988
Tim & Candy (Walker 'x90) Anderson proudly announce the birth of Kyle Scott on September 16, 1992. Tim is working at Hewitt Associates in Lincolnshire, IL. Candy, who previously taught kindergarten, now enjoys staying home and caring for Kyle. The Andersons live at 395 Ashwood Ct., Vernon Hills, IL 60061. Todd & Leigh (Hammond) Carlson are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, Katherine Leigh, born April 27. The Carlsons live at 3347 York Ln., Island Lake, IL 60042-9129. Rick & Holly (Brant x) Marsh welcomed their 2nd child, David Jordan on January 22. Sister Carrie (2) is adjusting well. The family’s address is 5407 Morello Rd., Baltimore, MD 21214. Matt Ringenberg was recently recognized as the outstanding graduate student in the Master of Social Work Program at the Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, from which he graduated in May. He has accepted a position as a child and adolescent therapist at the Madison Center, South Bend, IN. Mark & Ruth (Plumb '87) Wenger are the proud parents of Daniel Scott born Sept. 16, 1992. Mark is an actuarial analyst with American States Ins. Their address is 8470 Whippoorwill Dr., Apt. G, Indianapolis, IN 46256.

1989
Phil Elwood married Monica Radice on May 30 in Etowah, TN. Tim Huntman participated in the wedding. Phil earned an MBA in Intl. Business from the Univ. of Miami where Monica earned her bachelor of chemistry degree. The couple resides at 521 Hilldale Dr., Decatur, GA 30030. Darren Hotmire and Carol Bartels were married May 1 in Erie, PA. Participants from TU in the wedding were Darrel Hotmire, Jeff Bailey, Keith Myer, Steve Wolfe '90 and Toby Shope '90. The couple’s address is 9200 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, IL 60070.

1990
Vince & Connie (Hoppes) Banker are the proud parents of David Nathanael born Feb. 2. Connie is a case manager for MIMRA of Harris County, Houston, TX. Vince is in manufacturing maintenance for Patton Medical Supplies. Their address is 19306 Pocito Ct., Alasacota, TX 77346. Kim Baumann and Gerardo (Jerry) Barrantes were married May 22. Participants from TU were Brett See '89, Noel Carpenter, Scott Dean, Gretchen (Barwick) Scoleri, Jane (Huntsinger) Cramer, Lynn (Leedy) Talbot, Cheryl (Taylor) Storer and Ann Miraglia. Jerry is a associate pastor at the Tillman Road Church of God in Ft. Wayne and Kim is residence director at Taylor Univ.-Ft. Wayne.

1991
Jim Church recently graduated from Asbury Seminary in a Masters in Church Music. He will be teaching children of missionary teachers at Escuela El Sembrador, a boy’s farm for the underprivileged in Honduras. Jim’s address is 8055 Selwick Dr., Parma, OH 44129.

1992
Karen Beers and Mark Augusta were married in April 17 in Acton, MA. In the wedding from TU were Candy Sellers and Danette DeBoer. Mark owns and operates A&B Landscape and Tree Service. Karen is employed at GR Stuart Co. Inc, a broker-dealer agency. Their address is PO Box 69, Stow, MA 01775. Susan Green and Jonathan Dotson were married on Jan. 2 in Atlanta, GA. TU participants were Kurt Stout, Dan Kett, Greg McClelland, Forrest Miller, Christin Green '91, Mark Gove '91, Mary Michaelson '93, Amy Dye '93 and Joyce Dotson '95. Jon is working for ServiceMaster in child care and facilities management in the GreenTree Childcare Division. Susan also works as the teacher at a GreenTree daycare center. Their new address is 1527 Westminster Dr., #209, Naperville, IL 60563. Matt & Chrissy (Jessup '93) Jarvis live at 23280 CR 32, Goshen, IN 46526. Chrissy works at Teyer Foods in the sales department and Matt works for Martin Brothers Contracting. Ben & Jane (Moore x) Wilson proudly announce the birth of Hannah Claire on June 26. The Wilsons reside at 7EMS B86 L., Leesburg, IN 46538.

1993
Kristi Dyck is working as an assistant hall director while earning a master’s degree in education at the Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her address is Office of Residence Life, UNCG, Greensboro, NC 27412-5001. Lori Marker and Steve Domeck '92 were married Feb. 27 in Cincinnati, OH. TU participants in the wedding were Jodi Yoder, Greg Flick, Eric Schaberg 'x92, Steve Jackson '92 and Lisa (Marker '91) Ebert. The couple’s address is 5745 Rue Royale, Columbus, OH 43229.
Personal Ventures

Current faculty and administrative staff members reflect on their own Venture for Victory experiences

Dr. Tim Diller ’62
Professor of Information Sciences
Venture for Victory 1960, 1962, & 1963

To me it was a life-changing experience and really opened my eyes to missions service. It led to my going on to Fuller Theological Seminary and preparing for Bible translation work.

I think it was an opportunity to see the broader world in need. It was one of the significant factors in bringing me back to Taylor to try to do a similar thing for students here in computer science. Through Computing Assistance Program (CAP), we’ve been trying to encourage our students here to get involved in Third World needs and go out and do computing-type activities. The CAP program is a spin-off from sports in our own discipline. We’ve had students go out from Wycliffe. This summer we had Tim Young ’95 go to Burundi to do some computing, and my own son Jason ’94 went to Ghana, working in art and graphic design. Having seen what Don Ode was able to do in sports, we’ve tried to emulate that in computer science.

Bill Gerig ’61FWBC
Director of Alumni and Church Relations, TUFW
Venture for Victory 1959

I was planning to go into missions but had no idea where God wanted me to serve. I thought traveling through the Orient would be a great opportunity to see if that was where God wanted me. I saw great opportunity and needs, but felt no inner leading to go back there. Instead, when we came home, I had contact with people from Africa. So I went that direction. In a sense it was an interesting situation because the trip was a leading of the Lord—but it was a leading away from there to go to Africa.

Another helpful aspect was traveling with some of the missionaries and seeing how they were able to take the Gospel message and make it understandable to some other culture. I had never really experienced that before.

George Glass ’58
Associate Vice President of Alumni Relations
Venture for Victory 1957

That particular summer we played 72 basketball games in a nine-week period—and that included no Sunday play plus the time we spent traveling to 12 or 14 countries. We played a lot of basketball in a short period of time. I realized when I came back that although I was tired, I was in the best physical condition that I had ever been in during my young life.

The trip made me realize that as we prepare for anything physical, we do so with many mental limitations. As a coach, I refused to listen to anybody’s mental reasons for quitting work, slowing down in practice, or not performing well. We can condition the body physically so much beyond what we think we can.

Now in later life, I apply that to physical health. How much a person runs or lifts or does whatever it is he does physically is really immaterial, but it is important that we realize we can do more for the body God gave us than what most of us do.

Dr. Roger Jenkinson ’60
Professor of Geography
Venture for Victory 1958 & 1959

I have two different perspectives on Venture for Victory because I went two different times. A common thread that unites the two, however, is that I did a lot of growing up on those trips. I was only 19 years old when I went out the first time: by the end of that second summer, I think I had matured a great deal.

It had an impact on my spiritual growth, as well. I was fairly young spiritually when I first left with the team, but by the time I finished the second year, I felt as if I had grown in that area of my life.

The Venture for Victory experience also changed my career focus. When I started out at Taylor, I wanted to be an engineer. I was a math and chemistry major and did earn a degree in that. After I began taking those trips, however, I decided to add a major in history and pursue a double-major.

The trips further compelled me to go into the history-geography-international studies area. The Venture for Victory experiences had an internationalizing impact on me and probably did as much as anything to turn my interest toward geography. As a geographer, one of my specialties is Asia, and of course, the trips had a great deal to do with that.

Jack King ’59
Associate Director of Development
Venture for Victory 1958

After every game, while tired and sweaty players lay limp in a jeepney waiting to go shower, you had to share Christ with every human being that moved. It was really an incredible experience, and set the stage for what was to be my ministry for years to come.—interviews by DM
Your enabling spirit is at the heart of the Taylor University mission. We are grateful for your generous and sacrificial giving during the 1992-1993 school year, and for your continued support.
Healthy risk-taking can be an exhilarating experience, according to Jeff Dye '67.

Page 4

Where Eagles Fly
A new ropes and challenge course offers students unique opportunities for personal growth and development.