Taylor University
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Summer 2008

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Taylor University

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A person starts to live when he can live outside himself. **Albert Einstein**

But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” **2 Samuel 24:24**

To praise is an investment in happiness. **George M. Adams**
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Seniors reflect on investments in their lives

I could fill this magazine with stories of the legion of disciples at Taylor who have invested richly in my life, but one specific example is the director of the Taylor Chorale, Dr. JoAnn (Kinghorn '71) Rediger. From Dr. Rediger, I learned that the pursuit of excellence is not just a personal endeavor but a right and appropriate act of worship; and her commitment to ministry above all else has helped shape the person I am.

Philip Byers '08
Leigh Anne Butcher ’08 has made the greatest impact on my life here at Taylor University. From our costume excursions around campus, to our late night talks in Olson Hall room 221, there has never been a dull moment. I never knew a friend could be so honest, loyal, affirming and fun. Leigh Anne has served me most as a counselor and prayer warrior. She has helped me both process and work through countless life situations. She has lovingly confronted me when I have been in the wrong and spoken truth over me when I have doubted who I am in Christ.

Lindsay Will ’08

The person who has most impacted my time at Taylor is undoubtedly Jesus. He has shown me Himself through the many outstanding individuals who comprise Taylor’s campus. I have grown to know and consequently love Him more deeply as I daily see Him in administrators, faculty, staff, professors and my dear forever friends.

Caitlin Staples ’08

Betsy Smith ’06 made the biggest impact on my life just by how she lived every single day. Through even just a few one-on-one times, she impacted me greatly. She spent her energy and time taking action on things that she was passionate about and that God had given her a heart for. But most of all, she made those in her presence feel like they were the most important people in the world. She truly loved people. And everyone loved her because we got glimpses of Jesus’ character and His joy through her.

Julie Heth ’08

As I think about the people that have had the greatest impact on my time here at Taylor my mind scans through an overwhelming amount of people. Maybe that is the thing that is so special about a place like Taylor. I truly cannot choose one person without mentioning five or six others. Taylor is a place full of special people who have meant special things in my life. Some have challenged me intellectually; some have challenged me spiritually; some have challenged me emotionally; some have challenged me relationally. I have had numerous people pray for me and I have prayed for numerous people. I have cried for people and been cried for. My life is different leaving Taylor than it was when I arrived.

Benj Petroelje ’08
Fully invested

Often at Taylor University we discuss investment in terms of time, talent and treasures. But what spurs that investment in the first place? As we compiled the list of stories for this issue of Taylor, we began to see three things that led each of the people we have profiled to make their respective investments.

First, these people invested their lives in response to God’s call. Leon Adkison, for instance, had a comfortable life and promising future at a large state-run university yet he felt that unexplainable tug at his heart to uproot his family and career to follow God’s leading, wherever it led.

Second, the investment was prompted by vision. Dr. Eugene B. Habecker ’68 shares in his essay of the vision that led Taylor University to invest millions of dollars in a new science building, classroom building and residence halls—to create a Taylor that pursues excellence in all things as an act of worship.

Third, the investment began in and was characterized by faithful obedience. Jim and April (Walker ’91) Jergensen ’91 learned investment could be painful as they ministered to children abandoned by their own parents. And yet they persevered—not because it was easy, but because it was right.

As you read these testimonies, we hope you will also see how they are interconnected with the grand history of Taylor University. It was vision that led the Methodists over 160 years ago to start a new work that would one day become one of the world’s premier Christian universities of evangelical faith. It was in response to God’s call that Samuel Morris came to Taylor University, where he could learn—and teach—of the Holy Spirit. And it was that faithful obedience and joyful reliance in the power of God that has characterized the lives of thousands of Taylor students, faculty, staff and alumni who continue to be invested in His purposes for His kingdom.
Fire and rain

In the years to come, Taylor University’s 2008 Commencement exercises will not be remembered for the warm conditions in Odle Arena, but the fiery address by Commissioner Israel Gaither, national commander of The Salvation Army.

Due to rainy conditions, the ceremony was held in Odle rather than Wheeler Stadium. Gaither, who along with Board of Trustees emeritus member Paul Zurcher received an honorary doctorate, challenged the graduates to unflinching service of Christ and His kingdom.

“We do not need 425 or so men and women who emerge from this campus to simply be consumers. America needs extraordinary leaders. Are you ready?” urged Gaither. “Are you ready to rise up with intellectual, moral and spiritual courage that dares to challenge the wayward notions of a secular environment that doesn’t even understand its need of grace?”

Gaither said Taylor’s graduating class must be ready to answer the challenge of extraordinary times.

“There must be, in America today, an urgency about doing Christ’s love, doing His compassion, and in the doing of his service. Billions of people on this planet are in physical and spiritual peril,” he declared.

“We understand what poverty feels like and looks like and smells like,” Gaither added. “But the suffering of the world, or the exploited in the world and in this nation cannot take your arrival if you do not believe in the power you possess to transform despondency to hope, meager to much, good to great.”

Based on their classroom performances, the members of the Class of 2008 seem equipped to do just that. Pending final grade results, 39 students were scheduled to graduate with Summa Cum Laude honors; 73 more with Magna Cum Laude; another 76 earned Cum Laude honors; and six graduates finished with perfect 4.0 grade point averages.

“You have been a special class. You have seen and experienced, life realities that have stretched your faith and have made you grow,” said President Eugene E. Habecker ‘68. “To our families, we would like to compliment you on a job well done... (the graduates’ success) happened in no small way because of the foundation you laid for them.”

A baccalaureate service served as the final chapel of the year. Pastor Dave Rodriguez of Noblesville, Ind., delivered the address and was awarded an honorary doctorate.

To see photos and listen to Dr. Gaither’s commencement address, visit www.taylor.edu/commencement.
A heritage of prayer

The dedication of the Memorial Prayer Chapel highlighted a full schedule of activities during Taylor’s first annual Heritage Weekend on April 25, 26.

The weekend’s slate of events included Grandparents Day, the R. Philip Loy Faculty Chair installation, Taylathon bike races, a President’s Dinner and a special Heritage Program celebrating the legacy of prayer at Taylor University.

Construction started in August, 2007, and continued to within days of the Chapel’s April 26 dedication, which came on the two-year anniversary of the deaths of Laurel Erb, Monica Felver, Brad Larson, Betsy Smith and Laura Van Ryn in an accident on I-69.

"The whole weekend was a tremendous blessing for us. It has helped us turn the corner on the healing process," said Dr. David Larson, father of Brad Larson. "Sherry (Brad’s mother) called it a ‘tender mercy’. These are ways she has identified since Brad died as ways that God has been speaking to us. An e-mail from one of Brad’s friends; something very minor that somebody else might miss but it catches her eye. It is a sense that, ‘Wow, that is God speaking to me.’"

Chuck Lofton, popular Indianapolis television meteorologist and father of Tim Lofton ’06, was one of the featured speakers for the Heritage Program, held in the Rediger Chapel/Auditorium.

"I was honored. At the same time, I felt I did have something to share because I had the unique perspective of having a son at Taylor who was close to the people (who died in the accident) as well as being a member of the media," said Lofton.

"I thought the weekend was wonderful and moving. I think for some people in our family it was a healing time. I think it was for others as well. I heard someone say, ‘Now the funerals are over,’" he continued.

"What I really appreciated about Heritage Weekend was especially the service on Saturday afternoon," Lofton stated. "(Prayer has) always been a part of Taylor. I loved how that was documented. The thread that has always held Taylor together is prayer."

2009 Heritage Weekend is May 1-2.
"The thread that has always held Taylor together is prayer."
Robert Alsobrook's vision of a place where a loving, faithful God met with man is the inspiration for a statue being built on the Taylor University campus that, when finished, will provide an aesthetic addition to a sister campus rebuilding after being devastated by a tornado.

Alsobrook is an instructor of art at Taylor and a 2005 graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn. The Union campus suffered an estimated $40 million in damage after it was struck by a tornado during a severe weather outbreak in February. His creation, a 500-pound sculpture titled *Meeting Place*, will be donated to the Union campus after its completion this summer.

The sculpture's design is similar to the Ark of the Covenant with two cherubim facing each other, their outstretched wings covering a bench. The piece will be 9.5' tall and will be constructed of mild and stainless steel and will rest on an 8'x4' pedestal.

The sculpture's concept came during a time of personal Bible reading following a conversation Alsobrook had with one of his former Union professors.

"They were thankful no one was killed and that everyone was spared. He also shared that in the outdoor sculpture collection, all but one (of the pieces) had been destroyed," Alsobrook stated. "That is my area, my discipline. I have helped out financially ... my real ability is in sculpture. I want to donate a sculpture to Union while they are rebuilding. In my mind's eye it is the way to help the community of Union to know that things can be rebuilt and God is faithful."

"I've never worked on a large sculpture project before. The opportunity to be involved in such a project was very exciting to me," said Graham Burns '09, a studio art major from Bartlett, Ill. Burns was one of Alsobrook's student assistants on the project.

"I hope the structure will add to the atmosphere on Union's campus. It is going to be beautiful and visually striking, so there's no doubt in my mind that it will add to the visual appeal of the campus. I also really hope that it adds to the spiritual atmosphere on campus," Burns added. "I hope that this sculpture finds a special place in the heart of Union students and staff."

"(This sculpture) will serve as a memorial to the time in history on February 5 when the tornado hit—when God delivered his children from any harm and was faithful to those who were faithful to Him," said Alsobrook.
Coping with Alzheimer’s through drama

Valerie (Flower ’90) Smith did not set out to write a play about Alzheimer’s. It was more a cathartic exercise to help her process the mixed emotions she felt while watching her father slide toward a second infancy and her son growing from early childhood into adolescence.

Smith, the director of the theatre program at Messiah College, returned to the Taylor campus this spring to present Between 2 Chairs, her one-woman play that tells of her interactions with her father, who is in the late stages of Alzheimer’s disease, and her young son Jude. Smith’s play was part of a weekend workshop sponsored by Taylor’s theatre sorority Alpha Psi Omega.

As a student, she performed in Taylor stage classics that included Amadeus and Agnes of God. Smith said her performance of Chairs drew from an emotional palette of sorrow, wonder, joy and regret.

“There is a certain person I’ve created for the show who is separate from me,” she said. “It is not as harsh as putting a guard up, but creating a kind of distance. I’m still struggling to know how intimate I can be with the audience.”

“There is a moment in the script where she talks about her father just not knowing who she is and completely unaware that he had a wife, that he had children at all,” said Kelsey Dufendach ’08. “When she is telling that, your heart breaks because you know that he is his child and she’s asking if ’you’ve ever had children’ and he says ‘no’. I don’t know what I would do if I ever had my father say, ‘I don’t remember you.’”

“The students loved Valerie,” said Tracy (Tobey ’92) Manning, Taylor’s theatre director. “It was good for them to (experience) a disability that doesn’t belong to their generation. Twenty-year-old kids don’t think a lot about Alzheimer’s. I think they would say they feel a little bit better equipped when that day comes to care for a loved one in that situation.”

It was an e-mail message received from her father six years ago as he struggled with the early stages of the disease that provided one of the play’s most poignant moments.

“I have loved you from the first time I heard you were conceived: that very night I knelt and prayed for this little developing life that was a part of me,” he wrote. “I will continue to pray for you all my life and I will never stop loving you.”
Faculty accolades

Associate professors of computing and system sciences, Stefan Brandle and Jonathan Geisler ’94 with James Robergé and David Whittington have co-authored a new edition of Data Structures: A Laboratory Course, Third Edition. It is published by Jones and Bartlett.

Communication arts instructors Kathy Bruner and John Bruner each produced a chapter in Introduction to Television Production, published by Beijing Olympic Broadcasting.

Jenny Collins ’89, assistant professor of missions and director of the Lighthouse program, Rukshan Fernando ’98, assistant professor of social work, and Michael Guebert, professor of geology and environmental science, presented Best Practices of International Service Learning: Programs, Partnerships, and Pedagogy at the 3rd Annual Conference on International Service-Learning at IUPUI.

Matt DeLong, associate professor of mathematics, supervised the Taylor mathematics team that finished third out of 29 teams at the Indiana Collegiate Mathematics Competition.

Lee Erickson, professor of economics, presented the paper Diligence Joins Math Skills to Predict Student Performance in Principles of Microeconomics at the Midwest Economics Association meetings in Chicago.

Michael Guebert, professor of geology and environmental science, presented Providing Water Resources, Sanitation, and Hygiene Training in Rural Guatemala at the 2008 Governor’s Conference for Service and Volunteerism in Indianapolis.


Jody Hirschy, assistant professor of marketing, received the inaugural Joe Burnworth Teaching Award, named for Taylor’s beloved longtime education professor.

Steve Messer, professor of history, was named Distinguished Professor for 2008 by Taylor’s National Alumni Council.

Scott Moeschberger ’97, professor of psychology for the Irish Studies Program, along with several current and former students, presented research on reconciliation at the International Conference on Counseling Psychology in Ireland.

Bill Ringenberg ’61, professor of history, received the Franklin W. and Joan M. Forman Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award.

Rachel Smith, professor of art, published a review essay titled The Trouble with Mary?: Considering the Person and Place of Mary in Christian Theology and Personal Devotion in the Christian Scholar’s Review.
Well done, good and faithful servant

LaGatha Adkison
University Registrar

LaGatha Adkison has concluded 29 years of service to Taylor University. She has served as University registrar since 1998; prior to that, she filled several positions in the registrar’s office including assistant registrar and registrar’s office assistant. She also worked in the admissions office.

She served on several University committees including Academic Council, Academic Policies, Curriculum Management and Athletic, Financial Aid and Enrollment. During her service in the Registrar’s Office, she assisted in the conversion of academic records to an online information system, supervised the system implementation of the graduate program and supervised the system conversion of the school structure from divisions to schools.

She and her husband Leon live in Indianapolis. They are the parents of two sons, John Mark ’93, and Christopher ’95. They have three grandchildren; a fourth grandchild is due this summer.

Wynn A. Lembright
Vice President for Strategic Initiatives

Wynn A. Lembright served Taylor University for 25 years—with 20 of those years as a vice president.

He was vice president for strategic initiatives, vice president for student development and the dean of admissions. Prior to coming to Taylor, he served the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Eli Lilly. He was also a church pastor in New Jersey and a youth pastor in Kentucky.

During his 19 years as vice president for student development, Lembright oversaw the expansion of the student financial aid, career development, intramural and residence life programs.

He and his wife Bonnie live in Upland and are the parents of two children Holly (Lembright ’94) Brown and Jonathan ’99, and are grandparents of four.
Korfmacher appointed head football coach

Former Trojan athlete and football assistant coach Ron Korfmacher ’83 has been appointed Taylor’s new head football coach following the resignation of former head coach James Bell.

A three-year letterman at quarterback for the Trojans, Korfmacher served as an assistant coach for 23 years, coaching quarterbacks, running backs, defensive backs and as the offensive coordinator.

He served as Taylor’s recruiting coordinator from 1995–2005, a role in which he was responsible for the program’s nationwide recruiting efforts. Last year, Korfmacher coordinated athletic recruiting for all intercollegiate programs.

Korfmacher has been a part of the leadership team of several mission trips associated with the Trojan football program including the Czech Republic, Russia and Croatia. He has also been involved with youth football mini-camps with Urban Impact in New Orleans and most recently Hit It for Humanity in Miami.

Following his graduation from Taylor with a degree in business administration, he went on to earn a master’s degree in executive development for public service from Ball State University in 1986.

“I am eager and enthused for the opportunity to lead this team and these men forward in alignment with, and contributing to, the spiritual, academic and global mission of Taylor University. Our program will focus on demonstrating excellence on the field, in the classroom and through service in the community,” he said.

Korfmacher and his wife Julie (Reed ’83) live in Upland. They are the parents of three children—Sara ’09, Ben and Rachel.

Lady Trojan, Gates-Howard winners named

Setter Maggie Henss ’08 received the 2008 Lady Trojan Award—an honor given to Taylor’s top female athlete for the 2007–2008 year.

A biology major from Champaign, Ill., Henss received numerous honors following her senior season during which she led the Lady Trojans volleyball team to a 32-11 record and conference co-championship including: NAIA Honorable Mention All-American, Mid-Central Conference Setter of the Year and MCC first team All-Conference. She was also honored as an NAIA Scholar Athlete in December.

Henss was a team captain the last two seasons and finished her career with 5,476 assists, good for second in the Taylor record books. Her career marks of 1,591 digs and 233 block assists are both ninth all-time at Taylor.

Goalkeeper Benj Petroelje ’08, received the Gates-Howard Award, which is presented to the outstanding Taylor University male athlete for 2007-2008.

During his senior season on the Taylor soccer team, Petroelje recorded 93 saves (82%). His 45 saves in MCC play led the conference; he was later named to the All-MCC second team.

A Bible major from Elmhurst, Ill., Petroelje also notched eight shutouts in 2007, which was 7th in the nation.

Petroelje, one of three senior captains, helped lead the Trojans to a 12-5-2 overall record and a second place finish in the MCC.
Trojans shine during regular, post-season

Baseball
The Trojans posted a 27-19 record, finishing third in the MCC standings and tournament. Outfielder Christian Burrell '08 led the conference with 10 home runs and was joined by catcher Paul Passiales '09 on the MCC All-Conference Team. Michael Kraynak '10 and Taylor Wilde '09 were named to the MCC Gold Glove Team.

Softball
First-year head coach Robin Lockridge led the Lady Trojans to an overall mark of 14-20 and a sixth-place MCC finish. Highlights for the season included two shutout victories at Indiana Wesleyan and All-Conference honors for Lindsey Arnold '09 and Erica Yoder '08. Arnold also received All-Region honors.

Men's tennis
The team followed up their MCC championship fall season with a 5-5 spring record, finishing 17-6 overall. In the Region VIII Tournament, the Trojans defeated Marian College before bowing to Aquinas College in the finals. Head coach Don Taylor was named the Region VIII Coach of the Year.

For department news, player bios, team statistics and game podcasts, visit www.taylor.edu/athletics.
Serving God in the political world by Dr. Stephen Hoffmann

My friend and colleague Phil Loy '62 tells a story of a prospective
student's opening line to him one fine Campus Visitation Day. This high school senior confidently trumpeted, "I'm interested in political science!" but quickly added, "What is political science?"

At Taylor University, we study political science because we believe it is God's mandate to do so. We want to be motivated by the love of Jesus Christ so we may enable students to understand and evaluate the theory and practice of politics to promote order, peace and justice in local, national and international communities.

The study of political science has been influenced by many but I would like to narrow my focus to two scholars who have impacted our field. Many consider Charles Merriam the founding father of modern political science. A professor at the University of Chicago, Merriam linked the systematic study of government and politics to the development of citizens who were informed and involved.

Then there was a reformist Democrat who was a professor of political science before he became president of Princeton University and then President of the United States—Woodrow Wilson.

Addressing the American Political Science Association, Wilson shared Merriam's interest in connecting scholarship and citizenship:

"The man who has the time, the discrimination, and the sagacity to collect and comprehend the principal facts and the man who must act upon them must draw near to one another and feel they are engaged in a common enterprise."

I don't know anything about Merriam's religious life, but Wilson, the son of a Presbyterian minister, consciously related his Christian belief to politics, as we do at Taylor. The difference, however, is that Wilson was president of Princeton at a time when it was in the process of replacing its evangelical tradition with an interpretation of Christianity that equated the gospel with social reform and the expectation that modern democracy could embody the ideals of the kingdom of God.

The danger of such a commitment to the moral transformation of society is that it will take the form of a moralism that emphasizes the conflict between good and evil in a way that is oblivious to the limitations of even the most sincere and worthy efforts to promote peace or justice. This is not a problem only for political and theological liberals. Conservatives too can all too easily forget their own limitations and demonize those who oppose their efforts to further God's agenda.

Once, evangelical Christians, the kind who would identify with Taylor rather than Princeton, were not inclined to connect faith and politics. To a considerable degree this was a reaction to the theological liberalism that had triumphed among many leading Christian thinkers and institutions. Embracing what came to be called fundamentalism, conservative Christians retreated into a subculture and became more and more pessimistic about the world they were in. They were right to warn of the pervasiveness of sin and the danger of trying to build heaven on earth.

However, an emphasis on sin to the exclusion of everything else has its own danger, and that is cynicism. Cynicism is the absence of hope, and all too easily allows Christians to become resigned to the assumption that no change for the better is possible in the institutions that govern our lives. It was only after World War II that conservative Christians began to rediscover a rich, biblical tradition in which obedience to the Word of God led to the alleviation of social ills.

As Glenn Tinder, one of the best modern Christian political thinkers puts it, "The notion that we can be related to God and not to the world—that we can practice a spirituality that is not political—is in conflict with the Christian understanding of God."

It was Augustine who recognized that in a sinful world moral dilemmas are inevitable. For example, sometimes it is necessary to use military force for the sake of order or justice. However, this father of the Christian theory of the justified war admonishes us that it is simplistic to think that all moral questions are answered once it has been determined that war in a certain situation is justified. His advice to the warrior is that he should not be glad that the war in which he fought was just, but rather lament that he had to fight a war at all.

An Augustinian perspective that combines realism and hope can help Christian professors of political science point their students to what they should expect of political leaders if they are to be good ones.

Realism keeps us from being aloof from politics, unlike the critic or the comedian. Criticism is essential if government is to be accountable, but it's all too easy for a critic to pay no attention to the choices a government official faces. Satire likewise has its place, but late-night comedians tend to be more concerned with laugh lines than judgment.

Hope keeps a leader from being merely either a "policy wonk" or a partisan. Hope is a basis for dreams that inspire and challenge.

A Christian perspective on politics means that we use such opportunities that we have to engage political issues not for the purpose of manipulating policymakers for our own interests, but for the purpose of serving the common good. While we must deal with the realities of power, we must value human relationships as Christ did. We must be truthful and redemptive.
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Great Cloud of Witnesses Wall

Bradley A. Adams
As David Mills

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Honoring the Great Cloud of Witnesses

Irene Dylhoff is 97 years old. Barely able to walk, attending the dedication of Taylor’s new Memorial Prayer Chapel was out of the question. But she was—and is—there, her name inscribed on the Great Cloud of Witnesses plaque on the Chapel’s south wall.

She is the mother of Pepper (Dylhoff ’72) Hill. Hill and her husband John ’73 honored both sets of their parents, Gelmer and Irene Dylhoff, and Rev. Paul and Helen Hill by donating $1,000 each and having their names added to the plaque.

“When we look at Exodus 20, specifically the command to honor our parents, it makes us realize that others have a profound influence on our lives,” stated Pepper Hill. “God uses other people to shape us and mold us in His likeness. Our parents were the primary molders.”

Hill said while their fathers are no longer living, their influence is real today.

“One of John’s earliest memories of his dad was him kneeling by his bed in prayer,” she said. “I don’t think as a little girl I was aware our parents were praying for me, but they were. One of my earliest memories was when I was carried around by my dad as he sang hymns to me. Sometimes during church I still remember that.”

The Dylhoffs and Hills are just two of the nearly 100 entries currently on the wall. Another name displayed is that of beloved Taylor professor Rick Seaman ’78, a committed family man and coach whose sudden death in 1998 shocked and saddened many. His name appears three times on the Great Cloud of Witnesses wall, thanks to gifts from numerous family members.

“Rick touched so many lives and so it seemed fitting to me that people would want to honor him or remember him in that way,” said his wife Joanne. “Rick was really all about Taylor and all about his walk with the Lord and living what you believe. I feel like that witness, testimony and legacy lives on for him.”

“(The Chapel and Great Cloud of Witnesses display) is a tribute to what God does in our lives, the circumstances and the people He uses,” Hill said. “The principles we learned from our parents were a foundation for principles that God added and used in our experience at Taylor and it is all intertwined.

“Our parents and Taylor have been so significant in our lives. That is where John and I met and where our boys our daughter-in-law went to school,” she added. “There are others who have had an influence on our lives but I would be hard pressed to say that they equaled Taylor.”

“I can’t speak for all people who have lost someone, but the number one fear is that their loved one will be forgotten,” Seaman reflected. “What a wonderful commitment by Taylor to say to so many families, ‘We will never forget.’”

You can honor a loved one, mentor, teacher, pastor or anyone God has used in your life on the Great Cloud of Witnesses wall. For more information, contact Brad Yordy ’05, director of stewardship and scholarships, 800-882-3456, ext. 5114, or bryordy@taylor.edu.
And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

1 Corinthians 3:6
I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.
During the last 34 years as he built a world-class business systems program at Taylor University, Leon Adkison was known for many things: his warmth, his love for the Indianapolis 500 (a race he has not missed since 1976) and his desire to see his students connect with God’s call for their lives. But the thing that has marked his career is relevance—relevance in subject material, relevance in methods and relevance in current and coming trends. It is that relevance that places his students among the most sought-after in the nation by the world’s most successful companies.

“In systems, we must know best practices in our classes. When we teach about production controls and quality production, it is absolutely critical that we be up on things,” Adkison stated. “Anybody in our field can only be current in a limited number of facets of what we do. That is why it is so important to maintain a way of finding out. You don’t learn that by staying in Upland—even with Google. You have to be out there with the people in Indianapolis and Chicago. Otherwise you’ll teach stuff in class that was true two years ago that isn’t true today.”

When Adkison arrived at Taylor University from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va., in 1974, he and his young family experienced two kinds of culture shock: the first was caused by the move to Upland from a large city; the second was waiting for him when he began his work at Taylor.

“When I came to Taylor, Professor Wally Roth ’59 and others had already created an excellent curriculum in systems. Students would combine the curriculum in their major with that of systems. We decided to concentrate on the business/systems combination first. However, our curriculum in business was very weak and we had no business professors at all,” he recalled. “We had students who, on paper, were business majors, but we didn’t have anyone to teach them. That is what I tried to concentrate on the very first year. We spent quite a bit of time and energy to build up faculty there.”

Through key faculty additions, professional contacts and studies of current and coming trends, Adkison forged a successful program that began to attract high-caliber students. One of those students was Rollin Ford ’84. Now the executive vice president and chief information officer at retailing giant Wal-Mart, Ford manages a billion dollar annual budget and oversees the technology needs of over two million Wal-Mart associates. His Wal-Mart career began during a practicum between his junior and senior years at Taylor; his love of the business field began in Adkison’s classroom.

“I (initially) wasn’t sure I wanted to be in business; Leon convinced me it served me well,” Ford reflected. “What I really appreciate about Leon is that it wasn’t just theory. It was real-world. He did it in a way that caused you to embrace it.”

“He’ll make an imprint on your life, that’s for sure,” Ford added. “He mentored students in a way that expressed the unique experience at Taylor.”

“When you are on this campus you know something special is here,” Adkison stated. “I felt called by the Lord to be in a state university in Richmond. But when I came here, I felt the call to be here... this has been a good place to raise a family.”

“This relationship that we are able to have with our students, it is a positive thing,” he said. “Seeing their success on the job is wonderful as well. Many times when they talk about their own success they will use the phrase, ‘The Lord has been good to me.’ The measure of success is certainly not in money earned, but in relationships they have had with the Lord.”

“The measure of success is certainly not in money earned, but in relationships they have had with the Lord.”

Leon Adkison lives in Indianapolis, Ind., with his wife LaGatha. He can be reached at lnadkison@taylor.edu.
A gentleman and a scholar

Can history predict the future? That was the question asked of Bill Ringenberg ’61 as the longtime history professor, historian, author and scholar reflected on his retirement from full-time service following a 40-year teaching career at Taylor University.

“About as well as anything,” was his answer. “C.S. Lewis once said we cannot study the future so we study the past … You can predict the future in that human nature has not changed.

“You can push that too far,” he continued. “Some believe that events are cyclical, that what has happened will happen again. History is more fluid than that. Human beings are not just robots. History is a partial predictor of the future, but we all have individual choices.”

The groundwork for Ringenberg’s long tenure at Taylor was laid during his undergraduate years. As a student from a public high school, he reveled in the fellowship and collegial relationships he formed with like-minded students and faculty members.

“It was a wonderful thing to come to an environment where so many shared deeply-held convictions on the most important issues of life,” Ringenberg said. “I had a great experience as an undergraduate, as many students do … There are lots of people here with similar values; there is less emphasis on competing with each other, scratching and clawing to get ahead.”

A gentleman and scholar in the truest sense, Ringenberg is reticent to accept accolades for his professional accomplishments, heaping praise instead on his mentors, colleagues and students.

But the achievements have come in the form of first-of-its-kind studies of the evangelical Christian college movement in the U.S.; former students who have gone on to become college professors and administrators; and his role in the creation of The Conference for Faith and History, a seminar where Christians who are historians and scholars can explore history in the context of their faith.

“Bill modeled a professor who intentionally integrated who he is as a person of faith and a professional historian,” said Tom Jones ’71, Taylor’s dean of the School of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences. Jones, who as a student helped Ringenberg research his groundbreaking book Taylor University: The First 125 Years, said his mentor’s classes were not characterized by professorial lectures but rather times of shared discovery.

“It was never about just mastering the facts,” he said. “History is about people—people who are alive, complex and defy easy explanation. There is always analysis … Bill taught me to think, to ask questions, use primary research documents and then think about the answers. They are not as cut and dried as they appear.”

Dr. Alan Winquist, Ringenberg’s 34-year colleague in the history department, praised Ringenberg’s scholarly work and writing. “Over the years, Bill and I have developed a close collegial relationship,” he said. “He has made an enormous investment in the lives of his students for 40 years.”

“I try to inspire (students) with the best ideas, to get them to think more broadly, to be intellectually honest,” Ringenberg stated. “If God is truth, we shouldn’t be afraid of finding the truth. That is itself a search for God. The Bible says God is two things: one is love, and the other is truth. I don’t push them to study hard; that’s up to them. I do try to inspire them to eagerly seek out the truth.”

“If God is truth, we shouldn’t be afraid of finding the truth.”

Bill Ringenberg lives in Upland, Ind., with his wife Becky. He plans to continue his teaching career on a half-time basis and can be reached at wringenb@taylor.edu.
An invitation to explore

Since Larry Helyer joined Taylor University's Christian education faculty in 1979, changes have abounded from the size of the department, which has nearly doubled, to the thick, sweet smell of mimeographed pages for handouts that now has given way to the memory stick he carries in his pocket.

While he has heartily embraced those changes, he said he is ready for yet one more change.

"I'm just looking forward to a different schedule and pace rather than the one dictated by schedule and curriculum," explained Helyer, who for the last 20 years of his tenure at Taylor has battled Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Once an avid runner, Helyer now settles for a workout regimen of walking the indoor track at the Kesler Student Activities Center.

"Each year I'm really tired when I get to the end of the year," he said. "I'm 65. Sometimes I feel older than that."

A "glass half full" type of person, Helyer admits some students struggled with the demands of his classes while many went on to study in the nation's most prestigious graduate schools including Harvard, Yale and Dallas Theological Seminary.

"Some students are really quite gifted—some not as much. Or maybe they lack the drive," he reflected. "I try not to stereotype. I think they have great potential and will be a late bloomer ... like I was."

One of those late bloomers may be John Noble '98, who confesses he struggled in Helyer's Pauline epistles class, but added that good did come out of the experience. He is now working on his Ph.D. at Harvard.

"He helped me think about how to write: primary sources, hermeneutics, stressing the rudiments of biblical exegesis," Noble recalled. "That was what I got interested in in seminary. I feel like I got a good start from Dr. Helyer."

"I don't know if I would have done the Th.D. work I am doing now if Larry had not been there to encourage me," said Andy Rowell '98. Rowell, now pursuing his doctorate at Duke University, had the unusual pleasure of studying under Helyer as a student and serving with him as a visiting faculty member from 2005-2007.

"He just has a real warmth with students," Rowell continued. "They just feel cared about by him. His academic work is very high caliber but the books that he has written have evolved out of courses he's taught. Those are a direct result of his work with students."

"Larry has this breadth and depth of knowledge about biblical and theological issues that is just stunning," said Faye Chechowich '74, professor of Christian education, dean of faculty development and a colleague of Helyer's. "I would use Larry as my kind of encyclopedia and concordance so I could pop my head in the door and ask him a question. It was amazing what he knew off the top of his head."

"He had this humility in the way he would respond to questions," she added. He would always make you feel like it was a good question. There were never any ridiculous questions—he always invited that sort of exploration."

Chechowich, who read letters from dozens of former students during Helyer's retirement dinner, said those letters were the highlight of the evening.

"People talked about what a joy it was to have that time. They all commented on these letters from former students. That is what it means to invest at a place like Taylor," said Chechowich. "He is greatly loved."

"Larry has this breadth and depth of knowledge about biblical and theological issues that is just stunning."

Larry Helyer lives in Upland, Ind., with his wife Joyce. He can be reached at lrhelyer@taylor.edu.
Father figure

A 37-year-old married father of four, Mark Beckford ’09 has done a lot more living than his Taylor University track teammates. His road to Taylor was bumpier than theirs as well. And by God’s grace, he is alive today to share his life’s lessons with them.

Beckford, a Biblical literature major from Nassau, the Bahamas, and triple jump athlete on the track team, is founder and president of the Joshua and Esther Foundation, an outreach that currently provides over 300 teens with an alternative to street gangs. Beckford has more than casual knowledge of the cost exacted by gang activities—as a child growing up in a single parent home, he was once a gang member himself.

“When you get into problems they will fight for you (and) you will fight for them,” Beckford reflected. “Not being trained or having the gospel spread to you at a young age, you don’t know who to follow.”

While his initial foray into gang membership may have been casual, Beckford said his involvement in that lifestyle grew, sending his life spiraling out of control, even causing him to pass up a track scholarship offer from the University of North Carolina. But all of that changed at 3:00 a.m. one day when police with guns drawn surrounded his mother’s house. After being arrested for a murder he did not commit, he prayed, “Father if I get out of this one, I’ll turn away from it.” He was cleared two days later when a gunman killed during a bank robbery was discovered with the murder weapon.

The Joshua and Esther Foundation, like Beckford’s trek to Taylor, grew from unlikely origins. It was during time spent in the park teaching his son to shoot a basketball that youth began to gather, rebounding missed shots and wanting to be included in the father-son activity. One week it was five children, the next 10, then 35 and 65. While he had invested much prayer and thought in the matter, it was during a dream that the names of Bible heroes Joshua and Esther came into focus.

“We wanted to raise the young men to develop the character of Joshua and the young ladies to develop the character of Esther,” he said. “You have to be patient and love the kids. They will see that you love them.”

“His impact as a member of our team and off the field is hard to describe,” said Ted Bowers ’73, head track coach. “He has maturity that our kids don’t. He sees value in athletics and teammates that they don’t see yet. He understands how important it can be for their growth.”

“(I tell them) they have some valuable and precious days and don’t waste it. These are priceless days in our lives,” Beckford said. “A fancy car and a fancy home—that’s nice, but it is not priceless. Understanding that is the greatest victory in life.”

For more information, visit www.jandefoundation.com.

Editor’s note: Mark Beckford was hospitalized after suffering gunshot wounds while ministering in the Bahamas in June. He was released a week later and plans to continue his ministry.
A salve for God’s broken heart

They have names like Vladimir, Vika, Peter or Natalya. Some are newborns; others are toddlers taking their first, wobbly steps; while others are entering their adolescent years. They fight each other for crayons and toys while reaching for the mother or father who abandoned them to be raised with over a million children in the state-run orphanage system of Russia.

It was that brokenness that led April (Walker ’91) and Jim Jurgensen ’91 to launch The Boaz Project, an outreach to Russian orphanages. Through Boaz, Russian Christians visit the orphanages to hold and play with babies, give Christmas and birthday gifts to children, and furnish them with clothing, medicine and school supplies.

"Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor." Ruth 2:2
The couple has visited Russia over 50 times where they too have held babies, led Bible schools and encouraged their Russian colleagues who bring rays of light into an otherwise bleak subsistence. They have also led six Spring Break trips for Taylor groups, giving them a glimpse of the enormity of the problem and allowing them to participate in the abundant ministry opportunities there. Their work was honored last year by the Taylor Alumni Association when they were named Distinguished Alumni for Personal Achievement.

“We, as God’s children, need to take action about the things that break His heart,” said April. “It is beyond me but I will trust the Lord.”

Each has experienced God’s broken heart on a personal level. April recalls a beautiful, tiny, crusty baby silently lying in a crib, his life ebbing away because of a heart condition that might have been treatable in the United States. But there, he was dying alone and abandoned. As she cradled him, shooing flies away and refusing to put him down, her perspective on day-to-day life changed. “I don’t think you can help but be effected by the children. At some point God will grab you by the ear and bring you face-to-face with a child,” April stated. “If it effected me the way it effected me, I can’t imagine how it effects the Lord.”

Jim’s heartbreaking moment did not come inside an orphanage but as he drove away from one. After his team had distributed gifts among the children before bidding them farewell, he was horrified as he looked back to see them beating and gouging each other to get the presents for themselves.

“I was so angry, hurt and frustrated. My heart was broken and I was crying,” he related. “There are stories and situations that make me just as angry.”

Children of all ages are warehoused in the system—from babies and toddlers to pre-teens and adolescents. They receive a ration of food, but little else. The Jurgensens said when the children turn 16, they are essentially turned into the streets where many turn to prostitution and crime; some commit suicide.

In general, reaching beyond where one can grasp is presumed to be a bad thing. For the Jurgensens, there is a growing sense that it is precisely where God wants them to be. Last year, Boaz Project began work in India, a nation where the AIDS pandemic has orphaned exponentially more children.

“The situation in India was off the chart. I can’t even wrap my mind around 25 million orphans,” said April. “I feel God has consistently brought more people to us. I was by myself then God brought Jim to share the workload. One by one, He has brought more and more.”

“God has definitely taught us about faith and dreams for reaching His children,” Jim added. “It is hard. But God has called us to show the plight of orphans and the great burden Jesus has for them.”

“We want it to be a salve to God’s heart,” reflected April. “I’ll spend my life doing it ... when I do that, I’m doing it unto God.”

To learn more, visit www.boazproject.org.
Near space exploration

With apologies to Captain James T. Kirk, space may not be the final frontier. Instead, it may be “near space,” a place currently being explored by Taylor University students, faculty and research staff.

Since its inception in 2003, Taylor’s balloon program has successfully launched and recovered 72 payloads with instrumentation that has measured everything from temperature, air pressure and humidity to cosmic rays generated by supernovas, ozone conditions and even measurements of pollution from China that is impacting the air above the United States.

Originally devised to test satellite components, the balloon program has emerged as a high-profile enterprise. It has been incorporated by colleges and universities including Akron, Cedarville, DePauw, Iowa State, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Valparaiso; and a recent National Science Foundation grant of nearly $250,000 is allowing Taylor faculty and students to develop program curricula for more universities, along with high schools and middle schools.

After its launch, the helium-filled latex balloon can rise as high as 20 miles, a plateau that is above 99 percent of the earth’s atmosphere, into what is known as “near space.” Critical to any successful launch is making sure that the payload can withstand the extremes it will be subjected to as the balloon climbs to its apogee where temperatures can drop to minus-80 Fahrenheit. The balloon is then burst and a parachute slows the payload’s descent for recovery, which sometimes can be as far away from the launch point as 150 miles.

“It’s very similar to outer space,” said Jason Krueger ’06, founder and president of StratoStar Systems LLC, a company he created to market balloon applications, technology and possibilities to governmental and business clients.

“StratoStar’s main focus is to allow people and universities to do what Taylor has done, but also use balloon technology to solve communication problems in the industry, civilian and military sectors,” said Krueger. “The simplest way to put it is, this is an alternative to space satellites. The balloons have the same capabilities of satellites at a much lower cost.”
"We view our study of how the world works and how to make it work better as a divine calling, an act of worship rather than a technical study. As a result the whole concept of education is entirely different." David Patterson '10
According to Krueger, the application possibilities for balloons are endless. They could be used to restore cell phone service in the aftermath of a Katrina-like disaster as well as supply connectivity to handheld radios for U.S. military personnel. He, along with Taylor University students, recently conducted a successful balloon communications network test with numerous colleges and universities around the Midwest.

David Patterson ’10 is both a student in the physics sequence and a research staff member for the department. His most exciting experience to date is the discovery of thermals at 70,000 feet, an altitude much greater than imagined. He is also working on a future balloon network that will allow for communications and remote research.

“There is no real solid data on how long a balloon could last up there,” he explained. “The balloons might become degraded from ultraviolet radiation. No one has ever had a latex balloon up that long.”

Howard Brooks, a professor of physics at DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind., and father of Taylor students Nathan ‘05 and David ’10, brought the program to DePauw after his introduction to it at a space industry networking conference at Taylor two years ago.

“I got to thinking that could work with our students,” he said. “They seem to get excited and have fun with it. In many cases, they want to fly more. I have more students interested in working with me in the summer than I can have.”

Brooks said his program has now successfully launched and recovered 24 payloads from Missouri to Michigan, with one as far away as Ontario, Canada.

The program’s best result may be a newly-piqued interest in science and space exploration among high school and middle school students, many of whom have participated in launches, said Krueger.

“What I always tell the kids is, ’You are the generation that is going to be building the moon base, stepping onto Mars and building the space hotel that I’m going to retire to,’ he related. “We are in a position to change the way that communications are done.”

Both Krueger and Patterson shared interesting anecdotes about the recovery of their payloads. Patterson has had two payloads that have landed close to Lake Erie while Krueger has retrieved one payload from the Atlantic Ocean.

For Patterson, the allure of the balloon program is directly connected to some of humankind’s greatest desires—exploration and flight.

“It’s just the fact that it is so unknown. In one sense, there is almost no one who hasn’t looked at a bird and wished they could fly,” Patterson stated. “When you see videos from the edge of space, they are pretty cool. It is even more fascinating when it comes from a student. A student can say, ‘I built that payload. There is a sense of pride that is common with achieving a dream.’

For more information, visit:
www.taylor.edu/cr/balloon
www.stratostar.net.
In to you, seek and you will find: knock and
The Memorial Prayer Chapel is seen in this nighttime photo following its dedication on April 26, 2008. The facility's features include a 75-seat chapel, memorial plaques and the Great Cloud of Witnesses wall. For more information, a photo gallery and videos of the Heritage and Dedication services, visit www.taylor.edu/heritage.
1938
Rebecca (Wheeler) Maxson passed away on Oct. 24, 2007. She dearly loved Taylor and supported the University all her life. Grandson Nathan ’98 graduated from Taylor 60 years after she did. Granddaughter Angela (Swartzendruber) Guinn ’01 also followed her grandmother to TU. Daughter Laura Swartzendruber is now the Taylor University organist.

1942
Rev. Harley Martin died on Feb. 2, 2008, at the age of 92. Among his survivors are his wife Esther (Lewis x’45) and son Brad ’77. Harley was a minister in the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church for over 50 years. Esther lives in Miamisburg, Ohio.

1945
Gladys (Brown) Klinefelter, fondly christened “Gladdy” by a Taylor friend, departed her earthly life on March 9, 2008 surrounded by her family at home in Berea, Ky. after a courageous 25-year struggle with Parkinson’s Disease. Surviving is husband Gerald, former pastor and teacher at Red Bird Mission. Gladys served alongside him in the mountains for 32 years. • Dr. Donald & Clara Martin celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 18, 2008. Besides being a pastor for 40 years, Donald was a professor of English at Taylor and Mount Vernon Nazarene Universities for 27 years. Clara taught 30 years in Lexington and Mansfield schools. The Martins reside at 120 N. Concord Dr., Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050.

1948
Ida (Wessman) Mannix passed away on May 23, 2007. She taught at Canadian Bible College and served as a missionary in Quito, Ecuador, before marrying her husband Ben and raising five children. She taught HS English and Spanish in Indiana public schools for 20 years. Ida is survived by her husband, three sons, two daughters and 11 grandchildren.

1961
Charles “Rex” Taylor passed away on January 23, 2008, after a 22-year struggle with Parkinson’s Disease. He was retired from the Office of Telecommunications, State of Alaska, where he assisted in the design and development of a system to meet the communication needs of outlying bush villages. He was also a telecommunications planner for ATS-6 experimental satellite project. He and wife Marilyn (Holloway ’58) celebrated 50 years of marriage on June 14, 2007. Their sons are also graduates of Taylor: Scott ’84 and Mark ’85.

1967
Kathleen (Luedke) Mascaro went to be with the Lord on February 4, 2008, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was a RN for 20 years at Nyack Hospital (N.Y.). For 36 years Kathy and husband Augustine lived in South Nyack. Before that they lived in Brooklyn where they served as missionaries for the Brooklyn Gospel Team, a student ministry of Nyack College, from 1968-1973. • Barry & Phyllis (Grimm) Wehrle both retired in June 2008. Barry served as a United Methodist pastor in N.J. for 40 years; Phyllis owned and operated the Rainbow Nursery School for 24 years. They will live in Manchester Township, N.J.

1968
Bonnie (Dixon) Crandall will retire this fall from her private counseling practice in Lexington, Ky. She and husband Dr. Ronald Crandall, dean of the School of World Mission at Asbury Theological Seminary, plan to start a new renewal ministry for small membership churches called ABIDE. Prior to her counseling career, Bonnie worked 25 years in church music. Bonnie and Ron have two sons, both live in Lexington, Ky.

1973
David Baker x recently released his sixth published book, a devotional titled 101 Cups of Water. He is completing his master’s in theological studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. • James Brown x is owner/president of Riverside Sweats in St. Charles, Mo. E-mail is runneman1@aol.com. • Vince & Elizabeth (Warner x) Pomeroy gained three grandchildren in 2007! Vince is a B737 pilot with...
The Pomeroy Family
Conoco-Phillips. They run New Light International Foundation that partners with ministries in India. E-mail is vbpomeroy@gci.net. • **David Voris** is vice president, cash management, for Indiana Bank & Trust, formerly known as Home Federal. He and his family live in Fishers, Ind.

1975
**Miguel Gomez** is a materials handler work leader for the USDA Forest Service. He, wife Jenny and daughter Maria (12) live in Missoula, Mont. • **Chris & Ann (Cook x) Ward** live in Allegan, Mich. They have four children.

1977
May (Hays) Patalano passed away on March 6, 2008, after a short and courageous battle with cancer. May served as the secretary to the District 5 Executive of the Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren for 13 years. Her husband Robert survives.

1981
**David M. Smith** died following a long fight with cancer. For the past 15 years he was a student counselor in Hagerstown, Ind., currently at the Jr/Sr HS. He is survived by wife Leanie and three sons, all at home. • **Todd Thalls** is senior vice president—insurance operations for Americana Insurance in New Castle, Ind. E-mail is toddthalls@sbcglobal.net. • **Lisa Wortman** married Stephen Bridges on Dec. 2, 2007. They were treated to lunch the following day by **Rick x’80 & Gloria (Schwartzendruber x) Thompson** who live near St. Louis. The couple lives in Morristown, Ind.

1982
**Jeff Butcher** is a teacher for Franklin Township Schools. He, wife Paula and children Nathan ‘09 and Leah ‘11 live in Greenwood, Ind. E-mail is jkbutcher@sbcglobal.net. • **Chris Teagle** is now judge of Delaware Circuit Court 5 in Muncie, Ind. He has practiced law in Muncie for 23 years.

1984
**Jeff & Kristy (Price) Bagley** have returned to the U.S after spending the school year in Shell, Ecuador with Mission Aviation Fellowship where they taught missionary kids at the Nate Saint Memorial School. Jeff returned to his previous high school teaching position and Kristy teaches preschool. The family lives in Van Wert, Ohio. • **Nancy Barnum x** is an assistant professor of nursing at Hope College. She earned a PhD in higher education from the University of Kentucky in Dec. 2007. Dr. Barnum lives in Holland, Mich. • **Bert Chapman** is author of the book *Space Warfare and Defense: A Historical Encyclopedia and Research Guide* published by ABC-CLIO. Bert lives in Lafayette, Ind. • **Sara (Gordon) Ciolli** is owner of Icon Ink Printing & Graphics and has a second business with Coldwell Banker Residential & Commercial Real Estate in Buffalo Grove, Ill. E-mail is sara.ciolli@sbcglobal.net. • After serving as vice president for Insight Communications in Indiana for two years, **Tom Shevlot** returned to ATT where he is managing ATT’s new television service in central Indiana. **Elizabeth (Knudsen)** recently passed her CPA exam and will join the accounting firm KPMG in Indianapolis in their audit department. Their son Alex is a Taylor sophomore, and daughter Emily is a senior at Heritage Christian HS in Indianapolis.

1985
**Douglas Hadley** retired July 1, 2008, after 25 years in the ministry with the United Methodist Church. As a certified life coach, he is pursuing a new career as an executive coach and motivational speaker with The Growth Coach in Valparaiso, Ind.

1988
**Todd & Kristen Hoatson**, with children Samuel (8 months) and Keri (3), live in Southeast Asia training local people for translation and literacy work through Wycliffe Bible Translators.

1989
**Keith x & Menda (Pike) Wright**
Trips planned in 2009

Taylor University is planning a Canadian Rockies Trip for alumni and friends for June 28-July 4, 2009. President Eugene Habecker ’68 and Marylou (Napolitano ’68) will be hosting the trip along with Vice President for University Advancement Dr. Ben Sells and his wife Lisa. The trip begins in Calgary and ends in beautiful Vancouver with two days of majestic sightseeing on the Mountaineer Express Rail. For additional information contact Joyce Helyer at 765-997-3025 or jhelyer@taylor.edu.

New York City—Here we come! Marylou (Napolitano ’68) Habecker and Joyce Helyer will be hosting a return trip to New York City for Taylor women—alumnae and friends—November 4-8, 2009. Marylou will be our devotional speaker. Ladies make your plans now to join us for a great time of fellowship and sightseeing. Contact Joyce Helyer at 765-997-3025 or jhelyer@taylor.edu for additional information.

1990
James & Kristen (Schroeder) Kenniv

The Kenniv Family
live in Lebanon, Ohio, with children Kaitlyn (14), Josiah (12), Jonathan (10), Abigail (8), Evelyn (5) and Joshua (3). E-mail is jkenniv4@mac.com.

1991
Ron & Carin (Dunberg) Symonette

The Symonette Family
where Ron is maintenance manager at the Lyford Cay International School. They have two children: Amanda (11) and Joshua (8). E-mail is ronsymonette@yahoo.com.

1992
Tim “Gumby” Imperial married

Jennifer Leto on October 27, 2007. Tim is a finance manager for Nuance Communications and Jennifer is a network manager for United Behavioral Health. The couple resides in Fair Lawn, N.J. E-mail is timimperial@verizon.net.

1993
On July 21, 2007, Jennifer Curtis

married Matthew Carlino. Taylor friends who celebrated with her were (top row): Jack Crabtree ’71, Cecily (Crim) Bierlein, Dorie (McDougal) Thompson, Bethanne (Blackwood) Jennings and (bottom row) Michael Mitchell ’68, Linda (George ’69) Dersch and Valerie (Holm ’70) Mitchell. They live in Coram, N.Y. 

Jason & Kari (Jordan) Diller have both completed their PhD degrees. They serve with Wycliffe in West Africa and finished Fulbright Scholar linguistics research in Thailand last year. They plan to go to Southeast Asia long term. • Tim ’93 & Dawn (Russo ’94) McDaniel celebrated

the arrival of son Jayson (3) from Haiti in March. Siblings are Brennan (9) and Rebekah (6). In May 2008, Tim completed his master’s degree in Youth Ministry from Huntington University. The family lives in Cape Coral, Fla., and can be reached at MickeyDisin@aol.com.

1994
Marc & Melanie Curless moved to

Egypt, where both work at Cairo American College. They gladly welcome any TU folks who are in the neighborhood! • John Groce was ranked fourth on a Fox Sports list of Top 20 Assistant Coaches. John is an assistant at Ohio State University. • Brent Holbert is now chief operating officer of Fahlgren, Inc. He has been with the company for 14 years, serving as the company’s CFO the past seven years. In this new role, Brent will directly oversee information systems, finance/accounting, human resources and general operations.

1995
Kenny & Leanne (Puls) Grimes

The Grimes Family

1996
Paula Hartzler married Jeff Mustin

Jeff & Paula (Hartzler ’96) Mustin
on April 27, 2007. She is a specialty field trainer for TAP Pharmaceuticals and she recently finished nine years serving as a fighter pilot in the USAF. They are relocating to Lubbock, Tex. E-mail is paula.mustin@gmail.com. • Jesse & Danielle (Jarrett) Holt moved to Granby, Conn. Jesse is a real-time systems engineer for a power generation company and Danielle enjoys being a stay-at-home mom with sons Elijah (5) and Ezra (3). E-mail is jdholt@sbcglobal.net. • Joseph Horn is senior pastor at Chillicothe Bible Church. He, wife Karen ’95 and children Sara (7), Ashley (6), John (4) and Nathan (2) live in Chillicothe, Ill. • Dave & Dana (Hunt ’98) McGinness

The McGinness Family

proudly announce the birth of Naomi Hope and Judah David on September 27, 2007. The twins were born prematurely at 28 weeks, but are doing well. Big sisters are Lydia (6) and Claudia (3). Dave is a Spanish teacher at North Central HS while Dana is busy at home. The family resides on the northwest side of Indianapolis, Ind. E-mail is davi. mcginness@sbcglobal.net.

1997

Jason Borowicz married Shannon

Ottenweller on May 5, 2007. They reside in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Jason is a freshman English teacher and Shannon is a training manager for a call center. • Todd Evans is pastor of the First Congregational Church in New Haven, Mich. He earned an MA in ministerial leadership from Indiana Wesleyan University in August 2007. • Brian & Aimee (Black) Hromadka joyfully announce the birth of Katja Lauren on Oct. 16, 2007. Sister Madelyn is 2. The family resides in Newburyport, Mass.

• Sven & Amanda (Bichmeier) Nelson are the proud parents of Reid

continues to enjoy being a stay-at-home mom and building into the lives of Aaron (5) and Isaac (2). Prior to their move, she was a part-time counselor at Warsaw Community Church’s Care and Counseling Center. They can be reached at Deanna. greene@earthlink.net.

1999

Vitaly Franko and Iryna Kolodchak

were married on October 20, 2007, in Carmel, Ind. They incorporated many elements of a traditional Ukrainian wedding into their ceremony, and were blessed to have immediate family from Ukraine and Hungary at the wedding. Vitaly is a senior web developer at the Honor Nursing Society and Iryna is working on a PhD in economics at Indiana University. • Chrischona Gibson married Kodjov

thankful parents of twins Sullivan and Sylvia born November 14, 2007. Siblings are Anna (8) and Ethan (2). E-mail is grayclan6@gmail.com.

• Nathan Packer, Kevin Anselmo,

New Year Reunion

Stefan Kubricht ’98, Kyle ’00, Katie and Lillian Welty, Matt ’00, Laurie (Comiskey) and Oliver Durbois, Chad, Brie, Kayla and Azlan Cabrera, and Jon ’99 and Kim Thorson had a New Year Reunion in Baltimore. During their time together they played football and celebrated the wedding of David Martinez ’01, which took place in Sevilla, Spain, and was broadcast for the reunion live on YouTube. • Paul & Leslie (Clarke) Royer announce the arrival

of Sophie Grace born September 2, 2007. Paul is an engineer at Altairnano in Anderson, Ind. Leslie enjoys her new career as a stay-at-home mom. They live in Indianapolis. • David & Shelley (Gibbs) Stiansen
alumni notes

• Jason & Ada (Keesling) Stucky are the proud parents of Maxwell Daniel born February 1, 2007. They live in Plainfield, Ind.

2000

Jamie & Joanna (Castro) Alvis are blessed to announce the arrival of Addison Natalia born February 5, 2007. Joey is working on her master's degree in speech-language pathology at Ball State University. Email is jcalvis@bsu.edu. • Mark TUFW '97 & Tonya (Strubhar) Hammond are excited to announce the birth of Andrew & Samantha (Schley) Albert

2001

Andy & Samantha (Schley) Albert are the proud parents of Quinn Anthony born December 18, 2006. Samantha is a stay-at-home mom and Andy is an account representative for DCL Medical Labs. They reside in Fishers, Ind. E-mail is scott.albert@comcast.net or Samantha.albert@comcast.net. • Carolyn Flick

2002

The University of Illinois Extension in Urbana, Ill., has named Adam Bicksler the recipient of The Louis V. Graduate Student Teaching Award in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. • Andrew Broucek and Jessica Carrier were married on August 24, 2007. Andrew is a therapeutic support specialist and Jessica is a naturalist. They live in Ephrata, Penn. Pictured L-R are Joel Bruerd '03, Pam...
Crane ’03, Abram Bicksler and Ben Merrill, • Brandon & Bethany (DeRosa) Nutter joyfully announce

The Nutter Family

the birth of son Andrew on June 21, 2006. They are moving to New Castle, Pa., for final training before heading into overseas missions with the Christian & Missionary Alliance. E-mail Bethany at bnutter2@hotmail.com. • Aaron & Michelle (Catti) Pegg

The Pegg Family

joyfully announce the birth of Cru Scott on January 9, 2008. Michelle said she feels blessed to be able to look after Cru. She helps out part-time at A&M Photography Studio where Aaron is a photographer. They live in Gaylord, Mich. • Ryan & Christine (McClanathan) Schmitz welcomed

The Schmitz Family

William Balmer into the world on November 26, 2007. Sister Kari is 2. E-mail is cemcc79@hotmail.com.

Molly Taylor is a celebrity personal assistant. She loves living in LA and would love to hear from Taylor friends. E-mail is taylor_molly@hotmail.com.

2003 TU alumni gathered in March 2008 for “JBell Break 2008” (a tradition started at Taylor in 2002). Attending

“JBell Break 2008” were (back row L-R): Abigail Poorman, Leah (Marshall x’04) Poorman, Elijah Poorman, Matt Poorman, Mike Poorman, and Allison Poorman. Front row L-R: Jessica Bell, Alison Murray, and Billy Murray. • Michelle Brate and

Andrew & Michelle (Brate ’03) Hoffman

Andrew Hoffman were married on June 23, 2007. They live in Ft. Wayne, Ind., where Michelle is a pediatric social worker at Lutheran Children’s Hospital and Andrew is the executive director of NeighborLink Fort Wayne. TU participants included Linda (Brate ’05) & Austin Kirchhoff ’05, Christin Easterhaus, Whitney Fry, and Erin VanBuren.

Continue the Taylor experience in your community—get involved!

Alumni chapters are being revitalized and will give alumni, parents and friends the opportunity for fellowship, spiritual growth, networking and continued University involvement. To be included in one of these groups please ensure the alumni office has your current e-mail address and contact a chapter leader.

Chicago, Ill., chapter leader - Ryan Linsinger ’01, rlinsinger@hlflc.com

“Deep Lunches” - 3rd Wednesday of each month

Parent prayer groups

Indianapolis, Ind., chapter leader - Janet Logan ’04, janetlogan@att.net

Columbus, Ohio, chapter leader - Kelly Neer ’03, knneer119@wawoo.com

Seattle, Wash., chapter leader - Matt Bryant ’97, mbryan@oldwinris.com

Coming soon: Washington D.C. and Western Michigan

Taylor University Health Professionals Association (TUHPA) The purpose of TUHPA is to provide networking and global outreach opportunities to Taylor alumni, TU parents and family, and Taylor pre-medical students in the area of medicine and health. The Taylor University office of alumni and parent relations will help develop and maintain a database of members while providing communication through newsletters and opportunities for interaction in reunions and international involvement.

TUHPA members will consist of any Taylor alumni and/or any TU family or parent member or including but not limited to physicians, nurses, dentists, optometrists, nurse practitioners, physical therapists, occupational therapists, podiatrists, mental health professionals, and public health workers as well as Taylor pre-medical and allied health students.

Taylor Veterans Group - This group supports Taylor University military veterans and their family members and bolsters their connections with each other and Taylor University.

Please contact the alumni office if you are interested getting involved in either of these new locations. Regional event information can be found on our Web site at www.taylor.edu/alumni/events and in the TaylorTies e-newsletter. If you do not currently receive the e-newsletter, please, contact the alumni office.

The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations 800-862-3456, ext. 5115, or alumni@taylor.edu.
alumni notes

• Elizabeth Ray married James Magallanes in 2006. Attending from TU were Laura (Keller) Berlin, Lauren Barth, Ashley Boyer, Rachel (Oliver '05) Stevenson, Gabrielle (Long) Cressman and Laura Roberts. The couple lives in Hastings, Neb. Katherine (Kaufmann) Gould is an associate at Lewis Wagner, LLP. She is in the firm's litigation group with an emphasis on drug and medical device defense and environmental insurance litigation. She and husband Kyle '02 live in Fishers, Ind. • Rebecca Mong and C. Andrew Childs were married aboard hydrographer officer as negotiator. Danielle Songer, Andrew & Susan (Steiner) Stohrer and Christopher Swiontek Drew is a HS choir director and Becca is pursuing an MA in pastoral counseling. The couple lives in Indianapolis. E-mail Drew at drew.childs@gmail.com and Becca at redheadpiano@yahoo.com.

2005

Linda Brate and Austin Kirchhoff were married on May 26, 2007, in Oxford, Ohio. The couple lives in Indianapolis. Linda is a project manager at Grace Community Church and Austin is a software engineer at InDesign. • Michelle Bryan

2004

Jean Dunbar wed Gustavo

Gustavo & Jean (Dunbar '03) Magallanes

2006


2005

Linda Brate and Austin Kirchhoff were married on May 26, 2007, in Oxford, Ohio. The couple lives in Indianapolis. Linda is a project manager at Grace Community Church and Austin is a software engineer at InDesign. • Michelle Bryan

2004

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Gustavo & Jean (Dunbar '03) Magallanes

2006


2005

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2004

Jean Dunbar wed Gustavo

Gustavo & Jean (Dunbar '03) Magallanes

2006

University community remembers Marilyn Walker

Longtime Taylor faculty member Marilyn Walker died February 18 in Marion, Ind. She was 74.

Walker retired from Taylor in 1996 after a 30-year career as professor of journalism and communication arts. Prior to coming to Taylor, she taught at Anderson Highland and Marion High Schools. She also taught summer journalism workshops at Indiana University and Ohio University and was a frequent workshop leader and speaker at national college journalism conferences.

“Marilyn was one of my favorite professors,” said Don Helton ’95, a pastor in Austin, Tex., and a former student. “She taught me how to read and interact with the news. She instilled in me a desire for truth. She encouraged me to strive for objectivity.”

She is survived by her husband Jules, an aunt and several cousins.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the communication arts department, Taylor University, or the First United Methodist Church, 624 S. Adams St., Marion, Ind., 46953.

Have info for Alumni Notes?

Taylor welcomes all submissions to the Alumni Notes. Due to space limitations, not all news items or photographs may be published. Every effort will be made to print as many timely news items and photographs as possible. Taylor University reserves the right to edit submissions for space and content.

You can send updates via e-mail at alumni@taylor.edu, or by regular mail at 236 W. Reade Avenue, Upland, Ind. 46989. Please include clearly labeled pictures (which will only be published if alumni are in the photo). Prints will be returned if requested.

You may also submit information to Marty Songer at (800) 882-3456, ext. 5212. Thanks for keeping in touch with your alma mater!
IS YOUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT RECEIVING MAIL FROM TAYLOR?

MAKE SURE THEY DO.

register them with our admissions office today
www.taylor.edu/admissions/contact.shtml
Dear Alumni,

The Taylor alumni department is creating a new alumni directory! Watch for questionnaires in your mailbox and inbox and please give us your information as soon as possible. Your new directories will be arriving by the end of the year!

Staying connected,
The Taylor University Alumni Department

Questions? Contact alumni@taylor.edu or call 800-882-3456.
Making the ultimate investment

Faithfulness displayed through vision, investment and excellence in all things. This concept became real to me when I was a student at Taylor University, but not in the way you might imagine. Having completed my freshman year in the spring of 1965, I had decided to transfer from Taylor to another university. Plans had fallen through to build a new Taylor campus in Fort Wayne and I was generally dissatisfied with the lack of direction and purpose I perceived at the University.

That was when our new president, Dr. Milo Rediger '39, called me into his office for a meeting. During the next hour he shared his vision for the Taylor University that could be—a strong, vibrant campus making a world impact for Jesus Christ; a place where men and women were trained by our generation’s best and brightest thinkers; and a University that would soon make (in today’s dollars) a $55 million investment in new residence halls and classroom buildings.

Dr. Rediger’s passionate hope was for Taylor University to aspire to be more than what it was. And this dream was rooted in his desire to see God’s kingdom purposes accomplished on this earth.

I was hooked. Today, Dr. Rediger’s vision burns, not only in my heart, but is also reflected in the Taylor University in 2008 that is fully committed to being the best it can be while developing exceptional graduates who are marked with a passion to minister Christ’s love to a world in need.

The word “exceptional” speaks to the multiple ways we work to develop our students and invest in their lives. It also speaks to the level of growth we aspire to, both inside and outside the classroom. Our goal is that our students be on the cutting edge of their respective disciplines and professions, even as they reflect an ironic spirit. We want them to be exceptional when it comes to loving God, loving each other and loving their neighbors.

Our graduates must be marked with passion—a passion for life, for justice and grace, to make a difference wherever they are, be it as a parent or spouse, or serving in the halls of government, academia, the church or wherever else God calls them.

That excites me about Taylor University. If we can graduate—year after year—500 exceptional men and women who love the Lord their God with all their hearts, all their souls and all their minds, there is no question that God will use them to help change the world to advance His kingdom.

The Taylor “next,” as I see it, is a robust, vibrant community with facilities that are world-class and second to none, where we pursue faithfulness, not just significance and where we invest our lives in the service of the kingdom of God.

What God wants is faithfulness. For me, that faithfulness was demonstrated by Dr. Rediger over 40 years ago. It is now up to us to show ourselves faithful as we invest our time, talents and treasures to ensure that Taylor University will continue to be a place where men and women are equipped to make an impact upon a hurting world, and where God Himself will be glorified.
“When we were students at Taylor in the sixties, money was always tight. Alumni and friends of the University generously supported TU to provide an excellent ‘Taylor Experience’ that so many have benefited from, including the two of us. This is where we met and fell in love. Taylor was one of the most significant times of our lives for spiritual growth and personal development. We give to the Taylor Fund so we can help provide for today’s students like others provided for us. We want to see Taylor remain a place that transforms lives and accelerates the Great Commission.”

Your gifts to the Taylor Fund help provide critical support for vibrant student programs, strong academics and financial aid. We are especially thankful for the 6,000 alumni and friends of the University that gave a record $1.878 million to the Taylor Fund last fiscal year! For more information, call 800-882-3456, ext. 5397, or visit www.taylor.edu/giving.
Going all out. Karin Case '09 braces herself for a fall during Taylathon bike races on April 26. Other than a few scrapes, she was unhurt and went on to finish her leg of the race. For a recap and photos, see page 6.