“This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.’”
Zechariah 7:9

“Being human, not one of us will ever have a relationship with another person that doesn’t have a wrinkle or a wart on it somewhere. The unblemished ideal exists only in ‘happily ever after’ fairy tales. I think that there is some merit to a description I once read of a married couple as ‘happily incompatible.’ Ruth likes to say, ‘If two people agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary.’ The sooner we accept that as a fact of life, the better we will be able to adjust to each other and enjoy togetherness. ‘Happily incompatible’ is a good adjustment.”
Billy Graham

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”
1 Thessalonians 5:11

“A new command I give you: Love one another.”

BEHIND THE COVER

For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding.
1 Chronicles 29:15

It is so easy sometimes to forget that we live in a temporal, fallen world. And yet God has called us to live in that world to redeem it, to serve his purposes, to love one another, and to fix our eyes upon Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. It is only by faith that we can fulfill God’s call in this world as sojourners and see those whom God has brought into our lives as beloved, cherished and respected fellow pilgrims. May God give each of us eyes to see the world, and those whom he brings into our lives, as he does.
WHAT'S IN A NAME

Christian speaker, author Shye Jethani’s commencement address was not your typical commencement fare.

A GIGANTIC SUCCESS

After 626 orbits and 15.6 million miles, Taylor’s first satellite achieved everything student researchers had hoped and more.

ENTERING INTO THEIR STORIES

Seeing people with Christ’s eyes – Alan Briggs ’05 shares keys to incarnational living, respect, and Christlikeness.

BEAUTIFULLY DONE

Three respected, beloved and retiring faculty members rendered distinguished service to the Lord and Taylor University.
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Taylor: A Magazine for Taylor University® Alumni, Parents and Friends (ISSN 1073-4376) is published by the Office of University Advancement. Copyright © 2014 Taylor University®.
E-mail: magazine@taylor.edu
Taylor University online: www.taylor.edu
Send address corrections and mailing updates to: Office of Alumni Relations, 236 W. Reade Ave., Upland, IN 46989, or call (800) 882-3456, ext. 5115.
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Founded in 1846, Taylor University is one of America’s oldest Christian liberal arts colleges. Over 2,000 graduate and undergraduate students from 45 states and 27 foreign countries attend Taylor, where majors in 64 fields of study are available. For the seventh year in a row, Taylor University is the number one Midwest University in the category Best Regional Colleges in the 2014 US News & World Report survey, America’s Best Colleges.

The mission of Taylor University is to develop servant leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ’s redemptive love and truth to a world in need.
He must increase. I must decrease. If you are like me, perhaps you too have read John the Baptist’s expectant exclamation of the coming Messiah in a merely perfunctory manner that has evoked a response that goes something like, “Oh. Isn’t that nice?”

The problem is, there is nothing “nice” about it. John’s declaration cost him everything. “Christ must increase! I must decrease!” That decrease would send him to prison and his eventual beheading. His disciples would soon leave his side to follow Jesus. And in his darkest hour, John would send those who were left to ask Jesus, “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”

Yet Jesus’ answer was kind, forbearing and gentle. “Go back and tell him what you see: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.”

While the Bible is silent on what John said when his followers returned from their encounter with Jesus, I believe Jesus’ words restored and refreshed John’s faith and fitted him for one final, crucial work: martyrdom. Jesus has always called his followers to more and better. That heartfelt cry, Christ must increase and I (and the rest of us) must decrease, is central to every facet of life to which our Lord calls us.

It is ultimately through a prayerful reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit that we too can respond to Christ’s great love – with sacrificial respect and gratitude, and a renewed desire to fulfill his purpose in our lives.

We pray the stories and essays in this edition of Taylor might fan into flame God’s call on your lives, and allow each of us to see our lives in God’s rich, eternal perspective.

We love because he first loved us.

James R. Garringer
Editor
husband, wife, father, mother, mission, and career. The names we give ourselves and our search for significance and belonging were the foci of popular Christian author Skye Jethani’s commencement address at Taylor University on May 24. Jethani, the author of The Divine Commodity, With, and Futureville, spoke to not only the 434 graduates in the Kesler Student Activities Center (KSAC), but also the nearly 4,500 friends and family members who were in attendance, with remarks that were insightful and sometimes humorous.

“All I know is that I am God’s. Some of you may look for [your name and identity] in achievement. You’ll look for your name in marriage … the name ‘dad’ or ‘mom’ is a wonderful name, but it doesn’t speak to our deepest identity,” Jethani told the crowd. “How do we determine our identity? How do we find ourselves in this world? What I have discovered in my decades now of trying to answer that question for myself is that I can’t. My name is not something I choose. My name is not something I find. It’s not something I discover. Like anything of ultimate value, your name cannot be something you take. It is only something you receive.

“In Revelation 2, Jesus tells the Apostle John in a vision, ‘to the one who overcomes, I will give a white stone with a new name written on it, and no one knows this name except the one who receives it.’ Jethani continued. “The name you have been searching for, the name you have been looking for in all the identities that you have tried to attain, and the one you will try to go out and find through achievement or through relationships, cannot be found because it only comes from the one who made you. And it’s only bestowed on you at the end of days when you alone stand before your maker. And he alone can peer into the center of who you are and name what he sees there.”

“There are many times as a college student I have thought about when I will really get to a place of accomplishment or an understanding of my identity, and Skye’s address helped me understand even the little ‘I’ve arrived’ moments – including landing a job, getting a better job, getting married, becoming a mother – will not be able to define me the way I long to be defined,” reflected Bekah O’Brien ’14. “The only fulfilling satisfaction in claiming an identity will come when I rest on my identity as God’s child.”

“I think many of us as college students find ourselves in different roles that end up becoming our identity for that time,” added Ashlyn DeHoogh ’14. “Maybe we identified ourselves as a college athlete, a business student, a PA or DA, and even now, a college graduate. We are always looking for the next name to take on with our new role in life. We forget in those moments whose we are. Regardless of where our future may take us and despite where we have been in the past one thing will never change: we are God’s.”
INNOVATIVE ACADEMIA

JOINT VENTURES SPEARHEAD NEW COURSE OFFERINGS

Taylor officials have put the finishing touches on two new, multidisciplinary course offerings that will launch at the start of the upcoming fall semester. One is a major in Political Science, Philosophy and Economics (PPE); the other is a minor field of study – Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC).

Planners say the OVC minor focuses on the unique needs of the world’s most vulnerable and underrepresented population groups. And while it can augment any of Taylor’s 60-plus majors, OVC will be especially complementary to those working toward degrees in the social sciences, economics, and public health. In addition to the program’s coursework, OVC students will participate in the Village Tree Experience – an intentional housing unit combining classwork, research and practicum experience.

“There are 100 million to 150 million orphans worldwide. These are staggering numbers – partly because of war, partly because of HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and cultural elements. The need is great. It is not a new need – it’s been around for a long time,” said Dr. Scott Moeschberger ’97, the program director for OVC. “Care for orphans and vulnerable children is at the heart of the gospel. What it means to be a follower of Christ is working with “the least of these” who Jesus spoke about.”

Additional requirements for the OVC minor include student practicums with one of several international organizations with Taylor connections: The Boaz Project, Hands of Hope, and Tiny Hands.

Taylor’s newest major is a cooperative between the departments of Political Science, Business, and BSCEP (Biblical Studies, Christian Education and Philosophy). PPE Students will take three required courses in each department and can select electives from over 30 courses. According to Dr. Nicholas Kerton-Johnson, the chair of Taylor’s Political Science department, students can balance their major across the programs or specialize in a particular field, especially during their junior and senior years as they prepare for graduate school programs.

“This is a new major at Taylor and a very exciting one,” said Kerton-Johnson. “The PPE major presents the opportunity for students to be accustomed with the core of these three disciplines, equipping them with a wide grasp of approaches to knowledge and critical thinking, significant political and economic structures and processes, and to be globally engaged and trained in discussing leading contemporary issues.”
After 626 orbits, 15.6 million miles, and reams of data Taylor Physics Professor Dr. Hank Voss and his students will be interpreting for weeks, TSAT, Taylor’s first satellite reentered the earth’s atmosphere somewhere over Italy’s eastern coast at one minute past midnight on May 28.

The flight capped a tremendously successful mission for the small, cube-shaped spacecraft, the first to be designed and built only in the State of Indiana. The small satellite, also known as a CubeSat, blasted into space aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 booster on Good Friday from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

The only “blip” in the mission was due to three launch delays, but Voss, the project’s principal investigator, said postponements of launches are not unusual due to the myriad of factors required for a safe, successful launch.

TSAT was carried aloft with small satellites designed and built by Ames Research Laboratory, Colorado Space Grant Consortium, and Cornell University – all of which were chosen by NASA as part of its ELaNa V (Education Launch of Nanosatellite – 5th launch) program.

Taylor’s design was chosen by NASA after a nationwide competition. Additionally, Taylor’s satellite was the only unit to be designed and built by exclusively undergraduate students.

CubeSats are a class of small research spacecrafts called nanosatellites. The satellites are approximately four inches long, have a volume of about one quart and weigh less than three pounds. Taylor’s CubeSat included instrumentation that tested communications between other satellites and measured plasma in low earth orbit.

It was the third piece of space hardware to be designed and/or built by students in Taylor’s engineering program. The Air Force will launch a similar Taylor nanosatellite later this summer and Voss’ students are finalists for a launch next year.

“We got beautiful data, all the way into the meteor region,” said Voss. “We covered all of that extremely-low-earth-orbit (LEO) region that had never really been studied. We got plasma probe data and temperature data. It was a lot to be thankful for. The mission was a gigantic success.”

Voss said factors in the project’s success include 10 years of infrastructure development and the pioneering high-altitude balloon program that provides Taylor students a high altitude platform to test materials, design and equipment in space-like conditions. The balloon program has been replicated at a number of universities and secondary schools, adding to a growing list of successes in space-related discovery on the Taylor campus.
#TAYLORU

One of social media’s best qualities is its ability to share instantaneous information with friends, families and loved ones via Twitter, Facebook, Instagram or various social media. Here are a few tweets and Instagram photos that we have enjoyed during the past months.

@sar_siper2 Made it to my parents’ house, but I’m hesitant to say “I’m home” because I’m pretty sure I left that back in Upland. #TaylorU

@ChuckWTHR Congrats to @tayloru grads Saturday in Upland. You may never know how many folks prayed for you the past 4 years.

@AllieMahdasian My prof just sang us a benediction to end our semester, so if that isn’t enough reason to love Taylor I don’t know what is.

@jr_briggs Congratulations to all the @tayloru students graduating tomorrow. May you cherish your diploma, but may you live the towel. #TaylorU

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Innovative, engaged, passionate, down-to-earth, loving and thoughtful – there are not enough superlatives to describe the excellence displayed each day in Taylor University’s classrooms. The three winners of this year’s annual faculty awards served as shining examples of that passion, professionalism and humility. On this side of eternity, their impact may never be known, but in the lives of their students and colleagues, it is profound.
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AWARD
Dr. Michael Harbin
Dr. Michael Harbin serves as Professor of Biblical Studies and the Department Chair of Biblical Studies, Christian Educational Ministries & Philosophy (BSCEP). He holds degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary (ThD, ThM), California State University (MA), and the United States Naval Academy (BS). He joined the Taylor faculty in 1993.

Recognized for his commitment to student achievement, Dr. Harbin developed a handbook for students that lists specific strategies for achieving success. He has also demonstrated a passion for global engagement, serving twice as director for the Irish Studies Program, and leading cross-cultural studies courses in Ireland and Jordan. His areas of scholarly expertise include Old Testament, Semitic studies, world religions, science and religion, and Celtic Christianity. Dr. Harbin is also the author of a historical survey of the Old and New Testaments, which is used by several colleges and universities.

In its 49th year, the Distinguished Professor Award is presented by the Taylor Alumni Association to a professor who is recognized for classroom teaching excellence and as a positive influence on students, has the respect of faculty colleagues, is recognized for expertise in their field of specialization, and has visibility outside the college community.

THE DR. JOE BURNWORTH TEACHING AWARD
Dr. Matt Renfrow
Dr. Matt Renfrow serves as Assistant Professor of PHP and holds degrees from Middle Tennessee State (PhD, MS) and Belmont University (BS). Respected as an effective and engaging teacher, caring mentor, encouraging colleague, and a committed follower of Christ, Dr. Renfrow is deeply engaged in life at Taylor. He has volunteered to help coach Taylor’s soccer teams, led a faculty reading group, served as faculty vice-moderator, empowered student research, and is an active scholar having presented research results at regional and national conferences. Dr. Renfrow joined the Taylor faculty in 2010.

Named for the beloved Professor of Education, The Dr. Joe Burnworth Teaching Award was established to recognize distinctive faculty in their first five years of teaching at Taylor who exhibit great promise and have made noteworthy contributions to the academic and community life of the institution.

THE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND CAMPUS LEADERSHIP AWARD
Dr. Mark Colgan
Professor of Mathematics Dr. Mark Colgan first joined the Taylor faculty in 1991. He holds degrees from Indiana University (PhD, MA) and Anderson University (BA).

Dr. Colgan is recognized for fostering student engagement and connections in foundational core classes. As Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Associate Dean, Dr. Colgan provided vital input into the plans for the new Euler Science Center. Dr. Colgan has also served his faculty colleagues as a fellow in the Bedi Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence. Recognized for exemplary service to the sciences and broader university, Dr. Colgan has also implemented new technology and teaching strategies and encourages other colleagues to put teaching and learning ideas into practice.

The award is given by Taylor faculty and students to a faculty member who has made a distinct difference in the teaching climate of Taylor University in such areas as model classroom teaching, campus leadership, pioneering teaching methodology, creative course development and/or instructional support.
Taylor was one of the few that stuck with me. [Plus] my parents met here; my aunt and uncle met here; my grandparents met here. The longer I was here, the more I realized this was where I was supposed to be. I’ve really enjoyed it.

WHAT LED YOU TO TAYLOR?
I was getting recruited by a good number of schools but I had surgery and that cut down on the schools that were looking at me. Taylor was one of the few that stuck with me. [Plus] my parents met here; my aunt and uncle met here; my grandparents met here. The longer I was here, the more I realized this was where I was supposed to be. I’ve really enjoyed it.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE HIGHLIGHTS?
The two baseball trips to the Bahamas would be right up there close to the top. Those were mission trips. Spring break trips to Florida and overall time spent with guys. The highlight for everybody was last year, winning the conference tournament and dogpiling on the field.

HOW DOES A HITTING STREAK COME TOGETHER?
You get the right approach batting-wise and you string a few hits together. And then you realize you’re hot and you start swinging at everything, because everything looks good and everything turns out well. Even little blinkers will fall in; pop-ups will drop; grounders will find their way through. And then add a couple of big hits to that and you’re on a streak. The ball definitely slows down; it looks a little bigger.

WERE THERE STRUGGLES?
I’ve had four surgeries: two were on my right shoulder, one on my right elbow including Tommy John (elbow reconstruction), and then one on my left shoulder. With the surgeries it has been tough to stay healthy, but I’m going to some tryouts and see if anyone is interested because that has been a lifelong dream, to play beyond college.

HOW HAS YOUR FAITH GROWN?
The faith I had as I was growing up wasn’t really my own, it was from my parents – which isn’t a bad thing – but you don’t realize it until you really need your faith. In the last year or two, I’ve developed my own passion for faith and pursuit of God. I’ve had to pursue Christ on my own, apart from my parents, and try to find out what he wants me to do with my life.

My parents gave me a scripture passage when I was born, Joshua 1:9: Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. What I want to do is to go overseas to do some kind of ministry or outreach – if possible, one that involves baseball. I love that passage, because wherever I go, Christ will be there and he will give me strength.

Jordan Coffey ’14 is the third generation of his family to attend Taylor. A four-year veteran of the Taylor baseball team, he majored in International Studies with concentrations in Asian, African, and Latin American Studies, and minored in Geography and Coaching. His .359 batting average, 10 homeruns, 43 runs batted in (RBI), and .662 slugging percentage led the team to a second place finish in the Crossroads League.
INTRODUCING THE
VOCATION IN
COLLEGE PROJECT

BY DREW MOSER '02
Respected by the student body and faculty alike, he had a vibrant, authentic faith to match his outgoing personality. Around campus, Ethan seemed to carry himself with maturity and poise. He mentored underclassmen, encouraging them in their spiritual growth and their studies. As I became more acquainted with Ethan during his college experience, I soon realized that one thing in his life didn’t seem to add up with everything else. It was a pattern of confusion and anxiety that seemed incongruent with his public persona. Masked by his overt qualities of leadership and confidence was an inability to pick a major field of study. In fact, by the fall of his senior year, he had changed his college major four times.

Upon initial glance, Ethan is, by most measures, the model of what colleges would hope for in the development of their students. Yet his discernment of vocation was anything but. Despite a devout faith and a motivation to excel in the classroom, he agonized over his future plans. Having worked with college students my entire career, Ethan is no outlier. College students, even those who thrive in many areas of life, often lack the framework and understanding to explore vocation in a way that shapes them and serves as a hopeful compass for their present and future.

It’s a problem Christian colleges, as well as parachurch organizations working with college students at non-faith-based institutions, are struggling to address. Amid the curricular and co-curricular programs that are offered by these institutions, one issue that has often been overlooked is a deep exploration of vocation. The worship services, book discussions, Bible studies, service projects, and mentoring programs all intend to transform these college students into flourishing women and men. Yet many programs fail to deeply engage college students at the crux of some of their most pressing concerns. Chiefly, vocation.

Ethan’s story matters because rising costs amid a struggling economy results in increased scrutiny of colleges, and bring increasing pressure on colleges to provide a measurable “return on investment.” Couple this with the push to make college available to a broader socio-economic range of students and the pressure ratchets up even more. Students from lower income backgrounds often lack the freedom (due to working one or more jobs) to take time to reflect and think deeply on vocation. In addition, current studies show that this current generation of college students will change careers three to six times over the course of their working life. This mobility leads students to restlessness, even paralysis in the face of options lying before them. Gone are the days when you stayed at the same job for your entire life.

Such confusion has significant implications for the church and its leadership. If the future leaders of the church feel a sense of aimlessness, what investment will they be able to provide to the life of the church? Such vocation-angst stifles student’s creativity to capture a vision for the common good, and what they can contribute to it. The ramifications for the future of the church are astounding.

At Taylor, we have decided that this issue is too important to simply acknowledge and do nothing more. There are too many questions unanswered. Talking about God’s call in general terms seems only to confuse college students more than it helps them. To begin to gain some perspective, we are embarking on a research project that will help us explore this issue more deeply. We’ve called it The Vocation in College Project, a four year study that will engage two crucial questions of college students:

1. What is your understanding of vocation?
2. What factors influence your understanding of vocation?

It is our hope that by employing social science research, we can dig deeper into this area of calling and vocation. There are numerous developmental models available to those who work with college students; they can be quite helpful in understanding how college students are molded into adults. At present, no developmental model exists to help us understand how college students explore their sense of calling. The Vocation in College Project will attempt to shed light on the dynamics, factors, and influencers that inhibit or encourage a college student’s sense of calling. By employing quantitative surveys and qualitative focus groups and interviews, The Vocation in College Project will study incoming college freshmen, graduating college seniors, and students at all points in between. Our hope is to contribute to a collective understanding of college students of faith as we seek to walk with them in four critical years of exploring vocation.

DR. DREW MOSER ’02 is an Associate Dean of Students and Director of the Calling and Career Office at Taylor University, where he is also an Assistant Professor of Higher Education. A version of this essay appeared on the website of the Washington Institute for Faith, Vocation and Culture: www.washingtoninst.org.
RESPECT

DO NOTHING FROM SELFISH AMBITION OR CONCEIT, BUT IN HUMILITY COUNT OTHERS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN YOURSELVES.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3
Entering into Their Stories

BY ALAN BRIGGS '05
I have a friend named Mark who used to be homeless, addicted to self-destruction and angry. Mark has a different life story than me, different struggles and different vices. As I got to know Mark the differences disappeared and I saw his incredible God-given value through his humanity, fears, joys, emotions and dreams. I saw an incredible man with a bright future. He is not a homeless addict – he’s Mark. I now have a great respect for Mark.

It is hard to respect that which we do not understand. At the heart of respect is value, and this comes from understanding someone. Jesus was the master of showing others value. He drew close to people, close enough to touch, in order to enter their story, and this showed them respect. He touched a leper before healing him and touched the eyes of blind men before restoring their sight. He let Thomas expose his doubt in HD as he felt the nail holes. Jesus didn’t just enter the stories of others, he incarnated into them.

Incarnation shows respect. Jesus got into the human story through the weakness of the human form. He had relationships and felt the vulnerable emotions of loss and pain. He met the physical needs of thousands before teaching them. He didn’t send the disciples into the storm; he was in the boat with them.

There is far too much gossip, infighting and back-stabbing in the Church. Let’s not be fooled; these are only symptoms. The underlying disease is caused by our failure to enter into the stories of those we worship with and love – to see our brothers and sisters as Christ does.

From the comfortable distance at which we sometimes hold others, we only see their differences instead of their value. I believe the epidemic of disrespect today is largely due to distance and perspective.

We live in a hurt, skeptical and broken world that shakes a finger and says, “You don’t know me.” Rule #1 in our world today is, “Don’t speak to me from outside of my story.” For good or for ill, people today have very little tolerance those who aren’t willing to enter their story. Our lack of respect for others usually stems from not entering into their story.

Incarnation shows respect. Jesus got into the human story through the weakness of the human form. He had relationships and felt the vulnerable emotions of loss and pain. He met the physical needs of thousands before teaching them. He didn’t send the disciples into the storm; he was in the boat with them.
didn’t seem to deserve it. Even his
team was made up of blue collar
workers, a cheat and a traitor.

If we are going to grow in respect we
must choose to get closer to others. We
must learn to ask others deep
questions and share the cracks in
our own stories. Christians are often
seen as distant, judgmental people
who stand on the sidelines making
assumptions. No matter how much we
disagree with someone’s lifestyle
or choices, we need to draw near and
hear their story.

I believe this is because we have
largely avoided God’s perspective
on who we are and whose we are.
Ephesians 2:10 speaks to our value.
“We are his workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works, which
God prepared beforehand, that we
should walk in them.” This term
“workmanship” could literally be
translated as “his poem.” We are
the work of the great artist, and we
must view ourselves and others as
such. How often do we wish we were
someone else with different talents,
a different personality and different
influence? When we envy others we
are taking a Picasso and selling it at
a yard sale. God, the great artist who
carved the Rockies and laid out the
seas, also created us. And this points
to great value.

We are destined for good works in
God’s Kingdom. The economy of
God’s Kingdom is based on the gold
standard of His touch, not ours.
It’s about creation not production.
Scripture is clear about different
spiritual gifts and even different
callings. We have different gifts,
but the same value. When we see
different spiritual gifts and
calling among God’s people we
don’t understand them. They aren’t
natural to us, so our first reaction
is to wonder why others aren’t
like us and tear them down. We
are all sent into the world with
slightly different callings, none
more valuable than the other.
Not everyone is called to serve in
government, be a pastor, shape
culture, speak to the masses, start
businesses, write books or adopt
children. Our perspective is far too
small.

We must choose to see people as
God does. People aren’t projects or
case studies; they are souls crafted
by God. We must look past our own
lives and see the whole picture from
God’s vantage. We are only one small
piece of a global tapestry whom God
deply loves. He has woven these
diverse pieces together and crafted
them into a brilliant mosaic. Every
stroke from the hand of the great
artist is beautiful. I pray that God
would give us the grace to treat
others as such.

When we envy others we
are taking a Picasso and selling
it at a yard sale. God,
the great artist who
carved the
Rockies and laid
out the
seas, also
created us.
And this
points to
great value.

Alan Briggs ’05 is the Director of
Frontline Church Planting and the Multipli-
ing Pastor at Vanguard Church in
Colorado Springs. He and his wife Julie
are parents of four children.
“There is always the danger that we may just do the work for the sake of the work. This is where the respect and the love and the devotion come in - that we do it to God, to Christ, and that’s why we try to do it as beautifully as possible.”

MOTHER TERESA

Ninety years. That is the combined number of years of excellent service offered by the three faculty members who completed their Taylor University tenures this year. They did their work as unto the Lord, and their work was blessed - as evidenced by growth of programs and the construction of buildings. But the greatest measure, their impact on the lives of their students and colleagues, may not be realized on this side of eternity.

So to Paul Rothrock, Laurie Wolcott, and Chris Bennett, we thank you for your excellent, faithful service and commend you to the hand of our Father in Heaven, who led you to us all those years ago. We bid you not goodbye, but farewell.
Before he joined the Taylor University faculty, Dr. Chris Bennett worked in the business world – moving from job to job, eager to experience new challenges, and never staying in one place for more than a few years. After 26 years, dozens of challenges and opportunities, and the creation of many lifelong friendships, Bennett will finally bid farewell to Taylor University.

Since arriving as a faculty member in Taylor’s business department, Bennett, now Taylor’s Dean of International Programs and Director of the Spencer Centre for Global Engagement, actualized his desire to grow and change through various avenues of service. He was a key influencer in the growth of Taylor’s overseas studies programs, and played significant roles in the accreditation of Taylor’s graduate school and addition of various languages. All of this was born from his desire to take risks that would lead to the enhancement of the Taylor mission.

“You have to live with some uncertainty,” Bennett said, in true entrepreneurial spirit. “You have to be comfortable with part of the answer being faith-based. If you can do that, then you can be a Taylor University administrator.”

Despite all the changes he has championed, Bennett refuses to take sole credit for any one initiative. “I honestly don’t know of anything I would lay claim to of my own,” he said. “We’re such a collaborative community.”

Bennett’s list of accomplishments, positions, and titles parallel his longevity at Taylor, but he is quick to say the key aspect of his experience has been relationships. Besides his role as a community connection for various wings and his leadership in overseas student trips, Bennett also knows every faculty member and many within the greater Taylor community by name.

“Taylor has the ability to forge lifelong relationships, student-to-student, student-to-staff, and staff-to-staff,” he said. “The relationships we have made here are the most important thing.”

Bennett’s career will complete its circle this fall when he and his wife Linda move to Cuenca, Ecuador, for a six-month teaching assignment at one of the cooperatives he helped to establish.
Throughout his three-plus decades of service to Taylor University, Dr. Paul Rothrock has seen the birth of the Environmental Science Department, the realization of the dream of getting a beautiful, state-of-the-art building, and the addition of its graduate program. He’s taught and learned, mentored and led.

“It’s a really beautiful experience to think through those you have helped along,” Rothrock said. “It’s been quite rewarding to look back.”

Rothrock has also spent hundreds of hours peering through a microscope. During his time at Taylor, he published numerous papers in local, regional, national and international journals pertaining to his plant taxonomy research. He even published a book on the sedges of Indiana. In March 2014, Rothrock received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Indiana Academy of Science.

“You reach these milestones where you’ve worked hard at something and it’s really nice to just sit and enjoy it for an hour or two. You’ve succeeded,” he reflected.

But no one should think retirement from Taylor is the end of the road for Rothrock. He will move directly from his Taylor tenure to a research professor position with Indiana University. It is an assignment that will last for two years, and while at IU, Rothrock will work in plant taxonomy as the head curator in the herbarium, preparing their various plant collections for digitization.

“I’m rather privileged to feel like I’ve got a good place to say I can stop now and try something new,” he said. “I’ve got a great deal of joy.”
On Sundays, she leads her congregation from the pulpit. But during the week, her leadership has been perhaps less public, but no less vital. Reverend Laurie Wolcott serves as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Grant County and has served as a professional librarian at Taylor University for 31 years.

While her official title at Taylor has been Collection Development and Technical Services Librarian, her job description is too diverse to fully encompass in one label.

As the first woman to serve on a number of committees at Taylor, she witnessed lots of change, from the creation of a new library at the heart of campus, to the automation of much of the library’s functions. In fact, when she first started working at Taylor in the 1980’s, the library was far from the technologically advanced and resourceful hub of information it is today.

“When I first came to Taylor the library was very inadequate; it was the Ayres Building,” Wolcott recalled with a smile. “We absolutely bent over backwards to help people all the time. Then we would have these evaluations where we awaited people to say the building is inadequate but they didn’t because we were helping them so much. And that’s a good thing in every way except we needed ammunition to push a new building.”

While she is grateful for many career milestones and accomplishments, she takes the most pride in seeing students she has mentored grow from timid freshmen to confident seniors. She finds joy in helping other people find the resources they need, both academically and spiritually.

“I’m very passionate about helping people grow spiritually - to connect with God,” Wolcott said. “I’m interested in a lot of things. That’s why I became a librarian, because you’ve got your fingers in everything. I love to learn.”
The photograph shows Pyrohoshchi Madonna Church in Kiev, or as Tabitha Hillebrand '14 and her Ukrainian counterparts spell it, Kyiv. The roadway shows some wear with some cracks and dried salt, and once-beautiful, white, fluffy snow has been shoveled to the roadside and now lies in dirty piles. Some locals stroll arm-in-arm along the sidewalk in the December cold and the image itself seems to convey almost a cold, barren feeling. But not to Hillebrand.
“That church is one of my favorites in Kyiv,” she said. “It is located in one of my favorite parts of the city. When I look at the photograph I see the little Double Coffee shop in the right hand corner and think about the good times I had there over the years with my friends, finding shelter from the cold and enjoying each other’s company. I also think about the other coffee shops in the area I have spent time at with friends warming up in the cold winters.”

“Generally the older people disliked Russia more. But I also know a lot of Ukrainians who enjoyed the Soviet Union because they thought communism was good and they almost preferred it.”

When asked how a photo of snow could evoke warm memories, especially after the last winter she endured in Upland, she smiled. “The snow in this photograph does not repel me but entices me,” Hillebrand explained. “It gives the photograph a dreamy, welcoming feel, and I see nothing but comfort and beauty in this photograph.”
Kyiv and Ukraine have served as home for Hillebrand since she was 9-years-old. That was when her parents moved her from northern Michigan, another place that gets a lot of snow in the wintertime. An Art major during her college years, Hillebrand was one of Taylor’s 434 graduates in May. And while she has no immediate plans to return to her homeland, it is as close to her heart as ever – due in no small part to escalating conflict between groups advocating closer ties between Ukraine and Europe, and those who want to see Ukraine more closely aligned with Russia and possible return to the old ways.

“Generally the older people disliked Russia more. But I also know a lot of Ukrainians who enjoyed the Soviet Union because they thought Communism was good and they almost preferred it,” she said. “[But] I was there when Russia cut off Ukraine’s gas one winter. We had plug-in radiators to keep the house warm, but a lot of people froze that winter because of that. The Russians could do it, so they did it. It came across that way. They are a huge, powerful country, and I think they still view Ukraine as theirs.”

Hillebrand chafed a little when asked if she considered herself a third culture kid. True, she spent her childhood in two different countries prior to enrolling at Taylor University in 2010 – but still.

“I never really liked being called a ‘third culture kid.’ To me, it sounded like I had some kind of weird disease and social stigma. It felt like putting a label on something that was really unnecessary,” Hillebrand admitted. “I think having come back to the United States, I felt it a little more. I’ve learned to embrace it a little bit more.”

“Everyone has their own culture,” Hillebrand added. “Someone who grew up on the west coast is going to be different from someone who grew up on the east coast, or the south and the north.”

Hillebrand’s Ukrainian childhood is filled with memories of playing with friends and learning Russian in school. But there were also the Soviet-style military parades and tanks in the streets, perhaps a harbinger of things to come for her country.

“I had really good friends there and really enjoyed my life there,” she said. “I still view Ukraine as my home, and I’m scared once my parents leave, maybe I’ll have to stop, or I’ll lose connections to it. I viewed my time there very positively.”

Hillebrand’s parents are currently in the United States but plan to return to Ukraine later this year. When asked what her prayer might be for her homeland, she thought for a moment.

“I know I don’t have a lot of skills in politics and don’t understand how it all works, so I don’t know what would be best,” Hillebrand said. “In my prayer and thought life, I do want what’s best for Ukraine, but I don’t necessarily know what that is. I also don’t want more bloodshed.”

IN MY PRAYER AND THOUGHT LIFE, I DO WANT WHAT’S BEST FOR UKRAINE, BUT I DON’T NECESSARILY KNOW WHAT THAT IS. I ALSO DON’T WANT MORE BLOODSHED.
The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1
AlumniNotes

1929

Dorothy (Collins) Miller went to be with the Lord on May 3, 2014, in Angola, Ind. She celebrated her 107th birthday on March 8 and held the distinction of being Taylor’s oldest living alumna. Dorothy was a math teacher for many years in the Angola area. She enjoyed reading, teaching, tutoring, knitting, flowers and gardening, and she still lived in her own apartment at the time of her death. She is survived by her son Dr. Lynn Miller ’65, daughters Linda VanZanten and Dr. Louis Miller ’69, five grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

1949

Daniel Steiner passed away March 31, 2014, at his home in Colombia City, Ind. He worked for several years helping the less fortunate in the Indianapolis area. Daniel is survived by his wife of 36 years, Rosemary, his sister, son, four step-children, four grandchildren, two step-grandsons, and six great-grandchildren.

1950

Paul Erdel has spent the past 61 years (1953-2014) ministering to Hispanics, primarily in Ecuador. He serves in the North Central District of the Missionary Church.

1953

Dr. William and Virginia (Balk) Pickering are planning a two-week trip to Russia and the Balkans this summer on a Princess cruise ship. They are the most excited to spend three days in St. Petersburg, Russia.

1958

The Rev. John Louthain joined his Savior Oct. 19, 2013, in Warsaw Meadows Care Center. He served as pastor for the United Methodist Church in northern Indiana from 1962 till his retirement in 1989. He is survived by his wife Blanche (Burwell ’57), their three children, three grandsons, several nieces and nephews, and five sisters. • Ruth (Edmunds) Rabine has been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. She lives in a home that specializes in the care of Alzheimer’s patients. Ruth is married to Jack Rabine ’60. Please pray for the Rabines.

1959

Richard Guthrie died Jan. 21, 2014. During his career, he was the president of Service Master Cleaning Services by Guthrie, Inc. He is survived by his wife Mary.

1962

Kay (Rader) Ringenberg retired from Wycliffe Bible Translators in 2011. She resides in her hometown of Elkhart, Ind.

1972

Kathleen Kitzmann was awarded the James Bryant Conant Award in High School Chemistry Teaching. This is the highest award a high school chemistry teacher can receive. Kathleen has taught school for 40 years, the last 23 years at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, Mich.

1973

Linda (Jones) Doll has retired after serving as the Assistant Manager at Kohler Stables for 25 years. She owns a small a hobby farm and plans on spending her time raising goats. • Jeanie (Long) Wehling has retired from teaching 3rd grade at Franklin Township Community School in Indianapolis.

1974

Karin (Koval) Jurgenson met with her former hall mates Nancy (Hull) Evans and Ellen (Morgan) Yerks for their annual MCW (Magee-Campbell-Wisconsin) reunion. These three friends meet every year to reminisce and catch up.

1980

Ken Hayes reunited with friends Tim Hill, Cal Stuart, Steve Wills, Bill Banks and Jack Hill ’79 at the 19th annual Old Mill Golf and Bocce Classic at Kiawah, S.C. The Old Mill Classic is one of the most celebrated amateur golf and bocce events in North America and an invitation-only event.

1982

Bill Westrate was promoted to the position of chief administrative officer with Advanced Disposal in Ponte Verda, Fla., on May 2, 2014. He directs their administrative functions including human resources, procurement, and information technology.
1983

1984
Karen (Meighan) (Robinson) Koehler died June 22, 2013, after battling lung cancer. Karen served in the music ministry of many churches as a vocalist, pianist and cellist. She is survived by her parents, Richard and Lois Meighan, her husband Mark Koehler, her former husband Tim Robinson and their four children. She is also survived by her siblings Kacy (Meighan ’85) Cope (husband Tim Cope), Rachel Meighan-Mantha ’87 (husband Doug Mantha ’89), Jennifer (Meighan ’94) Latt, Rebecca Meighan and Bruce Meighan.

1986
John Bloomberg is employed with GE Aviation in Cincinnati, Ohio, as senior staff engineer for Manufacturing Sciences Technology. He will be working to move manufacturing technology from the laboratory to small scale production. He resides in West Chester, Ohio.

1988
Angela (Gollmer) Hurd has published her book *Second-Class Professor: Who is teaching students and what you need to know if you’re paying for college*. The book is for sale on Amazon. Angela is a professor at Columbus State Community College in Columbus, Ohio.

1992
Lt. Col. Brad Oliver has been given the opportunity to attend a one-year school at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. This will be the 14th move for Brad and his wife Deborah (Rampona ’93), and children Jacqueline (15) and Jonathan (11). E-mail the Oliviers at droliveriner@yahoo.com. Deborah’s brother, Scott Rampona ’93, is also pictured with Brad and Deborah.

1994
David Chamberlin has been named the global head of Edelman Data Security and Privacy Group. He will also continue in his duties as EVP and General Manager of Edelman’s Dallas office. • Deborah McClish married Rick Meserve Aug. 24, 2013, in La Porte, Ind. Alumni in the wedding party included Rhoda (Valpatic ’93) Nyce and Elizabeth Johnson ’04. Deborah and her husband live in La Porte, Ind., where she is an adult services librarian at the La Porte County Public Library.
1995
Joel Gilbert received his Master’s of Divinity in Pastoral Ministries from Liberty University in May 2013. He serves as the acting lead pastor at First Baptist Church in Rockville, Md., and lives in Gaithersburg, Md.

1998
Joel and Megan (McCourt ’99) Campbell welcomed Joya Mae into their family on Feb. 25, 2012. Catey (7) is thrilled to be a big sister to Joya. Joel works for Accenture as a Senior Manager and Megan enjoys being a stay-at-home mom. The family lives in Fishers, Ind.

1999
Shelly (Gibbs) Stiansen and her husband Dave joyfully announce the birth of their seventh child, Luke Asher, born Dec. 4, 2012. He joined siblings Alayna and Libby (10), Kai (9), Molly (7), Lila (6) and Micah (3). The Stiansen’s have moved from Indianapolis, Ind., to Kintnersville, Pa., where Dave is Executive Director of Haycock Camping Ministries.

2000
Brian Nix and his wife Debbie welcomed their first child, Gabriella Faye, into the world on Oct. 16, 2013. She will join her parents in their home in Manassas Park, Va.

2001
Kenny Overton and his wife Carla and their boys Eddie (6), Deacon (4) and Cameron (2) just finished language school in Portugal and their first term of mission work with SIM in Mozambique where Kenny opened a carpentry shop to teach locals and coaches a youth soccer team. They return to Mozambique for their second term in January.

Jeremy and Amber (Brauchler ’04) Roberts are pleased to announce the birth of their third daughter, Madelyn Joy, on July 8, 2013. Madelyn joins her parents and older sisters Kensley (4) and Avery (3) at their home in Fishers, Ind.

2002
Ben Jeffrey and his wife Viki welcomed their son Simon Falco, born April 7, 2014. He joins sister, Eliana Hope (1 1/2) at the Jeffrey home in Saint Charles, Ill.

Eric and Brittany (Huyser) Smith live in Geneva, Ill., with their three children: Jack (8), Audrey (6) and William (3). Eric works with Forecast 5 Analytics in Naperville, and Brittany is the volleyball coach at Wheaton College. Brittany can be reached at Brittany.smith@wheaton.edu.

Shelly (Gibbs) Stiansen and her husband Dave joyfully announce the birth of their seventh child, Luke Asher, born Dec. 4, 2012. He joined siblings Alayna and Libby (10), Kai (9), Molly (7), Lila (6) and Micah (3). The Stiansen’s have moved from Indianapolis, Ind., to Kintnersville, Pa., where Dave is Executive Director of Haycock Camping Ministries.
recently moved to Lexington, Ky., for Jesse’s job with Frost Brown Todd. Amanda concluded her time working at Taylor in May and is entering an exciting new chapter in life.

2003

Marissa Shrock has published a young adult novel with Kregel Publication entitled, *The First Principle*. The book is set in a futuristic society where a pregnant teenage girl refuses to obey her country’s mandated abortion law. The novel will be released in September. • Seth Wilson became a partner with the law firm Hume Smith Geddes Green & Simmons, LLP in Indianapolis, Ind., in January 2014. • William Winner and his wife Laurabelle welcomed their daughter Danica Christine into their family in December 2013. Danica joined her parents and her older sister Erianna (3) at their home in Laurel, Md. William works as an Executive Officer of the Satellite Products and Services Division of NOAA’s NESDIS in the Washington, DC area.

2004

Lauren (Smith) DeVries and her husband Steve own and operate sd web studio, a website design and marketing company. The couple serves at Faith Reformed Church in Traverse City, Mich., where Steve is in charge of the media and technical team and Lauren serves in lay leadership with Women’s Ministries. They live in Kingsley Mich., with their three children, Morgan (8), Levi (4) and Taylor (2). • Kyle and Sarah (Kurtz) Dufendach celebrated the arrival of their third child Caleb Stephen on Sept. 23, 2013. Siblings Connor (6) and Sydney (4) were excited to welcome Caleb into the family. • Bethany (Bergstrom) and David ’01 Rinn recently adopted their first daughter Emma Victoria, who was born Feb. 20, 2012. The Rinn’s were able to meet Emma in Mississippi where she was born and brought her home when she was just ten-days-old. Emma joined her parents and her big brother Isaac (4) at their home in Fort Worth, Texas.
AN AMAZING LEGACY

Legacy ’64 - a project that began when Ron Scott ’64 reconnected with Taylor University during an alumni gathering eight years ago - will come to fruition during Taylor’s Homecoming October 17-18 when Class of ’64 reunion members present what they promise will be a record class gift.

Although Scott died in April 2013 after a long battle with cancer, Legacy ’64 members say his vision was infectious and the resulting journey has impacted their lives.

“I don’t think any of us would be here if Ron hadn’t pushed and said he was going to make it happen,” said committee member Jim Mathis ’64, Scott’s roommate in college and longtime friend. “Every group needs that administrator who stays on top of the details and Ron was great at that.”

The Legacy ’64 committee made numerous returns to Taylor for planning meetings, engaged former classmates, and fanned the excitement into a full flame during its work. Committee members are mum on the gift’s size, but say more than 20 campus projects and initiatives will benefit.

“Taylor stands for truth. Taylor wants to keep its academic excellence with its commitment to truth, and I want to be a part of that,” said Jack Van Vessem ’64. “Taylor has not drifted. If anything, it is better, stronger and deeper. Who would not want to be part of having that continue?”

2005

Alan Briggs and his wife Julie are proud to announce the birth of their fourth child Mercy, who arrived in November. Mercy joined older brother Eli (2) and adopted siblings Manny (6) and Betti (10) at their home in Colorado Springs, Colo. Alan is the director of Frontline Church Planting and also serves as the multiplying pastor at Vanguard Church. Julie obtained her Master’s in Counseling in 2012, and plans to be a counselor once their children are in school. Scott Coulter married Ana Yoder Jan. 18, 2014, at Toledo Mennonite Church in Toledo, Ohio. Ana is a staff accompanist and piano teacher at Bluffton University. Scott is employed with the University of Toledo as a part-time philosophy and religion professor. The couple resides in Toledo. Pam McClaine and Glenn Wallace were married Nov. 10, 2013, in Denver, Colo. Pam became stepmother to Glenn’s five sons. The family lives in Strasburg, Colo., where Pam works as a legal researcher for Chemistry & Industrial Hygiene. Glenn is the distribution manager for Stickley Audi & Co. Andrew (Swartzendruber) Shaffer moved to Seattle, Wash., in October 2013. They are helping start a new missional community in the Ballard and Fremont neighborhoods.
2006
Mo Joe Essenburg married Amy Skinner on March 9, 2013, in Okotoks, Alberta, Canada. Alumni in attendance were Matt Rifka and Brady Berlin ’04. The couple lives in Calgary where Amy is a private music teacher and Joe is an engagement leader for Stroud International. • Andrew Fredrickson and his wife Keri welcomed their daughter Kayla Grace, who arrived July 27, 2013. Andrew, Keri and Kayla live in Holly Springs, N.C. • Mark Grunden celebrated his 31st birthday on April 17th – which is also the birthday of his daughters Taylor (3) and Madison (1). The family lives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, were Mark and his wife Alicia help manage the International College of Advanced Technology (ICAT). • Matt Kistler was named one of 10 Rising Stars in Advising by Employee Benefit Adviser (EBA) magazine. He serves as a vice president of business development for United Benefits Advisors. Matt and his wife Jenny (Chase) live in Glen Ellyn, Ill. • Mark Mitchell and Kristen (Favazza) Young moved to McCordsville, Ind., in February 2014 with their children Elianna (5), Jameson (3) and their newest addition, Bennett Mitchell, who arrived in September 2013. Mitch works at Outlook Christian Church in McCordsville as the student minister. Kristen is staying home with their children and operates an at-home Shaklee business.

2007
David Bertsche and his wife Carolyn (Bradley ’06) are doing their PhD physics research at the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN), near Geneva, Switzerland. CERN is the largest particle physics lab in the world and employs more than 10,000 people from over 100 countries around the world. • Amy (Wong) and Erik Heavey ’04 are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Thalia Elizabeth, born March 6, 2014. They live in Wheaton, Ill. • Christy (Wong) Stroud and her husband Gerald welcomed their first son Jaylen Micah into the world December 12, 2013. The family lives in Grayslake, Ill.

2008
Evan and Sara (Merillat) Atkinson proudly announce the birth of their son Graham Weaver, who came into the world Dec. 12, 2013. Evan, Sara and Graham live in Goshen, Ind. • Mark Heydaluff was awarded the Young Professional Award of 2013 from the Branch County Area Chamber of Commerce in Michigan on March 20, 2014. This award is given to professionals in Branch County, ages 18-35, who have shown a commitment to excellence and community service and illustrated strong leadership. Mark is the city manager for the city of Bronson, Mich. • Daniel and Ellen (Koch ’09) Longcor both received Master’s degrees in Curriculum and Educational Technology in December 2013 from Ball State University. • Victoria Sainsbury married Adam Louwagie on August 3, 2013. The couple lives in Elyssian, Minn.

2009
Jamie Allen married Craig Steward II June 8, 2013, in Muskegon, Mich. Lindsey (Bayle ’10) Hardley was among the alumni in the wedding. The new couple lives in Spring Lake, Mich. • Cameron Heasley completed his certified financial planning training in December 2013. He is now a financial planner with Larsen Financial in Indianapolis, Ind. • Hillary (Whiteside) Krantz and her husband Dustin were blessed with the arrival of their son Desmond Jeffrey, who was born Feb. 6, 2014. The family lives in Newburgh, Ind. • Chad Mangum married Mandy Smith on Oct. 5, 2013, in Souderton, Pa. Alumni in the wedding included Dan Rousseau ’13, Katie (Mathers ’11) Velting, Paul Velting ’10, Brandon Myers, Daniel Moore ’10, Ryan Delp ’09, Melissa (Domsten ’06) Delp, Becca Rousseau ’17, Becca Livingston ’12, Sharon (Rousseau) Mangum, Tyler Mangum, Kyle Mangum ’05, Tyler Shockey ’10, Brain Kasen and Jenna (Delp ’03) Commons. Chad and Mandy are working on their graduate degrees in mathematics at North Carolina State University. • Katie (Brady) Rush gathered with fellow Taylor alumni for a reunion and vacation in Colon, Mich., in July 2013. They included: Matt Casali ’05, Justin Rush, Trey Sonnenberg, Nikki (Rupp ’13) Sonnenberg, Dave Yurkanin, Marybeth (Nicoletti ’10) Yurkanin, Tim Stahl ’07, Christen (Holmes) Stahl, Jonathan Goble, Sarah (Inserra ’10) Lee, Zach Lee, Kevin Gilbert, Gretchen Gilbert and Kyle Norwood.
Elizabeth Davies and Parker Maxwell were married June 29, 2013, in Grand Lake, Colo. Alumni in attendance included Gina (Damneyer) Butterfield, Jack Davies ’12, Sam Davies ’16, Abby Jaderholm ’11, Heidi Braaten ’11, Laura (Bobbett) Armstrong, Sarah (Keur ’11) Enck, Kelly Werner ’11, Ben Butterfield and Grant Armstrong. The new couple lives in Denver, Colo. • Kaydi Ring married Dan Frost Aug. 17, 2013, in Minneapolis, Minn. Dan is in his fourth year of flying for the US Air Force, and Kaydi is a chiropractic physician practicing in Goldsboro, N.C. • Joy Mathis and Jared Sorensen ’09 were married at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham, Ala., December 11, 2013. Taylor alumni in the wedding party were Mandolyn (Hecox ’11) MacKenzie, Lauren Bournique ’11, Timothy Davis ’12, Jordan Dodd ’11 and Andrew Neel ’09. Their rehearsal dinner was held inside DeSoto Caverns, owned by Joy’s parents, Al and Danielle (Messinger ’75). Jared and Joy live outside of Manhattan, N.Y., where Jared is an actor in the city, and as a couple they just began their own photography business, Firefly Photography. • Curt and Julie (Gabrielsen ’09) Merlau welcomed their son Reade Campbell into the world Aug. 21, 2013. Reade is named after former Taylor president, Dr. Thaddeus Reade. Curt is the outreach data manager for national operations with Students First, an education advocacy group, and Julie is an RN at Monroe Hospital. The family resides in Bloomington, Ind. • Kendra Sereno graduated from Oakland University in December 2013 with a doctorate in Physical Therapy. She is a physical therapist with Cornerstone Physical Therapy in Colorado Springs, Colo. • Cara Strickland welcomed the 2,000th follower to her blog, littledidsheknow.net. Cara writes about faith and life in a memoir format to a worldwide audience, and lives in Seattle, Wash.

Joanna McCann received her Master’s of Physician Assistant degree from Grand Valley State University in December 2013. She is now employed at Saint Francis Hospital in Indianapolis, Ind.

Nate and Lydia (Luke) Luers moved to San Diego, Calif., in Fall 2013. They work with the mission organization World Impact doing church planting in different refugee communities in the San Diego area.

Ben Harlan married Karli Musselman on Aug. 3, 2013 in Albion, Ind. Several past and current members of the Brotherhood (BroHo) made an appearance at the wedding, including cousins of the groom Nathan Tomcik ’16 and Matt Walters ’14. • Christopher Rayle is attending Rush Medical College in Chicago, Ill.
Dara Johnson ’02, MBA ’08 has been named Taylor University’s Executive Director of Alumni Relations. She returns to Taylor following extensive urban service – most recently as Senior Director of Operations with By The Hand Club For Kids, a Christian after-school program in Chicago that serves 900 students. In her position, she oversaw overall daily operations including programming, performance management process, budget creation and cost control, information technology and human resource functions. She was also instrumental in the creation of partnerships with Taylor’s education and business departments, leading to service opportunities for a number of students.

Johnson holds two degrees from Taylor: Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Masters Business Administration. During her college years, she was active with Youth Conference and served with the Director of Ethnic and Minority Students and in the Admissions office. She joined Taylor’s Alumni Council in 2013.

“We are quite excited that Dara has agreed to join the Taylor University community in this new capacity,” said Dr. Ben Sells, Vice President for University Advancement. “Since her graduation from Taylor, Dara has been a passionate advocate for the Christ-centered higher education experience at Taylor. She has been active in recruiting students to come to Taylor has most recently as a member of our Alumni Council. She emerged as the ideal candidate after a national search, as we eagerly anticipate her service in our midst.”

“I loved my experience at Taylor as well as the education that I received, and I am excited to have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of Taylor University alumni,” Johnson said. “I envision Taylor having a robust alumni program where alumni are actively engaged socially, financially, and physically. I would like to create a culture of community that reaches beyond the campus walls.”

Three beloved emeritus faculty have gone to be with the Lord in recent months. Dr. Barbara Dickey died November 30, 2013; Dr. Richard Parker died April 17, 2014; and Dr. Ray Bullock died May 2, 2014.

Mrs. Dickey and Parker were emeritus music faculty members and Dr. Bullock was an emeritus art professor faculty member.

Dr. Dickey was a longtime piano professor and served on Taylor’s music faculty from 1961-2003. She is survived by several nieces and nephews and was preceded in death by her husband David and aunt Hazel Butz Carruth Anderson – both longtime Taylor faculty members.

Dr. Bullock was a noted art professor and women’s cross country coach; he served on Taylor’s faculty from 1966-1998. An avid runner, he completed 17 marathons and over 30 half marathons. After launching Taylor’s women’s cross country program in 1984, his teams advanced to the national meet six times. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Jeanne; two sons, Kurt ’81 and Kris ’87 (Jill [Rabine ’86]); and three granddaughters.

Dr. Parker served on Taylor’s music faculty from 1974-2010. He was instrumental in the launch of the Taylor Ringers Handbell Choir. Dr. Parker’s survivors include his wife of 46 years Sharon; son, David ’95 (wife, Hollie [Shearer ’95]); daughters, Kari ’93 (husband, Jeff ’91) Anama; Amy ’99 (husband, Joel ’99) Nichols; and eight grandchildren.
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Taylor University’s Women’s Giving Circle

A circle of women who combine their resources to support scholarships through the Taylor Fund and to strengthen Taylor academic departments through funding innovative projects and opportunities.

Since 2011 the Women’s Giving Circle has awarded $144,000 for academic projects ranging from equipment to research and from faculty/student collaboration to professional development. In addition, $45,000 has been given to the Taylor Fund in support of scholarships.

Benefits of being a member of the Women’s Giving Circle include:

• Being a part of a group of women who are united in their support of Taylor.
• Having a greater ability to make a difference at Taylor through combining financial resources with other women.
• Participating in decision-making as to Giving Circle grant awards.
• Supporting Taylor faculty to carryout projects/opportunities that they otherwise would not be able to do.
• Impacting students!

The 2014 Women’s Giving Circle membership drive is in progress through July 1.

Membership is on an annual basis and begins with a gift/pledge of $1,000. Alumnae who have graduated from Taylor 10 years ago or less may join at a lower threshold – 2010-2014 graduates: $250; 2005 – 2009 graduates: $500.

Membership gifts may be sent to Taylor University or given online at taylor.edu/givingcircle.

If you would like more information contact Mrs. Sherri Harter, Executive Director of Development, sharter@taylor.edu or 765.998.4956.
Pursuing the Elusive Summit: the Challenge for Taylor University

It has been several years, but the memory is still bright and clear. We were on a family vacation in Colorado and several of us decided to hike up the side of one of the mountains in the Rockies’ chain – a challenge referred to in hiking and climbing circles as a “Thirteener” because the summit was 13,000 feet above sea level. Beginning our hike, we could see our goal so clearly. But with each new vista, our objective seemed to be moving farther away, or changing. And in our paths were obstacles, many of which were larger than the ones we had already overcome.

Sometimes it seems our journey at Taylor University and in Christ-centered higher education is like that. We, the stewards of Taylor for such a time as this, earnestly desire that our beloved institution will grow in its faithfulness to its Biblically-anchored, Christ-centered mission. But we believe it is our responsibility to let you know, not only of our reasons for rejoicing, but also of impending challenges.

By God’s grace and through the hard work of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends, Taylor University has enjoyed an unprecedented period of blessings and growth for nearly 30 years. Those blessings are reflected in Taylor’s increased ability to attract academically-motivated, spiritually-committed, global and diverse students; our excellent faculty and staff, notable not only for their impressive credentials, but because they exemplify the highest ideals of the university; and through our ability to maintain stable enrollment that has been consistently around 2,000 students.

Additionally, we have worked hard to improve the physical campus so that it better supports the Taylor mission and experience with additions of state-of-the-art facilities that include the Euler Science Complex, Memorial Prayer Chapel, new residence halls and athletic facilities, and the proposed LaRita R. Boren Campus Center. We are also blessed with enhanced fiscal health through conservative financial management policies and the unparalleled, sacrificial generosity of our alumni, parents and friends. We thank you and may God alone receive the glory!

Yet, as we have achieved each vista along the way, new challenges have appeared that sometimes cause our summit to seem elusive. For example, our challenges include needing additional resources to achieve the strategic aspirations of the campus community; increasing competition for students; our desire for more ethnic and racial diversity in our workforce and student body; and our desire to have more women and persons of color in leadership roles.

Higher education in general also faces increased scrutiny, whether real or perceived, in regards to continued tuition increases, unsustainable student debt, decreasing academic rigor, lack of accountability, declining alumni support, and graduates unprepared for work. While most of these criticisms are not reflective of Taylor, we acknowledge that they often influence the perspective of potential students and families along with our own alumni and friends.

Additionally, Taylor faces real external threats such as growing encroachment of the federal government and other regulatory organizations. So our challenge is to think differently, indeed transformationally, about the work God has called us to, while at the same time preserving our mission and values. These challenges, of course, are not limited to Taylor.

Our goal has always been that Taylor University will continue to honor the Lord and fulfill his purposes for a world in need. I am confident that with God’s help, and all of us working together, we can achieve solutions to these challenges that will ensure this university’s historic vitality and passion for the Lord’s purposes for coming generations.

Please join me in praying for Taylor University, and for God’s grace and leading – in these days and in the days to come.

Dr. Eugene B. Habecker ’68 serves as president of Taylor University.
Both of us and two of our children graduated from Taylor. We realize the value of the Taylor experience. As stewards of all God has given us, we not only have TU in our will, but we believe it is important to invest in Taylor now. Part of our current giving is a Community Life Scholarship. We take great joy in seeing the Lord’s resources bearing dividends in a Taylor student’s life today. It is very exciting to see Taylor remain faithful to what we experienced and also now provides so much more.

STAN ’64 AND RUTH (WOLGEMUTH ’63) GUILLAUME

GIVING MATTERS

To discuss giving to Taylor through your estate plan, contact Michael Falder in the Office of Gift Planning at mcfalder@taylor.edu or 765.998.5538. Visit www.taylor.edu/giftplans to read more.

To find out more about the Community Life Scholarship program, contact Tony Manganello at tony_manganello@taylor.edu or 765.998.4886.
HISTORIC WIN.

Members of the Taylor softball team celebrate their championship of the Crossroads League tournament in April. The Trojans won 42 games in their record-breaking year and appeared in the national tournament. Congratulations!