Fall 2015

Taylor: A Magazine for Taylor University Alumni, Parents and Friends (Fall 2015)

Taylor University

Follow this and additional works at: https://pillars.taylor.edu/tu_magazines

Part of the Higher Education Commons

Recommended Citation
https://pillars.taylor.edu/tu_magazines/112

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Ringenberg Archives & Special Collections at Pillars at Taylor University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Taylor Magazine by an authorized administrator of Pillars at Taylor University. For more information, please contact pillars@taylor.edu.
MORE THAN A TAGLINE
PAGE 12

COPING WITH THE EXTREMES
PAGE 16

BETTER THAN PERFECT
PAGE 20
“When he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.” **Job 23:10**

When Christ defeated sin on the cross, it marked the ultimate victory over the forces of Hell. That victory continues to be manifested in many forms – one of those is in the purification and refining of God’s people.

While we do not know whether or not the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden was an apple, we do know that Jesus’ victory – once and for all – saved all who call upon his name from the ravages of sin, and his grace refines them for what Jesus called, “greater works than these.”
STADIUM NAMED FOR TURNER FAMILY

Taylor’s three-year-old football and soccer stadium received some finishing touches and a new name that honors the family of Eric and Cyndy Turner ’74.

A WALK INTO THE FUTURE

More than 1,100 schoolchildren from neighboring Jay County walked into their future with Taylor students and faculty.

TAYLOR RANKED NUMBER ONE

For the ninth straight year, Taylor University achieves a number one ranking in U.S. News.

REHEARSING WITH DR. JOANN REDIGER

JoAnn (Kinghorn ’73) Rediger searches for the ultimate performance.
REFINED BY GRACE

“I owe more to that little college in Indiana than to any other influence in my life.”
Dr. Harold John Ockenga ’27

The inherent danger in holding up one person’s accomplishments is it can lead to the perception that, in some way, his efforts were more noteworthy, more consequential, or more significant than those of everyone else. After he came face-to-face with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob during his Taylor pilgrimage, Harold Ockenga went on to accomplish memorable things in the evangelical world. God used this humble servant to launch Fuller Seminary, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and the National Association of Evangelicals. The impact of this single life continues today. And yet, amidst all the accolades, Ockenga always remembered those formative, shaping and refining years at Taylor University.

My sense is that all of us have been refined by God’s grace and calling during our Taylor pilgrimages. Whether it is 2005 graduates Ben and Laura Harrison, JoAnn (Kinghorn ’71) Rediger, or CeCe Walden ’14, each serves God in the venue of life to which they have been called. Stories of the amazing things God is doing in their lives are shared in the pages of this issue of Taylor.

Taylor University is a special, sacred place, but it is not because of anything with which we have endowed ourselves. Rather, the thing that makes Taylor “Taylor” is God’s presence in our midst. That presence shapes us, refines us, and sends us. Just as the members of the Sanhedrin perceived that Peter and John had been with Jesus because of their boldness and Christ-like conduct, may such a thing be true of all of us.

James R. Garringer H’15
Editor
Dr. Trina Helderman ’00 has flown around the globe ministering healing, emergency medicine and care to people trapped in the world’s most desperate situations. Ben ’05 and Laura (Metzger ’05) Harrison were photographers by trade, but after their son Jonas was born with visual impairments, the couple launched Jonas Paul Eyewear, a business that creates designer eyewear for children who need glasses. And Dr. Colleen (Kendrick ’98) Kraft played a critical role in caring for Kent Brantly, the Ebola-stricken American doctor who was flown from Liberia to the United States last year for life-saving treatment.

Helderman, the Harrisons and Kraft were among the award winners honored at Taylor’s Homecoming on October 23-24. Other award winners were David Leveille ’60, an educator whose lengthy battle with cancer was chronicled in his book, Surviving Cancer: Not Somehow…but Triumphantlly, and longtime Taylor staff member Jim Garringer H’15, who was named an honorary alumnus.

“I was surprised and deeply moved,” said Garringer, who for nearly 30 years has served Taylor through photography, writing, representing Taylor in the news media, and as editor of the Taylor magazine. “I love Taylor University and firmly believe in its mission. To be able to serve here all these years, and then to be made an honorary alumnus has been humbling.”

“We are excited about this year’s alumni award winners,” said Dara (Johnson ’02 MBA ’08) Berkhalter, Executive Director of Alumni Relations. “They exemplify Taylor in their lives and in their work. This year’s winners are serving Taylor across the United States and beyond, and truly are examples of living out the towel in their everyday life.”

The Harrisons founded Jonas Paul Eyewear after their son Jonas was diagnosed with Peters anomaly, a serious eye disorder (see Better than perfect, P.20). “We were surprised,” said Laura Harrison. “To be recognized for whatever you are doing – especially from your college – is really special.”

2016 TAYLOR ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES
Joshua “Josh” Staley ’04 FOOTBALL Laura “Lolly” (York ’07) Edgerton WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD AND WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
Sigrid “Siggie” Schaffroth ’64 WOMEN’S BASKETBALL Jack Welch ’80 COACHING
Taylor officials named the facility in honor of the family of Taylor alumnus and longtime supporter Eric Turner ’74 and his wife Cyndy, after the couple’s gift allowed the school to put the finishing touches on the stadium. An additional gift from the Turner Foundation created Turner Plaza from the area adjacent to Turner Stadium, Odle Arena, and Winterholter Field.

The plaza, complete with a fire pit, benches and Trojan head brick paving, was named in honor of Turner’s parents Paul and Betty. In addition to honoring his parents, Turner said the new plaza creates an attractive destination as well as entryway to venues of seven of Taylor’s intercollegiate sports out of an area that few previously paid attention to or noticed.

As a student and member of Taylor’s football team, Turner earned All-Conference and NAIA All-District honors. After graduating, he became a successful businessman and served for 25 years as a member of the Indiana House of Representatives. Turner has been named a Distinguished Alumnus by the Taylor University Alumni Council and served on Taylor’s Athletic Hall of Fame Board. Each of the Turners’ four children, Zeke ’00, Jessaca ’02, Kylee ’04, and Courtney ’11, graduated from Taylor and were involved in the intercollegiate athletics program. Additionally, Turner’s brother Kyle ’81 and sister-in-law Pam (Anderson ’83) are alumni.

“Eric and Cyndy Turner, as well as the entire Turner family, have been long-time and tireless supporters of Taylor University and higher education in the State of Indiana,” said Dr. Eugene B. Habecker ’68, Taylor’s President. “It is fitting to honor the Turner family for years of service and support of Taylor University’s students and mission.”

“We’ve had a long love affair with Taylor,” said Turner. “I first came to Taylor to basketball camp in 1961, when I was nine years old. Going to school there, representing Taylor in the legislature, and my kids all going there - we were honored to be asked to help.

“Taylor set a pattern for me of Christian servanthood and how I wanted to live my life, not only as a husband and father but also a businessman and a legislator. Each of my children, on their own, decided to come to Taylor. It wouldn’t disappoint me if all my grandchildren went to Taylor and graduated from Taylor,” Turner said. “As I look back over all these years, I appreciate the rigorous academics of Taylor and the spiritual atmosphere - it has never wavered. Taylor has stayed true to its mission.”

Taylor University’s three-year-old football and soccer stadium now has an attractive press box, hospitality and commons areas, brick pillars at the north end, and an official name: Turner Stadium.
A WALK INTO THE FUTURE

For an estimated 1,100 elementary children from Jay County, it was a week of campus tours, classroom learning and crafts, and Zumba. For Taylor University education faculty and students, it was a hands-on opportunity to give schoolchildren a glimpse of college life.

The program, Walk Into My Future, was a partnership between Taylor’s Education Department and the Jay (County) School Corporation. According to statistics provided by Jay Schools, only 48 percent of Jay County graduates go on to any sort of college or career training.

“We were looking for regional areas where we could go,” said Dr. Tim Long, Superintendent of Jay Schools. “Taylor has such a beautiful campus and the education department here is just superior. They have really good people who were willing to take it on. We reached out, they reached back. We grabbed hands and came together on a project, and nothing is better than that.”

Each morning, children from grades K-3 took campus tours, participated in classroom activities, and let off some pent-up energy during Zumba exercises – all of these activities were led by Taylor education students. At the end of each day, the children each received a piggy bank intended to serve as a reminder to save money in the years to come.

“When you ask our kids how many of them have ever been to a college campus, and out of 200, only six hands go up, that’s a symptom,” said Long. “The feedback has been excellent and what we are talking about is, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up and how you can be it if you choose to take that path.’”

“The Walk Into My Future event helps kids experience college, and for many of them, it (was) their first time on campus,” said Jeremy Gulley, Director of Teacher Effectiveness for the Jay School Corporation. “The experiences … at Taylor will be a lasting memory for these kids as they continue on their path to higher education someday. Even though they might be the first in their families to attend college, now they know college is a real place, and it’s achievable.”

“It was definitely a big undertaking for the department and also our students,” said Dr. Ben Hotmire ’98, Assistant Professor of Education at Taylor. “The Jay County folks really were appreciative of what we had done and how we were organized. We heard that from teachers as well. As faculty members we did a lot, but it was our students who actually interacted with the children, and they all did a really great job representing Taylor.”
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 OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA. HERE ARE A FEW TWEETS AND INSTAGRAM PHOTOS THAT WE HAVE ENJOYED DURING THE PAST MONTHS.

@gelenbaas518 Marylou Habecker just commented on my Facebook picture. Is this real life?!?!! #TaylorU

@ALECgator13 I love how @tayloru can somehow work reading straight out of the Bible into an Econ class.

@emily_welchh Most schools have a pep rally to get their students pumped ... Taylor has a communion service. I just love TU. Tonight was awesome #TaylorU

@bbutton6 I hope Jay Kesler lives forever. #TaylorU

FIND US ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM WITH THE #TAYLORU
FACULTY RESEARCH, PRESENTATIONS, STUDY CIVIL RIGHTS, THE ARTS, SCIENCES

PROF. DANIEL BOWMAN JR. (English), began working as the editor of Relief Journal, a national publication that will be housed at Taylor. This will enable Taylor’s Creative Writing students to gain editorial experience for national readership.

PROF. KATHY BRUNER (Media Communication) hosted a film panel during the Sundance Film Festival; she also joined the editorial board of the Christianity and Communication Studies Network.

DRS. JEREMY CASE ’87 and DEREK THOMPSON (Mathematics) presented papers at the Association of Christians in the Mathematical Sciences conference.

DR. KEVIN DILLER ’93 (Philosophy, and Religion), SHAWN DENNY ’90 (Zondervan Library), LANA (GOTT-SCHALK ’05) WILSON (Zondervan Library), and DR. MATTHEW RENFROW (Kinesiology) have achieved tenure.

DR. MIKE GUEBERT (Earth and Environmental Sciences) worked with seven students to prepare the first fleet of Taylor Taxi bicycles to be used on a free, shared-use basis.

DR. LEON HARSHENIN (Music) presented a conference session Musical Offerings: Classical Piano Literature for Worship Services at the Texas Music Teachers Association conference in Houston.

DR. STEPHEN KING (Political Science) completed a student-led summer research project focusing on the lack of pre-k, or early learning educational opportunities, in Grant County.

PROF. TRACY MANNING ’92 (Theatre) led the Taylor Playback Theatre group to Edinburgh, Scotland, in August to participate in an annual arts festival. She and the team worked with Dr. Fergus Macdonald (Center for Scripture Engagement) and the Buccleuch Presbyterian Church in a collaborative ministry partnership and production of the play Out of Darkness.

DR. STEVE MESSER (History) led a faculty Civil Rights tour in May. He also consulted with two faculty members from the University of Detroit Mercy about a Civil Rights tour they are planning for their students.

DR. DAVID NEUHouser (Center for the Study of C.S. Lewis and Friends) had a chapter George MacDonald, Phantastes, included in the recently-published C. S. Lewis’s List: The Ten Books That Influenced Him Most. It was one of his last published works before his death in April.

DR. JOE RICKE (English) has been named program director for the Center for the Study of C.S. Lewis and Friends. He participated in the International Medieval conference in Leeds, England, and then did research for the Lewis Center in Oxford and London.
For the ninth straight year, Taylor University is the number one Midwest University in the category Best Regional Colleges in the newly-released 2016 U.S. News & World Report survey, America’s Best Colleges.

The number one ranking also marks the 19th consecutive year Taylor University has been listed in the region’s top three. Among the Midwest’s Best Regional Colleges, Taylor ranked first in peer assessment score, freshman retention rate, graduation rate, ability to attract freshmen from the top 25% of their high school class, and ACT scores. Taylor also received high scores for its alumni giving rate.

The rest of the top five included: Augustana (South Dakota), Ohio Northern University, College of the Ozarks (Missouri), and Marietta College (Ohio).

Among companion rankings released by U.S. News, Taylor was also listed in Best Undergraduate Teaching, which recognizes a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching. 

The search for Taylor University’s next president has begun the narrowing process of names submitted through nomination, application or referral.

The Presidential Search Committee met in September to review 174 prospective candidates identified by the CarterBaldwin executive search firm. From this large group of names, the committee received formal letters of application and curriculum vitae from 47 candidates. From that group, the committee plans to select a small, diverse number of highly qualified semifinalists.

CarterBaldwin will interview each semifinalist and the search committee will meet again in November to narrow the number to a small group of finalists. The committee will conduct face-to-face interviews with each finalist and has a stated goal to identify a final candidate in mid-January. The full Board will interview that candidate before voting to approve him or her during its scheduled meeting on February 11-12, 2016.

In May, President Eugene Habecker ’68 announced the 2015-2016 academic year would be his final one as Taylor president. The Board believes the new president will assume his or her new role at the end of May 2016 or shortly afterward.

The Presidential Search Committee asks the entire Taylor community to continue praying for discernment for the committee as well as for the new president.
Emphasizing the “student” part of student athletics

FOR THE SECOND TIME IN FOUR YEARS, TAYLOR UNIVERSITY LED THE NAIA IN CAPITAL ONE ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA HONORS. TU EARNED 12 AWARDS DURING THE 2014-2015 YEAR, MATCHING EMBRY-RIDDLE FOR THE HIGHEST AMOUNT AMONG ANY NAIA, CANADIAN OR TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS.

Taylor’s 12 Academic All-America awards trailed only the 14 achieved by the NCAA’s Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and tied Washington and SEC powerhouse Alabama as the second-highest total in the country.

The Trojans now boast 46 Academic All-America honors, with 40 coming during the past four years. Additionally, each of Taylor’s 18 intercollegiate teams earned a collective grade-point average of 3.15 or above, marking the third-straight year that Taylor has had all 18 teams post a GPA above the 3.0 mark.

Beyond the court, field and classroom, Taylor University was one of 29 NAIA schools to receive a gold rating among the 2014-2015 Champions of Character Five-Star institutions. Each year, the NAIA rates institutions and conferences for achievements in training and promotion of, as well as conduct within, the five character values of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship.

The NAIA Championships of Character scorecard measures each school’s commitment and achievements within those five areas. Points are awarded for areas ranging from banners being displayed on campus, community outreach projects, and student-athlete grade-point averages.

During the 2014-2015 year, 170 institutions received five-star recognition, with only 29 being named to the gold level.

Taylor scored 94 points for the highest amount among all Crossroads League schools and the 11th-highest total in the nation. Taylor and The University of Saint Francis were the only two schools in the league to reach the gold level of recognition.
Best ever – From front to back: Michelle Franck, Hannah Schroder, Jane Hawks, Alex Berends, Maye Elizabeth Gimre, Rachel Blagg, and Anissa Richards have led Taylor's cross country team to its best-ever ranking – number four in the nation.
To explore what a truly Christ-centered education is, I believe we should first identify what it is not. We reject the premise that faith and learning together is some sort of scheme to recruit students or simply to slap a "Christian" label on a mediocre education.

Rather, the integration of faith and learning embedded in this Christ-centered educational model recognizes that we as humans are comprised of minds, hearts, and souls. This understanding comes in part from Ephesians 4:

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your
This passage gives us a beautiful vision of what a learning community of Christ followers should be. It is a challenge to walk in Christian faith, because the way we live, think, and worship together matters a great deal to God. In fact, it is our response to the Gospel.

This idea of joining minds and hearts is not at all new. The tradition of academic regalia worn by our faculty during Faculty Chapel and Commencement began with the medieval monastic orders. At colleges and universities across the Western world, academic regalia is a nod to the roots of higher education in religious training when monks and clerics were responsible for educating the people. Yet, broadly stated, higher education today follows the impulse of the Enlightenment in compartmentalizing faith and reason. This leads to a life that is likewise fragmented, with the lessons of the classroom elevated in importance. But these academic pursuits are ironically diminished as they are seen as less relevant for the overall spiritual health of the student. Ultimately, education becomes “vocational” in the modern usage – as merely a means to an occupation or a wage.

Some religious commentators say we should reject the Enlightenment completely, but I do not think we can do so in good conscience. St. Augustine’s reflections, that all truth is God’s truth, as well as the words of the Psalmist, that “the earth is the Lord’s, and all the fullness thereof,” calls us instead to be discerning and thoughtful.

So how do we respond to this calling? How can we fulfill a call to join mind and heart – learning and faith – together in a way that honors God?

First, we must embrace skepticism. I do not advocate a skepticism that doubts that truth is even possible, or questions that there is a source for that truth. Instead, we can practice a skepticism that springs from a mind that is discerning. This approach to skepticism must be aligned with curiosity. This questioning curiosity is an internal drive, the ability to push beyond the standard available information on a subject; to not be satisfied with the general knowledge. Skepticism and curiosity become tools for discernment.

If we stop at a skeptical mind – if you do not have curiosity that pushes you toward discovery of your own answers to those difficult questions – you remain stuck in doubt. You end up spiraling down into the life of a cynic. It leads to a frustrating life of contrarian thought. On the other hand, if all you are is curious, pursuing trivial knowledge with no grounding, you float weightlessly without ever truly uncovering answers to the deep questions that can drive your learning. It leads to a lack of productivity or achievement.

We are called to humility and to working this out together. We must discern and reject those ideas that might be heretical or false, and embrace those ideas that are in alignment with what we know to be true in the Gospel. Our approach must not weaken learning or the Gospel. We fear no question. We back away from no debate and inquiry with the knowledge that our faith brings us great wisdom. This does not mean we are always right, but we can take comfort in knowing that truth points to God. We cannot abide a model that increases faith but decreases learning. If God is the source of all truth, we trust then that he will animate our thinking as well as our hearts. We can join together the cold objectivity of the laboratory with the hot, revivalistic fire of the altar.

We do this not on our own, but in a community of faith. We can be curious. We can ask questions. We can grow in knowledge and understanding as we learn, forgive each other, and push one another to do our best work.

Faith and learning matter because together they aim for a lifetime of pursuing truth. At Taylor, the model for living and learning together serves as a unique experience that models future community interaction. We learn best when we learn together. And we uncover a richer sense of God’s people by discovering what connects us to each other.
Refined

But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.

Job 23:10
Cecelia Walden ’14 was never an adventure seeker. CeCe, as she is known by her friends, says her best scar is a small place on her thumb she received from a minivan steering wheel. “‘Intensity’ is not exactly my middle name,” she wrote in a blog entry. Yet adventure found her. In fact, you could say it crashed down on top of her one day during a fierce storm in Zambia at The Esther School, where she teaches, when the roof of her classroom collapsed.
As I ... saw the roof of my classroom in the middle of the playground, the question that beat against my head was, ‘Why?’” Her thoughts were, perhaps, a prayer of frustration. "Why is everything so extreme here? Why can’t rain just be rain and not be some freakish thing that snaps my classroom door like a graham cracker? Why can’t I just read If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, and not been embarrassed by the size of the house in the illustrations? Why do spiders have to be the size of hard boiled eggs, and why do I teach five-year-olds who have more experience with death than I do at quadruple their age?"

It was then she sensed God’s presence. There was not an answer, but there was reassurance - reassurance that God’s love for CeCe, his love for the children, and his love for The Esther School was far more intense than any storm. It was not an answer to her questions, and the storm’s damage would still need to be cleaned up. But in that moment, it was enough.
Q: WHAT DREW YOU TO THE ESTHER SCHOOL IN THE FIRST PLACE?
CeCe: Education has a huge impact on social justice issues around the world, specifically vulnerable children, and that’s really where I find my vocational passion. I was drawn to The Esther School because, not only is it a ministry that is really intentional about every action being fueled by the love of Christ, but also this ministry really strives to be effective and sustaining for the community we serve.

Q: HOW DID YOUR TAYLOR EXPERIENCE EQUIP YOU? DID IT POINT YOU IN THIS DIRECTION?
CeCe: I’m in Zambia now because of a Lighthouse trip to Peru. That’s really where I first experienced God’s heart for orphans and where I decided I wanted to use my degree to work with orphans and vulnerable children.

As far as how Taylor equipped me, my first week teaching in a classroom where I was the only white person, the only one who lived off more than $3.00 a day, and the only one who didn’t understand a syllable of my students’ mother tongue, I kind of wondered the same thing.

Teaching here looks completely different than anything I ever expected when I went into education. But the second week, I told a fellow teacher that somehow I did feel equipped by my four years at Taylor, although I couldn’t explain exactly how. Some of the notes I took...
in class had to be thrown out the window, but there are values that I took away from both the Education and the TESOL departments, like the innate significance of a child, the beauty of their race and culture and the importance of working with parents, and that the challenges that come in any classroom are worth working through.

Q: HOW HAS YOUR WORK CHALLENGED YOU?
CeCe: Sometimes I think about what teaching in the U.S. would be like. How many years of teaching would I have to have taught before a student missed a week of school because of a disease that kills almost half a million children worldwide a year? How many years would I have had to teach before a mama who works in our classroom passed away suddenly and I had a grieving child in my life? How many years until a father would tell me that the reason for his daughter’s developmental delays is because of malnutrition during her toddler years? ... How many years would I have had to teach before a freak storm came through and tore the roof off of my classroom? ... How many years would I have had to teach before a student missed a week of school because of a disease that kills almost half a million children worldwide a year? How many years would I have had to teach before a student missed a week of school because of a disease that kills almost half a million children worldwide a year? How many years would I have had to teach before a student missed a week of school because of a disease that kills almost half a million children worldwide a year?

Q: HOW HAS YOUR WORK REWARDED YOU?
CeCe: I like how much I get to be a part of my students’ lives. It never feels like my relationship with my students is confined to the six-hour window when we’re in school, or restricted to teaching them how to count to ten and read their ABCs. I pray for them to show Christ’s love to each other, and they pray on my behalf for God to give me patience for them; and then together we rejoice when we see God answer those prayers. I get to hold their baby sisters at recess and I get to laugh with their mamas after school. When I read a picture book, I often get to introduce them to things that they literally never knew existed outside their own world. The running list includes rocket ships, dinosaurs, squirrels and hot air balloons. I get to see the wonder in their eyes for those things, and then I turn around and they are the ones putting wonder in my eyes when they randomly break into worshipping Jesus in the middle of class, or take the opportunity to bow during whole-class prayer.

“I never understood the saying ‘Like herding cats,’ until I came to teach preschool in Zambia, but that basically describes it,” CeCe wrote for The Esther School blog. “You might be playing this game if you see a chorus line of preschool bathroom-needyers in your dreams and you are prone to experiencing déjà vu basically every six seconds of your work day. ‘You, stand-up. No, not you! You, sit down. No, no, you were the one I wanted to stand up. No, no, not you or you or you and still not you.’

“Oh well. In addition to herding cats, I also have the pleasure of collecting smiles ... I keep a verbal tally at the end of the day of which of Monday’s most solemn and shy have cracked a grin throughout the week, assuring us that we’re doing something right.”
BETTER THAN PERFECT
IT WAS THAT INCREDIBLE, EUPHORIC MOMENT WHEN THE NEW PARENTS FIRST LAID EYES ON THEIR BABY SON. THE UNCERTAINTY AND TRAUMA OF THE EMERGENCY C-SECTION WAS FADING AS THEIR NEWBORN SON CRIED. BUT WHEN THE NEW FATHER PROUDLY HANDED THE BOY TO HIS MOTHER, SHE ASKED A QUESTION THAT WOULD CHANGE THE ARC OF THEIR LIVES.

“DOES HE HAVE PUPILS?”
Ben Harrison ’05 had graduated from Taylor with a degree in the field of computer graphic art and photography. His wife Laura (Metzger ’05) had majored in communication studies. Together, they went to Grand Rapids, Mich., where Ben earned a Master of Fine Arts from Kendall College of Art and Design. From there, the direction was only upward. The Harrisons built a reputation as a young, artistic and gifted photography team who specialized in destination weddings. They gained international acclaim, and it led to wedding assignments from Thailand to Mexico and throughout the United States.

When Ben and Laura – two young, entrepreneurial and creative people whose livelihoods depend so significantly on eyesight – were blessed with the birth of their son Jonas Paul in 2013, his eyes not seeming to have any pupils was something they thought might clear up within a few days, maybe even hours.

But it did not, and examinations in coming days by doctors brought devastating news. “(The pediatric ophthalmologist) kind of sucked the oxygen from the room,” Ben remembers. “She said she did not know what it was; she had never seen it before. I remember Laura yelled out to the doctor, ‘Is he blind?’ The response was earth shattering. ‘I don’t know, but it doesn’t look good.’”

Jonas was eventually diagnosed with Peters anomaly – a rare eye disorder that affects the cornea and causes various levels of visual impairment. Just seven weeks after his birth, Jonas underwent his first corneal transplant. In just two-and-a-half years, Jonas has endured 16 eye surgeries, three of which have been corneal transplants. The Harrisons say that surgeries and transplants will continue as doctors try to salvage what little sight their son has and to locate a cornea which his body will not reject. While Jonas’ right eye is less impaired, their hope is one day he will have 20/600 vision in his left eye.

As they searched for eyeglasses for Jonas, the Harrisons found that while eyewear for adults has evolved through the years, those advancements have not extended to children’s eyeglasses. In many cases, Ben said, they are the bulky, bland frames worn by children for generations.

“We found out kids with Peters anomaly do have potential for sight. As soon as I heard that I kind of ran with it. I wanted Jonas to look like a little stud muffin,” says Ben. “We researched existing eyeglass options for kids. They were cartoonish – focused on function. Being the entrepreneur that I am, I thought, ‘Why don’t we create eyeglasses?’”

That was the genesis of Jonas Paul Eyewear (JPE). Ben and Laura created a company whose goal was providing designer-style frames for children. With frames costing $89.00 and $99.00, JPE’s competitive pricing has opened doors not only for the children and parents who now have a choice, but also to recognition on a similar scale as their wedding business. The accolades have come from a wide range of sources including the Wall Street Journal, The University & College Designers Association (UCDA), and even Taylor University, who presented the Harrisons with its Distinguished Young Alumni Award during Homecoming.

“When we first started Jonas Paul Eyewear, it was often our story of Jonas and his life situations which was the focal point, but what has been amazing is to see a shift and now we get to see all of the kids that are being affected by Jonas Paul Eyewear,” Laura says. “I love that we get to make a positive impact in these children’s lives at such a crucial time in their life and I hope we make them feel awesome in their glasses.”
If Jonas Paul Eyewear is the good news, Ben and Laura readily testify the greater news is the joy their son (who was joined by his little sister Sophie this summer) brings to their lives.

“We went through a gamut of emotions from anger to depression,” Ben says. “When Jesus was healing a blind man, even his disciples have struggled with that question – was it his sin or was it generational sin? No. It was so the works of God could be displayed in his life. We have to trust that it happened for a reason, and to try to define that reason, we would almost be playing God.

“Jonas is amazing – he brings so much joy to our lives. We would not desire a child with perfect vision. Being such visual people and being in the fine arts, when our son was born we felt like this connection was lost. We wondered, ‘Will he ever be able to be like us? Will he see a sunset?’” Ben continues. “We were so obsessed with how he was different from other children. We decided to come to full acceptance with who he was and what he was born with – we never want him to feel we are disappointed or that he’s not the perfect child.

“The first time we took him to the ocean and there is something about the ocean – its vastness and sounds – I was holding him and he could not see the ocean. So I closed my eyes and began to experience the ocean in a new way. You could hear the seagulls and feel the wind and the sand between our feet,” adds Ben. “God gave us five senses, not just one, for us to experience the world. They say you are about 80 percent visual. When you remove that, the other senses are heightened. It is cool how Jonas teaches us about the world.”

Laura shared a story of one cold afternoon when the family was out for a walk and Jonas was able to tell the difference between the red, yellow and green stoplights. That moment fueled a renewed sense of hope. “I stood on the side of the road just crying. It was in that moment I knew my child could see,” Laura says. “I’ve learned to never take for granted the simplest things in life, such as the stop light changing from green to yellow and red. I don’t think I’ll ever look at a stop light the same.”

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT: JONASPAULEYEWEAR.COM AND FACEBOOK.COM/JONASPAULEYEWEAR.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT: JONASPAULEYEWEAR.COM AND FACEBOOK.COM/JONASPAULEYEWEAR.
The sounds of her heels echo down the hall of the music building. She’s headed to her office, at a brisk pace as always, her curly bob bouncing above her shoulders. If JoAnn (Kinghorn ’71) Rediger seems in a hurry, it’s not because she’s running late. It’s because she doesn’t take any moment for granted, and she is determined to make the most of each one.
SING REDIGER

BY MEREDITH SELL '14
For Rediger, every day is an apple she eats all the way down to the core, until nothing is left but stem and seeds - enough to remember what has passed and then replant, begin again. Nowhere is this more obvious than a Chorale rehearsal.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons, students gather in the Butz-Carruth Recital Hall. They leave their backpacks and jackets on seats in the back and sit in the first few rows by the stage. Rediger is at center stage, organizing a folder of music on a stand. An accompanist sits at the piano.

The clock at the back flips to 3:59.

“Talk for a minute,” Rediger tells her students, “because then it will be gone.”

Chatter fills the room for the next 60 seconds. Then, at 4 o’clock on the dot, rehearsal commences.

Rediger has the next 90 minutes planned. A student shares a devotion, and then Howard Lee ’16, the student assistant conductor, leads stretches and vocal warm-ups. Next, quartets are called to the stage to sing from memory the piece due that day. Each quartet is onstage less than three minutes, and as soon as one group is sent off, the next rises for their turn. When the quartets are through, Lee once again takes the lead, conducting a segment of a new piece.

Rediger sits on a bench to the side of the stage, swaying and singing along with the music open on her lap.

A student in the last row of singers holds a red sheet. When it’s time to move on to the next part of rehearsal, he holds the sheet above his head and waits for Rediger to notice. They’re on to the next within seconds, no break for chatter.

The fast pace, her preparedness, her expectation that the students show up as ready as she does - all of these things challenge her students, past and present, to give their best and improve upon what their best was yesterday or last week.
Rediger grew up in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. Her family wasn’t exceptionally musical except for her mother, who played piano by ear. But in third grade JoAnn had the opportunity to take piano lessons.

She quickly found she loved practicing, and the world of music opened to her like a blossom. She enrolled at Taylor in 1967 and studied piano, accompanying the Chamber Singers and Taylor Chorale as a student. In the early 1990s, after earning her master’s in music education from James Madison University, she began pursuing her doctorate in organ performance at Ball State University.

Then she audited a class in choral conducting, and the professor asked her to stand and conduct.

“He’s the one that really turned the course for me,” Rediger said. “He thought he recognized some ability … and he encouraged me to think about going into choral music.”

In 1994, she received her doctorate in choral conducting, and in 1996, she returned to Taylor to teach and conduct. Since then, at least five days a week, she has shared her passion for music with students of all majors through classes like Art as Experience and rehearsals with Chorale and Sounds.

“She was so good at pushing us to excellence and not letting us move on – even from a phrase of music, until it’s exactly what it should be,” said Mark Statler ’10, who with his wife Audrey (Boyers ’12) teaches music and directs choirs at Rosslyn Academy in Nairobi, Kenya. “And not in a negative way of pressure, pressure, pressure … but of, ‘No, you can do it better, so let’s do it better.’

“I never had anybody in my life care that much about all of the details before,” Audrey said, “but the reason she cared is because she knew that the more excellent we could be, the more we could glorify God in that.”

Since graduating in 2011, Reed Spencer’s pursuits have introduced him to a musical world where beautiful sound is the end and lyrics, regardless of their content or origin, are just words set to music.

“A lot of choral music is sacred … but most musicians who study this, they end up worshiping the music,” he said. “She never let that happen. She showed us an example of how to … turn that choral experience into worship.”

That is because Rediger’s ultimate goal is glorifying God. And it’s why she spends two days each year sorting through thousands of musical pieces for the next year’s repertoire, seeking musical variety and lyrics that, she said, “are worth going through a student’s mind all year.” That’s why she expects her students to arrive prepared, confident that they know the pieces from beginning to end.

“For this soul-moving experience, you can’t be shoddy,” she said.

Chorale, Sounds, piano, music – for Rediger, it’s not just about creating a beautiful sound. It’s about taking a gift, an undeserved gift, and offering it up to those listening, to those in need of inspiration and encouragement, and to the God who gave the gift in the first place.

“Even if the text isn’t outrightly Christian, there’s still this sense of God enjoying what we are creating for Him,” Audrey said.

In the Recital Hall, Chorale builds to the crescendo in Dan Forrest’s A Covenant Prayer. As the music rises, breath catches and eyes close to claim the richness of the sound without visual distraction. When Rediger cuts the singing to correct an error, the listener is still enraptured. If that contained mistakes, what would perfection sound like?

Exactly.
FRIENDSHIP – “Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art ... it has no survival value; rather it is one of those things which give value to survival.” C.S. Lewis
SUBMITTING ALUMNI NOTES IS SIMPLE...
Visit taylor.edu/alumninotes to submit your alumni notes update and photos. Please remember to upload only photos including alumni and of at least a minimum resolution of 150 dpi or 4 x 6 inches. Notes can also be submitted by email at magazine@taylor.edu, by phone at (800) 882-3456 or by mail.

ISREAL ALUMNI TRIP
A group of Taylor alumni and friends visited Israel in June 2015 on a trip hosted by Taylor Professor Emeritus Larry Helyer and his wife Joyce H’06. Pictured are: Stephen Phillips, Chair, Taylor Center for Ethics, Brad Brummeler ’90, Brenda Hendrickson ’76, Jennifer and Matthew Fenton ’15, the Helyers, Karen (Wilson) and Shayne Looper TUFW ’79, Julienne Johnson ’64, Naomi (Humphrey ’87) and Roger Muselman ’86. The Helyers will host another Israel trip June 6-16, 2016. They invite Taylor alumni and friends to join them.
1940

Rev. Alfred Leroy Keller died November 29, 2012. His family shared that his memories of his alma mater became richer and sweeter through the years.

1945

Gerry Klinefelter had his newest great-grandson and his two sisters visit him this summer. They were able to have some special times together including picnics in the front yard, homemade ice cream made by a church friend, and watching the neighbors cut hay.

1948

Jual Evans died July 2, 2015. He served as a long-time pastor in the United Methodist Church, and his journey in ministry encompassed 45 years and 12 different churches.

1952

Winifred Cleveland Wright passed away July 24, 2014. She was the loving wife of Joseph Wright for 58 years. Winnie played the organ as a member of Immanuel Baptist Church. She is survived by her husband, son, daughter-in-law, and three grandsons.

1956

Carolyn R. (Bailey) Riley died June 20, 2015, after battling Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS) for 23 years. Carolyn and her devoted husband Edwin had just celebrated their 46th anniversary six days before her home-going. Carolyn was a librarian for 36 years in various schools throughout Indiana; she enjoyed gardening, books, and playing the piano and violin.

1959

Lois (Bemis) O’Connor died in Mena, Ark., at the age of 77. Lois married the love of her life, Albert, in 1965 and was a mother of three. She pursued her love for reading and after many years of schooling she became a librarian at Polk Country Library.

1961

Bernie Tucker passed away on June 19, 2015, after a 12-year battle with Alzheimer’s disease. He was employed at Taylor University in the ’60s and, in 1969, he and his family moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where Bernie worked in general construction.

1967

Carol Battles died in August 2015. She met Timothy, her husband of 48 years, while they were students at Taylor. Carol’s great desire was to leave a legacy of faith by traveling the world teaching the Gospel to the nations. She is survived by her husband, father, sister, children and grandchildren.

1968

Rev. M. Bliss Steiner went to be with the Lord in December 2013. His memorial service was held in Orrville, Ohio.

1969

Ed Kershner was awarded National High School Basketball Coach of the Year at the National High School Convention in June. The award was given by the National High School Athletic Coach Association and recognized Ed’s 43-year coaching career at Oviedo High School.

1970

David Conover passed away November 16, 2014. Dave earned his PhD from Purdue University after graduating from Taylor. He served 30 years in the U.S. Public Health Service, later retired and worked as a consultant. Dave was active in his church and served on the board of Mid-India Christian Services. He is survived by his wife, daughter and grandson.
SEE WHAT’S GOING ON IN THE LIVES OF TAYLOR ALUMNI

Taylor friends gathered at the Rockledge Country Club in Florida for an annual brunch. Pictured from left: Nelson Rediger ’67, Dale Murphy ’63, Steve Oldham, Barb Murphy, Diane (Lundquist) Oldham, Vicki (Duke) Alley, Janet

1969

10
(Cordin ’70) Jeffrey, Steve Jeffrey and Dan Alley. Robert Wolgemuth, Bob Diller and Bobbi (Murfin) Diller ’70 often attend these lunches but this year were unable to be there.

1971
Hal Habecker has transitioned from the pastorate at Dallas Bible Church to launch a new outreach, Finishing Well Ministries. The goal of this new venue of service is to encourage older people to finish well. Hal and his wife Vicki continue to live in Dallas, Texas.

1972
Kathy Kitzmann was awarded the American Chemical Society’s James Bryant Conant Award in 2014. She has been teaching for 40 years and is currently teaching high school. She tries to keep her students engaged by making her classroom enjoyable and fun.

1977
Sandra K. Earixson was ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church by Bishop Johnson Gakumba and other clergy in the Diocese of Northern Uganda (Church of Uganda – Anglican). She is also the Curate at St. Philip’s Cathedral in charge of the English service.

Brad Martin earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in May of 2015. He is now living in Liberty Center, Ohio, where he is the Lead Pastor of Liberty Chapel United Methodist Church.

1978
Dennis Patton and his wife Nancy celebrated a Taylor reunion in June when 15 classmates gathered on campus for a weekend to relive their Taylor years and stay in campus residence halls. They are (from left): Dennis and Nancy Patton, Patty Norman ’79, Ken and Valerie Kelly ’79, Laurie ’80 and Dave Wolcott, Andy and Sue Peck, Onalee and Kevin Gigg ’79, Jim and Susan Hollis ’79, and Kim ’80 and Mark Tomlin ’79.

1981
David Poucher was promoted to Associate Professor of Accounting and Finance after teaching for eight years in Taylor’s Business Department. This followed his achievement of tenure in 2013-14. His continued efforts to improve his courses and engage with students has been acknowledged and appreciated by colleagues and students alike. David has been assisting with the high jumpers on Taylor’s track team. He and his wife Susanna (Hartman) live near campus and attend many concerts, plays, and athletic events at Taylor. Their son Andrew serves full-time in the United States Marine Corps and their daughter Abigail ’16 is earning a degree in Social Work at Taylor.

1984
Clark Cowden has become the pastor of Northside Community Methodist Church in his hometown of Terre Haute, Ind. For the past eight years, he served as the Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of San Diego.

1985
Nancy (Norman) Rizzo and fellow First West Olson women gathered for the wedding of Kerri (Rizzo ’13) and Aaron Milauskas ’14 in July 2014. Joining her were (from left): Cathy (Deeter) Trout, Holly (Egner) Walker, Nancy (Norman) Rizzo, Lois (Kiehlbach) Larsen, Lisa (Boyd) Campbell and Amy (Mitchell) Young.

1987
Kenneth Browner has been named U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) Coach of the Year. He serves as coach at Carmel High School (Carmel, Ind.) and his 2015 team won the IHSSAA State Track Meet.

1992

1994
David Chamberlin is the Senior Vice President of Communications at PNC Financial Services Group, the fifth-largest bank in the U.S. He is based in the Pittsburgh, Pa., area.

Mari Lynn Howard died October 13, 2015, in Muncie and was an avid supporter and fan of the Green Bay Packers. Survivors include her mother Janet Howard and brother Michael Howard.


1995
Aaron Davidson has joined Dallas-based technology law firm Munck Wilson Mandala as a partner. Aaron has been recognized multiple times in the annual Texas Rising Stars list of the state’s top young lawyers within intellectual property and business litigation.

Patrick Haney won the prestigious Woodrow Wilson MBA Fellowship in Educational Leadership as the Principal at Noble Crossing Elementary. The
SERVANT LEADERS
MARKED WITH A PASSION
program is run in Indiana through the University of Indianapolis and maintains a highly competitive nomination and selection process. Fellowship winners participate in a 13-month educational program that includes a fully paid educational travel opportunity, business immersion experiences, and post-graduation mentoring. Winners receive a full tuition scholarship and graduate with an MBA in Educational Leadership.

1996

Dr. Eric Moyen has been appointed Assistant Vice President at Lee University. Dr. Moyen has served both as a professor and as the Director of First Year Programs since joining the Lee faculty in the fall of 2004. He lives in Cleveland, Tenn., with his wife Missy and their two daughters.

1998

Kelly (Schleyer) Powers is moving to Jinja, Uganda, to serve as an International Coordinator for Sole Hope. This is a non-profit organization that brings hope through medical relief, education and economic development.

Heather (Myers ’97) and Evan Kittleman welcomed Paige Brooklyn Faith on January 5, 2015. Paige joined her big brother, Jensen. Their family lives in Colorado Springs, Colo., where Evan works for Focus on the Family in Digital Media and Strategy. Heather manages the family at home.

Four Second West Olson roommates, all of their children, one of the four husbands, plus their wing hook-ups gathered together over the 4th of July in Michigan for a reunion. Pictured from the back row: Jadon Lerch, Aaron Lerch ’00 holding Raya Lerch, Mindy (Benteman) Lerch holding Philip Lerch, Hannah Lerch, Kade Dextrom, Hayden Deese, Ken and Beth Smith HA ’09, Jennifer (Andrews) Chen and Micah Chen. Pictured from the front row: Caleb Deese, Kai Chen, Logan Dextrom, Karen (Halter) Dextrom, Karter Dextrom, Kristen (Taylor) Deese and Hannah Deese.

21 Bethany (Rice) and Jacob Spenn have been living in Houston, Texas, for the last 14 years. Jacob is the Head Varsity Football Coach at Cypress Christian School and is using his engineering degree to help the school in its daily operations and other endeavors. Bethany has been working part-time in oncology for the last 12 years as a physician assistant. They have four children, Rylin, Carson, Noah, Selah, and are expecting their fifth child.

Zeke Turner is the founder and CEO of Mainstreet based in Carmel, Ind. Zeke was named the Entrepreneur of the Year for the Ohio Valley region in the real estate design, construction and lodging category by EY on June 4, 2015. He is now running for the National Entrepreneur of the Year award.

2000

22 Shawn Alsopugh and his wife Lauren were married in 2009 and are excited to announce the birth of their son, Elias Hodson Alsopugh, on February 21, 2015.

Holly (Davis) and Ethan Daly ’04 welcomed Thaddeus Green Daly on July 10, 2015. He has three older brothers: Malachi, Lincoln, and Kingston. They reside in Chicago where Ethan is the Director of Partnerships and Communication for Sunshine Gospel Ministries. Holly is a photographer and takes care of the children.

2002

Kacia (Hillesland) Hosmer and husband Andrew welcomed their second child, Jones Laurizten, September 19, 2014. Harlow London, big sister of Jones, is smitten by her little brother. The Hosmer family recently moved to the Boston area, where Kacia takes care of their two children and Andrew is Project Manager of Sim Engineering at Boston Children’s Hospital.

2003

23 Holly (Davis) and Ethan Daly ’04 welcomed Thaddeus Green Daly on July 10, 2015. He has three older brothers: Malachi, Lincoln, and Kingston. They reside in Chicago where Ethan is the Director of Partnerships and Communication for Sunshine Gospel Ministries. Holly is a photographer and takes care of the children.

2004

24 Eric Spaulding and wife Emily welcomed their first child, Julian David, on November 30, 2013. The family lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Eric is Principal Consultant at Systems Evolution Inc. and Emily is a brand manager at P&G.


2005

26 Lana (Gottschalk) Wilson, Assistant Director and Research Librarian at Zondervan Library, and Kyle Wilson welcomed Parker Hayes Wilson on June 5, 2015 at 8:26 a.m. Parker weighed 7 lbs., 8 oz. and measured 22 in. long.

Alan Briggs and wife Julie have four children and live in Colorado Springs, Colo. Alan is the Director of Frontline Church Planting and the Multiplying Pastor at Vanguard Church. He has recently published Staying is the New Going: Choosing to Love Where God Plants You, which shares their family’s story of learning to live as missional people in the midst of normality right where they are. The goal of the book is to encourage people to stay present within their neighborhoods, cities, and existing relationships.

2007

Kacia (Hillesland) Hosmer and husband Andrew welcomed their second child, Jones Laurizten, September 19, 2014. Harlow London, big sister of Jones, is smitten by her little brother. The Hosmer family recently moved to the Boston area, where Kacia takes care of their two children and Andrew is Project Manager of Sim Engineering at Boston Children’s Hospital.

2008

Leeann Ashby married Derek Starkey on July 11, 2015, in Brownsburg, Ind. Taylor alumni in the wedding included Sara (Peterson) Kirkpatrick, David Kirkpatrick ’07 and Sarah (Wardle) Jones. Leeann is the music teacher at St. Malachy School in Brownsburg, Ind., and the director of the Bach Chorale Children’s Choir in Lafayette, Ind.

2009

Rebecca Carhart completed her MA in Christian Formation and Ministry at Wheaton College Graduate School. She lives in Glen Ellyn, Ill., works as an Editorial Associate at InterVarsity Press, and serves at her church, The Life, in Lisle, Ill.
Angelina (Lindahl) Guffy completed her MBA at Anderson University in May 2012 and married Christian Guffy in July of 2013. They are parents to identical twin girls, Ava Ellen and Elina Izeth, and their newest addition to the family is Ronan Sayers who was born in May 2015. Angelina is currently a freelance photographer and designer, and nannies full time.

2010
Alexandra Seminaro married J.P. AuWerter III on November 17, 2012, in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. They live in Gates Mills, Ohio, where J.P. is an estate lawyer. They recently welcomed Victoria Emily to the world on May 18, 2015.

Drew Baker and Emily Biedry ’11 were married in April of 2011. Drew recently completed his Master of Fine Arts Degree.

2012
Nellie Eskew married Martin Bryce Crocker in May 2015 at a sunset ceremony at Mounds State Park. Nellie is employed at Community Hospital Anderson as a Marketing and Community Relations Specialist and Bryce is IT and Construction Manager at Kirby Realty Group in Carmel, Ind. The couple resides in Noblesville, Ind.

Hannah Weber married Noah Martin on July 4, 2015, in Appleton, Wis. Her Taylor roommate Christy Janiszewski was a bridesmaid. Other alumni present included Brie Gowin, Katie Haller, Morgan Maine and Kristin Nelessen ’13.

Heidi McAuley and Andrew Crane were married on June 25, 2015, at the Jacob Henry Mansion Estate in Joliet, Ill. Taylor alumni in the wedding party included Christi Kroll ’13 as maid of honor and Zachary Crane ’15 as best man. Other alumni serving as groomsmen and ushers were Jonathan Lingenhoel, Dan McIlrath and Jason Griffin ’10.

2013
Ariel Bloomer has begun working in the Peace Corps service in the Dominican Republic. She was able to study abroad twice during her time at Taylor and is excited to continue different traveling experiences. She will be working with local people and organizations to create sustainable community-based development projects.

Keri (Rizzo) and Aaron Milauskas ’14 were married in July of 2014. Alumni in the wedding were Brian Shantz ’12, Josh Craton, George Harwood ’14, James Guthrie ’14, Sarah Cook ’15, Liz Ford ’12 and Caitlin Wilson ’12.

2014
Christi Dithrich and Stu Poulson were married in September 2014. Their wedding party consisted of Taylor alumni Sarah Stratton, Sarah Hughes, Molly Droger, Heath Moser, Nate Vogel, Dan Aust and Lane Gramling. They live in Bluffton, Ind., where Stu works for Youth for Christ. Christi is a wedding photographer and recently began working at Taylor as Alumni Program Assistant.

Elizabeth Frederick and Kaleb Davis were married on June 6, 2015. Elizabeth graduated with a Social Work degree and is an Applied Behavioral Therapist in Bloomington, Ind. Kaleb graduated with a Mathematics degree and started dental school at IU in July.

Kayla Gotha married Ian Dutcher on June 5, 2015, in Elgin, Ill., where they now live and work. Ian works for Tyndale House Publishers, and Kayla works in marketing at Harvest Bible Chapel. Taylor alumni in the wedding included: Ben Shaum, Iain Irwin, Ryan Frantz, Carson Hendricks, TJ Lopez, CJ Komarynsky, Veronica Toth ’16, Andrea (Dalland) Lopez and Jessica (Chupp) Haynes.

Zach Crane has begun a residency program through Adventist Health System. The program is designed to develop upcoming leaders within the health care system. Zach is in a two-year program where he will focus on developing different skills that are a necessity for building a team.
TO MINISTER
CHRIST’S
REDEMPTIVE LOVE
AND TRUTH TO A
WORLD IN NEED
REMEMBERING TOM BEERS

Beloved alumnus, military veteran, and longtime Taylor staff member Tom Beers ’35 died December 6, 2014.

Tom was born in Jamestown, New York, to Greek immigrants and graduated from Jamestown High School. He attended North Park College before coming to Taylor, where he finished a degree in history. Tom later earned a Master’s in Higher Education from American University in Washington, DC.

He rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. After retiring from the military, Tom served Taylor University in various roles including Assistant to the President, Dean of Students, and Associate VP of Development for more than 20 years. In 1987, he was named Taylor’s Alumnus of the Year.

Tom attended Upland Community Church. He served in various community leadership roles including leadership in the United Way of Grant County, corporate officer and office manager of Upland Tire and Service Center, Inc., and as a fundraiser for Project Mercy in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Tom was preceded in death by his wife Helen on October 28, 2013. They were married for 58 years.

Tom is survived by his children, Julie ’80 Cole (Carey ’80), Laurie ’80 Davenport (Dane ’80), Stephen ’82 (Jane), Susan ’84 Harrison (Thomas), Catherine ’85 Dickey (Patrick ’85), and James ’91 (Michelle). He is also survived by 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, as well as a sister, Mary Beers.
CONTINUING THE LEGACY

THESE TAYLOR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND ALUMNI WERE PHOTOGRAPHED WITH THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WHO BEGAN THEIR FRESHMAN YEAR AT TAYLOR THIS FALL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST AND SUPPORT!
Reade, Milo Rediger ’39 and Jay Kesler ’58. Each of them came from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Reade was a pastor, a poet and hymn writer. Dr. Rediger was a lifelong educator who cared deeply about his students and their callings, and Dr. Kesler was president of Youth For Christ and a gifted communicator with a passion for the Gospel.

Although each of these leaders and others, came from different backgrounds each one shared this in common – their love for the Lord with all of their hearts, all of their souls, all of their minds, and all of their strength. They also believed that God was able to do amazing things in the lives of his people.

I have heard all about you, LORD. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by.

Habakkuk 3:2

When Marylou and I came home to Taylor University more than 10 years ago, we sensed the Lord’s assurance in our hearts that he is an awesome God who has acted in amazing ways for his people in the past, and that he could do it again if we sought him with all of our hearts.

I’ve thought about that a lot in recent weeks – especially as Marylou and I are well into our final year of service. God has showed himself amazing and strong on our behalf through times of joy and accomplishment, and through times of sorrow, uncertainty and loss. Indeed, God has been our portion and strength, and for that, we give him the glory.

I have also been reflecting on those former Taylor presidents who came before – persons like Thaddeus Reade, Milo Rediger ’39 and Jay Kesler ’58. Each of them came from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Reade was a pastor, a poet and hymn writer. Dr. Rediger was a lifelong educator who cared deeply about his students and their callings, and Dr. Kesler was president of Youth For Christ and a gifted communicator with a passion for the Gospel.

Although each of these leaders and others, came from different backgrounds each one shared this in common – their love for the Lord with all of their hearts, all of their souls, all of their minds, and all of their strength. They also believed that God was able to do amazing things in the lives of his people.

God faithfully led them, and those who came before and after them. As you consider the events that have taken place since the year of Taylor’s founding in 1846, our nation and this world have endured and persevered through some very difficult times, such as The Civil War, two World Wars, the Great Depression, presidential assassinations, and 9/11.

Taylor University has also seen its share of difficult, painful and uncertain times – untimely deaths of students, faculty and staff; financial troubles which led to Taylor falling into receivership nearly 100 years ago; destructive fires, and today the growing gap between Taylor’s Biblically-anchored foundation, and some of the values espoused and proclaimed by the culture in which we live.

But here is the good news, God has given us a spirit – not of fear – but of power and love and self-control. As Christ followers, we will continue to count on him just as those who came before us have done. Thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we can rejoice in that which has been said so many times: God does not call the equipped; God equips the called. Taylor University is a thriving, healthy university today due in no small part to the efforts of Drs. Reade, Rediger and Kesler. But most of all, Taylor is a vibrant place because the Lord our God is here among us.

And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.

Psalm 78:72

In a few months, Marylou’s and my names will be added to those former presidential colleagues. Our hope, God willing, is that we will be able to finish well during these remaining months, leading with integrity of heart and with skillful hands.

Will you pray with us to that end?
“It's amazing how God reveals a plan for someone's life. The trials you experience at one moment can transform into something beautiful a few months later.”

Haley Harrell

TAYLOR AFFORDABILITY FUND

Although she's only in her first months here, Haley Harrell '19 is fully engaged in Taylor’s unique discipleship community as a business major, member of the volleyball team, and resident of Bergwall Hall.

During her campus visit, Haley was drawn to Taylor by the genuine, Christ-like attitudes she saw - not only in her future teammates, but throughout the campus community. But affordability was a major factor.

Thankfully, the assistance Haley receives from the Taylor Fund is allowing her to realize the fullness of the Taylor experience.

In fact, many students like Haley are able to experience Taylor because of the Taylor (Affordability) Fund.

taylor.edu/taylorfund
Work is progressing on schedule for the $20 million LaRita Boren Campus Center, and Taylor officials say it is on schedule to open in late spring 2016. Shown here is the main dining and gathering area - a space that will facilitate fellowship and interaction for hundreds of students, faculty and staff members.