Spring 2016

Taylor: A Magazine for Taylor University Alumni, Parents and Friends (Spring 2016)

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/152

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.
When asked what she looked forward to the most when she and her husband Gene Habecker ’68 returned to their alma mater, Marylou (Napolitano ’68) did not need a minute or two to think about it. They were going to serve together. To her, “together” meant not those things she and her husband were going to do. “Together” meant all of us. Over the past 11 years as the Habeckers have served as our President and First Lady, there have been times of laughter and times of tears. There have been wonderful achievements as well as profound disappointments. But ultimately, we have seen the Lord’s hand at work, and we have experienced all of those things together. As Gene and Marylou conclude their time of service in our midst, we pray for God’s richest blessings upon this wonderful couple. And we are so thankful that we have been able to do this together.
A HAINES HOMECOMING
After a nationwide search, Lowell and Sherry (Kormacher ’76) Haines ’75 have been selected as Taylor University’s next President and First Lady.

UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW
Taylor administrators have announced results and their recommendations after a nearly two-year review of all university programs.

WE HAD ONE GOAL—WIN
Members of Taylor’s 1991 Final Four team remember their historic run 25 years ago.

WE WOULD DO IT TOGETHER
Gene and Marylou (Napolitano ’68) Habecker ’68 look back on the joys and trials they experienced during the 11 years they served as Taylor’s President and First Lady.
Blessed be Your Name on the road marked with suffering. Though there’s pain in the offering, blessed be Your Name.

“Dad, there is an emergency at Taylor, and they need you to call right away.” I received that message from my daughter at 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, 2006. In the coming hours as we tried in vain to wrap our minds around what had been unthinkable, all we could do was fall to our knees in sorrow, prayer and worship. Among the songs we sang in chapel that night, one made such an impact on my heart that it was years before I could sing its refrain without weeping. You give and take away.

Five members of our Taylor University community were gone. And as we began to grapple with the weight of this tragedy, it occurred to me that if the sorrow we felt could be so deep and so profound for us, how must it be for the families?

So much has happened since that night. Some of it has been difficult – other beloved members of our Taylor community have gone to be with the Lord since that day. Yet, in spite of the sorrow, we have experienced God’s faithfulness in countless ways. In this issue of Taylor, we celebrate the legacy of our beloved President and First Lady, Gene and Marylou (Napolitano ’68) Habecker ’68. As we give thanks to God for the 11 years they served in our midst, we also welcome our next First Couple, Lowell and Sherry (Korfmacher ’76) Haines ’75.

And we remember April 26, 2006. It was a sacred privilege to speak with each of the families whose loved ones went to be with the Lord 10 years ago, and to be trusted with their stories. Those accounts are also included in this issue of Taylor.

Thank you for walking with us.

In hope,

James R. Garringer H’15
Editor
Lowell and Sherry Haines in their Indianapolis, Ind., home with their dogs Arlo and Mac.
A HAINES HOMECOMING

Alumnus, lawyer, and longtime Board of Trustees member Lowell Haines ’75 has been named President-Elect of Taylor University. Haines’ selection came after a nationwide search conducted by Taylor’s Board with assistance from Carter-Baldwin Executive Search in Atlanta, Georgia. He will officially begin his duties on June 1, filling the post being vacated by Dr. Eugene B. Habecker ’68.

The Haineses were presented to the campus community during a special meeting on January 21 by members of the Board of Trustees. “As a Board, we sought a candidate who combined exemplary experience in higher education and a belief in the mission of Taylor University with a strong desire to impact the next generation of student leaders,” said the late Dr. Wellington Chiu ’74, Taylor’s Board Chairman. “Working with Lowell on the Board has given all of us the opportunity to recognize his gifts and passion. We believe he not only will be able to lead Taylor University in an exceptional way, but he will also provide an important link and continuity to the outstanding accomplishments of Dr. Habecker.”

“The Taylor Presidency was not something I was actively seeking,” Haines noted. “In fact, I was committed to assisting the Board and the Presidential Search Committee in identifying God’s person for this responsibility. It was not until we learned that we had been nominated for the position by several individuals that we determined, after much prayer and seeking God’s will for our lives, to submit our materials.

“During the process it became increasingly clear to Sherry and me that God was leading us in this direction, and today we know, without any doubt, that we are in the cross-hairs of His will for our lives,” he continued. “That is a great place to start a new role like this, and we are humbled and grateful that the Lord has led us to this new challenge.”

Haines holds a Master’s Degree in Student Personnel Administration and served the first 10 years of his professional career at Taylor, first as a Residence Hall Director, later as Director of Student Programs, then as Dean of Students, and eventually as Vice President for Student Development. He left Taylor in 1987 to attend law school at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, and for the past 25 years Haines has served at one of the nation’s largest law firms, Indianapolis-based Faegre Baker Daniels. There, he specialized in the needs of the nation’s colleges and universities, churches, faith-based organizations, private foundations, museums, and many other nonprofit organizations, and served as Practice Group Leader of the firm’s Nonprofit Organizations Practice. Haines is currently completing his doctorate in Higher Education Management at the University of Pennsylvania.

“It is a wonderful privilege to return to Taylor University,” said Haines. “Sherry and I met on this campus, spent the early years of our marriage here, and were grateful when our daughter Hannah ’11 decided to attend Taylor. We flat out love Taylor and its people! It is a special, unique place where young women and men receive not only a world-class education, but are shaped for the rest of their lives to make an impact on this world for Christ.”

Sherry Haines is an artist and art teacher. She has spent 35 years teaching in public and private schools, the last 18 at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis.

“Marylou and I celebrate this new opportunity for Lowell and Sherry,” said Habecker. “During the years of our presidency, and even long before that period, Lowell served with distinction as a tireless advocate for Taylor University. He has been a strong, winsome voice for the larger spectrum of Christian higher education in this country. Marylou and I are praying with thanksgiving for Lowell and Sherry as they join the Taylor community, and we are certain that our students, faculty and staff will embrace them and love them. Our prayer is that they will enjoy a rich, fulfilling time of service here at Taylor.”

The Haineses were presented to the campus community during a special meeting on January 21 by members of the Board of Trustees. “As a Board, we sought a candidate who combined exemplary experience in higher education and a belief in the mission of Taylor University with a strong desire to impact the next generation of student leaders,” said the late Dr. Wellington Chiu ’74, Taylor’s Board Chairman. “Working with Lowell on the Board has given all of us the opportunity to recognize his gifts and passion. We believe he not only will be able to lead Taylor University in an exceptional way, but he will also provide an important link and continuity to the outstanding accomplishments of Dr. Habecker.”

“The Taylor Presidency was not something I was actively seeking,” Haines noted. “In fact, I was committed to assisting the Board and the Presidential Search Committee in identifying God’s person for this responsibility. It was not until we learned that we had been nominated for the position by several individuals that we determined, after much prayer and seeking God’s will for our lives, to submit our materials.

“During the process it became increasingly clear to Sherry and me that God was leading us in this direction, and today we know, without any doubt, that we are in the cross-hairs of His will for our lives,” he continued. “That is a great place to start a new role like this, and we are humbled and grateful that the Lord has led us to this new challenge.”

Haines holds a Master’s Degree in Student Personnel Administration and served the first 10 years of his professional career at Taylor, first as a Residence Hall Director, later as Director of Student Programs, then as Dean of Students, and eventually as Vice President for Student Development. He left Taylor in 1987 to attend law school at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, and for the past 25 years Haines has served at one of the nation’s largest law firms, Indianapolis-based Faegre Baker Daniels. There, he specialized in the needs of the nation’s colleges and universities, churches, faith-based organizations, private foundations, museums, and many other nonprofit organizations, and served as Practice Group Leader of the firm’s Nonprofit Organizations Practice. Haines is currently completing his doctorate in Higher Education Management at the University of Pennsylvania.

“It is a wonderful privilege to return to Taylor University,” said Haines. “Sherry and I met on this campus, spent the early years of our marriage here, and were grateful when our daughter Hannah ’11 decided to attend Taylor. We flat out love Taylor and its people! It is a special, unique place where young women and men receive not only a world-class education, but are shaped for the rest of their lives to make an impact on this world for Christ.”

Sherry Haines is an artist and art teacher. She has spent 35 years teaching in public and private schools, the last 18 at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis.

“Marylou and I celebrate this new opportunity for Lowell and Sherry,” said Habecker. “During the years of our presidency, and even long before that period, Lowell served with distinction as a tireless advocate for Taylor University. He has been a strong, winsome voice for the larger spectrum of Christian higher education in this country. Marylou and I are praying with thanksgiving for Lowell and Sherry as they join the Taylor community, and we are certain that our students, faculty and staff will embrace them and love them. Our prayer is that they will enjoy a rich, fulfilling time of service here at Taylor.”
Taylor Officials Announce University Program Review Results

Taylor University officials have announced their findings and recommendations after a nearly two-year University Program Review (UPR).

“As it is with every generation, the needs of future generations of Christ followers are subject to change. Taylor University has been an institution that has consistently endeavored to stay on the leading edge of those needs,” said Taylor University’s President, Dr. Eugene B. Habecker.

“The University Program Review was a proactive, strategic effort that

called upon members of our Taylor community - faculty and staff - to assess how activities and programs fit Taylor University’s larger mission, along with the long-term viability of those programs,” said Habecker. “It is unique that this effort was initiated while Taylor University has enjoyed a prolonged period of vitality and financial health. This is an exercise of good stewardship, intended to produce a stronger and more vital university, which will be to the long-term benefit of our students, faculty and staff.”

“In order to remain mission-focused and economically vibrant, the University Program Review (UPR) was initiated with the goal of reviewing every program at Taylor University,” said the final report, released in February. Through this process the university has identified over $1.5 million in resources that will be reinvested into program enhancements, along with budget savings of over $1.8 million.

The Academic Stewardship Task Force, as part of the UPR, began its work in the fall of 2014 to design a process to review every academic instructional program and academic support program. The goal was to create recommendations as to which programs should be strengthened, reconfigured, or phased out. The results of this process do not end with the recommendations set forth in the current report, but will also be linked to the development next year of a long-range strategic plan connected to the recently Board-approved Strategic Directions 2026 document.

Taylor officials say the majors that will be phased out include Geography, International Business, Political Science, Developmental Economics, and Economics. Elements of these programs will be incorporated into other existing programs and majors. Students currently studying in these programs will be able to complete their degree requirements at Taylor, with every effort being made to minimize the impact on their experience.

“These kinds of efforts are always difficult, especially for a place like Taylor,” said Habecker. “Saying ‘no’ to the continuing of certain programs is always hard. And knowing that these changes will impact people makes those decisions even more difficult, which is why we attempted to identify retirements and normal attrition to reduce budgeted positions. As we continue in the directions identified by Strategic Directions 2026, combined with the information uncovered through the UPR process, our hope is that the clear impact, taken together, will be an enhanced university of even higher quality, in the service of our mission of Christian higher education.”

6
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.

@CJComarynsky It’s been 9 months and still the biggest culture shock after graduating from @tayloru is seeing people’s surprise when you hold a door open.

@philmadeira @tayloru I’m excited to hear of my dear friend Lowell Haines being elected as TU’s next president! How wonderful! Jeremiah 29:11

@tayloru Why do boys stick stones up their nose? Why do they throw stones down a well? I don’t know. They’re boys.” Jay Kesler in chapel.

@LeHeath Went to a random church in Nashville, saw people from @tayloru and the topic was “life together.” #nocoincidences #smallworld

FIND US ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM WITH THE HASHTAG #TAYLORU
FACULTY PURSUITS INCLUDE CONSULTATION, PRESENTATIONS, WRITING, INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

DR. BOB ARONSON (Public Health) co-authored an article: Does Neighborhood Risk Explain Racial Disparities in Low Birth Weight Among Infants Born to Adolescent Mothers? It will be published by the Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology.


DRS. MATT DELONG and MARK COLGAN (Mathematics) published Simple and Sustainable Faculty Development Initiatives that Promote Collaboration Among All Faculty Members in AAMA-TYC Educator.

DR. JON DENNING (Computer Science and Engineering) published a paper in ACM Transactions on Graphics and presented another paper at SIGGRAPH (world premiere computer graphics conference). He also acted as a consultant for a Chicago art education company’s programming project and began a research study to help understand student programmer workflows.

DR. BRIAN DEWAR (Biology), two Taylor students, and collaborators from Des Moines University, Freed-Hardeman University, and Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine, presented Loss of the Nutrient Sensor Tas1R3 Leads to Reduced Bone Resorption at the poster session at the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research conference in October.

PROFESSOR RENATA KANTARUK (ESL) and student ABBI CONLEY ’16 received funding from Indiana Campus Compact for ESL programs. Kantaruk works with adults and preschool children in Marion, Ind., and Conley, an International Studies major, is the student leader for the ESL program at Frances Slocum Elementary School in Marion.

DRS. DAN KING (Chemistry) and ERIK HAYES (Kinesiology) along with six Taylor students, published The Effects of Acute Exercise and Meat Fasting/Feasting on Urinary 3-methylhistidine by Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry in the Journal of Undergraduate Chemistry Research.

DR. KEN KIERS (Physics and Engineering) traveled to Buenos Aires to work with research collaborators.

DR. RACHEL SMITH (Art) served as curator and project director for Between the Shadow and the Light, an exhibition from the R5 Visual Arts Seminar and Studio in South Africa including the work of 21 North American and African artists. The exhibition will travel to 12-15 venues across North America for the next three years.

DR. HANK VOSS (Physics and Engineering), BILL CHAPMAN (Computer Science and Engineering), and BILL BAUSON (Physics and Engineering) presented papers at the American Society for Engineering Education national conference.
Surrounded by the architecture and ornate majesty of the Church of Gesu in Rome, Italy, the words of Psalm 46, “I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth,” acquired new meaning for Natalie Nohr ’19.

“As I let the words sink in, I knew that the Lord was not simply ‘requesting’ my stillness. Rather he was demanding my stillness in the presence of His glory,” Nohr said. “The same glory that has been revealed from generation to generation across the globe.”

Nohr was one of nearly 300 Taylor students who spent this year’s January Term (J-Term) in international study and service in locations that included The Bahamas, Belize, China, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Israel, Italy, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Southeast Asia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

“Just as God’s glory remains constant wherever my steps fall, the human condition – our skin and muscle, blood, bone and beating heart – remain the same no matter the country,” Nohr said. “We may speak, think and communicate differently, yet each of us is human.”

But for four students, the month of January was not capped with the excitement of discovery, but disappointment. A trip to Turkey sponsored by Taylor University’s Department of Biblical Studies, Christian Education and Philosophy (BSCEP) was cancelled after a terrorist bombing in the city of Istanbul killed 10 people. The trip was to have been the pinnacle of a J-Term class studying the New Testament Book of Revelation.

Dr. Michael Harbin, Professor of Biblical Studies at Taylor and the course’s professor, said the Turkey trip has taken place each January since 2009. He added that while the group would have been in Istanbul for only a few days, they would have spent time in or near Sultanahmet Square, the site of the January 12 blast. “The trip participants were all extremely disappointed, but understood the reason for the decision,” he said, adding they hope to reschedule the trip next year.

“My first reaction was care for the people of Turkey,” said Briana Wozniak ’18, one of the students scheduled to go to Turkey. “From learning about the country and culture, I had really looked forward to going there. My heart went out for Turkey. I was in awe of God that everything was orchestrated the way it was. If it had happened a few days later we would have been in that exact spot.”

Taylor officials said each trip takes place only after consultations with associates in destination cities and countries, review of U.S. State Department reports and advisories as well as news accounts, and evaluation of past experiences.

“The opportunity to travel to international locations for studies, interaction with the people there, and the broadening of perspectives has been a hallmark of the Taylor educational experience for many years,” said Dr. Jeff Moshier, Taylor’s Provost. “While those experiences are life-changing for our students and faculty, their safety is always our first concern.”
“WE HAD ONE GOAL – WIN.”
AS THE TEAMS WALKED OFF THE FLOOR, THE STUNNED COACH OF AN NCAA DIVISION II SCHOOL, STILL TRYING TO WRAP HIS MIND AROUND A LOSS TO “TINY” TAYLOR UNIVERSITY, TOLD THE TROJANS’ HALL OF FAME COACH PAUL PATTERSON, “YOU DON’T HAVE A SINGLE GUY WHO WOULD BE IN MY TOP EIGHT.”

Patterson’s reply was priceless. “Do you want to play again?”

It’s been 25 years since Patterson’s Trojans made a historic run to the NAIA’s Final Four in Kansas City’s cavernous Kemper Arena. The team, a mix of seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshmen, rolled to a school record 34-4 – beating a number of “bigger” opponents with a versatile, patient offense, tough defense, and unselfish play.

“The chemistry of the team was incredible,” remembers Ty Platt ’92, the starting center 25 years ago. Platt still makes regular trips to Odle Arena, but today he sits at the other end of the bench as coach of Crossroads League rival Huntington. “We were all very close friends who rooted hard for each other,” he said. “We had one goal – win. Nobody really cared who got the credit or limelight. We expected to win each time we took the court. Off the court, we had a lot of fun and looked out for each other, pushing each other to be an example of a Christian and a player who was about more than just scoring points or getting rebounds.”

The ninth-seeded Trojans rolled through the former District 21 tournament to advance to Kansas City. There, they defeated Francis Marion of South Carolina 68-47 and Northern State of South Dakota 60-59 in the first two rounds, setting up an Elite Eight date with top-ranked Wisconsin Eau Claire, the previous season’s national runner-up. In a game that see-sawed back and forth, Taylor finally pulled away for a seven-point win. Their season came to an end at the hands of Central Arkansas, a school whose most notable basketball alumnus was Chicago Bulls forward Scott Pippen.

Dale Miller ’91, a starting forward on the team and member of Taylor’s Athletic Hall of Fame, shared a story about a preseason conditioning drill on the track when he was lapped not once, but twice by teammate and fellow Hall of Fame Member David Wayne ’92. “Because of the conditioning Coach Patterson put us through, in the second half, we would still be going at a high level as those other teams dropped off,” Miller said. “It was a tribute to Christ. You knew you were going to win but you had to play the game out – that was an attitude we had.”

“All throughout my basketball career, my faith was challenged,” remembered Rod Chandler ’91. “Coach Patterson did a great job challenging us with that each day. He took trials and tough times and related them to life - Christian principles applied to the game of basketball and the game of life. He said, ‘One day it will be your job or your family, and you will be faced with this adversity’ The Final Four run was a combination of those lessons learned.”

“The athletic world needed to see Christian men compete at a high level and do it on their terms,” said Patterson. “I’m thankful for the guys God sent into my life. We always said, ‘God speaks to us in the things we love to do,’ … I was proud of those guys. They were good for each other in ways that went beyond basketball.”

STILL 10-FEET HIGH David Wayne shoots the first of two free throws in Kansas City’s Kemper Arena. He missed the first, but hit the second to send the Trojans to a win over Northern State of South Dakota.
“Conservatives are evil.” “Liberals are stupid.” These are the sorts of alienating subtexts often implied in contemporary American public discourse. Our airwaves are filled with sound bites of people denigrating others and dismissing out-of-hand the claims of those with whom they disagree. The way our society talks to one other and the way we portray those with whom we disagree is often far from exhibiting a genuine quest to understand the other. Instead, sadly, the tendency is to define those of differing opinions or worldviews as morally or intellectually inferior.

And we, as Christians, are not immune. While a prophetic ministry has always been part of the vocation of the people of God, the shrill, reactionary, and fear-based rhetoric sometimes employed by Christians suggests that we may not be taking the time to genuinely engage others in a way that seeks first to understand rather than to be understood. It is easy to forget that the people with whom we disagree are real people too, people who are created in the image of God, people for whom Christ died, people who have often come to their conclusions because of life experiences different than our own, and people with whom we share a common humanity.

As Christians, we believe in a God who became flesh in Jesus of Nazareth, who dwelt among us, who touched us and was touched by us. We believe in a God who did not keep himself separate from the hurt, pain, and evil of the world, but took all of those upon himself in the person of Jesus Christ. We serve a God who did not shrink back from the world in fear, but
If we are first and foremost interested in policing boundaries rather than pointing toward Jesus we lose the means by which to discern the relative importance of the beliefs and convictions we hold.

opened himself to the world in vulnerability. Of all people, we as Christians should be those most open to gracious dialogue and genuine encounter.

from a posture of devoutly held convictions, we as Christians should be those most open to gracious dialogue and genuine encounter.

In my theology classes here at Taylor, I challenge my students to engage in centered-set rather than bounded-set thinking. I encourage them to hold more tightly to those beliefs that are central to the historic Christian faith - the Trinity, the deity and humanity of Jesus, the inspiration of the Scriptures, salvation through Christ alone, and the community of faith - while holding more loosely those beliefs that are at the margins. I try to model for them the epistemological humility that comes from remembering that we are fallible creatures and the grace that comes from recognizing that none of us has the “corner market” on proper interpretation. At Taylor, we hold a diversity of convictions on peripheral issues while uniting around the One who is the Truth.

As I explain to my students, if we are first and foremost interested in policing boundaries rather than pointing toward Jesus we lose the means by which to discern the relative importance of the beliefs and convictions we hold. A major problem with this way of constructing Christian belief is that it pushes many questioners to the fringes and makes them doubt their entire faith if they question a piece of it. It prolongs immaturity rather than encouraging a healthy and whole path toward critical thinking. It creates Christian adolescents rather than mature women and men of God.

In a world where party lines are being drawn and policed with increasing vigor, Taylor University has the opportunity to be a place of centered openness that resists the shrill caricatures of the “other” advanced by those on both the right and the left. Taylor was founded as a Methodist institution committed to both sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and advancing responsible social engagement. By way of example, from its earliest days the institution was committed to proclamation of the Gospel, education of women, and engagement with those from other cultures. While the latter two focuses could now be read in potentially paternalistic ways, this historical snapshot nevertheless gives a picture of an educational institution ahead of its time. Taylor has always been a college that is Christ-centered and open to the “other.”

As we engage with the important debates surrounding human sexuality, ethnicity and gender, environment and society, human life issues, war, the roles of religion and government, immigration, education and employment, and a host of other issues, Taylor can be (and is) a place that should (and does) hold particular core convictions. Taylor should also be (and is) a place where a diversity of opinions is welcomed and where many of these subjects are debated. Having theological and institutional commitments need not mean shutting down critical inquiry. We don’t display genuine conviction by demonizing those with whom we disagree. Being open to each other as Christ is open to us means that we must be open to the vulnerability that comes from loving our neighbors as ourselves.

My hope is that, in a cultural milieu often marked by shouting and belittling, Taylor, her students, her faculty, her administrators, her alumni, and her supporters might model for our society the gracious way that people of goodwill can interact with one another. As Catholic archbishop Marco Antonio de Dominis stated in 1671: “In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity.” May this posture mark our lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

DR. ANDREW DRAPER ’00 serves as Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology and is Director of the Honors Guild.
A PRIVATE MOMENT Gene and MaryLou Habecker’s eyes meet during their Taylor presidential inauguration ceremony on April 18, 2006.
Eleven years ago, as Taylor’s newly-announced President and First Lady Gene and Marylou (Napolitano ’68) Habecker ’68 toured the president’s home on the campus’s edge, they saw the kitchen, living areas, and bedrooms – all were very nice. But they did have one question. “Where is the sidewalk?” The Habeckers wanted students to come to their home so they could spend time together, have a wing event or Bible study, use the kitchen, or just have a place to get away from the pressures of college life. And it would not do to have them walk in the street. There needed to be a sidewalk.

“When we came, the students were going to be a huge focus ... we wanted to make it a campus home where people could receive hospitality, be welcomed and fed, and be warmed in heart and soul, and mind,” remembered Marylou. “We thought all we needed was a little footpath with some stones on it. We came back after two or three weeks, and here was this wide cement sidewalk, which was above and beyond exciting.”

Above and beyond exciting. It started with that sidewalk. Now as one walks through the campus, the changes are everywhere. Start at the front entrance. Gone is the plain, white monolithic Taylor sign that stood at the entryway for more than 40 years. In its place rose two brick structures forming a gateway into the university. Turning left, or south, on Vayhinger Circle, known best as the campus loop, you cannot miss the Euler Science...
During the Habeckers’ service, Taylor has been ranked the number one Midwest University in the category Best Regional Colleges in the U.S. News & World Report survey America’s Best Colleges for the past nine years. Numerous programs either strengthening or creating enhanced overseas studies, missions computing, Scripture engagement, and the literature of C.S. Lewis and friends have created new opportunities for students. Beyond those, unprecedented efforts to diversify Taylor’s faculty, staff and student body were undertaken - all with the goal of creating a truly mosaic community at Taylor.

The campus also benefited from extensive campus beautification and landscaping efforts. And for the past two years, faculty and administrators worked together to create Strategic Directions 2026 – a document outlining future goals for Taylor University. And at the very center of all of it, the Habeckers say, was the prayerful desire to benefit current and future generations of Taylor students.

“The clear sense of calling that Marylou and I had was not to just come back to Taylor, but to invest in the lives of the next generation of global Kingdom of God leaders – young men and women who are Christ followers, serious about academic pursuit, marked with a passion to share the love and truth of Jesus Christ to a world in need,” Gene said. “One of the best ways we felt we could do that was having students in our home. That became a priority right from the very beginning. I don’t know how many students have been in our home, but since the great room was added (in 2010), a conservative estimate would be 15,000-plus. We had a lot of students prior to that, as well as faculty and staff in our home. Our home became not just our home, but a way to get to know people and to share our love and interest and commitment to them.”

Interest and commitment. Marylou remembered an orchid farm where she observed the incredible attention paid to each flower before it was ever planted, and how that concept connected with the work she, Gene and others have done at Taylor. “Taylor is this amazing place that we’ve always felt has this combination of beautiful soil that is rich and the pillars we stand on are Christ-centered,” she said. “All of those together are mixed in love, which is God’s love, and together we’re trying to grow. The roots are getting deeper and deeper.

“That’s why you never look at a freshman as, ‘just a freshman’” she continued. “I want to look in their eyes and say, ‘So, you may be the next Supreme Court justice, or a mother of an amazing little boy with impaired abilities.’ You don’t know what each person is going to do. We are all called to be here, it goes back to that calling. I love finding out the stories of ‘How did you get here?’ because they are all so different.”

(Story continues on page 23)
"YOU ARE NEVER PREPARED FOR A JOB LIKE THIS, BUT I THINK THERE HAD BEEN ENOUGH THINGS THAT HAD HAPPENED IN OUR PAST AND IN OUR PRESIDENCIES THAT HAD ENABLED US TO FALL ON OUR KNEES ... AND ASK TOTALLY FOR GOD’S HELP AND TO RECEIVE IT, AND TO DO IT TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY."

Praying, weeping, shock, dismay, unthinkable, love, God’s faithfulness, and blessings and thankfulness, and we experienced hope. As Marylou thought about the final weeks of their presidency at Taylor, she wrote down words that reflected some of their memories of the past 11 years. “One of the things we were asked when we first came was, ‘What are you looking forward to in coming back to Taylor?’ It was that we could do it together,” she said. “It wasn’t necessarily he and I, but the whole community, and we were doing it together. Whatever God has called us to do, we would do it together.”

Together. Gene called the 2006 van accident one of Taylor University’s defining moments – it was a time when he saw the Taylor community in crisis as they joined together to respond to loss in faith and transparency. “The pain is still deep. The hurt is still there,” he said. “We knew most of those students. They volunteered for that service as a gesture to Marylou and me to welcome us to Taylor University.

“At the same time, we had to walk through this valley with our students,” Gene added. “Jay Kesler ’58 was an incredible source of comfort to me. He walked beside me on that journey in incredible, comforting ways. The Lord totally had to be our strength.”

What God has called you to do. The Habeckers say their plans for the future are fluid. They are retiring from Taylor, but still plan an active life of travel, service, consulting, learning Spanish, and reconnecting with family who have patiently waited in the wings for “their turn,” as Marylou put it.

Reflecting on his presidency, Gene told the story of King David from 1 Samuel in the Old Testament. David had recognized his position of authority was not for his own purposes, but for the good of the people. “I’m most grateful for the quality faculty, staff and students God has provided for this place. They are an incredible treasure that we have felt a significant stewardship responsibility for,” he said. “The president never completes everything that needs to be done. There is always more to do, but I am really encouraged by Jesus’ words in John 17 when he says, ‘Father, I have completed everything you have given me to do.’”

“It is my prayer that when we look back 10 years from now we will see a Taylor that reflects even more of God’s heart and God’s agenda than it does in 2016 – that spiritual vibrancy that we are known for will become even more brilliant,” Gene continued.

“You are never prepared for a job like this, but I think there had been enough things that had happened in our past and in our presidencies that had enabled us to fall on our knees ... and ask totally for God’s help and to receive it, and to do it together as a community,” Marylou said.

“When I was young, I always wanted to marry a lawyer and have a house with a white picket fence and have a couple of kids and stay put. I got the lawyer part,” Marylou said with a laugh. “So it was like God said, ‘Let me just show you what I can do if you’ll let me have your life.’

“There is a Kierkegaard quote, ‘It’s good once and a while to be in a town wandering around where you don’t know the way out.’” She added. “We know who we are following and just holding his hand.”
AN INCREDIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF LOVE
Brad Larson ‘06 planned to go to law school after he graduated from Taylor. Betsy Smith ‘06 looked forward to living in Marion after her impending graduation, where she could be close to the children she had met at ReaLife. Laurel Erb ‘06 was a sophomore art student who saw God’s creative beauty in something as simple as an ice cube. While many say they can love others unconditionally, Taylor senior Laura Van Ryn ‘06 really did. And dining services staff member Monica Felver loved Taylor’s athletes – so much so, when they came through her lunch line, they got a candy bar if they were playing well. And if they weren’t playing so well? Their “reward” was a sucker.

“I am loving life right now … I go to bed each night wondering if it would be possible for my life to be more enjoyable.”

BRAD LARSON’S JOURNAL, DATED FEBRUARY 2006.
THE ACCIDENT.

Even after 10 years, those two words can transport one back to that Wednesday night, April 26, 2006, when a northbound semitrailer rig crossed the median of I-69 and struck a southbound Taylor University van carrying nine people. Brad, Betsy, Laurel, Laura and Monica died in the crash. Dining services staff members Vickie Rhodes, Connie Magers and Michelle Miller, and a freshman student Whitney (Cerak ’09) Wheeler suffered serious injuries. The group was on their way back to Upland from Taylor’s former Fort Wayne campus, where they had prepared for a banquet connected with the impending inauguration of Dr. Eugene B. Habecker ’68 as Taylor’s president.

THE MISIDENTIFICATION.

Whitney Wheeler suffered broken bones and a traumatic brain injury in the crash. When emergency workers arrived at the scene, she was transported – with Laura Van Ryn’s identification, which had been found on the ground nearby – to the hospital. The quick action probably saved her life, but in the coming hours, the belief grew that Laura, who like Whitney was blonde with similar features, had survived and Whitney had died.

Bandaged and lapsing in and out of consciousness, Whitney was cared for by the Van Ryn family for more than a month until it became increasingly evident there had been a mix-up. She returned to campus that August – four months to the day after the accident – and continued occupational and physical therapy for a year-and-a-half. Whitney graduated with her 2009 class and was married a year later. Today, she and her husband Matt are the parents of three small children.

A FEW DAYS AFTER THE ACCIDENT, SOME STUDENTS AND FACULTY ERECTED A DISPLAY OF FIVE CROSSES TO MARK THE SITE.
Zachary, the couple’s oldest child, will turn four in April. Whitney says Zachary’s name was chosen because of its meaning: the Lord remembers you.

A few days after the accident, some students and faculty erected a display of five crosses to mark the site. Ten years later, the crosses are still there, just south of the 266 mile marker, along the fence row where the Taylor van came to rest. Sadly, perhaps inevitably, the tragedy of April 26, 2006, was not the last one to impact the Taylor community. In the past 10 years, nine additional faculty and/or staff members and three students have died. April 26, a day originally set aside to remember those lost in the 2006 accident, has since become a day to recognize and honor the lives of everyone whose earthly journeys came to an end while at Taylor as a student or employee.

“When you lose a child, your life is never the same,” Brad Larson’s mother Sherry shared. “Recently, we had lunch with our son Jeff ’02 and two of his children, and our daughter Dawn (Larson ’04). I could not help but wonder what would it be like if Brad were with us. He would have brought his sweet wife and kids. That is what our life is like now. It’s joy mixed with sadness. As often as we get together, as sweet as it is, our Bradley is not with us.”

In the aftermath of the crash as families made the sad journey to campus to pick up their loved ones’ belongings, Sherry and David Larson discovered their son’s prayer journals and diaries - writings in which he described a growth in his faith greater than anything they could have imagined. Today, many of those writings are contained in the book they published titled Brad’s Legacy: A Son’s Heart Discovered. “We obviously know where Brad is, and that we will see him in the blink of an eye and that we will be with him forever,” David said. “There is no question that the whole experience has deepened our faith to see how the Lord has worked through us and in us to bring us closer to him in ways that were unimaginable before we went through our loss. We’ve seen the Lord do some amazing things.”

For months after the crash, Monica Felver’s husband Glenn left her jeans and nightgown untouched. Even though he knew she was gone, moving them from where she’d left them on that last day of her life was too painful. “It’s not the first time in my life I lost to another man, but this time I lost to the Best Man. God took her home,” Glenn reflected. “When you say 10 years, it doesn’t seem like it was 10 years. It still rips your insides out.”

“I don’t think Dan and I would have made it – individually or as a couple – unless we had the Lord,” she continued. “The (divorce) statistics are so high for couples who have lost a child. We talked about that less than a day after Betsy’s death. We praise the Lord every day that our relationship is stronger than ever.”

Jeanie Smith admits there have been days when grief has rendered the simplest of things, like purchasing lipstick at the local Walgreen’s, nearly impossible. Once, a flood of sorrow was triggered when she noticed some stationery adorned with cats. Betsy loved cats. “It’s unfathomable when you are confronted by grief like that. It takes the mind a long time to find a place to put that,” she related. “It’s a club you never want to belong to. All you have to say is, ‘I’ve lost a child,’ and there are immediately hugs.

“Even though it has been tragic and life-changing, there has been a lot of good that has come out of Betsy’s death,” Jeanie’s husband Dan said. “That understanding comes from the Scriptures. We have heard of lives that have been changed and many people who have come to know Christ – people whose lives have been completely turned around after they heard about the accident, heard about Betsy, and our family. I just praise God for the healing process ... without our faith as a
There is no question that the whole experience has deepened our faith to see how the Lord has worked through us and in us to bring us closer to him in ways that were unimaginable before we went through our loss.

Laura Van Ryn’s parents Don and Susan ’74 shared how God has given them new opportunities for ministry at Upper Peninsula Bible Camp (UPBC) in Skandia, Mich., in the past 10 years. “Laura opened her heart to the Lord at UPBC,” the couple said, also in an email message. “God has given us the unique opportunity for us to come alongside others who have lost children. Because of the circumstances of the mistaken identity, we have had multiple occasions to share God’s story with individuals, as well as in small and large group settings.”

“We have always found God to be there in those times,” they continued. “God has touched us and changed us. As a result, each member of our immediate family has been altered according to his design and direction. Above all, he continually offers us the promise of hope—the hope that is made clear in his word, in his teachings, in his promises, and in the beauty of his handiwork all about us. We know that he has not abandoned us, that he has plans for us, plans to prosper us and not cause us harm, plans that offer not only hope but also a future.”

Scripture tells us that every word of God is true,” they added. “His character does not allow for anything but total faithfulness to that Word and in turn, to us as believers in Jesus Christ. We have found that modeling our faith (which comes from him) has made a huge impact on others, especially young believers. We encourage all believers to stay strong in their faith because it will make a difference in your family and your other many contacts.”

Laura Van Ryn’s parents Don and Susan ’74 shared how God has given them new opportunities for ministry at Upper Peninsula Bible Camp (UPBC) in Skandia, Mich., in the past 10 years. “Laura opened her heart to the Lord at UPBC,” the couple said, also in an email message. “God has given us the unique opportunity for us to come alongside others who have lost children. Because of the circumstances of the mistaken identity, we have had multiple occasions to share God’s story with individuals, as well as in small and large group settings.”

“As Whitney Wheeler has begun to speak publicly about her experience, her emphasis has been on God’s faithfulness. ‘I have been reading stories in the Bible and it’s interesting that God picks the lowliest and the weakest,” Whitney said. “Moses and David didn’t think what God called them to do was possible, but God was the one who said, ‘No, I want you.’ I felt like I was the least equipped ... God has shown so much strength in the last 10 years of my life - things that I never thought were possible.”

“This wasn’t about us. It was about all of these families and we never forget we were the lucky ones in this situation,” related Whitney’s mother Colleen (Frank ’80) Cerak. “But these families live with the loss of someone special. Because of the mistaken identity, our names came to the forefront, but it was always about the other families.”

“If I could just give one word picture, it was the love of Christ at work throughout our immediate family, our community, the local church and the Taylor family,” Dan Smith said. “It has been an incredible demonstration of God’s love for his children.”
EASING SORROW
RENEWING HOPE

The village of Ghyangphedi is like a scene from National Geographic. Nestled among the world’s highest mountains against a backdrop of towering Himalayan waterfalls, Ghyangphedi is a tourist’s paradise. With roundtrip airfare from the United States to Nepal averaging $1,100, and the cost of touring only $16-20 a day, millions of people are drawn each year to the mountain nation for climbing, hiking, cycling, and sightseeing.
THE LOCALS ONCE CALLED THE REGION “LALIGAU” – A WORD MEANING SORROW, DREAD AND LOSS – BECAUSE TRAFFICKERS USED TO COME THERE TO PURCHASE GIRLS.
Ghyangphedi has very little in common with Upland, Indiana, a town that got its name because it was once the highest point on the railroad. Yet, it is to Ghyangphedi that Stephen Groves ’10 sensed God’s call. There, he went to work for Five14, a relatively new business whose goal is to attract Ghyangphedi’s share of Nepal’s massive tourist industry. But Groves and Five14’s work goes beyond tourism – they work to combat the scourge of human trafficking.

The locals once called the region “Laligau” – a word meaning sorrow, dread and loss – because traffickers used to come there to purchase girls. The statistics Five14 provides are disturbing. Anywhere from 12,000 to 15,000 women and girls are sold into slavery each year throughout the nation of Nepal. Generations of families labor in conditions that range from factory work to prostitution with no hope of ever escaping. The U.S. Department of State calls Nepal “a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor.”

“I started to become aware of trafficking while I was at Taylor and how we can be a part of stopping it,” Groves said. “Before, I didn’t know much about it, or that it was such a widespread problem. But through speakers and events (encountered at Taylor), I became aware of it, and that people were doing incredible work to stop it.”

Five14 combats trafficking through economic development, governmental engagement, and enhancing educational opportunities for the residents of Ghyangphedi – women and girls who are educated are significantly less likely to be drawn into the snare of the trafficker. As Five14’s work began to show fruit, entire villages united to stop traffickers from entering, declaring themselves, “trafficking free zones.” New businesses opened, and it seemed increasingly hopeful that Five14 was achieving its goal. Then on April 25, 2015, a massive 7.8 earthquake slammed the region. In the initial disaster and during more than 300 aftershocks that devastated the region, thousands died in building collapses and mudslides.

In the earthquake’s aftermath, Groves and Five14 redirected their mission to support relief efforts, funneling first aid supplies, water filtration units, rice, beans, soap, oil and tarps to Ghyangphedi and her survivors.

“After the earthquake, I traveled to the villages where we work, and what I witnessed was very difficult. The people there have lost everything. Because their homes are made of stones and mud, they had no chance of withstanding the earthquake,” Groves said. “They were lost and had no idea how to move forward. They had little shelter and had lost most of their food stores when they were buried under their houses. Many people also lost family members.”

Nearly a year later, Five14 now works to reestablish the tourism industry in Ghyangphedi. A visit to the Five14 website (www.five14nepal.com) shows only three of 35 trekking routes were affected and 65 of the nation’s 75 districts are intact. Now, 90 percent of the highways are open and all of the nation’s airports are operational. Groves said every 10 tourists to journey to Ghyangphedi provide the funds to rebuild one house.

“My four years at Taylor changed me in so many ways,” Groves said. “It really acted as a springboard for the rest of my life, particularly in helping me define my role as a Christian in this world. The lessons and ideas that are discussed on campus – whether in class, with my dorm-mates, in chapel, or in small groups – served as inspiration to challenge the status quo, trust God with my life, and that with God all things are possible.

“When I entered Taylor, I had a desire to serve God, but through the years I spent there, that desire took on a greater depth and richness,” he adds. “I realized the incredible call God has put on his church – whether it is in ministry, in a professional setting, in our families, or in our community – we are invited to join him in the work of redemption and the realization of his love and salvation.”
MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS THAN JESUS’ BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.” Heather Stedt, Laura Kaufman, and Sam Davies warm up in the renovated Rediger Chapel/Auditorium. The beloved facility got new seats, lighting, and a sound system as part of the LaRita Boren Campus Center construction project. The rest of the facility will open and be dedicated in April.
2001

Sam Hartman and his wife Holly celebrated the Grand Opening of their new Chick-fil-A restaurant at Hamilton Town Center in Noblesville, Ind., with around 30 current Taylor students on November 18. The students were part of the restaurant’s First 100 event and earned free Chick-fil-A for a year. Pictured are Josh Meredith ’14 and David Hershberger ’15, who along with Claire (Romanowski ’13) Hershberger and Chad Edmundson ’15 are part of the director team at the restaurant.
1942
Dr. Donald A. Miller died November 15, 2015, at the age of 96. An ordained pastor, Reverend Miller served churches in Massachusetts, New York and Missouri, and was honored as a Taylor Distinguished Alumnus in 1990. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Doris (Horn) and son Marion. Reverend Miller is survived by his children and spouses Janice Howland (Craig) and Rev. Donald Miller ’75 (Donna). He is also survived by his grandchildren Lori Schindler (Jeff), Garrett Overhiser (Raquel), Susan Nelson (Corey), Stephen Jewell (Christie), Jennifer (Miller ’00) Huitsing (Jason ’99) and Tracy Mansfield (Zack), as well as 13 great-grandchildren.

1945
Rev. Gordon Bell died November 7, 2015. After earning his Philosophy degree at Taylor, he attended Asbury Seminary and Fuller Theological Seminary. Gordon’s wife Lola (Kelley ’48) preceded him in death in April 2009. He is survived by his four sons and their wives, his brother, 11 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

1951
Walter William Shaffer of Gary, Ind., died on May 7, 2014, at the age of 87. During his time at Taylor he was highly devoted to his music studies. His first teaching position was in Shipshewana, Ind., where his daughter Beverly Jo (Shaffer ’74) Alleyne was born. Walt later moved to New York, where he served the remainder of his teaching career. He enjoyed performing, singing and playing his guitar and trumpet. Before his passing, he was blessed to know his only grandchild Dr. Brendan Alleyne who was accepted for residency in Integrated Plastic Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic.

1952
Lee Truman is writing a blog on the events that defined our nation and beliefs. He also is a middle school shop teacher and recently displayed his wood turning creations at the Ventura Fair. His artwork has received two honorable mentions. He also passes time by working on his classic cars.

1953
Elmer Regier passed away December 5, 2015, after a brief illness. He is survived by his daughter Rebecca VanDiepenbos, his three sons Darrel, David, Ronald, his 11 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

1954
Don and Jean (Huffman) Granitz went to be with the Lord within just a few months of each other. Jean saw her Savior on August 20, 2015, and Don passed away January 28, 2016. The couple met at Taylor when they were students. As a member of Taylor’s baseball, basketball, football, and track and field teams, Don earned 12 varsity letters. He went on to coach at Taylor for several years and was elected to Taylor’s Athletic Hall of Fame for its inaugural year in 1973. They were married in 1951 and, after they graduated, the Granitzes served as missionaries in Brazil for many years before returning to the United States. They are survived by their children and spouses Doug ’83 and his wife Camille, Tom ’86 and his wife Karen (Ramsland ’89), Don ’77 and his wife Janet (Hebele ’77), and Valorie (Granitz ’78) and her husband Al Lettinga ’78, 15 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren.

1955
Brother and sister, Janet (Mendenhall) Boctor and Gordon Mendenhall ’69 spent time together in Zimbabwe last July. Gordon has worked in Kenya, Malawi, Haiti, Uganda, and many other countries where he fitted elderly and young people with glasses and worked as an educational consultant. Janet has funded and supported children’s programs in Malawi, Belize, Ghana, India, etc. Both are retired.

1956
Philip Andrew Place died December 6, 2015. He served as a county library director in Virginia, Florida and Maryland and as a regional director in Tennessee. He and his wife Diana were married 49 years, and were blessed with two sons and three grandchildren.

1957
Brother and sister, Janet (Mendenhall) Boctor and Gordon Mendenhall ’69 spent time together in Zimbabwe last July. Gordon has worked in Kenya, Malawi, Haiti, Uganda, and many other countries where he fitted elderly and young people with glasses and worked as an educational consultant. Janet has funded and supported children’s programs in Malawi, Belize, Ghana, India, etc. Both are retired.
SEE WHAT’S GOING ON IN THE LIVES OF TAYLOR ALUMNI

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17
Emily Ringenberg went to be with the Lord September 24, 2015. She is survived by her husband Ralph ’52, her children and spouses Roy ’75 and his wife Marabeth (Johannes ’75), Ron ’77 and his wife M. Frances (Valberg ’78), Rae ’80 and his wife Melody (Rohrer ’83), and many grandchildren.

Janet Brown, and Diane Johnson got together for Chapalooza VII in South Haven, Mich. They have come together for the past seven summers in memory of fellow classmate Linda “Chap” Cummins to reminisce about their Taylor days and their special times with Chap. As always, the time together included great conversation, lots of laughing, great food and shopping.

1964
Donna Steiner Pietrini, Jan 1974
Corien Shafer, Jan Pietrini, Donna Steiner.

1969
Tom Essenburg completed his professional career in April after working 45 years for nonprofit ministry organizations including Youth for Christ, Taylor University, RZIM and Open Doors USA. He and his wife Julie (Ringenberg ’73) enjoy their children Ben ’02 and his wife Erin (Johnson ’03), and Ann (Essenburg ’05) Clark and her husband Billy.

1974
10
Brad Martin and his wife Sherry are excited to announce the adoption of their daughter Leah. She is two-and-a-half years old and joined the family November 30, 2015.

1977
Kimberly (Smith) Rivera has been promoted to partner at McGlinchey Stafford. Kimberly is based in the firm’s Cleveland office and practices in the areas of consumer financial services litigation and employment law litigation.

1983
Scott Bibler died in a small plane accident near Lake Hartwell, S.C., October 2, 2015. Scott played football and baseball while at Taylor, and served as a football coach and educator at Tippecanoe Valley High School for 25 years. He later became the Director of Business Development with CrossWinds. Above all, Scott was a man of faith and loved his daughters dearly. Scott is survived by his wife, two daughters, his parents, a brother and a sister.

1986
Kevin Cripe recently left for Costa Rica for an extended stay and will soon have a book about his experiences with the game of chess published by Mongoose Press. Kevin has served for many years as a public school teacher in California. At his school, 98 percent of the student population was on a free or reduced cost lunch program; 80 percent of the students there were also in English language learning programs. Kevin built relationships with students by creating an afterschool chess club. In the coming years, he and his students traveled across the country to chess tournaments. Some of those students eventually attended and graduated from Taylor.

1991
Elyce Elder is a mental health and addictions clinical quality reviewer for the State of Indiana. She is part of a team that reviews the clinical quality of agencies that provide care for people with mental health issues and/or addictions. Elyce is also an active artist and participates in gallery shows at the Harrison Center for the Arts in Indianapolis, Ind.

1997
Jason Borowicz and his wife Shannon welcomed their second child, Roman Edward, into their family on August 3, 2015. He was an answer to prayer! His big sister Ava is a tremendous help to her mom. Jason works as a Design Consultant for Auckland Council in New Zealand.

1998
Jodi (Petroeije) Rieger and her husband Brent welcomed Asher, who was born in Ethiopia on July 11, 2011, and officially became a part of the family on July 16, 2015. He joins his siblings, Sierra, Tea and Ames.
SERVANT LEADERS MARKED WITH A PASSION
1999
Stephanie (Voiland) Rische has written a book called, *I was Blind (Dating). But Now I See*. This book is about discovering God’s grace through even the most cringe-worthy blind dates and awkward encounters. God showed up in unexpected ways when she finally admitted she couldn’t pull herself up on her own.

2001
Lisa (Holderead) Proctor married James Proctor on July 11, 2015, at North United Methodist Church in Carmel, Ind. The wedding was officiated by Dr. Jay Kesler ’58. A number of Taylor graduates attended and participated in the wedding including Kimberly (Shumaker) Rhinesmith, Krista (Kier) Kanode, Christina (Wierengo) Barth, Dave Borowicz, and Chris Anderson.

Carrie Lenz and Craig Thoburn were married August 30, 2014, in Fairfax, Va. Alumni in attendance included Sarah Schoolcraft and Melissa Nivens ’00.

2002
Alicia (McConnell) Sparks and her husband John moved to Japan in August 2015. John is working with the US Department of Defense as a high school math teacher at Zama American High School on Camp Zama US Army Base, about 25 miles from Tokyo. Alicia serves Zama American Middle School in administration and testing.

2003

The couple resides in Frankfort, Ind., where Christin is a financial analyst for Lincoln Financial Advisors.

2004
Matt Schramm is an attorney at the law firm of Warrick & Boyin Elkhart, Ind. Matt graduated from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 2013.

2005
Julia Angstmann’s interest and expertise in plant ecology has led her to travel the world from Indiana to Manitoba, Canada, to Cape Town, South Africa, and back to Indiana where she is the new director of Butler’s Center for Urban Ecology. The center manages the CUE Farm, leads urban ecology research and education and conducts sustainability outreach to address environmental needs and challenges facing the city of Indianapolis.

2006
Luke Sawatsky and his wife Kate welcomed their daughter Joanna Lynn who was born July 25, 2015. She joined her brother Calvin and sister Phoebe. The Sawatsky family lives in Minneapolis, Minn. Luke is a software engineer for Dow Jones, and Kate stays home with the children.

2007
Julie Fishbein married Ted Williamson on July 18, 2015, in St. Louis, Mo. Natalie (Uetrecht) Ganz served as a bridesmaid. Other alumni in attendance included Tom Ganz, Rachel Rigsbee, Allie Burbink, Kat Erickson, Laura (Rizzo) Tomcik, and Matt Tomcik. The couple lives in St. Louis, Mo., where Ted works as a CPA and Julie is a licensed professional counselor.

Virginia (Roe) Kofahl and her husband Phil welcomed their second child Rachel Faith born August 29, 2015. She joined her big brother James who is two-and-a-half years old. Their family lives in Brighton, Mich.

Just in and Sarah (Norton ’08) Bell welcomed their first son, Andrew, in November 2013. They live on their family apple orchard in Illinois, where Justin is the financial manager and Sarah is the office and retail manager. Sarah continues to give voice and piano lessons at their home and assist with worship music at their church. She also serves as vice president of the board for Visit McHenry County. Justin is the baseball coach at Elkhorn High School and serves as deacon at their local church.

David and Sara (Peterson ’08) Kirkpatrick welcomed their first child, Bennett Alexander, on January 6, 2015.
2008

34 Rob and Kate (Yoder ‘07) Bedinghaus welcomed twin boys Micah David and Owen Jonathan on October 22, 2015. They join big brothers Liam and Judah. Rob graduated in June with a PhD from Indiana University in Hispanic Linguistics. The family has relocated to Loveland, Ohio, for Rob to start a new career as a financial advisor for Edward Jones.

2009

30 Ben and Lindsay (Will ‘08) Glynn, along with their son Xavier, welcomed Lincoln Robert to the family on December 1, 2015. The family lives in South Carolina where Ben works for the city’s violent crimes unit as a criminal investigator and Lindsay is a licensed counselor and stay-at-home mom.

Benjamin and Kelsey (Hampshire ‘10) Goller recently moved to Longview, Texas, where Benjamin serves as Director of Residence Life at LeTourneau University.

1 Kevin Halloran married Jazlynn Garcia on May 9, 2015. The couple resides in Schaumburg, Ill. The wedding party included Kelly (Halloran ‘08) Ott, Luke Owsley ‘08, and Brandon Myers. Kevin serves with Leadership Resources International, a mission organization that trains pastors worldwide to preach God’s Word with God’s heart.

27 Josh and Kelley (Wilson) Hibschman welcomed their first child Lucy Jane, born April 30, 2015. Kelley completed an MS in Computer Science at DePaul and is currently pursuing a PhD in Computer Science at Northwestern.

3 Stephanie Leis graduated with her master’s degree in agricultural communication from The Ohio State University in August. She lives in Columbus, Ohio, and has worked in communications at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for four years.

2011

29 Bryan Allingham and Kristen VandeBunte were married in Grand Rapids, Mich., in November 2015. Their wedding party included Katie Allingham ‘16 and Taylor alumni Shannon (Harris) Lurakis, Amy Trautwein, Emily (Yost) Wymore, Lauren (Arnold) Hutchins, Adam Hoover, Brad Wetherell ‘10, Nate Kirsch, Ross Springman, and Isaac Bryan. They live in Chicago, Ill., where Kristen is a physical therapist and Bryan is a senior accountant for Newell-Rubbermaid.

35 Sharon M. Kerk joined Kaufman & Canoles Law Firm in September 2015, as an associate of the Labor and Employment Practice Group. Prior to joining the firm, she was a law clerk with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Sharon earned her Juris Doctor degree from Regent University in 2014.

2013

36 Weston Young and Erinn Houts ‘15 were married on June 7, 2015, in Delaware, Ohio. They live in Birmingham, Ala., where Weston works at Birmingham Tennis Academy and Erinn will be starting PA School at University of Alabama at Birmingham. The parents of the bride, Chris ‘82 and Vickie (Highley ‘80) Houts, are proud Taylor graduates. Taylor alumni in the wedding party included maid of honor Lynne Sowders ‘15 and brother of the bride Ethan Houts ‘11, as well as 2nd West Wengatz floor mates Matt Witt, Daniel Swain and Cameron Boehning ‘14. The couple was surrounded by their families, as well as many in their Taylor family.


38 Noeha (Kelly) Garard and her husband Luke welcomed their son Atticus Greenberry, born on July 24, 2015. He weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. and was 20 1/4 inches long.

2014

39 Heath Moser and Jaci Liechty were married on December 12, 2015. Heath is working at a local Boys and Girls Club, and Jaci is the teacher at Kiddie Campus in Upland, Ind. The couple lives in Berne, Ind. Their wedding party included Sarah Stratton, Amy Skerratt, Sarah Muselman, Stu Poulson, Chris Stutzman ‘13 and Mark Muselman ’16. They had many Taylor alumni in attendance at their wedding.

2015

40 Samuel Bolds married Katelyn Irons on October 3, 2015. Katelyn is a freelance writer in Wheaton, Ill., and Samuel is the web production coordinator at Christianity Today. Alumni in the wedding included Chris Hanson ’16, David Seaman, Mark Davis ’14, Hannah Bolds ’19, Kari Travis ’14 and Lexie Owen. The wedding was photographed by Micah Hancock ’14.
TO MINISTER
CHRIST’S
REDEMPTIVE LOVE
AND TRUTH TO A
WORLD IN NEED
PROFESSOR EMERITUS
ROBERT C. WOLFE ’58

PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROBERT C. WOLFE ’58 WENT TO BE WITH THE LORD ON JANUARY 22, 2016, SURROUNDED BY HIS FAMILY. HE WAS 88.

Bob was born in 1928 and graduated from Markle High School in 1946. He was engaged in farm trucking for eight years before he graduated from Taylor with majors in mathematics and chemistry. He earned his master’s degree from Indiana University, and later did postgraduate work at Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.), Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago, Ill.), University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, N.C.) and Oak Ridge Associated Universities (Oak Ridge, Tenn.).

During Bob’s 31-year career at Taylor, he taught physics, chemistry, and Astronomy. During that time, he held memberships with the Board of Directors of the Fort Wayne Area Youth for Christ, the National Science Teachers Association and the American Association of Physics Teachers. He also served as a board member for United Way of Grant County and was the Taylor campus solicitor.

After retirement in 1993, Bob served Habitat for Humanity of Grant County and volunteered as a tutor with the Grant County Literacy Society.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Rosanne (Shippy ’59); two sons Steven ’90 (Julie) and Tim (Rebecca); two daughters Bethany (Ross) Fones and Cathie ’87 (Dan); a sister Jean ’56 (Don) Hitch; 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
Dr. Wellington Yu Chiu '74 had a practice of signing his emails with two simple words that spoke volumes of his deep, personal faith and love for others: In Jesus. A longtime Taylor University Board of Trustees member who was universally loved and respected, Dr. Chiu died March 5, 2016, after a sudden illness. He was 63.

Dr. Chiu graduated from Taylor with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and later earned a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Southern California. He served as Managing Member of Chiu Capital LLC and Chiu Associates, LLP, and was recognized for his information technology expertise. An established entrepreneur and investor, he previously served at Mosby Matthew Bender, Ziff-Davis Publishing, and Citibank.

Dr. Chiu, who joined the Taylor Board of Trustees in 2000, served the Board in the roles of Secretary, Vice Chairman, and most recently Chairman. He also served on the Boards of the Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, an initiative which mobilizes resources that create opportunities for deserving Asian American and Pacific Islander students; and the Fundación Ramón Pané, a foundation that develops servant leaders from the Roman Catholic laity in the Americas and other parts of the world.

"Wellington was a dear friend who was passionate about the Lord’s work. During my time of service on the Taylor University Board of Trustees, I was impressed with his humble spirit, godly wisdom, and desire to honor the Lord in everything he did in his life, as well as everything that was undertaken by our Board,” said Dr. Mark Taylor, past Chairman of Taylor’s Board of Trustees. “I will always remember and admire Wellington’s dependence upon prayer and his love of the Scriptures. Taylor University has been blessed to have him as an alumnus and Board member and will realize the fruits of his service for years to come.”

“Marylou and I were heartbroken to learn the news of our dear friend Wellington’s sudden passing,” said Taylor University President Dr. Eugene B. Habecker ’68. “Wellington was a wise and godly counselor and friend who loved his Lord and Savior and also the people whom God brought into his life. We ask our Taylor University community to join us in prayer for Wellington’s family, loved ones, and friends in the days to come.”

Dr. Chiu is survived by his wife Eli, sons Daniel ‘00 and David ‘14, his daughter Catherine (Andrew) and granddaughter Emma.
WRAPPING UP Workers apply finishing touches as Taylor's $20 million LaRita Boren Campus Center nears completion in March.
Cassandra (Edgecombe ’88) Smith is the recipient of the 2016 G. Roselyn Kerlin Women in Leadership Award. Smith, the Director of Academy Affairs at Kingsway Academy in the Bahamas, was honored “in recognition of (her) committed Christian character and faithful leadership as a role model for women while developing an outstanding International Student Orientation program at Taylor University, and for directing the education of young Bahamian students for academic success centered on principles of integrity and honor.”

The purpose of the G. Roselyn Kerlin Women in Leadership Award is to bring recognition to Taylor University alumnae who have provided godly leadership in their personal and professional lives and who have exhibited an extraordinary commitment to Jesus Christ and to others.

Presented by the Taylor University Alumni Office, the Kerlin Award was established in 1999 in honor of G. Roselyn “Rosie” (Baugh ’55) Kerlin, the first woman to serve as chair of the Taylor University Board of Trustees.
In recent days as I have reflected on the past 11 years during which Marylou and I have served in your midst, my mind has returned to those godly people who occupied the presidential role at Taylor University before me. Some were pastors, academicians, or authors. All were followers of Jesus Christ. And during each of their terms of service, they were regularly forced to their knees by a God who loved them too much to let them try to lead on their own.

Marylou and I have seen that in our own lives. That process of being driven to our knees was never more obvious than after the accident 10 years ago. Further, God continued to call us to deep reliance on him as we struggled to keep our former Fort Wayne campus open. And we certainly were forced to our knees as we attempted to raise funds to build two very much needed facilities – the Euler Science Complex and the LaRita Boren Campus Center. God showed himself faithful and strong on our behalf, even if the outcome in some situations was different than one we would have preferred.

There are two ways we can live our lives. The first way comes naturally for us – we try to live and work in our own strength, sight and wisdom, independent from God, and then perhaps ask Him to bless our activities. But the other way, the way that God desires, is that we live our lives in total dependence on God, realizing that his provision is not for a year or a decade, but daily. In the Lord’s Prayer, what did Jesus teach us to say? “Give us this day our daily bread.” It’s like the manna God gave to the Israelites – God gave them enough for that day.

This does not come from some selfish or arbitrary inclination. Rather, God loves us and wants us to daily come to him in faith, hope and dependence for all that we are. We get ourselves in trouble when we run outside of God’s will, living life dependent on ourselves alone, ignoring his daily provision. We see this in the Scriptures. How many times in God’s Word do we read these kinds of words: “You were hungry, and I fed you. Then you became satisfied, and then you forgot about me.” Living in that acknowledgment of God’s daily, loving provision keeps the relationship with him tight and connected.

That trust is so critical for all of us. While the job of a president is never finished, I am really encouraged by Jesus’ words in John 17: “Father, I have completed everything you have given me to do.” The Scriptures don’t tell us that Jesus healed everyone who was sick, raised from death everyone who had died or fed everyone who was hungry. And yet, he could say, “Father, I have completed everything you gave me to do.”

I can give you a long list of things that still need to be done. The Reade Liberal Arts Center must be renovated, we need program endowment and we continue to look for ways to make Taylor more affordable through endowed scholarships for our deserving students. To those ends, our next President and First Lady Lowell and Sherry (Korfmacher ’76) Haines ’75 will need your prayerful support.

In reading John Bunyan’s wonderful classic, *A Pilgrim’s Progress*, we see how easily, how subtly it could happen that we turn aside from closely following our Lord. May this never happen. The thing that will keep Taylor, Taylor; the thing that will ensure Taylor University’s University continues to be a beacon to a world in need is that desperate, daily reliance on our loving, Heavenly Father who loves us too much to let us try to lead on our own. This is our prayer for Taylor in the days and years ahead – “Lord, find us faithful!”
“We feel a personal responsibility to continue assisting Taylor in its mission to send ambassadors for Christ into the world.”

When we reflect upon God’s blessings, the decision to attend Taylor and the resulting incredible lifelong impacts are almost immeasurable. Crafting a Christian foundation during our formative college years has served to positively influence our marriage, work life, and relationship with our children. We feel a personal responsibility to continue assisting Taylor in its mission to send ambassadors for Christ into the world, and made the decision to include Taylor University in our estate planning. The Lord has wonderfully blessed us and we want to return to him a portion of what he has so richly bestowed upon us.

Kevin and Cheryl (Clark ’89) Nill ’88

Gifts by will, trust, or beneficiary designation are a common way people plan their legacies. It is easy to include a provision in your plans for the organizations most important to you. While planning the impact of your future gift, you maintain control of your assets and the ability to modify your plans if circumstances change.

To discuss giving to Taylor through your estate plan, contact Mike Falder ’94, Executive Director of Development, at mcfalder@taylor.edu or 765.998.5538. Read more online at www.taylor.edu/giftplans.
HOPE
The Memorial Prayer Chapel was dedicated two years after the 2006 crash that claimed the lives of five Taylor community members. In this issue of Taylor, we interviewed the family members of those loved ones. You can read their story on P. 24.