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Fall 2016

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

Taylor University

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I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14

The degree, the towel and the Bible - Rhona Murungi ’10 (seen on the front cover) says her Taylor education would have been incomplete if she had received only the degree signifying the completion of her academic career at Taylor. Truly becoming a servant leader (represented by the towel) and growing fully into Christ’s image (represented by the Bible) will take the rest of her life. Rhona’s joy, sense of calling, and love for her home continent of Africa give evidence to her pursuit of those goals. May God bless each of us with the resolve to do nothing less.
UNBEATEN

Taylor ranked number one in U.S. News Midwest category for the 10th straight year. Taylor’s historic number one ranking pushed its unbeaten streak to 10.

THE CAMPUS FELT ALIVE

2,000 alumni, parents, family members and friends descended on the campus for the first-ever combined Homecoming and Family Weekend.

A HEART FOR AFRICA

Rhona Murungi ’10 expected Eddie Murphy’s Coming to America when she arrived in Upland, Ind., from Uganda. Instead, she was challenged with a new direction for her life.

COMMITTED TO THE CLIMB

Four Taylor alumnæ responded to the Parkinson’s disease diagnosis of a beloved father, mentor, and friend with action.

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LIVING FAITHFULLY HERE AND NOW

For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone.
Romans 14:7

Warren R. Tropf ’45 served his country in WWII, faithfully pastored churches in Ohio during a long, distinguished career, and with his wife raised three children who, like him, grew up to know and love the Lord. I met him 34 years ago when his daughter brought me home to meet her parents. His warm, embracing personality, passionate faith, and love for others transformed my life. It still does.

After his funeral five years ago, the words from the Romans 14 passage took on a completely new meaning as I reflected on my father-in-law’s life. When Christ calls us to Himself, He also calls us to join with one another in His redemption plan for this fallen, lost world. For Warren, that call was to pastoral ministry. Yet, the Lord’s calling on our lives can be as diverse as all of us who make up the wonderful tapestry of the Church.

For Addie (Waterman ’06) Cunningham, Kate (Waterman ’00) Lineback, Lindsay (Diehm ’05) Waterman, and Joy (Resetar ’07) Gordon that call was realized when they played central roles in the launch of the Indiana Parkinson Foundation after a beloved family member was diagnosed with the illness.

Jennifer (Kamps ’04) and Preston Cosgrove ’04 followed God’s quiet prompting of their hearts when they adopted children from China whose physical challenges would have kept them from being adopted by many others. And Rhona Murungi ’10 followed God’s call from Uganda to Taylor University and eventually back to Africa where she serves in World Relief’s Rwanda office. There her work has a tangible, Kingdom impact on the lives of women, children, orphans and others whose lives are precious in His sight.

We are each called to do the work to which God has called us, with total reliance on His Holy Spirit, seeking Him and His will, and striving for faithfulness in all that He calls us to do. My father-in-law did that, and so has each of these beloved saints whose stories are included in this issue of Taylor.

They do so because the love of God compels them. We pray that God will give each of us that gift of faithfulness.

James R. Garringer H’15
Editor
Both were Medal of Freedom recipients and respected former legislators - one a lifelong Republican and the other a lifelong Democrat - who shared a single goal: what is best for the country.

Former Indiana Senator Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.) and former Indiana Representative Lee H. Hamilton (D-Ind.) were featured speakers during Taylor University’s annual Dialogue on Civility and Public Service, sponsored by the Halbrook Family Foundation, on October 12. The former congressmen discussed everything from the role of government and citizenship to the need for renewed bipartisanship.

“We have to extend (democracy) by example. There has to be confidence that other nations would want to have a democracy such as ours,” Lugar said. “Democracy has to mean something more than simply selection and voting procedures. It really has to come through thought which started out with service – service to each other, respect of each other, ways of insuring that each of our legal rights, religious rights, what have you, are protected and that it’s important to each one of us.”

During his six terms in the U.S. Senate, Lugar exercised leadership on issues including food security, nuclear non-proliferation, energy independence, and free trade. In 1991, he forged a bipartisan partnership with then-Senate Armed Services Chairman Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) to destroy weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union. To date, the Nunn-Lugar program has deactivated more than 7,600 nuclear warheads that were once aimed at the United States.

Hamilton is one of the nation’s foremost experts on Congress and representative democracy. A 17-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, he is one of the nation’s leading figures on foreign policy, intelligence, and national security. He also served as Vice Chairman of the 9/11 Commission and Co-Chairman of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group.

Hamilton said while the call to civil, collegial dialogue is not a new concept, it is especially needed in 2016. He cited George Washington’s Rules for Civility and Decent Behavior, in which the first President advised Americans to treat one another with respect. “We have partisan differences. Civility does not mean we always agree with one another - we do not - but it always means we respect the other person,” Hamilton said. “That is a very important rule to carry forward, and tough to carry forward in the environment we face today.”

“Senator Lugar and Representative Hamilton connected very well with our guests and students,” said Dr. Michael Hammond ’92, Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts and Biblical Studies. “They spoke from a deep well of experience and equal concern for the health of the nation. So when they offered a critique of politics today, it was from a position of comparison to more healthy models of governance that they helped shape during their decades of service in Washington.”

The Dialogue on Civility and Public Service can be viewed at www.taylor.edu/civility.
For the 10th straight year, Taylor University is the number one institution in the category Best Regional Colleges in the U.S. News & World Report survey, America’s Best Colleges.

Taylor’s number one ranking also marks the 20th consecutive year of being listed in the region’s top three. Criteria employed by U.S. News include graduation and retention rates, peer assessment of excellence, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate performance, and alumni giving.

Among the Midwest’s Best Regional Colleges, Taylor ranked first in freshman retention rate, graduation rate, and the ability to attract freshmen from the top 25% of their high school class.

Included among companion rankings released by U.S. News, Taylor was ranked fifth in the Best Value Schools category, and one of three Midwest colleges listed in A Strong Commitment to Undergraduate Teaching, which recognizes institutions that provide added emphasis to undergraduate teaching by their faculty.

The Best Value Schools ranking was derived from several factors that included the ratio of quality (U.S. News ranking) to price, the number of students receiving need-based aid, and the average discount covered by need-based grants and scholarships.

For the first time, Taylor was tied at the top of the standings with Calvin College from Grand Rapids, Mich. The rest of the top five included: Augustana University (South Dakota), College of the Ozarks (Missouri), and Goshen College (Indiana).

“This latest number one ranking from U.S. News is a wonderful external affirmation of the excellent work done by our students, faculty and staff,” said Taylor President Lowell Haines ’75. “For many years, we have been able to attract some of our nation’s best and brightest students – young men and women who are serious about their academics and serious about their faith – to Taylor University, where they are mentored by some of the finest faculty in the country. These students then go out to make a dramatically positive impact on the world in education, business, law, medicine, ministry, government, social services, the fine arts, and a whole host of other professional endeavors. We are grateful to U.S. News for their recognition and also to all of those members of the Taylor University community whose work made this possible.”

Taylor has also appeared in college rankings compiled by Forbes, Princeton Review, and Washington Monthly. Learn more here: www.taylor.edu/distinctions.
"The campus felt alive"

More than 2,000 attend combined Homecoming and Family Weekend

From numerous food vendors and the 5K race to concerts, reunions and glorious October weather, organizers say Taylor University’s first Homecoming and Family Weekend was more successful than they could have hoped. More than 2,000 Taylor University alumni, parents, family members and friends preregistered for the weekend, which also included Taylor volleyball and football games, faculty meet-and-greets, and a concert from the Dove award winning band Sidewalk Prophets.

“We wanted to bring more of the Taylor family together in one large weekend,” said Amy Wilson ’11, Director of Alumni Programs. “We have many legacy families who are alumni and parents who had to choose in the past which weekend to attend. Plus, combining our resources allowed us to offer more opportunities than ever before.”

The Taylor Alumni Association honored six alumni with special awards. They include: Gary Feenstra ’72, Distinguished Service Alumnus; Dr. Faye Chechowich, ’74, G. Roselyn Kerlin Women in Leadership Award; Zeke Turner ’00, Distinguished Service Alumnus; Rhona Murungi ’10, Distinguished Service Young Alumna; Kirk Schweitzer ’10, Distinguished Service Young Alumnus; and Joanne Taylor H’16, Honorary Alumna.

Saturday evening’s Sidewalk Prophets concert in the Rediger Chapel/Auditorium featured a band that has enjoyed both commercial and critical success. The group has sold over 500,000 albums and amassed 1.5 million digital singles. Sidewalk Prophets’ single, Help Me Find It, was a 2014 Billboard Music Awards Nominee for the Best Christian Song. The band has played for an estimated 2.5 million fans, garnered five number one singles and eight top five radio hits, received over 11 million YouTube views, and been nominated for four Dove Awards, winning one.

“We devoted a significant time of prayer to the planning and logistics of Homecoming and Family Weekend. We felt that things went very well and were grateful to God for His provision. Many parents and families had a wonderful experience and appreciated meeting their sons’ and daughters’ faculty members, other parents, and alumni of Taylor,” said Joyce Wood ’81, Senior Director of Parent and Community Relations. “It was a great time of reconnecting and renewing the relationships that are such a vital part of the Taylor University experience.”

Wilson said that the weather for the weekend – which reached daytime highs in the 70s – was a welcomed plus. “We’ve received a lot of positive feedback from our alumni and parents, and we are happy with how the entire weekend went,” said Wilson. “Many of our guests said the campus felt alive – there was such rich interaction between parents, alumni and students.”

Mark your calendars for Taylor’s 2017 Homecoming and Family Weekend, October 6-8.
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.

@catallocco You know you go to a Christian school when someone is whistling “Amazing Grace” while waiting for class to start #TaylorU

@rghawkins Be faithful. Be available. Be teachable. #TaylorU

@tayy_stevv I love student teaching but wow I didn’t realize how much I missed chapel until today. #TaylorU

@Roscoe_Rea Dr. Richard Allen Farmer chapel may as well be a #TaylorU campus-wide holiday

Find us on Twitter and Instagram with the hashtag #TAYLORU
OVERSEAS PRESENTATIONS, WRITING HIGHLIGHT FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**DRS. JENNY COLLINS** (Biblical Studies) and **QUINN WHITE ’87** (Education) led a team of cross-country runners on a ministry trip to Belize in June. The group worked with Pathlight International in primary schools around the Belmopan area.

**DRS. PHIL COLLINS ’82** (Christian Ministries), **GREG MAGEE** (Biblical Studies), **CHARLES BRAINER** (Global Programs) and **FERGUS MACDONALD** led Scripture engagement workshops for 600 church leaders in China. They also spoke at two church services last summer.


**DR. DENNIS HENSLEY** (Professional Writing) was a featured speaker and workshop leader at conferences in Wheaton, Ill., Elizabethtown, Ky., and Muncie, Ind. He wrapped up his summer as conference co-director and teacher at the *Taylor University Christian Writers Conference* in August.

**DR. BEN HOTMIRE ’98** (Education) traveled to China to visit educators and schools in June 2016.

**ASST. PROF. TRACY** (Tobey ’92) **MANNING** (Music, Theatre, and Dance) performed the role of Amanda Wingfield in a presentation of *The Glass Menagerie* in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She also led 10 students to Scotland to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

**DR. ED MEADORS** (Biblical Studies) traveled to Berlin, Germany, in June to participate in the Studienforum event *The Protestant Reformation – Resistance and Renewal from 1517 to the Present*: Preparing for the 500th Anniversary of Luther’s Reformation.

**DR. MATT RENFROW** (Kinesiology) presented *Stretching the Truth? Examining the Evidence for the Benefits of Stretching* at the Christian Society of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies Conference at Westmont College.

**DR. MIKE SEVERE** (Christian Educational Ministries) led the Empower theology institute in July. High school students, ministry leaders, and trainers from L.A., Miami, Chicago, Fort Wayne, Chicago, and Indianapolis joined Taylor students and professors for this first year of the event.

**DR. RACHEL SMITH** (Art) presented lectures at the Center for Christianity, Culture and the Arts at Biola University that included *Ex opere operato: Rogue Priests in Contemporary Art and Culture Matters: History, Society, and Belief in Contemporary Chinese Art*. She also presented *Unsettled Ground Between the Shadow and the Light* at the Campus Forum on South Africa at Asbury University.

**PROF. JOSH WELKER’s** (Art) *Astrobleme* sculpture was selected for display by the Grand Rapids Public Museum as part of the Art Prize exhibition in Grand Rapids, Mich. His drawings were also accepted for exhibit at Kent State University’s *Drawing Invitational*. 
Austin Yoder’s summer research project was a series of mini documentaries profiling antique car collectors whose vehicles were manufactured in Indiana.

“Anybody can learn content,” said Dr. Jessica Vanderploeg, Assistant Professor of Biology. “We want them to think as scientists.

This summer, Vanderploeg and seven other members of Taylor’s faculty worked closely with 25 Taylor students on a variety of projects – both in and out of the sciences – as part of Taylor’s Faculty Mentored Undergraduate Scholarship (FMUS) program. Each project was connected to the leading faculty mentor’s ongoing work.

Vanderploeg worked with three students: one graduated senior who had worked with her in the spring, and two biology majors who had just finished their freshman year. They examined fruit flies, more specifically the hairs on fruit flies’ wings, and experimented to determine which of five different proteins were required to ensure that the hairs grew in the proper direction. The research connects to a larger question of how cells know left from right, front from back, and top from bottom.

Other FMUS projects looked at the effects of caffeine on cyclists, ways to improve usability of security-sensitive web applications, how to measure temperature distribution, and the history of luxury car production in Indiana.

Three of the summer projects were in the humanities, including bibliographic research led by Professor of English Dr. Joe Ricke in service to The Center for the Study of C.S. Lewis and Friends. In addition to cataloguing a host of books and periodicals, Ricke and two students charted the evolution of The Light Princess, a short story by George MacDonald, which first appeared in MacDonald’s novel Adela Cathcart. The collaborators presented a dramatic rendition of the story on campus at this summer’s C.S. Lewis Colloquium and have since presented their summer’s work to the Central Indiana C.S. Lewis Society in Indianapolis. A bibliography they put together describing MacDonald’s works found in Victorian-era periodicals will be published in a forthcoming edition of St. Norbert College’s North Wind: A Journal of George MacDonald Studies.

FMUS seeks to support high-caliber scholarship in the faculty member’s field of study, while moving the students from what is commonly known to what it totally unknown. The goal through the summer was for students to become collaborators alongside faculty.

“What was really rewarding for me,” Vanderploeg said, “was at the end of the summer, they were more excited [about the research] than at the beginning.”
Leland Boren H’75 and his late wife LaRita H’94 blessed generations of Taylor University student-athletes through their giving and hospitality. Debbie (Gates ’79) Varland was a star for Taylor’s volleyball and softball teams. Quinn Hirschy ’00 ran for 2,513 yards and scored 29 touchdowns, ranking him second and fifth all-time in Taylor’s football history. And longtime men’s basketball coach Paul Patterson led the Trojans to 734 wins, 14 NAIA national tournament appearances, two Sweet 16s, and the Final Four in 1991.

Boren, Varland, Hirschy and Patterson were inducted into the Taylor University Athletics Hall of Fame during Homecoming. Patterson was also honored when the court in Odle Arena was named Paul Patterson Court.

In a video, Varland, who with her husband Roger ’79 recently moved to Kenya to work at a Christian school, credited her teammates for her individual accolades when she cited an African proverb: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

“God speaks to us in those things we care most about. You’ve got to fight for your quiet time. The game honors toughness.

Holtmann drew laughter when he related one exchange he had with the legendary coach: “Chris, you’re not good enough to talk back to me.”

“While the numbers are impressive, I think most of us will say that … his most enduring legacy is his profound impact on all of our lives – even to this day,” Holtmann said.

“I think the 734 wins speak for themselves,” said Josh Andrews, Taylor’s head men’s basketball coach and one of Patterson’s former players. “And yet those of us who have spent time with him know how much time, thought and prayer and energy went into every drill, every practice plan, and every conversation.”

Chris Holtmann ’94, one of Patterson’s former players and assistant coaches who is the head men’s basketball coach at Butler University, shared a number of Pattersonisms, as he called them – sayings their coach used that spurred them to greater effort and sacrifice.

God speaks to us in those things we care most about.
You’ve got to fight for your quiet time.
The game honors toughness.

“All parts of the team are necessary for success and need to be valued,” she said. “It was at TU where I first considered the meaning of representing Christ on the court and field … I’m talking about the challenges of reflecting Jesus when the officials make poor calls or teammates aren’t trusting each other and things aren’t going well. I don’t claim to have mastered a Christ-like attitude, but I did grow in my sports experience and did continue to be reminded that we can be portable sanctuaries. We can take Christ, Who is in us and with us, to the world.”
QUINN HIRSCHY powered his way to 2,513 yards and 29 touchdowns during his Hall of Fame career for the Trojans.
This world sometimes presents us with the starkest of contrasts. I’ve never forgotten the first time I held my son, Ciaran. As I looked in his eyes and dreamed of the possibilities and promise his life represented, my heart had never known such joy. And yet in that moment, I could not stop my mind from returning to an orphanage in the Russian Far East. It was a place I had visited with a group of Taylor students several years before where dozens and dozens of children – “refused babies,” as they were known – were warehoused by the state. Their parents had abandoned them, leaving them to be raised by the state. Their existence was stark, joyless and bleak. Each of us left that place with a profound sense of sorrow.

The contrast between those children's hopeless futures and that of my son was so dramatic, I remember praying, “Oh Lord, where are they today? Why is my child allowed these opportunities but these other children have nothing?”

That was nine years ago. There was a time when the plight of those orphans, along with millions of orphans and vulnerable children around the world, weighed so greatly in my heart that I wondered if God was leading me into a new direction – perhaps even away from academia and into a ministry to an orphanage. On the other hand, I recognized God had called me to be a college professor – to teach research, to teach people the skills of psychology, and to bring those gifts to bear on this problem.

And so, as I considered the passion of our students, combined with the great need of this world, I found myself asking how we could deepen the educational experience for our students in this area of orphans and vulnerable children. That was when I became more passionate and convinced that Taylor University could, and should, be involved in all of these things.

That desire to think strategically and to mobilize our efforts prompted the creation of a minor in Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), currently housed in the psychology department. Through this program, we can train students who want to work in this area, challenge them to think more deeply about these things through practicums, research, and overseas study experiences where they can see firsthand how their skills and passions can meet the needs of these children around the world.

So much of how I think about this is shaped by Taylor’s rich, amazing heritage in the area of missions and outreach. It was that passion that filled my great aunt, Lucille Rupp ’41. An educator and the first Protestant female missionary to the Dominican Republic, she started a school and worked with children who were highly at risk, some of whom came from orphaned backgrounds. She was an amazing woman who dedicated her entire life to reaching these precious children. Today, the school she founded is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

More than 40 times throughout the Old and New Testaments,
children must live in the streets. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that an estimated one billion children are victims of violence. Plus, there is a worldwide human trafficking industry worth $32 billion – a massive industry that makes more than all of the professional sports teams combined. Oftentimes, that profit is made at the expense of children who are vulnerable and orphaned. Not to overwhelm you, but there are also 60 million refugees worldwide, 30 million of which are below the age of 18. It’s staggering, and it is not going away.

But churches are mobilizing. Christ’s followers recognize this is an essential calling of the global church and a reflection of the heart of God – it is a ministry on their part to a world in need. Plus, if you look at the numbers of students we are empowering at Taylor University, I believe they will have an exponential influence.

No other school in the United States has a minor in this program. It fits who we are at Taylor, it fits our department, it fits with our student development efforts, and I believe it fits the students whom Taylor University attracts. This is not to pat ourselves on the back – I would love to see other schools replicate it. Imagine what could be if our focus on hundreds of students became thousands and eventually millions.

Here at Taylor, answering that call does not necessarily mean a student would be called to start an orphanage, although God could certainly lead him or her in that direction. It can be as simple as reaching at-risk children here in the Upland community. Even if the commitment is part-time or as simple as supporting their church’s efforts, it matters. I want our students to be cognizant of what is around them and not to simply live in a myopic way. Along with the OVC minor, students have the opportunity to spend a year in a living-learning community called The Village Tree Experience. They can also participate in one of the research projects focused on this topic such as “faith-based foster care” or “trans-racial adoption” or assessing an HIV-prevention program in Namibia.

God commands His people to care for the fatherless. And there are seemingly countless numbers of fatherless. According to UNICEF, there are 153 million orphans in the world. Another 150 to 300 million children must live in the streets. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that an estimated one billion children are victims of violence. Plus, there is a worldwide human trafficking industry worth $32 billion – a massive industry that makes more than all of the professional sports teams combined. Oftentimes, that profit is made at the expense of children who are vulnerable and orphaned. Not to overwhelm you, but there are also 60 million refugees worldwide, 30 million of which are below the age of 18. It’s staggering, and it is not going away.

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The bigger issue is this – once we know something, we cannot un-know it. When you see these staggering numbers and the incredible scope of suffering, will you just walk away from it? How do you make a difference? Do you just let yourself become overwhelmed? How can your passions and gifts be used to impact this issue? Perhaps you are an artist. Maybe you are a filmmaker or a chemist. For all of us, no matter our background or occupation, these are conversations we can engage with and in which we can make a difference – not just in the lives of these children, but for eternity.

But churches are mobilizing. Christ’s followers recognize this is an essential calling of the global church and a reflection of the heart of God.

Dr. Scott Moeschberger is a Professor of Psychology and Director of Initiatives for Vulnerable and Orphaned Children at Taylor University.

To learn more about the plight of the world’s orphaned and vulnerable children and share with us your efforts in this area, contact us at ooc@taylor.edu.
A HEART FOR AFRICA

BY JAMES R. GARRINGER H'15
RHONA MURUNGI ‘10 ADMITS WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT TAYLOR UNIVERSITY IN 2006 FOR THE FIRST TIME, IT WASN’T WHAT SHE WAS EXPECTING. WHAT LITTLE SHE THOUGHT SHE KNEW ABOUT AMERICAN CULTURE SHE HAD LEARNED FROM THREE MOTION PICTURES: COMING TO AMERICA, SISTER ACT, AND HOME ALONE. AND, COMING FROM WESTERN UGANDA WHERE TEMPERATURES TEND TO AVERAGE ABOUT 80 DEGREES, SHE WAS NOT PREPARED FOR HER FIRST INDIANA WINTER.

“You can imagine the rude awakening that awaited me many years ago on showing up in Upland, Indiana,” she now says with a laugh. “To someone who grew up in the African tropics where it’s warm and sunny all year round, Indiana’s bitter-cold long winters were a special kind of torture.”

Today, Rhona has warmer memories of her four years at Taylor, the things she did, the professors under whom she studied, and friends she made. She earned a Master’s degree from Vanderbilt University and is working toward her PhD from the Asia Graduate School of Economics at Kyoto University. Rhona serves as Director of Programs for World Relief’s Rwanda country office, and in that role, she oversees programs in church empowerment, maternal and child health, nutrition, child development, agriculture, orphan and vulnerable children’s care, girls’ empowerment and education, and savings.

Rhona returned to Upland in October when she received the 2016 Distinguished Service Young Alumna Award at Taylor’s Homecoming and Family Weekend.

“Taylor prepared me academically, and gave me – in hindsight – a really strong intellectual foundation on which my post-Taylor academic, ministry experiences, and other scholarly pursuits have been built,” she relates. “I say ‘in hindsight’ because it took me leaving Taylor after graduation to realized how well prepared I had been, and how little I appreciated or realize it while at Taylor.”
Rhona had originally chosen accounting as a major because of her love for mathematics, but it was during her sophomore year in an economics class with Dr. Hadley Mitchell when the trajectory of her life and career were changed. Mitchell’s practice was to have his students write essays on current topics. Somehow in Rhona’s pieces, a theme emerged that she could not miss.

“No matter what topic he assigned for an essay, I would always (return to) my experiences in poverty and injustice and failed economic and political systems in Africa,” she says. “I always hoped God would use me after Taylor to contribute to specific change at home – to save Africa, as I called it then.”

Rhona says the decision to change her major from accounting to developmental economics was like an answered prayer that she had not yet articulated. “I came alive with the knowledge that God had me where He wanted me and that my study had the potential to be used to accomplish something bigger than me,” she remembers.

“Taylor was my first American experience of place, people and culture, and what a wonderful experience that was,” she says. “I built some strong relationships with fellow students, faculty and staff that have lasted beyond the confines of Taylor’s cornfields. I was exposed to much about the U.S. in a place that was welcoming, warm and kind to this African girl who had never stepped on a plane or eaten cheese or sat in a classroom with boys – I went to all-girls schools in Uganda prior to University at Taylor. I learned – contrary to the culture and norms I was born and raised in – that it was ok to question things, to have and voice opinions, despite, or perhaps because, I was a girl.”

But as great as her experience at Taylor was, Rhona admits there were times she struggled with loneliness and the challenges that came with being one of only a few persons of color on campus in those days. She would find herself praying sometimes, “Why am I here?” In the first three semesters of her Taylor journey, the question was born from frustration. But with the passage of time, growth of friendships, her change of major, and growth in her spiritual walk, “Why am I here?” stopped being a lament, but rather became a prayer of anticipation and hope.

“I had an attitude shift. We talk a lot about intentional community at Taylor, and I think we sometimes wait for everyone else to be intentional toward us and first forget to be intentional ourselves,” she says. “I got tired of being on the sideline, forever feeling sorry for myself, and decided to plug into the community and not wait for a formal invitation.”

Rhona says the most impactful part of her Taylor education was her spiritual grounding, which is represented by the servant’s towel and Bible she received along with her degree at her Commencement.

“These three things – the degree, the towel and the Bible – were the answer to that question, ‘Why am I here?’” she says. “Looking back, I would consider my Taylor education incomplete if all I got at the end of four years was this degree. I have come to think of these three items and what they stand for as a three-legged stool on which I currently sit.

“I cannot express how vital in my life after Taylor these two items – the Bible and the towel – have proved to be,” she adds. “Yes, the degree – I can never discount that. When you get your degree on graduation day, it is ‘in the bag.’ You have earned it. It is these other two that I am finding I can never quite have in the bag. None of us have really earned these two on graduation day. None of us can say we have the actual form of Christ’s likeness and servant leadership in the bag, or that we have arrived in regards to our walk with God. These are areas we all have to keep working on. But the beauty of it is that Taylor gives you, at least it did for me, a solid foundation and physical reminders to never stop working to earn them.”

Rhona had originally chosen accounting as a major because of her love for mathematics, but it was during her sophomore year in an economics class with Dr. Hadley Mitchell when the trajectory of her life and career were changed. Mitchell’s practice was to have his students write essays on current topics. Somehow in Rhona’s pieces, a theme emerged that she could not miss.

“No matter what topic he assigned for an essay, I would always (return to) my experiences in poverty and injustice and failed economic and political systems in Africa,” she says. “I always hoped God would use me after Taylor to contribute to specific change at home – to save Africa, as I called it then.”

Rhona says the decision to change her major from accounting to developmental economics was like an answered prayer that she had not yet articulated. “I came alive with the knowledge that God had me where He wanted me and that my study had the potential to be used to accomplish something bigger than me,” she remembers.

“Taylor was my first American experience of place, people and culture, and what a wonderful experience that was,” she says. “I built some strong relationships with fellow students, faculty and staff that have lasted beyond the confines of Taylor’s cornfields. I was exposed to much about the U.S. in a place that was welcoming, warm and kind to this African girl who had never stepped on a plane or eaten cheese or sat in a classroom with boys – I went to all-girls schools in Uganda prior to University at Taylor. I learned – contrary to the culture and norms I was born and raised in – that it was ok to question things, to have and voice opinions, despite, or perhaps because, I was a girl.”

But as great as her experience at Taylor was, Rhona admits there were times she struggled with loneliness and the challenges that came with being one of only a few persons of color on campus in those days. She would find herself praying sometimes, “Why am I here?” In the first three semesters of her Taylor journey, the question was born from frustration. But with the passage of time, growth of friendships, her change of major, and growth in her spiritual walk, “Why am I here?” stopped being a lament, but rather became a prayer of anticipation and hope.

“I had an attitude shift. We talk a lot about intentional community at Taylor, and I think we sometimes wait for everyone else to be intentional toward us and first forget to be intentional ourselves,” she says. “I got tired of being on the sideline, forever feeling sorry for myself, and decided to plug into the community and not wait for a formal invitation.”

Rhona says the most impactful part of her Taylor education was her spiritual grounding, which is represented by the servant’s towel and Bible she received along with her degree at her Commencement.

“These three things – the degree, the towel and the Bible – were the answer to that question, ‘Why am I here?’” she says. “Looking back, I would consider my Taylor education incomplete if all I got at the end of four years was this degree. I have come to think of these three items and what they stand for as a three-legged stool on which I currently sit.

“I cannot express how vital in my life after Taylor these two items – the Bible and the towel – have proved to be,” she adds. “Yes, the degree – I can never discount that. When you get your degree on graduation day, it is ‘in the bag.’ You have earned it. It is these other two that I am finding I can never quite have in the bag. None of us have really earned these two on graduation day. None of us can say we have the actual form of Christ’s likeness and servant leadership in the bag, or that we have arrived in regards to our walk with God. These are areas we all have to keep working on. But the beauty of it is that Taylor gives you, at least it did for me, a solid foundation and physical reminders to never stop working to earn them.”
“TAYLOR PREPARED ME ACADEMICALLY, AND GAVE ME — IN HINDSIGHT — A REALLY STRONG INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATION ON WHICH MY POST-TAYLOR ACADEMIC, MINISTRY EXPERIENCES, AND OTHER SCHOLARLY PURSUITS HAVE BEEN BUILT.”
It wasn’t until Jennifer (Kamps ’04) and Preston Cosgrove ’04 stood on the street in China where their first adopted daughter, Anna, was found that the gravity of what had happened there began to sink in. Loss was at the heart of this adoption. It was only because Anna’s biological mother felt she couldn’t keep and care for this child that Jennifer and Preston could call her their own.

The couple had started the journey toward adoption their junior year at Taylor, when they went on a Lighthouse trip to South Africa, where they helped lead a sports camp for kids and spent time in an orphanage with babies who were HIV positive. When they began looking into international adoption in 2012, they were struck with the reality that most children in need of adoption have some sort of special need.

“If we were to say ‘no’ to most conditions, we would be waiting for five years,” Preston said. “We decided there’s such a need, we just need to be brave and trust that God will provide His strength and provision.”

They waded through paperwork, worked through a long list of conditions, set parameters – a process that in many ways felt wrong, too transactional, too much like they were looking for a product, not a child.

They decided they were open to orthopedic conditions, particularly ones that could be somewhat corrected, but they weren’t open to missing limbs. Today, both of their adopted daughters are amputees.

Anna, 4, was adopted in the summer of 2013 at 19 months old. She was born with congenital femoral deficiency, a condition that left her right femur so underdeveloped that, at one and a half years old, her right leg was six inches shorter than her left. When Jennifer and Preston first brought her home, she was fitted with a brace that latched onto her leg and extended to the floor with its own foot.

Ivy, 3, adopted approximately 15 months later at 22 months old, has tibial hemimelia in both legs, so both of her tibia bones were missing.

“They lower legs were very, very deformed,” Jennifer said, “like pretzels. Her feet didn’t look like feet.”

About three months after they brought her home, both of her lower legs were amputated through the knee. She was fitted with her first prosthetic legs, a simple pair without knee joints so she could learn to stand upright. On her first day wearing prostheses, Ivy stood for the first time in her life and walked up and down the driveway.
Last December, Anna had a major surgery called rotationplasty, which removed her femur and moved the rest of her leg up, turned around so her knee acts as a hip and her ankle as her new knee. She now walks (and runs and bikes) on a prosthesis that attaches to her ankle. Ivy recently moved up to legs with mechanical knee joints and a pair of running blades so she can race around the playground.

“It’s pretty amazing to watch their progress physically,” said Jennifer, “but more importantly to watch them develop as people, as spirited little girls.”

The girls are typical kids with their own personalities, interests, and self-determined wills. They like to pretend that they’re lions or polar bears or dogs and chase each other around the house on all fours. Anna takes the lead and masterminds their games. “It’s like she was meant to be a big sister,” Jennifer said. Ivy is perceptive and strong-willed. She notices everything and isn’t easily discouraged – a benefit for her as a double amputee. “Our prosthetists and our physical therapists are continually amazed at how quickly she picks up on new things,” Preston said.

The Cosgroves say they have learned a lot through adoption. They’ve learned that it’s not about them. As Preston said, “orphanages are a lot quieter than you would expect, because the babies and the children have learned to quit crying.” They’ve learned the real work starts when you bring home a 19-month-old who’s jetlagged and doesn’t know you. They’ve also learned control is more illusion than reality.

When the Cosgroves were matched with Anna, Jennifer was concerned. They’d spent so much time nailing down what they thought they could handle. They’d consulted medical experts, prayed over it, asked God for discernment. Now, here was this child whose needs would require some form of amputation.

When Jennifer voiced her concerns to her father, his response provided clarity:

“God has given us a light for our path, and it’s not a spotlight. It’s not a light that extends for miles down the road. It’s a light for the next step that we have to take.”

From that first step of adopting Anna to the first steps that have followed – Anna and Ivy on multiple prosthetic legs, walking, running, pedaling – that light has kept shining.

“God has placed them with us for a reason and sometimes I feel undeserving of that,” Jennifer said, “but I also feel that we’re the fortunate ones – that we get to witness God’s miracles through these little girls.”
COMMITTED TO THE CLIMB

BY JAMES R. GARRINGER H'15

IN A LARGE ROOM LOCATED IN A HOSPITAL COMPLEX ON THE NORTH SIDE OF INDIANAPOLIS, A DOZEN OR MORE MEN AND WOMEN RIDE STATIONARY BICYCLES, WORK OUT ON ROWING MACHINES, LIFT WEIGHTS, AND PERFORM DIFFERENT STRETCHING EXERCISES TO IMPROVE FLEXIBILITY AND BALANCE. THEY COME IN DIFFERENT SHAPES AND SIZES, FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, AND VARY IN AGE FROM 40 TO 80 YEARS OLD. THEIR COMMON GOAL IS NOT FITNESS OR WEIGHT LOSS. EACH OF THESE MEN AND WOMEN AT SOME POINT HAVE HEARD THE WORDS, “YOU HAVE PARKINSON’S.”
The program in which they are participating is called The Climb, and it is an extension of the Indiana Parkinson Foundation (IPF), an organization that was founded by four Taylor University alumnae after their father, mentor and friend was diagnosed with the illness.

Parkinson’s affects more than one million Americans and it is estimated that number grows by 60,000 each year. It is a progressive neurological disorder that is often characterized by involuntary tremors, but additional symptoms include muscle rigidity, loss of balance, and in some cases depression and dementia. One early warning sign occurs when people with Parkinson’s stop swinging their arms in cadence with their footsteps as they walk. Other early warning signs include hand tremors or slurred speech. The illness often does its work silently and unnoticed for years before it is discovered.

It was that way for Don Waterman. He believes he’d had Parkinson’s for nearly 10 years before he was finally diagnosed. Don and his wife Debbie are the parents of four grown children. His daughters, Addie (Waterman ’06) Cunningham and Kate (Waterman ’00) Lineback, as well as their friends, Lindsay (Diehm ‘05) Waterman and Joy (Resetar ’07) Gordon, attended Taylor.

“Other people noticed (my Parkinson’s) before I knew it was going on. It became difficult to sign anything or write a check,” he says, adding that while medications have offered some relief from the symptoms, the accompanying side effects can be equally debilitating. “I still farm. I was a carpenter. That has become very difficult. Finish carpentry is very hard. Being able to mark and saw something – it has to be right on – has become very difficult. I can’t get up on roofs anymore. When the meds go off and the disease takes over, I’m prone to falling down. It’s a tough disease. It really is.”

“The impact of my dad’s diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease was devastating. I personally didn’t know much about the disease, let alone what the future looked like for my dad,” remembers Addie. “As a family, we wanted to come alongside my dad and support him in the best way possible.”

That was the genesis of the Indiana Parkinson Foundation. Addie, Kate, Lindsay and Joy created the nonprofit organization in the aftermath of Don’s diagnosis. The Foundation exists to create awareness and raise funds for research – the goal of which is to improve the daily lives and wellbeing of people with Parkinson’s disease.

The inception of The Climb came when Joy, whose advanced degree is in physical therapy, created an exercise program for Don in hopes of relieving Parkinson’s symptoms. The effort was so successful that it expanded into what is today a statewide program. From 300 to 400 Hoosiers with Parkinson’s participate in exercise programs at 11 sites around the State of Indiana with 10 more Climb sites in the works.

“Seeing the benefits of exercise in individuals with Parkinson’s disease has shaped my progression as a therapist,” Joy says. “I sought to continue learning more about Parkinson’s disease and other neurological conditions. I completed the certification in LSVT BIG (a treatment program for people with Parkinson’s) as well as a more recent Parkinson Wellness Recovery certification to learn new treatments and improve my own skill set ... Don’s diagnosis had a significant impact on me. Treating
individuals with neurological conditions, especially Parkinson’s disease, is now my ‘specialty area’ in my profession.”

“My parents are do-ers. They have the biggest servant’s hearts of anyone I know, and it seemed like a natural response to want to do something to help,” says Kate, who adds that the Indiana Parkinson Foundation has a distinctly Christian mission. “Despite the hard work involved in starting and running a nonprofit organization, our hearts are full as we meet more and more people who come to our Climb exercise program, who we know can be touched by the love of Christ. It’s so important for those facing this terrible disease to be a part of a community who understand each other, and can receive hope that can only come from the Lord.”

Kate says lyrics from the song *Something So Big* by Christian artist John Waller captured and expressed her heart’s desire as well as her friends – both in the creation of IPF and its continued mission.

“We, your children, want to do something so big, it’s destined to fail without You, Lord. Something so great, it takes a miracle to do. We, your children, want to do something big for You.”

“The Lord has done big things, and has taken a group of willing hearts on a journey that we could have never imagined or dreamed of without Him,” Kate says. “He is the foundation of Indiana Parkinson Foundation, and without Him, IPF would be destined to fail.”

“When we felt like we were so unqualified, God equipped us,” Lindsay adds. “In our weaknesses, He was strong. When we felt hopeless and defeated, God showed up and continued to bring us back to our mission and vision. My faith has certainly grown throughout this whole experience. I have seen my father-in-law struggle, but his faith has never wavered. I have seen my family pull together through challenges, and stand strong when the foundation has been confronted with tough decisions. In the beginning, I just had to trust that God would turn this into what He wanted it to be.”

To learn more, visit www.indianaparkinson.org.

“We, your children, want to do something so big, it’s destined to fail without You, Lord. Something so great, it takes a miracle to do. We, your children, want to do something big for You.”
Aerial Athletics: As the sun set on another late-summer’s day, Turner Stadium was the setting for Taylor’s football Trojans’ home opener with cross-state rival Butler. Also seen is the Randall Environmental Center, Odle Arena, and the Kesler Student Activities Center (KSAC).
ALUMNI
NOTES

1964
Barbara (Butman) Van Vessem, Ruth (Walker) Wood, Todd Hinkle, Marie (Raese) Gunderson, Jack Van Vessem and Jane (Van Vessem '67) Nalbandian gathered in Panama City Beach, Fla., to reconnect. They enjoy sharing common memories and keeping up with current life situations.

SUBMITTING ALUMNI NOTES IS SIMPLE... Visit taylor.edu/alumninotes to submit your alumni notes updates and photos. Please remember to upload only photos including alumni and 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 ext. 5170, or by mail.
1973

Dave Voris has been awarded the Kelley School of Business Schuyler F. Otteson Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award for 2015-2016. Dave has served as an adjunct professor at IUPUI within the Kelly School of Business for the past 10 years and was selected for this award by the student body in recognition of his outstanding teaching performance. He holds an MBA from Indiana University and a BA in Business Administration from Taylor. He is also a Certified Treasury Professional and a member of the Association of Finance Professionals. He serves as Vice President for Treasury Management at Horizon Bank of Indianapolis and has served in the financial industry for more than 25 years. He and his wife Jeannine are parents of one son and live in Fishers, Ind.

1976

Wanda (Smith) Kawadza’s first book, Saved to Tell My Restoration Journey, is in print. In her book, Wanda tells of a horrific accident which she says she only survived by the grace of God. She says she believes her book “will encourage anyone, particularly believers who have experienced various life challenges or whose relatives or friends have been discouraged and made to feel hopeless by some disastrous event.” Wanda states, “God is the Savior and the best leader of our life journeys.”

Randy Walche and his wife Pati are heading to Liberia to begin ministry with By The Light Ministries (BTLM). Randy says it is a great opportunity for him and his family to pass on a legacy in Christ.

1979

In June 2016, Glenda Greenwood concluded nine years of service to the Ohio History Connection. Throughout her nine years as trustee and four years as president, Glenda worked closely with that organization’s Board and staff to develop a new strategic plan. She also raised awareness about World Heritage in Ohio by convening community gatherings and connecting with the tribal nations that were removed from the land now known as Ohio. Most of all, Glenda fostered a sense of unity and focus among the Ohio History community.

1989

To celebrate their 50th birthdays, in July 2016, Dave Askeland ’88, Joel Durkovic, Rob Muthiah ’88, and Scott Nieveen ’88 joined Dave Horne, Rick Muthiah and Wayne Thebeau for a 10-day trip in Italy and France. In addition to a couple via ferrata climbs, they cycled several famed Tour de France climbs including Alp D’Huez and the Col du Galabier. They also watched three stages of le Tour.

1990

James Kenniv, a composition major from Taylor, is producing a full stage musical, Horizons of Gold, which he co-authored. The musical is being performed at Miami University in Hamilton, Ohio. Horizons of Gold is based on the biblical account of Ruth and is set in the 1930s in the Kansas Dust Bowl.

Jason Falck, after serving for 16 years with Campus Crusade for Christ (including five years in France), began service as Associate Pastor in his hometown of Waterloo, Iowa, in September 2015. He and his wife Audrey have two girls Amy (3) and Julia, 6 months.

2003

Amy (Young) Savona and her husband Don welcomed their fourth child, Charlotte Rose, into the family March 24, 2016. Charlotte joined siblings Emma, Addison and Griffin. The family lives in Novi, Mich.

First East Olson wingmates Katy (Benhardus) Hondlik, Kristen Prillwitz, Ursula (Chase) Pankonin, Laura (Ruehlman) Campbell and Stephanie (Tatone) Winningham met for a reunion in Minneapolis.
SEE WHAT’S GOING ON IN THE LIVES OF TAYLOR ALUMNI
2004

Dr. Loralee Songer performed in concert at Sursa Music Hall, Ball State University during Ball State’s Family Weekend in September. Loralee is a mezzo-soprano and an active recitalist, opera and oratorio performer and conductor. She has performed multiple opera roles including Julius Caesar (Giulio Cesare), Belinda (Dido and Aeneas), Suzuki (Madama Butterfly), Marcellina (Le nozze di Figaro), Second Lady (Die Zauberflöte), Geraldine (A Hand of Bridge) and Lola (Gallantry). She also created the role of the French mother in the world premiere of Dr. Jody Nagel’s 53rd Street in 2009. As a full-time music department faculty member at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Loralee teaches voice, vocal pedagogy, vocal literature, diction and conducts the Chorale. She previously taught at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn., where she led international and domestic choir tours with the women’s ensemble, Ladies of Lee. Loralee holds the Doctor of Arts and Master of Music degrees in vocal performance from Ball State University, in addition to her Bachelor of Music from Taylor.

2005

Alan Briggs has released his second book Guardrails: Six Principles for a Multiplying Church through NavPress. Guardrails is based on principles he and a team have been teaching for nine years and is a simple and practical call to making disciples, developing leaders, and leading healthy churches. He and his wife Julie live in Colorado Springs, Colo., with their four children, and Alan is director of Frontline Church Planting.

Jonathan Lundquist and Alexandra Lundquist were married on December 6, 2015. The ceremony was attended by Taylor alumnus Tyler Humphries ’06 and was located in Conifer, Colo.

2007

Joshua and Alyssa (Lin ’06) Canada welcomed Maya Lin Canada to their family on June 8, 2016. They reside in Santa Barbara, Calif., where Joshua is a development manager at United Way of Santa Barbara County and Alyssa is a licensed clinical social worker at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. The family attends Free Methodist Church of Santa Barbara.

Emily Hunt (MAHE ’09) married Carlos Hinojosa in Waco, Texas, on July 30, 2016. Members of the bridal party included Annie Dimond ’12 and Julia Clemens. Emily is a doctoral candidate at Baylor University in Sociology and Carlos works as the Director of Development at Waco Habitat for Humanity. Taylor graduates present (and pictured) included Steve ’05 and Phyllis (Dye ’64) Sedi, Brent Maher, Julia (Germann) Clemens, Joel Looper ’05, Kathryn (Wolfe ’08) Farmer, Amy Barnett ’94, Jena (Frey ’08) Kirk, Chris Kirk ’08, Scott and Mel (Domsten ’02) Barrett, Annie Dimond ’12, Jorge Burtmicky ’08, Leigh Anne Hunt ’04, Mark Heydlauff ’08 and Jonathan Chacko.

2008

Rachel E. King joined the law firm of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, in the Labor and Employment Group. Prior to joining the firm, Rachel served as a law clerk for the Honorable P. Kevin Brobson in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. She also served as a judicial fellow for the Honorable Anne E. Lazarus in the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and as a judicial intern for the Honorable Dolores K. Sloviter in the U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit. Rachel earned her JD, magna cum laude, in 2013 from Drexel University Kline School of Law, where she served as a staff editor of the Drexel Law Review.

Nate and Darcy (Miller ’09) Miller welcomed a baby girl, Stella Elaine, into their family on April 26, 2016. Stella joins big brother Cohen. Nate is the head men’s soccer coach at Spring Arbor University and Darcy is a stay-at-home mom. The Millers live in Spring Arbor, Mich.

2009

Abigail Erickson married Peter Johnson of Greenfield, Mass., on July 31, 2016, at Pleasant View Bible Church in Warsaw, Ind. Many Taylor alumni were in attendance and helped with the wedding. They included: Vivienne Watrous, Jerusha (Ferbrache) Shin, Anne (Le-Gall) Ferbrache, Anita Kaul ’08, Lindsay (Bohl ’10) Harrison, Ethan Harrison ’10, Robert Anderson; Hannah (Troutman) Anderson, Clint ’11 and Sarah Harris. The couple lives in Nagoya, Japan, where Abi has ministered and worked for six years. Abi and Peter team teach at the Beanstalk International Academy.

Anne (Le Gall) Ferbrache and her husband Eli welcomed their firstborn son, Elisha John, in Mesa, Ariz. Anne was roommates with Eli’s sister, Jerusha (Ferbrache) Shin, and married Eli in 2011 in Pittsburgh. She served as a Fulbright scholar in Brasov, Romania, for a year before moving to Mesa. Anne continues to paint, exhibit and do commission work.

Peter and Charity (Smith) Schweitzer along with their daughter Rhoslyn celebrated the birth of their son and brother Bear Theophilus Schweitzer on June 25, 2016. Charity is a stay-at-home mom and Peter teaches math at Northrop High School in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Christian Leman recently moved with his wife Sarah and their family to Mobile, Ala. Christian accepted a job as the Upper School Principal for Bayshore Christian School. The couple has a two-year-old daughter, Katie Grace, and is expecting a son.

2010

Andrew and Kim (Rupp) Hefner welcomed daughter Katelyn Mae to their family on May 3, 2016. The family resides in Lebanon, Ind., where Andrew is the Workforce Coordinator at Bluegreen Vacations and Kim is the Communications and Events Director for the Indiana Builders Association.
2012
17 Steven Ford married Kirstie Rheinheimer on June 11, 2016, in Milford, Ohio. The couple met at PA orientation in 2007. Other Taylor Alumni in the wedding party included Justin VanWyk, Elizabeth Ford ‘12, and Andy Seiver ‘08. Kristie teaches English at Milford High school, and Steven teaches 6th grade science at Edgewood Middle School in nearby Trenton.

2013
18 Lindsay (Hawkins) Bruk married Adam Bruk in Milwaukee in May 2016. Three of Lindsay’s former 3CO wingmates participated in her wedding: Abbey Walker, Meggie (Calderhead) Kingsley, and Natalie Puls.

2014
19 Caroline Chow and Aric Warner ‘11 were married on May 27, 2016. They live in Ames, Iowa, and are pursuing their PhDs at Iowa State University.

2015
20 Amanda Frazer married Brian Cragun on July 17, 2016, in Brownstown, Ind. Taylor participants (pictured left to right) included: Jon and Kelli (Burcham ‘95) Ochs ‘92, Justin Pettit ‘20, Heather Stacker ‘11, Hannah Castor ‘19, Braden Ochs ‘19, Jenny (Ochs ‘96) Martin, Rodney Ochs ‘89, and Dr. Diane Dungan, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Psychology at Taylor University.

2016
21 Emily Stadt has been hired as Director of Development for Elevate Indianapolis. She previously served as marketing coordinator with Generous Giving in Orlando, Fla. She also served as an English teacher and job training coordinator with The Crossing Education Center in Indianapolis. She was previously a graduate assistant in the Taylor Office of Alumni and Parent Relations. Emily is currently on the Taylor Alumni Council and Women’s Giving Circle.

22 Colin Aumiller has been named to Fort Wayne’s Teacher Honor Roll. Colin, who completed the graduate-level Transition to Teaching program at Taylor, is a third generation Taylor student – his mother, her siblings, and his grandparents all had connections to Taylor. Colin was recognized for spending a great deal of time in preparation for his classroom teaching, relationship building, and creating a supportive classroom community. He was also recognized as a positive influence and lifelong learner who seeks out support and advice from his peers to ensure he is implementing best practices.

23 Katelyn (Irons) Bolds and Nichole Parks are working to shape the Christian fiction industry with startup Gilead Publishing. Nichole is the Marketing Coordinator and Katelyn is working as Web Editor and in Author Services. They work in the Wheaton, Ill., office that opened in April of 2016.

24 Ashley Hormann married Andrew Pemberton ‘16 on June 25, 2016, in Upland. Taylor participants included: Keith Bauson ‘16, Ruth Jansen ‘17, Reece McCart ‘17, and Adam Wurster ‘17. They live in Pullman, Wash., where Drew is a student at Washington State University and Ashley is a preschool teacher.

2017
25 Kristian Stephens is a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Indiana Teaching Fellow for 2016. The Wilson program is highly competitive and recruits both recent graduates and career changers with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, and math, and prepares them specifically to teach in high-need secondary schools. Each Wilson Fellow receives $32,000 to complete a specially designed Master’s degree program based on a year-long classroom experience. In return, Wilson Fellows commit to a three-year teaching assignment in urban and rural Indiana schools that most need strong STEM teachers.
IN MEMORIAM

Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” —Matthew 25:34

We remember these members of the Taylor community who have gone to be with the Lord.

1948

Vera Jean Carroll passed away May 19, 2016, at Plum Grove Nursing Home in Palatine, Ill. Vera was an active participant in Rush Memory and Aging Project and was a home economics teacher at Mississinewa High School in Gas City, Ind. She married J. Merritt Caroll in 1954 and was active in the American Association of University Women and Central United Methodist Church in Richmond. She was a Cub Scout Den Leader and a Girl Scout Leader. Vera is survived by her children Joe (Joanne) Caroll and Jill (Kevin) Gentile; grandchildren Emily, D.J. Caroll and Kyle Gentile; and siblings Bob (Bonnie) Fesmire and Phyllis (Charles) Thomas.

1949

Myra (Roesler) Luce, 88, went to be with the Lord on April 3, 2016. Myra was born August 8, 1927, in Waseca, Minn., and graduated from Taylor with a degree in Social Work and a minor in Organ Performance. She loved music, taught piano lessons for decades, and served as a volunteer with many organizations including Youth Hope and the Crisis Pregnancy Center. She enjoyed tutoring children and was an animal lover. Survivors include her husband of 61 years, Rev. Clark Luce (Moline, Ill.), their four children, and seven grandchildren.

1956

Lorena Murphy died September 16, 2016. While attending Taylor, Lorena met and married her husband of 62 years, Mike Murphy ’55. The couple later moved to Kentucky where Mike attended seminary and Lorena finished her senior year at Asbury College. The couple had three children and served as missionaries in Brazil for 40 years. They returned to the United States in 2001 and lived in Erie, Penn. Lorena was active in singing for their church choir and mentored young women through the discipleship program. She is survived by her husband, three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

1960

Dale Arden Williams, 77, Waite Park, Minn., entered the Lord’s presence on August 30, 2016. Dale graduated as Salutatorian from Clinton High School and was awarded a science scholarship at Taylor where he studied chemistry, going on to earn his Master’s degree from Iowa State University and his PhD at Wayne State University. While in choir at Taylor, Dale met Edythe Brown, a Music Education major from Brown City, Mich., and they were married in 1961. Dale is survived by his wife and their children.

1962

Richard Steven Slaughter died June 7, 2016. Steve retired from Lennox Industries and was a U.S. Army veteran. He was a member of the Brown County Antique Tractor Club, American Legion, Midstates Jeepster Association, Indiana Historical Society, and was formerly a member of Indiana Beekeepers Association. Richard is survived by his wife Rita, their children and grandchildren.

1963

Lawrence Rich went to be with the Lord on June 25, 2016. After he graduated from Taylor, Lawrence attended graduate school at Wheaton College and pastored a Messianic Jewish Congregation in Chicago for many years. In 1991, Lawrence and his family moved to Toronto, Canada, where he was Canadian Director of Chosen People Ministries until his retirement 10 years ago. Lawrence battled Parkinson’s disease for 16 years.

Rev. Fred W. Yazzie, retired pastor of the Four Corners Native American Ministry of the UMC and lately of Ojo Amarillo, passed away July 10, 2016. He was 77.

1969

Randy Mohler, 67, a resident of Naperville, Ill., passed away peacefully on April 27, 2015, at home. Randy was an avid golfer and a member of Black Sheep Golf Club, member and former Club Champion of Naperville Country Club, and a member of Estero Country Club at the Vines in Ft. Myers, Fla. Randy and his family were longtime members of our Saviour’s Lutheran Church. He was inducted into the Taylor Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in baseball. After his graduation, Randy was drafted by the San Francisco Giants Baseball Club and also played in the Cape Cod League. He was the CEO/President/Owner of Commander Packaging, South Haven Packaging (South Haven, Mich.), PDI (Packaging Dimensions Inc., Aurora, Ill.), and Jamel Container (Chattanooga, Tenn.). Randy is survived by his wife of 44 years, Michelle, their daughter and grandchildren.

Hettie Jill (Hardin) Stauffer, 68, died Tuesday, June 7, 2016, in Fort Wayne, Ind. She graduated from Taylor and married Christian L. Stauffer; he preceded her to Heaven in 2006. Hettie served as a missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators for 25 years. She is survived by her four children and six grandchildren.

1978

Captain Bryan J. ’Battle Chaps’ Weaver, 60, USN, Active Duty, Beaufort, S.C., passed away at Naval Hospital, Beaufort, S.C., after a long and valiant fight with cancer. He was one of the Navy’s most highly decorated chaplains. Bryan graduated with honors from Taylor where he met his wife Shelly (Buckhalt ’80). He received a Master of Divinity degree from Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1983. On March 15, 1985, he was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the Presbytery of Ohio of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. He was commissioned in December 1985 as a lieutenant, junior grade, in the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps in Pittsburgh and served in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps for over 30 years. In addition to his unit and service awards, his personal awards include Legion of Merit (one gold star), one bronze star, Meritorious Service Medal (one gold star), Navy Commendation Medal (three gold stars), Coast Guard Achievement Medal (one gold star), Navy Achievement Medal, and the Fleet Marine Force Qualification Officer (FMFQO) insignia. He is honored by the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary through a scholarship fund established in his name.

1980

Della Marie (Kerlin) Eden, 58, went to be with the Lord on April 13, 2016, after a long illness. As a student at Taylor, she was a member of Tri Kappa, a philanthropic organization in the State of Indiana. Della was a probation officer and substitute teacher before dedicating her time to her husband Ollie and children. She enjoyed the outdoors and traveling with her family. She is remembered as adventurous and loving. Della and her family lived in La Porte, Ind. She is survived by her husband and three children – Sarah, Tyler and Rachel.
Homecoming & Family Weekend

OCTOBER 14-16, 2016
From reunions, music and sports to the food and amazing weather, Taylor University’s first combined Homecoming and Family Weekend was thoroughly enjoyed by the 2,000-plus members of the Taylor community who attended. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!
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As members of the Taylor University community looked across the dirt runway, the hundreds of schoolchildren’s faces peering at them from several yards away moved them to tears. “Thank you for bringing Samuel Morris home,” read one of the signs held by the children, who had walked more than a mile in the heat and humidity to greet their guests.

In a country that has seen civil war, presidential assassinations, and Ebola, the story of Samuel Morris, the Liberian prince whose thirst for the Holy Spirit transformed Taylor University, has bred excitement and hope. The group from Taylor took part in the dedication of the Samuel Morris Educational Resource Center in Farmersville, Sinoe County, Liberia – the home region of Morris. As community members crowded around the partially-finished building, the Liberians and Americans together sang praises to God and thanked Him for what He has done and what we believe He will do.

When the Samuel Morris statue that once stood on our Fort Wayne campus and later in the entrance to Samuel Morris Hall was unveiled, tears began to flow and praises to God echoed throughout the building and surrounding area. The caption above the statue read, “To the Glory of God,” and while it was a day of celebration, the reality is there is still work to do.

The dream of Taylor University and the people of Liberia is that the Morris Center, when completed, will be a place where children and adults alike will study math and science and learn anew the story of Samuel Morris and the life-changing power of the Gospel of Christ.

The cost to complete all of this is $200,000 – an amount that will be used to finish construction of the building and purchase furniture and utilities.

Would you prayerfully consider a generous gift to this project? When the Morris Center is completed, the men, women, boys and girls of Liberia will get a crucial boost in their educational training, and, best of all, hear the life-changing message of the Gospel.
I wish every one of you could have been with me throughout our recent Homecoming and Family Weekend. During those three days, I heard story after story from alumni and parents who love this place like no other, and who credit it for impacting and enriching their lives and the lives of those they love. This place on the outskirts of the little town of Upland has become an anchor point, a touchstone if you will, for many thousands of people who have gone on to be Christ’s ambassadors to a fallen world.

Indeed, this is no ordinary place, this 250-acre postage stamp in rural central Indiana. God is alive and well here. He is and has been present in this place and in its people since its founding in 1846. Indeed, over our 170-year history, He has shown Himself to be faithful over and over as we, in turn, have struggled to be His hands and feet in this needy world. As a result of His rich blessings and our efforts to be worthy of those blessings, the lives of generations of young men and women have been dramatically touched and changed. While at Taylor, they were – and are – lovingly educated, mentored, influenced and guided in the process of growing into faithful Christ-followers who love Him and seek to do His will.

A man who impacted my life during my senior year at Taylor, my friend Dr. Milo Rediger ’39, still stands as one of Taylor’s greatest presidents. I think he described best what happens here and what makes this place so distinct and special, by first identifying what he called Taylor’s Anchorpoints. Dr. Rediger declared that Taylor was, is and would be:

- Biblically Anchored
- Christ Centered
- Faith/Learning Integrated
- Liberal Arts Grounded
- World Engaging
- Whole Person Focused
- Servant Leader Motivated

I believe the Anchorpoints articulated by my friend and mentor continue to be foundational to all we aspire to do at Taylor. To those Anchorpoints and to my friend, I say amen. Taylor remains a great work of God precisely because we remain anchored to Him in just these ways.

What a blessing to participate with you in propelling this wonderful mission forward. Its mission, “to develop servant leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ’s redemptive love and truth to a world in need,” has never been more important. And, indeed, Taylor is making a Kingdom difference in countless lives and in this world. I urge you to redouble your efforts on behalf of and in support of this most worthy of Christian causes. One life at a time, one class at a time, we are impacting this world for Christ!

Lowell
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MELON, GOURD, CAMEL
Taylor student Brianna Jordahl reacts to a camel used during Third West Wengatz’s Melon and Gourd finale in September.