No Place Like Dome - Historic. Futuristic. Some have loved it, and some, perhaps not as much. Throughout its history, Taylor University’s dome has been home to the University’s dining hall, student union, student publications, student organizations, and campus store. Built 60 years ago, the dome was conceived as a forward looking building that beckoned to the 1960s and beyond. Our cover photograph displays this iconic building’s architecture, the reflection of other, newer buildings, and the great open sky of Central Indiana. In many ways, the Dome continues to beckon to the future, and we are grateful that it will continue to serve future generations of Taylor’s students and beyond.
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WESTERN ART COLLECTION COMING TO TAYLOR

A comprehensive collection of art depicting life on the American frontier of the 1800s is coming to its new home at Taylor University.

HAMMOND NAMED TAYLOR’S PROVOST

Throughout his career in education, Dr. Michael Hammond ’92 was always drawn back to his alma mater.

GENERATIONAL IMPACT

Eight revered Taylor faculty members - called from different backgrounds and disciplines, and joined by their commitment to Christ - completed their tenures this spring.

THE BILLY GRAHAM LEGACY

Taylor’s beloved President Emeritus, Dr. Jay Kesler, shares his reflections on the late evangelist, Dr. Billy Graham.

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Founded in 1846, Taylor University is one of America’s oldest Christian liberal arts colleges. Over 2,000 graduate and undergraduate students from 42 states and 30 foreign countries attend Taylor, where majors in 64 fields of study are available. Taylor University is the number two school in the Midwest region in the US News & World Report survey, America’s Best Colleges. Taylor has been ranked in the region’s top three for 21 consecutive years.

The mission of Taylor University is to develop servant leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ’s redemptive love and truth to a world in need.
“I have spent my life in the wake of Billy Graham, like a small boat following his great ship.”  Jay Kesler ’58

He remembered it better than I did. I could say that about several encounters in my life, but on this occasion, it was Dr. Jay Kesler ’58 who called me one day last spring to say that he had finished the piece I had asked him to write for the Taylor alumni magazine.

Amidst the crush of seemingly urgent things I found myself in the middle of, it took a moment or two for me to comprehend what I was hearing. So Dr. Kesler reminded me of a conversation from several years ago when the evangelist Billy Graham was critically ill and nearing the end, and I had called to ask if he (Dr. Kesler) would consider sharing his perspective on Dr. Graham’s life for publication in Taylor.

When he gave me the manuscript, Dr. Kesler explained that in his tribute to Dr. Graham, he had combined his own observations with selections from a book for which he had been interviewed, titled, The Leadership Secrets of Billy Graham. Combining the two sources, he was able to illustrate more fully the scope of his relationship with the famed evangelist.

That tribute is included in this issue of Taylor, along with a story about exciting new plans for an iconic campus building that has served thousands of students for more than 60 years. There are also stories about eight retiring faculty members whose combined years of service to Taylor University exceeded 200 years.

Reflecting on the impact of Dr. Kesler and Dr. Graham on my life and the lives of so many others, I am reminded of one of my favorite passages of Scripture from Acts 4: They were astonished and recognized they had been with Jesus.

Oh Lord, would you please make that true of all of us?

James R. Garringer H’15
Editor
Taylor University’s Film and Media program has won two prestigious awards from the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences (NATS), Lower Great Lakes Chapter – the regional Emmy Awards organization.

The films, *The Illustrator*, and *Cos Wars: More than a Hobby*, each received a Student Production Award from NATS and were created by students in Taylor Professor Kathy Bruner’s Documentary Filmmaking class.

*The Illustrator* won in the Student, Long Form category and is a film about artists in Indianapolis, Indiana. The piece was directed by Camden Johnson ’19, produced by Tiless Turnquest ’18, and edited by Sean Quillen ’20. “My team and I had the opportunity to create a film about the arts, which is something that we are all very passionate about,” Johnson said. “Having it nominated for a Student Production Award was an honor in itself, but actually winning the award was something the team would never have dreamed of.”

The Taylor documentary *Cos Wars: More than a Hobby* won the NATS Student Production Award in the Arts and Entertainment/Cultural Affairs category. *Cos Wars* tells story of *Star Wars* devotees who dress in the costumes of the franchise’s characters for appearances at conventions and charity events. “I loved every part of making *Cos Wars*, especially making it with such an incredible team,” said Hannah Goebel ’18, the project’s producer. “We worked so hard on it and are honored to receive this recognition.”

Bruner attended the Emmy ceremony with her husband John and three of the Taylor student nominees. “One of the Lower Great Lakes Emmy leaders congratulated me on the great work coming out of Taylor University,” Bruner said, “and I told him our program in Film and Media Production program is fortunate to have great students.”

A film from John Bruner’s Narrative Filmmaking class, *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, was also nominated for a Student Production Award in 2018.

These most recent two NATS awards push to six the total of awards presented to Taylor’s filmmakers from the regional Emmy organization since 2012. Taylor’s Film and Media program has received 15 NATS nominations.
Western Art Collection Coming to Taylor University

The Leland and LaRita Boren Western Art Collection consists of pieces ranging from oils, pastels, and watercolors to works in bronze and marble. The collection was founded in 1971 when Leland Boren received a gift of an oil painting by the late artist Joe Beeler from employees and friends from Avis Industrial Corporation, of which he serves as CEO. Boren, an Upland industrialist and philanthropist, recently concluded an agreement with Taylor officials that will place the collection on loan to the University during his lifetime and later will be gifted to the school.

The collection includes pieces by many recognized western artists. Taylor officials say plans are underway to create a permanent housing and collection in the Dome, a building which formerly housed Taylor’s dining service and student center.

“It is my great desire that this collection be used for the edification of others. Knowing that the enjoyment and legacy of this collection will continue to be experienced here in Central Indiana in the years to come is very satisfying to me,” said Boren. “Two of my late wife LaRita’s great loves were her love for her home state of Oklahoma and her fascination with the history of the American West. My family and I are pleased that this collection will continue to be a blessing to not only future generations of Taylor University students, faculty, and staff members, but also many from beyond our community.”

“We are excited that Taylor University will become the permanent home to this extensive collection of Western art. This transformative gift is a testament to the heritage and history of our nation and will be a central part of our campus for years to come,” said Taylor President Lowell Haines ’75.

“Most of all, we look forward to sharing this collection with individuals of every age in Central Indiana and beyond,” Haines continued. “Our goal and belief is that Taylor University will become a destination where people can enjoy this beautiful collection in its original rural setting.

“We are also grateful in that this collection will testify for generations to come of the love and friendship of Leland and LaRita Boren, and their relationship with Taylor University,” Haines added.

The Borens moved to Upland in 1965. LaRita Boren served as a member of Taylor’s Board of Trustees from 1977 to 2010. She died after a brief illness in 2011. Leland Boren has served as CEO of Avis Industrial Corporation since 1969.
Dr. Michael D. Hammond ’92 has been named Provost of Taylor University. Hammond, who has served since 2015 as Taylor’s Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Biblical Studies, replaces Dr. Jeff Moshier, who recently announced his plans to step down.

In his role as dean, Hammond was tasked with management of professional development, curriculum, pedagogy, and hiring for seven departments, including 62 full-time faculty and a number of adjunct faculty and professional staff members. Additional responsibilities included restructuring of academic departments as recommended by the University Program Review prioritization project, and co-chairing a university action project on Shared Governance for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

In addition to his Taylor degree, Hammond holds a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas and an M.A. from Wheaton College Graduate School.

Prior to his return to Taylor, Hammond served for six years (the last three years as department chair) as a faculty member for the Department of Historical, Legal, and Leadership Studies at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida. He has also worked in publishing, serving as editor of *Religion in American History* since 2014. From 2000-2005, Hammond was Director of Leadership Development and an instructor at Taylor.

“I have worked closely with Michael in a variety of situations during the past two years and have been impressed with his character, skills, and intellect,” said Taylor President Lowell Haines ’75. “He is a thoughtful educator of the first order. Known across campus as a principled leader, Michael approaches his work with wisdom, resolve, and grace. He is a champion of the academic program and the faculty who deliver it. And equally, if not more important, he is a Christian brother who loves Taylor and its people. I believe Michael is God’s person for this role and for this time.”

“Taylor University has been a special community for me since I started my first year as an undergraduate student,” Hammond said. “Taylor reflects an alignment of discipleship and academic integrity that prepares students for a lifetime of service.

“Over the years, I have had rich experiences at other colleges. Outstanding mentors have modeled humility, leadership, and academic scholarship for me. And yet I continued to hold an affinity for Taylor University and the deep community we have here,” he continued.

“I enter into this role with my eyes wide open. The challenges we face are apparent to me, and yet I also anticipate that there will be a lot of surprises,” Hammond added. “God has been faithful to Taylor University for many years, and I know that He will continue to inspire and lead us. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve Taylor University.”
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.

@slorzdevol No one here at Taylor knows how to handle this much sun. Tank tops are out of control, everyone looks like a lobster, and classes at the Sammy statues are fighting for their ground with the tolfers. It’s mayhem. #TaylorU

@PaigeMcNinch @Wengatz what happened to you guys playing jazz on Wednesdays, I need some smooth tunes to accompany my midweek commute #TaylorU

@settles_deborah My left eye won’t stop leaking tears and I really think that’s a good representation of dead week at this point #TaylorU

@Chrysa_Keenon When the power goes out in the library and your entire life flashes before your eyes #TaylorU

@CUPOF_TEA_gan For a college that values community, y’all are giving me a lot of homework that’ll prevent me from family fellowship over break. #TaylorU

@babygarrity_4 I had to borrow a pencil to take my last final ever. #FinishingStrong #TaylorU

@danielbowmanjr I say this a lot and will keep saying it: I love my students so much. Grateful for them today, and for being allowed to come alongside on their beautiful journeys. I often feel they do me much more good than I can do for them. I’ll keep trying, failing, failing better. #TaylorU

@settles_deborah My left eye won’t stop leaking tears and I really think that’s a good representation of dead week at this point #TaylorU

@slorzdevol No one here at Taylor knows how to handle this much sun. Tank tops are out of control, everyone looks like a lobster, and classes at the Sammy statues are fighting for their ground with the tolfers. It’s mayhem. #TaylorU
Dr. Scott Moeschberger presents the 2017 Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award to Dr. Tim Herrmann during the fall faculty chapel.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY KEVIN JOHNSON, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY TIM HERRMANN ’77, AND PROFESSOR OF FILM AND MEDIA KATHY BRUNER ALL WERE HONORED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE, LEADERSHIP, AND IMPACT DURING THE 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR.

Johnson, who joined the Taylor faculty in 2016, received the 2018 Dr. Joe Burnworth Teaching Award, an award presented annually to a member of Taylor University’s teaching faculty who has been at Taylor from two to five years. Burnworth, the award’s namesake, was a 31-year member of Taylor’s education department faculty who served with distinction and was well loved by alumni, students, and faculty colleagues. His family established the award after Burnworth’s death in 2006.

The citation, read during the Honors Chapel in May, cited Johnson for having “quickly developed a strong reputation among students as a professor who models scholarly inquiry in all of his courses,” and likened Johnson to the late education professor for the individual care expressed for his students.

The 2017 Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award was presented to Herrmann during the fall semester’s Faculty Chapel. “As a teacher, this recipient is known as a respected and beloved educator, as evidenced by the outpouring of responses we received from current and former students.”

Among those responses, Herrmann’s former students remembered him as, “Someone whose teaching challenged me (and still challenges me) to think deeply about purpose.” Another added, “My ideas about the pursuit of wisdom and the ‘good life’ are a direct legacy of observing the way he embodies his faith in Jesus.”

“Quite simply, I am a better person because of [Herrmann],” said another. “I listen better, I speak better, I hold my silence better, I think better, I understand better, I learn better, I love better.”

The 53rd Distinguished Professor honoree was presented by Taylor’s Alumni Council to Bruner who, with her husband John, has seen numerous students honored for excellence in filmmaking. Many of those students have subsequently gone on to impactful careers in the film and motion picture industry.

According to Dara (Johnson ’02) Berkhalter, Executive Director for Alumni and Parent Relations, Bruner was nominated by more than 20 students on campus, each detailing how Bruner had impacted their Taylor experience.

“This award is such a great honor, and it’s a joy to realize that some of my students nominated me,” Bruner said. “My husband John and I came to Taylor with the desire to mentor the next generation of filmmakers and visual storytellers, helping them pursue excellence in the work they create so they can reflect the truth, beauty, and goodness of their Creator. It’s a blessing to share my life with students and colleagues at Taylor.”
In addition to a stellar senior season, Tanner Watson was one of three members of Taylor’s baseball team to be named a CoSIDA Google Cloud First-Team Academic All-American.
GRADUATING SENIORS TANNER WATSON ’18 AND CASSIDY WYSE ’18 ARE THIS YEAR’S GATES-HOWARD AND NATALIE STEELE AWARD WINNERS.

The awards recognize Taylor’s top male and female senior student-athletes for excellence in competition, academics, and character. Individuals are nominated for and voted on by the Taylor athletics department.

Watson, the Gates-Howard winner, earned a degree in finance, achieving a 3.75 GPA. He also was honored as Co-SIDA all-district and all-American performer, and was a three-time all-conference selection by the Crossroads League.

During his senior season, Watson batted .341 with 15 extra-base hits and 37 runs batted in, helping lead the Trojans to a best-ever 44-win season. From his catcher’s position, Watson threw out 17 would-be base stealers.

The recipient of the Natalie Steele Award, Wyse, graduated with a degree in elementary education while balancing her team responsibilities and earning a 3.74 GPA. She also was honored as a CoSIDA Academic All-District team member, was twice selected to the Academic All-Crossroads League team, and was an NAIA Scholar-Athlete award winner.

During her four years at Taylor, Wyse earned Freshman-of-the-Year honors and made the all-Crossroads team each year. For her career, she scored 1,527 points – eighth all-time for the women’s basketball program. Additionally, Wyse received the NAIA Champions of Character Award.

“‘The thing that drew me to Taylor in the first place was the people,’” said Watson. “‘I wanted to go to a school where I could excel spiritually, academically, and athletically. I think I found a few places that offered this, and the thing that separated Taylor from the other schools were the people I came in contact with on my visits. There was something about the people at Taylor that seemed genuine and I really appreciated that. There was a peaceful presence that I felt on the Taylor campus as a whole and that really made it feel like home to me.”

Wyse expressed similar thoughts. “I was drawn to Taylor because of the clear emphasis on faith and community,” she said. “The players, coaches, and professors made it obvious from the beginning that they truly cared about me as a person. I knew Taylor would be a place in which I could grow spiritually, physically, emotionally, and academically. The minute that I stepped foot on campus, I knew that I was exactly where I was meant to be.

“‘Athletics at Taylor taught me so much more than just the game of basketball,’” she added. “‘While at Taylor I learned what it meant to be a leader, teammate, friend, and woman of God.’”
JAY LINK JOINS THE TAYLOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT STAFF

Wealth counselor, pastor, author, consultant, and speaker Jay Link has joined the University Advancement staff at Taylor University.
The move to Taylor is the latest step in a career spanning nearly 45 years of work in church, pastoral, and stewardship-related fields. According to Taylor’s Vice President for Advancement Rex Bennett, Link’s work in stewardship management and planning has uniquely qualified him for the work facing him at Taylor University.

“Jay Link is a committed Christ follower and knowledgeable professional,” said Bennett. “He is an experienced consultant in the area of stewardship planning, and his expertise in the area of assisting wealthy Christian families plan their wealth distribution is both wide and deep. Jay has already worked with several Taylor friends to assist them in the stewardship of their resources.

“We are truly blessed to have a man of Jay’s capabilities, insight, and decades of experience in stewardship planning,” Bennett added. “In fact, in addition to his current work with Taylor alumni and friends, Jay is actively creating a succession plan so that when his work at Taylor is done, we will have a fully capable and well-prepared stewardship planning team in place.”

Link holds Bachelor’s and Master of Divinity degrees from Cincinnati Christian University. From 1974-1979, he was an ordained minister in the Independent Christian Church – a role that led to his fulltime preaching in churches in rural Kentucky.

His career transitioned to the business realm when Link became a sales representative and eventually sales manager for Metropolitan Life in Joplin, Missouri. For the next three years, Link was the recipient of several company and industry awards for exceptional production. For two of those years, Link also taught as an adjunct faculty member at Ozark Christian College, also in Joplin.

Since 1981, Link has worked extensively in stewardship and wealth management. In 1981, he founded Kardia, Inc., a family wealth counseling practice that provided extensive spiritual, family, financial, and planning counseling to high capacity Christian families. It was in that role that Link assisted Christians who desired to create and implement state-of-the-art comprehensive, integrated life stewardship plans. In 2010, Link launched The Steward’s Way (formerly Stewardship Ministries) an extensive discipleship curriculum that was written for churches and individuals and based on the concept of whole life stewardship. The Steward’s Way curriculum contains nine, six week studies (54 lessons) that are usually completed over a multi-year period of time.

Beyond those efforts, Link is also an experienced consultant and published author of several books including Family Wealth Counseling: Getting to the Heart of the Matter, To Whom Much is Given: Navigating the Ten Unique Stewardship Dilemmas Affluent Christians Face, Spiritual Thoughts on Materials Things: Thirty Days of Food for Thought.

“What an incredible honor it is to be associated with such an outstanding Christian university,” said Link. “I am excited to put to use my knowledge, gifts and experience that has been gained over many decades to help mentor, train and equip friends and graduates of Taylor to be the best possible stewards of all the Lord has entrusted to them so that God will receive great glory and honor.”
The iconic stained glass windows in the newly-named Meredith Prayer Chapel have seen countless times of prayer for hundreds of Taylor students.
During Heritage Weekend, April 28, 2018, Taylor University’s historic, 1950s-style “Old Prayer Chapel” came to full life again during a dedication service led by President Lowell Haines ’75 and long-time development officer Nelson Rediger ’67.

Early in his tenure as president, Haines had discovered that the chapel, while continuing to serve its original purpose, had become a more informal gathering place. He wanted to restore it to its original appearance and sense of decorum and enhance its artistic beauty. To that end, he solicited the support of First Lady Sherry (Korfmacher ’76) Haines, Art Professor Kathy (Klosterman ’76) Herrmann, interior designer Andrew Dale, and the University Advancement Office.

During the past two years, Rediger led the fund-raising campaign to facilitate the restoration. He was the obvious person to do so because of his knowledge of the history of the chapel and the people associated with its origin. When the college first created the chapel, young Nelson was a six-year-old living on the edge of campus. His father, Milo Rediger ’39 was a faculty member, college dean, and sponsor of the class of 1950 that raised the funds for building the chapel in the south side of Sickler Hall.

Clyde Meredith was the immediate post-World War II Taylor president (1945–51). Historically underrated, his tenure saw the achievement of institutional accreditation (1947), the introduction of football, the construction of the first Taylor library as a distinct building (Ayres Memorial Alumni Library, 1950), and a sharp growth in the size of the student body led by the enrollment of returning soldiers with their GI Bill financial assistance. The mushrooming enrollment led to the converting of all residence hall space to student rooms. This meant the loss of the traditional residence hall prayer rooms. Meredith’s solution was to carve space from Sickler Hall for an all-college prayer chapel. It was at this point that the Class of 1950 determined to become off-campus fundraisers to assist in funding the new chapel.

Nelson Rediger concentrated his modern fundraising efforts on the Taylor classes that were on campus when the original chapel was created, namely the classes of 1950 through 1953. Most of the contributions came from the classes of 1950 and 1952, with the largest donation coming from Don Martin ’52 of Morton, Illinois. Present at the dedication was a couple from two of the principal classes, former trustee Paul Gentile ’52 and Barbara (Clark ’50) Gentile. Listening over the phone with special interest was Paul’s sister Ruth (Gentile ’54) Gearhart.

Taylor University now has two modern design prayer chapels: 1) the old prayer chapel (1950) now known as the Meredith Prayer Chapel (2018) in Sickler Hall and 2) the larger Memorial Prayer Chapel (2008) on the south central part of the campus.

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who received her proposal of marriage from Rex Gearhart '53 while students in the chapel. Also contributing to the renovation expenses were the three children of President Meredith: Clyde Jr. ’50, Phillip, and Joyce. Clyde Jr. hoped to attend the dedication, but illness prevented him from doing so. Nevertheless he sent his speech to Rediger to deliver for him; in it he expressed gratitude and insight into his father’s time as president. Most notably he discussed how the burden of fund raising weighed heavily upon his father.

This period ... increased the need to have funds available for operating the university. This was perhaps the heaviest load my father carried. He wanted badly to spend more time with the faculty and students, and with us at home. He explained to me, “If I can’t bring in the finances, then we are in trouble.” He was never able to see my younger brother or me participate in a sports contest because he was out raising money or in meetings. He always wanted to know that we had played our best regardless of the outcome, and he always encouraged us.

The general story of the restored prayer chapel has three important sub stories, namely 1) historic preservation, 2) the importance of holy places, and 3) the restoration of relationships whenever possible.

1. HISTORIC PRESERVATION

“Tear not down the ancient landmarks.” Proverbs 22:28
“How will we know it’s us without our past?” John Steinbeck

The decision by President Haines to restore Taylor’s original prayer chapel followed the precedent of the administration of Dr. Jay Kesler ’58 (1985-2000), when Kesler committed to major remodeling efforts of the older Sickler Hall (1902) and Swallow Robin Residence Hall (1917) when it may have been less expensive to tear down and replace them. Kesler’s thinking was that he wanted to continue some degree of campus architectural familiarity for the older alumni. It is true that by 2000 there were almost no campus buildings that had not been constructed or extensively remodeled since 1965 - quite unusual for a college with Taylor’s long history.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLY PLACES

"Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10
“Tear not down the ancient landmarks.” Proverbs 22:28
"In solitude...where we are least alone.” Lord Byron
“Real action is in silent moments.” Emerson

It may be difficult to fully realize the importance which the prayer chapel had in the lives of many Taylor students during the half century after 1950. The idea of a special, separated space where people meet God has a prominent place in the Biblical record. These include the Burning Bush, the Tabernacle, and the Temple. Also many such sites were located on mountains (e.g. Bethel, Moriah, Gerizim, Zion, Tabor, and Olives). President Evan Bergwall (1951-59) who succeeded Meredith, in good Methodist Holiness-like tradition, often talked about the “mountain top experience” in reference to the importance of special personal experiences with God. Presidents since Thaddeus Reade (1891-1902) had emphasized the “deeper spiritual life” where intense encounters with God were encouraged as regular parts of the Christian experience. Perhaps the biblical idiom most closely suggested by the Prayer Chapel is the prayer closet (Matthew 6:6, Luke 12:3).

3. THE HEALING OF RELATIONSHIPS

“As much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.” Romans 12:18
“To disagree, one doesn’t need to be disagreeable.” Billy Graham
“Act toward the other in a way most likely to lead to a response of goodness.” Quaker saying

Nearly simultaneous with the writing of this article, I received an invitation from another Christian magazine to report on the reconciliation between former President Jimmy Carter and the family of the late Jerry Falwell Sr., his former political nemesis. I was struck by the comparison between the two pieces. The late 1940s conflict between President Meredith and Dean Milo Rediger is a well-known part of the twentieth-century Taylor history (see p. 151 of William C. Ringenberg, Taylor University, The First 150 Years). Now Clyde Meredith Jr. in his written remarks prepared for the dedication of the restored prayer chapel tells the story of how, “A year before he died, a former Taylor
A colleague flew to Florida to see my father. His purpose was to ask forgiveness on behalf of certain faculty members who had been unhappy and had gone to the board. Dad responded, "Don't worry. I'm fine. God is great and so is Taylor."

While Nelson Rediger believed that naming the restored prayer chapel for President Meredith was an obvious choice, he was also interested in doing what he could to bring reconciliation between the Meredith and Rediger families. "If I could bring healing to that situation, that is what I wanted to do," he said.

The wonderful thing about a Christian initiating honest gestures of forgiveness and healing is that it makes it easier for the other party or parties to respond in a similar way. In a broader manner, one case of restoration provides an example that can influence outside observers to initiate their own acts of reconciliation. How wonderful and how natural that the physical restoration of a prayer chapel can be associated with personal actions of relationship restoration!

Dr. Bill Ringenberg '61 is an Emeritus Professor of History at Taylor University and the namesake of the Ringenberg Archives and Special Collections in the Zondervan Library.
WHEN IT OPENED FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND CHAPEL SERVICES IN 1930, THE MAYTAG GYMNASIUM WAS A GROUNDBREAKING ADDITION TO THE TAYLOR UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY.

With seating capacity for 2,500 people, a hardwood court for gym classes and basketball, a stage from which speakers could proclaim the Gospel message to large numbers of people, and locker rooms where students and athletes could shower after classes or games, Maytag was a definitive upgrade from the facilities in the Helena Memorial Music Hall. There, physical education classes were forced to make do with a much smaller gymnasium located on the ground floor, and chapel services that were crammed into the Shreiner Auditorium on Helena’s second floor. It was a venue that held less than half the people that could fit into Maytag.

For 45 years Maytag was home to gym classes, chapel services, and even the first intercollegiate basketball and volleyball games played by Taylor. That was until 1975 when the Odle Gymnasium (now Odle Arena) opened. In the coming months, Maytag underwent a complete overhaul with the installation of a tiered floor, extended stage, permanent seating, lights, and other amenities that transformed that beloved old space into a new and equally-beloved space – the Rediger Chapel/Auditorium. It was an effective and creative use for a building that had played a central role in the life of the University, but in this case had seen an end to its term of service as a gym. The effort has been a success. Rediger has played a central role in the lives of thousands of Taylor students, many of whom do not realize it was ever a gymnasium. In fact, in two years the building will have been the Rediger Chapel/Auditorium for as long as it was Maytag Gymnasium.
The former Maytag Gymnasium now serves the Taylor campus as the Rediger Chapel/Auditorium.
The Ayres Memorial Hall is another building that was built for one purpose that it served well for many years until it was replaced by something that better suited the evolving needs of the University. The aforementioned Helena Memorial Music Hall (now Helena Memorial Hall) went on to house the theatre and art departments before a fire gutted it and it was renovated to become home for the president’s and provost’s offices and Taylor’s Admissions department. Beyond Maytag, Ayres, and Helena, Sickler Hall and the Freimuth Administration Building were each built to satisfy a need identified by the Taylor administration and Board of Trustees. Each was repurposed for a new season of service.

As it is at many small, faith-based colleges and universities that rely on enrollment, privately-raised funds, and endowment, while some buildings must be demolished at the end of their season of use, more often than not their lives are extended through this kind of repurposing. Such is the case for Taylor’s Dome, the building that housed the Student Union for more than 40 years until it was replaced by the LaRita Boren Campus Center. Campus officials recently announced the Dome will become the home the newly-acquired Boren Western Art Collection, a collection which was donated to Taylor by longtime friend Leland Boren.

Designed by Indiana architect Orus Eash and inspired by the style of famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, the Dome is one of a series of similar structures built roughly 60 years ago. Its mid-century modernist design is one that looked both forward and backward - forward in the sense that it was revolutionary in its design with exposed support beams, a high ceiling, and lots of natural window light; and backward in that its rounded exterior design was intended to blend with rather than disrupt the surrounding area.

When it was built, the Dome’s futuristic design that reminded many of a flying saucer stood in stark contrast to the older and more-traditional college buildings that surrounded it: Helena, Ayres, Maytag, Sickler, Swallow-Robin, the late Magee-Campbell-Wisconsin dormitory and H. Maria Wright Hall - Taylor’s iconic administration building, which was known as “Old Main” before it was destroyed by a fire in January 1960. For the first 40 years of its existence, the Dome was connected to the former Sammy Morris Hall by a breezeway between the two structures. The Dome was known as the Storer Food Center, and contained a large, open room for campus dining known as the Camp Dining Hall, a smaller and more intimate room for special occasions known as the Kerwood Dining Hall, and a kitchen area.
And yet, it came to blend into the campus persona as it was joined in the coming 10 years by the Reade Liberal Arts Center, Nussbaum Science Center, and Wengatz and Olson Halls. After the construction of the Hodson Dining Commons in 1972, the Dome was no longer the primary dining facility on campus and workers installed walls, windows, and doors in the Dome, transforming it into the new home for offices that included Taylor World Outreach and Taylor Student Organization, as well as the Campus Bookstore, Grille, and Student Union.

As the Student Union, the Dome forged its own special place in Taylor’s campus life. People continued to enjoy meals there from the kitchen, which became known as The Grille, and the Dome was the original home of the Jumping Bean, Taylor’s coffee shop, a place where students, faculty, and staff would meet for coffee and conversation. It also became a venue where students could hear live music ranging from their fellow Taylor students such as the Haines Brothers to future recording artist Josh Garrels, who made several trips to Taylor to perform for coffee housees during his college days at neighboring Ball State University.

According to campus officials, the next steps in the life of the Dome involve raising funds for a comprehensive renovation of the facility that will make it not only a suitable home for the new collection of art, but every bit as groundbreaking as the Maytag Gymnasium was when it opened 88 years ago. Among the Dome’s needs are enhanced climate control and security, a restoration of the wide open feel of the Storer Food Center, and storage and display areas where the collection will both reside and be enjoyed by future generations of Taylor students, faculty, and staff, as well as many from beyond the Taylor community.

“We are so pleased that this superb collection of Western art will have a permanent home at Taylor,” said Rex E. Bennett, J.D., Vice President for University Advancement at Taylor. “The art will be of instructional benefit for our students, aesthetic value for our alumni and friends, and create a tourism destination to enhance the image of our campus and the town of Upland.

“We also believe that our historic dome will serve as a fitting venue for the display of the works of art which inevitably evoke admiration for the courage and adventurous spirit of the men and women who settled the Great American West,” Bennett added. “In the weeks and months to come, engaging alumni and friends of Taylor University in the joy of resourcing the funds to complete this project will be our highest priority.”
GENERATIONAL IMPACT
Two hundred twenty-nine years. That is the combined years of outstanding service rendered by eight beloved faculty members prior to their retirements this year. Depending on their starting dates (and counting leap years), it could have been as many as 83,592 days that these eight faced classrooms of students, prepared and gave thousands of lectures, graded untold numbers of papers, tests and essays, and impacted the lives of thousands of Taylor students. In fact, that impact goes beyond the boundaries of Taylor University and into homes, cities, and towns, as well as countless businesses, schools, and churches. The total years of service may have been 229, but the eternal scope of that service is immeasurable.
Dr. Albert Harrison

PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

39 years

Dr. Al Harrison will readily tell you that no one is irreplaceable. Well, yes, but ...

Harrison has been ingrained into the fabric of campus life for 40 years. To generations of Taylor University students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends, he was always somewhere near the center of activities, whether he was conducting music ensembles, leading the pep band at football and basketball games, playing his trombone on the Taylor float in the Upland Labor Day Parade, or even leading the Symphonic Band as they played the iconic song *Sleigh Ride* for Christmas chapels at the end of dozens of fall semesters. Beyond Taylor’s campus, Harrison has also been a respected adjudicator for dozens of vocal and instrumental competitions around the Midwest.

After graduating from Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, Virginia) in 1973, he taught in public schools for four years before earning his M.S. at the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana, Illinois). A few years after he joined the Taylor faculty in 1978, Harrison took a yearlong break to complete his Ed.D. studies, also at Illinois.

Under his direction, the Taylor Symphonic Band (later Wind Ensemble) toured annually from 1984-2009, giving concerts and leading worship services in 19 states. Harrison conducted the Taylor Jazz Ensemble as it grew in stature and popularity with performances at the prestigious Elmhurst Collegiate Jazz Festival (Chicago) that included Elmhurst’s 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2017. The Jazz Ensemble also embarked on three overseas trips including two trips to Nassau, Bahamas, and one to Cuenca, Ecuador, where the group performed in numerous concert halls, schools, churches, and outdoor venues.

In addition to his course load and conducting responsibilities, Harrison served as chair of the Music Department from 1994 to 2018.

Harrison also has been a trombonist in the Marion Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO), served as a member of the MPO Board for 18 years, and played for numerous churches with brass ensembles and in solo trombone and euphonium work.
Dr. LeRoy Kroll has taught everything from the history of science and inorganic chemistry organometallic chemistry. He has mentored hundreds of students since arriving at Taylor in 1979 through various research projects and experiments; and he has served on numerous Taylor committees. But something else his students will always remember about Kroll is his love of cooking. Kroll is known for bringing large portions of delicious home-cooked meals and snacks to share around the department. He explained that love of food preparation is something that ran in his family. Growing up on a dairy farm, Kroll’s earliest experiments were conducted not in a lab, but a kitchen.

But it was the study of chemistry that shaped his career. Kroll graduated with distinction from Lafayette College (Pennsylvania) and went on to earn a Ph.D. at Michigan State University, where he was mentored by future Nobel Prize winner Dr. Robert Grubbs. His love of learning also led to postdoctoral research at the University of Colorado and a postgraduate certificate in Bible from Multnomah School of the Bible (Oregon).

Prior to joining the Taylor faculty, Dr. Kroll served on the faculties of Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, as well as Biola University and Baymonte Christian School, both in California.

Beyond the Taylor campus, he has also been an active member of the larger science community, presenting numerous workshops, papers, and seminars. Additionally, Kroll has held memberships in a number of professional organizations that include: American Chemical Society, International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry, Midwest Association of Chemistry Teachers at Liberal Arts Colleges, and American Scientific Affiliation (Fellow).
Coming from a family of educators, Dr. Betty Messer never really envisioned herself teaching in a classroom. But after earning her bachelor’s degree in sociology from Trinity International near Chicago, it was her love for cultures and connection to other places that led her to formally study Spanish as a graduate student at Florida State University. That love, combined with her desire to share that love with others, led her to the classroom.

Messer explained teaching is much more than just lessons and testing. During her time at Taylor, she strived for the success of her students and took time to get to know them on a personal level during extended conversations over lunch and coffee.

“You get to know them that way,” she said. “And I think just the feeling of, ‘Hey, this has been wonderful to invest in people’s lives, but also they’ve taught me so much and it’s been a neat experience.’”

As a member of Taylor’s Modern Languages faculty, Messer taught numerous Spanish language courses that ranged from Elementary and Intermediate Spanish to Spanish Phonology, Advanced Spanish Grammar, and Art of Writing Spanish. She also taught courses studying Spanish and Hispanic culture and Spanish for Christian Ministry.

“I think teaching is an act of faith, because you do it. You pour yourself out to individuals. You pour yourself out to classes and you never know who you’ve touched,” she said. “I mean, sometimes you do. Of course, some of the majors that obviously you’ve had a lot of contact with, but sometimes, it’s just like, ‘Wow, I am just so grateful that person was about to work their life out.’”
Dr. Steve Messer was an eighth grader when an influential teacher suggested he study history. That suggestion kindled a love affair with the subject that he has passed along to generations of students - for the past 28 years at Taylor University, and prior to that, at Vorhees College, Anderson University, and Ball State University.

“The Taylor students are willing to join you on the journey of higher education and history, particularly just class discussions, advising sessions. Interacting with students is something that I’ll always take with me,” said Messer.

He earned degrees from Florida State University (Ph.D., M.S., M.A.) and Trinity International University, and during his service at Taylor, Messer led 11 student and faculty Civil Rights Movement tours of southern states and participated in two National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institutes at Harvard University and Columbia University. He also served as the Indiana Coordinator on the Membership Committee of the Organization of American Historians from 2002-2013.

Messer’s course load included numerous history offerings ranging from African-American History and Colonial American History to Women in American History and United States History.

Beyond his classroom teaching and service on numerous campus committees, Messer wrote several books, one of which was *Finding Mom*, a poignant recounting of his mother’s suicide and his search to learn more about her after he grew up.

He and his wife Betty (also retiring from the Taylor faculty) plan an active retirement in Florida. The two are avid cyclists who have already completed treks along the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive in Virginia.
Dr. William (Bill) Toll ’71
DEAN OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCE AND PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
28 years

As a student at Taylor University 50 years ago, Bill Toll ’71 knew he wanted to teach. The Lord granted him the desire of his heart during more than 40 years as a college professor, the last 28 of which were at his alma mater.

Toll came to Taylor after 16 years at Asbury University. He holds Ph.D. and M.S. degrees from the University of Kentucky, and an M.S. from Purdue. His teaching load included numerous information system-related courses from Algorithm Design, Animation, Data Structures and Algorithms to Graphics, Language Structures, Surfaces and Modeling, and Theory of Computation.

As a professor, Toll served as the McDaniel Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Department Chair for Taylor’s Computer Science and Engineering program. He also was instrumental in the first ABET accreditation achieved by Taylor’s engineering program. He also played a key role in the development of cross-discipline curriculum that led to Taylor’s computer science program joining the physics program to create a major in computer engineering. And he says he has appreciated the feedback of his former students, many of whom have gone on to jobs in information systems and numerous grad schools where their Taylor preparation proved invaluable.

Beyond Taylor, Toll says he enjoys time spent in his garden and wood shop along with the opportunity to serve in the ministry of his church.

Dr. Bruce Pratt ’74
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF KINESIOLOGY
26 years

Taylor alumnus Bruce Pratt’s passion for personal fitness began when, at an early age, he was confronted by illness in his family. It led to a long career educating others about the importance of health and fitness.

He joined the Taylor faculty in 1992 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health and Physical Education at the former Taylor University Fort Wayne (TUFW) campus, and came to Taylor’s Upland campus in 2009 when the Fort Wayne campus closed.

During his period of service on the TUFW campus, Pratt’s teaching load included: Fitness for Life, Weight Training, Bowling, Tennis, Badminton, Volleyball, Softball, Personal Fitness, Aerobic Conditioning, Individualized Physical Education, and Elementary Games and Rhythms. He also taught Elementary School Health and Safety, Physical Education, Basketball, and Weight Control and Fitness. As a member of Taylor University’s School of Natural and Applied Sciences, Pratt’s teaching assignments included classes in Physical Education and Human Performance.

In addition to his Taylor degree, Pratt holds M.A. and Ed.D. degrees from Ball State University.

Beyond his classroom teaching, Pratt served committee assignments on both the Taylor and TUFW campuses that included: Community Life, Faculty Athletics Representative, Wellness Task Force, Faculty Personnel Committee, Customer Service Task Force, Health Insurance Review Committee, Degree Completion Task Force, Teacher Education Committee, General Education Committee, and Search Committee for Public Health faculty position.
Dr. Pam Medows
PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION AND DIRECTOR OF TRANSITION TO TEACHING
21 Years

For more than two decades, Dr. Pam Medows has supervised aspiring teachers, taught dozens of education-related classes, and led international trips to locations that included Ethiopia, Indonesia, India the Philippines, Honduras, and Trinidad. But the travel that truly has captured her imagination is not just around the world, but in its orbit. Medows has long been fascinated with NASA, space travel, and the early days of the space program.

Medows concluded 21 years of service to Taylor this year. She joined the Taylor faculty after serving the faculties of Ivy Tech and Lakeview Christian School (both in Marion, Indiana). Originally a graduate of Marion College (Indiana Wesleyan University) in 1972, Medows went on to earn an M.A.E. and Ed. D., both from Ball State University.

For the past five years, Medows has served in Taylor’s Transition to Teaching program. In fact, she will continue to serve that program after her retirement. She also taught English to Chinese students in conjunction with the Roosevelt Institute, served on several campus committees, and held memberships in professional organizations that include the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, National Science Teachers Association, Phi Delta Kappa International, National Association for Alternative Certification, and the Association of Teacher Educators - Indiana Unit.

And Medows joined more than 30,000 other runners and walkers in May to complete 11th 500 Festival Mini Marathon - a 13.1-mile event that treks from downtown Indianapolis to the legendary Indianapolis Motor Speedway for a lap around the famed track and back again.

Dr. Dale Keller
PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION
18 years

Throughout his tenure as a professor of communication at Taylor University, Dr. Dale Keller’s passion has been serving his students. From meetings in his office and staying after class to answer questions to getting together for a cup of coffee and just listening, Keller says those investments have reaped rich rewards. In fact, he genuinely is moved when when a graduating student thanks him, or a card arrives from an alumnus or alumna that expresses their gratitude - so much so that Keller has kept a file of those encouraging notes and emails that illustrate God's blessings over the course of his career.

During his tenure, Keller taught numerous communication-related courses that included: Team-based Communications, Influence and Persuasion, and Strategic Communications to Business and Professional Communications, Communications in Organizations, and Symbols and Interpretation.

And when he is beyond the borders of the Taylor campus, Keller admits to another great love - a 1983 Chevrolet El Camino that he tinkers with, washes diligently, and drives only during the summer months.

Keller holds a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas, an M.Div. from Fuller Seminary. Previously, an M.A. from Wheaton College, and a B.S. from Arizona State University.

From left: Leonard Rogers, Stunce Williams, Sam Kamalson, Jay Kesler, Sam Wolgemuth, Billy Graham, Jim Wilson, Jim Groen, Werner Burklin, and John Tabe were among those who attended the historic International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1974.
The Billy Graham Legacy

By Dr. Jay Kesler '58
Editor’s note: One of the things that has drawn so many to Dr. Jay Kesler is his down-to-earth approachability. Kesler is one of only a few people I've ever known who could move effortlessly from one group setting to another. When asked to write a reflection on his relationship with the late Billy Graham, Kesler wanted it made clear that he was in no way claiming to either be an authority on the life of Graham, or a closer friend to Graham than was actually the case. Kesler and Graham met on a number of different occasions during which they shared their mutual visions for how to best achieve the Great Commission. What follows are Jay’s thoughts on Dr. Graham.

“I have spent my life in the wake of Billy Graham, like a small boat following his great ship.”

Jay Kesler in The Leadership Secrets of Billy Graham

In speaking with Dr. Myra, I offered the following quote, which touches on the shared faith that brought Billy Graham and me together.

“Billy’s great strength [was] his ability to intuitively go to the center of things. German pastor Helmut Thielicke [wrote] about the difference between the evangelist and the philosopher-teacher-pastor … Thielicke [said] the evangelist is like a man hunting a stag – if you shoot rabbits, you’ll never see a stag. In my mind, Billy Graham was no rabbit shooter, he was always going for the stag ....

With that in mind, “[t]he great issue in today’s world concerns the truth claims made about Jesus of Nazareth in the Scriptures. The Bible asserts and evangelicals believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Christ, a member of the Trinity, participant in the Godhead at the creation of the world. When all the dust is settled, Christ is either who he claimed to be or a well-meaning imposter. Billy Graham consistently pressed the promise that to truly put one’s faith in Christ and seek God’s forgiveness through His atonement on the cross, our sins are forgiven and eternal life is granted by God’s grace.”

One encounter Billy and I had that was particularly memorable came during my presidency of Youth For Christ when I made a trip to Rio de Janeiro that coincided with a Graham Crusade. It makes a key point, I think, about the nature of our relationship.

“While [Billy] was resting and recuperating, we talked for a couple of hours about the challenges of youth ministry ... [Billy was] a good listener, and I felt affirmed. He encouraged us to stay focused on evangelism and avoid the secondary issues: eschatology, various denominational differences, modes of baptism, and all the political things.”
Taylor alumni Jay Kesler and Sam Wolgemuth with Billy Graham during the International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland.
To put it another way, he encouraged me to keep first things first. It was Dr. Myra who so well said, “One of the profound effects of Billy’s leadership has been his stoking the fires of other leaders beyond his own organization. He wasn’t building his own empire, he was building something bigger. He did so through hundreds of connections … and in worldwide meetings such as his conferences in Amsterdam, in which thousands of evangelists came to draw inspiration and direction. It was his idea to launch this great enterprise and his driving-force leadership that made it happen.

“Billy’s vision was large, indeed, and it inspired the 10,000 leaders from 180 countries who were there. Here is what he told those assembled: ‘We are the first generation that has the awesome capacity to destroy mankind from the face of this planet because of the development in incredible weapons of mass destruction. But we also have within our hands the technological breakthroughs in communications that make it possible to reach every corner of the earth with the gospel in this decade. Let us therefore ask God to give us fresh vision. It may be painful for us to face the failures of our lives honestly and confess them to God, but may God break through the barriers in our hearts and minds to strengthen our hands, to enlarge our vision, to be used of God for His Glory and his joy.’”

For God’s glory – that was the heart of Billy Graham’s life, work, and ministry, and it was that ministry that opened other doors for my work and the work of my colleagues. As I shared with Dr. Myra, “[Billy Graham] opened the territory for the rest of us, and we looked to him for many directional cues … His example was so important to us. Up until then, in the conservative Christian world we believed that to deny the gospel was a sin, but to deny the social justice issues was just kind of a mistake. Watching Billy, we saw that we needed to put them both in the same category, that one without the other was truncated. One could be as deeply disobedient to Christ over social issues as one could be over theological issues. That’s what made us ‘new evangelicals.’”

“[Billy] integrated his campaigns and brought into his organization associate evangelists who were black … We saw what Billy did, and we too in the 1960s platformed black leaders such as Bill Pannell and Tom Skinner. On the cover of our teen magazine, ‘Campus Life,’ we ran a photo of white and black teenagers riding in the same convertible. We had hundreds of magazines sent back from groups that would not distribute it in the South. But we were committed to this, and Billy’s example confirmed for us that this was the right direction.”

Although Billy Graham and I had only a few face-to-face meetings, it was during those brief meetings that I saw the embodiment of integrity and wisdom.

“The whole Graham organization and all its people were tremendously encouraging to me … The best metaphor is King Arthur. The Knights of the Round Table had deep affection for and loyalty to Arthur. Billy is the combination of about ten people who gave over their whole lives and careers to reach the world for Christ. I’ve
never been around a Billy Graham insider who spoke with anger or envy or disillusionment about their involvement in the Association. They’re not fawners or sycophants or courtiers, they simply have a shared vision.”

Needless to say, in our contemporary society, racial, social, and theological issues have become almost hopelessly politicized. Billy Graham was both envied and criticized for his relationships with leaders, especially U.S. Presidents from Truman to Obama. Each relationship had its unique dynamics and each was understood politically from the perspective of the individual observer or critic’s point of view. My opinion, though, up front, I believe that while Billy made some mistakes based on perhaps a naïveté or wishful love and empathy, in the main he was more pure in motive and behavior than his critics would have been if in his shoes. Without question when the country or individual leaders felt unsure, frightened, bereaved, or in crisis, Billy Graham managed to be a source of spiritual strength and hope to a largely secular world confronting extreme circumstances that, at least momentarily, sought some internal solace from a God they claim(ed) to disbelieve.

The length of this article makes it impossible for me to expand on six decades of intermittent personal contacts and innumerable relationships through the years from Lausanne to Amsterdam, but the central passion of my life, spiritually and intellectually, resonates with the “brand” (to use an overused modern term) of the Christian faith espoused by Billy Graham, and I believe to a large extent the mission of Christian higher education. Evangelicalism as expressed by:

1. A firm commitment to biblical authority.
2. A humble and careful biblical hermeneutic.
3. A belief that in the final analysis, “all truth is God’s truth.”
4. Faith in God and His ability to rule cosmic history (eternity, if you please).

The great issue of our day for leaders is how to lead in a postmodern, pluralistic, multicultural environment. How does one maintain convictions with civility? Billy Graham did that. This is, to me, the most important leadership quality needed in the world today.

Thank you Billy for unashamedly proclaiming Christ in the spotlight of modern culture.

Dr. Jay Kesler ’58 is President Emeritus of Taylor University.
New Taylor graduate Danya Ariel Dean reacts after turning her tassel at commencement.
While Taylor University’s newest graduating class shared a life-transforming educational experience that consisted of a high-quality education, overseas studies, and local service in a great community life setting, the ultimate goal of all of it has been learning to better love God and others. This was the observation of featured commencement speaker Norm Miller, who addressed the 440 graduates and more than 3,000 assembled family, loved ones, and friends during commencement on May 19 in the Kesler Student Activities Center.

During his comments, Miller, the chairman of Interstate Batteries and a successful NASCAR team owner, shared stories of his own Christian pilgrimage and charged Taylor’s graduates to love the way Christ loves. He pointed to the New Testament passage 1 Timothy 1:5, which reads:

But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith (NASB).

“Now you graduates have completed your instruction, at least up to this point, but it’s going to go on,” Miller said. “What is your goal now? What are you thinking about for your future? Is it 1 Timothy 1:5? God said the most important commandment is to love Him and to love others.”

The class of ’18 also witnessed the conferral of an honorary doctorate to Fort Wayne businessman and music industry titan Chuck Surack. Surack is a longtime friend of Taylor University and the founder of the Sweetwater music enterprise, a multimillion dollar business headquartered in Fort Wayne that employs more than 1,300.

THE GOAL OF OUR INSTRUCTION

TAYLOR’S CLASS OF ’18 CONSISTED OF:
- 247 women, 193 men;
- 17 Master of Arts degrees in Higher Education and Student Development;
- 5 Master of Business Administration degrees;
- 223 Bachelor of Arts degrees;
- 189 Bachelor of Science degrees;
- 6 Bachelor of Music degrees; and
- 1 Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.
- 1 who completed requirements for two Bachelor degrees; and
- 21 Bachelor degree recipients who completed the requirements for at least two majors.

THE CLASS MEMBERS CAME FROM:
- 30 states in the United States; and
- 26 foreign countries including: Bahamas, Bolivia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, Moldova, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.

240 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS EARNED HONORS:
- 63 summa cum laude;
- 105 magna cum laude;
- 72 achieved cum Laude.
- 5 graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Additionally, 68 percent of this year’s Taylor graduates had at least one overseas study experience.

The graduates of the class of 2018 joined 24,185 previous graduates of Taylor University.
Norm Miller, Chairman of Interstate Batteries, during his commencement address.
Norman Miller is one of America’s great Christian businessmen. He began his career with Interstate Batteries shortly after graduating from North Texas State University. Over the past 56 years, Miller has moved through the ranks of Interstate - from his father’s Tennessee distributorship, to the National Field Sales team at Dallas corporate headquarters, and on to the helm of Interstate’s Executive Management team.

Miller assumed the presidency and chairmanship roles at Interstate in 1978. Since then, Interstate has grown to become the number one replacement battery in North America. Today, there are more than 200 retail battery centers, 300 distributors, and 200,000 dealers across the US, Canada, and Central and South America.

He led the company in the founding of the Interstate Batteries Great American Race in 1983, which subsequently became the world’s richest old car race and America’s premier vintage car event. In 1989, Miller pioneered Interstates’ entry into NASCAR racing. Teaming up with Joe Gibbs Racing in 1992, Interstate won the Daytona 500 in 1993, the Winston Cup Championship in 2000, and the prestigious Sprint Cup Championship in 2015.

In 1991, Miller relinquished the presidency to spend more time focusing on other strategies and issues facing the company. Through all these years and successes, he has maintained a deep, personal relationship with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a commitment to seminary education around the world, a heart for evangelism, and a commitment to spiritual development as demonstrated by encouraging employees to develop fully as individuals, not just professionals.

Miller serves on the Boards of Dallas Theological Seminary, World Impact Dallas, Overseas Council, and Biblical Education by Extension (BEE) World. In addition, he is the co-founder of the international I Am Second campaign, a movement that seeks a world where people become second, serving and loving each other as they put Jesus Christ first.

Miller and his wife Anne have been married for 55 years and have two children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandson.
Chuck Surack is presented his honorary doctorate by Taylor President Lowell Haines during Taylor’s 2018 commencement ceremony.
Chuck Surack attributes the fundamental values and characteristics that have led to his business success to the life changing experiences in his church and his long commitment to the Boy Scouts. He first gave control of his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ in 1972 through the Adam’s Apple Youth Ministry of Calvary Chapel in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Today, Surack is the founder, president, and CEO of the largest on-line retailer of musical instruments and equipment in the United States, and is regarded as one of America’s most successful Christian businessmen.

In 1979, following several years on the road touring as a professional saxophonist and keyboard player, Surack established Sweetwater Sound out of his home in Fort Wayne. The business included a traveling recording studio housed in his Volkswagen bus. Sweetwater grew steadily as Surack focused on providing great customer service and expertise. It eventually brought him to the attention of musicians who included Stevie Wonder, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, and Aerosmith.

Under Surack’s direction, Sweetwater Sound has grown from six employees in 1990 to nearly 1,300 employees today. Sweetwater has twice won awards as one of America’s fastest growing companies.

Sweetwater Sound’s LEED platinum-certified corporate headquarters includes a distribution warehouse, a recording studio complex, and a 250-seat performance theater. It is situated on a 100-acre corporate campus.

Surack also owns several other businesses, including Sweet Cars, Sweet Aviation, Mynett Music, All Pro Sound, and Longe Optical. When it comes to his business success, Surack responds in a manner consistent with his Christian faith and Boy Scout upbringing. “It’s not about selling, it’s about doing the right thing for the customer, long term.” He clearly states that he would not have been as successful or have been able to help so many people without belief in, blessing from, and the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Surack has also been an influential member of the Fort Wayne community and beyond, serving on numerous boards including the Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Orchestra, the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, and the advisory board of the Boy Scouts of America. He and his wife Lisa generously support more than 600 non-profit organizations and often focus on supporting music programs in schools and on helping people with disabilities.

In 2010, Surack received the Governor’s Arts Award from then-Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels. In 2014, he received the Leaders of Character award from the Boy Scouts of America, and in 2015 he was named Fort Wayne Citizen of the Year.

Repeatedly, Surack has shown a personal interest in and commitment to Taylor University students, arranging internships, meeting personally with students and student groups, speaking on campus, and employing Taylor graduates. Each year Taylor groups utilize Sweetwater’s facility in Fort Wayne for class visits, retreats, meetings, and field trips.

Surack’s many contributions to the State of Indiana and to the City of Fort Wayne, his personal commitment to the students and program of Taylor University, and his example as a faithful Christian businessman and community leader, make him a person worthy of special recognition by Taylor University. Accordingly, the University awarded him the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, on May 19, 2018. Taylor University is grateful for the life and witness of Chuck Surack.
COMMISSIONING PRAYER  Just as the Taylor community gathered around the Class of 2018 when they were incoming freshmen, they joined again to pray for them as they prepared for graduation.
Dr. Bruce “Wendell” Pratt and his wife Lenetta, Brad and Mary (Simpson ’77) Shrock, Gary and Rosalie (Robinson) Walter, and Don and Ellen (Morgan) Yerks reunited in Fort Wayne on October 21 for a day of reminiscing and catching up. They shared 35mm slides of Taylor and families from 1970 forward. Dr. Pratt has retired after 25 years as Professor of Exercise Science at Taylor University, both Upland and Fort Wayne campuses. Lenetta recently retired from First Assembly of God Church in Fort Wayne. Brad is semi-retired from Eastern Schools in Greentown, Indiana. Mary is retired from St. Vincent Kokomo Hospital Women’s Center. Gary is retired from Eastbrook Schools in Van Buren, Indiana. Rosalie is retired from Warren Indiana Public Library. Don is still working at Dunbar Mechanical in Toledo, Ohio, and Ellen continues to serve as a children’s leader for Bible Study Fellowship.
1942
Helen (Durling) Whittern celebrated her 97th birthday on February 15, 2018. She and her late husband Keith served the Lord in the pastorate, and as missionaries in Unalaska, Alaska. Following her husband’s death in 1957, Helen provided for herself and three children as a teacher at the primary, secondary, and collegiate levels in Michigan, Alaska, and Indiana. Today the Durling/Whittern family is represented on the TU campus by a great niece, Ellen Ruth Durling ’21, who is also pursuing a career in teaching.

1957
Ed Dodge’s newest book was released by Wheatmark Publishing in February 2018. The book, Family, is a memoir of Ed’s life and recounts the eight decades of his life with the goal of inspiring others to think about what they value and pursue it for all it is worth. Ed lives in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife Carol.

1962
Bob Blume was inducted into the Greenville (Illinois) University Hall of Fame in 2016. Bob was asked to coach the Greenville College track team soon after his college graduation in the 1960s. He coached two sports, taught one class, assisted with basketball, and lived in Johnson Hall as Head Resident. Coach Blume’s men’s track team won four Prairie College Conference Championships in his five years as the coach. He oversaw improvements of the Greenville track that made it suitable to host meets. He also led the men’s cross-country team to a NAIA District 20 Championship. Following his time at Greenville College, he became the Men’s Tennis Head Coach at Taylor. His tennis team placed 10th in the NAIA Nationals. Bob is the current Director of Man-for-Man Ministries. He is married to Kathy (Lauber ’60).

1968
02 Darrell Mayne, of Lincoln Park, Michigan, was inducted into the Central Ohio Football Hall of Fame in February 2018. He was the Head Football Coach/Mathematics Teacher at Upper Arlington High School in Upper Arlington, Ohio. He led the Golden Bears to the 2000 Division I State Championship. Coach Mayne joined The Ohio State University football coaching staff in 2010 as the Academics Specialist. He is married to Leslie (McGinty).

1969
03 Several couples gathered in Okeechobee, Florida, for lunch at Lightsey’s Restaurant. As Florida alumni and seasonal alumni friends, they try to get together once a year. From left to right: Randy and Bari (McCacken ’72) Behnken, Steve and Diane (Lundquist) Oldham, Steve and Jan (Cordin ’70) Jeffrey, Steve and Marcia (Hayden) Headley, Dale ’63 and Barbara (Ward ’63) Murphy, Dan and Vicki (Duke) Alley, Judy (Carlson ’66) Jones also attended.

1970
Sharon (Walker) Strenth retired after a 46-year teaching career in a number of states that included Michigan, Florida, Indiana, Missouri, and Kansas, where she currently resides with her husband William.

1972
04 Mel Leaman met with fellow Taylor wrestlers in January: Jim Pietrini, Tom Stobie ’74, Mike Gaydosh ’74. They had a great time recalling fond memories and God’s faithfulness. Three of the four have served as pastors. Since his retirement from the United Methodist ministry and as an awarded Associate Professor of Religion at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, Mel has published two books on Amazon: Grandpa’s Christmas Story: Jesus, St. Nicholas, Santa, and Me, and Honest with God: Reflections on Faith and Doubt.

1977
05 Jan (McCauley ’77) Burton is retired and living in Kansas City, Kansas, after a 30-year career of service with the federal government that includes 29 years for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She and her husband Curtis were married for nearly 28 years before his passing in 2015. Together they had one son, Brian, and two sons from his previous marriage. She has seven grandchildren and a grandchild on the way. Jan warmly remembers her amazing professors and roommates at Taylor, and is grateful she was able to study at the Christian College Consortium’s America’s Studies Program in Washington, D.C.

1980
Kevin Conklin is now serving as Staff/Care Pastor for Southbrook Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he has been serving since 2011. He is also speaking for the United States Stronger Families Organization, which seeks to support military families, and doing relationship seminars at Military Bases all over the country. Kevin and his wife, Karyn, have three grandchildren and two more coming this summer.

1984
Pastor Bill Ferrell and his wife Chris ’86 live in Richardson, Texas, with their daughter Kimberly (age 17). He has been Executive Pastor of Operations for The Heights Church for 18 years. Chris teaches piano, and Kimberly plans to attend Taylor in 2019.
SEE WHAT’S GOING ON IN THE LIVES OF TAYLOR ALUMNI
Shannon Warfield-Stauffer was inducted into Morristown High School Hall of Fame, Morristown, Indiana. Shannon was an outstanding student athlete at Morristown. She participated in track and field, basketball, volleyball, and cheerleading from 1984-1987. Shannon was also the winner of the Morristown Lions Club Outstanding Athlete Award. In both 1986 and 1987, she was a finalist at the IHSAA State track meet. She currently holds the 300 hurdle record of 47.59 and still has the best time in the Shelby County track meet in the 300 hurdles of 48.93. Shannon was part of the 400-meter relay team that currently holds the school record of 52.06. In basketball, Shannon was the 1985 and 1986 Shelby County Tournament MVP. She helped the team to the 1986 Shelby County Championship. Shannon also participated in volleyball. During this time, the team went 55-28 and won the Shelby County titles in 1984 and 1986. Shannon's success in the classroom and in athletics followed her to Taylor University where she was a multi-sport athlete while earning an education degree. She now resides with her husband David Stauffer '90, in Orrville, Ohio.

1991
Wes and Cynthia (Hayes '92) Williamson hosted Becca Williamson '19, Joel Williamson '21, Taylor Burns '21, Daniel McHenney '20, and Peyton Nill '19 as they went on a mission trip to Honduras this spring break. Joel and Becca grew up on the mission field in Honduras, and the students stayed with their parents, and their sister, Abigail Williamson '22, at their home in Honduras. While there, they led a Vacation Bible School for children in a rural community and taught about Jesus’ ministry, death, and resurrection. The team’s afternoons were spent with the Williamson family, learning about the culture of the people in the area and working on projects to help the Williamsons fix up their home to host future mission teams.

1997
For the last decade, Jen (Van Eerden) Schmidt has been encouraging, challenging, and cheering on women to embrace both the beauty and bedlam of their everyday lives on her popular lifestyle blog, Balancing Beauty and Bedlam (beautyandbedlam.com). With a variety of topics—from easy dinner ideas and personal finance to leaving a legacy—Jen equips others to live life to its fullest, reminding them it’s the little things that really are the big things in life. A popular speaker, worship leader and founder/host of the annual Becoming Conference, Jen shares with humor and authenticity as she invites others to join her on this bumpy, beautiful life journey. Her latest book, “Just Open the Door: How One Invitation Can Change a Generation” along with the latest Lifeway Women’s Bible Study by the same name - “Just Open the Door: a Study of Biblical Hospitality” is a piece of her heart put to words and video. She lives in North Carolina with her husband Gregg, five children, sweet new daughter-in-law, a few too many animals, and an available guest room for anyone who needs it.

1992
Paul Keller, his wife Kate, and sons Benjamin (8) and Joseph (5) are on staff with One Mission Society based in Greenwood, Indiana. They recently moved to Sicily, Italy, to minister to Muslim North African refugees. Paul can be reached at pkeller@onemissionsociety.org.

1994
Michael Wagstaff is the new head women’s basketball coach at the Penn State New Kensington campus near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Prior to coming to New Kensington, Mike coached men’s and women’s teams at Alderson-Broaddus College (West Virginia), North Carolina A&T and Pfeiffer University (North Carolina), Georgetown College (Kentucky), Ouachita Baptist University (Arkansas), and Columbia College (California).

1995
Susan Miller-Cochran has coedited a newly released book, Composition, Rhetoric, & Disciplinarity. The book asks a fundamental question: can composition and rhetoric as a discipline continue its historical commitment to pedagogy without sacrificing equal attention to other areas, such as research and theory?

1997
Rebecca (Hildebrand) Wilder and her husband, Kevin, adopted two brothers, Alex and Emiliano, in October 2017.

1999
Jacob Spenn has been coaching football at Cypress Christian School in Houston, Texas, for the past 20 years. This season the Warriors won the state championship of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools. During Spenn’s football career at Taylor, the Trojans made the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics playoffs for the first time in school history.

Jason Bohm has been named Circuit Judge of Champaign (Illinois) County. This follows his service as a federal prosecutor in the Central District of Illinois for nine years. Jason and his wife Caroline have been married for 17 years and are the parents of three boys, ages 13, 10, and 8.


2001
Laura (Bayes) and John McConda announce the birth of their newest daughter Evelyn Vonne, who was born August 15, 2017. Evelyn joins siblings Autumn, Eli, Anora, and Ali at home with Laura. John is employed by Moser Consulting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Richard Benberry Jr. has been named head football coach at Kokomo (Indiana) High School. Coach Benberry was the Wildkat’s defensive coordinator the last three seasons and has 17 years of coaching experience as an assistant with previous stops at Warren Central, Arsenal Tech, Guerin Catholic, and Lawrence North. He is also an assistant principal at the high school, but will move to the classroom in the 2018-19 school year in conjunction with his new football role. He and his wife Carolyn have two children: daughter Chandler (6), and son Carter (3).

2002
Drew Moser and Jess Fankhauser ’10 have authored the newly-released book, Ready or Not: Leaning into Life in Our Twenties (NavPress, April). They say the purpose is to help twentysomethings explore vocation with hope, purpose, and meaning. Ready or Not and is available anywhere books are sold.

Kurt Reppart City Commissioner of Grand Rapids, Michigan, along with Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, volunteered at the Mayor’s Greening Initiative which worked with Friends of Grand Rapids Parks and 400 volunteers to plant 300 trees on the west side of the city.
SERVANT LEADERS MARKED WITH A PASSION
2004

12 Clark and Martina (Graber) Cully welcomed their daughter Vella Noel Cully into their family on June 5, 2017. She joins two big sisters: Reeva (3) and Arlee (2).

13 Shawn Alspaugh and his wife Lauren announce the birth of their son Beckett Gabriel Alspaugh. He joins older siblings Heidi Kathleen (5) and Elias Hodson (3). Shawn serves as a math teacher and golf coach at Cascade High School in Clayton, Indiana.

2005

Alicia (Bever) Douglass and her husband Joshua live in Yorktown, Indiana, with their daughter Adelaide (age 4) and son Eli (age 2). Alicia is a wetland scientist with Davey Resource Group and Joshua is a forester with American Electric Power.

2006

14 Julie Rohrlack married Josh Vissering on July 15, 2017, in Chicago, Illinois. Taylor alumni David and Heather (Young) Ricca attended. During 10 years as a math teacher, Julie earned both National Board Certification and a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership. This school year she was hired as the Assistant Principal at Chippewa Middle School in Des Plaines, Illinois. Julie and Josh live in Chicago.

15 Adam Foote recently made a significant career move. After fulfilling a career dream to become an Elementary School Counselor in the scenic resort town of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, he decided to follow a calling from the Lord to pursue his childhood passion for music. Adam now plays the handpan professionally under the stage name Ethereal in E. He released his second album, titled Coeur Dreams, in Fall 2017. The instrumental music of Ethereal in E can be downloaded online or found on social media. Adam performs for private events and at various establishments in the North Idaho area, and can be reached at: 2etherealine@gmail.com.

2007

16 Virginia (Roe) Kofahl and her husband Phil welcomed their newest daughter Emily Ann to the family on March 19, 2018. Emily joins her other siblings James (5) and Rachel (2). The family lives in Brighton, Michigan.

2008

Zachary Whitesel is the Assistant Controller for DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. He and his wife Amanda reside in Greencastle.

17 Bryan Miller, his wife Kara, and children Elli (3) and Gavin (7 months), celebrated the wedding of Kevin and Alexandra (Mahdasian ’15) Miller ’14. Bryan (BMILL to his friends) just started his work as the Director of Recreation Ministries at First Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Tennessee.

2011

Justin Van Wyk and his wife Amy welcomed their son George Maxwell, who was born April 15, 2017. The family resides in Whitestown, Indiana.

18 Lawson Bunch and his wife Hannah, and Joe and Rebecca (Gillespie ’12) Casey announce the births of their daughters, Juniper Bunch and Eleanor Casey. The girls were born in 2017, and the families started their first annual vacation together.

19 Ryan Graydon graduated with the Master of Public Health degree from the University of South Florida on August 5, 2017, and was recently selected for the Ohio Sea Grant Fellowship at the International Joint Commission’s Great Lakes Regional Office in Windsor, Ontario. Ryan’s wife Jessica (Shive) finished the Teaching Certificate program at Hillsborough Community College and has been working as an outdoor environmental education teacher at Nature’s Classroom for two years.

2012

20 Ben and Hannah Blocher announce the birth of their son Samuel Wallace Blocher, who was born July 23, 2017.

2013

21 Danielle Urbanowicz and Seth King were married June 18, 2016, in West Point, New York. The couple lives in El Paso, Texas.

2014

22 Kaleb and Elizabeth (Frederick) Davis welcomed their first child Kaden Daniel into the world on March 10, 2017.

23 Kari Travis, Associate Editor at the Carolina Journal (Raleigh, North Carolina) has been named recipient of the Robert Novak Journalism Fellowship. Affiliated with The Fund for American Studies, the Novak Fellowship awards grants to fund a year-long investigative journalism project. Travis’ project, Not for Sale: Liberty, Responsibility, and the Role of Conservatism in the Fight Against Human Trafficking, will focus on the problem of domestic sex trafficking. Her investigation will seek data-based policy recommendations lawmakers could implement to combat it.

2015

24 Jonathan and Kayla Keith welcomed their son Roman Taylor Keith, named after the book of Romans and Taylor University, on January 4, 2018. He joins older brother Truman (2). The family resides in Swayzee, Indiana.
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.

1943
25 Reverend Harold Eugene Springer, 97, died March 13, 2018. He served churches in the North Indiana and West-Ohio Conferences of the United Methodist Church, including Catawba-Nation Chapel and East Liberty–Zanesfield. In 1949, Harold was invited to work in the field of hospital administration and this work continued for 40 years in executive positions in Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, and California. He was a devoted Christian of noble character and integrity. Harold’s wife Kathryn preceded him in death in 2011, after 70 years of marriage. He is survived by two sons and one daughter, seven grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

1950
26 Joy (Jessup) Jones went to be with the Lord on December 21, 2017. She was 89. She taught for four years in Decatur County (Indiana) and substitute taught for 40 more years after marrying her husband Harold. Joy was instrumental in starting the first classroom for children with disabilities and sheltered workshop for adults with disabilities in Decatur County. She was a lifelong member of Westport (Indiana) United Methodist Church and played the piano for Sunday School. Joy is survived by her sons: Trent and Brian Jones ’79.

1952
27 Shirley (Lunde) Jacobsen went home to be with her Lord on December 15, 2017. After graduating from Taylor, she attended Columbia University’s Teachers College (New York). After marrying her husband Don ’53, she accompanied him to Japan during his military service and afterward earned her certificate in Testing and Remediating Learning Disabilities from the University of North Carolina (Greensboro, North Carolina). She was an active volunteer who tutored children with learning disabilities and taught English as a second language, as well as mentored engaged couples. Shirley was also involved with several women’s ministries through the years. In addition to her husband, to whom she was married for 62 years, Shirley is survived by her daughter Donna Lee (Jacobsen ’79) (Thad ’79) Poe, son, Dwight ’81 (Sally Thorne ’81) and three great-grandchildren.

The Reverend Dr. Carlyle Saylor died January 29, 2018, at the age of 87. Dr. Saylor devoted his life to the service of God’s people, communicating his faith as he counseled and ministered to others. He served several churches in New York, New Hampshire, and throughout Massachusetts, worked briefly as a director, book and journal editor for Christian Medical Society in Illinois. While serving on the faculty of Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts, Dr. Saylor served as Chair of the Division of Ministry and played an integral role in the development of the Doctorate of Ministry program. He was quoted as saying, “Part of my calling is to walk people through whatever good or bad events life brings them. I want people to have their own sense of calling and to feel their lives are important in God’s purpose for the world.” He is loved, cherished, and missed by his wife of over 60 years, Avis, and their children and their families Sandy Mitchell, Steve Saylor, Cheryl Evans, and Kathy (Saylor ’90) Germaine.

1958
28 Paul Millikan went to be with the Lord on February 18, 2016. After Graduating from Taylor, Paul joined Youth For Christ and earned a master’s degree from Ball State University. He was a pioneer faculty member and history instructor at Kalamazoo Valley Community College for 35 years. Most recently he was an active member of West Mendon United Methodist Church, where he taught adult Bible classes and occasionally preached. Paul enjoyed being part of the Taylor family and the opportunity to be a guest speaker in Bill Ringenberg’s history classes. He is survived by his wife Karen; children Patti ’82 and Dennis ’81 Hansen, Margie and Matthew Arm, Jay ’87 and Michelle Millikan, and Wesley and Maegan Millikan; and grandchildren Brian ’11 and Kristie ’11 Hansen, Brent and Anna Hansen, Kelsey and Natalie Arm, and Andy and Tony Millikan.
TO MINSTER CHRIST’S
REDEMPTIVE LOVE
AND TRUTH TO A
WORLD IN NEED

1960
David E. Gehres, 79, of Telford, Pennsylvania, went to be with the Lord on April 16, 2018, after a 12 year journey with Parkinson’s disease. He met his wife Dotty (Brunner ’60) the first weekend of his freshman year and they married four years later following his graduation. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and four grandchildren. Dave did his graduate work in education at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He taught middle school social studies for 33 years, retiring from the Central Bucks School District (Doylestown, Pennsylvania) in 1994. He then began a second career as a certified school bus driver trainer for 15 years. As an active member of Calvary Church, he served as choir member, usher, Sunday school teacher, elder, deacon, trustee, member of the benevolent team, and the count team. He loved traveling and camping but most of all he loved the Lord and also being with his family.

1966
Margie (Neuenschwander) Culbertson died February 21, 2018, after an extended illness. She had been a missionary nurse in Africa and was living in Ft Wayne, Indiana, with her husband Rev. Dan Culbertson.

1968
Jeffrey (Jeff) Edward Dye passed away unexpectedly on March 24, in Okinawa, Japan. He held a staff position at Au Sable Trails Biological Field Station in Mancelona, Michigan. He taught secondary science and social studies with international schools in Japan and Germany, as well as stateside.

1969
Douglas Sizemore went to be with the Lord on October 17, 2017, after a two-and-a-half year battle with cholangiocarcinoma and pancreatic cancer. He taught at Covenant College for 35 years and established departments in psychology and computer science during his tenure. In 2009 he left Covenant to work as a statistician with Advance Med Corporation and worked to fight Medicare fraud. He was a member and deacon at Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Evelyn (Jantzen ’70), his daughter Stephanie, and son-in-law Michael.

1979
Donald Rader passed away March 11, 2018, at the age of 60 after enduring a lengthy disabling illness. In addition to his 32 year career with the Hobbs Corporation, Don was a devoted Christian husband and father who served his church, Southern View Chapel in Springfield, Illinois, as Treasurer and Elder for several decades until he was no longer able to do so. He is survived by his wife Sheri, three children, three grandchildren, and sister Gloria Rader ’77.
Purchase *The Softer Side of Leadership*, the newest book by president emeritus of Taylor University, Eugene B. Habecker for only $13.99.

Gifts for the former student, the current student, and the future student at www.TaylorGear.com
During your time at Taylor, you gained many stories. All the while, Taylor was becoming part of your story. Could Taylor be part of the story of a high school student you know, too?

Share your Taylor story with a student and encourage them to explore for themselves.

**OUR UPCOMING 24@TAYLOR VISIT DAYS ARE:**

- September 20-21, 2018
- November 1-2, 2018
- March 7-8, 2019
- April 4-5, 2019

**TAYLOR IS**

part of your story

**Heritage Weekend**

APRIL 26–27, 2019
We have all seen the movie where the unfortunate victim or the hapless group of castaways find themselves adrift at sea in a small, leaky lifeboat. Rudderless, without paddles, having torn sails, lacking the ability to communicate and clinging to life, they are subject to the winds (or lack thereof), driven by currents, beaten by storms, rolling in high seas, baking in the sun, dying of thirst, and serving as delicacies for hungry sea creatures. They don’t know where they are, and they don’t know where they are going; an aimless existence, that saps life and energy, and leaves lethargy and indifference. Now, that makes for great cinema!

Gratefully, the tale of the rudderless lifeboat, subject to every whim and fancy of nature, is not the tale of Taylor University. This 172-year-old Christ-honoring institution is not rudderless, our sails are not torn, and we are not lost. To the contrary, we are clear and determined in our direction, we know where we are going, we have a mission, we are on course, and we are making headway and leaving a wake behind us.

In this chaotic world in which we live, it is not unusual to feel battered, knocked to and fro, and off balance. And, at times like these, we should be able to look to our most important institutions for some measure of stability and strength. Unfortunately, at least in the world of higher education, we have not often found that for which we are looking. Countless great institutions of higher learning, initially founded on a deep Christian faith, have let themselves drift away from their founding Christian beliefs, and now find themselves devoid of eternal meaning. That is not the case with Taylor University.

Taylor today is stronger than it has ever been and more committed to its Lord and Savior Jesus Christ than ever before. A stunningly fine faculty and student body, a campus and facilities that are the envy of most, a reputation for quality and excellence, a deep dedication to discipleship and whole-person education, a long history of service to mankind, and, most importantly, a deep and abiding commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ are our hallmarks, indeed, our cornerstones. At our core, we are about developing servant leaders, marked with a passion to minister Christ’s redemptive love and truth to a world in need. That is who we are, and that is why we exist.

No, Taylor is neither adrift nor drifting. Rather, we are swimming determinably against the current of a terminally wounded culture that has lost its way. We remain focused on our mission, and committed to our Lord and Savior and His Calling. We remain rock-solid in our commitment to His Word, and we seek always to integrate our love for Him into every class, residence hall, sports program, leadership opportunity, and community activity.

Rest assured my friends, Taylor is anchored permanently to Jesus and His Word. With rudder in hand and wind in our sails, we are making headway in most difficult waters. God is using us to impact the lives of young men and women who will, in turn, impact the world for Christ! How awesome is that! Adrift? Not Taylor.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
Psalm 18:2 (NIV)

Paul Lowell Haines ’75 Ed.D, J.D. serves as President of Taylor University.
A Lifetime of Stewardship

George and Jane (Vanzant ’58 Hodson) Haines are dear members of the Taylor family who have had a significant impact on the lives of countless students and alumni, beginning with their service in the Taylor education department. George served as the Director of Teacher Education at Taylor from 1961-1978. Jane graduated from Taylor in 1958, joined the faculty in 1966, and retired in 1997. After losing both of their spouses to cancer (Bonnie Haines in 2006 and Gerald Hodson in 1998), George and Jane were married in 2008. George and Jane helped to mold the hearts and minds of young Taylor students for many years.

Their investment in Taylor, however, did not stop at teaching. The Haines are faithful donors to Taylor, supporting the Taylor Scholarship Fund as well as their family endowed scholarships and other projects. George shared that they support scholarships because, “Taylor University, as a collective body of Christians, is a beacon, a shining light penetrating a lost world. Jane and I want to assist, in a small way, to keep the light from the beacon shining brightly.” Taylor will also benefit from the Haines’ generosity as they have chosen to include Taylor in their estate plan. According to Jane, “with the rising costs of a college education, we feel blessed that we can share what God has given us with future servants. It is a privilege to give knowing that our gifts will be multiplied again and again.”

Taylor University is grateful to George and Jane Haines, faithful partners in Christ-centered education.

“Jane and I want to assist, in a small way, to keep the light from the beacon shining brightly.”

Perhaps you would like to discuss your family legacy and how Taylor could be involved through estate planning. For more information, contact Mike Falder ’94, Executive Director of Development, at mcfalder@taylor.edu or 765.998.5538. Read more online at www.taylor.edu/giftplans.

Request a free wills guide by visiting www.taylor.edu/giftplans and clicking on “Estate Planning Guide.”
A packed house in Rediger Chapel/Auditorium roared its approval as Second Center Wengatz and Second East Olson’s *The Greatest Showman* won Airband on March 17, 2018.