



*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1*

During our recent Homecoming, **Dr. Bob Nienhuis h98**, former vice president, shared devotions from Romans 16. Of these words from Paul, Dr. Bob

said, "people are important to God." He also said "the group is stronger than the individual" and mentioned the importance of showing affection and love for each other.

As he concluded, he challenged the group not to lament about what we do not have any longer, but to focus on the group we still have. His WORDS from the WORD greatly encouraged me.



Dr. Bob Nienhuis h98

In this issue of the *FW Vine*, we will *CELEBRATE* words, and specifically the Professional Writing major, where students learned to write words for publication.

Many of these alumni are continuing the success they enjoyed here in various forms. Some are writing books and articles, while others are writing for church presentations, newspapers, and businesses.

Let's *CELEBRATE* the Word and the words of our alumni. Thank you for submitting your words of what the campus has meant to you over the years (please see the front cover).

The Ministry Continues,



Michael D. Mortensen g91
 Director of Fort Wayne Alumni & Friend Relations
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*P.S. Special thanks is given to **Andrea (Matetic) Osmun g05**, a Professional Writing major alumna, who wrote the majority of this issue. Her assistance gave me extra time to **care, connect, and celebrate** with more alumni.*

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Opinions expressed by individuals in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Taylor University.

The Fort Wayne campus was founded in 1904 as the Fort Wayne Bible Training School. It was renamed Fort Wayne Bible Institute, Fort Wayne Bible College, Summit Christian College, and later became Taylor University Fort Wayne. Founded in 1846, Taylor University is one of America's oldest Christian liberal arts colleges. Over 2,000 graduate and undergraduate students from 41 states and 37 foreign countries attend Taylor, where majors in 50 fields of study are available.

CARE

Editor's Note: One of this year's highlights was hosting the Senior Saints for their program on Sunday, Aug. 3 at First Missionary Church.

Wright Finds Ministry Through Storytelling

By Andrea Osmun g05

Marsha (Ringenberg) Wright g70 looks back on how God penned the story of her writing ministry.

Marsha always loved to read mystery, suspense and international thrillers. When Christian fiction first became popular, she was really excited... until she realized that much of it wasn't written as well as the secular fiction she enjoyed reading.

One year on vacation, she decided to seek the Lord about writing books, but He reminded her that she had five small children and a career. Years later, when her fifth child went off to college, she decided to learn to write.

"I learned that one of the best teachers in the whole country was right here at Taylor University Fort Wayne: **Dr. Dennis Hensley h08**," Marsha said. "I decided to talk to him to see if he thought starting to write was feasible for me at age 55."

"We talked about many things, and he assured me I could learn to write."

When Marsha signed up for Dr. Hensley's Fiction Writing class, she was

nervous about being "too old," but then found other non-traditional students, who eventually became her lifelong friends and professional critique partners. She also took David Pierce's Crime and Mystery Writing class and Dr. Hensley's Freelance Writing and Screenwriting classes.

"I am very thankful for the writing classes at Taylor Fort Wayne. I didn't just learn to write, but to think and organize and accept criticism and to rewrite and to rewrite."

In 2007, Marsha wrote *Maggie Ray, WWII Air Force Pilot*, which is about her mother.

In 2011, she wrote a biography about a young Muslim woman who came to Christ. That book has not yet been published, out of respect for the woman's safety. Marsha also writes scripts for her singing group, *The Senior Saints*, and has written and taught her own Bible study, *God's Story: My Story*.

"God has led me in a different direction, at least for the time being: helping other people tell their stories," Marsha said. "While I'm itching to finish those mysteries, I am waiting to see where God might lead next."



CONNECT

Personal Challenge Leads to Professional Writing Major Hundreds Continue Making Impact for Christ

By Andrea Osmun g05

What started as a personal challenge in the professional writing career of **Dr. Dennis Hensley h08** has resulted in the realization of hundreds of students' and alumni's publishing dreams.

When Dr. Hensley turned 48, he had accomplished all the career goals he had set for himself. He'd published best-selling books, both fiction and nonfiction. He'd sold articles to dozens upon dozens of Christian and secular publications. He'd earned his doctorate in English, and he'd been a keynote speaker and workshop leader at numerous writers' conferences.

But when then-Taylor University president **Dr. Jay Kesler g58** approached him in the fall of 1996 about starting a professional writing program on the Fort Wayne campus, "Doc," as his students and friends call him, decided to accept a new challenge.

"For the first three years, I taught World Literature, American Literature, Expository

Writing, Business and Technical Writing, and Specialty Writing seminars while I designed and test-marketed the new writing courses," he said. "By 2000 we had more than 35 students designated as Professional Writing majors within the TUFW English department, and by then I had instituted courses in Fiction Writing, Freelance Magazine Writing, Basic Reporting, Corporate Communications, and other new writing courses."



Dr. Dennis Hensley h08

In the beginning years of the program, the Professional Writing major was under the TUFW English department. Doc taught most of the writing courses. **Dr. Pam Jordan g78** taught English Literature classes, and Kathryn Chevraux-Ludwig worked as a part-time professor in the English department.

Doc began hiring professional authors to teach J-term writing seminars. The first author to teach over J-term was Bob Hostetler (*They Call Me AWOL*) in 2002. Other guest teachers included Cecil Murphey (*90 Minutes in Heaven*), Bill Myers (*McGee and Me*), Lin Johnson (editor of *Christian Communicator* and *Church Libraries*),



Brag Board

Holly G. Miller (senior editor of *The Saturday Evening Post*) and the late David Pierce (short story crime writer for numerous mystery magazines).

The Professional Writing program grew exponentially over the years. In the first year, just three girls had signed up for the major. In 2009 Professional Writing had 89 full-time enrolled majors — as well as 41 students taking professional writing courses online.

When Doc was teaching on the Fort Wayne campus, he and his wife, Rose, enjoyed getting to know each of his students personally. Every year they would invite students to their home for dinner and board games — his favorite being “Humm...ble,” a game in which the students would have to guess what song each person was humming.

“Also, Rose and I were able to house a lot of the visiting parents of prospective students, which allowed us to get close to their families,” Doc said.

He misses having non-traditional students in his classes. When he taught on the Fort Wayne campus, many older students who already had established careers took professional writing classes. That mix of traditional students (ages 18 to 22) and non-traditional students (ages 28 to 70) offered a

wide range of life experiences from which to write and learn.

Since the Professional Writing major has moved to Taylor, it has continued to grow.

As the professional writing department continues to succeed, Dr. Hensley looks toward the future. “I am now 66 years old, so I will probably teach only three more years,” he said. “In that time, I want to put in place solid professors who know my philosophy of teaching writing skills and who have the experience to keep my department thriving. I want to see the Department of Professional Writing continue to produce outstanding Christian writers who are making an impact for the cause of Christ in all areas of communication.”

Doc said his goal is for his students to find areas in professional writing where they can make a good living and enjoy their work.

“Some go into magazine writing and editing, some go into newspaper reporting, some become radio or TV or movie scriptwriters, some become editors at publishing houses, some become literary agents, and some become public relations writers,” he said. “As they enjoy their work and succeed at it, I feel I have done my job.”

CARE

Cecil Goes Back to School to Write

By Andrea Osmun g05

Cheryl (Roth) Cecil g68 is embarking upon a new ministry in her retirement years: writing. For 33 years, she assisted her husband **Earl g68** in church work. She never imagined that her experience as a pastor's wife would lead her to publish a book that helps people in grief.

Cheryl graduated from FWBC with a bachelor's degree in Christian education with a minor in missions.

While leading and serving their church, Cheryl and Earl often went together to visit sick people in the hospital, minister to them at their bedside, and attend funerals.

"You don't have to be in the church for very long to realize that people die and leave their families behind," Cheryl said. "For 33 years, my husband would hear when people passed away. We counted it a real privilege to sit with those who grieved."

She discovered in their ministry that most people were reluctant to grieve, perhaps because they felt their hope of heaven didn't allow them to be sad or because society views grief as weakness.

"After many, many funeral experiences,

I started collecting this in my heart. Somehow I found a desire to say, 'It's okay. You can be sad,'" Cheryl said. "I've had numerous people tell me, 'I think it's wrong to grieve. I don't want to lose my faith if I grieve. I want to trust Christ.'"

In their church ministry, Cheryl and Earl complemented one another's gifts and personalities. Earl was gregarious, and Cheryl was quiet. But as she grew in the ministry, Cheryl discovered she had leadership potential.

"When I went into women's ministries, I began walking through some doors God opened to lead Bible studies, and that led into more of a teaching role," Cheryl said. "During that 10 years, I mostly wrote my own Bible studies, and I wrote study guides for many Bible studies. I believe that was a way God was preparing me to go into the writing program at Taylor Fort Wayne, because I wrote a lot. I wanted to learn to write."

The Cecils lived in Fort Wayne from 2001 to 2011. Around the time their son graduated from Taylor in Upland, he heard about the professional writing program on the Fort Wayne campus and told Cheryl about it.

"He said, 'Mom, did you know that TUFW offers a professional writing degree?' I looked into it and was enamored with it,"



Cheryl (Roth) Cecil g68

Editor's Note: Each time our staff hears of the passing on one of our alumni, we send a *Songs & Words of Solace CD*, read, played and produced by Dr. Ken Mays 60. We Care!

Cheryl said. "It became a dream of mine to do something like this."

That summer, Cheryl's older sister was dying of a degenerative disease. While Cheryl was mulling over whether to sign up for professional writing classes, her sister encouraged her to follow her dream. Cheryl's sister died in July 2005.

"I thought, 'My sister's gone. Life is so short. What should I do?'" she said. "I realized that her death didn't have to take away this desire. It fueled it. I found out I could take classes in the program without taking a bachelor's degree, since I already had a bachelor's. This was a door God was opening."

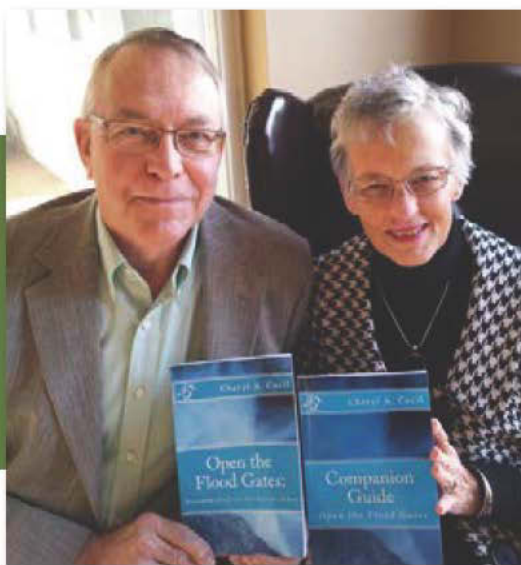
So, Cheryl signed up to take professional writing classes at TUFW in 2005. During her time in the program, she took Dr. Hensley's fiction and nonfiction

writing classes, business and technical writing, and writing for children with Michelle Medlock-Adams.

"I learned so much from Dr. Hensley and Michelle Medlock-Adams," she said. "I often came home and told my husband how much I was learning. He said, in his work as an administrator, 'These things you're telling me are starting to affect my writing.' It was a neat thing to come back around. It was like two of us got the education."

Her book, *Open the Floodgates: Welcoming Grief into our Seasons of Loss*, along with a *Companion Guide*, is now available on Amazon.com.

"My prayer is that God would get it into the hands of someone who really needs it," Cheryl said. "The Lord knows where He wants to take it and use it."



CELEBRATE

Dawn (Renkenberger) g00 Crandall Publishes Christian Romance Trilogy

By Andrea Osmun g05

Dawn (Renkenberger) Crandall g00 never thought she'd write for a living. But 14 years after she graduated with a Christian Education degree from TUFW, Dawn has her first two novels out and one more on the way. Even now, she finds her recent success unbelievable.

"When people would tell me, 'Dawn, you have an agent. You're a real writer,' I'd say, 'I don't know why you think that, because I'm not.'" Her humility comes from her unlikely road to publishing.

Dawn became a Christian when she was a junior in high school and eventually decided to attend TUFW for Christian Education, mainly to learn more about the Bible. The Professional Writing program wasn't offered until Dawn's junior year, and by that time, she felt she was too far into her program to switch.

Although she didn't take many writing classes, Dawn discovered some of her favorite novels and studied them in her own free time.

"I was introduced to Jane Austen, *Jane*

Eyre, Charles Dickens, and found more books I liked," she said. "I wanted to see how each book was constructed. Then I'd just dig into it and figure out why I loved it and why other people loved it."

She doesn't believe that any particular class or professor at TUFW contributed to her love of books or writing. But, she said, "I do think that my majoring in Christian Education and focusing on the spiritual formation of what it means to be a Christian really helped me in the long run with understanding the spiritual growth and journey of my main characters, which I write from first-person point of view."

After she graduated, she married Jon Crandall, and they moved to Indianapolis. Dawn spent most of her free time at the library. One day, in 2005, she came home with a pile of writing books.

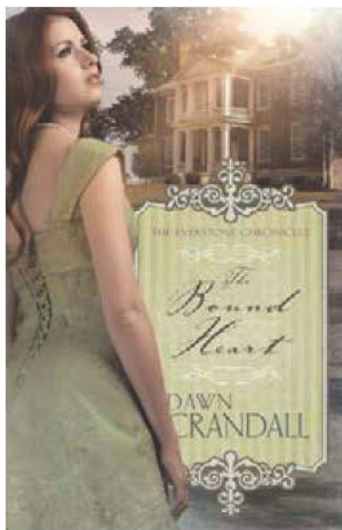
"Jon sees all these books on developing plot and characters and says, 'I didn't know you wanted to write a book. You should do it!'" Dawn recalled.

She finally got the courage to write her first novel, *The Hesitant Heiress*, 10 years after graduating from TUFW and five years after her husband encouraged her to write.

Seventy-five percent through her novel, Dawn got stuck. She felt like her ending was



Dawn (Renkenberger) Crandall g00



Pictures courtesy of Whitaker House

way too long. So she took a break from it and started working on another novel for National Novel Writing Month. That novel was the start to the second book in her *Everstone Chronicles* series.

“I took a character from my first book and wrote the second book from her perspective,” Dawn said. “The plot was all set, and I wrote 50,000 words in a month.”

Then Dawn decided she needed to connect with other writers. Her husband encouraged her to attend the American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW) Conference. Dawn eventually got a publishing deal through Whitaker House to write a three-novel series called *The Everstone Chronicles*.

Her first book, *The Hesitant Heiress*, was

released in August. *The Hesitant Heiress* has been in the Top 100 Christian historical romance books on Amazon.com since it released and is No. 4 on Amazon’s Most Wished For in Historical Christian Romance.

“Honestly, being a ‘published author’ feels just like being a ‘writer who writes,’” Dawn said. “It still feels strange when someone tells me they’ve either bought or already read my book. I’m so used to it being mine, a personal possession. And now it can literally be anyone’s.”

Dawn’s second book, *The Bound Heart*, was released November 3. The final book in the series, *The Captive Imposter*, will be available in February 2015. For updates, follow her blog at dawnrandall.blogspot.com.

Editor’s Note: Have you written a book? The Alumni Center is in the process of building a library of books written by our alumni. Please consider donating a copy of your book(s). As we are able, we will celebrate your work with other alumni.



CELEBRATE

FW Alumni Reconnect, Reminisce, and Rejoice at Homecoming 2014

By Andrea Osmun g05 and Michael Mortensen g91

More than 300 alumni gathered together Sept. 19-20 for Homecoming 2014 to *reconnect* with friends, *reminisce* about life on campus, and *rejoice* over what God is doing in their lives.

The weekend included the fourth Fort Wayne campus *Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction, a 70s Night, Taylor 10 Tailgate*, and the *50th and 60th Class Reunions* for the Classes of 1964 and 1954. **Dr. Bob Nienhuis h98**, former vice president, gave an inspirational devotional on Saturday, followed by **Janet Nickel g74**, who had just returned from Sierra Leone, West Africa, where she serves.

After lunch with faculty and staff, alumni continued talking and laughing—some even walked down to Foster Park or over to the Friendly Fox, a neighborhood café.

The weekend concluded with a *Sunday Sing...on Saturday*, and a meet-and-greet with **Dr. Jay Kesler g58** and **Dr. Bill Pannell**

g51, who later discussed college, church, and culture in an interview-style *Conversation with Jay and Bill*.

With the overwhelming response of alumni from all

generations, plans are already underway for **Homecoming 2015** to be held **Sept. 18-19** back on campus.





More pictures are available online at <http://fw.taylor.edu/homecoming>





Submit *News Notes* items to alumnifw@taylor.edu, call the Alumni & Friends Resource Center at (260) 744-8790, or mail to *FW Vine*, 915 W. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

Do you receive your monthly e-newsletter, the *FW Falcon*? Contact the Resource Center to add your email address to our list.



Use your smartphone to submit the latest News Note.

1977-1993

Class of 1977

Carole Neuenschwander g77 has been working for New Life Christian School since December 2011 as a preschool teacher.

Class of 1978

Gordon Smith g78 took early retirement in January and has just celebrated his first year with Home Depot, where he was promoted to Head Cashier. He and his wife, Beth, reside in Coon Rapids, MI, with their grandsons, ages 6 and 2.

Class of 1979

Amy (Nishihira) g79 and **Curtis Beougher** were previously with World Partners in St. Petersburg, Russia, but recently have started work at the MCNCD for NCFEF. The

Beoughers have relocated to Tucson, AZ, and are currently serving with GAP Ministries as house parents to foster children.

Class of 1980

Randall Georgi g80 is working in in-patient care at the Northeastern Center in Auburn, IN. He has worked in the mental health field for the last 20 years after receiving his Christian Education degree from FWBC and a degree in Social Work from Saint Francis College in Fort Wayne in 1984.

Class of 1981

Terry (Clay) Broberg-Swangin g81 obtained her Master of Arts in Theology with a concentration in Liturgical Studies from the University of Notre Dame. She has been working for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in the Office

of Worship and as a cantor at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Additionally, she is in her second term as Chair for the Board of Directors for Neighborhood Health Clinics, Inc. www.nchi.org. She has been married to Calvin Swangin for 25 years and has one son, one daughter, two grandsons, and a granddaughter.

Marty g81 and **Ruth (Blosser) g81 Longcor** have started their second year as pastors of Grace Church in Camby, IN. They were serving in Australia for the previous two years.

Class of 1983

Sharon (Slocum) Hallack g83 and her husband, Stanley, currently reside in Michigan, where Sharon is a secretary at Hart Middle School and Stanley is a location manager at North Central Co-op.

Class of 1985

Cindy (Sauder) Kimm g85 and her family live in Leo, IN, where they are involved in their local church. Cindy serves as a Bible quizzing coach, a bus driver for the Alone Together ministry, and a newborn nursery worker. Her oldest daughter, **Abi g14**, just completed her bachelor's degree at Taylor University with a double major in Psychology and Spanish.

Class of 1986

Teri (Beard) Hogg g86 is now the Executive Director of The Hope Clinic in Adams County, IN, which has clinics in Berne and Decatur. The Hope Clinic is a pregnancy resource medical clinic. Its goal is to be the

first choice for women and couples facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Dr. Sharon Ayabe g86 continues her ministry with GoHawaii and Key Concepts. She recently had the special privilege of attending a World Christian Doctors Network conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, where she joined doctors from all over the world in offering free medical clinics for Middle East and North African refugees.

Pastor Darwin Dunten g86 has been the pastor at First United Brethren Church in Findlay, OH, for the past 13 years. Darwin also is the chaplain of the Hancock County Sheriff's Department, and he is on the denominational leadership team and is the area cluster leader for the Findlay area United

Brethren pastors. He and **Polly (Clay) fs86** have three children. Polly owns her own business and is actively involved in children's ministry.

Class of 1987

David Williams g87, an "Ohio Buckeye," moved to Manchester, MI (20 minutes from Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan), to serve as pastor of Emmanuel United Church of Christ. He previously served for nearly 9 years at First United Church of Christ, New Knoxville, OH.

Class of 1988

Cindy (Kennedy) Kuhn g88 works at Compassion International in Colorado Springs, CO.

Susan (Boklaga) Pereira g87 Honored

Susan (Boklaga) Pereira g87 almost didn't graduate from FWBC. She is quick to thank the late **Joy Gerig g52 & g66** and **Jenny Bartels g90** for helping her finish. Much has changed since then.

In late October, Susan was encouraged to invite several of her friends to meet her at the Alumni Center for a casual evening of reconnecting while she was in the Midwest on a business trip.



Susan (Boklaga) Pereira g87 with friends

What she did not know is the Fort Wayne Alumni Council had bestowed upon her the "Distinguished Alumna for Personal Achievement in 2014" award. In a brief ceremony in front of her friends and former faculty, Susan was recognized for her Academic Achievements, Advocacy for Children, and Professional Accomplishments.

Read Susan's wellness blog each month on our website, <http://fw.taylor.edu>.

Editor's Note: Is there someone you would like to recommend for an alumni award? Submit it online to <http://fw.taylor.edu/awards/descriptions.shtml>.



Kevin March g88 resides in Melbourne, Australia, where he teaches music theory and composition at the University of Melbourne. Two of his works, "Catalogue des Papillons" and "Mythweaver," were performed in a concert during the Metropolis New Music Festival in Melbourne, and Kevin has also been commissioned by the Montréal Opera to compose his first full-length opera, "Les Feluettes."

Class of 1993

Tom g93 and **Cindi De Somer** are celebrating 17 years of marriage this year. They have three children: Caleb (11), Alexa (9), and Zachary, (4). They have served in ministry in Fort Wayne; LaGrange, IL; and Oswego, NY; before beginning a church multiplication effort in Southern California. They currently are planting a Christian Missionary and Alliance church in Simi Valley called Vital Cross (vitalcross.com). They launched Vital Cross in October 2012 with the vision to reach the unchurched, engage the next generation, and multiply churches.

Mark Hull g93 recently was named the NCCAA Men's Golf Coach of the Year after his Colorado Christian University team won the national championship. Mark and his wife, Danielle, live in Lakewood, CO, where he is an owner of a real estate firm.



Memorials

Marie (Fancher) Dietz g83 passed away on April 17, 2014. She was born in Seoul, Korea, and was a loving wife, mother, and special education teacher for many years. Surviving is her husband, **Donn g86**.

Collie (Hill) Stairhime g83 fought cancer for 18 years, which finally took her November 2, 2014, surrounded by her family, which included her husband, **Eric g83**.



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 where to find
 us, but have
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Editor's Note: More current *News & Notes* are added weekly on our website, <http://fw.taylor.edu>. Alumni and friends can send for our review and posting, and then they can be read by former classmates and friends. Check out this feature today!



Friend,

The Alumni Center has been a place of excitement and action during the last four months. The Singing Collegians reunion, Homecoming 2014, and smaller gatherings brought over 360 alumni and friends to campus. Old friends were hugging as they greeted each other after many years apart, reminiscing together what life was like at the corner of Indiana and Rudisill, and laughing as videos reminded everyone of the fun and mischief of college days.

One of the greatest joys was hearing how alumni continue to minister literally around the world in numerous occupations. Many conversations were centered on the faith foundation received during college that became life's cornerstone.

Bill Pannell g51 traveled from California to Homecoming 2014 and reflected, *"I didn't know the extent of how much I felt at home here, how much I missed it. . . This campus with our alumni are under the powerful impact of a living history, a legacy that simply will not go away."*

Those who came to the Alumni Center for the first time were amazed to learn all that is happening in the Center's ministry of caring, connecting, and celebrating.

The ministry continues! Will you, Friend, join a growing number of alumni in keeping the Alumni Center a wonderful place where friendships are renewed, stories of God's sustaining power are shared, and the memories of life-changing college days are celebrated? Your \$25.00 will keep the momentum moving forward to unite even more alumni and friends in 2015. Your tax-deductible gift sent by December 31 will be so appreciated.



Michael Mortenson g91



Your gifts, no matter the amount, are appreciated and needed for us to continue our ministry of *Caring, Connecting, and Celebrating!*

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