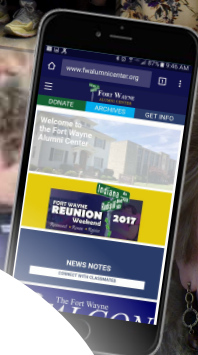


fw
fort wayne vine



*A Wine
of God's Own
Planting*



Giving Thanks
Celebrating 10 Years!

Ten years ago, on June 2, 2009, I walked into Brown Gables alone, but not for long.

Staff and volunteers had just set up the newly founded Fort Wayne Alumni Center. We had a beautiful space, thousands of archive items, and some willing volunteers. Taylor had provided a budget, and my charge to fulfill was to CARE for Fort Wayne alumni. Nothing else was specified.

The only task I had besides *caring* for Fort Wayne alumni was to finish a commemorative *Alumnus* magazine. Ultimately, we had more questions than answers.

Thankfully, through the help of an expanding volunteer base, our first program assistant, **Kari Reynolds g99**, an engaged Alumni Council, and some loyal alumni who kept giving, our ministry began to take shape.

Alumni asked for reunions, and we provided. Alumni appreciated the commemorative magazine with News Notes, so we created the *FW Vine*. Then, we created the website with the virtual archive. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, **Kari, Dr. Jay Platte g69, Dr. Jackie Carl g53, and Bill Gerig g61** began to organize the archives.

The Council then worked with **Char (Miller) Binkley g64** to create a strategic plan that helped define our mission to *care* for Fort Wayne alumni by *connecting* and *celebrating*, all for the glory of God. Ultimately, God has provided each step of the way, even after we relocated to 915 W. Rudisill.

In this issue, we will look back while looking forward, giving glory to God for all he has done. What will God do next?

Join us in our next chapter at the Welty Building,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael'.

Michael D. Mortensen g91

Director of Fort Wayne Alumni and Friend Relations
mcmortensen@taylor.edu

P.S. Special thanks is given to **Gabby Carlson cs19**, a professional writing major, and **Lauren Murphy cs19**, a strategic communications major at Taylor University, who have contributed to this publication.

FW Vine is published two times per year for Fort Wayne campus alumni and friends by the Fort Wayne Alumni Center and the Taylor University Alumni Relations Office. Copyright ©2019 Taylor University®.

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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 42 states and 31 foreign countries attend Taylor, where 114 degree programs are available.



Giving Thanks - Celebrating 10 Years!

By Kathryn Fenstermacher g13

“**T**hough we have moved on to new stages of life, this place will always be remembered as our first home. This place will always unite its past students and current community through the memories and power of Christ on which this institution was founded. Fort Wayne is not forgotten, and its mission will continue through the work of its [alumni].”

These words were scrawled upon a campus sidewalk in the fall of 2010 by alumni. In that year’s commemorative *Alumnus* magazine, director **Michael Mortensen g91** recalled the image of “A Vine of God’s Own Planting,” a fond metaphor for the campus community used by founders like J.E. Ramseyer. “The ‘Vine’ has wrapped around the hearts of students . . . and this is cause for celebration,” Michael said.



For the past 10 years, we have had front row seats watching God’s continued nurturing of that Vine through and for the Fort Wayne alumni community. The Vine’s branches still spread across the world as alumni, impacted by their experiences on the Fort Wayne campus, touch the lives of thousands.

To mark this 10-year anniversary, we are reflecting on the success God has given to the Fort Wayne Alumni Center. Rejoice with us on these opportunities of caring, connecting and celebrating our alumni, all possible because of your prayers and support.

- Hosted nine Reunion/Homecoming Weekends with close to 1,000 alumni participating from multiple states and four countries;
- Sent 444 Words of Solace to those who have lost a loved one;
- Published 21 magazines and 78 e-newsletters;
- Engaged regularly with over 1,400 friends on our Facebook page and closed Facebook group;
- Created a mobile-friendly website to connect with our alumni far and wide;
- Planned and hosted three Scripture Engagement Seminars attended by 160 people;
- Sold hundreds of wearables, replicas, books, and CDs/DVDs through our online store;
- Presented 27 awards to numerous alumni and four athletic teams for their achievements, service, and performance.

As important as these numbers are, what matters most to us are your stories.

Received awards from Fort Wayne AdFed for our *FW Vine* mini-magazine as well as from CASE for the viability of our Alumni Center.



To God be The Glory continued

Shellie (Kale) Burden g91 shared about her first encounter with the Alumni Center – a phone call from Michael Mortensen. “He was just calling from the Fort Wayne campus to tell me that the Alumni Center cares and would like to connect with me, but let’s just say that I didn’t make it easy for Michael.”



Shellie found that her perspective changed as the Alumni Center built a relationship with her. She became the grateful recipient of love and generosity when her husband was out of work and Michael showed up with a trunk load of food and an envelope of cash. Shellie said, “The only thing Michael would reveal was that this was a gift from an alum who wanted me and my family to know that they cared about us and were praying for us.”

Shellie has since been a volunteer for the Alumni Center, and her son, Jayson, has been the recipient of the Fort Wayne alumni dependent scholarship at Taylor University. Shellie says, “I smile to think of how God used the Fort Wayne campus to influence my life, my family’s lives, and even my professional life. God is good.”

Ruth (Lehman) Catron g79

cherished her experience on the Fort Wayne campus long after graduating and moving to California. Through the Alumni Center, she and her family have been able to stay connected to a beloved place and its people. A highlight for Ruth was attending a reunion with three generations of alumni, including her parents and her grandfather. Ruth says, “At each step



in my post college walk, the Alumni Center and its staff have been an ‘Ebenezer’ stone memorial to me, a place where I can be reminded of God’s faithful work in my life. Their work has blessed me and strengthened my faith.”

The Alumni Volunteer Prayer Team is perhaps the best example of the Alumni Center’s connection across distances, whether geographical or generational. “I’ve been so grateful for the prayer team,” said **Lauren Rowell g06**. “I’ve gone through a lot these last few years, and knowing there are alumni who are faithfully praying for me has made a big difference.”

Naomi (Buckels) Heidelberg

g69, also grateful for the prayer team, said, “The prayer team was a sustaining force while **Larry g67** struggled with illness. Their prayers



brought peace to our hearts.” The Heidelbergs have also been on the other side, serving on the Alumni Council and praying for alumni. “What a blessing it has been to celebrate you, our fellow alumni, in prayer and support,” Naomi said. “We are family!”

Propelled by these reflections of God’s faithfulness, your Alumni Center staff and volunteers eagerly move forward in the ministry of caring, connecting, and celebrating our Fort Wayne campus alumni. We have tasted and seen the Lord’s goodness and blessings, and we are confident that He will continue to sustain “the Vine” in the years ahead all for His glory. And may He find us faithful.

Sent multiple baby t-shirts to alumni celebrating the births of their infants.



Looking Forward as Ministry Continues

By Kathryn Fenstermacher g13 and Michael D. Mortensen g91

Like the spring, change can bring vitality and freshness. This has been the case for your Alumni Center as we will soon enter our second decade of ministry by moving to a more economical space down Rudisill in the Welty Educational Building (named after the late **Herald Welty g40**, former FWBC registrar). Painting walls, cleaning carpet, and arranging furniture will bring freshness to our new home where the welcome mat is out for you!

From the start of this relocation journey that began a year ago, God has continued to encourage us, as we strive to be wise stewards with His possessions and resources.

Recently, after a year of trying to sell or donate the 33 nearly new choir robes that had been donated by **Dr. Daryl h96** and **Joenita h96 Yost, Char (Miller) Binkley g64**, relocation chair, learned that Unity Baptist Church, here in Fort Wayne, could put them to good use starting right away this Easter Sunday. That in itself was amazing!

Then when Char pointed out to the church representative who came to pick them up that one side of the silk stole (scarf) was plain and the other side had the Taylor logo, the choir director hollered in praise, “Look at that! It is a cross inside a ‘U’ for Unity Church. I am amazed, but I shouldn’t because that’s God!”

As we move forward to this new location, we realize it represents change – a smaller space. But we want to keep our focus on the ministry. Although this move is not an easy decision, we know that most alumni chose the Fort Wayne campus, not for the campus appeal or buildings (some came in spite of Schultz Hall ☺). Rather, many came because of the Christ-centered, Biblically-anchored education and the people. Our focus on Christ and on people has not changed.

Moving forward, we’re still going to need multi-generational volunteers to host and plan reunions, to serve on our volunteer prayer team, and to help fulfill our mission.

The last few alumni events have trended to alumni volunteers planning and hosting with our help. The class of ‘78 recently used this method with great success. They met on campus and then later at the Friendly Fox late into the evening during Reunion Weekend, and former TUFW volleyball teammates had dinner together at Pizza King the evening before the Athletic Hall of Fame—both having a blast.

We look forward to the new memories we will make through the Welty Building as the hub of our ministry of *caring, connecting, and celebrating*. Join us in ministry through 3901 South Wayne Avenue!



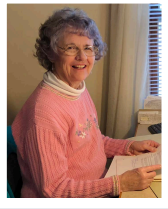
Tracked over 35,000 total hours of service from
263 volunteers.

VOLUNTEER REPORT BY Alumni Council									
DATE REPORTED	PERIOD	DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	EMAIL
10/15/10	10/15/10	10/15/10	Bill Gerig	1000 N. 10th St.	Fort Wayne	IN	46802	765-746-1234	bill.gerig@fwbc.org
10/15/10	10/15/10	10/15/10	Joyce Wiggle	1000 N. 10th St.	Fort Wayne	IN	46802	765-746-1234	joyce.wiggle@fwbc.org
10/15/10	10/15/10	10/15/10	Arlene Motter	1000 N. 10th St.	Fort Wayne	IN	46802	765-746-1234	arlene.motter@fwbc.org

Volunteer Profiles

Arlene (Dissinger) Motter g67

Arlene (Dissinger) Motter g67 has been volunteering at the Alumni Center twice a week since she retired to Fort Wayne in 2010. She had not yet settled into a church, and felt there was a gap in her life. “I like to be busy,” she said. “I used to do many church activities, and now I was without anything. So, I started volunteering.”



A natural organizer, Arlene has used her gifts to tirelessly chip away at what most would consider to be a daunting and tedious task: scanning thousands of slides, photographs, and documents that tell the story of the campus history.

Thanks to her faithful attention, the Alumni Center’s archives have been completely digitized so they can be preserved in the Cloud, freely accessible to alumni who are interested in the history of the campus or of the Missionary Church.

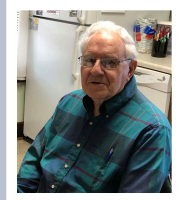
Hours spent handling the archives material have made Arlene quite a historian. “I’ve learned a whole bunch of background and information about people,” she said. “I mean, the Gerigs were related to just about everybody!”

Sifting through other people’s memories has made Arlene grateful for her own. “I loved attending FWBC,” she said. “I learned a lot and made some good friends here.”

Bill Gerig g61

As the son of an FWBC dean and president, **Bill Gerig g61** is no stranger to campus. He

has fond memories of playing basketball in the gym as a boy and attending ministry classes as an enrolled student. The fond memories of FWBC continue today, as Bill has volunteered at



the Alumni Center for the last 12 years, working to organize various records within the campus archives. He is often accompanied by his wife, **Joyce (Wiggle fs61)**, who also volunteers

Bill’s volunteer work in the archives makes the college’s history available to the public, gives alumni access to their records and transcripts, and helps alumni reunion event efforts. He and other dedicated volunteers work hard to digitize and scan the records, making the archives ever more easily accessible.

Bill is quick to point to the track record of the Lord’s faithfulness to the Fort Wayne campus for the last 105 years, saying it is a joy to play a role in preserving the amazing things God has done. He enjoys seeing the college’s legacy continue through alumni turned friends, relationships made possible by the Alumni Center’s efforts to keep alumni connected.

When asked why he keeps coming back year after year to serve the campus, Bill simply replied, “It’s a joy, and I’m happy to help others remember what God has done. The Lord has directed me to do it, and I’m trying to be a faithful steward.”

Gathered, organized, and digitized thousands of archive materials that are now available to you by simply clicking on www.fwalumnicenter.org.



Volunteer Profiles

Dr. Jay Platte g69

Dr. Jay Platte g69 has been volunteering with the Alumni Center from the very beginning. Since 2009, Jay has put in more than 6,500 hours as archives coordinator. He and his teammates have painstakingly digitized 105 years' worth of documents related to the campus history.

This process has made Jay thankful for the campus staff in past decades who took the time to preserve these records so carefully. "I read some of the struggles of the early founders . . . and a common theme with all of that is God's faithfulness," he said. "I don't want that to get lost, so that's what drives me."

Jay also serves as the webmaster for www.fwalumnicenter.org, keeping the website current with News Notes, event registration, digital publications, and more. One of the most meaningful things for Jay is when alumni reach out to share how a person, place, or experience on campus impacted them as students.

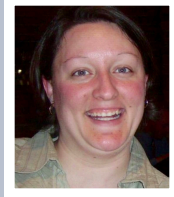
The Alumni Center serves as a hub for these interactions, whether in person or digitally. "To me, it's no small thing that we've been able to continue," Jay said. "The fact that we have continued and been able to do what we've been able to do, I think, is significant."



Kari Reynolds g99

The Alumni Center does much more than plan Reunion Weekend once a year.

Kari Reynolds g99 has seen this first-hand as she has volunteered and then worked part-time at the Alumni Center. She spent thousands of hours over the years doing secretarial work, handling donation deposits, planning events, and being a part of the Alumni Council.



The Alumni Center has kept alumni connected through planning events such as the Athletic Hall of Fame and Reunion Weekend, and through their publications, newsletters, and email chains. "Aside from the volunteers, (it's a) one or two man show," Kari said. "It's pretty stunning"

Kari currently volunteers for the Alumni Center on an as-needed basis, and works as a site director for Summer Clubhouse, a Taylor-sponsored summer program for elementary kids.

For Kari, one of the best parts about volunteering at the Alumni Center is never knowing who is going to walk through the front doors. Old friends and alumni from before her time would stop at the Alumni Center to reconnect with their alma mater.

"With the campus having closed, it's really the way to keep the connection," Kari said. "People get disconnected and then get plugged back in, and even though it looks different, their alma mater still exists."

Initiated an Alumni Volunteer Prayer Team that has prayed for hundreds of alumni and friends.



Volunteers Profiles

Shellie Burden g91

Prayer is relational. **Shellie Burden g91** has found this to be true as she helps create a community of prayer through the Alumni Volunteer Prayer Team.

Shellie has volunteered in various capacities for the Alumni Center for about seven years, serving on the Alumni Council and helping with Reunion Weekend. Her most recent volunteer work has been with the email prayer team, where she receives prayer requests from alumni and sends these updates to 24 “prayer warriors” through email.



The prayer team has impacted Shellie through the people she has gotten to know – including some she has never even met in person. “They are some of my dearest friends,” she said.

The Alumni Center has created a community of alumni who wouldn’t otherwise be connected. Shellie attributes this success largely to the work of director **Michael Mortensen g91** and his team, who have fostered a place where there can be connection between alumni and friends even though the campus doors have closed.

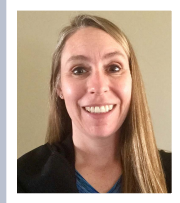
The relationships built have been one of the fondest parts of Shellie’s experience, and she considers this to be one of the Alumni Center’s greatest achievements. Connecting with the transitional year alumni, with women on the prayer chain, and with the Mortensen family has been the Alumni Center’s most meaningful impact in Shellie’s life.

“There was a lot of healing,” Shellie said. “There are relationships that would have never been there before.”

Tui (Walcott) Bedwell g97

Tui (Walcott) Bedwell g97 has worn many hats since graduating from TUFW. As a

wife, homeschooling mother, TUFW Alumni Council member, active participant at a local horse stable, and engaged member of the community, Tui is accustomed to managing many tasks. Despite her demanding schedule, Tui finds time regularly to volunteer at the Alumni Center, because it’s a way for her to give back.



Tui’s role as a volunteer at the Alumni Center is flexible and self-managed, allowing her to work on an as-needed basis. Thanks to Tui’s coordination efforts with other volunteers, alumni events like Reunion Weekend and the Athletic Hall of Fame are both packed with entertaining activities and filled with delicious food.

“This role allows me . . . to give back to a university that provided me with so much,” Tui said. “I have freedom to assist in whatever ways I am most gifted, (and to) do it in a time schedule that fits best into my life.”

Tui appreciates the Alumni Center’s staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to keep fellow classmates connected. She enjoys working with others in the event planning process and sees the position as an opportunity to get to know alumni she might not have interacted with otherwise. Of all the hats she decides to put on, Tui’s Alumni Center volunteer “hat” fits nicely.

Managed and overseen an endowment from the Fort Wayne Phone-a-thons that awards approximately \$35,000 annually in scholarships to dependents of our alumni association and former employees.



Day of Fun Showing Green

By Kathryn Fenstermacher g13

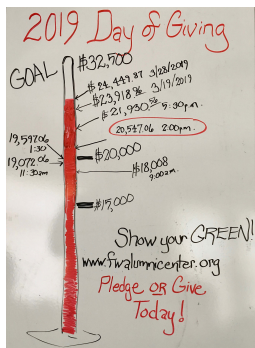
Day of Giving is always a great time to reconnect with alumni who we haven't seen or heard from in a while – and to catch director **Michael Mortensen g91** wearing a silly tie! We enjoyed making connections with many of you on March 15 through Facebook live, where we had over 2,000 total views. It means so much to know that alumni want to engage with us and check in with the campus they love.

As of press time, we had received just shy of \$25,000 in gifts and pledges toward the Alumni Center. We are grateful for all who “showed their green” to support us in our ministry of caring, connecting, and celebrating.



According to Michael, we still need \$10,557 in additional gifts by May 31 in order to meet our ministry expenses. “The Alumni Center belongs to God, and we trust him to provide,”

Michael said. “We are praying that we can finish the fiscal year strong, especially in light of our move to a new location. We are hoping God will prompt some of his people to help us finish in the black and keep us alive and vibrant.”



While every dollar is needed, the very gesture of gift-giving is what matters most. By giving to the Alumni Center, you are making a statement that the Alumni Center and its work are important to you. “My hope is that more alumni, especially younger alumni, will participate, even if that means sending \$10 just to say, “We’re grateful that you’re here,” Michael said. “That would speak loudly.”

4th Annual
DAY OF GIVING



Show Your Green
MARCH 15, 2019

Would you take a moment to ask God what he would have you give to the Alumni Center?

Gifts can be made online at www.fwalumni-center.org/dayofgiving. You can also reach us by phone during office hours at (260) 744-8790 or mail a check to Fort Wayne Alumni Center, 3901 South Wayne Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

Editor's Note: Did you miss our Day of Giving Facebook live broadcast? No problem! You can view the videos on our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheFWAlumniResource/>. We were able to use technology to connect with special guests, including recent Athletic Hall of Fame inductee **Scott Haddix g94**, distinguished servant **Bill Gerig g61**, publications coordinator **Kathryn Fenstermacher g13**, and to peek inside the old Lehman Library.



Athletic Event Leads to Healing

By Kathryn Fenstermacher g13

There was something special about this year's Fort Wayne Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Part of it was the crowd: a record of 24 were honored, with 87 attendees swarming through the Missionary Church fellowship hall, including spouses, parents, and children in tow. "It's always fun to sit back and watch the first people come in," said Alumni Center Director **Michael Mortensen g91**. "It just becomes a chatterbox that's filled with laughter."

Part of it was the planning: Alumni Center Coordinator **Stephanie (Cox) Demorest g93** led a team of volunteers who thought through every detail, from the menu to the decorations to the awards. "I think our guests could really tell that the (volunteer) team put the effort in to organizing that event, making it special for them, and I think that meant a lot," Stephanie said.

But the true magic was in the atmosphere. "Something happened, something that I thought wouldn't ever happen," said inductee **Danielle "Dani" Partee g08**. "What started out as simply an Athletic Hall of Fame

banquet turned to be more of a time of healing. I didn't realize how helpful that day would be."

There was an overwhelming sense of joy in the room to celebrate remarkable accomplishments that were still fresh in people's minds. Attendees came from as far as Arizona and South Carolina to reconnect with those who had long-lasting impact as friends, teammates, and coaches. "It was incredible to be able to reconnect with so many people and relive some of our favorite TUFW memories," said inductee **Jessica (Warriner) Turner g07**.

These experiences underscore the value of returning to campus for alumni events. "The intersection of these lives once again has a profound impact," Michael said. "Having alumni feel important, that they are not forgotten, is the greatest gift."

Editor's Note: For more photos of the event, a copy of the ceremony program, as well as a complete listing of the 2019 inductees, visit our website at www.fwalumnicenter.org/celebrate/hall-of-fame.





Submit *News Notes* items to alumnifw@taylor.edu, call the Alumni Center at (260) 744-8790, or mail to *FW Vine*, 3901 South Wayne Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

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



Use your smartphone to submit the latest News Note.

1960s

Steve Binkley g64 was honored by NeighborLink Fort Wayne's creation of the *Steve Binkley Service Award*, recognizing Steve's tireless service to others. Steve and **Char (Miller) g64** live and serve in the Fort Wayne area.



its destiny. His book is available on Amazon. Jim and his wife, Sharon, live in Mooresville, IN.

Casandra "Cassie" Sorenson g79 founded her own consulting agency, Cassie Sorenson Consulting, in 2014. Her agency helps Rescue Mission Programs operate effectively so that clients' lives are transformed, staff are fully engaged, and supporters remain committed to sharing their resources.



Don g81 and **Rachel (Weber) g79 Kramer** are serving with The Christian and Missionary Alliance at Sihhu Alliance Church in Taiwan, which is seeing first generation believers being baptized and joyfully joining the life of the church.

Kayleen Reusser fs82 published *We Gave Our Best: World War II Veterans Tell Their Stories*. This is the third volume in her "WWII Legacies" nonfiction series, which captures stories of individual veterans' experiences in the war, from D-Day to Iwo Jima. She also published her 16th children's book, a biography of Meghan Markle, in January. Her books are available on Amazon.



1970s

Kathy (LaBree) Jones g78 retired from the Maine Judicial Branch after 33 years of public service. She served as Clerk of Court for three District Courts. She and her husband, Scott, have relocated to Augusta, ME to be close to family.

Dr. James "Jim" Taylor g78 published his first book, *Hope and a Future for Indiana: a guide for using prophetic words to pray Indiana into*

1980s

Randy g80 and **Carolyn (Kaufmann) g80 Fudge** retired in January from World Partners. The Fudges have been with the organization for 23 years, serving in various regions, including Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, and Ireland. They now reside in Berne, IN.

Bob Herman g85 started a new position with The Rescue Mission in Fort Wayne as pastor of outreach and discipleship. In this role, he pastors and disciples men from the LifeHouse, which provides immediate relief for those experiencing hunger and homelessness.

1990s

Lori Wilson-Snyder g91 started a new position with Ambassador Enterprises, a private equity company in Fort Wayne that helps build companies and leaders that seek to impact communities in northeast Indiana and beyond.



Petula Myers g94 is serving with The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Bosnia-Herzegovina. She works for Izvor Centar, an outreach center that seeks to impact local children and youth through English classes, counseling, and the arts.

2000s

Natalie Grillo g01 married Rich Zaccagna Jr. November 16, 2018. The wedding took place in Denver, CO, where the couple resides.

Kellie (Moll) Ellis g02 was named Realtor of the Month by Indy Home Experts in December. She and her husband, Josh, live in Avon, IN, and have two children. Kellie can be reached at www.kellieellis.com.



Tauna (Harrell g03) and Tremayne **Batiste** welcomed Andrew Christopher February 5. Andrew weighed 9 lbs., 3 oz. and was 21 in. long, and joins Alex, 4. The Batistes live in Reynoldsburg, OH.



Brooke (Wilson g03) and Jeff **Hartman** welcomed twins, Hanalei Brooke and Maya Katherine, March 11. They join older sister Havana, 2. The Hartmans live in Madison, WI.

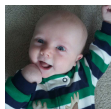


Adrianna Manaugh g03 is serving in Thailand with Partners, an organization that works with vulnerable and displaced communities that are difficult to reach in order to bring practical solutions to free children from hardship and exploitation.

Mandy (Tarter) Rakoci g04 and her husband Derek welcomed Ryne Beckett October 25. Ryne weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20 ¼ in. long. He joins older brother, Connor, 7.

Michael g05 and Catherine **Clancy** welcomed Clara Frances Thomasina January 27. Clara weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 19 in. long. She joins her brother, Michael, 1. The Clancys live in Phoenix, AZ.

Patrick g05 and Jessica **Jessup** welcomed their first child, Dietrich Lawrence, January 6. The Jessups live in Spencerville, IN.



Tabatha "Tab" Lamb g05 received her Iowa state teaching license in the area of 5 – 12 grade English and language arts. Tab lives and works in the Des Moines area.

Beth (Armstrong) g05 and Matt **Overman** welcomed Evelyn Leigh

Gerig and Binkley Recognized as Distinguished Servants

Bill Gerig g61 and **Char Binkley g65** were recently recognized as Distinguished Campus Servants. Both these individuals have been lifelong friends of the Fort Wayne campus and have demonstrated the key characteristics of a Distinguished Servant:



Gerig



Binkley

- Committed disciple of Jesus Christ
- Demonstrator of loyalty to the purposes and programs of the college/university
- Creator or developer of campus programs, activities, or concepts that furthered the cause of the campus
- Significant contributor to the college/university
- Honorable servant for many years on campus
- Bestower of honor and recognition to the college/university

Visit our website at <https://fwalumnicenter.org/celebrate/distinguished-servant/> to read their remarkable stories . . . and to share a tribute of how one or both have had an impact on your life. Congratulations, Bill and Char, on your outstanding achievements for God's Kingdom!

Know of someone who you think meets these characteristics? You can nominate them by sending us an email at alumnifw@taylor.edu.

March 7. Evelyn weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz. and was 19 in. long. She joins brothers Patrick, 8, Charlie, 5, and Markus, 2.

Sharyn (Thomas g06) and **Matt Brisson** welcomed Alaya Grace November 30. She weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz. and was 19 ¾ in. long. She joins her brother, Wesley, 2. The Brissons live in Castle Rock, CO.



Traci (Bakle) Koenig g06 is the teen program administrator at Hands of Hope Pregnancy Services in Paulding, OH.

Charrell (Williams) Stevens g07 was nominated as Distinguished Staff of the Year (District) in her role as Secretary of Student Services at Elkhart Community Schools. Charrell and her husband, Justin, have twin daughters and reside in Goshen, IN.

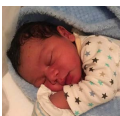
Tad g09 and **Amanda (Heinsch) g06 Luedeke** welcomed Zelda November 26. Zelda weighed 8lbs. 8 oz. and was 20 in. long. The Luedekes live in Fort Wayne.

Andrea (Burns) g09 and **Owen Phiri** welcomed their son Cedar

Kudzai January 22. Cedar weighed 6 lbs.

7 oz. and was 21.65 in. long. The name

Cedar was inspired by Isaiah 41 and Psalm 92. Kudzai means "praise" in the Zimbanwean language Shona.



Nicole (Wentworth g09) and **Brock Treesh** welcomed Calliope Ann February



27. Calliope weighed 7 lbs. 6.8 oz. and was 20 in. long. The Treeshes live in Kendallville, IN.

Heidi (Pierce) g09 Williams and her husband welcomed Adalynn Joyce November 27. Adalynn weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. The Williamses live in Fort Wayne.



John g09 and **Ami (Troyer) g07 Yoder** welcomed Micah Jeffery

November 16. Micah

weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20 in.

long. He joins sister

Mia, 3. The Yoders live in Elkhart, IN where Josh works for the Goshen Fire Department and Ami is a school counselor at Jimtown High School.



Katlyn Smith g11 married Micah Stryker July 8, 2017 at First Baptist Church in Medina, OH. **Shannon**

Potelicki g10

was one of the bridesmaids. Katlyn serves as assistant

communications director for Christian Healthcare Ministries in Barberton, and she and Micah live in Brunswick, OH.



Memorials

Donna Cottrell g51, 77, passed away February 13 in Columbus, IN. Donna served as a missionary to Ethiopia and worked at the SIM USA office in North Carolina.



Dr. Gerald I. Gerig g51, 91, passed away January 13 at Swiss Village in

Berne, IN. Gerald served in the U.S. Navy prior to receiving his degree in music from FWBC. He served with Youth for Christ, was a pastor in the Missionary Church, and worked as a private counselor. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Coyla (Crow) fs45** and his brother, **Dr. Donald Gerig g62,** and is survived by two sisters, **Geraldine Gerig fs48** and **Berdaline (Gerig) fs47** Cleveland.

Marjalee (Dull) Kelly g53, 87, entered glory November 5. Marjalee served in Michigan public schools for 35 years as an instructor and counselor. She also served on teenage parenting programs, was an advisory member of the Marion United Methodist Church Council, and was a church accompanist on organ and piano. Marjalee is survived by her husband of 62 years, Harold.

Donna (Neuenschwander) Leonard g55, 87, passed away January 10. Donna is survived by her husband, **Stan g55.**

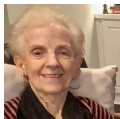
Elizabeth "Liz" (Kimmer) Kirby g58 was taken by cancer March 31 in Tucson, AZ. She had been fighting breast cancer since 2000. Her husband, Bob, survives.

Mary Jane (Wolfe) Richardson g61, 79, passed away February 24. Mary Jane served at the Salem Children's Home in Flanagan, IL for 20 years and taught elementary school in Jacksonville, FL for 15 years. Mary Jane is survived by her husband, the **Rev. John Richardson g59.**

Janyce “Jan” (Harris) Keller g64, 76, passed away March 29. Her husband of 52 years, Jack, preceded her in death the week before. Jan worked for Fort Wayne Community Schools for 35 years.

Tom Norquist fs67, 70, passed away January 18 in Burlington, WI. He had taught special education at schools in the northern suburbs of Chicago for close to 30 years, and coached volleyball and wrestling. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Kathleen.

Pat (Mayo) Welty g67, 75, received her eternal reward March 7. Pat worked as a bank teller before attending Fort Wayne Bible College, and then taught third grade in Zion, IL for two years before becoming a full-time mom and homemaker. She then worked at Mount Paran Christian School in the finance department and taught preschool. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, **James g66**.



Ralph Daniel “Dan” Willis g69, 72, passed away October 6, 2017 at his home in St.



Petersburg, FL. The son of a pastor, Dan received a degree in missions from FWBC. His professional life included a vast array of experiences, including pastoring, insurance sales, electrical work, and business. He is survived by his wife, **Sharyl (Doenges) g69**.

Eunice (Keifer) Oser g73, 70, was embraced by Jesus February 25 after a battle with illness. Eunice was a kindergarten teacher for many years with First Christian Union Preschool and Kindergarten. Eunice is survived by her husband, **Rev. Randy Oser g77**; and daughter, **Jana (Yearling g09) Pharr**.



Dr. William “Jung” Wall g76, 65, of Middlebury, IN, went to be his Lord on August 16, 2018. He was a licensed minister with the North Central District of the Missionary Church. Survivors include his wife, **Judy (Brinker) Wall g72**.

William “Bill” Reeder g78, 70, passed away January 29. He served in the U.S. Army as a veteran of the Vietnam War and as a



Vietnamese translator. He worked as an electrical engineer with GE and Lockheed Martin and was an accomplished Irish folk musician. Bill is survived by his wife, Connie.

“Skip” Robokoff g80 passed away January 5.

Lori Wilka g85, unexpectedly passed away on March 12 while at a job training event in Orlando, FL. She was a National Service Officer at Military Order of the Purple Heart and lived in North Little Rock, AR.

Kathy Lauwers g92, 49, of Haskins, OH passed away on April 5, 2019. She had been a preschool teacher.

Laura (Johnson) Larkin g07, 33, passed away November 26 in Fort Wayne. She was the daughter of **Dr. Ken Johnson**, former TUFW faculty member in the music department. She is survived by twin daughters, Lucy and Cora.



Need prayer? Submit request at
www.fwalumniconter.org/pray4me.

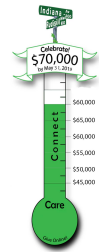
Pioneering FWBC Coach Miller Passes

We learned of the passing of **Phyllis J. Miller g53**, 88, on March 23, 2019. Phyllis was a pioneer of women’s athletics, both as a student at Taylor University Upland (TU) and as a coach at FWBC. Upon entering TU, she joined the women’s basketball team, which went undefeated her first two seasons. She also served as president of the student Women’s Athletic Association.



Phyllis joined the FWBC athletic staff in the 1970s

and founded both the women’s basketball and volleyball programs, building these new teams from the ground up. The volleyball team went on to win back-to-back NCCAC championships in 1977-78 and 1978-79, and Phyllis’s dedication to the sport laid the foundation for great success in the years to come. Phyllis was inducted into the Fort Wayne Campus Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014. She was an athlete throughout her life and went to the Senior National Olympic Games five times.



Just \$10,557 to Go to Celebrate

By Michael D. Mortensen g91

It's time to celebrate our 10th birthday! But before we do, we are asking God for \$10,557 more by May 31, the end of our budget year.

Please consider providing a birthday gift of any size to join us in giving thanks for our ministry of caring, connecting, and celebrating. Your gift today, coupled with others from alumni and friends, will help

your Alumni Center finish this first decade of ministry well.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 21, when we will have a special celebration for our Fort Wayne family. To God be the Glory, great things He has done in and through us – our alumni, staff, and volunteers! Giving thanks! Celebrating 10 years!

Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope or give online at <http://bit.ly/SupportAlumniCenter>

Hibschman Honored After Serving in 22 Countries

Barbara (Benedict) Hibschman fs66 was honored as recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Findlay in Ohio. She received her degree in education at Findlay after attending FWBC for two years. Barbara and her husband, Jim, served as missionaries in 22 countries, including South Cotabato, Philippines, where Barbara was on the faculty of King's College in Koronadal. She taught education, Christian education, and music; helped establish a Christian education major; and hosted a radio station for youth.

Barbara is a popular speaker for women's groups and conferences; her experiences as a missionary, educator,

wife, mother, and grandmother allow her to communicate well with people in all stages of life. She is also a published author of eight books and a co-author of numerous devotional books and received the Writer of the Year Award in 1992 from the Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers Conference. Barbara is part of the Manchester Who's Who Among Professional Women in Writing and Speaking and a member of the Advanced Writers and Speakers Association, a professional organization composed of the top 10% of Christian women in publishing and speaking in America.

Barbara and Jim have two children and four grandchildren and live in Streetsboro, OH.

Scholarship for Brinkman g86 Established

The Mark D. Brinkman Legacy Annual Scholarship has been established to assist Taylor University students whose parents are in full-time ministry domestically or overseas. The scholarship was founded in honor of **Mark Brinkman g86** by his parents, Larry and Jan Brinkman, and by **Patricia "Pattie" (Teall) g88** and **Mark Vincent g85**.

Pattie and Mark Brinkman were married until Mark's death in 2012. Last year, Pattie wanted to create a meaningful memorial to Mark's lifelong service in ministry. "Mark cared deeply about strengthening the fabric of his

community," Pattie said. "His family is honored to be part of a student's journey toward this kind of life."

We will be sharing more from Pattie about how she was inspired to establish the scholarship, as well as how she reconnected with fellow widower Mark Vincent, whose wife **Lorie (Sonntag) g85** had passed away from cancer. Keep an eye on our website, www.fwalumnicenter.org to read the story of loss, love, and legacy.



Mark D. Brinkman g96



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