

Taylor University

Pillars at Taylor University

BCTLE Faculty Newsletter

Bedi Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence

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Faculty Newsletter

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Taylor University

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Bedi Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence

Fostering Community, Inspiring Excellence

Volume 2, Issue 1 *September 2019*

Say Hello to Our New Faculty



(back row, left to right)

Justin M. Henegar (Finance); **Yang Zhao** (Engineering); **Brandon Dykstra** (Exercise Science); **Benjamin E. Roller** (Computer Science and Engineering)

(second from top, left to right)

Reed M. Spencer (Music); **Danielle Nobles-Lookingbill** (Engineering); **Peter Staritz** (Engineering); **Jeff Groeling** (Communication); **Loralee Songer** (Music)

(third row from top, left to right)

David A. McGinness (Education); **Mandi S. Maxwell** (Mathematics)

(front row, left to right)

Samir M. Koudsia (Accounting); **Daniel Kaluka** (Chemistry and Biochemistry); **Kelly Yordy** (MAHE); **Christy Moore** (Education); **Jessica D. Suh** (Christian Ministries); **Elyse S. Rogers** (Mathematics); **Denise C. Flanders** (Biblical Studies)

Taylor Tidbit



(photo courtesy of Jim Garringer)

The new bookstore, called The Bishop's Nook, recalls Taylor's namesake, Bishop William Taylor. The 1924 Gem yearbook was dedicated to Bishop Taylor with the following inscription:

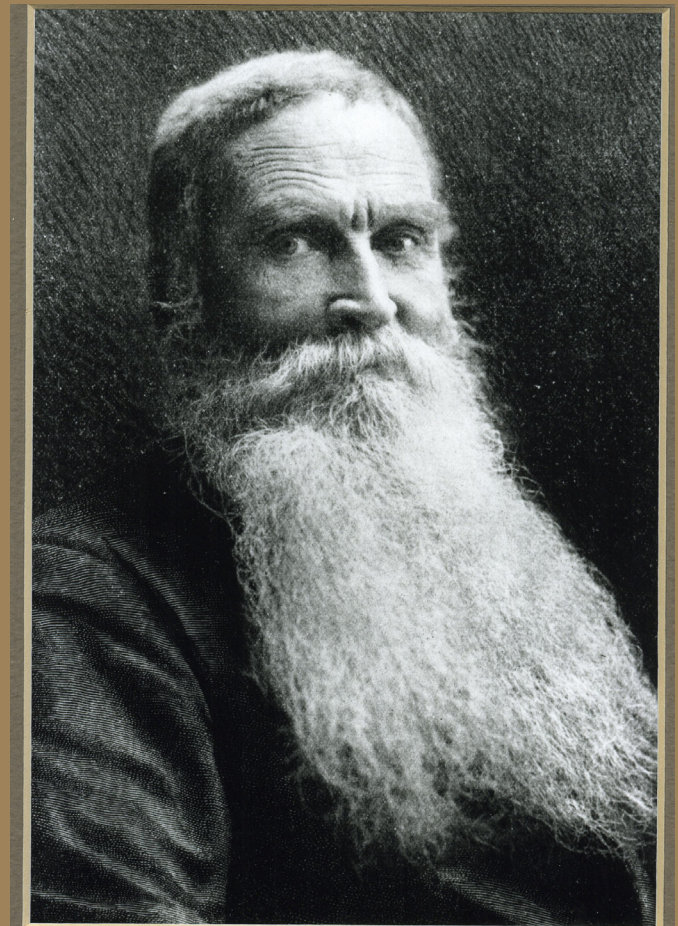
Dedication to Bishop William Taylor, The Spirit-Crowned Ambassador of the Cross, for whom Taylor University was named. Believing that God is answering his prayers for the institution that took his name and for which he prayed thrice daily, we reverently dedicate this book.

A page in the yearbook tells this story of the university's namesake:

Bishop William Taylor has been called the greatest modern world herald of the Cross, the greatest Methodist since Wesley, and the greatest missionary since Paul. In Angola where there was a terrible water famine he taught them to dig wells, and his

name among the Ambundu is still "The Well-Digger." The natives of Liberia know him as "The Long Walker" and the Zulus called him "The Flaming Torch." . . .

It is this spirit-crowned ambassador of the cross for whom Taylor University was named. It is said that this world missionary, even in the face of life's larger calls, saw fit to pray thrice daily for the little institution that had taken the vows of world conquest in the name of Christ. Like Daniel of old this prophet of full salvation turned his face to the heavenlies to plead divine direction and blessing on the institution that had taken his name. God heard those prayers, answered and is answering. We some way feel that Bishop Taylor is still interested in us for the kind of answers he expected still abound in our midst and give us courage to press on.



—courtesy of the Ringenberg Archives & Special Collections

Celebrating Our Colleagues

Summer 2019 was a busy one for many of our faculty! Far from being “summer off,” most of our colleagues were working hard on scholarship in its many and various forms. Here is just a sampling:

Julie Borkin, Jeff Groeling, and Timothy Berkey (Communication) spent the summer designing and building a new basic communication course that is being piloted this fall. Designed in response to university assessment findings, scholarly research, and disciplinary standards, the new CAS170 Integrative Communication course combines content from interpersonal communication, group/team dynamics, and public speaking. Each of the five major assignments targets foundational core objectives (aesthetic literacy, civic-mindedness, communication fluency, critical thinking and information literacy, and quantitative/scientific literacy). The team has also designed a range of assessments to assess learning, application, and self-efficacy and has an IRB application in process so that data and findings might be used in research and presentations.

Stefan Brandle (Computer Science & Engineering) notes that the CSE Department had at least 21 students working in technology-related jobs on campus this summer.

John Bruner (Film & Media) saw his film “Grounded” be an Award Winner at the Fifteen Minute Film Festival and was accepted to screen at the Victory International Film Festival in Evansville, IN. “Grounded” was also accepted to screen at the Hobnobben Film Festival in Ft. Wayne in October.

Kathy Bruner (Film & Media) saw her film “Last Year at the Crossing” be accepted for screening at the Over-the-Rhine Film Festival in Cincinnati and the Heartland Film Festival in Indianapolis, both in October.

Jeremy Case and Derek Thompson (Mathematics) noted that seven out of seven of math department faculty attended the Indiana CCCU Science Faith-Learning Integration conference at Taylor as well as the ACMS (Association of Christians in Mathematical Sciences) Biennial Conference at IWU, with four giving presentations. Four of five (two had yet to be officially hired) also attended the UDL workshop with **Carie King** here at Taylor.



Kevin Diller (Philosophy & Religion) gave an invited lecture at a conference in Scotland.

Denise Flanders (Biblical Studies) successfully defended her dissertation titled “Saul Has Killed His Thousands, David His Tens of Thousands: The Rhetorical Use of Numbers in the Deuteronomistic History.” The dissertation examines all of the numbers (especially the troop and casualty numbers) in Joshua—2 Kings and considers the ways in which the numbers contribute to the narratives of which they are a part.

Phil Grabowski (Sustainable Development) collaborated with the University of Ghana and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) in Malawi to wrap up a research project that focuses on how to make sure that the benefits of agricultural changes are balanced across men, women, and youth. He developed and presented a guide for decision makers in government, non-profits, and businesses about data collection methods that are simple to use so that they can anticipate their projects’ impacts on those groups. He also spent a week in Ghana and a week in Malawi holding end of project workshops to



share their results and get final feedback. He also visited the University of Livingstonia, a Christian university in northern Malawi, with **Bob Priest** to explore ways Taylor could potentially collaborate.

Aaron Housholder (English) presented a paper titled “The Hound and the City: Literary Revelations of Parallel Contested Spaces in Holmes’s London and Stapleton’s Dartmoor” at the Literary London 2019 conference. The paper positions the contest between Holmes and Stapleton in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* within the broader cultural context of the late-Victorian Gothic anxiety that the modern capital city was by its labyrinthine nature increasingly vulnerable to menacing forces from without and within. The conference was hosted by the Literary London Society and was held at the University of Notre Dame’s London campus, a stately old building about two blocks from Trafalgar Square.

Melissa Jessup (Education) continued work on her dissertation titled “For the Love of Reading: The Impact of Engagement Factors on Reading Proficiency.” She is exploring the relationship between reading proficiency and the following print engagement variables: reading self-efficacy, reading motivation, discussion of a text read, self-selection of text, and reading outside the school setting. She analyzed reading proficiency scores and contextual background information for fourth-grade students using large-scale assessment data.

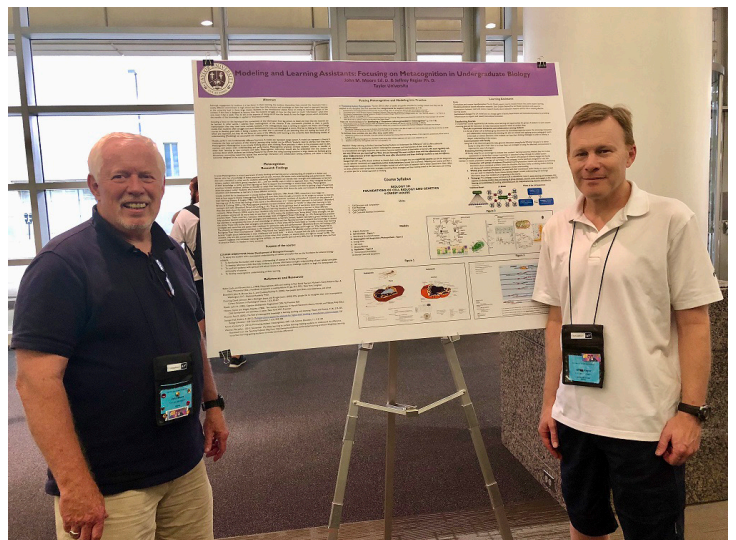
Ken Kiers (Physics and Engineering) worked with Taylor student Isaac Bowser and University of British Columbia student Bryson Marazzi on a project for Near Space Launch. The focus of the project was to write software that uses GPS data provided by a satellite to predict the future motion of the satellite, including its de-orbiting phase.

Ed Meadors (Biblical Studies) finished editing a soon-to-be-released book titled *Where Wisdom May Be Found: The Eternal Purpose of Christian Higher Education*; had an article titled “Isaiah 40.3 and the Synoptic Gospels’ Parody of the Roman Road System” accepted for publication in *The Journal of New Testament Studies*; and taught a class on Revelation at Africa Theological Seminary in Kitale, Kenya.



Christy Moore (Education) presented four sessions for the national professional development organization, SDE in Nashville, Tennessee. Her topics included: Encouraging Inquiry! Literacy Learning Through Noticing and Naming; Growth Mindset! Developing Possibilities with that Tiny Word “YET”; Let Them TALK! Developing Empathy Through Dialogue Around Read Alouds. She also completed a Dyslexia Reading Specialist Certification for the IDOE.

John Moore (Biology) was part of the Advance Placement Biology Read in Kansas City, Missouri, where he was an AP Read Leader on the International Exam; presented a poster with **Jeff Regier** on “Modeling and Learning Assistants: Focusing on Metacognition in



Undergraduate Biology”; and presented a workshop session for Howard Hughes Medical Institute on “Using Short Films as Case Studies.” He was also one of sixty educators who was invited to the Educators Professional Development Conference at Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Chevy Chase, Maryland, where he presented a poster and developed materials. He also continued his work as Founder and Administrator for the National Association of Biology Teacher’s Facebook group.

Julie Moore (English) co-presented on panel at Poetry by the Sea, a global conference held in May at Mercy by the Sea Retreat and Conference Center on Long Island Sound. With fellow poets Barbara Crooker and Marjorie Maddox, she gave a presentation titled, “In the Waiting Room: Writing through Physical and Emotional Trauma,” which included poems from her three books of poetry, including her most recent, *Full Worm Moon*. In July, thanks to a scholarship, she attended *Image Journal’s* Glen Workshop in Santa Fe, participating in the seminar, “Choosing Creation: The Art of Blackness and the Blackness of Art,” with Jessica B. Davenport and Biko Mandela Gray; this seminar helped to inform both her new poetry and expand the way she teaches racial literacy in College Composition.



Robert Priest (Anthropology) spent the summer working with his wife, Kersten Priest (sociology professor at IWU), and several Taylor students (Amanda Fleischmann, Emily Pawlowski, Aubri Skaggs) preparing a major museum exhibition for the Marion Public Library Museum, titled: “Welcome to Weaver: The Legacy of Grant County’s Black Abolitionist Settlement.” It will remain on display through the fall. Funding was from FMUS and the Women’s Giving Circle. Please visit the exhibition, and invite your students to

visit also. He also spent ten days in Malawi laying the groundwork for a J-term course there.

Joe Ricke (English) organized two paper sessions on C. S. Lewis and the Middle Ages for the International Congress of Medieval Studies, presided over one of the sessions, and presented a paper in the other one: “The Pleasures of Self-Consolation in C. S. Lewis’s *A Grief Observed*.” He also ran the Young Inklings Research Seminar at Taylor (co-directed by Ashley Chu) in which ten young scholars developed research projects and presentations. During June, an article was published in *North Wind: The Journal of George MacDonald Studies*, “George MacDonald: A Timeline of Lectures and Performances, 1855-18981” 37 (2018), 107-79 (co-authored with Ashley Chu and three Taylor undergraduates). July saw his book publication, *The Faithful Imagination: Papers from the 2018 Frances White Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis and Friends*, Wingled Lion Press, 2019 (co-edited with Ashley Chu).

Vincent Sichula (Chemistry & Biochemistry) did research with students. With Kendra Russell and Stephen Susman, they prepared the compounds that can be used as drugs for the treatment of Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases. They finished preparing the compounds and during the fall semester they will be doing biological testing. With Melissa Copeland, they prepared compounds that can be used to convert carbon-dioxide



into liquid fuels such methanol, as a best option of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Melissa prepared and investigated the ability of the compounds to convert carbon dioxide to methanol and will do further testing during the fall semester. With Sarah Gorski, they prepared and characterized compounds for use in

continued on page 6

organic light emitting diodes (OLED) for use as displays in smart phones, watches and TVs. Sarah will do further testing during the semester.

Jim Spiegel (Philosophy & Religion) participated in the Army War College National Security Seminar—an invitation-only week-long conference in Carlisle, PA. Jim writes that “the function of the National Security Seminar is to have those developing leaders interface with civilian leaders from diverse industries and organizations in order to mutually educate and inspire.” He also continued work on his current book project on the intellectual virtue of open-mindedness.

Tricia Stan (Chemistry) worked with Emily Knight, a chemistry education major, to run “Taylor Laboratory,” a summer science camp. With help from chemistry student Melissa Copeland, they hosted 12 students in 5th through 8th grades from 9 a.m. to noon the week of June 24. They explored polymers, acids/bases, light/color, electricity/magnetism, and forensics.

TAYLOR LABORATORY

summer science camp - June 24-28



Linda Taylor (Professional Writing) coordinated and ran the fourth annual Taylor University Professional Writers' Conference that brought over 130 writers to campus for two days of training and encouragement. Keynote speakers were best-selling authors Angela Elwell Hunt and Bill Myers. Several current PWR alumni and students served as conference staff.



Derek Thompson (Mathematics) was able to get his first research paper co-authored with undergraduates into a faculty-level journal, and he wrote his department review. He noted (as did **Jeremy Case**, above) the great time of fellowship, scholarship, and collegiality among colleagues new and old at conferences their department attended.

Jessica Vanderploeg (Biology) writes that one of her research projects built upon a new collaboration with a prof at Indiana State University and her PhD and Postdoc project interests. The broad question is a Developmental Biology question: How does a one-cell zygote become, not simply an embryo with millions of cells, but an embryo with millions of cells that are all uniquely differentiated into muscle, lung, heart, and nervous system? In other words, how does a biological cell “know” what to become? They used the fruit fly embryonic heart as a model. One TU student (FMUS-funded) worked with her this summer and three students plan to build on the project this fall.

Art White (Computer Science & Engineering) worked with projects to give guidance to the students who did the actual work! First, the Space Data Dashboard is a website that they developed, enhance and maintain under the direction of Nearspace Launch, for the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority and Twiggs Space Lab, in support of the ThinSat program. The ThinSat program encourages universities, high schools, middle schools and even elementary schools to get involved in small satellite configuration to encourage student interest in math and science. Taylor University launched a custom-built ThinSat this past spring as one of a group of about 60 Thinsats. A second project was the Python Autograder, a program that creates simple Python expressions and statements for student practice and evaluation in order to enhance learning the Python language. The system removes the burden of exercise creation, allows the instructor to specify the number and type of exercises to be generated, and allows students to attempt them until they are mastered.

Hank Voss (Christian Ministries) directed the summer Empower Institute hosted at Taylor.