

**Box office, brace yourself**  
“Since Taylor is so forward-thinking, we figured it would be more appropriate if we previewed the summer films of 2016.”



**Summer of service**  
“I’m really excited to go to African church services and just pray, dance, sing ... and see how they experience God in a different culture.”



**Image is slippery**  
“We may be in danger of esteeming the value of our impressions a little too much.”

## IN BRIEF

### Commencement 2009

This year’s graduation ceremony will be taking place in the Kesler Student Activities Center at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 23. Speaking at the ceremony will be Roy L. Peterson, president of The Seed Company, an organization dedicated to Bible translation.

### Ben Taylor Concert

On Saturday, May 16, graduate student Ben Taylor will perform a free, final concert by the Sammy Statues, or in the Union if it rains. The concert, which also features junior Jack Reed, will cover music from Ben’s recent release, *The Bailiwick EP*, as well as music by Coldplay, Jack Johnson, Josh Ritter, and more. This farewell concert tour will be from 8 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

### Taylor Grad Wins Award

Ronae Smith, ’00 Taylor graduate and elementary education major, was this year’s Prince George County winner of the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award given by The Washington Post. This award is presented to one public school teacher and one private school teacher from different districts in the Washington area. Smith has taught at Cool Spring Elementary School in Adelphi since 2001 and is teaching fifth graders this year. She also mentors new teachers and is currently pursuing a master’s degree. Her work has been recognized as creative, innovative and full of passion and drive.

## WEEKENDWEATHER TODAY

75° / 62°



**SATURDAY**  
66° / 44°



**SUNDAY**  
61° / 41°



# Closing chapters, opening doors

Graduates remember the 2006 van accident and its lasting impact on their lives

By Andrew Neel  
Co-Editor in Chief

and Hannah Beers  
Co-News Editor

On May 23, the class of 2009 will cross a stage to receive their hard-earned diplomas — a short walk at the end of a long journey.

For each senior, the ceremony will symbolize the closing of a chapter in their lives. But their shared experiences compose a significant chapter of campus history as well. This year’s graduates will be the last class who experienced firsthand the impact of the tragic events of April 26, 2006.

Three years ago on that date, four Taylor students and one university staff member were killed in a van accident after a collision with a tractor-trailer on Interstate 69. That night, the student body assembled

in Rediger Auditorium, where administrators made an announcement about the accident. The news shocked and devastated the campus. With the Taylor community in mourning, classes and events were canceled the following day. For many in Upland, particularly the friends of the victims, the remainder of the spring 2006 semester was a blur of grief, brokenness and reflection on the tragedy.

“Nobody that was here that night will forget finding out what happened, the way people sought to be together,” said Director of Alumni Programs Marty Songer. “That deep, deep compassion that people (usually) haven’t had to draw on before or even know. I think for those of us who were here, it was like hanging on for dear life. I know (we) just clung to each other.”

Songer is a close friend of the Cerak family, all of whom were thrust into the public eye when then-freshman Whitney Cerak was misidentified as Laura Van Ryn in the accident. The mistake was discovered five weeks later, and the Ceraks were reunited with a daughter they thought was dead.

The experiences surrounding the van accident, for the Cer-



Provided by Whitney Cerak

**Senior Whitney Cerak’s post-graduation goals include providing care for street children in Mombasa, Kenya.**

aks specifically but also for the campus as a whole, brought a renewed appreciation of life.

Whitney’s mother, Colleen Cerak, expressed the difference she has seen in the relationship between God and her family.

“God has been so much more real to me. A lot of times you know he’s there, but now I really feel like he has carried us,”

Colleen said. “I’m so thankful for the way that he’s been in control of everything and has guided and protected our family.”

“I struggled with God and how everything happened, but I never doubted him,” Whitney said. “I’ve seen him work in awesome ways ever since.”

Coming to Taylor as a fresh-

man, Whitney was academically driven and had not considered missions as an option for her future. That changed when Whitney traveled to Africa after the accident and learned about the lives of the street boys, called “chokora,” or “garbage-diggers,” in Swahili.

**SEE 2009, PAGE 2**

# TUFW transition making progress

Plans for Taylor Fort Wayne students, faculty and campus are in development

By Amy Nickerson  
Contributor

with Benita Lee  
Co-News Editor

Jay Kesler, president emeritus of Taylor, has been known to say, “God’s sovereignty is a beautiful thing in the rearview mirror.” True as this may be, it can be difficult to appreciate while in the midst of tough situations. As the school year quickly comes to a close, Taylor’s Fort Wayne campus is still learning this lesson.

October 13, 2008, the day TUFW’s campus’ closing was announced, has long passed. Since then, several updates have been announced to the Taylor community, decisions

have been made and God’s direction has been seen. However, in these final days, the closure of this chapter continues to be a topic of much discussion and questions.

One such question is what TUFW students’ plans are for the future. While some decided to attend other schools and others crammed more classes into this semester to graduate early, Taylor’s admissions office anticipates about 90 TUFW students joining the Upland community in the fall. As of now, 77 of these students have requested housing.

Provost Steve Bedi revealed that over the course of the past semester, students have had numerous opportunities to learn about Upland programs and understand the requirements for housing. Students are currently being enrolled in classes and made aware of housing placements.

Bedi said, “The recommendation that is made and will be implemented is to have the Fort Wayne students assigned to different residence halls, so that they can be more fully in-

tegrated and not seen as Fort Wayne students but as Taylor University students.”

Taylor is also planning a focused orientation for TUFW students during new student orientation week in the fall.

Skip Trudeau, dean of student development, explained, “They’re not freshmen, they’re not transfers, but they are new; so we’re going to be doing some specific things just for them to help orient them to campus once they get here.”

Along with residence life and student programs, Josh Wymore, a Taylor Master of Arts in Higher Education (MAHE) graduate student, has been assigned to work on these plans, with the goal of integrating students as smoothly as possible.

Besides the general concern for students, Fort Wayne’s closing is also affecting many faculty members and alumni. Randall Dodge, TUFW associate vice president of student development and dean of students, has played a key role as part of the transition task force in Fort Wayne. He stated that

16 out of 31 faculty members have identified job positions after May 31, and these include continuing work at Taylor or changing positions entirely. They are primarily relying on God’s strength, guidance and provision during this time of transition.

As far as alumni are concerned, Michael Mortensen, TUFW director of Alumni and Parent Relations, will become a member of the Taylor University Advancement team on June 1, serving as director of Fort Wayne Alumni and Friend Relations. He will continue maintaining relationships with TUFW alumni, parents and friends, and Taylor’s National Alumni Council will be adding two new members to represent TUFW alumni in the fall.

In the wake of these plans, another question that arises is the future of the empty buildings Fort Wayne students and faculty leave behind. Although concrete details are still unconfirmed, Ron Sutherland, vice president for business and finance, along with Ben Sells, vice president for university

advancement, are coordinating a strategic partnership with Ambassador Family Enterprises in Fort Wayne to determine the next steps for the property.

“Our aspiration is to discover the highest and best use for this historic property,” Sells said, while Sutherland explained that more will be happening in the near future.

On the whole, the main focus remains on students and the many people whose lives have been impacted by their experience at Fort Wayne.

“Over the 17 years that Taylor has been engaged with the Fort Wayne campus, hundreds of students’ lives have been transformed because of their experiences there, and we don’t want to minimize the impact of how God’s kingdom will be advanced through their service,” Bedi said.

Though difficult to see in the midst of the campus’ final days, Dodge believes there is potential for goodness to come through the situation. His hope is that the beauty of God’s sovereignty will ultimately be revealed.

# “Almost Famous” is almost here

By Elena Forsythe  
Staff Writer

This last Friday of spring 2009 is your last chance to hear seniors Greg Hewitt, Joe Hamgeri, Jordan Leick and Laura McGrath perform in chapel. Their collaboration effort has resulted in a

concert consisting of a diverse selection of music, including many Beatles tunes.

A team comprising 15 psychology students is hosting the benefit concert, “Almost Famous,” to raise money for Taylor’s summer mission trip to South Africa. Scott and Jenn Moeschberger are leading the group, along with Faye Checho-

wich, professor of Christian educational ministries and director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, as they partner with Youth for Christ and Stellenbosch University in Stellenbosch, South Africa, to minister to AIDS victims and orphans.

“It is a great experience for us as psych majors to see hands-

on how psychology can be used to minister holistically,” said senior Christie Turner, who is leading the team and organizing the benefit concert.

“We don’t want this concert to be just about us; we want it to be about our cause as a team ... our central cause as humans. We are connected and we need to care for each other. We want students to walk away more aware and challenged by how they fit into the picture,” Turner said.

Since the concert is for a good cause, getting performers on board was no trouble. The seniors who offered their talents were excited for a night of fun, entertainment and good music.

“The real question was ‘how do we keep (the seniors) away

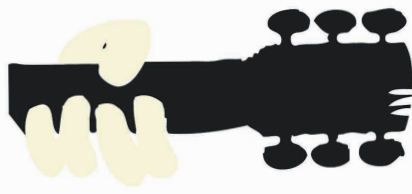
from this?’ It is one more opportunity to be on stage. Who wouldn’t want to play?” she said.

“In my opinion, (this) is a perfect time for a concert. Classes are done ... I know that studying straight through, without a break and pulling all-nighters, is actually less productive than taking a break and integrating relaxation into your day,” Turner said. “So really, we are helping you guys on your finals by offering community, fellowship, relaxation and music. It is a celebration for a good cause.”

Tickets will be on sale in the DC for \$3 at lunch and dinner, and at the door. The concert will begin at 8.15 p.m. in Rediger Auditorium.

# ALMOST FAMOUS

Provided by Carley Lee





— 2009, from page 1 —

The second largest city in Kenya, Mombasa is home to more than 30,000 children left orphaned and homeless with HIV/AIDS. Whitney's sister, 2007 alumna Carly Cerak, experienced Mombasa while working with Iris Ministries two years ago, and Whitney joined her while working on a practicum. Together with friends and a missionary family they have started an orphanage for the street boys.

Colleen expressed how proud she is of her daughters' work in Mombasa.

"It's never been something that we pushed (as parents). This has all been their own ideas. I just know it's from God," Colleen said.

Whitney has been uncomfortable with all the media coverage of the mistaken identity story. Still, she was able to use the attention to raise awareness about the street children of Mombasa.

"This has given me a huge platform," Cerak said. "I've been able to talk more than I would if this hadn't happened. Because I've had this trial in my life, I'm able to help the people living in the streets that are going through this."

Songer brought Whitney to therapy each week and has observed a deepening of her friend's faith.

"Her strengths are different, I think, than they were before ... Now this is so much of who she is," Songer said. "She's always had compassion, and obviously she's a driven person. Now there are some limitations, but I feel like God is using her in a way that might not have been such a big part of her life previously."

Many current students and recent alumni have also been affected by the lives of those lost in the accident, which gained national media attention.

"I think (about) how authentically Christian the families (affected by the accident) are ... I think, how privileged we are that our lives are filled up with those kinds of people," Songer said. "I think that all the families involved have to the best of their ability showed that they still trust God, that they know he's sovereign."

Yumi Kim, 2006 alumna, was a close friend with Betsy Smith, one of the four students killed in the accident.

"After the accident, I couldn't stay

put," Kim said. "I didn't know where to go and I didn't know what I'd do, but I knew I had to make a difference."

Observing Smith's dedication and boldness in service was an inspiration for Kim, who has been working as a program director of a Boys and Girls Club in the Los Angeles Harbor Area for three years.

"Part of the reason I began working with children was because of Betsy," Kim explained. "I saw how much she loved them, and I started to love them, too."

Tamara Shaya, 2008 graduate and former student body president, had similar motivations for joining The Crescent Project, a Christian ministry serving Muslims in Indianapolis.

"Although Muslim ministry is something God has placed in my heart since I was younger," Shaya said, "I remember specifically after the accident talking to (Media Communication professor) Kathy Bruner and saying, 'I've got to do something that makes a difference.'"

Shaya said she was struck by how much she focused on her work rather than the people around her, and saw the need for change.

"It's given me more compassion for people who experience grief," Shaya said. "It drew us closer to God and closer to each other."

As for Whitney, she is excited to graduate with her class and ready to start "a new phase in life."

"Now I'm graduating from college and friends are getting married," Whitney said. "I'm really excited for all of them. It's strange, but I see the need to move on because it's healthy to move on."

In about a month, Whitney will return to Mombasa to focus on bringing younger street children into the orphanage. Next Friday, Carly will return from Africa and join her family in time for Whitney's graduation.

Next Saturday, the graduating class of 2009 will begin a new chapter of their lives — one that will be marked by memories and, for many, distinguished by the service shown to others.

For more information about the Ceraks' ministry in Mombasa, contact the Gaylord Evangelical Free Church in Gaylord, Mich., and visit cerakmorrellupdate.blogspot.com.

# NEWS

## Envision Film Festival



Alumni Jason North and Jonathan Wolf pose at the envision film fest with some of their awards.

Katy Andres

### Film festival gives production students red carpet treatment

By Brent Clouse  
Contributor

Hard work and dedication paid off for production students Friday night at the Envision Film Festival.

Student films, both from Taylor and the Los Angeles Film Studies Center, were presented to an audience of over 230 in Mitchell Theatre to showcase students' accomplishments.

"The festival is a great way to honor and encourage Taylor's aspiring filmmakers," said festival co-chair Kathy Bruner. "They've done some amazing work on their films."

Senior Eliza Dhonau, student producer for the festival, could not have been happier with the event.

"The Envision Film Festival was everything I hoped for," Dhonau said. "I was blown away with the professionalism of everyone involved. The festival really grew and developed this year, and I am honored to have been a part of it."

Present at the festival was 2000 Taylor alumna and film producer Michelle Steffes, whose recent work, "Short

Term 12," was awarded best short film at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. Also in attendance was Vinnie Manganello, who founded the original Trojan Film Festival 10 years ago.

Films submitted to the festival were viewed by a panel of judges, and of those submissions, eight were chosen to be in the running for the 12 award categories. Official sponsors of the festival, including Apple Inc. and Sony, donated prizes ranging from digital cameras to \$500.

Junior Abby Cerquitella and senior Jared Sorensen received awards for Best Picture and Best Short Film for "The Grey Room," a film they directed and produced at the Los Angeles Film Studies Center during the fall semester.

"I was very eager to tell the rest of our crew we won," Cerquitella said. "This has been such an encouragement to all of us."

"It's a privilege to be recognized for our work," Sorensen said. "We are happy to see that people were able to connect with our film."

Sorensen received the Best Actor award for his role in Brandon Hoff's

film, "Hey, There's a Body in the Bathroom," which also won Best Comedy and Audience Choice Award. The film tells a story of two friends who panic when they discover what the film's title implies.

"The two characters in the film are meant to contrast each other," said Sorensen, whose nameless character in the film was much more nonchalant than his partner. "Both characters clearly don't have a handle on the situation — that's where the humor is."

Sophomore Kelsey Schwartz, who submitted a documentary for a short film project she directed and produced last year, was also present at the festival.

"The film is a behind-the-scenes feature for my short film, 'Unknown Legacy,'" Schwartz said. "I've always enjoyed watching how movies were made and was excited to tell the stories behind mine."

With this year's festival over, eyes have already turned toward next year.

"This year was such a pivotal year in the festival's history," Dhonau said. "I cannot wait to see what great films future years produce."

## Taylor to-do list includes bandwidth, phones

By Bethany DuVal  
Associate Editor

With students leaving in only another week, Taylor administration has written its annual list of summer fix-its and splurges: A makeover for Nussbaum, repairs for Mary English and a long-awaited increase in bandwidth for students.

According to Director of Technology Services T.R. Knight, the campus' bandwidth is budgeted to double every two years. However, when this year's increase was maxed out within the first two weeks of school, Knight looked into

ways to quicken the schedule's pace.

"We had hoped to (double it) during the school year, but everything with (Taylor) Fort Wayne closing ... pushed it out to the summer," Knight said.

The increase from 45 megabits per second to 90 megabits is made possible in part by another change: This year marks the end of the dorm room phone.

Inspired by the costs of their plans to install a new phone system on campus, the department realized they could eliminate a third of the phone lines involved if they took them out of the residence halls.

"We looked at the statistics," Knight

said. "How often are you making local calls? How often do you receive calls? It was hard to justify for that little phone usage the big cost."

Instead, emergency phones will be placed on every floor, wing and lounge. Despite their name, Knight assures students they will be allowed to use the phone for the usual purposes, whether it be ordering pizza or having someone call in on the phone.

"Beyond that, if there is a hardship (where) someone comes in and says, 'I can't afford a cell phone,' we'll look at those on a case by case basis," he said.

Other than the new phones, Swallow Robin, Gerig and English Halls are all

getting new roofs to prevent leaking — which has actually already started in several English rooms.

"We need to fix English Hall this summer," said Vice President for Business and Finance Ron Sutherland.

In addition to the new roof, English will receive new boilers and a sprinkler system, and Sutherland said residents in English can expect renovated bathrooms within the next two years.

In the Nussbaum Science Center, restrooms will cause major restructuring to make them handicap accessible on every floor. Faculty offices and laboratories will be made smaller to accommodate the space needed for

larger stalls, and the restrooms themselves will be gutted and refurbished to match the colors of the upcoming Science Learning Center. Redoing the restrooms will also help create space in hallways that will eventually connect the two science buildings.

Among other projects for the summer are repairing the football press box, Rediger's south wall and the parking lot between Gerig and Wengatz. "A lot of it is what we call infrastructure," Sutherland said. Students likely won't notice most of the difference, but the changes implemented will work together to make Taylor an even better place to be in the fall.

thebubble we read the e-mails you delete.							
friday	saturday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	
Chapel 10 a.m. Baccalaureate	Taekwondo Class KSAC, Aerobics Room 3:30 p.m.	Final Exam Week	Final Exam Week	Final Exam Week	Final Exam Week	Final Exam Week	
Last Day of Spring Classes	Ben Taylor Farewell Concert Lawn by Sammy Statues 8 p.m.	Book Buyback Bookstore, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Book Buyback Bookstore, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Book Buyback Bookstore, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Book Buyback Bookstore, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Book Buyback Bookstore, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.	
No Open House			Senior Scoop Lawn at President's Home 7 p.m.		No Media Services After 5 p.m.	Rehearsal Graduation rehearsal Start @ KSAC, 1:30 p.m.	
			SAC Study Break TBD			saturday	
						GRADUATION Commencement KSAC @ 10 a.m.	

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# Summer of service brings classroom to life

Psychology, sociology departments sponsor trips

By Stephen Groves  
World News Editor

Whether it's working as a wrangler at a youth camp or serving orphans in South Africa, this summer will host eye-opening experiences for Taylor students.

Nearly 100 students will be included in the "summer of service" prayer calendar, which will arrive in the mail next week and details the various roles students will play in reaching out to their local communities and around the world.

"Our hope is that students look at it on a regular basis and see some names, maybe their friend's name, and pray for them and the ministry they're part of," said Global Outreach co-director Neil Long. "I think it's good that they can be aware of what students are doing over the summer."

Several of the trips students will be going on are sponsored by Taylor. The sociology department will be taking students to Rwanda, and the psychology department is taking students to South Africa.

The trip to Rwanda, which will be from May 29 to June 14, will focus on the concepts of social justice and reconciliation. Students will be working with African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries (ALARM). They will be participating in seminars that work through the scars left by the tribal



A church in Ntrama, Rwanda serves as a grisly reminder of the genocide that occurred there. Among the pews still lay the bones of victims.

genocide that occurred in 1994.

"(As) I began to learn more about what actually happened during the genocide and throughout Rwandan history, my interest grew into something much deeper as I realized that this wasn't something distant like the Hitler or Stalin regimes, but that this happened during my lifetime and that these were real people who had gone through and were still going through real, raw pain," freshman Jenna Stupar said.

The group will also visit several sites where the genocide occurred, including

churches where people were massacred and possibly the hotel that is portrayed in the movie "Hotel Rwanda." The hotel was used as a shelter for refugees during the genocide.

"We have been warned that some of the sites we will be visiting will be very hard to see because of the violence that occurred," sophomore Katelin Jones said. Some of the sites have been kept in their destroyed state and even have the bones of people who were killed.

The team will also be teaching in a boys school and visiting various African

churches.

"I'm really excited to go to some African church services and just pray, dance, sing and hear the African worship music and see how they experience God in a different culture," Jones said. "It will be really eye-opening."

The group traveling to South Africa will focus on psychology and working with orphans. They will partner with Youth for Christ. The trip will combine service and research, as the team will be working with a university there and applying their knowledge to their work



A 20-foot, 2,000-pound crocodile is rumored to have killed almost 300 villagers in Africa.

## Killer croc inspires fear and legends

Crocodile is rumored to kill as many as 300

By David Bloom  
Contributor

There is a legend of a cold blooded serial-killer making his rounds in the heart of Africa.

This killer is rumored to have taken the lives of close to 300 villagers along the muddy Rusizi River in Burundi, Africa.

His name is Gustave and he is a 20-foot, 2,000-pound male Nile crocodile. To put this in layman's terms, Gustave weighs as much as six Shaquille O'Neals. If Shaq laid down on the ground it would take three of him to reach the same length as Gustave tail to snout. He is one of a few behemoth specimens of the Nile crocodile left in the wild.

National Geographic has been tracking this story since 1998, and in 2004, finally sent a team of journalists to investigate the legitimacy of these massive claims. Until 2004 it was not considered safe to travel to the war torn area of central Africa, but in 2004, there was a pause in conflict making the trip possible. The team was very skeptical

### A killer's stats

Name: Gustave  
Weight: Estimated 2,000 pounds  
Length: 20 feet  
Location: Rusizi River in Burundi  
Number of people killed: Rumored as high as 300  
Last sighting: 2008

that a single rogue crocodile could be responsible for even a hundred deaths.

Upon arrival, the team met up with a French resident of Burundi, self-proclaimed naturalist named Patrice Faye. Faye has been hunting the giant croc since 1998 when he heard village rumors of hundreds of crocodile-related deaths. He first spotted the behemoth in 1999 and gave it the name Gustave. At that point, he vowed to capture it alive.

Faye is convinced that Gustave kills purely for sport which has biologists laughing under their breath. He took the team to different villages introducing them to the families of the many victims that Gustave had supposedly claimed. The stories encompassed brutal accounts of husbands, wives, sons, daughters and friends being snatched up from the banks of the murky river.

Many still scared by the images they saw made the stories very real making them hard to dismiss by the crew.

A crocodile specialist named Brady Barr was brought in to capture the elusive reptile. After a day of constructing a Gustave-sized squirrel trap and searching the river for a week, Brady and friends cut their losses and headed back home without a killer crocodile but a journal full of stories to support the possibility that a single crocodile is capable of taking hundreds of lives.

Although the numbers cannot be confirmed, Gustave is certainly a man-eater and has several documented deaths linked to him, as well as countless stories that can't simply be dismissed.

Since the National Geographic article was printed in 2005, Gustave was rumored to have died due to old age, but he was sighted in 2007, and later identified by his unique scars and bullet wounds. He hasn't been sighted since and is assumed dead. Although some hold this belief, the fear within the hearts of the villagers in Burundi will still remain.

## AROUND THE WORLD IN 30 SECONDS



**Pro-democracy leader arrested**  
*Myanmar-* Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi will face trial after she was taken to prison for breaching the conditions of her house arrest. The trial will be over the uninvited visit of a U.S. man to her home last week.

**Journalist freed in Iran**  
*Iran-* U.S.-Iranian journalist Roxana Saberi was freed from prison this week after having her sentence for spying reduced. She was held over obtaining a confidential document on the war in Iraq. She will not be allowed to work in Iran as a journalist for five years.

**Pope supports Palestinian state**  
*West Bank-* Pope Benedict XVI has spoken out about the Palestinian right to a homeland. During his Middle East tour, he spoke at a Bethlehem refugee camp, telling them he understood their frustration.

**Government crumbles in Mogadishu**  
*Somalia-* Islamic fighters have pushed to the presidential palace in the capital of Mogadishu. Sources report that the government is crumbling and some troops have defected to the rebel side, and 25,000 people have been forced to flee.

**Rebels emerge in violence**  
*Democratic Republic of Congo-* Rwandan Hutu rebels have retaken ground lost in an offensive by Congolese and Rwandan troops earlier this year. The rebels have launched reprisals against civilians, killing dozens over the weekend.

**U.N. hands back police responsibility**  
*East Timor-* After a security crisis three years ago, the U.N. took responsibility for policing the nation. Responsibility will be handed back to East Timor police in a succession of stages. The U.N. forces will remain in the area to provide logistical support.

**New Zealand fugitive infamous**  
*New Zealand-* A fugitive who has been on the run from police has developed a following on Facebook. The man, who is wanted for burglary and drug charges, has attained a legion of fans who keep up to date on his flight from police through his Facebook pages.

**Civilians trapped by fighting**  
*Sri Lanka-* Civilians caught in the area of the cornered Tamil Tigers rebels are facing a humanitarian catastrophe. A Red Cross ferry, trying to reach the area with aid, has not been able to land because of intense fighting.

world  
voices

"In a world where more and more borders are being opened up -- to trade, to travel, to movement of peoples, to cultural exchanges -- it is tragic to see walls still being erected."

- Pope Benedict XVI speaking in a Palestinian refugee camp on Wednesday

with orphans.

"I think it's necessary to go into the mission field with an understanding of where these children are coming from psychologically," junior Erin Kingma said. "This is a way that we can learn to apply our psychology degree and what that may look like in the missions field."

Besides the orphans, the team will also look into the lives of the caregivers and their psychological health. "I want to sit down with the caregivers and hear their needs and the burn out and how they have been impacted in working with orphans," Kingma said.

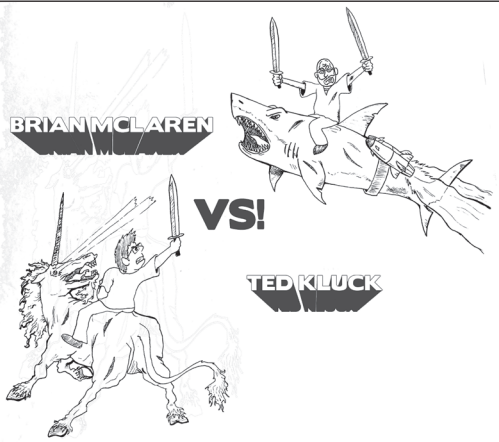
This summer will not only be one of service, but the experiences will put into practical use what students have learned throughout the year.

"I get tired of just learning about things in the classroom. Now we can go out in the summer and actually apply it. We can be the hands of and feet of Christ instead of just learning how to do it," Long said. "The learning is essential to serve to the best of our ability, but I think sometimes students get restless to get out and put those things into practice."



# 2008•2009 A YEAR IN REVIEW

By Rachel Sawyer



Controversial Speakers

With the like of Ted Kluck, Brian McLaren and Shane Claiborne, feathers were ruffled and conversations sparked by an array of special speakers brought to campus this year.



Silent Night

We now have proof that Taylor needs to add a gen ed called Sports 101. This year, over half the student body erupted on the ninth point instead of the 10th, causing us to have a double silent night.



Fort Wayne campus closes

Taylor goes from two campuses to one, resulting in lots of emotions and additions of various kinds to Upland's campus.



Mr. TU

Ben Taylor, Philip Byers and Caleb Barrows don't have to fight anymore. We finally have an official Mr. TU. And that man is Doug Laskowske.



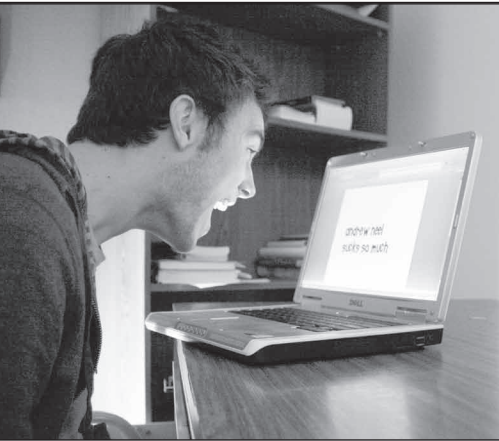
Segways

It's official. The Habeckers are the futurest first couple ever. Coming back in the fall, we found Eugene and Marylou riding around campus a head above everyone else. But be on the look out for fire hydrants; we don't want any more broken ribs.



Personal Ads

True love is just an Echo away. This year marked the first annual Echo V-Day Personal Ads. No one needs to be alone for Valentine's Day, and Blake and Rachel wanted to make sure of that.



Bad Bandwidth

In the fall, our Internet connection showed its true colors when Facebook crashed the network. And the bandwidth just kept going down from there. As part of our college education, we now all know to add &fmt=18 if we ever want to watch something on YouTube.



Gas Leak

All classes are canceled. Only classes in Reade are canceled. Reade, Rupp and music building classes are canceled. Everyone has to go to all their classes. Chapel was in the Union and the ever-reliable campus e-mails were silent. Thank you, WENS Alert.

## Talkin' 'bout Ch-Ch-Changes!

By Blake Bachman

At this point in the semester, we learn to embrace change. In a matter of days, we'll take our finals, pack up, check out, say goodbye to friends, and a hearty "helloooo" to summer.

It's hard to believe our beloved summer is actually coming. If the daily rain hasn't fooled you, then certainly you've seen the Facebook albums of every single one of your non-Taylor friends who have graduated or finished school a whole two weeks ago. I know it's frustrating, but summer is coming! I promise.

In the spirit of embracing things, I've compiled a little "summer to do" list, if you will. Regardless of where you're going or what you're doing in a couple short weeks, take time to relax – you made it through this year! And then embrace some good old-fashioned summer fun.

- Blake's random, in no-particular-order, summer to-do list:**
1. Embrace iced coffee.
  2. Revert to your childhood and realize that playing in the backyard sprinkler is still cool.
  3. Go to a baseball game.
  4. Create a summer playlist (check out the summer '09 playlist to get you started), then crank it with the windows rolled down.
  5. Sit on your front/back porch and watch a thunderstorm move in.
  6. Go to an outdoor concert.
  7. Watch YouTube videos (you'll have better bandwidth).
  8. Take up bocce ball.
  9. Have a garage sale.
  10. Get prepared for 2010's final season of "LOST" by rewatching all five seasons spread out, or even better, in a marathon.

11. Sleep.
12. Rent some random movies at your local library.
13. Take a roadtrip.

It's been a blast co-editing Life & Times this year. But now, I must embrace change of my own: graduation, baby! Thanks for reading the best section of "The Echo" this year. You're all beautiful. Bachman: out!

### Blake's Summer Playlist

▶ ▲	Name	Artist
1	✓ Send Me on My Way	Rusted Root
2	✓ Jump Around	House Of Pain
3	✓ Soak up the sun	Sheryl Crow
4	✓ Wild Honey	U2
5	✓ Jack & Diane	John Mellencamp
6	✓ Be With You	Sister Hazel
7	✓ Sushi	Kyle Andrews
8	✓ Scenic World	Beirut
9	✓ Strawberry Fields Forever	The Beatles
10	✓ Brown Eyed Girl	Van Morrison
11	✓ Banana Pancakes	Jack Johnson
12	✓ Bennie and the Jets	Elton John
13	✓ Don't Worry Baby	The Beach Boys
14	✓ Hummingbird	Wilco
15	✓ Must Be Dreaming	Frou Frou
16	✓ The First Single	The Format
17	✓ Sundress	Ben Kweller
18	✓ Put Your Records On	Corinne Bailey Rae







# Don't Bomb Your Spring Finals

By Josh Kennedy & Jake Long

Don't have much time. My RSS feed is alight with breaking news about Russia's missile launch. How long until they detonate? Four minutes? Five minutes? Ah, it doesn't matter. I'll be stuck in my room studying for these exams regardless of what's going on outside. Good thing I

bought the latest Pat Boone album to keep me company in these dark times. I've been meaning to change that light bulb. But who's got the time when you've got a short film due in two days? Which reminds me, I need to get to the basement – I think I left my organic chemistry book down there. Why did I sign up for

that class in the first place? It's not even a requirement for me. I suppose that's what you get for being an overachiever.

I hear screaming in the hallway. I'd be scared, too, if I were taking fourth semester Greek. God rest their souls. I'm so glad that I'm a B.S. and don't have to take any language classes. I never was good at all that hibbity-bibbity and those bobbity-boops. I'll stick with English, thanks.

I hate getting burned. This year I've taken a few precautions and have frequented the tanning salon to get a nice base coat. I also bumped my SPF selection – 35, baby. What's your number? Sigh. I can't keep getting sidetracked like this. I need to focus on current affairs.

I wish I could give people fair warning of the impending doom - our professor added 50 scripture references to our Historic exam. Maybe I'll tweet about it. Well, that is if the network isn't completely clogged. Oh, look at that. It's faster than usual. I wonder where everyone went. Oh, that's right - it's SAC study break. I wonder if they'll have Guitar Hero again this year. No, no, I can't get distracted. There are much more serious things to be worrying about, like my current grade in Biology.

I wonder if it's gonna hurt. I get terrible headaches after I stare at my computer screen for too long. Maybe it's time I take a stroll outside to clear my mind and get some fresh air. What are those sirens in the distance? Must be another Olson fire drill. Who decided to do that now? What's the point? We're gonna be out of here in a week.

I hope my professor won't care that I spilled coffee on my take-home exam. I'm sure she's got more important things to think about right now – like getting all of our quizzes graded before the end of the year. At least she already has a career.

What is that dreadful noise? Sounds like they're finally moving that train – it's been vandalized enough. Good for them. Oh, look at those jets. No, those can't be jets. They're too small. From my angle, it looks like they're heading straight for the ground. Huh.

That's kind of a bright light. Wow. That's really bright. Ouch. I might need to put on my sungla.....

# Dr. Ricke: The music, the man

By Allison Barlow

Joe Ricke, the infamously large, loud (and initially intimidating) professor in the English department, is someone I consider to be a living legend. It is an understatement to say that Ricke is deeply loved and respected by his students, and in this too brief article, I'll try to explain why Ricke is deserving of this honor and more.

Currently he is a professor of Medieval and Renaissance literature, is in charge of the Honors Program and is a talented musician.

Ricke has concentrated his musical efforts with the end goal of a record deal this past year. He gives concerts every weekend, records at home, and is writing a new song almost every week. He plays the guitar and considers himself to be a singer-songwriter.

In his songwriting attempts he has tried for sad songs, but they always end up being upbeat, which is not hard to imagine, since Ricke seems to have more caffeine in him than Surge (that old, lime-green imitation of Mountain Dew). His goal is to promote original songs, but realizes that he needs to play covers to get people to listen. He tries to bring an appreciation for original songs to Huntington as there is in the South. When I asked what kind of music he writes, Ricke responded with, "crazy stuff." No joke, as the song he's currently working on is about a vampire; a lyric is, "if you don't want blood you're in the wrong universe." But of course, Ricke's craziness actually holds deeper meaning as the song is also about the blood of Christ. Ricke did actually have an album out in the early '90s entitled "World Without Synthesizers." It is currently only on tape, though, and his fans are asking for a digital recording. You can follow Ricke's music by attending his weekly concerts and by checking out his MySpace (yes, a professor has a MySpace, he's just that cool) at [www.myspace.com/joemartynrickeraisethedeadmusic](http://www.myspace.com/joemartynrickeraisethedeadmusic).

The energy Ricke puts into his music a reflection of how he teaches his classes; Ricke jokingly claims that he brings energy to his classes to make up for the fact that he doesn't get to class on time, but Nate Antiel described Ricke's passion, saying he "cares enough about what he teaches that he could live without food and just off the sheer enthusiasm he gets from students."

Ricke is not merely teaching what others in his field write, but he is an active contributor by writing papers and presenting at conferences. What makes him excellent, though, is how he challenges students to that same scholarship.

When describing his approach, he said, "I try to recognize what's in people and challenge them to develop it, as do my faculty colleagues, I think. People are talented and gifted, and it pisses me off when students don't take developing their gifts seriously."

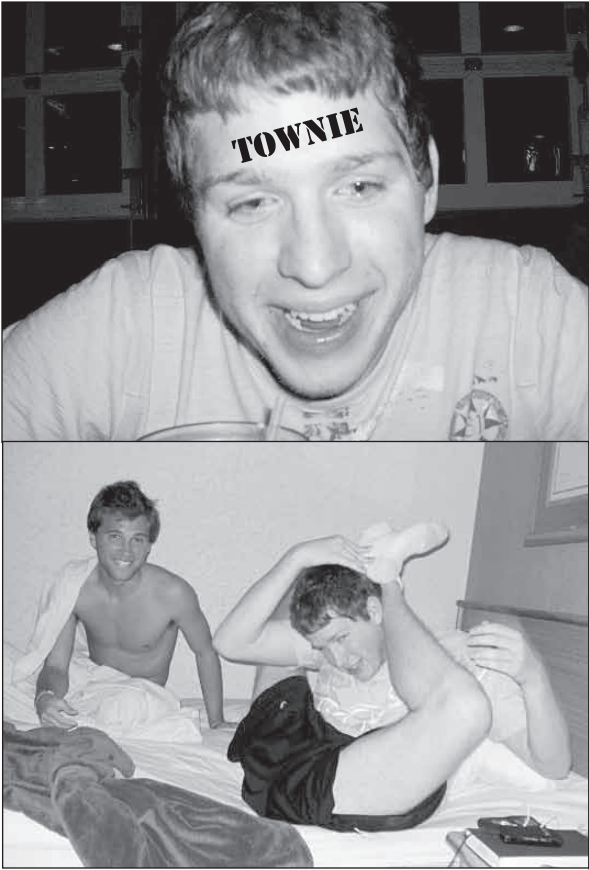
Another reason he works to motivate students is because he believes that "for the quality of students we bring in to Taylor, not a lot go to grad school and become part of the intellectual/academic culture." As an athlete and a scholar, Ricke is especially bugged by athletes who are smart and don't live up to it. As you can see by his tone, Ricke expects a lot from his students; Antiel admits that you can't write a paper for Ricke the night before it's due because he is not satisfied with mediocrity, and he "demands excellence."

What causes Ricke to stand out among the crowd (besides his height) is how devoted he is to his students. Even though he lives 45 minutes away in Huntington, he attends his students' sporting events, plays pick-up games of basketball, has all-night Shakespeare reading sessions, invites students to his church and concerts, and frequently hosts students in the teachers' lounge of Reade with ice cream. This list is just from this semester, and through these acts and more, he helps, encourages and motivates students.

Needless to say, having Ricke as a professor is challenging, enlightening and an adventure specific to the eccentricities that are Dr. Ricke!



- More Interesting Dr. Ricke Facts:**
- You can find his (strangely satisfying) music at [www.myspace.com/joemartynrickeraisethedeadmusic](http://www.myspace.com/joemartynrickeraisethedeadmusic).
  - He was an NCAA All-American basketball player in college.
  - He drinks Diet Dr. Pepper.
  - He has been a vegetarian for seven months.
  - He is from a little town in Texas on the Mexican border.
  - He has a chalk rubbing of Shakespeare's epigraph from his grave hanging above his desk.
  - His office is always clean and organized. Drop in and see it sometime (wink, wink).
  - He always wanted the Honors Program to be "a safe place for nerds."



THE ECHO STAFF would like to thank our co-editors-in-chief for a great 2008-2009 school year. Good luck after school, guys.

# INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES NEW MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

Sensing a call to ministry, but can't find the right school? Well, look no further. IWU introduces a new M.Div. program that could revolutionize theological education. What makes the IWU M.Div. different?

**MISSIONAL:** Every student will engage in ministry and service as a central part of the program from beginning to end.

**COMMUNAL:** You will advance through the program with the same group of students, fostering deep, meaningful relationships that will last beyond graduation.

**INTEGRATED:** The IWU curriculum is shaped by what ministers really do. You'll complete many assignments in your local ministry setting. While every course is highly practical, sound biblical and theological content is woven throughout the curriculum.

**SPIRITUALLY ENRICHING:** The IWU program doesn't just teach about God, it helps you connect with God. You will develop spiritual disciplines to strengthen and sustain your ministry for years to come.

**PERSONALIZED:** The IWU program is designed to fit your schedule. Take courses online (with occasional visits to Marion, Indiana) or completely on campus. Select either a youth ministry or leadership concentration. You'll even tailor much of your coursework to your current ministry.

**ECONOMICAL:** The IWU tuition rate is one of the lowest in the country. And at only 75 hours (most M.Div. programs are 90 hours), IWU also offers one of the most compressed. In short, the IWU program will save you time and money.

**LEADING-EDGE:** Study with expert faculty and learn from leading practitioners on location. As the largest university in the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, IWU provides students with a wealth of resources, including one of the finest campuses and libraries in the country.

For more information about IWU's M.Div. or M.A. in Ministry degree, contact us today!

[graduateministry.indwes.edu](http://graduateministry.indwes.edu)  
[nathan.lamb@indwes.edu](mailto:nathan.lamb@indwes.edu)

**866-IWU-4-YOU**

**INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**  
4201 South Washington Street | Marion, Indiana 46953



MOVIES FEATURE

FILM VISION  
summer movie preview  
by "The Echo" Staff  
2016

It's time. The conclusion of the academic year means one thing for film freaks and cinema junkies: summer blockbusters.

Normally, this would be the part of the article to shift into a summer movie preview, talking excitedly about "Public Enemies," making obscure Harry Potter references and publicizing Will Ferrell's latest comedy.

Since Taylor is such a forward-thinking university, however, we figured it would be more appropriate and more beneficial from a long-term perspective if we previewed the summer films of 2016. Since every other aspect of Taylor is gearing up for students who will be here seven years from now, why not the A&E page?

In seven years, many stories and subsequent movies will be created which neither we nor anyone else has ever thought of, but while we can't predict original scripts, we can certainly prognosticate about future film franchises.

Here is Summer Film Vision 2016:

"Transformers IV: Shia's Vengeance"

In this film written, directed, produced and executive produced by Michael Bay, Shia LaBeouf has a personal vendetta against Megatron after he discovers the leader of the Decepticons has been having an affair with his wife, Megan Fox. Also, robots.

"The Fairly Rapid & Furious: Bombay Shift"

In the sixth installment of this successful street-racing franchise, Paul Walker and Vin Diesel are back with a fresh, original script. According to online buzz surrounding the widely-anticipated flick, Paul Walker is going to portray someone in law enforcement who will be forced to infiltrate a crime syndicate in India involving illegal street

racing spearheaded by Vin Diesel's iconic character Dominic Toretto. No really, it's new.

"A Country For Old Men: Florida Secedes"

As America becomes too loud what with the iCars and confounded HCTV transversion doocritters, the Federalists south of Kissimmee sell what's left in the cotton exchange and announce the formation of the Goodly Christian Nation Of Industrial Regression For The Having Of Restful Porches And Bountiful Taffy. Things go sour in the GCNOIRFTHORPABT when they find their senior discounts no longer work at Denny's when there aren't young people around.

"Ice Age: An Inconvenient Truth"

Manny, voiced by Ray Romano, is confronted by Al Gore in this animated documentary about the devastating effects of capitalism on prehistoric animals.

"Shrek 6: The Land Ogre Time" Shrek and Donkey must help a young group of dinosaurs find their parents before a resurrected Lord Farquaad exacts his revenge or extinction hits.

J.J. Abrams' "Star Wars"

Reluctant to take on the hefty responsibility of rebooting another dead sci-fi franchise, J.J. "Mr. Fix-It" Abrams will finally cave as part of a ransom payment to the group of rabid Star Wars fans who kidnap his family.

Implementing an alternate reality time portal mechanism similar to that of his "Star Trek" reboot, Abrams' "Star Wars" will feature a Sith lord in command of a time-traveling Death Star and a heavy streak of racism against Gungans, Ewoks, and poorly cast child actors. The complex and layered role of Han Solo will be played expertly by Shia LaBeouf, and Luke Skywalker will be played by

Dakota Fanning.

"The Wrestler 2: His Death Was Only Implied, It Was Never Explicitly Shown"

The title speaks for itself in this Mickey Rourke re-resurrection film which is already receiving pre-release Oscar buzz. Unfortunately for Rourke, "Milk 2: Crying over Spilt Harvey" is also being released this year.

"Frost/Snowman"

Michael Sheen is back as television reporter David Frost in this historical drama chronicling the famous series of interviews between Frost and his snow-based namesake, Frosty. The snowman's flippant views on the war in Iraq unleash the hard-hitting journalist lying dormant within Frost's charismatic persona.

"Iron Man 3: Recession Rust"

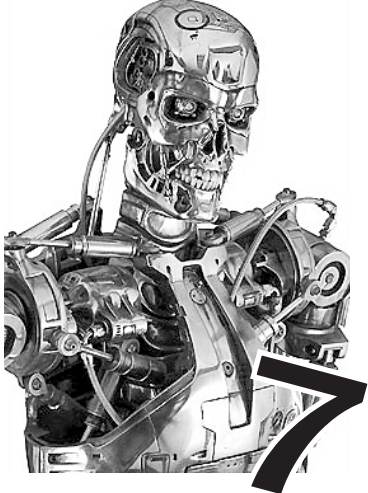
Billionaire inventor Tony Stark loses his fortune in an economic crisis. The superhero has to sell parts of his iron suit to pay off debt while still using the remaining pieces to do battle against unwise lending practices.

"College Musical: The End Of Innocence"

Zac Efron forgoes college because why go to college anyway if you can make, like, sixteen an hour sealing decks, anyway? In the first week he suffers irreparable brain damage from poor worksite ventilation, culminating in the heartbreaking ballad, "I are glorhbvnjshh." Meanwhile, Vanessa Hudgens loses her scholarship when the dean finds unbecoming photos of her on Fox News. Then poverty happens.

"Terminator VII: Annihilation"

John Connor leads the battle against vigilante cinematographers who interrupt talented actors when they should know their place, \*%#@!\$! dang it.



POP CULTURE

Kiefer Sutherland allegedly headbutted designer Jack McCollough – possibly causing a broken nose – after he pushed Brooke Shields over at an after party for the Met Costume Gala.

While riding his bike in London, 'Top Chef' judge Toby Young was hit by a car. "No nerve damage and brain seems to be functioning okay, but hopes of becoming a male supermodel have now been dashed," he wrote and posted a photo of himself.

Nine people have been hospitalized after a high-speed crash scene went awry on the set of Nicolas Cage's new film, 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice.' On Wednesday, a sports utility vehicle smashed into a parked car near the set in Manhattan's Times Square injuring crew members. This marks the second major accident to occur on set and halt filming.

Nicole Kidman and Rubina Ali of 'Slumdog Millionaire' fame star in a new French commercial for Schweppes. Music plays in the background while the two twirl around and admire each other, and, of course, there's a little ginger ale at the end.

Christina Aguilera is heading to the big screen. The Grammy-nominated singer will make her film debut in 'Burlesque.'

r3views  
WTUR



Closure in Moscow  
Last Temple

Australian rock band Closure in Moscow label themselves as progressive, but they perform more like a hybrid between the progressive and alternative genres than anything else. To be more specific, it's like Envy On The Coast had a child with The Mars Volta, as evidenced by wailing background vocals under a confident frontman and strong guitar production. It sounds like a match made in heaven, right? Sadly, though, "First Temple" ends up a frustrating freshman effort to convey this musical evolution. They don't fail completely, because in the ear-grabbing opener "Kissing Cousins" and the poetic confessions of "Deluge," you'll find songs with excellent production that can certainly get in your head. But try out single "Vanguard" or later tracks like "Couldn't Let You Love Me," and the style gets old quickly, despite their attempts towards an atmospheric vibe. The uniquely progressive experience they go for falls short in its execution. So Closure in Moscow can be given props for aiming high, but music is all in the delivery.

Nick Rodemann



MUSIC



Losing Sleep  
Parachute

I'm glad first impressions aren't always correct. If they were, Parachute would be another Coldplay carbon copy with faux-hawks and swooning vocals. But they're not. Their infectious vocals are reminiscent of Secondhand Serenade without the whine, while their catchy pop rhythms range anywhere from The Fray to Dashboard Confessional to Metro Station. Lyrically, they speak about life and love, moreso about the latter. Their most popular song on iTunes, "She is Love," is an acoustic ballad that would fit perfectly on any summer mix tape. Another song, "Under Control," is a pocket rhythm, piano-driven, Maroon 5-esque love song. The members seem pretty down to earth, too. From different interviews, they have a lot of fun together and know why they're in the business. "If no one's going to listen, why even play?" asks singer/songwriter/guitarist and piano player Will Anderson. "For us, melody is king." Their 12-track album is available on iTunes for only \$6.99. Visit them at weareparachute.com.

Josh Kennedy



WEB



Task.fm  
Free e-mail reminders

I don't know about you, but I know that my life is run by a schedule. For whatever reason, my Taylor Odyssey has never worked well for me. More often than not, I find myself looking for an easier way to keep track of all that I have to do. Task.fm is one of those ways. Inspired by Twitter's simplicity and Google's Calendar reminder feature, task.fm allows users to enter up to 140 characters for a reminder entry. Your free account allows for an unlimited number of reminders that will be sent at your convenience to your e-mail address. If you're really in need of up-to-the-minute reminders, you can pay for credits at 10 cents per credit for both SMS-text message reminders or voice calls. New members get 10 free credits just for signing up. The site is simple to navigate and easy to understand. If you're looking for a fun and simple way to remind yourself of what you need to do, check out task.fm. If you can take the time to tweet from Twitter, you can enter a reminder.

Josh Kennedy





## Hopefully disappointed



By Brandon Fitzsimmons  
Columnist

My friends and fellow students, I hope your final two weeks of school are rife with anti-climax. Do not misunderstand me; I do hope you have time for some meaningful conversations, nail down that elusive summer job, and finish with straight A's.

However, I hope that on Sunday, May 24, 2009 – when every last one of us students has officially left this school year behind – you are looking forward with an average heart rate.

I might add that I hope you experience an element of somber disappointment, as well. After all, if we are each honest with ourselves, what is the collegiate educational experience to us? Those of us emphasizing the “collegiate” aspect of these four years are short-changing ourselves by limiting everything we learn, live, and believe during this wildly transitional era to just that: an era.

Frankly, the quasi-nostalgic power of statements and expressions equating one's collegiate years with the “best days of my life” is lost on me. We humans operate within a self-established (albeit often unconscious) hierarchy of values that links even our very instinct of survival to the presence of hopeful expectation.

We learn to view life as a ladder that, as we move upward, one rung at a time, straining toward each progressing (though temporal) echelon, will ultimately usher us into an idyllic existence where we can transcendently perch and view the toils of the world below.

Those of us who tend to overemphasize the “educational” aspect of college might be especially prone to this misperception (please note the prefix “over;” while education should inarguably be emphasized [perhaps more

than anything else] in a collegiate setting, excessive lucubration often counteracts the process of well-roundedness, turning the student into more of an informational machine than a human being). To both the “collegiate” and “educational” zealots, I might ask the same question: “That's it?”

If the best has passed and there's little else to look forward to, why come to college in the first place? Why feast like kings when tomorrow we starve in famine? The proper holistic development of the spiritual-social-intellectual student (that I firmly believe should be the focus of our collegiate careers) is one that is rooted in transition, anti-climax, and, yes, disappointment.

Disappointment insofar as that we each look back with longing for the innocent naïveté of our freshman year, a time when we honestly believed we were coming in to make something of ourselves once and for all.

Many (if not all) of us then would have been overemphasizing the “experience” of college; the narrow-sighted anticipation that life's climax – freedom, maturity, intelligence, maybe even marriage – was certainly just around the bend.

I've overemphasized every one of these aspects for some period of time or another. So have every single one of you – freshmen through seniors. And now, on the eve of graduation, I can honestly say I'm disappointed; I am only a slightly-upgraded (and, in some ways, slightly-downgraded) version of my pre-collegiate self, and that long-awaited feeling of climax remains gallivanting about somewhere in the near-distant future.

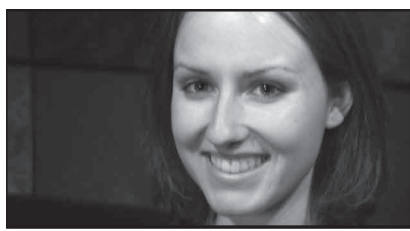
Still, in light of this profound disappointment, I am as hopeful as ever. I believe we should feel collectively relieved to know that the joys of time, learning, and experience have not been consummated here during this briefly fleeting phase but wait for us abundantly in the years to come.

And that, though the sun may set “anti-climactically” on the majority of our Taylor careers, we can look at the vast and uncertain horizon of tomorrow and, in the words of Kanye West, have nothing else to say but “G'mornin'.”

## Life Beyond the Bubble



## The undue value of an image



By Jessica Martini  
Columnist

Outward impressions are highly valued in our day, and maintaining an image is tough but expected work. The ironic thing is that we can't always maintain our refined image for the people who really know us well.

The image we work at is for the general masses of people who only see us as that, an image. The energy we put into this cheap surface impression can easily nurture the role of a personal idol.

I admit that I fodder the makeshift idol of my image, to appease it, by thinking about it and giving it undue value. I want to seem a certain way, and, in a sense, to receive praise for that perception. Not good.

The construction of unnatural self idols is a problem of trust. I can fall in with those who don't trust themselves – their plain, unadorned, real selves – to be naturally beautiful or praiseworthy. It goes beyond the surface to the inward person, and we don't think we're going to impress anybody. So we make appeals to the impressionable eyes of the flesh and bank on that.

This is clearly not in line with the Truth. Though it is understandable that we wouldn't trust ourselves for being naturally worthy, can't we trust that God can handle making us actually beautiful and praiseworthy? Can't he do that without us just trying to make ourselves seem that way?

We as individuals do not need to appease others into valuing or liking or thinking well of us by marketing an image.

I use the same logic for the overall Taylor image. How much image making and appeasement does our university have to do? As our institution moves forward, we may be in danger of esteeming the value of our impressions a little too much, which only fosters the idea that selling an image to the world is very important.

Such an idea could potentially make one assume that the university's values are very shallow. I am not declaring that these are surely where the values lie; I am simply challenging the possibility.

I can tend to be extreme and err on the side of the former Taylor student who refused to use the new Taylor entrance all last year, for the sake of opposing the move toward expansion. There are people like me out there who question progress and the future direction of the university, testing whether we are moving toward greater function or simply greater image appeal.

How streamlined do we have to be-

come? And for what purpose? If our future goals lie heavily in obsequious visitor appeasement, student comfort appeasement, standards appeasement, and donor appeasement, we do have a problem. Maybe a problem of trust.

If we believe Christ empowers us as a university and creates the community and mission and everything we are about, then really how important is it to sell an image? There are physical improvements that will be needed and functional, and there is necessary marketing (I suppose), but thinking about and foddering an idolized surface impression of our school seems like wasted energy.

Energy is better spent on preservation (of what is found in a uniquely small, God-seeking community of learners) and developing the value of the education and community to a greater degree.

The idol of image is a valid possibility and danger, so I challenge and encourage those who have a say in it to rethink the value of outward impression and to trust that this school has enough merit in its education, its honor for Jesus Christ, its faculty and staff, and its renowned, rare sense of community to thrive by God's help.

I would also challenge the administration to invite all students and alumni to have a free mode of expression in regard to the progress and vision for Taylor as it moves toward new growth.

**Have opinions?** Or art skills? Become a columnist or cartoonist for Opinions. E-mail [steve\\_etheridge@tayloru.edu](mailto:steve_etheridge@tayloru.edu) for details.

## MAILBOX

Between being a Taylor student and a Taylor professor, I attended graduate schools dominated by the Political Correctness of the extreme political left, and I taught for a year at a Bible college dominated by the “Pharisaical Correctness” of the extreme religious right. Both PCs replace intellectual rigor with ideological knee-jerk reactions. Both PCs castigate and censor those who disagree with their ideology. Both PCs make assumptions about people based on simplified group identity (oppressed vs. privileged, for instance) rather than complex individuality. Two letters in the May 1 Echo smack of the first PC: Political Correctness.

In one letter, Sam Edgin accuses Nick Davis of being “blatantly racist in his treatment of illegal immigrants.” Why? Because Davis referred to these illegal immigrants as “problems.” Is his phrasing imprecise enough to offend an intelligent person? Perhaps. Does it warrant the charge of racism? Absolutely not. Most illegal immigrants in this country happen to come from Mexico. Nowhere does Davis imply that they are a problem because of their race.

Edgin even contends that “a paper at a Christian school printing any kind of racist statement conflicts directly with every one of our Christian mandates.” Really? Every one? What about Christ's mandate to love God with all our minds (instead of engaging in mentally sloppy hyperbole)? What about Jesus' mandate to not judge others' motives (rather than unjustly accusing another Christian of racism)?

In another letter, Andy Sharkey expresses disappointment that no chapel speaker addressed social justice during Social Justice Week. He then accuses “campus leadership” of “oppressing those wanting to speak out about the oppressed.” Really? “Oppressing”? This word seems more hyperbolic than just. I've known oppression; if not getting to speak about oppressed groups as often as one wants qualifies now as “oppression,” then the word is verging on meaninglessness.

Sharkey wants the “American domestic underclass” to be mentioned more in chapel. I grew up in a family that was part of this class. My personal experience and knowledge of history tell me that a “class” focus too often patronizes and keeps dependent the people it claims to help by blurring their individual differences. Social justice that undercuts individual justice is no

justice at all. Our faith is centered not on a cause or class but on an individual who commanded us to love one individual as we love another individual — that is, to “love your neighbor as yourself.”

- Dr. Lorne Mook, Associate Professor of English

While I cannot claim to speak for everyone who may struggle in this way, my experience at Taylor so far has left me with some thoughts. And as the conversation livens (as it occasionally does), I wish to echo past editorials on this topic and share a bit from my own experience struggling with homosexuality.

First, I have learned that loving my neighbor as myself is a fierce command from God. A famous Christian philosopher wrote that if the sight of someone causes you to be unable to love him or her, then you should close your eyes. When I find myself caught in an issue of lust, I remember that my love is to be applied rightly, not selfishly or exploitatively. I must respect the body and mind of the other as something, someone which God declared as universally very good (by his definition). God's righteous love is a commanded, commissioned part of my very existence.

Two. Guys, you are not gay because you love your friends. You are not gay if you express your friendship warmly. Words of real affection, encouragement and inclusion from godly men have helped me to relate more purely toward men. When expressing your views on homosexuality (which is perfectly acceptable), make sure your expressions do not diminish or ostracize those within earshot who may struggle in that way.

Ask yourself: Are my words pushing people toward or away from knowing the love of God, knowing the faithfulness of God, and knowing his grace and long-suffering? What about your actions? Are your expressions of sexuality healthy, helping others (struggling or not) to form ideas of masculinity (or girls, femininity) as disciplined, pure and gentle, or does your behavior contain unnecessary distortion?

The best part of these suggestions is that no matter who is in your company, these things will lead to stronger, more natural and beneficial relationships. They apply to people on both sides of the fence. If you suspect that someone who lives on your floor

or who sits across from you in class struggles in this way, reach out to them. The way Christians should “deal with the gays” is not special. It is the way God himself deals with every fallen child of Adam: compassionately, graciously, justly, faithfully, enduringly, empathetically, etc. ...

- But for rare exceptions, “The Echo” does not accept anonymous letters. In this instance, the subject matter of the letter and the candor of its author allow for anonymity.

For those who have not noticed, the men's ministry cabinet has undertaken a new campaign aimed at addressing the complacency of men at Taylor. That they seek to address a real problem is indisputable, but does the present campaign fail to offer a vibrant alternative? As a young man who doesn't play video games, has gone on a Lighthouse trip, and does go to church on Sundays, I would honestly contend that it does.

If the men's ministry feels able to charge some with “complacency,” then they must have a certain criterion, a certain ideal “Mr. Taylor,” by which they are evaluating their peers. But does the model that they are holding up accurately represent the fullness of a life lived in pursuit of God? If not, we should hardly be surprised when well-intentioned individuals don't buy in, let alone when the genuinely indifferent remain unmoved.

Even to have a model is risky, for the wondrous diversity of real men and the different ways Christ makes himself manifest within us defy most of our overly-simple categories. It is the world which stamps things into a certain narrow and idealized image, not Christ. He desires saints, not stereotypes.

We must encourage the different parts of the Body to flourish under Christian freedom. For Christ both encompasses and transcends all of our diversities. He has room for the thinker, the socialite, the computer geek, and even busy Mr. Taylor.

Real success in a campaign against complacency requires first that we not try to fit men into one rigid, cliché and burdensome ideal, and instead that we make room to allow Christ to work within individual souls. To offer men anything else is to offer a weight.

- Stephen Williams



History made, Trojans come home



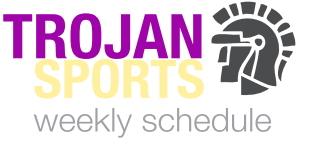
Junior Michael Kraynak and senior Matt Maple walk off the field after their MCC Championship win over Bethel on May 6.

After four days of play 563.18 miles away, TU falls to St. Xavier for season’s end

By Jake Sittler  
Contributor

The list of accomplishments for the Taylor baseball team this season makes for some heavy reading: a school record 37 wins, a conference tournament championship, the conference Player of the Year in shortstop and pitcher Michael Kraynak as well as two more first-team Mid-Central Conference performers and four honorable mention selections, and now, two rounds of wins over The Master’s College in the NAIA National Tournament. The Trojans, who lost to No. 4 Berry College in their second game on Tuesday night, were eliminated from the tournament with a 17-6 defeat Thursday afternoon at the hands of No. 24 Saint Xavier University. As hinted at previously, plenty of Trojans have had stellar individual seasons. Kraynak ranked 16th in the nation with eight saves and also batted .376 with 56 RBI. An unheard of four strikeouts in 175 plate appearances is a testament to his patience at the plate and a resilience to battle in every at-bat. First baseman Ryne Otis and catcher Paul Passiales were the other first-team MCC selections, with Otis leading the team

with eight home runs. Passiales is no stranger to the all-conference squad with three straight post season recognitions and continues to display his trademark accuracy from his crouch behind the plate, gunning down two base runners in the first win of the tournament. The four athletes named to the honorable mention team included second baseman Matt Maple, pitchers Zach Vander Laan (posting a 2.79 ERA) and Taylor Kinzer (a perfect 7-0 on the season), and outfielder Cassidy Emery. Athletic Director Angie Finnannon witnessed the Trojans’ first-round win and couldn’t hide her pride. “I was so happy that we didn’t come to Nationals with the ‘first year’ jitters that are so common,” she said. “I talked to the team earlier this week, and they assured me they were coming to compete.” Fincannon also spoke about the chemistry and intensity of the Trojans, a commonality with all championship teams. “I notice how strong the relationships are among these guys,” she said. “When Taylor won the conference championship, there was a great deal of emotion shown – an indicator of the personal investment of the players.” The history books will host the Trojans’ record-setting 2008-2009 season, and with only five graduating seniors, Taylor is poised for a future of championship baseball.



**Baseball (38-19, 16-8)**  
*NAIA National Tournament (Rome, Ga)*  
W, 4-3 vs. Master’s College (#RV)  
L, 0-12 vs. Barry College (#4)  
W, 5-4 vs. Master’s College (#RV)  
L, 6-17 vs. St. Xavier U. (#24)  
**Season Concluded**

**Track**  
**Upcoming meets:**  
*NAIA Outdoor Championships (Edwardsville, Ill.)*  
5/21-5/23

**Record Recap**  
**Basketball**  
Men: 11-20, 3-13  
Women: 21-12, 10-16

**Cross Country**  
Men: 3rd of 9 (MCC)  
Women: 5th of 9 (MCC)

**Football**  
2-8, 0-6

**Soccer**  
Men: 6-12-1, 2-5-1  
Women: 11-7, 4-4

**Softball**  
8-23, 4-12

**Tennis**  
Men: 9-9, 6-1  
Women: 12-5, 6-1

**Track**  
Men: 2nd of 9 (MCC)  
Women: 5th of 9 (MCC)

**Volleyball**  
32-8, 8-0  
\*denotes MCC match  
(home games indicated in bold)

Fourth of track & field to advance to Nationals

By Julia Berger  
Contributor

National Championships, for any sport, is an event athletes look forward to and work hard for all year long. This year, 13 men and women of the Taylor track & field team qualified for the competition. The Trojans are sending Andrea Elsmann (pole vault) and Alyssa Johnson (1500 meter) to represent the women. For the

men, both the 4x800-meter relay, consisting of Andy Marston, Brian Tencher, Nate Kirsch, and Isaac Bryan, as well as the 4x400 relay team of Dave Voss, Bryan Allingham, Marston and Kyle Cassidy will compete. Scott Gill will compete in the long jump, Tom Robertson in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, Cory Anderson in the 110 hurdles, and Voss in the 400 hurdles. “Our team is excited to see

fresh competition at this national meet,” Voss said. “We’re really focusing on preparing ourselves and getting ready to do the best we can against whoever we see down there.” Head coach Ted Bowers has been pleased with the team’s performances all year and is looking forward to the upcoming competition. “The competition is so good that you never know how you will place, but you know that

you will be pushed further than at any point this season,” he said. Each athlete has a personal way of preparing for Nationals; some find that mental preparation is as important as physical. “Pole vault is a really mental event,” Elsmann said. “For the meet, I am going to try to focus on the way that I am competing. From previous meets, I have learned that I do better when

I don’t focus on how competitors are performing. I am going to just go out there and do the best I can.” As Nationals approaches, the workouts become more specific. “We just finished a taper phase for conference and (the) NCCAAAs,” Bowers said. “Now we have to sharpen our fitness just a little to be in the best possible condition. At this point, you cannot do much to change

your fitness level, but you can be completely ready.” Those competing look to Nationals with high hopes. “We have several individuals who have a great chance to advance to finals and possibly score,” Bowers said. “Our relay teams both have objectives of making finals, which will be a real accomplishment.” The team awaits Nationals, to commence May 21 in Edwardsville, Ill.

ATHLETES of the YEAR

JON HUGHES



**Full Name:** Jonathon Edward Hughes  
**Hometown:** Peoria, AZ  
**Sport:** Men’s Soccer **Position:** Forward  
**Residence:** Off-Campus: The Soccer House  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Favorite Food:** Bagel breakfast sandwich: bacon, egg, cheese on an Asiago bagel. Tell me that doesn’t sound good.  
**Goal for the year:** Figure out what the heck I should do with my life ...  
**Dream job:** In my dreams? A pro soccer player.  
**Hidden/special talent:** The soccer team could tell ya I’m pretty flexible. I think I once touched my foot to the crossbar.  
**What’s one thing you’ve learned lately?** That God is amazingly faithful. He has done incredible things for me, all of which I don’t deserve.  
**Best memory made at Taylor:** Participating in Third West’s Man Fest ... Keep the tradition alive, boys.  
**Favorite Halloween costume ever:** Dressed up as a ninja once but spilled fake blood all down my front. People were confused ... and scared of me.  
**What do you want to do ten years from now?** I want to be working as a clinical psychologist if that’s where the Lord directs me.  
**Currently reading:** “Crime and Punishment”

PAIGE RUDOLPH



**Full Name:** Paige Marie Rudolph  
**Hometown:** Evansville, IN  
**Sport:** Women’s Basketball **Position:** Guard  
**Residence:** Briarwood 2J  
**Major:** English Education  
**Activities on campus:** Youth Conference  
**Favorite food:** Cheese  
**Favorite sports player:** “Pistol” Pete Maravich and LeBron James  
**Hobbies:** Shoe shopping, eating ice cream, defusing my hair  
**Favorite vacation spot:** St. Maarten, Virgin Islands  
**Favorite book:** Psalms  
**Greatest sports achievement:** Two-time All-American, highest all-time free throw percentage, sixth all-time leading scorer  
**Goal for the year:** To survive student teaching  
**Dream job:** Coaching high school basketball  
**Favorite quote:** “Fear mediocrity more than failure.” – Ross Rudolph (my dad)  
**Best memory made at Taylor:** Going to the National Tournament with my teammates  
**Favorite Halloween costume ever:** Wonder Woman  
**What motivates you?** Alison “The Beast” Reece and her rigorous lifting schedule  
**Music inspiration:** “Can’t Nobody Hold Me Down” by P. Diddy – of course