



Our Heritage, Mission, and Life Together

The year 2006 marked the 160th anniversary of the founding of Taylor University. During the year of 1846, the United States annexed New Mexico as a territory; admitted Iowa as the 29th state in the Union; and declared war on Mexico. Electric arc lighting was introduced in Paris; Elias Howe patented the sewing machine in America; John Deere constructed the first plow with a steel moldboard; and American dentist W. T. Morton introduced ether as an anesthetic, all in the same year. In the literary world, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow published "The Belfry of Bruges" and Herman Melville published "Typee." In London, Charles Dickens introduced the first cheap English newspaper, the *Daily News*, and the Evangelical Alliance was founded. In Ireland the failure of the potato crop caused a famine, which would send thousands of Irish immigrants to America. Also in 1846, the Smithsonian Institute was established in Washington D.C., and certain political and religious movements in America gained momentum in advocating the emancipation of black slaves and promoting expanded rights for women.

Forged in the fire of intense religious beliefs, Taylor University was destined to become one of the oldest evangelical Christian colleges in America. Conceptualized with the conviction that women as well as men should have an opportunity for higher education, Taylor University began as Fort Wayne Female College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and then became Fort Wayne College. Following the example of Oberlin College (which became the first coeducational college in America and the first to award college degrees to women in 1841), Fort Wayne College became coeducational in 1855. In 1890, the school merged with the Fort Wayne College of Medicine and changed its name to Taylor University in honor of Bishop William Taylor, an energetic missionary evangelist possessed with unusual vitality of commitment and devotion.

Bishop William Taylor became a symbol of the values and ideals of the college. His voluminous writings including many books on preaching and missions and extensive worldwide missionary endeavors resulted in his being the first lay pastor to be named a bishop of the Methodist Church. In 1893 because of the population boom in the central part of the state, Taylor University moved to Upland, Indiana. Nearly 100 years later in 1992, Taylor University reestablished its presence in Fort Wayne by acquiring Summit Christian College. (Summit had started in 1895 with the sponsorship of the Missionary Church Association and the spiritual leadership of Joseph P. Ramseyer and Daniel Y. Schultz.) In 2009, undergraduate programs at Taylor University Fort Wayne (TUFW) were discontinued and consolidated on the main campus in Upland.

With this heritage, Taylor University entered the twentieth century. Taylor University's historian Dr. William Ringenberg noted, "The intellectual revolution at the turn of the century cracked the spiritual foundations of major universities" in America by challenging the role of the Christian worldview. "This, coupled with the dehumanizing of education" and the unrest caused by "the inability of secular education to guide students in their quest for meaning" helped to further shape, strengthen and define Taylor's Christian educational mission. For over 163 years, Taylor has been faithful to that mission.

Taylor University trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students stand committed to our heritage of Christian commitment and academic excellence.

A Christian Liberal Arts College

Taylor University is an evangelical, independent, interdenominational Christian liberal arts college where faith, living and learning are integrated. Taylor University consists of a student body of over 2,000 students divided almost equally between men and women who come from almost every state and over 30 countries.

Taylor is distinctive in its commitment to both spiritual and intellectual development as symbolized by the twin spires of the Rice Bell Tower. The carillon bells given in honor of Barbara Gentile remind the campus community of its dual mission throughout the day.

Academic pursuits at Taylor are rigorous, demanding imagination, dedication and integrity from both students and faculty. As a Christian institution, Taylor University has concerned, competent faculty who recognize that all truth has its source in God. Students' quest for truth begins with this conviction and relates to all aspects of the liberal arts curriculum.

Taylor University consists of approximately 952 acres located on the south side of the town of Upland, Indiana. Upland is situated four miles east of I-69, fifty miles south of Fort Wayne, and seventy miles north of Indianapolis. Eighteen major buildings have been added to the Upland campus since 1965. Major remodeling and restoration of other facilities continues to take place in order to achieve maximum utilization and quality maintenance.