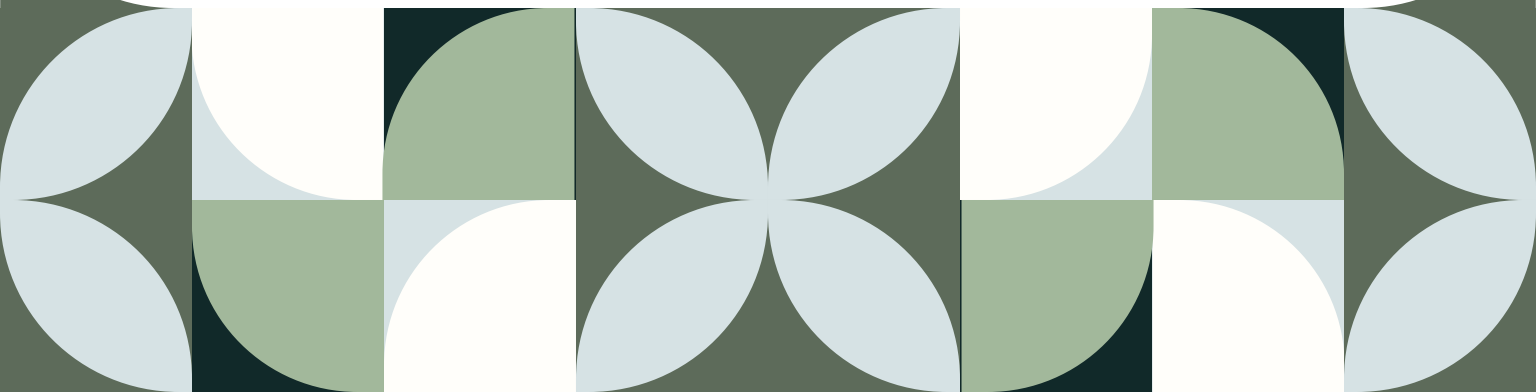


*the Calling & Career Office*

# Annual Report

2023-2024



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# Letter from the Director

In February of 2024, I celebrated my 10-year anniversary of working in the Calling and Career Office at Taylor University. Over the last decade I have had the honor of sitting with thousands of Taylor students—asking questions, praying with them, inviting them to think deeply about these big questions of identity and calling. Much has changed in those ten years. My first office was a conference room that was divided in half in order to provide a place to put a desk. The dome where that desk resided is now gone. The students who I met there have stepped into callings and careers and grown their families along the way. Some of the tools of the trade have changed, but the core of the work is very much the same: sitting with students, asking questions, praying, inviting them to think deeply.

I changed majors three times when I was in college. I was waiting for clarity. What I know now that I did not know then is that clarity comes by way of experience. Instead of thinking my way into a solution, I would have been better off trying my way into further understanding, further clarity. Because of this, I have come to the conclusion that the best thing our office can offer are connections. Connections to people and experiences that guide students in discerning a faithful response to God's call.

While this is certainly applicable to the college experience, the truth is I've learned this principle far more in the years after college than I did during my time as a student. Along the way I've discovered that each connection with someone that is doing inspiring work, each experience of trying something new or different have, in some small way, lit the path in front of me to give me confidence to take the next step. And that's really all the pursuit of God's call is, isn't it? We just keep trying to take the next right step.

The creation story of Genesis serves as a persistent reminder that God had this good idea of work in mind for his created ones—he called them to work before sin entered the picture. Work is not the punishment we have to endure or the labor we are sentenced to. It has always been a good idea from a good God; a means of connection with him and others for the advancement of His kingdom purposes. What a joy that we get to share in this good work that God has created us to do.

In an essay on work, journalist Derek Thompson writes, "Our desks were never meant to be our altars." Thompson is seeking to remind his readers that we can't rely on our jobs to be the single source of our identity and purpose. But what we do matters and the more we know about ourselves the more informed our decisions will be about what to try next. And that's why I still believe in this work at Taylor.

God invites us to work to know him and others more—to share in the larger redemptive work he is doing in the world. Not so we can step back and say, "Look at what I've done," but so that we can see the whole mosaic and give thanks to God that He gave us the grace of playing some small part in a much larger story. Our work is not about what we create, it's about who we are becoming. Or, as we like to say in the Calling and Career Office: The value of our work is not in what we make but in what it makes of us.

Here's to the next ten years,



# Staff Profiles



## Jeff Aupperle

YEARS IN THE CCO

10

JUMPING BEAN ORDER

12 oz drip

FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE CCO

Sharing the work. The mission of the CCO can only be accomplished through collaboration. I'm so grateful to have shared the work with so many amazing people over the years.



## Kaitlin Neel

YEARS IN THE CCO

1

JUMPING BEAN ORDER

WeCov

FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE CCO

Working with an incredible team has been a blessing throughout my first year in the office. The work we get to do, and how we can point students to God in it, is so meaningful to me.



## Kim McGary

YEARS IN THE CCO

20

JUMPING BEAN ORDER

Americano with two shots of sugar free caramel syrup, little whip, and sprinkle of cinnamon

FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE CCO

I love welcoming people into the office. I support the staff and students and enjoy being part of this team.

# Our Mission

The mission of the Calling and Career Office is to connect students to people and experiences that guide them in discerning a faithful response to God's call.



# Appointment Types

*How we carry out our mission*

**ALUMNI ADVISING:** This appointment is for Taylor alumni who are seeking career advice. During the meeting, alumni ask questions about career paths, job search strategies, and professional development

**MOCK INTERVIEW:** Students can practice their interviewing skills by participating in a mock interview.

**MAJOR EXPLORATION:** In these appointments students are able to learn more about majors at Taylor, identify their interests, and gain resources and connections to help them decide which major may be a good fit for them.

**RESUME REVIEW:** Students bring in a copy of their resume and one of our staff team will go over all the details with you including content, design, editing, and more!

**INTERNSHIP SEARCH:** Students who are looking for internships can meet to learn more about networking, the application process, and interviewing.

**JOB SEARCH:** This appointment is for students who are searching for a job. They can learn more about the best search strategies, how to respond to job offers, where we have Taylor connections and more.

**INTERN ONE-ON-ONE:** Each of our CCO interns meets with their supervisor to talk about their goals for the office, review what projects they are working on, and receive professional development.

**VOCATION CONVERSATION:** A vocation conversation is a space for students to ask questions about current and future decisions they're facing and to consider how to live a faithful response to God's call.

**PROSPECTIVE STUDENT MEETINGS:** Our interns meet with visiting students to talk about what services our office has to offer and to share their Taylor experience.



# Intern Profiles

*What did you want to be when you were five years old?*



**Amber Van Kalker**  
marketing management

A dolphin trainer because my cousins and I would always play "dolphins" in the pool in the summer.



**Carson Heath**  
marketing management

A Jedi Knight because lightsabers are cool and they get to wear robes all day.



**Casey Bane**  
public relations

A racecar driver, I loved the Cars movies and Mario Kart so the real life version really interested me. I loved collecting all the different ones, racing them around the house.



**Kelsey Denison**  
social work

A vet! I only wanted to do the fun stuff of the job and not any of the stuff that a vet actually does because I thought it would be too sad and gross.



**Olivia Heinen**  
graphic design

A cowgirl because I had the cutest red and pink cowboy boots!



Every year, our office hires student leaders for project-based work that will further their field of study while providing valuable and high-quality contributions to the effectiveness of the Calling & Career Office's mission. Our interns are truly the heart and soul of the office.



**Emmanuel Joseph**  
graphic design

A winner of American Idol.



**Jaden Nourse**  
marketing, management, systems

I wanted to be a cashier because I loved the idea of getting to scan all the items!!



**Jaylynn Dunsmore**  
exercise science

I wanted to be a marine biologist because the killer whale was my favorite animal and I thought living at the beach would be fun.



**Sarah Maloney**  
communication

A late night show host! I was convinced through high school that I'd get my start on SNL and then transition into my own show. Slightly unrealistic, but hey, a girl can dream!



**Seth Griswold**  
communication

I wanted to be a McDonald's worker so that way I could eat as many McChickens as I wanted.

# Events & Programming

## PROFESSIONAL PALOOZA

Annually hosted in the fall, Professional Palooza provides students with access to all of the resources that the Calling & Career Office offers in one place. Over 200 students and friends came for headshots, resume reviews, Handshake profile assistance and donut holes!

## INTERNSHIP & CAREER FAIR

This fall, the Calling & Career Office brought over 60 businesses to campus, and many students took advantage of his opportunity to connect with quality organizations on campus. Students were able to learn valuable information about job and internship opportunities from these businesses.

## BURNOUT EVENT

One of our events new to this year was our Burnout Event hosted before finals week. During this event, students were able to listen to our speakers, (David Neel and Hannah Richardson), as they shared their experiences of burnout in their respective fields. Students were able to participate in hands-on activities that emphasized self-care, accompanied with snacks and fidget toys throughout the evening.

## ALUMNI PANEL

A spring event intended for students to gain a perspective on how to relate their faith to their future occupation and ultimately integrate it into their work by looking at examples of how it is done well. This also includes how they navigate their faith journey outside of Taylor University including things like finding a new church home, bible study, lifegroup, etc.

## (HI)RING BY SPRING

This spring we introduced a new event designed to reach students who are still looking for a job. This week-long pop-up included a large fun display outside of our office that exhibited a list of organizations who are hiring. There were daily activities to spark conversations about how to prepare for interviews, what to wear to work, and more.

## VOCATION CLASS

This spring, 23 students chose to investigate a deeper understanding of vocation through the means of personal exploration and considering what meaningful work may be for them following graduation. Our one-credit hour course is designed and intended to serve as an effective tool to help graduating seniors navigate their job search process and answer primary questions that they will be asking themselves as they transition from Taylor University onward.

## EXPLORING YOUR CALLING

Undecided is now the second highest declaration of incoming freshman class. The Calling and Career Office offers a one-credit class specifically for freshmen who are undecided or unsure about their major. This fall, there were 55 students that took the class, which is the largest it's been!

**BURNOUT WORKSHOP**

*We hold the capacity to be light to this world, but if we aren't taking care of ourselves our likelihood of burnout is greater*

Join us for a time to *decompress* while hearing speakers' experiences of burnout & *finding restoration*

David Neel, Audrey Spear & Hannah Richardson

Food & drinks will be provided along with various activities

NOV 15 | 7-8PM  
THE GARAGE ROOM

**hiring  
by spring**

**OCT 24**

**INTERNSHIP+  
CAREER FAIR**

11-2 IN THE LARITA BOREN CAMPUS CENTER

**CONNECT WITH OVER 60  
EMPLOYERS INTERESTED IN  
HIRING TAYLOR STUDENTS**

**PROFESSIONAL  
PALOOZA**

# Open Houses



*Valentine's Day Open House*

Based on our interactions with others, our office found that students at times felt intimidated to utilize our services. We wanted to remove this barrier and find new ways to best support our students. That's where openhouses come in! Open Houses are celebrations held one day each month to enjoy different national holidays with the wider Taylor community. They are a great way for students to connect with the CCO in an informal way.

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## **RICE KRISPIES**

Our first open house was National Rice Krispie Treat Day. Our team homemade over 200 rice krispie treats of various flavors to give to students.

## **FALL HALLOWEEN**

Our fall open house was full of treats and goodies for students! Aside from treats, students who stopped by were able to snap a picture with our festive backdrop and enter to win a basket full of fall necessities.

## **WORLD KINDNESS DAY**

The CCO wanted to celebrate Taylor students through this open house! Those who attended were able to write a friend an encouraging letter, take some written affirmations, and enter another giveaway!

## **CHRISTMAS**

We kicked off the holiday season with our cozy Christmas open house! Students were able to warm up from the cold with hot chocolate, and their own trail mix to bring some holiday cheer!

## **VALENTINE'S**

The valentines day open house featured fun valentines themed snacks and an opportunity for students to create valentines for friends or loved ones. Students were also able to enter a prize giveaway to win some chocolates and a stress ball.

## **MARCH MADNESS**

March Madness was just around the corner and we invited people into the CCO by letting them shoot from our mini-hoop to win a prize by giving them dunkaroos and mini basketball toys.



# Core Values

*What our core values mean to our interns*



## COLLABORATION

Being in right relationship with God and others is collaboration to its core. The connections we've built are placed in our lives by God for us to serve them, but they are to also be helpful in our lives especially in areas where we lack. I've learned through the time in the office that I can't do everything on my own and I need to put my pride aside so that I can lean on those who want to extend a helping hand.

— Emmanuel Joseph



## IMAGINATION

Possessing the capacity for imagination is a reflection of the Lord's character and is to be used in a God-honoring manner. Imagination serves to help us envision a better world through acts of love, truth, and grace inspired by the life of Jesus Christ. Imagination is not just a tool for artistic expression, but a means to tap into the numerous opportunities we have been given by God; encouraging believers to dream, create, and contribute positively to the world in accordance with God's transformative and redemptive purposes.

— Sarah Maloney



## RISK

Humanity's natural inclination tends to lean towards comfort and stability. Risk opposes this concept, requiring that we step into what is unknown. Although there is value in the safety of security, there is also an immeasurable value in embracing the unknown. Accepting the reality that failure is a part of life strengthens resilience, adaptability, and personal growth, among other things.

— Sarah Maloney



## TRUTH

Truth is something that has always been a core thing for me. I remember growing up and my parents would always remind me to tell the truth in all circumstances. So that is what I have always tried to do. No matter what I do, truth is always the answer and the Bible reminds us of that everyday. 1 John 3:18 'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.' So in order for me to love others I need to do it with the truth that God has given to me!

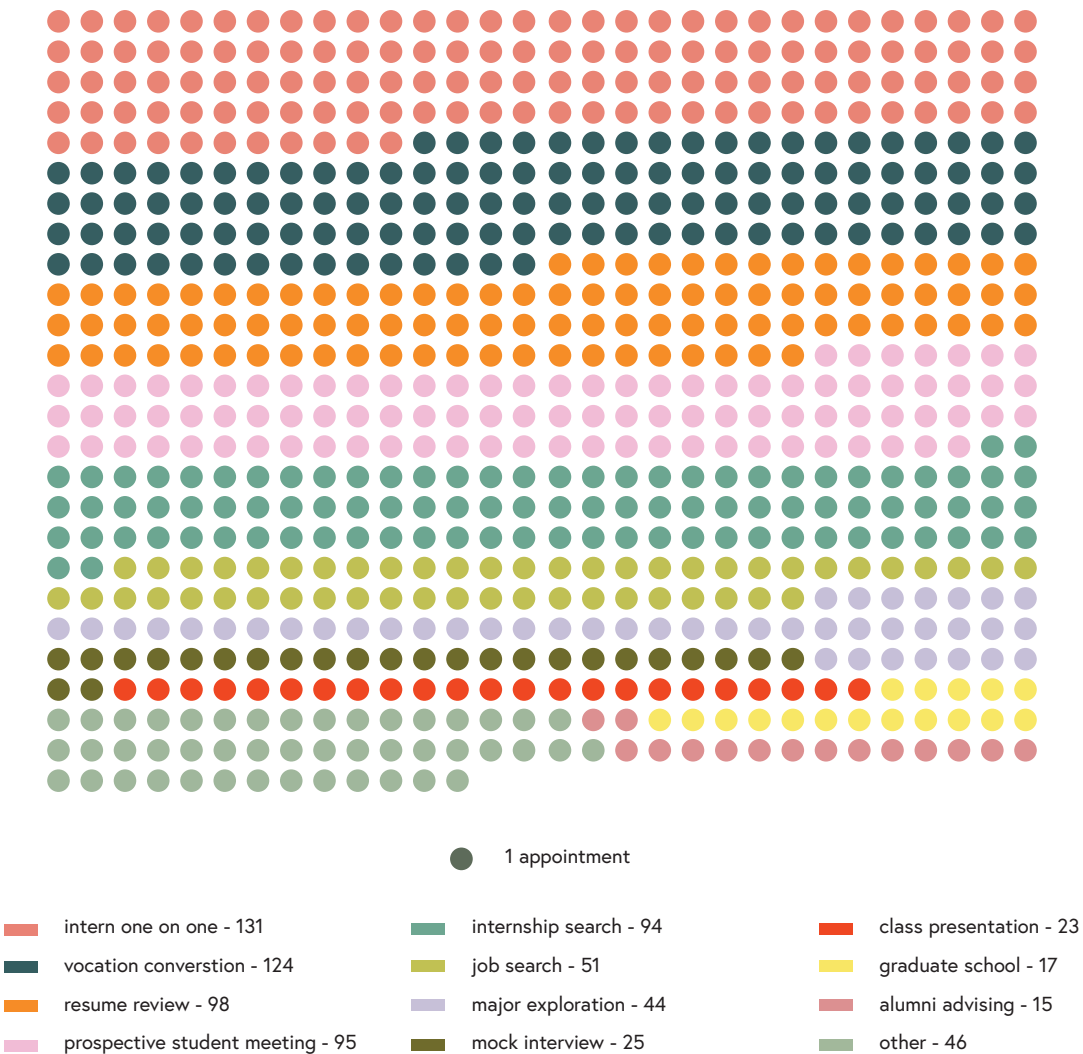
— Seth Griswold

*The fulfillment of our mission is guided by our four core values that are practices we encourage students to engage in discerning a faithful response to God's call*



# Appointment Breakdown

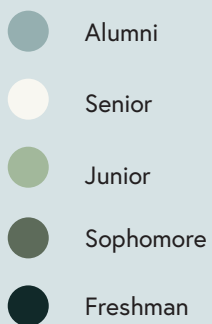
763 completed appointments from August 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023





*by class*

*by appointment type*



# First Destination Data



89%  
knowledge rate

*How many graduate outcomes do we know about?*

The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) requires institutions to collect data on career outcomes for 65% of each graduation class. **At Taylor, we collected career outcomes data from 89% of our 2023 graduates.**



99%  
success rate

*How many graduates are working or continuing education?*

The NACE National Average for an institutional Career Outcomes Rate (also called Success Rate), comprised of all forms of employment and continuing education, is 85.7%. **The Taylor University Class of 2023 achieved a 99% success rate.**



92%  
excellence rate

*How many graduates are working full-time within six months of graduation?*

The Excellence Rate measures the percentage of graduates who obtain full-time employment within six months of graduation. The NACE national average is 59%. **The full-time employment rate for the Taylor University Class of 2023 was 92%.**



4.5/5  
satisfaction rate

*Are graduates pleased with their post-graduate outcome?*

As a part of our graduate exit survey, we asked 2023 grads to rate their satisfaction with their current post-graduate outcome on a scale of 1 to 5. **The class of 2023 responded with an average satisfaction score of 4.5.**

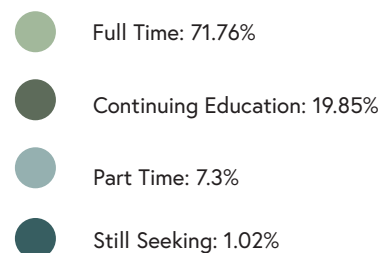
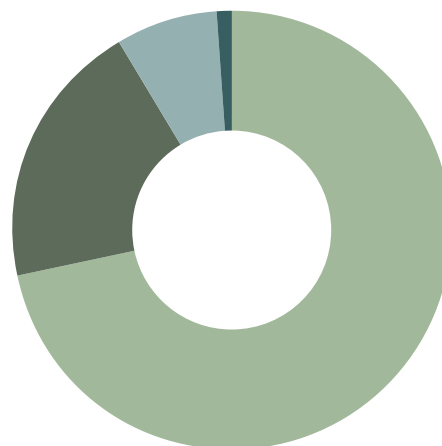
### OUR GRADS HAVE LANDED JOBS WITH:

Katz, Sapper, & Miller	Crowe
Asencion Medical Group	Charles Schwab
Disney World	WISH TV
Samaritan's Purse	Ronald Blue Trust
Lockheed Martin	Fifth Third Bank
Sweetwater Sound	Duke Energy
Indiana State Police	Parkview Health

### OTHERS HAVE PURSUED EDUCATION THROUGH GRADUATE PROGRAMS SUCH AS:

Carnegie Mellon  
Johns Hopkins  
Ohio State University  
Indiana University School of Dentistry  
University of Illinois  
Butler University  
Oregon State University  
University of Iowa  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Baylor University  
University of Michigan  
Xavier University

2023  
grads:



# Student Testimonials



## MAJOR EXPLORATION

*Sophia Diller*

"Before I had the meeting, I took the Strengthens finders test and we just continued to talk through the situation. I have had anxiety about this situation in the past, but I felt a lot calmer and more encouraged whenever Jeff and I had those meetings. I needed someone to tell me how obvious choosing that major is, which is what Jeff essentially did!"



## RESUME REVIEW

*Mican Pinson*

"I thought Handshake made it easy to sign up. The reason I chose to look at my resume was because I needed to get it looked at before I met with my professors or with workers about an internship. It was helpful. The CCO has lots of notes about how I should adapt my resume with the certain language to the job he is applying for."



## MAJOR EXPLORATION

*Jackson Stoelting*

"If I am being honest, I was all over the place with majors in the beginning. So I scheduled a meeting with Jeff and he had me take the Myers Briggs test. After I took it, we talked again and went through the results. Jeff then encouraged me that I should try graphic design and I told him I was already thinking about doing that major anyways."



## RESUME REVIEW

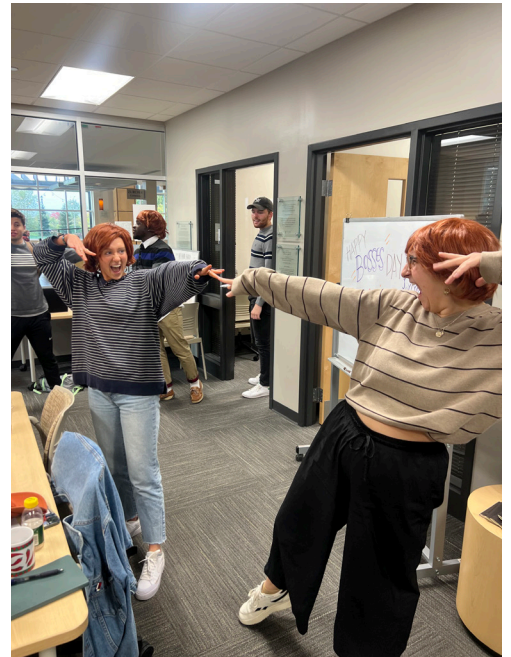
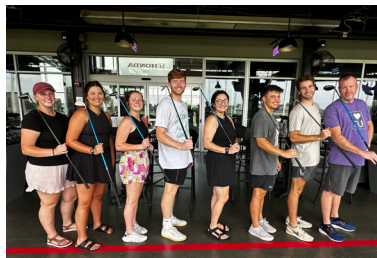
*Emma Goebel*

"It was with Carson Heath who reviewed my resume and it was very helpful. I had a list of questions going in and he answered all of my questions. He also provided a lot of good resources like the Grace Olson resume and the note sheet for building your resume. It was all new information for me."

# Office Culture

In the CCO we endeavor to embody our core values of imagination, risk, collaboration, and truth. One of the ways you will see this is in our office culture. Whether at our events, staff meetings, or just around the office, we aim to foster an inviting, collaborative, and joyfilled environment!







*designed by*

