

# Office of Intercultural Programs



where to find us



LaRita Boren Campus Center  
OIP: Mon – Fri: 9AM-5PM  
Closed for chapel: 10AM



OFFICE OF  
INTERCULTURAL  
PROGRAMS

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our mission



The Office of Intercultural Programs (OIP) exists as part of the Intercultural Leadership & Church Relations Division to meet the specific needs of American ethnic students, international students, missionary kids (MKs), and third-culture kids (TCKs) at Taylor University. The mission of OIP is to cultivate a safe and welcoming environment that provides educational and experiential opportunities for all students, staff, and faculty. Our programs promote racial reconciliation, global engagement, and highlight the beauty of God's creation in every person.



our commitment



Our commitment is to provide an environment where students develop into Christ-centered servant leaders, are assured support and advocacy relative to their unique needs, and are prepared for the future by engaging in programs that cultivate understanding and interaction with diverse communities. We encourage respectful and meaningful dialogue regarding issues of diversity; recruitment, retention, and graduation of our students; and engagement and collaboration with Taylor's community.



our five pillars





1

Keeping God at the center of diversity efforts

2

Building on our individual and organizational strengths

3

Celebrating and engaging diversity

4

Recognizing the struggles faced by those around us

5

Operating with amazing hospitality

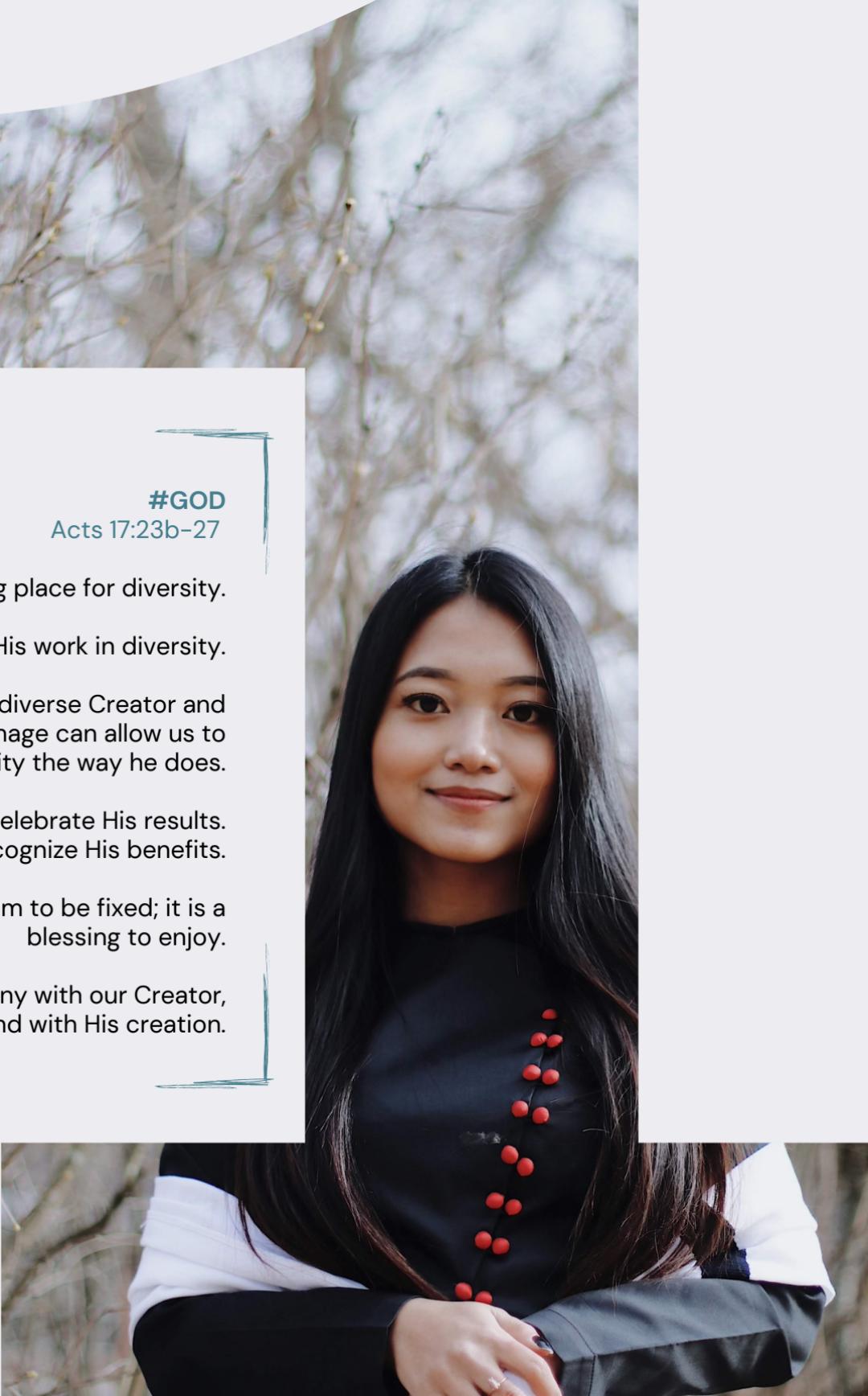
# pillar

[ˈpɪlər] noun.

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a person or thing regarded as reliably providing essential support for something.





#GOD  
Acts 17:23b-27

God is the starting place for diversity.

We acknowledge His work in diversity.

Understanding that God is a diverse Creator and  
created people in His image can allow us to  
enjoy diversity the way he does.

We celebrate His results.  
We recognize His benefits.

Diversity is not a problem to be fixed; it is a  
blessing to enjoy.

We work together in harmony with our Creator,  
in and with His creation.



**#BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS**  
Ephesians 2:10

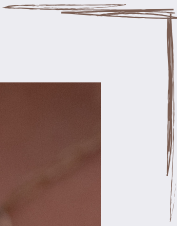
Always ask the question, "What is special about Taylor for you?"

Refuse to allow every conversation about diversity to start from the negative impact of diversity.

Recognize there are different strengths in the many expressions on campus.

Do not settle for individual strengths, but seek out the institutional ones also.

Identify the **SHAPE** of your strengths:



Spiritual Gifts  
Heart  
Abilities  
Personality  
Experiences

## #CELEBRATING AND ENGAGING IN DIVERSITY

Romans 12:15

Emphasize God's efforts among us.

Allow all to enjoy the fruits of God's work.

Lean in and make celebrating possible.

If the circumstance won't allow for celebrating, at the very least engage.





## #REALIZING THE STRUGGLE

Psalm 102:1-2

The Struggle is real. This is the place that most diversity conversations start, but when we start here, we miss:

- Understanding God's role,
- Strategically working from God's point of strength instead of our own,
- Enjoying the celebrations.

Never be afraid to walk alongside others as they struggle. Different people have different kinds of struggles.

IDENTIFY AND DIFFERENTIATE  
RACISM VS. IGNORANCE

WHERE THERE IS IGNORANCE,  
WE MUST **EDUCATE**.

WHERE THERE IS RACISM, WE  
MUST **ERADICATE**.

## #AMAZING HOSPITALITY

Ephesians 4:32

We wrap all that we do in grand  
hospitality which expresses some  
great thoughts:

They will know we are Christians by our  
love for one another.

*Hymn inspired by John 13:35*

No greater love has anyone than this,  
to lay down one's life for a friend.

*John 15:13*

There is a friend who sticks closer than  
a brother.

*Proverbs 18:24*

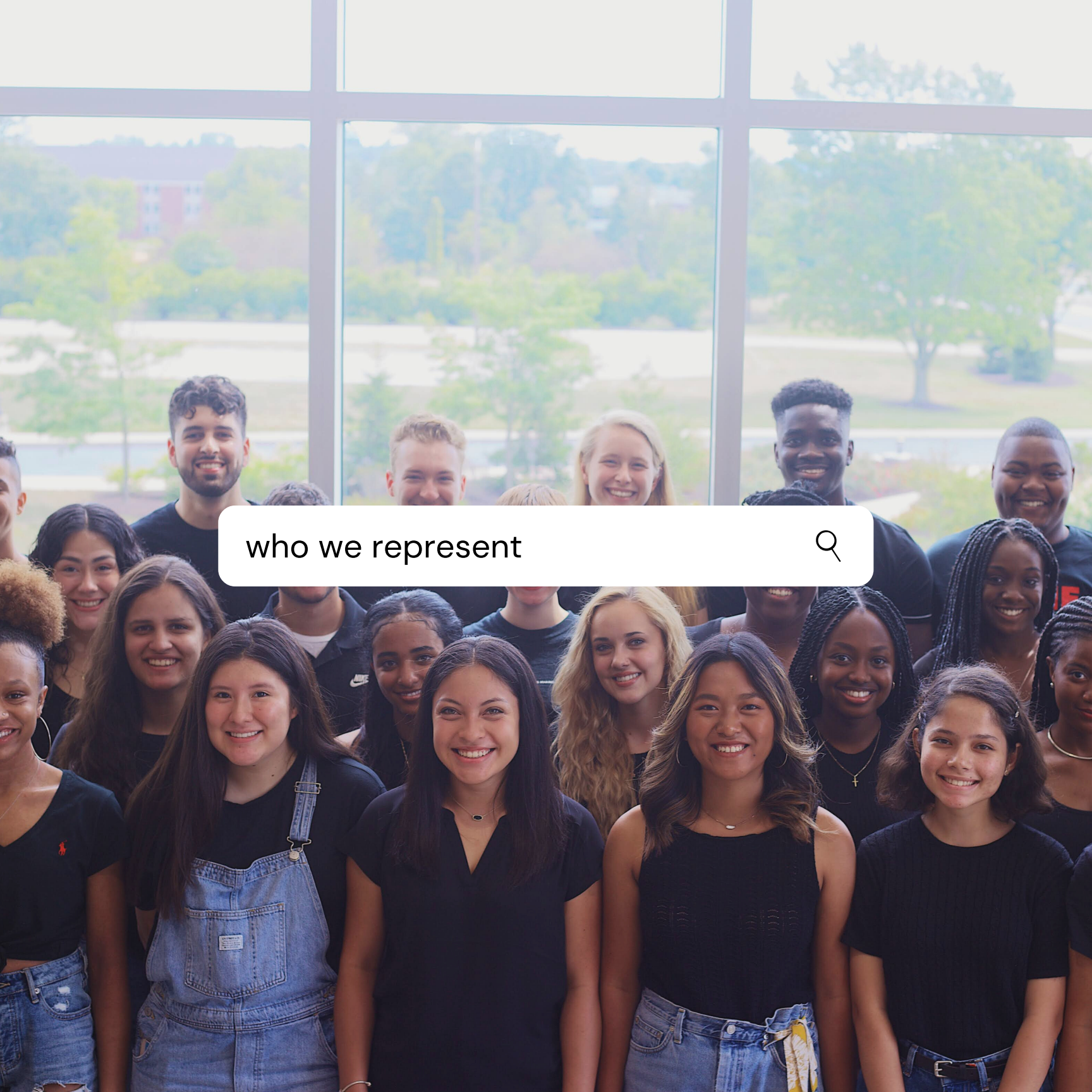
If you see someone hungry, don't turn  
them away. Keep them warm and fed.

*James 2:16*

I will show you my faith by what I do.

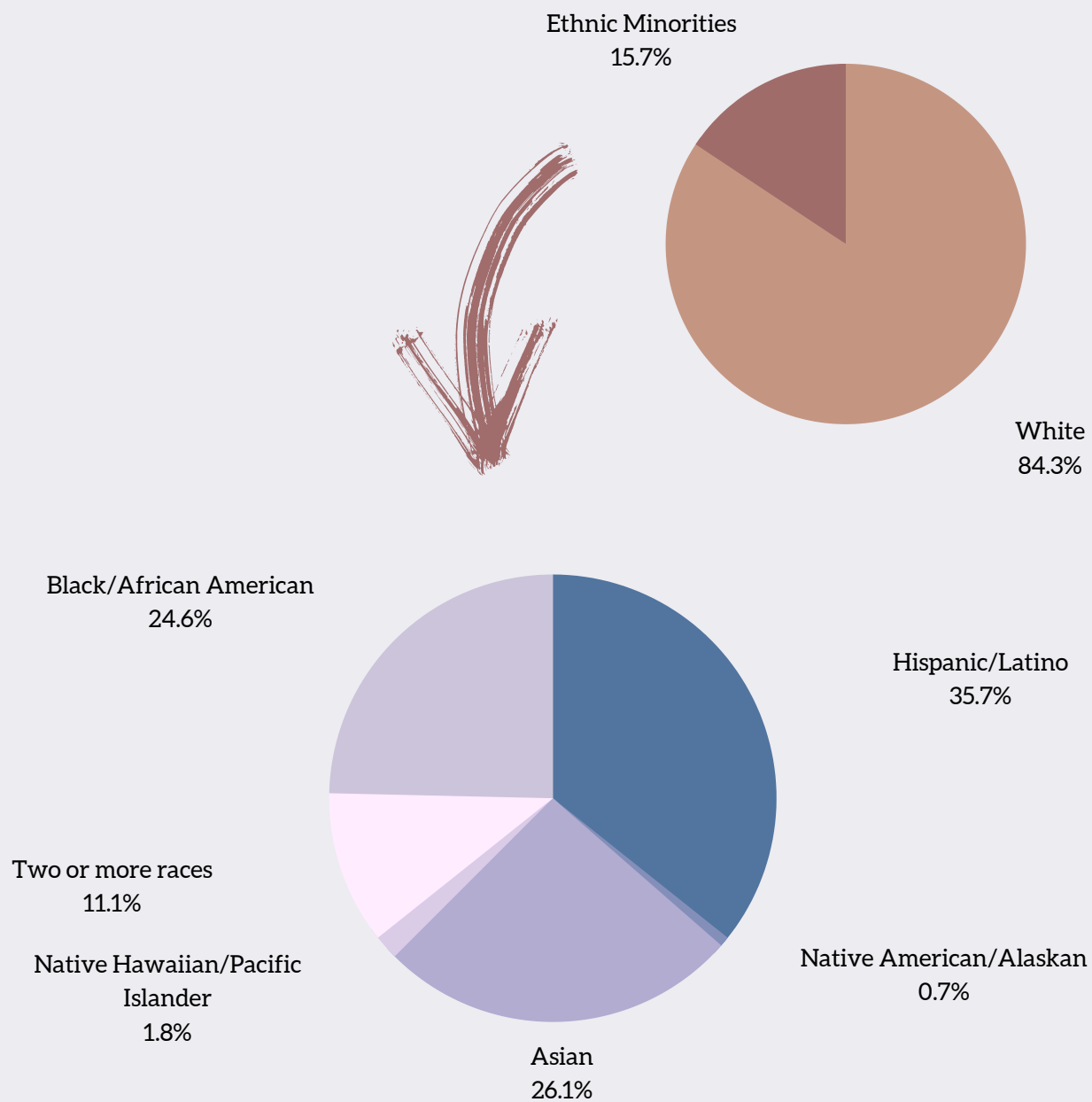
*James 2:18*





who we represent





*Data from Taylor University's Community Mosaic (2020-21)*

student leadership & cultural programs





Multicultural Student Association seeks to unify the student body across cultural, racial, and ethnic boundaries, striving to embody the Kingdom of Heaven present in Rev. 7:9: *"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."*



# MSA



**Mariah Hurst**

Bolivia

Graphic Design '23

"I've been on the world's most dangerous road!"



**Sarah Kabarega**

Rwanda

Finance '23

"I'm very scared of frogs."



Latino Student Union is a blended *familia* of all Latino backgrounds working to build a strong connection with their cultural roots and values. It focuses on sharing its colorful culture and history across campus through events like Latino Heritage Night, Viva Latino, Salsa Tasting, and Spanish Worship.



**Juliette Aguirre**

Mexico & Chicago

Human Physiology & Preventive Medicine '24

"I got nail glue in my eye once and had to go to the hospital to get it removed."



**Thiago Camacho**

Uruguay

Sociology '24

"I can play *La Bamba* on the ukelele."

# LSU

Asian Society for Intercultural Awareness is an organization that represents Asian cultures and experiences on Taylor's campus. Their mission is to cater to the Asian Community as well as the rest of Taylor's student body. Through events, ASIA spreads awareness of Asian experiences, grows understanding between cultures, and provides a welcoming and safe space to build relationships. This is done by engaging with their heritages and celebrating differences.



**Michaela Schurr**

Chicago, IL

Psychology & Systems '24

"My dog and I share the same birthday."



**Asha Eicher**

India

English Education '23

"When I was a baby, I was saved from a telephone on fire while I was sleeping just under a nylon mosquito net."

# ASIA





Middle Eastern Collegiate Association strives to engage our greater campus community with the culture, customs, and religions of the Middle East. Through food, music, speakers, and collaborations with other campus organizations, MECA holds events that recreate Middle Eastern hospitality in the Midwest. MECA is open to students of all backgrounds and cultures who have an interest in the region.



**Abigail Franklin**

Bahrain

English & Philosophy '24

"My favorite animal is the capybara."

# MECA

Black Student Union is a student organization that focuses on educating students through cultural events concentrated on Black culture. It's dedicated to representing the needs of Black students at Taylor University through cultural events, open dialogue on issues of race and justice, and celebrating Black excellence.



# BSU



**Zaye Wide**

Indianapolis, IN  
Organizational Communication '23  
"I am left handed."



**Goodness Korrie**

Nigeria  
Public Relations '24  
"I wish to become a flight attendant and co-own a coffee shop with my best friend. Fashion and photography are my sense of peace."

Taylor University's Voices of Praise Gospel Choir is an intentionally diverse choir that proclaims the ministry of reconciliation through performing black gospel music and dance. This organization leads worship in chapel several times throughout the semester, performs in local churches, and hosts a worship night that is open to everyone. Their goal is to worship God freely through a diverse genre of music in order to create an atmosphere that enables everyone to worship and meet with Him.



**Alisha Withers**

Indianapolis, IN  
Psychology '22  
"I love to cook!"



**Franklin Snyder**

Carlisle, PA  
Film & Media Production '23  
"I love cars, especially BMWs."

# GOSPEL CHOIR

Act Six is a leadership development and college scholarship program that brings together diverse, multicultural cadres of emerging urban leaders who want to use their college education to make a difference on campus and in their communities at home. Taylor University's goal is to help Act Six scholars thrive academically and empower them to step into leadership roles on campus and in the surrounding community.



**Nay Mi Chele-Rhengboi**

Act Six Liaison

Matupi, Chin State, Myanmar

Public Relations '22

"I've lived in 3 continents (Asia, Europe, and North America) and 4 countries (Myanmar, Malaysia, U.S.A., and Spain)."

Act Six uses a simple but powerful four-part strategy:

1. Recruit & Select
2. Train & Prepare
3. Send & Fund
4. Support & Inspire

# ACT SIX





The purpose of Taylor University's Cultural Diversity Scholarship (CDS) is to support students financially as they make distinctive contributions and provide cultural enrichment to the Taylor community. We desire to enhance cultural awareness as students pursue a quality education and experience Taylor University's Scholarship, Leadership, and Christian Commitment tradition. It is our goal for all CDS recipients to become active in the leadership opportunities Taylor provides.



**Elizabeth Magallanes**

CDS Coordinator

Chicago, IL

Human Physiology & Preventive Medicine '22

"I am Mexican, love riding horses, and have more than twenty animals on our farm."

# CDS

international student programs





International Student Society welcomes all international students to a family far away from home. Our goal is to help our international students find a sense of home and community through events and activities, such as the International Coffee House, retreats, bonfires, and worship. ISS brings international students together to celebrate and explore all the rich backgrounds represented on Taylor's campus.



**Azucena Hernandez**

Guatemala

Biology Pre-Med '24

"I love roasting marshmallows in volcanoes in Guatemala!"



**Eric Kim**

Korea

Music (Vocal) '22

"Last year I attempted to do bungee-jumping, but I cried for 30 minutes at the top."

# ISS





MuKappa is a student organization that seeks to help Missionary Kids and Third Culture Kids transition to living on Taylor's campus. We seek to create a safe and enjoyable environment where TCKs and MKs feel seen and heard. We welcome anyone who has intercultural experiences to join us and bring their perspective to our melting pot.



**Aubri Skaggs**

Egypt

Anthropology & Sociology '22

"I can vibrate my eyes on command."



**Autumn Thompson**

Albania

Mathematics '23

"I love to play guitar for myself or small groups!"

# MUKAPPA

support staff



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## leadership staff

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**Rev. Greg Dyson**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF  
INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP  
& CHURCH RELATIONS



**Maribel Magallanes**  
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT  
LEADERSHIP & CULTURAL  
PROGRAMS



**Nate Chu**  
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT PROGRAMS



**Mike Miller**  
STUDENT ADVISOR



**Ellie Moon**  
SECRETARY

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## student staff

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**Yordanos Belachew**  
ISP REPRESENTATIVE

**Tessa D'Souza**  
ACADEMIC LIAISON

**Marissa Williams**  
FILM MAKER & PHOTOGRAPHER

**Kayla Kelly**  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

**Talique Taylor**  
SLCP REPRESENTATIVE

**Israel Ailemen**  
CONNECTOR

**Goodness Korrie**  
FILM MAKER & PHOTOGRAPHER

**Diego Cornejo**  
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP  
AND CHURCH RELATIONS



# MULTICULTURAL PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Taylor University is a community of Christians intentionally joined together for academic progress, personal development, and spiritual growth. From Genesis through Revelation, the Scriptures testify to God's reconciling and redemptive work to restore broken relationships. Accordingly, the University is committed to fostering healthy relationships in our community—regardless of differences in race, ethnicity, or national heritage. We affirm that every person is made in the image of God and has immeasurable worth (Gen. 1:27).

We proclaim our commitment to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). We acknowledge that the Gospel calls us to live and love as citizens of Christ's kingdom. We embrace diversity as we live out the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world and pursue the University's mission. Indeed, our Life Together Covenant calls us to be an intentional community based on the Gospel, which transcends ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, and national divisions. Jesus' love compels us to practice true friendship by loving our neighbors as ourselves, extending hospitality, forgiving one another, defending the persecuted, and living in peace with everyone.

This is a high calling that is often difficult to achieve. In this spirit, we acknowledge that our individual and community actions do not always demonstrate our commitment to treat one another as equal image bearers of Jesus Christ. When any of us falls short of obedience, God calls us to come before him in repentance and to be reconciled with one another. When we harm one another, we are expected to forgive one another, restore relationships, and make restitution (Matthew 5:23–24; 18:15–17). We pledge to live out this commitment in repentance, forgiveness, and grace.

We aspire to be a welcoming place where we show respect and love for all people. We want to honor one another and celebrate our diverse ethnic, racial, cultural, socio-economic, and national backgrounds in all dimensions of our life together. Through our relationships and programs, we actively strive to increase multicultural diversity in our community. We commit that Taylor University will emulate the beautiful, diverse multitude from every language, ethnicity, and nation who will gather in eternal praise to Christ in the Kingdom of Heaven (Rev. 7:9).

CREATED BY MARIANA PRATAS  
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