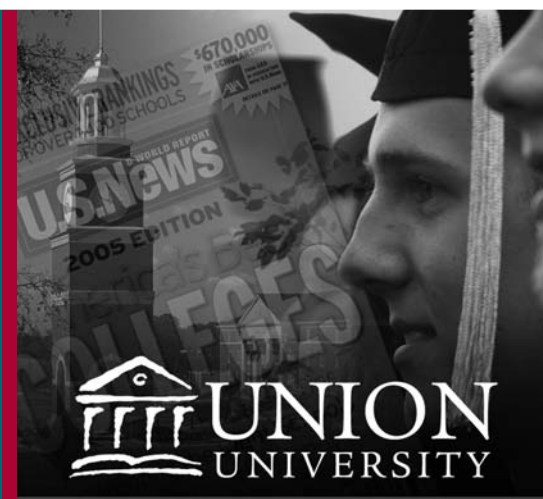


Dedicate A Book

Would you like to remember someone that has played an important role in your life? Purchase a book for the Emma Waters Summar Library in honor or in memory of a special person. Books are and always will be valuable sources for education.

Once you get on Union Library's Book Donation Page, you will be prompted to select a book from the list. When the book has been received by the library, we will attach a bookplate to the book with the information provided by the donor. For access to the Library Book Donation page, go online to <https://www.uu.edu/forms/library/bookdonation>.

Have info for the Link? Call us at 1.800.338.6644 or email Wendy Veazey at wveazey@uu.edu



Encourage outstanding high school students to see what's inside one of America's best colleges by visiting www.uu.edu or by calling the Office of Enrollment Services at 1.800.33.UNION.



Wendy Veazey

Emily's Nametag

When my daughter Emily turned five, she started writing on every piece of paper she could find. One day when I got in from work, she gave me a nametag: "Gene." The "n" was backwards, but I proudly wore it. In fact, each day for a week, she met me with a fresh, hand-decorated name tag.

I jokingly told Lisa, "At least this is a phase; she doesn't really need a nametag in order to know who I am!" Lisa's look reminded me of what I already knew: I'd almost become an absentee father who might need a name tag.

When the twins were born, I felt immense pressure to provide for my family. I loved my job, and my supervisors trusted me. I fell into a trap that affects many young fathers: I believed my work was my primary contribution to my family.

I still have my appointment books from those years; I kept meticulous records. Each week I categorized and totaled the time expenditures. Soon, I competed with myself to work more hours. 60 turned into 70. 70 into 80. I'd half-lament, half-brag about my hours. I'd barely see the kids or have any time to help Lisa.

About the same time, the stock market bubble was bursting. I saw analysts lamenting investors who had failed to diversify their holdings. They were losing everything because of ambition and greed. Now their stock portfolios were imploding.

I realized that I was investing time, energy, and my life itself in the same way as had so many financial speculators. I'd failed to diversify my life, to be balanced in how I lived. All of my eggs, so to speak, were in one basket: work. *(continued inside)*

Welcome

Wendy Veazey ('01) is joining the Office of University Relations as Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Support. A native of Paris, TN, Wendy graduated from Union with a degree in Public Relations/Business. She previously served as an Enrollment Counselor, recruiting students from the Northeast and Midwest. Wendy has a familiar last name. Her father, Paul Veazey, has worked at Union for the past 20 years in Advancement. Wendy will be working on the *The Link*. If you have suggestions or comments, contact her at wveazey@uu.edu. Please join us in welcoming Wendy!

A Message From Your Alumni Association President

It is an exciting time to be associated with Union University! In May, I had the privilege



Jerome Teel

of speaking at graduation for the Class of 2004. You have every reason to be proud of the young men and women that our alma mater is adding to the alumni ranks. Our country is constantly faced with moral and social issues, and it is reassuring that Union is

sending out graduates who will apply the Christian worldview they nurtured at Union to decisions they make at work, at home and in their communities.

Jennifer, our kids and I were recently away for several days on vacation. We live near Union, and as we passed the campus on our return trip, one of the kids said, "There's good ole Union," knowing that seeing the Miller Tower meant we were almost home. Many of you have also been away from Union for too long, and I hope that you will make a special effort to come home to "good ole Union" soon. Thanks for all you do for our alma mater!

Jerome Teel
Union University
National Alumni President
Class of 1989

Donor Story

Michael ('97) and Rachel ('98) Johnston are busy young parents. Between work, church, family and social obligations, they remain involved with their alma mater.



Michael and Rachel Johnston

"Much of who we are and what we do today was shaped while we were at Union, including our marriage," says Rachel. "Union is where we first met!"

Michael is on the Union Alumni Board and is the treasurer of Lambda Chi Alpha's Housing Corporation. Together, Michael and Rachel attend Homecoming, Jackson Alumni Chapter meetings, the annual Scholarship Banquet, and bulldog

basketball games. They participate in the events not only to show their support for the university, but to stay connected to friends and have fun.

Michael and Rachel say the financial contributions of others made it possible for them to attend Union. "Although we have no personal relationships with current Union students, we feel it is our responsibility to help afford other students the same opportunities we have had and to invest in their futures," Michael says. "Give something back because others made that possible for you."

Michael is the Broadband Integration Manager for Jackson Energy Authority. Rachel works part-time as a Physical Therapist for LeBonheur Children's Medical Center West Tennessee, but most of her time is spent with their nine month old son, John Michael.

Now Showing!

The Union University Players' annual children's show presents:

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

by Judith Viorst and Shelly Markham

Nov. 15 - Nov. 19

These shows will be during the day for students and adults with only one evening showing. For tickets and additional information, please call the Box Office at 731.661.5105.

The Union Bookshelf

The Quest for Asdin

By Union Professor Randall Bush, Ph.D.



In the quest for Asdin, Sindle embarks on an adventure filled with peril, suspense, marvelous discovery, and the prospect of true love. He and his companions are forced to run a desperate race to save their world from destruction.

To purchase, go to www.QuestforAsdin.com or call 1-866-565-3311.

Emily's Nametag, Cont.

Before I got married, my father reminded me of Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (NIV). I'd always thought that meant, "Be willing to die for your wife." That's easy, I thought, chivalric, even, like a knight in shining armor.

I realize now is that the hard part for men is that we live for our families, not our jobs. Sometimes we should sacrifice our ambition and spend more time at home. Sometimes we need to help out more around the house. We may need to forego golf so that we can watch cartoons with our children. The amazing thing is that in return, we gain relationships with our wives and children.

Over the last few years, I've spoken with many men who were retiring. I asked each of them, "What would you have done differently?" Each one of them said, "I would have spent more time with the kids when they were little. It goes so fast, and then they are gone. And then it's too late."

I made the decision to pursue more time with my family. It took over a year before I really changed my habits, but I found ways to divest myself of my over-investment in work. I worked on my attitude more than anything else. Even something as bold as a job change is useless without a change in attitude.

I still work long hours many weeks, and I'm committed to excellence in my job, but I don't leave all of my energy at work. Instead, I do my best to lie in the floor every evening and let my twins jump on me. Then I let them sit in my lap and joke with me. And when Father's Day rolls around, I know the card won't read coldly, "Father." It will read "Daddy." Or maybe "Gene" with a backwards "n." And I will be reminded that I haven't given up anything. I've gained a lifetime of embraces from my wife and children.

"Emily's Nametag" was awarded a 2004 Amy Foundation Award. This is an excerpt from the original version. Author, Dr. Gene Fant, is Chair of Union University's English Department.

a Blast

FROM THE *Past*

Save the Date!!!!

FEBRUARY 18-19, 2005
HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Your Reunion Retro Weekend at Union University
Call 1-800-338-6644 for more information

UU Sports

Union is fielding a junior varsity soccer program this season for the first time. The team serves as a reserve for the varsity, now in their seventh season of competition. This year's junior varsity team is playing a 10-12 games schedule with 20 players. According to Union's head coach, Dr. Darin White, "This is a great addition to our ever-growing soccer program." White adds, "Soccer has been growing each year and we have been flooded with inquiries about Union soccer." Gary Carter, Senior VP for Business and Financial Services says, "We are hopeful that the junior varsity team will aid us in developing additional soccer facilities on our campus."

Inside the Bubble

The McAfee School of Business Administration is ranked in the top 10 among the nation's best Christian business schools by *Business Reform* magazine.

After 24 years of service to Union, Max Blackman, security officer and former assistant in men's housing, has retired. But you'll still see Max at UU athletic events!

First Doctoral Degree—On Aug. 7 at West Jackson Baptist Church, Union University graduated its first 25 doctoral program graduates in educational leadership. "The initiation of the doctoral program at Union was an obvious first within the university, but it was also a first for West Tennessee," said Dr. Tom Rosebrough, dean of the College of Education and Human Studies. "It is important that West Tennessee people have the option of attending a private university for advanced education."

Henry Blackaby, President of Blackaby Ministries International, spoke to Union donors at the annual Red Carpet Banquet on October 7, and then to students in Chapel, October 8.

Union welcomed 419 freshmen to the Jackson campus this Fall, bringing total enrollment to 2919. In addition, 20 new faculty members were employed.