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THE+LINK

Your Alumni Connection To Union University

Fall 2005 Volume V, No. 1

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Mark Your Calendar!

The Time of Your Life

HOMECOMING 2006

February 17 & 18

Class of 1956 :: 50-Year Reunion

Details Coming Soon...

The LINK Is Going Online

The LINK will be joining the high-tech computer revolution in the near future as an online publication. Get ready for the new electronic version by adding your email address to the list. Go to <http://www.uu.edu/alumni/theLINK>. We want you to stay connected.



Bulldog Pups!

 **Katelyn Elisabeth Branch**
Future Class of 2022

*Daughter of Brian and
Janna Barker ('95) Branch*

*UU Grandparents: Dr. Jerry ('67)
and Judy Watlington ('70) Barker*

UU Uncle: Ken Barker ('00)

Send us a photo of your cutie supporting UU! The best photo will be included in the next "Bulldog Pups" section of the LINK. Send your picture and contact information by Email: wveazey@uu.edu

By Mail: **Wendy Veazey**
Alumni Relations
UNION UNIVERSITY
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305

Rethinking Productivity

Our understanding of "productive" has changed. Before parenthood, Amy and I prided ourselves on efficiently completing long To Do Lists in short periods of time.

However, things are much different now. With a toddler around, life feels like a 45 record being played on 78 speed (for those of you who remember what a record album is!). Life is fast and furious. But when it comes to productivity and accomplishing even the most basic of tasks, it seems just the opposite—we often feel like we are stuck in slow motion.

There was a day when accomplishing dozens of tasks in one day was a breeze, but with 21-month-old Jack we can't get things done like before. Granted, he wants to help do everything, but his kind of help sure does slow things down. He loves to help unload the dishwasher, but taking one fork to the drawer at a time...
(continued inside)



Judy Fletcher

A Message From Your Alumni Association President

First of all, it is with humility and pride that I begin my term as President of the Alumni Association. To my knowledge, I am the first President to have graduated from Union 21 years after graduating from high school! I chose to attend Union to complete my accounting degree while being a wife, mother and working full-time. My diploma is a prized possession! I was in awe of the people I was associated with at Union when I graduated in 1988 and continue to be in awe today. Union

University is not only a beacon in the Jackson community but literally worldwide. It has shaped the lives of thousands of young people (and some, like me, not so young) in the past and we pray will continue to do so for generations to come. We, as alumni, have a vital role in making sure that happens by supporting our university with our gifts and by encouraging prospective students every opportunity we get. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to the exciting times ahead as we strive to carry the Union tradition forward and uphold the standards for which it stands.

Judy Fletcher
Union University National Alumni President
Class of 1988

*Judy is a CPA at Arnold, Spain, Truett, & Hewitt, PLLC in Jackson, TN.
She and her husband, Gil, live in Humboldt.
They have 2 children, Russ and Amy.*

Alumni Spotlight

Steve Gaines, a 1979 Union University graduate, is the new pastor of historic Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn. The 29,000-member church voted July 10 to call Gaines to succeed Adrian Rogers, the church's pastor of 32 years who retired earlier this year.

Gaines and his wife Donna ('80) are active Union alums—hosting recruiting events for the state of Alabama and supporting alumni chapter meetings. The couple has spoken at numerous appearances on Union's campus. Steve currently serves on the Board of Reference. The couple's oldest son Grant graduated from Union in May. Their daughter Lindsey is an incoming freshman at Union this fall. They also have a 15-year-old daughter, Alison, and a 12-year-old daughter, Bethany.



Steve Gaines



Can you think of a student that needs to hear about Union? Go online to www.uu.edu and click on "Be a Dawg Catcher." YOU are our best recruiter!



Jay Watson

Jay Watson ('99) works at Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. Helping to recruit students is one way he demonstrates a commitment to his alma mater.

Rethinking Productivity, Cont.

turns a 5 minute job into a 20 minute project. He insists on helping daddy pick up sticks in the yard—an exercise which seems to take forever when he insists on stopping, stooping, and staring at every bug, rock and leaf along the way. Hauling groceries from the car to the kitchen becomes a test in patience, and when he spills food across the driveway, my thoughts often drift back to our more efficient days of childless living.

Through it all, though, when it comes to our propensity for productivity, we are becoming more and more comfortable with accomplishing less and less.

Jack's naps and bedtimes usually are times for us to accomplish tasks, but the other night, I tip-toed into his room simply to watch him sleeping. As I stood there in the darkness, I was hit by what's really important in life. Who cares if a fork is placed in the "wrong" drawer? What difference does it make if unloading the dishwasher takes "too long"? So what if a fallen branch is not placed "perfectly" on the pile?

Sometimes we become so focused on productivity that we place more importance on products than we do on people. Everyone says children grow like weeds, but as a parent I feel like I'm the one growing. At our house, productivity is no longer evaluated by the nature and number of our completed tasks, but by the desired character of our child. Time will tell, but we believe the seemingly unproductive investments of parenting will one day pay off.

Todd E. Brady ('92)
Minister to the University



Todd Brady Family

UU SPORTS

The construction of a new lighted soccer field with Blue Tag Certified T-10 Bermuda turf is close to completion. Also in the works is a new 18,000-square foot field house to support the soccer teams, men's baseball and women's softball teams. The facility will include a 9,000-square foot turf room, locker rooms and showers for each home and visiting team, coaches offices and an athletic training room. In addition, Union has launched a women's soccer program. Funding for the soccer program and the field house has been provided by gifts from university friends and the athletic booster club. The lead gift of \$500,000 was provided by Benny and Norma Fesmire and the Fesmire Foundation. Union is seeking additional donations. If you would like to help fund these athletic projects, call Tommy Sadler at 731.661.5218.

We want to hear from you! Provide us with interesting stories to share in future publications. Mail your news to the alumni office or email Wendy Veazey at wveazey@uu.edu

Save The Date!

Bring a prospective student with you and call your friends to make sure they've signed up! Contact 1.800.338.6644 or Gary Williams (gwilliam@uu.edu) to tell us you hope to attend.

NASHVILLE AREA WIDE

Date: Saturday, October 1, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Baptist Children's Home
Hosts: Mike and Trish Weeks

HENRY COUNTY

Date: Tuesday, October 18, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Paris, TN
Hosts: Brad and Angie Ridgeway

TBC ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DINNER

Date: Tuesday, November 15, 5:00 p.m.
Location: Clarksville, TN @ Riverview Inn

WEAKLEY COUNTY

Date: Tuesday, October 11, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Martin, TN
Hosts: David and Carol Stephan

NORTHEAST MS

Date: Monday, October 17, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Tupelo, MS
Hosts: Larry and Sandra Ray

HOUSTON AND ATLANTA AREA WIDE: TBA

Inside the Bubble

Union University has been named one of the South's top tier universities for the ninth straight year by U.S. News & World Report.

A new doctor of education degree in educational leadership began this summer at Union. Call 731.661.5523 if you are interested in upcoming classes.

Dr. Bob Agee ('60), president emeritus of Oklahoma Baptist University and former Union administrator is directing Union's new master in Christian studies degree. For information about the program, call 731.661.5160 or go to www.uu.edu/dept/christud/MCS.

Prison Fellowship Founder and Chairman of the Board, Chuck Colson was back at Union this Fall speaking on September 22 to students and the community.

On September 27th former Senate Majority Leader and U.S. Presidential candidate Robert Dole was the keynote speaker for Union's Ninth Annual Scholarship Banquet