

Germantown News

The Germantown campus of Union is thriving! A wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses are offered at this campus in the departments of Business Administration, Christian Studies, Computing Services, Continuing Studies, Education, and Nursing. Many Union graduates have returned to serve at the Germantown campus:

- **Dr. Jimmy Davis ('70)**, Vice President of the Germantown campus, has been faithfully serving Union since 1978.
- **Thomas ('06) and Kat Cooper ('04)** serve in Union's various nursing programs along with fellow alum **Connie Cupples ('05)**.
- **Keelan Cook ('04) and Stephanie Morris ('04)** fulfill many roles at the Germantown campus, he as coordinator of Continuing Studies and she as Administrative Assistant for the Academic Center.
- **Don Holsinger ('03)** serves as coordinator of the Master of Business Administration program.
- **Beth Poyner ('89)** serves as program coordinator for the Education department.
- **Mykle Harchfield ('03)** serves as both receptionist and campus financial aid representative.



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THE+LINK

Your Alumni Connection To Union University

Spring 2007

A Message From Your National Alumni President

As I reflect on the time since the last issue of the Link, the first thought that comes to mind is Homecoming. What an awesome weekend! The Lord blessed us with absolutely perfect fall weather. The fellowship and food were wonderful, not to mention seeing some outstanding basketball games. The transition from February to November went very well. I am already looking forward to our next

Homecoming and I pray that you will start making your plans to participate November 2-3, 2007. I ask too that you continue to support Union with your gifts. There are so many exciting things going on and if



Judy Fletcher

you get an opportunity to visit the campus you can see your gifts in action. We are so fortunate to have the administration, faculty, staff and student body that we have and we praise God for them and the example they set not only for our immediate area but literally around the world. God is GOOD and He is at work on the campus of Union University.

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.



HOMECOMING *Snapshots*

Homecoming 2006 celebrated a successful move to November! The crisp fall air was a welcome change from previous years of ice and snow. Union alumni were able to enjoy a wonderful time of reunion and fellowship. Here are a few glimpses of Homecoming 2006, "A New Twist on Tradition."

1 Class of '57

The Class of 1957 celebrated their 50th reunion this year. They were recognized during the Homecoming Chapel, after which they took a tour of the downtown campus, led by Ramona Mercer.

2 Petting Zoo

Another first for Union's Homecoming was a tailgating party before the game. There was a petting zoo and games for the kids, and the fraternities and sororities on campus provided the food.

3 Arts in the Park

Arts in the Park was a new event held this year. Union alumni artists were invited back to campus to showcase and sell their artwork. There was a wide variety

of artwork, including jewelry, pottery, paintings, even purses.

4 Alumni Awards

The Alumni Awards banquet was held on Friday night of Homecoming. Those honored were Dr. Jimmy Davis, '70, Dr. Raymond "Buddy" Boston, '60, Dr. Donald Webb, '42, Dr. David S. Dockery, and Ms. Andrea Leigh McDaniel, '00.

5 Basketball Game

Union's basketball season was off to a great start with the Homecoming game. The Lady Bulldogs defeated St. Gregory's University 86-37, while the men's team beat Olivet Nazarene University 83-65.

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Save the Date!

Alumni Chapter Meetings:

Knoxville
April 10 @ 6:30
Hosted by Dr. Walter & Linda Taylor

Chattanooga
April 12 @ 7:00
Hosted by Ken & Stacy Hartley

Orlando
April 17 @ 6:30
Hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Hut McCorkle

Crockett County
April 19 @ 6:30
Hosted by Ms. Pat Sims

Paducah
April 23 @ 6:30
Hosted by Dr. Gary & Julie Bodnarchuck

Louisville
May 7 @ 7:00
Hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ransdell

Jackson
April 27 @ 6:30
Hosted by Ben & Sherry Fesmire

Southern Baptist Convention

Location: San Antonio, Texas Dates: June 11 - 13, 2007
Join us for the Union University Dessert Reception, Tuesday June 12 @ 8:30 p.m.



Welcome Aboard!



Allie Campbell

Union University's Alumni Services team welcomes its newest member, Allie Campbell, as the Director of Annual Support and Alumni Relations. Allie graduated from Union in 2005 with a degree in Theatre Education. She is no stranger to Union; her father, Bob Campbell, is a member of the Class of '76 and serves on the Board of Trustees. Allie will be working on the Link and would love your comments, stories, or suggestions for future editions. Please e-mail your thoughts to her at acampbel@uu.edu.



Don't Miss
Homecoming
2007!
NOVEMBER 2 - 3



My granddad grew up in rural Mississippi, and he once told me that his folks moved anytime they could see the smoke from a neighbor's chimney. That smoke meant that the world was getting too small. I chuckle about that now; from our back patio I can count seventeen roofs, each with its own chimney. The world is indeed small, and it grows smaller daily. I can pop on the Internet and visit almost anywhere in the world. I keep up with former students in Kenya, China, and Nicaragua. Travel is easy as well; in one week last fall, I met with folks from China, Norway, Poland, England, South Africa, and The Republic of Georgia! And that was without leaving Jackson!

FEAR The world is small indeed, and yet there has been another change. In my childhood, we were free to roam after school. I remember fondly getting off the school bus and rushing to change clothes, heading immediately outdoors. I had only to watch for the back light of the house to come on, which meant it was time to eat. No cell phones, no "keep where I can see you," no fences to rein me in. How strange it is that as the world has grown smaller, the places where we feel safe have grown so small as well? We barely feel safe anymore with our children playing in our fenced backyard!

By Dr. Gene Fant

Dr. Gene Fant serves as the Acting Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Union University as well as Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of English

The news doesn't help. The world-ranging media bring us reports that horrify us, from school shootings to unspeakable child abuse. As parents we hear about a twisted monster in

another state and it frightens us because we know that there are warped people living everywhere.

And yet, we cannot live lives of fear. We cannot become paralyzed by the apparent randomness of the world's villains. We cannot lock ourselves indoors or teach our children to cower from passing strangers. Fear simply magnifies the sense of power that these villains possess. It gives them the upper hand. It gives them confidence. Confidence is one of the highest character goals that my wife and I have for our children. We want for them to be bold in the defense of their ideas and their passions, as well as in their defense of the defenseless. Confidence is the antidote

to fear, both within persons and against the tyranny of the terrors that we behold with so many clicks of the remote control or turns of the newspaper page.

As Christians we can lead lives of confidence because we know that we are not in charge of the universe: God is. This fallen world generates chaos and disaster, but in spite of this, God still is in control and we can rely on his sovereignty. As the Psalmist says, "I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all fears" (34:4, NIV). Our trust in God, our relationship with him, delivers us from all fears, even in a world that seems so graceless and cruel.



Gene Fant

Alumni Spotlight

April & Adam Houston - Class of '05

On so many occasions, we see atrocities on the news or read about them in the paper, and think "Wow, I wish there was something I could do to help." Then we continue with our daily lives and forget what we saw. That wasn't the case for April and Adam Houston, two Union graduates who decided to make a difference.

April and Adam met during their first week at Union, when they were placed in the same group for freshmen orientation. After graduating in 2005, they stayed in Jackson, where she works as a videographer and he as a graphic designer.

When April learned about the conflict in the Darfur region of western Sudan, she was astounded by the facts. Over 400,000 deaths since 2003, more than 2 million people forced to flee their homes and millions more at the mercy of an oblivious world. "I just couldn't believe that this had been going on for three years and I hadn't heard anything about it." That was when she decided to do her part to raise awareness and support for this cause.

April and Adam began to design t-shirts to raise awareness. When they started, they set what they considered to be a

"lofty goal" of selling 100 shirts and raising \$500. They utilized internet networks, MySpace.com and Facebook.com to get their message out. Before they had received their first order of t-shirts, they had already sold out. They sold shirts at Union for a week during lunch and raised \$900 from students and faculty. Since they began this campaign in September of 2006, they have sold over 400 shirts and

raised \$2,000, which they donated to four different relief agencies. When asked about the impact that they have had through this effort, Adam says "This wasn't about us - this was totally a God-thing. We just kind of jumped on board."

So what is next? They will continue selling shirts and stickers online, and are looking into planning an event for the Jackson area. If you would like to learn more about this cause or support their efforts, please visit their website at www.savingdarfur.etsy.com.



Adam and April Houston



CAMPUS MAIL

This past Fall, Union celebrated a record enrollment of more than 3,100 students!

White Hall is nearing completion! This state-of-the-art science building, which will house biology, chemistry and nursing will be ready for classes in the fall of 2007. Join us for the dedication on May 11, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

Union family and friends gathered at West Jackson Baptist Church on December 16, 2006 to celebrate Winter Graduation. There were 242 students who graduated during this ceremony.

Dr. Jerry Tidwell joins Union's staff as Senior Vice President for Church Relations. Dr. Tidwell comes to us from Ellendale Baptist Church in Bartlett, TN and has previously served as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, as a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and as chairman of Union's Board of Trustees.

The Union University Board of Trustees decided recently to pursue the building of a new residence hall after current housing reached its capacity. The new residence hall should be completed by fall 2008.



The Union Bookshelf

- *Renewing Minds: Serving Church & Society Through Christian Higher Education* by Dr. David S. Dockery, scheduled for release in September, 2007
- *C.S. Lewis Remembered* by Dr. Harry Lee Poe & Rebecca Whitten Poe
- *The Election* by Jerome Teel
- *52 Words Every Christian Should Know* by Dr. Ken Easley



UU Sports

The 2006-07 athletic season at Union University began with outstanding performances from each of the five fall sports. In fact, each of the fall teams at Union advanced to at least the NAIA Region XI Tournaments. First year head coach Clovis Simas helped lead the men's soccer team to the region tournament and their highest NAIA ranking ever at No. 9. The men's soccer team finished the year 10-4-2. The women's cross country team captured their fourth straight conference title and also won their first ever NAIA Region XI Championship. The women's cross country team advanced for the first time as a team to the NAIA National Tournament, after sending numerous individual qualifiers over the past several years. The men's cross country team won their third straight TranSouth Conference championship and sent three runners to the NAIA National Tournament as Individual Qualifiers. In just the second season of varsity competition, the women's soccer team posted a winning record at 10-8 and also advanced to the region tournament for the first time. Second year head volleyball coach Steven Gream returned his volleyball team to the region tournament, finishing the season with a 27-10 record.

The basketball teams opened the season with high rankings as the Union Lady Bulldogs were preseason ranked No. 1 by the NAIA. Union's men's basketball team ranked No. 5 in the preseason polls. Both teams posted great seasons once again.

This spring, the Union baseball team opened play on February 2. The softball team opened their season shortly thereafter on February 20. The defending TranSouth champion men's golf team opened play for their spring schedule on February 26.