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Janice Thomason  
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### Upcoming Union Events

A Thankful Christmas at Union  
Thursday, November 19 - 7:00 p.m.

We will soon be announcing an exciting event for the Spring.  
Please hold April 13th, 2021 and check our website  
for more information.

For more information and  
other upcoming events, visit [uu.edu/events](https://uu.edu/events).

The Union University Department of Music  
*presents*

*A Thankful*  
**CHRISTMAS**  
— AT UNION —

**NOV. 19 | 7PM**  
G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel

# DIFFERENCE

Union Auxiliary Newsletter



UNION UNIVERSITY  
The Union Auxiliary

Fall 2020 Vol.22 No.1



Pro-life advocate and author Abby Johnson addressed the Union University Auxiliary (Photo by Kristi Woody)

## PRO-LIFE ADVOCATE ABBY JOHNSON URGES BELIEVERS TO 'WORK TO SAVE EACH AND EVERY ONE'

The Union University Auxiliary hosted "An Evening with Abby Johnson" in the G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel on Tuesday, Sept. 1. Johnson is a pro-life advocate and author of the award-winning book, "Unplanned," which has been adapted into a movie of the same title.

"Unplanned" chronicles both Johnson's experiences during her eight-year career at Planned Parenthood and her dramatic exit in 2009 after assisting with an ultrasound-guided abortion and witnessing a 13-week baby fight for and lose its life.

Almost a million abortions are performed every year in the United States, Johnson said, and almost 60 percent of those women claim to be Christians. Christians could blame this on everybody else, she said, but "no, church, this is on us." Johnson said she is committed to speaking the one and only truth — the truth of Jesus Christ.

"[God] put you here for one reason and one reason alone, and that was to evangelize his gospel, and part of his gospel is the gospel of life," she said.

Johnson talked about that day she helped with the ultrasound-guided abortion that changed her life. She remembers looking down at her hands and realizing how powerful the works of a person's hands can be. Christians can use their hands for good or evil, and Johnson said she has done both. She swore that day she would never use her hands for evil again. A Christian's commitment to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ could save a life, Johnson said — not just a physical life, but an eternal life.

"Don't take that responsibility lightly — embrace it, use it, serve, act, sacrifice," she said. "Be assured that we're not speaking from a place where one day we hope to see victory. No, we are speaking from a place where we are assured of that victory. But let us commit that until that day of victory comes, we will work to save each and every one."

Union Auxiliary President and First Lady Susie Oliver said that 236 students have received Auxiliary scholarships over the past 22 years, and the Auxiliary has given \$240,101 to those students.

"Your gift is making a difference, it's making a kingdom difference, and I can't think of a better investment than that," Oliver said.



# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2020-2021



## Muna Al-Hagal

Muna chose Union as a transfer student from West Kentucky Community and Technical College. She visited twice and Union felt like home to her. Her major is Digital Media Communications and she desires to use digital media to connect with people across the globe. As an active member of many activities on campus, she loves connecting with people at Union, as well as, the community at large. She works closely with Professor Steve Beverly and has felt such encouragement. She has grown in her strengths and improved upon her weaknesses. She feels Union has truly prepared her for the future.



## Chandra Austin-Crosby

Chandra chose Union for many reasons, but one of the most pressing was the strong presence of faith and community on campus. Her major is Accounting and Finance, which combines her love of numbers and math, with the interest of currency exchange. Dr. Santhosh Abraham has been a friendly force in her life who encourages her to see the journey as just as important as the final destination. As one of Union's cheer team, Chandra really enjoyed seeing their hard work pay off for the game on ESPN.



## Austin Brown

Austin chose Union because of the excellence-driven academics and the strong communal atmosphere. After exploring other possible majors, he chose a Business Administration major with a concentration in Economics. He was influenced to choose his major by Dr. Chris Manner's class "Microeconomics" and by seeing Dr. Manner's love, passion, and enthusiasm for the subject. As a freshman, Austin was able to travel to Chicago with his Honors Beauty class. This trip really helped solidify the special place Union is and allowed him the freedom to explore the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Contemporary Art.



## Raymond Chahyadi

Raymond chose Union as an international student because of its emphasis on academic rigor, as well as, cultivating Christian community. As an Economics and Political Science major, Raymond desires to know how the world functions so he can make a significant impact. Dr. Chris Manner truly challenged and excited him through his teaching. Raymond believes that Union is not only a university, but a place where students can truly grow and establish a foundation for changing the world.



## Cara Dennis

Cara chose Union because of the instant sense of belonging she felt on her campus visit. She chose her Nursing major after experiencing the blessing of gifted nurses firsthand. As a young girl she was diagnosed with scoliosis, after wearing a back brace for 16 hours a day for several years, she underwent surgery to correct her spine. The nurses took excellent care of her, solidifying the desire within her to pursue the same career path. Her mother has always been her biggest role model and has instilled in her the need for hard work and a compassion-centered purpose. Union has strengthened her values.



## Jodee George

Jodee chose Union because it felt like home, a place where she belonged. Her advisor, Dr. Trent, has been a great role model for her during her time at Union. The biggest takeaway from her time at Union has been the spiritual growth she has experienced. She desires to know the Lord more each day and attributes that to her friends at Union as well as her professors.



## John Martinez

John chose Union because he saw that the Christ-centeredness was real. Through interacting with Dr. Dub during freshmen move-in weekend, he really saw his desire to embody Christ and serve the students. As a Business Management major he has the desire to help people pursue excellence in their businesses. Coming to Union as a new

Christian, Joe Ball has mentored him and help him to navigate different aspects of the Christian life. Abraham's Altar was a truly amazing experience for him. Between the worship and testimony time, he saw the student body come together under the authority of Christ.



## Joya Schrock

After being homeschooled for much of her life, Joya chose Union because the university embodies the core values of being excellence-driven, Christ-centered, people-focused, and future-directed. As a Math major with a minor in Actuarial Science, she desires to come alongside non-profit organizations and aid them in becoming financially stable. Dr.

Tory Riggs has been extremely patient and helpful in her journey to find her major and be excited about her future.



## Andrew Waddey

As a transfer student Andrew came to Union for many reasons: his desire to grow as a follower of Christ, to be challenged academically, and to follow in his parents' footsteps. He is an Accounting major and has been passionate about business for as long as he can remember. Robbie Graves was instrumental in bringing Andrew to Union. He helped immensely with the

admission process and made it affordable for Andrew to attend Union. As a Life Group leader he has gotten to pour into new students and feel the joy in helping them transition to their journeys at Union.



## Sandra Elizabeth Allen

Sandra toured Union eight times before making her choice. She chose her major of History Education because she loves the subject. Her history and theatre teacher in the 11th grade, Ms. Hodge, inspired her to choose her major because she had a love and passion for history that Sandra had yearned for. Sandra wants to become like Ms. Hodge and go back

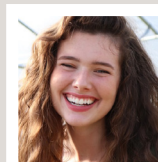
to where she grew up and make history interesting and important to students. Dr. Jill Henderson helped Sandra by sharing some of her life experiences in the class, Learning in Diverse Classrooms.



## Samuel Christopher Barkman

Samuel has wanted to be a P.E. teacher since first grade. He was very excited to see that Union had a Physical Education program. One special memory he has of his time at Union was when he was headed to the library to study and met Dr. Dub leaving the library. He stopped to talk with Samuel. He asked if Samuel had anything big coming up that week. Samuel told

him that he had a couple exams later that week. One week later, after chapel, Dr. Dub asked Samuel how his exams had gone. It was a huge confirmation that Union is a place that is committed to loving others with Jesus' love. It really meant a lot to Samuel to know that the president of the university was willing to take time out of his schedule to stop and talk with students.



## Hannah Crimmins

Hannah chose to attend Union University as a transfer student. At Union, she sees faculty seeking to commit their students to Christ in prayer as well as push them to glorify him in every aspect of this life. Hannah has been able to form vital relationships with Union faculty and has found (cont'd.)

students to grow in Christ with. When choosing her major, her mom showed her the TESOL major that Union offers. She did some research and realized that Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages sounded fascinating because she always felt a call to the nations but was unsure in what capacity the Lord was calling her to serve after high school. The thought of teaching English to students excites her. She loves language and learning about unique cultures. Dr. Phillip Ryan, director of intercultural studies, influenced her life by showing her what a successful teacher and mentor should be like. He points his students to Christ and seeks to ensure their success in the TESOL program.



## Mary English

Mary chose Union because, unlike other universities, she was more than a number or name on a roster. She was seen as potential. The faculty and staff saw her for not only who she was, but for who she could become. When she arrived on campus, she found that Union was everything it was advertised to be: Excellence-Driven, Christ-Centered, People-Focused, and Future-Directed. As she got further into her studies at Union, she discovered the communications department faculty was careful with intention, driven with excellence, and bountiful in application of the Lord's word. Mary had the privilege of working for Fran Thomas beginning in the summer of 2019 to the present. During this time, she has had a significant impact on Mary's life. She has a saying, "we can do hard things." This is now something Mary lives by.



## Shannon Fowler

Shannon is a Physical Education and Health major. She grew up being very active and she wants to help others which fits well with this profession. Her hope is that every child she teaches can say they have an activity that they enjoy and can grow in. Dr. Julie Powell is Shannon's adviser and she has gone out of her way to help and encourage Shannon. One of her favorite memories from her years at Union is being a life group leader and mentor to incoming freshman. Being able to establish a relationship and bond with the incoming students has been amazing and fun.



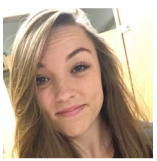
## Victoria Grace Kersey

Victoria chose Union because she wanted an education from a strong academic university that integrated faith into all aspects of learning. She chose her major, Social Work, because the Lord gave her a passion for children and a burden for people in need. Her family adopted a 7-year-old boy from Honduras six years ago and after she went on four mission trips to Honduras, she developed a love for children in need. She has learned from Professor Mary Anne Poe in both Social and Economic Justice and Faith-Based Social Services classes. Dean Poe has challenged Victoria's preconceptions and shaped her thoughts of how to truly help others. She has helped Victoria to better



## Amy Joy Linser

Amy chose Union because the education and classes are highly rated, but ultimately, it was because Union includes God in her education journey. After applying to a Christian university, she couldn't even apply to a secular school. After being asked in Union's application how God's calling in her life played a role in her education, she realized how much she wanted college to encourage her in her faith. She chose her major, Nursing, because she visited church members in the hospital with her father when she was very young and saw how much a smiling and encouraging face meant to people who were having difficult times and how much comfort God could bring to them.



## Grace Peightel

Grace chose Union University because she attended Summit Ministries in 2018 at Union. During this time, she had the opportunity to meet the professors who spoke at the conference, stay in the dorm rooms, eat at Brewer Dining Hall, and hang-out with like-minded students. Throughout these two weeks every conversation she had with an incoming student or faculty member was inspiring. She is a music major and is currently studying, guitar, piano, and primarily cello. She has always loved music and was completely self-taught until college. Dr. Kinchen, who is the Dean of the Music Department, really helped her see clearly how God was calling her into music.



## Mary Katelyn Simpson

Mary chose Union because she believed it had something to offer her that other schools did not: community. Professors she met with seemed to genuinely care about her life, dreams, and goals. She became a Music major because music composition is a gift she believes God has given her to steward. One Union faculty member who has influenced Mary's life was her seminar instructor for her freshman honors class, Professor Joy Moore. Like many of her other professors, she taught her class very well, encouraged camaraderie and discussion among classmates, and created a love for the beautiful and simple things in life that 18-year-olds sometimes tend to zoom past in all the hustle of becoming adults. Professor Moore encouraged her students to continue coming to office hours after the class ended.



## Ashley Nicole Thompson

Ashley chose Union because of the high academic standards and spiritual focus. When she visited Union, the positive atmosphere and welcoming staff were unlike any other college that she had considered. She is an Art major because she is passionate about art and she wants to teach

it. God is the ultimate Creator and she is thankful that Union teaches art from a Christian perspective. Ms. Tignor influenced her life by guiding her through a time when she was uncertain about her career direction. Ashley's meetings with Ms. Tignor gave her the knowledge and confidence to pursue her passion and calling, while also providing her with a sense of belonging before she joined the art department.



## Alexis Tinsley

Alexis has known from a very young age that her goal was to become a doctor; however, like most high school seniors, she had no idea where she wanted to go to achieve that goal. She wanted a university that was small (so she could build connections with her professors), but not too small. She wanted a university that would push her both academically and in her walk with Christ. She wanted to be more than just a number and she wanted to make an impact at the university she attended. One Sunday, she shared her college search experience with a close family friend at church and he told her that she needed to go visit a college in Jackson, Tennessee, called Union University. Being from Missouri, she had never even heard about Union but for some reason it was heavy on her heart to visit. Upon visiting, she completely fell in love with the campus and the atmosphere that surrounded it. She remembers looking at her mom and stating, "Everyone is so nice here!" She got to meet with several different professors and faculty members who made her feel loved and welcomed.



## Gabrielle Mirabella

Gabrielle chose Union because of Union's Christian core values. She had a different college as her top pick; however, during a campus visit in her 10th grade year, she saw the beautiful campus, the friendly people, the incredible academic programs, and an environment where she saw herself thriving. She prayed about attending Union and God continued to open doors for her to attend. Gabrielle wants to become a Physician Assistant, specializing in pediatrics. She would like to work in a pediatric or family clinic, where she can help children and families improve their health. Gabrielle is a General Biology major and a Psychology minor, with an emphasis on Pre-PA studies. She feels that her zoology professor, Dr. Jeremy Blaschke, has been an incredible professor and a great influence in her life.

Join the Auxiliary today!

To become a member or renew your membership  
visit our website at [uu.edu/auxiliary](http://uu.edu/auxiliary)  
or contact Vickie Yancey at 731.661.5203.