

2007
Union Auxiliary
Membership Application

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If you are making a memorial gift,
please list the honoree.

If you would like to join a com-
mittee, please specify below:

Enroll me at the following level:

- ___ Ethel Watters Scholarship Circle, \$1,000
___ Mary Jean Craig Scholarship Circle, \$500
___ Joyce Barefoot Scholarship Circle, \$250
___ Partner, \$25+
___ Named Endowment Fund, \$10,000+

Make checks payable to The Union Auxiliary.

You may mail your gift to:
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1050 Union University Drive
Box 1804
Jackson, TN 38305



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1050 Union University Drive
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Annual Spring Luncheon

Noon, Wednesday, April 25

The Difference

The Union Auxiliary Newsletter

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An Interview with Kimberly Thornbury

Note: Union University Dean of Students Kimberly Thornbury will be the speaker at the next Union Auxiliary luncheon Wednesday, April 25.

Tell us a little bit of your background. Where did you grow up, where did you attend school, what did you study -- those kinds of things?

I grew up in Northern New Jersey. After graduating from Governor Livingston High School, I attended Messiah College in Pennsylvania. It was there I met my husband, Greg, initially while working together at the college Christian radio station.

We were married very shortly after graduation, and the day we returned from our honeymoon we packed a van and headed to The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where Greg began his Master of Divinity degree. During his time at Southern, I worked in the Student Life Office and also completed my master's degree in higher education administration at the University of Louisville.

After completing that degree, I began my Ph.D. in organizational leadership with a focus on higher education administration through Regent University and finished a few years ago. Greg also completed his Ph.D. the day before our first daughter was born (and she was 10 days late - how

thoughtful of her!). Meanwhile, we moved to begin our positions at Union University in 1999 and now have two beautiful daughters, so we have been busy!

Why did you decide to pursue a career working with college students?

I think that working in higher education is in my genes. My mother, Dr. Carolyn Carmichael, is a lifelong college professor, and my father, Dr. John Carmichael, was a president of two large community colleges in the Northeast, and still teaches business and marketing at the college level. My sister is the director of citizenship and service learning at a large Midwestern university, so again, I don't think I could have escaped it!

What are some of the challenges of your job?

First of all, I have to say that I absolutely love what I do. All day I am allowed to provide opportunities, resources and solutions for students and their families. I enjoy talking with students about how a dynamic faith with Christ impacts both daily decisions (e.g. How will I treat my roommates today? How will I manage my time to prepare for this exam?) as well as future dreams (e.g. How might God use my degree in accounting? What does Christian leadership look like?)

Probably the most challenging part of my time is not being able to spend as much one-on-one time with all the



students. The amount of administration and "behind the scenes" work in my job is substantial. But I enjoy that as well because we are always trying to examine what we do (e.g. policies, events) to see how we can make them a better experience for our students.

At the Auxiliary luncheon, you'll be speaking about some of the characteristics of today's college students. Can you give a small preview of what listeners can expect to hear?

I am really looking forward to the luncheon. I will talk about the seven characteristics of the millennial generation (those born between 1982 and 2002) who are currently in college now. Specifically, those characteristics include a generation of students who can be seen as special, sheltered, confident, team-oriented, conventional, pressured and achieving.

We will also talk about how those characteristics have had some very specific implications for Union University. The lecture will hopefully benefit parents or grandparents of the millennial students, and even help women understand the characteristics of that age group in their church.

Union at a Glance



Arica Ward sings with Choral Union during "A Union Christmas"



Michelle Lawrence, English graduate, and Heather Phillips, art graduate ham it up before the fall graduation ceremony.



President Dockery presents Emily Cox with the Robert E. Craig Service Award during fall graduation. Mrs. Cox is a charter member of the Union Auxiliary.



Rachael Moore gives a child a big hug during the SAC Carl Perkins' Christmas Party.



Kellie Sneddon and Charley Moss weed out garden beds at The Care Center near downtown Jackson as a part of the Day of Remembrance.



First Lady Lanese Dockery cheers on the Lady Bulldogs during the homecoming basketball game against St. Gregory's University, OK.





From the President

The Spring semester is off to a wonderful start. The students were thrilled to have a “snow day,” which for most was a play day during the first week of the semester. We are pleased to report a record spring enrollment, for which we give thanks to God. David and I were able to attend the 31st Annual Presidents’ Conference in Washington, D.C. Provost Carla Sanderson and Union grad Josh Trent (’01), who now serves in a key role in a government agency, were both featured speakers at the conference.

Christmas was extra special for the Auxiliary this year with wonderful gatherings for both the International Students and the Students of Missionaries. Sandra Williams opened her home for one of the best attended dinners we’ve had with the International Students. Charles and Sandra Fowler helped to host the Christmas dinner with the Students of Missionaries at our home. The students seemed to enjoy the warm atmosphere. It was a pleasant time for all of us. I want to thank so many of you who participated in contributions of food or gifts toward the “finals bags,” which were put together by Sue Smith and Sandra Fowler.

The date of the Spring Luncheon has been changed to April 25. At the Spring luncheon we would like to

encourage many of you to serve on either the International Students or Students of Missionaries committee. We have 73 students of Missionaries and 33 International Students that we are adopting and serving during the semester. We will provide cards for you to sign up for service on these committees at the luncheon.

How exciting it is to announce a new endowed scholarship for the Auxiliary. Keith and Beverly Absher have provided a generous gift to endow a scholarship for students in the business school, where Keith serves as Dean. Beverly is Director of Union’s Continuing Studies program. We are indeed thankful for their desire to prepare the way for future Union students. Total scholarship gifts given through the Auxiliary now exceed \$283,000. We thank God for this provision and pray for the students who will benefit from these gifts.

Kimberly Thornbury, Dean of Students at Union, will be our Spring luncheon speaker. Her focus will be on “Millennials,” the current generation of university students. Kimberly’s insights will help us all understand how to better serve these wonderful students. Looking forward to seeing you at the luncheon.

Warmly,

James



Auxiliary members enjoying their lunch at the Fall Luncheon.



Fall Luncheon Speaker, Katherine Dunn, founder and president of the Atlanta School of Protocol and Etiquette.



Union Auxiliary Totals: Membership - 210 Gift Contributions - over \$283,000

Union Auxiliary Receives 4th Endowed Scholarship

The Keith and Beverly Absher Auxiliary Endowed Scholarship has been established through the Union Auxiliary in order to foster Christian higher education for students at Union University.

Dr. Keith Absher is the Dean of the McAfee School of Business Administration at Union University. He received an undergraduate degree from Jacksonville State University, graduate degrees from both Jacksonville State and the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Absher is currently Chair of the Board of Directors of Leadership Jackson, serves on the Tennessee Marketing Council, the Tennessee River Trails Advisory Board, and the President’s Cabinet and Career Services Advisory Board for Union University. Before coming to Jackson, he was active in the Shoals Area Chamber of Commerce, facilitating strategic planning and leadership development, and conducting numerous economic impact studies for the Arts and industrial development. He was also a consultant for the Shoals Economic Development Authority (SEDA), on the Board of Directors of the Shoals Entrepreneurial Center, and part of the Leadership Council for “Shoals Unlimited,” facilitating strategic planning for the two-county area, involving thirteen municipalities.

Beverly Absher is currently Director of the Continuing Studies Department and Program Director of the BSOL program at Union University. Previously, she was the Director of Human Resources for the University. Mrs. Absher graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. Degree in Accounting, and also completed a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of North Alabama. She expects to complete a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Union University this summer. She has taught numerous subjects as an adjunct faculty member for the American Institute of Banking and the University of North Alabama, including Marketing, Finance, Management, Economics, and Oral and Written Communications. As a trainer and facilitator, she has led meetings in diverse areas including Strategic Planning, Foundations of Leadership, Professionalism and Business Etiquette, and Humor in the Workplace.

Mrs. Absher is a Past President of the American Institute of Banking, Financial Women International, Business and Professional Women, and the University of North Alabama National Alumni Association. The Shoals Valley Group of Financial Women International named her the “1990-91 Woman of the Year” in 1991. In 1995, she was selected as the “Alabama Business Person of the Year” by the state chapters of Phi Beta Lambda, and in 1996, she was awarded the “Community Service Award” by The University of North Alabama National Alumni Association.

In 2004, Keith and Beverly Absher were jointly named “2004 Shoals Area Citizens of the Year”.



Upcoming Events

Annual Spring Luncheon

Noon, Wednesday, April 25
Coburn Dining Room

Speaker: Dr. Kimberly Thornbury
Tickets \$12 each
Lunch and door prizes included.
Contact Cindy at 661-5202 for more information.

Scholarship Committee Meeting

10:00 am, Tuesday, May 8
Robert Craig Conference Room

Annual Fall Luncheon

Noon, Thursday, October 11
Coburn Dining Room

Speaker to be announced.
Lunch and door prizes will be provided.

The Union Auxiliary notes with deepest regret and sympathy the deaths of the following members since the Auxiliary’s Inception:

Ethel Watters
Marie Nowell
Dorothy S. Luckey
Polly Glover
Mary Evelyn Patton
Martha Britt
Ruth Gibbons

Union Auxiliary Officers and Committees 2006-2008

Executive Committee Members

<i>President</i>	
Lanese Dockery	660-2544
<i>Vice President for Programs</i>	
Nelle Agee	660-3594
<i>Vice President for Membership</i>	
Dot Leathers	668-5034
<i>Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer</i>	
Zan Holmes	668-1240
<i>Recording Secretary/Historian</i>	
Cindy Meredith	661-5202

Joyce Barefoot Scholarship Circle

Wendy Adams, Jane Alderson, Joyce Barefoot, Christine Bates, Louise Bentley, Rachel Blankinship, Patsy Boswell, Katrina Bradfield, Joann Breedlove, Jean Brown, Mary Brumley, Pamela Burleson, Mary Burrow, Sherry Caldwell, Nikki Castles, Carolyn Clements, Junelee Davidson, Janet Dismuke, Laura Duduit, Emily Dunn, Florence Elliot, Brooke Emery, Martha Jane Exum, Sherry Fesmire, Marigene Forrester, Sandra Fowler, Sherry Freeman, Dot Gee, Janice Hailey, Danice Haltom, Sandra Hathcox, Martha Hays, MaryAnn Hodge, Mary Ruth Humdley, Wilma Hundley, Susan Jacob, Dean Jacobs, Marketia Jenkins, Marilyn Jett, Vicki Lake, Pamela Lang, Shirley Lawler, Dot Leathers, Kina Mallard, Marvis McCallum, Louise Lynch Mills, Carol Moore, Belinda Moss, Dottie Myatt, Pat Nelson, Nancy Palmer, Amy Parker, Janette Pate, Mary J. Pate, Demetra Perkins, Jean Pinkley, Mary Anne Poe, Luanne Powell, Melanie Rickman, Tammy Ross, Carla Sanderson, Ann Singleton, Elsie Smith, Penney Smith, Regina Smith, Lisa Taylor, Sue Ann Templeton, Geraldine Thomas, Janice Thomason, Susan Thomason, Joy Nell Truex, Peggy Veazey, Bev Vos, Walterine Wilson, Ruth Yates

Mary Jean Craig Scholarship Circle

Jean Allmon, Joyce Archer, Suzanne Barham, Kathy Bates, Jackie Bobbitt, Ann Boston, Martha Brewer, Harriet Coburn, Dottie Danley, Christine Fairless, Catherine Gibson, Dorothy Sue Goodrich, Bonnie Hadley, Rose Harris, Glenna Hartley, Sherry Hinson, Polly Huckleba, Jessie Lee Johnson, Cathey Jones, Mary Lambert, Christine Menzel, Ramona Mercer, Joy Olexa, Barbara Perry, Jane Powell, Susan Powell, Betty Rowland, Beth Smith, Marilyn Smothers, Mary Jane Stewart, Kimberly Thornbury, Laura Williams

Ethel Watters Scholarship Circle

Robbie Adams, Mary Adcock, Nelle Agee, Jessica Alsobrook, Dera Ashby, Linda Baker, Denise Bell, Maggie Nell Brewer, Mary Martin Butler, Robert F. and Sue Campbell, Donna Sue Climer, Lynda Climer, Cookie Collomp, Emily Cox, Mary Jean Craig, Connie Crocker, Dee Ann Culbreath, Brenda Davidson, Ledice Dehoney, Virginia Dickinson, Lanese Dockery, Norma Fesmire, Peggy Graves, Dale Hill, Zan Holmes, Virginia Hudson, Cynthia Jayne, Melinda Jordan, Eerie Kate McCord, Cindy Meredith, Mary Willene Neely, Donna Patterson, Ruth Phillips, Lisa Rogers, Marsha Ellis Smith, Elizabeth Vaughn-Neely, Ann Walker, Trish Weeks, Sandra Williams

Endowed Scholarships

Morris Crocker Endowed Scholarship
David and Lanese Dockery Endowed Scholarship
William Herman and Ruby Leggett Endowed Scholarship
Keith and Beverly Absher Endowed Scholarship