



Where did the time go?

It seems impossible. Could it be that we have been involved with Union for a decade? Where did the time go?

On December 8 of this year Lanese and I will celebrate the tenth anniversary of our election to serve as President and First Lady of Union University. What a special privilege it is to serve this great institution. Over these years I have had the privilege to learn the history and heritage of this special place. Now we have the responsibility to carry on the tradition of R.B.C. Howell, Joseph Eaton, Charles Manly, George Savage, Henry Watters, John J. Hurt, Warren Jones, Robert Craig, Hyran Barefoot and so many others who have shaped this University we love.

While this issue reflects on the work of Union over the past decade, it does not tell the full story of the hundreds of people who have made this University what it has become. The story includes the wonderful staff members who serve across the campus. They are the unsung heroes of the University. The story includes a marvelously gifted faculty—a group of great teachers and brilliant thinkers who impact the lives of students day after day. The story includes administrative colleagues who carry such a heavy responsibility and give so much of themselves for this University. The story includes a magnificent Board of Trustees, helpful advisory boards and councils, supportive alumni, encouraging community leaders and godly church leaders. All of these contribute to the life of Union in exceptional ways. The commitment to excellence represented among all of these people will make an ongoing difference in advancing the work of Union University for many years to come. In this issue you will find the names of several thousand donors whose gifts have a transformational effect. We certainly give thanks for each of them. Of course all of these do what



they do for the good of Union students. During this decade approximately 6,000 students will have been graduated from Union University—incredibly well-prepared for the next step of life's journey. Each of them represents a special story within the larger University story.

Each and every day, like a conductor in the front of a symphony, I have the amazing privilege of seeing all of these parts blend together to produce beautiful music in a way that seeks to honor our great God and serve this special institution. Sometimes when we observe these efforts and activities on a daily basis we run the risk of missing the big picture of all that happens each week, each month, each year, and now each decade. This issue of the *Unionite* allows us to stop, step back, and take a long look at the past year and the past decade. I know you will join me in saying thanks be to God for His amazing and gracious blessings to Union University.

At a time like this I want to say a huge Thank You to so many, particularly those who provide encouragement and strength for our service each day. The hours click by each day and the days become weeks, the weeks become months, the months become years—and now, an entire decade! What a joy it has been. It has been ten blessed years, but the best years for Union are still in front of us. The Union 2010 Plan charts a bold, exciting, and far reaching course for our future. I am sure these next years will pass by ever so quickly as well. Times like this cause us to pause and reflect, and to offer the prayer of the Psalmist as he asks for God's help, guidance, and direction:

Teach us to number our days that we (also) may present to you a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12).

Soli Deo Gloria

David S. Dockery
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