

CELEBRATION AND SUNSHINE homecoming 09



More than four years ago, it was decided that moving Union University's homecoming celebration from February to November each year would present better opportunities for friends and alumni. Indeed, the last of the February homecomings in 2006 was disrupted by threatening winter weather that curtailed many of the planned activities.

Fast-forward to November 2009. Clear skies and comfortable temperatures greeted the homecoming crowds as they celebrated at a series of indoor and outdoor events.

"Homecoming 2009 provided a wonderful occasion for special memories, and I don't think we've had a better homecoming in my 14 years here," Union University President David S. Dockery said. "The entire weekend was helped by the gorgeous days that the Lord provided for us. Overall, it was a remarkable time for the Union family."

Outdoors, an "Arts in the Park" exhibition featured book signings, pottery, sculpture, paintings, jewelry and more. A tailgate party on the Great Lawn featured food on sale by campus organizations and memorabilia for sale at the alumni tent.

There were also inflatables, pony rides and a petting zoo for children, along with a hotly contested Family Olympics.

Indoors, Union fans watched the Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs roll to impressive victories.

The women's team defeated St. Francis (Ill.) 75-54. The defending NAIA national champions were led by senior guard Kaitlin Dudley's 29 points, including a 4-of-6 performance from three-point range.

The men's team routed William Woods (Mo.) 108-51 in the head coaching debut of David Niven. Six Bulldogs scored in double figures, led by senior guard Keith Tolliver's game-high 20 points.

In addition to the homecoming court (see box above right), seniors Scott McSwain and Courtney Bragg were named Mr. and Miss Union. McSwain is a Spanish language and culture major from Jackson, Tenn., and is the son of Mark and Dottie McSwain. Bragg, of Birmingham, Ala., is double majoring in teaching English as a second language and psychology. She is the daughter of Lev and Vicki Bragg.

Prior to action on the court, a new-look Buster the Bulldog made his grand entrance. The newest version of the traditional Union mascot will perform at basketball games and take part in some community events.



Homecoming Queen 2009 and Court

Katy Pope, a senior graphic design major from Sylacauga, Ala., was selected as the 2009 homecoming queen. She is the daughter of Doug and Amy Pope.

Other homecoming attendants were Nadja Barros, a freshman from Linden, Tenn., and the daughter of Greg and Denise Childress; Libby Parks, a sophomore from Louisville, Ky., and the daughter of Daniel and Sally Parks; Kari Beougher, a junior from Louisville, Ky., and the daughter of Tim and Sharon Beougher; Kelly Reed, a senior from Collierville, Tenn., and the daughter of Ed and Kathy Reed; Natalie West, a senior from Memphis, Tenn., and the daughter of Don and Jana West; and Kristen Voorhies, a senior from Pleasant View, Tenn., and the daughter of Barry and Lisa Voorhies.

The Student Activities Council won the annual Presidential Homecoming Cup competition.

Other events during homecoming week 2009 included induction of the new Union Sports Hall of Fame class (see box below), and a special chapel service in which Union recognized 21 members of the class of 1960 and celebrated their 50-year reunion. The class members attended a luncheon following the chapel service and then took part in what has become a Union tradition: a tour of the former campus near downtown Jackson.

The chapel service also featured the annual alumni awards. Retired Union math professor Don Richard, who taught at Union from 1983 until his retirement in May 2009, received the Distinguished Faculty/Staff Award. Andy Bailey ('76) received the Distinguished Service Award posthumously. Bailey served as a police officer with the Jackson Police Dept. and was killed in the line of duty in 2004. His daughter Brooke received the award on his behalf.

Justin Wainscott ('02), pastor for teaching ministries at First Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky., preached in the chapel service and encouraged students not to reject the ordinary as they seek God's direction for their lives.

"In our own lives he still uses very ordinary means, things as ordinary as people and places, to bring about his extraordinarily sovereign, providential purposes," Wainscott said. "So students, let us

learn to rest in the ordinary. But let us ever realize that the ordinary is actually part of the extraordinary grace of a providential God."

A Friday night concert by Reach Records performing artists Lecrae, After Edmund, Sho Baraka and Mike's Chair was staged in Savage Chapel. Lecrae, a Christian rap artist, headlines the "Altered Minds" tour.

Several academic departments planned reunion events for homecoming weekend, including chemistry, continuing studies, biology, sociology and family studies, psychology, Christian studies and communication arts.

The dates for Union's 2010 homecoming are already reserved for Nov. 5-6. 🏠

2009 Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

Bob Sullivan, ('45) – Union University football; Detroit Lions, posthumously.

Gill Gideon, Jr., ('49) – Union University football; Executive Director, Tennessee Secondary Schools Association.

Robin "Muggs" Coffman, ('58) – Union University baseball. Continued with the Giants as an outfielder.

Billy Murphy, ('59) – Union University track.

Denise McCarty, ('73) – Multi-sport athlete at Union University. Seven-time highschool basketball Coach of the Year in Florida.

Micky Wolfe, ('99) – Union University golf All-American.

Special Merit – Union University 1963 Baseball Team.

