



30's THIRTIES



Dorothy Graves Butler ('32) celebrated her 100th birthday on January 15, 2010. Butler married the late John Vernon Butler in 1943 and lived in

Humboldt until 2005. She was an active member of First Baptist Humboldt for 87 years. She taught in Humboldt City Schools for 34 years, mostly the third and fourth grades. She moved to Murfreesboro in 2005 to live with her son Steve Butler ('71). He said that while at Union one of Dorothy's favorite memories was playing bass drum in the University marching band. Her son added, "She is still going strong and would really enjoy hearing from anyone." He described her as "100, going on 80." Address: 1922 Rutherford Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37130 E-mail: butlerssc@aol.com

50's FIFTIES

Hilda Mount ('51) has taught first grade for 50 years in the Maury City Elementary School in Maury City, Tenn. She is involved in church work and also town business.

70's SEVENTIES

Donna Hensley Petrides ('71) retired in November 2004 as principal of Brianlake Elementary School, DeKalb County, Ga., after 32 years of teaching and administrative service. Donna retired with five children, 13 grandchildren and wonderful husband Jim. Donna is enjoying seven beautiful mountain acres and a new home.

Philip ('74) and Sandra ('77) Wilson are now International Mission board emeritus missionaries after serving 26 years in Nigeria and Kenya. They currently reside in Cordova, Tenn. They are employed by Crossroads Hospice where Philip serves as chaplain and Sandra as a registration representative. E-mail: psjlwilson@yahoo.com.

Donna Miller ('77) has written a children's book, *The Horseshoeing Hands*, to be published by Main Street Publishing in Jackson. If all goes as planned, the book is due out by September 2009. Photos are by Donna and her friend Tonya Smith King, both of Humboldt, Tenn. The story is about

a horseshoeing preacher, told mainly through animals such as an opossum, raccoon, cats, frogs, a pony and a monkey. The book is part make-believe and part fact. The book shares the love of Jesus, God's son. Donna works at *The Jackson Sun*. E-mail: dmiller@jacksonsun.com

80's EIGHTIES

David Head ('84) is a teacher and football coach at Hoover High School in Alabama. He is teaching U.S. History, AP European History and Law Academy I. He is also coaching junior varsity running backs. The Bucs won the 2009 6A Alabama football state championship. David, his wife Tonya and their children Abigail (15), Micah (13) and Noah (10) live in Helena. E-mail: dhead@hoover.k12.al.us

Judy Farabee Ware ('85) has retired from International Paper after 21 years in customer service, training and marketing. She is currently volunteering with Memphis non-profits and charitable organizations. E-mail: judyb1021@yahoo.com

Send us your news for Old School

We want to know what you've been doing, and so do your classmates and friends. Use this form to update us on births, adoptions, marriages, anniversaries, job changes, relocations and any other milestones you think would be of interest to the Union community.

Choose any of three easy ways to submit: you may fax this form to 731-661-5706; you may mail the form to our attention at the Office of University Communications, Union University, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, TN 38305; or you may email your submission to mdwatson@uu.edu.

My news for Old School: _____

Last name (as it should appear) _____

Surname before marriage _____

First Name _____ Initial _____

Major _____ Years attended _____ Degree/year _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ New address?

☐ Check here if you wish to have your street address included in Old School

Do you want your contact information published? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Work phone _____ Home phone _____

Email _____ fax _____

Employer/location _____

Genealogists Welcome: Union's Shepard Center assists family research

Just within Door No. 43 of the Penick Academic Complex, there is a facility devoted to discovering the roots of family trees.

The Johnnie Tribble Shepard Archives and Genealogical Research Center not only equips those who want to find out more about Union's history, but also family historians who want to learn more about their ancestors.

The namesake for the center is a 1968 Union graduate and longtime family history enthusiast. Shepard has traveled to seven states to conduct genealogical research and has participated in a variety of regional and national conferences.

"To me there's nothing more important than family, and that's where all of this begins," says Shepard, who also has ties to the highly regarded Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research in Houston, near her home in Katy, Texas.

Shepard's husband, Norman E. (Gene) Shepard ('65) donated funding for the center as a surprise gift to his wife. During a visit to campus, she was taken to the center that bears her name.

It makes us feel emotionally secure to know who came before us," Shepard says of genealogical research. "It's a fun thing to do."



She wants to see Union's new facility establish strong connections with similar centers across the country. That would open access to national records not always available on the Internet. She sees Jackson's location between Memphis and Nashville as a logical geographical location for such a center.

Another goal: Shepard would like to see Union become a repository for family histories that might otherwise

be discarded. She says many younger family members will dispose of these materials after the passing of an elder without realizing the antiquated documents have value – not only to the individual families, but to other genealogical researchers as well.

"If you don't have any place to put it, Union would love to store it for you and others to see," says Shepard.

The center currently hosts books, journals and public records from 11 West Tennessee counties, and is one of very few such facilities in the Jackson region. It is open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays. Other hours are available by appointment only. [uu](#)

Marilee Mears Jaggars ('86) returned to Saltillo, Miss., in July 2003 with family. **William Kevin Jaggars ('85)** is General Foreman with Jesco Maintenance Corp., Tupelo, Miss. Marilee is secretary at Baldwyn Elementary School, Baldwyn, Miss. The Jaggars are involved in children's soccer, cross-country and band. Their daughter, Dixilee, is a sophomore at Blue Mountain College; Katlin is a senior at Saltillo High School; Annalee is a freshman at Saltillo High School; Karoline is in sixth grade at Guntown Middle School. Email: mkjaggars@att.net

Tommy ('86) and Beverly Morgan ('78) Warner have moved to Covington, Tenn., where Tommy has accepted the position as pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church. They have two granddaughters, Camie (4) and Cadence (2). E-mail: brotw@hotmail.com

Leanne Robbins ('86) accepted an Assistant Risk Management Coordinator position with State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company in Brentwood, Tenn. E-mail: leannerobbins@msn.com

Lawrence A. Ragland ('87) is the pastor at Progressive Baptist Church in Paris, Tenn. In 2009 Lawrence served as the National Justice Sunday Commissioner as well as the Co-Chair of Meharry Medical College in Nashville. He was on the Clergy for Aids Research Committee. In 2009 he also received the National Presidential Service Award for over 4,300 volunteer hours. E-mail: pastorpbcn@aol.com

Mike Oliver ('88) has been promoted to Cardiovascular Institutional Specialist for the Southeast Area Business Unit of the Ischemic Heart Disease Division of the Foster City,

Calif., based biopharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences (formerly CV Therapeutics). Gilead Sciences is focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of advanced therapeutics against life-threatening cardiovascular, viral and respiratory diseases. Mike will be responsible for the top cardiologists, hospital and medical teaching institutions through the Little Rock region. His wife Kristi, a physical massage therapist, is a partner in South of New York Salon in Jackson. Mike and Kristi have one son, Jack Porter, seven, who attends Trinity Christian Academy in Jackson. E-mail: motleymojo@hotmail.com

Eric Lee Taylor ('89) is the new pastor of Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill, Tenn. Eric, Melissa, Seth, Andrew and Luke now reside at 6602 Hwy 41 N., Cedar Hill, TN. Email: ericltaylor@att.net



90's NINETIES

Andy Milam ('92) and **Michelle Sarratt Milam ('92)** are serving as urban church planters with the International Mission Board in Portugal. They have two sons, Micah, 12, and Ethan, 7. They can be reached at the4milams@gmail.com.

Troy Moore ('94) is journey director at Northgate Church in Haslet, Texas. Northgate currently meets in a local elementary school, but plans to build in the near future.
E-mail: tdc629@sbcglobal.net;
website: www.northgatechurch.net

Keith Beutler (M.Ed.'97) has been named the 2009 Missouri Baptist University Distinguished Professor. An associate professor of history, he has taught at MBU since 2005. He earned his Ph.D. in history from Washington University and has presented research at academic conferences worldwide and received numerous research fellowships from a host of historical organizations including The New York Historical Society and the Library Company of Philadelphia. Email: kbeutler@mobap.edu

Mark Hoesel ('96) married Gayle Sloan on July 22, 2000. They have a son named Sloan who will be three in March and a daughter Allison who turned one in December. Mark completed his M.Ed. from Vanderbilt University in visual disabilities and is now a teacher

of the blind and visually impaired for Nashville public schools. Gayle was an occupational therapist with Nashville public schools prior to having children. She is now at home raising the children. The Hoesels are members at Grace Community Church in Brentwood. E-mail: hoeselhouse@netzero.com

Steven Aldridge ('98) was selected 2008-2009 Sports Information Director of the Year by the TranSouth Athletic Conference. Steven has been Union University's sports information director since 2000. This is the third time in four years for him to receive the award. Steven and his wife, Stacy, have a daughter, Haley, and a son, Justin, and reside in Jackson. E-mail: saldrige@uu.edu

Stephen M. Eldridge, CPA ('99) is partners in the firm of Alexander, Thompson, Arnold (ATA) and is married to **Dr. Lolly Houston Eldridge ('98)**. Lolly attended UT College of Medicine in Memphis. She is now affiliated with the Jackson Clinic as an OB-GYN. Stephen and Lolly have one daughter named Madeline. Address: 125 Princeton Place, Jackson, TN 38305.

00's TWOTHOUSANDS

Michael J. Eldridge ('01) is currently employed by First State Insurance in Jackson, Tenn. Michael is married to Hailey (Johnson) Eldridge. They have two children, Garrett and Ella Hall.

Caleb J. Trent ('01) has completed medical school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and is doing his residency at Washington University St. Louis' Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Trent is an emergency room physician. More than a year before the January earthquake, Trent co-founded Aid for Haiti, a faith-based non-profit organization that focuses on medical aid and research. More information about the group's work can be found at AidForHaiti.org.

Scott Marksberry ('02) was selected as the National Christian School Athletic Association's 2008-2009 National Soccer Coach of the Year. In his first year at Wheaton Academy, he coached the Wheaton Academy girls soccer team to the 2009 Illinois State Championship. In winning the state title, the Wheaton Academy girls outscored their state tournament opponents by an average of 4.2 goals per game. E-mail: sjmarksberry@gmail.com.

Nathan Robertson ('04) accepted the position as administrative assistant to Michael B. Knight, senior pastor of Covenant Community Church in Madisonville, Ky., in June 2009. He and his wife Kristin were married on December 8, 2007, in Campobello, S.C. Their son Ryan Israel McDowell Robertson was born on February 10, 2009, in Greenville, S.C. E-mail: nathanrobertson7@hotmail.com

Wondering what happened to E-nnouncements?

A change in the campus email system led to some interruption of delivery for subscribers to Union's popular E-nnouncements.

Although E-nnouncements are compiled by the Student Life Office to highlight campus life and remind students of important dates and deadlines, many Union parents had grown accustomed to seeing the information in their inboxes

each Monday as well.

We are now able to once again send E-nnouncements to you via e-mail. Simply visit our Parents' Place webpage at www.uu.edu/parentsplace and click on the e-nnouncements sign-up link. You should see Union University Community E-nnouncements appear in your inbox once a week beginning the following Monday. [uu](#)

Connect with Union University



Sending an RSVP for a campus event once meant dropping a formal reply in the mailbox. A few years ago, such responses often came via email. Now, it's increasingly likely you're letting the world know of your intentions on Facebook.com.

Sending out a news release has been an electronic process for years now. But linking back to your Web site via Twitter.com has just become popular in the past few months.

The so-called social media have become interwoven into the fabric of daily routines. It benefits friends and alumni of Union, who now may opt for brief but timely updates each day.

Twitter is an outlet where people post short (140-character or less) messages. Twitter users can "follow"

someone and receive updates (called "tweets") that sometimes contain imbedded links to other Web sites.

At Union, it's possible to follow the progress of your favorite athletic teams on a Twitter site dedicated to tweets about the Bulldogs or Lady Bulldogs. Examples of posts: an update on NAIA polls for men's and women's basketball; links to a news release announcing Union volleyball player Marcela Madeira had been named to the AVCA All-American team; the announcement of open tryouts for men's soccer.

There are eight Twitter sites directly related to Union entities, including @UnionDMS (Digital Media Studies), @CardandCream, @RyanCenter, @UUClinic, @UUDiningHall, @UUWellness, @UUAthletics and

@Unionvolleyball. Another popular follow for Union folks is @DavidSDockery.

The main Union University Twitter site is @UnionUniversity (no space between the two words), from which all news releases, campus event announcements and other items of interest are linked. [uu](#)



Lindsey J. Barnes, M.D. ('05) is among the 66 new physicians of the Class of 2009 who graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield on Saturday, May 16. She entered a general surgery residency at the University of Kansas School of Medicine Medical Center in Wichita in July. Lindsey is the daughter of JoNell Barnes and Edward Barnes, both of Metropolis. She is a graduate of Massac County High School in Metropolis (2001) and Union University where she earned her bachelor's degree in biology.



Robert G. Clifford, Esq. (M.B.A.'05) received the Juris Doctorate from New England Law | Boston in May 2009.

He was admitted to the Bar in the State of Massachusetts on November 11, 2009.

Amy Burton ('07) recently transferred back to Jackson and the newly opened office of Maxim Healthcare Services. She has been with Maxim Healthcare for a year and a half as a personnel

coordinator and was recently promoted to the role of healthcare recruiter. She is looking forward to relocating in Jackson and reconnecting with her fellow Unionites and Chi Omega sisters.

MARRIAGES



Tyson Cadenhead ('07) and **Heather Kapavik Cadenhead ('08)** were married on December 21, 2008, by Heather's dad, Rev. Monty

Kapavik, a Southern Baptist pastor. They now live in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where they are members of Third Baptist Church. Tyson plays guitar for the worship team of 3BC. E-mail: heathercadenhead@gmail.com

Stephen Lynch ('09) and **Mallory Keeton ('09)** became husband and wife on July 25, 2009. They met at Union in 2005. They are both currently employed at Morgan Keegan and Company in downtown Memphis. Stephen is a legal and compliance administrator and Mallory is the executive assistant for reporting and operations.

Email: malloryklynch@gmail.com
stephenblynch@gmail.com

Sarah Eastin Harvey ('09) married Nicholas Scott Harvey on October 3, 2009. They now reside in North Carolina.

BIRTHS



Terrie Powers Starling ('89) and her husband Les celebrated the birth of their son, Landon Eric on January 22, 2009.

Terrie is a VP of Human Resources, and Les is a Radio Frequency Engineer. E-mail: tLpstarling@yahoo.com



Jonathan ('96) and **Julie Green Davis ('96)** adopted Jack in August 2008. Jonathon currently teaches Bible, Logic and Theology at the Upper School at Westminster Academy in Memphis. Julie is a stay at home mom to baby Jack Anderson Davis. E-mail: juliedavis@juno.com



Laura Latham Perryman ('96) with her husband, Michael, are pleased to announce the birth of Eliza Anne Perryman on April 17, 2008. She joins big brother Carter at their home outside of Chattanooga. E-mail: mlperryman@juno.com

Oliver ('97) and Sherry ('97) Schulz welcomed their third child Nathan Yong-En Schulz on January 23, 2010. He weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 20.5 inches long. They reside in Northridge, Calif.

James Duke ('98) and his wife, Samantha, celebrated the birth of Vaughn William Gregory Duke on October 12, 2009 in Pasadena, Calif. Vaughn weighed 9 lbs. 11.6 oz. E-mail: jimmy@awaken.org

Chrissy Allardin Cockrum ('01) and husband, Matt, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Dylan Pearce. Dylan was born on June 10, 2009, at 12:38 a.m. in Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Ill. He weighed 7 lbs.

11 oz. and measured 20 inches long. Dylan is the grandson of Deon and Leta Allardin of McLeansboro, Ill., and Harl and Karen Cockrum of Harrisburg, Ill. E-mail: mrscockrum@yahoo.com.



Cristy Thomas Tice ('02) and husband Brian welcomed baby girl, Miranda Pearl on August 18, 2009. She weighed 6 lbs 12 oz. and measured 21 inches long.



Kari Noblett Essenpreis ('04) and her husband, Spencer, were blessed with their first child, Naomi Grace, on August 22, 2009. Naomi weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. and was 20 ½ inches long. Kari works as a registered nurse at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville, Ind. Spencer is pursuing a Master of Arts in Missiology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. E-mail: spencerandkari07@gmail.com



Landon Preston ('07') and Stacy Storey Preston ('05') celebrated the birth of their son, Elijah Payne, on January 20, 2010. He weighed 6 lbs. and 9 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.

MEMORIAM

Mary Simonton Best ('38)
July 28, 2009, Ruston, La.

Raymond Judy ('43)
June 6, 2009, Orlando, Fl.

Joseph M. Burks ('46)
Sept. 21, 2008, Silver Lake, Ohio

Raymond Hale Jr. ('50)
Sept. 24, 2009, Chattanooga, Tenn.

William McCord ('56)
June 2009, Adamsville, Tenn.

Misty Oakley Brogdon ('97)
March 25, 2010, Brownsville, Tenn.



Longtime Union friend and supporter Fesmire dies at 76

Benny Fesmire, a friend and supporter of Union University, died Dec. 14 at the age of 76.

Fesmire is survived by Norma, his wife of 56 years; daughter Terri; son Ben, Jr., who graduated from Union in 1984; and five grandchildren, three of whom are former or current Union students.

A former member of Union's Board of Trustees, he established the Fesmire Family Foundation in 2002 to support a variety of university programs.

The Fesmires were inducted into the first class of the Union Sports Hall of Fame in 2006 for their distinguished services to Union athletics. Because of generous donations that helped provide scholarships and fund facilities, the

Fesmire name can be seen in several areas of campus.

In 2000, the new baseball and softball fields were dedicated and named Fesmire Fields. Union also dedicated Fesmire Fieldhouse in 2006. The 18,000-square foot facility houses a 9,000-square foot turf room, locker rooms and offices for baseball, softball, men's soccer and women's soccer.

"Benny Fesmire was a true philanthropist," said Union Director of Athletic Operations Tommy Sadler. "He never sought recognition for his gifts that helped many worthy causes in the Jackson area. Our athletic program has been blessed beyond measure by Benny's and Norma's generosity." ☐