

Reason and Faith are not at war



CONDOLEEZZA RICE PRAISES UNION, CHALLENGES STUDENTS

Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had never before visited Union University, but she quickly and succinctly summarized what many see as the institution's defining characteristic: the integration of academic strength with a Christian worldview.

During her keynote address at Union's 12th annual scholarship banquet, Rice said Union students have the privilege to study where reason and faith are not at war and "where the intellect and the soul inhabit the same body."

The event, which also featured a musical performance by Proclamation and the debut of Union's new university video, drew 2,000 guests. A record total of more than \$500,000 was raised for student scholarships.

"All of the problems that we have, all of the challenges that we face, are not going to be solved tomorrow," Rice said. "History has a long arc, not a short one. And so, likely, many of these challenges will not be solved by me, or by many of you.

"They will be solved by you," she continued, gesturing to the Union students in attendance. "And they'll be passed on to successive generations."

Drawing from her time as U.S. Secretary of State and national security adviser, Rice spoke candidly about terrorism,

the world's struggling democracies and economic recovery.

She said America's critics recognize the valuable role the United States plays in all of these discussions.

"While it may be fun these days in Berlin or Paris or London to talk about the failures of American capitalism, nobody really, actually, believes it," Rice said. "Because if American capitalism fails, there will be no global growth, and everyone will suffer.

"We're very, very fortunate in this world that the freest, the most compassionate and the most generous nation on the face of the earth is also the most powerful," she continued. "Therefore, the United States of America will lead, and it will lead from the right values, and if we are OK, everyone else will be OK too."

Rice is the Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution and professor of political science at Stanford University. She served as the 66th U.S. secretary of state from 2005 to 2009.

She has authored and coauthored several books, including "Germany Unified and Europe Transformed: A Study in Statecraft" (1995), with Philip Zelikow; "The Gorbachev Era" (1986), with Alexander Dallin; and "Uncertain Allegiance: The Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak Army" (1984).

"Dr. Rice has distinguished herself as a brilliant leader in the fields of education, government and public policy," said Union President David S. Dockery. "She is a terrific speaker."

The annual Scholarship Banquet has become one of the premier events in West Tennessee each year, and is Union's primary fund raising event for its student scholarship fund. Previous speakers have included George H.W. Bush, Margaret Thatcher, Mikhail Gorbachev, Rudolph Giuliani and Colin Powell, among others.

All told, Union's Scholarship Banquets have generated about \$5 million for student scholarships.

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