

SPRING 2016

UNIONITE



THE UNION UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Ministry in the Marketplace

CREATIVE BUSINESSES
LAUNCHED BY ALUMNI

**A Visual Tour of
The Logos**

**Meet our Alumni
Award Winners**



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The fund will help provide aid to Union students with financial need

UNIONITE

The Union University Magazine
Spring 2016 | Volume 67 | Number 1

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Unionite is published by Union University, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, TN 38305-3697. Union University is an academic community, affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, equipping persons to think Christianly and serve faithfully in ways consistent with its core values of being excellence-driven, Christ-centered, people-focused, and future-directed. ©2016

From the President

One of the things that continually impresses me is the extent to which Union alumni (and even current students!) are changing the world.

Everywhere I go, I encounter stories of people—prepared for their callings at Union University—who are doing incredible things. Union alumni serve as missionaries in countries all over the globe. Union alumni serve in key leadership roles in local, state, and federal government. Union alumni serve as doctors and nurses and other health care professionals. Union alumni serve as teachers and school administrators. Union alumni serve as pastors and church leaders. Union alumni serve as moms and dads. Union alumni serve in business, communications, the arts, social work, and the list goes on and on.

Take Sarah Brubaker and Matt Nason, for example. You'll read their stories in this edition of the *Unionite*, about how God is using them in the marketplace to bring light and life to a world that is dark and hopeless apart from Christ. They are just two of the thousands of Unionites who are salt and light every day.

The Lord has been gracious to Union University, and He continues to shower His favor upon us. We're grateful for The Logos, the new library that we opened and dedicated last fall. If you haven't had a chance to see this beautiful new facility, we invite you to come anytime to have a look. It is a transformative addition to the campus.

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support of Union, and we ask for your continued prayers for us as we equip students to pursue excellence, to develop godly character, and to serve the church and society in the ways God has gifted them to do so.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Gratefully,

Dub



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University adopts long-range strategic plan

Union trustees in December approved a long-range strategic plan for the university, "United in Spirit. Grounded in Truth."

The plan emphasizes seven strategic themes that will guide the work of the university over the next five years: bearing witness to the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, expanding enrollment across the university, enhancing operational effectiveness and efficiency to advance the mission, revising the liberal arts core curriculum, supporting meaningful research among faculty and students, developing leaders for the future and bolstering student life and building community.

"The point of our planning process was to get us to strategically and intentionally think about how we can both unify and coordinate our efforts to accomplish the mission of the institution," Union President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver said. "We have really talented and thoughtful people who have good ideas. This is a way for us to identify the things that we'll be pursuing together over the next five years."

Mentor 

Union partners with local colleges to launch 'MentorU' program for 6th graders

Union University and four other higher education institutions in Jackson have launched MentorU, a program that matches sixth graders with mentors from Jackson's colleges and universities.

The MentorU program is a collaboration between all five higher education institutions in Jackson – Jackson State Community College, Lane College, Tennessee College of Applied Technology, University of Memphis Lambuth and Union. The program is designed to help the sixth graders consider future college and career opportunities.

"Sixth grade is when some young people's views of their future start to diminish," Union President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver said. "The idea is to catch these sixth graders at a moment when we can encourage them to pursue college. The ultimate idea is to lift young students' aspirations about college attainment in Jackson and Madison County. We know that the earlier we can intervene, the better."



Engineering students assist Honduran orphanage with energy efficiency

Union University engineering students are using their skills for service. Last fall, a team of engineering students and faculty traveled to Honduras to assess the needs of an orphanage.

Randal Schwindt, professor of engineering, said the goal of the trip was to find ways to help the orphanage save money using the skills engineering students learn in class.

He said the orphanage, Orphanage Emmanuel, spends most of its funds on electricity, so the main focus of the project was reducing power consumption. Schwindt said the orphanage spends about \$24,000 per month on electricity, and about \$13,000 of that is for current consumption. The rest goes to pay fees brought on by changes in the government of Honduras.

Two teams of senior engineering students did work for the orphanage as their senior design projects. Erin Picard and Nathan Parke worked on solar power for the team house, while Chelsea Johnson and Seth Guiler worked on a solar water heating system.

"This is what we're all about at Union," Schwindt said. "Using the skills that we're learning in service to God's kingdom." 🏡

Union, Lane presidents continue racial reconciliation dialogue

Union University President Samuel W. Dub Oliver joined Logan Hampton, president of Lane College, for a Jan. 18 conversation about racial reconciliation at Agape Christian Fellowship in Jackson.

Hampton and Oliver discussed progress that has been made in racial reconciliation in Jackson over the last year and what steps need to be taken to continue reconciliation in the future.

The conversation, titled “Next Steps,” was organized in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The two presidents participated in a similar discussion on the holiday last year. 📖



Citino addresses how German army lost World War II

Robert Citino, an award-winning modern military historian, spoke about the collapse of the German army in 1945 at the 19th annual Carls-Schwerdfeger History Lecture in October.

Citino said at the outset of World War II, the Germans did very well in Europe, but by 1945, their military was a shadow of what it was in 1939.

“It seems to me that no matter which battle I chose to talk about that the Germans had to fight in the winter and spring of 1945, the problem was the same,” Citino said. “The big problem was the disappearance of the German air force from the skies over Europe.”

Citino said the Germans had a state-of-the-art air force, the Luftwaffe, in the 1930s, and at the beginning of World War II it was vastly superior to any other country. But the Germans never manufactured enough operational, upgraded aircraft as the war went on.

“The allies were building newer, better planes every year, and they had the materials to make thousands of these things,” Citino said. “But the Luftwaffe in 1939 looked exactly the same as the Luftwaffe in 1945.”



New teachers with Union degrees fare well in education report card

Union University’s educator preparation program is providing effective new teachers, according to a recent report.

The “2015 Report Card on the Effectiveness of Teacher Training Programs,” released Dec. 1 by the Tennessee State Board of Education, is designed to provide the public with information about the effectiveness of teacher training programs in Tennessee. It measures the performance of new teachers who have been in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Harden named dean of School of Nursing

Union University in November named Kelly Harden as dean of its School of Nursing.

Harden, formerly the associate dean of graduate programs in the Union School of Nursing and chair of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, joined the Union faculty in 2006 as assistant professor of nursing.

“I am humbled and honored by this appointment,” Harden said. “The School of Nursing at Union University has a rich tradition of educating nurses who embody our core values of excellence-driven, Christ-centered, people-focused and future-directed.”

Harden said she looks forward to working with the Union faculty and staff to find new ways to equip graduates to meet complex and changing healthcare needs locally, nationally and globally.

“We will continue to seek God’s direction in all we do as we strive to serve him through the gifts he has bestowed upon us,” she said. 📖



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

the classroom from one to three years.

According to the report card, new teachers who graduated from Union performed equal to or better than all teachers (new or veteran) in the state. The report card measured the effectiveness of 138 Union graduates who completed either the traditional undergraduate licensure program, Union’s Master of Urban Education degree through the Memphis Teacher Residency program or a Master of Arts in Education degree while teaching on an alternative license.

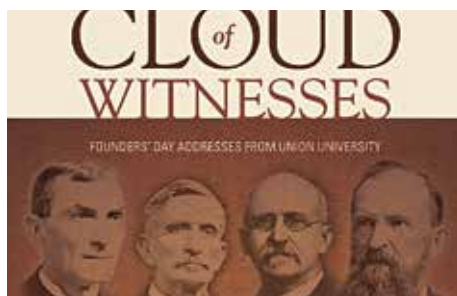
“We are preparing good, effective teachers,” said Dottie Myatt, Union’s assistant dean for teacher education and accreditation. “We prepare teachers who know their content. They are scholars. They are also practitioners and know how to teach that content.”

New Van Neste book covers key snapshots in Union’s history

Ray Van Neste, professor of biblical studies, theology and missions at Union University, recently released a new book compiling Founders Day addresses from Union faculty members.

Van Neste said he hopes the book gives students, alumni and faculty at Union a better appreciation of the institution’s history.

“It’s easy to be a student or even work here and have no sense of where we came from,” he said. “We can’t know where we’re going if we don’t know where we came from.”



The book, entitled *From the Cloud of Witnesses: Founders Day Addresses at Union University*, includes a foreword by former Union University President David S. Dockery, who implemented the Founders Day celebration. It contains every Founders Day address given by Union faculty during Dockery’s tenure.

Current faculty members Van Neste, James Patterson, Jimmy Davis and Cindy Jayne contributed chapters to the book, in addition to former faculty members Gene Fant and Carla Sanderson.

Rogers’ grandson presented with collection of grandfather’s sermon tapes

Baptist preacher Adrian Rogers’ legacy lives on in a collection of audio tapes given to his grandson, a current Union University student, during a recent presentation in the Union’s

Ryan Center for Biblical Studies.

A giant in Southern Baptist life, Rogers was the longtime pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tennessee. He is remembered for bringing the Southern Baptist Convention away from liberalism back to the authority of Scripture and a conservative understanding of it.

Kay Wilkes discovered Rogers’ sermon tapes among the possessions of her late husband, Ben Wilkes, who was a student at Union when he was mentored by Rogers. After learning that Rogers’ grandson Andrew Edmiston is a sophomore at Union, Mrs. Wilkes worked with Union staff to present the tapes to him. Andrew’s mother, Janice Edmiston, and his sister, Breezy Edmiston, accompanied him.

“Andrew was just 9 when my dad died,” Janice Edmiston said. “But sometime later, I found out he was going to sleep listening to my dad’s sermons. He’s still living on through them.”



Rumsfeld to headline Union’s 19th annual Scholarship Banquet

Donald Rumsfeld, secretary of defense under President Gerald R. Ford and President George W. Bush, will be the keynote speaker for Union University’s 19th annual Scholarship Banquet Oct. 4 at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson.

Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Rumsfeld, a former navy pilot, directed the Department of Defense’s efforts in the global war on terror. His public service career also includes four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and positions as Ford’s chief of staff, U.S. ambassador to NATO, assistant and counselor to President Richard Nixon and presidential envoy to the Middle East under President Ronald Reagan.

In recognition of his public service, Rumsfeld has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Ronald Reagan Freedom Award.

“Donald Rumsfeld’s service to our country in cabinet-level positions during three presidential administrations makes him a unique observer of leadership and government,” Union President Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver said. “We look forward to another great Scholarship Banquet at Union where we hear engaging speakers who have served in the highest levels of public service and whose ideas and leadership have shaped our nation and the world.”

In addition to his work in government, Rumsfeld has been CEO of two Fortune 500 companies. He led the financial turnaround of the pharmaceutical company G.D. Searle & Co, where he was named “Outstanding Chief Executive Officer in the Pharmaceutical Industry” by The Wall Street Transcript.

In his memoir, *Known and Unknown*, Rumsfeld writes about his childhood and long political career, including anecdotes about everyone from Elvis Presley to his



close friend and ally Dick Cheney. In his newest book, *Rumsfeld’s Rules*, Rumsfeld offers a candid look at success, failure, crises and moving up in business and government.

The annual Scholarship Banquet has become one of the premier events in West Tennessee each year and is Union’s primary fundraising event for its student scholarship fund. Leading businesses and individuals from across West Tennessee have sponsored the event over the years to bring outstanding speakers to the Jackson area.

Previous speakers have included Tony Blair, George H.W. Bush, Margaret Thatcher, Condoleezza Rice, Mikhail Gorbachev, Laura Bush, Mike Huckabee, Rudolph Giuliani, Colin Powell and Ben Carson, among others.

Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the program will start at 7:30 p.m. Sponsorship opportunities for the event are available at all levels. For ticket information, including table sponsorships and individual balcony seating, contact Union’s Office of Institutional Advancement at (731) 661-5050 or visit uu.edu/events/scholarshipbanquet. 📖

We look forward to another great Scholarship Banquet at Union where we hear engaging speakers who have served in the highest levels of public service.



Austill receives second Fulbright grant to teach in Bulgaria

David Austill, a professor of accounting and business law at Union University, has received a Fulbright scholar grant to teach in Bulgaria next spring.

The Fulbright program is a government program designed to help build educational bridges with other nations through an exchange of academics and professionals. Austill will be teaching graduate business studies classes in forensic accounting and international business law at Sofia University in Bulgaria's capital.

Austill said he was attracted to the Fulbright program because it gave him the ability to do something different.

"There's an altruistic part of it that's helping others," he said. "And then of course there's the personal side of it. It's exciting, with plenty of opportunity for travel, and it does enhance the career."



Hamilton wins Rash Award for Poetry

Patricia L. Hamilton, professor of English, was recently named the recipient of the 2015 Rash Award for Poetry for her work entitled "Trespass."

Hamilton's poem was chosen from a slate of 19 finalists by poet David Kirby, a professor of English at Florida State University and a 2007 National Book Award Finalist.

The Rash Awards in Poetry and Fiction were established in 2010 by Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, North Carolina. These awards honor distinguished poet and novelist Ron Rash, a North Carolina native and graduate of the university. In addition to a monetary prize, each year's Rash Award winners have their work published in the *Broad River Review*, Gardner-Webb University's literary magazine.



C&C again named top college magazine in Southeast

Union's student news publication, the *Cardinal & Cream*, won eight awards in the 2015 Best of the South competition sponsored by the Southeast Journalism Conference, including first place for both best college magazine and best public service journalism.

The annual conference, held Feb. 18-20 at Austin Peay State University, draws journalism students from more than 45 member colleges and universities in all states across the Southeast.

It was the second straight year for the *Cardinal & Cream* to take top honors for best college magazine.

"I feel like our writing is showing increasing depth, maturity and focus as our students are really pushing themselves to work beyond 'obvious' story ideas and really create the kinds of articles they would choose to read," said Ted Kluck, assistant professor of communication arts and *Cardinal & Cream* adviser. "I was especially proud of our Public Service Journalism award, as it highlights some of the creative friendships we've been able to cultivate with faculty and students at Lane College."

In the *Cardinal & Cream*'s informal partnership with Lane College, Lane students and their professor, Siobahn Stiles, occasionally come to Monday meetings on the Union campus with the C&C staff. Kluck said the C&C staff also hopes to help Lane start its own student newspaper. 📰



McClune lectures at Yale, U.S. Coast Guard Academy

David McClune, university professor of music, gave two lectures to the United States Coast Guard Academy Band during fall break in October. McClune then repeated the lectures at Yale University for their music graduate students.

McClune's first lecture was about achieving excellence through humility. "We must balance the ego or confidence needed to perform for an audience with the humility to serve the music and not ourselves," he said.

His second lecture, "Searching for the Holy Grail of Clarinet Mouthpieces," was about the physics of how a clarinet mouthpiece works.

Union professors named on U.S. patent

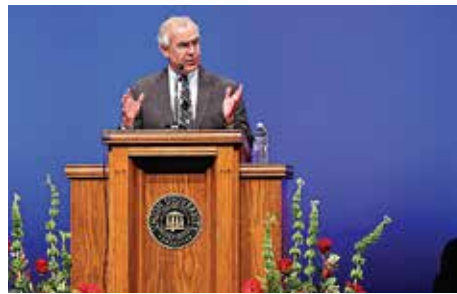
Three Union University professors were recently listed on a patent for their work on a golf training aid.

Bryan Dawson, professor of mathematics; Georg Pinggen, associate professor of engineering; and David Ward, professor of physics, worked as consultants with Brad Priester, a retinal surgeon in Jackson who invented the "multi-rotor apparatus and method for motion sculpting," according to the U.S. Patent Office's description.

Priester is officially the owner of the patent, but Dawson, Pinggen and Ward are listed as co-inventors because of their contributions.

"Our portion of the project has mainly been in helping with the equations and working with taking raw data and turning it into the information that he wants to be able to give to the golfer," Dawson said. "It's the geometry and the physics of that process that our team has worked with."

The team has been listed previously on other patents related to the project, with more expected in the future.



Brooks encourages cultivating inner character

New York Times author and columnist David Brooks said places like Union University are important in a culture of people who are increasingly self-interested and prideful.

"Universities like Union cultivate inner light," Brooks said. "They have a focus on the soul."

Brooks was the keynote speaker at Union's 18th annual scholarship banquet in October. He spoke about the importance of virtues such as humility and gratitude in a culture that he said is becoming more narcissistic. 📖

West Tennessee Evangelism Rally draws 800

Fred Luter, senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said evangelism needs more emphasis in churches and organizations. Luter was the keynote speaker at the

West Tennessee Evangelism Rally Feb. 21 at Union University.

"We need to understand how critical, how important it is that we make evangelism a priority in this state," he said.

More than 800 people attended the rally, which included eight breakout

sessions in addition to Luter's address. Luter shared stories of the church in the book of Acts. He said the believers in the early church were so effective in carrying out the Great Commission that the Bible says they turned the world upside down. 📖



Union students win 'Outstanding Delegation' at National Model Congress for second year



Seven Union University students participated in the second year of National Model Congress February 24-28 in Washington, D.C., where they proposed, debated and voted on mock legislation under assumed names of real U.S. Congress members.

The Union delegation won "Outstanding Delegation" for the second consecutive year for its work in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. It is the primary honor awarded at the conference to only one of the 13 schools in attendance.

Garrett Wilson, a junior economics major, received "Outstanding House Representative" as the first of three people in the entire conference to have a bill passed in the House, the Senate and then signed by the acting president. 📖

Kwasigroh joins Union as VP for institutional advancement

Union University has named Catherine Kwasigroh as vice president for institutional advancement.

Kwasigroh, a 1990 Union graduate and Memphis native, has been with West Tennessee Healthcare for 25 years, including the last 13 years as vice president for hospital services.

“We are thrilled for Catherine Kwasigroh to join our executive leadership team at Union as she has a significant record of accomplishments and achievements at West Tennessee Healthcare,” Union President Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver said. “She has a strong network of relationships in Jackson and throughout West Tennessee, she is one of our own graduates who knows and loves her alma mater and she has a passion for advancing the mission and vision of Union.”

As vice president for institutional advancement, Kwasigroh will oversee the division responsible for Union’s

efforts in fundraising, development, alumni relations and communications.

After graduating from Union with her Bachelor of Science degree in accounting, Kwasigroh earned her Master of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee. She worked as a staff auditor for Ernst and Young in Memphis before joining West Tennessee Healthcare in 1991 as a financial analyst.

Kwasigroh served West Tennessee Healthcare in a variety of roles, including controller, executive director of finance and corporate compliance officer before assuming her vice president role in 2003. As vice president for hospital services, she has been responsible for leading and overseeing the day-to-day operations of Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.

Her significant contribution to the healthcare system has been the Kirkland Cancer Center. She was the key leader in the design and construction of the hospital’s \$45 million facility that opened in 2013. She was also responsible for developing the physician integrated oncology services within the center.

“It is an unexpected blessing that God has called me to return to Union University to serve my alma mater,”



Kwasigroh said. “I am truly honored and humbled and plan to make the most of every opportunity advancing Union’s mission of providing Christ-centered education promoting excellence and character development in service to church and society.”

Kwasigroh is married to her husband of 25 years, Ron, who received both undergraduate and graduate degrees from Union and currently is the administrator of the Therapy and Learning Center in Jackson. The couple has two daughters—Sydney and Kaleigh, both students at the University School of Jackson. The family attends West Jackson Baptist Church where they are active members.

Kwasigroh began her new role May 2. 📍

It is an unexpected blessing that God has called me to return to Union University to serve my alma mater.

DO YOU KNOW A FUTURE BULLDOG?



MEGAN KERSEY, '15
Art graduate, Nashville, Tenn.

As alumni and friends of Union University, you know better than anyone the type of students who belong at Union. We’re looking for the next generation who will thrive in an atmosphere of Christ-centered academic excellence and a close-knit learning community.

You play an essential role in helping us meet these prospective Bulldogs. We invite you to take a few moments to send us contact information for a high school student you know would be a great fit for Union. We’ll take the next step.

CALL 800.33.UNION OR VISIT uu.edu/suggest



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MINISTRY IN THE MARKETPLACE

UNION GRADUATES USE CREATIVE BUSINESSES
TO HELP PEOPLE AT HOME AND ABROAD

BY NATHAN HANDLEY ('15)

Jewelry for Refugees

Sarah Brubaker's jewelry designs line the walls of her workspace. A curtain separates work space from storage space, and round paper lanterns hang from the ceiling. But the painted cinderblock walls and fluorescent lights reveal that this was originally a classroom. The logo for Sarah's business, Ekata Designs, is drawn on the old chalkboard.

Sarah sits at a table, managing orders on a laptop. At the other end of the table sits Ran, a Nepali refugee, assembling a necklace.

This is the headquarters for Ekata Designs, a jewelry business that was launched in 2011. It is nestled in a back room at First Baptist Church in Memphis. Sarah has been a part of the business almost since its inception. She says Ekata exists to provide employment to refugees, mostly women, who are new to Memphis.

The name was chosen to give the women a sense of community and belonging. It is derived from the Nepali word for unity.

"Typically, when refugees come to America, they've been in crazy situations up to this point," Sarah says.

Many of the women Sarah has worked with over the past four years have spent around 10-20 years in refugee camps, and this is their first job on the path to a new profession. After spending years in these camps unable to work, they come to the United States and are immediately confronted by a society that depends heavily on employment and self-betterment.

"To transition to this is really complicated," Sarah says. "And then you add on that their training and skills don't usually match up with what America is looking for, or if they do match up it's hard to prove that they have the training or skills."

Sarah says the shift hits women the hardest. She says women from these countries are usually less likely to have the same level of education and speak English as well as men. Ekata was born out of a desire to help these specific women.



LEFT: Ran, a Nepali refugee, assembles a necklace for Ekata Designs.



LEFT: Sarah Brubaker, operator of Ekata Designs, and Ran, an Ekata Designs employee, take a break from assembling jewelry to pose for a picture at their headquarters in Memphis. ABOVE: Matt Nason, owner of Generation Watches, changes the band on one of the watches he and his brother designed.

Amal, a Somalian refugee, is one of the women working for Ekata. She has never had a permanent home. The last time she saw her family together was 1999. Until 2007, she lived with her grandmother in Somalia. When her grandmother died, she went to live with her aunt and uncle in Uganda.

In 2013, they came to America. Amal was supposed to go to Minnesota. All of her paperwork had said that was her destination, but when she went to the International Organization for Migration, they said she was going to Memphis. She landed in Memphis in August of that year.

Ekata is one of two jobs Amal has. She says it gives her a place to work for herself and gain valuable experience, and the skills she has learned have been precious to her.

“I never made orders before, or worked with a computer or made any kind of jewelry,” she says. “It makes me feel comfortable and happy working here. I love it actually.”

Amal has learned to use a computer and iPad, and she says those tools have helped her at home and at her other job. When her other boss explains things to her, she can understand better using the computer.

I GET TO USE
THE SKILLS THAT
I LEARNED IN
SOCIAL WORK,
BUT I ALSO GET
TO USE MY LOVE
OF DESIGNING
AND CREATING
THAT I’VE HAD MY
WHOLE LIFE.

Sarah graduated from Union University in 2011 with a degree in social work. While a student at Union, she began working with refugees through an internship, and that was when Ekata was started.

Sarah says she loved working with refugees: “I just loved getting to meet a practical need and in the midst of that build relationships, so I asked if I could stick around and continue to run this business.”

Sarah says she never imagined herself designing jewelry or running a business, but she has always loved making things. She has a specific memory from the only art class she took while at Union.

“I remember Mr. (Lee) Benson saying, ‘You can make art and change the world too.’ It’s been funny to see how much that has come true. I get to use the skills that I learned in social work, but I also get to use my love of designing and creating that I’ve had my whole life.”



Amal, a Somalian refugee, got her first job in the United States putting together jewelry at Ekata Designs.

Working at Ekata has given Amal a chance at employment in America. It has given her valuable skills and experience, but it has also given her and her family much needed extra income.

Some of the money she earns helps her and her husband buy what they need, but the majority goes overseas to her family in an Ethiopian refugee camp. Seven of her

eight siblings live at that camp, along with her parents, two nieces and a nephew.

“I wake up every morning and go to work not only for myself, but to help my family have a better life,” Amal says. “I give money to my family that is still in a refugee camp so they can put food on their table and get an education. Those are the most important things.”

For Sarah, the commercial aspect of Ekata was almost an afterthought. Her passion is helping refugees, not building a thriving business model. But the business is integral to the mission. For the first couple of years, she raised support to keep the business going and allow the women to keep working, but she knew the business had to be self-sustaining if it were going to last. She said that is one reason the team chose to make jewelry in the first place.

“Jewelry was what we settled on, one, because people will continue to buy jewelry,” Sarah says. “Women love jewelry. They love to accessorize, feel beautiful and have conversation starters. You don’t buy one piece of jewelry and you’re done, just like you don’t buy one shirt and you’re done.”

On top of the repeat business, Sarah says making jewelry is a skill she can teach easily and that people can learn to do well. Sarah wants Ekata to be a



Watches for education

Matt Nason, a 2004 Union graduate, runs his business from the back room of his house in downtown Memphis. He is one of the owners of Generation Watches, a company he created with his brother, Jonathan, during a conversation over a Thanksgiving holiday.

Matt and Jonathan were both familiar with Educate BV, a Christian ministry that provides education for impoverished children in Buena Vista, Guatemala, and they wanted to find a way to provide sustainable, year-round funding for the program.

“We decided we could create a business

where we can give some of our profits to them,” Matt says.

The brothers looked at TOMs and businesses with similar models and discussed several products for their company to sell. They finally settled on watches.

“Our slogan is ‘Giving the next generation their time back,’” Matt says. “What’s the one thing everybody says you can’t buy? You can buy anything but time. But what if you could? What if you could buy time for somebody else? Would you?”

Matt and Jonathan believed people would. In August 2014, they launched Generation Watches as a funding partner for Educate BV.

Matt says most of the problems in Guatemala can be tied to a lack of education. Not just math, science and

reading, but health and social education as well. Giving children education gives them a chance at better, longer lives.

Last year, Generation Watches added the Memphis Teacher Residency program (a Union University partner) as a second partner. The four-year program lets teachers receive master’s degrees in urban education and teach three years in a Memphis city school.

Matt says it only made sense to add a local partner.

“We give 50 percent of our profits away,” he says. “And none of the owners takes a salary.”

Matt now runs the business full-time from his home office. He and Jonathan design their own watches. They come up with the dimensions and specifications and send them to a manufacturer.

Matt and his wife, Tiffany, also a Union graduate, have six kids, five of whom are under 4. Just last year, they adopted triplets. Matt says he spends most of his time taking care of the kids, so he ends up working at night and on days when they go to preschool.

When he can work on the business, Matt spends his time handling social media, taking orders, packaging and shipping watches, and doing paperwork.

“Sometimes I get a few minutes in during the day,” Matt says. “Whenever I can slip away.”

Generation Watches was envisioned as a ministry before it was a business. Matt says he wants it to stay that way.

“This has never been about us making money,” he says. “It’s all about giving back.”



business people buy from because they like the product, not because they feel pity.

“We’ve said from the beginning we want this to provide employment and training, but I don’t ever want someone to buy our jewelry because they feel sorry for us or because, ‘Oh, poor refugees,’” Sarah says.

“I want them to look at the jewelry and think that the quality is incredible, the price is fair, and it’s beautiful. And then when they hear on top of that that it’s made by a refugee they’re like, ‘That’s awesome. I’m also getting to support a good cause.’”

Because of this, Ekata’s jewelry style has changed a lot over the four years it has been open. Sarah says in the

beginning, there was little structure.

“It was just kind of, ‘Here are the basic designs. Make what you want. We’ll see how it goes.’”

Over time, the team has refined the design process, trying to navigate between what they like and what their customers will want.

Sarah says it has been fun to see the response to the way the design has developed. Stores have started contacting her, asking if they can carry her product, and sales through markets and online stores are increasing every year.

“People that have walked beside us the whole time keep telling us every year that our jewelry is getting better and better,” Sarah says.

Amal says her life is improving. In 2015, she met and married her husband. In 2016, they are expecting their first child. She is settling into her life in Memphis, and she says there is no way she could have gotten where she is on her own.

She says she wants people to always remember that refugees need a lot of help.

“A refugee is someone who has moved from their country to another,” Amal says. “So they don’t have a home, shelter, anything at all. They left their country because of war and a lot of stuff. They need help, whoever they are. You can help them.”

“There were a million struggles getting Ekata to this point,” Sarah says.

She says the first and most pronounced challenge was that she has no business background whatsoever.

“I picked up making jewelry pretty well, but the business aspect is something that’s a lot more challenging to me. In the circles I run in, the majority of my friends and community are much more artistic with those type of passions or orientation, and I’m asking, ‘Does anybody know how to do QuickBooks, like, anybody at all?’”



I FOLLOW JESUS
AND HE SAYS LOVE
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IF YOU’RE SUPPOSED
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Sarah says almost everything she has learned has been trial and error. She says sometimes that works fine, but she got to the point where she needed a business adviser.

“I somewhat joke and I’m somewhat serious when I tell people that about two or three times every year, I try to quit the job,” Sarah says.

She says there are so many things she doesn’t know how to do, and it can be overwhelming. During one period of transition at Ekata, Sarah said she had to make a decision about whether she would continue with the business or quit. She was praying that God would show her his will when she went to a meeting at a coffee shop near the church.

“I was saying, ‘I will continue to do this, but I need to know that this is actually what you’re calling me to. Because if I’m

just doing this for me, then we’re done. This is too hard to do by myself.’”

Sarah pulled into the parking lot of the coffee shop, and there were pieces of paper scattered all over the ground.

“There’s like a couple hundred pieces, and I pick up one piece randomly,” she says.

She still has the piece of paper she picked up. It’s a page torn from a Bible concordance. At the top of the page, indicating the first and last words referenced, are the words “Jesus’ – Jewelry.”

Sarah says she took this as confirmation that she was right where she needed to be. She says the more she thinks about it, the stranger that occurrence seems.

“It’s really hysterical because if whoever wrote this had made the font one size bigger, or if I had picked up any other

piece of paper, it wouldn’t quite have had the same effect,” she says.

Since that time, Sarah has found a business adviser to guide her and train her. The struggles continue, but she says it is never too much, and the work is always rewarding in the end. Sarah hopes to add another full-time position next year—she usually employs two or three women at a time—and she is slowly learning the Nepali language to better communicate with the women who work with her.

“I said this at the beginning, I didn’t start Ekata because I wanted to make money and have a business,” Sarah says. “I started Ekata because I care. I care about the women and want to provide for them, and I follow Jesus and he says love your neighbor. If you’re supposed to love your neighbor, this seems like a great way to do that.” ■



North Entrance of The Logos



First Floor Entryway



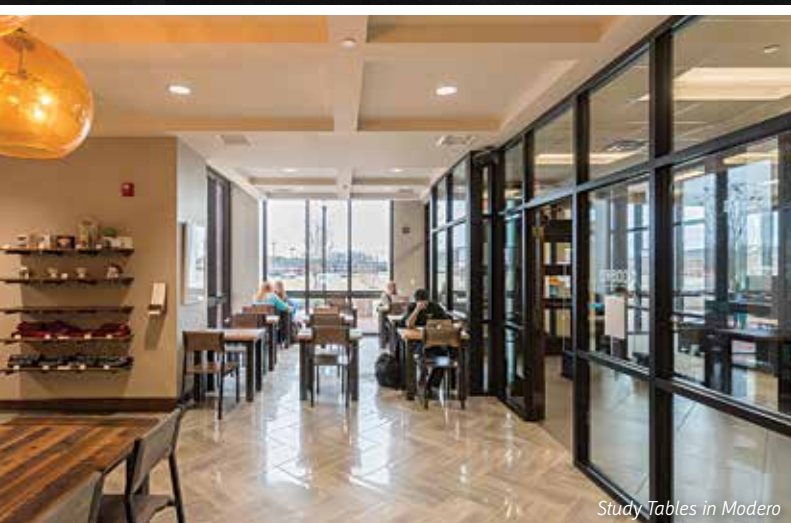
Family Study Room



South Entrance facing Miller Tower




Modero Coffee Roasters



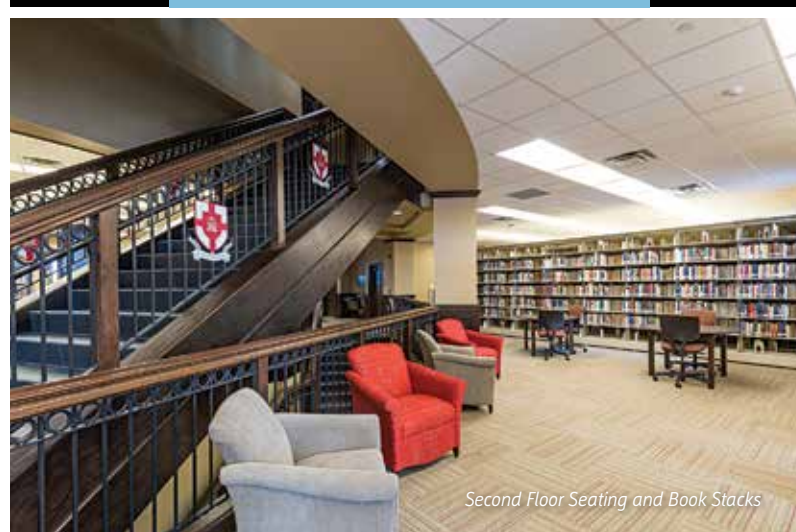
Study Tables in Modero

Union University opened the doors to a beautiful new 54,000-square-foot library building, The Logos, in November 2015. This new facility stands out in the skyline of North Jackson and is a beacon of Christ-centered learning. We thank the Bill and Carol Latimer Foundation for their generous \$10.5 million lead gift and the thousands of donors who also contributed to this project. Our campus has forever been changed. If you have not had the chance to see this building in person, here is a visual glimpse into some of its features. 📖

 **Web exclusive:** See an expanded gallery at uu.edu/unionite



View of Miller Tower from the Second Floor



Second Floor Seating and Book Stacks



Movable Bookshelves



Archive Reading Room on Third Floor



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

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Union University has a long history of producing graduates who excel in their careers, in ministry, in service and in life. Each year at Homecoming, the university presents a number of Meritorious Service Awards to select graduates who have distinguished themselves in a number of ways.

Awards include the Alumni of the Year Award, the Distinguished Service Award, the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, the Lest We Forget Award, the G.M. Savage Legacy Award, and several Distinguished Achievement Awards.

In the pages that follow, we highlight the winners of the 2015 Meritorious Service Awards. We congratulate them on all they have accomplished, and we are thankful for the ways their lives have helped to extend the mission of Union University to serve the church and society. 📖



Barbara McMillin

Alumna *of the* Year

Presented to a Union University graduate for distinction in his/her profession, service to mankind, and/or contribution to Union University.

Barbara McMillin remembers an encounter in one of her Union English classes that changed her life.

It was a teaching methods class with Marilyn Smothers, and the students were preparing and teaching lesson plans. McMillin taught her lesson so well that Smothers remarked how surprised she was by McMillin's performance.

"Not that she had really low expectations for me," McMillin says. But as a quiet and shy student, Smothers was pleased by the excellence McMillin had displayed.

"I knew that when I was preparing and teaching that lesson that I was doing what God made me to do," McMillin says. "She sensed that, and she encouraged me. That just made such a difference for me."

A 1981 Union graduate from Faulkner, Mississippi, McMillin came to Union after attending Northeast Community College for two years. A close friend of hers had transferred to Union, and when McMillin was considering her own path, she decided to pay Union a visit.

"I knew when I got there that this would be the place where I would finish my work," she says. "I just felt that God had opened that door and brought me to Union through that one connection.

"I think that spoke so highly of the friendliness and the way the faculty and the staff related to me at that time. I immediately felt like I could

fit in and knew that I would be able to be very challenged but very supported in that. That's exactly what happened."

After completing her master's and doctor's degrees from the University of Mississippi, McMillin returned to Union as an English professor. She then became chair of the English department before becoming dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and dean of instruction.

In 2012, she was elected president of Blue Mountain College in Mississippi.

Though teaching is her passion, McMillin considers her role as a college president to be an extension of that, allowing her to encourage and enable others who have been called to teach. She does so with vivid memories of how the Union faculty did the same thing with her years earlier.

"I can just remember feeling like I was developing a confidence in what God had called me to do and to study and to be," she says about her time as a Union student. "That confidence was fueled by the support of an amazing faculty who really stretched me.

"I love Union University. It is the place that God used to shape my life, and I am so thankful for that." 📖

Distinguished Service Award

Presented to a member of the Union community for distinction in his/her profession, service to mankind, and/or contribution to Union University.

Jai Templeton



Jai Templeton, newly appointed as commissioner of Tennessee's Department of Agriculture, says he has always had two great loves in his career—agriculture and politics—and God has allowed him to pursue both.

"Those have been two doors that have always seemed to be opened to me," Templeton says. "And they've sort of culminated here at the Department of Agriculture. I am very blessed that I've never had to elbow my way through a door."

Templeton graduated from Union in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Even before graduation, he began working on the campaign for former U.S. Rep. Ed Bryant. From 1995 to 2003, he served as a field representative for Bryant. He later served as county commissioner and president of the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce before being elected mayor of McNairy County.

Templeton says he enjoyed his time as mayor even though it was a tough job. He says local government is the greatest government.

"That's where you really work with the people you're serving every day," he says. "You really get to fix problems."

Templeton says politics, especially at the state and federal levels, has gotten a bad name because of certain practitioners, but he does not think it is deserved.

"People generally view that word with a lot of negativity," he says. "But politics is really how we get things done. We've got the greatest system of government in the world."

Templeton is a sixth generation farmer, and he has continued to produce grain, cotton, hay, timber and cattle in McNairy and Hardin Counties.

He says he always had an interest in the political world and was active in several campaigns even in high school, but the relationships he built at Union allowed him to pursue public service as a career path.

"There's a line that can be drawn through each thing I've done that, had those relationships not been built early during the time at Union, this career would not have been available to me," he says.

Templeton says he had brilliant professors in both business and political science, and Union further opened doors for acquaintances and friendships in West Tennessee and the rest of the state.

"My appetite was pretty well built for politics and public service by the time I was a student there," he says. "But the basis of a Christian education, a strong Judeo-Christian work ethic, the attitude of service. Those things were instilled in me at Union."

Templeton and his wife, Allison, have three children and live on their family farm in Stantonville, Tennessee. They are members of First Baptist Church of Adamsville. 🏡

Lest We Forget Award

Presented in recognition of longtime service and contributions to the Union University community.

Louise Towater Lynch-Mills



Louise Lynch-Mills spent 40 years in higher education, and 34 of those years were spent at Union. She says her time at Union allowed her to build friendships that have lasted a lifetime and facilitate contributions that will last even longer.

Lynch-Mills held many positions at the university. She began working in the art department and later became the secretary to the dean of students.

"I got a lot of face-to-face interaction with students," she says. "Small, daily interactions turned into lasting relationships."

In the summer of 1975, while serving as manager of Union's bookstore and post office, Lynch-Mills supervised the movement of the bookstore and post office from the old campus downtown to Union's current campus.

In 1985, Lynch-Mills became Union's first full-time director of alumni affairs. She says the relationships she had built with students in previous years helped her greatly as she began forming alumni chapters and organizing events.

"It was an easy and natural thing to do because I was just contacting old friends," she says.

Lynch-Mills later served as director of annual giving and director of major gifts, where she facilitated gifts for projects such as the Bowld Student Commons, the Carl Grant Events Center, Miller Tower and White Hall. She also facilitated gifts from donors for scholarship endowments for the university.

She says her work with alumni transitioned well into her work with donors. One of the first

major donations she facilitated came from close friends, the McAfee family.

"You get to know the needs of the university, and you get to know the desires of the alumni," she says. "When you get to match those together, it's really something special."

Lynch-Mills says she is grateful to have served under four presidents at Union. She says the initial call to work at the university was a lifeline for her and her family, and she is glad she was able to give back to the institution for so many years.

"What I really want to express is a sense of gratitude," she says. "God was able to use me as his conduit in connecting Union with donors and alumni, and at the same time connect me with so many people that I love and value."

Lynch-Mills' family has strong Union connections. Her mother worked as a dorm mother at the university, and her first husband, Morris Lynch, was a Union graduate and assistant professor of psychology at Union for several years. Her son, Kyle Lynch, is also a Union graduate.

"Union has been such a big part of our family, from my mother to my siblings to my son," she says. "I keep watching it grow as a place for Christian education, and I am glad I and my family have been a part of that." 🏡

Outstanding Young Alumnus

Presented to up to three Union University graduates who are age 40 or younger with a record of significant accomplishment in professional life and service to Union University or the world.



Jon Hoover

Union alumnus Jon Hoover spends his days giving back to the schools that shaped him as a professional and to the veterans who come into the medical center where he is employed.

Working as a clinical pharmacy specialist at Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee, for just over 10 years, the 2001 Union graduate says he is in the business of intervention for patients and students.

“When I started school I had no idea what clinical pharmacy was,” Hoover admits. “Everybody associates ‘pharmacist’ with the person they see at Walgreens, but my job responsibility is to go around with the physicians at the hospital to see the patients they’re taking care of, and I make suggestions of more effective drugs.”

While Hoover is committed to helping find the best treatment for every patient under his care, he finds particular joy in serving veterans.

“Who can you think of that’s really more deserving of everything?” Hoover says. “There’s no way I could totally repay them for what they’ve done, but I’ll do my best.”

Hoover says some of his favorite days involve sitting and learning something about the veterans on a personal level.

In addition to patient care, Hoover teaches pharmacy students from the University of Memphis and Union University.

“One of the biggest challenges is always making sure I’m versatile in my approach to teaching students,” Hoover says. “You have to find how you want to appeal to them during that month to help them learn.”

Despite the challenges that come alongside teaching, Hoover believes it is worth it to see the

smile that indicates a student’s understanding of the material.

“That moment is worth its weight in gold,” he says.

In 2012, Hoover was awarded University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year. The Tennessee Society of Health-System Pharmacists named him Pharmacist of the Year in 2014.

“They’re awards generally considered to be picked by the students,” Hoover says. “It makes me feel like I’ve made a difference. I’ve invested in their learning, and they’ve really enjoyed it.”

Before graduating from Union University, Hoover’s plan was to return to Adamsville, Tennessee, his hometown, and open his own independent pharmacy. However, during one of his clinical rotations, he was placed under Richard Brown at Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Brown mentored Hoover until his retirement, and Hoover stepped in to take his mentor’s position.

Hoover also includes Union University’s Charles Baldwin as a mentor who helped him become the professional he is today.

“Union did a great job of integrating the academic portion and intertwining it with trusting in the Lord,” Hoover says. “My experience at Union taught me things aren’t going to come easily, but you just have to trust in the Lord and keep going.” 🌿

Outstanding Young Alumnus

Presented to up to three Union University graduates who are age 40 or younger with a record of significant accomplishment in professional life and service to Union University or the world.



Brian Taylor

Brian Taylor works as a medical physicist, specializing in clinical radiology and brain imaging research, and he says he would not be able to do that work without the education he received at Union.

“The foundational training I received at Union was instrumental in knowing the mathematical and physical principles to be able to apply them to the medical field,” Taylor says.

Taylor graduated from Union in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and physics. He says his professors played a big part in making his time at Union a positive and worthwhile experience.

“I fondly remember spending several hours in the offices of many mathematics and physics professors when I needed assistance in challenging assignments,” he says. “They were always so patient and kind in assisting students in understanding the concepts outside of the normal class times.”

After his time at Union, Taylor received his doctorate in medical physics from the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. He then completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in 2012.

Taylor works at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, as an assistant professor of radiology and physical medicine and rehabilitation. He says his primary work is with a multi-disciplinary group of researchers using medical imaging to study the effects of traumatic brain injuries and other neurological conditions, particularly in active military service members, veterans and athletes.

“One very rewarding part of my job is seeing

how our work is applied to help patients who need special diagnostic or therapeutic medical procedures,” Taylor says. “As medical physicists, the calculations we make are used to make these procedures safe and efficient.”

Taylor has worked on many other projects, including pieces in 11 peer-reviewed publications. He serves as an imaging physicist in the radiology clinic at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. He is an active member of Houston’s First Baptist Church, where he volunteers for a ministry for children with special needs.

Taylor says his undergraduate education prepared him to pursue various paths both professionally and personally and gave him the skills he needed to excel.

“Given the well-rounded liberal arts education at Union, I was prepared through classes such as biology, chemistry, written composition and communication to prepare me in many aspects in my life, not just mathematics and physics.” Taylor says.

He has received many awards and recognitions, including receiving an Elizabeth Tigrett Medal from Union, being recognized as a Sowell-Huggins Scholar in Cancer Research and receiving the Aaron Blanchard Research Award in Medical Physics.

“I’m thankful to the Lord for Union,” Taylor says. “And for the calling in which he has called me to serve.” 🌿

G.M. Savage *Legacy* Award

Given to a faculty or staff member for their ongoing commitment to Christ-centered education at Union University.



Blake Watkins

Blake Watkins has a long history with Union, beginning with his undergraduate studies at the university.

Watkins had a double major in chemistry and mathematics. He says both of the programs were extremely challenging, but the faculty worked diligently to ensure that he was successful.

"They placed high demands on us while at the same time convincing us that they were on our side and wanted us to succeed," Watkins says. "They took interest in us as individuals and helped us to mature in our understanding as young adults."

Watkins now serves as professor and chair of pharmaceutical sciences in the School of Pharmacy at Union. He says the way his professors mentored him at Union has influenced the way he teaches.

He says some of his fondest memories involve Elaine Smith, one of his biology professors at Union. Smith and her husband, Bill, often opened their home to students and cooked meals for them.

"We spent many evenings around their table and in their living room listening to them tell of their world travels and of Bill's experiences as a railroad engineer," Watkins says.

He shared a story of one professor, Charles Baldwin, who had a particular impact on him. Near the end of his time at Union, he asked Baldwin why he demanded so much from his students. Baldwin's response rang loudly in his ears when he decided to return to Union to start the School of Pharmacy.

"He said, 'Blake, I demand much of my students because I see their potential,'" Watkins says. "'If I do not demand it of them, it remains just that, potential, and nothing more.'"

Watkins says Baldwin was the single greatest reason he chose his career path. After graduating from Union in 1994, Watkins pursued his doctorate in chemistry at the University of Georgia. He graduated from there in 2000 and completed his postdoctoral research in drug discovery at the University of Mississippi. He then moved into research positions and helped start Union's School of Pharmacy in 2008.

Watkins says he works each day to provide students with the best possible education while trying to convince them that he is on their side and wants to see them do great things. He and his wife, Lisa, a Union alumna, host students in their home each week for Bible study.

"We prepare meals for them," Watkins says. "We mentor them personally and professionally. My hope is that my students will leave Union and be able to reflect back on very similar experiences to what I had as a student."

He says each of his students has great potential, and he wants to see them succeed.

"I want to see them impact not only pharmacy but this nation and this world for Christ," he says. 🙏



Distinguished *Achievement* Award

Union University presents the Distinguished Achievement Award to alumni who have made significant contributions in their profession.

THE AREAS AWARDED INCLUDE:

Health Care	Government/Public Service
Business	Humanities
Education	Not-for-Profit
Church Ministry	Athletics
Arts/Media	

For Omar Hamada, the career path is one that involves building numerous side roads to pursue medicine, music and ministry.

Although he graduated from Union in 1986 with his Bachelor of Science degree, which led to earning his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Hamada learned trying to limit his interests was not what God had planned for him.

"For years I tried to live like others wanted me to, focusing on one thing," Hamada says. "But it drove me crazy."

Hamada explains God gives everyone different gifts, and while some are called to give all their attention to one talent or skill, some are meant to pursue variety. In everything, though, Hamada says, "The purpose here is to change culture, the hearts and minds of people, toward Christ on a large scale."

Currently, Hamada is the medical director in the Emergency Department at Maury Regional Hospital in Columbia, Tennessee. He describes himself as always being "entrepreneurial in

thought," leading to the creation of several small businesses and organizations. But his heart, Hamada says, is in Radical Surrender Ministries.

"It's an organization based on discipling men," Hamada says. "Men are disheartened and lost in many ways. We're really focused on trying to help

Omar Hamada

Distinguished Achievement in Healthcare



guys figure out how to live and lead well in our families and communities."

Hamada, a 14-year veteran of the U.S. Army, also works with Security and Survival Solutions, which provides "training in survival, tactical shooting and disaster planning," alongside a team of "high caliber, special operations combat veterans."

"There's no singular goal that I can look back and say, 'that's the highlight of my life,'" Hamada says. "It's just a continual day to day, staying faithful, following God and influencing as many people as I can along the way." 🙏



Chad Wilson

Distinguished Achievement in **Business**

Chad Wilson never planned to go into the family business of finance. When he looked toward the future during his time at Union University, he saw himself standing in front of a classroom filled with young musicians eager to learn.

Following his 2001 graduation from Union, he did student teaching that he says woke him up to the reality of what job he was meant to do.

"I felt a calling to go into business and use it as a platform for ministry," Wilson says. "It was all about coming back to the family business, which I'd been in since I was 14. It's a ministry calling that just happens to be outside the walls of the church."

Although inspiration for his future came after graduation, Wilson found a focus to his life that he hopes he can help people

understand in their own lives. He serves as president of Foundation Bank in Jackson and is a certified financial planner.

"I find it rewarding to help people focus on things besides their money," Wilson says. "There's more to life than money, and we have a teacher's heart here, fulfilled in teaching finances holistically."

Serving in some capacity with the bank for 21 years, Wilson recognizes that it was a surprising turn after studying music education at Union. However, late

night conversations with friends where "we hammered out what we believed about life" were invaluable to the professional he has become, Wilson says.

A father of four young kids and married to fellow Union alumna, Sabrena Wilson, he also serves as a Union University trustee.

"It's a real privilege to serve this institution and to cultivate opportunities for others' lives to be affected in the same way," Wilson says. 📖



Union University alumnus Larry Wilson may have retired two years ago, but after 45 years in fisheries and teaching, he remains dedicated to his graduate students.

Distinguished Achievement in **Education**

Larry Wilson

A professor at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville since 1970, Wilson began teaching in the Department of Agriculture when the aquaculture industry was going through a boom.

"The department head said they were giving me a new position for fisheries," Wilson says. "I thought about it for about two seconds before I signed the papers."

Before the job offer, he planned to take a break from the field and coach sports. Wilson previously attended Union University on an athletics scholarship for both baseball and basketball.

"The camaraderie of the athletic teams was a big part of why I loved Union," Wilson says. "I got to meet people from all over the eastern half of the country. A lot of them became friends for life."

After student teaching, Wilson decided he was better suited to be a college professor. The choice began a career in teaching and fisheries that allowed him to travel all over the country and to Thailand, Spain, Costa Rica, Brazil and Laos.

Wilson has helped 85 graduate students complete their master's degrees during his career, many going on to have teaching careers.

"That's what I've enjoyed the most over all these years," Wilson says. "I've got another year and couple of months to get my last two students completed. Those will make 86 and 87."

Wilson will retire fully on April 30, 2017, but he plans to continue his field work. 📖



Steve Gaines, senior pastor at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, says God has guided him on the path to where he serves today.

Distinguished Achievement in **Church Ministry**

Steve Gaines

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Union, Gaines pursued his doctorate in preaching from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Over the next 30 years, he served as senior pastor in four different churches.

"God has sovereignly led me to each church where I've served," Gaines says. "He has taught me many lessons that have helped shape me into who I am. He has been faithful, gracious and very patient with me."

Gaines says his time at Union played a part in his preparation to serve in full-time ministry. He gained treasured relationships and experience while studying at the university.

"I made valuable friendships that have lasted a lifetime," Gaines says. "The ministry opportunities to preach, witness and sing helped prepare me for ministry."

Gaines has published a musical worship CD and several books, including "Pray Like it Matters" and "Share Jesus Like it Matters." He and his wife, Donna, have four children and nine grandchildren.

Gaines says he loves studying, preaching and teaching God's Word. He gets joy from leading God's people and watching the Lord save and mature people in Christ.

"I've seen many people get saved," he says. "I've seen God answer many prayers. I've seen people get healed and set free from sinful strongholds." 📖

Long before he became an NBC News correspondent, Union University alumnus John Dancy's passion for broadcasting found its roots in his love of America's national pastime.

"My parents bought me a radio for Christmas one year, and I would listen to Harry Carey and Gabby Street broadcast the games most nights," Dancy says. "The fact that I could lie in bed in little old Jackson and listen to a baseball game 250 miles away... was a sort of magic."

Dancy never received any formal training in broadcasting. Instead, he learned by observing the professionals in the business. In his teens, he spent time at the old Jackson Sun building, developing a friendship with the nighttime announcer of WTJS, Doug Maxwell.

"He gave me a lot of good advice," Dancy says. "And when things were quiet, he would record me on tape, and then give me pointers."

From there Dancy went on to work at various Jackson radio stations. It was during his time as reporter and anchor

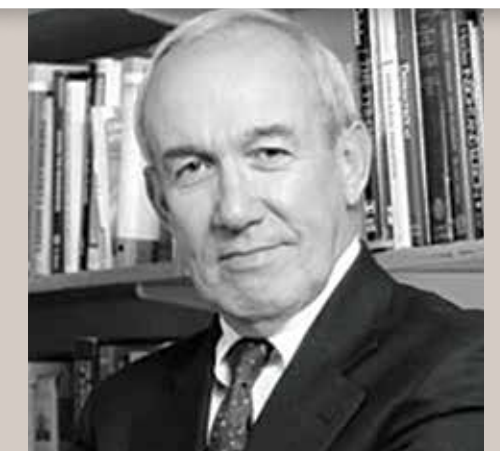
John Dancy

Distinguished Achievement in **Arts/Media**

at KYW-TV in Cleveland, Ohio, that NBC acquired the station and soon offered him a position as network correspondent.

With his wife, Ann Lewis Dancy, and their three children, Dancy moved to Los Angeles and then to Chicago. After five years, Dancy was reassigned to Berlin, Germany.

Reflecting back to how Union shaped



him as a professional, Dancy says Dixie Jones taught him "people are often far deeper than they seem in public. It's a lesson I have used dozens of times in my career."

After 30 years with NBC, Dancy is now "fully, and happily, retired" and living in northern Virginia with his family. 📖

Distinguished Achievement in

Government/Public Service

Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell says he learned many valuable lessons as an undergraduate student at Union, but the most important lesson was that success requires prayer.

“In every decision I’ve made since my time there, I seek guidance, sensitivity and understanding from God,” he says. After graduating from Union in 1969, Luttrell got a master’s degree from the University of Memphis. He began his public service career at the Shelby County Penal Farm. He was warden of several federal prisons before being elected sheriff of Shelby County in 2002. In August 2010, he was elected Shelby County mayor. As mayor, Luttrell has a four-point vision with which he aligns initiatives: budget discipline, safe communities, public health and jobs. He says he aims to make Shelby County a national benchmark for effective and efficient government. “I’m glad the Lord sent me to Union because it laid a foundation for everywhere he’s sent me since,” Luttrell says.

Mark Luttrell



Luttrell studied history and political science at Union, but he says he is grateful that he was also able to study many other subjects. “The liberal arts nature of Union introduced me to classes like art appreciation, which I greatly enjoyed,” Luttrell says. “I learned about English literature, music and theater—things I never would have looked into on my own.” Luttrell holds many leadership roles within the community by serving on various professional boards and committees, including the National Association of Counties Board of Directors, the Memphis-Shelby Crime Commission, and the University of Memphis Arts and Sciences Advisory Council. He and his wife, Pat, have three children and six grandchildren. 📍

For Union University alumna Becky Johnson, political dreams have transformed into a passion to improve the health of children across the country.

Working as a presidential political appointee in the George W. Bush administration, Johnson believed she would continue with a career in politics following her 2005 graduation with a political science major. However, her plans soon changed when she caught the vision for a new nonprofit alongside now-President Lisa Gable.

The organization, the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation (HWCF), began with 21 founding members. Johnson, the executive director of HWCF, joined at the start and has built the member base to more than 300. “We had an audacious goal,” Johnson says, “to be a part of the solution to the childhood obesity epidemic. I wanted

to help support this goal and provided common sense solutions.” Today, Johnson says, when people “walk through a grocery store, there are

Becky Johnson

more options for you to make the best choice for you and your family than there were before.” Through the Together Counts program, HWCF also provides “free standards-aligned curriculum and tools to teachers nationwide” and gives grants to schools for physical education, sporting or cafeteria equipment. “Traveling to schools where a playground or a garden didn’t exist before

Distinguished Achievement in

Not-for-Profit

but now does because of our programs is immensely rewarding,” Johnson says. Although Johnson no longer works in government, she says many people at Union helped shape who she is now. Her time at Union University, she says, made her realize that the “ends of the earth” may very well be in the workplace. And the example of many from Union “should drive all of us to be set apart wherever God places us.” 📍



The real test of a teacher is what their students can do after graduation, and retired educator M. Lynne Murchison is now discovering how much her years as a teacher have helped students become successful adults.

Lynne Murchison

Distinguished Achievement in

Humanities

Murchison attended Union University after hearing her older brother “talk about Union with such affection.” Her sister received a degree from Union, too. “It’s kind of been a family school,” she says. “My grandniece will graduate this year. She’s the third generation of us, and I hope there’ll be more.” The 1968 alumna earned a degree in English, never questioning the future she believed God had in store for her. “I knew from the time I was a first

grader that I wanted to teach,” she says. “I thought I would go to a full-time college teaching career, but I took a job at the high school thinking it was just a stop gap.” The stepping stone to her expected career turned into 25 years of teaching juniors and seniors at the college preparatory level. “I realized a lot of students came to university unprepared,” Murchison says. “I wanted to teach my kids first to think, and then I tried to teach them to write.

I felt like if I could give them those two skills, then they would succeed.” After retiring from the University of Mississippi, where she worked with adult learners in regional campuses, a scholarship was established in her name. “The greatest honor is those students who do come back and tell me I’ve changed their lives in some way,” she says. “It’s really what God did through me.” 📍



Distinguished Achievement in

Athletics

Pierre Valmera

Pierre Valmera says Union gave him an opportunity for education, and he wants to extend that opportunity to others.

Valmera was born in Haiti and came to Union on a basketball scholarship. After graduating in 2007, he was recruited by a professional basketball team in Boncourt, Switzerland. There he met players from many other countries and realized that several of them had similar stories to his. In 2012, he founded POWERforward International, an organization that connects Haitian students to recruiting schools in the United States. Valmera says his recruitment at Union changed his life forever, giving him a chance to receive an education. “If Union didn’t give me that chance to get an education, these other students would not have that chance either,” Valmera says. “Union gave me a chance, and I am working to give back.” POWERforward is dedicated to inspiring underprivileged individuals to achieve excellence in education and athletics.

The program now has 36 students studying in the U.S. on full scholarships at both the high school and college levels. It also sponsors annual open basketball camps and community programs in Haiti. Valmera says Union’s emphasis on community service showed him that it is important to share his gifts with others. “I see sports as a way to get kids educated,” he says. “It let me get an education. POWERforward is a way to pay it forward.” He says his time at Union was also significant for his spiritual and social growth. Valmera says Union should keep the door open to international students because for many, it may be the only door they have. 📍



70's | SEVENTIES |

John Bailey ('73) retired after a 39-year career teaching middle school science. He plans to focus on his hobbies of fishing, biking, boating and traveling and spend time with his granddaughter and family.



80's | EIGHTIES |

Gayle Smith ('80, '83) recently retired from a career in nursing at Mid-South ENT to be a full-time pastor's wife.

Diane Towater Kelley ('84) retired as CEO from Extencare of Western Tennessee, Inc., after 33 years in community health nursing. She spends her time at both her Jackson, Tenn., home and her Tennessee River home. Diane has one daughter, Julia Faulder, and one granddaughter, Harper Lee Grace.

Sharon Carihfield Morris ('84) began her fourth year as worship director for First Baptist Church in Ripley, Tenn., in 2016. Sharon also serves as choral and theater director at Ripley High School where her daughter Shelby is a junior. Her other daughter, Anna Morris, is a freshman at Union.

David Samples ('85) and Tina Samples ('85) released a new book in January 2016 through Kregel Publications entitled, "Messed up

Men of the Bible: Seeing Your Men Through God's Eyes." The book is a follow-up to Tina's 2013 book, "Wounded Women of the Bible," which won The Golden Scroll Award for Non-Fiction Book of the Year.

Eric Barron ('87) launched The Family Life Map, a new ministry to help families develop a plan for the future. The system is designed for use in churches, schools, businesses and other group settings. Eric is the founder and lead coach and is married to Jane Barron ('87).

Marty Phillips ('88) became a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers this past year after 24 years of practicing law as



a partner of Rainey, Kizer, Reviere & Bell, P.L.C. He was inducted during the 2015 spring annual meeting of the college in Key Biscayne, Fla.

J.J. Jones ('89) earned his Doctor of Ministry in youth, family and culture from Fuller Theological Seminary. His dissertation is



entitled "Church as Secure Base: A Strategy for Adopting Adolescents into Intentional Intergenerational Community." He is married to **Anna Ruth (Conlee) Jones ('90)**. He serves as the students and families pastor at Cypress Bible Church in Cypress, Texas, and as an adjunct professor in Bible and ministry for the Moody Bible Institute's Houston, Texas, extension site.

Save the Date for Homecoming 2016

NOVEMBER 3-5

Make plans to be a part of special events throughout the weekend, including the 50-year reunion of the Class of 1967 and the 10-year reunion of the Class of 2006. We hope to see you back home on campus this fall!



90's | NINETIES |

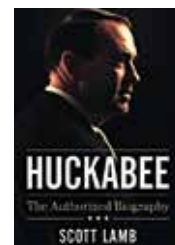
Hope Cooper ('93) accepted the position of regional account and marketing manager with Central Service Association for West Tennessee and Western Kentucky.

Mike King ('93) recently joined Strategic Behavioral Health as a corporate controller in Memphis, Tenn. Mike will begin the new position June 1.

Leila Keel Nichols ('95), along with her family, moved to Charleston, W.V., from Jackson, Tenn., to begin working as a certified nurse midwife with FamilyCare HealthCenters. Leila works at both Women and Children's Hospital and the only free standing birth center in West Virginia.

Eddie Wren ('95) was elected president of the Louisiana Baptist Pastors' Conference 2015 in November 2014. Eddie is the pastor of First Baptist Church Rayville in Louisiana.

Scott Lamb ('96) wrote a biography of former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. *Huckabee: The Authorized Biography* was published in 2015 by W Publishing Group, an imprint of Thomas Nelson, and is the only authorized account of Huckabee's life and career. Scott and his wife Pearl live in Spring Hill, Tenn., with their six children.



Laurel Ruth Burroughs Deloney ('98) graduated from Anderson University in 2015 with her Master of Arts in Teaching and



Steven Wood endowed scholarship fund established

Steven Lynn Wood, a Union University alumnus, passed away in September 2014 at age 52. Early in his career, Steven established a trust for the creation of an endowed scholarship fund to help aid Union students with financial need.

Born May 19, 1962, to Bobbye and Zelmer Wood from Lexington, Tenn., Steven was the youngest of three children. The only one in his family to go to college, Wood postponed enrollment for a year to earn money for tuition at Union University.

"Steve was a great man with an infectious laugh, who was loyal and loving to all his friends and family," said Barbara Cash, a close friend of Wood. "He had a tight circle of friends that he made during his college years that had a major impact on his life."

After receiving an accounting degree, Wood began his career in Jackson with Arnold Spain CPA's and went on to work for many companies, including Grinnell, Consolidated Aluminum, Harding Machine, Jimmy Dean Foods, Family Physicians Group and Baptist Health Group.

Steve was a great man with an infectious laugh, who was loyal and loving to all his friends and family.



Steven also volunteered with Relay for Life, among other nonprofit organizations and volunteer projects.

"Steven Wood embodied what Union seeks to instill in every student: the heart to care and the spirit to try to make a difference in their world and in people's lives," said Bob Agee, Union's vice president for institutional advancement.

Through saving and investing part of his income, Steven arranged to give the bulk of his estate to Union University to endow a scholarship fund for students who needed financial aid.

"I hope that everyone who receives help through this scholarship fund knows what a valuable and true gift their education is," Cash said.

Agee added, "We are deeply touched by his generosity and his desire to help students in need get a great Christian education." ■

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

Learning Disabilities add-on certificate. She lives in Anderson, S.C., and is currently pursuing a teaching career.

Laura M. Rector ('99) earned her Ph.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2014. In spring 2015, she became an affiliate faculty member at Fuller.

00's | TWO THOUSANDS |

Erin (Hale) Phillips ('06, '12) was awarded a full tuition scholarship after being accepted into the University of Tennessee College of Law. She is married to **Justin Randall Phillips ('00)**.

Paul Whitt ('01) was elected shareholder at Lewis Thomason, a law firm with offices in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis.

Chris Haak ('02) has worked as a lead events specialist at Crossmark since May 2012. He is also a member and lion tamer of the Medina Lions Club in Medina, Tenn., and serves on the one-year board of directors. Chris recently moved to Trenton, Tenn.

Jacob Shatzer ('07) published his new book, "A Spreading and Abiding Hope: A Vision for Evangelical Theopolitics," with Cascade Books in October 2015. The book explores the ideas of late theologian A. J. Conyers to give readers a different perspective on evangelism.

Scott Talley ('07) earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in December 2015. He is the pastor of students at



Ebenezer Baptist Church in Hillsborough, N.C., and is married to **Leigh Talley ('11)**.

10's | TWENTY TENS |

Adam D. York ('10) released his first in a series of children's books called "The Adventures of Penny Nickels." The book, "Meet Penny Nickels," introduces Penny as she begins to learn the importance of



being a good steward. Adam is a former minister, writer and curriculum editor for children, teens and young adults. He is currently director of alumni communication and young alumni at Belmont University

Molly Bricker ('13) donated a part of her liver in 2015 to a 5-year-old girl, Sage Baker, who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at 6 months old. Bricker is a law student at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va.

Births



Cade Jacob Brown, born Feb. 12, 2016, is the fourth child of **James**

Brown ('04) and **Anna Brown ('04)**.

Emmalyn Hitt was born in February 2015 to **Erin Hitt ('04)** and



Jonathan Hitt ('02). She is the fourth child, following siblings

Bethany, Jonathan Jr. and Lillian.



Audrey Grace was born Aug. 9, 2014, to **Jonathan Goodrum ('12)** and **Jill Goodrum ('12)**.

Madeline Grace Pusser, born Sept. 19, 2015, is the first child of **Susan**



Bacon Pusser ('05) and **Daryl Pusser ('04)**.

Micah Philip Williams was born June 11, 2015, to Daniel Philip Williams



and **Bethany Ann (Thrower) Williams ('99)**.

Asher Samuel Childers, born May 20, 2015, is the third child of **Angie**



(Brown) Childers ('98) and **Edmond Childers ('99)**,

following older sisters Addison and Anna Kate.



Adeline Grace Thomas was born June 17, 2015, to **Stephen**

Thomas ('11) and Ashley Thomas.



Michael Bobby Rushing, born June 28, 2015, is the son of **Bobby P. Rushing ('04)** and Megan J. Rushing.



Reagan Lari White was born Feb. 1, 2014, to **Tori (Gill) White ('05)** and **William White ('04)**.

Coraline Ruth Johnson, born May 13, 2015, was welcomed by parents



Jenny Heineken Johnson ('04) and Isaac Johnson,

along with their daughter Eliana.

Isaiah Tobin Tuggle was born Sept. 6, 2015, to **Chase Tuggle ('12)** and Avery Tuggle of Birmingham, Ala.

Introducing the University Ring

Union University is pleased to offer an official university ring. The ring's design was created to honor Union graduates and provide a physical reminder of the legacy and tradition that come with being a Union alumnus.

The university seal is the focal point of the top of the ring. The symbol includes the university motto, "Religio et Eruditio," and the founding date of 1823. One side of the ring has the crest of the university in the center with the graduation year of the alumnus. The four stars above



the crest represent Union's four core values. The ring's other side has Miller Tower surrounded by Union's athletic monogram. The torch, representing knowledge, is wrapped with the words "Lest We Forget" and flanked by the Christian flag and the Tennessee flag.

The ring is available in both women's and men's sizes starting at \$387. Choose from Gold, Silver, and White

Ultrium®. For a more detailed description and to order your Union University ring, visit uu.edu/alumni/ring. ☎

The **UNIONITE** welcomes news from alumni. Please include contact information with your submission. There are three ways to send information:

Standard mail:

Unionite
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305

Email: unionite@uu.edu

Online: uu.edu/unionite

Marriages

Ginger McElroy ('01) married Dr.



Paul Ranney, DMD, of Jeffersonville, Ind., at The Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville,

Tenn., on Dec. 20, 2015.

Julie Paul ('04) married Eleazal Niyonizera in August 2014. Following the wedding, she returned to the U.S. after living in East Africa and India, opening Revive Chiropractic in Hendersonville, Tenn., in 2016.



Holly Burnett ('05) married Lanre Shogbesan on Nov. 28, 2015, in Oakland, Calif.

Anna White Holt ('05)

married Andy Holt of Memphis, Tenn., on Jan. 17, 2015.

Shannon Kish McElroy ('05)

married Geoff McElroy on Oct. 11, 2015, in Huntsville, Ala.

Rachel Donaldson ('11) married Brice Swann on Oct. 4, 2015, in Louisville, Ky.



Madeleine Hemphill Shore ('15)

married Caleb Shore on Sept. 20, 2015, at Scarritt Bennett

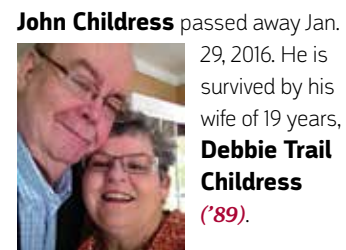
Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Savannah Hughes ('15) married



Graham Agee on June 4, 2015. She is now working on her doctorate in occupational therapy at Arkansas State University.

Memoriam



John Childress passed away Jan. 29, 2016. He is survived by his wife of 19 years, **Debbie Trail Childress ('89)**.

Emily Wieland McMinn ('55), of Kalamazoo, Mich., died Nov. 4, 2015.

James Hackney ('50) passed away July 2, 2014, at age 87. He served in ministry for 66 years. James is survived by his wife, **Marjorie Gable Hackney ('50)** of Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Walter Kruschwitz, former Union University professor of physics and mathematics, died Sept. 14, 2015, at age 95. The local VFW Honor Guard gave a military salute program during his funeral service. He is survived by his



daughters, Nancy Kruschwitz and Sharon Walters; his grandchildren, Ryan Walters, Erin Robinson and Kelsey Olsen; and one great-grandson, Stone Robinson.

G. Ann Livingstone

G. Ann Livingstone, Union University faculty member for more than 40 years, died at her home in Jackson, Tenn., on Feb. 11, 2016.

A graduate of Anderson University with a degree in political science, Livingstone had a lifelong interest in humanitarian efforts across the world. Her parents, Eldon and Beth Boggs, served in Tokyo, Japan, when she was a child, beginning her engagement with other cultures and starting her on the path of being a world traveler.

"She pressed her students to a see a world bigger than what they knew," Kevin Sheiley ('94), one of Livingstone's many students, said. "She wanted you to think and to know why."

It was in 1974 that Livingstone joined the Union University faculty as an associate professor of political science and then director of the Honors Program. She received the distinction of Outstanding Teacher for her work, and she shaped many programs, including the Scholar-in-Residence program.

"For Ann, learning was not just a classroom endeavor," Sheiley said. "She pushed us as we watched her



being pushed. She was real and made sure we saw her struggles as well...a single mom raising two daughters and working on her doctorate a continent away."

While research opportunities in Canada took her from Jackson, Livingstone continued to be a frequent lecturer at Union's events and courses. Throughout her life, she worked to make sure she "filled the world with love" by being strong, brave and true.

"I know I am but one of thousands whose life has been changed for the

better because of her passion and work," Sheiley said. "I thank God for Ann's life, her teaching and her calling."

Livingstone is survived by her two daughters, Katherine Semrau (Christopher Adams) and Maggie Semrau; her mother, Beth Boggs; her sisters, Merry Sue Boggs and Bethany Boggs Fisher (Philip); her brothers, Jonathan Boggs and Joel Boggs (Rita); and her nephews, Adam, Brayden, Aaron, Daniel, TJ and Jamison. She was preceded in death by her father, Eldon, and her nephew, Jordan. 🕊

Memoriam

James F. Eaves ('49)

James F. Eaves passed away in December 2015 at the age of 90. In addition to serving as pastor of churches in New Mexico, Tennessee and Texas, James was the professor of evangelism full-time for 17 years and professor emeritus for another 10 years at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also served as a Union University trustee for seven years and helped plan the campus relocation. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, **Jeane Eaves ('49)**. 🕊



Melanie Matthews

Melanie Matthews, retired associate professor of nursing, died Aug. 4, 2015. She taught Union University nursing students for more than 30 years. She is survived by her husband, Ben Matthews; her son, **Ryan Matthews ('08)**; her daughter, **Emily Matthews Wan ('10)**; her daughter-in-law, Jessica Keen Matthews; and her two granddaughters. Her family established a scholarship fund for a nursing student in her memory. 🕊

Ernest Courtney Wilson,

Union University alumnus, passed away May 12, 2014, at the age of 89. He served as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and then pastor of First Baptist Church in Hendersonville for 27 years. He also served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He is survived by daughters Sylvia Smith and Laurie Gray; sons Jerry Wilson and Philip Wilson; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

James Barton Shanklin

passed away Oct. 25, 2015, at the age of 64. He served as the first director of the Western Illinois University School of Music for just over 10 years. He taught at Southern Utah University for 15 years served as a choral director after earning a bachelor of degree in music education from Union.

Alfred Tennyson Royer, Union University student from 1945-1947, passed away Jan. 31, 2016, at the age of 90 in Knoxville, Tenn. He served as a pastor for 43 years until his retirement. Alfred is survived by his wife of 69 years, **Theo Lane Royer ('46)**; sons and daughters-in-law, Phillip and Betty and John and Alice; grandchildren, Rachel Goins (Justin), Lane Root (Bill), Josh Royer (Hannah) and Ben Royer (Kristy); brothers, William and Ralph Royer; and sister, Clarice Allen.

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Memoriam

Union mourns loss of Lancaster, 51, to cancer

Holli Lancaster, a former IMB missionary in Southeast Asia and missionary in residence at Union University, died March 29 at age 51, following a battle with ovarian cancer. Holli's husband, Dan Lancaster, serves as assistant vice president for university ministries at Union.

"They brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the campus and built incredible relations with students as well as faculty and staff," said Todd Brady, vice president for university ministries at Union.

Prior to serving at Union, the Lancasters spent 12 years as missionaries in Southeast Asia. Brady said when they came to Union, their mission and purpose came with them.

She loved people very well, and I learned how to love people better by being friends with her.

"Their investment and love for the mission of Union and God's heartbeat for the world, those two things were obvious," he said.

The Lancasters came to Union in 2014 as missionaries in residence before transitioning to full-time work

with university ministries. Brady said they became quickly invested in the campus, helping with training for Global Opportunities Trips and opening their home to students.

Julie Bradfield, Union's director of student mobilization, said Holli was life-giving.

"They did a phenomenal job of loving on us and serving us," she said. "They did a lot of up front stuff, but they also did tons of meeting with students and helping us behind the scenes. I can't tell you how many times she showed up at my office with fresh cookies and a word of encouragement."

Emily Littleton, a junior journalism and history major at Union, said she met the Lancasters while she was preparing to spend a summer in Southeast Asia in one of the cities where the Lancasters served. She said Holli never sought attention, but people were drawn to her. She said she had a way of making everyone in her orbit feel special.

"I didn't know her very long, but in the time that I spent with her, I always walked away feeling loved," Littleton said. "She loved people very well, and I learned how to love people better by being friends with her."

Littleton said she was one of many student who would visit the Lancaster home on Saturday nights for weekly pizza nights. She said she could see that the Lancasters were still burdened for unreached people overseas when they transitioned into full-time work at Union.

"Their passion for missions overflowed from everything they did," she said. "So



you couldn't really have a conversation with Holli without walking away understanding how much she loved Southeast Asia."

JonMark Hetrick, a senior math and philosophy major at Union, met the Lancasters when his family was on the mission field, and the two families eventually served in the same city. Holli and Dan have four children: Jeff, Zach, Karis and Zane. Hetrick said the Lancasters were like a second family to him.

Hetrick was a student at Union when Dan and Holli joined the university, and he said their passion for missions was the same in the states as it was in Asia.

"They were unified in what they did," he said. "Whatever Dan did, Holli was there and supporting it even if she wasn't there."

Hetrick said he watched the couple as they led teaching and preparation for GO Trips, and he enjoyed watching them speak together.

"They work so well side by side," he said. "When he was speaking, if he missed something, she took it up and filled in the gaps. They had a heart for missions together that was uniform. They could rely on each other."

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions for the Holli Lancaster Memorial GO Trip Scholarship be sent to Union University at 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, TN 38305 or given online at uu.edu/giving/lancaster. 🙏

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CHANGING LIVES TO IMPACT THE WORLD



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Meet Buster

A gift from the class of 2016, the English bulldog puppy will serve as Union's live mascot.

photo by Kristi Woody '10