

SPRING 2019

UNIONITE



THE UNION UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Called to Compassion

HOW UNION IS TRAINING STUDENTS TO DEAL WITH THE OPIOID CRISIS

Gary Carter: An Eye for Numbers, a Heart for God

Courage and Conviction:
Dub Oliver celebrates 5 years

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Nita Mehr (SOCIAL WORK), *Kim Jones*
(PHARMACY), *Jennifer Delk* (NURSING),
C. Ben Mitchell (THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS).
(FRONT ROW) *Haley Coble* (SOCIAL WORK),
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Photo by Kristi Woody ('10)



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UNIONITE

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Numbers to Know

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From the President

We've been thinking and talking a lot at Union about transformation. Transformation for the good is something beautiful to behold. A caterpillar enters a cocoon, and what emerges after several days is a transformation into a glorious butterfly of sparkling colors.

In Romans 12, we are called to be transformed by the renewal of our minds, and that's what Union University is all about—teaching students how to think about all of life through a Christian lens so they are transformed during their time here.

Students enter Union with big dreams. They leave here equipped to take the gospel to the world in whatever field they are entering, whether it's business, education, nursing, the arts, the sciences, ministry, pharmacy or social work. They are taught and prepared how to be excellent in their work, how to trust Christ with their futures, how to serve others and how to make a difference in their communities, their homes, their jobs and their churches. In short, they are transformed to be servants and leaders ready to be used by God in whatever way he sees fit.

In this issue of the *Unionite*, you'll find some examples of the transformative work taking place at Union. Our nursing, social work and pharmacy programs are addressing the opioid crisis with courage and compassion, preparing students how to deal with this ongoing challenge and how to transform the lives of people who are caught in vicious cycles of addiction. Union employees like Gary Carter, a longtime example of faithful service, invest in the lives of students and others in the Union community and make a difference that will be felt for years.

Then there are donors like Aubrey Neal, a 94-year-old man who graduated from Union more than six decades ago after serving our country in World War II. After years of faithful ministry, Mr. Neal continues to invest in Union students and transform lives by his generosity.

We're grateful for your partnership in our transformative work. We ask for your prayers and your ongoing support as we strive to be faithful to our mission of providing Christ-centered education that promotes excellence and character development in service to Church and society. Students will be transformed at Union University, but that only happens through the grace of God and the friendship, prayers and encouragement of people like you.

Gratefully,

Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver, Ph.D.



Union launches Call to Ministry Network with Southern Baptist colleges

Union University has joined with three other Southern Baptist schools to launch the Call to Ministry Network. The network seeks to identify and encourage people in Baptist churches who have sensed a call to ministry service.

The Call to Ministry Network is a partnership between Union, Anderson University, California Baptist University and Oklahoma Baptist University. LifeWay Christian Resources and the North American Mission Board will also partner in providing resources for the network.



Ray Van Neste, dean of Union's School of Theology and Missions, said the network's website, calltoministry.com, will be the main way the network will provide resources to those considering a call. Members from the four partner institutions will contribute articles or columns to the website, which also includes links to learn more about those institutions' ministry training programs.

Oliver addresses temperance at Fall Convocation

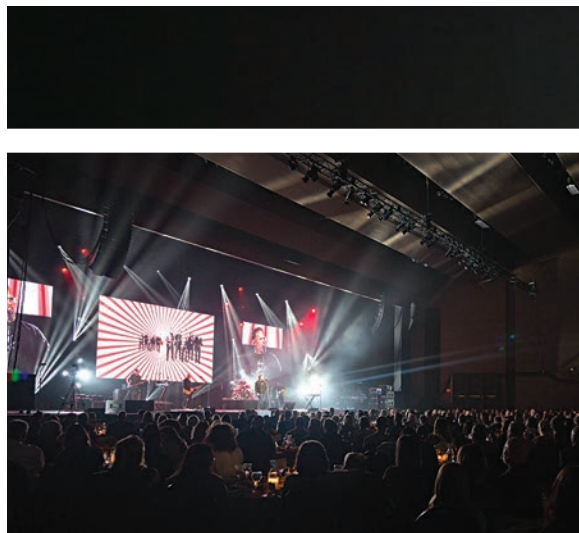
Union University President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver said in pursuing a virtuous life, the biblical concept of self-control is counter-cultural.

"Instead of my being the captain of my ship, 'the master of my fate,' and the ruler of my life, I am a steward," Oliver said. "I am a servant who has been entrusted with this life. Self-control, then, is an aspect of my stewardship responsibility to God."

Oliver addressed temperance, or self-control, at Fall Convocation during the fall 2018 semester as the fourth in a series of convocation addresses on the virtuous life. His first address was on the virtue of courage, his second was on justice and his third was on prudence.

Oliver said Christians are called to confess controlling passions, turn from them and walk in the Spirit. He said temperance is motivated by love and directed to love. He encouraged students, faculty and staff at Union to spur one another on in that love and in the pursuit of virtue.

Oliver's complete address is available at livestream.com/uu.



MercyMe entertains more than 1,600 at Union Scholarship Banquet

A concert by Christian recording artist MercyMe was the highlight of the 21st annual Union University Scholarship Banquet Oct. 18, with more than 1,600 people in attendance at the Carl Perkins Civic Center.

Bart Millard, the group's lead singer, shared stories behind some of the group's songs and what he has learned about the Lord after 24 years as a singer and songwriter with one of Christian music's most popular bands.

Millard said legalism has always been a temptation, and he tried desperately to be good enough to make God notice and love him.

"I got really good at being religious," Millard said. "Well, thank God for grace. Religion tells you to get it right, and grace says, 'I'll be there when you cannot.'" ■

Engineering announces plans for new makerspace

Union University has designed an engineering makerspace to help engineering students bridge the gap between knowledge to practice. When opened, the makerspace will foster invention and creativity by giving engineering students more space to work, think, collaborate, build and present their innovative projects.

The space will provide ample room for updated engineering tools and equipment such as a commercial wind tunnel, 3D printers, electronics and fabrication equipment and computers with up-to-date engineering software. It will also include open space and project cubes, where engineering students can engage in brainstorming, analysis and design, and the Union community can appreciate their work through displays and community events.

If you would like to support the new makerspace, you can give online at uu.edu/giving/makerspace.



Web exclusive: Explore the space through virtual views online at uu.edu/engineering/makerspace.



Emery named to state Board of Judicial Conduct

Union University professor Brooke Emery was appointed by former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam to serve on the 16-member Board of Judicial Conduct.

Emery, assistant professor of marketing, will serve a three-year term as one of the committee's three "public" members—meaning one of the three members who are not attorneys or judges. The Board of Judicial Conduct reviews and investigates complaints against sitting judges in matters that are not appealable through the legal process.



Lanese Dockery recounts Union Auxiliary history during 20th anniversary luncheon

Former Union University First Lady Lanese Dockery said the Union Auxiliary was founded more than 20 years ago with the twofold purpose of scholarships and service.

Dockery was the guest speaker at the Union Auxiliary's 20th anniversary luncheon Sept. 25 in the Carl Grant Events Center. She recounted the history of the Union Auxiliary that launched in April 1998 with a small luncheon in the President's Dining Room.

Since then, the Union Auxiliary has provided almost \$200,000 in scholarships to 195 Union students. The organization has held regular luncheon meetings over the past 20 years, with speakers such as Denise George, Carolyn Tomlin, Maggie Nell Brewer, Louise Bentley, Karen Moy and others. For the past three years, the Union Auxiliary has held an annual banquet, featuring Olympic gold medalist David Boudia and bestselling authors Bob Goff and Karen Kingsbury.

"We give thanks to God for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,

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remembering before our God and Father your work of faith, your labor of love and your steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ," Dockery said, quoting from 1 Thessalonians. "So through the power of the Holy Spirit, each of you here today helped the Union Auxiliary to do little things in a great way, and we praise God for you."

Leffler speaks on Reagan, Cold War at history lecture

Cold War historian Melvyn Leffler said Ronald Reagan's mastery of friendly diplomacy was his single greatest contribution to ending the Cold War.

Leffler, the Edward Stettinius Professor of American History at the University of Virginia, was the keynote speaker at the 22nd annual Carls-Schwerdfeger History Lecture Oct. 22 at Union University, speaking on "Ronald Reagan and the End of the Cold War."

He said some historians and political scholars disagree as to whether or not Reagan had a

strategy to end the Cold War or to win it, but most agree that his interactions with the Soviet Union were decisive in bringing the conflict to an end.

"By seeking to engage the Kremlin and end the Cold War, Reagan helped to win it," Leffler said.



Union partners with New Mexico Baptists to provide pastoral mentorship program

Union University has begun a partnership

with the Baptist Convention of New Mexico that will place students in New Mexico churches for mentoring by local pastors during the summer.

Todd E. Brady, vice president for university ministries at Union, said the program will meet the needs of both Union University students who are preparing for ministry and New Mexico churches by providing learning and service opportunities.

"There's a need for workers there. There's a need for opportunities here," Brady said. "Students will have an opportunity to be involved in God's avenue through which he advances the gospel – the local church. This is a church-based mentorship program for a student to walk alongside a pastor and be involved in the church."

The GO West Pastoral Mentorship Program will begin in the summer of 2019. Brady and Joseph Bunce, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, are hoping for three Union students to be placed in New Mexico churches this year.

Homecoming 2018 celebrates Union alumni, students



Web exclusive: See more Homecoming photos online at uu.edu/unionite.

Union University celebrated alumni and current students during Homecoming

weekend Nov. 1-3. Union crowned a new Homecoming queen and recognized alumni for their service as part of the weekend.

Sallie Norman, a music education major from Henderson, Kentucky, was crowned Homecoming queen. Grant Allen of Jackson, Tennessee, was named Mr. Union, and Corinne Olund of Hendersonville, Tennessee, was named Miss Union.

Other members of the Homecoming court included senior representatives Sabrina Clendenin of St. Charles, Missouri; Brooklynn Davidson of Henderson, Tennessee; Tamara Friesen of Meknès, Morocco; junior representative Abigail Johnson of National Harbor, Maryland; sophomore representative Emma Butler of Huntsville, Alabama; and freshman representative Mary Helen



English of Brownsville, Tennessee.

The class of 1969 celebrated its 50-year reunion at a dinner Nov. 1 and a chapel service Nov. 2. Members of the class shared memories from their time at Union and gave advice to current students. ■



Bernheisel wins 4 medals at Transplant Games

In 2010, Jay Bernheisel was unable to run. An auto-immune condition was destroying his liver, leaving him weak and jaundiced.

In 2018, he won four medals in his first Transplant Games in Salt Lake City.

Bernheisel, professor of engineering, received a liver transplant in 2012, and since then, said he has been passionate about promoting organ donation. The games, which included all kinds of transplant recipients from around the country, gave him an opportunity to do that.

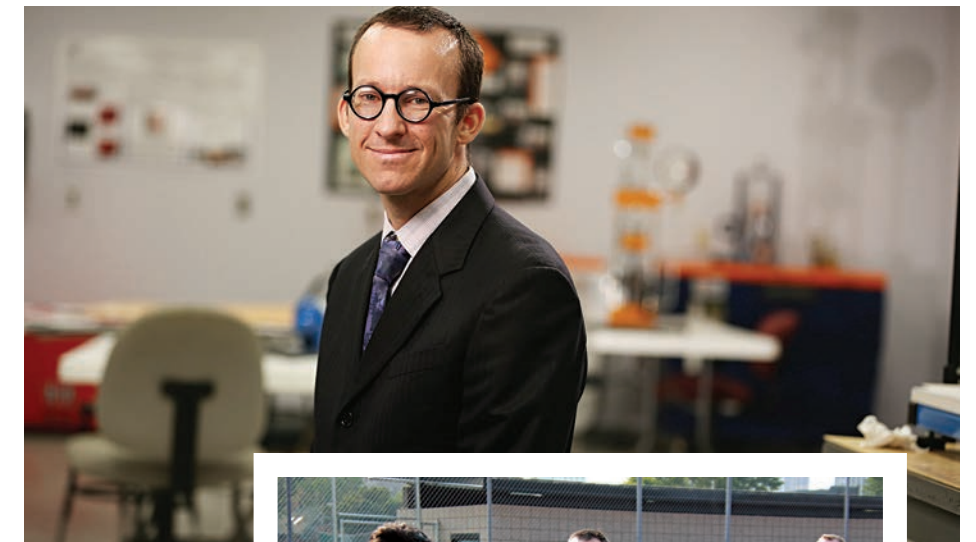
"It's to promote organ donation, and in my view, to celebrate what our healed bodies can do," Bernheisel said.

The 2018 games took place Aug. 2-7 and saw more than 900 organ transplant recipients compete. They set a world record for most organ transplant recipients in one place; 540 showed up at the same time, Bernheisel said.

"It was great to meet people and know that there are a lot of other people like me, that I'm not just this rare medical marvel," Bernheisel said. "Sometimes I feel guilty about that. I've been through something that's expensive, that somebody had to die for, so it's good to find a context where that's celebrated."

The games included traditional athletic events such as team sports, track and field and racquet sports, as well as competitions in things like ballroom dancing, darts and songwriting.

Bernheisel competed in the virtual triathlon. The three events—swimming, cycling and running—occurred at different times, with a 500-yard freestyle swim and 20-kilometer bicycle race Friday followed by a 1,500-meter race Sunday. Bernheisel won the bronze medal in cycling, the silver medal in the



1,500-meter race and the gold medal overall for men in his age group, age 40-49. He also won silver for his age group in a 5K race that was open to anyone, not just transplant recipients.



It was great to meet people and know that there are a lot of other people like me, that I'm not just this rare medical marvel.

Bernheisel was initially diagnosed with the auto-immune condition in 2001, and though he remained asymptomatic until 2009, he knew it would eventually destroy his liver.

He said the community around him at Union made all the difference throughout the process of becoming sick and eventually receiving a liver transplant.

Bernheisel said the Transplant Games were a special time for him, and he hopes that his participation and wins encourage people to consider or reconsider organ donation—a decision that saved his life. ■



Wills speaks on church discipline at third annual Dockery Lectures

Gregory A. Wills, David T. Porter Professor of Church History at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said Baptists need to return to the practice of church discipline.

Wills spoke at Union University Feb. 21 as the keynote speaker for the third annual David and Lanese Dockery Lectures on Baptist Thought and Heritage. He gave two lectures on the topic "Conflict and Collaboration: Baptists, the Church and the American Culture." His afternoon lecture focused on "Individualism and Church Discipline."

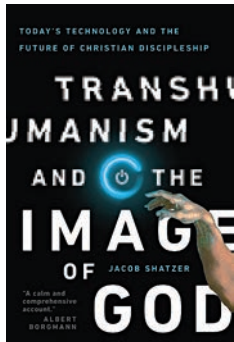
Wills said between 1760 and 1900, Baptists in the South practiced church discipline to a breathtaking degree, excluding nearly 1 million people from church membership and calling between 3 and 4 percent of their members to give account for sin each year.

"Baptists maintained an active church discipline... because they viewed it as a matter of simple obedience," Wills said. "Christ commanded it."

Wills said the practice was always irksome and difficult, but by the early 1900s it became implausible. Critiques of this type of church discipline began to seem justified to most Baptists, and by the 1940s, most had abandoned the practice altogether as it seemed to do more harm than good. Wills said while most Baptist leaders continue to support church discipline in principle, they have abandoned it in practice.

Shatzer addresses technology and transhumanism in new book

Jacob Shatzer, associate dean for the School of Theology and Missions at Union University,



addresses the relationships between technology, Christians and discipleship in his latest book, *Transhumanism and the Image of God*.

"A lot of the time when I would read Christians thinking about technology, they would focus on how technology could be

used for obvious sin or for obvious good," Shatzer

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Cardinal & Cream named best college magazine in Southeast

The *Cardinal & Cream*, Union University's student news publication, won five awards in the 2019 Best of the South competition, including Best College Magazine.

The competition was part of the Southeast Journalism Conference, which included students from colleges and universities across eight states in the Southeast, held Feb. 14-16 on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University.

Ted Kluck, assistant professor of communication arts and adviser for the *Cardinal & Cream*, said experiences like SEJC are great for team-building, and the awards are validating for the program.

"I've said for a long time that I would put the top of our roster against any journalism program in the country, and the Best Magazine of the South award confirms this," Kluck said. "I'm especially proud of the joyfulness and community we have in our classrooms and our offices, and really enjoy every moment I get to spend with these students."

In individual awards, Mattanah DeWitt placed sixth in the College Journalist of the Year competition, Liz Caldwell placed first in the Best Feature Writer category, Maria Stewart placed second in Best Graphic Designer, and Emily Drost placed second in Best Graphic Artist/Illustrator.



Union's educator preparation programs receive highest score on state report card

Union University's School of Education has been rated in the highest possible category on the Tennessee State Board of Education's report card on the effectiveness of teacher training programs for the third year in a row.

The report card, which was implemented in its current version in 2015, is designed to give educator preparation programs information they can use to improve effectiveness. Union is one of only two schools in Tennessee to have received a score of four three times.

"This gives us a good long-range picture of our students' success," said Mandy Cates, director for accreditation and



assessment in Union's School of Education. "This is a lens through which we can track our graduates and see how they are impacting students in the classroom."

Union was evaluated based on graduates who completed the undergraduate,

graduate and Memphis Teacher Residency programs between 2015 and 2018. In addition to its overall score of four, Union scored a four in all three categories of the assessment for the first time.

The three categories are candidate profile, which assesses the percentage of completers who are racially diverse or have endorsements in high-demand areas such as math and science;

employment, which assesses the number and retention rate of completers teaching in Tennessee public schools; and provider impact, which includes teacher observation scores and student growth assessments. ■

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said. "But there wasn't a lot of analysis about how technology use might change or shape us."

Shatzer's book explores how technology can change the way people think about things and specifically how its use may subtly cause Christians to accept transhumanism, which he defined as a "movement to use whatever we can to overcome human limitations and become something different."

"There's still this overall mentality that technology is neutral and we just need to pick if we use it for good or use it for evil, but it's not quite that simple," Shatzer said. "Different technologies bring with them and encourage certain ways of being that aren't neutral, so we need to be willing to think more critically about how they impact us."

Dunlop shares guiding principles at Faith in the Marketplace luncheon

Becky Norton Dunlop, the Heritage Foundation's Ronald Reagan Distinguished Fellow, said lives, workplaces and nations must be guided by principles grounded in truth. Dunlop was the featured speaker at Union University's annual Faith in the Marketplace luncheon Feb. 28 sponsored by the McAfee School of Business.



Dunlop said the Heritage Foundation is guided by Christian principles to help individuals and families be able to live better lives according to their values.

"Judeo-Christian principles grounded in truth focus on the well-being of people," Dunlop said. "We know that people are our most important, valuable amenity in the world. They're the highest creation of the creator God. All that we do should be to enhance and enrich the human family while living here on the earth."

Dunlop shared several of these guiding principles at the luncheon, beginning with two commands of Jesus, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

"That would resolve a lot of issues for which we now have laws and regulations," Dunlop said.

Union trustees approve \$95.7 million budget, celebrate Oliver's 5-year anniversary

Union University trustees at their April 26 meeting approved a \$95.7 million budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, including nearly \$2 million in additional financial aid for students.

Trustees also approved a number of Union faculty members for promotions and tenure and celebrated the five-year anniversary of Union President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver and his wife Susie.

"One of the things we're committed to is making a Union education affordable for families," Oliver said. "With the addition of almost \$2 million budgeted for financial aid, that will open the door for a number of students to attend Union who otherwise might not have been able to."



Kingsbury speaks on living a good story at Union Auxiliary event

Bestselling author and storyteller Karen Kingsbury gave advice for living the best story at the Union University Auxiliary's April 16 event, "An Evening with Karen Kingsbury."

Kingsbury has written almost 100 books and has nearly 13 million copies of her novels in print, but she said at the end of her life, she doesn't want her friends and family to remember her for what she wrote.

"I want them to talk about the story I wrote with the days of my life," she said.

Kingsbury shared several things she has found are required for writing a good life story. She said the first important thing is to love well because, as the Bible teaches, Jesus loved first.

"He gave his life for us, and he's calling us to do that for the characters in the story of our lives," she said.

Kingsbury said good life storytellers should also laugh often and look for the miraculous. She shared many stories of the miracles she has seen in her life, even in seemingly small things. She said if people will look for it, there is much more going on than what they can touch or see.



"What you can touch and see isn't even the realest thing," she said. "The realest thing is going on in the other world, in the spiritual world around us."

Kingsbury said this is why the most important thing in living a good story is to live for Jesus Christ. She said that is the only thing that can guarantee a good conclusion.

"I don't care what the chapter is right now in your life," Kingsbury said. "If it's the most tragic, most desperate chapter or the most beautiful one, the pages are going to turn. But with Jesus Christ as the hero of your story, you are headed for a guaranteed happy ending."

Union University Hendersonville celebrates 10 years



In the fall of 2008, Union University began offering classes in the Hendersonville, Tennessee, area when it set up Master of Christian Studies classes at First Baptist Hendersonville. Ten years later, the Union University Hendersonville campus has graduated more than 800 students.

"Our mission at Union University Hendersonville is a branch of Union's broader mission: to provide our students a Christ-centered, excellent education," said Renee Dauer, director for the Hendersonville campus. "With our adult programs, we want to create the same Christian community you would find at the Jackson campus in a way that fits the context of adult students."

Union University Hendersonville held a celebration and open house in December to mark the 10th anniversary of the campus.

Union University Hendersonville offers graduate degrees in business, Christian studies, education and nursing as well as adult degree completion programs. Dauer said the entire Hendersonville campus is dedicated to meeting the needs of those adult students.

"Adult students have busy lives, and most have jobs and families to tend to on top of going to classes," Dauer said. "So instead of saying, 'Come fit into our model,' we ask what works for you. We want to complement, not complicate, your life." ■

Art department creates sculpture to show solidarity with churches

Union University's art department is building a sculpture to show solidarity with those whose churches have been destroyed in recent months.

Lee Benson, university professor of art and department chair, said the new sculpture was initially envisioned to stand in solidarity with the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris after a fire broke out there in April. He said it was expanded to honor six African-American churches that were burned in Louisiana in April and March and the churches destroyed in Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka.

"We wanted to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who have a daily struggle to practice their faith," Benson said. "We hope to call the university to a year of prayer for our brothers and sisters around the world and even here in the United States."

Keep up with the latest news from Union at uu.edu/news



The sculpture resembles a cathedral, with a footprint mimicking the shape of the Notre Dame cathedral and a tower modeled after one of the churches burned in Louisiana. It will be lit from within with solar lights and is located in the grove between the Penick Academic Complex and the Great Lawn. 📍



Union's debate team wins IPDA national championships tournament

Union University's debate team won first place at the International Public Debate Association's National Championships tournament April 7-13 in Reno, Nevada. The team also won second place in the Founders Award competition, which combines scores from all divisions and tournaments throughout the year.

Web Drake, chair of Union's department of communication arts and director of debate, said debate allows all students to hone the skills they need to succeed in their classes and workplaces.

Union's debate team includes students from more than 15 programs across the university.

Union competes against a variety of

public and private schools in IPDA, with 154 schools participating in the national championships this year. This was Union's sixth national championships tournament win.

Drake, who will be leaving Union after this semester, said this tournament was a good one to go out on.

"This was an excellent team," he said. "It was a young team with a lot of new people, and I was very, very proud of them. They came a long way this year." 📍



Union University, MCUTS to merge in August

The Memphis Center for Urban and Theological Studies will merge with Union University in August and become the Memphis College of Urban and Theological Studies, an academic unit of Union University.

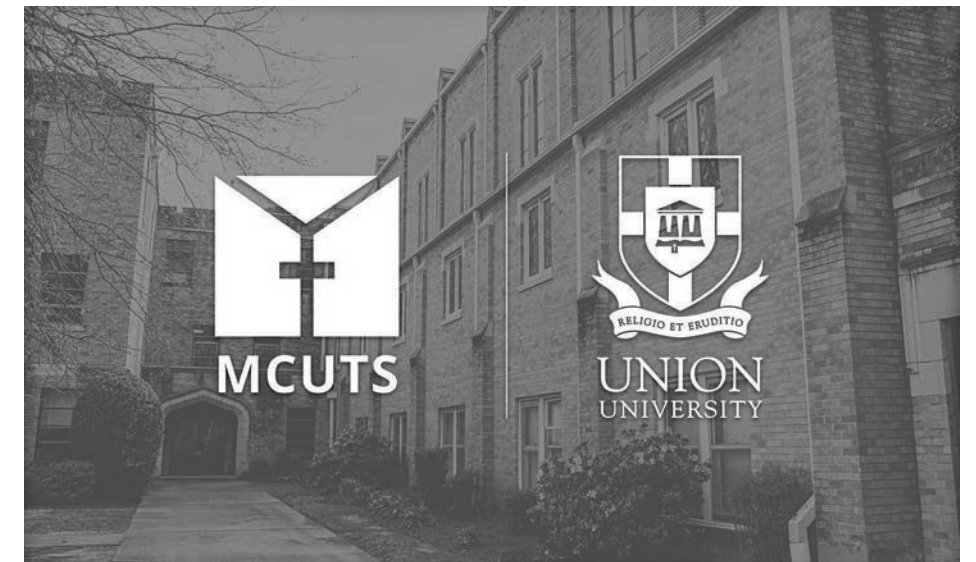
MCUTS, which was founded in 2000 through a cooperative effort from several Memphis nonprofits and churches, exists to provide affordable, accessible and accredited theological education and career-oriented degrees for those serving in an urban context to transform Memphis and the Mid-South for the kingdom of Christ, according to its mission statement.

About 120 students are currently enrolled, with about 18 full-time faculty and staff. The merger will take effect Aug. 1, pending an acceptance by the board of Union's accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, at its June meeting.

"What MCUTS has been doing and is doing is really strong and effective," Union University President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver said. "They're coming under the Union umbrella, and we're expanding our mission to provide Christ-centered education that promotes excellence and character development in service to church and society through this urban emphasis in Memphis."

Union's work has for years consisted of three main "streams," Oliver said: traditional undergraduate, which is the central stream and what Union has been doing for nearly two centuries; graduate programs; and adult degree completion programs. MCUTS will add a fourth stream to the university.

"It's for people who are in an urban setting who want to serve in an urban setting and who have largely not had access to higher education," Oliver said.



MCUTS has previously partnered with an out-of-state institution that has been the degree-granting body for MCUTS' programming. MCUTS President Joe Caldwell said in seeking a new partner, MCUTS was looking for an

institution that shared its Christian faith and Christian values and that wanted to work with under-resourced communities in urban Memphis.

Caldwell said the new partnership with Union allows the school's students to get a local degree from an institution that is reputable and better recognized in Memphis. "Union brings a known name to the table so our students have the ability to better project themselves as they are looking for jobs beyond their degree," Caldwell said.

In addition, the partnership with Union will lower tuition costs for MCUTS students, Caldwell said, and it will provide MCUTS students with increased opportunities for scholarships that the state of Tennessee provides. Those scholarships were not previously available because MCUTS was considered an out-of-state institution.

The MCUTS campus is located at Union Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis and will remain there after the merger with Union. 📍

It's for people who are in an urban setting who want to serve in an urban setting and who have largely not had access to higher education.

Campbell wins 600 games faster than any college coach in history

Mark Campbell, head women's basketball coach at Union University, earned his 600th career victory Jan. 10 with the Lady Bulldogs' win at Auburn University at Montgomery.

Campbell became the fastest college basketball coach in history, across all divisions, to 600 wins. He did so in just 691 games, breaking the women's basketball record of 706 games by Nancy Fahey, currently of Illinois, but who earned more than 600 wins at NCAA Division III Washington-St. Louis to start her career. Campbell is also faster than the men's record holder, Kentucky's Adolph Rupp, who reached the mark in 704 games.

"I am very grateful to serve at an institution where the mission is gospel-centered," Campbell said. "I have had the privilege to have coached great players, with great assistants, great athletic directors and great presidents. Union is a special place where I get to serve Christ, my wife, my kids and my team, in that order.

"I really am humbled and really do realize that winning is not the goal. Changing hearts is the main thing. God allowing me to participate in that process is very fulfilling."

Other notable women's basketball coaches on the list include UConn's Geno Auriemma in third place, reaching 600 wins in 716 games. Tennessee's Pat Summitt reached 600 wins in 734 games, good for seventh on the list. 🏆



I really am humbled and really do realize that winning is not the goal. Changing hearts is the main thing.

DO YOU KNOW A FUTURE BULLDOG?



LEAH CAMPBELL, '21
music education major
Knoxville, Tenn.

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BE TRANSFORMED



CALLED TO COMPASSION

HOW UNION IS TRAINING STUDENTS TO DEAL WITH THE OPIOID CRISIS

BY NATHAN HANDLEY ('15)

Melanie Densmore was on her way to a residency showcase in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, to network with pharmacists in the state. She was just beginning her final year in Union University's pharmacy program and was thinking about her career after graduation.

Melanie pulled off at a gas station on the long stretch of highway and began pumping gas. Two pumps over, she saw two men arguing in a car, their muffled raised voices making her uncomfortable. Then one of the men got out of the car and ran directly to her.

"Do you know CPR?" he asked.

She did. Realizing it was an emergency, Melanie ran to the car, where she saw a

motionless woman in the back seat. She got in the back of the car and flipped the woman over to perform CPR. The woman was foaming at the mouth. In the front seat, Melanie saw a used syringe.

That's when she knew what she was dealing with—an overdose. The two men confirmed it.

"I got tunnel vision," Melanie says.

She immediately called out to another man at a nearby pump, "Will you call 911?"

"What happened?" he responded.

"She's overdosed," Melanie said.

"I have some Flonase that will help her," the man said.

Melanie hoped it wasn't just allergy medication but something more useful

like Narcan, a nasal spray that can reverse an overdose. It was.

Melanie hurried back to the car and turned the woman over to administer the medication. The woman was bleeding profusely from her arm where she had injected the drugs. Melanie took off her suit coat and tied it around the arm of the overdosing woman to stop the bleeding.

As she did so, one of the woman's companions began to protest.

"Don't try to save her life," he said.

"She obviously overdosed for a reason. She did this on purpose. It's her fault. Just let her die."

Melanie felt chills as she heard the other man respond.

**"DON'T TRY TO
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"No. Save her. She's pregnant."

Melanie administered the first dose of the medication and waited an agonizing two minutes. She administered a second dose. Thirty seconds later, the woman woke up, crying. She said she was pregnant, that she would be fine and that she didn't want to bother anybody.

Melanie comforted her, "An ambulance is on its way. I'm staying with you until it gets here."

Melanie waited with her until EMS showed up and took her to the hospital. Having most likely saved the woman's life, she got back in her car and drove to the showcase.

ON THE FRONT LINES

Melanie had recently finished a pharmacy rotation in pain management when she crossed paths with the overdosing woman. She had dealt with Narcan regularly, so she knew about its uses. She may have been uniquely prepared, but she says anyone can be—Narcan is available without a prescription in most pharmacies.

Kim Jones, associate professor of pharmacy practice, teaches a Drugs of Abuse class that focuses on opioid addiction—a national crisis that has escalated dramatically in the last 10 years. Union is working to train students across its campus in how to respond to this crisis.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, at least 78 people die each day from an opioid-related overdose. Opioids include the illegal drug heroin and prescription pain relievers such as oxycodone, hydrocodone and morphine, among others. These are drugs that pharmacists encounter every day, and those pharmacists often serve as the last barrier between addicted people and the addictive drugs.

Jones says the high risk for addiction from prescription pain medication was not even considered by many until recently.

“There’s the perception that because I’m getting this from a pharmacist and because my physician or nurse practitioner wrote this for me, that it’s safe,” she says.

Jones says while the drugs are safe and efficacious when used as prescribed, they become very dangerous when used incorrectly or for too long. Once a user becomes addicted to the euphoric effects of pain relievers, they often move on to more and more powerful and dangerous opioids, usually obtained illegally.

She said the opioid crisis is a complex problem—one that cannot be fixed by regulation or legislation. People with addiction come from many backgrounds and can become addicted in many ways. Some addicts deal with chronic pain and still need pain medication while dealing with their addiction. More mild opioids like methadone and bupomorphine that can be used to help prevent overdoses are

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still met with skepticism by many and are thus underprescribed.

“Even though more is being done and our federal and state governments are making changes, people are still dying,” Jones says. “And they’re dying from drugs that are dispensed from a person in a white coat.”

That’s why Jones says pharmacists and other healthcare professionals must be knowledgeable and do everything they can to care for people with addiction and prevent more people from becoming addicted. They are on the front lines.

Jennifer Delk, assistant professor of nursing at Union, says one way nurses are being trained to combat addiction is through open communication with their patients. While the value of the nurse-patient relationship has always been a cornerstone of nursing education at Union, the College of Nursing is incorporating specific training in asking direct questions about addiction.

“We teach these students that we have to



be vigilant in asking questions,” Delk says.

She says in the past, most nurses would give out pain medication based on the pain scale. The nurse would ask the patient to rate his or her pain on a scale of one to 10, with 10 being the most painful. If the number was high, the nurse would administer a strong pain reliever. Now, that model is changing.

“We’re looking at a number of things to determine what medication to give them, like movement, appetite and how far they are from surgery,” Delk says. “You want to administer pain medication to keep them at a level that’s appropriate for their stage.”

Patients who are one day post-surgery might need to be able to get out of the bed and maneuver. They don’t need to be able to walk several miles, Delk says. Their medication should be adjusted to their functional level.

“In the past, a patient could be sitting up, talking on the telephone and eating a cheeseburger and rate their pain a 10, and we would give them morphine,” Delk says. “In reality they were probably better without it.”

Delk has been a nurse for 20 years. For 19 of those, nurses did things the same way. As conversations about opioid addiction progress, things are changing, and the students in Union’s nursing programs are learning a different approach.

This is just one small piece of addressing opioid addiction from the

healthcare side. Delk agrees with Jones—it’s a complex issue.

“It’s not something that’s going to go away,” she says. “But we can make progress.”

“JUST LET HER DIE”

Looking back on her experience at the gas station, Melanie Densmore is still troubled by the words of the pregnant woman’s companion: “It’s her fault. Just let her die.”

It was not the first time she heard something like that, but her training in Union’s College of Pharmacy has taught her to think about it differently.

“Despite what he said, I knew that I couldn’t give up on saving her,” Melanie says. “Because addiction is a brain disease. She has her issues, yes, and we need to help her through those, but it’s not all about her choices.”

Jones says this is one of the driving factors in the opioid crisis—a deleterious perception that people with substance use issues deserve their suffering, that their own choices are to blame.

“God designed us all differently,” Jones says. “Some of us in our neurobiological wiring are more predisposed to succumb to addiction. That, coupled with the social stigma that addiction is a moral failing and a personal problem, is why it’s really important to me to train our students.”

Jones says addiction is a disease, just



FAR LEFT: Melanie Densmore speaks to Kim Jones, associate professor of pharmacy practice, in the OTC lab in Providence Hall.

LEFT: Jennifer Delk, assistant professor of nursing, talks about pain management with her students.

like hypertension or diabetes, and a wealth of scientific studies back that up. In her Drugs of Abuse class, she engages students in a thought experiment:

“If you had a patient with diabetes, and you saw them eat a donut, would you withhold their medication, their insulin?” Jones asks her students.

Most of the students confidently answer. No. Of course not.

“If you have a patient with an opioid problem, and they’re abstinent for a while, and then they relapse, they take their opioid again, what’s the difference?” Jones asks.

The students’ answers vary, but they trend along the same line: Because that was their choice—a bad decision. This is the perception Jones is trying to change for them.

“We should treat patients with substance use disorders the same way that we would treat others with chronic disease,” she says. “We cannot judge them and give up on them.”

This is why Melanie knew that the woman’s companion was wrong. The woman had made destructive choices, but she was dealing with a serious medical issue, and Melanie could not give up on her.

Nita Mehr, associate dean for Union’s School of Social Work, says perceptions and stigmas are a major contributing factor in the increase in opioid overdoses. These drugs carry massive negative

stigmas that connect drug addiction to personal character and even human value. The stigmas not only affect how other people view those with addictions, they affect how people with addictions view themselves.

“Stigma isolates us. It keeps us from going to treatment, and it may impact how professionals perceive us or want to work with us,” Mehr says. “The personal perception of stigma can lead to shame, which can have a crippling emotional effect. The fear says, ‘If I go to treatment, you’re going to label me even more.’”

She says this shame and fear keep people from revealing their issues or seeking treatment until something dramatic, like an overdose, pushes them to it. She says close friends and family are most affected by a person’s use of drugs, and they can often be the ones to extend the negative perceptions.

“Even when it’s someone we love dearly, we may still put a label on them,” she says. “We might say, ‘They’re our loved one, but they’re an addict.’ That just serves to reinforce the stigma.”

Mehr says stigma is societal as well as personal. Addressing the opioid crisis requires changes not only in how individuals think, but in how society treats people with addiction. The criminal justice system is one area that is having to seriously consider the way it deals with people with addiction.



IT'S A CONTINUAL
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WE'RE WORKING
TO BREAK IT.

FAR LEFT: Haley Coble addresses individuals at the City of Jackson Recovery Court.

LEFT: Coble meets with a city court judge to discuss an impending case.

BREAKING THE CYCLE

Haley Coble, a graduate of Union's social work programs, is the director for the City of Jackson Recovery Court. The court works with individuals in the criminal justice system who have substance abuse problems by placing them in a year-long, intensive treatment program.

"They'll deal with the actual problem that has caused them to be in the criminal justice system in the first place," Coble says.

About half of her clients are dealing with opioid addiction. Most have been in jail for multiple drug-related crimes—punishing them, but not fixing the problem, Coble says.

"It's a continual cycle, a revolving door of people in and out of jail," she says. "We're working to break it."

In addition to drug treatment, recovery court helps people in recovery find housing and jobs and get their GEDs. It also provides accountability and personal counseling.

"It's a holistic approach to not just get off drugs but also deal with problems and things that led to drugs in the first place so that when you leave here, you can cope in a better way," Coble says.

She says substance use disorders are often coupled with co-occurring trauma and mental health issues—issues that come with their own set of stigmas and negative perceptions. She says there are countless factors that can lead to addiction, and the demographics for the recovery program are all over the place.

"It's people from every background—different ages, races," she says. "You could look in our treatment group and

see people from every walk of life. They all start from a different place."

For Mason McBride, one of Coble's clients, it began at age 13. He and a friend stole some pain relievers from his friend's dad, who was recovering from a surgery. At 16, he started lying and stealing to get more pills and experimenting with other drugs. By 18, he was using intravenous heroin.

"I never thought that I would be shooting heroin when I started taking pills," Mason says. "But it progresses really fast, and that's what it led to."

After a year of nothing but drugs and several overdoses, Mason tried to pull his life together on his own. He enrolled at Union and even earned a possible position on the baseball team.

"I was doing good, and then one day I just walked out of class and never went back," Mason says. "I had started using again."

Mason spent the next five years in and out of jail for stealing, using drugs and selling drugs. He says it's hard for him to explain what addiction is like to people who have not experienced it. When he was on drugs, he couldn't manage anything in his life. He couldn't think about anything but getting high.

"When I was using, I didn't have a choice at all," he says. "I had to have it. If I didn't, I would be really sick. I was going to do what I had to do to get it."

Coble says this is one reason heroin and other opioid addictions can be so powerful. High risk of overdose also comes with extreme withdrawal symptoms for those who stop using. In addition to the physical symptoms, recovering addicts often are forced to

confront things in their lives the drug use may have been covering, as well as guilt and shame from their time on drugs.

"Once they come off of drugs, it's really overwhelming," Coble says.

She says this is why those other services, support and counseling are so important in the drug treatment process. She says recovery is an incredibly difficult process, but seeing these people change over the course of a year can be extremely rewarding.

"You start with them from day one when they're behind bars, and then you get to see them a year from that when they have jobs, they have their kids back, they have their families back," she says. "They've actually had some clean time and are gaining positive things in their life."

Coble says the process is filled with small daily successes for each person in the program—when they have a full month clean or get their GED—and when they leave the program, whether they remain clean or not, they have the resources, support and services to get them back on track.

"Just because people have a relapse or a setback, that doesn't mean all the progress they made isn't valid," she says.

Mason graduated from the recovery court program in April. In May, he celebrated one year clean, and he plans to stay that way. He has been able to keep a job, start new relationships and rebuild relationships with his parents and friends.

"When I was using, the first thing that was on my mind every morning was to get high," he says. "Now that I'm clean, I have time to think about stuff that actually matters and stuff that can better my life."

CALLED TO COMPASSION

As Jones, Delk, Mehr and Coble assert, the opioid crisis is a complex issue that will not go away anytime soon. According to the Department of Justice, the number of overdose deaths is expected to rise even higher in the next two years. While Union's faculty and staff are consistently training students to deal with addiction and offering workshops and resources for the broader community, the university has more to offer.

C. Ben Mitchell, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy at Union, said because Union is a Christian university committed to core values like being people-focused, it should be on the front line of helping people with their struggles, including opioid addiction.

"Jesus had a lot to say about being Good Samaritans, didn't he?" Mitchell says.

GOD CALLS US
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Because Union affirms a biblical view both of humanity and the fallenness of world, Mitchell says its students and employees know and accept that all humans are frail and fallen, susceptible to temptation and sin.

"So addiction is real," Mitchell says. "We know it wrecks lives and families. Knowing this provides an opportunity for us to work redemptively to help people as they struggle and to support them as they try to overcome the addiction by the grace of God through a relationship with Jesus Christ."

Mehr says churches and Christian communities like Union have an opportunity to minister to people who are recovering by welcoming them into their congregations, homes and lives.

"God calls us to reach out to everybody and to love our neighbors as ourselves," she says. "People see through our actions what we believe."

Delk says these redemptive, charitable actions and attitudes are crucial in health care. They are modeled by Christ and required of every Christian.

"We want to handle everything with an attitude like Christ," Delk says. "He was right there in the middle of everybody, of the sinners and the outcasts. As followers of Christ, we are called to that kind of compassion."

That is what drives Union's faculty to invest in training students every day. It's what motivates alumni like Coble to assist people through the long recovery process, and it's what prompted Melanie Densmore to help a stranger at a gas station. 📌



LEFT: C. Ben Mitchell, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy, speaks in chapel.



LEFT: (BACK ROW L TO R) Nita Mehr (SOCIAL WORK), Kim Jones (PHARMACY), Jennifer Delk (NURSING), C. Ben Mitchell (THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS). (FRONT ROW) Haley Coble (SOCIAL WORK), Melanie Densmore (PHARMACY).

ABOVE: Nita Mehr, associate dean for the School of Social Work, speaks with social work graduate Haley Coble.



AN EYE FOR NUMBERS A HEART FOR GOD

CARTER TO RETIRE AFTER NEARLY
THREE DECADES AS UNION CFO

BY TIM ELLSWORTH ('96)

In the midst of a massive campus rebuilding project following the 2008 tornado that struck Union's campus, Gary Carter was swamped with the largest and most challenging task of his career.

That didn't stop Carter, Union's senior vice president for business services, from showing his typical kindness in the small things.

"He ordered me a pink hard hat to wear during our construction of all the new buildings following the tornado," says Kimberly Thornbury, who previously served as vice president for student services at Union and is now vice president at The King's College in New York. "I still keep that hat in my office today.

"He is totally in the middle of rebuilding the entire campus. Literally in the middle of all that, he took time to find something fun and bless me with that pink hard hat. It's just an example of how he's such a class act."

After 28 years in his role as Union's chief financial officer, Carter is retiring at the end of July. He has helped lead Union's business and financial efforts through periods of great growth and through periods—like the tornado—of unimaginable difficulty.

"I wear the Union label, and wear it proudly," Carter says. "We've always stayed on mission, making the main thing the main thing."

A native of Campbell, Missouri, Carter attended Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College) in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, where he earned his associate degree in 1973. A professor there introduced him to Union, so in the fall of that year, in his 1960 Volkswagen Bug and about \$300 in his pocket, Carter rolled into Jackson to continue his education.

Tragedy struck only three weeks later, as Carter's father passed away.

"It was a difficult time, making the transition and losing Dad," Carter said, "but Union really reached out to me and loved me and cared for me."

Carter began working part-time for a local certified public accountant while he finished his degree, and went to work for him full-time upon his graduation from

I WEAR THE UNION LABEL, AND WEAR IT PROUDLY. WE'VE ALWAYS STAYED ON MISSION, MAKING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING.



ABOVE: Gary Carter (far right) along with President Hyran Barefoot (front) and the other vice presidents of Union from the 1992 *Lest We Forget* yearbook.



Union in 1975. A few years later, Carter joined another partner, Michael Steele, and the two opened their own CPA firm in Jackson.

One of Carter's VIP clients was former Union President Robert Craig. Another was then-Union President Hyran Barefoot. In 1990, when Barefoot came in to file his tax return, he informed Carter that Union CFO Bob Elliott was retiring the following year.

"We think you're the one who's supposed to take his place," Barefoot told him.

"Well, Dr. B, I'm really honored, but I wouldn't have any interest in doing that," Carter replied. "We have a real successful practice. I love what I do. I'm pretty sure I'm gonna die doing this."

Barefoot told Carter to think about it some more and that he'd contact him again after tax season. When that time came, Carter was still resolute about his lack of interest in the job.

But Barefoot persisted and convinced Carter to meet with him and Elliott to talk about the position. Out of respect for them, Carter agreed to meet with them privately at his home – so nobody would know about it.

The three men met and talked for about an hour and a half. At the end of the conversation, Carter hadn't changed his mind. He has a heart for evangelism, and his job gave him many opportunities to share his faith with clients and colleagues.

Barefoot asked Carter to pray for the next couple of months about the possibility of coming to Union. As he and his wife Regina began to pray, that's when God began to change Carter's heart. After about three months, he informed Barefoot that he would take the position, and he began at Union on June 1, 1991.

"He had a hard time leaving public practice to come to Union because he wasn't sure how he would interact with the lost," says Carla Sanderson, Union's former provost.

But Carter soon discovered that his work at Union afforded him the same evangelism opportunities he thought he had left behind.



"I can remember on several different occasions having the opportunity to share my faith with students, and to actually see a few of those come to know Christ right in my office," he says.

Over the years, Carter helped lead the Union campus' expansion. The Penick and Blasingame complexes were already built when he arrived, as were the original Hurt and Watters housing complexes and a few buildings in what is now Heritage Residence Complex. The McAfee Commons was under construction.

That means Carter was involved with the completion of McAfee and Heritage, the Barefoot Student Union Building, Hammons Hall, Fesmire Field House and the entire development of the west campus – Miller Tower, Jennings Hall, White Hall, Providence Hall and The Logos.

But his biggest challenge came with the tornado in 2008 that wiped out almost all of Union's student housing and caused

significant damage to other campus buildings as well.

"You can't explain what took place on the rebuild short of God's divine intervention," Carter says.

By September, Carter had a front-row seat and witnessed an insurance payout, demolition of the old housing units, drainage, grading, utilities and construction for 14 new buildings that students moved into for the fall semester. On some days, more than 1,000 construction workers were present on campus.

"I've seen a lot of change over all those years, and I've never gone back to look at how many millions of dollars of construction that is, but probably close to \$125 million of construction," Carter says.



YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN WHAT TOOK PLACE ON THE REBUILD SHORT OF GOD'S DIVINE INTERVENTION.



ABOVE: (L TO R) Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist, Frank Wagster, Senior Class President Micah Roeder, President David S. Dockery, Ken Brasfield, Rod Parker, Kimberly Thornbury, and Gary Carter participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Hope Residence Complex—the last of the new student housing buildings to be rebuilt in 2010.



ABOVE: Carter escorts his daughter, India Carter, who was the freshman representative on the 2007 Union Homecoming Court.

LEFT: (BACK ROW L TO R) Andy and Grace Dunn; Charity and Tobey Taylor; Aaron and India Davidson; Addie Ruth Carter; (FRONT ROW L TO R) Regina with Esther Taylor; Gary with Abel Taylor. (NOT PICTURED—THE NEWEST GRANDCHILD) Eleanor Rose Davidson



Thornbury describes Carter as a patient man who was willing to listen to her and answer “my endless list of questions and concerns every week.” He helped her understand the business-related issues and processes that she says she still uses today.

“Sometimes I would bring him a specific specialty coffee from Barefoots Joe when I needed some extra grace from him with a project,” Thornbury says. “If I brought him a dirty snowman, he knew I needed something.”

Sanderson says Carter’s family always took priority in his life. He and Regina have four daughters—three of whom (Charity, India and Grace) are Union graduates, while Addie Ruth is a current Union student.

“Sometimes that meant getting a little knock on the door during a meeting, and

it was one of his daughters,” Sanderson says. “The way he treated his children was always beautiful to me. He made time to help them.”

His colleagues also saw in Carter—especially during the tornado aftermath—a man of deep faith in God. Sanderson says Carter made financial decisions following the tornado that went against his conservative tendencies and were huge acts of faith on his part.

“Never once did Gary say, ‘Y’all, look what we’re signing up for here,’” Sanderson says. “Never one time did he question the Lord’s provision for Union through that crisis.”

Former Union President David S. Dockery says that in the days after the tornado, Carter managed every project, provided

oversight for the assessment processes and helped to carry out the insurance negotiations while serving as the point person on all matters regarding finances.

“His ability to support his colleagues and keep others informed of our needs and challenges was the glue to the recovery process,” Dockery says.

The former Union president also says Carter is characterized by a love for Union and for its mission.

“He came to work every day not looking for any affirmation or attention, but only to enable others across the Union community and to help everyone join together to advance the shared work of Union,” Dockery says. “He managed multiple projects in capable ways, year after year, without fanfare.”

Union President Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver said Carter’s faith in Christ has kept him “rock solid” in terms of his commitment to Union’s mission and core values, and he has been an anchor on the Executive Council with valuable experience to help provide leadership to the university.

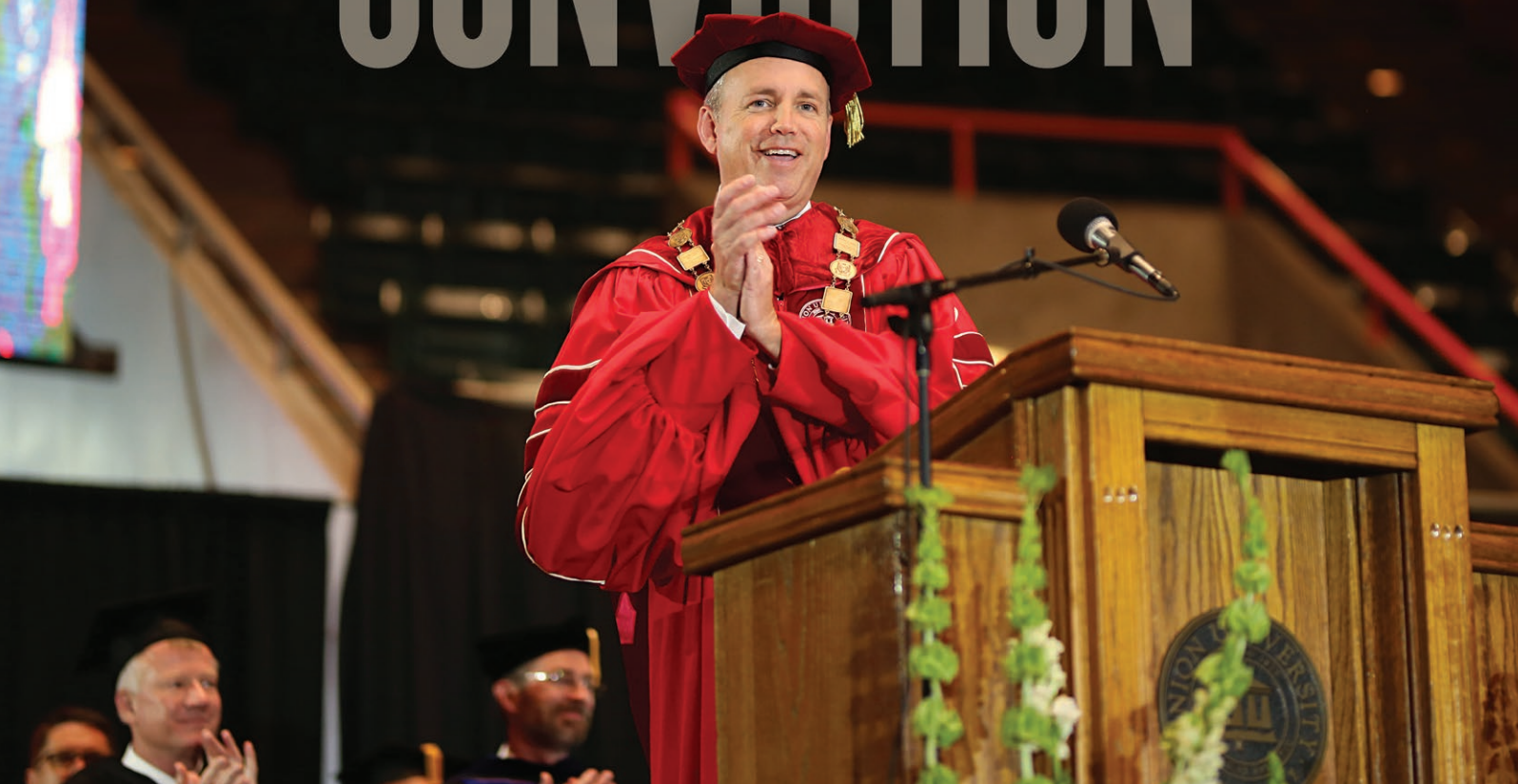
Oliver also said Carter’s tenure at Union has been marked by a deep love for students, faculty and staff—one of the reason’s Union’s Staff of the Year Award is named in Carter’s honor.

“Union is a very different institution than it was when he came 28 years ago,” Oliver said. “But what has not changed is that Union is made up of faculty and staff who live out that mission. Gary has sought to love well the people of Union.” 🍷

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COURAGE AND CONVICTION



Five years ago this spring, Union University trustees unanimously elected Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver as the institution’s 16th president.

Over the past five years, Oliver and his wife Susie have become part of the Union family. Susie has played key roles in leading the Union cheerleaders and in bolstering the influence of the Union Auxiliary. Oliver has led Union through an academic reorganization that created the School of Adult and Professional Studies and the School of Social Work, drastically reduced the university’s debt, kept Union focused on its mission and core values, oversaw the completion of The Logos and led Union to begin its EDGE program for students with developmental or physical disabilities, among other accomplishments.

Oliver has led Union with courage and conviction in a time when traditional and orthodox Christian beliefs are increasingly under attack. The Union community is grateful to him and Susie for their faithful service for the past five years.

ABOVE: Union President Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver applauds the 2017 graduates during spring commencement.

RIGHT: Chad Wilson, chairman of Union’s Board of Trustees, talks with Oliver during chapel in March 2019.



DUB AS A LEADER IS VERY PERSONABLE. HE’S A VERY POSITIVE PERSON, AND YOU’LL ALWAYS SEE HIM AROUND CAMPUS AT EVENTS AND TALKING WITH STUDENTS.

—KENDALL CUTRELL

LEADING UNION TO STAY FAITHFUL TO ITS MISSION AND CORE VALUES IS ONE OF THE UNHERALDED ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF DUB OLIVER’S ADMINISTRATION, ACCORDING TO CHAD WILSON.

“It may not seem like a dramatic accomplishment, but I think simply being able to double down on the mission and core values of the university is a big deal,” says Wilson, president of Foundation Bank in Jackson and chairman of the Union Board of Trustees. “Because when you have a transition of leadership, sometimes you have continuity in vision and sometimes you don’t.”

With Oliver, Wilson says that continuity to Union’s past has remained strong.

“The fact that he embraced that identity and found kinship within his own heart for that identity I think is significant,” Wilson says. “I think he’s been able to communicate very effectively and give people confidence in that continuing to be who we are and what we’re going to do going forward.”

Wilson expects the Oliver

administration to continue to lead Union in expanding its mission to more students and more places in the years ahead. Oliver has the conviction to pursue distinctive Christ-centered education, Wilson said, and the courage

to take calculated risks to allow more people to access that education.

KENDALL CUTRELL, A SENIOR BUSINESS MARKETING MAJOR, HAS GOTTEN TO KNOW DUB OLIVER MAINLY THROUGH HIS WIFE, SUSIE. KENDALL HAS BEEN A PART OF THE CHEER PROGRAM AT UNION, WHICH SUSIE OLIVER OVERSEES.

“I always say Dub is sweet, and Susie is sassy,” Cutrell says.

She says Oliver will often come by the cheer room to see Susie and encourage the cheerleaders as they practice.

This is one of many places Cutrell has interacted with him across campus.

“Dub as a leader is very personable,” she says. “He’s a very positive person, and you’ll always see him around campus at events and talking with students.”

Cutrell says while the Olivers’ leadership styles are very different, they complement each other very well. She says their relationship has been an example to her of a supportive, Christ-centered marriage.

“They have fun together, they support each other and they are always building each other up,” she says.

In her four years at Union, Cutrell has seen the Olivers interact as leaders, colleagues, spouses and most recently grandparents. She said it is very obvious to her that family is a priority for them.

“I love that they are so open and integrate their family into the university,” Cutrell says. “They really make us feel like part of their lives.”



C. BEN MITCHELL SAYS THE PAST FIVE YEARS OF THE OLIVER ADMINISTRATION HAVE SEEN A NUMBER OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Mitchell, the Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy, cites the completion of The Logos (library) and Oliver's relationships with students as two key successes.

"He's a student magnet," Mitchell says. "Students seem to love him, almost universally, so that's been positive."

Mitchell also references a high level of transparency in internal communication as an important development, with Oliver holding monthly town hall meetings for faculty and staff. In addition, the EDGE

program for students with physical and developmental disabilities and Leadership Union, which helps develop leaders among Union employees, are two benefits to the university that have come to fruition under Oliver's leadership.

Susie Oliver, meanwhile, has left her mark on Union both as the president's wife and as the sponsor of the cheer squad and the president of the Union Auxiliary, Mitchell says.

"Disciplined thinking, disciplined people, disciplined action" has been one of Oliver's chief messages, Mitchell says, and that's important for the university in an age when demographics pose challenges to schools like Union. Oliver's emphasis on consolidating and focusing on the university's mission is one of his strengths.

"That's one of Dub's gifts is to lead us to think that way," Mitchell says. "He's not going to make those decisions alone, but he will lead us to think that way."

DUB HAS MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT HE DOESN'T FOLLOW ANYBODY ELSE BUT GOD. THAT'S THE KIND OF LEADER I WANT TO BE—ONE WHO WON'T COMPROMISE MY INTEGRITY NO MATTER WHAT.

—BINH MORRIS

BINH MORRIS, A SENIOR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT MAJOR, SAYS INTENTIONALITY IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DUB OLIVER AND OTHER LEADERS HE HAS HAD IN HIS LIFE.

"When he's talking to you, he really wants to know you," Morris says. "He doesn't do it to check it off a list or be able to say that he does it."

Morris had a recent opportunity to travel to Israel on a trip led by Oliver. At a dinner table with the team, Oliver asked Morris to share his story. Morris says he told them a little bit about himself, and Oliver said, "No, slow it down."

Morris then shared with the group the story of his adoption, his family, coming to faith, choosing a university and a career.

"Not only did he want to know that, he wanted others to know that too," Morris says. "I'll always remember the example he set of getting to know somebody beyond their name and their face—getting to know their entire self."

Morris says he has seen Oliver participate in countless campus events and serve across campus and in the broader Jackson community. He says Oliver is very giving of his time, and he has never seen him in a bad mood.

As Morris moves into his career, he says there are many things he wants to practice that he has learned from Oliver, especially his integrity.

"Dub has made it very clear that he doesn't follow anybody else but God," Morris says. "That's the kind of leader I want to be—one who won't compromise my integrity no matter what."



ABOVE: Oliver moderates a student panel—which includes Binh Morris (far left)—at the 2019 Scholarship Banquet.

RIGHT: Oliver with Buster, the university's live bulldog mascot.



LISA ROGERS SEES IN DUB OLIVER A MAN WHO IS COMMITTED TO THE BIBLE AS THE TRUE AND INSPIRED WORD OF GOD.

"The Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage came down during my tenure as board chair," Rogers says. "We had discussions about that and also withdrew from the (Council for Christian Colleges and Universities) due to their decisions and their lack of strength to stand on biblical convictions."

"And (Oliver) didn't do it as a snap decision or a spur of the moment. He has vision to see those things coming."

Rogers says it takes tremendous courage to take a stance such as Union did when it withdrew from the CCCU, and Oliver took some criticism for that position. But Rogers says he was being faithful to the Bible, and he is a man of conviction who is willing to obey God rather than men.

As a leader, Rogers says Oliver demonstrates great wisdom in finding the right person for the right position and expecting great things from them.

"I feel like he trusts those who work with him as long as they are also pursuing excellence," she says.

Oliver has led the university to reduce its debt from \$55 million in 2014 to \$30 million in 2019, and he has demonstrated a great love for Union's students, Rogers says.

"When you see somebody doing what they love to do more than anything else in the world, they just kind of light up," Rogers says. "That's what I saw in Dub

especially when he got in front of the students for the first time on the day that he was elected by the board."

Honor the Olivers
Give to an endowed scholarship for students in their name at uu.edu/giving/olivers.



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

18
19

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 2018 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. 🏡



Carroll Griffin ('71)

Alumnus of the Year

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

Carroll Griffin remembers his first visit to Union University in the spring of 1967. That meeting with Dr. F. E. Wright began a lifetime love of Union University.

Griffin's years as a student at Union were filled with activities that included participation in youth-led revival teams through the Baptist Student Union, serving as president of the SGA, working various jobs on campus and eventually being elected as "Mr. Union."

After graduating from Union, he went on to teach math and coach track at Houston Junior and Senior High School in Houston, Missouri, for one year. During that time, he married Kay Daniel. Soon, he and his new wife moved back to Jackson to take on the new position as director of activities at West Jackson Baptist Church, a position which encompassed ministries to children, youth and college students.

In 1982, Griffin accepted the position as director of student enlistment at Union. Over the next 36 years, he earned many titles and promotions, as well as his master's degree in education, but his greatest achievement was seeing enrollment increase from 1,282 students to more than 4,000 students. He later served as director of marketing and enrollment in the School of Adult and Professional Studies before retiring in 2018.



Carroll Griffin (center) with Melinda Stewart and Pam Cronin at his Union retirement celebration.

The Griffins have been members of West Jackson Baptist Church for all 47 years of their marriage, and Griffin has served as a deacon, trustee and member of several committees.

The Carroll W. Griffin GO Trip Endowment Fund was established in May 2018 to help fund Union's mission efforts around the world.

The Griffins have three children—Meg (and husband Damien Nethery), Scott (and wife Brittany) and Tobey (and wife Bethany)—and nine grandchildren. 🏡

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.



Michele Atkins ('89)

Michele Atkins joined the faculty at Union University in 1998 after serving nine years in public education as a teacher and administrator. In her role as assistant provost for accreditation and research at Union, Atkins supervises the institution's SACSCOC accreditation processes. Most recently, she led the institution through its decennial reaffirmation process, resulting in affirmation of accreditation through 2027.

Atkins also serves as professor of education, teaching courses in ethics and research design and advising doctoral students in research methodology and statistics. She leads the Institutional Review Board and served as interim dean of the College of Education during the 2017-2018 academic year.

After graduating from Union in 1989, she earned three degrees from the University of Memphis: Master of Education in Special Education, Education Specialist in School Psychology, and Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology and Research.

Atkins has served on SACSCOC peer-review committees throughout the Southeast and is the founding chairperson of Coach Masters,

an advocacy organization for individuals with disabilities. She has served as vice chairperson of the Milan Special School District Board of Education and as a member of the Tennessee Department of Education Textbook Commission. She has published and presented her research at the national and international levels. Her research interests include pedagogy, assessment of student learning, data-based decision making, emotional intelligence and leadership.

Atkins is a member of First Baptist Church in Milan. She and her husband Jim have been married for 28 years. They have three children, Zachary, Elizabeth and Emilee, and three grandchildren, Cayson, Lucy and Elly Grace. 🍷

Lest We Forget Award

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



Roland Porter

Roland Porter served in West Tennessee as an educator and pastor for almost 30 years.

He was born and raised in Covington, Tennessee, and received his bachelor's degree from Lane College in Jackson. He then moved to California and received a master's degree and juris doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley. He received his theological training at Golden Gate Theological Seminary.

Porter answered a call to the ministry at North Oakland Missionary Baptist Church in Oakland, California, and served in several churches there before returning to West Tennessee in 1989 when he was called to pastor the Berean Baptist Church in Jackson.

Porter valued education and taught in the business department at Lane College. He also served at Union as associate professor of business and director of the Center for Racial Reconciliation. He served on many community

boards and committees in Jackson, including West Tennessee Healthcare, Jackson Chamber of Commerce and JACOA. He was a lifetime member of the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the Code Red Coalition.

In 2002, Porter became the founding pastor of Agape Christian Fellowship Church in Jackson, where he served until his death in 2018.

He served as moderator of the West Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Education Association and president of the moderators department for the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Education Convention, as well as dean and treasurer of the Jackson Ministerial Alliance. He was a valued teacher, lecturer, evangelist and preacher.

Porter passed away at his home in Medon, Tennessee, Feb. 8, 2018, with his wife and family members at his side. 🍷

G.M. Savage *Legacy* Award

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



James Huggins

James Huggins serves as university professor of biology and director of the Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation at Union University.

Huggins began his career at Union teaching human gross anatomy and was instrumental in establishing Union's bequeathment program to meet the growing need for anatomic study. He founded the Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation

at Union, which primarily deals with birds of prey, and was involved in the design of Union's conservation biology program. He has served as a division chair at the Baptist Memorial Hospital, chair of the biology department and director of the Hammons Center for Scientific Studies. In 1998, he received the Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award.

Huggins holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Arkansas State University and a doctorate from the University of Memphis. He has done additional graduate work in higher education at several institutions.

At the age of 51, Huggins surrendered to a call to preach. He has served as full-time pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Chester County, Tennessee, for the past 12 years.

He has been married to his wife, Cathy Hester Huggins, for 45 years. They have one son, Kyle, and two grandchildren, Blake and Lauren." 📖



Distinguished *Achievement* Award

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



Florence Jones ('12)
Health Care

Jones serves as the president for Methodist North Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, and has served as a nursing executive in hospitals in Utah, Florida, Connecticut, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Bradley J. Owens ('98)
Business

Owens is a managing member of Hardee, Martin & Owens PLC in Jackson, Tennessee, and co-owner of The Victory 93.7 FM radio station.



Keli McAlister Miller ('97)
Arts/Media

McAlister has spent more than 20 years as a television broadcast journalist, working nine years as the lead anchor and executive producer at WBBJ in Jackson.

Dorothy Louise Myatt ('91)

Education

Myatt retired from Union in 2018 as university professor and assistant dean for teacher education and accreditation. She has been an educator for 36 years and spent 24 years at Union.



Danny Song ('09, '10)

Not-for-profit

Song is the founder and Head of School of Believe Memphis Academy and has helped found three charter schools in Memphis and Nashville.



Emilie Huffman ('12)

Research/Sciences

Huffman began a fellowship at the Perimeter Institute of Waterloo, Canada, in January after completing a Humboldt fellowship at the University of Würzburg, Germany.



Jennifer Graves ('89)

Humanities

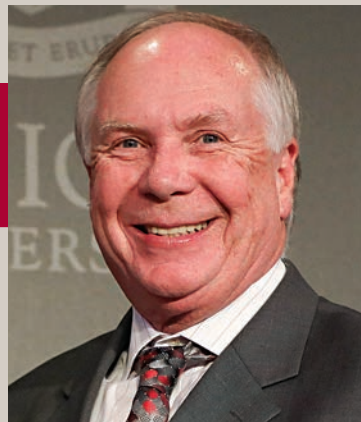
Graves serves as director of the Union EDGE Program, an inclusive post-secondary higher education program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Michael A. Pennington ('74)

Church Ministry

Pennington has served as director of missions for the Bledsoe Baptist Association in Gallatin, Tennessee, for 23 years.



William Trevathan ('00)

Athletics

Trevathan serves as assistant principal and head junior high and high school girls basketball coach at Greenfield School in Greenfield, Tennessee. His high school team won the 2018-19 Class A state championship.



Lloyd Freeman ('91)

Government/Public Service

Freeman serves in the U.S. State Department as a political officer. He spent 22 years as an infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.



Save the Date for Homecoming 2019

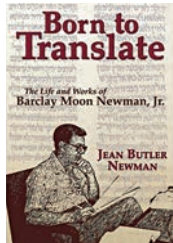
NOVEMBER 1-2

Make plans to be a part of special events throughout the weekend, including the 50-year reunion of the Class of 1970. We hope to see you back home on campus this fall!



50's | FIFTIES |

Jean Butler Newman ('53) has written *Born to Translate: The Life*



and *Works of Barclay Moon Newman, Jr.* about her husband, **Barclay Newman ('53)**. The book

is available on Amazon or at www.acclaimpress.com.

60's | SIXTIES |

Johnny Lott ('65) received a 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Jim Davis ('65-66) writes, records and performs under the name Big Jim Davis and has found success in the music field after a break of almost 50 years. He reached the number one ranking in the blues genre on *Reverbnation.com* and is close to 1 million views on his YouTube channel. Jim writes traditional blues, country and Americana music.

70's | SEVENTIES |

Mike U. Smith ('72) was named professor emeritus by the Mercer University Board of Trustees. Smith retired in 2017 after 32 years on the faculty of the School of Medicine.

80's | EIGHTIES |

Lynn Gibson ('83) was chosen as president of the Mississippi



Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers for the 2018-2019 year. Gibson

currently serves as vice president for enrollment services at Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Mississippi. His wife, **Paula Fesmire Gibson ('84)** retired from teaching after 34 years with the Hardeman County school system.

Mike Oliver ('88) was awarded the Essence Award for 2019 by the Cambridge, Massachusetts, biotech Novelion Therapeutics. Oliver is the Southeast U.S. regional orphan/rare disease manager for

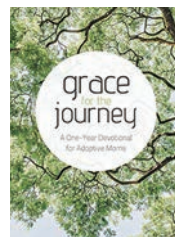
Novelion, a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to developing and commercializing innovative therapies for individuals living with rare diseases.

Chris Todd ('89) was elected to the Tennessee state legislature as representative for District 73.

90's | NINETIES |

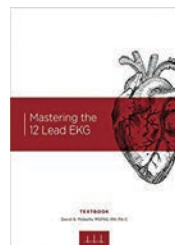
Carma Dennis McGee ('93) was named Hardin County Woman of the Year for 2019 by the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce. She serves as the chancellor of the 24th Judicial District of Tennessee, which includes Hardin, Benton, Carroll, Decatur and Henry Counties.

Gina Barden Bowling ('96), **Melody Foropoulos Cain ('00)**, **Glenna Veteto Marshall ('03)**, **Sheila Willis McFadden ('84)**, **Jennifer Drake Morgan ('00)**, **Carrie Teague O'Neal ('99)**, **Lindsey Crain Stephenson ('00)**, and **Robin Williamson Wadley ('95)**



contributed to *Grace for the Journey: A One-Year Devotional for Adoptive Moms* published in December.

David Roberts ('98) published *Mastering the 12 Lead EKG*, an EKG



interpretation textbook designed for future physicians, physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.

00's | TWO THOUSANDS |

Tim Tucker ('02) was named as president of the University of



Tennessee Alumni Association. Tucker is a pharmacist and co-owner of City Drug Company in Huntingdon, Tennessee.



Scott Talley ('07) released his new book, *Ministry Win*, a resource to help churches win within their ministries.



Nick Brown ('08) was called as pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church in Corinth, Mississippi.

Jim Robbins ('08) was named chief pilot of Fedex Corporate Aviation for Fedex Express in Memphis, Tennessee.

10's | TWENTY TENS |

Katrina Robinson ('10) was elected to the Tennessee state legislature as representative for District 33.

Jesse Chism ('12) was elected to the Tennessee state legislature as representative for District 85.

Miya Robertson ('12) was named Tennessee Performing Arts Center's 2018 Teacher of the Year. She is a drama teacher at Gower Elementary School in Nashville, Tennessee.

Ryan Andrew Linkous ('13) graduated from Beeson Divinity School with his Master of Divinity degree in December 2017. He was installed as the pastor of Dalewood Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, in January 2019.

Michael Stover ('13) has written two books, *Jesus and Dirt* and *How to Write Well*. He is currently writing a third book about his experience taking his business full-time.

Renee Dauer ('15), campus director for Union University's



Hendersonville campus, received the Women Impacting the Community award for 2019 in the area of education from the Hendersonville Chamber of Commerce.

Stephanie Traylor ('15)



published her first book of poetry, *The Cost of Things*, which explores the world through day-to-day experiences.

Cody Mitchell ('16) was elected to the city council of Hohenwald, Tennessee.

Giggi DeCoursey ('17) finished her second year at the University of Kansas working towards a Master of Music Education degree in music therapy.



Join the Union University alpine tour

Experience the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play on an alpine tour with Union University. The play began in 1634 and is only produced once a decade. Don't miss your chance to see this production and travel through the Alps on an 11-day tour July 11-21, 2020, with Dr. Dub and Susie Oliver and Union alumna Louise Lynch.

The Oberammergau Passion Play incorporates more than 2,000 residents of the German town. The tour will include stops in the Rhine Valley, Salzburg, Munich and other alpine cities in Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

Total cost of \$4,759 per person includes admission to the passion play, travel from Memphis, lodging and most meals. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today. Visit uu.edu/alumni/travel for more information. 📍



OLD SCHOOL

ALUMNI NEWS

Births



Lyla Josephine Harvey was born Feb. 24, 2018, to **Sarah Harvey ('09)** and **Nick Harvey**.

Annabel Sarnai Hooker was born April 29, 2018, to **Tim Hooker ('93)** and **Gana Hooker**.



Kennedy Lynne Brasher was born June 24, 2018, to **Logan Brasher ('15)** and **Rebecca Brasher ('16)**.

Theodore Paul Johnson was born July 9, 2018, to **Jenny Heineken Johnson ('04)** and **Isaac Johnson**.



Judah Barclay Logan was born Aug. 13, 2018, to **Jason Logan ('98)** and **Elizabeth Logan ('98)**.



Isabella Jane DeLaney was born Aug. 28, 2018, to **Todd DeLaney ('99)** and **Heather DeLaney**.



Austin Tyler Turner was born Nov. 14, 2018, to **Julie Dodson Turner ('02)** and **Ty Turner**.



John Percival Griffith was born Dec. 13, 2018, to **Jay Griffith ('14)** and **Hilary Borden Griffith ('14)**.



Liliana Pearl Woody was born Jan. 15, 2019, to **Kristi Woody ('10)** and **Rhett Woody ('11)**.



Addalyn Rose Gibbons was born March 5, 2019, to **Ryan Gibbons ('11)** and **Alexis Pham Gibbons ('15)**.



Peter Franklin Linkous was born April 8, 2019, to **Ryan Linkous ('13)** and **Samantha Linkous ('13)**.



THE 22ND ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP *Banquet*

CHRIS TOMLIN



Join us for the 22nd Annual Scholarship Banquet
Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

Featuring an interview and concert with Chris Tomlin, the banquet will celebrate the generous donors who have made a Christ-centered education at Union possible for so many students.

Balcony seats and table sponsorships are now available.

For more information, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (731) 661-5050 or visit uu.edu/events/scholarshipbanquet.



Connect with Union alumni and friends

Union University's Vocatio Center for Life Calling and Career recently launched BulldogConnect, an online networking and advice-sharing platform for alumni and current students.

With BulldogConnect, you can catch up with fellow alumni, build your own professional network and offer advice and guidance to current Union students as they navigate from college to career.

Sign up today at uu.edu/bulldogconnect.



Memoriam

Dent Conley Partee ('40) died March 11, 2019. She taught school in Trenton, Tennessee, for 30 years.

Lorene Holland Lumpkin ('40) died April 2, 2019, in Franklin, Tennessee.

Mary Evelyn Montgomery ('42) died Nov. 12, 2018, in Dyer, Tennessee.

Richard F. Day ('45) died May 17, 2018. He practiced dentistry in West Tennessee for more than 40 years.

Bernese Cox ('46) died Feb. 6, 2019, in Henderson, Tennessee. She taught for 40 years in Chester County schools.

Bettie Christine Bishop ('50) died March 29, 2019, in Bartlett, Tennessee.

Carlos Owens ('52) died Feb. 9, 2019, in Nashville, Tennessee. He served as a missionary and church planter in Africa for 36 years.

Martha E. Hammett ('57) died June 17, 2018, in Lexington, Tennessee.



Virginia Ruth Hudgens ('59) died Nov. 13, 2018. She taught English at Memphis State University for

34 years.

Lonnie Franklin Paschall, Sr. ('59) died Feb. 23, 2019, in Jackson, Tennessee.

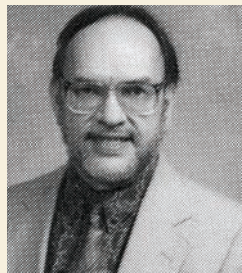
Max Walker ('61) died Aug. 29, 2018. He began preaching at age 14 and spent the last 22 years of his ministry at First Baptist Church in Selmer, Tennessee.

Donald Ray Presson ('61) died April 3, 2019, in Jackson, Tennessee.

Harry L. Bowman ('62) died April 21, 2018. He was president emeritus of the Council on Occupational Education and retired associate dean of the College of Education at the University of Memphis.

Ernest Ray Pinson, Jr.

Ernest Ray Pinson, Jr. died March 2, 2019. He served as an English professor at Union for 27 years and was elected as Teacher of the Year twice. Pinson retired from Union in 1997 and was named professor emeritus. ☞



Wilma Hassell ('62) died at age 78. She was a school teacher in Milan for more than 30 years.

Dorothy Ann Matthews ('65) died June 12, 2018. She taught in the Haywood County School System for 38 years.

Glenda Arant ('66) died Aug. 7, 2018.

John Stephen Avery ('67) of Mascot, Tennessee, died May 18, 2018.

James Ralph Coffman ('68) of Wildersville, Tennessee, died Sept. 3, 2018.

Jack G. Stutzman ('68) died Feb. 4, 2018. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and was the first male elementary teacher in Jackson, Tennessee.

Jerry Weaver ('68) died Sept. 10, 2018, in Panama City Beach, Florida.

David Bartholomew ('69) died Aug. 14, 2018, in Lexington, Tennessee. He spent 50 years in ministry in churches across West Tennessee.

James Lee Meadows ('70) died Nov. 12, 2018. He was doctor emeritus at East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions and wrote 42 Bible study books.

Karen Lynn Ada Howard ('71) died Aug. 25, 2018, in Bells, Tennessee.

Robert Jerald Ledbetter ('71) died May 17, 2018, in Athens, Georgia.

Patricia Anne Turner ('72) died Sept. 28, 2018, following a life-long struggle with Type 1 diabetes.

Kathy Plunk ('77) died July 29, 2018.

Thomas Edward (Edd) Smith ('79) died Dec. 14, 2016. He is survived by his wife **Kassandra S. Smith ('78)**.

Johnnie Fonville ('84) died March 12, 2019, in Jackson, Tennessee.

Mary Ann Murtagh ('88) died at age 60.

Lisa Roberts Voss ('97) died Feb. 19, 2019, at her home in Brownsville, Tennessee.

Faye R. Foreman Hardin ('98) died April 2, 2019, in Jackson, Tennessee, after a brief illness.

Jay G. Osborn III ('00) died Sept. 25, 2018, of pancreatic cancer.

Benjamin James Chattin ('01) of Jackson, Tennessee, died Sept. 12, 2018.

Thomas Bryan Barnes ('17) died May 20, 2018, in Milan, Tennessee.

Memoriam

Union mourns loss of Musselman, 38, to cancer

Daniel Musselman, associate professor of music at Union University, died Nov. 19, 2018 at the age of 38 after a year-and-a-half battle with cancer.

“Our faith in Christ gives us assurance that Dan is more alive now than he has ever been,” said Union University President Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver. “He is with Christ in heaven, free of cancer, totally healed.

“Even as we grieve the loss of Dan Musselman—a dedicated husband and father, a gifted musician, an incredible teacher and leader, and a joyful follower of Jesus—we thank God for the gift of Dan’s life and his influence on all of us.”

Musselman joined the faculty at Union in 2010 and served as acting chair of Union’s music department from 2016 to 2018. He was diagnosed with stage IV colorectal cancer in May of 2017 and continued to teach throughout various treatments. He was placed on hospice care in his home prior to his death.

John Kinchen, chair of Union’s Department of Music, joined the faculty earlier this year. He said in the short time that he got to know Musselman, he was blessed by his selflessness, his enthusiasm about life and above all, his devotion to his savior.

“Dr. Musselman was the finest of musicians, deeply committed to Jesus Christ and providing a consistent, godly example as he walked his faith each day,” Kinchen said. “He was highly respected as a composer and pianist, but as a person, he was very humble and unassuming.”



Kinchen said Musselman’s dedication to his work was beyond admirable.

“He fought through his illness to be in the classroom so that he could provide students with teaching that would help prepare them, not just as musicians, but for life,” he said.

An accomplished composer, Musselman’s works include pieces for choral and instrumental ensembles and soloists as well as a chamber opera. He held a bachelor’s degree in piano performance from Bob Jones University, a master’s degree in composition from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New

Jersey, and a doctorate in composition from the University of Kansas.

Musselman is survived by his wife, Malinda Musselman, and their three young children.

Todd Brady, Union’s vice president for university ministries, joined with Musselman and others at a service at First Baptist Church in Jackson and sang the hymn “When We All Get to Heaven.” Brady said they sang with tears as they considered the pain of this life and the promise of heaven.

“We continue to grieve as we sing through tears today,” Brady said. “Our hearts are saddened beyond description. In the midst of our deep grief, we know that the Lord through his work on the cross has given us the hopeful certainty of heaven. Dr. Musselman now knows in full what we know only in part.” ☞

Rachel Glazebrook

Rachel Glazebrook, assistant softball coach at Union, died Oct. 24, 2018 at her home in Jackson. Glazebrook joined Union’s coaching staff in August 2018.

“Rachel lived her life for Christ, and we take comfort in knowing that she is now in the presence of the Savior,” said Union President Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver. ☞



At 94, 'Roe' Neal reflects on life's adventure with God

For **Aubrey "Roe" Neal**, Union made such an impact on his life that he's still supporting the school—more than six decades after his graduation.

"The Lord wants me to," said Neal, 94, of Memphis. "No one gets any of my money unless I feel it's what the Lord wants me to do. He gave me the gift of giving, and I try to be a good overseer. I try to be a good bondservant."

A native of Mariana, Arkansas, Neal graduated from high school on a Friday night in 1943 and was drafted into the U.S. Navy the next morning. After his training in San Diego, he was sent to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he helped train pilots during World War II.

Neal considers himself an escapee of the Bermuda Triangle during his war years. On Dec. 5, 1945, five planes disappeared in that region. Neal said he could have been on one of the planes but the Lord transferred him out before the flights departed.

He gave me the gift of giving, and I try to be a good overseer. I try to be a good bondservant.



That episode has fueled a lifelong fascination for Neal with the Bermuda Triangle.

After the war, Neal returned to Arkansas and his wife Jane. The two had been married while they were still in high school. Neal resumed working at a gas station where he had been employed prior to his military service, but he soon opened his own service station and had lucrative plans for his future.

"I wanted to become the Walmart of stations," he said. "I was thinking big. My goal was to establish a service station every hundred miles from the east to the west."

But God had other plans for Neal, who couldn't shake a feeling of enormous pressure, as he described it.

"It was like it was saying, 'I want you,'" Neal said. "I was about to go crazy. That bothered me day and night."

One day, Neal prayed that the Lord would make clear what he wanted Neal to do. Neal asked God to provide a place for him to preach on a particular Sunday if the Lord was calling him into ministry. Sure enough, Neal soon got a phone call from the associational missionary asking him to supply a pulpit on that specific Sunday.

Neal surrendered to God's call to ministry. His wife Jane's family had Union connections—her father had played football at Union, and her Aunt Bess was a graduate in the early 20th century.

"You've got to go to Union," Aunt Bess told him. "You can't go anywhere else."

Neal took her advice and enrolled at Union in 1951 at age 26, graduating in 1955.

"It's one of the most important decisions I've ever made," Neal said. "I had a wonderful life at Union. I think Union set my life pattern."

He went on to graduate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Over the decades, he served as a military chaplain for more than 25 years and as a pastor, especially of small churches, many of which were struggling when Neal joined them. Among his pastorates was Shaw's Chapel Baptist Church outside Brownsville, Tennessee, where he served for 16 years.

It's one of the most important decisions I've ever made. I had a wonderful life at Union. I think Union set my life pattern.

Neal retired from the ministry in 2010 when Jane became ill. She died in 2015 after 72 years of marriage. And though he is no longer actively involved in ministry, he still continues to minister by donating to organizations like Union—where he knows his gifts help young people attain a Christ-centered education that might not be possible otherwise.

Looking back on his life, Neal is grateful for the opportunities the Lord has given him, and he's grateful for the way God's blessings have allowed him to bless others.

"I look at my life as an adventure with God," he said. ■

The UNION FUND

CHANGING LIVES TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Your gifts to **THE UNION FUND** help ensure that needs across the campus are met by supporting scholarships, program support, research and capital projects. Join alumni and friends around the world as we seek to preserve and strengthen the legacy of Christ-centered excellence in every discipline and campus experience. **GIVE TO THE UNION FUND TODAY.**

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PEOPLE-FOCUSED FUTURE-DIRECTED



UNION UNIVERSITY

OFFICE of ALUMNI RELATIONS
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, Tennessee 38305



Final Frame

Buster the Bulldog statue stands tall at the end of another fall semester, Dec. 17, 2018.

photo by Kristi Woody ('10)



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