

SUMMER 2012

UNION NITE

THE UNION UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

A Groundbreaking Moment

UNION UNIVERSITY'S
NEW LIBRARY

**Remembering
Chuck Colson**

**A New Day for
Union Athletics**

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ON THE COVER: Shovels rest in newly overturned soil after the groundbreaking ceremony for the new library. Photo by Jacob Moore '14

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FSC FPO

From the President

As the 2011-12 academic year draws to a close, we are reminded of the numerous highlights that have characterized this incredible year at Union University. This issue of the *Unionite* points readers to some of those special moments over the past few months. For the 14th consecutive year, Union experienced an enrollment increase — with a fall enrollment of 4,205 and a non-duplicating annual enrollment exceeding 5,000.

The magazine you hold in your hand tells the marvelous story about the library project, the first graduating class from the School of Pharmacy, the full accreditation of the PharmD and MSW programs, another year of significant recognitions, and so much more. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the fifth strategic plan for the current administration: "Union 2015: Illuminating Minds." I am extremely excited about the new plan and want to thank Gene Fant and Rich Grimm for their guidance for this most important planning process.

The spring commencement ceremony provided a memorable moment for well over 7,000 who were in attendance on the Great Lawn on a beautiful May evening. The University during this academic year will award nearly 1,250 degrees, the largest graduating class in Union's long history. Two honorary degrees

were granted to two very special Union friends: Lloyd Hansen and Bill Latimer. We offer thanks to God for these special friends and for the graduates who leave this place to serve Christ and his kingdom.

We move forward with excitement about the library project, the new facility in Hendersonville, and the opportunities in the 2012-13 year. Let me encourage you to help us with

the library project. We need Unionites everywhere to join with us in this effort. Will you please pray for those involved with this work? Might you consider making a pledge or gift for this amazing facility? Through the generous

matching gift of the Latimer Foundation, every gift is maximized. Let me thank you in advance for your willingness to invest in this magnificent facility, which will serve Union in a strategic way for decades to come.

Enjoy this *Unionite* issue. Thank you for your loyal and ongoing friendship to Union University.

Faithfully,

David S. Dockery



Union launches new academic journal

Renewing Minds: A Journal of Christian Thought made its debut in spring 2012 with six major articles focused on Christian higher education.

"This is not like an academic journal in the sense that it is written just for other academics," said Hunter Baker, dean of instruction at Union and one of the journal's senior editors. "This is an attempt for academics to make their ideas accessible to a broader public."


C. Ben Mitchell, the Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy at Union and also a senior editor of the journal, said "Renewing Minds" will showcase the best of Union scholarship. We think that the journal will enable us to do that, as well as be able to publish others as well."

The theme for the first issue is "Christian higher education," with articles from Union University professors Scott Huelin ("Religio et Eruditio"), Jennifer Gruenke ("Faith and Science: Hard Questions") and Baker ("The State of Christian Higher Education"), as well as Mark Schwehn, provost of Valparaiso University ("The Liberal Arts"), and Paul House, professor of divinity at Beeson Divinity School ("Making Christian Minds").

In the introduction to the journal, Union University President David S. Dockery said the articles "reflect well the key aspects of the Christian intellectual tradition."

J. Michael Garrett is the review editor, while Jonathan Dockery is the managing editor and Sarah Dockery is

the production editor.

Those who would like to subscribe can do so by scanning this QR code or visiting uu.edu/journals/renewingminds. 



National rankings favor Union

In its 2012 listings, *U.S. News & World Report* ranks Union 15th in its "Best Regional Universities – South" category. The publication defines a regional university as an institution that provides a full range of undergraduate majors and master's degree programs, along with a few doctoral programs.

Also significant: the *U.S. News & World Report* recognition of Union's faculty and its status as an "up-and-coming" school.

Only 56 schools nationally were chosen to represent "an unusually strong commitment to undergraduate teaching." Union ranked among the top five such schools in the South, alongside such schools as Elon University, Rollins College, James Madison University and the College of Charleston.

An even more select group – 46 schools – was identified as "up-and-coming." Union ranked third in the South among regional universities for this distinction.

Other national recognitions include a seventh consecutive inclusion in "America's 100 Best College Buys," an annual list compiled by an independent research and consulting organization that measures academic quality vs. cost; a ranking by StateUniversity.com as one of the four best colleges in Tennessee; a listing among Princeton Review's "Best in the Southeast" ratings for colleges and universities; and continued association with the Colleges of Distinction, which requires a school to demonstrate its engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities and successful outcomes.

Scroggins leads Faith in Practice week

Florida pastor Jimmy Scroggins led Union's annual Faith in Practice week with a series of chapel addresses focused on recovering from brokenness.

"You can sing the songs about Christ (being a gracious Savior), and yet there is just something about the deep effects of sin that, no matter how much you love Jesus, you just cannot put Humpty Dumpty back together again," said



Scroggins, senior pastor of First Baptist Church West Palm Beach.

Scroggins said the gospel allows people to "recover and pursue God's design" for their lives. He said the book of Genesis shows what relationships were like before the fall, when man and woman lived in God's will, while the book of Revelation paints a picture of Christ redeeming Christians from pain and sorrow when he returns to earth.

Audio from each address is available on our audio project at uu.edu/audio. Search Scroggins.

Ashby estate contributes to student scholarships

Union University received a check in November for \$1.8 million from the estate of Robert and Dera Ashby.

Gary Grisham, president of BancorpSouth in Jackson, and Doug Roth, senior vice president and regional manager of BancorpSouth, delivered the check to Union University President David S. Dockery. The money will be used for student scholarships.



Dera Ashby died in 2009, and her husband passed away several years earlier. For many years, they ran Ashby Lumber in Jackson. Mrs. Ashby was a 1966 Union graduate in nursing.

"We are deeply grateful to the Ashby family and the leaders of BancorpSouth for this generous gift that will support Union students for many years to come," Dockery said.

Veneman recognized as outstanding journalism educator

Jim Veneman, assistant professor of communication arts and director of visual communications, has received the Robin F. Garland Educator Award from the National Press Photographers Association, one of the leading photojournalism organizations in the world.



According to NPPA, the award is given for outstanding service as a photojournalism educator. NPPA has given the award annually since 1974. "This award speaks to the incredible influence Mr. Veneman has on Union students each and every day on our campus," Union President David S. Dockery said. "The award represents the marvelous team spirit he has with and among his colleagues, and it signifies the far-reaching impact of his work beyond the Union campus, touching lives

and shaping the work of others in numerous other contexts."

Shackelford elected TBC president



Fred Shackelford, ('99) pastor of Springhill Baptist Church in Paris, Tenn., was elected president of the Tennessee

Baptist Convention during the TBC annual meeting at First Baptist Church in Hendersonville.

Shackelford previously served as the TBC vice president.

"I want to encourage pastors and I want to encourage churches to be about taking the gospel to the ends of the earth," Shackelford said. "To me, that's why we cooperate. That's why we're together. We don't cooperate to maintain clubs or to maintain the status quo in our own comfort. We cooperate together so that we might reach the nations with the gospel."

Shackelford will serve as TBC

president over the next year and will preside over next year's annual meeting at Faith Baptist Church in Bartlett, Tenn. He said the TBC presidency is not something he sought, but that he was willing to serve when others asked him to consider it.

Corey Cain, pastor of Maplewood Baptist Church in Paris, Tenn., and also a Union alumnus, nominated Shackelford for the position. Shackelford was unopposed.

He and his wife, Jennifer ('00), have three sons.

Hansen receives Craig Service Award

Lloyd Hansen received the Robert E. Craig Service Award at Union's fall graduation ceremony at West Jackson Baptist Church.



The award is named after Union's 13th president, who led the university for more than two decades and was responsible for reestablishing Union with the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Craig was also responsible for relocating the university campus to north Jackson.

President David S. Dockery said Hansen has served Union as an adviser to the engineering and international study programs, and has helped open doors for Union in Norway and in Asia. He has also served on Union's Board of Regents.

"While he has been supportive of the university on multiple levels, Mr. Hansen was especially generous to Union following the tornado in 2008," Dockery said. "As an academic community, we are truly grateful for the friendship of Lloyd Hansen."

Through Hansen's help and initiative, Union has established an official partnership with the Ansgar School of Theology and Mission in Kristiansand, Norway. Professors from that school have taught at Union, and Union's Greg Thornbury,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Union 2015 plan approved

Union University trustees have approved a new strategic plan called "Illuminating Minds: Union 2015." The plan establishes seven major priorities:

Priority 1: Union University will cultivate continued and thorough commitment to its Mission and Core Values.

Priority 2: Union University will evaluate, strengthen and expand its academic and co-curricular programs.

Priority 3: Union University will develop plans to expand and renovate its physical plant.

Priority 4: Union University will develop its vision for regional, national and global engagement.

Priority 5: Union University will

review, enhance, and strengthen its major operations and procedures.

Priority 6: Union University will ensure its continued health through ongoing evaluation and support of its human and financial resources.

Priority 7: Union University will adopt strategies for technology that provide appropriate integration and utilization of existing tools and innovations.

Each of the priorities has a number of sub-points that will serve as a framework for the university's growth during the next three years.

Union 2015 is the fifth such strategic plan in the tenure of President David S. Dockery. In December, trustees celebrated the completion

of Union 2012, which included the completion of Providence Hall and Hope Residence Complex, a renewed priority on the importance of the liberal arts and a heightened emphasis on the Christian intellectual tradition.

Executive Vice President for Academic Administration Gene Fant and Senior Vice President for Enrollment Services Rich Grimm led the planning effort.

"The board affirmed all aspects of the Union 2015 Plan," Dockery said. "In doing so, they expressed deep appreciation for the leadership of Gene Fant and Rich Grimm in this planning process." ■

MSW program receives accreditation

The Council on Social Work Education, the only accrediting body of social work education in the country, has accredited the Master of Social Work degree program.

Janet Furness, associate dean of the School of Social Work and MSW program director, received the notification in February.

"We're delighted that Union is on the cutting edge of some pretty exciting opportunities for social work practice in West Tennessee," Furness said. "Our graduates are prepared to serve individuals, families, groups, organizations, to do agency administration and grant writing — a whole range of service provision."

Union's is now the only accredited

MSW degree in West Tennessee. The accreditation applies retroactively to all who have already completed the program, and Furness said those graduates can now complete their licensing requirements from the state of Tennessee.

For more information about Union's MSW program, visit uu.edu/msw. ■

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Carla Sanderson and Cynthia Jayne have taught there.

"Lloyd Hansen is one of those essential friends who truly sees Christian higher education, and the work of Union University in particular, as integral to the advancement of the gospel and the kingdom of God on earth," Thornbury said.

Union students take third consecutive Best Delegation award

For a third consecutive year, delegates from Union University to the General Assembly of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature earned the Best Delegation award for their role in the proceedings at the State Capitol in Nashville.

TISL is a statewide organization formed in 1966 to give college students a voice in state government. The nonpartisan organization convenes a General Assembly each year, held in the Tennessee General Assembly's chambers, for students to introduce

debate and vote on legislation about state issues.

Seventeen Union University students participated in the 42nd annual event, held in mid-November.

The Best Delegation designation is given to the group that distinguishes itself by being active during debates, presenting good bills and overall involvement in the proceedings. At the end of the session, the members of the executive council select the recipient of the Best Delegation from among the 40 colleges and universities represented at the assembly.

"We were involved in every area of TISL, from the House, to the Senate, to the lobbying program, to the Supreme Court," said Karl Magnuson, president of Union's Student Government Association and leader of Union's TISL delegation. "Union is really respected."

Union junior Shelly Ezell served as speaker pro tem of the House of Representatives for this year's meeting, while Magnuson was the House's chief clerk. Union freshman Michael Adkisson was elected

speaker pro tem of the Senate for next year's meeting after staging a

successful write-in campaign.

Junior Kirby Lewis was chosen this summer as a Supreme Court justice for next year's General Assembly, and will serve as the court's chief justice.

Career Services changes name to Vocatio Center

To better reflect the nature of the services it provides to students, Union's career services office has changed its name to the Vocatio Center for Life Calling and Career.

"Vocatio" is the Latin word for "calling," and the new name will communicate to students a component of the "Union 2012" long-range plan that was designed to help students think about their work as a calling, and not just a job.

In addition to the name change, the office will seek to expand its services in the future. The center will offer additional discipline-specific initiatives — such as career expos, lectures and comprehensive gifts assessments — that will focus on the goals of servant leadership. "Our true hope is to instill in our students the necessity for pursuing God's call through a transformed and renewed mind in service to others," said Jacqueline Taylor, assistant dean of students and director of the Vocatio Center.

iPad technology integrated with revamped M.Ed. program

Union University's School of Education is offering two new concentrations for its Master of Education degree, both of which integrate the newest iPad technology.

"We are on the cutting edge of some wonderful innovations in teacher education," said Tom Rosebrough, executive dean of Union's College of Education and Human Studies. All M.Ed. students will be provided with the new iPad, which will function as a "driving component of the new curriculum," according to Carren Gallaher, director of the M.Ed. program in Hendersonville. Students in the degree program will now be able to choose between an "Instructional Leadership" concentration for the licensure of principals and supervisors, and a "Teaching and Learning" concentration for experienced classroom teachers.

As part of the revamped degree program, the School of Education has created a series of instructional videos that will be posted on iTunes U. The videos provide instruction on the basics of iPad operation, as well as how teachers can effectively use iPads to improve learning in the classroom. Rosebrough comments,



Union students Shelly Ezell (at podium) and Karl Magnuson (right) participate in the 42nd General Assembly of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature.

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

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Shuttlesworth keynotes Black History Month program

Sephira Bailey Shuttlesworth ('79) married one of the “big three” civil rights leaders in 2006.

Her late husband Fred Shuttlesworth was on the front lines of the struggle for racial equality in the 1960s, alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ralph Abernathy.

Mrs. Shuttlesworth now shares stories of her late husband's work at that time as she travels to speaking engagements across the country, including a stop in February at her alma mater to address Union's fifth annual Black History Month program.

But Shuttlesworth also has stories of her own struggle to share.



You too owe
it to the rest
of the world
to explain
how God
chose you,
anointed you,
led you and
carried you
through.

The Jackson native grew up in a time when West Tennessee was racially segregated. Shuttlesworth and two siblings

were the first African-American students to attend Pope Elementary School.

Shuttlesworth told a capacity crowd in the Grant Events Center that following passage of the Civil Rights Act (1964), her mother presented the possibility of attending all-white Pope Elementary in the fall of 1965. Although she and two of her siblings quickly agreed to attend Pope, she says they had no idea what they were about to face.

“We just knew if Pope Elementary School was that nice on the outside, it had to be beautiful on the inside,” she said. “We were like innocent lambs headed for the slaughter.”

Shuttlesworth said that she went through the first year at Pope with no friends. Her second year, she had one friend who was harassed by other students for associating with a black student. But she said in her third year she

began to be accepted, largely because she excelled in the classroom and in athletics.

A few years later, she continued to pursue racial reconciliation at Union, where she studied music and took part in a wide range of campus activities. She said her time at the university, though not free of discrimination, continued to develop her into a Christian who had a “heart for service” and taught her to ask the important questions in life.

She said part of that service is to recount the stories of peaceful protest that both she and her late husband lived more than a generation ago. She encouraged her audience to take advantage of similar opportunities.

“You too owe it to the rest of the world to explain how God chose you, anointed you, led you and carried you through.” 📖

Samantha Adams ('13) contributed to this story.

Mitchell called to testify on Capitol Hill

Professor C. Ben Mitchell told a congressional committee in February that a U.S. government mandate requiring religious organizations to provide contraceptive and abortifacient coverage for employees is “an unconscionable intrusion by the state into the consciences of American citizens.”

Mitchell joined Craig Mitchell, associate professor of ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; William Lori, a Roman Catholic bishop; Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; and Meir Soloveichik, a rabbi on a panel that testified before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Although the discussion was prompted by a Health and Human Services mandate that requires insurance coverage for contraceptives and so-called abortion pills, the title of the hearing was “Lines Crossed: Separation of Church and State. Has the Obama Administration Trampled on Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Conscience?”

Mitchell cited historical examples of Baptists who had worked to ensure religious liberty and protect matters of faith from government intervention. Among the leaders he mentioned were Roger Williams (c. 1603-1683), John Leland (1754-1841) and George W. Truett (1867-1944), who Mitchell said preached a sermon on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in 1920. After recounting their contributions, Mitchell finished his opening statement with these words:



I have two reasons for citing these historical examples. On the one hand, it is to remind us that what American University law professor Daniel Dreisbach and his co-editor Mark David Hall have called “the sacred rights of conscience,” which we Americans enjoy, were secured at an extraordinary cost. On the other hand, it is to remind us that as Truett said later in his sermon, religious liberty was, at least largely, “a Baptist achievement,” for the common good. Every American is a beneficiary of this legacy; we are all freeloading on their sacrifice.

That is why I am here to decry the contraception, abortifacient, and sterilization mandate issued by the Department of Health and Human Services on January 20, 2012. The policy is an unconscionable intrusion by the state into the consciences of American citizens. Contrary to portrayals in some of the popular media, this is not only a



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

Catholic issue. All people of faith—and even those who claim no faith—have a stake in whether or not the government can violate the consciences of its citizenry. Religious liberty and the freedom to obey one’s conscience is also not just a Baptist issue. It is an American issue that is enshrined in our founding documents.

The Obama Administration’s most recent so-called “accommodation” for religious organizations is no accommodation at all. It is a bait and switch scheme of the most egregious sort. ☩

an
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state into the
consciencies
of American
citizens.

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"Graduate students can access an entire course in one app, reading books and viewing presentations, including their own," Rosebrough said. "It is amazing technology wedded to quality professional development."

Stephen Marvin, assistant professor of education and director of the Master of Education program in Germantown, said one of the ways students can use the iPad is to create reflective teaching lessons.

"We want our students to be able to have a clinical teaching experience and then reflect on that," Marvin said. "So they'll video themselves teaching, go back and watch that video and then create either a video or audio reflection, rather than just writing that out."

In addition to the iPad, the Master of Education program now offers an increased number of interactive online class periods as an integral part of class scheduling.

Union student journalists "Best of the South"

Union journalism students captured 14 awards in the "Best of the South" competition at this year's Southeast Journalism Conference — more than any other school in attendance.

SEJC includes 68 member universities in eight states from North Carolina to Arkansas. The university with the second highest number of awards was East Carolina with nine, followed by Ole Miss and the University of Alabama with eight each.

"It is quite an achievement to win 14 awards, and it is truly a testimony to the outstanding work of our students and to the strength of our journalism program," said Michael Chute, a journalism professor and adviser for Union's student newspaper, *Cardinal & Cream*.

Union students Margaret Brinson and Alex Brown were named two of the top five College Journalists of the Year. *Cardinal & Cream* was named the third best college newspaper in the South, trailing only Auburn and East Carolina.

Smith shares business vision

Through four different careers in business, Harry Smith learned many different principles that allowed him to lead others with humility, fairness and integrity.



He shared those lessons with more than 200 in attendance at Union University's Business Through the Eyes of Faith luncheon April 10 in the Carl Grant Events Center. Sponsored by the McAfee School of Business Administration, the event is designed to encourage and equip members of the West Tennessee business community to integrate their Christian faith into their workplaces.

"It's good to be transparent with your people," Smith said. "Let them know you're not perfect."

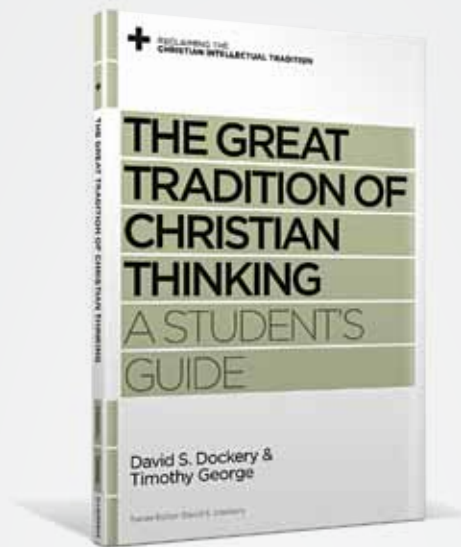
Smith, former president of Schilling Enterprises in Memphis and past chairman of Union's Board of Trustees, began his career in business as a newspaper carrier, a job he held for 11 years in his hometown of Florence, Ala. After college he moved into public accounting for 16 years before taking the reins at Schilling Enterprises, a Memphis-based business that was heavily involved buying and selling car dealerships.

His fourth career — serving on non-profit boards — is where Smith has focused his energies since selling the last of his companies in 2005.

Smith is the author of the book *Driven to Deliver: 9 Keys for Going the Distance in Life and Business*.



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Dockery to edit book series

Union University President David S. Dockery has been named the editor of a new series of books designed for Christian students and others on college and university campuses.

In *Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition: A Guide for Students*, published by Crossway, Dockery and other experts argue that vibrant, world-changing Christianity is not anti-intellectual but assumes a long tradition of vigorous Christian thinking and a commitment to the integration of faith and scholarship.

This integration, Dockery says, is essential to the preparation of the next generation of leaders in the church, the academy and the world.

The first book in the series, *The Great Tradition of Christian Thinking: A Student's Guide*, co-written by Dockery and Timothy George, founding dean of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School, was released this spring. Four other books in the series will also be released in 2012, including *The Liberal Arts: A Student's Guide*, by Gene C. Fant Jr., Union's vice president for academic administration and *Political Thought: A Student's Guide*, by Hunter Baker, dean of instruction at Union.

Additional books in the series on other academic subjects are expected to be published in 2013 and 2014. ■

Spring '12 Graduation sees milestones



Faithfulness is a characteristic that marks the class of 2012, Union University President David S. Dockery told a group of 614 graduates during Union's 187th annual spring commencement ceremony May 19 on the university's Great Lawn. Class of 2012 is the largest in Union history.

Dockery referenced the 2008 tornado that caused massive destruction on the Union campus and praised the students, most of them high school seniors at the time, for demonstrating both a sense of faith and faithfulness in choosing to attend Union in the midst of uncertainty.

This year's graduating class includes the first 41 graduates from Union's School of Pharmacy. Sheila Mitchell, the founding dean of the school, said that the occasion, while bittersweet, was a tremendous milestone for the program (*see story on page 28*).

In addition, to the pharmacy students, the class includes the first graduates from the Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership program at Union University Hendersonville.

As part of the ceremony, Union presented the Elizabeth Tigrett Medal to Katherine Pullen, an intercultural studies and journalism double major from Jacksonville, Fla.

The university also presented two honorary doctorates — a Doctor of Humanities degree to Bill Latimer, the lead donor for the new library, and a Doctor of Letters to Lloyd Hansen.

Carol Swain, professor of political science and law at Vanderbilt University, delivered the commencement address. ■

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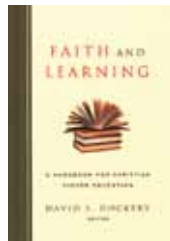
When he began at Schilling, the company had more than 1,000 employees, and Smith acknowledged that he was overwhelmed by the responsibility.

"That's when I really learned to pray," he said.

Union authors release new books

Union authors have released some key books during the past academic year, including a series on faith and learning, a biography of J.R. Graves and new information on the spiritual struggles of Edgar Allan Poe.

President David S. Dockery is editor of the new volume *Faith and*

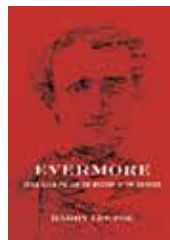


Learning: A Handbook for Christian Higher Education, (B&H Academic) with chapters from several Union University faculty members

writing about how the Christian faith should inform learning in a variety of fields, from the traditional arts and sciences to health care, engineering, social work, business and education.

Some of the contributors from Union include Gene C. Fant Jr., vice president for academic administration; Hunter Baker, dean of instruction; Gregory Alan Thornbury, dean of the School of Theology and Missions; Jeannette Russ, professor of engineering; Emily Lean, assistant professor of business; Mary Anne Poe, professor of social work; and C. Ben Mitchell, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy.

Hal Poe, the Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture at



Union, released *Evermore: Edgar Allan Poe and the Mystery of the Universe*, (Baylor University Press) which examines one of the

lesser-known works of his ancestor Edgar Allan Poe and shows that the infamous fiction writer dealt with deep spiritual questions.

"The conclusion of his book was that therefore the universe

must have a creator (because of its creation)," Hal Poe said. "This amazed me because I had never heard of this book before."

Associate Dean of the School of Theology and Missions James



Patterson released a biography in February entitled *James Robinson Graves: Staking the Boundaries of Southern Baptist*

Identity (B&H Academic) that explores the life of what the author calls "a major shaper of Southern Baptist life in the 19th century."

Patterson says Graves was especially concerned with identifying the boundaries of what it means to be a Baptist.

"I think that's a legitimate enterprise," Patterson said. "I think Baptists should know who they are and what the boundaries are. I'm not convinced that he staked the right boundaries."

Trustees approve budget, elect chairman

At their April meeting, Union University trustees approved a \$92 million budget and elected new officers, with Norm Hill selected as chairman, Paul Priddy as vice chairman and James Ross as secretary. The new budget represents a \$3 million increase over the previous year.

"I am confident that Norm Hill will offer superb leadership as our new chairman, in the same way that Rod Parker has done over the past three years," President David S. Dockery said. "Union trustees work and serve together in a remarkable way that is a joy to behold."

Trustees also attended a banquet to honor Union donors and the ceremonial groundbreaking for the new library during their time on campus.

Union student wins top varsity debate award

Union University sophomore Abby Williams won the International Public Debate Association national championship in the "varsity debate" category at the IPDA national tournament April 12-15 at Sam Houston State University in

Campbell and Ross win TSWA honors

Union University women's basketball coach Mark Campbell was selected as the Tennessee Sports Writers Association Coach of the Year, marking a fourth consecutive award and his fifth overall. The award is given annually and are based on votes by sports writers from across Tennessee.

Campbell led the Lady Bulldogs to an NAIA national runner-up finish in the 2011-2012 season, with Union making a national title game appearance for the fourth straight year. Campbell won national titles with the team in 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2010.

This season Union finished 35-3 and won the TranSouth Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championship. Over




the past two seasons, Union has a combined 70-5 record and is 178-9 over the past five seasons.

Campbell won his 400th game with a season-opening 79-62 victory over Hannibal-LaGrange (Mo.) University.

Senior guard Lavanda Ross was voted TSWA Women's College Basketball Player of the Year. The Jackson native also was named the NAIA National Player of the Year, and she was named to an All-American



team in all four seasons at Union.

Ross averaged 18.2 points, 6.2 rebounds and 2.5 steals, finishing her Union career with more than 2,000 points. 

Huntsville, Texas.

In the final round, Williams defeated Nathan Johnston from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. The two debated the resolution, "Hydraulic fracturing is worth the risk," with Williams debating the negative side.

The IPDA national tournament included more than 200 competitors in three divisions (77 in varsity). Students came from 24 schools in eight states.

Williams, from Springdale, Ark., is a double major in music and English.



Abby Williams (left) gets help from teammate Kylie McDonald in preparing for the final round in the 2012 International Public Debate Association championship tournament. (Photo by Amelia Krauss)



Aldridge wins national award

Steven Aldridge ('98 and '08), sports information director at Union University, has been named the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' Clarence "Ike" Pearson Award winner for 2012.

The Ike Pearson Award, first given in 1977 and named for the former statistical crew chief for the NAIA men's basketball national championship, is presented annually to an outstanding NAIA sports information director.

Aldridge, a native of Myrtle, Miss., is in his 12th year of serving as the sports information director at Union. During his tenure at

Union, Aldridge has won five of six TranSouth Athletic Conference Sports Information Director of the Year awards, including back-to-back honors in 2006-2007 and 2010-2011.

"Those who have worked with him know that his character and the manner in which he conducts himself with others is what sets him apart," said E.L. Hutton, former commissioner of the TranSouth Athletic Conference and NAIA Hall of Famer, in his recommendation letter. "He was a champion of character long before the idea became part of the NAIA's plan."

All three spring sports win championships

Union's baseball, men's golf and softball teams each won TranSouth conference championships in the spring.

The baseball team hosted and won the tournament

championship, finishing the regular season and tournament winning 19 of 23 games. In the first round Hardeeville bracket of the NAIA tournament, they won their first two games — including an upset of fifth-ranked Faulkner (Ala.) — before being eliminated by eventual bracket champion University of South Carolina-Beaufort. They finished with a season record of 39-19-1.

The softball team finished with a 46-12 record, with Lady Bulldogs winning four of the five major conference individual awards and six players qualifying for the



CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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all-conference team. They made their seventh appearance in the national tournament. Only three other schools in the national tournament field have made more appearances.

Men's golf claimed a fifth conference championship in seven years and received an automatic bid to the national tournament in Salem, Ore., where they finished 21st.

Dockery receives NAACP award

President David S. Dockery received the William D. Smart Jr. Race Relations Award during the West Tennessee NAACP annual meeting May 27 in Jackson.

The award is presented to a

person in the West Tennessee community who has made the most significant contribution to race relations and racial harmony. Dockery says he accepted the award on behalf of the entire Union community and its efforts to foster racial reconciliation.

"Unfortunately, we have to deal with race issues in our society today," said President Harrell Carter of the Jackson-Madison County branch of NAACP. "Dr. Dockery has quietly gone about the business of a man of faith and has created a culture at Union and in this city that allows for diversity and respect for people."



MICHELLE GACHET/THE JACKSON SUN



Senior engineering students capstone projects

Senior engineering students Aaron Porterfield, Jeff Maharrey and Rachel Quinn presented their capstone project, a robotic drain cleaning system, on May 9. These projects frequently involve partnerships with corporations who pose challenges from their workplaces. This system grew from a need at the Jackson Pringles plant, and representatives from the Kellogg Co. (which now owns Pringles) attended the presentation. Another team of seniors proposed a roasting system for rural cashew growers, who typically lose out on profits because their harvested product is not "shelf-ready" for consumers. A third project presented this year was a lightweight, foot-powered car for possible use by Union Safety and Security officers. 📍

Prestigious survey names Union among nation's best

When the 2011 survey started, it covered 310 colleges and nearly 44,000 employees nationwide.

Once thousands of responses were recorded and tabulated, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* identified only three institutions that won honors in 11 separate categories of their "Great Colleges to Work For" survey: Eastern Kentucky University, Gettysburg (Pa.) College and Union University.

Only 111 of the 310 institutions received recognition, and only 30 four-year schools received "honor roll" status. Union was the only school in

Tennessee named to that list.

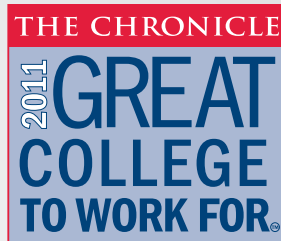
"I want to congratulate our marvelous faculty and staff, as well as the high quality students, who contribute each and every day to this special academic community," Union President David S. Dockery said. "We are certainly thankful for the dedicated members of the Board of Trustees who offer the guidance and establish the high expectations for this university."

Kimberly Thornbury, Union's vice president for student services and dean of students, said the university's strong sense of community is one of the

benefits of working for the institution.

"We have been blessed with a president who is a tremendous leader in higher education," Thornbury said. "He sets the tone for a campus that is innovative, encouraging and positive. People who come to work for Union seem wonderfully 'shocked' at the true level of community in this place."

More information about "Great Colleges to Work For," including a listing of all institutions on the list, is available at chronicle.com/academicworkplace. 📍



Hendersonville campus nears completion



Classes will begin this summer in a new 24,000-square-foot building that will house all of Union University Hendersonville's academic programs.

Since 2008, the Union programs have operated in classrooms and offices at First Baptist Church in Hendersonville. Growth of course offerings and the need for a permanent Union campus led trustees to approve the new building in 2010.

Union University Hendersonville currently offers graduate degrees in education and theology and missions, as well as an undergraduate program for adult learners and an accelerated BSN degree program in nursing. A master of nursing program is scheduled to begin in the fall.

Enrollment tops 100 students, but significant growth will be possible after the two-story building opens off the intersection of Indian Lake Boulevard and Maple Drive.

Union is the first university to offer bachelor and graduate degree

programs from a physical campus in Sumner County. Local business leaders and government officials have been supportive of the campus' development and are intrigued by the possible impact on the region.

"What you're offering to the citizens of this county is a place of higher learning

The job market growth in the mid-state will mirror the programs that Union is offering and plans to offer here in Hendersonville.

to where they can expand their horizons — upward mobility for them and their families," said Sumner County Executive Anthony Holt. He added that the county is one of the fastest-growing in the state. The latest census figures place the population at about 160,000, making it the eighth largest county in Tennessee.

Campus Executive Director Charles Lea cites a Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce labor market survey that he says holds interesting results for Union. "The job market growth in the mid-state will mirror the programs that Union is offering and plans to offer here in Hendersonville," Lea said.

TLM Associates Inc. provided architectural and engineering work for the facility. Union benefactor and Union Foundation board member Jim Ayers, of Nashville, Tenn., developed the project for the university through his affiliate Ayers Asset Management.

A dedication ceremony for the new building is scheduled for Aug. 2. ■



A GROUNDBREAKING MOMENT

UNION UNIVERSITY'S NEW LIBRARY



RIGHT: Dirt is turned during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new library. Pictured is David S. Dockery, Anna Beth Morgan, Jim Campbell, president and COO of TLM Architects/Engineers; Carol and Bill Latimer, major donors for the project; Rod Parker, chairman of the Board of Trustees; Harry Smith, past chairman of the Board of Trustees; and Frank Wagster, principal architect of H&M Construction.



BELOW LEFT: Karl Magnuson, senior engineering major, gives a dedicatory prayer during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new library.
BELOW RIGHT: Dockery presents a framed rendering of the new Union library to Bill and Carol Latimer in appreciation of their \$10 million lead gift for the new library project.



It is important for major meetings to start out well.

In 2012, Union University trustees are likely to remember the first hours of their spring meeting for years to come.

On April 12, the university held a ceremonial groundbreaking for a new 60,000-square-foot library and academic resource center.

"Today is a day of celebration and a day of thanksgiving," President David S. Dockery said at the groundbreaking ceremony. "This facility that we are launching today is unlike any that we've ever built on this campus — not only in its scope, size and majesty, but in its function. It will be something that will serve every aspect and constituency of this university and beyond."

Trustees, donors, faculty, staff and students attended the ceremony.

Perhaps no one in attendance was more gratified than Anna Beth Morgan, who has been studying and learning about the building of library resources over the course of her entire career. The director of Union's library has been squarely focused on this project for many months.

"It's been wonderful to actually have the experience to put that learning in practice," Morgan said. "It's a really exciting phase to have achieved."

Union announced plans for the new facility in October 2011, thanks to a lead gift by the Bill and Carol Latimer Foundation. The university also announced a capital campaign to raise \$10 million for the project, as the Latimer gift

will match up to \$10 million of every dollar pledged or given by December 2012.

In the days just prior to the April groundbreaking, donors already had given or pledged more than \$5.8 million toward the library project, or about 60 percent of the campaign goal.

"We are incredibly excited about this project and ever grateful for all who have given to support this magnificent facility," Dockery said.

The groundbreaking kicked off two days of events for Union trustees at their spring meeting. Following the groundbreaking ceremony, Union held a tribute dinner to thank significant donors for their contributions to the university.

At the "President's Tribute" banquet, Dockery presented a "state of the university" address to trustees and key donors, thanking them for their investment in Union.

"You've been an instrument of God's provision for us," Dockery said. "Because of your investment and generosity, you have made a difference in Union University." ■

WE ARE
INCREDIBLY
EXCITED ABOUT
THIS PROJECT
AND EVER
GRATEFUL
FOR ALL WHO
HAVE GIVEN TO
SUPPORT THIS
MAGNIFICENT
FACILITY.



LIBRARY LEGACY

A HISTORIC CROSSROADS AT UNION UNIVERSITY

As the institution that is now Union University struggled to survive the aftermath of the Civil War, one of the most pressing academic needs involved the library.

Accounts from that time tell us that the collection lacked quality more than quantity. Classic literary works and volumes dedicated to the latest scientific discoveries were in short supply. Donors were asked to step up and provide these volumes.

At that crucial moment in the institution's history, donors responded. Perhaps they recognized that a university fighting to survive in that era without a collection of relevant books was at a tremendous disadvantage.

More than a century later, under far different circumstances, Union's library is again the focus of attention.

Libraries are no longer simply storehouses for book collections. They serve as information centers where scholars can study antiquated special collection documents and then connect

via satellite with scholars on another continent a few moments later.

In many ways, Union's Emma Waters Summar library has kept pace with the institution's rapid growth. Collections have been added and updated, and capable staff members extend assistance to students with a variety of research needs. But increasingly, space is at a premium.

The current library in Penick Academic Complex first took shape in the mid-1970s, as Union moved to its north Jackson location. At that time, the school had an enrollment of about 1,000 students. The original library space was designed to seat only about 150 people.

In the years that followed, expansion became necessary. Walls came down between the library and some adjacent offices and language labs along the F-corridor. Once this step was taken, there was no more room for expansion at the current location.

Today's 25,000-square-foot space is increasingly cramped for a university with more than 4,200 students.

A KAIROS MOMENT

Union strategic planning has focused on this issue for several years. The Union 2012 plan called for exploration of a new library. That work involved looking at a variety of institutions and the challenges they faced in constructing new libraries.

As plans began to emerge for a free-standing facility that would more than double available library space, cost estimates fell in the \$18-\$20 million range.

The project attracted the attention of Bill and Carol Latimer of Union City, Tenn. The long-time friends of Union took an interest in the planning process and engaged their

by that time and redeemed by the end of December 2014 also will be matched.

CAMPUS REACTION

The reaction to this *kairos* moment has been swift and strong.

Faculty and staff members see the benefits of a first-class library facility in terms that reach far beyond book collections.

The library will be a signature building which will serve the entire Union community," Senior Vice President for Business Services Gary Carter said. "I feel it is a privilege to be part of such a significant project."

contains and symbolizes. Lisa and I are delighted to be able to support this project with our gifts and our prayers." Students put together a mini-campaign called "iGave." Although most can make only small financial contributions, leaders of the campaign say there is a sense of opportunity among students that any gift will make them a part of something that will have value long after they graduate from Union.

"We're not concerned with how much money we can give," said Karl Magnuson, a senior engineering student from Louisville, Ky. "It's important enough to us to give monetary support in whatever



BY THE NUMBERS

Enrollment at Union when current library opened - **1,000**

Fall enrollment at launch of library campaign - **more than 4,200**

Current square footage of Emma Waters Summar Library - **less than 25,000**

Approximate square footage in new three-story library - **60,000**

Matching gift for new library - **up to \$10,000,000**

Estimated cost of new library - **at least \$18,000,000**

imaginations. When they announced their intention to make a lead matching gift of up to \$10 million, Union President David S. Dockery called it a "*kairos* moment" in the life of the university.

During the time of Christ, the Greek words *kairos* and *chronos* represented the concept of time. *Chronos* signified the passage of time, while *kairos* described one deeply significant moment or event.

"This is a rare opportunity that we have been given," Dockery said. "This generous foundation will match every dollar given by other Union friends toward the building of this facility."

The Bill and Carol Latimer foundation will match every library contribution made through December 2012. Pledges made

Giving to the library is a way to give to the entire Union community: students, faculty, alumni, even the larger West Tennessee region," Executive Vice President for Academic Administration Gene Fant said. "Nothing on campus will cut as broad a swath of influence on as wide a group of people as that building and all that it

amount we can find."

THE NEW BUILDING

Designed by TLM Associates in Jackson, the library building will have an open feel with numerous large windows for external lighting. It will be capped by a large dome.

The first floor will contain seminar rooms, group study and collaborative study rooms, a reception area and auditorium. The second floor will primarily house Union's growing collection of books and academic resources. The third floor will include archives and a heritage room.

Construction will begin later this year, with an estimated completion date in early 2014. 🏗️

GIVING RESOURCES

Renewing Minds Library Campaign
uu.edu/library/renewingminds

Online Giving
uu.edu/giving

Office of University Relations
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305
(731) 661-5050



It didn't take Lee Baker long to find something of interest to him at Union University. Her name was Nichole.

After an accelerated January class that served as their introduction to Union's nurse anesthesia program, Lee and Nichole sat in the same graduate anatomy and physiology class with biology professor James Huggins.

Lee picked up on the material quickly, but others in the class — including Nichole — struggled.

"I found out she was struggling in the class and I just offered to help her," Lee says. "She really wouldn't let me."

A genuine offer of help, or a carefully orchestrated tactic designed to woo the pretty girl?

Maybe a little of both, Lee now admits.

Whatever his motivation, his strategy worked. Nichole eventually relented and allowed Lee to "tutor" her. The two began studying together daily.

"Every single day," Nichole says. "He wouldn't let me go to sleep until 2 o'clock in the morning, just studying: 'You're going to get through this. You're going to do this.' He was tougher on me than Dr. Huggins."

Lee's persistence helped Nichole pass the class, and it helped him find a wife. The couple began dating and got married in January. They spent their honeymoon on a nursing mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Their story is one of perfect timing and providence, of service, sacrifice and love.

Medical Mission

BY TIM ELLSWORTH

HONEYMOON

A native of Seattle, Wash., Nichole Goel graduated from Washington State University and now she wanted to pursue a career as a certified registered nurse anesthetist. She just didn't know where she wanted to go to school for her CRNA program.

She went on a mission trip to Peru during her undergraduate degree, and as she began looking at graduate schools, a thought came to her.

"I wonder if there's a CRNA program that does a mission trip," she wondered one day while thinking about her future.

She did a Google search and came across pictures of Molly Wright, the chair of Union's CRNA program, and other students in the Dominican Republic as part of such a mission trip.

"No way," Nichole thought. "What is this school?"

After doing more research, she

discovered that she met all the requirements for admission and that the application deadline was still a few weeks away. Nichole figured that was all the reason she needed to apply. She later came for an interview, was accepted into the program and began her studies in January of 2011.

Lee hails from Euphora, Miss., a country town of about 2,000 people. For years, he had wanted to pursue nursing as a career — in part because of an aunt who is a nurse anesthetist. She's the only person from his family to attend college.

During junior college, most of Lee's friends began joining the military. One day he made a key decision about his future — he was either going to enter the military as well, or try to go to nursing school. He retook the ACT and got the necessary score for admission, so he applied at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

It was the only school where he applied, and everything fell into place for him to do his undergraduate work there.

The week of his graduation, Lee got some sobering news. His best friend — Justin Cooper, a marine sniper — had been killed in Afghanistan. Lee and Justin had grown up together. Their parents were best friends. Lee had planned to go to nurse anesthesia school after graduating, but the news of Justin's death pushed those plans to the background, as Lee sunk into a nasty depression.

A few weeks after the funeral, Lee got a letter from Justin's family with some news — in his will, Justin had left Lee the money to go back to school. Lee began preparing again to take the next step in his education, getting the experience and the certifications he needed. When he finally got ready to begin looking at master's programs, someone told him about Union.

Lee came to a preview day to learn more about the university.

"I read about the faith background," Lee says about Union. "I wasn't familiar with private schools, so I was kind of reserved about whether they really were what they said they were about."

At preview day, he met Dr. Huggins, who took the prospective students into the anatomy lab. He showed them a cadaver and began talking about the intricacies of the human body. Then he stopped and said something that caught Lee's attention.

"Isn't God great?" Huggins asked the students. "How can people think that this just happens?"

"Then I knew that this Union was really serious about what they said they were about," Lee says. "And he asked us to pray with him right then. So I decided then that I was going to apply."

Fast forward a few months, when

since his family was coming up for the event and they could celebrate both milestones together.

He remembered what Nichole had said about the Bible and found one that he thought she would like. He had "Nichole Baker" inscribed on the front, and found a fitting passage, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him — a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

Lee highlighted the passage and wrote a note in the margin: "Three strands: Husband, wife, God. I'll love you always." He put the engagement ring in the Bible,

on the front, Nichole didn't think anything of it. As she held the Bible, the ring fell out.

"It didn't happen at all the way I'd planned," Lee says.

But then Nichole picked up the ring and figured out what was happening. Lee showed her the passage. She cried, and said yes.

They got married less than two months later, on Jan. 14. The wedding took place in Barefoots Joe, a coffee shop on the Union campus. Wright planned the wedding. Huggins performed the ceremony. Nichole borrowed the dress from her roommate, and the couples' friends and classmates all pitched in to help.

Instead of taking a typical honeymoon, Lee and Nichole decided to do something different. Union's School of Nursing was taking a mission trip to the Dominican Republic in late January and early February, so the couple decided to participate in that endeavor and make it their honeymoon.

They were part of team that set up medical clinics, pharmacies and dentist offices in the villages, assessing patients and treating all kinds of ailments — flu-like symptoms, ear impactions, the common cold. The nurse anesthesia students also worked with volunteer doctors who were performing various surgeries at a local hospital.

"It was an awesome experience," Lee says. "I don't think any of us were prepared for what we were going to see down there — the amount of poverty and people who really are just thankful that you're there."

For Nichole, the trip gave her insight into how she can be a better nurse — and a better person — every day.

"The biggest lesson I learned on this trip is how you can reflect the love of Jesus Christ just by simple acts of kindness," she says.

Although their honeymoon was exhausting, with long days and challenging experiences, Lee and Nichole say it was a perfect way to end the last chapter in their lives and to start the next one.

"I don't think we could have had a better honeymoon," Lee says. "It was so perfect to be able to go down there and help people, take care of people and be together while we're doing it. I don't think we could have had more fun or been touched by something as much." 🍷



Lee and Nichole entered the program, began studying together and decided there was something special about their relationship. They started attending Englewood Baptist Church together, and began taking Wednesday night classes about what it meant to be a Baptist. The class was especially meaningful for Nichole, who grew up in a non-denominational church and had never been baptized. One day she told Lee she wanted a Bible that had room for notes in the margin, because she was learning so much and wanted to be able to jot notes in her Bible. She soon forgot about mentioning it, but Lee didn't.

As their relationship progressed, Lee decided he was going to propose. Then he began thinking about how he wanted to pop the question. Nichole had decided to get baptized, and Lee knew he wanted to propose before her baptism,

then closed it and put it in a bag.

At the right time, Lee left the bag out for Nichole to find. She asked him what it was. "Something I got you since you're getting baptized," he told her.

She opened up the bag and pulled out the Bible. Though she saw the inscription

.....
The biggest
lesson I learned
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acts of kindness.



A NEW DAY *for* UNION ATHLETICS

It was a moment of both triumph and uncertainty.

In late spring 2011, Union University had submitted more than 400 pages of documentation supporting its application for membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association at the Division II level.

Finishing such a labor-intensive project brings a measure of relief and even triumph, especially when that project could have historic implications.

But how many such applications would the NCAA membership committee approve?

As the committee deliberated, Union and the other schools that applied had to operate as though they were already NCAA institutions. That requirement prompted some personnel moves.

Alignment with a Division II athletic conference would make scheduling far easier if the

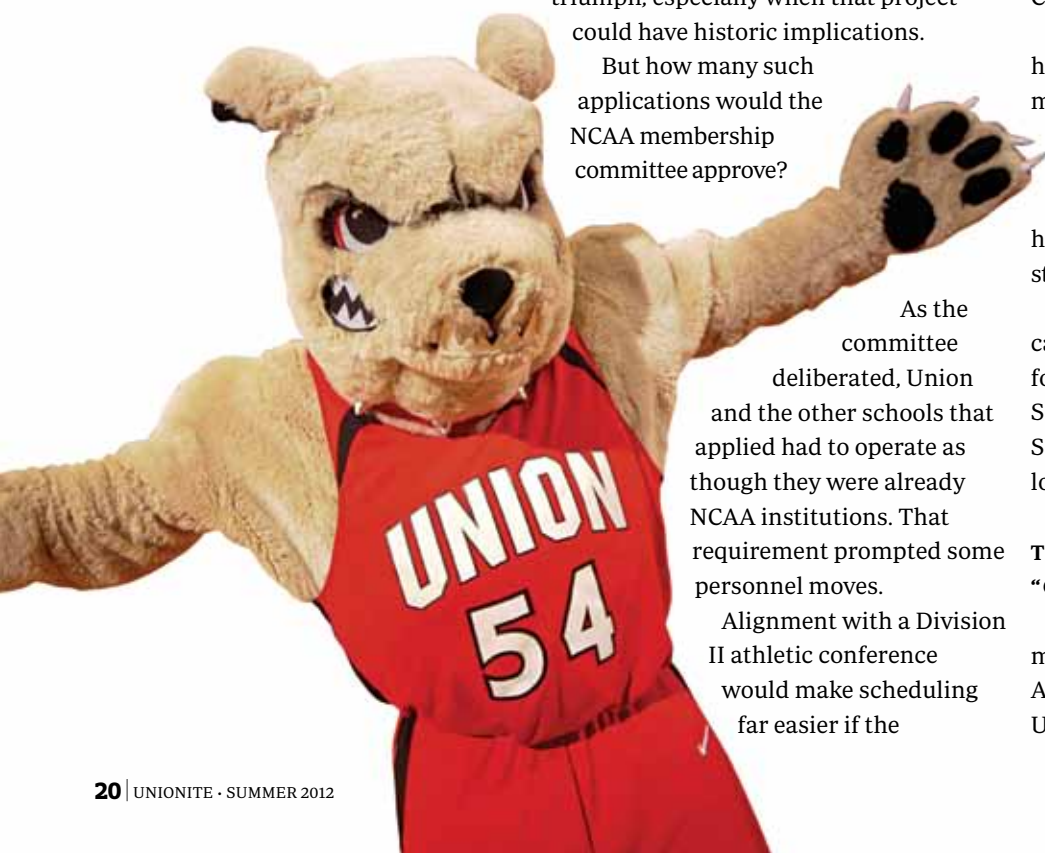
application was approved. Some view the support of an established conference as a potential plus in the application process. Gulf South Conference member schools unanimously endorsed Union's Division II application. That word spurred further optimism, but the uncertainty remained until July 11, when word reached President David S. Dockery that Candidacy Status had been approved.

"We are so very pleased that the NCAA has opened the door for Union University to move forward with the membership process, which will allow Union to compete with NCAA Division II institutions," Dockery said. "The Union community is quite hopeful for good days ahead for our coaches, student-athletes and fans."

"Union University was a great candidate, possibly among the best ever for admission into Division II," said Gulf South Conference Commissioner Nate Salant. "We hope this is the start of a very long, successful, exciting relationship."

THE GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE: "GIGANTICALLY PLEASED"

Seven Division II schools are current members of the GSC: University of Alabama-Huntsville, Christian Brothers University, Delta State University,



University of North Alabama, Valdosta State University, University of West Alabama, University of West Florida and the University of West Georgia.

Union University and Shorter (Ga.) University start the transition process together and, pending NCAA approval, could become full members in 2014.

Headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., the GSC is a charter member of Division II, dating back to 1970. In that time, conference members have won 45 national championships in 12 sports and more than 100 regional titles.

Salant has served as commissioner since 1992. By 2000, he guided the nation's largest NCAA conference at any level. The GSC had 18 member schools from Georgia to Arkansas. A decade later, six Arkansas-based schools broke away to form a new conference. Salant implemented what he calls an aggressive expansion plan to replace those institutions with schools that fit academically and athletically.

"We are grateful for the wonderful support that we have received from the Gulf South Conference commissioner and member institutions," Dockery said at the time Union's candidacy status was announced.

Salant celebrated the decision as well: "We are gigantically pleased, there's no other way to say it," Salant said.

NCAA DIVISION II AND "LIFE IN THE BALANCE"

A description from the NCAA website says "Division II is an intermediate-level division of competition, which offers an alternative to both the highly competitive level of intercollegiate sports offered in Division I and the non-scholarship level offered in Division III."

According to statistics posted at NCAA.org, Division II has 302 member institutions, and 48 percent of them are private schools. They vary widely in size

and mission, but the average enrollment of these colleges and universities is 4,236, which is nearly identical to Union's fall 2011 enrollment of 4,205.

A more important signal of Union's potential fit is Division II's "Life in the Balance" philosophy. The idea is that competitors are students first, and the goal is for their work in the classroom and community to be in proper balance with the time they spend participating in intercollegiate athletics.

That fits well with Union's mission as an academically excellent institution and as a school that is recognized nationally for community service. Dockery said Union first began considering the move in 2009, which is the year Division II began

its new emphasis on balance.

Among the changes made in connection with Life in the Balance were shortened season schedules, a later reporting date in August for athletes playing fall sports and a "dead period" between Dec. 20-26 each year that prohibits competition and even

on-campus workouts. Division II schools are also evaluating the amount of time student-athletes spend in practices, meetings and competition.

There are about 100,000 student athletes competing at the Division II level, and very few of them receive full athletic scholarships. Because so many pay some or all of their own costs, NCAA officials observe that in Division II, "athletically gifted students can compete at a high level, while maintaining much of a traditional student experience."

So Union's emphasis on excellence in academics and a Christ-centered mission fit well within the "Life in the Balance" model. Benefits to the move will include more competitive schedules; additional interest from prospective athletes, students and fans; reimbursement from the NCAA for postseason expenses; and the

introduction of Bulldog athletics in new media markets such as Memphis, Pensacola, Huntsville and Chattanooga.

THE TIMETABLE AND REALITIES OF CANDIDACY STATUS

Union was among 10 schools granted candidacy status effective on Sept. 1. All university athletic teams continued to play existing NAIA Division I schedules for 2011-12.

The Union athletic program will be reviewed at the end of each year. Pending successful outcomes, the next steps beyond candidacy status are "year two of candidacy" (2012-13) and "provisional membership" in year three (2013-14). The athletic program would be eligible for full membership in Division II in 2014.

During the second and third years of the process, Union will compete against Division II schedules in each sport within the Gulf South Conference. But rules stipulate that Union will not be eligible for Division II postseason play in any sport during those years.

Union currently fields 10 varsity squads for intercollegiate competition, which fulfills the number of varsity sports necessary to compete at the Division II level. But women's golf has been added and will begin competition in fall 2012. It is possible that additional varsity sports could be added after the Division II transition is completed. ■

Ann Elizabeth Lynch, of Jackson, Tenn., is a fourth generation Unionite who will be among the first recruiting class playing for women's golf at Union.





EDITOR'S NOTE: *Union lost a close friend on April 21 with the passing of Charles "Chuck" Colson. The widely known evangelical leader took an active interest in the University, beginning with the early days of the Dockery administration. What follows is a tribute President Dockery wrote for Patheos.com entitled "Christian Higher Education and a Backyard Apologetic."*

REMEMBERING CHUCK COLSON

(1931-2012)

BY DAVID S. DOCKERY

As has been widely reported, Charles "Chuck" Colson passed away on Saturday, April 21, at the age of 80. Since that time, numerous reports, stories, comments and tributes have been offered. I, too, have shared comments about the life and contributions of Chuck Colson to several news outlets. Most of the tributes have focused on his dramatic conversion, his life-changing work among prisoners along with the worldwide influence of Prison Fellowship, his vital role in bringing Evangelicals and Catholics together, his significant voice in the public square, and his remarkable role as evangelical statesman. Like many others, I knew of Chuck Colson in all of these roles.

Through the years most of us had come to know this great leader through his prolific writings. We were introduced to the heart of this statesman through *Born Again* (1976) and *Loving God* (1983). We learned of his vision for tough-minded *Christianity in Kingdoms in Conflict* (1987) and *Burden of Truth* (1998). His invitation to join him in the work of Christian worldview thinking was issued in *How Now Shall We Live* (1999), which was amplified in a variety of forms, such as *Justice that Restores* (2001) and the *Good Life* (2005). The doctrinal foundations for all of his work were made known to us in *The Faith* (2008).

WHILE WE WILL GREATLY MISS HIM AND THE VAST INFLUENCE THAT WAS HIS IN SO MANY DIFFERENT REALMS, WE WILL SEEK TO FOLLOW THE MODEL HE LEFT FOR US.

I, however, was also given a front row seat to get to know him through his dream for distinctive Christ-centered higher education.

About fifteen years ago, Chuck Colson became a special friend and a very public cheerleader for our work at Union University. The encouragement he offered to us in that role was similarly provided to many others in the Christian higher education world. For these efforts, he was named a Distinguished Senior Fellow for the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. That organization recognized his leadership with their highest service award in 2001. Fifteen universities, including Union, honored him with an honorary doctorate. To say that Chuck was greatly esteemed by campus leaders across this country would be quite an understatement.

Colson called for administrators, faculty, and staff to develop a generation of students who could provide what he called “a backyard apologetic” for the sake of the gospel. We must, he urged, train the mind by inculcating truth and developing graduates who will go out and infiltrate the world with the love of Christ. Colson contended that true Christianity goes beyond John 3:16 — beyond private faith and personal salvation. His vision for twenty-first century Christian higher education did not focus on new and novel ideas or enhanced and creative programs. Christian colleges and universities, he maintained, at this time in history need distinctively Christian thinking, the kind of thinking that results in changed lives, changed communities, and changed societies.

We received a great blessing from Chuck Colson and the Prison Fellowship Board in 2002 when the Charles Colson Chair of Faith and Culture was established at Union University. Other colleges and seminaries

were blessed in other ways through the years. All of us were stirred in our souls to find the courage to not be satisfied with a good education merely covered with a layer of piety. Rather, the goal for Christian higher education, he contended, is to prepare young men and women for their chosen vocation in order to be salt and light in the marketplace, to become servant leaders and change agents in the world.

We were not only given a charge and an exhortation by our good friend and mentor; we were given a living example.

While we will greatly miss him and the vast influence that was his in so many different realms, we will seek to follow the model he left for us. As we give thanks on this day for the life and legacy of Chuck Colson, I pray that we will be found faithful to the lofty vision he left for us, a vision for “a backyard apologetic” focused on the renewal of the mind, the defense of the biblical worldview, and the fulfillment of the cultural commission, all for the glory of God and his kingdom. 🙏



FACULTY OBSERVATIONS

HARRY LEE POE

*CHARLES COLSON CHAIR OF
FAITH AND CULTURE*

“I was a prison chaplain in Kentucky in the early days of Prison Fellowship, and I saw firsthand the difference that his ministry made. He played a major role in advancing ideas of prison reform while bringing Christ to people who might never have known him otherwise.

He could have had a vastly different life with all the powerful connections he had, but he learned through suffering that the life in Christ is the only life worth living.”

GREGORY A. THORNBURY

*DEAN, SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
AND MISSIONS*

“ (In the late 1970s) it seemed as though every Christian household in America had a copy of *Born Again*, the story of Chuck Colson’s transformation from Nixon’s hatchet man to follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was a poignant reminder to the nation that although the White House might fail you, the gospel never will.”

C. BEN MITCHELL

*GRAVES PROFESSOR OF
MORAL PHILOSOPHY*

“Colson may have done more for the cause of “mere Christianity” than anyone in his generation. He was a magnet for a robust, contentful ecumenism grounded in the great truths of the Christian faith. His courageous and unflagging efforts to stem the tide of cultural decay will be sorely missed. We have lost a giant.”



FORMER BRITISH **PRIME MINISTER BLAIR** HEADLINES 14TH ANNUAL **SCHOLARSHIP** **BANQUET**



ABOVE: Keynote speaker Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister, greets Union freshman Bangali Sillah while discussing common interests about his home in Sierra Leone. **RIGHT:** Union friends and Jackson community members fill the lobby of the Carl Perkins Civic Center before the 14th annual Scholarship Banquet.



In an age when Western civilization is facing acute challenges, Tony Blair said westerners must continue to hold strongly to their beliefs in freedom, democracy, the rule of law and equality.

"These values are what make our nations great," Blair said during Union University's 14th annual Scholarship Banquet in October. "It sustains them now and will sustain them in the future. They are the things that make our way of life worth standing up for and worth believing in."

Blair, who served as Great Britain's prime minister from 1997-2007, was the keynote speaker for the annual event, which drew about 2,000 people to the Carl Perkins Civic Center and raised about \$500,000 for student scholarships.

It was Blair's first visit to Tennessee. He told about a conversation he had with his 11-year-old son just before he left home for his trip to Jackson. His son was sitting at the kitchen table and asked Blair where he was going.

"America," Blair told him.

"Not Washington again," his son said.

Blair told him he was actually going to a place called Jackson, Tenn.

"Dad, I think you may be about to see the real America," his son said.

In his opening remarks, Blair praised Union University President David S. Dockery.

"Even on the short acquaintance that I've had with the president of the university, David Dockery, I have to say that he's one of the more remarkable people that I've met," Blair said. "Sixteen years he's been leading this university. Sixteen years at the top, and he's still popular. I had about 10 years, actually, and they were quite ready to get rid of me at the end, but he's still going strong."

"When I think at what he's done with this university with your help, I think it's a remarkable tribute to him, but it's also a remarkable tribute to the way God's power is able to work in a human being."

Prior to Blair's address, Dockery announced a \$10 million matching gift to Union University from the Bill and Carol Latimer Foundation for construction of a new library on campus (*see related story, page 14*).

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

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

**WESTERNERS MUST
CONTINUE TO HOLD
STRONGLY TO THEIR
BELIEFS IN FREEDOM,
DEMOCRACY,
THE RULE OF LAW
AND EQUALITY.**

Gates to Keynote 15th Annual Scholarship Banquet

**SAVE THIS DATE
THURSDAY, OCT. 4, 2012**

Robert M. Gates, U.S. secretary of defense for two presidents and former president of Texas A&M University, will be the keynote speaker that night for Union University's 15th annual Scholarship Banquet at the Carl Perkins Civic Center.

Gates served as defense secretary from 2006-2011, first for George W. Bush and then for Barack Obama. He is the only secretary of defense in U.S. history to be asked to remain in that office by a newly elected president.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at all levels. For ticket information, including table sponsorships and individual balcony seating, contact Union's Office of University Relations at (731) 661-5050. ■



Graduation 2012 a Blessing in Tragedy

BY TIM ELLSWORTH

EDITOR'S NOTE: What follows is a condensed version of a longer story that ran on the front page of the Union web site. To see that longer version, please go to uu.edu/news

David Wilson came to soccer practice one day bearing cupcakes, after his Jackson Christian School team suffered a difficult loss the night before.

"We had a long game last night and we got beat by a really bad team, and they were pretty depressed," he said of his team. "We've got another game tomorrow, so I've got to pep them up a little bit."

The 14 players sat on the ground and listened to some instructional and encouraging words from their coach, Joseph Walker, and Wilson, one of his assistants. The players then took to the practice field for a series of drills. David joined in, but his movements aren't as fluid as they once were. He runs with a noticeable limp. The foot-long scars on his thighs sometimes peek out from under his shorts, a constant reminder to David — as if he needed one — of the horror he encountered four years ago.

A 2012 Union graduate, David has had his own encounters with difficult losses. His battle through them has inspired not only the JCS soccer players, but others who know him, also.

As he walked across the stage to accept his degree from Union President David S. Dockery in Union's May 19 commencement, the scene behind him looked drastically different than it did four years earlier. The crumbled, broken building that entrapped David for five hours has been rebuilt and replaced by a new facility that stands tall and strong.

The young man who received the degree is different, too.

"It turned out to be a huge blessing in so many ways," David says of the experience. "A lot of people's lives were changed because of it, and my life was changed because of it — more than just physically. Spiritually, emotionally, mentally."

Flashback to Feb. 5, 2008, when the Union campus was on high alert because of a tornado warning in Jackson. David, a



freshman at the time, was waiting out the storm in the Watters Commons playing ping-pong with a few buddies. They moved into the bathrooms for safety at the instruction of the residence director.

The lights flickered and the exterior wall began to crack. David hopped down from the countertop where he was sitting and covered up on the floor as the tornado blasted through. The wind's force blew him forward onto his face, with his knees pinned to his chest. The building collapsed on top of him, and David couldn't move. For five hours.

He and his fellow prisoners passed the time by singing and praying — and vomiting — while they waited for rescue workers to reach them. When the firemen finally got to him and raised him up, David's legs didn't drop down.

"The most excruciating pain I think I've ever experienced in my life was when they pulled my legs down," David says. "My legs were up, and they pulled them down onto the stretcher and strapped them down. I just remember my hip flexors shooting with pain."

David may have been out of the hole, but he wasn't out of danger. His legs, especially, were in jeopardy. The next morning, he awoke with his hands tied down and a ventilator in his mouth. He still managed to scribble a note to his

parents: "Did they find all the boys?"

"Yes," his mom answered, and David wept.

A day later came the fasciotomies — four lengthy cuts in each leg to relieve the swelling — as doctors fought to save his legs from amputation. Though they won that battle, they had serious doubts about whether David would walk again. David spent two months in the hospital for treatment and rehabilitation before returning to Union for the fall semester in 2008, hobbling on crutches until Thanksgiving, when he put them away and hasn't used them since.

A chemistry major, David hopes his undergraduate studies will allow him to enter the field about which he is most passionate — medicine.

"I want to be able to help people in that way because the physicians that I had were so good for me," David says. "I always wanted to be in medicine. Was I as passionate about it as I am now? No. But I always thought it was something that was interesting. I would love to be able to help people in that way."

Members of the Union chemistry faculty helped David prepare for that field in the classroom, but their investment in him went beyond that instruction. One of the things David will always remember is how chemistry professor Mike Salazar called



him every day he was in the hospital to check on him and encourage him.

David spent his last year at Union finishing his classes and devoting much of his time and energy to his soccer coaching at JCS. In the fall, he helped with the JCS girls' team before his work with

high school boys are attracted to that," Walker says.

As his final days on the Union campus drew to a close, David looked forward to the future. He moved back home to Chattanooga after graduation, with plans to apply to medical school. Early next year,

God is bigger than he is and is in control.

"We don't control near as much of our lives as we think we do," David says. "Very quickly things can be changed in ways that we don't expect."

Would his life have been easier if the tornado had never happened? If he could, would he go back and take an eraser to those February events that have forever changed his life?

David says no.

"There've been too many good things that have happened because of it," he says. "The reality is that people will be in heaven because of what happened that night. What happened that night had a direct impact on Union students as a whole and their relationship with God and on this university and how it functions."

"From my life personally, I don't think I would do it any other way," he continues. "There's been too much that's resulted from it — too many opportunities to share, too many chances to meet people that I would have never gotten to meet. Yeah, those six, seven, eight months afterward were really hard. It's still hard, but I've had so many opportunities to meet so many new people that it would be really hard to do another way." ■



It turned out to be a huge blessing in so many ways. A lot of people's lives were changed.

the boys' team this spring.

David has told his story to both the boys' and girls' teams, and Walker says while both groups appreciated his testimony, David's account especially resonated with the boys.

"They recognize genuine Christianity and they recognize genuine courage, and

he and his fiancée Kristen Lee will marry.

Although the memories of that February night are now more than four years old, they're still a constant companion in David's mind — never far away from the surface. He's a different person now than he was then. His family is closer than ever. He knows in the depths of his heart that

Union tornado experience inspired Briana Rauls

Briana Rauls graduated this spring as a fifth-year senior. Like David Wilson, she lived through the 2008 Union tornado and its aftermath, and the experience changed her outlook on life.

As reports of earthquake devastation came out of Haiti early in 2010, Rauls thought back to her experience as a freshman during the aftermath of the 2008 tornado at Union. She couldn't stop thinking about the way people in West Tennessee came to the aid of Union students. Now Haitians were in a similar condition of helplessness.

"I knew as a believer I just had to go," says Rauls. "I didn't know how I was going to get there, but I felt the Lord telling me to go."

Through the Georgia-based Adventures in Missions organization, Rauls used spring break and summer break to make two trips to Haiti. The first trip was focused on clean up and the building of a church in Port-au-Prince. The second journey was dedicated to sharing the gospel through translators in street ministry and Vacation Bible School.

She and her companions often walked 25 minutes or more to reach

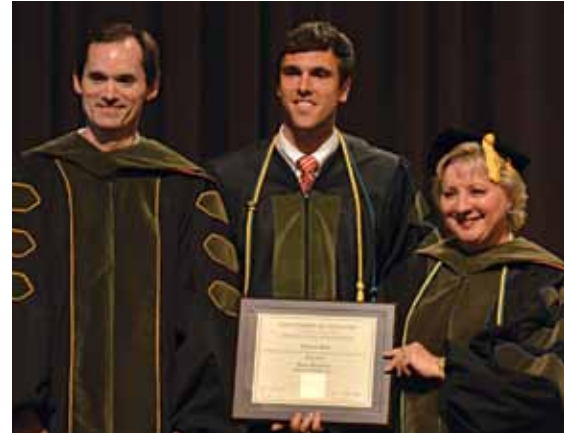


Briana Rauls in Haiti

ministry sites.

"Trash was everywhere. It's the most trash I've ever seen in my life. I will never forget what I saw when I was there."

At the May graduation ceremony, Rauls became the first African-American graduate of Union's athletic training education program, and she is the first member of her immediate family to earn a college degree. ■



First Class

BY SAMANTHA ADAMS ('13)

UNION'S SCHOOL OF PHARMACY GRADUATES FIRST CLASS



For the first time in Union's history, pharmacy students joined other undergraduate and graduate students May 19 in walking across a stage on Union's Great Lawn to receive diplomas.

The 41 students in the School of Pharmacy's first graduating class held their own private ceremony in the morning to celebrate the completion of Union's Doctor of Pharmacy program before a campus-wide ceremony later that day.

The pharmacy students have finished a rigorous program of study.

"Normally we start out about eight in the morning," said Allorie Smith, one of the graduates who also earned her

ACPE ISSUES FAVORABLE REPORT

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education found the Union University School of Pharmacy to be in compliance with all 30 of its accreditation standards. The April report followed a site visit and paved the way for an official accreditation report when ACPE convenes for its summer meeting.

ACPE looks at a variety of factors when making its evaluation, including the quality of leadership within the school, the quality and cohesiveness of faculty and students, support from the Board of Trustees, and the quality of facilities.

say goodbye to her students.

"They're very trusting, faithful, maybe even a little adventurous," Jones said. "I think it's an adventure... to embrace a career path at a new School of Pharmacy. That's one thing that endears them so much to me. They trusted us; they've

to more than 540 teens in five high schools, earning national recognition from the American Public Health Association.

Smith said traveling with professors and other pharmacy students to Belize for a medical mission trip in January 2011 was one of her favorite pharmacy school experiences.

"We did health education for the kids and ran health fairs for the adults," Smith said. "To work alongside them and to experience their love of pharmacy, as well as God, made me see the faculty members, students and professors in a different light."

Houston Wyatt, another pharmacy graduate, organized a pharmacy team for

I feel like this school in years to come will continue to stand out, and I'll forever be proud to say that this is where I became a pharmacist.



undergraduate at Union. "On test days, you might start at four in the morning, doing wrap-up before you take a test."

The pharmacy program includes lecture classes covering subjects ranging from pharmacology to faith and science, laboratory experience and 1,500 hours of practical experience, mostly achieved during 10 rotations at medical centers. The students moved from meeting in the Penick Academic Complex to inhabiting the brand-new Providence Hall in 2010.

The students selected Kim Jones, assistant dean of student services in the School of Pharmacy, to address the class at their graduation day gathering.

Jones said it was emotional for her to

been responsive all along. I think they're genuinely invested in what we're trying to do. They're a very special class."

Ashley Turner, president of the graduating class, also addressed her fellow students at the private ceremony.

Throughout their four years together, the class had a special bond because they did all the "firsts" in the School of Pharmacy, Turner said. In large part, they determined the student school culture.

Turner led the student government council in creating a service-oriented class, which has participated in service on local and international levels. For example, students from all four pharmacy classes gave prescription drug abuse presentations

the intramural games during each school year, a task he considered serving the rest of the school by allowing them time to relax.

"It's a stress reliever," Wyatt said. "When you have all (your classes and tests) going on, you need an excuse to take a break and let your mind rest."

In addition to expressing gratitude to the school's faculty and staff, the graduates said they felt well-prepared for their futures in pharmacy.

"I'm at a school that speaks for itself," Jones said. "What you see is what you get. I feel like this school in years to come will continue to stand out, and I'll forever be proud to say that this is where I became a pharmacist." ■

Germantown MBA Students take on Practical Challenges



ABOVE: Students practice football at Youth Visions' after school program in Frayser, Tenn.
LEFT: Michael Gray, MBA student, presents to members from Union's Center for Excellence in Health Care Practice.



The sometimes-dreaded “capstone case study” awaits most students attempting to earn a Master of Business Administration degree.

In many schools, it is a comprehensive project designed to examine all aspects of a student’s mind for business.

The MBA candidates are asked to apply their newly acquired skills in accounting, management, law, ethics, finance and strategic marketing. They’re given a practical example and asked to analyze the operation from top to bottom. The finished product is a set of recommendations designed to chart the organization’s pathway to success.

In many MBA programs, these projects are purely theoretical. The organization is fictional. Its needs are drawn from pages of a textbook.

But students in the MBA program at Union University’s Germantown campus focus on real-life organizations, many of which could not begin to afford the consulting fees for such a detailed, expert business analysis.

Union faculty members in Germantown say the real-world approach not only distinguishes the university from other MBA programs in the Memphis market — it fits perfectly with Union’s mission.

“If we are Christ-centered, these are projects that have value,” said C. Steve Arendall, professor of management in Germantown.

Consider a few West Tennessee organizations MBA students in Germantown have analyzed and partnered within the past few years: Youth Visions, Inc., Union’s own Center for Excellence in Health Care Practice, S.O.S. Industries, Pink Palace in Memphis, United Cerebral Palsy of Memphis and many others.

Teresa Bailey was among a team of students that analyzed Youth Visions, Inc., a Frayser non-profit that serves at-risk teenagers in the inner city.

“We tried to look at their operations and their budget and assess their environment,” Bailey said. “What’s going on internally? Externally? Who was their customer? And what could we do to help them? From a Christian perspective, as Union tries to teach you, that is the right thing to do.”

Scott Bendure, another Germantown MBA student, said no part of the operation was “off limits.”

“It’s very granular. We are looking for everything,” Bendure said. “We asked every question that we thought would be applicable to this project. It is real world.”

Most of the MBA students at Union also have jobs in the business field while taking classes.

“(The students) get to see the integrative nature of the various functional areas in practice,

since they tend to come from discipline-specific backgrounds,” Arendall said. “In addition, it may give them a greater appreciation for the concept of strategy and looking long-term at organizational success. Perhaps more than anything they get an appreciation for the work of these nonprofits.” ■

Samantha Adams ('13) contributed to this story.

It may give them a greater appreciation for the concept of strategy and looking long-term at organizational success.

RECLAIMING THE GREAT Christian Intellectual TRADITION



The richness of the Christian intellectual tradition – rooted in Scripture and expounded by great thinkers throughout history – is proof of the power of faith to illuminate minds.

Those early Christians were more than thinkers. They took an active role shaping their culture with innovative ideas and reform in law, philosophy, science, music, literature and art.

Union is rearing a new generation who will engage the culture with the truths of Christian faith. Invite a high school student you know to visit our campus and prayerfully consider Union University.



UNION
UNIVERSITY

uu.edu Jackson, TN



Buster the Bulldog and Homecoming Queen Andi Schreiber pose for a picture during the homecoming weekend festivities.

Homecoming 2011 Illuminates Campus



Homecoming 2011 might be remembered most for a new event on the Great Lawn called “Union Night.”

Outdoor festivities on that Friday evening culminated with a homecoming fireworks display that rewarded visitors who remembered their cameras with some outstanding shots of the pyrotechnics as a backdrop for campus landmarks such as Miller Tower.

The new event was added to many traditional gatherings during a week of Homecoming festivities.

Earlier in the week, about 1,000 Union students, faculty and staff participated in the ninth annual “Campus and Community: A Day of Remembrance and Service” and worked on more than 70 community service projects in the local community. Many classes at Union are canceled on that day to allow for these projects to unfold.

Other events during the week included a special Homecoming chapel service in which Union recognized members of the class of 1962 celebrating their 50-year reunion. The class members attended a luncheon following the chapel service and then took a tour of the former campus in downtown Jackson.

The chapel service also featured the annual alumni awards. Tom McAfee, president of Hallmark Systems, Inc., in Macon, Ga., received the Outstanding

Young Alumnus Award and Jerol Swaim, president of Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark., received the Distinguished Alumnus Award.



Andi Schreiber, a senior from Murfreesboro, Tenn., was selected as the 2011 Homecoming queen and crowned at halftime of the Lady Bulldogs’ 82-45 win over the University of St. Francis (Ill.). She is the daughter of Mike and Angie Schreiber.

After the women’s game, the Bulldogs defeated Belhaven University 87-66. At halftime of the men’s game, the women of Zeta Tau Alpha were awarded with the Presidential Homecoming Cup. The award honors the student organization that has shown outstanding service during the last school year.

Other Homecoming attendants were Halee Ackerman, a freshman from Carson City, Nev.; Sarah Helton, a sophomore from Franklin, Tenn.; Anna Marie Deschenes, a junior from Jackson, Tenn.; Desirae Suggs, a junior from Savannah, Ga.; Megan Daniel, a senior from Memphis; Meredith Wood, a senior from Brentwood, Tenn.; and Erin Spencer, a senior from Marion, Ark.

“It was an exciting weekend of events celebrating all that God has done in the life of Union University,” said Josh Clarke, Union’s director of alumni relations. “Being able to hear from our most recent alumni to those who graduated in the 1950s was a great reminder that the reach of Union continually spans the generations and the globe.” ☛

SAVE THE DATES FEB. 22-23

Because of scheduling changes related to Union’s candidacy status in the NCAA Division II membership process, homecoming is moving back to February. Please mark your calendar for Feb. 22-23, 2013. Union’s homecoming opponent that day will be Shorter University.

Make plans to attend!

30's | THIRTIES |

Paul G. Caywood ('30) was inducted into the Henderson County (Tenn.) Sports Hall of Fame (HCSHOF) this past April. While at Union, Paul was a member of the football team.

40's | FORTIES |

J.T. Ford ('43) and **Mary Helen Crockett Ford ('46)** celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on June 20, 2011. J.T. has served as a pastor and educator, and currently serves as the pastor emeritus of Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga. J.T. and Mary Helen have made several return visits to Union, including J.T.'s address

at the Baccalaureate of 1995, with Dr. Barefoot presiding. During his time at Union, J.T. was involved in the most dramatic chapel incident in the history of the old campus. The drama coach was rehearsing for "Death Takes a Holiday" and interest on campus and around town was lagging. The coach, Mrs. Lloyd, asked for ideas to boost interest. J.T.'s roommate and student body president Charles Millican came up with a plan. Best friends, they suddenly became estranged. J.T. moved out and reports of harsh words and actions flooded the campus and the entire student body was soon aware of the rift. One Friday, Powell Chapel was packed as compulsory chapel attendance was required. Charles rose from the platform and began to castigate his former friend, J.T.

Ford arose from the sixth pew and fired two blanks from a pistol and Charles stroked his chest as blood, i.e. ketchup, spurted from his white shirt. Football players tackled J.T., two girls fainted, and order was restored only as Charles rose and announced "Death Takes a Holiday"! The play was a sell-out.

Max Forbis (attended '42) has retired after working as an engineer for TVA, the United States Army and NASA. Max has retired to an assisted living facility in Pensacola, Fla., where his only daughter teaches in the Pensacola School System.

Gill A. Gideon ('49) was inducted into the Henderson County (Tenn.) Sports Hall of Fame (HCSHOF) in April 2011.

50's | FIFTIES |

Billy Belew ('53) was inducted into the Henderson County (Tenn.) Sports Hall of Fame (HCSHOF) in April 2011.

Sandra Andrews Robertson ('59) and her husband Bill Robertson recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a 120-guest luncheon at their church. "We feel very blessed by the Lord," Sandra says. Their son continues to fly as a pilot for Continental Airlines, to stops such as Tel Aviv, Athens, Munich, Berlin, Zurich, Barcelona, Amsterdam, and London. sanrobertson1@aol.com

Loyalty, consistency and faithfulness: Union's long-term donors

Senior pictures from the 1951 Lest We Forget yearbook

Many donor tributes rightfully focus on sacrificial giving at a time of great need. At Union in recent years, donors have stepped up to help rebuild the campus after the 2008 tornado and to contribute to the construction of Union's new library.

Sometimes lost in those moments is the role of another kind of donor — one who contributes faithfully and consistently, year-after-year.

About 350 donors have given to Union for at least 10 consecutive years; roughly 75 of those for more than 25 consecutive years. Many churches appear on those lists, as do the names of alumni and friends who have invested in the long-term mission of the University.



Among them: **Mark ('51)** and **Christine ('51) Fairless.**

"So many of the (church-supported) colleges have adjusted to what the world wants, but Union has stayed with their mission," says Christine. "Union has stuck to our idea of what a college should do and could do."

Christine is a retired teacher. Mark is a retired pastor and also served for 26 years as an Air Force chaplain, a job

that took them all over the world. The couple now lives in Jackson again and "counts it a privilege" to attend Union athletics events and music recitals.

"We are West Tennesseans, and Union has been in our vocabulary since those early childhood years," Mark says. "(Union has) done so well with what resources they've had, in good times and bad times."

History teaches that reliable annual giving has played a crucial role in Union's overall development.

"There is much to be said for loyalty, consistence and faithfulness," says Union President David S. Dockery. "Partnerships that stretch over many years have benefitted this place in ways that are beyond measure." ■

60's | SIXTIES |

Bill Powers ('64) and **Barbara Booth Powers ('64)** just celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. Barbara writes: "We were married prior to enrolling at Union in the fall of 1960. We were quite the phenomena on campus, being freshmen that got married on July 3, 1960! I was 18 and Bill was 20. Our first child, Andrea Lynn, was born on May 9, 1963. Bill was a music major and served at First Baptist Church, McKenzie and at First Baptist Church, Bemis. Our daughter Andrea enrolled at Union in the fall of 1981 and our second child, Scott, enrolled in the fall of 1984. Andrea is an elementary school teacher and Scott is employed with a large corporation. We also have two other sons, Chad and Chip, and four grandchildren. Our years at Union were rich and full and left us with many great memories." pbillbarb1960@att.net

Eleanor Sykes Minick ('66) retired from teaching in 2008. Eleanor and her husband enjoy exploring one or two different states each year to visit historical sites. Eleanor and her husband have two children: Leneigh, who works as the assistant manager of Genesis

Rehab Services in Englewood, Fla., and Matthew, who works as a pediatrician in Lithia, Fla. They have five grandchildren. Eleanor and her husband reside in Lakeland, Fla. eminick43@hotmail.com

Bo O'Brien ('69) was inducted into the North Hardin High School Athletic Hall of Fame in Radcliff, Ky., on Sept. 10, 2011. Bo taught and coached from 1969 – 1996. During that time he coached cross country, track and field, and basketball. bobrien@bbtel.com

Cheri Wright Dood (attended '69-70) is the director of International Christian Academy of Nagoya (ICAN) in Japan. ICAN is a part of Network of International Christian Schools (NICS) based out of Southaven, Miss. She has been at ICAN for two years, spending 2010 – 2011 as school principal and into her current position this school year (2011 – 2012). The school has approximately 140 students and is located in five buildings on three sites. ICAN would love to have student teachers come to Japan for all academic areas; contact Cheri or Missy Parks at NICS in Southaven, Miss. for more info. cheridood@hotmail.com

70's | SEVENTIES |

Dan Wynn ('70) retired after serving as minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church, Natchez, Miss., for 30 years. Dan has moved to Brookhaven, Miss., and is serving part-time as chaplain for Deaconess Hospice. danielawynn@bellsouth.net

Ben Matthews ('71) and Melanie Matthews traveled to southern China in September 2011 as members of a group of environmental regulators and consultants. The group from Tennessee, Alabama, and California met with government representatives and environmental professionals in the cities of Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Huizhou, Pinghu, and Shanghai. Ben is an environmental specialist with the Division of Water Pollution Control of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Melanie retired in 2010 as associate professor of nursing at Union. They are parents of **Ryan (BA '07, MA '10)** and **Emily ('10)**. Ryan is a graphic designer and is married to **Jessica Matthews ('06)**. They have two daughters. Emily is currently living in Seattle, Wash., and is planning to attend graduate school. ben.matthews@tn.gov

his 28th year of teaching as professor of medical education and director of AIDS education and research at Mercer University's School of Medicine. smith_mu@mercer.edu

Richard Barlow ('73) retired on Dec. 31, 2011, after 37 years as a Neurosurgical First Assistant with West Tennessee Medical Group and Semmes-Murphy Clinic. He was an associate member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, having been elected to membership in 1996. He retired from the Tennessee National Guard in 2004 with the rank of captain. He has two children, Jon and Gara, and three grandchildren: Anabelle, Olivia, and Isabela. richardcbarlowmsha@hotmail.com

Dwight L. Davidson ('75) is now the director of student academic affairs and student life at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. Formerly, he was the assistant dean of students for judicial affairs at Fairleigh Dickinson University. dnpdavidson@aol.com

Mike Hardy ('75) operates Hardy & Wren Insurance Services in Oak Ridge, Tenn. mhardy@hardywren.com

Deborah Flowers Allen ('76) is in her 25th year teaching school for Medina Middle School. She is a 5th grade social studies teacher. She received Teacher of the Year award for Medina Middle School grades 4-5 in 2007 and 2011. She also received Teacher of the Year for Gibson County Special School District grades 5-8 in 2011. Deborah was featured in the *Jackson Sun* as a teacher using innovative methods. Deborah has three children and ten grandchildren. allenD15@k12tn.net

Jonnie Cox Petty ('76) will celebrate her 50th wedding anniversary with her husband Robert L. Petty on June 22, 2012.

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

Standard mail:

Unionite
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305

Email: unionite@uu.edu

Online: uu.edu/unionite

Brenda Buie Evans ('72) has retired from teaching after 38 years. She and her brother Kevin have opened an educational supply store in Paris, Tenn., called Supplies for Success. suppliesforsuccess@beasleywireless.net

Dr. Mike U. Smith ('72) was recently named as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Dr. Smith received this distinction "for distinguished research and leadership in teaching and learning genetics, problem solving, evolution, and the nature of science and for service in HIV prevention." He is in

McMillin named president of Blue Mountain College



After nearly 20 years of service to her alma mater, Associate Provost and Dean of Instruction **Barbara McMillin ('81)** has accepted the presidency of Blue Mountain College in Mississippi.

McMillin came back to Union in 1992 as an English professor after earning her Master of Arts and Doctor of Arts at the University of Mississippi. She later served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences before moving into her current role in 2006.

"The thing that excites me the most is the opportunity to pursue with this group of faculty and a new group of students the integration of faith and learning, because that's a topic about which I am very passionate," McMillin said. "I am excited to partner with Blue Mountain College to consider how we can together foster the development of Christian higher education, which means that we recognize the lordship of Christ over all the disciplines."

"There's no describing the extent to which I will miss my beloved colleagues with whom I have linked arms now for a very long time," she said about

leaving Union. "They have fed into my life and shaped me and encouraged me. They are precious to me."

McMillin says that Union has modeled what it means to pursue Christ-centered excellence and to integrate faith and learning.

"I will continue to watch and support and study and implement what I see happening here at this very special place," she said.

Union University President David S. Dockery congratulated both McMillin and Blue Mountain.

"We are happy for our colleague and our sister institution," Dockery said. "Dr. McMillin will bring exceptional experience to this role, both as a talented classroom teacher and conscientious administrator."

"She is a person of extraordinary character and exemplary professionalism," Dockery continued. "I am excited about the fresh vision she will bring to the work of Blue Mountain College in the days ahead. The entire Union community joins me in wishing God's best for Barbara and Blue Mountain College in the days ahead."

McMillin and her husband Larry have a 14-year-old son,

Sam, and the move to Blue Mountain is a home-going for the family. A native of Falkner, Miss., McMillin and her husband both have family in the area. Blue Mountain is a college of about 500 students that is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"I so look forward to working with these faculty members and these students as we consider what it means to think Christianly about the various disciplines and about what it means to take our careful Christian thinking and carry it into the culture as students go forth from Blue Mountain College with an education and become salt and light in our community and across the country," McMillin said.

"Union goes with me," she said. "It goes with me in my heart and in my plans in terms of being able to think critically about new opportunities based on the experiences I was able to have here." ■

Donna J. Miller ('77) worked for 17 ½ years in the *Jackson Sun* newsroom and has also published two books: *The Horseshoeing Hands* and *Don't Hang Your Hat in the Lonely Place*, both published by Main Street Publishing in Jackson. Donna writes: "These books, through smiles and tears, share [my] faith in Jesus." Donna accepted Christ while attending Union.

Ray Clark ('78) was one of the referee crew members for the Tennessee 4A Championship game in Cookeville on Dec. 3, 2011. Ray is the computer teacher at Haywood Junior High in Brownsville, Tenn. clarkr1@k12tn.net

80's | EIGHTIES |

Ronald (Ronnie) Smith ('83) is currently a division manager with

Merck & Company in the hospital and coronary business sector. Ronald is married to **Elizabeth Donnell Smith ('84)** and they live in Jackson. rcsmith44@bellsouth.net

Paula Fesmire Gibson ('84) was recently recognized by the Hardeman County Board of Education for being a level 5 teacher. Mrs. Gibson was one of a select few teachers to receive this honor. Paula lives in Selmer, Tenn., with her husband

Lynn. The couple have two sons: Eric and Mark, and one grandson, Elijah. paulafgibson@yahoo.com

Reggie Thomas ('85) received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. in June 2011. His doctoral study focused on leadership with a research project entitled "Assisting Christian Leaders to Develop Emotional Intelligence." Thomas serves as a Campus

Director and Associate Professor of Leadership at the Southern California campus of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Brea, Calif. reggiethomas@ggbts.edu

Omar L. Hamada ('86) chief medical officer of Advon HealthCare and principal at The Hamade' Group, LLC, has been named a fellow of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the International College of Surgeons. He has recently been elected to the Tennessee Medical Association's Judicial Council and has been appointed as an advisory member to the TMA's Board of Directors Physician Services. Dr. Hamada is an associate clinical professor at the Vanderbilt School of Medicine, and will receive an MBA from Vanderbilt's Owen School in August 2012. He is the medical contributor to the live weekly radio show "The Morning Ride" on Moody Bible Radio in Chicago,

and is a media consultant for the Christian Medical and Dental Associations. He is completing an MA in Theology at Columbia Biblical Seminary (CIU). He is a combat veteran of the United States Army Special Forces (Airborne) and is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal. Omar and Tara live in Brentwood with their four children and are active members at Fellowship Bible Church. olhamada@gmail.com

Norma Knott ('87) and her husband Sam Knott are proud to announce the second anniversary of Rosestone Retirement Community in Paris, Tenn. Norma and Sam are owners of the 25-apartment luxury living facility that provides services and amenities to senior citizens.

90's | NINETIES |

Jeannie Diggs Kearney ('90) received her Master of Education from Union University and went

on to receive her MLIS from Drexel University in 2008. She was recently hired as head librarian of Riverland Community College in Austin, Minn. Jeannie.Kearney@riverland.edu

Bryan Laman ('92) is employed at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. His wife **Dana Chipman Laman ('92)** teaches at Christ Classical Academy in Dyersburg, Tenn. They have one daughter, Emilee (13). Emi3266@yahoo.com

Adam Davis ('94) graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary on Dec. 16, 2011, with his Ph.D. in Foundations of Christian Education. He and his wife **Melanie ('93)** have three children: Grace Ann (six), Isaiah (three), and Hope (one). Adam currently serves as the associate pastor at Belle Aire Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn. adam@belleaire.org

Jai Templeton ('94) was recently appointed deputy commissioner at the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, having served as mayor of McNairy County, Tenn. Jai is a grain, cotton and cattle farmer in McNairy and Hardin Counties. He and his wife Allison live in Stantonville, Tenn., with their children Mycaela, Canon and Eliza. jai.templeton@tn.gov

Kelly M. Walker ('94) moved to Miami after graduating from Union to pursue a doctorate in podiatric medicine at Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine. He then completed a podiatric orthopedic residency at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center at West Roxbury, Mass. Kelly then completed a podiatric surgical residency at Healthsouth Surgery Center in Mesquite, Texas. After practicing in the Oklahoma City area for six years, Kelly relocated to Dallas from 2007-2009. He then moved to Ennis, Texas, and opened his own private practice, Walker Foot and

Ankle. Kelly celebrated his two-year anniversary of private practice on June 1, 2012. Kelly is the co-author of an original research paper, "An Analysis of Outcomes after Use of the Maxwell-Brancheau Arthroereisis Implant", a retrospective study of patients with flatfoot deformities treated with the MBA implant. kellywalkerdp@live.com

Leila "Lee" Keel Nichols ('95) received a Master of Science in Nursing from the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in Hyden, Ky., in 2008 with an emphasis in midwifery. Leila currently works as a certified midwife at Jackson OB/GYN Associates in Jackson. She has been married for 16 years and has two boys who attend Trinity Christian Academy. leelee1m@att.net

Mary Radford ('95), assistant professor of nursing at University of Tennessee at Martin, has been named interim chair of the Department of Nursing. Mary and her husband Keith Radford live in Gleason, Tenn., with their three children. marye@utm.edu

Andy Kirk ('96) was named the new coach of the Fastpitch Softball team at Itawamba Community College in Fulton, Miss. While at Union, Andy was a member of Union baseball team and was named Academic All-American. ankirk@iccms.edu

James Duke ('98) was born and raised in Memphis, and currently lives in Los Angeles. Recently, James produced a commercial that was entered in 2012's Doritos "Crash the Super Bowl" contest, and out of 6,100 entries his commercial was selected as a top 5 finalist. The director and James won a trip to the Super Bowl plus \$25,000 that will be divided among the cast and crew. jimmy@mosaic.org

Jason Logan ('98) and his wife Liz are finishing up their first three

Barker named Tampa Tribune president and publisher



William R. Barker ('88) has been named president and publisher of the Tampa Tribune. Barker has worked at the newspaper as vice president of operations since 2004.

The newspaper's story about the promotion said Barker has worked for Media General, the Tribune's parent company, since 1990.

Barker earned a bachelor's degree in management, marketing and psychology from Union. 📖

year term serving as doctors in East Asia. Email them at jlo@pobox.com to receive their updates.

Micky Wolfe ('98) recently accepted the position of director of golf at Canebrake Club in Athens, Ala. Canebrake is a premier golf community in north Alabama. micky@canebrakeclub.com

Lori L. Grissom Floyd ('99)



taught Pre-K through 4th grade at University School of

Jackson for three years after graduating Union. She moved to Memphis to attend graduate school at the University of Memphis. She taught music for grades 3-5 at Macon Hall Elementary School in Cordova. Lori married Derek Floyd in 2005. Lori currently stays at home with their three children: Carson (2007) Emma (2009) and Levi (2010). dnlloyd@comcast.net

Brad Hambrick ('99) and **Sallie Hambrick ('99)** have moved to the Raleigh-Durham area in North Carolina, where Brad serves as pastor of counseling at The Summit Church. In addition, Brad serves as adjunct professor of biblical counseling at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and as a council board member with the Biblical Counseling Coalition. bhambrick@crossroadsaugusta.org

Stephen W. Phillips ('99) was named Gaylord Entertainment's manager of email marketing. Stephen joined Gaylord Entertainment in 2010 as a marketing specialist. He was the 1999 winner of public relations and communication arts student of the year. He had past positions at Thomas Media and TransSouth Health Care. sphillips@gaylordentertainment.com

Union alumnus plays key role in epilepsy research

The phrase "fruit fly brains" might be the punch line for a joke or someone's creative expression of microscopic size.

But to **Michal Kliman ('99)**, fruit fly brains could unlock valuable information about the nature of epilepsy.

Since graduating with a degree in chemistry from Union, Kliman has entered top-level medical research, both as a graduate student at Vanderbilt University and internationally in collaboration with other researchers.

A native of what was then known as Czechoslovakia, Kliman received his Ph.D. in chemistry at Vanderbilt and remains there as a postdoctoral research associate.

He is part of what is known at Vanderbilt as the McLean Group: a research team dedicated to detailed work in structural mass spectrometry using the method ion mobility – mass spectrometry under the tutelage of Dr. John A. McLean.

"I am delighted to be a part of the scientific community at Vanderbilt that believes in and nurtures collaborative projects," says Kliman. "Every one of the stories of scientific discovery I am involved in, including lipid studies in epilepsy, are written in collaboration with other research groups."

Such studies have advanced significantly in recent years. They determine the size and mass of bio-particles and ultimately their composition. The advances enable researchers to measure much smaller differences in size and mass than previously achieved by other methods.

This is where fruit fly brains become important.



Kliman applied ion mobility measurements to fruit fly brains by studying what is called a *Drosophila* model of epilepsy. Species of the *Drosophila* genus of fruit fly are studied frequently in the field of genetics, and it is believed that the reactions of brains of specifically mutated fruitflies to impact (such as

when the container in which they are kept is agitated) could hold clues about how epilepsy develops. Kliman and coworkers analyzed naturally occurring molecules called lipids and used ion mobility mass spectrometry to identify the individual lipid molecules.

This combination of ion mobility measurements and mass spectrometry results could prove vital.

Kliman was named one of 16 outstanding Ph.D. students from 13 countries in the 2011 SciFinder Academic Exchange Program. The participants spent Chemical Abstracts Service senior management. They discussed "insights on global trends in chemistry from the perspective of young scientists and to help advance the science of informatics," according to a CAS news release.

Kliman is quick to credit the foundational knowledge of science he gained in his undergraduate years: "My professors at Union University inculcated those personal and professional disciplines that allowed me to flourish in this vibrant environment."

In 2010, Kliman won the American Chemical Society Student Members Excellence in Teaching Award. He lives in the Nashville area with his wife Viera and their three children. 🍷

00's | TWO THOUSANDS |

Kelli Ross ('00) spent a month in Liberia this past summer, interning with Don Bosco Homes as part of a peace-building course with the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University, where she is pursuing a master's degree. While in Liberia, she worked in four counties conducting needs-based and conflict assessments, facilitating dialogues and providing training on peer mediation and power dynamics. This fall, she is interning at the Department of State's Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS).

kelli.l.ross@gmail.com

Ashley Silcox ('00) is celebrating her ninth wedding anniversary with her firefighter husband. They are the parents of three beautiful children: Connor (seven), Isabel (four), and Violet (two months). The Silcox family lives in Mishawaka, Ind. rleader@att.net

Heather Harris ('01) published her first children's book entitled *The Changing Tree*, and it is available online at all bookstores and on Amazon.com. heatherharris418@comcast.net

Brent Morris ('01) completed his urology residency in Memphis in 2010 and returned to Jackson to practice at Regional Urology Associates. Brent is married to **Rachel Evans Morris ('01)** and they have three children: Drew (seven), Kendall (five), and Jack (three). brentjmorris@gmail.com

Becky Roode ('02) graduated from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in August 2011 with a Master of Theological Studies. She is currently a Master of Divinity candidate at Regent University, Virginia Beach, Va. rebeccaroode@gmail.com

Katherine L. Tenison ('02)

received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphrey's School of Law in May 2011.

Keith Inman ('03) was promoted to compliance coordinator for Strategic Financial Partners in Memphis. Keith received his Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Crichton College in 1997 and his MBA from Union in 2003.

Nancy Virgous ('03) teaches at White Station Middle School in the Memphis City School District. She recently earned the highest credential available to American educators by becoming a National Board Certified Teacher through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). virgousna@mcsk12.net

Cheryl Johnson Wilson ('04) married Mike E. Wilson on April 23, 2011. Mike is the Circuit Court Clerk for Henry County, Tenn. Cheryl is employed as the payroll coordinator for the Henry County School System. johnsoncls@tennk12.net

Audra Funderburk Bailey ('05) and her husband Brian Bailey adopted a sibling group of four boys out of the foster care system: Israel (thirteen), Josiah (eleven), Ezekiel (nine), and Kaleb (three).

George David Clark, Jr. ('05) will graduate with a PhD in Creative Writing from Texas Tech University this May. He has accepted a position as a Lilly Postdoctoral Fellow at Valparaiso University, where he will teach in the Christ College honors program this fall. eclark823@yahoo.com

Marc Furmanski ('05) just completed a six-month deployment to Iraq with the 86th CSH (Combat Support Hospital) in Baghdad, Iraq. He is a captain in the United States Army.

Caroline V. Hall ('05) has recently published the first two

children's books in the Rhett and Abby series. The first book in the series, *Abby's New Home*, captures Abby's excitement of moving into her new home. The second book in the series, *Belle's Wonderful Wedding*, begins in Abby's famous Bridgetown bakery. Caroline lives in Nashville. Her books may be purchased on Amazon.com or WestBowPress.com. caroline.v.hall@gmail.com

Brent M. Jones ('06) graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in May 2011. He entered a family medicine residency at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville, Ind., in July.

Fernando M. Branch ('07) is a part of the Denver Public Schools Principal Pipeline, one of the top leadership programs in the country. fernandobbranch@hotmail.com

Jennifer Krauss ('07) graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree with honors from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis last May. She began work as a pharmacist at Walgreens in June. rob.krauss@gmail.com

Justin R. Hutto ('07) graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in May 2011. He entered a preliminary residency at Baptist Health System in July, followed by a diagnostic radiology residency at the University of Alabama Medical Center, both in Birmingham.

Scott Talley ('07) graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in December 2011 with a Master of Divinity in Evangelism. Scott has also begun his career as an evangelist while serving as a pastor. servant8403@gmail.com

TaMara O. Madden ('09) has been named director of educational advancement and alumni affairs at Victory University in Memphis. She will be responsible for corporate

recruitment, dual enrollment, and alumni affairs. TaMara is currently pursuing her doctorate degree in higher education administration at Northeastern University and anticipating graduation in December 2012. dr.tmadden@gmail.com

10's | TWENTY TENS |

Elizabeth Waibel ('11) is the news editor at the *Jackson Free Press* in Jackson, Miss., where she reports on education and politics. She joined the paper in June 2011 as an intern. lizwaibel@gmail.com

Marriages

Suzan Austin Powers ('96) and **Bradley Powers ('96)** were married on March 14, 2011. Suzan and Bradley live in Jackson, where Suzan is a nurse at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital and Bradley serves as director of media and technology at West Jackson Baptist Church. spowers1226@gmail.com

Justin Phillips ('00) married **Erin Hale Phillips ('06)** on Sept. 3, 2011. jrphillips555@gmail.com

Carrie Thomas-Hossain ('03) married Jamil Hossain in Chicago on May 29, 2011. They currently reside in Chicago where Carrie works as a psychologist and Jamil the director at Index Corporation. Csth30@gmail.com

Cheryl Johnson Wilson ('04) married Mike E. Wilson on April 23, 2011. Mike is the circuit court clerk for Henry County, Tenn. Cheryl is employed as the payroll coordinator for the Henry County School System. johnsoncls@tennk12.net

Carol Lee Stephens ('05) and Jesse Stephens were married in July 2011. They reside in Loudon, Tenn., where Carol Lee works for Concord Christian School, teaching 6th and

7th grade history. Carol Lee is also involved with Young Life. cstephens@fbconcord.org or carollee@tln@gmail.com

Rachel Walker ('05) married Bucky Watts on Nov. 19, 2011. rlw259@yahoo.com

Katelin Warren Lasater ('07) married Michael Lasater on June 25, 2011, at Trinity Baptist Church, Findlay, Ohio. Katlynn03@hotmail.com

Kevin Reid ('11) married **Debbie Lai Reid ('11)** on Aug. 6, 2011. The couple resides in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Births

Angie Baker Nichols ('94) and **Michael Nichols ('94)** announce the birth of their twins, Sarah Lee Nichols and Adam Layne Nichols, born February 26, 2011, weighing 5 1/2 pounds each.



Brandon and Victoria Firor ('97) celebrated the birth of their third child, Owen Thomas Firor, on August 15, 2011. He weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. and 21 1/2 in. long. Owen was welcomed by his sister Mollie and brother Charlton. The Firor family currently resides in Fulshear, Texas, where Victoria is a stay-at-home mom and Brandon is vice president of operations for Pioneer Contract Services. victoria@firorfamily.com

Carrie Cossey Guerreiro ('97) and Miguel Guerreiro welcomed their second child, Fisher José Cossey Guerreiro, on Jan. 9, 2012. He weighed 6 lbs. 1 oz. and was 19 1/2 in. long. Fisher joins big sister Lila Sofia Cossey Guerreiro, age three. The Guerreiro's reside in Cary, N.C., where Miguel is CEO of Blue Gas Marine, Inc., and Carrie is the business owner of PromoMe-HR and an HR Consultant. carrieg@miguellandcarrie.com

Jeff Rushing ('97) and **Valerie Rushing ('97)** had a baby girl, Penelope Rose Rushing, on Sept. 25,



2011. She weighed 4 lbs. 14 oz. and was 17 3/4 in. long. Jeff is a director at Fox13 Memphis and Val is a stay-at-home mom with their son Cooper. eeeyorejeff@yahoo.com, valhow@yahoo.com

Kirby and Janna Walker ('98) are the proud parents of a baby boy, Bryant Atlas Walker, born Aug. 29, 2011. Byant was 9 lbs. 12 oz. and 20 in. long. He has an older brother, Dalton. janna_govols@yahoo.com

Charles David Meadows ('99) and **Delaina Meadows ('00)**



are pleased to welcome a son, Jacob Lane, born Aug. 24, 2010. He weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and was 21 inches long. Jacob has two older sisters, Anna Beth and Leia Faith. Charles David teaches eighth grade American history at Hardin County Middle School in Savannah, Tenn. Delaina teaches the Functional Life Skills class at Hardin County High School in Savannah. charles_david70@hotmail.com

Brian Scott ('99) and **Gina Scott ('97)** welcomed Elizabeth Rae Scott ("Ellie") into their family on April 20, 2011 in Lancaster, Pa. She weighed



9 lbs. and was 20 1/2 in. long. Brian has worked the past two years as a performer at Sight & Sound Theater while Gina has worked as an adjunct piano faculty member at Lancaster Bible College. The Scott family plans to relocate to Jackson, Tenn. in January 2012. ginakscott@comcast.net



Michael AtKisson ('00) and **Tabitha Glowacki**

AtKisson ('00) have celebrated the births of three beautiful girls: Mehilah Mary Katheryn, Lydia Belladonna, and Penelope Sophia. matkisson@click1.net

Zach Hill and Wendy Nolen Hill ('01) welcomed their daughter



Lexi Lynne on April 12, 2011. She was 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20 and 1/2 in. long. She joins her big brother, Logan, who is 4 years old. Wendy works at Briarcrest Christian School in Memphis, and Zach works as a landscape architect. wmm179@hotmail.com

Leah Duke Cook ('01) and her husband Christopher Cook welcomed their first child, Micah Abrom, on Nov. 30, 2010. Leah recently graduated with a Master of Education degree from Arkansas State University and will return to work as a second grade teacher at Bailey Station Elementary School in Collierville, Tenn., when her maternity leave concludes. leahdukecook@gmail.com

Cristy Thomas Tice ('02) and husband Brian announce the birth of their second daughter, Ellarae June Tice, born June 23, 2011, weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. and 20 in. long. Cristy and Brian, along with big sister Miranda Pearl, are grateful to God for the blessing of a new baby. They reside in Nashville. cristytice@gmail.com

Jeremy Wright ('03) and **Katie McBride Wright ('04)** welcomed their fourth child, Chloe Elizabeth Wright on Nov. 30, 2010. She weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and was 20 1/2 in. long. Chloe has three siblings: Hunter Thomas Wright, Kallista "Kallie" Noelle Wright and James Nolan Wright. The McBride family has several UU graduates: Katie's dad, **Mike McBride ('76)**, Katie's mom, **Jean Ann Lauderdale McBride ('75)**, and Katie's brother, **Andy**

McBride ('08). Katie is a registered nurse in the operating room at the MED in Memphis and Jeremy is the operations manager for Cellular South in Southaven, Miss. Jeremy and Katie currently reside in Cordova, Tenn. katiebugg0523@yahoo.com

Matthew Jones ('05) and **Chelsea Crowson Jones ('06)** are pleased to announce that Elijah Lee Jones was born at 1:43pm on July 23, 2011. He weighed 5 lbs. 4 oz. and was 18 1/2 in. long. Matthew was a music major at Union, and Chelsea was a marketing major. chelseamjones29@gmail.com

Jenny Buffington Liesen ('06)



and her husband welcomed their son, Samuel Thomas, into their family on Sept. 8, 2010. He weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 21 1/2 in. long. Jenny works as a supervisor counselor at Gateway Home Care and Hospice in Clarksville, Tenn. and her husband serves as a Captain in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. jennyliesen@yahoo.com

Jared Swinney ('07) and his wife Carol Swinney were blessed with their first child, Kason Drew, on Jan. 19, 2011. He weighed 8 lbs. 13 oz. and was 21 in. long. The Swinney family resides in Lake Charles, La. Jared is a manager of a Chick-fil-A restaurant. cjswinney11@gmail.com



Philip Thompson ('10) and **Ruth Thompson ('10)** welcomed their daughter, Claire Elise, into their family on Dec. 5, 2010, and weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20 in. long. thompsonruthe@gmail.com 🍷



Memoriam

Mark Conway, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Brownsville, Tenn. and father of three Union University students, died Oct. 31 of a heart attack at age 56.

Conway and his wife, Lisa, have three daughters and one son. Their



daughter Sarah Anne Conway graduated from Union in 2009, and their daughter Rachel Conway Stewart

is a 2010 Union graduate. Their son David is a senior at Union. Their daughter Hannah has applied to attend Union next year.

"Union University has been blessed through the years from the friendship of Mark Conway and his wonderful family," Union President David S. Dockery said. "We are certainly grateful for the life and ministry of Mark Conway. He was a faithful minister of the gospel, husband and father. Our prayers will continue for the Conway family in days ahead."

University Drive, Jackson, TN, 38305.

Morris Kyle Lynch Sr ('69)

passed away on June 30, 2011, at McKenzie Regional Hospital following a brief illness. Mr. Lynch graduated from Union with a degree in psychology. He taught psychology at Union in the 1970s.

Sandra Joyce Houston ('75)

died August 26, 2011 at Methodist Germantown and was buried on August 31 in Troy, Tenn. Sandra was a flight attendant for Delta Airlines.

Bonnie Belle Alexander Kemp Dodd

died January 8, 2012 at the Dyer (Tenn.) Nursing Home. She was 101 years old. Ms. Dodd taught school for 30 years. She attended Union University long enough to earn a teaching certificate, but left school without a degree because of the urgent need to help support family members in the depression year of 1932. According to a story written on the occasion of her 100th birthday in the *Tri-City Reporter*, her first teaching job paid \$2/day and she had to walk two miles each way to work. Shortly



before her death, Union University awarded Ms. Dodd an honorary

Bachelor of Science degree at the nursing home as friends and family gathered to celebrate the event.

Elizabeth Jean Maxey Conway ('53)



died March 17, 2011 in Bangor, Maine at the age of 80. She was a teacher for many years and with her husband Bill operated the

Amaziah Ricker House bed & breakfast in Cherryfield, Maine. ☛

Norman O. Baker ('42)

Rev. Norman Otis Baker, who served as a pastor for nearly 60 years, died Feb. 5, 2010 in Lufkin, Texas following complications from pneumonia at the age of 92.

Born in January 1918 on a farm in Sugar Tree, Tenn., Baker was the third of seven children. He graduated from Holladay High School and then Union University. He was ordained as a Southern Baptist minister in 1939.

He began his ministry as pastor of First Baptist Church, Cornersville, Tenn. He then served as pastor at other Baptist churches in Tennessee: First Baptist Church, Watertown; First Baptist Church, South Pittsburg; First Baptist Church, Waynesboro; and First Baptist Church, Westport. He also served as a missionary to Peru and Chile. Baker retired from full-time ministry work in 1999.

Friends knew him as "Brother Baker," and he referred to Union as "our family school." Two of his brothers were graduates: Clayton Baker ('45) and Clark Baker ('51). Other family who are Union alumni include his daughters, Lavonne McCallum ('65), Donna Willis ('67), Katrina Whaley ('77) and Elizabeth Lynn ('03). Grandchildren who are also Union alumni include Michele Atkins ('89), Stacie McIntosh ('89), Melody Wheat ('92 and '97), Allison Reed ('04 and '11) and Audrey Lynn ('10). His great granddaughters Elizabeth and Emilee Atkins are current students. Hannah McIntosh, another great granddaughter, plans to attend Union in fall 2012.

He is survived by three sons, five daughters, 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Baker held leadership positions on many boards and committees in Baptist life and was involved in numerous mission organizations, community events and activities. He was well known in his community as a volunteer. ☛

Submitted by Elizabeth Lynn ('03)

James S. Herr, a Union University



regent and supporter, passed away April 5, 2012 in Nottingham, Pa. at the age of 87. He founded Herr

Foods, Inc, which produces a full line of snack foods sold nationwide. He also established the James S. Herr Foundation, which supports evangelism efforts around the world. Herr is survived by his wife Miriam, five children, 20 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Mary Jean Blythe Brumley

('45), April 28, 2011, age 85, Glenview, Ill. Her teaching career spanned several decades and included time as a Union faculty member. Brumley's mother Helen Blythe also served on the Union faculty and her father Frank was the University's business manager. She is survived by her daughter, **Dr.**

Terry Northcut ('80), a faculty member at Loyola University's school of social work in Chicago and another daughter, Beth Wederbrook of Stafford, Va. The family requests that memorial donations be made in Brumley's honor to the Frank M. & Helen S. Blythe Scholarship Fund at Union University, 1050 Union

Memoriam

Carl J. Grant

Carl J. Grant, a friend and supporter of Union University, died Oct. 13 at age 92.

“Carl Grant was a very special friend to Union University,” Union President David S. Dockery said. “His generous gifts provided numerous scholarship opportunities for our students. The Carl Grant Events Center on the Union campus will long symbolize Mr. Grant’s magnificent kindness to Union.

“His strong work ethic combined with his serious Christian commitment provided a splendid example for all who knew him,” Dockery continued. “The Union family joins me in offering thanksgiving to God for the life and lasting influence of Carl Grant.”

Almost 500 students benefited from the Grant Scholarship at Union. The university awarded Grant with an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree in 2009.

Grant is survived by Peggy Jo, his wife of 28 years, as well as three children, six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. ☛



Mike Weeks

Mike Weeks, chairman of the Union University Foundation board and former chairman of Union’s Board of Trustees, died March 17 at age 63 after a battle with cancer.

“We thank God for the faithful life and witness of Mike Weeks,” Union University President David S. Dockery said. “We are especially grateful for his years of loyal service in behalf of the Union University Board of Trustees, as well as the Union Foundation board.”

A native of Tupelo, Miss., Weeks served as trustee chairman from 2002-2005 and had been chairman of the Union Foundation board since 2010. He also served for three years as chairman of the Board of Trustees’ finance and audit committee.

Weeks retired in 2007 as president of the Southern Baptist Foundation, a position he held for five years. He previously served in a variety of roles with BancorpSouth, including executive vice president.

The trustees’ executive committee voted to recognize Weeks’ years of service to Union by naming the room where trustees regularly meet in the Carl Grant Events Center in Weeks’ honor. ☛



Bob Hundley (’48)

Bob Hundley, emeritus trustee of Union University, died Feb. 24 at age 88.

The longtime trustee and his wife Mary Ruth provided the funding for the academic support center on the Union campus, called the Hundley Center, which opened in 2005.

Hundley served in the U.S. Army in North Africa, Italy and Austria during World War II. He received his Master of Arts degree from George Peabody College, now the education department of Vanderbilt University.

He retired from the Madison County

School System as the federal programs coordinator and was a member of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Tenn., for more than 50 years.

“Mr. Hundley was a devoted follower of Christ and a person who deeply loved Union University,” Dockery said. “We are deeply grateful for the life and impact of Bob Hundley. His legacy will be carried forward in the years to come through the ongoing work of the Hundley Center on the Union University campus.” ☛



Bullpups

To receive a free Bullpup shirt for the newest member of your family (under age 2), email alumni@uu.edu or call 731-661-5139. Please send us a picture of your child wearing the new shirt for publication in a future issue.

1. Ayden Barnes, son of Sarah Barnes.
2. Aiden Brantley (left) and Conner Brantley (right) are twins and are the children of Will Brantley ('01) and Jaime Sweitzer Brantley ('01).
3. Katelyn Alyse Brewer, age two, daughter of Donald and Lisa Presson Brewer ('97).
4. Hayden Brooks, age two, son of Meredith Elliott Brooks ('02) and Anthony Brooks ('01).
5. Jude Lauren Brown is the granddaughter of Robert Cox in Union University's facilities management.
6. George David Clark III, born November 6, 2010, to Elisabeth Berry Clark ('07) and George David Clark, Jr ('05).
7. Harper Elizabeth Crowder, born April 1, 2010, to Whitney Culver Crowder ('05) and Brian Crowder.
8. Ryan Deepe, son of Summer Rhodes Deepe ('02).
9. Naomi Grace Essenspries, born August 22, 2009, to Spencer and Kari Noblett Essenpreis ('04). They reside in Henderson, KY.
10. Sadie Kate Hanson, born May 6, 2010 to Matt and Michelle (Smith) Hanson ('98).
11. Macey Joyner, 2 years old, and Easton Joyner, 5 months old. Their mom is Emily Stopher Joyner ('06).
12. Ella Lewelling, born August 7, 2009, and Micah Lewelling, born March 10, 2011. Their parents are Ryan ('04) and Rachel ('03) Lewelling.
13. Madelyn Michele Murphy, born November 16, 2010, to Richard Murphy ('03) and Megan Parrish Murphy ('06). Proud grandparents: Louis and Debbie Murphy; Gil and Robin Parrish.
14. Elizabeth Rae Scott ("Ellie"), born April 20, 2011. She weighed 9 pounds and was 20 1/2 inches long. Daughter of Brian ('99) and Gina ('97) Scott of Lancaster, PA.
15. Lincoln Brock Smith, born August 23, 2010 to Cheyenne Smith and Amy (Alder) Smith ('03).
16. Kason Drew Swinney, son of Jared Swinney ('07) and Carol Swinney.
17. Ellarae June Tice, born June 23, 2011, to Cristy Thomas Tice ('02) and Brian Tice. Ellarae weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. and was 20 inches long. She has a big sister, Miranda Pearl, who is 2 years old. The Tice family lives in Nashville.
18. Karis Joy Thompson, aged 10 months, daughter of Kristin Veach Thompson ('06).
19. Elliott Thomas Vaughan, born January 15, 2010, to Jason Vaughan ('04) and Amy Weatherford Vaughan ('05) who was a cheerleader for Union. Elliott's parents, grandparents, aunt and uncle all graduated from Union.
20. Ella Kate Reynolds, daughter of Ben and Laura Breeden Reynolds ('01).
21. Sara Beth Ramsey, born July 28, 2009 to Amie Kirby Ramsey ('93) and Craig Ramsey.



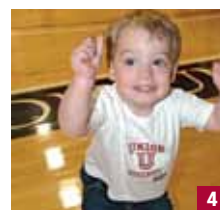
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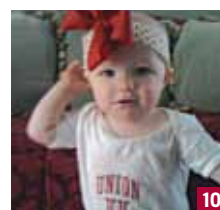
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A HISTORIC MOMENT AT UNION UNIVERSITY

UNION UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN presented with an opportunity like few others in its long and wonderful history. In many ways this is a *kairos* moment in the life of this institution, a rare opportunity that we have been given through the generosity of a marvelous foundation.

This generous foundation has offered a matching gift, matching every dollar up to \$10 million that will be given or pledged through December of 2012. It is a moment in which we want to encourage all of the friends of Union University to join with us in this amazing project.

At this important moment, we want to invite Union friends, donors, trustees, alumni—everyone with the Union constituency—to join us in the work of building this beautiful and needed facility.

Ways you can take part in building the new Union University library:

- Direct gifts by cash, check, credit card, stock, or property
- Pledges fulfilled immediately, over months, or even as late as December 2014
- Gifts matched by a company or foundation

The Office of University Relations' advancement team is here to answer any questions you may have or assist you in any way we are able.

731-661-5050
uu.edu/giving



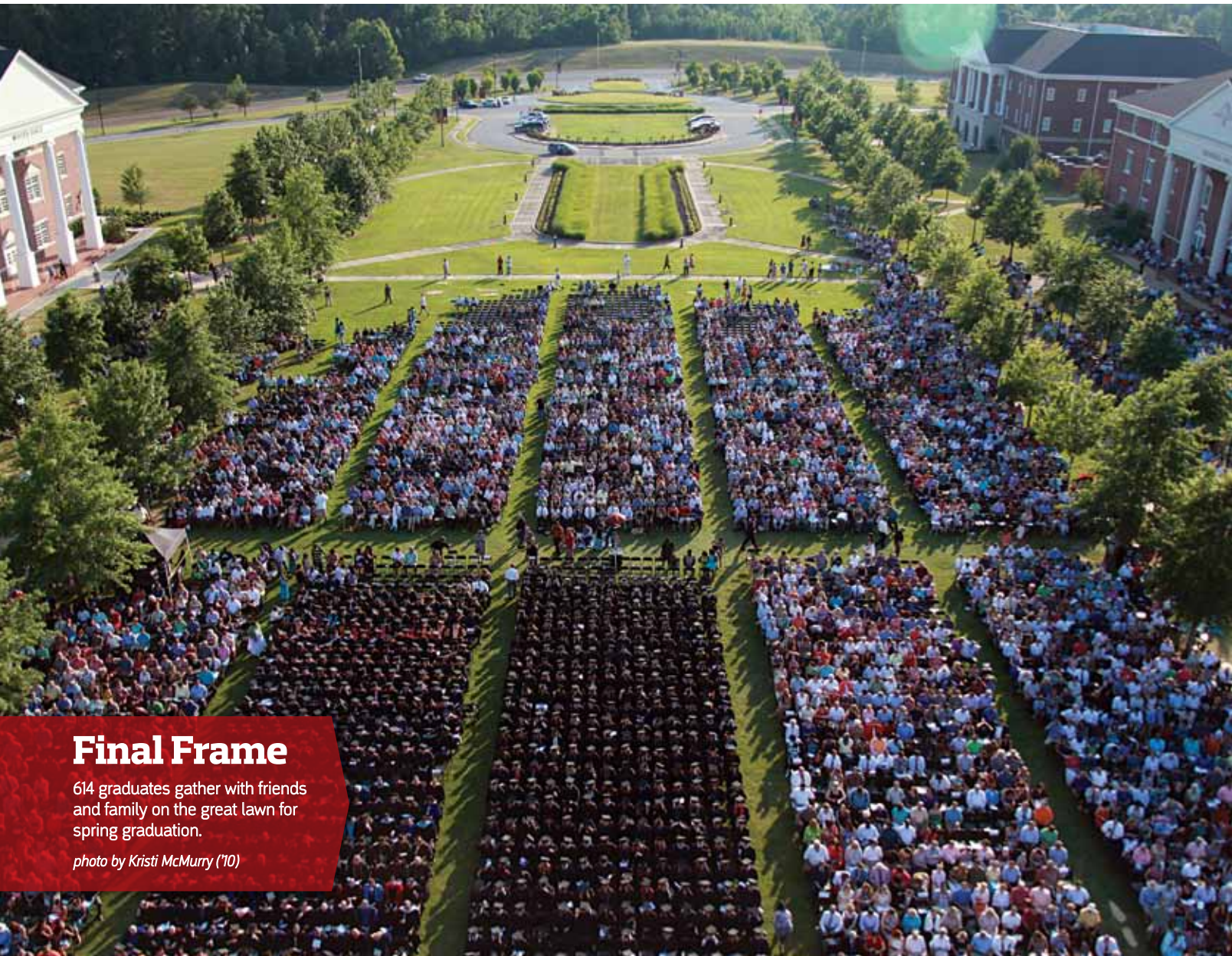
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OFFICE of ALUMNI SERVICES
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Final Frame

614 graduates gather with friends and family on the great lawn for spring graduation.

photo by Kristi McMurry ('10)