

SUMMER 2014

UNIONITE



THE UNION UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver

NAMED UNION'S 16TH
PRESIDENT

**A Half-Century of
Nursing Excellence**

**Ministry to
the Deaf**

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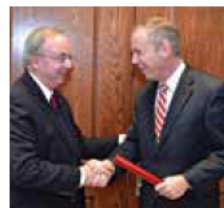
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FSC FPO

From the President

I am honored and humbled by the call to serve as the 16th president of Union University. On behalf of my wife Susie, let me express how excited we are to be serving alongside the outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of this great university.

As Christian educators, we work from the premise that all truth is God's truth, and there is no reason to separate our faith from our academic pursuits. With that in mind, it is hard to imagine a place of service that could offer more rewarding opportunities than what is found at Union University, where we are preparing tomorrow's leaders in more than 100 fields of study with rigorous academic training and an integrated focus on the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Union is known as a place where excellence-driven, Christ-centered, people-focused and future-directed core values shape the ways we learn and live. From the excellent teaching that takes place in our classrooms and laboratories to the lifelong friendships that result from our life in community, there is much here for which we are grateful. We are invigorated by the challenges ahead as we focus on continuing and strengthening this tremendous work.

Prayer was an important part of the presidential selection process. Many of you interceded on behalf of the committee with commitments to prayer and fasting. In God's providence, many prayed for us before you ever heard our names or knew anything about us. Thank you! I ask that you please continue to pray for all of us at Union as we take the next steps in an institutional journey that began nearly two centuries ago.

May we be faithful stewards of all that Union has become, and may it always be a place where thousands of students are in the process of discovering God's purposes for their lives.

With unfailing hope,

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

Psalm 90:17



Thornburys depart for The King's College

Greg and Kimberly Thornbury returned to Union University's campus early in the fall semester for a final farewell to the Union community as the couple launched a new chapter in their lives in New York.

Greg, the former dean of the School of Theology and Missions, became president of The King's College in New York City July 9. Kimberly transitioned from being Union's senior vice president for student services and dean of students to The King's College's first lady and special assistant to the president for strategic planning. The Thornburys served at Union for 15 years.



"At the very end of it all, I have nothing better to say to you than look to Christ," Greg Thornbury said at a dinner gathering to honor the couple.

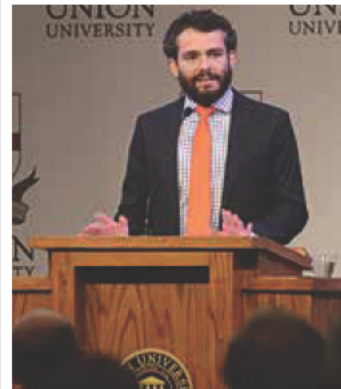
The Thornburys received several gifts, including a drawing of Union's Miller Tower and a rare, framed copy of a 1960 *Christianity Today* article by theologian Carl F.H. Henry, entitled "Do We Need a Christian University?" The piece made a case for Christian higher education in New York City.

Greg Thornbury spoke in chapel, and then the couple greeted well-wishers during a reception in their honor at the Carl Grant Events Center. ■



Anderson addresses marriage equality

The heart of the marriage equality debate lies in the definition of marriage, said Ryan T. Anderson during the "True Marriage Equality: Man and Woman" lecture at Union in February.



Anderson is a writer and researcher for The Heritage Foundation who has become a national voice in the public debate about marriage equality.

"If we want to draw a line that's based on principle – a line that reflects the truth – we have to know what marriage is," Anderson said.

Speaking to about 200 lecture attendees, Anderson noted that the U.S. government does not ban any consenting adult relationship – including homosexual relationships. Businesses can offer marriage-like benefits to same-sex couples if employers choose to provide these options, and houses of worship are allowed to conduct same-sex union ceremonies if religious bodies choose to host these events.

If the government redefines marriage to include homosexual unions, Anderson said all U.S. citizens would be coerced to treat same-sex relationships as marital relationships, regardless of religious beliefs or moral convictions.

"There (would) be no institution left in public life that would uphold even as an ideal the fact that every child deserves a mother and a father," Anderson added. "It would change the marriage institution away from the needs of children and much more toward the desires of adults."

Anderson encouraged Christians to proclaim the truth about marriage in the political, intellectual and cultural realms.

"In redefining marriage, the state will teach a lie about what marriage is," Anderson said. "We each have to bear witness to the truth in whatever way our vocation requires of us. Live out the truth of marriage in your own life, and then advocate for it and teach it in whatever setting your life takes you."

Union arboretum enhances learning opportunities

Union has launched an arboretum project as a service to the community and as a way to continue beautifying the campus.

Mark Bolyard, professor of biology, described an arboretum as "kind of a fancy name for a collection of labeled trees," but said the labels on the Union trees have been intentionally developed to showcase Scripture verses and significant quotes from great thinkers and writers in the Christian intellectual tradition.

"Not only is this a good way to identify the trees that we have, but also a platform for adding more," Bolyard said. "This is our attempt to continue making the campus more attractive."

The arboretum will provide Union students with a collection of trees to identify, and it will also be a local draw for students in the community who have leaf projects of their own.

The Union arboretum becomes the fifth certified arboretum in the area. Union is also in the process of developing a "virtual meta-arboretum," which will catalog all the local arboreta's trees in one searchable online database.



There are two ways to support the arboretum: adopt a campus tree, and make a pledge to the "Friends of the Union University Arboretum" program. More information is available from the Office of University Relations at (731) 661-5050.

For more information about the arboretum, visit uu.edu/arboretum.

Union filed suit to block abortifacient mandate

Union University has joined other faith-based institutions in filing a federal lawsuit that challenges an order to provide abortion-causing drugs as part of employee health care plans.

The suit was filed in early April in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. The University seeks a judgment declaring that the abortifacient mandate of the new Affordable Care Act violates Union's rights under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the First and Fifth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and the Administrative Procedures Act.

A grandfather clause had allowed Union to offer its plan without providing abortifacients. That clause was rescinded because of unrelated changes in the cost and the terms of the plan.

"Causing the death of the embryo conflicts with Union University's beliefs based on Scripture," the Union lawsuit states. "Therefore, Union University has religious-based objection to drugs and devices that kill the embryo and to education and counseling related to

the use of these abortion-causing drugs and devices."

The lawsuit also says the "mandate forces Union University to choose between its sincerely held religious beliefs and the government-imposed adverse consequences" of non-compliance.

Union University provides employee health insurance through the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, a consortium of 34 public and private institutions.

Poe, Aldridge honored at Awards Day

Union University presented more than 70 awards to students, faculty and staff May 9 at the annual Awards Day chapel service, chronologically the first event associated with spring graduation.



The Carla D. Sanderson Faculty of the Year Award went to Hal Poe, the Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture. Steven Aldridge, Union's sports information director, was awarded with the Gary L. Carter Staff of the Year Award.

The Fred DeLay Memorial Award, for a senior who is an outstanding athlete, a person of high academic standing, unquestionable loyalty and good character, was presented to Dionna Linn.

The John C. Moore Award for excellence in academics and athletics was presented to Allison Martin and Derek Roof.

There were 46 recognitions connected to the outstanding student in each major area of study. For a complete list of the winners, visit uu.edu/news/release.cfm?ID=2275

Lady Bulldogs win NCCAA national championship

The Union Lady Bulldogs added another national championship trophy to their collection this spring, beating Lee (Tenn.) University 73-64 to take the National Christian College Athletic Association national title in Winona Lake, Ind.



Union guard LaTesa McLaughlin, a senior from Millington, Tenn., was named Most Outstanding Player in the championship tournament. Amy Philamlee, a junior guard from Jonesboro, Ark., scored a game-high 24 points in the championship win over Lee and was named an all-tournament player along with McLaughlin.

Head Coach Mark Campbell was named NCCAA National Coach of the Year. Campbell has a career record of 481-66 (.879) in his 15 seasons at Union and has led his Lady Bulldogs to at least a third-place finish in national tournaments 11 times—including each of the last 10 seasons.

The Lady Bulldogs won NAIA national championships in 1998, 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2010.

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Union looks to possible active NCAA membership

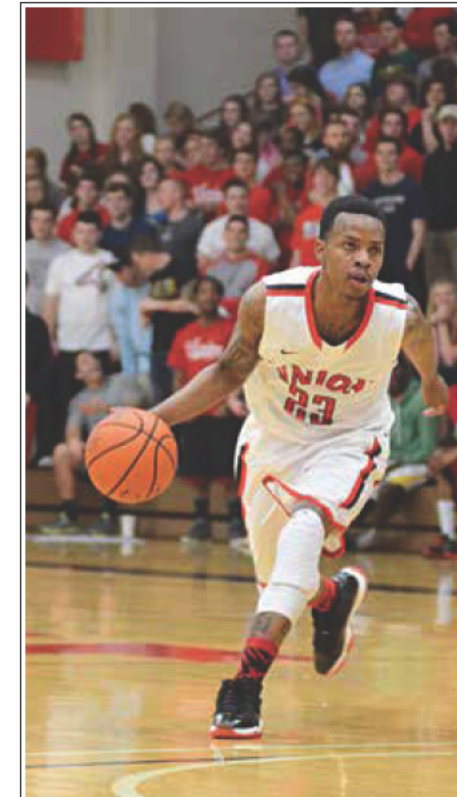
Union University could become an active member of the NCAA at the Division II level in July, when it will mark three years since beginning its membership candidacy.

NCAA rules dictate a provisional period during which schools must demonstrate compliance with the organization's regulations and compete during the regular season with other Division II programs.

During that time, candidates for active membership are not permitted to participate in NCAA postseason play.

"Our coaches have worked diligently to make this a positive transition," said Jerry Tidwell, senior vice president for university relations and athletics. "They have embraced all the added requirements with the idea that the transition increases our potential influence for Christ."

Union was one of nine schools in 2013 to move from candidacy year two into provisional status. Pending NCAA approval, Union could obtain active status in time for the 2014-15 academic year. ■



Hendersonville campus marks graduation milestone

Union University Hendersonville celebrated the graduation of its first two Doctor of Education students at the fall commencement ceremony in December.

Carla Cushman and Jan Baldwin, who both started the program in February 2010, were outstanding students and leaders in their field, said Charles Lea, executive director of Union University Hendersonville.

"The professors had high expectations for us as learners and I know that I have walked away with a sound education that will continue to support me in what I do," Cushman said. "Union professors are truly dedicated to the students who attend this university."

Baldwin said she also plans to remain in her current leadership position at a private Christian academy in Nashville.



Jan Baldwin (left) and Carla Cushman

Her goal for achieving this degree, she noted, is to serve students and lead faculty more effectively.

"I pray what I've learned will come down to benefit each individual child that I work with—that my education won't be self-absorbed but will be given away to children," Baldwin said. "I didn't go to school to change positions. I got my degree to become a better leader for students." 🌟

Fully online M.Ed. program underway

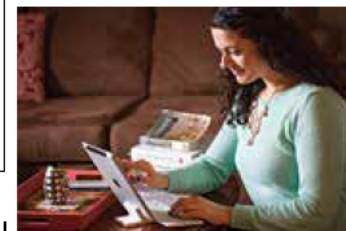
The School of Education now offers a Master of Education degree fully online.

The degree program will also continue in a traditional classroom format.

Coursework in the online program is designed for the classroom teacher and focuses on enhancing a teacher's professional knowledge, practical abilities and skills as classroom relater, according to Eric Marvin, director of online instructional innovations for the School of Education and director of the Thomas R. Rosebrough Center for Educational Practice.

"The online M.Ed. is truly a 21st century degree, as it is intentional in situating iPads as learning tools, not as the focus of study," Marvin said.

The degree program includes an iPad with enrollment, meaning that all students will be able to use mobile technology in their coursework. One of the key methods for iPad use in the program calls for students to use the mobile technology to capture video of themselves using specific practices in their classroom.



"This is not an iPad degree," Marvin said. "It is a degree to help teachers become more effective at teaching and learning."

The students can then share the video with their professor and classmates to obtain constructive feedback, based on what was taught in the course.

More information about how to apply is available at uu.edu/med.

GO Trips include mission to Nicaragua

Union students, faculty and staff travel around the world as part of the annual Global Opportunities trips. At spring break alone, they traveled to nine international locations, including a medical mission trip to Nicaragua.

Senior nursing major Hannah

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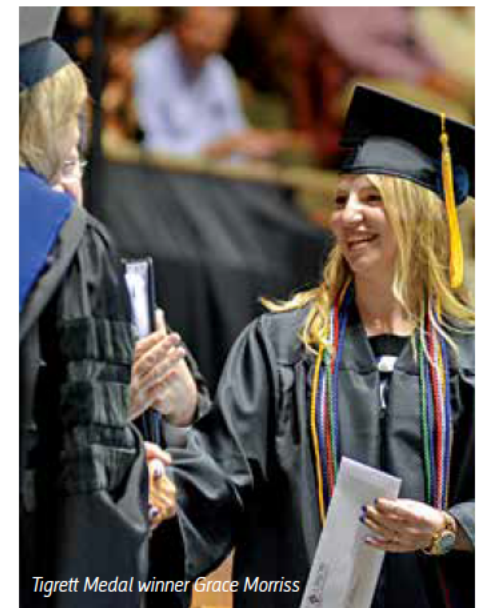
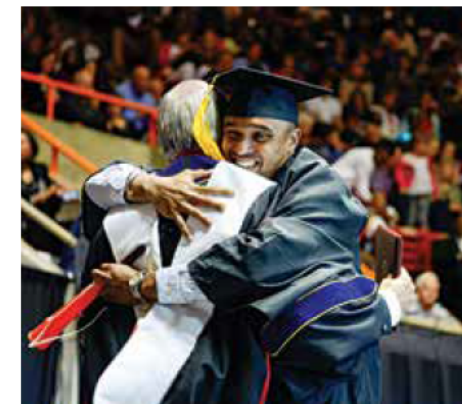
Spring commencement includes 630 graduates

Wet conditions and cool temperatures forced Union's 189th annual spring commencement indoors to Jackson's Oman Arena, where David S. Dockery conferred his final degrees as president.

He has presided at 50 graduation events during the spring, summer and fall of his 18-year tenure. At some point during the May ceremony, Dockery handed out his 15,000th degree, a figure that represents about 70 percent of all living Union alumni.

"We are grateful for the difference that each one will make for the cause of Christ and his kingdom in the days to come," Dockery said.

Greg Thornbury, president of The King's College in New York City, delivered the commencement address, encouraging the graduates to stand in solidarity with their



Tigrett Medal winner Grace Morris

We are grateful for the difference that each one will make for the cause of Christ and his kingdom in the days to come.

fellow believers in Christ—a theme he emphasized during his years as Union's dean of the School of Theology and Missions.

"This campus been through an awful lot this year," Thornbury said. "There have been harrowing moments of deep sorrow, confusion and uncertainty. But this campus, anchored by this senior class, rallied together."

As part of the ceremony, Union presented degrees posthumously to Leighton Williams and Olivia Greenlee, two Union students who died during the 2013-2014 academic year. The graduating

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

class rose in unison as each woman's name was read.

Union also presented the Elizabeth Tigrett Medal to Grace Morris, an engineering major from Flower Mound, Texas. The award honors the mother of Isaac B. Tigrett, a former interim president at Union, as well as a benefactor and trustee. The medal has been awarded since 1912 by vote of the entire Union faculty to an outstanding member of the senior class. 🌟

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Following the NCCAA title, a campus wide celebration was staged in DeLay Gymnasium.

Union strengthens church connections

Union University is refocusing its strong traditional efforts to serve pastors and congregations.



Todd Brady, Union's vice president for university ministries, leads the new Office of University Ministries,

which combines ministry to the campus and ministry on behalf of the campus.

"In a day where we see more and more institutions disconnecting from churches, Union wants to do the

very opposite," Brady said. "Union wants to strengthen its connections with the churches."

Brady said that ministry to the churches includes providing students and faculty members to preach in churches. In addition, Union offers experts to speak at conferences or special events that churches host on a variety of topics, including religious liberty, faith and science, pastoral ministry, marriage and family, church leadership, evangelism, Christian apologetics, biblical interpretation and many others.

The Office of University Ministries also has resumed publication of *The Union Pulpit*, a printed booklet that presents sermons preached in Union's chapel services and other Union-related events.

Brady said the change communicates not only Union's

commitment to churches now, but it emphasizes to students the importance of them being committed and faithful church members while they attend Union and after they leave.

Richard Bray, pastor of First Baptist Church in Waverly, Tenn., cited the R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies as a valuable resource to help area pastors and churches. He also expressed appreciation for Union's efforts in providing opportunities for fellowship through the West Tennessee Ministers Conference, which he serves as vice president this year.

"The thing I've always liked about Union is they've worked to maintain contact and maintain relationships with pastors," Bray said. "Union is firmly committed to supporting churches in the area."

Union achieves key business accreditation

Union University's McAfee School of Business Administration has earned accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

AACSB International, founded in 1916, is an association of more than 1,350 educational institutions, businesses and other organizations in 83 countries and territories. It is the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's and doctorate degrees in business and accounting.

"Achieving the AACSB accreditation places us in the top 5 percent of business schools in the world," said Keith Absher, dean of the McAfee School of Business Administration. "It is definitely the 'gold standard' of business school accreditations."

Absher said the AACSB accreditation is evidence that Union has achieved excellence in multiple areas, including learning outcomes for students and students' ability to compete against any business graduate in the country.

Achieving accreditation is a process of rigorous internal review, evaluation and adjustment that takes several years to complete. During these years, the school develops and implements a plan to meet the AACSB accreditation standards, which require a high quality teaching environment, a commitment to continuous improvement and curricula responsive to the needs of businesses.



Also required by the AACSB standards, all accredited schools must go through a peer review process every five years in order to maintain their accreditation.

"It takes a great deal of self-evaluation and determination to earn AACSB accreditation, and I commend Union University for its dedication to management education, as well as its leadership in the community," said Robert D. Reid, executive vice president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB International. "Through accreditation, Union has not only met specific standards of excellence, but has also made a commitment to ongoing improvement to ensure that the institution will continue to deliver high quality education to its students." ■



Achieving the AACSB accreditation places us in the top 5 percent of business schools in the world.

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McKnight saw the work at Las Conchitas in a MedFest medical clinic as much more than an opportunity to practice her nursing skills. It produced opportunities to share the gospel message with hundreds of Nicaraguans.



"Free medical care draws in huge crowds of people, providing an exciting chance to share why we are really there, which is to share the love of God with the Nicaraguan people," McKnight said.

MedFest began in 1996 when a group of dentists, pharmacists and physicians joined with Way of the Cross Ministries in Texas to provide free health evaluations and treatments in Mexico, said David McKnight, Hannah's father.

A doctor in Murfreesboro, Tenn., David McKnight had participated in a mission trip with Way of the Cross earlier that year to distribute food and spread the gospel across the border. After learning about the need for medical care among the villages, he gathered a group of mission-minded doctors that summer to help launch MedFest. The team continued to return to Mexico each year, treating as many patients as they could see in seven days.

The medical team treats a variety of health problems each year, including hypertension, parasites and skin infections, Hannah said. Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was age 10, Hannah acts as a consultant for the clinic's diabetic patients as well.

"Going on trips like this gives me a great opportunity to apply what I have learned in school and practice my nursing skills in real-life settings," Hannah said. "Medical missions are very important to me, and it is absolutely something that I hope to continue after graduation."

For more information about all of Union's GO trips, visit uu.edu/events/go.

Germantown student is family physician and MCS candidate

Buffy Cook works as a board-certified family physician. But he says he's felt God's call to go another direction.

Cook is enrolled in the Master of Christian Studies program on the Union University Germantown campus, balancing his practice with the pursuit of theological training to prepare for the pastorate.

Ken Easley, professor of biblical studies, said Cook flourished in his classes, as he exhibited a passion for Christ and God's Word. Although Cook never imagined God would lead him to shepherd a church, he began to sense a need to preach in January 2013. By November, he had accepted a call as a full-time pastor at Crossway Baptist Church in Brighton, Tenn.

Currently balancing work as both a physician and pastor with MCS classes, Cook hopes to graduate from Union in 2015.

"Becoming a pastor excites me and terrifies me at the same moment," Cook said. "While it is a great privilege, it is also a huge responsibility, as I know I will be held to a stricter accountability than other people. But it excites me to lead a group of people to be more mature in their faith, to grow a church and to lead people to God's kingdom."

Renewing interest in the Psalms

In the first centuries of the church, the Psalms played a key role in worship.



"Today, the Psalms typically play a very small role," said Ray Van Neste, professor of biblical studies and director of the R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies. "It's my interest and desire to try to address this issue and stir up renewed interest."

In April, Van Neste teamed with Union's Department of Music to stage Psalmfest II: An Evening

Dockery accepts presidency at Trinity International University

David S. Dockery was unanimously elected Feb. 28 as the 15th president of Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill.

The announcement, on the suburban Chicago campus, came less than three weeks after Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver was elected to succeed Dockery as president of Union University. Both men were scheduled to assume their new offices on June 1.

Robert Kleinschmidt, chairman of the TIU Board of Regents, said he was excited for Dockery and his wife Lanese to join the TIU family.

"Dr. Dockery brings a great wealth of experience and knowledge about higher education from his years at Union University," Kleinschmidt said. "I know he will be a great leader for Trinity and look forward to the tasks ahead."

TIU consists of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, one of the most highly respected evangelical institutions in the country; Trinity College, a liberal-arts based institution; Trinity Graduate School, with programs in such fields as biomedical ethics, leadership and education; and Trinity Law School. Total enrollment for the university is about 2,800.

"We are overwhelmingly grateful to God for the invitation from the Trinity Board to serve the students, staff, faculty and various institutional constituencies in the days ahead," Dockery said. "We are humbled by the confidence that the Board has communicated to us in this call to guide Trinity forward in the days and years to come." ■



Town and Gown series focuses on racial reconciliation

Union's Town and Gown series celebrated Black History Month with a series of lectures focusing on Great Commandment thinking and action.

The series, entitled "Christian Perspectives on Education, Race and Justice," presented speakers such as Roland Porter, a retired faculty member and pastor of Jackson's Agape Christian Fellowship Church, and Sephira Shuttlesworth, a Union alumna and wife of the late civil rights leader Fred Shuttlesworth.

Jacqueline S. Taylor, assistant dean of students and director of the Vocatio Center for Life Calling

and Career, acted as the course convener and discussion leader.

"I wanted to ensure that the open dialogue continued as a part of our efforts over the past several years to address issues of racial reconciliation



Sephira Shuttlesworth

through (a) Christian worldview," Taylor said.

Taylor structured the discussions within legal, social, theological and ethical contexts. Frank Anderson, associate professor of ministry and missions at the Olford Center campus, led a summary discussion of the previous presentations on the final night.

The Town and Gown series is an ongoing opportunity for community members interested in various topics to attend lectures and participate in discussions in a classroom setting. The sessions are free and open to the public. 📌

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of Worship with the Psalms. The event featured a mixture of singing, chanting and reading of the Psalms, engaging both choir and congregation.

Van Neste said the Apostle Paul encouraged Christians in the New Testament to sing the Psalms, making this part of worship an important element of Christianity.

"My hope is that this Psalmfest gives people a good opportunity to experience the singing and reading of the Psalms in worship, because many of us have never seen this done before," Van Neste said. "We want a chance to not just say things about the Psalms, but to say the Psalms; to not just sing about the Psalms, but to sing the Psalms; to not just listen to something about the Psalms, but to actually listen to the Psalms themselves."

Scholarship Symposium highlights undergraduate research

More than 280 students and more than 50 faculty members presented research findings as part of Union University's 11th annual Scholarship Symposium on April 29.

"The Scholarship Symposium has become an important part of life at Union University for our students," said Hunter Baker, Union's dean of instruction who oversees the program. "Students benefit tremendously by carrying out research projects. Whether they become professional researchers or not, knowledge of investigative methods will serve them well for the rest of their lives."

Students each year prepare a wide variety of presentations for a critical audience based on original research. A few examples from 2014:

Engineering students Alex Charles, Zac Baker and Kenneth Mayo built and tested a drone to be used for aerial photography. Their design had to incorporate the

weight of a camera and yet provide for enough range to capture usable photographs. Their goal was to make aerial photography at Union more efficient and more affordable. Their faculty advisers were Professor of Engineering Don Van and Associate Professor of Engineering Randal Schwindt.

Tyler Jones presented research designed to apply green chemistry principles to standard laboratory textbooks. The aim is to reduce hazardous waste disposal within the process of chemistry education. His faculty adviser was Professor of Chemistry Sally Henrie.

Colby Benefield traced Madison County's Civil War history, from the initial capture of Jackson by Union forces in 1862 to the 1863 evacuation of the town.

Kenneth Mayo, senior engineering major, stands behind the GoPro drone that his group made for the Scholarship Symposium.



His faculty adviser was Professor of History David Thomas.

Christine Ryan compared the Greco-Roman and New Testament views of childhood. She examined the Pauline household codes found in Colossians and Ephesians alongside the Greco-Roman cultures and suggested how the study could be applied to 21st century living. Her faculty adviser was Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy C. Ben Mitchell.

The Union University Research Program sponsors the Scholarship Symposium each year. 📌



Highest-ever rankings for Union based on quality, value

U.S. News & World Report and Kiplinger's Personal Finance have ranked Union University among the top private, regional universities in the country.

The *U.S. News* ranking places Union at 13th among regional universities in the South, up one spot from the previous year and the fourth consecutive top 15 ranking.

Kiplinger's Personal Finance ranks Union 77th among the top 100 private universities in the nation and 10th among the top private universities in the Southeast and Mid-South.

The *Kiplinger* lists evaluate quality and value.

Because size isn't a primary consideration, Union is ranked on the same list with such schools such as Syracuse, Vanderbilt, Duke, Wake Forest and Emory.

U.S. News continues to identify Union as an "up and coming school" and an "A+ choice for B students." 📌

George examines Christian witness in Nazi Germany

A visiting lecturer this spring asked the Union community to consider the plight of Christians who lived in Nazi Germany, noting that Christians today face challenges in the battle for life and religious freedoms.

Timothy George, founding dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, referenced the Barmen Declaration, which was a theological declaration consisting of six articles stating the believers' allegiance to God alone.

"Our situation is not the same as it was in 1930's Germany, but there is continuity," George said. "We have to be aware of what happened in Germany and ask ourselves what we would do if we lived back then."

George is writing a book about the Barmen Declaration and the Christian witness in Nazi Germany. The declaration came after Hitler's regime attempted to blend Nazi ideology with Christian theology in state-run churches.

"A lot of people who stood strong in 1934 wilted at the end of the day when the test really came," George said. "What would you have done? And what will we do today, tomorrow or five years from now when these questions are knocking at our front door?"

George was the speaker for the 16th annual Scholar-in-Residence Lecture Series, sponsored by Union's Honors Community. 📌





SAMUEL W. DUB OLIVER

UNION UNIVERSITY'S 16TH PRESIDENT

The Union University Board of Trustees voted unanimously in favor of making Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver the 16th president of Union University.

The vote Feb. 10 followed consideration of about 130 presidential candidates and nearly a year of work from the board’s search committee, chaired by Norman Hill, who is also chairman of the full board.

“Dr. Oliver is a man of strong Christian conviction,” Hill said. “His skills as an administrator and educator build on Union’s already established reputation for academic excellence, and we are honored and thrilled by this appointment.”

Speaking for himself and his wife Susie, Oliver said, “We are deeply humbled by

this call to serve at Union University. I am hopeful and enthusiastic about working with the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the university to extend, enhance and enlarge all that Union is—for the glory of God and for the good of humankind.”

Oliver, 48, is a native of San Antonio. He was elected president of East Texas Baptist University in 2009. He has also served his alma mater, Baylor University, in several roles, including director of student activities (1992–99), associate dean for campus life (1999–2001), dean for student development (2001–05) and vice president for student life (2005–09).

While at Baylor, Oliver also served as a visiting professor in the Hankamer

School of Business, an adjunct professor in the School of Education and interim university chaplain. He served in the U.S. Air Force in the late 1980s at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas.

Oliver earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Baylor and a Master of Science degree in educational psychology, as well as a Doctor of Philosophy in educational administration, from Texas A&M.

Oliver told trustees he was happy serving as president of ETBU and initially was inclined to pass up a possible move to Union. But as the search committee pursued him, he said he felt God’s calling to lead Union.

The list of factors that attracted him to

the position included the presidency of David S. Dockery.

“David has been a great leader for Union and for Christian higher education,” Oliver said. “His encouraging spirit has meant a lot to me over the last few years.”

Oliver also cited his appreciation of Union’s mission and core values.

“The integration of faith, learning and living has had a transformative effect on my life, and as I seek to live out my calling as an educator I believe that Christian higher education is where we can most influence and shape young people so that the kingdom of God may be enlarged,” he said.

Oliver and his wife Susie Combs Oliver will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary later this year. Susie is

a native of Hazard, Ky., and a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University. They have a daughter, Callie, who is a senior at Baylor.

“I have had the privilege of knowing Dub Oliver for several years, both in his role at Baylor and at East Texas Baptist University,” Dockery said. “During this time I have come to recognize Dr. Oliver’s genuine commitment to students and his approachable, kind and caring manner as a leader.”

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Oliver assumed office on June 1 but spent periods of time on campus throughout the spring semester. He attended Homecoming activities, conducted individual meetings with campus leaders and participated in the annual spring Board of Trustees meeting in April. ■



DUB OLIVER

AND “the Light on the Hill”

On a hill just outside the center of town stands a university that has been a part of Marshall, Texas, for more than a century.

Put Texas geographic stereotypes aside. Harrison County is neither a treeless plain nor a rocky desert. In fact, Texans refer to this easternmost part of their state as the “piney woods.”

East Texas Baptist University spreads across acreage that once was known as the Van Zandt Plantation. The nearest major city is Shreveport, La., about 40 miles from the ETBU campus.

ETBU and Union University have longstanding Baptist affiliations, and each is a member of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

A closer look shows deeper connections. ETBU originally was known as College of Marshall. Henry Eugene Watters served as the president of the College of Marshall from 1916–1918. He left COM to become the president of Union.

The late Robert E. Craig, the university president who presided over Union’s

move from East Jackson to its current campus, was a graduate of this school (then known as East Texas Baptist College) and later returned to serve as president from 1986–92. The building on campus that houses the department of nursing is named in his honor.

Howard C. Bennett, a 1936 graduate of Union, was president of ETBU from 1960–1976. Union gave him its Distinguished Service Award for alumni in 1973. Bennett married into the family of John Jeter Hurt, Union’s president from 1932–1945.

But the connection that has drawn far more attention in recent weeks is the fact that President Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver left ETBU at the end of May to become Union University’s 16th president.

The title “president” is a formality reserved for official communication. At ETBU, most refer to him as “Doctor Dub,” or simply “Dub.”

ON AN UPWARD TREND

Because of its hilltop location, ETBU has been called the “Light on the Hill.”

Pole banners on campus offer the message “May the Light on the Hill never die.”

Faculty members say they’re confident ETBU will build upon the advances made during the Oliver administration.

“We’re on an upward trend,” said Kathleen Mays, associate professor of management. “The whole atmosphere on campus is much more optimistic, much more positive, looking towards the future in more optimistic ways than before he came. I wish he could be here longer.”

Other faculty members praised Oliver for the work he did with the faculty senate and with a push for better funding of faculty development opportunities.

Assistant Professor of Missions Elijah Brown notes that the faculty senate made direct reports to trustees during annual board meetings, and that Oliver funded campus wide book studies about the integration of faith and learning.

“Dub has really raised the profile of East Texas Baptist University while he’s been here,” Brown said. “I think you’ll find a partner in Dub Oliver.”

IN DEFENSE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

ETBU draws the vast majority of its students from Texas and Louisiana; only about 4 percent come from other states. The athletics teams, known as the Tigers, compete in non-scholarship NCAA Division III and play mostly nearby competition.

But this campus made national news in 2012 during the debate about religious liberty and the Affordable Care Act.

Under Oliver’s leadership, ETBU joined Houston Baptist University in a lawsuit against the federal government in connection with a mandate to provide abortion services in employee health care plans. Oliver went to Capitol Hill to testify before Congress, as did C. Ben Mitchell, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy at Union.

Oliver fielded questions from national media about the decision to fight the mandate. In an interview with *National Review*, he was quoted as saying, “We are united with Catholics and people of all faiths in the conviction that a religious group should not be forced to provide services to which they have deep moral objections.”

In December, a federal court in Houston ruled in favor of ETBU and HBU. The court issued an injunction against the abortifacient requirement, ruling that such a mandate violates federal civil rights laws. “The religious organization plaintiffs have shown a sincerely held religious belief that the court cannot second-guess,” the ruling stated.

ETBU Trustee David Rice remembers that there were concerns about the possible ramifications of suing the federal government.

“I think it said a lot about his leadership in the university community,” Rice said. “It has been the decisive, courageous nature of Dub’s leadership that has led the university community through this.”

Rice, who is also Oliver’s pastor, said the legal issues now largely have moved beyond schools such as ETBU, but he added, “It’s not over. It won’t be over until we get to the Supreme Court.”

LEFT: Dub Oliver stands with ETBU 2013 graduate Brad Mashburn under the new archway marking the entrance to the University.
PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN PERRY, ETBU

RIGHT: Dub Oliver testifies in front of Congress on Feb. 16, 2012.
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM



DIFFICULT GOOD-BYES

Oliver began as president in 2009. Since then, ETBU has completed a 32,000–square-foot student center, completely remodeled the former student center for use as a commons and added four new graduate programs.

Centennial Hall, a 362-bed, 124,000–square-foot living and learning center, is scheduled to open in time for fall semester 2014.

“I’m thrilled with the things that have happened here,” said Paula Nichols, an ETBU alumna who also attends Sunday School with the Olivers. “The institution has grown with buildings and programs, and it has been exciting to see.”

Nichols and many of the ETBU students are also quick to mention the impact of First Lady Susie Oliver.

“I always just walk in her office. We talk all the time,” said Skyler Womack,

a senior sociology major from Houston. Womack notes that Susie Oliver manages the student center, and students know they are welcome to drop in and start conversations with her.

Womack says during one of those talks about his need for a certain color of tie, she offered to let him borrow one of the president’s ties—something he hadn’t expected.

“She’s an amazing woman,” Womack said.

Tyler Martin, a junior religion major from Crowley, Texas, remembers the reaction on Facebook the day Oliver notified the ETBU community of his decision to come to Union.

“I saw post after post after post saying that this school would never be the same,” Martin said. “There were many people saying it was a really sad day for them.”

Why would college students have such a strong reaction to the loss of an administrative leader?

“As soon as you shake his hand and introduce yourself, he’ll say, ‘It’s a pleasure to know you,’” said Zach Jones, a junior criminal justice major from Arlington, Texas. “He will not forget your name.”

Jones says Oliver even remembered his parents’ names after meeting them only one time. They returned a year later for homecoming.

“I said, ‘Mom and Dad, you remember the president?’ He greeted them as Sam and Amy. I was speechless,” Jones said.

“He wants to know you,” said Natalie Davis, a sophomore biology major from Houston. “He always loves to laugh and hear what you have to say. It’s just great to have a president like that.” 🍌

ETBU AT A GLANCE

Founded in 1912 as College of Marshall

Enrollment: 1,250 students

School Colors: Navy and Gold

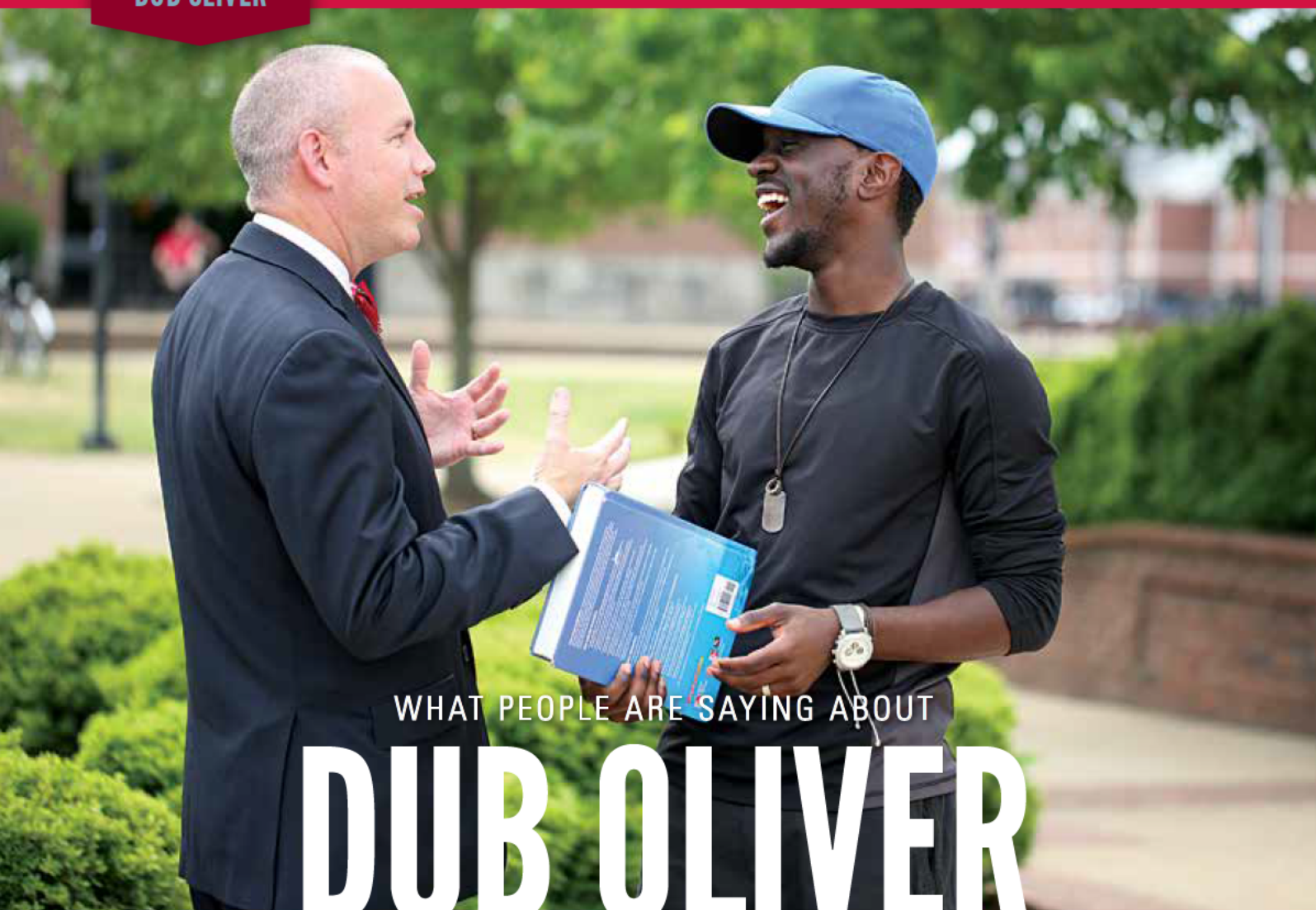
Nickname: Tigers

Programs of Study: 40

Graduate programs: Business Administration, Education, Counseling, Religion

Acceptance rate: 58%

Minority enrollment: 35%



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT

DUB OLIVER

Dub Oliver is an amazingly gifted leader. Because he is an educator by calling, he is committed to excellence in teaching and learning. Because he is highly relational, he is a student magnet. Because he is a convictional Christian, he leads with his theological foot forward. Because he has been a bivocational pastor, he is a faithful churchman.

C. BEN MITCHELL
Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy and Search Committee member, Union University

He came and got some buildings built and some projects completed that had kind of stalled here at ETBU's campus. His energy and his enthusiasm were really a breath of fresh air for this institution and, quite honestly, our city.

CHASE PALMER
Attorney, Marshall, Texas

Dub Oliver is a man who, every time you see him, you feel propped up. He's an encourager. Dub is always the same.

BOB SMITH
The Oliver's' Sunday School teacher at Crossroads Baptist Church, Marshall, Texas

His beliefs are clear and he is decisive in communicating what he believes. He's taught Sunday School and he's preached for us. (Dub and Susie) have been faithful supporters and have become part of the family in our community of faith.

DAVID RICE
Senior pastor, Crossroads, Baptist Church, Marshall, Texas



Web exclusive: See the video "Who is Dub Oliver?" at uu.edu/unionite

He agreed that the executive of the faculty senate should give a report every time that the board of trustees met. What that helped do was create a climate here on campus of openness, transparency and of shared governance. Every step along the way, Dr. Oliver has worked to raise those qualities within our community.

ELIJAH BROWN
Assistant professor of missions, East Texas Baptist University

He's got so much on his plate, and yet he still takes the time to speak to students by name and ask them how they're doing. We've all talked about how he and Susie are so personable and how they want to get to know us.

JENAYE WHITE
Union University senior, public relations major and SGA president, Paducah, Ky.

(Dub) is a person of great integrity, faith, strong theological commitments grounded in Scripture and a love for students. He has served in Christian higher education for many years, and his proven experience will be a strong factor in his ongoing success and leadership at Union University.

ROBERT SLOAN
President, Houston Baptist University and a former Oliver colleague at Baylor University

I had a niece who decided to attend college (at ETBU), and my sister was just so impressed when he met with parents and told them, "If ever you have a concern, a problem or a question, do not hesitate to call me," and gave out his cell phone number. My sister and her husband were so excited that there was someone in charge who took such a personal interest in students.

PAULA NICHOLS
Member, Crossroads Baptist Church, Marshall, Texas

Through periodic encouragement, individuals and groups prayed and God answered those prayers in many ways as the committee worked on. His most important answer to prayer is evidenced by the unanimous and enthusiastic recommendation we bring to you today.

NORMAN O. HILL
Chairman of Union University's Presidential Search Committee, describing how the group arrived at recommending Oliver as the next president.

Prior to his coming to ETBU, the post-graduate schools here were not really excellent. He was instrumental in creating, with the help of the board of trustees, four post-graduate schools. Another one is under consideration. He has grown the university. I think that's an important part of the job of a college president.

RICHARD ANDERSON
Former county judge and ETBU donor, Marshall, Texas

He handles difficult situations with grace. He cares about how difficult decisions impact people. He handles it with a measure of sympathy and care. He doesn't

make promises he can't keep, and he builds trust in people because he does what he says he's going to do.

TOM WEBSTER
Dean, School of Fine Arts, East Texas Baptist University

Dr. Dub auditioned for *Pride and Prejudice* in the fall, and it was just cool to see that our president was involved. He always shows up to the fine arts events, but it was the first time that we really got to be in close contact. He was in the show and involved with us. We got to see into his life. It was really cool to be able to get to see who the president is on a personal level.

ZACH BEARDEN
ETBU sophomore music and worship major and cast member for the fall 2013 production of *Pride and Prejudice*

He did excellently well. For someone who wasn't brought up in the arts, he fit right in and had great energy and great presence. We all had a great time.

TRACI LEDFORD
Director of the campus production of *Pride and Prejudice*, in which Dub Oliver portrayed the character Edward Gardiner

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I met him one time, and the next time I saw him, he knew my name. He'd remembered where I was from, my parents' names; he'd remembered to ask me about my sister.

RACHEL FRANK
ETBU sophomore secondary education and mathematics major

I met him during the cookout we had during Homecoming weekend. He met five or six girls all at once and a short time later, he remembered all of our names. I thought that was very impressive.

HOPE LEWIS
Union University senior, elementary education major, Memphis

Whenever you engage him in deep conversation, he tells you a lot of things that you wouldn't have known that he knew. He's so humble about his intelligence, and he's extremely wise.

HADEN HOLLIS
ETBU senior business major, Kingsport, Tenn. 🇺🇸



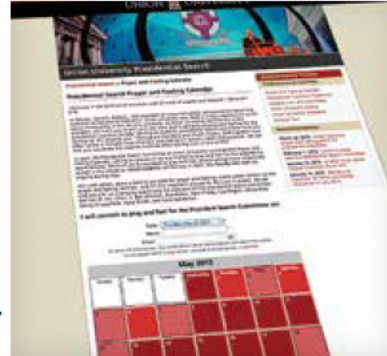
2013

JANUARY 15

President David S. Dockery announces his intention to transition to the role of University Chancellor no later than July 2014.

MARCH 29

Trustee chairman Norman Hill calls on the Union community to commit to days of prayer and fasting to support the search. An online calendar at uu.edu allows for anonymous sign-up, but shows the numbers of people committed for each day of the month. Students are the first group to make commitments.



JUNE 28

Union's presidential search committee reviews more than 1,600 presidential surveys from friends of Union. Within the surveys were about 130 presidential nominations.



SEPTEMBER 27

Physics students honor the Dockery presidency with a launch of his bobblehead likeness into "near space". The statue reached an estimated altitude of about 90,000 feet before parachuting to the ground at an unknown location.

2014

FEBRUARY 10

The presidential search committee recommends East Texas Baptist University President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver as the 16th president of Union University. Oliver meets with the full Board of Trustees, who approve his appointment with a unanimous vote. Oliver's wife Susie and daughter Callie are present for the announcement. The Olivers then meet with faculty, staff and students in Savage Chapel.



MARCH 9-16

The Olivers spend the ETBU spring break week on Union's campus, conducting meetings with campus leaders and house-hunting. They also visit with students during the annual "Be Our Guest" event. Oliver spends time with Randy Davis and other leaders of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and visits the Hendersonville campus.



APRIL 24-25

Oliver participates in his first trustee meeting as president-elect. The Olivers also close on their new home in Jackson.

MAY 7-9

The Olivers return to campus for more meetings and participate in the annual Awards Day service.

TRANSITION TIMELINE

FEBRUARY 1

Union trustees appoint a presidential search committee of nine people who represent faculty, staff, trustees, church leadership, alumni and community leadership.

APRIL

Additional pages are created at uu.edu that included links to a survey for the committee to consider, a video about the search and a position statement for prospective candidates.



AUGUST 23

In his final fall convocation address as president,

David S. Dockery urges the Union community to move forward with confidence "because of the hope God has given to us" in the address, entitled "From Faith to Faith: Revisiting the Great Cloud of Witnesses."



Web exclusive: Hear Dr. Dockery's convocation address at uu.edu/unionite

DECEMBER 2

Chairman Norman Hill indicates the list of potential candidates for president has been narrowed from about 130 to 10 or less. He asks the Union community to pray for wisdom as the final selection is made.

DECEMBER 5

David and Lanese Dockery are honored for 18 years of service to the University during a banquet that was supposed to coincide with Dockery's final trustee meeting the following day. The meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

FEBRUARY 21-22

The Olivers return to campus for Homecoming activities.



FEBRUARY 28

David S. Dockery is introduced as the 15th president of Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill. TIU consists of the Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Trinity College (a liberal arts college), Trinity Graduate School and Trinity Law School.

MARCH 25-26

Oliver is present for site team visit from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as Union completes the reaffirmation process. He also meets with faculty and staff.

APRIL 13-16

Oliver preaches at FBC Jackson on Palm Sunday and then speaks to the Union Auxiliary on April 14. The Olivers also visit the Germantown campus and the Olford Center.



UNION CELEBRATES A HALF-CENTURY OF NURSING EDUCATION



In the early 1960s, students who wanted to become nurses didn't study on college campuses. They learned the profession in hospitals.

So when a few colleges and universities on the west coast began looking into establishing their own nursing education programs, it was a pioneering idea that caught the attention of administrators at Union University.

At the same time, health care leaders in Jackson were calling for larger numbers of trained nurses.

IT BEGAN WITH A CALL FROM THE COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE A NURSING SCHOOL. SOON, THEY WOULD BEGIN TO SUPPORT THE HOSPITALS AND THE COMMUNITY.

"It was a very bold move for our leaders in the late 1950s and early 60s. It was innovative," said Carla Sanderson, former executive vice president for strategic initiatives and provost, as well as the former dean of the School of Nursing.

"It began with a call from the community to provide a nursing school," added Tim Smith, former nursing dean. "Soon, they would begin to support the hospitals and the community."

Those first classes, leading to an associate's degree in nursing, began in 1964. The idea was so new that some were skeptical about whether it could be sustained—even a few of the enrolled students had doubts.

"You had somewhat of a feeling that it might not work," said Dolores Moore, who was among the first students that year. "It was like the new animal came into town. Nobody knew what to expect, including those of us who decided to go."

Moore personifies the significance of that venture—a significance that no one could have understood in 1964. After completing her associate's degree, she went on to earn a B.S. from the University of Illinois and a master's degree in administration from Illinois State.

She started her career as a nurse at Jackson General Hospital, moved away from Jackson and then returned 13 years

later and became a nursing administrator. Prior to her retirement in 1991, she also served as chairwoman of the Board of Nursing of the State of Tennessee.

"In (the 1960s), it was the norm that wives followed their husbands," Moore said, adding that the overwhelming majority of nurses at the time were women. "The bigger cities paid more, and it was very difficult to entice people from Memphis or Nashville where you could find experienced nurses."

With those historic challenges in mind, the current leadership of West Tennessee Healthcare puts great emphasis on the role Union has played in the hospital's growth in the past 50 years.

"Union has absolutely been a foundational block for health care delivery, particularly in the nursing program," said West Tennessee Healthcare Chief Operating Officer J. R. Ross, who graduated from Union in 1987. "The education Union provides to its students is absolutely remarkable and unparalleled by any other educational institution locally."

Union nursing programs combine quality faculty members with state-of-the-art simulation labs. Sanderson credits Smith with having the vision to incorporate simulation, in which students are faced with the same critical decisions

that could make a life-or-death difference in a clinical setting.

"We've had alums, after experiencing simulation education, call back and say, two months out of school, 'I just experienced my first code, and I was the most prepared person in that code,'" Sanderson said. "That is a profound difference from what those of us who did not have such (simulation) opportunities experienced." "Students are typically visual learners," Smith said. "Students do make mistakes, but the opportunity to discuss those mistakes and not repeat those mistakes makes a big difference."

Haley Bell, a senior nursing student from Memphis, agrees that her preparation for practice gives her confidence. But she admits that at her age, it's difficult to comprehend the significance of 50 years of nursing education at Union.

"It's incredible to think about how many patients have been affected because of the education provided by Union," Bell said. "These professors care with all of their hearts about each and every student." 🌸





Breaking the Silence

BY ERIN ROACH

UNION LAUNCHES THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR THE DEAF

It should have been a moment of unbridled joy and celebration.

Vesta Sauter remembers the day her deaf father went forward during the invitation at church. He wanted to make a public profession of his desire to enter full-time ministry.

But the family's joy quickly turned to disappointment when the pastor let her father know that there was no way for deaf people to receive theological training, and therefore they couldn't be formally certified for ministry work.

That disappointment, nearly half a century ago, led to a firm resolve in Vesta's life.

She decided then that she would stand in the gap between the hearing and the deaf and work toward solving the problem. Union University is now a partner in that resolve.

Union is launching a program to provide theological education for deaf missionaries and church planters.

Through a partnership with the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, the Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf, Brentwood Baptist Church and Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church, deaf believers can receive customized theological training for missions and ministry and earn a Certificate in Theology Education.

"A significant number of the world's unreached people are deaf," said Carla Sanderson, Union's provost emeritus. "The CTE is giving deaf missionaries the tools they need to share the gospel through story-telling techniques so that deaf people can know the good news."

An estimated 35 million people in the world are deaf, and each day 750 of them die without knowing Jesus. With no deaf-centric theological education available, some deaf Southern Baptists called to reach those who share their heart language have been unable to meet IMB requirements for career missionary status.

Sanderson said she believes God will use the center "to reach those millions of people that we've heard about today who need to hear the gospel story."



ABOVE: Union Provost Emeritus Carla Sanderson (right) speaks at an April 13 service at Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church that celebrated a partnership to provide theological education to deaf missionaries and church planters.

LEFT: Aric Randolph, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church, speaks to the congregation at Brentwood Baptist Church.

Giving deaf missionaries the tools they need to share the gospel through story-telling techniques so that deaf people can know the good news.

Six students are enrolled in five classes taught in American Sign Language by fluent ASL signers: Old Testament, New Testament, biblical doctrine, biblical hermeneutics and missions/church planting.

For years, Brentwood Baptist's vision has been to become a global equipping hub for deaf missionaries, church planters, pastors and other men and women who want to receive deaf-centric theological training for missions and ministry.

Vesta and her husband Mark Sauter serve with IMB in creating global strategies to reach deaf people with the gospel.

"This is an opportunity, I believe, to prepare personnel for effective, practical church planting, evangelism and the reproduction of indigenous leaders," Mark Sauter said. "I really don't know how much better it gets than where we are today, and I'm very excited about the opportunity to help launch this."

Grant Lovejoy, IMB's director of storying strategies, said the Sauters helped IMB staff "realize that deaf people are part of a deaf culture that is unique and distinctive."

"You really need teachers who understand deaf culture well [and] teach in the way that deaf people learn best, through stories and through lots of interaction and dialogue, through role-play and through active learning — learning by doing," Lovejoy said.

Aric Randolph, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church, said through an interpreter, "To be totally honest, we're starting with five classes, but my vision is that we could become a four-year college."

"That's my goal, my dream, my passion, for deaf people to have the opportunity to receive the training they need, that they could be church planters, they could be pastors, leaders," Randolph said. ■



greenlee · delk · williams

Each academic year at Union University presents a unique set of challenges. But no one could have anticipated the painful and life-changing hardships that have come in 2013-14 following the deaths of two Union students and a third former student with strong ties to the Jackson campus.

Olivia Greenlee, a senior music education major, was found dead in her vehicle on the Luther Hall parking lot Feb. 12. Three days later, her fiancée Charles Pittman, a senior Christian ministries major, was arrested and charged with her murder.

On Jan. 29, former Union art student Beverly Delk died following brief

complications associated with acute leukemia. Delk had transferred to Middle Tennessee State University a few months earlier, but still had many active friendships on the Union campus.

In the early hours of Sept. 21, senior nursing major Leighton Williams died from injuries sustained in a weather-related car accident as she traveled from Jackson to her family home near Nashville.

The Union community continues to offer prayer support to all the friends and families connected to these tragedies.

What follows is a closer look at each well-lived life, as seen by fellow Unionites.



Olivia Greenlee (right), with fellow student Hannah Strickland

OLIVIA GREENLEE

Union University students, faculty and staff gathered for a special prayer service Feb. 14 in G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel as they mourned the loss of Union student Olivia Greenlee.

"Reeling, staggering, speechless, grieving: These are words that describe us this week," said Todd Brady, vice president for university ministries, during the service. "We have not known what to pray for as we ought, and we have trusted that the Spirit has interceded for us with groanings that are too deep for words."

"Many of us are baffled, in disbelief, sad and grieving, yet grieving not without hope because of our faith and our confidence in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ," former president David S. Dockery said. "The Bible tells us to weep with those who weep. And across campus this week, there have been plenty of tears."

Union's Zeta Tau Alpha chapter, of which Greenlee was a member, gathered to read Scripture, while the music department met to sing and share a meal.

"As we move into this weekend together, as we move into this semester together and as we move into the rest of our days, let us continue our turning to God and our turning to one another," Brady said. "God has given us himself, and he has given us one another. In the midst of our grief, let us turn to these gifts from God."

Friends remember Greenlee as a cheerful, carefree person who loved to sing and laugh.

The department of music and Zeta Tau Alpha hosted a benefit concert and silent auction May 10 to raise money for a scholarship that would honor Greenlee's memory.

BEVERLY DELK

Delk transferred following an active freshman year (2012-13) at Union. She served on freshman council, joined the Kappa Delta sorority and had applied to be a Life Group leader. But relatively few pictures of her can be found.

"That's because she was always taking pictures of everyone else," said Elizabeth Oakes, former president of Union's Kappa Delta chapter. "She was enthusiastic from day one. Beverly brought spunk and sincerity to our chapter and had a beautiful laugh that I will never forget."

Her death followed by only one day a diagnosis of acute leukemia.

"From the first day I met Beverly, I knew Christ was the most important person in her life," said Emily Russell, the current Kappa Delta president. "She loved life, loved people and most importantly loved God. Everything she did, she did with all of her heart, mind, body and spirit. Her laugh was contagious, her smile lit up a room and



Beverly Delk

everything about her demonstrated joy that can only be known through a deep relationship with Jesus Christ."

LEIGHTON WILLIAMS

For those who knew her best, Leighton Williams will be remembered for the joyful way she lived.

"Leighton was one of those, she walked in a room and you knew she was there, because she brought joy to everyone she was around," said Savannah Hari, president of Union's Chi Omega chapter, of which Williams was a member. "She was such a perfect, perfect picture of a friend and a sister."



Leighton Williams (right), with her sister Ashton.

About 300 students, faculty and staff gathered in front of White Hall Sept. 23 for a prayer service.

LeeAnne Wilhite, assistant professor of nursing, said from the moment she met Williams during orientation, she noticed how "she was just joyous all the time."

"You can teach people the skill of nursing," Wilhite said. "And you can try to instill a passion and a love for what you're doing. Leighton would just absorb that—every ounce of it. She was a nurse from the beginning. She had a true passion for it."

Hillarie Henderson, a junior from Jonesboro, Ark., and a close friend of Williams, described her as "my calm during my storms."

"She never had a bad thing to say about anybody," Henderson said. "She never picked sides. You know, girl drama—she never wanted to pick sides. She was everyone's friend. She never met a stranger." 🌸

The Union community continues to offer prayer support to all the friends and families connected to these tragedies.



Christian service involves both calling and sending. For years, President David S. Dockery challenged his administrators to be open to God's call, even if it meant leaving Union for another place of service.

In recent years, former Dean of Instruction Barbara McMillin has become the president of Blue Mountain College in Mississippi and former Dean of the School of Theology and Missions Gregory Thornbury has assumed the presidency of The King's College in New York.

Additional opportunities have opened in recent months. Here are a few of the leaders who are assuming new positions in higher education. Each has had a key role in the growth and development of Union University's Christ-centered excellence.

Called to Serve

UNION ADMINISTRATORS DEPART FOR NEW CHALLENGES

GENE FANT

Union's executive vice president for academic administration, who also serves as professor of English, announced his resignation in order to assume the role of provost at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Palm Beach Atlantic offers about 50 undergraduate majors and graduate programs in business, leadership, psychology and pharmacy.

"Gene Fant has become one of the finest ambassadors of Christian higher education to be found anywhere in the country," Dockery said. "His commitments to authentic, Christ-centered higher education, his dedication to the liberal arts, his faithful churchmanship and his loyalty to the core values of Union University have made him a very special leader on the Union campus for more than a decade."

Fant came to Union in 2002 from Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss.

"I leave behind wonderful friends and colleagues," Fant said, "But I am excited about joining a vibrant sister institution that is on the doorstep of one of the world's great cities, Miami."

RICH GRIMM

Union's senior vice president for enrollment services has resigned in order to accept a position at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill.

Grimm will join Dockery, who assumes the Trinity presidency in June, as the institution's senior vice president in the areas of enrollment, university services and strategic initiatives.

"Rich Grimm is a talented and multi-gifted leader, who has invested himself for a decade in the life of Union University," Dockery said. "He is recognized across the world of Christian higher education as one of the truly outstanding enrollment officers because of the quality of his work at Union, Palm Beach Atlantic University and Criswell College."

Grimm said that he is "profoundly grateful for the opportunity that was ours to serve" at Union and that he is hopeful for the future of the university under the leadership of incoming president Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver. "May the Lord continue to bless the work of this great university for his glory," Grimm said.

CARLA SANDERSON

Union's provost and executive vice president for strategic initiatives has announced her retirement from the University and has been named vice president for accreditation and professional regulation for Chamberlain College of Nursing.

Headquartered in Chicago, Chamberlain offers a three-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at 13 campuses and online post-licensure nursing education undergraduate and graduate programs.

Sanderson has been associated with Union University for 32 years as a student,

faculty member, and administrator.

"It is nearly impossible to calculate the significant influence of Carla D. Sanderson on the life and work of Union University over the past three decades," Dockery said. "Through her roles as faculty member, dean, provost and executive vice president, Dr. Sanderson has made a remarkable contribution to almost all aspects of this institution."

Sanderson and her family will remain in Jackson, where she will work from home and travel occasionally in her new role.

"The greatest privilege of my career

came when David Dockery appointed me to the position of university provost," Sanderson said. "Year after year, plan after plan, with new convocation challenges, new programs, new campuses, new faculty and staff, new buildings and new initiatives, I have grown in the honor that has been mine as an academic and operational leader at Union University."

Sanderson and her husband Larry are members of First Baptist Church in Jackson and have three sons, two of whom are Union graduates.



Fant



Grimm



Sanderson



Smith

I leave behind wonderful friends and colleagues, but I am excited about joining a vibrant sister institution...

GENE FANT

TIM SMITH

The dean of the School of Nursing at Union University since 2005 has resigned in order to accept a position as vice president of strategic initiatives and special associate to the provost at Anderson University in Anderson, S.C.

"Tim Smith is recognized as one of the premier leaders in health care education

in this region," Dockery said. "His visionary and entrepreneurial skills have energized and advanced the outstanding nursing program at Union University over the past decade."

"It has been an honor and blessing to serve in Dr. Dockery's administration, partnering with leaders of the university,

amazing faculty and staff of the School of Nursing and many others of this institution in serving the Lord through the lives of the students," Smith said. "My wife and I will always cherish the memories and relationships from our time of serving at Union University and in the community as God sends us on a new journey." ❖



Homecoming 2014

A celebration of community

A community picnic, a 50 year reunion and a flag raising highlighted Union's observance of Homecoming 2014 in late February.

The picnic was a large pregame tailgate party in which students were served by faculty and staff. The event, named "Union Strong: A Celebration of Community," attracted a large crowd and featured fellowship with president-elect Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver and his wife Susie.

One day earlier, several Union alumni were honored alongside students from the class of 1964, who were recognized during a chapel service for their contributions in a variety of fields and occupations.

Charles Fowler ('86), received the Distinguished Service Award. Fowler served as a Union University administrator and faculty member before he became senior pastor at

Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown, Tenn.

Kevin Ezell ('85) received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Ezell served as a pastor for churches in Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Texas, and he currently is the president of the North American Mission Board.

Will Gray ('02) received the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award posthumously. Gray died in 2013 from cancer. He began his music career at Union, and his songs were licensed for companies such as Playstation and Motorola. In addition to serving as a songwriting instructor for the Contemporary Music Center at Martha's Vineyard, Mass., he also was an award-winning film director.

Bob Pavelonis, a former member of the class of 1963, received the Honorary Alumnus Award. He transferred to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale but remained involved with his Union class through the years. Pavelonis has served as an English teacher and coached baseball, basketball, football and golf.

Union also dedicated a new flag display at the main (western) entrance to campus, along Pleasant Plains Road. The Class of 1963 raised money for the project and for an endowed scholarship fund at Union.

It's the second major campus improvement funded by contributions from the class of '63. The fountain in front of the Barefoot Student Union Building was a class gift to the University in 1988. ■



Web exclusive: Additional photo galleries and video from the Homecoming chapel are available at uu.edu/unionite



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OLD SCHOOL

ALUMNI NEWS

60's | SIXTIES |

Bo O'Brien ('69) recently received awards from USTA Kentucky,



a tennis association. Bo was named volunteer of the year and is chairman of the Elizabethtown Tennis Commission that received the Community Tennis Association of the Year Award.

80's | EIGHTIES |

Lynn Gibson ('83) recently became vice president of enrollment services at Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Miss. He and his wife, Paula, live in Selmer, Tenn. and have two sons, Eric and Mark. Lynn and Paula also have two grandchildren, Elijah and Sophie. Paula teaches fifth grade at Toone Elementary School and is completing her 30th year of teaching.

Lynn is a former Union University staff member from 1987-1996.

Tammy Thompson Holland ('88) works at the Texas Juvenile



Justice Department as the agency's manager of family, community and chaplaincy programs. She is a contributing

author to the book *You and Your Nonprofit* and a conference speaker on topics related to volunteer administration.

Natalie Wade ('88) is publishing her first children's book, *Lily's Feather Kite*, which is scheduled to be released this fall.

Marvin and Katharine

Dickerson ('69) returned home to Tennessee following their retirement from civil service with the U.S. Department of Defense with duty stations in Germany, South Carolina and Alaska.

70's | SEVENTIES |

Sarah Lee Moore ('73) retired in June 2013 after 34 years as a coach and administrator in the athletic department at Missouri University of Science and Technology. She is currently working part time in admissions as the California Regional Admissions Counselor.

Ruth Page Woodall ('77)

received the American Chemical Society's "Helen Free Award for Public Outreach," which is the society's highest public service award. Woodall spent most of her career teaching high school chemistry, and currently serves as associate vice president of education and workforce development for the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

David and Diane Black aid Hendersonville campus

Laboratory technology on the Hendersonville campus got a boost late last year from a three-year partnership between Union University and Aegis Sciences Corp.

Aegis is a forensic toxicology and health care sciences laboratory headquartered in Nashville. The funding from Aegis that's part of the agreement will improve the science laboratory, which is now named in honor of the company.

Union's commitment to faith and excellence in education sparked an interest from founder and CEO David Black, along with his wife Diane Black, who serves in the U.S. Congress as a representative from Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

"The value of Union is in not only the education quality of their students but also the emphasis on character and Christian values," David Black said. "The Aegis culture is the foundation of our success. And our business culture is based on traditional Christian values."

Union University Hendersonville's science laboratory will be used by more than Union students, according to Charles Lea, executive director of Union University



Hendersonville. The donation will provide high school students an opportunity to use the laboratory for scientific demonstrations and experiments. Local nurses also will have access to the laboratory for additional training.

"Both Congressman Black and Dr. Black are active community leaders and generous supporters for the development of science education in our area," Lea said. "They are keenly supportive of and interested in anything that advances the study of the sciences."

Union representatives are hopeful that the relationship with Aegis can continue long after the three-year agreement is completed. ■

90's | NINETIES |

Bert Montgomery ('90) has written his third book, *Going Back*



to *New Orleans: Post-Katrina Re-connections and Recollections*, which is now available from Nurturing Faith

Publishing. The book is part oral history and part memoir. All author royalties go directly to the United Way of Southeast Louisiana. For more information, visit bertmontgomery.com.

Timothy Hooker ('93) recently moved from Incheon, South Korea,



to begin working as the ESL program director at Campbellsville (Ky.) University. He and his wife, Gana, reside in Campbellsville.

Maris J. Weiner ('95) was included in the 2013 Pennsylvania Rising Stars —the top up-and-coming lawyers in the commonwealth. Weiner is an



associate with the Philadelphia law firm Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP. She specializes in family law.

Ashley Tucker ('97) and her husband, Jimmy, recently moved from Buford, Ga., to Waianae, Hawaii, to work at the Pu'u Kahea Conference Center of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention.

Mandy White ('98) was recently promoted to senior vice president at The Jackson Chamber of Commerce in Jackson, Tenn. White joined the chamber staff in 1999.

00's | TWO THOUSANDS |

Justin Phillips ('00) graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., in June 2013 with a Ph.D. in Christian Ethics.

Kathy O. Lofton ('00) is the new program coordinator for the Healthy Shelby project at Healthy Memphis Common Table, a non-profit. Lofton previously worked for the BlueCross



BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust and Tennessee Health Foundation. She received her MPA in 2007 from the City University of New York's Baruch College of Public Affairs.

Stefanie Edwards ('00) serves as the marketing director of The Heart Gallery of Middle Tennessee, helping foster children find permanent homes. For additional information about the organization, visit heartgalleryoftn.com or email Edwards at thinkingstef@gmail.com.

Kelli White Deere ('00, '02 and '10) has served as the director



of the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center since May 2012. She graduated with her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Union in 2010.

Melody Maxwell ('01) has accepted a new position as an assistant professor of Christian Studies at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas.

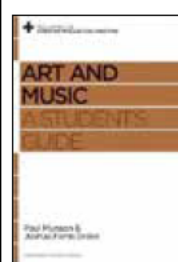
Bethany Clark ('01) and her husband, Shawn, live in Andrews,



N.C., and work for Snowbird Outfitters, a youth camp. They have

four boys: Ty (7), Gabe (5), Luke (2) and Levi (2). Bethany said camp life is year-round these days, but her family is blessed to be a part of the gospel-centered camp. swoutfitters.com

Joshua H. Drake ('01) is associate professor of music and humanities at Grove City College in Pennsylvania. Along with colleague



Paul Munson, a former Union faculty member, Drake has written a book entitled *Art and Music: a Student's Guide*. The book,

published by Crossway, is part of the series *Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition* edited by former president David S. Dockery.

Chris Haak ('02) of Milan, Tenn. was promoted to lead events specialist in May 2013 after passing the Food Safety Certification exam. He has worked with Crossmark for more than a year.

Jeremy Stephan ('03) graduated from St. Louis University School of Law with a Juris Doctorate on May 16, 2013. His degree focuses were in business transactions and taxation. He and his wife, Melissa, live in St. Charles, Mo.

Shawn Allred ('05) is currently serving as the pastor of First Baptist Church in Bruceton, Tenn. Since graduating from Union, he has earned his Masters of Theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Shannon Kish ('05) received her MSW from Alabama A&M



University on May 3, 2013. She began working as a therapist and forensic interviewer for the Morgan County Child Advocacy Center on May 1, 2013.

David Clark wins poetry prize

Union University alumnus **David Clark ('05)** recently won the Miller Williams Arkansas Poetry Prize for his poems.

Clark, a Lilly Postdoctoral Fellow at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind., received the prize for a collection of poems titled *Interview Conducted through the Man-Eater's Throat*. The poems are scheduled to be published in the spring of 2015.

At Union, Clark excelled in both poetry and fiction writing as an undergraduate, said Bobby Rogers, professor of English and writer in

residence. In addition to serving on the staff of *The Torch*, Union's literary magazine, Clark received the Helen Blythe Creative Writing Award, given each year to a graduating senior deemed to be the best creative writer.

"David was a voracious reader and thinker, and his writing reflected that he was keen in his observations but also careful in his thinking," said Gene Fant, professor of English and chairman of the English department when Clark was a student at Union. "Awards like (David's poetry prize) are a kind of external affirmation of the

outstanding preparation students receive, positioning them for their calling as writers."

Clark's poems have been featured in a variety of publications, including *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Antioch Review* and *Yale Review*. For more information about Clark's writings, visit georgedavidclark.com. ✱



Marriages

Carol (Morris) Weaver ('85) and John R. Weaver II were married on



August 31, 2013, in West Lafayette, Ind.

Todd DeLaney ('99) married Heather Melendez DeLaney on October 12, 2013.



Bethany Thrower Williams ('99) married Daniel P. Williams March 2, 2013. They met at Moody

Memorial Church in Chicago where they are both active in the music ministry.

Robert Clifford ('05) and Jennifer Clifford, Esqs. were married Nov. 11, 2012, at The Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station in Haddam,

Conn. Both will practice corporate law in Boston.

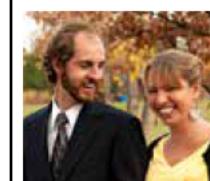
Laurie Kay Henry ('08) and David Franklin Montgomery were



married Nov. 3, 2012, in Nashville at Cross Point Church. Their reception was at the historic

Union Station. They met at work, Palm International, Inc., where David is the shipping coordinator and Laurie is the graphic designer. Laurie also is the owner and designer of Fanciful Ink, an event and stationary design company.

Mary Alisa Techentin ('11) is to be married to Matthew Ducheck



of Crystal Lake, Ill. Matthew is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Mary Alisa works as a teacher in Boulder and Matthew is an aerospace engineer in Denver. A summer wedding is anticipated.



Brittany Johnson Campbell ('12) married **Wayne Campbell ('05)** on March 16, 2013.

Brandi Stewart Callery ('13) and **Robert Callery ('12)** were



married July 27, 2013, at Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson,

Tenn. They reside in Jackson, where they both work as nurses at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. Robert is continuing his education at Union University. He is pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing in the Family Nurse Practitioner track that he will complete in December 2014.

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

David Leisey ('13) and **Holly AJ Leisey ('13)** were married June



22, 2013, in Denver, Colo. They now reside in Jackson, Tenn. David is teaching first grade in the Jackson-Madison County School System, and Holly is working at

Union in the Department of Sociology and Family Studies.



Beth Byrd Knoll ('13) and **Nicholas Knoll** were married Oct. 12, 2013, at Salem A.R. Presbyterian Church in Atoka, Tenn.

Births

Ashley Parker Tucker ('97) and **Jimmy Tucker** welcomed George



Preston Tucker on April 30, 2013, at 6:22 p.m. He weighed 7 lb., 6 oz. and was 21 1/4 in. long.

Amy Hammons Strawn ('98) and her husband, **Dudley**, are



pleased to announce the birth of their son, **Dudley Turner Strawn, IV (Turner)**, born Aug. 9, 2012. Turner weighed 7 lb., 6 oz. and was 19 1/2 in. long. Amy and Dudley are

so thankful to God for the baby boy He has entrusted to them. Amy, Dudley and Turner reside in Grapevine, Texas.

Jeff Shands ('99) and his wife, **Sarah**, proudly welcomed their third



child, **Callie Grace**, born on March 5, 2013. Callie has two older siblings: **Preston (8)** and **Emily (5)**. Jeff is a teacher and coach at DeSoto Central High School in Southaven, Miss., and Sarah is employed by AICOMP Consulting in Memphis. They reside in Southaven.

Beth (Hill) Marks ('01) and **Logan Marks** are proud to announce



the arrival of their first child, **Sarah Elizabeth Marks**, on May 13, 2013. She weighed 8 lb., 4 oz. and was 20 in. long.

Stephen Wilson ('03 and '11) and **Megan Fuller Wilson ('04 and '10)**



announced the birth of **Olivia Joy Wilson**, born June 27, 2012. She weighed 7 lb., 5 oz. and was 21 in. long.

Andrea Smith ('04), **Harold Smith** and their two sons **William (6)** and **John (3)** welcomed twins into their family, **Thomas** and **Peter**, on Aug. 24, 2012. Harold is a systems engineer in Nashville for Education Networks of America, and Andrea is a homemaker. They live in Dickson, Tenn. andreamsmith81@gmail.com

Support the Bulldogs in Style!

The online Bulldog Shoppe is expanding. Expect a greater selection of Union gifts and merchandise from LifeWay Christian Resources at uu.edu/bulldogshoppe.

Plans are also underway to remodel the campus bookstore on the first floor of Hammons Hall. Look for an expanded Union section of the store when the construction is finished in late summer.

Go Bulldogs! 🐾



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Memoriam

John G. Dickinson ('48) passed away Dec. 9, 2013, in Jackson. He was 87 years old. Mr. Dickinson served as a Union University trustee and funded a scholarship at the University in honor of his late parents. He is preceded in death by Virginia ('49), his wife of 64 years. They met as Union freshmen and went on to serve churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia and Louisiana through the ministries of education and music. In a 2004 *Unionite* story, Mr. Dickinson was quoted recalling his childhood during the Great Depression in rural Madison County and the

subsequent years as a student at Union when money was scarce. He expressed gratitude for help from donors whom he had never met: "We feel like somebody was responsible for [Virginia and me] being at Union. I want to be a little bit a part of somebody else's experience."

Virginia Dickinson ('49) passed away Oct. 27, 2013. She was 86 years old. Mrs. Dickinson was an



active member of Woodland Baptist Church in Brownsville, Tenn., where she had key roles in the Women's Missionary Union and the choir. Mrs. Dickinson

was a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority while a student at Union and went on to a teaching career in which she specialized in helping students with learning disabilities. She was also active as a volunteer worker at Union, alongside her husband John.

Marvin Fitts ('53) passed away Dec. 20, 2013, in Cordova. He was 87



years old. He and his wife Jean ('49) served for many years as Southern Baptist missionaries in Costa Rica, Peru

and Mexico. The couple retired to Bartlett in 1990 but continued to minister at both Ellendale Baptist Church and *La Buena Esperanza* (The Good Hope) Hispanic Baptist Church. The couple donated about 100 pre-Columbian pottery artifacts

W. David Cooper ('42)

W. David Cooper passed away on May 31, 2013, in Bolivar, Tenn. He was 91 years old. The longtime



David Cooper in 2008, with his son Tom and his wife Margaret

Bolivar minister also was a retired captain from the U.S. Navy, where served for 29 years. Union conferred a bachelor's degree to Rev. Cooper in 1942, the university's education service award in 2000 and an honorary

doctorate in 2001. "David Cooper is one of the most kind, caring, gentle and good men that I have ever had the privilege of knowing," said David S. Dockery, who helped officiate at Rev. Cooper's funeral service. Rev. Cooper is survived by a son, Thomas Cooper, a granddaughter, two brothers and two sisters. The Cooper family contributed to the building of Bowld Commons on the Jackson campus, where a room is named in their honor. The family has requested that gifts to Union in memory of David Cooper be designated for the David Cooper Legacy Fund, established in 2008 by Thomas Cooper to honor his father. 🍷

Heather Olford

Heather Olford passed away Dec. 21, 2013, in Memphis. She was 89 years old. She



and her late husband Stephen founded the Olford Center for Biblical Preaching in 1988, and the center became part of Union University in 2007. Mrs. Olford served on the Union University Foundation Board and continued the legacy of her husband, who

had a profound influence on Billy Graham and other evangelical preachers of his time. David S. Dockery said, "Heather Olford was a faithful and winsome ambassador for Christ around the globe. In recent years, she similarly became a loyal supporter of the work of Union University. While she will be greatly missed by many, we give thanks to God for her life and ministry." Mrs. Olford was a member of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova. Family members request that gifts in her memory be directed to the Stephen Olford Center, 4000 Riverdale Road, Memphis, TN, 38115, where they will be used to train preachers and teachers of the Word of God. 🍷

Memoriam

William (Will) Lee Gray ('02)

William (Will) Lee Gray passed away on July 26, 2013 in Mesa, Ariz. He was 33 years old. Mr. Gray was recruited to play basketball at Union, and he attended the University on an athletic scholarship. He was also a talented musician and vocalist, and founded the band *Scratch Track* while a Union student. The band toured nationwide for two years. In 2007, he released his initial solo album entitled *Introducing Will Gray*. He also directed a documentary entitled *Broke** that received the Special Jury Prize for Most Original Vision at the Nashville Film Festival. Gray signed with Warner-Chappell Music in 2011, and his original songs have been

recorded and performed by top artists such as Blake Shelton. Mr. Gray released an EP entitled *The Renegade* with Reva Williams in 2012. He had returned to Union a number of times for performances, most recently a concert in Barefoots Joe in 2011. He received a cancer diagnosis in October 2012 and underwent surgery the following month. Mr. Gray wrote this on his blog shortly after the surgery: "My exact recovery time after surgery is unknown, but expected to be a gradual process. Yet, each day, I will fight. I will LIVE and pray in thankfulness for continued



grace and mercy." He is survived by his wife **Angie ('03)**, whom he met while a student at Union, his parents, Johnny and Barbara Gray of Paris, Tenn., two brothers and a sister. The family asks that contributions be sent to help defray medical expenses. Online contributions can be made at goteamgray.com/gifts. 🍷

to Union University's Summar Library in 2010. They had collected the pieces during their time in Peru. The display features archeological finds from about 300 BC to 1534 AD. Mr. Fitts is survived by his wife Jean, two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Bert "Junior" Daugherty ('55) passed away on July 26, 2013, in



Lewisville, N.C. He was 78. Mr. Daugherty came to Union University to play basketball and was named Most Valuable Player during his time on the team. He was active in church life, serving at various times as a Sunday school teacher, trustee and deacon. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Sylvia, and two daughters.

Don Holifield ('60) passed away on August 2, 2012, in Knoxville. He



was 75 years old. Originally from Three Way, Mr. Holifield majored in mathematics at Union and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He served as director of economic development and general manager of the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. In 2000, he retired after 20 years as secretary-manager of the Tennessee Valley Fair. He is survived by his wife Janis, two children and three grandchildren.



John Dale Enoch ('64) died March 23, 2013, in Conway, Ark., of congestive heart failure that was

complicated by prostate cancer. While at Union, Mr. Enoch was editor of the *Cardinal & Cream* and a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He is survived by Joan, his wife of 46 years, and other family members. Enoch had an extensive career with the *Commercial Appeal* and as executive director of the Arkansas One-Call System.

Carey Maurice "Johnny" Johnson ('81) passed away Nov. 16, 2013. He was 54. Mr. Johnson graduated from Bolivar High School, Union University and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. Johnson was serving as interim pastor at Beech Bluff Baptist Church in Beech Bluff, Tenn. Johnson is survived by his wife, **Tina Graves Johnson ('82)**, as well as two daughters, Hillary and Brittney.

Johnnie Floriene Williams Byrd passed away Dec. 22, 2013, in

Nashville. She was 88 years old. Mrs. Byrd was kindergarten director at West Jackson Baptist Church, where her late husband Daniel Q. Byrd, Jr. was pastor. Mr. Byrd was an emeritus trustee at Union. The David Q. and Floriene W. Byrd Memorial Scholarship was established to help students planning to enter the ministry. Family members ask that gifts in Mrs. Byrd's memory be directed to that fund in care of Union University.

Pete Wilson passed away Jan. 24, 2014, in Jackson. He was 94 years old. Mr. Wilson was a Union University trustee and founded Machine Tool and Supply Corp. in Jackson. He was an active member of West Jackson Baptist Church for more than 70 years. He is survived by two sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Family members ask that memorial gifts be sent to West Jackson Baptist Church building fund or Union University. 🍷

Bullpups

1. Brighton Daniel Edwards, born May 24, 2012, to Stefanie Morris Edwards ('00).

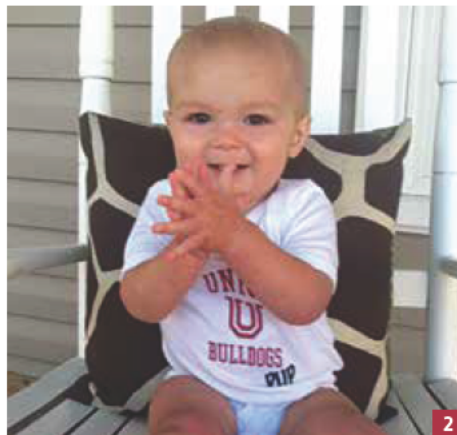
2. Asher Matthew Winkelman, born Nov. 11, 2011, is the child of Laura (Crabb) Winkelman ('01) and Chris Winkelman ('01).

3. Turner Strawn, born Aug. 9, 2012, to Amy Hammons Strawn ('98) and Dudley Strawn.



4. Caleb Timothy Hutto, born Dec. 22, 2012, is the son of Janelle Musser Hutto ('07) and Justin Hutto ('07).

5. Olivia Joy Wilson, born June 27, 2012, to Stephen Wilson ('03, '11) and Megan Fuller Wilson ('04 and '10). She weighed 7 lb., 5 oz. and was 21 in. long.



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Final Frame

Storm clouds roll in while the sun sets on Miller Tower at the end of the spring semester.

photo by Kathleen Murray '05

