

SUMMER 2015

# UNIONITE



THE UNION UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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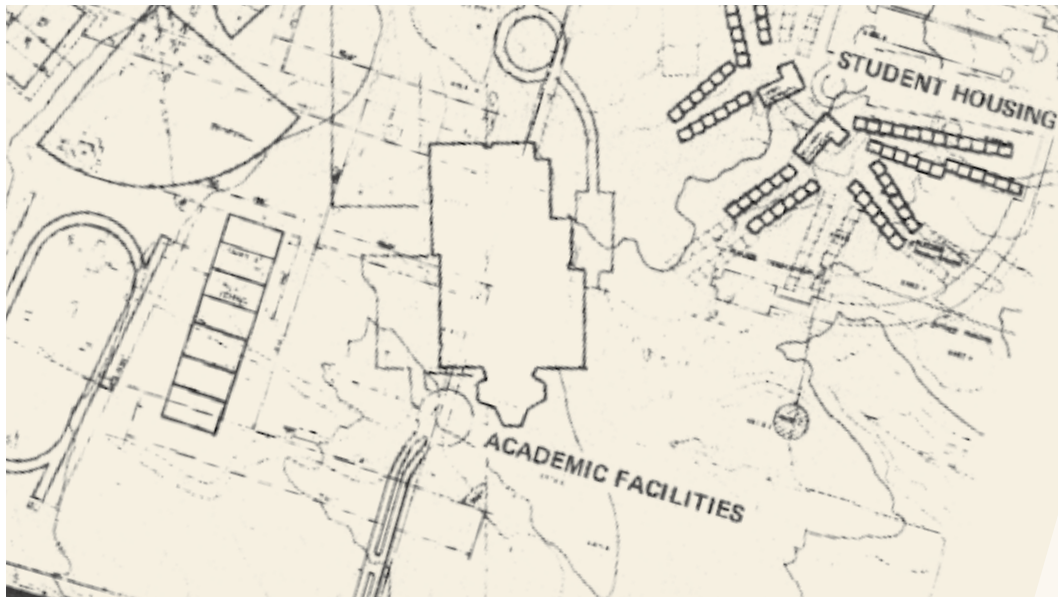
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*Photo by Kristi Woody*

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## UNIONITE

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FSC FPO

## From the President

I wish you could see Union as I have the opportunity to see it! It is a blessing to meet alumni through the decades (those who graduated in the 1950s to those who graduated in the last couple of years) whose appreciation for Union grows with each year that passes; parents who see the transformation in their sons and daughters because of Union; Jacksonians who see Union as the crown jewel of the Hub City; people throughout West Tennessee and the Mid South who have such deep appreciation and respect for Union; faculty and staff members who genuinely live out their callings as Christian educators and are sincerely committed to Union's mission; and amazing students who love all that they are experiencing within Union's community.

If you had the chance to hear the stories I hear and see the things I see and experience the things I experience, I know you would be as encouraged as I am. I know you would join with me in praising God for his favor and blessing!

Union is a special place, a place deeply committed to living our motto—Religio et Eruditio—the integration of faith in Jesus Christ and excellence in academic pursuits.

It is hard to believe that it has been one year since beginning at Union. Hearing some of the freshman students (class of 2018) sum up the year, I can echo their sentiments—thankful God led them to Union; overwhelmingly blessed by the community of friends and faculty around them; a bit amazed at how much they have grown and changed; and already looking forward to next year.

As you read through this issue of the *Unionite*, we have tried to give you a glimpse of some of the great things happening at Union. Be encouraged, share a good word about Union with someone else and pray for Union. The task remains, as always, to affirm and focus the Union mission, to see God active in all its parts and to sustain faithfully the ethical, spiritual and intellectual foundations of a truly great Christian liberal arts institution.

*May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands. Psalm 90:17*

Joyfully,

*Samuel W. Oliver*  
Dub



### DEPARTMENTS

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## Union to launch EDGE program for students with intellectual, developmental disabilities

Young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities now have an educational option available through Union's new EDGE program.

The Union EDGE will be a two-year certificate program beginning this fall that will focus on developing communication skills and job skills training. EDGE is an acronym for Employment training, Daily living skills, Godly focus, Educational enrichment.

opportunities for people with disabilities. The program at Union will serve students ages 18-26 who have completed high school and who have a documented intellectual or developmental disability.

The program, part of Union's College of Education and Human Studies, will encourage increased independent-living skills, with a focus toward career development and employment. Similar programs are offered at such schools as Vanderbilt University and Clemson University.

Ann Singleton, associate dean of education at Union, was one of the leaders in getting the program established at Union.

"With Union EDGE, Union University has the opportunity to extend its mission to an underserved population of students," Singleton said. "Union has a unique culture where teaching and learning is explored and championed in ways that go beyond a typical university classroom."

Singleton said the immersion of EDGE students within the Union community "will enhance our tradition of faith, learning and service."

The program will be either residential or non-residential, depending upon the needs of students, though Graves said socialization is a key component to the experience. Students will serve in an on-campus internship during their first year and then be placed in an off-campus internship during the second year.

Graves is looking for employers to be partners with Union EDGE and who would be willing to accept students from the program as interns.

For more information, contact Graves at [jgraves@uu.edu](mailto:jgraves@uu.edu).

### Rogers selected for Witter Bynner Fellowship

The awards and recognitions keep coming for Union English professor Bobby Rogers.

Rogers was recently selected to receive the 2015 Witter Bynner Fellowship in the amount of \$10,000 by Charles Wright, 20th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry at the Library of Congress. The fellowship, funded by the Witter Bynner Foundation, exists solely to support poetry writing.



As a recipient of the fellowship, Rogers has two primary responsibilities—to coordinate a poetry reading in his home state and to take part in poetry readings and recordings at the Library of Congress.

For Rogers, who studied under Wright in college, the award is especially meaningful.

"I've admired Charles Wright since I was first figuring out what a poem could be," Rogers said. "When I arrived at the University of Virginia to study with him, I was 21 years old and needing to learn everything. What Charles showed me was how a serious mind goes about making art."

The timing of the award is also significant. Rogers received a National Endowment for the Arts grant for the 2015-2016 year.

"The additional funds from the Witter Bynner Fellowship make it a little more justifiable to take a semester off from teaching and sit down to make some new poems," Rogers said.

Rogers is the author of "Paper Anniversary," winner of the 2009 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize. He is also the recipient of *The Greensboro Review* literary prize in poetry. His poems have been published in several literary journals including *The Southern Review*, *Georgia Review* and *Shenandoah*. He has been teaching at Union since 1989.

Rogers, along with fellow award-winner Emily Fragos of New York University, were presented by the Poet Laureate at a special poetry reading event in Washington, D. C., in March.

### Biology major's research may lead to new medical treatments for premature babies

Courtney Berger, a senior biology major at Union University, spent the last two summers at University of Tennessee Health Science Center researching the effect of different drugs on blood flow to the brain of infants.

The neonatal pediatric research focused on discovering how to get

enough blood or oxygen to the brains of premature babies.

"It's very experimental at this point," Berger said. "We operated on baby piglets and introduced different concentrations of drugs to the surface of their brains through the ports."

Berger is the first Union University student to be involved in the undergraduate research program at University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Dr. Charles Leffler, the primary lead in the scientific community on this subject, served as Berger's mentor at UT.

"I was blessed to have a phenomenal lab," Berger said. "They invited me back. I might end up doing that this summer."

The research allowed the undergraduate students hands-on experience. In her first year, Berger said she made the drugs, introduced them and wrote down the data. In her second year, she performed the surgery on her own several times.

"The motto of our lab was, 'If everything goes right, you did something wrong,'" Berger said. "Nothing is

ever perfect when it comes to live animals. For us to measure the blood flow of the brain, they had to be alive the whole time. It's what you do as a doctor—making sure you are keeping your patients alive."

After graduating in December, Berger plans to attend medical school and become a pediatrician. She said the research experience showed her the origin of all the medicines she will prescribe as a physician.

"The research I worked on will directly affect babies," Berger said. "It will be cool to see if it becomes applicable in my lifetime. Even still, certain aspects of our research have already gone into clinical trials."

Berger's research resulted in a 56-page paper for her undergraduate project. The completed research under Leffler should be published in a medical journal in the coming year.

"As a researcher, you discover something," Berger said. "It's yours, but you want to share it with everybody. I loved the fact that we are eventually benefiting the lives of premature babies in the future. It's ground level, but we are able to explore the possibilities."

### Union names Nance as interim dean in business school

Bill Nance has been appointed as interim dean of Union University's McAfee School of Business Administration.



Nance, who has been the school's associate dean since August 2010, steps into the interim dean position following the

death of Keith Absher on March 24. Absher had been dean since 2004.

"Bill Nance is a strategic thinker, effective leader, and excellent teacher," Union Provost C. Ben Mitchell said. "We are very grateful that he is willing to step up to the challenge."

Nance completed his bachelor's degree from Regis University, his Master of Business Administration degree from Union University and his Doctor of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University.

## Engineering students score another 100 percent pass rate on FE exam

All 11 senior engineering students at Union University passed their Fundamentals of Engineering exam in 2015 – a 100 percent pass rate compared a national average around 77 percent.

"I am delighted to celebrate this accomplishment with our 11 graduating seniors," said Jeannette Russ, professor of engineering and department chair. "Passing the exam requires knowledge in a variety of areas, from economics and ethics to statistics and chemistry to thermodynamics and circuits."

Russ said the students' performance on the exam was evidence not only of the knowledge and diligence of each student, but of the excellent academic preparation they received from Union's engineering program – "preparation that gives them a strong foundation for success in whatever career path they choose as they move on from Union."

The FE exam is a six-hour exam that is typically the first step toward licensure as a professional engineer. It is a national, standardized test administered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.



Of Union's 11 graduating classes in engineering since 2005, five have achieved a 100 percent pass rate. The program's four-year rolling average is about 92 percent.



# Finn named as dean of School of Theology and Missions

**N**athan Finn will join Union July 1 as dean of the School of Theology and Missions.

Finn comes to Union from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he is director of the Center for Spiritual Formation and Evangelical Spirituality and associate professor of historical theology and spiritual formation.

He has taught at the seminary and held a variety of positions there since 2006.

“Nathan is a great teacher, an excellent scholar, a strong churchman, a devoted husband and father and a faithful follower of Christ,” Union President Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver said. “We are excited that he is joining us at Union and look forward to his leadership and service as we seek to advance our mission and vision.”

Finn will take over the position previously held by Greg Thornbury, who left Union in 2013 to become president of The King’s College in New York. James Patterson has been the school’s acting dean since then.

Finn said he is thankful for Union’s storied history and ongoing influence in Baptist life and the wider evangelical world.

“I could not be more excited to be joining the Union family,” Finn said. “I was shaped profoundly by my own education at a Baptist liberal arts college. I look forward to being a part of a comprehensive university where every discipline is engaged from the perspective of the Christian worldview.”

The faculty in Union’s School of Theology and Missions is one of the strongest theological faculties in the nation, he added.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIPRIMA PHOTOGRAPHY. WWW.DIPRIMAPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.

Nathan is a great teacher, an excellent scholar, a strong churchman, a devoted husband and father and a faithful follower of Christ.

“I have been friends with many of them for years and have been greatly influenced by their teaching and writing in my own ministry,” Finn said. “I love how they wed faithful Christian scholarship with an emphasis on practical ministry and a burden for the salvation of the lost. I’m grateful for the chance to lead the School of Theology and Missions as we educate a rising generation of pastors, church staff, missionaries and other Christian leaders for the glory of God and the advance of his kingdom.”

Danny Akin, president at Southeastern, called Finn “one of the finest church historians I have ever known” and “a wonderful churchman.”

“His departure from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is a huge loss for us and a tremendous gain for Union University,” Akin said. “I can only give my blessing to this move because in my heart I know it is good for the kingdom work of

Christ. I believe Nathan will excel at his new assignment, and he goes with my love, prayers and full support.”

Finn completed his bachelor’s degree from Brewton-Parker College and his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy from SEBTS.

In addition to his role at SEBTS, Finn serves as an adjunct professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he teaches seminars and supervises doctoral students in biblical spirituality.

A prolific writer and editor, Finn is co-author, along with Anthony Chute and Michael Haykin, of *The Baptist Story: From English Sect to Global Movement*, which B&H Academic will release in August. This textbook offers a comprehensive narrative introduction to the Baptist tradition.

Finn edited *Help to Zion’s Travellers* by Robert Hall Sr. and co-edited *Domestic Slavery: The Correspondence of Richard Fuller and Francis Wayland* and *Ministry by His Grace and for His Glory: Essays in Honor of Thomas J. Nettles*. He has written dozens of book chapters, scholarly essays, popular articles and book reviews.

In addition to his teaching and writing ministry, Finn is an ordained Southern Baptist minister who previously served in ministry positions in several Southern Baptist churches in Georgia and North Carolina. He is an elder and member at First Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina.

“Nathan Finn is a Bible-man, a gospel-man, and a churchman,” Union Provost C. Ben Mitchell said. “His passion for students, for his discipline, for the church and for the worldwide spread of the gospel of the risen Christ will be infectious.”

George Guthrie, Union’s Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible, said he is grateful for Finn’s appointment.

“Nathan loves the church, understands the academic context as a crucible for Christian discipleship and integrates a warm-hearted faith with rigorous scholarship,” Guthrie said. “The fact that he is one of our very best Baptist historians in the field today can help keep us rock-solidly grounded in our heritage while giving us crystal-clear perspective on our current challenges in the broader Baptist and evangelical life.”

Finn and his wife Leah, a full-time homemaker, have been married since 2001. They have four children: Georgia, Baxter, Eleanor and Fuller. Among his hobbies, Finn includes reading spy novels and fantasy novels, watching movies and Broadway musicals, listening to a wide range of music and rooting for the Georgia Bulldogs and Atlanta Braves. 📖

## Willson headlines Ryan Center Bible conference

**S**andy Willson, senior minister of Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, was the featured speaker for a Bible conference at Union University in March.

The conference, sponsored by Union’s R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies, addressed the theme “But As For You: Regaining Our Confidence in God’s Word,” based on 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8.

Ray Van Neste, director of the Ryan Center and professor of biblical studies, called Willson’s messages “timely and powerful.”

“Pastor Willson mentioned the fact that so many churches are surrendering their hold of the scriptures by turning away from biblical preaching and by allowing the world around us to set our ethical standards,”

Van Neste said. “These messages are wonderful examples of the combination of a strong call for holiness and conviction along with deep grace and humility.”

Sam Bullington, pastor of Rover Baptist Church in Eagleville, Tennessee, said he always appreciates the opportunity to get together with people who love God’s word and who can teach him to better communicate the Bible.

“Sandy Willson, Ray Van Neste and other Union faculty really love God’s word, and they love the church,” Bullington said. “It’s always a really encouraging experience to be at the Ryan Center conference. Pastors, Sunday school teachers, small group leaders, those who disciple other Christians—all those who teach God’s word and teach others to live it—basically all Christians would benefit from this conference.” 📖



**Web exclusive:** Audio from the conference is available at [uu.edu/unionite](http://uu.edu/unionite)



## Biology to begin two graduate programs

Union University will launch two graduate programs in biology after the faculty approved both measures.

The graduate certificate in pre-professional biology will begin this fall, with plans to admit eight students. The program is designed for students who are interested in obtaining more coursework in preparation for professional school

or to provide an additional credential to demonstrate ability.

The second program, which is set to begin in the fall of 2016, will be a Master of Science degree in conservation biology—a two-year program which will admit two students per year.

More information about the programs is available at [uu.edu/biology/graduate](http://uu.edu/biology/graduate). 📖

### Undergraduate research could lead to clean water for developing communities

Smoke pours from the narrow chimney situated on the 55-gallon drum. Matthew Bentley stands back, watching his latest experiment produce what he hopes will one day revolutionize developing countries.

Once the fire dies out, he retrieves the instrument of this future success: BioChar.

An ancient technology, BioChar is undergoing a renewed interest by the scientific community. Essentially, BioChar is repurposed charcoal with applications that cover agriculture to sanitation.

Bentley, a 2015 graduate who majored in engineering at Union, is researching how BioChar can best be made and used to improve quality of life in developing countries.

"BioChar is a sustainably produced, carbon-rich material produced through pyrolysis of biomass," Bentley said. "That means that a feedstock (an agricultural product such as wood, corn cobs or rice husks) is heated to very high temperatures in the absence of oxygen."

Bentley's research focused on the comparison of the two different methods of BioChar production and the variety of materials that can be used to produce it.

"It has great potential in

community development because it can be sustainably and inexpensively produced from nearly any feedstock with locally available resources," Bentley said. "This means that a community can get all of the components locally, without any aid from another company, (non-governmental organization) or government."

The development of nations aided by BioChar would allow communities to transform a natural waste product into a fertilizer and a water purifier, all without increased dependence on their government.

"A lot of the world's need for water treatment is actually in Asia," Bentley said. "But there's also a lot of need in sanitation. BioChar has implications for sanitation in addition to drinking water. I know I want to be in a developing community helping people who don't have access to clean water."

According to Bentley, the benefits of BioChar could extend to Union University's campus if the different science departments would research the effect of BioChar on plant life and its filtration ability.

"It has such a direct application for developing communities that doing research even at the undergraduate level could help people to understand how to



implement it," Bentley said.

Bentley said he also hoped Students for Sustainability might consider the potential of BioChar.

"It could be used in the campus garden and improve crop yield and compost," Bentley said.

Jay Bernheisel, associate professor of engineering, helped Bentley on the project.

"Professor Bernheisel is actually on a research sabbatical, doing sustainable farming methods," Bentley said. "He'll probably use the BioChar for his farm that he has on his property."

The research project began as preparation for Bentley's graduate studies, which he plans to begin in the fall at University of Colorado in Boulder. Bentley presented his research at Union's annual Scholarship Symposium April 28.

He plans to earn his doctorate before he and his wife, Ruth Bone Bentley, a 2015 graduate in nursing, go overseas to work with developing communities.

### Art project honors persecuted Christians

Art professors Lee Benson and Chris Nadaskay have designed an art project on the Union campus as a reminder of persecuted Christians around the world.



Named "Habakkuk's Wound," the project consists of a trench filled with red sand and solar lights outside the Barefoot Student Union Building. The lights allow the piece to be visible day and night.

"We were thinking about how no one's talking about how these brothers and sisters of ours are just being slaughtered overseas because they're Christians," Benson said. "I don't think it's because we're unconcerned. I think everybody carries a deep concern for this. I just think we need to be reminded of it."

The inspiration for the name came from Habakkuk 1:2, "O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save?"

"We're hoping every time you see that, you will say a word of prayer for our brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering this ungodly persecution," Benson said.

Art students filled the trench with sand and installed the lights on May 6. The art department held a brief dedication ceremony, and Miller Tower rang 147 times as a tribute to the 147 college students who were murdered in April by Islamic terrorists.

Benson said the art department will maintain the site for a year. On May 6, 2016, the department will plant seven dogwood trees there and rename the site "Habakkuk's Balm," which comes from the last verses of the book.

"The trees will be a reminder that although we cry out to the Lord for help, eventually, our answer to prayer is the fact that God almighty has saved us through his son Christ Jesus, and we no longer are under the penalty of death," Benson said.

# Record-high 718 students graduate from Union at spring commencement

As she marched in the graduation ceremony, Sandra Williams couldn't help but reflect on her memories of Union through the years.

Union University's 190th annual spring commencement on May 16 marked the 50th anniversary of Williams' graduation from Union in 1965. She taught at Union for more than 20 years before her retirement in 2003, and since then has still been teaching as an adjunct instructor.

"Union has been so very good to me," Williams said. "I just wanted to celebrate the fact that I'm still able to be at Union and to say that I'm thankful for the many years that I've had this kind of relationship with the school."

To celebrate the occasion, Williams got special permission to march with the faculty in Saturday's ceremony. Dressed in their academic regalia, the faculty led the way for the 718 students who received their degrees in Oman Arena—the largest graduation in Union's history. Because of rain and the large size of the graduating class, the university held two separate ceremonies—one for graduate and adult studies students and one for undergraduate students.

Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tennessee, and a Union alumnus, delivered the commencement address, challenging graduates to devote themselves to prayer, to the power of God's Spirit and to the proclamation of the gospel – three traits that characterized the early Christian church in Acts.

"We're on a downward slope," Gaines said about the moral and spiritual climate of the day. "You're graduating in serious days. Serious days require serious Christians."

Gaines' daughter Bethany Gaines Golding received her bachelor's degree in teaching and learning as part of the ceremony.

Union presented the Elizabeth Tigrett Medal to Phillip Richard Kurtzweil, a

biochemistry major from Wichita, Kansas. 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.

Earlier in the day, Union held a commissioning service for graduates in G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel. Union President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver encouraged graduates to heed the simple two-word command that Jesus so often repeated: "Follow me."

"We bless you as you graduate from Union and are praying for you as you courageously and faithfully follow God's call on your lives," Oliver said. "And, we



You're graduating in serious days. Serious days require serious Christians.

hope you will be incredibly successful. But we only want that as you faithfully follow Jesus."

Oliver said the first step in the Christian life is obedience to those two words.

"And, the whole pathway of the Christian life is traveled in obedience to those two words," he said. "It's not complicated. When Jesus says, 'Follow me,' he demands submission of the whole being, and from that moment we don't get ahead of him, we go after him." 📖



## Trustees choose Rogers as chairman, approve \$91 million budget

Union University trustees approved a \$91.1 million operating budget for 2015-2016 at their April 10 meeting and elected Lisa Williams Rogers as the next board chair, the first woman to hold that position in the university's history.



Rogers, a 1983 Union graduate and a physician in obstetrics and gynecology with the Jackson Clinic, will replace Norm Hill, who steps aside after serving as board chair

for three years. Rogers is in her 15th year of service as a Union trustee.

"I am excited to be working with Dr. Lisa Rogers as our new board chair," Union President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver said. "Union has been blessed with quality board leadership over its history. I am most grateful for Norm Hill's service as chair these past three years. Lisa will carry that tradition of strong leadership forward."

Oliver said Rogers has a deep love for Christ, knows Union well as an alumna, has strong relationships with people in the community and has a passion for advancing the university's mission and vision.

"I'm humbled to be chosen for this key position at Union University," Rogers said. "My life has been blessed in many ways by my years at Union, and I'm excited about this opportunity to serve my alma mater in this way."

Hill, who served as chairman of the nominating committee that

recommended Rogers for the role, said she was a natural selection.

"Lisa Rogers is a woman who is wholeheartedly committed to the mission and work of Union University," Hill said. "She has proven herself to be an individual of wisdom, vision and faith, and we are honored to elect her to a new leadership role."

After graduating from Union, Rogers completed medical school at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and did her residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She and her husband Kenny have two children – Rebecca, a student at Belmont University, and Austin, a freshman at Union – and are members of West Jackson Baptist Church.

Rogers had previously served as the board's secretary.

Chad Wilson, who has been the board's vice chairman, was re-elected to that position, and Peggy Graves was elected as secretary.

The \$91.1 million budget trustees

approved is a 4.64 percent increase to the current year's operating budget and includes \$24.6 million for scholarships and financial aid. In addition, the board got a clean audit report from the accounting firm Crosslin and Associates.

## Fox earns graduate fellowship at Florida State

Jamie Fox, a 2015 graduate from Palm Bay, Florida, is a recipient of the Adelaide Wilson Fellowship at Florida State University.



The fellowship will pay for Fox to attend graduate school, allowing him to focus solely on his academics and his research. Fox is one of three mathematics majors to have received a fellowship from a prestigious university recently – following Matthew Dawson ('08) at Louisiana State University and Emilie Huffman ('12) at Duke.

While the financial support is invaluable, Fox said the fellowship served as affirmation of his work at Union.

"I applied to a few different schools, but when one gives you a really good offer, you know that is where you're going to go," Fox said.

The application process involved Fox visiting the school and speaking with professors from the mathematics department before writing an essay on why he wanted to be a part of the graduate fellowship society.

Matt Lunsford, professor of mathematics at Union, said Fox's accomplishments while attending Union include a perfect score on the Educational Testing Service Major Field Test and a summer research experience.

"I am confident that Jamie will be a successful mathematics graduate student, and I anticipate the day when he will be not only one of my former students, but also one of my professional colleagues," Lunsford said. "It is significant that Union

# University Showcase offers closer look at Union University Hendersonville

Union University Hendersonville launched a new event this spring—

University Showcase, designed to introduce local residents to Union's Hendersonville campus and provide them more information about programs offered there.

The showcase, held on April 7, will be repeated in the fall.

"The event was most successful," said Charles Lea, executive director of Union University Hendersonville. "We had 24 prospective students who registered and attended as well as individuals just touring and picking up information. We acquired and gave away eight door prizes and created a great deal of buzz in the community."

Representatives were on



hand to talk about graduate and undergraduate degrees for working adults. In addition, personnel from Union's main campus were there to speak to prospective students about the college admissions process and financial aid. Visitors were also given tours of the Hendersonville facility and treated to refreshments.

Located on Indian Lake Boulevard, Union University Hendersonville offers adults in the Nashville area an opportunity to pursue graduate and undergraduate degrees in education, nursing and Christian studies. The campus also provides degree completion options for adults.

This fall, the campus is beginning a new program called the University Experience at Union. The program offers high school seniors a chance to spend half of their day taking university-level classes on the Hendersonville campus, for which they will earn both college and high school credit. The program allows students to remain a part of their high school while getting a taste of the educational experience Union offers. 📖

## Barnard lectures at Mayo Clinic

Justin Barnard served as guest lecturer at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, in March, addressing the topic of technology assessment.

Barnard, associate professor of philosophy and associate dean of the Institute for Intellectual Discipleship at Union University, was part of an event that served as a continuing medical education credit opportunity for doctors and nurses associated with Mayo Clinic. The broader topic was "Healing and Re-Engineering Mind and Bodies: Ethical Challenges in Neurology, Disabilities and Technology Assessment."

Barnard focused on how people think and make value judgments about technology and applied that topic specifically to various medical technologies.



He said he was honored and humbled by the invitation to participate.

"Part of that honor was attached to the deep sense of history there and the contributions that the Mayo Clinic has made to the history of medicine and to current medical practice," Barnard said.

In addition to his lectures, Barnard served on a panel that discussed challenges in the field of neuroethics. 📖

University can attract such bright minds to our campus and that we can prepare them so well for graduate education."

Fox attributed much of his current success to the diversity of disciplines at Union.

"The idea of giving these fellowships out is all about promoting interdisciplinary relations," Fox said. "I majored in math and physics. I'm invested deeply in two different departments already, and I've really enjoyed being part of a liberal arts university. Being a part of this fellows society is a natural step forward."

Fox will attend Florida State University's graduate school in the fall, studying financial math.

## Agee named to vice presidential position

Bob Agee became Union's vice president for institutional advancement in February.



International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities.

A Union graduate, Agee completed his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Philosophy in higher education from Vanderbilt University's George Peabody College for Teachers.

Prior to his service at OBU, Agee was a faculty member, vice president and special assistant to the president at Union for several years.

Agee said he's had a deep love for Union for a long time and always took great pride in his alma mater.

"When (Union President Samuel

Agee previously served as president of Oklahoma Baptist University for 16 years and as executive director of the

W. "Dub" Oliver) asked me to step in and help redesign and train this office to be more effective in broadening the base of financial support for the institution, I felt this was something at this stage of my life that I could do and ought to do," Agee said.

Formerly known as the Office of University Relations, Institutional Advancement oversees the communications and fundraising efforts for the university.

Agee and his wife Nelle, also a Union graduate, have two daughters and four granddaughters.

## Cardinal & Cream named South's best college magazine

Union's student news publication, the *Cardinal & Cream*, won 12 awards in the 2014 Best of the South competition sponsored by the Southeast Journalism Conference, including first place in the Best College Magazine category.

"This year was a huge transition

for the *Cardinal & Cream* as we moved from biweekly print news to daily online news and a long form magazine," said Ashley Blair, assistant professor of communication arts and the C&C adviser. "It is a testament to the excellence of our student journalists, photojournalists and designers that the very first C&C magazine was named Best of the South."

The publication also placed third in the Best College Newspaper and sixth in the Best College Website categories. Individually, Katherine Burgess, editor-in-chief of the *Cardinal & Cream*, placed second in the Collegiate Journalist of the Year competition.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



# Germantown MBA students partner with nonprofit

A nonprofit organization in Memphis may be able to expand its work across the state thanks to the efforts of students in Union's Master of Business Administration program at Germantown.

Arise2Read, an effort that started as a ministry of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, sends volunteers into inner-city schools to tutor second graders in reading. "We're having tremendous success, and we're really looking forward to being able to expand our influence and include more churches and schools until we reach every second grader so that they can reach their full potential," said Donna Gaines, founder and president of the Arise2Read board.

Gaines is a Union alumna and wife of Bellevue pastor Steve Gaines.

A board member from Arise2Read contacted Kevin Westbrook, professor of marketing at Union University Germantown, about his MBA students working with the organization on a business plan. Over the past several years, Union MBA students in Germantown have helped several local nonprofits by doing similar work as class projects.

We created a plan for the organization to expand their evangelism into the local community.

Westbrook said the projects are invaluable for the students, because they provide real-world experience instead of relying on simulations from textbooks. In his strategic marketing



cohort, Westbrook divided the class into three competing teams to develop and present their proposals to Arise2Read.

"There's kind of this competitive spirit, which is very analogous to what these students will see in the real business world when they're out competing for sales proposals or consulting projects or internal projects within their organizations," Westbrook said. "That kind of creates a competitive fervor within the class, which really stimulates learning."

While Arise2Read tutors help children specifically with their reading, they also direct children to local after-school programs run by churches that partner with the organization. At those programs, volunteers minister to the children and share the gospel with them.

Westbrook said the students in the class worked on plans to help Arise2Read recruit more volunteers and to identify



what a statewide model of the program would look like if it expanded to Nashville, Chattanooga or Knoxville.

"The students were challenged," Westbrook said. "They indicated that they learned an enormous amount through the project."

"We're very excited about the project because we're actually able to help this organization reach kids that need to learn to read, but also because we created a plan for the organization to expand their evangelism into the local community and share Christ with an unsaved world."

Gaines said the work of the Union students was exceptional.

"What we're going to gain from them, we could have gotten from nowhere else," she said.

Alicia Dobrzeniecki, one of the students in the class who works as consumer experience consultant at Humana, said the project was a rewarding experience.

"It's also been a learning experience as well," Dobrzeniecki said. "I think that the commitment to provide them with valuable information has really helped with the learning process, because it pushes you to give back to the community and to those nonprofit agencies." 📌

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

SEJC is comprised of more than 45 member colleges and universities in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. These universities include both large state schools such as University of Memphis, Mississippi State, University of Alabama, Louisiana State University and Georgia State University as well as private institutions like Belmont University, Samford University and Harding University.

## Union students win 'Outstanding Delegation' at National Model Congress

Six Union University students attended the first National Model Congress in Washington D.C. in February, an event that simulated the U.S. Congress and gave participants the opportunity to write, debate and vote on legislation.



The Union delegation won the "Outstanding Delegation" award at the end of the conference as the top group out of seven universities from Tennessee, Florida and Virginia that attended the event.

Jenaye White, a public relations major, won the "Outstanding Senator" award, while Morgan Kroeger (Spanish and accounting major), Garrett Wilson (economics major) and Michael Adkisson (business administration major) won "Distinguished Senator" awards. Also attending were Eddie Echeverria, a political science major, and Seth Reid, a political science and history major.

## Debate team goes undefeated

Union University's debate team went undefeated in its 2014-2015 season, winning the sweepstakes award at all eight tournaments in which it competed.

The Union debaters won the International Public Debate Association's Founders Award (marking the season-long championship) for the second straight year.



Graham Gardner won the season championship among novice individual debaters, while Allison Pulliam won the season championship among professional individuals.

## Union named a 2015 Best Value College by Kiplinger's Personal Finance

Union University climbed significantly in the 2015 rankings of the country's best values in private colleges by Kiplinger's Personal Finance.

Kiplinger's annual list ranks 100 private universities, 100 liberal arts colleges and 100 public universities, and Union ranked 48th among the best private university values in the nation. Last year, Union ranked 77th on the same list.

"We say often that Union is a great value because of the

excellence of the Union experience and the cost of attendance, and this is a nice recognition from a respected publication saying the very same thing," Union President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver said. "All of us at Union strive to be excellence-driven, Christ-centered, people-focused and future-directed. The stewardship of resources is one way we demonstrate our core values."

Union and the other schools included in the 2015 lists represent the colleges that provide high-quality academics at a reasonable cost during tough economic times, Kiplinger's said. The colleges exemplify the attributes parents and students look for in higher education, including small class sizes, a good freshman retention rate and a high four-year graduation rate. Many schools, including Union, have appeared on the list multiple times. The complete rankings are available at [kiplinger.com/links/college](http://kiplinger.com/links/college). 📌

# Basketball teams compete in NCAA Division II national tournaments

Union University's Lady Bulldogs basketball team fell just short of advancing to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight this year, losing to Nova Southeastern 67-62 in the 2015 NCAA National Tournament



South Region Title game in March.

With a record of 28-4, the Lady Bulldogs finished the season ranked 10th nationally in the university's first year as an active member of NCAA Division II.

"I'm really proud of this team and the way they competed all year," Union Coach Mark Campbell said. "We've fought against not being very athletic all year. When you look at our team warming up and then look at the other team, what makes our team good is the things you cannot see. This team loves each other in ways that most teams don't."

As the top-seeded team in the South Region, Union hosted play for the tournament's first three rounds.

The men's basketball team also advanced to the NCAA Division II National Tournament this year for the first time since 1968 after spending 47 years as a member of the NAIA. The Bulldogs lost to Barry University 73-59 in the tournament's opening round and finished with a 20-11 record.

Earlier in the fall, Union's women's cross country team captured the school's first conference championship since joining the Gulf South Conference in 2012. 📌



# Oliver, Hampton address racial reconciliation at community MLK event



About 200 people packed every corner of Agape Fellowship Church in Jackson Jan. 19 to hear Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver, president of Union University, discuss diversity and racial reconciliation with Logan Hampton, president of Lane College.

The two men responded to questions amid frequent applause from a lively audience. Though the presidents addressed a variety of issues, at the core of the conversation were their thoughts on fostering community reconciliation.

The dialogue began with both men expressing gratitude to Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights advocates. Hampton referenced their impact on his educational opportunities.

“My parents made the choice to send me to the white school. ... It was because of Dr. King, who opened doors, that my parents had that choice. I’m also thankful to many of you, who were educational, civic and business pioneers, and opened doors that we might have this conversation tonight,” he said.

Oliver reminisced about graduate school, where he first read “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” and was struck by the eloquence and depth of King’s writing and convictions.

“I’m challenged to be part of that legacy, not just in the past, but in the present and future,” Oliver said. “I hope that our discussion tonight isn’t just a discussion, but that it bears much fruit.”

Despite their gratitude for previous progress, Hampton and Oliver readily acknowledged obstacles to reconciliation and the need for repentance among

believers. They challenged those present to be bold about addressing Jackson’s tensions.

“It’s complex, and there’s a lot of work,”

Hampton said. “I would challenge this community to not get caught up in the clichés and the simple answers. If we’re going to make our community better, we’ve got to address it on multiple levels and diverse fronts.”

Oliver asserted that, for lasting change, the colleges in Jackson should commit to collaborating instead of competing. He proposed several joint programs, including a mentoring program that partners college students with local middle school and high school students.

“We’ll try some things. We’ll fail,” Oliver said. “We’ll try some things. We’ll succeed. By God’s grace we will make Jackson more of the community he

intended it to be.”

Both agreed that, as college presidents, they have a unique responsibility to shape the minds and hearts of the next generation by fostering honest dialogue. They also stressed the importance of addressing faith-based issues such as racial reconciliation in the world of higher education.

Toward the end of the night, they fielded audience questions ranging from the origins of prejudice to advice on closing the achievement gap among black males. They offered practical, simple strategies such as intentionally building relationships, being willing to listen and serving faithfully in local ministries.

“Everything works—it all works. Just get busy doing it,” Hampton said. “That way, when we come back next year, you will all have testimonies of what God did in 2015 and how 2016 is going to be so much better.”

Oliver and Hampton didn’t exempt themselves from the challenges they posed to the audience.

“We’re now accountable to you,”

Oliver said. “I hope you’ll hold yourself accountable too, and that you’re not just remembering the legacy, but you’re also repenting, and renewing the commitment daily to making Jackson a place where everybody flourishes.”

If we’re going to make our community better, we’ve got to address it on multiple levels and diverse fronts.

## Do you know a Future UNIONITE?



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

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



Call 800.33.UNION  
or visit  
[uu.edu/DawgCatchers](http://uu.edu/DawgCatchers)





THIS YEAR MARKS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF UNION UNIVERSITY'S HISTORIC MOVE FROM  
DOWNTOWN JACKSON TO THE NORTH SIDE

BY MARY WATSON

# MOVING FORWARD

The old campus in downtown Jackson had weathered nearly 150 years. Students had filled its classrooms and laboratories since before the Civil War. Young people were educated and inspired, careers forged, lifetime friendships born and spouses met. Students loved it, but the sands of time were running out for the aging and landlocked campus.

Repairs and new construction were needed. The price of properties adjacent to the campus inflated with talk of

expansion. In addition, security issues became more of a concern. The University looked for solutions throughout the 1960s.

"We were well past the saturation point as far as facilities," said Bob Agee, vice president for institutional advancement. In the early 1970s Agee was a Union trustee who joined the Union faculty after the move. "There was no more land to be acquired. We faced the decision, what do we tear down and replace? And was that good stewardship?"





## NEW LOCATION

After years of assessing its goals and options, Union purchased a site along the recently completed Highway 45 Bypass in September 1968 under the leadership of President Robert Craig. The property included land from Country Club Lane to Oil Well Road, bordered on the west by Walker Road. Union also acquired another tract of about 80 acres, known as Spragins Peach Orchard, east of the bypass.

The University designated the west tract between Country Club and Channing Way for the campus. The faculty used the land north of this to raise gardens for their families during the early years, Agee said. Plans for the new facilities began to escalate.

“Everyone thought (Craig) was out of

his mind to try to lead the campus out to where it’s located, because at that time nothing really was there,” said Larry Murphy (’79), executive director of the Madison-Chester and Crockett Baptist associations. “But there was the understanding, the knowledge of some planners that everything was coming this direction. Dr. Craig saw the opportunity to buy property and have Union located right in the middle of everything.”

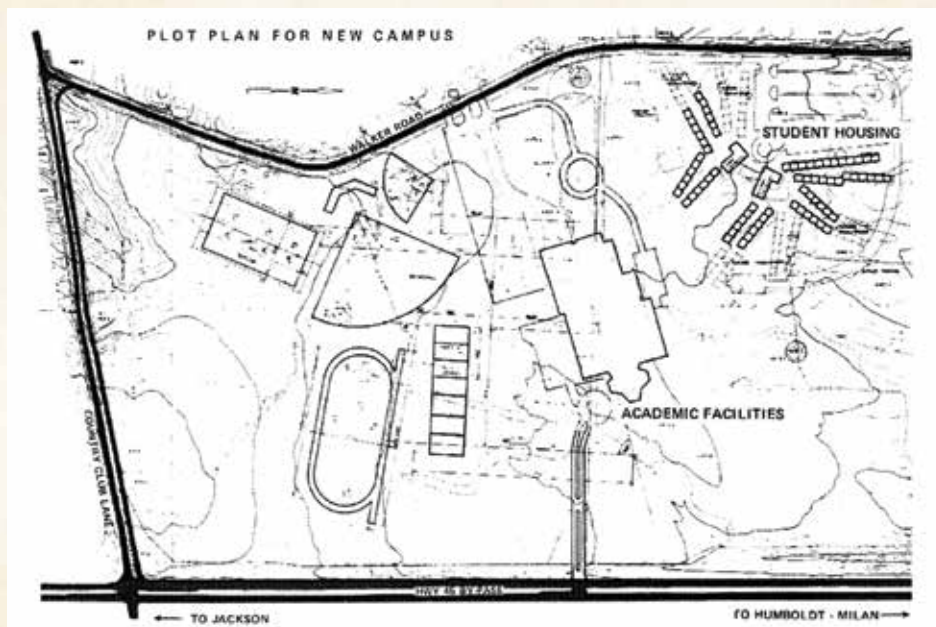
Then, in the fall of 1973, an unexpected offer to relocate Union in Memphis instead of Jackson stalled the momentum. After much discussion, a vote by the trustees and consideration by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the offer was rescinded and the plans for the Jackson campus proceeded.

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FAR LEFT: President Robert Craig surveys the construction site with Tennessee Gov. Ray Blanton.

LEFT: On May 7, 1974, the new campus site was dedicated and ground was broken.



LEFT: Rendering of the new academic complex.  
BELOW: Students walk along the pedestrian streets in the new student housing in 1979.

## NEW ACADEMIC COMPLEX

The initial design for the campus was for a multi-building complex. “It probably looked a little like what the Great Lawn does now with the newer buildings,” Agee said. “But when the plans were let out for bids in early 1974, building costs had sky-rocketed, and it was not possible financially to build multiple buildings.”

Union’s architect found a large community college in St. Louis that had won an award for a “mall concept” facility. “It was determined that with the funds we had and that the feasibility studies indicated that we could raise, it seemed to be the approach to take,” Agee said.

The construction was awarded at the price of \$5,050,000. However, later that amount had to be reduced by \$3,000,000, with the square footage slashed by a third and some architectural features eliminated. Construction was scheduled for completion in 1975.

Named the Penick Academic Complex (after John Penick, whose estate provided Union with \$600,000. John’s father, Isaac Penick, was a longtime Bible professor at Union), the facility was designed with color-keyed zones for art, student center, science, general academic, music, drama, administration, library/media and gym. The classrooms varied in size from small rooms for only a few students to larger ones holding up to 100. The cafeteria doubled as a place for students and faculty to gather between meals, in place of a student union building.

## STUDENT VILLAGE

A developer expressed interest in the peach orchard area, so the University gave him the land east of the bypass in exchange for him building the residence halls, Agee said.

After considerable input from students, two ideas seemed most important. First, they wanted a commons meeting area where students could gather for group activities, visit with friends and do laundry. Second, students wanted private bedrooms in apartment-style residences, many with kitchens. Called “townhouse apartments,” the concept was decades ahead of its time.

“Students were all excited about new housing particularly,” said Maggie Nell Brewer, dean of students during that time.

Murphy was among the first students

to live in the apartments. “Four of us decided we wanted to stay together,” he said. “We all had those private bedrooms and the living area and kitchen. It was really pretty nice. Over on the old campus there were two people in one room. It was basically a bedroom with two desks, and you walked down the hall to the showers and restrooms.”

“We were one of the first colleges to have this,” Brewer said. “There were not any—particularly among Southern Baptist colleges or state colleges we were associated with—that had the type of housing we were moving toward.”

Known as the “student village,” the buildings were built of precast structural concrete and redwood exterior siding and connected to the commons buildings and academic complex by “pedestrian streets.”





## READY FOR THE MOVE

As the construction neared completion, faculty and students alike were anxious to view the new campus. In fact, so many visitors stopped by to see the progress that the contractor complained it was difficult to maintain the work schedule.

The University borrowed buses from area churches and sponsored a trip for students from the downtown campus to the nearly-completed location.

“It was an exciting time,” said Hyran Barefoot, Union’s 14th president, who was a professor of Greek and New Testament prior to the move. “It was like resurrection to be going to a new place.

“My mind remembers very vividly the newness of it, the novelty of it,” Barefoot continued. “Excitement gripped both faculty and students. And in the background of everybody’s mind was the fact that the campus almost had made a decision to go to Memphis. So I think there was a soothing effect that settled on everybody when we had finally gotten that resolved.”



Students load buses for a tour of the new campus.

Student committees were working on every aspect of student life before the move. “Now their planning was coming to fruition, so they were excited to see what it was going to look like,” Brewer said.

Planning and organizing the actual move was an enormous task. The effort required many hands.

“It became obvious that it was going to be very expensive to hire professional movers,” Agee said. “Our business manager, Bob Elliott, was a genius at spreading a nickel over a dollar. The move was handled in a way that was, to me, miraculous.”

Union rented trucks, and faculty, staff and students alike helped pack up and move the 150-year-old campus in the summer of 1975.

## NEW CAMPUS BRINGS CHANGES

That year also marked Union’s 150th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of its association with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Celebration and dedications marked the first year on campus.

“Everything was new and, at that particular point, everything was in one building except the housing for students,” Barefoot said. “That was very new: the cafeteria in the same area that the classes were, the library and gymnasium in the same area. It was a great adjustment for all of us, but I don’t know of any reluctance on the part of anybody or that anybody was unhappy because of any part of it.”

“When you came to class in the morning, you never left,” Murphy said. “You stayed in that building all day if you had classes all day. That was really different. Of course, in snow or cold or rain, you were there and didn’t have to go back outside.”

Another change was the more rural setting.

“When we were at the old location, students could walk to stores or shopping areas if they didn’t have automobiles,” Barefoot said. “And 40 years ago, not as many students had their own transportation as they do now.”

Students with cars could access the bypass quickly from the main campus entrance on Country Club Lane and drive to the Old Hickory area. The campus bookstore also stocked many personal items to compensate for the lack of stores north of Interstate 40.

Some housing regulations changed as well. For the first time men had the same curfew restrictions as the women. “Well, that wasn’t a happy time for all the men,” Brewer said. “We had to weather some storms there.”

In addition, the University decided that fraternities would live in campus housing but have their own facilities for social events. Within a few years, fraternities and sororities raised funds and began building in the designated area at the new campus.

## GROWTH FOR THE UNIVERSITY

“It was obvious that the concept of the housing was going to be a real magnet,” Agee said. “We built the campus originally to take care of 1,200 students. The thinking was that if Union ever reached 1,000 students, that was probably as big as it would ever be. And I was one of those voices that said, ‘No, this is going to be popular.’

“Union had a very strong academic reputation, and had for years,” he continued. “You add to it a new facility and delightful housing, and the school

ANY INSTITUTION  
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YOU GO BACKWARDS.



Aerial of the Union campus in 1983.

just took off in growth. We filled up the student housing the first year and had a waiting list.”

From 1975 to 1980, enrollment increased from 973 to 1,375. In the years after the move, the PAC was expanded and reconfigured several times to include an auxiliary gymnasium, swimming pool, racquetball courts, music practice rooms and additional instructional space.

“The way the Penick Academic Complex is designed, you could move walls and create space,” Agee said. “We’ve been able, because of the nature of the facility we built out here and its adaptability to changing demands of technology and the classroom, to meet the continued growth. We could meet that, adding on to the original design, at a much more affordable cost than we could

have if we had tried, at the time, to build a new, separate facility somewhere.

“Of course, as time went on and the school continued to grow and alums continued to prosper, we were able to add individual buildings.”

## TOUCHING THE FUTURE

In 1975, Craig wrote, “Since 1968 Union University has eagerly looked forward to the day when it could embark upon a new horizon in Christian higher education. That day is now here, and the college is occupying an entirely new campus —intimate in design, contemporary in approach and futuristic in structure.”

Forty years later, the innovative apartment-style residence is still a popular Union trademark. The campus now has seven multi-building residence

complexes and has added 10 additional academic and administrative buildings. Union has campuses in the Memphis and Nashville areas as well.

The new facilities developed hand-in-hand with new long-range plans, expanded academic programs and reorganization to fit the needs of students and the community throughout the four decades.

“Any institution that’s going to meet societal needs has to be willing to plan and think and dream and work. If you sit still, you go backwards,” Agee said. “It was a blessing and an exciting time to be a part of dreaming dreams and seeing visions for the future.”



Web exclusive: See more photos at [uu.edu/unionite](http://uu.edu/unionite)





# LIBRARY NEARING COMPLETION

THE LANDSCAPE OF THE UNION UNIVERSITY  
CAMPUS HAS CHANGED AGAIN

No longer is Miller Tower standing alone above the trees and academic buildings. In addition to the campus bell tower, Union's new library now stands 140 feet high, and its distinctive dome and cross will be visible from miles away.

The vision for the new library was birthed out of years of planning with campus administrators and library staff to create a space that combined state-of-the-art technologies with research, study and fellowship. The new library space (scheduled for completion in October) will include several areas for internet-based research, study rooms and classrooms with the latest technology and even a new coffee shop for students, faculty and staff to enjoy.

"We are so excited about the new library at Union," President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver said. "It will serve as a central place on campus for students to learn and gather together in preparation for their future callings to the church and society. This amazing facility provides our students with the resources they need to achieve academic excellence in a Christ-centered community."

This addition to the Union University campus has been made possible through the generosity of the Bill and Carol Latimer Foundation, whose \$10.5 million lead gift has paved the way for the construction of the 54,000-square-foot library building.

In August 2014, Union launched the "Open the Doors" campaign to secure the final funds needed for the \$21 million building. To date, the campaign has successfully raised more than half of the \$3 million goal to complete the project, and opportunities to partner in this campaign are still available. <#>

## FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS

You can see a live view of construction of the new library at [NewUnionLibrary.com](http://NewUnionLibrary.com) or follow @NewUnionLibrary on Twitter.

If you would like to join the Open the Doors campaign and support the library, contact the *Office of Institutional Advancement* at (731) 661-5050 or email [NewUnionLibrary@uu.edu](mailto:NewUnionLibrary@uu.edu)



# • JOURNEY *from* ALASKA •

BY TIM ELLSWORTH



## HOW SEVEN STUDENTS FROM ALASKA CHOSE UNION

When they're feeling mischievous, they form a united front capable of convincing West Tennesseans almost anything about Alaska.

BethAnne Davis and Jesse Dahms convinced a couple of people that Alaska is devoid of grass. Ivan Isaacs told his roommate there's no wind in the winter because it freezes.

Christian Winter has a funny-shaped coffee mug. He told people it was shaped that way to help keep the snow out.

You can forgive them for such shenanigans when you hear some of the

questions they get about life in Alaska.

"I've been asked if I need a passport when I go back home to Alaska," Dahms says.

"I've been asked what language I speak," Morgan Morfe says.

"I've had people ask me if there's electricity where I live," Miracle Burton says.

"I was talking about sports that I played in high school, and skiing was one of the main ones," Dahms says. "Somebody asked me, 'So, if one day you were really good at skiing and decided to compete in the Olympics, would you compete for the United States, or would you compete for Alaska?'"

ABOVE: (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) Miracle Burton, Jesse Dahms, Ivan Isaacs, Morgan Morfe, Christian Winter, Kelsie Leaf and BethAnne Davis

For the seven Union University students—Burton, Isaacs, Dahms, Davis, Morfe, Winter and Kelsie Leaf—who have made the nearly 4,000-mile trek from Alaska to study in West Tennessee, the cultural and geographic differences are sometimes jarring. Yes, they're still part of the same country, but their home is closer to Tokyo than it is to Jackson.

At Union, however, they have formed a strong bond amongst themselves and have grown to love their new home.

"So many people have welcomed us with open arms that we've formed our own little family, and we've been able to be away from home together, which has been really nice," Morfe says.

"Freshman year when we came down, there was definitely an instant bond, all of us being from Alaska," Dahms says. "We knew each other a little bit, so it was easy to be friends. None of us really had vehicles, so we were around campus a lot."

So how did seven people from Alaska make their way to Union?

Let's start with Morfe, from Palmer, Alaska, who as a sophomore in high school began to pray about where the Lord wanted her to go to school.

"My prayer was, 'Lord, I'll go anywhere you want me to, but please, don't send me to the South, don't send me to a small school and don't send me to a school with any of my friends from high school,'" she says.

As a junior, Morfe attended a college fair at Grace Christian School in Anchorage, where Davis was a student. Morfe met Rich Grimm, Union's former senior vice president for enrollment services, who was representing Union at the fair. When she heard that Union was in Jackson, Tennessee, she quickly ducked out of the conversation.

Too hot. No thanks.

A few months passed, and Morfe one day got an email from Grimm. He was back in Alaska and wanted to take her and her mother out to dinner to talk to them more about Union.

"OK, fine," Morfe thought. "For a free dinner, what's it going to hurt?"

By the end of the meal, Grimm had convinced her to come to Union for a visit.

"I got here, and I loved it," Morfe says. "I felt immediately welcomed into the Union family."

After making the decision to attend Union, Morfe started working on her high school classmates and fellow youth group members Dahms and Winter. They would call it pestering.

"Morgan told Jesse and me to apply, because it was a free application," Winter says. "We'll make Morgan happy and apply."

I got here, and I loved it. I felt immediately welcomed into the Union family.

Dahms says he and Winter had talked about wanting to be college roommates since they were in seventh grade. Union was on their radar, but they initially decided that Tennessee was too far south.

"Having Morgan apply and encouraging us to apply, we decided to submit an application," Dahms says.

After visiting, they too decided to make Union their university home. And a year later, another friend of theirs from school, Burton, joined them at Union as well.

While he was recruiting Morfe, Grimm was also at work on Davis. Davis and Morfe competed against each other in sports, but they weren't close friends.

Like Morfe, Davis met Grimm at the college fair. She was looking for nursing programs at Christian schools, because there aren't any such programs in Alaska.

Unlike Morfe, Davis was looking for something drastically different from Alaska for college. She loves Alaska and plans to go back after college, but she wanted to experience something else for four years.

Grimm took Davis and her dad (who was the administrator at her school) out to lunch and discussed Union with them. He put Davis, a cross country runner, in touch with Union's cross country coach, Gary Johnson, and Davis came to campus for a visit and competition in Union's Scholars of Excellence weekend.

"One of my big draws in coming here was probably cross country," Davis says. "Coach Johnson is very personable, and he made a point to try to get to know me as a person and not just as a runner."

Davis' enrollment at Union led to Isaacs coming a couple of years later. The two attended the same high school, and Isaacs also runs cross country. When he was looking at colleges, Davis' dad suggested Union to him.

Leaf, meanwhile, knew about Union through her uncle, Brad Green, associate professor of Christian thought and tradition. Green, a native of Alaska, was also involved with Grimm in recruiting some of the students to Union, and he and his family have become what he calls a "familial proxy" for the Alaskan students while they are away from home.

When the first five students (Morfe, Dahms, Winter, Davis, Leaf) came in as freshmen, Green regularly invited them to his home. The group quickly gained the name "The Alaskans" and grew from those five to their immediate friends. When Burton came a year later and Isaacs followed in the fall of 2014, they also became part of the group.

"If you're in the Alaskan crew, you're invited automatically to 'The Alaskans,'" Green says. "You can easily get an invite through an Alaskan, so it's not a particularly exclusive society."

The students go for meals, dessert or to go walking and praying with Green's wife,





TOP: Morgan Morfe overlooks Matanuska Glacier on top of Lions Head in Sutton, Alaska.

ABOVE: Miracle Burton stands on the beach of Resurrection Bay outside Seward, Alaska.

RIGHT: Morfe was named Alaska National Miss in 2015.



ABOVE: BethAnne Davis hiking a frozen Lake Williwaw near Anchorage. LEFT: Jesse Dahms poses with his 18-point moose.



RIGHT: Winter, Morfe, and Dahms with friends at the Butte in Palmer, Alaska.

Dianne. Green says his family wanted to minister to the group, because while many students can go home throughout the semester, the Alaskans are on campus for the semester's duration.

"It is a culture shock, I think, for the typical Alaskan 18-year-old to come," Green says.

Despite that, he says Union has appealed to the students because they love the size of Jackson and the "lingering Christian cultural ethos of the South." Alaska is a fairly secular place, Green says, so Union has provided them with a distinctly Christian university that has been challenging and nourishing for them at the same time.

"There isn't really anything like a Union in Alaska," he says.

Though they love Union, life in West Tennessee has taken some adjustment on their part.

"It's really flat here," Burton says.

"We get out of school for like half an inch of snow," Isaacs says.

That's a common cause of amusement for the hardy Alaskans.

Dahms: "Our freshman year, I called home and was talking to my mom and said, 'Yeah, we're out of school today. No, there isn't actually snow on the ground, but there was a threat of snow last night.'"

"We had an indoor cross country practice canceled because it was too cold," Winter says with a laugh.

For Leaf, a music lover, it was "a dream come true" if an artist she knew about traveled to Alaska for a concert. "Now I live two hours away from some of my favorite artists," she says. "They live in Nashville."

Morfe is fascinated by the opportunity to travel to different states. Growing up, it was routine for the Alaskans to drive 10 hours to a ski meet.

"Here, we drive for 10 hours, and we find ourselves in Michigan," Morfe says. "That was just foreign to us, because it takes three days to get to the continental U.S. Here, we can drive two

hours and be in Alabama."

As for Union, the Alaskan students are united in how much they love it, both academically and spiritually.

"The school itself has been a huge encouragement," Davis says. "There are people all around who have been challenging me spiritually. Sometimes it's professors, and sometimes it's my friends or different organizations I'm involved with."

"I think it's probably exceeded my expectations, in that I didn't expect to be challenged from my classes as much as I have been," Winter says.

Davis concurs.

"Especially in the nursing program—it's the most that I've ever had to study in my life," she says. "It's definitely pushed me to critically think and not just to know the answer and fill in the bubble."

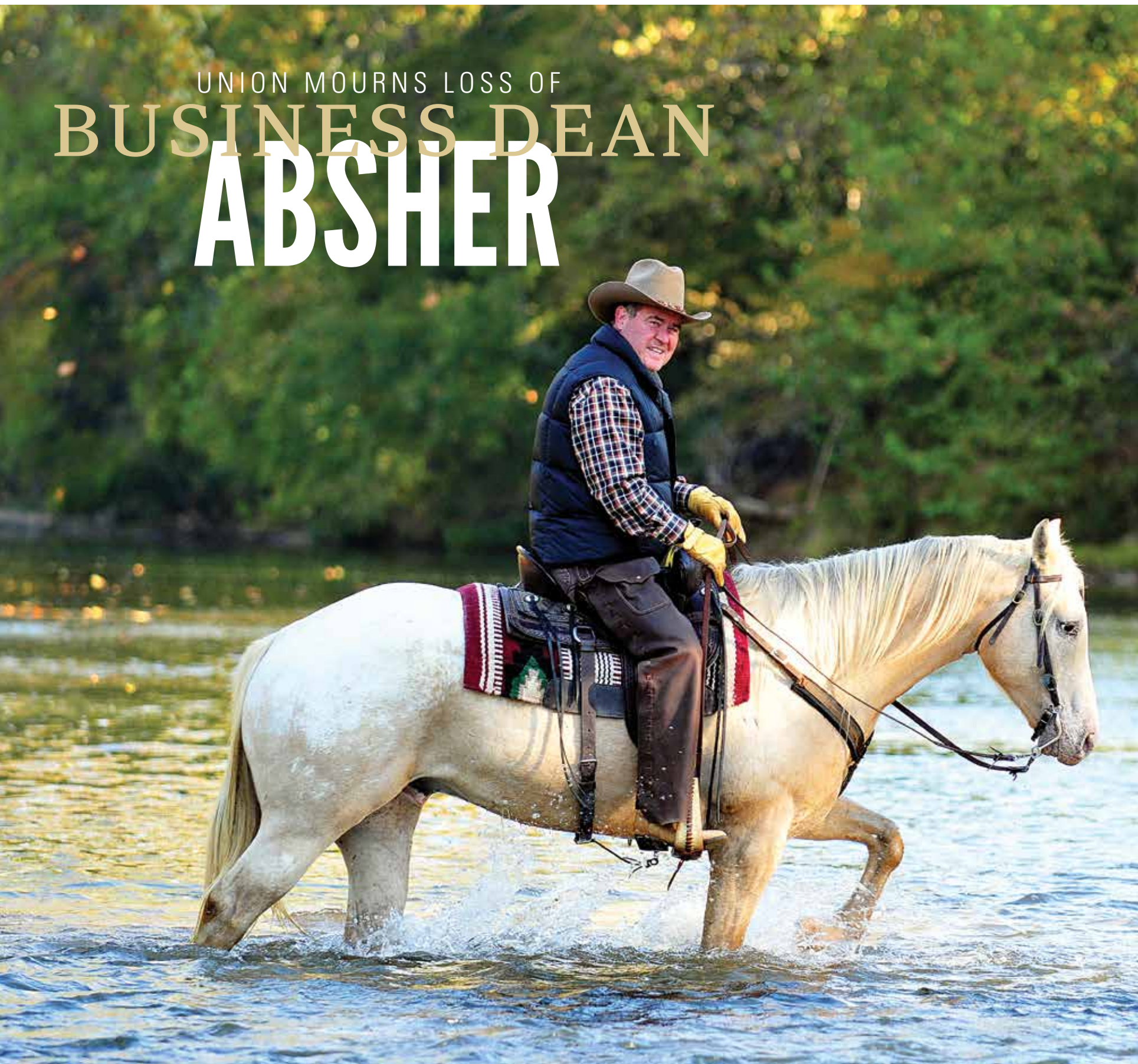
Some of them plan to return to Alaska when they graduate. Some don't ("Don't tell my mom," one of them said). But they are all grateful for what they have found at Union.

"I didn't expect to want to stay down here," Dahms says. "But Union has become a second home. I definitely miss Union when I'm gone. Even when I'm back at home in Alaska—and I still consider Alaska my home—I wouldn't say it's too far of a statement to say that Union is also my home." ■

Union has become a second home. I definitely miss Union when I'm gone. Even when I'm back at home in Alaska.



# UNION MOURNS LOSS OF BUSINESS DEAN ABSHER



Winston Churchill once said there was something about the outside of a horse that was good for the inside of a man.

That's something that Keith Absher believed. And for his friends and loved ones, it's something they believe as well—because they saw it evidenced in Keith's life.

Absher, dean of Union's McAfee School of Business Administration, died March 24 at age 63 after a battle with Guillain-Barre syndrome. The Union community grieved the loss of one of the University's key leaders and most ardent supporters.

"Keith went to college when he was 17, and he never left a college campus," said Absher's wife Beverly, Union's associate vice president for auxiliary operations and chair of the continuing studies department. "He loved it. He loved students. Doing something with or for the students, having students seek his counsel, any activity that he could do with them was as exciting the day before he died as it was the first day he was able to do it.

"That was definitely his passion, and I'm glad God helped him find it at a young age."

Outside of the classroom was where Absher pursued his other passion—horses. By the time he could sit up, he was on a horse.

"By the time he was 2 years old, he was too little to really make the horse leave home on his own, but his parents would switch it away and he would ride all through the country roads around his neighborhood," Beverly said.

Once a year, the couple tried to get away for a nine-day trail ride—just the two of them. Absher said that trip every year was what helped him get the cobwebs out. A licensed farrier, Absher spent much of his free time outdoors working with the animals he loved.

Originally from Florence, Alabama, Absher came to Union as dean in 2004 after serving for many years in the management and marketing department at the University of North Alabama. He taught previously at Athens State University and the University of Arkansas.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Business Administration degrees from Jacksonville State University, another master's degree from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and his doctorate from the University of Arkansas.

Absher played an instrumental role in the McAfee School of Business Administration earning accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business in 2013. The AACSB designation is what he described as "the gold standard" of business school accreditation, placing the McAfee School in the top 5 percent of business schools in the world.

He also served as Union's Faculty Athletics Representative, a role mandated by the NCAA, for the past six years.

Absher was a Sunday school teacher at Englewood Baptist Church. He and Beverly have two grown children and seven grandchildren.

WE THANK  
GOD FOR  
KEITH'S LIFE,  
LEGACY AND  
COMMITMENT  
TO UNION  
UNIVERSITY.



Hunter Martin, an accounting major from Greenfield, Tennessee, said Absher always greeted students by name when they passed him in the halls.

"He made every effort to build relationships with us and keep himself open to our concerns," Martin said. "I'll never forget the warm hospitality he and Mrs. Beverly showed each year by inviting the entire business school for a cookout and hayride at their farm. His role as a Christian business leader is one I plan to model in my future career."

Union President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver described Absher as a capable administrator, a faithful churchman, a generous giver, a devoted husband and a loving father and grandfather.

"Because Keith was a follower of Jesus Christ, we do not grieve as those who have no hope," Oliver said. "We know his eternal destiny is secure, and we are grateful that he is now in the presence of his Savior. We thank God for Keith's life, legacy and commitment to Union University." ■





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BROOKS TO HEADLINE 18TH ANNUAL  
**SCHOLARSHIP**  
**BANQUET**

**N**ew York Times columnist and author David Brooks will be the keynote speaker for Union University’s 18th annual Scholarship Banquet Oct. 6 at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson, Tenn.

Brooks’ books include *The Road to Character*, *The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character and Achievement*, *Bobos in Paradise* (a *New York Times* bestseller) and *On Paradise Drive*. He is a regular analyst on *PBS NewsHour* and *NPR’s All Things Considered*.

“David Brooks is a trusted and valued commentator on American life and culture,” Union President Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver said. “His most recent book, *The Road to Character*, is one that resonates with all of us who care about Union—a place committed to the virtuous life and to living a life filled with meaning and purpose.

“His presence at the 2015 Union Scholarship Banquet will, I’m convinced, be both an encouragement to us all and a challenge to press on as we seek to live out our mission and core values.”

Brooks served as senior editor at *The Weekly Standard* and has been a contributing editor at *Newsweek* and the *Atlantic Monthly*. He worked at *The Wall Street Journal* for nine years in a variety of positions, including op-ed editor.

Brooks is currently teaching a course at Yale University. He holds honorary degrees from Williams College, New York University, Brandeis University and Occidental College, among others. In 2010, Brooks became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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**HIS PRESENCE  
 WILL BE BOTH AN  
 ENCOURAGEMENT TO US  
 ALL AND A CHALLENGE TO  
 PRESS ON AS WE SEEK TO  
 LIVE OUT OUR MISSION  
 AND CORE VALUES.**

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

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



## Huckabee praises a Union education

**F**ox News host and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee spoke about personal morality and the value of Christian education at Union University’s 17th annual Scholarship Banquet Oct. 7 at the Carl Perkins Civic Center.

Huckabee said he was delighted to assist Union because he graduated from another Southern Baptist liberal arts college, Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas.

As the first male in his family to attend college, Huckabee was dependent on scholarships.

“I didn’t have a trust fund,” he said. “All I could do was trust God to help me fund it, and that was my trust fund.”

Huckabee also worked full time as a disc jockey at local radio station, studying while the records played. His hard-earned education has paid off, he said.

“Students who go to a school like Union University will have an education that will put them on par with students who go to any Ivy League university in America,” Huckabee said, citing his personal experience debating Harvard Law graduates.

Union students will have an additional advantage over their secular peers, Huckabee said: “A person is far better off if they are prepared not only in their minds but in their spirits... We’re living in an age where people have utterly rejected God’s truth and are proud of it.”

Huckabee said students need to be able to defend their faith in an increasingly secular world, a skill Union will give them. 🍷



# Union celebrates Homecoming 2014

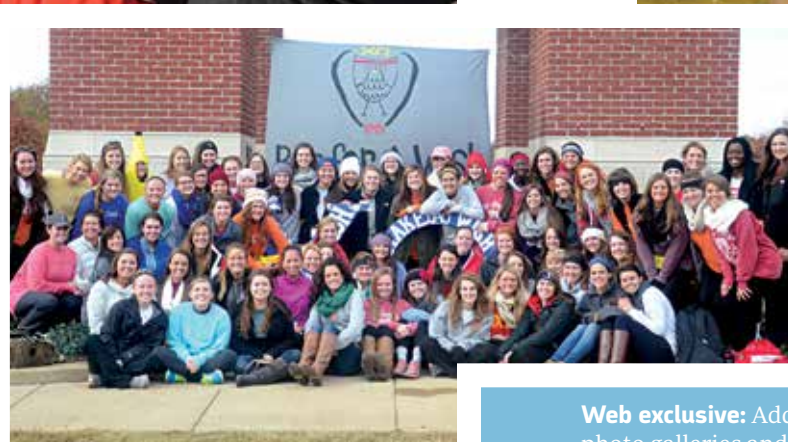


The entire Union community joined together for a celebration of God's faithfulness during Homecoming activities Nov. 7-8.

Starting off the weekend of celebration, the University acknowledged the class of 1965 as it commemorated its 50th reunion during the annual Homecoming chapel. In addition to celebrating these individuals, the recipients of the Alumni Awards were recognized.

**Tim Tucker ('03)** received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Tucker owns his own pharmacy and has served on numerous boards, including president of the Tennessee Pharmacists Association and national president of the American Pharmacists Association.

**Bobby Arnold ('76)**, CEO/president of West Tennessee Healthcare, received the Distinguished Service Award. **Jon Mark Walls ('07)** received the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. Walls has worked for the Carter Center and the United Nations and is currently CEO of GovFaces.



The Homecoming celebration also included the inauguration of Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver as Union University's 16th president.

Saturday morning kicked off with the ladies of Chi Omega hosting the "Run for a

## SAVE THE DATES NOV. 6-7

Plans are already underway for Homecoming 2015, scheduled for Nov. 6-7. The weekend will include a celebration of the class of 1966 and the dedication of the new library on the Great Lawn.



**Web exclusive:** Additional photo galleries and video from the Homecoming chapel and Dr. Oliver's Inauguration are available at [uu.edu/unionite](http://uu.edu/unionite)

Wish" 5k which benefits the Make-a-Wish foundation. Throughout the day students and alumni crowded the campus for a number of events, including Picnic with the President and an NCAA celebration reception.

The weekend came to a close as the Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs each won on the court against Williams Baptist College and Robert Morris College. 🏆

## OLD SCHOOL

### ALUMNI NEWS

#### 40's | FORTIES |

**James "Jim" Franklin Eaves ('49) and Dorothy Jeane (Hillman) Eaves ('49)** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on March 17, 2015. Jim is a former member of Union's Board of Trustees.

#### 70's | SEVENTIES |



His dissertation study was on the

**Bobby Bragg ('75)** earned his Ed.D. in educational leadership from Dallas Baptist University.

"functional motivation of the boomer to volunteer through church." Bobby serves as the Boomer Generation Pastor at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, Mississippi.

**Joel Washburn ('79)** is the president of the Tennessee Press Association. He also serves on the Tennessee Press Association Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Washburn is the general business manager for his family's two



community newspapers, *The McKenzie Banner* and *Dresden Enterprise*.

## Union alumna establishes scholarship honoring brother

On a cool day in March, a small group of close-knit family members gathered on Union University's campus to remember the life of Union alumnus **Daniel Thomas "Tom" Murchison ('59)** and to celebrate the establishment of an endowed scholarship fund in his memory.

For the family, it is a fitting way to honor him—a faithful and loved husband, father, grandfather and brother. The initial \$50,000 gift given by Tom's sister and fellow Union alumna, Lynne Murchison, will benefit students studying the liberal arts.

"I always knew my brother was a good man, but it was not until after his death that I learned he was a great man," Lynne Murchison said. "Tom had a servant's heart, and I hope that this scholarship will help produce more Toms for the world."

Union President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver said the university received the gift with joy for the impact it would have for many years.

"As students receive an excellent, Christ-centered education through this endowed scholarship in his memory, they will know and remember the name and legacy of



Tom Murchison," Oliver said.

Tom Murchison graduated from Union in 1959. He was well-known on campus for his brilliant sense of humor and extensive campus involvement. Murchison went on to graduate from Tulane University Law School and began his 49-year law career in Natchitoches, Louisiana, where he and his wife settled permanently.

Murchison, who described himself as "terminally cantankerous," frequently reminded others of his priorities—"faith, family and friends." His family remembers him as a man of character and integrity, one who quietly served others.

Following a battle with cancer, Murchison died in 2012 at the age of



75. But, for his family and friends, the impact of his life continues to shape them.

In February of 2014, the city of Natchitoches dedicated the city court building posthumously in Murchison's honor, "for his forty years as City Attorney and public servant."

Tom, who met his wife, Vicki, at Union, was the first member of his family to graduate from Union. He was followed by his two younger sisters, a niece and a nephew. His granddaughter is a current student.

"This is a family that highly values the mission of Union," Oliver said. "It is encouraging to see the influence one generation of Unionites has had on the world and to anticipate the influence of future generations." 🏡



## 80's | EIGHTIES |

**Lawrence A. Ragland ('87)**



serves as senior pastor of Watson Grove Baptist Church in New Albany, Mississippi.

## 90's | NINETIES |

**Jennifer Land Graham ('96, '10, '12, and '14)** graduated from

Union University with her Ed.D. in July of 2014. She is the sixth grade math teacher and middle school community service coordinator at Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, Tennessee. Jennifer lives with her husband, Andy, and stepson, Ray, in Franklin, Tennessee.

**John Grant Swafford ('93)**

and his wife Jennifer adopted a daughter from China in September 2014. They have two biological sons. Grandmother is **Doris Sue Hardee Swafford ('55)** and aunt and uncle are **Carol Swafford Church**

**('85) and Harvey Church ('85).** The Swaffords life in Spartanburg, South Carolina, where he is director of ministries for the radio and TV ministry of First Baptist Church.

**Shawn Stutz ('98)** published a book entitled *I Have Ears: Learning to Hear from God* about his journey of faith and learning to listen to God in the midst of life and community. The book is available for purchase at Amazon. Shawn, his wife Michelle and their two children live in Seymour, Tennessee, and Shawn is a teacher and worship leader at Aroma

Church in Knoxville. More information about his writing and ministry is available at [www.shawnstutz.com](http://www.shawnstutz.com).

**Dee Leggett ('98)** works as senior consultant with LTK Engineering Services, a premier rail systems engineering firm. Dee previously served as chief operating officer for the Denton County Transportation Authority and its 21-mile commuter rail line. Dee and her husband, Matt, live in Highland Village, Texas, with their 3-year-old son, Harrison.

# Arnold, Conger win local Man, Woman of the Year awards

**Bobby Arnold ('76)** and **Virginia Conger ('52)**, two Union University alumni, were recently honored as Jackson's Man of the Year and Woman of the Year, respectively.

Arnold, president and CEO of West Tennessee Healthcare, was selected by the Jackson Exchange Club for its yearly honor and presented with the award at a Feb. 24 ceremony.

"Mr. Arnold has been involved in our community for many years and had a long career at Jackson-General Hospital," said Jackson Exchange Club President Scott Beard in a *Jackson Sun* story. "He's been involved in many boards and many committees that give back to the community and helped our community grow.

"Basically he's just been a great service to our community. Everything going on in the community, Bobby Arnold is there and real supportive of it."

Arnold said he was deeply humbled by the award.

"I've had the opportunity to work alongside some amazing men and women who work so very hard," Arnold said. "One of the great things about Jackson is that the people of this community are willing to band together and take care of each other and work.

"I would just say that any success I may have had or this recognition tonight, some of it is certainly attributable to the folks that I've had the opportunity to work with on different boards and projects."

Three weeks later, Conger was named Altrusa's 63rd Woman of the Year at a March 16 dinner. The group selects a Jackson or Madison County resident each year who is typically active in the community and serves in leadership roles.

"She taught in the Jackson-Madison County School system for 27 years,"



Arnold



Conger

Altrusa President Jennifer Flanagan said of Conger, as reported by the *Jackson Sun*. "She was married to a mayor of Jackson, and they raised four children."

"I believe God put us here to help people, and that's what we're supposed to do," Conger said. "I appreciate the friends I have in the room and I appreciate all of you being here."

According to the *Sun* story, Conger works with children at the Department of Children's Services as a surrogate parent, mentors high school seniors for Madison Achieves, bakes desserts for the homeless and sews for the Threads of Love program, among other service projects. She also teaches Sunday school at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson. 📖

## 00's | TWO THOUSANDS |

**Kathy O. Lofton ('00)** is working on a short film project entitled, "I am a Caregiver." This social advocacy film will highlight the personal



stories and challenges of select caregivers in Memphis, Tennessee. For more information

about the project, visit [www.kickstarter.com/projects/kathyol-i-am-a-caregiver](http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/kathyol-i-am-a-caregiver).

**Becky Roode ('02)** works with the Bridge Network of Churches, a network of over 90 churches serving southeastern Virginia with resources, training and support. For more information, visit [www.norbaptist.com](http://www.norbaptist.com).

**Ingrid Gindin ('03)** completed a fellowship in forensic psychiatry in June 2014. She now works as a psychiatrist in the state prison system in Pennsylvania.

**Grant Taylor ('04)** earned his Ph.D. in biblical theology from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in December 2014. He and his wife Rebecca welcomed Karah Mae to the family in July 2014. They reside in Wake Forest, North Carolina, where Grant teaches biblical studies at Southeastern and Rebecca works in the Office of Institutional Advancement.

**Cam Armstrong ('05)** is the assistant dean for undergraduate



curriculum and student affairs for Baylor University's Robbins College of Health and Human Science.

She graduated in May with a Ph.D. in higher education from Azusa Pacific University.

# Myer enhances crisis response in Turkey

The young woman on the videotape was distraught. Her face, framed by long dark hair, was etched with concern and her arms and legs quivered as she answered questions about how she and her family survived an earthquake in Turkey.

She occasionally grimaced and wrung her hands as she described the experience to another woman serving as a trauma therapist who calmly and softly asked questions while offering reassurance.

The dramatic scene was part of a 2014 summer workshop on crisis intervention at Atilum University in Ankara, a province in central Turkey. The woman was a student and the therapist was a faculty member. Off camera was **Rick Myer**, a 1975 Union graduate, chair of the University of Texas at El Paso Department of Educational Psychology and Special Services.

Myer, an international expert in his field, was invited by the Turkish Ministry of Science and Technology to participate in a five-week academic fellowship similar to the U.S. Fulbright Scholar program. He participated in research, workshops, panel discussions and classroom sessions tied to the psychosocial Triage Assessment Model that he helped develop in 1992 to assess an individual's cognitive, affective and behavioral issues after a crisis.

Advanced instruction in crisis intervention and trauma therapy is valuable in Turkey, which experiences hundreds of earthquakes of different magnitudes annually and also shares

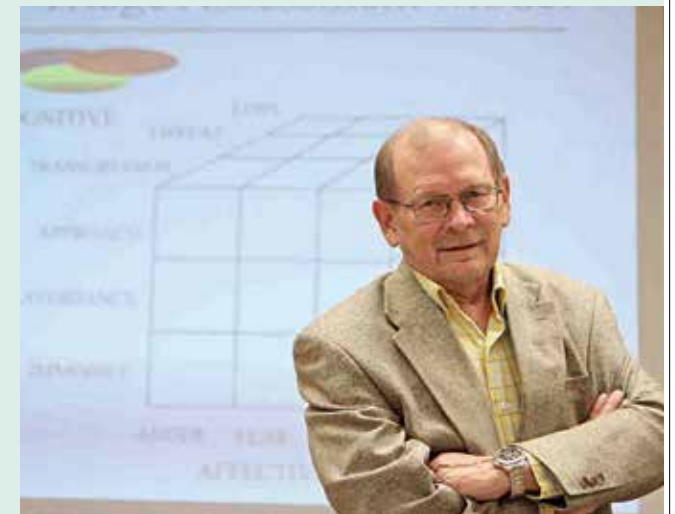


PHOTO COURTESY OF J.R. HERNANDEZ / UTEP NEWS SERVICE.

borders with Syria, Iraq and Iran, which leaves it open to tens of thousands of refugees trying to escape social and political violence. The Turkish government is trying to enhance its methods to address emotional and psychological issues that impact its population and develop a stronger crisis management plan for its K-16 schools.

"My job was to do some training, but as a result we also collected data on the Triage Assessment Model form, and the analysis of that data shows that the information on the form is reliable in that culture," Myer said.

The educator said he planned to co-author several research papers with his Turkish peers using data from his summer work. They would use that data as the basis to resubmit a grant that would permit him to return to Turkey several times during a two-year period to do more extensive training in crisis intervention assessments and crisis management in other parts of the country and collect even more data. 📖





**Sherri Thomas ('05)** is the principal of Lewis and Clark Middle School in Jefferson City,

Missouri. She was selected as one of six educators in the state of Missouri for the "2014 Missouri Lottery and St. Louis Cardinals "Stars of the Classroom!" This program celebrates excellence in education by honoring outstanding Missouri educators.



**Melissa Alexander ('06)** was recently named Principal and Shareholder at Cushman &

Wakefield | Commercial Advisors in Memphis, Tenn.

**Alvin D. Jeffrey ('07)** published a book entitled *Staff Educator's Guide to Clinical Orientation: Onboarding Solutions for Nurses*, published by Sigma Theta Tau International. The book is a practical guide to creating and sustaining high-quality orientation and onboarding programs that meet the needs of nurses, organizations and patients.



**Joe Carlen ('07 and '11)** is returning home to Columbia, Tennessee, to work as director of finance for his

family's business, Williams Funeral Home and Crematory.

**Matt Stimmel ('09)** began the MBA program at The Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in fall 2014.

## 10's | TWENTY TENS |

**Hannah Crossett ('12)** serves as chaplain intern at Friendship Village Chesterfield. She is working to discover how to strengthen connections (rather than isolation) within the retirement community. She is working on a dual master's degree in counseling and educational ministries at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

## Marriages

### Jonathan Yorkowitz ('05)

married long-time friend, Rachel Joy (Klas) Yorkowitz, on June 21, 2014, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The couple lives in Fresno, California, where Jonathan works as the assistant director of residence life, and Rachel works as the front office manager for the registrar's office, both at Fresno Pacific University.



### Laura Spotts Todd ('10)

married Kevin Todd on April 19, 2014.



### Mary Alisa Techentin Duchek ('11)

married Matthew Duchek on Aug. 9, 2014, in Nashville, Tennessee. After their honeymoon in the Greek islands, the happy couple was blessed with a baby in May.



### Jessica House Richmond ('11)

married Justin Richmond on Sept. 21, 2013. Jessica is a teacher at South Pemiscot High School in Steele, Missouri.



**Lori Morris Jacob ('12)** married Brian Edward Jacob on Oct. 12, 2014.

### Maggie Ledbetter Sandusky ('12)



married Ethan Sandusky on Sept. 26, 2014, in Royse City, Texas. They met in hermeneutics class at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where they are both pursuing Master of Divinity degrees.

## Births



**Tim Hooker ('93)** and his wife Gana welcomed Josiah Amgalan Hooker on Dec. 10, 2014. Josiah weighed

8 lb., 7 oz and was 20 in. long.

**Fancher Sargent ('96)** and Carrie Sargent, along with their son Jack, announced the birth of Elizabeth Kate Sargent on Jan. 27, 2014. She was 6 lb., 2 oz.



**John Robus ('03)** and **Leslie Robus ('04)**, along with their 5-year-old daughter Kelsey, welcomed Ellie

Grace to their family on May 24, 2014. She weighed 8 lb., 5 oz. and was 20 1/2 in. long. They live in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

# Memoriam



**Elven D. Hensley ('50)** passed away May 16, 2014. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary

Frances Hayes Hensley who passed away April 5, 2014.

**Joseph Albert Coughlin Jr.** died Jan. 1, 2015, at age 76. He attended Union for one semester in the spring of 1956. His is survived by his wife, three children and four step-children.

### Billy Frank Hammonds ('58)

passed away Nov. 14, 2013, in Dothan, Alabama. He was 79 years old. He was ordained as a Baptist minister at age 22 and served in the ministry for 57 years, retiring from First Baptist Church in Trenton, Tennessee, in 2001. Survivors include his wife, Patricia Bowman Hammonds, two children and six grandchildren.

**Billy Joe Weinstein ('62)** passed away Nov. 7, 2014, in Paducah, Kentucky. He was 76 years old. He received a bachelor's degree



in music from Union in 1962 and was a member of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of

America. After two years of service in the U.S. Army, he worked as a high school music teacher, salesman and agent. Mr. Weinstein also loved farming and raising Black Angus cattle. He will be remembered for his love of "family, music, and cows." Mr. Winstein is

survived by his wife of 46 years, Ann Harper-Simmons.

### Janeen Googe Smith ('64, '68)

passed away in June 2014 at age 71. A lifelong resident of Jackson, Tennessee, she was a musician and piano teacher who was active in the musical community. She graduated from Union with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1964 before completing her Bachelor of Music degree in 1968. Survivors include her husband, Ward H. Smith, two children and one grandchild.



Want to stay updated about the latest happenings at Union?

Sign up for Union Life, a monthly email that highlights news, events and stories of interest to the Union community. Subscribe at [uu.edu/alumni](http://uu.edu/alumni).



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](mailto:unionite@uu.edu)

Online: [uu.edu/unionite](http://uu.edu/unionite)



# Bullpups

1. Annie Jane Preston was born Sept. 6, 2014, to Landon Preston ('07) and Stacy Preston ('05).
2. Josiah Amgalan Hooker was born Dec. 10, 2014, to Tim Hooker ('93) and Gana Hooker.
3. Lucy Marie was born on June 30, 2014. She is the daughter of Shaun Powers ('02) and Beth Sentell Powers ('05).

4. Caleb, born Jan. 1, 2012, and Ruby, born Sep. 11, 2013, are the children of Andrew Smith ('09) and Calli (Hankins) Smith ('10).



## The UNION FUND

CHANGING LIVES TO IMPACT THE WORLD

IN 1998

Jamie Mosley and Suzanne Frost were both Union students.

That same year, Glenn and Geraldine Rainey ('53) gave to the Union Fund. As recipients of financial aid, Jamie and Suzanne benefited from their gift.

Jamie and Suzanne went on to get married, have three boys and carry out the Union mission in Middle Tennessee through their service to church and society.



IN 2011

Claudia Velasco transferred to Union from Vanderbilt University.

That same year, Jamie and Suzanne Mosley gave to the Union Fund. Claudia benefited through financial aid.

As a Union student, Claudia tutored Jackson elementary and middle school students and received a prestigious internship with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in Washington, D.C.

Claudia is now working with an international technology consulting firm, EMC Corporation, based out of Paris, France.

And this year she joins Jamie and Suzanne as a Union Fund donor.



IN 2015

Union University continues a 192-year legacy of transforming individuals, who then impact the world through Christ-centered service. JOIN THIS LEGACY BY GIVING TO THE UNION FUND.

[uu.edu/giving](http://uu.edu/giving)







# UNION UNIVERSITY

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



## Final Frame

Andrew Clark, art graduate, accepts his diploma from Dr. Dub at the May 16 spring commencement.

*photo by Amanda Rohde '16*

