

National publications recognize Union University academics

Union University has been named one of the South's top tier universities for the 11th straight year by *U.S. News & World Report*, moving into the top 20 in its current category for the first time.

Union is ranked 20th in the "Southern Universities-Master's: Top Schools" category, which includes those institutions that provide a full range of undergraduate programs and some master's level programs. The category includes 574 universities, ranked within four geographic areas – North, South, Midwest and West.

Union was ranked 38th in the same category just two years ago.

"The *U.S. News & World Report* listings speak volumes about the quality of students at Union University," Union President David S. Dockery said. "Simultaneously, it is a tribute to the dedicated efforts of our outstanding faculty and staff."

Among the top tier universities in the South, Union ranked in the top 10 in five subcategories, including faculty resources, percentage of classes with fewer than 20 students, SAT/ ACT scores, freshmen in top 25 percent of high school class and student selectivity. Union was 11th in the "student/faculty ratio" category.

Other publications are also recognizing Union's academic achievements.

Princeton Review added Union to its "100 Best Southeastern Colleges" edition for 2008. Union has also once again been named one of "America's 100 Best College Buys" by an independent research firm and has been added to a national guide called "Colleges of Distinction."

The Colleges of Distinction guide identifies four distinctions of superior colleges and universities: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities and successful outcomes. ♦



Card, Panetta provide insider's look at the Oval Office

Life in the White House is intense and pressure-packed, but nothing at all like the hit television series "The West Wing," according to Leon Panetta. "Watching 'The West Wing' on television is like looking at the Eiffel Tower in Las Vegas," Panetta said. "It looks real, feels real, but isn't real."

Panetta, who served as chief of staff for President Clinton, and Andrew Card, former chief of staff for President George W. Bush, were the keynote speakers Oct. 23 for Union University's 11th annual Scholarship Banquet and provided an insider's look at White House operations.

The event drew 1,700 people and raised \$500,000 for student scholarships. The banquet proceeds pushed the university's "Union 2010" capital campaign to more than \$100 million toward the goal of \$110 million.

"Both speakers provided insightful commentary on the work of the White House and the challenges facing our nation and our world," Union President David S. Dockery said. "For the generosity of our friends and the support of the community for this event we are most grateful."

Lead sponsors were Bancorp South; White Investments LLC, Roy L. and Martha White; Schilling Enterprises, Harry and Beth Smith; and Black & Decker Industrial Products Group.

Premier sponsors were Jack and Faye Porter; Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, Rod and Amy Parker; Mike and Trish Weeks; First Bank, Curtis

Mansfield and Jim Ayers; Benny and Norma Fesmire; Medical Education Technologies Inc., Lou Oberndorf; Jack and Zan Holmes; The Jackson Sun; Nortek Incorporated, Lloyd Hansen; Keith and Beverly Absher; Impact 360, John and Trudy White; and West Tennessee Healthcare.

This banquet marked the first time in the event's 11-year history that two keynote speakers have been featured on the same program. Previous banquets have featured speakers such as George H.W. Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher and Colin Powell.

Card's address recounted the defining moment of his tenure as chief of staff – the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He recalled getting the first word about a plane slamming into the World Trade Center, and the analysis that it was only an accident. When word came a few moments later that another plane had hit the second tower, Card knew he had to inform the president.

"A second plane hit the second tower," Card whispered into Bush's ear as he was reading to a class of elementary school students. "America is under attack."

Card explained how difficult the president's job is, and said that no decision that ever reaches the Oval Office is an easy decision. The chief of staff's job, Card said, is to make sure the president is prepared to make the tough decisions.

For Bush, that meant talking to good advisers, as well as reading history and policy papers, Card said.

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"But most importantly, I found, was seeking counsel from a higher power, and I witnessed the president seek that counsel many, many times," Card said.

Panetta said the ingredients to success in the White House are hard work, dedication, sacrifice and loyalty.

"We govern in our democracy either through leadership or through crisis," Panetta said. The challenge of chief of staff is to help serve the president so that crisis alone does not drive policy in this country."

Panetta described President Clinton as "the most unique and complex political figure" that he ever met in 30 years of politics. Clinton was one part "good old boy," one part Yale student and Oxford scholar and one part consummate politician, Panetta said.

"I had the good fortune to serve him as chief of staff in his first four years," Panetta said. "And I've always thanked the guardian angel who told me it was time to get out of Washington at the end of those first four years." ♦



Left: March 12 with Paul Begala
Middle: April 2 with Michael Gerson
Right: April 16 with Claire Shipman.

Union Forum to feature three speakers

The 2008 Union Forum will examine the U.S. presidential elections and will feature three speakers rather than two for the first time in the 10-year history of the event.

The luncheon programs begin March 12 with Paul Begala, who was a top aide to former President Bill Clinton. The second program on April 2 features Michael Gerson, a former senior policy adviser to President George W. Bush. The 2008 series concludes April 16 with Good Morning America's senior national correspondent Claire Shipman.

Begala is a political analyst for CNN and research professor at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute. As a top Clinton aide he was responsible for defining and defending the White House agenda, from the State of the Union Address

to domestic and international issues.

Gerson worked closely with President Bush to create memorable speeches following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He is currently a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and is a columnist for the Washington Post.

Shipman contributes frequently to several ABC News programs. Previously, she served as White House correspondent for NBC News, spent five years at CNN's Moscow Bureau, and wrote a popular column for *George* magazine for two years.

Union Forum luncheons in recent years have drawn large crowds. Early table reservations are advised for 2008. Tables seat six; individual seats are also available. For more information, contact university relations at (731) 661-5050. ♦



A full gym housed entering freshman interested in LIFE groups.

Enrollment reaches record high for 10th straight year

Enrollment at Union University for the fall semester is a record-high 3,310 students, the 10th straight year for an enrollment increase at the university.

The 2007 figure tops last year's fall enrollment of 3,156. The latest enrollment figures show a 68 percent increase over the 1,972 students enrolled in the fall of 1996, when Union University President David S. Dockery began his tenure.

The total 2007 fall enrollment includes 2,376 undergraduate students, compared to 2,277 last year, and 930 graduate students, compared to 879 last year.

"We are thrilled with both the number and the quality of new students who have chosen to attend Union University and we give thanks for each student pursuing a degree this semester on the Union campus," Dockery said. "We recognize that the enrollment numbers are only one portion of the story at Union University, but they are a strong indicator of institutional health."

The fall enrollment totals include the largest number of incoming freshmen in Union's history at 476, and the largest number of new students, including freshmen, transfers, non-traditional students and graduate students, at more than 1,100.

"Students are choosing Union because of the serious commitment to rigorous academics and the dedication across the campus to the university's Christ-centered mission," Dockery said. "We salute the wonderful work of our enrollment services team." ♦

Union honors Moss with doctorate

During the August commencement ceremonies at Union University, President David S. Dockery presented an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree to Jim Moss, retiring president and CEO of West Tennessee Healthcare.



Jim Moss (center) receives his hood from Dr. Jimmy Davis and Dr. Carla Sanderson

Dockery said the university faculty and trustees vote on rewarding such a degree to someone who has demonstrated significant leadership and made considerable contributions to society.

"During the years that Jim Moss has led West Tennessee Healthcare, he has changed the culture of a public hospital – a culture that is characterized by love and service and care for people," Dockery said, noting that during the past 12 years, West Tennessee Healthcare has given or pledged \$6 million to Union.

Moss is a native of Louisiana and is married to Peggy. They have three children and five grandchildren. ♦

Memphis health care group donates \$1 million

Baptist Memorial Health Care of Memphis has made a \$1 million donation to the health care programs at Union University.

The gift will be used to establish the Baptist Memorial Health Care Center for Excellence in Health Care and the Baptist Memorial Health Care Professor of Pharmacy in honor of Grover Bowles. Bowles was the longtime director of pharmacy at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Medical Center.

Stephen C. Reynolds, president and CEO of Baptist, presented the check to

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The act of giving: A kidney donation between friends

Alvin Jeffery knew that Dustin Mayfield needed help, so he leaped at the chance to offer it.

After all, what's a kidney between friends? "I have two of them," Jeffery said. "Some people say God gave you two kidneys for a reason. Maybe it's so you can give one away to someone who doesn't have it."

Jeffery, who graduated from Union University with a degree in nursing in May, donated a kidney to Union University junior Dustin Mayfield in a transplant operation in June at Methodist Hospital in Memphis. The operation was a success, and both men are well on the way to recovery.

"I just feel like God lined us up and took care of it all," Mayfield said. "I love Alvin to death. I guess he's kind of my hero. I can't think of anyone better to get a kidney from than him."

Mayfield has a rare genetic disease called Alport Syndrome that keeps the kidneys from developing properly. He has known for years that he would one day need a kidney transplant.

He hadn't experienced any physical problems, however, until his first year of college at Union, when he could tell he was getting weaker and sicker.

"That was when I first started feeling bad," Mayfield said. "Nothing really hindered me at all until the end of my first year of college."

Mayfield began talking to a transplant team at the hospital in August 2006. When his Union friends discovered that Mayfield would need a transplant, some of them began offering to donate. Jeffery was

one of those, and he was serious about it. Mayfield felt completely at ease with the idea of Jeffery as a donor.

Jeffery, now on the nursing staff at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, said he had multiple reasons for offering to help.

"I had always thought it would be cool to donate a kidney," Jeffery said. "It's something my mom has always instilled in me, to donate an organ if I get a chance to."

He also had some selfish reasons for doing so.

"It's going to teach me how to be more empathetic to my patients," Jeffery said.

Tests confirmed that Jeffery and

Mayfield were a close enough match, so they proceeded with plans for surgery. Jeffery took his nursing board exams and donated a kidney on successive days. He got word he had passed the boards while in the hospital.

"The surgery went great," Mayfield said after the transplant. "No complications. My kidneys are working well and producing a lot of urine, which is a good sign."

All indications are that Mayfield's body has accepted the kidney. "I could tell people were praying for me," Mayfield said. "There's no way that it could have worked out better than it did. Everyone's been very supportive."

Mayfield and his family are thankful for Jeffery's selflessness.

"I keep calling him our hero," said Gail Mayfield, Dustin's mother. "For someone to step up and give a kidney – he knew it was going to be painful. He was all for it and never had a doubt. It takes someone special." ♦



Dustin Mayfield (left) and Alvin Jeffery (right)

How Should We Worship?

Baptist Worship Identity Symposium scheduled for 2008

Union University will host a major conference this winter focused on the importance of worship in Baptist life.

The Baptist Worship Identity Symposium Feb. 14-16 will feature a distinguished panel of presenters on the Jackson campus. They will explore key worship issues and present a hymn festival.

"This project unfolded into a dynamic, three-pronged focus: a major symposium, worship renewal in partner churches and worship renewal throughout our campus community," said Richard Joiner, chairman of the department of music at Union. "We are blessed to have the opportunity to join our churches and our Baptist communities of faith with this pivotal endeavor."

The Baptist Worship Identity Symposium and Project is a joint endeavor of Union University and the Tennessee Baptist Convention. This symposium and project are made possible, in part, through a Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Mich., with funds provided by the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Among the presenters scheduled to appear is Marva Dawn, author of "Reaching

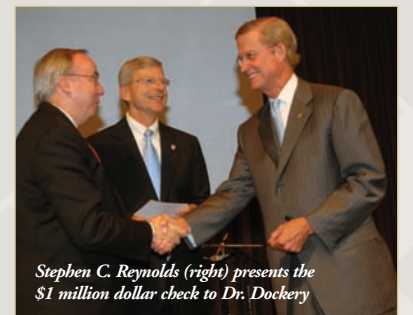
Out Without Dumbing Down," and other books on worship. She is a teaching fellow in spiritual theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Also scheduled are Donald Hustad, senior professor of church music and worship at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Robert Smith Jr., professor of Christian preaching at Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Ala.; David S. Dockery, Union president; and George Guthrie, Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible at Union.

The symposium follows two Baptist Identity Conferences at Union in 2004 and 2007. Those meetings focused on key matters of faith such as evangelism, church growth, the future of Baptist associations and the traditional church.

"The Baptist Worship Identity Symposium was born out of the hope that the Baptist Identity Conferences would not only affirm the doctrines that are essential to our identity, but guide us to a worship that grows out of that identity," Joiner said.

For more information about the 2008 conference, contact the department of music at (731) 661-5311. ♦



Stephen C. Reynolds (right) presents the \$1 million dollar check to Dr. Dockery

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President David S. Dockery during a chapel service on Union's campus.

"Our mission of healing, teaching and preaching extends beyond the hospital and into our community and our schools," Reynolds said.

The gift from Baptist follows \$5 million in donations to Union's pharmacy program from West Tennessee Healthcare and leaders of Union's board of trustees.

The four-year Doctor of Pharmacy degree program will be led by Sheila Mitchell, who was named as the founding dean of the School of Pharmacy in May. ♦

Union achieves accreditation rarity

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has affirmed Union University's accreditation for the next 10 years, after the university was found to be in compliance in all areas with no recommendations for changes.

Union University Provost Carla Sanderson said it was extremely rare for SACS to find institutions in compliance in all areas.

"The chairman of the on-site visiting team in May said that in 30 years of chairing on-site teams, Union was his first experience where there were no recommendations," Sanderson said.

The SACS on-site team visited the Union campus in May. Final notification came from SACS in December.

Though individual programs of study will have to go through accreditation processes over the next decade, the report means that Union as an institution remains fully accredited for 10 years. ♦

New university centers examine media, culture and beliefs

Two new university centers will provide forums for some widely discussed and crucial issues in American culture.



The Center for Media, Faith and Culture provides Christian communicators with perspective as they engage the culture. **Michael D. Chute**, professor of communication arts, is the center's director.



Also new this fall is the Center for Politics and Religion, directed by **Micah Watson**, assistant professor of political science. This center will sponsor conferences, promote research and encourage each student to consider how faith affects political philosophy.

"It's sometimes said that we are supposed to avoid bringing these topics up at polite dinner conversation," Watson said. "But I think Union in general and the Center can foster robust and charitable conversations about these matters that we often care about a great deal."

The Center will also bring in speakers and sponsor conferences that will address these topics. Watson said two scholars will visit Union on President's Day to talk about Washington and Lincoln and their approach to politics and religion.

There are now 10 centers for study at Union. Others include the Carl F. H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership, Center for Business and Economic Development, Center for Educational Practice, Center for Excellence in Health Care Practice, Center for Faculty Development, Edward P. Hammons Center for Scientific Studies, R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies and R.G. Lee Center for Christian Ministry. ♦

Bulldogs look to repeat NAIA tournament run



From a national perspective, head coach Ralph Turner's team is coming off a highly successful season. The Bulldogs advanced to the Elite Eight in the 2007 NAIA National Tournament with wins over, California Baptist and Southern Nazarene (Okla.).

Five players from that team graduated, including 56 of the team's 83 total points per game last season. Four of those were starters who earned NAIA All-American honors during their Union careers: Mack Bealim, Deywane Lee, Ben Frederick, and Pierry Valmera.

Ryan Merriman is this year's lone returning senior. He made 21 three-pointers for the Bulldogs and was a key

player in Union's NAIA run.

Other key returning players from last year's 25-10 squad include juniors Brian Lake (12.6 points per game) and Tony Brown (11.2); and sophomores Tacuma Alexander, Brandon Lay and Keith Tollivar.

Among the leading newcomers is junior college All-American Matt Neaville. He set the junior college record with 17 made three-pointers in a game and was the nation's fourth leading junior college scorer with 26 points per game.

"Matt is a special player," Turner said. "Not only is he a great shooter and scorer, but he finds ways to make all of his teammates better." ♦



Lady Bulldogs return top scorers

Head coach Mark Campbell welcomes back four of the top five scorers from a team that advanced to the NAIA national tournament's final four and took the TranSouth conference title for the 10th time in 12 years.

Merideth Richardson Jacobs (leading three-point shooter from 2005 and 2006 national title teams) is back following a medical redshirt season. Kaitlin Dudley returns after leading Union in scoring as a freshman (14 points per game). Josephine Owino will try to better her 64 percent field goal shooting last season, the second-best percentage in the nation.

All three players have each been NAIA All-Americans during their careers.

Crystal Eason returns for her senior season. She was named a conference scholar-athlete last year, averaging 10.6 points per game while sinking 68 three-point shots.

Campbell adds another player to his roster this year in freshman Kayla Hudson from nearby Gleason, Tenn. She was Miss Tennessee Basketball in high school and will see a lot of playing time.

"She has been very well coached," says Campbell. "She has the ability to play with intelligence no matter the situation." ♦



Practicing Safety: Germantown Nursing Coordinator Dana Wilkinson and RN-BSN student Scott Summers receive training on extinguishing a fire during CERT Training. The pair form a two-person team and are learning a "buddy system" safety approach. Summers has to be ready to pull Wilkinson back if the fire intensifies.

Germantown campus volunteers trained for disaster service

Students, faculty and staff on Union's Germantown campus have completed the Community Emergency Response Teams program, designed to produce trained volunteers who can help during a disaster.

Germantown firefighters and police officers presented the disaster response training to Union volunteers, including Dana Wilkinson, nursing coordinator; Tabitha Washburn, IT for Germantown campus; Donna Sachse, director of nursing in Germantown; and 24 students. They received disaster relief kits containing official CERT gear, bandages and supplies for sustaining life.

Responsibilities and duties accompany CERT volunteers. Many were surprised to learn that official rescue squads would report to the local CERT leader for instruction in the event of an actual emergency.

"We never know when a disaster may occur," Sachse said. "The students have been trained to respond to any type of disaster and will have an ID card that identifies them to others."

"There are numerous types of disasters: fire, tornado, flood, earthquake, terrorism,

winter storm, hurricane, hazardous materials release. The students are now prepared to respond appropriately."

Volunteers learn basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations – including response to emotional needs of the injured. Students say they found the drills challenging.

"It's difficult to keep a group of rescuers organized in a situation where you have multiple victims with extensive injuries," nursing student Mike Wilkerson said.

Local firefighters supervised as each CERT trainee extinguished fires, surveyed damage, disabled power sources, treated wounds of all kinds and evacuated victims from dangerous situations.

"This has given (students) invaluable training to respond when there is a community disaster," Washburn said, who also played a victim with various simulated wounds during a training drill.

"This has also taught the students to be proactive, to be prepared. It teaches them critical thinking and resourcefulness in finding needed supplies." ♦

Chi Omega teams with Make-A-Wish to help children

Armando Sanchez only wanted to be able to play with the other neighborhood kids.

That's not an easy thing to do, as 8-year-old Armando has a muscle disease that makes walking difficult. Riding a conventional bike is out of the question.

But thanks to the combined efforts of the Union University Chi Omega chapter and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Armando now has the means to be mobile. The women from Chi Omega granted Armando's wish and presented him with an electronic tricycle, among other gifts.

Total cost for the project was about \$5,000. When he first saw the bike, Armando covered his face and cried.

"It's exciting," said Claire Yates, Chi Omega's director of community service. "It's a lot of hard work, but then when you see the kids, it's completely worth it."



Armando, a child with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, plays with one of the presents he received at a party sponsored by Chi Omega.

Armando is the third child Union's Chi Omega chapter has helped through the Make-A-Wish foundation. The sorority raised money for his project through a 5K race and a barbecue.

"He wanted something to play with the other kids in the neighborhood," said Tawnette Baker, wish coordinator for the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Memphis. "All the other kids have bikes and he didn't have one and he couldn't ride one because he can't make his feet pedal. It'll be phenomenal for him."

Armando quickly recovered from his initial shock and took his new gift for a test drive. ♦