

Union welcomes new faculty members

The Union community was introduced to 20 new full time faculty members in the days leading up to the start of fall semester. Nine of the new faculty are teaching in the new Doctor of Pharmacy program. Several others are replacing long-time members of the faculty who retired in the spring.

The new members of the faculty introduced in fall 2008:

- **George DeMaagd**, professor of pharmacy and associate dean of academic administration
- **Webster Drake**, associate professor of communication arts and director of debate
- **Ildefonso Guilaran**, assistant professor of physics
- **Kim Madewell Jones**, assistant professor of pharmacy and director of student and professional relations
- **David Kuhl**, professor of pharmacy and chairman of pharmacy practice
- **Emily Lean**, instructor of business
- **Kimberly Lindsey**, assistant professor of pharmacy
- **Andrew Martin**, assistant professor of pharmacy
- **Chris Mathews**, associate professor of music and chairman of the music department
- **John Netland**, professor of English and chairman of the English department
- **Shawn Okpebholo**, assistant professor of music
- **Joel Owen**, associate professor of pharmacy
- **Tamara Popplewell**, instructor of biology
- **Cynthia Powers**, assistant professor of nursing
- **Mark Stephens**, associate professor of pharmacy and director of experiential education
- **Denise Thornton**, assistant professor of nursing
- **Lauren Tucker**, assistant professor of pharmacy
- **Blake Watkins**, assistant professor of pharmacy and chairman of pharmaceutical sciences

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Inaugural Willow Ceremony honors nurse practitioners



Nurse practitioners play important roles as health care providers. Depending upon the laws in their home states, nurse practitioners examine patients, prescribe medications and order medical tests.

These and other skills are of special significance to Sherrie Serca, a nurse practitioner student from Cordova, Tenn. and one of 40 students and alumni honored during the School of Nursing's inaugural Willow Ceremony Nov. 13 on Union's Germantown campus.

Serca wants to take the advanced knowledge she'll gain in Union's nurse practitioner program to the mission field in Africa. She has already made short-term nursing mission trips to Cambodia and China as well as Africa.

"When I go as a nurse I just see so much need there," says Serca. "I feel like I can be useful if I go over with this experience and education under my belt."

The Willow Ceremony is a relatively new initiation in nursing schools. Originally conceived at the University of Wyoming, it is patterned after White Coat Ceremonies in medical and pharmacy schools.

"The willow tree is a metaphor for the nurse practitioner," says Valerie Watters-Burke, chair of graduate nursing

programs at Union. She says the tree's flexible branches represent a network of cooperative nurses working in a variety of situations, while the strong roots signify the demanding academic preparation required for a master's degree in nursing.

Each student received a willow branch cutting and a gift bag to commemorate the event.

Honorees included recent alumni, soon-to-be graduates and students such as Serca, who still have a year or more of coursework to complete.

Union offers a 15-month nurse practitioner as a graduate program on its Germantown and Jackson campuses.

Some students go into the program with specific interests but forge new career goals based on their clinical experiences. Janet Call, a December NP graduate from Atoka, Tenn., switched her emphasis from pediatrics to family care.

"When you treat a family, it seems like you're getting a total picture," says Call, who served for years as a labor and delivery nurse. "Diabetes is becoming such a huge issue, not only for adults but for children. So, if we can treat them when they're young, it might help when they get older."

Serca also sees prevention and education as major needs in Swaziland, where she observed HIV infection rates as high as 50 percent.

"There's just a terrible belief over there (among some men) that if you're infected with HIV and you have relations with a young girl, that you'll be cured. So the need for education and love is great."

Serca wants her work to have a great impact upon Africa's youth.

"It starts with the young children, building them up so they know they don't have to follow the same lifestyle as their parents did." ■



Union nursing student Jennifer Mazur checks Donnie Jackson's blood pressure at Parkview Apartments Jan. 19

Germantown and Olford campuses honor King

With hands clasped, representatives from Union University's Stephen Olford Center and Germantown campus joined with members of True Light Baptist Church in Memphis Jan. 19 to honor the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

"I need you, you need me," they sang to conclude a special joint worship service at the church. "We're all a part of God's body. Stand with me, agree with me. We're all a part of God's body."

The worship service kicked off a day of partnership and service between the Union campuses and the church. It's the first time for Union's campuses in Memphis to celebrate the birthday of King in such a way.

Following the service, Union nursing students provided health screenings at Parkview Apartments near the church, while education professors and Union staff members read to children.

Students, faculty and staff at Union's main campus in Jackson also participated in service projects designed to honor King's legacy.

"We should be daily involved in stuff like this," said Timothy Cogbill, a student in the Associate of Divinity program at the Olford Center. "This is a good way for some people to start. I know I haven't done all that I could, so this is a way for

me to be more active in endeavors like this. I thank God for the opportunity."

Landon Preston, director of operations at the Olford Center, said the holiday carries added meaning in Memphis, where King was killed.

"We wanted to do something in service, but we also wanted to partner with a local African American church to do that," Preston said.

All classes at the Germantown campus were canceled for the day, said Jimmy Davis, Union's vice president for the Germantown campus. He expects for the day of service on the King holiday to become an annual event.

The worship service consisted of Scripture reading, congregational singing, testimonies, a drama tribute and the Lord's Supper, in addition to comments by Frank Anderson Jr., pastor of True Light Baptist Church.

"We really want our church community to be careful about who we exalt and how we go about recognizing great men and great women," Anderson said. "We always want to recognize them in the context of what God is doing through them. Martin Luther King Jr. was a great man, but he was used of God. While we need to demonstrate some appreciation for what he's done, we need to give glory to God for what happened." ■

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- **Kevin Westbrook**, associate professor of business
- **Taylor Worley**, instructor of Christian studies ■

Union business students rank among nation's best

Union students collectively scored in the 85th percentile on the Educational Testing Service Major Field Examination in Business, meaning only 15 percent of the participating schools had a better overall average.

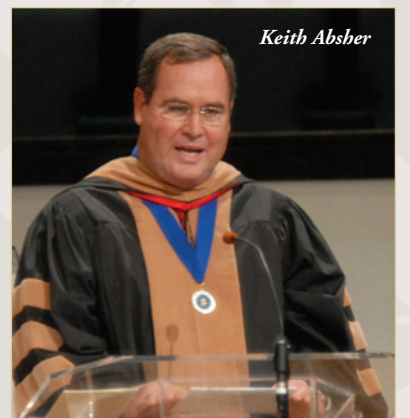
Union fared even better in a number of individual disciplines. For example, the overall Union percentile in marketing was 95; in economics, management, information systems and international issues, it was at the 90th percentile.

"That means we're ranking right at the top of the best business schools in the country," said Keith Absher, dean of Union's McAfee School of Business Administration. "Students coming to Union to study business are as well prepared as they would be at any school in the country."

Union's collective scores were above the national average (50th percentile) in all nine categories measured.

"We use the exam to assess and refine curricula, and to gauge the progress of our students," says Associate Professor of Management Bill Nance.

The national average represents the scores achieved by students at 564 U.S. colleges and universities. ■



Keith Absher

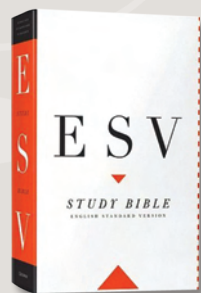
Van Neste contributes to new ESV Study Bible



Associate Professor of Christian Studies Ray Van Neste is one of 95 top scholars contributing study notes to the newest edition of the English Study Version (ESV) Study Bible from Crossway Books & Bibles.

Van Neste, who is also director of the R. C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies, wrote notes for 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus.

"I was moved when I heard of how the Crossway staff prayed weekly for those of who were writing that God would guide and bless us so that we might write in a way that would truly build up the Church and advance the kingdom of Christ," says Van Neste. "I am impressed with all the resources which are available in this Bible, from an overview of the Bible's story, to an overview of systematic theology."



Originally published in 2001, the newest edition of the ESV Study Bible is getting a lot of attention from bookstore managers and in the blogosphere. Executives at Crossway report selling 140,000 copies of the new edition in the first four weeks it was on store shelves.

Second- and third-printings were part of the company's immediate plans, and it has also been released on a variety of digital platforms such as Mac, PC and Windows Mobile.

Union President David S. Dockery wrote an endorsement for the ESV Study Bible, saying "the carefully generated maps and illustrations beautifully illuminate the thorough exegetical notes and informative thematic articles." ■



NBC's O'Donnell keynotes 10th Annual Union Forum

MSNBC's Chief Washington Correspondent Norah O'Donnell told a Union Forum audience gathered in the final weeks of the presidential campaign that Barack Obama had several overwhelming advantages working for him.

"More than 80 percent of this country believes this country is headed in the wrong direction," O'Donnell said. "The president and Congress have record-low approval ratings. Americans have lost more than \$2 trillion in their investment and retirement savings. ... This country wants change, and that favors the party that is not in power in the White House."

O'Donnell also cited other factors helping Obama. She said Colin Powell's endorsement was a boost, and she referenced Obama's significant fundraising advantage -- \$134 million in his campaign war chest to McCain's \$47 million.

In addition, O'Donnell said Obama took advantage of the Internet in unprecedented ways for campaigning and fundraising. She said he used sites such as Facebook and technology such as text messaging to reach younger voters, perhaps ushering in a "new era" in how

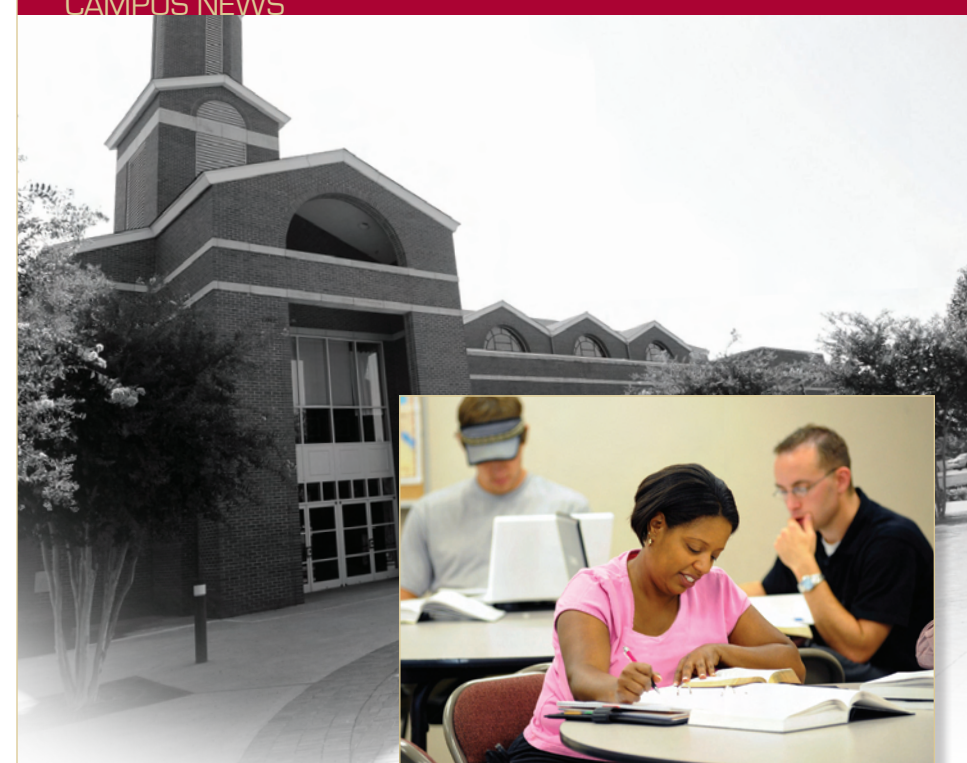
political candidates will use such technology and social networking capabilities in the future.

O'Donnell's keynote speech at the 10th annual Union Forum was significant beyond her analysis of the presidential race. Her address was the first major event in Union's new Carl Grant Events Center.

Union has hosted the nation's top speakers on campus for an inside look at topics such as business, politics and international affairs. Previous speakers have included William Kristol, Margaret Carlson, Juan Williams, Stephen Carter, Mark Shields, David Brooks, Fred Barnes, Robert Novak, Michael Medved and Clarence Page, among others.

Union Forum events traditionally are held in the spring. But the Feb. 5 tornado made hosting the events impractical for a number of reasons, including a shortage of parking at that time. It is likely Union Forum will continue as a spring event in years to come.

The O'Donnell event was sponsored by First South Bank/FSB Insurance, West Tennessee Healthcare, The Jackson Sun, TLM Associates and Trumbull Laboratories LLC. ■



Union opens Middle Tennessee campus in Hendersonville

Union University launched a new campus last fall in Hendersonville, Tenn., with eventual plans to offer graduate degrees there in Christian studies, nursing, education and business.

Classes are conducted at First Baptist Church of Hendersonville, and Charles Lea, retired academic vice president at Volunteer State Community College and a deacon at the church, serves as the executive director of the new campus.

Union's Master of Christian Studies program in the Nashville area relocated from Brentwood to Hendersonville at the start of fall semester. An Education Specialist degree program began there in February. Other degree programs could be introduced on a regular basis.

"We are thrilled with the opportunity to expand to Hendersonville our mission of delivering academically excellent, Christ-centered higher education," Union University President David S. Dockery said. "We are most grateful to Henderson-

ville Mayor Scott Foster and First Baptist Church for helping to make this possible."

Dockery said the Hendersonville campus is a direct result of Foster's invitation to Union to establish a campus in the community.

"Hendersonville, and all of Sumner County, recognizes the value of education," Foster said. "We have many dedicated teachers in our schools, both public and private, who desire the ability to further their own education. Hendersonville is also a very strong faith based community."

Dockery expects the Hendersonville location to be similar to Union's campus in Germantown, Tenn. Launched in 1998, the Germantown campus now has about 900 students and offers graduate degrees in nursing, Christian studies, education and nursing, as well as graduate programs in nursing.

Like Germantown, the emphasis on the Hendersonville campus primarily will be graduate education. ■

Wells, Carrier assume key roles in Union community

Union University welcomed C. Richard Wells and Bryan Carrier to key positions of service at the start of fall semester.



Wells is dean of the chapel and professor of Christian studies. Carrier is assistant dean of students.

As dean of the chapel, Wells serves as pastor of the entire Union University community -- students, faculty and staff. He oversees the Union chapel, including all aspects of worship, service and mission.

Wells came to Union from South Canyon Baptist Church in Rapid City, S.D., where he had served as senior pastor since 2003. Prior to that he was president of Criswell College from 1997-2003. Wells also taught preaching at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School for many years.



Carrier comes to Union from Westminster College in Fulton, Mo., where he served as director of residential and Greek life. Prior to that, he held several

positions at Trinity Christian College, including assistant dean of students, residence life and housing coordinator, residence director and director of student activities.

As assistant dean of students, Carrier also serves as the university's chief judicial officer. He is responsible for overseeing campus security, residence life and events coordination. ■

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

Trustees hear economic report, approve new programs

Despite challenges springing from the current economic climate, Union University President David S. Dockery told trustees at their December meeting that he remains hopeful about the university's continued growth and expansion in the foreseeable future.

In his report to the board, Dockery said that Union remains strong financially. The 2007-2008 year was the largest giving year in history, with more than 8,000 donors giving more than \$19 million.

Dockery said financial challenges remain. Tuition payment is coming in slower, and like everyone else, he said Union has lost money on investments. In addition, student loans are increasingly harder to get and the payments of those loans are slower in arriving.

Some experts are suggesting that with the economy in a recession, private Christian colleges will suffer. He reported predictions that by 2015, many small colleges and universities will close.

But Dockery told trustees that Union at this time is in a positive situation, noting that Union is now an institution with an emerging national profile.

In addition to receiving Dockery's report, Union trustees approved two new doctoral programs for the university – the Doctor of Nursing Practice and the Doctor of Ministry in Expository Preaching.

Union trustees also named Roy White and Bob Hundley as emeritus trustees. White and Hundley have served on the Union board for many years, and have contributed generously to Union's work. ■

Conference explores moral judgment in the public square

Princeton's Robert P. George, University of Chicago professor Jean Bethke Elshtain and other prominent thinkers were featured speakers at a conference hosted by Union University Feb. 25-27.

The conference, "Making Men Moral: The Public Square and the Role of Moral

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Union offers new graduate programs in Social Work, Nursing and Preaching

Union University is on track to become the only private institution in Tennessee offering an accredited Master of Social Work program.

MSW classes began in fall semester with about 70 students, and the Council of Social Work Education already has approved the program's course syllabi, academic standards, field manual and student handbook.

As is typical of many programs, final word on accreditation comes after a full evaluation that follows the start of classes.

"Once we attain accreditation, it will apply to all students who were in the program from the beginning," says Mary Ann Poe, chair of Union's social work department.

Janet E. Furness directs the new MSW program. Furness started at Union in March after serving as an MSW program director at Roberts Wesleyan University in Rochester, N.Y. She is a published author in social work

practice and social work ministry

"We are not just excited, but thrilled to have on board at Union the quality of leadership we have found in Professor Furness as we begin our new MSW degree," said Thomas Rosebrough, dean of the College of Education and Human Studies.

In early December, the Union University Board of Trustees approved two new doctoral programs in expository preaching and nursing practice.

The Doctor of Ministry in Expository Preaching program will start in July 2009 at Union's Stephen Olford Center in Memphis. Classes will be led by Christian Studies faculty members Ken Easley, George Guthrie, David Olford and Dean Greg Thornbury.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice involves tracks for nurse anesthesia, nurse practitioner and executive leadership. The 40-hour graduate curriculum also requires at least 660 clinical hours. ■

Carrington finishes in top six for Miss America title

Just prior to the naming of the new Miss America in Las Vegas Jan. 24, four women stood on the stage, still in line to wear the crown.

One of the four was Union University senior Ellen Carrington, a music major and Jackson native who was named Miss Tennessee last June.

The title went to Katie Stam, Miss Indiana, but Carrington finished sixth out of 52 contestants. Her strong showing enabled her to appear throughout the two-hour live broadcast of the pageant.

"I was very honored to have made it that far and, honestly, it was icing on the cake to place sixth," Carrington told *The Jackson Sun* following the Miss America pageant.

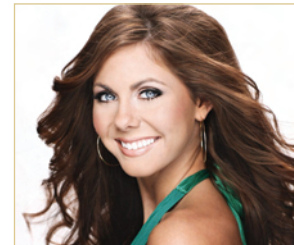
Carrington took a year off from classes at Union to compete for the Miss America title and to fulfill her duties as Miss Tennessee. She expects to graduate in May 2010.

She works to promote volunteerism, her platform in the pageant. Carrington wrote a book entitled "Chester's Helping Paws" that encourages children to volunteer.

"Ellen Carrington is a wonderful young lady from a great family," Union University President David S. Dockery said. "We offer congratulations to her for representing the university so very well."

For the talent portion of the competitions in Jackson and Las Vegas, Carrington sang "Vole Mon Ange." She is the daughter of Pat and Katrina Carrington of Jackson.

As the Miss Tennessee pageant winner, Carrington gets a \$12,000 scholarship and is Gov. Phil Bredesen's spokeswoman for the Safe and Drug-Free Tennessee program. ■



White Coats for 45 new Doctor of Pharmacy students

George DeMaagd, associate dean of the School of Pharmacy, presents a white coat to Darren Awender during a special Aug. 27 ceremony celebrating the launch of Union's pharmacy program. The ritual for medical schools and pharmacy schools involves taking a professional oath and receiving the white coats they will wear throughout their years as students and in their profession. The inaugural class included 45 students.

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Judgment," was designed to address the themes from George's book, "Making Men Moral," written 15 years ago.

Watson said the conference was also designed to be beneficial for those interested in the political changes in Washington, D.C., and how they can bring their convictions to the public square in a way that is winsome and effective, and yet also work together with those who may not share their view.

Other featured speakers: David Novak, a professor at the University of Toronto; Russell D. Moore, dean of the School of Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; noted authors James Stoner and Christopher Tollefsen; Union's School of Christian Studies Dean Gregory A. Thornbury and Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture Harry L. Poe. ■

A Good Start for Union's New Debate Team



In early October, freshman Emily Welborn made modern Union debate history.

She captured the Individual Novice Championship at the Boll Weevil Debates in Monticello, Ark. It was the first of what promises to be many success stories for Union's new debate program.

"It was an excellent showing for a first-ever tournament," said debate team coach Web Drake. "I think this bodes well for the future of Union Debate. We performed strongly from top to bottom."

The team competes in the International Public Debate Association. By the conclusion of the current academic year, the plan is to compete in up to 10 tournaments throughout the Southeast. ■