

Carl Grant
Events Center

UNIONITE

THE UNION UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Winter 2009 www.uu.edu

IT'S A
new day
AT UNION UNIVERSITY

On a National Stage

Racial Reconciliation

Blackstock Retires



Reflections from February 5, 2009

A Thankful and Hopeful University Community

On February 5, 2009, about 1700 people gathered at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson for an evening of remembrance and thanksgiving. It was my privilege to offer words of welcome and thanksgiving to the many men and women who have helped this university recover from the dark night of February 5, 2008. Our thanksgiving was first and foremost offered to God through prayers and praise, led by Provost Carla Sanderson and Professor Chris Mathews, along with a 250 voice choir and 30 piece orchestra. We also had the opportunity once more to offer our public expressions of gratitude to first responders and rescue workers, civic and community leaders, members of the media, healthcare providers, churches, parents, alumni, faculty, staff, students, trustees, contractors and subcontractors, architects, and the thousands of volunteers and donors. Indeed, at Union University we are a most grateful people and from the bottom of our hearts, we want everyone who helped us to know of our deep, deep gratitude.

Later that evening I was asked to offer reflections on the trials that we have experienced over the past year. These reflections were based on Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. From the experiences of the past year we have learned afresh that God is indeed the God of all strength and comfort. The trials of the past year have served to strengthen the Union community in many ways. The season of suffering has helped us identify in a new way with the sufferings of Christ, and have enabled Union students, faculty and staff to empathize with the struggles of others. Our tears have been

used of God in a redemptive way.

The experiences of the past year have also brought about perseverance, and have prepared students for other challenges that they will face in days ahead. We have at times found ourselves in a desperate situation, and in these times we were energized and enabled by hope. I think we all would say that we never want to go through anything like this long and challenging year again. Like the apostle himself, we can say we have been "hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Cor. 4:8). And by God's grace, we likewise can say, "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (4:16).

Since February 6th of last year we have prayed for that kind of renewal across our campus, for God to bring renewal out of the rubble. We offer thanksgiving to God that he has answered our prayers in abundance. The words of the apostle have become more meaningful for the entire Union University community this past year. We are now able to look back over the past year with wonder and thanksgiving at the recovery and rebuilding process, but not just in the recovery and rebuilding process, for God has been at work bringing spiritual renewal in the lives of students, staff, faculty, administrators, and trustees alike.

As we look back over the past year, we still have many unanswered questions and we still shed tears in our times of reflection. Without hope and trust in God, the challenges of the past year would have seemed insurmountable. As a university



community we are now prepared to take the next steps with a full recognition that God's good providence transcends the experiences of men and women. While February 5, 2008 was perhaps the worst night in Union's long history, there have been many, many good days over the past 12 months. We have learned that God can take actions that have seemed bad to us and use them for good.

Despite the difficulties of the past year, we now turn our attention to new challenges and new opportunities. As we refocus on the distinctive mission of Union University, we do so with the assurance that our great God can and does use such events as those of this past year for his eternal good, even events that are quite difficult for us to fully understand. Therefore we face the future as a most grateful and hopeful people. We are thankful to God for the renewal, recovery, and rebuilding that has taken place, and we are now refocused on the future of Union University for days, months, and years to come.

Soli Deo Gloria,

David S. Dockery
David S. Dockery

UNIONITE

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Winter 2009



About the cover

February's EF-4 tornado destroyed 70 percent of Union's on-campus housing. But seven months later, Union recorded a 14 percent enrollment increase as new students moved into 16 new residence life buildings.

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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." ■

continued from page 4

- **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.

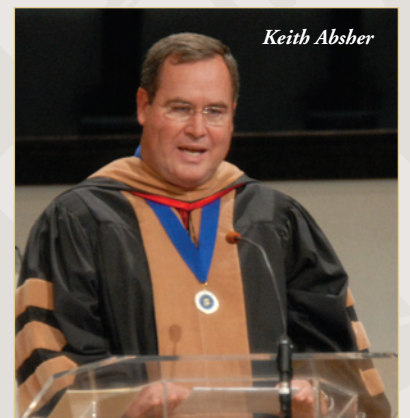
Union fared even better in a number of individual disciplines. For example, the overall Union percentile in marketing was 95; in economics, management, information systems and international issues, it was at the 90th percentile.

"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

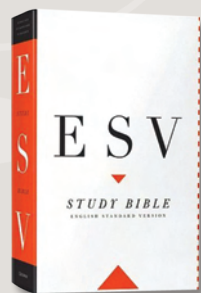
Van Neste contributes to new ESV Study Bible



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. ■



Union Grows on the National Stage

Unprecedented recognitions for
Union programs and overall quality



There are many ways to track a school's national profile, and to put too much stock in any one source probably provides an incomplete picture. But in the case of Union University, there are sources recognizing excellence in a variety of areas.

For example, *U.S. News & World Report* attempts to measure name recognition alongside academic strength and a host of other factors in its annual rankings of colleges and universities.

When the magazine's annual Best Colleges edition hit the newsstands and Internet in August, Union had retained its ranking at 20th among Master's Universities in the South and achieved a top-tier designation for a 12th consecutive year.

But it also received a recognition that had not existed prior to 2008.

Editors opened a new category. It focuses on schools that "have recently made the most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus, or facilities."

Union University was among only 70 schools placed on this new list of "schools to watch," and ranked fifth in the new category among Master's Universities in the South.

Union also was listed among 21 southern schools considered "A+ Options for B Students." Editors explain their definition of "B student" is someone who might not be admitted

to a handful of highly competitive schools yet would benefit from a rigorous academic experience.

"To provide top-flight academics without developing an elitist mindset has been the goal of this university for many years," says Union President David S. Dockery. "To be so recognized as an 'A+' university for a wide array of students speaks to the uniqueness of Union's identity and mission."

Another indication that Union provides access to deserving students from a variety of backgrounds is its inclusion in the annual "College Access and Opportunity Guide." Colleges and universities are chosen based on academic rigor and accessibility. Only 220 schools were selected nationally; Union was one of only four Tennessee institutions in the guide.

As the institutional investment required for providing higher education continues to escalate, a key factor in becoming accessible is cost. The annual "America's 100 Best College Buys" report is an independent evaluation of academic quality and cost.

Union is included among America's 100 Best College Buys for a fourth consecutive year. The newest findings are based on a survey of 1,453 accredited U.S. colleges and universities. ■

Community Service

For the third straight year, Union University has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

This year, 635 colleges and universities were named to the honor roll, including 12 from Tennessee. Union is the only West Tennessee institution, outside of Memphis, on the list. Union is also one of only 160 institutions named to the list for three straight years, and one of only six four-year schools in Tennessee with that distinction.

Union's sixth annual "Campus and Community: A Day of Remembrance and Service" took on even greater significance in November. The day was originally conceived as an ongoing way to thank the community for its response following a tornado in 2002. Memories of the February destruction and Jackson's kindness led to a huge response in 2008: more than 800 students, faculty and staff formed 60 work teams. ■

Record Enrollment

Despite losing prime recruiting time during February and March, Union's fall enrollment of 3,770 represents a whopping 14 percent increase from the record enrollment of fall 2007; it was up 91 percent from fall 1996.

This 11th consecutive enrollment increase came just a few months after another Union record: a 2007-08 graduating class numbering 950. Replacing so large a number of students and achieving a record enrollment in a year when the campus sustained \$40 million in tornado damage surpassed the expectations of many, including President David S. Dockery.

"Seven months ago, we didn't know if Union University would still exist today," Dockery said. "And now we're celebrating our highest enrollment ever and an unprecedented growth of 14 percent in a single year." ■



Toward a Great Commandment campus

Roland Porter Directs Union's Center for Racial Reconciliation



Roland Porter

ing to have to do something different."

Porter sees the next step in race relations to be candid and ultimately productive discussions in which people put aside their fears of being misunderstood or insulted and work instead within a model of trust and acceptance.

At Union, Porter sees the new Center for Racial Reconciliation as a place where that level of discussion can be encouraged.

Within the Center, people will develop what he describes as Christian strategies to reverse the unjust consequences of racial discrimination and to prevent their recurrence.

To achieve those goals, Porter wants to make use of research, advocacy, clinical studies, internships, public forums and scholarships.

Porter says Christians of all races should be playing an engaging role in this important work,

but he also observes many do not participate.

"Some of that is due to our sinful nature. Otherwise, it's the status quo. If things are going reasonably well, why bother?"

One of Porter's goals during the Center's first year is to encourage further diversify in Union's student population. But the goals don't end there.

"I would hope we can have more African-American and other non-Caucasian staff," he says. "I would hope we could have more African-American students in fraternities and sororities."

The Center has plans to host "brown-bag" and other gatherings in connection with Black History month. Campus-wide discussions of George Yancey's book "Beyond Racial Gridlock" are planned. A special chapel service was held Feb. 11 with Frank Anderson, pastor of True Light Baptist Church in Memphis as the featured Speaker.

"We have to acknowledge that we have been parties to each other's pain," says Porter. "If we do that and then say 'we really want to move forward from here' we can move forward from here by generally caring for each other."

Caring strategies are already unfolding at Union.

Grant Events Center:

JACKSON'S NEWEST
ADDRESS FOR EVENTS



The Carl Grant Events Center is a \$3.5 million, 16,000-square-foot conference and banquet facility dedicated Oct. 22. The new center seats up to 600 people for banquets and also includes a spacious lobby area, public restrooms, a staging room, state-of-the-art audio-visuals and a new president's dining room.

The building is named in honor of Carl J. Grant, who donated \$2.5 million for the project.

"Without his generosity, without his commitment to Union University, without his gracious blessing to this place, this facility would not have taken place," said Union President David S. Dockery.

Grant, in turn, expressed his gratitude to Dockery, the Union staff and trustees for their role in the vision and implementation of the Grant Center.

"We feel like we were really quite honored to get to do such as we did with this particular facility," Grant said.

The banquet facility can be divided into three sections that will each seat 200 people. It will provide space for conferences and banquets both for Union and for the Jackson and West Tennessee communities.

Soon after work crews departed and the dedication concluded, the Grant Center hosted its first major event – The

Union Forum featuring Norah O'Donnell of NBC News (see separate story). It was the first of 27 events booked for the Grant Center in its first five weeks of operation. ■



Carl Grant



Heritage Center

TAKES VISITORS ON A WALK THROUGH UNION HISTORY

Step into the new Heritage Center inside the Grant Events Center on Union's campus and you'll take a visual journey that tells the story of Union University from 1823 to the present.

You'll see pictures of Adams Hall, Lovelace Hall and Barton Hall on the old campus in downtown Jackson. You'll see a timeline of significant events in Union's history. You'll see photos of people and places and nostalgia.

"We finally have a place on our campus that shows where Union's been," said Todd Mullins, Union's director of creative services, who served as the creative director for the Heritage Center project.

The Heritage Center consists of 68 panels and more than 100 photos. Mullins and his fellow committee members who planned the exhibit combed through more than 3,000 photos as they selected

the appropriate ones for display.

"Our heritage is one for which we are grateful," said President David S. Dockery. "For everyone who has helped to shape and to invest in our past, we are thankful today."

The \$81,000 project, executed by Harding Creative in Memphis, took about a year and a half to plan and implement.

In addition to the photo panels, the Heritage Center also includes a President's Wall, with photos of the university presidents in Union's history, as well as a high-definition flat screen television mounted on the wall to display more of Union's heritage and even some recent events at times.

"Having the TV in the room helps tremendously," Mullins said. "It's not just a bunch of pictures on a wall. It's also a living exhibit."

Mullins said the display has some photos and information that will surprise a few folks – such as the advertisement from the World War II era promoting Union's aviation courses.

"I think it turned out extremely well," he said.

Steve Baker, Union's associate vice president for academic resources and library director, said the Heritage Center provides a needed historical context for the university. While many people think only of the current Jackson campus when they think of Union University, the fact is that the institution has a rich history stretching back almost 200 years.

Said Baker: "Dr. Dockery has made it very clear that the future-directed nature of the institution, while it isn't tied to the past, it certainly looks to the past for some guidance." ■



Renewal FROM THE Rubble:

THROUGH GOD'S GRACE,
UNION REBOUNDS FROM TRAGIC TORNADO.

BY TIM ELLSWORTH

As the summer weeks drifted away and the start of the fall 2008 semester drew near, one scene was common on the Union campus – especially at the site of the new student housing complex.

Head shaking.

Head shaking, as in, “How in the world did all these buildings get done this quickly?” Head shaking, as in, “Why has God been so good to us?”

In the dawn of Feb. 6, few at Union could have predicted the course the university would take over the next seven months. Hours before a tornado had smashed much of the campus, causing \$40 million in damage and leveling 70 percent of Union’s student housing. The Hurt and Watters complexes bore the brunt of the storm. None of the buildings in those two complexes was salvageable, and both complexes were demolished the week of Feb. 11.

Many wondered how Union could possibly recover. To stand on the campus on Feb. 6, that was not an unreasonable question to ask. But as the writer of 2 Chronicles expressed, it seems that the eyes of the Lord were running to and fro throughout the earth, to give strong support to those whose hearts are loyal to him. And in the weeks and months to come, God certainly demonstrated his power on the campus at Union.

On Feb. 22, Union broke ground on the new student housing complex. Original plans called for half of the 14 buildings to be ready by the start of the fall semester, with the other half to be completed by the spring semester in 2009.



One of the many new kitchens in the 16 new residence life facilities. Included in each apartment in the kitchen area is a washer and dryer.

Each of the new first floor residence life apartments includes a safe room.



But the two contractors working on the project – Worsham Brothers Construction Co. of Corinth, Miss., and Brasfield Construction Co. of Jackson – managed to finish the task earlier than expected. When freshman arrived for the fall semester on Sept. 4, they were greeted by 14 completed student housing buildings, ready for occupancy.

“Our 10-year plan for replacing our student housing became a six-month plan,” Union President David S. Dockery said. “Construction proceeded ahead of schedule, and we are grateful to God for providing for us in this way. It is truly overwhelming to think about where we were on Feb. 6, and where we are now.”

Even the contractors working on the project couldn’t believe how quickly it was completed.

“This is highly unusual to complete a project of this magnitude as quickly as we have,” said Ken Brasfield, president of Brasfield Construction. “As I sit back and analyze what’s happened, I think Union’s need is what motivated the response.

continued on page 16 >

One of the many new private bedrooms in the 16 new residence life facilities



continued from page 15

Everybody has had a total commitment and a passion to make sure that the job was completed by Sept. 1.”

The 14 new student housing buildings consist of about 158,000 square feet and house 699 students. The complex consists of four “quads” (named Watters, Hurt, Ayers and Grace) with four buildings in each quad. A 15th residential building is currently nearing completion that will finish the Ayers quad, and a 30,000-square-foot commons building that will complete the Grace quad is also under construction. It is expected to be complete during the fall 2009 semester.

The new student housing facilities are located in the former location of the Watters and Hurt complexes. The apartment-style suites in the new housing complex accommodate four students, each of whom has a private bedroom. Each suite also features two bathrooms, a kitchenette and a washer/dryer. Each building in the complex contains 40, 48 or 56 bedrooms.

Carl Grant speaks during the opening of the new \$3.5 million Carl Grant Events Center



All downstairs apartments contain a safe room to provide storm shelters for students. A memorial marker to the previous buildings is located on the sidewalk through the middle of the complex.

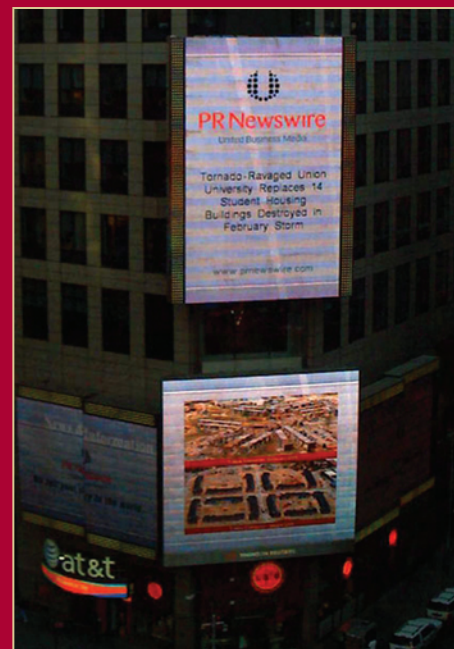
In addition to the 14 new buildings, the university rebuilt two buildings – Gray and Dodd – in the Heritage Residential Complex. MG Construction Co. was responsible for the reconstruction of those two buildings, which house 78 students. MG also handled the renovation of Jennings Hall, which sustained heavy damage from the tornado. Jennings also was ready to go for the fall 2008 semester.

The recovery didn’t stop there. On Oct. 21, Union dedicated the new Carl Grant Events Center, a \$3.5 million, 16,000-square-foot conference center and banquet facility. The new center seats 600 people and includes a lobby area, public restrooms, a staging room, state-of-the-art audio-visuals and a new president’s dining room. (See story on page 12)

The recovery could not have been possible without the people who served as “God’s agents and instruments of grace and mercy,” Dockery said. Five thousand volunteers came to campus to help in the days after the tornado, and 6,500 donors contributed nearly \$17 million to help rebuild the campus.

“For each and every one of these, we are thankful,” Dockery said. “For all that has happened on campus since Feb. 5, we can only say, ‘Thanks be to God.’”

The opening of the new residence life facilities makes the news on Time Square in New York City



FEBRUARY 6, 2008



OCTOBER 27, 2008



ON AIR

Union students air daily news program in high definition

Camera one has the anchor two-shot. The microphone checks are good. “30 seconds!”

The show open is ready to roll. Scripts in hand, the anchors look confident and ready. The studio crew relays director cues from the control room with precision and authority. “Open is up. Stand by.”

Such a scene unfolds in hundreds of commercial television stations every day. But this is also happening on the campus of Union University.

Jackson 24/7 is on the air. Although Union students produce the program, it is not limited to campus news. In fact, the intent is to produce a credible, professional news broadcast that covers the entire Jackson community.

The 30-minute news program airs at noon each weekday during the academic year on EPlusTV 6 in Jackson. The channel is available not only to Jackson Energy Authority cable subscribers, but anyone with an Internet connection watching the streaming broadcasts at www.eplustv6.com

“This is as close to the real world of broadcast news as they’re going to get at a school our size,” says Union broadcasting professor Steve Beverly. “Not too many schools our size are doing something five days a week.”

The program includes a summary of local news and weather, plus live interviews that focus on issues and events. Some interviews are in studio, while others are over the phone. After the program airs live at noon, it runs again on tape at 10 p.m. and again the following morning at 7:30.

Juliana Robbins and Matthew Kuchem anchored the first Jackson 24/7 broadcast in late October. President David S. Dockery was the first guest interviewed on the new set. Prior to launching the program, students rehearsed their rolls as anchors, studio crew and control room leaders.

“This is something a lot of college students don’t get to experience,” said Robbins, a sophomore from Lawrenceburg, Tenn. “To have this experience now is going to help me a lot in the future.”

“It’s not everyday broadcasting students

can sit down behind a news desk and actually produce a live TV show that will mean something to the community,” adds co-anchor Kuchem, a junior from Fort Worth, Texas.

The accomplishment is all the more important in light of what happened to the Union broadcast facility during the Feb. 5 tornado. Roof damage to Jennings Hall led to water damage that destroyed most of the existing equipment.

Given the industry’s move to digital, high-definition television, it was prudent to replace the damaged analog, standard-definition cameras and equipment with the latest technology. The move is thought to make Union University the only fully high-definition collegiate broadcast facility in Tennessee, and one of only a few in the Southeast.

“The (current freshmen) will be graduating four years from now,” says Chris Blair, chairman of Union’s communication arts department. “There’s going to be a rash of change (in the industry) in the next four years. If we wanted to prepare students for their future, we needed to do this.”



Remembering with thanksgiving

Union marks first anniversary of the Feb. 5 tornado

A remarkable recovery from tornado damage left the Union University community thankful -- both for God’s providence and for those who helped the university in many different ways during the past year.

A special service at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson was designed for both expressions of thanksgiving.

The event, titled “Remembering February 5: An Evening of Thanksgiving,” included a moment of silence at 7:02 p.m., the precise time the tornado touched down on campus one year earlier.

“It was one of the darkest nights in Union history, but there have been so many good days since,” said Union University President David S. Dockery. “We’ve learned that God can take actions that seem so bad to us and use them for redemptive good.”

The event featured a dinner and a worship service with a 250-voice community choir, 30-piece orchestra, Scripture readings and a new video chronicling Union’s progress in the past 12 months.

About 1,700 attended the service, in which scores of people were identified who helped with Union’s recovery and rebuilding: firefighters and rescue workers, civic

leaders, members of the media, healthcare providers, churches, contractors, parents, alumni, faculty, staff, trustees and other volunteers who gave of their time and resources to get the university to where it is today.

More than 5,000 volunteers worked on the campus in the year after the tornado, and more than 8,000 donors contributed more than \$17 million to the relief and rebuilding efforts.

“From the bottom of our hearts, we want you to know of our deep, deep gratitude,” Dockery said.

But the renewal and restoration hasn’t just taken place to the physical campus, Dockery said. It has taken place in the lives of Union students, faculty, staff and trustees as well.

“One of the big things for me has been understanding what God’s presence really looks like in my life,” said Courtney Bragg, a junior from Birmingham, Ala. “There are times, I think, in everybody’s life when we don’t necessarily understand what God’s doing in the circumstances. We don’t understand how he’s working or where he is. But we know that he’s there.”



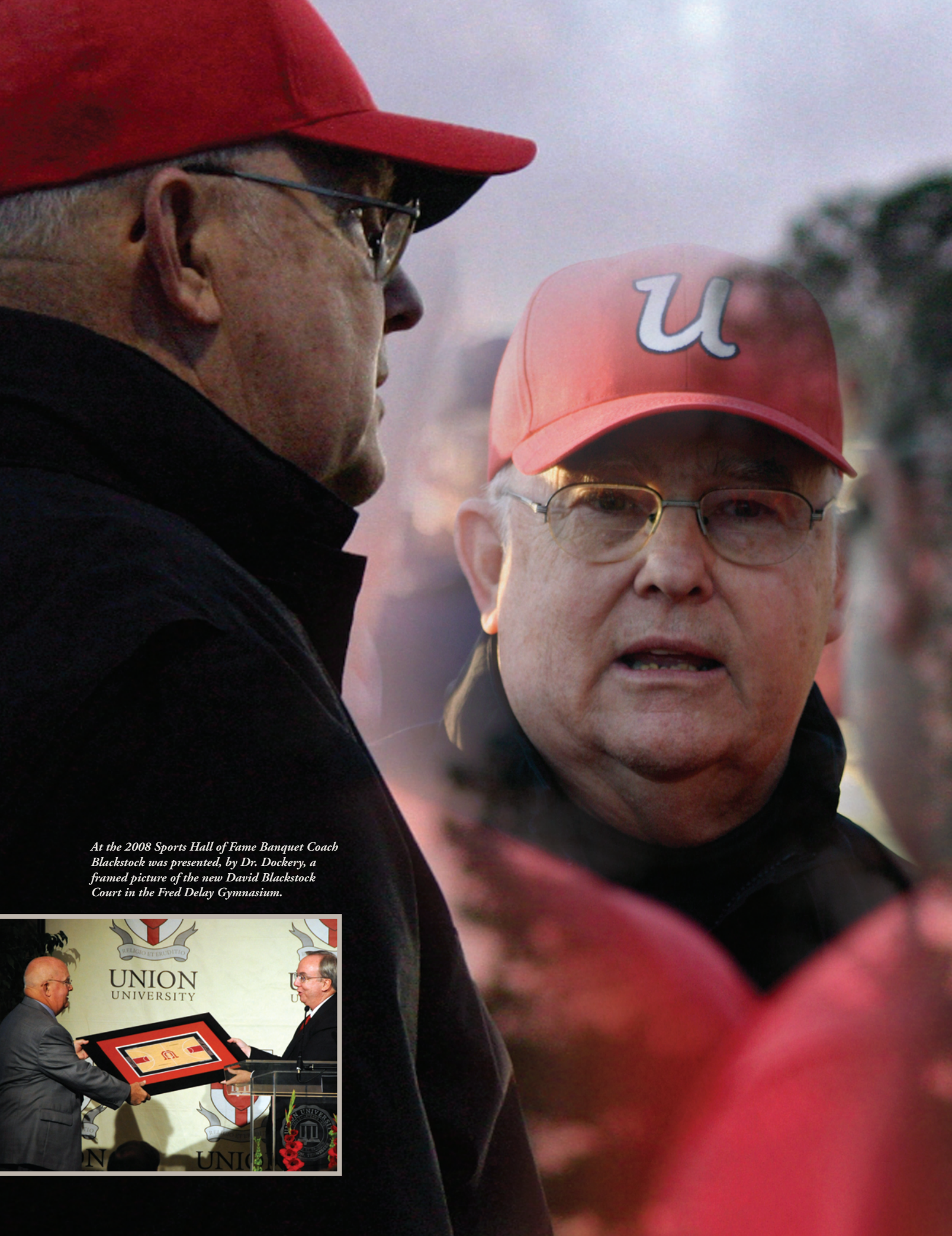
Dr. Dockery prays as a moment of silence was observed as the clock tower chimed at 7:02 p.m. February 5, 2009 marking the one year anniversary of the EF-4 tornado that hit the Union Campus causing more than \$40 million in damages.

Bragg said the past year has helped her to believe even more strongly in the promises of Scripture, and has made her realize that it’s important to choose to believe that God is real and present, even when his hand can’t always be seen.

For Kevin Furniss, a senior from Bartlett, Tenn., the last year has given him a renewed appreciation for life. Furniss was trapped for three hours in a collapsed building after the tornado strike and at times thought he was going to die.

But since then, he’s worked in a summer camp, and gone on mission trips to Honduras and Kenya.

“It has really shown that it wasn’t just protection that night, but it was a plan for the rest of my life, that God is still in control and has a future and a plan for me,” Furniss said.



At the 2008 Sports Hall of Fame Banquet Coach Blackstock was presented, by Dr. Dockery, a framed picture of the new David Blackstock Court in the Fred Delay Gymnasium.



Not long after **David Blackstock** ('64) retired from his post as Union's athletic director, he found himself greeting guests at the newly dedicated Heritage Center inside the Carl Grant Events Center. In his new role as a part-time fund raiser for the advancement office, he even led informal tours of the permanent display, which chronicles Union's history all the way back to 1823.

One of his guests joked that Blackstock was the perfect tour guide, since he had experienced most of Union's history first-hand.

Blackstock's good-natured sense of humor allows him to deflect such barbs with ease. But there is no hyperbole in this observation: David Blackstock's leadership played a key role in shaping one of the nation's most successful small college athletic programs over a period of four decades.

degree from the University of Memphis and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. In 1973, he returned to Union to become athletic director.

Along with co-head coach Linn Stranak, he guided the baseball team to a third-place finish in the 1983 NAIA World Series, still the only season Union has participated in the event.

Perhaps he will be remembered most for his leadership of the women's basketball program.

Starting in 1981, Blackstock spent 18 seasons as head coach of the women's team, compiling a 509-89 overall record. He credits those outstanding numbers to the student athletes he coached.

"I found out that you can be pretty good if you have pretty good players."

He earned his 500th career victory during the 1998-99 season, and led the Lady Bulldogs to the 1998 NAIA

somebody very special to allow for an atmosphere where you can fail. He really trusts the people he hires to do their job, which ultimately gives you confidence. He allowed me to have confidence in myself, because he allowed me to be me."

Anyone who spends much time around Blackstock sees a man who is humble about his accomplishments.

"My parents were not proud people, but they knew what to be proud of," Blackstock says. "They emphasized having a relationship with Jesus Christ, and a strong work ethic. I was very fortunate to grow up in Jackson, Tenn. and have the family that I did."

His personal accomplishments are impressive: He has been enshrined in the NAIA Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the Madison County Sports Hall of Fame and the Union University Sports Hall of Fame.

"To many, Coach Blackstock is the face of Union athletics," says Tommy

COACH BLACKSTOCK CALLS A TIMEOUT

Legendary Athletic Director Retires After Shaping Athletic Success at Union

He says one of the biggest changes he's seen in that time is the expansion of areas of study that are available to Union students.

"That number has grown so dramatically that we are able to recruit from a wider pool of students from all over the world," says Blackstock. "It's really expanded to the extent that it's mind-boggling."

His association started in the early 1960s, when he entered Union as a student-athlete. He played baseball for all four years, on a team that earned a small college national championship in 1963 and was runner-up the following year.

His wife Armita is also a Jackson native and Union graduate ('68). Within nine years of graduation, Blackstock had earned a Master of Education

Women's Basketball National Championship. He also laid a firm foundation for national titles under the leadership of Mark Campbell in 2005 and 2006.

"It's hard to be a first-year head coach and follow somebody who has been so successful," Campbell said. "It takes

Sadler, acting athletic director. "He has been a great coach, administrator and friend for not only students, but the players and fans throughout his career."

As with many high achievers, retirement will require adjustments. He enjoys having a role in fund raising, and he gives a very good tour of the Heritage Center.

"Sometimes I still slip down to practice," Blackstock admits. "After all these years, it's in your blood."

When he watches practices in Fred Delay gymnasium, he sees a recently resurfaced facility that now bears the name "David Blackstock court" in large letters.

"Walking in and seeing that for the first time was a humbling experience," he says. "But we will be there a lot. We'll be Bulldog supporters for the rest of our lives." 🐾

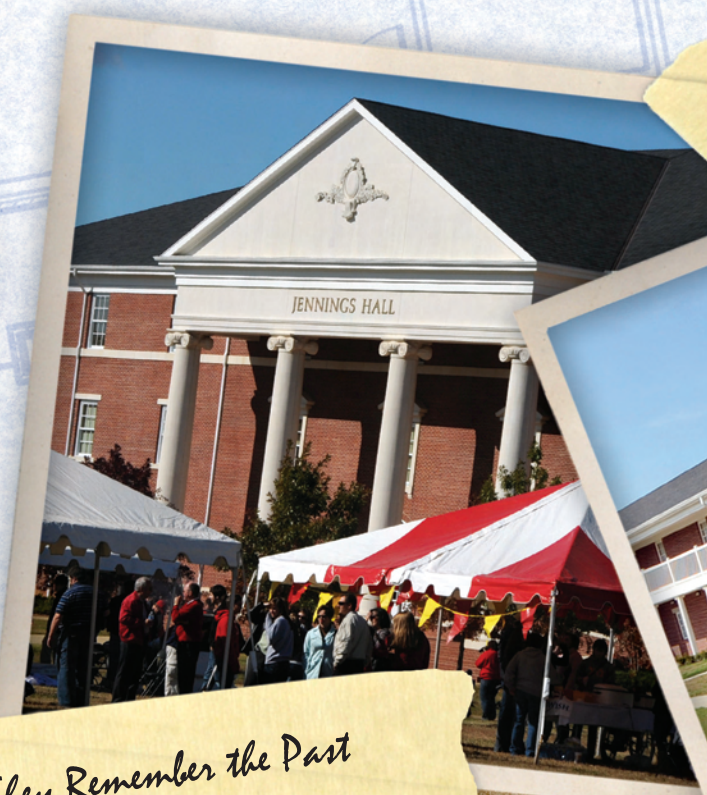
RECENT FACULTY RETIREMENTS

In addition to Blackstock, five faculty members announced retirements in 2008. Three were from the department of music: Ron Boud (1996), Dianne Gatwood (1989) and Richard Joiner (2002). Also retiring were Wayne Johnson (Communication Arts, 1961-68 and 1997) and Carol Leslie (Chemistry, 1985).



Alumni and Friends See Union's New Look as They Remember the Past

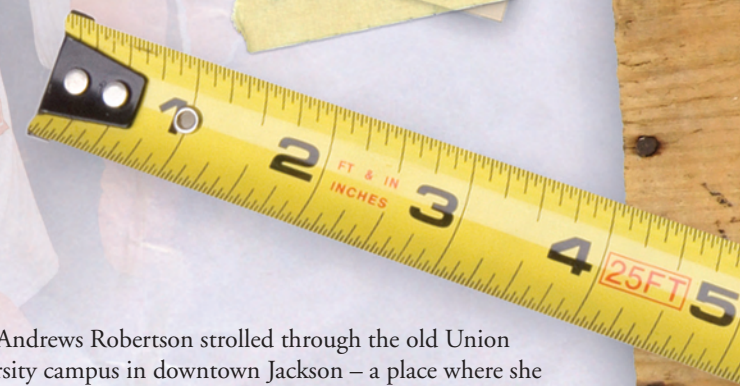
EXTREME MAKEOVER UNION EDITION



Many alums came back to see the new buidlings on campus. Above is one of 16 new residence life facilities and below is the newly renovated Student Union Building.



The Class of '59 toured the old campus during homecoming 2008.



Sandra Andrews Robertson strolled through the old Union University campus in downtown Jackson – a place where she hadn't been in 50 years.

The memories came flooding back. She recalled the excitement of pledging Chi Omega her freshman year. An only child, Robertson said that day was special because it gave her a whole batch of sisters for the first time.

She pointed to the old women's dorm – Lovelace Hall – and noted how ill-fitting that name was for the building.

"It was anything but loveless, because there was all kinds of courting that would go on on the front porch," she said.

Robertson was one of the members of the class of 1959 who came to Jackson in November for Union's annual Homecoming celebration. As part of the weekend's activities, the class members took a tour of the old Union campus. Union left that site and moved to its present location in 1975.

"It gives you a lot of memories and support for Union University and how far they've gone in the last 50 years," said Jerald Hill, also a member of the class of 1959, who toured the old campus. "This is something you won't ever forget."

Homecoming 2008, "Extreme Makeover: Union Edition," gave alumni a chance to visit the Union campus to see how it has changed since the Feb. 5 tornado that wiped out most of the student housing buildings. Visitors to campus toured the new student housing facilities, reconnected with old friends and celebrated the achievements of a number of Union students and alumni who were honored during the weekend's events.

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Six new inductees were honored at the annual Sports Hall of Fame dinner during homecoming festivities: **James A. "Jimmie" Bryant ('63)**, track; **Ronnie G. Giddens Jr., ('87)**, baseball; **Keith Reynolds ('77)**, baseball; and Jim Swope, men's basketball coach 1975-87. Two were inducted posthumously: Joe Guyon, football coach 1919-25; and **Lisa Hutchens ('83)**, basketball.

The Homecoming chapel service on Nov. 7 included a time of recognition for the class of 1959, in addition to the presentation of the annual Alumni Awards. Union history professor Stephen Carls received the Distinguished Faculty/Staff Award. Carls joined the Union faculty in 1983 and has been chairman of the history department since 1990.

Dr. Hutson E. McCorkle, class of 1955, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. A native of West Tennessee, McCorkle graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry and served in the U.S. Air Force while he completed a residency in oral surgery. He has been in the dental practice for 24 years.

At halftime of the Lady Bulldogs basketball game against St. Catharine College, Union President David S. Dockery crowed senior Rachael Moore as the 2008 Homecoming queen. Moore, an English major from Dyersburg, Tenn., is the daughter of Chuck and Jean Moore.

Other Homecoming attendants included:

- Andi Schreiber, freshman, from Murfreesboro, Tenn. She is the daughter of Mike and Angie Schreiber.

- Jessica Yates, sophomore, from Melbourne, Fla. She is the daughter of Jess and Bertie Yates.

- Natalie West, junior, from Memphis. She is the daughter of Don and Jana West.

- Tori Gill, senior, from Union City, Tenn. She is the daughter of Brock and Stacie Gill.

- Sarah Logan, senior, from Franklin, Tenn. She is the daughter of David and Terri Logan.

- Ashley Schreiber, senior, from Murfreesboro, Tenn. She is the daughter of Mike and Angie Schreiber.

In addition, Will Gruenewald and Elizabeth Walker were named Mr. and Miss Union. Gruenewald, a senior from Hendersonville, Tenn., is the son of Bill and Terrie Gruenewald. Walker, of Louisville, Ky., is the daughter of Doug and Virginia Walker.

"In every way, the 2008 Homecoming was a huge success, from Friday's 50-year reunion for the class of 1959 and the Sports Hall of Fame, all the way to Saturday's "Arts in the Park" celebration on the Great Lawn and two wins by the Bulldog basketball teams," said Gary Williams, Union's associate vice president for university relations and alumni services.

"Alums were very excited to see the new residence life facilities and the Carl Grant Events Center," Williams continued. "There was something new and different on the campus at every turn. The move three years ago from a winter Homecoming to a fall Homecoming schedule has been very well received by both alumni and friends of the University. There was something for the entire Union University family." ■

Jonas Davis, son of Union alums Chad and Debbie Davis, enjoys "Arts in the Park" on the Great Lawn before the homecoming basketball game.

Save the date for Homecoming 2009, November 6-7



Rachael Moore was crowned 2008 Homecoming queen with her father, Chuck Moore, at her side.



ALUMNI NEWS

60'sSIXTIES

Beverly Davidson Reid Walton ('67) would like to be in contact with Union graduates from 1967 to 1968. She has lived in Australia since 1979 and has worked as a teacher, social worker and professional musician and now continues to work part-time. Address: P. O. Box 1172, Spring Hill, Brisbane, Australia AA 4004. Phone: 07 3839 9097 (Australia). E-mail: 2beverly@myway.com

Don L. Dilday ('69) is currently administrative pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky. Address: 2013 Hill Gail Way, Versailles, KY 40383. E-mail: dond@ibc-lex.org

70'sSEVENTIES

Denise McCarty ('73) has recently been promoted to the Southeast regional vice president of Community Education Partners. The Nashville-based company works in partnership with school districts to provide an alternative setting to help low achieving and disruptive students. Denise received her educational leadership master's degree from Nova University. She has spent 20 years coaching girls' basketball in the Orange County public schools and is recognized as one of Florida's most successful coaches with 399 wins. She was selected to the Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame in 2002. Address: 2869 Marsala Court, Orlando, FL 32806.

Delories J. Williams ('73) has been named the new director of workforce development for the Greater Memphis Chamber. Williams was an economic development representative for Memphis Light, Gas and Water, and recently retired from her employment there after 29 years of service. In her new position, Williams says she will pursue partnerships with business, education and training operations. "I will work to identify the skills that are needed in the work force to promote growth."

Harvey Grounds ('74) and **Linda Allen Grounds ('74)**. Harvey serves on the board of directors for Chatttem Inc. where he has been in management since

1991. He also owns Harvey Grounds Coins—dealing in American silver and gold coins. Linda taught English at the college level for 15 years and is now self-employed, editing books and writing neighborhood newsletters. She recently edited a novel by Harold Torak. Their one daughter, Sonya, and her husband, Adam Thomason, graduated from law school in May 2008. Address: 6571 Hickory Brook Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421. E-mail: ramblecreek122671@yahoo.com

Mike Hardy ('75) has retired in East Tennessee. Address: 598 Coon Creek Road, Sunbright, TN 37872.

Rick A. Myer ('75) is the director of the Center for Crisis Intervention and Prevention at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa. E-mail: myerra@mail.duq.edu

Kay Delaney Hart ('78) was named the West Tennessee Grand Division Teacher of the Year at its annual banquet held in Nashville. Kay was one of the top three teachers in the state for 2008. She teaches English, drama and creative writing at Scotts Hill High School in Henderson County. Address: 31905 Highway 104 S., Reagan, TN 38368. E-mail: hartk4@k12tn.net

Ramona Vance ('78) and her husband David recently celebrated 28 years of marriage. They have three children and two grandchildren. Their son, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Vance, has a son, 8-month-old Colton. Their daughter, Marcia V. Davis, lives in Hattiesburg, Miss., and has a 6-month-old daughter, Autumn Elyse. A second son, Micheal J. Vance lives in Louisville, Miss. Ramona is a self-employed registered nurse working as a nurse consultant specializing in long term care – www.ramonavance.com. Address: P.O. Box 10863, Jackson, TN 38308. E-mail: myhappyhourisspentwithgod@yahoo.com

Glenn Moore ('79) has been named the president-elect for the 5,000-member Memphis Area Association of Realtors® for 2009 and serves on the board of directors for the Tennessee Association of



Realtors®. He is principal broker and owner of Glenn Moore Realty in Germantown, Tenn. In 2007 he was elected to the Unitarian Universalist

Association of Congregation's Board of Review at the Boston-based denomination's annual convention. He also serves on the board of directors for Page Robbins Adult Day Care Center (Alzheimer's) in Collierville, Tenn. Address: 1260 Tyler Place, Cordova, TN 38018. Email: glenn@glennmoore.com

80'sEIGHTIES

Leo Percer ('82) was appointed program director for the new Doctor in Theology and Apologetics degree at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in January 2008. Percer had been instrumental in the program start up. He and his wife Lisa are leaders in a new Sunday school class for graduate students and young professionals at Thomas Road Baptist Church. Address: 186 Tanglewood Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502-4034. E-mail: PercerL@juno.com

Carol Morris Sikler ('85) was licensed to the gospel ministry by the Miami American Baptist Church USA in May 2008. Carol has served as choir director and adult Sunday school teacher since the death of her husband, Charles T. "Chuck" Sikler ('86) in 2003. She continues to work in the agricultural and biological engineering department at Purdue University. Address: 2300 Estancia Lane, Lafayette, IN 47909. E-mail: sikler@purdue.edu

Thomas Smith ('85) and **Donna Dunavant Smith ('85)** have relocated to Golden, Colo., where Thomas has assumed the role of vice president for Intrawest Shared Services. Intrawest resorts are found in some of the world's most spectacular settings including Canadian Mountain Holidays, the largest heli-skiing operation in the world. Address: P.O. Box 16520, Golden, CO 80402. E-mail: tesmith8@earthlink.net

Jerry Carter ('86) has accepted a full-time position at First Baptist Millington as director of media and technology. Jerry had previously worked for First Tennessee Bank for 19 years. Jerry is married to **Victoria "Vicki" Sanders Carter ('87)** and has one son, Christopher. Address: 5765 Garden Ridge Cove, Millington, TN 38053. E-mail: jcarter@fbc-millington.org

Omar L. Hamada ('86) accepted a position as director of regional medical research, Pfizer Global Medical, Neurosciences, Pain & Inflammation Division East. He has relocated his consulting practice from Rutherford County to Cool Springs, Tenn., and maintains privileges at Baptist and Vanderbilt hospitals. Hamada serves as an associate clinical professor at Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine and as conference faculty and speaker for the American Academy of Family Physicians. He is the teaching director of the Brentwood Evening Community Bible Study and co-founder and executive board member of Peace Fund Lebanon, a 501(c)(3) global fund supporting reconstruction via micro-economic growth. He and his wife have three children. Address: 1581 Fawn Creek Road, Brentwood, TN 37027. E-mail: olhamada@comcast.net

Diane Arthur Harris ('86) from Jacksonville, Fla., and former roommates Karen Turk from Memphis, Tenn., Sharon Ford Bouman from Homer, Ark.,

and Pamela Barlow Waffler (missionary – Africa) had a Duncan 5 Roommate Reunion in Jacksonville, Fla., in August 2007. E-mail: ladydi862@aol.com

Howard K. Hadley ('87) recently received the Award for Financial Reporting Achievement. As city treasurer, Howard was instrumental in helping the City of Humboldt, Ill., attain the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,000 government finance professionals.

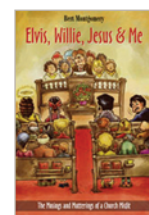
Robin Cooper Wilbanks ('88) joined the faculty of Nashville State Community College as a member of the psychology department. Robin has been an adjunct professor at NSCC Humphreys County since 2005. In addition to teaching duties, Robin continues to work in the private sector as a therapist. Address: 198 N. Forrest Ave., Camden, TN 38320. E-mail: robin.cooper-wilbanks@nscc.edu

90's NINETIES

Tracy Cochrum Brignac ('90) received a Master of Science in Public Service Management degree from Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn., in May 2008. Tracy is employed with Department of Children's Services as a quality

improvement coordinator. Address: 284 Meigs Drive, F42, Murfreesboro, TN 37128. E-mail: tbrignac@comcast.net

Melissa Crews Neff ('90) is a preschool teacher at Northmeade Preschool in Jackson, Tenn. She has been married to Woodrow Neff Jr. for 5 years. Woodrow owns a welding business. Address: 270 Stage Road, Reagan, TN 38368. E-mail: melissa200640@yahoo.com



Bert Montgomery ('90) and **Jennifer Hicks Montgomery ('88)** have recently moved to Starkville, Miss. Bert is serving as pastor of the University Baptist Church on the Mississippi State University campus. Bert's book, "Elvis, Willie, Jesus & Me the Musings and Mutterings of a Church Misfit," will be published by Smyth & Helwys in early 2009. Address: 106 Tanglewood Drive, Starkville, MS 39759. E-mail: bertmont@juno.com

Carrie S. Rostollan ('90) has been offering entertainment programs as a local magician to the public for five years. Her Web site is – www.proximity-illusions.com. She is an active member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and Fellowship of Christian Magicians. Address: 3444 S. 11 Mile Road, Auburn, MI 48611. E-mail: sueq327@juno.com



Cover proposals

ation omitted from the publication, and making a submission does not obligate anyone to purchase a copy of the finished book. ■

Alumni will help create new Union Directory

Union University needs your help in preparing a new alumni directory. Starting Feb. 26, alumni can phone in listing information to Harris Connect, the company that is compiling the directory. The dedicated line for Union University alumni is 800-546-3730. Calling hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturdays and 12:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sundays.

Harris operators will begin contacting alumni from whom they have not heard

on March 23. Harris will accept updates until May 18.

There are opportunities to participate beyond simply updating your entry in the 2003 edition.

Alumni will be asked to help choose a cover for the book, which is scheduled for release in August. They are also invited to submit brief essays and some photos to update everyone on their lives since leaving Union.

Alumni may also elect to have inform-



William E. Haynes, III ('91) was named to Reuters AdvicePoint™ Top Advisers of 2008 for the East South Central region and the state of Tennessee as one of the top financial advisers across America. Billy is managing director at Haynes Barker Investment Management, LLC, – www.haynesbarker.com – a boutique firm that specializes in portfolio management and analysis, financial planning and wealth transfer strategies. E-mail: bill@haynesbarker.com



John Larry Kea II ('91) and his wife Elizabeth will be serving with the International Mission Board in Western Europe. John received his Doctor in Jurisprudence degree from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in 1994. He currently is completing a master's at The Southern Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. The couple has three children: Noah, Eliana and Meira. E-mail: johnelizabethkea@bellsouth.net



Andy Milam ('92) and **Michelle Sarratt Milam ('92)** will be serving in Western Europe with the International Mission Board. Andy graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with a master's degree in church music. They have two sons, Micah and Ethan. E-mail: Andy—andy@alphabaptist.com and Michelle—ammilam@charter.net



Jennifer Schlenker Bratton ('92) was named a vice president at Regions Bank where she works as a manager overseeing portfolio administration in the corporate real estate department. She and her husband Mike have two children, Emma Caroline, 9 and Bennett, 4. They relocated to the Birmingham, Ala., area in 2007 and are members of Hunter Street Baptist Church. Address: 2216

Old Cahaba Place, Helena, AL 35080. E-mail: jenniferbratton@gmail.com



Kevin D. McCann ('93) has published a book entitled "Hurst's Worst: Colonel Fielding Hurst and the Sixth Tennessee Cavalry U.S.A." It describes the experiences of a regiment of Southerners who sided with the Union rather than the Confederacy during the American Civil War. The book is available on his Web site – www.kevindmccann.com. Address: 204 Delaney Circle, Dickson, TN 37055. E-mail: kdmccann27@comcast.net

Richard Christian ('94) was called to Berean Bible Church in New Orleans as pastor of worship and children's ministries. Richard and his wife Jamie have two children, Caleb, 15 and Lydia, 12. Address: 2417 Woodmere Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058. E-mail: richard@bereannola.com

Ronda Machalek Trent ('94) has completed a master's degree in education with an emphasis in instructional technology and design at Texas Tech University in 2008. Address: 9105 Peace St., Keller, TX 76248. E-mail: the4trents@verizon.net



E. Blake Watkins ('94) is the chair of pharmaceutical sciences in the new School of Pharmacy at Union University. **Lisa Meadows Watkins ('94)** is a nurse at the Humboldt Manor Nursing Center. The couple has two boys, Daniel, 14 and Matthew, 11. Address: 86 Brackenhouse Square, Jackson, TN. 38305. E-mail: Blake—bwatkins@uu.edu and Lisa—lwatkins@eplus.net

Michele Cain ('95) has moved and is director of Sylvan Learning Center in Florence, Ala. Address: 1617 Bridlewood Drive, Florence, AL 35630. E-mail: michele_cain@hotmail.com

Dwayne Cloar ('95) and **Pam Honeycutt Cloar ('95)** have four children. Pam is a homemaker and home schools the

children. Dwayne accepted the program director position with the Alamo Area Council Boy Scouts of America in San Antonio, Texas. Dwayne had served the West Tennessee Area Council, Jackson, Tenn., for five years as a district executive. Address: 7411 Pebblewood, San Antonio, TX 78250. E-mail: dcloar@bsamail.org

Chad Rowland ('95) and **Christy Vaughn Rowland ('95)** have been a part of a Clarksville, Tenn., church plant, Grace Community Church – www.gcomchurch.com – since the fall of 2005. Chad and Christy have two children, a daughter, Madison, 8 and a son, Brock, 6. Address: 3137 Clydesdale Drive, Clarksville, TN 37043. E-mail: chad@gcomchurch.com

Matthew Schobert ('95) works for Central Texas Veterans Health Care system and was promoted to administrative officer and program specialist for social work service in the Office of the Chief of Social Work Service. He continues to teach as adjunct faculty in Baylor University's Honors Program. He also serves on the editorial board and board of directors for various professional publications and organizations. Address: 10141 China Creek Drive, Waco, TX 76708. E-mail: germprot@yahoo.com

Klay Aspinwall ('96), a graduate of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has been called to be senior pastor of historic First Baptist Church in Washington, Ga., which was founded by Elder Jesse Mercer in 1827. He and his wife Amy are the proud parents of five children, Hannah, Klay Jr., Elizabeth, Abigail and Jakob ranging from 4 to 13 years of age. He is currently considering doctoral study at the University of Georgia. Address: 105 Tignall Road, Washington, GA 30673. Email: ruanole2@prodigy.net

Frederick Pirtle ('96) is now working for the Tennessee Department of Corrections, Nashville, Tenn., as an information resource support specialist. Frederick had been living in Mississippi. Address: 22 Archway Circle, Apt. C22, Dickson, TN 37055. E-mail: fpirtle@msn.com

Natalie D. VanEman ('96) began her coursework in the Master of Art in Interpretation program at Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C., in August 2008. Address: 193 E. Maynard Ave., Columbus, OH 43202. E-mail: ndv@hotmail.com

Todd Reid ('96) celebrated his five year anniversary with Wyeth Pharmaceuticals where he is a territory manager in their vaccines division. He also received a Level II promotion for performance and for pursuing a certified medical representative title designation. Address: 5488 Chapel Meadow Cove, Arlington, TN 38002. E-mail: reidt@wyeth.com

Jay Bush ('98) earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Nashville School of Law in May 2007. Jay and his wife Dana have relocated to Jackson, where he is an attorney with Waldrop & Hall, P.A. Address: 34 Farmington Drive, Jackson TN 38305. E-mail: bushj@waldrophall.com



Brad ('99) and **Sallie Gambrell Hambrick ('98 '99)** have a new address. Brad continues to serve as executive director of Crossroads Counseling – www.crossroadsaugusta.org – a para-church ministry committed to complementing the work of local churches through counseling and seminars. Address: 1344 Shadow Oak Drive, Evans, GA 30809.

Greg Parsons ('99) accepted a position with First Bank as vice president of commercial lending. He and his wife, Cassie and two sons, Marcus and Luke, have relocated to Jackson. Address: 49 Stornaway Drive, Jackson, TN 38305.

2000's TWOTHOUSANDS

Kathy O. Lofton ('00) was named development chair for True Story Pictures – www.truestorypictures.org – a non-profit archive resource for recording personal life stories as well as the history of the Mid-South region. In 2007 TSP

unveiled Voices of Jericho: Stories of Jail Diversion, a short documentary and art installation about three individuals with mental illness who were caught in the criminal justice system. Kathy received a master's in public administration in 2007 from City University of New York, Baruch College of Public Affairs. E-mail: lofton38111@yahoo.com



Andy Pettigrew ('00) and **Laura Barton Pettigrew ('00)** are assigned to serve in Africa with the International Mission Board. They have two children Lilianna and Elliot. Andy received his Master of Divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., in 2007.

Cathie Scarbrough ('00) completed her residency training at In His Image Family Medicine Residency program in June. She is currently living in Birmingham, Ala., and is teaching at a family medicine residency program there. She has been appointed with World Medical Missions and will be leaving in January to serve in Central Asia for two years. Address: 224 Maxwell Road S.E., Birmingham, AL 35022. E-mail: cscarbrough@hotmail.com

Carrie Beth Puckett ('01) was promoted to the position of registrar and instructor in Christian education at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Cordova, Tenn. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in education from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Address: 8271 N. Fletcher Run, Circle 204, Cordova, TN 38016. E-mail: puckettcarrie@gmail.com

Julie Dodson ('02) accepted a position with Red Deluxe Brand Development, a Memphis advertising firm. Julie received her Master of Arts in Journalism degree in December from the University of Memphis. She is also professional advisor to Union University's Public Relations Student Society of America chapter. E-mail: jk_dodson@yahoo.com

Trent Okerson ('02) joined WPSD-TV, NBC affiliate NewsChannel 6 in Pa-

ducah, Ky., in December 2007. Trent is the midday and weekend meteorologist. Address: 105 Oak Drive, Metropolis, IL 62960. E-mail: trentokerson@yahoo.com



Philip Ray Coffman ('03) is serving as pastor of Fourmile Baptist Church in Wilsonville, Ala. Currently he is finishing a master of divinity at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, anticipating graduation in December 2009. He has also been accepted as a Navy chaplain candidate. His wife **Amanda Britt Coffman ('99)** is a homemaker. She plans to return to classroom teaching next year. They have two children: Nathan, 7 and Lily, 3. Address: 15445 Highway 61, Wilsonville, AL 35186.

Michele Heck ('03) serves as an admission counselor for the University of Missouri School of Law. Michele was selected for recognition by the 2008 class for the Mizzou '39 Award. Each student selects a faculty or staff mentor who had inspired him or her during their time at Mizzou. This program was created by the Mizzou Alumni Association Student Board to honor the spirit of service modeled by the university founding families in 1839. E-mail: heckm@missouri.edu

David Lynch ('03) passed the certified public accountant exam in the state of Kansas. He works as an accountant with Farmers Insurance in Olathe, Kan. Address: 15612 W. 123rd Terrace, Olathe, KS 66062.

John Robus ('03) accepted the position of head trader at Mindshare Capital in St. Louis, Mo. John completed a Master of Science in Finance degree from St. Louis University in 2005. After completing his graduate degree, he was employed by Missouri Valley Partners as an assistant equity trader. E-mail: rohnnyjobus@sbcglobal.net



Carol Smith ('03) will be serving with the International Mission Board in Central and Eastern Europe. Carol earned the MAIS degree

from Union. E-mail: carolcamille@yahoo.com

Nathan Smith ('03) and **Alexis Abney Scott ('03)** have received master's degrees recently. Nathan received a Master in Sport Administration from the University of Louisville. He is in his third year of ministering as the director of recreation ministry at Red Bank Baptist Church. Alexis completed her master's in teaching from Lee University. She teaches third grade at Alpine Crest Elementary. Address: 3909 Tacoma Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37415. E-mail: scott.nathan@mail.com

Tracie Holden Simer ('04) is a reporter for The Jackson Sun. Tracie received a first place award in features reporting from the Tennessee Associated Press Managing Editors. Her story "Finding Home" focused on the homeless problem of Jackson. She received second place in features reporting from the Tennessee Press Association for the same article. Address: 61 Twin Oaks Place, Jackson, TN 38395. E-mail: tracie@simer.net

Lindsay Stavish McDonald ('05) was awarded third place by the Tennessee Associated Press for her feature photo of a local carnival published in The Jackson Sun. She and her husband Jon have now moved to southern Illinois. Lindsay is working as a teaching assistant in a local elementary school and freelances in wedding photography and family portraits. Jon is a pastor of a country church and the Lord is greatly blessing the ministry. Address: Route 1, Box 230, Albion, IL 62806. E-mail: lasphoto@hotmail.com



Mark Bustrum ('06) and **Hannah Gillihan Bustrum** are serving with the International Mission Board in Western Europe. They have three daughters Sahara, 7, Cambria, 5 and Tirza, 2. Address: 32 Stratford Lane, Jackson, TN 38305. E-mail: bustrum@gmail.com

MARRIAGES

Gina Kelley Fanning ('88) married David Fanning in October 2005. Gina is a kindergarten teacher at Collierville Elementary School. David is a structural engineer at the Reaves Firm in Memphis. Address: 3068 Poplar Grove Lane, Germantown, TN 38139. E-mail: ginakfanning@gmail.com.

Norm Kight ('90) and Rita White Kight were married Oct. 11, 2008, in West Virginia. Norm is part of a church planting team at Koinos Christian Fellowship with the pastor, **Johnathan Newman ('90)**. Norm works full-time as a criminal welfare fraud investigator. Rita, originally from Dunkirk, Ind., is a nurse. Address: 708 1/2 S. Clay St., Troy, OH 45373. E-mail: nkight@woh.rr.com.

Jennifer Land Graham ('96) married Andy Graham Jr. on June 28, 2008, at ClearView Baptist Church in Franklin Tenn. Jennifer is a second grade teacher at St. Bernard Academy in Nashville. Andy is the head of the lower school at Battle Ground Academy in Franklin. Jennifer's Chi Omega little sister, **Elly Smallman Hall ('98)**, was a bridesmaid. Address: 315 Albert Circle, Franklin, TN 37064 E-mail: jenl@lwol.com.



Mandy Marie Smith White ('98) married Darrell White on Oct. 23, 2007, at a beach wedding in Negril, Jamaica. Darrell works for Kirkland's Home Inc. as the new store coordinator and Mandy works for the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce as the manager of research and economic development. Address: 59 Castlegate Drive, Jackson, TN 38305. E-mail: mwhite@jacksontn.com



Edie Ward Barnett ('98 '02) married Matthew Price Barnett of Huntingdon, Tenn., on June 18, 2008. They were married in a beachside ceremony at Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. Matt and Edie are making their home in

Jackson, with her daughter, Ali Elizabeth Butler, age 9. Address: 64 Oxford Drive, Jackson, TN 38305. Email: ediebarnett@hotmail.com

Mary C. Mount Dunbar ('02) married Chris Dunbar on July 17, 2007. She received a Master of Art in English degree from the University of Mississippi in May 2008. Chris is in the U.S. Army and currently serving in Iraq. Address: 485 Montezuma Road, Henderson, TN 38340. E-mail: marykdz@hotmail.com

Amanda Brown McClellan ('03) married James McClellan on Sept. 22, 2007, at Caledonia Community Church in Olmsted, Ill. Amanda serves as director of children and youth at Maple Grove Baptist Church. James is a computer programmer for Sabreliner Corp. Address: 1104 A Ridge Drive, Perryville, MO 63775. E-mail: red9803@yahoo.com

Blaire Dahlke Lindsay ('03) was married on July 22, 2006, to Timothy Lee Lindsay, of Davison, Mich. Blaire teaches third grade at Oakland Elementary School. Tim works for bankrate.com's credit card division located in Bartlett, Tenn. Address: 20 Michelle Cove, Oakland, TN 38060. E-mail: timandblaire@yahoo.com.

Andrea Irwin Dennis ('04) married Derrick Dennis on Dec. 15, 2007, at First Baptist Church of Hendersonville, Tenn. Andrea earned her Master of Business Administration degree from Middle Tennessee State University and is a publicist at B&H Publishing Group of LifeWay Christian Resources. A graduate of Auburn University, Derrick is a project manager at Fox Ridge Homes of NVR Inc. They live in Nashville and are members of Forest Hills Baptist Church. E-mail: andrealdennis@gmail.com.

Kari Noblett Essenpreis ('04) married Spencer Edwin Essenpreis of Garland, Texas, on Dec. 8, 2007, in Henderson, Ky. Kari and Spencer served as journey-men with the International Mission Board in Uganda, Africa. Kari is currently

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working as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at Baptist Hospital in Louisville, Ky. Spencer is pursuing graduate work at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Address: 221 Royer Court, Louisville, KY 40206. E-mail: spencerandkari07@gmail.com

Nick Rickman ('04) married Janna DeLoach on Nov. 29, 2008, at First Baptist Church in Humboldt, Tenn. Nick serves as deputy sheriff of Madison County and Janna is a nursing assistant at Jackson Madison County General Hospital. Address: Post House Jackson, 20 Rachel Drive, #8, Jackson, TN 38305.

Allen Smith ('04) and **Ruth Hall Smith ('04)** were married on July 7, 2007, in Cahokia, Ill. Address: 870 12th St., Washougal, WA 98671.

George David Clark Jr. ('05) and **Elisabeth Berry Clark ('07)** were married on Aug. 23, 2008, in Little Rock, Ark. Elisabeth is a social worker at Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge in Charlottesville, Va. David graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in Poetry Writing degree at the University of Virginia in May 2008. He currently teaches creative writing at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va. Address: 1205 Swan Lake Drive, #304, Charlottesville, VA 22902. E-mail: EClark823@yahoo.com

Stephanie Gardner Harlan ('06) married James Harlan on Aug. 19, 2006. She works for BancorpSouth. James teaches vocation agriculture at a Maury County high school. Address: 2926 Knob Creek Road, Columbia, TN 38401.

Courtney Braswell Fern ('07) married **Joel Fern ('03)** on May 16, 2008, in Memphis, Tenn. They live in Huntsville, Ala., where Joel is a medical physicist and Courtney is in graduate school getting her master's in English education. E-mail: courtneybraswell@gmail.com.

David Roach ('07) and **Elizabeth Hand Roach ('07)** were married on June 30, 2007, at St. James Anglican Church,

in Memphis, Tenn. Liz is a first grade teacher at Stigall Magnet Academy. David is a journalist at The Humboldt Chronicle. They live in Humboldt with their cat, Belle. Address: 303 Viking Court Drive, Humboldt TN 38343, E-mail: David—droach49@yahoo.com and Liz—liz_2_3@hotmail.com



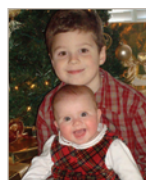
Wesley Mark Calvert ('08) and **Ashley Nicole Spruell ('08)** were married on June 7, 2008.

Wesley works for UPS and Ashley is employed by the State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services. Address: 725 Rushmeade Drive Apt. A, Jackson, TN 38305.

BIRTHS



Alan Joiner ('89) and his wife Lori celebrated the birth of their first child, Joshua Charles, on March 31, 2008. Alan is with CITGO Petroleum in Houston, Texas. Lori is the Houston area director for Campus Crusade for Christ. The couple lives in Katy, Texas. E-mail: AJoiner@CITGO.com



Susan Watt Word ('89) and her husband Larry celebrated the birth of their daughter, Lydia Marie, on July 23, 2007.

The couple also has a son, Joshua, 7. Susan is a full-time homemaker and freelance writer and editor. Larry is communications coordinator for Smith & Nephew in Memphis. Address: 4132 Hollingsworth Cove, Olive Branch, MS 38654. E-mail: susanword@comcast.net

Brett Maragni ('92) and his wife Lacey had a daughter, Esther Annalee, on Aug. 1, 2007. Her siblings are Chase, Bryce and Grace Ann. Brett is the founding pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel of Jacksonville, Fla., — www.harvestjacksonville.org. Address: 1208 Verbena Court, Jacksonville, FL 32259. E-mail: dr.maragni@mac.com

Karen Reeves Wyatt ('92) and her husband Steve welcomed their first child, Ivy Lane, on July 17, 2004. Karen has completed a master's degree in education, taught in Lexington's city and county school systems and is now a homemaker. Steve is employed at MIG Inc. in Lexington. Prior to this time the couple had owned their own floral shop for nine years. Address: 636 Harbor Drive, Lexington, TN 38351. E-mail: yellowbug27@aol.com



Peter Cosmiano ('93) and his wife Rebecca Bankston Cosmiano welcomed Eleanor Bankston Cosmiano to their family on Aug. 6, 2008. Little Ella Banks, "EB," was 7 pounds and 20 inches long. Peter is the head coach of women's volleyball at Mississippi College and Rebecca is an oncology nurse. Address: 317 Kirkwood Drive, Clinton, MS 39056. Email: cosmiano@mc.edu



Leigh Ann Carter Scalf ('95) and her husband Rick recently completed fellowships at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. They now practice in Lexington, Ky. Leigh Ann is a dermatologist and dermatopathologist and Rick is a radiologist. They feel abundantly blessed with their family: 1-year-old twin sons Caleb Lee and Nathan Daniel, born March 21, 2007, and a 3-year-old daughter Jillian Marie. Address: 1618 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington, KY 40504. E-mail: las@advanceddermatologypsc.com



Robin Latham Pinkston ('95) and her husband Earl announce the birth of their third child, Nathan Blaine, on Aug. 6, 2007. His older siblings, Thomas Earl and Kathryn Ann, are thrilled. The Pinkston family has served with the International Mission Board in Malta since 1998. They have recently begun a five-year partnership with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Address: Blk. A, Flat 8, Binja L-Isperanza, Mosta, Malta AA MST 1550. E-mail: repink@malta.net



Tara Laine Phillips Hoffman ('95) is a photographer with Disney Photo Imaging at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida. Tara Laine and her husband Earl have four-year-old twin boys, Zach and Max. Address: 4036 Greystone Drive, Clermont, FL 34711. E-mail: taralaine@cfl.rr.com or TwincereYours@gmail.com



Donna Reasons Fuller ('95) and her husband Brian announce the birth of Natelyn Diane, their second child. Natelyn was born on April 16, 2007, and weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce. Nathaniel Drake is her 5-year-old brother. Donna is a private piano teacher and minister of music at the Paoli United Pentecostal Church. Brian is district youth president for the Oklahoma District United Pentecostal Church. Address: P.O. Box 73, Paoli, OK 73074. E-mail: pianolady@brightok.net

Mark Hoesel ('96) married Gayle Sloan on July 22, 2007. They have a son named Sloan, 3 and a daughter, Allison, 1. Mark completed a Master of Education degree from Vanderbilt University in visual disabilities. He is a teacher of the blind and visually impaired for Nashville Public Schools. His wife was an occupational therapist with Nashville Public Schools and is now at home raising their children. They are members of Grace Community Church in Brentwood, Tenn. Address: 5421 Bradfield Drive, Nashville, TN 37220. E-mail: hoeselhouse@netzero.com



Michael ('97) and **Steffanie Goode Laffoon ('97)** are thrilled to announce the birth of another son, Tyler Lee "Tyfoon." Tyler was born on Sept. 22, 2007, and weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces. Tyler has a sister Lauren, 5 and a brother Anderson, 3. Address: 66 Northwyke Drive, Jackson, TN 38305. E-mail: slaffoon@atacpa.net



Chris McNeece ('97) and **Sarah Aldridge McNeece ('98)** welcomed their first child, Elijah Christopher, on Jan. 15, 2008. Chris is a project assistant at a civil engineering firm and Sarah is children's director for Blue Sky Church — www.bluesky-church.com — in the Seattle area. They moved there as part of a church plant team in 2004. Address: 13641 S.E. 171st Place, Renton, WA 98058. E-mail: chrismcneece1974@yahoo.com



Lee Sanders ('97) and **April Gilchrist Sanders ('97)** had a son, Matthew Logan, born Sept. 11, 2007. He weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long. Lee is a first year internal medicine resident at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and April is a stay-at-home mom. Address: 69 Augusta Circle, North Liberty, IA 52317. E-mail: asgilchrist@yahoo.com



Sharon Kinstler Walters ('98) and her husband Seth were pleased to welcome a daughter, McKenna Shae on Nov. 10, 2006. She weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces. McKenna has two brothers, Noah, 4 and Zachary, 3. Sharon is a homemaker and Seth sells pediatric vaccines for Merck Pharmaceuticals. Address: 1813 Mulligan Drive, Marion, IL 62959.



Bradley Owens ('98) and his wife announce the birth of Brock Lawson born July 30, 2007. Brock weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches. Bradley has been named a shareholder at the law firm of Hardee, Martin and Donahoe, P.A. in Jackson. He graduated from the University of Memphis School of Law in 2001. Address: 673 Blackmon Road, Medina, TN 38355. E-mail: bowens@hmdpa.com

Elizabeth White Cribb ('98) married Bryan Cribb on May 31, 2003, in Louisville,



Ky. Elizabeth worked as a registered nurse for nine years. The couple had a boy, Daniel Luther, on April 17, 2007. Currently she is a homemaker, while Bryan serves as an Old Testament professor at Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Ga. Address: 1000 Williams St., McRae, GA 31055. Email: thecribbs@windstream.net



Damon Juckett ('99) and **Alicia Jackson Juckett ('00)** welcomed their first child, Jackson Brown, on Sept. 12, 2007. They currently live in Collierville, Tenn. E-mail: ajuckett79@yahoo.com.

Miriam L. Miller Davis ('99) married Whitt Davis and has two children, Evan Charles, born in 2006 and Rachel Katherine (Katie), born in 2003. Miriam is a certified public accountant working as a controller in Franklin, Tenn. Whit works at Franklin's Laurel Cove Golf Course as superintendent. Address: 1904 Baileys Trace Drive, Spring Hill, TN 37174. E-mail: xo61700@aol.com



Brynna Vos Spain ('99) and her husband Bart are happy to announce the birth of Luke Henry on Jan. 16, 2008. Luke weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 inches long. Brynna is a designer for McAlpine Booth & Ferrier Interiors, Nashville, Tenn. **Beverly Vos ('02)**, is Luke's proud grandmother. Address: 909 Cleves St., Old Hickory, TN 37138. E-mail: brynna.spain@comcast.net

Matthew R. West ('99) and his wife April welcomed their first child Isaac Steven on Aug. 7, 2007. Isaac weighed 5 pounds, 10 ounces and was 17 1/2 inches long. Matt works at Teel, McCormack & Maroney, P.L.C. and April works at The Eye Clinic. Address: 664 Gettysburg Drive, Jackson, TN 38305. E-mail: mattwst77@yahoo.com



Molly Gentry Stratemeyer ('01) and her husband Joshua had a son, Cooper McCain, on May 19, 2007. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 inches long. Address: 407 E. 11th St., Metropolis, IL 62960. E-mail: mstratemeyer@massac.org



Elizabeth Matthews Brogdon ('01) and husband Stephen have a new baby, Peyton Elizabeth, born on Feb. 4, 2008. Peyton weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19 inches long. Elizabeth is currently working as a neonatal nurse practitioner serving the Middle Tennessee Hospital Corporation of America hospitals with Mid-Tennessee Neonatology Associates. She received her master's in nursing from Vanderbilt University in 2005. Address: 6200 Willow Oak Drive, Nashville, TN 37221.

Justin Taylor Perry ('01) and his wife Jackey are pleased to announce the birth of Abigail Renee. She was born July 18, 2007, weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches. Justin graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in May 2008 with a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Ministry. He received the Gary A. Galeotti Spiritual Leadership Award—awarded to a graduating senior with a high GPA, proven leadership skills and potential for effective ministry. Justin is making plans to plant a church in early 2009. Address: 1403 Clifton Pond Road, Louisburg, NC 27549. E-mail: jtperry_30@yahoo.com

Russell Hilton ('02) and **Julie Black Hilton ('04)** are pleased to announce the birth of a son, Jameson Hilton, born on Aug. 25, 2008. Jameson weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21 inches long. E-mail: russell.hilton@gmail.com

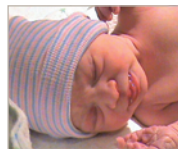


Wendy Nolan Hill ('02) and her husband Zach were married June 1, 2002. They had a boy, Logan Scott, on March 31, 2007. Wendy works with Kin-

dermusik in Memphis, Tenn. Address: 6958 Naples Drive, Cordova, TN 38018. E-mail: wmn179@hotmail.com



Daniel Banks ('02) and **Katie Hemphill Banks ('02)** welcomed a daughter, Aubrey Dare, on May 12, 2007. She weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 inches long. Katie is a stay-at-home mom and Daniel is a bond trader at Morgan Keegan in Memphis, Tenn. Address: 893 Sheridan St., Memphis, TN 38107. E-mail: khbanks@hotmail.com.



R. Adam Clark ('02) and Heather **Moubray Clark ('03)** announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Morgan, born on Jan. 25, 2008. Emily weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 inches. Address: 3126 Long Hollow Pike, Hendersonville, TN 37075. E-mail: FieldCmndr@aol.com (615)-264-6051



Jake Eaton ('02) and **Nicole Wilkes Eaton ('02)** joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Aurora "Rory" Nicole, born Dec. 15, 2007. She weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Rory has a big brother, Wilkes. Address: 3466 Stagecoach Drive, Franklin, TN 37067. E-mail: nicoleeaton@comcast.net



Jeremy Hollie ('02) and **Rachel Polk Hollie ('03)** were blessed with twin girls, Esther Lynn and Joy Elizabeth on Feb. 2, 2008. The couple has been working with the Network of International Christian Schools for the past three years. They have served with an alias name for some time in Central Asia and now serve at the International Christian School of Lima in Lima, Peru. Address: 3882 Fawn Valley, Memphis, TN 38125. E-mail: jeremyhollie@oasis.org

Paul Richey ('02) and his wife Rachel welcomed Mary Ellen on May 8, 2008.

Mary Ellen weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 22 inches long. Address: 1110 American Way, Jonesborough, TN 37659. E-mail: paul.d.richey@gmail.com



Bethany Rosser Vickery ('02) and her husband John were blessed with Claire Elisabeth on Feb. 22, 2008. Claire weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Bethany had been a special education teacher for Shelby County schools and is now a stay-at-home mom. John is in his second year of residency in internal medicine. Address: 3548 Tiffany Oaks Lane, Bartlett, TN 38135. E-mail: bvickery@comcast.net

Kelly Rhodes Paschall ('03) announces the birth of her second son, Gavin Thomas, born July 6, 2007. Address: 225 Old Caldwell Road, Puyear, TN 38251.



Jeremy Wright ('03) and **Katie McBride Wright ('04)** welcomed their third child, James Nolan, on Dec. 31, 2007. Nolan weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches long. He is welcomed home by siblings Hunter, 3 and Kallie, 1. Jeremy is currently a branch manager with Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Katie is working as a registered nurse in a clinic at The Regional Medical Center at Memphis. Address: 1390 Bayberry Hill Drive, Cordova, TN 38018. E-mail: katiebugg0523@yahoo.com

Stephanie Lake Parson ('04) was married to Tico Parson, July 7, 2007. Their daughter, Kaiya, was born May 5, 2007. She is currently the assistant band director for Humboldt City Schools. Address: 2222 E Main St., Humboldt, TN 38343. E-mail: stephlake23@yahoo.com

Lindsey Grace Darby ('05) was blessed with her first son, Robert Miles, on Nov. 1, 2007. Address: 3415 Plum Point Drive E., Olive Branch, MS 38654. E-mail: lgd625@hotmail.com



Clint Smith ('05) and his wife Deborah announce the birth of Nathan on Oct. 8, 2007. He weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Clint is the associate pastor of students and education at First Baptist Church in Camden, Tenn., and Deborah is a nurse at a local hospital. Address: 123 Camden Bay Lodge Road, Camden, TN 38320. E-mail: csmithfbc@bellsouth.net



James Briggs ('06) and **Christi McEnulty Briggs ('06)** celebrate the birth of their second daughter, Abigail Grace, born on Sept. 26, 2007. Abigail has a sister, Alivia Jeanne, 1. Jim and Christi reside in Idaho where Jim works for Hershey and Christi is a homemaker. Address: 6225 W. Trestle St., Unit 3, Rathdrum, ID 83858. E-mail: jandcbriggs@yahoo.com



Tim Jenkins ('06) and **Angela Conger Jenkins ('01)** announce the birth of Sarah Beth born on Oct. 1, 2008. She is welcomed by a big sister, 2-year-old Anna Marie. Tim works with Russell Stover Candies in Kansas City, Mo. Address: 205 N. E. Thames Court, Blue Springs, MO 64014. E-mail: Tim—jenkins1980@hotmail.com and Angela—speckledegg@yahoo.com

MEMORIAM

Helen Phillips Dorton ('30)
Oct. 10, 2008 Charlotte, N. C.

Garnet Jones Mealor ('30)
Aug. 26, 2008 Nashville, Tenn.

Rosa B. Anderson ('31)
Oct. 29, 2008 Rossville, Tenn.

Mary Adair Settle ('35)
Jan. 19, 2008 Biggersville, Miss.

Frances Gibson ('36)
Sept. 29, 2008 Needham, Mass.

Mallie Newman Newsom ('36)
Oct. 12, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Henning Andrews ('38)
Dec. 11, 2007 Houlika, Miss.

Annie Johnson Dent ('38)
March 10, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Sara Emerson ('38)
Aug. 29, 2008 Saulsbury, Tenn.

Virginia Hawkins ('38)
Dec. 27, 2007 Stanton, Tenn.

Ruth Hagan Logan Atkinson ('39)
Oct. 29, 2008 Hernando, Miss.

John Robert Campbell ('39)
Dec. 6, 2007 Memphis, Tenn.

Robert D. Trevathan ('39)
Nov. 25, 2007 Martin, Tenn.

Martha G. McCullar ('40)
Aug. 19, 2008 Rutherford, Tenn.

Mildred L. McLemore ('41)
Aug. 4, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Mary Jo Henderson ('42)
March 12, 2008 Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Mary Willene Neely ('42)
Aug. 5, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Tom Meredith ('43)
Sept. 8, 2008 Edwardsville, Ill.

Mildred Hall Belew ('44)
Jan. 29, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Pauline M. Frick ('44)
June 3, 2008 Memphis, Tenn.

Ben Langford ('44)
Feb. 20, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Robert N. Sadler ('45)
Dec. 8, 2007 Nashville, Tenn.

James Lloyd Day Jr. ('46)
Nov. 29, 2007 Somerville, Tenn.

Edgar McCall Yarbrow ('46)
Sept. 10, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Marjorie Herron McLemore ('47)
Jan. 22, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Katherine Reaves Smith ('47)
Oct. 4, 2007 Memphis, Tenn.

Betty J. Seabough ('47)
June 24, 2008 Kansas City, Mo.

Regina C. Dennison ('48)
Aug. 16, 2008 Memphis, Tenn.

Roy M. Smith ('49)
Aug. 23, 2008 Memphis, Tenn.

Fred Baker Jr. ('50)
Sept. 14, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Thomas Alton Daniel Jr. ('50)
Oct. 27, 2007 LaGrange, Ga.

John Lee Lewelling ('50)
Aug. 1, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Dolan F. Rogers ('50)
Oct. 1, 2008 Sikeston, Mo.

Fred Short ('50)
Sept. 27, 2007 Brentwood, Tenn.

William F. Crawford ('51)
April 17, 2008 Memphis, Tenn.

Hubert Austin Sanderson ('51)
April 11, 2008 Lone Oak, Ky.

William C. Warmath ('51)
Feb. 12, 2008 Clarksville, Tenn.

Raymon B. Carlock Sr. ('53)
Sept. 27, 2008 Blytheville, Ark.

Polly Owen ('53)
Nov. 22, 2007 Newbern, Tenn.

Wayne Austin Hinson ('54)
Jan. 9, 2008 Lexington, Tenn.

Billy G. Hurt ('56)
Feb. 17, 2008 Benton, Ky.

Vance Marberry ('56)
Feb. 14, 2008 Olive Branch, Miss.

Rita Jean Tillman Burkert ('57)
Oct. 12, 2007 Humboldt, Tenn.

Billy Rhea Daster ('57)
Aug. 6, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Jo F. Bateman ('58)
Aug. 8, 2008 Crossville, Tenn.

Bobby Brown McWherter ('58)
Aug. 19, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Gayla Hope Dennis Farrar ('59)
Dec. 5, 2008 in Lexington, S.C.

Samuel Frank Congiardo Jr. ('62)
June 22, 2008 Selmer, Tenn.

Joe Scott Layman ('67)
Jan. 21, 2008 Marshfield, Mo.

Harold Robert Laurie ('68)
Nov. 1, 2007 Ridgeland, Miss.

Carolyn Jenkins Barnette ('69)
March 15, 2008 Montgomery, Ala.

Diane Clarke ('70)
Dec. 3, 2007 Cordova, Tenn.

Joy Truex ('74) ('80)
Oct. 12, 2007 Jackson, Tenn.

Amy Elizabeth Jowers ('76)
Nov. 27, 2007 Jackson, Tenn.

Jerry L. Roberts ('79)
May 30, 2008 Decatur, Ala.

Lela Utley ('83)
Jan. 24, 2008 Memphis, Tenn.

Melissa Moore ('84)
June 21, 2008 Lobelville, Tenn.

Jacqueline A. Dunavant ('91)
Oct. 5, 2008 Ripley, Tenn.

Addie King ('97)
Sept. 19, 2008 Jackson, Tenn.

Betty Phinnessee ('97)
March 14, 2008 Hickory Valley, Tenn.

Amber D. Mathenia ('01)
Jan. 22, 2008 Millington, Tenn.

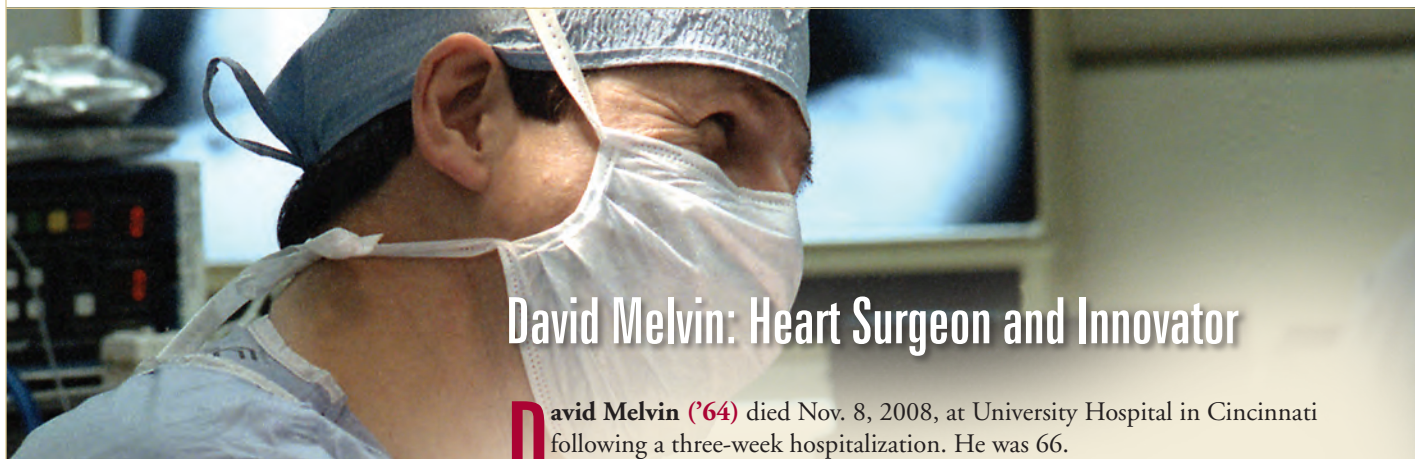
Jonathan Stonecipher ('03)
Feb. 21, 2008 Munford, Tenn.

Sholonda Thomas Miller ('06)
Oct. 21, 2008 Memphis, Tenn.

Alvin Lee "Al" Allen Jr. (Professor)
Feb. 14, 2008 Kansas City, Mo.

Evelyn Carter Foote (Instructor)
Aug. 23, 2008 Fairbanks, Alaska

Bill Damron (Friend)
Aug. 29, 2008 Trenton, Tenn.



David Melvin: Heart Surgeon and Innovator

David Melvin ('64) died Nov. 8, 2008, at University Hospital in Cincinnati following a three-week hospitalization. He was 66.

Melvin led one of the Midwest's early heart transplant programs at the University of Cincinnati 25 years ago. He performed more than 100 successful transplants, but said in a summer 2006 Unionite story the decisions before surgery were more difficult for him than the procedure itself. "The most difficult part of it is deciding who gets one, and who doesn't," Melvin said.

At the height of his career, Melvin gave up heart surgery and started taking freshman engineering classes. Ultimately, he earned a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering and started doing extensive research on mechanical hearts. He patented an external harness for diseased hearts called RePower.

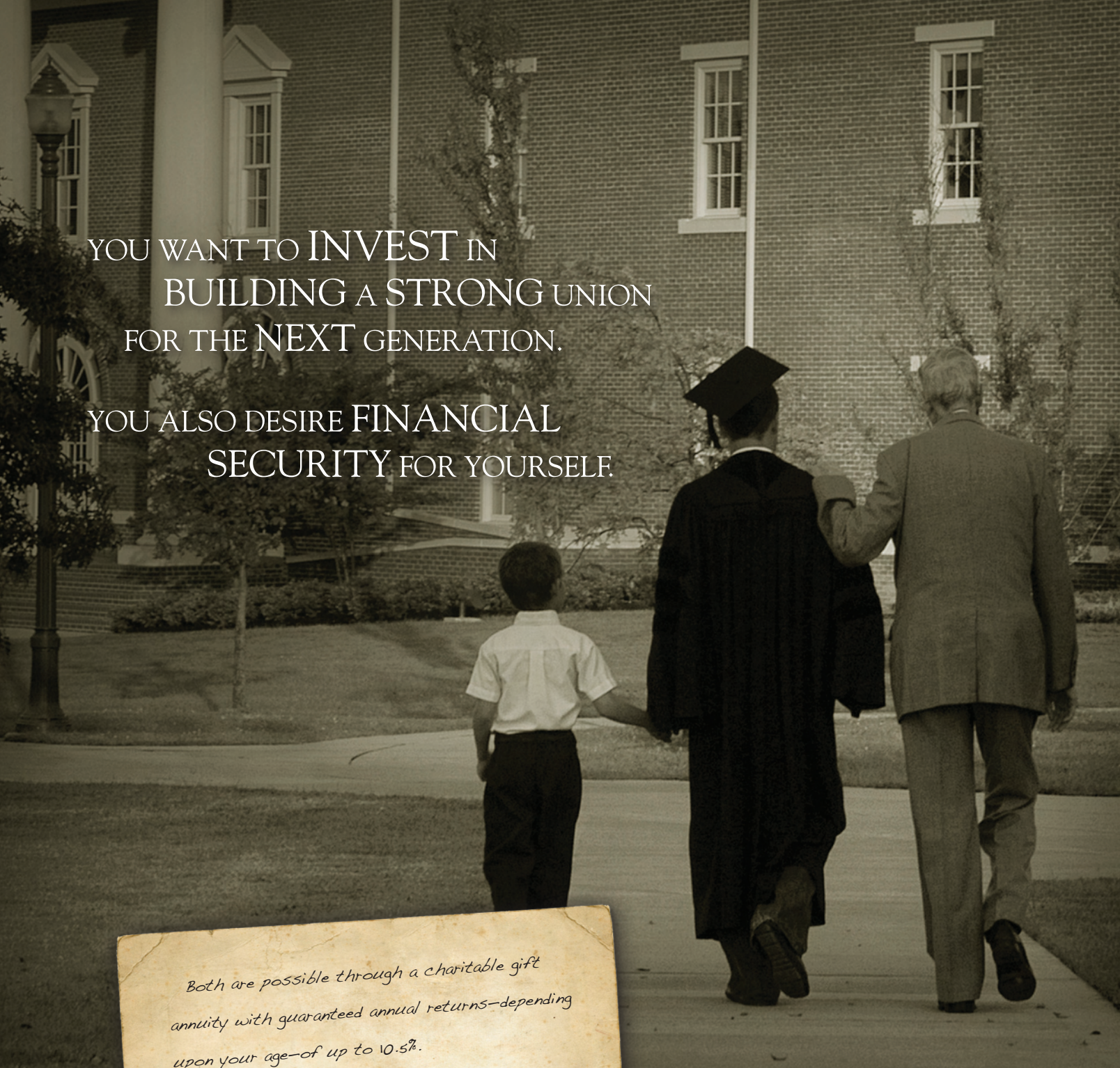
A native of Bradford, Tenn., Melvin was vice president of the student body and a founding member of the Lambda Zeta chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha on the Union campus. He is survived by four sons and his wife Sue, all of whom were with him when he passed away. ■



David Melvin with patient Mary Ann Deck, celebrating the 20th anniversary of heart transplantation in Cincinnati. Photo Courtesy University of Cincinnati Department of Surgery

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FINALFRAME



The Setting Sun

The sun sets as Homecoming 2008 came to a close on November 8th. Be sure to save the date for Homecoming 2009 November 6-7.