

## 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." 📺