



Gratitude for 15 years!

It seems nearly impossible that 15 years have come and gone since Lanese and I were invited to serve at Union University. The years have passed so rapidly. We can only offer our heartfelt and deep thanksgiving to God for the privilege that has been afforded us to be associated with the wonderful people who are a part of the Union family. Particularly do we want to say thank you to the members of that 1995 search committee who initially connected us with this University. That process will always remain a special memory for us.

Beyond that, we want to offer our appreciation to the men and women who have served as trustees during this time, providing oversight, guidance, and governance for all that has taken place during these years. Especially do we wish to communicate our thanksgiving to and for the outstanding trustee leaders who have served as officers and committee chairs; truly, their time and wise counsel have been a gift of special proportions.

We have been privileged each and every day to observe the incredible staff and gifted faculty who have given of themselves to advance the distinctive mission of Union University. So many of these colleagues are worthy of significant recognition. What a joy it has been for us to get to know numerous students along the way. To watch these students make the initial decision to come to Union, to see them influenced by all aspects of a Union University education, and then to behold them graduate as they leave this place for the next step of their journey

has been absolutely amazing. We truly offer our appreciation for the faculty, staff, and students of this University.

God has blessed this University with great alumni, generous donors, encouraging friends, helpful volunteers and advisors, and faithful prayer partners. Those in the churches and the community continue to make an ongoing difference by their loving support for this University. We thank God for the thousands of people who make up the larger Union University family.

We stand in amazement at the talented and dedicated administrative team with whom we work so closely on a daily basis. These are the ones who truly carry out and shape the excellence-driven work seen across the Union campus. We definitely want to thank those who serve in the Office of the President, doing so in such a selfless way in order to ensure that things flow smoothly from one event to the next, from one project to the next, and from one meeting or activity to the next. It is nearly impossible to communicate the joy that is ours to serve with such an incredible team of people.

The cover and a special section of this edition of the Unionite are focused on a look at these 15 years. Lanese and I want to express our appreciation to all who contributed to this issue. We are also grateful for the talented people, who through their careful planning and long hours have brought together the stories found in this issue, stories that are told in both word and in photos.

The "15-year story" is really about every group and every person who



participates in and supports the work of Union University. God in his gracious providence has showered his favor on this University time and time again over these years. The Lord has spared us from the devastation of storms and directed our every step along the way. For his grace and his provision to this marvelous academic community over these years, we can only say "Thanks be to God." Lanese and I want to say to each of you who are reading this issue that we are thankful for you, even as we ask for your ongoing prayers and support for, and participation in, the life and work of Union University for the days and years to come.

Soli Deo Gloria,

David S. Dockery