

ALUMNI THE LINK

Summer/Fall 2002

Volume 1 Number 3

Your Alumni Connection to Union University

Oldest living Union alum turns 104

When Mrs. Kathryn Mildred Frye Thurman fondly remembers her days at Union, she can recall all of the students sitting on the steps of the main building on the university's old campus in downtown Jackson, singing, as the early evening shadows fell.

On May 8 of this year, Mrs. Thurman celebrated her 104th birthday, making her – to the administration and alumni offices' knowledge – the oldest living Union alum.

A music graduate, Mrs. Thurman loves music and loved teaching it. Union's 1918 "Lest We Forget" yearbook lists her as a graduate under Mrs. A.W. Prince (her sister) in 1912. She went on to study with Ottman Wall in St. Louis, Mo., returning to teach at Union in 1916. In 1923 she moved to California with her husband, where she taught piano for more than 60 years.

Crediting her long life to "my belief in God and honest and righteous living," Mrs. Thurman still remains very active in her Sunnydale, Calif., home at Sun City Gardens, an unassisted senior living center, her daughter Kaye Jamison points out.



Mildred Frye Thurman proudly displays her Union Homecoming sweatshirt.

"She still lives in her own apartment and gets up every morning at 5:30 a.m. to make it to breakfast at 7 a.m. in the main dining room," Jamison explains. Later each morning, she goes to her tai chi exercise class which she 'highly recommends to all seniors who wish to keep up their body strength.'"

After running errands, eating lunch and taking a nap, Mrs. Thurman enjoys watching television in the afternoon, "especially the golf matches. She loves

golf!" says her daughter, laughing.

On Sundays, Mrs. Thurman attends her church using the van provided by her residence. In the evening, she plays for the "Ole Tyme" hymn sing they have at the Gardens.

Though she uses a walker and has trouble hearing, her health remains better than average for her age group. Kaye and her other daughter Fran visit her twice each week and help her with banking, shopping or running errands for her. Sometimes they also enjoy cribbage.

And Mrs. Thurman's advice for living? "Be good to your fellow men and always see the cup half full instead of half empty!"

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Visit with friends at a meeting near you

Check out Union's online store at www.uu.edu and click on the "Bulldog Shoppe."



**Kids
Corner**



Community Music Center

Fall semester begins:
August 17
Pre-registration: August 12

Programs offered:

Kindermusik (birth to seven years): \$150 plus family materials (ranging from \$40 to \$62)

Group Piano Program (grades 2 to 6): \$200 plus materials

Group String Program (grades 2 and up): \$200 plus materials

Children's Chorus (grades 1 through 6): \$75

Private lessons (child to adult): ranging from \$175-\$250

Registration fee: There is a \$10 fee due by August 12 (\$20 after).

Each class or lesson meets once a week for 15 weeks. Individuals should call for more specific info about a particular program.

For more information:
Gina Kinney Scott,
Director, at
731-661-5234



GOOD NEWS from the Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Alumni Services... Gary Williams

Summer is almost history and the new fall semester is rapidly approaching. Pre-registration for incoming freshmen occurred in June and

another promising class comes to our campus to experience golden opportunities for personal, educational, and spiritual growth. It is an especially exciting time at Union University.

PLEASE NOTE SOME SPECIAL FEATURES OF THIS NEWSLETTER:

- **Homecoming, 2003:** "There's No Place Like Home-COMING"
- **Fall 2002 Alumni/Friends Chapter Meeting Dates**
- **The National Alumni Association Travel Opportunities for Fall 2002 and Summer 2003**

For more information, please contact me or Belinda Moss in the Office of Alumni Services at 1-800-338-6644.

As you receive information from the University from time to time, please take special note of the "25/25" Annual Giving Opportunities. While Union University ranks as one of the top Christian liberal arts universities in the nation, we are behind in the percentage of our alumni who contribute to the Annual Fund. It is our goal to elevate our alumni giving from its current level of 12 percent to 25 percent. As you become more informed of our needs, it is our prayer that at least 25% of our alumni will make a gift to the annual fund of at least \$25.00. For most of us, that's one trip to a local restaurant. Please give serious consideration to making an annual gift this year and each year to assist Union University students in receiving a superior quality education in a distinctively Christian environment. **WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!!**

Special thanks to Mr. Steve Maroney, President of the Union University National Alumni Association, for his continued involvement and support. The next meeting for the National Alumni Association Board of Directors is November 1-2, 2002.

As always, thanks for the privilege of serving you and for all that you do to support your *Alma Mater!*

A WORD from the Alumni Association President...Steve Maroney

As you read this letter, a new academic year at Union is beginning to emerge. This time of year always brought excitement and anticipation when we were students at Union. It was great to renew friendships with those we had not seen over the summer. Fall also brought the opportunity to make new friends as freshmen descended upon the campus seeking instruction in life, Rush and the proper way to carry your tray in the cafeteria. The new school year brought challenges and opportunities for development in all phases: academically, athletically, and spiritually.

I can remember watching television in my dorm room and seeing the exploits of Thatcher and Gorbachev as they shaped the world. Little did I imagine that I would see Union bring them to its campus. Another political figure from the 1980's (who continued to be in the news as recently as the 2000 presidential election) is coming to Union this fall. Former Secretary of State James Baker will speak at the annual scholarship banquet in October.

I hope you can take advantage of the opportunity to hear this statesman and to visit your alma mater.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find stories about some of the amazing people who have been a part of the Union University story. I hope you will enjoy reading about them and encourage you to let us know which alumni you would like to see profiled.

You can find frequently updated information about alumni and upcoming events at Union by checking the Union University web site at www.uu.edu. Also, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Alumni Services with suggestions on this newsletter or any other aspects of the Alumni Association. I hope you all have a great Fall.



From Union to the "Holy Land"



Jonathan ('99) & Joye Johnson Hickey ('97)

Education: Both have bachelor of music degrees from Union; Joye also has a master's degree from University of Nebraska in vocal performance.

Occupation: Both are performers at the Holy Land Experience in Orlando, Fla.
Family: Married in August 2001
Church: First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.

Jonathan and Joye (Johnson) Hickey remember their Union days well. Both very active in the music and theatre programs, they each starred in various roles and shows throughout their four years.

Beginning their courtship in the spring of Joye's senior year, they continued to date long-distance while

Jonathan finished his time at Union, and Joye completed her master's at the University of Nebraska. Eventually they both moved to Orlando, and incredibly, were both hired by a professional children's theatre there.

"They didn't know we knew each other," Joye says, laughing, "and it was amazing that we were both picked, because they were only filling two spots – out of hundreds of people who auditioned."

For two years, they worked steadily together, touring and performing children's shows. Joye attributes their musical and theatrical training at Union as part of their success.

"The experience of being in a Christian college was also good preparatory groundwork for what we wanted to do," says Joye.

Currently, the couple, who will celebrate their one-year wedding anniversary this August, are both performers at the Holy Land Experience in Orlando, an entertainment-type park that represents stories and history from the Bible. Joye sings and acts, and Jonathan also does a lot of acting, including improv. He has also begun writing for the street scenes that take place throughout the park.

For more information on Holy Land Experience visit www.theholylandexperience.com on the web.

Former tennis player reveals reason for attending Union

Gunnar Adalberth ('87)

Education: B.S. in Business Administration, Union; MBA, Vanderbilt University
Occupation: Marketing Director for UPS Germany
Family: Married to Marjut; they have a 3-year-old daughter, Adriane
Church: International Baptist Church of Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf, Germany

Originally from Sweden, Gunnar Adalberth found his way to Union's campus in the fall of 1983 after he was an exchange student at Covington High School and received a tennis scholarship from the university.

"At first thought, you might say that my tennis ability got me to Union," says Gunnar. "I know the real reason though – God had a plan where I would become a born-again Christian. Tennis was merely a vehicle to accomplish His plan."

Though his most significant memory at Union is his salvation experience, Gunnar also has fond memories of his experiences on the tennis team with then-coach Ron Barry and teammates including Mark Patey and Dusty

Doddridge, who are among his closest friends today.

After graduation, which Gunnar remembers fondly that his parents were able to attend, he joined the Swedish army – a requirement in his country – and graduated as a sergeant a year later in 1988. Following completion of his master's degree at Vanderbilt, which he attended on academic scholarship, he received a job offer from United Parcel Service (UPS) as an International Marketing Analyst in the corporate headquarters in Greenwich, Ct. For the last 12 years, he has worked for UPS in various capacities and countries including Germany, England, Belgium and currently in Dusseldorf, Germany.

He and his wife Marjut, who is from Finland, believe they have been fortunate to have experienced many different countries and cultures.

"We try to take the very best of each culture and apply it to our day-to-day life," says Gunnar.

There's No
Place Like
Home-COMING!

Homecoming 2003
Feb. 14-15, 2003

Look for more
information soon.

Christmas at
the Biltmore

Dec. 2-5, 2002

Hawaiian
Cruise

June 20-30, 2003

For more information
call 1-800-338-6644.

Sponsored by Union
University National Alumni
Association Travel Program

"Each country we have lived in has both its own strengths and weaknesses... but it's fair to say we very much appreciate the USA and have probably become somewhat 'Americanized,' at least to some degree."

Gunnar hopes to come back and visit Union sometime in the near future, perhaps at Homecoming 2003.

"I can honestly say my experience at Union has been one of my highlights in life," says Gunnar.

Fall 2002

Alumni Association Gatherings

DALLAS/FT. WORTH AREA WIDE

Date: Saturday, September 7, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Smotherman home, Dallas, TX
Hosts: Dr. Alicia and Thad Smotherman

UNION UNIVERSITY DAY AT SHILOH RIDGE FOR TUPELO-CORINTH-NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI AND HARDIN-MCNAIRY COUNTIES TENNESSEE

Date: Tuesday, September 10
Location: Shiloh Ridge Golf & Racquet Club, Corinth, MS
Hosts: Harold and Nancy Patrick

CARROLL-BENTON

Date: Tuesday, September 17, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Austin home, Camden, TN
Hosts: Jim and Delma Austin

MEMPHIS AREA-WIDE

(inclusive of Shelby, Tipton, and Fayette Counties)
Date: Friday, September 20, 7:00 p.m.
Location: Hill home
Hosts: Norm and Dale Hill

NASHVILLE AREA-WIDE

Date: Saturday, September 28, 5:00 p.m.
Location: Ford home
Hosts: Dr. J. L. "Pete" and Mary Ford

WEAKLEY COUNTY

Date: Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 p.m.
Location: First Baptist Church, Dresden, TN
Host: Ms. Sheila Swearingen

PARIS-HENRY COUNTY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DINNER

Date: Tuesday, October 29
Location: TBA
Host: Roger and Becka Veazey

TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DINNER

Date: Monday, November 11, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Cool Springs Marriott

To make your reservations for any of the above gatherings, please call the Office of Alumni Services at (731) 661-5208 or 1-800-338-6644.

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