



The Fourth Annual Scholarship Banquet

Presented by The Board of Presidential Associates of Union University

President Mikhail Gorbachev

Tuesday • October 10, 2000
Jackson Civic Center • Jackson, Tennessee

President Mikhail Gorbachev

Mikhail Gorbachev is one of a handful of leaders who literally changed the course of the twentieth century. As President of the Soviet Union, he inherited a Communist system which held Eastern Europe by force and which limited the freedom of the Russian people. Through his policies, Gorbachev reached out to the West, made available new freedoms for his own people, and provided the context in which the Soviet empire gave way to a free Eastern Europe and a new, democratic Russia.



Mikhail Gorbachev served as leader of the Soviet Union from 1985-1991. Gorbachev streamlined and decentralized the oppressive system he inherited. In an effort to secure relations with the West, Gorbachev signed two broad disarmament pacts, and ended Communist rule in Eastern Europe. He taught the world two new words: perestroika (governmental restructuring) and glasnost (political openness). As a result of his extraordinary achievements, Gorbachev was the recipient of the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize, the Red Banner of Labor, and the Badge of Honor.

After graduating from Moscow State University with a degree in law, Mikhail Gorbachev joined the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1952, and acted as First Secretary for the Stavropol Komsomol City Committee from 1955 to 1958. He then gained reputation and experience in Stavropol politics. In 1971, he was elected as a member to the Central Committee, Communist Party (CCCP) of the Soviet Union. From

1978 to 1985, he served as Secretary for the CCCP with the responsibility for areas involving agriculture. Gorbachev also served as Deputy of the Supreme Soviet from 1970 to 1990, and acted as Chairman for the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Soviet Union from 1984 to 1985. From 1985 to 1990, he was President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

In 1992, Gorbachev became President of the Gorbachev Foundation, known as the International Foundation for Socio-Economic and Political Studies. In 1993, Gorbachev founded the environmental organization, Green Cross International. This is a non-governmental group with chapters in the United States, Russia, The Netherlands, Japan and Switzerland.

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Dinner

Music Proclamation, Union University
Andrew Roby, Director

Invocation Joshua Trent, President
Student Government Association

Welcome David S. Dockery, President
Union University

Video Presentation

Introduction of Speaker William “Bill” Buckley, President
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Keynote Speaker President Mikhail Gorbachev

Closing David S. Dockery, President

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