

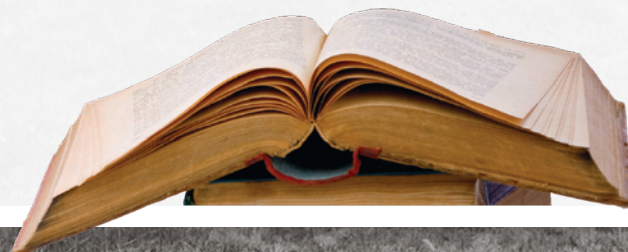
RENEWING MINDS

UNION UNIVERSITY

2007-2008 Annual Report



RENEWING MINDS



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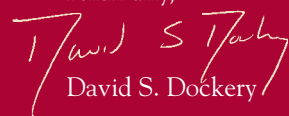
FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 2008 year at Union University will always be known as "The Year of the Tornado." While the evening of February 5, 2008 was probably the worst night in Union's 185 year history, we offer our thanks that since that horrific evening there have been many, many good days. By God's amazing providence the University has experienced renewal, recovery, and rebuilding. The annual report that you hold in your hands celebrates God's goodness and grace to Union University.

God in His abundant goodness has blessed this university with His grace and favor. This was true before February 5, but especially has that been true on this side of the storm. Through the recovery, rebuilding and renewal process, the appearance of the campus has been forever altered. It has become more evident to all of us on this side of February 5 that Union has been blessed by the gracious favor of our God, as well as the wonderful kindness of friends, donors, and volunteers who have helped, given, encouraged, and prayed for the Union community. Indeed, we are a grateful and hopeful people.

The annual report provides a glimpse into just a few of the many powerful stories that could be told about the many good things that have taken place at Union this past year. In addition to these feature stories, there are charts and other indicators of changes over the past year and the past twelve years of this administration. In terms of enrollment, personnel, projects, resources, and activity, the University is ever-expanding. Yet, we all recognize what a glorious privilege is ours to stand on the shoulders of so many who have gone before us and served Union with faithfulness through the years. We share this report with you with gratitude for the privilege to serve this university, and with deep appreciation for all who have brought special encouragement to Union this past year through your prayers, gifts, and support. May God's blessings rest upon each of you, and may His favor continue to rest upon Union University.

Faithfully,



David S. Dockery





A CAMPUS RENEWED

David Dockery surveyed the campus wreckage in the early morning hours of Feb. 6, after an EF-4 had whirled its way through Union University the night before.

As he tried to process the extent of the devastation, he knew that God had been present at Union the night of Feb. 5.

“As I looked at the rubble late Tuesday night, and especially when the sun came up on Wednesday morning, I said, ‘There’s no way we didn’t have 200 people die.’ I’m convinced – nobody will ever convince me otherwise – that God’s angels were unleashed to come as ministering spirits to His people that night and to protect those students in the most precarious of situations,” the Union president said. “I’m confident that’s what happened.”

But while the students were alive, Dockery wasn’t convinced that Union University was. At one point, as he looked at the student housing facilities in ruins, he entertained a thought – not only was the spring semester a lost cause, but perhaps that Union as a whole might be as well.

“That was my worst fear – that the devastation was such that we may not be able to recover, at least in a timely fashion,” he said. “That was always my prayer, that God would somehow give us wisdom to figure out how to restart the semester. We knew we had to save the semester for the seniors, and then for others as well. Restarting the spring semester was the key to the entire recovery process.”

God allowed Union to do much more than restart the semester. Yes, two weeks later, on Feb. 20, classes resumed. But that was just the beginning.

On Feb. 22, standing in a vacant lot where bulldozers had eliminated all traces of the Watters and Hurt housing complexes that populated the area only days before, Union administrators and trustees broke ground on a new residential complex.

Initial plans called for seven of the 14 buildings in the complex to be complete by the 2008

fall semester, with the final seven buildings to be opened for the 2009 spring semester. What took place over the next six months astounded those watching the scenario unfold.

The two contractors working on the project – Worsham Brothers Construction Co. of Corinth, Miss., and Brasfield Construction Co. of Jackson, Tenn. – managed to finish the task earlier than expected.

Much earlier. On Sept. 4, when the new freshman class arrived on campus, all 14 buildings were complete and ready for occupancy. Also, the two rebuilt facilities in the Heritage Complex were complete, as well as all the repairs for six academic and administrative buildings.

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

Enrollment for the fall semester was up a whopping 14 percent. Union dedicated the new housing facilities on Sept. 12. Six weeks later, the university opened the new Carl Grant Events Center.

With the exception of the new commons building, which will be constructed in the spring of 2009, Union’s restoration is now complete.

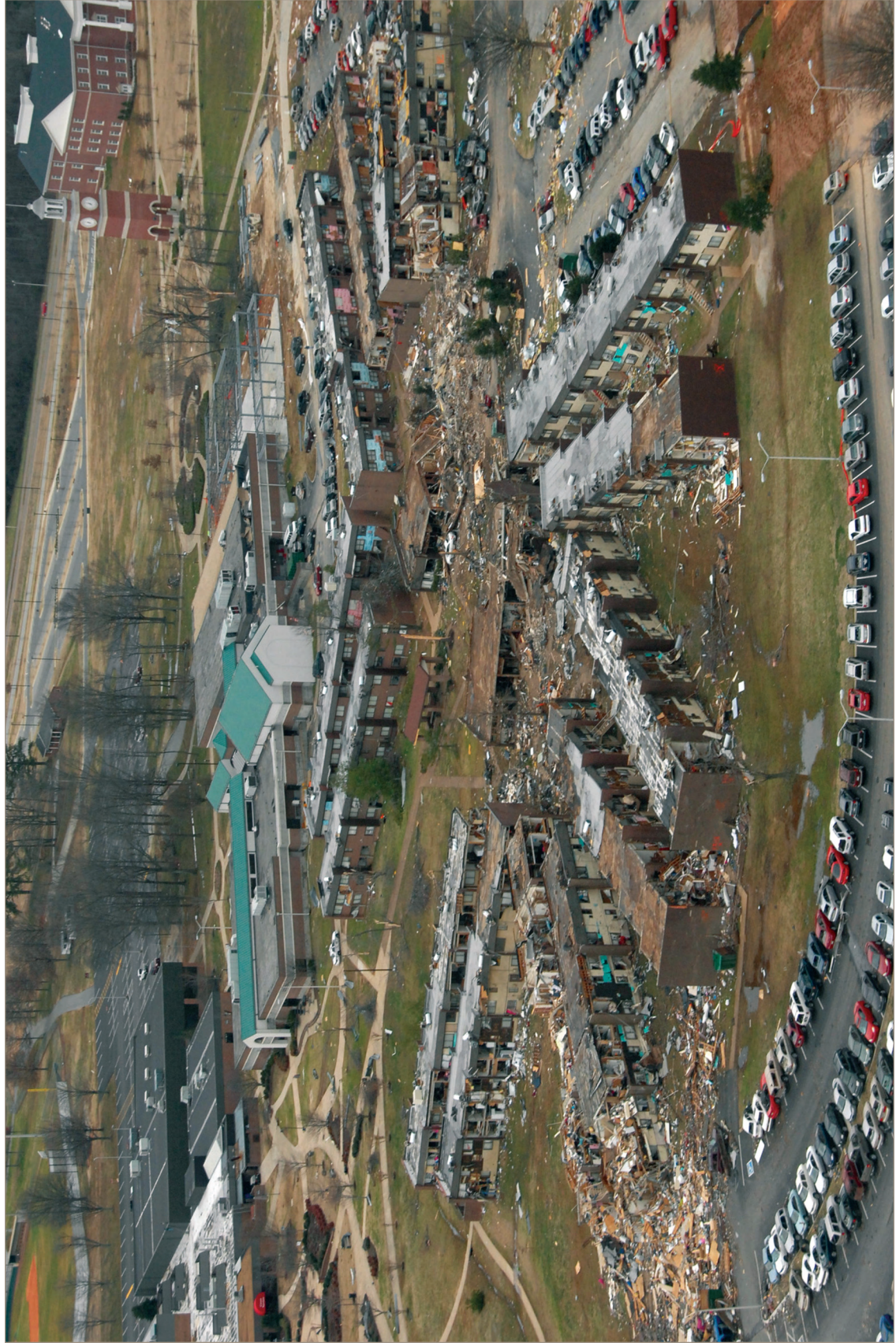
Dockery had wondered only months before if Union University’s best days were behind it. Now he thinks just the opposite.

He, and everyone else at Union, can only sit back in grateful amazement.

“I live with an awareness of God’s presence, His providence, His abilities to preserve life and to provide for us, in ways that I’ve never experienced before,” Dockery said. “When you look and see how close we came to total disaster, and at the same time how we were spared from that, you just have to cry out, ‘Thanks be to God.’” ■



OCTOBER 27, 2008



FEBRUARY 6, 2008



PUBLISHED AT HARVARD



At age 18, most college students are getting their academic bearings and adjusting to life on campus. Eighteen-year-old Union mathematics major Matthew Dawson was fielding scholarship offers from graduate schools throughout the nation.

Dawson was tutoring fellow students soon after the start of his Union career. That was at age 15.

He also found time for scholarly research. He presented a paper entitled "Bridging the Group Definition Gap" at Union's Scholarship Symposium. The annual event is a showcase for serious undergraduate research.

In Dawson's case, the work was serious enough to merit inclusion in *The Harvard College Mathematics Review*.

It's an expository type of paper," says Dawson of his project. "It's about the history of mathematics."

Dawson's paper focused on the work of Evariste Galois, an early 19th century French mathematician. Galois laid the foundations of "group theory" in mathematics, although he never precisely defined "groups."

In his paper, Dawson examined Galois' thinking and compared it to modern thought about Galois' concepts.

He's thought to be the first Union University student to have a paper published by Harvard -- and one of the youngest from any school.

But such work is not unprecedented for undergraduates on Union's campus. Each year, the Scholarship Symposium involves traditional students from a wide variety of disciplines. The 2008 program, somewhat abbreviated due to post-tornado logistics, involved 45 presentations, 75 students and 25 supervising faculty members.

Researchers examine a wide variety of subjects that at first glance appear to have little in common:

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ONE OF 70 SCHOOLS TO WATCH

For generations, Union University has been known as a place of academic opportunity.

Students have come to Union and found ways to achieve success they never dreamed possible.

That important aspect of academic life at Union has received national recognition in *U.S. News & World Report*. In the



magazine's "America's Best Colleges" issue published in August, Union not only earned a top-20 ranking among Southern Master's Colleges and Universities for a second consecutive year—it was also named one of 21 schools in that category where "serious B students with a desire to achieve" have excelled.

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

Academic opportunity also involves innovation and growth.

U.S. News classified Union as one of 70 "schools to watch" across the nation, ranking it fifth in the South in this new category. ■

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- Callie Beth Bodnarchuk, a senior biology major from Paducah, Ky., presented a study on “Production of Secretin-Gly in Escherichia coli”
- Cameron Armstrong, a senior history major from Howell, Mich., presented a paper called “Prayer, Partnership and Persecution: Southern Baptist Missions Behind the Iron Curtain, 1950-60”
- Justin Deasy, a senior art major from Brasilia, Brazil, researched “Product Packaging Design Strategies and a Look at Their Successes and Failures.”

But at least one unifying theme runs through every project: a desire to become a leader within a given discipline through meaningful research.

“The privilege for students to participate in this level of serious exploration and research is usually reserved for graduate study,” Union University President David S. Dockery said. “The entire project is an affirmation of the quality of Union students and the serious invest-

ment that Union faculty members provide for these students.”

The quality of Dawson’s work and his stellar academic record earned scholarship offers for graduate mathematics study from such schools as Tulane University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. But Dawson accepted an offer from Louisiana State University, where he has secured a fellowship that will pay for the next three and a half years of his education – with no teaching duties.

At LSU, Dawson will pursue a Doctor of Philosophy degree in mathematics. As with so many other Scholarship Symposium participants, Dawson’s hours of research are motivated—at least in part—by a desire to enter a career ready to make immediate and powerful contributions.

Dawson wants to be a college math professor.

When he’s hired, chances are good he’ll be the youngest member of the faculty. Chances are even better that his colleagues will respect his careful preparation to enter the classroom. ■



The Class of 2012

When about 460 freshmen students moved into the residence life area in August, they brought along the best academic credentials of any new class in Union University history.

Ten of the recent high school graduates were National Merit Finalists. Nearly 40%

were in the top tenth of their classes; 63% were in the top quarter. The average high school grade point average was 3.61 on a four-point scale.

Twenty-seven of Union’s incoming freshmen were valedictorians. ■





TIGRETT AWARD WINNER KATIE WATSON '08

When Katie Watson decided to learn more about how the human mind processes ideas, it helped trigger an academic chain reaction that ended with the University's highest award at graduation and attractive offers from two top graduate schools.

It was research and writing in Watson's honors thesis that put her in the middle of a relatively new area of study within cognitive linguistics called conceptual metaphor.

"Conceptual metaphor theory is a focus of cognitive linguistics that researches how the human brain structures thoughts and ideas," says Phillip Ryan, associate professor of language and Watson's thesis advisor. "She recognized that she could explore a fascinating aspect of cognitive linguistics."

A conceptual metaphor might include the idea that "time is money." Time cannot be spent precisely as money is spent, but people speak of "investing time" and "wasting time." Speakers of American English frequently use such rhetoric.

For those outside the United States who are learning to communicate, such distinctions are important. Watson majored in Teaching English as a Second Language at Union. She began researching conceptual metaphor as a freshman, and quickly developed an interest in the cognitive processes involved in language.

"I hope to complete more study within cognitive

linguistics in order to develop a complete, cognitive approach to teach language," says Watson.

Such a study is perfectly suited to the framework of the Union interdisciplinary honors program, which allows advanced work within a student's major and intellectual discussion across other disciplines.

Watson's work in conceptual metaphor kindled the interest of admissions committees at two top graduate schools of linguistics. As she approached graduation from Union, Watson had acceptance letters in hand to enter the M.A. in Applied Linguistics program at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., or the M.S. in Linguistics program at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

Ryan says gaining admission to both programs is a highly competitive process. Watson chose Purdue.

"Through the Lynn Fellowship at Purdue, I have nearly a full-ride and a living stipend," says Watson. "I will start off with a research assistantship which will turn into a teaching assistantship during the latter part of my time at Purdue."

As out-of-town admissions committees pondered Watson's credentials, her accomplishments had an impact at home, too. She was named the 2008 recipient of Union's Elizabeth Tigrett Medal. The award is a graduation tradition that dates back to 1912. The entire Union faculty casts votes to make the selection. It is considered the University's highest academic honor.

Watson's love of learning – and one day, teaching – has been effectively communicated. ■





WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

Candace Smith took shelter in her bathroom from the Feb. 5 tornado that rampaged through the Union campus. After the storm had passed, and as she emerged from her room to witness the devastation surrounding her, she quickly got to work.

"Your natural instinct, nursing wise, is to think, 'What do I need to do to help people?'" said Smith, a 2008 graduate who majored in nursing.

Smith and several other nurses quickly sprang into action, setting up triage stations for the students who had sustained injuries in the tornado. Smith was based in the hall of the Penick Academic Complex. She and some other students had retrieved supplies from the athletic training room to help those who were hurt.

Other nursing students worked at various stations around campus.

"It was amazing to watch the nursing students serve the injured," said Tim Smith, dean of Union's School of Nursing. "They delivered over \$1,000 dollars worth of IV fluids, bandages and other first aid supplies from the School of Nursing's simulation lab to the dormitories. They served in ambulances to assist the paramedics in stabilizing the injured students and

transporting them to the hospital, and they provided emotional support to the upset students."

Their efforts captured national attention in the days and weeks following the tornado. *Reader's Digest* ran a story about the nursing students in its June 2008 edition. Professional help soon arrived to treat the injured, but "for a while, we were the best they had," nursing student Anika Schulte told the magazine.

Only the Friday before the tornado, nursing professor Kathy O'Connor had lectured to the undergraduate students about disaster training and providing emergency services.

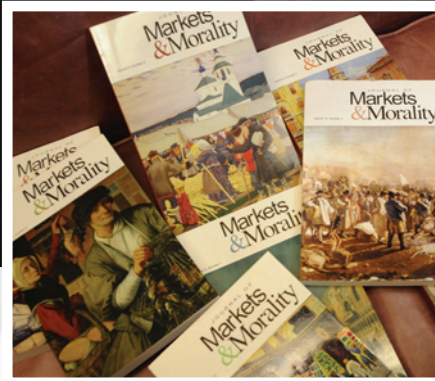
For Candace Smith, the way she responded during the actual disaster – calmly and confidently – was validation of her chosen career path.

"This is really what God called us to do," she said. "We are really in this because this is what we're supposed to be doing. He just gave us that confidence."

For Tim Smith, watching his students in action only affirmed the quality of the education they had received at Union.

"I thought it showed a sign of confidence in the way that they were prepared to address situations," he said. "They were comfortable in what they've been taught." ■





A SEAT AT THE TABLE



When the faculty of the McAfee School of Business Administration dedicated itself to publishing top-quality research in the world's most respected journals, everyone understood they were in it for the long haul.

The process of getting just one article researched, written and peer-reviewed can take years.

"The peers that you're going through are professors at schools like Cal-Berkeley, Harvard, Columbia or Northwestern," says Darin White, the School's director of research. "Our professors are publishing work alongside people from those prestigious secular universities."

Long odds and longer waits aside, a two-year effort by the McAfee faculty already is beginning to bear fruit.

White and University Professor of Economics Walton Padelford had research on profit-making and morality accepted for publication in the prestigious *Journal of Business Ethics*.

"That is the top journal in the world for this academic discipline," says White. "It is widely read and cited by authors from every major prestige school in the world."

Getting even one article accepted at the *Journal of Business Ethics* is extremely difficult, but Union faculty members now have two acceptances within months of each other.

White and newly hired management instructor Emily Lean will see their work entitled "The Impact of Perceived Leader Integrity on Subordinate Ethical Intentions in a Work Team Environment" published in an upcoming issue.

White and Associate Professor of Management Bill Nance soon will be published in the *Journal of Services Marketing*; White is published in *European Journal of Marketing*, which is considered that continent's top marketing journal.

Assistant Professor of Accounting Karen Miller wrote a piece for *Managerial Auditing* that White says attracted attention within the halls of the federal government. "The IRS is using her article to explain its own tax codes to other people," says White.

The McAfee School's research is even making its way into journals outside of the business academy.

Research about the business aspects of fast food nutrition information by Assistant Professor of Marketing Kyle Huggins was accepted in the *American Journal of Public Health*. White says portions of the article were read into the record during a session of Canadian parliament.

"Our ideas, our thoughts, our worldview towards the issues that we're studying are being consumed by the secular academy," says White.

"We have a seat at the table now."

White says very few Christian colleges and universities pursue this type of table seat. Acceptance rates for articles submitted to the top academic journals range from 10-15 percent. Large amounts of time must be invested with few guarantees of success. He thinks perhaps only three or four other schools with resources and missions similar to Union are making progress in this area.

Researchers start with a wide-ranging review of all available literature on a given topic. Then they perform their own research, which must be carefully but succinctly documented.

At the top publications, an editor will call in up to five nationally recognized experts to review the work. None of these experts knows who submitted the research, so the name of the university or researcher doesn't enter into the decision-making process.

"They give you critical feedback," explains White. "Most people get the letter that says 'thanks but no thanks.' Sometimes you get the letter that says 'if you can change these things, we can take a look at it again.' There's no guarantee it will be accepted, but they'll take a look at it again."

As recently as five years ago, White says articles containing words such as "biblical" or "scriptural" would have been taboo in these publications. He thinks the recent high-profile corporate scandals pushed business scholars to at least consider a Christian ethics perspective.

"We have a real opportunity now to bring the Christian worldview to bear on business problems and issues of our day, and have the secular academy consider that, which is all you can ask."

"We really do have a seat at the table." ■

It was a violent and tragic act. It shook the membership of Brinkley Heights Baptist Church to its very core.

Three-year-old Jessica Borner had attended the church nursery. But one day in 2002, she didn't return.

Jessica had been caught in the crossfire of a gang-related drug deal gone sour on Rosamond Avenue, just down the street from the church. Eight others were also shot. Jessica was killed.

"It was at that point that God said very clearly, 'You've got to fight for my children,'" says Jason Cox. His father Tim had pastored Brinkley Heights since 1990.

Father and son watched as the deeply impoverished neighborhood around them grew increasingly dangerous -- ravaged by street gangs and the illegal drug trade. Crack cocaine houses operated openly and prostitutes worked the streets. At early ages, young people here were getting very destructive messages about life.

"It's been characterized as one of the worst parts of Memphis," says Jason, who received a bachelor's degree in social work at Union University in 2002. Tim completed his Union degree a year later.

Together they partnered with concerned families to create Brinkley Heights Urban Academy, which currently offers pre-kindergarten through fourth grade classes to about 75 students.

"We have a waiting list for every grade," Cox says. "The children who live in this community are our priority. If they live here, they move up on the list."

Three other recent Union graduates work at the school: Sarah Orr ('05) and Kristin Veach Thompson ('06) are classroom teachers and Miranda Wells Self ('07) is an administrative assistant.

Job satisfaction is the biggest fringe benefit.

"I think I'll make more of an impact here than I would doing anything else at this point in my life," says Self, who was a math major at Union. "I see

the positive attitudes that the kids are developing."

"I guess if you wanted to call it a connection, Union strives to fulfill the same goals that this school does," says Orr, who studied English and theater. "We're reaching out to those who don't have what they need. So I don't find it surprising that a lot of Unionites come here to work."

Parents often work alongside the staff. Some parents manage to pay \$30 per month for tuition, but most families have an annual income of less than \$15,000. So they earn "BHUA Bucks" by putting in volunteer hours.

Grants sustain the work of the school, but the greatest investment of all is time. Jason and Tim Cox say teachers and staff spend weekends with the students and develop close relationships. Church youth groups from across the nation come in during the summer weeks to lead Backyard Bible Clubs. That helps to shut the door on those who would lead the children in the wrong direction.

"We have a motto," Jason says. "Whoever spends the most time with the kids wins."

The current school building is becoming overcrowded, but a multi-million dollar addition is under construction on an adjacent lot. Adding one grade per year, Cox envisions a pre-K - 12 school of about 165 students.

He dreams of seeing BHUA graduates finishing four-year college programs and perhaps interning here as teachers. He knows some of them will leave the neighborhood. But he hopes many of these students will come back and assume leadership positions.

Pastor Tim Cox says just as children learn the ways of the street, they also quickly absorb academic knowledge and Christian principles that will one day make them effective community leaders.

"Their job is to reclaim this community," Tim Cox says.

Perhaps with murdered Jessica Borner in mind, he adds one final detail.

"We start telling them that when they are age 3." ■



"YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT
FOR MY CHILDREN"



FAITHFUL GUYS IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

Hundreds of barefoot people lined up on a dirt path going downhill to a stream. They held animals in their arms – usually chickens or other birds, sometimes goats.

The line led to a set of stone steps going down and over a bridge, where two people were waiting with knives. They slit the throats of the animals, and sprayed blood over the statue of the Hindu deity Kali.

Such was the dismal scene that Ray Van Neste encountered during his January trip to Nepal.

“Blood’s covering the whole floor,” recalled Van Neste, associate professor of Christian studies at Union and director of the R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies. “They’re almost fighting. They’re pushing and shoving to get up to their god in a box.”

The episode symbolized to Van Neste the spiritual darkness blanketing the nation. The people were filled with hopelessness – because the gods they serve are capricious. The Nepalese people can only hope the gods are somehow appeased by the sacrifices.

But Van Neste also left Nepal with another image on his mind – that of Christians who have suffered for their faith but whose lives demonstrate the joy and hope that is conspicuously absent from their surrounding culture.

Those were the people with whom Van Neste

spent the majority of his time. The purpose of his trip to Nepal was for Van Neste to provide higher-level biblical training for area pastors, who often don’t have access to such teaching.

“A lot of faithful guys are out in the middle of nowhere, they’re preaching the gospel, seeing people converted, seeking to disciple them, but they don’t have access to tools or resources,” he said.

Eagle Projects International sponsored the trip, and Van Neste taught about 120 people, including students from the small Nepal Bible College, verse-by-verse through the biblical books of 2 Timothy, Titus and Romans.

The host pastor for the training event is one of the key Christian leaders in all of Nepal. He is the pastor of one of the country’s largest Christian churches, and he runs an orphanage as well.

“He and his disciples have planted hundreds of churches in Nepal and elsewhere,” Van Neste said.

One of the pastors Van Neste met during his stay in Nepal is a former Buddhist priest. When he converted to Christianity, the Buddhists in his community burned down his home and drove him out of town.

Van Neste met another man with permanent skull injuries. He had been beaten because of his commitment to Christ.

“I was just impressed with them,” Van Neste said, “with how little they have, how much they suffer, and yet the joy and real spiritual power that they have.” ■



COMMUNITY SERVICE IS 'COMPLETELY WORTH IT'

Eight-year-old Armando Sanchez wanted very much to ride his bike with the other neighborhood kids. But Armando frequently sat on the sidelines. That daily freewheeling rite of youth was reserved for others. He was excluded.

Armando suffers from a muscle disease that makes walking difficult. Pedaling a bicycle was out of the question.

But when some Union University students heard about Armando's situation, they were not content to watch him remain on the sidelines. They found an electronic tricycle that incorporates the safety Armando needs but gives him the sensation of riding a bike with the others.

The price tag for the electronic tricycle was about \$5,000. But Claire Yates and her Chi Omega sorority sisters at Union were undaunted. They worked through the Make-a-Wish Foundation, raising money with a benefit 5K race and a barbecue.

"It's exciting," says Yates. "It's a lot of hard work, but then when you see the kids, it's completely worth it."

Armando's story is just one among dozens of community outreach projects during the 2007-08 academic year initiated by Union University student groups to help those in need.

Union's annual Day of Remembrance puts hundreds of students, parents and faculty to work in the Jackson community on about 50 local projects. Classes are canceled on that day to allow widespread participation.

Such efforts attract national recognition.

There are more than 4,000 colleges and universities in the United States. Only 528 of them were selected this year for the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

In just its second year, the Honor Roll identifies schools that support innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs. In its first year, 492 colleges and universities were honored.

Union University is one of only about 200 schools to make the Honor Roll in both years.

"We are excited about this significant recognition for the outstanding commitment to community service by the Union University students, staff and faculty," Union President David S. Dockery said.

"To receive this national recognition for such involvement for two straight years speaks volumes."

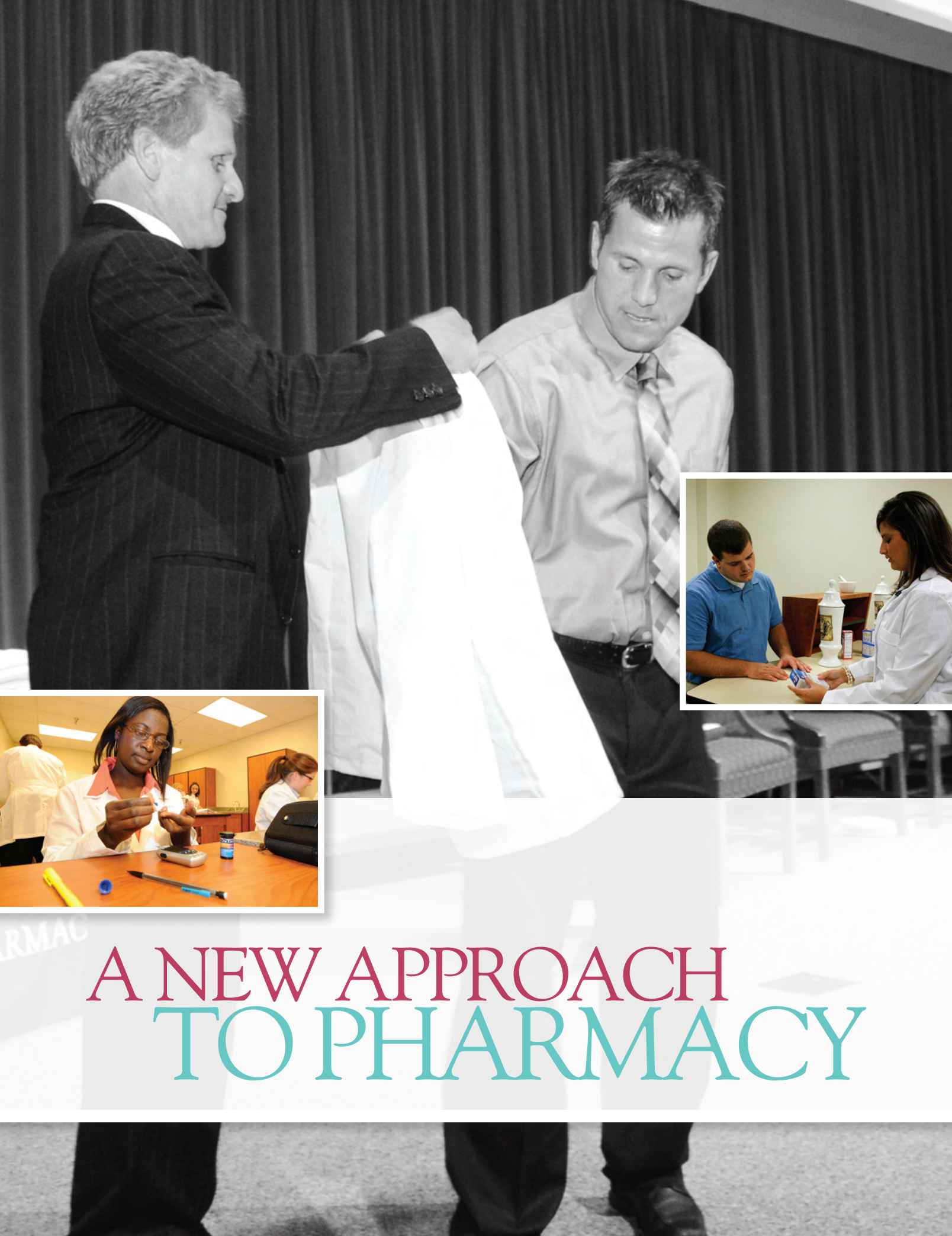
Beyond the national honors, the donors are more likely to remember faces and emotions. There is a moment when someone appreciates that you care – and it comes even when the recipients are eight years old.

When Yates and her sorority sisters presented Armando with the electronic tricycle, he was so overcome with surprise that he covered his face and cried.

Smiles replaced tears moments later as Armando gave his gift a test drive.

"They made him happy, because this is something he really needs," Armando's father Victor said. "His dream came true with this, really." ■





A NEW APPROACH TO PHARMACY

Sheila Mitchell wants to dispel the image many people have of pharmacists. They're not simply pill pushers. That image of the profession is a relic that no longer applies.

Pharmacists used to rely on leeches, too, but you don't see that practice much these days.

"Over the past 25 or 30 years, pharmacists have moved more from the dispensers of the product to the experts in coming up with the therapeutic regimens that are appropriate for the patient," said Mitchell, founding dean of Union's School of Pharmacy. "The real role of pharmacists is more in being able to get the right drug to the right patient at the right time."

Pharmacists today are involved in all kinds of patient care in ways which they haven't been in the past. For example, they play a large role in medication therapy management (MTM), which means they help formulate a plan for a patient's medical treatment, and they monitor the results of that plan.

They're also the key players in medication reconciliation, which takes place primarily in the hospital. A pharmacist monitors patients all the way through their hospital stays to make sure the medication they're given is what it should be, and that various drugs don't interact with each other.

No more is pharmacy simply treating the symptoms of a patient, based upon the recommendation of a doctor.

"Now it's much more of the decision maker," Mitchell said.

And the profession continues to evolve. In the future, pharmacists will be involved in developing different kinds of drug therapies. They'll be involved with the growing trend of genomics, in which a patient's diseased state is treated based upon their genetic makeup.

"When you think of a diseased state, it's not like all of a sudden you get diabetes," Mitchell said.

Instead, people are born with certain propensities for certain diseases that will develop if the circumstances are right. In the future, if genetic testing reveals a propensity for diabetes, then a drug therapy may be developed to keep the disease from ever appearing.

Even now, if a patient has a cancerous tumor, pharmacists are taking that tumor and developing antibodies. Those antibodies are then given to the patient, so that his or her own body can fight the cancer.

"That is the direction that therapy is going," Mitchell said. "So in the future, pharmacists will be very much involved in being able to help in those kinds of therapies that we have not had before."

Mitchell thinks Union is uniquely positioned to train pharmacists for the profession as it stands now and as it will be in the future. For one thing, Union's emphasis on the importance of people fits perfectly into the pharmacy profession.

"Pharmacy is a ministry to people in a physical state when they're vulnerable," Mitchell said. "Pharmacy is such a people profession. Whether you're dealing with physicians, with nurses, with patients, with vendors -- it is all about dealing with people."

Union's program also emphasizes the ethical issues that pharmacy students will face in their careers -- from the "morning after" pill to stem cell research to cloning. Classes such as "Moral Reasoning" and "Faith in Science" are designed to that end.

"We don't tell students what to think, but we give them a place to think about it," Mitchell said.

And of course, Union's emphasis on academic excellence permeates the entire School of Pharmacy.

"You have to be strong in your academics," Mitchell said, "or you're not credible in any other aspect of your life." ■

These days, a young man graduating from high school with \$267 in savings can buy an Xbox 360 video game or perhaps a good set of speakers for his car audio system.

In the tough times prior to World War II, Carl Grant used that sum to finance a dream.

Growing up in Duck Hill, Miss., Grant envisioned owning and operating a business. It must have seemed like a rather far-fetched notion in the depths of the Great Depression, and in a family where there were 10 other brothers and sisters.

But after high school graduation, one of those brothers sold young Carl a small drive-in quick-stop near Nettleton, Miss. The new entrepreneur acquired his first stock of goods on credit and ran the operation himself. The store was open every day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Two years later, Grant sold the store before entering the U.S. Navy during World War II. Those long hours at the quick-stop over so many weeks and months led to a dramatic payday.

The store's value had increased to \$5,000.

Grant put that money into a savings account. After the war, he invested it in new enterprises. Grant became a real estate salesman, realtor and home builder. Within about 10 years, he was named "Builder of the Year" and president of the Memphis Area Home Builders Association.

Grant recognized the need for a state home builders association, and in 1960 helped to organize the Home Builders Association of Tennessee, serving as its first president.

Careful investments of time and hard work have paid off handsomely for Grant and his wife Peggy Jo. As he approaches 90 years of age, Grant still marvels at the results of hard work and thoughtful planning.

Some of his most recent investments have been in Union University.

"For nearly a decade, Carl Grant, in an exceedingly generous manner, has invested in advancing our mission," says Union President David S. Dockery. "He has invested through student scholarships, through support for the operations of the university, and now in a magnanimous way through support for the Carl Grant Events Center."

The Grant Center is a \$3.5 million, 16,000-square-foot conference center and banquet facility that was dedicated in October. The new center includes a spacious dining room and lobby area, public restrooms, a staging room, state-of-the-art audio-visuals and a new president's dining room. Just prior to the ribbon cutting, Dockery announced there were already 27 events booked for the center in the remaining weeks of 2008.

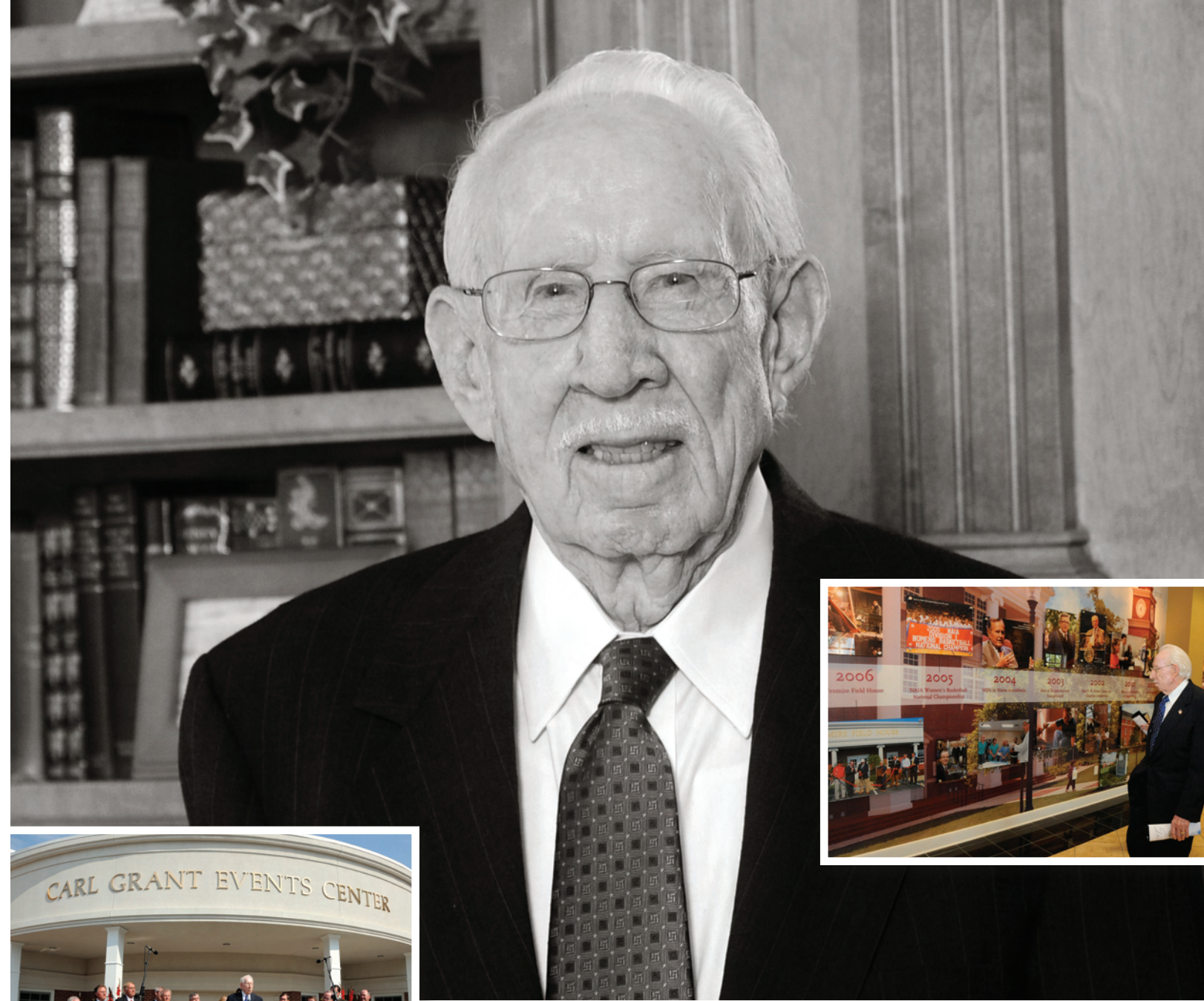
It also houses the Heritage Center, an area that depicts Union's history from 1823-2007 through hundreds of photographs.

"It is with heartfelt joy that we offer deep thanksgiving to God for the influence and kindness of Carl Grant to this university," says Dockery.

"The good Lord has been favorable to me and my family," says Grant. "We thought Union would be a good place for us to try to return something of what the Lord has given to us."

That return creates bold opportunities for event hosting. It also impacts the lives of students who benefit from funded scholarships – students who will serve in key leadership positions throughout the world.

The value of those contributions is beyond calculation – not a bad return on investment for that \$267 a Mississippi teenager saved and then invested several generations ago. ■



CARL GRANT'S \$267 DREAM



A HELPER'S HIGH

After the Feb. 5 tornado, students lost many personal possessions. Some lost cars and laptops. Clothing in their closets was either missing or ruined. In the freezing days that followed, many were without coats. But a drive led by senior music major Ellen Carrington collected 800 coats for Union students.

Ellen has also helped collect 1,200 flip-flops for a mission trip to Nicaragua. From an early age, she has viewed volunteering to be an important part of her life.

“Volunteering as a way of life is an attitude that is taught early in childhood and teenage years,” says Ellen. “Being a volunteer can allow you to experience an overwhelming sense of well being known as the ‘Helper’s High.’”

That concept is explored in a book called *The Healing Power of Doing Good*. Authors Allan Luks and Peggy Payne concluded that giving to others contributes a healthier psychological and physical life.

Ellen has written a book of her own: an illustrated, 24-page children’s book entitled *Chester’s Helping Paws*. It’s the story of a dog named Chester who decides to take care of the household chores while his mother is ill. She has also compiled a “Helper Coloring Book” for children.

Amid her Union course work and volunteer efforts, Ellen has also found time to compete for the Miss Tennessee title. Twice she competed well but did not win the title. She determined that her third try would also be her last.

As it turned out, the third time was the charm.

In taking the overall Miss Tennessee title, Ellen won both the talent and swimsuit competitions in the 2008 pageant. She received a \$12,000 scholarship, has become the governor’s spokeswoman for the Safe and Drug-Free Tennessee program, and will represent the state in the upcoming Miss America pageant.

It should come as no surprise that Ellen also won the Miss Tennessee Community Service Award, and that her platform as a Miss America contestant will be volunteerism.

Ellen appeared very comfortable and photogenic throughout the pageant. But she’s probably even more at home organizing coat drives, or tending to the needs of children during a medical missions trip to Nova Contagem, Brazil with Jackson’s Englewood Baptist Church.

“I learned that under normal conditions in this part of Brazil, the poor usually have to wait in line all day just to get an appointment for six months later to see the doctor,” Ellen says. Even then, she learned, the doctor doesn’t have to see them if the physician’s patient quota has been met.

On the 10-day trip, the team worked 15-hour days and touched the lives of an estimated 650 people. Ellen recorded blood pressures and body temperatures. She also washed the feet of children who were given new shoes through a project dubbed “Happy Feet.”

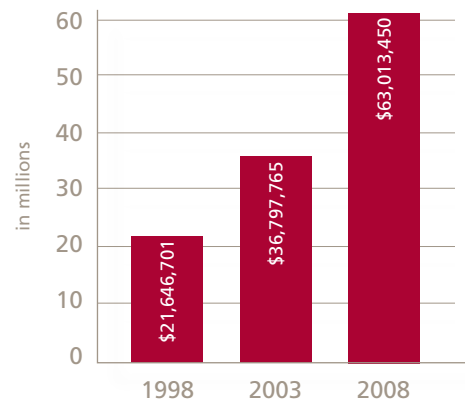
It was yet another instance in which Ellen felt that “helper’s high.”

“I have come to realize how much joy I receive when I help others and am grateful I was allowed to help in this effort, knowing we truly made a difference in many of their lives.” ■

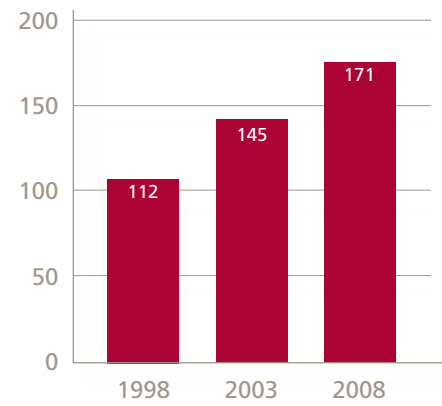


UNION 2008 BY THE NUMBERS

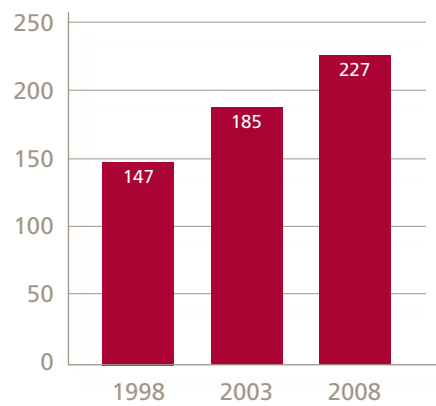
OVERALL BUDGET



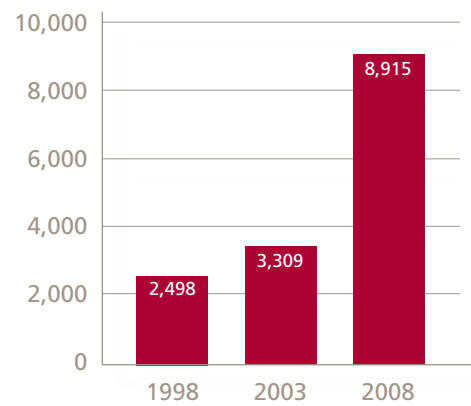
FULL TIME FACULTY



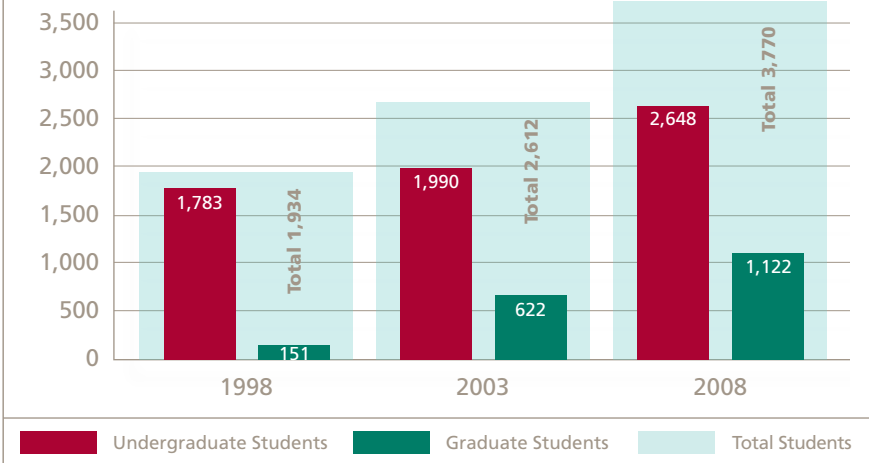
STAFF



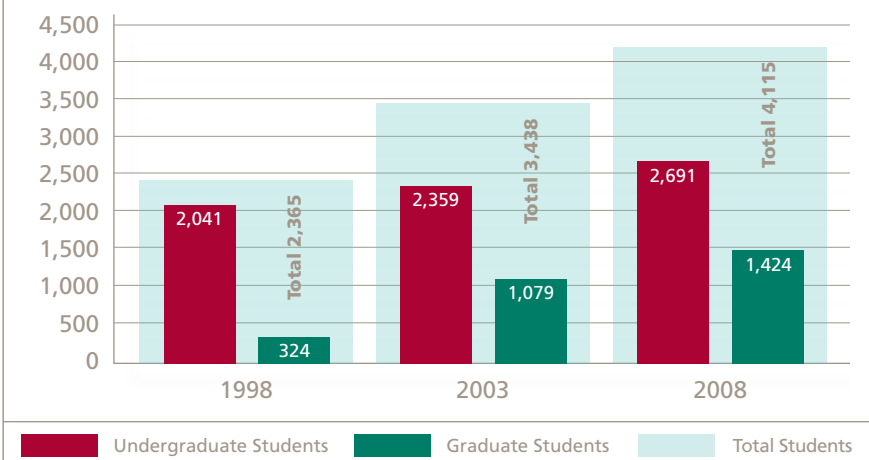
DONORS



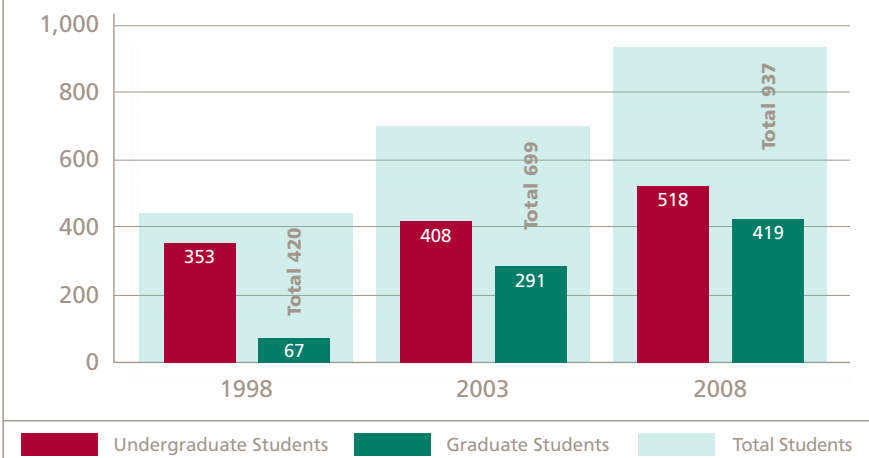
FALL ENROLLMENT



NON-DUPLICATING HEADCOUNT

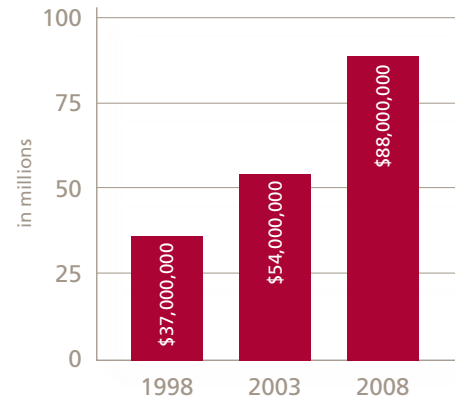


GRADUATES



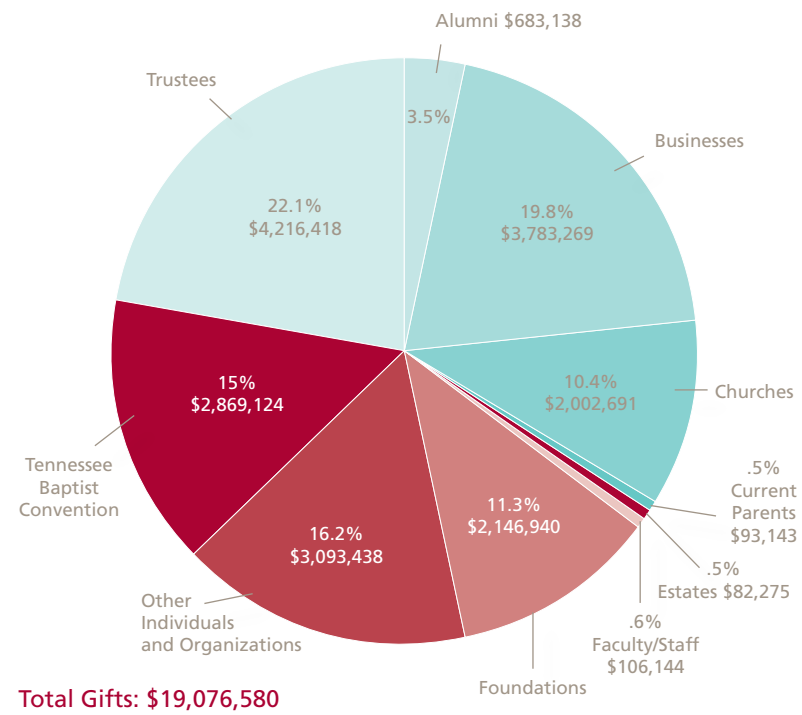


NET ASSETS



- 75% of contributions in 2007-2008 were less than \$250
- 11,502 contributions were processed for the year. An average of 1,045 contributions were received per month.
- More than \$46,000 from corporations were initiated by individuals who took advantage of their employer's matching gift programs.

SOURCES OF GIVING IN 2008



EXCELLENCE-DRIVEN



CHRIST-CENTERED



PEOPLE-FOCUSED



FUTURE-DIRECTED

