

Rankings honor Union University



U.S. News & World Report has named Union University a top-tier southern university for the ninth consecutive year.

Union ranked 38th in the "Southern Universities-Master's: Top Schools" category, which includes those institutions that provide a full range of undergraduate programs and some master's level programs. Among the top tier universities in the South, Union ranked in the top 10 in three subcategories:

Union tied for fourth place overall in the "Student/faculty ratio" category, with a ratio of 12 to 1, which placed it in the top 20 southern universities in that category.

Union was seventh in the "Faculty resources" category, which measures such components as the number of classes with fewer than 20 students, faculty salary and the proportion of professors with the highest degree in their fields.

Union tied for seventh in the "Freshmen in top 25 percent of high school class" ranking, with 63 percent of its freshmen meeting that description.

In a fourth subcategory — "Selectivity rank," which measures such areas as test scores and class rank for incoming students — Union ranked 16th.

"To be recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as a top tier university in the South for the ninth straight year is an incredible testimony to the excellence that characterizes a Union University education," Union University President David S. Dockery said. "The 2006 rankings once again point to the wonderful quality of the Union faculty, staff and student body, and I salute them for their achievement." ♦

Record graduate total tops 900

More than 250 Union University students received degrees Saturday, Aug. 8, as part of Union's summer graduation ceremony at West Jackson Baptist Church. The 254 graduates bring Union's total number of graduates for the 2004-2005 academic year to 918, the highest



Ninth Annual Scholarship Banquet features wit and wisdom of Bob Dole

Peppering his comments with self-deprecating humor, Bob Dole told those attending Union University's Ninth Annual Scholarship Banquet that patience and endurance are two keys to overcoming life's obstacles.

The Sept. 27 event, held at Jackson's Carl Perkins Civic Center, raised nearly \$500,000 for student scholarships.

"It was another remarkable evening," Union University President David S. Dockery said. "Senator Dole was humorous and engaging. Our guests enjoyed themselves. But most importantly, the students of the university will be the recipients of the generous gifts from our friends — gifts which will ensure that a quality Union education can and will remain affordable and accessible."

Dole talked about his experience during World War II, when he suffered near-fatal injuries while leading his platoon up an Italian hill. His rehabilitation was lengthy and arduous, but Dole said through it he became a better person.

"In a sense, my whole life before April 14, 1945, was a prologue to the story, just as my life ever since has been shaped by what happened that April morning on

an Italian hillside," Dole said. "I finally realized it was time for me to grow up, forget about what I'd lost and realize what I still had."

No longer able to depend on his hands and body, Dole had to rely on his head and his heart. He ascended through the political ranks and served his home state of Kansas in the U.S. Senate for nearly 30 years. His presidential campaign in 1996 wasn't as successful as his Senate races.

"I ran for president in '96, and the word's out now, I lost," Dole told the crowd.

Dole said U.S. veterans and those currently serving in the armed forces appreciate five words more than anything else: "Thank you for your service."

He used Dwight Eisenhower as an example of what true leadership means. Prior to the D-Day invasion of Europe in 1944, Eisenhower crafted a statement if the operation hadn't succeeded:

"Our landing has failed and I have withdrawn the troops," Eisenhower wrote. "My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches

to the attempt, it is mine alone.”

That last line is a definition of leadership in one sentence, Dole said.

Throughout his hour-long address, Dole interjected his humor several times. One of his projects was to compile a book of presidential humor, going all the way back to George Washington.

“I did not know George Washington,” Dole said. “But Sen. (Strom) Thurmond knew George Washington. He was a lot of help to us in the book. He’d been an intern for Jefferson and met Washington.”

On another occasion, he addressed the likelihood of a woman becoming president.

“There will be a woman president one of these days,” he said. “I hope not too soon.”

Union students said Dole was an entertaining speaker.

“I like the speakers who come in here with a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of excitement and bring a new perspective in on politics,” junior Shanna Hawkins said. “They make it more lively for those of us who aren’t as interested in politics.

It makes it more interesting and makes you want to get involved and learn more.”

Senior Brad Spencer, president of Union’s Student Government Association, gave the invocation prior to Dole’s address.

“It was definitely a real honor to share the stage with Senator Dole,” Spencer said. “He had such an impact on American politics for three decades.”

Spencer also expressed his appreciation to the event’s sponsors and those who attended, people who are responsible for the scholarship money that has helped students like him.

“It was very humbling to get up there and lead the invocation in front of so many influential people, and people who have had such an influence in my life — even though I don’t know them — through scholarships,” he said.

Previous keynote speakers for the Scholarship Banquet were George H. W. Bush, Margaret Thatcher, Mikhail Gorbachev, Rudy Giuliani, John Major, Colin Powell, James Baker and Lou Holtz. ♦



Robert George



Margaret Carlson

Union Forum '06 to feature examination of judicial politics

The eighth annual Union Forum will feature a discussion of judicial politics and the future of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Law Professor Robert George of Princeton University will address the first forum Thursday, March 16, 2006. Time magazine columnist Margaret Carlson is scheduled for the second forum April 6.

George is a member of the President’s Council on Bioethics and formerly served as a presidential appointee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He has authored numerous books, scholarly articles and book reviews.

Carlson is the first woman columnist

in Time magazine’s 76-year history. She has also been the magazine’s deputy Washington bureau chief and White House correspondent. Carlson makes frequent appearances on national television programs such as CNN’s “Inside Politics.” She was a regular on that network’s “The Capital Gang” during the show’s lengthy run.

Union Forum luncheons in 2005 drew record crowds, and early reservations are advised for 2006. Table sponsorships cost \$100 for each event, or \$175 for both dates. Individual seats are also available. For more information, call the Office of University Relations at 661-5050. ♦

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total ever for the university.

“This special ceremony was a fitting conclusion to a record-breaking year,” Union University President David S. Dockery said.

He told the graduates, “We pray that today’s recognition will encourage you toward a lifetime of service and achievement.”



Most of the graduates were from the College of Education and Human Studies, with master’s degrees in education or education

specialist degrees. In addition, 22 students received their doctor of education degrees.

Carolyn Bishop, president and international director of the Consortium for Global Education in Marietta, Ga., brought the commencement address. Bishop encouraged graduates to be willing to compete globally, but to temper such competition with a spirit of cooperation.

“Our world will not survive with countries crossing the finish line one by one,” Bishop said. “We must finish as nations together.” ♦

Union fall enrollment a record

Despite a record number of graduates during the 2004-2005 academic year, Union University still set a new enrollment record this fall.

Fall enrollment is 2,981 students, up from last year’s fall enrollment of 2,919. This year’s total also includes a record number of 907 new students, compared to just more than 800 first-time students last year.

“We are thrilled with the record fall enrollment,” Union University President David S. Dockery said. “It is the eighth straight year that Union has seen an increase in overall enrollment and we are thankful for God’s continuing blessings to this university. Moreover, we are thankful for every student represented by these numbers and trust that their time at Union will prepare them well for the next step in their journeys.”

The enrollment totals include more than 600 new undergraduates, both freshmen and transfers, and almost 300 new graduate students. ♦

Perfect SAT score surprises Union freshman



In many ways, Josh Hays is a typical teenager.

He likes to spend time with his family and friends. He loves water sports and music, and he leads worship for his church's youth group at Northside Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

But not every teenager gets a perfect score on the SAT. Hays did.

"I knew that I had done well," Hays said. "I had taken the ACT before and got a 35 on it, so I knew I was going to have a strong score. But no, a perfect score is not what I was thinking coming out of there."

Hays is the first Union University student with a perfect SAT score. He could have gone to college anywhere in the country, but he chose Union.

In fact, Union was the only place he sent his SAT scores.

Hays said he wanted a college that was serious about Christianity, but also serious about learning in general. Some schools like Harvard and Yale are great institutions of learning, he said, but are lacking when it comes to a Christian atmosphere. Other Christian colleges have that going for them, but are lacking academically.

"I've felt for a while now that I'm called to some type of Christian ministry," Hays said. "I don't know the specifics of that — pastor, youth pastor, Christian teaching. It could go a lot of different ways. But I definitely want to do something as a full-time Christian vocation."

"As I looked at all the schools, Union just really seemed to have the best program, the most to offer, as far as that field," he continued. "For what I wanted to do, Union seemed the best."

A recipient of a Presidential Scholarship at Union that covers all tuition and housing costs for four years, Hays acknowledges God's hand in his achievements, including his SAT score.

"It truly is something from God," Hays said. "It's not something that I've done. It's just a blessing and it's something God has put there for me to open doors." ✦



Honored Graduates

Union University chemistry professor Charles Baldwin (back right) poses with some of his former students and Union University alumni who graduated from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center recently. Front row, from left, are Stephanie Mabry Perkins, Misty Yow Allen and Catherine Patricia Scarbrough. Back row, from left, are Brent Morris, Jeff Jones and Baldwin.

Union graduates excel at UT Health Science Center

When the University of Tennessee Health Science Center conducted its spring graduation in Memphis, Union graduates were among those receiving top academic honors.

In the College of Medicine, **Catherine Patricia Scarbrough ('00)** won the Outstanding Student in Family Practice Award, selected by the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians.

Misty Yow Allen ('99) and **Stephanie Mabry Perkins ('01)** were each recognized as members of Alpha Omega Alpha, the National Honor Medical Society whose membership is based entirely upon scholarship, personal honesty and potential leadership.

Allen also received the Family Medicine departmental award, and Perkins won the Alumni Achievement Award in Research Medicine, given to a graduating senior in recognition of outstanding achievement in biomedical research.

In addition, Allen graduated with highest honors and Perkins graduated with high honors.

"Each of these young people has in their own way continued the tradition of excellence as they render Christian service to those needing the healing arts," said Union University chemistry professor Charles Baldwin, who taught all the students as undergraduates. "They bring a measure of hope to the future as they continue to demonstrate the core values that Union University seeks to instill in its graduates. I would happily place my life, or that of my family members, in the

hands of these young health professionals."

In the College of Pharmacy, **Sara Robertson Vazquez ('01)** received the Pharmacy Administration Award, given to the student with the highest general average in all pharmacy administration courses.

Melissa Sei-Gnah Yau ('01) received the Pharmaceutics Award, given to the student with a high scholastic average in the department of pharmaceutics and who is judged by the department faculty to have exhibited outstanding professional characteristics. **Jonathan Marshall Hoover ('01)** was given the Glaxo Smith Kline Patient Care Award, based on a variety of criteria including outstanding performance in community or hospital practice, communication skills and patient counseling, among others.

Vazquez, Yau and **John Thomas Guthrie II ('01)** were recognized as members of the Rho Chi Honor Society, with membership based on high attainment in scholarship, character, personality and leadership.

Vazquez was also recognized as a member of the Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Society, whose goal is to identify individuals who are outstanding leaders in the pharmacy profession.

Vazquez and Yau graduated from the College of Pharmacy with high honors, while Hoover graduated with honors.

Other Union alumni who graduated from the University of Tennessee's Health Science Center this year were **Jeffery Jones ('00)**, **Brent Morris ('01)**, **Kenneth Barker ('00)**, **Bethany Lang Morgan Guerra ('02)** and **Sherri Hamilton ('01)**. ✦



Accrediting agency approves Union's CRNA program

Accrediting bodies have approved or reaffirmed three programs at Union University during the fall semester.

The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), the official nurse anesthetist accrediting agency has given full approval to Union's Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist program, clearing the way for students to begin study in January.

In addition, the Council on Social Work Education has reaffirmed the university's social work program, and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education has reaffirmed Union's teacher education program.

Tim Smith, dean of Union's School of Nursing, said the CRNA program will be the first such program among the 176 universities in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

Twenty-six applicants have already been approved for the program, which will become the fifth one in the state of Tennessee. Smith said Union's program, however, would be unique for the integration of Christian values into the instruction.

"Our difference is that we have a program for the purpose of teaching the Christian worldview in the profession of nurse anesthesia," Smith said. "That's what we're going to be about."

Union's CRNA program will work with 13 regional hospitals. West Tennessee Healthcare has pledged \$3 million to Union — \$500,000 for construction of White Hall and \$2.5 million for the CRNA program, personnel and space needs.

"The establishment and launch of the CRNA program at Union University is one of the most exciting endeavors in the history of this university," Union President David S. Dockery said. "Union has been blessed by great friends in the

healthcare community since the establishment of the nursing program at Union 40 years ago, chief among these friends being West Tennessee Healthcare."

Union University Provost Carla Sanderson said the approval is evidence of Union's commitment to excellence in accreditation.

"This accreditation for Union's new CRNA program comes as a result of two things — an amazing new team of bright, forward-thinking faculty, including our dean, and a 40-year-old School of Nursing filled with faculty who advance the nursing profession through their outstanding teaching and service," Sanderson said.

The 31-month program will result in a Master of Science degree in nursing. Students will spend the first eight months in the classroom, followed by nearly two years in a clinical setting, where they will perform 1,200 procedures.

The first CRNA class at Union will graduate in August 2008.

"Union has had great nursing faculty and leadership, and wonderful nursing students — all who have paved the way for this moment in the life of the institution," Dockery said. "I am thankful for the generous support of the healthcare community and the leadership of Tim Smith and the nursing school faculty who have brought us to this point."

In addition to the CRNA, social work and teacher education programs, the engineering program at Union is in accreditation approval process from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. ABET representatives conducted a site visit to Union's campus in early October, and a decision whether to approve Union's engineering program could come next summer. ♦

Fowler appointed IMB trustee



Charles Fowler, senior vice president for university relations at Union University, has begun his first term as trustee of the Southern Baptist Convention's

International Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Fowler was elected to the board during the SBC's annual meeting in June. He fills the seat vacated by John Adams, retired vice president for religious affairs at Union, who rotated off the board after serving two terms over the last eight years.

Fowler's love for missions began as a teenager when he went on his first mission trip.

"I led my very first person to Christ on a mission trip," Fowler said. "Those experiences galvanized my love for missions, and since that first trip, I have participated in or led at least one mission trip each year. I cannot imagine living as a faithful Christian without active missions involvement."

The IMB is an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention responsible for training and sending missionaries to present the gospel of Jesus Christ and plant churches all over the world. The IMB currently supports more than 5,200 missionaries worldwide.

Fowler will most likely serve two terms on the IMB board, which will give Union University a significant presence there for 16 consecutive years.

"We're so happy to have Dr. Fowler on the IMB board to represent Union in this important way," Union University President David S. Dockery said.

"I am pleased that Dr. Charles Fowler has been elected to serve on the IMB board of trustees," said Jerry Rankin, IMB president. "Dr. John Adams has given excellent leadership during his tenure on the board. We are grateful for the partnership and support of Union University in our mission task and the opportunity to enhance that relationship through this continuing representation on our board." ♦

Union expects more winning basketball

Union University basketball will have a new look and a new radio home this season.

Men's and women's broadcasts can be heard on WTNE 97.7 FM, "The Patriot." The new arrangement should make it possible to tune in Bulldog basketball from most locations in West Tennessee. Internet broadcasts of Union games can be heard at www.gracebroadcasting.com/patriot.

Some key players were lost from last year's teams, but coaches are expecting strong contributions from a number of players who redshirted last year, as well as from incoming freshmen and transfers. Both programs are picked to be top contenders for national and conference honors again this season.

Lady Bulldogs 2005-06

The defending NAIA national champion Lady Bulldogs return seniors Ena Daniels, Tiffany Fisher, Jennifer Henson and Peggy McCain. Also coming back from last year's 35-5 squad are sophomores Merideth Richardson and Crystal Eason, both of whom started as freshmen. Daniels and Richardson made the NAIA All Tournament Team.

Coach Mark Campbell and staff will miss departed stars such as NAIA Tournament MVP Stephanie Clark and Tournament Hustle Award winner Monica Elliott. But Campbell says this team can build on last year's fantastic finish. He's excited about having experienced guards back this year who have been tested in high-pressure situations.

"A lot of the question marks lie with our post players," said Campbell, now in

his seventh year as Lady Bulldogs coach. "As they get better, we get better."

Coaches say they'll get help on both sides of the court from several new players, like freshman Jessica Graves, junior transfer D. J. Sissoko, and redshirts Latorya Fuller and Josephine Owino.

The Lady Bulldogs again play one of the nation's toughest pre-conference schedules, including NAIA powers Southern Nazarene, Oklahoma Christian,



Freshman guard Crystal Eason drives past a Point Loma defender in Union semifinal win in the NAIA Women's National Tournament.

Oklahoma Baptist, Lee and Berry (Ga.).

"I think it's really important for the girls to get a look at who we'll play in March (at the national tournament)," Campbell said. "We find our weaknesses when we play the best teams."

Union Bulldogs 2005-06

Union's men lost just two seniors from last season's 24-9 team that won the TranSouth Conference Championship and advanced to the NAIA National Tournament.

The TranSouth Athletic Conference men's basketball coaches have unanimously selected Union as the preseason favorite for the upcoming basketball season. *Street & Smith's College Basketball* magazine tabbed the Bulldogs as the NAIA's third-ranked team in the preseason.

Among those returning is the team's leading scorer, senior Corey Burkett (15.3 points per game), and juniors Marcus Cooper, Pierry Valmera and Ben Frederick. Matt Trammell and Roy Ross return to provide senior leadership.

Coach Ralph Turner and staff welcome transfers Mack Bealim, at guard, Kinley Sellers and Deywane Lee (both forwards). Each is expected to add athleticism to this year's lineup. Lee is the son of Keith Lee, the University of Memphis' all-time leading scorer and rebounder.

"By watching Deywane play, you can tell that he has been taught to play the game by some of the best," said head coach Ralph Turner. "He is long and athletic and relentless on the boards."

Turner, entering his 13th season as head coach, is also impressed with Bealim's potential.

"Mack was one of the best players in a very good junior college league in Alabama last season," Turner said. "He may be the most versatile player on our team this season because he can play anywhere from point guard to power forward."

True freshman and former Jackson Christian School standout guard Alan North brings strong perimeter shooting to the Bulldog attack. ♦



Corey Burket (45) handles the ball during a fast break attempt versus Lyon College in the TranSouth Tournament Championship game.

Men's soccer works to help Bartos family

Titus Bartos ('05) grew up in Romania, a country in which sports fans love soccer.

Union men's soccer players love the game, too. But they were willing to take a break from the game to help the Bartos family during a time of tragedy.

After graduation in May, Bartos was to be married Aug. 13. Plans changed when his mother, Maria, died Aug. 10 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident near Lexington, Tenn.

Several August soccer practices were canceled so the team could work around the community in return for donations for the Bartos family. By doing yard work and other odd jobs around the Jackson community, the team raised nearly \$2,000 for the family.



Michael Pugh, a sophomore soccer player at Union, helps remove weeds around a Jackson house.

"That's pretty exciting, because we didn't expect to raise anywhere near that," said sophomore soccer player Michael Pugh.

All the money went to help with travel costs. Bartos' five siblings weren't planning to make the trip for his wedding, but they decided to come to the United States for their mother's funeral, held Aug. 20 in Atlanta. Bartos and his wife, Laura, were married the following day.

Head coach Darin White said the team completed 33 projects and some donations were still coming in through the mail. "We actually did more work than I thought we could in one day," said White.

Pugh said the soccer team's efforts were a benefit for the school and the community, as well as within the soccer team itself. Many found the experience important in their own spiritual journeys.

"Not only did we use it as an outreach to help (Titus), but we used it as an outreach to help our own team," Pugh said. ✦