



What a Great Year!

The 2005-06 year has been an incredible year. It was a record year in almost every category. We saw increases in student enrollment, the number of donors, the number of alumni donors, total gifts to the university, and the annual budget. The athletic teams won the TranSouth Conference all-sports trophy for the third straight year and the Lady Bulldogs were crowned NAIA Women's Basketball National Champions for the second straight year. God has blessed Union in so many evident and significant ways.

Fall 2006

We have seen even more exciting things take place this semester. Fall enrollment is up 175 over this past year. We have a record total of 3,156, an enrollment increase for the ninth straight year. Residential housing is filled to capacity. A great spirit is present across the campus. We have a strong freshman class and tremendous leadership among the juniors and seniors on campus. The University, for the tenth year in a row, was ranked in the top tier of institutions in the south by U.S. News & World Report. University programs were ranked in the top ten among Universities in the South in six important categories.

The completion of the Fesmire Field House has added much to the campus. The facility is a huge addition for our soccer, baseball, and softball programs – and for the athletic department as a whole. The entire campus is excited about the progress of the new science facility. The \$20 million White Hall project will provide state-of-the-art facilities for biology, chemistry, and nursing. Few things symbolize Union's commitment to academic excellence like the premier science and health care programs that will be housed in this new building.

We are pleased to report that Union's engineering program has now received accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. We salute the engineering department and congratulate the academic leaders for their fine work.

Nursing Program

This issue of the Unionite not only provides the annual report for this past year, but gives a glimpse into the wonderful accomplishments of

Union's nursing program. Dean Tim Smith provides exceptional leadership for the School of Nursing. Union's School of Nursing now enrolls more than 500 students in all of its programs. The graduates from this past year excelled on their state boards. Both undergraduate and graduate programs are strong, in Jackson and in Germantown.

The new nurse anesthetist program is a giant step forward for the University. It will provide Union University with expanded opportunities to serve the healthcare community across this region. The successful launch of this program was led by many people. I want to begin by thanking Provost Carla Sanderson and the academic leaders at Union. The University was blessed when Tim Smith joined the administrative team. He, along with program director Mark Kossick, and the nursing faculty have done a magnificent job. Tharon Kirk's role in the interim was strategic. Leaders from the Board of Trustees, Board of Regents, and alumni gave careful guidance to the entire process. Particularly do I want to thank Lisa Rogers, Mike Weeks, Harry Smith, Louis Murphy and others. The program partners at more than a dozen hospitals in the region were critically important. The entire process owes much to the influence of Thad and Alicia Smotherman. The key to bringing the program from dream to reality was the support and generosity from Jim Moss and the board members of West Tennessee Healthcare. We thank these and so many more who gave of themselves to this important process. You will enjoy the update on the School of Nursing in this issue.

God's favor continues to rest upon this University that we love and serve. We thank God for the faithful friends of this University. What you are doing in behalf of the students, staff, and faculty of this University is greatly appreciated. We pray for God's ongoing blessings to Union University in days ahead.

Soli Deo Gloria

David S. Dockery
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