Presidential Search
A CALL FOR PRAYER AND FASTING

Healing Rwanda

Serving the Lord by Serving Peter

Life in the Balance
From the President

As the 2012-13 academic year moves toward a conclusion, it provides an opportunity to reflect upon God’s many blessings to Union University throughout this year. The class of 2013, the largest graduating class in Union history, has made a significant difference on this campus for the past few years.

They have done so not just because of the size of the class, but because of the quality of their leadership and the extent of their involvements. I am so thankful for the members of this class; they will be missed.

This academic year has witnessed an enrollment increase for the 15th straight year, with a fall enrollment surpassing 4,260 and a non-duplicating annual enrollment of more than 5,300. Only a handful of private universities across the South have seen consistent increases like this over these 15 years. Obviously, we have much for which to be grateful. We certainly recognize God’s goodness and favor to this institution in so many ways; the healthy enrollment trend is just one of those ways.

The 2012-13 annual Scholarship Banquet welcomed former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, an event that raised almost $500,000 for student scholarships. We were pleased to welcome Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter and numerous other leading pastors and top-notch scholars to campus this past year. Among many important items worthy of being highlighted, we can mention:

- The highest rankings ever for the University with U.S. News & World Report, the Princeton Review, Colleges of Distinction, StateUniversity.com, President’s Community Service Honor Roll, America’s 100 Best College Buys, among others;
- We were blessed to see the opening of the beautiful new facility for our Hendersonville extension site;
- Both the Chemistry and History departments were once again recognized with Outstanding Chapter Awards;
- The team had another fine season, with Union’s Amanda Bennett taking the International Public Debate Association’s individual championship;
- The University hosted an important conference on the Psalms, as well as an impressive array of speakers who gathered to remember the impact of Chuck Colson, evangelical statesman and friend of Union University, on the first anniversary of his death;
- The athletics department made progress in its three-year transition toward NCAA membership. Women’s basketball tied for the regular-season league record in the Gulf South Conference;
- The Lady Bulldog softball team, under the leadership of Coach Heather Hall, won Union’s fourth championship in the National Christian College Athletic Association’s national tournament (2001, 2002, 2004, and 2013);
- The Board of Trustees approved a record $93.5 million budget, which was the 18th straight year for the Board to approve an increased budget (we pray that we will be good stewards of these resources that have been provided to advance the Union mission);
- Excellent progress continues on all the processes and projects associated with the “Union 2015” strategic plan;
- The work of the Union student life team continued to create a great context for the implementation of the Union mission among our students;
- John Netland was named the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Tina Netland was named Staff Member of the Year, and Justin Barnard was named the Faculty Member of the Year;
- Greg Thornbury’s outstanding book on religious liberty, has been quite well received;
- We had a great Homecoming celebration, with the highly accomplished Class of 1963 returning for their golden anniversary;
- Union launched a very exciting pilot partnership with the North American Mission Board to help prepare some of its church planters, a program that has enrolled more than 50 students in the online Master of Christian Studies program;
- We have been blessed this year with two new and separate “seven-figure commitments,” one for an endowed chair and a second for annual scholarships—certainly, we offer praise and thanksgiving for these markers of God’s gracious kindness to Union;
- The work on the beautiful library project is ready to move from the architect’s office to the site itself as project moves forward. We remain excited and hopeful about this most significant project.

These things only tell a portion of the story. There is ever so much more that could be included among these highlights. It truly has been another fine year on the Union campus. We look forward to the exciting things already underway for the forthcoming fall semester, including welcoming Dr. Ben Carson to the annual Scholarship Banquet, as well as Dr. Phillip Jenkins for the Carlo-Schwertfeger Lectures.

We stand amazed at God’s ongoing goodness to all of us associated with Union University... and, we offer deep and genuine thanksgiving for the many blessings to Union University for the 2012-13 year. Thank you for all that you have done to make this year a good one on the Union campus. We are ever hopeful about the days ahead for this University. I know you join me in responding to all of these things by saying: “THANKS BE TO GOD!”

Faithfully,

David S. Dockery
Top Asian business leader advocates faith integration in the workplace

One of the Asian Pacific’s leading business leaders told a Union audience that Christians should be willing to use their positions as a platform for God.

Wai Kwong Seck went on to become one of the key lay leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention and one of the first students from the University to receive a D.Min. degree.

"If a Christian is fully committed to our faith, he can use it as he pleases. Through the Eyes of Faith luncheon April 3 in the Carl Grant Events Center. Seck is a local news producer and has served for eight years as chief financial officer of the Singapore Exchange.

"My job can be a platform for God," Seck said. "I think the platform God gives us is only valuable if we surrender that platform to God so that he can use it as he pleases."

Seck told the audience of 250 about his conversion to Christianity as a teenager. "The key to victory in our Christian life is surrender," Seck said. "Then and only then will I know what real victory is and what life is." Seck went on to become one of the key lay leaders among Singapore Baptists. Union has an ongoing partnership with the Singapore Baptist Convention.

SBC President Fred Luter visits Union

"I'm thrilled to be on it," said Phil Mitchell, pastor at First Baptist Church of Adamsville, Tenn., and Howard McNeill, pastor of Maple Springs Baptist Church in Seagrove, N.C., began with the program's first class in 2009.

The Doctor of Ministry program is designed to help leaders in Christian ministry improve the expository preaching and teaching of their ministry through individual work and week-long seminars held in July or January each year at Union's Stephen Olford Center in Memphis, Tenn.

To complete the degree, each candidate must also research, write and defend a doctoral project on a topic related to church ministry. "D.Min. is intended to help enhance the practical ministry of pastors," said Ray Van Neste, professor of Biblical studies at Union and McNeill's dissertation advisor. "The whole purpose is to help (Christians) who are engaged in ministry. This is one of the ways at Union we're seeking to help local churches."

Both Mitchell and McNeill's dissertations offered tangible solutions to issues facing many Southern Baptist congregations today. McNeill's work focused on spiritual formation, while Mitchell examined ways to reach inactive church members.

Union marks 5th anniversary of tornado

Celebrating the goodness and providence of God. Union University alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends gathered Feb. 5 to mark the five-year anniversary of a tornado that destroyed much of the University's campus housing. The s.m. G. Savage Memorial Chapel on the University campus featured singing, prayer, testimonies from students and a devotional from Dockery.

The EF-4 tornado that hammered Union on Feb. 5, 2008, caused about $40 million in damage, leveling 19 buildings and trapping dozens of students in collapsed apartments. Fifty-nine students went to the hospital for treatment, including nine who were injured seriously. But despite the damage, no lives were lost.

New Thornbury book focuses on Carl F. H. Henry

A new book by Gregory A. Thornbury explores the theology of Carl F. H. Henry and how his ideas of “classical evangelicalism” can unite today’s church.

The book, Recovering Classic Evangelicalism: Applying the Wisdom and Vision of Carl F. H. Henry, is published by Crossway and is now available in bookstores.

"What I wanted to do was paraphrase the best of Henry’s theological work and give it a new hearing for a new audience," said Thornbury, dean of the School of Theology and Missions.

Henry, a theologian, journalist and the first editor of Christianity Today, died in 2003 at age 90. He was the author of the influential “God, Revelation and Authority” series of books, among others.

"It’s been almost a decade since Carl Henry passed, and it’s time to revisit his legacy," Thornbury said. "Henry’s thoughts, ideas and theology were what gave the neo-evangelical movement so much of its spark and verve, initially."

Barry H. Corey, president of Biola University, described Recovering Classic Evangelicalism as an “important, erudite work that should be read by anyone who longs for a return to a robust, vital evangelicalism.”
Online nursing program earns national ranking

The School of Nursing has one of the top online graduate nursing programs in the country, according to U.S. News & World Report.

In its latest rankings, the publication placed Union’s program 40th nationally, ahead of such institutions as Michigan State University, Ohio State University and Georgetown University. The rankings included the nation’s top 72 programs.

“The ranking is a testimony to the excellence-driven academics being delivered by nursing faculty from the perspective of the Christian intellectual tradition in reaching nursing students throughout the country,” said Tim Smith, dean of Union’s School of Nursing. “The opportunity to gain this ranking provides evidence that academic rigor through online nursing education can be provided while achieving the mission of the School of Nursing and Union University.”

The ranking was based on Union’s online Master of Science in Nursing graduate track, which includes the Master of Science in Nursing Administration and Master of Science in Nursing Education. Both tracks are taught fully online.

Union earns national service award

For the seventh straight year, Union University has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America’s communities.

Launched in 2006, the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its service to America’s communities. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service and the extent to which the school offers academic learning opportunities.

Union University serves the community in many ways throughout the year. Its largest event is the annual “Campus Day,” which draws hundreds of teams from across Jackson and West Tennessee for various service projects.

In addition, Union freshman Christian Winter was the season-long champion in the “novice debate” category. He won his third straight major tournament.

Nicole Stirbens heard about Union University’s Leadership Academy in Hendersonville and became one of about 80 applicants for the program. In her fourth year as assistant principal at Hawkins Middle School, she liked the idea of preparing herself to be a principal at some future time.

But that time arrived more quickly than she expected.

Her promotion to principal came soon after she submitted the Leadership Academy application. Although her promotion and her acceptance into the Leadership Academy were unexpected, Stirbens liked the timing of the two events.

“I wanted to take that next step. I didn’t know that was going to happen at that time,” Stirbens said. “It’s wonderful meeting new people and feeling like I can pick up the phone now and call them, because I’ve had a chance to build a relationship with them here.”

Stirbens’ networking experience is just one example of why Union’s Leadership Academy has been embraced by Sumner County school leaders and Union University’s faculty. The program allows participants to learn about changes and challenges in the field of education and then form discussion groups to examine how those issues are addressed in various school settings.

Plans are underway for a second annual Leadership Academy that will begin during the summer months and conclude by early November. The emphasis is on current issues in education such as the new Common Core requirements. In addition to the discussion groups, state education leaders host classroom sessions. Union faculty members make presentations on teaching methods.

There is no cost to the school system. All expenses are paid by Union and corporate sponsors such as Wilson Bank & Trust. Two tracks are provided: one to mentor aspiring leaders and another designed to sharpen and update the skills of current leaders.

“We’ve been able to sit down and look at the challenges we face today, and then to determine how we prepare leaders to overcome those challenges,” said Charles Lea, executive director for Union University’s Hendersonville campus. Lea nurtured the idea for such a program as the university moved from temporary facilities to its new building on Island Lake Boulevard.
Union education professor develops popular iPad course

An instructional course on classroom use of iPad technology developed by a Union University education professor has been one of the top courses on iTunesU for several months.

Eric Marvin, associate professor of education at Union University, Germantown, originally created the “Integrating iPads into the Classroom” course to meet the needs of Union graduate students and faculty as the School of Education launched new concentrations to its Master of Education degree. “Our initial thought was to deliver the training once on each of Union’s campuses in a traditional, face-to-face approach, but we instead opted for a just-in-time, on-demand training solution using iTunesU.” Marvin said. “Our iTunesU course has obtained an enrollment beyond expectation, from students literally around the world.”

The course currently has 78,000 students, and Marvin said he hopes to reach more than 100,000 students later this year.

It is humbling and rewarding to reflect on having this many students in a single course, especially as the enrollment continues to increase,” he said.

The course has been especially popular outside of the United States. Marvin has heard from teachers in Central America, Hong Kong and New Zealand, among other places, about how they benefited from the course.

The course development was an example of collaboration across many Union departments and campuses, Marvin said: Stephen Marvin, assistant professor of education and assistant dean of education at Germantown (and Eric’s brother), and Ben Phillips, associate professor of educational leadership, helped with the content of the course.

Union hosts major journalism conference

About 300 students traveled from such universities as Alabama, Louisiana State, Ole Miss, Memphis, Mississippi State and Vanderbilt to listen to recognized professionals from all over the country.

“The conference experience would not have been as powerful as it was without Union University,” said Reby Knorr, a journalism major from Louisiana Tech University. “Not only was the campus beautiful and very friendly, the staff was just as welcoming, everyone’s eagerness to help and even just to socialize made me feel welcome and wanted there.”

As host school, Union’s SEJC leadership board was responsible for organizing the conference speakers and events. The conference featured seven speakers, all professionals from various journalism backgrounds, over the span of two days. Union President David S. Dockery and Executive Vice President for Academic Administration Gene Fant were among the speakers.

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SEJC recognized student journalists and university publications in more than 20 individual categories and eight university categories, such as Best Journalist, Best Sports Writer, Best Feature Writer and Best Page Layout Designer.

Union senior Amelia Krauss, a journalism major and news editor of the Cardinal & Cream, won third place for Best Feature Writer and Union senior Holly Lay, a sociology major and former life editor of the Cardinal & Cream, won second place for Best News-Editorial Artist Illustrator. Because Union was the host for the event, its students were ineligible to compete in the on-site competitions.

The event team consisted of communication arts students studying public relations, journalism or broadcasting who were responsible for a variety of tasks, including the leadership team, social media team and student volunteers who helped throughout the conference.

“By the way, we could have pulled off SEJC without student support,” said Ashley Bilir, SEJC president and assistant professor of communication arts at Union. “There were 12 students who met weekly starting in August to begin planning. While they didn’t receive payment or credit for their work, they were still an integral part of the process.”

Mandrells lead annual Crabtree Lectures

Ben Mandrell, senior pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, and his wife, Lyndy, offered tips on how Christians can find peace in relationships as part of the annual Crabtree Family Life Chapel services in April.

“God has designed marriage in such a way that you get back what you put in,” Ben said in his Wednesday address. “It is the giving and receiving principle which is also true, by the way, of all kinds of relationships. You have to invest in a relationship for it to be valuable.”

Mandrell is disciplehip said Ben, who married Lyndy 12 years ago. They have four children.

“They encouraged students to listen to others fully before giving advice. They also said every couple should consider what their family’s way of dealing with conflict was and whether or not it is helpful to continue in that approach. ‘You were taught how to deal with hurt,’ Ben said. ‘Parents create a natural wake for their children to follow. It takes effort and skill to get outside the wake. This is good news for you, because you’re not doomed to respond to hurt the same way your parents did. You can change.’”

The benefactors for the series were T.T. Crabtree and his wife Benzine Elizabeth Cale Crabtree. Both were Union graduates. Mrs. Crabtree had attended each lecture since the series began in 2000, but she passed away at the age of 86 only four days prior to this year’s event (see In Memoriam, page 40).

Boud, Thornbury honored with Sterling Awards

Union University’s Jan Boud and Kimberly Thornbury have each been listed among the 20 most influential women in West Tennessee.

Both women received Sterling Awards, which are given each year to honor women leaders who display creativity and innovation in their profession, mentor other women and provide service to the community.

About 70 nominations were submitted to The Jackson Sun and about 10 winners were chosen.
Trustees present Dodd Award to TBC leader

The Union University Board of Trustees honored Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Director Randy Davis with the M.E. Dodd Award during a meeting in April.

The Dodd Award is Union’s highest denominational service award, which is named for the man who was a Union alumnus, served as president of the SBC and who was the father of today’s Cooperative Program, the method by which Southern Baptists pool their resources to fund their mission efforts.

In accepting the award, Davis said that while many organizations have core values, he knows of no institution by which Southern Baptists pool their resources to fund the father of today’s Cooperative Program, the method by which Southern Baptists pool their resources to fund the father of today’s Cooperative Program, the method by which Southern Baptists pool their resources to fund the father of today’s Cooperative Program, the method by which Southern Baptists pool their resources to fund the father of today’s Cooperative Program, the method by which Southern Baptists pool their resources to fund their mission efforts.

After the presentation, President David S. Dockery made perhaps his final formal address to the trustees.

Dockery announced his transition from president to chancellor for 2014 (see stories, beginning on page 14).

Trustees also approved a record $93.5 million budget and met newly appointed Arts and Sciences Dean John Netland.

Netland, who has been an English professor at Union and chairman of the English department since 1980, has been active in her community for many years. One example of her leadership is the Alzheimer’s Caregiver Conference she helped to start four years ago. This year’s event drew more than 400 caregivers to Union.

Thornbury, who is vice president for student services and dean of students, has lived in West Tennessee for almost 15 years. She provided key leadership during the aftermath of Union’s 2008 tornado.

Both women enjoy engaging with non-profits in the Jackson area and pointing students in the direction of such service.

Three Union women have now won Sterling Awards. Provost Carla Sanderson was awarded in 2010.

Alabama’s Saban keynotes Golf and Gala

University of Alabama football coach Nick Saban shared thoughts on successful leadership and the role of athletics in higher education during the annual Roy L. White Legacy Golf and Gala, which this year becomes the primary fundraising event for Union athletics.

Union is in its second year of candidacy for NCAC Division II. Money raised from the event will fund athletic scholarships and contribute to the athletic programs.

Saban’s teams at Alabama and LSU have combined to win four national titles, making him one of only four coaches in the modern era to achieve that level of success.

In addition to his victories on the field, Saban has been active in the community with a charity called “Nick’s Kids Fund.” He and his wife Terry also worked with Project Team Up and Habitat for Humanity to build 18 homes after a tornado ravaged Tuscaloosa, Ala., in 2012.

Saban’s example fits with Union’s philosophy of using athletics as a platform for missions and community service. The primary focus of Division II competition is “life in the balance,” a concept that prioritizes classroom achievement and community service alongside athletics.

“Coach Saban is not only a great coach, but an advocate for the student-athlete,” said Jerry Twaddle, Union’s senior vice president for university relations and athletics.

“His personal priority for student-athletes made him a great choice to speak to Union players, coaches, alumni and our community.”

In addition to the banquet at which Saban spoke, Union also hosted a golf tournament in April at the Jackson Country Club.

Black History Month symposium explores race and worship

Bryan Lorritts and John Bryson are leading racial reconciliation efforts in what is regarded as the second most segregated city in America.

Fellowship Memphis is growing as a multicultural church. Lorritts is lead pastor. Bryson is the church’s teaching pastor. They share the compelling goal of teaching the gospel in a setting that bridges the racial divide so evident in Memphis and other cities across the country.

Both shared thoughts about their mission during Union’s sixth annual Black History Month program. This year, the program involved a panel format moderated by Frank Anderson, director of the associate of divinity program and associate professor of missions and ministry at Union’s Stephen Olford Center in Memphis.

The event was co-sponsored by the Vocation Center for Life Calling and Career and the MOSAIC student organization.

Lorritts and Bryson focused on the theme “From Every Tribe: A Dialogue on Church, Campus and Community” as they addressed the diverse audience of black, white and Latino students, faculty, staff, local and state leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other members of the Jackson community.

“We felt that we could ignite hope,” said Bryson. “If, in the second most segregated city of America, a gospel-teaching, Bible-teaching, disciple-making church erupted, that was made up of multiple ethnicities and bringing African-Americans and whites together, it would be bigger than itself and remove excuses from other cities [to reconcile races].”
The conference attracted a mixture of pastors, students, musicians and interested lay people who wanted to delve into the subject through two plenary sessions and nine breakout sessions.

Heath Thomas, associate professor of Old Testament and Hebrew and director of Doctor of Philosophy Studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Andy Davis, senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., headlined the conference.

Using Psalm 117, the shortest Psalm in the Bible, Thomas had people prior knowledge of Union, but he said he came here from Asia to improve his preaching about the Psalms.

As we sang together at Psalmfest, I felt a strong connection to the people of God through the ages.

The conference experience proved to be a cornerstone for me, said Pastor Htwe. "It caused me to look at the source for my worship language. When that language is nearly entirely Scripture, I know that I am participating in something much greater than myself or my time period, and that is valuable worship."
David S. Dockery will transition from president of Union University to the role of university chancellor no later than July 2014.

The announcement was made Jan. 16, but followed a series of private discussions over the course of several years about presidential transition.

“I am hopeful and prayerful for a good, smooth, joyful and positive transition,” Dockery said. “God has blessed the work of our hands and manifested his favor to this university time and time again during these past 17 years. I am confident that we will continue to see God’s grace made known to university time and time again during these years. He has had Union’s best interest at heart in everything he has done as president for the past 17 years.”

The list of Dockery’s accomplishments over that period is lengthy.

Under his leadership, following 15 straight years of enrollment increase, Union has more than doubled in size, growing from a fall enrollment of 1,972 to 4,262 in 2012. Donors have increased from 1,600 to 6,000 annually. The University’s net assets have grown from less than $40 million to more than $90 million per year. The University’s student housing. Dozens of students were trapped inside collapsed buildings as rescuers worked for hours to free them. Several sustained serious injuries, but nobody was killed.

“Out of the rubble across this campus I am praying that we will see renewal.” Dockery said during that time. “We lost the buildings, but we did not lose the Union spirit.”

The annual Scholarship Banquet and Union Forum programs he established became a host of world-renowned speakers to the University, the Scholarship Banquet also raised about $5.5 million for student scholarships. His administration increased the graduation rate from 55 percent to 67 percent. The University has moved from second-tier to top-tier status in the U.S. News & World Report rankings, where Union now ranks among the top 14 regional universities in the South. Dockery also was instrumental in developing Union’s mission and identity statements and statement of faith.

A prolific author and editor, Dockery has written or edited several major books on Christian higher education, Baptist history and heritage, including Renewing Minds, Shaping a Christian Worldview, Faith and Learning, The Great Tradition of Christian Thinking, Southern Baptist Convention and Renewal and Southern Baptist Identity, among others.

He served as the chairman of the board for the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, as well as serving on the board for Christianity Today International and Prison Fellowship. Dockery was a member of four recent committees and task force teams in the Southern Baptist Convention, and has spoken at major conferences and lectureships at dozens of churches, state conventions, colleges, churches and seminaries.

Dockery has also been an active participant in local programs and organizations. He was named Jackson’s Man of the Year in 2008 and was the recipient of the William D. Smart Racial Reconciliation Award from the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 2012.

While at Union, I have realized his leadership extends far beyond Union’s campus,” said Samantha Adams, a member of the class of 2013 from Glendale, Ky. “He has set an example to students for being a peacemaker among Christians, a reconciler between blacks and whites in the South and a humble student of God’s word.”

Walton Padelford, longtime University professor of economics, described Dockery’s leadership as “extraordinary” and said his vision for Union—including improving Union’s academic quality, improving theological education and moving the University into the Christian intellectual tradition—was vital to the University’s success and growth.

“When parents visit me with their prospective students, and we’re talking about Union, many times I will say that this is the best time for your student to be here,” Padelford said. “We’re living in the golden age of Union.”
Several weeks after President David S. Dockery announced his transition from president to chancellor, the executive committee of Union’s Board of Trustees selected nine people to serve on a search committee for a new president.

The committee will meet regularly through the summer and fall to conduct a national search, select finalists and eventually recommend a presidential candidate to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

A formal timetable is difficult to predict, but it is possible a new president could be selected early in 2014 and begin work later that year.

The search committee consists of:

- **NORMAN O. HILL**, who will serve as the committee chairman. Hill is executive director of Trumbull Labs in Memphis and a 1980 Union graduate. [1]
- **CARLA D. SANDERSON**, Union’s provost, executive vice president for strategic initiatives and professor of nursing, who will be the committee’s vice chair and represent the Union administration and staff. Sanderson is a 1981 Union graduate. [2]
- **HARRY L. SMITH**, president of Schilling Enterprises in Memphis and former chairman of the Union Board of Trustees. [3]
- **ROD PARKER**, wealth management adviser for Northwestern Mutual Life in Jackson and a 1988 Union graduate, representing the Union faculty.
- **LISA W. ROGERS**, a physician with the Jackson Clinic and a 1983 Union graduate. [4]
- **DANNY SINGUEFIELD**, senior pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Bartlett, Tenn., and past president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. [5]
- **JAMES ROSS**, vice president and chief operating officer of West Tennessee Healthcare and a 1987 Union graduate. [6]
- **PAUL PRIDDY**, executive pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson. [7]
- **C. BEN MITCHELL**, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy at Union, representing the Union faculty. [8]

“‘We deeply appreciate all of the search committee members’ commitment to Union University and their willingness to serve the University in this important way,’” said Norman Hill, chairman of Union’s Board of Trustees. “‘We ask for prayers for the committee as it seeks the Lord’s wisdom and guidance in selecting Union’s 16th president.’”

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**Support search committee with prayer and fasting**

Early in the transition process, Trustee Chairman Norman Hill says he was asked repeatedly what could be done to help the search committee. The offers were frequent and genuine.

Hill says he felt led to call for prayer and fasting across the campus.

“Throughout the Bible and church history, God’s people have often rallied in focused times of prayer and fasting for specific needs and purposes,” Hill said. “We ask that you would see the need for a similar effort during such a time as this.”

Hill developed an idea that involves the presidential search website. It’s an online calendar on which the Union community can make an anonymous commitment to pray and fast on a specific day. It can be found at uu.edu/president/search/prayer.

Although no names are displayed, each time someone signs up for a day, that square on the calendar changes color, with darker shades of red representing days on which there will be multiple people praying and fasting.

The effort started after spring break and focused on students, most of whom would be leaving campus at the end of the semester and returning in August. Participation was immediate and covered all the dates in April as well as several in May.

But the commitment calendar is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

“It is impossible to overstate the importance of selecting a new president for the future of this institution that we all cherish,” Hill said. “We need the wisdom, insight and discernment that can only come from the Lord if we are to select God’s person for this significant role and if we are to transition effectively to a new presidential administration.”

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**Presidential search updates**

Union University has launched a presidential search website at uu.edu/president/search.

Featured on the site are a prayer and fasting calendar and a message blog on which Chairman Hill will post updates on the committee’s progress.

Bookmark the page and check back frequently for updates.

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**Meet the Presidential Committee**

**Support search committee with prayer and fasting**

**Presidential search updates**
Denis Bisangwa, a sophomore business administration major, was seated on the stage of the G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel, ready to answer questions about his life. It was a situation in which many students might have found frightening. But Bisangwa has told his story many times, and it captivated the Union audience. This Union student is a Rwandan orphan who survived genocide and civil war in his homeland. He plans to return to the African nation with messages of hope. He says that hope is rooted in the power of the gospel to bring about forgiveness. George Guthrie, Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible, interviewed Bisangwa for the Culture Fest chapel service in March. The chapel celebrated cultures represented at Union and unity of the church around the world. Guthrie said he asked Bisangwa to be part of the Culture Fest chapel because of his unique set of life experiences and perspective growing up in a country that has seen much trouble. “The church here needs encouragement and the church there needs good teaching,” Bisangwa said. Bisangwa also dreams of building a library to make books available to Rwandan students. Bisangwa encounters an academic challenge, he uses it to shape his vision for the future. He takes mental notes for our kids to read books when they’re young,” Bisangwa said: “You can’t tell them to start reading books when they don’t have books to read.”

Bisangwa explained that his father, a Rwandan soldier, died at the beginning of the 100-day genocide in 1994, when Bisangwa was only 5 years old. Only a few years later, his mother died as well. He and his siblings lived with their uncle, where Bisangwa led the household when his uncle was away.

“I grew up without parents,” Bisangwa said. “That motivates me to not see anyone else grow up without them.”

He means it. Serving the orphaned children of Rwanda has become Bisangwa’s passion. Bisangwa joined with friends in his Rwandan high school to create Peace and Love Proclaimers, an organization that makes scholarships available for orphans, encourages post-genocide reconciliation and educates people on recognizing triggers of genocide.

Bisangwa coordinated fund-raising efforts, organized supporters and talked to countless media staff to promote the group’s first large-scale genocide awareness project: a Walk to Remember to commemorate those killed in the genocide. “I went to so many radio stations,” Bisangwa said. “I was calling people to come and join us and talking about the impact it is going to have on all the youth. I feel like we (youth) are the ones to change our country. Our parents have been involved in genocide so we want to change that. As Gandhi said, just ‘Be the change.’”

In 2009, more than 9,000 Rwandans gathered for the organization’s first Walk to Remember. Each year since, the students have organized similar walks in other countries. The 2013 walk, in Rwanda alone, drew 25,000 people. Including Rwanda President Paul Kagame.

The crowds for the walk consist mostly of youth, Bisangwa said, representing only a fraction of the up to 1 million killed in the deadly clash between Hutus and Tutsis. Bisangwa’s reconciliation efforts led him to work with As We Forgive, an organization that made a documentary of the same name about Rwandan genocide victims learning to forgive. Andrea McDaniel, a Union graduate and co-founder of As We Forgive, met Bisangwa as he was finishing high school.

Even during his work for Peace and Love Proclaimers, being on his high school’s debate team and actively serving in several other clubs, Bisangwa maintained a perfect grade point average in his classes. His scores allowed him to consider studying at a university in the United States. McDaniel suggested Union to Bisangwa. With an academic scholarship, he enrolled at Union in 2011. Bisangwa has never met a stranger. Within weeks of being on campus, he was a favorite friend among students, giving people warm “hello’s” with his wide smile and cheerful eyes.

His profile on Facebook shows just how memorable Bisangwa is to people he meets. Since being at Union, Bisangwa has added 600 Facebook friends, making his total 5,000. Most college students have between 300 and 1,000.

“I know I have had a conversation with about 90 percent of [my Facebook friends] because when I tried to delete some of them, they would message me and say: ‘I know you. We’ve met.’ And then they would recount the conversation we had.”

Caleb Creel, a junior at Union and Bisangwa’s roommate, said Bisangwa’s care for others is evident, even in small actions. If he is eating a fast-food meal and a friend is nearby, he’ll often offer them his fries or hamburger. Creel said he first took such offers, assuming Bisangwa must not want the rest. He later realized Bisangwa was just being generous.

“Why would I share something I don’t want?” Creel remembers Bisangwa asking him.

Bisangwa has shared his music with Creel and their roommates, as well. He loves to play Kinyarwanda music really loudly,” Creel said with a laugh. Each Tuesday afternoon, Bisangwa heads to the small gym at Union to play hours of indoor soccer with a group of students he organized. Bisangwa also found time to help found a new organization, the International Student Union, of which he is the vice president. Though he quickly adjusted socially at Union, Bisangwa said he found transitioning to the United States’ education style much more challenging.

Bisangwa is fluent in Kinyarwanda, Ugandan, French and English, with a knowledge of Swahili, too. He spoke English in his school rooms in grade school, but gets permission from his professors at Union to record the lectures. Listening to lectures after classes helps him to capture what was said too quickly for him to catch in the classes.

After taking a test at Union, Bisangwa is always reminded of one way he wants to change Rwandan education. Teachers in Rwanda do not often require critical thinking in their classrooms. Bisangwa had to adjust quickly to keep up with his classmates at Union who grew up in the United States and have been familiar with critical thinking-based tests throughout their childhood.

Bisangwa also dreams of building a library to make books available to Rwandan students. “We don’t really emphasize [the need for] our kids to read books when they’re young,” Bisangwa said: “You can’t tell them to start reading books when they don’t have books to read.”

But complaining is not his style. When Bisangwa encounters an academic challenge, he uses it to shape his vision for the future. He takes mental notes for each way he was not prepared well enough for college in his Rwandan schools. One day, Bisangwa hopes to open a school in Rwanda. “In Rwanda, we really need improved education,” Bisangwa said. “I have that task to make some changes in the education system. It lacks so many things; most of the things I learned from here.”
In a perfect world, Peter Helms would have been a freshman at Union University in the fall of 2010, following in the footsteps of his older brothers Andrew (2007) and Caleb (2009). He was three weeks away from moving from his home in Fort Worth, Texas, to Jackson. His bags were packed.

“Peter was excited about Union,” Doug says. “He wanted to go. He saw the good things that happened to Andrew and Caleb, and he thought it was going to be a great experience for him, too.”

In a perfect world, Doug and Selah Helms would have been finished with the bulk of the parenting and caregiving for their four exceptional kids. Andrew was a doctoral student in philosophy at Notre Dame. Caleb was an accountant in Fort Worth. Their daughter Beth was studying music at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Peter had shown aptitude in art, history, theology and writing and seemed to be considering God’s call into the ministry.

Four kids who excelled academically and who loved Christ deeply. By any measure, their labors as parents—the prayers, the encouragement, the instruction, the admonishment, the discipline—had been immensely successful.

In a perfect world, Peter would have just finished his junior year at Union this spring. He had a full tuition scholarship and planned to be a member of Union’s debate team. What would his college years have been like? Would he have loved Union as much as his brothers did? What field of study would he have chosen?

What would his career path have been? Who would his friends have been? Would he have his eye on a young lady?

These questions don’t have answers, because that accident on July 29, 2010, reminded the Helms family in a painful way that this is not a perfect world. All the dreams and the hopes they had for Peter vanished in a second when a half-ton Dodge pickup broadsided him.

Though the accident didn’t claim his life, it claimed almost everything else—his personality, his communication, his intellect, his mobility, his self-sufficiency. Peter’s condition, labeled as traumatic brain injury, has destroyed the pathways from his brain to his body. He’s not paralyzed, but he can’t speak or control his movements. He has minimal usage of his left arm and hand, allowing him to give weakened hugs to family members and push something away that he doesn’t want. Those small movements are skills he has regained since his accident. He has also recovered a limited ability to eat.

“It’s been the biggest battle for our faith that we’ve ever faced,” Peter’s mother Selah says. “We’ve been alive 50-something years, and we’ve had all the various trials that people generally have in life. But this one really takes the cake.”

Over the past three years, the Helms family has learned to rely on each other—printing and folding, and to others—printing and folding church bulletins early Sunday mornings, helping clean the church building, fixing more than ever before. They’ve felt the love and support of fellow Christians in their church, in their local community and around the world. But most of all, they’ve leaned heavily on the Scriptures to get them from today to tomorrow, as they’ve endured unimaginable heartache and challenges, with no apparent end in sight.

“The only satisfying source of comfort is in what God’s revealed to us in his word,” Doug says. “I look at the possibility of Peter being like this for the rest of his life, maybe for the rest of my life, and sometimes it’s just, wow. We’re tied to this burden that we can’t bear.”

But then Doug reads passages like 2 Corinthians 4:17-18: “For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

A highly intelligent son who may never talk to them again? A light and momentary affliction. Empty nest years now replaced with round-the-clock care for their invalid son? A light and momentary affliction.

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Filling Peter’s footsteps has been a constant encouragement to them—printing and folding church bulletins early Sunday mornings, helping clean the church building, fixing more than ever before. They’ve felt the love and support of fellow Christians in their church, in their local community and around the world. But most of all, they’ve leaned heavily on the Scriptures to get them from today to tomorrow, as they’ve endured unimaginable heartache and challenges, with no apparent end in sight.

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breakfast early on Saturdays for the men’s book studies (and never complaining about not getting to sleep in) with a 9-year-old boy at church whose parents don’t attend.

The night before his accident. Peter finished his final Eagle Scout project—building a chain-link fence around the playground at his church and decorating the area with timbers and mulch. The rank of Eagle Scout was bestowed upon him in his hospital bed.

“This is one of the many graces God has given our family in this challenging situation: it’s not all hard to serve Peter.” Selah wrote. “It’s always a blessing to get to serve one who has offered himself in service to the Lord and to others. Just as Peter has modeled service to us in the Lord, it’s easy for us to serve the Lord by serving Peter.”

“All the good things that Peter had—all of the skills, all of the personality traits that he was able to display—all the love we were taught to show Peter was a gift from the Lord, and Peter was not the source of those things.” Andrew says. “When we face some things like his accident—an event like that—we’re being directed to look up from the broken image to the one who gave him all of those good things. 

“As hard as it is to say how this could be, this accident was for Peter’s good as well. It is the Lord’s plan in his life to bring Peter into closer communion with him and into deeper trust in him. That’s really what’s important for us, and that’s what’s really important for Peter.”

Peter was on his way to mow the lawn of an elderly church member the morning of his accident. He sat on a country road, preparing to cross a busier thoroughfare. A semi driver also waited at the intersection, wanting to turn onto the thoroughfare. A semi driver also waited at the intersection, wanting to turn onto the thoroughfare. A semi driver also waited at the intersection, wanting to turn onto the thoroughfare. A semi driver also waited at the intersection, wanting to turn onto the thoroughfare. A semi driver also waited at the intersection, wanting to turn onto the thoroughfare.

Andrew Helms spent the morning in a coffee shop in South Bend, Ind., studying for his comprehensive exams. Always concerned about his grades, Andrew is one of those students whose worries about academics are almost always unfounded. After graduating summa cum laude from Union in 2007, he finished his master’s degree at Texas A&M before beginning his doctoral work at Notre Dame.

He had returned to his room after his morning’s studies and checked in on Facebook when he saw the status update posted by his sister Beth. Peter may have been in a serious accident. No details to report.

“Just exactly the kind of thing to cause you to worry,” Andrew says. “I prayed pretty desperately when I saw that.”

Seven years younger than Andrew, Peter often teamed up with his oldest brother against Caleb and Beth when the four played as children. While Andrew worried about things regularly, Peter took a more laid-back approach to life.

“Peter has always been the person in my life who calms me down and loosens me up.” Andrew says. “Peter could always know exactly how to tease me out of taking myself so seriously.”

When Andrew reached his parents after hearing about Peter’s accident, he discovered that his youngest brother was unconscious. He wept over the phone as he heard details about Peter’s condition, praying that Peter would wake up and that the injuries would not have serious long-term consequences.

He then caught a flight back to his Fort Worth home, leaving nearly all his possessions in Indiana. He told his parents that he would stay with them as long as they needed him. As the days passed and it became clear that Peter wouldn’t be returning to normal anytime soon, Andrew decided to take a year’s break from his studies to remain in Texas with Peter, helping his parents with his brother’s care.

Andrew has really shown his love and concern for Peter in his sacrifice in doing that,” Caleb Helms says. “I think he’s really been an example to a lot of people who have seen his willingness to set aside his career to help take care of Peter.”

“The head of his department at Notre Dame graciously gave Andrew the time away from his studies to care for his brother. That care was the equivalent of several full-time jobs and involved keeping Peter clean, turning him in his bed, suctioning out his tracheostomy tube, as well as speech, physical and occupational therapy.

The work was often laborious, but Andrew’s time at home brought an unexpected blessing—he got to know a family friend, Amy Rose, who became his wife in 2012.

After a year, with volunteers and home health care workers on hand to continue providing Peter’s needs, Andrew returned to Notre Dame. While he loves philosophy, it’s his grounding in Scripture that provides the basis for thinking about Peter’s life.

“It really doesn’t owe us a certain kind of life,” Andrew says. “We’re not even guaranteed a fulfillment of the American dream. He doesn’t parcel out love or help or skills or money or time or how many lives you touch.”

Doug was delighted with Peter’s initiative. The group chose John Piper’s Don’t Waste Your Life, and had been reading through it in the weeks leading up to the wreck.

Some might see Peter now and think his life to be a wasted one. So much potential and promise. So many gifts and abilities. So much good that he could have done for God’s kingdom.

But the Helms family doesn’t view it that way. Peter wouldn’t have viewed it that way. His favorite song, “Jesus I My Cross Have Taken,” refers to pain in God’s service being pleasure, and loss being gain.

“We feel that God doesn’t waste anything.” Doug says. “We’re tempted to see ourselves as just sidelined and set out on the shelf; God is going to get glory from your suffering, if you’re faithful, regardless of who knows it or who sees it or how many lives you touch.”

God is responsible, Doug says, not just for people’s abilities, but for their disabilities as well, and that even this accident is God’s doing in some way.

“Yes, Peter made a misstep out on the road,” he says. “But I made a misstep out on the road too that could have ended in disaster, and God’s held me back from it. But God chose not to do that this time. It’s always a blessing to get to serve one who has offered himself in service to the Lord and to others.
He’s got some sort of purpose in this.”
That purpose isn’t always easy to see. But sometimes God provides glimpses that keep the Helms family encouraged. During a recent stay at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, where Peter finally got his trach tube removed after more than two years, a respiratory therapist told Doug how blessed he had been by spending time with the family talking about the Bible.
“I have felt like a lost sheep for a long time, and I wondered if God would ever find me,” he said. “After spending this week with Peter, I feel that God is finding me. I have grown in my heart.”
God is still using Peter, even in his weakened condition, in ways that the Helms family never imagined.
Caleb Helms was at lunch with coworkers when the phone call about Peter’s accident. At first, he thought little of it. Caleb had been in a minor fender-bender earlier in the year. So had others in the family. Most wrecks aren’t too bad. Caleb thought to himself. He’ll probably just be fine.
The gravity of the situation began to sink in, however, as more and more details emerged. Caleb quickly joined his family at the hospital.

“It was kind of scary seeing him hooked up to all these machines,” Caleb says. Peter’s face was covered in blood. Caleb later heard that only about 10 percent of people survive with injuries similar to Peter’s.
“I really didn’t know that he was going to survive for a while,” Caleb says. “I couldn’t really imagine life without Peter.”
Peter was always much more interested in being Caleb’s wrestling opponent than Andrew was. Though Peter described himself as the “jock son” of Doug and Selah, Caleb contested that. The two opposed each other in chess regularly as well.
But it wasn’t until Caleb left home for Union that he really began to appreciate some of his younger brother’s characteristics—such as the way Peter always tried to reach out to those who were new at the church or those who didn’t have as many friends.
“It showed that he was humble in that he didn’t have to have people always being around him, being his friends,” Caleb says. “He was willing to go and make others feel welcome.”
Like Andrew, Caleb pitched in to help with Peter’s care as much as he could. His station in life was a bit different from Andrew’s, however, making it more difficult for him to assist as much. For one thing, Caleb was married, and he knew his relationship with his wife Hope couldn’t be sacrificed. He was also preparing for the CPA exam.
“It’s something that hasn’t gone away, and that’s been one of the harder aspects of it,” Caleb says. “It’s been a constant emotional stress. It’s realizing that we’re not able to talk to him, and we miss him. We can spend all day with him and still miss him, because we miss hearing him talk and carrying on a conversation with us. It’s kind of like having him around and losing him at the same time.”
But he credits his parents with providing them with a foundation and a framework to understand the circumstances in the light of God’s sovereignty and love.
“We have the assurance that we’ll see him again in heaven, no matter what happens on earth,” Caleb says. “It’s really hard to deal with the realization that we might not interact with him again on earth like we have, but we do have that assurance to encourage us.”
Peter’s future in this life remains uncertain. Though family members held out hope for a while about improvements in his condition, time has tempered those expectations. Any significant changes now will likely be slow in coming, if they come at all. Sometimes for Doug and Selah, even getting out of bed in the morning can be challenging.
Their faith through the trials, however, is nothing short of remarkable. They may not know what the future holds, but they know what God has said to them in the Bible.
For example, Doug quotes Deuteronomy 29:29: “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”
Peter fits squarely under the heading of “the secret things of God,” Doug says. They ask God what he’s going to do with Peter, and the reply is, “I’m not going to tell you. But in the meantime, I’ve given you a lot to do. Focus on those things.”
“You can lie in bed and wonder what’s going to happen, and feel sorry for yourself, and feel sorry for Peter,” Doug says. “Or you can get up and go do what you’re supposed to do. It doesn’t do him any good for me to be depressed. And I’m depressed over this sometimes. And there are some times when we just have to cry.”
The episode has made the Helms family much more sympathetic to others who are enduring trials and afflictions. They can empathize with the pain, with the uncertainty, with the grief. And they have a fresh appreciation for the life that is to come.
As home schoolers, Selah says they raised their kids to be leaders and influencers here on earth. Though they love the Lord’s work and the Lord’s kingdom, their focus tended to be that kingdom in its current state, in this life. Let’s go change the world. Let’s take some ground for the Lord’s kingdom.
“The last two years have violently disentangled my fingers from earth and set me much more on looking to heaven,” Selah says. “I’m not nearly as attached to earth as I used to be. My Christian life is not about being here so much anymore. I feel like, hopefully, that will make me more useful down here, for as long as I am here. I don’t think I could make it through this without thinking about heaven and what heaven has in store for God’s people,” she continues. “Because we don’t know what Peter will get back here on earth.”
But they do know that regardless of Peter’s condition in a year, or five years, or 30 years, a day is coming when they will reunite with their son in another life. Peter’s body and mind will be whole. He will be able to walk, to wrestle, to sing. And they will be able, once again, to listen to him and to laugh with him.
In essence, the Helms family has an unshakeable faith that God will answer that quick prayer that Doug offered on that July day—if not in this life, then in the next. In a perfect world.
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tered U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates provided a sobering analysis of recent world events, but said he remains “fundamentally optimistic” about the future of the United States. Gates addressed the 15th Annual Scholarship Banquet at Union University, helping raise about $500,000 for student scholarships.

The former president of Texas A&M praised the work of Union in shaping future leaders, whom Gates said must be grounded in faith and integrity to face future challenges at home and abroad.

“It will take real leadership, political will, shared sacrifices and a willingness to compromise,” Gates said.

Gates ties U.S. influence to its character at home

HE IS A PERSON OF GREAT INFLUENCE, AS SEEN BY HIS ROLE IN THE 2013 NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST. HIS POWERFUL STORY IS INSPIRATIONAL, EDIFYING AND CHALLENGING.

He holds more than 60 honorary doctorates and has received hundreds of awards and citations, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2008. In 2001, CNN and Time magazine named him one of the nation’s 20 foremost physicians and scientists. The movie “Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story,” starring Cuba Gooding Jr. as Carson, premiered on TNT in 2009 and is based on Carson’s memoir:

“Ben Carson participates in the highest sphere of health care in this country,” Union University President David S. Dockery said. “He is a person of great influence, as seen by his role in the 2013 National Prayer Breakfast. His powerful story is inspirational, edifying and challenging. We will be incredibly blessed to have him as our keynote speaker for the 2013 Scholarship Banquet.”

Dockery said attempts have been made for several years to bring Carson to Union, but conflicting schedules always prevented such an appearance.

Carson is president and co-founder of the Carson Scholars Fund, which recognizes young people of all backgrounds for exceptional academic and humanitarian accomplishments. The fund has awarded more than $5 million dollars to more than 5,000 scholars.

He is also the author of five books, including Gifted Hands, Think Big and America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great. Carson and his wife Candy have been married for more than 37 years and have three sons.

Union Scholarship Banquets have generated about $5.5 million for student scholarships since the event began in 1997. For information about table sponsorships and individual seating, please contact the Office of University Relations at (731) 661-5050 or make reservations online by following the link at uu.edu/events/scholarshipbanquet.
Most student athletes have some adjustments to make when they come to Union and compete at the collegiate level. But Astrid Huttemann had more obstacles in front of her than most. She came to Jackson from Asunción, Paraguay. At first, her conversational English skills were a work in progress.

“It was a horrible feeling, not being able to express what you wanted to say,” Huttemann remembers. “I really had a hard time.”

Huttemann, now completing her sophomore year, says her life has changed dramatically since those early freshman days. Interacting with friends and teammates led to rapid improvement in her spoken English.

She also made a personal profession of her faith in Jesus Christ for the first time. She says that profession was more of a breakthrough than the improvements in her English skills.

“It made a huge difference. I have perspective now,” Huttemann says. “I want to do missions. I want to make an impact in my hometown.”

World Bank statistics show more than a third of Paraguay’s population lives below the poverty line, among the highest such percentages in South America.

“In Paraguay, there are a lot of poor people,” says Huttemann, a social work major. “So I just want to go and do whatever God lets me or give me the opportunity to do.”

Basketball brought her to Union, but the life she is living here will have an impact far beyond the court and for many years to come.

“Our athletics program gives us a platform to tell the story of changed lives,” says Jerry Tidwell, senior vice president for university relations and athletics. “We want to make sure these students come to Union and they perform well as athletes, students and Christians.”

Tidwell says Union’s student athletes have a graduation rate slightly higher than the general student population. Student athletes are committed to academic programs such as pre-pharmacy, pre-medicine, engineering and nursing.

Union’s transition to NCAA Division II competition sheds a new focus on Huttemann’s story and others like it. In recent years, Division II schools have adopted a model described as “Life in the Balance,” which focuses on academics and community service as well as athletics.

Union has exemplified this type of approach to athletics for many years. Tidwell credits Union coaches with recruiting well-rounded students and then encouraging them to live that life in the balance.

“I can say after spending time with our coaches that they are not only fine people, they’re wonderful moms, dads, husbands, wives and believers in Christ,” Tidwell says. “We’re proud of the work our coaches are doing.”

Huttemann says her head coach Mark Campbell became a father-figure who pointed her to a deeper knowledge of Christ.

“From the beginning, when I started talking to Coach Campbell by phone or he emailed me, he always talked about God to me,” she says. “He invited me to his church. He is just a great example of being a godly man.”

As the visible trek toward full NCAA Division II membership continues, it’s also worth watching the less visible but deeply important progress made by individual Union athletes.

“These athletes come here not just to play the sport,” says Tidwell. “They see the sport as an avenue by which they can serve Christ.”

I have perspective now. I want to do missions. I want to make an impact in my hometown.

Union’s new website for athletics

Bulldogs fans have a new home on the web for following their favorite teams and players: UUATHLETICS.COM

In addition to the latest scores and results, the site features in-depth information about the Sports Hall of Fame, summer sports camps and a look at Union facilities and traditions. It is also the place to connect with live audio and video feeds for sporting events throughout the academic year.
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peakers at Union University’s “Salt and Light in the Public Square” conference in May examined the legacy of Charles Colson and how future Christians should engage with the cultural issues about which he regularly engaged.

According to President David S. Dockery, Colson was encouraged by Union University’s Christ-centered approach to education. Colson passed away April 1, 2012. “Chuck Colson was a great friend of this University—a wonderful banner-waver for what we were trying to do,” Dockery said. Union awarded Colson an honorary doctorate in 2001. “He was impressed with Union’s commitment to rigorous academics grounded, without apology, in the best of the Christian intellectual tradition.”

TIMOTHY GEORGE

Timothy George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, gave the homily at Colson’s funeral. His friendship with Colson began years earlier. In 2009, they, with Robert George, drafted the Manhattan Declaration. They attended by more than half a million Christians, supports life, affirms biblical marriage and seeks to protect freedom of religion.

In his conference address, George focused on the sanctity of life, an issue he said Colson saw as crucial. Though many religious people uphold the sanctity of life, George asked, “Does the church of Jesus Christ have anything to say about the realization of values that truly are the inbreath of men and women as free and rational creatures—creatures whose freedom and rationality reflect their having been made in the very image and likeness of the divine ruler of the universe.”

ROBERT GEORGE

A third Manhattan Declaration drafter, Robert George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University, followed Timothy George on Thursday night. He spoke about the third subject addressed in the Manhattan Declaration: liberty. To examine a person’s source of freedom, Robert George examined John Stuart Mill’s confidence in the progress of mankind and John Henry Newman’s freedom of conscience theory, siding more with the Christian, Newman.

“Newman is cognizant of both the need for restraints on freedom—less men to send into vice and self degradation,” George said. “Does the church of Jesus Christ have anything to say about this issue that no else can say?” George answered in the affirmative, noting the incarnation and Jesus’ entry to earth as a baby as two of Christianity’s distinctive promotions of the sanctity of life.

ROBERT A. J. GA GNON

Robert A. J. Gagnon, an author and associate professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, spoke about the subject of his book, The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics. Because American Christians live in a country in which they can have a say in the government, they have an obligation to do so. It’s not just a question of imposing particular Christian views on unbelievers, Gagnon said.

Natural theology and science support Scripture regarding sexual intercourse taking place only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. Gagnon said.

HUNTER BAKER

Hunter Baker, associate professor of political science and dean of instruction at Union University, spoke about the younger Colson. During his political career, loyalty to a political figure was Colson’s gospel, Baker said. “Colson had to exchange a highly pragmatic and worldly faith—the one that had taken him a long way—for a new faith, one with extensive claims upon the whole of life.” Baker said. “He realized Bushbash who wrote that ‘to stay in the old situation makes discipleship impossible.’”

C. BEN MITCHELL

C. Ben Mitchell, Union’s Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy, shared an interest in biotechnology ethics with Colson, even serving with him on a biotechnology council. Since World War II, people around the world have invoked the term “human dignity.” Mitchell said. The merging of the human with technology is the goal of many biotechnology scientists, Mitchell said. Examining individual biotechnology fields of study, such as robotics, eugenists and transhumanists.

“In the past, it was the human who spoke about caring for ‘the least of these.’” Mitchell said. “Today, we are offered the opportunity for the technologist to become the technologist.”

GREGORY A. THORN BURY

Gregory A. Thornbury, professor of philosophy, dean of the School of Theology and Missions and vice president for spiritual life at Union, addressed the history of evangelical philosophy about evangelical engagement in his session. Evangelicals have not agreed on how to engage culture; not everyone in the early 2000s appreciated Colson’s conversations about culture change. Thornbury said.

Though opinions continue to vary, the history of affecting culture began with the early church, he said. Christianity has moved from a rag-tag religion at its beginning to the leading religion of the modern world, by Christians rising to positions of influence in their society after living out their faith in challenging times, Thornbury said.

“...if we believe in the same supernatural power that animated the early Christians, friends, it is not overly optimistic to believe that it could happen again.” Thornbury said

HAL L. POE

Of all the conference speakers, Hal L. Poe, Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture at Union, was the first to know Colson. During his address, Poe recounted his time on the same committee as a then-amoral Colson in South Carolina to re-elect President Richard M. Nixon. Though Poe resigned from the committee before the Nixon scandal broke, he said he connected several times with Colson after Colson’s conversion. As a Christian, Colson examined how the gospel answered his culture’s challenges, and that should be the goal of every Christian, Poe said.

“The gospel is the message of what and who Christians believe, in every culture, place and time, Poe said.”
Homecoming 2013 features honored alumni and a winter wonderland

It’s unlikely a poll of alumni would reveal ice skating as a treasured Union memory. But that could change. For perhaps the first time ever on Union’s campus, an outdoor ice skating rink became a favorite of alumni, friends and families celebrating Homecoming 2013.

In addition to the temporary rink, the Union winter wonderland included a jumbo-sized snow globe as a backdrop for family pictures and plenty of hot chocolate. The rink became a favorite of alumni, friends and families celebrating Homecoming 2013.

Union also hosted more traditional Homecoming events such as basketball games, a chapel service and class reunions. Forty-two alumni from the Union University class of 1963 returned to campus to celebrate their 50-year reunion. It was the first February homecoming at Union since 2006. The switch from a November schedule was made necessary by Union’s transition to membership in the NCAA at the Division II level.

Young alums seize opportunities for sacrificial giving

David Haney (’71) works on the security staff at Union University Germantown. When he looks back at his senior year on the Jackson campus, he remembers coming close to dropping out of school.

The problem was financial in nature. Money was tight.

Haney sought help from the Office of Student Financial Planning. Assistance came in the form of a scholarship earmarked for students from Memphis. He was relieved and grateful.

“It made the difference,” Haney says today. “I could stay at Union and finish out my last year. I felt really blessed.”

One might expect a person in that situation to express gratitude. But for Haney, the words represented much more than good manners.

“I was looking for an opportunity to give back, and I didn’t know when it would come up,” he says. He says the moment came with the launch of Union’s renewing minds library capital campaign on the Jackson campus. He decided to make a monthly pledge that would require significant changes in his personal spending habits.

“The Lord asks us to give sacrificially,” Haney says. “Think about what Union has done for you. Union has blessed a lot of people’s lives, and I feel blessed to give that back to Union.”

Haney is among scores of students and young alums who have supported the campaign. Many express a future-directed attitude that seeks even better opportunities for the Union students of tomorrow. “That’s what my gift is for,” Haney says. “If the benefits come long after I’m gone, that’s OK with me.”

40’s [FOURTIES]

Dr. James F. Eaves (’49) and Jeanne Hillman Eaves (’49) celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary March 17, 2013. Their home address remains 1177 Rockmower Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76134. mfeaves@ymail.com

Jim Frazier (’66) recently retired after 44 years as a teacher, coach and administrator in four different West Tennessee school systems and eight different schools. While coaching football in Jackson City Schools, he discovered the first junior high tennis team in Jackson while at Parkway. In the Madison County System at Jackson North-Side Junior High from 1982-1988, his football teams won 32 straight games. He coached the first female state champion in any sport, girls track, while at Haywood High School. Jim has been married to Judy Smith Frazier (attended ’64-’65) for 46 years and they are the parents of Butch (’66) and Beth and grandparents to Coleman, Miley-Hank and Jordan. Jf7844@bellsouth.net

50’s [FIFTIES]

Ralph U. Thomas (’64) retired as president of the South Carolina Power Team on May 1, 2011, and was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina’s highest civilian honor by Governor Nikki R. Haley. The award recognizes persons for extraordinary lifetime achievement and service to the state and nation.” Thomas served as president of the South Carolina Power Team since its inception in 1988. He will close his 48-year career as one of the Southeast’s most respected economic developers. He and his wife, Marie Thomas (’65) have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Gary Aslin (’67) retired from the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services, went on to manage an alcohol and drug rehab center, then became executive director of a facility for displaced children. Gary has also been a bi-vocational minister for 45 years. Currently he is pastor of Northchase Baptist Church in Collierville, Tenn. His wife Linda (’66) is a former employee of Union University (1962-66 and 1988) and is a retired business and music teacher, legal secretary and real estate agent. Gary and Linda have four children: David Aslin, who is married to Cathy, a student in Union’s master of nursing program; Lee Aslin, Suzanne Aslin (’97) and Amy Aslin Beatty (attended ’97), who is married to Greg Beatty (’94) hannasloin@hotmail.com

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60’s [SIXTIES]

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Dr. Cecilie Sampson Diez (’64) retired from the school district of Oscilla County, Fla., after a career in education that began after she graduated from Union. She worked in the classroom, as a district resource teacher, as a school-based administrator (after earning a masters and a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership), and finally as a senior manager for school leadership training and development.

Service Awards Josh Trent (’02) received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. Hannah Strickland, a senior from Jackson, was selected as the 2013 Homecoming queen and was crowned at halftime of the Lady Bulldogs’ basketball game. Strickland, an elementary education major, is the daughter of Wendell and Medora Strickland. In addition to the Homecoming court, seniors Daniel Kelley and Kylie McDonald were named Mr. and Miss Union.
Carroll Griffin (’71) and Larry Teague have been friends for 33 years. Their families have vacationed together regularly. Their wives and children are close. So when Teague discovered he needed a kidney transplant, Griffin volunteered. “Are friends for right? Except for Griffin, the friendship wasn’t the determining factor.” Yet the friendship was strong enough to make this possible.” Griffin said. “I’m not that nice.” This is about being obedient to God.”

Griffin is a longtime Union employee who now serves as director of marketing and enrollment for Union’s continuing studies department. Teague is the father of four Union University graduates—Aimee, Carrie, Jonathan and Benjamin—and lives in Franklin, Tenn., where he and his wife Chris are members of Brentwood Baptist Church.

Teague’s physical problems have been persistent for a while. He has type 1 diabetes and has had high blood pressure for years. His kidney doctor told him he was losing the function of his kidneys, but they tried correcting that with diet and medication. But then Teague had a stroke last year, followed by a heart attack a few months later; worsening the condition of his kidneys and increasing the urgency for a transplant. One day, Griffin overheard his wife Kay talking to Teague’s wife Chris about his need for a transplant. The next morning during his quiet time, Griffin read a passage about friendship. “I want to be obedient, Lord,” Griffin prayed “I want to do whatever you want me to do.” Griffin became increasingly aware that what God wanted was for him to offer his kidney to his friend.

“It’s just Carroll’s nature to do for others,” Kay said. “He felt like God called him to do it, and he did it.” At first, Griffin was doubtful that he would be a match. But after all the tests were administered, his status as a match was confirmed.

The surgery took place in March and went smoothly. Griffin is back at work, and Teague is recovering as well. Though Teague will have to take immunosuppressant drugs for the rest of his life, he says the new kidney has improved his condition dramatically—both physically and emotionally.

“Carroll’s a great person, and he’s a very dedicated Christian,” Teague said. “He’s very obedient, and I’m just the beneficiary of that.”

The UNIONITE welcomes news from alumni. Please include contact information with your submission. There are three ways to send information:

- Standard mail: 101 Union University Drive, Jackson, TN 38305
- Email: unionite@uu.edu
- Online: uu.edu/unionite

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**OLD SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWS**

Bo O’Brien (’69) was honored by Mayor Tim Walker and the city of Elizabethtown, Ky., when they named center court at the new $1.3 million Freeman Lake Tennis Complex (0 counts) the Bo O’Brien Court for his many contributions to the tennis community. Bo is chairman of the Elizabethtown Tennis Commission. www.etwnetnics.uscto

**70’s | SEVENTIES |**

Suzanne Breckenbrough Par (’79) has written a book about the Baby Boomers years entitled, ‘Joy and Sorrows of a Baby Boomer by S.A. Paradis. Suzanne describes it as “personal, informative and hilarious.” It presents the reader with a glimpse of cruising the hangouts, watching drive-in movies, viewing a few miniseries, movies, television shows and musical nights as if you were living through the ‘70s on the corner of Highland Drive and Detroit. It’s a must-read for anyone born in the ’70s.

Vic and Sharon Johnson (’75) have returned to the States for a final state-side assignment and retirement after serving 29 years as International Mission Board missionaries in Brazil. They are residing in Tyler, Texas, where they planned to retire in 2014. vicjohnson@yahoo.com

Mile Nolen (’70) and Jackie Foren Nolen (’74) live in Paducah, Ky., where Mike is pastor at Bellview Baptist Church. They have four married children, three of whom are Union graduates: Stacy Nolen Wolfe (’78), Wendy Nolen Hill (’78) and Amy Nolen Little (’79). Mike has been in ministry for 36 years as a staff member and pastor in Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and Michigan, while Jackie has held teaching positions in several school districts. She currently serves as a substitute teacher for McCracken County Schools in Paducah. Mike and Jackie also have six grandchildren.

Wanda Toombs Patrick (’77) has just completed 27 years with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center where she is admissions counselor for the College of Pharmacy. Her daughter Amanda graduated in December 2011 from the University of Memphis with B.A. in English and political science. She will be moving to Dallas, Texas, to accept a position as producer for a nationally syndicated talk radio host. Her daughter Ashley graduated May 2013 with a B.A. in Social Work from the University of Memphis. After graduation, she plans to work in alcohol and drug counseling at an area rehabilitation facility.

**80’s | EIGHTIES |**

Garland Young (’80) has been appointed as vice president for academic affairs and dean at Milligan College in Elizabethton, Tenn. garry@millgton.edu

Greg Bowers (’85) is pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church in Greenville N.C., after having previously served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Blytheville, Ark., for nine years. He and his wife, Donna, a school psychologist for the Pitt County School System, have two children, Jordan, a senior at the University of Mississippi, and Katie, a sophomore at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. bowensg@BMC.org

Randy Bishop (’86) recently published his fourth book related to the American Civil War. In April 2012, he also received the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association’s Ragland Award presented annually to the Tennessee who has been determined to have made a significant contribution to the preservation of the battlefields in the state. Randy and his wife Sharon are both teachers for the Hardeman County school system and have two sons, Jay and Ben. They live in Middleton, Tenn. randybishop@bellsouth.net

Lovaria Williams (’87) received a doctorate in nursing from Georgia Health Sciences University in Augusta, Ga. Her dissertation was titled, “An Analysis of Diabetes Predictors and Diagnostic Tests in a Sample of African Americans at Risk for Diabetes.” She is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing at Georgia Health Sciences University.

John Kea (’88) is the new vice president and general counsel of the University of Maryville. llkea@goo.m.com

Joe (’87) and Jan (’89) Dyer have been persistent in their mission to help those in need. Joe is a position to do it, and he did it.”

Joyce Duncan (’89) is the new administrative assistant at First Baptist Church in Maryville. ljeonggus@yahoo.com

Jane Geggus (’90) accepted the position of student ministry associate at First Baptist Church of Maryville, Ill. jngreggus@yahoo.com

Leveria Williams (’92) accepted the position of student ministry associate at First Baptist Church of Maryville, Ill. jngreggus@yahoo.com

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Cultural Celebrations at Freshman Move-in Day at the University of Memphis. Two thousand first-year students moved into their dorms on Aug. 21.

Kevin S. Trowbridge ’96 earned his Ph.D. in communication from Regent University after defending his dissertation, entitled “Building and Maintaining Relationships in the Digital Age: Measuring the Effects of Social Media on Organization-Public Relationships.” He is an assistant professor of public relations at Belmont University in Nashville. He and his wife, Robyn Clifford Trowbridge ’98 & ’00, reside in Smyrna, Tenn. robyntrowbridge@gmail.com

Angélica Bibiana Weint (López) ’96 was honored as 2013 Foreign Language Teacher of the Year at the Foreign Language Fair held at the University of Memphis. She would like to thank her mother, Guadalupe Lopez Guernos, who has been a teacher for over 30 years, and Dr. Cynthia Jayne, her Spanish professor at Union, for being her greatest sources of inspiration in this profession.

Jennifer Land Graham B.S. ’96, M.Ed. ’00, graduated from Union on a third day on July 28, 2012, this time with her Ed.S. degree. Jennifer is the fifth grade math teacher at Flatrock Ground Academy in Franklin, Tenn., and she also serves as the community service coordinator for BGA’s middle school. Jennifer lives in Franklin with her husband, Andy Graham, and their 9-year-old stepson, Ray. jennifer.gramham@myfpga.org

Garrison B. Smith ’00 earned his medical degree at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. He also earned a certificate in Health Systems and Leadership while at UTHSC. His internship and residency were completed at the UTHSC Surgery program in Memphis, where he served as a chief surgery resident. His training included the full scope of general surgery, with special interests in minimally invasive and endocrine surgery. He also had extensive trauma training at the Presley Memorial Trauma Center. During medical school, he received the award for Outstanding Performance as a Student in the Art and Science of Surgery as well as the Distinguished UTHSC Student Service Award. As a surgical resident, the UT College of Medicine - Class of 2013 selected him for the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award and Outstanding Resident Role Model. Garrison and his wife, Tonya Dotson Smith ’02, have two daughters, Brianna and Lily. Tonya completed a Master of Physical Therapy Degree at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Tenn. She currently works for Rehab America. jmsmith2002@gmail.com

Melody Maxwell ’00 recently began serving as director of the Great Commission Center and adjunct professor at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. Melody holds a Ph.D. from the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic.

Caleb Trent ’00 is serving on the board of “Ad For Haiti,” a 501c3 that he started with two other physicians in 2008 in response to the medical and spiritual needs of Haitians in remote mountainous places. Ad For Haiti’s mission of sharing the love of Christ with the people of Haiti through compassionate health care, spiritual ministry and training for service is based on Matthew 9:35. He came back in January from an AHI-sponsored pastor’s conference attended by 75 pastors and men of local Haitian churches. caletrent@gmail.com

Allison Shein Holley ’05 completed her family medicine residency at Halifax Family Medicine Residency Program in Daytona Beach, Fla., in June 2012. She and her husband David recently bought a home in Lighthouse Point, Fla., and are excited to start this new chapter in their lives. Allison will be practicing at Cleveland Clinics Florida’s Family Health Center as a family physician in Weston, Fla., and David will be teaching computer programming at Pompano Beach High School. allisontreter@gmail.com

Brian A. Taylor ’05 has accepted a faculty position at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston after two years as a St. Jude postdoctoral study. Brian was recruited to Baylor GaH to serve as a MRI physiologist, researcher at the Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence at the Houston Michael E. DeBakey VA hospital, working with troops coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan with head injuries. This multidisciplinary center involves psychologists, radiologists and neurologists. Brian will be responsible for much of the brain imaging research at the center and will also serve as a clinical medical physicist at the hospital. brian.taylor@bjudx.org

Stephanie Terrell ’05 graduated with her Doctorate in Psychology in Clinical Psychology from Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in October 2011 and completed her year of residency-postdoctoral study in October 2012. sc3662@yahoo.com

Scott Talley ’07 began his doctoral at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in fall 2012. He was also recently hired as the associate pastor of students at Enon Baptist Church outside of Richmond, Va. scotttalley@mc.com

Jason Wells ’08 recently received the Project Management Professional designation from the Project Management Institute. jason.wells.business@gmail.com

10's | TWENTY TENSE | Amber Lovelady ’13 of Franklin, Tenn., received an award from Mississippi College School of Law during its annual Law Day ceremony. Lovelady was the recipient of the Marie Upton Scholarship Award, given to a student who shows a sense of service in the community and to others. Lovelady is the daughter of Katharine and Randy Lovelady.

S23662@yahoo.com

Do you know a Future UNIONITE?

As alumni and friends of Union University, you know better than anyone the type of students who belong at Union. We are looking for the next generation who will thrive in an atmosphere of Christ-centered academic excellence and close-knit community experience.

You play an essential role in helping us meet these prospective Bulldogs. We invite you to take a few moments to send us contact information for a high school student you know would be a great fit for Union. We will take the next step.

Call 800.33.UNION or visit uu.edu/DawgCatchers

Sending us your news!

Standard mail
Email
Online
Marriages

**April Frank** ('99) married Larry Strawn in Casaville, Ill., on Nov. 26, 2011. Larry and April now reside in Shiloh, Ill. aprfrank@gmail.com

**Jill Nanney Patrick** ('02) and Mike Patrick were married on Oct. 27, 2012, at Whitestone Country Inn in Alpharetta, Ga., where Jill works for Mike Patrick were married on Oct. 27, 2012, at Germantown Baptist Church as the administrative assistant to the student and recreation ministries, while Colin studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. They attend Ninth and D

_Baptist Church in Louisville._

**Sarah Hubbard Wood** ('94) married Colin Wood on May 12, 2012, in Louisville, Ky. She continues to serve at Grassland Baptist Church. Colin works as a senior account executive for Good Advertising in Memphis, and Ty is the development leader for the Southeast for Domino’s Pizza. The couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Hawaii and reside in Goliadville, Tenn. tatumjones@gmail.com

**Tiffany Tosh Cantrell** ('99) married Rob Cantrell III in the Bahamas on June 6, 2012. They reside in Jackson, Tenn., where Tiffany is employed as a nurse with West Tennessee Surgery Center. Tiffany and Rob opened a new practice in their hometown, while Rob serves as a captain in the 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Ky. cantrell999@yahoo.com

**Kristi McMurphy Woody** ('00) and Rhett Woody ('01) were married on Oct. 6, 2012, at Absher Farms. They reside in Jackson, Tenn., where Rhett is an engineer at Anvil International and Kristi is web design specialist at Union.

**Amy Britt Hollowell** ('98) and Susan Hollowell welcomed Caroline Anna Hollowell into their family on Oct. 6, 2011. She weighed 7 lbs., 7 oz. and was 18½ inches long. Caroline is a very proud big sister to Callie Lynn and Owen Hollowell. aihollowell99@yahoo.com

**Jannia Abernathy** ('99) and Michael Abernathy were married on Feb. 12, 2012. They reside in Clarksville, Tenn., and her husband serves as a captain in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. Wayne is their first child. jabo@kixx.com

**Angélica Sorrow** ('97) and her husband, Andrew, welcomed Annabeth Ranges Sorrow on Dec. 22, 2010. Her 5-year-old twin sisters, Seth and Ethan, adore her. cissowood@gmail.com

**Emma Faye** ('97) and Chad Martin were married in October 2009, and they currently live in the Nashville area. Their first child, a son named Henderson Lee Martin, was born on June 19, 2012, and weighed 5 lbs., 6 oz. and was 19⅞ long. cimartens1301@gmail.com

**Amy Ranges** ('97) and her husband, Susan, welcomed their daughter, Susan "Zuzu" Olivia Emerson on Sept. 16, 2012, weighing 7 lbs., 15 oz. and measuring 20 in. long.

**Calli Hanks Smith** ('09) and Andrew Smith ('09) married in June 2009 and welcomed their first child, Caleb Andrew Smith, on Jan. 25, 2012.

**Jon Abernathy** ('09) and **Olivia Abernathy** ('11) welcomed their daughter, Avery Elizabeth Abernathy, home on February 12, 2013. She weighed 6 lbs., 4 oz. and was 19 in. long. Jon serves as the director of disability services at Union University and Olivia is an academic support counselor at Union. jabo@kixx.com

**Blake McKinney** ('01) and **Jennifer Walton McKinney** ('07) welcomed their daughter, Lily Anastasia McKinney, home on April 23, 2012. She weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20 in. long. Blake McKinney graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in theology in December 2011. Blake, Jennifer and Lily currently reside in Louisville, Ky. mckinney110@gmail.com
Memoriam

Howard Lee Vestal (‘42) passed away on Feb. 19, 2013, in Katy, Texas. He was 89 years old. Mr. Vestal earned a football scholarship to Union in the 1940s, and met his wife of 70 years, Claire “Tootsie” Cooper, while they were students at the University. He served as a combat pilot during World War II, flying missions over North Africa and Europe. Mr. Vestal later served as vice president for business affairs at Texas A&M. He served that university for 19 years. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, a son, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions are directed to the Howard and Claire Vestal Scholarship at Union University.

Bennie Elizabeth Cole Crabtree

Bennie Elizabeth Cole Crabtree passed away on March 28, 2013 in Jackson after a brief illness. She was 86 years old. While attending Union in 1944–46, she met Thomas T. Crabtree. The two were married for 61 years prior to Mr. Crabtree’s death in 2007. The couple endowed the Crabtree Lecture Series. This year’s event took place just a few days after her death. “Dr. Crabtree was a giant in Southern Baptist life and Mrs. Crabtree was an amazing lady,” Union President David S. Dockery said to the lecture audience, noting Mrs. Crabtree had attended many of the annual events since they began in 2000 and every lecture series since she moved to Jackson in 2009. “We give thanks for the gift that the Crabtrees have left us in this lecture series. “Two sons preceded Mrs. Crabtree in death. She is survived by a daughter, Anna Beth Morgan, who is director of Union’s Emma Waters Summar Library. Those wishing to make a gift in Mrs. Crabtree’s memory are encouraged to contribute future funding for the lecture series through Union’s Office of University Relations.

J. H. Luckey

J. H. Luckey passed away on April 8, 2013, in Humboldt, Tenn. He was 89 years old. Union President David S. Dockery described him as a “longtime, faithful friend” of the University. Mr. Luckey served on the Union University Board of Trustees and was an avid supporter of Union basketball. He also served 19 years as a Gibson County Commissioner and on the boards of two area banks. He was preceded in death by Dorothy Sanders Luckey, his wife of 59 years. He is survived by a sister, brother, five children, 21 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Walterine Wilson

Walterine Wilson passed away on May 22, 2013 in Jackson. She was 95 years old. Mrs. Wilson was a founding member of the Union Auxiliary, a longtime supporter of Union athletics and a participant in the University’s capital campaigns. She is survived by her husband, James “Pete” Wilson, who was a Union trustee. The Wilsons actively supported international students at Union. Mrs. Wilson is also survived by two sons and a daughter.

Eugene Brooks McLemore

Eugene Brooks McLemore passed away on Aug. 15, 2012. He was 92 years old. Judge McLemore was a World War II veteran, serving in the Pacific theater for two years. He received a law degree from Vanderbilt University and served in a variety of roles, including special justice of the state Supreme Court and special judge of the Court of Appeals. He also served three terms in the State Senate and was chancellor of the 14th Chancery Division of Tennessee. Judge McLemore was survived by Elizabeth Meeks McLemore, to whom he was married for 70 years. She passed away on Nov. 17, 2012. He taught a Sunday School class at West Jackson Baptist Church that is named in his honor. The family asked memorials to be directed to the church.

Thomas G. Smothers

Thomas G. Smothers passed away on Nov. 8, 2012, in Louisville, Ky. A highly respected Old Testament scholar, Dr. Smothers served on the faculties of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Alderson-Broaddus College, Palm Beach Atlantic University and Union University. Some of his best-known work focused on the book of Jeremiah, and he wrote for the Word Biblical Commentary Series. He is survived by his wife Bettye, a daughter, granddaughter and two great-granddaughters.

Memoriam

Memorial: Old School

[Image 35x564 to 100x643]

Memoriam

Memorial: Old School

[Image 37x287 to 163x442]

Memoriam

Memorial: Old School

[Image 638x216 to 717x285]

Memoriam

Memorial: Old School

[Image 640x461 to 766x616]

Memoriam

Memorial: Old School

[Image 659x387]
Bullpups

To receive a free Bullpup shirt for the newest member of your family (under age 2), email alumni@uu.edu or call 731-661-5139. Please send us a picture of your child wearing the new shirt for publication in a future issue.

1. Samuel Cole Douglas, son of Scott Douglas and Carrie Packett Douglas ('01), born on Nov. 23, 2010. carriebdouglas@gmail.com

2. Haley Grace Walters, born Dec. 1, 2011, weighing 5lb. 5 oz. Daughter of Casey Walters ('02) and Holly Douglas Walters ('04). Haley Grace has a grandfather and cousins who graduated from Union and an uncle currently attending Union.

3. Evan Andrew Kyzar, born Nov. 9, 2011, to Amanda Kyzar ('98) and Ross Kyzar ('98). amandakyzar@gmail.com

4. Savannah Diane Williams, born April 1, 2009, to Christy Risch Williams ('05) and Chaz Williams. Savannah’s grandfather is pastor Chuck Williams ('75) of Covington, Tenn. rischwill@yahoo.com

5. Brynne Westmoreland, the daughter of Laura Berkemeyer Westmoreland ('06) and Mark Westmoreland ('05), was born Aug. 11, 2011. lbwestmoreland@gmail.com

6. Lucas Andrew Benemerito, born March 2011, and Isabella Grace Benemerito, born April 2009, are the children of Mike Benemerito ('07) and Jade Jimenez Benemerito. mike_bene@yahoo.com

7. Jamison Brown Turnage, born Oct. 11, 2011, to Kylie Brown Turnage ('07) and Nick Turnage. kyliem06@yahoo.com

8. Matthew Wesley Edgin, born July 2010 in Jackson, Tenn. Matthew’s dad is Tabothy Edgin ('07). tedgin@qsource.org

9. Conner Winberry, son of Laura Shackelford Winberry ('06 BSW, '10 MSW) and Shawn Winberry, born Feb. 12, 2011. lswb0602@gmail.com

10. Milo Christian Cadenhead, born Oct. 15, 2011, weighing 9 lb. 2 oz. and measuring 21 in. long. son of Tyson Cadenhead ('08) and Heather Cadenhead ('08). heathercadenhead@gmail.com

11. Susan "Zuzu" Olivia Emerson, born Sept. 16, 2012, to Renee Roberson Emerson ('08) and Bryan Emerson ('08).

The Union softball team captured the 2013 National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Softball National Title for the fourth time.

photo by SID at Bluefield College