Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver
NAMED UNION’S 16TH PRESIDENT

A Half-Century of Nursing Excellence

Ministry to the Deaf
I am honored and humbled by the call to serve as the 16th president of Union University. On behalf of my wife Susie, let me express how excited we are to be serving alongside the outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of this great university.

As Christian educators, we work from the premise that all truth is God’s truth, and there is no reason to separate our faith from our academic pursuits. With that in mind, it is hard to imagine a place of service that could offer more rewarding opportunities than what is found at Union University, where we are preparing tomorrow’s leaders in more than 100 fields of study with rigorous academic training and an integrated focus on the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Union is known as a place where excellence-driven, Christ-centered, people-focused and future-directed values shape the ways we learn and live. From the excellent teaching that takes place in our classrooms and laboratories to the lifelong friendships that result from our life in community, there is much here for which we are grateful.

With unfailing hope,

Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver, Ph.D.

Psalm 90:17
Anderson addresses marriage equality

The heart of the marriage equality debate lies in the definition of ‘marriage,’ said Ryan T. Anderson, during the ‘True Marriage, Man and Woman’ lecture at Union in February.

“In redefining marriage, the state will teach a lot about what marriage is,” Anderson said. “We each have to bear witness to the truth in whatever way our vocation requires of us. Live out the truth of marriage in our own life; proclaim and advocate for it and teach it in whatever setting your life takes you.”

Thornburys depart for The King’s College

Greg and Kimberly Thornbury returned to Union University’s campus early in the fall semester for a final farewell to the Union community as the couple launched a new chapter in their lives in New York City.

Greg, the former dean of the School of Theology and Missions, became president of The King’s College in New York City July 9. Kimberly transitioned from being Union’s senior vice president for student services and dean of students to The King’s College’s first lady and special assistant to the president for strategic planning.

The Thornburys served at Union for 15 years.

Union arboretum enhances learning opportunities

Union has launched an arboretum project as a service to the community and as a way to continue beautifying the campus.

Mark Bolyard, professor of biology, described an arboretum as “kind of a fancy name for a collection of plants.”

Bolyard said the labels on the Union trees have been intentionally developed to showcase Scripture verses and significant quotes from great thinkers and writers in the Christian intellectual tradition.

"Not only is this a good way to identify the trees that we have, but also a platform for adding more,” Bolyard said. "This is our attempt to continue making the campus more attractive.

The arboretum will provide Union students with a collection of trees to identify and it will also be a local draw for students in the community who have leaf projects of their own.

The Union arboretum becomes the fifth certified arboretum in the area. Union is also in the process of developing a ‘virtual meta-arboretum,’ which will catalog all the local arboretum’s trees into one searchable online database.

There are two ways to support the arboretum: adopt a campus tree, and make a pledge to the ‘Friends of the Union University Arboretum’ program. More information is available from the Office of University Relations at (731) 686-5050.

For more information about the arboretum, visit uu.edu/arboretum

Union filed suit to block abortion-like mandate

Union University has joined other faith-based institutions in filing a federal lawsuit that challenges an order to provide abortion-causing drugs as part of employee health care plans.

The suit was filed in early April in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. The University seeks a judgment that the abortifacient mandate of the new Affordable Care Act violates Union’s rights under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the First and Fifth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and the Administrative Procedures Act.

A grandfather clause had allowed Union to offer its plan without providing abortifacients. That clause was rescinded because of unrelated changes in the cost and the terms of the plan.

"Causing the death of the embryo conflicts with Union University’s beliefs based on Scripture,” the Union lawsuit states. "Therefore, Union University has religious-based objection to drugs and devices that could be used and to education and counseling related to the use of these abortion-causing drugs and devices.

The lawsuit also says the ‘mandate forces Union University to choose between its sincerely held religious beliefs and the government-imposed adverse consequences’ of non-compliance.

Union University provides employee health insurance through the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, a consortium of 24 public and private institutions.

Poe, Aldridge honored at Awards Day

Union University presented more than 70 awards to students, faculty and staff May 9 at the annual Awards Day chapel service, chronologically the first event associated with spring graduation.

The Carla D. Sanderson Faculty of the Year Award went to Hal Poe, the Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture. Steven Aldridge, Union’s sports information director, was awarded the Gary L. Carter Staff of the Year Award.

The Fred Delaie Memorial Award, for a senior who is an outstanding athlete, a person of high academic standing, unquestionable loyalty and good character, was presented to Dionna Lynn.

The John C. Moore Award for excellence in academics and athletics was presented to Alison Martin and Derek Root.

There were 46 recognitions connected to the outstanding student in each major area of study. For a complete list of the winners, visit uu.edu/news/releases/10-2275

Lady Bulldogs win NCAA national championship

The Lady Bulldogs added another national championship trophy to their collection this spring, beating Lee (Tenn.) University 73-64 to take the National Christian College Athletic Association national title in Winona Lake, Ind.

Head Coach Mark Campbell was named NCCAA National Coach of the Year. Campbell had his Lady Bulldogs to at least a third-place finish in national tournaments 11 times—including each of the last 10 seasons. The Lady Bulldogs won NCCAA national championships in 1998, 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2010.

During that time, candidates for active membership are not permitted to participate in NCAA postseason play.

“Union looks to possible active NCAA membership

Union University could become an active member of the NCAI at the Division II level in July, when it will mark three years since beginning its membership candidacy.

NCAA rules dictate a provisional period during which schools must demonstrate compliance with the organization’s regulations and compete during the regular season with other Division II programs.

During that time, candidates for active membership are not permitted to participate in NCAA postseason play.

“Our coaches have worked diligently to make this a positive transition,” said Jerry Tidwell, senior vice president for university relations and athletics. “They have embraced all the added requirements with the idea that the transition increases our potential influence for Christ.”

Union was one of nine schools in 2013 to move from candidacy year two into provisional status. Pending NCAA approval, Union could obtain active status in time for the 2014-15 academic year.

Gresham Union"
Hendersonville campus marks graduation milestone

Union University Hendersonville celebrated the graduation of its first two Doctor of Education students at the fall commencement ceremony in December.

Carla Cushman and Jan Baldwin, who both started the program in February 2010, were outstanding students and leaders in their field, said Charles Lea, executive director of Union University Hendersonville.

“The professors had high expectations for us as learners and I know that I have walked away with a sound education that will continue to support me in what I do,” Cushman said. “Union professors are truly dedicated to the students who attend this university.”

Baldwin said she also plans to remain in her current leadership position at a private Christian academy in Nashville.

Fully online M.Ed. program underway

The School of Education now offers a Master of Education degree fully online.

The degree program will also continue in a traditional classroom format.

Coursework in the online program is designed for the classroom teacher and focuses on enhancing a teacher’s professional knowledge, practical abilities, and skills as classroom leader, according to Eric Maron, director of online instructional innovations for the School of Education and director of the Thomas R. Roseborough Center for Educational Practice.

“The online M.Ed. is truly a 21st century degree, as it is intentional in situating iPads as learning tools, not as the focus of study,” Maron said.

The degree program includes an iPad with enrollment, meaning that all students will be able to use mobile technology in their coursework. One of the key methods for iPad use in the program calls for students to use the mobile technology to capture video of themselves using specific practices in their classroom.

Spring commencement includes 630 graduates

Wet conditions and cool temperatures forced Union’s 149th annual spring commencement indoors to Jackson’s Oman Arena, where David S. Dockery conferred his final degrees as president.

He has presided at 50 graduation events during the spring, summer and fall of his 18-year tenure. At some point during the May ceremony, Dockery handed out his 15,000th degree, a figure that represents about 70 percent of all living Union alumni.

“We are grateful for the difference that each one will make for the cause of Christ and his kingdom in the days to come,” Dockery said.

Greg Thornbury, president of The King’s College in New York City, delivered the commencement address, encouraging the graduates to stand in solidarity with their fellow believers in Christ—a theme he emphasized during his years as Union’s dean of the School of Theology and Missions.

“Before the wedding of the Lamb,” Thornbury said, “God’s kingdom will be established in all the world, and the Son of Man will sit on his throne, as Elijah prophesied. And I’m saying this not because of bubblegum and romance, but because of ‘the Son of Man’ and his kingdom. With this in mind, I want to be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ and his kingdom in the days to come.”

Following the NCCA title, a campus wide celebration was staged in DeLay Gymnasium.

Union strengthens church connections

Union University is refocusing its ministry to the campus and ministry on behalf of the campus.

“In a day where we see more and more institutions disconnecting from churches, Union wants to do the very opposite,” Brady said. “Union wants to strengthen its connections with the churches.”

Brady said that ministry to the churches includes providing students and faculty members to preach in churches. In addition, Union offers experts to speak at conferences or special events that churches host on a variety of topics, including religious liberty, faith and science, pastoral ministry, marriage and family, church leadership, evangelism, Christian apologetics, biblical interpretation and many others.

The Office of University Ministry also has resumed publication of The Union Pulpit, a printed booklet that presents sermons preached in Union’s chapel services and other related events.

Brady said the change communicates not only Union’s commitment to churches now, but it emphasizes to students the importance of them being committed and faithful church members while they attend Union and after they leave.

Richard Royal, pastor of First Baptist Church in Wayeville, Tenn., cited the E.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies as a valuable resource to help area pastors and churches.

He also expressed appreciation for Union’s efforts in providing opportunities for fellowship through the West Tennessee Ministers Conference, which he serves as vice president this year.

“This is not an iPad degree,” Maron said. “It is a degree to help teachers become more effective at teaching and learning.

The students can then share the video with their profession and classmates to obtain constructive feedback, based on what was taught in the course.

More information about how to apply is available at uu.edu/med.

GO Trips include mission to Nicaragua

Union students, faculty and staff travel around the world as part of the annual Global Opportunities trips. At spring break alone, they traveled to nine international locations, including a medical mission trip to Nicaragua.

Senior nursing major Hannah W

We are grateful for the difference that each one will make for the cause of Christ and his kingdom in the days to come.
Union University's McAfee School of Business Administration has earned accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. AACSB International, founded in 1916, is an association of more than 1,350 educational institutions, businesses and other organizations in 83 countries and territories. It is the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's and doctorate degrees in business and accounting.

"Achieving the AACSB accreditation places us in the top 5 percent of business schools in the world," said Keith Absher, dean of the McAfee School of Business Administration. "It is definitely the 'gold standard' of business school accreditations."

Absher said the AACSB accreditation is evidence that Union has achieved excellence in multiple areas, including learning outcomes for students and students' ability to compete against any business graduate in the country.

Achieving accreditation is a process of rigorous internal review, evaluation and adjustment that takes several years to complete. During these years, the school develops and implements a plan to meet the AACSB accreditation standards, which require a high quality teaching environment, a commitment to continuous improvement and curricula responsive to the needs of businesses.

Also required by the AACSB standards, all accredited schools must go through a peer review process every five years in order to maintain their accreditation. "It takes a great deal of self-evaluation and determination to earn AACSB accreditation, and I commend Union University for its dedication to management education, as well as its leadership in the community," said Robert D. Reid, executive vice president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB International. "Through accreditation, Union has not only met specific standards of excellence, but has also made a commitment to ongoing improvement to ensure that the institution will continue to deliver high quality education to its students."

McKight saw the work at Las Conchitas in a MedFest medical clinic as much more than an opportunity to practice her nursing skills. It produced opportunities to share the gospel message with hundreds of Nicaraguans.

"Free medical care draws in huge crowds of people, providing an exciting chance to share why we are really there, which is to share the love of God with the Nicaraguan people," McKnight said.

MedFest began in 1996 when a group of dentists, pharmacists and physicians joined with Way of the Cross Ministries in Texas to provide free health evaluations and treatments in Mexico, said David McKnight, Hannah's father.

A doctor in Murfreesboro, Tenn., David McKnight had participated in a mission trip with Way of the Cross earlier that year to distribute food and spread the gospel across the border. After learning about the need for medical care among the villages, he gathered a group of mission-minded doctors that summer to help launch MedFest. The team continued to return to Mexico each year, treating as many patients as they could see in seven days.

The medical team treats a variety of health problems each year, including hypertension, diabetes and skin infections, Hannah said. Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was age 11, Hannah acts as a consultant for the clinic’s diabetic patients as well.

"Going on trips like this gives me a great opportunity to apply what I have learned in school and practice my nursing skills in real-life settings," Hannah said. "Medical missions are very important to me, and it is absolutely something that I hope to continue after graduation."

For more information about all of Union's GO trips, visit uu.edu/events/go.
Town and Gown series focuses on racial reconciliation

Union’s Town and Gown series celebrated Black History Month with a series of lectures focusing on Great Commandment thinking and action.

The series, entitled “Christian Perspectives on Education, Race and Justice,” presented speakers such as Roland Porter, a retired faculty member and pastor of Jackson’s Agape Christian Fellowship Church, and Sephira Shuttlesworth, a Union alumnus and wife of the late civil rights leader Fred Shuttlesworth.

Jacqueline S. Taylor, assistant dean of students and director of the Vocatio Center for Life Calling and Career, acted as the course convener and discussion leader.

“I wanted to ensure that the open dialogue continued as a part of our efforts over the past several years to address issues of racial reconciliation through (a) Christian worldviews,” Taylor said.

Taylor structured the discussions within legal, social, theological and ethical contexts. Frank Anderson, associate professor of ministry and missions at the Oxford Center campus, led a summary discussion of the previous presentations on the final night.

The Town and Gown series is an ongoing opportunity for community members interested in various topics to attend lectures and participate in discussions in a classroom setting. The sessions are free and open to the public.

Scholarship Symposium highlights undergraduate research

More than 260 students and more than 50 faculty members presented research findings as part of Union University’s 7th annual Scholarship Symposium on April 29.

“The Scholarship Symposium has become an important part of life at Union University for our students,” said Hunter Baker, Union’s dean of instruction who oversees the program. “Students benefit tremendously by carrying out research projects. Whether they become professional researchers or not, knowledge of investigative methods will serve them well for the rest of their lives.”

Students each year prepare a wide variety of presentations for a critical audience based on original research. A few examples from 2014: Engineering students Alex Charles, Zac Baker and Kenneth Mayo built and tested a drone to be used for aerial photography. The design had to incorporate the weight of a camera and yet provide for enough range to capture usable photographs. Their goal was to make aerial photography at Union more efficient and more affordable. Their faculty adviser was Professor of Engineering Don Van and Associate Professor of Engineering Kandall Schwendt.

Tyler Jones presented research designed to apply green chemistry principles to standard laboratory textbooks. The aim is to reduce hazardous waste disposal within the process of chemistry education. His faculty adviser was Professor of Chemistry Sally Henrie.

Colby Benefield traced Madison County’s Civil War history, from the initial capture of Jackson by Union forces in 1862 to the 1863 evacuation of the town.

Highest-ever rankings for Union based on quality, value

U.S. News & World Report and Kiplinger’s Personal Finance have ranked Union University among the top private, regional universities in the country.

The U.S. News ranking places Union at 13th among regional universities in the South, up one spot from the previous year and the fourth consecutive top 15 ranking. Kiplinger’s Personal Finance ranks Union 77th among the top 100 private universities in the nation and 10th among the top private universities in the Southeast and Mid-South.

The Kiplinger lists evaluate quality and value. Because size isn’t a primary consideration, Union is ranked on the same list with such schools such as Syracuse, Vanderbilt, Duke, Wake Forest and Emory.

U.S. News continues to identify Union as an “up and coming school” and an “A+ choice for B students.”

George examines Christian witness in Nazi Germany

Visiting lecturer this spring asked the Union community to consider the plight of Christians who lived in Nazi Germany, noting that Christians today face challenges in the battle for life and religious freedoms.

Timothy George, founding dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, referenced the Barmen Declaration, which was a theological declaration consisting of six articles stating the believers’ allegiance to God alone.

“Our situation is not the same as it was in 1930’s Germany, but there is continuity,” George said. “We have to be aware of what happened in Germany and ask ourselves what we would do if we lived back then.”

Timothy George is writing a book about the Barmen Declaration and the Christians in Nazi Germany. The declaration came after Hitler’s regime attempted to blend Nazi ideology with Christian theology in state-run churches.

“A lot of people who stood strong in 1933 wailed at the end of the day when the test really came,” George said. “What would you have done? What will we do today, tomorrow or five years from now when these questions are knocking at our front door?”

George was the speaker for the 16th annual Scholar-in-Residence Lecture Series, sponsored by Union’s Honors Community.
The Union University Board of Trustees voted unanimously in favor of making Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver the 16th president of Union University.

The vote Feb. 10 followed consideration of about 130 presidential candidates and nearly a year of work from the board’s search committee, chaired by Norman Hill, who is also chairman of the full board.

“Dr. Oliver is a man of strong Christian conviction,” Hill said. “His skills as an administrator and educator build on Union’s already established reputation for academic excellence, and we are honored and thrilled by this appointment.”

Speaking for himself and his wife Susie, Oliver said, “We are deeply humbled by this call to serve at Union University. I am hopeful and enthusiastic about working with the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the university to extend, enhance and enlarge all that Union is—for the glory of God and for the good of humankind.”

Oliver, 48, is a native of San Antonio. He was elected president of East Texas Baptist University in 2009. He has also served his alma mater, Baylor University, in several roles, including director of student activities (1992–99), associate dean for campus life (1999–2001), dean for student development (2001–05) and vice president for student life (2005–09). While at Baylor, Oliver also served as a visiting professor in the Hankamer School of Business, an adjunct professor in the School of Education and interim university chaplain. He served in the U.S. Air Force in the late 1980s at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas.

Oliver earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Baylor and a Master of Science degree in educational psychology, as well as a Doctor of Philosophy in educational administration, from Texas A&M.

Oliver told trustees he was happy serving as president of ETBU and initially was inclined to pass up a possible move to Union. But as the search committee pursued him, he said he felt God’s calling to lead Union.

The list of factors that attracted him to the position included the presidency of David S. Dockery.

“David has been a great leader for Union and for Christian higher education,” Oliver said. “His encouraging spirit has meant a lot to me over the last few years.”

Oliver also cited his appreciation of Union’s mission and core values.

“The integration of faith, learning and living has had a transformative effect on my life, and as I seek to live out my calling as an educator I believe that Christian higher education is where we can most influence and shape young people so that the kingdom of God may be enlarged,” he said.

Oliver and his wife Susie Combs Oliver will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary later this year. Susie is a native of Hazard, Ky., and a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University. They have a daughter, Callie, who is a senior at Baylor.

“I have had the privilege of knowing Dub Oliver for several years, both in his role at Baylor and at East Texas Baptist University,” Dockery said. “During this time I have come to recognize Dr. Oliver’s genuine commitment to students and his approachable, kind and caring manner as a leader.”

Oliver assumed office on June 1 but spent periods of time on campus throughout the spring semester. He attended Homecoming activities, conducted individual meetings with campus leaders and participated in the annual spring Board of Trustees meeting in April.
IN DEFENSE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
ETBU draws the vast majority of its students from Texas and Louisiana; only about 4 percent come from other states. The athletics teams, known as the Tigers, compete in non-scholarship NCAA Division III and play mostly nearby competition. But this campus made national news in 2012 during the debate about religious liberty and the Affordable Care Act. Under Oliver’s leadership, ETBU joined Houston Baptist University in a lawsuit against the federal government in connection with a mandate to provide abortion services in employee health care plans. Oliver went to Capitol Hill to testify before Congress, as did C. Ben Mitchell, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy at Union.

Oliver fielded questions from national media about the decision to fight the mandate. In an interview with National Review, he was quoted as saying “We are united with Catholics and people of all faiths in the conviction that a religious group should not be forced to provide services to which they have deep moral objections.”

In December, a federal court in Houston ruled in favor of ETBU and HBU. The court issued an injunction against the abortifacent requirement, ruling that such a mandate violates federal civil rights laws. “The religious organization plaintiffs have shown a sincerely held religious belief that the court cannot second-guess,” the ruling stated.

ETBU Trustee David Rice remembers that there were concerns about the possible ramifications of suing the federal government. “I think it said a lot about his leadership in the university community.” Rice said “It has been the decisive, courageous nature of Dub’s leadership that has led the university community through this.”

Rice, who is also Oliver’s pastor, said the legal issues now largely have moved behind the scenes. “It’s been a difficult process,” Rice said. “I wish he could be here longer.”

“Dub has really raised the profile of East Texas Baptist University while he’s been here,” Brown said. “I think you’ll find a partner in Dub Oliver.”

DIFFICULT GOOD-BYES
Oliver began as president in 2009. Since then, ETBU has completed a 32,000-square-foot student center, completely remodeled the former student center for use as a commons and added four new graduate programs. Centennial Hall, a 362-bed, 124,000-square-foot living and learning center, is scheduled to open in time for fall semester 2014.

“I’m thrilled with the things that have happened here,” said Paula Nichols, an ETBU alumna who also attends Sunday School with the Olivers. “The institution has grown with buildings and programs, and it has been exciting to see.”

Nichols and many of the ETBU students are also quick to mention the impact of First Lady Susie Oliver.

“I always just walk in her office. We talk all the time,” said Skylor Womack, a senior sociology major from Houston. Womack notes that Susie Oliver manages the student center, and students know they are welcome to drop in and start conversations with her.

Womack says during one of those talks about his need for a certain color of tie, she offered to let him borrow one of the president’s ties—something he hadn’t expected.

“She’s an amazing woman,” Womack said.

Tyler Martin, a junior religion major from Crowley, Texas, remembers the reaction on Facebook the day Oliver notified the ETBU community of his decision to come to Union.

“I saw post after post after post saying that this school would never be the same,” Martin said. “There were many people saying it was a really sad day for them.”

Why would college students have such a strong reaction to the loss of an administrative leader? “As soon as you shake his hand and introduce yourself, he’ll say, ‘It’s a pleasure to know you.’” said Zach Jones, a junior criminal justice major from Arlington, Texas. “He will not forget your name.”

Jones says Oliver even remembered his parents’ names after meeting them only one time. They returned a year later for homecoming.

“I said, ‘Mom and Dad, you remember the president?’ He greeted them as Sam and Amy. I was speechless,” Jones said. “He wants to know you,” said Natalie Davis, a sophomore biology major from Houston. “He always loves to laugh and hear what you have to say. It’s just great to have a president like that.”
Dub Oliver is an amazingly gifted leader. Because he is an educator by calling, he is committed to excellence in teaching and learning. Because he is highly relational, he is a student magnet. Because he is a bivocational pastor, he is a faithful churchman. Dub Oliver is a man who, every time you see him, you feel propped up. He’s an encourager. Dub is always the same. A PERSON OF GREAT INTEGRITY, FAITH, STRONG THEOLOGICAL COMMITMENTS GROUNDED IN SCRIPTURE AND A LOVE FOR STUDENTS.

He agreed that the executive of the faculty senate should give a report every time that the board of trustees met. What that helped do was create a climate here on campus of openness, transparency and of shared governance. Every step along the way, Dr. Oliver has worked to raise those qualities within our community.

Norman O. Hill, Chairman of Union University’s Presidential Search Committee, describing how the group arrived at recommending Oliver as the next president.

Dub is a person of great integrity, faith, strong theological commitments grounded in Scripture and a love for students. He has served in Christian higher education for many years, and his proven experience will be a strong factor in his ongoing success and leadership at Union University.

Robert Sloan
President, Houston Baptist University and a former colleague at Baylor University

I had a niece who decided to attend college (at ETBU), and my sister was just so impressed when he met with parents and told them, “If every you have a concern, a problem or a question, do not hesitate to call me,” and gave out his cell phone number. My sister and her husband were so excited that there was someone in charge who took such a personal interest in students.

Paula Nichols
Member, Crossroads Baptist Church, Marshall, Texas

Through periodic encouragement, individuals and groups prayed and God answered those prayers in many ways as the committee worked on. His most important answer to prayer is evidenced by the unanimous and enthusiastic recommendation we bring to you today.

Norman O. Hill
Chairman of Union University’s Presidential Search Committee, describing how the group arrived at recommending Oliver as the next president.

Prior to his coming to ETBU, the post-graduate schools here were not really excellent. He was instrumental in creating, with the help of the board of trustees, four post-graduate schools. Another one is under consideration. He has grown the university. I think that’s an important part of the job of a college president.

Richard Anderson
Former county judge and ETBU donor, Marshall, Texas

He handles difficult situations with grace. He cares about how difficult decisions impact people. He handles it with a measure of sympathy and care. He doesn’t make promises he can’t keep, and he builds trust in people because he does what he says he’s going to do.

Tom Webster
Dean, School of Fine Arts, East Texas Baptist University

Dr. Dub auditioned for Pride and Prejudice in the fall, and it was just cool to see that our president was involved. He always shows up to the fine arts events, but it was the first time that we really got to be in close contact. He was in the show and involved with us. We got to see into his life. It was really cool to be able to get to see who the president is on a personal level.

Zach Bearden
ETBU sophomore music and worship major and cast member for the fall 2013 production of Pride and Prejudice

He did excellently well. For someone who wasn’t brought up in the arts, he fit right in and had great energy and great presence. We all had a great time.

Traci Ledford
Director of the campus production of Pride and Prejudice, in which Dub Oliver portrayed the character Edward Gardiner

Two of us offered to give him and his wife a tour of campus after we heard him say he doesn’t know his way around yet. He took us up on it! It was fun watching their faces just light up as we told them about all of the things we love about Union.

Trent Ragan
Union University sophomore, public relations major, Gallatin, Tenn.

I met him one time, and the next time I saw him, he knew my name. He’d remembered where I was from, my parents’ names; he’d remembered to ask me about my sister.

Rachel Frank
ETBU sophomore secondary education and mathematics major

I met him during the cookout we had during Homecoming weekend. He met five or six girls all at once and a short time later, he remembered all of our names. I thought that was very impressive.

Hope Lewis
Union University senior, elementary education major, Memphis

Whenever you engage him in deep conversation, he tells you a lot of things that you wouldn’t have known that he knew. He’s so humble about his intelligence, and he’s extremely wise.

Haden Hollis
ETBU senior business major, Kingsport, Tenn.
2013

**JANUARY 15**

President David S. Dockery announces his intention to transition to the role of University Chancellor no later than July 2014.

**FEBRUARY 1**

Union trustees appoint a presidential search committee of nine people who represent faculty, staff, trustees, church leadership, alumni and community leadership.

**MARCH 29**

Trustee chairman Norman Hill calls on the Union community to commit to days of prayer and fasting to support the search. An online calendar at uu.edu allows for anonymous sign-up, but shows the numbers of people committed for each day of the month. Students are the first group to make commitments.

**MARCH 9–16**

The Olivers spend the ETBU spring break week on Union's campus, conducting meetings with campus leaders and house-hunting. They also visit with students during the annual “Be Our Guest” event. Oliver spends time with Randy Davis and other leaders of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and visits the Hendersonville campus.

**APRIL 24–25**

Oliver participates in his first trustee meeting as president-elect. The Olivers also close on their new home in Jackson.

**APRIL 13–16**

Oliver preaches at FBC Jackson on Palm Sunday and then speaks to the Union Auxiliary on April 14. The Olivers also visit the Germantown campus and the Olford Center.

**MAY 7–9**

The Olivers return to campus for more meetings and participate in the annual Awards Day service.

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The Olivers return to campus for more meetings and participate in the annual Awards Day service.

**FEBRUARY 10**

The presidential search committee recommends East Texas Baptist University President Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver as the 16th president of Union University. Oliver meets with the full Board of Trustees, who approve his appointment with a unanimous vote. Oliver’s wife Susie and daughter Calie are present for the announcement. The Olivers then meet with faculty, staff and students in Savage Chapel.

**APRIL**

Additional pages are created at uu.edu that included links to a survey for the committee to consider, a video about the search and a position statement for prospective candidates.

**JUNE 28**

Union’s presidential search committee reviews more than 1,600 presidential surveys from friends of Union. Within the surveys were about 130 presidential nominations.

**SEPTEMBER 27**

Physics students honor the Dockery presidency with a launch of his bobblehead likeness into “near space.” The statue reached an estimated altitude of about 90,000 feet before parachuting to the ground at an unknown location.

**FEBRUARY 21–22**

The Olivers return to campus for Homecoming activities.

**MARCH 25–26**

Oliver is present for site team visit from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as Union completes the reaffirmation process. He also meets with faculty and staff.

**DECEMBER 2**

Chairman Norman Hill indicates the list of potential candidates for president has been narrowed from about 130 to 10 or less. He asks the Union community to pray for wisdom as the final selection is made.

**AUGUST 23**

In his final fall convocation address as president, David S. Dockery urges the Union community to move forward with confidence “because of the hope God has given to us” in the address, entitled “From Faith to Faith: Revisiting the Great Cloud of Witnesses.”

**DECEMBER 5**

David and Lanese Dockery are honored for 18 years of service to the University during a banquet that was supposed to coincide with Dockery’s final trustee meeting the following day. The meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

**FEBRUARY 28**

David S. Dockery is introduced as the 15th president of Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill. TIU consists of the Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Trinity College (a liberal arts college), Trinity Graduate School and Trinity Law School.

**MARCH 29**

Trustee chairman Norman Hill calls on the Union community to commit to days of prayer and fasting to support the search. An online calendar at uu.edu allows for anonymous sign-up, but shows the numbers of people committed for each day of the month. Students are the first group to make commitments.

**AUGUST 23**

In his final fall convocation address as president, David S. Dockery urges the Union community to move forward with confidence “because of the hope God has given to us” in the address, entitled “From Faith to Faith: Revisiting the Great Cloud of Witnesses.”
It was a very bold move for our leaders in the late 1950s and early 60s. It was innovative,” said Carla Sanderson, former executive vice president for strategic initiatives and provost, as well as the former dean of the School of Nursing. “It began with a call from the community to provide a nursing school,” added Tim Smith, former nursing dean. “Soon, they would begin to support the hospitals and the community.”

Those first classes, leading to an associate’s degree in nursing, began in 1964. The idea was so new that some were skeptical about whether it could be sustained—even a few of the enrolled students had doubts. “You had somewhat of a feeling that it might not work,” said Dolores Moore, who was among the first students that year. “It was like the new animal came into town. Nobody knew what to expect, including those of us who decided to go.”

Moore personifies the significance of that venture—a significance that no one could have understood in 1964. After completing her associate’s degree, she went on to earn a B.S. from the University of Illinois and a master’s degree in administration from Illinois State. She started her career as a nurse at Jackson General Hospital, moved away from Jackson and then returned 13 years later and became a nursing administrator. Prior to her retirement in 1991, she also served as chairwoman of the Board of Nursing of the State of Tennessee.

In (the 1960s), it was the norm that wives followed their husbands,” Moore said, adding that the overwhelming majority of nurses at the time were women. “The bigger cities paid more, and it was very difficult to entice people from Memphis or Nashville where you could find experienced nurses.”

With those historic challenges in mind, the current leadership of West Tennessee Healthcare puts great emphasis on the role Union has played in the hospital’s growth in the past 50 years. Union has absolutely been a foundational block for health care delivery, particularly in the nursing program,” said West Tennessee Healthcare Chief Operating Officer J. R. Ross, who graduated from Union in 1987. “The education Union provides to its students is absolutely remarkable and unparalleled by any other educational institution locally.”

Union nursing programs combine quality faculty members with state-of-the-art simulation labs. Sanderson credits Smith with having the vision to incorporate simulation, in which students are faced with the same critical decisions that could make a life-or-death difference in a clinical setting. “We’ve had alums, after experiencing simulation education, call back and say, two months out of school, ‘I just experienced my first code, and I was the most prepared person in that code,’” Sanderson said. “That is a profound difference from what those of us who did not have such (simulation) opportunities experienced.”

“Students are typically visual learners,” Smith said. “Students do make mistakes, but the opportunity to discuss those mistakes and not repeat those mistakes makes a big difference.”

Haley Bell, a senior nursing student from Memphis, agrees that her preparation for practice gives her confidence. But she admits that at her age, it’s difficult to comprehend the significance of 50 years of nursing education at Union.

“It’s incredible to think about how many patients have been affected because of the education provided by Union,” Bell said. “These professors care with all of their hearts about each and every student.”
It should have been a moment of unbridled joy and celebration. Vesta Sauter remembers the day her deaf father went forward during the invitation at church. He wanted to make a public profession of his desire to enter full-time ministry. But the family’s joy quickly turned to disappointment when the pastor let her father know that there was no way for deaf people to receive theological training, and therefore they couldn’t be formally certified for ministry work. That disappointment, nearly half a century ago, led to a firm resolve in Vesta’s life. She decided then that she would stand in the gap between the hearing and the deaf and work toward solving the problem. Union University is now a partner in that resolve. Union is launching a program to provide theological education for deaf missionaries and church planters. Through a partnership with the Southern Baptist Convention’s International Mission Board, the Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf, Brentwood Baptist Church and Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church, deaf believers can receive customized theological training for missions and ministry and earn a Certificate in Theology Education. "A significant number of the world’s unreached people are deaf," said Carla Sanderson, Union’s provost emeritus. "The CTE is giving deaf missionaries the tools they need to share the gospel through story-telling techniques so that deaf people can know the good news." An estimated 35 million people in the world are deaf, and each day 750 of them die without knowing Jesus. With no deaf-centric theological education available, some deaf Southern Baptists called to reach those who share their heart language have been unable to meet IMB requirements for career missionary status. Sanderson said she believes God will use the center “to reach those millions of people that we’ve heard about today who need to hear the gospel story.”

Giving deaf missionaries the tools they need to share the gospel through story-telling techniques so that deaf people can know the good news.

Six students are enrolled in five classes taught in American Sign Language by fluent ASL signers: Old Testament, New Testament, biblical doctrine, biblical hermeneutics and missions/church planting. For years, Brentwood Baptist’s vision has been to become a global equipping hub for deaf missionaries, church planters, pastors and other men and women who want to receive deaf-centric theological training for missions and ministry. Vesta and her husband Mark Sauter serve with IMB in creating global strategies to reach deaf people with the gospel.

“This is an opportunity, I believe, to prepare personnel for effective, practical church planting, evangelism and the reproduction of indigenous leaders,” Mark Sauter said. “I really don’t know how much better it gets than where we are today, and I’m very excited about the opportunity to help launch this.”

Grant Lovejoy, IMB’s director of storytelling strategies, said the Sauters helped IMB staff “realize that deaf people are part of a deaf culture that is unique and distinctive.”

“You really need teachers who understand deaf culture well [and] teach in the way that deaf people learn best, through stories and through lots of interaction and dialogue, through role-play and through active learning — learning by doing,” Lovejoy said.

Aric Randolph, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church, said through an interpreter, “To be totally honest, we’re starting with five classes, but my vision is that we could become a four-year college.”

“That’s my goal, my dream, my passion, for deaf people to have the opportunity to receive the training they need, that they could be church planters, they could be pastors, leaders.” Randolph said.
Beverly Delk died following brief and charged with her murder. Christian ministries major, was arrested in Luther Hall parking lot Feb. 12. Three days later, the nursing major Leighton Williams died from injuries sustained in a weather-related car accident as she traveled from Jackson to her family home near Nashville.

For those who knew her best, Leighton Williams will be remembered for the joyful way she lived.

“The deepest sense of loss is that I will never forget,” said Hope Wilhite, assistant professor of nursing, about Leighton. “And you can try to instill that passion and love for what you’re doing. Leighton would just absorb that—every ounce of it. She was a nurse from the beginning. She had a true passion for it.”

About 300 students, faculty and staff gathered in front of White Hall Sept. 23 for a prayer service. LeeAnne Wilhite, assistant professor of nursing, said from the moment she met Williams during orientation, she noticed how “she was just joyous all the time.”

The Union community continues to offer prayer support to all the friends and families connected to these tragedies.
Called to Serve

UNION ADMINISTRATORS DEPART FOR NEW CHALLENGES

GENE FANT
Union’s executive vice president for academic administration, who also serves as professor of English, announced his resignation in order to assume the role of provost at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Palm Beach Atlantic offers about 50 undergraduate majors and graduate programs in business, leadership, psychology and pharmacy.

“Gene Fant has become one of the finest ambassadors of Christian higher education to be found anywhere in the country,” Dockery said. “His commitments to authentic, Christ-centered higher education, his dedication to the liberal arts, his faithful churchmanship and his loyalty to the core values of Union University have made him a very special leader on the Union campus for more than a decade.”

Fant came to Union in 2002 from Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss. “I leave behind wonderful friends and colleagues,” Fant said. “But I am excited about joining a vibrant sister institution that is on the doorstep of one of the world’s great cities, Miami.”

RICH GRIMM
Union’s senior vice president for enrollment services has resigned in order to accept a position at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill.

Grimm will join Dockery, who assumes the Trinity presidency in June, as the institution’s senior vice president in the areas of enrollment, university services and strategic initiatives.

“Rich Grimm is a talented and multi-gifted leader, who has invested himself for a decade in the life of Union University,” Dockery said. “He is recognized across the world of Christian higher education as one of the truly outstanding enrollment officers because of the quality of his work at Union, Palm Beach Atlantic University and Crownville College.”

Grimm said that he is “profoundly grateful for the opportunity that was ours to serve” at Union and that he is hopeful for the future of the university under the leadership of incoming president Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver. “May the Lord continue to bless the work of this great university for his glory,” Grimm said.

CARLA SANDERSON
Union’s provost and executive vice president for strategic initiatives has announced her retirement from the University and has been named vice president for accreditation and professional regulation for Chamberlain College of Nursing.

Headquartered in Chicago, Chamberlain offers a three-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at 13 campuses and online post-licensure nursing education undergraduate and graduate programs.

Sanderson has been associated with Union University for 32 years as a student, faculty member and administrator.

“It is nearly impossible to calculate the significant influence of Carla D. Sanderson on the life and work of Union University over the past three decades,” Dockery said. “Through her roles as faculty member, dean, provost and executive vice president, Dr. Sanderson has made a remarkable contribution to almost all aspects of this institution.”

Sanderson and her family will remain in Jackson, where she will work from home and travel occasionally in her new role.

“The greatest privilege of my career came when David Dockery appointed me to the position of university provost,” Sanderson said. “Year after year, plan after plan, with new convocation challenges, new programs, new campuses, new faculty and staff, new buildings and new initiatives, I have grown in the honor that has been mine as an academic and operational leader at Union University.”

Sanderson and her husband Larry are members of First Baptist Church in Jackson and have three sons, two of whom are Union graduates.

TIM SMITH
The dean of the School of Nursing at Union University since 2005 has resigned in order to accept a position as vice president of strategic initiatives and special associate to the provost at Anderson University in Anderson, S.C.

“Tim Smith is recognized as one of the premier leaders in health care education in this region,” Dockery said. “His visionary and entrepreneurial skills have energized and advanced the outstanding nursing program at Union University over the past decade.”

“It has been an honor and blessing to serve in Dr. Dockery’s administration, partnering with leaders of the university, amazing faculty and staff of the School of Nursing and many others of this institution in serving the Lord through the lives of the students,” Smith said. “My wife and I will always cherish the memories and relationships from our time of serving at Union University and in the community as God sends us on a new journey.”

I leave behind wonderful friends and colleagues, but I am excited about joining a vibrant sister institution...

G E N E F A N T
A community picnic, a 50 year reunion and a flag raising highlighted Union’s observance of Homecoming 2014 in late February.

The picnic was a large pregame tailgate party in which students were served by faculty and staff. The event, named “Union Strong: A Celebration of Community,” attracted a large crowd and featured fellowship with president-elect Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver and his wife Susie.

One day earlier, several Union alumni were honored alongside students from the class of 1964, who were recognized during a chapel service for their contributions in a variety of fields and occupations. Charles Fowler ('86), received the Distinguished Service Award. Fowler served as a Union University administrator and faculty member before he became senior pastor at Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown, Tenn.

Kevin Ezell ('85) received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Ezell served as a pastor for churches in Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Texas, and he currently is the president of the North American Mission Board.

Will Gray ('02) received the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award posthumously. Gray died in 2013 from cancer. He began his music career at Union, and his songs were licensed for companies such as Playstation and Motorola. In addition to serving as a songwriting instructor for the Contemporary Music Center at Martha’s Vineyard, Mass., he also was an award-winning film director.

Bob Pavelonis, a former member of the class of 1963, received the Honorary Alumnus Award. He transferred to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale but remained involved with his Union class through the years. Pavelonis has served as an English teacher and coached baseball, basketball, football and golf.

Union also dedicated a new flag display at the main (western) entrance to campus, along Pleasant Plains Road. The Class of 1963 raised money for the project and for an endowed scholarship fund at Union.

It’s the second major campus improvement funded by contributions from the class of ’63. The fountain in front of the Barefoot Student Union Building was a class gift to the University in 1988.
Do you know a Future UNIONITE?

60’S [SIXTIES]
Bo O’Brien (’69) recently received awards from USTA-Kentucky, a tennis association. Bo was named volunteer of the year and is chairman of the Elizabethtown Tennis Commission that received the Community Tennis Association of the Year Award.

Marvin and Katharine Dickerson (’69) returned home to Tennessee following their retirement from civil service with the U.S. Department of Defense with duty stations in Germany, South Carolina and Alaska.

70’S [SEVENTIES]
Sarah Lee Moore (’73) retired in June 2013 after 34 years as a coach and administrator in the athletic department at Missouri University of Science and Technology. She is currently working part time in admissions as the California Regional Admissions Counselor.

Ruth Page Woodall (’77) received the American Chemical Society’s “Helen Free Award for Public Outreach,” which is the society’s highest public service award. Woodall spent most of her career teaching high school chemistry, and currently serves as associate vice president of education and workforce development for the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

80’S [EIGHTIES]
Lynn Gibson (’83) recently became vice president of enrollment services at Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Miss. He and his wife, Paula, live in Selmer, Tenn. and have two sons, Eric and Mark. Lynn and Paula also have two grand children, Elijah and Sophie. Paula teaches fifth-grade at Toone Elementary School and is completing her 30th year of teaching.

Tammy Thompson Holland (’88) works at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department as the agency’s manager of family, community and chaplaincy programs. She is a contributing author to the book “You and Your Ringer: A Parents Guide to College Admissions.”

OLD SCHOOL
ALUMNI NEWS

David and Diane Black aid Hendersonville campus

Laboratory technology on the Hendersonville campus got a boost late last year from a three-year partnership between Union University and Aegis Sciences Corp. Aegis is a forensic toxicology and health care sciences laboratory headquartered in Nashville. The funding from Aegis that’s part of the agreement will improve the science laboratory, which is now named in honor of the company.

Union’s commitment to faith and excellence in education sparked an interest from founder and CEO David Black, along with his wife Diane Black, who serves in the U.S. Congress as a representative from Tennessee’s Sixth Congressional District.

“The value of Union is in not only the education quality of their students but also the emphasis on character and Christian values,” David Black said. “The Aegis culture is the foundation of our success. And our business culture is based on traditional Christian values.”

Union University Hendersonville’s science laboratory will be used by more than Union students, according to Charles Lea, executive director of Union University Hendersonville. The donation will provide high school students an opportunity to use the laboratory for scientific demonstrations and experiments. Local nurses also will have access to the laboratory for additional training.

“Both Congressman Black and Dr. Black are active community leaders and generous supporters for the development of science education in our area,” Lea said. “They are keenly supportive of and interested in anything that advances the study of the sciences.”

Union representatives are hopeful that the relationship with Aegis can continue long after the three-year agreement is completed.

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

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’ll take the next step.

Call 800.33.UNION or visit uu.edu/DawgCatchers

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Joshua H. Drake (’03) is associate professor of music and humanities at Grove City College in Pennsylvania. Along with colleague Paul Munson, a former Union faculty member, Drake has written a book entitled Art and Music: a Student’s Guide. The book, published by McWay, is part of the series Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition edited by former president David S. Dockery.

Nurturing Faith: Re-connections
Chris Haak (’02) of Milan, Tenn. was promoted to lead events specialist in May 2013 after passing the Food Safety Certification exam. He has worked with Crossmark for more than 10 years.

Jeremy Stephan (’03) graduated from St. Louis University School of Law with a Juris Doctorate on May 18, 2013. His degree focuses were in business transactions, and taxation. He and his wife, Melissa, live in St. Charles, Mo.

Melody Maxwell (’03) has accepted a new position as an assistant professor of Christian Studies at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas.

Bethany Clark (’09) and her husband, Shawn, live in Andrews, N.C., and work for Snowbird Outfitters, a ranch camp. They have four boys: Ty (7), Gabe (5), Luke (2) and Leo (2). Bethany said camp life is year-round these days, but her family is blessed to be a part of the gospel-centered camp.

Blueshield of Tennessee Community Trust and Tennessee Health Foundation. She specializes in family law.

Stefanie Edwards (’06) serves as the marketing director of The Heart Gallery of Middle Tennessee, helping foster children find permanent homes. For additional information about the organization, visit heartgalleryofmiddle tennessee.com or Stef Edwards at stefkin@gmail.com.

Kelli White Deere (’06, ’09) has served as the director of the University of Tennessee at Martin Parcans Center since May 2012. She graduated with her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Union in 2010.

Mary Alisa Techentin (’00) has included in the 2013 Pennsylvania Rising Stars — the top up-and-coming lawyers in the commonwealth. Weiner is an associate with the Philadelphia law firm O’Malley & Reblin. She specializes in family law.

Ashley Tucker (’97) and her husband, Jeremy, recently moved from Buford, Ga., to Waianae, Hawaii, to work at the Pu’u Kahea Conference Center of the Hawaii Pacific Convention.

Mandy White (’98) was recently promoted to senior vice president at The Jackson Chamber of Commerce in Jackson, Tenn. White joined the chamber staff in 1999.

00’s | TWO THOUSANDS | Justin Phillips (’00) graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., in June 2013 with a Ph.D in Christian Ethics.

Kathy O. Lofton (’00) is the new program coordinator for the Healthy Shelby project at Healthy Memphis. Common Table, a non-profit, Lofton previously worked for the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust and Tennessee Health Foundation.

Joe Carl (’07) has accepted a position as a compliance officer in Pasadena, Texas. He is in charge of identifying and overseeing the compliance of federal regulations and accounting on various grants awarded to the city. He also will be responsible for the accounting and reporting of financial resources that are restricted, committed or assigned to expenditures for capital improvement projects.

Renee Emerson (’08) has written her first book of poems, Keeping Me Still, which was published in March 2014.

Alex Scarbrough (’09) has joined the law firm of Thompson Burton, PLLC in Franklin, Tenn. to lead the firm’s administrative law practice.

Vanessa is year-round these days, but her family is blessed to be a part of the gospel-centered camp. swoutfitters.com

University on May 3, 2013. She began working as a therapist and forensic interviewer for the Morgan County Child Advocacy Center on May 1, 2013.

Marriages
Carol (Morris) Weaver (’85) and John R. Weaver II were married on August 31, 2013, in West Lafayette, Ind.

Todd DeLeany (’99) married Heather Melenos DeLeany on October 12, 2013.

Bethany Thrower Williams (’99) married Daniel R. Williams March 2, 2013. They met at Moody Memorial Church in Chicago where they are both active in the music ministry.

Robert Clifford (’06) and Jennifer Clifford, Euqis, were married Nov. 11, 2012, at The Birchhouse at Goodspeed Station in Haddon, N.J. Both will practice corporate law in Boston.

Laurie Kay Henry (’06) and David Franklin Montgomery were married Nov. 3, 2012, in Nashville at Cross Point Church. Their reception was at the historic Union Station. They met at work, Palm International, Inc., where David is the shipping coordinator and Laurie is the graphic designer. Laurie also is the owner and designer of fanciful ink, an event and stationary design company.

Mary Alisa Techentin (’11) is to be married to Matthew Dacheck of Crystal Lake, Ill. Matthew is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Meredith L. Chinnock, a 1996 alumna of the University of Chicago, has joined the firm’s employment law practice groups. Also lives in Nashville.
David Leisey ('13) and Holly AJ Leisey ('13) were married June 22, 2013, in Denver, Colo. They now reside in Jackson, Tenn. David is teaching first grade in the Jackson-Madison County School System, and Holly is working at Union in the Department of Sociology and Family Studies.

Amy Hammons Strawn ('98) and her husband, Dudley, are so thankful to God for the baby boy He has entrusted to them. Amy, Dudley and Turner reside in Grapevine, Texas.

Jeff Shands ('99) and his wife, Sarah, proudly welcomed their third child, Callie Grace, born on March 5, 2013. Callie has two older siblings: Preston (8) and Emily (5). Jeff is a teacher and coach at DeSoto Central High School in Southaven, Miss., and Sarah is employed by AICOMP Consulting in Memphis. They reside in Southaven.

Beth (Hill) Marks ('01) and Logan Marks are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, Sarah Elizabeth Marks, on May 13, 2013. She weighed 8 lb., 4 oz. and was 20 in. long.

Stephen Wilson ('03 and '11) and Megan Fuller Wilson ('04 and '10) announced the birth of Olivia Joy Wilson, born June 27, 2012. She weighed 7 lb. 5 oz. and was 21 in. long.

Jonathon and Lindsay McDonald ('05) announce the birth of their second child, Marleigh Elisabeth, born on Aug. 29, 2013. They currently reside in southern Illinois, where Jon serves as a pastor.

Katelin Warren Lasater ('07) and her husband, Michael, welcome the birth of their first child, Henry Eugene Lasater, born Nov. 2, 2013. He weighed 8 lb, 2 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Support the Bulldogs in Style!
The online Bulldog Shoppe is expanding. Expect a greater selection of Union gifts and merchandise from LifeWay Christian Resources at uu.edu/bulldogshoppe. Plans are also underway to remodel the campus bookstore on the first floor of Hammons Hall. Look for an expanded Union section of the store when the construction is finished in late summer. Go Bulldogs!

Stay connected to Union

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- youtube.com/user/UUOUC
- instagram.com/unionuniversity
- pinterest.com/unionuniversity
- google.com/+unionuniversity

Births

Ashley Parker Tucker ('97) and Jimmy Tucker welcomed George Preston Tucker on April 30, 2013, at Salem A.R. Presbyterian Church in Atoka, Tenn.

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Andrea Smith ('04), Harold Smith and their two sons, William (6) and John (3) welcomed twins into their family, Thomas and Peter, on Aug. 24, 2012. Harold is a systems engineer in Nashville for Education Networks of America, and Andrea is a homemaker. They live in Dickson, Tenn. andreasmith81@gmail.com

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New, online-only editions of the Unionite make it easier than ever to keep up with Union. The latest news is now at your fingertips throughout the year. Don’t miss a single issue. Get notifications about the latest Unionite delivered right to your email inbox. Sign up at uu.edu/unionite.
Memoriam

John G. Dickinson (‘48) passed away away Dec. 9, 2013, in Jackson. He was 87 years old. Mr. Dickinson served as a Union University trustee and funded a scholarship at the University in honor of his late parents. He is preceded in death by Virginia (‘49), his wife of 64 years. They met as Union freshmen and went on to serve churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia and Louisiana through the ministries of education and music. In a 2004 Unionite story, Mr. Dickinson was quoted recalling his childhood during the Great Depression in rural Madison County and the subsequent years as a student at Union when money was scarce. He expressed gratitude for help from donors whom he had never met: “We felt like somebody was responsible for (Virginia and me) being at Union. I want to be a little bit a part of somebody else’s experience.”

Virginia Dickinson (‘49) passed away Oct. 27, 2013. She was 86 years old. Mrs. Dickinson was an active member of Woodland Baptist Church in Brownsville, Tenn., where she was the key role in the Women’s Missionary Union and the choir. Mrs. Dickinson was a member of Southern Baptist missionaries in Costa Rica, Peru and Mexico. The couple retired to Bartlett in 1990 but continued to minister at both Eldendale Baptist Church and La Buena Esperanza (The Good Hope) Hispanic Baptist Church. The couple donated about 100 pre-Columbian pottery artifacts to Union University’s Summar Library in 2010. They had collected the pieces during their time in Peru. The display features artological finds from about 100 BC to 534 AD.

Marvin Fitts (’53) passed away Dec. 20, 2013, in Cordova. He was 87 years old. He and his wife Jean (’49) served for many years at Southern Baptist Church in California who had never met: “We felt like somebody was responsible for (Virginia and me) being at Union. I want to be a little bit a part of somebody else’s experience.”

W. David Cooper (’42)

W. David Cooper passed away on May 31, 2013, in Bolivar, Tenn. He was 91 years old. The longtime Bolivar minister also was a retired captain from the U.S. Navy, where served for 29 years. Union conferred a bachelor’s degree to Rev. Cooper in 1942, the university’s education service award in 2000 and an honorary doctorate in 2001. “David Cooper is one of the most kind, caring, gentle and good men that I have ever had the privilege of knowing,” said David S. Dockery, who helped officiate at Rev. Cooper’s funeral service. Rev. Cooper is survived by his wife, Virginia (’49), a granddaughter, two brothers and two sisters. The Cooper family contributed to the building of Rowland Commons on the Jackson campus, where a room is named in their honor. The family has requested that gifts to Union in memory of David Cooper be designated for the David Cooper Legacy Fund, established in 2006 by Thomas Cooper to honor his father.

Heather Olford

Heather Olford passed away Dec. 21, 2013, in Memphis. She was 89 years old. She and her late husband Stephen founded the Olford Center for Biblical Preaching in 1988, and the center became part of Union University in 2007. Mrs. Olford served on the Union University Foundation Board and continued the legacy of her husband, who had a profound influence on Billy Graham and other evangelical preachers of his time. David S. Dockery said, “Heather Olford was a faithful and winsome ambassador for Christ around the globe. In recent years, she similarly became a loyal supporter of the work of Union University. While she will be greatly missed by many, we give thanks to God for her life and ministry.” Mrs. Olford was a member of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova. Family members request that gifts in her memory be directed to the Stephen Olford Center: 4000 Riverdale Road, Memphis, TN. 38115, where they will be used to train preachers and teachers of the Word of God.

Don Hofield (’60) passed away on August 2, 2012, in knoxville. He was 75 years old. Originally from Three Way, Mr. Hofield majored in mathematics at Union and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He served as director of economic development and general manager of the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. In 2002, he retired after 25 years as secretary-manager of the Tennessean Valley Fair. He is survived by his wife Jan, two children and three grandchildren.

OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Memoriam

William (Will) Lee Gray (’02)

William (Will) Lee Gray passed away on July 26, 2013 in Mesa, Ariz. He was 33 years old. Mr. Gray was recruited to play basketball at Union, and he attended the University on an athletic scholarship. He was also a talented musician and vocalist, and founded the band Scratch Track when he was just 16. He was a band director nationwide for two years. In 2007, he released his initial solo album entitled Introducing Will Gray. He also directed a documentary entitled Breaks that received the Special Jury Prize for Most Original Vision at the Nashville Film Festival. Gray signed with Warner-Chappell Music in 2011, and his original songs have been recorded and performed by top artists such as Blake Shelton. Mr. Gray released an EP entitled The Renegade with Reva Williams in 2012. He had returned to Union a number of times for performances, most recently a concert in Barefoot Joe in 2017. He received a cancer diagnosis in October 2012 and underwent surgery the following month. Mr. Gray wrote this on his blog shortly after the surgery: “My exact recovery time after surgery is unknown, but expected to be a gradual process. Yet, each day, I will fight. I will LIVE and pray in thankfulness for continued grace and mercy.” He is survived by his wife Angie (’03), whom he met while a student at Union, his parents, Johnny and Barbara Gray of Paris, Tenn., two brothers and a sister. The family asks that contributions be sent to help defray medical expenses. Online contributions can be made at gateofgrays.com. gifts.
Bullpups


2. Asher Matthew Winkleman, born Nov. 11, 2011, is the child of Laura (Crabb) Winkleman ('01) and Chris Winkleman ('01).

3. Turner Strawn, born Aug. 9, 2012, to Amy Hammann Strawn ('98) and Dudley Strawn.


5. Olivia Joy Wilson, born June 27, 2012, to Stephen Wilson ('03, '11) and Megan Fuller Wilson ('04 and '10). She weighed 7 lb. 6 oz. and was 21 in. long.
Final Frame

Storm clouds roll in while the sun sets on Miller Tower at the end of the spring semester.

photo by Kathleen Murray '05