Return on Investment

For most people invested in the stock market, the return on their investment over the past 30 months has been anything but good news. For those who have invested in Union University in recent months, the return on investment has been remarkable— or “blessed” would be a better description. How grateful we are for the growing number of friends involved and invested in the work of Union University.

In the pages of this Unonite you will read stories of many recent developments at the University. What an exciting time to be at Union! This past year, a record 3,670 people invested in the work of this place. Many others volunteered their time. Still others prayed and served in advisory roles. Many of their names can be found in the enclosed report.

The return on investment can be measured in various ways. This past year 3,325 total students were enrolled in some program at Union. We saw 785 of these graduate. Our graduation rate—as well our enrollment rate—is now one of the highest in the state. Student satisfaction indicators have never been better. For the sixth straight year Union University was listed in the top tier of Universities in the nation. Union graduates are serving in Washington, D.C., as interns in Parliament, and are being hired by great companies in the region and beyond. Young business leaders, teachers, nurses, social workers, all grounded in a Christian worldview are beginning to make a difference in the world.

In fact, marks of excellence can be seen across the university. The ongoing development of the campus is an encouragement to all. Union graduates have been accepted in the finest graduate schools, law schools, medical schools, and seminaries across the south in particular, but literally across the nation. Union graduates are serving in Washington, D.C., as interns in Parliament, and are being hired by great companies in the region and beyond. Young business leaders, teachers, nurses, social workers, all grounded in a Christian worldview are beginning to make a difference in the world.

This fall a collection of essays penned by the members of the Union faculty and administration is now available. The book evidences the minds and hearts represented across the campus among faculty, staff, and students who are dedicated to rigorous academics, unapologetic Christian commitment, and serious cultural engagement. It is certainly an important book for anyone who is committed to the university and its mission. The book will be available at the bookstore and in other outlets.

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Chuck Colson leaves part of legacy at Union University

In the past 27 years since I’ve been out of prison, I’ve seen how God has used my broken experience for His greatest glory, and I’ve seen what it is to live life as a Christian,” said Chuck Colson, to a packed Union chapel where a chair in his name was recently created. Union Christian studies professor Hal Poe was inducted Sept. 27 as the first Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture.

The 71-year-old founder of Prison Fellowship and former ex-convict for his involvement in the 1970s Watergate scandal had a two-day visit at the university despite a busy schedule in his work as an author, speaker and taking time to visit prisons as chairman of Prison Fellowship, now in its 26th year of service with more than 50,000 volunteers worldwide. Colson remains passionate about the lives of prisoners as well as the fundamental beliefs of Christianity and the Christian worldview, particularly with future generations – one reason he was happy to allow his name to be used at Union.

“My first reaction when I was asked about the chair was no – it seemed silly to have my name on something,” admitted Colson. “But when I realized that there is one institution really committed to what I talk about everyday – that Union is one of the few universities in America that’s intentionally setting out to bring a Christian worldview to bear on education and understanding, what better place if my name could help the worldview and world teaching continue in this institution.”

Colson, who spoke as the commencement speaker for Union’s May 2000 graduation, has steadfastly forged a close relationship with both the university and its 15th president, David S. Dockery.

Soli Deo Gloria, 

David S. Dockery
Faculty and administration write new book on Christian Worldview

U nion University has announced the release of Shaping a Christian Worldview: The Foundations of Christian Higher Education, a collection of essays that address the critical questions of mixing faith with academics and any area of vocation, whether the arts, sciences, education, business or communications - with the contributing authors all from one university. Edited by Union President David S. Dockery and Greg Thorburn, director of the Carl T.H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership at Union, the book is written with the freshman college student in mind.

"This lively volume displays the intellectual energy made possible when faith and reason work with, not against each other," said Jean Bethke Elshtain, the Jackson university, Colson said, is integrating faith and culture by going to the very basic suppositions, and "really getting to the heart of it, that Christian truth is the heart of everything we believe. God cares about all of us, and that's what this is all about."

In its annual fall meeting, Union's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to look into the possibility of expanding the Germantown campus facilities within the next three years, almost doubling the space of what it is currently being used. More than 500 students are currently enrolled this year at the Germantown campus, with future numbers expected to increase. A groundbreaking for the new science building will be held in December.

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"The work of seven Union University students was the focus of the Union Art Gallery's fall exhibit, "Union in the Rockies." Various bronze sculptures by Dewayne Porter, Rebecca Phillips, Kelly Barron, Ryan Schunemann, Brian and Amanda Bain, Allison Nolen, and Rob Alsobrook were on exhibit during the month of September. The students, accompanied by Lee Barron, professor of art, and his family, spent one month of their summer in the mountains of Gypsum, Colo., on artist Bill Walder's ranch, learning the art of bronze casting as well as the art of mountain life. "We had no electricity, great food, and nature's beauty all around us," said Rebecca Phillips, junior art major. "It was one of the most incredible experiences of my life."

Students are displaying their artwork at the Rocky Mountain Art Center, sponsored by the university's Office of Career Services, and held during the last three years. More than 500 students are currently enrolled this year at the Germantown campus, with future numbers expected to increase. A groundbreaking for the new science building will be held in December.
Fall 2002 www.uu.edu

The Union University men’s basketball team earned No. 5 pre-season ratings in the college basketball edition of Street and Smith Magazine.

Union has six players returning that have seen time as a starter for Head Coach Ralph Turner: Zach Wiggs, Derrick Underwood, Bruno Martinez, and Chima Abakwue averaged over double figures in points last season. Sophomore from Haiti, add tremendous athletic ability and good scorers to the Bulldog team.

The Bulldogs are coming off a season in which they finished 31-5, claimed the TransSouth regular season and tournament championships, and made the sweet sixteen in the NCAA National Tournament. Union ended last season as the No. 3 team in the nation.

O ther teams in the top 10 were No. 1 Azusa Pacific ( Calif.); No. 2 Faulkner; No. 3 O’Malathw City; No. 4 Georgetown; and No. 5 Lee University.

Union will play Azusa Pacific on Nov. 15 in California and will battle Georgetown; and No. 8 Lee University.

Union faculty welcome new additions for new year

Union welcomed 13 new additions to its distinguished faculty when the Fall 2002 semester began. The recent additions were made in the departments and areas of art, biology, business, Christian studies, communications arts, engineering, English, international Studies, and music.

“The Fall 2002 class of new faculty at Union is a talented group of educators,” said Union University Provost Carla Sanders. “Some bring research expertise whereas other bring years of experience in higher education. Each one brings to Union a fresh perspective and new approach that will complement the work of our faculty body and stretch our students in exciting ways.”

Full time faculty include: Donald Christiansen, associate professor of business; Mark Dubis, associate professor of Christian studies; Gene Fant, chair and associate professor in the Department of English; Richard Joiner, chair and professor of music in the Department of Music; Andy Madison, assistant professor of biology; Daren Michael, assistant professor of theatre; Jeannette Russ, assistant professor of education and director of the Ed.S and Ed.D programs for the Germantown campus.

Other faculty who will join the university for the 2002-2003 term include: Charlie Aigne, visiting instructor of art; Julie Bowman, visiting instructor of English; Jenny Cowell, visiting instructor of marketing; Thomas Hopper, visiting associate professor of accounting and Victoria Romero, visiting instructor of languages.

President David S. Dockery takes it to the hoop during the dedication of the new Class of 2002 outdoor basketball courts on Sept. 30. Senior Ryan Carfield offered the game-winning free throw in the 108-107 win over junior high school. Union dominated the second half, outscoring the Bulldogs 43-27.

The following is part of a recent interview with Union President David S. Dockery. He discusses the importance of a Christian worldview, a value that is being taught throughout the university. A value that is lived out not just on campus but throughout the world – wherever our students and alumni are found.

“A Christian worldview says there’s a framework for understanding the world. It begins with the conclusion, the belief that God is in the heaven and Earth.” So we recognize that everything that is comes as a gift from God, which answers the question of “Why did we get here?”

The second question is “Who are we?” We recognize that humans are created in the image of God, and that gives us the ability to relate, to have social awareness: intellectual capacities, emotional capacities, and the spiritual capacities to worship our great God. So we answer the big question about creation, the question of who we are. But we look around this world and we see tragedy, suffering, and evil and we have to ask…what’s wrong with this wonderful creation? A Christian worldview has an answer for that, at least partially.

The question of evil is a very difficult question that I’ve not sure we can ever answer fully, but we do know that it’s the result of the Fall – when men and women made a conscious decision to choose against God. That’s not the end story. God has provided a remedy or a solution to this problem in Jesus Christ, and we recognize that all things are by Him, and for Him, and through Him and in Him, and therefore we can see issues in economics, in sociology, literature, political science, biology, chemistry – we can see all the disciplines of the academic world through those eyes, asking those kinds of questions. Now it’s going to be different shaped differently in each discipline, but nevertheless we come to it asking that question. “What does a Christian worldview have to bear on this subject?” We can see issues in economics, in sociology, in political science, in biology, chemistry – we can see all the disciplines of the academic world through those eyes, asking those kinds of questions.

“We talk about this issue of evil” – I think it raises and expands the opportunities to think more broadly about all of our subjects. It does not narrow it to just think about Biblical things, but it helps us to think more broadly about how truth comes from God – it’s the source of all truth – and that our pursuit of truth in all areas will be enriched classroom instruction. For students, it means an expanded vision of life.

Wayne Johnson 
Assistant Director 
Office of University Relations

The implications that spring from our core values underscores these activities. A Christian view of education defines our values and fuels our mission. Union is preparing students to have a Christ-centered worldview, not a one-person, one-nation view. People-focused individuals think in terms of service to others and help for the human condition. "It’s a shift in our paradigm – our view earthly and eternal.

A Future-Directed mindset reminds us the future is the only life we have. The past is history. We define the world future in terms of tomorrow and eternity.

The Union University offers a glimpse of Union as a university with a focused global outlook. For the school it means recognition. For students, it means an expanded vision of life. For faculty, this philosophy translates into enriched classroom instruction. For students, it means an expanded vision of life.

Wayne Johnson 
Assistant Director 
Office of University Relations

Union welcomes new additions to its distinguished faculty...