John and Virginia Dickinson
Union University Alumni
Denmark, Tenn.

John Dickinson (’48) grew up amid the cotton fields of West Tennessee giving little thought to a college education. During those days of the Great Depression, he and his family were more concerned about simple survival. His mother Mary worked feverishly just to keep food on the table for John and three older sisters. tuberculosis took his father’s life at an early age.

In those toughest of times, John says people stepped forward to point him in the direction of Christian service as a music and education minister. He later went on to serve churches in five states, and was a Union trustee.

John met his wife of 55 years during his first week at Union. Friends fixed them up on a blind date.

“We realized a Christian environment was something that was very important at that time of our lives,” says Virginia.

“You met faculty members who became friends for the rest of your life.” John and Virginia now reside in the house where he was born, near Denmark, Tenn. The property has been in his family for 100 years. His wife Norma is a retired R.N. at Prentiss Regional Hospital.

Sharron Lyon (’63) has retired from First Baptist Church, Nashville, as organist after 40 years of service. Last year she retired from LifeWay Christian Resources after 30 years of service as senior editor-in-chief in the church music department. Lyon graduated cum laude from Union with a degree in Organ where she studied with Dr. John Hughus and a Master of Music in Organ from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

Donations were named in honor of John’s parents.

Sadie Lienby (’55) was recently presented the 2004 “Distinguished Lutheran Educator” Award by Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tenn., where she is the director of counseling/personal counseling. She has degrees from George Peabody College (Vanderbilt) and the University of Memphis. She lives in Memphis, Tenn.

Charles Homer Spain (’52) was selected as a member of FirstBank’s Paris advisory board.

Joe H. Cepparulo (’69) was recently named the National Bow Hunter Education Foundation’s Bow Hunter Instructor of the Year at an awards banquet Aug. 21, 2004, sponsored by the Tennessee Hunter Education Program. Joe is a 30-year veteran of the Jackson Police Department. Address: 131 Fox Ridge Road, Jackson, TN 38305.

James R. Coffman (’68) left his position as founding executive director of the Pastoral Counseling & Consultation Centers of Tennessee, Inc. to become executive director of the Samaritan Counseling Centers of the Mid-South. His wife Mary Kathryn Stinson (’68) is assuming an English teaching role at Ripley High School. Address: Coffman Farms, 2112 Garve Woodsdale Road, Ripley, TN 38063. Email: JamesCoffman @PastoralCounselingCrs.org.

Bruce G. Jolly (’60) retired as association missions director from the Covington-Jeff Davis Baptist Association, Mississippi. He now serves as pastor of Jupiter Baptist Church in Mandeville, Miss. His wife, Norma is a retired R.N. at Premiss Regional Hospital. Address: 848 Green Ave., Mendenhall, MS 39114.

Newman inducted as Ryan Center for Biblical Studies Fellow

D r. Barclay Newman, senior translations officer for the American Bible Society, was inducted as a fellow of the Ryan Center for Biblical Studies in recognition for his contributions to Biblical studies as a Union alum on Oct. 19, 2004. A reception was given in honor of Newman following a lecture given at Union.

Newman is a 1955 graduate of Union, as was his wife, the former Jean Butler. After completing his undergraduate work, he went on to receive a Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He completed additional studies at the Hebrew Union in Cincinnati, the Hartford Seminary Foundation and the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the University of Oklahoma.

Newman has done extensive work in Bible translation and has authored A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament. He has also written translator’s handbooks on Judges, Matthew, John, Acts, Romans and Jeremiah and was chair of the Contemporary English Version of the Bible, which was published by the American Bible Society in 1995. He and his wife have two daughters, three granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.

Some benefactors were known to him: Newman following a lecture given at Union.
University of Tennessee Health Science Center's College of Dentistry.

Vicky Floyd (’01) was promoted to assistant vice president of First Citizens National Bank. She and her husband Daniel live in Dyersburg, Tenn. E-mail: v Floyd@firstcitizens-bank.com

Don Holsinger (’03) serves as admissions counselor and recruits for the Union University-Gustavus MBA program. E-mail: dholsing@uu.edu

Jeff Lean (’93 ’04) has been named graduate assistant soccer coach for the Union University Bulldogs. Email: jlean@uu.edu

Glenna Marshall (’03) serves as assistant to the director of resident life of Union University student services department. Address: 534 W Grand St., Jackson, TN 38301 Email: gmarshal@uu.edu

Amy Miller (’03) accepted a position as student employment coordinator with Union University’s financial aid department. E-mail: amiller@uu.edu

University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Chi Omega sisters reunited

Kim is a personal fitness trainer and aerobics instructor in Jackson, Tenn., where she lives with her husband Danny and children, 9-year-old Bailey and 5-year-old Jude. Address: 2304 N. Second St., Jackson, TN 38301. E-mail: kimyoung@msn.com

Prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom, Caryn taught elementary education in the Nashville school system. She makes her home in Madison, Tenn., with husband Brent and children Grace, 7, and Jesse. 6. Address: 7675 Peavine Road, Middleton, TN 38052. E-mail: carynturner@msn.com

MARRIAGES

Steven L. Aldridge (’99) and Stacy L. Green (’94) were married on May 29, 2004, in Jackson, Tenn. Both are employed in Jackson and are members of Southside Baptist Church. Steven serves as sports information director at Union University, and Stacy is employed at FirstBank. Address: 22 Red Deer Cove, Jackson, TN 38305. E-mail: saldrige@uu.edu

Newbill Davis (’00) married Catherine Elizabeth Best on April 17, 2004. Address: 1000 Cherry Road, Memphis, TN 38117

Kimberly Inmon (’96) married John Box in June, 1999. John is the pastor of operations for the Tampa Tribune.

Greg Bowers (’95) is serving as pastor of First Baptist Church, Blytheville, Ark. He and his wife Donna, have two children, Jordan, 13, and Katie, 11. Donna is a special education teacher in the Blytheville Public School System. Address: 104 Chesterelev, Blytheville, AR 72315. Email: greg.hoover@wbcglobal.net

Missy Coley (’86) was honored by the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation as Teacher of the Year ’03-’04 for the kindergarten through sixth-grade category. She has taught for 17 years, and teaches first grade at Malesus Elementary School.

Russ Evans (’95) has joined the communications department of West Tennessee Healthcare as a graphics supervisor. Also, his novel “Of Adam” will be released by

PercerL@juno.com

Drive, Lynchburg VA 24502. E-mail:

x680

to the position of park manager at Pidwick Landing State Park.

JACQUELINE TAYLOR (’99) ’94 was named West Tennessee regional liaison for the Tennessee Association of Colleges and Schools (TACE), the professional development organization for career professionals. She was also appointed to the “Break the Mold” high school design team by the director of schools for the Lexington City Board of Education. Address: 355 Old Exchange Road, Wilderlee, TN 38388. E-mail: jaylor@uu.edu

Kami Dickson Clark (’91) graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville with a master of science in nursing degree with an adult/gerontological nurse practitioner specialty on August 8, 2004. She will take the National Adult Nurse Practitioner Certification examination in October and later pursue a doctorate in nursing.

Julie Crenshaw (’02) accepted the position of Hickman County High School's basketball coach. He lives with his wife Sunny in Centerville, Tenn.

Kim Crenshaw (’02) graduated from the University of Michigan with a master of science degree in accounting and finance in May 2004. During the 2004-05 school year, he will serve with the Educational Services Exchange with China, a Christian organization which sends American teachers to Chinese universities, where he will teach international economics, marketing management, and contract law. Address: Tianjin Foreign Studies University, 117 Maching Road, ESEC Teacher, Tianjin, People’s Republic of China 030020. Email: sam@uustech.net. Web: http://www.uustech.net/address.jpg

Heather Harris (’92) has a new address: 7675 Peavine Road, Middleton, TN 38052. E-mail: Hhharris0418@aol.com

Jeff Fletcher (’92) recently returned from a 10-day mission trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where he provided medical and dental care to residents. He is currently in his second year at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Lee R. Ervin (’76) is serving as director of news and media relations at Union University. Address: 25 Sagefield Cove, Jackson, TN 38305 Email: tellower@uu.edu

Rhonda Lea Gardiner (’97) graduated from the University of Tennessee Health Science Schools of Pharmacy in Memphis with a doctor of pharmacy degree. She is doing a year’s pediatric pharmacy residency at Children’s Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Tim Ellsworth (’96) has been named director of news and media relations at Union University. Address: 25 Sagefield Cove, Jackson, TN 38305 Email: tellower@uu.edu

Paul Cosimiano (’93) recently became the head volleyball coach at Mississippi College. He also currently serves as a member of the NCAA Volleyball Ranking Committee for the South Region. Address: 2401-A River Oaks Blvd., Jackson, MS 39211 Email: cosimiano@msc.edu or yeyaha@bellsouth.net

Michael James Dickerson (’92) has moved to 2664 James Road, Douglassville, GA 31015.

Peter Cosimiano (’93) recently became the head volleyball coach at Mississippi College. He also currently serves as a member of the NCAA Volleyball Ranking Committee for the South Region. Address: 2401-A River Oaks Blvd., Jackson, MS 39211 Email: cosimiano@msc.edu or yeyaha@bellsouth.net

Greg Bowers (’81) has moved to 2664 James Road, Douglassville, GA 31015.

David Jett (’96) has accepted a new job as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Southaven, Miss., where he lives with his wife Kathy (’82). Address: 9955 Kenton Drive, Southaven, MS 38672. Email: kmjett2006@yahoo.com

Lee Percor (’82) recently accepted the position of assistant professor of biblical studies at Liberty University and will be working with Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in its distance learning program. Address: 1481 Rainbow Forest Drive, Lynchburg VA 24502. E-mail: PercorL@juno.com

Gary L. Bell (’94), director of news and media relations at Union University. Address: 3955 Kenton Drive, Southaven, MS 38672. Email: gbell@uu.edu

Gwyn Bell (’79) serves on staff as secretary on the alumni help desk coordinator with Union University computing services. Email: gbell@uu.edu

Jane Blythe (’91) accepted a new position as PRO director at Long-Lewis Hardware in Birmingham, Ala., June 7, 2004. Address: 122 Coales Branch Drive, Pelham, AL 35124. E-mail: jblythe@long-louis.com

Craig (’95) and Lori Clayton (’98) recently moved with their two children, Lydia and Graham, to Celaya, Mexico, where they are working as missionaries with the International Mission Board.
Bryan Vos ('00) and Bart Span were married August 7, 2004, at Cheekwood Gardens, Nashville, Tenn. Brynna is currently pursuing a degree in interior design at Watkins College of Art and Design and is employed by McAlpine, Booth & Fifer Interiors, Nashville. Address: 727 Bell Road, Apt. 915 Antioch, TN 37013-8018. Email: brynavos@hotmail.com

Robin Cooper-Wilbanks ('88) and Allen Wilbanks were married in April 2003. They raise Courtney, 12, and Bryce, 16, in Camden, Tenn. Robin works as a therapist at NYAA with adolescents from all over the United States. Address: 198 North Forrest Avenue, Camden, TN 38320. Email: scroup17@hotmail.com

BIRTHS

D. Andrew “Drew” Bryan ('99) married Heather D. Fincher on June 8, 2002. They now have a 6-month-old daughter named Sarah Elizabeth Bryan.

Kelli White Deere ('00) and her husband, Neal, had a daughter, Mollie Beth, 7 pounds, 4 ounces, on Feb. 21, 2004. Address: 384 Eastern Shores Drive, Lexington, TN 38351. E-mail: kelli_deere@hotmail.com

Stacy Fields ('98) and her husband, Stephen, had a son, Stephen Parker, 5 pounds, 14 ounces, on July 14, 2004. They raise Meisha Parks, 10 years old, and Steven, 20 months old. Address: 2917 Schoolside St., Memphis, TN 38122. E-mail: stephenfield@art.net

Ronnie Gibbs ('89) and his wife, Peggy, had a daughter, Karla Michelle, 8 pounds, 9 ounces; 20 1/2 inches long, on July 23, 2004. They have two sons ages 7 and 2. Ronnie is a software developer at Equinix Information Systems in Madison, Tenn. Peggy is a homemaker. Address: 733 Charlie Gann Drive, Old Hickory, TN 37138. E-mail: ronniegibbs@worldnet.att.net

Beth Murphy Harrel ('89) and her husband, Adrian, had a son, Michael Aiden, born August 2, 2003. They have three other sons, Shaun, 7; Jordan, 5; and Davy is 3. Beth is a homemaker and Adrian is the sales manager for Clifty Farm. Address: 611 S. Willowbrook Drive, Paris, TN 38242. Email: bethhr@bellsouth.net

Jason and Amy (Brit) Hollowell ('98) had a daughter, Callie Lynn, 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and 18 1/2 inches long on April 13, 2004.

Jeff A. Kistner ('83) had his third son, David Allan, in August, 2004. Jeff is the minister of music and media at First Baptist Church in Brookhaven, Miss. Address: 303 Noble Drive, Brookhaven, MS 36801. E-mail: jeffkistner@bclonline.net

Amy Bentley Lamborn ('91) and her husband Rob had a daughter, Caroline Grace. Amy is a first-year doctoral student in psychiatry and religion at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Rob is the pastor of Christ Church (Episcopal) in Riverdale, N.Y. Address: 5030 Henry Hudson Parkway, Bronx, NY 10471. E-mail: al2309@columbia.edu

MEMORIAM


James T. McAfee ('61) November 3, 2004, Seabrook Island, SC.

William McAfee ('55) July 14, 2004, Jackson, Tenn.

Frances Henson Overman ('35) July 18, 2004, La Verne, Calif.


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