The Board of Trustees of Union University held a major meeting on April 4-5, 2002, to review the University’s progress regarding Unions five year strategic plan, Visions and Values 2005, implemented two years ago. The trustees unanimously and overwhelmingly approved the University’s accomplishments, with following recommendation:

The Board of Trustees commends the administration for the timely progress toward the completion of the Visions and Values 2005 strategic plan, approves the stated goals and objectives, and encourages the administration, faculty, staff, and student body to continue to pursue excellence in all aspects of the University mission.

This mid-term assessment celebrated God’s goodness to Union in recent days and identified what is needed to move forward toward 2005 and on toward 2010.

As we look toward 2005 we recognize—especially since September 11 and in light of the events in the Middle East this spring—that we find ourselves in a world of change and international conflict. Union must be equipped to live and work in this new century where the social context and economy will be global, the expanding world of technology and information will be ever increasing, and the spiritual needs and ethical challenges of the world will become more significant.

As we look toward 2005 we recognize Union’s heritage and distinctive identity will shape and direct the University’s mission of providing Christ-centered education that promotes excellence and character development in service to Church and Society. This declares that our academic programs will be both distinctive and excellent, providing a framework for integrating our teaching, our learning, our scholarship, and our living in community with a dynamic faith. These characteristics, qualities must be extended to every offering of the University, ensuring the best support for the present faculty and staff, by recruiting the best faculty and staff candidates in the future for superb teaching, research, and service, and by seeking to attract the best students possible for study. It is exciting to recognize that we can now say to prospective students that Union is a University that has a national reach and reputation with a local and regional focus.

The Trustees Celebrated:
- Growth in enrollment to over 2600 students this past fall and a non-duplicating headcount of well over 3000.
- The sixth straight year of gifts of $6 million to Union.
- The establishment of the Charles C. Olson Chair of Faith and Culture, to be held by Dr. Hal Poe (with the installation scheduled for September 27, 2002).
- The highly successful conference this spring focused on the identity and future of American Evangelicalism, hosted on the Union University campus by Union’s Carl F. H. Henry Center for Center Leadership.
- The beginning of the new engineering program and the establishment of the Bob Cook Engineering Scholarship.
- Approximately 200 students serving on Global Opportunity Mission Trips across the country and around the world during spring break.
- The outstanding athletic seasons in all sports, particularly the conference championships, and national recognitions for Union athletes.
- The specialized accreditation for: teacher education, art, music, nursing, social work, and chemistry (with expectation for a positive report soon for sports medicine).
- Academic excellence, evidenced by the above mentioned accreditation reports and quality teaching (12 to 1 faculty/student ratio) while expanding scholarship among the faculty.
- The commitment to servant leadership by the University staff.
- 80% of faculty have received terminal degrees.
- As much more.

Looking Toward 2005, the Trustees:
- Approved a record budget of $37 million for 2002-03.
- Named the new baseball and softball facilities in honor of Benny and Norma Fesmire.
- Voted to move forward with the construction of the new science building, to be named the Roy L. White Hall in appreciation for the generous support from Trustee Roy White for this project.
- Groundbreaking is expected in the Fall of 2002.
- Outlined expectations for every sector of the University campus including academic, residential life, student recruitment, campus ministries, business services, technology, the development office, and the athletic department.
- Focused on meeting current challenges and expanding the financial resources of the University.
- Highlighted the importance of constantly evaluating the affordability and accessibility of a Union education, including ongoing commitments to providing appropriate student financial aid.
- Encouraged the successful completion of the $60 million “Building a Future” Campaign, while giving thanks that $45 million has been given or pledged.
- I am delighted to report that Union University has never been healthier in her long and storied 179-year history. The campus has looked better, the future has never been brighter.

The support of the Board of Trustees for Union University has never been more appreciated, more valued, or more needed. Likewise—our alumni and friends—with their increased support, the University hopes to raise nearly $400,000 this year for student scholarships—especially for students who are the legacy of an earlier faith-filled, forward looking steps.

As we look toward 2005, with expectations raised, we invite all of you to join us as we take these next faith-filled, forward looking steps together.

Soli Deo Gloria.

David S. Dockery, President

Union University has announced that James A. Baker, III, former Secretary of State under President George H. Bush, will be the keynote speaker for the University’s Sixth Annual Scholarship Banquet, scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 1, at the Carl Perkins Civic Center.

Laud sponsors for this year’s banquet include BancorpSouth and Carl and Alice Kirkland. Premier sponsors currently include C.H. ip and Rita Christian, Benny and Norma Fesmire, First Bank, Union Planters, White Investments LLC/ Roy L. White, President and CEO, Southern Enterprises, Jack and Jan Holmes, A. Jerry Kuykendal and AK Enterprises, Inc., Gary and Lisa Taylor and Porter Cable/Delta. According to Dockery, this is the largest group of sponsors for the banquet to date.

The Scholarship Banquet is supported by Union’s Board of Presidential Associates for the purpose of raising funds to provide scholarships. A total of more than $1.2 million in scholarships has been raised from the past five banquets and the university hopes to raise nearly $400,000 this year for student scholarships—the largest goal for one single banquet at Union.  

The Fesmire Foundation is announced.

Following the dedication of the Fesmire Fields housing long-time university supporters Benny and Norma Fesmire, Union President David S. Dockery announced the creation of the Fesmire Family Foundation. The fund has the potential to be the largest transformational gift in the history of the university and will provide support to various programs and building projects on Union’s campus, said Dockery.

“We appreciate the generous contribution of Union University’s Board of Trustees and the Fesmire Family Foundation,” said Union President David S. Dockery.

We are deeply grateful for their interests and efforts to advance the support of the work of the University and especially excited about the potential of the Fesmire Foundation for Union’s future.”

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David S. Dockery, President
Outstanding chapter – Union's American Chemical Society (ACS) chapter is currently honored for the third year in a row as one of only 22 outstanding chapters in the nation. Here, Dr. Charles Baldwin, advisor of the chapter and professor of chemistry, stands with Alissa Menardis, a lab student.

During his address, Dockery examined numerous goals and objectives that have been set for the school as part of a five-year, long-term plan. Some of these included continuing to provide classroom teaching while encouraging public presentation of scholarship and research and by at least 25% of the faculty in addition to implementing and developing a new, approved faculty research leave program.

"We must faithfully seek to carry out our mission of providing higher education while promoting excellence and character development, in service to Church and society," said Dockery, as he addressed the board. "In doing so we recognize that we are not a church, a business, a mission or social agency, but an academic institution."

Dockery added that Union is a liberal arts based university – "where the life of the mind is fostered in the context of the world, the historical and modern academic disciplines are carried forth. It is in this sense that we recognize our unique role as a part of the academic arm in the Church's larger task of seeking and advancing God's kingdom," said Dockery.

With approximately 13% of the undergraduate student body scoring 30 or more on their ACT or SAT equivalent, outstanding students from 42 states and one test score from three countries attended Union University, said Dockery, and for an unprecedented fifth year, administrators offered several thousand dollars in freshman scholarships.

It is very important, Dockery emphasized, that Union find ways to serve its primary constituency – the church. The University Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention – effectively and relate to them constructively during a time of paradigmatic change.

"Union is gladly both Baptist by tradition and evangelical by conviction – that is, we believe in the infallible Word of God and yet our faith is grounded in the infallible Word," said Dockery. "We want to continue to emphasize Union’s commitment to being an embodying Christian university, exemplifying a strong relational and cultural tie with Tennessee Baptists and all Southern Baptists."

In other business, approval was given for Union's baseball and softball fields to be named in honor of long-time supporter Benny and Norma Fennee – each to be called Fennee Field. The Fennees have been longtime supporters of Union and particularly its athletic program, giving more than $400,000 to help provide lighting for the fields and much needed equipment. Benny Fennee, a banker and member of West Jackson Baptist Church, was also named trustee emeritus, along with John McRee, a developer who attends First Baptist Church in Memphis and has been a board member for more than three decades. Trustee Jack H. Holmes was appointed the new chair for the board, to replace Tidwell, who has recently moved to Calvary Baptist in Clearwater, Fla., to serve as pastor there.

"Higher education will continue to see tremendous increases in costs alongside diminishing revenue, from tuition fees and other sources, yet their constituencies will increase the call for better service," said Dockery. "In order to maintain and strengthen these relationships, educational leadership will require integrity, courage and vision."

"It's great to see the work we've done all year come together in this competition," said Philip N. Beebe, a senior economics major. "It's not so much a competition as recognition for the hard work we've put in."

To be in SIFE, students must be juniors or seniors and be recognized as a chapter of the National Federation of State HOFAs. At press time, Union will vie to attend the world championship in Amsterdam, The Netherlands when the chapter attends the SIFE World Competition May 12-14 in Kansas City, Mo. Team members include: Robert Clifford, Allison Cole, M. Anda Fly, M. Lorenza, Angela Hodge (President), Sarah Jick, John Jensen, Kevin Little (Treasurer), Kim Maborn, Will C. McCartney (Vice President), Chris Melton, Derek Morris, Nick Mullikins, Phil Nabbett, Drew Nicholls (Fundraising Chair), Adam Nyswander, Shakerah Rivers, John Robus (Vice-President), Rebekah Rogers, Amanda Russell, Sherlyn Schrock, Lindsey Traylor, and Brody Van Dyne.

"As a homesick freshman at Howard Payne University, I once decorated a lamp with a strand of lights to spell 'noel' in the window. Returning home for the holidays to find a lamp decorated with the name 'Bethlehem' was a great surprise – and an inspiration," said Dr. Roderick Bush, director of the interdisciplinary honors program at Union, Bush said he has always had a large dose of the Christmas spirit. "As a homesick freshman at Howard Payne University, I once decorated a lamp with a strand of lights to spell 'noel' in the window. Returning home for the holidays to find a lamp decorated with the name 'Bethlehem' was a great surprise – and an inspiration," said Dr. Roderick Bush, director of the interdisciplinary honors program at Union, Bush said he has always had a large dose of the Christmas spirit. "As a homesick freshman at Howard Payne University, I once decorated a lamp with a strand of lights to spell 'noel' in the window. Returning home for the holidays to find a lamp decorated with the name 'Bethlehem' was a great surprise – and an inspiration," said Dr. Roderick Bush, director of the interdisciplinary honors program at Union, Bush said he has always had a large dose of the Christmas spirit. "As a homesick freshman at Howard Payne University, I once decorated a lamp with a strand of lights to spell 'noel' in the window. Returning home for the holidays to find a lamp decorated with the name 'Bethlehem' was a great surprise – and an inspiration," said Dr. Roderick Bush, director of the interdisciplinary honors program at Union, Bush said he has always had a large dose of the Christmas spirit. "As a homesick freshman at Howard Payne University, I once decorated a lamp with a strand of lights to spell 'noel' in the window. Returning home for the holidays to find a lamp decorated with the name 'Bethlehem' was a great surprise – and an inspiration," said Dr. Roderick Bush, director of the interdisciplinary honors program at Union, Bush said he has always had a large dose of the Christmas spirit. "As a homesick freshman at Howard Payne University, I once decorated a lamp with a strand of lights to spell 'noel' in the window. Returning home for the holidays to find a lamp decorated with the name 'Bethlehem' was a great surprise – and an inspiration," said Dr. Roderick Bush, director of the interdisciplinary honors program at Union, Bush said he has always had a large dose of the Christmas spirit. "As a homesick freshman at Howard Payne University, I once decorated a lamp with a strand of lights to spell 'noel' in the window. Returning home for the holidays to find a lamp decorated with the name 'Bethlehem' was a great surprise – and an inspiration," said Dr. Roderick Bush, director of the interdisciplinary honors program at Union, Bush said he has always had a large dose of the Christmas spirit. "As a homesick freshman at Howard Payne University, I once decorated a lamp with a strand of lights to spell 'noel' in the window. Returning home for the holidays to find a lamp decorated with the name 'Bethlehem' was a great surprise – and an inspiration," said Dr. Roderick Bush, director of the interdisciplinary honors program at Union, Bush said he has always had a large dose of the Christmas spirit.
Colson Chair announced at Union University

In a unanimous decision by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, Union University, in cooperation with the Board of Prison Fellowship, has announced that the Charles Colson Chair of Faith and Culture will be established at Union. If Hal Poe, recognized scholar, author and current Dr. Colson’s Professor of Faith and Culture, was named as the first recipient. “This announcement helps solidify our commitment to Christian worldview thinking and cultural engagement,” said Dr. Dockery, president of Union University. “Charles Colson was a great public servant who understood the importance of sharing the gospel. We are honored to have his name be associated with this chair.”

First “town and gown” forum held at Union

Union University’s College of Arts and Sciences held a series of interdisciplinary classes during the month of January that offered a variety of perspectives on the subject of Islam. Topics included Islamic history, theology, architecture, literature, science, math, economics, culture and politics. While 20 students took the winter course for credit, more than 50 people from the community attended the lectures, including faculty who participated in leading the lectures included: Ann Livingstone, associate professor of political science; Jean-Maries Alksnis, associate professor of French; Greg Thombury and Randall Bush, assistant professor and professor of Christian Studies; Gavin Richardson, assistant professor of English; Don Van, associate professor of engineering; Walton Pafford, professor of economics, and Cindy Jayne, professor of Spanish and director of international and intercultural studies. The College of Arts and Sciences hopes to continue the “town and gown” format as well as making it a regular feature.

Union math professors take speed to a new perception

Union math professors take speed to a new perception

The Union University baseball program captured the 2002 TransSouth Conference Regular Season Championship in April as their bulldogs finished atop the conference standings. In the conference game of the season, this is the second regular season title in three years. At press time, Union will be the No. 1 seed in the TransSouth Conference Tournament. The Bulldogs will play the No. 2 seed, Tampa, on April 30-May 4. With this regular season title, Union also earns an automatic bid to the NCAA Region XI Tournament in Lebanon, Tennessee on May 7-11. This will be the fourth consecutive trip to the region tournament for the Bulldogs.

Union Tennis Sweeps TransSouth Postseason Honors

Union Tennis wins tennis programs added the TransSouth Conference Men’s and Women’s Player of the Year to their 2002 season accomplishments in April, adding to the many athletic awards of the season. Union men’s tennis coach Brian Dunn was named the TransSouth Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season. Dunn, who has coached Union men’s tennis for two seasons, has compiled a regular season record of 14-4. In addition, Union will be the No. 1 seed in the TransSouth Tournament in May, where they will be the No. 1 seed and top-seeded team in the tournament. The Lady Bulldogs swept the TransSouth Postseason Honors, including Young, who was named the TransSouth Player of the Year for the second consecutive season. Young went 14-4 in singles and 9-3 in doubles, which helped the Bulldogs to win the regular season conference championship.

Union Wins Second Consecutive NCCAA National Championship

The University Lady Bulldog softball team won the 2002 National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) National Championship in late April. The Lady Bulldogs defeated NCAA D IV 1 opponent Gardner Webb 2-1 in the finals to win their second consecutive national title. The Lady Bulldogs dominated the awards as Rachel Murray was named the NCCAA Player of the Year and All-American. Murray was named the national tournament Most Valuable Player. Murray and teammate Veronica Cortes, Young, has played at both the No. 1 and No. 2 positions this season. The Lady Bulldogs are currently ranked in the top 10 in the national polls and are in the top 15 in the nation.

Dawson and Riggs Explained in their study, the math duo’s recent research has uncovered a few well-deserved rays of recognition on both Dawson and Riggs. In addition to receiving a federal grant for their department to further the study, Dawson and Riggs’ work was recently showcased in the Journal of New Scientist. The pair was also contacted by the editor for “Discoveries and Breakthroughs Inside Science” concerning a video program to be produced by the American Institute of Physics, and most recently, their work was noticed by the Mathematical Association of America, a significant achievement for the two mathematicians.