Redemption of Philemon

The Union University Players presented Philemon, a production that addressed issues about redemption and restoration. The play, directed by Assistant Professor of Theatre David Burke, featured, from left to right, Miranda Wallace, Blake Staples and Ashley Mitchell.

Photo by Jim Veneman

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Our Shared Purpose

Union University is a distinctive academic community. At the heart of this community are learners, educators, and scholars, students, staff and faculty. Moreover, Union is a Christian community—a Christian academic community. This is our defining characteristic, or shared purpose. In no way does this downplay our commitment to academic excellence. Nor does it take away from our commitment to professional preparation. It does mean that all teaching and learning is to be grounded in a Christian world and life view, which involves learning to think and live Christianny.

Learning within this shared purpose helps open our eyes to the aborting pattern of creation when we study science. Our study of music moves us to the depths of our being. Our understanding of art and literature and music of art opens our eyes to appreciate the depths of our being. Our understanding of music moves us to the depths of our being. Our understanding of art opens our eyes to appreciate the astonishing view, which involves learning to think and live Christianny.

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Writing to Us

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WRITE TO US

We welcome your letters. The editor reserves the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit them for accuracy and length. Letters should not exceed 500 words. Letters should refer to material published in the magazine and include the writer’s full name, address and telephone number. If an alum, please include degree and year of degree. Write Letters, Unionite, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, Tenn. 38305
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTRIBUTORS

Allen Palmeri, who wrote “Remembering the titans” on page 34 writes for the Missouri Baptist Convention. He is the former editor of Share the Victory, the national magazine of the Fellowship of Christian Athletics. A graduate of M-I University, Palmeri’s writings have appeared in newspapers across the nation. Allen and his wife, Susan, live in Jefferson City, Mo., with their four children.

Gregory Thornbury, director of the Carl F.H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership and assistant professor of Christian Studies, provides the magazine’s cover story on Christian higher education on page 16. When he isn’t writing or lecturing, Thornbury enjoys playing jazz guitar. He and his wife, Kimberly, have two daughters.

Wendy Wilson is a reporter for The Jackson Sun and her feature on the university appears on page 3. A Michigan native, Wilson graduated from Valparaiso University in 1992 with a major in journalism and a minor in Spanish. After graduating, she worked as an immigration counselor as well as for newspapers in Florida and California. She joined The Jackson Sun in 1999.

Jim Veneman is the university’s director of visual communication. He provides the photography that accompanies the cover story that appears on page 16. A veteran photographer, Veneman was also dispatched to cover the war in Iraq for Baptist Press. Photographs from his perch on board the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman are featured on page 29.

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CHRISTIAN THINKING

Rigorous Christian thinking draws national attention

Observers credit Dockery’s leadership

By Wendy Wilson

For years, George Guthrie met with puzzled looks at national meetings for biblical scholars when he told people he was from Union University.

Lately, though, reaction has changed from “I know you’re Christian, but what’s happening there now?” to “Wow, that’s impressive.”

The answer: a lot. Enrollment is booming, new buildings are going up across campus and students are signing up for an array of new courses. Efforts to incorporate rigorous Christian thinking across the curriculum have drawn praise from nationally-known religious leaders, including Prison Fellowship founder ChuckColson.

Guthrie, who chairs the Christian studies department, is quick to credit the changes to David S. Dockery, who became the school’s 15th president in 1996.

“Avid Dockery is the most significant thing happening in the school’s history,” Guthrie said. “It’s an exciting time to be in this school.”

Under his leadership, the school has set out to appeal to the larger evangelical community while remaining true to its Southern Baptist heritage.

The 50-year-old Dockery is also raising the school’s profile by bringing in world-renowned leaders and pundits to speak at community forums. Most reflect his conservative view.

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The lineup has included political leaders such as Margaret Thatcher, John M. Jorgenson and Colin Powell and commen-
tators such as William Kristol and John Leo. Dockery made headlines in 2000 when he invited former Soviet leader M.
ikhail Gorbachev to speak at Union. The forums “speak well for the school as well as the community,” said Clark Shaw,
president of Casey Jones Village.

Gorbachev dined on Tennessee country ham at the Old Country Store at Casey Jones Village during his visit to Jackson.
Today, his chair from the dinner is displayed on the wall in the Heritage Room along with pictures of past United States presidents and Confederate soldiers.

In an essay defending bringing Gorbachev to the school, Dockery said Christians need to become more educated about the world and get out of their “evangelical ghetto mentality.”

That Dockery has accomplished so much in a short amount of time comes as no surprise to H. Albert Mohler Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. “He has a very bold vision for Christian higher education and that’s what drives him,” Mohler said.

Before coming to Union, Dockery served at the seminary as a professor, dean of the school of theology and as vice president for academic administration.

Mohler said Dockery’s sharp mind, adminis-
trative skills and ability to work well with people make him a rarity.

His admirers at Union say they respect his intelligence and his ability to commu-
nicate his ideas with clarity and patience. Kina Mallard, who chairs the communica-
tions arts department, said Dockery’s leadership has influenced her to stay at the school longer than she had intended.

“He makes it hard to leave,” said M.
allard, who came to the school more than 10 years ago.

Mallard said Dockery sets high standards while also boosting people’s confidence.

Among the newer faculty members is Don Van, who came to Union two years ago to serve as the department chairman for the school’s new engineering department.

A former manager of environmental affairs for the Pfizer Corporation in New Jersey, Van wanted to give something back to society and work in a Christian environment.

“I definitely found that here,” said Van, who learned about Union while browsing the Internet. “I can’t wait to come to work in the morning.”

Then there’s Richard Joiner, the music department chairman who came to Union last year from Mississippi College, a sister Baptist institution.

Joiner, 60, joined been at Mississippi College for 22 years. Making the decision to leave was tough, he said, but he was drawn by the chance to work with people with common views.

“Union was so focused, I found it refreshing,” he said. “It’s difficult to get a college full of Ph.D.’s to espouse such a singular idea.”

That doesn’t mean there’s not an opportunity for discussion, he said.

“There’s room for thought and exploring different ideas about why we believe what we believe.”

Evangelical schools have long contended with the image that they have stifling atmosphere and fail to produce well-
rounded students. Some of the most stinging criticism has come from within their own ranks.

In 1994, Wheaton College president and historian Mark Noll published a book called “The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind.” In the book, Noll took his fellow evangelicals to task for being too parochial and failing to develop a broad base of learning. Wheaton College is a non-

-denominational Christian school in Illinois. School leaders who try to broaden their curriculum sometimes meet with resistance, Noll said in an interview.

“A new focus is going to cause new questions,” he said.

Noll said he thinks Union has good personnel in place and is well-
positioned to make a difference.

W. Ross writes for The Jackson Sun.

This article first appeared on Feb. 16 and
excerpts are published with permission.

E-mail the writer at unionite@uu.edu.

Breaking Ground

Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were (from left to right) Jackson Mayor Charles Farmer;
Campus Master Plan Chair Gary Taylor; Biochemistry department chair James Huggins; Madison County
Trustee Chairman Mike Weeks; Union University president David S. Dockery; Union University officials broke ground on new Science Building

University breaks ground on new Science Building

On Thursday, the two-story building will house biology on the first floor and chemistry on the second – with other science areas such as physics, engineering and computer science to be added later. Project completion is scheduled for 2005.

“The sciences are as much as anything else we do at Union symbolize the university’s commitment to excellence,” said Union University president David Dockery. “We are very excited about where this process is going and we are very hopeful for the next two years.”

According to TLM Associates, who was awarded the architectural and engineering aspects of the campus master plan, a sci-
ence building is one of the more difficult challenges. Union science faculty and administrators have spent many hours visiting other science facilities on other
New scholarship recognizes minority scholars

By Sara Diane Lynn Darby

When the Union University Board of Trustees met recently, one of their actions was the approval of a new scholarship designed to recognize the hard work of minority scholars.

In its resolution, the board cited the need for this type of scholarship recognizing the academic excellence of minority students. "As an institution, we are committed to the education of all students, " said Union Provost Carla Sanderson. "This scholarship will support students who may need additional financial assistance to pursue excellence in their studies."

The scholarship is open to all students of African-American heritage who have completed at least 24 semester hours at Union with a grade point average of 3.0 and have at least one year of eligibility. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to students who wish to continue their studies at Union.

The scholarship will be awarded based on a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, a strong commitment to studying, and the ability to demonstrate leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. The scholarship will be renewed annually for up to four years, depending on the availability of funds.

The scholarship honors the memory of James and Barbara M. Wilson, who were both graduates of Union University and dedicated members of the community. The scholarship will be awarded to students who demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence and service to the community.

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Netanyahu to speak at Scholarship Banquet

Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be the keynote speaker for Union University’s Seventh Annual Scholarship Banquet, said Union President David S. Dockery. “Prime Minister Netanyahu has taken the lead in addressing key moral issues currently facing the Middle East. He is dedicated to the fight against terrorism, and his real-life experiences in global politics, economics and strife in the Middle East will provide great insight on Oct. 27.”

Lead sponsors for this year’s banquet include BancorpSouth, Carl and Alice Kirkland, Pentair Tools Group – Porter-Cable, Delphi/Delco Air Power Company and Mr. & M. N. Jack Porter. Premier sponsors currently include Chip and Rita Christian, Benny and Norma Fesmire, FirstBank, Jack and Zan Holmes, Schilling Enterprises, Inc., Gary and Lisa Taylor, Union Planters Bank, West Tennessee Healthcare, Wible Investments LLC, and Roy L. White. President and CEO

The Scholarship Banquet is supported by Union’s Board of Presidential Associates for the purpose of raising funds to provide scholarships. Last year’s event raised more than $500,000, bringing the total funds raised by the banquet series to over $2 million since its inception in 1997.

Center acquires historic Geneva Bible

T he R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies has acquired a 1615 edition of the historic Geneva Bible, according to Ray Van Nete, director of the Center. Acquisition of the Bible was made possible by a gift from David and Linda Shoal, of Mississippi. It will serve as the centerpiece for the Center’s library.

“Just as the Geneva Bible facilitated the spread of God’s word to the common people 400 years ago, today Union’s Center for Biblical Studies encourages the study and use of the Bible,” Van Nete said. “Many people do not use or rarely try to understand the Bible and our mission is to provide resources to the community for better understanding of the Scriptures.”

In conjunction with the celebration of the newly acquired Bible, noted professor of church historical theology Carl Porter delivered an address. Porter is an associate professor at Westminster Theological Seminary. The event was sponsored by the Carl F.H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership and the R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies. Trueman discussed the history of the Geneva Bible. First published in 1560, the Geneva Bible became the most popular English version of the 16th and 17th centuries. The work received its name from the city in which it was printed and sold well enough to be reprinted in 180 editions. It is believed that Reformation leaders John Knox, Miles Coverdale and William Whittingham were involved in the preparation of the translation and its study notes.

According to Trueman, those notes are the key to the Geneva Bible’s popularity. “It provided them with explanations,” he said. As the Reformation moved European believers away from dependency on clergy to provide scriptural interpretation toward a focus on the individual’s relationship with God and the Bible, people wanted the help the notes provided.

Trueman is the author of “Luther’s Legacy: Salvation and English Reformers” and “Legacy: Salvation and English Reformers,” the help the notes provided. He is a graduate of St. Catharine’s College, Cambridge and the University of Aberdeen.

Chemical society garners national attention

The Union University student affiliate chapter was named an “Outstanding” chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) for the fourth consecutive year at the 225th National Meeting of the ACS in New Orleans. The chapter is based on professional development of students in chemistry and the chemical contributions to the community.

“These awards are evidence of the commitment of our students to serving others,” said Charles Baldwin, O. P. and Evelyn H. Armonius University Professor of Pre-Medical Studies. “The chapter’s success is based on professional development of students in chemistry and the chemical contributions to the community.”

Green chemistry is the design and use of chemical products or processes which prevent or reduce the use of hazardous substances. Union’s chapter was also one of five to be named an ACS Green Student Affiliate Chapter. This is the first year that designation has been awarded. Green chemistry is the design and use of chemical products or processes which prevent or reduce the use of hazardous substances. Union’s chapter received the designation based on

Ward-Larson wins research award

Charlotte Ward-Larson, associate professor of nursing at Union University, was presented with the 2003 D. Jean Wood Nursing Scholarship Award at the annual meeting of the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS). Feb. 15. The award recognizes the contributions of a researcher who has enhanced the science and practice of nursing in the Southern region. It is named in honor of the first president of SNRS.

Ward-Larson was honored for her project “The Efficacy of Facilitated Tucking for Reducing Procedural Pain of Endotracheal Suctioning in Very Low Birth Weight Infants.”

The study demonstrated that tucking and holding infants in a fetal position reduces the amount of pain the infants feel during suction procedures. “It gives nurses another tool to provide comfort to sick infants and premature infants,” said Denker.

Ward-Larson has produced an article on her research which will be published in an upcoming edition of M C N : the American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing.
Nationally syndicated columnist John Leo and M. Innova Supreme Court Justice Alan Page headlined the 2003 Union Forum series and entailed business and community leaders with their thought-provoking lunch discussions at Union University.

Leo, who spoke at the Feb. 7 Union Forum, writes a weekly column for U.S. News & World Report, Time, and the New York Times. He delivered a speech titled “Cultural Decline and What We Can Do About It.”

Leo said he receives a substantial amount of mail from readers. “I’ve been struck by how mournful as much of it has been lately,” he said. “I try wind up saying, ‘What’s happened to the country?’ I feel the same way.” He cited extreme violence in popular music and drama as occurrences which would have been unthinkable in years past but have become common practice today.

Leo traced these trends to the sixties. “The mainstream was under assault,” he said. “Anybody who was not in the mainstream looked really good. This led to a celebration of every outsider, he believes, regardless of merit. Leo said he believes that a return to the mainsteam would have been valuable to shape the culture as those of the ‘60s did. “There’s no easy answer, but we must be as aggressive and consistent in working to shape the culture as those of the counter-culture did,” he said. M Innesota Supreme Court Justice and National Football League Hall of Fame member Alan C. Page presented the March 14 Union Forum encouraging each person to play a role in making the future better and brighter by investing in education, developing character and improving race relations.

We cannot afford another generation of children disconnected from the educational process,” said Page. For him, the need for better education efforts became clear in 1978 when he observed that four of the nine defensive linemen on his team could not read a playbook in which “the difficult words were ‘offense,’ ‘defense’ ‘block’ and ‘tackle.’” These men did not miss the opportunity to learn to read in college or high school, but in the early grades, before they were athletes, said Page.

“ar could happen,” Page asked, “if we honored students and teachers who excel with the same intensity and force used to rescue former prisoner of war Jessica Lynch, a prisoner of war Jessica Lynch. Jessica Lynch was rescued – injured, but alive and well,” said Thom Rainer during an April 2 address to more than 1,000 students and faculty at Union University. “You can imagine the courage it took to go in and save her life? The resources? One life is that important temporarily, and one life is that important eternally.”

American Special Forces led a team of Marines, Army Rangers, Navy SEALS and Air Force pilots on a rescue mission to save Pfc. Lynch. Lynch had been held captive by Iraqi soldiers since March 23 when members of the 507th M Maintenance Company took a wrong turn in the desert and were ambushed.

Rainer, a noted expert in church growth and evangelism, compared the mission of Christians to that of the soldiers who rescued Lynch. He also spoke to approximately 250 students gathered on campus for the university’s PreachingPoints Conference. The conference, sponsored by Union University, is designed to equip and encourage pastors and ministry professionals.

The Feb. 25 PreachingPoints featured James Murrin, past of the First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga. and former presi- dent of the Southern Baptist Convention and Kevin Earl, past of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. “We are called to build God’s house,” Rainer told the students. According to the Bible (Hebrews 3:6-19). Rainer noted that God’s call to rebuild his house was uttered in 500 B.C. “God said, ‘I want you to rebuild my house.’ He speaks to each of us who have received him and tells us to build his house by seeing God’s people added to it, by going to share the message of salvation.”

Relating the passage to the New Testament, Rainer referred students to Acts 1:8 where God says, “Go build my house.” Rainer related a chance encounter with former lightweight boxing champion George Foreman on an airliner as an example of witnessing moments. “I got on that plane and I all I wanted to do was sleep,” Rainer said. “But God reminded me about a promise I had made to a friend that I would share Christ each accredited program. Stranak said, placing the university well ahead of the requirements and giving an edge to Union students entering the program.

Engineering Dept. hosts competition

Union University’s Department of Engineering hosted the local T EAM S of Engineering Aptitude, M athematics and Science Competition Saturday, March 13. Jackson’s South Side High School placed first in the competition, bringing home a $1,000 prize. The team consists of Brian Branch and includes students Shannon Stranak, Kris Gordon, Joshua Elder, Ryma Curry, Ben Gordon, Ryan Williams and Joseph Maloney.

Dyerberg High School took second place and a $750 prize. The team consists of students John M. Laughlin III, John Houton, Patrick Godwin, Ryan Johnston, Andrew Wright, Laura Fisher, Amber Davis and Alex Frey and is coached by Wanda Robertson.

Spurred on by TBDN, the competition tests students’ ability to answer questions and develop possible plans of action for real engineering projects such as roadways, satellites and hybrid electric vehicles. TBDN representative Bryan Everette encouraged the students to pursue engineering. “Engineers make people’s dreams become reality,” he said.

Baconian Society inaugurated

Two Union University professors have launched the Baconian Society, an organization that explores the exchange between science and religion. Hal Poe, Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture, and Jimmy Davis, associate provost and professor of chemistry, received a $15,000 Local Societies Initiative Grant by the M etanexus Institute on Science and Religion, an organization that provides grants for colleges, universities and seminaries. The grant pays start-up costs for dialogue groups that explore the exchange between science and religion.

“This was a logical development between what Hal and I did for years,” said Davis. “We developed
A group of Union students taking an ethics class taught by David Guise have published a book of their thoughts and studies on the Holocaust. Copies of the work were presented to the university at a ceremony in the Emma Waters Summer Library.

“When Night Fell: A Student Response to the Holocaust,” was written by Guise’s students and includes their feelings and thoughts on the Holocaust. Guise is the associate professor of Christian philosophy. He had an idea that the students initiated and saw to completion, said Guise.

University graduates Joshua Trent and Autumn Ridenour compiled the book, which features papers done by almost 20 students in the class. Guise and University President David S. Dockery also contributed to the literary effort.

“I am excited about this student project, which underscores the high quality academic work taking place on the Union campus as well as the deep reflection on the significant issues and ideas of our time,” Dockery said. “I think of it as a book that would be a treasure to read. The students did a great job.”

This is another example of the creative and soul-stirring academic work taking place on the Union campus. The work is a reflection of the high quality academic work taking place on the Union campus as well as the deep reflection on the significant issues and ideas of our time. Dockery said.

"Comfort is another obstacle," he said. "If the King of Persia allowed them to return, he allowed them to harvest trees for the temple, but they used them for homes. They were more concerned about not getting out of their comfort zone than they were about building God’s house."

"God says don’t get too comfortable," he said. "Don’t get too complacent." Rainer said a good way to avoid complacency is through mission work. "If you don’t go far away to a mission field, there is a mission field here – dorm mates, neighbors, family." Rainer also cautioned the students to remember their commitment to Christ. "The Bible tells us that those in Haggai’s time were doing a lot of good things but they were not doing their best," he said. "They did things that were not mandated by God."

"Don’t let the good replace the best," Rainer said. "When we are called upon to tell the Good News, God does not say, ‘He says go. You know what a precious possession has been given to you, so don’t you dare withhold it from others.’"

"Fear, Rainer said, was the reason the Jews did not build the house."

"We would ask each other, ‘With whom have you shared the love of Christ in the last week?’” Rainer said after he found his last task he felt a large presence behind him – it was the hulkifying Foreman. Noticing Rainer’s book, Foreman asked the seminary professor if it was a Bible. "I said it was and he said, ‘Keep reading it,'” Rainer said. "I didn’t.” Rainer was later told that he should have been aware of the Christian and the man became very antagonistic,” he recalled. "I backed off but, George leaned over the seat, told the man to shut up and to listen to the Gospel. He did.”

Rainer said there were three obstacles to sharing the gospel of Christ – conflict, comfort and commitment.

"In Haggai the people said it was not time to build the house," Rainer said. "They had opposition on the outside and division within. They had never done it this way. Have you ever been reticent to share the love of Christ?"

"Fear, Rainer said, was the reason the Jews did not build the house."

"When Night Fell: A Student Response to the Holocaust” was written by David Guise’s students and includes their feelings and thoughts on the Holocaust. Guise is the associate professor of Christian philosophy. He had an idea that the students initiated and saw to completion.

"Comfort is another obstacle," he said. "If the King of Persia allowed them to return, he allowed them to harvest trees for the temple, but they used them for homes. They were more concerned about not getting out of their comfort zone than they were about building God’s house."

"God says don’t get too comfortable," he said. "Don’t get too complacent.” Rainer said a good way to avoid complacency is through mission work. "If you don’t go far away to a mission field, there is a mission field here – dorm mates, neighbors, family."

Rainer also cautioned the students to remember their commitment to Christ. "The Bible tells us that those in Haggai’s time were doing a lot of good things but they were not doing their best," he said. "They did things that were not mandated by God."

"Don’t let the good replace the best,” Rainer said. "When we are called upon to tell the Good News, God does not say, ‘He says go. You know what a precious possession has been given to you, so don’t you dare withhold it from others.’"

Students publish book on Holocaust

University repairs tornado damage

It has been more than six months since a Nov. 10 tornado hit the Union University campus, causing $1.7 million in damage. In the storm’s wake, the Tennessee Baptist Convention and West Tennessee rallied to support the university, while the students, staff and faculty forged a unique bond.

"The storm created winds estimated at 110 miles per hour, according to the National Weather Service. The storm shattered windows, knocked down trees, and caused extensive damage across the campus.

"One no one on Union campus was injured."

Tennessee Baptist churches donated approximately $50,000, earmarked for repairing storm damage.

Moments after the storm, the administration quickly moved to assess damage and begin the recovery process. Less than 45 minutes after the tornado, President David S. Dockery and his team of administrative leaders were making arrangements for temporary student housing.

"Our first and primary concern was the students,” Dockery said. "We needed to make sure everyone was accounted for, and we were amazed and grateful that there were no injuries.”

"He praised the resident directors (RDs) of the complexes along with their resident assistant students (RAs) for moving quickly when the tornado warnings were announced. Intercom announcements had been made throughout the complexes telling students to move to the bottom apartment bathrooms, the most interior part of the dorms."

"I am amazed and so thankful for the incredible leadership provided by our resident directors, RAs and our service teams and our facilities management staff,” Dockery said. "They protected and guided our students while working through the night to get us past those first crisis hours. They are to be commended.”

Dockery commended the university staff once again for their capable efforts following the May 4 storms, which raged downtown Jackson, but also caused more than $300,000 in damage to the university campus.

"One again,” he said. "We are so grateful for God’s providential protection.”

Virginia Lee Burton and Jane Yolen’s The Girl Who Loved the Wind. The conference was coordinated by Stephen Carl, chair of Union’s department of history and faculty advisor of Phi Alpha Theta at Union University, with the assistance of Carol Johnson.

Accelerated nursing degree

Union University’s School of Nursing launched an accelerated bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree program for individuals with at least a bachelor’s degree in another discipline. The program is completed in 12 months.

The accelerated BSN program is designed for individuals looking to make a career change and wish to pursue nursing. The program builds upon the education, career and life experiences of the individual.

Our state faces a critical nursing shortage,” said Susan Jacob, dean of the School of Nursing at Union. "We have designed this program to help curb that shortage by preparing professional men and women to improve their career opportunities.”

For further information, people can visit the Union University School of Nursing at (731) 661-5200 or visit http://www.uu.edu/programs/seconddegree nursing.

Poet Todd Davis speaks at writing workshop

The key to good writing is often considered one of the mysteries of life. While students and professors probe for a special button that releases creative abilities, many at Union avoid a pen and paper at all costs.

At Union’s annual writing workshop, however, the mystery of creativity is dealt with through simple techniques that can make anyone a better writer.

The workshop participants, 52 students from seven West Tennessee high schools, spent the morning learning how to improve their poetry, short story and creative non-fiction skills. Led by members of Union’s English department faculty, Union students and visiting poet Todd Davis, the students discussed selections from well-known poets and wrote short essays and analyzed their work.

CAMPUS NEWS

Cleaning up

Construction workers make repairs to the Hurt Commons that lost an entire wall of glass to the tornado. Photo by Jim Veneman

CAMPUS NEWS
Describe yourself in three words: Redeemed, loved, happy

Describe Union University: Community, challenging, light

Why teach at Union?
My teaching career at Union began because of “coincidence.” My husband had been hired to work at TVA’s Jackson office. Since my son and I would soon be joining him in Jackson, he called Union to inquire about the existence of a nursing program. He discovered that Union did have a nursing program and they were in need of a clinical nursing faculty. Therefore, I began at Union as a part-time clinical instructor. I managed to have plenty of time to be mom to my three-year-old son. When Nathaniel reached school age, I was offered, and accepted, a full-time position.

Why have I remained at Union? The answer is old-fashioned, practical and philosophical. I am the wife of my husband. He stays in Jackson, I stay in Jackson. But I could work elsewhere and choose to remain at Union, I believe that I am part of realizing the purposes of Union University. I believe those purposes are good and fitting in a world needful of the salt and light of Christian thinking. So the “coincidences” continue. Because the Lord’s blessings are abundant, the Union community provides (1) opportunities to interact with excellent faculty, students, guest scholars and community leaders, and (2) the freedom to act on the radical reality of a personal, redeeming, awesome God.

Who is your favorite person?
I have two favorite people, my husband and my son. Now, if you want me to venture into popular cultural or historical figures, I might choose Winston Churchill. He was so gutsy about the right things.

What do you value?
Truth, compassion, integrity, mercy

Family:
Husband Steven J. Webb, 48; Son Nathaniel T. Webb, 18

Last book you read:
“Why Should Anyone Believe Anything at All?”

In her own words:
Why do I teach? To be honest, I sometimes wonder about that. Teaching is at times utterly difficult. I must appreciate challenges. I don’t think I’m that different from most teachers. I suppose we must all have some degree of joy in seeing a student go from green to ripe, infancy to maturity, stumbling to confident, needy to (gasp) self-governing. Like parenting, teaching is a way to reproduce one’s knowledge, beliefs and passions. What a terrifying responsibility. One can, after all, pass on knowledge, beliefs and passions which are not grounded in truth. How glad I am to have a Guide that knows my discipline, my colleagues, my students and me.

I also teach because I seem fit for the task. There is discernible evidence that students have appreciated my efforts in the past. I hope I never lose that evidence. What do I think about students at Union? I must proclaim a caveat here. Other than teaching a College Life at Union (CLU) class in the distant past, I teach and advise only nursing students (undergraduate and graduate). To generalize, I observe that students are sincere, courteous, courageous and capable. These capacities are most evident in the clinical environment where real people with real health concerns call forth from the student a palpable necessity to do well. Most students are successful in doing well, despite the inevitable mistakes. On an individual basis, each student brings a unique past, unique propensities, and unique capacities. I find it exciting to see all these individual differences integrated into similarly disciplined responses as they learn the substance and process of professional nursing.

In print:

Face Value celebrates the staff, faculty and students whose contributions define the Union University community.

Portrait by Jim Veneman
On February 19, 2003, the war on terrorism found its most recent domestic suspect hiding in a seemingly unlikely place: a publicly funded state university. The FBI arrested Professor Sami Al-Arian of the University of South Florida on the charges of being the ring leader and treasurer of one of the most violent terrorist organizations in the world. Also known by the name Islamic Holy War, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) is responsible for homicide bombings, suicide attacks which have resulted in the deaths of over 100 persons in Israel and its surrounding territories. The victims include women, children, and infants.

For those that paid attention to his career, Al-Arian had long been associated with networks of global terror. In 1984, a PBS television documentary entitled “Jihad in America” linked Al-Arian with PIJ, and identified him as the chief fund-raiser for the group’s American front. Hired by USF in 1986, Al-Arian remained as an instructor and continued on the payroll of the school despite a 1996 bomb scare from PIJ in which the organization threatened to blow up a building and kill a female professor at the school. Despite dubious alliances and inflammatory rhetoric, Al-Arian was only placed on paid leave and was eventually allowed to return to classroom duties. Years passed. In 2002, Al-Arian wrote a publicized letter to a prominent Kuwaiti businessman asking him to support PIJ in its violent struggle against the nation of Israel.

Recently, the federal indictments came, complete with 50 counts of murder, wire, and mail fraud. Emboldened by Al-Arian’s handcuffs, USF President Judy Genshaft told Associated Press, "Dr. Al-Arian," President Genshaft told Associated Press, "has failed to live up to our high professional standards."

Throughout his tempestuous academic career, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has defended Al-Arian’s behavior and claimed he deserved to keep his job, the Associated Press reported.

The blogger on the Chronicle of Higher Education’s website was filled with outrage at Al-Arian’s dismissal. Evidently, a professor’s active involvement with a terrorist organization does not transgress the boundaries of conduct permissible in good education.

How have we gotten to this point? While a full answer to that question would consume far too many pages, the short form response is this: in many quarters today higher education is no longer a passionate pursuit of truth, but a pedagogical platform from which a citizenry fit for a great republic is launched. Instead, too often and to the nation’s shame, educational institutions have lost their way from a higher calling, offering technique without truth, and methods without morals. As the great Southern novelist Flannery O’Connor once lamented, “It is easy to see that the moral sense has been bred out of certain sections of the population, like the wings have been bred off certain chickens to produce more white meat on them.” This is a generation of wingless chickens.

If the best and brightest among our nation’s youth have difficulty getting off the ground toward ethical flight, it is precisely because many ideologues would rather have their students be herded off certain sections of the population, like the wings have been bred off certain chickens to produce more white meat on them. This is a generation of wingless chickens.

For his part, University of Virginia philosopher Richard Rorty argued that the university must be freed from the responsibility to be a place of character development and moral improvement for students. Rorty contended, “If the students aren’t reasonably honest and his harm to the university’s reputation as grounds. “Dr. Al-Arian,” President Genshaft told Associated Press, “has failed to live up to our high professional standards.”

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For his part, University of Virginia philosopher Richard Rorty argued that the university must be freed from the responsibility to be a place of character development and moral improvement for students. Rorty contended, “If the students aren’t reasonably honest and decent people by the time they hit the university, I don’t see that there is much that higher education can do about it.” Contending that the value systems of students are already set by the time they reach their undergraduate years, Rorty sees no point in trying to make a difference. Rorty, the pragmatist post-modern, of course rejects the notion of absolute truth, universal norms, and reason. There is no “mirror of nature,” Rorty once famously asserted, against which human beings can judge themselves.

Rorty’s comments nonetheless are representative of an epidemic trend in higher education. As a result, ethics and other questions of value are consigned to the margins with the “truth” always making its appearance in scare quotes. But from whence does this antagonism regarding values in higher education spring? It arises from a deep and fundamental cultural presupposition against the possibility of moral certitude, against the notion of deeply held beliefs which are held to be correct and good despite the vicissitudes of human society.

The perfect example of this perspective came only weeks after September 11, when Stanley Fish, the infamous dean of the School of Humanities at the University of Illinois, Chicago, stated in an op-ed piece in the New York Times that we cannot make an absolute moral judgment against the 19 hijackers who murdered thousands of innocent civilians, nor should we call our assailants “terrorists.” “We have not seen the face of evil,” Fish intoned, but rather merely “the face of an enemy who comes at us with a full roster of grievances, goals, and strategies.” From Professor Fish’s comments, we can only assume that, in his view, all grievances are equal, and yet none are endowed with any certain, inalienable claim to being right.

Professor Fish’s sortie into revisionist history in fact turned out to be nothing more than a flight from reality. After September 11, the American public knew that the fundamental questions of our time are irrepressibly moral, undeniably related to making distinctions between good and evil. More, we have realized that the time has come for clarity. Everything we care about is on the line. As columnist George Will eloquently stated, “People cannot defend what they cannot define.”

Any good and faithful men and women remain within the secular university. But the critical need of this day and hour is for colleges and universities common in purpose and united in the mission to provide a context for both academic excellence.
and commitment to values and decency. But the issues are deeper and require more than a general dedication to ethical discussion. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ—as well as the watching world at large—deserves a university committed to the Christian worldview, one which orients its entire program to building up the kind of young men and women who will be culture-transformers, leaders of conviction in an age of shifting sand and encroaching shadow. Union University is such a unique place—a provoking ground preparing citizens of the kingdom of heaven for outstanding service on planet earth. 

Union is an institution on a mission: to train those in its charge to think in Christian categories, and then apply them to every area sphere of activity in the modern world. That mission is the integration of faith and learning, a conviction in an age of shifting sand and encroaching shadow. Union University pursues education in this way because it believes that God is the God of creation. No discipline exists over which God does not preside, and it is to his glory that we pursue excellence in all creation and not the fantasy of well-done from the framework of a Christian worldview and world view. We prepare students to see that Christ is indeed the Lord of all creation and not the fancy of well-done. In love with our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe that God as if God actually exists. This means that houses about 1,059 students on its north campus. The university has experienced tremendous growth over the past few years. In an environment where informed news makes a world of difference, we need journalists who know the facts right. In a media saturated by dehumanizing entertainment, we need poets and writers writing soul-enriching literature. To a culture "without hope and without God in the world," we need lawyers, congressmen, and pastors who believe that statructure is squalor, that a nation rises or falls according to the moral outlook of its people. Either God is sovereign or men. We will either be held to account by a personal God who has revealed himself in the Scriptures, or we are alone in the universe. But only one is definitively true—God alone governs the universe. As Abraham Kuyper, that great 19th century theologian who variously and commitment to values and decency. But the issues are deeper and require more than a general dedication to ethical discussion. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ—as well as the watching world at large—deserves a university committed to the Christian worldview, one which orients its entire program to building up the kind of young men and women who will be culture-transformers, leaders of conviction in an age of shifting sand and encroaching shadow. Union University is such a unique place—a provoking ground preparing citizens of the kingdom of heaven for outstanding service on planet earth. 

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Dr. Thornbury is director of the Carl F. H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership at Union University. Write to Dr. Thornbury at unionite@uu.edu

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Free University of Amsterdam now famously once said, “no piece of our mental world [should be] hermetically sealed off from the rest, and there is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mister!’”

If people cannot defend what they cannot define, then the people need an institution which cares about the definitions. Union is that place. We concern ourselves with all of those cultural products which grip the hearts of human beings whether they be philosophical, technological, or biological. Is it possible for a society to be, as scientific M. Chiari Poylani once described N. A. Germany, both brilliant and bad? Union wants a great host of its graduates committed to a culture which is simultaneously humane and morally clear.

The first of these reasons why I believe in Union University.

1. Union is an academic institution with unrivaled leadership and vision. Good schools boast well-prepared faculty prepared to teach and demonstrate scholarship, and showcase impressive programs. Great schools have an administration that possesses the ability to think in strategic terms about the university’s distinctive place in the world of higher education. Under the leadership of President David S. Dockery, Union has exponentially increased its national profile, and set itself apart among a handful of elite institutions. Dockery has become a mentor to other presidents, a trustworthy voice and a reliable guide. He is a key leader in an ever-growing coalition of warm-hearted convictional evangelicals committed to cultural renewal.

2. Union is an academic institution where scholarship cares about and for the people it serves. When I was in college, I had good professors who were competent in their respective fields and engaged in the classroom. But the class distinction between faculty, staff, and students was understood. Few professors had an “open door” policy. But I can say after four years of serving at Union that it is a community where faculty, staff, and students work together. Our doors are open. We invite our students to talk with us one-on-one. We know that we are not just preparing competent people in their respective fields. We are growing people. As Aldaist M. Adney argued in his path-breaking volume After Virtue, we do not believe that intellectual intelligence is separable from moral intelligence.

3. Union is an academic community where the intellectual atmosphere is electric. The hallways of this university are not merely routes connecting points A and B. They are passageways to great ideas and inspiring conversation. Recently, I overheard and participated in conversations about the following topics and with the following persons: Dr. Jim Patterson on the persecution of the early church under Nero, seventeenth century Catholic devotional literature with Dr. Gavin Richardson, and exponials with Drs. Hathcox, Ward, and Baldwin.

During the month of January, the university sponsored a colloquium, open to the public in the city of Jackson, on the subject of Islam. Led by Dr. Ann Livingstone—one of our resident experts in political science, numerous faculty considered various aspects of the mysterious world religion. I reviewed the history and critiqued the theology of Islam. Dr. Faran analyzed its literature; Dr. Jayne considered Islamic cultures. Dr. Patfed the economics of the Arab world. Dr. Van reflected on its architecture.

As high school seniors prepare to embark on their journey into higher education, they must consider the kind of education they want. Parents, what kind of education do you want for your child? Do you want generic or Christ-centered education? Do you want to be able to defend the truth because you can define it? Your choice may well spell the difference between the routine and the remarkable. **

Dr. Thornbury and the Carl F. H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership at Union University. Write to Dr. Thornbury at unionite@uu.edu

JOIN A MILLION OF OTHERS IN MOURNING THE LOSS OF FRED ROGERS, HOST OF THE PUBLIC TELEVISION PROGRAM, “MISTER ROGERS’ NEIGHBORHOOD.”

His run of over 30 years in delivering love and care to children ended in 2000. What was his secret? How could such an unassuming man, from his cardigan sweaters to his sneakers, be so successful at non-icons because they know it is not funny. Children inhabit a different cognitive and emotional landscape. Fred Rogers was one of the few communicators who spoke to their world of childhood. Adults do adult things: buy houses and cars, have divorces, pay bills, have cynicism. Eddie Murphy’s hilarious skit on “Mr. Robinson” showed how easy a target Mister Rogers was for comedy. After all, comedians do not poke fun at non-icons because they know it is not funny. But children inhabit a different cognitive and emotional landscape. Fred Rogers was one of the few communicators who spoke to their world of childhood. The best teachers and parents seek to temporarily inhabit that landscape—and, conversely, the worst educational results come from adults who utterly fail to conceive that the two worlds are very different.

So, what can we learn as parents and teachers from M. Mister Rogers? Here are a few ideas:

1. Be ourselves. Be real. Be the same genuine person every day, everywhere.
2. Communicate that we care, in all the small ways: look children in the eyes, smile, talk softly. Prize children as though there is no one like them.
3. Try to walk a mile in children’s shoes—we may need sneakers—by empathizing emotionally with those we are charged to teach. **

**

By Tom Roseborough

Lessons from Mister Rogers

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Mister Rogers was the same on television as he was in real life, and children recognized this in him. And loved and trusted him for it. He showered daily how much he liked children. Perhaps one of his greatest contributions was the distinction he made between reality and fantasy. His puppets and props engaged children in a world of fantasy. But Fred Rogers always looked them on the trolley car back to reality. It was a soft and sensitive reality, however. And, it always seemed to end on a note of emphasis of individuality: “There is no one exactly like you, never has been, never will be.”

The perception that most adults have of M. Mister Rogers is very different from a child’s view. Adults do adult things: buy houses and cars, have divorces, pay bills, have cynicism. Eddie Murphy’s hilarious skit on “Mr. Robinson” showed how easy a target Mister Rogers was for comedy. After all, comedians do not poke fun at non-icons because they know it is not funny.

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The Journey to Union University

Union University is home to a diverse population of collegians who have chosen to pursue their education at a Christian institution of higher learning. From public school graduates to homeschoolers, the university community reflects the best and the brightest from some of the country's strongest secondary academic institutions.

Following are profiles of three Union students from very different high school backgrounds, explaining why they chose to become Unionites.

Photos by Jim Veneman

CHAD FARNETH

Sophomore Chad Farneth graduated high school from Pulaski Academy, a prestigious private school in Little Rock, Ark. The 19-year-old Unionite said his parents maintained the philosophy that if they put their money into a good high school education, it would reap later benefits. “It worked out pretty well,” said Farneth, who hopes to teach at the university level.

Farneth said his private school education prepared him for the rigorous academics at Union. “My high school did a very good job with having us write a lot,” he said. “We were basically expected to turn in college work in high school. It definitely prepared me for Union.”

“With my major I do a lot of writing and the style and techniques I learned in high school to write longer papers has been very helpful,” he added.

When it came time to select a university, Farneth said Union University was not an option – because his sister, Jessica (’02) attended the school. “I tried to do everything I could to stay away from Union because my sister was here. I came up and visited and I just loved it. The people attracted me here. I learned to respect the academics and teachers and how well they present what they have. They do a great job.”

Farneth said that Union is “excellence driven, especially in academics.” “At Union you have a little more freedom to learn,” he said. “At Union there is no problem tackling controversial topics as long as you approach it from the right direction. I’m learning how to integrate faith and learning.”

As an ambassador for the university, Farneth tells prospective students to visit the university. “I tell them that our faculty are very good and will meet their needs as a student,” Farneth said. “You get the level of (education) that you would have at a state school, but you also get the family feel of a small liberal arts college.

LAUREN OLDHAM

Lauren Oldham’s journey to Union University started at Westview High School in Martin, Tenn. The daughter of a Southern Baptist pastor, Oldham said the transition from a public high school to a Christian university was different. “Faculty being interested in how academics relates to a Christian world view was totally new to me,” she said. “It was neat to be around people who are intelligent and who are also Christians.”

The Union sophomore said her public school education prepared her for the fast pace of university life. “At my particular school, the English program was well developed,” she said. “We also had advanced reading and a lot of discussion groups in our class. It taught us to deal with issues.”

Religious in a secular environment, Oldham said she learned to “stand up for what you believed in.”

Oldham said social differences also exist. “I fit places you go and the things you do for fun are totally different. Even Greek life, you don’t have to worry about alcohol or bad activities.”

Academically, though, Oldham said that Union is challenging. “A lot more study is required and a lot more individual work,” she said. “It’s difficult to maintain all your ministry opportunities, social things, and keep those academics in balance. It’s definitely worth it. You feel like you’ve worked for that ‘A’. It’s rewarding.”

Oldham said her journey at Union has been spiritually rewarding, especially the university’s GO trips. “To see the darkness and hardness of people’s hearts and to experience that through school mission opportunities (is unbelievable),” she said. “I’ve been able to get out of Martin (Tenn.) and experience the world and experience without being afraid of dark places – going into those places knowing you are the light.”
BRANDON COLLINS

For Brandon Collins, the choice of Union University wasn’t so much about picking a school. It was about answering God’s call.

“Choosing a school is not about choosing the school you want to go to as much as it is attending the school you are called to,” said Collins, a 22-year-old senior. “If I went where I wanted to go, I would be at a secular school. But the essence of God’s call was not at all off. It hasn’t been easy, but it’s been good.”

Collins, who was homeschooled, will graduate in December with a bachelor of arts in music and minor in Christian ethics. He hopes to be a music pastor and that’s how he ended up at Union University.

“I was very opposed to coming to a Christian school because I thought the academics would not be strong. At the time I wanted to major in engineering, but then I found out about Union. Academically, this school is rigorous. The academics are very strong. For me, it’s a good challenge. I think that decision to change my major turned my life upside down and it began my journey to Union.”

“I’m very glad I came here,” he said. “As a homeschooler, Collins said there were initial challenges in adjusting to collegiate life. “More than anything, I had a problem adjusting to the culture of the South,” said the former resident of California. “Religion is something that (Southerners) grew up with. On the west coast religion is nice if you have it, but it’s not a traditional part of your lifestyle.”

Collins said he was also impressed with the diversity of classes at Union. “I just went to one class at homeschool and my homework was my school work. Here, I’m going to class and going home and doing homework. Trying to balance 17 hours of different disciplines and mindsets – that was the hardest thing for me.”

Spiritual life has also been a plus for Collins. “The challenge for me has been making my faith qualitatively different,” he said. “Everyone here has a degree of similar faith. I see what a life of faith looks like. I want to have that living active faith (in my daily walk).”

I am an individual with an unwavering commitment to Christian higher education that spans 20 years. More precisely, I am an educator who holds an unwavering commitment to Union University that spans from 1982 to the present. I believe in what we do at Union and that what we do here matters.

I recall early on standing before a class of nursing students in classroom D-3 in the Penick building (our only building then) introducing them to a new disease called AIDS. I compared the disease to a new disease that emerged during my nursing school days, Legionnaires Disease, and told them that unless medical science would understand cause and effect, would identify through culture and sensitivity testing a treatment regimen and would, soon, eradicate this strangely-acquired and confusing syndrome.

Across the years since, I have thought often about the HIV lessons I have taught and the HIV patient encounters that have taught us, student and professor together administering care to acutely ill and dying men, women and children. The lessons were exceptionally successful teaching-learning experiences that went far beyond showcasing the scientific method or rationalizing treatment regimens, as intriguing and challenging as those lessons were. HIV was one of my first teaching-learning experiences that went far beyond showcasing the scientific method or rationalizing treatment regimens, as intriguing and challenging as those lessons were. HIV was one of my first teaching-learning opportunities. It instructed me as the teacher and forced me as a Christian to look deeper, think more carefully and responding more rightly about the HIV lessons I have taught over these 20 years, nor will it change in the years to come, no matter what the current focus or threat. The students I will teach at the end of my career will hear the same application of Truth that was relevant to the HIV issue at the beginning of my career.

I have chosen to make my life’s work Christian higher education at Union University. I don’t find myself in a classroom nearly as often these days but rather across the table from prospective faculty members who are interested in making their life’s work Christian higher education. Rather than searching for God’s Truth as it relates to the subject matter in which I have prepared myself, I am searching for faculty who will do the same in their subject matter. I am searching for ways to support our current faculty and staff by creating the environments they need to foster their own exceptionally successful teaching-learning experiences in an ever-evolving faith-based, academic learning community.

I expressed to nursing students in 1983 a confidence that AIDS would be a short lived uncertainty. That confidence was misguided. But preparing young men and women to live and serve in an uncertain world by challenging them to explore how our Christian faith can assist them in looking deeper and thinking more carefully and responding more rightly is not misguided. In fact, Christian higher education is well-advised and wise. I have seen its fruits in the lives of Union University graduates, not just as they are graduating but as their lives are being played out over the years since graduation. I call it a competitive advantage in the pursuit of genuine living, living whole and fulfilled lives of service that bring glory to God.

That’s why I believe in what we do here at Union and why I believe that what we do here matters. What are my thoughts on being an educator in Christian higher education? Too significant a responsibility for the compliant, too commanding a call to leave unheeded.

Dr. Sanderson is provost of Union University and a professor of nursing. You may write to Dr. Sanderson at sanderson@uu.edu.
120 students commit to mission projects

Union University traveled across the nation and the world to spread the Gospel of Christ through word and deed. One hundred twenty students participated in Global Opportunity trips sponsored by the university. Seven teams hit the road over spring break and ministered in a variety of ways—from construction projects to prayer walking.

Union University student photographer Justin Veneman traveled to a number of national project sites and captured images of Union students hard at work. His photography is featured in this essay.

GO Memphis
Lezli O’Neal Sullivan holds two of the children in day care at the Salvation Army’s Perdue Center of Hope while Julie Propst reads them a story.

GO Illinois
Casey Stafford and Lance Parrott spread gravel on the parking lot at University Baptist Church.

GO Illinois
Union students Heather Moghiman (left) and Meredith Erlandson (right) pray with an Eastern Illinois University student (center).

GO Battle Creek
The GO Battle Creek team cleans up a Habitat for Humanity work site.

GO Memphis
Andrea Hudgins sorts shoes at the Salvation Army’s Purdue Center of Hope.
A STUDENT’S LIFE

Brad Spencer
Collierville, Tenn.
freshman chemistry & biology major

Describe yourself in three words:
Compassionate, loyal, trustworthy

Describe University in three words:
Stimulating, down-to-earth, unique

Who is your favorite person?
My parents, Curt and Kathy Spencer

What do you value?
Family, God’s Word, honesty, kindness

Last book you read:
“The Case for Christ”

In your own words:
I am here because it is where God wants me to be. I especially feel like He has put me here in order to serve others. The atmosphere here at Union is incredible; the faculty is always here to help whenever I need it, and the support of attending school with many fellow Christians is amazing. The love that Christ has poured on others is evident in the lives here.

The classes here are challenging and allow me to truly learn, not just attempt to breeze through for a grade. Upon coming to Union, I have felt that God has put me in many positions to help others and to serve them. At Union, people want to get to know you. They talk to you. This is a place where I can get involved and know people.

About your major:
The chemistry dept. is a really good department. Some of the classes are pretty difficult, but my professors are great. They are not only willing to help you out. I am definitely excited about the new science building. I appreciate the fact they are taking time to make sure everything is perfect with the building. It’s going to be incredible – new equipment, new facilities. I’ll probably live in that building by my senior year.

Clubs and Activities:
Freshman Council, Student Activities Council, Sigma Zeta, Inner-City Outreach

Photo by Jim Veneman

University photographer recounts war memories

By Jim Veneman

Editor’s note: Jim Veneman, director of visual communication, spent 10 days covering Operation Iraqi Freedom for Baptist Press, the national news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Veneman, and former Union staff member Sara H. Irwin, were embedded with troops aboard the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman, an aircraft carrier in the eastern Mediterranean. His photographs appeared in Baptist Press as well as Union Today. Following, are excerpts from an article Veneman penned for The Cardinal and Cream.

University photographer recounts war memories

“Sir, well just get a little wet,” was the response when I asked the airman if the stormy conditions would impact flight operations that night. He could easily have been a student at Union. His career path had taken him to a different direction. He was a member of the crew aboard the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman, an aircraft carrier in the eastern Mediterranean.

While still on dry land just hours before heading for the ship, we were given a hint of the demands we would encounter during this experience. During a final press briefing with Navy personnel we were asked to fill out and sign several documents. The first was related to our physical condition. Basically, if we had anything much worse than a hangnail we could forget about setting foot on that ship. Later that day we found out why. Although the Truman is quite large, it is still fairly compact when 5,000 men and women are placed there to live and work. We witnessed a whirl of activity operating with precision, each person playing a vital part in accomplishing the ship’s assignments.

Shortly after we arrived we were taken to the room that would become our newsroom. It was quite a distance from our starting point and the public affairs officer leading the way moved like a frightened deer in a Tennessee forest. He lead the way, the ladders down, the small hatchways, and the similarities around every turn began to add up. We were not only exhausted by the time we arrived, but we were totally lost.

By the time we departed the ship we had learned how to use the major thoroughfares but were still asking for directions to many of our destinations. We found out early that the question “Sir, please follow me.” This was typical of our acceptance aboard this ship. In a place where we could easily have been seen as a nuisance, we were treated royally.

In an unexpected way, I was given the chance to enter into a daily relationship with a part of the ship’s personnel. The bag carrying the equipment I was to use for downloading and editing photographs did not make the journey to the ship. It had taken a detour in Detroit. In order to meet the planned deadlines, I went to the ship’s photography department and asked for help. By the time we left the ship, I felt almost like a part of their team. I was given the opportunity to see a part of the Navy from the inside. It was like attending a workshop with twenty-four instructors and one student, me.

The stories we attempted to capture ran a little deeper than most of the fact-driven headlines of the day. We looked not only at the work being done on this vessel, but at the lives behind the operation. Within this floating community were people no different than anywhere else, even at Union. They had great days and some not so great. They had friends on the ship, but missed home so much. Some had joined the Navy to get away from something, only to find it had followed them there. Many were looking toward bright futures, while some still wondered where life would lead. Most were on a search. Just like here in Jackson, if one wants to be involved in faith-based activities, there is always something happening.

On this ship are Bible studies, prayer groups, praise teams, choirs, an “Experiencing God” class, Sunday school, three services on Sunday, and a chapel on Thursday. Aside from scheduled opportunities, we found within this naval island a growing number whose Christianity was having an impact. Their faith is not flamboyant or for show but very real. It was through them that we discovered our true story.
Thinking Christianly about personal finance

By Howard and Debbie Newell

The stock market has been in general decline for more than three years. Based on this performance, is now the time to sell stocks and buy other types of investment products?

The first principle of investing is to have a well-defined purpose for investing. Examples of well-defined purposes include: retirement, children's education, an emergency fund, and replacement of your current vehicle. Investing is about preparing today for future-year needs, which is an exercise without direction if you are prepared to carefully select your accumulating dollars which will be used to meet anticipated future-year needs. A well-defined purpose is essential in order to determine (or at least estimate) the total dollars which need to be accumulated and to combat falling in love with accumulating money because no well-defined purpose established the priority and boundary for this accumulation.

The second principle of investing is to establish–based on your well-defined purpose–the time period during which your investing will take place. This time period is called your investment horizon. Your investing horizon is the time period during which you will accumulate the dollars you'll need, e.g., retirement, children’s education, emergency fund, or vehicle replacement.

Armed with solid information relating to purpose and investment horizon, you are prepared to carefully select your investment products. Selecting investment products prior to an appropriate investment horizon is an exercise without direction or, biblically speaking, an exercise in poor financial stewardship.

What are your investment product options and which of these menu choices are designed to perform best during relatively short investment horizons? Your investment product choices include—but certainly are not limited to—stock-based investment products (e.g., individual company stocks and stock-based mutual funds) and bond-based or debt-based investment products (e.g., individual company bonds, government bonds, bond-based mutual funds, certificates of deposit, and EE Savings Bonds).

Stock-based investment products are--by their design--inherently much more volatile compared to bond-based and debt-based investment products. More volatile means that stocks are more subject to both up (called "bull") and down (called "bear") market fluctuations. Since March 2000, we have been experiencing a fairly significant—by historical standards—bear market.

However, if we examine the evidence over a much longer period of time—for example the years 1976 through 2002—we learn that the rate of return on large company stocks has been almost twice the rate of return on corporate and government bonds. Stated differently, for these 77 years which include the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War—stocks have outperformed bonds almost two to one. Perhaps more significantly, if we break these 77 years into a series of multi-year intervals, we learn that the stock market has experienced a bear market (a decline of more than ten percent) about eleven percent of the time during any 5-year period, about three percent of the time during any 10-year period, but never during any 15-year period between 1926 and 2002. Although historical evidence never guarantees future performance, these historical results—which include some very bad as well as some very good periods in U.S. history—should encourage us to expect that, within the next few years, the stock market will recover and even exceed its March 2000 high.

Therefore, if your stock-based investments have been carefully chosen, if your stock-based investment portfolio is well-diversified, and if your investment purpose corresponds to a longer-term purpose (e.g., retirement or children's education), we can think of no reason to sell stocks and buy other types of investment products. In fact, our thinking is just the opposite. Today—when stock prices are very low (i.e., when stocks are "on sale")—probably represents a good opportunity to purchase carefully chosen stock-based investments and to build your well-diversified stock-based investment portfolio but if—and only if—you are prepared to carefully select your accumulating dollars which need to be accumulated to meet anticipated future-year needs.

Advice: Always build your well-diversified investment portfolio consistent with your well-defined investment purpose and corresponding investment horizon.

Dr. Howard Newell is professor of business administration at U of I. Debbie Newell is an assistant professor of accounting. The Newells are co-authoring a book on personal finance. Send your questions about personal finance and the promotion of Christian thinking in personal finance to The Unionite, 1500 U of I University Drive, Johnston, 33305-3697 or e-mail at unionite@uiu.edu.

Are you guilty of crimes against prepositions?

By Gavin Richardson

When I was a graduate student at the University of Illinois, I took a history and structure of the English language course from the highly regarded linguistic Dennis Baron. Yale had recently published his Grammar and Gender and The English-Only Question: An Official Language for Americans? Even the well-known language curmudgeon William Safire was known to consult Baron from time to time. Baron was also a regular on a local radio call-in show dealing with grammar and other language matters. Sometimes callers would phone in genuinely seeking advice, but more often than not the caller would resemble linguistic undercover agents, phoning to turn in their fellow workers, family members, students, or teachers. Their crimes? Trafficking in split infinitives, or misplaced modifiers, or the dreaded sentence that ends in a preposition—the common of which prompted Sir Winston Churchill’s legendary reply, “This is the sort of English with which I will not put.”

The callers would desperately try to persuade Baron to share their horror, but Baron, an author whom Publishers Weekly once called “maddeningly noncommittal,” would imply his readers to shrug his shoulders and talk about linguistic change. What is non-standard today, as the argument goes, may be perfectly acceptable tomorrow. In other words, don’t get too uptight about dangled participles! The callers would, however, be mindfully disappointed, sadder but wiser.

These sorts of exchanges raise an important question: Why do some of us, like Baron’s callers, cultivate an almost moral attachment to linguistic correctness? Perhaps an argument for the grammatically outraged would say that the language police are on the front lines battling the pernicious influence of those bore-wearing deconstructionists who view language as an arbitrary system of signs in which there is no stable fit between signifier and signified, between verb and noun. Such a pitched battle in the culture wars is too large to be waged in these pages. However, I doubt that most language police officers have their origins in such rancid philosophy.

Let’s face it; rules provide comfort, and observing Standard English helps us communicate effectively. And in some cases the language police do indeed protect and serve, reminding us that our speech helps construct our identities in the presence of job interviewers, loan officers, and blind dates. But to possess a sense of moral superiority because of language correctness is to lose sight of linguistic change—an unavoidable fact since Babel. In 1747 Samuel Johnson began work on the definitive English dictionary of his age, prompted in part by what he felt was a misuse of language leading to its degeneration. However, after seven years of trying to stabilize English, he grew more aware that change was unavoidable for any living language. Johnson still produced his magisterial dictionary in 1755, and though it did tend to stabilize erratic spelling and some definitions, it was also devoted to reflecting the degree of linguistic innovation currently constituting it. Johnson developed a greater appreciation for what Geoffrey Chaucer knew in the 1380s. In his epic love poem Troilus and Criseyde, Chaucer writes:

Ye see, that in foumre of speche is chawe
With-lathe a thousand eyeor, and woorthe
That hadden pris now wonder nyce
And straunge
Us thren hem . . . .

Three hundred years later Alexander Pope was to echo Chaucer’s words in his Essay on Man. Speaking of the contemporary poet John Dryden, Pope writes:

Our sons their fathers’ falling languages.
Jacquene Winfield
Graduated ’02 from Union’s Launch program
bachelor of science in organizational leadership

Describe yourself in three words:
Honest, considerate, Christian

Describe Union University:
Prestigious, Christian

Why did you choose Union?
I chose Union because it was a Christian-based school with a very strong curriculum.

Who is your favorite person?
Mother, son, and the Apostle Paul

What do you value?
I value my relationship with Christ

Who influenced you the most at Union University?
The Launch staff

Family:
Son, Kevin - 15

Last book you read:
“Jesus Freak”

In your own words:
Deciding to go back to school to earn a degree was not an easy decision. I was working full-time in payroll at Delta Faucet and a full-time single parent. I’ve always had the desire to be the best that I could be no matter how hard I had to work at it. When the opportunity to go to Union came about I was very excited. I was fortunate enough to work at a company that paid full tuition; the only expenses out of my pocket were for books.

I talked with my mother about going back to school and she said she would help me with my son as much as she could. I knew that getting my degree would only help me to advance my career.

The biggest obstacle for me to overcome was getting enough credits to start the Launch Program. The Launch Staff was very helpful. I was accepted into the program and for the entire 18 months I was taking two to three classes at a time. This was very hard and there were times when I felt I couldn’t do it, but I prayed continuously about it, and I always found the strength to keep on. I was blessed to be able to graduate on time.

After graduation, I updated my resume and sent a copy to ARJ Manufacturing, a company in Jackson, Tenn. Two weeks later I received a call from their human resources manager and he asked me if I would be interested in an accounting position. I went for the interview and the first thing they questioned me about was my degree from Union and the type of classes I took. After the interview I went home and by that time I had a message on my answering machine from the same company, asking me if I could come back the same day for a second interview. Once again I was asked questions about my degree from Union. The next day I received a phone call from the human resources manager offering me the position. I accepted and am now working as an accounting specialist at ARJ Manufacturing.

I know that having my degree has enabled me to advance in my career. My intentions are to go back to Union to earn my MBA. When it comes to education I believe a person should go as far as they can. I know that with God on my side all things are possible.

What was the hardest thing about completing your degree?
Trying to work full-time, be a full-time mother and make time to do schoolwork

Advice for someone contemplating going back to school?
If you have the desire and the means to go back then do so. No matter how hard it gets just continue to pray and stay on the same path. It will pay off in the long run. Always keep in mind Philippians 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me”

What’s the best thing about having a degree from Union?
Knowing that no matter where I go I can take what I’ve earned from Union with me.

Face Value celebrates the staff, faculty and students whose contributions define the Union University community.

Portrait by Jim Veneman
Near the end, when victories were as hard to come by as creeks in the desert, Robert Jelks learned to appreciate every gridiron success as head coach of the Union University football team.

In 1951, the Bulldogs won one game. In 1952, they won three. In 1953, Union chose to disband its football program. Jelks, who also played for Union back in the 1930s, has stood tall through the years as the last head football coach the Bulldogs have ever had.

“That was my life,” said Jelks, 88, who now runs an insurance agency with his son in Paris, Tenn. “That’s how much I enjoyed it.”

Union’s teams were more successful when Jelks was a player back in 1936 and 1937. Times had changed by the time he took over as coach.

“I enjoyed coaching the boys,” he said. “I had a bunch of fine fellows playing. We just didn’t have the size. All these teams that we used to beat when I was playing - like Murray State, Middle Tennessee, East Tennessee State, Florence, Alabama - a lot of those teams, we just wore them down.”

Jelks had been a high school coach for 14 years before taking over the helm at Union. He remembers some of that high school coaching experience coming into play in a 40-0 defeat of the University of Tennessee-Martin.

“That was the first one we won the second year I was at Union,” he said. “Union was playing against some boys I had coached up at Grove High School in Paris. There were about five of them on that UT team. They were going to take us in, but they didn’t have that pleasure.”

On the very first play, David “Squirt” Miller ran about 55 or 60 yards for a touchdown, and the Bulldogs were off to the races. “They were expecting us to shift into a single wing, which we had used at Grove High School, and we ran a T formation on them.”

Another satisfying victory in that last season of football came against Georgetown, Ky., 14-6. But the most satisfying win still has a special place in his heart — a win that made a little bit of history.

“One thing I enjoyed the most was beating Southwestern out of Memphis, which is now Rhodes College. We had never beaten them in the history of Union until that night. We laid it on them 35-0.”

Jelks and another former Union player, 87-year-old Roy Thompson, remember when legendary coach Paul W. “Bear” Bryant came to Union to get his start as an assistant coach under A.B. Hillingsworth. Bryant, who was only one year removed from playing in the Rose Bowl for the University of Alabama,

“Bear” Bryant conducted some spring training drills in 1936 at Union before going back to Alabama to serve as an assistant coach under Frank Thomas. Bryant went on to put together a career coaching record of 323-85-17, with six national championships.

“I have said many times that I was probably the smallest second-string quarterback that Bear Bryant ever coached,” Thompson said. “At 5-foot-5 and 135 pounds, Thompson knew beyond a doubt that he had to rely on his blockers. His older brother, Francis, was part of the team that beat the University of Memphis 32-6 before 10,000 fans.

Back then the Bulldogs weren’t afraid to take on the larger schools. Jelks, who played both ways as an end, remembered holding Ole Miss scoreless in the first half before they poured it on in the second
Bill Gregory, remembered how a lot of things, all things, came together in 1947, when the Bulldogs finished 5-5. “It was just determination, I guess. And we had fun.” 

Gregory was a 6-foot, 150-pound end who remembers the day when Chattanooga “beat the hell out of us” 35-0. Other than that, the Bulldogs were competitive. One game at Mississippi Southern stands out as an example.

“The week before they had beaten Alabama, and the week before that they tied Auburn,” Gregory said. “Of course we were far outclassed, but luckily it just poured down rain that night, I mean we had a cloud. They beat us by three touchdowns. ‘The rain was so bad and it got so muddy, the only way you could tell one team from the other was we had red helmets and they had black ones. You tackled every black helmet you saw. Literally the referee had to hold his foot on the ball to keep it from floating off.

That’s how deep the water was on the field. It rained the whole time that we played.”

Jelks, Thompson, M Astrick and Gregory were used to one-platoon football, when a player had to stay on the field and learn whatever skills and techniques it took to play both offense and defense. Today’s brand of college football seems foreign to them.

“It was played by men back then,” Gregory said. “Now it’s played by a bunch of kids. They don’t even have to be in shape to play ball now because they just play one way. They go out and play three plays then come in and sit down in front of a fan.”

But some of Union’s former players complimented the modern starts of the gridiron.

Added Thompson, “The boys now are so much larger, and they’re in excellent shape, hard hitters. I’m not sure that I could play today. However, I don’t think that I ever came up on an opposing player that I thought that I couldn’t take down with a block. I never did fear them, anyway.”

The level of seriousness that has come to college football today just wasn’t there in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. Union’s football players showed up and played, but if they lost it was not the end of the world.

“But back then, you didn’t have all the assistant coaches, and you didn’t have the film of the game to study, the opponent’s films and things like that that they have today,” M Astrick said. “It was more fun back then because there wasn’t as much pressure put on the players to win.”

Pressure was World War II. When players like M Astrick and Gregory made it back alive, they were thrilled to be able to play a game like football.

“We just went out and had a big time,” Gregory said. “It wasn’t a life-or-death thing. Most of the boys who played when I did were all veterans. We’d been in the Navy, the Army and the Marines for three or four years before we went to Union. I went right out of high school into the Navy. I was in the Pacific for two years, so coming back playing football was a breeze.”

Football has become much more sophisticated in the 21st century, particularly in the passing game. Therefore, the unfolding of the modern offensive formation and the emphasized trickery in the backfield. Ends like M Astrick and Gregory were mostly there to block.

“We had maybe four or five pass plays,” Gregory said. “If we three times 10 a game it was unusual. Now they throw every other down, so it’s a different game. The plays are so much more complicated now you can only get specialists playing at every position.”

Thompson remembered back to the when the university installed lights on the field. It took the Union back some time to adjust. “We thought it was really a disadvantage to try to receive punts in the lights that we had, because the ball would go up out of sight and then appear to be falling.”

Thompson has 64 reasons to look back fondly on his days at Union. Those are the years that he has married to Verena, whom he met on campus. Retired now in Ripley, Tenn., he remembered how much of an impact his days in the Union football program had on his life. “Staying with it and knowing that things have come easily, that you had to work hard and you had to train for it, you had to put your mind to it,” he said. “We did that, and I think that has followed throughout my life. If you are assigned a job, stick with it and work at it until you get the job done to your satisfaction.”

M Astrick, who is retired in Jackson, said that football made his life a lot easier. “I learned to get along with people, learned to take the low spots as well as the high spots in life.”

Gregory, who owns a sign painting business in Jackson, looks back on “the appreciation of playing with the people we played with, the friendships we’ve kept up through the years, and just the camaraderie, I guess.”

Pre-game jitters turn into record night for Union hitter

By Dan Morris

Brandon Jackson simply could not believe it.

The Union University freshman was nervous before the Bulldogs’ baseball game April 14 against Lambuth. It was significant enough that Union was facing its cross-town rival. But the game was at the Ratz Classic in Savannah, Tenn., where Jackson formerly played baseball at Hardin County High School.

With numerous former teammates and local fans watching, Jackson produced a record-tying night, easily his best of the season.

Battling clean-up, the 5-foot-10, 175-pound Jackson was 4-for-5 with three home runs, including a grand slam, and seven RBIs. And it is in seven innings, since Union run-ruled the Eagles, 15-4.

“It was awesome,” Jackson said. “I was kind of nervous before the game started so I’m glad I had a good night.”

Good, indeed. His three home runs and seven RBIs both tied a single-game record at Union. Roger Cook last hit three homers last year against Martin Methodist. Barry Bishop last had seven RBIs in a game in 1983, when Union went to the NAIA World Series. And the grand slam was Jackson’s second of the season, tying him with two others, Bishop in 1983 and Brian Pace in 1989.

Jackson flew out his first at-bat, but his second appearance produced the grand slam.

“It was a 2-2 pitch,” Jackson said. “I was looking for a curve because I had just fouled out of a fastball. He hung the curve up there, and I hit a line drive over the centerfield fence. I was just proud actually hit one hard because I had been struggling.”

Jackson’s third at-bat was a solo home run to centerfield. Then he hit an RBI single up the middle and followed that with a solo homer to right.

“It was great,” said Jackson, who is the team’s second-leading hitter with a 392 average. “I just started hitting clean-up (No. 4) last weekend. It’s nice hitting behind Roger (Cook). He’s probably the best hitter I’ve ever played with.”

Jackson added a stellar play at second base when he went deep in the hole behind first base to catch a grounder and throw the runner out.

“I think that’s going to be a pretty special night for him for a long time to come,” Union coach Andy Rushing said.

“He’s a little guy with pop in his bat. When we signed him, I said he was the best high school hitter out of this area since Jeff Wyatt. And Brandon has proven me correct.”

Dan Morris is the sports editor of The Jackson Sun, where this column first appeared. You may respond to the writer at unionite@uu.edu.
Henson named NAIA Player of Year

Union University guard, Jessica Henson, has been named by the NAIA Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) as the State Farm Player of the Year. Henson was also selected to the WBCA Kodak All-American Team. She adds this to her first team All-TraniSouth selection from earlier this month.

Henson, a native of Bradford, Tenn., leads the Lady Bulldogs in scoring with 17.2 points per game. She is also averaging 5.3 rebounds, 3.4 steals, and 3.2 assists per game. She was named the conference player of the week once this season. Henson ranks first in the TranSouth in three-pointers made per game at 3.03 (100 made in 33 games) and second in the league in steals per game at 3.4 (112 in 33 games). Henson also ranks fourth in three-point percentage at .376 (100-266) and fifth with her 17.2 points per game.

Successful softball season ends at World Series

Union University’s softball team was eliminated from the 2003 NAIA Softball World Series as they fell 3-2 to the University of Mary (N.D.). The Lady Bulldog ended another stellar season with an overall record of 45-13. During the season they captured the TranSouth Conference regular season and tournament championships, the NCCAA MidEast Region Championship, NAIA Region XI Championship, and earned the No. 7 seed in the national tournament.

Looking ahead, the future appears to be good for the Lady Bulldogs as they are returning all but one player for next season. Catcher Megan Quarry is Union’s lone senior. The pitching staff of Leah Gronberg (24-8) and Mary Kosco (21-5) is also returning. This junior and freshman duo posted an ERA of less than one for the season.

Freshman outfielder and leadoff hitter Holly Haycraft set a new record at Union for stolen bases in a season with 44. She is just 19 away from the career mark of 63. Union’s top three run producers are Christina Johnson, Amy Mejia (both of whom will be seniors), and Jackson native Jessica Kee. Kee earned a starting role at third base this season as a freshman.

Reagan Carfield crowned Homecoming Queen

Reagan Carfield, a senior psychology major, was named Union University Homecoming Queen Saturday, Feb. 15. She received her crown from Union President David S. Dockery during ceremonies at Homecoming 2003. Carfield, from Paducah, Ky., was elected by the student body and presented during halftime of the Union Lady Bulldogs basketball game.

“It is an incredible honor to become a part of this tradition,” Carfield said. “It was a joy to see some of Union’s history through the eyes of the alumni recognized during homecoming, and I am humbled to have a small place in that history.”

The daughter of Greg and Deanna Bazzell, Carfield plans to serve in missions to Africa upon her graduation. After her missions work, she will pursue a graduate degree in counseling. As a student, Carfield has participated in Life Groups, Klemata, Rounders and the Chi Omega Sorority.

Carfield was elected Miss Union in the fall of 2002. Also representing the class of 2003 were Amy Edge, a digital media studies major from Memphis, Tenn.; Rachel Lovelace of Jackson, Tenn., a social work major; and Heather Vaughn of Anna, Ill., majoring in learning foundations.

Laura Lee Mazzore, a public relations major from Covington, Tenn., represented the class of 2004. East Canton, Ohio native Sarah Anderson, a nursing major, represented the class of 2005, and Amrile Ross, an education major from Anna, Ill., represented the class of 2006.
40 50's FORTIES
Dorrie Turner Haynes ('47) retired in 1990 from the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Her address is 1211 Jefferson Davis Drive, Brentwood, TN 37027.

50's FIFTIES
Ruth Asbill Billings ('58) recently retired after working for 35 years in education at their local school system. Her address is 614 Forrest Drive, Memphis, TN 38133. Their email address is feasterhson2@juno.com.

60's SIXTIES
Thomas E. Elam ('69) retired from Eli Lilly and Company in February after over 23 years of service. He has returned to teaching and is now Associate Lecturer in Economics at the University of Michigan. He is also Adjunct Fellow of the Center for Global Food Issues, a project of the Hudson Institute. His address is 3825 Constitution Drive, Carmel, IN 46032. His email address is tomelam@quest.net.

70's SEVENTIES
Julie Freeman Hymans ('74) received a master's degree from Hunter College in New York City and studied at the Juilliard School there. She now lives in Memphis, Tenn., where she teaches voice lessons to 27 students per week. Her email address is julie743@bellsouth.net.

Kathryn Daw Gardner ('68) became a realtor associate at the Qualil Home office of Crye-Leike Realtors. She is son John is a first-year medical student at the University of Tennessee Medical School. She is office phone number is 910-747-4007 and her email address is jazwoman2@jcom.net.

David Gray ('68) retired after 33 years of teaching and coaching at Norris City High School. He was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in April 2003. He and his wife (live at 201 Barnes St., Norris City, IL 62689. Their email address is dgray@shamelinex.net.

Mary Ann Mevin ('62) and her husband Ron are the Park County, Colo., charpersons for the S. Senator Wayne Allred's reelection campaign. Both serve on the Park County Republican Central Committee, where Mary Ann is the secretary. She also serves as secretary for the 60th House District Central Committee. The couple lives in rural Colorado. Their address is P.O. Box 104, Guffey, CO 80820. Mary Ann's email address is silverduo85@hotmail.com.

Ronald Rogers ('60) retired as director of missions at Prince George's Baptist Association in Lanham, Md. He also served for 33 years on the North American Mission Board. His address is 10 Forest Edge Cove, Jackson, TN 38305. His email address is ron@bellesouth.net.

Janis B. Truss ('70) recently completed the educational level of "Master's Degree + 45." She is a school counselor at Alexander Elementary School in Jackson. Her address is 150 Plainfield Pl, Jackson, TN 38305.

80's EIGHTIES
Karen Smith Brown ('84) received an M.B.A. in the Executive M.B.A. program at Emory University in Atlanta in May 2001. She currently works as mobility services product manager at Lucent Technologies, Inc., where she has been employed for 14 years. Her address is 339 Higland Park Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242. Her email address is ksbrown@lucent.com.

Gary R. Cappell ('93) is currently Misons and Minity Coordinator at Chilhowee Baptist Association, and he also serves as Appalachian Regional Ministries Coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He and his wife Karen recently relocated, and their new address is 935 Grandview Dr, Maryville, TN 37803. Kelly's email address is kelly743@bellsouth.net.

Gary (Ronnie) Gibbs ('89) recently relocated, and their new address is 1511 Pond Creek Lane, Burnside, IL 62967. His email address is kooper@centcom.net.

Fred Harris
Nashville Chamber honors Alum Fred Harris
F
From demographic expert and psychologist to business consultant and politician, economic development veteran and Union University graduate Fred Harris has donned many hats in his efforts to bring new companies to Nashville.

Harris, who graduated from Union in 1960 with a degree in business and economics, recently retired as vice president of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Harris served as director of industrial development and is credited with bringing thousands of new jobs to the state capital.

More than 200 people turned out to honor Harris at his retirement party, including Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell.

Harris first major economic coup upon joining the Chamber—the successful bid to lure Nissan to Smyrna in 1980—still shines among his greatest professional achievements. "If Fred hadn’t been leading the team, we would not have gotten Nissan," observed Eddie Jones, former Chamber president and editor of the Nashville Banner. Jones, who recruited Harris to the Nashville Chamber after 10 years in economic development in West Tennessee, says Harris decided to woo Nissan’s Japanese contingency since the company’s domestic site team had close ties with the governor of Georgia.

On a memorable summer evening, Harris’ wife, Laura, prepared sushi for a group of Japanese businessmen, after which they all went out on the golf course to catch lightning bugs. "They don’t have lightning bugs in Japan, and the clients were fascinated by them,” Jones recalls. Laura also has ties to Union University. She worked in university relations in the late 1960s.

This story first appeared in the Business Nashville magazine.
Alumni Awards announced at Homecoming 2003

University recognized six outstanding individuals during the annual Alumni Reunion Luncheon, held in conjunction with Homecoming 2003 festivities. Title honored include Russell Wayne M. Ayliff, Jane Betts, Kevin Troy Shelby, and Wayne and Greta Pearson.

Russell Wayne M. Ayliff, who attended Union during the 1940s, received the Distinguished Service Award. Ayliff is retired from the field of family medical practice and resides in Bells with his wife Carrie. The award is based on dedication to one profession and for bringing honor and recognition to Union University through that profession. Shelby received the Outstanding Young Achiever Award. Shelby is the executive director of “Team Taylor County” in Campbellsville, Ky., who is presented to an individual, age 35 or younger, who shows a record of significant accomplishment in professional life and for service to Union University or the world.

The Pearsons, from Powell, Tenn., received the Honorary Alumnus/Alumna Award. The award is presented for outstanding service to the university by one who has not attended University. The Pearson’s from Powell, Tenn., received the Honorary Alumnus/Alumna Award. He is the husband of the late Margaret Pearson, their two sons and two daughters. They are present to an individual, age 35 or younger, who shows a record of significant accomplishment in professional life.

Tara Lane H. Hoffman (’95) has moved her home office to central Florida, where she works as a director of marketing for SouthTrust Bank in Winter Park. Hoffman is enrolled in the MBA program at the University of Central Florida.

Steve Maroney (’87)

The Peabody College of Education at Union University received the Distinguished Faculty/Staff Award. Ayliff has also served as records clerk and assistant registrar at Union. The award is an salute to long and meritorious service to Union University by an employee.

Theresa Luna (’79), received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. A high school teacher, Luna resides in Jackson, Tenn., with her husband Tony. The award is based on dedication in one profession and for bringing honor and recognition to Union University through that profession. Shelley received the Outstanding Young Achiever Award. Shelley is the executive director of “Team Taylor County” in Campbellsville, Ky., who is presented to an individual, age 35 or younger, who shows a record of significant accomplishment in professional life and for service to Union University or the world.

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Texas Alums turn out in Dallas-Fort Worth

A large group of Union alumni and their families turned out to fellowship at the annual Dallas-Fort Worth Alumni Chapter. The group meets on the first Saturday after Labor Day at the home of Thad and Alicia Wilkerson Smotherman ('63). Pictured in front of their Dallas-area home are Texas Union grads.

University with a BBA in Political Science. He is the son of Phyllis K. Aarons. The 4th Marine Division is the largest ground combat element in the Marine Corps and is comprised of approximately 22,000 Marines based in 42 states. The unit’s primary mission is to provide trained combat and combat support personnel and units to augment and reinforce the active Marine component in time of war or national emergency.

Correspondence can be sent to Edwards at: 423 Kem Drive, Bolivar, Tenn. 38008.
A n art exhibit featuring the works of Roger Sullivan prompted a visit from Union graduate Jonathan Gillette (‘02). Sullivan is Gillette’s uncle. This is the second time Sullivan’s works have been on display in the Union University Gallery. He is works first appeared during the senior exhibition of his nephew Jonathan Gillette last spring. In January Sullivan’s works—which feature paintings of farmhouses, animals and objects, were on display alone. Gillette describes his uncle’s work as “childlike” and “beautiful.” Sullivan paints from that perspective due to developmental disabilities resulting from a childhood bout with Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Sullivan’s artistic talents caught the attention of his nephew, who encouraged and helped him develop as an artist.

“His art is always on display,” said Gillette. “that talent went unnoticed at first. But his talent eventually started to paint, beginning late the Christmas.” He said. “He’s not worried about anything being wrong—the he’s perfect enough for him.”

Gillette returns for art exhibit

MEMORIA M
Leila Virginia Muzzy (’29) Feb. 21, 2003 Fulton, Mo.
Geneva Cyril Robertson (’29) March 6, 2003 Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Elizabeth S. Ellis (’34) May 2, 2002 O’seola, Ark.
Mary Gates Craig (’35) March 16, 2003 Jackson, Tenn.
Harold “Pete” Williams (’38) March 22, 2003 Crestview, Fla.
Eva Allen Carman (’39) Sept. 16, 2002 Savannah, Tenn.
Dr. Franklin B. Keathley (’40) Aug. 5, 2002 Lowell, N.C.
Mary Sue Jenkins Yarbrough (’41) Dec. 25, 2002 Collierville, Tenn.
Oliver C. Cooper, Jr. (’44) March 15, 2003 College Station, Texas
Dr. Robert Starnworth (’49) Dec. 20, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.
Musette Reasons (’50) March 7, 2003 Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Edward Leo Martindale, Sr. (’51) March 7, 2003 Jackson, Tenn.
Hadie Kendrick Hunt (’53) March 5, 2003 Jackson, Tenn.
Sybil Marbury Williams (’55) Dec. 22, 2002 Bell’s, Tenn.
Billy Arthur Haynes (’59) Aug. 5, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.
Martha Alberta Newcomb Parks (’63) Oct. 6, 2002 Brownsville, Tenn.
Mary Elizabeth Winkleman (’01) March 22, 2003 Crestview, Fla.
Chris Winkleman (’01) Aug. 5, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.
Leanne Elizabeth, born Aug. 5, 2002. She weighed 9 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long. Their address is 9105 Peace Street, Keller, TX 76248.
Chris is the associate pastor of New Hope Baptist Theological Seminary, and Kelly is a teacher at the seminary preschool. E-mail: ellijaymynson@aol.com

What have you been up to since graduation? New job? New location? New baby?
Share the latest happenings in your life with Unionite. E-mail correspondence can be sent to unionite@uu.edu or mail your update to:
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2050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305

CORRECTIONS
(The following are corrections from the Fall ’02 issue)
Noah and Brandy Taylor Blank (’95), a. n. Tom Irish. “Ty,” born May 17, 2002, 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20 inches. They also have a daughter, Addie, 2. Brandy is a homemaker and Union Employee. N. noh is the distribution manager for NuVasive, Inc. Address: 29 Camino De Dolgo, San Diego, CA 92039. E-mail: nblank41@aol.com
Rick and Kelly Martinez (’96), a son, Elijah Joaquin, 8 pounds, 10 ounces, born July 19, 2001. Rick is attending seminary at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Kelly is a teacher at the seminary preschool. E-mail: elijahjonysn@aol.com

ADDITIONAL_oldschool.png
Don’t worry about being embarrassed

By Gene Fant, Jr.

We were still getting used to sitting together as a family at church. At five years of age, the twins are no longer in the preschool area during church, which means no more quiet, dignified, orderly worship for me and Lisa. Now we carry a canvas bag of crayons, coloring pads, and picture books. As parents of young children, we live in dire need on Sunday mornings. We don’t want our pew to disrupt the service. We don’t want anyone to look our way due to noise or commotion. We don’t want to be embarrassed by our children.

I overheard a grandmother the other day in Kriger describing how her family had been humiliated at church. During the children’s sermon, her grandson had started taking off his clothes. He was down to his cartoon character underpants before his red-faced mama was able to retrieve him. I stood there stupidly thinking that my kids would never do anything like that.

At church last Sunday, Pastor M like started his sermon. Emily was coloring M ones and Pharaoh, and Ethan was practicing drawing letters on the back of a blank envelope. Both of them were quiet and well-behaved, so I turned to the scripture passage and started reading.

About 10 verses later, I looked over at Ethan and he was grinning proudly. I mean ear to ear. He looked just like Calvin from Calvin and Hobbes. He was proud that he had figured out that he could use his ball-point pen to draw a moustache and beard on himself. When I looked at him, he had only finished the right side. It was a long handlebar moustache, too. Very large. Very curly.

He stopped grinning when he saw the look on my face. I just knew that every one of the thousands of eyes at the West Jackson Baptist Church were looking at my half-bearded and laughing. I expected the preacher to stop and ask us to stop disrupting the church. I caught Lisa’s attention and her eyes grew wide with horror. Ethan’s little face fell even farther. He was completely silent the rest of the service. All I could think about was trying to get out of the sanctuary without everyone wondering what kind of bizarre family we are.

Then it got worse. I got the giggles. Trust me, no one values the respectfulness appropriate to a church service more than I do, but every time I looked at him, it was all I could do to control myself. After I got past the initial shock, I saw that he was SO cute! I think he had been studying my own moustache and beard and had decided to copy me. What father can stay mad at that sort of compliment? He wanted to be like me! Forget the embarrassment; I was pretty proud of his creativity.

I tried to get Ethan to smile again after the service, and he did. He proudly wore his half-complete facial hair for most of the afternoon, and we laughed about it all day long. We laughed with him, not at him. I’m hoping that my fellow worshippers at church who saw his facial doodling did the same thing.

I know that I was a pretty embarrassing kid. When your dad is the pastor, even small “goofs” get magnified. Once, I played tic-tac-toe on the new pew cushions. I also did a mean Ricky Ricardo imitation during church business meetings (I used to vote loudly “Aye-Yi-Yi!”). Dad jokingly says that when he saw Dumb and Dumber, he thought it was a documentary about me and my best friend Kenny Bingman in high school. You’d think after all of the stunts Kenny and I pulled that I would be immune to embarrassment. But I’m not.

I wish I were less prone to embarrassment. I can remember that when I was child, I thought my parents were completely ridiculous to my attempts to look cool. I think that one of the signs of adulthood is when you no longer find your parents to be mortifying but rather to be wise. I think another sign of maturity is when you stop worrying about being embarrassed by yourself. You choose comfort over fashion, efficiency over appearance.

Fear of embarrassment, though, is one of the primary motivators in our lives, even as adults. It keeps us from speaking out against injustice. It keeps us from trying new activities and from chatting with different people at social events. It makes us buy houses that are too large, drive cars that we can’t really afford, and wear clothes that are overpriced. I sometimes wonder if the entire American economy is based on consumers’ fears of looking like cheap failures. We want the appearance of perfection in our lives and are abashed of supposed imperfection. We take ourselves too seriously.

I hope to teach Emily and Ethan not to worry so much about being embarrassed by being imperfect. If they aren’t perfect, and they won’t be, they will be just taking after their dear old dad. Moustache, beard, imperfections and all.

Dr. Fant is chair of English and chairman of the Department of English. He resides in Jackson with his wife of 14 years, Lisa, and their two children, Ethan and Emily.

We’d like to hear your story.

Send your personal essay to Lagniappe (a little extra) at unionite@uu.edu or via e-mail at unionite@uu.edu. Length is 600 words. Essays may be edited for length and clarity.