New plans for three Union professors

By Sarah Hackett

Staff Writer

What do full-time traveling, teaching on the Mississippi coast and preparation for further Christian ministry have in common? Each statement describes the future plans for one of three Union professors leaving at the end of the spring semester: Dr. Lytle Givens, Dr. Ernest Pinson and Dr. Rodney Everhart.

After retiring from 19 years of teaching at Union, Givens, professor of sociology, will travel extensively throughout the United States and Europe. This summer, he and his wife, Sandra, plan to sell their home and take up residence in a 32-foot Jayco Trailer.

Givens stated that years of planning and research have gone into this project. In all, he has spent four years making his dream become a reality.

In the summer of 1994, his and his wife visited factories in Indiana that assemble recreational vehicles. This allowed them to get an inside look at the kind of recreational vehicle that is best for full-time traveling. They finally decided on the Jayco model because of its 14-foot slide-out feature. This slide-out feature allows the living room and dining areas to expand, thus providing the Givenses with more living space.

Givens said, “We want to be warm in the winter and cool in the summer.” Starting this summer, Givens intends on venturing West making stops at Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, eventually arriving in San Diego by the winter.

In his second year of traveling Givens plans to travel overseas to Europe. While in Europe, he and his wife will purchase another recreational vehicle. They are preparing to drive throughout Europe and visit some “spots of great interest,” especially Spain, Italy, Greece, Germany and Italy. The main objective of their journey to Europe is to “see the sights and eat good ethnic food,” Givens said.

Upon returning to the U.S. from Europe, the Givenses will continue traveling across the country, but this time, revisiting nontraditional student is older. Non-degree courses can be taken for personal enjoyment, or a student can work toward a degree. Currently, Union offers a bachelor of science degree in accounting, finance, management, marketing and nursing for adult and evening students.

Union Nights has a twofold purpose: first to offer opportunity and service to the community. The second purpose is to look to a future for more progress. Tignor says that “Lifelong learning is essential.”

Library extends hours of operation

By Chrissy M. Gann

Staff Writer

The Union University Emma Waters Summar Library has additional hours this semester.

Besides the previous hours Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 10:45 p.m., the library will now be open 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays and 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. the hour earlier Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is the first time Union has opened its library on Sundays permanently.

Students have shown an interest in an increase of hours for the past two years. To begin to meet this need, the library opened at intervals on Sundays around semester exams, which gave the staff an idea of how many students would actually use the facility on Sundays.

Mary Platt, library director, said these extended hours are also the result of new programs and majors coming to Union next fall. “When the new administration came aboard ... new programs came into focus. We knew that we had to increase hours,” Platt said.

A major concern in creating the new hours was having enough student workers to fill the new shifts. It was also important that one adult work during each shift. After this was met, Platt said they were ready to go through with the new plan.

On Sunday, Feb. 9 the library opened its doors to the Union University student body. Chris Johnson, night supervisor, was the only worker on duty that afternoon. He said that more students visited than were anticipated. It is hoped that the number will grow throughout the semester.

“This is just a start. Hopefully within a year we will be open longer than three hours on Sunday,” Platt said.

English, who has taught at Union for 27 years, plans to leave Union to join his wife, Pat, at William Carey College in Gulfport, Miss. Even though he describes his move as a “new opportunity,” he does have mixed feelings about leaving. “It’s hard to cut 27 years out of one’s life and leave it,” English said. When English and his wife move to Gulfport, Pinson plans to teach English classes as well as write some.

Also, there is talk of an outdoor Shakespearean theater being built in Gulfport called “Shakespeare Under the Oaks” that Pinson hopes to take part in.

Pinson also hopes to start an all-day festival to celebrate William Shakespeare’s birthday at William Carey. It would resemble an all-day carnival with jugglers, performers and, of course, a huge birthday cake for everyone to enjoy. Even though he does not plan to teach for much longer, he said, “I’ll never retire from learning.”

Everhart, professor of education and early childhood
Union VP communicates with power

By Laura Hector
Staff Writer

Dr. Michael Duduit planned on a political career until he went to youth music camp and felt God calling him to the ministry. Now Duduit edits Preaching magazine and serves as Union’s executive vice president.

“It’s almost like I have parallel lives and ministries, one working in the educational setting and then one as a resource and support for preachers through publication,” Duduit said.

Duduit recently released a book, “Communicate with Power,” that allows ministerial students to glean the insight of preachers such as Charles Swindoll and John Stot, and writers like Max Lucado.

The book, published by Baker Books, is a compilation of interviews from Preaching magazine, which Dr. Duduit has edited for the past 12 years.

Duduit said the interviews are “a chance to peek over the shoulder of a great preacher and see how does he go about his work in preaching.”

Duduit conducted most of the interviews himself. “I think probably the most enjoyable one for me was the one with Chuck Swindoll simply because I had listened to him myself for so many years,” he said.

“Several of the people I have interviewed have become good friends,” Duduit said.

Duduit said the worst experience he ever had on an interview was when he interviewed evangelist Tony Campolo. “After I got back to get the tape transcribed it was blank, and it was a wonderful interview. He really had lots of interesting things to say,” Duduit said.

Duduit said that he has noticed some common characteristics among great preachers. “One is they have a real commitment to communication. They’re willing to adapt their methods in order to communicate more effectively. One of the important things is they’re not interested in changing the message, but they recognize that the method, while it has to be protected, the method can change,” Duduit said. He added that “most good preachers have a real love for people” and “place a real emphasis on contemporary illustration and application.”

“Whereas in the past somebody might use an illustration, they might quote from Shakespeare to illustrate a sermon, today the good preacher is more likely to quote from Calvin and Hobbes or to draw from a news experience or something that’s on the minds of people,” Duduit said.

Duduit has also edited the book the “Handbook of Contemporary Preaching” and is the director of the American Academy of Ministry. He teaches a class at Union and is an assistant professor of communication. Duduit came to Union last summer from Southern Seminary in Louisville.

McMillin to be Harvard student

By Nathan Jones
Staff Writer

Breakfast at 7 a.m. followed by three classes beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending around 4 p.m. sounds like a long day for any Union student. However, this summer Dr. Barbara McMillin, chair of the English department, will go through this rigid schedule at Harvard University.

McMillin was selected to participate in a Management Development Program conducted at Harvard this summer. McMillin describes being chosen as a very pleasant surprise since she had applied for the honor last summer too, but was placed on a waiting list.

The program is sponsored by the Harvard Graduate School of Education. It is designed for the mid-level administrator whose responsibilities demand increased knowledge and skills. The program will prepare administrators to develop effective solutions for problems they encounter at their institution at the management level.

“They try to select individuals from a broad range of administrative positions in higher education. They want a mixture of people,” McMillin said.

The issues that will be discussed are leadership; politics and influence; diversity and community; financial management; transformational learning; human resource management and legal issues in higher education. Hands-on opportunities will be included. “They will use case studies to illustrate typical management problems,” McMillin said.

McMillin believes that students will benefit from her studies because it will allow teachers to have more time for the students. “I think that my job as chair of the department is to take care of administrative issues so that the faculty have the time to focus on the classroom, and if they have more time then the students benefit,” McMillin said.

The summer program will be instructed by nine Harvard faculty members. The diverse group of students are comprised of two-thirds from public institutions and one-third from private and church related institutions. The program will take place June 15-27.

McMillin said she will begin receiving homework to prepare before the program. She is excited about becoming a Harvard student for 12 days and living on the Harvard campus.

McMillin to be Harvard student

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development, has spent 29 years teaching students how to become effective teachers. This spring he plans to retire, but his plans for the future are unlimited. “My responsibility is to prepare mentally, spiritually and physically for God’s call,” he said.

To accomplish these goals, Everhart plans to spend more time exercising as well as spending more time focusing on God.

Everhart is open to whatever is God’s will for his future and he feels that now he will have more time to concentrate on the direct guidance from the Lord.

He has enjoyed his experience at Union and he feels that it has equipped him spiritually for the future.

“I will really miss the students and I hope that they will remember me as a friend and a confidant,” he remarked.

Everhart plans to stay in Jackson and spend more time with his six grandchildren and let his wife concentrate on her new career. She graduated from Union in 1995 and is in her second year of teaching in Brownsville.

Arby’s
208 Stonebrook Pl.
Jackson, TN 38305
668-9700

Arby’s
601 Old Hickory Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38301
664-5557