A Glimpse of Reality

2002-2003

This publication has been designed to point the reader to the web address below for more coverage from the 2002-2003 year at Union University.

http://www.uu.edu/lwf/

Throughout this publication you’ll see small glasses (like these) containing Event Codes that can be entered at the website above for more coverage. Also digital images of each photo may be obtained by entering the ID listed on each photo at the website.
“Reality is that which, when you stop believing in it, doesn’t go away.”

Philip K. Dick

Catch a glimpse of reality for just a moment...not the reality defined by a TV screen or the reality endorsed by cosmetically enhanced magazine ads, but the reality that surrounds us with each new breath—the reality we are apt to overlook in a normal day. Most of us do not purposefully store reality in the deepest closet of our mind, but our fantasy-driven culture oftentimes force feeds us a false sense of reality, causing us to be confused by what reality tastes like; so we lose the battle many times of living in reality—by failing to separate real from fake, fact from fiction, truth from lies. Reality is defined as “the quality or state of being actual or true.” The dictionary tells us to look for truth when we look for reality, not for some fool’s paradise. So put down the remote, quit wasting your birthday wishes on being Joe Millionaire’s wife, and catch a glimpse of true reality—Union University 2002-2003.

God took more than just a glimpse at Union University in 2003 as His hand protected and nourished the campus through trials and joys alike. God’s hand was never needed more in 2003 than on the morning of Sunday, November 10 as a midnight storm narrowly missed destroying the campus. Tornadic winds shattered glass and leveled trees, but the staunch spirit of Union students and faculty members, as well as the rest of the Jackson community, stood strong amidst the trials of that infamous night. Though the tornado of November 10 left on-campus damages ranging over $2 million dollars, the storm set the hearts of Unionites on true reality, purging the campus of comfort, and replenishing the community with unity.

Many people cringe at the word “reality” because it often employs a side order of discomfort as it displaces the pop-culture ideals of fantasy and the Hollywood dreams that television promises. The television was originally created to ease the minds of working men and women at the end of the day, giving them an opportunity to see something good in the world in the midst of crime and disease. Vladimir Kosma Zworykin, the father of modern television, probably never anticipated his invention becoming a stumbling block to actual reality with the onset of Reality TV and other programs that inject our culture with a sort of reality-numbing pastime. But all hope is not lost. Though crime and illness still exist; though Hollywood producers still sit on the thrones of reality in the minds of most modern people; though we all, at times, struggle to distinguish between truth and fiction, the Author and Creator of reality continues to lovingly compose for us the prescriptions we need to see reality in the midst of an unrealistic world.
• More than 220 non-traditional and undergraduate students graduated during summer commencement on Aug. 3.
• Union hosted the 2002 Pastor’s School featuring Franklin Pollard, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and Rick White, pastor of First Baptist “The People’s Church,” Franklin, Tennessee.
• The Freshman class enrollment exceeded 400 for the fifth consecutive year. Freshmen students moved into their dorms on Sat., Aug. 24 and participated in FOCUS orientation activities until classes began on Wed., Aug. 28.
• Results of an economic impact study showed a 110% increase in the economic impact the university had on Jackson and Madison County in the previous five years.
• Missionary couples Philip and Kimberly Cain, Randy and Janice Hicks, and their families joined the Union community as Missionaries-in-Residence for the year while they were home on furlough.
• Union released Shaping a Christian Worldview to the public. The book contained writings of eighteen Union faculty and staff.
• National bioethics council member Robert George spoke on the serious ethical issues in question in the health and medical fields on Sept. 4.
• John Leo delivered his speech “Cultural Decline and What We Can Do About It” at the Feb. 7 Union Forum.
• Head to Head, a game show produced by Union broadcasting majors, premiered on Charter Cable Channel 22 on Feb. 13.
• Alumni, students, faculty and staff gathered for Homecoming 2003: There’s No Place Like Homecoming, during the week of Feb. 10-15.
• James Merrit and Kevin Exell spoke at Union’s first Preaching Points Conference on Feb. 25. The conference was designed to equip and encourage pastors and ministry professionals.
• The Delta-Psi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta history honor society celebrated 50 years at Union University on Feb. 27.
• James Sire, Union’s Scholar-in-Residence, led a lecture series on “Habits of Worldview Thinking” from Feb. 27 -Mar. 11.
• Union’s athletic program became the first in West Tennessee to receive full accreditation for sports medicine and athletic training.
• America’s 100 Best College Buys again listed Union University and gave distinction to the school for having the highest GPA and ACT scores among the five other Tennessee institutions on this year’s list.
• Late Saturday night, Nov. 10, an F-1 tornado struck Union’s campus leaving more than $2 million in damages.
• Computer animator Kirby Atkins spoke to Union students about computer animation and digital filmmaking.
• Union’s University Department of Music brought a new Christmas tradition to the community with the introduction of “A Union Christmas,” held Dec. 3.
• On Dec. 6, Union administration and trustees held a Christmas tree lighting ceremony for the Roy L. White science building.
• Over 200 graduating seniors took part in winter commencement ceremonies on Dec. 14 at West Jackson Baptist Church.
• Union announced a new scholarship program for minority students, which offers an $8,000 first place award and a $4,000 second place award, both to be distributed over four years.
• Union’s 6th annual Scholarship Banquet, held Oct. 1, brought in a record amount of scholarship money with speaker James Baker III, former Secretary of State under President George H. Bush.
• A new outdoor basketball court, a gift from the class of 2002, was dedicated in a ceremony on Oct. 1.
• The Cardinal & Cream received the award for Best Overall Small Campus University Newspaper in the 2002 Baptist Press Excellence in Journalism Competition.
• On Oct. 11-12 students and their families enjoyed Family Weekend activities together including the annual campus variety show and the President’s Branch on Saturday morning.
• Harry Stout of Yale University was the featured speaker at Union’s annual Carls-Schwerdtfeger Lecture series, Thurs., Oct. 17.
• Union University professors Hal Poe and Jimmy Davis established an organization, the Baconian Society, for the purpose of involving students, professors, and others from the community in dialogue on issues related to science and religion.
• More than 4,500 of the books Franklin Passchall collected during his three decades of ministry at First Baptist Church in Nashville were given to Union University, his alma mater, and dedicated as part of Union’s R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies library.
• Union received 24 awards from the West Tennessee Advertising Federation’s 2002-2003 ADDY® Awards Mar. 4 in Jackson, Tenn.
• Union’s Digital Media Studies Society became an official school organization.
• Union’s English department hosted a poetry reading by Todd Davis on March 6.
• Dr. Frank Lewis was the speaker for Union’s annual Family Life Series, March 7-8, which gave students an opportunity to learn about relationships and how to build a godly home.
• Minnesota Supreme Court Justice and National Football League Hall of Fame member Alan C. Page presented the Union Forum with a message of hope for education on March 14.
• Union photographer Jim Veneman spent the week of March 22-28 on assignment for Baptist Press, documenting the intersection of faith and patriotism aboard the USS Harry S. Truman on station in the eastern Mediterranean.
• Many Union students spent their spring breaks on Global Outreach trips, ministering to people in various parts of the country and world.
• The Union Art Gallery displayed the works of Roger Sullivan in his show, “Life on the Farm,” which featured paintings of farmhouses, animals and objects. His works first appeared during the senior exhibition of his nephew Jonathan Gillette last spring.
• Members of the family spent Jan. 30 serving at Area Relief Ministries and the Care Center, both in downtown Jackson, in commemoration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.
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