

# DAVID S. DOCKERY



**CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP  
AT UNION UNIVERSITY**

## **PRESIDENT DOCKERY DEMONSTRATES THE CONGRUENCE OF FAITH AND VISION**

Duke Ellington, the late jazz musician, composer and renowned band leader, was asked to provide a definition of the word rhythm. “If you got it,” he replied, “you don’t need no definition. And if you don’t have it, ain’t no definition gonna help.”

An attempt to define visionary leadership might prove even more difficult than pinning down the meaning of rhythm. Both are easier to describe than define, but are quickly recognized when demonstrated to us.

I have watched my friend David S. Dockery lead Union University in unprecedented transformational growth during the last 18 years. Many have asked me to define what it is about David Dockery that has set him apart as a transformational leader, not only for Union University, but for Baptists, evangelicals, and the world of Christian higher education.

As one who has partnered with him from the outside as a trustee and from the inside as a senior vice president, I am convinced his leadership has been marked by the intentional congruence of faith and vision.

At the very foundation of Dockery’s leadership is Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.” True spiritual, God-inspired vision cannot result apart from an understanding of this text. New Testament faith believes the mountain can be moved before you see it moving. Inspired vision is seeing the outcome before the plan is in place.

Napoleon Bonaparte once said that every battle has a crisis moment—a period of 15 minutes or so when the battle is won or lost. These are moments when you are so far out on the limb that if it breaks, there will be no way to get back to the tree.

Such is the case when leading by faith. There are crisis moments in every great story of success when there is no time to take polls or seek consensus. There is only time to pray and seek God’s perfect plan by faith in very specific time-sensitive decisions.

David Dockery’s life has been marked by the capacity to seek consensus and even compromise at the appropriate moments. But he has also been willing to embrace those lonely and decisive moments that lead to an inspiring outcome.

As you read through the pages of this booklet, I think you’ll be struck by the fruits of President Dockery’s faith and vision. I offer my thanks to him for dreaming a dream by faith that is worthy of God’s blessing, and for allowing many of us to join him on the greatest ride of our lives!

## **FOREWORD BY JERRY N. TIDWELL**

*Senior Vice President for University Relations and Athletics, Union University*

# DAVID S. DOCKERY

## IN CELEBRATION OF A TRANSFORMATIONAL ERA

BY MARK KAHLER

As fall semester 2013 winds down, the Union community looks back at the past 18 years with joy and perhaps more than a little awe.

Students now come to Union from more than 40 states and 30 countries, and the University now enrolls more than twice as many students as it did in December 1995, when David S. Dockery became the institution's 15th president.

That growth came during a time when many private, faith-based institutions went in a much different direction.

Some suffered significant enrollment declines, and a notable number distanced themselves from the churches and denominations from which they had drawn support for generations.

Dockery never made quantitative goals a priority at Union, but the institution recorded 16 consecutive enrollment increases during his tenure.

He never considered diminishing Union's relationship with Tennessee Baptists, working instead to build new partnerships with the denomination.

At the same time, Union's reach and influence within the larger evangelical community has never been greater.

As these accomplishments are considered, Dockery quickly deflects personal accolades. But there can be no doubt that his leadership



resulted in a clear mission that makes Union distinctive in the world of Christian higher education.

Today, Union is a place where the highest academic standards are not in conflict with a Christ-centered commitment. Through his actions and his prolific writings, Dockery has given educators worldwide a model of excellence

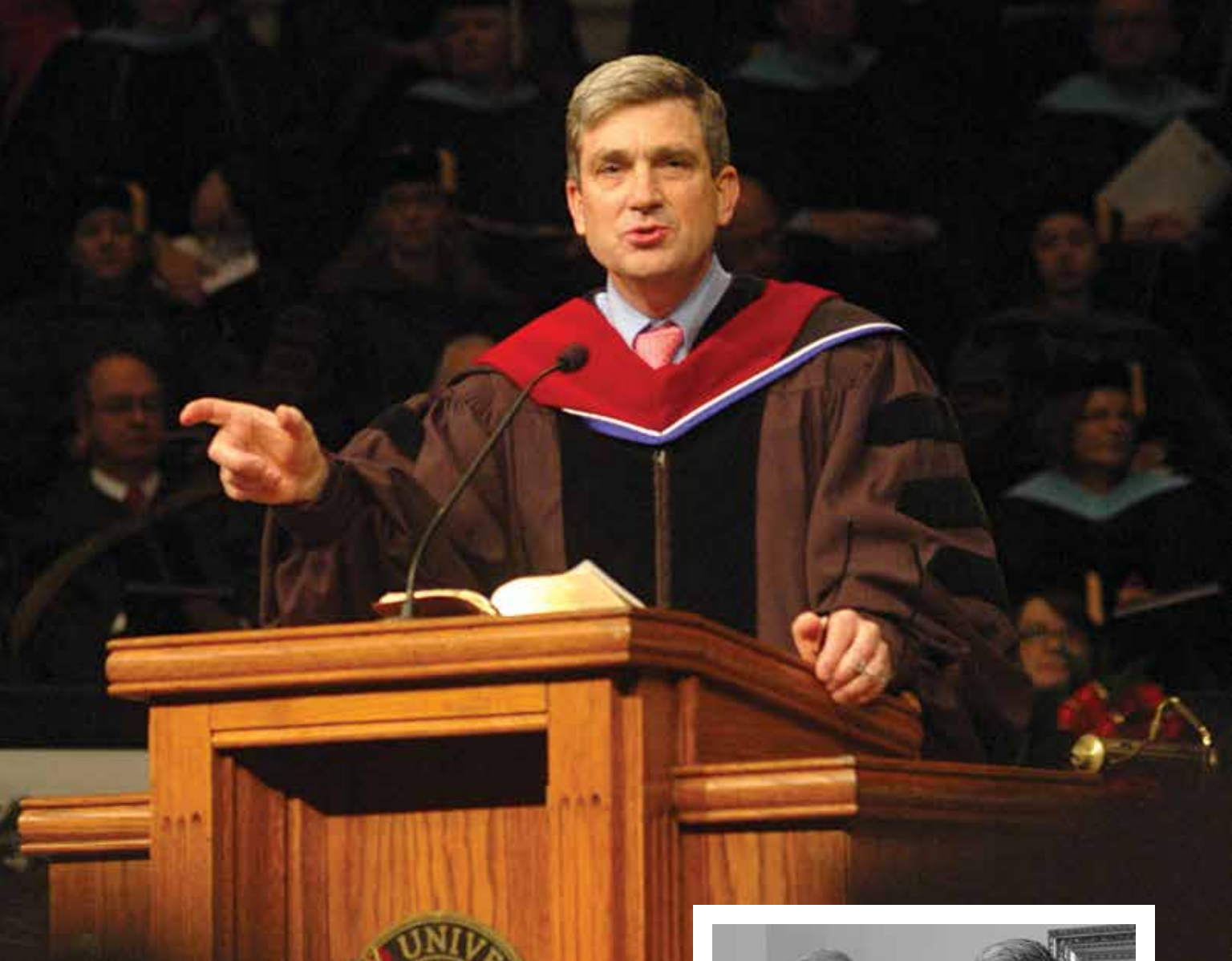
that transcends denominational barriers or geographic boundaries.

In many ways, he has refined the definition of a college president, forging distinctive leadership roles that match his gifts:

<b>MENTOR</b>	<b>RECONCILER</b>
<b>STATESMAN</b>	<b>SHEPHERD</b>
<b>VISIONARY</b>	<b>ENCOURAGER</b>

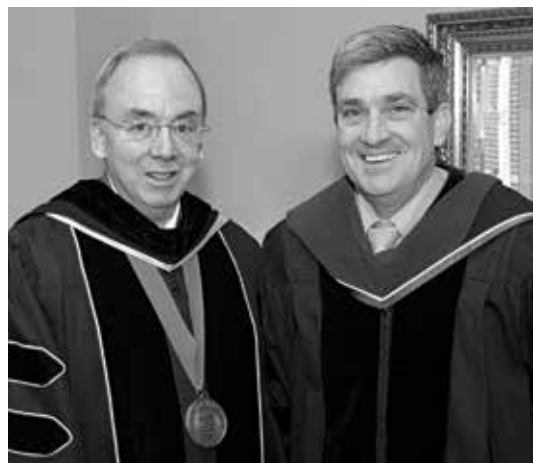
This booklet examines each of these roles in light of Dockery's contributions to Union University. It also provides a timeline that details Union's year-by-year growth during the Dockery administration.

For his clear vision, his commitment to Christ-centered excellence and for his servant leadership, we express gratitude for the presidency of David S. Dockery. We also look forward to the next chapters of his extraordinary life, as he uses his considerable talents to explore new avenues of service beyond the campus of Union University.



# DOCKERY AS MENTOR

BY TIM ELLSWORTH



*Dockery with Jon Wallace, president of Azusa Pacific, before Wallace spoke at the 2010 fall commencement.*

Through his work  
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### **JON WALLACE HAD RECENTLY BECOME PRESIDENT OF AZUSA**

Pacific University in 2001 when he attended the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities' new presidents' conference in Frisco, Colo.

He met Union University President David S. Dockery at the conference, and when the new presidents were instructed to make a list of the top three people they would like to serve as their mentors, Wallace's decision was easy.

"When you first meet David, he's very quiet and he doesn't present himself as a person in the middle of the room that everybody should pay attention to," Wallace said. "There was something about his quiet confidence, and so I listed him as my first preference."

The next day, Wallace learned that he had indeed been paired with Dockery—the beginning of a friendship that Wallace says "has absolutely made all the difference" in terms of his own presidency at Azusa Pacific.

Over his 18 years as Union's president, Dockery has left deep fingerprints that will remain impressed in the fabric of the University for decades to come. But his impact has not stopped at Union's borders. Through his work as mentor to other university presidents—and through his encouragement of Union personnel who have gone on to be university presidents—Dockery's influence has helped to shape other institutions across the nation.

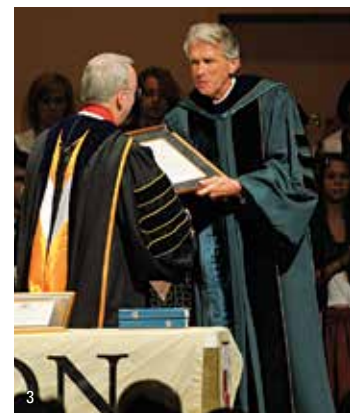
"What he's modeled for me and everyone else is the seriousness with which he takes the great tradition of Christian thinking," said Barry Corey, president of Biola University in Los Angeles. "There's nothing light about it. He has modeled for all of us that the great Christian intellectual tradition is not something that we should be ashamed of, but something that we should celebrate."

Like Wallace, Corey met Dockery early in his Biola presidency at a CCCU conference. He had known about the work Dockery had done at Union, and about Union's reputation as one of the "emerging intellectual academies within Christian higher education."

"This man who in my mind was bigger than life came up and introduced himself to me and made me feel like I was his lifelong friend," Corey said of Dockery. "I was really humbled and a bit blown away by the graciousness with which he received me."

Closer to home, Blue Mountain College President Barbara McMillin got to know Dockery well from the beginning. As a longtime Union faculty member and administrator, McMillin was already at Union in 1995 when Dockery was elected as president. Over the years, she moved from English professor to department chair, to dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, to dean of instruction before assuming the Blue Mountain presidency in 2012.

All along the way, McMillin found Dockery to be an equipper and an encourager to those who worked for him.



"I think that he looks for ways to equip people to be leaders, and he understands what a person's gifts are," McMillin said. "He looks for ways to capitalize on those gifts."

When the Blue Mountain opportunity came along, McMillin said Dockery continued to be an encourager, as well as a counselor and prayer warrior.

"As I was contemplating what God would have me do, I felt nothing but support and excitement from Dr. Dockery," she said. "I felt that he was excited that an opportunity like this would open up for me, and he was willing to invest his time in me to make this happen. And there was a lot of time. There were many phone calls. He was patient and generous."

"I say that about my experience, and I know there are many others who will say very similar things," McMillin continued. "That just speaks to his willingness to invest. I think that from early in his tenure at Union University, he was looking around and expecting people to grow as leaders—and one day, they would step into other leadership roles. I think that was his expectation. That is so unselfish. He was cultivating leaders from the beginning."

[1] Dockery leads a round of applause in appreciation for Barbara McMillin at the conclusion of spring graduation, May 19, 2012.

[2] McMillin gives her inaugural address as president of Blue Mountain College, April 26, 2013.

[3] Dockery presents Richard Wells, then vice president for church relations, with a plaque in honor of his new role at the University, Aug. 27, 2010.

[4] Greg Thornbury, president of The King's College, with his daughters before fall convocation, Aug. 28, 2013.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE THORNBURYS

[5] Dockery and Thornbury pose with other School of Theology and Missions faculty members during a celebration of Greg and Kimberly's service to Union, Sept. 4, 2013.

McMillin was one of three Union employees who left the University to assume the presidency of another institution. The two others were Richard Wells, who became president of John Witherspoon College in South Dakota, and Greg Thornbury, who earlier in 2013 assumed the presidency of The King's College in New York City.

Thornbury, who had Dockery as a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said Dockery's commitment to providing opportunities for others is a key component to his leadership.

"If you are in a position of influence and power, your job is to help other people get to the party," Thornbury said. "Your job is to use your influence to help other good people advance. That's something I learned from David Dockery. I was a 28-year-old kid finishing up a Ph.D. at Southern Seminary, and he saw potential for a professor and maybe beyond that."

Thornbury said Dockery gave him an opportunity to come to Union and to lead the Carl F.H. Henry Center. Dockery supported his external projects, supported the School of Theology and Missions faculty electing him as dean and supported his candidacy for president at The King's College.

"He was always thinking of, 'How can I help Greg do what he's created to do?'" Thornbury said.

Wallace, as a new president at Azusa Pacific, said he often had questions that Dockery was happy to answer and discuss.

"He was always so gracious in including me in what his deepest thinking was without holding me hostage for where I would end up," Wallace said. "He gave me that information so I could be informed in my decision, not so that I would make the same decision, although I must say, I usually did."

Wallace said Dockery's gift of investing in others has been a key component to his successful leadership—the influence of which is not at an end.

"I don't think we know yet, but I think there will be faculty—at Union and in higher education in other places—who are going to step into leadership for many generations to come," Wallace said. "They will be a thread going back to David's mentoring." ■

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## **LINES OF THEOLOGICAL DISCONTENT WERE FORMING IN MAY 2012**

as the time neared for Southern Baptists to gather in New Orleans for their annual meeting.

The issue of concern was the perceived growth of Calvinism within the denomination's churches and institutions.

A LifeWay research survey at the time showed roughly a 50-50 split between churches identified as Calvinist or Arminian. But a majority of those responding had concerns about how the Calvinism discussion would affect the denomination.

Those who opposed the influence of Calvinist theology crafted a document with a preamble and 10 articles entitled "A Statement of the Traditional Southern Baptist Understanding of God's Plan of Salvation." It had wide circulation within the denomination and endorsement signatures from two seminary presidents as well as a number of other prominent SBC leaders.

Although SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page's signature was not on the document, he knew that rhetoric on both sides of the issue was becoming increasingly heated. He sought a resolution that would address the concerns without widening the divisions. It was a tall order. Privately, many doubted it could be done.

But Page directed the formation of a 19-member Calvinism Advisory Committee that would report back to the Executive Committee, and he asked Union University President David S. Dockery to become the group's chairman.

"When I have needed someone to help be a bridge-builder, David Dockery is the name that naturally comes up," Page said. "He's the best."

The group's final report, issued just before the 2013 annual meeting in Houston, was entitled "Truth, Trust and Testimony in a Time of Tension: A Statement from the Calvinism Advisory Committee." The 3,200-word document addressed the tensions and then affirmed basic common ground. People on both sides of the issue came together to craft the statement, which was later accepted and affirmed at the Houston meeting.

Page watched Dockery's work on the committee with admiration.

"Immediately, he is able to quickly call forth from his brilliant mind issues and perspectives of the past and the present that help us for the future," Page said. "So, his brilliance is certainly a part of what makes him sought after for those kinds of things."

Five years earlier, Dockery had written a ground-breaking book entitled *Southern Baptist Consensus and Renewal: A Biblical, Historical, and Theological Proposal* (B&H, June 2008). The book urged Southern Baptists to put aside differences and unite with a renewed commitment to their confessional heritage, to biblical authority and to spreading the gospel.

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# DOCKERY AS STATESMAN

BY MARK KAHLER



Among those who endorsed the book was Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Danny Akin, who called it “a comprehensive and challenging mandate.”

Akin, like Page, has experienced Dockery’s bridge-building first-hand.

“I would also go back to when he was at Southern Seminary,” said Akin, who followed as dean of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary’s School of Theology in the mid-1990s after Dockery had departed to assume the Union presidency. Both Dockery and Akin faced major differences with members of the seminary’s faculty at that time.

“David was an inerrantist; the vast majority of them were not,” Akin recalled. “David held to very strong evangelical positions; most of them did not.

“And yet, at the same time, they felt that they had been well-loved, cared for and respected by David.”

Akin says few people have the ability to hold and express strong convictions while at the same time exhibiting kinship with those holding opposing views.

“I would say the overwhelming majority of us cannot do that, and I would put myself in that category,” Akin said. “Do I think I could have done what David did? No. But was I able to do what I did because of what David did? Yes.

Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler shares Akin’s assessment.

“At the specific time David Dockery came here as dean, it’s hard to imagine there could have been anyone else on the planet to fill that job the way he did,” Mohler said.

Mohler later served with Dockery, Akin and Page on the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force in 2009-10. The work required an inward examination of the denomination that can create discomfort and even controversy. But his fellow task force members say Dockery shines in situations where others might retreat. The GCR group recommended six far-reaching changes in the areas of church health, evangelism and stewardship.

[1] Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, presents an address entitled "The Future of the Southern Baptist Convention" during the Southern Baptists, Evangelicals and the Future of Denominationalism Conference at Union on Oct. 8, 2009.

[2] Dockery poses with commencement speaker R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary shortly before spring graduation, May 21, 2005.

[3] The Union University Board of Trustees honored Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Director Randy Davis with the M.E. Dodd Denominational Service Award during their meeting in April 2013.

"I think it's safe to say that David Dockery's influence is very powerful within the Southern Baptist Convention, to the extent that you really can't talk about the SBC in the past 30 years without reference to David Dockery," Mohler said. "David has some very unique gifts. And one of those gifts is the ability to have friendships that cross many different lines.

"He has the ability to relate to people, a basic kindness and an authenticity."

In Tennessee Baptist life, Dockery has played a key role in significant discussions during the past 18 years. As in the larger Southern Baptist outreach, TBC leaders see disturbing trends that point to a need for stronger evangelism, church planting and an end to business-as-usual.

TBC Executive Director Randy Davis says perceptions of Tennessee as the "Bible belt" are increasingly false.

"Eighty to 90 percent of the populations of most of our counties are not in anybody's church on any given Sunday," Davis said. "Most Sundays look like Saturdays."

Davis said in a time of change, he appreciates that Union's relationship with the TBC only gets stronger. He sees that partnership enduring beyond the Dockery years.

"I think when Tennessee Baptists look at the University, we see a strategic partner that not just talks the talk but walks the walk," Davis said. "And that's what's happened at Union University in the name of Jesus Christ. Union does what they do with a great deal of excellence."

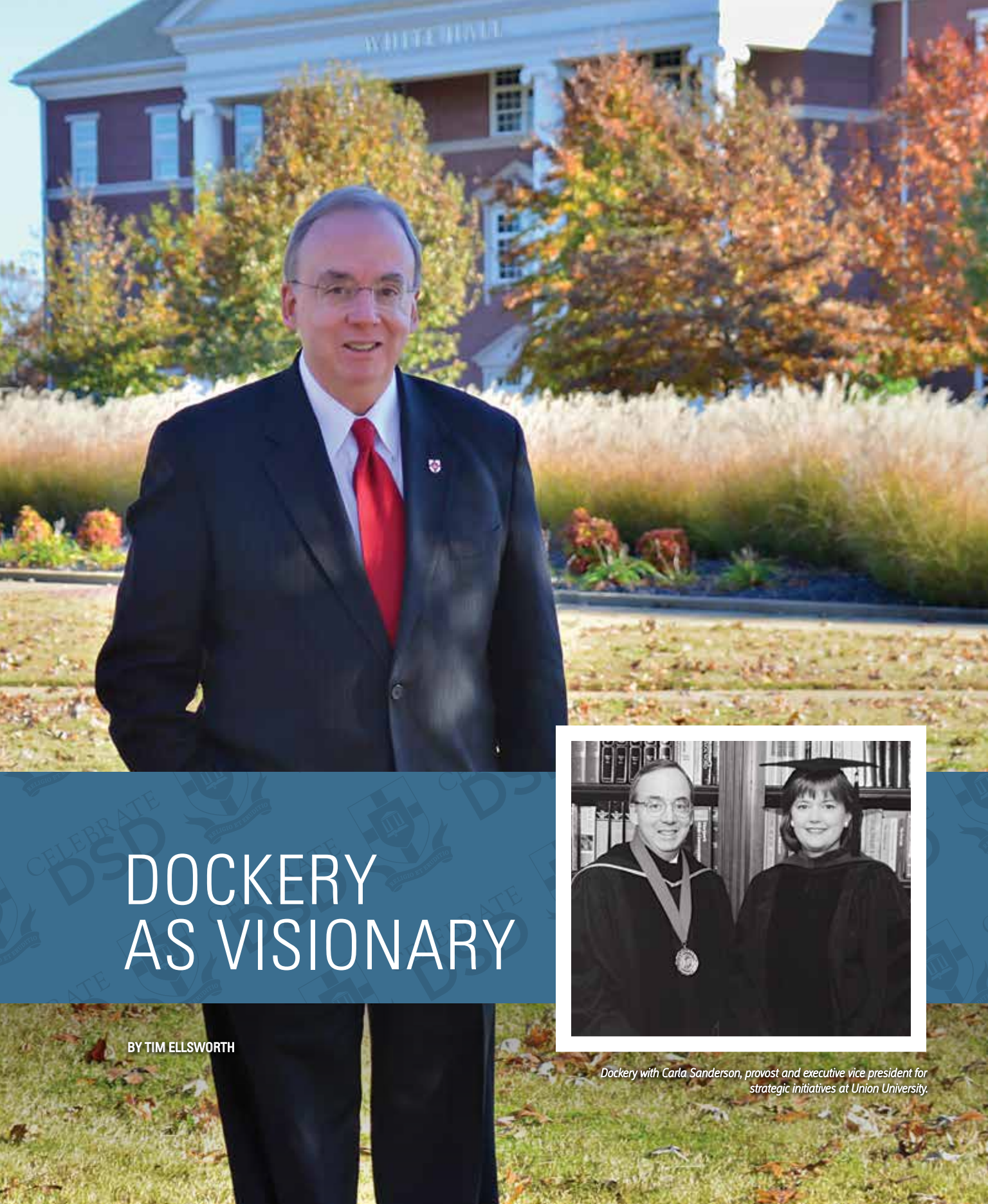
Like Page, Mohler and Akin, Davis appreciates the personal friendship and support he has received from Dockery.

"Dr. Dockery has been a constant source of encouragement and help to me," Davis said. "He has been there to give me advice, and he is globally respected."

Global respect is desirable, but Davis says the most important respect comes from close to home.

"When you see someone who is so respected at home, it speaks to their character, it speaks to their integrity, and it speaks to their compassion," Davis said. "And I think that's what Dr. Dockery has meant to Tennessee Baptists." ■

David has some very unique gifts. And one of those gifts is the ability to have friendships that cross many different lines.



# DOCKERY AS VISIONARY

BY TIM ELLSWORTH



*Dockery with Carla Sanderson, provost and executive vice president for strategic initiatives at Union University.*

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## GENE FANT SAT AT THE UNION SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET IN 2000

preparing to hear from Mikhail Gorbachev. Prior to the former Soviet leader's address, David S. Dockery provided some introductory comments.

"I saw the defense that Dr. Dockery gave for why a Christian liberal arts university can have a speaker we disagree with, but still have an event that brings that person in as an opportunity to then talk about it and respond to it," Fant said. "I was utterly agog with the possibilities that presented. He was articulating for me things I could not yet articulate."

That night began the process that would end with Fant joining the Union faculty a few months later. It was Dockery's role as a visionary that played a large role in Fant's decision to come to Union, and it's been Dockery's vision for a Christian university that has kept him at Union since.

"The thing that got me was the linkage between conviction and confidence—that if you know what you believe, and you know why you believe it, then you have courage," Fant said. "I saw that as a vision I'd never heard from a leader at a Christian college before."

Over the past 17 years, Dockery has succeeded in not only establishing a vision for Union University, but getting a vast majority of his faculty and staff to buy into that vision for what a Christian university should be—namely, an institution rooted in Scripture and firmly established in the Christian intellectual tradition that trains men and women to be agents of Christ in a variety of fields so that the church and society as a whole will benefit.

For many at Union, it wasn't simply the vision itself that motivated them—it was how Dockery modeled the pursuit of it.

"Dr. Dockery is the real thing," Union Provost Carla Sanderson said. "We hear him challenge this community to be Christ-centered and to keep active a pursuit of the knowledge of God and to tune our ears to hear God, to love God with all our heart, soul and mind."

"That is the origin of the vision," Sanderson continued. "I believe his vision has come from certainly his own very mature pursuit of who God is in our world, and then his love of culture. He studies the world through a highly developed theological lens, and he draws conclusions about what God would have us do in this world today."

Dockery's vision casting began immediately after he became Union's president. Union English professor Patty Hamilton said Dockery saw unrealized potential in Union at the regional, national and global levels and began systematically moving the institution in new directions.

"Now at the end of his tenure Union has more community partnerships in a number of disciplines, a more visible national profile by various measures and a larger global footprint," Hamilton said.

He accomplished that by moving slowly, patiently and methodically. Dockery didn't expect Union to change as an institution overnight. He started small, by meeting with faculty members and describing for them what his vision for Union was.

He modeled it in how he performed his job, and he allowed others to model that vision on the academic side.

George Guthrie, the Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible at Union, attributed Dockery's effectiveness with the faculty to his "humble competence." Guthrie remembered Dockery's first presentation to the faculty.

"He reviewed where Union had been since her founding and knew more than almost anyone in the room," Guthrie recalled. "He then gave a crystal-clear vision for where we needed to go."

At the end of the lengthy presentation, Guthrie said he and his colleagues were stunned. He turned to one fellow professor and asked, "How would anyone prepare to do what he just did?"

"He exuded competence," Guthrie said. "But he has always carried his competence with a disarming humility."

At denominational events, Dockery talked about the vision for Union. He recruited faculty and staff who bought into that vision. As Fant said, "He chewed the elephant one bite at a time."

After a few years, Union passed a point where a majority of the faculty and staff rallied around that vision, and the momentum began to shift.

"I saw his vision as being one where he allowed the institution to have confidence that we could talk about all kinds of different things in all kinds of different ways because we had confidence that truth always wins out," Fant said. "But the other side of that is that we don't sit there spinning our wheels trying to process 'what is truth?' all the time."

"We know what the truth is. We have a relationship with the truth. And therefore, we believe that we have the confidence—and the calling, even—to share that with the larger higher education community."

Sanderson said Dockery is known for saying that college presidents overestimate what can be accomplished in one year and underestimate what can be accomplished in five years. So his typical way of operating was to create long-term strategic plans (a maximum of five years) that would map out what the University would do to advance the vision during that timeframe.

He would ask his leadership team—people who were devoted to Union and to Dockery's leadership—what they knew about the next five years in terms of opportunities to carry the vision forward. They developed the strategy, and then Dockery held them accountable for its implementation.

"David Dockery has a very realistic approach to all of this," Sanderson said. "He knows who we are, and he knows what the main thing is. We have not tried to chase after what somebody else is doing."

That's one reason why Dockery established Union as a leader in health care education and worked to develop programs like pharmacy and nurse anesthesia, as well as expanding Union's existing nursing programs. It wasn't because health care was his field of expertise, Sanderson said. It was because he saw that as a need in the West Tennessee community that Union could meet.

[1] *Tim Smith, dean of the School of Nursing, guides a group of students through a task in Union's state-of-the-art simulation lab.*

[2] *Patty Hamilton, associate professor of English, engages students in class.*

[3] *Dockery and Gene Fant, executive vice president for academic administration, discuss the University's needs on a nice fall day.*




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Dockery's vision for Union has not only reshaped it as an institution, but has been instrumental in affecting other institutions in Christian higher education as well. The reason for that is not just because of the compelling nature of the vision, Fant said, but because of how Dockery has deliberately communicated what it means to be a Christian institution of higher learning.

"We're a part of a larger movement," Fant said. "We're a part of the kingdom movement as expressed through education and demonstrated through the Christian intellectual tradition. We aren't standing apart. We're standing within a stream. We receive, we pass down. But it's not just a marketing strategy. It's a philosophical way of life."

To inspire the campus to move forward and fulfill its potential, Hamilton said Dockery has adopted a strategy of looking backward, drawing on history in compelling ways to shape the institutional vision.

"In convocation speeches, chapel addresses, faculty meetings and other venues, he has situated Union's mission and vision in Tennessee history, Baptist history, church history and Western intellectual history," Hamilton said.

She called the strategy "very Hebraic in nature." Not something new and revolutionary. Not something to pump the troops up so they can accomplish great things on their own. A simple strategy of looking back.

"The practice of looking back on what God had done in the past reminded the Israelites that they could trust God with their future because of his faithfulness," Hamilton said. "Similarly, Dr. Dockery's frequent reminders to the Union community of God's faithfulness have been an integral part of his leadership." ■

## TEN-YEAR-OLD DAVID S. DOCKERY ARRIVED HOME FROM CHURCH

Sept. 15, 1963, in Birmingham, Ala., only to learn the news that would forever change his life.

The 16th Street Baptist Church bombing occurred earlier that day, with the Ku Klux Klan planting dynamite that destroyed part of the building. Hearing about the four girls who died in the explosion, Dockery realized that these African-American children about his age had gone to church like he had—but did not make it home.

Dockery has since mentioned that these memories continue to haunt him, said Matthew Marshall, director of student success at Union University, acting director of the Center for Racial Reconciliation and a Union alumnus. But rather than choosing a side on the racial divide, Dockery has become a steady figure advocating peace among all people.

“Dr. Dockery at his core is committed to racial reconciliation,” said Roland Porter, pastor of Agape Christian Fellowship Church in Jackson, Tenn. “He is committed to that from a theological perspective and a personal commitment to biblical principles. His values on that subject simply glow from everything that he does.”

Porter, the former director of Union’s Center for Racial Reconciliation and a member of the Board of Trustees, said he met Dockery years ago at a racial reconciliation meeting in Jackson. Since then, Porter has noticed that Dockery is drawn to two biblical principles that guide his decisions concerning interracial communications.

The first passage that Porter said Dockery lives by is Revelation 7:9, a verse describing a multitude of people from all nations worshiping God in heaven. This image has led Dockery as the 15th Union president, as he has supported campus projects and groups—such as the multi-ethnic student organization MOSAIC—that bring together people of different racial backgrounds.

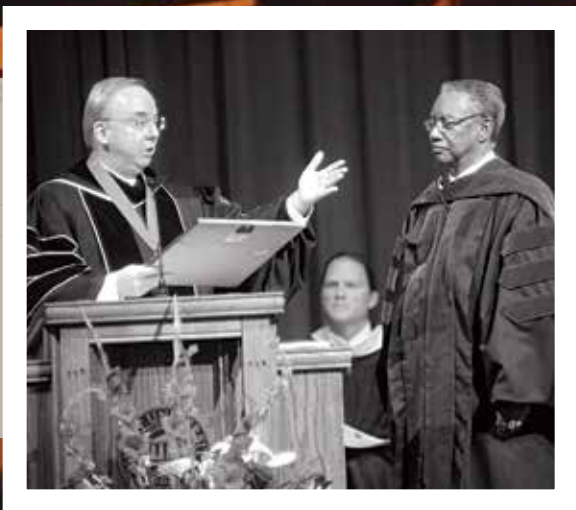
“One of the things Dr. Dockery really likes about MOSAIC is that our main mission is to help make the University look more like heaven will look like,” said Marshall, who served from 2007-2008 as the founding president of the organization. “It was always his goal to make the campus look more like heaven.”

But Dockery’s reconciliation efforts began long before his Union presidency, as he supported the earthly picture of Revelation 7:9 before he even left high school.

Birmingham was a dangerous place during the fight for civil rights—even for those who simply spoke against society’s wrongs, said Sephira Shuttlesworth, a Union alumna and the widow of the late civil rights leader Fred Shuttlesworth. But she said that Dockery is a man whose heart was—and is—touched deeply by the racial divide.

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Dr. Dockery at his core is committed to racial reconciliation. He is committed to that from a theological perspective and a personal commitment to biblical principles.



# DOCKERY AS RECONCILER

BY BETH KNOLL

*Dockery installs Roland Porter as the director of the Center for Racial Reconciliation during the 2008 fall convocation.*



“It was young people who broke the back of segregation in Birmingham,” Shuttlesworth said, quoting her late husband. “I suspect that even as a teenager, Dr. Dockery was weighing and measuring the rights and wrongs that he saw around him.”

Jacqueline Taylor, assistant dean of students at Union, director of the Vocatio Center for Life Calling and Career and a Union alumna, said that Dockery once told a story about an important episode in Dockery’s youth to a group of freshmen on campus, noting that the students were about his age when he made these life-altering decisions.

“Dr. Dockery challenged the students to be courageous in Great Commandment thinking and action, which was a testimony to his faithfulness to racial reconciliation from his youth,” Taylor said.

Great Commandment thinking—a biblical teaching from Matthew 22:37–40 that instructs people to love God and others—is the second principle Porter noted by which Dockery lives. This commandment also is one of the reasons that Taylor said she was drawn to Union.

Although she had previously met Dockery, Taylor said she formed her greatest impression of his character during one of his earliest convocation speeches. During this speech, Dockery discussed

Union’s role as a Great Commandment university and how a love for God required showing a love for one other.

“His vision resonated with me and made me want to become a part of the Union family as a professional staff member,” Taylor said. “I felt like I knew that he was committed to that vision, and that was a vision that was important to me as well.”

In 2005, Dockery appointed Taylor as the first black assistant dean of students, a position through which she led the Minority Task Team to address issues and concerns of minority students on campus. Dockery also has supported the creation of the Minority Scholarship as well as the annual Black History Month celebration on campus.

In addition, Taylor said he has hosted meetings with minority faculty and staff members to hear their suggestions on how to form a more racially integrated campus.

The result of Dockery’s efforts, Porter said, is that racial reconciliation at Union is the “norm and not the exception.”

But Porter said that Dockery’s reconciliation efforts off campus are notable as well, particularly through his work with churches and across the West Tennessee community.

[1] *Jacque Taylor, assistant dean of students, and Matt Marshall, director of student success, talk with Alma Hernandez, MOSAIC Executive Council member and president of LASO (Latin American Student Organization), on Union's campus, Nov. 8, 2013.*

[2] *Sephira Bailey Shuttlesworth, keynote speaker and Civil Rights activist, addresses Union students and faculty concerning her role during the Civil Rights Movement at the Fifth Annual Black History Month Program, Feb. 13, 2012.*

[3] *President of the Jackson-Madison County branch of the NAACP Harrell Carter presents Dockery with the William D. Smart Jr. Race Relations Award at the organization's 49th annual Freedom Fund Banquet, May 27, 2012.*  
PHOTO BY MICHELLE GACHET/THE JACKSON SUN

[4] *Fred Luter, president of the SBC, thanks the audience after speaking in chapel, Sept. 26, 2012. Dockery presented a certificate to Luter celebrating his induction into the R. G. Lee Society of Fellows.*

Dockery received the William D. Smart Jr. Race Relations Award in 2012 from the Jackson-Madison County branch of the NAACP for his involvement in local and state reconciliation efforts.

"In so many ways, Dockery's commitment to Revelation 7:9 and Matthew 22:37–40 guides his life," Porter said.

Dockery also has helped create positive changes in Southern Baptist life, Marshall said, as Dockery has furthered race relations by being a "peaceful voice when opportunities have risen."

Marshall noted that Dockery is careful about taking sides—such as when he encouraged attendees at a 2008 Student Senate meeting at Union to appreciate one another's opinions despite differing political views during the national election that year.

When it came to electing a new president for the Southern Baptist Convention, however, Marshall said that Dockery was one of the first people to suggest Fred Luter, a black pastor from New Orleans, as a good candidate for the position. Luter has since become the first African-American to be elected as a convention president.

"Dr. Dockery's very presence with his values is a positive influence on improving race relations in every sphere of his life," Porter said. "I don't think there is ever a time that he is not aware of reconciliation as something that needs tending to."

Porter added that Dockery is "intimidatingly bright, exceedingly Christian and uniquely humble"—a combination of characteristics that Shuttlesworth said she wants to see in the next Union president, who she hopes will be "every bit as genuine and forward-thinking as Dockery is."

Shuttlesworth described Union as a beacon on a hill, where people can come together and experience equality and peace. Considering the solid foundation Dockery has built in his 18 years as president, Shuttlesworth said that she views Union in the way her husband often described Christ's church: the light that shines in the darkness and cannot be quenched.

"My hope is that what Dr. Dockery spoke about of Union being a Great Commandment university will always be at the forefront of the hearts and minds of faculty, staff, students and the community," Taylor said. "I think that his support of reconciliation initiatives shows that he was, and has been, and is focused on Great Commandment thinking and action. And it's a wonderful legacy to leave behind." ■

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Dockery discussed Union's role as a Great Commandment university and how a love for God required showing a love for one other.

# DOCKERY AS SHEPHERD

BY MARY WATSON



*President Dockery fellowships with students at the Steven Curtis Chapman Brown Bag concert sponsored by Union in Franklin, Tenn., Aug. 5, 2003.*

## UNION STUDENTS FROM THE CLASSES OF 1997-2017 HAVE BEEN

impacted by the leadership of President David S. Dockery. His words and example have served as a model for a generation of alumni who are now influencers around the world.

Some students he met with even before they decided to attend Union, like Jesse Dahms ('16) who visited campus from Alaska. Traditionally many Union students first meet Dockery and Union's First Lady Lanese Dockery at the Freshman Ice Cream Social.

"From the moment I shook hands with Dr. Dockery at the Ice Cream Social held at his home during Freshmen Orientation, I felt very comfortable with him as the leader of our school," Cameron Armstrong ('08), now ministering in Romania, said. "I remember his truly genuine heart for all of us, not just as our administrator, but as humble, Christ-exalting shepherd."

"Dr. Dockery is a servant leader," Laurie Gallman ('04) said. "I have never known Dr. Dockery to ever boast in himself. He never took the credit for Union's phenomenal achievements, rankings and growth. He never spoke in 'I's' but in 'we's.' And he always encouraged us to do the same. He stressed the importance of Christian community and the call to serve."

Dr. and Mrs. Dockery go out of their way to connect with the students and make themselves available.

"If I could pick one word to describe President Dockery's interactions with myself and other students, it would be 'intentional,'" Caleb Valentine ('14) said. "With every year that I have been here, I have become more impressed with the thoughtful ways that Dr. Dockery invests in the lives of students."

"He was always interested in the students, knew a remarkable number of them by name and interacted with them whenever he could," Matthew Kuchem ('10), said. "Before my time, he played the saxophone in the symphonic band right alongside the students."

"It always amazed and impressed me that he not only remembered my name, but also wanted to know how I was actually doing," Armstrong said. "Two years after my graduation, I attended a conference at Union and honestly expected to get lost in the background. True to form, Dr. Dockery greatly surprised me by saying, 'Hi, Cameron! It is wonderful to see you again.' I will never forget that."

Union traditions, student government meetings, basketball games and more have all been used as opportunities to become acquainted with students.

The Christmas Story with the Dockerys has long been a favorite time for students.

"Dr. Dockery would read *The Night Before Christmas* in his best Christmas evening voice, and it brought a little bit of 'home for the holidays' for each student," Lydia Roberts ('09) said. "After the story, he would always read from Luke 2—everything for him was about pointing students back to Christ. This really was a special time that the Dockerys' generous love for Union took center stage."

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Dr. Dockery is a  
servant leader.  
I have never  
known Dr. Dockery  
to ever boast  
in himself.



Kuchem agreed: “His reading of a Christmas story to the students in the commons each December was much-anticipated and always well-attended. He would sit in an overstuffed chair with his wife, Lady Lanese, by his side, as students sat about his feet and throughout the whole commons to hear. One year after the traditional reading, Dockery came up to our dorm room to assist in the first lighting of the Christmas lights that the young men of Rogers had placed on our building.”

Every semester Dockery came to the Senate to speak to student leaders. Kylie McDonald ('13) said, “Student leaders loved to tweet surprise announcements from their president before the rest of campus knew. My personal favorite memory from those Senates, however, were the ‘don’t tweet this yet’ announcements Dr. Dockery made on occasion. I love that our president could be so candid with student leaders even before a decision was officially announced.”

Members of SGA have dinner with the Dockerys every year. “We eat a wonderful meal, visit with DSD and Ms. Lanese and always leave encouraged and enlightened,” Valentine said. “In fact, the evening usually ends with us students asking Dr. Dockery for his opinions and insights on a variety of topics. In these interactions, like in so many others, Dr. Dockery’s wisdom, humility and wonderful sense of humor shine brightly.”

While some of the Dockerys’ visits with students were Union traditions, other events were definitely one-of-a-kind.

“I remember as a LIFE Group Leader when Dr. Dockery and Mrs. Lanese hosted our life group in their home on several occasions, with both of them joining in our crazy games,” Gallman said. “I remember us celebrating his 50th birthday with a 50-foot-long cake that took up the entire hallway of the SUB building.”

Katie White ('07) recalls a special event: “One evening our dorm room invited Dr. Dockery and Lanese to dinner. It was such a thrill for us! We pulled out all the stops. We relished the chance to know this man and his lovely wife better and share special time with them. It was one of the highlights of our senior year. They brought us a beautiful plant, and we asked Dr. Dockery to name it. (We had a thing for naming our house plants.) He probably thought it odd, but he played along. Of course, he chose ‘Lanese.’”

Through the years, unexpected events have impacted the nature of Dockery’s interaction with students and leadership of the University. More than once, he was called upon to bring reassurance and hope during a time of crisis.

“I remember him talking to a group of us on 9/11 right after the planes hit the twin towers,” Heather Schuler ('05) recalled. “I remember us being so afraid and confused as to what was happening. He also held a prayer vigil later that day for the campus.”

“I remember the wee hours of the morning in the aftermath of the tornado of 2002,” Gallman said. “I remember the frenzy of students, but I



[1] President and Mrs. Dockery read *The Night Before Christmas* to students in the McAfee Commons, Dec. 6, 2010.

[2] Dockery plays saxophone with the Union Symphonic Band.

[3] Members of Union's Society of Physics students, in an effort to honor Dockery for his 18 years of service to the University, launched a high-altitude weather balloon with a Dockery bobblehead in tow, Sept. 27, 2013.

[4] Mrs. Dockery was honored with the naming of a street after her during Union's spring graduation 2011.

[5] Dockery surveys damage left in the wake of the EF-4 tornado that hit campus, Feb. 5, 2008.

I could see in his eyes the quiet but unshakeable resolve of a man with an unwavering vision for the continual advancement of a Christian intellectual community.

will never forget his calm, assuring voice and gentle reminders that no matter what our situation, we will be OK and most importantly, we will continue to praise the Lord. From opening Convocation to graduations, I recall him using every opportunity he could to speak Scripture over us."

"Two things are pressed firmly in my mind when I think of Dr. Dockery and the 2008 tornado," Roberts said. "This picture [to the right] and the phrase often used for great leadership, 'The right man, in the right role, at the right time.' Dr. Dockery provided direction in an uncertain time. But my thoughts seem to focus on the days, weeks and months after where he led the campus in thankfulness for God's overwhelming grace towards us. Five years later, he is still using a scary, unbelievable night to point to the power and kindness of God to save every student. This thankfulness has become ingrained in Union University, so we thank God over and over and over again no matter where we find ourselves each year."

"As one of the anchors for Jackson 24/7, I had many opportunities to ask him about tornado recovery," Kuchem said. "When I would look across the news desk, I could see in his eyes the quiet but unshakeable resolve of a man with an unwavering vision for the continual advancement of a Christian intellectual community."

With his presidency spanning the years from the mid-90s to the second decade of the 21st century, Dockery has seen many changes at Union and literally thousands of students. What perceptions of the president have they had?

"Students obviously love Dr. Dockery," McDonald said. "I don't know of another campus where the student body feels so friendly with their president."

"Among many students, including me, Dockery enjoyed a quasi-rock-star status—he was an icon, a giant," Kuchem said. "He had this 'living legend' aura that followed both his presence and his name. It wasn't because he was culturally hip, a flashy speaker or possessed with an overwhelmingly magnetic personality. He was respected, admired and loved in the Union community because he was 'all-in' in his dedication to the University's work and mission and in his love of the Union community."

"Union would not be Union without the priceless investment of Dr. Dockery and Mrs. Lanese," Gallman said.

White said, "There is no doubt that great admiration is rightly due to a man so humble, meek, kind and wise—to which only our Lord Jesus Christ is due the credit, as these qualities are certainly the work of the Holy Spirit in David Dockery." ■



## KATHY SOUTHALL AND JOSH SIMMONS CAN'T REMEMBER THE

occasion, but they agree on how it ended.

Both were in the President's Dining Room at the Carl Grant Events Center, where Simmons and his colleagues with instructional technology and campus media had set up audio/visual services.

On his way out of the event, President David S. Dockery stopped, turned to Simmons and thanked him for his hard work.

"Never fails!" Simmons said as soon as Dockery had departed the room. "He never fails to thank us after every event."

Southall, Union's director of intercessory prayer and encouragement, says Dockery has the "ministry of presence." In other words, people draw great encouragement when they see he has taken time to attend something they consider important.

"I remember a student who invited Dr. Dockery to a martial arts exhibition," Southall said. "It was important to that student, so Dr. Dockery attended the event."

Angela Womack, who works in housekeeping, cherishes a similar experience during a memorable time—her wedding day.

She had mentioned to Dockery one day that she was getting married and conveyed a verbal invitation to the ceremony. She says she didn't think about it again until, on her wedding day, the minister whispered to her that Dockery was in attendance.

"I turned around and there he was," Womack said. "That was just the best wedding present! And he didn't sit in the back, he sat right up in front."

"It made me feel like he was my family, because he was right there with my family."

Gene Fant, Union's executive vice president for academic administration, agrees that Dockery's interest in others is both genuine and enthusiastic.

"He always finds ways to encourage others in their passions, gifts and callings," Fant said. "I never cease to be amazed by how much joy he takes in others' successes."

James Patterson, acting dean of the School of Theology and Missions, recalls how Dockery has played important supporting roles in several book projects.

"He recommended me to the (Council for Christian Colleges and Universities) as writer for their 25-year history, even before I officially started at Union," Patterson said. "He then saw that I had some release time to work on the project after I began teaching at Union. He encouraged that particular project in many ways."

In 2012, B&H Academic released a highly regarded biography from Patterson, entitled *James Robinson Graves: Staking the Boundaries of Southern Baptist Identity*. Dockery wrote an endorsement for the book, saying it was "an impressive and important treatment of the life,

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People draw great encouragement when they see he has taken time to attend something they consider important.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JACKSON SUN

# DOCKERY AS ENCOURAGER

BY MARK KAHLER



[1] Dockery spends some time with James Patterson, acting dean of the School of Theology and Missions, before Patterson speaks at Union's Founders Day Chapel.

[2] Reneé Jones, assistant director of the Vocatio Center for Life Calling and Career, introduces the speaker at the annual Black History Month program on Union's campus.



thought and seemingly non-stop activities of one of the most controversial Baptist leaders of all time.”

But Patterson says Dockery’s encouragement extended far beyond the written endorsement. Research for the book project proved challenging amid the aftermath of the 2008 tornado at Union and the death of Patterson’s father-in-law.

He sees Dockery as “definitely a catalyst and encourager” for such projects across the entire Union faculty.

“He helps by his own example of scholarly productivity,” Patterson said, “and his encouraging words to faculty regarding their research and writing.”

Reneé Jones, associate director of Union’s Vocatio Center for Life Calling and Career, agrees that much of Dockery’s encouragement isn’t delivered in words, but by example and through action.

She remembers her first conversation with Dockery at a Rotary Club luncheon at which she spoke as a high school senior. He started by telling her he was impressed with her speech.

“He said ‘You will be at Union,’” Jones said, adding that she didn’t know at the time he was the president of the University.

Jones said she wasn’t even sure where the Union campus was located, and she already had a scholarship in hand to attend another university.

“He was just very cordial and kind,” Jones said. “He just said ‘I think you have great potential and I look forward to seeing you at Union.’ And then he left.”

Within a short time, she learned of Dockery’s role and became a Union freshman. Jones was a first-generation college student in her family.

“To know at the time that I had that kind of support and encouragement, I thought, ‘OK, I can probably navigate this,’” Jones said.

During her years as a Union student, Dockery checked in with her on occasion to see how she was progressing. There was enough of a connection that Jones felt comfortable as a senior going to his office one day to ask if he would provide an employment reference.

“He said, ‘What if there were room for you to stay here at Union?’” Jones said. “Never did it cross my mind that I could work here as a staff member.”

With that discussion in mind, Jones soon landed a job at the University.

“He does so many kind things that no one even knows about,” she said. “And his actions speak louder than his words.”

1995

A HIGHLIGHTS TIMELINE

DAVID S. DOCKERY

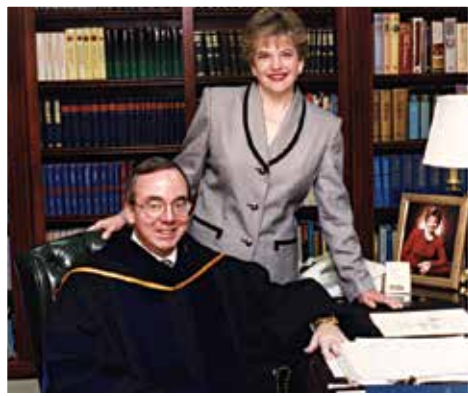
2013

Union enrolled 1,972 students, with an annual non-duplicating enrollment of 2,183

The annual budget was \$18 million, the net assets of the University were \$36 million, and the endowment about \$8 million

The average ACT score was about 24, with students from 31 states and a dozen countries

Graduation rates were at 52%, with the number of annual graduates in the range of 375



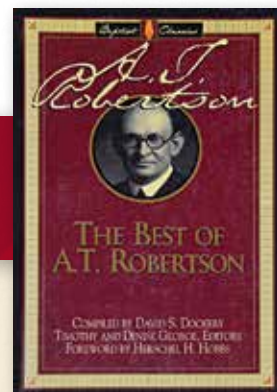
**UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED**  
by Board of Trustees as the 15th president of Union University

EXCELLENCE-DRIVEN  
CHRIST-CENTERED  
PEOPLE-FOCUSED  
FUTURE-DIRECTED

Adopted new Core Values

Inaugural address: "Vision and Values: Toward a Great Commandment University"

Approval of *Vision and Values* 2001 strategic plan



Published  
*Best of A.T. Robertson* (B&H)

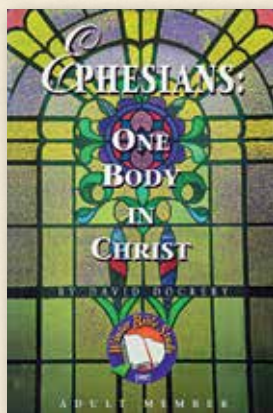
Articles in *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (Baker)

Delivered "Spell Lectures,"  
Mississippi College

Named to Board of Directors,  
Hammons Charitable Foundation

Appointed to Baptist Heritage  
and Identity Commission and to  
Theological Education Commission  
of the Baptist World Alliance

Participant in the "Southern Baptist  
and Roman Catholic Conversation,"  
sponsored by the North American  
Mission Board (HMB) of the SBC



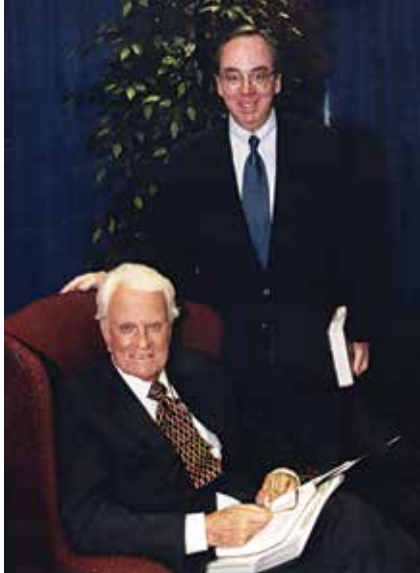
Published *Ephesians: One Body in Christ*  
(Convention Press)

UNIVERSITY

95

PERSONAL

96



Instituted  
annual  
Scholarship  
Banquet

Established  
Hammons  
Chair for  
Pre-Medical  
Studies

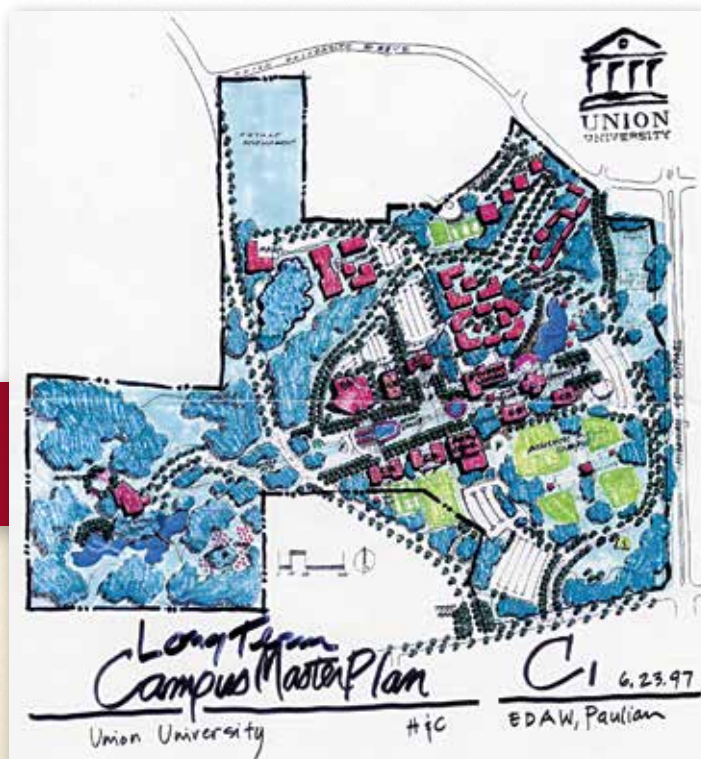
Established  
R.G. Lee Center

Began Carls-Schwerdfeger Endowed  
Lectureship

Adopted twenty-five year campus  
master plan

Listed for the first time as a Top Tier  
College in the South, *U.S. News &  
World Report*

LifeGroup programs started for  
Union freshmen



97

Continued to serve as associate  
general editor, *New American  
Commentary Series*

Named to Board of Tennessee  
Foundation for Independent  
Colleges and Universities

Article in *Baptist: Why and Why Not  
Revisited* (B&H)

Article in *Dictionary of  
Old Testament Theology*  
(Zondervan)



Launch of “Building a Future” capital campaign

Union received first \$2 million gift from James W. Ayers

Completed Wright and Sullivan residence life facilities

Established the Robert Craig Service Award

Welcomed Lady Margaret Thatcher to the Scholarship Banquet



Enrollment surpassed 2,000, including largest freshman class ever

Celebrated 175th anniversary with 175-foot birthday cake

Started Union University Auxiliary

Added women’s volleyball and men’s soccer as varsity sports

Women’s basketball claimed first NAIA National Championship



98

Published *Our Christian Hope: Biblical Answers to Questions about the Future* (LifeWay Press)

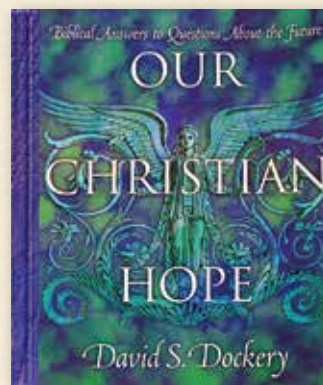
Served as editor, *New Dimensions in Evangelical Thought* (InterVarsity)

Published *Holman Concise Bible Commentary* (Holman)

Continued to serve as consulting editor, *Christianity Today*

Delivered “Day-Higginbotham Lectures,” Southwestern Seminary

Named to Advisory Board, Birth Choice



Governor’s Prayer Breakfast leader

Served on Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools





Instituted Union Forum speaker series which featured author Stephen Carter

Completed and dedicated Fesmire baseball and softball fields with new pressbox

Completed and dedicated Hammons Hall

Listed in *Templeton's Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development*

Established Founder's Day lectures

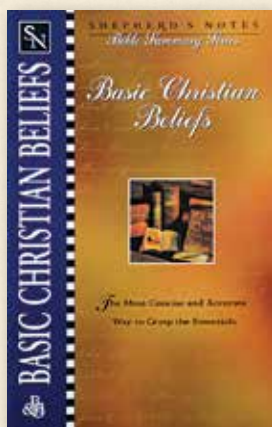
Founder's portrait unveiled

Added men's and women's cross country as varsity sports

Scholarship Banquet featured General Colin Powell



99



Published *Basic Christian Beliefs* (B&H)

Delivered commencement address at Beeson Divinity School

Articles in *Biblical Interpreters of the 20th Century* (Baker) and *Christianity Today*

Named to Board of Directors, Miller Foundation

Served on Board of Directors, American Academy of Ministry

Lanese selected as president, SBC Ministers' Wives Conference



Began Crabtree Endowed  
Lecture Series

Established Ryan Center for  
Biblical Studies

Ranked in top ten among  
Colleges in the South,  
*U.S. News & World Report*

Initiated Digital Media Studies major

Completed and dedicated  
Jennings Hall

Scholarship Banquet featured  
Mikhail Gorbachev

Started Doctor of Education  
program



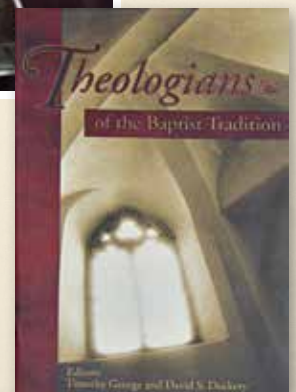
Articles in *Faith and Mission* and  
*Exploring Christian Spirituality*  
(Baker)

Preacher for Annual Convention of  
Mississippi Baptist Convention

Plenary speaker, annual meeting of  
the Association of Baptist Colleges  
and Schools

Named to Board of Directors,  
Council for Christian Colleges  
and Universities

David and Lanese celebrated  
25th wedding anniversary





Completed and dedicated Miller Tower, Great Lawn, and Pleasant Plains entrance

Started Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies

Initiated Engineering program

Established Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture

Enrollment surpassed 2,500

Publication of Union history by James Baggett, *So Great a Cloud of Witnesses*

Listed among Top Tier of Master's Universities in the South, *U.S. News & World Report*

Accreditation for Teacher Education and Art programs

New Germantown extension campus facility

Began Master of Science in Nursing

Adopted new Mission and Identity Statements

*Vision and Values 2005* strategic plan



OI



Co-editor, *Interpreting the New Testament* (B&H)

Co-editor, *Theologians of the Baptist Tradition* (B&H)

Articles in *Christianity Today* and *Southwestern Journal of Theology*

Delivered "Founder's Day Lecture," The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Plenary speaker, Wheaton Theology Conference

Plenary Address, annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society

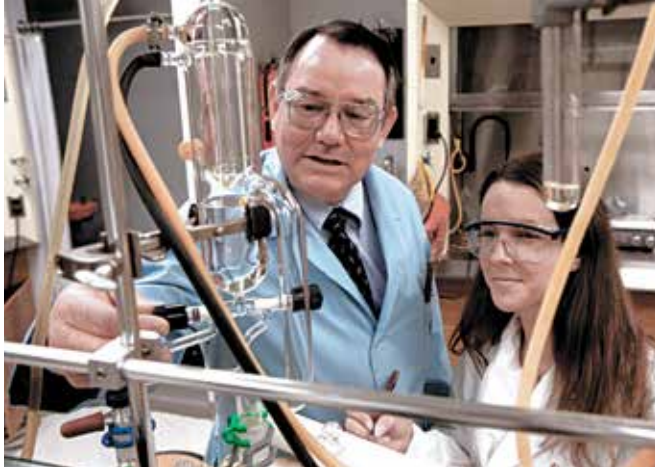
Delivered "Hobbs Lectures," Oklahoma Baptist University

Delivered "Powell Lectures," Baptist College of Florida

Keynote speaker, Florida Baptist Convention Theology and Ethics Conference

Senior Fellow, Wilberforce Forum

Lanese graduated from Union University



Chemistry program received American Chemical Society accreditation

Established the Carl F.H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership

Renovated and dedicated Ramona Mercer and John Adams Missionary Residences

Response and recovery to November tornado damage

Selected as one of America's Best College Buys for seventh straight year



02

Named Distinguished Alumnus, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Honored by Millard J. Erickson with dedication of book, *Truth or Consequences: The Promise and Peril of Postmodernism* (Baker)

Article in *Books and Culture*

Delivered "Convocation Address," Midwestern Baptist Seminary

Delivered "Trustee Lectures," Oklahoma Christian University

Delivered "Commencement Address," Golden Gate Baptist Seminary

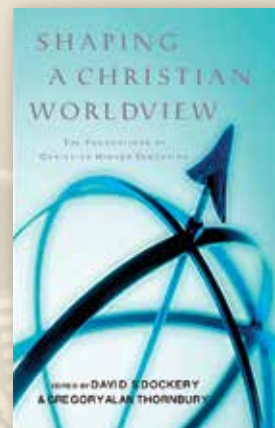


Delivered "Commencement Address," Azusa Pacific University

Delivered "Convocation Address," Houston Baptist University

Delivered "Keynote Address," annual meeting of Consortium for Global Education

Co-editor, *Shaping a Christian Worldview* (B&H)





Completed soccer field

Established M. E. Dodd Award for  
Denominational Service

Began Center for Educational  
Practice

Received 1615 Geneva Bible as gift  
for Ryan Center for Biblical Studies



03



Named to editorial board,  
*Renewed Mind Series* (Baker)

Articles in *Holman Illustrated Bible  
Dictionary*, *Biblical Illustrator*, and  
*Midwestern Journal of Theology*

Delivered "Trustee Lectures,"  
Azusa Pacific University

Delivered "Annual Faculty  
Leadership Lectures," Council for  
Christian Colleges and Universities

Delivered "Inaugural Address"  
for President Evans Whitaker,  
Anderson University (SC)

Keynote speaker, Oklahoma Baptist  
Innovation Conference

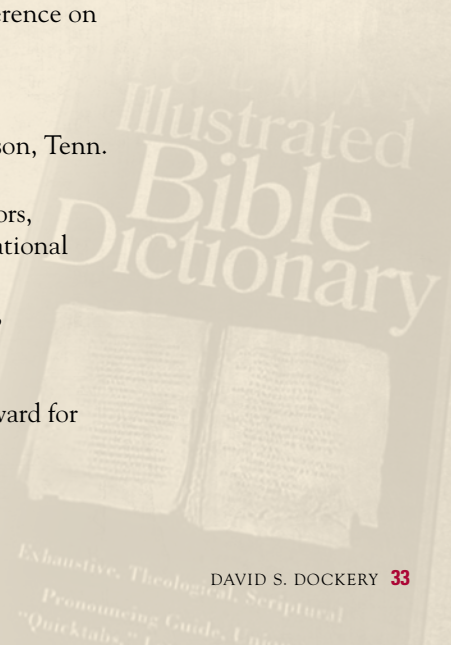
Keynote speaker, Hawaii Pacific  
Baptist Convention Conference on  
Islam and Christianity

Served as interim pastor,  
First Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn.

Named to Board of Directors,  
Christianity Today International

Named Paul Harris Fellow,  
Jackson Rotary Club

Received Elias Cottrell Award for  
Educational Excellence





Annual Scholarship Banquet  
featured President George  
H.W. Bush

Approved *Union 2010: A Vision for  
Excellence* strategic plan

Adopted new Statement of Faith

Hosted “Baptist Identity” conference

Started Nurse Anesthesia  
program with gift  
from West Tennessee  
Healthcare

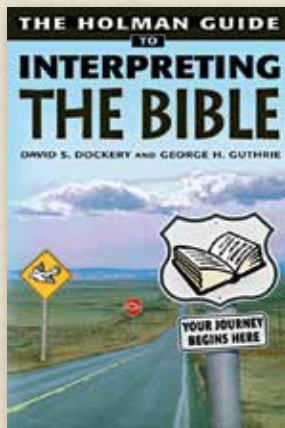
Initiated Accelerated  
Bachelor of Science in  
Nursing program



04

Articles in *SBC Life*, *The Southern  
Baptist Educator* and *InterVarsity  
Dictionary of the New Testament* (IVP)

Keynote speaker, University of  
Mobile Christian Worldview  
conference



Co-author,  
*Holman Guide  
to Interpreting  
the Bible* (B&H)

Plenary  
speaker, New  
Orleans Baptist  
Seminary  
Conference

Speaker,  
“The Soul of  
the Christian

University” conference,  
Baylor University

Delivered “Hester Lectures,”  
International Association of Baptist  
Colleges and Universities

Named to Board of Directors,  
Tennessee Independent Colleges  
and Universities Association

Honored by book dedication  
from Harry L. Poe, *See No Evil:  
The Existence of Sin in an  
Age of Relativism*



School of Education received  
Model of Excellence Award for  
Teacher Education

Women's basketball claimed  
second NAIA National  
Championship

Accreditation received for  
Nurse Anesthesia program

Established Hundley Center for  
Academic Enrichment

Started Master of Christian  
Studies program

05

Keynote speaker, Alabama Baptist  
Leadership Summit



Named board chair, Council for  
Christian Colleges and Universities

Articles in *Touchstone* and *Southern  
Baptist Journal of Theology*

Marriage of  
Jonathan  
and Sarah





Completed and dedicated Fesmire Field House

Enrollment surpassed 3,000

Received accreditation for Engineering program

Established Union University Foundation

One of ten church-related universities in country with a focus on “Putting Students First”

Back-to-back NAIA National Championship for women’s basketball and third overall



06

Chapters in *The Future of Baptist Higher Education* (Baylor University Press) and *The Mission of Today’s Church* (B&H)



Named Honorary Alumnus, Union University

Plenary speaker, Illinois Baptist State Association

Delivered “Commencement Address,” Louisiana College

Honored by Mark Tabb with book dedication, *Theology: Think for Yourself About What You Believe* (NavPress)

Marriage of Tim and Andrea



Completion and  
dedication of  
White Hall

Hosted “Baptist  
Identity II”  
conference

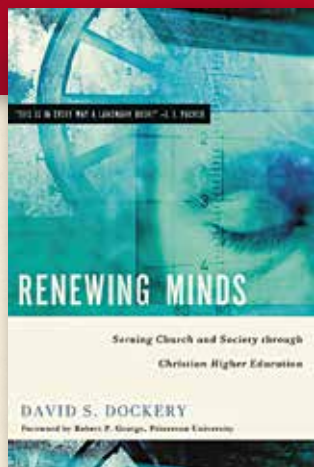
Established Stephen Olford Center  
and Chair of Expository Preaching

Started Center for Religion  
and Politics

Ten year reaffirmation of  
accreditation by Southern  
Association of Colleges and  
Schools (with no notations or  
recommendations)



07



Published *Renewing Minds: Serving  
Church and Society through Christian  
Higher Education* (B&H)

Chapters in *A Theology for the  
Church* (B&H) and *A Harmony of  
the Gospels* (B&H)

Delivered lectures, Grace College  
and Seminary

Plenary speaker, “Building Bridges  
Conference,” Southern Baptist  
Convention

Served as board chair, Consortium  
for Global Education

Named to Board of Directors,  
International Association of Baptist  
Colleges and Universities

Marriage of Ben and Julie



Response and recovery to major devastation from EF-4 tornado

Completed and dedicated Carl Grant Events Center

Completed and dedicated four residence life complexes (Hurt, Watters, Ayers, and Grace)

Renovated and dedicated Grey and Dodd residence life complexes

Established Doctor of Pharmacy program with gifts from West Tennessee Healthcare and Baptist Memorial Health Care

Received non-cash gift of 55 acres valued at \$14 million

Started Master of Social Work program

Enrollment surpassed 3,500

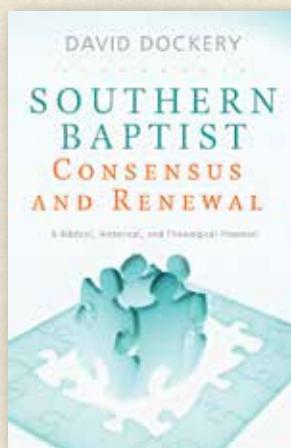
Began Center for Racial Reconciliation

Included in "Up and Coming Universities to Watch" by *U.S. News & World Report*

Union 2010 Plan surpassed comprehensive campaign goal of \$110 million



08



Published *Southern Baptist Consensus and Renewal* (B&H)

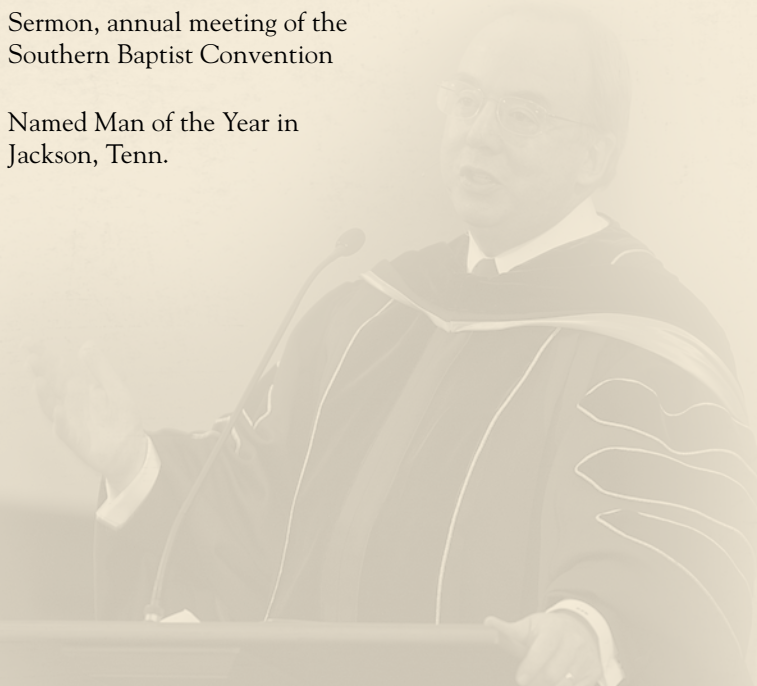
Co-editor, *John A. Broadus: A Living Legacy* (B&H)

"Convocation Address," Beeson Divinity School

"Commencement Address," Dallas Theological Seminary

Sermon, annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention

Named Man of the Year in Jackson, Tenn.



Enrollment surpassed 4,000

Started Doctor of Ministry program

Began Doctor of Nursing Practice program

Initiated new Gateway program for first-year students

Granted level VI accreditation by SACS

Expanded campus parking

Fourth NAIA National Championship for women's basketball



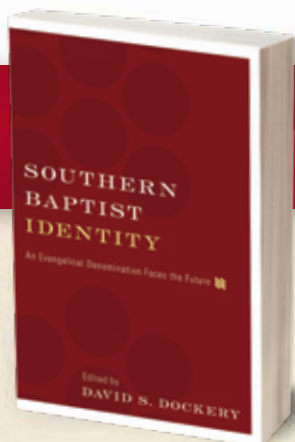
Annual Scholarship Banquet featured Secretary Condoleezza Rice

Recognition in *Princeton Review* and *Colleges of Distinction*

Hosted "Southern Baptists, Evangelicals and the Future of Denominationalism" conference



09



Editor, *Southern Baptist Identity* (Crossway)

Articles in *Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization* (Wiley-Blackwell)

Named general editor, *Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition* series (Crossway)

Delivered "Christ and Culture Distinguished Lectures," California Baptist University

Delivered "Whitesides Lectures," Erskine College and Seminary

Delivered "Contemporary Issues Lectures," Biola University

Keynote speaker, North American Professors of Christian Education

Delivered "Keynote Address," Centennial Anniversary Banquet, West Tennessee NAACP

Named to Great Commission Resurgence Task Team, Southern Baptist Convention

Included as 100 Shaping Baptist Voices in *Baptist Theology: A Four Century Study*, (Mercer) by James Leo Garrett, Jr.

Birth of first grandchild: Abigail Katherine (born to Ben and Julie)

Completion and dedication of the Bowld Student Commons

Completion and dedication of Hope Residence Complex

Renovation and dedication of the Center for Continuing and Professional Studies facility on Emporium Drive

Completion and dedication of Smith Memorial Soccer Complex, with pressbox

Completion and dedication of Providence Hall

Women's basketball garnered their fifth NAIA National Championship



Established new Honors Community

Debate team named as International Public Debate Association Champions

Fall enrollment reached 4,186, the thirteenth straight year for an enrollment increase

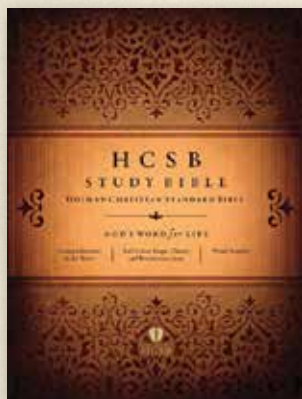
Trustees approve record \$80 million annual budget

Net assets surpassed \$105 million



## IO

Contributed pieces for *A Great Commission Resurgence* (B&H), *Holman Christian Standard Study Bible* (B&H), *Interpreting the Psalms for Teaching and Preaching* (Chalice) and *The Lord's Supper* (B&H)



Named to editorial board of the *Journal of Christian Higher Education*

Delivered lectures at Singapore Baptist Seminary, Grace College, Biola University, and Southwest Baptist University

Presenter at the International Forum on Christian Higher Education

Served as honorary co-chair for the State of Tennessee Racial Reconciliation Summit

Speaker for North Carolina Baptist Convention Discipleship emphasis

Subject of doctoral dissertation at Southeastern Seminary by Tanner Hickman

David and Lanese celebrated 35th wedding anniversary

Completed *Union* 2012 strategic plan (the 4th plan of Dockery's administration)

Announced \$10 million gift for new library project

Fall enrollment exceeded 4,200 and non-duplicating annual enrollment reached 5,190

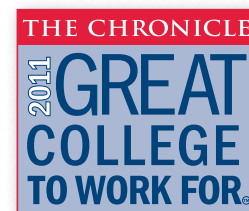
Scholarship Banquet featured Prime Minister Tony Blair



Debate team again named International Public Debate Association Champs



*Chronicle of Higher Education* recognized Union as one of the "Great Colleges to Work For" in the country, one of 30 institutions so recognized



## II

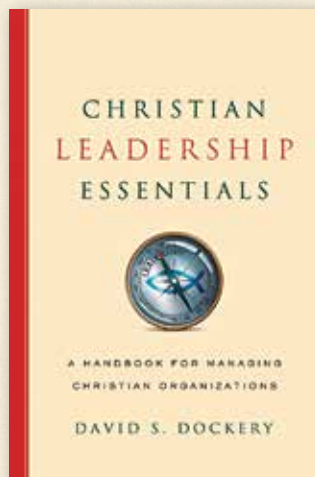
Contributed the theme devotional on "Open Windows" to the 75th anniversary publication of the *Open Windows* devotional guide

Co-editor, *Southern Baptists, Evangelicals, and the Future of Denominationalism* (B&H)

Authored *The Pursuit: Chasing Answers to Life's Questions* (A Study of Ecclesiastes) (LifeWay)

Continued to serve in editorial role for *Christianity Today*, the *New American Commentary* series, and *Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition* series

Published *Christian Leadership Essentials* (editor) (B&H)



Delivered "Convocation Address" at Dordt College

Keynote address for University Educators for Global Engagement annual conference

Winter faculty lectures at Beeson Divinity School

Delivered "Faith and Thought Lectures" at Northwestern College (Minn.)

Appointed to "Name Change Study Committee" of the Southern Baptist Convention

Birth of second and third grandchildren: Emma Elizabeth (born to Ben and Julie), and Hazel Ruth (born to Jon and Sarah)



Completed and dedicated new extension campus in Hendersonville, Tenn.

Non-duplicating annual enrollment exceeded 5,300, while fall enrollment increased for 15th straight year

Trustees approved new strategic plan, *Illuminating Minds: Union 2015*

Trustees approved \$89 million budget

Union placed on “President’s Honor Roll for Community Service” for sixth straight year

Athletic program began transition from NAIA to NCAA. Completed years of NAIA competition by winning TranSouth Conference All Sports Trophy for 10th straight year

Welcomed into the Gulf South Conference of NCAA Division II

Sixteenth straight year for Top Tier rankings in *U.S. News & World Report* with highest rankings in Union history

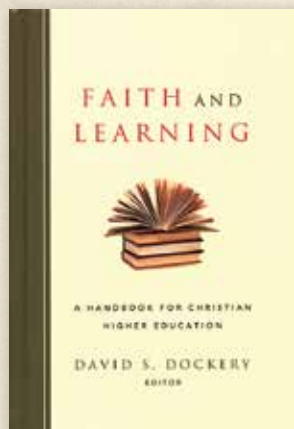


## I2

Co-authored *The Great Tradition of Christian Thinking* (Crossway)

Presented “Inaugural Address” for President Anthony Allen, Hannibal-LaGrange University

Recipient of William D. Smart Race Relations Award



Edited *Faith and Learning: A Handbook for Christian Higher Education* (B&H)

Launched new journal, *Renewing Minds: A Journal of Christian Thought*

Delivered “Caskey

Distinguished Christian Scholar Lectures” at Louisiana College

Plenary address, Kentucky Baptist Convention Theology Conference

Presentations at California Baptist University and Biola University

Keynote address, annual meeting of the National Association of Christian Librarians

Named to Board of Directors, Prison Fellowship Ministries (chair, Theology Committee)

Named to Advisory Board, Colossian Forum

Appointed as chair, Southern Baptist Convention Advisory Council on Calvinism

Named to the Tennessee Baptist Convention “Vision 2021” implementation team



Recipient of Overall Performance Award for Advancement and Development efforts from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), one of only 35 institutions across the country to receive this recognition

Largest graduating class in Union history

Non-duplicating annual enrollment exceeded 5,000 for the third year in a row, with students from more than 40 states and 30 countries

Fall enrollment of 4,288, 16th straight year of enrollment increase

Completed in a successful manner the second year requirements for NCAA membership

AACSB accreditation earned by the McAfee School of Business Administration

Accreditation reaffirmed for Education, Music, and Chemistry

## I3

Contributed to *Why We Belong* (Crossway) and *The Community of Jesus* (B&H)

Named general editor for forthcoming *Holman Worldview Study Bible* (B&H)

Delivered "Commencement Address" at Lee University

Delivered "McCall Lectures" at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Speaker at Southeastern Seminary and Golden Gate Baptist Seminary

Named to Advisory Council for the Colson Center

Presented the "Inaugural Academic Address" for President Jason Allen, Midwestern Baptist Seminary

Chair, Southern Baptist Convention Advisory Committee on Calvinism

Recipient of LifeWay's highest recognition, the "Holman Christian Standard Bible Award," as well as the "Distinguished Service Award" from the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Honored by West Tennessee Red Cross as Humanitarian of Year



Recognized with "Herschel Hobbs Distinguished Denominational Service Award" by Oklahoma Baptist University

"Vision 2021" implementation team for the Tennessee Baptist Convention

Birth of fourth and fifth grandchildren: Fisher Alden (to Jon and Sarah), and Colin Patrick (to Tim and Andrea)



16th annual Scholarship Banquet  
featured Dr. Ben Carson

Established the Porter Family Chair  
of Business and Economics

Recognized as one of the top private  
universities in the country by  
*Kiplinger's* (ranked #77)

Listed as Top Tier institution  
by *U.S. News & World Report*  
for 17th consecutive year,  
with highest ranking ever—  
13th among Southern  
Regional Universities

Net assets exceeded  
\$117 million

Economic impact of University on  
community exceeded \$275 million

Trustees approved \$90 million  
budget, 18th straight year for  
budget increase

**AN EXCERPT FROM DAVID S. DOCKERY'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS,  
"VISION AND VALUES: TOWARD A GREAT COMMANDMENT UNIVERSITY"**

"Union University has been called at this unique time in history to step forward as a leader in Christian higher education to prepare students to enter the changing world of the 21st Century. In order to answer this call we must prioritize our commitment to the words of Jesus called the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40). Here we are told to love God with our hearts, our minds, our souls—and to love others completely. Jesus' words refer to a wholehearted devotion to God with every aspect of our being, from whatever angle we choose to consider it—emotionally, volitionally, or cognitively. This kind of "love" for God will then result in obedience to all He has commanded. These words of

Jesus serve as the foundational framework for Union University to carry out its mission to our changing postmodern world.

The purpose of this institution is to educate students so they will be prepared for whatever vocation God has called them, enabled and equipped with the competencies necessary to think Christianly and to perform skillfully in the world, equipped to be servant leaders who impact the world as change agents based on a full orb ed Christian world and life view. Thus we are called to be a Great Commandment University."

TO SEE THE FULL ADDRESS  
SCAN THIS CODE



FAST FACTS ABOUT UNION'S 15TH PRESIDENT

# DAVID S. DOCKERY

**BORN:** October 28, 1952 in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

**MARRIED:** Lanese Huckeba on June 14, 1975

**FAMILY:** Jon and his wife, Sarah, and their children,  
Hazel and Fisher

Ben and his wife, Julie, and their children,  
Abigail and Emma

Tim and his wife, Andrea, and their son Colin

**EDUCATION:** Ph.D., University of Texas System  
(in *Humanities*)

M.A., Texas Christian University (*New Testament*)

M.Div., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
(*emphasis in theological studies*)

M.Div., Grace Theological Seminary  
(*emphasis in New Testament*)

B.S., University of Alabama at Birmingham  
(*previously attended the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa*)

**ADDITIONAL STUDIES:** Drew University

**PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:**

1988-96 The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary,  
Louisville, Ky.

Vice President for Academic Administration (93-96)

Dean, School of Theology (92-96)

Professor of New Testament Theology

1990-92 General Editor, Broadman and Holman Press,  
Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville  
General Editor, *New American Commentary*

Served churches and academic institutions in Alabama,  
Texas, and New York

Served interim pastorates in Texas, Kentucky, Ohio,  
and Tennessee



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