

Union trustees approve CRNA and doctoral programs

Union University's board of trustees voted unanimously to approve a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) program and a new academic track in higher education administration in the university's Ed.D. degree.

Final approval for both programs was also granted by Union University faculty.

The CRNA program is designed to meet increasing needs for nurse anesthetists and is a result of requests from area hospitals. The new graduate program, scheduled to begin in January 2006, includes a 30-month curriculum designed for those who already hold a four-year nursing degree and will result in a master's degree in nursing. West Tennessee Healthcare recently committed a \$2.5 million gift to support the program, once it completed the approval process.

Recent statistics indicate a projected national shortfall of 7,000 CRNAs by 2005, according to Union University Provost Carla Sanderson.

"It is quite satisfying for Union University to be able to respond to a national workforce demand," said Sanderson. "It's even more satisfying that we are joining with West Tennessee Health Care and others in meeting a need that will directly impact so many around us."

Because of decreased enrollments in nursing programs in general during the 1990s and the subsequent decrease in the pool of nurses eligible for CRNA certification, the workforce shortfall is expected to rise until at least the year 2020.

In the southeastern United States, CRNA education programs tend to be located in large metropolitan areas. The nearby state of Mississippi has no CRNA program within its borders. Nonetheless, CRNA practitioners are the sole administrators of anesthesia in about two-thirds of the nation's rural hospitals.

"You don't see a lot of schools working to build a network of rural hospitals for a program like this," said Dr. Tim Smith, Union's new School of Nursing dean. "It's the beginning of a new era in

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Union represented at 2004 national political conventions

Political science moved outside the classroom for a Union University professor and two students chosen by the Washington Center to attend the national political conventions.

Sean Evans, assistant professor of political science, led a seminar for students participating in the Washington Center program at the Republican National Convention, Aug. 30-Sept. 3, in New York City. Matt Oshel of Harrisburg, Ill., a senior majoring in political science, also attended the republican convention and worked with the Illinois state delegation. Ross Mitchell, a senior political science major from Selmer, Tenn., attended the Democratic National Convention held in Boston, Mass., July 26-29.

Participants in The Washington Center's Campaign 2004 arrived one week prior to their respective party's convention. The first week consisted of seminars to prepare students for the convention week as they discussed general aspects of the campaign. In the second week, students attended seminars in the morning and did field work in the afternoons and evenings. Field work assignments with

media organizations, party delegations, interest groups and other political groups allowed students first-hand experience of various aspects of the convention.

"The seminars helped them to relate their individual experiences to the larger dynamics of the convention and campaign," Evans said.

Faculty from colleges and universities across the nation led the seminar sessions, which included discussion of *Is This Any Way to Run a Democratic Election*, 3rd edition, by Stephen J. Wayne. Both the students and faculty were chosen through a competitive process.

For Mitchell, potential for networking made the program a welcome prospect.


"Dr. Evans, my advisor, was the major influence," Mitchell said. "He approached me one day and asked, 'What would you say if you got a chance to meet some Democratic leaders and possibly establish some networks with them?' I could not refuse that offer.

"My expectations were exceeded during those two weeks. Boston is a very interesting city, and the convention is nothing like I have ever seen. I would love to return as

a delegate in the future. For anyone who enjoys politics, a national political convention is something that they must experience," Mitchell said.

Evans was excited by the opportunities afforded to the students by the Washington Center program.

"I would have loved to have done something like this," he said. "Obviously, I've always been a political junkie.

"It's networking; it's first hand experience. Just think of the kinds of people they met there – media, elected officials. This was their opportunity to see a major political event up-close and personal. Just open your eyes and you will learn. Even for someone with a Ph.D. in political science, this is a learning experience for me as well," Evans said. 

Union ranked nationally in top ten Christian business schools

Union University's McAfee School of Business Administration has been ranked in the top 10 among the nation's best Christian business schools by *Business Reform* magazine. The list appears in the September/October issue.

"This honor is a wonderful recognition for Union University, and it is a tribute to the faculty and staff in McAfee School of Business Administration for their dedication and hard work," said Dr. Keith Absher, dean of the McAfee School of Business Administration.

"*Business Reform* is the leading Christian business magazine, making the designation even more significant," he said.

In addition to the top 10 ranking, Union's business program was listed third in a peer assessment by other business deans across the nation and fifth for degree and course offerings.

"It is particularly gratifying to be recognized by other business school deans," Absher said.

Union President David S. Dockery shared Absher's enthusiasm.

"We are certainly excited about this well-deserved recognition for the School of Business at Union University," Dockery said. "To be seen as one of the top 10 church-related Business Schools in the country is a tribute to the quality of faculty, the breadth of the curriculum, and the depth of the program grounded in the liberal arts and communicated through the worldview framework which


distinguishes a Union University education."

According to *Business Reform* writer Jared Crooks, the magazine plans to make the list an annual tradition to inform their readers of schools teaching biblical business principles.

"Christian programs should be educating their students at a higher level, taking basic truths of the faith and implementing them into every aspect of the students' educational career, as well as equipping them for real world challenges," Crooks said. "*Business Reform* is dedicated to informing our readership of what programs are doing the best job in teaching students to run their own business (or manage a business) and to do so for the glory of God."

The top 10 schools were chosen after a survey of over 100 schools nationwide. Schools on the list were identified as endeavoring to "educate their students in how work and faith interact on an essential level, with one helping to shape the other as both are continually refined," the article said.

Absher sees the recognition as affirmation of Union's dedication to integrating faith and learning in all areas of the university.

"Our faculty and staff are committed to producing strong Christian business leaders that will impact all areas of the marketplace," Absher said, "and it is fitting that they should be recognized as one of the top 10 schools in the nation for this pursuit." 


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Christian education."

"I'm excited about seeing Union helping to fill this need," said Lisa Rogers, a Jackson OB/GYN and Union trustee who helped study the feasibility of a CRNA program.

CRNA graduates typically find an extremely receptive job market. Starting annual salaries average \$118,000, according to Allied Consulting, a Dallas-based health care staffing firm.

The new Ed.D. track in higher education administration is also expected to begin classes in the fall of 2005. College of Education and Human Studies dean Tom Rosebrough described the program as "nationally based to prepare administrators in educational leadership."

The 60-hour degree program will include five courses delivered online, three more with a blended design that includes on-campus and online delivery, and the rest in classes on Union's Jackson campus. 

LAUNCH comes to Germantown campus

The LAUNCH program extended its classes to the Germantown campus this fall, offering the degree completion program to a larger number of non-traditional students. It is an 18-month program allowing working adults to earn their bachelor of science in organizational leadership (BSOL) and is ideal for those who have either already earned their associate's degree or have at least 60 hours in college credits.



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Launch Program

"Everyone offers folks the potential for a career change in education, nursing and even business," said Randy Shadburn, executive director of the Germantown campus. "With the economy changing and company downsizing, a lot of people, by either choice or necessity, are looking for career changes."

In the section of the LAUNCH program offered on the Germantown campus, students choose between two concentrations – Christian leadership and allied health management. LAUNCH is built on a "cohort" model, in which a small group of students attends courses together for the duration of the 14 courses needed for the BSOL. Classes began for the Christian leadership cohort group on Oct. 18 and for the allied health cohort group on Nov. 4.

"We're excited about our expansion to the Germantown campus," said Barbara Perry, director of LAUNCH and associate professor of management. "We think we can meet a lot more adult students' needs."

Absher named dean of McAfee School of Business

R. Keith Absher was officially installed as dean of the McAfee School of Business Administration during fall convocation at Union University. Absher assumed his duties in July, replacing Dr. Walton Padelford, who served as dean during the search process.

"Keith Absher's coming to Union as our dean of the McAfee School of Business Administration is a significant step toward ensuring an excellent future for Union University," said Provost Carla Sanderson. "Dr. Absher has the ideal combination of experience, personality, community involvement, and commitment to a Christian world and life view for a leader at Union and in the Jackson community."

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Doors to China opened for faculty and student exchange from Union University

A new partnership agreement between Union University and Yanbian University of Science and Technology in Yanji, China, could result in an exchange of faculty members as early as the fall semester of 2005, according to Union President David S. Dockery.

Dockery, his wife, Lanese Dockery, and Dr. Cynthia Jayne, associate provost for intercultural and international studies, traveled to Yanji, a city of 250,000 on the north Korean border about 40 miles south of Russia, in July. Talk of a partnership between the two universities began last spring when President Chin Kyung Kim of YUST and other officials visited Union.

"It was at their initiative that this took place," Dockery said. "We were happy to respond. This is a real partnership. This is something that is win-win for Union and for them."

According to Dockery, the partnership is designed to work with the strengths of each university.


"They specialize in science, engineering and technology areas," Dockery said. "Of course, they have a full range of courses, but that's where their specializations are. What they want from Union are people to come and teach English, literature and English as a second language. They will send us faculty members in the areas of science and engineering, particularly

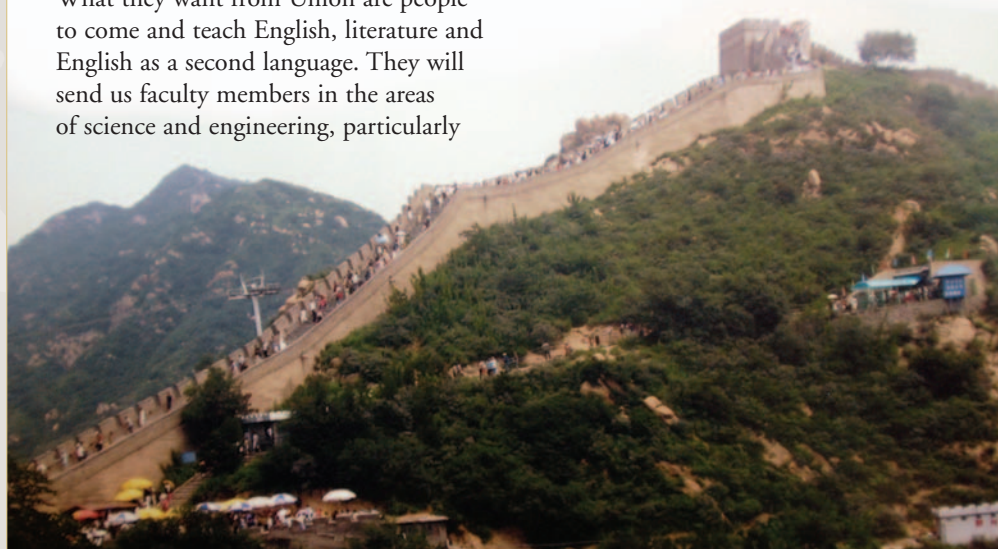
to help us with our rather young engineering program."

For Union students, the partnership will open opportunities for groups of students to travel to Yanji on Global Outreach (GO) trips and as part of a study abroad program.

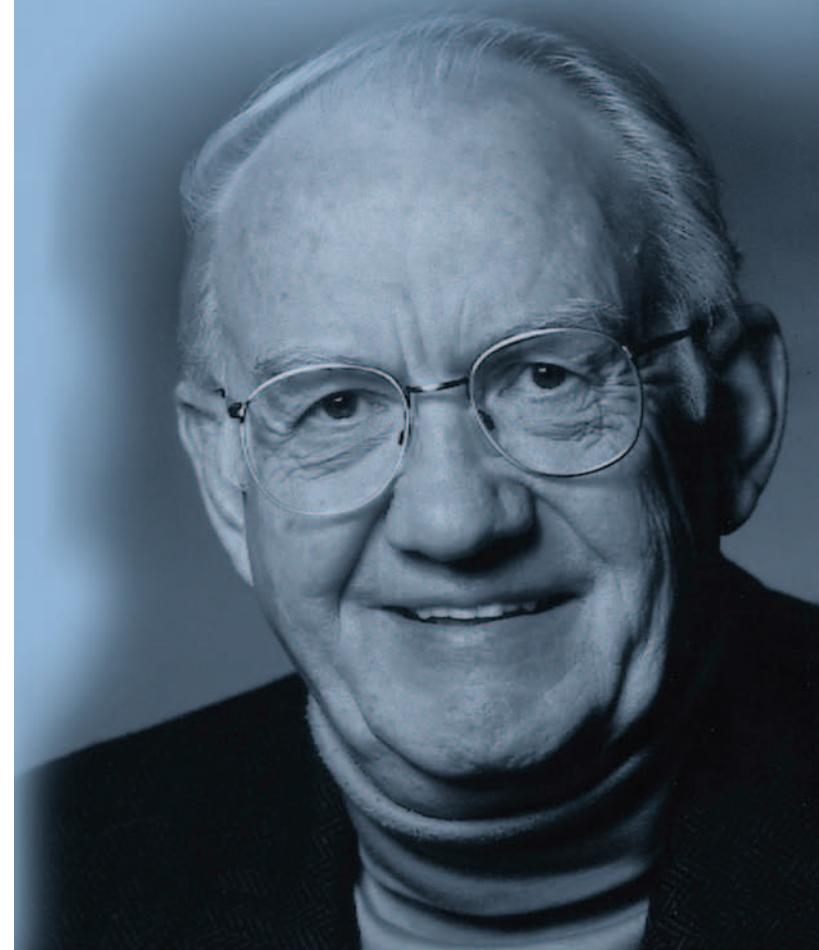
"We could have students going over there sometime in the spring or certainly next summer," Dockery said. "I think it's a unique opportunity for our students to go into a place where they can learn to be sensitive to culture and courageous and convictional about their Christianity at the same time."

Dockery spoke of a growing openness and freedom of religion he witnessed in China. Though care must be taken, Yanbian is an openly Christian university, which made the partnership especially appealing.

"We both have a dual concern for academic excellence and a serious Christian commitment," Dockery said. "We share those two foundational aspects of our mission. Even though the strengths of our universities are different, and our cultures are different, those two foundational commitments are the same." 



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MICHAEL CARD

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Absher named dean

Absher formerly served as chair of the management and marketing department at the University of North Alabama (UNA). Prior to his appointment to that position in 2001, he was professor of marketing at UNA. He has taught at the university level since 1974, including employment at Athens (Ala.) State College and Jacksonville (Ala.) State University. Absher also served as a visiting professor at Western University in Baku, Azerbaijan.

He also was an Oxford Scholar during his tenure at the University of Arkansas and Eminent Scholar Chair at UNA. In addition, he has more than 25 years experience as a business consultant in marketing and strategic planning.

"Union University is blessed to have someone of Keith Absher's stature and experience to lead the School of Business in the years to come," Union President David S. Dockery said. "Keith's outstanding knowledge of the business world, his commitment to community and regional growth, and his reputation in the academic world will serve well the students, faculty, and friends of Union University in coming days." ☞

Summer at Union means Centrifuge

Centrifuge, a student ministry of LifeWay, is 25 years old and has been held each summer on the campus of Union University for the past 18 years.

Approved to be a site for the camp in 1987, Union hosted in 2004 5,519 campers and counselors from 208 churches in 20 states. Surveys indicate well over 1,500 students have attended Union in direct relation to previously attending Centrifuge here.

"What's exciting now is we're seeing kids who came to Centrifuge

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Summer 2004 Study Tour to Europe

The Oxford Amsterdam summer 2004 study tour led by Dr. Randall Bush, professor of Christian studies and philosophy, Chris Nadasky, professor of art, and Dr. Mike Penny, associate professor of music, afforded 15 Union University students life enriching experiences.

Music students have memorable encounter

Three hymnology students had an unforgettable encounter: music majors Rachel Conway, Erin Hale and Daniel Schafers, along with Penny, dined as guests in the Salisbury home of retired Anglican bishop and noted writer Timothy Dudley-Smith and his wife Arlette.

According to Penny, the hymns of Bishop Dudley-Smith are becoming highly regarded. Most newer American hymnals contain the great poems, "Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord" (#81, *The Baptist Hymnal* 1991), a hymn of praise that uses Mary's Magnificat as point of departure, and the praise hymn "Name of All Majesty, Fathomless Mystery" (#207, *The Baptist Hymnal*; #116, *The Celebration Hymnal* 1997). *The Baptist Hymnal* contains five other Dudley-Smith texts.

His hymn texts, numbering more than 300, have won many awards. They are collected in four volumes. Dudley-Smith gave each of his Union guests a copy of one of the volumes. The hymns have also been published under one cover in *A House of Praise*. In 2003, Dudley-Smith was awarded the Order of the British Empire "for services to hymnody."

"I wrote to the bishop, offering to take him to lunch with my hymnology students," Penny said, "but Bishop and Mrs. Dudley-Smith prepared lunch in their home instead. Our students thus had a manifold blessing: dining in a British home with a charming couple, visiting with an Anglican bishop and conversing with a celebrated hymnist."

Before lunch Dudley-Smith took his four guests to the village of Bemerton, just outside Salisbury, to visit the tiny church where the great hymn writer and metaphysical poet George Herbert spent his life as rector. He also led the group to "Old Sarum," the ancient ruins of the first cathedral, and Stonehenge.

"These students had a connection with a leader in contemporary Christianity," Penny said. "We the Union family will have more encounters with Bishop Dudley-Smith as well. Dr. Ron Boud of our music department has set a Dudley-Smith text to music as the result of our trip, and Dr. Richard Joiner and the UU Singers have included an anthem to his words as part of their 2004 2005 repertory."

Art students gain insights

While touring the National Gallery in London, Nadasky viewed the drawing by Leonardo da Vinci titled, "The Madonna and Child."

"This was the most profound moment for me as an artist," he said. "The drawing was on a level I had never experienced before, and I was awestruck. The drawing moved me emotionally, spiritually and

artistically, and I could have stayed to view it all day."

According to Nadasky, the drawing summed up what the trip was all about. After viewing many works of art over the years, this particular drawing was "beyond words."

Nang Mitsamphanh, sophomore public relations and advertising major, went on the trip for arts and western civilization credit.

"This study tour gave me an insight into how cultures differ from our own American culture. In relating to my course work at Union, I found the techniques in communicating with the masses were different, and the marketing strategies here are completely different than they are in Europe," Mitsamphanh said.

Kim Kurz, sophomore vocal performance major, also learned the difference between cultural backgrounds.

"We are stuck in our own bubble so much of the time and in Europe we were able to see people who were completely different from us, but still similar to us in many ways," Kurz said.

Honors students take courses at Oxford

Lectures were given throughout the group's stay in Oxford on varying topics from philosophy and Christian studies to architecture. The lectures were given by

the three Union professors, as well as individuals from Oxford.

Adam Winters, senior Biblical studies major, participated in the trip for honors credit. "Very few people can ever say they have taken courses at Oxford and that is one of the main reasons I went on the trip. Our time in Oxford had an influence on my course work at Union because so much of church history took place in Oxford; there are lots of connections there."

One student took a closer look at his own family history when he toured the Salisbury Cathedral where many of his ancestors are buried.

"My parents found our family name on the tombs when they were traveling here years ago and decided to research our lineage and see if there were any relations," said Gregory Poore, sophomore philosophy major. "We found out we were related and I got to talk with one of the overseers of the cathedral who told me some background on my ancestors."

The Union professors emphasized that even though the students were on the study tour for a particular class, it was still important to take in everything.

Junior Stephanie Terrell, psychology major, said, "I had never been out of the country before, but seeing all of the museums and churches in reality instead of through a textbook definitely enhanced my learning experience." ☞



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at Union as junior-high-age campers and come to Union as a student, graduate and now work as counselors for Centrifuge. It's neat to see how it has impacted their lives," said Linn Stranak, chair of the physical education, wellness and sport department and Union's director of Centrifuge.

Bill and Elaine Hughes from Eastside Baptist Church in Mountain Home, Ark., have returned to Union for five years because their youth have not wanted to go anywhere else after their initial Centrifuge experience here. "To us it is just a great experience; it's definitely a life changing camp. I'm sold on Centrifuge and also on the experience we have there at Union," said Elaine Hughes, who assists her husband in youth ministry.

The theme for next summer is "Masterpiece." The music, sermons, programs and track times will all be built around the theme.

Stranak is excited about the program because after 25 years, he sees Centrifuge staying on the cutting edge. "This program remains strong and continues to grow because they make adjustments; they listen to the evaluations," Stranak said. "I think Union has been pleased to be a part of this program and what it has accomplished in young people's lives." ☞

Guest Speakers broaden learning and deepen Christian thought

Students at Union University are privileged to hear top academicians who visit as guest speakers in the classroom as well as in chapel services. This fall has brought notable scholars and leaders to campus:



Dr. Mike Boyd, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, in a chapel message, Sept. 22, challenged the Union community to examine their personal responsibility in seeking passion for God's kingdom versus the world.

"It was a joy to have Mike Boyd

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Guest Speakers

in chapel in his role as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention," Union President David S. Dockery said. "He challenged the Union community to focus on priorities centered and grounded in the kingdom of God. We appreciated his words and his leadership in TBC life."



Dr. Henry "Fritz" Schaefer, Graham Perdue Professor of Chemistry and the director of the Center for Computational

Quantum Chemistry at the University of Georgia gave a chapel message and Pew Charitable Trust lecture on Oct. 6. His lectures on the relationship between science and religion have been presented at most major universities. Schaefer has been nominated for the Nobel Prize, has authored over 1,000 publications and holds the distinction of being the sixth-most cited chemist in the world.



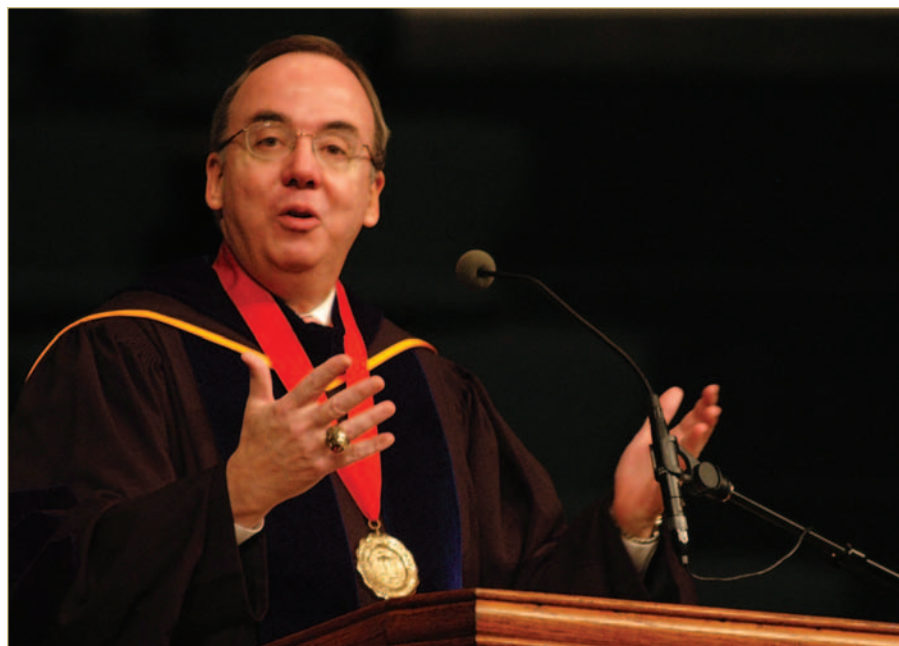
Dr. Henry Blackaby, president and founder of Blackaby Ministries International, was keynote speaker for

PreachingPoints, a one-day pastors' conference. While on campus, he also led the October 8th chapel services. Blackaby has been a leader in churches in California and Canada and on the Southern Baptist mission boards. He is the award-winning author of *Experiencing God*.

"Dr. Blackaby has distinguished himself as a man whose passion for God is inspiring. His writings have encouraged a generation to love God and to become active members of the Body of Christ. Having him on campus to speak about the need for spiritual awakening was undoubtedly a blessing to our entire community," said Charles Fowler, senior vice president for university relations and associate professor of Christian ministries and education.

Dr. Thomas Childers, a native East Tennessean and the Sheldon and Lucy Hackney Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, examined the difficulties

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Dockery calls for interdisciplinary focus, asks campus 'to do' the Word

During Union University's fall convocation, President David S. Dockery called for "a renewed emphasis on the integration of faith and learning and also a heightened perspective on interdisciplinary conversations across the campus" but also challenged students, faculty and staff not to forget the application of the Christian faith in people's lives.

Dockery asked the university's academic leaders to form and shape a department of interdisciplinary studies "that can bring together a rich conversation from across every corner of this campus," because the "best of the Christian intellectual tradition calls for us to think how these important matters can be integrated across the university."

However, Dockery said that an educational model grounded in the Christian faith cannot forget the importance of application for the lives of people. He referenced one of eight of the university's priorities for 2010 that says, in part, "we will nurture an ongoing commitment to the Great Commandment, which compels our community to recognize that a love for God requires a love for all humanity." Dockery reminded the audience that they

were all called to help make the university a better place and to do good things on and off the campus.

"We are to be agents of reconciliation in the church and in society," he said. "We are to build bridges where there are walls, particularly with reference to the racial divide that has haunted our country since its inception. Thus this year, on the Union University campus, we will seek to expand our ongoing efforts to prioritize our role in the area of racial reconciliation. I believe that's what it means to love our neighbor, be doers of the Word. We normally are hearers of the Word, thinkers about the Word. We can spell a word and reflect upon a word, but to do the Word puts a different shape upon what we are all about here in this place."

Dockery asked students, faculty and staff to demonstrate "doing the Word" by honoring one another through words and actions committed to each person's success.

"We will seek God's guidance in how we can best contribute to constructive exercises that will help us honor, respect and love one another," he said. "We pray that God would give us grace to be agents of redemption in this broken


world and to embrace one another regardless of ethnic or racial background."

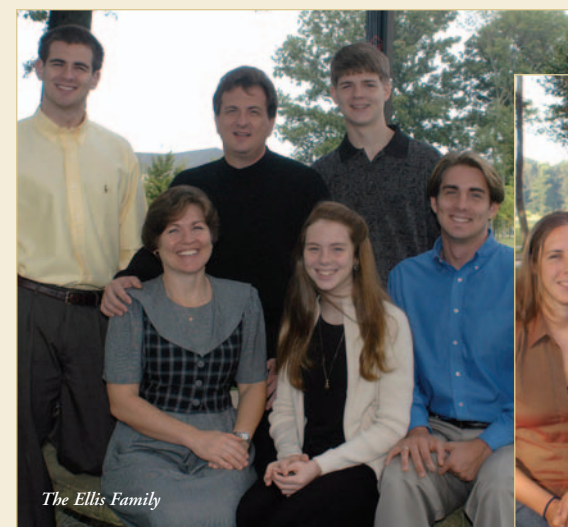
Dockery also explained that faith impacts every aspect of life for a Christian, including the whole process of learning. He said that, at the heart of Union's Christ-centered approach to education, is the "belief that God has revealed Himself to us in creation, in history, in our conscience, and ultimately in Christ, and that this revelation is now primarily available to us in Holy Scripture. This revealed truth is the foundation of all we believe, teach and do at Union University. We believe that this God revealed truth in the framework in which we understand and interpret our world, the events of human history, as well as our responsibilities toward God and one another in this world."

He reminded the campus that the Christian faith impacts "how we live, how we think, how we write books, how we govern society, how we treat one another." He said it also must impact our understanding of language, history, government and art.

"It is not that we master theology and then explore all other areas across the curriculum, but it is a bringing together of our knowledge of God and our knowledge of the subject matter under investigation," he said. "Without this correlative approach to learning, all knowledge is basically abstract, whether biology, economics, English, engineering, political science or the arts."

Dockery said that we cannot know God without knowing that we are created in the image of God, and that all things being explored fall under the umbrella of God as both Creator of the universe and the source of all truth.

"We cannot connect these things in a unified whole, we cannot fully understand the grand metanarrative, we cannot truly grasp how to explore and engage the issues in history and science, business and healthcare, apart from this approach to learning. Thus at Union University we will seek to sanctify the secular because Jesus Christ has come to earth." 



The Ellis Family



The Schultz Family

Union welcomes the 2004-2005 missionaries-in-residence.

Both families are church planters in Brazil. Mark and Diane Ellis and their five children—Nicholas ('04), Brenton, Ian (a current Union student), Andrew and Victoria—have served there for the past 10 years. Clyde and Carol Schultz have served for 15 years. The Schultzes have four children: Christina, Carl, Catherine, and Curtis. The three eldest are Union students. Union has provided residential accommodations for missionary families on stateside assignment for the past 13 years.

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of veterans returning home in his lecture "The Best Years of Their Lives? Americans Return Home from the Second World War, 1945-1950" and enlightened the audience with "A Summons to Memphis: Elvis and the Making of Modern Musical Culture" at Union's annual Carls-Schwerdfeger history lecture-ship on Oct. 12. Childers has won a number of awards for his work in the classroom and is the author and editor of several books on modern German history and the Second World War.



Dr. Voddie T. Baucham, Jr. returned to Union to lead students in the annual Faith in Practice Conference,

Oct. 13-15. A highly sought after Bible teacher and speaker, Baucham founded Voddie Baucham Ministries in 1993 and has released a book, Bible study and academic journal article this past spring. Beginning this fall, he is also serving as an adjunct professor at Union.

"We are thrilled to have Voddie teaching for us in the Christian Studies area," said George Guthrie, Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible and chair of the Union's school of Christian studies. "He brings exceptional speaking gifts, offers deep reflection on the Scripture, and has a passion for cultural engagement. He will make a significant impact."



Dr. C. Marvin Lang, professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens

Point, enthralled an audience of Union students, middle and high school students, and teachers with his presentation on "The Elements and Leadership of Chemistry," Oct. 14. Lang's visit to campus was co-sponsored by the Union Chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society and the Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society.

"Teachers and students of the chemical sciences in Jackson and West Tennessee were indeed

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Guest Speakers

fortunate to have the opportunity to hear and interact with a master of the science teaching art such as Dr. Marvin Lang," said Charles Baldwin, Union's O.P. and Evalyn Hammons university professor of pre-medical studies. "Dr. Lang's chemical demonstrations have been seen and acclaimed across the United States from Florida to South Dakota and from California to Maryland."

Dr. Ken Fentress of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary led chapel services Oct. 20. Fentress joined the faculty at Southern after serving as senior pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Lisbon, Md.

"We were pleased to have Professor Fentress on our campus," said Todd Brady, minister to the university and instructor of Christian studies. "With his rich and varied experience in academia, local churches and denominational leadership, combined with his current positions as dean of intercultural studies and assistant professor of Old Testament interpretation, we greatly anticipate his time with us."

Gerald Bray, Anglican Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, in Birmingham, Ala., guided the Reformation Day chapel observance on Oct. 29. Dr. Bray's expertise in church history and historical theology made him an ideal speaker for this annual celebration as we reflected on the great heritage afforded Christians by the Reformation.



Russell Moore, guest lecturer for Union's fourth annual Mars Hill Forum on Sept. 9, argued that the concept of the kingdom of God should result in an identifiable theology of socio-political engagement for the evangelical Church. Dr. Moore's lecture received wide acclaim from over 100 students and faculty present and his chapel address the following morning held a standing-room only crowd. The Mars Hill Forum, a theology and culture lecture series, is sponsored by the Carl F. H. Henry Center for

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Beginning 2004-2005

As a new academic year begins, Union University campus is stirred from its summer lull.

Eager freshmen are first on the scene for orientation. Parents help their students move in the residence halls for the first time, as a new chapter of life begins for both. Upper classmen move in a few days later, and the transformation is complete: the students are back!

The first event in the new year for freshman and transfer students is FOCUS, Union's orientation program, which has become a traditional rite of passage for entering students. FOCUS acclimates students to campus life – helping them to adjust to Union as their new home and understand what it means to be a college student.


"Orientation helps new students understand the requirements and responsibilities of being a student," said Neal Rager, coordinator of student leadership development at Union, "they

spend time with professors who list realistic expectations for students and student leaders who give an honest picture of what college life is like."

Other marks of fall include Rush Week for fraternities and sororities, organizational meetings, cheerleader tryouts, receptions—all planned to help students become acquainted with each other and get them involved in campus life.

Other fall semester events enjoyed by the entire campus community include Fall Fest, Family Weekend, All-Sing, theatre performances, concerts, guest speakers and athletic games.

Faculty and staff also gear up for a new cycle in the academic calendar. Some are beginning a new phase of their careers; others are more seasoned in the traditions of fall.

Both the new and the familiar blend during the year to form the community that is Union University. 



Assisting at the Olympics, Union alum extends his faith

By Ken Walker, Baptist Press

Nathan Scott ('03) went to Athens with the International Sports Federation in June, but he wasn't a part of the 31-member ISF volunteer team involved in leading sports clinics in Greece from Aug. 13-29.

Instead, he served as sports information operator at the Hotel Oasis' sports desk. The hotel housed International Olympic Federation presidents and other officials from across the world.

"My clients were VIPs and they were to be treated as royalty," Scott said. "My services were to be as an information guide to them and as a personal contact for anything they needed."

However, along the way he hoped that he built relationships while assisting people and in sharing a "More Than Gold" Olympic pin that, via its multiple colors, relates the story of Christ or a pocket guide that, in a dozen languages, includes information recounting the time the Apostle Paul spent in Greece. The guide is produced by Flame, an Athens-based outreach of AMG International in Knoxville, Tenn.

"If someone was from China and didn't know much English at least I was able to give them something in their language," Scott said of the multi-lingual resource.

This was Scott's third Olympics experience. In 2000, he was part of an International Mission Board summer mission team and, in 2002, he worked with the North American Mission Board's Global Outreach initiative just prior to the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Initially, Scott was part of an ISF team that led soccer, volleyball and basketball clinics for more than 75 teenagers.

After that event, Scott remained in Athens as a logistical organizer for ISF, developing project schedules for sports mission teams, organizing transportation and coordinating plans with team leaders. Other assignments included working with an Athletes in Action team from Holland and an ISF team from Southwest Missouri State University.

ISF, based in Atlanta, has dispatched more than 1,500 volunteers on more than 200 projects since its founding in 1993, usually tackling sports-related clinics and other ventures in tandem with International Mission Board missionaries in more than 40 countries on six continents.

Scott's summer work served a dual purpose, earning credit hours toward his graduate degree in sports administration at the University of Louisville and moving toward his career goal of one day working

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Christian Leadership and has become a campus calendar highlight. Some of the leading thinkers of this generation have addressed the Mars Hill Forum, including Os Guinness, E. David Cook, Steven Garber, and Wendy Shalit.




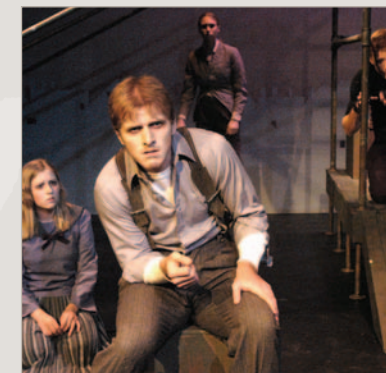
Dr. Al Jackson, pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church, Auburn, Ala., and



Dr. James Emery White, pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church, Charlotte, N.C., were featured speakers at PreachingPoints, a

one-day conference for church leaders on Sept. 9, sponsored by Union University's office of church services. Both men were inducted into the R. G. Lee Society of Fellows.

"One of the things we have as our privilege at Union University is to carry forth the R. G. Lee tradition of great communicators, great statesmen and great leaders in Southern Baptist life," said President David S. Dockery. 

Union in the arts**Metamorphosis**

Union University Players presented *Metamorphosis* on the stage of the W.D. Powell Theatre Oct. 14-19. Adapted for the stage by Steve Berkoff, the short story by Franz Kafka tells of Gregor Samsa, a young man who supports his parents and younger sister financially by becoming a traveling salesman, who wakes up one morning to find himself changed into an insect.

This was Darren Michael's fifth

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Union in the arts

show to direct at Union and was designed in coordination with seniors Emily Brown, Nathan Ross, Jeremy Parker and Daniel Graham. The cast included a mix of experienced actors and freshmen in the theatre department. Leads were played by seniors Patrick Meyers and Emily Brown as Gregor's parents, Jill Casey as his sister and Jared New as Gregor himself.

Linda McCune

Linda McCune, multi-media artist, had an exhibit hosted by the art department on display in the art gallery through the month of September. A native of Dyersburg, Tenn., she finds her inspiration all around her, examining virtue, obsession with affluence, the deteriorating effects of time and relationships within family, community and workplace in her pieces.

"I think this show is one of the strongest shows we have ever had. It is very in-depth and some of the most considered art work done by an artist. It makes it open to contemplation by the viewer," said Michael Mallard, artist in residence. "I know it's a personal show. It deals with family history. I know her work deals with the human struggle, tragedy and faith."

McCune shared time with students and community members in a reception on October 1.

Preston Saunders

Preston Saunders returned to the art gallery of Union University from October 5-29 to display his ceramics in an exhibit hosted by the art department. Saunders served as a studio assistant to Aaron Lee Benson, Union professor of art, from 1994-1996. He returned in 2000 to do a solo exhibit and invitational workshop.

In the time since his last visit, Saunders has had the opportunity to work as an exchange ceramic professor at the Seoul National University of Technology in Seoul, Korea. While there, he was involved in coordinating the International Raku Symposium Korea 2001 in Daegu, Korea, as well as participating in several international ceramic expositions. Upon his return to the states he spent a year

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fulltime with the Olympic movement.

Sports are a natural entree to meeting people, said Scott, a former pole-vaulter who also played one year of college football before transferring to Union.

"Sometimes it's hard to get into the 'in' group of Greek culture," Scott said. "But if you're willing to go out and play ball with them, they're willing to look past

the fact you're an American. They appreciate you wanting to reach out and getting to know their culture."

Scott said. "Pray for the hearts of the people. Pray the Gospel was presented to the people [and that] God opens their hearts to the message of freedom found in Jesus Christ." ☞

Olympic experience develops testimony of Union University volleyball standout

Gladys Wandera, now a senior on the Union University volleyball team, spent the final few weeks of her summer vacation in Athens, Greece, as a member of the Kenyan National Volleyball team playing in the Summer Olympics. The 2004 Summer Olympic Games were her second such games of her volleyball career. Wandera also participated in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. While Kenya did not advance out of the first round action in the Athens games, she still treasured the experience for the second time as if it were the first.

Wandera returned to Union just as classes were beginning. Her Union teammates had already begun their practices for the fast-approaching season. She was excited, to say the least, as she told of her time during the previous two weeks in Athens. It seemed that everywhere she turned, people wanted to know of her experience. She gladly gave of her time and stories.

All of the Union campus knows of her impressive talents on the volleyball court,

obvious from her selection to an Olympic team. What many may not know about Wandera is that her strong Christian witness has grabbed the attention of those in Jackson, Tenn., as well as those in Athens, Greece.

Wandera talked about her spare time in Athens where she, along with many other Christians and non-Christians alike, would gather in groups and share their faith and experiences with each other. She told of how she learned from the testimonies of others and hoped her testimony had the same lasting effect on others who heard.

"We gathered during the free times to share the Word of God with others," Wandera said. "We had the opportunity to work with groups like Athletes in Action to help share the story of Jesus to many people from all over the world".

She loved the fact that when volleyball was not in session, the athletes got the opportunity to work in different venues and witness other events during the games. Wandera mentioned names of numerous friends made during those few



weeks who share her faith in Christ and "really helped to encourage me in my walk with God," she said.

She spent some time with the USA women's basketball team and other athletes who played on college or professional teams in the USA. "That was a neat experience to be able to talk with other athletes who were competing in the USA, just as I was," she said.

Wandera was born into a Christian family in Kakamega, Kenya, and was born again in 1997. She is very involved on Union's campus as a part of several

Bible studies and prayer groups that meet both on and off campus. Wandera has been in several different churches during her few months in Jackson, but says she hasn't settled on one yet.

Wandera transferred to Union in the fall of 2003 and made an immediate impact on the 6-year-old volleyball program. As a junior, she was named the TranSouth Conference and NAIA Region XI Player of the Year. Wandera was also named to the NAIA All-American team last season. ☞

A dream come true

Training and preparation can be important aspects in achieving goals. Sara McWhorter ('03) found this to be just as true for herself as a trainer for Olympic athletes as for the athletes themselves. McWhorter attributes her hard work in a sports medicine major and subsequent master's in exercise physiology as key to receiving an internship with the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"My college GPA of 4.0, my certification from the American College of Sports Medicine, and lab work at the University of Mississippi are factors that gave me an advantage over the other applicants," McWhorter said.

She was one of 20 interns out of 600 applicants selected to work with athletes of U.S. Olympic teams January through May in preparation for the 2004 summer Olympics in Athens.

"It is a dream come true. I get to do all types of testing with athletes from all sports," said McWhorter, "and it took me a few weeks to get over being star-struck from working and even eating lunch with Olympic medalists."

While some of her time was spent with the men's gymnastics team doing body composition tests, most was devoted to doing biological performance tests in the sport physiology lab.

"It's exciting to see what the human body is capable of doing," McWhorter said.

One particular test provides the athletes a supplemental oxygen workout. By hooking an athlete to a 60 percent oxygen tank, it allows them to exercise at a higher intensity.

"This was especially useful for cyclists and the tri-athletes like Hunter Kemper," she said. Watching the Olympics on television was especially exciting for her. "I saw athletes I knew such as the boxing team, the weightlifting team, women's taekwondo, the volleyball teams and rifle shooters," McWhorter said.

McWhorter found her supervisors to be extremely intelligent and helpful and felt they taught her a great deal about her profession. However, it was interaction with the athletes that inspired her the most. She still maintains friendships with many of them, and goes to the center two or three times a week.

"My most enjoyable part of the intern experience was being involved with the athletes," she said.

Currently McWhorter works part-time at *Focus on the Family's* health and wellness center. She balances out her work schedule as a personal trainer at a fitness club and teaches first aid.

"I enjoy the exciting atmosphere working with the employees at *Focus on the Family*," said McWhorter, "but, my favorite part of my career is the personal training, because I form relationships that often give me the opportunity to witness." ☞

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at Rochester Institute of Technology as assisting chair for the School of American Crafts before accepting a position as assistant professor at Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, Mass., teaching ceramics and metal smithing.

Marilyn Keiser

Virtuoso concert organist Marilyn Keiser performed as this year's musician for the annual McAfee Organ Recital on Sept. 23. Chancellor's Professor of Music at Indiana University, Bloomington, she teaches sacred music and applied organ. She has also been heard on National Public Radio, recorded seven albums and traveled extensively as an organ recitalist and workshop leader.

The performance took place in the G. M. Savage Memorial Chapel for students and the community.

JUST Sculpture Tour

The Jackson Union Sculpture Tour (JUST) began its year-long tour with a reception at the Carnegie Center for Arts and History on Sept. 25.

In the second year of the five-year program, JUST brought in five new sculptures to be on display throughout downtown Jackson including this year's Purchase Award winner, "Reaching for the Sun" by Wayne Trapp. The other four sculptures include "Untitled" by Arny Nadler, "Socket 1" by Michael Cottrell, "Quasarc" by Nicole Beck and "Guardian" by Stretch.

The winner of last year's Purchase Award, "Earthen Passage" by Glenn Zwegardt, is on display next to City Hall, while "Reaching for the Sun" is directly in front of the Carnegie Center for Arts and History. The purpose of these purchases and the JUST program itself is, according to the 2004-2005 brochure, "to establish Jackson as an urban art center as it continues to grow into a major metropolitan center in West Tennessee." ☞