

John and Virginia Dickinson

*Union University Alumni
Denmark, Tenn.*

John Dickinson ('48) grew up amid the cotton fields of West Tennessee giving little thought to a college education. During those days of the Great Depression, he and his family were more concerned about simple survival.

His mother Mary worked feverishly just to keep food on the table for John and three older sisters. Tuberculosis took his father's life at an early age.

In those toughest of times, John says people stepped forward to point him in Union's direction, and to help him afford the costs.

Some benefactors were known to him: the lady near the old Union campus who provided food and board at the lowest possible cost; the shoe store owner who employed John so he could earn money for books; former Union football coach Fred DeLay, who found ways to make each new semester possible.

There were also unknown donors who kept aid money trickling into Union as his generation tried to make ends meet.

"I never did know who exactly," John says of the sources for his help. "I never went into the bursar's office and said 'where is my money coming from?' As long as it came in, I didn't doubt it."

John and his wife **Virginia** ('49) have not forgotten that valuable assistance.

"We need to do what we can to help

some struggling soul today," John said. "We feel like somebody was responsible for us being at Union. I want to be a little bit a part of somebody else's experience."

The Dickinsons give regularly to Union, and funded a scholarship in memory of John's parents.

John's experience at Union dramatically changed his life. He started in the direction of Christian service as a music and education minister. He later went on to serve churches in five states, and was a Union trustee.

John met his wife of 55 years during his first week at Union. Friends fixed them up on a blind date.

"We realized a Christian environment was something that was very important at that time of our lives," says Virginia. "You met faculty members who became friends for the rest of your life."

John and Virginia now reside in the house where he was born, near Denmark, Tenn. The property has been in his family for 100 years. His life now is much more comfortable than in those early days.

But John says that's when he really learned about giving. His first job was at a nearby general store, where 16 hours of work on a Saturday earned him a 50-cent piece. His mother took notice.

"She said 'now don't forget. Tomorrow, you put a nickel in at church.'" 🏠

ALUMNI NEWS

50'S FIFTIES

Sadie Lisenby ('55) was recently presented the 2004 "Distinguished Lasallian Educator" Award by Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tenn., where she is the director of counseling/personal counseling. She has degrees from George Peabody College (Vanderbilt) and the University of Memphis. She lives in Memphis, Tenn.

Charles Homer Spain ('52) was selected as a member of FirstBank's Paris advisory board.

60'S SIXTIES



Joe H. Cepparulo ('69) was recently named the National Bow Hunter Education Foundation's Bow Hunter Instructor of the Year at an awards banquet Aug. 21, 2004, sponsored by the Tennessee Hunter Education Program. Joe is a 30-year veteran of the

Jackson Police Department. Address: 131 Fox Ridge Road, Jackson, TN 38305.

James R. Coffman ('68) left his position as founding executive director of the Pastoral Counseling & Consultation Centers of Tennessee, Inc. to become executive director of the Samaritan Counseling Centers of the Mid-South. His wife **Mary Kathryn Stinson** ('68) is assuming an English teaching role at Ripley High School. Address: Coffman Farms, 2112 Curve Woodville Road, Ripley, TN 38063. Email: JamesCoffman@PastoralCounselingCtrs.org

Bruce G. Jolly ('60) retired as associational missions director from the Covington-Jeff Davis Baptist Association, Mississippi. He now serves as pastor of Jupiter Baptist Church in Mendenhall, Miss. His wife, Norma is a retired R.N. at Prentiss Regional Hospital. Address: 848 Green Ave., Mendenhall, MS 39114.

Sharron Lyon ('63) has retired from First Baptist Church, Nashville, as organist

after 40 years of service. Last year she retired from LifeWay Christian Resources after 30 years of service as senior editor-in-chief in the church music department. Lyon graduated *cum laude* from Union with a degree in Organ where she studied with Dr. John Hughes and a Master of Music in Organ from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville. Address: 641 Old Hickory Blvd., Unit 113, Brentwood, TN 37027. Email: sharronlyon@comcast.net

70'S SEVENTIES

Christopher C. Ward ('75) was named director of missions for the Riverside Baptist Association. He is also director of seminary extension of the association and a member of the associational youth council. He and his wife, Susan, have two daughters.

80'S EIGHTIES

William R. "Bill" Barker ('88) has taken a new job as vice president of

Newman inducted as Ryan Center for Biblical Studies Fellow

Dr. Barclay Newman, senior translations officer for the American Bible Society, was inducted as a fellow of the Ryan Center for Biblical Studies in recognition for his contributions to Biblical studies as a Union alum on Oct. 19, 2004. A reception was given in honor of Newman following a lecture given at Union.

Newman is a 1953 graduate of Union, as was his wife, the former Jean Butler. After completing his undergraduate work,

he went on to receive a Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He completed additional studies at the Hebrew Union in Cincinnati, the Hartford Seminary Foundation and the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the University of Oklahoma.

Newman has done extensive work in Bible translation and has authored *A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. He has also written

translator's handbooks on Judges, Matthew, John, Acts, Romans and Jeremiah and was chair of the *Contemporary English Version* of the Bible, which was published by the American Bible Society in 1995.

He and his wife have two daughters, three granddaughters and one great-granddaughter. 🏠

operations for the *Tampa Tribune*.

Greg Bowers ('85) is serving as pastor of First Baptist Church, Blytheville, Ark. He and his wife Donna, have two children, Jordan, 13, and Katie, 11. Donna is a special education teacher in the Blytheville Public School System. Address: 104 Chesterfield, Blytheville, AR 72315. Email: greg.bowers@sbcglobal.net

Missy Coley ('86) was honored by the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation as Teacher of the Year '03-'04 for the kindergarten through sixth-grade category. She has taught for 17 years, and teaches first grade at Malesus Elementary School.

Russ Evans ('85) has joined the communications department of West Tennessee Healthcare as a graphics supervisor. Also, his novel "Of Adam" will be released by PublishAmerica publishers in early spring 2005. E-mail: Russell.Evans@WTH.org

David Jett ('81) has taken a new job as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Southaven, Miss., where he lives with his wife **Kathy ('80/'82)**. Address: 3955 Kenton Drive, Southaven, MS 38672. Email: kmjett2000@yahoo.com

Leo Percer ('82) recently accepted the position of assistant professor of biblical studies at Liberty University and will be working with Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in its distance learning program. Address: 1481 Rainbow Forest Drive, Lynchburg VA 24502. E-mail: PercerL@juno.com

90'S NINETIES

Gwyn Bell ('97) serves on staff as secretary/student help desk coordinator with Union University computing services. Email: gbell@uu.edu

Jane Blythe ('91) accepted a new position as PRO director at Long-Lewis Hardware in Birmingham, Ala., June 7, 2004. Address: 122 Coales Branch Drive, Pelham, AL 35124. E-mail: jlblythe@long-lewis.com

Craig ('95) and Lori Clayton ('98) recently moved with their two children, Lydia and Graham, to Celaya, Mexico, where they are working as missionaries with the International Mission Board.

Web: www.prayforcelaya.org. Email: craigandloric@juno.com

Dwayne Cloar ('95) has accepted a position with the Boy Scouts as district executive of Fayette, Tipton, Hayward, and Lauderdale counties in Tennessee. He, his wife, Pam, and their four children recently moved into the district. Email: sixcloars@peoplepc.com

Peter Cosmiano ('93) recently became the head volleyball coach at Mississippi College. He also currently serves as a member of the NCAA Volleyball Ranking Committee for the South Region. Address: 2401-A River Oaks Blvd., Jackson, MS 39211 E-mail: cosmiano@mc.edu or yetiarc@bellsouth.net

Michael James Dickerson ('92) has moved to 2664 James Road, Douglasville, GA 30135.

Tim Ellsworth ('96) has been named director of news and media relations at Union University. Address: 25 Sagefield Cove, Jackson, TN 38305 Email: tellswor@uu.edu

Rhonda Lea Gardiner ('97) graduated with honors from University of Tennessee Health Sciences School of Pharmacy in Memphis with a doctor of pharmacy degree. She is doing a year's pediatric pharmacy residency at Children's Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sam Green ('99) graduated from the University of Michigan with master of science degrees in accounting and finance in May 2004. During the 2004-05 school year, he will serve with the Educational Services Exchange with China, a Christian organization which sends American teachers to Chinese universities, where he will teach international economics, marketing management, and contract law. Address: Tianjin Foreign Studies University, 117 Machang Road, ESEC Teacher, Tianjin, People's Republic of China 0 300204. Email: sam@ustech.net Web: http://www.ustech.net/address.jpg

Heather Harris ('92) has a new address: 7675 Peavine Road, Middleton, TN 38052. E-mail: Hhharris0418@aol.com

Jeff Owen ('95) has an MBA and an

MSIS from Baylor University, and works as operations analysis manager with Gaylord Entertainment. He lives with his wife Tara in Nashville, Tenn. Address: 6532 Westfall Drive, Nashville, TN 37221. Email: jeffreyowen@epositivity.com

Mike Pitts ('93) was recently promoted to the position of park manager at Pickwick Landing State Park.

Jacqueline Taylor ('99 '04) was named West Tennessee regional liaison for the Tennessee Association of Colleges and Schools (TACE), the professional development organization for career professionals. She was also appointed to the "Break the Mold" high school design team by the director of schools for the Lexington City Board of Education. Address: 355 Old Exchange Road, Wildersville, TN 38388 Email: jtaylor@uu.edu

2000'S TWOTHOUSAND'S

Kami Dickson Clark ('01) graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville with a master of science in nursing degree with an adult/gerontological nurse practitioner specialty on August 8, 2004. She will take the National Adult Nurse Practitioner Certification examination in October and later pursue a doctorate in nursing.

Julie Crenshaw ('02) serves as marketing coordinator for department of continuing studies at Union University-Jackson. Julie and her husband Jason ('98) have an 8-month-old son, Evan Bryant. Email: jcrensha@uu.edu

James Dickson ('02) has recently accepted the position of Hickman County High School girl's basketball coach. He lives with his wife Sunny in Centerville, Tenn.

Cindy DeSio ('02) has accepted a nursing faculty position at Union University for 2004-2005 academic year. Address: 40 Northpointe Drive, Jackson, TN 38305 Email: cdesio@uu.edu

Jeff Fletcher ('02) recently returned from a 10-day mission trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where he provided medical and dental care to residents. He is currently in his second year at the

University of Tennessee Health Science Center's College of Dentistry.

Vicky Floyd ('01) was promoted to assistant vice president of First Citizens National Bank. She and her husband Daniel live in Dyersburg, Tenn. E-mail: vfloyd@firstcitizens-bank.com

Don Holsinger ('03) serves as admissions counselor and recruits for the Union University-Germantown MBA program. Email: dholsing@uu.edu

Jeff Lean ('03 '04) has been named graduate assistant soccer coach for the Union University Bulldogs. Email: jlean@uu.edu

Glenna Marshall ('03) serves as assistant to the director of resident life of Union University student services department. Address: 334 W Grand St., Jackson, TN 38301 Email: gmarshal@uu.edu

Amy Miller ('03) accepted a position as student employment coordinator with Union University's financial aid department. Email: amiller@uu.edu

Larry Lee Nicholson II ('00) received a doctor of optometry degree from Southern College of Optometry, May 28, 2004.

Jennifer Sanders ('04) is teaching English in Khartoum, Sudan at the British Educational Schools, International Division under a one-year contract. Address: 1649 Highfield Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027. E-mail: jenczabreeze@aol.com

Jeremy W. Scott ('03) is teaching English in Seoul, Korea for a year. Address: Seoul, Nowon-gu, Junggye-dong, Chu-Gong Apatu 5 Don Chee, 502 Dong 602 Ho 139-781, South Korea.

Wanda Small ('03) has been named coordinator and career counselor for the Ayers Foundation Scholars Program at Scotts Hill High School. She has served as a guidance counselor for the Henderson County Schools since 2001, and has worked for the state of Tennessee for 14 years.

Shilo S. Velasquez ('02) graduated from officer candidate school at Fort Benning

in Columbus, Ga., and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He and his wife **Genie ('99)** have a one-year-old son, Valor "Jude." Address: 2818 Cottonwood Court #A, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005.

MARRIAGES



Steven L. Aldridge ('99) and Stacy L. Gream ('04) were married on May 29, 2004, in Jackson, Tenn. Both are employed in Jackson and are members of Southside Baptist Church. Steven serves as sports information director at Union University, and Stacy is employed at FirstBank. Address: 22 Red Deer Cove, Jackson, TN 38305. Email: saldrigd@uu.edu

Michael Newbill Davis ('00) married Catherine Elizabeth Best on April 17, 2004. Address: 1000 Cherry Road, Memphis, TN 38117.

Kimberly Inmon ('96) married John Box in June, 1999. John is the pastor of



Chi Omega sisters Kim Hawkins Laughlin ('92), Janna Norton Coleman ('89), and Caryn Dement Turner ('92) reunited for the first time since they graduated from Union at the 2004 Homecoming. They enjoyed the return to their alma mater to such an extent that they have made it a priority to never miss another homecoming. The trio is looking forward to "Blast from the Past" 2005 Homecoming, Feb. 18-19, 2005, and urges other alums to attend.

Kim is a personal fitness trainer and aerobics instructor in Jackson, Tenn., where she lives with her husband Danny and children, 9-year-old Bailey and 5-year-old James Russell. Address: 22 Clement Drive, Oakfield, TN 38362 Email: klaughlin2@surfmk.com

Janna is a full-time homemaker. She and her husband Randy are moving to the greater Cincinnati area with their children: Adam, 8; Andrew, 6 and Addison, 3. Randy is completing his

doctoral degree at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and will serve as pastor at Christ Baptist Church. Email: jcoleman4@midsouth.rr.com

Prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom, Caryn taught elementary education in the Nashville school system. She makes her home in Middleton, Tenn., with husband Brent and children Grace, 7; and Jesse, 6. Address: 7675 Peavine Road, Middleton, TN 38052 Email: carynturner@msn.com.

Grace Baptist Church in Pleasant View, Tenn. She graduated from Vanderbilt University Graduate School of Nursing in August, 2001, and has been working as a nurse practitioner with David H. McCord, M.D., an orthopedic spine surgeon, in Nashville, Tenn. Address: 1011 Kacie Drive, Pleasant View, TN 37146. E-mail: kimberlyibox@yahoo.com

Tina F. Jones ('99) married Brian Cook on April 3, 2004 at First Baptist Church, Vandalia, Ill. Tina is teaching at the Vandalia Christian Academy. Brian is a self-employed building contractor. Address: 701 E. Main, Mulberry Grove, IL 62262. E-mail: growinginfaith2004@yahoo.com



David Nicholas "Nick" Lynch ('03) married Jennifer Lynn Camp on July 24, 2004, in Stockton, Mo. Nick is employed by Lafayette Bank and Trust

and Jennifer is a computer science graduate assistant at Purdue University. Address: 115 Nimitz Drive Apt. 2, West Lafayette, IN 47906. E-mail: NickLynch2002@aol.com

Paul Richey ('02) married Rachel Bozynski of Little Rock, Ark., on May 22, 2004. Address: 1516 Autumn Wood Drive, Birmingham, AL 35216.

Angelika Knight Sorrow ('97) married Andrew Sorrow on March 13, 2004 in Orlando, Fla., where Angelika teaches 6th grade social studies at Apopka Middle School, and Andrew teaches 8th grade U.S. history at Lockhart Middle School. They are members at First Presbyterian Church of Orlando. Address: 1345 W. Smith St., Orlando, FL 32804. E-mail: asorrow@cfl.rr.com

JulieAnn Stephan ('02) married Jeremy Maddox on June 19, 2004. They live in Martin, Tenn., where JulieAnn is the elementary physical education teacher and assistant girls basketball coach in Gleason. Jeremy is teaching elementary physical education in McKenzie and is the head high school baseball coach. Address: 417 Lackey Road #7, Martin, TN 38237. E-mail: maddoxj1@k12tn.net



Brynna Vos ('00) and Bart Spain were married August 7, 2004, at Cheekwood Gardens, Nashville, Tenn. Brynna is currently pursuing a degree in interior design at Watkins College of Art and Design and is employed by McAlpine, Booth & Ferrier Interiors, Nashville. Address: 727 Bell Road, Apt. 915 Antioch, TN 37013-8018. Email: brynnavos@hotmail.com

Robin Cooper-Wilbanks ('88) and Allen Wilbanks were married in April 2003. They raise Courtney, 12, and Bryce, 16, in Camden, Tenn. Robin works as a therapist at NTYA with adolescents from all over the United States. Address: 198 North Forrest Avenue, Camden, TN 38320. E-mail: rcoop17@hotmail.com

BIRTHS

D. Andrew "Drew" Bryan ('99) married Heather D. Fincher on June 8, 2002. They now have a 6-month-old daughter named Sarah Elizabeth Bryan.



Kelli White Deere ('00) and her husband Neal had a daughter, Molli Beth, 7 pounds, 4 ounces, on Feb. 21, 2004. Address: 384 Eastern Shores Drive, Lexington, TN 38351. E-mail: kelli_beth_deere@hotmail.com

Stacy Fields ('98) and her husband Stephan had a son, Stephen Parker, 5 pounds, 14 ounces, and a daughter, Elisabeth Anne, 4 pounds, 11 ounces, born on April 13, 2004. Stephen is a corporate manager for Nissan North America, and Stacy is a homemaker. Address: 2917 Schoolside St., Murfreesboro, TN 37128. Email: stephenfields@att.net

Ronnie Gibbs ('89) and his wife Peggy, had a daughter, Kayla Michelle, 8 pounds, 9 ounces; 20 1/2 inches long, on July 23, 2004. They have two sons ages 7 and 2. Ronnie is a software developer at Equinox Information Systems in Madison, Tenn. Peggy is a homemaker. Address: 733 Charlie Gann Drive, Old Hickory, TN 37138. E-mail: Ronnie.gibbs@worldnet.att.net

Beth Murphy Harrod ('89) and her husband Adrian had a son, Michael Aiden, born August 2, 2003. They have three other sons, Shaun, 7; Jordan, 5; and Davy is 3. Beth is a homemaker and Adrian is the sales manager for Clifty Farm. Address: 611 S. Willowbrook Drive, Paris, TN 38242. Email: bethieh@bellsouth.net



Jason and Amy (Brit) Hollowell ('98) had a daughter, Callie Lynn, 7 pounds, 9 ounces and 18 1/2 inches long, on April 13, 2004.

Jeff A. Kintner ('83) had his third son, David Allan, in August, 2004. Jeff is the minister of music and media at First Baptist Church in Brookhaven, Miss. Address: 303 Noble Drive, Brookhaven, MS 39601. E-mail: jeffkintner@cableone.net

Amy Bentley Lamborn ('91) and her husband Rob had a daughter, Caroline Grace. Amy is a first-year doctoral student in psychiatry and religion at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Rob is the pastor of Christ Church (Episcopal) in Riverdale, N.Y. Address: 5030 Henry Hudson Parkway, Bronx, NY 10471. E-mail: al2309@columbia.edu

MEMORIAM

Ruth Shaw Forrester ('28) Sept. 11, 2004, Tiptonville, Tenn.

Isabel Reynolds Frye ('53) July 27, 2004, Jackson, Tenn.

Sherry Sparkman Keller ('73) Aug. 12, 2004, Columbia, Tenn.

Freda Kenner ('42) June 11, 2004, Bells, Tenn.

James T. McAfee ('61) November 3, 2004, Seabrook Island, SC.

William McAfee ('55) July 14, 2004, Jackson, Tenn.

Frances Henson Overman ('35) July 18, 2004, La Verne, Calif.

Newman Ramsey ('74) Aug. 4, 2004, Lexington, Tenn.

Martha F. Watkins Rudd ('56) June 9, 2004, Sylacauga, Ala.



FEBRUARY 18-19, 2005 • HOMECOMING WEEKEND

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25 Year Reunion - Class of 1980, Saturday, February 19
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A brochure with all details will arrive at your home by the second week of January. If you desire more information before then, simply call our toll free number at 1-800-338-6644.

See you at Homecoming 2005.

Contact your friends now to reserve this time together!!