

### Union Achieves Top Tier Ranking for 10th Consecutive Year

Union University has been named one of the South's top tier universities for the 10th straight year by U.S. News & World Report.

Union ranked 25th in the "Southern Universities-Master's: Top Schools" category, which includes those institutions that provide a full range of undergraduate programs and some master's level programs. Union jumped 13 spots in this year's rankings, the second highest increase among universities in its region.

Among the top tier universities in the South, Union ranked in the top 10 in six subcategories:

Union was third in the "faculty resources" category, which measures such components as the number of classes with fewer than 20 students, faculty salary and the proportion of professors with the highest degree in their fields.

Union was fourth in the "percent of classes with fewer than 20 students" category, with 73 percent.

Union tied for fourth in the SAT/ACT score category.

Union tied for fifth place in the "student/faculty ratio" category, with a ratio of 12/1, which placed it in the top 18 southern universities in that category.

Union tied for seventh place in "selectivity rank," which measures such areas as test scores and class rank for incoming students.

Union tied for ninth place in the "freshmen in top 25 percent of high school class" ranking, with 66 percent of its freshmen meeting that description. ☼



## Churchill speaks of grandfather's legacy, warns of terrorism threat

**R**adical Islam poses to Western civilization a threat similar to that of the Nazis and the Soviets, Winston S. Churchill told the audience at Union University's 10th annual Scholarship Banquet Sept. 26.

Churchill — author, journalist, former Member of Parliament and grandson of the former British prime minister — spoke to a crowd of about 1,800 at an event that raised more than \$500,000 for student scholarships.

"Together we have overcome far more powerful enemies than those that assail us today," Churchill said. "I have every confidence that, in confronting this new challenge, America and Britain — together with our allies — can prevail and shall prevail, just as together we have triumphed in the past."

Churchill spoke about his grandfather's crusade against the Nazis and the Soviets, and his efforts to woo the support of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the fight.

"By the power of his oratory, he persuaded his fellow countrymen — though the situation seemed hopeless — not to surrender in those crucial weeks of late May/early June 1940, when all effective resistance to the Nazis on the continent of Europe had come to an end and many, including the friends of Britain abroad, thought that we were finished."

The former prime minister also spoke about the dangers of Islamic fundamentalism 85 years ago, and the younger Churchill said recent events have proven his grandfather to be prophetic.

Churchill concluded his remarks by examining the essence of leadership, as embodied by his grandfather.

"It comprises many elements: knowledge, wisdom, prescience, honor and courage," Churchill said. "As Winston Churchill himself declared, 'Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities, because it is the quality which guarantees all others.'"

Union University President David S. Dockery called this year's Scholarship Banquet a wonderful event.

"The beautiful music and the powerful video presentation helped to tell the Union story in a most effective way," Dockery said. "Mr. Churchill's address was historically informative and prophetically bold as he addressed the issues of the present and the future."

Lead sponsors for the event included Roy L. White, Bancorp South, Carl and Alice Kirkland, Harry Smith/Schilling Enterprises and Black & Decker Industrial Products Group. Premier sponsors were Jack and Faye Porter, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network/Rod and Amy Parker, Mike and Trish Weeks, Curtis Mansfield/First Bank,

Benny and Norma Fesmire, Jack and Zan Holmes, *The Jackson Sun*, Nortek Inc./Lloyd Hansen and West Tennessee Healthcare.

Union University sophomore Megan McMurry said Churchill's speech was interesting.

"Just to know a little bit about the background of Winston Churchill and what was going on during World War II — it was applicable information about the main threats that we as a world are facing today," McMurry said.

Raymond "Buddy" Boston, pastor of First Baptist Church in Covington, Tenn.,

said Churchill gave a "realistic view of where we are, where we've been and what we're facing."

"Hopefully it will be beneficial to Union students who are preparing their informative years in their life, shaping their worldview and of what we've got to contend with in the next 20-25 years," Boston said.

Previous keynote speakers for the Scholarship Banquet were Bob Dole, George H.W. Bush, Margaret Thatcher, Mikhail Gorbachev, Rudy Giuliani, John Major, Colin Powell, James Baker and Lou Holtz. ☼

## Engineering program gets ABET accreditation

**U**nion University's bachelor's degree program in engineering has been accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET Inc., the recognized accrediting body of college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering and technology.

The announcement in early September capped a process that began in 2001, when Union hired Don Van to chair the university's new engineering department.

Under ABET policies, no school is able to apply for accreditation until at least one class has graduated. The first class of engineering students began in the 2001-2002 academic year, and graduated in 2005. Union applied immediately after that graduation.

The ABET accreditation is retroactive to 2004, so all Union engineering graduates can say they completed an accredited program of study.

Union University President David S. Dockery praised those who worked on the accreditation process, especially Van, Carla Sanderson, Union's provost, and Barbara McMillin, associate provost and dean of instruction.

"Receiving ABET accreditation is a wonderful affirmation of the quality of the engineering program for both our current and future students," Dockery said.

One of the key elements of ABET



accreditation is the requirement that programs continuously improve the quality of education provided. As part of this continuous improvement requirement, programs set specific, measurable goals for their students and graduates, assess their success at reaching those goals and improve their programs based on the results of their assessment.

Accreditation also helps students and their parents choose quality college programs, enables employers and graduate schools to recruit graduates they know are well prepared and is used by registration, licensure and certification boards to screen applicants. ☼

### New Union University Foundation Streamlines Giving

Union's board of trustees has approved the creation of a new Union University Foundation that allows better resource development and asset management for donors.

Union University Foundation, LLC eliminates the need to transfer Union donations to a management entity outside the university. It will allow Union to solicit and manage its planned and deferred gifts more efficiently.

"This is a great step forward for the university and our friends who invest in Union," said Charles Fowler, senior vice president for university relations. "It creates new opportunities for us on several important fronts."

The foundation will have its own separate board of directors. Union trustees will make those appointments, and in some cases serve in both places. The foundation board can include people who want to provide leadership to Union but might not be available to serve on the board of trustees.

Fowler says the foundation can also help expand Union's already growing donor base. Union had nearly 4,200 donors in 2005-06, an increase of 156% from 10 years ago. ☼

### SAE Marks 150th Anniversary

The Union University chapter (Tennessee Eta) of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity is celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year. Founded July 4, 1857, the chapter is the oldest on Union's campus and is the fifth oldest chapter in the nation.

The Tennessee Eta Alumni Association will be hosting a Sesquicentennial Founder's Day celebration March 10, 2007, at the Old English Inn in Jackson. The event will begin at 6 p.m. and will include dinner followed by presentations from the chapter, university and alumni association.

Following the celebration, the chapter will host a reception on campus to unveil the recently remodeled fraternity house. ☼

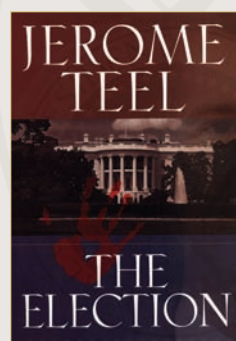




### Teel Releases First Novel

Jerome Teel ('89) has written a novel that tells a story about the impact Christians can have on the political landscape at the local, state and national levels.

Published by Howard Books, "The Election" is Teel's debut novel. According to a release from the publisher, Teel became motivated to write



the book when he heard author John Grisham speak in one of his law classes at the University of Mississippi.

"The Election" is a fast-paced, highly readable mystery filled with suspense, intrigue and political conspiracy," President David S. Dockery said about Teel's book. "In developing the exciting and complex story, Teel skillfully weaves together important themes like faith, family, suffering and providence in a way that not only compels, but even enlightens."

Teel is past president of Union's National Alumni Association. He is an attorney in Jackson, where he lives with his wife Jennifer and their three children. ✦



Mona Charen



Juan Williams

## Union Forum '07 to explore equality of opportunity

The ninth annual Union Forum will focus on the theme "People Focused: Equality of Opportunity in America," and will feature a nationally syndicated columnist as well as the author of a much-discussed new book.

Columnist Mona Charen will address the first forum Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007. National Public Radio host and author Juan Williams speaks at the second forum Wednesday, March 7.

Charen's column is featured in more than 200 daily newspapers. She spent six years as a regular commentator on CNN's "The Capital Gang." Charen remains a frequent guest on television and radio programs and has served as a judge of Pulitzer Prize entries.

Juan Williams is a senior correspondent for NPR news and a contributing political analyst

for the Fox News Channel. During his 21-year career with the Washington Post, Williams covered the White House, served as an editorial writer and as a columnist.

A critically acclaimed author, Williams' latest book is entitled "Enough: The Phony Leaders, Dead-End Movements, and Culture of Failure That Are Undermining Black America—and What We Can Do About It." He also wrote the bestseller "Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965," and a biography of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Union Forum luncheons in 2006 drew large crowds, and early table reservations are advised for 2007. Individual seats are also available. For more information, call the Office of University Relations at 661-5050. ✦



## New Fesmire Field House gives Union top-notch athletic facility

Union University dedicated the new Fesmire Field House late this summer, adding a major facility that provides student athletes with resources rarely found at smaller universities.

The field house will support the soccer teams, the men's baseball team and the women's softball team. It includes a 9,374-square foot turf room, locker rooms and showers for each home and visiting team, coaches offices and an athletic training room. David Blackstock, Union's athletic director, said only one or two other colleges of Union's size in the South have comparable facilities to the Fesmire Field House.

"This places us above most NCAA

Division II schools and right up there with some of the larger NCAA Division I schools," Blackstock said. "This definitely should help us in attracting good athletes and maintaining an excellent program, as well as improving in many areas."

The building is named in honor of Benny and Norma Fesmire, the lead donors for the project.

Other primary benefactors include the Union University Booster Club, West Tennessee Bone and Joint Clinic, Graham Snack Foods, James Wilson, Dan and Brenda Davidson, Bruce and Melody Haltom and MG Construction Co.

TLM Associates designed the 18,000-

square foot building, while MG Construction Co. built the facility. ✦



## Lady Bulldogs seek national championship three-peat

Mark Campbell's Lady Bulldogs opened the season for the second straight year as the defending NAIA National Champions. The 2006 national title is the third for Union in eight years (1998, 2005, and 2006). Only two other current NAIA schools have won more women's basketball national titles in the NAIA than Union (Southern Nazarene has seven and Oklahoma City University has four).

Union lost three seniors from last season, two of which were starters. Tiffany Fisher and Jennifer Henson combined for just 15.4 points per game last season but the leadership will be greatly missed. To underscore Henson's impor-

tance, consider that during the past two seasons, Union lost a combined 11 games, and Henson missed six of those losses due to injury.

But Union returns four leading scorers from the 2006 national title team; Josephine Owino (12.3 points per game), Ena Daniels (11.7), Natanya Smith (11.3), and Crystal Eason (8.3). Merideth Richardson suffered a season-ending injury in an early-season win over Houston Baptist.

All-State player Kaitlin Dudley from Gibson County joins three other new players to complete the Lady Bulldog roster.

Campbell is the NAIA's winningest active coach, with a .226-36 record. ✦



## Bulldogs build on successful 2005-06 regular season

Head coach Ralph Turner's Bulldogs will build on an outstanding regular season last year in which they attained a top ranking in the NAIA Division I poll for the first time in school history. In fact, Union was an impressive 9-4 against teams ranked in the final NAIA poll, and was the only team to beat No. 1 Mountain State twice during the regular season.

This season, Union is eyeing a ninth NAIA national tournament appearance in the past 10 seasons. The Bulldogs lost two of their top three scorers from last year: Kinley Sellers (14.2 points per game) and

Corey Burket (12.6). But they have added some talented newcomers.

Transfer Tony Brown joins the team after a year of junior college play. Turner thinks Brown has the ability to play both guard positions for the next three years. Bolivar's Brian Lake transfers to Union from Middle Tennessee State, where he averaged more than six points per game in a dozen contests last year.

Returning from last year's 28-6 squad are guards Marcus Cooper, Mack Bealim and Alan North; forward Dewayne Lee; and centers Ben Frederick and Pierry Valmera. ✦

### McMillin to Serve in New Post



Barbara McMillin has been appointed associate provost and dean of instruction.

McMillin has served on the Union faculty since 1992 and has been dean

of the School of Arts and Sciences since 1999. In her new role, she will oversee the work of faculty development, curriculum development, undergraduate research programs, and will serve as a liaison with many of the accreditation bodies to which the university relates.

Her work will include directing the Center for Faculty Development, which has received national recognition in recent years.

McMillin has also served as professor of English, and as chairperson of the English department during her tenure at Union.

"Barbara McMillin is a skilled administrator who loves this institution," President David S. Dockery said. "She is the consummate team player, and someone who is always working to advance the cause of Christ-centered higher education in her support of faculty and institutional programs."

Dockery also announced the appointment of Gene Fant, current chair of the department of English, as acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. A search process for a permanent dean will be announced later in the fall. ✦