



**Davis, Poe earn Christianity Today Award**

*Designer Universe: Intelligent Design and the Existence of God*, written by Union University's Jimmy H. Davis and Harry L. Poe, received the Award of Merit in Apologetics/Evangelism in Christianity Today's Book Awards 2003.

"Hal Poe and Jimmy Davis have written one of the most important books in recent years in the area of science and theology. Their arguments for a Designer behind this universe are cogent and persuasive," said Union President David S. Dockery. "Their scholarship is a tribute to the quality and excellence that characterize the work of the Union University faculty. I congratulate them on this significant recognition from Christianity Today."

Davis is associate provost and university professor of chemistry at Union while Poe is the Charles Colson professor of faith and culture.



**Guthrie lauded for book contribution**

*The Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary* was awarded the Evangelical Christian Publisher's Association Gold Medallion for Reference Works and Commentaries in a ceremony July 12 in Orlando. George H. Guthrie, Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible and Chair of

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## U.S. News & World Report recognizes Union University

Union University's commitment to academic excellence has earned the university its seventh consecutive ranking as a top tier institution by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Union University was ranked as a top tier university in the Southern Universities-Master's category. The category recognizes institutions that provide a full range of undergraduate and master's programs.

"The ranking by *U.S. News & World Report* is a significant recognition of the outstanding quality and commitment to excellence represented across the entire university," said David S. Dockery, president of the university. "To be included with the larger institutions is a testimony to the faculty, staff and students of Union University. We are especially pleased with the high rankings regarding student selectivity and the faculty."

*U.S. News & World Report* also recognized the university's student selectivity, ranking seventh in the category.

Dockery said the 2003-04 freshman class has an average ACT score of 25 and includes six National Merit Finalists, 44 valedictorians and salutatorians, and more than 70 percent who were ranked in the top 25 percent of their graduating high school class. Dockery called the group "one of the brightest in the university's history."

Union ranked eighth in faculty resources, taking into consideration class size, faculty salaries, and the proportion of professors with terminal degrees and the student-faculty ratio.

Eighty percent of Union's faculty members hold earned doctorates and about 70 percent of Union's classes have fewer than 20 students - a student to faculty ratio of 12 to one.

"These rankings provide national

recognition of the outstanding student body enrolled at Union as well as a strong affirmation of Union's commitment to its excellent faculty," said Provost Carla Sanderson. "This news is a fine way to start a new academic year."

Robert George, the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University


and a member of President Bush's Council on Bioethics, praised Union University for choosing a path of cultural engagement.

"Seeking peer approval, many Christian colleges have capitulated to the secularist ideology that has established itself as a new orthodoxy in the world of higher education," George said. "Others, fearing spiritual infection,

have retreated from the field of battle into intellectual isolation. Union University, however, has chosen the path of cultural engagement, confidently and joyfully proposing the Christian worldview as an intellectually and morally superior alternative to the tired dogmas of secularism."

"Union has won national recognition not despite, but because of, its fidelity to the profound truths of the Gospel," George added.

Michael Weeks, president of the Southern Baptist Foundation and chairman of the Union University Board of Trustees, said he was pleased with the national attention Union has received.

"The fact that the well recognized and respected *U.S. News & World Report* has affirmed that Union University is a rigorous academic institution that maintains its unfailing commitment to Christian values speaks volumes," Weeks said. "Indeed it is possible to be a nationally recognized learning institution while remaining true to it's unique, Christ- centered approach to education." 



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continued from pg.4

the Department of Christian Studies at Union University, authored the commentary's section on the book of Hebrews.

"George Guthrie is recognized as the premier scholar in the country on the book of Hebrews," said Union President David S. Dockery. "I am excited for him and thankful for the tremendous contribution that this new work will make."

#### Beverly featured on Bravo

Commentary by Union University broadcasting professor Steve Beverly was featured in the documentary "The Reality of Reality" on the Bravo network Sept. 8-12. The five-part series examined the production of reality television and the genre's impact on society.

Beverly has been an outspoken opponent of the questionable ethics and negative messages prevalent in the genre.

Beverly is a 20-year broadcasting veteran and is now in his 10th year as a member of the Union faculty. Considered one of the nation's leading experts on television game shows, Beverly's commentary has been featured on ABC's 20/20, the NBC Nightly News and in the *Washington Post*.



#### Sculpture Tour opens

The Jackson, Tenn./Union University Sculpture Tour opened on Sept. 27 at the Ned R. McWherter West Tennessee Cultural Arts Center. The year-long competition and exhibition will feature five works, all displayed in downtown Jackson.

"Art is for everyone, and outdoor exhibitions such as this invite all members of our community to enjoy and experience these wonderful

## Union establishes Dodd Denominational Service Award

Union University trustees voted unanimously Dec. 5 to establish the Union University M.E. Dodd Denominational Service Award. The annual award will be presented to a Southern Baptist for service and leadership in behalf of Tennessee Baptists and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The award is named in honor of one of Union's most distinguished alumni — M.E. Dodd. Dodd is recognized as the father of the SBC's Cooperative Program. Noted evangelist Billy Graham once said that Dodd was "one of the greats, not only to Southern Baptists, but to the church at large during the last generation."

Dodd, a Union University graduate, was the longtime pastor of First Baptist Church Shreveport, La. He also served as president of the SBC and president of the SBC pastor's conference.

University President David S. Dockery said the institution created the award to honor Southern Baptists who are committed to the Cooperative Program.

"M.E. Dodd is often linked to the founding and shaping of the Cooperative Program in the Southern Baptist Convention and this award is a way that Union University can encourage faithfulness to and cooperation among Tennessee Baptists as well as among the broader Southern Baptist Convention in days ahead," Dockery said.

The inaugural award will be presented in 2004, Dockery said.

Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee, commended Dockery and the university for the new award.

"Union University once again is demonstrating its unfettered loyalty to the Southern Baptist Convention," Chapman said. "Union University, under the leadership of its outstanding president, Dr. David Dockery, has wholeheartedly embraced the convention and is dedicated to teaching biblical principles that prepare the students for living a dynamic witness for Christ."

"The spirit of Christ is pervasive on campus, whether the student is in class, engaged in sports, or enjoying a break with fellow students. Being on campus is always a privilege and a blessing. To do so is to experience first-hand the Christian maturity lived out in the lives of the administration, faculty, support staff, and students."

In his 1930 book, *Missions Our Mission*, Dodd called on Southern Baptists to embrace the Cooperative Program. "The Cooperative Program is our obligation in perpetual effort to meet opportunity," Dodd wrote. "It is Christian desire constantly directed to the discharge of duty. It is power persistently and purposefully promoted to produce prosperity for Christ's causes. The Cooperative Program is the soundest, safest, surest, most successful, most scriptural method ever found for carrying out Christ's will for the whole lost world."

Union's graduates, trustees and leaders have made significant contributions to the SBC including R.G. Lee, Wayne Dehoney, J.D. Grey, James Sullivan, George Savage, and John J. Hurt.

According to the International Mission Board, 75 Unionites are currently serving on the mission field. The total number of active and inactive missionaries with ties to Union is 238.

"Whether coming to the campus with strong biblical beliefs or little knowledge about God and His Word, each student has the exciting opportunity to live in an environment that honors our Lord Jesus Christ and accentuates the Christian character so critical to living a lifetime for Jesus," Chapman said. "The Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee are profoundly grateful to the Lord for Union University and its continuing affirmation of a long and lasting relationship with the Convention."

Nominations for the award can be sent to Union University's Office of Church Relations, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, TN 38305. [www.uu.edu](http://www.uu.edu)



## Hammons Foundation presents \$302,000 to Union

The Hammons Charitable Foundation made two significant contributions to Union University - a \$200,000 grant for the Roy L. White Hall science building and a \$102,000 check to be allocated to student recipients of the Hammons Scholarship.

David Moore, president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation and a Hammons board member, presented President David S. Dockery with a check during the Hammons Charitable Luncheon, honoring scholarship recipients.

Hammons, a longtime supporter and trustee of the university, died at the age of 57 in 1998. His parents, Otis Parnell and Evalyn Pierce Hammons, were 1928 graduates of Union. In 1997 the O.P. and Evalyn Hammons Chair of Pre-Medical Studies was installed at the university in honor of his parents.

G. Robert Alsobrook, senior vice president for institutional advancement, called the grant a "profound and vivid example of the late Dr. Hammons' extraordinary impact on the university."

"The foundation grant enables Union to move closer in finalizing plans for construction of a facility that will offer a state-of-the-art teaching and laboratory environment for training the next generation of physicians and scientists," Alsobrook said. "Union

University is fully committed to providing all our students with a full-orbed Christian worldview that was so powerfully expressed by Dr. Hammons during his lifetime."

The new building will be located across the Great Lawn from Jennings Hall on the west side of the campus.

"The sciences as much as anything else we do at Union symbolize the university's commitment to excellence," said Dockery. "We are very excited about where this process is going and we are very hopeful for the next two years."

The Hammons Foundation was established in 1996 to support West Tennessee and East Arkansas students seeking to attend Christian colleges. Students who are selected to receive a scholarship, receive funding for their freshman and sophomore year with gifts ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Since 2000, the Foundation has provided more than \$1.7 million in support to the university. Two hundred Union students have received nearly \$731,000 in scholarships from the Foundation. Among the projects funded through the Foundation's generosity are Hammons Hall, the grand pianos in Jennings Hall, the Hammons Technology Center and the O.P. and Evalyn Hammons University Professor of Pre-Medical Studies. [www.uu.edu](http://www.uu.edu)

contributions," said Union University President David S. Dockery. "As Jackson continues to grow and prosper, Union University is delighted to be a partner in a city that thrives on cooperation. This sculpture project is a welcomed addition to our community and our region."

This year's competition is the first in a five-year series. The winning sculpture from each tour will be purchased and remain permanently in Jackson.



#### PBS airs Christmas program

Union University's annual classical Christmas concert was aired throughout the holiday season on WLJT, a regional affiliate of the Public Broadcasting System. The performance was taped on Dec. 2 and featured more than 140 singers and musicians from the department of music. The concert included performances from the university's Choral Union, Proclamation, Children's Choir, Union Singers and the Union Symphonic Band. The event was conducted by Richard Joiner, chair of the department of music.

"We were delighted to join Union University in the celebration of Christmas through song and Bible readings," said Dave Hinman, general manager of WLJT. "We look forward to making this program available to all of west Tennessee as a special edition of the West Tennessee Journal television show."

#### Students win national awards

Four Union University students recently received Gold Circle Awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) for items in the 2002 edition of *The Torch*, Union's annual magazine of student art and literature.

continued>



continued from pg. 7

Senior Ryan Schunemann took first place in single illustration rendering of photographic material for magazines for his work "Time for Healing". Recent graduate Jonathan Gillette and senior Drew Porter earned third place in magazine spot color cover design.

Joanna Stillman, a senior, received third place in open (free) form poetry for her poem "The Kingfisher," and senior Rebecca Phillips picked up a Certificate of Merit in Experimental Fiction for her story "Reservation."

"The writing and art produced at Union can compete with any student work in the country," said Bobby Rogers, associate professor of English and faculty sponsor of *The Torch*. "I have always been impressed with the level of talent in the students that Union attracts. It is gratifying to see them rewarded year after year by the CSPA."

#### SIFE team named regional champs

Union University's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team was declared regional champion at the SIFE competition April 11, in St. Louis. The team earned \$1,000 and a spot at the nationals, where they placed in the top 16 last year.

The purpose of SIFE is to teach others about the free enterprise system. This year Union's 30-member team completed 26 projects to educate the community. The team was judged based on a 24-minute presentation outlining those projects.

The winning team included Phil Neblett, Stacey Chandler, Allison Cole, Nick Mulliniks, Amanda Russell, Derek Moore, Joseph Argo, David Bender, Julie Black, Jeremy Chapel, Jason Castles, Matt Dickey, Drew Drace, Michael Gorman, Beth Hays, Sarah Jackson, Mark Jordan, Dustin McCord, Paul Monroe, Richard Murphy, Melissa Pitchford, Lee Plunkett, Leslie Reynolds, Shatana Rivera, Alecia Robertson, Rebekah Rogers, Sherryl Schrock, Ami Sherwood, Jeremy Stephan, Anna Thomas, Brody Van Duyn and Kimberly Whaley.

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#### Cutting the Ribbon

Union President David S. Dockery joins trustees and friends of the university during ribbon cutting ceremonies for the renovations at the Germantown campus.

## Germantown campus celebrates renovation

In 1997 Union University launched a campus in Germantown with one employee and 50 students in rented facilities. On Sept. 26, nearly six years later, Union University officials dedicated a renovated Germantown campus that will adequately accommodate a growing population of 550 students and graduate level programs.

The newly-renovated Germantown campus was officially dedicated by Union President David S. Dockery, along with the Board of Trustees and other university leaders. Trustees later met on the campus for their September meeting.

"Today is another high water moment in the incredible story of Union University - Germantown," Dockery said. "In just a few short years the program has grown from 50 students to 550. The opportunities for continued growth with the newly renovated facilities are amazing. We thank God for His blessings to Union in this way."


Germantown Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy, a supporter of the university, congratulated Union for the recent renovations. "We are glad to have Union University in Germantown," she said. "Higher education is a boost to our community and our residents."

Union Provost Carla Sanderson delivered words of dedication at a special ceremony

that included a ribbon cutting.

"I pledge as we dedicate this new space to continue to do the work, to seek God's guidance on what we do here," Sanderson said. "I bear witness that His promise has been fulfilled. We will endeavor, with deans and program directors leading the way, to seek new opportunities to keep this space full, to ensure excellence, to be intentional about character development, to equip our graduates for service in their churches, as teachers, businessmen, businesswomen and nurses, and to do our part, as the Lord God is with us day by day, to offer Christ-centered education that will render strong, courageous services by the graduates of this campus to a society in need of God's light and direction."

Formerly a church multi-purpose facility, the campus now boasts a two-story building with space for up to 800 students. Renovations included the addition of office suites, conference rooms, a nursing office suite, assembly area, prayer chapel and multiple classrooms.

The million-dollar renovation, started in Spring 2003, was completed by MG Construction, based in Jackson, Tenn. Union moved to the campus in 2000 after purchasing the Emmanuel Baptist Church building at the corner of Hacks Cross Road and Poplar Pike. 

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