

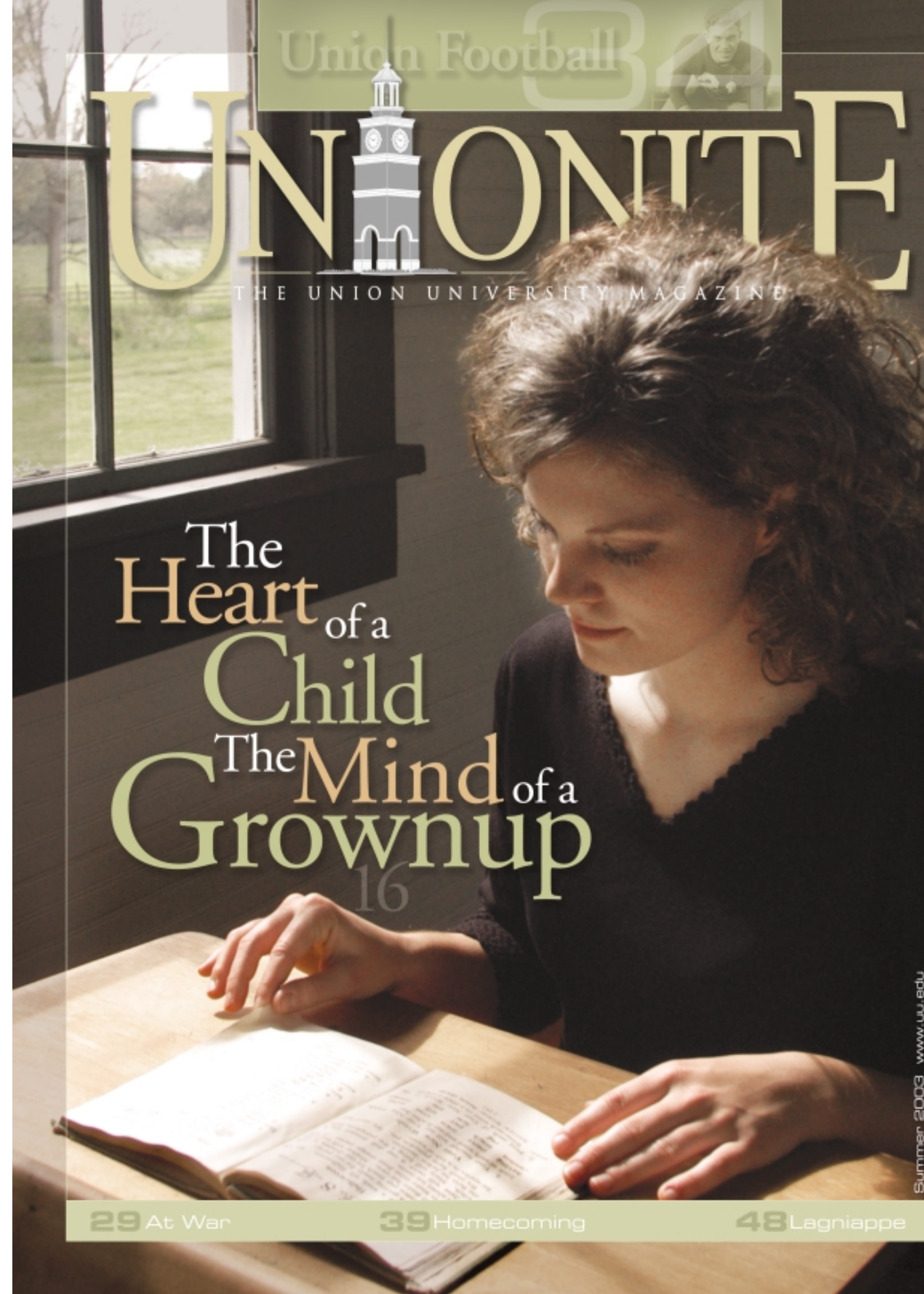
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Web Development Agent
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STUDENT STAFF

Photographer
Justin Veneman

Alumni News Coordinator
Katie Gould

**Assistant to the
Director of Communications**
Brad Spencer

Student Workers
Laura Lee Moore, Tracie Holden, Bill Dixon,
Lindsay Stavish, Kristen Hiller, Alaina Kraus

Editorial Office
Unionite
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, Tenn. 38305-3697
Phone: (731) 661-5216
Fax : (731) 661-5177
Web site: www.uu.edu
E-mail: unionite@uu.edu

Numbers to Know
(Area code 731)
Admissions 661-5210
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Convention, equipping persons to think Christianly
and serve faithfully in ways consistent with its core
values of being Christ-centered, people-focused,
excellence-driven, and future-directed.



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The Union University Players presented Philemon,
a production that addressed issues about redemption
and restoration. The play, directed by Associate Professor
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Miranda Wallace, Blake Staples and Ashley Mitchell.

Photo by Jim Veneman

UNIONITE

THE UNION UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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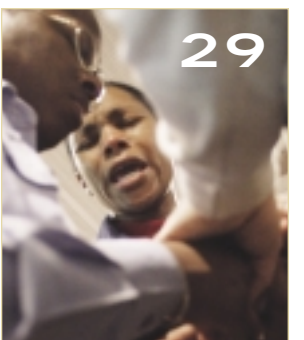
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Our Shared Purpose

Union University is a distinctive academic community. At the heart of this community are learners, educators, and scholars, students, staff and faculty. Moreover, Union is a Christian community—a Christian academic community. This is our defining characteristic, or *shared purpose*.

In no way does this downplay our commitment to academic excellence. Nor does it take away from our commitment to professional preparation. It does mean that all teaching and learning is to be grounded in a Christian world and life view, which involves learning to think and live Christianly.

Learning within this *shared purpose* helps open our eyes to the astonishing pattern of creation when we study science. Our study of music moves us to the depths of our being. Our understanding of art opens our eyes to appreciate the awesome work of the creator God. We recognize that art and literature and music are all gifts of God for humanity. This perspective helps us learn to engage culture from a particular vantage point.

We acknowledge that it is not customary in today's academy to think along these lines. It would be so easy for us to follow the path where knowledge is divided and fragmented along disciplinary lines, which leads to a situation where facts and values are separated.

The other path to be avoided is a pietistic form of Christianity that de-emphasizes the Christian intellectual

tradition. Observing the pietistic emphasis among many Christians, C. S. Lewis said God would have to first educate people and then convert them before they could have a "Christian mind." But both the fragmented academic model and the pietistic model seem to me to be short-sighted. What is needed across the campus and among our various constituencies is a shared purpose and vision for the distinctive approach to education coupled with a renewed commitment to excellence, for we believe that excellence honors God in all things.

I am pleased to communicate with you that at the meeting this spring of the Union University Board of Trustees such a commitment to this *shared purpose* was enthusiastically and overwhelmingly present. It was evidenced by the unanimous approval of a record \$38 million budget for 2003-04 and supportive encouragement for other key initiatives.

Union University is a great place made up of great people. I believe there are wonderful things in store for Union University as we continue to move forward and grow together. We invite you to join us with your prayers, your support, and your gifts as we move forward together with a *shared purpose*.

Soli Deo Gloria,

David S. Dockery, President

CONTRIBUTORS



Allen Palmeri, who wrote "Remembering the titans" on page 34 writes for the Missouri Baptist Convention. He is the former editor of *Share the Victory*, the national magazine of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. A graduate of Michigan State University, Allen's writings have appeared in newspapers across the nation. Allen and his wife, Susan, live in Jefferson City, Mo. with their four children.



Gregory Thornbury, director of the Carl F.H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership and assistant professor of Christian Studies, provides the magazine's cover story on Christian higher education on page 16. When he isn't writing or lecturing, Thornbury enjoys playing jazz guitar. He and his wife, Kimberly, have two daughters.



Wendy Wilson is a reporter for The Jackson Sun and her feature on the university appears on page 3. A Michigan native, Wilson graduated from Valparaiso University in 1992 with a major in journalism and a minor in Spanish. After graduating she worked as an immigration counselor as well as for newspapers in Florida and California. She joined The Jackson Sun in 1999.



Jim Veneman is the university's director of visual communication. He provides the photography that accompanies the cover story that appears on page 16. A veteran photographer, Veneman was also dispatched to cover the war in Iraq for Baptist Press. Photographs from his perch on board the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman are featured on page 29. Veneman is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Carol, have three children.

WRITE TO US

We welcome your letters. The editor reserves the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit them for accuracy and length. Letters should refer to material published in the magazine and include the writer's full name, address and telephone number. If an alum, please include degree and year of degree. Write: Letters, Unionite, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, Tenn. 38305 E-mail: unionite@uu.edu • Fax: (731) 661-5177

Rigorous Christian thinking draws national attention

Observers credit Dockery's leadership

By Wendy Wilson

For years, George Guthrie met with puzzled looks at national meetings for biblical scholars when he told people he was from Union University.

Lately, though, reaction has changed from "Where's that?" to "What's happening there now?"

The answer: a lot. Enrollment is booming, new buildings are going up across campus and students are signing up for an array of new courses. Efforts to incorporate rigorous Christian thinking across the curriculum have drawn praise from nationally-known religious leaders, including Prison Fellowship founder Chuck Colson.

Guthrie, who chairs the Christian studies department, is quick to credit the changes to David S. Dockery, who became the school's 15th president in 1996.

"David Dockery is the most significant thing to happen in the school's history," Guthrie said. "It's an exciting time to be here."

Under his leadership, the school has set out to appeal to the larger evangelical community while remaining true to its Southern Baptist heritage.

The 50-year-old Dockery is also raising the school's profile by bringing in world-renowned leaders and pundits to speak at community forums. Most reflect his conservative views.

Recently appointed to the board of directors of Christianity Today International, he also has been named vice chairman of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

Late last year, he oversaw the release of "Shaping a Christian Worldview," a book of essays by Union faculty members on applying faith to various disciplines. The book is part of a push to get people thinking about their faith in ways that extend beyond personal piety.

While Dockery wants Union to retain its emphasis on teaching, he's encouraging faculty to do research and has recruited



top-notch scholars for new positions. There are new programs in physics, ethics, intercultural studies and other areas. In 1997, the school opened a branch campus in Germantown, Tenn.

For the past six years, Union has been listed among the top tier institutions in the South.

Claude Pressnell, Jr., president of the Tennessee Independent Colleges & Universities Association, said the changes at Union in recent years have been remarkable. The growth is a result of the clear mission school leaders have fostered that blends solid academics with robust faith, he said.

"They know clearly who they are and what they're doing, and people are attracted to that," Pressnell said. "There are a number of colleges struggling with identity and finding a niche. There's a danger in the higher education community to try to be all things to all people."

Pressnell said evangelical schools nationwide are interested in replicating what Union is doing.

In Jackson, people are taking notice of Dockery's interest in building bridges with different groups in the community.

"He understands the responsibility that higher education has to the community," said Melvin Wright, a black dentist whom Dockery recruited to sit on an advisory committee at Union. "If he asks you to do something, you do your darndest to do it."

Wright said he's impressed with the school's efforts to make minorities feel at home at Union. He also has been struck by the big-name speakers who have come to Union, something he said is unusual for a city the size of Jackson.

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Photo by Jim Veneman

The line-up has included political leaders such as Margaret Thatcher, John Major and Colin Powell and commentators such as William Kristol and John Leo. Dockery made headlines in 2000 when he invited former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to speak at Union.

The forums “speak well for the school as well as the community,” said Clark Shaw, president of Casey Jones Village.

Gorbachev dined on Tennessee country ham at the Old Country Store at Casey Jones Village during his visit to Jackson. Today, his chair from the dinner is displayed on the wall in the Heritage Room along with pictures of past United States presidents and Confederate soldiers.

In an essay defending bringing Gorbachev to the school, Dockery said Christians need to become more educated about the world and get out of their “evangelical ghetto mentality.”

That Dockery has accomplished so much in a short amount of time comes as no surprise to R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

“He has a very bold vision for Christian higher education and that’s what drives him,” Mohler said.

Before coming to Union, Dockery served at the seminary as a professor, dean of the school of theology and as vice president for academic administration.

Mohler said Dockery’s sharp mind, administrative skills and ability to work well with people make him a rarity.

His admirers at Union say they respect his intelligence and his ability to communicate his ideas with clarity and patience.

Kina Mallard, who chairs the communication arts department, said Dockery’s leadership has influenced her to stay at the school longer than she had intended.

“He makes it hard to leave,” said Mallard, who came to the school more than 10 years ago.

Mallard said Dockery sets high standards while also boosting people’s confidence.

Among the newer faculty members is Don Van, who came to Union two years ago to serve as the department chairman for the school’s new engineering department.

A former manager of environmental affairs for the Pfizer Corporation in New Jersey, Van wanted to give something back to society and work in a Christian environment.

“I definitely found that here,” said Van, who learned about Union while browsing the Internet. “I can’t wait to come to work in the morning.”

Then there’s Richard Joiner, the music department chairman who came to Union last year from Mississippi College, a sister Baptist institution.

Nearing 60, Joiner had been at Mississippi College for 22 years. Making the decision to leave was tough, he said, but he was drawn by the chance to work with people with common views.

“Union was so focused, I found it refreshing,” he said. “It’s difficult to get a college full of Ph.D.’s to espouse such a singular idea.”

That doesn’t mean there’s not an opportunity for discussion, he said.

“There’s room for thought and exploring different ideas about why we believe what we believe.”

Evangelical schools have long contended with the image that they have stifling atmospheres and fail to produce well-rounded students. Some of the most stinging criticism has come from within their own ranks.

In 1994, Wheaton College professor and historian Mark Noll published a book called “The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind.” In the book, Noll took his fellow evangelicals to task for being too parochial and failing to develop a broad base of learning. Wheaton College is a non-denominational Christian school in Illinois. School leaders who try to broaden their curriculum sometimes meet with resistance, Noll said in an interview.

“A new focus is going to cause new questions,” he said.

Noll said he thinks Union University has good personnel in place and is well-positioned to make a difference. ☞

Wilson writes for The Jackson Sun. This article first appeared on Feb. 16 and excerpts are published with permission. E-mail the writer at unionite@uu.edu.



ABOUT THE COVER

The cover photograph was taken at the Little Red Schoolhouse located on Ames Plantation, about one hour south of Union University. The turn-of-the-century schoolhouse was built at the request of Hobart Ames, a wealthy Massachusetts industrialist. For more information about Ames Plantation, visit their website at www.amesplantation.org.

Photo by Jim Veneman

CAMPUS NEWS

NEWS BRIEFS

Union receives national recognition

For the seventh straight year, Union University has been selected as one of America’s 100 Best College Buys. The annual report gives distinction to Union for having the highest grade point average and highest ACT scores among the five other Tennessee institutions included on the list.

The average cost of attendance found for 2002-2003 by the surveyed schools was \$19,430. Survey results also showed that the high school grade point average for entering college freshmen in the fall of 2001 was 3.21, while SAT and ACT scores were 1081 and 23 respectively. Union’s freshman class GPA was 3.52 and the ACT average was 25.

Greg Baylor featured at Mars Hill Forum

Greg Baylor, director of the Christian Legal Society’s Center for Law and Religious Freedom, presented an address on “Culture Wars: Making Sense of the Battles Over Church and State” to Union University’s Mars Hill Forum April 16.

According to Baylor, church-state battles tend to be fought between progressives who want strict separation and orthodox believers who think the government should remain neutral to religious practice.

“Government ought to have the least amount of impact on religious choices,” said Baylor.

Baylor is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Duke University. Prior to joining the center, he practiced law with the firms Fulbright & Jaworski of Austin, Texas and Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather & Geraldson.

The Mars Hill Forum is sponsored by the Carl F. H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership at Union University. It is designed to encourage conversation among evangelical scholars and university faculty, students and administrators.

51 Named to Who’s Who

Union University recognized 51 of its juniors and seniors as Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

University breaks ground on new Science Building



Photo by Jim Veneman

Breaking Ground

Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were (from left to right) Jackson Mayor Charles Farmer; Campus Master Plan Chair Gary Taylor; Biology department chair James Huggins; Madison County Mayor Jerry Gist; TLM Associates President Dennis Henderson; Chemistry/Physics Department Chair Randy Johnston; President David S. Dockery; Trustee and benefactor Roy L. White; and Trustee Chairman Mike Weeks



the two-story building will house biology on the first floor and chemistry on the second – with other science areas such as physics, engineering and computer science to be added later. Project completion is scheduled for 2005.

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

According to TLM Associates, who was awarded the architectural and engineering aspects of the campus master plan, a science building is one of the more difficult buildings to design due to the complexity of the laboratories and the ventilation challenges. Union science faculty and administrators have spent many hours visiting other science facilities on other

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Friday, March 21.

“These students represent the best in leadership, scholarship and citizenship on any college campus,” said Union provost Carla Sanderson.

To be named to Union's Who's Who, students must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and have completed at least 24 semester hours at Union.

Students named include: Alexis Anne Abney, Emily Renee Bland, Paula Nicole Britt, Johanna Hope Burke, Valerie Beth Burnett, Sarah Elizabeth Campbell, Roshae Lyn Carlisle, Chad Kristian Carlson, Rebecca Elise Carlson, Jason Ford Castles, William Martin Cherry, Allison Joy Cole, Nathan Joseph Creel, Keri Blaire Dahlke, Michelle Lynn Darby, Marya Rose Davis, Benjamin Paul Dockery, Sara Diane Dorris, Amy Lynn Edge, Caroline Marie Ellis, Nicole Elizabeth Geyer, Catherine Ashley Guinn, Autumn Leigh Hardee, Amber Renee Hibbs, Lindsey R. Travis Hill, Jessica Marie Hughes, Sarah Michelle Jackson, Seth Tyler Jones, Michael Scott Katrosh, Jennifer Evelyn King, Erik Glenn Marple, Sara Katrina McWhorter, Ashley Anne Merrick, Amy Denise Miller, Derek Scott Moore, Melissa Kathryn Norvell, Elizabeth Breanne Oldham, Alison Elaine Oshel, Jennifer Lee Perry, Lori Michelle Powers, Emily Fribley Price, Elizabeth Ann Reed, Kelly Pearl Rhodes, Casey Glen Stafford, Joanna Lee Stillman, Jonathan Carl Stonecipher, Sarah Lindsay Webster, Rebecca Anne Wilson, Wendy Lynn Wiltshire and Stephanie Rae Wisdom.

New scholarship recognizes minority scholars

Sheketa Williams and Anthony James were announced as recipients of a new Union University scholarship that recognizes achievement by African-American scholars.

Williams and James are graduates of Northside High School in Jackson, Tenn. Both are freshmen at Union.

Chosen from 28 students who were eligible for the new award, Williams, a pre-professional studies of biology major and James, a political science major, placed first and second place respectively in the competition.

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university campuses, and a nationally known consultant was hired who specializes in designing science buildings.

“We want to provide a space where serious learning can take place among science majors as well as an appropriate place for Union students who are taking the required science core classes,” said Union Provost Carla Sanderson.

Barbara McMillin, dean of Union's College of Arts and Sciences, spoke highly of the work that the science faculty in particular has done so far in planning the building to meet class and curriculum specifications.

“I cannot estimate the number of hours that this faculty has invested in getting us to this point,” said McMillin.

Thinking ahead for the future has also been an important part of the process, examining what equipment will be needed both now and later.

“If it's a piece of equipment that sits on a counter, we need to know so that we will have the counter space for later down the

road when we finally obtain that particular piece of equipment,” explained McMillin, pointing out the complicated details that must each be thought through one by one.

Special features of the 42,000 square foot building include a green house for the biology area, bulk storage areas for hazardous chemicals, large state-of-the-art lecture rooms, a microbiology/immunology lab, as well as lab areas for physiology and human gross anatomy, with storage for human cadavers that are used by the human gross anatomy class in the summer. The roof also has unique features for the special ventilation needs of the chemistry labs.

“Union has always been good as an academic resource and as an important part of this community,” said Madison County Mayor Jerry Gist. “Any addition can only serve to benefit West Tennessee. The latest figures, particularly showing the university's economic impact on this region rang loud and clear – we're looking forward to great things.” ☞

Union holds 2002 winter commencement

Raymond and Ann Boston, longtime supporters of Union University, were selected as the recipients of the Craig Service Award for their faithful service and dedication to the university.

The Bostons were honored during ceremonies surrounding the university's Dec. 14 graduation held at West Jackson Baptist Church.

“Raymond and Ann Boston have been models of faithful alumni service to the university,” said Union President David S. Dockery. “They have volunteered their time, encouraged students to attend, given of their gifts, and represented the university well by serving West Tennessee Baptist churches for over 40 years.”

The university awarded diplomas to 177 students, including 108 undergraduates and 69 graduate students. Ceremonies were moved to West Jackson Baptist



Celebration

Nursing graduate Vivian McKay Odum of Germantown, Tenn. celebrates just after the December graduation service at Union University. *Photo by Jim Veneman*

Church to accommodate one of the largest crowds in attendance for a winter graduation.

O.S. Hawkins, president and chief executive officer of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, delivered the commencement address. Hawkins, who holds degrees from Texas Christian University and the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, encouraged the graduates to live a life of faithfulness.

“Today was a fitting conclusion to a great semester,” Dockery said. “Dr. Hawkins' words and the excitement among these graduates and their families is satisfying to behold. We thank God for His ongoing goodness to Union University.”

Former U.S. Senate Chaplain Lloyd John Ogilvie was the speaker for the May 24 commencement. Ogilvie became the Senate's 61st chaplain in 1995 and retired in March 2003. ☞

Dockery elected to CCCU post

Union President David S. Dockery was elected vice-chairman of the board of directors of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) by unanimous vote of the CCCU board on Feb. 2.

“I am humbled by the responsibility of serving in this capacity,” Dockery said. “It is recognition of the leadership role Union University is developing in

Christian higher education across the nation.”

CCCU is an international association of Christian institutions of higher education whose mission is “to advance the cause of Christ-centered higher education and to help [member] institutions transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to biblical truth.” ☞

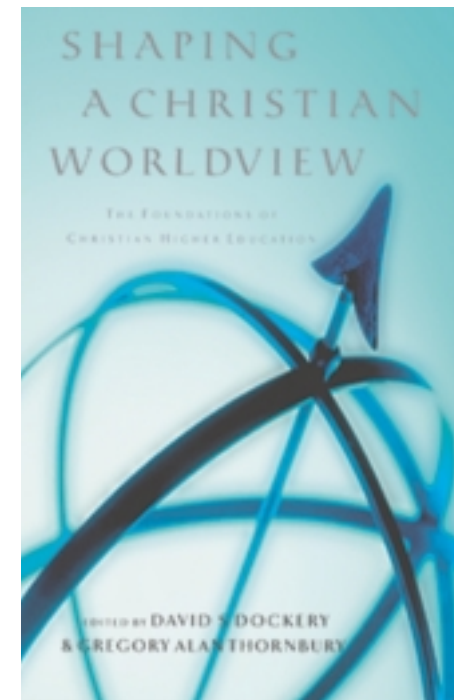
Colson lauds Union University

Prominent Christian author and speaker Charles Colson praised the work of Union University president David S. Dockery in promoting a Christian worldview as part of his Jan. 31 BreakPoint national radio commentary.

“Virtually every course taught at Union reflects what Dockery calls ‘a passion for learning based on the supposition that all truth is God's truth,’” Colson said. He recognized Dockery's work at Union as one of the “best examples of this emerging interest in worldview.”

“We are grateful for Mr. Colson's strong and stirring endorsement of Union University,” said Dockery regarding the address. “The coupling of the university's commitment to rigorous academics and its dedication to a Christian worldview make the Union education distinctive in today's world.”

Colson also cited the book “Shaping a



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First place winnings total \$8,000 for four years and second place winnings total \$4,000 for four years. The initial scholarship money was provided by Carroll and Kay Griffin of Jackson and Ernest and Jacqueline Taylor of Wildersville, Tenn.

Any interested high school seniors should contact the Financial Aid Office at (731) 661-5015 for more information.

History major wins J.M. Powell scholarship to study abroad

Adam Graig, a junior history major from Millington, Tennessee, has won a J.M. Powell scholarship worth \$1,500 to study abroad in the fall of 2003. Adam will spend the semester in Salzburg, Austria, taking history, German, and other courses at Salzburg College. The scholarship is based on a student's academic record, which must include a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0; a strong commitment to studying abroad; and the student returning to Union for a minimum of one more semester of full-time work.

Provost reappointed to commission post

Union University Provost Carla Sanderson has been appointed to a second term for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS).

“We applaud this appointment for Provost Sanderson to the SACS commission,” said Union President David S. Dockery. “She is widely recognized as a skilled academic leader and this appointment both enhances her leadership in the broader academic community and at Union University.”

Sanderson was nominated for a second three-year term that will last from January 2003 to December 2005.

The Commission is a regional accrediting body of the 11 U.S. Southern states and Latin America for universities and colleges that award associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees. It is the representative body of the College Delegate Assembly and is charged with carrying out the accreditation process.

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Target supports music center

The Community Music Center (CMC) at Union University recently received a grant in the amount of \$1,000 from Target Stores. The grant will provide support for music education programs provided by the university. Richard McLeod, manager of the Jackson Target store, presented the check to Gina Kinney Scott, CMC director.

"The Community Music Center is committed to providing quality music instruction to children and adults in Jackson and West Tennessee," said Scott, about the importance of the center. "We are honored that Target Stores has chosen to support this endeavor."

The grant will be used to purchase various supplies for the program. Some of the purchases include musical instruments for the Kindermusik classes, teacher curriculum kits and money that will be set aside to fund promotion and advertising. The money is greatly needed in order to continue the Community Music Center, Scott said.

Cardinal and Cream named best newspaper

Union University's Cardinal and Cream was named best overall small campus university newspaper in the 2002 Baptist Press Excellence in Journalism competition at a banquet held in Nashville, Tenn. The banquet was a culmination of the second annual Baptist Press Student Journalism Conference held Oct. 10-12. Nearly 700 entries were received from 21 Christian colleges and universities.

Individual awards were also given with Union garnering 20. Union students who received awards include Josh Wagner, Laura Lee Moore, Patrick Compau, Justin Veneman, Amanda Smith, Kasey Carty Campbell, Janelle Sou and Mykle Harchfield.

Ward-Larson wins research award

Charlotte Ward-Larson, associate professor of nursing at Union University, was presented with the 2003 D. Jean Wood Nursing Scholarship Award at the annual

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Christian Worldview: The Foundations of Christian Higher Education," edited by Dockery and Union professor Gregory Thornbury, as an excellent display of Dockery's commitment to an education which engages the culture with Christian thinking.

"Reading the book, you get a sense for the approach that has propelled Union into U.S. News & World Report's top tier of Southern liberal-arts colleges," Colson said.

Colson is the author of more than 20 books on the Christian life and worldview, a syndicated columnist, and the host of BreakPoint, a nationally syndicated

daily radio broadcast. He is also the founder and chairman of the board of Prison Fellowship, an inter-national organization that assists prisoners and their families.

In recent years, Colson has developed a strong relationship with Union, based on the commitment to Christian worldview shared by Colson, Dockery and the university's trustees. The Charles Colson Chair of Faith and Culture at Union University was established in 2002 and is currently held by Dr. Hal Poe.

"We appreciate and admire Mr. Colson's strong example in the area of worldview thinking," said Dockery. ☞

Netanyahu to speak at Scholarship Banquet

Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be the keynote speaker for Union University's Seventh Annual Scholarship Banquet at Jackson's Carl Perkins Civic Center on Monday, Oct. 27, 2003. His address will be titled Terrorism: "How the Constitutional Democracies Can Win."

The youngest prime minister in Israeli history, Netanyahu was elected in 1996. He negotiated the Wye River Agreement in 1998, and reduced the incidence of terrorism in Israel during his term.

"Union University is pleased to have a leader of this caliber for our Seventh Annual Scholarship Banquet," said Union president David S. Dockery. "Prime Minister Netanyahu has taken the lead in addressing key moral issues currently facing the Middle East. He is dedicated to the fight against terrorism, and his real-life experiences in global politics, economics and strife in the Middle East will provide great insight on Oct. 27."

Lead sponsors for this year's banquet include BancorpSouth, Carl and Alice Kirkland, Pentair Tools Group – Porter-Cable/Delta and DeVilbiss Air Power Company and Mr. & Mrs. Jack



Porter. Premier sponsors currently include Chip and Rita Christian, Benny and Norma Fesmire, FirstBank, Jack and Zan Holmes, Schilling Enterprises, Inc., Gary and Lisa Taylor, Union Planters Bank, West Tennessee Healthcare, White Investments LLC, and Roy L. White, President and CEO.

The Scholarship Banquet is supported by Union's Board of Presidential Associates for the purpose of raising funds to provide scholarships. Last year's event raised more than \$400,000, bringing the total funds raised by the banquet series to over \$2 million since its inception in 1997. ☞



Geneva Bible

Ray Van Neste, George Guthrie, Carl Trueman and Brian Denker examine the 1615 Geneva Bible. Carl Trueman, associate professor of church history and historical theology at Westminster Theological Seminary, was on campus recently to speak on the history of the Geneva Bible. *Photo by Jim Veneman*

Center acquires historic Geneva Bible

The R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies has acquired a 1615 edition of the historic Geneva Bible, according to Ray Van Neste, director of the Center.

Acquisition of the Bible was made possible by a gift from David and Linda Shoaf, of Mississippi. It will serve as the centerpiece for the Center's library.

"Just as the Geneva Bible facilitated the spread of God's word to the common people 400 years ago, today Union's Center for Biblical Studies encourages the study and use of the Bible," Van Neste said. "Many people do not use or really try to understand the Bible and our mission is to provide resources to the community for better understanding of the Scriptures."

In conjunction with the celebration of the newly acquired Bible, noted professor of church historical theology Carl Trueman delivered an address. Trueman is an associate professor at Westminster Theological Seminary. The event was sponsored by the Carl F.H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership and the R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies.

Trueman discussed the history of the

Geneva Bible. First published in 1560, the Geneva Bible became the most popular English version of the 16th and 17th centuries. The work received its name from the city in which it was printed and sold well enough to be reprinted in 180 editions. It is believed that Reformation leaders John Knox, Miles Coverdale and William Whittingham were involved in the preparation of the translation and its study notes.

According to Trueman, those notes are the secret to the Geneva Bible's popularity. "It provided them with explanations," he said. As the Reformation moved European believers away from dependency on clergy to provide scriptural interpretation toward a focus on the individual's relationship with God and the Bible, people wanted the help the notes provided.

Trueman is the author of "Luther's Legacy: Salvation and English Reformers, 1525-1556 and The Claims of Truth: John Owen's Trinitarian Theology." He is a graduate of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge and the University of Aberdeen. ☞

meeting of the Southern Nursing Research Society (SRNS) Feb. 15.

The award recognizes the contributions of a researcher who has enhanced the science and practice of nursing in the Southern region. It is named in honor of the first president of the SRNS.

Ward-Larson was honored for her project "The Efficacy of Facilitated Tucking for Relieving Procedural Pain of Endotracheal Suctioning in Very Low Birth Weight Infants."

The study demonstrated that tucking and holding infants in a fetal position reduces the amount of pain the infant feels during suction procedures. "It gives nurses another tool to provide comfort to sick infants," said Ward-Larson.

Ward-Larson has produced an article on her research which will be published in an upcoming edition of MCN: the American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing.

Chemical society garners national attention

The Union University student affiliate chapter was named an "Outstanding" chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) for the fourth consecutive year at the 225th National Meeting of the ACS in New Orleans. The designation is based on professional development of students in chemistry and the chapter's contributions to the community.

"These awards are evidence of the commitment and dedication of our students to serving others," said Charles Baldwin, O.P. and Evalyn Hammons University Professor of Pre-Medical Studies at Union and faculty advisor to the ACS chapter. "The legacy of the chapter has always been service both to the campus and to the community at large. That legacy is being continued by current members."

Union's chapter was also one of five to be named an ACS Green Student Affiliate Chapter. This is the first year that designation has been awarded.

Green chemistry is the design and use of chemical products or processes which prevent or reduce the use of hazardous substances. Union's chapter received the designation based on

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activities such as the distribution of 1,200 trees at its Environmental Awareness Conference and the hosting of a presentation by green Chemist John Warner of University of Massachusetts.

Mallard recognized by POD

Kina Mallard, chair of the Department of Communication Arts and director of faculty development, recently received the Bright Idea Recognition Award from the Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network in Higher Education.

The award is given to those who have implemented new and creative ideas for instructional, faculty, or organizational development. Winners are then asked to share their ideas and concepts at the conference and each recipient is awarded a trophy at the awards banquet.

The Bright Idea Award gives recognition to those with creative ideas in a variety of categories, including teaching and learning, workshops, seminars, conferences and organizational development. Idea submissions are evaluated by the award committee and originality, impact and cost and time effectiveness are taken into account.

Athletic training program receives accreditation

The athletic training education program at Union University recently received full accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program and its joint Review Committee on Athletic Training. Union's athletic program is the first university program of its type to be accredited outside of Memphis.

"We are extremely pleased with the five-year-accreditation for our sports medicine and athletic training program," said Lynn Stranak, chair of the Physical Education, Wellness and Sports program at Union. "We feel it really reflects the quality and excellence of our department and university."

By 2004, anyone wanting to become a certified athletic trainer will have had to go through a curriculum program at a university that has an

Alan Page, John Leo headline Union Forum

Photos by Jim Veneman



Nationally syndicated columnist John Leo and Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page headlined the 2003 Union Forum series and entertained business and community leaders with their thought-provoking lunch discussions at Union University.

Leo, who spoke at the Feb. 7 Union Forum, writes a weekly column for U. S. News & World Report, Time, and the New York Times. He delivered a speech titled "Cultural Decline and What We Can Do About It."

Leo said he receives a substantial amount of mail from readers. "I've been struck by how mournful so much of it has been lately," he said. "They wind up saying, 'What's happened to the country?' I feel the same way." He cited extreme violence in popular music and drama as occurrences which would have been unthinkable in years past but have become common practice today.

Leo traced these trends to the sixties. "The mainstream was under assault," he said. "Anybody who was not in the mainstream looked really good." This led to a celebration of every outsider, he believes, regardless of merit.

Leo said he believes that a return to more traditional, conservative values is not just possible, but likely. It could, however, take as many decades to recover as it has to decline. Leo encourages conservatives to be as aggressive and consistent in working to shape the culture as those of the counter-culture did. "There's no easy way out of this," he said.

Minnesota Supreme Court Justice and



National Football League Hall of Fame member Alan C. Page presented the March 14 Union Forum encouraging each person to play a role in making the future better and brighter by investing in education, developing character and improving race relations.

"We can't afford another generation of children disconnected from the educational process," said Page. For him, the need for better education efforts became clear in 1978 when he observed that four of the nine defensive lineman on his team could not read a playbook in which "the difficult words were 'offense,' 'defense,' 'block' and 'tackle,'" he said. These men did not miss the opportunity to learn to read in college or high school, but in the early grades, before they were athletes, said Page.

"What would happen," Page asked, "if we honored students and teachers who excel with the same rewards and recognition that we give to athletes and coaches? I suspect we would see things change."

In 1988 he created the Page Education Foundation. The organization provides scholarship funds to minority youth. Page Scholars, as the recipients are known, are required to spend time tutoring elementary school students. This academic year, 565 Page Scholars will tutor 6,500 children.

Designed to provide opportunities for lively conversation with the nation's leaders and thinkers, the Union Forum brings distinguished speakers each spring. The events are sponsored by First Tennessee Foundation, TLM Associates, West Tennessee Healthcare and The Jackson Sun. www.tn.com

Thom Rainer calls on Christians to be witnesses

Photo by Jim Veneman



The dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth called on Christians to share the gospel of Christ with the same intensity and force used to rescue former prisoner of war Jessica Lynch.

"Jessica Lynch was rescued – injured, but alive and well," said Thom Rainer during an April 2 address to more than 1,000 students and faculty at Union University. "Can you imagine the courage it took to go in and save her life? The resources? One life is that important temporarily, and one life is that important eternally."

American Special Forces led a team of Marines, Army Rangers, Navy SEALs and Air Force pilots on a rescue mission to save Pfc. Lynch. Lynch had been held captive by Iraqi soldiers since March 23 when members of the 507th Maintenance Company took a wrong turn in the desert and were ambushed.

Rainer, a noted expert in church growth and evangelism, compared the mission of Christians to that of the soldiers who rescued Lynch. He also spoke to approximately 250 pastors gathered on campus for the university's PreachingPoints Conference. The conference, sponsored by

Union University, is designed to equip and encourage pastors and ministry professionals.

The Feb. 25 PreachingPoints featured James Merritt, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga. and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and Kevin Ezell, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.

"We are called to build God's house," Rainer told the students. Referencing Haggai 1:1-8, Rainer noted that God's call to rebuild his house was uttered in 520 B.C. "God said, 'I want you to rebuild my house.' He speaks to each of us who have received him and tells us to build his house by seeing God's people added to it, by going to share the message of salvation."

Relating the passage to the New Testament, Rainer referred students to Acts 1:8 where God says, "Go build my house."

Rainer related a chance encounter with former heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman on an airliner as an example of witnessing moments.

"I got on that plane and all I wanted to do was sleep," Rainer said. "But God reminded me about a promise I had made to a friend that I would share Christ each

accredited program, Stranak said, placing the university well ahead of the requirements and giving an edge to Union students entering the program.

Engineering Dept. hosts competition

Union University's Department of Engineering hosted the local TEAMS (Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science) Competition Saturday, March 15.

Jackson's South Side High School placed first in the competition, bringing home a \$1,000 prize. The team is coached by Brian Branch and includes students Shannon Strain, Kris Gordon, Joshua Elder, Rynae Curry, Ben Gordon, Ryan Williams and Joseph Manley.

Dyersburg High School took second place and a \$750 prize. The team consists of students John McLaughlin III, John Houston, Patrick Godwin, Ryan Johnston, Andrew Wright, Laura Fisher, Amber Davis and Alex Frey and is coached by Wanda Robertson. Sponsored by TBDN, the competition tests students' ability to answer questions and develop possible plans of action for real life engineering projects such as roadways, satellites and hybrid electric vehicles.

TBDN representative Bryan Everette encouraged the students to pursue engineering. "Engineers make people's dreams become reality," he said.

Baconian Society inaugurated

Two Union University professors have launched the Baconian Society, an organization that explores the exchange between science and religion.

Hal Poe, Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture, and Jimmy Davis, associate provost and professor of chemistry, received a \$15,000 Local Societies Initiative Grant by the Metanexus Institute on Science and Religion, an organization that provides grants for colleges, universities and seminaries. The grant pays start-up costs for dialogue groups that explore the exchange between science and religion.

"This was a logical development between what Hal and I did for years," said Davis. "We developed

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a course called "Science and Faith" and two books. Now we want to take these questions to a larger audience."

The society will be open to membership from the West Tennessee community for people involved in science and religion. That includes professors, clergy, doctors and nurses, scientists in business and in education, students and the general public.

The society is named in honor of Sir Francis Bacon, the father of the scientific method.

"He was also a philosopher, a scientist, a politician, and a writer," Poe said. "He saw this marvelous interplay of all the different spheres of knowledge. He best represents what we want for this group."

Sigma Alpha Iota honors Richard Rodgers

The Gamma Sigma chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota, a professional music fraternity, honored the 100th anniversary of the birthday of legendary musician and composer Richard Rodgers with a musical performance. The musical tribute was held in the Hartley Recital Hall in Jennings Hall.

His most well-known works came from his partnership with Oscar Hammerstein II, with whom he wrote such works as "The King and I," "Oklahoma," "Carousel," and "South Pacific."

Phi Alpha Theta celebrates 50 years

The Delta-Psi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta history honor society celebrated 50 years at Union University on Feb. 22. The chapter is the oldest in the state of Tennessee.

The anniversary luncheon featured remarks from R. G. "Bob" Elliott, a charter member of the chapter, and a presentation from David Thomas, associate professor of history at Union.

In "Signs of the Past, Signs of Today: History in Children's Literature," Thomas stated that "fictional picture books for the elementary grades pass on historical values, images, themes, and fallacies in great depth." He demonstrated this with examples from classics like "Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel" by

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week. We would ask each other, 'With whom have you shared the love of Christ in the last week?'"

Rainer said after he found his seat he felt a large presence behind him – it was the hulking Foreman. Noticing Rainer's book, Foreman asked the seminary professor if it was a Bible.

"I said it was and he said, 'Keep reading it,'" Rainer said. "I did what I was told."

Later, another man sat down beside Rainer and struck up a conversation about the Gospel of Christ. "Eventually I asked the man if he wanted to become a Christian and the man became very antagonistic," he recalled. "I backed off but George leaned over the seat, told the man to shut up and to listen to the Gospel. He did."

Rainer said there were three obstacles to sharing the gospel of Christ – conflict, comfort and commitment.

"In Haggai the people said it was not time to build the house," Rainer said. "They had opposition on the outside and division within. They had never done it this way. Have you ever been reticent to share the love of Christ because you fear opposition?"

Fear, Rainer said, was the reason the Jews did not build the house.

Students publish book on Holocaust

A group of Union students taking an ethics class taught by David Gushee have published a book of their thoughts and studies on the Holocaust. Copies of the work were presented to the university at a ceremony in the Emma Waters Summar Library.

"When Night Fell: A Student Response to the Holocaust," was written by Gushee's students and includes their feelings and thoughts on the Holocaust. Gushee is the Graves associate professor of Christian philosophy. The book was an idea that the students initiated and saw to completion,

"Comfort is another obstacle," he said. "When the King of Persia allowed them to return, he allowed them to harvest trees for the temple, but they used them for homes. They were more concerned about not getting out of their comfort zone than they were about building God's house."

"God says don't get too comfortable," he said. "Don't get too complacent."

Rainer said a good way to avoid complacency is through mission work. "If you don't go far away to a mission field, there is a mission field here – dorm mates, neighbors, family."

Rainer also cautioned the students to remember their commitment to Christ. "The Bible tells us that those in Haggai's time were doing a lot of good things but they were not doing their best," he said. "They did things that were not mandated by God."

"Don't let the good replace the best," he challenged the students.

"Jesus told us to go and be his witnesses," Rainer said. "When we are called upon to tell the Good News, God does not say, stay. He says go. You know what a precious possession has been given to you. Don't you dare withhold it from others." ☞

said Gushee.

Union graduates Joshua Trent and Autumn Ridenour compiled the book which features papers done by almost 20 students in the class. Gushee and Union University President David S. Dockery also contributed to the literary effort.

"I am excited about this student project, which underscores the high quality academic work taking place on the Union campus as well as the deep reflection on the significant issues and ideas of our time," Dockery said. ☞



Cleaning up

Construction workers make repairs to the Hurt Commons that lost an entire wall of glass to the tornado. *Photo by Jim Veneman*

University repairs tornado damage

It has been more than six months since a Nov. 10 tornado hit the Union University campus, causing \$1.7 million in damage. In the storm's wake, the Tennessee Baptist Convention and West Tennessee rallied to support the university, while the students, staff and faculty forged a unique bond.

The storm created winds estimated at 110 miles per hour, according to the National Weather Service. The storm shattered windows, knocked down trees, and caused extensive damage across the campus. No one on Unions campus was injured.

Tennessee Baptist churches donated approximately \$50,000, earmarked for repairing storm damage.

Moments after the storm, the administration moved quickly to assess damage and account for students. Less than 45 minutes after the tornado, President David S. Dockery and his team of administrative leaders were making arrangements for temporary student housing.

"Our first and primary concern was the students," said Dockery. "We needed to make sure everyone was accounted for, and we were amazed and grateful that there were no injuries."

He praised the resident directors (RDs) of the complexes along with their student resident assistants (RAs) for moving quickly when the tornado warnings were announced. Intercom announcements had been made throughout the complexes telling students to move to the bottom apartment bathrooms, the most interior part of the dorms.

"Residence life staff were our first line of defense in this situation and did an excellent job of keeping everyone safe," said Kimberly Thornbury, dean of students, who had arrived on the scene by 12:30 a.m. "There's a partnership between the RDs, keeping students informed, and students responding to what the RDs instructed them to do, which I think had a big impact on why everyone stayed safe."

During the storm, groups of students huddled in bathrooms and bathtubs throughout the complexes, praying together as they waited for the storm to pass. RAs had an especially important task of protecting not only themselves but the other students. They put themselves at risk, and they know it, by being the last in line to get to cover, said Pam Schock, resident director for Hurt Complex, which sustained quite a bit of damage when one entire wall of glass blew in from the high winds.

"I am amazed and so thankful for the incredible leadership provided by our residence life teams, our student service teams and our facilities management staff," said Dockery. "They protected and guided our students while working through the night to get us past those first crisis hours. They are to be commended."

Dockery commended the university staff once again for their capable efforts following the May 4 storms, which ravaged downtown Jackson, but also caused more than \$300,000 damage to the university campus.

"Once again," he said, "We are so grateful for God's providential protection." ☞

Virginia Lee Burton and Jane Yolen's *The Girl Who Loved the Wind*.

The conference was coordinated by Stephen Carls, chair of Union's department of history and faculty advisor of Phi Alpha Theta at Union University, with the assistance of Carol Johnson.

Accelerated nursing degree launched

Union University's School of Nursing launched an accelerated bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree program for individuals with at least a bachelor's degree in another discipline. The program is completed in 12 months.

The accelerated BSN program is designed for individuals who desire a career change and wish to pursue nursing. The program builds upon the education, career and life experiences of the individual.

"Our state faces a critical nursing shortage," said Susan Jacob, dean of the School of Nursing at Union. "We have designed this program to help curb that shortage while enabling professional men and women to improve their career opportunities."

For further information, contact the Union University School of Nursing at (731) 661-5200 or visit <http://www.uu.edu/programs/seconddegreenursing>.

Poet Todd Davis speaks at writing workshop

The key to good writing is often considered one of the mysteries of life. While students and professors probe for a special button which releases creative abilities, many people avoid a pen and paper at all costs. At Union's annual writing workshop, however, the mystery is reduced to simple techniques that can make anyone a better writer.

The workshop participants, 52 students from seven West Tennessee high schools, spent the morning learning how to improve their poetry, short story and creative non-fiction skills. Led by members of Union's English department faculty, Union students and visiting poet Todd Davis, the students discussed selections from well-known writers, wrote short essays and analyzed their work.

FACULTY PROFILE

Jill J. Webb

*Associate professor of nursing
at Union for 16 years*

Describe yourself in three words:
Redeemed, loved, happy

Describe Union University:
Community, challenging, light

Why teach at Union?

My teaching career at Union began because of “coincidence.” My husband had been hired to work at TVA’s Jackson office. Since my son and I would soon be joining him in Jackson, he called Union to inquire about the existence of a nursing program. He discovered that Union did have a nursing program and they were in need of clinical nursing faculty. Therefore, I began at Union as a part-time clinical instructor. I managed to have plenty of time to be mom to my three-year-old son. When Nathaniel reached school age, I was offered, and accepted, a full-time position.

Why have I remained at Union? The answer is old-fashioned, practical and philosophical. I am the wife of my husband. He stays in Jackson. I stay in Jackson. But I could work elsewhere and choose to remain at Union. I believe that I am part of realizing the purposes of Union University. I believe those purposes are good and fitting in a world needful of the salt and light of Christian thinking. So the “coincidences” continue. Because the Lord’s blessings are abundant, the Union community provides (1) opportunities to interact with excellent faculty, students, guest scholars and community leaders, and (2) the freedom to act on the radical reality of a personal, redeeming, awesome God.

Who is your favorite person?
I have two favorite people, my husband and my son. Now if you want me to venture into popular cultural or historical figures, I might choose Winston Churchill. He was so gutsy about the right things.

What do you value?
Truth, compassion, integrity, mercy

Family:
Husband Steven J. Webb, 48;
Son Nathaniel T. Webb, 18

Last book you read:
“Why Should Anyone Believe
Anything at All”

In her own words:
Why do I teach? To be honest, I sometimes wonder about that. Teaching is at times utterly difficult. I must appreciate challenges. I don’t think I’m that different from most teachers. I suppose we must all have some degree of joy in seeing a student go from green to ripe, infancy to maturity, stumbling to confident, needy to (gasp) self-governing. Like parenting, teaching is a way to reproduce one’s knowledge, beliefs and passions. What a terrifying responsibility. One can, after all, pass on knowledge, beliefs and passions which are not grounded in truth. How glad I am to have a Guide that knows my discipline, my colleagues, my students and me.

I also teach because I seem fit for the task. There is discernable evidence that students have appreciated my efforts in the

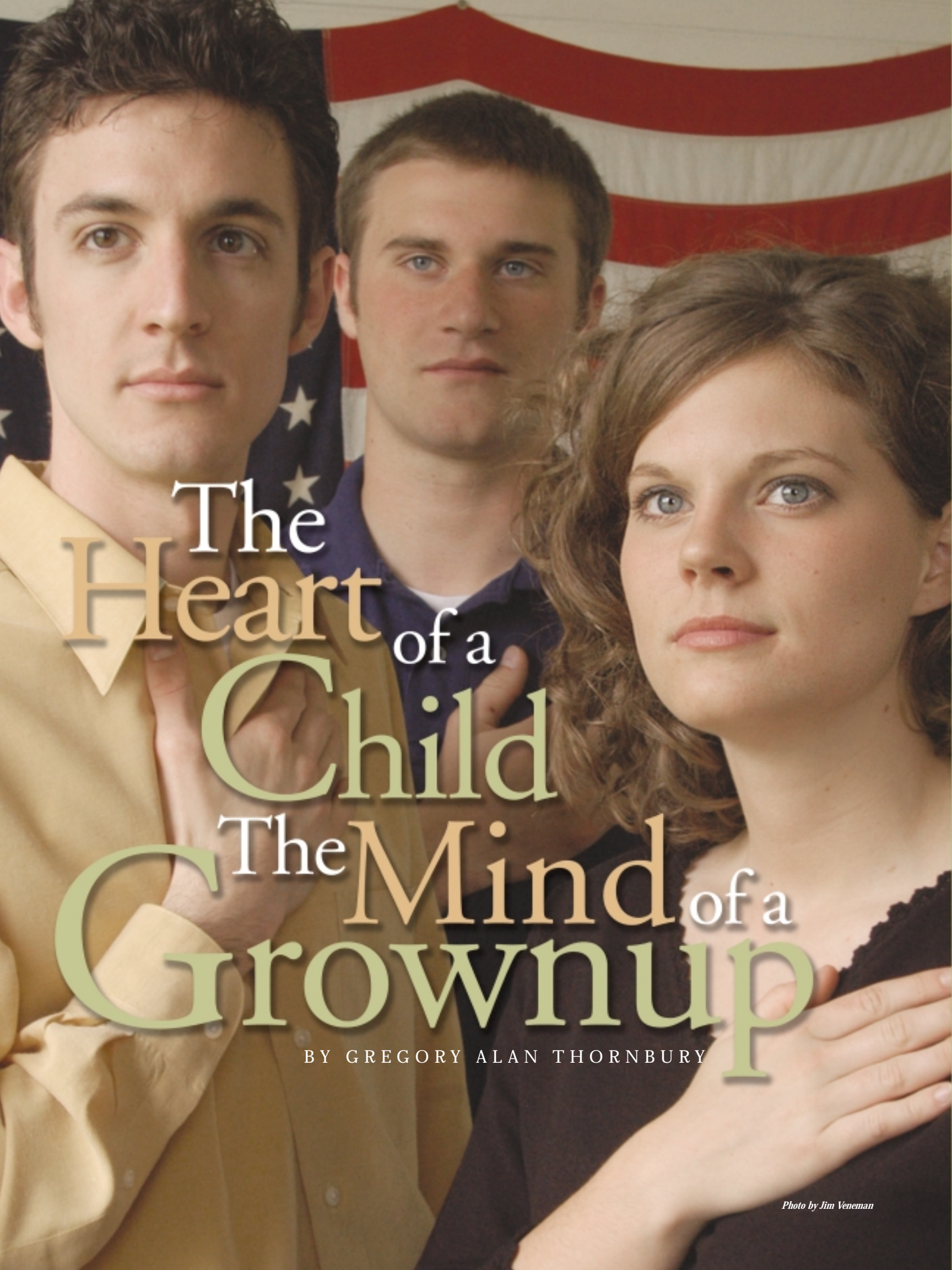
past. I hope I never lose that evidence.

What do I think about students at Union? I must proclaim a caveat here. Other than teaching a College Life at Union (CLU) class in the distant past, I teach and advise only nursing students (undergraduate and graduate). To generalize, I observe that students are sincere, courteous, courageous and capable. These capacities are most evident in the clinical environment where real people with real health concerns call forth from the student a palpable necessity to do well. Most students are successful in doing well, despite the inevitable mistakes. On an individual basis, each student brings a unique past, unique propensities, and unique capacities. I find it exciting to see all these individual differences integrated into similarly disciplined responses as they learn the substance and process of professional nursing.

In print:

Book chapter: “Nursing Research in Contemporary Nursing: Issues, Trends and Management” by Cherry and Jacob (eds.) 2002. [📖](#)

Face Value celebrates the staff, faculty and students whose contributions define the Union University community.
Portrait by Jim Veneman



The Heart of a Child The Mind of a Grownup

BY GREGORY ALAN THORNBURY

Photo by Jim Veneman

On February 19, 2003, the war on terrorism found its most recent domestic suspect hiding in a seemingly unlikely place: a publicly funded state university. The FBI arrested Professor Sami Al-Arian of the University of South Florida on the charges of being the ringleader and treasurer of one of the most violent terrorist organizations in the world. Also known by the name Islamic Holy War, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) is responsible for homicide bombing attacks which have resulted in the deaths of over 100 persons in Israel and its surrounding territories. The victims include women, children, and infants.

For those that paid attention to his career, Al-Arian had long been associated with networks of global terror. In 1994, a PBS television documentary entitled "Jihad in America" linked Al-Arian with PIJ, and identified him as the chief fund-raiser for the group's American front. Hired by USF in 1986, Al-Arian remained as an instructor and continued on the payroll of the school despite a 1996 bomb scare from PIJ in which the organization threatened to blow up a building and kill a female professor at the school. Despite dubious alliances and inflammatory rhetoric, Al-Arian was only placed on paid leave and was eventually allowed to return to classroom duties. Years passed. In 2002, Al-Arian wrote a publicized letter to a prominent Kuwaiti businessman asking him to support PIJ in its violent struggle against the nation of Israel.

Recently, the federal indictments came, complete with 50 counts of murder, wire, and mail fraud. Emboldened by Al-Arian's handcuffs, USF President Judy Genshaft fired the rogue professor, citing his arrest and his harm to the university's reputation as grounds. "Dr. Al-Arian," President Genshaft told Associated Press, "has failed to live up to our high professional standards."

Throughout his tempestuous academic career, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has defended Al-Arian's behavior and claimed he deserved to keep his job, the Associated Press reported.

The blogger on the Chronicle of Higher Education's website was filled with outrage at Al-Arian's dismissal. Evidently, a professor's active involvement with a terrorist organization does not transgress the boundaries of conduct permissible in good education.

How have we gotten to this point? While a full answer to that question would consume far too many pages, the short form response is this: in many quarters today higher education is no longer a passionate pursuit of truth, the pedagogical platform from which a citizenry fit for a great republic is launched. Instead, too often and to the nation's shame, educational institutions have lost their way from a higher calling, offering technique without truth, and methods without morals. As the great Southern novelist Flannery O'Connor once lamented, "It is easy to see that the moral sense has been bred out of certain sections of the population, like the wings have been bred off certain chickens to produce more white meat on them." This is a generation of wingless chickens.

If the best and brightest among our nation's youth have difficulty getting off the ground toward ethical flight, it is precisely because many ideologues would have them grounded. In a recent edition of The Hedgehog Review, several academicians and educators debated the question, "What is the University for?" For his part, University of Virginia philosopher Richard Rorty argued that the university must be freed from its responsibility to be a place of character development and moral improvement for students. Rorty contended, "If the students aren't reasonably honest and decent people by the time they hit the university, I don't see that there is much that higher education can do about it." Contending that the value systems of students are already settled by the time they reach their undergraduate years, Rorty sees no point in trying to make a difference. Rorty, the pragmatist post-modern, of course rejects the notion of absolute truth, universal norms, and reason. There is no "mirror of nature," Rorty once famously asserted, against

which human beings can judge themselves. Rorty's comments nonetheless are representative of an epidemic trend in secular higher education. As a result, ethics and other questions of value are consigned to the margins with the "truth" always making its appearance in scare quotes.

But from whence does this antagonism regarding values in higher education spring? It arises from a deep and fundamental cultural presupposition against the possibility of moral certitude, against the notion of deeply held beliefs which are held to be correct and good despite the vicissitudes of human society. The perfect example of this perspective came only weeks after September 11, when Stanley Fish, the infamous dean of the School of Humanities at the University of Illinois, Chicago, stated in an op-ed piece in the New York Times that we cannot make an absolute moral judgment against the 19 hijackers who murdered thousands of innocent civilians, nor should we call our assailants "terrorists." "We have not seen the face of evil," Fish intoned, but rather merely "the face of an enemy who comes at us with a full roster of grievances, goals, and strategies." From Professor Fish's comments, we can only assume that, in his view, all grievances are created equal, and yet none are endowed with any certain, inalienable claim to being right.

Professor Fish's sortie into revisionist history in fact turned out to be nothing more than a flight from reality. After September 11, the American public knew that the fundamental questions of our time are irrepressibly moral, undeniably related to making distinctions between good and evil. Moreover, we have realized that the time has come for clarity. Everything we care about is on the line. As columnist George Will eloquently stated, "People cannot defend what they cannot define."

Many good and faithful men and women remain within the secular university. But the critical need of this day and hour is for colleges and universities common in purpose and united in the mission to provide a context for both academic excellence

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Photo by Jim Veneman

and commitment to values and decency. But the issues are deeper and require more than a general dedication to ethical discussion. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ—as well as the watching world at large—deserve a university committed to the Christian worldview, one which orients its entire program to building up the kind of young men and women who will be culture transformers, leaders of conviction in an age of shifting sand and encroaching shadow. Union University is such a unique place—a proving ground preparing citizens of the kingdom of heaven for outstanding service on planet earth.

Union is an institution on a mission: to train those in its charge to think in Christian categories, and then apply them to every area sphere of activity in the modern world. That mission is the integration of faith and learning, a principle which says that every field of inquiry of path of action may be followed in such a way as to be faithful to God's good intentions for that subject. Union University pursues education in this way because it believes that God is the God of creation. No discipline exists over which he does not hold sovereign control. As the apostle Paul instructed his readers in 2 Corinthians 10:5, "We cast down every high and lofty thing and bring all things under submission to the authority of Christ." As such, the mission statement of this institution reads: "Union University

provides Christ-centered education that promotes excellence and character development in service to Church and society"—Christ-centered education which is excellence driven, people focused, and future directed.

By helping the world to see that medicine, education, or business is best done from the framework of a Christian world and life view, we prepare students to see that Christ is indeed the Lord of all creation and not the fantasy of well-intentioned but misguided dreamers. In essence what I am saying was summed up well by that literary giant C. S. Lewis who once mused: "Christ wants the heart of a child, but the mind of a grown up." Faithful thinking thus results necessarily in faithful service. In the language of the Great Commandment, we want students at Union University to serve God with their minds as well as their hearts. (Matt. 22:37-38)

Union University is about the business of teaching those in her charge to approach their careers and callings from God as if God actually exists. This means we explore what it means to think Christianly about business, journalism, the arts, education, the sciences, and the church. And because this discussion takes place in a Christian environment, we expect our future businessmen and women, journalists, artists, teachers, scientists, and pastors to do work worthy of the highest standards of quality and

excellence. Why? Because our most important audience is God alone. Good work is a form of worship, because God is, in the words of St. Augustine, the one "by whom all things are true that are true, and all things are good that are good."

In these uncertain times, at a key turning point in history, the world calls out for those whose lives are characterized by excellence, those who are prepared to advance the cause of peace, justice, and stability in the world, in Jesus' name. In a period beset with the specter of biological weapons, we must have chemists and those skilled in medicine committed to the art of healing. In an environment where informed news makes a world of difference, we need journalists who know how to get the facts right. In a media saturated by dehumanizing entertainment, we need poets and writers writing soul-enriching literature. To a culture "without hope and without God in the world," we need lawyers, congressmen, and pastors who believe that statecraft is soulcraft, that a nation rises or falls according to the moral outlook of its people. Either God is sovereign or men. We will either be held to account by a personal God who has revealed himself in the Scriptures, or we are alone in the universe. But only one is definitively true—God alone governs the universe. As Abraham Kuyper, that great 19th century theologian who variously served as newspaper editor, prime minister of Holland, and founder of the

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Graham: consider difference Christian education can make

When Jack Graham was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 2002, he issued a call for Southern Baptist churches to plant new schools that would educate students from a Christian worldview. The leader of the nation's largest non-Catholic religious body, urged churches train up a new generation of leaders "who understand their faith, able to communicate their faith and to live their faith in whatever their career or calling."

Graham's call to establish kingdom schools reflects the Southern Baptist Convention's "Empowering Kingdom Growth" or EKG initiative.

Prestonwood Baptist Church, where Graham pastors, is also home to Prestonwood Academy, a Christian school that houses about 1,059 students on its Plano, Texas campus.

And while the SBC president is an outspoken proponent of Christian secondary education, he says Christian higher education should be a major consideration for students.

Graham shared his thoughts about the state of Christian higher education during a recent interview. Following are excerpts from his remarks:

Christian higher education has experienced tremendous growth over the past few years. To what can you attribute these successes?

I am extremely encouraged to see a new kind of Christian university like Union where they are focusing on preparing the next generation for Christian leadership in the marketplace. If our churches are going to be effective in the marketplace of ideas and the community at-large, then the churches must produce Christian leaders and lay leaders. In our own church, so many of our most effective, dynamic church leaders have been trained in

Christian universities. Christian universities like Union are indeed necessary.

There seems to be a greater demand for quality Christian education.

Parents and students are expecting, and rightly so, the highest quality, best education for their children. The bar has been raised for Christian colleges and universities. Many are meeting that standard. The cry of the new century demands that Christian universities step up to the plate and deliver. Christian institutions that are successful are those who can compete at the academic level and prepare students with excellence – not just giving students diplomas. There's an increased awareness that Christians are providing excellence in education.

Is Christian higher education that important to the kingdom of God?

It is vitally important that we educate a generation of new young leaders with a Christian and biblical worldview. Union University is a great example of a university that has established a reputation for equipping students with the word of God and the testimony of Christ so they can make a difference in generations to come. It's very encouraging at Union. If we are going to be salt and light and communicate with the people of this generation, we're going to have to be equipped and prepared – like no other time in history.

Historically, though, some Christian institutions have abandoned their long-held religious heritage.

What makes a Christian school is what is being taught in the classroom. You can have the programming, the chapel services, but if the teacher or professor is not a Bible-believing Christian, whether they are teaching mathematics or agriculture, it's no longer a Christian school. Administrations and boards must be constantly diligent to make sure that what is

being said in the classroom is reflective of the values and vision of a Christian education. We all know lots of schools who have Christian in their name, but they are not. The nature of education is to drift. There must be constant attention given to what is being taught, said and led in the classroom.

What is your vision of a well-rounded education?

The education we give in Christian colleges and universities should be the best math, the best science. The worldview gives that discipline its shape and application for life. The Christian worldview, what Union does, impacts every subject.

What are some thoughts parents and students should consider when selecting a university?

Don't compete with public universities. It's the wrong approach. We need our public schools to do a good job educating, too. We need to be telling Christian parents to pray about where their child goes, consider the difference a Christian education will make. We need Christians prepared at Union University to get on school boards, to get involved in public education in order to reflect the Christian worldview in that setting. unionite@uu.edu

Dr. Jack Graham is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas. You may write to Dr. Graham at unionite@uu.edu.





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Free University of Amsterdam now famously once said, “no piece of our mental world [should be] hermetically sealed off from the rest, and there is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’”

If people cannot defend what they cannot define, then the people need an institution which cares about the definitions. Union is that place. We concern ourselves with all of those cultural products which grip the hearts of human beings whether they be philosophical, technological, or biological; for it is possible for a society to be, as scientist Michael Polyani once described Nazi Germany, both brilliant and bad. Union wants a great host of its graduates committed to a culture which is simultaneously humane and morally clear.


There are three reasons why I believe in Union University.

1. Union is an academic institution with unrivaled leadership and vision. Good schools boast well-prepared faculty prepared to teach and demonstrate scholarship, and showcase impressive programs. Great schools have an administration that possesses the ability to think in strategic terms about the university's distinctive place in the world of higher education. Under the leadership of President David S. Dockery, Union has exponentially increased its national profile, and set itself apart among a handful of elite institutions. Dockery has become a mentor to other presidents, a trustworthy voice and a reliable guide. He is a key leader in an ever-growing coalition of warm-hearted convictional evangelicals committed to cultural renewal.

2. Union is an academic institution where scholarship cares about and for the people it serves. When I was in college, I had good professors who were competent in their respective fields and engaged in the classroom. But the class distinction between faculty, staff, and student was understood. Few professors had an “open door” policy. But I can say after four years of serving at Union that it is a community where faculty, staff, and students work together. Our doors are open. We invite our students to talk with us one-on-one. We know that we are not just preparing competent people in their respective fields. We are growing people. As Alisdair MacIntyre argued in his path-breaking volume *After Virtue*, we do not believe that intellectual intelligence is separable from moral intelligence.

3. Union is an academic community where the intellectual atmosphere is electric. The hallways of this university are not merely routes connecting points A and B. They are passageways to great ideas and inspiring conversation. Recently, I overheard and participated in conversations about the following topics and with the following persons: Dr. Jim Patterson on the persecution of the early church under Nero, seventeenth century Catholic devotional literature with Dr. Gavin Richardson, and exponentials with Drs. Hathcox, Ward, and Baldwin.

During the month of January, the university sponsored a colloquium, open to the public in the city of Jackson, on the subject of Islam. Led by Dr. Ann Livingstone, one of our resident experts in political science, numerous faculty considered various aspects of the mysterious world religion. I reviewed the history and critiqued the theology of Islam, Dr. Fant analyzed its literature, Dr. Jayne considered Islamic cultures, Dr. Padelford the economics of the Arab world, Dr. Van reflected on its architecture.

As high school seniors prepare to embark on their journey into higher education, they must consider the kind of education they want. Parents, what kind of education do you want for your child? Do you want generic or Christ-centered education? Do you want to be able to defend the truth because you can define it? Your choice may well spell the difference between the routine and the remarkable. 

Dr. Thornbury is director of the Carl F.H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership at Union University. Write to Dr. Thornbury at unionite@uu.edu



I join million of others in mourning the loss of Fred Rogers, host of the public television program, “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.” He spoke to children like no one else on TV ever has. Mister Rogers knew his audience and his intent was to communicate, not entertain. And, he communicated beautifully. Children all over America literally run to the television room whenever they hear his quiet tenor voice singing his opening, “It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood, would you be mine, could you be mine?” His run of over 30 years in delivering love and care to children ended in 2000.

What was his secret? How could such an unassuming man, from his cardigan sweaters to his sneakers, be so successful with children? What can we learn from him in this Matrix-age of entertainment? What is Mister Rogers’ legacy?

Fred Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian minister and was once asked about his ministry with children. He said, “What if someone allowed you to have an hour of television every day? Wouldn’t you want to fill it up with something of value?”

Network executives, lend him your ears!

His touching and instantly classic interview with Jeff Erlanger, a child bound to a wheelchair, physically impaired since infancy by the removal of a tumor on his spinal column, brought forth the best in Fred Rogers. The unrehearsed segment was a picture of sincerity, love, and honesty, not pity. It was capped by a duet, Jeff and Mister Rogers, singing “It Is You I Like.” Mister Rogers was the same on television as he was in real life, and children recognized this in him. And loved and trusted him for it.

He showed daily how much he liked

children. Perhaps one of his greatest contributions was the distinction he made between reality and fantasy. His puppets and props engaged children in a world of fantasy. But Fred Rogers always took them on the trolley car back to reality. It was a soft and sensitive reality, however. And, it always seemed to end on a note of emphasis of individuality: “There is no one exactly like you, never has been, never will be.”

The perception that most adults have of Mister Rogers is very different from a child’s view. Adults do adult things: buy houses and cars, have divorces, pay bills, have cynicism. Eddie Murphy’s hilarious skit on “Mr. Robinson” showed how easy a target Mister Rogers was for comedy. After all, comedians do not poke fun at non-icons because they know it is not funny.

But children inhabit a different cognitive and emotional landscape. Fred Rogers was one of the few communicators who spoke to their world of childhood. The best teachers and parents seek to temporarily inhabit that landscape—and, conversely, the worst educational results come from adults who utterly fail to conceive that the two worlds are very different.

So, what can we learn as parents and teachers from Mister Rogers? Here are a few ideas:


- 1.** Be ourselves. Be real. Be the same genuine person every day, everywhere.
- 2.** Communicate that we care in all the small ways: look children in the eyes, smile, talk softly. Prize children as though there is no one like them.
- 3.** Try to walk a mile in children’s shoes—we may need sneakers—by empathizing emotionally with those we are charged to teach.

4. Separate reality and fantasy for children. Media and movies obscure the line for us as well as children, only more so for children. Limiting children’s exposure to electronic entertainment will help.

5. Do not teach young children as though they are adults in their cognitive ability. They simply cannot grasp symbols and abstractions. Give them the concrete material, the subject matter they can grasp with their sensory powers.

6. Use music to teach. Brain-scientists say that music primes the neural pathways. Use it to communicate not entertain.

7. Be firm in expecting responsible behavior. The neighborhood is dependent upon our teaching each generation anew.

We in education, at home and in the classroom, will miss Fred Rogers dearly, but let us all honor his legacy by sharing his secrets. 

Dr. Rosebrough is dean of the School of Education and Human Studies & professor of education. You may write to him at unionite@uu.edu





CHAD FARNETH

Sophomore Chad Farneth graduated high school from Pulaski Academy, a prestigious private school in Little Rock, Ark. The 19-year-old Unionite said his parents maintained the philosophy that if they put their money into a good high school education, it would reap later benefits. “It worked out pretty well,” said Farneth, who hopes to teach at the university level.

Farneth said his private school education prepared him for the rigorous academics at Union. “My high school did a very good job with having us write a lot,” he said. “We were basically expected to turn in college work in high school. It definitely prepared me for Union.”


“With my major I do a lot of writing and the style and techniques I learned in high school to write longer papers has been very helpful,” he added.

When it came time to select a university, Farneth said Union University was not an option – because his sister, Jessica ('02) attended the school.

“I tried to do everything I could to stay away from Union because my sister was here. I came up and visited and I just loved it. The people attracted me here. I learned to respect the academics and teachers and how well they present what they have. They do a great job.”

Farneth said that Union is “excellence driven, especially in academics.”

“At Union you have a little more freedom to learn,” he said. “At Union there is no problem tackling controversial topics as long as you approach it from the right direction. I’m learning how to integrate faith and learning.”

As an ambassador for the university, Farneth tells prospective students to visit the university. “I tell them that our faculty are very good and will meet their needs as a student,” Farneth said. “You get the level of (education) that you would have at a state school, but you also get the family feel of a small liberal arts college.” 

The Journey to Union University

Union University is home to a diverse population of collegians who have chosen to pursue their education at a Christian institution of higher learning. From public school graduates to homeschoolers, the university community reflects the best and the brightest from some of the country’s strongest secondary academic institutions.

Following are profiles of three Union students from very different high school backgrounds, explaining why they chose to become Unionites.

Photos by Jim Veneman



LAUREN OLDHAM

Lauren Oldham’s journey to Union University started at Westview High School in Martin, Tenn. The daughter of a Southern Baptist pastor, Oldham said the transition from a public high school to a Christian university was different. “Faculty being interested in how academics relates to Christian world view was totally new to me,” she said. “It was neat to be around people who are intelligent and who are also Christians.”


The Union sophomore said her public school education prepared her for the fast pace of university life.

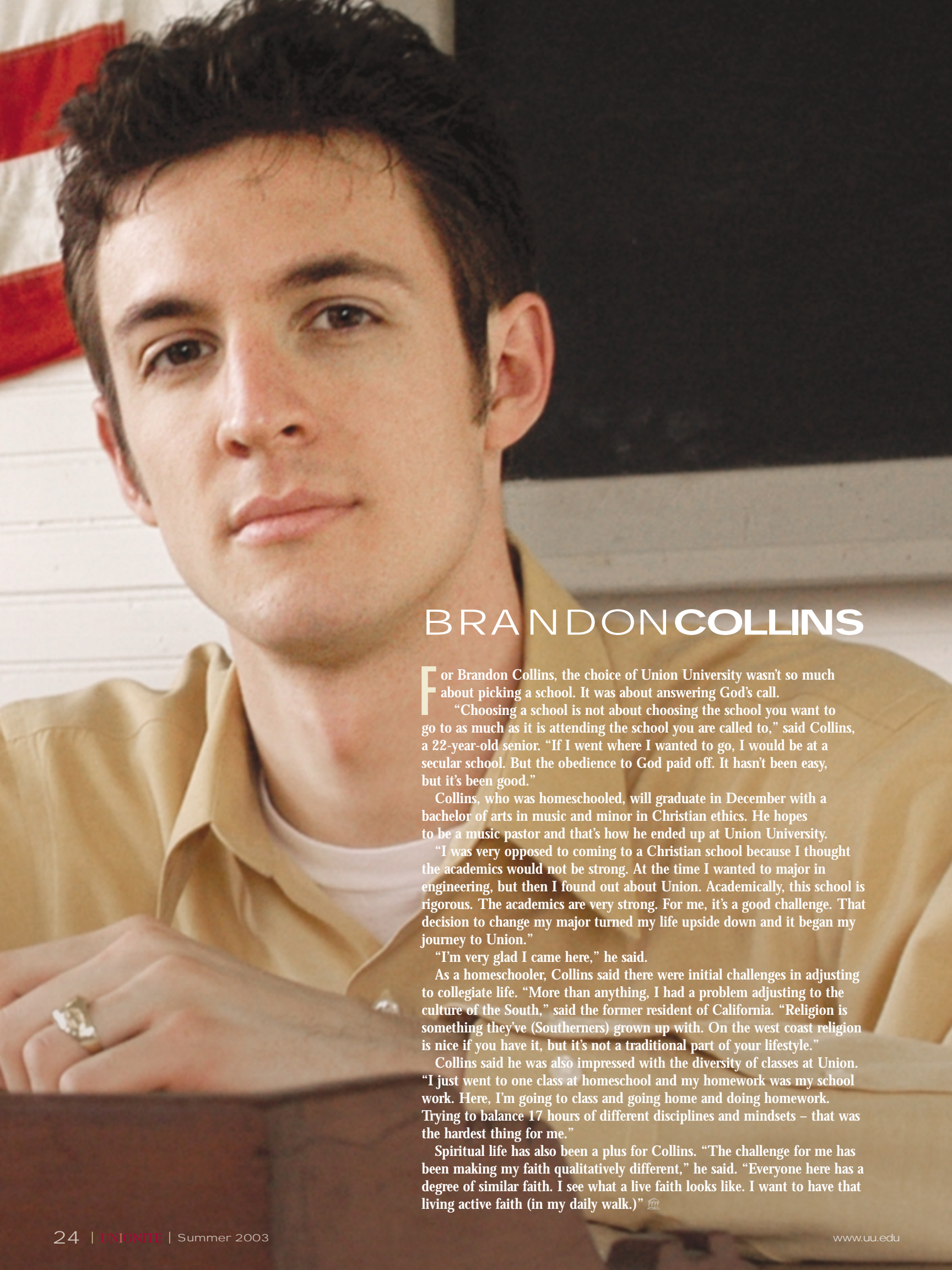
“At my particular school, the English program was well developed,” she said. “We also had advanced reading and a lot of discussion groups in our class. It taught us to deal with issues.”

Being a Christian in a secular environment, Oldham said she learned to “stand up for what you believed in.”

Oldham said social differences also exist. “The places you go and the things you do for fun are totally different. Even Greek life, you don’t have to worry about alcohol or bad activities.”

Academically, though, Oldham said that Union is challenging. “A lot more study is required and a lot more individual work,” she said. “It’s difficult to maintain all your ministry opportunities, social things, and keep those academics in balance. It’s definitely worth it. You feel like you’ve worked for that ‘A’. It’s rewarding.”

Oldham said her journey at Union has been spiritually rewarding, especially the university’s GO trips. “To see the darkness and hardness of people’s hearts and to experience that through school mission opportunities (is unbelievable),” she said. “I’ve been able to get out of Martin (Tenn.) and experience the world and experience without being afraid of sinful places – going into those places knowing you are the light.” 



BRANDON COLLINS

For Brandon Collins, the choice of Union University wasn't so much about picking a school. It was about answering God's call.

"Choosing a school is not about choosing the school you want to go to as much as it is attending the school you are called to," said Collins, a 22-year-old senior. "If I went where I wanted to go, I would be at a secular school. But the obedience to God paid off. It hasn't been easy, but it's been good."


Collins, who was homeschooled, will graduate in December with a bachelor of arts in music and minor in Christian ethics. He hopes to be a music pastor and that's how he ended up at Union University.

"I was very opposed to coming to a Christian school because I thought the academics would not be strong. At the time I wanted to major in engineering, but then I found out about Union. Academically, this school is rigorous. The academics are very strong. For me, it's a good challenge. That decision to change my major turned my life upside down and it began my journey to Union."

"I'm very glad I came here," he said.

As a homeschooler, Collins said there were initial challenges in adjusting to collegiate life. "More than anything, I had a problem adjusting to the culture of the South," said the former resident of California. "Religion is something they've (Southerners) grown up with. On the west coast religion is nice if you have it, but it's not a traditional part of your lifestyle."

Collins said he was also impressed with the diversity of classes at Union. "I just went to one class at homeschool and my homework was my school work. Here, I'm going to class and going home and doing homework. Trying to balance 17 hours of different disciplines and mindsets – that was the hardest thing for me."

Spiritual life has also been a plus for Collins. "The challenge for me has been making my faith qualitatively different," he said. "Everyone here has a degree of similar faith. I see what a live faith looks like. I want to have that living active faith (in my daily walk.)" 

Too Commanding a Call to leave unheeded

By Carla Sanderson

I am an individual with an unwavering commitment to Christian higher education that spans 20 years. More precisely, I am an educator who holds an unwavering commitment to Union University that spans from 1982 to the present. I believe in what we do at Union and that what we do here matters.

I recall early on standing before a class of nursing students in classroom D-3 in the Penick building (our only building then) introducing them to a new disease called AIDS. I compared the disease to a new disease that emerged during my nursing school days, Legionnaire's Disease, and told them that soon medical science would understand cause and effect, would identify through culture and sensitivity testing a treatment regimen and would, soon, eradicate this strangely-acquired and confusing syndrome.

I recall early on standing before a class of nursing students in classroom D-3 in the Penick building (our only building then) introducing them to a new disease called AIDS. I compared the disease to a new disease that emerged during my nursing school days, Legionnaire's Disease, and told them that soon medical science would understand cause and effect, would identify through culture and sensitivity testing a treatment regimen and would, soon, eradicate this strangely-acquired and confusing syndrome.

Across the years since I have thought often about the HIV lessons I have taught and the HIV patient encounters that have taught us, student and professor together administering care to acutely ill and dying men, women and children. The lessons were exceptionally successful teaching-learning experiences that went far beyond showcasing the scientific method or rationalizing treatment regimens, as intriguing and challenging as those lessons were. HIV was one of my first teaching-learning opportunities. It instructed me as the teacher and forced me as a Christian to look deeper, think more carefully and respond more rightly to hard issues and to the unknown. It showed me the significance of the Christian teacher role in higher education. What caring for HIV patients taught me back then is exactly what I have been trying to teach my students ever since, that in the midst of the confusion, fear and uncertainty that this life promises to provide, we have a source of Truth that brings clarity of thought to confusion, peacefulness and calm to fear and hope in a certain future


to hopelessness in an uncertain today. That source of Truth is Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

The subject matter has changed over these 20 years. When organ transplantation emerged during the late 1980s as a viable option for many rather than an experimental trial for a few, students and I spent long hours considering the value and cost of human life and the effort that should be made to save it. We prepared ourselves to support the patient's right to decide end-of-life care as Advanced Directives came into focus in the early 1990s. In the late 1990s we focused our attention and planning on issues of health and safety in the face of violence among teenagers in our schools. Today we explore SARS and the threat of bio-terrorism, readying ourselves to be a part of the solution when that threat becomes reality. If I am able to serve 20 years more, the subject matter will change even more rapidly than we now envision. Yet, the Truth that bears on the subject matter I love to teach has not changed over these 20 years, nor will it change in the years to come, no matter what the current focus or threat. The students I will teach at the end of my career will hear the same application of Truth that was relevant to the HIV issue at the beginning of my career.

I have chosen to make my life's work Christian higher education at Union University. I don't find myself in a classroom nearly as often these days but rather across the table from prospective faculty members who are interested in making their life's work Christian higher education. Rather than searching for God's Truth as it relates to the subject matter in which I have prepared myself, I am searching for faculty who will do the same in their subject matter. I am searching for ways to support our current faculty and staff by creating the environments they need to foster their own exceptionally successful teaching-learning experiences

in an ever-evolving faith-based, academic learning community.

I expressed to nursing students in 1983 a confidence that AIDS would be a short lived uncertainty. That confidence was misguided. But preparing young men and women to live and serve in an uncertain world by challenging them to explore how our Christian faith can assist them in looking deeper and thinking more carefully and responding more rightly is not misguided. In fact, Christian higher education is well-advised and wise. I have seen its fruit in the lives of Union University graduates, not just as they are graduating but as their lives are being played out over the years since graduation. I call it a competitive advantage in the pursuit of genuine living, living whole and fulfilled lives of service that bring glory to God.

That's why I believe in what we do here at Union and why I believe that what we do here matters. What are my thoughts on being an educator in Christian higher education? Too significant a responsibility for the complacent, too commanding a call to leave unheeded. 

Dr. Sanderson is provost of Union University and a professor of nursing. You may write to Dr. Sanderson at unionite@uu.edu.



120 students commit to mission projects

Union University traveled across the nation and the world to spread the Gospel of Christ through word and deed. One hundred twenty students participated in Global Opportunity trips sponsored by the university. Seven teams hit the road over spring break and ministered in a variety of ways – from construction projects to prayer walking.



Union University student photographer Justin Veneman traveled to a number of national project sites and captured images of Union students hard at work. His photography is featured in this essay.

GO Memphis

Lezli O'Neal Sullivan holds two of the children in day care at the Salvation Army's Purdue Center of Hope while Julie Propst reads them a story.



GO Illinois

Casey Stafford and Lance Parrott spread gravel on the parking lot at University Baptist Church.



GO Illinois

Union students Heather Moellman (left) and Meredith Erlandson (right) pray with an Eastern Illinois University student (center)



GO Memphis

Andrea Hudgins sorts shoes at the Salvation Army's Purdue Center of Hope



GO Battle Creek

The GO Battle Creek team cleans up a Habitat for Humanity work site.





Brad Spencer

*Collierville, Tenn.
freshman chemistry & biology major*

Describe yourself in three words:
Compassionate, loyal, trustworthy

**Describe Union University
in three words:**
Stimulating, close-knit, unique

Who is your favorite person?
My parents, Curt and Kathy Spencer

What do you value?
Family, God's Word, honesty, kindness

Last book you read:
"The Case for Christ"

In your own words:
I am here because it is where God wants me to be; I especially feel like He has put me here in order to serve others. The atmosphere here at Union is incredible; the faculty is always here to help whenever I need it, and the support of attending school with many fellow Christians is amazing. The love that Christ has poured on others is evident in the lives here.

The classes here are challenging and allow me to truly learn, not just attempt to breeze through for a grade. Upon coming to Union, I have felt that God has put me in many positions to help others and to serve them.

At Union, people want to get to know you. They talk to you. This is a place where I can get involved and know people.

About your major:
The chemistry dept. is a really good department. Some of the classes are pretty difficult, but my professors are great. They are not only willing to help you out. I am definitely excited about the new science building. I appreciate the fact they are taking time to make sure everything is perfect with the building. It's going to be incredible – new equipment, new facilities. I'll probably live in that building by my senior year.

Clubs and Activities:
Freshman Council, Student Activities Council, Sigma Zeta, Inner-City Outreach ☰

Photo by Jim Veneman



University photographer recounts war memories

By Jim Veneman

Editor's note: Jim Veneman, director of visual communication, spent 10 days covering Operation Iraqi Freedom for Baptist Press, the national news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Veneman, and former Union staff member Sara Horn, were embedded with troops aboard the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman, an aircraft carrier in the eastern Mediterranean. His photographs appeared in Baptist Press as well as Union Today. Following, are excerpts from an article Veneman penned for The Cardinal and Cream.

"No sir, we'll just get a little wet," was the response when I asked the airman if the stormy conditions would impact flight operations that night. He could easily have been a student at Union, but his career path had taken him a different direction. He was a member of the crew aboard the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman, an aircraft carrier in the eastern Mediterranean.

While still on dry land just hours before heading for the ship, we were given a hint of the demands we would encounter during this experience. During a final press briefing with Navy personnel we were asked to fill out and sign several documents. The first was related to our physical condition. Basically, if we had anything much worse than a hangnail we

could forget about setting foot on that ship. Later that day we found out why.

Although the Truman is quite large, it is still fairly compact when 5,000 men and women are placed there to live and work. We witnessed a whirl of activity operating with precision, each person playing a vital part in accomplishing the ship's assignments.

Shortly after we arrived we were taken to the room that would become our newsroom. It was quite a distance from our starting point and the public affairs officer leading the way moved like a frightened deer in a Tennessee forest. The ladders up, the ladders down, the small hatchways, and the similarities around every turn began to add up. We were not only exhausted by the time we arrived, but we were totally lost.

By the time we departed the ship we had learned how to use the major thoroughfares but were still asking for directions to many of our destinations. We found out early that the question would always bring the same response, "Sir, please follow me." This was typical of our acceptance aboard this ship. In a place where we could easily have been seen as a nuisance, we were treated royally.

In an unexpected way, I was given the chance to enter into a daily relationship with a part of the ship's personnel. The bag carrying the equipment I was to use for downloading and editing photographs did not make the journey to the ship. It had taken a detour in Detroit. In order to meet the planned deadlines, I went to the

ship's photography department and asked for help. By the time we left the ship, I felt almost like a part of their team. I was given the opportunity to see a part of the Navy from the inside. It was like attending a workshop with twenty-four instructors and one student, me.

The stories we attempted to capture ran a little deeper than most of the fact-driven headlines of the day. We looked not only at the work being done on this vessel, but at the lives behind the operation. Within this floating community were people no different than anywhere else, even at Union. They had great days and some not so great. They had friends on the ship, but missed home so much. Some had joined the Navy to get away from something, only to find it had followed them there. Many were looking toward bright futures, while some still wondered where life would lead. Most were on a search.

Just like here in Jackson, if one wants to be involved in faith-based activities, there is always something happening. On this ship are Bible studies, prayer groups, praise teams, choirs, an "Experiencing God" class, Sunday school, three services on Sunday, and a chapel left seldom empty.

Aside from scheduled opportunities, we found within this naval island a growing number whose Christianity was having an impact. Their faith is not flamboyant or for show but very real. It was through them that we discovered our true story. ☰

Thinking Christianly about personal finance

By Howard and Debbie Newell

The stock market has been in general decline for more than three years. Based on this performance, is now the time to sell stocks and buy other types of investment products?

The first principle of investing is to have a well-defined purpose for investing. Examples of well-defined purposes include: retirement, children's education, an adequate emergency fund, and replacement of your current vehicle. Investing is about preparing today for future-year needs; investing is about accumulating dollars which will be used to meet anticipated future-year needs. A well-defined purpose is essential in order to determine (or at least estimate) the total dollars which need to be accumulated and to combat falling in love with accumulating money because no well-defined purpose established the priority and boundary for this accumulation.

The second principle of investing is to establish--based on your well-defined purpose--the time period during which your investing will take place. This time period is called your investment horizon. Your investment horizon begins when you start the accumulation process and concludes when you expect to begin withdrawing dollars from your accumulation to meet your well-defined purpose or need, e.g., retirement, children's education, emergency, or vehicle replacement.

Armed with solid information relating to purpose and investment horizon, you are prepared to carefully select your investment products. Selecting investment products prior to a well-defined purpose and prior to an appropriate investment horizon is an exercise without direction or, biblically speaking, is an exercise in poor financial stewardship.


What are your investment product options and which of these menu choices are designed to perform best during relatively long investment horizons and

which of these menu choices are designed to perform best during relatively short investment horizons? Your investment product choices include--but certainly are not limited to--stock-based investment products (e.g., individual company stocks and stock-based mutual funds) and bond-based or debt-based investment products (e.g., individual company bonds, government bonds, bond-based mutual funds, certificates of deposit, and EE Savings Bonds).

Stock-based investment products are--by their design--inherently much more volatile compared to bond-based and debt-based investment products. More volatile means that stocks are more subject to both up (called "bull") and down (called "bear") market fluctuations. Since March 2000, we have been experiencing a fairly significant--by historical standards--bear market.

However, if we examine the evidence over a much longer period of time--for example the 77 years from 1926 through 2002--we learn that the rate of return on large company stocks has been almost twice the rate of return on corporate and government bonds. Stated differently, for these 77 years--which include The Great Depression, World War II, and The Cold War--stocks have outperformed bonds almost two to one. Perhaps more significantly, if we break these 77 years into a series of multi-year intervals, we learn that the stock market has experienced a bear performance about eleven percent of the time during any 5-year period, about three percent of the time during any 10-year period, but never during any 15-year period between 1926 and 2002. Although historical evidence never guarantees future performance, these historical results--which include some very bad as well as some very good periods in U.S. history--should encourage us to expect that, within the next few years, the stock market will recover and even exceed its March 2000 high.

Therefore, if your stock-based investments have been carefully chosen, if your stock-based investment portfolio is well-diversified, and if your investment purpose corresponds to a longer-term purpose (e.g., retirement or children's education), we can think of no reason to sell stocks and buy other types of investment products. In fact, our thinking is just the opposite. Today--when stock prices are very low (i.e., when stocks are "on sale")--probably represents a good opportunity to purchase carefully-chosen stock-based investments and to build your well-diversified stock-based investment portfolio but if--and only if--your well-defined purpose for investing corresponds to a longer-term investment horizon.

Advice: Always build your well-diversified investment portfolio consistent with your well-defined investment purpose and corresponding investment horizon. 

Dr. Howard Newell is professor of business administration at Union. Debbie Newell is an assistant professor of accounting. The Newells are co-authoring a book on personal finances. Send your questions about personal finance and the promotion of Christian thinking in personal finance to The Unionite, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, Tenn. 38305-3697 or e-mail at unionite@uu.edu.



Are you guilty of crimes against prepositions?

By Gavin Richardson

When I was a graduate student at the University of Illinois, I took a history and structure of the English language course from the highly regarded linguist Dennis Baron. Yale had recently published his Grammar and Gender and The English-Only Question: An Official Language for Americans? Even the well-known language curmudgeon William Safire was known to consult Baron from time to time. Baron was also a regular on a local radio call-in show dealing with grammar and other language matters. Sometimes callers would phone in genuinely seeking advice, but more often than not the callers would resemble linguistic undercover agents, phoning to turn in their fellow workers, family members, students and teachers. Their crimes? Trafficking in split infinitives, or misplaced modifiers, or the dreaded sentence that ends in a preposition--the correction of which prompted Sir Winston Churchill's legendary reply, "This is the sort of English up with which I will not put."

The callers would desperately try to persuade Baron to share their horror, but Baron, an author whom Publishers Weekly once called "maddeningly noncommittal," would simply shrug his shoulders and talk about linguistic change. What is non-standard today, so the argument goes, may be perfectly acceptable tomorrow. In other words, don't get so uptight about dangling participles! The callers would hang up, spectacularly disappointed, sadder but wiser.

These sorts of exchanges raise an important question: Why do some of us, like Baron's callers, cultivate an almost moral attachment to linguistic correctness? Perhaps an apologist for the grammatically outraged would say that the language police are on the front lines battling the pernicious influence of those beret-wearing deconstructionists who view language as an arbitrary system of signs in which there is no stable fit between signifier and

signified, between verbum and res. Such a pitched battle in the culture wars is too large to be waged in these pages. However, I doubt that most language police officers have their origins in such rarefied philosophy.

Let's face it; rules provide comfort, and observing Standard English helps us communicate effectively. And in some cases the language police do indeed protect and serve, reminding us that our speech helps construct our identities in the presence of job interviewers, loan officers and blind dates. But to possess a sense of moral superiority because of language correctness is to lose sight of linguistic change--an unavoidable fact since Babel. In 1747 Samuel Johnson began work on the definitive English dictionary of his age, prompted in part by what he felt was a misuse of language leading to its degeneration. However, after seven years of trying to stabilize English, he grew more aware that change was unavoidable for any living language. Johnson still produced his magisterial dictionary in 1755, and though it did tend to stabilize erratic spelling and some definitions, it was also devoted to reflecting the language of a given time, not necessarily constructing it. Johnson developed a greater appreciation for what Geoffrey Chaucer knew in the 1380s. In his epic love poem Troilus & Criseyde, Chaucer writes:

Ye knowe ek that in fourme of speche
is chaunge


With-inne a thousand yeer, and
wordes tho

That hadden pris now wonder nyce
and straunge

Us thenketh hem . . .

Three hundred years later Alexander Pope was to echo Chaucer's words in his Essay on Man. Speaking of the contemporary poet John Dryden, Pope writes,

Our sons their fathers' failing language see,

And such as Chaucer is shall Dryden be.
Chaucer, Pope, and Johnson offer us the lesson that today's grammatical or stylistic solecism may be tomorrow's Standard English. While we should strive to master the Standard English of our time, we must be mindful that what we pride ourselves on now will be "nyce and straunge" to future generations. In short, unless they recognize that the English language is a living organism, today's language police gunslings run the risk of shooting themselves in the foot. 

Dr. Gavin Richardson is associate professor of English. If you have language issues or questions you would like to see addressed in future columns, please email unionite@uu.edu.



STUDENT PROFILE

Jacquene Winfield

*Graduated '02 from Union's Launch program
bachelor of science in organizational leadership*

Describe yourself in three words:
Honest, considerate, Christian

Describe Union University:
Prestigious, Christian

Why did you choose Union?
I chose Union because it was a Christian-based school with a very strong curriculum.

Who is your favorite person?
Mother, son, and the Apostle Paul

What do you value?
I value my relationship with Christ

Who influenced you the most at Union University?
The Launch staff

Family:
Son, Kevin - 15

Last book you read:
"Jesus Freak"

In your own words:
Deciding to go back to school to earn a degree was not an easy decision. I was working full-time in payroll at Delta Faucet and a full-time single parent. I've always had the desire to be the best that I could be no matter how hard I had to work at it. When the opportunity to go to Union came about I was very excited. I was fortunate enough to work at a company that paid full tuition; the only expenses out of my pocket were for books. I talked with my mother about going back

to school and she said she would help me with my son as much as she could. I knew that getting my degree would only help me to advance my career.

The biggest obstacle for me to overcome was getting enough credits to start the Launch Program. The Launch Staff was very helpful. I was accepted into the program and for the entire 18 months I was taking two to three classes at a time. This was very hard and there were times when I felt I couldn't do it, but I prayed continuously about it, and I always found the strength to keep on. I was blessed to be able to graduate on time.


After graduation, I updated my resume and sent a copy to ARJ Manufacturing, a company in Jackson, Tenn. Two weeks later I received a call from their human resources manager and he asked me if I would be interested in an accounting position. I went for the interview and the first thing they questioned me about was my degree from Union and the type of classes I took. After the interview I went home and by that time I had a message on my answering machine from the same company, asking me if I could come back the same day for a second interview. Once again I was asked questions about my degree from Union. The next day I received a phone call from the human resources manager offering me the position. I accepted and am now working as an accounting specialist at ARJ Manufacturing.

I know that having my degree has enabled me to advance in my career. My intentions are to go back to Union to earn

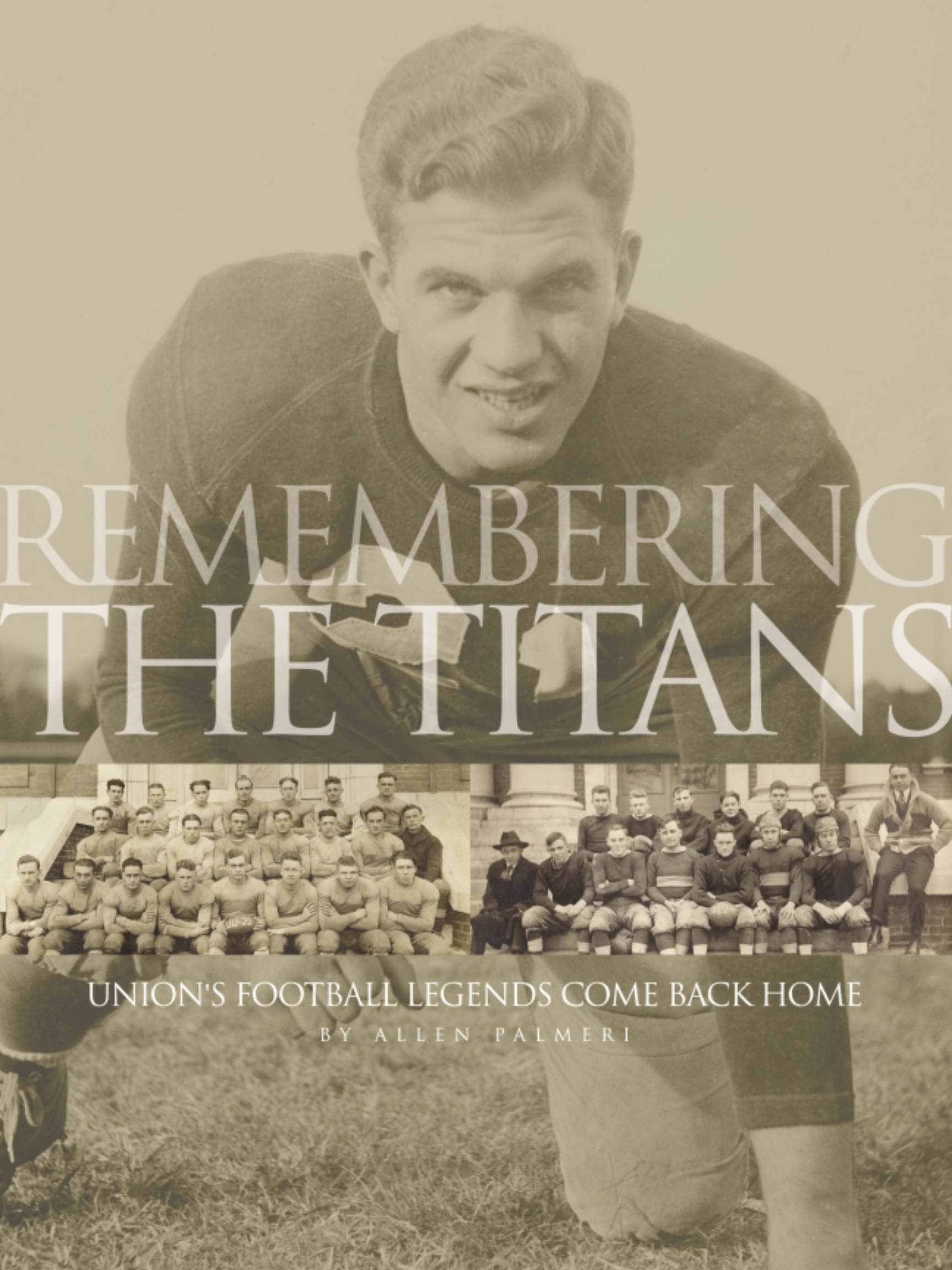
my MBA. When it comes to education I believe a person should go as far as they can. I know that with God on my side all things are possible.

What was the hardest thing about completing your degree?
Trying to work full-time, be a full-time mother and make time to do schoolwork

Advice for someone contemplating going back to school?
If you have the desire and the means to go back then do so. No matter how hard it gets just continue to pray and stay on the same path. It will pay off in the long run. Always keep in mind Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me"

What's the best thing about having a degree from Union?
Knowing that no matter where I go I can take what I've earned from Union with me. 

Face Value celebrates the staff, faculty and students whose contributions define the Union University community.
Portrait by Jim Veneman



Near the end, when victories were as hard to come by as creeks in the desert, Robert Jelks learned to appreciate every gridiron success as head coach of the Union University football team.

In 1951, the Bulldogs won one game. In 1952, they won three. In 1953, Union chose to disband its football program.

Jelks, who also played for Union back in the 1930s, has stood tall through the years as the last head football coach the Bulldogs have ever had.

"That was my life," said Jelks, 88, who now runs an insurance agency with his son in Paris, Tenn. "That's how much I enjoyed it."

Union's teams were more successful when Jelks was a player back in 1936 and 1937. Times had changed by the time he took over as coach.

"I enjoyed coaching the boys," he said. "I had a bunch of fine fellows playing. We just didn't have the size. All these teams that we used to beat when I was playing - like Murray State, Middle Tennessee, East Tennessee State, Florence, Alabama - a lot of those teams, we just wore them down."

Jelks had been a high school coach for 14 years before taking over the helm at Union. He remembers some of that high school coaching experience coming into play in a 40-0 defeat of the University of Tennessee-Martin.

"That was the first one we won the second year I was at Union," he said. "Union was playing against some boys I had coached up at Grove High School in Paris. There were about five of them on that UT team. They were going to take us in, but they didn't have that pleasure."

On the very first play, David "Squirt" Miller ran about 55 or 60 yards for a touchdown, and the Bulldogs were off to the races. "They were expecting us to shift into a single wing, which we had used at Grove High School, and we ran a T formation on them."

Another satisfying victory in that last season of football came against Georgetown, Ky., 14-6. But the most satisfying win still has a special place in his heart -- a win that made a little bit of history.

"The one I enjoyed the most was beating Southwestern out of Memphis, which is now Rhodes College. We had never beaten them in the history of Union until that night. We laid it on them 35-0."

Jelks and another former Union player, 87-year-old Roy Thompson, remember when legendary coach Paul W. "Bear" Bryant came to Union to get his start as an assistant coach under A.B. Hollingsworth. Bryant, who was only one year removed from playing in the Rose Bowl for the University of Alabama,

knew beyond a doubt that he had to rely on his blockers. Once, against a Middle Tennessee team that outweighed Union along the line, he experienced a career highlight.

"I remember in that particular game I was able to score on a quarterback sneak," Thompson said. "There was a left tackle named R.L. Ammonds. In the huddle after I called the play, Ammonds says, 'Follow me.' So I stepped to the left and took the ball -- it wasn't but a yard or two -- and R.L. took me right on in for



Coaching tips

Coach Jelks, the last coach of the Bulldogs, takes a moment to share coaching tips with Chad Williams, a tackle and the team's co-captain. The other two gentlemen are not identified. *Photo courtesy of University Archives*

conducted some spring training drills in 1936 at Union before going back to Alabama to serve as an assistant coach under Frank Thomas. Bryant went on to put together a career coaching record of 323-85-17, with six national championships.

"I have said many times that I was probably the smallest second-string quarterback that Bear Bryant ever coached," Thompson said.

At 5-foot-5 and 135 pounds, Thompson

a touchdown."

Thompson just missed being a part of the Union team that went down to Mexico City to play a game in 1934. His older brother, Francis, was part of the team that beat the University of Mexico 32-6 before 10,000 fans.

Back then the Bulldogs weren't afraid to take on the larger schools. Jelks, who played both ways as an end, remembered holding Ole Miss scoreless in the first half before "they poured it on us in the second

more>

half.” Thompson recalled a trip to Nashville to play Vanderbilt in the first game of the year.

“I’m sure that it was Vanderbilt’s warm-up game that they used to try to have, and at halftime we held them with one touchdown, I believe, or maybe we were tied with them,” Thompson said. “Coach was real pleased with our playing there, but they came back and scored two or three touchdowns in the second half. That was real nice playing in that big stadium. We thought we were head and shoulders above anybody.”



Bulldogs from the past
Teammates from the 1917 Union University football team gather for an official team picture on the old campus in downtown Jackson. Note the leather helmets worn by the two players on the front row. *Photo courtesy of University Archives*

The tradition of Union playing schools that were noted for playing on the top level of college football continued into the 1940s, when end and three-year co-captain Buford Matlock played.

“I really enjoyed it,” said Matlock, who started every game but one from 1946-1949, “We had a good group of players, but the schedule was a little hard back then. We had to play larger state schools like Chattanooga, Mississippi Southern, Louisville, teams like that, so we didn’t have quite as good a record as we would have liked to have had.

“One year against Memphis State, they could have broken the record for scoring in a year if they made 40 something points, but we held them down to something like 25. They didn’t make it.”

His teammate for three of those seasons,

Bill Gregory, remembered how a lot of positive things came together in 1947, when the Bulldogs finished 5-5.

“It was just determination, I guess. And we had fun.”

Gregory was a 6-foot, 150-pound end who remembers the day when Chattanooga “beat the stew out of us” 35-0. Other than that, though, the Bulldogs were competitive. One game at Mississippi Southern stands out as an example.

“The week before they had beaten Alabama, and the week before that they tied Auburn,” Gregory said. “Of course we were far outclassed, but luckily it just poured down rain that night. I mean we had a cloudburst. They beat us by three touchdowns.

“The rain was so bad and it got so muddy, the only way you could tell one team from the other was we had red helmets and they had black ones. You tackled every black helmet you saw. Literally the referee had to hold his foot on the ball to keep it from floating off. That’s how deep the water was on the field. It rained the whole time that we played.”

Jelks, Thompson, Matlock and Gregory were used to one-platoon football, when a player had to stay on the field and learn whatever skills and techniques it took to play both offense and defense. Today’s brand of college football seems foreign to them.

“It was played by men back then,” Gregory said. “Now it’s played by a bunch of kids. They don’t even have to be in shape to play ball now because they just play one way. They go out and play three plays then come in and sit down in front of a fan.”

But some of Union’s former players complimented the modern starts of the gridiron.

Added Thompson, “The boys now are so much larger, and they’re in excellent shape, hard hitters. I’m not sure that I could play today. However, I don’t think that I ever came up on an opposing player that I thought that I couldn’t take down with a block. I never did fear them, anyway.”

The level of seriousness that has come to characterize the major college football of today just was not there in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. Union’s football players showed up and played hard, but if they lost it was not the end of the world.

“Back then, you didn’t have all the assistant coaches, and you didn’t have films of the game to study, the opponents’ films and things like that that they have today,” Matlock said. “It was more fun back then because there wasn’t as much pressure put on the players to win.”

Pressure was World War II. When players like Matlock and Gregory made it back alive, they were thrilled to be able to play a game like football.

“We just went out and had a big time,” Gregory said. “It wasn’t a life-or-death thing. Most of the boys who played when I did were all veterans. We’d been in the Navy, the Army and the Marines for three or four years before we went to Union. I went right out of high school into the Navy. I was in the Pacific for two years, so coming back playing football was a breeze.”

Football has become much more sophisticated in the 21st century, particularly in the passing game. Union’s offense in the late 1940s consisted mainly of the single wing and double wing formations, which emphasized trickery in the backfield. Ends like Matlock and Gregory were mostly there to block.

“We had maybe four or five pass plays,” Gregory said. “If we threw 10 times a game it was unusual. Now they throw every other down, so it’s a different game. The plays are so much more complicated now because they’ve got specialists playing at every position.”

Thompson remembered back to the day when the university installed lights on the field. It took the Union backs some time to adjust. “We thought it was really a disadvantage to try to receive punts in the lights that we had, because the ball would go up out of sight and then appear to be falling.”

Thompson has 64 reasons to look back fondly on his days at Union. Those are the years that he has been married to Verna, whom he met on campus. Retired now in

SPORTS

Ripley, Tenn., he remembered how much of an impact his days in the Union football program have had on his life.

“Staying with it and knowing that things didn’t come easy, that you had to work hard and you had to train for it, you had to put your mind to it,” he said. “We did this, and I think that has followed throughout life. If you are assigned a job, stick with it and work at it until you get the job done to your satisfaction.”

Matlock, who is retired in Jackson, said that football made his life a lot easier. “I learned to get along with people, learned to take the low spots as well as the high spots in life.”

Gregory, who owns a sign painting business in Jackson, looks back on “the appreciation of playing with the people we played with, the friendships we’ve kept up through the years, and just the camaraderie, I guess.”

Pre-game jitters turn into record night for Union hitter

By Dan Morris

Brandon Jackson simply could not believe it.

The Union University freshman was nervous before the Bulldogs’ baseball game April 14 against Lambuth. It was significant enough that Union was facing its cross-town rival. But the game was at the Razz Classic in Savannah, Tenn., where Jackson formerly played baseball at Hardin County High School.

With numerous former teammates and local fans watching, Jackson produced a record-tying night, easily his best of the season.

Batting clean-up, the 5-foot-10, 175-pound Jackson was 4-for-5 with three home runs, including a grand slam, and seven RBIs. And he did it in seven innings, since Union run-ruled the Eagles, 15-4.

“It was awesome,” Jackson said. “I was kind of nervous before the game started so I’m glad I had a good night.”

Good, indeed. His three home runs and

Camaraderie would be the right word to choose. Union’s football players used to have to maintain a pretty high degree of closeness when it came to one particular piece of equipment.

“We had probably 45 or 50 players on the team and we only had about 25 or 30 helmets,” Gregory said. “They didn’t spend a lot of money on equipment. Now, by the time these kids put their gloves on and their elbow pads on and their shin guards and everything else, they can’t play ball. They’ve got too much stuff on. They can’t even move.”

The recent reunion of former Union football players at the university was deeply appreciated by a distinguished group of gentlemen who are now more than 50 years removed from their playing days.

“I thought it was great,” Jelks said. “It was so good to see so many of those boys I

had the privilege of coaching that I hadn’t seen since those days.”

“Very nice,” Thompson said. “We appreciated being recognized as old football players. That was something that we never in our lifetime expected to be called back at this late age and recognized.”

The special nature of the reunion hit home with Gregory.

“I thought it was nice,” he said. “That was real good. We have had several football reunions, but this was the last one, I guess, so it was probably the best.”

Palmeri is the former editor of Share the Victory, the national sports magazine for Fellowship of Christian Athletes. You may write to him at unionite@uu.edu.

seven RBIs both tied a single-game record at Union. Roger Cook last hit three homers last year against Martin Methodist. Barry Bishop last had seven RBIs in a game in 1983, when Union went to the NAIA World Series. And the grand slam was Jackson’s second of the season, tying him with two others, Bishop in 1983 and Brian Pace in 1998.

Jackson flied out his first at-bat, but his second appearance produced the grand slam.

“It was a 2-2 pitch,” Jackson said. “I was looking for a curve because I had just fouled off a fastball. He hung the curve up there, and I hit a line-drive over the centerfield fence. I was just proud I actually hit one hard because I had been struggling.”

Jackson’s third at-bat was a solo home run to centerfield. Then he hit an RBI single up the middle and followed that with a solo homer to right.

“It was great,” said Jackson, who is the

team’s second-leading hitter with a .392 average. “I just started hitting clean-up (No. 4) last weekend. It’s nice hitting behind Roger (Cook). He’s probably the best hitter I’ve ever played with.”

Jackson added a stellar play at second base when he went deep in the hole behind first base to catch a grounder and throw the runner out.

“I think that’s going to be a pretty special night for him for a long time to come,” Union coach Andy Rushing said. “He’s a little guy with pop in his bat. When we signed him, I said he was the best high school hitter out of this area since Jeff Wyatt. And Brandon has proven me correct.”

Dan Morris is the sports editor of The Jackson Sun, where this column first appeared. You may respond to the writer at unionite@uu.edu.

Henson named NAIA Player of Year

Union University guard, Jessica Henson has been named by the NAIA Womens Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) as the State Farm Player of the Year. Henson was also selected to the WCBA Kodak All-American Team. She adds this to her first team All-TranSouth selection from earlier this month.


Henson, a native of Bradford, Tenn., leads the Lady Bulldogs in scoring with 17.2 points per game. She is also averaging 5.3 rebounds, 3.4 steals, and 3.2 assists per game. She was named the conference player of the week once this season. Henson ranks first in the TranSouth in three-pointers made per game at 3.03 (100 made in 33 games) and second in the league in steals per game at 3.4 (112 in 33 games). Henson also ranks fourth in three-point percentage at .376 (100-266) and fifth with her 17.2 points per game. 



Photo by Jim Veneman

Successful softball season ends at World Series

Union University's softball team was eliminated from the 2003 NAIA Softball World Series as they fell 3-2 to the University of Mary (N.D.). The Lady Bulldog ended another stellar season with an overall record of 45-13.

During the season they captured the TranSouth Conference regular season and tournament championships, the NCCAA MidEast Region Championship, NAIA Region XI Championship, and earned the No. 7 seed in the national tournament.

Looking ahead, the future appears to be good for the Lady Bulldogs as they are returning all but one player for next season. Catcher Megan Quarry is Union's lone senior. The pitching staff of Leah Gronberg (24-8) and Mary Kosco (21-5) is also returning. This junior and freshman duo posted an ERA of less than one for the season.


Freshman outfielder and leadoff hitter Holly Haycraft set a new record at Union for stolen bases in a season with 44. She is just 19 away from the career mark of 63. Union's top three run producers are Christina Johnson, Amy Mejia (both of whom will be seniors) and Jackson native Jessica Kee. Kee earned a starting role at third base this season as a freshman. 



Photo by Jim Veneman

HOME COMING 03



Photo by Jim Veneman

Reagan Carfield crowned Homecoming Queen

Reagan Carfield, a senior psychology major, was named Union University Homecoming Queen Saturday, Feb. 15. She received her crown from Union President David S. Dockery during ceremonies at Homecoming 2003.

Carfield, from Paducah, Ky., was elected by the student body and presented during halftime of the Union Lady Bulldogs basketball game.


"It is an incredible honor to become a part of this tradition," Carfield said. "It was a joy to see some of Union's history through the eyes of the alumni recognized during homecoming, and I am humbled to have a small place in that history."

The daughter of Greg and Deanna Bazzell, Carfield plans to serve in missions to Africa upon her graduation. After her missions work, she will pursue a graduate degree in counseling. As a student, Carfield has participated in Life Groups, Klemata, Rounders and the Chi Omega Sorority.

Carfield was elected Miss Union in the fall of 2002.

Also representing the class of 2003 were Amy Edge, a digital media studies major from Memphis, Tenn.; Rachel Loveless of Jackson, Tenn. a social work major; and Heather Vaughn of Anna, Ill. majoring in learning foundations.

Laura Lee Moore, a public relations major from Covington, Tenn. represented the class of 2004.

East Canton, Ohio native Sarah Anderson, a nursing major, represented the class of 2005, and Annie Ross, an education major from Anna, Ill. represented the class of 2006. 

40'S FORTIES

Dorise Turner Haynes ('47) retired in 1990 from the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Her address is 1211 Jefferson Davis Drive, Brentwood, TN 37027.

50'S FIFTIES

Ruth Azbill Billings ('58) recently retired after working for 35 years in education at the Humble Independent School District in Humble, Texas. Her address is 7511 Pine Cup Drive, Humble, TX 77346.

Jo Anne L. Hopkins ('57) was chosen as teacher of the year of Hunt Primary School for 2002-2003, and she retired in May 2002 after teaching for over 38 years in the public school systems of North Carolina, Mississippi and Georgia. Her address is 614 Forrest Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

James L. Redwine (attended 1949-51) recently authored a book on toy banks. He has retired from the Department of Defense after 32 years of service. He served in the Air Force in the Korean War. He graduated from Trinity University in 1956, and he received two degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, an M.R.E. in 1958 and an Ed.D. 1967-69. His address is 6940 Lake Valley Drive, Florissant, MO 63033.

Sandra Andrews Robertson ('59) and her husband, Dr. William Robertson, cruised to Antarctica in January. They have three sons; two are majors in the Air Force and Army and the third is an engineer with Weeks Marine.

Keith Wilson ('51) has retired and now serves as associate pastor at Crestview Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn. He and his wife Ludie live at 7188 Butternut Drive, Memphis, TN 38133. Their email address is featherston2@juno.com.

60'S SIXTIES

Thomas E. Elam ('69) retired from Eli Lilly and Company in February after over 23 years of service. He has returned to teaching and is now Associate Lecturer in Economics at the Indianapolis branch of Indiana University. He is also an Adjunct Fellow of the Center for Global Food Issues, a project of the Hudson Institute. His address is 3825 Constitution Drive, Carmel, IN 46032. His email address is tomelam@iquest.net.

Sharon Fletcher Emery ('69) returned to school and completed her nursing degree after 23 years of teaching public school music. She is employed as a registered nurse for Southern Seven Health Department in Vienna, Ill., and she is the minister of music at First United Methodist Church in Vienna. Her address is 125 Pond Creek Lane, Burnside, IL 62967. Her email address is SEpianoplayer47@aol.com.

THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW...



Back in 1968 these four young ladies took the stage at Union's All-Sing showing that Unionites are still kids at heart. Can you identify the four ladies in this photograph? Send your answer to Unionite, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, Tenn. 38305. Individuals who correctly guess their identities will be applauded in the next edition of the magazine. *Photo courtesy of University Archives*

Members of Zeta Tau Alpha belted out a musical tune at Union's annual All-Sing, held during 2003 Homecoming festivities. Pictured above are Jamie Phillips, Amanda Raley and April Stout. *Photo by Lindsay Stavish*

Kathryn Daws Gardner ('68) became a realtor associate at the Quail Hollow office of Crye-Leike Realtors. Her son John is a first year medical student at the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences. Her office phone number is 901-747-4007 and her email address is jazzwoman1@aol.com.

David Gray ('68) retired after 33 years of teaching and coaching at Norris City High School. He was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in April 2001. He and his wife Joyce live at 201 Barnes St., Norris City, IL 62869. Their email address is djgray@shawneelink.net.

Mary Ann Melvin ('62) and her husband Ron are the Park County, Colo., chairpersons for U.S. Senator Wayne Allard's reelection campaign. Both serve on the Park County Republican Central Committee, where Mary Ann is the secretary. She also serves as secretary for the 60th House District Central Committee. The couple lives in rural Colorado. Their address is P.O. Box 104, Guffey, CO 80820. Mary Ann's address is silvercloud95@hotmail.com.

Ronald Rogers ('60) retired as director of missions at Prince George's Baptist Association in Lanham, Md. He also served for 33 years on the North American Mission Board. His address is 10 Forest Edge Cove, Jackson, TN 38305. His email address is ron@bellsouth.net.

70'S SEVENTIES

Julie Freeman Heyman ('78) received a master's degree from Hunter College in New York City and studied at the Juilliard School there. She now lives in Memphis, Tenn., where she teaches voice lessons to 27 students per week. Her address is 147 S. Reese, Memphis, TN 38111.

Denise McCarty ('73) was inducted into the Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame last year for her accomplishments

as a preps basketball coach in Florida. She retired from coaching in 1992 and now serves as the assistant principal of safety and security at West Orange High School in Florida.

Wanda Toombs Patrick ('77) is currently Admissions Coordinator for the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in Memphis, Tenn., where she has been for the past 18 years. Wanda has been married to Bob Patrick for 18 years and they have three children; Robert, 22, Amanda, 12, and Ashley, 11. They are also proud new grandparents of Robert Dalton Patrick, age 7 months. Her email address is wpatrick@utmem.edu.



Janis B. Truex ('70) recently completed the educational level of "Master's Degree + 45." She is a school counselor at Alexander Elementary School in Jackson. Her address is 150 Plainsfield Pl. Jackson, TN 38305.

80'S EIGHTIES

Karen Smith Brown ('84) received an M.B.A. in the Executive M.B.A. program at Emory University in Atlanta in May 2001. She currently works as mobility services product manager at Lucent Technologies, Inc., where she has been employed for 14 years. Her address is 339 Highland Park Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242. Her email address is ksbrown@lucent.com.

Kelly Campbell ('83) is currently Missions and Ministry Coordinator at Chilowee Baptist Association, and he also serves as Appalachian Regional Ministries Coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He and his wife Karen recently relocated, and their new address is 935 Grandview Drive, Maryville, TN 37803. Kelly's email address is kelly743@bellsouth.net.

Gary (Ronnie) Gibbs ('89) married Margaret Ellen Martin March 24, 2001, at Temple Baptist Church in Old Hickory,

Nashville Chamber honors Alum Fred Harris

From demographic expert and psychologist to business consultant and politician, economic development veteran and Union University graduate Fred Harris has donned many hats in his efforts to bring new companies to Nashville.

Harris, who graduated from Union in 1960 with a degree in business and economics, recently retired as vice president of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Harris served as director of industrial development and is credited with bringing thousands of new jobs to the state capital.

More than 200 people turned out to honor Harris at his retirement party, including Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell.

Harris' first major economic coup upon joining the Chamber--the successful bid to lure Nissan to Smyrna in 1980--still shines among his greatest professional achievements. "If Fred hadn't been leading the team, we would not have gotten Nissan," observed Eddie Jones, former Chamber president and editor of the Nashville Banner. Jones, who recruited Harris to the Nashville Chamber after 10 years in economic development in West Tennessee, says Harris decided to woo Nissan's Japanese contingency since the company's domestic site team had close ties with the governor of Georgia.

On a memorable summer evening, Harris' wife, Laura, prepared sushi for a group of Japanese businessmen, after which they all went out on the golf course to catch lightning bugs. "They don't have lightning bugs in Japan, and the clients were fascinated by them," Jones recalls. Laura also has ties to Union University. She worked in university relations in the late 1960s. [uu](#)

This story first appeared in the Business Nashville magazine.

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Alumni Awards announced at Homecoming 2003

Union University recognized six outstanding individuals during the annual Alumni Reunion Luncheon, held in conjunction with Homecoming 2003 festivities. Those honored include Russell Wayne Mayfield, Jane Betts, Kevin Troy Sheilley, and Wayne and Greta Pearson.

Russell Wayne Mayfield, who attended Union during the 1940's, received the Distinguished Service Award. Mayfield is retired from a 51-year family medicine practice and resides in Bells with his wife Carrie. The award is based on service to mankind and/or to Union University by an alumnus of the university.

Betts ('74), registrar for the university, received the Distinguished Faculty/Staff Award. Betts has also served as records clerk and assistant registrar at Union. The


award is a salute to long and meritorious service to Union University by an employee.

Theresa Luna ('79), received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. A high school teacher, Luna resides in Jackson, Tenn. with her husband Tony. The award is based on distinction in one's profession and for bringing honor and recognition to Union University through that profession.

Sheilley ('94), received the Outstanding Young Achiever Award. Sheilley, the executive director of "Team Taylor County" lives in Campbellsville, Ky. with his wife Lisa and their two sons. The award is presented to an individual, age 35 or younger, who shows a record of significant accomplishment in professional life and for service to Union University or the world.



The Pearsons, from Powell, Tenn. received the Honorary Alumnus/Alumna Award. The award is presented for outstanding service to the university by one who had not attended Union.

The Pearsons began supporting Union 25 years ago. "We decided that Union University had similar beliefs, ideas, focus and commitment to serving our Lord and training others to serve Him as we had," Pearson said. "We thank God for leading us to Union University." 

Tenn. He also adopted his stepson, Andrew Ashe, 5. On Aug. 30, 2002, they had a son, Isaac Alexander, who weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches long. Ronnie is now Director of Software Development at Equinox Information Systems in Madison, Tenn. Their address is 733 Charlie Gann Drive, Old Hickory, TN 37138. Ronnie's email address is ronnie.gibbs.@worldnet.att.net.

Steve Maroney ('87) has been honored by the Republican National Committee for outstanding volunteer work on behalf of the Republican Party and President George W. Bush. His address is 34 Yorkshire Cove, Jackson, TN 38305.

Roger Poindexter ('88) and **Pat Poindexter ('86)** recently adopted two babies from an adoption agency in Lynchburg, Va. Morgan was born Dec. 22, 2002, and Ryan was born Jan. 20, 2003. Their address is 645 McMurray Drive, Nashville, TN 37211. Their email address is rogerpat@aol.com.

Greg Robinson ('85) has been named Manager of Federal and International Government Programs for Freightliner LLC. He has lived in Portland, Ore., since 1999 but will relocate to Charlotte, N.C. He and his wife Melanie have three children, Courtney, 11, Landon, 10,

and Haley, 9. Their address is 17304 Cambridge Grove, Huntersville, NC 28278. Greg's email address is GregRobinson@Freightliner.com.

Barry Schultz ('88) was recently honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Baptist College of Health Sciences. Schulz is an associate professor of mathematics, algebra, statistics and research methodology. He was the first recipient of this award.

90'S NINETIES

Kirsten Wolfe Bergkoetter ('94) recently moved to Freeburg, Ill. Her new address is 8309 Peabody Road, Freeburg, IL 62243. Her email address is kaybee94@yahoo.com.

Elyse Cullum Bogner ('92) resides with her husband Gil in Greensburg, Pa., where she is the director for the seventh year for Camp Allegheny, a Salvation Army Camp which specializes in camps for under-privileged children from the Pittsburgh area. Gil is a professor at St. Vincent College at Latrobe, PA. Elyse's address is 912 Grandview Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601, and her phone number is 724-837-3509.

Mark Douglas Butler ('97) is the new executive director of Life Care Center of

Bruceton-Hollow Rock, a skilled nursing center in Bruceton, Tenn. His address is 40 Joyce Drive, Jackson, TN 38305. His email address is markbutlr@aol.com.

John Campion ('98) has started his own accounting and Internet services firm at www.turtlebay.biz. He and his wife Dawn have relocated to Hanover, Pa. Their address is 71 Menlena Circle, Hanover, PA 17331. John's email address is john@turtlebay.net.

Lorrie Dixon ('94) and her husband Greg are now living in Rogers, Ark., where Greg serves as worship and discipleship pastor at Grace Point Church of Northwest Arkansas. Lorrie teaches private piano and voice lessons. They have a five-year-old daughter named Hannah. Their address is 2906 Parkwood Drive, Rogers, AR 72756. Lorrie's email address is lorrie71@yahoo.com.

Chris Hartfield ('96) and **Sarah Ferris Hartfield ('98)** currently live in Keller, Texas. Chris serves as pastor of student ministries at Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas. They have a son, Caiden Pace, who was born August 30, 2001. Their address is 5012 Bayview Drive, Keller, TX 76248.

Tara Laine Hoffman ('95) has moved her home office to central Florida, where she works as a Web design consultant for Sedgwick CMS, Inc. Prior to moving, she spent three years as a technical writer for Sedgwick CMS in Memphis, Tenn. Her husband Earl is the network communications manager for the Orange County Library System. Her address is 4036 Greystone Drive, Clement, FL 34711, and her email address is the_redhead@hotmail.com.

Julie Davidson King ('93) and her husband Charlie currently live in Palm City, Fla., where Charlie has become the director of instruction of the Golf Academy at PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Springs. They have two children, Kathryn, 4, and Brian, 3. Their address is 4434 SW Long Bay Drive, Palm City, FL 34990.

Sam Mizell ('96) lives in Nashville, Tenn., where he has a career publishing deal at BMG Music Publishing. He recently finished major renovation on a professional recording studio. His address is 918 Carolyn Ave., Nashville, TN 37216. His email address is Wyzell@comcast.net.

Robert Montgomery ('90) and **Jennifer Montgomery ('88)** currently live in Louisville, Ky., where Robert is the minister to students at Melbourne Heights

Baptist Church. He will begin work on his M.Div. at the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky in Lexington in January. Their address is 3718 Stanton Blvd., Louisville, KY 40220. Their email address is bertmont@juno.com.

LaRae Nichols ('94) received her M.S.N. from Union's Germantown campus in 2001, where she currently is an adjunct faculty member, teaching R.N. to B.S.N. students in the computer lab. She is the international publicity chair for the Nu Lambda Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. Her address is 710 Walnut Bend Road North, Cordova, TN 38018. Her email address is lrnichol@midsouth.rr.com.

Jeramee Rice ('99) has been awarded an MSc. in Comparative Politics from the London School of Economics and Political Science with the rank of pass with Merit. His address is 8009 Bellona Ave., Towson, MD 21204. His email address is j.c.rice@lse.ac.uk.

Jennifer Smith ('97) and her husband Chris recently moved to Hermitage, Tenn. Jennifer is an 8th grade language arts teacher at Dalewood Middle School in Nashville, Tenn. Chris has a job with CNA in Nashville. Their address is 4100 Central Pike, Apt. 2, Hermitage, TN 37076. Jennifer's email address is jenmsmith7@yahoo.com.

2000'S TWOTHOUSAND'S

Bill Donatucci ('00) is currently living in Atlanta, where he is a district sales manager for TAP Pharmaceuticals, with his wife Sandy and their baby girl, one-year-old Ashley. Their address is 1986 Blue Heron Way, Lawrenceville, GA 30043. Their email address is sbtucci@aol.com.

Joann Green Marlow ('00) and her husband Scott are working in St. Petersburg, Russia, with Campus Crusade for Christ for the entire year of 2003. They are leading a team that will do groundwork for other visiting ministries and are beginning a long-term ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ in St. Petersburg. Their address is 3816 Bow Creek, Plano, TX 75025. Joann's email address is Joann324@yahoo.com.

MARRIAGES

Rob Braese ('01) and **Lori Powers Braese ('02)** were married Dec. 21, 2002, in Dyersburg, Tenn. They now live in San Gabriel, Calif., where Rob is a graduate student at Fuller Theological Seminary. Their address is 215 E. Live Oak, Apt. H, San Gabriel, CA 91776. Their email address is rolobraese@hotmail.com.

more>

Carter named to bank board




Gary Carter ('75), senior vice president for business and financial services at Union University was recently appointed to the board of directors of First South Bank.

Carter graduated from Union with a BS in business administration and is a certified public accountant.

"Gary's business and accounting background will serve us well as we continue to grow our bank in Madison, Haywood, and Hardeman counties," said Ed Woodside, chairman of the board of First South Bank. "We are honored that a man of his

moral character and business background has agreed to serve on our board."

Carter and his wife, Regina, have four daughters. They are members of Englewood Baptist Church where he serves as a deacon and Sunday School teacher.

He is also a member of the West Tennessee Chapter of the Tennessee Society of CPAs, the National Association of College and Universities Business Officers and the Association of Business Administrators of Christian Colleges. 

Alum named to USA Today team



Theresa Luna, ('79), was selected as a member of the USA Today 2002 All-USA Teacher Team. Luna, who teaches world history at Jackson Central-Merry High School in Jackson, Tenn., was chosen because of her love for children and her dedication to making a difference in their lives.

She was one of 18 teachers chosen nationally from hundreds of nominees. As a team member, Luna's school received \$2,500.

Luna said she was surprised by the announcement.

"I know so many teachers just at my school who have dedicated their lives to helping children and who are doing such a wonderful job," she said. "Any one of them earned this honor just as much as I did."

Luna teaches history, contemporary issues, and coaches the Academic Decathlon in grades 9-12 at Jackson Central-Merry. Her Academic Decathlon teams have won six consecutive state championships and the 2002 team placed 13th in the nation.

"I walk in the classroom the first day, look at all the children, and wonder how God will use me in their lives," explains Luna. "The important thing is to learn to know them as individuals and encourage them to be the most they can."

She said her life was changed as a student at Union, where her educators taught that every person has worth, a concept she is trying to pass on.

"I came to Union as a backward, shy and underachieving student," Luna said. "I will be forever grateful to my teachers there who believed in me and helped me succeed. Their confidence in my abilities changed my life, and all I want to do is pass that on to my students." ☺

Jason Davis ('96) and Heather Englert Davis ('98) were married Sept. 7, 2002, at the Carnegie Center for Arts and History. They currently reside in Jackson, Tenn. Heather is a registered nurse in neurology at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. Jason is a research analyst for Johnstone and Company Real Estate Appraisers. Their address is 717 Walker Road, Jackson, TN 38305.

Martin R. Estes ('02) and Erin Kathleen Foley Estes ('01) were married June 8, 2002, at Sand Ridge Baptist Church in Lexington, Tenn. Martin serves as minister to children and youth at First Baptist

Church of Adamsville, Tenn., and Erin works as a school-based case manager in the McNairy County school system. Their address is 207 N. Magnolia St., Adamsville, TN 38310. Their email address is lessermary@hotmail.com.

John Guthrie ('02) and Amber Jewell Guthrie ('01) were married Sept. 1, 2001. They now live in Memphis, Tenn. John is working toward his doctor of pharmacy at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, and Amber teaches English and theatre at Craigmont High School. Their address is 184 Glen Park, Apt. 3, Cordova, TN

Texas Alums turn out in Dallas-Fort Worth



A large group of Union alums and their families turned out to fellowship at the annual Dallas-Fort Worth Alumni Chapter. The group meets on the first Saturday after Labor Day at the home of Thad and Alicia Wilkerson Smotherman ('63). Pictured in front of their Dallas-area home are Texas Union grads.



John David Whiteside ('02) visits with Union University President David S. Dockery during the Dallas-Fort Worth Alumni Chapter gathering.



Lindsey ('02) and Jay Stephenson ('02), and Gina ('96) and Frankie Bowling attended the Dallas-Fort Worth Alumni Chapter gathering.

Edwards called to active duty

Marine Corps Cpl. Jeffrey W. Edwards, ('01), was called to active duty in support of the global war on terrorism. He is assigned to Company "K", 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division, based in Memphis, Tenn. Edwards graduated from Union

University with a BA in Political Science. He is the son of Phyllis K. Adair.

The 4th Marine Division is the largest ground combat element in the Marine Corps and is comprised of approximately 22,000 Marines based in 42 states. The unit's primary mission is to provide

trained combat and combat support personnel and units to augment and reinforce the active Marine component in time of war or national emergency.

Correspondence can be sent to Edwards at: 423 Karen Drive, Bolivar, Tenn. 38008. ☺

38018. Their email address is superedna@hotmail.com.

Denny Hall ('98) married Elizabeth Rae Turner Dec. 29, 2001, at Union Grove Baptist Church in Beech Bluff, Tenn. He currently works as quality/training specialist at Haywood Company in Brownsville, Tenn., and Elizabeth attends the school of cosmetology in Lexington, Tenn. Their address is 35 R Rossfield Cove, Jackson, TN 38305. Their email address is dendawg@bellsouth.net.

Leigh Andrea Cantrell Harrison ('94) married Jimmie Carl Harrison Sept. 18, 2002. She is currently a homemaker. She will return to graduate school at University of Tennessee in August. Their address is 228 Harrison Road, Michie, TN 38357. Their email address is jleighbharrison@mynationlink.net.

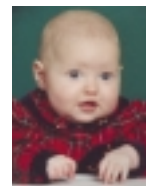
Emily Herring Neyman ('00) married Matt Neyman June 1, 2002. They live in Winfield, Ala., where Matt is the youth and education minister at First Baptist Church, Winfield. Their address is 600 Meadowood Ave., Winfield, AL 35594. Emily's email address is missiongirl78@hotmail.com.

Molly Gentry Stratemeyer ('01) married Josh Stratemeyer Oct. 20, 2001 in Metropolis, Ill. Their address is 1804 Baynes St., Metropolis, IL 62960. Molly's email address is mjgs79@hotmail.com.

Travis Wales ('02) and Rebekah Coleman Wales ('01) were married Nov. 16, 2002, in Dickson, Tenn. They now live in Nashville, Tenn., where Travis is a networking field engineer with Education Networks of America, and Rebekah works as a ministry assistant at the Tennessee Convention office. Their address is 7441 Hwy. 70 South, Apt. 403, Nashville, TN

37221. Rebekah's email address is bek1978@hotmail.com.

BIRTHS



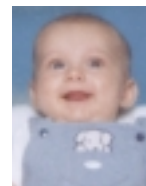
Doug Forbes ('99) and Christy Lawson Forbes ('99), had a girl, Abigail Kaylee, born July 8, 2002. She weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces and was 19 inches long. The Forbes family resides in Vandalia, Ill. Their email address is dcforges@juno.com.



Donna Reasons Fuller ('95) and her husband Brian had a son, Nathaniel Drake Fuller, born July 31, 2002. He weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 20 inches long. Brian is the youth minister of Paoli United Pentecostal Church. Donna is a private piano teacher. Their address is P.O. Box 73, Paoli, OK 73074. Donna's email address is dcforges@juno.com.



Carma McGee ('93) and her husband Todd had a girl, Sarah Elizabeth, born Aug. 6, 2002. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21 inches long. Carma is a partner at the law firm of McGee and Dennis in Savannah, Tenn., and Todd is a teacher and coach at Adamsville High School in Adamsville, Tenn. Their address is 825 Church St., Savannah, Tenn., 38372. Carma's email address is ctmcgee@onemain.com.

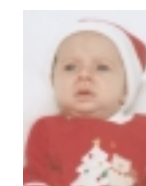


David Munday ('98) and Waverly Foropoulos Munday ('98) were married Jan. 9, 1999. David is currently a third year medical student at Kirksville College

of Osteopathic Medicine. Their son Titan David Munday was born June 6, 2002. Waverly is staying home with Titan after working for four years as a nurse. Their address is 425 Cedar Street, Jackson, MO 63755. Their email address is waverlyrn@hotmail.com.

Tami Bogue Schrock ('97) and her husband Tim had a son, Taten Eugene, born May 25, 2002. He weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces. Tim is a salesman for Garden Homes, and Tami is a Creative Memories consultant. They live in Edwardsburg, Mich. Tami's email address is tami5353@aol.com.

Philip A. Smith ('02) and Jessica Rogers Smith ('02) had a son, Jeffrey Michael, born July 6, 2002. He weighed 9 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20 inches long. The Smiths' address is 6780 Greenfield Drive, Paducah, KY 42003. Their email address is jessicaar@hotmail.com.



Jack Carlton Smothers ('84) and Cristy Criger Smothers ('88), had a son, Jonathan Noah Smothers, born Nov. 1, 2002. He weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 inches long. Jack and Cristy work at the Citizens Memorial Hospital in Bolivar, Mo., where Jack is the chaplain and Cristy is project coordinator. Their address is 1163 E. 390th Road, Bolivar, MO 65613, and their phone number is 417-777-5030. Jack's email address is jsmoth@citizensmemorial.com and Cristy's email address is csmoth@citizensmemorial.com.

Gina Vinson Thompson ('94) and her husband Kenny had a boy, Dalton Chase, born Oct. 11, 2002. They also have a daughter, Shelby Nicole, 4. Kenny is a maintenance planner at General Cable

in Jackson, and Gina is a homemaker. Their address is 1774 Hwy. 138, Mercer, TN 38392.



Ronda Trent ('94) and her husband Ben had twins, born Dec. 11, 2002. Joseph Benjamin weighed 3 pounds, 12 ounces and was 16 inches long, and Rebekah Anne weighed 4 pounds and was 15 inches long. Their address is 9105 Peace Street, Keller, TX 76248.



Alicia Barger Weaver ('98) and Chad Weaver had a son, Brock Hayden Weaver, born Aug. 24, 2002. He weighed 9 pounds, 11 ounces and was 22 inches long. Alicia and Chad live in Louisville, Ky., where they have opened a commercial cleaning business.



Tom Weiler ('88) and his wife Millie welcomed the arrival of a daughter, Leanne Elizabeth, born Aug. 12, 2002. She weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long. The Weilers also have a son, Tommy, 8. Tom is a project control specialist for SAIC in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Millie is a homemaker. Their address is 2368 Connors Creek Circle, Knoxville, TN 37932. His email address is tmtweiler@juno.com



Jason Wilder ('94) and his wife Julie had a son, Jacob Alexander, born Dec. 28, 2002. They also have a daughter, Amanda, 2. Jason is currently minister of education at Midway Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., where he has served for over two years. His email address is midwaybaptist@yahoo.com.



John Windham ('00) and **Cathy Vance Windham ('99)** had a son, Noah Vance, born May 8, 2002. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces. John is an enrollment counselor at Union University, and Cathy is working toward an M.A.Ed. at Union. She expects to graduate in August 2003. Their address is 50 Burlington Cove, Jackson, TN 38305. John's email address is jwindham@uu.edu.

Chris Winkleman ('01) and **Laura Winkleman ('01)** had a girl, Sophia Nicole, born Aug. 15, 2002. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21 inches long. They live in Meridian, Miss, where Chris is the associate pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, and Laura is the interim minister of music. Their address is 65 CR 486, Meridian, MS 39301. Their email address is winklemans3@aol.com.

MEMORIAM

Kathryn Birmingham Gallagher ('19)
June 23, 2002 Nashville, Tenn.

Leila Virginia Muzzy ('29)
Feb. 21, 2003 Fulton, Mo.

Geneva Cyril Robertson ('29)
March 7, 2003 Maury City, Tenn.

Beth Diffie ('34)
Feb. 10, 2003 Jackson, Tenn.

Elizabeth S. Elias ('34)
May 2, 2002 Osceola, Ark.

Mary Gates Craig ('35)
March 16, 2003 Jackson, Tenn.

Juanita B. Diamond ('36)
Dec. 13, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

Earl J. Tapley ('36)
March 22, 2003 Crestview, Fla.

Francis L. Thompson ('36)
Dec. 5, 2002 Ripley, Tenn.

Harold "Pete" Williams ('38)
Feb. 22, 2003 Jackson, Tenn.

Eva Allen Carman ('39)
Sept. 16, 2002 Savannah, Tenn.

Dr. Franklin B. Keathley ('40)
Aug. 5, 2002 Lowell, N.C.

Mary Sue Jenkins Yarbrough ('41)
Dec. 25, 2002 Collierville, Tenn.

Edward Woods "Sonny" Dunagan ('42)
Nov. 22, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

"He's always drawn," said Gillette, "but his talent went unnoticed at first. He eventually started to paint, beginning last Christmas."

"I would describe his art as what most artists strive to do," he said. "He just paints, it's that simple. He's not worried about anything being wrong - whatever he does is perfect enough for him."

Gillette returns for art exhibit

An art exhibit featuring the works of Roger Sullivan prompted a visit from Union graduate Jonathan Gillette ('02). Sullivan is Gillette's uncle.

This is the second time Sullivan's works have been on display in the Union Gallery. His works first appeared during the senior exhibition of his nephew Jonathan Gillette last spring. In January Sullivan's works, which feature paintings of farmhouses,

animals and objects, were on display alone. Gillette describes his uncle's work as "childlike" and "beautiful." Sullivan paints from that perspective due to developmental disabilities resulting from a childhood bout with Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

Sullivan's artistic talents caught the attention of his nephew, who encouraged and helped him develop as an artist.

Dorothy Wilkinson ('42)
Dec. 3, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

Oliver C. Cooper, Jr. ('44)
March 15, 2003 College Station, Texas

Fannie White Bancroft ('45)
Aug. 5, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

Dr. Charles Lee Turner, Sr. (attended 1946-48)
Oct. 25, 2002 Chattanooga, Tenn.

Robert K. Elam ('48)
July 30, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

Dr. Robert Stanworth ('49)
Dec. 20, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

Musette Reasons ('50)
March 7, 2003 Maury City, Tenn.

Sula B. Greer ('51)
Dec. 30, 2002 Friendship, Tenn.

Edward Leo Martindale, Sr. ('51)
March 7, 2003 Jackson, Tenn.

Virginia A. Arnold ('52)
Jan. 17, 2003 Huntsville, Ala.

Lola "Virginia" Petty ('52)
June 14, 2002 Lexington, Tenn.

Dorothy Ann Carlson ('53)
Jan. 11, 2003 Occoquan, Va.

Hadie Kendrick Hunt ('53)
March 5, 2003 Jackson, Tenn.

Susan Adams Etheridge ('55)
March 23, 2003 Jackson, Tenn.

Sybil Marbury Williams ('55)
Dec. 22, 2002 Bells, Tenn.

Billy Arthur Haynes ('59)
Dec. 8, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

Dorothy "Dot" Sisco Kautz ('61)
Dec. 17, 2002 Virginia Beach, Va.

Gwendolyn West McKissack ('61)
Jan. 7, 2003 Bartlett, Tenn.

Donald H. Evans ('62)
March 6, 2003 Redlands, Calif.

Martha Alberta Newsom Parks ('63)
Oct. 6, 2002 Brownsville, Tenn.

Sue Crouch Shufelt ('63)
Sept. 21, 2002 Walworth, Wis.

LaRue Faye Campbell ('66)
Jan. 7, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

Mary Matheson ('67)
Aug. 25, 2002 Manchester, Tenn.

Yvonne Marie Frazier ('69)
Jan. 18, 2003 Jackson, Tenn.

Sandra Ann Turnage ('70)
Feb. 18, 2003 Maury City, Tenn.

Jane Chester Pafford ('74)
Aug. 8, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

Mary Ella Wadford Enochs ('75)
Nov. 20, 2002 Dyersburg, Tenn.

Michael Lance Cozart ('91)
Sept. 14, 2002 Brownsville, Tenn.

Justin Brant Boyd ('95)
Aug. 19, 2002 Nashville, Tenn.

Rhonda Kaye Rushing ('95)
March 20, 2003 Jackson, Tenn.

Patricia June Young ('95)
Nov. 10, 2002 Brownsville, Tenn.

Harold Bass (former teacher)
Nov. 4, 2002 Dallas, Texas

W. Lamar Boothe (retired pastor)
Nov. 15, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

Roland E. 'Gene' Howell (former trustee)
Nov. 3, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

M. Hunt Maddox (friend)
Nov. 12, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

Ray Simmons (retired staff)
Dec. 23, 2002 Jackson, Tenn.

CORRECTIONS

(The following are corrections from the Fall '02 issue)



Noah and Brandy Taylor Blank ('95), a son, Thomas Irish, "Ty," born May 17, 2002, 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20 inches. They also have a daughter Addie, 2. Brandy is a homemaker and speech pathologist. Noah is the distribution manager for NuVasive, Inc. Address: 29 Camino Del Postigo, San Diego, CA 92029. E-mail: nbblank14@aol.com



Rick and Kelly Martinez ('96), a son, Elijah Joaquin, 8 pounds, 10 ounces., born July 19, 2001. Rick is attending seminary at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Kelly is a teacher at the seminary preschool. E-mail: elijahmyson@aol.com



Amy Suzanne Pentz ('93) and **Michael Joseph Christopher** were married October 6, 2001, in Winter Park, Fla. They are currently living in Atlanta. Amy works as a pediatric nurse at Scottish Rite Children's Hospital. Michael currently manages a Family Christian Store. Address: 8352-R Roswell Rd., Atlanta, GA 30350. E-mail: Amy-ganurse321@aol.com or Michael-FLAGAPE@aol.com

What have you been up to since graduation? New job? New location? New baby?

Share the latest happenings in your life with Unionite! E-mail correspondence can be sent to unionite@uu.edu or mail your update to:

Unionite
ATTN: Old School
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, Tenn. 38305

Don't worry about being embarrassed

By Gene Fant, Jr.

We're still getting used to sitting together as a family at church. At five years of age, the twins are no longer in the preschool area during church, which means no more quiet, dignified, orderly worship for me and Lisa. Now we carry a canvas bag of tricks: crayons, coloring pads, and picture books.

As parents of young children, we live in dread on Sunday mornings. We don't want our pew to disrupt the service. We don't want anyone to look our way due to noise or commotion. We don't want to be embarrassed by our children.

I overheard a grandmother the other day in Kroger describing how her family had been humiliated at church. During the children's sermon, her grandson had started taking off his clothes. He was down to his cartoon character underpants before his red-faced mama was able to retrieve him. I stood there stupidly thinking that my kids would never do anything like that.

At church last Sunday, Pastor Mike started his sermon. Emily was coloring Moses and Pharaoh, and Ethan was practicing drawing letters on the back of a blank envelope. Both of them were quiet and well-behaved, so I turned to the scripture passage and started reading. About 10 verses later, I looked over at Ethan and he was grinning proudly. I mean ear to ear. He looked just like Calvin from Calvin and Hobbes. He was proud that he had figured out that he could use his ball-point pen to draw a moustache and beard on himself. When I looked at him, he had only finished the right side. It was a long handlebar moustache, too. Very large. Very curly.

He stopped smiling when he saw the look on my face. I just knew that every one of the thousands of eyes at the West Jackson Baptist Church were looking at my half-bearded child and laughing. I expected the preacher to stop and ask us to stop disrupting the service.

I caught Lisa's attention and her eyes

grew wide with horror. Ethan's little face fell even farther. He was completely silent the rest of the service. All I could think about was trying to get out of the sanctuary without everyone wondering what kind of bizarre family we are.

Then it got worse. I got the giggles. Trust me, no one values the respectfulness appropriate to a church service more than I do, but every time I looked at him, it was all I could do to control myself. After I got past the initial shock, I saw that he was SO cute! I think he had been studying my own moustache and beard and had decided to copy me. What father can stay mad at that sort of compliment? He wanted to be like me! Forget the embarrassment; I was pretty proud of his creativity.


I tried to get Ethan to smile again after the service, and he did. He proudly wore his half-complete facial hair for most of the afternoon, and we laughed about it all day long. We laughed with him, not at him. I'm hoping that my fellow worshippers at church who saw his facial doodling did the same thing.

I know that I was a pretty embarrassing kid. When your dad is the pastor, even small "goofs" get magnified. Once, I played tic-tac-toe on the new pew cushions. I also did a mean Ricky Ricardo imitation during church business meetings (I used to vote loudly "Aye-Yi-Yi!"). Dad jokingly says that when he saw Dumb and Dumber, he thought it was a documentary about me and my best friend Kenny Bingman in high school. You'd think that after some of the stunts Kenny and I pulled that I would be immune to embarrassment. But I'm not.

I wish I were less prone to embarrassment. I can remember that when I was child, I thought my parents were completely ruinous to my attempts to look cool. I think that one of the signs of adulthood is when you no longer find your parents to be mortifying but rather to be wise. I think another sign of maturity is

when you stop worrying about being embarrassed by yourself. You choose comfort over fashion, efficiency over appearance.

Fear of embarrassment, though, is one of the primary motivators in our lives, even as adults. It keeps us from speaking out against injustice. It keeps us from trying new activities and from chatting with different people at social events. It makes us buy houses that are too large, drive cars that we can't really afford, and wear clothes that are overpriced. I sometimes wonder if the entire American economy is based on consumers' fears of looking like cheap failures. We want the appearance of perfection in our lives and are ashamed of supposed imperfection. We take ourselves too seriously.

I hope to teach Emily and Ethan not to worry so much about being embarrassed by being imperfect. If they aren't perfect, and they won't be, they will be just taking after their dear old dad. Moustache, beard, imperfections and all. 

Dr. Fant is department chair and associate professor of English at Union University. He resides in Jackson with his wife of 14 years, Lisa, and their two children, Ethan and Emily.



We'd like to hear your story. Send your personal essay to Lagniaappe (a little extra) at unionite@uu.edu. Length is 600 words. Essays may be edited for length and clarity.

Be sure to send photos of your alumni fellowship to Unionite, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, TN 38305. Photographs may also be sent via e-mail at unionite@uu.edu.

August 2, 2003: Paducah/Western Kentucky/Southern Illinois • **Time:** 4:00 p.m.
Location: Home of Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Housman • **Local Hosts:** Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Housman, Brent and Sara Housman

August 9, 2003: Houston Area-Wide • **Time:** 6:00 p.m.
Location: Home of Gene and Johnnie Shepard • **Local Hosts:** Gene and Johnnie Shepard

August 16, 2003: Atlanta Area-Wide • **Time:** 4:00 p.m.
Location: Home of Tom and Barbara Freels • **Local Hosts:** Tom and Barbara Freels

September 6, 2003: Dallas/Ft. Worth Area-Wide • **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
Location: Home of Thad and Dr. Alicia Wilkerson Smotherman • **Local Hosts:** Thad and Dr. Alicia Wilkerson Smotherman

September 9, 2003: Carroll/Benton Counties • **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
Location: Home of Dr. Chip and Rita Christian • **Local Hosts:** Dr. Chip and Rita Christian

September 13, 2003: Nashville Area-Wide • **Time:** 6:00 p.m.
Location: Home of Trustee Chairman, Mike and Trish Weeks (Brentwood) • **Local Hosts:** Mike and Trish Weeks

September 16, 2003: Tupelo/Corinth/Northeast Mississippi • **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
Location: Home of Mr. and Mrs. Larry (Sandra) Ray • **Local Hosts:** Larry and Sandra Ray

September 18, 2003: Paris/Henry County • **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
Location: Home of Paul and Peggy Veazey • **Local Hosts:** Paul and Peggy Veazey, Roger and Becca Veazey

September 19, 2003: Memphis/Shelby County Area-Wide • **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
Location: Union University Germantown Campus • **Local Hosts:** Norm and Dale Hill

October 6-12, 2003: Alumni Travel Program Opportunity
Destination: New England Fall Foliage Tour • See ad below for more information

October 14, 2003: Weakley County • **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
Location: F.B.C., Dresden • **Local Hosts:** Kelly and Sheila Swearingen

November 11, 2003: Alumni and Friends Dinner (in conjunction with the Annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention)
Time: 5:00 p.m. • **Location:** Union University, Coburn Dining Room • **Local Hosts:** Alumni Services

Visit to New England

Alumni come join us as we explore the beauty of the fall foliage in New England October 6-12, 2003

For more information please contact Gary Williams in Alumni Services at 1-800-338-6644 or Russell Cherry at Dehoney Travel at 1-800-325-6708