

Nursing graduate Ollie Herron (center) awaits the lighting of her lamp by fellow graduate Carlyn Layton during the School of Nursing's dedication and recognition service. These lamps are symbolic of those carried by Florence Nightingale as she cared for the sick and wounded during the Crimean War



Union's school of nursing recognizes graduates

Union University's school of nursing honored its graduating class in a special dedication and recognition service.

John Borden, adjunct faculty member and a 1982 graduate of the school of nursing, presented the keynote address. Borden gave a challenge to look beyond the obvious for solutions, follow dreams and touch the lives of others. "Venture forward with passion and live your lives to the fullest," he said.

As the graduates prepare to enter the rapidly changing field of health care, Borden encouraged them to "learn to develop your relationship with change. Open your arms and learn to accept it."

The service – traditionally called a pinning ceremony – is full of symbolism for the students, explained Tharon Kirk, interim dean of the school of nursing. "The receiving of the nursing pin, the lighting of the nursing lamp, and the recitation of

the nursing pledge is a means for each nursing graduate to dedicate him or herself to the profession of nursing; to the promotion of wellness in individuals, families and groups; and to the care of those ill and dying," she said.

Each received a pin to be worn with the nursing uniform and specially designed for Union's bachelor of science in nursing program. Graduates are also presented with lamps – representative of that carried by Florence Nightingale – donated by Jackson-Madison County General Hospital and New Testaments donated by the Gideon Auxiliary.

Michael Payne, class president of the school of nursing, presented a plaque to recognize the dedication of the nursing faculty as well as a DVD/VCR unit purchased by the class of 2004 for the nursing laboratory.

Union President David S. Dockery said, "The nursing program at Union University is demanding and rigorous. Those who

complete the program are well-prepared to provide excellent service in the health care world. Completing the Union program speaks volumes about who these students are and the quality of their character."

Nursing students honored with awards:

- Jennifer Vandiver, Milan, Tenn.
Georgia Wilson Nursing Award
- Catherine Lee, Cordova, Tenn.
Academic Excellence Medal in Nursing
- Amy Rennie, Vacaville, Calif.
Fannie J. Watt, RN, Award in Psychiatric Nursing
- Carlyn Layton, Brewton, Ala.
Nursing Faculty Award
- Cathy Rogers, Jackson, Tenn.
Terry Robinson Nursing Award
- Melissa Haynes, Henderson, Tenn.
Sigma Theta Tau International – Nu Lambda Chapter Leadership Award
- Deborah Garland, Belfast, Northern Ireland, The Emily Saffel Medallion 