

### BSOL programs provides supplies to needy children

When 19 children from Youth Village gathered for their weekly meeting recently, they knew they were waiting for something. But they didn't know what.

Talking with parents or foster parents and playing restlessly with the scattered balloons, the children, ages 8-18, were about to be treated to a surprise by some students from Union University.

After a dinner of hot dogs, hamburgers and holiday-themed cookies, each child received a backpack filled with toiletries, school supplies and other goodies.

"We chose Youth Village because we were told that the young men and women were having to go from foster home to foster home using just a black garbage bag for their belongings," said Union student Kris Phifer, co-chair for the event. "We're trying to help them out a little. We hope to make a difference in their lives and maybe someday they can give back to the community."

The backpacks were a gift from Union's bachelor of science in organizational leadership program. The Nov. 15 event was part of the capstone class for the 10 students of Cohort 27. In the short five-week course the students planned and organized the charity event and called around to various businesses to solicit donations.

"Pretty much everything you see here is donated," Phifer said. In addition to the room, food and supplies, every pack also contained a Bible, compliments of Woodville Baptist Church in Ripley. The students and their instructor, Guy DeLoach, paid for 29 backpacks out of their own pockets.



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Clarence Page



Morton Kondracke

## Record crowds enjoy Union Forum speakers

**T**wo-time Pulitzer Prize winner Clarence Page and Fox News Channel's Morton Kondracke attracted record crowds as they addressed the topic "Future Directed: A Look at America after the 2004 Presidential Election."

The luncheon featuring Page attracted 335 guests, and the total for Kondracke was 400, tops for an event that is now in its seventh year.

Kondracke told his audience moderation and cooperation are becoming increasingly difficult to find in American politics and that divisiveness is harmful to the country. He said the tension has even halted the tradition of socializing among political opponents.

"That hardly ever happens anymore," Kondracke said. "It's impossible to imagine Tom DeLay and Nancy Pelosi spending any discretionary time together whatsoever. That's the way it's become."

Page tried to imagine how civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. would have reacted to the divided nation.

"I think if he was around today, he'd probably say we must be dissatisfied until there is no blue state America and no red state America," Page said. "There's one America, and one world, under God's eyes."

Page also addressed the issue of federal funding for faith-based initiatives, which are highly controversial because some see them as a right-wing attempt to blur the separation of church and state. Page said he supports the idea if funds are being used for organizations that have a proven track record of success.

"I don't care about what's right or what's left, what's liberal or what's conservative," he said. "I care about what works."

Both Page and Kondracke met with large groups of faculty and students prior to their luncheon addresses. Page talked to journalism students about his own early successes and failures in the field.

"I appreciated hearing from someone who is active in our culture who engages in things like politics and journalism," said senior Jill Martin, who is the managing

editor of Union's student newspaper, the Cardinal & Cream. "I enjoyed the opportunity to speak with him personally. He took the time to talk to me about my interest in journalism and my career. He was a very good speaker, very engaging, and he helped answer questions that were relevant to our students and people in our community."

Kondracke led a lively discussion with students and faculty about living wills in light of the recent Terri Schiavo case in Florida. His late wife Milly died of Parkinson's disease last summer, and Kondracke said he was a few weeks away from having to make decisions about a feeding tube.

Kondracke said he would have supported removing Schiavo's feeding tube if it had been proven she was in a persistent vegetative state. He's not convinced, however, of the medical diagnosis.

"I was shocked to learn that Terri Schiavo never had a PET scan or an MRI," he said.

Without that conclusive information, Kondracke said he would have difficulty allowing her to die.

Regardless, he advised students to take precautions should they ever find themselves in a similar situation.

"Make your wishes known to somebody, or assign somebody to make your decisions for you," he said.

Kondracke's best-selling book about his wife's experiences, *Saving Milly*, became the basis for a CBS-TV movie of the same name that aired a few weeks prior to his visit.

Four lead sponsors played key roles in the success of this year's Union Forum: First Tennessee Foundation, The Jackson Sun, TLM Associates, and West Tennessee Healthcare. 

## Dockery article included in prestigious German reference set

An article on Baptist theologian A.H. Strong by Union University president David S. Dockery is included in the German publication "Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart," the premier scholarly resource on religion in the Western world.

Published by Mohr Siebeck, the fourth edition of the seven-volume reference set contains thousands of articles in an encyclopedia-style format.


"The contributors' list is literally a who's who of religion all around the world," Dockery said. "Even though I have only one article out of the thousands in this set, it is still an honor to be included in a reference set of this magnitude that serves the worldwide academic community." Translated into German for publication, Dockery's article on Strong (1836-1921) is a brief biography that explores the theologian's impact on Baptist thought for much of the 20th century.

"He cast a long shadow over Baptist thought for decades with his encyclopedic

Systematic Theology, which went through eight editions over a 20-year period,"

Dockery wrote. "Essentially traditional and orthodox in his theological conclusion, Strong was a pioneer in theological method in Baptist life engaging and interacting with the modernists of his day on methodological and philosophical issues."

The "Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart" article is just one of dozens of contributions Dockery has made in recent years to a growing list of respected reference works.


His work is also included in such publications as *The IVP Dictionary of the New Testament*, *The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, *The Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*, *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, *Holman Bible Dictionary*, *Holman Bible Handbook* (for which Dockery serves as general editor), the 40-volume *New American Commentary* series (for which he serves as associate general editor) and others. 

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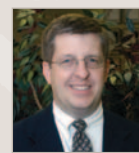
During DeLoach's short speech he thanked the children for their courage, spirit of hope and potential, tossing in a few magic tricks to liven things up.

"Each of you is a unique miracle, a special gift," DeLoach said.

Phifer said the program needs more foster parents.

"We want to encourage adults who can find it in their heart to foster a child in their home," Phifer said. "This is not just a project. It is something all of us have been thankful to do for everyone." 

### Van Neste book explores Pastoral epistles




Ray Van Neste, Union's director of the R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies and instructor of Christian

Studies, has written a book entitled "Cohesion and Structure in the Pastoral Epistles" that was released in October.

Published by T&T Clark, International, the book is a technical study of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus and examines how each one of the letters fits together and how one paragraph connects to the next.

Van Neste began writing the book as his doctoral thesis in Aberdeen, Scotland, almost seven years ago. He completed his doctorate in New Testament from the University of Aberdeen in 2002.

"I wrote the book in response to a significant group of scholars who have argued that these letters don't make sense, that they are a sloppy, disorganized mess with little or no meaning," Van Neste said. "I have sought to show linguistically that the letters do fit together well and do make sense. An issue essentially is whether we should regard these letters as worthy of attention. There is a significant bias against these letters among scholars and I have sought in one area to combat this."

Van Neste was ordained to the ministry in 1991 and has served as both youth pastor and pastor of numerous churches. He has also done extensive work among Baptist churches and student organizations in Scotland. 



### Gushee speaks at the Vatican

Dr. David Gushee, Union University's Graves professor of moral philosophy, spoke at the Vatican as part of "The Call to Justice" conference March 16-18, 2005.

Gushee, along with 250 intellectuals from 30 countries, was invited to submit a proposal, which was evaluated by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, an event co-sponsor.

"I was kind of surprised to get this invitation," Gushee said.

Of the 100 papers accepted for presentation, half were presented aloud at the Vatican, and half were presented online.

Gushee's paper, which addresses the social and moral issues facing marriage and the family, was one of 50 online presentations.

"I thought it might be interesting to reflect on marriage and the family 40 years later and how the situation has grown worse rather than better since that time," he said.

In addition to his online presentation, Gushee spoke as a respondent to another scholarly work presented aloud at the Vatican.

"The Call to Justice" conference observed the 40th anniversary of the "Gaudium et spes," a pastoral constitution on the church and the modern world of 1965. The conference addressed Catholic social thought in the tradition of Vatican II, or the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, which convened between 1962 and 1965.

"The Vatican II Council produced a number of really important declarations," Gushee said. "Now, the church is attempting to update its message without abandoning its traditions."



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### Spring Graduation 2005

A beautiful May evening provided a perfect setting for the commencement services of the 180th graduating class of Union University. While the university band played *Pomp and Circumstance* a record number of graduates marched to receive their degrees.

## Class of 2005 sets Union graduation record

A record 415 students graduated from Union University during commencement exercises May 21. "This year's commencement service was a time of celebration for 415 outstanding graduates and their families," Union University President David S. Dockery said. "This year's class, which will include more than 900 graduates in all three graduation services, is by far the largest graduating class in Union's long history. We give thanks for these wonderfully prepared students and wish God's best for them in coming days."

This year's class included the first graduates from Union's new engineering program. Five students received their bachelor of science degrees in engineering. Physics major Brian Taylor, of Portageville, Mo., received the Elizabeth Tigrett Medal during the ceremony. The award, created by Tigrett's son to honor his mother, has been awarded since 1912

by vote of the entire Union faculty to an outstanding member of the senior class. "In nearly a decade of leadership at Union University I have seen some amazingly gifted and dedicated students graduate from this place," Dockery said. "No student in my memory has applied himself to his studies and maximized his intellectual gifts like Brian Taylor. He is a most worthy recipient of this year's Tigrett Award, which recognizes a student for excellence and dedication in the areas of character, spiritual commitment, scholarship and service."

Taylor has received a full fellowship and a \$23,000 per year stipend for the next five years to do cancer research at M.D. Anderson hospital in Houston, Texas, the premier cancer research center in the country. His work will result in a doctorate from the University of Texas system in medical physics.

Other Union graduates from the class




*Brian Taylor, recipient of this year's Tigrett Award*

of 2005 have also distinguished themselves academically and will pursue graduate degrees at prestigious schools.

For example, Kevin Minister and Meredith Williams, who will marry May 27, have each earned a full-tuition scholarship to study theology at Boston University. Matt Crawford, who was one of nine students nationally to receive an H.Y. Benedict Fellowship from Alpha

Chi, will pursue biblical languages at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Titus Bartos received a full fellowship to do graduate work in music at Middle Tennessee State University. Others will enter law schools, medical schools, seminaries and graduate programs across the country.

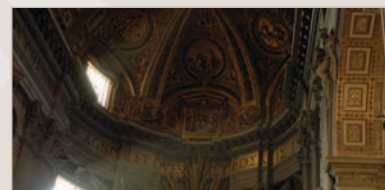
R. Albert Mohler, Jr., SBTS president, gave the commencement address. 



### Union Auxiliary luncheon

Retired English professor Louise Bentley was one of the two guest speakers to address the Union Auxiliary at a luncheon in April. Maggie Nell Brewer, retired vice president for student affairs, also spoke at the luncheon. The two women shared some memories from their years at Union.

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Gushee's participation in this Catholic social tradition was a landmark for the Baptist faith.


"I was one of the very first Baptist scholars to present anything at the Vatican, so it was a major deal for Baptists," Gushee said.

As a representative of the Baptist faith, Gushee said he gained a better understanding of the Catholic Church on social ethical issues, while also promoting Catholic and Protestant dialogue.

"The social ethics tradition of Catholicism is profound," Gushee said. "I think a lot can be learned from it. In a sense, my goal was to help the Catholic Church think about its social ethics and enrich my own understanding of the Catholic Church and social ethics."

In addition to expanding his own understanding of Catholic social thought, Gushee said he also hopes that his students will benefit from his participation at the Vatican.

"I believe in the Catholic-Protestant dialogue," Gushee said.

Gushee believes the point-counterpoint discussion is a well-developed art in the Catholic tradition, and he said he hopes to promote this type of discussion among his students. 

### Paper-making experiment gives elementary education students material for future classroom use

For students in Jimmy Davis' Perspectives in Science class, an afternoon lab is more than just a course requirement.

"I've enjoyed this lab more than any other class that I've taken at Union," said Union University senior Sylvia Schrivner, of Humboldt. "It's just been fun. It's stuff that we can do in our classrooms, and it's really interesting."

The Perspectives in Science class is for elementary education students, and in their weekly lab they do experiments designed for them to

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use with their future students. For example, in this week's lab, the class made paper.

"The point of the experiment is to show them how to use science to prepare a useful product – paper," said Davis, professor of chemistry.

"It's designed to be simple to set up, simple to do so they can do it with their students. I'm sure their students would love to get their hands wet in that pulp."


The process is simple enough and starts with making the pulp, which students do by tearing toilet paper into small pieces. They put the paper in a blender, add water and mix it up.

They then transfer the pulp to a deckle – a device with a screen that collects the pulp for drying. Using an iron and a rolling pin, the students dry the pulp and peel the paper off the screen. Although crude and thick, what's left is undeniably a sheet of paper.

In addition to making paper, this semester the Perspectives in Science students have measured how fast



they run, used salts to make colored flames, made a device to observe a solar eclipse and extracted natural dyes from onions, blueberries and blackberries, among other experiments.

"The nice thing about the paper experiment is it can be used in a science class, but it could also be done in an art class," Davis said. "All the experiments that we do have multiple purposes." 



#### Creating the right reaction

Senior Brent Jones, biology and chemistry major, prepared his research on monomer reactions for the Union University Scholarship Symposium.

## Scholarship Symposium highlights student research projects

**M**ore than 100 Union students from 20 different academic disciplines who presented research projects May 2 at the university's second annual Scholarship Symposium.

The event concluded with a reception for faculty and student presenters and a keynote address from Stephen Garber, an author and faculty member of the American Studies Program of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

The university's Undergraduate Research Program sponsors the annual Scholarship Symposium. Math professor Matt Lunsford, who coordinates the program, said presentations are open to undergraduate and graduate students who have "completed a collaborative, innovative scholarly project during the current academic year."

The program's goal is to provide students with the opportunity to work with a faculty mentor on a research project. More than 30 faculty members participated with students in this year's symposium.

"The Scholarship Symposium is an incredible opportunity for Union undergraduates to work with faculty members on significant research projects," Union University President David S. Dockery

said. "The privilege for students to participate in this level of serious exploration and research is usually reserved for graduate study. The entire project is an affirmation of the quality of Union students and the serious investment that Union faculty members provide for these students."

Research projects covered such topics as youth incarcerated in adult prisons, Crohn's disease, water and soil quality of Cypress Grove and Luray Lake, strategies for Hispanic marketing and communication processes, Nathaniel Hawthorne's use of history in "The Scarlet Letter," racism within the criminal justice system, data security and many others.

Lunsford called the program "a great success." The afternoon was devoted to 11 concurrent sessions in which students presented papers, posters and portfolios showcasing their work.

"The afternoon is so full of presentations, I am hopeful that a full day can be given to the event next year," Lunsford said.

Dockery said Union is one of only a few colleges and universities in the country to hold such a program for its students.

"It is a high water mark indeed for this university," he said. 