

*Senior guard Monica Elliot (24) drives past a Lyon College defender in a win during Homecoming Week.*



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*Union University president David S. Dockery crowns senior Lauren Oldham as 2005 Homecoming queen during halftime of the women's basketball game Feb. 19.*

## Union honors top alumni at homecoming

**F**ive distinguished alumni joined the class of 1955 as the most honored guests during homecoming week.

Distinguished Service Award winner Jerry Kuykendall was honored posthumously. Members of his family accepted the award just two days after his passing. Kuykendall was a Jackson native and graduated from Union in 1965. He spent 35 years in the food manufacturing industry and in 1977 was elected to the Hall of Fame for outstanding contributions to the Campbell's Soup Corporation.

Others honored at a luncheon Feb. 19 include Robert Simpson ('80), Union's Distinguished Faculty/Staff member who serves as associate vice president for business and financial services; William H. Walker III ('55), Distinguished Alumnus Award; Michael Weeks, Honorary Alumnus Award for his service as chairman of Union University's board of trustees; and Michael Johnston ('97), Outstanding Young Achiever Award.

Twenty-three members of the class of 1955 received 50-year commemorative medallions at the annual Founders Day chapel Friday, Feb. 18. Many remained for a luncheon in their honor, and a bus tour of the former campus. 

## One More Award: Longest trip to Union Homecoming

**I**t's not on the list of official awards Union bestows on visitors during Homecoming Week, but perhaps a certificate for "longest distance traveled" should be part of future celebrations.

If that award had been given in 2005, the likely winner was Gunnar Adalberth ('87) of Stockholm, Sweden.

It is 15,064 kilometers (9,360 miles) roundtrip between Stockholm and Jackson, and Adalberth made the trip with his wife Marjut simply so he could see old friends and visit Union's campus.

"Very big changes since my time at Union," Adalberth says. "The changes are clearly for the better. The only thing that has not changed is the fact that we always win the homecoming basketball games."

Adalberth is vice president of marketing for United Parcel Service, with responsibility for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. In addition to his long-distance travel, he even arranged an unofficial homecoming event off-campus, inviting former professors and classmates.

"It was good to see many friends whom I had not been able to see for a long time," says Adalberth. "It brings back memories."

Adalberth is encouraged that Union is taking a more active role in recruiting international students.

"There is a clear trend towards being more global. The world is becoming smaller." 

