

Spring Graduation: 400 New Unionites



About 400 students received degrees during Union's 182nd annual spring commencement ceremonies, which should bring final numbers for 2006-07 to more than 900 graduates.

"We give thanks for each of the graduates, and pray God's blessings as they leave this campus into the world and into the culture," Union President David S. Dockery said. "We pray they would impact it for good for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Alvin O. "Bud" Austin delivered the commencement address. Austin is retiring as president of LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. He was inducted as a fellow for Union's Carl F. H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership.

Philosophy major Gregory Scott Poore, of Cookeville, Tenn., received the Elizabeth Tigrett Medal. Created by Tigrett's son to honor his mother, the medal has been awarded since 1912 by a vote of the entire Union faculty. Baylor University recently granted Poore a full-tuition scholarship for graduate study.

Other major academic awards were announced earlier in May. M.S.N. programs coordinator Elsie Cressman was named Staff Member of the Year and professor of education Dottie Myatt was named Faculty Member of the Year. ✦

Union offers Master of Christian Studies program in Nashville

Union University now offers a Master in Christian Studies degree program in Nashville.

The first location for the program, which started in April, is The People's Church in suburban Franklin. There are plans to offer classes in additional locations in



Union launching School of Pharmacy

In response to the ongoing national shortage of pharmacists, Union University has unveiled plans to begin a four-year Doctor of Pharmacy degree program within the next two years. Classes could begin as early as fall semester 2008 and will begin no later than fall 2009.

Sheila Mitchell has been named the founding dean. She has been director of pharmacy services at Methodist Hospital in Germantown, Tenn., since 1986. She has also served as assistant professor at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy.

"I am both humbled and honored to be able to play a key role in this venture and

look forward to working closely with the exceptional faculty and leaders of this outstanding university," Mitchell said.

A native of Ripley, Tenn., Mitchell earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree and her Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy from the University of Tennessee in Memphis.

Mitchell has served as president of the Tennessee Society of Health-System Pharmacists, as president and vice president of the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy and on the board for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Union has received three major gifts – each in excess of \$1 million – to get the program started, including a foundation gift of \$2 million from West Tennessee Healthcare.

Jim Moss, president and chief executive officer of West Tennessee Healthcare, said his organization was excited about being a

partner with Union in this endeavor.

"The decision to partner with Union University in a pharmacy program is a continuation of a valued long-standing relationship we have with them to educate and train health care professionals for the future needs of our community," Moss said.

In addition to the \$2 million gift, WTH has also agreed to provide Union with professional support for as many as four clinical pharmacists – meaning WTH will hire the necessary pharmacists to oversee Union students working in their clinical setting.

Union began considering the addition of a pharmacy

program during the summer of 2006, when members of the local health care community – including West Tennessee Healthcare – asked Union to explore the possibility of offering a pharmacy degree.

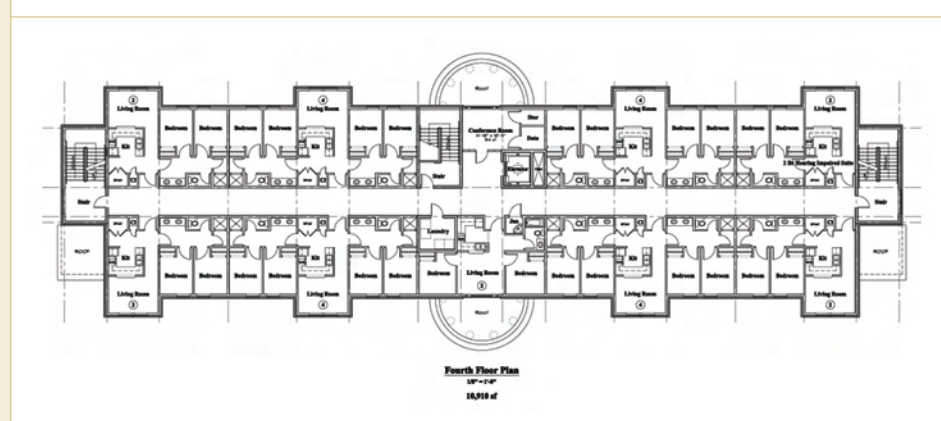
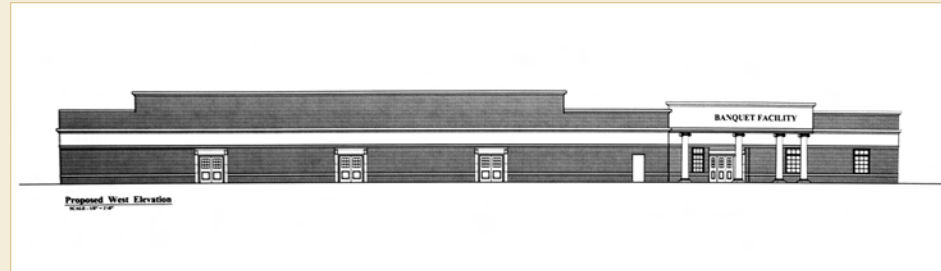
"There is a huge shortage of pharmacists in the country, and that shortage is particularly evident in Tennessee," President David S. Dockery said. "These needs will only increase with the graying of America."

A Doctor of Pharmacy degree requires four years of study beyond a bachelor's degree. Union will also offer a pre-pharmacy undergraduate major, although candidates without such an undergraduate emphasis will be considered for the graduate program.

Each class in the new four-year graduate program will consist of 45-50 students, meaning total enrollment in the School of Pharmacy will reach about 200. ✦



Sheila Mitchell
Dean, School of Pharmacy



Artists Renderings

Top: Coburn Dining Room, Middle: New residence hall, Above: Residence hall fourth level floor plan

West Campus construction doesn't end with White Hall

New student housing, expanded dining facilities and an amphitheatre are among the projects scheduled to begin this summer on the west side of campus. The work will close Walker Road to through traffic.

The new campus apartments will cost an estimated \$6.5 million and accommodate 128 students in a four-story, hotel-style facility. Each suite accommodates four students and will include four private bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and two bathrooms.

It will be the first facility of a new student housing complex, as the university plans to construct a new dorm building every other year for the next decade. The

complex will be located in what is now the parking lot between the Hurt and Watters housing complexes. Parking for the dorms will be moved to the other side of Walker Road.

The first building, scheduled for completion in 2008, will accommodate women.

The Coburn Dining Hall expansion will add a 13,616-square-foot banquet hall facility to the current dining room, located in the Barefoot Student Union. The new banquet hall will seat 500 people and will include a lobby area, public restrooms and a staging room.

The amphitheatre is a gift from the classes of 2003 and 2006. It will be constructed north of Miller Tower and east of Jennings Hall. ✦

the Nashville area in future months. The 42-hour program is designed for students already serving on church staffs or church members who are interested in expanding their education. Classes typically meet one day a week, and the degree can be completed in two years. The curriculum includes courses in the Old Testament, New Testament, theology, leadership, communication, church history and other topics.

The MCS is presently offered at Union's campuses in Jackson and Germantown. Classes to be offered in Middle Tennessee will be taught by Christian studies professors from the Jackson campus as well as by faculty from the Nashville area. ✦

Tidwell heads church relations



Jerry Tidwell now serves in the newly created position of senior vice president for church relations.

Tidwell started work in February. He comes to

Union from Ellendale Baptist Church in Bartlett, where he served as senior pastor. Tidwell also served as pastor of two other Tennessee churches: West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson and Grace Baptist Church in Tullahoma.

In his new position, Tidwell will work to cultivate relationships with local churches – both in West Tennessee and beyond. He will also serve as a liaison between Union and the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition, Tidwell will teach courses in evangelism and pastoral ministry and will oversee Union's Master of Christian Studies program in Jackson.

"I fell in love with Union when I first became pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church back in the early 1990s," Tidwell said. "Union really became a priority for me when I became a board member, because I saw where the graduates of Union were going and the impact they were making."

"Seeing that has given me a desire to be a part of that vision of truly engaging the world and changing the world through the university." ✦

Dockery chairs global consortium

Union University President David S. Dockery has been named chairman of the board for the Consortium for Global Education.

CGE is one of three higher education organizations of which Union University is a member. The other two are the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities and the Association of International Baptist Colleges and Schools.

"The work of CGE brings together the expanding focus on global and international issues on Baptist college and university campuses in this country," Dockery said. "Through the work of CGE, Baptist higher education can have a significant role in touching the world for Christ. I am honored and grateful to serve CGE at this time in this capacity."

Dockery also serves as chairman of the board for the CCCU, a position he's held for the past two years. His term as chairman of that board expires this year. His position as chairman of the CGE board is for the calendar year of 2007.

CGE was organized in 1987 to assist in the development of international education. More than 40 private U.S. universities and colleges are members of the consortium.

Scholarship Symposium puts undergraduate research in focus



More than 150 students presented research findings April 30 as part of Union University's Scholarship Symposium.

The university's Undergraduate Research Program sponsors the annual event. Presentations are open to under



Andrew Card



Leon Panetta

Scholarship Banquet speakers to offer inside look at White House

The beginnings of this year's Scholarship Banquet program go back about four years, to an invitation President David Dockery received to address the White House Christian Fellowship.

That group of Christians from the White House staff and Capitol Hill gave Dockery and his wife Lanese an insider's tour of the White House.

"At the time, I thought it would be fun if everyone could get an up-close look at the White House," says Dockery.

Those who attend the 11th annual Scholarship Banquet Oct. 23 at the Carl Perkins Civic Center will get that insider's look. Former White House Chiefs of Staff Andrew H. Card Jr. and Leon E. Panetta will be the keynote speakers.

Card served as chief of staff for President George W. Bush from 2000-2006. Panetta served as White House chief of staff from 1994-1997 for President William Clinton.

"This will be the first time two keynote

speakers have addressed our scholarship banquet audience," Dockery said. "Both of these men are exceptional leaders. Each has a long history of government service, and together they have much to offer us regarding the inner workings of the White House on a daily basis, as well as in times of crisis."

Card's tenure as chief of staff was the second-longest in White House history and spanned the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks as well as U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. He also served in the administrations of George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan. As secretary of transportation, Card coordinated the first Bush administration's disaster relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Andrew. Later that year, Card helped direct the transition between the Bush and Clinton administrations.

Panetta helped negotiate a budget compromise in 1996 and drew praise for bringing order and focus to White House operations and policy making. Earlier, as director

of the Office of Management and Budget, he was instrumental in developing the 1993 budget package that is widely credited with a balanced federal budget and a budget surplus. Prior to his work in the Clinton administration, Panetta represented California's 16th (now 17th) congressional district from 1977-1993. He rose to the rank of chairman of the House Committee on Budget.

Previous keynote speakers at Union University's Scholarship Banquet include George H.W. Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev, Lady Margaret Thatcher, Colin Powell, James Baker, Rudolph Giuliani, John Major, Robert Dole, Winston S. Churchill and Lou Holtz.

Union's Board of Presidential Associates issues keynote invitations each year for the purpose of funding student scholarships. The previous 10 events generated a total of about \$4 million. Once again this year, table

sponsorships begin at \$1,000 and individual seats are available at \$125.

Lead sponsors (\$15,000+) include BancorpSouth, Black and Decker Industrial Products Group, Schilling Enterprises/Harry and Beth Smith and White Investments, LLC/Roy L. White President and CEO.

Premier sponsors (\$10,000-\$14,999) include Benny and Norma Fesmire, FirstBank, Jack and Zan Holmes, IMPACT 360/John and Trudy White, The Jackson Sun, Nortek Inc./Lloyd Hansen, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network/Rod and Amy Parker, Jack and Faye Porter, Mike and Trish Weeks and West Tennessee Healthcare, Inc.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at all levels. For ticket information, including table sponsorships and individual balcony seating, contact Union's Office of University Relations at (731) 661-5050.

graduate 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 40 faculty members participated with students in this year's symposium.

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

Among the research presentations: a study of autonomous robot design, a look at human trafficking in Latin America, a survey of Madison County and Jackson residents about the possibility of consolidated government, and analysis of care practices available to Alzheimer's patients in Tennessee.

National honors for community service

Union University has received national recognition for its commitment to community service.

It is one of 492 colleges and universities across the country to be named to the first President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The award recognizes the contributions of higher education institutions to their local communities through volunteer service.

The initiative is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation and the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development.

Union University's inclusion "demonstrates its commitment to the civic engagement mission of higher education and the role that its faculty, staff and students play in building healthy and happy communities," said Amy Cohen, director of Learn and Serve America at the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Union President David S. Dockery said the award was a high honor for the university.

"We receive this recognition with deep



thanksgiving for an outstanding group of students who are committed to serving others," Dockery said. "We salute the trustees, faculty and staff for their examples of community involvement and for their encouragement to the entire Union family to give of themselves for the good of others."

Union University serves the community in many ways throughout the year. Its largest event is the annual "Campus and Community: A Day of Remembrance and Service," in which the university sends out

more than 50 teams across Jackson and West Tennessee for various service projects.

Union also participates in local service projects every year on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, and the university sends out more than 20 Global Opportunities teams annually.

"Union University is a major factor in the fabric of our community and is deeply involved in the community, which makes it the great university that it is," said Madison County Mayor Jerry Gist.

Jackson Mayor Charles Farmer echoed Gist's sentiments.

"It would be hard to imagine what our city would be like without Union University," Farmer said. "Union enriches Jackson with a religious and academic fervor that permeates the fabric of our community in many, many ways."

Other Tennessee institutions on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll were East Tennessee State University, Lee University, Maryville College, Rhodes College, Tennessee Tech, Tusculum College and the University of Memphis.

Faculty promotions and advancement changes approved

The Board of Trustees Executive Board has approved promotions for 15 faculty members.



Gene Fant becomes the permanent dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He had been serving as interim dean.

Ralph Leverett and Tom

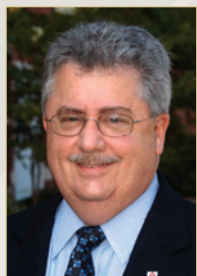
Rosebrough become university professors in the School of Education.

Seven faculty members were promoted to professor: Michele Atkins, education; Gene Fant, English; Naomi Larsen, sociology; Mary Anne Poe, social work; Donna Sachse, nursing; Jill Webb, nursing; and Charles A. Fowler, education.

Five received promotions to associate professor: Paul Deschenes, psychology; Rhonda Hudson, social work; Karen Martin, language; Karen Miller, business; and Valerie Watters-Burke, nursing.

In nursing, Christy Pawley was promoted to assistant professor.

The executive board also granted tenure to Sean Evans, political science; Patricia Hamilton, English; Judy LeForge, history; Michael Salazar, chemistry; and Jill Webb, nursing.



There have also been some additions and changes in university relations. Randall Phillips has moved from senior associate vice president for development to the newly created position of director of university research. Phillips will assist faculty and students in attracting funding for research projects and in developing research strategies.

Also in advancement, Valerie Trautman moves from assistant director for church services to director of donor relations and Jason Tipton rejoins Union as director of development. Tipton is a 2001 business graduate and formerly served as assistant director of financial aid for several years prior to pursuing graduate work at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. ♦



Paleography project puts students in Middle Ages

Texts are cheap these days, according to Union University English professor Gavin Richardson. That's why he wanted his students to appreciate the value of books from ages past.

"We don't even have to buy a book anymore," Richardson said. "You can get an e-book. You can get texts on your Palm Pilot, on your Blackberry. I want to make my students aware that texts meant more in the Middle Ages. Owning a deluxe manuscript in the Middle Ages was a status symbol. It was like owning an SUV today."

To accomplish his goal, Richardson assigned students in his class, "The Middle Ages: Chaucer," during the fall 2006 semester to produce a manuscript quire using medieval techniques. A quire was a subsection of a manuscript that was inscribed with text, and then the quires were all bound together to form a single manuscript.

For the assignment, Richardson divided

his students into four groups. Each group worked with a piece of goatskin to produce a quire, using dipping inks and goose feathers which they cut into quill pens.

Each member in a group had a different responsibility. Junior Racheal Pressnell did the border artwork for her group's project.

"I spent at least 24 man-hours on that project," Pressnell said. "I put a lot of time into it."

Pressnell said she enjoyed her labor, and that the project gave her an appreciation for the value of books in the Middle Ages.

"It was a wonderful artistic break amid all of the papers I had to write this semester," she said. "I really appreciated the idea of working with medieval methods and just the feel of the inks and the vellum, and I wanted to do a good job. It gave me a much greater respect for book making in general, and a much greater respect for the arts of literature of that period."

Sophomore Katherine Kipp was the scribe for her group, and said she spent much of a weekend writing the text for her group's quire -- the creation account from Genesis in Latin.

"It made me appreciate how difficult it must have been to produce a book in the Middle Ages," Kipp said. "I really enjoyed it, just to be able to write in the Middle Ages way."

Richardson said he didn't know what to expect at the beginning, but that he was pleased with the efforts of his students. He publicized the project among some col-

leagues and received positive feedback from many of them -- including Christopher de Hamel, author of one of the textbooks Richardson uses for the class.

"When he writes and says he's been looking at these student quires with delight and astonishment, it takes a lot to astonish the Corpus Christi College of Cambridge paleographer," Richardson said. "He says he's never heard of a medieval English class doing this. That's high praise."

To see samples of the students' work, visit www.uu.edu/personal/grichard/Paleography%20Exercise/paleo_frames.htm. ♦

SACS reaffirmation concluded

Student paleographers designed this logo for Union's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), an integral part of the university's overall decennial accreditation review through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

The review is a two-year, community-wide initiative. The process was officially launched in June 2005 when the University's leadership team traveled to Atlanta for orientation.

"Over these months, the university has reported on all matters of daily life and operations," says University Provost Carla Sanderson.

She says the review included Union's mission, board, leadership, finances, planning and assessment functions, library and technology support, physical facilities, and student life services. Of ultimate importance in the process is the evaluation of the qualifications and effectiveness of its faculty, academic processes, academic programs and quality of student learning.

The QEP provided new and compelling opportunities for Union to improve a program of the university's choosing. The resulting plan is entitled Cultivating Minds: Enhancing the Honors Program at Union University.

A key goal of the QEP is to improve the program's reach across departments and schools. In a typical academic year, about 180 freshmen are eligible to join the honors program, but only about 40 sign up and only eight remain until graduation.

Cultivating Minds at Union University



"We are taking some of the best elements of the current program and expanding them into what will be a vibrant honors community that reaches across campus," says Gene Fant, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and a leader in the QEP discussions. "Students will continue to be exposed to a breadth of knowledge across the academic disciplines and to a stronger depth of knowledge within their disciplines."

"These conversations across and within academic fields will be carried out within the context of the Christian intellectual tradition's emphasis on the lordship of Christ, the unity of knowledge, and the importance of community," Fant said.

"The QEP promises to be transformational in the way academically talented students will pursue curricular and co-curricular learning at Union University," Sanderson said.

The first phase of the QEP will begin this fall and full implementation is scheduled for no later than August 2009. ♦

Leverett receives public service honor



Ralph Leverett, professor of special education and director of Union University's Master of Education program, was one of five Jackson citizens selected for the

2007 Jefferson Awards for Public Service.

The Jefferson Awards were established in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Robert Taft and Sam Beard to encourage and honor individuals for their achievements and contributions through public and community service. Leverett received the award in the Education and Literacy category.

Leverett says he was honored -- and surprised -- by the award.

"I just see so many people who do what I do, that it seems odd that I would have been singled out," Leverett said.

Leverett joined the Union faculty in 1997, and during that time has also served as a part-time speech-language pathologist for the West Tennessee School for the Deaf.

He is a member of the advisory council for TREDs, a division of Vanderbilt Children's Hospital addressing the needs of people who are deaf and blind; the board of directors of the STAR Center, an agency that provides technological support to people with a wide range of disabilities; the board of directors of the Foundation of the Tennessee Speech-Language Hearing Association (TAASLP) and the Friends of the West Tennessee School for the Deaf.

"We applaud the selection of Ralph Leverett as a recipient of this year's Jefferson Award," Union University President David S. Dockery said. "He is a great ambassador for Union University."

Sponsored by The Jackson Sun, the Jefferson Awards come with a \$1,000 donation from the Gannett Foundation that will be made to a charity of each recipient's choice. ♦



Scholars of Excellence weekend draws record attendance

More than 90 prospective students participated in the annual Scholars of Excellence Weekend in early March. This year's total compares to 60 such students who participated last year.

"We thank God for each student participating in Scholars of Excellence weekend," said Rich Grimm, Union's vice president for enrollment services. "This has shaped up to be the largest and most qualified group of scholars that has ever participated in the event."

On this weekend each year, students compete for the highest academic scholarships Union offers. To be invited to the competition, students must score at least a 31 on the ACT or 1360 SAT (combined critical reading and math), be in the top 15 percent of their graduating class and maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

All students earn at least a half-tuition scholarship simply by being invited to participate in the weekend's activities, which include dinner with President Dockery, social gatherings in the homes of various faculty members, book discussions and interviews. ♦

Spring choir tour spans four states

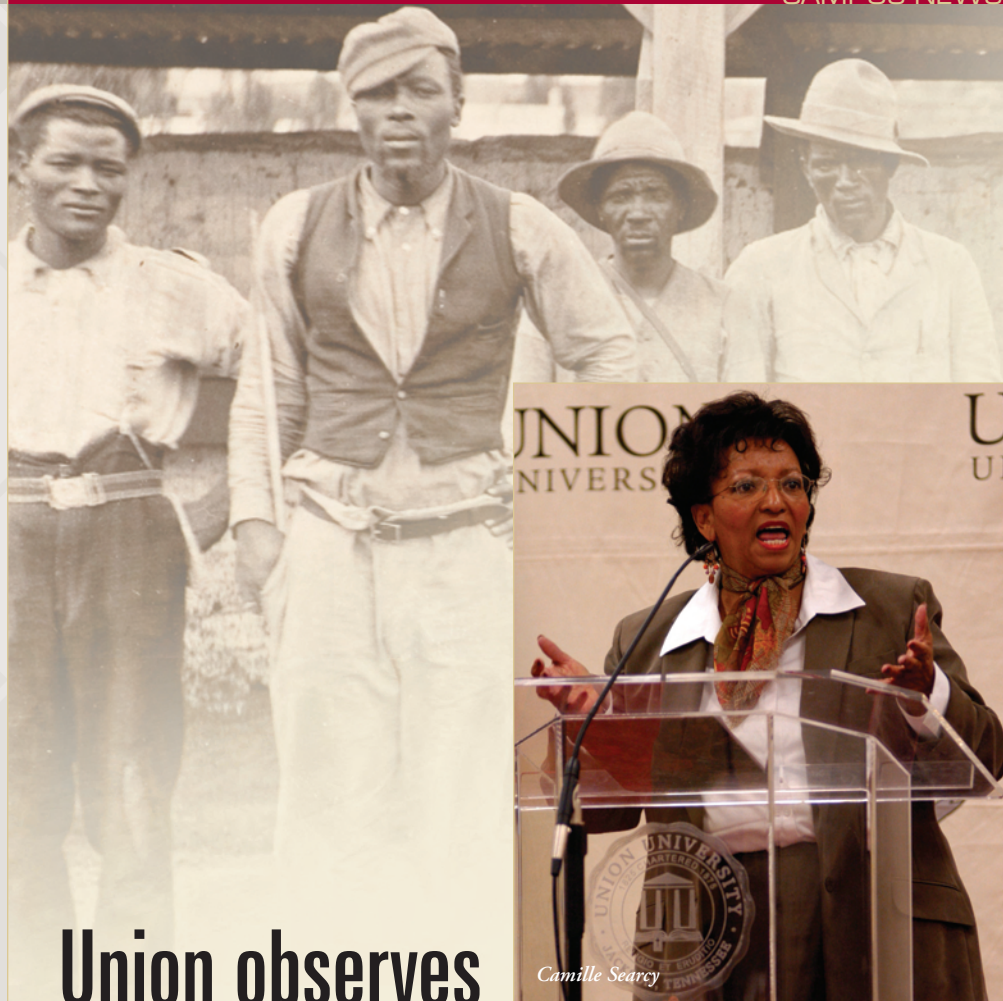


The Union University Singers completed an extensive spring tour, presenting concerts in churches in Missouri, Michigan, Illinois and Tennessee.

Their final concert of the 2006-07 academic year was at West Jackson Baptist Church April 22.

That event featured selections from the works of J.S. Bach and Giacomo Carissimi, as well as recent works by Alice Parker, Vytautas Miskinis and Ron Boud. The concert also included choral arrangements of hymns and gospel songs.

Another Union group, the Voices of Proclamation, also performed at the concert, singing selections from 16th century masterworks and gospel arrangements. ♦



Union observes Black History Month

By Alex Scarbrough ('08)

Union University observed Black History Month with a dinner and program featuring students and faculty members who observed this year's national theme "From Slavery to Freedom: The story of Africans in the Americas."

Union students Shawanda Richardson and Tianikwa Haywood help organize the event and participated by welcoming the audience and sharing Scripture.

Biographical sketches of prominent African-American leaders throughout America's history followed, presented by Union students and alumna. Edric Gaylor spoke of former slave Frederick Douglass, who encouraged his fellow African-Americans to "strive earnestly to add to your knowledge in order to gain respect of those around you."

Katelynn Johnson drew attention to Maya Angelou, the writer and former U.S. poet laureate who used her creative talents to encourage others to continue to fight for equality and rise above racism.

Phylis Anyango, Kenyan native and Union alumna, underscored the life of Nelson Mandela, who fought for the free-

dom of Africans under the government-sanctioned segregation of apartheid in South Africa. Anyango reminded those present of the worldwide nature of the struggle for equality, and quoted Mandela, "For with freedom comes responsibility."

Gaylor concluded the sketches with a portrait of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., quoting an excerpt from his well-known "I Have a Dream" speech.

Education professor Camille Searcy spoke on "The Educational Philosophies of W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington."

"No two American leaders — particularly African-American leaders — have stood in such contrast," Searcy said.

Washington, born in a slave shack, founded the Tuskegee Institute in 1881 and was an advocate for vocational training for African-Americans. He was "willing to take the slow road," said Searcy, in the quest for racial equality in education. His idea was simply for African-Americans to be able to support themselves, and Searcy said he wasn't overly concerned about integration.

Du Bois, by contrast, was "proud and

outspoken," a free man born in Massachusetts. He was the first African-American to receive a Doctor of Philosophy degree and was the founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Upon his move from the North to Fisk University in Nashville, Du Bois was shocked by the segregation he witnessed, and the lack of opportunities for African-Americans. His goal was for African-Americans to have more equality, Searcy said. He wanted them not only to have jobs,

but to have jobs equal to those of whites.

Searcy concluded by challenging African-Americans to learn from the examples of both men, and to be innovative in striving for equality in areas where it doesn't exist.

"What are our challenges today?" Searcy asked. "What will history say about us?"

Searcy was introduced by her husband, Lonnie Searcy, who in June 1966 became the first black student to attend and later graduate from Union. ♦

Ridgecrest reunion

Were you a staff member at Ridgecrest? If so, they'd like to hear from you.

This is the 100th anniversary of the Southern Baptist retreat center in the mountains of western North Carolina. A large reunion is planned for August 9-11.

"We think there are quite a few Union alums who have worked at Ridgecrest through the years," said Neil Nation of the reunion committee. "We'd love to see them join us for this important occasion."

Nation says he can recall three or four Union students and alumni who worked with him in the late 1950s.

For reservations and more information about the reunion, call 1-800-588-7222. ♦

Union Forum: Where is America going?

Juan Williams is tired of the same old discussions about race relations. He hurts to see the breakdown of the family, especially among the African-American population.

And he hopes to convince others that the day has come for a new level of conversation — among people who really care about their communities.

"I hope that all of us start talking, and start talking with a sincerity of heart," said Williams, author and National Public Radio correspondent. "Start talking with an understanding of race consciousness that suggests we're all children of God, and that if we're truly to fulfill God's mission for us, we have to build a stronger community. It requires that we keep our eyes on the prize."

Williams was the guest speaker at Union University for the second installment of the ninth annual Union Forum. Nationally syndicated columnist Mona Charen spoke at the first event two weeks earlier. The overall theme was a look at opportunity in America.

Williams is the author of "Enough: The Phony Leaders, Dead-End Movement, and Culture of Failure That Are Undermining Black America — and What We Can Do About It."

Williams recapped a speech by Bill Cosby in 2004 at a celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. Cosby spoke directly about the problems he saw among African-Americans, including the fact that 70 percent of black



children are born out of wedlock in the United States, compared to only 25 percent of white children.

Cosby also criticized the threatening, violent imagery of black young people promoted by music videos on BET.

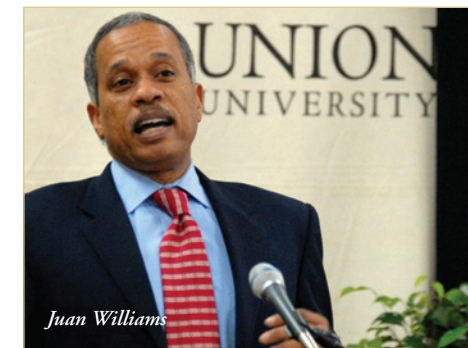
"Imagine the damage being done in terms of young black people who are seeking some affirmation of themselves as strong, capable souls, and seeing that this is what is being glorified, this is what's being elevated in the American mind as authentic black behavior," Williams said.

But many people accused Cosby of blaming the victim, Williams said, and argued that Cosby didn't understand the problem of institutional racism in America.

"Cosby was pretty much marginalized, his message condemned," Williams said, despite the fact that "so much of what Cosby said seems to me to have roots in reality."

Williams also spoke about Oprah Winfrey's decision to spend \$40 million to open a school for young black women in South Africa.

"When she goes to these American inner-



city public schools, the kids want iPods, they want sneakers, they want to be on her TV show," Williams said. "But she said when she went to schools in South Africa, the black children there spoke to her about wanting books, about wanting better schools, about wanting the opportunity to learn and to become leaders in their society, wanting the opportunity to travel, to get to know people, to learn other languages. She decided that that was a better place to invest her dollars."

In her Union Forum address, Charen said the United States must strengthen its resolve to win the global war on terror in which it is engaged.

President George Bush has his faults, Charen said, but she remains convinced that he understands the urgency of the conflict the United States is fighting.

"This president has, in my judgment, a far better grasp of our overall strategic situation than do his critics," she said. "He recognizes that a withdrawal from Iraq would be a defeat, and that the consequences of such a defeat would be felt for generations to come." ♦

Union initiates Anatomical Bequest Program

Professor of chemistry Charles Baldwin is widely known for his love of scientific study. He has ensured his personal commitment to education will continue even after he draws his final breath.

Baldwin was the first to sign an agreement to bequeath his body to Union University for scientific study through the new Anatomical Bequest Program. The O.P. and Evalyn Hammons University Professor of Pre-Medical Studies says the choice was an easy one.

"I never thought I'd be able to follow my calling after death," says Baldwin, who has taught at Union from 1970-81 and from 1988 to present. "This is a way to fulfill the calling to teach even after the spirit has left the physical remains."

Although pleased to be the first at Union to sign a contract, Baldwin adds with a smile that "I do not intend to be the first cadaver."

Baldwin says he had always thought about an anatomical bequest, but two deaths in 2005 led him to think about finishing the arrangement. One was the passing of his father; the other, longtime friend and former Union trustee Allen Truex, a highly respected physician who bequeathed his body to a similar program at Vanderbilt University.

Nationally, most who sign agreements have backgrounds in education, medicine or some other field that allowed them to see first-hand the value of anatomical instruction using cadavers.



Charles Baldwin

Participants sign an agreement that states clearly the intentions of the university to use the body for educational purposes. Under certain circumstances, such as family objections or death resulting from an infectious disease, the agreement can be rescinded.

All but a few anatomical bequest programs are aligned with medical schools. Union has offered a class in gross anatomy class for 17 years and has received cadavers from the University of Tennessee. Through the years, students have observed that the class has prepared them well for medical school study, or at the very least given them a greater appreciation for the complexity of the human body.

At Union, biology professor James Huggins conducts the gross human anatomi-

my classes that will benefit from the new cadaver program. Huggins says his students pray over the bodies before or after each class session.

"We do our utmost to ensure the dignity of our donors and their families," says Huggins. "Most of the time we actually thank God for the person and their willingness to allow us such a great opportunity."

"Body donation gives everyone the chance to contribute to the training of medical professionals and the health and well-being of future generations. It can be a significant part of the legacy we leave to 'life after us,'" Huggins said.

Baldwin says he sees the opportunity in light of the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25. Jesus illustrated the concept of stewardship by describing three men, each of whom received money (talents) to invest. One man started with five talents and ended with 10. Another took two talents and earned an additional two. A third buried his money, fearful that it would be lost.

"This program allows me to turn one talent into 10 or 15," says Baldwin. "I won't be burying something that can have value to others." ♦

For more information about Union's Anatomical Bequest Program, contact University Relations at 731.661.5050.

Union on cover of new Jackson directory

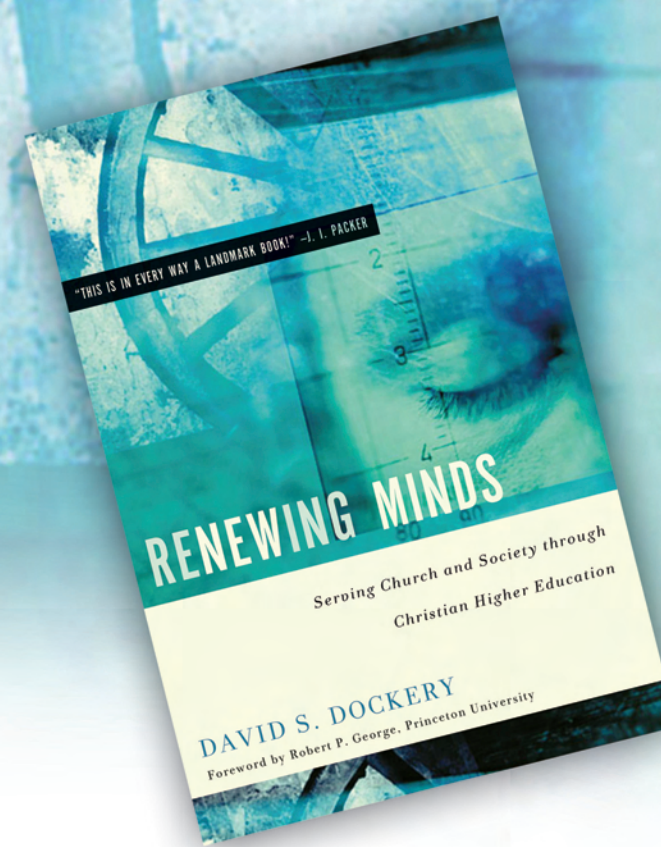
Union University is featured on the cover of BellSouth's The Real Yellow Pages directory for Jackson in 2007-08. The company selected a photograph taken early last fall of Miller Tower that shows a rainbow extending to the right of the campus icon. The design and the directory were released in April.

"We are proud to feature Union University on the first AT&T-branded Real Yellow Pages directory for Jackson," said

Donnie Hudson, AT&T division sales manager for western Tennessee.

Union is the first university in Jackson to be featured in this way.

Among other Tennessee schools that have been featured: Vanderbilt University, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, University of Memphis and Rhodes College. ♦



New Dockery book earns critical praise

The expected September release of President David S. Dockery's new book is already drawing reaction from evangelical scholars around the world.

The book is entitled "Renewing Minds: Serving Church and Society Through Christian Higher Education." B&H Publishing Group is releasing the 288-page work with a forward by Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University.

"The book is a reflection of my thinking about Christian higher education, particularly over the past dozen years," says Dockery. "It has been a joyful privilege to work on this project. I am deeply grateful for the warm reception among those who have already read it," Dockery said.

Scholars and leading thinkers typically read advance copies of new books months prior to release. Many already have weighed in with comments about the "Renewing Minds..."

"Visionary and magisterial, Dockery's big-picture manifesto vividly blocks in the demanding standards, proper cultural contextualizing, and strategic global significance of thoroughgoing Christian higher education today," writes J.I. Packer, profes-

sor of theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia. "The Bible-anchored argumentation convinces the head, and the writer's zeal warms the heart. This is in every way a landmark book!"

Charles W. Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship, called it a timely and valuable resource.

"There's no greater need for the church than to equip the coming generation of Christians to engage the postmodern culture," Colson said. "My friend David Dockery has given us an excellent resource for that effort. His new book challenges the academy to make biblical worldview the foundation for not only renewing minds but developing character."

"Renewing Minds is a robust and thoughtful defense of the necessity and ideals of Christian higher education, coupled with a shrewd and wise assessment of the challenges and strategies of the future," says Alister E. McGrath, Professor of Historical Theology at Oxford University.

The book is also attracting attention among Christian educators in the United States.

"David Dockery writes with passion and hope as one of the world's leading thinkers

and visionaries in Christian higher education, says J. Randall O'Brien, Executive Vice President and Provost of Baylor University. "Were it in my power, I would put a copy of this book in the hands of every professor and administrator in Christian higher education."

"As it is, every chair, dean, and new faculty member at Baylor University will receive this treasure, which boldly calls us to faithfulness to our Christ-centered mission," O'Brien said.

"David Dockery is one of my heroes, quietly going about producing a prolific body of writing, with fresh insight and deep conviction, all the while leading one of our finest Christian universities," says Phillip W. Eaton, president of Seattle Pacific University.

"What I like most about this book is the unreserved passion about the possibilities ahead for the Christian university. I share that passion, and I am grateful to David Dockery for his strong voice in our midst," Eaton said.

Copies will be available for purchase at all Christian bookstores, as well as online sources like Amazon.com. Orders are being taken now for fall delivery. ♦



Help for her homeland: Nigerian student leaving Union with a plan

By Mykle Harchfield

Many students leave Union University with the desire to start their own businesses. Few have the motivation of Ekinadoese Na Osaghae.

Nursing students and faculty on the Germantown campus know her as Eki. She wants to start a health clinic in the southern region of her native Nigeria.

"I want it to be outside Benin, in a poor area where there is no access to health care," says Eki, who graduated from high school eight years ago and has since had to endure a series of labor stoppages at the university in her hometown of Benin City.

Eki's father works in a successful business of importing and exporting goods, which allows her family to live a relatively comfortable life.

But the majority of families in that part of Africa earn a monthly income equivalent to about \$100. Most businesses are government-run and do not employ a great deal of the pop-

ulation. Eki says most families are supported by one or several members tending farms.

Because of the poor working conditions, she says government-owned businesses have frequent employee strikes, leaving more families scrounging for enough money to survive.

"It's really a shame because my country has lots of oil," says Eki. "There is so much oil in Nigeria and so much of it is sold to other countries, but nobody can afford the gas there."

Beyond economics, typhoid and malaria are big health problems for this populous country.

"No prescription is needed for any medicines, you just go to chemists and they give you medicine," said Eki.

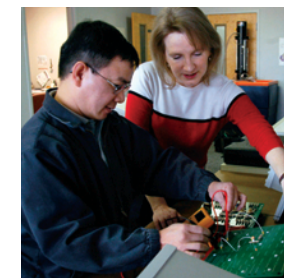
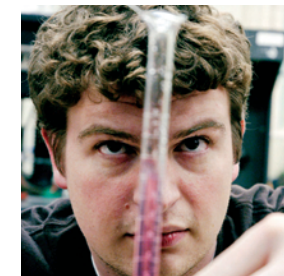
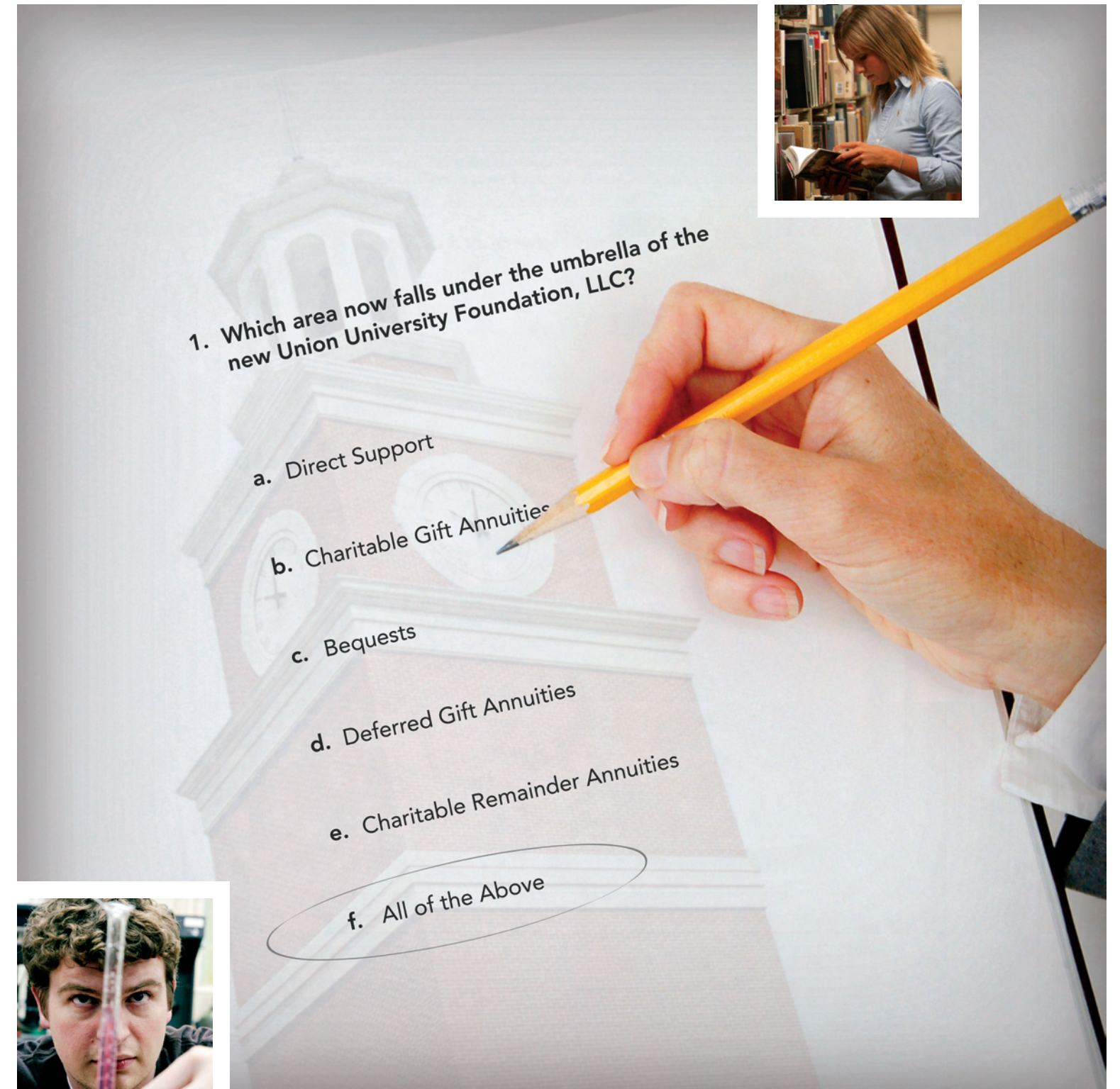
While she waited for labor problems to ease at the university, Eki spent much of her time volunteering for several organizations around Benin City, including the leprosy community and Roemand Home, a center for children under the age of 18 who break

the law. The time spent with so many people with such vast needs added to Eki's desire to pursue the medical field. Her father eventually sent her to the United States to complete her education.

Eki has an uncle who had lived for years in Nashville. After she arrived, she found Union while searching the Internet for nursing programs in the region.

She started the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program on the Germantown campus last year and plans to graduate in August. It has been a tough journey. Some of the credits she earned in Africa could not be transferred because the strike at the university there made it impossible to send transcripts.

But Eki sees a chance to transfer the nursing skills she's learned at Union to the streets and villages near Benin City, where they'll benefit people in desperate need of better medical care. ✦



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