

FINALFRAME



Stephen Olford Center

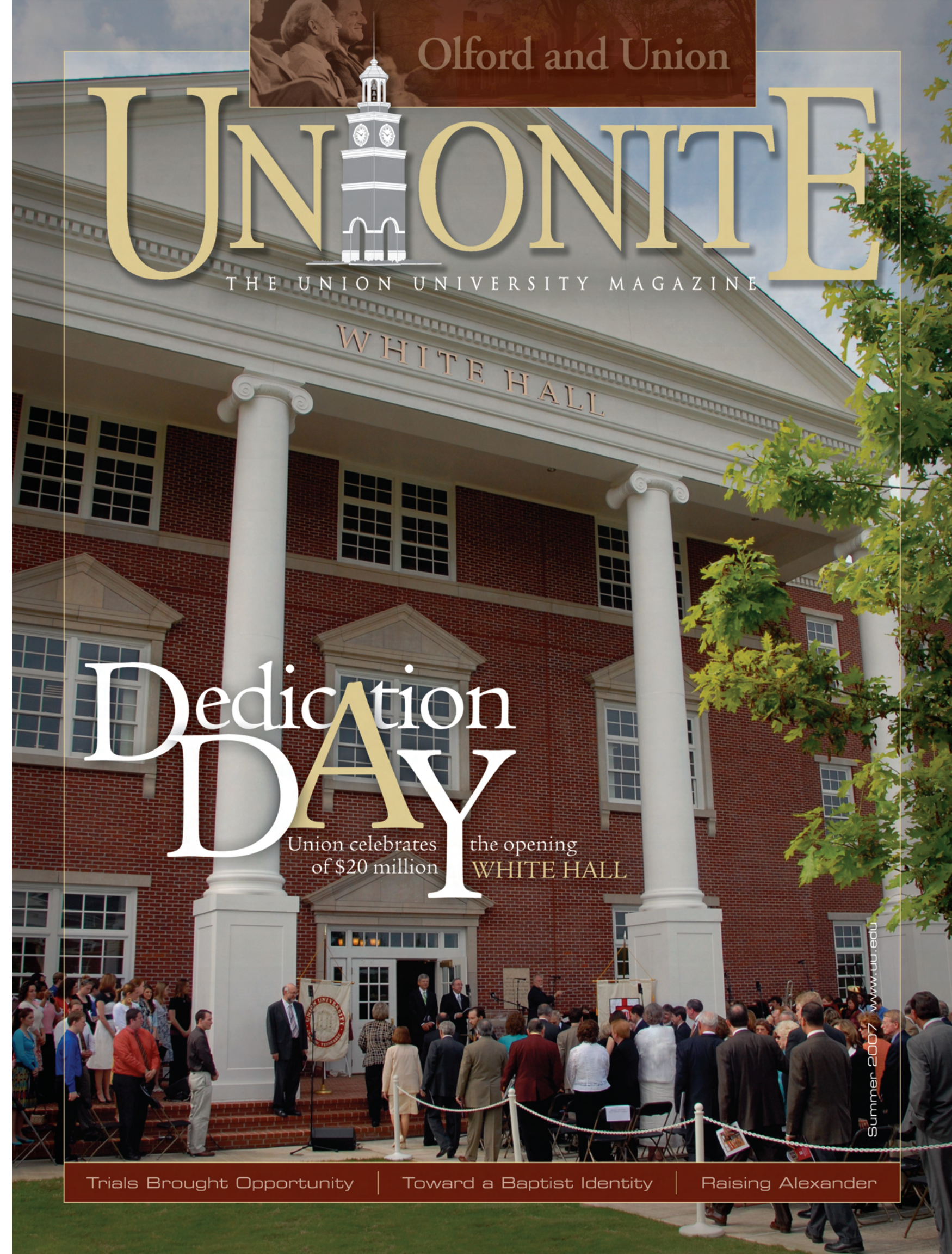
Since 1988, the Stephen Olford Center for Biblical Preaching has provided outstanding instruction in expository ministry from its picturesque Memphis headquarters. Olford Ministries International now joins forces with Union University to continue this vital ministry, which touches people around the world.



Office of Alumni Services
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 608
Jackson, TN



Trials Brought Opportunity

Toward a Baptist Identity

Raising Alexander

Summer 2007 www.uu.edu



Union 2010: A Look from 2007

The Union 2010 Plan is a far-reaching plan designed to guide trustees, faculty, staff, students, administrators, and others toward a bold, exciting, and shared future. The comprehensive Plan, unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees in December of 2004, addresses our mission, facilities, enrollment, personnel, programs, and other opportunities and challenges. We now find ourselves at the mid-point in the implementation of the Plan. As we stop to evaluate, we rejoice in God's ongoing blessings and favor to this University. Over 25 percent of the goals have already been completed and all of the others are making great progress. We are now at the \$94 million mark toward our \$110 million campaign goal.

The completion of White Hall is a major milestone for this campus and the Union 2010 Plan. The new opportunities for teaching and research in the sciences and health care will be incredibly significant. So many people have been involved with us in making this dream come true. We give thanks to our trustee leadership, especially Harry Smith and Bob Campbell. We give thanks to dozens of people who provided gifts for this project, particularly Roy and Martha White, West Tennessee Healthcare, Jim and Janet Ayers, and others. We are indeed grateful for the textbook relationship with H&M Construction and TLM (engineers and architects). We rejoice in the open doors for students and faculty

in days and years ahead.

As we look toward the fall, enrollment projections appear strong. We welcome Dr. Gene Fant as the new dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. We are excited about three new centers that will be launched in the fall: (1) The Center for Media, Faith, and Culture under the leadership of Dr. Michael Chute, (2) The Center for Religion and Politics under the direction of Professor

Micah Watson, and (3) The Stephen Olford Center for Preaching, where Dr. David Olford will serve as the Stephen Olford Professor of Preaching and Assistant to the President.

Several new projects will hopefully be launched in the coming year, including new residential life facilities and a new banquet hall, in addition to the amphitheatre. All of these new developments are

healthy steps toward the fulfillment of the Union 2010 Plan.

It takes a lot of people pulling in the same direction toward a common mission and a shared vision for these things to become realities—not only trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students—but alumni, friends, volunteers, and donors. We give thanks to each person who has invested in the work of Union University during this strategic period. Ultimately we give thanks for God's ongoing goodness to a very special academic community called Union University.

Soli Deo Gloria

David S. Dockery
David S. Dockery



UNIONITE

The Union University Magazine
Summer 2007, Volume 58, Number 2

President

David S. Dockery

Senior Vice President for University Relations

Charles A. Fowler

Associate Vice President for University Communications

Mark D. Kahler

Assistant Director of University Communications

Juanita Cotner

Director of News and Media Relations

Tim Ellsworth

Director of University Promotional Strategies

Beverly Vos

Director of Creative Services

Todd Mullins

Graphic Design Specialist

Sarah Belcher

Director of Visual Communication

Jim Veneman

University Photographer

Morris Abernathy

Web Development Agent

Cam Tracy

Editorial Office

Unionite

1050 Union University Drive

Jackson, Tenn. 38305-3697

Phone: (731) 661-5211

Fax: (731) 661-5177

Web site: www.uu.edu

E-mail: unionite@uu.edu

Numbers to Know

(Area code 731)

Admissions 661-5210

Advancement 661-5050

Alumni Services 661-5208

Athletic Office 661-5130

Church Services 661-5281

Events/Info Dawg 661-5048

Financial Aid 661-5015

LifeWay Bookstore 668-9492

Switchboard 668-1818

Unionite is published bi-annually by Union University, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, Tenn. 38305-3697. Union University is an academic community, affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, equipping persons to think Christianly and serve faithfully in ways consistent with its core values of being excellence-driven, Christ-centered, people-focused, and future-directed. ©2007



Summer 2007

About the cover

White Hall is the new home of Union University's biology and chemistry departments and the School of Nursing. Named for lead donor Roy L. White, the \$20 million facility is the largest investment of its kind in Union's 185-year history. At the building's dedication on May 11, many students and friends of Union got their first looks at the much-anticipated facility.

CONTENTS



Features

16 The Olford Legacy

Stephen Olford was one of the most influential evangelical leaders of the 20th century. Now the extraordinary ministry bearing his name joins forces with Union University's School of Christian Studies.

20 Scientific Milestone

Union dedicates its new \$20 million White Hall science building and opens one of the region's most sophisticated study facilities.

26 Trials Brought Opportunity

No one really expected this first-year teacher at a troubled inner-city school to stay around for very long. That's because no one really knew Julie Propst.

30 Toward a Baptist Identity

At the start of the 21st century, what does it mean to be a Baptist? People from all walks of denominational life came to Union this winter to consider that question at a historic conference that is still being talked about across the convention.

34 Raising Alexander

Today he's an NFL draft pick. But when David and Melissa Barham first met Rufus Alexander, they saw a young man who needed direction and loving care.

Departments

- 4 1050 u.u. drive: campus news
- 14 2745 Hacks Cross Road: Germantown campus news
- 38 old school: alumni news
- 48 final frame: photo essay



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.

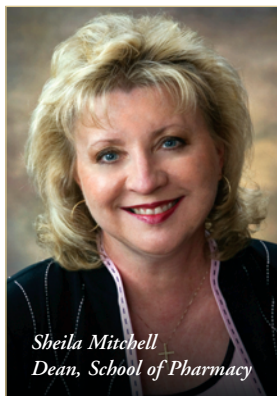
Union began considering the addition of a pharmacy

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.

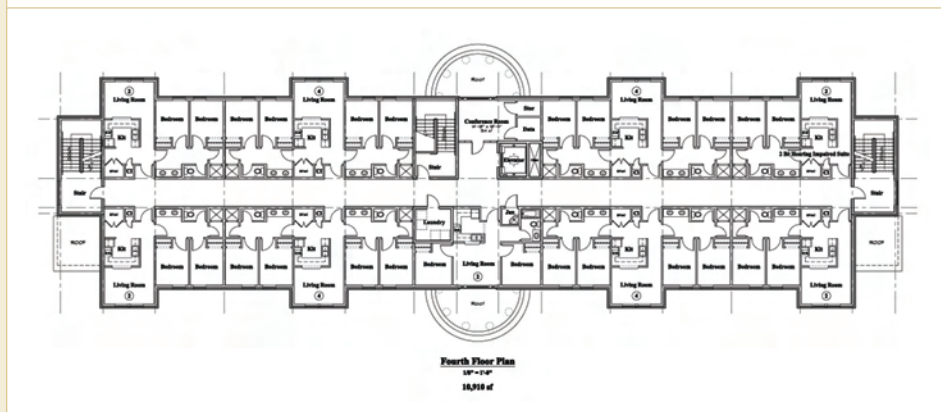
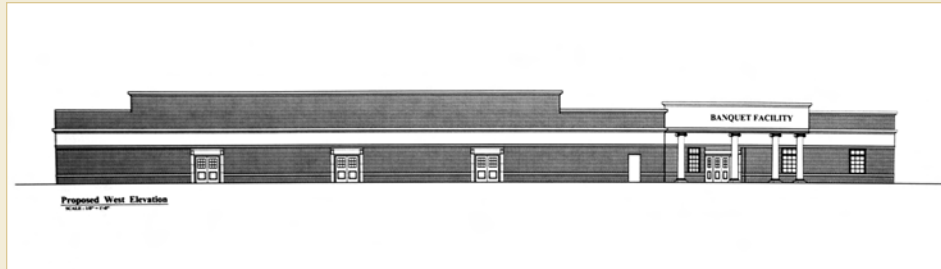
"There is a huge shortage of pharmacists in the country, and that shortage is particularly evident in Tennessee," President David S. Dockery said. "These needs will only increase with the graying of America."

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.

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

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.

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

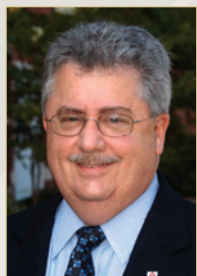
Rosebrough become university professors in the School of Education.

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. Everett 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

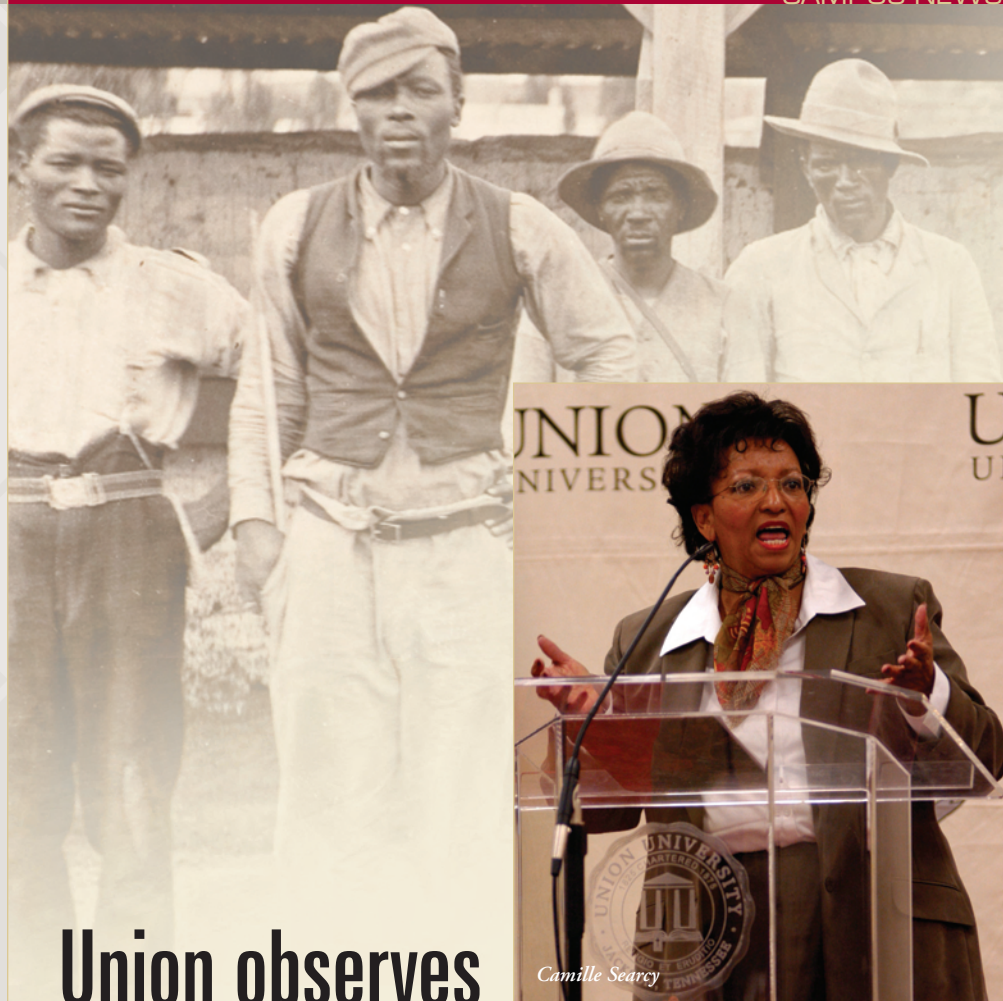


The Union University Singers completed an extensive spring tour, presenting concerts in churches in Missouri, Michigan, Illinois and Tennessee.

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.

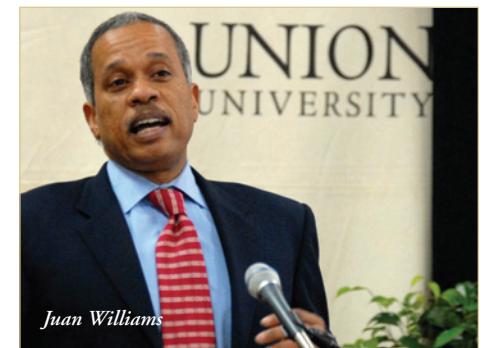
"Imagine the damage being done in terms of young black people who are seeking some affirmation of themselves as strong, capable souls, and seeing that this is what is being glorified, this is what's being elevated in the American mind as authentic black behavior," Williams said.

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

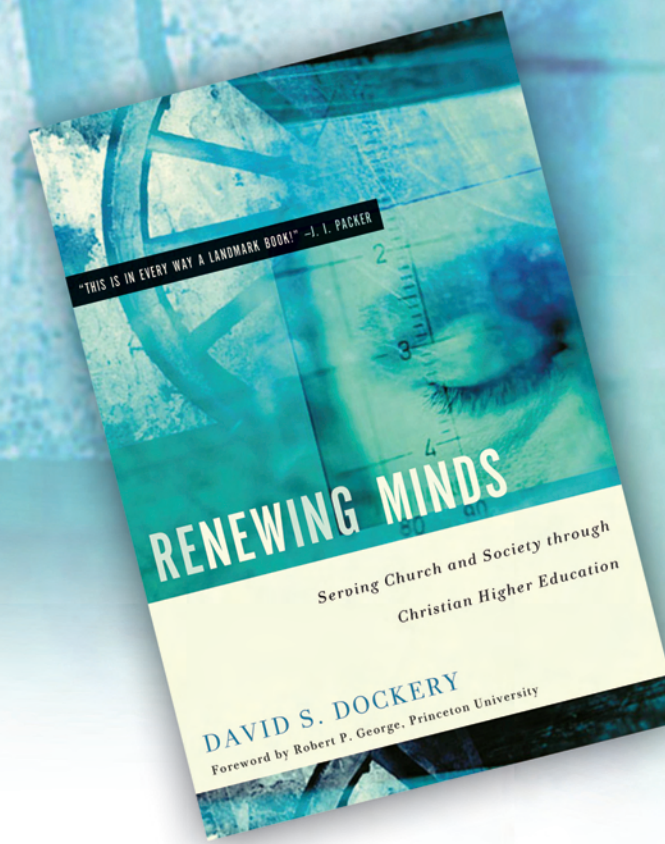
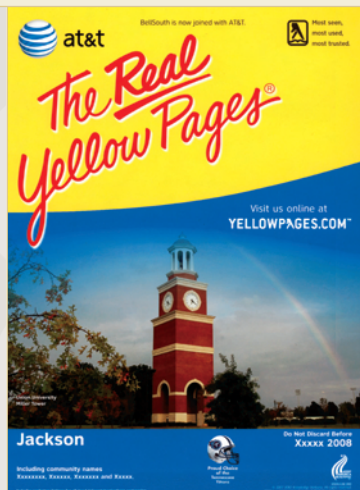
Union University is featured on the cover of BellSouth's The Real Yellow Pages directory for Jackson in 2007-08. The company selected a photograph taken early last fall of Miller Tower that shows a rainbow extending to the right of the campus icon. The design and the directory were released in April.

"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.

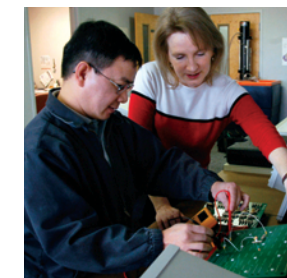
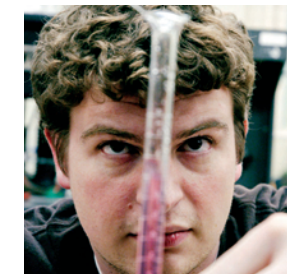
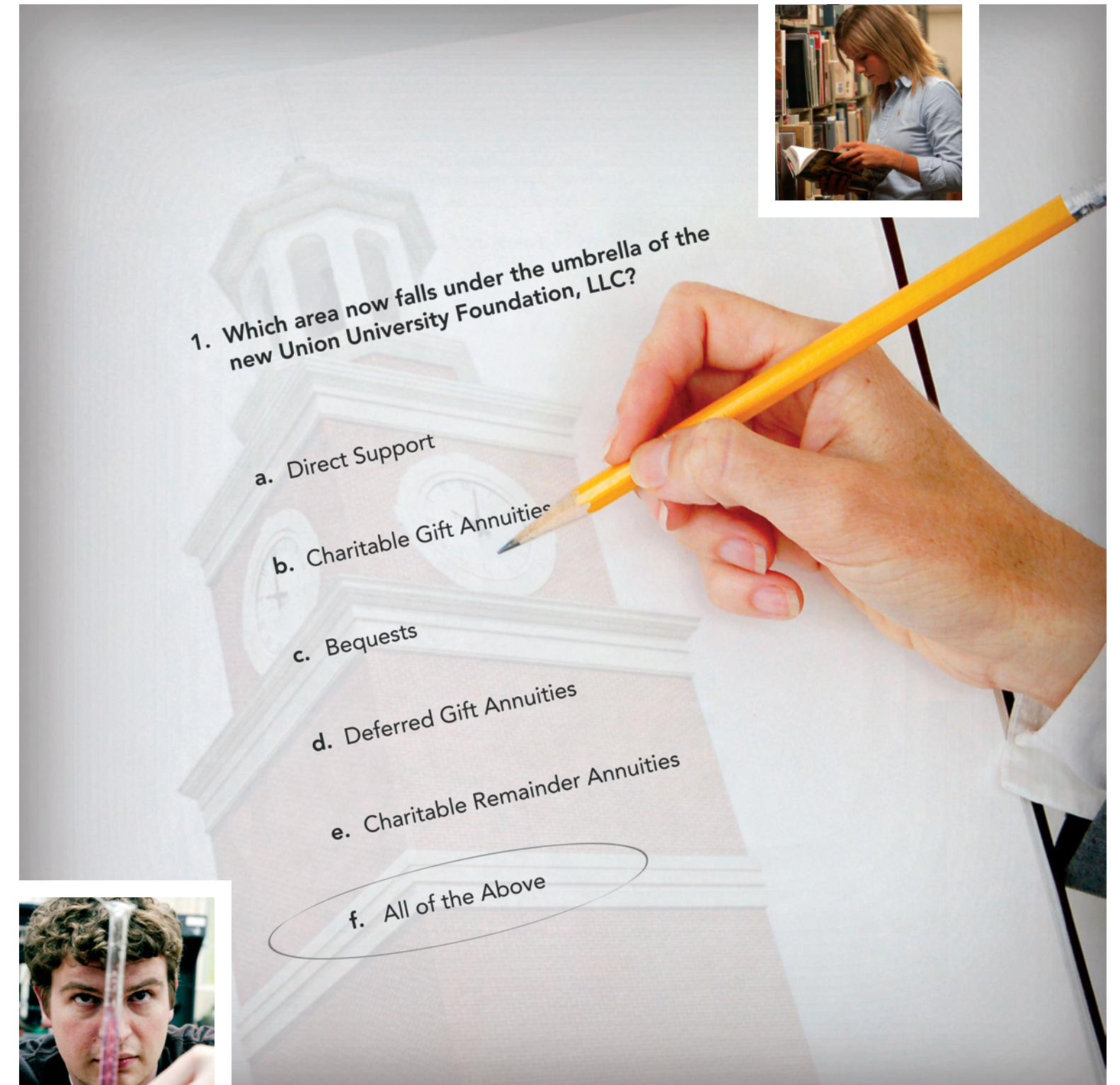
While she waited for labor problems to ease at the university, Eki spent much of her time volunteering for several organizations around Benin City, including the leprosy community and Roemand Home, a center for children under the age of 18 who break

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. ✦



Union University Foundation will ensure continued progress in all of these areas. It will help us meet needs that did not exist even 10 years ago, as well as needs in the future we cannot fully understand today.

Join us in ensuring the future of Union University.
Give to the Union University Foundation.

Office of University Relations
731.661.5050 or 800.33.UNION
Visit us on the Web at www.uugiving.com





UNION JOINS FORCES WITH
PREACHING GREATNESS

THE OLFORD LEGACY

Stephen F. Olford is known as one of the greatest preachers of the 20th century. His radio and television programs were heard around the world, and countless preachers benefited from the training Olford provided them at the Stephen Olford Center for Biblical Preaching in Memphis.

Now Union University will help to carry on Olford's legacy, after the board of directors for Olford Ministries International on April 3 approved a transfer of a large majority of the ministry's assets to Union University. The transfer became final at the end of May.

The gift to Union includes the Stephen Olford Center, located on 18 wooded acres in the heart of southeast Memphis.

"The work of the Stephen Olford Center over recent years has earned the respect of the entire evangelical world," says Union President David S. Dockery. "We count it a great privilege and a sacred stewardship to be benefactors of the legacy of Stephen Olford. We are excited about the new partnership and trust God's providential favor to rest on this new aspect of Union University's expanding outreach."

The Stephen Olford Center has always exhibited an incarnational, international, interracial, and interdenominational focus. That approach to ministry will continue uninterrupted.

Stephen Olford died in 2004, leaving behind his wife of 56 years, Heather. She still lives on the Stephen Olford Center property and has played a key role in the operation of Olford Ministries since her husband's death. In addition to their son David, the Olfords have another son, Jonathan, and five grandchildren.



Stephen and Heather Olford celebrate the start of their ministry to Calvary Baptist Church in New York City, 1959. Credit: Archives of the Billy Graham Center, Wheaton, Ill.

Stephen Olford: A ‘Preacher’s Preacher’

Stephen Olford was born in Zambia in 1918, the son of missionaries Frederick and Bessie Olford. The Olfords had three sons, Stephen, Paul, and John. Stephen was raised in Angola, where he made his Christian commitment at a young age.

He spent his college years in his father’s native England. He was appointed an Army Scripture Reader during Word War II, and launched a Young Peoples Christian fellowship in South Wales. After the war, Olford became a well-traveled, full-time evangelist and preacher in the United Kingdom and across Europe. His preaching during those days touched thousands of lives and led to profound commitments of service.

During Olford’s memorial service in September 2004, Gaetano Sottile provided a touching yet typical personal testimony of Olford’s ministry. Sottile later became the founder and president of Italy for Christ. He first encountered Olford during a crusade in Messina, Sicily:

“I didn’t know a word of English and I saw this little man preaching the Word of God with such a power as I had never seen before,” says Sottile. “I wasn’t interested in the translation. I was caught up with the way this guy was preaching the Word of God.”

Sottile went on a few days later to make a Christian commitment and establish a lifelong relationship with Olford. He says years later, Olford inspired him to start Italy for Christ during a discussion in an Amsterdam pizza parlor.

“He was very instrumental. He was my Papa. Why did I call him Papa? Because my

father died right after he basically met the Lord Jesus Christ and Dr. Stephen Olford was so interested in my life that I just felt like he was my spiritual father. I was a son in the faith.”

In 1953, Olford began as pastor at Duke Street Baptist Church in Richmond, Surrey, England. From there he went to Calvary Baptist Church in New York City, where he served for 14 years.

Olford began a Christian television and radio program, “Encounter,” during his years in New York, and his Sunday morning services were broadcast around the world on radio.

His ability to minister to other pastors led him to be regarded as a “preacher’s preacher.” The recipient of many awards and honorary degrees, Olford’s influence was perhaps too large to ever be fully measured. He had a host of unique opportunities to minister across cultural, racial and denominational lines.

Olford and Billy Graham

It would be difficult to find a detailed account of Billy Graham’s early ministry that does not mention Stephen Olford. The two men traveled together in the years after World War II. As Olford was just beginning his ministry at Duke Street Baptist Church, young Graham came to London for a 1954 crusade. Olford offered his own support and the resources of his church members.

But his early meetings with Graham provided far more than friendly encouragement. Olford had lengthy and intense discussions with the young evangelist about his personal prayer life and the Holy Spirit.

In a 1970 oral history archived at Wheaton College’s Billy Graham Center, Olford told interviewer Lois Ferm of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association that from their first meeting in 1946, Graham “impressed me as somebody who was eager for life in its fullness, ready for adventure.”

Olford’s comments continue later in the same transcript:

“The next day we met again in the same hotel and the theme was the Holy Spirit. I gave him my testimony of how God met with me on the rugged coast of Porthcawl in Wales and completely turned my life inside out; an experience of the Holy Spirit and his anointing. I then explained what I meant by this and went through the Scriptures with him. As I talked (and I can see him now) those eyes glinted with tears. He said ‘that’s what I want, that’s what I want.’ So from talking, we went to praying. From praying, we went to praising until presently it seemed as if all heaven broke loose. And he cried ‘I’m filled, I have it. This is the turning point in my life.’”

Five years later, when Olford was installed as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in New York City, Graham was among those celebrating with him.

Olford Ministries in Memphis

The Olfords moved from New York to Memphis in 1985 to develop a training program and a center to encourage and equip preachers and teachers of the Bible. The Stephen Olford Center for Biblical Preaching was dedicated in 1988.

Stephen Olford said his years of missions and evangelistic work led him to conclude that

there was not enough expository preaching from the world’s pulpits. The Stephen Olford Center for Biblical Preaching became a teaching resource for ministers around the world. Courses taught them the practicalities of preaching from a biblical text.

The organization’s mission statement reflects that commitment:

“To provide biblical instruction and practical training to equip pastors, preachers, teachers and leaders – anyone who proclaims the Bible – to do so accurately, incarnationally, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. We do this with a global concern to see the church revived and the world reached with the saving Word of Christ.”

What started in 1988 quickly grew into a comprehensive organization. The Olfords welcomed conference participants from around the world to short but intensive on-site training seminars.

Some of the sessions offered in Memphis were then taken to other cities across the United States and to a number of international locations. As technological opportunities advanced, courses became available through live streaming on the Internet.

“We have had, by God’s grace, a continued sense of spiritual blessing upon the ministry over the years, even after the death of my father,” says David Olford. “Seeking to be good stewards of this ministry, we have needed to look seriously at how the ministry can be maintained, improved and expanded in the future.”

Stephen Olford became a close friend of the late Adrian Rogers, the former pastor of

Bellevue Baptist Church in nearby Cordova. Rogers had these words to say at Olford’s memorial service:

“(The Apostle) Paul finished as a spiritual soldier. Stephen finished as a spiritual soldier. He was a warrior for God. You may not think of him as being a big man but, friend, when he stood behind a pulpit he weighed 300 pounds. What a mighty man of God. And what a warrior this man was.”

Stephen Olford Center and Union

The gift of the Stephen Olford Center is appraised at more than \$4.5 million, the largest one-time gift in Union University history.

The 18-acre facility in southeast Memphis includes more than 40 hotel-style rooms for conference attendees; dining facilities; a patio and swimming pool; a newly donated library with about 32,000 volumes; classrooms and offices; and a chapel.

Union will establish the Stephen Olford Chair of Preaching, which will be held by David Olford, Stephen Olford’s son, who will join the Union faculty. David Olford has a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree from Wheaton College and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Sheffield.

“David Olford is an ordained Baptist minister, serious scholar, faithful churchman, dynamic teacher and gifted preacher,” Dockery says. “His commitment to students, his love for the gospel, his international influence and his outstanding publications will all be tremendous additions to

the Union University community.”

David Olford recently taught a class in Union’s Master of Christian Studies program in Memphis, and he views his new teaching opportunities as a way to fulfill the commitment to expository preaching that was so important to his late father.

“In the marrying of ministries, we believe more can be accomplished under God’s hand in coming years,” Olford said. “The ability to offer academic credit through an accredited university will meet the needs of many, and strengthen what happens at the center.”

In addition to current program offerings at the Stephen Olford Center, Union will begin its own programming there this fall, with a new emphasis on expository preaching in the university’s offerings. Dockery also said plans are moving forward for Union to establish a Doctor of Ministry degree in expository preaching.

“Olford Ministries is known for delivering life-changing educational experiences to church leaders,” says Charles A. Fowler, Union’s senior vice president for university relations. “Future programming through the Stephen Olford Center at Union University will build upon this legacy of Christ-centered excellence to offer new and enhanced programs that will include both degree and non-degree offerings. We are hopeful that the future will see increased student enrollment, expanded program offerings and a broader constituent base that will honor Stephen Olford and advance the mission of Union University.” ✦





Dedication DAY

Union celebrates the
opening of \$20 million
WHITE HALL

Hailing the day as one of the most significant in Union University history and thanking God for his blessings, Union University President David S. Dockery and other university leaders dedicated White Hall during a May 11 ceremony.

“It is a hallelujah day on the campus of Union University,” Dockery told a crowd of about 700 who gathered on the steps of Union’s new science building for the dedication ceremony. “We have looked forward to this day for many years. We have dreamed

and prayed and worked, and today is the culmination of that, and we give thanks to our great God.”

The building is named in honor of Roy L. White of Memphis, the lead donor for the project.

“I really think God laid that on my heart,” White said following the ceremony about his decision to give the lead gift for the building. “Before I really got involved with Union, I started walking through the halls of Union and talking to students. I would listen, and a lot of the things students would talk about at Union University were not discussed at public institutions.”

continued on page 24 >



WHITE HALL by the NUMBERS



- \$20 million to build White Hall
- \$4.2 million for a highly sophisticated HVAC system that re-circulates air every eight minutes
- 145,000 man-hours to complete construction
- 63,345 square feet
- 47,085 square feet increase over current science allocation
- \$40,000 washer for laboratory glass ware
- 1,400 drawers of laboratory equipment
- 750 gallon fresh water aquarium
- 66 miles of electrical wiring
- 42 offices and 3 conference rooms
- 23 miles of cabling installed by Union's network support department
- 20 teaching laboratories including a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) facility
- 7 hospital bed bays
- 6 human patient simulators
- 3 dedicated undergraduate student research suites
- 1 operating room

continued from page 21

White said he realized how important education was to the Union students, and added that God prompted him to get involved at Union. He has served on the board of trustees for about 10 years now.

One of the things White is most excited about is what White Hall will mean in the future – not only for West Tennessee, but for the world.

“The students who go through this building, I think will touch mankind throughout the whole world,” White said. “I think God has got his hand on Union University. I am just delighted and privileged to be a part of it.”

Jill Konkol, a senior biology major and chemistry minor, led in a time of praise and adoration during the ceremony. Konkol has accepted a full scholarship to study medicine at Wake Forest University.

“We are impressed when scientists develop instruments so powerful they can pick up the sound of galaxies in collision 270 million light years away,” Konkol said. “We are amazed to see a laser beam cut through a diamond as if it were paper. We marvel at the quiet power of a few drops of water which, when frozen, can tear apart a brass valve that half a dozen men cannot turn. But we are completely in awe when we contemplate the greatness and the majesty of one God in three persons.”

Union trustees in December 1997 approved a campus master plan that set in motion the events leading to White Hall’s construction. Two years later, Union chemistry professor Charles Baldwin and biology professor Elsie Smith, in a conversation with Dockery, confirmed that the university should build a new science facility if at all possible, Dockery said.

“At that time the Lord brought Roy White our way,” Dockery said. “Roy White was God’s instrument to help chart the course for this marvelous facility.”

Inside White Hall

Opening the doors to White Hall is like uncovering a promise of future treasures.

The main entry hall, with its warm, red oak paneled walls, leads to more than 63-thousand square feet of classroom, laboratory and office space. Biology, chemistry and nurs-



ing each occupy entire floors dedicated to their respective disciplines.

These departments are moving into 42 offices, seven lecture halls, three conference rooms, a Nuclear

Magnetic Resonance facility, three undergraduate student research suites, and 20 teaching laboratories.

The student lab space is crucial because research is required of all undergraduate science majors at Union. At most schools, projects of this type are usually reserved for graduate school. Now Union students will have the best facilities and advanced learning opportunities.

“The biology department anticipates a continued offering of excellent classroom and laboratory experiences in greatly updated facilities, said Mark Bolyard, biology department chairman. “White Hall allows us to escalate the types of research and independent study opportunities available.”

Biology, chemistry and nursing faculties had a role in the design of White Hall. The result is a building that should make learning easier and more comprehensive.

“This facility is designed to promote rich student-to-student and student-to-faculty relationships, said Charles Baldwin, O.P. and Evalyn Hammons University Professor of Pre-Medical Studies Education. “Union graduates of these programs will be better equipped to lead their respective professions in the 21st century.”

A fully equipped operating room lab and a human patient simulator provide nurse anesthesia students with instruction and preparation not available in many other schools in the region.

“The opportunity to learn in state-of-the-art classrooms while gaining innovative clinical experiences through simulation and use of other clinical teaching devices will prepare nursing students to provide a higher quality of care for the sick,” said Tim Smith, dean of Union’s School of Nursing.

A Big Move

The White Hall move is the largest for Union since the 1975 campus relocation. Eight students have been hired to help, and professional movers will oversee the larger

and more difficult assignments. Faculty members prioritized the moving schedule room-by-room.

“There are a lot of details to consider,” said physics professor Kyle Hathcox, who is helping coordinate the moving schedule. “Just when you think you have them all taken care of, something else comes up.”

Because potentially hazardous chemicals are involved, Hathcox said those working on the move were required to take a seminar on procedure and safety precautions. In addition, faculty submitted special handling instructions when appropriate.

The move officially started May 21 and is expected to take at least six weeks. Faculty members were free to move smaller items by mid-April. Nurse anesthesia classes were scheduled for early summer, so Tim Smith and his staff were the first to make a complete move into the new building.

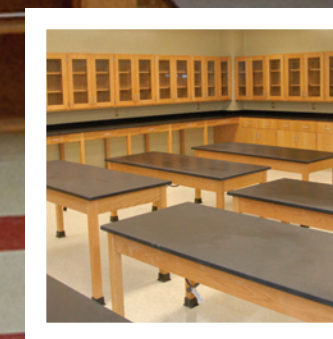
Biology Professor Elsie Smith started as a student at Union’s east Jackson campus. She began her teaching career there in 1962, and has observed the body of basic scientific knowledge increase many fold during her 45 years at Union.

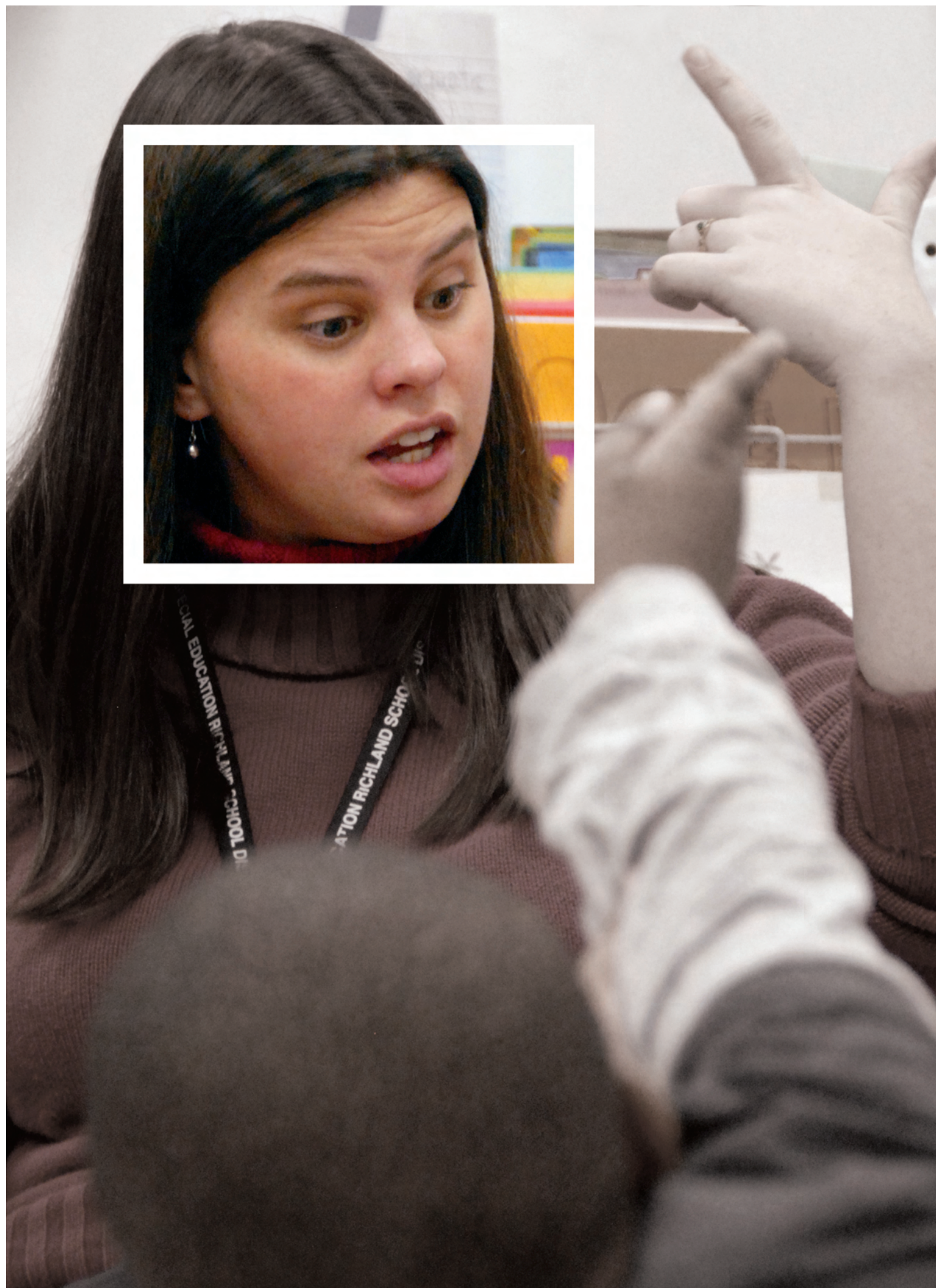
So Smith is in a unique position to witness White Hall’s completion and the impact this new facility will have on future generations of students.

“The move to our present campus in 1975 greatly expanded the facilities of the biology department, but the move to White Hall is a dream-come-true,” said Smith.

“Such state-of-the-art equipment and technology puts the icing on the cake of my teaching career at Union.” ♦

For more information on the sciences and Union’s programs of study, go to <http://www.uu.edu/academics> or call 1.800.33.UNION.





TOUGH LOVE

Julie Propst
finds fulfillment
inside an inner-city
classroom

BY TIM ELLSWORTH

Every morning, Julie Propst greets her seven students with a cheerful “Good morning!” and a hug.

For some of those students, it may be the only hug they get all day.

“None of them has very easy lives,” Propst said. “I have a few kids who don’t see their parents. Their parents leave for work as they get home from school. Sister gets them off the bus. They are not easy lives at

home at all. I have several that come to school very hungry because they don’t eat dinner the night before.”

It’s a tough place to be a teacher. In fact, most of the first-year teachers at Watkins-Nance Elementary School in urban Columbia, S.C., don’t stick around for a second year.

But for Propst, it’s perfect.

“I came down here just because I wanted an inner-city type of setting,” said Propst, a 2005 Union graduate. “I thrive on challenges. I figured it would be more challenging to work in an inner city than with the middle to upper class students.”

If she wanted challenges, Propst came to the right place. Locals hurled insults, taunts and jeers at her almost from the minute she arrived in the fall of 2005.

"You don't belong down here, white girl," they said regularly.

It's easy to see why Propst attracted attention at Watkins-Nance. Of about 500 students, two are white. Propst is one of only three white home room teachers.

"It was very hard when I first came -- to be respected, especially by the parents," Propst said. "I think just being so few white teachers here it really affects the way they perceive us. So it was very hard to break in, to be accepted and respected as a teacher, and as a teacher who cared and knew what I was doing. That was probably the biggest thing."

She soon found that race wasn't the only challenge. Most of the students live in poverty. Some of them seldom see their parents. A few are behavioral nightmares.

"I have one student that has never been told what to do and she didn't like coming into the classroom because I am very strict with behavior," Propst said. "I have very high expectations of my students. So it took her a good four or five months to get under control. She did a lot of pencil stabbing and throwing blocks at students and at me. Biting me and kicking me. I had bruises almost every day for a good four months."

But fueled by a love for her students -- even the ones who bite her -- bolstered by a natural stubbornness and reliant upon strength from the Lord, Propst gutted it out. She just finished her second year as a special education teacher at the school, where she works with students who are classified as "educable mentally disabled."

She has earned that elusive respect from colleagues, parents and students.

"(The students) see she is very caring," said Towanda Nelson, Propst's assistant. "She is very warm to them. She makes the lessons fun. I think that's why they like to be around her so much. The parents just love her."

Felita Green, one of Propst's co-workers, praised her for the way she works hard and is a constant encouragement to her students.

"She has done a remarkable job with a group of students that would have struggled otherwise," Green said. "They obviously would have needs that are beyond most teachers and the scope of regular education. She is able to meet them. It is obvious that she applies her educational training as well as personal experiences."

Raised in Kenya and Tanzania as the daughter of missionaries, Propst knew exactly what kind of work environment she wanted. Her background in Africa gave her a passion

and a burden for the challenges many African-Americans face, specifically poverty. So she chose Watkins-Nance. The journey for her has been difficult, but rewarding.

"Behavior has been a huge issue," Propst said. "(My students) have never been with their parents, so you can't expect them to know how to act right. My first few months here were very intense. Most of them are completely under control now. I praise God for that. There have been many times that I have had no idea what to do but the wisdom that the Holy Spirit gives me is incredible."

In addition to praying and asking God for help, Propst often found herself going back through her notes from her classes at Union.

"I thrive on challenges. I figured it would be more challenging to work in an inner city than with the middle to upper class students."

Professors like Ann Singleton and Ralph Leverett had a significant impact on her, Propst said, and she values what she learned from them.

"Union's education for me was so useful," she said. "We were provided with so many strategies. But the biggest thing, I think, is that Union's education program was so big on reflection. Figure out why they are doing what they are doing, and what I can do to help. Union definitely trained us to be able to do that."

She also learned how to apply her Christian faith to her job as a teacher -- something that isn't always easy to do in a public school.

"Dr. Leverett weaved Christianity into it," Propst said. "He made it a lot more than just special education. It was more of loving them with the love of Christ and making it into more of a witness opportunity."

Propst took that advice from Leverett seri-

ously. Her strategy in dealing with difficult students who find it hard to behave? Love them unconditionally. When she disciplines them, she tells them, "I love you and I know you can do better."

That message wasn't always received well. Propst's most difficult student -- the one who would bite and kick her -- would roll her eyes and stomp away when Propst told her that.

But the message ultimately got through. One day, when Propst told this girl the same thing, the child looked at Propst and said, "You really do love me."

"That was huge," Propst said. "From that moment on she pretty much respected me enough to do what I said."

Her other students have come to learn that Propst truly does care about them. And the parents have noticed as well.

"I've had so many parents come to me and just say, 'You must be a real Christian because you love these kids,'" Propst said. "And that is huge."

Propst said that kind of love also makes her students work harder academically.

"I have very high expectations for them," she said. "But when they know that I love them, they will work. It is exciting to see good scores come in because they are willing to work for it."

One morning, Propst was working with her students on sounds. A boy named DeAndre sounded out the word "not," and Propst asked him to use it in a sentence.

"I'm not the king," DeAndre replied.

"You're not the king?" Propst asked.

"Who is the king?"

DeAndre's answer: "God."

Though it's not always easy to show that love -- especially when her students decide to act up -- Propst said God has helped her to do exactly that.

"There is no possible way for someone outside to come into this community and love on these kids and enjoy teaching them if they don't have the love of Christ," she said.

Leverett said he remembers Propst as a student who had a deep sense of divine calling to do what she's doing.

"She never wavered in her goals, in her desire to work in inner city schools with the toughest of kids," Leverett said. "There was never any doubt that she had a divine call to do what she's doing. I don't know that she ever really considered anything other than what she's doing, probably even as a little girl."

"She is just a superb example of what it means to live out a calling." ♦



Convention, baptist II Cooperation Identity and Controversy

UNION TAKES THE LEAD IN ADDRESSING KEY DENOMINATIONAL ISSUES

Visitors from across the country came to Union University in February for the second Baptist Identity Conference. A follow-up to the inaugural event in 2004, this year's theme was "Baptist Identity: Convention, Cooperation and Controversy." More than 300 attended the conference sessions in a three-day period.

"Registration numbers were strong and represented both the geographical and ideological breadth of our convention," said Charles Fowler, Union's senior vice president for university relations. "This in itself is strong affirmation of the importance of these conversations."

The list of presenters reflected a variety of backgrounds and convention roles. Educators joined a pastor, mission experts, the LifeWay Christian Resources president and the convention president to examine crucial issues from a variety of perspectives.

"It was a much needed conversation for Southern Baptists as we seek to better understand our history and heritage in order to build a new sense of cooperation for our shared service in the 21st century," said Union President David S. Dockery, who was one of the 10 presenters. "Each speaker addressed a key issue facing Southern Baptists at this time in our history."

Buddy Gray, pastor of Hunter Street Baptist Church in Hoover, Ala., said

the conference was refreshing.

"It was good to see the different perspectives, and yet I think all the speakers were saying the same thing," Gray said. "Let's center on the gospel and what it means to truly be the church."

Several bloggers attended the conference and reported on the sessions as they were in progress. Steve Weaver, pastor of West Broadway Baptist Church in Lenoir



City, Tenn., said there were two contributions of the conference that will leave a lasting impact.

"First, the opportunity for open and, for the most part, civil discussion of issues of high importance for Southern Baptists," Weaver wrote on this blog. "This opportunity for dialogue has been severely lacking in the past and although the blogosphere has emerged

as a means of dialogue between individuals, it cannot replace face-to-face opportunities for the exchange of meaningful issues. Dr. David Dockery and Union University should be commended for facilitating this discussion by all interested Southern Baptists."

Secondly, Weaver said the conference topics can provide a helpful framework for continued discussions in the future.

"Serious issues such as these require serious thinking and debate," Weaver wrote. "At this conference we have seen a model of how such issues can be engaged in an amiable way, even with those with whom we disagree. If this conference raises the level of debate among Southern Baptists by providing helpful categories for debating the issues and a model of Christ-like humility for all of us to emulate, the legacy of this conference will be one of eternal significance for the millions of lost souls that could be reached with the gospel through our cooperation."

Coverage of the addresses included live cable television and Internet video streaming via EPlus TV6 and the Union Broadcasting System. Audio files were posted online and on-site digital copies of each address were available almost immediately.

What follows is a brief chronological look at each conference presentation.

MIKE DAY

Director of Missions, Mid-South Association

"THE FUTURE OF BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS AND STATE CONVENTIONS"



Mike Day

Day said both state conventions and Baptist associations are seeking to be relevant. He observed that much of what occurs in Southern Baptist life related to its various levels (national convention, state conventions and local associations) is confusing to members of local churches.

Day listed several elements of a new paradigm.

It is church-driven. "A new paradigm affirms the Great Commission was given to churches and not a denomination," Day said.

It is priority-based, focused on church starting, church mobilization and leadership development.

It is to be resource-focused. Under the new paradigm the association would have no programs to maintain. "It uses collective resources to assist churches in fulfilling the mission God has given to them," he said.

It is institution-free. "The association of the future may have to own a building, but does not have to own camps, ministry centers, or schools," the Memphis DOM noted. "That does not mean associations would not support those institutions. It just means they would not own them."

It will be strategically-managed, staffed by directors of missions who are catalytic and facilitative in their leadership.

It will be regionally located but not geographically bound.

It is denominationally connected, but not in the traditional way. Under the new paradigm, the association would not necessarily rely on the state convention. "If this paradigm plays out to its fullest, the association and state convention as we know it will cease to exist," Day said.

FRANK PAGE

President, Southern Baptist Convention

"THE FUTURE OF THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM"



Frank Page

Page said Southern Baptists must have a mindset similar to that of the Apostle Paul when he was in prison. Though his circumstances weren't ideal, Paul chose to focus on the positives –

his ability to preach Christ to those he otherwise might not be able to reach.

Christians often find themselves in difficult situations, Page said, but the tendency is usually to ask God for a way out of the trouble.

"Our first response is, 'God get me out of it. God rescue me from this difficulty,'" Page said. "But in so doing we have often short circuited God's desire to teach us great and mighty things. ... If we have the right mindset, then we can experience some great victories from God."

Page related the importance of having the right mindset to the Cooperative Program, the mechanism through which Southern Baptist churches pool their resources to fund mission endeavors.

"The Cooperative Program was started in 1925 so that the word of God might be preached to the needs of the earth," Page said. "It is my prayer that the future of the Cooperative Program will be bright so the brothers can preach the word of God fearlessly and courageously."

But that will only happen, the SBC president said, if Southern Baptists adopt an attitude of Christ-like selflessness.

"Often times in our convention we have broken into groups that want to know 'Who's side are you on?' rather than 'Are you preaching Christ?'" Page said. "There are people in the Southern Baptist Convention who think the convention belongs to them. There are many groups that think that way. I have felt that way at times myself."

But Page said "this convention does not belong to me, nor to you. It is a Jesus convention."

THOM RAINER

President, LifeWay Christian Resources

"EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH IN THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION"



Thom Rainer

Rainer cited statistics showing that in 1950, Southern Baptists baptized 376,000 people when the denomination had 7 million members.

In 2005, when the SBC was 16 million members strong, SBC churches baptized only 371,000 people.

"Alarms are sounding loudly," Rainer said. He pointed to several reasons for the SBC's downward spiral in the area of evangelism. Eschatology is one reason,

because Rainer said Southern Baptists are increasingly abandoning a belief in a literal, physical hell. Lack of such belief diminishes enthusiasm for evangelism, he said.

Rainer also listed ecclesiology as another reason. On a given Sunday, according to statistics, only about 7 million of the SBC's 16 million members attend church.

"It would appear that our church rolls are filled with non-members and, likely, unregenerate members," Rainer said. "That which is dead cannot tell another person how to have life."

Rainer said far too many church members, including pastors, admit to having no witnessing or evangelistic relationships – and individual Christians no longer feel like evangelism is their responsibility. Instead, churches relegate evangelism to a specific church program in which few people participate.

"When evangelism is not my responsibility, it does not happen," Rainer said.

PAIGE PATTERSON

President, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

"WHAT CONTEMPORARY BAPTISTS CAN LEARN FROM ANABAPTISTS"



Paige Patterson

Patterson listed six characteristics or practices of the 16th century Anabaptists that he said should become priorities in 21st century Southern

Baptist church life: a redeemed, disciplined church; faith witness baptism; the Bible as the source of authority; a church that looks different from the outside world; the Lord's Supper as a fellowship trust; and courage of conviction.

Patterson said the Lord's Supper and baptism were treated as acts of solemn commitment in the Anabaptist congregations of southern Germany and Switzerland.

"The Anabaptists, like their New Testament counterparts, baptized with confidence those who wished to profess their faith in Christ," Patterson said. "But they also made certain that the new believer understood that he was acting out the death of the old man and the resurrection of a new man."

The name Anabaptist literally meant "rebaptized," since most early converts also had been baptized as infants.

As Anabaptists professed a belief that baptism should be reserved for people capable of making their own decisions, Patterson said many were tortured, burned at the stake or drowned.

“Remarkable courage, doubtless born of sincere convictions and enhanced by the power of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit transformed suffering, sorrow and even death into superlative witness,” Patterson said. “Our churches will have to recover the Anabaptist vision of suffering as a part of what it means to follow Christ.”

RUSSELL MOORE
Dean, School of Theology,
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
“THE LEGACY T. T. EATON”



Russell Moore

Moore recounted how Thomas T. Eaton, a Union graduate and faculty member, frequently became embroiled in heated debates over matters such as baptism and the Lord's Supper. This occurred while Eaton was a Louisville pastor and editor of Kentucky's Baptist newspaper, the Western Recorder.

“At the heart of the 19th century Baptist concern was a conviction that the ordinances matter,” Moore said. “The 19th century Baptists argued so much about the Lord's Supper precisely because they believed it was important - indeed, crucial.”

Moore said many Baptist congregations in the 21st century do not focus on that significance, and fail to view the Lord's Supper as a celebration of Christ's victory over sin.

“We chew tiny pieces of what seem to be Styrofoam and cough back shot glasses of juice while scrunching up our faces and trying to feel sorry for Jesus,” Moore said. “Jesus doesn't want us to feel sorry for him. He gives us the supper as a victory party in advance, declaring that we are invited.”

Moore also discussed Eaton's apprehensions about parachurch groups. He said Eaton feared these well-intentioned organizations would displace the primacy of the local church.

Moore said some of Eaton's fears proved unfounded, but that his overall concern was justified.

DAVID S. DOCKERY
President, Union University
“THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1979”



David S. Dockery

Dockery said Southern Baptists are in danger of losing the gospel itself if they continue the infighting that has characterized the denomination in recent years.

“It is time to move from controversy and confusion to a new consensus and renewed commitment to cooperation,” Dockery said. “We need to take a step back not just to commit ourselves afresh to missions and evangelism, as important as that is. We need to commit ourselves foremost to the gospel, the message of missions and evangelism, the message that is found only in Jesus Christ and his atoning death for sinners.”

While a Southern Baptist “identity” was easy to recognize in past decades, Dockery said that's not the case today.

Even before the conservative resurgence in the denomination that began in the late 1970s, “the intactness had started to unravel in the past 30 years” due to such developments as multiple Bible translations, the impact of parachurch groups, a diversity of music, varied worship patterns and “heroes” outside of SBC life.

“Today Southern Baptists seem to be a gathering of loosely connected - if not balkanized - groups,” Dockery said.

This balkanization, often fueled by differences over secondary theological issues, could re-ignite a battle, Dockery said - one in which those engaged are “prone to concentrate on the frustrations or disappointments, while never thinking of the ultimate issues or implications for which the battle is being fought.”

“The ultimate danger to the gospel lies not in the nuances of our differences, but in the rising tides of liberalism, neo-paganism and postmodernism that threaten to swamp Southern Baptist identity in cultural accommodation,” he added.

To battle these threats, Dockery called for Southern Baptists to become more familiar with their heritage.

He also challenged Southern Baptists to recommit themselves to the gospel. He said he did not “hold out doctrinal uniformity as a goal,” but called for “renewed commitments to the inspiration, truthfulness and authority of Scripture, with an accompanying commitment to a hermeneutic of acceptance over against a hermeneutic of suspicion, as well as a re-establishment and reaffirmation of the gospel center.”

GREGORY A. THORNBURY
Dean, School of Christian Studies,
Union University
“THE ‘ANGRY YOUNG MEN’ OF THE SBC”



Gregory A. Thornbury

After researching many of the blogs from young pastors who were supposedly “angry,” Thornbury concluded that the sentiment was more frustration than anger.

That frustration isn't limited to a certain segment of denominational life and exists across the board, Thornbury said - from those who bemoan the lack of respect for men in positions of authority, to those lamenting the demise of revivalism and the rise of Calvinism, to



Calvinists tired of being misrepresented as anti-evangelistic.

“What unites them all is a deep and abiding dread that ‘I don't belong in the SBC,’ Thornbury said. “Somehow, impossibly, everybody feels persecuted. Everybody feels that they're being misunderstood and misrepresented. Everybody feels that they're on the outside.”

To address these concerns, denominational leaders should emphasize more strongly the basics of what it means to be a Baptist, Thornbury said. He cited regenerate church membership as one example.

“There should not be people in our membership rolls who never come to church, show no discernible evidence of conversion or holiness and who are not currently now participating in a local body of believers,” Thornbury said. “That shouldn't be the case.”

The denomination also needs a rediscovery of holiness and ancient forms of discipleship, a renewed awe and wonder of the Bible and a return to the prophetic voice of the church, Thornbury added. Such emphases will allow Baptists to focus on what's important and not waste time debating over secondary matters.

JIM SHADDIX
Senior Pastor, Riverside Baptist Church
Denver, Colo.
“THE FUTURE OF THE TRADITIONAL CHURCH”



Jim Shaddix

Shaddix suggested that the traditional church has often failed the youth of America by exposing them to a dead, lifeless Christianity.

“If they're not dropping out of church altogether, they're being captured by philosophies like the emerging church,” Shaddix said. “Both of those venues - no church at all or the emerging church - champion for a belief in nothing. That has to tell us something. It has to tell us that our young people are not running to something. They are running away from something.”

To recapture the hearts and minds of young people, Shaddix said the traditional church must remain committed to biblical premises and intentionally disciple its people through the teaching and exposition of Scripture. Traditional churches must resist the temptation to



re-invent themselves everytime a new fad comes along.

“The traditional church isn't built on passing styles and forms,” Shaddix said. “Many traditional churches have an admirable reverence for the past. They honor the past in a healthy way.”

ED STETZER
Missiologist, North American Mission Board
Alpharetta, Ga.
“TOWARD A MISSIONAL CONVENTION”



Ed Stetzer

Stetzer said churches must balance biblical fidelity and cultural relevance if they are to be effective in reaching a lost world.

“Day after day, as the culture around us becomes more unfamiliar and even hostile towards Christianity, many Southern Baptist churches separate themselves further from the culture they are called to reach, with a self-affirming and predictable comfortable denominational subculture contributing to this widening distance,” Stetzer said. “This chasm of cultural understanding makes it increasingly difficult for our ‘church culture’ to relate to ‘prevailing culture.’”

Stetzer argued that Baptist churches need to embrace a more “missional” approach to their work, meaning they need to engage themselves in outreach in every context -- not just overseas, but in their local neighborhoods as well.

“What is needed is not merely an understanding of missiological thinking, but a commitment to missional

thinking,” Stetzer said. “While missiology concerns itself with study about missions and its methodologies, missional thinking focuses on doing missions in every geographical location. Such thinking is needed if the SBC is to remain faithful in its calling to serve churches by equipping them to impact their surrounding communities.”

Missional thinking may mean that churches adopt differing methodologies to reach different cultures, Stetzer said. But that shouldn't mean they are looked upon as suspect.

TIMOTHY GEORGE
Dean, Beeson School of Divinity,
Samford University
“THE FUTURE OF BAPTIST IDENTITY IN A POST-DENOMINATIONAL WORLD”



Timothy George

George advocates a retrieval of Baptist heritage as a means of renewal for the convention today.

“We will not meet tomorrow's challenge by forgetting yesterday's dilemma,” George said. “But neither will we win tomorrow's struggles by fighting yesterday's battles.”

George argued that a return to Baptist teachings and beliefs of the past “will help us deal constructively with the issues and controversies we face today. ... This will help us to place in perspective some of the questions that still generate more heat than light within our own Southern Baptist fellowship.”

“When matters of secondary and tertiary importance are elevated to a level of primary significance, and placed right next to the doctrine of the Trinity or justification by faith alone, then we are veering away from orthodoxy to orthodoxy, from tradition ... to traditionalism,” George said.

George also addressed the question of whether Baptists are Calvinists.

“Historically and empirically, the answer to this question is, some are and some aren't,” he said. “And it has been thus way among Baptists for nearly 400 years.”

George urged caution for both those who are Calvinistic in their theology and those who reject Calvinism. He said Baptists have something to learn both from John Calvin and from John Wesley. ✠



Photo credit to Jerry Laizure, University of Oklahoma.

BY TIM ELLSWORTH

RAISING ALEXANDER

BARHAMS OPEN HOME AND HEARTS TO A YOUNG MAN WHO NEEDED BOTH

Nothing seemed to work for David Barham as he tried to motivate 14-year-old Rufus Alexander.

As a new student to Westminster Christian Academy in Opelousas, La., where David was the basketball and football coach, Rufus simply wasn't cutting it. He only attended class about half the time. When he was there, he slept.

When the first report cards came out, Rufus was failing almost every class. At first the offenses were minor, but then Rufus started getting into more serious trouble.

This isn't working out, David thought. Westminster is a demanding academic school. It'd be best for Rufus to go back to a school where he has a chance to succeed — because he certainly won't at Westminster.

So one day after a basketball game, shortly before Christmas, David took the boy home. He wanted to talk to Rufus' mother about the situation.

He remembers what it was like walking into Rufus' home in the public housing projects.

It's dark and hot as he enters. Several guys — including Rufus' older brother — are sitting at a table, “obviously doing what they shouldn't be doing,” David said. There's nothing to eat in the house. Rufus' mother isn't home, because she's working one of her two jobs. There's no phone to call her.

“No wonder he isn't passing,” David thought to himself. “There's no kid at Westminster that goes back home to this environment. Study for an English exam? There's no food. No wonder he doesn't make the bus. No wonder he sleeps in class.”

David stepped outside for a minute to gather himself. All of a sudden, it was clear to him.

“It hit me that I wouldn't have made it in this environment, either,” David said.

He told Rufus to go and get his stuff — that he was going to come and stay with the Barhams. David only meant “stay” for a couple of days. The Barhams often kept students for short periods of time, to help them get through difficult situations.

Rufus, however, had something else in mind. He returned from his room carrying a garbage bag with everything he owned. He ended up staying a lot longer than a couple of days.

That was 10 years ago, and Rufus is now a permanent part of the Barham family. David Barham ('88) and his wife Melinda Johns Barham ('90) became surrogate parents for Rufus and took it upon themselves to help him meet his potential.

They taught him how to be responsible and to work hard. They imparted their faith in God.

They showed him what it meant to be a family.

Their efforts paid off handsomely.

Rufus became a football star as a linebacker at the University of Oklahoma, and was named the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year for the 2006 season. On April 29, the Minnesota Vikings selected him in the sixth round of the NFL draft.

Alexander's mother, Siene Champ, is still a part of his life. But in the Oklahoma football media guide, Alexander listed the Barhams as his parents.

"Coach Barham was my father figure when I didn't have one," Alexander said. "Miss Melinda was my mom away from my other mom."

At first, the arrangement was for Rufus to stay with the Barhams during the week, and then go home over the weekends. Since Rufus lived in Breau Bridge, a 30-minute drive from the school, the Barhams thought it would be easier for him to make it to school by living with them.

David planned for Rufus to stay at the Barham house through the end of the semester, so he could more adequately prepare for exams. Rufus' mother was all for it. David, however, had his doubts.

"I never saw it working," David said. "But there was never a kid I brought home that fit more into our family than this one."

A few weeks into the arrangement, the Barhams left town for several days over Christmas vacation. Rufus went back home for the duration. When the Barhams returned, Rufus asked if he could live with them all the time – even over weekends. He had decided he didn't like what he went back to over the holidays.

The Barhams agreed. "He knew he wanted something different," Melinda said. "He was going to do whatever he had to do. I just respect him so much for wanting to be something different and sticking with it."

Almost immediately, the Barhams began to see Rufus change for the better. His grades improved. He finished all his homework.

The Barhams taught Rufus proper manners. David taught him how to look people in the eye. He also made it clear what he expected from Rufus

– and that included no tattoos, and no earrings. Rufus obliged.

"Our relationship grew from coach to dad and role model," David said.

The Barhams' children loved having Rufus as a big brother. Their son Robbie, now 16, and their daughter Ellie, now 11, would fight at breakfast every morning about who would get to sit next to Rufus.

"My mom painted the chairs with our names on them," Robbie said. "He had a chair, I had a chair and Ellie had a chair. And he always had to sit in the middle."

It wasn't long before the Barhams had another addition to their family – daughter, Annie, now 7. Rufus was there when she was born, and Annie dearly loves her "Rufie," as she nicknamed him.

"He doesn't aggravate us like our other brother," Annie said.

Ellie said having Rufus around has other benefits.

"Whenever Bubba (Robbie) messes with us, he beats him up for us," she said with a smile.

The transition wasn't always smooth. David expected Rufus to work hard, and sometimes Rufus chafed at that – like when he had to chop wood.

"I got blisters on my hand and stuff and I was kinda like, 'Nah. I really don't want to do this,'" Rufus said.

So he called his mom and asked her to come and get him.

"She wasn't having it," Rufus said. "She sided with him."

Shortly after Rufus moved in with the Barhams, it was time for spring football practice. David informed Rufus that he'd be playing on the team.

"Coach, I don't play football," Rufus told him. "If you live here, you are," David replied.

"I'm going to coach it, and you're going to be on it. You may sit on the end of the bench, but you're going to be here every day for practice. You're going to be under my nose."

Rufus didn't like it, but he grudgingly acquiesced. He soon discovered that football wasn't so bad.

"He wasn't afraid to hit people," David said. "Most kids have this little flinch in them right before they collide. He didn't."

After Rufus' sophomore year at Westminster, David left the school for a position at Christian Life School in Baton Rouge. The Barhams gave Rufus the option of staying at Westminster with his friends, but he chose to accompany them.

Rufus excelled in football at Christian Life and was heavily recruited by several major college football programs, including Texas and LSU. Rufus chose Oklahoma, and his games on Saturdays became family affairs. The Barhams would often make the nine-hour drive to Norman, Okla., to watch Rufus play.

"It's really been fun," Melinda said. "I think it's made us a lot stronger as a family. Our kids like being together. They like being with us."

Now Rufus hopes to have a career in the NFL. He knows he can thank David and Melinda for their role in getting him to this point.

"They tried to instill education into me, and that was a hard road," he said. "I learned how to be even more stubborn than I already was from Coach Barham. He's a stubborn dude."

The Barhams are back in Opelousas, where they run Acadiana Preparatory School – a private school for underprivileged children.

"I wanted to help kids," David said. "That's what God put in my heart to do."

Many of their students come from backgrounds similar to Rufus'. It's not an easy task for the Barhams, as money for the school is tight.

But although financial resources are hard to come by, the Barhams have other resources in abundance to help them as they try to change the lives of children. For that, they can thank Rufus in part.

"Rufus has opened my eyes to loving people unconditionally," Melinda said. "He's made me be more sensitive to other kids."

"I can't imagine him not being part of our family. He's not our son, but he's like our son," she continued. "He was just so easy to love." ❖

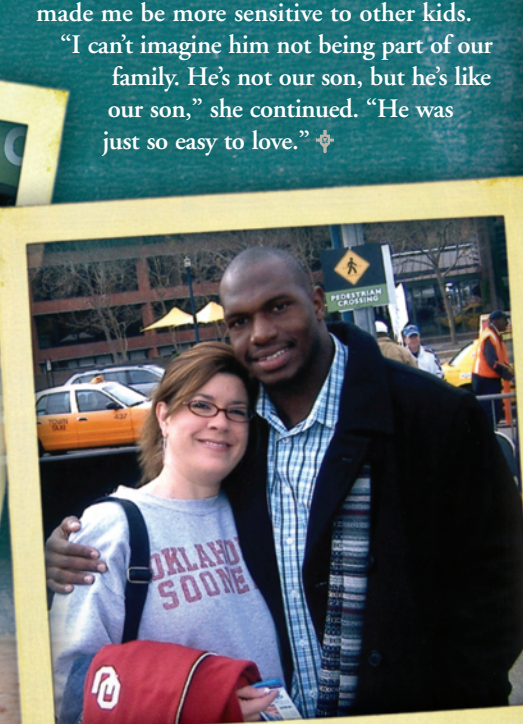
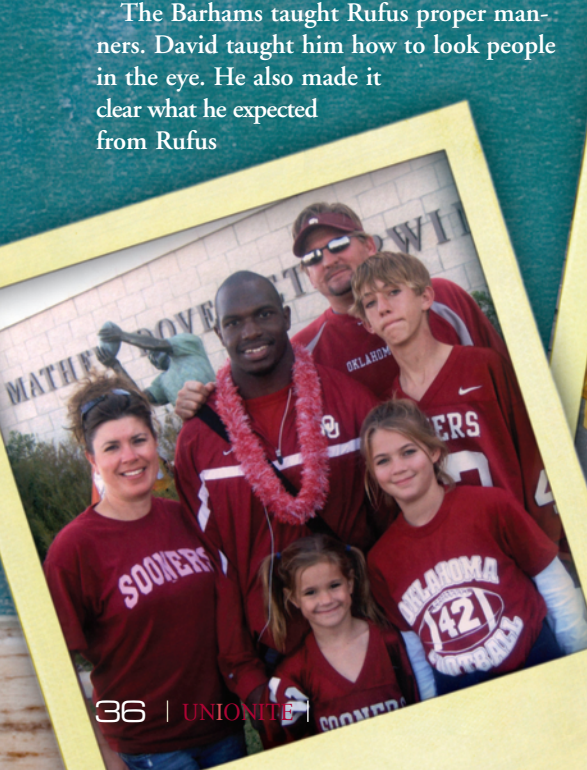


Photo credit to Jerry Laizure, University of Oklahoma.

60'sSixties

Johnny W. Lott ('65) became director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at the University of Mississippi on Feb. 1, 2007. This center was formed to help university faculty members with issues regarding teaching and student learning. In June 2007, **Carolyn J. Lott ('65)** was named professor emeritus in the department of curriculum and instruction and continues to teach online classes at The University of Montana. "It is good to be back in the South and near family," says Johnny Lott. "In my first deans' meeting at the University of Mississippi, I met Dr. **Lynne Murchison ('68)**, one of Carolyn's suitemates in Jones Hall. It is a small world." Address: 800 Royal Oaks Drive, Oxford, MS 38655. E-mails: jlott@ole-miss.edu and carolyn.lott@mso.umt.edu

Mary Houston Yoshida ('67) Address: 464 Kalanikoa St., #101, Hilo, HI 96720 E-mail: Yoshida_mary@hotmail.com

70'sSeventies

Deborah Flowers Allen ('76) is currently teaching at Gibson County Special School. Deborah had taught at Medina Middle School for 20 years. While there she received the 2006-2007 Teacher of the Year for fourth and fifth grade. She has five grandchildren. Address: 739 Graves Loop, Medina, TN 38355. E-mail: ellie2anna@yahoo.com

J.J. Osborne ('76) has a new address: 134 Rosewood Drive, Cleveland, TN 37312. E-mail: jjneve@charter.net

Jim Parker ('77) has been called as associational director of missions and church starter strategist for the Color Country Baptist Association with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention. Parker was former pastor of First Baptist Church in Beaver, Okla. He began his new duties in November 2006. He and his wife Patsy were appointed as home missionaries with the North American Mission Board in February 2007, in Albuquerque, N.M. Address: 67 East 250 N., St. George, UT 84770. E-mail: bambojim82@hotmail.com

Bob Hadley ('79) has been called as pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla. He and his wife Trish live in Ormond Beach. Address: 18 Manderley Lane, Ormond Beach, FL 32174 E-mail: pastor@sbgm.org

80'sEighties

Sandra Allen ('83, '02 MAEd) has a new position as office manager for John B. Woods, an internal medicine physician in Jackson. "This position offers ministry opportunities daily," Allen says. Address: 49 Charjean Drive, Jackson, TN 38305. E-mail: sallen@johnbwoodsmid.com

Laura Rushing Moore ('84) completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts from School of the Art Institute of Chicago in July 2006. Laura recently celebrated the grand opening of her new art studio and gallery – www.laura-mooreart.com – in historic downtown McKinney, Texas. Address: 7432 Stoney Point Drive, Plano, TX 75025 E-mail: laura@lauramooreart.com

Scot Finley ('85) is in his sixth year of service as minister of senior adults at Bonsack Baptist Church in Roanoke, Va. In the spring of 2007, he will also serve as an instructor in New Testament for John Leland Center for Theological Studies in Washington, D.C. His wife Pam is an optometrist with Pearle Vision and they have two children: Sam, age 11, and Heather, age 6. Address: 191 White Oak Drive, Roanoke, VA 24064. Email: scot@bonsackbaptist.org

Janet Watkins Nevins ('85) launched JLN Originals – www.jlnoriginals.com – and relocated to Scottsdale, Ariz., after spending several months in part-time missionary work outside Quito, Ecuador. Address: 10414 E. Raintree Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85255. E-mail: janet@jlnoriginals.com

Mary Jane Wallis Crawley ('87) and husband Danny have returned stateside for 2007 after serving 10 years in Ghana at Baptist Medical Centre with the International Mission Board. They are on furlough in Pataskala, Ohio. They will be sharing with churches about their work and seeking God's leadership for future service. Address: 7512 Willow Bend Drive, Crestwood, KY 40014. E-mail: dcrawley@gowestafrica.org

John ('87) and Stephanie Gaddy Doster ('90) along with their children, Peyton and Drew, have moved back to McKenzie, Tenn., after 13 years away. John continues to serve as vice president and managing director of The Franklin Group, inVentiv Health, a New Jersey-based pharmaceutical services company. Address: 8690 Hwy 436, McKenzie, TN 38201. E-mail: jdoster@inventivhealth.com

90'sNineties

Dale Charlton ('90, '06 MSN UU-Germantown) received the Master of Science in nursing from Union University on Dec. 16, 2006. He is employed as an assistant professor of nursing at Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis. Address: 4931 Owen Road, Memphis, TN 38122. E-mail: dcharlto@midssouth.rr.com

Daniel Clevenger ('90) is working as registered nurse in the home health industry. He and his wife Tammy have three children: Jacob, Zachary and Sarah. Address: 308 Forest Drive, Humboldt, TN 38343. E-mail: Hmclevenger3@aol.com

Peggy J. Mosley ('92) was recently hired as the new vessel systems trainer for Ingram Barge at Kentucky's Paducah Landing location. Address: 250 Jan Ann Drive, Paducah, KY 42003. E-mail: peggyjmosley@yahoo.com

Jennifer Arnwine ('94) graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Arts in Islamic studies. She is an executive director of As ONE Ministry. Address: P.O. Box 53, Spring Hill, TN 37174. E-mail: JArnwine@charter.net

David ('94) and Christy Marbury Tull ('94) have a new address: 7813 Gaston Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76116. E-mail: tulldavid@hotmail.com and cmt1225@hotmail.com

Leigh Hargis Gray ('95) has established a ministry called Speaking Thru Me Ministries. She travels all over the United States speaking to women's groups, college, youth and singles. She welcomes invitations to speak. Address: 5429 Chiltern Hills Trail, Charlotte, NC 28215. E-mail: cletus104@bellsouth.net

Matthew Schobert ('95) was promoted from assistant to associate editor for the journal Social Work and Christianity. He continues to work as a unit manager and social worker for Methodist Children's Home in Waco, Texas. He also teaches part-time at Baylor University in the Honors College and School of Social Work. Address: 10141 China Creek Drive, Waco, TX 76708.

Jennifer Carter-Johnson ('96) graduated with honors from the University of Michigan Law School in May 2006. Carter-Johnson is

continued on page 40 >



Finding answers in physics

Tom King ('60)

Tom and Virginia Lewis King met at Union and married in 1961.

Tom King certainly has taken some unconventional career paths.

"I'm a maverick," says King. "I'm a technologist. I need to know what a thing is made of."

King's career journey includes Grand Ole Opry lighting operations and Disney laser shows. It includes radio and robots, outer space flight and free fall rides.

He left Union and his native Jackson—as one of the university's first physics majors—to serve as a design engineer for NASA. King's knowledge of control systems in the early Saturn vehicles placed him on the investigative team which examined the 1967 Apollo I disaster that killed three astronauts.

As the space program downsized, King joined the American Red Cross. His work

there established the format and criteria that launched their safety training program, and helped assist companies like IBM to comply with the First Aid section of the OSHA law.

Another opportunity led King to interview with Walt Disney World, where executives quickly recognized his technical skills. This began an eight-year stint as an engineer for the famous entertainment park. King was a project engineer in the development and installation of many of the EPCOT attractions. His more recognizable role was in the development of EPCOT Center's "IllumiNations 2000: Reflections of Earth." The show features laser light, fountains and fireworks.

Today King is retired and lives in Kissimmee, Fla., but nearby Disney still

calls him in to consult on new projects. Among his other roles in retirement is service on the advisory council for Union University's engineering department. He is pleased with the engineering track and its vision for expansion.

"They're right on track by starting with mechanical and electrical engineering," says King. "They could offer chemical and environmental engineering, civil engineering or a degree in engineering physics. I would like to see it expand."

He encourages students to discover, explore and learn.

"There are other things out there," says King. "Get out of the box. Take a chance. If Michelangelo hadn't taken chances, he would have painted the Sistine Chapel floor." ♦

continued from pg.38

an attorney with Perkins Coie, LLP in Seattle, Wash. On July 2, 2006, she married Jeff Johnson in Ann Arbor, Mich. Address: 2611 22nd Ave. W., Apt. 2, Seattle, WA 98199. Email: jeffandjenny@gmail.com

Heidi Shouder ('96) Address: 1501 E Central Road, #220, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. E-mail: hshouder@comcast.net

Cammie Vos Johnson ('97) directs the K-5 art program at Unity Elementary School, Luthersville, Ga. She also teaches as an adjunct art instructor for Brewton-Parker College Newnan campus. Address: 387 Turner Road, Newnan, GA 30263. E-mail: cvjohnson@gmail.com

Millicent (Millie) Smith Bullington ('98) and her husband Ray own and operate Pallet Warehouse Inc. in Stantonville, Tenn. They have recently added a second facility in Nashville and are now serving the industry in West and Middle Tennessee, North Mississippi and Alabama. In January they celebrated 12 years of marriage. The couple has two children: Grant, 6, and Emme, 3. Address: 5496 New Hope Road, Michie, TN 38357. E-mail: mabullington@comcast.net

Janna Gardner Davidson ('98) recently began working for SunBridge Nursing Home in Winchester, Tenn., as the social service director. Janna and her husband J. have a 5-year-old son, John Dalton. Address: 1284 Maxwell Road, Belvidere, TN 37306. E-mail: johnjan_davidson@yahoo.com

Brynna Vos Spain ('99) completed another degree at Watkins College of Art and Design. She works as a designer for the Nashville firm, McAlpine, Booth & Ferrier Interiors. She and her husband Bart have spent the past year restoring their 1928 home in the historic area of Old Hickory. Address: 909 Cleves St., Old Hickory, TN 37138. E-mail: brynna.spain@comcast.net

2000's TwoThousands

Andrew Exum ('00) teaches history and Bible at Trinity Christian Academy in Jackson. He also serves as project coordinator for the school's Reaching Others for Christ ministries. Annually, he takes the ROC team to Mission Arlington – Mission Metroplex in Texas for week-long service.

Prior to moving back to Jackson, he attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Address: 176 Jack Exum Lane, Jackson, TN 38305. E-mail: AExum@tcalions.org

Joshua Trent ('01) Address: 941 Patrick Henry Drive, Arlington, VA 22205. E-mail: JoshuaTrent_@hotmail.com

Stacy Veatch Canter ('01) now lives in South Carolina where her husband Jeff is the new children and youth pastor at Crowfield Baptist Church. Address: 104 Gainsborough Drive, # 1913, Goosecreek, SC 29445.

Jon Dockery ('02) has been accepted to Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago. Jon has been serving as assistant to the dean at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., where he completed a degree in theology. Jon graduated from Union summa cum laude with a major in economics and a minor in ethics.

Tonya L. Hale ('02) is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in college student personnel services at the University of Central Arkansas. She is also the assistant director of student activities at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark., a small, private, liberal arts institution. Address: 1600 Washington Ave., Conway, AR 72032. E-mail: tonyahale@mac.com

Jeremy ('02) and Rachel Polk Hollie ('03) spent 18 months in Kabul, Afghanistan, at the International School of Kabul – a part of Oasis International Schools. Jeremy is the business manager, physical education and health teacher and facilities manager. Rachel teaches K-12 music, arts and civilization and women's choir. Address: 3882 Fawn Valley, Memphis, TN 38125. E-mail: buddylz493@aol.com

Jeremy ('02) and Leslie Bryant Todd ('02) reside in Jacksonville, Fla. Jeremy has accepted the position to serve as associate pastor minister of students at Fruit Cove Baptist Church in Jacksonville. He is currently completing his Master of Arts in Christian education at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Address: 656 Hampton Downs Court, Jacksonville, FL 32259. E-mail: jeremyandlesietodd@hotmail.com

Timothy L. Tucker ('02) was installed as president-elect in Atlanta, Ga., of the American Pharmacists Association for 2007-2008. Tucker considers it a privilege and honor to be recognized by peers to



serve as president of such a prestigious organization. The National Pharmacy Organization has more than 58,000 members in the United States. Address: 553 Tara Lane, Huntingdon, TN 38344. E-mail: tltucker@aeneas.net

Amber Elizabeth Ryan Thienel ('03) teaches seventh-grade math and is a softball coach at Freedom Middle School, Franklin, Tenn. Amber was married June 3, 2006. Address: 3300 West End Ave., Apt. 304, Nashville, TN 37203. E-mails: aeryan14@hotmail.com and thienelamb@fssd.org

Chad ('04) and his wife Debi Marlin Davis ('04) recently moved back to Jackson, Tenn., with their two sons Jonas and Judah. Chad is currently serving as an elder at Cornerstone Community Church. Address: 26 Lawnwood Drive, Jackson, TN 38305. E-mail: chaddavis22@gmail.com

Jai Raj Singh ('05 MBA UU-Germantown) Address: 192 E. Porter Run Drive, Collierville, TN 38017. E-mail: singh_jairaj@yahoo.com

Marriages

Patricia Babb Clark ('91) married Barry Clark on March 18, 2005. Address: 180 County Road 2296, Saltillo, MS 38866. E-mail: triciajb@hotmail.com

Timothy Hooker ('93) and Gantuya Ganbold were married Dec. 20, 2006, in Pohang, South Korea. Timothy and Gantuya live in Pohang where Timothy teaches English at Handong Global University. Address: 225 Susan Lane, Paducah, KY 42003. E-mail: twhooker@gmail.com

Jennifer Bishop McManis ('95) married Chris McManis on Jan. 13, 2007, at First Baptist Church in Dyersburg, Tenn. Address: 251 Woodside Lane, Dyersburg, TN 38024. E-mail: jcbishop73@yahoo.com



Melissa Mann Bean ('96) married TJ Bean on Sept. 9, 2006, in Louisville, KY, and honeymooned in Maine. Melissa is a part-time professor at a community college and has her own photography business – www.melissamannphotography.com. TJ is a graphic designer for thevirmarcgroup in

Louisville. Address: 129 Alton Road, Shelbyville, KY 40065. E-mail: mbmann@hotmail.com



Jeff Rushing ('97) and Valerie Howell Rushing ('97) were wed Oct. 28, 2006, at First Baptist Church in Millington, Tenn. Valerie left her job as circulation manager of Emma Waters Summar library at Union. Jeff is a director at Fox 13 News in Memphis. Address: 6433 Old Tipton Road, Millington, TN 38053. E-mail: jeffcnn@yahoo.com and valhow@yahoo.com

Matt N. Thomson Jr. ('99) married Kit Wilkinson of Nashville in January 2007. Kit attended Wake Forest University. Matt joined Hogan & Hartson LLP, one of the oldest major law firms headquartered in Washington, D.C. Address: 535 5th St., N.E., Washington, DC 20002. E-mail: mattnthomson@yahoo.com

Hope Weaver Smith ('99) married Kristopher Smith on Nov. 11, 2006. Hope serves as minister to preschoolers and children at First Baptist Church of Natchitoches, La. Her husband also serves there as minister of music and worship. Address: 101

Aloys Circle, Natchitoches, LA 71457. E-mail: hsmith@fbcnatchitoches.net

Jonathan Gray ('00) and Melissa Yau Gray ('01) were married Sept. 9, 2006, in Collierville, Tenn. Jonathan is employed with Transnetyx Inc. in Cordova, Tenn., as an assay design specialist. Melissa is a clinical pharmacist and assistant pharmacist trainer at excelleRx Inc. in Memphis. Address: 6838 Garmin Lane, Cordova, TN 38018. E-mails: md_sae@bellsouth.net and yau.melissa@gmail.com



Erika Godfrey Allen ('02) and Geoffrey Allen were married on Feb. 24, 2007, in Naperville, Ill. Both work in Wheaton, Ill., and attended Wheaton College. After receiving a master's degree in historical and systematic theology, Erika works as executive assistant to the president at Crossway Books and Bibles. Geoff works as a mental health counselor for Innovative Healthcare. Address: 113 W Park Circle Drive, Apt. 104, Wheaton, IL 60187. E-mail: callen@gnpcb.org

Sarah Jane Head Drury ('02) married Tim Drury in 2004. Tim is student minister at First Baptist Church in Bethalto, Ill. Sarah

Jane is a grant writer for a consulting firm and several non-profit organizations. They make their home outside St. Louis. Address: 326 12th St., Wood River, IL 62095. E-mail: sj@lgpconsulting.com



Summer Rhodes Deepe ('02) married John Matthew Deepe on July 8, 2006, at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis. Summer is currently employed at Pathway Family Center as the community and marketing liaison. Matt is currently employed as an aviation design engineer for General Electric. They live in Loveland, Ohio, outside Cincinnati. Address: 224 Silver Fox Court, Loveland, OH 45140. E-mail: sumsum1313@aol.com

Matthew Glass ('04) and Amanda Hornbuckle Glass ('04) were married on March 12, 2005. They are both employed by HeartCry Missionary Society, which recently relocated from Metropolis, Ill., to Muscle Shoals, Ala. Amanda serves as office manager and Matt is the coordinator for mission endeavors in the 10/40 window. Address: 502 Wilson Dam Ave., Sheffield, AL 35660. E-mail: mglass@heartcrymissionary.com and aglass@heartcrymissionary.com



Heart for missions

Andy Exum's ('00) heart is called to missions. He participated on mission trips during his middle, high school and college years. Exum, a history and Bible teacher at Trinity Christian Academy in Jackson, Tenn., still answers the mission call by taking his students on an annual trip.

The students are part of TCA's Reaching Others for Christ ministry. Each January Exum coordinates a week-long trip to Mission Arlington – Mission Metroplex, Texas. There the students lead Rainbow Express, a children's Bible study. They also do service projects and survey neighborhoods for apartment churches.

"I've watched God grow this program from five students to 24 this year," says Exum. "It is a privilege to help expose young people to endeavors where the focus is sharing the Gospel message."

Exum (back, right) is pictured with some of the team members who have participated in ROC since 2003. Some of the participants are children of Union staff and faculty.

Callie Pritchett Nolen ('04) married Benjamin Nolen on May 19, 2007. Both are pursuing their master's degrees at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. Address: 618 Sherburn Lane, Louisville, KY 40207. E-mail: cpritchett@yahoo.com



Matthew Oshel ('05) and **Bethany Davis Oshel ('04)** were married on Dec. 30, 2006, in Southaven, Miss. Address: 908 North Bentley St., Apt. C, Marion, IL 62959. E-mail: bethanyoshel@gmail.com

Cliff L. Russell ('05) married **Jessica Rudy Russell ('05)** on Oct. 1, 2005. Jessica is employed by Merchants and Planters Bank in Bolivar, Tenn. Cliff is employed by Nelms Chevrolet in Bolivar. Address: 200 Rowland Lane, Bolivar, TN 38008. E-mail: jlrussell_05@yahoo.com



Nathan Michael ('06) and **Joanna Causey Michael ('06)** were married on Aug. 26, 2006. **Andy Pettigrew ('00)**, director of student ministries at Union performed the ceremony. The Michaels are now living in Dallas, Texas, preparing to begin classes at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics. When they complete their studies, they plan to begin a life-long mission of Bible translations with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Address: 6363 W. Camp Wisdom Road, Apt 316, Dallas, TX 75236. E-mail: joanna_s_michael@yahoo.com

Brittany Schlafer Conn ('06) married Matthew Conn on Nov. 4, 2006, at Bluegrass Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn. Brittany is a kindergarten teacher at Vena Stuart Elementary School in Gallatin. Address: 105 Yorkside Place, Hendersonville, TN 37075. E-mail: Britts1283@hotmail.com

Births

Richard C. Barlow ('73) and **Katherine Waters Roe ('74)** announce the birth of their granddaughter Olivia Leigh Barlow on Nov. 27, 2006. Parents are Jon and Tara Barlow of Jackson. She has an older sister Anabelle. Address: 209 Ramblewood Drive, Jackson, TN 38305. E-mail: richardcbarlowmsha@hotmail.com



Kevin ('91) and **Amy Pyron Stoope ('95)** celebrate the birth of a son, Casey Pearson. He was born on March 1, 2007 and weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Casey shares his middle name with Amy's mother, Sandra Pearson Pyron (1945-1997), former staff member in the business office at Union University. He has a big brother, Jacob Wesley (Jake), age 2. Kevin is a district manager in the metabolism division at Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals. Amy is a stay-at-home mom. Address: 12280 Grand Ridge Lane, Arlington, TN 38002. E-mail: thestoopes@bellsouth.net

Elyse Cullum Bogner ('92) and her husband Gil announce the birth of Russell Harrison. Harry was born on Aug. 18, 2006, and weighed 7 pounds and was 21 inches. Address: 79912 Grandview Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601. E-mail: elysebogner@msn.com

Greg Simons ('92), his wife Rebecca and children – Anya; 6, Anisa; 4 and Eliana; 2 – are proud to announce the arrival of Finn Alexander. He was born on Dec. 17, 2006, and weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces and was 18 1/2 inches. Address: 3125 N. Parsons Ave., Merced, CA 95340. E-mail: gregsimons12@netzero.com

Lorrie Edwards Dixon ('94) and her husband Greg have a new addition to their family. Ruth Elise was born on Aug. 10, 2006. She joins sisters: Hannah, age 9 and Chloe, age 2. Greg is worship pastor for Legacy Baptist Church in Northwest Arkansas. Lorrie is a home school mom and accompanies several local choirs. Address: 1300 N. Cardinal Drive, Rogers, AR 72756. E-mail: lorrie71@yahoo.com

Jennette Rogers Skaggs ('94) announces the birth of son Timothy Daniel on March 6, 2006. Timothy has twin 9-year-old sisters Alexandria and Jordynn. Jennette is a home educator for her daughters and works part-time for Web-Meister Designs Inc. — a web design and application business. Address: 1239 Hartsfield Drive, Columbia, TN 38401. E-mail: jskaggs@web-meister.com

Dana Cole Maury ('95) and her husband Stephen had their first child, Allison Brooke, on May 19, 2006. Dana works from home as a mortgage originator and Stephen is in construction lending for a local bank. Their address is 4347

Charleswood Ave., Memphis, TN 38117. Email: danamaury@midssouth.rr.com



Stephan ('96) and **Camille (C.C.) Lambert Claybrook ('93)** proudly announce the adoption of their daughter, Darby Dean YuanHai. Darby was born in China on Jan. 6, 2006, and was adopted on Feb. 5, 2007. C.C. will begin graduate school in the fall at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary pursuing a master's degree in Christian counseling. Stephen is the worship pastor at Crosspointe Church in Cary, N.C. — web.mac.com/sclaybrook. Address: 410 High Holborn Court, Apex, NC 27502. E-mail: camiclay@nc.rr.com

Angela Brothers Mavsey ('96) is proud to announce the birth of her daughter Skye Adeline on Sept. 26, 2006. E-mail: amavsey@mchsi.com



Jenni Fuller O'Guin ('96) and her husband Shane welcomed a daughter Catherine Elaine on Feb. 27, 2006. She weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches long. Catherine joins big sister Caroline, 7, and big brother Carson, 5. Jenni is a stay-at-home, home schooling mom. She also sells Kelly's Kids clothing. Shane is associate pastor and minister of education, youth and music at Pine Grove Baptist Church in Centre. Address: 1535 County Road 380, Centre, AL 35960. E-mail: sjcc97@tds.net



Lori Albright Raches ('97) and husband Scott are adopting a little girl from China. They expect a referral this fall. The couple has two sons: Brayden Scott, 5 and Evan Douglas, 2. Scott is a safety and design engineer with Whirlpool and Lori is a homemaker. Address: 51 Richland Cove, Jackson, TN 38305. Email: rachestn@jaxnet.net



Victoria Clark Firor ('97, '00 MBA) and her husband Brandon are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Mollie Elizabeth. She was born on Nov. 8, 2006. Mollie weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21 inches. They have recently relocated to Texas where Brandon is a site man-

continued on page 44 >

Asking questions about ethics

Autumn Ridenour ('02)

Autumn Ridenour is expected to ask some very difficult questions.

She's not a journalist, a detective or a district attorney. She serves as program coordinator for Yale University's Bioethics Center.

Ridenour first became interested in bioethics during an introductory ethics course at Union—an interest developed further while doing graduate study at Yale.

Most of Ridenour's work at the Bioethics Center pertains to the realm of ideas.

"Ideas have consequences," says Ridenour. "The center's role is to generate scholarship and research regarding issues that will bear much influence on society."

Yale's center is unique in that it considers both biomedical and environmental issues. There are more than 14 working groups on various topics, including aging and end-of-life, genetically modified plants,

and rights of children.

Ridenour has focused on aging and disability. She explores what aging means in the human life cycle.

A few of those tough questions: Is aging a process or a disease? What is considered normal or abnormal in regard to disability in the human body?

"Both new technologies and current definitions of aging in medical practice pose challenges to our conception of aging," says Ridenour.

Ridenour also explores the injustices and inequalities within health care. Is health a prerequisite for human flourishing? What is our duty to care for the aged?

These questions, especially in the area of aging, have prompted Ridenour to pursue her current project entitled "Curse or Calling? Toward a Constructive Theology of Aging"

in graduate school.

Ridenour plans to enter the Ph.D. program at Boston College this fall. Her work will be in theological ethics.

Ridenour has accomplished much since her undergraduate days at Union, where she began to build a foundation for connecting academic inquiry and a faith conviction. She challenges fellow alums to seriously think about the world in which they live and engage it with the hope of the gospel, and ask the tough questions.

"Let's think alongside and within the lens of faith — beyond what the media, culture, or the status quo says about complex issues," says Ridenour. "Embracing the person of Christ in a committed, dynamic relation allows us the freedom to explore new ideas. . . and to engage our world with the hope of Christ's redemptive gospel." ♦

continued from pg.42

ager for Shell Oil in Houston and Victoria is a stay-at-home mom. Address: 26403 Meadow Dawn Lane, Katy, Texas 77494. Email: victoria@firorfamily.com

Bill Myatt ('97) and his wife Melanie announce the birth of Samuel Tate born April 2, 2007. Tate will be traveling to Chicago in August 2007, with his two big sisters: Zoe, age 5, and Tessa, age 2. Bill will begin working on a doctoral degree in constructive theology at Loyola University of Chicago. Address: 12107 Sandra Lane, Omaha, NE 68137. E-mail: bmyatt@brookside.net



Jonathan ('99) and Nikki Waller Castles ('01) had a daughter Isabella (Izzie) Grace on Sept. 18, 2006. She weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches long. Jonathan works for Poly Pharmaceuticals as a sales representative and Nikki works in the office of undergraduate admissions at Union as a staff assistant and special events coordinator. Address: 34 Autumn Valley Drive, Jackson, TN 38305. Email: jcastles.polyrx@yahoo.com and ncastles3218@yahoo.com

Jenny Middleton Holt ('99) married Jacob Holt on Feb. 7, 2004. Their first son Jackson Eric Ronald was born Dec. 29, 2004, and their second son Joseph Berry Samuel was born June 13, 2006. Jennifer is a homemaker and her husband is a hospitalist in Thornton, Colo. Address: 2343 Augusta Ave., Loveland, CO 80538. E-mail: redrufused@gmail.com



Micky ('98) and Stacy Nolen Wolfe ('98) welcomed a son, Nolen Anderson, born on Aug. 5, 2006. He has two big sisters Gentry Addison, age 6, and Ella Ashtyn, age 3. Micky is the head golf professional at the Huntsville Country Club, Alabama, and Stacy is a stay-at-home mom. Last July Micky won the Dixie PGA Professional Championship which included PGA Professionals from Alabama and North Florida. This victory earns him a spot in the PGA Professional National Championship in Sun River, Ore. The top 20 finishers earn invitations to the 2007 PGA Championship. Address: 116 Chatham Circle, Madison, AL 35758. E-mail: wolfepack@knology.net



Teresa Capshaw Howell ('00) and her husband Joey celebrated the birth of their second child Easton Dwayne. Easton was born on Nov. 8, 2006. He weighed 8 pounds and 5 ounces. He was welcomed home by his big sister Cadence Grace. Address: 7400 Highway 18 S., P.O. Box 123, Hickory Valley, TN 38042. E-mail: teresa2071@wmconnect.com



Ryan ('00) and Melissa Hayden Massey ('01) are the proud parents of their second baby boy, Riley Hayden. Riley was born on Oct. 25, 2006. He weighed 9 pounds, 6 ounces and was 21 inches. His older brother Trent Patrick is 2 years old. Address: 208 Fournie Drive, Swansea, IL 62226. E-mail: masseyr@ohts.k12.il.us



Al ('01) and Jennifer Green Chandler ('98) announce the birth of their second son John David on June 5, 2006. He weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces and was 21 inches. John David is also welcomed by big brother Luke Albert, age 2. Al was an elementary school teacher for four years teaching kindergarten and fifth grade. He now serves as the minister of children at Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield, KY. Jennifer is a stay-at-home mom after teaching first grade for six years. Address: 5887 Hopewell Road, Mayfield, KY 42066. Email: achandler@wk.net



Johnna Green Davis ('01) and her husband Aaron announce the birth of their first child Catherine Ashley on July 5, 2006. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces. Johnna is a stay-at-home mom and Aaron is a software engineer at Dynetics in Huntsville, Ala. Address: 12761 Marble Drive, Madison, AL 35756. Email: aaron_johnna@yahoo.com.



Daniel ('02) and Christy Littleton Davis ('02) announce the birth and adoption of Hannah Rochelle born Feb. 16, 2006, and adoption day was April 27, 2006. They live in the Nashville area.

Daniel works for LifeWay and is also a part-time student minister at Edgefield Baptist Church. Christy is a stay-at-home mom. Address: 505 Cumberland Ave., Madison, TN 37115. E-mail: dcsbts307@yahoo.com



Joseph ('02) and Ellen Penny Grant ('01) welcomed their first child Abigail Cailin on Aug. 8, 2006. She was 7 pounds, 9 ounces and 20 inches long. Michael Penny, professor of voice at Union, is a proud grandfather. Joe recently completed his master's in business administration from Milligan College and is a surgical sales associate for Stryker Orthopedics in the North Nashville area. Ellen received her master's in elementary education from East Tennessee State University. She is currently staying at home with Abby. Address: 122 Cedar Ridge Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075. E-mail: ellengrant68@hotmail.com



Jonathan ('02) married Erin Joseph Hitt ('04) on July 24, 2004. Their daughter Bethany Kathleen was born on Nov. 24, 2005. She weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches. Jonathan has recently started work with a new company, Defense Contract Audit Agency, which is preparing to move to the Nashville area. Address: 70 Oakland Woods Cove, Oakland, TN 38060. E-mail: jonmhitt@yahoo.com



Betsy Morris Oldham ('02) and her husband Nathan announce the birth of a daughter, Hallie Kate. She was born on June 8, 2006, and weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 1/4 inches. Betsy teaches seventh, eighth and 10th grades at Calvary Academy, a Christian school in Springfield, Ill. Nathan graduated from medical school in May and they will relocate this summer for his residency. Address: 127 N Glenwood Ave., Springfield, IL 62702. E-mail: betsy-loumorris@hotmail.com



JulieAnn Stephan Maddox ('02) and Jeremy welcomed a daughter, Jayden Avery, on Sept. 22, 2006. She weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. JulieAnn has

taken a leave from teaching and coaching at Gleason School to stay home with Jayden. Jeremy is the elementary physical education teacher and high school baseball coach at McKenzie. Grandparents are **David and Carol Stephan ('75)**. Address: 505 McCadams Road, McKenzie, TN 38201. E-mail: coachmadox24@yahoo.com



Mary Sue Taylor Martin ('02) and her husband Jason welcomed a healthy 8-pound, 21-inch baby girl, Hannah KateLynn, into the world on June 4, 2006. They live and work in the Washington, D.C., area. Address: 10279 Ridgeline Drive, Montgomery Village, MD 20886. E-mail: MarySue.Martin@mwa.com

Jeremy ('03) and Katie McBride Wright ('04) are pleased to announce the birth of

Kallista Noelle born on Dec. 16, 2006. She weighed 6 pounds and was 18 1/2 inches. Big brother Hunter, age 2, welcomes her home. Other proud family members are grand-parents **Mike ('76) and Jean Ann Lauderdale McBride ('75)** and Uncle **Andy McBride ('07)**. Address: 1390 Bayberry Hill Drive, Cordova, TN 38018. E-mail: katiebugg0523@yahoo.com

Leah Gronberg Hood ('04) and her husband Zeb welcome their first child Malakai (Kai) James on Sept. 28, 2006. He weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches. Leah is a Montgomery County softball pitching coach. Zeb is employed with Kent Moore Cabinets in Conroe, Texas. Address: 901 Wilson Road, Apt. 514, Conroe, TX 77301. E-mail: Leah015@aol.com

Allison Lynn Reed ('04) and her husband Jared joyfully announce the birth of a new



daughter. Addie Ruth was born on April 17, 2007, and weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches. She has a big sister, Ella Frances, 1. Mike and **Beth Lynn ('03)**, collection development coordinator in Union's Emma Waters Summar Library, are her proud grandparents. Address: 10055 S. 1st St., Milan, TN 38358. E-mail: allisonsaccount@charter.net

Memoriam

Edward Carr ('29)
Sept. 4, 2006 Akron, Ohio

Robbie E. Bivens ('30)
Sept. 27, 2006 Friendship, Tenn.

Rosaland Gooch Morris ('30)
Feb. 7, 2006 Jackson, Tenn.



Don't miss a single moment of the excitement at Homecoming 2007. Save these dates: November 1-3, 2007. Plans are already taking shape for three memorable days at Union.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- 11:30 a.m. Heritage Luncheon
- 6:30 p.m. Sports Hall of Fame Dinner

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

- 10 a.m. Homecoming Chapel - 50-year reunion and recognition of the Class of 1958
- 11:30 a.m. Class of 1958 Luncheon and Tour of former downtown campus.
- 6 p.m. Alumni Awards Banquet and Recognitions
- 7:30 p.m. Departmental Dessert Receptions and Reunions

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- 10:30 a.m. Homecoming Brunch
- 11:30 a.m. "Arts in the Park" - Including alumni art show and sale, games and fun for the entire family. There will be an inaugural "Bulldog Family Olympics." Plans include inflatables, pony rides and petting zoo. Campus organizations will host tailgating and food service. A live remote radio broadcast is also planned.
- 2 p.m. Lady Bulldog and Bulldog basketball. Presentation of Homecoming Queen and Court and Presidential Homecoming Cup.

A fully detailed Homecoming brochure will follow in late summer. Until then, make your plans to "Meet Me at the Fred!"



Lillious C. Rollins ('31)
Nov. 4, 2006 Jackson, Tenn.

Mary M. Englert ('34)
March 6, 2007 Jackson, Tenn.

Carl Rogers ('34)
Oct. 1, 2006 Jackson, Tenn.

Carl F. Peterson Sr. ('35)
Oct. 27, 2006 Chattanooga, Tenn.

Ann Luckey ('36)
Jan. 29, 2007 Florence, Ala.

William E. Mullins Jr. ('37)
March 30, 2007 Greenfield, Tenn.

Albert L. Burch ('38)
Feb. 3 2006 Trenton, Tenn.

Ileen B. Monteith ('38)
Jan. 29, 2007 Colorado Springs, Colo.

Gaston D. Collins ('40)
Sept. 28, 2006 Jackson, Tenn.

Joseph F. Hall, Sr. ('40)
Oct. 10, 2006 Jackson, Tenn.

Buell T. Wells ('40)
Dec. 23, 2006 Pampa, Texas

Evelyn Dupree Naylor ('41)
April 10, 2006 Brownsville, Tenn.

Monda W. Schwarm ('41)
Jan. 17, 2006 Cincinnati, Ohio

Eileen W. Huffman ('42)
Feb. 5, 2007 Vincennes, Ind.

Jean E. Hoaglan ('46)
Jan. 23, 2007 Wichita, Kan.

Anne D. Hartgraves ('47)
Oct. 17, 2006 Marlow, Okla.

Elizabeth N. Hicks ('48)
March 2, 2006 Trenton, Tenn.

Robert E. Lee ('48)
Dec. 13, 2006 Lebanon, Tenn.

Robert H. Mizell ('48)
March 20, 2007 Hernando, Miss.

Anne S. Taylor ('48)
March 7, 2007 Roanoke, Va.

Dorothy Branch Hall ('49)
Oct. 18, 2006 Campbell, Calif.

Gerald Lloyd Montgomery ('49)
July 12, 2006 Knoxville, Tenn.

Lester A. Bishop ('50)
Sept. 25, 2006 Camden, Tenn.

Perry D. Crim ('50)
March 5, 2007 Trenton, Tenn.

William A. Mills ('50)
March 20, 2007 Memphis, Tenn.

Juanita P. Garland ('51)
Nov. 10, 2006 Jackson, Tenn.

Evelyn W. Lowery ('51)
April 29, 2006 Trenton, Tenn.

Garvin Curry Pyron ('51)
May 23, 2006 Brownsville, Tenn.

Mary Nell Rankin ('51)
April 27, 2006 Henderson, Tenn.

D.C. King ('52)
Oct. 7, 2006 Henderson, Tenn.

Mabel M. Morgan ('52)
Jan. 29, 2007 Jackson, Tenn.

Charles Franklin Robinson ('52)
Aug. 29, 2006 Florissant, Mo.

Ralph Burton Johnson ('53)
July 9, 2006 Jackson, Tenn.

Logan D. Lewis ('54)
April 2, 2007 Humboldt, Tenn.

James Carl "Cotton" Couch ('61)
Dec. 5, 2005 Savannah, Tenn.

Becky M. Haynie ('64)
Feb. 9, 2007 Collierville, Tenn.

Martha E. Tucker ('64)
Oct. 7, 2006 East Prairie, Mo.

Lana K. McClain ('67)
Feb. 14, 2007 Decatur, Ga.

Hershel M. Merwin ('77)
Oct. 1, 2006 McKenzie, Tenn.

Susan S. Stack ('79)
Dec. 17, 2006 Toone, Tenn.

David T. Reynolds ('83)
Sept. 11, 2006 Jackson, Tenn.

Rachel "Becky" Barger ('87)
Jan. 20, 2007 Jackson, Tenn.

David James (Dave) Shaw ('93)
Jan. 22, 2006 Jackson, Tenn.

Argyle W. Graves (Trustee)
Feb. 24, 2007 Milan, Tenn.

Send us your news for Old School!

We want to know what you've been doing, and so do your classmates. Use this form to update us on births, adoptions, marriages, anniversaries, job changes, relocations or any other milestones you think would be of interest to the Union community.

Choose from three easy ways to submit: You may fax this form to 731-661-5177. You may mail it to the attention of Juanita Corner: Office of University Communications, Union University, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, TN 38305. You may also email your submission to jcorner@uu.edu.

Last name (as it should appear) _____
Surname before marriage _____
First name _____ Initial _____
Major _____ Years attended _____ Degree/Year _____
Street address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ ☐ (new address?)
Work phone _____ Home phone _____
Email _____ Fax _____
Employer/location _____
My news for Old School: _____

Scholarship

11TH ANNUAL

BANQUET

UNION UNIVERSITY BRINGS TWO WHITE HOUSE INSIDERS TO JACKSON

Andrew Card & Leon Panetta

Former White House Chief of Staff for
President George W. Bush

Former White House Chief of Staff for
President William J. Clinton

Tuesday, October 23, 2007 6:30 p.m. • Carl Perkins Civic Center

LEAD SPONSORS

BancorpSouth
Black and Decker
Industrial Products Group
Schilling Enterprises/
Harry and Beth Smith

White Investments, LLC/
Roy L. White President and CEO

PREMIER SPONSORS

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
West Tennessee Healthcare, Inc.

For ticket information, including table sponsorships and balcony seating,
Call Union's Office of University Relations at 731.661.5050



UNION
UNIVERSITY