

100th Tigrett
Medal awarded

UNIONITE

THE UNION UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Investment in Biblical Literacy

Community Service Honors

Art is Her Gift

Polk Glover

Summer 2011 www.uu.edu



A Light for Our Path

Psalm 119 proclaims that God's Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. This issue of the *Unionite* focuses on this promise of guidance for our lives. At Union University, we are thankful for the heritage that is ours and the shoulders on whom we stand. Decade after decade, students at Union have taken courses in Bible as foundational for their curriculum path. Faculty and staff have looked to the scriptures for enablement with the calling to bring together faith and learning and faith and living across the campus. On this 400th anniversary of the publication of the most popular translation of the Bible in all of history, it is a good time to reflect on the influence of the Bible on Union University and the role that Union faculty and alumni have had in the important work of biblical interpretation.

In September of this year, Union will host a time of celebration around the influence of the King James Version of the Bible on all aspects of Western culture. The week will feature the work of Union's faculty in addition to outstanding lectures from John Woodbridge, Timothy George and Leland Ryken. The purpose of the week, in many ways, is to explore the role of Scripture and the Disciplines throughout the history of the Church. The Christian Intellectual Tradition, which shapes and informs the work and mission of Union University, has been greatly formed through the

insights of biblical interpreters. This week promises to be a splendid time. We invite you to join us on September 15-17 on the Union campus for this time of celebration.

George Guthrie, Perry Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Union University, has been given the opportunity to lead a major project that focuses on biblical literacy. The effort is called "Read the Bible for Life." The Spring conference on the Union campus sponsored by the Ryan Center for Biblical Studies was built around this theme. A series of publications will enhance this far-reaching effort. We are thankful for George Guthrie and his leadership at this key time in both Church and society.

This issue of the *Unionite* also provides updates on some of the shaping events that have transpired on the Union campus in recent months. The Spring Commencement service recognized the largest graduating class in Union history. The Class of 2011 will be missed.

Their mark will remain on the campus for years to come. The same could be said for the legacy of retiring faculty members like Charles Baldwin, Sherry Hickey, and Roland Porter. For each of these, we offer thanksgiving to God.

The graduation events provided the wonderful opportunity for the Centennial Recognition of the Tigrett Medal recipients. It was a joy to welcome so many former recipients



back to campus for a milestone in this special aspect of the Union heritage.

We are thankful for God's ongoing blessings in the life of Union University. As we take the next steps on our journey, we do so with gratitude to God for his faithfulness in days past and with confidence in the hope that the Word of God will guide us along the way. Indeed, for the promised guidance found in Psalm 119, we offer thanksgiving for the lamp to our feet and the light for our path.

Soli Deo Gloria,

David S. Dockery

UNIONITE

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Summer 2011



About the Cover

Union University has a legacy of biblical scholarship few undergraduate institutions can match. On this 400th anniversary of the release of the King James Version, we pause to reflect on a tradition of excellence and the need for future scholarship.

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Former U.S. Mint director addresses Business Through the Eyes of Faith



Christians are called to be change agents and can bring about change through the moral and ethical decisions they

make, Edmund Moy said during Union's Business Through the Eyes of Faith luncheon.

"I believe that all Christians without exception are called to full-time Christian ministry," Moy said. "Some of that full-time Christian ministry is going to be as pastors who equip their congregation to go out and do full-time Christian ministry. But for many of us, it's going to be in our workplace."

Moy, former director of the U.S. Mint and aide to President George W. Bush, was the guest speaker for the March event, which is sponsored by the McAfee School of Business Administration. It is designed to encourage and equip members of the West Tennessee business community to integrate their Christian faith into their workplaces.

"I got several compliments about Moy's address," said Keith Absher, dean of the McAfee School of Business Administration. "People related to him. They wanted to hear more."

Moy also spoke in several business classes while he was on campus, and "he was really at his best talking to students one-on-one," Absher said. "It meant a lot to them."

Moy also gave Union's commencement address in May 2004. He said two of his best employees at the White House – Andrea McDaniel and Josh Trent – are both Union alumni.

"One of the things that has attracted me to spending more time at Union University was the wonderful training they got, not only in academics, but in how to integrate their faith into all aspects of their life, including their workplace," he said. ☞

Save the date: Tony Blair visits Union October 3

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair will be the keynote speaker for Union University's 14th annual Scholarship Banquet Oct. 3 at Jackson's Carl Perkins Civic Center.

Blair served as prime minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 1997-2007. He was also the leader of Great Britain's Labour Party from 1994-2007 and the Member of Parliament for Sedgefield, England, from 1983-2007.

"In recent years Mr. Blair has become one of the most admired men in the world with his many efforts to promote good will through numerous means such as his faith foundation, his sports foundation, his charitable work and many other laudable efforts," Union University President David S. Dockery said. "The Union community will be pleased once again to bring a major world leader to West Tennessee."

Blair's memoir, *A Journey: My Political Life*, was released in September 2010



and made *The New York Times* Best Seller list within a week of its release.

The annual Scholarship Banquet has become one of the premier events in West Tennessee each year, and is Union's primary fund raising event for its student scholarship fund. All told, Union's Scholarship Banquets

have generated more than \$5 million for student scholarships.

Previous speakers have included George H.W. Bush, Margaret Thatcher, Condoleezza Rice, Mikhail Gorbachev, Laura Bush, Rudolph Giuliani and Colin Powell.

Tickets for this year's event are expected to go quickly. Sponsorship opportunities are available now at all levels. For ticket information, including table sponsorships and individual balcony seating, contact Union's Office of University Relations at (731) 661-5050. ☞

Union to begin new academic journal

Union University will initiate a publishing project that begins next year with a semi-annual academic journal.

The journal has the working title *Religio et Eruditio*, which is the university motto. As the name implies, the journal will address issues of faith and learning from an evangelical perspective. Each edition would

include four to six articles, a running column by the editor and reviews.

The journal will be led by an editorial board consisting of Union University faculty members as well as others from outside the university community. Hunter Baker, associate dean of arts and sciences, and C. Ben Mitchell, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy, will serve as the journal's senior editors. ☞



Union students volunteer their time at Liberty Garden Park during Campus and Community Day. The students helped by shoveling and laying mulch around the park.

More national honors for community service efforts

For the fifth straight year, Union University has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

"It is one thing to be recognized once among this prestigious group of institutions, but to be recognized for five straight years speaks volumes about the quality of Union students, staff and faculty," Union President David S. Dockery said. "We're honored to receive this significant award for the fifth straight year."

Union is one of only about 100 institutions in the nation that have been named to the honor roll every year since its inception.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. This year, 511 institutions were named to the honor roll.

The award is given by the

Corporation for National and Community Service. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

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 dozens of teams across Jackson and West Tennessee for various service projects. More than 1,000 students, faculty and staff participated in the event in 2010.

Union also participates in local service projects every year on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, and the university sends out about 20 Global Opportunities teams annually. These GO teams participate in mission trips across the country and around the world. ☞

Union Debate claims second consecutive championship



For the second year in a row, Union University's debate team won the International Public Debate Association National Championship Tournament, held in April at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

IPDA is one of many debate organizations in which colleges and universities compete.

After a weekend of competing against students from other schools in the varsity, novice and professional divisions, Union students won two tie-breaking debate rounds that determined which team would place first.

The team also won the season-long Varsity, Novice and Scholastic individual sweepstakes, which are awarded to students based on their records from all the tournaments in one season.

"The novices brought fresh energy and new perspectives to the team," debate team coach Web Drake said. "The varsity continued to thrive."

Drake helped to create the Union debate team, which just completed its third season. The students on the team learn critical thinking and quick decision-making skills, and a thorough knowledge of contemporary issues, he said.

Alison Holcomb, a freshman who was president of her high school debate team before joining Union's team, was a semifinalist — one of the top four of more than 50 debaters in the varsity division at the tournament. ☞

Keep up with the latest news from Union at www.uu.edu/news

Town and Gown series focuses on child welfare



The welfare of children within the context of communities and the effects of social forces hindering that well-being formed the subject of a spring Town and Gown series.

Mary Anne Poe, professor of social work and director of Union's Center for Just and Caring Communities, said the course material came from a viewpoint of imagining a future that is just and caring for all children.

Among the lectures offered during the series, which ran from April 4-May 2: "Children and the Arts," by Nigel Goodwin, of Genesis Arts Trust in the United Kingdom; "The State of the Child in Tennessee," by Linda O'Neal, director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth; "Photography: Envisioning Opportunity," by Jim Veneman, assistant professor of communication arts at Union; "The Power of Imagination," by Hal Poe, the Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture at Union; and a panel presentation on the topic "Imagining a Just and Caring Future."

The live sessions on the Jackson campus were simulcast to Union's Germantown campus.

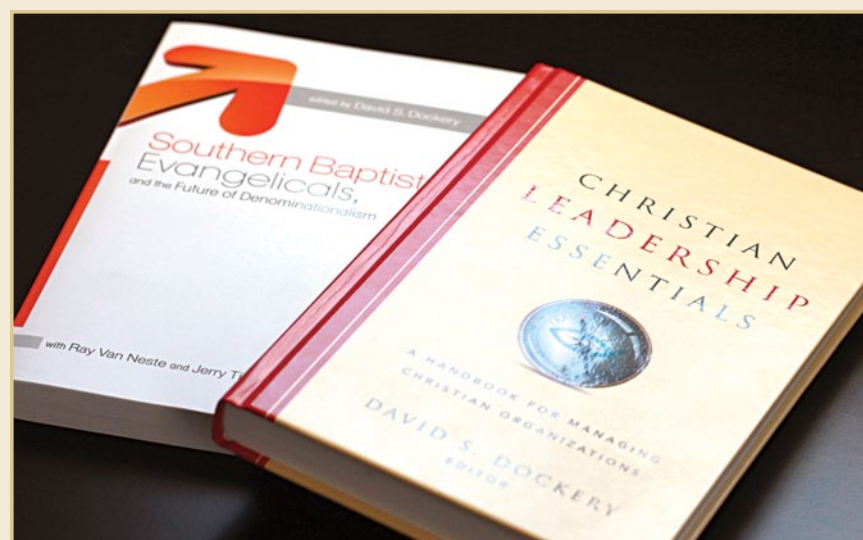
The Town and Gown series is an opportunity for community members interested in various topics to attend lectures and participate in discussions in a classroom setting. The classes are free and open to the public. ☞

CultureFest promotes Christian diversity

In a culturally diverse society, Christians should be willing to embrace Christians from other cultures and backgrounds, Peter Cha told Union University students during the second annual CultureFest.

"Are they merely traveling companions, or do you relate to them as your brothers and sisters in Christ

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Dockery books focus on denomination and leadership

Two new books from Union President David S. Dockery explore the essentials of Christian leadership and the role of Christian denominations.

Southern Baptists, Evangelicals, and the Future of Denominationalism, published by B&H Academic, includes chapters from a variety of Southern Baptist and evangelical leaders, based upon their presentations at a 2009 conference at Union.

Ray Van Neste, associate professor of biblical studies at Union, and Jerry Tidwell, Union's senior vice president for university relations, served as the conference coordinators and assisted with the book.

In the preface, Dockery writes that the world has seen significant changes over the past 50 years, and Christian denominations that reached their peak 50 years ago are now struggling to discover their place in a new age.

"The contributors to this volume are not pessimistic about the future; we are hopeful, largely because of Christ's promise to His church," Dockery writes.

"Yet, we recognize that we find ourselves at a propitious moment when important questions about change, continuity, unity, and diversity need to be raised in light of the challenges around us. We not only want to raise the questions but look for answers that are faithful to our confession and our heritage."

Another recent release is *Christian Leadership Essentials: A Handbook for Managing Christian Organizations*, also published by B&H Academic. Dockery edited this book with the intent of exploring the essential qualities necessary for leading Christian organizations and institutions.

"Faithfulness to the gospel and to institutional or organizational mission will not happen apart from the renewing power of God's Spirit and the development of godly and well-equipped leaders," Dockery writes in the book's introduction. "From a human perspective the need of the hour is leadership, Spirit-enabled leadership."

Both books are available at LifeWay Christian Stores and at online retailers such as Amazon.com. ☞

Scholarship Symposium showcases student research

Academic research, usually reserved for graduate study, is increasingly common for Union undergraduates. Just look at the growth in Union's annual Scholarship Symposium, an event which showcases student research.

In 2004, the first-year abstract for the event included students from 10 disciplines. Now in its eighth year, the 2011 abstract includes 17 disciplines, 100 faculty advisors and research work from 209 students.

Among the work represented: a working wind tunnel from engineering students; completion of an unfinished Dickens novel by English students; and organic means to discourage endoparasites from biology students.

Randall Phillips, associate professor



of family studies and director of research at Union, said practice in communicating ideas and processes is one of the most beneficial aspects of the symposium for students.

"Being able to communicate is a distinctive of the liberal arts," Phillips said. "Give these students a chance, and they can show you what they can do."

More information about this year's event can be found at www.uu.edu/research. ☞

Netland wins top academic award

An article about 20th century Japanese novelist Shusaku Endo by John Netland, professor of English and chairman of Union's English department, was awarded best article in the *Christianity and Literature* journal at a 2011 national conference of academics.

At the meeting of the Modern Language Association in Los Angeles, Netland received the 2010 Lionel Basney Award for Best Refereed Article from the Conference on Christianity



and Literature. His article, "From Cultural Alterity to the Habitations of Grace: The Evolving Moral Topography of Endo's Mudswamp Trope," was published in the journal *Christianity and Literature* in 2009.

From the award citation: "(Netland's article) speaks both to those already familiar with the Japanese Catholic novelist and to those who have yet to encounter him; the former will be enlightened and the latter intrigued." ☞

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because you worship the same God and because you're claimed by the same God?" Cha asked.

Cha, associate professor of pastoral theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, was the guest speaker in chapel as part of Union's CultureFest event, which is designed to promote cross-cultural communication and to celebrate cultural diversity.

Cha encouraged the Union community to be one of racial and cultural unity, he also warned against cultural "blind spots" and underestimating each culture's ability to create certain idols and sinful practices.

CultureFest also included displays in the main hallway of the Student Union Building from students, faculty and staff representing different cultures and regions of the world. Using artwork, artifacts, clothing, music and food samples, the displays offered glimpses and tastes to the cultural diversity that exists in the Union community, with 44 states and 30 countries represented.

"I think CultureFest exceeded our expectations," said John Netland, Union University English professor. "The student displays were exceptional. There was a palpable excitement in the hallway of the SUB, and it was such a joy to see students take such interest in the many cultures represented."

The day concluded with an "open mic" night in Barefoots Joe, with students singing and reciting culturally diverse music and literature.

The event was planned by several campus groups, including the Intercultural Community Council, MOSAIC, International Students and Mu Kappa. ☞



Union athletics update: Conference titles and national recognition

The men's and women's basketball teams combined for 61 wins in the 2010-11 season, with the women falling just short of a national championship three-peat.

The Lady Bulldogs lost to Azusa Pacific (Calif.) 65-59 in a rematch of the previous 2010 national title game. Ranked atop the NAIA Division I polls throughout the season, the ladies finished with a 35-2 record and a TranSouth conference championship.

The men's team finished 26-7 and earned an at-large bid to the NAIA national tournament.

Union sophomore Brett Barry was voted TranSouth Golfer of the Year and his coach Andy Rushing received a third consecutive conference Coach of the Year honor. Union won the conference title and qualified for the national NAIA tournament.

Union softball finished with a 41-15 overall record and advanced to the conference title game. It was the most wins for a Union squad since 2005. Union baseball claimed its second conference title in three years, advancing to the NAIA national tournament. In the conference tournament, third-seeded Union lost the first game of the tournament but came back with four straight wins, averaging 10 runs/game to claim the title. 🏆

Conference explores art, culture and theology



University conference on art, culture and theology.

"We are here today to enable one another to bear that burden," said Goodwin, executive director of Genesis Arts Trust, a ministry for

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School of Pharmacy serves in Belize

When Houston Wyatt arrived in Belize in January as part of a mission trip, it was the first time he had ever left the United States.

"We went to help those people in any way we could," said Wyatt, a third-year pharmacy student at Union University. "We were helped just as much as they were, as far as seeing how they live and how grateful and humble they were about the situation they were in."

Wyatt was one of 35 people from the Union School of Pharmacy who traveled to Hattieville, Belize, in Central America to do a variety of ministry and health care work among the impoverished there. The group included 25 students and 10 faculty, staff and community partners.



After working among residents and at schools during the day, the team led services at a local church in the evening. Josh Clarke, admissions coordinator for the School of Pharmacy, and Doug Duncan, a pharmacist from Dyer, Tenn., shared the preaching duties and pharmacy students gave testimonies and led in worship. 🏆

GO Teams span the globe

Two Union University students stepped out of the glaring sun into a cool, dim coffee shop in Tampa, Fla., to see if they could get a picture with Alex Rodriguez.



The New York Yankees third baseman had just walked in and said no to the picture, but then Rodriguez's girlfriend, actress Cameron Diaz, walked through the door.

While she was waiting for her drink, the two students introduced themselves and explained to her that they were walking in that area of Tampa, praying. They asked if they could pray for her as they walked, and explained that it was the love of Jesus that compelled them to love others.

Diaz asked them to pray for the people who did not have as much as her and commended them for what

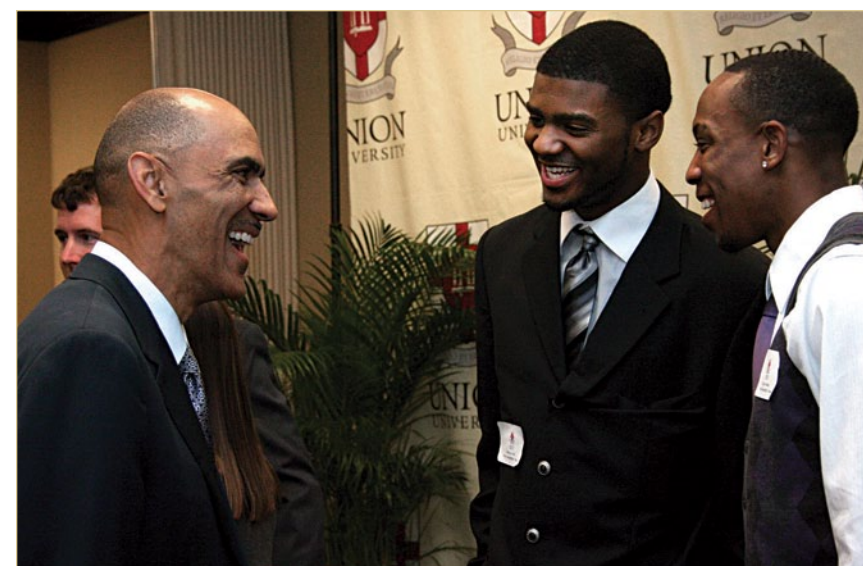
they were doing.

The Tampa group was one of 12 Global Opportunities Teams from Union that used Spring Break to minister in six stateside and six international locations. About 130

students were involved, visiting such places as Central America, Central Asia and Eastern Europe as well as Nashville, Memphis and Boston, among other locations.

In addition to the spring break teams, Union sent out teams in January to Botswana, East Asia, Germany and Israel. This summer, GO teams visit the Philippines, Central Asia and the Middle East.

Donors who wish to partner with GO Teams can make contributions online at www.uu.edu/giving or contact Campus Ministries at 731-661-5062. 🏆



Tony Dungy visits with Union basketball players Antoine Hall, junior DMS major, (center) and Skyler Vaden, junior sports management major (right) prior to his address at the Carl Perkins Civic Center.

Former NFL coach keynotes Golf and Gala

Today's youth need adults to be actively involved in their lives to encourage them to be "uncommon," according to former NFL coach Tony Dungy.

"You never know what small step can make a big difference in young people's lives," Dungy said.

Dungy was the keynote speaker for Union University's third annual Roy L. White Legacy Golf and Gala at the Carl Perkins Civic Center and completed a day that began with a golf tournament at the Jackson Country Club.

Dungy's wife Lauren introduced him and made some opening remarks about the challenges America's youth are facing today.

"Tony and Lauren spoke from the heart as they addressed serious and very real issues facing young people today," said Jerry Tidwell, Union's senior vice president for university relations. "We



are grateful to Roy and Martha White and other lead sponsors for helping to make this event possible."

Dungy became the first black coach to win the Super Bowl when he led the Indianapolis Colts to victory in 2007. He retired from coaching in 2008 and now serves as an

analyst for NBC's "Football Night in America." He is also the author of *The New York Times* bestselling books *Quiet Strength* and *Uncommon*. He and Lauren have co-authored a book for children that teaches acceptance of others.

The banquet event drew about 1,500 people, raising \$375,000 for the university. At the golf tournament earlier in the day, the MG Construction team of Cody Kail, B.J. Stanfield, Clay Mallard and Mills Hamaguchi took first place. 🏆

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Christian artists around the world.

Goodwin was one of several notable Christian artists who led the conversation at the two-day ACT Conference in April on the Union campus. Union's art department, which sponsored the conference, described it as "an international dialogue designed to cultivate meaningful Christian conversations with the arts that encourage artistic activity and innovation as well as biblical, theological and philosophical artistic reflection."

In addition to Goodwin, the conference featured addresses from Daniel A. Siedell, assistant professor of modern and contemporary art history, theory and criticism at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Mary McCleary, regent's professor of art emeritus at Stephen F. Austin State University. 🏆

Teach-out offered to former Lambuth students

Union University agreed to serve as an official teach-out institution in support of Lambuth University's efforts to cease operation on June 30. After being contacted by officials at Lambuth, the Executive Committee of the Union Board of Trustees authorized the Union University administration to work with Lambuth officials to provide this support to Lambuth students.

Union and several other universities worked closely with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to provide maximum flexibility in transfer of credits into equivalent programs, satisfaction of degree residence requirements and financial aid similar to what was available to Lambuth students.

The final number of Lambuth transfers won't be known until fall. 🏆

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news from Union at
www.uu.edu/news

A majority of Americans are frustrated by a U.S. political system that seems to ignore the voices and opinions of U.S. citizens, according to a prominent pollster.

"People want Republicans to lose, and they want Democrats to lose," said Scott Rasmussen, founder and president of Rasmussen Reports. "They want them both to lose at the same time, but haven't figured out a way to make that happen."

According to Rasmussen, such continued disregard for the will of the American public is why voters are sensing a growing disconnect between themselves and the government. Voters have concluded "that if we have to rely on politicians for change, well, there's really no hope," he said. "There is no trust in the process."

He cited the government bailouts as a catalyst to the most recent examples

a serious way. Nobody has bothered to explain why spending has gone out of control, Rasmussen said, and though Republicans have proposed various spending cuts, nobody is willing to address three components of the driving forces to governmental spending – Social Security, national security and Medicare.

That negativity can take its toll on a pollster who must daily confront statistics and polls indicating dissatisfaction with

Leading Pollster: Citizens Feel Ignored

Rasmussen spoke on campus in the Carl Grant Events Center as part of the 12th annual Union Forum luncheon lecture series in March. One of the nation's premier sources for public opinion information, Rasmussen has been an independent pollster since 1994 and is a frequent guest on FOX News, CNBC, BBC and other major media outlets.

Public opinion doesn't change in response to what politicians say, Rasmussen said, but changes based on what people encounter in everyday life – and such a dynamic has been a common theme in U.S. history.

That experience with everyday life is what has prompted Americans overwhelmingly over the past 40-50 years to support cuts in government spending and a reduction in the size of the federal government, Rasmussen said. But despite public support for that policy, the last year when government spending decreased from the previous year was 1953, the year Elvis Presley recorded his first single.

of political frustration in the United States and as evidence why people don't think politicians in Washington are talking about the nation's problems in



Rasmussen answers questions during a news conference before Union Forum.

the country's direction, he admitted. But despite the pessimism, Rasmussen said he has reason for hope because the American people overwhelmingly believe in the ideals that created the nation in the first place.

Another reason for optimism, Rasmussen explained, is that the American people are well ahead of their political leaders when it comes to embracing changes that are good for the nation. He expressed confidence that ultimately the voters will get politicians in place who line up with their viewpoints, which will result in a positive outcome.

"Ronald Reagan didn't create the tax revolt," Rasmussen said. "He simply rode the wave."

Union Forum programs are conducted in the fall and spring semesters. Sponsors this year included First South Bank, TLM Associates, West Tennessee Healthcare, The Jackson Sun and Trumbull Laboratories LLC.

Two key addresses highlight Black History Month observance

Two leading biblical scholars visited Union during Black History Month with messages of racial reconciliation.



Author Renita Weems spoke at the fourth annual Black History Month program, and drew a parallel between transitional generations among the Israelites and the modern-day black community.

"Moses my servant is dead," Weems said, quoting Joshua 1, when God appoints Joshua to lead a new generation of Israelites into the Promised Land. The chapter (in Joshua) captures the solemnity,

expectation, even the irony of the end of one generation and the beginning of another."

Growing up in the Deep South in the 1960s and then becoming the first black woman to receive a doctorate in Old Testament studies from Princeton Theological Seminary, Weems said she knows from personal experience the strides which her generation made in breaking down racial segregation and increasing opportunities for black Americans. She also acknowledged, though, that her generation left work for the next.

"It's now your turn, Joshua generation, to build even on our mistakes," Weems told the students in the audience.

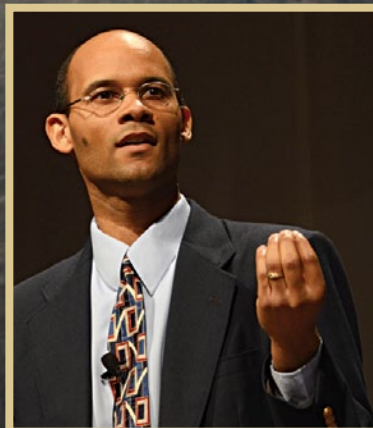
Weems is vice president of academic affairs at American Baptist College in Nashville.

Two days after that event, a New Testament scholar addressed the reconciling power of the gospel in a chapel address.

Jarvis Williams, assistant professor of New Testament and Greek at Campbellsville University, preached from Ephesians 2:11-22.

"Preach the gospel to whomever will listen to you, regardless of whether your audience is black or white or red or green or purple. It doesn't matter. Preach the gospel," Williams said. "Don't you dare believe the lie that there's a black gospel and a white gospel. There's one gospel. It's the gospel of the Jewish Messiah Jesus Christ, and that one gospel is the power of God unto salvation for Jews, as well as for Gentiles."

He stressed to the Union audience that their identity in Christ is more important than their racial identities, and challenged his listeners to embrace the reconciling power of the gospel and give their lives to proclaiming it to others.



Derique Cannon, sophomore engineering major, leads a song with the MOSAIC choir at the Fourth Annual Black History Month Program.

Union's Investment in Biblical Literacy

But among all our joys, there was no one that more filled our hearts, than the blessed continuance of the preaching of God's sacred Word among us; which is that inestimable treasure, which excelleth all the riches of the earth; because the fruit thereof extendeth itself, not only to the time spent in this transitory world, but directeth and disposeth men unto that eternal happiness which is above in heaven.



The translators who presented King James with the first English translation of Scripture wrote these words four centuries ago. Historians tell us the English-speaking world was never the same once this work was released.

The KJV gave direction to the English language. In many homes, it was the only book a family could afford to purchase. Children learned to read by reciting and memorizing its verses. For the first time, adults could consider and interpret the passages for themselves. Baptists, drawing on their understanding of the priesthood of all believers, recognized this privilege and responsibility as a central principle to their theology.

In the fall, Union University will mark the 400th anniversary of this important milestone with the KJV 400 Festival on the Jackson campus. Union is an appropriate venue for such a festival. For generations, Union has been closely connected to careful scriptural focus and noteworthy biblical scholarship.

In the pages that follow, an attempt is made to highlight Union's heritage of biblical scholarship. Read about faculty and alumni who have played key roles in shaping our understanding of Scripture; find out about current scholarship among the School of Theology and Missions faculty, including a new national effort to bring renewed biblical literacy to the churches; explore plans for the KJV 400 festival and the work of its sponsor, the R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies; and look into the prolific biblical scholarship of President David S. Dockery, who continues to write and edit important reference works that will serve future generations. ■

A Heritage of Biblical Scholarship

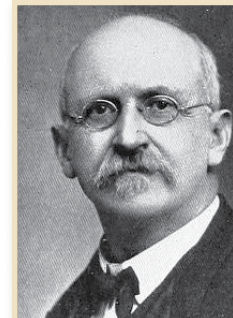
The biblical scholarship so much in evidence at Union University in the present day has its roots in a longstanding tradition of excellence.

For generations, Union has produced graduates who excelled in their studies of the Scriptures. It has employed faculty members who made significant contributions to global understanding of the Bible. Nearly all of them shared this knowledge from the pulpits of churches they pastored, or from lecterns in the halls of higher education. Some did both.

To prepare a comprehensive guide to the work of every biblical scholar with a connection to Union would fill volumes. What follows (in chronological order) is a brief look at the work of a few scholars and practitioners who typify Union's time-honored institutional commitment to outstanding, authentic biblical scholarship.

George M. Savage (1849-1938)

A graduate of Union University Murfreesboro in 1871, Savage devoted most of his professional life to Southwest Baptist University (which became known as Union University in 1907) as a faculty member and as president.



Savage served three separate terms as Union president: 1890-1904; 1906-1907; and 1915-1918. Union's chapel is named in his honor.

University historian James Alex Baggett describes Savage as "Union's Grand Old Man" in his book *So Great a Cloud of Witnesses*. Baggett writes that when Savage was not

talking with family or friends, "he could most often be found reading his Greek *New Testament*, which he read through more than 50 times, or cultivating the roses in his backyard."

Baggett also writes that as a professor, Union students remembered Savage's "insistence on the highest type of recitation." Savage discovered his love for teaching as a student, when he served as a tutor. According to Baggett, the Union faculty recognized Savage as a "popular and successful teacher."

Savage was the first professor to be named the J.R. Graves Professor of Theology and Moral Philosophy at Union, a job title he held from 1908-1934.

Charles B. Williams (1869-1952)

Charles Williams is one of the best-known biblical scholars associated with Union University. His Williams translation of the New Testament, first published in 1937, became a favorite in many churches around the world and was published as he was serving as professor of Greek and ethics at Union.

Ray Van Neste, assistant professor of Christian Studies and director of the R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies, has done extensive research on Williams and delivered a Founders Day address about the scholar in 2009. (A podcast of his address is available online at www.uu.edu/audio/detail.cfm?ID=365)

Van Neste recounted how as a youngster in

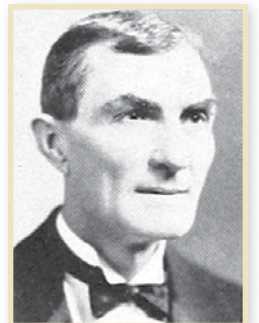
North Carolina, Williams would read and study Latin in the fields from a book tied to his plow. Unable to attend the local school because he was needed to work on the family farm, Williams would study the week's lessons in spare time and recite them each Friday to the teacher. This process actually resulted in early graduation, and by the time he was 15, he was teaching in the local school. He later worked his way through Wake Forest University, graduating at the top of his class.

The Williams translation paid particular attention to the Greek verb tenses, something Van Neste notes had been a special interest of the scholar for many years. About 20 years in the making, Van Neste observes that one of Williams' students might have provided the spark that started this work: "Apparently a student had heard him criticize one of the standard translations and the student suggested he 'turn out a better one!' So he set out to do just that."

Van Neste concludes that Williams was ahead of his time as a translator, making use of idioms rather than attempting the word-for-word translation technique that was common practice at the time.

"The work of Williams was really the beginning of what we have as a heritage of contributing to English Bible translation here at Union," Van Neste concluded in his address. "In 1991, Union graduate Barclay Newman (profiled below) produced the contemporary English version, and in more recent years the work of Gary Smith (now retired) and George Guthrie."

Williams retired from Union in 1939 after serving for 13 years. A scholarship in his honor was established at the University in 1986, and in 2004, his family commissioned and donated a portrait of Williams that now hangs in the Ryan Center in Jennings Hall.



Fred M. Wood '44

Wood produced resources for Southern Baptist churches for about half a century. He specialized

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in Old Testament study and Hebrew, earning a doctorate in those areas from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Union in 1944, and the University later gave him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. He was a professor of religion at Union and a visiting professor at four

different Southern Baptist seminaries.

Wood also served as pastor at Eudora Baptist Church in Memphis for more than 30 years, but made time in his schedule to deliver conference messages at Southern Baptist retreat centers Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.).

He wrote 15 books, including a commentary on Amos published by Lifeway in 2009 and a widely regarded book entitled *Jeremiah-Fire in my Bones* (Baptist Sunday School Board, 1981).

Among his many honors, Wood was president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention (1972-1975) and was named to *Who's Who in Religion*.

Curtis Vaughan '46 (1925-2005)

Curtis Vaughan served the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1950-1995, and continued to teach classes five years after his official retirement. He authored Bible study commentaries on Ephesians, Galatians, Colossians and Philemon, Acts, James and 1, 2, and 3 John. In addition, he co-authored commentaries on Romans, 1 Corinthians, Jude and 1 and 2 Peter.

Following his death in 2005 at the age of 80, Union President David S. Dockery remarked that Vaughan was "one of Union's great graduates," and "a model of scholarship and churchmanship for Southern Baptists everywhere."

In addition to his books, Vaughan contributed numerous articles to the *Southern Baptist*

Encyclopedia, *Broadman Teacher's Commentary*, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* and *The Southwestern Journal of Theology*. He was a member of the executive editorial committee for the New King James Version of the Bible, and served on the editorial advisory board of Zondervan Publishing House.

After graduation from Union, the native of Humboldt, Tenn. earned graduate degrees at Southwestern Seminary and also studied in Great Britain at both the University of Manchester and the University of Edinburgh.

Robert L. Hamblin '50

Robert Lee Hamblin's work as an author and evangelist is widely recognized, and Union

awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1983 to go along with his bachelor's degree earned here in 1950. Hamblin served six years on staff with the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board), retiring as Vice President for Evangelism in 1988. He was also professor of evangelism for two years at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition to serving as an evangelist, Hamblin was pastor of Harrisburg Baptist Church in Tupelo, Miss. for 22 years and also pastored Elliston Baptist Church in Memphis.

Hamblin was a prolific writer, dedicating himself to preparing materials that could aid in evangelism or further understanding of scripture. Among his many works were *Triumphant Strangers: A Contemporary Look at First Peter* (Broadman Press, 1982) and *The Doctrine of Lordship* (Convention Press, 1991).

Barclay M. Newman '53

Newman discovered his love for translation while taking Greek at Union University as an undergraduate. That initial interest blossomed into a 42-year career with the American Bible Society, where he worked on the *Contemporary English Version* that was released in 1995.



In many cultures, there is a need for the simplest of translations – those that can be read aloud easily. "The CEV is an ear-oriented text," Newman told the Missouri Baptist newspaper *Word & Way*. He retired from ABS in 2005 but remains active in his writing and research.

Among his many noteworthy books are *A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament* (Hendrickson Publishers), a work originally released in 1971 but continually revised, and the *Running Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament* (German Bible Society).

Thomas G. Smothers '55

A highly respected Old Testament scholar, Smothers retired from the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary after many years of service. He was also on the faculty of Palm Beach Atlantic College. Some of his best-known scholarly work focuses on the Old Testament book of Jeremiah.

Smothers wrote for the *Word Biblical Commentary* series, which was produced for both the serious scholar and the busy pastor. Smothers gained a reputation for helping both groups think about the most difficult passages in Jeremiah.

A volume in that series on Jeremiah 26-52 that Smothers co-authored with Gerald Keown and Pamela Scalise frequently turns up on short lists of recommended commentaries for that section of scripture. Given that Jeremiah has attracted much scholarly attention in recent decades, the consistency with which this volume turns up on these short lists is noteworthy.

Peter Rhea Jones '59

Few Southern Baptists have earned more respect for their work on the teachings of Jesus than Peter

Rhea Jones, a Dyersburg native and Union graduate who went on to teach for many years at both the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Mercer University.

Jones wrote *Teaching of the Parables* (Baptist Sunday School Board, 1981) and *Studying the Parables of Jesus* (Smyth & Helwys, 1999).

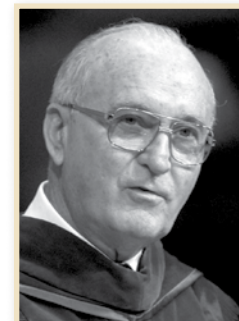
The back cover of the latter book includes this comment from Furman University professor John C. Shelly: "Marked by a rare blend of sterling scholarship and pastoral insight, *Studying the Parables of Jesus* is an excellent book, freeing the parables from stifling familiarity to challenge our pretensions, subvert our comfortably settled opinions, and goad our religious imagination on matters of life and faith and the kingdom of God."

In addition to his academic positions, Jones served extensively as a pastor. Many believe Jones' insights were honed by this experience, which included five full-time positions and nine interim pastorates.

Bob R. Agee '60

Prior to his distinguished 17-year term as president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Bob Agee served at Union as vice president for religious affairs, professor of practical studies in the religion department and as special assistant to the president for institutional planning.

Agee wrote a commentary on the book of Acts for the Bible Book series in the late 1970s; the book was widely used in Sunday school classes throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. Agee wrote at least one series of Sunday school lessons each year from 1970-2004 for Convention Uniform, Life and Work, Bible Book, and Senior Adult Quarterly. 📖



Current Biblical Scholarship



When Union recruits new students, it often urges them to “study with the authors.” Nowhere is that principle more in evidence than in Union’s School of Theology and Missions.

In recent years, biblical scholars at Union have been involved in more than 40 major book projects directly connected to the Scripture, acting as authors, co-authors, editors and contributors. These projects vary greatly, from 700-page commentaries to notations in study bibles.

Beyond the books, biblical scholars at Union have published hundreds of peer-reviewed journal articles and accepted invitations to make presentations at conferences around the world.

Amid this academic research is found the traditional Union commitment to classroom teaching. Two biblical scholars at Union have been awarded the prestigious Faculty Member of the Year award in the past seven years.

What follows is a limited bibliography showing Union’s work in the area of biblical scholarship. For a more complete listing, please visit the following Union websites:

www.uu.edu/scholarship | www.uu.edu/books

David S. Dockery
President, Union University



Biblical Authority and Interpretation

Books

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New Testament Interpretation: Essays on Methods and Issues, edited with David A. Black (Nashville: B&H, 2001).

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Beyond the Impasse?: Scripture, Interpretation and Theology in Baptist Life, edited with Robison B. James (Nashville: B&H, 1992).

Holman Bible Handbook, edited (Nashville: Holman, 1992).

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UNION'S INVESTMENT IN Biblical Literacy

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Randall Bush
Professor of Christian
Thought & Tradition

The Nature and Authority of the Bible

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Mark Dubis
Professor of Biblical
Studies

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Book

God as Author: A Biblical Approach to Narrative (Nashville: B&H, 2010)

Essays

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Bradley G. Green
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Book Chapter

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"Canon of Scripture"

"Doctrinal Development"

"Revelation-Theophany"

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George H. Guthrie
Benjamin W. Perry
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The Nature and Authority of the Bible

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Scott Huelin
Associate Professor
of English and
Director, Honors
Community

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Paul Jackson
Professor of Biblical
Studies

"Background Studies and New Testament Interpretation," chapter in *New Testament Criticism*

& Interpretation, edited by David A. Black & David S. Dockery (Nashville: B&H, 2001), 188-208.

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For more information about scholarship at Union University, please visit "The Scholarship project" at www.uu.edu/scholarship

Editor's Note: This story was originally conceived and written for the *Unionite* special edition commemorating David S. Dockery's 15th anniversary as president of Union University. It was held for this issue because it is relevant to a discussion of biblical scholarship.

A Mind for Truth A Heart for God

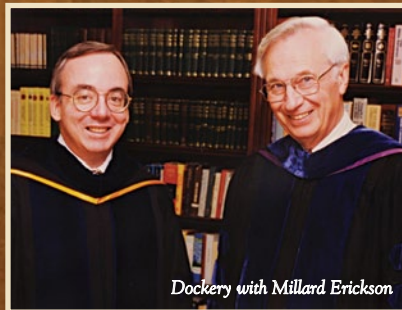
A Baptist Theologian's Contributions to the Church, Academy, and Society

By Jerry N. Tidwell and Douglas E. Baker

When David Dockery stepped to the podium on January 31, 2009 at the annual meeting of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities in Washington, DC to present the Mark Hatfield Leadership Award, he gave a cogent and concise explanation of the exact purpose of the award within the entire organization of CCCU. The granting of this prestigious award has become one of the highlights of the annual CCCU conference. Past recipients included evangelical luminaries like Arthur Holmes, Carl F.H. Henry, Chuck Colson, Billy Graham, Rick Warren and others. Dockery twice before had been invited to participate in the presentations of this award, first with Carl Henry and then Rick Warren. In 2009 he was invited to make the presentation to the brilliant theologian, J. I. Packer. "J. I. Packer has shown us the way forward by connecting the dots between solid Christian thinking and appropriate application," Dockery stated. Dockery swept through Packer's literary contributions giving a summary of each and its appropriate application for leaders in Christian higher education. He stated that Packer had "pointed us beyond mere rhetorical and pragmatic responses, calling us afresh to think Christianly about and in all aspects of life."

For those who heard these words from Dockery, it became obvious that Packer had been a shaping influence in his own understanding and vision for a university. Early in his own theological study and

formation, Dockery had pressed against difficult questions about the Bible's inspiration, authority, and proper application to the modern era. He emerged as one unafraid to engage in serious academic study and remained committed to a plausible structure of theological thought grounded on what distinguished Baptist theologian James Leo Garrett stated was Dockery's "specialization in biblical hermeneutics."



Dockery with Millard Erickson

In his acclaimed 1995 volume of *Christian Scripture*, Dockery outlined doctrinal pillars that both systematically and practically articulated a doctrine of Holy Scripture that affirmed the truthfulness of Scripture and provided an interpretive method by which every Christian could have confidence that the Bible was to be regarded as the very words of God – the vox Dei. His book on the subject, *Biblical Interpretation Then and Now: Contemporary Hermeneutics in Light of the Early Church* (1992), had revealed that interpreting the Bible was not merely a matter of subjective speculation based on shifting opinions of textual elasticity. Rather, reading the Bible was best accomplished in a context of understanding the narrative of Scripture itself to be inspired and authoritative as the Word of God in communion with the Church and the best of the Christian tradition. The Bible itself provided guidance for its own interpretation with the textual and contextual keys revealed therein.

UNION'S INVESTMENT IN Biblical Literacy

An Evangelical Baptist/ A Baptist Evangelical

David Dockery came of age in a community where the Bible was considered to be an authoritative guide for life. The Alabama native was born into a Southern Baptist culture that inculcated the Christian faith through a programmatic emphasis supported by a denomination organized around efficiency. During his years in graduate school, there developed an intellectual curiosity that propelled him toward a deeper understanding of a distinct evangelical identity. Dockery wanted to know how Baptists (and particularly Southern Baptists) fit into the broader Christian tradition and the wider world of evangelical life.

Time spent as pastor of a church in New York and further study beyond his preparation at Southwestern Seminary at institutions such as Grace Theological Seminary, Texas Christian University, and the University of Texas provided for him an informed perspective of the development within what has often been called "the pattern of Christian truth." In his studies, Dockery's Baptist and evangelical convictions were reinforced, but not uncritically. His reading deepened his appreciation for the creeds and councils of the Early Church.

Dockery was able to construct carefully worded statements that encapsulated the history of a doctrinal precision all the while incorporating a distinctive Baptist theological perspective that was wholly orthodox, biblical, and evangelical. Early in his training as a Baptist theologian he sought to publicly learn from and identify with key evangelical leaders such as Carl F.H. Henry and Millard Erickson. Always ardent supporters of propositional revelation as the foundation for engagement with the world, both Henry and Erickson helped shape and sharpen Dockery's mind for the strategic work of both biblical theology and cultural engagement.

Over time, Dockery's theological study gave way to a multi-dimensional understanding of biblical applications that refused to restrict the influence of the Bible as merely a guide for pietistic practice. Tracing his thought through his successive

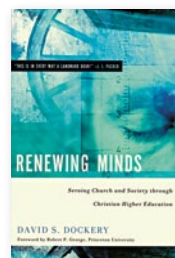
writings, it is not difficult to see that Dockery developed a worldview that sought to show how Christian theology had relevance for all academic discussions. Captured by the contributions of the Christian intellectual tradition for both the Church and society, he was able to strengthen his thoughts of integration to such a degree that by the time he was elected president of one of the SBC's oldest universities in 1995, a vision for serious intellectual engagement with various academic components and expressions was paramount in his vision for the university. With Dockery at the helm, Union University would experience continuity with its historic legacy, but a rediscovered path would be laid that would propel the institution into an evangelical and Baptist milieu quite unlike anything seen at the school before or since.

His inaugural address gave hints of what was to come. The title alone provided insight for the future. *The Great Commandment: A Paradigm for Christian Higher Education* began with a method that is observable in most of Dockery's addresses: a detailed cultural analysis that highlights the theological and sociological ramifications of present actions in light of an historical perspective. Herein he provided glimpses of curriculum changes that would not only educate students for various professions provided by the teaching faculty of the university, but Dockery went a step further by stating that the primary purpose of the university was to prepare students to love God with their minds. How this would be accomplished in the context of educational pedagogies and methodologies involved a new vision for the university to become and remain "a seamless whole" where "an interrelatedness" marked the university as a grace-filled community committed to "thinking Christianly" across the curriculum.

The ensuing years resulted in books, articles, and presentations that harnessed the forces and articulated the means at work to establish and strengthen a Christian perspective on all aspects of learning and living. New dimensions in higher education's role and purpose in the community prompted more thoughtful responses to the secular thought that characterized the mainstream

UNION'S INVESTMENT IN Biblical Literacy

Academy. When *Renewing Minds: Serving Church and Society through Christian Higher Education* (2007) appeared, Dockery's thoughts on the university had reached their zenith. Years of study and practice had honed his ideas into a carefully worded work, described as "visionary and magisterial" by J. I. Packer, which spanned the gamut of what it meant to love God with the mind to the fully orb'd development of a theology for Christian higher education.



could not simply ignore the discussions going on around them. He believed far too many Christians sought to completely avoid challenging viewpoints by creating a hegemonic bubble that shut out all secular influences. More and more he looked to the Early Church for help, and he found great insight in the life and work of Clement of Alexandria (150-215). In

Renewing Minds, he provides critical analysis of Clement's writings and suggests a path forward that united a curriculum that was rigorous in a community that was spiritually supportive.

Here, Dockery's vision for the Christian university finds its goal. Business as usual was not an option for him, and he said as much when he wrote, "We must recognize that we can build new buildings, raise significant gifts, recruit great students, create wonderful programs, and design creative delivery systems; but if it is not undergirded by serious Christian thinking, then our vision will be misguided." His vision was founded on an orthodox understanding of the incarnation of Jesus Christ as "an essential theological affirmation" that held "implications for all things across the curriculum."

The notion of the integration of faith and learning, therefore, became more than a slogan. Dockery was able to construct a roadmap and apply incarnational aspects of Christian truth to the world of the Academy. His distinctive vision for the Christian university provided a big-picture manifesto. As important as theological grounding was and is to Dockery's work in the university, he openly stated that "our goal at Christian universities in every course must be to engage the subject matter, the true and various options associated with it, and issues of our day in the various areas of learning while recognizing that God, the Source of all truth, is central in every discipline."

It was here that Dockery's lifelong study of biblical hermeneutics came full circle. From his years of study, he was able to consistently fuse the study of the Bible with the challenges of the modern era as he closed the gap between the Bible and the classroom. While it was a work in progress with ever-changing challenges, he had

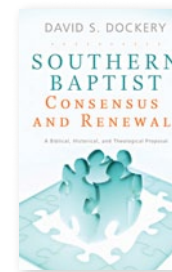
helped to successfully restore the role and purpose of Christian higher education as something more than simply secular education cloaked in piety, chapel services, and student mission trips. Theological truth could successfully guide an institution without stifling serious intellectual inquiry and rigorous research.

Southern Baptist Statesman

The Southern Baptist Convention has sometimes been described as one disagreement away from destruction. Throughout the past three decades, the SBC has been involved in a family discussion of sorts that has not always been civil. The age of the Internet has rendered conversations both immediately accessible and passionately destructive. Early in the last decade issues of control and ministry practice began to emerge in ways that threatened to divide the SBC over theological debates, methodological practices, new ideas of missional engagement, and loyalty to denominational programs.

Dockery envisioned a series of conferences at Union University that sought to address such key issues of Baptist identity in a way that fostered unity in the midst of diversity. In 2004 and 2007 conferences were held that convened leaders from a cross section of Baptist life to address obvious disagreements and work toward consensus. The latest conference (2009) addressed issues surrounding the future of Southern Baptists, evangelicals and denominations.

Dockery's interest in building a new consensus was seen in the release of his book, *Southern Baptist Consensus and Renewal: A Biblical, Historical, and Theological Proposal* (2008). The book brought his lifelong Baptist roots to a new level of engagement with the SBC. He called for a renewed understanding of the Gospel as the convergence point for a new century of Southern Baptist witness. Methodological preferences aside, he believed that agreement on essential Christian doctrines provided Southern Baptists the basis for cooperation as a people who must remain passionately committed to global missions,



Baptist worship, education, and a rediscovery of Baptist history.

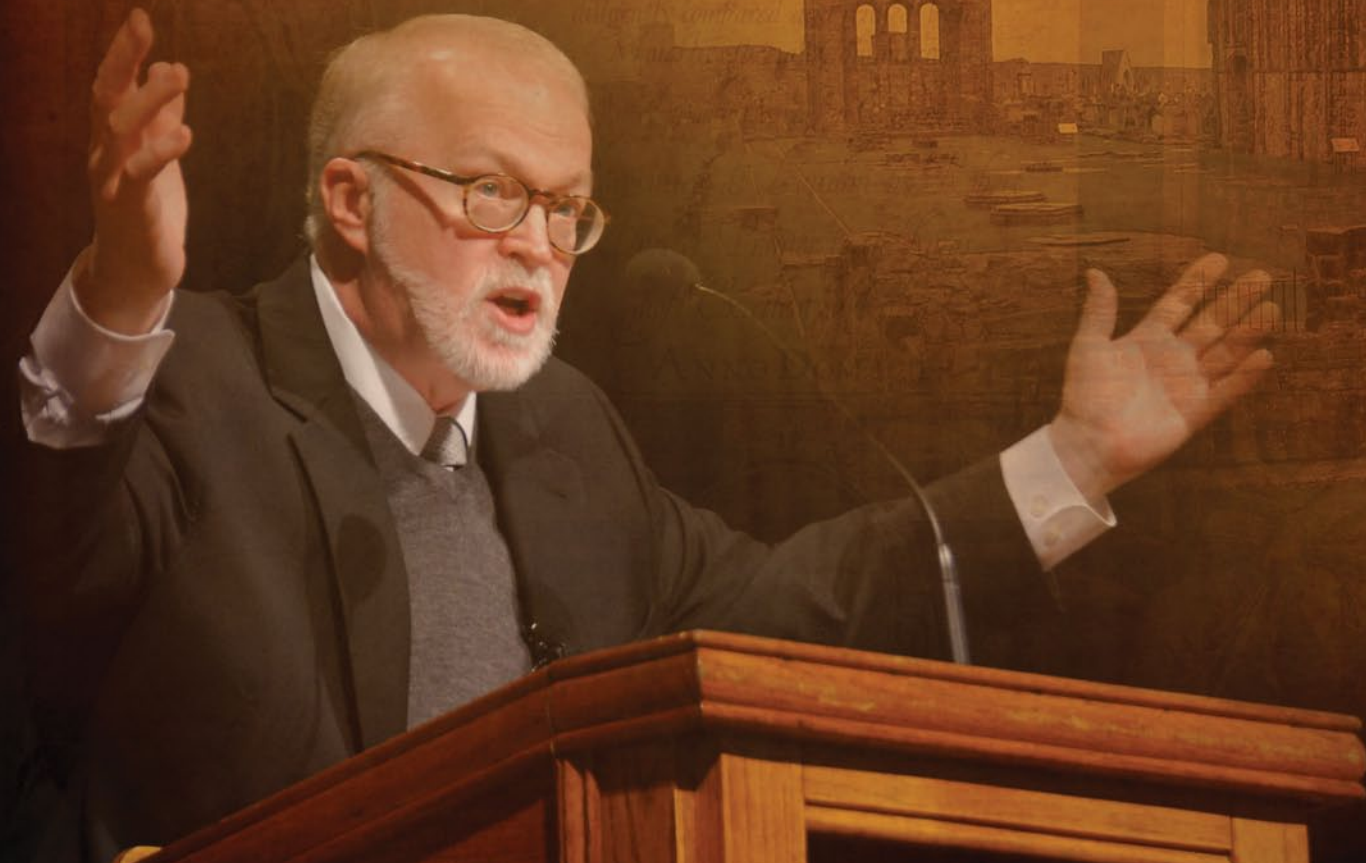
The book stands as both a primer for Southern Baptists who need instruction and understanding of their theological history as well as a manifesto for the denomination he obviously loves and to which he remains committed. The Church remains a focus of concern for him even as many universities have drifted from their theological heritage. Under his administration, Union University has experienced a renewal of Baptist distinctives while not allowing itself to become sectarian.

In a speech at California Baptist University in 2009, Dockery celebrated the 400th anniversary of Baptists by declaring that he considered himself a "Christian, an evangelical, a Baptist and a Southern Baptist." That self-understanding has helped shape not only the university he leads, but the denomination he serves. This idea is nothing new as similar confessions were made by some of Dockery's heroes like John A. Broadus and A. T. Robertson. When controversy looms, Dockery has been summoned to help "build bridges" of understanding in and across the SBC, looking for ways to move "beyond the impasse." As a theologian he has used serious scholarship to serve the Church. He has written Convention-wide doctrinal studies on multiple occasions and is the only theologian to write the annual Bible study material used by SBC churches on both Old Testament and New Testament books (Ecclesiastes/2011 and Ephesians/1996).

The contributions of his work as a theologian, author, university president, and minister of the Church reveal a capacity to actively and simultaneously manage issues on multiple levels with different and various constituencies. In 2009, James Leo Garrett, in his four-century study of *Baptist Theology*, identified Dockery as one of the ten shaping theological voices of our current day. Future generations will rightly judge him as one of the most influential Baptist theologians of this century – a true bridge figure between the 20th and 21st centuries who remains committed to ancient truth for a modern age. ☞

KJV 400 Legacy and Impact

Union to host festival celebrating the 400th anniversary of the King James Version



UNION'S INVESTMENT IN Biblical Literacy

For 400 years, the King James Version of the Bible has exercised an enormous religious, literary and cultural influence in the English-speaking world.

"No publication in the last 400 years has been as widely bought, read, cited or memorized," said James Patterson, university professor of Christian thought and tradition at Union University. "Protestant history in both Great Britain and the United States has been profoundly shaped by this monumental translation."

To celebrate the enduring legacy of the King James Version, Union University will hold a special festival, "KJV400: Legacy and Impact," Sept. 15-17 with three guest speakers and a variety of interdisciplinary presentations and activities.

"This is really a major milestone in the history of western civilization and the history of Christianity," said Ray Van Neste, associate professor of biblical studies and director of the R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies, which is sponsoring the festival.

Van Neste said two main forces were responsible for shaping the English language: William Shakespeare and the King James Bible.

"Here's a time in history when the church shaped the culture instead of following the culture," Van Neste said. "We talk about the integration of faith and learning. The production of the King James Bible is a great expression of this integration, and the anniversary provides us an opportunity to once again demonstrate this integration by examining the impact of the KJV in various aspects of life."

Scheduled guest speakers for the festival are Timothy George, founding dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University; Leland Ryken, English professor at Wheaton College

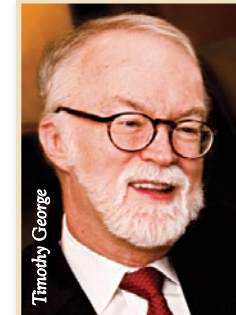
and author of *The Legacy of the King James Bible: Celebrating 400 Years of the Most Influential English Translation*; and John Woodbridge, research professor of church history and the history of Christian thought at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

In addition to the plenary addresses, the festival will feature:

- an exhibit from Union's art department displaying works on the cultural impact of the King James Bible.
- Bible exhibits from Michael Morgan and the Green family collection. The Green collection is a display of manuscripts and artifacts considered among the most extensive of its kind in the country. This will be the first display in the Southeastern U.S.
- a presentation of Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" by the Union University Players.
- a musical presentation by Union's music department.
- dramatic readings from the King James Bible and poetry from the same era by Nigel Goodwin, a graduate of The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, England, and executive director of Genesis Arts Trust, a ministry for Christian artists around the world.
- a film screening of "KJB: The Book that Changed the World," produced by Norman Stone (who directed "Shadowlands" for BBC) and starring John Rhys-Davis (who appeared in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy).
- Interdisciplinary analyses by

Union faculty members from theology, history, literature, art, music, science, business, education and political science on the influence of the KJV in their specific fields.

More information about the festival is available at www.uu.edu/events/kjvlegacy. 📖



Timothy George



Leland Ryken



John Woodbridge

Read the Bible for life

Union conference focuses on biblical literacy

By Samantha Adams '13



UNION'S INVESTMENT IN Biblical Literacy

David Platt sees biblical literacy as two important steps: knowledge of God's word and then obedience to it.

Platt, a nationally known author and pastor, was keynote speaker at the Read the Bible for Life Conference hosted by Union's R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies in April.

"You can have all the Bible knowledge in the world and still miss the point," Platt said. "What we're after is not information – that's not what biblical literacy is about. Biblical literacy is about transformation, where people are obeying Christ."

Platt is pastor of the Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., and author of the book *Radical*. Nearly 700 people – largely pastors, students and Sunday school teachers – attended the conference, which was part of the "Read the Bible for Life" biblical literacy initiative begun by George H. Guthrie, the Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible at Union.

Guthrie was bothered by statistics that said only 16 percent of regular church attendees read the Bible every day and 25 percent of regular church-goers do not read the Bible at all. In response, he wrote a book, *Read the Bible for Life*, and created corresponding church curriculum to assist congregations in developing biblical literacy.

Platt presented three plenary addresses, and Union faculty members hosted eight breakout sessions. In his plenary addresses, Platt spoke about reading the Bible as a story, teaching the Bible as Scripture and obeying the Bible as servants. He stressed the importance of seeing the unity of Scripture.

"The purpose of the Bible is to reveal who God is and how God redeems God's people for his kingdom," Platt said. "We want to know the overarching story of Scripture. If not, we will get into the tendency to break up the story into fragments that apart make no sense."

In his final session, Platt focused on obedience to the Bible,

saying that in the Great Commission it's clear that God desires obedience to his word, not just knowledge of Scripture.

"We must teach people to obey everything he has commanded," Platt said.

Referring to the story of the rich young ruler in Mark 10, Platt said Christians should read and teach the Bible for radical obedience by saturating their hearts with the gospel. While taking the Jesus' call to radical sacrifice seriously, Platt said such sacrifice can only arise from awareness of God's radical grace.

He stressed that obedience should be the overflow of amazement at God's grace in Christ. "We must be drawn by grace, not driven by guilt," he said.

Ray Van Neste, director of the Ryan Center at Union, said the theme of "Read the Bible for Life" matched the Ryan Center's objectives.

"Our hope is for (the attendees) to be challenged and encouraged to read the Scriptures well," Van Neste said. "We want to see renewal in the church;

it's going to begin with a renewed attention to the Scriptures."

Dan Tankersley, who attends Rosebower Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky., said he came to the conference because he has been burdened for God's church to get into God's word. He said he was particularly interested in Platt's second session, in which he focused on teaching the Bible.

Tankersley said he wanted to apply what he learned from Platt to better teach the Bible to men he is instructing in his hometown.

"When people get into the Bible, it starts transforming their lives," Tankersley said. "I wanted to be better prepared to express more from Scripture."

Amy Burchman, of Second Baptist Church in Union City, Tenn., described the conference as "the most inspiring yet humbling event I've ever been to."

Audio from all of the "Read the Bible for Life" sessions can be downloaded on the Union Audio Project at www.uu.edu/audio



George Guthrie

R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies

UNION'S INVESTMENT IN Biblical Literacy

As a prospective college student, Nic Seaborn vividly remembers his first visit to Jennings Hall on the Union University campus – where on the third floor he encountered the R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies.

“They have their own place for Christian studies majors and minors?” Seaborn thought. “This place is amazing!”

The Ryan Center’s aim is to encourage and enable sound biblical interpretation and application in the church, according to Ray Van Neste, associate professor of biblical studies, who directs the center.

“In short, the purpose of the Ryan Center is to help people interpret and apply the Bible,” Van Neste said.

That goal is accomplished through a couple of primary methods. The first is a 1,600-square-foot library in Jennings Hall that houses commentaries, concordances, Bible dictionaries, software and other reference items to help students, local pastors and Bible study leaders as they work on assignments, sermons or Sunday school lessons.

Students like Seaborn, who graduated in May, have made the Ryan Center a central part of their academic habits at Union.

“The Ryan Center is the first place I go when working on an assignment for my theology and missions classes,” Seaborn said. “It has the best resources. You do not have to worry about whether a resource is good in the Ryan Center. If it’s in the Ryan Center, it is of great quality.”

Ryan Linkous, a sophomore at Union, agreed.

“The Ryan Center is a great place to do research for any type of exegetical or theological paper,” Linkous said. “The great thing about it is that not only does it have a plethora of commentaries to choose from, but Dr. Van Neste and the other professors of the School of Theology and Missions have selected the best

commentaries to use for study. This helps when finding the best sources for research papers, but it is also a tremendous help when preparing a sermon or lesson because you have trusted resources selected from trustworthy people.”

In addition to Union students, some local pastors also take advantage of the Ryan’s Center resources. Eric Smith, pastor of Curve Baptist Church in Curve, Tenn., said that since his town doesn’t have any kind of theological library, driving an hour to use the Ryan Center is time well spent.

But the benefit doesn’t stop with the books.

“The great value of the Ryan Center, even more than the books that are on the shelves, is the relationships that I’m able to have with professors who have been mentors to me,” Smith said.

The second method through which the Ryan Center accomplishes its goals is a biennial conference that brings respected biblical scholars to the Union campus. In April, the conference featured David Platt for the center’s fifth conference. Previous speakers have included D.A. Carson, Gordon Fee and Paul House, among


others. Van Neste said about 80-90 percent of conference attendees are lay people.

In addition to its library and conferences, the Ryan Center has extended its influence internationally. In 2010, the center donated 450 pounds of books to a library in Ethiopia.

The center also

houses a few historical Bibles, including a 1615 Geneva Bible on display. Van Neste said the Geneva Bible was the first to capture the hearts and minds of the English-speaking people.

“We have that there to remind us and to represent our mission,” he said.

The center is named in honor of R.C. Ryan, a pastor and longtime supporter of Union who donated more than \$1 million to the university before his death in 2001. 





Art is her gift

By Tim Ellsworth

Ever since she was a little girl, Kelly O'Neill was creative. She'd cut. She'd glue. She'd scribble.

"Anything that I could put my hands on became an art project," she says.

That love for art has persisted all through O'Neill's life. Though many tried to steer her away from her passion and encouraged her to get a "real" job, O'Neill didn't listen, maintaining a singular focus on her dreams of becoming an artist.

She pledged to live frugally and within her means – that meant no eating out, no movies, no vacations. Whatever it would take to succeed as an artist, the 2001 Union graduate was willing to do it.

That perseverance has paid huge dividends for O'Neill, now a successful artist in Brentwood, Tenn. In recent months, her work has been featured on NBC's "Today" show and on ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition."

"I wanted to wake up and do what I loved every day," O'Neill says. "And I'm still doing it."

A native of Milan, Tenn., O'Neill (which is her middle name. Her maiden name was Carter, and her legal, married name is Kelly Bailey) focused her artistic passions on food during her high school years at Jackson Christian School. She had dreams to become a culinary artist, working in a fancy hotel making beautiful desserts that look like sculptures.

She began applying to culinary schools, but realized about six months before the school year's start that she wasn't eligible for entrance in such schools – since she was only 17, and you had to be 18 to attend culinary school.

Her sister, Shannon Carter, was attending Union, and O'Neill decided to attend as well. At first, she planned to be at Union for a year and then move on to a culinary school. But she says the Lord had other plans for her.

"I always refer to it as closed doors and opened windows," O'Neill says. "God just directed my path into the art department at Union. I realized then that food was just one outlet of creativity, and that the real passion for me was creating in general."

She began taking preliminary art classes at Union and enjoyed them. She discovered that she loved drawing people, which surprised her since she had never done it before. It became clear to O'Neill that drawing people was her greatest talent.

Others noticed her ability. While she worked on projects for class, people would come to the studio and ask her if she could draw pictures of their kids.

"I think I sold my first portrait for like \$15 to another art student," she says.

Her education at Union provided her with a valuable "well-roundedness," and she says learning from art professor Lee Benson was a special blessing.

"Being under Mr. Benson's teaching was the most inspiring thing that I could imagine," O'Neill says. "He was so focused on the students doing what they were

passionate about. I think I became a much more creative artist during his classes, because I wasn't copying something that I was looking at. I was creating something literally from the earth."

Her portrait business began even during her time at Union, thanks largely to encouragement from her dad. She created flyers and sent them to several of her parents' friends who had children.

"I started them at \$50 apiece," she said.

After graduating, O'Neill was determined to forge out a career as a freelance artist.

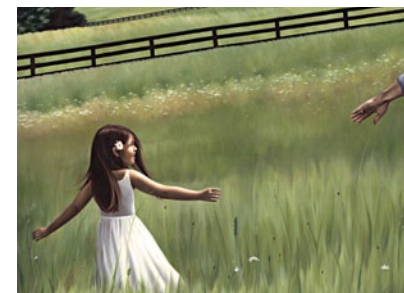
"I had heard so many stories about people who had a passion for something and didn't really believe that they could make it," O'Neill says.

"They ended up getting what they thought would be a temporary 'real job' and never getting out of it."

Such a life was not for her. She moved to the Nashville area in 2002, which offered greater opportunities for success as an artist. She married her husband Nate in 2008, and had a baby girl in December.

Her big break came in April 2010, when O'Neill got a call from a producer at the "Today" show. He had seen a video that O'Neill had posted on YouTube – a rapidly accelerated version of her drawing a complete portrait of Ellen Degeneres.

"He was looking for a creative way to



introduce their summer concert series that they do every year," O'Neill says. "He didn't want to just have an announcer give off the names. So he thought a speed drawing would be great."

He asked O'Neill if she would be willing to give it a shot for the show.

"The thing is," he told her, "we need it in three days."

"Three days turned into less than two," O'Neill said. "They moved it up a morning. I was in my first trimester of pregnancy at this point, and I generally didn't have a lot of energy. And I thought, 'This is going to be interesting, but I'm going to give it a shot.'"

O'Neill canceled everything on her schedule for the next couple of days. Her husband took two days off work to stay home and help her. After finding most of the logos for artists such as James Taylor, Justin Bieber, Lady Gaga, John Mayer, Katy Perry, Carrie Underwood and others, O'Neill began drawing them for about 12 straight hours. A video camera attached to a lamp above her captured her work.

Upon completing the project, O'Neill had to send NBC the huge video files. She had a few transmission problems, but finally got the last file sent about three hours before the show aired.

She and her husband went to bed at 5 a.m. and watched the recorded program when they awoke a few hours later. A poster containing all the logos O'Neill had drawn was on display next to Meredith Viera, Matt Lauer and Al Roker as they stood in Rockefeller Center.

"It was really cool to see my arm, to start with," O'Neill recalls.

Lauer mentioned O'Neill's name on the program, and a few months later, the "Today" show ran a follow-up video interview with her. Since then, O'Neill had an opportunity to work with "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." The program helped to rebuild Lighthouse Christian School, which was heavily damaged in the May 2010 flood, and enlisted O'Neill to design three different "storefronts" that serve as a backdrop to a play area called "Trike Town."

Such high-profile opportunities are nice, but O'Neill gets more excited



"Unblemished" by Kelly O'Neill

talking about her paintings than anything else. She uses many of her paintings to communicate a biblical truth. Her painting "Unblemished" shows an elderly man hugging a lamb – an image that O'Neill used to represent the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. Another painting, "Mine For a Moment," portrays the fragility and unpredictability of life and the sovereignty of God who holds all life in his hands.

"I would maybe be reading something in the Bible, or I would be in a church service, and I would get an image of something in my mind that I knew wasn't from me," she says. "Those paintings are the ones that have made the most impact on people. I've had people just cry in front of some of these and get healing from something in their life that maybe they've been struggling with for a while."

For O'Neill, art is her gift – a talent that God has given her, and a gift that she wants to use to bless the lives of others.

"Any shred of talent that I have, God's given me for a reason," O'Neill says.

"Whether I'm using it to just do a portrait of someone's child or to create a painting that might impact a generation to come, I feel like to do it with excellence is almost my tithe of that gift. I don't ever want to lose sight of that." 🙏

Union Honors Retirees

Baldwin, Hickey, Porter

Union University faculty and staff members at a May 16 reception honored three of their own – Charles Baldwin, Sherry Hickey and Roland Porter – who retired at the end of the spring semester.

“We offer the heartiest congratulations to Sherry, Roland and Charles for their years of magnificent service to Union University,” Union President David S. Dockery said. “We thank God for each of them and pray divine blessings for them in the days ahead.”

Baldwin, the O.P. and Evalyn Hammons University Professor of Pre-Medical Studies joined the Union chemistry department in 1970 and served there until 1981. He returned to Union in 1988.

“Dr. Baldwin has been the very embodiment of what a commitment to student research looks like,” said Gene Fant, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “His students fill classrooms, medical facilities, laboratories and corporations around the country and, in fact, the world. His legacy will be one of lifting up students’ eyes to seeing possibilities they never knew existed.”

Baldwin earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Corpus Christi and his doctorate from Texas Tech University. He has served as the chemistry department

chairman and as faculty adviser for the Student Member chapter of the American Chemical Society, which has received an Outstanding Chapter Award from the ACS for 12 straight years.

“Charles Baldwin has for years been the model scholar-teacher on the Union University faculty. A gifted researcher, challenging classroom teacher, and dedicated educator, Charles Baldwin’s legacy among students and colleagues will continue to be admired and appreciated for years to come,” Dockery said.



Hickey, professor of nursing at Union’s Germantown regional education facility, has been with the university since 1989. She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Arkansas and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Memphis.

“Sherry Hickey has, from the earliest days of the program, provided stability and continuity for nursing students and colleagues in Germantown. We are deeply grateful for her encouragement to and influence upon so many during her tenure at Union University,” Dockery said.

“Dr. Sherry Hickey has been a pillar for the School of Nursing and Germantown campus for many years,” said Tim Smith, dean of the School of Nursing. “She has given her life for the personal and professional development of many nursing students while being a mentor and friend to the many new faculty who have joined the School of Nursing and Union University family.”

Hickey worked as a nurse, nursing supervisor and clinical nurse specialist for 10 years prior to becoming a nurse educator.

Porter wears many Union hats. An associate professor of business, he is also an assistant to the president for community relations and director of the Center for Racial Reconciliation.

“Roland Porter is a prince of a person and a marvelous colleague,” Dockery said. “As professor, pastor, advisor, and campus leader, Prof. Porter has served Union with distinction, both on campus and throughout the community.”

Porter completed his bachelor’s degree from Lane College and his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He currently serves as pastor of Agape Christian Fellowship in Jackson.

“Roland Porter has been a talented and dedicated colleague and a very good friend,” said Keith Absher, dean of the McAfee School of Business Administration. “His service to Union University has been impeccable and will have lasting impact. He has been a great mentor to students and has poured his values into students semester after semester.”

Porter came to Union in 2004. His wife, Patricia, is Union’s transfer enrollment counselor. 📧





When Union University President David S. Dockery presented the Elizabeth Tigrett Medal to Kate Cline during the May 21 graduation ceremony, it marked the 100th time for an outstanding Union senior to receive the award.

"The Tigrett Medal is based on academic excellence, strong moral character and service to the university and the community," said Gary Williams, Union's associate vice president for alumni relations. "It's the highest award Union gives to a graduating senior."

According to the 1912 Union catalogue, Ben Hill Blalock initiated the award as a tribute to Isaac B. Tigrett. An 1898 graduate of Southwestern Baptist University (later renamed Union University), I.B. Tigrett was a railroad president and also served as acting president of Union from 1909-1911. To honor his mother, it was later renamed the Elizabeth Tigrett award.

Over the past 100 years, since R.M. Shelbourne received the first Tigrett Medal in 1912, Union has presented the award to students from a broad variety of backgrounds and majors.

Among those 100 recipients are:

Warren F. ("Spike") Jones Jr. (1950)

Jones spent 21 years as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of psychology at Georgia Southern University. Prior to that, he taught psychology at Stetson University for a dozen years and served as dean of administration at the University of Louisville.

Jones, the son of former Union president Warren F. Jones, retired in 1993. But he said he grew bored with retirement, and in 1996 he opened a resale store for Habitat for Humanity, which he continues to run with 20 to 25 other volunteers.

"I'm having a wonderful time and am making some pretty good money for Habitat," he said.

Jones said his Union education prepared him for graduate work in psychology (he earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Vanderbilt in 1953).

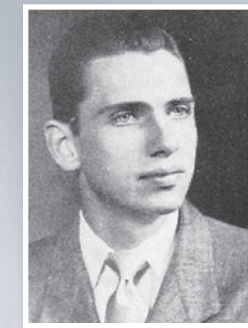
"Further, it provided me a breadth of interests and knowledge that was especially helpful as a dean of the broad range of disciplines included in a college of arts and sciences that offered everything from art and music to physics and sociology and about 15 other disciplines."

Cheryl Zimmerman (1979)

Zimmerman is the owner of Zimmerman Consulting Inc. in Racine, Wis. The company of about 70 employees offers jail alternative and diversion programs and consulting for counties in Wisconsin.

"We have about 25 different programs for juvenile and adult offenders,"

Zimmerman said. "They range anywhere from pre-trial bail monitoring to alcohol and other drugs and



Kate Cline, history and English graduate, steps forward to receive the 100th Tigrett Medal at spring graduation.

mental health treatment programs."

Zimmerman earned a master's degree in political science from Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in political science from the University of Utah. She said her undergraduate work at Union equipped her well for her graduate studies.

"It provided me with a quality foundation to actually be able to go anywhere and do anything that I wanted," Zimmerman said. "I highly valued the regular connection with the faculty. I thought that was exceptional. You get to know them not only from sitting in class in an academic way, but you got to know them outside the class."

Gunnar Adalberth (1987)

Adalberth serves as director of business development for the London 2012



Olympics for UPS. He has worked for UPS since 1990, relocating nine times to five different countries. He has held positions for the company in marketing,

strategy and business development.

As a Union student, Adalberth majored in economics and finance and was the number one player on the tennis team for four years.

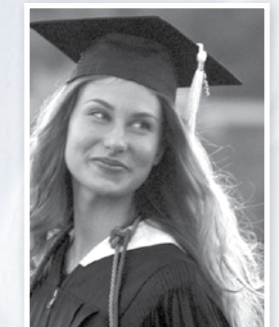
"The benefits of attending Union would be in multiple areas," Adalberth said. "One is the education. The second area would be the sport experience. The third benefit would be, probably, being in a Christian environment."

Adalberth went on to get a Master

of Business Administration degree at Vanderbilt after leaving Union.

Laura Lee (Moore) Ellis (2004)

After graduating from Union with a degree in public relations, Ellis served as a journeyman with the International Mission Board in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where she engaged in evangelism and discipleship with university students.



She returned to the United States and married Nicholas Ellis (also a Union graduate), and they had their first son, Liam in 2009. Two months later, they headed for Great Britain, where Nick is studying theology

Ellis said that while her Union education provided excellent training for a career in communication, the character shaping and mentoring she found at Union was even more meaningful. Her interactions at Union helped her answer not only the question, "What will I do?" but also "Who will I be?"

"Union was a period of forging rich relationships with professors and students and a critical time of growth as I laid the foundation for my life work, my marriage, my family and my relationship with God as an adult," she said. "Some of my best friends today are fellow Unionites. It's fun to see so many spread throughout the world, working out their callings and living life to the full."

About 30 of past Tigrett Medal winners were on hand for the May 21 graduation ceremony. Earlier in the day, the winners were recognized at the graduates' reception.



Class of 2011 has much to Remember



Remember.

That was the challenge of Union University President David S. Dockery to a class of 617 graduates during Union's 186th annual spring commencement ceremony May 21 on the university's Great Lawn.

"The most frequent exhortation in the Bible is to remember," Dockery said. "Remember what God has done, remember his faithfulness, remember how he has sustained us through the tornado and remember how he has brought us to this place in life now."

"Leave Union University with the goal of being an ambassador for this university and an ambassador for the gospel of Christ."

The spring class of 617 brings to about 1,250 the total number of Union graduates for the academic year – a university record that surpasses last year's total of 1,130 graduates.

This year's graduating class was the last class to experience the Feb. 5, 2008, tornado. The tornado caused massive damage to the Union campus

and led to an outpouring of generosity and support from donors and volunteers all over the country.

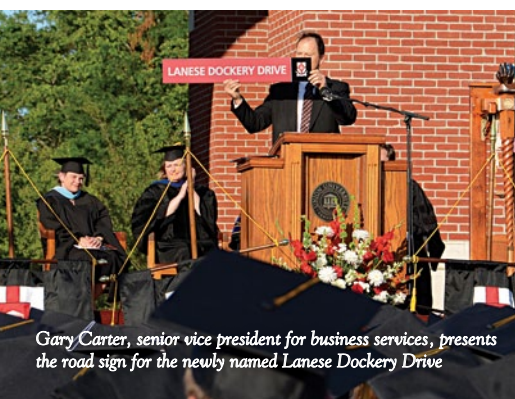
As part of the commencement ceremony, Union presented the M.E. Dodd Denominational Service Award to Chester Harrison, pastor of First Baptist Church of Camden, Tenn. Following the tornado, Harrison led his church to donate \$61,000 – or 11 percent of the church's annual budget – to Union's rebuilding effort.

"Chester Harrison and First Baptist Church of Camden symbolize the generosity and sacrifice of 4,500 volunteers and 8,000 donors who came to the rescue of Union University in our darkest hour," Dockery said. "Because of them and people like them, this class is able to graduate and Union University is able to move forward and carry out its distinctive mission in the days ahead."

Beyond the history of the tornado, this graduation also marked the 100th time a Tigrett Medal was awarded to a spring graduate (*see separate story on page 40*). Nearly a third of the previous 99 winners were able to attend a reception in their honor prior to the graduation ceremony. ■



President Dockery and Chester Harrison, winner of the M.E. Dodd Service Award



Gary Carter, senior vice president for business services, presents the road sign for the newly named Lanese Dockery Drive



R. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, delivers prayer for the graduates.



Renewing MINDS

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In a close-knit learning community, Union University faculty members invest in their students. They challenge them to develop Christian minds and servant hearts.

A Union education benefits the students who come here. It also impacts the lives of people they influence for years to come.

Invite a high school student to visit our campus. Help them to prayerfully consider Union University.



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ALUMNI NEWS

40's FORTIES



Peggy Sue Caudle Vining is poet laureate of Arkansas, only the sixth person so honored since the position was established through the state legislature in 1923. Caudle attended Union in the 1940s and later earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. Her poetry has been widely published through the years. She is also an active member of the arts community in Little Rock. More information about her work is available at arkansaspoetlaureate.com

60's SIXTIES

Beti Dugard ('61) is enjoying retirement years and doing artwork. She hopes to be able to have an exhibit of her new work at Union sometime in the future. She says she also enjoys talking about her three sons. Her youngest son, Court, is finishing his doctorate in philosophy at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and recently published his first book, *Dr. Who and Philosophy*. beti.dugard@gmail.com

Ronald Baker ('66) and **Donna Clark Baker ('68)** have retired. Ronald served as the pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Fulton, Mo., for 32 years, during his 42 years as a pastor. Donna taught fifth grade in Fulton for 30 years, during her 34 years of teaching. The Baker's have two children: Lance, who attended Union for a year and is married with two children; and **Brandon ('01)** who is married with one child. Ronald was also awarded the Settler's Award during the Kingdom of Callaway Supper in Fulton on March 15, 2011. rd baker2@att.net

John C. Jennings ('67) serves as the regional dean and professor of ob-gyn at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) at the Permian Basin campus in Odessa, Texas. Dr. Jennings is a founder of the multi-campus Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health at TTUHSC. He has served as a quality review consultant to more than 100 hospitals and medical boards nationwide and has been chair of the editorial board of Texas Medicine, the state medical journal, for 16 years. Dr. Jennings was

honored with an ACOG Outstanding District Service Award this year.

Kathryn (Kathy) Daws Gardner ('68) celebrated her son Dr. John (Jay) Gardner's wedding to Tonia Thompson on March 26, 2010, in Sedona, Arizona. John is a cardiologist and Tonia works in pediatric pulmonary care. The destination wedding was held at L'Auberge de Sedona in the Red Rocks. Kathy sang a wedding song commissioned for the couple entitled "Just Look at Them Now," composed and arranged by Ken Medeima. Kathy is self-employed and works in real estate music and missions in Naples, Florida. kathy.gardner@comcast.net.

70's SEVENTIES

Gaines Hedges ('73) was recently hired as the Director of Vocational Services at Community Developmental Services (CDS) in Martin, Tenn. CDS is a private, non-profit agency serving Weakley, Obion, Henry, Lake and Carroll counties in northwest Tennessee. It provides an array of services to individuals who are developmentally disabled and a

Send us your news for Old School

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

Choose any of three easy ways to submit: you may fax this form to 731-661-5706; you may mail the form to our attention at the Office of University Communications, Union University, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, TN 38305; or you may email your submission to mdwatson@uu.edu.

Last name (as it should appear) _____

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First Name _____ Initial _____

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My news for Old School: _____

program of care, service and training which reflects the normal lifestyle of the community. gainedshedges@yahoo.com

L. Darwin Brooks ('76) will begin serving as assistant professor of music at Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Mississippi, in fall 2011. He had previously served at Blue Mountain College as a part-time instructor of music. Dr. Brooks also serves on the staff of Monument Drive Baptist Church in Tupelo, Mississippi. dbrooks@network-one.com

John "Tigger" Tolbert ('79) received a heart transplant at the Baptist Heart Institute in Memphis on February 3. He is currently home in Water Valley, Miss., and recovering well. tolb4635@bellsouth.net

80's EIGHTIES

Claudia Johnson ('80) is executive director of the Sergeant York Patriotic Foundation, a non-profit agency dedicated to the legacy of World War I hero Sgt. Alvin C. York, bringing educational opportunities and heritage tourism to the upper Cumberland area of Tennessee. Claudia is married to Danny Nichols, and they have two children, Benjamin, 19, and Sasha, 24. sypfdirector@gmail.com



Jeff Taylor ('82) has released a new book entitled *Little Rain Drop*. It is a memoir of Dr. Taylor's experiences adopting a daughter from China. Filled with humor, compassion and a look at

God's providence, it documents the wonder of becoming a first-time father through Chinese adoption. The book is available for purchase in paperback, hardcover and e-book from Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com.

Sandra Allen ('83, M.Ed. '02), executive aide for the Northwest Tennessee Work Force Board received the Dyersburg State Community College Outstanding Administrative Professional Award sponsored by First State Bank. The annual Outstanding Faculty and Staff awards were announced at the employee Spring Conference. Allen is from Newbern and has worked for the college since 2007. sallen2561@gmail.com

Barry Puckett ('85) was recognized for completing 25 years of service at LifeWay Christian Resources. mike.puckett@lifeway.com

Charles Carlton Gerrell II ('87) completed a Master of Divinity from Rockbridge Seminary and will graduate June 3, 2011, in Springfield, Mo. He serves as the executive pastor, administrator and missions pastor of Tennessee Valley Community Church in Paris, Tenn. Carlton and his wife **Norma Scott Gerrell ('88)** live in Paris with their sons Trey, who is a junior at Henry County High School, and Scott, who is a sixth grader at Inman Middle School. Carlton was also elected to the Paris City Commission in November 2010. cgerrell@tvcc.us

Mike Oliver ('88) is the MidSouth Area Manager for the Framingham, MA, based cardiovascular diagnostics

company Boston Heart Diagnostics (formerly Boston Heart Lab). Boston Heart Diagnostics, which commercialized in 2009, is a diagnostic tools, information and services company focused solely on the diagnosis, prevention and management of cardiovascular disease. Mike has been married for 15 years to Kristi, a massage therapist and partner in South of New York Salon in Jackson. Mike and Kristi have one son, Jack Porter, a third grader at Trinity Christian Academy in Jackson. The Oliver's reside in Humboldt. motleymojo@hotmail.com.

90's NINETIES

Bronda Bonds Davis ('91) received the 2010 Clinical Nursing Excellence Award for Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in May 2010. In June, she was appointed Employee of the Month for West Tennessee Healthcare (WTH). Bronda has worked for WTH for 11 years in the Mother/Baby Unit as a charge nurse. She graduated with her ASN from Union and received her BSN from the University of Tennessee in 2004. In September 2010, Bronda obtained her certification in Maternal-Newborn Nursing. Bronda is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing Education at Union, with graduation expected in July 2011. Bronda and her husband David reside in Jackson with their two daughters, Madison and Macall. bdavis7870@hotmail.com.

Matthew Schobert ('95) accepted a position as the director for social work and chaplain services social work executive at the Portland, Oregon,

In recent years, retention rates have become a hot-button topic in higher education. A key indicator of how well a school is doing can be found in how many students progress within the institution and earn degrees.

For **William Polk Glover ('61)**, the subject has been front-and-center for many years.

"We didn't work on that in the past as we do now," he says. "That's something I like to see."

In 1997, Polly Glover told the *Unionite* that during her student years, Union's faculty supplied the encouragement she needed to stay focused. "I only hope that I've been able to pass on some of what they taught me to my students over the years," she said.

According to daughter Brooke Emery, Polk and Polly Glover passed on a love both for higher education in general and for Union

Helping Students Stay in School

Union's retention rate has increased from 70 percent in 1996 to 88 percent today. Glover – who goes by the first name Polk – has been here to watch that rate climb. His service to the Union University Board of Trustees dates back to the 1981-82 academic year. He has rotated on and off the board many times since then.

Why the keen interest in retention rates? One answer lies in the influence of Glover's late wife Polly.

Also a member of Union's class of 1961, Polly Stone Glover was a professor of English and served for many years as the

University. Emery earned a Master of Business Administration here and is now a member of the faculty in the McAfee School of Business. She started as an assistant professor of marketing in 2010.

She remembers visits to the Union campus as a small child. Then and now, she sees her father's love for the institution.

"Union is very important to him. He loves Union deeply," Emery said.

Glover says local churches can be important partners in the effort to keep students in school. During his student years, he was an active member of First Baptist Church in Jackson.

"There was a big focus on students," Glover said. "I taught Sunday School there my last two years of college."

Financial burdens can drive some students to drop out. Glover has been a faithful giving partner through the years, helping meet the university's needs and establishing scholarships in honor of family members.

First Lady Lanese Dockery points to Glover as one of Union's outstanding friends.

"Polk Glover has been supportive of this university and this administration in extraordinary ways," she said. "He has encouraged students with his financial support, and encouraged faculty and staff as well in this special calling to this university." 📖

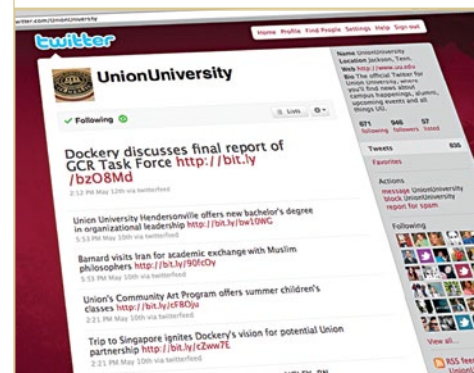


coordinator of the Student Learning Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She even wrote a book about making successful adjustments to college life entitled *So... You're Going To College*. The book was aimed at freshmen, and at one point was distributed to incoming Union students.

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Become a "friend" of Union University on Facebook for similar links and messages. Go to www.facebook.com/UnionUniversity



Veteran Affairs Medical Center.
germprot@yahoo.com

Jennifer Carter-Johnson ('96) accepted a position as an assistant professor of law at Michigan State University College of Law in fall 2010. She teaches courses on patent law and biotechnology law and property. Her research interests include the areas in which science and the law intersect. jcj@law.msu.edu

00's TWOTHOUSANDS

Stefanie Morris Edwards ('00) has accepted adjunct teaching positions at ITT Technical Institute and the Art Institute of Tennessee at Nashville. She will be teaching graphic and web design. She also maintains her position as the marketing director of ExpoDisplays, trade show manufacturer, based in Birmingham, Ala. thinkingstef@gmail.com.



Kathy Lofton ('00) was appointed a Head Star Policy Council member this March by Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell and confirmed by the Shelby County Commission. She also graduated from Leadership Memphis in the fall of 2010. Kathy is currently employed by BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, reporting to the Vice President of Federal and Community Relations. Her role includes conducting policy research and serving as the community relations point person for the Memphis regional office. Kathy earned an MPA from the City University of New York Baruch College of Public Affairs in 2007. lofton38111@yahoo.com.

Kelly O'Neill Carter Bailey ('01) has been enjoying a full-time freelance art career since graduation. Her work was recently featured on NBC's "Today" Show and on ABC's "Extreme Makeover Home Edition." Her website is



TheArtistOfLife.com and she is also on Facebook: [facebook.com/theartistoflife](https://www.facebook.com/theartistoflife). (See story on page 36)

Jennifer McClearen ('02) will begin the Ph.D. program in Communication at the University of Washington at Seattle this fall. She was awarded a teaching assistantship for five years and will focus her research on gender, media and violence. Jennifer completed a M.A. in Intercultural Leadership from the School for International Training in 2008. jennifer.mcclearen@gmail.com

Brian Capshaw ('03) joined First Baptist Church in Selmer, Tennessee, as their Student Minister in September 2010.



Erin Kay Rager ('04) has become a published children's author. Her first book, *Little Flower*, is available at Amazon.

com. Her sister, **D. Ellen Kay ('10)** illustrated the book. Erin is married to **Neal Rager ('01, MBA '05)** and is a stay-at-home mom in Jackson.



Kelly Krebs Mikhailiuk ('05) and her husband Taras Mikhailiuk live in Spring Hill, TN with their daughter Abigail, who turns two in July. Kelly met Taras on a mission trip to Belarus in the summer of 2005 and they were married in August 2006. Taras is working on a M.A. in English from Middle Tennessee State University and Kelly works as a production editor at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. kellymikhailiuk@gmail.com

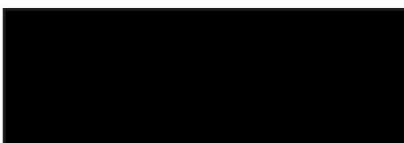
Marielle Dirkx ('08) graduated first in her class from University of Mississippi Law School May 14, 2011. She was awarded Most Ethical and The Woman with the Most Outstanding Academic Achievement. Marielle will begin a clerking position with Judge Jolly at the Federal Court of Appeals in August.

10's TWENTY TENS

D. Ellen Kay ('10) illustrated the new children's book, *Little Flower*, which is now available at Amazon.com. The book was a collaboration with her sister **Erin Kay Rager ('04)**.

MARRIAGES

Michele Bennett Walton ('02) married Barry Walton on November 20, 2010. The couple resides in Spartanburg, S.C., where Michele is the senior communications associate for Upward Sports, as well as a freelance copywriter. Barry works for the city of Spartanburg, and together they serve the youth of Hope Point Community Church. michele.lee.bennett@gmail.com



Daniel Lindley ('07) married Courtney Taylor Lindley of Charlotte, N.C., on June 5, 2010. They reside in Charlotte, and Daniel works at SocialServe.com.

Todd Buck, Jr. ('10) and **Lacey Lindley Buck ('09)** were married on October 3, 2010, in Humboldt, Tenn., at the Crown Winery. They currently reside in Drummonds, where Todd is a credit consultant at First Tennessee Bank and Lacey works for Methodist Healthcare as an exercise specialist in cardiac rehab. llbuck103@gmail.com

Amy Reeves Click ('10) married Kenneth Click on November 11, 2010, in Nashville, Tenn. They reside in Medina, Tenn. kenamyclick@gmail.com

BIRTHS



Kelly O'Neill Carter Bailey ('01) and her husband Nate Bailey celebrated the birth of their first child, Juliet Noelle, on December 2, 2010. Juliet weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz. and was 20 ¼ inches long.

Introducing our newest 'Bullpups'

The Office of University Relations is making an attractive offer to the newest members of the Union University family – free Bulldog apparel!

Here's the deal: tell us about your newborn infants or children under age 2. We'll send you a free Union "Bullpup" shirt for each child.

There's only one small string attached: we hope that you will take a picture of your child sporting that great new shirt and send it to us for publication in a future issue of the *Unionite*.

Send us the names and ages of your children under age 2. You can email the information to gwilliams@uuu.edu or call us at 731-661-5139. Be sure to include a mailing address so we know where to send your shirts.

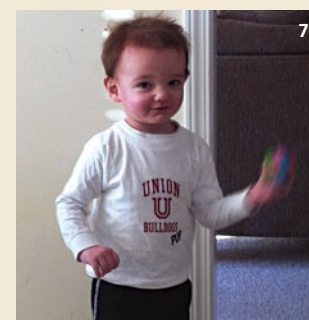
That's it. You get a free shirt, and we get a nice collection of pictures for each issue. Everyone wins!

Take a look at a few of our newest Unionites who are modeling the same style of shirt we'll send to you.

- 1 Liam Hassell, born October 27, 2010, to Justin Hassell ('00) and Selanie (Whitehurst) Hassell ('05).
- 2 Micah Jane Tosh, born March 10, 2010, to Matt Tosh and Jane Tosh ('98).
- 3 Morgan Meredith Webb, born March 1, 2008, to Brooke (Meredith) Webb and Matt Webb. Proud grandparents: Michael ('85) and Cindy Meredith.
- 4 John Elliot Glodjo, born September 15, 2010, to Tyler Glodjo ('08) and Danielle Montgomery Glodjo ('09).



- 5 Lauren Meredith Webb, born June 23, 2010, Brooke (Meredith) Webb and Matt Webb. Proud grandparents: Michael ('85) and Cindy Meredith.
- 6 Noah Todd Culberson, born July 22, 2010, to Todd Culberson and Emily (Price) Culberson ('03).
- 7 Grant Christopher Rickman, born July 2009, to Chris Rickman ('03) and Melanie (Richerson) Rickman ('00). Proud grandparents: Ed and Melanie Rickman; Tom and Janice Richerson.
- 8 Kelsey Lynn Robus, born November 23, 2009, to John Robus ('03) and Leslie (Reynolds) Robus ('04).





Amber Jewell Guthrie ('01) and **John Guthrie ('02)** welcomed their first child, Amelia Jewell, on August 3, 2010. She weighed 7 lbs. and was 19 inches long. The Guthries reside in Jackson, where John is a pharmacy clinical specialist at the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital Anticoagulation Clinic, and Amber is taking a break from teaching high school to stay home with Amelia. superEdna@hotmail.com



Audrey Lemasters Hanchett ('01) and husband Mark celebrated the birth of their third child, Caleb Enoch, on April 8, 2011. Caleb weighed 8 lbs. 9.4 oz. and 20 ½ inches long. There other children are Adam Micaiah, 4, and Sarah Grace, 2. The Hanchett family currently resides in Springfield, TN, where Audrey is a stay-at-home mom and Mark works for Southwest Electric Inc. and for On the Go Ministries. audreyhanchett@hotmail.com



Neal Rager ('01, MBA '05) and **Erin Kay Rager ('04)** celebrated the birth of their first daughter, Emma Kathryn, on August 25, 2010. She weighed 6 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20 inches long.



Brian Capshaw ('03) and **Dwana Strong Capshaw ('05)** celebrated the birth of their third daughter, Amariah Joy, on February 24, 2011 in Savannah, TN. She weighed 6 lbs. 3 oz. and was 19 inches long. Brian and Dwana also have two older daughters: Abigail Faith, 4, and Hadassah Gabrielle, 2. sleepycapshaw@hotmail.com

Ashley Culpepper ('03) and **Beth Kisner Culpepper ('02)** welcomed

their first child, Josie Adair on June 4, 2010. She weighed 5 lbs. 14 oz. and was 19 inches long. 3010 Laurel Street, Humboldt, TN, 38343

Robert Rickett ('03) and **Melanie Sartin Rickett ('05)** welcomed their daughter Mary McKenize on May 23, 2009. She weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. and was 18 inches long. melanierickett@gmail.com



Bill Dixon ('06) and **Amber Fine Dixon ('06)** celebrated the birth of their second son, Thomas Earl, on January 29, 2011. Thomas weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 21 inches long. bdixon12@gmail.com

MEMORIAM

Norman O. Baker ('42), February 5, 2010, age 92 in Lufkin, Texas. He

served as a pastor of Southern Baptist Churches in Tennessee for 58 years, his longest pastorate at First Baptist Church in South Pittsburg. He is survived by his two daughters, four grandchildren; one great-grandson; and six step-children.

James Karl McCune, Jr. ('50), February 9, 2009, age 82, in Cordova, Tenn.

Anne Nell Wilson Narron ('62), November 23, 2010, age 70. She was an active member of First Baptist Church and donated her time at Innerfaith Community Council, stocking shelves with food for the needy. She also took care of her bed-bound sister four days a week. She loved her family and treasured her friends. Her daughter Rebecca Narron said, "She was an incredible mom and wife, and we miss her with every breath we take." ☞

David Quitman Byrd Jr.

David Quitman Byrd Jr., an emeritus trustee of Union University and former pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, died May 18 at age 89.

"We offer thanks to God for the life, legacy, ministry, and influence of David Q. Byrd," said Union President David S. Dockery. "He was a man who loved Union University and was quite instrumental in all aspects of the move of the Union campus to its current location. Truly, he was a faithful ambassador for Christ."

Dockery said Byrd had directed many students to Union through the years and frequently attended Union alumni gatherings. He established a scholarship fund at Union to assist students planning to enter the ministry. In 1978, Union awarded

him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

Byrd was dean emeritus at the Boyce College at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. In addition to serving there as dean, Byrd was also a professor of New Testament. Prior to his work in Louisville, Byrd was pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church.

A native of Brookhaven, Miss., Byrd was raised in Clinton, Miss., and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Mississippi College. His Master of Divinity, Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy degrees came from Southern Seminary.

Contributions can be made in his memory to the David Q. and Floriene W. Byrd Memorial Scholarship at Union University. ☞



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BARBARA MCMILLIN
Associate Provost and Dean of Instruction

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FINALFRAME



Remember what God has done

Graduates applaud during a record-setting spring graduation on the Great Lawn.

photo by Jacob Moore ('14)