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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) _____

Surname before marriage _____

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Major _____ Years attended _____ Degree/year _____

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My news for Old School: _____

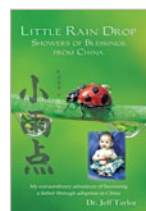
program of care, service and training which reflects the normal lifestyle of the community. gainedshedges@yahoo.com

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." 📖

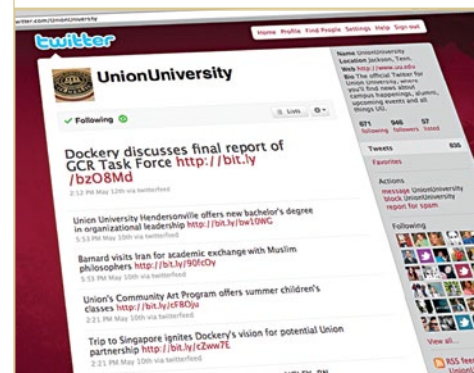


coordinator of the Student Learning Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She even wrote a book about making successful adjustments to college life entitled *So... You're Going To College*. The book was aimed at freshmen, and at one point was distributed to incoming Union students.

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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

Laura Nunnery Love ('06) married Ryan Love on June 20, 2009. The couple resides in Nashville.

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).

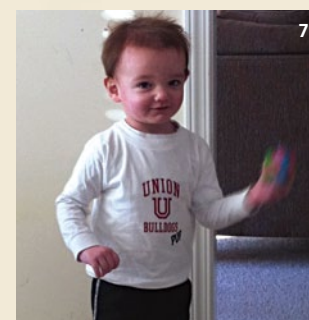


5 Lauren Meredith Webb, born June 23, 2010, Brooke (Meredith) Webb and Matt Webb. Proud grandparents: Michael ('85) and Cindy Meredith.

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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More than 4,000 students are at Union, many benefitting from much-needed scholarship support.

Union has an award winning faculty – 84% with the highest degree in their field.

More than 20 teams of Union students participate in stateside and international mission trips each year.

More than 100 fields of study are available to students.

State-of-the-art simulation technology is available for nursing and pharmacy students.

Students are being trained as outstanding teachers who will address current urban education needs.

Buildings have been constructed to facilitate our growing student body.



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"As a student, a faculty member, and an administrator, I have been blessed to be a part of the Union community. Contributing to the Union Fund is one of the most effective, efficient ways for me to give back and impart this blessing to others. The Union Fund directly impacts the extent to which we are able to be Excellence-driven, Christ-centered, People-focused, and Future-directed."

BARBARA MCMILLIN
Associate Provost and Dean of Instruction

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