

SUMMER 2013

# UNION NITE

THE UNION UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

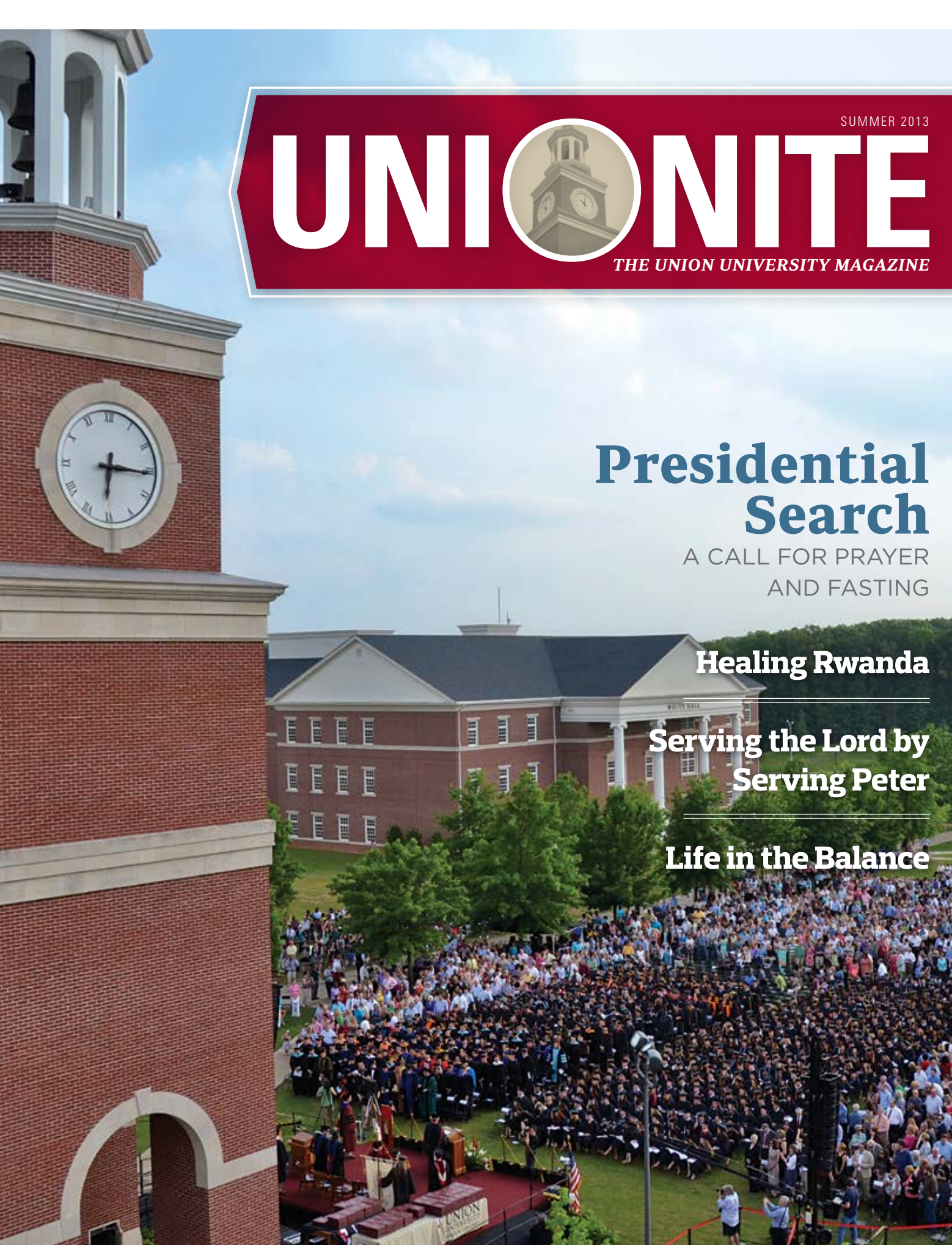
## Presidential Search

A CALL FOR PRAYER  
AND FASTING

Healing Rwanda

Serving the Lord by  
Serving Peter

Life in the Balance





From the President

As the 2012-13 academic year moves toward a conclusion, it provides an opportunity to reflect upon God’s many blessings to Union University throughout this year. The class of 2013, the largest graduating class in Union history, has made a significant difference on this campus for the past few years. They have done so not just because of the size of the class, but because of the quality of their leadership and the extent of their involvements. I am so thankful for the members of this class; they will be missed.



This academic year has witnessed an enrollment increase for the 15th straight year, with a fall enrollment surpassing 4,260 and a non-duplicating annual enrollment of more than 5,300. Only a handful of private universities across the South have seen consistent increases like this over these 15 years. Obviously, we have much for which to be grateful. We certainly recognize God’s goodness and favor to this institution in so many ways; the healthy enrollment trend is just one of those ways.

The 2012-13 annual Scholarship Banquet welcomed former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, an event that raised almost \$500,000 for student scholarships. We were pleased to welcome Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter and numerous other leading pastors and top-notch scholars to campus this past year.

Among many important items worthy of being highlighted, we can mention:

- The highest rankings ever for the University with *U.S. News & World Report*, the *Princeton Review*, Colleges of Distinction, StateUniversity.com, President’s Community Service Honor Roll, America’s 100 Best College Buys, among others;
- We were blessed to see the opening of the beautiful new facility for our Hendersonville extension site;
- Both the Chemistry and History departments were once again recognized with Outstanding Chapter Awards;
- The debate team had another fine season, with Union’s Amanda Bennett taking the International Public Debate Association’s individual championship;
- The University hosted an important conference on the Psalms, as well as an impressive array of speakers who gathered to remember the impact of Chuck Colson, evangelical statesman and friend of Union University, on the first anniversary of his death;
- The athletics department made progress in its three-year transition toward NCAA membership. Women’s basketball tied for the best regular-season league record in the Gulf South Conference.
- The Lady Bulldog softball team, under the leadership of Coach Heather Hall, won Union’s fourth championship in the National Christian College Athletic Association’s national tournament (2001, 2002, 2004, and 2013);
- The Board of Trustees approved a record \$93.5 million budget, which was the 18th straight year for the Board to approve an increased budget (we pray that we will be good stewards of these resources that have been provided to advance the Union mission);
- Excellent progress continues on all the processes and projects associated with the “Union 2015” strategic plan;
- The work of the Union student life team continued to create a great context for the implementation of the Union mission among our students;
- John Netland was named the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Tina Netland was named Staff Member of the Year, and Justin Barnard was named the Faculty Member of the Year;
- Greg Thornbury’s outstanding book on Carl Henry has received much attention since it was published earlier this spring, and the recent works by Hunter Baker and Gene Fant also have been the subject of ongoing positive responses;
- The third issue of our academic journal, *Renewing Minds*, which focuses on religious liberty, has been quite well received;

- We had a great Homecoming celebration, with the highly accomplished Class of 1963 returning for their golden anniversary;
- Union launched a very exciting pilot partnership with the North American Mission Board to help prepare some of its church planters, a program that has enrolled more than 50 students in the online Master of Christian Studies program;
- We have been blessed this year with two new and separate “seven-figure commitments,” one for an endowed chair and a second for annual scholarships—certainly, we offer praise and thanksgiving for these markers of God’s gracious kindness to Union; and
- The work on the beautiful library project is ready to move from the architect’s office to the site itself as project moves forward. We remain excited and hopeful about this most significant project.

These things only tell a portion of the story. There is ever so much more that could be included among these highlights. It truly has been another fine year on the Union campus. We look forward to the exciting things already underway for the forthcoming fall semester, including welcoming Dr. Ben Carson to the annual Scholarship Banquet, as well as Dr. Phillip Jenkins for the Carls-Schwerdfeger Lectures.

We stand amazed at God’s ongoing goodness to all of us associated with Union University... and, we offer deep and genuine thanksgiving for the many blessings to Union University for the 2012-13 year. Thank you for all that you have done to make this year a good one on the Union campus. We are ever hopeful about the days ahead for this University. I know you join me in responding to all of these things by saying: “THANKS BE TO GOD!”

Faithfully,

David S. Dockery

UNI NITE

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DEPARTMENTS



# Top Asian business leader advocates faith integration in the workplace

One of the Asian Pacific's leading business leaders told a Union audience that Christians should be willing to use their positions as platforms for sharing the gospel.

Wai Kwong Seck addressed the annual Business Through the Eyes of Faith luncheon April 3 in the

Carl Grant Events Center. Seck is executive vice president for State Street Global Markets and served for eight years as chief financial officer of the Singapore Exchange.

"My job can be a platform for God," Seck said. "I think the platform God gives us is only

valuable if we surrender that platform to God so that he can use it as he pleases."

Seck told the audience of 250 about his conversion to Christianity as a teenager.

"The key to victory in our Christian life is surrender," Seck said. "Then and only then would I know what real victory is and what life is."

Seck went on to become one of the key lay leaders among Singapore Baptists. Union has an ongoing partnership with the Singapore Baptist Convention.

Sponsored by the McAfee School of Business Administration, the annual luncheon is designed to encourage and equip members of the West Tennessee business community to integrate their Christian faith into their workplaces. ■



## SBC President Fred Luter visits Union

Christians must have renewed minds if they are to overcome temptation and live godly lives, Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter told Union University students during a campus visit a few months after his election.

Luter, senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, La., spoke in a chapel service in G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel. He said that all Christians—pastors and laypeople in every stage of life—experience temptation by Satan.

Luter said Christians will be spurred on to live a holy life by recalling that Jesus resisted temptation, met people's needs on earth and made a way for people to be reconciled to God.

"Even though (Jesus) was fully God, he became fully man and gave his life for you and ... me," Luter said. "Oh, how can you not want to win for him? How can you not want to be faithful to him?"



Following Luter's address, Union University President David S. Dockery inducted him into Union's R. G. Lee Society of Fellows.

The induction, one of the highest honors the University gives to pastors, acknowledges Luter's leadership in Southern Baptist life, Dockery said. The Society of Fellows exists to enhance and encourage the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Luter became the first African-American to be elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the annual meeting in New Orleans last June.

## Rogers wins another national poetry award

Union University English professor Bobby Rogers won the Arlin G. Meyer Prize in Imaginative Writing for his poetry book, *Paper Anniversary*.



"The Arlin G. Meyer Prize does important work recognizing Christian literary artists," Rogers said. "The list of previous

winners is an impressive one, and I'm thrilled to be on it."

The award is given by the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts based at Valparaiso University, a program that seeks to strengthen the quality and shape the character of church-related institutions of higher learning. It is presented biennially to a full-time faculty member from a college or university in the Lilly Fellows Program's national network.

*Paper Anniversary* was published in 2010 as a result of Rogers winning the 2009 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize Competition from the University of Pittsburgh Press. The book is a collective work of 34 poems written over a 10-year span, mostly about families and the South.

## Student-produced Jackson 24/7 hits milestone

Union University students produced and aired the 1,000th episode of *Jackson 24/7*, a local news program, in late November.



The show airs live and on tape a number of times throughout the day during the academic year on cable channel EPlusTV 6. The content on *Jackson 24/7* is not strictly Union University-related, but also local news and events.

Since its debut on Oct. 27, 2008, the show has featured a wide variety of guests, from actress Betty White to Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist, among about 1,100 others.

Associate professor of communication arts and lead adviser Steve Beverly hopes the community sees the hard work that

the students put in to the broadcast every day and says what they do is not just another news broadcast, but an informative, hard-hitting news broadcast.

"We need to look at what we do as a service to the community because what we do is help people become better informed and make better decisions in their community," Beverly said.

## Union awards first D.Min. degrees

At fall graduation exercises, two pastors became the first students to receive their Doctor of Ministry in Expository Preaching degrees from Union University.



Phil Mitchell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Adamsville,

Tenn., and Howard McNeill, pastor of Maple Springs Baptist Church in Seagrove, N.C., began with the program's first class in 2009.

The Doctor of Ministry program is designed to help leaders in Christian ministry improve the expository preaching and teaching arm of their ministry through individual work and week-long seminars held in July or January each year at Union's Stephen Olford Center in Memphis, Tenn.

To complete the degree, each candidate must also research, write and defend a doctoral project on a topic related to church ministry.

"A D.Min. is intended to help enhance the practical ministry of pastors," said Ray Van Neste, professor of Biblical studies at Union and Mitchell's dissertation adviser. "The whole purpose is to help [Christians] who are engaged in ministry. This is one of the ways at Union we're seeking to help local churches."

Both Mitchell's and McNeill's dissertations offered tangible solutions to issues facing many

Southern Baptist congregations today. McNeill's work focused on spiritual formation, while Mitchell examined ways to reach inactive church members.

## Union marks 5th anniversary of tornado

Celebrating the goodness and providence of God, Union University alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends gathered Feb. 5 to mark the five-year anniversary of a tornado that destroyed much of the University's campus housing.

The service in G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel on the Union campus featured singing, prayer, testimonies from students and a devotional from Dockery.

The EF-4 tornado that hammered Union on Feb. 5, 2008, caused about \$40 million in damage, leveling 17 buildings and trapping dozens of students in collapsed apartments. Fifty-one students went to the hospital for treatment, including nine who were injured seriously. But despite the damage, no lives were lost.



Kevin Furniss and Danny Song, two of the students trapped in the Watters Commons building that night, shared testimonies about how God orchestrated their rescues.

"Our purpose in gathering tonight is not to be nostalgic," Union President David S. Dockery said. "It's not to remember anything about Union prior to the tornado. What we're doing tonight is something very biblical, which is to remember."

Dockery said that the original hopes in the days after the tornado were that the campus could be rebuilt within five years. Two years later, in February of 2010, Union celebrated the completion of the Bowld Student Commons—the last facility that was destroyed by the tornado to be rebuilt.

# New Thornbury book focuses on Carl F. H. Henry

A new book by Gregory A. Thornbury explores the theology of Carl F. H. Henry and how his ideas of "classic evangelicalism" can unite today's church.

The book, *Recovering Classic Evangelicalism: Applying the Wisdom and Vision of Carl F. H. Henry*, is published by Crossway and is now available in bookstores.

"What I wanted to do was paraphrase the best of Henry's theological work and give it a new hearing for a new audience," said Thornbury, dean of the School of Theology and Missions.

Henry, a theologian, journalist and the first editor of *Christianity Today*, died in 2003 at age 90. He was the author of the influential "God, Revelation and Authority" series of books, among others.

"It's been almost a decade since Carl Henry passed, and it's time to revisit his legacy," Thornbury said. "Henry's thoughts, ideas and theology were what gave the neo-evangelical movement so much of its spark and verve, initially."

Barry H. Corey, president of Biola University, described *Recovering Classic Evangelicalism* as an "important, erudite work that should be read by anyone who longs for a return to a robust, vital evangelicalism." ■





## Online nursing program earns national ranking

The School of Nursing has one of the top online graduate nursing programs in the country, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

In its latest rankings, the publication placed Union's program 40th nationally, ahead of such institutions as Michigan State University, Ohio State University and Georgetown University. The rankings included the nation's top 72 programs.

"The ranking is a testimony to the excellence-driven academics being delivered by nursing faculty from the perspective of the Christian intellectual tradition in reaching nursing students throughout the country," said Tim Smith, dean of Union's School of Nursing. "The opportunity to gain this ranking provides evidence that academic rigor through online nursing education can be provided



while achieving the mission of the School of Nursing and Union University."

The ranking was based on Union's online Master of Science in Nursing graduate tracks, which include the Master of Science in Nursing Administration and Master of Science in Nursing Education. Both tracks are taught fully online. 📖

### Union earns national community service award

For the seventh 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.

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, 690 institutions were named to the

honor roll. But far fewer schools have achieved the recognition each year it has been awarded.

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.



### Union debate team takes IPDA honors

Union University senior Amanda Bennett won the International Public Debate Association Varsity National Championship during competition in March at the University of Arkansas-Monticello.



In addition, Union freshman Christian Winter was the season-long champion in the "novice debate" category.

Web Drake, associate professor of communication arts and debate team coach, said his team had a "great year, overall," highlighted by Bennett's and Winter's wins, as well as the team's first-place finish in the

season-long "novice sweepstakes" category for the fifth straight year.

Bennett's win was the second-straight year for a Union debater to win the IPDA varsity national championship. Abby Williams claimed the title last year.

Union's team finished second at the IPDA nationals in the sweepstakes competition and in the scholastic sweepstakes competition, and Union sophomore Bryanna England finished second in the "novice debate speaker" category.

For the entire season, Union's team finished second in the "Founders Award," "scholastic sweepstakes," "varsity sweepstakes," and "professional sweepstakes" categories.

The IPDA national tournament included more than 200 competitors in three divisions. Students came from 22 schools in eight states. For the year, 85 schools participated in IPDA debate during at least one tournament.

### Porter family establishes endowed business chair

A \$2 million gift to Union University from the Joe Porter family will establish the Porter Family Chair of Business and Economics, which will be held by longtime Union professor Walton Padelford.



"We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Professor Walton Padelford as the Porter Family Professor of Business and Economics," Union President David S. Dockery said. "We are incredibly grateful to the Porter family for their generosity in supporting this high-level academic position, and we offer our heartiest congratulations to Professor Padelford."

Padelford has taught economics at Union since 1980. He said he was honored to be the first holder of the Porter Family Chair of Business and Economics and grateful to the Porter family for making the endowed chair possible.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Leadership Academy trains Sumner County leaders of tomorrow

Nicole Stirbens heard about Union University's Leadership Academy in Hendersonville and became one of about 80 applicants for the program. In her fourth year as assistant principal at Hawkins Middle School, she liked the idea of preparing herself to be a principal at some future time.

But that time arrived more quickly than she expected.

Her promotion to principal came soon after she submitted the Leadership Academy application. Although her promotion and her acceptance into the Leadership Academy are unrelated, Stirbens liked the timing of the two events.

"I wanted to take that next step. I didn't know that was going to happen at that time," Stirbens said. "It's wonderful meeting new people and feeling like I can pick up the phone now and call them, because I've had a chance to build a relationship with them here."

Stirbens' networking experience is just one example of why Union's Leadership Academy has been embraced by Sumner County school leaders and Union University's faculty. The program allows participants to learn about changes and challenges in the field of education and then form discussion groups to examine how those issues are addressed in various school settings.

Plans are underway for a second annual Leadership Academy that will begin during the summer months and conclude by early November. The emphasis is current issues in education such as the new Common Core requirements. In addition to the discussion groups, state education leaders host classroom

sessions. Union faculty members make presentations on teaching methods.

There is no cost to the school system. All expenses are paid by Union and corporate sponsors such as Wilson Bank & Trust. Two tracks are provided: one to mentor aspiring leaders and another designed to sharpen and update the skills of current leaders.

"We've been able to sit down and look at the challenges we face today, and then to determine how we prepare leaders to overcome those challenges," said Charles Lea, executive director for Union University's Hendersonville campus. Lea nurtured the idea for such a program as the university moved from temporary facilities to its new building on Indian Lake Boulevard.



County leaders like the idea of developing talent from within their own walls rather than importing leadership from other places.

"We need to be looking three, four, five years down the road," said Del Phillips, director of schools for Sumner County. "We think that continuing the academies will give us that opportunity to build a succession plan, to be able to increase the capacity, not only in individual ability, but numbers to fill leadership positions that become vacant."

Eric Bowman, an eighth grade teacher at TW. Hunter Middle School in Hendersonville, is pursuing an Ed.S. degree. He says the Leadership Academy helped draw him to graduate study at Union.

"I think what drew me most was the partnership it had between the private university, private companies and businesses," said Bowman. "It just seemed to pull in multiple stakeholders that sometimes in public education we're not able to pull all together."

Bowman can see himself moving out of the classroom and into a leadership role in the next few years. Stirbens made that step quicker than she ever would have predicted.

"That's why I was glad to be a part of this." 📖

### LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2013

In April, 40 applicants received word of acceptance into the 2013 Leadership Academy. This year's academy will be divided into two new groups: aspiring administrators and teacher leaders. The first sessions for each group are scheduled for June, with additional sessions in the fall.



# Union education professor develops popular iPad course

An instructional course on classroom use of iPad technology developed by a Union University education professor has been one of the top courses on iTunesU for several months.

Eric Marvin, associate professor of education at Union University Germantown, originally created the “Integrating iPads into the Classroom” course to meet the needs of Union graduate students and faculty as the School of Education launched new concentrations to its Master of Education degree.

“Our initial thought was to deliver the training once on each of Union’s campuses in a traditional, face-to-face approach, but we instead opted for a just-in-time, on-demand training solution using iTunesU,” Marvin said. “Our iTunesU course has obtained an enrollment beyond expectation, from students literally around the world.”

The course currently has 75,000 students, and Marvin said he hopes to reach more than 100,000 students later this year.

“It is humbling and rewarding to reflect on having this many students in a single course, especially as the enrollment continues to increase,” he said.

The course has been especially popular outside of the United States. Marvin has heard from teachers in Central America, Hong Kong and New Zealand, among other places, about how they benefited from the course.

The course development was an example of collaboration across many Union departments and campuses, Marvin said. Stephen Marvin, assistant

professor of education and assistant dean of education at Germantown (and Eric’s brother), and Ben Phillips, associate professor of educational leadership, helped with the content of the course.



Our iTunesU course has obtained an enrollment beyond expectation, from students literally around the world.

Jim Avery, associate vice president for information technology; Cam Tracy, web development agent; and Tom Rosebrough, executive dean of the College of Education and Human Studies, have also played key roles in the course’s success, Eric Marvin said.

The Master of Education program is now completely online for the Teaching and Learning option, with a 21-month course calendar. Students enter the online program each August, and can apply online at [uu.edu/med](http://uu.edu/med). Students in face-to-face and online programs each receive an iPad at time of enrollment. ■

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“This endowed chair is also a prestigious addition to the McAfee School of Business Administration,” Padelford said. “As we pursue nationally recognized accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, this chair will place us in a higher tier of business schools across the nation.”

## Union hosts major journalism conference

Students from 25 universities across the South attended the Southeast Journalism Conference, hosted at Union University for the first time in the event’s history.



About 300 students traveled from such universities as Alabama, Louisiana State, Ole Miss, Memphis, Mississippi State and Vanderbilt to listen to recognized professional speakers from all over the country.

“The conference experience would not have been as powerful as it was without Union University,” said Kelsy Kershaw, a journalism major from Louisiana Tech University. “Not only was the campus beautiful and very friendly, the staff was just as welcoming. Everyone’s eagerness to help and even just to socialize made me feel welcome and wanted there.”

As the host school, Union’s SEJC leadership board was responsible for organizing the conference speakers and events. The conference featured seven speakers, all professionals from various journalism backgrounds, over the span of two days. Union President David S. Dockery and Executive Vice President for Academic Administration Gene Fant were among the speakers.

SEJC recognized student journalists and university publications in more than 20 individual categories and eight university categories, such as Best Journalist, Best Sports Writer, Best Feature Writer and Best Page Layout Designer.

Union senior Amelia Krauss, a journalism major and news editor of the *Cardinal & Cream*, won third place for Best Feature Writer and Union senior Holly Jay, a sociology major and former life editor of the *Cardinal & Cream*, won second place for Best News-Editorial Artist/Illustrator.

Because Union was the host for the event, its students were ineligible to compete in the on-site competitions.

The event team consisted of communication arts students studying public relations, journalism or broadcasting who were responsible for a variety of tasks, including the leadership team, social media team and student volunteers who helped throughout the conference.

“There is no way we could have pulled off SEJC without student support,” said Ashley Blair, SEJC president and assistant professor of communication arts at Union. “There were 12 students who met weekly starting in August to begin planning. While they didn’t receive payment or credit for their work, they were still an integral part of the process.”

## Mandrells lead annual Crabtree Lectures

Ben Mandrell, senior pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, and his wife Lynley offered tips on how Christians can find peace in relationships as part of the annual Crabtree Family Life chapel services in April.

“God has designed marriage in such a way that you get back what you put in,” Ben said in his Wednesday address. “It is the sowing and reaping principle which is also true, by the way, of all kinds of relationships. You have to invest in a relationship for it to be valuable.”

Marriage is discipleship, said Ben, who married Lynley 12 years ago. They have four children.

They encouraged students to listen to others fully before giving advice.

They also said every couple should consider what their family’s



# Renewing Minds Journal examines religious liberty

Union University has published the third issue of the academic journal *Renewing Minds: A journal of Christian thought*. This issue addresses the topic of religious liberty.

If you would like to subscribe to the journal or acquire the previous two issues, register online at [uu.edu/journals/renewingminds](http://uu.edu/journals/renewingminds). ■

way of dealing with conflict was and whether or not it is helpful to continue in that approach.

“You were taught how to deal with hurt,” Ben said. “Parents create a natural wake for their children to follow in. It takes effort and skill to get outside the wake. This is good news for you, because you’re not doomed to respond to hurt the same way your parents did. You can change.”

The benefactors for the series



were T.T. Crabtree and his wife Bennie Elizabeth Cole Crabtree. Both were Union graduates. Mrs. Crabtree had attended each lecture since the series began in 2000, but she passed away at the age of 86 only four days prior to this year’s event (see In Memoriam, page 40).

## Boud, Thornbury honored with Sterling Awards

Union University’s Jan Boud and Kimberly Thornbury have each been listed among the 20 most influential women in West Tennessee.

Both women received Sterling Awards, which are given each year to honor women leaders who display creativity and innovation in their profession, mentor other women and provide service to the community.

About 70 nominations were submitted to *The Jackson Sun* and

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## Trustees present Dodd Award to TBC leader



The Union University Board of Trustees honored Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Director Randy Davis with the M.E. Dodd Award during a meeting in April.

The Dodd Award is Union's highest denominational service award. It is named for the man who was a Union alumnus, served as president of the SBC and who was the father of today's Cooperative Program, the method by which Southern Baptists pool their resources to fund their mission efforts.

In accepting the award, Davis said that while many organizations have core values, he knows of no institution that exemplifies and lives out its core values like Union.

After the presentation, President David S. Dockery made perhaps his final formal address to the trustees. Dockery announced his transition from president to chancellor for 2014 (see stories, beginning on page 14).

Trustees also approved a record \$93.5 million budget and met newly appointed Arts and Sciences Dean John Netland.

Netland, who has been an English professor at Union and chairman of the English department since 2008, spent 20 years as an English professor on other Christian college campuses. He has a doctorate from UCLA and a bachelor's degree from Biola University. Netland succeeds Gene Fant, who moved into his current position as Union's executive vice president for academic administration. ■

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the Jackson Area Business and Professional Women.

Boud, assistant to the president for community relations at Union, has been active in her service to Jackson for many years. One example of her leadership is the Alzheimer's Caregiver Conference she helped to start four years ago. This year's event drew more than 400 caregivers to Union.

Thornbury, senior vice president for student services and dean of students, has lived in West Tennessee for almost 15 years. She provided key leadership during the aftermath of Union's 2008 tornado.

Both women enjoy engaging with non-profits in the Jackson area and pointing students in the direction of such service.

Three Union women have now won Sterling Awards. Provost Carla Sanderson was awarded in 2010.

### Alabama's Saban keynotes Golf and Gala

University of Alabama football coach Nick Saban shared thoughts on successful leadership and the role of athletics in higher education during the annual Roy L. White Legacy Golf and Gala, which this year becomes the primary fund-raising event for Union athletics.

Union is in its second year of candidacy in its transition to NCAA Division II. Money raised from the event will fund athletic scholarships and contribute to the athletic programs.

*Brittney Teel, junior nursing major, and Hannah McGehee, freshman music major, get their picture taken with Nick Saban, head football coach at the University of Alabama, at the Roy L. White Legacy Golf and Gala where Saban was the speaker*

Saban's teams at Alabama and LSU have combined to win four national titles, making him one of only four coaches in the modern era to achieve that level of success.

In addition to his victories on the field, Saban has been active in the community with a charity called "Nick's Kids Fund." He and his wife Terry also worked with Project Team Up and Habitat for Humanity to build 14 homes after a tornado ravaged Tuscaloosa, Ala., in 2012.

Saban's example fits with Union's philosophy of using athletics as a platform for missions and community service. The primary focus of Division II competition is "life in the balance," a concept that prioritizes classroom achievement and community service alongside athletics.

"Coach Saban is not only a great coach, but an advocate for the student-athlete," said Jerry Tidwell, Union's senior vice president for university relations and athletics. "His personal priority for student-athletes made him a great choice to speak to Union players, coaches, alumni and our community."

In addition to the banquet at which Saban spoke, Union also hosted a golf tournament in April at the Jackson Country Club.

Keep up with the latest news from Union at [uu.edu/news](http://uu.edu/news)



Tigrett Medal winner Rachel Carbonell



Russell D. Moore

## Record-setting class receives Union degrees

The largest spring graduating class in Union history received degrees May 18 in a ceremony on the Great Lawn. About 7,500 people attended the service, and 647 students received degrees.

"Tonight brings to a culmination this very special year," Union President David S. Dockery said.

Commencement speaker Russell D. Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said Christians should look backward with gratitude and look forward with expectation with a longer-term view than what they typically assign to their lives.

Union presented the Elizabeth Tigrett Medal to Rachel Carbonell, an engineering major from Jackson, Tenn. ■

## Black History Month symposium explores race and worship

Bryan Loritts and John Bryson are leading racial reconciliation efforts in what is regarded as the second most segregated city in America.

Fellowship Memphis is growing as a multicultural church. Loritts is lead pastor; Bryson is the church's teaching pastor. They share the compelling goal of teaching the gospel in a setting that bridges the racial divide so evident in Memphis and other cities across the country.

Both shared thoughts about their mission during Union's sixth annual Black History Month program. This year, the program involved a panel format moderated by Frank Anderson, director of the associate of divinity program and associate professor of missions and ministry at Union's Stephen Olford Center in Memphis.



The event was co-sponsored by the Vocatio Center for Life Calling and Career and the MOSAIC student organization.

Loritts and Bryson focused on the theme "From Every Tribe: A Dialogue on Church, Campus and Community," as they addressed the diverse audience of black, white and Latino students, faculty, staff, local and state leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People



ABOVE: Bryan Loritts and John Bryson, of Fellowship Memphis church, speak during a panel discussion at the sixth annual Black History Month Celebration. LEFT: At center, Abbie Perez, president of the Latino-American Student Organization, reads Revelation 7:9. Also pictured is Melanie Taylor, president of MOSAIC.

and other members of the Jackson community.

"We felt that we could ignite hope," said Bryson, "If, in the second most segregated city of America, a gospel-preaching, Bible-teaching, disciple-making church erupted, that was made up of multiple ethnicities and bringing African-Americans and whites together, it would be bigger than itself and remove excuses from other cities [to reconcile races.]" ■



## Union Forum speaker: Celebrate Washington gridlock

Americans should celebrate gridlock in Washington rather than seeing it as an obstacle to progress, especially when nation faces a staggering amount of debt, according to FOX News contributor Stephen F. Hayes.

"I'm thrilled that the discussion now is focused on our \$16.7 trillion in debt," he said. "These are issues, in my view, that are exactly what we should be debating."

Hayes made his comments at the spring Union Forum, as part of the 14th annual luncheon lecture series that brings national commentators to Jackson and the Union campus.

Hayes is also a senior writer at

the *Weekly Standard* and author of two *New York Times* bestsellers.

"The reason I think the sequester fight matters so much is because it's a fight about a lot more than the sequester," Hayes said. "This is the coming together of these two

divergent views of how American government should relate to its citizens—of the role of government in American life.

"I think the White House correctly understands that if it loses this battle, it makes the case for activist government even more difficult for it to make," he continued. "If you can cut 5.3 percent of domestic discretionary spending, and most people get along, what's the case for adding more and more and more, particularly when it's adding to the debt?"

The gridlock in Washington, Hayes concluded, means that politicians can't worry as much about peripheral issues. ■



### New book traces impact of KJV

A new book edited by Ray Van Neste examines the impact of the King James Version of the Bible on many different disciplines over the past 400 years.

Published by BorderStone Press, *KJV 400: The Legacy and Impact of the King James Version* includes material adapted from the 2011 festival Union University hosted to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Version.

"The King James Version has radically shaped the world as we know it, and often times that's missed," said Van Neste, Union University professor of biblical studies and director of Union's R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies.

The book includes chapters from Leland Ryken, professor of English at Wheaton College; Timothy

George, dean of Beeson Divinity School; and John Woodbridge, research professor of church history and the history of Christian thought at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

In addition, the book has chapters from several Union University faculty members in a variety of disciplines: Gavin Richardson, Bobby Rogers, John Netland, Scott Huelin and Gene Fant in English; James Patterson and Brad Green in theology and missions; Justin Barnard in philosophy; Micah Watson and Hunter Baker in political science; Steve Halla in art; Jennifer Gruenke in biology; Chris Mathews in music; and Keith Bates in history.

Robert Sloan, president of Houston Baptist University, described the book as "enormously valuable ... wonderfully readable and historically sound."

The book is available for purchase at LifeWay Christian Stores or from online retailers such as Amazon.com.

### American Red Cross honors Dockery

The Jackson Area Chapter of the American Red Cross awarded Union University President David S. Dockery the chapter's inaugural Humanitarian of the Year award at its Heroes Luncheon May 9 in Jackson.

The local Red Cross board of directors plans to honor someone in the community each year for displaying the spirit of humanity through volunteer work, advocacy, leadership and philanthropy in the community.

Dockery has served on a variety of local boards and has been a strong advocate for community service and racial reconciliation. He said the award was an affirmation of the commitment to service and community represented among Union faculty, staff and students.

"I want to thank everyone involved in making the selection for the 2013 Humanitarian of the Year," Dockery said. "It is certainly a most significant honor and I want to dedicate this award to the faculty, staff and students of Union University."

The Red Cross sets an example of service that other leaders should follow, he said, citing the example of founder Clara Barton and the organization's ongoing commitment to respond in times of disaster. ■



## Read, Pray, Sing Conference celebrates the Psalms

Ray Van Neste was optimistic about drawing participants in a conference designed to illuminate and magnify the Psalms. But he probably didn't expect much representation from Myanmar.

Kyaw Zin Htwe, a pastor from Yangon, Myanmar, saw information online about the conference, entitled "Read, Pray, Sing: The Psalms as an Entryway to the Scriptures."

Van Neste says he made contact with Htwe before publicity for the conference had even begun. Htwe says he had no prior knowledge of Union, but he came here from Asia to improve his preaching about the Psalms.



Pastor Htwe



director of Doctor of Philosophy Studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Andy Davis, senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., headlined the conference.

Using Psalm 117, the shortest Psalm in the Bible, Thomas developed the conference theme of the Psalms serving as an entryway to understanding the Bible in his plenary session.

Union's R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies sponsored the two-day event as part of its biennial conference series. In addition to information sessions, participants got together to sing the Psalms in corporate worship.

"The Psalms have been central to the worship of the church through the ages, as Christians not only read them but prayed and sang them as well," Van Neste said. "If this use of the Psalms is uncommon for us, we are the unusual ones in the flow of church history."

Conference organizers asked participants to provide written feedback about the event.

"As we sang together at Psalmfest, I felt a strong connection to the people of God through the ages, from the temple in Jerusalem to the catacombs in Rome, from the cathedrals of France to the auditorium of 2013," wrote Reeves Garrett, a conference participant.

"The worship experience of the Psalmfest was greatly encouraging to me," wrote Philip Lundy. "It caused me to look at the source for my worship language. When that language is nearly entirely Scripture, I know that I am participating in something much greater than myself or my time period, and that is valuable worship."

Van Neste says about 250 people attended the conference, and some admitted to having reservations about singing the Psalms aloud.

"I guess I was a bit skeptical about how the Psalms could be put to music or how they could 'sound good,'" wrote one participant, who quickly found the singing enjoyable: "this experience proved to foster unity among those present rather than a sense of awkwardness."

Wrote another: "The session challenged me to use the Psalms more in my personal prayer life and personal worship. But more than just on a personal level, I saw in a new light the value of using the Psalms in corporate worship."

Pastor Htwe returned to Myanmar satisfied that his long journey was not in vain.

"[The corporate worship] was amazing," Htwe said. "I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Word is not human words; it directly comes from the Lord." ■

Samantha Adams ('13) contributed to this story.

As we sang together at Psalmfest, I felt a strong connection to the people of God through the ages.

The conference attracted a mixture of pastors, students, musicians and interested lay people who wanted to delve into the subject through two plenary sessions and nine breakout sessions.

Heath Thomas, associate professor of Old Testament and Hebrew and





## DAVID S. DOCKERY PREPARES FOR A NEW UNION ROLE

David S. Dockery will transition from president of Union University to the role of university chancellor no later than July 2014.

The announcement was made Jan. 15, but followed a series of private discussions over the course of several years about presidential transition.

“I am hopeful and prayerful for a good, smooth, joyful and positive transition,” Dockery said. “God has blessed the work of our hands and manifested his favor to this university time and time again during these past 17 years. I am confident that we will continue to see God’s grace made known to Union in the future.”

Dockery says he began talking with the executive committee of Union’s Board of Trustees in the fall of 2011 about the need to start serious succession planning for the University’s future, at which time the board approved a five-member succession planning team. Discussions with that team and with other members of the board have taken place regularly since then.

A nationwide search is underway for a new president, led by a presidential search committee formed a few weeks after Dockery’s announcement (see page 16). The search process is expected to take about a year.

As chancellor, Dockery will continue to

serve Union as an adviser for the board and the new president for the next several years.

“David S. Dockery’s accomplishments at Union University are unsurpassed,” said Norman Hill, chairman of Union’s Board of Trustees. “Although much of his work is visible in the form of buildings and numbers, his greater work is in the hearts and minds of the thousands of students and myriads of others that he and his administration have influenced through the years. He has had Union’s best interest at heart in everything he has done as president for the past 17 years.”

The list of Dockery’s accomplishments over that period is lengthy.

Under his leadership, following 15 straight years of enrollment increase, Union has more than doubled in size, growing from a fall enrollment of 1,972 to 4,262 in 2012. Donors have increased from 1,600 to 6,000 annually.

The budget has expanded from \$18 million to more than \$90 million per year. The University’s net assets have grown from less than \$40 million to more than \$110 million.

Early in his tenure, the University adopted a set of four core values: Excellence-Driven, Christ-Centered, People-Focused, Future-Directed. Those core values have provided the framework for the work of Union University over the past 17 years.

He developed five key strategic plans (for

2001, 2005, 2010, 2012, 2015) that have guided the university’s work during his tenure.

Dockery’s administration presided over major development of the Union campus—including such buildings as White Hall, Jennings Hall, Providence Hall and Hammons Hall. Union added campuses in Germantown, Tenn., Hendersonville, Tenn., and the Olford Center in Memphis during Dockery’s presidency, and the school’s athletics program transitioned from NAIA to NCAA Division II candidacy.

Academically under his leadership, Union launched the School of Pharmacy, School of Theology and Missions and the Institute for International and Intercultural Studies, in addition to new undergraduate programs in engineering, social work, graphic design, ethics, political science, athletic training and organizational leadership, among others. The University also began about a dozen master’s degree programs and five doctoral programs in intercultural studies, theology and missions, education, social work, nursing and pharmacy.

“By any measure, David Dockery’s presidency at Union University has been the most laudable illustration of leadership success in Christian higher education,” said Greg Thornbury, dean of Union’s School of Theology and Missions. “Many will rightly praise him for Union’s phenomenal enrollment growth, outstanding academic markers and advances in local, regional and national stature.

“But all of this would not be nearly as important had it not been for his vigilant sense for and keen articulation of the University’s distinctive mission,” Thornbury continued. “In my opinion, these characteristics flowed from him being who God gifted him first and foremost to be: a theologian of the first order. By connecting a vision for Union with the great Christian intellectual tradition, he connected the institution he served so ably with something worthy, something noble, something permanent.

“In an age unfamiliar with the concept,

we confess that we are profoundly in David Dockery’s debt.”

Dockery guided a major institutional rebuilding made necessary by a tornado that struck Union’s campus on Feb. 5, 2008, causing about \$40 million in damage and leveling most of the University’s student housing. Dozens of students were trapped inside collapsed buildings as rescuers worked for hours to free them. Several sustained serious injuries, but nobody was killed.

“The first 36 hours were the most challenging 36 hours of my life,” Dockery said about the disaster. “My theology about angels and my theology about the providence of God carried me through that first 36 hours. I have a deep sense of God’s providence. It moved from theoretical to reality. It was all we had to hold onto.”

“Out of the rubble across this campus I am praying that we will see renewal,” Dockery said during that time. “We lost the buildings, but we did not lose the Union spirit.”

The annual Scholarship Banquet and Union Forum programs he established brought a host of world-renowned speakers to the University; the Scholarship Banquet also raised about \$5.5 million for student scholarships. His administration increased the graduation rate from 55 percent to 67 percent. The University has moved from second-tier to top-tier status in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, where Union now ranks among the top 14 regional universities in the South.

Dockery also was instrumental in developing Union’s mission and identity statements and statement of faith.

I AM HOPEFUL  
AND PRAYERFUL  
FOR A GOOD,  
SMOOTH, JOYFUL  
AND POSITIVE  
TRANSITION.

A prolific author and editor, Dockery has written or edited several major books on Christian higher education and Baptist history and heritage, including *Renewing Minds, Shaping a Christian Worldview, Faith and Learning, The Great Tradition of Christian Thinking, Southern Baptist Consensus and Renewal* and *Southern Baptist Identity*, among others.

He served as the chairman of the board for the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, as well as serving on the board for Christianity Today International and Prison Fellowship. Dockery was a member of four recent committees and task force teams in the Southern Baptist Convention, and has spoken at major conferences and lectureships at dozens of churches, state conventions, colleges, churches and seminaries.

Dockery has also been an active participant in local programs and organizations. He was named Jackson’s Man of the Year in 2008 and was the recipient of the William D. Smart Racial Reconciliation Award from the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 2012. “While at Union, I have realized his leadership extends far beyond Union’s campus,” said Samantha Adams, a member of the class of 2013 from Glendale, Ky. “He has set an example to students for being a peacemaker among Christians, a reconciler between blacks and whites in the South and a humble student of God’s word.”

Walton Padelford, longtime University professor of economics, described Dockery’s leadership as “extraordinary” and said his vision for Union—including improving Union’s academic quality, improving theological education and moving the University into the Christian intellectual tradition—was vital to the University’s success and growth.

“When parents visit me with their prospective students, and we’re talking about Union, many times I will say that this is the best time for your student to be here,” Padelford said. “We’re living in the golden age of Union.” ■



# SEARCH COMMITTEE

MEET THE PRESIDENTIAL

Several weeks after President David S. Dockery announced his transition from president to chancellor, the executive committee of Union's Board of Trustees selected nine people to serve on a search committee for a new president.

The committee will meet regularly through the summer and fall to conduct a national search, select finalists and eventually recommend a presidential candidate to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

A formal timetable is difficult to predict, but it is possible a new president could be selected early in 2014 and begin work later that year.

The search committee consists of:

**NORMAN O. HILL**, who will serve as the committee chairman. Hill is executive director of Trumbull Labs in Memphis and a 1980 Union graduate. [1]

**CARLA D. SANDERSON**, Union's provost, executive vice president for strategic initiatives and professor of nursing, who will be the committee's vice chair and represent the Union administration and staff. Sanderson is a 1981 Union graduate. [2]

**HARRY L. SMITH**, president of Schilling Enterprises in Memphis and former chairman of the Union Board of Trustees. [3]

**ROD PARKER**, wealth management adviser for Northwestern Mutual Life in Jackson and a 1988 Union graduate, representing the Union University Foundation board. Parker previously served as

chairman of the Union board and of the Union University Foundation. [4]

**LISA W. ROGERS**, a physician with the Jackson Clinic and a 1983 Union graduate. [5]

**DANNY SINQUEFIELD**, senior pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Bartlett, Tenn., and past president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. [6]

**JAMES ROSS**, vice president and chief operating officer of West Tennessee Healthcare and a 1987 Union graduate. [7]

**PAUL PRIDDY**, executive pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson. [8]

**C. BEN MITCHELL**, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy at Union, representing the Union faculty. [9]

"We deeply appreciate all of the search committee members' commitment to Union University and their willingness to serve the University in this important way," said Norman Hill, chairman of Union's Board of Trustees. "We ask for prayers for the committee as it seeks the Lord's wisdom and guidance in selecting Union's 16th president." ☞



## Support search committee with prayer and fasting

Early in the transition process, Trustee Chairman Norman Hill says he was asked repeatedly what could be done to help the search committee. The offers were frequent and genuine.

Hill says he felt led to call for prayer and fasting across the campus.

"Throughout the Bible and church history, God's people have often rallied in focused times of prayer and fasting for specific needs and purposes," Hill said. "We ask that you would see the need for a similar effort during such a time as this."

Hill developed an idea that involves the presidential search website. It's an online calendar on which the Union community can make an anonymous commitment to pray and fast on a specific day. It can be found at [uu.edu/president/search/prayer](http://uu.edu/president/search/prayer).

Although no names are displayed, each time someone signs up for a day, that square on the calendar changes color, with darker shades of red representing days on which there will be multiple people praying and fasting.

The effort started after spring break and focused on students, most of whom would be leaving campus at the end of the semester and returning in August. Participation was immediate and covered all the dates in April as well as several in May.

But the commitment calendar is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

"It is impossible to overstate the importance of selecting a new president for the future of this institution that we all cherish," Hill said. "We need the wisdom, insight and discernment that can only come from the Lord if we are to select God's person for this significant role and if we are to transition effectively to a new presidential administration." ☞



WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THE COMMITTEE AS IT SEEKS THE LORD'S WISDOM AND GUIDANCE IN SELECTING UNION'S 16TH PRESIDENT.

## PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH UPDATES

Union University has launched a presidential search website at [uu.edu/president/search](http://uu.edu/president/search)

Featured on the site are a prayer and fasting calendar and a message blog on which Chairman Hill will post updates on the committee's progress. Bookmark the page and check back frequently for updates.





BY SAMANTHA ADAMS ('13)

# Healing Rwanda

UNION STUDENT WANTS TO HELP HIS HOMELAND

Denis Bisangwa, a sophomore business administration major, was seated on the stage of the G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel, ready to answer questions about his life.

It was a situation that many students might have found frightening. But Bisangwa has told his story many times, and it captivated the Union audience.

This Union student is a Rwandan orphan who survived genocide and civil war in his homeland. He plans to return to the African nation with messages of hope.

He says that hope is rooted in the power of the gospel to bring about forgiveness.

George Guthrie, Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible, interviewed Bisangwa

for the Culture Fest chapel service in March. The chapel celebrated cultures represented at Union and unity of the church around the world.

Guthrie said he asked Bisangwa to be part of the Culture Fest chapel because of his unique set of life experiences and perspective growing up in a country that has seen much trouble.

“The church here needs encouragement and the church there needs good teaching,” Bisangwa said.

Bisangwa explained that his father, a Rwandan soldier, died at the beginning of the 100-day genocide in 1994, when Bisangwa was only 5 years old. Only a few years later, his mother died as well. He and his siblings lived with their uncle,

where Bisangwa led the household when his uncle was away.

“I grew up without parents,” Bisangwa said. “That motivates me to not see anyone else grow up without them.”

He means it. Serving the orphaned children of Rwanda has become Bisangwa’s passion.

Bisangwa joined with friends in his Rwandan high school to create Peace and Love Proclaimers, an organization that makes scholarships available for orphans, encourages post-genocide reconciliation and educates people on recognizing triggers of genocide.

Bisangwa coordinated fund-raising efforts, organized supporters and talked to countless media staff to promote

the group’s first large-scale genocide awareness project: a Walk to Remember to commemorate those killed in the genocide.

“I went to so many radio stations,” Bisangwa said. “I was calling people to come and join us and talking about the impact it is going to have on all the youth. I feel like we (youth) are the ones to change our country. Our parents have been involved in genocide so we want to change that. As Gandhi said, just ‘Be the change.’”

In 2009, more than 9,000 Rwandans gathered for the organization’s first Walk to Remember. Each year since, the students have organized similar walks in other countries. The 2013 walk, in Rwanda alone, drew 25,000 people, including Rwanda President Paul Kagame.

The crowds for the walk consist mostly of youth, Bisangwa said, representing only a fraction of the up to 1 million killed in the deadly clash between Hutus and Tutsis.

Bisangwa’s reconciliation efforts led him to work with As We Forgive, an organization that made a documentary of the same name about Rwandan genocide victims learning to forgive. Andrea McDaniel, a Union graduate and co-founder of As We Forgive, met Bisangwa as he was finishing high school.

Even during his work for Peace and Love Proclaimers, being on his high school’s debate team and actively serving in several other clubs, Bisangwa maintained a perfect grade point average in his classes. His scores allowed him to consider studying at a university in the United States.

McDaniel suggested Union to Bisangwa. With an academic scholarship, he enrolled at Union in 2011.

Bisangwa has never met a stranger. Within weeks of being on campus, he was a favorite friend among students, giving people warm “hello’s” with his wide smile and cheerful eyes.

His profile on Facebook shows just how memorable Bisangwa is to people he meets. Since being at Union, Bisangwa has added 600 Facebook friends, making his total 5,000. Most college students have between 300 and 1,000.

“I know I have had a conversation with about 90 percent of [my Facebook friends]

because, when I tried to delete some of them, they would message me and say, ‘I know you. We’ve met.’ And then they would recount the conversation we had.”

Caleb Creel, a junior at Union and Bisangwa’s roommate, said Bisangwa’s care for others is evident, even in small actions. If he is eating a fast-food meal and a friend is nearby, he’ll often offer them his fries or hamburger. Creel said he

I feel like we (youth) are the ones to change our country. Our parents have been involved in genocide so we want to change that.

first took such offers, assuming Bisangwa must not want the rest. He later realized Bisangwa was just being generous.

“Why would I share something I don’t want?” Creel remembers Bisangwa asking him.

Bisangwa has shared his music with Creel and their roommates, as well.

“He loves to play Kinyarwanda music really loudly,” Creel said with a laugh.

Each Tuesday afternoon, Bisangwa heads to the small gym at Union to play hours of indoor soccer with a group of students he organized. Bisangwa also found time to help found a new organization, the International Student Union, of which he is the vice president.

Though he quickly adjusted socially at Union, Bisangwa said he found



transitioning to the United States’ education style much more challenging.

Bisangwa is fluent in Kinyarwandan, Ugandan, French and English, with a knowledge of Swahili, too. He spoke English in his school rooms in grade school, but gets permission from his professors at Union to record the lectures. Listening to lectures after classes helps him to capture what was said too quickly for him to catch in the classes.

After taking a test at Union, Bisangwa is always reminded of one way he wants to change Rwandan education. Teachers in Rwanda do not often require critical thinking in their classrooms. Bisangwa had to adjust quickly to keep up with his classmates at Union who grew up in the United States and have been familiar with critical thinking-based tests throughout their childhood.

Bisangwa also dreams of building a library to make books available to Rwandan students.

“We don’t really emphasize [the need for] our kids to read books when they’re young,” Bisangwa said. “You can’t tell them to start reading books when they don’t have books to read.”

But complaining is not his style. When Bisangwa encounters an academic challenge, he uses it to shape his vision for the future. He takes mental notes of each way he was not prepared well enough for college in his Rwandan schools. One day, Bisangwa hopes to open a school in Rwanda.

“In Rwanda, we really need improved education,” Bisangwa said. “I have that task to make some changes in the education system. It lacks so many things; most of the things I learned from here.” ■





PHOTO COURTESY OF GINGER IVEY (GINGERIVEYPHOTO.COM)

# SERVING THE LORD BY SERVING PETER

BY TIM ELLSWORTH

A mangled Buick and a banged-up Dodge truck sat on Highway 1187 as Doug Helms drove to Rock Creek Baptist Church on a typical hot, Texas summer Thursday. As pastor there for 14 years, he had made the trip hundreds of times.

This time, however, he met the mess of an awful accident. He could recognize a pickup truck. The other vehicle was so badly damaged he couldn't make it out.

"Lord, I pray for whoever that was," Doug prayed. "I don't see how they could survive that. But if he or she is still alive, please save them and raise them back up."

An hour later, his wife Selah called him at the church. "Come to the hospital," she told him. "Pete's been in a serious wreck."

Only then did it register. The other car he had seen on the road was his own. He had unknowingly uttered that prayer on behalf of his youngest son.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,  
Come disaster, scorn and pain.  
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,  
With Thy favor, loss is gain.  
I have called Thee Abba Father,  
I have stayed my heart on Thee.  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;  
All must work for good to me.

"Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken,"  
by Henry Lyte

In a perfect world, Peter Helms would have been a freshman at Union University in the fall of 2010, following in the footsteps of his older brothers Andrew (2007) and Caleb (2009). He was three weeks away from moving from his home in Fort Worth, Texas, to Jackson. His bags were packed.

"Peter was excited about Union," Doug says. "He wanted to go. He saw the good things that happened to Andrew and Caleb, and he thought it was going to be a great experience for him, too."

In a perfect world, Doug and Selah Helms would have been finished with the bulk of the parenting and caregiving for their four exceptional kids. Andrew was a doctoral student in philosophy at Notre Dame. Caleb was an accountant in Fort Worth. Their daughter Beth was studying music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Peter had shown aptitude in art, history, theology and writing and seemed to be considering God's call into the ministry.

Four kids who excelled academically and who loved Christ deeply. By any measure, their labors as parents—the prayers, the encouragement, the instruction, the admonishment, the discipline—had been immensely successful.

In a perfect world, Peter would have just finished his junior year at Union this spring. He had a full tuition scholarship and planned to be a member of Union's debate team. What would his college

years have been like? Would he have loved Union as much as his brothers did? What field of study would he have chosen? What would his career path have been? Who would his friends have been? Would he have his eye on a young lady?

Those questions don't have answers, because that accident on July 29, 2010, reminded the Helms family in a painful way that this is not a perfect world. All the dreams and the hopes they had for Peter vanished in a second when a half-ton Dodge pickup broadsided him.

Though the accident didn't claim his life, it claimed almost everything else—his personality, his communication, his intellect, his mobility, his self-sufficiency.

Peter's condition, labeled as traumatic brain injury, has destroyed the pathways from his brain to his body. He's not paralyzed, but he can't speak or control his movements. He has minimal usage of his left arm and hand, allowing him to give weakened hugs to family members and push something away that he doesn't want. Those small movements are skills he has regained since his accident. He has also recovered a limited ability to eat.

"It's been the biggest battle for our faith that we've ever faced," Peter's mother Selah says. "We've been alive 50-something years, and we've had all the various trials that people generally have in life. But this one really takes the cake."

Over the past three years, the Helms family has learned to rely on each other

more than ever before. They've felt the love and support of fellow Christians in their church, in their local community and around the world. But most of all, they've leaned heavily on the Scriptures to get them from today to tomorrow, as they've endured unimaginable heartache and challenges, with no apparent end in sight.

"The only satisfying source of comfort is in what God's revealed to us in his word," Doug says. "I look at the possibility of Peter being like this for the rest of his life, maybe for the rest of my life, and sometimes it's just, wow. We're tied to this burden that we can't bear."

But then Doug reads passages like 2 Corinthians 4:17-18: "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

A highly intelligent son who may never talk to them again? A light and momentary affliction.

An active son who loved playing basketball and who may never walk again? A light and momentary affliction.

Empty nest years now replaced with round-the-clock care for their invalid son? A light and momentary affliction.

Yes, caring for Peter can sometimes seem burdensome and overwhelming. But then Selah reminds herself of who Peter was before his accident. She has described him as a classically-educated Samwise Gamgee, the "Lord of the Rings" character who aids Frodo in his quest to destroy the ring—always quietly helping someone else succeed.

"He's brave when you are weak," she wrote on a blog posting shortly after the crash. "He's loyal when you're discouraged. And if you get tired, he'll help shoulder the burden. He just also happens to be a National Merit Finalist."

She has recounted the ways that Peter was a constant encouragement to them and to others—printing and folding church bulletins early Sunday mornings, helping clean the church building, fixing



breakfast early on Saturdays for the men’s book studies (and never complaining about not getting to sleep in), sitting with a 9-year-old boy at church whose parents don’t attend.

The night before his accident, Peter finished his final Eagle Scout project—building a chain-link fence around the playground at his church and decorating the area with timbers and mulch. The rank of Eagle Scout was bestowed upon him in his hospital bed.

“This is one of the many graces God has given our family in this challenging situation: it’s not at all hard to serve Peter,” Selah wrote. “It’s always a blessing to get to serve one who has offered himself in service to the Lord and to others. Just as Peter has modeled service to us in the Lord, it’s easy for us to serve the Lord by serving Peter.”

“All the good things that Peter had—all of the skills, all of the personality traits that he was able to display—everything we loved about Peter was a gift from the Lord, and Peter was not the source of those things,” Andrew says. “When we face something like his accident—an event like that—we’re being directed to look up from the broken image to the one who gave him all of those good things.

“As hard as it is to see how this could be, this accident was for Peter’s good as well. It is the Lord’s plan in his life to bring Peter into closer communion with him and into deeper trust in him. That’s really what’s important for us, and that’s what’s really important for Peter.”

Peter was on his way to mow the lawn of an elderly church member the morning of his accident. He sat on a country road, preparing to cross a busier thoroughfare. A semi driver also waited at the intersection, wanting to turn onto the road where Peter was stopped.

Reports indicate that the truck driver motioned Peter through the intersection. Peter obliged, not seeing that another vehicle was behind the semi and was speeding toward him. As he advanced through the intersection, that pickup

truck slammed into Peter—in an instant ending the kind of life he had known and the expectations of that life in the future.

It’s always a blessing to get to serve one who has offered himself in service to the Lord and to others.

Andrew Helms spent the morning in a coffee shop in South Bend, Ind., studying for his comprehensive exams. Always concerned about his grades, Andrew is one of those students whose worries about academics are almost always unfounded.

After graduating summa cum laude from Union in 2007, he finished his master’s degree at Texas A&M before beginning his doctoral work at Notre Dame.

He had returned to his room after his morning’s studies and checked in on Facebook when he saw the status update posted by his sister Beth. Peter may have been in a serious accident. No details to report.

“Just exactly the kind of thing to cause you to worry,” Andrew says. “I prayed pretty desperately when I saw that.”

Seven years younger than Andrew, Peter often teamed up with his oldest brother against Caleb and Beth when the four played as children. While Andrew worried about things regularly, Peter took a more laid back approach to life.

“Peter has always been the person in my life who calms me down and loosens me up,” Andrew says. “Peter could always know exactly how to tease me out of taking myself so seriously.”

When Andrew reached his parents after hearing about Peter’s accident, he

discovered that his youngest brother was unconscious. He wept over the phone as he heard details about Peter’s condition, praying that Peter would wake up and that the injuries would not have serious long-term consequences.

He then caught a flight back to his Fort Worth home, leaving nearly all his possessions in Indiana. He told his parents that he would stay with them as long as they needed him. As the days passed and it became clear that Peter wouldn’t be returning to normal anytime soon, Andrew decided to take a year’s break from his studies to remain in Texas with Peter, helping his parents with his brother’s care.

“Andrew has really shown his love and concern for Peter in his sacrifice in doing that,” Caleb Helms says. “I think he’s really been an example to a lot of people who have seen his willingness to set aside his career to help take care of Peter.”

The head of his department at Notre Dame graciously gave Andrew the time away from his studies to care for his brother. That care was the equivalent of several full-time jobs and involved keeping Peter clean, turning him in his bed, suctioning out his tracheostomy tube, as well as speech, physical and occupational therapy.

The work was often laborious, but Andrew’s time at home brought an unexpected blessing—he got to know a family friend, Amy Rose, who became his wife in 2012.



Older brother Andrew offers care to Peter.

After a year, with volunteers and home health care workers on hand to continue providing for Peter’s needs, Andrew returned to Notre Dame. While he loves philosophy, it’s his grounding in Scripture that provides the basis for thinking about Peter’s life.

“The Lord really doesn’t owe us a certain kind of life,” Andrew says. “We’re not each guaranteed a fulfillment of the American dream. He doesn’t parcel out the American dream in accordance with how faithfully you’re following him.”

That’s evident, Andrew says, because Peter followed the Lord faithfully. He loved missions and serving others. Little kids at their church adored him.

“If we try to understand life along the lines of strict merit and reward, this would be extremely confusing,” Andrew says. “It would make us really bitter. But the Lord dispenses his gifts not in accord with that kind of system, but in accord with what will serve his own glory and what will be for our good.

“So ultimately, it may not be that the Lord primarily wants Peter to be a gifted artist or a skilled musician, but he wants Peter to be able to commune with him and to trust him.

“The only thing we’re really holding onto is communion with God through Christ.”

An electrician named Shawn who was working nearby witnessed the accident and rushed over to help. He took off his shirt and wiped away the blood gushing from Peter’s face, badly cut in two.

EMTs arrived on the scene and assessed the situation.

“This one’s gone,” they said as they looked in on Peter, preparing instead to concentrate their efforts on the other woman involved in the wreck. (She sustained minor injuries.)

“Oh no,” Shawn told them. “He’s still alive. You need to come and get him.”

Later in the day, Shawn posted photos of Peter’s car on Facebook.

“I helped this guy today,” Shawn wrote. “I’m sure he didn’t make it. Rest in peace, little dude. I did all I could.”



Growing up in Fort Worth, Peter spent hours as a young boy sitting and playing with small, intricate toys. His skill as an artist manifested itself early, as Peter regularly lay on his stomach on the floor and listened as Doug read books to the children—books like *The Chronicles of Narnia* or *Little House on the Prairie*.

As he listened, he occupied himself by sketching pictures of the characters and scenes in the stories. His drawings still adorn his room in the Helms home, along with the ribbons that Peter won in several local art competitions.

Though quiet by nature, Peter often took full advantage of his status as the youngest child.

“He never got his fair share of spankings,” Caleb recalled. “He was a pretty good kid—that’s mostly compared to me and my sister—but he never got caught.”

Still, Peter’s heart for the Lord developed at an early age. He became a Christian as a young boy, and Selah remembers with tenderness the way Peter always prayed on his birthday each year.

“Thank you for these nine good years you’ve given me,” he’d pray. “You’ve been so good to me. If you’re so good to me as to let me live another year, let me live it for your glory.”

“We didn’t teach him to do that,” Selah says. “He was our only child to pray that prayer. He is a humble guy, and he recognized that everything that he had came from the Lord, and that he had given up rights to his own life.”

Home schooled like his other siblings, Peter spent a lot of time with his dad after

his sister and brothers had left home. Like a typical teenager, Peter wrestled with various struggles and insecurities. But his love for the Lord continued to grow.

“Dad, some of the guys at church want to do a book study this summer,” Peter told Doug one day. “Do you think that would be OK?”

Doug was delighted with Peter’s initiative. The group chose John Piper’s *Don’t Waste Your Life*, and had been reading through it in the weeks leading up to the wreck.

Some might see Peter now and think his life to be a wasted one. So much potential and promise. So many gifts and abilities. So much good that he could have done for God’s kingdom.

But the Helms family doesn’t view it that way, and Peter wouldn’t have viewed it that way. His favorite song, “Jesus I My Cross Have Taken,” refers to pain in God’s service being pleasure, and loss being gain.

“We feel that God doesn’t waste anything,” Doug says. “We’re tempted to see ourselves as just sidelined and set up on the shelf. God is going to get glory from your suffering, if you’re faithful, regardless of who knows it or who sees it or how many lives you touch.”

God is responsible, Doug says, not just for people’s abilities, but for their disabilities as well, and that even this accident is God’s doing in some way.

“Yes, Peter made a misstep out on the road,” he says. “But I’ve made a misstep out on the road too that could have ended in disaster, and God’s held me back from it. But God chose not to do that this time.





PHOTO COURTESY OF GINGER IVEY (GINGERIVEYPHOTO.COM)

He’s got some sort of purpose in this.”

That purpose isn’t always easy to see. But sometimes God provides glimpses that keep the Helms family encouraged. During a recent stay at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, where Peter finally got his trach tube removed after more than two years, a respiratory therapist told Doug how blessed he had been by spending time with the family talking about the Bible.

“I have felt like a lost sheep for a long time, and I wondered if God would ever find me,” he said. “After spending this week with Peter, I feel that God is finding me. I have grown in my heart.”

God is still using Peter, even in his weakened condition, in ways that the Helms family never imagined.

Caleb Helms was at lunch with coworkers when he got the phone call about Peter’s accident. At first, he thought little of it. Caleb had been in a minor fender-bender earlier in the year. So had others in the family. Most wrecks aren’t too bad, Caleb thought to himself. He’ll probably be just fine.

The gravity of the situation began to sink in, however, as more and more details emerged. Caleb quickly joined his family at the hospital.

“It was kind of scary seeing him hooked up to all these machines,” Caleb says.

Peter’s face was covered in blood. Caleb later heard that only about 10 percent of people survive with injuries similar to Peter’s.

“I really didn’t know that he was going to survive for a while,” Caleb says. “I couldn’t really imagine life without Peter.”

Peter was always much more interested in being Caleb’s wrestling opponent than Andrew was. Though Peter described himself as the “jock son” of Doug and Selah, Caleb contested that. The two opposed each other in chess regularly as well.

But it wasn’t until Caleb left home for Union that he really began to appreciate some of his younger brother’s characteristics—such as the way Peter always tried to reach out to those who were new at the church or those who didn’t have as many friends.

“It showed that he was humble in that he didn’t have to have people always being around him, being his friends,” Caleb says. “He was willing to go and make others feel welcome.”

Like Andrew, Caleb pitched in to help with Peter’s care as much as he could. His station in life was a bit different from Andrew’s, however, making it more

difficult for him to assist as much. For one thing, Caleb was married, and he knew his relationship with his wife Hope couldn’t be sacrificed. He was also preparing for the CPA exam.

“It’s something that hasn’t gone away, and that’s been one of the harder aspects of it,” Caleb says. “It’s been a constant emotional stress. It’s realizing that we’re not able to talk to him, and we miss him. We can spend all day with him and still miss him, because we miss hearing him talk and carrying on a conversation

with us. It’s kind of like having him around and losing him at the same time.”

But he credits his parents with providing them with a foundation and a framework to understand the circumstances in the light of God’s sovereignty and love.

“We have the assurance that we’ll see him again in heaven, no matter what happens on earth,” Caleb says. “It’s really hard to deal with the realization that we might not interact with him again on earth like we have, but we do have that assurance to encourage us.”

Peter’s future in this life remains uncertain. Though family members held out hope for a while about improvements in his condition, time has tempered those expectations. Any significant changes now will likely be slow in coming, if they come at all. Sometimes for Doug and Selah, even getting out of bed in the morning can be challenging.

Their faith through the trials, however, is nothing short of remarkable. They may not know what the future holds, but they know what God has said to them in the Bible.

For example, Doug quotes Deuteronomy 29:29: “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the

things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

Peter fits squarely under the heading of “the secret things of God,” Doug says. They ask God what he’s going to do with Peter, and the reply is, “I’m not going to tell you. But in the meantime, I’ve given you a lot to do. Focus on those things.”

“You can lie in bed and wonder what’s going to happen, and feel sorry for yourself, and feel sorry for Peter,” Doug says. “Or you can get up and go do what you’re supposed to do. It doesn’t do him any good for me to be depressed. And I’m depressed over this sometimes. And there are some times when we just have to cry.”

The episode has made the Helms family much more sympathetic to others who are enduring trials and afflictions. They can empathize with the pain, with the uncertainty, with the grief. And they have a fresh appreciation for the life that is to come.



As home schoolers, Selah says they raised their kids to be leaders and influencers here on earth. Though they love the Lord’s work and the Lord’s kingdom, their focus tended to be that kingdom in its current state, in this life. Let’s go change the world. Let’s take some ground for the Lord’s kingdom.

“The last two years have violently disentangled my fingers from earth and set me much more on looking to heaven,” Selah says. “I’m not nearly as attached to earth as I used to be. My Christian life is not about being here so much anymore. I feel like, hopefully, that will make me more useful down here, for as long as I am here.

“I don’t think I could make it through this without thinking about heaven and what heaven has in store for God’s people,” she continues. “Because we don’t know what Peter will get back here on earth.”

But they do know that regardless of Peter’s condition in a year, or five years, or 30 years, a day is coming when they

will reunite with their son in another life. Peter’s body and mind will be whole. He will be able to walk, to wrestle, to sing. And they will be able, once again, to listen to him and to laugh with him.

In essence, the Helms family has an unshakeable faith that God will answer that quick prayer that Doug offered on that July day—if not in this life, then in the next.

In a perfect world. 🌿

The last two years have violently disentangled my fingers from earth and set me much more on looking to heaven.

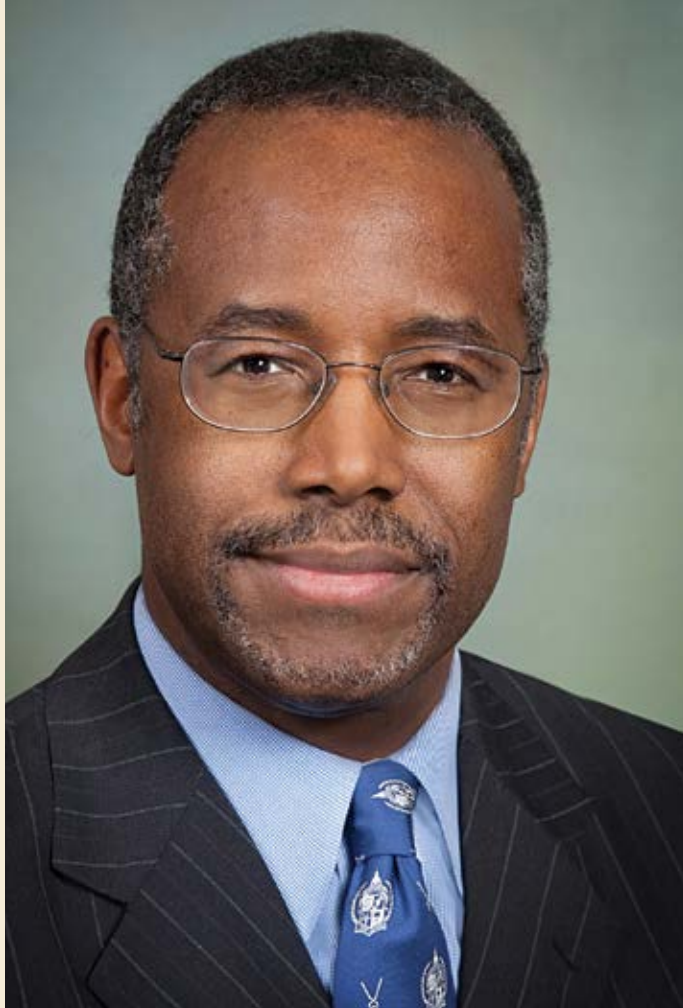


LEFT: Peter Helms poses for a senior portrait a few months before his accident.

CENTER: Peter, Beth and Andrew pose with Caleb after his graduation from Union on the Great Lawn.

ABOVE: Family and friends show their support by gathering around Peter’s bed.





# CARSON TO KEYNOTE 16TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

**N**oted pediatric neurosurgeon and author Benjamin Carson will be the keynote speaker for Union University's 16th annual Scholarship Banquet.

The event date is Tuesday, Oct. 22, at Jackson's Carl Perkins Civic Center.

Carson is a full professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where he has directed pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center for more than 25 years. He was the keynote speaker for the 2013 National Prayer Breakfast and was one of the speakers for the 2013 Conservative Political Action Conference.

HE IS A PERSON OF  
GREAT INFLUENCE,  
AS SEEN BY HIS ROLE  
IN THE 2013 NATIONAL  
PRAYER BREAKFAST.  
HIS POWERFUL STORY IS  
INSPIRATIONAL, EDIFYING  
AND CHALLENGING.

He holds more than 60 honorary doctorates and has received hundreds of awards and citations, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2008. In 2001, CNN and *Time* magazine named him one of the nation's 20 foremost physicians and scientists. The movie "Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story," starring Cuba Gooding Jr. as Carson, premiered on TNT in 2009 and is based on Carson's memoir.

"Ben Carson participates in the highest sphere of health care in this country," Union University President David S. Dockery said. "He is a person of great influence, as seen by his role in the 2013 National Prayer Breakfast. His powerful story is inspirational, edifying and challenging. We will be incredibly blessed to have him as our keynote speaker for the 2013 Scholarship Banquet."

Dockery said attempts have been made for several years to bring Carson to Union, but conflicting schedules always prevented such an appearance.

Carson is president and co-founder of the Carson Scholars Fund, which recognizes young people of all backgrounds for exceptional academic and humanitarian accomplishments. The fund has awarded more than \$5 million dollars to more than 5,000 scholars.

He is also the author of five books, including *Gifted Hands*, *Think Big* and *America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great*. Carson and his wife Candy have been married for more than 37 years and have three sons.

Union Scholarship Banquets have generated about \$5.5 million for student scholarships since the event began in 1997. For information about table sponsorships and individual seating, please contact the Office of University Relations at (731) 661-5050 or make reservations online by following the link at [uu.edu/events/scholarshipbanquet](http://uu.edu/events/scholarshipbanquet).



## Gates ties U.S. influence to its character at home

**F**ormer U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates provided a sobering analysis of recent world events, but said he remains "fundamentally optimistic" about the future of the United States.

Gates addressed the 15th Annual Scholarship Banquet at Union University, helping raise about \$500,000 for student scholarships.

The former president of Texas A&M praised the work of Union in shaping future leaders, whom Gates said must be grounded in faith and integrity to face future challenges at home and abroad.

"It will take real leadership, political will, shared sacrifice and a willingness to compromise," Gates said.



# LIFE IN THE BALANCE



Most student athletes have some adjustments to make when they come to Union and compete at the collegiate level. But Astrid Huttemann had more obstacles in front of her than most.

She came to Jackson from Asunción, Paraguay. At first, her conversational English skills were a work in progress.

“It was a horrible feeling, not being able to express what you wanted to say,” Huttemann remembers. “I really had a hard time.”

Huttemann, now completing her sophomore year, says her life has changed dramatically since those early freshman days. Interacting with friends and teammates led to rapid improvement in her spoken English.

She also made a personal profession of her faith in Jesus Christ for the first time. She says that profession was more of a breakthrough than the improvements in her English skills.

“It made a huge difference. I have perspective now,” Huttemann says. “I want to do missions. I want to make an impact in my hometown.”

World Bank statistics show more than a third of Paraguay’s population lives below the poverty line, among the highest such percentages in South America.

“In Paraguay, there are a lot of poor people,” says Huttemann, a social work major. “So I just want to go and do whatever God lets me or give me the opportunity to do.”

Basketball brought her to Union, but the life she is living here will have an impact far beyond the court and for many years to come.

I have perspective now. I want to do missions. I want to make an impact in my hometown.



“Our athletics program gives us a platform to tell the story of changed lives,” says Jerry Tidwell, senior vice president for university relations and athletics. “We want to make sure these students come to Union and they perform well as athletes, students and Christians.”

Tidwell says Union’s student athletes have a graduation rate slightly higher than the general student population. Student athletes are committed to academic programs such as pre-pharmacy, pre-medicine, engineering and nursing.

Union’s transition to NCAA Division II competition sheds a new focus on Huttemann’s story and others like it. In recent years, Division II schools have adopted a model described as “Life in the Balance,” which focuses on academics and community service as well as athletics.

Union has exemplified this type of approach to athletics for many years.

Tidwell credits Union coaches with recruiting well-rounded students and then encouraging them to live that life in the balance.

“I can say after spending time with our coaches that they are not only fine people, they’re wonderful moms, dads, husbands, wives and believers in Christ,” Tidwell says. “We’re proud of the work our coaches are doing.”

Huttemann says her head coach Mark Campbell became a father-figure who pointed her to a deeper knowledge of Christ.

“From the beginning, when I started talking to Coach Campbell by phone or he emailed me, he always talked about God to me,” she says. “He invited me to his church. He is just a great example of being a godly man.”

As the visible trek toward full NCAA Division II membership continues, it’s also worth watching the less visible but deeply important progress made by individual Union athletes.

“These athletes come here not just to play the sport,” says Tidwell. “They see the sport as an avenue by which they can serve Christ.”

## Union’s new website for athletics

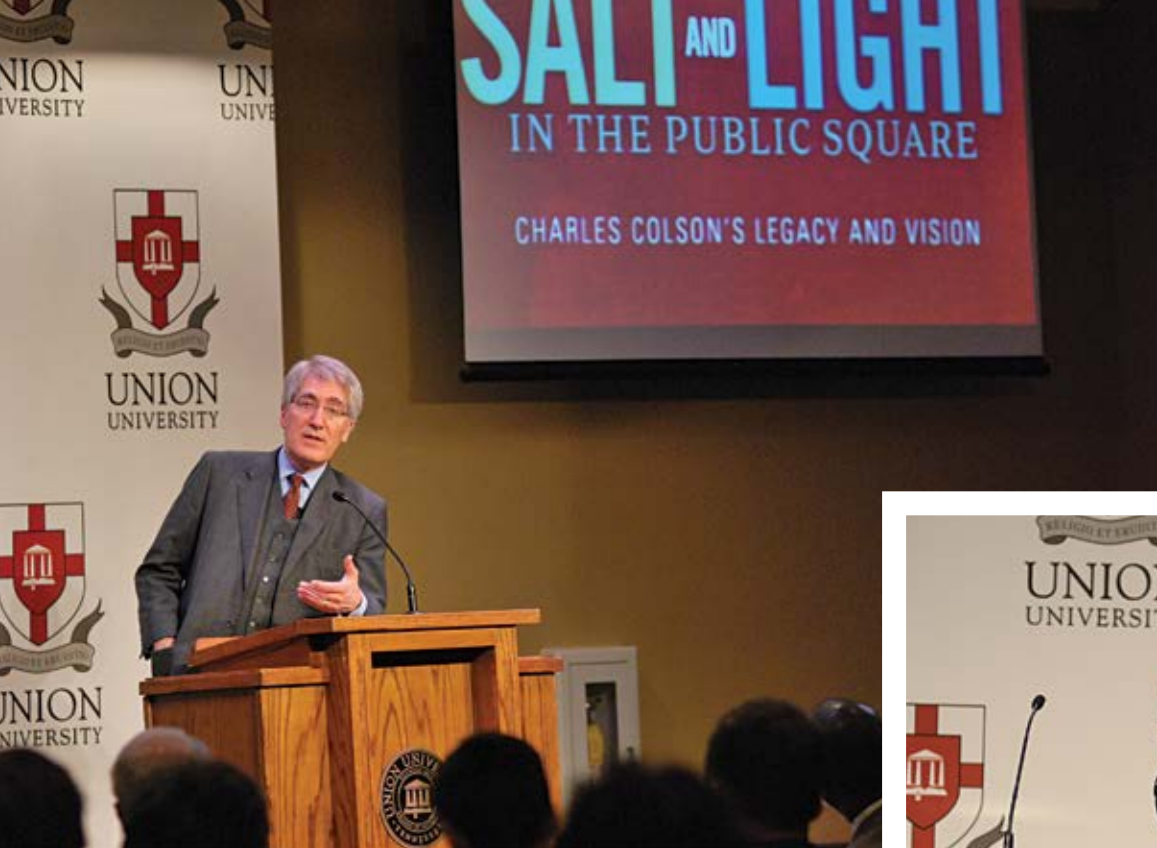
Bulldogs fans have a new home on the web for following their favorite teams and players:

[UUATHLETICS.COM](http://UUATHLETICS.COM)

In addition to the latest scores and results, the site features in-depth information about the Sports Hall of Fame, summer sports camps and a look at Union facilities and traditions. It is also the place to connect with live audio and video feeds for sporting events throughout the academic year.







LEFT: Keynote speaker Robert George, Princeton University, talks to participants of the Salt and Light Conference in the Grant Events Center. BELOW: Garland Hunt, president of Prison Fellowship, speaks about caring for “the least of these.”



## COLSON LEGACY

# SALT AND LIGHT IN

Speakers at Union University’s “Salt and Light in the Public Square” conference in May examined the legacy of Charles Colson and how future Christians should engage with the cultural issues about which he regularly engaged.

According to President David S. Dockery, Colson was encouraged by Union University’s Christ-centered approach to education. Colson passed away April 21, 2012.

“Chuck Colson was a great friend of this University—a wonderful banner-waver for what we were trying to do,” Dockery said. Union awarded Colson with an honorary doctorate in 2001. “He was impressed with Union’s commitment to rigorous academics grounded, without apology, in the best of the Christian intellectual tradition.”



**Web exclusive:** Video of all the following conference addresses is available at [uu.edu/unionite](http://uu.edu/unionite)

### TIMOTHY GEORGE

Timothy George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, gave the homily at Colson’s funeral. His friendship with Colson began years earlier. In 2009, they, with Robert George, drafted the Manhattan Declaration. The document, signed by more than half a million Christians, supports life, affirms biblical marriage and seeks to protect freedom of religion.

In his conference address, George focused on the sanctity of life, an issue he said Colson saw as crucial. Though many religious people uphold the sanctity of life, George asked, “Does the church of Jesus Christ have anything to say about this issue that no else can say?” George answered in the affirmative, noting the incarnation and Jesus’ entry to earth as a baby as two of Christianity’s distinctive promotions of the sanctity of life.

### ROBERT GEORGE

A third Manhattan Declaration drafter, Robert George, McCormick Professor of

Jurisprudence and director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University, followed Timothy George on Thursday night. He spoke about the third subject addressed in the Manhattan Declaration: liberty. To examine a person’s source of freedom, Robert George examined John Stuart Mill’s confidence in the progress of mankind and John Henry Newman’s freedom of conscience theory, siding more with the Christian, Newman.

“Newman is cognizant of both the need for restraints on freedom—less men to send into vice and self degradation,” George said, “and the supreme importance of central freedoms as conditions for the realization of values that truly are constitutive of the integral flourishing of men and women as free and rational creatures—creatures whose freedom and rationality reflect their having been made in the very image and likeness of the divine ruler of the universe.”

### GARLAND HUNT

Garland Hunt is the president of Prison Fellowship, the prison ministry Colson established after becoming a Christian himself soon before serving time in jail for his involvement for the Watergate scandal. Hunt took the position only a short time before Colson passed away. This year, he and other Prison Fellowship leaders continued Colson’s tradition of visiting with prisoners on Easter Sunday. Hunt spoke about caring for “the least of these,” referring to Jesus’ sermon recorded in Matthew 25.

“Sometimes, the least among us, God’s hand is on them,” Hunt said. “Sometimes, men can make bad decisions ... so you too at some point in life pay the price for successive bad decisions, but that does not mean that God’s hand is not on their life. I’m talking to you about this overall because I’m saying to you: it takes effort to reach the least among us. It’s not a pretty ministry.”

### ROBERT A. J. GAGNON

Robert A. J. Gagnon, an author and associate professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, spoke about the subject of his book, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*. Because American Christians live in a country in which they can have a say in the government, they have an obligation to do so. It’s not just a question of imposing particular Christian views on nonbelievers, Gagnon said. Natural theology and science support Scripture regarding sexual intercourse taking place only between a man and a woman who are married to each other, Gagnon said.

### HUNTER BAKER

Hunter Baker, associate professor of political science and dean of instruction at Union University, spoke about the younger Colson. During his political career, loyalty to a political figure was Colson’s gospel, Baker

environments,” Mitchell said. “Today, we are offered the opportunity for the technologist to become the technology.”

### GREGORY A. THORNBURY

Gregory A. Thornbury, professor of philosophy, dean of the School of Theology and Missions and vice president for spiritual life at Union, addressed the history of evangelical philosophy about evangelical engagement in his session. Evangelicals have not agreed on how to engage culture; not everyone in the early 2000s appreciated Colson’s conversations about culture change, Thornbury said. Though opinions continue to vary, the history of affecting culture began with the early church, he said. Christianity has moved from a rag-tag religion at its beginning to the leading religion of the modern world, by Christians rising to positions of influence in their societies after living out their faith in challenging times, Thornbury said.

# THE PUBLIC SQUARE

BY SAMANTHA ADAMS ('13)

### RUSSELL D. MOORE

Russell D. Moore, the president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, spoke about reclaiming a marriage culture that some evangelicals fear is being lost. Moore said marriage is both much more resilient and much more in peril than evangelicals often presume it to be. He discouraged the reactionary tendency among some evangelicals on the subject of marriage.

“We also need to recognize that we are not the losers in anyone’s culture war,” Moore said. “We do not address our neighbors [in the role of] losers who need to clamor for their attention. ... We have already been vindicated by our resurrection in the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not have anything to prove. That means that we ought to be able to speak without a sense of frantic defiance of the people around us.”

said. Even as a loyal aid, Colson was lonely, until he prayed in a car to God, “Take me.”

“Colson had to exchange a highly pragmatic and worldly faith—the one that had taken him a long way—for a new faith, one with extensive claims upon the whole of his life,” Baker said. “He recalled Bonhoeffer, who wrote that ‘to stay in the old situation makes discipleship impossible.’”

### C. BEN MITCHELL

C. Ben Mitchell, Union’s Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy, shared an interest in biotechnology ethics with Colson, even serving with him on a biotechnology council. Since World War II, people around the world have invoked the term “human dignity,” Mitchell said. The merging of the human with technology is the goal of many biotechnology scientists, Mitchell said, examining individual biotechnology fields of study, such as robotics, eugenists and transhumanists.

“In the past, it was the human who applied the technology to ... other

“If we believe in the same supernatural power that animated those early Christians, friends, it is not overly optimistic to believe that it could happen again,” Thornbury said.

### HAL L. POE

Of all the conference speakers, Hal L. Poe, Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture at Union, was the first to know Colson. During his address, Poe recounted his time on the same committee as a then-amoral Colson in South Carolina to re-elect President Richard M. Nixon. Though Poe resigned from the committee before the Nixon scandal broke, he said he connected several times with Colson after Colson’s conversion. As a Christian, Colson examined how the gospel answered his culture’s challenges, and that should be the goal of every Christian, Poe said.

The gospel is the message of what and who Christians believe, in every culture, place and time, Poe said. ■



# Homecoming 2013 features honored alumni and a winter wonderland



It's unlikely a poll of alumni would reveal ice skating as a treasured Union memory. But that could change.

For perhaps the first time ever on Union's campus, an outdoor ice skating rink became a favorite of alumni, friends and families celebrating Homecoming 2013.

In addition to the temporary rink, the Union winter wonderland included a jumbo-sized snow globe as a backdrop for family pictures and plenty of hot chocolate.

Union also hosted more traditional Homecoming events such as basketball games, a chapel service and class reunions.

Forty-two alumni from the Union University class of 1963 returned to campus to celebrate their 50-year reunion.

It was the first February homecoming at Union since 2006. The switch from a November schedule was made necessary by Union's transition to membership in the NCAA at the Division II level.

**Sephira Shuttlesworth ('79)** and **Rod Parker ('88)** received Distinguished



Service Awards. **Josh Trent ('02)** received the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award.

Hannah Strickland, a senior from Jackson, was selected as the 2013 Homecoming queen and was crowned at halftime of the Lady Bulldogs' basketball game. Strickland, an elementary education major, is the daughter of Wendell and Medora Strickland.

In addition to the Homecoming court, seniors Daniel Kelley and Kylie McDonald were named Mr. and Miss Union. 🍷



## 40's | FORTIES |

**Dr. James F. Eaves ('49)** and **Jeane Hillman Eaves ('49)** celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary March 17, 2013. Their home address remains 1517 Rockmoor Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76134. [mfeaves@yahoo.com](mailto:mfeaves@yahoo.com)

persons for extraordinary lifetime achievement and service to the state and nation." Thomas served as president of the South Carolina Power Team since its inception in 1988. He will close his 48-year career as one of the Southeast's most respected economic developers. He and his wife **Marie Thomas ('65)** have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

## 60's | SIXTIES |

**Ralph U. Thomas ('64)** retired as president of the South Carolina Power Team on May 1, 2013, and was



civilian honor, by Governor Nikki R. Haley. The award "recognizes

awarded the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest

**Gary Aslin ('67)** retired from the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, went on to manage an alcohol and drug rehab center, then became executive director of a facility for displaced children. Gary has also been a bi-vocational minister for 45 years. Currently, he is pastor of Notchaway Baptist Church in Colquitt, Ga. His wife **Linda ('66)** is a former employee of Union University (1962-66 and 1968) and is a retired business and music teacher, legal secretary

and real estate agent. Gary and Linda have four children: David Aslin, who is married to Cathy, a student in Union's master of nursing program; Ike Aslin, **Suzanne Aslin ('97)** and **Amy Aslin Beaty (attended '97)**, who is married to **Greg Beaty ('94)**. [nannieaslin@hotmail.com](mailto:nannieaslin@hotmail.com)

**Jim Frazier ('67)** recently retired after 44 years as a teacher, coach and administrator in four different West Tennessee school systems and eight different schools. While coaching football in Jackson City Schools at Parkway Junior High, his teams had three undefeated seasons and won eight city championships. He also coached track and organized and coached the first junior high tennis team in Jackson while at Parkway. In the Madison County System at Jackson North Side Junior High from 1982-

1986, his football teams won 32 straight games. He coached the first female state champion in any sport, girls track, while at Haywood High School. Jim has been married to **Judy Smith Frazier (attended '64-65)** for 46 years and they are the parents of **Butch ('86-88)** and Beth and grandparents to Coleman, Miller, Hank, Jordan and Katie. [jpfjr44@bellsouth.net](mailto:jpfjr44@bellsouth.net)

**Dr. Cecille Sampson Diez ('68)** retired from the school district of Osceola County, Fla., after a career in education that began after she graduated from Union. She worked in the classroom, as a district resource teacher, as a school-based administrator (after earning a masters and a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership), and finally as a senior manager for school leadership, training and development.

## Young alums seize opportunities for sacrificial giving

**David Haney ('11)** works on the security staff at Union University Germantown. When he looks back at his senior year on the Jackson campus, he remembers coming close to dropping out of school.

The problem was financial in nature. Money was tight.

Haney sought help from the Office of Student Financial Planning. Assistance came in the form of a scholarship earmarked for students from Memphis. He was relieved and grateful.

"It made the difference," Haney says today. "I could stay at Union and finish out my last year. I felt really blessed."

One might expect a person in that situation to express gratitude. But for Haney, the words represented much more than good manners.

"I was looking for an opportunity to give back, and I didn't know when it would come up," he says.

He says the moment came with the launch of Union's Renewing Minds library capital campaign on the Jackson campus. He decided to make a monthly pledge that would require significant changes in his personal spending habits.

"The Lord asks us to give sacrificially," Haney says. "Think about what Union has done for you. Union has blessed a lot of people's

lives, and I feel blessed to give that money back to Union."

Haney is among scores of students and young alums who have

supported the campaign. Many express a future-directed attitude that seeks even better opportunities for the Union students of tomorrow.

"That's what my gift is for," Haney says. "If the benefits come long after I'm gone, that's OK with me." 🍷



**Web exclusive:** Additional photo galleries and video from the homecoming chapel are available at [uu.edu/unionite](http://uu.edu/unionite)



**Bo O'Brien ('69)** was honored by Mayor Tim Walker and the city of Elizabethtown, Ky., when they named



center court at the new \$1.3 million Freeman Lake Tennis Complex (10 courts) the Bo O'Brien Court for his many contributions to the tennis community. Bo is chairman of the Elizabethtown Tennis Commission. [www.etowntennis.usta.com](http://www.etowntennis.usta.com)

## 70's | SEVENTIES |

**Suzanne Brockenbrough Par ('70)** has written a book about the Baby Boomer years entitled, *Joys and Sorrows of a Baby Boomer*, by S.A. Paradis. Suzanne describes it as "historical, informative and hilarious." It presents the reader with a glimpse of cruising the hangouts, watching drive-in movies, viewing the first television set and surviving three coastal hurricanes during the 1950s. Suzanne earned her degree in psychology and won the psychology medal of excellence at Union. She was a social worker and teacher for project Head Start under the Johnson administration, and later a case-manager for United Cerebral

Palsy. Suzanne retired and lives in Myrtle Beach, Fla., where she writes, paints and takes strolls on the beach. [suzpar12@gmail.com](mailto:suzpar12@gmail.com)

**Fred Charles Tubbs ('71)** recently celebrated his 12th anniversary as pastor of Orchi Baptist Church in Memphis. He retired from the funeral industry at Memorial Park Funeral Home in Memphis in November 2012. He sings with the Goldenaires Southern Gospel Quartet based out of Memphis. [fctubbs1948@yahoo.com](mailto:fctubbs1948@yahoo.com)

**Cheri Lee Wright Dood ('72)** is the director of International Christian Academy of Nagoya in Japan. The school will have its first graduating class in spring 2013. Cheri asks readers to pray for the school to continue to grow and for a campus where all grades can be together. Cheri asks readers to continue to lift up the nation of Japan that their hearts would be softened, their eyes opened and their souls accepting of Christ as Cheri and ICAN minister to students, parents and the community in their everyday lives. [cheridood@icanjapan.org](mailto:cheridood@icanjapan.org)

**Vic and Sharon Johnston ('75)** have returned to the States for a final stateside assignment and

retirement after serving 29 years as International Mission Board missionaries in Brazil. They are residing in Tylertown, Miss., where they planed to retire in April, 2013. [vjohnston@pobox.com](mailto:vjohnston@pobox.com)

**Mike Nolen ('77)** and **Jackie Foren Nolen ('74)** live in Paducah, Ky., where Mike is pastor at Bellview Baptist Church. They have four married daughters, three of whom are Union graduates: **Stacy Nolen Wolfe ('98)**, **Wendy Nolen Hill ('01)** and **Amy Nolen Little ('02)**. Mike has been in ministry for 39 years as a staff member and pastor in Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and Michigan, while Jackie has held teaching positions in several school districts. She currently serves as a substitute teacher for McCracken County Schools in Paducah. Mike and Jackie also have six grandchildren. [bromike@bellsouth.net](mailto:bromike@bellsouth.net)

**Wanda Toombs Patrick ('77)** has just completed 27 years with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center where she is admissions counselor for the College of Pharmacy. Her daughter Amanda graduated cum laude in December 2011 from the University of Memphis with a B.A. in English and political science. She will be moving to Dallas, Texas, to accept a position as producer for a nationally syndicated talk radio host. Her daughter Ashley graduated May 2013 with a B.A. in Social Work from the University of Memphis. After graduation, she plans to work in alcohol and drug counseling at an area rehabilitation facility.

## 80's | EIGHTIES |



**Garland Young ('80)** has been appointed as vice president for academic

affairs and dean at Milligan College in Elizabethtown, Tenn. [rgyoung@milligan.edu](mailto:rgyoung@milligan.edu)

**Greg Bowers ('85)** is pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church in Greenville N.C., after having previously served as pastor of FBC Blytheville, Ark., for nine years. He and his wife, Donna, a school psychologist for the Pitt County School System, have two children, Jordan, a senior at the University of Mississippi, and Katie, a sophomore at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. [bowersg@TMBc.org](mailto:bowersg@TMBc.org)

**Randy Bishop ('86)** recently published his fourth book related to the American Civil War. In April 2012, he also received the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association's Ragland Award, presented annually to the Tennessean who has been determined to have made a significant contribution to the preservation of the battlefields in the state. Randy and his wife Sharon are both teachers for the Hardeman County school system and have two sons, Jay and Ben. They live in Middleton, Tenn. [randynsharon@bellsouth.net](mailto:randynsharon@bellsouth.net)

**Lovoria Williams ('87)** received a doctorate in nursing from Georgia Health Sciences University in Augusta, Ga. Her dissertation was titled, "An Analysis of Diabetes Predictors and Diagnostic Tests in a Sample of African Americans at Risk for Diabetes." She is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing at Georgia Health Sciences University. Her research focus is faith-based behavioral interventions, obesity and diabetes prevention. Her current project is an NIH-funded diabetes prevention program conducted through African American churches. [Lovoriaw@gmail.com](mailto:Lovoriaw@gmail.com)

# A Friend in Need

**Carroll Griffin ('71)** and Larry Teague have been friends for years. Their families have vacationed together regularly. Their wives and children are close.

So when Teague discovered he needed a kidney transplant, Griffin volunteered. What are friends for, right? Except for Griffin, the friendship wasn't the determining factor.

"Even though we had a strong friendship, I don't think I would ever give a body part to a friend just because it would be a nice thing to do," Griffin said. "I'm not that nice... This is not about Larry and me. This is about being obedient to God."

Griffin is a longtime Union employee who now serves as director of marketing and enrollment for Union's continuing studies department. Teague is the father of four Union University graduates—Aimee, Carrie, Jonathan and Benjamin—and lives in Franklin, Tenn., where he and his wife Chris are members of Brentwood Baptist Church.

Teague's physical problems have

been persistent for a while. He has type 1 diabetes and has had high blood pressure for years. His kidney doctor told him he was losing the function of his kidneys, but they tried correcting that with diet and medication.

But then Teague had a stroke last year, followed by a heart attack a few months later, worsening the condition of his kidneys and increasing the urgency for a transplant. One day, Griffin overheard his wife Kay talking to Teague's wife Chris about his need for a transplant. The next morning during his quiet time, Griffin read a passage about being obedient to the Lord.

"I want to be obedient, Lord," Griffin prayed. "I want to do whatever you want me to do."

Griffin became increasingly aware that what God wanted was for him to offer his kidney to his friend.



"It's just Carroll's nature to do for others," Kay said. "He felt like God called him to do it, and he did it."

At first, Griffin was doubtful that he would be a match. But after all the tests were administered, his status as a match was confirmed.

The surgery took place in March and went smoothly. Griffin is back at work, and Teague is recovering as well. Though Teague will have to take immunosuppressant drugs for the rest of his life, he says the new kidney has improved his condition dramatically—both physically and emotionally.

"Carroll's a great person, and he's a very dedicated Christian," Teague said. "He's very obedient, and I'm just the beneficiary of that." 🙏

## 90's | NINETIES |

**Jane Geggus ('91)** accepted the position of student ministry associate at First Baptist Church of Maryville, Ill. [janegeggus@yahoo.com](mailto:janegeggus@yahoo.com)

**John Kea ('91)** is the new vice president and general counsel of the Southern Baptist Foundation in Nashville. Kea served as a partner in the law firm Scott & Kea from 1995–2003 and later was a vice president at Pinnacle Financial Partners/Cavalry Banking. Active in Southern Baptist life for more than

30 years, Kea was appointed in 2008 as an International Mission Board missionary to Belgium and has now returned to the United States. In his new position, Kea will guide the foundation in branding, marketing and relationship management.

**Dale Charlton (BSN '90, MSN '06)** retired from Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis in April 2012 as an assistant professor of nursing. He was with Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation for 21 years. He served as a nursing instructor at the Baptist Memorial

Hospital School of Nursing and staff development coordinator with Baptist Trinity Home Care, nurse recruiter for the corporation, chair of the Practical Nursing Program at Baptist College of Health Sciences and assistant professor of nursing (BSN degree program) at Baptist College of Health Sciences. [dcharlto@comcast.net](mailto:dcharlto@comcast.net)



**Carey Dyer ('93)** is currently the music and worship minister at Lakeside Baptist Church in Granbury,

Texas. He is married to Dena Dyer and has two sons, Jordan (14) and Jackson (8). More about Carey's ministry as a worship leader and concert artist can be found at [www.careydyer.com](http://www.careydyer.com).

**Anita Williams McGraw ('95)** completed the Doctor of Education degree at the University of Mississippi in August 2011. She is married to Brad McGraw and is the stepmother of Noelle McGraw and Clint McGraw. They live in Tupelo, Miss. [anitamcgraw09@gmail.com](mailto:anitamcgraw09@gmail.com)



## Freshman Move-in Day Aug. 2012



from left to right: Kara Glover (parents **Daniel ('88)** and **Susan Glover ('89)**), Audrey Engstrand (parents **Tracey Rose Holliday ('92)** and **Greg Engstrand ('88)**), Annelizabeth Lynch, Lindsay McRee.



from left to right: Daniel Watkins (class of 2016), **Blake Watkins ('94)**, Union University associate professor of pharmacy, **Tracey Rose Holliday ('92)**, Audrey Engstrand (class of 2016).

## 00's | TWO THOUSANDS |

**Shauna Green ('00)** moved back to Tennessee after teaching high school English in southern Arizona, and for the first time in 10 years is able to be a stay-at-home mom. [sgreen.tn@gmail.com](mailto:sgreen.tn@gmail.com)

**Garrison B. Smith ('00)** earned his medical degree at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. He also earned a certificate in Health Systems and Leadership

while at UTHSC. His internship and residency were completed at the UTHSC Surgery program in Memphis, where he served as a chief surgery resident. His training included the full scope of general surgery, with special interests in minimally invasive and endocrine surgery. He also had extensive trauma training at the Presley Memorial Trauma Center. During medical school, he received the award for Outstanding Performance as a Student in the Art and Science of Surgery as well as the Distinguished UT Student Service Award. As a surgical resident, the UT College of Medicine – Class of 2013 selected him for the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award and Outstanding Resident Role Model. Garrison and his wife, **Tonya Dotson Smith ('01)**, have two daughters, Brianna and Lily. Tonya completed a Master of Physical Therapy Degree at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Tenn. She currently works for Rehab America. [garrison07@gmail.com](mailto:garrison07@gmail.com)

**Melody Maxwell ('01)** recently began serving as director of the Great Commission Center and adjunct professor at East Texas

Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. Melody holds a Ph.D. from the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic.

**Caleb Trent ('01)** is serving on the board of "Aid For Haiti", a 501c3 that he started with two other physicians in 2008 in response to the medical and spiritual needs of Haitians in remote mountainous places. Aid For Haiti's mission of sharing the love of Christ with the people of Haiti through compassionate health care, spiritual ministry and training for service is based on Matthew 9:35. He came back in January from an AFH-sponsored pastor's conference attended by 75 pastors and men of local Haitian churches. [calebtrent@gmail.com](mailto:calebtrent@gmail.com)

**Allison Shein Holley ('05)** completed her family medicine residency at Halifax Family Medicine Residency Program in Daytona Beach, Fla., in June 2012. She and her husband David recently bought a home in Lighthouse Point, Fla., and are excited to start this new chapter in their lives. Allison will be practicing at Cleveland Clinic Florida's Family Health Center as a family physician in Weston, Fla., and David will be teaching computer programming at Pompano Beach High School. [allisonshein@hotmail.com](mailto:allisonshein@hotmail.com)

**Brian A. Taylor ('05)** has accepted a faculty position at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston after two years as a St. Jude postdoctoral study. Brian was recruited to Baylor CoM to serve as a MR physics researcher at the Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence at the Houston Michael E. DeBakey VA hospital, working with troops coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan with head injuries. This multidisciplinary center involves psychologists, radiologists and neurologists. Brian will be responsible for much of the brain imaging research at the center and will also serve as a clinical

medical physicist at the hospital. [Brian.Taylor@stjude.org](mailto:Brian.Taylor@stjude.org)

## Stephanie Terrell ('05)

graduated with her Doctorate of Psychology in Clinical Psychology from Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in October 2011 and completed her year of residency/postdoctoral study in October 2012. [s236626@yahoo.com](mailto:s236626@yahoo.com)

**Scott Talley ('07)** began his doctorate at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in fall 2012. He was also recently hired as the associate pastor of students at Enon Baptist Church outside of Richmond, Va. [Scott.talley@me.com](mailto:Scott.talley@me.com)

**Jason Wells ('08)** recently received the Project Management Professional designation from the Project Management Institute. [jasonwells.business@gmail.com](mailto:jasonwells.business@gmail.com)

## 10's | TWENTY TENS |

**Amber Lovelady ('11)** of Franklin, Tenn., received an award from Mississippi College School of Law during its annual Law Day ceremony. Lovelady was the recipient of the Marie Upton Scholarship Award, given to a student who shows a sense of service in the community and to others. Lovelady is the daughter of Katharine and Randy Lovelady.

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## Marriages

**April Frank ('99)** married Larry Strawn in Caseyville, Ill., on Nov. 26, 2011. Larry and April now reside in Shiloh, Ill. [aprl.frank@gmail.com](mailto:aprl.frank@gmail.com)

**Jill Nanney Patrick ('02)** and Mike Patrick were married on Oct. 27, 2012, at Whitestone Country Inn in Kingston, Tenn. They live in Alpharetta, Ga., where Jill works for



Community Business Bank as the credit administration officer and Mike is a compensation consultant for Towers Watson. [lashea80@hotmail.com](mailto:lashea80@hotmail.com)

**Julie Dodson Turner ('02)** married Ty Michael Turner on Oct. 20, 2012, at Germantown Baptist



Church. Julie works as senior account executive for Good Advertising in Memphis, and Ty is the development leader for the Southeast for Domino's Pizza. The couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Hawaii and reside in Collierville, Tenn.

[julie.turner@goodadvertising.com](mailto:julie.turner@goodadvertising.com)

**Sarah Hubbard Wood ('04)** married Colin Wood on May 12, 2012 in Louisville, Ky. She continues to serve at Graceland Baptist



Church as the administrative assistant to the student and recreation ministries, while Colin studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. They attend Ninth and O

Baptist Church in Louisville. [colinandssarahwood@gmail.com](mailto:colinandssarahwood@gmail.com)

**Tiffany Tosh Cantrell ('08)** married Rob Cantrell III in the Bahamas on June 6, 2012. They reside in Jackson, Tenn., where Tiffany is employed as a nurse with West Tennessee Surgery Center.

**Kristi McMurphy Woody ('10)** and **Rhett Woody ('11)** were married



on Oct. 6, 2012, at Absher Farms. They reside in Jackson, Tenn., where Rhett is an engineer at Anvil International and Kristi is web design specialist at Union.

## Births

**Ruth Weisbrod McShane ('96)** and Michael McShane and big brother Nathan welcomed Evan Duane on Feb. 1, 2012. They reside in Springfield, Mo., where Ruth works part-time as a registered nurse at CoxHealth and Mike is a computer programmer at Jack Henry and Associates. [rmcshane@mchsi.com](mailto:rmcshane@mchsi.com)

**Janna Walker ('98)** and Kirby Walker announce the birth of their son, Bryant Atlas, on Aug. 29, 2011. Bryant weighed 9 lbs., 12 oz.



and was 20 in. long. He has a sibling, Dalton. [janna\\_govols@yahoo.com](mailto:janna_govols@yahoo.com)

**Angelika Sorrow ('97)** and her husband, Andrew, welcomed Annabeth Ranges Sorrow on Dec. 22, 2010. Her 5-year-old twin brothers, Seth and Ethan, adore her. [asorrow04@gmail.com](mailto:asorrow04@gmail.com)

**Amy Britt Hollowell ('98)** and Jason Hollowell welcomed Caroline Joy into their family on Oct. 6, 2011. She weighed 7 lbs., 7 oz. and was 18 ½ in. long. Caroline has a very proud big sister, Callie Lynn. [ahollowell99@yahoo.com](mailto:ahollowell99@yahoo.com)



**AnnieLaurie Crane Walters ('99)** and her husband Brian are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Lucia Kathryn "LucyKate" Walters, born Oct. 12, 2011, in Leesburg, Va. LucyKate weighed 7 lbs., 12 oz. and was 21 ½ in. long. AnnieLaurie and Brian both work for McLean Bible Church in the suburbs of Washington, DC and reside in Leesburg, Va. [annielauriewalters@gmail.com](mailto:annielauriewalters@gmail.com)



**Monte and Christian Kinney Fransen ('00)** are pleased to announce the incredible blessing of the birth of their precious daughter, Keeley Wynn, on Oct. 29, 2011. She weighed 5 lbs., 9 oz. and was 18 ½ in. long. Keeley is their first child. [christiankeren@gmail.com](mailto:christiankeren@gmail.com)

**Rebekah Coleman Wales ('01)** and **Travis Wales ('02)** and their 6-year-old Virginia "Ginny" Elayne welcomed the newest member of their family, Olivia June, on March 20, 2012. Travis is manager of field services at Education Networks of America in Nashville and Rebekah is a homemaker. They live in White Bluff, Tenn. [traviswales@gmail.com](mailto:traviswales@gmail.com)

**Emily Price Culberson ('03)** and **Todd Culberson ('03)** celebrated the birth of Owen Heath Culberson on Nov. 13, 2012. Owen was 7 lb., 14 oz. and 20 ½ in. long. Owen's big



brother is Noah Todd Culberson. [emily\\_culberson@comcast.net](mailto:emily_culberson@comcast.net)

**Candace Nickel Martin ('05)** married Chad Martin in October 2009, and they currently live in the Nashville area. Their first child, a son named Henderson Lee Martin, was born on June 19, 2012, and weighed 5 lbs., 6.2 oz. and was 19 ½ in. long. [Clnaetin1010@gmail.com](mailto:Clnaetin1010@gmail.com)



**Bethany Burchyett Hays ('06)** and **Benjamin Hays ('06)** celebrated the birth of their son

Samuel Arthur Hays on Nov. 9, 2011. Bethany works as director of operations at Camelot Care Center in Nashville, Tenn., and Benjamin is a product consultant for Allstate Insurance. [ba.hays@hotmail.com](mailto:ba.hays@hotmail.com)

**Jenny Buffington Liesen ('06)** and her husband welcomed their first child on Sept. 8, 2010. Samuel Thomas Liesen weighed 8 lbs., 6 oz. and was 21 ½ inches long. Jenny is a supervised Counselor at Gateway Home Care and Hospice in Clarksville, Tenn., and her husband serves as a captain in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell. [jennyliesen@yahoo.com](mailto:jennyliesen@yahoo.com)

**Blake McKinney ('08)** and **Jennifer Walton McKinney ('07)** welcomed their daughter, Lily Anastasia McKinney, home on April 23, 2012. She weighed 7 lb., 3 oz. and was 20 in. long. Blake McKinney graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in theology in December 2011. Blake, Jennifer and Lily currently reside in Louisville, Ky. [blake.mckinney@gmail.com](mailto:blake.mckinney@gmail.com)

**Renee Roberson Emerson ('08)** and **Bryan Emerson ('08)**



welcomed their daughter Susan "Zuzu" Olivia Emerson on Sept. 16, 2012, weighing 7 lb., 15 oz. and measuring 20 ¾ in. long.

**Molly Sills Patterson ('08)** and her husband Daniel Patterson were



blessed with their first child, Emma Catherine, on June 8, 2012. She weighed 6 lbs., 4 oz. and was 20 in. long. [mollypatterson25@gmail.com](mailto:mollypatterson25@gmail.com)

**Calli Hankins Smith ('09)** and



**Andrew Smith ('09)** married in June of 2009 and welcomed their first child, Caleb Andrew Smith, on Jan. 25, 2012.

**Jon Abernathy ('09)** and **Olivia Abernathy ('11)** welcomed their



daughter, Avery Elizabeth Abernathy, home on February 12, 2013. She weighed 6 lb., 4 oz. and was 19 in. long. Jon serves as the director of disability services at Union University and Olivia is an academic support counselor at Union. [jabernathy@uu.edu](mailto:jabernathy@uu.edu)

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# Memoriam

**Howard Lee Vestal ('41)** passed away on Feb. 19, 2013, in Katy, Texas.



He was 93 years old. Mr. Vestal earned a football scholarship to Union in the 1930s, and met his wife of 70 years, Claire "Tootsie" Cooper, while they were students at the University. He served as a

combat pilot during World War II, flying missions over North Africa and Europe. Mr. Vestal later served as vice president for business affairs at Texas A&M. He served that university for 19 years. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, a son, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions were directed to the Howard and Claire Vestal Scholarship at Union University.

## Bennie Elizabeth Cole Crabtree



**Bennie Elizabeth Cole Crabtree** passed away on March 28, 2013 in Jackson after a brief illness. She was 86 years old. While attending Union in 1944-46, she met Thomas T. Crabtree. The two were married for 61 years prior to Mr. Crabtree's death in 2007. The couple endowed the Crabtree Lecture

Series. This year's event took place just a few days after her death. "Dr. Crabtree was a giant in Southern Baptist life and Mrs. Crabtree was an amazing lady," Union President David S. Dockery said to the lecture audience, noting Mrs. Crabtree had attended many of the annual events since they began in 2000 and every lecture series since she moved to Jackson in 2009. "We give thanks for the gift that the Crabtrees have left us in this lecture series." Two sons preceded Mrs. Crabtree in death. She is survived by a daughter, Anna Beth Morgan, who is director of Union's Emma Waters Summar Library. Those wishing to make a gift in Mrs. Crabtree's memory are encouraged to contribute future funding for the lecture series through Union's Office of University Relations. ☛

**Walter Philips ('46)** passed away on Dec. 4, 2012 in Heber Springs, Ark. He was 90 years old. Mr. Philips served as U.S. Army chaplain for 20 years at posts around the world. He retired from the Army as a lieutenant-colonel and pastored a church in California before returning to his native Arkansas. He was preceded in death by his wife Myrtie Esther Milligan Phillips. He is survived by a son, two daughters, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Kermit Wilson Whitten ('50)** passed away on Oct. 30, 2012. He was a graduate of Union University, majoring in music education. He retired from Knoxville City Schools as a teacher and was a minister of music for many years, ending his service with Alcoa-Way Baptist Church in Alcoa, Tenn. He was a WWII Army Air Force veteran, and after college went back into the Air Force.

**Larry E. Ray ('64)** passed away on July 12, 2012 in Tupelo, Miss. He was 70 years old. A native of Paris, Tenn., Mr. Ray worked in the millwork industry in Jackson and Tupelo. He was active in community life and a faithful member of the Harrisburg Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, choir member and Sunday School teacher. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Sandra Oliver Ray; two sons, one daughter and five grandchildren.

**Patricia Ellen (Patsy) Patton ('67)** passed away on Feb. 25, 2013, at Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center in Lafayette, Colo. She was 67 years old. At Union, she was a member of the Chi Omega Sorority, Miss Union University, a local television talk show hostess and a singer with a local band.

She was an assistant for Minnie Pearl in Nashville. She worked in public relations for many years and became a licensed psychotherapist in Boulder, Colo. An Argentine Tango enthusiast, she was a past president of Tango Colorado.

**Susan Marie Langford Tosh ('79)** passed away on Nov. 19, 2012, at her home. She was a Union nursing graduate. Friends and family members remembered Susan with contributions to a Union nursing scholarship named in honor of her sister, Linda Langford Scarborough.

**David Brent Lemonds ('85)** passed away on Sept. 9, 2012, in Franklin, Tenn. He was 50 years old. Mr. Lemonds was Administrator for Emergency Services at Vanderbilt University Hospital. Over the years, he held a variety of emergency management positions in Nashville and Jackson and served the Tennessee State Board of Emergency Medical Services as board member and consultant. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

**John Louis McRee** passed away Sept. 23, 2012. He was 94. McRee was the first married man in Tennessee to be drafted into World War II. He served as a Union trustee. He was preceded in death by his wife Leta Phillips McRee and is survived by two daughters, a granddaughter and three great grandchildren.

## J. H. Luckey



**J. H. Luckey** passed away on April 8, 2013, in Humboldt, Tenn. He was 89 years old. Union President David S. Dockery described him as a "longtime, faithful friend" of the University. Mr. Luckey served on the Union University Board of Trustees and was an avid supporter of Union

basketball. He also served 19 years as a Gibson County Commissioner and on the boards of two area banks. He was preceded in death by Dorothy Sanders Luckey, his wife of 59 years. He is survived by a sister, brother, five children, 21 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. ☛

**Walterine Wilson** passed away on May 22, 2013 in Jackson. She



PHOTO COURTESY WEST JACKSON BAPTIST CHURCH

was 95 years old. Mrs. Wilson was a founding member of the Union Auxiliary, a longtime supporter of Union athletics and a participant in the University's capital campaigns. She is survived by her husband, James "Pete" Wilson, who was a Union trustee. The Wilsons actively supported international students at Union. Mrs. Wilson is also survived by two sons and a daughter. ☛

# Memoriam

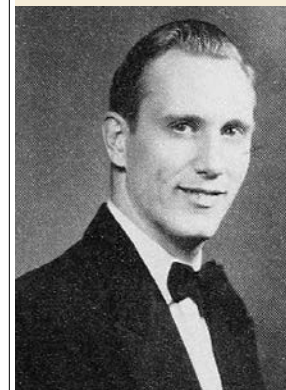
## Eugene Brooks McLemore ('49)



PHOTO COURTESY WEST JACKSON BAPTIST CHURCH

**Eugene Brooks McLemore** passed away on Aug. 15, 2012. He was 92 years old. Judge McLemore was a World War II veteran, serving in the Pacific theater for two years. He received a law degree from Vanderbilt University and served in a variety of roles, including special justice of the state Supreme Court and special judge of the Court of Appeals. He also served three terms in the State Senate and was chancellor of the 14th Chancery Division of Tennessee. Judge McLemore was survived by Elizabeth Meeks McLemore, to whom he was married for 70 years. She passed away on Nov. 17, 2012. He taught a Sunday School class at West Jackson Baptist Church that is named in his honor. The family asked memorials to be directed to the church. ☛

## Thomas G. Smothers ('55)



**Thomas G. Smothers** passed away on Nov. 8, 2012, in Louisville, Ky. A highly respected Old Testament scholar, Dr. Smothers served on the faculties of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Alderson-Broaddus College, Palm Beach Atlantic University and Union University. Some of his best-known work focused on the book of Jeremiah, and he wrote for the Word Biblical Commentary Series. He is survived by his wife Bettye, a daughter, granddaughter and two great-granddaughters. ☛



# Bullpups

To receive a free Bullpup shirt for the newest member of your family (under age 2), email [alumni@uu.edu](mailto:alumni@uu.edu) or call 731-661-5139. Please send us a picture of your child wearing the new shirt for publication in a future issue.

**1.** Samuel Cole Douglas, son of Scott Douglas and Carrie Puckett Douglas ('01), born on Nov. 23, 2010. [carriebdouglas@gmail.com](mailto:carriebdouglas@gmail.com)

**2.** Haley Grace Walters, born Dec. 1, 2011, weighing 5lb., 5 oz. Daughter of Casey Walters ('02) and Holly Dougan Walters ('04). Haley Grace has a grandfather and cousins who graduated from Union and an uncle currently attending Union.

**3.** Evan Andrew Kyzar, born Nov. 9, 2011, to Amanda Kyzar ('04) and Ross Kyzar ('05). [amandakyzar@gmail.com](mailto:amandakyzar@gmail.com)

**4.** Savannah Diane Williams, born April 1, 2011, to Christy Risch Williams ('05) and Chaz Williams. Savannah's grandfather is pastor Chuck Williams ('75) of Covington, Tenn. [rischywill@yahoo.com](mailto:rischywill@yahoo.com)

**5.** Brynne Westmoreland, the daughter of Laura Berkemeyer Westmoreland ('06) and Mark Westmoreland ('05), was born Aug. 11, 2011. [lbwestmoreland@gmail.com](mailto:lbwestmoreland@gmail.com)

**6.** Lucas Andrew Benemerito, born March 2011, and Isabella Grace Benemerito, born April 2009, are the children of Mike Benemerito ('07) and Jade Jimenez Benemerito. [mike\\_bene@yahoo.com](mailto:mike_bene@yahoo.com)

**7.** Jamison Brown Turnage, born Oct. 11, 2011, to Kylie Brown Turnage ('07) and Nick Turnage. [kylie06@yahoo.com](mailto:kylie06@yahoo.com)

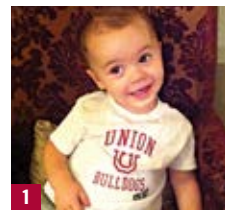
**8.** Matthew Wesley Edgin, born July 2010 in Jackson, Tenn. Matthew's dad is Tabothy Edgin ('07). [tedgin@qsource.org](mailto:tedgin@qsource.org)

**9.** Connor Winberry, son of Laura Shackelford Winberry ('06 BSW, '10 MSW) and Shawn Winberry; born Feb. 12, 2011. [laura.winberry0212@gmail.com](mailto:laura.winberry0212@gmail.com)

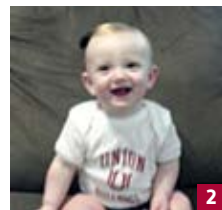
**10.** Milo Christian Cadenhead, born Oct. 15, 2011, weighing 9 lb., 2 oz. and measuring 21 in. long, son of Tyson Cadenhead ('08) and Heather Cadenhead ('08). [heathercadenhead@gmail.com](mailto:heathercadenhead@gmail.com)

**11.** Susan "Zuzu" Olivia Emerson, born Sept. 16, 2012, to Renee Roberson Emerson ('08) and Bryan Emerson ('08).

**12.** James D. "JD" Wilson III, born May 20, 2011, to Misty Wilson ('12) and Jimmy Wilson.



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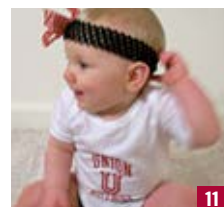
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## Final Frame

The Union softball team captured the 2013 National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Softball National Title for the fourth time.

*photo by SID at Bluefield College*

Welcome to BOTETOURT Sports Complex

BALL	0	STRIKE	0	OUT	0					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
GUEST	0	1	1	0	0	2	0			4
HOME	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			1

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