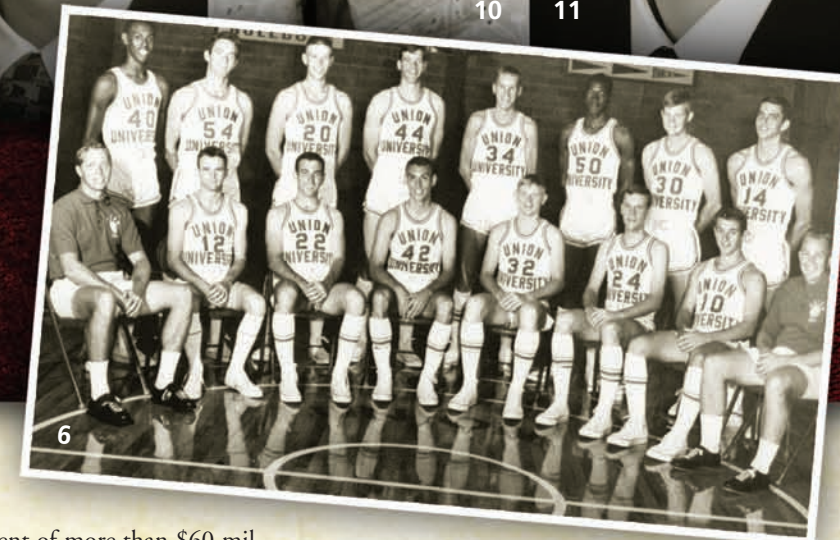




2007 Honored Alumni

Union inducts new Sports Hall of Fame members and recognizes Alumni of the Year



Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

The induction of five new members and a special recognition for one of Union's most successful basketball teams highlighted the Sports Hall of Fame ceremonies at Homecoming 2007 in early November.

The new inductees are M.C. Joyner ('36, posthumously), Buford Matlock ('50), Jeff Richey ('66), Michelle Street-Czapp ('97) and Luis Ortiz ('04).

1 Joyner competed in football, basketball and boxing while a student at Union. He was captain of the 1934 and 1935 football teams. An injury prevented Joyner from playing for the New York Giants, who drafted him. Joyner became a highly successful high school coach and frequently hosted recruiting visits from former Union assistant coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. Joyner also had a distinguished military career in the U.S. Army, serving during World War II at Remagen Bridge and "The Battle of the Bulge." He and his wife Frances had three children. He died in 1972.

2 Matlock also played football for Union, starting every game all four years. He went on to a distinguished teaching and coaching career with Jackson City Schools. He has also been inducted into the Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame. He

and his wife Bernice recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with two children and six grandchildren.

3 Richey led the Bulldogs to their first-ever conference title in 1964-65, earning conference Most Valuable Player titles for two years. He led the team in rebounding, assists and scoring for three seasons. Richey still holds the Union record for free throws in a season (231) and free throw percentage (88.5%). He is the only Union player ever drafted into the former American Basketball Association. He and his wife Carol live in Carrier Mills, Ill.

4 Street-Czapp averaged 15.1 points and 9.4 rebounds per game in 1994-95 to lead the Lady Bulldogs. She was named to Dick Vitale's All-America Team, the Kodak All-America team and the NAIA All-America squad. Her jersey, #00, was retired at Union, and she was also elected to the Gibson County Sports Hall of Fame. She and her husband Jerry live in LaVergne, Tenn.

5 As a junior at Union, Ortiz was drafted in the eighth round by the Boston Red Sox. He followed his days on the Bulldog baseball team with 14 professional seasons, including several at the major league level. But Ortiz came back to Union to finish his education, and became the first native of the Dominican Republic to both play in the majors and complete a college

degree. He now owns a baseball instructional facility in Keller, Texas. He and his wife Susan have four daughters.

6 A special citation went to the Bulldog Basketball team of 1967-68, which completed a stellar 22-3 record. Two of the three losses were to Memphis State (now the University of Memphis) and Kentucky Wesleyan, the eventual small college national champion that year. Among the team members: Ed Braly, who went from a bench player to an All-Tournament selection; Dan Rudesill, a conference MVP; and Lonnie Searcy, the first African-American ever to play basketball for Union. Bill Henry was the Bulldog head coach, with Bobby Carter as assistant coach.

Alumni honorees

Five were honored during Homecoming ceremonies as outstanding Union alumni. The Distinguished Alumnus Award went to Rev. Reginald "Reggie" Thomas ('85); the Distinguished Service award to Charles Millican ('41); the Distinguished Faculty/ Staff Award to Gary Carter, ('75); Honorary Alumna Award to Heather Olford; and Outstanding Young Achiever to Russell Hilton ('02).

7 Thomas has served as a church planter, senior pastor, director of missions and a denominational worker in the Southern

Baptist Convention for more than 20 years. He has mastered cross-cultural and team building skills that allow him to be persuasive in a way that motivates others.

"Reggie" graduated from Union University with a Bachelor of Arts degree; a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, and is a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif., with an anticipated date of graduation in 2009.

8 Millican was the founding president of the University of Central Florida and in 1993 was named president emeritus of the institution. The university opened in the fall of 1968 with an enrollment of 1,496 students. The fall 2007 enrollment is 48,897 – making UCF the sixth largest university in the nation.

Millican also led efforts to establish the university-related Central Florida Research Park, which opened in 1982. The park is one of the top 10 research parks in the United States, with 116 firms and more than 10,000 employees.

He and his wife Frances have been married for 62 years.

9 Carter is Senior Vice President for Business and Financial Services at Union, overseeing budget preparation and administration, facilities management, bookstore operations, food service opera-

tions, and risk management. He

has led management of more than \$60 million in new construction projects, maintaining daily communication with construction managers, architects, and planners.

In addition to his work at the University, Carter has provided volunteer leadership to a host of church and community projects, including American Heart Association, YMCA, Leadership Jackson and Englewood Baptist Church, serving as a Sunday school teacher for 24 years and as a deacon chair and chair of the finance committee and a trustee for six years.

10 Born to Christian parents in Northern Ireland, Heather Olford surrendered her life to Christ as a young age. A gifted pianist, Heather spent her early ministry years assisting in worship services for evangelistic crusades throughout the British Isles. It was during this time that she met Stephen Olford.

Heather and Stephen were married in 1948 and together they continued to minister through crusades and Christian Life Conventions.

After serving in the pastorate for a combined twenty years, the Olford's, along with their son, David, founded Olford Ministries International and the Stephen Olford Center for Biblical Preaching in Memphis. The Olford's served side by side educating and ministering to pastors and lay leaders from around the world until Stephen's death in 2004.

In addition to her sons and their wives, Ms. Heather enjoys spending time with her five grandchildren and continues to live on the campus of the Stephen Olford Center at Union University.

11 Hilton graduated from Union University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Christian Ethics and History. After graduating from Union, Russell served as a social case-worker at Youth Town in Jackson, Tenn., where he provided social services to state custody juvenile delinquents and co-coordinated a youth boot camp program.

In May 2007, Russell completed a four-year graduate program in Law and Religion at Emory University in Atlanta, receiving his Juris Doctorate from Emory School of Law and his Master of Theological Studies from Candler School of Theology.

In September 2007, Russell began practicing corporate law in Atlanta at Alston & Bird, LLP, which was recognized in 2007 by *Fortune* as the number one law firm in the nation for which to work. Russell will concentrate his practice on public and private company mergers and acquisitions, securities offerings, SEC compliance and reporting obligations, venture capital financing and corporate governance. ♦