

# CORD *magazine*

News from Union College winter 2007/2008

## TRIUMPHS IN TECHNOLOGY

ALUMNI FIND CAREERS AND SERVICE ON THE CUTTING EDGE

*Also ...*

- *Updated systems on campus*
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*It takes  
Fore Sight...*

**A Career of Firsts/14**

*Pioneering a path in  
information technology*

Melodie Mayberry-Stewart '70



photo: Gary Gold

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*Koch family business spans  
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Rob Koch '80  
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photo: Steve Nazario



photo: Steve Nazario

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Chris Trumble '94

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**About the cover:**  
Melodie Mayberry-Stewart, New York State's  
chief information officer, has accomplished  
many firsts in technology management since  
graduating from Union College in 1970. Learn  
more about her career journey on p. 14.  
Photographer: Gary Gold

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*Introduction by Jacque L. Smith, Editor*

In the Omaha airport this week, my friend's plane was a little delayed between landing and getting to the gate. Watching the other welcome parties surrounding me, I realized we all had one thing in common—we wanted the deplaning process to go faster. While much of the desire for hurrying up the arrival was rooted in excitement to see loved ones after a long holiday apart, I know I was not the only one thinking, "Could they move that motorized walkway any slower?" I realized some of my anxious energy was more habit than heart.

Ironically, my impatient moods often intersect with the gadgets and conveniences that are already saving me time. When I check my e-mail, I wonder why the photos of my niece and nephew take so long to load instead of marveling at the luxury of seeing their latest outing to a petting zoo the same day they met Molly the cow. While printing my address labels for my holiday cards, I chided the printer for its slow output while forgetting how long it used to take me to hand address the envelopes. While in line at the grocery store, I get restless if the checkout clerk fumbles a bit to find the bar code on my bottle of Cheer not remembering that

clerks used to key in each price and discount formula by hand. During my breakfast microwave ritual, one minute 30 seconds seems so long. But compared to a frying pan or oven pre-heat, is my appliance slow or am I running late again? When did my impatience outpace technology?

I know I'm not the only one facing this technology conundrum and struggling to define computer chips and automation as friend or foe. Perhaps those who dedicate their careers to improving and expanding tech options suffer the most while the rest of us sigh with ever increasing expectations.

In this issue of *CORDmagazine*, we feature alumni who are expanding, applying or describing technology for the benefit of others. You will also learn how Union is striving to keep pace with the demands of the decade for both prospective and current students. First, however, I hope you will pause to read the guest editorial from a Union student who describes an experience she doesn't want to speed up—the uplifting phonathon conversations she has had with many of you.

Phonathon inspires me

*By Cori Piel '11  
Freshman education major*

Have you ever experienced one of those days when you wake up in the morning and immediately feel overwhelmed by the list of tasks ahead of you? What encourages you most during those days? Is it talking with family or friends, relaxing with a book, sleeping, shopping, surfing the Web, playing a favorite sport, watching a movie or eating a delicious, fattening snack? As a college freshman, I encounter many of these tiresome days, and surprisingly, my remedy for a bad day is going to work.

I understand that this unavoidable daily activity is often thought of as the recipe for added stress and not its remedy. However, after an exhausting day of classes and appointments, I look forward to going to my job as a Union College Phonathon caller. During each of my shifts, I have the opportunity to talk with alumni, parents and friends of Union. I enjoy the cozy area from which I make my calls, and I am thankful for the telephone that allows me to connect with such encouraging and interesting people. Through these phone calls, God continues to reaffirm my decision to attend Union College.

As alumni share their experiences that



Cori is from Argyle, Wis., and was one of 28 callers for the Union College Phonathon this fall. Read more about the success of this year's Phonathon on p. 7.

have had such a positive impact on their lives, I realize that Union's spiritual atmosphere, supportive and friendly professors, and wonderful, enduring friendships are transforming my life in much the same way. This campus radiates the character of God, producing a light for the entire Lincoln community. Family and friends of Union College students mentioned they feel connected to Union through the people they know who attend school or work here—it seems you can't help but be a part of this electrifying environment. I love talking with Union alumni, friends and parents about their families, the weather, news and daily activities—my job is so rewarding.

A common theme of most conversations was the reason for support; most people I spoke with are impressed with the outstanding academic, social and spiritual opportunities that are available to students like me at Union College. One alumna is already encouraging her very young children to choose Union for their future. I was impressed by this mother's devotion to Union

and her firm belief in the work God is doing on this campus.

I not only recognized the impact Union College has had on previous students, I was personally touched and encouraged by several specific conversations. People I have never met reached out to me, prayed with me and assured me that I would have an incredible college experience at Union. One inspiring conversation sticks out in my mind. A woman shared her witnessing ministry with me. Her passion for the project ignited a fire in me about the ministries I participate in.

Many of you reading this have made my college experience enriching already. Thank you for blessing my life. I believe God directed me to this exceptional school to grow, develop, learn and meet extraordinary people. I hope the next time you wake up discouraged and need a boost, you can find as much satisfaction in your daily activities as I have found working at Union College's Phonathon.

Enrollment milestone reached fall semester



Union students and employees celebrate the college's highest enrollment since 1983. The Lincoln Journal Star ran a front-page story about the August event.

For the first time in 24 years, Union College has crossed the 1,000 student enrollment mark during the fall 2007 semester. By the end of the close of registration the official enrollment reached 1,015 students with a full-time equivalence of 909.5. The campus has become a home-away-from home for students from 49 states and 26 countries.

To celebrate the 1,000-student milestone, Union College invited all students and employees to a free lunch served on the campus Tribute Terrace. In addition

to the meal and ice cream on Aug. 28, festivities included a short program. Remarks and recognition of the Enrollment Services team and students by Union College President David Smith were followed by a college-wide sing-along of the well-loved school song, "Slinga de Ink." State Senator Tony Fulton joined in the festivities and added his congratulations and support.

"While we're delighted to reach this milestone, at Union we've always known that bigger isn't necessarily better," said

Campus Calendar 2008

Spring Vacation	March 14-23
Spring Preview Days	March 27-30
Homecoming Weekend	April 3-6
<i>(See details on page 34)</i>	
Home School Sneak Peek	April 17-20
Graduation Weekend	May 9-11



Dr. Smith congratulates Serbiy Horokbouskyy, senior theology major from Ukraine, on being the 1,000th student to register this year.

President Smith. "We are grateful for each student here and the opportunities each of them represent for Union and for Christ." ~JS

## Parents Weekend 2007: celebrating family for the 15th year

Stephanie Meyer, Union College scholarships and events coordinator and the principle organizer of Parents Weekend, was here when it all began. "We really wanted to reach out to parents in the same manner we reach out to alumni," Meyer said. "We felt it was important to have a special time where parents could come and connect with all aspects of the campus—students, teachers and other parents."

The first Parents Weekend, in November 1993, began inauspiciously enough. Approximately 80 people attended a reception in the Don Love Building. A little more than a decade later, Parents Weekend routinely brings 800 visitors to campus. This year, close to 500 parents, students and relatives attended the annual complimentary Get Acquainted Supper in the gym, the only event for which accurate attendance is recorded.

During the first years of Parents Weekend, a committee of parents helped the administration plan the weekend by giving ideas, providing resources and volunteering their time to see everything through. In the past, events have included a dinner theatre, drama productions and talent shows.

Meyer said that while those events were successful and they appreciated



Jocelyn Breuer, Jessica Dorval and Andrea Gorton are excited to give their robes, caps and tassels a test drive before graduating in May.

parents giving of their time, the focus has shifted in recent years. "The most important thing for us is giving the parents enough free time to enjoy being on campus with their sons or daughters," Meyer said.

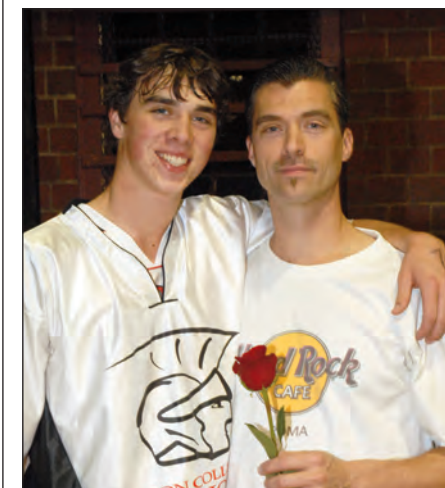
This year, Friday night supper in the gym and the Saturday night basketball games continued favorite traditions. This year, however, a special vespers program highlighting student involvement at

Union and a senior recognition during the second church service helped make the weekend even more memorable.

Dr. David Smith, Union College president, knows this is a valuable weekend for the college. "In some cases, parents are spending a lot of money to send their children here," Smith said. "We want to honor them and show them how much we care and value them and the students." ~JP



A Union graduate herself, Margaret Erickson (right) watched her son Kevin graduate in 2005 and now makes the trip from Albion, Neb., to visit her freshman daughter Sarah. "I love the Friday night gathering. It's pretty fun to see people I went to school with coming to support their kids just like I am," Erickson said. "Meeting the faculty is special too, just putting a face with a name helps me feel comfortable that my kids will have the special experiences that I had here."



Ed Sharon, a Union College Information Systems employee, gets ready to watch his son Nick, freshman and guard on the basketball team, play in the Warriors annual Parents Weekend home game.

photo: Steve Nazario

photo: Steve Nazario

photo: Alicia Archer

photo: Steve Nazario

## Fall Phonathon exceeds goals



With a road trip theme, Phonathon callers tracked their progress during the seven-week fund raising initiative.

Union College's Phonathon 2007 was another successful adventure in connecting with the college's constituents and raising the necessary support to keep the campus thriving.

"This success could only be achieved due to the diligence, friendliness and all around professionalism of the phenomenal Phonathon callers this year," said Nicole Meharry, Union's annual giving director, who is proud of her calling cadre. "The students who call have the largest positive impact when it comes to meeting our goals, and the group this year was truly exceptional."

During September, October and November, 28 student callers along with administrators and a few volunteers

enjoyed conversations with thousands of Union's alumni, parents and friends. A total of \$316,986 was committed by 2,011 donors surpassing both the dollar and donor goals. For more than 20 years, Union's annual Phonathon has been used to inspire dialogue, share information and generate funds for improving programs and facilities on campus.

"The program keeps growing and changing to meet current needs," LuAnn Davis, vice president for Advancement, said regarding the Phonathon. "We love talking with our alumni, parents and friends each year and greatly appreciate their enduring support."

## Class gift 'swinging' again

Because of football, Frisbee and other fun memories on the lawn between Prescott and the administration building, the Class of 1994 chose to install a swing for their class gift. According to Cassandra Nesmith, 1994 class president and now class representative, the class thought the swing they picked would stand the test of time, but due to Nebraska weather and 13 years of wear, the popular hang out spot met its demise.

Last June, Nesmith sent an urgent appeal to her classmates. Groundskeeper Randy Bollinger

researched prices for a replacement swing that would match another commemorative swing in front of Rees Hall. The goal was to have the swing in place before school started in August. Class members gave \$450 in gifts to cover the cost of the new swing, and Union's grounds department provided the support structure and installation. Although a replacement structure is now in place, bricks from the original College Building still provide the foundation for the center campus swing.

Visit [CORDmagazine](http://www.ucollege.edu/cordmagazine) online to see a photo: [www.ucollege.edu/cordmagazine](http://www.ucollege.edu/cordmagazine).



Union College sometimes gives its computers funny names. Most computers at Union are named for characters in the *Peanuts* cartoons or *The Andy Griffith Show*, though one system is named for a campus landmark.

Unscramble the words below to find the names of Union College computer systems.

alumni community

(ORCK)          (ELPI)

e-mail server

(SOPNOY)

course management server

(LILB)

online Peanut Gallery community

(DNAY)

administration server

(CRIHALE)

media sharing server

(YLCU)

software testing environment

(GPI)         (PNE)

Now, use the letters in the boxes and unscramble the name of a place we all love.

## Union's leaders influence Adventist higher education

Union College President David Smith is serving as chair of the Adventist Association of Colleges and Universities, a consortium of the 15 colleges and universities located in the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"Adventist higher education is a great value regardless of the school you choose to attend," said Smith. "While I'm partial to the atmosphere at Union College, each Adventist campus has a unique mix of academic and environmental strengths to offer. Collectively we need to make sure our young people are

aware of the quality options available at Adventist colleges."

One of the greatest accomplishments of AACU has been a shared marketing plan in which all member institutions contribute funds to find students beyond the typical recruitment efforts of Adventist colleges such as public high school and home school students.

Rob Weaver, Union's vice president for Enrollment and Student Financial Services is the chair of the consortium's Joint Marketing Committee. In acknowledgement of his leadership and dedication, Weaver received the Best of the Best

Award from his peers in the Adventist Enrollment Association in May 2007.

To learn more about AACU and Adventist higher education, visit [www.adventistcolleges.org](http://www.adventistcolleges.org). This resource allows prospective students and parents to see a side-by-side comparison of majors and admissions standards for each of the member institutions. Based on the work of Weaver and his counterparts, the site has launched a common application in January that allows students to apply to and receive information from multiple institutions. ~JS

## U.S. News awards Union 'Top College' designation

For the second year, Union College has been designated a "Top College" by U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Colleges." Union has climbed from last year's ranking of 46 to the 28th position for its category, Baccalaureate Colleges—Midwest.

Of the 11 criteria U.S. News uses to rank schools, a rise in the peer evaluation score from 2.2 last year to 2.7 contributed most to the jump in rankings. This criterion, worth 25 percent of the overall score, is based on surveys of college administrators.

"It is gratifying to have outside sources affirm what our students, alumni and constituents already know—Union has something special to offer," said David Smith, college president. "To be

ranked in the top tier of Midwestern baccalaureate institutions reflects the commitment to quality which marks the Union College experience."

The U.S. News rankings are created annually as a service to parents and prospective students in selecting colleges. This year, 320 baccalaureate colleges, divided into four regions, are included in the report. The baccalaureate college category includes colleges that offer a range of degree programs in professional fields such as business, nursing and education with liberal arts degrees accounting for fewer than half of the bachelor's degrees conferred. ~SC



## Do you read Around-the-Clock?

Life at Union doesn't stop between issues of *CORD* magazine. To get updates between issues of *CORD*, subscribe to Union's e-newsletter, *Around-the-Clock News*, featuring alumni events, feature articles and news briefs. A recent feature, "Praying for the best, prepared for the worst," about Union's Crisis Preparedness Team, is available as a preview of the newsletter's content. [www.ucollegecommunity.org/crisisplanning](http://www.ucollegecommunity.org/crisisplanning).

To receive *Around-the-Clock News*, sign up for the Rock Pile Alumni Community ([www.ucollegecommunity.org](http://www.ucollegecommunity.org)) or request to be added to the mailing list by filling out a form available under "News and Events" on the Union College home page ([www.ucollege.edu](http://www.ucollege.edu)). ~SC

## Campus Notables

► The *Adventist Review* has signed **Jimmy Phillips**, senior communication major, to be a monthly columnist for 2008. This past summer, Jimmy was the intern for the *Review* and is the first college student to be a regular columnist. The column will have online-only content beginning in February and in print starting in March.

► **Stephanie Krueger**, junior business major, was featured in the January/February issue of *Nebraska Life* magazine. The article highlighted her work as an entrepreneur with her lawn care business. Stephanie started her business her junior year in high school and currently maintains 40 lawns in the Lincoln area.

► The Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants has awarded a \$10,000 grant

to the **Union College Physician Assistant program** to support the Health Science Division's monthly foot clinic for the homeless. Union College is among the first institutions to receive grant funding from NAPA. In addition, the American Academy of Physician Assistants has awarded the program a \$5,000 grant for focusing on building healthy neighborhoods.

## So Long, Charlie Brown Union replaces venerable administrative tool

by Scott Cushman



photo: Erik Stenbakken

Lisa Forbes has led the search for and implementation of the new system coordinating and communicating campus needs and technical details.

For the last 30 years, little has happened at Union College without the help of Charlie. From payroll to phone calls, grades to room reservations, Charlie does it all. In the Peanuts-inspired naming system of Union College computer systems, the server known as Charlie (as in Charlie Brown) has always been the star. The hardware has been upgraded countless times over the years and new features have been added to the software, but at the core, Union College has relied on the same system for three decades.

When Hewlett-Packard, maker of the computers Charlie was designed for, announced they would phase out support for that product line, Union began searching for new administrative software to run on modern servers. Lisa Forbes, associate professor of accounting and finance, was tasked to lead the process.

"We quickly realized there's no system out there that does everything we rely on Charlie for," said Forbes. "Whenever the campus has needed new computerized functions, we've written it ourselves and added it to Charlie. We had to look for a vendor that provided a

suite of tools rather than one comprehensive system, and even then, there are functions unique to Union that no one offers."

After more than a year of identifying necessary features, comparing vendors and visiting other campuses, the Administrative Software Evaluation Committee chose to contract with Sungard Higher Education to customize and implement their administrative systems for the college. Sungard's systems are built on Microsoft databases and SharePoint services, allowing for the easy sharing of information between compatible databases, single sign on for all administrative systems and a feature-rich document repository.

Four systems comprise what is informally called "the new Charlie." At the hub is PowerCampus, a system for tracking student data from their first contact with admissions through to graduation and includes the Self Service Web module. Integrated with PowerCampus are PowerFAIDS, which assists in managing student financial aid and billing, and Dynamics Great Plains, which will handle human resources and accounting functions.

The fourth system, for now, is the old Charlie. A wide range of peripheral functions will stay within the current system for at least another year until Union's Information Systems purchases additional software or writes custom programs that integrate into the new systems. These include student leave requests, guest services reservations, and Union Market and bookstore sales.

The software is being rolled out across campus in phases. PowerFAIDS went live with limited functionality in April 2007, Dynamics Great Plains on Jan. 1, 2008, and PowerCampus will be running in February. Self Service, the Web-facing system students and faculty will use to access the system, will be live in late spring.

"In talking to other schools, we kept hearing the same thing," said Tom Becker, director of Information Systems. "The difference between a system we'll

## From punch cards to PowerCampus

"I graduated in May 1965, went home to get my furniture, and three days later I started fulltime," recalled Dean Dittberner, who retired from Union College in December 2006. During his 41 years, Dittberner saw how the computer revolution has changed life and payroll at Union.

Dittberner began his career in the Accounting department. With the technology the college had at that time, all postings had to be done by hand. "Payroll took four days and student bills took a week to prepare," he said. "Once we had all the numbers in, we had to reconcile everything by hand—and hope the numbers came out right."

When Dittberner transferred to Information Systems in 1969, programs and data were stored on paper punch cards. "We had to enter all our data on the cards, sort them, and then put them on the disk," he said. "When I started, the computer took up the whole room. Now everything is run on a little white box."

Dittberner described how in 1983, Union College was the first school in the country to put a computer terminal in every dorm room. Used mainly for word processing in the early years, over time more functions such as surveys, forms, games and directory information were added. Although those original terminals are long gone, students continue to have more information options. "Students can check their food bill online, they can see how many worship credits they need, and check out of the dorms for breaks and weekends off campus," Dittberner said. "Technology has made everything so much faster and easier."

Information Systems is currently working to put even more student information online. Students can already submit homework to many of their classes using Moodle (see page 10), and will soon be able to pay their bill and register for classes over the Internet through the new PowerCampus administrative software installation (story at left). Things have come a long way since punch cards. ~TR

love and one we'll hate is the implementation. We are devoting all our resources to a successful launch, but even with the most well-planned implementation possible, there will still be some trying times ahead while the campus learns the ins and outs of the new software." Those who will use new systems daily say their benefits far outweigh the cost of the learning curve.

Many institutions see an increase in student satisfaction and retention after upgrading to new administrative systems, particularly when they include a Web-facing portal. "The new Charlie catapults everything we do into a future today's students are impatiently expecting," said Rob Weaver, vice president for Enrollment and Student Financial

Services. "In addition to streamlining behind-the-scenes processes, the Web portal will allow perspective students to track their progress through the admissions process and current students will be able to view their grades and account information securely from anywhere in the world—and that's just the initial offering. We'll be able to offer a wide-range of campus services digitally when we get accustomed to the system."

"PowerFAIDS has already made our office more efficient," said Elina Camarena, director of Student Financial Services. "After all the systems are running and talking to each other, we'll see even more benefits. We'll be able to set up ways to e-mail, text message or IM our students within the system so we can

communicate with them in the way they prefer. We can also tell the system to automatically generate letters, like payment reminders, missing document requests and notification of new scholarship awards."

"Getting ready for online registration has given us a golden opportunity to review and refine how we conduct registration overall," said Osa Berg, assistant academic dean and director of Records and Institutional Research. "We are giving the students more control over their own schedules and information while keeping academic advising integral to registration. Improving the quality of the process will reduce the moments of stress for the students ... and for us."

course. Most of the 30 students taking Microcomputer Applications via Moodle are at academies without access to community colleges where they could take advanced placement courses.

Moodle's graphical interface means teachers don't have to learn HTML, PHP or other computer languages. Pre-designed templates are provided for many content types, such as sign-up sheets for conferences with teachers, homework assignments, quizzes, tests, forums, chat rooms and more.

"I used to be the handout queen," Cochran said. "Now I upload everything to Moodle—it saves the department a lot of money on copies, and it saves the students trips to the recycling bins. Even things I do hand out, like the syllabus, I still put on Moodle so students can't use the excuse that they lost it."

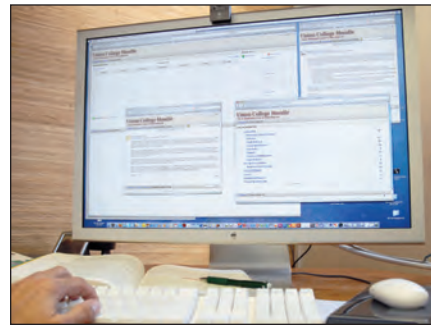
Besides plain documents, Moodle can host a variety of rich media, including audio, video, diagrams and anything else that can be distributed in a digital format.

"Moodle is not just a tool to help students learn," said Steiner. "It helps teachers teach better and forces us to find ways to do it differently. Students don't learn the way they did 20 years ago.

With Moodle students can create dialogue online and work together to solve problems. That's what's exciting to me; it's about the experience, not book knowledge.

for Writing and Speaking and Moodle training. "Scholars studying online learning environments have found students who might be quiet in class can be the most active in forums," said Tanya Cochran, associate professor of English and director of the Studio for Writing and Speaking. "It's a great way of reaching students with different learning styles, even if that means I have to learn how to use new software."

Cochran also uses the forums for her accreditation sub-committee to distribute



minutes and get feedback when the committee members can't meet. "The representative from the Board of Trustees for our committee lives in Omaha and can't always make it to Lincoln, but he can log on and participate in Moodle discussions," Cochran said.

The ability to access the system from anywhere also makes it a platform for distance learning. This year, Arlie Fandrich, professor of computer science, launched Union's first distance education

## What's a "Moodle"?

by Scott Cushman

Moodle, the online course management system used at Union, provides opportunities to digitally streamline communications for classes, committees and even extracurricular activities. First implemented on a trial basis in the spring of 2004, the system has become a fixture on campus. According to Richard Webb, professor of physics and the administrator of Union's Moodle system, 93 percent of Union's students used Moodle at least once during the fall 2007 semester, and 73 percent use it on a weekly basis.

Greg Steiner, intramurals director and health instructor, uses the system extensively for his classes and for intramurals. "For the intramurals program, it's really a way of centralizing information and getting feedback," Steiner said. "People can check the schedule without bugging their captains, referees can take signal and rules tests to prepare to officiate, and we provide forums for both players and officials to ask questions."

Moodle's advantages over a traditional Web page are twofold: the content management functions make it easy to update and requiring all users to log in restricts access to only those who need it.

After logging in, a student is presented with groups for all of their classes as well as "courses" open to all users, including library instruction, the Studio

## Merged major offers choices

In the past, Union has offered two computer-related majors: computer information systems and computer science. The latter was only available through a partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Now these programs have been rolled into one, a major in computing. By readjusting the schedule and adding classes, students can complete the new computing major entirely at Union through the Division of Business and Computer Science.

By adding several areas of emphasis, the combined major gives students more freedom of choice in their specialization than the two separate majors did. Barry Forbes, chair of the division, said the advantage to this approach was to allow students to have options that are more focused on their specific interests. "Instead of having a one-size-fits-all solution, it gives flexibility," Forbes said. "This approach is also a good way we can connect with other divisions to offer unique programs."

One such program is the Web development emphasis. When finalized, this program will mix graphic design ele-

ments from the Division of Fine Arts with the computer savvy of the Division of Business and Computer Science, giving graduates an education geared much more towards Web technologies than either could provide independently.

Currently the program has established three computing emphases—business, computer information systems, and computer science—with plans to introduce additional interdisciplinary emphases in the coming years. ~TR

## Connecting you to Union

by Todd Richardson

Hannah Adams, a freshman from Wisconsin, wasn't sure which church to attend when she first arrived in Lincoln last August. "My friend Jeremy had heard of a gospel church that he wanted to visit our second Sabbath. I had absolutely no idea what to expect of Allon Chapel," she wrote in her blog. The blog, called *Hannah's Hang Time*, lets anyone with an Internet connection tune in to Hannah's life as she discovers more about Union College and explores all Lincoln has to offer.

(<http://blogs.ucollege.edu/hannah>)

Hannah's blog is just one example of the ways Union is employing new technologies to let prospective students, parents and alumni get better acquainted with the school and maintain contact with each other.

"These technologies are really just the beginning of a new way of communicating with prospective students and all of our audiences," said Rob Weaver, vice president for Enrollment and Student Financial Services. "People don't want to hear what marketers say college is like, they want to hear their peers' voices sharing their authentic experiences. Blogs, podcasts and other technologies make it easier to connect people far away with the Union experience."

Seniors Jimmy Phillips and Todd Richardson recently started a morning-show-style podcast about college life. Called "WHAM radio," the 10-15 minute audio clips let the hosts discuss college



Hannah Adams, freshman communication major, poses with two of her passions. She shares her passion for Union through Hannah's Hang Time.

life. "It's crazy to think I can sit here and what I'm saying can be heard anywhere in the world," Phillips said. "It makes me really excited to help spread the word about Union through this crazy new medium."

(<http://blogs.ucollege.edu/whamradio>)

Union's Campus Ministries has received a fresh overhaul of its Web site. While it shares the look of the rest of Union's Web site, everything behind the scenes has been replaced to allow quicker and more frequent updating, as well as slideshows and other media presentations. "The change has made updating

easier and faster," said Rich Carlson, vice president for spiritual life. "It's very important for our site to have the latest events and pictures—if a Web site is out of date, it's not worth having."

"The new ways we're using online content let us connect with people we weren't reaching before," said Scott Cushman, assistant director of public relations, who oversees online communication. "A great example is the education program. They're using a blog to reach their graduates and keep them informed of the latest techniques and ideas in education."

Many other departments are starting to use blogs, too. Campus Ministries has set up blogs for students serving overseas to use. The communications program has set up an internship blog while the international rescue and relief program has retooled their whole Web site geared toward fostering better communication with students. Anyone is welcome to subscribe for free to the blogs or podcast through an RSS reader. For subscription details, visit [blogs.ucollege.edu](http://blogs.ucollege.edu).

"It's a challenge to know what's going to be effective and timely," Cushman said. "By the time we start hearing about the next big thing in journals, it's almost old news already. So we aren't trying to keep up with technology for technology's sake, we're trying to meet the expectations of our audience. Community and communication never go out of style, regardless of the medium."

## Digital Immigrants

### Recent graduates embrace classroom technology

by Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04

**T**he modern world runs on technology, and the classroom should be no different,” says Michelle Weikum, a 2006 Union College education program graduate. “I compete with many distractions to catch students’ attention. Using technology is one advantage I have because students are into technology themselves.”

Weikum teaches geometry, precalculus, calculus and two levels of algebra at Hinsdale Adventist Academy in Hinsdale, Ill. She begins each class with a PowerPoint presentation to remind her students of upcoming assignments, events and tests. She believes these simple reminders have helped her students become more responsible for their own achievement.

During class, Weikum employs a projector to share detailed information in a mode more exciting than words alone. “It allows me to use pictures, animations and videos to illustrate concepts, and it provides structure, organization and a visual aspect,” says Weikum. “I noticed that students pay more attention. This helped them learn the concepts and do better on tests and homework.”

The newest addition to Weikum’s classroom is an interactive whiteboard. The board saves Weikum’s written words,



Michelle Weikum '06 uses technology in her classroom similar to the resources she practiced with while at Union.

allowing her to print out or upload notes to the Internet for students who were absent or need extra help. Weikum also has the ability to record an entire lesson’s written notes and spoken lecture and save it for future use. “If I had to be absent from class, the substitute teacher could press play and I could still ‘teach’ my students,” she says.

Since many of her courses rely heavily

on calculations, Weikum’s students frequently use graphing calculators. Her classroom’s projection unit enables Weikum to share her work with the entire class. “We live in a technology-based world and students need to be able to apply the math they are learning,” says Weikum. “Technology keeps students’ attention longer than the typical chalk and chalkboard.”

Along with the fun of using technology, Weikum has also noticed a response she didn’t expect—students have become more responsible. “Technology keeps them aware and helps them develop responsibility,” she says. “I was blessed to learn about and use technology during my time at Union.”

#### Actively engaged

Generic bulleted list PowerPoint presentations of days gone by aren’t what Ryan Christiansen, a 2005 math education graduate, considers a good use of modern technology in the classroom. “Technology is not a horse and pony show,” he says. “It should be functional and students should learn from it.”

Christiansen was fortunate to begin his teaching career with a head start in the educational technology realm. His school in Desert Hot Springs, Calif.,



Ryan Christiansen '05 says his students are more engaged in learning math than they would be without technology tools.

## Technology for teachers in training

**L**arry Ray, Union College professor of mathematics, has long been an early adopter of new mediums for math instruction and a model for their uses in the classroom. He was so impressed with Christiansen’s use of Interwrite, he acquired one for the college and is now using the system to teach future math teachers. Union’s education program uses a SmartBoard similar to the technology Weikum has in her classroom.

“It has always been a tradition at Union College to equip our students with the experiences successful teachers

need,” said Joe Allison, chair of the Division of Human Development. “Our program has a long history of embracing new technologies and teaching students to evaluate their uses. It’s not enough to be tech savvy, educators must be discerning leaders and stewards as well. I’m very proud of the examples set by so many of our graduates.”~SC

Dr. Joe Allison demonstrates the SmartBoard capabilities.



received a grant to increase math department technology. “For a first year teacher this is like winning the lottery,” he says. “And I didn’t even know I was playing.”

Part of the grant enabled the school to implement Interwrite. The portable wireless tablet gives teachers full remote control of their computer and allows them to write and project notes from any location in the classroom. With Interwrite, teachers have the freedom to move from their traditional place beside the overhead projector and mingle with their students while actively teaching the entire class.

Christiansen begins the learning process by creating a PowerPoint slide of a math equation. He illustrates the correct answer by writing on top of the slide

using Interwrite to project his work onto a white board at the front of the room.

During classes, Christiansen also uses Qwizdom hardware to check his students’ understanding. During a formal or pop quiz, each student enters their answers into a personal handheld remote for instant computer grading. Christiansen often uses this method during presentations to ensure his students understand difficult concepts. “Qwizdom graphs how many students choose each answer and I can address specific problems,” he says. “It tells me if the class is ready to move on or if they need more examples.”

#### Bridging the gap

A large percentage of Christiansen’s students are not native English speakers. To bridge the language gap, he uses interactive Web sites such as BrainPop.com and strategies including Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) that employ visually stimulating techniques such as movement and color.

For example, when solving an addition problem Christiansen writes positive numbers in red and negative numbers in blue to help his students visualize the difference. “When I started teaching with technology I didn’t even know I was using SDAIE because it came so naturally with PowerPoint and the features of Interwrite and Quizdom,” he says.

All of this hardware has helped Christiansen’s eighth graders prepare to enter high school with a better grasp of

math concepts. “Students are in awe of all the technology,” says Christiansen. “They have a huge amount of buy-in when they have a chance to use Interwrite. If they know their homework is going to be graded the next day by computer, many more students will do it. They also have a better understanding of what notes they need to take.”

According to Christiansen, technological aids give him extra time to focus on students that are lagging behind and help create a consistent classroom through more feedback and less teacher grading. He believes these new methods are the future of education.

“Students are digital natives and many teachers are digital immigrants. Students don’t learn the same way they did 20 years ago, and teachers can’t teach the same way,” says Christiansen. “Having technology in the classroom helps deal with the attention span problem. Teachers can shift the method of instruction to PowerPoint, short quiz, student-made digital projects and movie clips on the topic on top of all of the tried and true methods.”

✦ The education program maintains a blog to keep in contact with graduates. You can participate at [blogs.ucollege.edu/education](http://blogs.ucollege.edu/education).

(Technology update continues on page 33)

# A CAREER OF FIRSTS

*Pioneering a path in  
information technology*

*Melodie  
Mayberry-Stewart '70*

By Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04  
Photos courtesy of  
State of New York's Office for Technology  
and Photographer Gary Gold

**S** start with a job description that includes managing 5,000 gifted individuals and a \$2 billion annual budget. Add frequent consultations with high-ranking officials and possessing an exponential knowledge about the newest trends in technology. Combine these demands with an impressive resume that ranks at the top of the information technology (IT) field, and humble isn't

a word that might come to mind. But Dr. Melodie Mayberry-Stewart, with her easy conversation and candid laughter, exudes down-to-earth charm.

Now referred to as "Chief Mayberry-Stewart" she serves as New York State's chief information officer (CIO) and director of Office for Technology. In her more than 30 years as an information technology (IT) professional, she's approached each position as an opportunity for personal growth.

"I've had to dig inside myself and find what I have learned from the past that will help me to navigate my current environment," says Mayberry-Stewart. "I've gotten comfortable with change and learned not to take myself so seriously."

While she has always believed that hard work reaps success, such a successful career in computers hadn't always been on her radar. While in school, Mayberry-Stewart excelled in math and enjoyed research. She believed her skills would lead her to a career in urban planning. Then courses in math and statistics, which relied heavily on computers, showed her the new world blossoming in information technology.

It was in the world of technology that she skyrocketed to the heights of her profession. But for Mayberry-Stewart, her career isn't only a job—it's her passion.

"The field of technology is where the action is," she says. "It is a super-tremendous opportunity to be a part of something continuously changing, where you're continuously learning, where you have an ability to impact millions of lives by writing an application or helping an organization serve their customers better. Information is what society runs on, and it gives us the ability to make better decisions to improve our communities and ultimately our society."

## A rising star

Mayberry-Stewart's foray into the IT world began shortly after she graduated from Union College in 1970 with a B.S. in business administration and sociology. She transitioned to the University of Nebraska, Lincoln to complete her master's in sociological research and completed a Ph.D. program to earn her A.B.D. in sociology.

While in Lincoln, Mayberry-Stewart went to work for the National Highway Transit Association as a project evaluator and researcher. From this position, IBM recruited her. In her 13 years with IBM, Mayberry-Stewart found her technology niche, being promoted eight times and ultimately attaining a job as a

regional marketing and technical support manager.

In 1991, Mayberry-Stewart transitioned to a series of roles as vice president and CIO at three health care companies. Then, in 1997, Mayberry-Stewart moved toward the public sector when she accepted the positions as vice president and general manager at Amoco Oil Corporation in Chicago. Her career took a civic turn in 2002 when she became the first chief technology officer and CIO for the city of Cleveland, Ohio, where she was responsible for creating the information technology and telecommunications strategy for the city.

In May 2007, Mayberry-Stewart was named to her current role for the State of New York. Serving as the top IT advisor for the second-most populous state in the nation is no job for a novice. Mayberry-Stewart generally clocks 14 to 16 hours each workday. Building partnerships with state commissioners, communicating with various departments and individuals, and keeping up with ever-changing technological trends keep her on her toes. She also is responsible for advising the governor's office on major technological initiatives to help the state provide better government services.

Somewhere between being New York's chief technology strategist and creating a vision for moving the state forward in its use of technology, a solid daily pattern is both difficult and simple to identify. When Mayberry-Stewart tries describing her average day, she just laughs. "I can't say what a typical day is; I don't have typical days," she says. "They are all very long, and they are all very full."

But where some may falter under pressure and expectations, Mayberry-Stewart glows with the idea of a challenge. "I love to push the envelope, to see how we can do something that's never been done before. There is that element that is stressful, but I don't stress out over it," she says. "I find it invigorating to have a responsibility to create change."

## Building blocks of success

Mayberry-Stewart's life hasn't always been big-title positions and managing billion-dollar budgets. The distinguished businesswoman was once a little girl from humble beginnings, living in a Cleveland subsidized housing development and working to be the first person in her family to earn a college degree.

"I've been given a lot, and I feel that I'm supposed to return a lot. My life has been one of many blessings, but I feel the Lord has blessed me so I can

## Rising through the ranks

### A snapshot of Dr. Melodie Mayberry-Stewart's career:

- Regional Marketing/Technical Support Manager; IBM Corporation, Armonk, New York; 1976-1988
- Vice President/Chief Information Officer (CIO); Community Health Corporation, Riverside, Calif.; 1988-1991
- Vice President/CIO; St. Thomas Hospital, Nashville, Tenn.; 1991-1995
- Vice President/CIO; Beth Israel Medical Center, New York; 1995-1997
- Vice President/General Manager for Global IT Service Delivery and Shared Services Business Unit; Amoco Oil Corporation, Chicago, Ill.; 1997-1999
- Founder, President and CEO; Black Diamond IT Consulting Group, Brentwood, Tenn.; 1999-2002
- CIO; City of Cleveland; 2002-2007
- CIO and Director of Office for Technology; State of New York; 2007-present



serve others,” says Mayberry-Stewart.

Her path to service started when Mayberry-Stewart left home for the classrooms of Pine Forge Academy in Pennsylvania. She excelled there and was one of three students from her graduating class in 1965 to venture to Nebraska to attend Union College. Mayberry-Stewart’s lifelong mentor and academy teacher, Robert Booker ’62, had graduated from Union and suggested that she would do well at his alma mater.

While college was a big adjustment, Mayberry-Stewart forged a special friendship shortly after arriving on campus. She spent some of her most memorable hours at Union working in the library alongside Chloe Foutz, who served Union’s library for 41 years. The two were close and kept in touch for many years after Mayberry-Stewart graduated.

Mayberry-Stewart says Foutz helped her adjust during her freshman and sophomore years. “Chloe used to keep me laughing. She was very special to me. I have wonderful memories of working in the library with her.”

This support helped encourage Mayberry-Stewart to pursue her business administration and sociology degrees. Although her current responsibilities seem worlds away from her college days, the building blocks are still evident in her present-day endeavors.

“Business skills are important to be a good senior manager, and sociology gave me training in terms of human behavior and working in groups. Understanding how people work in groups and how they think is helpful,” she says. “My background in business administration is very important when I

have to put together budgets and business plans.”

Beyond her undergraduate and graduate degrees earned while in Lincoln Mayberry-Stewart later coupled her Union and UNL education with an M.B.A. in finance from Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and an M.A. in executive management and a Ph.D. with a specialty in information systems from Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, Calif., where she was the first black female to earn a doctorate from the Peter F. Drucker School of Executive Management.

### Finding balance

Balancing professional expectations with personal respite is no easy task. Mayberry-Stewart often finds that even off-the-clock hours are filled with business events and social networking. Still, she does find time to do things she loves, including fishing, music, traveling, movies and reading.

Part of finding her balance also includes reaching out to community and nonprofit organizations. “Community service has always been a major part of my professional career. It gives me satisfaction to use my resources, knowledge and skills to improve lives. It is very important to me that I help make this a better place, and I think it’s expected of me.”

Mayberry-Stewart has served on boards of directors for groups including Girl Scouts of America, educational institutions including Pine Forge Academy, and several health care organizations.

As chair and a trustee of the Pine Forge Academy board, Mayberry-Stewart sees supporting her graduating academy as

more than a single-school endeavor. “Christ-centered education helps develop the sense of values, work ethic and ethical behaviour needed in the business world,” she says. “It gives you a moral compass that grounds you as you achieve success, keeps you humble, and reminds you to reach back to help others who are less fortunate.”

Community outreach is more than just a pastime for Mayberry-Stewart. After several years in the public sector, she decided to take her expertise to the nonprofit world in 1999 by founding Black Diamond Consulting Group. The technology group, which was active until 2002, worked mainly with CEOs, CFOs and CIOs from nonprofit corporations. The program helped assess company strengths and weaknesses, directed efficacy of technology planning and strategies, helped ensure appropriate technical staffing and taught ways for leaders to present their visions to their boards.

According to Mayberry-Stewart, nonprofits often know they need to use technology but don’t know how to go about doing it or have the capacity or the training. “I wanted to focus on nonprofits in health care, universities and even faith-based organizations that have tremendous resources but often have not thought strategically about how they could improve their performance through technology,” she said.

### Breaking down the walls

When she joined IBM, Mayberry-Stewart was the only black and the only female in her office, and at the start of her health care tenure, she was the country’s only black female CIO in the industry. This pioneer path has humbled Mayberry-Stewart. She says, “My career really has been a group of firsts.”

Leadership can be a lonely experience, and Mayberry-Stewart knows the road to success isn’t always friendly. Along with her achievements, she has faced hardships that, at times,



*In her time away from the office, Melodie Mayberry-Stewart enjoys outdoor activities including fishing.*

have left her feeling alone.

“When you’re pursuing a career where there aren’t many others that look like you or talk like you or share your background, you’re bound to have failures,” she says. There were times when Mayberry-Stewart wished for a stronger support system. “When you don’t have a support network of colleagues to help you balance your life, it can be lonely.”

Mayberry-Stewart recognizes that she’s had help breaking through longstanding barriers. “I’ve been very fortunate,” she says. “The Lord has put people in my path that were willing to step out and take a risk and look to me for my competency in spite of my color or my gender.”

“I’ve had tremendous mentors and sponsors who were willing to give me the opportunity to be a first, which hopefully created a model and opened the door for others in the next generation to follow.” ▲

### Awards and Achievements

From community service to leadership in business, Dr. Melodie Mayberry-Stewart has earned many prestigious awards from local, national and global groups. The following are a sampling of the recognition she has received throughout her career.

- Achieved two global awards for championing digital literacy
- Recognized by Smithsonian Institute with an award for implementing innovative technology in robotics and medical imaging
- Recognized with the highest national honor as one of the top five systems engineers in the country.
- 2007—Black Data Processing Professionals, Pace-Wimberly Award for Excellence in Information Technology
- 2005—Digital Program to Fight Poverty, featured article in *State Technology Magazine*
- 2004—Business Person of the Year, National Black MBA Association, Northeast Ohio, Cleveland Chapter
- 1999—Distinguished Alumni Award, Claremont Graduate University
- 1997—NELI Award for Top 25 Culturally Diverse Corporate Leaders, National Executive Leadership Institute
- 1995—Dean’s Alumni Award for Outstanding Community Service, Peter F. Drucker Graduate Management Center, Claremont Graduate University
- 1991—50 Most Promising Afro-American Leaders, *Dollars and Sense* magazine
- 1990—2,000 Most Notable Women, New York

*New York State Capitol Building*





# Advancing a Heritage of Service

by Kate Simmons '06  
Photography by Steve Nazario

Koch family business  
spans four generations



**W**hen Rob Koch called home within a month of graduation to ask his parents if there would be room for him in the family business, he found they had been hopefully awaiting that question for years.

It was 1982, and Rob, after earning an associate's degree at Union College, had just finished his bachelor's in electrical engineering at Walla Walla College. He and his wife, Kathy, were headed back to Holyrood, Kansas. The telecommunications business founded decades before by Rob's grandparents, Ed and Grace Koch (pronounced "cook"), did have a place for him.





Ed and Grace Koch in 1969



Left to right; Brent, Justin, Del Jeane and Don Nash. Harold and Betty Koch. Kathy, Rob, Brandon Marlena and Allison Koch.

### Family history = family business

H&B Communications, Inc., was officially established in 1967 when Harold and Betty (“H” and “B”) Koch, Rob’s parents, purchased two telephone companies from Ed, Grace and other shareholders, then merged the companies into one business.

But the relationship between the Koch family and the telecommunications industry extends farther back than 1967.

Ed and Grace Koch were closely tied to the telecommunication industry from the moment Ed began work as a maintenance man for the Bushton Telephone Company in 1925. He and Grace ran the switchboard out of their front room for years. Harold was even born in the Bushton telephone office. Betty Kemmerer (whom Harold Koch later married) worked there as a part-time switchboard operator when she was in high school. And when Harold and Betty returned from serving Army time in Alaska, they purchased the Bushton and Holyrood telephone companies that Ed, Grace and other shareholders had acquired and managed for years.

In 1997, after 30 years as owners and managers of H&B, Harold and Betty sold the business to their children, Rob and Del Jeane (“D.J.”), who also attended Union. Since then, H&B has continued to serve the surrounding communities while keeping up with an ever-changing world of technological advance and competition.

Heading a staff of close to 20, Rob is president and general manager, while D.J. serves as office manager and corporate secretary. Rob’s wife, Kathy, is vice president for health and safety, and D.J.’s husband, Don Nash, is vice president for finance.

“While maintaining our small-town friendliness, we want to be known for our ability to provide the latest in communication technology,” Rob said. This goal is realized as H&B provides the rural Kansas communities of Holyrood, Bushton, Dorrance and Claflin with full telephone, Internet and cable television services. The company also supplies cable television and Internet services to the communities of Lorraine and Chase, cable television to Little River, and wireless Internet and telephone services to Ellinwood.

### The Union connection

Like the telecommunications business, ties to Union College have run in the Koch family for generations. “My mom was the one who started our love for Union [in the mid-1940s] when she attended and was baptized during her freshman year,” D.J. said. “Because of that experience, my dad was later baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and they were married the next day.”

Though Rob earned his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Walla Walla College, the foundation of his college education was laid at Union College, where he earned an associate degree in 1980. “When your education is centered around the concept of preparing for a life of service, it is coincidentally an ideal education for operating a business based on providing services to the public,” he explained.

Service truly does permeate every aspect of Rob’s life—professional, civic and spiritual. In addition to providing valuable and necessary telecommunications to various rural segments of Kansas, he was elected mayor of the City of Holyrood in April 1991, and has served in that office ever since. He is also a member of the Union College Board of Trustees.

Each of Rob and Kathy’s children—Marlena Koch Jahn ’02, Brandon Koch and Allison Koch (current student)—and both of

D.J. and Don’s children—Justin ’07 and Brent Nash—attended Union College. “The icing on the cake for our commitment to Union is the wonderful and balanced experience of our three children,” Rob said.

He came to fully realize the dedication of the Union College faculty and staff when he stopped by a Union College booth in Kansas City and chatted with Stan and Angie Hardt, spiritual discovery director and assistant respectively. He found that the Hardts not only knew his children by name, but knew them personally through frequent interaction. Stan had played basketball with Brandon and Marlena had been a part of Angie’s small group ministry. “Our children have often been welcomed into faculty homes,” Rob said. “These interactions occur because Union College employees truly have love for the students.”

### Why it works

Service is perhaps the most significant theme running through the story of the Koch family and what became a successful family business. It began with Ed Koch. “He wanted the people in our communities to have all the technological advantages that people in large cities have,” D.J. said.

This commitment to service continues as H&B Communications, Inc., brings the surrounding communities the latest and best telecommunications services possible. “We want to enable people to live and raise their families in a quiet rural setting and yet be able to compete in today’s global economy,” Rob said.

None of the success of H&B would have been possible without a cohesive family vision. Just as Rob found his parents eager to include him in the family business when he returned to Holyrood after college, Rob and D.J. want there to be a place for any of their children who may wish to follow in their footsteps. Each of Rob’s and D.J.’s children began working at H&B when they were 14 years old. “We are in the process of expanding our business to provide an opportunity for all of our children, if and when they have a desire to come back,” Rob said.

“Trying to bring a business on through to the fourth generation is definitely going against the odds,” D.J. said. “Much effort is being made to expand our business in the best possible ways, and to make use of the talents available through our kids as they express interest in a future career at H&B.”

Already the fourth generation is beginning to make its mark. Brandon and Brent have followed Rob’s lead: Brandon earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering and Brent is pursuing the same. Marlena earned a business degree from Union College several years ago and is now pursuing her master’s. Justin, who recently completed his own business degree at Union, and Marlena are currently working with H&B from satellite offices. Allison is pursuing her degree in education, but should she wish to return to H&B, there will be a place for her as well. “She has great people skills and will be a tremendous asset if she decides to come back to H&B to work,” D.J. said.

Beyond themes of service and family ambition, which run parallel through the bloodline and timeline of the Koch family history, is one salient theme—commitment to God. “The most important thing for us as a family is that each of us be in heaven,” D.J. said. “None of the success we have experienced through the generations of our business will be worth anything without eternity with our Lord.” **A**



The mural in Rob Koch’s office depicts the history of the four-generation family business.



The old communications system is now being replaced with the latest technology that consolidates and entire room of switchers into one small electronic computer tower.



The core team of H&B Communications: Don and D.J. Nash and Rob and Kathy Koch.

## Four generations of telecommunications



- 1925** Ed Koch arrives in Bushton, Kansas, as a maintenance worker for the Bushton Telephone Company. His wife, Grace, works as the operator and billing clerk.
- 1947** After years of maintaining the telephone switchboard in their front room, Ed and Grace purchase the controlling interest in and manage the Bushton Telephone Company.
- 1954** Ed and Grace, with William, Paul and Bonnie Volkland, purchase the Holyrood Telephone Company and begin modernizing its facilities.
- 1955** Ed and Grace's son, Harold, and his wife, Betty, return to Holyrood, Kansas, from Army service in Alaska and begin work in the family business.
- 1958-1960** An exchange (a dial central office with dial telephones) is installed first in Bushton, then in Holyrood.
- 1967-1969** Harold and Betty purchase the two telephone companies from Ed, Grace and the other shareholders and form H&B Communications, Inc. They later purchase the Dorrance Telephone Company and add it to H&B.
- 1979** All phone lines are converted to single party provided by underground cable.
- 1982** Harold and Betty form a new corporation—H&B Cable Service, Inc.—to provide Community Antenna Television (CATV) to the Holyrood and Bushton communities.
- 1982** Harold and Betty's son, Rob, and his wife, Kathy, return from Walla Walla College to Holyrood and begin working for H&B.
- 1982-1989** H&B constructs CATV systems in Holyrood, Bushton, Marquette, Little River, Sylvia, Turon, Cunningham, Lorraine and Preston, while purchasing the existing systems in Claflin and Chase.

- 1983** D.J. and her husband, Don Nash, return to Holyrood to enter the family business.
- 1987** H&B joins 31 other rural independent telephone companies to form what will become Kansas Cellular, a statewide rural cellular provider.
- 1989** H&B sells CATV systems in Marquette, Little River, Sylvia, Turon, Cunningham, Chase and Preston to enable investment in Kansas Cellular.
- 1990** Kansas Cellular serves first customer. H&B places first fiber optic line in service. Remaining switches are converted to digital.
- 1991** H&B provides interactive television system to local school districts.
- 1997** Harold and Betty sell H&B to Rob and their daughter, D.J. H&B provides its first cable modem service.
- 1999** H&B reacquires the Little River CATV system. Kansas Cellular sells to Alltel. H&B rolls out 768 Kb DSL service.
- 2000** H&B provides digital cable television.
- 2004** H&B provides competitive telephone service over CATV facilities.
- 2005** H&B provides wireless broadband service to adjacent rural areas using licensed 700 Mhz spectrum.
- 2006** H&B begins carrying high definition channels on CATV systems.
- 2007** H&B installs its first soft switch, which is equally optimized for voice, video or data.



## McCONNELL ENTERTAINMENT: PROVIDING THE HOOKUP

by Jimmy Phillips '08

Chris McConnell's passion is of providing others with opportunities he wishes had been available to him. During his time at Union College, Chris and his friend Nick Clark played together in a Christian band called Capable. Despite their talent, they found getting "discovered" to be a pretty difficult challenge. They didn't have the first idea about how to record a demo, book a venue or get noticed by a record label. This frustration laid the groundwork for what has become McConnell Entertainment.

"I guess it really started in my dorm room," McConnell said. "I began doing free graphic design for local independent bands—anything to get my name out there. But after a while I started to have some ideas about how I could get involved in meeting the needs of Christian independent bands."

The music industry is becoming increasingly digital. Millions of songs are downloaded every day from music stores like iTunes, Rhapsody and even Wal-Mart.com—all from the comfort of home. This shift in the industry has made signing with a record label less vital for aspiring artists. That's where McConnell Entertainment comes in.

"Our goal is to empower the independent artist by equipping them with tools to succeed in whatever focus they want to pursue," McConnell said. "They might want help booking shows, getting their music on iTunes or recording a demo. Whatever they need, we'll help them get there."

### Leveling the playing field

McConnell provides these opportunities through his site, *Hookups*. For a small monthly fee, Christian independent bands can join Hookups and get their music in digital music stores, distribute press releases, create a Web site, learn about Christian concert venues and gain access to a whole variety of resources to improve their music and way of telling other people about it. McConnell says this is an effort to "level the playing field between independent artists and those signed with a label."

To meet artists, McConnell has taken advantage of online social networking by creating musicstir.com, a community for independent artists to discuss trends, learn about new opportu-

nities and get to know each other. Many members of the community first learn about Hookups and McConnell's other resources through Musicstir.

Despite the digitalization of music, many bands still want to sign with a record label. McConnell provides an excellent opportunity for them as well. Band with a Mission is a Nashville-based entity that hosts a showdown for 20 bands from across the country each year with the winner receiving a

record deal from a Christian music provider. The 20 bands are made up of five each from Nashville; Canton, Ohio; Lincoln, Neb., and the state of Florida. McConnell Entertainment owns the Lincoln and Florida franchises and decides which bands will go to the finals from those regions. Last year's national winner, Rush of Fools, debuted at the top of the Christian music charts.

### More than money

While this enterprise is an excellent way to pay the bills, McConnell is excited about connecting to people on a spiritual level. That's why he decided to represent

only Christian artists. "I could have made a lot more money by going mainstream, but decided to stick with Christian music for a reason," McConnell said. "I would never want to be responsible for promoting music that isn't in line with what I believe."

McConnell doesn't shy away from his Adventist faith either. As one of the largest Adventist-owned companies working with the mainstream Christian music scene, McConnell hopes to help connect the two. "One of the major goals I have is to introduce mainstream Christian music culture to Adventist culture," McConnell said. "In the future, I hope to incorporate an Adventist news feed into Musicstir to create more awareness about who we are."

Today the future looks bright for McConnell Entertainment, but it wasn't an easy road. "I have had a lot of ideas that failed miserably," McConnell said. "If you have a dream you can't let failure stop you from getting where you want to be. You just have to keep at it." **A**

Check out McConnell Entertainment at [www.cmcconnell.com](http://www.cmcconnell.com)

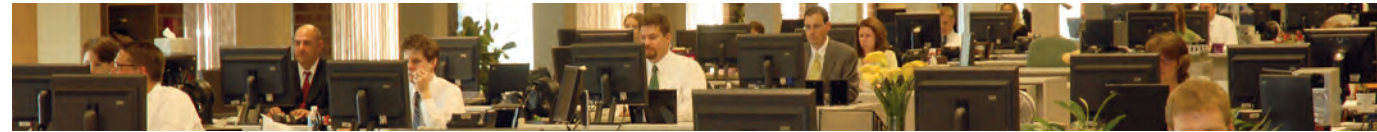


Chris ('07) McConnell and his wife Candice Powell '07 McConnell.

photo: Steve Nazario

# FROM EDUCATION TO EDITING

by Scott Cushman '03



## CHRIS TRUMBLE TEACHES TECHNOLOGY TO ENTHUSIASTS

Softly-clicking keyboards and the muted ringing of distant phones are a visitor's first impression of the offices of Sandhills Publishing Inc. in Lincoln, Neb. This soundtrack to corporate America is a far cry from Chris Trumble's memories of listening to music in a friend's basement while playing on a Sinclair TRS80 (a computer now out-computed by many calculators) or the giggling, whispering and occasional snoring of high school students while completing his student teaching in Lincoln. Yet a long-standing enthusiasm for technology and a major in English education are how Trumble '94 got to where he is today.

The editor of *Computer Power User* (*CPU*), a magazine for people who get excited about pixel shader pipelines and steam punk case mods, Trumble came to Lincoln from his hometown of Hutchinson, Minn., to pursue a career in education, starting with a bachelor's at Union College. Like roughly half of those holding an education degree nationwide, he found his career path led outside of the classroom.\*

While living with his wife, Malinda Whitlow '00, in the Bancroft Apartments, a friend mentioned Sandhills Publishing was looking for staff writers for computer magazines. Trumble applied and started at Sandhills as a full-time writer in June of 1998.

"I'd never been published before getting hired at Sandhills," Trumble says. "Writing papers for college courses is gratifying in its own right, but there's something special about seeing someone pick up your magazine off a newsstand and read your article."

"The two main components I needed to start was the ability to write and a passion for technology," Trumble says. "I've always had a passion for

technology, and my classes helped me write well." He credits a journalism course he took at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Dr. Bill Fitts' college writing and literature courses at Union with preparing him for writing full-time, adding that learning to work in groups was a big part of his college education. "That's a skill that helps in any career."

*CPU* isn't a magazine for people who only use their computers for browsing the Web or typing text documents. "We assume our readers have a high degree of knowledge; we don't spell out acronyms or give definitions unless something is very new," Trumble says. "We're a niche publication with a small subscriber base, but they tend to be very loyal. Our subscription renewal rates are staggeringly high."

The meat of the magazine is comprised of reviews of new products, do-it-yourself guides ranging from cooling your processor to tweaking application performance and columns by geek celebrities who are often best known by screen names like "Sharky" (of SharkyExtreme.com) and CmdrTaco (of Slashdot.org).

A technology publication relies on good relationships with manufacturers for early access to new products. "When a company launches a product that doesn't live up to its billing, there can be some tension with the manufacturer," Trumble says. "But if you're fair and don't target the company, they'll respect your opinion. Our responsibility is really to the reader. If a product isn't any good and we said it is, our reader is gone."

After writing for *CPU* and serving as a content editor, Trumble was chosen as chief editor. "My job now is to bring everything together," he says. "Content editors find writ-



"Now that I'm an editor, the question I ask myself when hiring a new writer is which is more important to look for, a good writer or an enthusiast? You can't fake the love for technology."



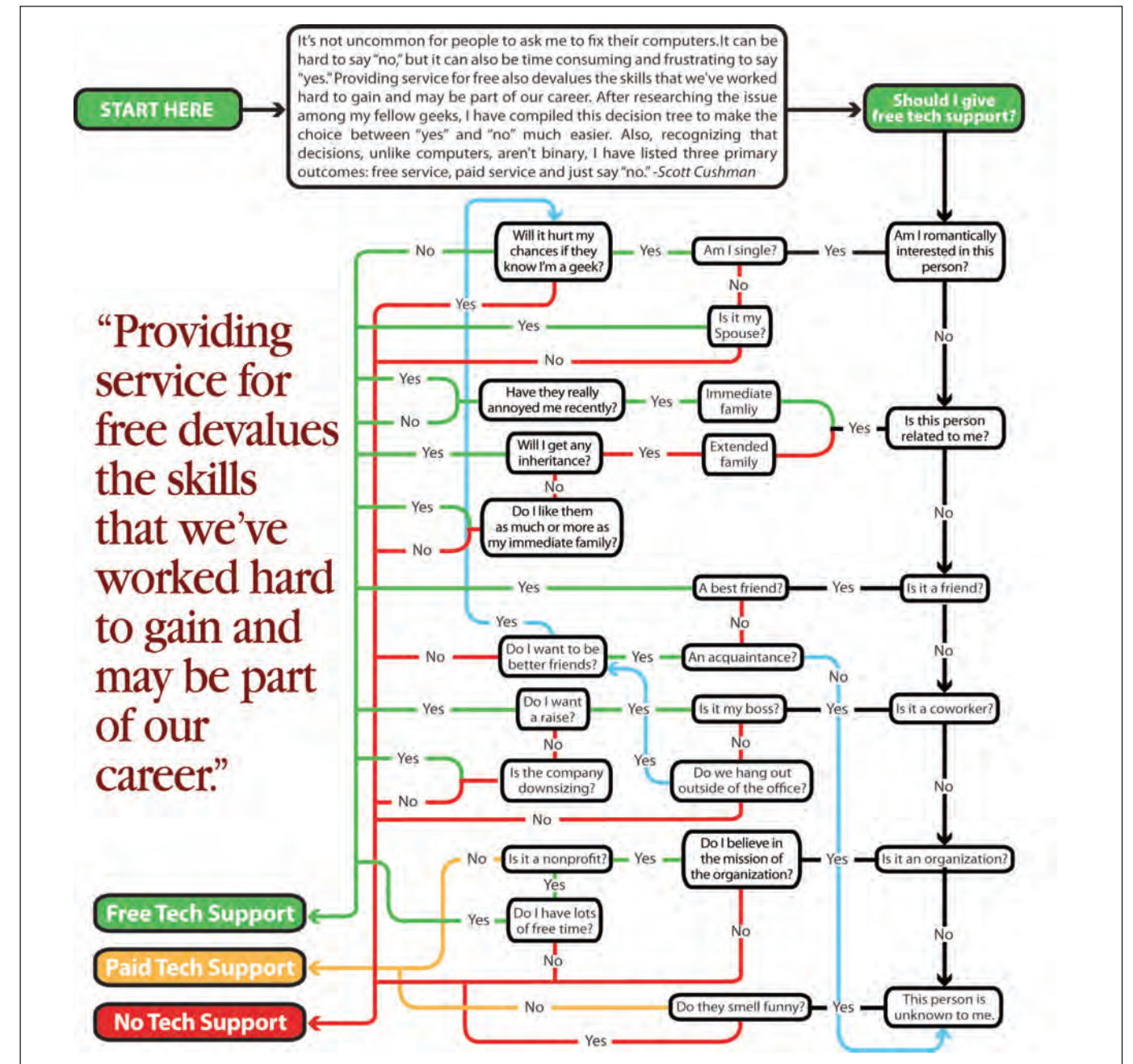
ers and proof their sections, my main concern is for the pieces to fit together in a way that makes sense"

One of the perks of being an editor, according to Trumble, is the ability to assign himself articles on occasion. "I love gaming, so I often write reviews of new games myself," he says. "I get to play the newest releases and call it work."

"There's a creative aspect to pretty much everything we get to do," Trumble says. "What I miss about being a writer is I could really immerse myself on a specific article and dive into it ... but as an editor, there's an incredible sense of pride and satisfaction when you get the proofs back from the printer, then again when you see the magazine on the shelf at Barnes and Noble."

When asked what his childhood aspirations were, Trumble laughed and said, "I never had a single this-is-what-I-want-to-do profession. It always fascinates me when I hear an interview with someone who excels in their profession and they say they wanted to do this since they were five years old. When I was five, I wanted to eat cookies or ride my bike. I never had that sort of drive or passion about anything ... I probably would have liked teaching, but I know I enjoy publishing." A

\* According to a 2006 study by the National Education Association.



# THE EYE OF A STORYTELLER

by Esther Shields '08

## UNION ALUMNI CELEBRATED FOR THEIR AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY

**D**uring World War II, over 200,000 Korean women were forced to work as “comfort women” by the Japanese army. Decades later, they are fighting to tell their story before history forgets them. “Behind Forgotten Eyes,” a film created by Union College graduates Anthony Gilmore and Ryan Seale, tells these women’s story.

Gilmore’s background began with theater. In 1997, he worked on his first production at Union College with Mark Robison, associate professor of English and drama. The next year, with Robison’s support and training he directed “The Boys Next Door,” a play about the delicate issue of mental disabilities. In 2003 Gilmore graduated with a bachelor’s degree in theater from Union thanks to the Best of Both Worlds program. Although many of his classes



were taken elsewhere, he credits much of his training to Robison.

“Through Mark Robison and studying and working directly with him, I decided that I wanted to be a director,” Gilmore says. “Mark Robison supported that decision and helped me train at Union.”

A year after graduating, Gilmore worked as assistant to the director on the Broadway musical *Boy from Oz*, which starred Hugh Jackman. In January 2007, Gilmore returned to Lincoln to teach at Union College for a semester while Robison, his mentor, was on sabbatical. While at Union, Gilmore directed “The Boys Next Door,” the play that signaled the beginning of his directing career.

Despite his success as a director, Gilmore would rather have people hear about his master’s in Korean

Studies while living in South Korea. It was here that he discovered his passion for making documentaries. In his first contemporary Korean studies class, Gilmore learned about Korean women being kidnapped, tricked or outright sold into prostitution for the Japanese army and

then routinely abused by 30-40 men a day. Though he knew of Germany’s concentration camps for Jews and outcasts, he hadn’t considered atrocities committed by other countries, like Japan. When the war ended, only about 30 percent of the women were alive—and they lived in silence from the shame and stigma of their slavery. Only within the past 20 years has this horror been addressed in public. Now it roars into view. Grandmothers seek compensation and an apology from the Japanese government, yet the government is officially silent. Unfortunately, time and the aging process are on the government’s side.

“You hear about the Holocaust but you never really hear too much what the Japanese did. I was totally shocked and appalled,” Gilmore says.

This information about World War II evils spurred him to research and film his findings. Realizing that most Americans have no knowledge of Korean comfort women or understanding of the issue’s current application to Asian cultures, Gilmore hoped to introduce their plight to Americans through his documentary, *Behind Forgotten Eyes*. To do so, he enlisted the help of another Union alumnus, 2004 graduate Ryan Seale, as cinematographer and editor.

Narrated by television’s *Lost* star Yoon-jin Kim, *Behind Forgotten Eyes* has already been screened at venues across the United States including many film festivals and universities such as Berkeley, Harvard and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Many Union students and employees attended and stayed for the Question & Answer session with Gilmore and Seale during the UNL screening in April 2007.

*Behind Forgotten Eyes*, has been well received by critics around the world. One of the United Kingdom’s leading genre film journalists, M. J. Simpson, calls the project a “powerful, well-crafted and important documentary film, which deserves to be seen by anyone who claims an interest in Asian history or culture.” The documentary recently won best film in the Conflict & Resolution Competition at the Hamptons International Film Festival, beating out some Hollywood heavyweights. *Behind Forgotten Eyes* has won various other awards since and has been accepted to other film festivals, including an Amnesty International festival based in the Netherlands. The producers have a TV deal in Poland with Polish Public Television and they are working on options in the United States with PBS and other distributors.

After more than a dozen media interviews and an appearance on a Korean English-speaking TV show, Gilmore has been asked nearly every question imaginable about the project. Even so, he still loves discussing Japanese and Korean relations.

“There are so many stories waiting to be told there,” Gilmore says.

Besides arranging screenings and promoting *Behind Forgotten Eyes*, Gilmore is heavily involved in various other developments. Currently, Gilmore is working as co-producer, editor and post production supervisor for *Resilience*. This film explores overseas adoption from Korea. Despite the fact it is no longer a poor, developing country, South Korea sends away

more children for adoption than any other country. Gilmore reports that five to six babies are exported out of Seoul, South Korea, every day. “A story of profound loss and broken family ties,” this film explores the issue through the eyes of the mothers. It relays moving stories like those of mothers who were forced to give up their children and

**Gilmore says the path from project development to distribution can be daunting but rewarding. “Making meaningful projects is definitely a long tedious road, but it’s also very fun.”**

move to homes for unmarried women.

Seale and Gilmore, along with other producers, writers and directors from around the world have formed Nameless Films. This film collective works together to develop and produce projects. Their first narrative adventure, a low-budget independent short-film, will be made in Japan where Gilmore lives.

Nameless Films will also contract with commercial ventures, serving as a production company that offers services to producers. Gilmore will also travel to

Germany soon to film at the largest online gaming convention and investigate the online gaming phenomenon. This film will focus on the subculture of gaming, a culture that many people know little about. **A**



➤ To learn more about *Behind Forgotten Eyes* and the stories of the Korean comfort women, visit <http://www.behindforgotteneyes.com>. You can learn more about *Resilience* by visiting <http://www.resiliencefilm.com>.

➤ Visit *CORDmagazine* online to read a new feature about the film printed in the *Lincoln Journal Star* in January 2008.

photos: courtesy of Anthony Gilmore

photo: courtesy of Anthony Gilmore

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'67 denotes graduation year  
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1910s 1 0 s

**Ruth Leech Oliver ('15)** lives in Ukiah, Calif., and celebrated her 109th birthday on Sept. 17, 2007. Ruth loved every minute of her birthday and enjoyed the time she spent with friends and family who came to celebrate with her at a special party on Sept. 16 and those who visited with her the next day.



Ruth Oliver

1940s 4 0 s

**Mavis Betts Boyd '44** attended the alumni meeting at the Oregon camp meeting in July

and enjoyed hearing good reports of Union. Her three children live close to her; she enjoys good health and continues to count the blessings God has given her.

**Frank '47 and Helen Dean Smith Knittel '53** retired in Alford, Texas, and have enjoyed the past two years there, after 20 years in southern California. Frank was elected mayor of the 1,000+ community and was sworn in May 18, 2007.

**Dan Schwartz '47** lives in Sultan, Wash., and has married "the sweetest woman in the world." Even though he is retired, he still works as a substitute teacher in the Sultan school district. To the community he is known as Dr. Dan.

1950s 5 0 s

**John Parobek '50 and Ethel Reynolds Cole '65** were married on Nov. 24, 2006, in Lodi, Calif.



John and Ethel Parobek

**Helton Fisher '59** lives in Harare, Zimbabwe, at the New Start Children's Home with 50+ orphans who have lost both parents to AIDS. In the past they have only taken children 5 years of age and older, but due to the rampant epidemic they are opening a facility for infants.

1980s 8 0 s

**Greg Hodgson '82** lives in Boulder, Colo., and helped start Centura's International Medical Missions (IMM) in 2004. The program has increased to more than 300 local health care workers treating approximately 10,000 patients around the world and delivering truckloads of medical supplies that would otherwise have been discarded. Hodgson personally organizes each trip, which includes volunteer nurses and doctors. The organization has also partnered with hospitals in each region, asking them what they need long-term and collaborating with other non-governmental organizations to make it happen. IMM has made an impact in many countries around the world.

**Jan Rogers Jorgenson '83** lives in Battle Ground, Wash., and is completing her history degree at WSU University. She currently works as a research historian, reuniting adoptees with their birthparents. Jan has two daughters, Jen, a freshman at Walla Walla University and Marina, a junior at Columbia Academy.

**Linda Hinton '86** lives in Woodridge, Ill., and attended her 20th alumni reunion last year. She is the office assistant for the Youth Ministries Department at the Illinois Conference. In December 2003 she was invested as a Pathfinder Master Guide and is involved in Pathfinders and mission trips. She credits where she is today to her mission experiences and her time at Union College.

1990s 9 0 s

**Stephanie Huset Anderson '91** lives in New Hope, Minn., and has two children, Bennett and Carter. She was promoted

to first-degree black belt on Sept. 8, 2007, in Tae-Kwon-Do. She began studying and competing in martial arts many years ago, but a series of injuries postponed her promotion.

**Kimberly Hillhouse VandenBosch '91** lives in Redlands, Calif., and recently had a beautiful baby girl.



VandenBosch family

**Steve '93 and Dawn Gray Creitz '89** live in Vancouver, Wash., and were recently blessed with a baby girl, Sofia Dawnae, born on Nov. 13, 2007. Her older sister, Mikayla, is now 2½.

**Brent '97 and Jennifer Booth Ingold '97** recently moved to North Dakota where Brent teaches at Dakota Adventist Academy.

**Rhonda Purkeypille Mazlumian '97** and her husband, Pablo, had a baby girl, Gianna Lee, on Dec. 24, 2006.



Rhonda and Gianna Lee Mazlumian

**Brian Ruckle '97** and his wife, Li, live in Portland, Ore., and were blessed with a baby girl, Elena Lea.

**Tangie Campbell Isidro '98** and her husband, Allen, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Braelyn Jade, on March 16, 2007. Tangie is a senior manager at Ernst & Young.



Braelyn Jade Isidro

2000s 2 0 0 s

**Greg ('00) and Amber Doolaard Johnson '99** welcomed a baby girl, Claire Olivia, on Jan. 20, 2007.



Claire Olivia Johnson

**Randy ('00) and Angela LeDoux Stroud '04** welcomed their baby boy, Connor Eric, who was born on Aug. 12, 2007.

**Tonja Rizij's Rasmusson '00** and her husband, Ryan, had a baby girl on Nov. 14, 2006, Inta Nechelle. Tonja teaches religion and English to juniors

and seniors at Sacramento Adventist Academy.



Inta Nechelle Rasmusson

**Kelly Casselman Helm '02** has opened an online children's boutique, "Tickled Pink and Blue." This has been a goal for her since her daughter, Macy's birth. In addition to children's boutique clothing, she designs and produces girls' hair bows and accessories. She is thrilled that the boutique has finally opened. www.tickledpinkandblue.com

**Jason '03 and Michelle Singh '03 Moses** live in Burleson, Texas. Jason has opened two new physical therapy practices. Michelle is a physician assistant and earned a master's degree from Loma Linda in 2006. Jason earned a Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Loma Linda in 2006.

**Mandi Jourdan Kutschara '04** and her husband, Jonathan, are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Madison Joy. She was born Jan. 21, 2007. The



Madison Joy Kutschara

Kutschara's currently live in Hutchison, Minn.

**Marion Miller '04** and his wife, Elva, are thankful to God for their new baby girl, Candace Tabitha. She was born on Aug. 22, 2007.



Candace Tabitha Miller

**Erik Andersson '05** attends school at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, Wales and will earn a master's in tuba performance. He is studying with Nigel Seaman and Sean O'Neil, tuba players in the BBC Symphony of Wales, and the Welsh, National Opera. Erik plans to be in Europe until further notice.

**Brian Kraft '05** graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2006 with a Master of Social Work degree. He currently lives in Independence, Kan., and works for DCCCA, a family preservation, foster care and adoption program. He is a family preservation specialist.

**Daniel '01 and Heather Kampf '05 Wysong** are pleased to announce the birth of their baby girl, Abigail Marie, on June 21, 2007. Heather is a nursing student at Union College and Daniel is a pastor for the Kansas-



Abigail Marie Wysong

Nebraska Conference in Lincoln at Piedmont Park church.

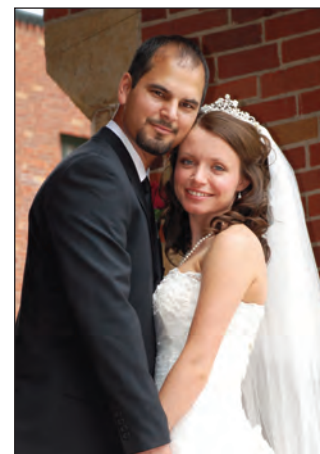
**Stacy Clements '06** works at Wisconsin Academy in the business office helping in the accounting area. She had been praying about the right job and everything appears to be falling into place.

**Travis Morrell '06 and Mindy Mekelburg '06** were married July 23, 2006, in Estes Park, Colo.



Travis and Mindy Morrell

**Heather Dickman '07** and Jared Hoewing were married July 29, 2007, in Lincoln, Neb. Heather is working toward her PA degree. Jared loves flying his helicopter and enjoys his job at the University of Nebraska.



Jared and Heather Hoewing

**Casey Prindle '07** and **Sandra Nazario, current student**, were married on a beautiful misty morning at 11:11, May 28, 2007, in Lincoln, Neb. The time of day was special as it was when Casey and Sandy would pray for each other while Sandy was away as a student missionary serving in Majuro. Sandy is finishing her nursing degree at Union and Casey teaches in the Lincoln public school system.



Casey and Sandra Prindle

**Jessica Tunnell '07** and **Jason Warren ('07)** were married Aug. 12, 2007, in Cleburne, Texas. They live near Keene, Texas, with their dog, two cats, fish and horse. Jessica works at Beaumont Ranch as a wedding and event planner. Jason works at Olive Garden and is completing his degree.



Jason and Jessica Warren

**Rachel Turner '07** and Alan Orrison were married June 24, 2007, on Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga, Tenn. They live in Lincoln where Rachel works as a graphic designer and Alan works at Union's Financial Services department



Alan and Rachel Orrison

People Placements

**Kevin Erickson '06** joined Enrollment Services as an enrollment advisor. Erickson graduated from Union with a Bachelor of Science in business administration in 2006 and an Associate of Science in psychology in 2007.

**Gary Dickerson '84** joined the Division of Business and Computer Science as an associate professor of computer science. Dickerson previously worked at the University of Notre Dame as an applications specialist. He has earned a Master of Information Technology degree from Andrews University (2002) and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (1989). Dickerson and his wife, **Brenda '86**, have two children, Keltie and James.

**Thomas Dunion** joined the Division of Math and Science as a professor of mathematics.

Dunion previously worked at Atlantic Union College, where he lead in the development of online courses. Dunion earned a bachelor's from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a master's from the University of Connecticut and completed his Ph.D. in mathematics from Idaho State University in 1995.

**Jamie Hobson '07** joined the Career Center as an office assistant shortly after graduating from Union with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work in 2007.

**Donna Kopf** joined the Division of Health Sciences as the Emergency Medical Services coordinator for the international rescue and relief program. Kopf and her husband have six adult children and seven grandchildren. She previously taught EMT and paramedic courses at Southeast Community College and has received certification from Creighton University.

**Katie Lechler '04** joined the Division of Humanities as a visiting instructor in composition. After graduating from Union with a degree in English, she completed her master's in English at Andrews University. The new visiting instructorship position is designed to mentor future professors between their master's and doctoral studies.

**Ken Lehmann ('80)** joined Plant Services. He has previously worked in Spearfish, S.D., as a contractor and carpenter. He and his wife, Melanie ('80), have two children, Dustin and **Lacey (current student)**.

**Nicholas Madhiri** joined the faculty of the Division of Math and Science as assistant professor of chemistry. Madhiri earned a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry/physical electrochemistry at West Virginia University in 2006, where he worked as a research associate

on fuel cells as an alternative source of energy. His wife, Embedzayi Tszanzi, graduated in May 2007 with a master's degree in human nutrition from West Virginia University. They have two sons, Ryan and Seth.

**Jennifer McFadyen** joined Dining Services as assistant director. McFadyen, her husband, Mark, and their three children moved to Lincoln from northern Montana where she managed a cleaning and food service business.

**Nicole Olson Orian '04** joined the Division of Health Science as a nursing instructor. She graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing and an Associate of Science in business from Union College in 2006. Orian and her husband, Matthew, have year-old twins, Jacob and Hailey. Orian has previously worked as an ICU trauma nurse in Fayetteville, Ark., and as a full-time mom.

**Seth Perkins** joined the Division of Health Science as an assistant professor of physical education. He previously served as athletic director at College View Academy. Perkins earned two bachelors' degrees from Southern Adventist University, one in religious studies and one in physical education, and completed his master's in physical education at Azusa Pacific University. Perkins' wife, Luenda, is a nurse practitioner. They have two children, a five-year-old son and infant daughter.

**Frank Restesan** joined the faculty of the Division of Fine Arts as an associate professor of music. Restesan directs chamber music groups and the band. He holds master's degrees in musical stylistics and music performance as well as a doctorate in conducting from the University of Arizona. He has previously

taught at Atlantic Union College, Walla Walla University and Antillean Adventist University.

**Roger Schmidt** joined the Division of Business and Computer Science as a lecturer in computer science. Schmidt graduated from Andrews University with a bachelor's in computing and mathematical studies in 2006 and will complete a master's in software engineering from Andrews University in May 2008.

**Richard Young '06** has been promoted from an Enrollment Services intern to a full-time enrollment advisor. Young has worked at Union since graduating with a bachelor's in history education in 2006.

IN MEMORY

Death dates and/or obituaries have been received for the following individuals.

**Janice McCormack Specht '24**, Garden Grove, Calif., died Aug. 6, 2007, at age 105. Janice's early years were spent on farms in Illinois, Kansas and Iowa. After graduating from Union College, Janice taught English in Nebraska and Colorado where she met her husband, **Oswald '27**, who preceded her in death in 1979. Janice is survived by her daughter Lenore Lower, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Maxwell Tindall ('32)**, Monroe, La., died May 28, 2007, at age 98. He was married to his childhood sweetheart, Marthelle Toops, for 69 years. She preceded him in death in December 2003. In 1997, Max and Marthelle moved to Monroe, La., to be near their son. Max is survived by his son, Dr. Monte Tindall, his wife and three granddaughters.

**Ada Williams Turner '33**, Grand Terrace, Calif., died Apr. 30, 2007. She was born May 29, 1910, in Ragan, Neb. As a senior English major, Ada was editor of the *Clocktower*. Ada married her husband, **Harry '34**, in 1936. They moved to California in 1941. Ada was a consummate editor and writer. She enjoyed family history and spending time with family, friends and neighbors. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry, in 1965. She is survived by her daughters Marilyn Crane and Ann McKibben and their husbands, as well as granddaughters and their families.

**Lois Heiser Jacobs ('43)**, Chattanooga, Tenn., died Aug. 13, 2007, at age 86. She earned a master's degree in home economics from New York University. From 1945-1951 she was head of the Home Economics Department at Southern Adventist University. She married her husband, Jamile, in 1951. From 1961 to 1975, they served in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. When they returned to the United States, Lois helped her husband design, build and operate Community Service Centers in each district he pastored. In 1987 for health reasons, they moved to Florida to be closer to family. They made their final move to Chattanooga, Tenn., in 2002. Lois was preceded in death by her husband, Jamile, and daughter, Lucille. She is survived by her son, Douglas.

**George Sherbondy '43**, Henderson, N.C., died Nov. 24, 2006, at age 89. He was a pastor for 36 years, serving districts in Colorado, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota and Ohio. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, **Eva Hallock ('41) Sherbondy**; daughters, Edith Vining and Evalyn Smith; sons, David, **Duane ('74)** and **Delbert**

**('87)**; brother, Ralph; nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Helen Johnson Wiltse '43**, Albuquerque, N.M., died May 25, 2007. During the time her husband, **Glenn '43**, was in medical school, Helen worked as a dental assistant, switchboard operator and professional seamstress. They lived in California and Germany during Glenn's Army service. After his military service, they moved to Wahpeton, N.D., where they lived until 2005. They moved to Albuquerque, N.M., to be near family because of Helen's deteriorating health. Helen loved sewing, flowers, babies and spending time with family. She is survived by her husband, **Glenn**; daughter **Charlene Zeelau '67**; sons, **Curtis '70** and Douglas; sisters, **Irene Martinson '37** and Elaine Thomas.

**Edwin Shafer '47**, Crestwood, Ky., died May 19, 2007, at age 82. He was a native of Siloam Springs, Ark., a retired Adventist minister and a member of the South Oldham Lions Club. He is survived by his wife, **LaVon Cotte ('45) Shafer**; sons, Edwin, David, Samuel and Joseph; daughters, Rosemarie Fuller, Ruth Ellen Shafer and Rebecca Manly; sister, Evelyn Clark; 21 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

**Lois Orr Bartling ('48)**, Briggsdale, Colo., died July 17, 2007, at age 79, of pancreatic cancer. Her husband **Homer ('36)** predeceased her.

**Olivet Atwood Brumfield ('49)**, Evergreen, Colo., died Jan., 27, 2007, at age 83. She is survived by her husband, **Bill ('49)**; son, John; daughter, RaeNell Mittleider; and two grandchildren.

**Shirley Damme Hubby Gifford ('49)**, Burleson, Texas, died Aug. 10, 2006, at

age 74. Shirley was a great mother and a devoted wife. She was predeceased by two husbands, Glenn Hubby and Ed Gifford Jr. She was secretary at W.M. Green Elementary and Arlington Heights High School before attending night school to earn a bachelor's degree in education. She worked for Fort Worth ISD for 30 years and taught students in special education classes. She is survived by her sons, Bruce and Greg Hubby; stepson, Marvin Gifford; stepdaughters, Edwina, Margaret Jean and Marilyn; step grandchildren and step great-grandchildren.



Shirley Hubby Gifford

**Kenneth Holland '49**, Hilton Head Island, S.C., died July 19, 2007, on his 89th birthday. He is survived by his wife, Maurine.

**Marvin Gunter Jr. '53**, Berryville, Ark., died May 24, 2007, at age 81. He was a pro-



Marvin Gunter



fessor at Southwestern Adventist University for 15 years. After retiring, he was a tour guide at Carroll County Museum. He is survived by his wife, **Betty Hopkins (51) Gunter**; son, David; three daughters, Kathleen Harriss, Karen Owens, and Rebecca Burton; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Ernest Phillips Jr. '53**, Fort Worth, Texas, died Aug. 25, 2007. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944 serving at Trinidad Naval Hospital as a pharmacist's mate until 1946. He graduated from the Kansas School of Osteopathy in 1958. Dr. Phillips opened a family clinic in Western Hills and practiced there until his retirement in 1999. He is survived by his wife of 60 years,

**Margaret Reed (47) Phillips**; son, Randall; brother, George; sister, Christine Walker and two grandchildren.

**Norman Rasmussen '53**, Webb City, Mo., died Apr. 14, 2007, at age 81 in his home after a sudden illness. He pastored churches in Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri. He retired in 1988, moving to Joplin, Mo. He was a WWII Army veteran. He is survived by his wife Eunice; sons, Duane and Stan; daughters, Joanie Greenfield and Sandra Wampler; brothers, George (41) and Lester; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Daniel Gerst '54**, North Platte, Neb., died Aug. 30, 2007, at age 88. He taught elementary school in Illinois, South Dakota and Nebraska. After retiring from teaching, Daniel did tree and lawn work in the North Platte, Neb., area for nearly 20 years. Daniel was preceded in death by his brother, Fredrick, and sister, **Esther (49)**. He is survived by his wife, **Aletha McGirr Gerst '47**; daughters, **Connie Jo Roeske '73** and **Ruthann Wadsworth '78**;

son, **Dan '78**; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brothers, **Albert '47, Oscar '50, Gordon '51** and **Martin (57)**; and sister, **Ruth '53**.

**Ivan Groulik '57**, Walla Walla, Wash., died Sept. 1, 2007, at age 80. He is survived by his wife, **Evelyn Kaldahl (48) Groulik**.

**Richard Benson '61**, Fayetteville, Ark., died July 12, 2007. He taught at several Adventist schools and academies but completed his teaching career in public education in Jefferson Parish, La. He is survived by his wife, Diana; son, R. Eric; daughter, T. Elena; sister, Rose Keeney; brother, Timothy; nieces and nephews.

**Emery Ashby '68**, Walsenburg, Colo., died July 9, 2007, at age 63 following a massive heart attack. He is survived by his wife, **Mary Saunders '66 Ashby**; stepsons, Jon and Tom; and four grandchildren.

**David Bowers '70**, San Jose, Calif., died July 29, 2007, after a long battle with cancer. A native of Minnesota, David graduated from Maplewood Academy, and later Union College with a B.S. in physical education. He taught for many years in Minnesota, Colorado, California and Arizona. He is survived by his wife, Dee; sisters, Darlene, **Diane (63)** and Denise; brother, Dan; as well as many other family, friends and students.

**Wanda Freeman (81)**, Lincoln, Neb., died Sept. 11, 2007, at age 47. Wanda graduated from the University of Nebraska with a Master in Social Work degree. She worked many years providing mental health therapy. The last two years were spent helping those in need around the country and the world.

Wanda was preceded in death by her father, Melton Freeman. She is survived by her husband **Daniel Sloan '82**; daughter, Miranda; son, Jeremy; Russian host daughter, Alina Selyukh; mother, Wynona Freeman; sister, **Sherry Lund '78**; brother, Jim; and numerous other family members and friends.



Wanda Freeman

**Evelyn Leffler Thomson (friend)**, St. Maries, Idaho, died Apr. 18, 2007. In 1965, Evelyn and her husband, **George "Smokey" '48**, moved to Lincoln where Smokey taught in the history department and she worked in the student aid department for 16 years. After retirement, they accepted a job in Indonesia for three years and a short six-month term in Singapore. They then settled in Keene, Texas, for the remainder of their time together.



Evelyn Leffler Thomson

er. After George's death, Evelyn moved to Idaho to be near family. She is survived by her son, **John '76**; daughter, **Mary Jo Brand (70)**; two sisters, Dorothy Jenkins and Ruth Sonsel; and brother, **Charles Leffler '49**.

*Notice of the following deaths has been received:*

**Velma Millard Shafer (31)**, Hagerstown, Md., died Apr. 4, 2007.

**Glenna Adams Rudolph '33**, Caldwell, Idaho, died Jan. 28, 2007.

**Elmer Cornwell '34**, Coulterville, Calif., died June 23, 2006.

**Ada Townsend '34**, Apopka, Fla., died April 8, 2007.

**Robert Schmunk (40)**, Aptos, Calif., died May 15, 2007, at age 88 from myasthenia gravis.

**Lew Feyen (45)**, Vancouver, Wash., died Dec. 7, 2006.

**Wilma Erickson Wiebe (46)**, Oregon City, Ore., died Aug. 28, 2001.

**Esther Gerst (49)**, Collegedale, Tenn., died Oct. 27, 2005.

**Delbert Hornbeck (49)**, Mill Spring, N.C., died July 26, 2007.

**Byron Millard (49)**, Bellville, Ohio, died Jan. 14, 2007. He is survived by his wife, **Barbara Sauder '49 Millard**.

**Gerald Peterson '50**, Stanford, Fla., died July 27, 2006.

**Louis Turner '51**, Dayton, Ohio, died June 22, 2007.

**Gene Simmons '55**, Goodlettsville, Tenn.

**Sally Nugent Hintzen '57**, Onalaska, Wash., died Sept. 10, 2007.

**Cheryl Culver Dickinson (58)**, Westmoreland, Tenn., died Oct. 30, 2006.

**Sandra Coffey Ricks (61)**, Bullhead City, Ariz., died Mar. 19, 2006.

**Elton Davenport '69**, Harrison, Mich., died Aug. 7, 2007.

**Pauline Davidson Haynes '69**, Blairsville, Ga., died Nov. 30, 2006.

**Thomas Patterson (71)**, Galt, Calif., died April 30, 2007.

**Linda Graves Lambert '74**, Gentry, Ark., died Dec. 22, 2006.

**Karen Sogard (78)**, Burlington, Iowa.

**Patricia Hicks '85**, St. Louis City, Mo., died Sept. 26, 2004.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE CONTINUED

IRR introduces technology options for global challenges

by Hannab Adams '11

International rescue and relief majors have another way to be prepared, thanks to the new Global Communication class. The new course, offered in conjunction with Relief Infrastructure as an alternative to Fire Fighter 1, gives students exposure to general global communication.

"Relief Infrastructure and the IRR Global Communication class compliment each other well," said Doug Tallman, international rescue and relief associate director. "Students are being trained to function, survive, and assist others in times of disaster when infrastructure has been destroyed. They might have to rewire a building, restore running water to a clinic, or rebuild a wall and structure." According to Tallman, while students will not be proficient in every area, at least they will become familiar with each and gain a little experience.

The class of juniors and seniors has been learning about alternate power source technology such as solar power, wind and hydro. Julia Dickman, a senior IRR major from Tennessee, enjoyed the hands-on class work of powering a battery charger using solar energy.

"The school did well with finding contract teachers who had skills in specific sections," Dickman said. "They did a good job networking."

Besides alternative energy sources, coursework includes alternative communication methods such as ham radio as well as instructions on Global Positioning System and Geographical Information System.

"If the IRR students are ever in a situa-

tion where the communication lines have been disrupted, they will be able to still function through ham radios," Tallman explained. "Sometimes it's the only communication during disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina when the cell towers were gone. Also, if they have learned



how to use GPS and find themselves in situations around the world, it will benefit them." The program is a toddler taking its first tentative steps. So far, everything has gone smoothly.

"I realize I'm the guinea pig," Dickman laughed. "I appreciate the effort." She went on to explain how

excited she was about gaining her ham radio license as part of the class work.

"It was cool," she said. "I've wanted to get it for a while."

Tallman realized the impact that a ham radio can have not only on an IRR major, but on all students from Union College.

"We're setting up a ham radio station in the IRR department so students have the opportunity to get on the radio and learn how to use and communicate with it," Tallman said. "Our dream, our hope, is to be able to contact students in foreign countries during international study or mission service who have ham radio access."



International rescue and relief students receive ham radio licenses as part of the new Global Communications class.

Honor  
years:  
1938  
1948  
1953  
1958  
1968  
1978  
1983  
1988  
1998



## Remember When . . .

Union College Homecoming Weekend – April 3-6, 2008

### Schedule of events

#### Thursday, April 3

10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Registration  
2:30 p.m. Walking Tour of Campus  
2:30 p.m. Lincoln Bus Tour  
5:30 p.m. Valentino's Dinner Buffet  
7:15 p.m. Union College Drama Production

#### Friday, April 4

8 a.m. Golden Club Breakfast  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration  
9:30 a.m. 60-minute Seminar  
10 a.m. Wayne Fleming Golf Classic  
12:15 p.m. Campus Luncheons  
1:30 – 2 p.m. Chloe Foutz Tribute  
1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Division Open Houses  
Teaching Learning Center Open House  
Union Scholars Poster Presentations

5 p.m. Homecoming Banquet  
7 p.m. Young Alumni Reunion  
7:30 p.m. Hanging of the Golden Cords

#### Sabbath, April 5

8 a.m. Alumni Association Breakfast  
9:15 a.m. and noon Church Services  
First Service Speaker: Rex Bell '68  
Second Church Service: Ron Halvorsen '83  
10:40 a.m. Sabbath School  
Superintendent: Zerita Hagerman '58  
Special Feature: Dick Stenbakken '62

1:45 p.m. Homecoming Fellowship Lunch  
College Auditorium

3:15 p.m. Honor Class Pictures and Meetings  
College View Church

4 p.m. Walking Tour of Campus

7 p.m. TLC Reception

8:30 p.m. To be announced

#### Sunday, April 6

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Administrators' Pancake Breakfast

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Classic Car Revue  
(weather permitting)

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### Teaching Learning Center celebrates 30 years of service

Teaching Learning Center Open House  
Friday, April 4 -1:30 p.m.

Reception  
Saturday, April 5, 7 p.m.

The TLC is proud to celebrate 30 years of service for Union College. Those who have had a connection to the TLC are invited to attend the celebration events. Tour the Teaching Learning Center during the open house and join us Saturday evening for a reception.

# Memories to Scholarships



What motivates an individual to give? Everyone shares a different answer. For Don and Wanda Versaw Krein, positive memories inspired them to support two scholarships for students at Union College. Through an IRA direct contribution, they were able to honor Wanda's family as well as celebrate their positive experiences at the college while ensuring that students have the opportunity to receive the quality Christian education they remember.

Though Wanda Versaw Krein graduated from Union College in 1959, she had been on the campus of the college since the sixth grade. Growing up on 48th Street, listening to Sam Campbell and Uncle Arthur, hearing the clock tower chime in the quiet of the evenings and getting married in the former church building are just a handful of warm memories she recalls from her time in Lincoln. The highlight of her time in Lincoln, however, was meeting her husband Don Krein ('53) whose relatives lived just two houses away.

A long history of family ties still connects the Kreins to the college with brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins and a daughter attending or graduating from Union. Remembering Union College in their estate plan provides opportunities for future generations of Union College students.

"Money spent to help young people prepare for a productive life is money well spent," said the Kreins. "Helping them learn to serve others and love the Lord while being educated just adds value."

You are invited to provide for the future of Union College through a planned gift. Todd Mekelburg, Director of Leadership Giving is available to speak with you about the many options available.

Please contact Union College Advancement office:  
Todd Mekelburg  
Director of Leadership Giving  
3800 South 48th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506  
402.486.2503  
[tomekelb@ucollege.edu](mailto:tomekelb@ucollege.edu)  
[www.ucollege.edu](http://www.ucollege.edu)

*It takes  
ForeSight...*



photo: Steve Nizano

*Dr. Vener Cabana, chemistry professor,  
celebrates Union's milestone enrollment with students  
Alan Cupino and Sean Robinette.*

*Learn more about this news-making event on page 5.*

**CORD**magazine

News from Union College  
Vol. 73, No.1 Winter 2007/2008

Published by the  
Union College Advancement Office  
3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506

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