

CORD *magazine*

News from Union College

summer /
fall 2008

Presidential Reflections

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP AND VISION

Also ...

- *Lessons from political connections*
- *A political staffer's view from the campaign trail*
- *Pastor Ron Halvorsen returns to his alma mater*

A pair of hands, one above the other, gently cradles a small green seedling with several leaves and visible roots, growing out of a mound of dark brown soil. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting.

Growth can take time...

...but a little

ForeSight

goes a
long way.

The trees on the Union College campus have stood for generations, providing shelter, shade and beauty in every season. Our forefathers planted those trees believing they would someday take root and benefit all who walked on this campus.

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To learn how to plant your own endowment, contact Todd Mekelburg, director of leadership giving, at 402.486.2503 or visit www.ucollege.edu/advancement/plannedgiving.

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It takes
ForeSight

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About the cover:
 Dr. David Smith, Union's longest-serving
 president, has been leading the college for 10
 years. While celebrating his decade of leadership,
 this issue of *CORDmagazine* also explores per-
 spectives on presidencies beyond the campus.
 Photo: Erik Stenbakken

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photo: courtesy of IRR

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photo: Steve Nazario

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Cecil Christensen '57



photo: courtesy of Cecil Christensen

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Alumnus gets out the vote

Nathan Blake '01

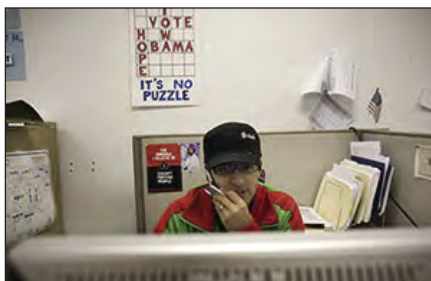


photo: courtesy of Nathan Blake

Meet Union's ASB President/24

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by *Jacque L. Smith, Editor*

In fifth grade, the first identity I assigned to David Smith was “Jacie’s dad.” While still a classmate’s father, in my academy years he shifted to “the vespers/chapel speaker worth sitting in the front for.” Mr. Smith called himself “Dave” in the entertaining and embarrassing stories that wrapped God’s love into messages that snuck up on me between giggles and lasted past the dismissal bell.

In college, while I was still Jacque Branson, Dr. Smith, “the English advisor worth getting in line early for,” helped me try on some new titles for myself: expository writer, literature interpreter, future teacher, professional communicator and analytical thinker. The hand-written notes about my class options, prepared before I walked in the door for advising sessions, helped replace my uncertainty with possibility.

When he asked, “How’s Jacque?” mid-stride between appointments, I knew my answer didn’t have to be a surface “fine,” and that real life mattered to him more than anthology assignments.

Four years after college graduation, I sent Union College President David Smith my résumé; I was listing him as a reference for my job search after graduate school. I never expected him to pass it along to LuAnn Davis who invited me to campus for an interview.* When I landed in Lincoln, my college mentor and advisor was now my boss’s boss. I moved from turning in assignments to collaborating on projects.

I call him “David” now as we serve on committees and discuss plans for Union College. And while I’m confident and comfortable with my role in

this phase of friendship and service, referring to him as his preferred “Dave” still eludes me—maybe in another 10 years.

As you will read below, I’m not the only Union College employee who has benefitted from Dr. Smith’s wit and wisdom in more than one phase of life. Tanya Cochran, assistant professor of English and soon to be “Dr. Cochran,” also knew the pre-president David Smith and shares how his investment in her continues to influence her teaching.

As the campus celebrates Dr. Smith’s 10 years of leadership, the longest tenure of any Union College president, we also look at the influence of other presidencies on campus and beyond—past, present and possibly future. From alumni who have volunteered to paid political staffers, our goal is to share a variety of perspectives without promoting any party

or politician. While I do feel proud to promote the presidents of Union College, (David Smith, Associated Student Body and Mid-America Union), please understand that Union College is not taking sides in the biggest presidential discussion our nation faces this year.

No matter what happens in November as our country makes big decisions, I know when it comes to the presidency at Union College, I’m thankful for the leadership of a man of many talents. Each stage of life has added to my respect for Dr. Smith, and when I hear he’s speaking for chapel, I still want to sit in the front row.



Southern College (now Southern Adventist University) graduation, May 1995

*I also never expected to share his last name by marrying Mark Smith '90 who is not related to David Smith.

photos: courtesy of Jacque Smith



Tanya Cochran speaks for Academic Convocation in August 2006 with her former teacher, Dr. David Smith, proudly looking on.

Give and Give and Give: The Teaching Legacy of David Smith

by *Tanya R. Cochran,*
assistant professor of English

I’m often accused of taking the little things of life too seriously. I’m thankful for my attention to detail, though; details form the strong, intimate relationships I have with family and friends. My obsessions with chronicling ideas and lifelong learning, for example, are the reasons I still have my three-ringed binder from Dr. David Smith’s Expository Writing class, a course I took when I was a junior English major at Southern College in the fall of 1994. From the comments left in the margins of my major papers, I am reminded of how much I have grown as a student, a teacher, and a writer and how much that growth has depended on David Smith.

On the final draft of my essay “*Pride and Prejudice: Clips of the 19th Century*,” Dr. Smith wrote, “You pulled things together much better in this

photo: Steve Nazario

draft than was the case in earlier drafts. Content is a little skimpy, but you at least create the illusion of substance.” Today when I read those words, I remember how right he was; I hadn’t worked as diligently as I could have on the paper. His honesty made me see that creating “the illusion of substance” was unacceptable. Rather than feeling hurt or indignant, I took the advice to heart and applied it to my pen. A month later, I turned in my last assignment for Expository Writing. “A successful endeavor,” begins Dr. Smith’s comments. “Very enjoyable reading while I grade tests ... you managed good writing, truth, and control, and even a smile from me.” The smile was just as important to me as the A I earned on the essay and in the class.

I suppose I shouldn’t be surprised that a few years ago it was David Smith himself who rang me on my cell phone while I was sitting in downtown Atlanta traffic commuting from Georgia State University to my nearby apartment. He had called to extend an invitation. Would I come for an interview in the Division of Humanities at Union College? The conversation is a blur now. Other than being extremely flattered, I remember little from the conversation but one sentence Dr. Smith spoke, the important detail: “I’m so proud of you,” he said upon hearing that, indeed, I was pursuing my Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition.

Since coming to Union three years ago, I have become a stronger student—of my academic discipline, of my colleagues, and of my own students. I have become a stronger teacher and writer, having published my first pieces in journals and book collections. I’m not saying that David Smith taught me everything there is to know about learning, teaching and writing; he didn’t. Nevertheless, with his colleagues at Southern he readied me to do exactly what his syllabus for Expository Writing states the course was designed to do: help students “achieve writing goals which they set for themselves and ... aid them in preparing to write in their profession.” Even more so, he prepared me for life.

Recently, a seasoned teacher from another institution shared this advice with me: “When you go into the classroom, give your students all you’ve got. Give and give and give—until there’s no more to give. Don’t hold back. And at night, grow more.” Over a decade ago David Smith was that kind of teacher and mentor to me. When he and his wife, Cherie, moved to Lincoln, he brought to Union College more than the ability to be a loving and wise leader. He brought the ability to teach, a gift that touches every student who enters *my* classroom. Now I am the one who must give and give and give, just as I have been taught.

Union College ranked top tier in “Best Colleges” list

Union College has once again been chosen as a top pick for new college students by *U.S. News and World Report*. In the magazine’s annual “America’s Best Colleges” rankings, Union placed 46 in its category, Baccalaureate Colleges—Midwest. This is the third year in a row Union has been in the top tier.



The ratings rank schools based on 11 indicators of success, and Union’s strong graduation rates, student retention and student-faculty ratio were key to its high ranking. The college really stands out in alumni giving, a number *U.S. News* uses as an indirect measure of student satisfaction. Union ranked third in its category and seventh out of baccalaureate colleges nationwide for the per-

centage of alumni who give back to the school.

“Union’s top-tier placement by *U.S. News* affirms the quality and outcomes of a Union College education,” said David Smith, college president. “Very little of a college experience can be measured in a spreadsheet, but it’s heartwarming to be recognized for the work so

many people have put into making a Union College education accessible, challenging and life-changing.”

The *U.S. News* rankings are created annually as a service to parents and prospective students in selecting colleges. This year, 343 baccalaureate colleges, divided into four regions, are included in the report. The baccalaureate college category includes colleges that

CAMPUS NEWS

Campus Calendar 08/09

Mid-America Union College Days	Nov. 2-3
AcroFest hosted by Union College	Nov. 12-15
Christmas Vespers Concert	Dec. 12
Christmas Band Concert	Dec. 13
Christmas Vacation	Dec. 18-Jan. 1
Second semester classes begin	Jan. 6
Spring Preview Days	Mar. 26-27
Homecoming Weekend (learn more on p. 31)	April 2-5
Home School Sneak Peek	April 16-17

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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

Alumni honored for philanthropy

compiled by Jacque L. Smith

In June, Union College celebrated alumni recipients of two Adventist Philanthropy Leadership Awards during a banquet at Philanthropic Service for Institution's biennial conference in Tucson, Ariz.

Higher Education

Union College President David Smith presented Drs. Ron and Alexa Jensen with the Adventist Philanthropy Leadership Award in Support of Higher Education for their leadership in philanthropy and commitment to Union College.

Dr. Ron Jensen graduated from Union College in 1962 with a major in Chemistry. Ron and Alexa, both general practice physicians, received their profes-



Drs. Ron and Alexa Jensen

sional training at Loma Linda University. As a board certified ophthalmology surgeon, Ron performed more than 14,000 keratotomy surgeries since 1979, one of the first surgeons to perform this procedure in the United States. He is the founder of the California Intraocular Lens Company (CILCO), one of the first artificial lens manufacturing companies in the United States. He holds eight patents for ophthalmic surgical instruments.

After a recommitment to Christ a number of years ago, Ron and Alexa discov-

ered some practical ways to apply God's principles to their lives. As their own spiritual growth began to open doors, they began sharing what they had learned with others. Now retired from professional practice, Ron and Alexa are devoted to small group spiritual growth ministry.

In 1994, the Jensens proposed an idea to Union that became reality a few months later. The Spiritual Journey program focuses on relationships: with God, with others and with ourselves. This small group ministry teaches biblical principles that bring about individual growth and healing. Today more than 1,300 students, faculty and staff at Union have discovered the transforming power of personal honesty and a renewed relationship with God.

"Ron and Alexa Jensen give willingly of their time, resources and energy to assist not only Union College but other churches and colleges who seek to include Christ as their guide," said Smith during the awards presentation. "Their idea has become a spiritual foundation at Union College that was made into a reality through their personal generosity."

Ron Jensen has stood behind other dreams for Union. In the late 1980s he honored a deceased chemistry professor who was a favorite teacher and mentor and established the *Rene Evard Memorial Scholarship*, an endowment fund that benefits students who demonstrate strong scholastic ability in science and mathematics. Each year, thanks to Ron and the physician classmates he encouraged to participate, more than 10 Union students are awarded scholarships.

Lifetime Achievement

"Vision and passion radiate through all they do," said President Smith while co-presenting the Adventist Philanthropy Lifetime Achievement Award to Mardian and Joan Blair. Tom Werner '67, retired president of Adventist Health System shared in presenting to the Blairs. "Their personal philanthropy is complemented by their efforts to inspire others," Smith said.

Since graduating from Union College in 1954, the Blairs have given more than

40 years of service to the health care ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They have also given back to Union College consecutively for over 25 years—as long as the development office has maintained a database of donor records.

Their gifts have touched all facets of philanthropy. Their vision for the *Union College Fund* led to a new philanthropic program, *Friends of the Fund*, which encourages others to share leadership gifts to support Union's core priorities. With the Blair's influence, giving to the Union College Fund has increased approximately 60 percent in five years. Mardian served as chair of the *Our Enduring Union: The Campaign for Union College*, which surpassed its goals



Mardian and Joan Blair

of building scholarship endowment and campus facilities including the Ortner Center. They have also identified themselves as members of ForeSight, the college's recognition club for individuals who have included Union College in their estate plans.*

Mardian's career in health care administration included executive posts at Hinsdale Hospital, the Northwest Medical Foundation, Portland Adventist Medical Center, and Florida Hospital. He retired in January of 2000, after serving as president

of Adventist Health System for 16 years. Mardian created the President's Council Fund for which senior executives pool their own personal donations to contribute to a worthy cause. The Blairs were also instrumental in organizing the first Florida Hospital Gala, which is today one of the largest fundraising events in Central Florida, netting more than \$1 million annually to benefit vital programs at Florida Hospital.

Upon retirement, Mardian inspired Adventist Health System to create endowed scholarships at Union College, Andrews University, Oakwood University, Southern Adventist University and Southwestern Adventist University. Each year awards are granted to exemplary students pursuing careers in some aspect

of healthcare management.

Along with personal financial contributions, Mardian and Joan have generously donated their time and leadership in support of hospitals across the world—in the United States, Africa and in Asia.

"Mardian and Joan have consistently shown their dedication to Adventist education and the healing ministry of Christ," Werner said. "They have blessed countless individuals through their rich legacy of philanthropy and their inspirational examples of servant leadership."

**To learn more about the Blairs' inspiration for participating in ForeSight and the President's Award they received during Union College graduation, please see page 39.*

PA Class of 2008 achieves perfect pass rate

Every student from Union's second master's level graduating class of physician assistants passed the national certification exam on the first try. "This 100 percent first-time pass rate will serve us well as we seek to remain competitive for high-quality physician assistant students," said Michael Huckabee, program director.

In addition, the 22 physician assistant graduates had the highest employment rate to date with 68 percent having confirmed positions in May. The class is serving across the country in a variety of specialties, both in rural and suburban areas. States represented to date include Nebraska (5), Oklahoma (3), Alaska (2), Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, South Carolina, South Dakota and Texas.



Ashley Albers receives hood from Malcolm Russell, vice president for Academic Administration.

Space created for expanded nursing program

Since Union's nursing program began admitting two classes last year (cohorts begin in January and August), arranging classroom space has been a challenge. To accommodate the growing health sciences majors, over the summer Union's

Plant Services team rebuilt a former storage area into the Health Sciences Annex. Located on the ground floor of the Don Love Building, the annex provides two new classrooms and a lounge area.

The newly reconfigured space accommodates primarily the growing nursing program but also serves as an overflow area for the international rescue and relief, physician assistant and health and human performance programs.

CORD for Kids

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Dr. David Smith didn't always want to be a college president. When he was a kid, he wanted to be a medical doctor. Though he is a doctor now, his specialty is literature.

This year, Dr. Smith became Union's longest serving president. The students who start college at Union this fall were in the third grade when Dr. Smith became president. Do you think this year's freshmen have chosen majors for the jobs they wanted to do in the third grade?

Help Union celebrate Dr. Smith's presidency by sending in a drawing, painting or other original work of art showing what you want to be when you grow up. Every kid who participates will receive a gift from Union College and the top two entries will win a special prize.

Send entries including your name, age, phone number and the name of the adult who helped you read *CORD* magazine to:

CORD for Kids
Union College
3800 South 48th St.
Lincoln, NE 68506

You can also e-mail attachments to ucinfo@ucollege.edu.



The class of 2008 marks alumni milestone

by Scott Cushman

As graduating seniors marched across the platform of the College View church on Sunday, May 11, Janya Mekelburg, director of Alumni Activities, and her assistants carefully noted the marching order and assigned each a number. Mekelburg's countdown ended when Raven Downs, a business administration major, became the 10,000th graduate to enter the Alumni Association.

The granddaughter of Lincoln '50 and Betty Miller Underwood '51 and daughter of Kirk Underwood '78, Downs graduated alongside her husband, Zane, an international rescue and relief major. "I was excited to see it was Raven," said Mekelburg. "Raven and her family are part of both the history and the future of Union and the Alumni Association."

Altogether, Union College awarded 212 associate, baccalaureate and master's degrees to 197 new alumni during the annual commencement. Among this group, 14 students received two degrees. Eleven of the graduating seniors were Union Scholars, which required advanced coursework and a research project.

Reaching an alumni milestone was not the only first at this year's graduation. Sixteen graduates comprised the first full class of international rescue and relief majors to graduate from Union. The major, first offered in 2004, is the only baccalaureate program of its kind in the United States.



David Smith congratulates Raven Downs.



Congressman Jeff Fortenberry says the city and state appreciate Union College's contribution to health care.

The graduation festivities began on Thursday, May 9 with another first for Union, a graduate hooding ceremony. This was the second year the college has awarded master's degrees since the physician assistant program transitioned from undergraduate to graduate studies.

Hooding ceremonies are a common tradition in health science graduate programs, representing the graduate's journey from student to colleague. During the ceremony, the 22 students received hoods to be worn as part of their regalia. The event also included a reception and an address from Congressman Jeff Fortenberry during which he referred to Union College as "one of Lincoln's and Nebraska's best kept secrets," and said it should not remain a secret.

"We are glad Congressman Fortenberry agreed to deliver the keynote," said Jeff Joiner, chair of the Division of Health Sciences. "Health care and politics are increasingly intertwined, and professionals and policy makers should take every opportunity to understand each other."

During the commencement address on Sunday, another representative, Tony Fulton, the senator for District 29 in the Nebraska legislature, presented Legislative Resolution #248 honoring Union College. The resolution specifically cites Union's growing enrollment and contributions to Nebraska's intellectual and economic development as well as

recognition earned from *U.S. News* and the Corporation for National and Community Service (see page 5).

"We were very honored this year to have the achievements of the college recognized by the leaders of our community while we celebrated the achievements of our students," said President David Smith. "The announcement of the 10,000th graduate to join our alumni was an appropriate highlight of the weekend because Union's strength and our students' educations are made possible through the achievements, gifts and prayers of our alumni."

Class of 2008 in numbers

- ▶ 100 percent of the graduates who applied to medical school have been accepted.
- ▶ 28 nursing majors and 28 business administration majors graduated, tying those programs for the most graduating students.
- ▶ 18 graduates took off a year during college to volunteer through programs affiliated with Union. Of those, 12 served in foreign countries.
- ▶ 13 graduates have spent a semester or more abroad studying at an affiliated college or university.

photo: Steve Nazario

photo: Steve Nazario

Financial aid changes make planning for college easier

by Scott Cushman

It's been a long time since Union College cost \$15 per month—117 years to be precise. The cost of earning a bachelor's degree continues to rise, as do the benefits—a college graduate can expect \$800,000 more earned income over a lifetime than someone with a high school diploma.¹

Though Union is 32 percent less expensive than the national average for private colleges, students and families often need help financing a Christian education. After a year of research and consultation with experts and comparable colleges, Union has launched a new, streamlined financial aid policy for incoming freshmen this year.

"Our goal has always been to provide an affordable Christian education," said Rob Weaver, vice president for Enrollment and Student Financial Services. "We've kept tuition down largely through the help of our alumni and mission-oriented faculty and staff, but we've been asking ourselves for a while now if we are using our financial aid budget to maximize the benefit it gives students. With the new policy, I think we can answer 'yes.'"

The previous financial aid system loaded almost all of the benefits onto the first two years, and while still front-loaded, the new policy includes a renewable component that guarantees more money than before for up to three addi-

tional years. "Families will be better able to plan for all four years, and the greater renewable funds will make it easier for juniors and seniors to continue at Union," Weaver said. "We hope this will improve Union's already high retention rate."

While grades and test scores have previously played an important role, much of a student's award was based on what they'd done in high school, such as holding leadership positions, being involved in their church and many other variables.

"A system that encourages leadership and involvement sounds like a good idea until you try to implement it," said Elina Camarena, director of Student Financial Services. "We couldn't verify anything and it favored the outgoing over the shy."

According to Taryn Rouse, student financial advisor, the worst-case scenario under the old system was a student who came unprepared. "If someone couldn't remember or just couldn't articulate what they'd achieved, they'd leave with zero financial aid unless their parents stepped in and did the speaking for them," Rouse said. "Under the new system, the questions are really simple: What was your cumulative GPA? What was your ACT or SAT score? Have you filled out a FAFSA?"²

"We really have to thank our donors

for providing so much help to our students through gifts to the Union College Fund and named scholarships," said Stephanie Meyer, Scholarships and Events director. "Without their commitment, we could never approach this level of financial assistance."

While taking the guesswork out of financial aid may make the new system seem less magical to students, God's hand is still evident in funding Union College educations. "It sounds corny, but we do see miracles happen all the time," Rouse said.

"It makes our jobs rewarding," Camarena added. "We've seen people come in who think they can't afford anything and leave with a plan that meets their needs. I want everyone to know that if attending Union has ever crossed their minds, but they didn't think they could afford it, they should call us, write us, e-mail us or just come visit. You never know what's possible." ~SC

For more information on financial aid for new students, contact Student Financial Services at 402.486.2505 or ucenroll@ucollege.edu.

1. Statistics gathered by the College Board.
2. Free Application for Federal Student Aid



Alan Orrison, student financial advisor, helps student Dan Martinez navigate the terms of the Gates Millennium Scholarship that brought him to Union.

Medical schools welcome Union grads

Union's Division of Science and Mathematics celebrated a 100 percent medical school acceptance rate for the 2008 graduating class. Nine students were accepted into Loma Linda University including two from the international rescue and relief program and two from the psychology program. In addition, four science students were accepted into other competitive health professions programs (dentistry, podiatry and two in physical therapy).

CAMPUS NEWS

Howard returns to Mid-America

The Mid-America Union begins a new era of leadership as it welcomes Roscoe J. Howard III back to the area, now in the roles of union president and chair of the Union College Board of Trustees. Howard succeeds Dennis Carlson who, after six years of leadership in the union, announced his acceptance of a call to Walla Walla University to serve as the vice president for Advancement.

“Union College has been blessed by a series of highly supportive leaders from the Mid-America Union,” said David Smith, college president. “While we will miss Dennis, we are grateful Roscoe shares a similar passion for Adventist education that has been such a benefit to the college.”

Born and raised in Casper, Wyo., Howard met his wife, Osceola, at Oakwood College, where they both attended. He earned his undergraduate degree from Pacific Union College and later a Master of Divinity from Andrews University. He is currently a candidate for a Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Howard started pastoring in 1978 in

the Washington conference in several churches and later held various positions in the North Pacific Union, including youth director. Howard served the Seventh-day Adventist church in Mid-America as vice president for Administration before his most recent position as secretary of the North American Division. He was responsible for administrative operations and policy implementation. Known for his dynamic speaking style, Howard has preached the gospel in African nations, Canada, England, Jamaica, Korea, the Philippines and throughout the United States.

Osceola and Roscoe return to Lincoln with their children: Heather received a social work degree from Oakwood University and Seth has followed in his mother’s footsteps and is a massage therapist.

“As I began my journey back to Lincoln, I kept running into people who were enthusiastic about having graduated from Union College where they had received an academic and spiritual foundation for professional success,” Roscoe Howard said. “When you consider Dr.



Roscoe Howard

Smith’s stellar leadership at Union College and his gifted, committed faculty and staff, it’s not hard to ask people to support the campus and continue the heritage of preparing young adults for selfless service in the marketplace.”

“Roscoe’s passion for service will be a mark of his leadership and is a great match for Union College,” Smith said. “I appreciate his commitment to the college and am delighted he is back and connected to our campus.” ~MS

photo: courtesy of Mid-America Union office

They wanted to come back to Union again

College View Church ended the search for a senior pastor as Ron Halvorsen, Jr. and his wife, Buffy, accepted positions in early November. “It took a lot of time and prayer, but the ties we had here were a strong attraction,” Ron said. Buffy was born in Lincoln, and both she and Ron were students at Union College.

“I liked the friendliness of campus and the teachers I had,” Ron said. “Union has always had such a good spirit, both then and now. The campus feels connected, something you don’t find often.”

And that’s one thing that excites the couple about moving to College View. “The relationship between the church and college is unique among the Adventist colleges in North America,” Ron said. “The church and student body are able to meet together and worship with a large percentage of the students attending.”

Ron graduated from Union in 1983

with a double major in theology and youth ministry. During his college years, he was heavily involved in the student body—a senator as a freshman and Associated Student Body vice president sophomore and junior years. As senior year came, he shifted his focus to helping start Athletes for Christ, a group of basketball players who traveled to lead weekend spiritual programs and an athletic clinic.

The couple was married in the summer of 1981, and after Ron’s graduation, the Halvorsens served at churches in Washington, Texas and Montana. Most recently, Ron was the senior pastor at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Md.

Buffy completed her Bachelor of Arts in religion while in Texas and later earned her master’s in marriage and family therapy from Montana State University.



Ron and Buffy Halvorsen

As family life pastor at College View, she will be involved with counseling and planning seminars directed at strengthening couples and families and their rela-

photo: Steve Nazario

tionship with God and each other.

"You don't necessarily have to have a serious problem to seek counseling," Buffy said. "Maybe you just want to be a better you—a better Christian."

Currently, Ron is pursuing a doctorate in Christian spirituality and formation from Fuller Theological Seminary. "I have a

thirst for a deeper relationship with Christ and a passion for working to help others do the same," he said. Already halfway finished, he will start his dissertation next summer.

Beyond the church connection, the Halvorsens are involved at Union. Ron teaches Christian Beliefs, and their son,

Ron III, is a student. Their daughter, Stephanie, also lives in Lincoln and plans to attend Union in the spring.

"I'm impressed with Union's student leaders and their dreams, visions and passions," Ron said. "It's good to be back and involved again." ~MS

Enrollment dips, spirit climbs

Seeing packed stands cheering at Union's annual dodgeball championship and a sea of volunteers in matching shirts for Project Impact, the college's annual community service event, it might be hard for an observer to believe Union College has fewer students than last fall's 24-year high. With a total of 914 students and a full-time equivalence of 847.5, Union's enrollment for fall 2008 is similar to the fall of 2003 and far ahead of the mid-1990s when Union averaged 500-600 students. Students from 46 states and 26 countries chose Union this year, including 166 first-time freshmen. While enrollment is down, dormitory occupancy is slightly higher than last year.

"If you have been listening to the stories of the students who come here, then



According to Rich Carlson, vice president for Spiritual Life, participation was better than ever for the 2008 Project Impact service day on Sept. 4.

you know God is leading and blessing both the students and Union College," said David Smith, college president. "The spirit of the students is amazing and every program and event I've been to so far this year has been exceptional

because of their spirit."

According to Rob Weaver, vice president for Enrollment and Student Financial Services, many factors led college administrators to expect lower enrollment this year. One main reason is a new approach to financial aid (See full story p. 9). "We reviewed our financial aid system last year and changed it to concentrate less on a front-loaded freshman package and more on helping students be successful in the long run," Weaver said. "We expected a dip for this year, but the changes made will improve retention, making it easier for students to finance all four years and complete their degrees."

Other factors include a weak economy and the rising cost of transportation, which may have influenced students to choose a community college or state university closer to home.

"In the Great Plains, we are nearly a decade into what could be called a demographic recession," Weaver said. "There are fewer high school graduates in our core markets now than 10 years ago or will likely be for another 10 years. We've already seen the effects of this in falling enrollments in the Seventh-day Adventist school system at the elementary and high school levels and the result has been school closings and consolidations. This means we're working harder than ever to bring kids to Nebraska and Union College." ~SC

Faculty completed doctoral degrees



Dr. Michael Huckabee, physician assistant studies program director, earned a Ph.D. in Human Sciences with a leadership specialization from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Human

Sciences. His dissertation was titled, "The Well-Being of Servant Leaders: A Mixed Methods Study of Career Success Among the Under-served." In his research, he explored servant leadership characteristics in physician assistants who work in underserved communities compared to those who work in well-served communities.



Dr. Edward Allen, associate professor of religion, earned a Ph.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary in the area of Church History. In his dissertation,

"Nicholas Bownde and the Rise of Sunday Sabbatarianism," he explored the writings and theology of a 16th century minister in the Church of England who wrote what Allen argues was the first book on the practice of the Sabbath. Allen's research is the first full-length treatment of Bownde and his writings. Allen previously earned a Doctor of Minister (D. Min.) degree from Fuller in 1991. ~JS

New Wellness Major

In response to student interest and job market trends, the health and human performance program is offering a new major—a Bachelor of Science in Fitness and Wellness. This major is designed for students who plan to work in the fitness marketplace, work-site wellness or community health promotion positions.

CAMPUS NEWS

Union hosts Woodrow Wilson Fellow

Union College Division of Business and Computer Science welcomed Raichelle “Rai” H. Glover as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow Sept. 8-12. Glover, an accomplished executive, motivational speaker, leadership coach and civic volunteer, navigated corporate America as a Christian business woman in her fast-climbing career with Bank of America. While on campus, Glover was a guest speaker in six classes and presented three sessions for general campus audiences.

According to Barry Forbes, chair of Union College Division of Business and Computer Science, when funding became available through the division’s Advisory

Board to host a visiting fellow, the group had many intriguing leaders to choose from. The division chose Glover because of the wealth of her experiences and connections between her areas of expertise and Union’s learning environment.

“Topics such as “liberal arts paths to corporate leadership” and “what corporate diversity means today” are extremely relevant to Union College students,” Forbes said. “Rai Glover’s experience with work/family balance and strong civic engagement as shown by her many awards exemplify qualities that are important to this generation. We were honored that she accepted our invitation to spend the week



Rai Glover leads a discussion in a business class. with our students. Her personable approach and solid faith added a valuable perspective to her discussions with students.” ~JS

photo: Steve Nazario

Evangelism team shares the gospel in Malaysia

From July 16 to Aug. 2, three Union students learned about lay ministry in a life-changing way, sharing Christ with the Dusun people in Sabah, Malaysia.

“The trip deepened our faith and allowed us to see God work in unique ways,” said Dr. Edward Allen, associate professor of religion and leader of Union’s evangelism team.

For five years, The Quiet Hour has provided a subsidy that allows Adventist college groups to travel and do mission work in countries such as Rwanda, Guatemala and Uganda. This year the group from Union included Allen, his wife, Madalyn, and three students—Chad Chaffee, Sarah Gould and Lawrence Francis—who joined four other volunteers from the United States.

None of the students were religion majors. Gould, a senior elementary educa-



Ed Allen baptizes Union student Sarah Gould in Malaysia.

tion major, became interested in the trip after hearing about it in a class she had with Allen, though she wasn’t comfortable with public speaking. “I got to thinking, ‘I shouldn’t be nervous. I’ll be fine because God’s calling me to do this,’” Gould said.

The Dusun people have only settled in Sabah, northeast of Borneo, in the last 60 years. They depend on the land for their livelihood, exporting rubber, cacao and vegetables. Adventism is relatively prominent, thanks to the groundwork of J.W. Rowland, father of Dr. Neil Rowland, Union College alumnus and former professor of chemistry.

Upon arriving in Sabah, each member of the group was assigned a church site. With help from local elders and an interpreter, they preached with PowerPoint visual aids provided by ShareHIM, an organization funded by the Carolina Conference. Each night the meetings attracted 150-200 people per site—if the weather was good.

Each member of the group preached approximately 20 times at their respective

sites. Halfway through the series, as Gould was covering the baptism section, a slide titled “Why wait?” got her attention. Never having been baptized, Gould said, “The river next to my site reminded me of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist, and it just seemed like the right time.” The trip had opened her eyes to seeing God at work in her life and in the lives of the locals. At the end of the series, Gould marked her commitment to God through baptism along with almost 500 other people. ~MS



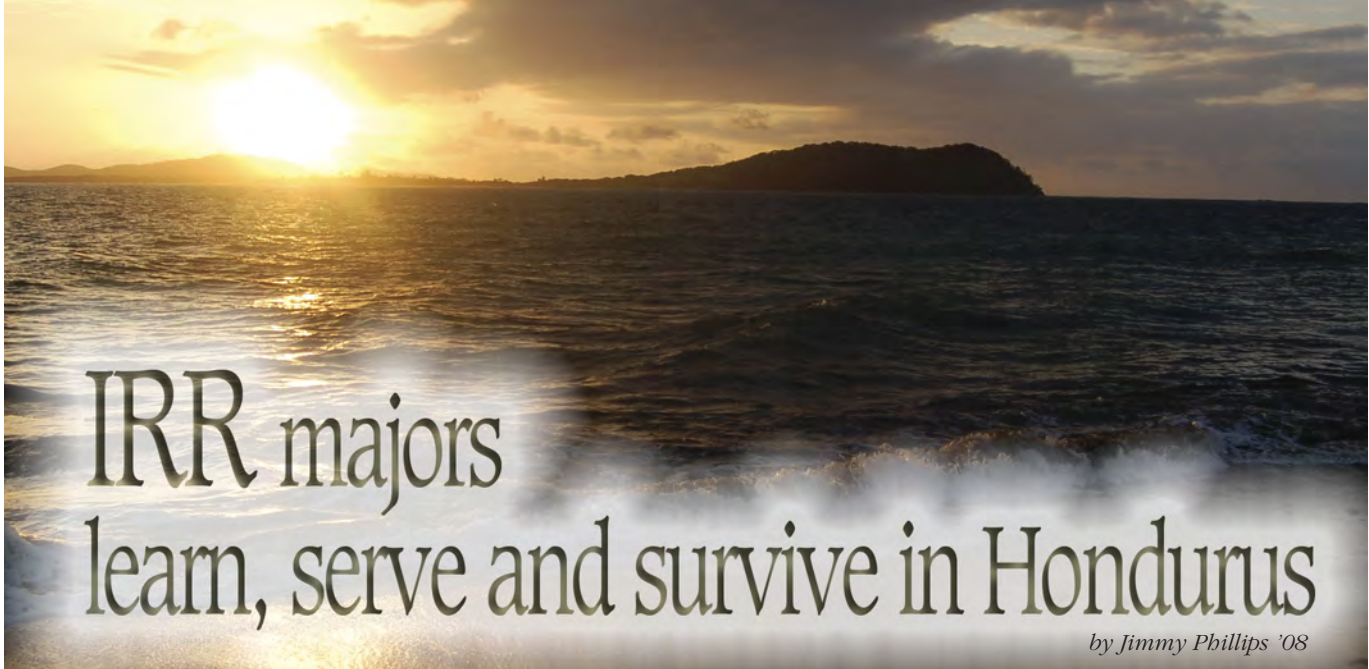
Chad Chaffee makes new friends.

Visit College View church from your home

Thanks to a partnership between the College View church and Union’s Campus Ministries, videos of recent church services are available at www.collegeviewchurch.org. Current and older services are also available in audio-only format.

photo: Chad Chaffee

photo: Ed Allen



IRR majors learn, serve and survive in Honduras

by Jimmy Phillips '08

“Are we drifting?”
“I don’t think so ... but I, I can’t tell.”

The concerned murmurs were replaced by a few concentrated seconds of silence. The only audible sounds were the collective breath of 20 and the sloshing of the water they’re hoping will clue them in as to the state of their plight. Suddenly, a voice cuts through the darkness.

“Okay people, we’re definitely drifting.”

And so the group of international rescue and relief students who are training to rescue others had to find a way to rescue themselves in the midst of shark-infested waters. And that was just one night.

Preparing for the worst

In January 2008, 18 IRR juniors and seniors, along with Mike Duehrssen, program director, and his family left for Honduras for a semester of learning in the areas of tropical medicine, emergency care, public health, dive rescue, and coastal, ocean and jungle survival.

“The main goal is education for the students,” Duehrssen said. “But we also try to incorporate a humanitarian element so we can help people as part of the educational process.”

They began on the island of Utila, home to about 3,000 people and the smallest of Honduras’ three major islands, known as the Bay Islands. After a few days in Utila, Duehrssen became aware that the island didn’t have a hurricane disaster plan in place.

“We met with the mayor of Utila and he gave us the go-ahead to begin designing a disaster plan for the island,” Duehrssen said.

One of the main advantages of having a disaster plan, according to Duehrssen, is that it gives the mayor power to ask the Honduran government for

certain equipment that otherwise would be impossible to obtain.

After training in Utila, the group moved on to Roatán. With a population of 30,000, it is the largest of the Bay Islands. Having heard of the disaster plan in Utila, the governor of Roatán has asked the IRR program to create a plan for the island of Roatan as well, something Duehrssen hopes will begin as early as next year.

“This is what our program is all about,” Duehrssen said. “Lives will be saved because of what our students have done. Creating a disaster plan also prepares our students for anything.”

During this trip, their preparation was put to the test.

The open sea

Among the requirements for students on the trip is learning how to open a coconut on their head, find food in a jungle and endure a 24-hour stint aboard a survival raft.

Unfortunately, the boat that was supposed to be stationed next to their raft as a backup never arrived. A little after one o’clock in the morning, the anchor failed, allowing the raft to float out into the sea.

Once the team realized they were drifting, they had to navigate the raft away from areas of razor-sharp coral reef located just beneath the water’s surface.

As they struggled to get their bearings, it soon became obvious that they were headed between two islands and straight for a canal that would lead them aimlessly into the open ocean. The necessary course of action was apparent: they’d have to swim for shore.

“It crossed my mind that there may be sharks here,” said Eddie Perry, who graduated in May and is now a medical student at Loma Linda University. “But in moments like these, you can’t let fear keep you from getting the job done. You just have to rely on your training.”



IRR senior Chris Kinney (far right) instructs staff on Barbareta Island how to stabilize a patient with a broken leg and eye injury. Kinney graduated in May and is continuing his study at Union in the physician assistant program.

Duehrssen was proud of the students for taking charge of the situation. “We had all the emergency alert equipment we needed,” Duehrssen said. “But we never needed to use it because our students relied on their training and handled the situation perfectly.”

Once on the mysterious island, the students made a fire and slept on the beach until morning. The next day, workers developing the island found the group and gave them breakfast and supplies. Before long, the IRR group discovered they had landed on a private island owned by a Texas business tycoon.

“The estate manager was very impressed with our group and what we were doing. He invited us back to do a full-scale ropes-rescue training session for the staff on their island,” Duehrssen said. “It’s amazing that our wayward journey led us to a location where we were able to develop a relationship that could benefit the IRR program for many years.”

Real-life application

The 18 students who ventured to Honduras experienced plenty of academic coursework along with adventure. From serving medical needs of villagers in rural clinics and rudimentary hospitals to helping rescue a Canadian couple whose sailboat capsized and caring for a cruise line tourist with a fractured leg, the emphasis on being a student was not forgotten.

“The students still have exams, quizzes and normal coursework,” Duehrssen said. “The only difference is that they study in hammocks, huts and wherever else they can find a quiet spot.”

As Duehrssen explains, that’s all by design.

“The students are graded on how well they interact and get along with their peers in cramped and, at times, inadequate facilities,” Duehrssen said. “It’s all part of a package that prepares them for world travel.”

Students like Perry are grateful for the experience and opportunity to learn outside of the classroom.

“The IRR program prepares you for almost every kind of disaster you may encounter, whether it involves getting yourself out of a jam or helping others,” Perry said. “During this trip to Honduras, I saw years of textbook learning come to life.” **A**



Jordan Personius, junior from Oregon, assists a doctor at the Roatán emergency room in casting a young patient’s arm.



Brock Mayer and Ryan Brizendine help perform an ear examination with Dr. Mike Duerbrssen in a village clinic.



IRR students practice advanced open-water diving rescue techniques during their three months of training in Honduras.

IRR students ready for their next adventure: employment

In 2008 the IRR program reached the four-year mark. This trek away from traditional college experiences has led to questions about the type of jobs available. But in looking at the plans of 17 graduates through December 2008, opportunities are plentiful. Below is a list of intended next steps:

Medical school at Loma Linda University (two accepted)

Physician assistant program (three accepted)

Graduate school in public health, psychology, outdoor education

Internships (The Quiet Hour and Maranatha Volunteers International)

The Peace Corps

Traveling nurse (Doctors without Borders)

Air Force (combat rescue)

At-risk teen intervention counseling

Graduate assistantships (for Union’s IRR program and Southern Adventist University)

Paramedic schools in Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Oregon, Nebraska and Tennessee*

*Pre-paramedic emphasis students graduate with bachelor’s degree from Union when paramedic training is completed. These students are not included in the graduation numbers for 2008.



In Ike's aftermath IRR students share relief, gain perspective

by *Jacque L. Smith*

On Saturday evening, Sept. 13, students from Union College's international rescue and relief program gathered for a vote. Dr. Michael Duehrssen, associate director of the program, presented the students with two choices: drive through the night to south Texas without specific rescue or relief assignments or wait until morning to hear more from contacts already in the area.

The vote was unanimous. Eager to put their training into practice, the students wanted to help victims of Hurricane Ike as soon as possible and chose the all-night van ride.

The team of 10 junior and senior IRR majors, along with Duehrssen and Aaron Kent, program alumnus and IRR graduate assistant, arrived in Orange County, Texas, on Sunday. While they didn't need their rescue gear, their skills in relief and assessment were quickly put to use and the strength of their stomachs was tested.

"The whole bayou had been lifted and carried into the town on the storm surge," said IRR student Michael Gardner. "There were dead animals and rotting fish all over the place. The smell permeated the entire city and clung to you wherever you went."

Hurricane Ike hit Orange County (close to Port Arthur, La.) harder than forecasters expected. Based near Bridge City, the team connected with the county's emergency operation center (EOC) and FEMA, along with disaster response organizations, Eagles Wings and Adventist Community Team Services (ACTS).

For the group's first service assignment, they traveled through neighborhoods assessing needs. By Tuesday, Union's IRR students led 10-person teams incorporating 60 high school students who came to the area to serve. The group knocked on doors and reported the needs of each home through the GPS-enabled cell phones provided by Eagles Wings. The information gathered at the county's EOC was then passed on to FEMA, allowing them to allocate funds and other resources.

In addition to damage assessments, in one day they found 24 urgent needs in flooded neighborhoods, including medical and humanitarian concerns that they were able to report or assist with on the spot. The group carried coolers with food and water in the vehicles so they could help with immediate needs such as ice for insulin.

"Many of the people who were caught in the storm were

unable to get a pharmacy," Duehrssen said. "By the time we reached them, many residents were desperate for emergency prescriptions such as blood-pressure medication."

Corrie Sample, a senior IRR student, was assigned to assist the leader of Eagle's Wings who was organizing the assessment process. "I saw first-hand the tension between wanting to cover as much territory as possible to qualify for more FEMA funding and moving slow enough through the neighborhoods to meet individual needs along the way," Sample said.

While the magnitude of the devastation allowed students to see policies and systems in action, it was the one-on-one moments that Daniel Rogers says he will remember most. His group encountered a lady in a parking lot while picking up a pair of glasses for another elderly lady who was legally blind. With tears in her eyes and quivering chin she asked, "Can you help me? I don't know where to turn." They talked with her for a few minutes and gave her a case of MREs (meals ready to eat) and a case of bottled water. "Before she turned to go we asked if we could pray with her," Rogers said. "With our arms around each other, we were three strangers, but we shared a few minutes

in a time of crisis, turning to God and supporting each other. When the woman turned to go, her tears were from thanks and gratitude with renewed hope in her face. It was an amazing transformation and an example of God's spirit at work."

Later in the week, the IRR group helped set up three ACTS kitchens with food provided by the FDA. One kitchen unit, a semi truck, was stationed at the high school where they were based. Two

smaller mobile units moved through the community. With residents returning to flood-damaged homes, many without power, they served up to 10,000 meals a day.

Arriving back on campus early Sunday morning, students had gained an expanded perspective on the challenges and opportunities of their major in international rescue and relief. "I discovered that I really enjoy aspects of disaster management," Sample said. "Seeing the big picture in the aftermath of Ike opened my eyes to new possibilities and options for service." **A**

➤ View a television news story provided by Lincoln's Channel 10/11 and read more about Corrie Sample's service adventure in *CORDmagazine* online: www.ucollege.edu/cordmagazine.

photo: Steve Nazario



A Conversation with the President

*Interview and timeline by
Angela A. Peach and Jacque L. Smith*



Last year when Dr. David Smith realized he was positioned to be the longest-serving president of Union College, he was surprised. The business of leading and serving the college had been keeping him too occupied to take time to tally the tenure of his predecessors. This leadership milestone for the campus coincides with the 10-year anniversary of David and Cherie's move to Lincoln. In the interview below, President Smith shows that his leadership and vision are a testament to his belief in the power of prayer and the strength of Union College and its people.

Angie/Jacque: *What does it mean to you to have completed a decade at Union College and be celebrated as the longest-serving president?*

David: I recognize there are many presidents at other institutions who have served longer than I've served here. But this milestone does bring joy as I realize that there probably has been more of a benefit to the college for my having been here a whole decade. Union has never really had a chance as an institution to experience its full potential under long-term leadership.

Every year brings its own challenges. You can't look very far down the road and do the kinds of jobs Cherie and I are doing. Every year we ask God, "What do you want us to do this year? Do you want us to stay? Do you want us to do something else for you?" And so far it's been clear that he's keeping us here.

A/J: *What were some of the factors you and Cherie considered before taking the call to come here?*

D: It was the most difficult decision we had ever made. We had been at Union College for two years from 1979 to 1981 and liked it very much. But at the point we received the call to come to Union we had lived in Collegedale for 17 years and enjoyed a real sense of belonging and security there. Cherie was in her second year as a pastor at the Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist Church, and it was the most fulfilling work of her life—experiencing what we believed God had called her to do. I was very happy in my role in the English department at Southern. I have a passion for teaching and enjoy the classroom experience. To consider accepting a more stressful position, one that would take me further away from daily contact with young people, was a challenge. Also with most of our family either in, or near, Tennessee, the thought of moving away was excruciating.

A/J: *Both you and Cherie describe the decision to move as a pivotal point in your spiritual journey. How did this impact your decision?*

D: The most important thing for us was to try to understand what God wanted us to do. Seeking God's will was very hard—a spiritual wrestling for us both. We prayed earnestly, and although I don't think I could explain to someone why, I just felt convicted to take the call. The decision was even more difficult for Cherie, but ultimately she decided we should go. She summarized the reason to say "yes" so well: "You're blessed the most when you're doing what God wants you to do."

An Overview of a Decade

1998

Dr. David Smith begins his term as president.

The Division of Health Sciences is the first area of campus to have a wireless computer connection.



1999

In February, Union officially inaugurates Dr. David Smith as president.

2000

Union College earns North Central Association (NCA) accreditation.

The first physician assistant class graduates.



The First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Award is presented to the Division of Health Sciences.

The Board of Trustees becomes more engaged in the leadership of Union College through the creation of board committees:

- Executive
- Academic
- Campus Life
- Finance and Development
- Masterplanning and Facilities
- Recruitment, Retention and Marketing
- Trusteeship

2001

Union College receives a \$1.3 million commitment toward the completion of a new welcome and conference center from the Alvin Ortnor Trust. While this gift helped create the vision for the project, other donors provided crucial leadership, including: Union Bank, Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Adventist Health Rocky Mountain Region, Mid-America Union Conference, Jerome and Ramona Lang, Jessica Saxton and Saxton's Inc.



Union celebrates exceeding the \$5 million goal for *Our Enduring Union: The Campaign for Union College*, with \$6.3 million raised. The campaign continues with a focus on raising funds for the Ortner Center.

\$8.9 million in debt is fully eradicated.

The physician assistant program gains accreditation.



Union College hosts an alternate walk date for Lincoln's American Heart Association, beginning an annual partnership that meets a community need.

2002

Enrollment continues to grow as Union enjoys its highest enrollment in 19 years. Successful student retention is the major contributing factor in this upward trend.

The 10th annual Parents Weekend welcomes 600 parents and students to campus, up from 80 parents and students attending the first year.



2003

The international rescue and relief (IRR) program is proposed to Union, with direction provided by Dr. Michael Duerhssen. The program officially launches in August 2004.

2004

With oversight from the board of trustees, Civitas completes the Union College campus facility master plan—an outline of the overall 50-year vision for campus facilities, including new student housing to eventually replace Kern and Bancroft Courts and new facilities for science and mathematics.

New visual identity and Web site is created for Union College.



A/J: How is Cherie's participation in your leadership a benefit to Union College? What does it mean to you personally?

D: Cherie has a place in her heart for our alumni. Every Homecoming Weekend she takes them into her heart and goes through withdrawal when it's over. She often travels with me and has meaningful visits with people who I might not have the opportunity or even feel equipped to meet with. When I travel alone, one of the first questions I'm often asked is "Where's Cherie?" People are willing to settle for me, but I can sense their disappointment at her absence.

When we are in Lincoln, Cherie is the most wonderful and gracious host. It is a special delight to her heart to serve people in our home. We've enjoyed hosting groups of parents and students, alumni, board members, faculty and staff, and Cherie's willingness to open our home has always been a true example of hospitality.

Cherie is also a tremendous prayer warrior. She prays not only for me but also for the school. I believe her prayers are partly responsible for many of the blessings that Union has enjoyed. Several years ago, Cherie encouraged me to begin the tradition of a prayer walk on the Friday evening of faculty colloquium. We pray for our campus—the buildings and the people who will pass through them. I can't think of a better way to start a school year than to pray about what's to come and surrender everything to God.

A/J: What were your first impressions of Union College?

D: My first impressions were very positive. The biggest surprise, especially given that I had taught here for two years 17 years prior, was to be reminded of how incredible the students were. I've always loved the students everywhere I've been, but I've never been so struck by the willingness to serve demonstrated by Union students. My first Project Impact [community service day] I put on my event T-shirt and walked outside not knowing what to expect. I was amazed at how many people were there. I'd never seen anything like it. I was pleased, however, to see that the attitude of service extended beyond that one day.

One Sunday morning, a few weeks later, I joined a group of students who were fixing up a trailer for a lady in the community. As I helped a young man fix a door, I asked him about his year. He said that as a pre-med major he was having a very difficult time, taking more than 20 credit hours—almost all science lab classes. I asked him why he was here volunteering when he could be sleeping or studying to help with his own stress. He said, "My parents raised me to believe that anytime you have a chance to help somebody, that's what you do. So I'm here because I have a chance to help somebody." He's finished his training at Loma Linda, and a few months ago I had the chance to visit with him. He's still asking, "How can I come back to Union and help?" Experiencing that attitude of service probably had the greatest impact on me.

The other thing I joyfully adjusted to was the student-centered, student-directed dynamic here. Watching young people lead out with enthusiasm in the spiritual programming and to participate *with* them as they grow—it's an exciting atmosphere. And contributing to that atmosphere is the unparalleled positive peer pressure I witnessed here. Students were serving Jesus with outright enthusiasm and sharing their spiritual walk with their peers.

During my first convocation, the Associated Student Body (ASB) president said, "There's one thing you need to know. Everything we have planned for this school year will have something to do with Jesus Christ. Whether we're in a banquet, whether we're playing on the ball fields, whether we're eating in the cafeteria, whether we're going to class—whatever happens on this campus, our prayer is that it has something to do with Christ." Then he said boldly, "I hope that's why you're here at Union, because if it is, you'll enjoy it. If that's not why you're here, we're still glad you're here, and we hope you can adjust." Wow! I had never heard young people take spiritual ownership to that degree. How amazing it is to be involved on a campus like this!

A/J: *Union is known for its see-it-to-believe-it campus atmosphere. How do you try to perpetuate or emphasize the campus environment?*

D: I discovered during my first year at Union that the faculty and staff are inordinately dedicated to serving both Jesus and the students. Our students respond to that attitude. I believe one of my greater contributions has been to support and promote the spiritual environment and to accurately represent this very important aspect of Union College when I am elsewhere.

Reminders of this spiritual atmosphere are everywhere, even in the speeches of the students running for ASB offices. It would be the most normal thing in the world to run for financial vice president by simply saying, "I have good experience in this; I can take care of your money, and we can do a lot of things next year. Please vote for me." But these kids go beyond that, without any prompting. They say, "I want to be a good financial VP for God because I want to be a good steward of your money, and I believe God will bless me with that motive." I hope that my leadership affirms that attitude.

A/J: *What specific interactions do you get to have with students?*

D: I go to as many programs as I can. I sit with the students at volleyball and basketball games, in Union Market, at chapel and in vespers. This doesn't always mean we have deep conversations, but I enjoy being with them. When I do get a chance to seriously talk with them, it's important to me to do my best to listen, understand and get a sense of what they're like. Because when I'm out representing the college, they're the ones that I'm describing.

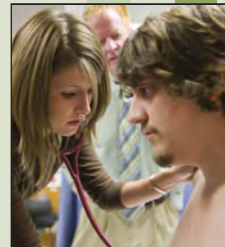
A: *Did you have a specific teacher or class that inspired you in a way that you hope Union students will be inspired?*

D: When I was an undergraduate student at Andrews, a professor called me into his office and invited me to share my plans for the future. He did two things that were very meaningful to me. First, he expressed tremendous confidence in me, confidence I didn't have in myself at the time. Second, he prayed for my future. That experience blessed me with a little more security as I moved forward.

Another experience that sticks out in my mind happened during my freshman year. I was in World Civ I—a class that began with 27 students, of which only seven finished. I enjoyed the teacher, got an A and decided to be a history major. The next year, I took another class from the same teacher. I stayed

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree is approved.

Our Enduring Union: The Campaign for Union College concludes with \$9.3 million raised for campus facilities, academic equipment and scholarship endowment.

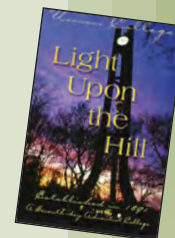


The Ortner Center opens. Facilities are in use in January 2004, with a grand opening celebration in April. The ceremony is attended by many key civic officials, including the mayor of Lincoln. Features of the new facility include Union Market Dining Services, Lang Conference and Guest Center, a 24-hour campus Welcome Center, and the McClelland Art Gallery.



The Best in Class Advisory Board is formed to help connect the Division of Business and its students to the real business world.

Union College: Light Upon the Hill, celebrating the history of Union College is published, commemorating the centennial of the Alumni Association.



2005

The student center is renovated. Leadership gifts are provided by former Associated Student Body (ASB) officers, the Mid-America Union Conference and alumni and friends of the college.



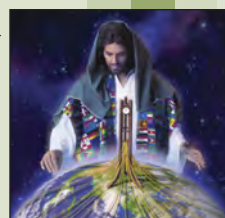
Education, physician assistant, social work and nursing programs all achieve accreditation by their respective accrediting bodies.

2006

Union celebrates the opening of Cooper Place, new on-campus student housing made possible by Rick Krueger and Kent Thompson.



Union celebrates 100 years of the tradition of the Golden Cords recognizing students and alumni overseas mission service.





U.S. News and World Report awards Union “Top College” designation, an honor again bestowed in 2007 and 2008.



Project Impact, the college community service day, celebrates 25 years.

2007

The nursing program begins a two- semester acceptance cycle. Two classes of 24 students each are able to begin the program every school year, instead of one class of 30 students.

The Union College Fund raises \$591,120 in unrestricted giving, up significantly from the \$321,648 raised in 1998.



Union’s enrollment exceeds 1,000 students for the first time since 1983.

2008

Union College leadership visits Capitol Hill to address representatives and senators.



The Corporation for National and Community Service names Union College to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for exemplary service efforts and service to disadvantaged youth.

Nebraska State Senator Tony Fulton introduces Legislative Resolution 248, commending Union College for its growth and continued excellence in education and service.



Union takes strategic steps to further realize the priorities of the campus facility master plan.

up all night to do a book review, out of diligence, not procrastination. When I got that paper back, it was bleeding red marks so profusely—it looked like a hospital emergency room. The teacher had written “you have too many verbs of being” and had drawn blocks around each one and connected them all. I didn’t even know what a verb of being was at the time, but when I figured it out, I got mad. I was young and not very mature, but I had worked hard. I didn’t find much in the teacher’s comments that seemed redemptive. So I took a textbook page, circled and connected all the verbs of being on it, and gave it to him. I told him if I was one to swear, I’d be swearing at him, but since I wasn’t, I just wanted him to know how angry I was. It was a ridiculous conversation on my part, but he took everything in a Christian manner and said he’d try to do better. And he did! After that he partly changed his grading and wrote more affirming comments. Looking back, I have to laugh because he was voted teacher of the year, and I was definitely not the student of the year.

Years later, when I graduated with my master’s degree in English, this same teacher, now president of another institution, was invited to speak at my graduation. Although I hadn’t seen him in years, the moment we shook hands he said good-naturedly, “Now I understand you’re a traitor and have gone with English instead of history.” We had a wonderful, affirming conversation. The next day during graduation, he got out of his seat to shake my hand. I was the only person he did that for—a magnanimous gesture, in my mind, because he had no reason to do it except that it was important to him. I learned from him how to deal with people who are angry, how to express faith in them and how to be a part of their maturing process by letting them know that you value them.

A/J: *Or even how to let them help change you—to keep yourself open.*

D: Yes. And to learn from people who express criticism or suggestions for improvement. It was profound for me.

A/J: *What do you see as a sustaining factor for Union’s success over your decade here?*

D: A highlight for the campus in my early years was the growing enrollment, but the sense of spiritual renewal I felt was even more exciting. When I talk to alumni from previous decades, they don’t all recount that kind of spiritual journey or school spirit. The first time I heard the school song sung, I was amazed to feel the enthusiasm for that silly little song. It captured the spirit here that you would hope for when young people are together. And that spirit has only grown over time.

A/J: *Do you notice any differences in Union’s alumni and constituents compared to other institutions?*

D: Yes. From the first time I interacted with Union’s alumni, I was overcome by their enthusiasm for their school. I had never seen anything like it anywhere. I was prepared to motivate the alumni and get them as excited about the school as I was, but I found that one of my major tasks was just to keep up with them. They were clapping, and nodding and singing the school song before I even got up to speak.

One of the insights I’ve gained is that the level of alumni

and constituent interest in Union College is as great, if not greater, than for any other Adventist college or university. I was both surprised and pleased by that my first year, but it's been reinforced every year I've been here. That interest is exciting, because it allows the college to play a very important role in nurturing the church in this part of the United States."

A/J: *What role has the Board of Trustees played in your leadership at Union?*

D: From the beginning, the board was completely supportive and entirely helpful, but quiet. In 2000, we reorganized the board into committees, which has allowed the group to be far more engaged. In addition, we have been more intentional in selecting board members who fit specific needs and bring varied expertise and balance to the group. Union benefits immeasurably from their knowledge, experience and talents. I feel confident in the exceptional leadership our board provides.

A/J: *You have described the opening of the Ortner Center as a pivotal point for the campus. What did the completion of that project add to Union College?*

D: The Ortner Center absolutely transformed the campus. A core mission of my presidency has been to invite the Lincoln community onto our campus and find ways to not only partner with them, but also to help them feel comfortable here. All of the Project Impact days, as significant as they have been through the years, probably haven't helped the Lincoln community feel as comfortable on our campus as what we've done through the Ortner Center. And I've been so pleased with that.

During our community open house for the new facility, one visitor who had a long-standing relationship with the college told me that he finally felt welcome on campus—he felt like he belonged. Nothing he could have shared with me was more important than that reaction. God's blessing of the Ortner Center project allowed us to open that door.

There has been a progression of success at Union College. The next big projects that we are looking at are beyond the scope of anything the college has attempted in the past. Yet they are so worthy and necessary—and actually, more doable because we have momentum from past successes like the Ortner Center. People are responding with enthusiasm to the possibilities for the future as they celebrate with us over past blessings."

A/J: *What will be crucial to future success and development for Union College?*

D: Union has taken a few key steps to define itself as unique among Adventist higher education institutions. Expanding our nursing program, converting the physician assistant program to a master's degree, focusing on strong business, education and health sciences areas and the new international rescue and relief program coupled with generally strengthening and defining academics has gained us some recognition. But when we look to the future of Union College, we've got more ground to cover.

Small schools like our own, church affiliated or not, are very vulnerable in today's environment. Many forces are pressing on higher education institutions. With this in mind, we're trying to listen to people, to learn and anticipate the next steps Union



In February, the Board of Trustees joined with college employees for a reception honoring David and Cherie Smith and their 10 years of leadership. The program in the lobby of the Ortner Center included toasts and tributes to the Smiths and a rousing celebration song by the vice presidents set to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."



David Smith says time with alumni is an important part of his work. Here he tosses out the first pitch at the Lincoln alumni annual Saltdogs baseball game gathering.



President Smith adds his support, strength and sweat to Project Impact each year.



The Smiths are joined by their daughters, Jacie Buxton and Kim Hutchinson, at an event last April to celebrate the college's leadership and vision for the future and to honor David and Cherie Smith for their decade of service at Union.

needs to take in order to be as excited about the future as we are about the present. One of these steps is providing facilities and resources that will give our students the best possible educational experience here and practical options once they leave.

The best way higher education can help expand opportunities for the future is through science. We hear the plea for more scientists, more mathematicians, more graduates with critical thinking skills and medical training for the kind of jobs that can't be easily exported overseas in a global market. There's no question that the demand for skilled problem-solvers will continue to grow. Every school needs to be thinking in this direction, and it's a step Union needs to take for the future. But I don't see a bright future for Union College without a facility that helps answer this call.

Being located in Nebraska keeps our focus on attracting and sustaining young talent. Science and health care jobs will help us do just that. If we don't have the resources to add to this job pool, there's going to be a lot more "brain loss." As Union looks to the future, we want to keep moving instead toward "brain gain." Percentagewise, we are leading all other institutions in brain gain for the state, and we want to build on that. We also want to have resources that will attract young people from around the country and the world who will feel good about investing their college years at Union. In our master plan, we have a commitment to keep improving campus. We are excited about what that tells us for our future.

We also need to increase our cash reserves and endowment. Union needs to find ways to explore revenue options outside of the operating fund. With time and God's blessing, we have to look at expanding our financial options carefully.

Our biggest challenge in looking to the future will most likely be sustaining enrollment. With boarding academies around the country struggling to remain open, we must figure out how to attract different kinds of students in larger numbers than we have historically. We are especially interested in Adventists attending high school and local Christian youth who are looking for a quality Christian education. We believe that there are plenty of young people to give Union College a bright future, but we're also going to be more challenged than ever before to attract and serve them.

A/J: *What are you excited about as you look to the future of Union College?*

D: I'm excited to see such a match between the path Union College is on right now and the path higher education will need to move toward in the future. Our small size is a real advantage because we have such a dedicated, unified group of employees who are committed to Union's mission. The word "future" has increasingly become synonymous with the word "change." We must continue to adapt to stay relevant. Union is perfectly positioned for this challenge because of the cohesiveness and flexibility of our faculty and staff who enthusiastically try new things. I am excited about having a campus culture that supports new ideas and reaches for new goals.

I also get very excited about the amazing ways God has blessed this school over the past 10 years. It's a school going somewhere and with God's blessing, Union has a bright future. I look forward to seeing how God will guide me and other leaders, through partnering with him, to help that very bright future happen.

A/J: *At the beginning of the day when you see what's ahead, what details of your work do you look forward to the most?*

D: I love the students. After I speak around the country, people always say to me, "Boy, you really love those kids, don't you?" I haven't realized that's what I've spoken about, but it comes through because they are in my heart. These students are a powerful witness to me, and I'm excited on days when I get to talk about the Union College they represent.

Another thing that energizes me is when I come to the end of the day and realize I've made a difference. So much of what I do is open-ended; I may deal with an issue for years. On days when I realize that life is suddenly better for a teacher, staff member or student—that sense of accomplishment is satisfying. Many days, facing the impossible is very challenging and draining. I've learned to say to God at the end of the day, "I can't solve this right now. I'm giving it to you."

What I have enjoyed the most about my role is being a personal representative of what I understand Union College to be.



When I travel, write, speak or visit alumni and friends, I am Union College. It's been such a privilege to be that representative. I love this place. I believe in it. I see how it changes hearts and lives, and I'm excited to be a part of that. **A**

David's wife Cheri is the nurture and prayer pastor at the College View church.



"Union's administrative team is the envy of other colleges," President Smith said. "It is a professional and personal blessing to work this impressive group of dedicated leaders." From left: Malcolm Russell, Rob Weaver, David Smith, LuAnn Davis, Gary Bollinger, Lou Ann Fredregill, Linda Becker and Rich Carlson.

"I can't wait to go to Union when I grow up. For those who are going to Union soon, prepare for an awesome president (my grandpa). I hope Union will be as great and friendly when I get there."

~Katie Buxton, age 10



Planning for Saturday Night and Beyond

Associated Student Body president, Alicia Archer, reflects on her Union experience and discusses what ASB has in store this year



photo: Crista Nazario

by: Michael D. Steingas

At Union, a highlight of the week is the Saturday night event planned by the Associated Student Body—cardboard boat night, splash for cash, dodgeball tournament—but it's only part of what the ASB team does on campus. And although ASB president, Alicia Archer, is excited about this year's events, she has big plans for other areas.

In her spare time, this Colorado native can be found dirt biking, rock climbing, photographing nature or playing the guitar. Majoring in both nursing and international rescue and relief, she plans to eventually work as a nurse overseas, possibly on mercy ships or in developing countries. But for now, Archer focuses on her vision and excitement for this year.

Michael Steingas: *What brought you to Union?*

Alicia Archer: The international rescue and relief program initially. And then after that, the people kept me here.

MS: *What were your first impressions of Union and were they accurate?*

AA: The first thing I noticed was a very beautiful campus, but what impressed me the most was the people and how welcoming they were. Making friends was easy and everyone was helpful showing me where to go. Once I was on campus and became friends with a few people, spreading out and meeting more wasn't hard. It's great being surrounded by people you know on a daily basis and being able to greet anyone you meet on the sidewalk.

MS: *What excites you the most about Union?*

AA: Union encourages the student body to try new things and get involved specifically through small groups scattered around campus—department clubs, praise teams, intramurals—most of which are student led. Spiritually, you can find whatever you're looking for; different people worship differently and Union accommodates those styles. I go to a to a small Sabbath school class that meets in the IRR department. Coming from a very small town, and therefore a very small church, I like the closeness you get with a small group.

MS: *Have the faculty had an impact on your experience at Union?*

AA: All along the faculty has been amazing. The teachers are very supportive and willing to work with you. They understand life issues that students face and do their best to offer support. Dr. [Virginia] Simmons, for example, is one who amazes me. I

took her Developmental Psychology class and she spoils us as college students. You can tell she loves teaching and that it isn't a burden for her. She's inspiring.

MS: *What has been your experience with Dr. David Smith?*

AA: He's very personable. At other college campuses, there would be few people who could actually tell you where the president's office is or even what he or she looks like. Dr. Smith is a very impressive person. I respect him and look up to him as a leader who doesn't get caught up with being the "top dog." He's very involved and really cares about the students and Union. That's what I see coming through his actions and words.

MS: *How did you become involved with leadership?*

AA: I think it began by being involved in praise groups and having a good reputation, but the ASB position was definitely God's leading. I hadn't been looking for the job; He brought it to me.

MS: *How hard was it to become involved in leadership at Union?*

AA: It's was simple because of the many clubs and areas of Campus Ministries that can always use help. Most of the ASB officers for next year are underclassmen, so it's definitely possible for new and current students to get involved. Lack of experience is not necessarily something that counts against you because part of having a leadership position is getting experience for later in life.

MS: *What goals do you have for the ASB this year?*

AA: First, something all the colleges and universities in North America decided to sponsor is the Malawi Project (www.malawiproject.org), which trains locals how to administer medical care so they can instruct and work in the hospital as well. Second, I want to continue making Union more eco-friendly by promoting recycling, increasing awareness about how much paper is used at a college and providing ideas that will use paper and other material more efficiently.

MS: *How has ASB planned differently for this school year?*

AA: We evaluated a lot of our events and adjusted them according to feedback the student body gave us. ASB is always different due to changes in leadership, but it needs to be adaptive to accommodate the student body, and I feel like we are doing that. I'm excited about the dynamic energy the new ASB team has brought and am enjoying working with them this year. **A**

Lesson Learned from Trading a Toilet

by Roger Keaton '03



In the fall of 2000, I decided to take part in a Saturday night ASB event, the annual Bigger and Better contest. Three friends and I started out with a marble and set out to win the biggest prize we could. After trading a melon for a drum, we fell upon the misfortune of receiving a baby's training toilet. Fifteen minutes later, I was standing on the front steps of the governor's mansion talking to Justin Johanns, son of then Governor Mike Johanns. He took my toilet and gave our entire group crystal inaugural ornaments.

I hardly remember winning the ASB contest that night, but I remember that conversation with Justin and the state troopers. It would be the first of many. That conversation helped me land an internship in then Governor Johanns's constituent affairs department which, in turn, helped me earn an internship with Senator Chuck Hagel in his Washington D.C. office.

One misperception I held before working with Senator Hagel was that public service is inherently political. During my vetting process, however, while my résumé, background, and interests were thoroughly examined, no one asked about my political party affiliation.

I began to worry about this one Friday in March 2002 after I informed my colleagues that I was a registered Democrat when I accepted the position in Senator Hagel's office. Fearing that I would be exiled prematurely from a job that I loved, the surprise verdict was that nobody seemed to care.

Senator Hagel strongly believed in face-to-face discussions

with key players in current events. Because of this, in carrying out my day-to-day responsibilities, I was able to meet some of the most influential people in our government. One such encounter showed just how green I was to the political process.

One day I was working answering phones in the office when a man who had an appointment with the Senator came in. After he took his seat, I introduced myself and asked if I could get him any refreshments. In a rough voice he told me he was fine. We carried on a conversation for about 10 minutes and I kept noticing his rough voice. Two or three times I asked him if I could get him some tea or coffee, at one point going as far as to say that it might help "clear that up." A few minutes later the man left. My boss got a good laugh out of the story as he informed me that the guest was none other than Henry Kissinger.

It is true that our system is filled with people who are institutions in their own right, men and women who fight to hold on to power at all costs. But our system is also built upon a premise that anyone has the potential to rise to a position of great influence. Even though I was just an intern, I marveled at the system that brought me, the son of a once single mother who made less than \$15,000 a year, to Washington, D.C. After all, I started out as a college student trading the governor's son an old toilet.

Roger, who graduated from Union College in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Business, says he is now a registered Republican. He and his wife, Julie, moved recently to Atlanta, Ga., from Orlando, Fla. Roger works for the General Conference Auditing Service and Julie is a senior safekeeping operations representative for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. A



Roger Keaton served as an intern in 2002 for Senator Chuck Hagel's Washington, D.C., office. On the margin below Roger's copy of this photo is a personal note signed, "Your valet, Chuck Hagel."



Changing Lives Through Innovation

*by Katie Lechler '04
photos courtesy of Dr. Cecil Christensen*



Hip resurfacing

When talking about his career, Cecil Christensen, class of '57, says he was just in the right place at the right time. In 1967, Christensen, a resident surgeon at the University of Texas-Houston, attended a conference on hip surgery. There were experts and presenters from Boston and San Francisco, but one speaker by the name of Sir John Charnley caught his attention. Charnley, a British surgeon, presented his research and experience on hip replacement which was, at the time, a new and largely unheard-of procedure. Many of the conference attendees were skeptical, but Christensen approached Charnley and his fellow researcher at a dinner party after the meetings. "I told them I was interested in what they were showing, and before the evening was out, I had a job," Christensen said.

Christensen spent six months in Britain doing joint replacements before coming back to Texas and opening his own practice with his new specialty in joint replacement surgery. Today this type of surgery is common, but at the time, Christensen was the only person who performed joint replacement and it took four or five years for others to catch up.

He has also engineered a specific kind of joint prosthetic which bears his name: the Christensen stem. It is based on the original designs of Charnley but incorporates some specialized aspects to help older patients. Later in life, joints can wear out, and the fit between the bone and the prosthetic joint has to be revised. "Revision is something that not all surgeons do," Christensen said. "It requires complex surgery because as the prosthetic device wears out, it can bore through bone. About 25 years ago, I designed custom made implants for that difficulty."

Using Christensen's method, the surgeon takes a CAT scan of the area and then a computer generates a model to fit the exact dimensions of the defective area in the bone socket. Finally, a prosthetic titanium component is made that fills in the bone defect. "I get called on to do this particular type of surgery about once a month," he said.

Christensen lives in Houston with his wife Meghan, an avid golfer. His practice is at the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical center in the world, where he assists the teaching staff of two medical schools. He estimates that he has performed about 37,000 joint replacements during his 40-year career. "That's a lot of time in an operating room, but it changes lives," Christensen said. "You take someone who is disabled with pain and give them a new joint, and in three days they are walking around again."

It was this same desire to help people and change lives that spurred Christensen to get involved with politics—and again, it was a case of being in the right place at the right time. During the Reagan presidency, Houston's political scene had what Christensen describes as "a culture of corruption." Many of the local politicians were forced to leave office and some were put in jail. "I thought that there had to be something I could do to help." He and some of his fellow physicians came up with an innovative idea to help change the face of politics in their area. First, they put out the word that they were interested in fundraising for Republican candidates. Then, Christensen interviewed young politicians who were just starting out in their careers to determine what kind of people they were. "We wanted to get to know them and figure out whether or not they would do the right thing in office," he said.

After meeting many politicians, Christensen began to host fundraisers at his home for the candidates that he felt would really make a difference.

"People would come by for an hour or



Dr. Cecil Christensen visits with the first President Bush.

so, hear a political talk, meet big-name politicians from all over," he said. "We ended up doing that for 90 occasions." During this time, he supported state senators, city representatives, and U.S. Congressmen. He also hosted Henry Kissinger and George Bush Sr. on three occasions during his presidency. "George W. Bush, during his campaign for governor, had his first fundraiser in Houston at my house. We probably had a thousand people at my house that night and after he gave his speech, he could hardly talk," Christensen chuckled.

One of the lessons Christensen has learned during his involvement with politics is the value of term limits. After many of the scandals in Houston politics died down, he learned many of the elected officials were staying in office for "an incredible length of time," he said. "When there were no term limits, all they cared about was getting re-elected, and they were willing to do anything to accomplish that." Christensen lobbied for term limits; now both city council members and the mayor can only retain office for a maximum of six years. "This has really helped with some of the corruption in the city."

When it comes to politics on the national level, Christensen sees running a country as similar to running a business. For him, a good president would be a successful business person: a hard worker, a sound economist, and a good leader who is skilled at making difficult choices. "A business person has to be successful or they face bankruptcy," Christensen said. "If someone can succeed on that level, now they can look to a leadership position in the world." However, he doesn't see anyone like that running for the U.S. Presidency any time soon. "The good candidates, the sound business people, won't subject themselves to the type of scrutiny that being a politician involves."

Lately Christensen has distanced himself from his involvement in politics. During his fundraising days, it became apparent to him that no matter how carefully he interviewed the candidates he chose to support, once they took office, they paid more attention to re-election than serving their constituency. "I still get invited to political events, and I go sometimes, but I don't think supporting any candidate right now is going to help anyone," he said.

However, Christensen appreciates the time he spent and the knowledge he gained while fundraising. "I did learn how to access politics and how the system works. It is important to have a clear understanding of politics because most of us are totally unaware of the reality of the system."

For right now, he's focusing on his first calling—helping people through orthopedic surgery. "Tomorrow I'm going to replace two hips and a knee," Christensen said cheerfully. "It's been a great career, and I'm going to keep doing it until I can't do it anymore." **A**



Cecil and Meghan Christensen

Leading by Listening

*by Katie Lechler '04
photos courtesy of Nathan Blake*

*Obama campaign staffer, Nathan Blake '01,
observes presidential potential from an insider's perspective*

Editor's note: Union College does not promote any political party or candidate. In producing this presidential-themed issue of *CORDMagazine*, the editorial staff and the Advancement office searched for someone closely involved with the McCain campaign and did not find anyone with connections to Union. If we overlooked an alumnus involved in a presidential or other high-level political campaign, we would love to tell their story. Submit feedback to news@ucollege.edu.

When Nathan Blake, class of 2001, was Associated Student Body President at Union College, he had a clear understanding of leadership. To Blake, the presidency meant being a member of a team of “co-leaders,” where each person had an impact by assuming leadership in different situations. Being a leader also meant acting as a representative—the student voice to the faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees.

Although it’s been several years since Blake served as ASB president, the lessons he learned about presidency have stayed with him. The leadership qualities he prizes now are similar to the qualities he valued back then: “an openness to teamwork, and a willingness to listen and respond.” The difference now is he’s playing on a much bigger field.

Blake, a lawyer with degrees in law and divinity from Yale University, has recently worked as a field organizer for Senator Barack Obama’s campaign for the U.S. Presidency. His job, as he describes it, is “an entry-level political job.” Blake’s days involve e-mailing, calling, and visiting potential supporters, as well as managing a team of volunteers. His “turf” consists of a few suburbs in Des Moines, Iowa, where he and his wife Andrea (Ruhn, ’01), a nurse practitioner specializing in geriatrics, reside with Rigby, their dog.

How a campaign works

In most states, each political party purchases a list of registered voters who have participated in past primaries. Once a candidate’s campaign has this list, volunteers and field organizers like Blake make calls or visits to people who participated in a previous party caucus.

Blake says he’s knocked on hundreds of doors and made thousands of phone calls, partly to identify supporters and partly to persuade people to support his candidate. “Usually the most effective contact is at the door,” Blake said. “People might get annoyed with you, but they also might be impressed that you’re committed to a candidate. And you share your story about why you’re supporting that candidate.”

After talking with each contact, the volunteer rates the voter on a five-point scale: “one being a die-hard supporter of your candidate, three being undecided, and five being a die-hard supporter of someone else.” Blake laughed, “Or just a die-hard opponent of your candidate.”

Once a list is made of the ones or twos, the volunteers develop “universes,” which are demographic categories that the campaign then targets. The volunteers continue calling and meeting with their universe throughout the campaign, listening



Nathan Blake says campaign work involves cramped quarters.

other state’s primaries. For example, in California, he helped set up an event showcasing Obama’s support of labor. After making a media appearance with the labor unions who endorse the senator, the participants had a rally and went out to canvass. Events like this are effective, as well as exciting for local residents and participants. “Depending on where you are, specifically if you go later in the primary season, people are not used to having this kind of attention from presidential candidates,” Blake said. “Local media is often pretty excited to see how

to issues and concerns.

“I remember one person I met with was very concerned about our policy toward Cuba,” Blake said. “It was hard for her husband, who has family down there, to send money and to visit. So when Senator Obama announced a policy outlining relationships with Cuba, permitting more family travel, I sent that to her.”

Blake’s job also involves planning and setting up for media events, as well as working away from his Iowa turf on other state’s primaries. “Depending on where you are, specifically if you go later in the primary season, people are not used to having this kind of attention from presidential candidates,” Blake said. “Local media is often pretty excited to see how much time and energy we’ve spent on courting their votes.”

In the last couple of weeks before the primary, the campaign’s emphasis switches to a Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort. This involves calling all the identified supporters and encouraging them to vote in their state’s primary. Blake describes this as “backbreakingly hard work.” Even during the summer of 2007, months before the caucus, he routinely worked 12-hour days. The workdays only got longer, especially when he went to other states to assist in their GOTV efforts.

“I was in Mississippi for four days, and I only slept 17 hours the whole time,” Blake said. Aside from Iowa, Mississippi and California, he was also able to work in Ohio, North Carolina and Texas.

Having worked on the 2004 presidential primary in New Hampshire, Blake had a fairly accurate idea of what he was getting himself into with this campaign. His experience led him to believe that fieldwork is what wins elections—and it can be fun at times.

“I worked with a lot of people I really liked,” Blake said. “It’s a good work environment; hang out with people during the day, take a break and surf the Web, but for the most part, keep your head down.”

Finding the reward

While in law school, Blake also worked as a Senate intern and was involved in policy-making. He finds working on a campaign equally rewarding, but in a different way. In policy-making, the changes being made can go into effect almost



Nathan and Andrea Blake pause to capture the moment at an Obama rally in Iowa.

immediately. In a campaign, Blake says, it's a feeling of potential change; if a candidate is elected, they promise new policies, which will affect the way the country is run. This feeling of hope gives him the impetus to work 18-hour days. But more than changes in policy, Blake enjoys the feeling of civic reward: "erasing some of the cynicism about the political process for people who have become jaded about the way things were run in the past."

He agrees that the feeling of cynicism has been, in some measure, justified, saying that Americans have lost faith in their abilities to actually shift politicians' views about issues. "If you are involved in politics or activism, you run up against a lot of failure, a feeling that, regardless of how hard you work, the elected officials are not going to be responsive," Blake said. However, he adds that there have always been opportunities in politics, especially at a local or state level. He also believes good public officials are responsive to the needs of the public.

As far as presidential qualities go, Blake thinks responsiveness is key. He says that the way a campaign is run tells a lot about a candidate. He appreciates the open-door policy in the campaign he's currently working on, saying that it has a "relatively non-hierarchical structure" where many different voices can be heard. For example, during the Iowa caucuses, Blake and his fellow field organizers were asked to answer a few questions each week about what they were hearing about the candidate, and what they perceived the strengths and weak-



Blake's duties have involved supporting volunteers and assisting Senator Obama during meet and greet events.



Nathan and Andrea Blake have met both Michelle and Barack Obama.

nesses to be. "You could see pretty immediate changes, especially when it was widespread and all your friends were saying similar things."

He has also appreciated his opportunities to interact with Senator Obama in person. A couple times, Blake had the privilege of being the field lead on an event; his job entailed briefing the senator beforehand. On one occasion, Obama participated in a forum of churches in central Iowa that were organized around issues they found important; Blake and Andrea both got to speak with him after that meeting. Another time, only a month and a half before the caucuses, Obama invited all the family members of the Iowa staff out after a big rally and took the time to meet and take a picture with each person.

The future

When asked about his own political goals, Blake says he hasn't decided yet. On one hand, he'd like to be someone who can have an impact on federal policy, maybe counsel to a committee or advisor to party administration. But on the other hand, he still has an interest in state and local government, where it is "easier to make bigger and better changes." In that case, he might consider an elected office. He says his own philosophy of leadership hasn't changed very much from working on this campaign but he has been impressed by the number of voices that Obama listens to before making his decisions.

"There have been ups and downs, but we don't get overly excited when we're doing well or kick ourselves too hard when we're down," Blake said. "Getting the nomination was incredible. Even though we had been anticipating it, actually clinching it was a bit overwhelming."

For now, Blake continues working with Senator Obama's campaign but in a new capacity. His new position is research director for the Iowa campaign. "I'll be working with the communications team to keep track of what people are saying," Blake said. "We want to make sure that the public has the complete picture of the choices so they can make an informed decision when they vote." **A**

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Questions

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'67 denotes graduation year
 ('67) denotes last year attended
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1940s 0 s

Vernon Heglund '46 has moved from the cold climate of Brainerd, Minn., to Phoenix, Ariz. He is also closer to family.

Laurie MacPherson Warner '47 lives in Riverside, Calif., and had a great time visiting with friends at their 60th reunion during Homecoming 2007. She has many fond memories of her time at Union College. She reminds her classmates that the area code for Riverside has changed to 951. She looks forward to hearing from friends.

Ralph Wiseman '49 and his wife, Anne, live in Lowden, Wash., and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2007. The highlight of their year was the trip they took to Ralph's birthplace in Holland. They are thankful their health is excellent, and they can continue their active lifestyle in the community and church.

1950s 0 s

Paul Kravig '50 lives in Sun City, Ariz. In July 2007, he returned from teaching at the 32 SUMMER/FALL 2008

New Horizon Training Institute in Hunan Province, Central China. This trip marked the fifth time Paul has traveled internationally to teach. Paul retired in 1984 to Hawaii and has done volunteer teaching in five states.

Gladys Seibold Hulse '55 lives in Loma Linda, Calif., where she and her husband, Leon, have retired. They are enjoying the fellowship of other Unionites in the area. They also have two daughters living nearby and a daughter in Yakima, Wash. Gladys and Leon are proud grandparents to seven grandchildren—most recently twins.

Maxine Reed Duncan '59 lives in Apple Valley, Calif. She retired at the end of the 2005-2006 school year. She enjoys reading and other quiet hobbies. She volunteers as a tutor in the adult reading program at the local college.

Phyllis Evens McMillen '59 lives in Mesa, Ariz., and married William Pea in 2006. She continues to teach nursing at Arizona State University.

1960s 0 s

Carolyn Sherwood Hammond ('62) and **Burdette Millard '66** were married on Dec. 1, 2007. Carolyn is a dietician at Littleton Adventist Hospital and Burdette is retired after



Burdette and Carolyn Millard

36 years of teaching. They live in Franktown, Colo.

Ronald Hixson '69 recently received the Distinguished Board Service Award from the American Psychotherapy Association for his work as chairman of the American Board of Certified Counselors. Ronald has been a family therapist for over 30 years serving in Europe and now in Texas. His first book, *Battered and Bruised But Not Out*, was published in June 2006. He teaches psychology at Southwest Texas Jr. College in Eagle Pass. He is a columnist for *Annals*, a quarterly journal for the American Psychotherapy Association. For the past three years, he has been included in the Heritage Registry of *Who's Who in America*. Currently he serves in a small mental health clinic in Eagle Pass, Texas, where he practices psychotherapy, play therapy with children and hypnotherapy for depression, panic attacks and chronic pain.

1970s 0 s

Ruthita Jensen Fike '71 has been named to Adventist Health's Board of Directors. Ruthita is the CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center and Behavioral Medicine Center and executive vice president of Hospital

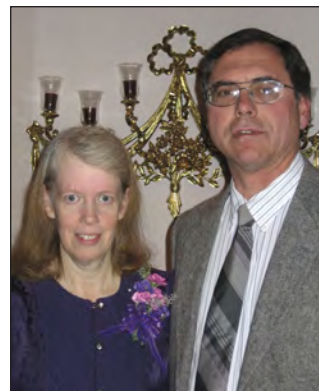


Ruthita Fike

Affairs for the Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center. In addition, she is a doctoral candidate at Claremont Graduate School of Education.

Michael and Karen Schwartz Porter ('75) have returned to southern California after nearly 15 years of mission service in Sri Lanka, Russia and Cyprus. Mike is CEO of The Quiet Hour and Karen works in the General Conference representative's office in Loma Linda.

Valerie Miller Lehman '76 recently received the annual March of Dimes award as Nurse of the Year 2007 – Wyoming, Behavioral Health. She was nominated by her employer, West Park Hospital of Cody, Wyoming, for her work over the past six years that helped turn the nursing staff of the Cedar Mountain Chemical Dependency Unit into a model for the hospital. Valerie accomplished this achievement while working part-time so she could home school her two sons, Bryan, 17, and Jonathan, 14. Valerie's husband, **Kevin '79**, is construction estimator and home designer for T.L. Quick Construction & Trophy Log Homes of Cody.



Kevin and Valerie Lehman

1980s 0 s

Julie Cowin '81 lives in West Carrollton, Ohio, and has worked at Kettering Medical

Center for 27 years. She is currently working as charge nurse in pre-admission testing.

1990s

Ken '91 and Tami Cox '90 Bieber are proud new parents of Brooklyn Rae Bieber born Dec. 14, 2007, at 2:08 p.m. She weighed 7 lbs., 5 oz., and was 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. Tami is a sales manager for Hanes Brands Inc., selling to Target Stores. Ken is a client finance analyst for SIRVA Relocation.



Rae Bieber

Carolyn Bradley Rooker '91 lives in Omaha, Neb., and was recently elected by the CJ Foundation for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome as their community relations/grant coordinator, to its National Program Services Grant Review Committee. She was elected to serve on this committee due to her experience and expertise in the nonprofit sector, as well as her knowledge of SIDS, infant mortality and other maternal child health issues.



Carolyn Bradley Rooker

Denison '93 and Jennifer Hallock '94 Sager are proud parents of Denali Alyeska Sager. Denali was born Feb. 14, 2008, at 11:05 p.m. She weighed 7 lbs., 6 oz., and was 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.



Denali Alyeska Sager with Mom and Dad

Rebecca Rowand Turner '93 and her husband, Dave, celebrated the birth of their first child, David Matthew Jr., born Jan. 12, 2008. He is pictured with his 100 year-old great granny, Blanche Ryder Rowand.



David Matthew Jr. Turner

Tammy Martin Adcock '98 and her husband welcomed Joe Wayne on June 24. Their daughter, Jaeda, is a year and a half old.

Elliot '95 and Jaqueline Morlen '99 Smith live in Centerville, Ohio. They welcomed Cole Alexander on July 8. Cole joined big sister Chloe, 4.



Cole Alexander Smith

2000s

Philip '00 and Christy Pierce '04 Walter welcomed Ethan Matthew into their family on Oct. 21, 2007. Philip is a route manager for Culligan.

Josh Huenergardt '01 and Becca Johnson were married May 31, 2008, in the First-Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, Neb. Josh is an investment advisor for Edward Jones and Becca is a cosmetologist for the Douglas Baehr Salon. Becca graduated from the University of Arizona and the Lincoln School of Cosmetology.



Josh and Becca Huenergardt

David '02 and Melissa Larson '03 Evans celebrated the birth of their first child, Tayton Michael born Nov. 27, 2007.

Brandon and Kelly Casselman Helm '02

welcomed Maxwell Steven Charles into their family on Feb. 21, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. He weighed 6 lbs., 7 oz., and was 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Max joins big sister, Macy, at home.



Macy and Maxwell Helm

Jaime '02 and Janet Lopez '05 Serrano are proud new parents of Isaias Enrique born July 24, 2007. Janet is a stay-at-home mom and Jaime is a teacher in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.



Isaias Enrique Serrano

Rande and Heather Palmer Colburn '04 celebrated the birth of Drew Ryan born Sept. 17, 2007. Prior to Drew's birth, Heather taught for the Southern California Conference. Rande is an internet marketing specialist for Columbia Hospitality Inc.

Dalena Robinson Spencer '04 and her husband, Bennett, welcomed Annah Joy, born Jan. 8, 2008. They live in Hernando, Miss.

CLASS-IFIEDS



Annab Joy Spencer

Seth and Kristina Beenken Johnson '05 are now living on the Oregon coast. Seth is production manager at Quality Woodworking, a custom woodworking business. Kristina works long-distance for Summa Higher Education design. They live in a town of about 2,050 and enjoy worshipping in a church that Maranatha helped build. They are enjoying their new home and Jaidi, their puppy, loves the beach and their grassy backyard.

Hansen Paskell ('06) and Amy Purvis ('07) were married on July 1, 2007, in Caldwell, Idaho. Hansen is a soldier/student and Amy is a CNA/student.



Hansen and Amy Paskell

Adam Dobbins '07 and his wife, Melissa, welcomed Boden Dale into their family Dec. 10, 2007. Boden joins Maddie, the family Border collie and Boden's protector, at home. Melissa is a medical student at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and Adam is an area coach for the Sears Holdings Corporation.



Boden Dale Dobbins

People Placements

Marsha Bartulec '04 transitioned from her role as office manager in the Division of Business and Computer Science to project manager. In her new position, Bartulec will lead a two-year recruiting and alumni relations initiative for the division.

Trina Cress '08 joined Enrollment Services as the marketing assistant in January, shortly after finishing her degree in English with an emphasis in writing and speaking. Cress and her husband Daniel '09, have a daughter, Brylee.

Bruce Forbes '86 has been named chair of the Division of Fine Arts. He has been an associate professor of art and graphic design at Union since 2000 and also teaches photography for the Division of Humanities. He earned his Master of Fine

Arts degree in photography from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 1996, and then photographed for a publishing company in Atlanta until coming to Union. From 1986-1990, he worked at Union College in the media production department.

Melanie Gabbert '92 joined the Division of Human Development as an assistant professor of psychology. After graduating with a bachelor's in psychology at Union, she completed her master's in community counseling at Andrews University in 1995. She previously worked as a therapist and administrator of child- and youth-oriented social services. Gabbert is a foster mother in the process of adopting a two-year-old son.

Aaron Kent '08 joined the international rescue and relief program as a graduate intern. Kent is a member of the first full class of IRR majors to graduate and will assist the program in training exercises while concurrently enrolled in Southern Adventist University's outdoor education graduate program.

Stacie Laursen joined the nursing program as office manager. A graduate of Andrews University with a Bachelor's of Science in horticulture, Laursen previously worked as a department manager at Home Depot. Laursen and her husband, Ryan, a construction worker, have lived in Lincoln for six years.

Alan Orrison transitioned to the role of student finance advisor. He has been at Union since 2006 when he was hired as office manager for Student Financial Services.

Esther Shields '08 joined Student Financial Services as the administrative assistant to the director. Shields graduated from Union with majors in communication and institution-

al development. She is engaged to Tyson Shaw, a 2007 graduate of Columbia Union College.

Teresa Stimson '94 joined the nursing program as an assistant professor of nursing. Stimson and her husband, Michael '94, previously lived in Farmington, N.M., where she taught at San Juan College and he worked as a perioperative nurse. The Stimsons have two children, Kaitlin and Eric.

John Thomas joined the international rescue and relief program as an associate director. Thomas comes to Union after serving as principal at Maxwell Academy in Kenya for four years. He holds a bachelor's in religious education from Atlantic Union College and a master's in Administration from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Nancy, have adult sons.

Jeannette Wetmore '03 joined the library staff as the public services assistant. A native of North Carolina, Wetmore graduated from Union College with majors in English and communication and completed her master's in library and information science at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2007.

IN MEMORY

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

Nancy Peterson Hanson ('26), Yuma, Colo., died July 5, 2008, at age 106. She was born June 27, 1902, in Lincoln, Neb., to Ben and Clara Nördloff Peterson. Her family moved to Amherst, Neb., and then to Yuma, Colo., where they homesteaded. Nancy attended her junior year of high school at Union College Academy and

graduated from Campion Academy in 1922. She attended Union College for three years and earned a teaching certificate. She returned to Yuma to teach school. She married William Hanson on June 12, 1931. After his death in 1950, she owned and managed the family farm. She was active in the Yuma County Extension, Yuma Women's Club and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. She enjoyed traveling, gardening, entertaining and painting. She was a life-long Seventh-day Adventist and attended faithfully until just before she passed away. Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, William, her five younger siblings and one nephew. She is survived by her daughter, **Genevieve Mekelburg ('54)**, son, **William '61**, seven grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.



Nancy Peterson Hanson

Raymond Knoll '29, Pollock Pines, Calif., died Nov. 20, 2007. Raymond was born May 11, 1907, in Newkirk, Okla. He served as a medical doctor in Alaska and California. He worked in experimental endocrinology for many years and wrote a book titled, *How to Live to 101*. Raymond is survived by his son, Vance, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Former Union College President Dies

Adapted from a tribute given by Linda Skinner at Dr. Bieber's memorial service April 20 at the Loma Linda University church.

David Bieber was the sixth of seven children born on a farm near Tolstoy, S.D., on Nov. 14, 1910. He graduated from Union College in 1936 with a Bachelor of Arts in Commerce, and later returned to campus as the 19th president serving from 1957-1964. One of the first things he noticed upon his arrival in fall 1957 was there was not one foot of paved road on campus. The street that is now Prescott Avenue and leading to 49th Street near the print shop was the same old cinder or broken stone surfaced road that he had first viewed when he came to the college as a student during the depression when boys cracked brick and stone with a hand hammer to put on that road.

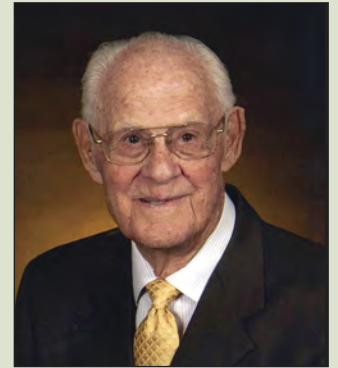
President Bieber challenged the students to raise \$5,000 in a campaign to make the campus accessible through paved

roads. The challenge was accepted, the goal was met, and the road was built in late fall 1957.

In 1962 the yearbook was dedicated to President Bieber for "your fidelity to duty, your patient perseverance, your warm smile, your friendly handshake, and your example of noble action and Christian service."

Dr. Bieber served for 18 years (1988-2006) as a class representative for Union's Advancement Office signing letters and volunteering his time. He attended Union's chapter meetings at Loma Linda, always in impeccable style. In 1991 he returned to campus for the celebration of Union's centennial and, though he lived many years in California, his friends in Lincoln believe part of his heart belonged to Union College.

In 1963 he is quoted in the college yearbook: "It is my wish that Union College may continue to carry on, not only in its past traditions, but in a program characterized by



Dr. David Bieber

change toward that which is new and aggressive and which will more effectively change people on this campus in the direction of perfection in personal development." Today Union College continues to adapt and hone Christian education much in the same way President Bieber championed.

Dr. Bieber was preceded in death by his first wife, **Eva LaFave ('36) Bieber**. He is survived by his wife, Lucille; brothers, George and **Bill '40**; son, Don '64; nephew Ken Pierson who was informally adopted by the Biebers; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Carlos "Jack" Turner '40, Napa, Calif., died Jan. 5, 2008. He was born March 12, 1909, in Goldsberry, Mont. Jack is survived by his wife, Betty; son, Randy; daughters, Patricia, Monica, Lisa and Gina; 15 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Gordon Wallace '40, Colton, Calif., died Sept. 1, 2007, at age 90. His life work was as a dentist. Gordon is survived by his wife, Leta; son, Greg '77; daughter, Debra; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Lawrence Clifford ('42), Paradise, Calif., died March 14, 2008, at age 88. He is survived by his wife, **Donna Johnson ('41) Clifford**; sons, Ken, Sid, and Monte; daughter, Carol

McHenry; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mavis Ching Beckner '44 Ukiah, Calif., died Dec. 25, 2007. Mavis is survived by her husband, **Joe '40**; daughters, **Judy Hindman '73**, Janis **Woesner ('73)**, and four grandchildren.

Opal Miller Payne ('44), Lodi, Calif., died March 4, 2008. She was born Aug. 11, 1911, in Alleene, Ark. Opal taught music at Union College for 25 years. She is survived by sons, Daryl and Dave; daughter, LeAnn Church; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Esther Smith Moore '46, Corvallis, Ore., died Sept. 20, 2007, of complications associ-

ated with Alzheimer's. Esther was born Oct. 27, 1920 and had a long and distinguished career as an educator and mentor in the Federal Way School District south of Seattle, Wash. She taught all levels from elementary through junior college and was head librarian for many years. Esther earned a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Washington. After she retired, she was a substitute teacher and earned her broker's license as a residential real estate specialist. Her primary hobby was raising championship purebred dogs—Toy Poodles and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. Esther is survived by daughters, Marsha and Sylvia; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORY

Marlys Plinke Owen '46, Encino, Calif., died Jan. 19, 2008. She is survived by her brother, **Wesley (31)**, daughter, Carol Jean Owen, and two grandchildren.

Marcus Payne '46, Cleburne, Texas, died Feb. 3, 2008, at age 84. Marcus was a member of the Joshua church in Burseson, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Lenora; two sons, Philip and Mark; daughter, Ruth Molding; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Romaine "Sandy" Saunders (46), Riverside, Calif., died Nov. 17, 2007, at age 87. He is survived by his wife, **Roberta Pogue Saunders '46** and daughters, Doris Sterling and Rebecca.

George Griese '50, Lady Lake, Fla., died Sept. 1, 2007, at age 88, in Sparks, Nev., after a brief illness. George was born in New York City and served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He met Betty in Cincinnati, Ohio, and they were married on Sept. 25, 1945. After military service, they moved to Lincoln, Neb., where George earned a B.A. from Union College and a master's in education from the University of Nebraska. He taught math, biology and physics at Union College Academy and Walla Walla College Academy before moving to southern California where he was the head of the math department at Washington High School in Los Angeles until he retired. He was very active in the Redondo Beach church serving for many years as the head elder. George is survived by his wife of 62 years, Betty; two children, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

L. Frances Pride '50 of McDonald, Tenn., died March 9, 2008, at age 87. Frances earned an RN from the Boulder Colorado Sanitarium

and Hospital and a baccalaureate degree from Union College. She also earned a master's degree in nursing from the University of Colorado; a Ph.D. in psychiatric nursing from the University of Maryland and a Ph.D. in family counseling from Georgetown University. She helped six denominational schools establish psychiatric nursing programs. Frances spent five years in nursing administration and 32 years as an educator. She retired as associate dean of nursing at Loma Linda University. She is survived by five nephews, Steven, Vernon, David Baughman, Farrell and Faron; two nieces, Debbie Berringer and Shelley Parker; eleven great-nieces and great-nephews and six great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.



Frances Pride

Louis Turner '51, Dayton, Ohio, died June 22, 2007, after battling prostate cancer for four years. Louis was an anesthesiologist at Kettering Memorial Hospital from 1964 until he retired in 1982. He enjoyed retirement and participated in two mission trips. He also completed fly fishing and house-building courses. He worked for Habitat for Humanity for 10 years. He was a docent for the Air Force museum in Dayton and facilitator for a prostate cancer support group. He was an active member of the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church, serving as an elder. He is sur-

vived by his wife, Margaret, and many other family and friends.

Rex Walters '51, Denver, Colo., died Jan. 24, 2008. He was born March 13, 1923, on a farm near Bowie, Texas. Rex and his wife, Eileen, were charter members of the Denver South Seventh-day Adventist Church. Rex is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, **Eileen Engeberg Walters '48**.

Robert "Bob" Raitz '51, Dalton, Ga., died Feb. 22, 2008, at age 78, from open heart surgery complications. Bob graduated from the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda) School of Medicine in 1955. He spent four years in the military, stationed around the world. While in Germany, Bob and his wife, Vivian, adopted two German babies who joined their young son, Ron. In 1961, they moved to Dalton, Ga., where he practiced medicine for 34 years. He was known to be a kind, caring physician who would make country house calls. An accomplished artist with wood, he designed coffee tables, lamps, bowls and many other items. Bob is survived by his wife, Vivian; sons, Ron and Ken; daughter, **Karen '84**, and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Sandra.



Robert Raitz

Richard Stanley '52, Collegedale, Tenn., died Feb. 8, 2008, at age 83. He was a

member of the Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist church for 44 years. He chaired the office administration department at Southern Adventist University for 17 years, taught at Grand Ledge Academy, was an auditor with Singer and a cost accountant for Trail Mobile. Richard earned a master's in marketing from Michigan State University in 1962. He was a WWII veteran and together with **Mitchell Thiel '50** created the ROMEOS (retired old men eating out). He is survived by his wife, **Cora Rhode Stanley '46**; sons, Richard and Raymon; daughter, Kathy; eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Naoma Hopkins Henkelmann '54, Roca, Neb., died April 21, 2008, at age 75, after a courageous battle with cancer. She devoted her life to service for family, church and community. She was a long-time member of Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. An accomplished ventriloquist, she provided many programs in church and schools using her little friend, Charlie. She volunteered on 28 national and international building projects with her husband, Charles, for Maranatha Volunteers International. She also taught English language learners as a volunteer for Lincoln Literacy Council. Naoma is survived by her husband, **Charles '56**; two daughters, **Rebecca Wells '75** and **Priscilla Henkelmann**



Naoma Hopkins Henkelmann

IN MEMORY

(**'78**); two sons, **Greg ('78)** and Tom; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mary Lou Kutschara '54, Hay Springs, Neb., died Nov. 14, 2007, from complications brought on by progressive supranuclear palsy. Mary Lou earned a bachelor's degree from Union College and a master's from the University of Nebraska. She taught home economics at Union College from 1964 until 1985. Mary Lou returned to Hay Springs to help care for her mother. She also earned a second degree in library studies from Chadron State College. In the fall of 1987, Mary Lou moved to Broadview Academy where she taught English and was the librarian until she retired in 1995. After retiring, she moved back to the family farm near Hay Springs. Mary Lou is survived by her brother, **Hyle ('54)**, and his wife, Marilyn, and many nieces and nephews.



Mary Lou Kutschara

Amy Messenger ('54), St. Joseph, Mo., died May 10, 2007. She was born in Fonda, Iowa, June 22, 1917, and spent most of her younger years in Iowa with her family. In the fall of 1936, she attended Iowa State Teacher's College, which she finished in one year. After her first year of teaching, she attended Union College for summer school, then Southwest Union

College in Keene, Texas. Amy taught for 30 years in church schools and 10 years as an overseas missionary. She taught English as a second language in places such as Guam, Palau, Indonesia and Thailand. In 1983, she moved to Waterloo, Iowa, to be with her sister. When her sister passed away, Amy moved to Berrien Springs, Mich. She lived there until her health made assisted care necessary.

Arlan Caviness ('57), Mabelvale, Ark., died Aug. 7, 2007, at age 77. He served three years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters, Linda Couch and Jennifer Ingram; and son, Sharlan.

Paul Peterson '60, Oakdale, Calif., died Oct. 31, 2007, at age 69. He was principal at Pomona Jr. Academy, South Bay Jr. Academy, Mile High Elementary School and boys' dean at Gem State Academy. He is survived by his wife, **Lorna Young '60 Peterson**; son, Erik; and two grandchildren.

Jimmy Rasco ('62), Albion, Wash., died March 19, 2008, at age 70. He taught for 39 years in the Texas, Washington and Upper Columbia conferences. Jimmy is survived by his wife, **Joanne Carcich '63 Rasco**; twin sons, Don and Ron; three grandchildren; and brother, Eddie.

Joyce Morse '65, Desert Hot Springs, Calif., died Jan. 16, 2008. She was born Aug. 2, 1933, in Iowa City, Iowa. Joyce worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church education system for 43 years. She spent 20 years as a teacher, and 23 years as an educational superintendent.

Clayton Bliss '66, Chewelah, Wash., died Sept., 24, 2007, at age 66. He was the med tech lead at Fred Hutchinson's Cancer Institute in Seattle until

2006. He also worked at Northridge Hospital for 17 years. Clayton is survived by daughters, Jacqueline Vaughn, Charis Armstrong, Audrey Zamora and Monika Bliss; son, Clinton; 12 grandchildren; parents; Bern and Dorothy Bliss; sisters, Beverly Elloway, Barbara Lodahl and Elizabeth Gottschall; and brother, Charles.

Daniel Bodner '69, Vale, N.C., died July 7, 2007, at age 60. He was a teacher in the Adventist school system for 37 years. He is survived by his wife, **Judith Larson ('69) Bodner**.

Elmer Glovatsky '70, Grassy Butte, N.D., died June 21, 2008. Elmer was born July 4, 1947, in Killdeer, N.D. He was raised near Grassy Butte where he attended school through the eighth grade. He graduated from Sheyenne River Academy and Union College. Elmer taught for six years prior to moving back to the family place to begin farming and ranching. Elmer married **Dianne Barrett '74** on June 17, 1973. He was president of the Little Knife Royalty Owners Association and the Organic Crop Improvement Association. He is survived by his wife, Dianne; their five children, **Heather '00, Priscilla ('01)**, Bryce, Marlan and Brandon; one granddaughter, Adriana; brother, Tim; and nephew, Gabe.



Elmer Glovatsky

Preston Chin ('75), Panama, Neb., died Dec. 6, 2007, at age 61 after battling cancer. He is survived by his wife, Darlene.

Bob Schlisner ('85), Lincoln, Neb., died May 6, 2008, at age 59, after a courageous battle with cancer. Bob grew up in South Dakota. He was boys' dean at Sunnysdale and Shenandoah Valley Academies and coach at Mount Ellis and Shenandoah. Bob's profession was floor covering installation, and he took great pride in his craft. He was an avid Yankees fan and loved spending time with his grandchildren. Bob was an active member, teacher and deacon at Allon Chapel Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is survived by his wife, Sheila; daughter, Carolyn; two sons, **Chad ('94)** and Cory; eleven grandchildren; three brothers, **Everett '63**, Dennis and Calvin; two sisters, Marcelene and Marietta; and many other family members. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Fern Schlisner.



Bob Schlisner

Meriel Decker Brawner '86, Lincoln, Neb., died April 19, 2008, at age 47. Meriel loved children and it was while working at Kiddie Kollege that she met her husband, **Russell ('88)**. Meriel and Russell adopted Bryant and for a time Meriel operated a daycare in her home. Kendon was born in 1993 and Andrew was born in 1998. Tragically, Russell lost

IN MEMORY

his life in a canoeing accident shortly after Andrew was born. Meriel was diagnosed with cancer in 2006 and fought a brave battle. She is survived by sons, Bryant, Kendon and Andrew; brother, William; sisters, Vicky Scott, Cynthia McNally and JoEllen McCord; and nieces and nephews.



Meriel Decker Brawner

Murray Deming, former pastor of College View Seventh-day Adventist Church, died Nov. 27, 2007, in Tucson, Ariz., from complications following a fall resulting in fractured ribs. He was born Nov. 11, 1909, in Broken Bow, Neb. Elder Deming served as senior pastor of the College View Church, as well as in Indiana, Oklahoma and California. He was buried in the College View Cemetery next to his wife on Dec. 9, 2007, attended by some 60 family members and a host of friends. He is survived by his daughters, **Charlene Scott '57**, **Corinne King '56**, **Billie Jewett '58**, **Natalie Dodd '62** and Regina Nestell; sons, **John '65** and **Michael '66**; 25

grandchildren and 48 great-grandchildren.

Minon Hamm, former faculty, died April 4, 2008. She was born Nov. 9, 1926, in Berrien County, Mich. Minon served as a missionary for the Seventh-day Adventist church in Aruba, Columbia and South America from 1953-1964. She earned a Ph.D. in English from Vanderbilt University. She taught English at Southern Missionary College in Collegedale, Tenn., and was a professor of humanities at Union College. After retirement, Minon lived with her daughter and son-in-law in Maryville, Tenn. Minon was predeceased by a son, Wayne, and is survived by a daughter, Carol Sommerville; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild and brother, Wayne Hiebert.

Nathan Wagner, former student fall of 2007, of Hobbs, N.M., died March 6, 2008, in Lubbock, Texas. He was born May 16, 1989, to **Lenard '76** and Jeannene Wagner. Nate spent just a short time at



Nathan Wagner

Union College as a freshman, before he had to leave due to a chronic illness. Nate loved life, family, church, teachers and friends. He will always remain in the hearts of those who knew him well and an inspiration to those who knew him only a little. He is survived by his parents, brothers, **Jonathan '03**, **Matthew '05** and Jacob; and sisters, Madeline and Mia.

Notice of the following deaths has been received:

Eddie Barr '29, Loma Linda, Calif., died June 10, 2007.

Evelyn Anderson Ammon ('36), Yountville, Calif., died Nov. 22, 2005.

Helen Foreman Little '37, Loma Linda, Calif., died Dec. 15, 2006.

Eunice Nelson Sonnenberg ('37), San Gabriel, Calif., died Dec. 5, 2007.

Clara Wilson Anderson ('39), Yountville, Calif., died Aug. 25, 2007.

Kenneth Berry ('40), Redlands, Calif., died Jan. 26, 2008.

Charles Merickel ('40), Portland, Ore., died March 17, 2008. He is survived by his wife, **Stacia Alexenko '46 Merickel**.

Gordon Otter '45, College Place, Wash., died

Feb. 20, 2008.

Harold Burr '46, New Market, Va., died Dec. 3, 2007.

Avis Erickson McLean ('50), Spokane, Wash., died Nov. 29, 2007.

Ed Holton ('53), Bakersfield, Calif., January 2008.

Richard Swena '53, Springfield, Mo., died Jan. 1, 2007.

Margaret Rice Small ('56), Livingston, Texas, died Oct. 18, 2007.

LaMerne Mosier Drace '57, Franklin, N.J., died Nov. 27, 2006.

Alma Helt Long '58, Thornton, Colo., died Sept. 5, 2007.

Jimmy Rasco ('62), Albion, Wash., died March 19, 2008.

Pauline Davidson Haynes '69, Blairsville, Ga., died Nov. 30, 2007.

Nadine Jones Smerud '71, Tomball, Texas, died Feb. 21, 2008.

Robert Clemons ('86), Collegedale, Tenn., died Nov. 24, 2007 of follicular lymphoma.

Debra Orndorff '88, Henderson, Nev., died Sept. 30, 2006.

Eric Galvez '93, Drexel Hill, Pa., died May 7, 2007.

CORRECTION
In the Winter 2007/2008 issue of CORDmagazine **Karen Sogard ('78)** was mistakenly listed as deceased. We are happy to report she is alive and well and living in Iowa.

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(more info on page 31)



Helping students of tomorrow

by Brenda Dickerson '86



During Union College's 2008 Commencement in May, David Smith presented Mardian and Joan Blair with the President's Award. "Mardian and Joan are exemplary alumni of Union College," Smith said during the ceremony. "Today we recognize their commitment and undaunted optimism for the continuing prosperity and progress of Union College as demonstrated by their inspiration for philanthropic initiatives, exceptional financial support, and sustained spirit of service and servant leadership."

Joan and Mardian Blair, both 1954 graduates, are deeply grateful for their Union College experience. Not only did they meet at Union, but Mardian credits former head of the business program, Robert E. Firth, with encouraging him to apply for a teaching assistantship at the University of Nebraska. "He was sure I could do it," Mardian recalls. "And from that experience I discovered a totally different sphere of thinking that positively impacted my career path."

The Blairs have continued their connection with Union College over the years. Mardian, who has served for 10 years as a Union College board member and has been involved with two capital campaigns, says the couple wants to use their gifts for the success of future generations. The Blairs are also members of ForeSight, the college's recognition club for individuals who have included Union College in their estate plans. "We want to use our assets appropriately," Blair said. "We feel a very close connection to the school where we met and prepared for our life work."

Their personal philanthropy is enhanced by their efforts to inspire others. For example, during Homecoming 2008, Mardian and Joan sponsored a financial planning seminar

presented by a noted wealth management attorney to allow their peers to see the wisdom and value behind estate planning.

"If Union College benefited you, the right thing to do is consider Union in your estate planning," Blair said. "Even those with modest assets can remember the college. Those with more can give more liberally."

The Blairs exemplify the many people throughout the college's history who have given sacrificially. "It is an important work, and ought to go forward through the years, even after we've left the scene," Blair said. "The alumni of today need to help the students of tomorrow."

For information about helping Union College students through your estate plan, please contact Todd Mekelburg at

Union College Advancement,
3800 South 48th Street,
Lincoln, NE 68506,

402.486.2503, tomekelb@ucollege.edu.

It takes
ForeSight



photo: James Claff

In September, a team from Union's international rescue and relief program traveled to Texas to help victims of Hurricane Ike while putting their training into practice.

Kyle Kuemichel, senior IRR student, assists a woman during the door-to-door needs assessments Union's group conducted in the storm-damaged region.

Learn more about Union's service in Texas on page 15.

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