

CORD *magazine*

News from Union College

summer 2011

Learning outside the classroom

UNION STUDENTS LEARN EVERYWHERE—
FROM CAMPUS JOBS TO MUSIC GROUPS
Also . . .

- *Twenty-five years of Warrior athletics*
- *Plans for a new science and mathematics complex*
- *Library embraces online resources*



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...but a little

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goes a long way.

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It takes
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About the cover:

Mindy Liebelt, a 2011 communication graduate, learned many valuable lesson while working for Union's Custodial Services (see page 21).

Photo: Steve Nazario

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Twenty-five years of Warrior athletics/10

Union College celebrated this milestone with a special reunion at the 2011 Homecoming.



photo: Steve Nazario

Union to build a new science and mathematics complex/6

A capital campaign is underway to raise funds for this high-tech facility.



photo: Steve Nazario



illustration: courtesy of Davis Design

To the moon and back/8

After more than 40 years of transporting Union students around the country, Jerome Lang has sold his bus.

Stories of learning outside the classroom/16

Library embraces online resources/5

Class-ifieds/24 In Memory/27

by David Smith, Union College President

By the time you read this, Cherie and I will be packing our house, preparing to join the pastoral staff of the Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tennessee.

For the past 13 years, I have been blessed to be the president of Union College. Not every day has been easy, but I have seen God's blessing on this school, on these students and in my own life every single day.

Cherie and I came to Union 13 years ago, not because it made sense to our family or because we really wanted to live in Nebraska. We came because we felt convicted and called by God to serve Union. The move actually didn't make sense—Tennessee was our home, we'd raised our girls there, our first grandchild had been born there recently—we were happy and comfortable. But God called us, and we followed. And every day since then, we've been amazed at the blessings that have transpired.

I have never lived in a place with such a unique spirit, so spiritually-charged and service-oriented. Union quickly became our home; the school and church body are our family. We may not have thought we wanted to come in the first place, but we fell in love with Union and we grew happy, comfortable. But God has called us once again, back to Tennessee to new challenges and unfamiliarity. We have not stopped living our lives in response to His calling, and we will follow. But it will be as difficult to return to Tennessee as it was to leave 13 years ago.

It is the people and the spirit of Union College that makes it so difficult to leave. I have come to admire and appreciate the many people it takes to make Union such a unique place. From the students and employees to the parents and alumni, each person contributes to the inspiring environment here—creating memories Cherie and I will never forget.

Many of our favorite memories connect with alumni and their experiences here at Union. It is interesting and significant that many of their most valued memories connect to experiences they had outside of the classroom. Yes, they received a good education at Union College. And yes, they paid tribute to dedicated teachers. But what stands out in their minds is what still defines a Union College education—the experiences, often outside of the classroom, which students have here. Our tag line for the college

is “Experience the Spirit,” and that is what a student must do to gain the most from a Union College degree.

I once read a book by a Harvard University professor which presented the results of twenty years of studying the experiences that Harvard graduates defined as most formative and most memorable. More than 90 percent of the experiences that Harvard graduates identified as most influential occurred outside of the classroom. This research reminds us that when learning takes place in the context of community, the learning experience is enriched and diversified.

At Union College, students are involved with sports, work, worship, music, social occasions, and relationships, all of which contribute significantly to how a Union education shapes them.

For many students, attending Union involves more than attending classes. It means serving others as a student missionary or task force worker, working on campus, participating in a music group, leading a spiritual program, doing an internship or practicum to learn firsthand about the work world, playing on an intramural or varsity sports team, and so much more.

A few years ago, I visited a recent graduate from Union College who shared an interesting experience. While on our campus, she had grown accustomed to doing community service. It simply became part of her lifestyle. When she graduated and moved to a new place to begin her job, she struggled to identify community service opportunities and felt restless. With help from colleagues, she eventually became involved in helping others in her new community and enjoyed her life a lot more as a result. I invited her to return to Union College to talk to our current students and share with them how the experiences they

were having on campus would influence them in the future. She did speak to our students, and their learning experiences were enriched by what she shared.

This experience mirrors that of many Union College students. They come to school, experience the spirit of Union outside of the classroom, and are transformed by their experiences. I hope that as you read this issue of *CORD* magazine, you will agree that the learning taking place outside of the classroom is a very important part of a college education. Enjoy the memories. I know I will. **A**



David and Cherie Smith left Union in June to join the pastoral staff of the Collegedale Adventist Church in Tennessee.

photo: courtesy of David and Cherie Smith

Library embraces online resources

by Michael Robm

For Rachel Blake, freshman English major finding information for her research paper proved more difficult than she imagined. The topic was too specific and her Google searches yielded very few pertinent academic sources. But that was before her teacher introduced the online resource, Academic Search Premier.

Dr. Tanya Cochran, associate professor of English, incorporates Academic Search Premier in the curriculum of her Research and Composition class, among others. Cochran teaches her students how to make the most out of the database, assigning them to find and annotate specific articles as well.

Using what she learned in class, Blake searched keywords specific to her topic and discovered 65 academic articles. "In college, teachers don't accept non-academic sources, which is what makes Academic Search Premier so appealing," she

said. And the online resource is available 24 hours a day—even from the computer in her room. "The library cannot always accommodate my unique study habits," Blake said. "If I feel like doing research at 2:00 in the morning, I can."

Since joining Union College in 2003, library director Sabrina Riley has significantly expanded Union College's online resources, sometimes at the cost of physical text. "More and more students prefer online resources," she explained.

In addition to student preference, Riley believes making the move to electronic education saves money. For a one-time fee of \$5,000, the library now offers access to the literary reference database EBSCO-host and, with it, every literary reference source available online. In the past, just one series of such reference materials could cost \$10,000.

The subscription to Academic Search

Premier, the most popular resource among teachers and students, has also saved the college significant dollars. Riley says an article from Academic Search Premier costs roughly \$0.65. The same article individually ordered often costs as much as \$30.

With the growing demand for online resources, Riley and her staff constantly explore new avenues to serve all fields of study without breaking the budget. "We have to be very careful about spending money," said Riley. "But we are doing very well with what we have." In spite of limited funds, Union now provides access to more than 100 online journals, references, article databases and countless other resources. "Our success is a testament to our staff and our curriculum," she said.

With the new access to a virtual database of nearly every topic imaginable, studying at Union just got a little easier. **A**

Try to Google this

The online resources offered by Union College go way beyond popular search engines. Here are a few:

Academic Search Premier

searches and sorts academic articles and journals by relevance to keywords

Adventist Professionals Network

connects individuals with the professional Adventist community

American Chemical Society

Journal Search

searches and sorts articles and journals dedicated to chemistry

Bartlett's Familiar Quotations

a compilation of 52,000 famous quotes, organized by author or topic

BBC History

a database of world history, organized by region and era

CAMIO

an online collection documenting works of art from around the world, representing the collections of prominent museums

County and City Data Book: 2007

a comprehensive source of information about individual counties and cities in the United States

Directory of Development Organizations

a list of 65,000 development organizations worldwide, compiled to facilitate

international cooperation and involvement

Encyclopedia Britannica

a comprehensive database of journals and articles

EUROPA

a gateway to everything concerning the European Union

Films on Demand

a compilation of digital educational videos for all subjects

Find Law

an online resource for legal forums, learning about law and finding a lawyer

Garland Encyclopedia of World Music

the first comprehensive online resource devoted to music research of all the world's peoples

Global Issues

perspectives on international news and events

Handbook of Mathematical

Functions

formulas, graphs and mathematical tables

In the First Person

index to letters, diaries, oral histories and other personal narratives

LexisNexis Academic

a comprehensive guide to every published article

MEDLINE

an academic guide to journals in all areas of medicine, including dentistry and nursing

NationMaster

a central data source for graphically comparing nations

Oxford Biblical Studies

a comprehensive resource for the study of the Bible and biblical history, integrating scholarly texts with reference tools

PubMed

More than 20 million citations for biomedical literature

Tell Me More

an online guide to learning English, Dutch, French, German, Italian and Spanish

Thomas

legislative information from the Library of Congress

WorldCat

a catalog of books and other materials in libraries worldwide, available through interlibrary loans

Union College launches a campaign to fund a new science and mathematics complex

by Ryan Teller



Illustration courtesy of Davis Design

Union alumni around the world—doctors, nurses, PAs, researchers, teachers and many more—will attest to the quality of the science education they received at Union College, not because of the facilities, but in spite of them. Union College is now working to pair its dedicated faculty with a new facility that will reflect and empower their excellence.

“Dr. [Amy] Utt’s anatomy class last semester was so inspiring,” said Emily Severs, sophomore nursing major. “I’d leave class in awe of the intricate beauty of our world. But you would never suspect how exciting studying science is at Union by looking at the ancient classrooms.”

On June 16, Union College officially launched a capital campaign to support the construction of a new science and mathematics complex to replace Jorgensen Hall, home of the Division of Science and Mathematics for 66 years.

Current plans call for a 55,000 square foot, two-story complex to provide laboratory and learning spaces for biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics, with additional labs specifically designed for student and faculty research projects.

Why a new science and mathematics complex?

“Several years ago, we asked the Union College campus what the next building project should be,” explained David Smith,

former president of the college. “Nearly unanimously, the students and employees said we need a new science facility.”

“So many Union students come through the Division of Science and Mathematics, and so many jobs in the future are dependent on having quality education in the sciences,” said Frankie Rose, associate professor of biology and 2002 Union graduate. “This new facility is an investment in the future of Union College and will help us continue to excel in providing quality education that will lead to sustainable jobs in the future.”

More than 60 percent of Union’s student body are in programs requiring a significant number of science and mathematics classes: biology, chemistry, physics, math, pre-med, pre-dental, pre-PA and Union’s two largest majors: nursing and international rescue and relief.

“The science building is a flagship for any college or university campus,” said Tom Lemon, chair of the Union College Board of Trustees. “The building sends a statement to students and visitors about the quality of the learning experience. Union’s science and mathematics professors do an extraordinary job with an aging building, and the statistics bear that out. But we can’t expect them to keep up this level of success or attract new students in our current facility.”

The administration at Union College sees trends in education that make science even more important to the institution’s future. “There has been a shift over the past

few years in American higher education from more traditional liberal arts majors, such as English to professional programs,” Smith explained. “Union has experienced significant growth in professional programs that make very heavy use of science education. That’s part of the future of Union College, and it is vital to invest in and increase that growth.”

A reason for research

As a freshman at Union College in 1998, Rose first fell in love with science while taking Dr. Charles Freidline’s General Chemistry class. After studying pre-medicine, he discovered a passion for research and ultimately earned a Ph.D. researching a cure for Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a rare, ALS-like disease affecting infants.

“It’s hard to describe the rush I get from researching a question that has never been answered before,” explained Rose. “I want to bring that excitement of discovery to my students at Union. A new science and mathematics complex will give us the space for scientific equipment and experiments that will directly involve students in medical research to help make a difference in people’s lives.”

The new building will contain seven research labs large enough to house equipment necessary for faculty to guide students in research projects and for faculty to engage in their own research as well.

Experiential learning

Finianne Umali, a junior pre-med and international rescue and relief major, remembered her first day in Dr. Carrie Wolfe's Organic Chemistry class last fall. The professor divided the students into groups of three, and each team progressed through a workbook, relying on each other, hands-on experiments and guidance from the teacher (when needed) to learn chemical concepts such as hybridization theory.

"We discovered things for ourselves rather than just having a teacher feed us information to memorize and take for granted," recalled Umali, who plans to become an emergency room physician. "Since we were learning ideas and finding answers on our own, we actually had a much easier time understanding and retaining the concepts presented in class."

Unfortunately, the classrooms and desks in Jorgensen Hall were designed for the teaching styles of 60 years ago, not the interactive, collaborative learning environment of today's science classes. "Actually having tables that we can arrange ourselves so that our group can work together, yet have enough space, would be really great," Umali said.

The new complex will provide completely configurable lecture spaces. Classrooms and laboratory lecture rooms will provide flexibility for all teaching styles and chemistry, biology and physics classes will have dedicated laboratories. Current plans call for a 126-seat amphitheater featuring tiered seating, state-of-the-art presentation

technology and a portable fume hood for science demonstrations.

Our Promising Future

To make the new science and mathematics building a reality, Union College has launched the *Our Promising Future* campaign to raise \$14.5 million for the project. "We are blessed to have already raised more than \$11 million," said Kent Thompson, a member of the Union College Board of Trustees and chair of the campaign. "Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends of Union College, we are more than three-quarters of the way to our goal."

Of the money raised to date, \$7.5 million came from five donors: the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Union College's parent organization; Cal and Sue Krueger of Lincoln, Neb.; Jerome and Ramona Lang of Lincoln, Neb.; Cary and Pamela DeCamp of Kansas City, Kan.; and Union Bank and Trust Company in Lincoln.

The Union College family has supported their vote for a new science and mathematics facility as well. Eighty-seven percent of the Union College internal family—employees and board members—have contributed to the campaign to date.

The building construction costs will be an estimated \$14 million, part of an overall project cost of \$20 million, which includes campus infrastructure upgrades, site preparation, landscaping and a new parking lot to replace the lots currently occupying the building site. Local architectural firm Davis

Design created the building design and plans, and Hampton Enterprises, a local commercial building company, will handle the construction.

The Union College Board of Trustees assigned two subcommittees to manage the project: one to oversee the construction, and the other to study financing options. "Low material costs and interest rates make this the ideal time to build the science and mathematics complex," said Thompson, who owns a commercial real estate brokerage firm in Lincoln. "We need to move forward and take advantage of these very significant cost savings." To that end, the board has chosen to finance the additional funds needed to complete the project beyond what is raised in the *Our Promising Future* campaign.

Current plans call for groundbreaking in spring 2012 and completion in summer 2013.

"The Union College Board of Trustees, faculty and staff have worked diligently to ensure Union's preparedness to launch this campaign," said Thompson. "This project serves as a blueprint for the future of this institution. We cannot, however, realize this vision alone. The time has come for everyone with an interest in Union College to play a part. The cost of this campaign is an investment in the lives of students and faculty members and the many people in Lincoln and abroad served by Union's graduates as they embark upon their careers."

To learn more about the project, visit www.ucollege.edu/ourpromisingfuture or call 402.486.2503. **A**

Science and mathematics complex quick facts

Cost

- Building costs: \$14 million
- Total costs: \$20 million (includes infrastructure upgrades, new parking and landscaping)

Size

- The two-story, 55,000 square foot complex will cover an area roughly the size of a football field.

Location

- The building will be located in what

is now a parking area on the north side of campus between Rees Hall (women's residence), Larson Lifestyle Center and the Don Love Building.

Facility spaces (by the numbers)

- Laboratories: 10
- Lab/lecture spaces: 4
- Classrooms: 3 (including amphitheater)
- Research labs: 7
- Seminar rooms: 3
- Offices: 14

Building features

- Fully wheelchair accessible
- State-of-the-art HVAC systems to provide clean air environments
- Advanced laboratory electrical and mechanical systems to enhance a safe learning environment
- Many multi-use spaces meeting all educational requirements without needless duplication



To the moon and back



by Tiffany Doss '11

Jerome Lang buckled himself in and drove his bus to the moon and back again. Now retired from transporting Union College groups around the country for nearly half a decade, Lang sold his maroon and white 1996 MCI 102D3 47-passenger motor coach.

Forty-six years ago, at the request of Glenn Davenport, then Union College's public relations director, Lang '65 began driving Union students and staff to music performances, sports events and mission trips, which quickly grew to include more events like school picnics and giving hayrack rides in his grain trucks. This launched Lang's journey of rocketing over 500,000 miles of pavement.

"I've enjoyed driving since I was just a little fella," said Lang at Union's thank you celebration for him and his wife, Ramona ('65). "As a farm boy, I started driving when I was eight years old. I would be working in the field with my dad, and we'd end up on the opposite side of the field as the truck. I would always offer to go get it; I took advantage of any opportunity to drive."

Several years after Lang began driving for Union, the school sold their bus and chartered one for a year. Deciding to buy a blue, 47-passenger bus of his own, specifically keeping Union's needs in mind, Lang offered to drive students and staff at half the standard charter rate. In 1995, he decreased his low rate even more and began driving for free, also contributing the cost of fuel.

"I enjoyed driving and had quite a bit of experience before I started driving for Union," said Lang. "I had been driving a city bus and for a charter company while attending college. I like students and understand the importance of transportation. I figured this could be good savings for Union College."

Purchasing a new maroon and white motor coach in 1995 that featured built-in video monitors, window blinds and a restroom, Lang provided his passengers luxurious travel. Beyond lending his expert driving skills, Lang never hesitated to go the extra mile. At times, he also paid for travelers' hotel rooms, meals or, more commonly, ice cream—which passengers, of course, had to finish eating before they stepped back onto the bus.

"Jerome believed in preventive maintenance and took care of each of his buses like they were his family," said Dan Lynn, professor of music and director of the Unionaires. "They always had new tires, regular tune-ups and maintenance appointments for this or that. He was constantly checking and monitoring his gauges, inspecting his bus at pit stops to ensure everything was in order. That was his legacy—his purpose; he took care of his investment because it took care of him and his passengers."

Lynn recalls a favorite moment of driving with Lang during one of his first choir trips. "We had loaded up, and Jerome started

to make a turn," he said. "There was a woman in a car waiting at the intersection. When she saw the bus turning onto her street, she froze and her eyes got bigger and bigger as the bus missed her car by inches. Jerome turned to me with a big smile and said, 'I get a big kick out of seeing people's reactions when this bus turns a tight corner.' He had been driving for so long and knew his bus' capabilities that he's able to go almost anywhere and negotiate nearly every situation."

On one of the choir's extended spring break tours in southern California, Lynn, who had his learner's commercial driver's license, took the wheel around midnight, giving Lang a few hours of rest. "I was driving this huge bus with 45 precious souls on board," said Lynn. "I don't think I've ever been that alert. Fortunately, there was little to no traffic, a full moon and miles of straight highway." Lynn said that night gave him a deeper and more profound appreciation for what Lang did for Union. "Being responsible for 45 lives is no small thing," he said. Jerome always handled it with supreme competence, confidence and safety."

Lang's services extended far past Union's campus, always going the extra mile for College View Academy, College View Church and other volunteer groups.

Brian Carlson, principal of CVA and Terry Bock, pastor at CVC, recall a moment that encapsulates Lang's

generosity. "Every other year, the academy's juniors and seniors go to Washington D.C. for a history tour," said Bock. "A while ago they decided students were missing too many classes, so they flew the students there. Jerome got in his empty bus, drove to Washington D.C. and drove the kids around there. The students then got back on the plane and flew back to Nebraska while Jerome drove his bus to Nebraska. That's dedication."

Lang enjoyed every second of driving for Union and its surrounding community. "I only have one regret," he said. "I wish I would have kept better track of the people I met while driving. I talked to a lot of great, friendly people with interesting stories. That's part of the reason I love to drive so much."

Many said Lang knew someone no matter where they went. "Over the years, he's built amazing connections everywhere and we all benefited from that," Lynn said. He is truly a legend and is one of the reasons Union College is the special place that it is. It's been a privilege to know Jerome Lang for the past 25 years. He's done so much for hundreds and hundreds of people. His passion, goodwill and generosity will not be forgotten." ▲



Jerome and Ramona Lang were recognized for their nearly immeasurable gift of transportation to Union College during Union's year-end employee meeting.

A Legacy of Leaders

WARRIORS

Union College marks twenty-five years of basketball

by Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04



The Union College Warriors men's basketball team from 1997.

“The years I was a Warrior at Union College were some of the best years of my life. They were when I made Christian friends, learned good sportsmanship and healthy competition, was a role model for other students and the community, and learned how to make a real difference in other people’s lives. Those were valuable lessons that have really shaped where I am now.” Todd Essex, Union College Warrior, 1994-98.

Setting the foundation

When Union College president John Wagner asked Paul Gnadt to develop a college basketball team in 1986, he was pitching no small task. Along with the responsibility of getting faculty, staff and students on board, Gnadt was the single source for everything the team needed, including scheduling games and practices, creating and ordering uniforms, arrang-

ership

WARRIORS



Five years of Warriors athletics

ing home games, planning post-game fellowship with visiting teams and making travel arrangements. Since there was no budget for athletics, all of the fundraising—a total of about \$7,000 in expenses—fell to Gnad as well.

At that time, few other Adventist colleges had competitive sports programs, and none of the existing models exactly fit the ideals that Gnad wanted to incorporate into Union's blossoming program. So he based many of his founding principles on those of the National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association. "Their goals fit the vision I had for our team," he says. They followed biblical principles and were built on Bible texts. That helped us create a team and a program that committed to playing with integrity."

But the first time the Warriors stepped onto the court, Gnad knew all of the time and effort to build the team had been worth it. "That first home game, all of my dreams came true," he remembered. "I sat on the bench and was overwhelmed with emotion. The magnitude of the moment just hit me. Everything we had accomplished wasn't only for that first team; it was also for students like me who wanted to play when we were in school but didn't have that outlet yet."

Competitive sports can be a sticking point for many Adventists, a fact Gnad understood. "We took that very seriously," he explained. "That's why we didn't join a league. Instead, we played an independent schedule that made it possible for us to travel anywhere as a recruitment tool. We used our basketball program as a platform for presenting clinics and worship serv-



Dallas Purkeypyle '96 attempts to block a layup by Ross Kelley '11 during the Warrior reunion at the 2011 Homecoming.



Codi Davidson Jahn

by Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04

Codi Davidson Jahn '05 played varsity basketball and volleyball for four years at Union College. "Being a Warrior taught me

so much about balancing my priorities. It was a huge time commitment, and that taught me how to fit everything in. Some weeks I'd spend 30 to 40 hours in practice and games, and even though it was a big obligation, I wouldn't trade that time. There were so many positive experiences and lessons I learned during those years."

Along with personal growth, Jahn also says her years as a Warrior gave her a better connection with her fellow students. "Some of my best friends from college are those I played with on the sports teams. We spent so much time together between practices, games and van rides to games that were far away."

Jahn currently serves as the head volleyball coach at Midland Academy in Kansas City, Kan., where she was an assistant coach for one year before becoming head coach three years ago. "What I learned in college equipped me to be the

kind of coach I am today," she said. "I had great coaches at Union, and they taught me what a coach should be." In fact, Jahn still keeps in contact with her coaches from college, whom she refers to as mentors and guides. "I became good friends with my coaches in the end, and that made a big difference in how I saw sports, school and my place before and after graduation."

Since graduating from Union, Jahn earned an MBA and now works in sales for a local modular building company. She and her husband, Caleb Jahn, have a one-year-old son, Conner. Caleb is a pilot and also volunteers as an assistant volleyball coach.

"Someone once told me that the reward in life is the journey. And it's true," Jahn said. "Looking back, I don't remember games that we won or lost. When it comes to being a Warrior, it's the journey that I remember." **A**

ices as representatives of Union College."

Today, Union College has blossomed into four varsity teams—men's basketball, women's basketball, women's volleyball and men's golf—giving even more students the chance to don the Warriors uniform. Students also have access to a variety of other sports including indoor soccer and gymnastics.

Success in the classroom and on the court

Academic success has been at the forefront of the athletic program since its inception. An athletic committee was formed in order to monitor the program's growth and success. That committee—which includes administrators, teachers, coaches, former coaches and even former players—is as big a part of the pro-

gram now as it was during the early days.

Many of the members have been on the committee since the first few years of the sports program. Ric Spaulding, athletic director, credits the board with much of the program's continuity and ongoing success. "The program was highly scrutinized at first," remembered Spaulding. "For the first 10 years, the program was evaluated annually in order to gain permission to continue."

Above all, the coaches and board wanted to make sure the athletes continued to get good grades. So they instated prerequisites that all players had to maintain full-time student status and a 2.5 GPA in order to play.

While other schools required less, the program founders believed students' first priority should be school. This emphasis on

Alex Adams

by Tiffany Doss '11

Basketball and love languages, Alex Adams '12 says, both play for the same team. "On the court and through my team experiences, I've encountered different people," she explained. "And I've had to learn how to speak their language because you need to know how to reach people when they need help or praise."

Adams, a senior business administration major at Union College, started speaking the basketball language as a seventh grader at Midland Adventist Academy. "My mom forced me to play because it was something to do, but I just felt right my first time on the court. I even got Most Valuable Player my first game."



She has been on Union's team every year she's been a student, but Adams admits she originally didn't plan to try out. She couldn't resist having basketball as her release, and most of all, she missed being part of a team.

"The Warriors women's team is built of girls from different social groups," she said. "My teammates are girls I formerly competed against in the Mid-America Basketball Tournament in academy. Now, we've gotten to know each other and bonded. One of my favorite experiences this year was when we went to Kansas City just for fun. We got away from basketball and our problems and were able to really connect."

Adams says basketball has tested her mentally and physically. "Basketball has made me think differently; I've really



Monte Dean

by Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04

Monte Dean '89 began attending Union College in 1984 and was part of the men's

Warrior basketball team from 1987 through 1989. "I loved athletics, and growing up as an Adventist made it hard to be part of sports teams," remembered Dean. "The athletic program made my time at Union much more fulfilling. It was a positive thing for me and my teammates to have that kind of outlet. And when others on campus got involved, it gave us one more thing to rally around and be proud of."

His years on the basketball team also impacted Dean's lifelong perception of faith and fun. "Being a Warrior gave me a different perspective on life and appreciation for Christianity. It helped me bring those two worlds together. It was an arena for my competitive spirit and taught me how to keep it in check. As a young adult, it's important to find a balance between competition and Christianity, and the sports program at Union really brought

those things together for me."

Dean is an accounting manager at Newmont Mining Corporation, the second largest gold mining company in the world. He lives in Denver, Colo., with his wife, Heather, and their two young children, Dorothy and David.

Dean attributes his ability to balance responsibilities to his years as a student athlete. "In life, there are so many things that demand your attention all at once. In order to succeed, you have to be able to take on all of these things and do them well. For me, basketball was a good learning tool that helped nurture the leadership skills and confidence that I still use every day at home and work." **A**

academics encourages student athletes to achieve even greater success in the classroom and gives coaches a tool to help. "We are very intentional when it comes to academics because we want to make sure our students are successes on and off the court," explained Ron Dodds, men's basketball coach.

Now, faculty and staff look to the sports program as a model of success in combining excellence in class work and extracurricular activities. "We're the measuring stick that many other programs are judged against," said Spaulding. "At first, the committee wasn't sure we could uphold the high standards we'd set. But we have, and now the administration points to the athletic program as an example of the way to run a good program."

A legacy of leadership

In 1987, Don Pursley, vice president for finance and chairman of the Division of Business and Computer Science, became the second coach of the men's basketball team. "It was fulfilling to be part of such a great program," he remembered. "Athletics are important for the development of young men and women. It teaches healthy competitiveness, teamwork, self-discipline and self-control. All of those are crucial to learn in life, and the younger you learn those skills, the better off you are. I was honored to be able to help young people develop those attributes."

Pursley left Union College in 1991, but he still holds his memories of the athletic program close to his heart. "I look back and have a great appreciation for the players that we had and the stu-

changed through it," she said. "The Warriors are known for not getting down. Coaches come up to us after games to compliment us on that. Learning to not get down is something that I've never given up." Adams credits much of the team's positive attitude to Greg Steiner, head coach, who never fails to see the potential in everyone.

Effective teamwork and making an effort to understand the way each person communicates can solve a lot of problems in life but not all challenges. During those times, Adams says she never fails to see God. "He's always holding my hand and holding my head up," she said. "Never give up and He will push you to the right path." **A**



Ben Vasconcello

by Tiffany Doss '11

Shooting hoops since the age of three, Ben Vasconcello '12, senior business management and marketing major, said his older brother got him started in the game. "He taught Joshua, my twin brother, and me what he knew. Basketball's been my life ever since."

Growing up, Vasconcello could always be found on a team and has played in various summer and county leagues, for Spencerville Adventist Academy, Washington Adventist University (NCAA Division II) and now for Union College.

Transferring to Union in spring semester 2011, Vasconcello says there's some-

Ben Vasconcello continued on page 14



Todd and Michelle Essex

by Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04

Todd '98 and Michelle Miller '98 Essex met in 1994 during their freshman year at

Union. They both played basketball, and Todd recalls getting to know Michelle on a team trip to Dubuque, Iowa. "I had noticed her around campus before, but that trip was the first time we spent a lot of time together," he said. "That was really where our relationship started. We dated all four years of college and then got married. Fourteen years later, she's still my best friend and my partner for life."

Along with meeting Michelle, Todd says many of their best friendships came as a result of being part of the athletic program. He and Michelle still are in close contact with some of their fellow basketball players, and the best man at their wedding was a former Warrior teammate. "Our teams had great chemistry, and we built good relationships," he said. "We were blessed to be part of the sports program because it was a great forum to make

Christian friends for life."

Todd Essex recounts his years as a Warrior as the ideal platform for him to make a difference in the lives of others. "The College View Academy students looked up to us and we did a lot of community service outreach, such as swimming with them in the Union College pool and hosting pizza feeds for children who were abused or had problems at home."

The Essexes now live in Colorado, where Todd is in management at Kraft Foods and Michelle is an optometrist. Todd believes the real world perspective he gained as a Warrior has been invaluable to his career. "Athletics really prepared me for the business world," he said. "It instilled in me a sense of healthy competition and the ability to accept defeat. In the real world, that helps you to come back from difficulty, control your emotions in

dents and fans who supported the team. I remember those days well, and all of the people who contributed to the success and pride we had in our team and our school."

Ron Dodds followed Pursley as men's basketball head coach and has held that position for 22 years. He was recently honored for having coached his 500th game. For Dodds, the athletic program—and the basketball team in particular—are not simply about chalking up wins. "This isn't really about basketball," he said. "My goal is that students are better prepared for life after playing on our teams. It's about leadership and confidence."

For many athletes, leadership begins on the court. Dodds brings this to life by naming student captains who take on many assistant coaching duties. "These captains are irreplaceable," he explained. "They carry out extra duties so their fellow athletes see them as leaders and respect them. And that translates to their

lives. They learn how to lead and how to follow, to be fair and to play as part of a unified team. That will benefit them as employees, husbands and fathers."

Community outreach also has a special place in the hearts of Warrior coaches and players. For 21 years, the men's basketball team has worked hand-in-hand with the Friendship Home, a local shelter for abused children. The team provides coats, toys and mentorship to the children. Some even get to spend time court side with the team. "The kids have so much fun they sometimes don't want to leave," said Dodds. "They feel real love for our players, and our players feel a sense of attachment and caring for these kids. I want my guys to be leaders after basketball, and getting them involved in outreach is a great way to start them on that journey."

Outreach to student athletes from other colleges is another

thing different about the Warriors men's basketball team and coaches. "During one of my first Warriors games, I made a mistake I usually would have gotten chewed out for by another coach," he explained. "The coaches here just calmed me down and said, 'You'll get the next one.' Reactions to situations like that have made me feel less pressured here, and I think it's given me a more positive attitude."

Vasconcello feels Union's team is more Christian and team oriented than ones he's been on in the past. "When I transferred here everybody was really welcoming and willing to help out," he said. "They wanted to know where I've played, shared their views on the game and valued my insight on the game as well. At Union it seems as

though my teammates and coaches are looking at the big picture and at individuals' characters and aren't as concerned about the game itself."

Playing on basketball teams has strengthened Vasconcello's work ethic and his drive to improve himself in work and in the game. He enjoys discovering a team's chemistry, and it has helped him realize he can depend on others, not just himself.

"There's so much about the game I love," he said. "But I most appreciate good sportsmanship. Nobody plays dirty. Instead, they keep things fair and play to the best of their abilities." **A**

Sadie Wren

by Tiffany Doss '11

Swimming during the holidays made Sadie Wren '11 cherish her time as a player for Union College's volleyball team. Every year, the team would pair up with the men's basketball team and hold a Christmas party for abused children.

"We would swim with them in the Larson Lifestyle Center, get them presents and eat pizza," said Wren, language arts education graduate. "One year, the pool was closed for cleaning, and we played a whole bunch of games with them in the gym. We had fun no matter where we were."

heated situations and interact more personally and professionally with others.”

The couple still finds time to participate in sports, and they lead an active life, a foundation of healthy living that Todd credits to the Union College athletic program. They have two sons, Blake, age 8, and Braden, age 6. “Life is pretty perfect,” Todd said. “We couldn’t ask for much more.”

Todd said he believes in sports programs, and his experience at Union gives him hope that more students are able to take part in the teams. “I think the life lessons learned through athletics are invaluable. As long as the program is managed in a proper way, there’s nothing better socially for kids to be a part of and flourish in,” he said. “I’d like my boys to have the opportunity to be Union College Warriors.” Å

Warriors Varsity Athletic Coaches

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Men’s Basketball | started 1986/87 Paul Gnadt, Don Pursley, Ron Dodds (current) |
| Women’s Basketball | started 1988/89, 1995/96 Laura Fenton, Brad Forbes, Hans Widicker/Kirk Martsching, Judy Sloan, Tony Minear, Greg Steiner (current) |
| Women’s Volleyball | started 1996/97 Joe Parmele, Ernie Reynolds, Linda Becker, Ric Spaulding (current) |
| Men’s Golf | started 1997/98 Ric Spaulding, Joe Parmele, Rich Carlson (current) |

aspect of being a Warrior. “Being able to interact with students from other schools is a major benefit of our program,” said Spaulding. “It is a huge witnessing tool to get out there and connect face-to-face with others so they can see who an Adventist is and put a face to the name. Of course, I value the exercise, camaraderie, sportsmanship and leadership aspects of being on a team, but, to me, witnessing is the biggest part.”

Celebrating 25 years of Warriors athletics

Special reunion celebrations during Homecoming Weekend 2011 marked the 25th anniversary of the Union College Warriors. A golf tournament, Valentino’s buffet dinner and intersquad volleyball and basketball games brought Warriors from throughout the program’s history together.

Looking back, program founder Paul Gnadt is pleased by all the

Warriors have accomplished. “I love Union and am blessed to have been asked to develop the basketball program,” he said. “I applaud the coaches who followed who have maintained the standards and the players who have embraced those standards. This program was, and is, a program worthy of being a model for sports programs in our church and schools.”

Dodds is also proud of the program and the student athletes he’s coached throughout the years, many of whom attended the Warriors 25th anniversary celebration. “I’ve coached more than 250 guys throughout the years, and I believe I’m the one who is blessed,” he smiled. “To watch these young men excel has been such a blessing on my part. The honor of coaching these students is so huge. When I look back over the list of past Warriors and when I stood with them at the anniversary games, it’s clear that I’m the one who was blessed to rub shoulders with young people like these.” Å



photo: Steve Nazario

This gathering always occurs during finals week, which taught Wren how to balance. “It was really easy for us to say, ‘Oh, I’d really like to go, but I have to study,’ so we had to prioritize, which put the kids at the top of most of our lists.” Other events like driving to Iowa for a game and back the same night, made her become more purposeful in time management and taught her how to be intentional.

“I also became a stronger leader and communicator from being on the team,” said Wren. “In volleyball, you’re constantly talking to your teammates during games. You’re always calling who has the shot. You have to be confident in what you’re doing and communicate with each other or the game will fall apart.”

Wren said the team became part of her family. “We not only played together; we planned Sabbath schools for volleyball tournaments together and during Project Impact the team always worked in concert with each other. We served together and witnessed together. The team was unified, with God at the center.”

Beyond the instant friendships Wren made with her teammates, she learned what God-centered competition means. “Bad attitudes are contagious,” she said. “The team and coaches are always good at keeping each other positive. Games are always competitive but not so competitive that you forget what it’s about. After games we hold hands in a circle and pray; we never forget God.” Å

INTERNSHIPS

Liza Ngenye

by Brenda Forbes Dickerson '86

Do you remember summer jobs from your college years? Maybe you worked on a farm or in a factory. Maybe you were a nanny or a hospital orderly.

Liza Ngenye '12 will never forget summer 2010 when she worked as a student intern with the North American Division communication team at the General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia. Originally from Kenya and a graduate of Maxwell Adventist Academy, Liza is now in her third year at Union College. She knew she needed an internship to graduate, and her academic advisor Michelle Velazquez Mesnard recommended working at the General Conference Session. "When I applied for the GC internship I didn't think I would get it," Liza said, "but God can open doors that seem impossible."

Atlanta wasn't Liza's first experience at a General Conference Session. She went to Toronto in 2000 with a children's singing group from Africa, and she was in St. Louis in 2005 as a spectator. "But going to Atlanta was a completely different experience," Liza stated. "I saw how the program is run and how much work goes into a session like that. I praise God for giving me the opportunity."

Liza was the only college student on the 12-member North American team; most were professors or career professionals. She affirmed that it was a wonderful experience to work with people who have given their lives to God and carry such huge responsibilities. "I have never met a group of people who are more passionate about what they do," Liza said. "They were willing to get up at 4 a.m. and put in 12-15 hour shifts doing whatever needed to be done. And they were so professional. Every piece of communication was top quality. They are all brilliant writers and great leaders."

Hands-on experiences

Every morning Liza was standing in line before 6 a.m. to catch the first shuttle from the hotel to the convention center. By 6:30 the worldwide media team was debriefing from the previous day's events and discussing upcoming press conferences. Then each group met to hand out assignments and start the day's work. "We were constantly going to press conferences or to watch important votes taking place," Liza explained. "And we wrote stories for local newspapers and television and did interviews so the community could know what service projects we were doing to impact Atlanta." After lunch, the team finished up their projects and then

went to the evening meetings until 8 or 9 p.m.

"It was an amazing experience," Liza declared. "My parents were there also and when the schedule became exhausting they were an incredible support for me."

Clarifying career choices

Before her experience in Atlanta, Liza wasn't really sure about her major. "When I came to Union I knew two things—I liked people and I liked fast-paced situations." So she chose communication. Her time in Atlanta solidly confirmed that choice.

"After Atlanta, I knew that was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," Liza said. "There were 75,000 people from all over the world meeting in different areas of this huge conference building. Everywhere people were talking about different issues, wanting to know what was happening, and we were the ones getting all the information and letting everyone know what was going on and how non-delegates could be involved. It was so exciting!"

Enhancing classroom learning

Liza believes internships are extremely practical because there is no point in sitting in a classroom and learning about theories if you can't visualize how they are applied in life. "My internship

provided the opportunity to see the practical applications of how theories work," Liza stated. "My view is different now when I sit in the classroom and we talk about communication strategies and tools because I have seen them in action."

Liza's purpose for doing homework is no longer just to pass a class or get a good grade. Now she does assignments with the application process in mind. "I'm pushing myself to learn to be a more effective communicator and public relations practitioner. Education has become more real to me...and more valuable."

Building bridges

With all the inspiration and ideas gained from her internship, Liza is eager to graduate and start working. But in today's economy the job market can be tough. "One of the most important aspects of an internship is the opportunity for networking," Liza observed. "Now I know people who work in fields I'm interested in. We have developed friendships. Internships give you the chance to build bridges with people who can help you in the future; they're a great opportunity for opening doors."

Her internship not only helped Liza develop long-term professional friendships, it also showed her the value of being on time, being focused, and producing quality work. "I would not trade the experience for anything," Liza stated. "If you gave me a choice between interning at a Fortune 500 company or the General Conference Session, I would say GC any day." **A**



Liza Ngenye's internship took her to the General Conference Session in Atlanta.

Brian Weed

by Nicole Onjukka Meharry '04

Brian Weed '07 did not own a suit when he began his freshman year at Union College in 2003. "I've always been sort of a nerd," Weed says. "I could not even fathom working at a place that required me to put on a suit every day." So when he began thinking about applying for an internship, he was fairly certain Nebraska's Sandhills Publishing was not for him. He had visited Sandhills while taking Magazine Writing class and his first impression was that it was a very stuffy place where he would not want to work. But after learning a little more about the diverse company and that they offered a paid internship which would also count for academic credit, Weed performed brilliantly during the five-step interview process and felt honored to be selected as a Sandhills Publishing editorial intern for their *Smart Computing* family of consumer electronic magazines.

Sandhills Publishing operates within a fairly unique environment. The company lacks private offices or even dividers. Weed had to learn the art of a softly spoken telephone conference. Male employees are required to wear a suit and tie; females, dresses with hosiery. Weed had to buy some suits. Although not his ideal working environment, he said, "Even though there were drawbacks, I really enjoyed copy editing and crafting articles for *Smart Computing*. I learned so much about the importance of analytical editing and proofreading, and gained invaluable experience during my internship with Sandhills."

Since graduating from Union in 2007, Weed has worked as webmaster for the Loma Linda University School of Public Health. He enjoys the diversity of communication tasks required in this position, including writing on- and off-line content, managing social media profiles, taking photos at school activities, creating and editing videos and advising administration on technology issues and purchases.

Weed feels one of the main reasons he was hired directly out of college for the webmaster position was the impressive portfolio he was able to show from his experience at Sandhills Publishing. During his day-to-day tasks at Sandhills, he always saw the bigger picture—the impact his copy editing and writing internship was making on his future. However, Michelle Velazquez Mesnard, associate professor of communication and Weed's academic advisor at Union, made very clear the importance of creating a professional portfolio, so he dutifully saved print and digital copies of his final articles with graphics and magazine layout.

"Employers today expect to see high-quality portfolio pieces, and published samples speak volumes," Weed explains, "When my

internship at Sandhills ended, I was able to showcase my writing, which aided in securing my next internship with the *Lincoln Journal Star*, and subsequently my position with Loma Linda. In addition to the tangible published writing samples, I walked away from that experi-

I couldn't even fathom working at a place that required me to wear a suit.

ence with a better understanding of the magazine publishing process and the importance of accurate writing and detailed editing."

Internships provide students with the opportunity to experience a career and put their classroom learning to practical use

while they are still able to dialogue with teachers and receive helpful, timely feedback. Good internships provide opportunities for growth, substantial evidence of learned objectives and the foundation for a successful career. Weed believes he was blessed with a very good internship.

"When I was hired at Loma Linda University, my then boss wanted someone who understood technology and could write effectively. Often webmasters have a background in computer science or English. He felt my internship experiences and education in communication was a perfect bridge between the two." Weed still owns the suits he purchased for his internship with Sandhills Publishing, but says he feels grateful to have found a place to work that doesn't require him to wear them. "I may not wear a suit to work every day now, but I do maintain a level of consistency and attention to detail

in my work that I first learned and cultivated as an intern with Sandhills." **▲**



Brian Weed's internship at Sandhills Publishing in Lincoln taught him valuable professional skills that proved useful in his career.

STUDENT MISSIONS

Aaron Purkeypile

by Nicole Onjukka Meharry '04

Manage a business or master a sermon? This was a question that had barely surfaced in Aaron Purkeypile's mind before leaving for Maxwell Academy in Nairobi, Kenya, in June 2002.

Purkeypile '06 was a business major with a burden to see more of the world and experience life as a student missionary. But God had bigger plans for him than even he realized at the time. After accepting an invitation to preach an evangelistic series with the *shareHim* program near Mombasa, Kenya, Purkeypile decided to pursue the assistant boys' dean student missionary position at Maxwell Academy, where he also taught drama and computer keyboarding, chaperoned safari trips and, yes, preached at local churches. He just couldn't seem to get away from the pulpit. "Seeing people respond to the word of God gave me the preaching bug, but I was adamant I would not become a pastor," he said. "Once I started working at Maxwell, I found it hard to avoid people encouraging me to be a pastor. But I continued to push that option off the table."

Even after returning to Union in the fall of 2003, Purkeypile continued to major in accounting, not allowing the idea of pastoral work to take root in his mind. But his student missionary experience changed him. "My worldview and foreign awareness were heightened. I found myself following world news, seeking out Kenyan news outlets and being more concerned with the world as a whole," Purkeypile remembered. "Academically, I became more focused. And, above all, I learned adaptability—the acceptance of plans that aren't ruined, just rearranged." This lesson would later serve him well.

After graduating from Union in 2006, Purkeypile accepted a position as an audit assistant for Deloitte & Touche LLP in Omaha, Neb. He spent the next two years auditing throughout the United States and becoming a certified public accountant. But all the while, he remembered the joyfully infectiousness of preaching. "I realized I wouldn't be happy in my career because I was avoiding the call God had placed on my heart to work in ministry."

In January 2009, Aaron, his wife, Kerri, and their newborn son, Maxwell, moved to Syracuse, N.Y., where he became pastor of three churches and assistant coordinator for Native Ministries in the New York Conference. "It's been interesting moving from the Midwest to New York and at the same time completely changing careers from accounting to full-time pastoral ministry," Purkeypile chuckled. "But that's why I'm so grateful for my student missions experience where I learned adaptability above all else. It's probably the most useful thing people never learn."

Purkeypile also credits his year as a student missionary with broadening his view on the world church and giving him much-needed perspective when it comes to dealing with his church community. "I feel blessed to have experienced our faith in many different countries including Kenya, Rwanda, Egypt, Nicaragua, Mexico and Costa Rica. I have seen a widely diverse church. This encourages me as a pastor to see believers wherever I may go. The world and our church seemed so accessible as a student missionary and I refuse to lose that accessibility as a pastor in the United States," he said.

Purkeypile is quick to respond when asked if taking a year away from college is a wise decision. "Just go—don't worry about missing school," he said. "I learned more in my year away than I ever could have learned from that year at school. The intangible experiences far exceed the value of the year I took off." And he's answered the business versus sermon question as well—he's a businessman who will spend his life mastering the art of the sermon in service to God. **A**



Aaron Purkeypile made many friends during his year as a student missionary in Kenya—a year which ultimately led to a career change.

photo: courtesy of Aaron Purkeypile

Anna Coridan

by Tiffany Doss '11

If someone gave you \$20, how much of an impact would the money make on your life? Would you smile and forget about the gift? Would you be thankful for the half tank of gas it might buy? You may appreciate the convenience, but could it save your life?

As a child, Sarah had been forced to sleep with men for money. Not knowing another way to provide shelter and food, her mother organized the encounters. Sarah remembers men coming to her house, first sleeping with her mother, then with her. It's how they survived.

Saving Sarah

Last year, Anna Coridan, junior nursing major, went to Banepa, Nepal, as a student missionary. She met Sarah at a Bible study a few days after she arrived. "She and I hit it off right away," said Coridan. "We're close in age and she spoke better English than most. We spent almost every day together."

During one of their conversations, Sarah mentioned her financial challenges. "She told me she didn't have enough money for rent and wasn't sure how to come up with it," said Coridan. "Jobs are scarce there, especially for women." Coridan said she immediately felt compelled to offer Sarah the job of doing her laundry for 2,000 rupees a month, but "I was there for all of the students. I didn't want anyone to feel I was favoring Sarah, and I certainly didn't want to offend her. After I told some of the other missionaries my laundry idea, they shared Sarah's story and said that offering her this job could keep her from having to subject herself to the abuse any longer."

Starting in September, the arrangement lasted until April when Coridan left. "Two thousand rupees is only about 20 American dollars. How fast do we go through that in a day?" Coridan asked. "I can go to the mall and spend that much the second I walk through the doors, but for Sarah, it really could mean the difference between life and death."

Coridan's experience overseas made her more aware of other's needs. It also made her realize her own need for Christ. "During my time in Nepal, war was ongoing. I knew it was possible I wouldn't make it out. Without Him, I didn't see how I'd make it. Time in Nepal taught me the importance of just being faithful with where you're at."

The witch doctor

Years before Coridan went to Banepa, a man had been a

witch doctor for a nearby village. Eating fire, going into convulsions and repeatedly beating his wife, he was seen as a powerful man. Through a miracle, the oldest son escaped this way of life and went to a Bible college a few hours away. Several years passed before the son contacted the family saying he was graduating from college and coming home.

"The family told everyone about his return," said Coridan. "They were excited to see him after so long. But two days before he was to come home, they learned he had been walking on a frozen lake when the ice cracked. He fell through and no one had been able to find him."

Jumping on the first available train, the father, who had given up his ways as a witch doctor, set out determined to find his son. He returned a few days later in anguish, with only a picture of his son's frozen body.

"The son had only known his father as a witch doctor," said Coridan. "He was never able to see the amazing transformation that had taken place in his father's life."

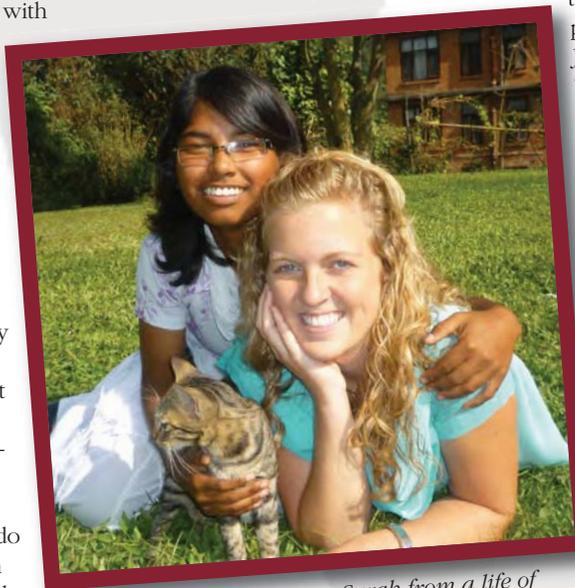
Determined to learn the teachings of the Bible, the father now attends that same Bible college so he can witness to the village where he was once a witch doctor. Coridan went with the family as they dropped him off at the train station. "As he said goodbye to his family, he stood in front of each person and kept saying, 'Just be faithful. Just be faithful with where you are.' Those were his parting words."

Back in the United States, Coridan says she's experienced three stages. "When I first got back, I was so excited to be home and to see my family," she explained. "Then, I started to experience intense anger. How is it we have so much in America yet it all means so little? We take \$20 for granted here, but there they savor every drop of water because of the dire conditions. Now, I'm sad. I'm aware of what's happening in Nepal each day, aware of how things are so different here. I'm still trying to understand why."

This reverse culture shock is bitter and sweet, said Coridan. "I don't ever want to forget what I learned through my mission experience. I understand the way I lived there isn't how it works

here. I'm trying to figure out how my experience and American life work together."

With three years of schooling left, Coridan plans to be a long-term overseas missionary after graduation. But before then, in May, Coridan plans to visit the people in Banepa who changed her life. "My time as a missionary taught me to take the focus off me and put it on others and God," she said. "Where His love exists, there is life. I want to help bring life to the world. I just want to be faithful." **A**



Anna Coridan helped save Sarah from a life of prostitution while a student missionary in Nepal.

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

Brian Adams

by Nicole Onjukka Mebarry '04

People have described Brian Adams '02 as “the big man on campus” and not just because he stands at six foot eight inches tall. As a high school senior, Adams actually made such a positive impression on then Union College recruiter Gary Wisbey, that Wisbey offered him a student recruiting position should Adams choose to attend Union. How could he say no? After graduation, Adams headed to Lincoln to take Wisbey up on his offer and study business management at Union College.

Adams began as a student recruiter, doing everything from mailing out packets and talking to potential students on the phone to organizing student-led weekend trips to lead church services across the Mid-America Union territory. But Adams went beyond the regular job description as well, managing a team of two other students and even leading a week-long travel recruiting trip to Western Canada—something no other student recruiter had ever done. “It was bizarre how accommodating my business professors were,” laughed Adams. “Maybe they were just happy to not have me in class.” In fact, Adams felt especially supported by teachers and employers alike. “I think they saw importance in what I was accomplishing. I know my teachers believed in the value I was adding to my educational journey through my employment experience.”

In 2000, at the beginning of his junior year, Adams was given a promotion to Campus Host, and along with it, the task of organizing, managing and directing Union’s College Days efforts. Ever the innovator, Adams not only planned the two major College Day weekends that Union had previously offered, but also created a plan to make any weekend feel like the College Days experience for both large and small groups of prospective students. He worked most weekends, attempting to convince high school students from across the country that Union College was where they wanted to be. “My employers in Enrollment and Student Financial Services helped build my confidence and pushed me to do more than I thought possible,” Adams said. “They believed in me and helped me to understand all that I could accomplish.” He credits Gary Wisbey with teaching him to push people for their best work, to innovate always and never settle for mediocrity. He feels grateful to have worked for Buell Fogg, calling his life an inspiration. “Christians should be their own weather-makers,” Adams said. “Buell didn’t always have a great day, but he always treated people kindly and

with joy. He passed on positivity and taught me the incredible value of being intentional in relationship-building.”

Adams continues to feel grateful for the opportunities he experienced during his on-campus employment, the mentors he met there who still inspire him today and even credits Union with helping to launch his rise through the ranks of Adventist Health System (AHS), the largest not-for-profit Protestant health care provider in the nation. He entered the AHS Leadership Development Program during the summer before his junior year and feels his employment experience as a student at Union helped him become a candidate for their Executive Development Program, which he began upon graduating from Union in 2002. After gaining experience at five different hospitals within the system and earning an M.B.A., Adams became Director of Operations at Florida Hospital Altamonte. Two years later, they promoted him to Chief Operating Officer. In December 2010, Adams, at 30 years of age, became President and CEO for Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel—the big man on campus indeed.

In addition to instilling the confidence he needed to pursue such a career in health care management, Adams says his on-campus employment enabled him to see the bigger picture—where he wanted to use his talents after graduation. It convinced him to seek a Christian setting where he could use his business management skills to further a faith-based mission. “Before recruiting and hosting for Union’s Enrollment Services, I didn’t realize how valuable it was to work with people who shared my desire to intertwine faith and work. A shared higher purpose makes even the longest days worth it.”

Speaking of long days, Adams sees a lot of them at Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel. He often thinks back to the long days in college when he juggled school, social activities and a demanding on-campus job. He says he is thankful he learned what a long day looked like as well as the determination and organization it took to succeed, long before a whole hospital depended on his success. “During the summers, I would work 40 hours a week for Enrollment Services and swipe meal cards at night in the cafeteria,” he said. “I would do all of this—these 12-hour days—for \$7.95 an hour and free breakfast in the morning. When I’m tempted to feel disgruntled after a long day on the job now, I think about what I was willing to do back then. I feel lucky to have learned a work ethic as a student employee that has carried me through the toughest days and given me the success I’ve enjoyed in my career.” It’s a different campus altogether, but

Adams is still the big man—big on lessons learned as a student employee and big on gratitude for where those lessons have landed him today. **A**



Brian Adams, now a hospital CEO, with his wife, Gwendy, and son, Mason.

Mindy Liebelt

by Nicole Onjukka Meharry '04

Mindy Liebelt hasn't always been as fulfilled by her janitorial duties as she is now. In fact, she remembers an instance in high school that did just the opposite for her self-esteem. An administrator marched by her as she was sweeping the hallway and told her boss, who was standing only a few feet away, to "have her sweep the stairs next." Liebelt remembers feeling hurt, invisible, unworthy of recognition.

Liebelt is no stranger to pain, however, emotional or physical. She deals with chronic musculoskeletal pain, a frustrating diagnosis for such a young, active woman. Liebelt spent six years following high school trying to figure out her health issues—testing, treatment and trying out every regimen of pain management her doctors suggested—only to be told the pain would continue for the rest of her life and the best she could hope for was learning how to deal with it effectively. By 2006, she decided she needed to get on with life and began classes at Union College.

Despite the negative experience she'd endured during high school, Liebelt applied for and accepted a student supervisory position with Union's janitorial team under Lori Brasuell. Speaking fondly of her boss, Liebelt shared, "Lori creates a great working environment for our team. And it really is a team; I've had a great support system throughout my years at Union because of it."

Liebelt credits her work experience with enabling her to succeed on campus, both scholastically and socially. She feels blessed to have contributed to a positive environment on Union's campus and thankful to the administrators and staff who not only recognize the work she does but also care about her as a person. "I'm going to miss my job. As I was vacuuming the other morning, I started to cry just thinking about leaving. I know it may sound silly, but I love being able to greet everyone as they come in at the beginning of the day. The professors and staff in the administration building are just wonderful and I'm going to miss seeing all of them every morning."

Liebelt graduated in May with a degree in communication with a public relations emphasis and a history minor. But she

stresses it's not the only thing she's taking away from her Union College experience. Her job, Liebelt says, has taught her just as much as any class she's ever taken in the building she cleans. Beyond the perfect formula for deep cleaning windows, her job taught her about people, about stereotypes, about societal norms. "My job has strengthened my resolve to fight against unfair stigmas attached to certain work that society tends to devalue," Liebelt says. "I have a keen interest in society's norms and relation to power, success, hierarchy, economic disparity and injustice, and this job has only increased my interest."

It's an interest she plans to explore further in graduate school as early as this fall, if she can figure out the financial aspect of continuing her education. Liebelt is a self-proclaimed creative type, an idea person. She wants to explore those ideas and interests further before settling into a career. "Wherever life leads me and in whatever capacity I end up serving, I am committed to promoting inclusion, respect and equality for all people," she said. "I want to spend all my time and energy working toward that end." And that commitment has as much or more to do with her work experience on Union's campus as it does with her scholastic endeavors here.

A lot of memories surface when Liebelt looks back over her

time with the janitorial team at Union and readies herself to move on. She remembers rushing upstairs shortly after beginning work at Union to tell her boss about one of the administrators greeting her by name. Brasuell just laughed, but it was exciting to Liebelt; she hadn't expected anyone to know her name, especially with her wounded pride over how she'd been treated in the same position during high school. That small courtesy stuck with her and encouraged her to think deeply about others throughout her time at Union.

"I usually am one of the first people in the administration building and

making the untidy lobby clean and inviting for people as they enter has given me a lot of satisfaction through my years in college." Liebelt explains, "Spaces are so important. Whether it is a making a good first impression for someone new to campus or a creating a calm, peaceful vibe for staff and students walking through, I've loved being a part of making Union's space a positive one." Å



Mindy Liebelt enjoyed helping to create a positive environment at Union.

MUSIC

David and Connie Tan

by Nicole Onjukka Mebarry '04

*W*e've always heard that music is food for the soul—could it be for soulmates as well? In the case of David '92 and Connie Cowin '92 Tan, it was just that. Although they both entered Union College to pursue careers in health sciences (David majored in pre-medicine and Connie in nursing), it was their love of music that forged a common bond between them, strong enough to draw them together during their four years of college and for almost 19 years of marriage since.

"David and I met in Unionaires," remembered Connie fondly.

"I had the honor and privilege of studying choral conducting under Dr. Dan Lynn and Connie was the accompanist," David chimed in. "We really got to know each other better when I conducted a piece for the spring concert, and we had to practice together."

"We became fast friends," said Connie.

Music was their main hobby: Connie had played piano since she was eight years old and David played violin, baritone, guitar and a little piano. "Oh, he could sing," Connie added. "It was his voice that really drew me to him."

With rigorous academic schedules to juggle, the Tans agree that music at Union became their stress relief, and they valued their involvement in it above any other extracurricular activity. "Music enhanced my educational experience tremendously because it was the creative outlet that ultimately allowed me to refocus on my studies," said David.

Even with heavy course loads, the two fit in time for music year after year. "Dr. Ryan Wells [then professor of music specializing in piano] and Dr. Lynn both took a sincere interest in our music, but understood that our studies had to come first," Connie explained. "Their support helped us with our schooling and even in our dating relationship. We all became such good friends—Dr. Wells played the piano and Dr. Lynn played his trumpet and sang at our wedding."

David credits Dr. Dan Lynn with teaching him how to share his passion for music with others and in so doing, bring out their best abilities as well. Although his position as an assistant professor and the chief of the Emergency Medical Services Section at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis keeps David from using this talent in a professional sense, he enjoys

teaching his four children to sing and cultivate a love for music. Connie, who has worked as a pediatric nurse, now leads out in the pursuit of music in the Tan household after becoming a full-time stay-at-home mom and piano teacher upon having their third child. "Each of our four kids is heavily involved in music," said Connie. "Fortunately I am available to help and guide them along in their aspirations." It is a full-time job: Emily, age 15, tours internationally with the top St. Louis Children's Choir and plays piano, guitar and clarinet; Marcus, age 12, has played classical guitar for four years; Aaron, age 10, plans to join the elite St. Louis Youth Symphony after five years of practicing violin; and Ryan, age seven, is currently learning piano and campaigning for a family drum set. Connie believes her experience with music at Union provided her with the tools she needs to support her family today. "I tell my kids it is because of music that they are alive! I met David in Unionaires, and without it, I'm not sure we would have had the same connection," she laughed.

"Connie and I both value the tremendous influence music has had on us, especially at Union," David says. "I am proud that our

children study music and have no doubt that we have been able to instill a lifelong habit of musicality in them." The Tans are certain the discipline they learned through their involvement with music at Union has helped them be successful in their life beyond college. "My musical studies at Union emphasized attention to fine detail, taking pride in a job well done and always giving your best performance no matter how long the tour or how tired the choir," David said.

"The many performances through piano recitals and Unionaires taught me more than

music—it taught me how to deal with life and people, and it developed a sense of professionalism and stage presence that I still use today," added Connie.

The Tans remember more about their musical experiences and Unionaires than anything else that happened during college. "Most of our great memories come from recitals, tours, concerts, early Sabbath morning warm-ups and being together through it all," they said. After nearly 25 years of making music together, David and Connie Tan are still relishing their shared musical feast that began at Union College. **A**



Connie and David Tan have passed on their love for music to their children: Marcus, Emily, Aaron and Ryan.

Steven Hutchison

by Tiffany Doss '11

He fell in love at the age of three. A video shows the fuzzy, bowl-cut, brown-haired toddler sitting on a piano bench, belting his cradle roll songs at the top of his lungs and banging the piano in hopes of accompaniment.

Now that he's grown out of the bowl-cut look, he's been putting his own motifs, rhythms and cadences on paper, creating original and award-winning compositions.

Steven Hutchison '12, a Union College senior instrumental music education and Spanish major, recently won a music contest through the Lincoln Music Teacher Association for his small choir piece, "Even When We Sleep." It started as a simple assignment for his orchestration class: put a poem to music. Although Hutchison writes many of his own poems, he chose one by Paul Éluard, a French poet.

While in piano lessons, he wowed his teacher with just the first few chords of his composition. "She told me I needed to submit my piece to the contest," Hutchison said. "She was impressed with its French sound and my choice of chord progression." The piece was performed by Union's select choir group, The Twelve, at a gathering for all the contest's category winners.

Although Hutchison is learning the piano—he is fluent on the baritone, tenor and soprano saxophone; and was in a select choir his year abroad in Spain—his instrument of choice is the alto saxophone. He first picked it up in eighth grade. "My mom and uncle both played," he explained. "They were sitting around one day talking about their band and music experiences. My uncle knew I loved music and offered to let me use his instrument. Two years later, I bought my own and have been playing ever since."

As the leader of the saxophone quartet and first chair in Union's band, Hutchison has had the chance to develop his skills. Being able to play all parts in the quartet, he's able to help each player by going over difficult passages, suggesting different fingers for notes and teaching them new ways to look at the music. He understands the variance in technique for each instrument, which helps improve the overall sound of the group. He often suggests trying different rhythms and endings to pieces to give them more flair.

Hutchison first began composing his senior year at

Sunnydale Adventist Academy in 2006.

"I had been putting some notes down and showing them to my band teacher, Dr.

Cathy Wilson," he said. "Dr. Rudy Dennis [then Union's band director] came to Sunnydale for a band festival, and my teacher encouraged me to show him my work. He was really impressed and motivated me to continue working and cultivating my songs. His encouragement is what brought me to Union College."

His first year, Hutchison worked in Engel Hall, the music building, doing office work. "Dr. Dennis would come into the office and tell me to write a quick, one-line choral," Hutchison said. "Sometimes he would specify a key or time signature, but a lot of times I just did my own thing. I wrote so much music that year and really grew in my abilities. I was constantly pushing myself to create new sounds and try different things."

Hutchison feels this experience has given him a level of versatility. "Understanding composing and transposing are really essential for being an effective teacher," he said. Now, through his student teaching opportunities in his practicum, Hutchison has brought what he's learned to the front of the classroom. "This semester, I've been able to teach eight consecutive band periods. Teaching this many in a row makes me feel as though I'm finally a

teacher. It's really exciting to listen to music in the classes improve each day, knowing it's me helping make a difference in their sound."

Graduating in December 2011, Hutchison says his future is blurry yet bright. "I'm really looking forward to working in an Adventist school. Academies offer more flexibility since bands are smaller and they often lack all the instruments a song calls for. With my background, I could easily transpose sections for an available instrument, like a French horn part to a saxophone part, or find a smooth way to bypass a difficult section."

From an early age, Hutchison knew he wanted to have a career in music. "I had thought about music performance, but those jobs are so difficult to find, which is why I went into education," he said. "As I've gotten further into my degree, I'm finding that my passion is shifting from the music side of things to teaching.

Honestly, teachers at Union such as Dr. Dennis and Dr. Bill Fitts, professor of English, have really inspired me through their skills, knowledge and passion for teaching. I look up to them and they've made me realize that teaching is truly a noble calling, one I'm excited to answer." **A**



Encouragement from Union professors helped Steven Hutchison become a composer.

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'67 denotes graduation year
 ('67) denotes last year attended
 or preferred class year

The Good Neighbor Community Center in Lincoln, Neb., recently honored the following alumni: **Mitch Chunestudy '51**, Lincoln, Neb., for years of service as a board member, volunteer and donor since 1973; **Charlie Henkelmann '56**, Roca, Neb., for years of service as a board member and volunteer; **Joe Allison '79**, Centralia, Mo., for recognition as a board member and development of the collaboration of Union College and the MENA Hope Program; and **Harvey Meier '73**, Bennet, Neb., for his service as groundskeeper.

1950s

Wilma Jones Hepker '53 lives in College Place, Wash. She retired in 2006 after 53 years of denominational teaching. She taught at Union College from 1961 to 1966.

1980s

Beth Thacker ('80), Lincoln, Neb., is the 2011 recipient of

the Girls and Women in Sports and Fitness Ambassador Award. She has been involved in all major trail projects around Lincoln since 1989 and is a charter member and past president of the Great Plains Trails Network. The organization advocates and supports a network of trails in and around Lancaster County for jogging, biking, walking and horseback riding. She has also successfully campaigned to install downtown bike lanes in Lincoln. Growing up in Boulder, Colo., she was accustomed to alternative transportation being embraced. "I grew up in that atmosphere, so when I moved to Lincoln, I wanted to help Lincoln move in that direction," she said. Susan Larson Rodenburg, who co-founded the Mountain Magnolias bicycling group with Beth and served with her on the Network board for several years said, "As an avid cyclist herself, she understands what is needed to make Lincoln a more connected community for bicyclists and pedestrians."

Lynne Reynolds Lake '82 married Darrell Lake Sept. 19, 2009. He is a commercial developer in Dallas, Texas, where the couple currently lives.



Lynne and Darrell Lake

1990s

Jennifer Rogers Martin '99 and her husband, Aaron, were blessed with the arrival of their first child, Andrew James, on Jan. 17, 2011. He weighed nine pounds, eight ounces and was 22 ¼ inches long. They live in Nampa, Idaho, where Jennifer teaches piano at three local private schools. Aaron works as a lead avionics technician at Western Aircraft in Boise.



Andrew James Martin

2000s

Tyson ('00) and Sarah Kreps '07 Skinner welcomed Everett Lewis on March 3, 2011. He joins Lleyton Myles, age three, at home. Sarah is a NICU nurse at BryanLGH Health System East and Tyson installs ceramic tile with Krueger Tile Inc.



Lleyton and Everett Lewis Skinner

Brian '02 and Gwendy Tagabing '00 Adams live in Wesley Chapel, Fla. They had a son, Mason James, March 26, 2010. Brian has accepted the position of President and CEO of Wesley Chapel Medical Center. "It is an honor to be selected to serve the Wesley Chapel community in this new role," said Brian. Brian holds a master's in business administration from the University of Central Florida, Orlando.

Stefan '02 and Crystal Schauer '02 Kaiser live in Duluth, Minn. They welcomed a baby boy, Micah Daniel, into their family on Jan. 24, 2010. He joins big sister Carisse. Stefan is a physician at Essentia Health and Crystal is at home with the kids.



Michael Daniel Kaiser

Bill '04 and Tasha Reynolds '03 Heinrich live in Altamonte Springs, Fla. They welcomed a son, Colton Keith, Dec. 1, 2009. They are expecting their second child in September 2011.

Mandi Jourdan Kutschara '04 and her husband, Jonny, welcomed Max Charles on Feb. 12, 2010. He weighed 6 lbs 15 oz. and joined big sister Madison at home. The family currently lives in Hutchinson, Minn., where Mandi is the Pre-K/Kindergarten teacher at the Adventist elementary school and Jonathan is a respiratory therapist physician.



Max Charles Kutschara

Valerie Robinette Lee '07 married James Lee, a Walla Walla University graduate, on Oct. 10, 2010, in Fulton, Mo. They live in Selah, Wash.



Valerie and James Lee

Sanna Reeve Ortega '09 and her husband, Raúl, live in Rio Rancho, N.M. They were married in Hutchinson, Minn., June



Sanna and Raúl Ortega

27, 2010. Sanna teaches at Sandia View Academy. She writes, "We are currently living in New Mexico and waiting for the Lord's direction to move on."

People Placements

Ben Barber '05 is the new Web developer in Marketing Communications. He has graduated with two degrees: a bachelor's in international studies '05 and a bachelor's in computer information systems '07. Before working at Union, Barber was a software engineer for i2rd/Vipa Solutions in Lincoln. He is married to **Ashley Bohlender Barber '05**.

Gillian Connors has adopted the role of technical and electronic services librarian. She graduated this year from the University of Alberta with a master's in library science and information studies. Connors also earned a bachelor's in English from Canada University College in 2007. Her family lives in Lacombe, Alberta, and she was born in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Damie Elder-Hiscock ('04) is the new administrative assistant for the Office of Academic Administration. She attended Union for two years before graduating from Walla Walla University with a bachelor's in music in 2009. Damie previously served as the office manager for the Walla Walla University library. She is married to Jared Hiscock.

Tamara Goodrich joined the Division of Humanities as the new office manager. She graduated with a degree in visual communications from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. She previously worked in the film industry in Los Angeles, California for three years. Goodrich and her fiancé, Micky Seiler, will be getting married in California this October.

Salli Jenks is the new administrative assistant to both the vice president for Financial Administration and the director of human resources. She will also serve as the new housing manager. She joins Union after being the executive assistant to the vice president for heart services at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C. She and her husband, Paul, have two daughters, Megan and Mattison, who attend Union and College View Academy respectively.

Emily Lorenz '11 is the new records associate. She graduated this May with a bachelor's in mathematics education. Lorenz was a member of Union's touring choir, the Unionaires, for two years as well as a mallet percussionist and flutist in Union's band, Concert Winds. Her home is in Johnstown, Colo.

Tiffany Travis Simmons joined the international rescue and relief department as the office manager. Simmons is originally from Flat Rock, Ala. and is working towards completing her personalized degree. She joined the Disaster Response Team (DiRT) during their operation in her home state after the tornados. She and her husband, **Jon '10**, are the proud parents of three fish and two miniature poodles, Ritz and Flossie.

Michael Smith '03 is the new information systems programmer. Smith graduated from Union in '03 with his bachelor's in computer information systems and in '08 with a bachelor's in elementary education. Previously, he taught at Minnetonka Christian Academy. He and his wife, Kerrie, have two children, Camden and Garren.

Tom Toews is joining the Division of Religion as an associate professor of religion. For the past three years, Toews has been a pastor for the Cheyenne and Laramie churches in

Wyoming. This summer, he will be graduating from Andrews University with a doctorate in historical theology. He and his wife, Lena, have two sons, Matthew and Andrew.

Angela Penrosa Wells '00 is joining the Division of Nursing as the new office manager. She has previously worked in the Campus Store and in the Division of Human Development. She and her husband, Nathan, have two daughters, Hannah and Jasmine.

Denise Cunningham White '74 is the new chair of the Division of Human Development. Previously, she worked as the associate superintendent of education for the Washington Conference. White earned a master's in Educational Administration and Leadership at Loma Linda University and a doctorate in the same from La Sierra University. She and her husband, Floyd, adopt rescue pets and currently have a 14-year-old cat, Charlie, and three cocker spaniels.

Rick Young joins the international rescue and relief program as the new program director. Hailing from Glendale, Calif., Young has worked in the police department for the past 22 years. He also has experience in Boy Scouts and as the camp manager for Camp Cedar Falls Conference Center in southern California. He and his wife, Debbie, have one daughter, Lauren, who will attend Union in the fall.

Transitioned:

Lynn Davis '84 is the new administrative director of the leadership minor, in addition to his current role of Union Scholars program assistant and associate professor of art. After graduating with a bachelor's in art education, he earned his master's in art education from the Rhode Island School of Design. Davis serves as the secretary of the Lincoln Southeast

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chapter of Kiwanis, an international organization of volunteers. He is married to **LuAnn Wolfe Davis '82** who is the vice president for Advancement. They have an 11-year-old daughter, Caitlynn.

Kevin Erickson '06 is now the director of admissions. He has been working for Union for the past five years, first as an enrollment counselor, then as the assistant director of enrollment. His wife, **Jeaneen Gates Erickson '08**, works as a sixth grade language arts teacher at Goodrich Middle School. They recently celebrated their one-year anniversary on May 30.

Stan Hardt '68 has retired as the assistant chaplain after 16 years of working for Union, but continues to teach classes and serve as a counselor. He is married to **Angie Nielsen Hardt '67**, who works as an adjunct instructor of mathematics. The Hardts have served Union students as mentors in relationships and premarital counselors.

Greg Merchant is the new instructional technologist, formerly the institutional research assistant. He is also the director of the Microlab. Merchant earned a bachelor's in telecommunications management from DeVry University in 2001. He is married to Lorri Merchant who is the director and associate professor of social work at Union. They have two children.

Greg Steiner '00 has transitioned from a health and human performance instructor to an institutional researcher in Union's new office of institutional research. Steiner is also the intramural sports director and head coach of Union's women's basketball team. He is married to **Kimberly Childers Steiner '01** who is an associate professor of business at Union. They have a 3-year-old son, Carter.

Theresa Flowers Stimson '94

previously an associate professor of nursing, is the new chair of the Division of Nursing. She graduated from Union with a bachelor's in nursing and earned a master's from the University of Phoenix. Before returning to work for Union, Stimson spent five years teaching at San Juan College in New Mexico. She is married to **Mike Stimson '94** who is the operating room director for Lincoln Surgical Hospital.

Richard Young '06 has begun working as the director of recruiting. He has worked for Union for five years in his previous position as an enrollment advisor. Young graduated from Union with a bachelor's in history education and is married to **Natalie Groft Young '09**. He is an avid Kansas City sports fan.

IN MEMORY

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

Bertha Haefeli Wilkinson '33, Orlando, Fla., died May 28, 2010, at age 98. She was born Dec. 17, 1911. She was a member of the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, Fla. She is survived by her son, Donald; daughter, Carolyn Reese; five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Arthur Martinson '37, Alhambra, Calif., died April 8, 2010, at age 94. He was born Aug. 29, 1915, in Stillwater, Minn. He is survived by his wife, **Irene Johnson Martinson '37**; son, Joe; daughters, Arta Specht and Jolene Zackrisson; five grandchildren; nine grandchildren and his brother, **Elmer '41**.

Florence Unterseher Nielsen '39, Lincoln, Neb., died Dec. 15, 2010, at age 96. She is survived by her husband, **George '39**; daughter, **Angie Hardt '67**; son,

Wayne '73; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sister, Lillian Nielsen and brother, Elmer Unterseher.



Florence Unterseher Nielsen

Olga Unterseher Aaby '41, Lodi, Calif., died July 8, 2010 at age 93. She was born June 7, 1917 in Bowden, N.D. She is survived by her son, Royal; daughters, Joyce Conner and Janis Tucker; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Ellen Priest Hardt '42, Loma Linda, Calif., died Feb. 24, 2011, at age 89. She was born July 18, 1921. She is survived by her brother, **Robert '55**; children, **Stanley '68** and **Beverly Krick '73**; two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; nine nephews; six nieces; two step-grandchildren and several "adopted kids."



Ellen Priest Hardt

Milton Bates '44, Tracy, Calif., died Oct. 16, 2010, at age 90 after a brief illness. He was born March 22, 1920, in Swatow, China, where he lived until he was 18. His family returned to the U.S. in 1938 where he completed his senior year at Glendale Academy in southern California. Milton went to college at Union until he was drafted into the United States Army. After serving two years, he returned to college and graduated from Pacific Union College and Loma Linda University with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He was a laboratory technologist, setting up many labs throughout the state of California. His hobbies included boating, singing in barbershop choruses and stamp collecting. He is survived by his children, Leonard and Lorna; brother, Donald; nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Oscar Torkelson '44, Greenbrier, Tenn., died Nov. 4, 2010, at age 90. He was born Oct. 16, 1920, in Everest, Kan. He was a member of the Ridgetop, Tenn., church. After graduating from Enterprise Academy in Kansas, he attended Union College and spent four summers as a colporteur to help pay tuition. Later, he earned a master's degree in school administration from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in marriage and family counseling from Chapman University in California. He taught for 37 years in Adventist schools, mostly as principal, including Union Springs Academy in New York and Cedar Lake Academy in Michigan. He was ordained to the ministry in 1962. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Laura Ann; son, Jack; daughter, Karen Harbour; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Eva Marley Crawford '45, Webster, Texas, died April 2, 2011, at age 92. She was an elementary school teacher and an active member of her church from age 15 until the onset of a

disability at age 48. She is survived by two daughters, Cheryl Ozols and Sheila Safarzadeh.

Kei Ozaki '45, Downey, Calif., died January 27, 2011, at age 91. His family emigrated from Japan to Vancouver, Canada, and slowly made their way down the west coast to Los Angeles. Kei attended Phineas Banning High School and Keystone Japanese School before enrolling in a pre-med course at Compton Junior College and La Sierra College. After WWII interrupted his studies, he moved to Union College to continue his education. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology and returned to California to work at the White Memorial Hospital experimental lab and attend Loma Linda University Medical School. Kei married Mamie Uchida and then finished his medical degree at White Memorial Hospital in 1951. He took an internship at Glendale Sanitarium Hospital and worked with Dr. James Goto in Little Tokyo until he was drafted into the United States Army and spent two years in Korea. After being discharged, he took over a medical practice in Downey, Calif. Kei enjoyed growing roses at his home and won three beautification awards from the city. His other hobbies included kendo swords, Aikido self-defense, alpine and cross-country skiing and fishing. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Yoji and wife, Mamie. He is survived by his daughter,



Kei Ozaki

Cheri Windemuth; son, Cal; one brother; two sisters; four grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Wilma Brenneise Bollinger ('46), Lincoln, Neb., died Dec. 1, 2010, at age 86. She was born May 24, 1924, in Greenway, S.D. She was a member of the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church. Wilma and her husband, **Delbert ('48)**, started their lives together farming in Tolstoy, S.D., and later moved to Lincoln where she continued her life as a homemaker and private duty care provider. She was preceded in death by her parents, Daniel and Lydia Brenneise, and her brother Glenn. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, **Delbert**; sister, **Shirley Goetz ('59)**; brother, **Earl '59**; sons, **Gary '71** and **Randy ('73)**; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Blossom Church Engen '48, Hamburg, Penn., died Monday, Dec. 27, 2010, at age 84. Blossom was born in Lincoln, Neb. She graduated from Champion Academy in Colorado and from Union College. She also earned a master's in home economics from Michigan State University. Blossom was a lifelong teacher. She taught in Nebraska, Michigan and Maryland. She then worked in various departments of the General Conference including the education department where she helped co-author a series of elementary reading textbooks. Blossom was an excellent musician and taught organ and piano lessons. She enjoyed raising her family, traveling, interior decorating and sewing. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, **Gordon '49**; sons, Eric and Del; and two grandchildren.

Eleanor Engeberg Kaiser ('48), Mission Viejo, Calif., died Nov. 21, 2010, at age 88. She was born near Kenmare, N.D. She attended Sheyenne River Academy in Harvey, N.D., be-

fore attending Union College. There, she met and fell in love with **Kenneth '52** and they married June 21, 1948, in Kenmare. Eleanor enjoyed working for Shirer Well Servicing in Hoisington and the law offices of Lee Turner in Great Bend. They then spent 15 happy years in Lincoln, Neb. The last few months of Eleanor's life she relocated to California to be closer to her daughter. She loved family and church, giving both much of her time. She was a member of the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lincoln. She enjoyed gardening and baking. She was a strong woman with character, compassion and values. Eleanor was preceded in death by her brother, Floyd. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, **Kenneth '52**; her son, **Jim '77** and daughter, **Alicia Murray '72**; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; her sister, **Eileen Walters '48** and nieces and nephews.

Vera Bergmann ('52), Eckert, Colo., died Nov. 29, 2010, at age 81. She was born May 28, 1929, in Aurora, Ill. She grew up in Orlando, Fla., and attended Southern Adventist College, Union College and Pacific Union College. She lived for 40 years in Orem, Utah, and spent her last eight years in Cedaredge, Colo. She was a nurse anesthetist. Vera enjoyed gardening, cooking, canning, crocheting, knitting, ceramics, camping, hiking and making fleece jackets for her family and friends. She is survived by a sister, Ina Haugen; and niece, Wanda Kaiser. She was preceded in death by a sister, Audrey Hulett; and a brother, Alfred.

Joan Leonhardt '52, Berrien Springs, Mich., died June 17, 2010, at age 82. She was born Dec. 17, 1927, in Aurora, Neb. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include her twin sister, **Joyce Leonhardt '52**.

Norbert (Nobby) Schroeder ('52), Lincoln, Neb., died Sep. 9, 2010, at age 80. He was born Oct. 6, 1929, in Cleveland, N.D. He graduated from Sheyenne River Academy in Harvey, N.D., and attended Union College. While in Lincoln, he met his wife Carol, and they were married for 54 years. Nobby retired after 40 years with Minnegasco. He was president and business manager of IBEW Local # 244 for 15 years. He was honored to receive the Al Bauer Labor Leader of the Year award, a plaque for significant achievement on behalf of Organized Labor in the city of Lincoln, the Richard Nolan Memorial Service award for outstanding service and an award for Nebraska State Utility Workers in appreciation for his service and leadership to the Utility Workers of Nebraska. Nobby served the youth of the community as Little Chiefs coach and Indian Guides leader. He had a passion for union work, fishing, hunting, helping people, watching the Cornhusker marching band and keeping up with his grandkids. He was preceded in death by his sister, **Agnes Heil '50**; and brother, Ronald. He is survived by his wife, Carol; daughters, Pamela and Amy; son, Alan and four grandchildren.

Ray Bailey '55, Holyoke, Colo., died Oct. 22, 2010, at age 78. He was born March 25, 1932, in Kansas City, Mo. He attended Champion Academy, then earned a bachelor's degree in theology from Union and began working as a pastor. There, he and **Phyllis Kuhnke '53** fell in love and were married in 1952. Their first two children were born in Lincoln and the last two arrived a few years later, after the family had relocated to South Sioux City, Iowa. From 1955-62 he pastored three churches in Nebraska. In 1962, Ray pastored in Dallas, Texas. While there, he helped build a new church for his Dallas Oak Cliff Seventh-day Adventist congregation. He spent five years as a missionary in Korea and the Philippines,

IN MEMORY

where he completed a master's degree at Philippine University. In 1970, the family moved back to the United States, and Ray began working in education. He worked at several academies including Pioneer Valley, Union Springs, Highland View, Sheyenne River and Dakota. After earning a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts, he pastored the Shreveport Seventh-day Adventist church, and then became associate secretary for that conference. After a few more years of pastoring, he moved to California and worked closely with Doug Batchelor and the "Amazing Facts" broadcast at the Sacramento Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. Ray's final service for the church was to pastor Antelope Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church in Antelope, Calif., for three years. He formally retired in 2003, after over 40 years, and the couple moved to Holyoke, Colo. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, **Phyllis**; four children, Rick, Sherry, **Randy ('78)** and **Terrill ('79)**; 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Ray Bailey

Clive Mercer '57, Fletcher, N.C., died May 31, 2010, at age 88. He was born July 14, 1921, in Mackenzie County, N.D. He was a member of the Fletcher, N.C. church. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. After the war he earned a bachelor's degree in education from Union College and taught at Sunnydale

Academy and Valley Grande Academy. Later, he earned an electrical engineer's license and worked in maintenance at several hospitals and schools. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Magdelene; sons, Chet, **Tim '81** and Walter; daughter, Lore Seal; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Franklin Weeks ('60), College Place, Wash., died Nov. 24, 2010, at age 78, in Post Falls, Idaho. He was born Feb. 20, 1932, in Williston, N.D. He served for four years in the United States Air Force before attending Union College for two years, studying theology. He had a successful masonry and general contracting business in Lincoln. Frank loved God, family, country, reading and horses. He enjoyed traveling and experiencing God's beautiful creation, watching Blue Mountain Television, Three Angels Broadcasting Network, football and keeping up with current events. He was a member of the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church at the time of his death. He is survived by his long-time companion, Barbara Nelson (whom he met in Lincoln in 1968); three sisters; three brothers and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers and sisters.

Clarence Hoag ('61), West Helena, Ark., died Aug. 26, 2010, at age 71. He was born Oct. 17, 1939, in Erie, Penn. He served the Adventist church for 46 years—two years as a teacher, 12 years in literature work and 32 years as pastor. At the time of his death he was a pastor at the West Helena church. He is survived by his wife, Betty; children, Timothy, Sharon, Karen and Erin; sister, Beverly; 16 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Duane Reiner ('62), Lincoln, Neb., died Nov. 14, 2010, at age 67. He was born Feb. 16, 1943, in Aberdeen, S.D. He was a member of the College View

Seventh-day Adventist Church. He grew up on a farm near Bowdle, S.D., attended Plainview Academy and graduated from Maplewood Academy. In 1961, he attended Union College before serving in the United States Armed Forces from 1964-66. After returning to Lincoln, Duane earned a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He worked in banking in several locations in the Midwest and in the Los Angeles area before returning to Lincoln in 1984 to work in the home building industry as a building contractor and property manager. He was a member of the Home Builders Association of Lincoln and served on the Board of Directors from 1991-98. His mother **Lillian Nash Reiner ('40)** preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Eunice; children and step-children, Trenton, Carrie, Robert and Terry; brother, **Richard '69** and father, Walter.



Duane Reiner

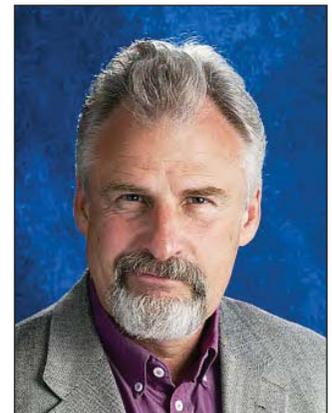
Jack Pester '68, Spokane, Wash., died Oct. 8, 2010, at age 73. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; daughters, **Carolyn Richardson ('79)** and **Terri Higgins ('78)**; son, Eugene and grandchildren.

David Burishkin '73, Loma Linda, Calif., died March 1, 2011, at age 61 after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, **Cheryl Hubbard Burishkin ('72)**, children and

grandchildren. He taught at Loma Linda Academy for 30 years.

Forrest Kinzli '77, Bangor, Pa., died Feb. 5, 2011, in his home at age 59, following a three-year battle with brain cancer. He was born Sep. 10, 1951, in Columbus, Neb. For the past 15 years he worked at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center as administrative director of mission development. He chaired the Health Care Ethics Committee and was the organizational integrity and chief privacy officer. Prior to his illness, he served on the Board of Warren County Habitat for Humanity and enjoyed clearing hiking trails with the Sierra Club. He earned a master's degree in divinity from Andrews University and a master's degree in counseling from Rollings College in Florida. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; mother, Hedwig; children, Micaella and Nathanael; sister, Charlotte; brother, **Arthur '79** and three stepsons.

John Martin '81, Prescott, Ariz., died June 14, 2010, at age 60, while helping set up for the Arizona camp meeting. He was born May 21, 1950. Over the years, John served the church in many ways including pastoring and doing maintenance at Pine Ridge Mission in South Dakota; teaching English and Bible in South Korea; being country director of the Seventh-day Adventist Language Institutes in



John Martin

Bangkok, Thailand; and pastoring, teaching Bible and directing Pathfinders at Hollbrook Indian School. He is survived by his wife: **Renee Barger Martin ('77)**; mother, Esther; brothers, Warren, Ron and Charles; sisters, Patricia and Lisa; sons: Ryan and Levi and four grandchildren.

Rick Mohr '84, Beaumont, Calif., died Oct. 25, 2010, at age 46 in a motorcycle accident. He was born March 29, 1964. Survivors include his parents, **Ted ('62)** and **Anna Lackey Mohr ('64)**.

Alanna Ruppert Pulley '00, South Range Wis., died Sept. 23, 2010, at age 34. She graduated from Union College with a degree in graphic design. She had worked as a cake decorator and most recently as a welder at Tennico's in Seward, Neb. Alanna loved hiking, biking, ice fishing, art, Sudoku, skiing, cross stitch, cultural arts, scuba diving and spending time with family. She is survived by her parents, Douglas and Karen Ruppert; sister, Rhonda Phillippi; brother, Jason; grandparents, Calvin and Dorothy Benson; two nieces; one nephew; numerous cousins, uncles and aunts. Alanna's husband, David Pulley ('97), died Jan. 22, 2011.



Alanna Ruppert Pulley

Notice of the following deaths has been received:

Orley Olson ('32), Loveland, Colo., died Aug. 23, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Judy.

Adeline Voth Liebelt '36, Albuquerque, N.M., died Oct. 31, 2005, at age 94.

Harry Yuen Wong, ('37), Sunbury, Ohio, died Sept. 23, 2,010 at age 93.

Elsa Krossner Murray '38, Mesa, Ariz., died Nov. 21, 2010, at age 90. She is survived by her husband, Bill.

Joy Crouch Churchward '39, Lincoln, Calif., died Jan. 19, 2009.

Clyde Rowen ('39), Hartville, Mo., died Oct. 11, 2010, at age 93.

Elizabeth Watt Diehl '40, Lincoln, Neb., died June 9, 2009, at age 93.

Virginia Craig Baker '45, Lufkin, Texas, died July 27, 2009, at age 91. She is survived by her husband **Woodrow '45**.

Duane Fletcher ('47), Roseburg, Ore., died Oct. 11, 2010. He is survived by his wife, **Edith Williamson Fletcher '51**.

Marian Larson Wall ('47), Battle Lake, Minn., died Oct. 7, 2010, at age 82. She is survived by her husband **Dr. Wendell H. Wall ('48)**.

Henry Brodie ('50), Waynesville, Ohio, died Feb. 18, 2010, at age 86.

Robert Conger '50, Denver, Colo., died April 9, 2011, at age 86. He is survived by his wife, Patty.

Kenneth Benjaminsen '51, Crescent, Minn., died Nov. 4 2010.

Rosendo Sanchez '51, Albuquerque, N.M., died May 19, 1998, at age 81.

Sally Espinosa Sanchez '51, Albuquerque, N.M., died July 8, 2006, at age 85.

Shirley Sorenson Maxson '53, Riverside, Calif., died Sept. 23, 2010.

Lynelle King '55, Fredericksburg, Texas, died April 1, 2000, at age 92.

Charles Russell '59, Littleton, Colo., died Sep. 11, 2010, at age 88.

Sharon Drake Bagshaw ('60), Orlando, Fla., died Oct. 8, 2006, at age 63.

Lavina Walgren Roberts ('64), Springfield, Tenn., died March 27, 2008, at age 62. She is survived by her husband, **Jay '75**.

Donna Rae Nielsen Cox '65, Maple Plain, Minn., died Nov. 1, 2010.

Marvin Gibbs ('65), Northglenn, Colo., died Dec. 11, 2010, at age 77.

Susan Heidland ('68), Helendale, Calif., died Sep. 25, 2010, at age 64.

Ralph Lee '73, Keene, Texas, died Sep. 10, 2009, at age 78.

Jeanette Prewitt-Jarnes ('75), Troutdale, Ore., died May 25, 2010, at age 57.

Harriet Andersen Anderson '79, Hutchinson, Minn., died March 21, 2010.

Debra Begay Nez ('85), Kirtland, N.M., died Jan. 13, 2009, at age 45.

David Csuhta '96, Lincoln, Neb., died July 16, 2010, at age 62.

Correction: In the Fall 2010 issue of *CORDmagazine* the surviving sister of Evans Hagelgantz should have been listed as Addi Nies.

Former Faculty:

Benjamin Bandiola '69-'84, Apison, Tenn., died Dec. 27, 2010, at age 84. He was born Oct. 11, 1926, in Valladolid, Negros Occidental, Philippines. He was a member of the Collegedale, Tenn., church and served in several educational positions throughout his career: dean of the School of Graduate Studies at Philippine Union College, professor of education and psychology at Union College from 1969-84, professor and chair of the Department of Education and Psychology at Southern Adventist University from 1984-92 and adjunct psychology faculty at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga from 1992-2002. He was also a visiting lecturer at Mission College in Muak Lek, Thailand, and a lifetime member of the University of Iowa Alumni Association and the Philippine Fulbright Scholars Association. He was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters. He is survived by his wife, Anita; five children, Vivien, Rene, **John '81**, **Lillian Gibson '82** and **Ivan ('83)**; 13 grandchildren; one great-grandson; brother, Eliseo; three sisters, Elena, Pacita and Eva; and several nieces and nephews.



Benjamin Bandiola

IN MEMORY

Grover Barker '76-'91 Hermosa Cliffs Ranch, Colo., died after a six-year battle with cancer Nov. 7, 2010, at age 71. He was born May 4, 1939, in Animas City, Colo. After graduating from Campion Academy in Loveland, Colo., he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Colorado State University and a master's degree in accounting from the University of Northern Colorado. He married **Joy Powell Barker '78** in Loveland on June 8, 1958. He established his own certified public accounting practice in Montrose, Colo., in 1964. He sold his practice in order to serve the Seventh-day Adventist church as a business administrator in South America, particularly Peru and Uruguay, for 10 years. Upon returning to the United States in 1976, he taught accounting at Union College in Lincoln, Neb., for 15 years. During the summer, he partnered with his brother, Walt, to run their commercial hay farm in the San Luis Valley. In spring 1991, he fulfilled his lifelong dream of returning to the San Juan Mountains near Durango, Colo. For 17 years, he enjoyed working with the CPA partners at Haley, Crom and Wilkinson during tax season, singing with the Durango Barbershoppers of the Narrow Gauge, jeeping in the San Juan Mountains, researching the history of that area, traveling to numerous places around the world and creating adventures for his son and grandsons. He loved to fly his private plane and was a



Grover Barker



Born July 5, 1919, in Singapore to missionary parents, Neil Wilson Rowland and his family lived overseas until 1933 when they returned to Washington and Neil enrolled at Auburn Academy.

pilot of 44 years. Grover was preceded in death by his daughter, Alice. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, **Joy**; daughter, **Julie Barker Reichert '82**; son, **Theo Barker ('84)**; sisters, Alice Downey and **Bonnie Barker Lorenz '52**; three grandsons and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Betty Jochmans-O'Connell '68-'70 Lincoln, Neb., died Feb. 12, 2011, at age 86. She was born May 3, 1924, in Joliet, Ill. She taught English at Union and at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She also taught in Zaire, China, Hong Kong, France and Taiwan. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Robert (faculty '68-'72)**.

Alice Smith '47-'52, Apison, Tenn., died Feb. 6, 2011, at age 96. She was born Oct. 7, 1914, in South Lancaster, Mass. In 1947, Alice was asked to join the nursing faculty at Union College to teach what was then called "nursing arts." She continued her work on the Denver campus of Union as professor and asso-

Longtime academic dean dies

After graduation in 1938, the Rowlands moved to Lincoln where Neil's father joined the faculty at Union and Neil began his freshman year. Neil helped inspire the establishment of a furniture factory on campus when he showed off the furniture he made while in academy to the business manager, H.C. Hartman.

Neil's education and his budding romance with fellow student **Marie Sanders '42** were interrupted by World War II, but the two were married in 1943 and after his discharge from the army, Neil graduated with a B.A. in business administration in 1947. The couple had three children: **Janice Seltmann ('66)**, **Dale '70** and **Bonnie Schindler ('74)**.

After teaching science at Enterprise Academy, the Rowlands

returned to Lincoln where Neil completed a master's degree in ecology and was hired as assistant professor of biology at Union in 1952. He earned a Ph.D. in plant physiology from UNL in 1961 and became a full professor through 1966. Neil served as academic dean from 1967 to 1975, and then in 1977, he accepted a call to Mountain View College, Philippines, from 1977 to 1983, when they returned to Lincoln.

Marie died in February 2009 and Neil moved to Apopka, Fla., to be close to his older daughter, Janice. He died on December 20, 2010, in Apopka and is survived by his sisters, Gretta Mohr and **Lola Pogue '44**; seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

ciate director of the School of Nursing. While there she studied for a master's degree at the University of Colorado. She soon moved to the main campus at Union to become the chair of the Department of Nursing. After Union, she served in many other positions including chair of the Department of Nursing at Columbia Union College, chairperson of the nursing program at Andrews University and associate director (and later, director) of nursing in the health department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. She also earned a master's degree in public health from Loma Linda University. Alice loved animals, traveling, walks, playing table games and hide and seek with her great-great-nephews. She had an adventurous side that included two around-the-world trips, motorcycle riding, flying, horseback riding, and driving convertibles. For her 90th birthday she took a helicopter ride and would have gone hang gliding if anyone would have taken her. She is survived by her sister, Dorothy

Smith; niece, Pam Dietrich; great-niece, Nikki Sutton; great-nephew, Mark Dietrich.

LaVerne McLain '66, Berthoud, Colo., died Sep. 13, 2010, at age 88. He was born Feb. 24, 1922, in Idaho. A member of the Summit Ridge church in Harrah, Okla., he was laid to rest in College Place, Wash. LaVerne spent many years in denominational work as a secondary education administrator in the Pacific Northwest, southern California, Minnesota, Nebraska and North Dakota. He was dean of students at Union College. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Edith; sister, Mary; children, Richard, Donald, Dixie and Deborah; nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The Cost of a Union Education

by Cori Cress

Elder Don '52 and Lenora Copsey remember what it was like to pay for college. After his discharge from the U.S. Army, Don struggled to pay tuition, but believes his time at Union College was worth every penny.

At Union, he recommitted his life to God through baptism, decided to study theology, and met his wife of 60 years. Lenora studied music and enjoyed playing the piano and organ as the couple went on to pastor 18 churches in the Great Lakes region of the country and serve as missionaries in Brazil.

The Copseys recognize the value of a Union College education and hope to make it easier for other students to experience Union, too. Their unrestricted estate gift means a percentage of their estate will go to Union College upon their death, and the college may choose to put those funds wherever they are needed most.

Discover the many ways you can help support Union College financially, as well. Contact Todd Mekelburg at 402.486.2503 or tomekelb@ucollege.edu to find out more.



Elder Don and Lenora Copsey

*It takes
ForeSight...*

CORD *magazine*

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If you were a Unionaire from 1987 to 2011, come celebrate 25 years under the direction of Dr. Dan Lynn. The weekend will feature special events and a reunion choral performance.

Registration won't open until January, but mark your calendar and plan to join us for

**Homecoming 2012
from April 5-8, 2012.**



Scan the QR code or visit www.ucollege.edu/homecoming to hear a traditional Unionaires song from the past 25 years.



For more information, call the alumni office at 402.486.2503