

CORD *magazine*

News from Union College

summer 2012

Medical Research

UNION STUDENTS AND GRADUATES
MAKE DISCOVERIES THAT CHANGE LIVES

Also ...

- *Union launches biomedical major*
- *Spiritual mentorship program helps searching students*
- *Science and math building update*

Little turns into much



Dr. Dalrie Berg '50 spent only four of his 84 years at Union College—less than 5 percent of his life—yet he remembers those four years as the happiest of his life. He remembers the excitement watching Jorgensen Hall take shape during his years at Union, and wanted to help make Union's replacement for Jorgensen a reality by contributing to Union's \$14.5 million *Our Promising Future* capital campaign.

Dr. Berg has made a practice of giving to various organizations, and he put Union at the top of the list. "When you die, you shouldn't have too much money on the books," he explained.

He wanted to help build the new science and mathematics complex, but he had a problem—no cash. Dr. Berg had wisely diversified his investments between real estate and stocks, and he couldn't simply write a check for the size of the gift he wanted to make. Because his assets had appreciated over time, selling any of them would result in a large capital gains tax payable to Uncle Sam—money that could be used to help the college.

What was he going to do?

(continued on page 31)

*It takes
ForeSight...*



Dr. Dalrie Berg '50 remembers watching Jorgensen Hall being built when he was a student. Now he wants to help Union College create a promising future for the science and mathematics program.

CORDmagazine staff:

LuAnn Wolfe Davis '82
Vice President for Advancement/Publisher

Ryan Teller '98
Director of Public Relations/Editor

Steve Nazario
Director of Visual Communications/Designer

Scott Cushman '03
Director of Digital Communication

Kenna Lee Austin Carlson '73
Class-ifieds Editor

Kelly Phipps '12
News Writer

Joellyn Sheehy '14
News Writer

Ruby Ruano '14
News Writer

Articles and photos as credited.

↗ Indicates more information is available on Union's Web site or read *CORDmagazine* online: www.ucollege.edu/cordmagazine.

Union College Alumni Association
Officers and Board Members:

Ardyce Dick Stenbakken '62 President

Larry Christensen '72 President-elect

David Nowack '76 Past President

Larinda Hoskinson

Fandrich '86 Board member at large

L. Steve Gifford '63 Golden Club Co-President

Matthew Roque '05 GOLD Rep '02-'12

Brad Forbes '82 Class Rep '82-'01

Karen Affolter Johnson '72 Class Rep '62-'81

Anita Keith Kidwiler '61 Class Rep up to '61

Kenna Lee Austin

Carlson '73 Alumni Activities Director

LuAnn Wolfe

Davis '82 Vice President for Advancement

About the cover:

Vicki Schlegel '84 has spent her career researching the healing power of food as an associate professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Photo: Steve Nazario

© 2012 Union College all rights reserved. No material may be reproduced without permission. *CORDmagazine* is published as a service to Union College alumni and friends. We encourage readers to submit letters and article ideas. Please send inquiries, submissions and address changes to:

CORDmagazine Union College
3800 South 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68506
or alumni@ucollege.edu.

UNION
COLLEGE
↗ www.ucollege.edu

Reinventing Protein Structure Research/10

John Engen '94, has developed a new tool to help doctors more easily treat HIV/AIDS.



photo: courtesy of John Engen

Fighting a Forbidden Foe/12

I. Jon Russell's fibromyalgia research has been instrumental in the development of pharmaceuticals and other treatments for the much-maligned disorder.



photo: courtesy of Jon Russell



photo: Steve Nazario

Finding the Healing Power of Foods/22

Vicki Schlegel '84, has a passion for finding the chemicals in food that can prevent and heal disease.

Medical research at Union College/16

Science building update/18

Class-ifieds/24 In memory/26

by John Wagner, Union College president



Can you imagine our world without its great scientists?

Every day we interact with scientific discoveries so well known they have become common sense. Yet at some time, a person of uncommon sense was needed to discover these truths—men and women like Galen, who learned the brain controls the nervous system, or Lise Meitner, who discovered nuclear fission, and countless others through the ages who transformed both our world and our perception of it.

It fills me with wonder contemplating even the discoveries that were entirely unknown in my youth, but I now take for granted. Many of them have improved our lives and environment, but unfortunately, not all.

In *The Value of Science*, Richard Feynman wrote, “Of course if we make good things, it is not only to the credit of science; it is also to the credit of the moral choice which led us to the good work. Scientific knowledge is an enabling power to do either good or bad—but it does not carry instructions on how to use it.”

Feynman was not a Christian, yet I



believe his statement is a powerful argument for Christian education. At Union College, learning facts and methodologies are crucial, but are not enough on their own. A spiritual connection to the Creator is necessary to place our understanding of creation in proper perspective.

I am so proud to know men and women of uncommon sense at Union College. These students, faculty members and alumni have a God-given joy of discovery paired with a sense of duty to apply their results for the betterment of society.

In this issue of *CORD* magazine, you’ll meet a few of these researchers. You can also read an update on the construction of a new science and mathematics complex—a facility designed to propel our students and faculty to new heights in their scientific and professional pursuits. And throughout this issue, I hope you see the foundation of scientific education at Union College is not human aggrandizement, but God’s glory—guiding our students to not only work hard, but to do *good* work. **A**

photo: Steve Nazario

By Ruby Ruano

Union develops a new nursing curriculum

As a student, Theresa Flowers Stimson '94 appreciated the preparation she received in the Union College Nursing Program. But, after 19 years of professional practice ranging from acute care to education, her career has come full circle and she is serving as chair of the Division of Nursing. Now she and her fellow professors are rewriting the curriculum to meet the demands of an ever-changing health-care field.

"The Institute of Medicine sent out initiatives for both physicians and nurses that indicate certain areas of care need more emphasis in the curriculum," explained Stimson. "The way technology and protocols are today, nurses need to be thoroughly prepared in all areas and not just a specific specialty."

According to Stimson, a nurse's role and responsibility has changed dramatically in the last decade. Patient medical records and medication records that used to be kept in writing are now accessible with a keystroke. Technology has completely revolutionized healthcare, leaving physicians and nurses with less room for medical mistakes and holding them to a higher standard of care. This ultimately leads to higher quality and safety standards while achieving better patient outcomes.

"Providing quality, cost effective care is our underlying goal as nurses," said Stimson. "But a higher expectation from informed healthcare consumers, changes in technology, and hospital budget constraints imposed by changing reimbursement legislation has created a need for innovation in the education of nurses." Stimson and her colleagues worked to develop a curriculum that will prepare students for the demanding healthcare environment and also prepare them for one of the most important parts of their nursing careers—the NCLEX-RN exam.

Every student must take the national NCLEX-RN exam in order to be licensed to practice. "This is a very difficult exam," said Stimson. "Changes to the exam in the last couple of years have made it even more challenging for graduates." But Union students pass the NCLEX-RN on their first try 97 percent of the time—consistently ranked at the top of nursing schools in Nebraska and 12 percent above the national average.

In the past, students finished their



Division of Nursing chair Theresa Stimson instructs students Gary Obrique and Stephen Baker on SimMan 3G, Union's high tech patient simulator.

coursework and prepared for the NCLEX-RN on their own. "As a student I didn't really understand how to best prepare for the NCLEX-RN," said Stimson. "Now we are introducing new courses to the program to help students better prepare for the exam."

Students will also benefit from other courses, some of which are student recommendations, and others to address societal changes such as Disaster Nursing and Gerontology. "Our society continues to age and live longer because we have more advanced medical care, resulting in a larger population of elderly than we have ever seen," said Stimson. "It is very important our students understand the unique needs of older patients."

While students currently spend a significant amount of time in clinical rotations, even more acute care experience will better prepare students for professional practice after graduation. "We have added another credit to our clinical courses, which means students will spend an additional 45 hours every semester in clinicals," explained Stimson.

While the length of time students spend in the nursing program has been shortened from six semesters to five, the overall

Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree will still take four years. Now incoming freshman will complete three semesters of prerequisite and general courses before entering the nursing program. "The faculty think it will help students better prepare for the program," said Stimson. "When they are introduced to nursing material they will have already taken valuable classes that serve as a foundation to their knowledge such as psychology and microbiology." The Division of Nursing will admit the first class under the new curriculum in spring semester 2013.

In the end, Stimson believes the new curriculum is important, but not the most important reason to study nursing at Union. "Adventism is something that sets us apart—our philosophy and mission," she said. "We have excellence, but I believe it is because our program is founded on Jesus Christ and His mission to heal and serve others. I believe God has led every student and faculty here for a reason. We all have something to contribute, and I think that is why our students are so successful." **A**

CAMPUS NEWS

Union recognizes 10,000th graduate during commencement ceremony

by Ryan Teller

In the school year marking 120 years since Union College held classes for the first time, the school celebrated another significant milestone during the 2012 commencement ceremony on May 6. When Christopher Mercill crossed the stage to receive his diploma, he became the ten thousandth graduate from the Lincoln campus of Union College.

"It's an honor to be part of this historic event," said the international rescue and relief graduate. "I came to Union for the IRR program and because my mother is a graduate. It feels great to be the ten thousandth."

Mercill, who hopes to get a job with the National Park Service and work at Glacier National Park, joined 155 other graduates in receiving 170 diplomas including 25 students graduating with a master's in physician assistant studies. Of the 36 different majors earned, the most popular are nursing with 31 graduates, physician assistant

studies with 25 and business with 18.

The senior class unveiled the class gift during the ceremony—a four-by-five-foot painting to be hung in the lobby of the new science and mathematics complex. The seniors commissioned Colorado artist Randal May, a Union College alumnus and the father of two Union students, to create the piece to represent the mission of Union College.

"Even though I didn't graduate from Union, I'm still very fond of it and consider it my school," said May. "It's an honor for me to have a piece in the new complex."

Union celebrated a similar graduate milestone in 2008, when Raven Underwood became the ten thousandth graduate to join the Union College Alumni Association. The Alumni Association includes a number of students who received degrees from Union College, but trained at Boulder Sanitarium or in programs in Costa Rica and at Canadian Union College. ▲



President Wagner congratulates Union College's 10,000 graduate, Christopher Mercill.

photos: Steve Nazario

Union launches staff mentorship program

by Ryan Teller

Union College has long been known for the spirit that pervades the campus and the people who work and study here. But sometimes it takes intentionality to help newcomers experience the Union spirit. Last school year, the college began a mentorship program for new staff members to give them the opportunity to learn from the many other employees who have dedicated much of their lives to Union.

"I enjoyed learning about what happens in other departments," said Salli Jenks, administrative assistant in Financial Administration who joined Union's staff one year ago. "But I really enjoyed getting to know my mentor, Cheri Blue. She taught me a lot about Union's culture. I came from a large medical facility and I had a lot of adjusting to do. Union is more like a family and Cheri really helped me. She has been here a long time and her love for Union College was very evident in our conversations."

The two met for lunch once each month throughout the school year. Sometimes they discussed the questions in the

provided outline, and other times they addressed pressing issues that one or the other faced.

"Our goal was to find a way to help newer staff transition into successful, long-term employees at Union College," said Becky Daniel, chair of the staff advisory committee who, along with human resource director Jonathan Shields, developed the program. "We wanted to provide professional growth for young employees and a support system for recently hired staff."

"As the human resource director, I was startled when I saw a report that of 150 full-time employees, 35 are age 60 or older," Shields explained. "These workers will soon start to retire, so we needed to develop a more strategic transition plan. Many of our long-term employees are happy to pass on their experience and commitment to more recent hires and help keep the Union spirit alive for many years to come."

To help facilitate the mentorship meetings for staff, the college administration

agreed to subsidize the cost of the monthly lunch meetings. The program's trial run during the 2011-12 school year included 11 mentorship pairs from departments all across campus. "Participants felt the program was worthwhile," said Daniel. "Sometimes colleges focus on providing growth opportunities for faculty and overlook the support staff. I'm very excited that Union has made this investment."

"The most valuable part for me was gaining a lifelong friend," said Cheri Blue, administrative assistant in Information Systems. "Salli and I had an instant connection and were able to freely share our problems and our triumphs."

As an employee of Union College for 32 years, Blue understands the importance of helping new staff understand Union's unique culture. "We are like a family personally and professionally," she explained. "New staff need to know that we are a team and we support each other in good times as well as bad." ▲

A test of faith

by Kelly Phipps

Victoria Tobing's faith collapsed around her. No longer sure of what she believed or the meaning of faith and God, the sophomore history and religious education major turned to Union College's new spiritual mentorship program for spiritual support in her time of need.

In fall 2011, Union College launched a pilot spiritual mentorship program which allowed students to develop a spiritual growth plan with the guidance of a mentor instead of having the traditional worship service attendance requirements.

"It was something different and it sounded challenging," said Tobing. "I'm a very private person and I hoped that I would grow more when I confronted my spiritual walk during one-on-one sessions rather than only group settings."

Each participant was paired with a spiritual mentor from Union's faculty or staff and developed a spiritual plan based on the three phases of a healthy spiritual life: a personal commitment, fellowship and worship, and response through outreach and service.

"Students are more likely to develop a lasting walk with God if they can do it in their own way," said Pastor Rich Carlson, Union's chaplain. "This pilot program is one more way our campus can be a place of spiritual learning and growth."

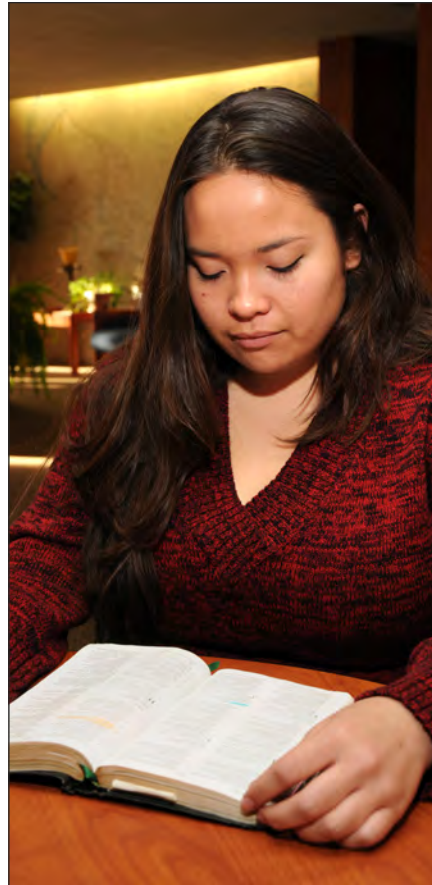
Fifteen students joined the plan in the fall and met with mentors several times throughout the semester to review the plan and progress. Ten more joined the program in spring semester.

"I enjoyed the thought of someone taking time to focus on what I was grappling with," explained Tobing. "I thought, 'Ah, finally, all of my questions can be answered and all of my stories can be heard.'"

She met with her mentor, Dr. Y.J. Moses, professor of education, and began to develop a spiritual plan. But not far into the school year, Tobing experienced her first significant test.

As a professor in one of her religion classes discussed the variety of views of the nature of Christ during His time on earth, Tobing began to question if her simplistic faith in His sacrifice was enough.

"Was Jesus' human nature like that of Adam and Eve before they sinned?" she wondered. "If so, Jesus would not have dealt with the sinful tendencies of a fallen nature."



When Victoria Tobing experienced a crisis of faith, her spiritual mentor pointed her to Jesus.

But what if the opposite were true? If Jesus possessed the nature of humans after sin, was his sacrifice sufficient to cover our sins? The whole idea blindsided Tobing and shook her faith to its core. "I was frightened to think that maybe the faith I had rested on my whole life wasn't enough," she remembered.

She turned to Moses, but her mentor pointed her to Jesus. "He didn't coddle me or tell me everything was okay," she said. "He knew that it was a major growing pain that I'd have to face, so he prayed with me and listened to me."

Through prayer and tearful sessions with her mentor—many more than the usual three or four—Tobing began to build a faith based on her own experience, not the ideas passed down from her parents.

"These past few months I have come closer to realizing what it truly means to be in a relationship with Jesus," she said. "I know now what it's like to wrestle with God." **A**

Give To Lincoln Day

by Ruby Ruano

Union College enjoys one of the highest rates of alumni giving in the country, thanks to loyal graduates and hard-working employees. When the city had a chance to support Union in a new way during the first Give to Lincoln Day in May, Union's alumni came through again—to the tune of nearly \$20,000.

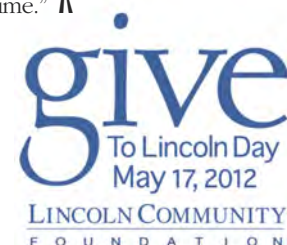
On May 17, the Lincoln Community Foundation collaborated with online donation processor Razoo to sponsor a day to promote philanthropy in the Lincoln community. The more than 180 local non-profit organizations that participated received a free page on the Give To Lincoln website and became eligible to receive part of a \$200,000 grant provided by the Lincoln Community Foundation.

That day, a local media advertising campaign encouraged Lincoln residents to visit the site and give a gift to their favorite charity. Social media and email also helped Union spread the news to alumni, students and faculty.

"This event provided a great opportunity for us to promote Union to donors in the city of Lincoln," explained LuAnn Davis, vice president for Advancement. "Many of our own faculty and staff participated, too, giving us one of the top spots on the list."

At the end of the day Union raised \$15,270 and was ranked number 18 in total donors, giving the school an additional \$2,736.77 from the Give To Lincoln Day grant. Donations continued in the days that followed adding another \$5,170, and bringing the total to \$20,440 from 88 donors. The funds will be added to the Union College fund, which helps provide scholarships, technology and resources.

"It was a great and unique event for all of Lincoln to get involved," said Chris Johnson, a 2008 graduate who coordinated the event for Union. "People had the opportunity to donate from any location in their own time." **A**





Union College Exhibit Wins International Communication Award

by Kelly Phipps



Union College's exhibit at the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta recently won a prestigious 2012 Gold Quill Award for Excellence in Business Communication, presented by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC).

While preparing for the meeting of the world Seventh-day Adventist Church,

tries stopped to talk about their Volkswagen memories, prospective students explored the stations, watched the film, *Amazing Race to Union College*, and talked to enthusiastic recruiters. The climbing wall alone had more than 500 climbers per day. The interactive nature of the exhibit is what ultimately won the award.

Union College teamed up with Vision Exhibits, a local exhibit services company, to develop a booth display designed to create a memorable experience for the 70,000 Adventists who attended the convention (*CORDmagazine*, Winter 2012, p. 6).

The 20x60 foot exhibit featured a 25-foot high climbing wall, along with the Volkswagen bus as the main attraction, allowing parents and prospective students to "Experience the Spirit" of Union. As parents from different states and coun-

"The bus turned out to be a huge hit at the session," said Steve Nazario, director of visual communication for Union College. "The Union College booth received lots of attention from attendees and the media." He and the Marketing Communication team at Union developed the design, videos and materials for the display and Vision Exhibits helped the team fit their ideas into a convention exhibit in a cost-effective way.

Janet Denison, president of Vision Exhibits, recognized the unprecedented impact and popularity of the booth and entered it into the 2012 Quill Awards. The 2012 IABC competition received nearly 700 entries from 23 countries. Of these, 24 were selected to receive awards of excellence. The Gold Quill Award entries endured two rigorous rounds of judging by top senior communicators from around the world, and Denison received the award on behalf of Vision Exhibits and Union College at the Gold Quill Awards gala dinner on June 25 at the IABC 2012 World Conference in Chicago.

"It's an honor to represent the achievements of Union College and to have our efforts recognized with the IABC Gold Quill Award of Excellence," Denison said.

The Amazing Race to Union College

As part of the exhibit, visitors were invited to watch Union's film, *Amazing Race to Union College*, which provided a glimpse of life in Lincoln and on Union's campus in the form of a parody on the popular reality television show, *The Amazing Race*. The film also won a Best of Show award in the Higher Ed Marketing Report's 26th annual Education Advertising Awards. Union College partnered with Andy Seiler '08, owner of CueMotion Studios, to create the video, one of 16 "Best of Show" winners among 2,500 entries from colleges across the United States. To watch the film go to www.ucollege.edu/amazingrace. **A**

For Eden Sang, sophomore engineering major from Minnesota, Union College was always just a name he saw from time to time in *Outlook*. He never considered attending until Union's newest icon and a campus visit reeled him in.

While attending the 2010 General Conference (GC) in Atlanta Ga., Sang stumbled upon the Union College booth. Remembering it from the magazine ad, he decided to take a look. Expecting just pamphlets and brochures, Sang, who loves cars, was immediately drawn to the 1967 Volkswagen Microbus.

That trip to the GC inspired Sang and a friend to visit for a Preview Days. The warm atmosphere created in the student body surprised him.

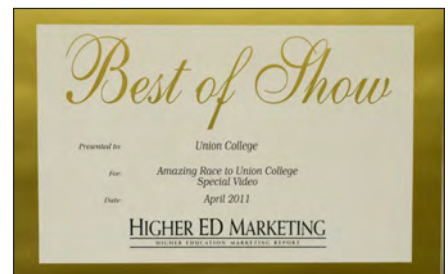
"I loved the reception I got here on campus," recalled Sang.

The more Sang thought about it, he realized Union was where God wanted him to be. Since attending Union, Sang has seen God work in his life.

"The people I have met are genuinely seeking God," said Sang. "This is something I value."

Sang was also deeply inspired by the countless chances to volunteer on campus, in the community and abroad. Sang is involved in Job Ministries and Laboring Youth for Christ.

While Union College received an award for the recruiting exhibit, the true reward is students like Sang who become part of the Union experience.



Students shape new biomedical science major

by Joellyn Sheehy

Eric Bing knew that he wanted to stay at Union and he wanted to be a doctor, but he couldn't find a course of study that fit him. "I loved the environment and the people, but I just didn't feel like any majors were right for me," said the junior pre-med student. "I left Union for a while to go searching. While I was away, I solidified my dream of becoming an emergency room doctor and realized that Union really is the best place for me. I've been to a bunch of different schools and Union is by far my favorite."

Now, thanks to the work of Bing and several other students and professors, Union College is launching a new major for students like him with an interest in biomedical science, the study of sciences that pertain to the human body and medicine. Previously at Union, and at most other colleges, those planning to attend medical, dental or other biomedical professional schools have to take their prerequisite science classes as electives in an unrelated major or choose a completely science-focused degree program such as biology or chemistry. Frankie Rose, assistant professor of biology at Union College, and a group of pre-professional students hope the new biomedical major will help fill the gap for students who are forced to compromise their passions in pursuit of a profession.

"I was talking to a friend who really wanted a biomedical major and who had spoken with Dr. Rose," said Bing. "I got curious so went to speak with him as well. When we came in, the idea was still just a sketch. We didn't talk about it with other people, but we toyed with the idea of making a biomedical degree. When we started looking at other schools' programs online, we began to realize that this was something Union could do."

The new major contains a large section

of study devoted to another field, or supporting area, outside of science. Students, with the help of advisors, will be able to choose classes or possibly an entire minor in other areas of study. "Our initial idea was to make it just about science," said Rose. "The key turning point was when Ben Herzog, a junior international rescue and relief and pre-med major, was working with me in the lab. He said the core of the degree should be science related to medicine, but that another component should be elected purely by the student in another area of interest."

Rose emphasizes that this major will not replace any other degree, but instead fill a gap for students who don't feel like they belong in other programs. "Some programs, such as international rescue

match the facilities that are being created."

Changes to the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) in 2015 will add a section on social and behavioral science and modify other parts that test students' critical thinking, placing even greater emphasis on students' well-roundedness. "The topic of biomedical science is broadly important because of how changes in the content of the MCAT will affect the recommended courses taken by pre-med students," said Malcolm Russell, vice president for Academic Administration.

The new major has been inserted into the 2012-2013 academic bulletin. This means students who meet all the requirements could be eligible to graduate with the major as early as the coming academic year. "Amazingly, everything has gone

very smoothly," said Rose. "I keep expecting to find barriers, but so far every door has opened wide."

The idea of a biomedical major is not new, but the plans for Union's program distinguish it from the rest. "What we're creating here, with the supporting area, is completely unique in the U.S. as far as we can find," said Rose. "I cannot take credit for any of the key features, it has been shaped by students

and alumni. Students really have designed this degree."

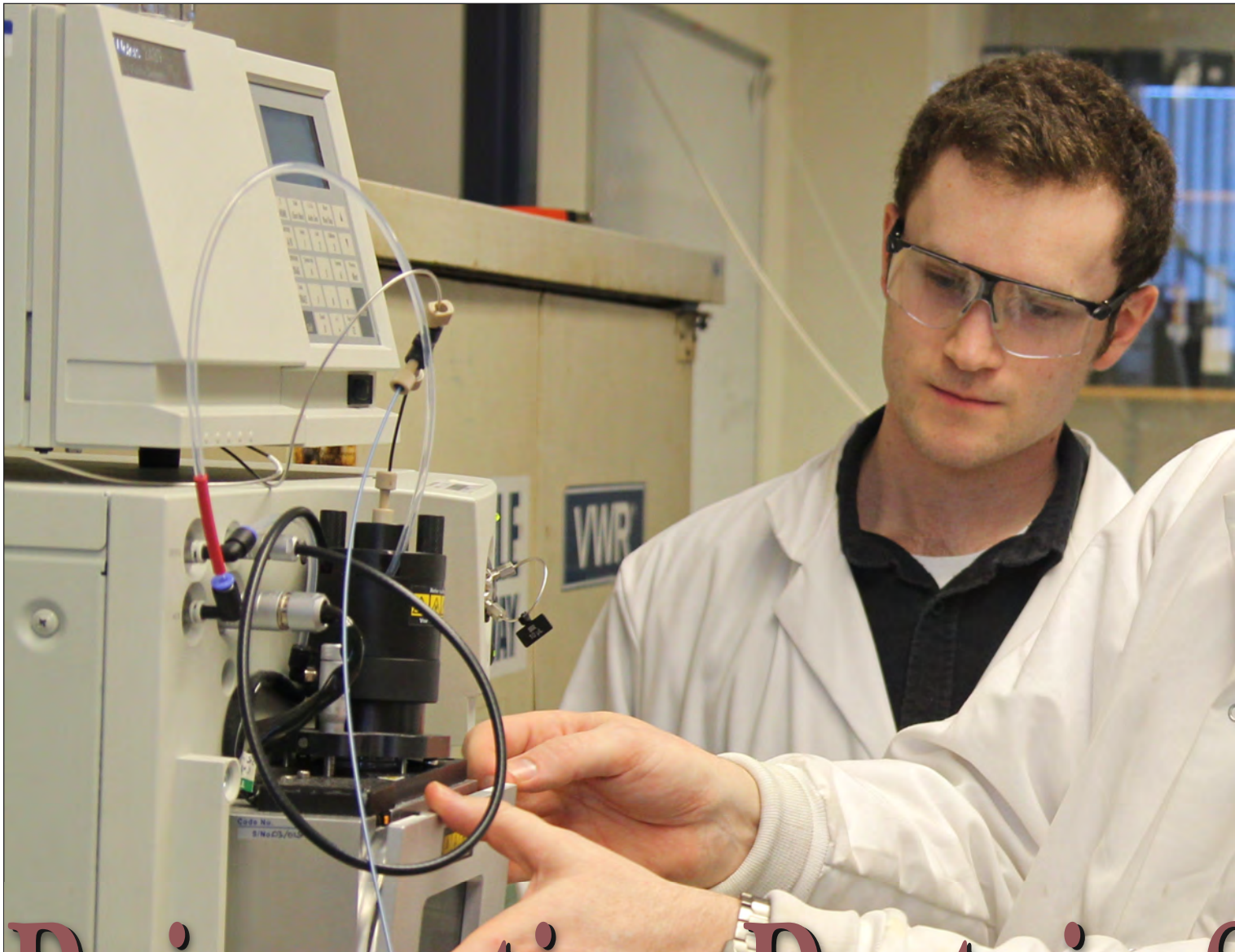
The new major will help students interested in pursuing science take control of their education and what they need to learn. "We really designed it to be a good preparation for professional school," explained Bing. "I feel like it will fill a gap between undergraduate studies and the first year of medical school, when you get slammed with information. It'll give students more of a feel for what they're going into. It's such an honor to be able to help people in a way they can't help themselves. That's why I want to go into medicine." ▲



Eric Bing and several other premed majors helped Dr. Frankie Rose, associate professor of biology, develop a new major designed for medical preprofessional students.

and relief and business, have gone out of their way to help students integrate their medical or dental school prerequisites," he said. "This program is not meant to compete with what they have or take away from them at all, it is just another option."

The development of the new program is timely as it coincides with changes in medical schools' requirements and the construction of the science and mathematics complex. The high-tech labs and increased lecture space of the new building will be important in making a biomedical degree at Union possible. "The improved facilities are really vital for this new major," stressed Rose. "We need to continually progress and evolve our programs to



Reinventing Protein S

Union College alumnus takes mass spectrometry analysis to new levels

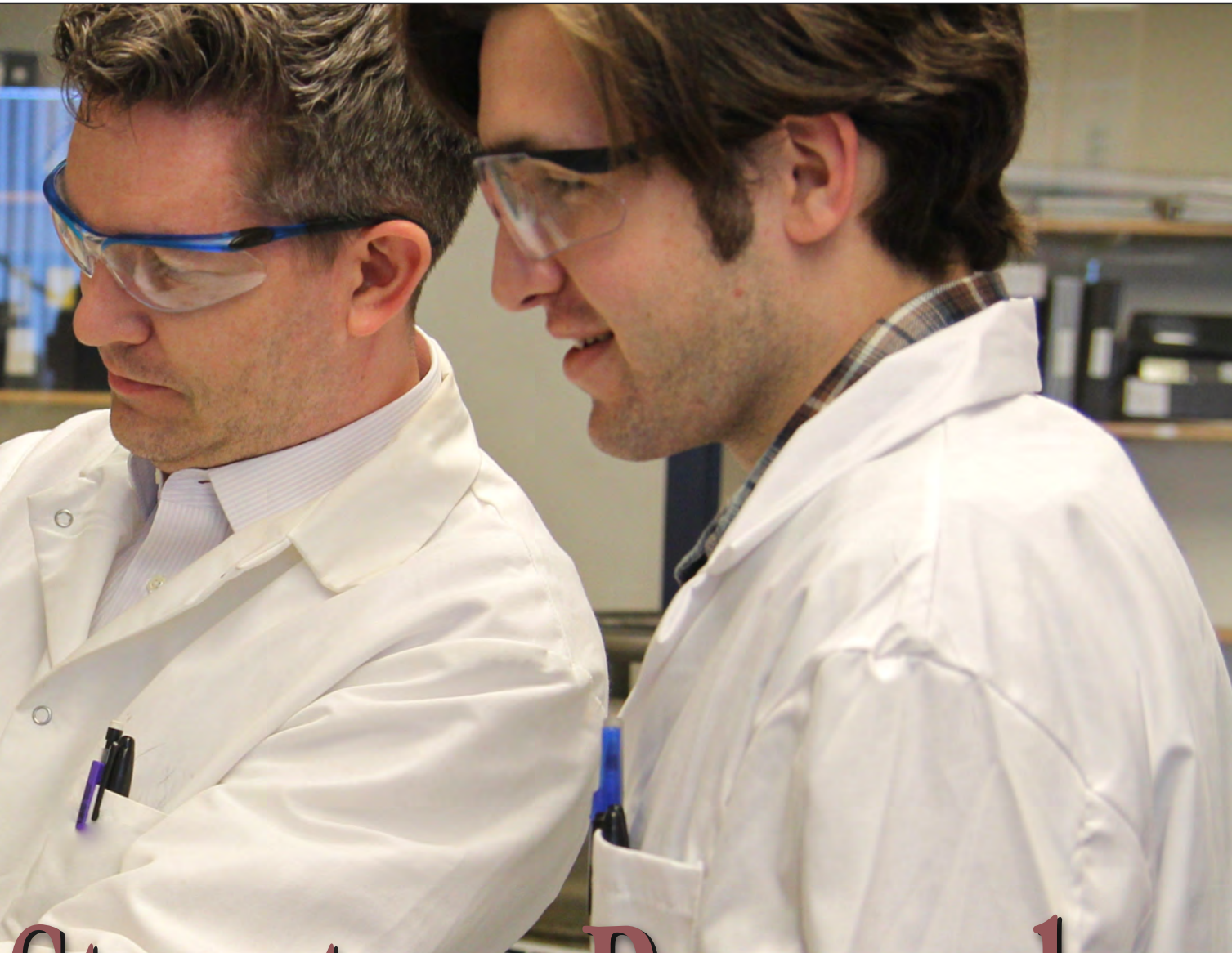
When chemistry professor and Union College graduate John Engen '94 realized the equipment he needed to move forward with his hydrogen-deuterium exchange mass spectrometry research on protein structure didn't yet exist, he

created the necessary tools by patching together pieces of existing laboratory equipment.

And when his research surpassed the limitations of those customized tools, he approached the biotechnology firm Waters Corporation with his idea to use liquid chromatography technology to separate protein molecules in a way that had never before been done.

Now, seven years later, that idea has come to life in the form of a unique temperature-controlled cooling instrument that measures the dynamic structure of proteins in a faster and more accurate way than ever before. This new system holds the potential to allow researchers to develop new treatments for some of the world's most common diseases.

Biopharmaceuticals—including those used to treat patients with cancer and HIV/AIDS—are becoming increasingly common, and researchers and drug developers need a system to discover and ensure the safety and effectiveness of new medications. For years, only a few analytical chemists were able to perform the existing techniques. But Engen's system, recently released for commercial use,



Structure Research

by Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04

photos: courtesy of John Engen

gives researchers in laboratories and pharmaceutical companies access to the equipment needed to identify and learn about these proteins and their implications in medicine and disease treatment.

The Road to Research

John Engen grew up in Boulder, Colo. His father was a forensic chemist and his mother, also a Union graduate, used her master's degree in public health at a local health department. Engen, who recalls playing with his father's lab equipment as a child, graduated from Union College in 1994 with a degree in biology and returned the following year to complete a degree in chemistry.

He stayed in Lincoln and earned his Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and then completed postdoctoral studies at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany, and Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

In the years since graduating from Union, Engen has become recognized as an expert in the use of mass spectrometry and hydrogen-deuterium exchange to study protein structure and dynamics.

Engen first opened an independent laboratory facility at the University of New Mexico, and in 2006, he accepted a position as professor of bioanalytical chemistry at Northeastern University in Boston, where he opened the John R. Engen Laboratory. Engen also serves as Faculty Fellow in the Barnett Institute of Chemical and Biological Analysis.

In June 2012, the John R. Engen Laboratory moved into a new building in downtown Boston, designated as a Waters Center of Innovation based on the university's decades-long partnership with the Waters Corporation.

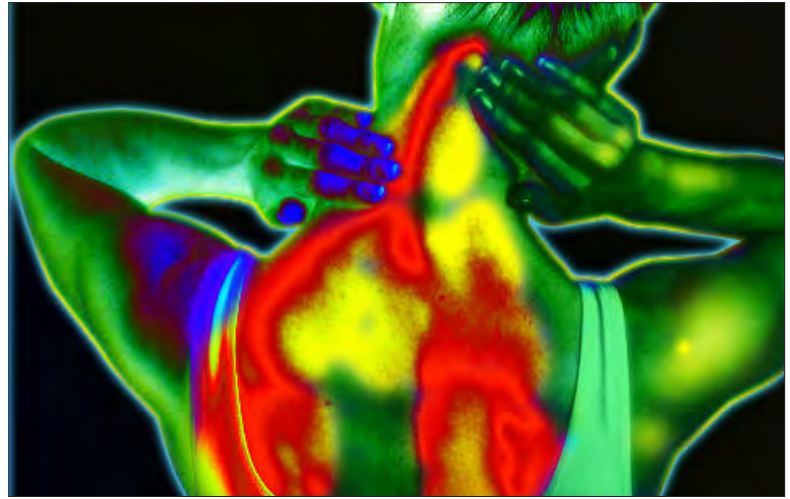
The John R. Engen Laboratory is an analytical chemistry laboratory, focusing on measuring proteins and protein-related molecules using mass spectrometry. Using this method, the researchers weigh atoms and use the resulting calculations to learn more about the atoms' structure and dynamics. That information helps them learn more about how proteins relate to illness and disease, including viral replication, strokes, HIV and cancer proteins.

Engen and his students and staff collaborate with local medical

(continued on page 30)

Fighting a forbidden foe

by Ryan Teller



Union alum spends career searching for answers about fibromyalgia

Most everyone had long since gone home, but a small group still pressed around him, asking questions, desperate for answers. When I. Jon Russell '65, M.D., Ph.D., American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Master, visited Union College in April 2011, nearly 600 Lincoln residents gathered to hear him talk about advances in treatment for fibromyalgia, a disorder often marginalized by the medical community.

Late into the night he continued to field questions, trying to bring hope to many who have suffered without answers. This scene has been repeated many times over the years, as Russell has traveled the world, drawing on his more than 30 years of research and teaching experience in an effort to support the sufferers who, when he began, had virtually no champion in the world of medicine. He finds that even today, many people, especially outside medicine, believe the disorder simply to be widespread pain or a catchall when doctors can't make a diagnosis.

Russell first became interested in the topic after examining fibromyalgia patients during his rheumatology fellowship in the mid 1970s at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. "I was convinced they were telling us the truth about their symptoms, but many of my colleagues did not consider the patients' condition to be real," Russell said. "I'm naturally a supporter of the underdog, so I felt a responsibility to try to help."

He spent the next 32 years researching the disorder while on faculty at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. Even when faced with censure from his division chairman because the chairman didn't consider fibromyalgia to be an appropriate topic for research, Russell persisted and outlasted his detractor. When the university eventually chose to transition from a research model to a clinical model, Russell was already 67 years old. He decided to retire and start a research clinic in the San Antonio community where he could continue his work.

Russell founded the *Journal of Musculoskeletal Pain* 18 years ago, and still serves as its editor-in-chief. A senior editor at Taylor and Francis Press in London, he has also published over one hundred research articles on fibromyalgia and related topics.

Having led or participated in many groundbreaking research projects over the years, Russell is probably best known for a se-

ries of studies showing biochemical abnormalities in the spinal fluid of fibromyalgia sufferers. More recently, "we've discovered two genes and a dysfunctional G protein-coupled receptor associated with fibromyalgia," he said.

While still at University of Texas, pharmaceutical companies began taking notice of Russell's work as they saw a possible market for treatment of fibromyalgia. "Our research reports had identified therapeutic targets for the development of medications for the treatment of fibromyalgia patients, so the companies asked me to consult," he explained. Russell has consulted with six different companies on a host of medications, three of which are now approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for this indication and are commonly used to treat fibromyalgia.

What is fibromyalgia?

"A common misconception is that fibromyalgia is just about pain," Russell said. "It is a painful condition, but people with fibromyalgia are very troubled by cognitive dysfunction. They don't feel like they can remember things. If a clinician performs a cognitive assessment of a person with fibromyalgia, the results are consistent with someone much older. That would suggest that fibromyalgia is a condition of premature aging." Sufferers also experience fatigue, chronic headaches, chest and neck pain, irritable bowel and bladder and often, such severe sleep dysfunction that they are not able to replenish vital energy.

Russell's own research has shown that symptoms stem from something more than imagination. "We have many pieces of information—including spinal fluid studies and images of the brain showing altered central nervous system function in fibromyalgia—all of which support the concept that fibromyalgia is a real medical disorder," he explained.

The research findings have been critical to establishing the nature of the fibromyalgia syndrome, but he contends that the clinical signs and symptoms of fibromyalgia are so consistent that it is really unnecessary to document biochemical changes in the spinal fluid or to conduct medical imaging for every fibromyalgia patient who comes to the physician for medical care.

How widespread is it?

In a city the size of Lincoln, Russell believes that as many as 5,000-6,000 people suffer from fibromyalgia. “Based on a study conducted in Wichita, Kan., 10 percent of the general population has chronic widespread pain,” he explained. “Twenty percent of this number [about two percent of the general population] suffers from fibromyalgia—a subset of those with chronic widespread pain.”

Fibromyalgia is most likely to strike women during or after their childbearing years and then does not resolve. “Nearly 10 percent of women in their fifties and sixties suffer from fibromyalgia,” Russell said. “And more than seven in ten cases are female.”

Is there treatment?

Although fibromyalgia is treatable, it is not yet curable. Russell has seen promising results from a variety of treatments. Using a combination of medications and lifestyle changes, “we have seen patients who are dramatically improved,” he said.

Russell believes physicians are now under pressure to take fibromyalgia more seriously. “But they have many disorders to care for,” he explained. “Their training and continuing education may not have prepared them for treating fibromyalgia.” But because there are now medications approved by the FDA for treatment of fibromyalgia, “pharmaceutical companies are helping with the effort to educate physicians about fibromyalgia and about how to use the new medications most effectively.”

It started back at Union

Russell arrived at Union College with an interest in researching medical disease. He enrolled in the pre-med program with a major in chemistry. He then earned a master's and a doctoral degree in biochemistry and nutrition from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln before graduating from Loma Linda University School of Medicine. He completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in rheumatology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., before joining the rheumatology faculty of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Russell feels his courses and teachers at Union gave him a strong foundation for graduate education. “I didn't have to struggle in the graduate school program because I was well prepared at Union,” he said. “I think the same was true for the science courses in medical school.”

His first year at Union proved very different, however. “I had not studied chemistry in high school. Many of my classmates in Union's General Chemistry course came to college having had high school chemistry. They started the course with a much better grasp of chemistry terminology and concepts than I did,” he said. “I was so grateful to teachers like Dr. Warren Murdoch '52, Dr.

René Evard and Dr. Earl Leonhardt '50 who helped me through that first year and helped me to enjoy classes like organic and physical chemistry.”

“Dr. Murdoch was probably my favorite teacher,” Russell remembered.” He was very tall with curly black hair, a big unruly mustache, and a quizzical smile—he looked like the stereotypical absent-minded professor. He would draw out on the blackboard a sequence of organic chemistry synthesis steps and then say, “Isn't this fun? He really went out of his way to help students who wanted to learn.”

But life at Union wasn't all science. “I probably spent 90 percent of my time on science and math,” he said. “But the social activities are what I remember most. I met my wife, Barbara Runnels Russell '63, M.Ed., at Union and we married during the summer before my senior year.”

Russell also traces a love of art back to an elective art history course at Union. “I ate it up,” he said. “I have since become an amateur artist.” Russell's paintings hang on the walls of his practice and he is preparing a series of coffee table books to display the more than

1,000 pencil portraits he's drawn of people he has met all over the world. His love of art also seeped into his scientific world when he began using portraits by famous painters on the covers of his medical journal. For each issue, he writes a brief biography of the featured artist, of the artist's model, and of the artist's contemporary supporters. “For me, this is Art History-202,” he said.

Family and future


Russell and his wife have been married for 48 years and have three children. Their oldest son followed in his father's footsteps, earning a Ph.D. and M.D., and is now on the faculty at Harvard School of Medicine, leading a program to develop an artificial pancreas for the treatment of diabetes. Their second son is a computer engineer and musician, and their daughter is a personal trainer with a physical education degree. “Our children are all married. We love each of their spouses and our three little grandsons.” Now nearly 70 years old, Russell continues to see patients, test new fibromyalgia

drugs, write teaching materials for patients and physicians, and lecture around the globe. “Right now, one of my projects is helping juveniles with fibromyalgia to find effective treatment,” he said. “I still have energy and can still tie my shoelaces. I think the good Lord is keeping me healthy, so I should repay.”

Russell feels grateful for his time at Union. “When I was at Union, the education was very good. Our facilities were adequate for the time, but the building really looks dated now,” he explained. “A new science complex is needed for Union to continue to grow in the science arena. This new physical plant for science and mathematics will serve the immediate needs and will provide room for expansion.” ▲



Dr. I. Jon Russell '65 gave a lecture about fibromyalgia at Union College in April 2011.

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a white lab coat over a green patterned scarf, is focused on her work in a laboratory. She is holding a circular metal tray with a grid of small wells, some containing a yellow substance. She is using a tool to interact with a slot on a white machine. The machine has a yellow label that reads "Pin range: 0.5-4.5" and "Check sample pin before applying". Below it, a white label says "DO NOT LEAVE THIS COMPARTMENT OPEN" and "LOW: PROOF WILL CONTINUE TO RUN". In the background, a computer monitor and keyboard are visible on a desk.

Vicki
Schlegel:
Finding
the healing
powers
of food

Vicki Schlegel '84 is passionate about food—but she's not looking for the next secret sauce featured on the Food Network or 13 exquisite ways cook a potato. As an associate professor at the University of Nebraska Food Science and Technology Department, she heads a research team working to uncover the hidden healing powers of food—a journey that began in Jorgensen Hall more than 30 years ago.

"I developed a love for chemistry from my dad, a high school teacher. He taught chemistry and math for 40 years," she recalled. As a child, when Schlegel and her two sisters asked questions about nature and life, he always opened his response with, "according to the laws of chemistry and physics."

"I began to see the world from a chemical perspective," said Schlegel. "I took all the high school chemistry classes I could." But it was the people in Jorgensen Hall who helped her bond to a clear vision for her lifework. The close-knit group of students and professors created a spirit of camaraderie, and also pushed her to be her best.

As teaching assistant for new (at the time) chemistry professor Charles Freidline, Schlegel developed a love for teaching new concepts to the students in her labs. She also became interested in nutrition at Union, because the Adventist view of diet made her

certain diseases.

"As Adventists, we have a health message so we already know this," Schlegel pointed out. "A lot of people don't understand how diet affects health, but now on a national level we are realizing that diet is linked to disease or the prevention of disease. This is one of those things I think Adventists need to refocus on."

Schlegel hopes this research will provide scientific evidence for people to use food and diet as an alternative to pharmaceuticals and help raise their quality of life. She also seeks to better understand how to customize diets based on a person's genetic makeup. "If you're predisposed to diabetes, you can customize a diet to fight that," explained Schlegel. "But we have a long way to go because it's a very complex problem. Foods in themselves are complex and so is our body."

A passion for science

Her passion for science reaches far beyond the walls of her research lab and classroom. While in graduate school, she met and married Brad Plantz, a microbiologist who recently started working for Cargill. "He is also a scientist," she said. "I can talk to him about my research and he understands it." These similar interests

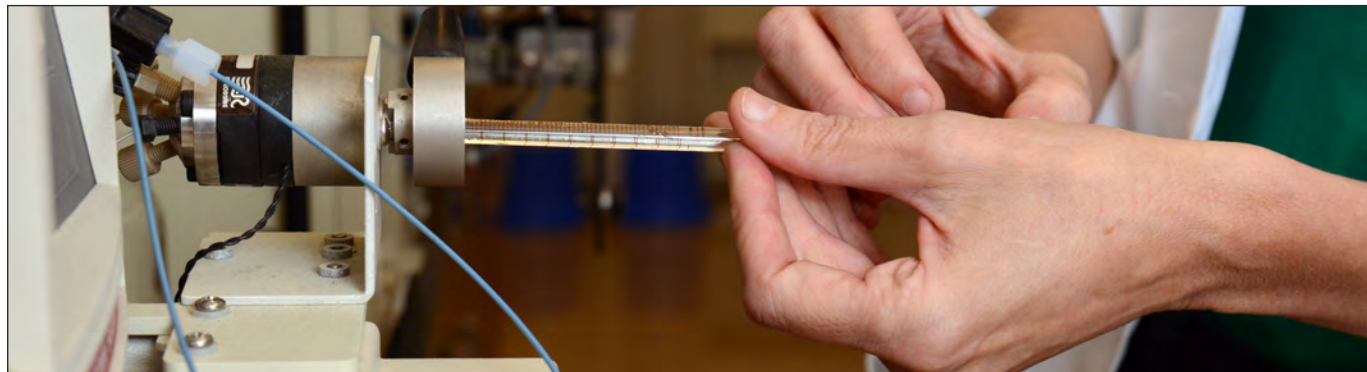


photo: Steve Nazario

curious about the chemical makeup of food.

When graduation loomed and Schlegel weighed her options, Dr. David Duran, a chemistry professor at Union who was finishing a doctorate at the time, encouraged her to attend graduate school to find a teaching career that could help satisfy her desire to do research and teach. Schlegel then earned a master's in Analytical Chemistry from University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Iowa State University. "I just really enjoy working with students," she said. "Graduate school allowed me to combine my passion for chemistry with both teaching and research."

A passion for food

Schlegel then found an outlet for her interests on the faculty of the University of Nebraska Food Science and Technology Department when she began studying nutraceuticals—the ingredients and chemicals in food that either prevent or cure a disease.

"At this point we don't understand how nutraceuticals work," explained Schlegel. The complex makeup of food creates all sorts of chemical reactions within the body, and she hopes to ultimately understand how the nutraceuticals in food can be used to prevent disease. Focusing primarily on commodities grown in Nebraska, such as dry edible beans, corn, wheat and soybeans, she believes her work will give back to Nebraskans and provide information to people throughout the world on what foods best prevent or fight

also lead to shared interests like watching science documentaries, exploring Nebraska state parks and counting fireflies in the backyard to report on a tracking website. "That may not sound like fun to everyone, but it's fun for us to do together because not a lot of people want to talk about those things with us."

A passion for Union's promising future

Schlegel believes it was her experience at Union that led her to a promising future, and now she wants Union students to have that same experience. "Jorgensen Hall was old when I was there, and I graduated in 1984," said Schlegel. "But Union has made such an impact on my life. If it wasn't for my time at Union, I wouldn't be in a career that I absolutely love."

Schlegel knows that every science department needs to update to keep up with technology and research, and she is excited to see Union is building a new science and mathematics complex to better meet the needs of students planning to attend medical school or other graduate schools. "The only way we can do that is through newer facilities and newer instrumentation," explained Schlegel. "Although it will be sad to let Jorgensen go, it is time to let it go."

Union has raised \$12.5 million of the \$14.5 million for the *Our Promising Future* campaign to help fund construction for the new building. If you want to be a part of Union's promising future, please visit: <http://www.ucollege.edu/ourpromisingfuture>

Alumnus inspires medical r



photo: Steve Nazario

Dr. Charles Freidline and Erome Hankore Daniel spent last school year researching the medical benefits of electrophoresis footbaths at the request of Union alumnus, Dr. Shaun Lehmann.

Shaun Lehmann stared at the odd device on his kitchen table—just a plastic tub holding a metal contraption submerged in salt-water solution and connected to an impressive-looking controller. The 1993 Union College chemistry graduate, always a skeptic, wanted to see if his purchase really lived up to its maker's claims. Would the electrophoresis footbath remove toxins from the human body? Or was all the junk left in the water simply a chemical reaction from electrolysis?

research at Union College

by Ruby Ruano

Now a physician in suburban Houston, Texas, who prefers to help his patients learn good nutrition and wellness practices rather than relying on pharmaceuticals, Lehmann wanted to know if they would benefit from the footbath treatments. “When the footbaths began to show up in our area, people asked us for advice on the product,” explained Lehmann. Since he couldn’t find any scientific studies on the topic, “I didn’t mind researching so I bought one to see what it was for myself.”

With the help of his father, also a chemist, he began to experiment with the device. “The biggest question was whether the electrolysis was taking something out of the body or possibly putting something back into the body,” he explained.

Doctors who practice alternative medicine use electrophoresis footbaths to ‘cleanse’ the body with a low electrical charge between two electrodes believed to bind to toxins and discharge them in the water.

When a patient undergoes a footbath treatment, the clear electrolyte solution turns to a brown thick gel-like material. The brown residue is thought to be the impurities removed from the body through the therapy, and many patients have reported feeling better after treatments. During his experimentation, Lehmann and his father discovered that the water still turned brown when the device was run without feet being in the solution. “A lot of people think all that gunk is coming from the feet, but they need to know that it is also part of the process occurring from chemical reactions,” Lehmann explained. “We wanted to find out if there are any organic materials coming from the body.”

For help, Lehmann turned to his old friend and mentor, Dr. Charles Freidline, professor of chemistry at Union College. “When we presented our question to Dr. Freidline, he was immediately interested,” said Lehmann.

“Dr. Freidline wanted to create a study for students to work on, and this one was available for me to do,” explained Erome Daniel Hankore, a senior chemistry major who worked on the project as part of her Research Methods class. “No one had touched this area except for a recent study done only this year, so it was exciting to discover new data.”

In fall 2011, Freidline and Courtney Dupper, a December 2011 chemistry graduate, began their research with Lehmann’s footbath. Hankore also joined the project and took over when Dupper graduated in December.

The students first ran the process with and without feet and tested for nonpolar compounds, which could be extracted from the water and tested using gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS).

Finding nothing, they started testing the water for polar compounds—ingredients that could not be separated from the water—using liquid chromatography equipment in the Union College laboratory. “Up until now it wasn’t really known what the footbaths exactly did for the body,” said Freidline. “It has taken a lot of trial and error, but we have discovered many new things that we weren’t expecting. For example, the electrolysis only produces fresh, gelatinous, iron III hydride solid that surrounds the feet. The

electrolysis process does not include the patient in any way. In other words, no current passes through the feet.”

“The footbath is a growing part of medicine and few people have studied it,” Hankore said. “We tried many different samples of the solution before we even involved people in the testing. When we finally did trials with people, we could clearly identify the differences in the solution.”

But she allows that it still may be too soon to tell if the footbath has a significant chemical effect on the body. “It may be psychological as much as it is medical and we may need to study the placebo effect,” she said. “There are so many possibilities, but I feel my contribution was showing that if there are any toxins coming out of the body, they are most likely polar compounds.”

Freidline submitted the research abstract to Nebraska Academy of Sciences, and Hankore was invited to present at the 112th Annual Nebraska Academy of Sciences meeting. She gave a 15-minute presentation to more than 70 professors and students from various colleges and universities from Nebraska and surrounding states.


Although Hankore graduated in May, chemistry students Cara Flemmer and Daniel Story will continue to study the chemical effects of the footbaths. “By using high performance liquid chromatography, we have found several compounds in the water after running the process with feet in the solution,” Freidline explained. “We think some are amino acids, but we don’t have the equipment to identify them.”

Freidline hopes to partner with Dr. Dan Snow at the University of Nebraska Water Sciences Laboratory and use their liquid chromatography mass spectrometer to identify the compounds his team discovered in the footbath solution. He also plans to have students test the footbath on sick people who presumably have more toxins to be pulled from the body than do healthy people.

More than providing valuable information for the scientific and medical community, applying their knowledge through research projects and other practical applications helps students find a direction for their future. “This project really inspired me to look into research programs in graduate school,” says Hankore, who came to Union to prepare for medical school. “It helped me link medicine to research and I loved finding out about the process that happens to improve medicine.”

Years earlier, Freidline also altered the course of Lehmann’s life when he called to offer the prospective transfer student a job in his lab as Lehmann weighed his educational options going into his junior year. “I would have gone to Walla Walla College to continue my engineering degree,” Lehmann remembered. “Out of the blue, Dr. Freidline called me one day and offered me a job. It was a big deal for me.”

The two still stay in touch. “He is my favorite professor,” Lehmann said. “He is the reason I attended Union College.”

For more information about Union’s science program or updates on construction of the new science and mathematics complex, visit www.ucollege.edu. 

Science Build



Right: Union College held a special ground breaking ceremony for the new science and mathematics complex during Homecoming Weekend on April 6, 2012.

Above: An International tractor helped break ground for Jorgensen Hall in 1944 (Sept. 25, 1944).



photos: Steve Nazario



Above: A last look at the north side of campus at the end of the 2011-12 school year (May 7, 2012).

Right: Immediately after graduation, excavators began digging up the parking lots behind Rees Hall to prepare the site for the new building (May 22, 2012)

Far right: Workmen lay footings and build basement walls on Jorgensen Hall.



Building Update



Left: Workmen continue to clear the area behind Rees Hall (June 4, 2012).
Above: Workers lift Jorgensen's support beams into place by hand.

historical photos: courtesy of Union College Library



Above: A newly completed circle drive behind Rees Hall will be open in time for the women to move into the dorm this fall (June 12, 2012).
Left: The building site is prepared, and workers will begin pouring footings in mid-August (July 19, 2012).
Far left: Workmen continue to brick the walls of Jorgensen Hall, even through winter snows.



Phonathon callers create

by Joellyn Sheeby, junior international rescue and relief and premed major

photo: Scott Cushman



“Ever since I started doing Phonathon my freshman year, I’ve always felt the need to go back,” said Mandy McCrary ’11. “Union has made such an impact on my life, helping to raise money for the school is a great way to give back.”

McCrary came to Union College from her home in South Dakota to join friends and study in a Christian environment, but has found many more reasons to stay. “There is so much care at Union,” she said. “I’ve met so many incredible people and have made friends I know will be there for life. I can really see Christ in all of the faculty, and I have received such a spiritual blessing each year that I have been there. Union is home to me now—that is why I keep coming back.”

McCrary plans to earn a doctorate in physical therapy after she graduates from Union and use

I get nervous, but most people have a lot of fun stories to tell.

her education to follow her passion in helping people.

Of the three years she has attended Union, McCrary has worked at Phonathon for all of them. She uses the opportunity to earn extra money as a fun way to connect with people and help her school. “At first it’s a little scary,” she admitted. “Even when I go back after not calling people for a few months I get nervous, but most people have a lot of fun stories to tell. The first year I worked Phonathon I had a conversation with a lady who was very different from any other. As soon as she answered the phone, she started grilling me with questions about myself. It took me by surprise because I usually ask the questions. Toward the end of the conversation, she asked me if I liked to sing. I said yes and her reply was ‘Well, then sing for me.’ After much objection I finally caved and sang ‘Amazing Grace.’ I chuckled after we hung up because she ended up not donating, but I hoped that something I had said made an impact on her, which is the goal for every one of my conversations.”

Phonathon was started in the early 1980s and has grown to involve approximately 35 students phoning alumni, parents and friends each year. The event raises money for the Union College

Fund, which is used to close the gap between the cost of educating students and tuition. The fund pays directly for items already on the school budget that are necessary for the college to function and is the only unrestricted fund, meaning the money can be spent on whatever the college needs most. “Everyone who supports the Union College Fund with a gift should know that they are the reason for Union being here today,” said Andrea Ahrens, director of major gift development. “There is a group of 1,955 people who collectively make sure that Union defies expectations by giving annually through the Union College Fund.”

Yvonne Joseph, sophomore elementary education major, enjoyed speaking with alumni and listening to their stories. “You talk to a bunch of people a day, but many were really nice and some were really excited to talk about Union,” she recalled. “Even if they didn’t donate, they still wanted to talk. They would tell me about their good times or when they went against the rules, and then they’d say not to tell anyone. Someone even sent me a letter afterwards thanking me for talking to him. I don’t know his name, but it was pretty cool.”

Joseph came to Union College after going to public school all her life in Florida and hopes to someday teach in both the public and Adventist school systems. “I’ve always attended public school and that’s what made me want to teach,” she explained. “I want to do public school first and then switch to an Adventist school. I think I’ll want to talk about God while I’m teaching.”

Joseph looked into doing Phonathon when she was searching for a job at the beginning of her freshman year and saw signs around campus. “I loved doing Phonathon,” she said. “Everyone, the whole environment, was really fun. It was so chill and by the end I knew all the other callers.”

Though daunted by calling strangers, Joseph stuck with it and began to enjoy herself. “Every time we started I got nervous, but there was no reason to be as the people can’t even see

*David Albo
Cesar Cabral Pestana*



connections to Union College



you,” she said. “It would always turn out okay and I started to like it. Sometimes the people I talked to would even make your day better.”

“I’m definitely going to do it again and I told my roommate and friends to as well,” said Joseph. “You learn a lot about Union and people. I think it’s really cool that years from now people are going to call me for Phonathon and I can talk to them about how I did it too.”

As daunting as it is to speak with strangers, some Phonathon participants face even more challenges in communicating with alumni than shyness. Cesar Pestana, sophomore music education major and English for Academic Purposes (EAP) student from the Dominican Republic, had spent a year and a half in the United States before coming to Union. “I did speak quite a bit and would be considered a ‘fluent’ English speaker,” he recalled. “The only thing was my accent, which is something I am still working on.”

Pestana saw the job at Phonathon advertised and decided to give it a try. “It was much harder than I thought it would be,” he admitted. “I had never done anything like it before and it was uncomfortable and kind of scary at first. I did not want anyone to yell at me or get angry, since we were asking for money, and I also thought that some people were not going to be able to understand me.”

Though some of his fears were allayed, Pestana still had to work hard to be understood by those on the other end of the line. “I did get used to it after the first few days and it became much easier,” he said. “But it was hard to make a connection with some people and there were also a few who said they could not understand me completely. I simply had to talk slower because I was sure it was probably my accent.”

As challenging as it was, Pestana used the opportunity to improve his English and his skills in communicating with others. “I would recommend

anyone to do this at least once,” he said. “It is an experience worth trying. It helped me in many ways, not only in English. Most of my conversations were really short, but I did have one conversation with this lady who shared with me her thoughts on how stu-

*Yvionne Joseph
Mandy McCrary*

dents should try to work and get jobs in order to help pay for their education. It was the longest conversation I had and probably the most interesting.”

Pestana’s hard work and dedication to improve his language skills has led him to discover one of his greatest passions. “I want to teach and perform music as well as English as a second language,” he explained. “I love the English language and I know how exciting it is to learn a second language. I hope I can share that feeling with others. I am glad I attended Union and I am absolutely coming back,” assured Pestana. “I’ve learned a lot at Union and I’ve made good friends. I had a really good experience this year and I am looking forward to my next one.”

David Albo, sophomore engineering student, also experienced the spirit of Union in his first year. “A place is only as good as the people in it,” he said. “If Union didn’t have all the people and nice teachers willing to work with you, it

I would recommend anyone to do this at least once.”

wouldn’t be the same. I enjoy the community, and that’s really what’s key for me.”

Albo found Phonathon to be a good opportunity to learn about other people. “Everybody was down to earth and they were the ones bringing up conversations sometimes,” he said. “They asked me questions about Union and the new stuff they’re doing, and I asked about their experience at college, what their major was or if they met their spouse. One lady I spoke with was going through quite a lot. She told me all this stuff that was going on in her life, but was still really positive. She kept encouraging me to keep on in school. I wrote her a letter and she wrote back saying she enjoyed talking to me and looked forward to talking again next year. I really wanted to write to her so I just sent a paragraph about our conversation and stuff. I enjoyed Phonathon a lot.”

Every year the Phonathon team strives to provide vital funding for the college and stay in touch with past Unionites. “The best thing about Phonathon is that it connects student callers with alumni,” said Ahrens. “They get to hear stories from alumni about what it was like when they were here and maybe even get inspiration from them. When we’re doing Phonathon, it’s a daily



NEW ADVANCEMENT STAFF

by Ruby Ruano

Many Union College alumni enjoy the events, letters, magazines and videos that help keep them connected with the college they love. The Advancement team at Union College works hard to keep alumni connected and helps generate needed resources for the college to continue to provide a high quality education experience.

Over the past couple of years, the Advancement team has undergone significant changes as Todd and Janya Mekelburg, Angie Peach and Nicole Meharry have all moved to jobs in other places and new people have arrived to take their places.

“New personnel and staff transitioning to new responsibilities will bring fresh

points of view and an array of additional working knowledge to the team,” said LuAnn Davis, vice president for Advancement. “New staff members are here for one reason—to serve stakeholders and build meaningful relationships with those who are interested in the future of Union College.”



Andrea Ahrens

Director of Major Gift Development

Andrea Ahrens served as Annual Fund Director for just over a year before transitioning to her new position as Director of Major Gift Development. Originally from Lincoln, she earned a political science degree at UCLA and an MBA from the University of Maryland.

Ahrens helps identify and evaluate prospects to support major gift campaigns, special campus projects and endowment. She also serves as a major gifts officer to support the *Our Promising Future* campaign and the Union College Fund.

One of her goals is to raise Union's

stature in the local business community. “For the folks who do know about Union, we are very respected, but I want to reach those folks who Union College doesn't even cross their mind,” explained Ahrens. “I'm trying to make sure they know that Union is the best college.” In her most recent position as an aid to a Nebraska congressman, she has already developed a network of contacts in state government and the Lincoln community.

She and her husband, Mike '00, have a 16 month-old son, George.



Angela Heam

Annual Giving Director

Angela Olson Heam '06 left Union six years ago to be a high school teacher, but has now returned to Union in a very different role. After graduating from Union and marrying Tim Heam, she taught at Platte Valley and Spring Valley academies as an English and substitute teacher. She enjoyed working with students, but needed a change of pace after their daughter, Abigail, was born nine months ago.

Heam's primary responsibility will be to manage the Phonathon and other communication strategies to raise more than a half million dollars for the Union College

Fund each year. “I am excited to be part of the student fundraising activities and also to make an impact on current students just like I experienced when I was a student,” she said.

A Nebraska native and graduate of Platte Valley Academy, Heam attended Union because it was close to home. “I decided to study education while doing a writing project about careers during my senior year of academy,” she said. “I realized that after my parents, my academy teachers had the greatest impact on my life.”

photos: Steve Nazario



Scot Coppock

Director of Leadership Giving

have prepared him to effectively help alumni and friends find creative ways to give to Union College.

Originally from Michigan, Coppock graduated from Western Michigan University with a degree in English before serving in the army for more than five years. While stationed in Germany, he met and fell in love with Manuela, a Seventh-day Adventist. Her example and the book, “The Great Controversy,” convinced him of the truth found in the beliefs of the Adventist church.

“After I was baptized, I wanted to work for the Adventist church”, said Coppock, who worked as a financial representative for John Hancock Financial Company before accepting the position at Union. “God has taken me from helping people manage their debt to building their

wealth. Now I’m helping people give it back to God.”

Coppock’s primary role will be to assist leadership donor prospects who desire to make current and deferred major gifts, including gifts of cash and personal property. “My job is to sit down and talk to the friends and alumni of Union and find out what they want to accomplish with us and help them make a smart gift,” he explained. In the future he hopes to be an asset to help projects grow, improve the campus and be a resource to students. “I served the military, I serve my family and church and if I can serve this campus, then I’ll be very happy.”

The Coppocks have three children, Angela, nine; Mckayla, six; and Christian, three.

Since he was baptized nine years ago, Scot Coppock knew he wanted serve the Seventh-day Adventist Church in full-time ministry. His unique experiences each

photos: Steve Nazario



Kenna Lee Carlson

Alumni Activities Director

extension of Records for me,” she said. “I still get to connect with former students that I used to work with, and I know many alumni—both old and new.”

In her new role, Carlson will work to keep alumni connected to each other and to Union—including alumni events such as Homecoming Weekend and chapter meetings around the country. “Even though a student graduates and leaves Lincoln, it’s good to somehow tug on their heart a little and remind them that this was a good experience for them,” she said.

She will also connect with parents by giving them opportunities to purchase care packages for their students. “We do Lifesavor bags and birthday party packs to make it easy for parents to remind students they are loved and supported.”

Carlson enrolled at Union because her father believed his children should have an Adventist education, and he moved the family to Lincoln when she graduated from academy in Keene. “I chose to study elementary education because I always loved children, and I like to see people learn,” she said.

The semester before she graduated, she married Richard Carlson ’73, Union’s chaplain for more than 30 years and now vice president for Spiritual Life. They raised three Union graduates: Bryan ’98, Dan ’00 and Greg ’06, and have eight grandchildren.

Kenna Lee Austin Carlson ’73 is no stranger to Union College. She has worked at Union since 1994—most of that in the Records office. “This is kind of an

CLASS-IFIEDS

Keep in touch

CORD magazine wants to hear from you. You have told us this is your favorite section. Tell us where you are, what you're doing or just send greetings.

Direct your letters to:
 Class-ifieds
 Alumni Office
 Union College
 3800 South 48th Street
 Lincoln, NE 68506
 e-mail: alumni@ucollege.edu
 make changes online at
 www.ucollege.edu/
 cordmagazine

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

1950s

LaVern Opp '53 retired in 1993. Since then, he has served as government relations and religious liberty representative for the state of Idaho; served a three-year term on the Idaho State Elementary Approval Commission; served as president of Idaho Independent School Federation and was interim principal of Helen Hyatt Elementary School and College View Academy, in Lincoln, Neb., while Mike Cook was recovering from an accident. Currently he is planning his fifth mission trip to Iquitos, Peru supporting the People of Peru Project.

1970s

Henry Welch '70, retired in Condor, Alberta, Canada in 1998. He earned a master's degree in teaching/curriculum from La Sierra University on December 11, 1999. Henry and May have five children, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He enjoys writing poetry and stories.

1980s

Pastor **John Abbott '86**, has accepted the invitation to be pastor of the Lincoln, Neb., Northside and Holland churches. John and his wife, Maria, and children, Noah and Hannah, will move from Hawaii in the summer. Noah will attend College View Academy and Hannah will be at Union College. "We're very excited for the future and looking forward to witnessing God at work in multitudes of ways!" says Pastor John.

1990s

Amelie Taylor Mejia was born April 1, 2012, to **Ed '98** and **Senia Roehl '05 Mejia**, a day before her momma's 29th birthday. Livy, Amelie's 2 year-old big sister is getting used to hav-



Amelie Taylor Mejia

ing a baby sister and really enjoys surprising Amelie with random toys, such as plastic bugs and stuffed animals. Senia is an RN at Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center and Ed is art director at Thought District, an advertising agency in Lincoln, Neb.

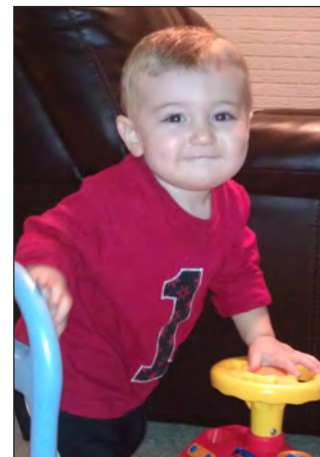
2000s

Mariah Dawn Fly was born Dec. 27, 2011, to **Eric '01** and **Dixie Mitchell ('01) Fly**. She joins big brother Ethan, who is three. Dixie is an RN and is a full-time mother. Eric is a physician assistant in the emergency department at Albany Area Hospital in Albany, Minn.



Mariah Dawn Fly

Tony Rouse '03, fire claims representative at State Farm Insurance in Lincoln, Neb., and **Taryn Moore Rouse**, current



Carson Anthony Rouse

Joyce Leonhardt '52 attended a poetry convention in Las Vegas in 1990 to present a poem she wrote. For this presentation, she received a Golden Poet Award. She wants to share it with her friends and classmates.

The Berlin Wall

Dedicated to Ingetraud Boettcher

*On November 9, 1989, new history was made,
 All peoples of all nations—it will aid,
 The Berlin Wall is coming down,
 How beautiful and how joyful is that sound.
 For 24 hours a day,
 People were there celebrating, "how good it is," they say.
 'Twas a miracle, my friend, Inge got out, in May 1961.
 The next month, the dreadful wall had begun.
 Two years later President Kennedy was at that terrible wall.
 His words brought meaning for life to all.
 A sea of people listened as he spoke.
 He seemed to bring a glimmer of hope.
 For 28 long weary, sad years
 The wall brought violence, death and many tears.*

*Are we not all separated from God by a great wall?
 He is King of the Universe and God of all.
 It's a wall of sin
 That separates us from Him.
 We can talk to Him now through prayer.
 Someday soon, we all will be there
 In that beautiful, holy place
 And talk with our Saviour, face to face.*

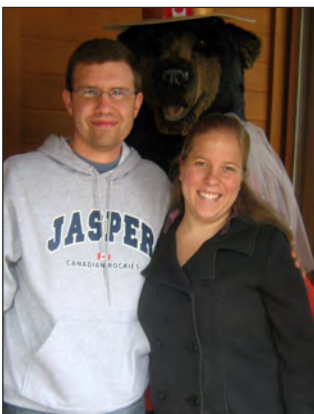
Union College assistant director of Student Financial Services, welcomed Carson Anthony on Oct. 7, 2010. Carson weighed 8 lbs 10 oz and was 21.5 inches long. He loves to be outside, play with cars and trucks and is already a little football player.

Josh Bascom '03, vice president of finance for Christian Record Services for the Blind in Lincoln, Neb., and **Elina Camarena Bascom**, current Union College director of Student Financial Services, welcomed Evelyn Noelle on Dec. 23, 2010. Evelyn loves music, helping mommy with house chores, and playing with her cousins! In early fall, she will have a little sister to play with as well.



Evelyn Noelle Bascom

Tom '03 and Jennifer **Carlson** were married on June 24, 2012, in Atlantic, Iowa. After honey-



Tom and Jennifer Carlson

moonings in Canada, the couple moved to South Williamsport, Penn., where Jennifer will be teaching while Tom will be working in the area.

Nicole Olson Orian '04 and her husband, Matthew, are pleased to announce the arrival of Madison Christine, who was born November 18, 2011. She weighed 7 lbs 11 oz and joins older twin siblings, Jacob and Hailey, at home. Matthew is vice president for finance and operations at Mail Sort Professionals in Lincoln and **Nicole** is assistant director in the Division of Nursing at Union College.



Madison Christine Orian

Michael Paradise '05, young adult pastor for the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lincoln, Neb., and **Alana Castillo Paradise '06**, a busy stay-at-home mommy, welcomed Simeon John and Anna Laura on December 8, 2011. Simeon weighed 4 lbs 8 oz, and Anna weighed 4 lbs 1 oz. They join big brother Isaiah, age four years old.

Angela Olson Heam '06 and her husband, Tim, are pleased to announce the birth of Abigail Marie, born August 11, 2011, at Reynolds Army Community Hospital in Fort Sill, Okla. She weighed 8 lb 4 oz and was 20 inches long. Tim and Angela moved to Lincoln, Neb., in May 2012. He is an electrical apprentice with Empire Electric and is taking classes to become a licensed electrician. **Angela** is director of annual giving at Union.



Abigail Marie Heam

2010s

Andrew '10 and **Nicole Frank '10 Christenson** welcomed Zachary Thayer Christenson on July 18, 2011, in Lincoln, Neb. Andrew works for the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources as a floodplain engineering specialist. Nicole works at home full time raising Zach (and deserves a pay raise).



Zachary Thayer Christenson

Jeremy Sterndale '08 and **Heather Bohlender '11** were married May 13, 2012. For the summer they are working at Camp MiVoden in Idaho. Jeremy is assistant director, and Heather is ACA coordinator. After the summer, they plan to return to Lincoln, Neb., or wherever new jobs will take them.



Jeremy and Heather Sterndale

Former Faculty

Betty Biggs Herman, former Union College nursing professor '74-84, was surprised with a birthday cake in celebration of her 80th birthday on Dec. 2, 2011. Her students at the Northland Pioneer College Show Low-White Mountain Campus planned the surprise for her—their clinical instructor. After she blew out the candles, Betty told the students she had wished for their success on their upcoming state certification exams.

People Placements

Scott Coppock is the new director of leadership giving in the Advancement office. He earned an English degree from Western Michigan University before serving in the Army for more than five years and most recently worked as an independent financial consultant for John Hancock Financial. He and his wife, Manuela, have three children.

Richard Clark '79 has joined the Division of Science and Mathematics as chemistry professor. He graduated from

CLASS-IFIEDS

Union with a B. A. degree in chemistry and earned a Ph.D. from Kansas State University in 1992. He most recently taught at Philippine Union College and Pacific Union College. He and his wife, Jancie, have four adult children.

Angela Olson Heam '06 is the new annual giving director in the Advancement office. After graduating from Union she taught at Platte Valley and Spring Valley academies as an English and substitute teacher. She and her husband, Tim, recently welcomed their first-born daughter, Abigail.

Paul Jenks has accepted the position of director of plant services. Paul comes to Union with a rich background in construction and management. He and his wife, Salli, administrative assistant for financial administration, have two daughters, Megan and Mattison, who currently attend Union.

Jackie Kennedy has joined the Division of Nursing as full-time clinical instructor for the Medical-Surgical II course. She has experience in leading improvement studies within nursing workflow and has been involved in multiple quality improvement initiatives throughout her nursing career. She most recently worked in the Neuro Progressive Unit at BryanLGH Medical Center West in Lincoln.

Brianna Payne has joined the faculty in the Division of Science and Mathematics to teach biology. She graduated from Andrews University with a master's degree in biology in last May and will be on one-year appointment to teach General Biology, Human Anatomy and an upper-division biology course.

Ryan Perry is the new gymnastics instructor and intramural director. He graduated from Southern Adventist University and spent six years as athletic di-

rector at Spencerville Academy before returning to Tennessee to teach physical education and serve as cross-country coach at Collegedale Academy in 2004. He and his wife, Jessica, have three children.

Transitioned:

Andrea Ahrens is the new director of major gift development in the Advancement office. She graduated with a degree in political science from UCLA and earned an MBA at University of Maryland. She most recently served as an aid to a Nebraska congressman and as Union's annual giving director.

Michelle Buller is the new director of the Physician Assistant Studies program. Previously the program's clinical director, she graduated with a master's in Medical Science and Physician Assistant degree from Midwestern University. She enjoys teaching psychiatry to Union College PA students and has special interest in women's mental health and eating disorders.

Kenna Lee Austin Carlson '73 is the new alumni activities director in the Advancement office. She graduated with an elementary education degree and has worked at Union since 1994—mostly in the Records office. She is married to Rich Carlson '73, Union's chaplain for more than 30 years and now Vice President for spiritual life.

Don Murray '81 is director of new construction. Murray was previously director of Plant Services. He and his wife, Lynae Bednar Murray '82 have three children.

Greg Steiner '00 is now a full-time institutional researcher in Union's new Office of Institutional Research. He is also head coach of Union's women's basketball team. He and his wife, Kimberly Childers Steiner '01, faculty in the Division of Busi-

ness and Computer Science, have two boys, Carter and Ian.

IN MEMORY

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

Avery Dick '38, Loveland, Colo., died May 25, 2012, at age 97. He was born on a farm in La Harpe, Kan., the second of five boys. After graduating from Enterprise Academy and Union College, he married **Arline McTaggart Dick ('37)**, who died in 2005. Avery pastored churches in Wyoming, Colorado, Missouri and North Dakota; served as a missionary in China and the Philippines; and taught at Kingsway College, Mountain View College in the Philippines, and Canadian University College. In 1976, he moved to Loveland to help pastor the Estes Park church and was an active member of the Campion church. He is survived by his daughter, **Ardis Dick Stenbakken '62**; and brothers **Willis Dick ('33)**, **Elwin Dick ('41)**, and **Clyde Dick '59**.



Avery Dick

Margaret "Peggy" Smith Vikingson '40, Edina, Minn., died Feb. 20, 2012, at age 96. Peg was librarian and English teacher for Bloomington Junior High School for many years. She also taught for several years in

Isle, Minn., with her husband **Earl Vikingson '49**. Peg was preceded in death by her husband, Earl. She is survived by nieces, **Patricia Rushold Davis '54**, IvaDawn Parry; nephews, Douglas and **Mark Johnson '80**; many cousins and grand nieces and nephews.

Walter Crawford '41, Westminster, Calif., died May 6, 2012, at age 93. He was born in Chamberlain, S.D. Drafted in 1942, he served as a medic until 1945. Walter earned an M.A. degree from Columbia University in 1947 and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1961. He worked as an English instructor at La Sierra College, in the Alumni Association at Loma Linda University, and for Meditron before teaching literature at California State University, Long Beach from 1963 until his retirement in 1988. His emphasis on the works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge resulted in his authoring three books, with editing assistance from his wife. Additionally, he authored several books and other scholarly journals. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, **Ann Krieger Crawford '40**, sons Eric and Todd and four grandchildren.

Ella Schlenker Renk ('41), Overland Park, Kan., died June 23, 2012, at age 91. Born Oct 9, 1920, in Goodrich, N.D., she was the second of nine children born to Abraham Schlenker and Emma Kreiter Schlenker. Ella graduated from Goodrich High School in 1939. In the fall, her parents put her on a bus to Lincoln, Neb., so she could attend Union College. After her marriage to John Renk, the two farmed in North Dakota for many years. After retirement, they moved to Lincoln, Neb., and then to Kansas City, Kan., when their health began to decline. Ella is survived by her husband, John; sons, **Ron ('68)**, Norman and **Kimber '81**; and daughter, **Irllys Renk White '70**.

LaVern Huenergardt ('42), Apopka, Fla., died July 9, 2011, in Orlando, Fla., with his family by his side. He is survived by his wife **Dorothy Rouse Huenergardt** ('42), son **Darrel Huenergardt** '65, and daughter **Cheryl Huenergardt Gaul** '76.

Mildred Page Trimble '42, Sioux City, Iowa, died Nov. 21, 2011, at age 94. She was born July 6, 1917, in Sioux City and lived most of her life there—with the exception of the years she spent getting her college degree at Union College. In 1947, she married Thomas Trimble. After her children were grown and her husband died, she turned to community service. She accumulated more than 30,000 hours of volunteer service at Mercy Medical Center. She is survived by her son, Robert; daughter **Nancy Trimble Reinhardt** '69; brother, **Walter Page** '48; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas; brother, Warren; and sister, Lenora.

Bernice Roth Christensen ('43), Loveland, Colo., died Dec. 24, 2011, at age 87. She graduated from Loma Linda University in 1947 with a degree in nursing. She met her husband **Willard Christensen** '44 in 1948 and spent her career supporting her minister husband while working as an R.N. for many retirement homes. In 1958 she and her husband retired to Loveland after serving the church for 38 years. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, entertaining, and spending time with her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Willard. Survivors include son, **Allan** '73; daughters, **Karen Christensen** '72 and **Doris Christensen Hanson** ('72); six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Jerry Lien '44, Ooltewah, Tenn., died June 4, 2011, after a lifetime of service to the Seventh-day Adventist denomination as teacher, educational administrator and pastor. He

served in Minnesota, southern California, Oregon, Washington, and Tennessee. His two great loves were teaching and preaching the Word. He moved back and forth between these professions as the Lord led. He was loved for his profound yet straight forward delivery of the gospel he loved so much.

Margaret Cook Barnes ('45), Hermiston, Ore., died April 3, 2012, at age 99 years. She was born Sept. 6, 1912, in Sheridan Lake, Colo. At age nine, she began taking piano lessons, which developed into a lifelong passion for music. She would begin her 40-plus year career of teaching piano when she turned thirteen. She blessed many a congregation as church organist and pianist. Her husband, **Lloyd** ('45), served as pastor in churches in Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado. Margaret actively worked beside her husband in their churches. She is survived by her daughters, **Lloydene Griffiths** '55 and **Luretta Rand** '67; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband; sisters, Hazel and Merthel; and brother, Harvey.

Frank Sherrill '45, Loma Linda, Calif., died Nov. 16, 2011, at age 88. He graduated from Southwestern Junior College and Union College in the pursuit of a career in ministry. He pastored several churches in Texas and Colorado, worked in the Missouri and Potomac conferences and the Southwestern Union as youth director. Frank spent eight years as president of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference and 14 years as president of the Arizona Conference before retiring in 1988. After retirement, he conducted evangelistic crusades in Arizona, northern New England and three in the Central Philippine Union. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Joy. He is survived by his wife Avanelle, his sons, and a multitude of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Violet Eastin Lewis '47, Lincoln, Neb., died March 22, 2012, at age 98. She was born August 13, 1913, in Decatur County, Iowa. After graduating from Union, Violet worked many years in the Central Union Conference office in education, MV, and the publishing department. She also worked for several years at the Nebraska Adventist Book Center. After her official retirement, she continued working part-time for the Mid-America Union Conference until 1996. Violet helped many students attend Union College by providing them with room and board. She had many hobbies that enriched her life. She was preceded in death by her sister, **Goldie Heifner** ('38) and brother, Oscar. She is survived by her sisters, Margueriete Hartman and **Freda Gilliland** ('49) and brother, **Farrell Eastin** ('50) and many nieces and nephews.

Lee Davidson Loewen '47, Spokane, Wash., died Oct. 14, 2011, at age 85. She was born June 4, 1926, in Harrison, Ark., where she grew up. Lee attended academy in Keene, Texas, graduated from Union College and earned a master's degree from Walla Walla University. She spent 40 years teaching office administration and was chair of the department at Walla Walla University when she retired. She loved helping students and she loved her family. She was survived by her husband **Maynard "Mike" Loewen** '47, son Greg, and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her sister, Alita Mae.

Maynard "Mike" Loewen '47, Spokane, Wash., died May 18, 2012, at age 86. He was born July 15, 1925, in Kansas, attended Sheyenne River Academy in Harvey, N.D. and earned a bachelor's degree from Union College. Mike spent 40 years as men's residence hall dean and served as dean and recruitment office for 21 years at Walla Walla University until his retirement in 1987. He was preceded in death

by his wife, **Lee Davidson Loewen** '47. He is survived by his son Greg, his brother Willard, his sister **Loretta Loewen Koenig** ('44), and three grandchildren.

Willard "Verne" Hunter '48, Salem, Ore., died June 28, 2012, at age 90. He was born July 9, 1921, in North Platte, Neb., to Earl and Violet Hunter. Verne was raised in Nebraska and served the U.C. Army Air Corps as a fighter pilot. He married Mildred "Mickey" Schrader on Sept. 11, 1943. After attending Union College and the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, he taught school in Emmett, Idaho, for a short time. He began his career with the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Albany, Oregon, in 1951. He worked as a research metallurgist and was a consultant on projects in Cuba and China. Verne retired in 1979. He enjoyed golfing, fishing and was active in his church. He is survived by his wife, Mickey; sons, Ted and Corwin "Corky"; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Betty Lou Williams Hartlein '49, Sequim, Wash., died Oct. 3, 2011, at age 86. She is survived by her sons, Wesley, Wayne, Marcus and Ted; sister, Barbara Jean Luther; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Charles "Chuck" Leffler, Sr. '49, Lincoln, Neb., died June 16, 2012, at age 83. He was born Feb. 25, 1929 in Amarillo, Texas, to George and Pearl Floodman Leffler. He married Hermine Damkroger on March 29, 1951. Attending schools in several states, he earned an MBA degree from Columbia University. Chuck worked for GMAC and First National Bank of Lincoln, Neb., before purchasing and managing several banks in Nebraska and Kansas. He sold the banks and retired in 1996. Because he generously served on the Board of Trustees at Union College, he was awarded an honorary degree in 1998. He is survived by his wife, Hermine;

IN MEMORY

daughters, Deb Umberger, Cindy Furrow, Dottie Steinacher; and son, Chuck Leffler, Jr. and numerous relatives. He was preceded in death by his sisters Ruth Sonsil and **Evelyn Thomson, former employee**; and brother, George Leffler, Jr.

Earl Vikingson '49, Edina, Minn., died Jan. 3, 2008, at age 93. He was born May 8, 1914 in Bird Island, Minn., to Anna and Eric Vikingson. In 1940 he married **Margaret "Peggy" Smith '40**. After being drafted and serving in the army during World War II, Earl enrolled at Union College. He began work in his chosen field of teaching at Highland Academy in Tenn. Returning home to Minnesota, he taught in several rural schools and a long stint at Spring Lake Park senior high school. He was survived by his wife, Peggy; other survivors listed under his wife's listing on page 26.

Lloyd Cleveland '50, Loma Linda, Calif., died June 10, 2012, at age 86. He was born Aug. 24, 1925, in Kersey, Colo., to William and Hattie Cleveland. He attended Campion Academy and graduated from Union College in 1950. In 1954, he married Laurene Stacey, a student nurse in Denver, Colo. In 1959 they were called to Paraguay where Lloyd served as treasurer. Later they worked in the Lake Titicaca Mission where Lloyd designed and built the Floating Island School. In 1965, he be-



Lloyd Cleveland

came assistant treasurer and auditor for the Colorado Conference and in 1976 became treasurer of the Rocky Mountain Conference until his retirement in 1988. Before finally settling down in Paradise, Calif., they traveled overseas and across the United States. He is survived by his wife of almost 58 years, **Laurene Stacey Cleveland '55**; two sons, Scott and Randall; and five grandchildren.

Dowell Martz '50, Vancouver, Wash., died Feb. 9, 2012, at age 88. He was born in 1923 in Glendale, Mo., where he lived on a farm and grew up during the Great Depression. Joining the army in 1942, he served most of the duration of World War II in Calcutta, India. Following the war, he met and married Mabel Hunter while attending Union College. After graduation from Union, Dowell earned a master's degree from Vanderbilt University and a Ph.D. from Colorado State University. He spent nearly 25 years of his career at Pacific Union College as professor of physics. He is survived by his wife, Mabel; two sisters, Marjorie Sandau and Edith Azevedo; four children, Martin, Marjorie, Marcum, and Merri; and six grandchildren.

Helen "Joyce" Suter Whitcomb '50, Grand Prairie, Texas, died March 31, 2012, at age 82. She taught school, played in the Mid-Cities Symphony and was an award winning author of numerous books and poetry. Although she dedicated herself to many civic, community, and neighborhood activities, a huge part of her life was her church family. The Grand Prairie church benefitted from her choir direction and music ministry for 40 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Dale Whitcomb '50**. Survivors include her sons, Craig and Larry; daughter, Karen; and brother, John Suter.

Mitchell Chunestudy ('51), Lincoln, Neb., died April 1, 2012, at age 88. He was born

April 8, 1923 in Stillwell, Okla., to Robert and Katie Walkingstick Chunestudy. For 36 years, he worked as a boiler room stationary engineer at the VA Medical Center and retired in 1988. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran, member of the Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, D.A.V. and Cherokee Nation. Survivors include his sons, **William '72** and Joseph; daughters, Loyala Nema Harmon, Mae Dawn Ellis and **Mitchellene "Mitzi" Sylvester ('79)**; half-sister, Betty Jane Foster; twelve grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by wife **Bobbie Jo ('51)** in 1997.

Joyce Spears Cotham ('51), Collegedale, Tenn., died April 17, 2012, at age 83. She was born June 9, 1929, in Alto, Texas, to John and Ola Mae Spears. Joyce worked as assistant dean of women for three years and an associate professor of office administration for 22 years at Southern Adventist University. She is survived by her four daughters, Carolyn, Jeanie, Nancy, and Laurie; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; brothers, Don, Gary and Kenneth; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Floyd Eichelberg ('51), Harlingen, Texas, died March 22, 2012, at age 79. He was born Oct. 12, 1932, in Leola, S.D., and was a lifelong, faithful servant of God. He sang in quartet groups in academy and throughout his life, and served as an elder, chorister, and Sabbath School teacher. Floyd touched many lives with his Christ-like, soft-spirited personality. He was preceded in death by his son, Terry. Survivors include his wife, Donna; daughters, Cheri and Susan; son, Lonnie; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Alfred Bernhardt '52, Altona, Okla., died November 26, 2011, at age 86. He was a farmer and a teacher. He is survived by his wife **Millicent Gemmer Bern-**

hardt '50; sons, **Alfred "Jerry" G. ('73)**, James, Merle and Leslie; sister **Florence Clarambeau '50**; and five grandchildren.

Raymond Rouse ('53), Avon Park, Fla., died March 7, 2012, at age 81. He was born August 13, 1930, in Elm Creek, Neb., to Jay and Grace Johnson Rouse. He served as treasurer of the Oklahoma, Indiana, Illinois and Minnesota Conferences. Upon retirement in Avon Park, Fla., Elder Rouse was instrumental in founding Heartland Granary, a non-profit health food store which benefited Walker Memorial Academy. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Darlene Herr Rouse '57**; son, Arden Rouse; daughter, Darla Erhard; sisters, Wilma Gromer and **Dorothy Rouse Huenergardt '42**; three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Mr. Rouse was preceded in death by two brothers.

Lloyd Austin Sr., '54, Eckert, Colo., died March 20, 2012, at age 89. He was born March 22, 1922, in Kansas City, Kan. He served in World War II. Lloyd retired in 1988 from pastoring churches in Delta, Cedaredge and Paonia in Colorado. He is survived by his wife, Marion Austin (now deceased); brother, Samuel Austin Jr.; sons, **Donald, Lloyd Jr. "Larry", ('71)**, and Richard; two children and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his brother, Harold.

Corene Biswell Knopp ('55), Phoenix, Ariz., died April 14, 2012, at age 75. She was born Dec. 21, 1936, to Boyd and Irene Biswell in Claremore, Okla. She enrolled at Union College in 1954 where she studied accounting. Here she met her husband, **Ivan Knopp '58**. After they married, she worked while he completed his degree. Corene worked for more than 30 years in the Arizona Conference office. She was a proficient seamstress and made all of the

IN MEMORY

clothing for herself and her daughters. She is survived by her husband, Ivan; two daughters, Cindy Doles and Brenda Siverio; and six grandchildren.

Bert Reid '59, Madison, Ala., died May 19, 2012, at age 74. He was born Oct. 22, 1937, to Elder David and Bernice Reid. Thought to be stillborn at birth, Bert was discarded into a basket—but his Aunt Willsie saw him move, revealing his resilient spirit and determination to live. He attended Oakwood College for two years and then transferred to Union College to graduate with a degree in business administration. Bert worked for the federal government for more than 30 years in jobs taking him all over the United States. He is survived by his wife, Geri; children, Jocelyn and Tim; sister, **Jocelyn Reid Thomas '60**; two grandsons; sister-in-law, brother-in-law, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Guillermo "Bill" Sierra '62, Lincoln, Neb., died March 26, 2012, at age 95. He was born July 23, 1916, in Cali, Colombia, South America. A former high school teacher, he retired from the Lincoln Regional Center. Bill was a member of the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was a service volunteer for Maranatha Volunteers International and the Lincoln marathon. He enjoyed photography, running, building furniture and traveling. He is survived by his wife, **Olga ('62)**; son, **William '72**; daughters, **Nancy Nelson '70** and **Stella Link ('72)**; seven grandchildren; sister, Ana Correa; brother, Luis Correa; and many nieces and nephews.

Grace "Joy" Rosaasen Pastor ('63), Redlands, Calif., died Feb. 16, 2012, at age 69. She was born Aug. 27, 1942, in Sioux Falls, S.D. She worked mostly in the field of education and retired as assistant to the dean of student affairs at the school of dentistry in Loma Linda, Calif.

Joy was a lover of music, art, poetry and children's stories. Much of the last decade of her life was savored by traveling with **James Pastor '63**, her husband of 48 years. Survivors include her husband, James; daughters, Jamie and Janine; sons, John, James Jr., Joseph; six grandchildren; and siblings, Harry, Edward, Robert, Jerry, Thomas, Richard, Kenneth and Nancy Baleja.

John Ridpath '63, Buckhannon, W.Va., died Dec. 30, 2011, at age 78. He was born July 21, 1933, in Van, Texas, and raised in Madill, Okla. John was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the Medical Corps for two years. After he moved to West Virginia, he served as the state disaster coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist church. He retired after 25 years of teaching at Seventh-day Adventist academies in New Jersey, Maryland, Mississippi, California, Georgia, Missouri and West Virginia. He especially enjoyed physical education and coaching and acted as dean of boys in the boarding academies where he taught. After earning a master's degree, he taught at Southwestern Adventist University. He also worked as assistant purchasing agent for Huguley Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. Survivors include his wife Patricia Wiant Ridpath; niece, Jessamine Steadman; step-children, Charles, Cheryl and David Bucklew.

Joanne Perrault '66, Lincoln, Neb., died Jan. 1, 2012, at age 67. She was born Jan. 4, 1944, in St. Paul, Minn. From an early age, Joanne knew she wanted to be a teacher and her years at Union College helped her fulfill that dream. She taught elementary school for 41 years, the last 39 at Helen Hyatt Elementary School in Lincoln. She is survived by her sister, **Judy Perrault ('67)**.

Marlene Schneider, '66, Hayden, Idaho, died April 20, 2011, at age 75. Born on April 22, 1935, in Lincoln, Neb., she earned a BA degree from Union

College. She fought a good fight in her short battle with cancer and is now resting in Him. She is survived by her husband, **Robert (former staff '64-'66)**; sons, Greg and Gary; and daughter, Mari Lou Meyer.

Judy Burgeson Pogue ('67), Auburn, Calif., died March 6, 2012, at age 64. She was born Nov. 12, 1947, in Lincoln, Neb. While at Union, Judy met her husband, **James Pogue ('69)**. Judy completed the dental hygiene program at Loma Linda University and practiced for several years before her children were born. She enjoyed living her life selflessly and staying home to raise her children. She is survived by her husband, James; sons, Michael and Jared; daughter Ashley; and two grandchildren.

Michael Dirksen ('78), Park City, Kan., died Jan. 25, 2012, at age 59. He was born in Hutchinson, Kan., on Feb. 1, 1952. Michael served as food service director at Enterprise, Oklahoma and Platte Valley academies. He is survived by his wife, Linda; daughters, Stacey Parker and Kammi Dirksen; sons, Bryan and Bradley; mother, Mildred; sister, Deanna; and three grandchildren.

Noeletta "Neta" Lunday Seibold '82, Bismarck, N.D., died July 4, 2012, at age 53. She died at home after a courageous fight with cancer. Neta was born Dec. 8, 1958, in Hettinger, N. D. She was raised and educated in Bismarck through the eighth grade and attended high school at Sheyenne River Academy, where she met her future husband, **Mark Seibold '81**. They graduated together in 1976 and were married in August 1979 in Bismarck. She was employed as a teacher throughout her life, most recently at Shiloh Christian and Brentwood Christian schools. Though she was a beloved teacher, her life's passion was being a wife and mother. Neta is survived by her husband, Mark; children, Arielle

Stevens and Cameron Seibold; parents, **James ('61)** and **Bernice ('53)** Lunday; sisters, **Marga Carlson ('77)**, **Amy Hinger ('80)**, and Bernelda Lehmann; and five nieces and



Neta Lunday Seibold

nephews.

Notice of the following deaths has been received:

Dorothy Lay ('36), Hutchinson, Kan., died Nov. 24, 2011, at age 96.

Phoebe Little '41, Los Angeles, Calif., died Sept. 17, 2011, at age 98.

Aletha Pfeiffer Knowlton '42, Grand Marais, Minn., died April 26, 2011, at age 91.

Genevieve McWilliams '44, Paradise, Calif., died March 28, 2012, at age 92.

Eunice Reitz '66, Keller, Texas, died Sept. 1, 2007, at age 64.

Mabel Carpenter ('34), Fort Scott, Kan., died Dec. 26, 2011, at age 101.

(Proetin research continued from page 11)

schools, cancer institutes, and pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms to research how molecules bind to targets within patients' bodies. It was in one such recent collaboration with the Waters Corporation that the Engen team helped create and commercialize the HD Exchange nanoACQUITY System.

This is the first commercial system that enables companies to measure proteins for therapies to treat individuals with HIV/AIDS and other diseases, rather than relying on a few researchers to provide the data. "The fastest growing sector of the pharmaceutical industry is proteins, and more companies need ways to measure the proteins to create these needed compounds and make sure their products are being manufactured correctly," explained Engen.

For example, Engen's system is currently being used in Japan to check the insulin supply and ensure the product sold to patients conforms to the exact specifications necessary to treat those who need insulin injections.

Engen is currently on sabbatical to focus on his research. "I love working with proteins because of the implications," he said. "Many proteins are related to diseases, and we need to be able to understand those relationships and strengthen our techniques for measuring and researching those proteins so we can better understand what's happening in our cells and bodies. The better we understand these proteins, the better our chances to understand and do something about the diseases to which they're related."

From Student to Professor

Being a professor of chemistry gives Engen a chance to select top-notch chemistry students to work alongside him in his laboratory. "We have access to some of the most promising students in the field," he says. "We bring them into our lab to give them real-world experience in a research laboratory that will make them better researchers and scientists."

Along with undergraduate students, the John R. Engen Laboratory also selects post-graduate and Ph.D. students to work alongside their skilled senior scientists. Engen explains, "Being in our lab gives students experience in this type of setting, and at the end of their time here, they're accomplished and able to go wherever they want to continue their education."

Since 2006, Engen has helped more than 12 graduate students complete their degrees, and his laboratory has hosted more than 40 students and staff scientists. "I like the interaction I have with students," says Engen. "I like to keep track of them and help them be successful. That's the main purpose of working with a university."

Some of the classes Engen teaches have upwards of 300 students, but Engen doesn't let that distract him from his goal to inspire individual students. "One big thing I learned at Union College is that small is good," he says. "I spent most of my time in Jorgensen Hall, and I interacted with the same few professors every day. Our class sizes were small, and having that one-on-one time was great. It was easy to get personalized attention, and I want to bring that with me into every class I teach."

That teacher-student relationship is one way Dr. Engen has brought a little bit of Union with him to Northeastern. "I care about my students just like my professors cared and still care about me," he says. "My professors have been such a positive motivator in my life. Now, I take that same approach with my students. I'm happy to help turn these kids into something great, just as my professors were happy to take on that role with me."

Even now Engen feels the support he had as an undergrad at Union. Dr. David Nowack, one of his former professors, recently contacted Engen and plans to visit his lab to see his research. Engen says, "It feels good to know my professors still care about what I'm doing and are proud that I've been so successful," he says.

While he's become a celebrated researcher and professor in his own right, Engen still takes an active role in strengthening the science program at his alma mater. In 2002, he founded the John R. Engen Award in the Chemical Sciences scholarship. The cash prize is awarded each year to the junior or senior chemistry major at Union College who shows interest and promise in instrumental analysis.

Engen explains that the award is meant to inspire greatness in future researchers. "Chemistry is a hard major and students pursuing it have to take hard classes," he says. "I know firsthand as a researcher and a professor how important it is to have scientists who are skilled at measurements and analysis. I want my scholarship to reward students in that field for their hard work, and to encourage them to keep pursuing that specialty."



John Engen '94, Ph.D.

The Promising Future of Science Education at Union College

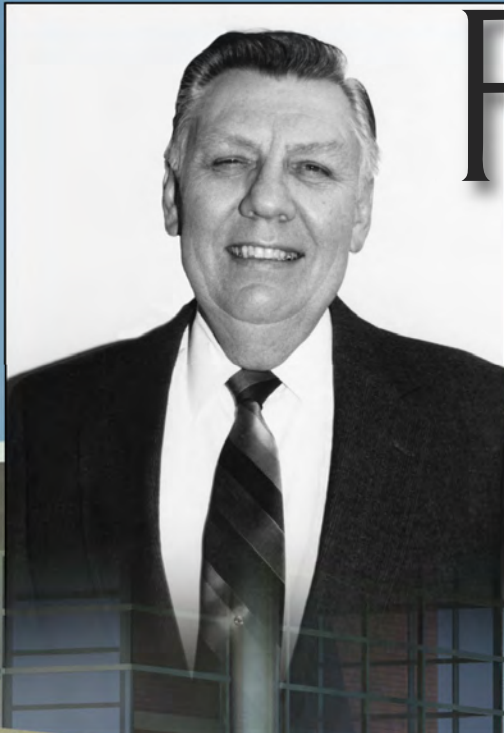
Union is also committed to helping students achieve success in the sciences. In April 2012, the college broke ground for a new two-story, 55,000 square foot science and mathematics complex to replace the aging Jorgensen Hall and revitalize the science and math programs.

The building will be located in what is now a parking area on the north side of campus between Rees Hall, Larson Lifestyle

Center and the Don Love Building, and is slated to be completed end of 2013. The new complex will feature state-of-the-art technology in 10 laboratories, four lecture rooms, three classrooms (including a 126-seat amphitheatre), seven research labs and three seminar rooms, and multi-use spaces for collaboration and interactive learning.

Like many math and science graduates from Union, Dr. John Engen is excited about the possibilities this new facility presents. "For students to be competitive in the sciences of our time, it is essential for them to have modern facilities," he says. "The teaching, research and general instruction quality will be vastly improved with modern space. Unquestionably this building will have a long lasting impact on the future of all Union College students who pass through it. I am very happy to see the new building take shape and be put to use." **A**

Investing in Union's Future



When Dr. Berg reviewed his situation with the Advancement team at Union College, together they decided a gift of stock was the best way for him to help build the new science and mathematics complex. "I didn't have the money in cash in a bank account," he said. "Giving stock just fit so well."

By gifting stock to Union College, Dr. Berg gave back to the school he loves without incurring any taxes. Union College sold the stock and put the money toward the new science and mathematics complex—truly a win-win scenario.

"When I attended Union I was penniless," he said. But now after a long career and many blessings from God, "It made me feel good to be able to make a gift to the college."

If you would like more information on giving back to Union College, please contact Scot Coppock, Director of Leadership Giving by emailing scoppoc@ucollege.edu or calling 402.486.2503. Scot is eager to help those who want to find the best way to give.

Want to learn more about Dr. Berg's story? Visit www.ucollege.edu/advancement/donor-stories

*It takes
ForeSight...*

CORD *magazine*

News from Union College
Vol. 76, No.2 Summer 2012

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

Address service requested

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 62

Homecoming 2013

Mark your calendars for
Homecoming 2013, April 4-7.

Honor Years for 2013:

1943, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1973,
1983, 1988, 1993, 2003

Remembering Jorgensen Hall

Remembering the people of Jorgensen Hall
The new science and mathematics building will already be visible on the north end of campus, and we want to recognize all of the teachers and students of science and mathematics who have walked the halls of Jorgensen over the past 67 years.

If you have a story about a favorite professor, a classmate or just a fond memory of your science education, please send it to us—photos, too. We'll take photos, too. We'll make a collection of memories online for all to enjoy.

Here's how:

Send an email to: alumni@ucollege.edu

Mail to:

Attn: Alumni office
Union College
3800 South 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68506

or visit: www.ucollege.edu/jorgensenstories



photos: Erik Stenbakken