

CORD *magazine*

News from Union College

winter 2015/16

THE FUTURE IS CALLING

**Union College students and alums
follow diverse paths to discover
God's calling for their lives.**

Maximizing the value of assets

Rich '69 and Lynnet DeRemer '70 Reiner purchased two small duplexes in Lincoln, Neb., in 1969 and eventually grew the investment to about a dozen rental properties in the city. Forty-five years later the couple has found a way to use these properties to build a spirit of philanthropy within their family while helping shape the future of Union College.

For several years Rich and Lynnet thought about their estate and considered how their Lincoln rental properties could be used to pass on their values to their three grown children. Rich and Lynnet, who both grew up with Midwestern values of hard work, saving, delayed gratification, and supporting worthy causes have tried to pass on these values to their children and desire that a legacy of giving be a part of their family for years to come. In family discussions, all agree that education is a top priority, thus making a gift to Union College a logical choice in their estate planning.

The planning started nine years ago, when the Reiners set up an endowed scholarship at Union College to help fund the tuition of a business or English major. At the same time, Rich started a conversation with Advancement personnel about a planned gift that would include some of their rental properties with proceeds to be directed to their scholarship fund as well as Union's capital projects. "I wanted to help one of my favorite charities," declared Rich, "but the timing needed to be right."

Rich, who retired this past June from his position as a healthcare executive with Adventist Health System, wanted to maximize the value of these properties to both his family and Union College. To do so he considered when to relinquish management of the properties, how to continue to benefit from the supplemental income in retirement, and how to gain the most benefit from the charitable income tax deduction.

"Selling the properties outright and gifting the proceeds to Union College would create a significant tax liability, since most of the properties were fully depreciated," Rich explained. Gifting them during retirement when the couple's income was reduced would also decrease the value of the charitable income tax deduction. If they sold the properties or gave up management, how

would they replace the income from the rental properties that they needed for retirement?

How could the Reiners gift these properties to the college, receive a supplemental income and take best advantage of the charitable income tax deduction?

(continued on page 39)

*It takes
ForeSight...*



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About the cover:

This photo of Roberta Vieira de Oliveira in front of Union College's iconic clock tower was taken by Union College photographer Scott Cushman. The Brazil native graduated in December 2015 with a bachelor's degree in religion.

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Fighting for refugees/16

IRR graduates Andrew and Kelila Saunders have found a calling serving refugees in war-torn Ukraine and Iraq.



photo: courtesy of Andrew and Kelila Saunders

Called to be a warrior/20

Andrew and Stephanie Vercio Larson learned important lessons about life while playing basketball at Union College.



photo: courtesy of Andrew and Stephanie Larson



photo: courtesy of the Forbes family

Three generations changed/22

One Adventist boss's influence changed the lives of three generations of Union graduates.

How IRR majors get the hot summer jobs/14

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Editorial by Joe Hofmann '16

I can't tell you why I chose Union College. When I made the decision in summer 2011, I shocked myself and my family. Looking back, I see no logical reason to choose Union. I was not a Seventh-day Adventist. None of my friends had ever heard of Union College and I wasn't even sure what I wanted to study.

But I decided to stay. I stayed even though I had not gone to an Adventist academy and did not know anyone in my freshman class. I stayed even though I was not a vegetarian. I stayed even despite my lack of knowledge about Sabbath, Ellen White and the General Conference. I stayed because the faculty and staff helped me and made me feel welcome. They invited me to their homes, gave me their email addresses and phone numbers and told me to call if I needed anything.

Here I am about to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Religion, an Associate of Science in Pre-Allied Health, a minor in psychology and a minor in leadership—and I'm now a Seventh-day Adventist. I think I got a pretty good deal.

The faculty at Union College helped me realize that I can impact where I work, live and learn—I can make them better places. They provided the resources and support. All I had to do was take advantage of it. It started with the guidance of my leadership teacher, Dr. Linda Becker. With her encouragement, I was able to implement a recycling



Joe Hofmann came to Union not knowing anything about Adventism or what he wanted to do with his life. All that changed.

program at Union College which doesn't cost the school a penny and saves up to 45 tons of trash a year (read more at www.ucollege.edu/hofmann-recycle).

Union College—and specifically the leadership program—helped me grow, better myself, and discover the calling God has for me. I've been able to have lunch with historic football coaches, go backpacking in the Minnesota lake country and be the president of the Math and Science Club. I've volunteered with my fellow stu-

dents each year during Project Impact to help our community and I was a part of a team that helped set up the new Krueger Center.

When I first started college, I struggled with what to study and changed majors several times. But Union has also helped me find my passion and calling in helping people—specifically as a chaplain. The faculty and staff at Union were always supportive and always willing to help me out. With their guidance, I discovered God's calling through things like volunteering at a hospice center and shadowing a chaplain.

When I look at how much I've spent to attend Union College, I feel guilty. I know the friendships I've made, the lessons I've learned and my experience here are worth significantly more than the money I've paid. I didn't know why I chose Union as a freshman and I still don't know. But I wouldn't go back and change a single thing.

When I march down the aisle in gown and mortarboard in May, Union will be giving me much more than a diploma. I will have a family all over the globe. I'll have memories and lessons I will cherish and use throughout the rest of my life. And most importantly, I'll be confident in the calling and purpose God has for my life.

In the end, I'd say I got a great deal. **A**

photo: Steve Nazario/Union College

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Learn everything there is to know about Union College including the latest news, degree options and everything in between.



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Facebook is a great way to see what's coming up on campus and experience the year's events in pictures.



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A life in words

Union says goodbye to librarian and alumnus Jeannette Wetmore *by Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04*

Early in the morning on Monday, Nov. 16, 2015, Jeannette Wetmore died in her mother's arms, surrounded by the love of close friends. She was 39. Previously undetected cancer led to the growth of tumors that put pressure on her brain stem. Her death came as a shock to her family, friends and Union College. She had lived a largely unimpaired life until that week, and despite several trips to the hospital, the cancer was not diagnosed until hours before her death.

A 2003 graduate and college librarian since 2008, Jeannette was a self-described collector of words. With a large vocabulary comes the gift of precision—having the right words. Yet, as her family, friends, coworkers and students reach for words to describe her and the hole left in their lives and community, none seem big enough, none are precise enough.

Expanding Union's Vocabulary

Jeannette originally declared a major in elementary education when she enrolled at Union College, but she switched to English when Dr. Bill Fitts, one of her English professors, told her and her parents during a Parents Weekend conference that she needed to be an English major. "That's where the seed was planted," said her mother, Carol Wetmore. She graduated from Union College in 2003 with degrees in English and communication then earned a master's degree in information science at the University of North Carolina. "She had a love of books along with degrees in English and communication, and she realized how well-suited she was to being a librarian," her mother shared.

As a student, Jeannette had worked in the Union College library with former librarian DeForest Nesmith. He knew Jeannette had recently completed her master's in library science, and remembered her abilities from her time as a student worker. He campaigned for her to return and take his place when he retired. Sabrina Riley, library director, interviewed Jeannette and hired her to serve as Union's public services librarian in 2008.

Jeannette handled many responsibilities in Union's library, including reference requests, one-on-one library instruction and research lessons to help students learn



Jeannette Wetmore, a librarian at Union since 2008, died in November.

about the resources available to them. Her professional skills were easy to see, and so were her personal skills. "Students connected with her," Riley said. "She cared about them, and she was passionate about helping people."

Riley had started a research consultation service before Jeannette came on board, but Jeannette suggested renaming it the Research Assistance Program, and the program took off. "Jeannette was so caring and had so much concern for the students," Riley said. "She never made them feel as if their questions were dumb. She coached them and helped them shape their research topics into something they could work with. She was really good at that."

Jeannette was also tasked with hiring and managing student workers. She didn't have prior experience in that area, but she didn't let that stop her. "She put so much effort into being a good supervisor," Riley said. "She did research and read about managing and hiring employees. She taught herself how to do it well. Our group of workers is so good, thanks to how well she selected and trained people."

Jill Donald, a junior English and language arts education major, has worked under Jeannette's leadership for three years and says she was constantly struck by Wet-

more's patience and caring personality. Once, when Donald made an error while setting up a complicated interlibrary loan, Wetmore calmly shouldered the problem. "It was going to take hours to fix, but Jeannette forgave me. She said, 'It's ok. I'll fix it.' And she just fixed it."

Donald, who was recently promoted to library supervisor, says that Jeannette's approach helped shape her own supervisory skills. "For Jeannette, something would happen, and the next day it was like it didn't happen. She'd talk to you and it was over. You were forgiven and it was done; she wouldn't hold things over your head. I've learned that when I get upset about something, I have to talk with the person and then it's done. Jeannette was so patient with all of us. I learned from her forgiveness, letting go, and patience."

Donald said Jeannette had a huge impact on her daily life. "The hardest part of this for me is realizing that so many students on campus didn't know her like I did," said Donald. "She changed my experience here. I feel badly for them that they didn't know her. Sometimes she was the reason I got through the day. I'm sure everyone here has someone to turn to, but I feel bad they didn't have her as that person. I'm going to miss her."

One of Jeannette's professional passions was collection development. She recognized that library budgets are tight, and spent her career working to improve the services and functions of the Union College library. Now, her family has asked for all memorial gifts in Jeannette's name to be earmarked for the college library and used for purchasing new books. "Working with students and collection management were her specialties," Riley confirms. As a final gift, these new books—collections of words—in Jeannette's memory will continue to help students improve their personal and scholastic performance, and grow their vocabularies. **A**

To read more about Jeannette, visit the CORD online at www.ucollege.edu/cord

About the author: Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04 is a freelance writer, wife and mother living in Bismarck, N.D.

Union hosts more than 600 gymnasts for Acrofest 2015



Gymnasts spent two days in clinics at Speedway Sporting Village (above).

Hundreds of gymnasts from Seventh-day Adventist colleges and high schools from across North America gathered at Union College in November for Acrofest 2015, an event packed with clinics, training, demonstrations and spiritual lessons.

For two days the gymnasts learned tumbling, stunting, flying, circus tricks, choreography, and many other skills from local and nationally-known instructors—including olympic gold medalist Jim Hartung—at Speedway Sporting Village, a nearby indoor soccer facility. The weekend culminated in a grand finale show featuring performances from 19 teams at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

The event included the inaugural presentation of the Courage Award to Heather Boulais, a member of the Union College Gymnastics who suffered a traumatic brain injury when she fell 23 feet during a practice in January 2015. Amy Morgan Davis, a fellow traumatic brain injury survivor presented the award. Davis suffered a TBI during a cheerleading accident in college, but became a concert pianist and competed in the Miss America Pageant as Miss Utah 2004.

Acrofest is an annual event to promote gymnastics and train gymnasts at Adventist academies and colleges across North America. The event is hosted on a rotating basis by five Adventist colleges. Next year's event, the 25th anniversary, will be held at Andrews University in November 2016. **A**



Injured Union College gymnast Heather Boulais received a Courage Award from fellow TBI survivor Amy Davis (above).



Nineteen teams performed in the grand finale at the Lied Center. (left and below).



photos: Steve Nazario, Scott Cushman and Josh Allison/Union College

Shannon Korth receives Keeling Selfless Service Award

by Stefani Leeper

Although she hasn't hoisted a rifle or survived a boot camp herself, first year physician assistant student Shannon Korth understands the sacrifice made by those in the military every day.

"My husband is in the Air Force, my maternal grandfather flew a supply plane in the Vietnam War and was exposed to Agent Orange, and my paternal grandfather was a 'gunner's mate' in the Navy," she explained. "My great-uncle was in the Army and stepped on a land mine the day before he was supposed to return home. He succumbed to his injuries and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. His name is currently on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C."

In a special ceremony on the day before Veterans Day, Korth received the first annual Charles B. Keeling Selfless Service Award, a \$500 cash award created by 2014 PA graduate Barrett Waldrep in honor of his grandfather, a Marine Corps veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

"He was the epitome of hard work," said Waldrep of his grandfather. For Waldrep, who served as a combat medic in the U.S. Army, the Keeling award is a way to give back. "I want my life's work to be a tribute to God and those who have influ-



First year PA student Shannon Korth received the first Keeling Selfless Service award created by PA graduate Barrett Waldrep in honor of his grandfather.

enced me in my spiritual, academic and medical ventures," he said at the time.

To qualify for the Keeling Award, first-year PA students who have served in the

military, law enforcement, as a firefighter or a first responder, must submit a paper to the Keeling Award Foundation. The foundation, made up of Waldrep and a few family and friends, determines the award winner based on the applicant's discussion about their lives, what service means to them, and how they plan to serve now and as a physician assistant.

Korth, a Nebraskan who has worked as an open heart surgical technologist for several years, is no stranger to serving people. "It is gratifying to save someone's life or give someone the care they need to improve their quality of life," she explained. "I never expected a thank you or to be recognized. I just want to help people."

More importantly, Korth understands the legacy of service the award means. "I spoke with Barrett after the presentation," she said. "He spoke with his grandmother, Charles' wife, about the award. Tears were shed because of the happiness that his legacy will be forever remembered here at Union College. I am deeply honored and accept this award in memory of Charles Keeling. This man touched so many lives. I never met him, but wish I could have." ❧

Donor gift launches George Gibson Lecture Series

by Alison Knopp

To Bob Zellner, the American civil rights movement is far more than something read in history books or newspapers, or watched on TV. This Alabama-born son of a former Ku Klux Klan member has spent 50 years fighting for equal rights for all Americans, suffering right alongside famous leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks.

On November 4, Zellner spoke at Union College for the inaugural George Gibson Lecture series. His talk, "Imagining a Progressive South: America's Third Reconstruction," explored how the first [American Civil War] and second [Civil Rights Movement of 50s and 60s] reconstructions were overturned and how extremists have spent the last 50 years systematically destroying all the rights

won during the Civil Rights Movement, including the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Zellner told the audience about his 50 years of experience fighting—in the non-violent manner endorsed by Dr. King—for civil rights causes. He suffered insults, brutal beatings, arrests and even the prospect of being shot by his own family. In 2014, he was featured in TIME magazine as one of 17 'living legends' of the Civil Rights Movement to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. And today, in his 70s, he still works for equality, this time in health care, education and voting rights for residents of North Carolina.

The George Gibson Lecture Series at Union College was created in 2015 in honor of recently retired professor of his-

tory, George Gibson, who taught for more than 30 years in Union's Division of Humanities. Gibson always dreamed of starting a lecture series addressing history and current events. Now thanks to a generous gift from alumnus Rod Colburn '84 and a matching gift from his employer, Goldman Sachs, the series has become a reality.

"Helping Dr. Gibson realize his vision is a privilege and an honor," said Colburn. "He was and is, for me, the epitome of Union. His tireless curiosity inspired me. His inherent skepticism of conventional wisdom and explanations taught me to think more critically. His relentless fealty to truth and its pursuit has set a lifelong benchmark for me. I'm a better person today because of him and his example." ❧

Union purchases a motorcoach—for the first time in 45 years

by Ryan Teller

Union's last motor coach died long before Al Gore invented the Internet, before most college students were born—about the time Neil Armstrong first set foot on the moon. Since 1970, Union has relied primarily on the bus and driving skills of 1965 graduate Jerome Lang, along with a host of vans and rental vehicles to transport students around the country.

But that all changed in August when Union unveiled the school's first bus in 45 years—a 1999 MCI 102EL3 56-passenger motorcoach. All of the funds needed to purchase the bus and get it ready for use were given by alumni and friends since the project was announced last November.

"This bus will be a tremendous asset for our school," said Vinita Sauder, president of Union College. "Our student can be proud to travel in a bus that represents the spirit of Union."

According to Salli Jenks, director of transportation, the bus will save the college significant dollars over renting vans and buses from charter companies. "The ability to transport student groups in one vehicle instead of many vans also means our students travel more safely," she said. "And riding together in one vehicle helps create camaraderie, team building and school spirit."

Many campus groups, including academic groups, the Unionaires, the concert band, Gymnares gymnastic team and varsity sports teams need to move large numbers of students around the Midwest and, at times, across the country. From 1965 to 2011, Jerome Lang drove approximately 500,000 miles transporting Union College and College View Academy groups. He provided his own bus, at first at a greatly reduced rate, and later at no charge.

Since then, Union has used charter companies and rented from local church member Steve Ladig, who provided his bus to the college at a greatly reduced rate.

"With the growing transportation needs and the desire to have a bus represent Union's brand, it became clear we needed to purchase our own," said Sauder. "We are incredibly blessed by the many donors who gave to make this possible."

You can be a part of this exciting project. The college needs additional funding to set up a maintenance fund to keep the bus on the road and in good condition. If you would like to help, please consider giving a gift by calling the Advancement office at 402.486.2503 or at rockpile.ucollege.edu. Under designations, select "other" and enter "transportation fund" into the field. **A**



In August Union unveiled a newly-purchased 1999 MCI 102EL3 56-passenger motorcoach. After extensive service by Union alum Dick Bascom at his shop, Bascom Truck and Auto Service, in Des Moines, Iowa, the coach was wrapped with a graphic design created by Union's director of visual communication, Steve Nazario.



The motorcoach now not only transports large groups around the country, but acts as a rolling billboard to promote Union College.

Foot clinic receives \$20,000 grant from Tom's of Maine

by Ryan Teller

photo: Steve Nazario/Union College

Feet, especially homeless feet, can be scary or intimidating for many. But as Kailen Bricker cared for one pair after another, she felt her perceptions change and became far more interested in the people to whom they were attached. “They are just like us,” she said of the 30 or so homeless clients who come to Matt Talbot Community Kitchen and Outreach each month for Union College’s foot clinic

“One client told me he has a job, how he loves computers, and that his daughter is in college,” said the first-year nursing student. “They are like us, they just don’t have access to the same kind of care.”

Since 1993, Union College students have served Lincoln’s homeless population by providing foot care, socks and shoes for people who need it. Always funded by grants and contributions, the program recently received a significant boost in the form of a \$20,000 grant from Tom’s of Maine as part of their “50 States for Good” community giving program.

And for students like Bricker, the foot clinic not only makes a significant impact on Lincoln’s homeless, but on her educational experience as well. “I love people,” said the western Nebraska native who also works as a CNA in the memory unit of an assisted living center. “I learn about patient education. They know we are there to help them, so they listen.” Part of each student’s job is to teach clients how to care for their feet. “They are genuinely appreciative, and that’s what I love about it.”

The Union College Foot Clinic is one of 52 winners from across the country in the seventh annual “50 States for Good” program at Tom’s of Maine. This year the company received nearly 10,000 submissions, and selected one entrant from each state and Washington D.C. to receive funding.

“This year’s nonprofit recipients bring to life an inspiring picture of the care that Americans have for each other and their communities,” said Susan Dewhirst, goodness programs manager at Tom’s of Maine. “People often think giving back to their community is time intensive, and we wanted to show there are easy ways to make a difference, like raising awareness



Laura Karges, one of the founders of the Union College foot clinic, often supports nursing students as they provide foot care for Lincoln’s homeless at a soup kitchen.

for a cause you love and supporting brands that strive to make the world a better place for future generations.”

Providing foot care

Each month a group of Union College nursing and physician assistant studies students spend several hours at Matt Talbot Community Kitchen and Outreach cleaning, healing and pampering the feet of Lincoln’s homeless and near homeless.

“It starts with soaking feet in antibacterial soapy water—kind of like when you get a pedicure,” said Amy Golter, the Union College nursing instructor who manages the clinic for the nursing program. “Then we clean their feet, trim and file nails, take care of any wounds or other concerns that need to be addressed. They can also have their toenails painted if they want.”

The students soften callouses with a pumice stone and apply antifungal cream when needed. “We give them the whole tube and tell them how to properly use it,” said Bricker.

But for her and most other students, the experience goes beyond foot care. “I make it a point to be especially personable and friendly,” she said. “This is not only about giving foot care, but about being a friend to that person and getting to know them. Everyone needs a friend.”

After the foot care is complete, each client receives two pairs of socks, and a new pair of shoes every six months.

Funding the project

Initially, the nursing program ran foot clinics every three weeks, and in 1999, they joined forces with the new physician assistant studies program to share access to this learning and service opportunity. Now both nursing and physician assistant students are required to participate in the foot clinic at least once as part of their clinical academic requirements, but many choose to volunteer throughout their college career.

According to Cliff Korf, the Union College PA professor who manages the foot clinic finances and equipment, they need between \$6,500 and \$9,000 per year to fund the purchases of shoes and other supplies. “The foot clinic is mostly funded through grants from various organizations and contributions from individuals,” he said. “Union College employees have gifted socks for the last several years using a ‘Christmas Sock Tree’ at the annual holiday party.”

Besides the support from Matt Talbot Community Kitchen and Outreach, Payless ShoeSource significantly discounts shoes for the program. According to Nicole Orian, chair of the Division of Nursing, the foot clinic serves an average of 260 adults each year and an additional 100 children during the Children’s Foot Clinic before the beginning of each school year.

The Tom’s of Maine award will be a significant boost to the foot clinic and the services offered. “Maurine Shambarger started the foot clinic at Union, and her son first told me about the Tom’s of Maine ‘50 States for Good’ program,” said Orian. “She passed away some time ago, but her legacy lives on through the foot clinic and lives that it touches. Now, thanks to her son’s suggestion and to Tom’s of Maine, we’ll be able to do even more for the Lincoln community.” **A**

➤ To learn more or watch a video about the Union College foot clinic, visit www.ucollege.edu/nursing/foot-clinic

Union launches a new major in international relations

by Megan Webling

In fall 2015, Union College launched a new bachelor of arts degree in international relations, a program designed to prepare students for careers requiring global perspectives within government service, business and law.

“World trade, investments in other countries, international organizations and other groups with an international focus have been growing faster than the U.S. economy,” said Malcolm Russell, Union’s vice president for Academic Administration. “We are fortunate to have a doctoral student from Oxford University to lead the program.”

Christopher Banks joined the history faculty in December 2014 to develop the new program and began teaching U.S. history and international relations classes in August. “I love history and international relations as subjects because I love to research and analyze the connections between trends, people and events and their effect on our lives today,” Banks said. “The international relations program confirms students’ preparation in the four subject areas of international relations: political science, finance, geography and languages.”

The new program is a revamping of Union’s former international studies degree with a number of new classes developed by Banks. “The vision for this program is that Union will be the first Seventh-day Adventist College to create an international relations degree that will help prepare students to infuse Christ’s character and Christ-centered global work in church and non-church institutions,” said Banks.

Some of the new courses include *The Modern Middle East: From 1800 to the Present*; *Global Environment*; and *The Political Economy of International Labor*. Students will also study regional and thematic courses on Russia, India, Latin America, the Caribbean, China and the U.S. War on Terror.

“Skills that students will acquire through the courses for this degree include the ability to intelligently discuss world events and reading and understanding professional-level writing about relations between nations—more than basic business skills,” said Russell, “Also they will have an intermediate understanding of a foreign



photo: Steve Nazario/Union College

Christopher Banks recently joined the Union College Division of Humanities faculty to launch a new major: international relations. The new program is a repackaging of the international studies program with a number of new classes designed to prepare students for international business and law, and government foreign service.

language and research skills in the social sciences.”

“Students studying international relations will gain a comprehensive understanding of how governments and non-governmental organizations work and are financed,” Banks said. He believes skills in rhetoric, critical thinking and critical analysis are necessary for jobs in government and financial industries as well as for law and graduate school.

“Students will also gain a critical understanding of the ways in which government service and finance are intertwined,” said Banks. “These skills are in demand in work and government service.”

International relations has been a lifelong passion for Banks. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in international relations from Brown University followed by a master’s in international affairs from Columbia University. He is currently working toward a Ph.D. in politics at the University of Oxford.

“I was drawn toward the camaraderie of the students and the self-sacrifice and passion of the professors to the standards and progression of Seventh-day Adventist college education,” he said. “The best thing

about Union is the sincere community and collegiality of the professors and students.”

For Banks, teaching allows him to engage in new theories, research and to discuss and make others aware of past and present political and historical trends. “I am looking forward to helping to prepare international relations majors who are following God’s will in their lives,” he said. “My advice for prospective students coming to Union is that they should be prepared to combine a love of a subject with the passion to do God’s will in every part of their lives.”

According to Banks, students who graduate with a bachelor’s degree in international relations will be qualified to work as a researcher or analyst in U.S. government agencies, or in national and international developing organizations and agencies. Students will also be able to further their education to master’s or doctoral programs in most humanities programs or law schools. **A**

➤ To learn more about the new international relations degree, visit www.ucollege.edu/internationalrelations

The Chief of Change—Union creates a position to develop new academic programs

by Kaylin Thurber

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” - *Winston Churchill*

For Michelle Velazquez Mesnard, change is her job. This summer Mesnard was appointed as the newly-created associate vice president for academic initiatives, and while her new job will involve supporting academic and faculty development at Union College, her primary role will be change.

“Union College’s strategic plan calls for the school to add at least two new programs in the next five years,” explained Vinita Sauder, president of Union College. “We believe this should be a priority because it will not only draw more students to Union, but will strengthen the already excellent academic experience we provide for our current students.”

The college created the new position specifically to spearhead the development of new programs at Union, and college leadership found the right candidate just a couple of floors up in the Everett Dick Administration Building. Michelle Mesnard, who has been an associate professor of communication at Union for 13 years, and most recently chair of the Division of Humanities, saw this new position as a great opportunity to use her skill and follow her passion.

“It was last year, when Dr. George Gibson retired, I realized I enjoy developing programs for our campus,” said Mesnard of the search to replace the longtime history and economics professor. “We were in the process of searching for the right person to fill Dr. Gibson’s role. We ended up with Christopher Banks. He brought an expertise and a major to our campus beyond what we had before. The experience of hiring him, working with him, and developing a new program was so much fun for me. It’s exciting to see a new innovation that I hope will be a positive addition to our campus.”

Their efforts led to several new offerings over the next two years, including History of the Middle East and History of Latin America, and a new major—International Relations.



Michelle Mesnard is the new associate vice president for academic initiatives, tasked with developing new programs for Union.

What’s next for Union?

To create new majors, Mesnard will look at a variety of factors. “I will be doing a lot of research to see if it’s the right choice,” she explained. “Is this the perfect fit for Union College? Does it fit our culture? Does it fit the marketplace right now? Is it what the marketplace will demand when students graduate?”

And at the moment, the demands of the marketplace seem to be centered in health sciences, where Union already has two successful programs—nursing and physician assistant studies. “I would not be surprised if that’s the direction we go. Health Sciences is one of the biggest markets demanding employees right now, so it’s big for us.”

The process, said Mesnard, will include making a case for the program, market analysis, budget analysis, curriculum development, and identifying accreditation requirements. “But that is all preliminary,” she added. Union is also exploring partnerships with other colleges to create new programs on campus.

Union College, according to Mesnard, is one of the most receptive campuses for

this kind of endeavor. “I think Union is unique. When you have to accomplish something here, it’s usually easier to do than in most other colleges. Our processes and our culture tend to be a little less difficult to navigate. We’re smaller and our culture helps a lot.”

Following a calling

A longtime champion of helping students discover their own God-given calling, Mesnard has seen Him lead her career in preparation for this moment—including earning a master’s degree in public relations from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, and a public relations job at her alma mater, Pacific Union College. “I worked for a wonderful man named Malcolm Maxwell,” Mesnard said of then PUC president. “He was great to work with because he understood the importance of public relations. And I remember him saying on several occasions, ‘Michelle, you need to be teaching.’”

Mesnard believes public relations is about problem and opportunity solving. “So in some ways, I see designing new programs and developing PR campaigns as similar. There are differences, but there’s research involved with both—you put together strategies on how to develop the program and you evaluate your program, just like you do in a campaign. Communication and relationships are important to the process. I think my background will be very helpful.”

As part of Academic Administration, Mesnard will report to Malcolm Russell, vice president for Academic Administration. When she is not developing new programs, she will work on academic and faculty development, and help students who are on academic probation.

“We are thankful for Michelle Mesnard’s passion for creating new programs, and we know her experience makes her well suited to help Union continue to add to our wide array of degree programs,” said Sauder. “We want every Adventist student to have access to an Adventist education, and more degree offerings means we will be able to meet the needs of even more students.” **▲**

New associate dean of students aims to digitally connect campus

by Megan Webling

For many college students, email is a relic from the ancient past and has gone the way of dinosaurs, the typewriter and land-line telephones. Now in an effort to more effectively communicate with students, Union College has built a new social media network on campus to create an electronic community as vibrant and diverse as Union's real-life campus.

To tackle the daunting task, Union turned to Kim Canine, who joined the campus team last summer to fill a new position on campus—associate dean of students. In the new position Canine has not only assumed responsibility for the new electronic community—dubbed Squirrel HUB as a salute to the bushy-tailed campus dwellers—but will also assist the dean of students with a variety of other tasks including managing Union's orientation week for new students, coordinating campus clubs and developing a new drug and alcohol education program.

"I like to meet new people and I like to create things," said Canine, who most recently worked as the director of student involvement at La Sierra University in southern California. "So the fact that this is a new position and I get to help create it is really exciting. So far everything I've seen and the people I've met have been amazing."

Canine earned both an undergraduate degree and an MBA at La Sierra before taking a job in their student services office. She also worked as an assistant dean at her alma mater and as a marketer at Thunderbird Academy in Arizona and Champion Academy in Colorado before returning to La Sierra to a job that required her to manage the school's implementation of OrgSync, the same software Union is using to create Squirrel HUB.

In the process, Canine became an experienced user and developed a connection with creators, who wrote the cloud-based tool specifically for college campuses.

"Using OrgSync makes it so much easier for campus clubs and organizations to communicate with their members, manage events and promote themselves across campus," said Canine. "Students spend a lot of time in the digital world and are used



Kim Canine joined Union College to fill a new position—associate dean of students. One of her primary roles has been to develop a new way to digitally connect Union through a new campus social media platform dubbed Squirrel HUB.

to consuming information the way they want to. OrgSync makes that possible for our campus. Students are far more likely to stay tuned to what is happening when they can organize everything in an easy-to-use interface and don't have to sort through dozens of emails a day."

The Squirrel HUB also provides a mo-

bile app for access on-the-go, a universal calendar for the campus, the ability to manage online registration for many internal and external events and much more.

Canine, who grew up in southern Illinois, was not a stranger to Union. As both a student and employee at La Sierra, she attended Adventist Intercollegiate Association meetings at Union as part of student government. She is also married to 1996 Union College graduate Chris Canine, who served as dean of men at La Sierra before coming to Lincoln. The couple has two children, Zeldon, nine and Adisyn, six.

"We are excited Kim Canine has joined our student services team," said Linda Becker, vice president for Student Services and dean of students. "Her work with Squirrel HUB has already made an impact by creating more effective communication on our campus."

"I've worked with OrgSync at more than one school," said Canine. "Union has embraced it much more quickly than I expected. People here can see the possibilities of how it can help our campus and we haven't even officially launched it yet. We have been able to accomplish a lot in a very short time."

While many students and employees have been using Squirrel HUB since August, Union is officially launching the service campus-wide in January. **A**

photo: Steve Nazario/Union College

Party like it's 1891

Union College will celebrate its 125th birthday on September 30, 2016, and we're planning to party all year. Here are a couple of celebrations you won't want to miss.



Homecoming 2016

April 7-10, 2016

Join us for a look back at all the people who made Union a special place.

➤ Learn more or register at www.ucollege.edu/homecoming

Happy Birthday, Union College

September 30, 2016

Mark your calendars now and celebrate 125 years with Union College at a special birthday party during Parents Weekend 2016 (Sept. 30-Oct. 2).

➤ Look for more info or register at www.ucollege.edu/parents-weekend

➤ Watch for more celebration events at www.ucollege.edu/celebrate125

Finding a calling in the family business

by Megan Webling

“If I would have known better, I would have done better.”

Angela Washington listened to the repentant cry of a mom in anguish. Sitting in a cold courtroom, watching the mom huddled close with her loved ones awaiting the upcoming verdict, she saw a judge decide the fate of this family.

“I was at court for a teen meeting,” said Washington of watching the mother’s parental rights terminated. “This hit home for me because I looked into her eyes and saw that her addiction weighed so heavily on her and held her in such a bond that she ended up losing her child. Her words kept ringing in my ears and stayed with me.”

This experience was one of many that ultimately led Washington, who graduated from Union College in 2009 dreaming of a career in marketing, to ultimately work at St. Monica’s Behavioral Health Services for Women in Lincoln helping mothers who have lost their children.

At St. Monica’s, Angela works with moms to help reconnect them with their children based on a court-ordered parenting plan—often including bonding and attachment exercises or engagement with the child. Angela also oversees family services and two childcare centers, and teaches parenting classes four days a week.

Clients usually stay at St. Monica’s for six to eight weeks to learn coping skills and access spiritual counseling, group therapy, family classes and much more. Some women transition to the secondary program where their children come stay with them. If they don’t have children, the secondary program also helps them find jobs in the community or go to school. This structured environment helps women overcome substance abuse and gradually reintegrate into the community.

I want to be a track star

Social services didn’t show up on Washington’s radar when looking at colleges the summer after she graduated from high school. She wanted to go to a university and become a track star. But her mom had other plans. She convinced Washington to visit Union, where they met Buell Fogg. “Well, are you planning to come to Union in the fall?” he asked in his friendly way.

“Not really,” she replied.

“Why not?”

Washington explained all the things she wanted in a college—what Union didn’t have. “We may not have all those things, but we do have a lot of things to like,” he replied as he started naming off Union’s features that began to appeal to her.

After she toured the campus, she and her mom met with a financial aid counselor. The youngest child in her big family, Washington felt she wouldn’t be able to afford Union because she didn’t want to put a financial strain on her parents. But everything changed when she mentioned her summer job selling Magabooks in Chicago.

The counselor explained that Union would match her Magabook earnings. She and her mother set a summer goal that would give her the money necessary to enroll at Union. She worked hard, her mom prayed and in the end Angela made just enough to cover her college expenses.



Angela Washington thought she wanted to be a marketer, but found her calling helping mothers work through court-ordered plans to get their children back.

Finding a calling

During her senior year studying communication and marketing, Washington met with her academic advisor, Michelle Velazquez Mesnard, her professor and then chair of the Division of Humanities, to discuss finding an internship. Angela explained that she liked helping people, but wanted to work in business or management.

“Have you ever considered working for a nonprofit?” Mesnard asked.

In fact, Washington had recently fallen in love with the idea of working for an organization that gives back to the community while creating a nonprofit organization as part of a class project in Institutional Development class.

She eventually landed at People’s City Mission, a local homeless shelter, where she pitched the leadership team on creating a campaign to raise donations for food. The project allowed her to use skills from health and human performance, business and communications to help market the campaign. The project drew citywide attention and Washington received the Nebraska Governor’s Point of Light Award for her volunteer service to the community.

Finding a career

After graduation, Washington intended to work in marketing. But, after her internship at People’s City Mission, she was hired full time as their volunteer coordinator and office manager at their free clinic. She stayed in the social services field when she took a job at KVC Behavioral Healthcare as a foster care specialist and an admissions liaison. The skills she learned while working with foster parents and biological parents during the placement of children into foster homes prepared her to work with the moms at St. Monica’s.

“After doing research on the children’s advocate position [at St. Monica’s], I learned the position was to help mothers take the necessary steps to reunite with their children,” she said. “The phrase, ‘If I would have known better, I would have done better,’ came back to me.”

Although Washington’s career journey and life calling landed her in a quite different place than she imagined when graduating from college, her training at Union—especially the leadership classes and internship—and guidance from caring professors helped her find a career she loves. “Don’t be afraid to ask questions and learn everything you can about the degrees offered at Union,” she advises current students. “Everyone at Union is very helpful and will point you in the right direction to find answers.” **▲**

▶ Watch an interview at www.ucollege.edu/AngelaWashington

How IRR students find the hottest summer jobs (literally)

by Megan Webling



Connor Kraegel, a senior international rescue and relief student, spent the summer as a wildland firefighter for the Shoshone National Forest Wildland Fire Module based near Cody, Wyo.

Some summer jobs involve flipping burgers, watching youngsters swim or filing in an office, but not for Connor Kraegel. The senior international rescue and relief major spent an exciting summer as a wildland fire fighter for the Shoshone National Forest Wildland Fire Module, fighting wildfires in the region.

“Responding to wildland fires is an exhilarating experience,” explained Kraegel. “I had the opportunity to fight a fire in Glacier National Park where my hand crew was responsible for a 1.5 mile section of fire line. In order to construct a protective perimeter we used explosives to blow up trees and brush into a two-foot wide trench. Afterward we held the line with helicopter water bucket drops and extensive chainsaw work. After two long weeks and over 100 miles of hiking we finally contained the fire.”

The Shoshone National Forest Wildland Fire Module is a type 2 wildland fire engine/hand crew based near Cody, Wyo., dedicated to fighting forest fires on public lands in the northern U.S.

Kraegel has been Wildland Firefighter certified for four years now. When looking for a place to work for the summer, he applied for 58 positions. “It took a while and it was a long process, but I finally landed this job as a crew medic,” Kraegel said. “When looking for a job I kept telling myself I wanted to work outdoors and with professionals.”

Because of the medical skills and emergency response training in his international rescue and relief coursework, Kraegel felt he was ready to tackle the many tasks assigned to him. “IRR survival training prepared me for rough and extensive work in the wilderness,” said Kraegel. “I have used knowledge from almost every FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) course required by IRR as well as skills learned in my emergency medical technician classes.”

But the summer job taught him even more. “This summer has been a chance to learn from the best of the best,” said Kraegel. He

acquired new firefighting skills while on the job including engine operation, chainsaw operation, and use of fire-like explosives and burn techniques. Each day he worked with engines, chainsaws, hand tools, communication equipment, heavy operations and maintenance. His experience also demonstrated the importance of following orders and using training to properly manage fires.

Finding a calling

After completing a degree in business management at Montgomery College in Maryland, Kraegel felt that maybe he needed to find a better fit. “I googled IRR-type programs and Union came up as one of the options,” Kraegel said.

Kraegel is currently finishing his last year of school earning a paramedic certification at Denver Health in Colorado. After graduation, he plans to continue working as a fire crew medic or an international travel medic.

“My most memorable time at Union was the Nicaragua expedition,” said Kraegel of the semester all senior IRR majors spend in Nicaragua learning medical skills and jungle survival. Learning so much and seeing a lot of different things in such a short period of time helped give him skills to adapt to each situation he will likely encounter in his line of work. For Kraegel, the most memorable part of working with the wildland fire fighting crew was the great people and learning to work with different equipment in different situations. On the flip side, he also witnessed some sad tragedies, such as motor vehicle fatalities.

“My advice for young students looking for internships or graduates looking for jobs is don’t give up,” Kraegel said. “Apply your heart out, stand out from the crowd and be persistent in what you want.” **A**

➤ Learn more at www.ucollege.edu/irr

Social work in South America

by Megan Webling

Susy Gomez's heart broke as she listened to the new college student share his story. The young Peruvian engineering student had excellent grades and a full scholarship, but between him and his mother, a disabled woman who tried to feed the family by selling barbecue, they could not raise the \$100 for additional school expenses like supplies.

"The first step was to get him registered for school," Gomez explained. She used some of her own sponsorship money to pay the registration fee and searched for another sponsor to help with the rest. As an intern for the People of Peru Project Backpack Program, it was one of her jobs to assist and find sponsors for families who needed school supplies for children in school.

She already sponsored some other families herself, so Gomez shared this student's story with a short term volunteer working in the area. "The volunteer decided to become a sponsor!" Gomez remembered excitedly. "This felt like a great accomplishment. But I know so many more who need help."

Now working toward a master's degree in social work at the University of Chicago, Gomez graduated from Union College in May 2015 with a degree in social work. And while most social work students fulfill their required semester-long internship at one of many local social services agencies in Lincoln, Gomez elected to head south for three months in Iquitos, Peru.

Serving people in Peru

In Peru, Gomez filled every spare moment volunteering at three different agencies: People of Peru Project, a nonprofit that works closely with the Adventist church; the Instituto de Estudios por la Infancia y la Familia (IDEIF), a nonprofit that works with victims and potential victims of sexual trafficking; and she spent a week volunteering at Santa Monica, the city's orphanage.

Half of her week with the People of Peru Project's Backpack Program was dedicated to providing school supplies for families in need. "Our main goal during my time there was to create an intake system we could use to assess need in the families who applied to the program," said Gomez. "We also started a system to document the families receiving help. This program required frequent home visits as we interviewed those who applied."

On weekends, Gomez put her Spanish language proficiency to work translating for short term volunteer groups that were brought to the area by the People of Peru Project to serve the community—including medical clinics in the Amazon jungle.

The other half of the week, Gomez served as a counselor for four girls in the IDEIF program, while also planning activities and creating programs to raise community awareness. "One of the most fulfilling experiences came when counseling one of the girls," said Gomez. "It was amazing to see her grow and to walk with her through the many issues we addressed. Although I only saw a small part of her journey, it was beautiful to see her develop and blossom through the time we spent together."

Gomez felt her experience outside the United States was critical to her educational experience. "I wanted to see what social work looks like in other parts of the world and learn how it can be used in an international context," she said. "I definitely feel my internship gave me a good taste of this. It was an opportunity to



Susy Gomez graduated with a degree in social work in May 2015 after spending a semester interning in Peru.

see deep needs and to explore how social work can help address those needs. I really had a chance to appreciate the importance of research in my field, to experience counseling firsthand, and to meet one-on-one with people from different walks of life. It also put me in contact with other great professionals from whom I learned a lot."

Ultimately, Gomez chose to study social work because of her love for people and her fascination with human behavior. "I wanted a career that would prepare me to help people as individuals, but also as members of a family unit and community," she said. "Aside from the helping side, I really enjoy the academic aspect of it; this includes exploring human behavior and doing research to find needs and methods of best practice."

Not just theory

Beyond her classroom experience at Union College Gomez found a second family and the mentors and community connections to give her valuable experience in the field even before her experience in Peru.

Active in both the Social Work Club and the Amnesty/Tiny Hands International Club on campus, Gomez worked on raising awareness of human rights abuse around the world and encouraged others to join. Also, she helped raise awareness on the effects of human trafficking and modern day slavery.

In Union College's Studio for Writing and Speaking, Gomez tutored students who needed help brainstorming ideas for writing assignments, lent an extra set of eyes to catch grammatical errors, or sometimes just offered encouragement to hang in there and continue writing papers or speeches.

And through her teachers, "I was able to make connections with people and this helped me gain my summer internships over the last few years," she explained. That included an internship with Nebraska Appleseed, a local nonprofit that seeks justice and equality for all Nebraskans. While there Gomez worked with a program to encourage college students to vote in political elections.

As she completes her master's degree at one of the top three social work schools in the country, Gomez plans to take advantage of the many internship opportunities in the Chicago area to build on what she started at Union College. "My ultimate career goal is to found a nonprofit to work with human rights," said Gomez. **A**



Called to fight for refugees

IRR graduates Andrew and Kelila Saunders support war victims in Ukraine and Iraq

by Megan Webling and
Ryan Teller

Most westerners watch with horror or disdain at the warring countries around the globe—maybe even feeling sorry for the victims of power-hungry dictators or religious fanatics, but thankful to stay as far away from the fighting as possible.

But for Andrew '12 and Kelila O'Brien '13 Saunders, both Union College international rescue and relief graduates, helping the victims of these conflicts is right where they want to be.

First it was a stint in Ukraine, providing support for refugees from the conflict with Russia. Now the couple has embarked on a more harrowing mission—helping the victims of ISIS aggression in northern Iraq.

“Andrew and I were drawn to Kurdistan based on the exceptional need,” said Kelila. She and her husband, who is a project manager for ADRA Kurdistan, now live in Erbil, Iraq. “The Middle East is high profile in Western media and the messages are predominantly negative, so while many people or organizations are willing to donate money, they are not willing to live here and do the work. When an earthquake or hurricane hits somewhere, many people are ready to jump in and provide relief. But jumping into a sticky political situation in a region that is chronically misjudged and misunderstood is a lot less glamorous. We felt moving here to do emergency response work was a way we could live God’s calling to Christians.”

Their current mission is focused on supporting refugees fleeing the conflict with ISIS raging just miles away. “Our project gives out vouchers for hygiene items and basic needs as well as rent assistance,” she said. “Many of the recipients are Kurdish, but some are also Arabs from Iraq and Syria.”

According to Saunders, the local government tightly controls immigration, and government liaisons recommend people who need help to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and other non-governmental aid agencies (NGOs) in the area. “We’re trying to reach the most vulnerable of the internally

displaced people and refugees, such as single parent households, elderly, disabled, pregnant or lactating women, or extended families in one living space,” she explained. “The project helped in one case where nine families were living under one roof.”

The Saunders home in Erbil is only about 45 minutes from ISIS-occupied Mosul. “The city itself is safe,” said Kelila. “ISIS isn’t advancing at all right now because of the increased air strikes from the U.S. and Russia and the advances of the Kurdish army. Overall, as long as ISIS stays stagnant, we are safe.”

But at the moment, there’s no end in sight. “People from all over are staying in Kurdistan for the time being,” Kelila explained. “Many choose to seek residency and become Iraqi citizens, but many hold out hoping to go home after the conflict ends. The United Nations Development Program says the conflict will last at least two more years, so it’s likely the internally displaced and refugees will be here at least that long.”

Different country, same problem

The couple recently left a similar situation in Ukraine, where they worked for ADRA Canada to serve refugees from that country’s conflict with Russia. “Currently, more than 1.2 million people have been displaced from their homes because of the ongoing conflict,” said Andrew.

“Since this time last year, more than one million Ukrainian people have fled their homes in search of safety to central and western Ukraine,” Kelila added.

“The job of helping refugees is very stressful but the benefits of meeting those we have served, seeing the smiles on their faces, and catching a glimpse of the difference we helped make is extremely rewarding,” said Andrew. “We are privileged to experience a new culture and attempt to learn a new language.”

In Ukraine, Andrew focused on helping victims of PTSD. “The project focused on cash distribution and psycho-social support for



those in need of financial support and counseling for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder,” said Andrew, “Because of the war, there are many people under high stress from leaving their homes, not having work, and not knowing how to take care of their families. Not to mention many have seen terrible effects from the artillery shelling and destruction of their homes.”

Kelila worked to fund the projects. “I was managing a \$1.6 million project provided by the Canadian Government’s International Humanitarian Affairs department,” she explained. “Our project sought to find [the displaced people] and provide them with emergency cash to purchase any immediate need the family has, such as food and water, clothing, bedding, apartment rent and so on.”

Both projects sought to help the most vulnerable populations, and funding is always an issue. “Funding for projects in Iraq is scarce right now but Andrew and I have both been writing proposals, submitting them to different donors to try to get more projects funded for the region,” she said.

The Saunders know firsthand that the refugee crisis is a worldwide problem, but it doesn’t crush the human spirit. “Being here in Iraq has been a blessing for us as well,” she said. “Our only expectations had been preset by Western media, but in living here, even if only for a short time, this place has stolen our hearts. We’ve been greeted and welcomed with more love and acceptance than I’ve ever felt anywhere. I’ve never met kinder or more selfless people.”

When Andrew and Kelila go to the market or to a restaurant, locals often pay for their food. “We try to politely refuse,” she said.

“But you are guests in our country, and guests do not pay,” they say.

It all leads up to this

For the Saunders, a lifetime of experiences and training has prepared them for these sometimes daunting tasks. “I feel my previous exposure to mission work and development prepared me well for the experience,” said Andrew. But he discovered mission work is not all navigating destroyed streets and thick jungles like he trained for while earning an IRR degree. Now he often spends quite a bit of time in an office doing administrative work.

Kelila studied IRR at Union because she felt called to mission work. “It takes time and effort to decide what you choose to focus on,” Kelila said. “Working with ADRA is everything I imagined. I have been working toward this job for years, through theory in the classroom, in internships, in volunteer positions, and now finally in a paid full-time management position.”

Most IRR majors choose this unique degree program because they want to serve people—in the medical field, as public safety

officers, as emergency medical personnel or as disaster responders—no matter the conditions. Students are subjected to rigorous academic coursework as well as field training in disaster response and search and rescue. Each graduate also spends a semester doing medical work and jungle survival training in Central America.

“At Union I found my passion in the IRR program,” Kelila said. “All the classes I took, from EMT to Swift Water Rescue, to International Development, to Crisis and Resiliency, as well as spending a semester in Nicaragua, showed me I was called to a life in emergency response.”

And experiences outside the IRR program helped prepare her to follow her dream. “My experiences at Union also included a student mission year that helped prepare me for living long-term in a foreign country and culture,” she said.

Andrew arrived at Union planning to become a mission doctor, so IRR seemed to be the perfect fit. After graduating from Union, he decided to begin a master’s degree in international development administration from Andrews University. “My time at Union and in IRR made me less confident in my desire to become a physician and sparked a desire to work in disaster response,” Andrew said.

Kelila is also working on a master’s in international development administration from Andrews. “One thing I have learned since college is the importance of networking,” she said. “It wasn’t until I decided I wasn’t afraid of putting myself out there and taking a few unpaid internships that I managed to land the job I’ve been dreaming of for years.”

The two also developed a passion for each other at Union, and together have built a life where they can be together, serve God and do something they both love. “Union greatly impacted my life in many positive ways, and it gave me a new passion for mission service and to work internationally,” Andrew said. “At Union, I learned to adapt and go where God wants me to be. He has led in crazy ways over the last five years. I am excited to see where He leads in the future.”

“When it comes to disaster and emergency response, there is never any certainty,” Kelila said. “I may not know what country I’ll be in or what organization I’ll be working for, but I do know that in five years I’ll be exactly where God has called me to be.”

For the time being, that means living near a war zone. “The need is great and the situation is dire,” Kelila said of their current assignment. “Andrew and I are honored to be here serving these people as best we can.” **A**

photos: courtesy of Andrew and Kelila Saunders





Called to the last frontier

Roddy and Stephanie Bollinger work at Alaskan hospitals that serve some of the most isolated people in the country.

by *Brittany Wren*

Snow-capped peaks and miles of pristine Alaskan coastline might seem like the vacation of a lifetime. But to Roddy '11 and Stephanie Eldenburg '11 Bollinger, it's home—a place to enjoy the natural beauty of creation and fulfill their calling to provide health-care to residents of the state's most prominent city.

As a charge nurse, Roddy oversees the overall flow and maintenance in the emergency department at Providence Medical Center, the largest hospital in Alaska. Stephanie works as a labor and delivery nurse, serving the native population at Alaska Native Medical Center.

Serving underserved populations

For Stephanie, her Union graduate parents proved to be role models—her father as a physician and her mother as a nurse—who later inspired her as she worked with native communities from across Alaska. “My job is very exciting and I love the native women,” said Stephanie, who admires their toughness and their culture. “Native women come from all over Alaska to have babies here.”

She remembered a woman in labor who personified the spirit she has come to admire in her patients. “The triage nurse told her it was time to have the baby,” Stephanie recalled. “She giggled and said, ‘I told you this baby would come fast.’ It’s unusual for a woman in labor to have that kind of an attitude.”

Many come to Alaska Native Medical Center because they have high-risk pregnancies or because they are from villages that do not

have the medical facilities to take care of them. The hospital and its staff seek to be culturally sensitive to every patient. “We do a lot more natural deliveries,” said Stephanie. “We as a hospital work hard to try and give each patient the delivery they want.”

Stephanie has found that working at a large hospital in a state made up primarily of underserved rural areas has shown her many medical cases she would not see very often in other hospitals. And she quickly discovered that some Alaskans have to travel hundreds of miles to get adequate health care—like having to make the trip from Lincoln to Chicago to visit a hospital.

“Some patients don’t even have electricity or running water,” she said. “[But] hospitals have programs to improve their living situation.” And that’s what she’s most excited about. The Alaska Native Medical Center partners with rural health facilities to support a spectrum of healthcare services, including acute injury, primary care, and a housing facility called Quyana House for out-of-town patients and their families. The hospital even provides a Traditional Healing Clinic, which offers traditional native approaches to wellness and culturally sensitive support.

“This experience has changed how I view health care,” she said. “I am more appreciative for what I have available medically. And I feel this job has given me great preparation for future jobs.”

Originally Roddy wanted to be a youth pastor, but what appealed most to him about a nursing career was the opportunity to connect with a lot of people. Both of Roddy’s parents worked at Union, and even though he hadn’t intended to stay in Lincoln

throughout college, he felt called to the nursing program. Much like a youth pastor, he felt he could be a positive influence as a nurse. Plus "it's an active occupation," he said, "which is what I need." The constant connection with people, the variation in tasks, the steady busyness—nursing is the career that encompasses everything for him.

And yet there were many moments of doubt—especially in college. "Nursing is really hard," they explained. Constantly faced with difficult tests, they often wondered if they were on the right path. But after completing each course, they felt accomplished and mustered the courage to continue.

Now, they admit nursing school gave them the foundation they needed to be successful. In the real world, they discovered nursing jobs are very fast-paced and have a high learning curve. With help from their families, a good education and trust in God, they were able to make it through. "It's worked out," they said. "And both of us are still learning every day."

Finding a home

The couple originally met while working at Camp Heritage, a youth camp in Missouri, and they started dating in high school. Stephanie chose to attend Union's nursing program because of the program's reputation for excellent board exam results and amazing teachers. For Roddy, it was Union's one-on-one teaching style that appealed most to him, something a larger program wouldn't be able to offer.

During college, they were very involved in student life and extracurricular activities. Both enjoyed business club and student body events, dodgeball tournaments and banquets. They felt it was important to be involved with as many activities as they could before they started in the nursing program. They knew that once they were in, it would be harder to make friends in other majors.

After graduation, Roddy and Stephanie worked for a year as nurses in Missouri. While that experience was valuable, the couple craved adventure. Roddy had spent some time doing commercial fishing in Bristol Bay during his senior year in high school and freshman year in college. During that time, he fell in love with Alaska. So that's where they decided to move.

Fortunately, both were able to find jobs in Anchorage. Roddy signed a two-year contract with Providence Medical Center and

Stephanie began work at the Alaska Native Medical Center. Three years later, they're still going strong. They love the outdoor life in Anchorage and consider their home state a paradise.

Groundwork for success

The family atmosphere at Union had a huge impact on Roddy and Stephanie's collegiate and professional lives, especially the

mentorship of their nursing professors. In college, they felt comfortable talking with their professors outside of class whenever they had questions. They were also invited to their professors' homes.

Long after classes ended, faculty friendships have continued. Shortly after moving to Alaska, Roddy called nursing professor Nicole Orian to ask for her advice. At the time, he was still a new nurse and felt overwhelmed by the sudden change to a 50-bed emergency room. Maybe he was in over his head? Orian counseled him to take it one day at a time, and she reaffirmed that he had made it so far and he would continue to excel. Roddy credits this advice as a pivotal moment in his career.

Another professor, Kelly Boyd, impacted them with her personal approach. "Every time we return to campus, Kelly is always the first to run up and ask how we're doing," Stephanie explained. Like Orian, Boyd still cares about what her former students are doing and values her friendship with them enough to stay in contact.

Today, Roddy and

Stephanie are working toward completing their master's degrees through Marysville University with the goal of someday becoming nurse practitioners. Beyond job preparation, the couple believes their experience at Union was worth every dollar during a critical time in their lives. Union's support system of like-minded people, Friday night worship services and church services laid the groundwork for what they decided to do with their lives after they graduated. "I don't know how you get the same support anywhere else," they explained. "Union shaped who we are." **A**



Stephanie and Roddy Bollinger—both graduates of Union's nursing program—have discovered rewarding careers serving Alaskans while enjoying an outdoor lifestyle in a place they call "paradise."



About the author: Brittany Wren is a freelance writer who works in the Records Office at Union College.



Called to be a Warrior

Andrew and Stephanie Vercio Larson found their life calling as basketball players (and other things, too)

by Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04

For some, finding a life calling can be a long winding road, while others come to college with a clear vision for their future. For Andrew '04 and Stephanie Vercio Larson '03, college was a little bit of both.

Now Andrew practices marriage and family counseling at his own practice in Hutchinson, Minn., while Stephanie works as an accountant at Hutchinson Technology. For this couple, Union's homelike atmosphere, academics and sports programs combined to not only help them choose Union as their college, but also as the jumping-off place from where they built their future.

Where to attend college was never a question for Andrew or Stephanie. "I knew I was going to Union by my freshman year of high school," Andrew said. "My sister went to Union. The first time I visited her, I went into College View Church and I was sold immediately."

Stephanie grew up in Kansas, but spent a lot of time in Lincoln during the summers. Her mother grew up in Lincoln and her grandparents lived there. "It was a second home to me," she said. "My family are all Union College alumni. It wasn't expected that I'd go to Union, but I knew I wanted to. It had a familiar feel, and it was always part of my plan."

A Calling, Not Just a Career

Early on, Andrew knew he wanted to pursue a career in counseling or therapy, and his time at Union helped him refine that goal. Likewise, Stephanie took a practical approach to college. "I knew I wanted a degree in a field where I could get a good job and have stability, so I took business."

She said that Barry Forbes, business professor and chair of the Division of Business and Computer Science, was the cornerstone in helping her define her professional journey.

"Barry never made me feel stupid, no matter how dumb my thought processes might have been when I went to talk to him,"

she said. "He never even shook his head. Instead, he has a gift of hearing gibberish, rephrasing it intelligently and making you feel good about it—like you're on the right path. He's a nurturer. He can see things about people that they can't see about themselves."

For Andrew, Dr. Trudy Holmes-Caines, Professor of Psychology, "helped me understand that I was a people-person, and she made it clear to me that she believed I was going to do something in life that would be impactful. She gave me a sense of confidence. I wasn't the most academically-minded when I entered college, but I learned through Trudy and other teachers that I could succeed."

Finding a Calling on the Court

Sports—specifically basketball—played a large part in both Stephanie's and Andrew's college experience. Both had played in high school and had come to Union for high school basketball tournaments. So when it was their turn to join Union's varsity teams, they jumped in, eager to be part of a group of like-minded athletes.

"It was fun being surrounded by people who were as passionate about sports as we were," Stephanie said. "Most of us were the best or only players at our academies. But it's more fun to be competitive if you're not the most competitive or most athletic one in the school. Being on Union's basketball team was amazing—we could share that experience. It wasn't just me who showed up for late night games and practices, it was a whole team of people who shared that passion."

It wasn't all fun and games. The pair say participating in college sports helped them improve their time management skills and sense of what's most important, and helped them fine-tune the path their lives were taking.

"Basketball provided me with the opportunity to learn to be structured with my time while going to school and working. I'm

still friends with many guys from the team, and we'll probably still be friends when we're old and greyer," laughed Andrew. "We're close because we learned those life lessons together. Not just success—sometimes failure or how to handle incidents that weren't fair. The sports program provided us a chance to learn that."

"For me, basketball was about finding a feat I excelled at," Stephanie said. "Everyone has hobbies, and basketball was ours."

Andrew agreed. "Basketball was a major portion of my life in college, if not my whole world at times. I knew I wasn't going to play for another college or in the pros, but we had a great amount of athletic talent on our teams at the time. For a small Bible college, we were very competitive. It was an exciting time to be part of Union College athletics."

Answering Life's Call Together

Andrew and Stephanie sat by each other in a religion class their freshman year, but neither was ready for a relationship, so friendship blossomed. "There was a maturing process that needed to happen before we were ready to be in a relationship," said Stephanie. "By our junior year, we were both on the same page."

After his junior year of college, Andrew served for a year as assistant boys' dean at Dakota Adventist Academy. It was a year of surprise blessings, despite being separated from Stephanie by 650 miles. By then, Andrew knew he was going to ask Stephanie to marry him. When he returned to Union for his senior year, he became the head men's resident assistant and served on Deans' Council. Stephanie had graduated the year before, but she got a job in Lincoln so she could be near Andrew.

They married July 11, 2004. That summer, the couple moved to Minnesota, where Andrew began serving as boys' dean and PE teacher at Maplewood Academy. At the same time, he started a master's program in marriage and family counseling, and Stephanie accepted a job with a local technology company and worked toward a master's in business administration. While it was busy, and even stressful and challenging at times, the Larsons said the path they took drew them closer as a couple in many ways.

It also provided them an outlet for their shared passion for giving back. "We felt strongly that we were called to work at an Adventist academy," Andrew said. "It wasn't just a job. It was a lifestyle and a commitment. It was our mission field. I was ecstatic about serving and giving back to my alma mater."

Stephanie has been with Hutchinson Technology for more than eight years, and in that time has earned an MBA and certifications as a Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Public Accountant.

As much as he loved being a dean at the academy level, Andrew embarked on his long-range plan. After completing his master's degree and passing state and national exams to become a licensed marriage and family therapist, he opened his own practice, NorthStar Counseling Center, in Hutchinson, Minn., where he currently serves as clinical supervisor. The practice has five other mental health professionals and three employees, and specializes in individual, couples and family therapy.

Andrew and Stephanie agree that their education and professional experience were perfect complements to each other and to their business venture. Andrew says Stephanie's background in business was helpful in setting up the practice, and

Warriors reunite at Homecoming 2016



Celebrate 30 years of Warriors athletics at Union College during Homecoming Weekend April 7-10, 2016. Enjoy all the traditional Homecoming festivities, see your classmates and take advantage of special Warriors events for alums of the basketball, volleyball and golf teams.

Get some practice time on Thursday night, enjoy the golf tournament and Valentino's buffet on Friday, and then shake off the rust for some volleyball and men's and women's basketball games on Saturday night. To learn more or register, visit

www.ucollege.edu/homecoming

Stephanie jokes that she was able to use Andrew's therapist skills during the stressful times. "We learned everything together along the way, and it was helpful to have each other through the process," she said. "We can honestly say we built this together."

Together, they've also built a thriving young family. Sons A.J. and Scott were born in 2011 and 2013, and they keep Andrew and Stephanie on their toes. "In the true spirit of Union, they are little squirrels," Stephanie laughed.

The couple still play basketball together two times a week at the local rec center. Stephanie says they also like to watch sports together, but between their busy lives and active little boys, they never get to watch a full game. "It's more like five minutes at a time," she admitted.

Their life successes have also enabled them to share their wealth with others—both in monetary and other ways. "We live our life according to the idea that we should give back that which was given to us," Andrew said. "We went back to Maplewood Academy to serve after graduation, and we have the opportunity to be supportive to Union now. The generations before us have pulled a lot of weight, but now we're reaching the place where we can start to give back. We feel indebted to Union in a positive way."

More than a decade has passed since the Larsons graduated from Union, but the couple still fondly recalls their days as students and athletes. "Union taught me about balance and priorities, and I learned how to be successful in my family, job, spiritual life, relationships, and service-oriented aspects," said Stephanie.

They recall a statement on a bumper sticker designed by one of their professors, Chris Blake—Union makes better lovers. "If there's one thing that summarizes everything we experienced at and took away from Union, it's love," said Andrew. "Love, people and relationships are the most important things in life. If love isn't there, you must create it. That is our calling, and it was solidified in me going into my adult years. It's the love you have for people—including my teachers, fellow athletes and academic friends." **A**

The Larsons met and started their lives together at Union College.





How One Man and One School Changed a Family

...and produced three generations of Adventist leaders

by Brenda Forbes Dickerson '86

Frank Forbes '62, his daughter Brenda Dickerson '86, and her two children, Kelti Barcelow '15, and James, a sophomore at Union.

In 1918 Frank Forbes married Elsie Appenzeller in their hometown of Rago in eastern Colorado. After the Great Depression they settled on a 640-acre farm near Akron where they raised their five children.

The youngest three, Donald, Frank Jr. and Robert (Bob) were rowdy boys who grew up with knives and guns in their hands, and frequently skipped school to play pool at the local tavern. They were also in trouble with law enforcement officials for reckless driving and ignoring hunting regulations.

"We were wild and irresponsible," recalled Frank, now the only surviving offspring. "No respect, no religion, no purpose in life."

Enter Mr. Schade

Eventually Don went to Loveland, Colo., to find work and was hired by an Adventist contractor named Everett Schade. Mr. Schade soon realized this young man was very intelligent, despite his lack of formal education. Don could make anything with his hands using the simplest of tools.

Schade and his wife took a special interest in Don and often invited him to their home. Before long they were studying the Bible together. The words of Scripture sank deep into Don's heart and by the time he was drafted to serve in the Korean War, he was already keeping the Sabbath. He knew that officially becoming a Seventh-day Adventist would make it easier for him to follow his conscience. So shortly before he shipped out, Don was baptized.

The war was a terrible, life-altering experience for him. Although he rarely talked about it, he never forgot the horrors he saw while stationed in a field hospital just behind the front lines. When the war was finally over, Don returned to his former job in Loveland working for Mr. Schade.

A life-saving miracle

Don wanted his brothers to also find peace and purpose, as he had in his new life. Frank had started smoking and drinking and knew he needed to get away and start over. Frank saw how Don had changed, and it did not take much persuading for Frank and Bob to join him in Loveland.

Schade offered them steady work building houses, and he and Don devised a plan. They positioned themselves so one of the brothers was always between them as they worked, and while they measured, hammered and sawed they talked about God and the Bible.

The younger brothers, however, didn't want anything to do with religion, and angry words were often exchanged. At one point, they even threw Don out of the house where they lived.

The turning point came when Frank and Bob were nearly killed during a reckless, high-speed Saturday night "road race." They and their three passengers were thrown from the car, which was totaled during the terrible crash. The state patrolman who came to the scene of the accident told Frank, who had been driving, it was a miracle any of them were alive.

As he lay in a hospital bed that fateful night, Frank determined to change his ways. He never smoked or drank again, and began to read the Bible his mother had given him many years ago. Through it all Mr. Schade was there—calmly and kindly offering guidance—and soon thereafter Frank and Bob were baptized.

Award-winning marksmen turn conscientious objectors

Frank admits some would have considered their baptisms to be premature. "It was January 1954 when Elder Raymond Wing

baptized us in Loveland,” said Frank. “We didn’t really know much about Adventists, but Bob and I were going into the Army that month. And though we had volunteered for the draft, we didn’t want to carry weapons.”

Despite the fact that all three young men were excellent marksmen (Don and Bob won Colorado State shooting championships), they never touched guns while in the Army. The previous summer Frank and Bob had gone to Michigan to attend a cadet training program under the leadership of Union College’s Dr. Everett Dick, qualifying them to serve as medical cadets in the Army.

As they moved from one Army post to another during their two-year term of service, Frank and Bob studied themselves into the beliefs of the Adventist church. “I did all the Bible lessons by correspondence, and read the *Conflict of the Ages* series and all the *Testimonies*,” recalls Frank.

Frank and Bob’s final Army assignment was at Ft. McClellan in Alabama. As their term of service was nearing completion, an Adventist woman named Mrs. Adams, who had taken the brothers under her wing, prodded them to decide what they wanted to do with their lives. Eventually she convinced them they should take advantage of the GI Bill and go to college on Uncle Sam’s dollar.

Provisional admission: a foot in the door

“Mrs. Adams told us there was an Adventist college in Lincoln, Neb., and it would be a good place for us. So that’s where we headed,” said Frank. They arrived on the campus of Union College in fall 1956, eager to enroll and begin their studies. The college’s registrar, however, was less than impressed with their lack of formal education. Although they had taken their GEDs, they did not have high school diplomas.

“We went round and round,” chuckled Frank, recalling their conversation. “Finally she agreed to admit us on a provisional basis if we would take classes at Union College Academy, as it was called then. So there we were, in our 20s and out of the Army, sitting in basic math and English classes with 14- and 15-year-olds.”

Don also came to Lincoln, but spent only one day on the campus before deciding college life was not for him. “Classroom learning was too confining for him,” explained Don’s daughter, Pamela Forbes, a career educator currently serving as associate director of education for the Central California Conference. “He was a hands-on learner, an innovator and an inventor.”

So Don and his bride, Virginia (Post), bought a farm in Tennessee where she had grown up and raised their four children there: Pamela, Debbie, Michael and Lawrence (Bo).

In the meantime, Bob graduated from Union College with a degree in religion. A few years later, he and his wife Betty (Bloom) went to Malawi, Africa, as missionaries with their children, Brad and Beth. A third child, Barry, was born during their 13 years there.

Frank chose to become an elementary school teacher. He graduated in summer 1962 and taught in Adventist schools—often grades 1-8 in one room—for 35 years in Wyoming, Nebraska and Tennessee. He and his wife, Myrna (Banta) also raised three children: Brian, Bruce and Brenda.

Circles of service

Not only did the Forbes brothers serve the Adventist Church faithfully for over three decades, they modeled their Christian

About the author: Brenda Forbes Dickerson ’86 is the editor of *Outlook* magazine.



faith for their children and taught them to value education. All their offspring attended Adventist schools, and at the time of this writing five hold leadership positions in the Adventist Church.

“It’s truly a miracle how God used one man to completely change the lives of the Forbes brothers,” said Brad Forbes ’82, director of *AdventSource*, a ministry resource center located in Lincoln, Neb. “Mr. Schade is an inspiration to us all as we hear how he intentionally mentored them.”


Bruce Forbes ’86 and Barry Forbes, who have taught at Union College for 16 and 25 years respectively, agreed that the second miracle was Union College faculty recognizing the potential of “rough farm boys” and helping them develop their talents.

“I try to remember the facts about my dad when he came to Union, and how unprepared he was to succeed,” said Barry, chair of the Division of Business and Computer Science. “That helps me relate to students who need extra encouragement.”

Bruce, chair of the Division of Fine Arts, added that high school grades and college entrance exam scores are “only one indicator of potential. What matters most is attitude—a willingness to learn and work hard.”

In December 2014, Frank’s granddaughter, Kelti Dickerson Barcelow, graduated from Union with a degree in history. She has been leading a Pathfinder march and drill team at her church for the past three years.

Frank’s grandson, James Dickerson, is a sophomore at Union studying exercise science. He works at Campus Ministries as the concert coordinator for Friday evening vespers. **A**



Celebrate 125 years of Union College

Join us for Homecoming Weekend, April 7-10, 2016, to kick off Union’s 125th anniversary. We’ll be celebrating all year, but it all starts at Homecoming with special events including a historical pageant to commemorate milestones and people who have built Union and made it the school it is today.

If you want to be a part of this historic occasion, register for Homecoming 2016 and join us at the “College in the West” once more. Visit www.ucollege.edu/homecoming and register for the events you want to attend.

Grad's research takes a bite out of snake venom

by Megan Webling

It didn't take long for Benjamin Herzel to see the snake problem. In the first day of his field research on snake density in India, the 2014 Union College graduate saw professional snake catchers capture, count and release 120 snakes—mostly Indian cobras and Russell's vipers—in four hours.

Herzel, who recently completed a Master of Science in Global Health Degree at the University of California at San Francisco, was awarded the John L. Ziegler Outstanding Capstone Award for his thesis research: "Treatment Strategies for Venomous Snakebites in Southern India: A Cost-Effective Analysis."

The study compared the cost-effectiveness of two major treatment options used in India for snake bites. Using antivenom is extremely expensive for individuals and the health system at large. Herzel explained that snakebites are an often overlooked global health issue in terms of the amount of attention and funding it gets compared to the mortality and morbidity it causes.

"I conducted my research in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, in the far south of India," said Herzel. "I spent half of my time in Coimbatore, and half of my time in a smaller town called Krishnagiri, not too far from Bangalore." Most of Herzel's days were spent at hospitals collecting data from patients' billed records, hospital chargemasters, and accounting reports. The information was collected in an economic model that helped Herzel determine which strategy was more cost-effective. Herzel observed victims of snakebites throughout the entire treatment process, talked to physicians and other experts as well as with patients themselves.

Herzel's research points to the effectiveness of a less expensive alternative treatment to snake antivenom such as a small molecule inhibitor. "Hopefully, this will encourage drug developers, who are already in the late stages of discovering a new class of snake antidotes, to increase their focus on likely candidates, while putting less focus on improving the quality and quantity of antivenom supplies," he said.

The idea has been pioneered by Herzel's capstone mentor, Matthew Lewin, an emergency room physician and neuroscientist in San Francisco. Lewin has promoted the idea of using a nasal spray containing drugs to counteract the neurotoxins commonly found in the venom of cobras and other Asian snakes.

"Seventy-five percent or more of the patients who die from snakebites are never treated in the hospital," said Lewin in a 2014 interview with Spencer Michels on PBS NewsHour. "If you make it to the hospital, you will probably do quite well." Lewin believes



Ben Herzel, a 2014 Union College graduate, was mentored in his snakebite treatment research in Southern India by Dr. Matthew Lewin, known as the "Snakebite Doctor." Lewin has pioneered the use of alternative and affordable treatments for the bites of cobras, vipers and other snakes whose venom contains neurotoxins.

an inexpensive spray could greatly reduce fatalities by allowing victims to make it to medical care—especially in remote areas of India.

The firsthand research in India made a big impact on Herzel's own view of global health issues. "The study made me acutely aware of the burden of disease attributed to snakebites in the world," said Herzel. "It is one thing to read papers containing statistics and figures, and it's entirely another thing to stand by the bedside of a six-year-old girl and watch her suffering only minutes after she was bitten by a viper."

Herzel graduated from Union College in 2014 with degrees in biomedical science and international rescue and relief. "Union's community is the strongest I've ever experienced," said Herzel. After finishing his master's program in August he began working full-time at UCSF for both the Department of Global Health and the Institute for Health Policy Studies. He plans to work in global health economics for the next year or two before entering medical school.

"I chose Union for the IRR program," Herzel explained. "I couldn't find any other program like it." He also found his biomedical science degree laid the foundation for the skills and knowledge he needed to complete his master's degree.

"My biggest advice to students is to have a very specific and practical plan for their degree," Herzel said. "Many IRR students may not be afraid of dangling from a cliff or jumping into a powerful current at midnight, but perhaps they are more likely to be afraid of using statistical software or searching a journal database. Don't be afraid to explore the unknown, even if it doesn't look like you expected." **A**



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

1940s

Wayne Moore '46 celebrated his 95th birthday in March 2015. He was born in Blue Earth County, near Mankato, Minn., on March 8, 1920, the second of four children of Louis and Lillie Moore. Wayne planned to graduate from Union College with his class in 1944. However he married **Annabelle Evans ('44)** in 1944 and began his church service career in Brownwood, Texas. He worked as a literature evangelist, school teacher and pastor in that community. Returning to Union College, he graduated in 1946 and moved to Pendleton, Ore., to work at Harris Pine Mills while waiting for a pastoral call. He pastored in the Upper Columbia Conference for 14 years and worked in the Montana Conference for 20 years as a pastor and in the youth and education departments. After Wayne retired in 1982, he remained active and continued to preach regularly. Wayne's family includes his sons, Carlton and Clayton and three grandchildren.



Wayne Moore

1960s

Thurman '63 and Martha Gehres **Petty** celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on Aug. 21, 2015. Thurman served for 30 years before retiring because of health in 1990. He wrote 18 books, among them five books on the Babylonian captivity of the Jews, known as the "Gate" series. Martha was a registered nurse before retirement and worked in many different venues. She is also an artist, selling many paintings in the early years. The Pettys served as pastor and nurse on Pitcairn Island in the early 1980s, as documented in the October 1983 issue of *National Geographic*. Thurman was also a pastor in Maryland, New Jersey, Wyoming, California, Missouri and Texas. They live in Trout Creek, Mont., and they have three children and ten grandchildren.

Darrel Huenergardt '65 received an appointment to the Nebraska Arts Council by Nebraska governor Pete Ricketts. The Nebraska Arts Council is a state agency that seeks to promote, cultivate and sustain the arts in Nebraska.

1970s

Bill Chunestudy '72 recently became associate academic dean for Distance and Adult Learning

at Pacific Union College, leading the development of the college's new online degree programs.



Bill Chunestudy

Ira '74 and **Winifred "Freddie" Forshee ('73)** Blackburn celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary June 6, 2015, in Payette, Idaho. Both Ira and Freddie graduated from Champion Academy in Colorado in 1954. Ira went into the Army in March 1955, and they were married June 6, 1955, in Craig, Colo. They spent the first 21 months of their marriage in Washington, D.C., while Ira participated in the Army's biodefense research program, Operation Whitecoat. In time, they worked and went to school. Ira graduated in 1974 from Union College. They worked at Sheyenne River Academy in North Dakota, Oak Park Academy in Iowa and Platte Valley Academy in Nebraska. They also served at LaVida Mission in New Mexico. Their family includes their sons: Rom, Don and Ron; daughter, Kendra; eight grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

1980s

Gayln Bowers '80 was recently named executive director at Co-hutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Ga.

1990s

Luca Holden Cilento was born Sept. 11, 2014, to **Vanessa Bolejack Cilento '99**, and her husband, Fabrizio. Luca weighed 6 lbs 8 oz and was 19 inches long. He joins his sister, Alessia, 7, at home. Vanessa is a consulting biostatistician with Cancer Research and Biostatistics, based in Seattle, Wash. They live in central Pennsylvania where Fabrizio is an assistant professor of film and digital media at Messiah College.



Luca Cilento and family

Jeff '98 and **Charissa Jensen '00** Boyd are pleased to announce the birth of Victor Yousif Boyd on May 24, 2015. He was placed with Jeff and Charissa on June 24 and the adoption was finalized Nov. 8, 2015. Jeff is accountant and managing editor for *Adventist Today* and director of Adventist Peace Fellowship. Charissa recently left her job as a bilingual



Victor Yousif Boyd

CLASS-IFIEDS

teacher at Lutheran Social Services of Michigan. She will continue working for them part-time as she cares for Victor. They live in Flint, Mich.

Sam Huenergardt '99 was recently named CEO at Parker Adventist Hospital in Denver, Colo. Sam is a fourth-generation (on both sides of his family) graduate from Union College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. Later he completed an M.B.A. from Baker University in Overland Park, Kan. Sam has enjoyed more than 15 years of progressive leadership at seven different hospitals within the Adventist Health System. His most recent post was CEO of Central Texas Medical Center in San Marcos, Texas.

2000s

Todd Casey ('02) was recently named director of youth for the Gulf States Conference. Todd has been a Bible instructor, youth pastor and assistant pastor in Alabama since 2009. His wife, December, is the payroll clerk in the conference office.

John '15 and Haylee Valentin ('02) Springer welcomed Bogan Christopher Springer on Sept. 15, 2014. He weighed 6 lbs 8 oz and was 19.5 inches long and joined sister, Summit, five, at home. John is an engineer at Five Nines Technology Group in



Bogan and Summit Springer

Lincoln, Neb. Haylee is a stay-at-home mom.

James Goddard '04, who is the Economic Justice and Health Care Director at Nebraska Appleseed in Lincoln, Neb., was selected to be in the first class to participate in the Children's Health Leadership Network. This is a class of 16 people nationwide who will receive intense training and coaching to further their advocacy and leadership skills to fight for better health and well-being for children.

Finley Maxwell Jones was born to Dustin and **Heidi Hiebert Jones '04** Aug. 2, 2014. After living in Loma Linda, Calif., for the past five years, the family is now in Kalispell, Mont. Heidi is active in her local church and leads a ministry for homebound members. Dustin is a manager of marketing communications at Kalispell Regional Healthcare. Finley's older brother, Nolan, is three years old.



Finley Maxwell Jones

Brianna Perry Martin '04 and her husband Ben are pleased to announce the birth of Emmett Elijah Martin on Oct. 11, 2015. Brianna is a stay-at-home mom and Ben is the youth pastor at Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich.



Emmett Elijah Martin

Lydia Adelee Miller was born to **Josh '04** and **Shelley Miller** on April 12, 2015. She weighed 7 lbs 4 oz and was 19.5 inches long. Josh works with business development at the Horton Group, which is a website and app development and inbound marketing agency. Shelley is a psychiatric nurse practitioner at Volunteer Behavioral Health. They live in Hendersonville, Tenn. (photo courtesy of Brooke Kelly photography)



Lydia Adelee Miller

Tyson '04 and **Kim Miner** welcomed Jameson Wayne Miner March 31, 2015; He weighed 7 lb 4 oz and was 21 inches long. He joined his sister, Paige, age two, at home. Tyson has accepted a management position within the Warren Management Group in Colorado Springs, Colo., and Kim will seek an RN position once they are settled in their new locale.



Jameson Wayne Miner

Claire Elouise Erickson was born Aug. 15, 2015 to **Kevin '06** and **Jeanene Gates '08 Erickson**. She weighed 7 lbs 14 oz, was 20 inches long and joins Cooper, age two, at home. Jeanene is a sixth-grade language arts teacher at Goodrich Middle

School in the Lincoln Public Schools. Kevin is director of admissions and enrollment at Union College.



Claire and Cooper Erickson

Stephanie Rick Lind '06 and her husband, Jeff, welcomed Jaxson Rick Lind on May 30, 2015. He weighed 8.3 lbs and was 19.5 inches long. Stephanie is director of health performance strategies at Florida Hospital. Jeff is a nursing home administrator.



Jaxson Rick Lind

Jonathan Marcus Wright was born March 27, 2015, to **Jared '06** and **Tonya Current '05 Wright**. He weighed 7.7 lbs and was 19.7 inches long and joined his brother, Justus, at home. Jared and Tonya work with the Isan Buddhists of Thailand as a ministry of Adventist Frontier Missions.



Jonathan Marcus Wright

Peter Arthur Nelson was born Dec. 26, 2014 to **Kevin ('07)** and **Becky McArthur ('06) Nelson**. He joined sister Dayna, three, at home and was 9 lbs 11 oz and

21.5 inches long. Kevin is a mechanical engineer for John Deere in Waterloo, Iowa, and Becky is a stay-at-home mom.



Peter Nelson and sister Dana

Valerie Robinette Lee '07 wrote a book titled *It's Worth the Sacrifice*, detailing her experiences as a student missionary in Kenya. She is an assistant professor of biology and allied health at Southern Adventist University.

Casey '07 and Sandra Nazario '09 Prindle welcomed Aubrey Faith to their family on July 6, 2015. She weighed 7 lbs 12 oz and was 20.5 inches long with dark brown hair. Casy is principal and teacher of fourth through eighth grades at Intermountain Adventist Academy in Grand Junction, Colo. Sandy is an OB nurse at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. Big sister, Charlotte, is loving having a new sister to play with.



Aubrey Faith Prindle

Jocelyn Breuer Coy '08 graduated with a Master of Science in Nursing degree from Concordia University Wisconsin in May 2015. She is a nurse practitioner in the hematology-oncology department at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Ross '08 and Kassy Meelhuysen '10 Eichele are pleased to announce the birth of Adelynn Claire Eichele on June 30, 2015. She weighed 7 lbs 4 oz and was 19 inches long. Ross is a network administrator for Convergence Networks, and Kassy is a stay-at-home mom and does project management for KDesign, Inc. They live in Gresham, Ore.



Adelynn Claire Eichele

Nick '08 and Debbie Gibbs '09 Hodges welcomed Tyler Nicholas over a month early on May 3, 2015. He weighed 5 lbs 6 oz and was 18 inches long. Debbie is creative director at Insight Communications, and Nick is controller at Klymit. They live in West Bountiful, Utah.



Tyler Nicholas Hodges

Serhiy Horokhovskyy '08 and his wife, Olha, welcomed Lucas

Jonathan Horokhovskyy on May 17, 2015. He weighed 11 lb 1 oz and was 21.5 inches long. Serhiy is assistant manager at Hertz Rental Car in Lincoln, Neb. Olha is a stay-at-home mom.



Lucas Horokhovskyy

Jenna Renee Robbins was born Feb. 11, 2015, to **Paul '08 and Holly Kampf '08 Robbins**. She weighed 7 lbs 8 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Holly is a school counselor for Uinta County School District #1 in Evanston, Wyo. Paul is a police officer for the city of Evanston.



Jenna Renee Robbins

Justin '09 and Rachael Schlotthauer ('09) Henry welcomed Luna Olowan on July 28, 2015. She weighed 7 lbs 11 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Olowan means song in Lakota, and so she is their little moon song baby. Justin is a financial analyst for Kaiser Permanente. Rachael is a physical therapist, who recently worked for Indian Health

Service. She is taking time off to be with Luna. They live in Northern California, near both of their families.



Luna Olowan Henry

Chloe Louise Tavares Dunkin was born March 16, 2015, to **Brad '10 and Evelyn Tavares '09 Dunkin**. She weighed 6 lbs 10 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Brad is a production owner for the Cerner Corporation. Evelyn is an agricultural investments loan administrator for Metlife. They live in Lenexa, Kan.



Chloe Louise Tavares Dunkin

2010s

Seth '10 and Joana Garcia ('08) Flemmer welcomed Oliver Leo Luis Flemmer on March 31, 2015. He weighed 6 lbs 7 oz and was 21 inches long. Joana is a credit analyst for First International Bank and Trust in Bowdon, N.D. Seth farms with his uncle and cousin.

CLASS-IFIEDS



Oliver Flemmer and parents

Jason '10 and **Baylee Underwood '10 Odenthal** are pleased to announce the birth of Reagan Rhylee Odenthal on Aug. 2, 2015. She weighed 6 lb 12 oz and was 19 inches long. Jason is the executive director at Columbine Manor in Salida, Colo. Baylee also works at Columbine Manor as an MDS coordinator, assessing the functional capabilities of the residents.



Reagan Rhylee Odenthal

Shalom Nathania Timang was born to **Tony Timang '10** and Ririn Lande on July 2, 2015. She weighed three kilograms. Tony is a planner and part controller for Kuala Pelabuhan Indonesia. His job involves using information from the maintenance department to determine what materials and parts will be needed to maintain heavy duty equipment utilized to support production in P.T. Freeport, Indonesia. His wife, Ririn, is an obstetrician who teaches obstetrics.



Shalom Nathania Timang

Brighton (11) and **Tara Berlin '11 Engelhart** welcomed Daniel Leo Engelhart on April 21, 2015. He weighed 7 lbs 8 oz and was 21 inches long. Tara is an operating room nurse at Hanover Hospital in Hanover, Pa. Brighton is a firefighter with Loudon County Fire and Rescue.



Daniel Leo Engelhart

Katie Booton Grinberg '11 and her husband Arick are pleased to announce the birth of Ian Alexander Grinberg on May 6,



Ian Alexander Grinberg

2015. He weighed 8 lbs 9 oz and was 21 inches long. Katie is a registered nurse at Immanuel Fontenelle Home in Omaha, Neb. Arick recently completed a Master of Arts degree in clinical counseling from the University of Nebraska in Omaha.

Thomas Antonio Fernandez was born Oct. 2, 2015, to **Santi '13** and **Kelly Ree '11 Fernandez**. He weighed 9 lbs 9 oz and was 21.5 inches long. Kelly says, "I am blessed to have the privilege to stay at home with our little boy." Santi took classes in the Adventist Health Care chaplaincy program from August 2014 to August 2015. Now he is completing a Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University.



Thomas Fernandez and parents

Raschelle Casebier Hines '13, designer for the Mid-America *Outlook* magazine, took home the Young Professional of the



Raschelle Hines

Year award given at the annual Society of Adventist Communicators Convention held October 15-17, 2015, in Chantilly, Va. Nominations for the award are evaluated based on the nominee's portfolio, work experiences, skills, character, creativity and productivity. Hired as a communication intern for the Mid-America Union Conference, she has worked with many design projects in the office and will transition to regular employee in 2016.

Karla Navarette West '13 and her husband, Brandon, welcomed Michael Alexander West on June 23, 2015. He weighed 6 lb 5 oz and was 20 inches long. Karla is an emergency room nurse at Mercy Medical Center—West Lakes in West Des Moines, Iowa. Brandon is a special agent with the state of Iowa.



Michael Alexander West

Kendall '15 and **Caitlyn Gardner** are pleased to announce the birth of Kyran Kendall Gardner on Aug. 12, 2015. He weighed 8 lbs 5 oz and was 20.5 inches



Kyran Kendall Gardner

long. Kendall is a care partner at Tabitha Health Care, and Caitlyn is a liaison in the accounting and marketing departments at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Sophia Marie and Olivia Rose were born to **Marie Johnson '15** on April 30, 2015. Sophia weighed 6 lbs 7 oz and was 19.25 inches long. Olivia weighed 5 lbs 13 oz and was 18.75 inches long. Marie is a stay-at-home mom.



Olivia and Sophia Johnson

Ebba Mead '15 welcomed Liam Alexander on Dec. 12, 2014. He weighed 7 lbs 9 oz, and was 21 inches long. She is a care manager at Centerpointe in Lincoln, Neb.



Liam Alexander Mead

People Placements

Nick Axmaker is a visiting instructor of mathematics for 2015-16 in the Division of Science and Mathematics. He most recently worked as the interim director of the Math Learning Center at Wright State University. Nick earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Alaska Southeast in 2009 and a Master of Science in Mathematics from Wright State University in 2013. Nick is married to Kayla.

Christopher Banks is an assistant professor of history and has launched the international relations program in the Division of Humanities. He earned a bachelor's degree in international relations from Brown University, a master's in international affairs from Columbia University and is currently completing a Ph.D. in politics at the University of Oxford.

Rachael Boyd is the new campus visit coordinator for Enrollment Services. She most recently worked as a program coordinator at Life University in Georgia. Rachael earned a bachelor's degree in management from Southern Adventist University. Although not a graduate from Union, she had become familiar with Union through many visits while she was development director at Dakota Adventist Academy.

Kim Canine is the new associate dean of students in Student Services. She most recently worked as director of student involvement in the Student Services office at La Sierra University in California. She graduated from La Sierra with both a bachelor's degree and an MBA. Kim and her husband, **Chris '96**, have two children, Zeldon, nine, and Adisyn, six.

Lisa Forbes ('81) is the new director of human resources. She

most recently worked as manager of the Lincoln SDA Credit Union. She attended Union, graduated from Doane College and served as director of student finance here. She is married to **Bruce '86**, chair of the Division of Fine Arts. The couple enjoys bicycling, reading, photography and quilting.

Brett Hadley is the new assistant professor of communication and drama. He most recently served as pastor of the New Creation and Capitol View Adventist churches in Lincoln. Brett earned a bachelor's degree from Southern Adventist University and a master's degree from University of California at Davis. Brett and his wife, Miranda, have four children: two grown, Ryan and Randi; Colby, a student at Union; and Aspen, nine.

Shelly Hagen ('91) is the new records assistant in the Records Office. She most recently worked as a receptionist at Abundant Life Family Chiropractic in Lincoln. Shelly attended Union College, where she met her husband, **Ron '91**. They have two children, Cody, a freshman at Union, and Aubrey. She enjoys skiing, traveling, listening to music, solving Sudoku puzzles and spending time with family.

Ricky Little is the new professor of music in the Division of Fine Arts, with a specialty in vocal performance. He most recently worked as associate professor of voice at Morehead State University in Kentucky. Little graduated from Oakwood University before earning master's and doctoral degrees at Ohio State University. Little has led or performed in productions around the world and on television and won awards as director of the Oakwood University Aeolians. He has one son, Jon.

Kian Mapp is an academic coach in the Teaching Learning Center. She most recently worked as a telephone interviewer at Gallup. Kian earned a

bachelor's degree from Union College and a master's in community and international development from Andrews University. She is married to Kenny, also a Union graduate. Kian likes to read, design, play video games, write, travel and take photos.

Patricia Maxwell is an assistant professor of communication in the Division of Humanities. She most recently served as director of marketing and communication technologies for Catalina Island Conservancy. She attended Union College, and then graduated with a bachelor's degree in communication from Walla Walla University and an MBA from Loma Linda University. She has two sons, one studying at Southern Adventist University and one in the U.S. Army.

Tyler Morrison is an enrollment coordinator in Enrollment Services. He graduated from Union in 2015 with a degree in secondary education. Tyler loves music and basketball, and helps coach the women's varsity basketball team.

Brooke Samples is the office manager for the Division of Nursing. A Nebraska native, she most recently worked as store manager for Cole Haan in Gretna, Neb. She enjoys reading, sports, traveling and spending time with her four-year-old daughter, Evelyn.

Denise Serack is the new assistant director of food service in Union Market. She most recently served as the food service director at Gem State Academy in Idaho. Denise attended Walla Walla University and has one son who lives in Boise. She is the first of her family to live outside of the Northwest, and loves gardening, sewing, friends, and, of course, cooking.

Tim Simon '79 is the new assistant professor of secondary education in the Division of Human Development. He most

IN MEMORY

recently worked at Gallup as a senior learning consultant. Tim graduated with a degrees in theology and education from Union College and a master's in school administration and leadership from Loma Linda University. He was also Union's vice president for enrollment services in the early 1990s. He enjoys following politics, and has two sons, Toby and Tristan, and two grandsons.

Pauline Stubbendieck is the new clinical director assistant for the physician assistant program. She most recently worked for the Southern Adventist University nursing program in Florida and worked at Florida Hospital for 17 years. She loves scrapbooking, reading, event planning and going on cruises. She and her husband, Gregg, have three children: Elizabeth, a freshman at Union; and twins John and Andrew who attend CVA.

Transitioned

Michelle Mesnard is the new associate vice president for Academic Initiatives at Union College. She most recently served as chair of the Division of Humanities and associate professor of communication.

Jonathan Shields is now an academic coach in the Teaching Learning Center. He formerly served as director of human resources at Union.

IN MEMORY

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

Paul Shively ('32), Yountville, Calif., died Feb. 8, 2015, at age 100. He was born May 9, 1914, to John and Nellie Davis Shively in Osceola, Iowa. He attended Union College and Pacific Union College and then graduated as a medical doctor from Loma Linda University the

same weekend he married Mabel Brown. After a medical internship in Washington, D.C., and a brief medical practice in New Mexico, Paul completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Oklahoma Medical School and then moved to Chicago. In 1945 he joined the U.S. Navy and traveled to Japan where he did general medical practice with the U.S. Marines 2nd Division. After returning to Napa, Paul began practice at St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco where he remained more than 43 years. Before his retirement in 1990, he had delivered more than 6,000 babies. In later life he enjoyed golfing. In 2013, the couple moved to the Adventist retirement center in Yountville. Paul is survived by his beloved wife of 76 years; three children: Donovan, James, and Christine Welebir; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Leona Erwin Fritz ('35), Littleton, Colo., died March 20, 2015, at age 100. She was born Jan. 30, 1915, in Detroit Lakes, Minn. Survivors include her sons, Ronald, Robert, Don; daughters, Donna and **Shirley King (former staff)**; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Eleanor Kirkpatrick Rice '36, Loveland, Colo., died March 12, 2015, at age 99. She was born Feb. 14, 1916, in Newcastle, Wyo., to Clive and Minnie Kilpatrick and grew up with her two brothers, Jim and Bill. After graduating valedictorian and president of her high school senior class, she graduated from Union College with a degree in English. Then she transferred to White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles, Calif., where she took nursing. She especially enjoyed outpatient obstetrics where she worked after graduation. In 1942, she married Elmer Nelson. After Elmer passed away in 1976, she married William Rice. For many years Eleanor worked as an office nurse for Dr. **A. N. Grosboll**

'(35) and Dr. Robert Grosboll '62. She is survived by her daughters: **Nancy Atwood ('65)** and **Judy Paulien '67**; three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Lenore Schmidt Reinhardt ('37), Castle Rock, Colo., died Jan. 16, 2015, at age 97. She was born Feb. 20, 1917, in Bowden, N.D., to Henry and Mollie Steinert Schmidt. On Aug. 3, 1938, she married Elton Reinhardt. Considering herself a lifelong resident of Rush County, Kan., Lenore lived 54 of those years in LaCrosse, Kan., before moving to Castle Rock, Colo., in April 2014. She was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in La Crosse, Kan. Her survivors include her son, Arlyn; six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; brother, Kenneth Schmidt; and sister, Marcella Downs.

Maurice Hansen ('38), Bowman, N.D., died July 23, 2015, at age 97. Born in Minnehaha Township, Bowman County, N.D., on July 4, 1918, he was the eldest of three sons born to Edward and Mabel Hansen. He attended Sheyenne River Academy, Plainview Academy and Union College. Maurice served with the 17th General Hospital during World War II in North Africa and Italy. On Sept. 4, 1962, he married Dorothy Schaar, and they purchased their farm in Sheets Township, Slope County, N.D., in 1946. He was an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church where he served as an elder and deacon. He also served the township and county in various capacities. Survivors include children, Miles, **Penny Gottfried ('71)**, and **Tom '79**; one brother, nine grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Elwin Dick ('41), LaHarpe, Kan., died Sept. 9, 2015, at age 94. He was born March 5, 1921, to Arthur and Altie Wordell

Dick in LaHarpe, Kan. He graduated from Enterprise Academy and attended Union College and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. On July 26, 1942, he married Fern Jacobs ('42), and they made their home on a dairy farm south of LaHarpe. He is survived by his sons, **Merlin '70** and Ken, daughter, Norma Cramer, brother, **Clyde '59**, six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Lillian Peters Dupper '41, Snowflake, Ariz., died Dec. 23, 2014, at age 92. She was born to Peter and Adella Peters on March 22, 1922, in Clinton, Mo. She met her husband, **Paul Dupper '48**, while attending Union College. Lillian enjoyed playing the piano as well as sewing, quilting, crocheting and painting landscapes. She was an active and lifelong member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She is survived by her daughter, Judith; son, Dwight; and three granddaughters.

Ila Nelson Hagen ('41), Angwin, Calif., died May 18, 2015, at age 93. She was born July 8, 1921, in Elk Horn, Iowa. Survivors include her husband, Russel; son, Bruce; daughter, Joan Hughson; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ann Tachenko Holbrook ('41), Colton, Calif., died Oct. 10, 2014, at age 92. She was born March 24, 1922, in Grassy Butte, N.D., to Mike and Rose Sokirka Tkachenko, and grew up on the ranch there with her parents, seven full siblings and six half-brothers. She attended high school at Killdeer High and Sheyenne River Academy, graduating in 1941. Ann then attended Union College and Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing, graduating valedictorian of her class in 1945. In 1946 she moved to California to work at White Memorial Hospital, met and married Ralph Thomas, Jr. in 1948, and had two daughters, Sharon and Charlotte. They enjoyed their involvement with the Downey

Seventh-day Adventist church community, often hosting social events. They divorced in 1970, and Ann focused on her career in occupational health. Over the years she particularly enjoyed international travels and spending time with her daughters' families and her relatives based in North Dakota. She retired at age 75, after 52 years of nursing. Ann married **Delmer Holbrook '46**, an old beau from Sheyenne River Academy, on Sept. 13, 1998. She is survived by her husband; daughters, Sharon Ticer and Charlotte Penington; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; brothers, Lonny and Mike; and step-sons, **Bob '69** and Bill Holbrook and their children and grandchildren.

Elmer Martinson '41, Orono, Minn., died June 27, 2015, at age 97. He was born Nov. 16, 1917, in Wayzata, Minn., to **Carl '22** and Alma Martinson. He graduated from Maplewood Academy and Union College, and completed a medical degree at Loma Linda University. He then commanded the hospital at the 8th Air Force base at High Wycombe, England. After the war he completed a master's degree in surgery at the University of Minnesota and joined his father's medical practice at Martinson Clinic in Wayzata. He was active as a surgeon at Abbott Northwestern Hospital and Metropolitan Medical Center, both in Minneapolis. Elmer married **Peggy Guy ('46)** in 1946 soon after his return from England. They had been lifelong acquaintances because of the strong friendship between their parents. He was a founder, frequent leader and volunteer with his churches—Minnetonka and then Westview Adventist. He was an accomplished golfer and alpine, Nordic and water skier. He was active in the founding of Minnetonka Christian Academy and the Wayzata Country Club. Survivors include his sons: Thomas, Jack, Bruce and William; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Evelyn Roll Rice '41, Ukiah, Calif., died Feb. 27, 2015, at age 98. Born Nov. 6, 1916, in North Little Rock, Ark., to Harold and Ancel Roll, she graduated cum laude from Union College with a degree in music and taught piano for several years. She was married to **Frank Rice (honorary graduate)** for over 65 years before his death in 2009. Living most of her adult life in St. Louis, Mo., Evelyn played organ for the Central Seventh-day Adventist church where she was a member for many years. Survivors include her daughter Lilli; sons, Steve and **Geoffrey '78**; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Eva Hallock Sherbondy ('41), Erie, Colo., died Oct. 6, 2014, at age 94. She was born Dec. 2, 1919, and was a member of the Twin Peaks Seventh-day Adventist Church in Louisville, Colo. She is survived by her children: Edith Vining, Evalyn Smith, David, **Duane ('74)** and **Delbert ('87)**; 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Helen Carpenter Gillette-Thompson '42, Hilo, Hawaii, died Aug. 8, 2014, at age 93. She was born May 24, 1921, in Wakekeney, Kan. Survivors include her sons, Brian and Lance; daughter, Maia Cummings; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Elma Dupper Lorenz ('42), La Salle, Colo., died April 5, 2015, at age 91. She was born at home in Beebe Draw, Colo., on Oct. 26, 1923, to Henry and Caroline Dupper. Elma attended the small German Seventh-day Adventist Church in Beebe Draw with her family, including her five brothers and one sister. She graduated from Campion Academy in 1941 attended Union College and the Campbell secretarial school in Lincoln, Neb. She met **Oliver Lorenz '46** at Union College. They were married Sept. 16, 1945, in Greeley, Colo. After Oliver taught religion at an academy for five years, the cou-

ple returned to his family's farm to help his father. Eventually they purchased the family farm and raised crops, cattle and had a dairy. Having no children, they dedicated their lives to their nieces and nephews. They were affectionately referred to as "Aunt" and "Uncle" by all family and many close friends. Oliver died the morning after Elma died. Survivors include her brothers, **Franklin Dupper '54**, **Kenneth Dupper '64**; sister, Donna Cordova; and many nieces and nephews.

Virgil Lorenz ('42), Platteville, Colo., died Dec. 28, 2014, at age 93. He was born on Jan. 26, 1922, to Sarah Bohlender and Christian Lorenz near Peckham, Colo. Virgil graduated from Campion Academy and attended Union College for two years. He married **Lillie Schumann ('49)** on Nov. 12, 1950, in Greeley, Colo. They settled on a farm and then the Wyoming ranch for one year before moving back to the rural LaSalle/Gilcrest area. Virgil grew up helping the family ranching and farming operations in La Salle and Wyoming. He also worked as an electrician and later as a welder and mechanic until his retirement in 1985. Virgil was a member of the Greeley and then Brighton Seventh-day Adventist churches and served as a teacher, deacon and elder for many years. Survivors include his son, Douglas; daughters, DeeAnn Buller and Dawn Tohm; and nine grandchildren.

Herbert White '42, Reed City, Mich., died Jan. 28, 2015, at age 98. He was born March 12, 1916, in Covington, Ky., to William and Lucy Bell White. After attending Campion Academy, he graduated from Union College in 1942 and completed a master's degree from Andrews University in 1968. He married **Luella Garrett ('39)** in Iowa on Aug. 21, 1939. After her death, he married Dorothy Culbert on Aug. 31, 2011. Herbert taught in Seventh-day Adventist elementary schools and was a minister

in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He enjoyed woodworking, photography and travel. He is survived by his sons, Philip and Stephen; four stepchildren, Larry Beardsley, Laura Long, Donna Stilson, and Ellen Murdick; five grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Wilton Bresee ('44), Salem, Ore., died April 2, 2015, at age 93. He was born Jan. 27, 1922, in Madison, S.D. Survivors include his wife, Hertha; sons, Gerald and Eugene; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dorsett Feyen ('45), College Place, Wash., died Aug. 4, 2015, at age 92. He was born in Mexia, Texas, to Lewis and Myrtle Luhn Feyen and graduated from high school in Wink, Texas. While attending Union College, Dorsett met and married **Betty Burke ('45)** from Moberg, S.D. In 1947 the family moved to College Place, Wash., to attend Walla Walla College. He attended college part-time while working full-time until he decided to focus on his work. He was self-employed as a painting contractor in the area for more than 65 years. He is survived by his second wife, Betty; children, Monty, Loni, Donald and Jacque; four grandchildren and two great-grandsons; and three stepchildren.

Grace Elliott Howard '45, Lincoln, Neb., died Oct. 5, 2015, at age 91. She was born Jan. 18, 1924, in Takoma Park, Md., to Henry and Mabel Baker Elliott. She retired in 1991 after serving as secretary-treasurer at the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church for 17 years. Grace enjoyed spending time with her family and playing games. She is survived by her daughters, Linda Johnson and **LouAnn Howard '78**; one grandson and five great-grandchildren; close family friend **Phyllis Gorton '76**; and nieces, nephews and numerous great nieces and nephews.

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Marjorie Livingston Koenig '45, Walla Walla, Wash., died May 26, 2015, at age 90. She was born to James and Harriet Calkins Livingston in Fairmont, Minn., on Dec. 19, 1924. She graduated from Maplewood Academy in 1943 and Andrews University in 1949. Marge married William Koenig on Dec. 9, 1945. They were in Peru for ten years, where she was a teacher and missionary. She was also a manager of data processing in the business office at Walla Walla University, and she retired in 1990. Marjorie's greatest joy, besides her family, was quietly helping less fortunate residents in the community. Survivors include her husband, William, daughters, Heidi Hart, Sandra Zickuhr Jacobson and Elizabeth Behrmann; one sister, Donna; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Edward Koenig '45, Chevy Chase, Md., died Nov. 20, 2014, at age 99. He was born in a sod house on a rural North Dakota homestead. Raised as a farm kid, he was called to the ministry and worked his way through school, graduating from Union College in 1945. Ed married Mabel Phillips, a nurse from Jaroso, Colo. He pastored Adventist churches in Texas and in Lodi, Paradise and St. Helena, Calif., from 1945 until his retirement in 1980. He continued active participation in church life in St. Helena and Chico, Calif., and in Nampa, Idaho, for many years. After retirement, he turned his hand to home building, furniture making and gardening. He is survived by his daughter, Karen Lea; son, Harry; four grandchildren; two brothers and two sisters.

Virginia Pate Hayes '45, Arlington, Texas, died Aug. 18, 2015, at age 92. She was born July 13, 1923, in Saint Jo, Texas, to Louis and Eva Slaton Shields. Virginia earned a bachelor's degree from Union College and a master's degree from Texas Christian University. In 1946,

Virginia married **Altus Hayes '41**, her life partner until his death in 2006. She was an educator, public speaker, cotton farmer and world traveler. She has served on the Board of Trustees for Southwestern Adventist University, Union College and Burton Academy. She was a member of the Woman's Club (CADMEAN), Pan American Round Table, Fort Worth Founders Lady Lions Club, International Platform Association, Ridglea Country Club, and Petroleum Club. She was a member of the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors include her son, Randy; daughter, Sue; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Charles Seitz '45, Vonore, Tenn., died Jan. 1, 2015, at age 90. He was a retired Seventh-day Adventist minister and also a former youth camp director and church trust worker. Charles was an avid ham radio operator and private pilot. He owned and operated a 1/3 scale steam train in Northern California that could pull 50 children. Charles grew his own kiwi orchard, and loved softball and singing. He was a positive person with a playful sense of humor. Survivors include his wife Betty Gryzwa Seitz; stepchildren: Melinda Bern, Jennifer Buckland, Douglas Matthews; and nieces and nephews.

Ray Wing '45, Gypsum, Colo., died Nov. 1, 2014, at age 99. He was born Oct. 8, 1915, in Buffalo County, Neb. Ray pastored churches in Missouri, Colorado, Kentucky, Wyoming, New Mexico and Texas. Survivors include his son, Jerold, seven grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

LaVonne Cozad Hilliard (46), Calimesa, Calif., died Aug. 8, 2015, at age 92. She was born Nov. 19, 1922, in Fort Collins, Colo. She is survived by her sons, **Duane (70)** and **Dennis '72**; six grandchildren and five

great-grandchildren.

Delmer Holbrook '46, Colton, Calif., died March 2, 2015, at age 92. He was born Feb. 23, 1923, to missionary parents who were working in Brazil. After attending Sheyenne River Academy, Delmer went to Union College where he married **Betty Jarnes '63** in 1945. He began his work at Sunnyside Academy in 1946 but soon left to help build Bolivian Adventist University, then serve as president of Inca Union College in Peru. Returning to the U.S. in 1959, Delmer worked concurrently at Union College and the University of Nebraska while completing his doctorate in education. By 1965, he was president of Home Study Institute, which is now Griggs University. During this time he and his wife, Betty, led out in the family ministries department of the General Conference. Survivors include his sons, **Robert '69** and **William**; four grandchildren, **Robert '95**, **Erin**, **Hans ('99)** and **Rolf '01**; three great-grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Oliver Lorenz '46, La Salle, Colo., died April 6, 2015, at age 92. Born at home just east of Gilcrest, Colo., on May 13, 1922, he was the only child of John and Laura Lorenz. He graduated from Champion Academy in 1941 and from Union College in 1946 with a degree in religion. While at college, he met **Elma Dupper (42)**, and they were married on Sept. 16, 1945, in Greeley, Colo. After Oliver taught religion at an academy for five years, the couple returned to his family's farm to help his father. Eventually they purchased the family farm and raised crops, cattle and had a dairy. Having no children, they dedicated their lives to their nieces and nephews. They were affectionately referred to as "Aunt" and "Uncle" by all family and many close friends. Elma died the afternoon before Oliver died. He is survived by nieces and nephews.

Evelyn Tarasenko Parker (46), Marina, Calif., died May 18, 2014, at age 90. She was born Oct. 25, 1923, in Butte, N.D. Her life was full of love, service and dedication as a pastor's wife, elementary school teacher, mom, grandmother and friend. Preceding her in death were her husband of 53 years, **Roy Eckerman '44**, and her second husband of 13 years, Robert Parker. Survivors include her sister, **Helen Sprengel (47)**; daughters, Arva Dell Seltzer and Ginger Kent; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Deloris Keller White (46), Rolla, Mo., died Feb. 14, 2015, at age 87. She was born Jan. 14, 1928, in Gerald, Mo., to Edward and Malinda Brandhorst Keller. After high school and college, Deloris married the love of her life, **Lamont White '50**. Deloris worked as a post mistress in Drury, Mo., as well as raising cattle with her husband. She enjoyed crocheting, making rag rugs and sewing teddy bears for the Phelps County Regional Medical Center Auxillary. She also enjoyed gardening and shared her flowers with family and friends. She was devoted to her family. Her survivors include her children: Celia Wilson, Norma Hudson, **David '76**, **Nelda Wilson '81**, **Marla Pestes '82**, and Daryl; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Darlene Schroeder Reile (46), Lincoln, Neb., died Nov. 23, 2015, at age 88. She was born Dec. 1, 1926, on the family farm near Cleveland, N.D., to Lawrence and Elizabeth Schroeder. Darlene was the first of three sisters as well as one brother, who died shortly after childbirth. She graduated from Sheyenne River Academy and attended Union College before she married **Harry Reile '50**. The family lived in several states while Harry was a teacher and pastor and Darlene was a homemaker, dental assistant and nursing home aid. After

Harry retired, they operated a tour company and traveled to many U.S. states and around the world. Darlene is survived by her daughters, **Sandra Schwab '72**, **Lou Ann Fredregill '73** and **Julene McAlister '87**; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and sister, De-lores Pohl.

Joe Barnes '47, Anacortes, Wash., died Oct. 22, 2015, at age 88. He was born July 7, 1927, in Denver, Colo., to Lee and Mable Thomas Barnes. Joe attended Champion Academy in Loveland, Colo., and graduated from Union with a bachelor's degree in religion in 1947. He earned a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School and a doctoral degree from New York University in 1962. Joe married his college sweetheart, **Lou Nichols ('47)**, in 1946. Joe's career included ministry in New Bedford, Mass., Boston, Mass., and New York City, N.Y., from 1947 to 1962. He was director of the New York Center for Education from 1955 until 1962. Joe became an associate professor of theology and sociology at Walla Walla University and Walla Walla Community College in 1962. He retired in 1992 and moved to Anacortes. Dr. Barnes was well known for his many seminars and lectures on marriage and family and stress management that he presented across the country and overseas. He is survived by his wife, Lou; son, Joseph Barnes; daughters, Sherilyn Walford and Lorinda Snow; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Jahnke Christensen '47, Minnetonka, Minn., died June 2, 2015, at age 88. Born Sept. 5, 1926 to William and Lydia Lidtke Jahnke in Hubbard, Iowa, she later moved to Westbrook, Minn., where she graduated from high school in 1944. She graduated from Union College with a diploma in teacher training in 1947 and served with her family as missionaries in South America for 25 years. Marilyn started many schools

and was teacher, principal, janitor and anything else that needed to be done. After returning to the U.S., she completed a certificate in nursing from Washington Adventist Hospital in 1973.

Frank Knittel '47, Ooltewah, Tenn., died Feb. 18, 2015, at age 87. He was born in Bakersfield, Calif., on Sept. 30, 1927, the son of Julius and Emma Knittel. Frank earned a bachelor's degree in English from Union College, a master's degree in school administration, and a Ph.D. in English language and literature. He was a university administrator, professor, pastor and business owner. Throughout his life, he was extremely involved in his community and held memberships in the Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary Clubs. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a member of the Collegedale Community Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is survived by his beloved wife, **Helen Dean Knittel '53**; children, Jeff and Sherry Drew; five grandchildren; and sister, Joyce Hardin.

Cathy Chilson Singhurst '47, Hot Springs, S.D., died Aug. 6, 2015, at age 93. Cathleen was born Sept. 6, 1921, in Madison, S.D., to Earl and Kathryn Bagley Chilson. She was a beloved mother, schoolteacher, pastor's wife at several churches throughout the Dakotas, Montana and California. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Max '59**. Survivors include her sons, Steven and Joel; and sisters, Patricia Daulton and Arlene Smith.

Janis Bascom '48, Shelton, Neb., died Jan. 20, 2015, at age 86. She was born Feb. 24, 1928, at Shelton Academy, to Victor and Lucile Beaman Bascom. She grew up in Shelton, attended Platte Valley Academy, Union College, and earned a master's degree from Kearney State College. Her career as an accountant and teacher took her to the Wyoming conference and

Sunnydale Academy in Missouri. She spent all but a few years of her life in Shelton. She taught classes and was the business manager at Platte Valley Academy for many years. She loved entering her elkhounds and pugs in dog shows and received many awards and trophies. She, along with her mother, could usually be found with scissors, needle and thread, or a sewing machine. Janis enjoyed camping and traveling with her parents in their retirement years. Survivors include relatives and friends.

Walter Page '48, Centennial, Colo., died June 8, 2015, at age 95. He was born to John and Estella Brown Page on August 16, 1919. After high school, Walter rode his bike from home in Sioux City to Union College. His older sister, **Mildred '42**, had just finished school there. Because of some student wages that she left behind, there was enough credit for his entrance fee. He was drafted by the Army into WWII and served as a lab tech for the 29th General Hospital in the South Pacific. Returning to Union College to finish his degree, he also supervised other students in the biology department, and married **Janette Kemper Page ('48)** in the summer of 1948. Upon graduation he began teaching in the biology department at Union College and spent the rest of his career as a teacher there. Retirement provided time to keep busy with hobbies of woodworking and photo processing. Walter became Janette's primary caregiver when she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and he faithfully cared for her until she died. He is survived by his sons, **Gale ('72)** and **Kent ('72)**; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Arthur Bergman '49, Takoma Park, Md., died Oct. 15, 2015, at age 93. He was born on March 27, 1922, in Öland, Sweden, to Per Erik and Amy Abrahamson Bergman. He came to America with his parents when he was

five months old and the family settled in Des Moines, Iowa. Art lost his parents at a young age and ended up calling Oak Park Academy in Iowa and Union College home, staying in the dorm year round and working in the broom shop to pay for his dorm expenses and tuition. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II as an X-ray technician, stationed in Europe. While there he met **Liliane Brennwald ('47)**, and the couple married back in the U.S. Art completed medical school at Loma Linda University in 1951, and the family spent five years at the Koza Adventist Hospital in Cameroon. Following a residency in anesthesiology, Art worked at Washington Adventist Hospital until his retirement in 1984. He continued his service by volunteering for Meals on Wheels and at the General Conference and Adventist World Radio for more than 20 years. He enjoyed traveling and was an avid reader. Art is survived by his daughter, Astrid and three grandchildren.

Hilmer Besel '49, Riverside, Calif., died Feb. 10, 2015, at age 99. He was born July 2, 1915. Survivors include his daughters, Tanya Stotz, Sinka Mazzouk, and Radmila Bailey; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lillie Schuman Lorenz ('49), Greeley, Colo., died April 15, 2015, at age 86. She was born on the family farm in Rulison, Colo., on Oct. 9, 1928, the youngest of 10 children. She completed high school in three years from Champion Academy and graduated in 1946. Lillie earned a teaching certificate from Union College and taught grades 5-8 at the Greeley church school. While teaching she was introduced to **Virgil Lorenz ('42)**, and they were married on Nov. 12, 1950. Lillie loved flowers and helped pay for her children's education by doing flowers for weddings. She is survived by her son, Douglas; daughters, DeeAnn Buller and Dawn Tohm; and nine grandchildren.

IN MEMORY

Farrell Eastin '50, Lincoln, Neb., died Aug. 25, 2015, at age 89. He was born to Ernie and Ethel Hullinger Eastin on Oct. 3, 1925, in Pleasanton, Iowa. He was a U.S. Army veteran, a member of the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church and a member of the American Legion. Cars were his passion. Farrell worked for Gotfredson, Russwood and Mardock Chrysler dealerships for more than 40 years. Survivors include his wife Laverna Eastin, who died Sept. 5, 2015; children, **Dean '72**, Gloria Razo and **Monte '76**; nine grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Pauline Zempel '50, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., died March 9, 2015, at age 83. Survivors include four sisters.

Verlene Wall Asher '51, Littleton, Colo., died Aug. 26, 2015, at age 87. She is survived by her husband, **Bill '51**; four sons, **Mike**, **Randy '84**, **Joe '79**, and **Jeff '89**; brother, **Wendell '48**; sister, **Verdell Roark '52**; and six grandchildren.

Peggy Stevens Glass '51, Portland, Tenn., died Nov. 4, 2014, at age 85. She was born Oct. 16, 1929, in Nashville, Tenn., living in Houston, Texas, in her late teens, she began selling Adventist books to earn money for college. She specialized in selling *These Times* magazines to soldiers during WWII, and earned a scholarship to Southwestern Junior College. While there, she met and married **Hallie Glass '51**, in 1948. Since Southwestern was only a junior college, the young couple moved to Union College, where he graduated with a religion degree and she earned a degree in secretarial science. After graduation, they worked in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference in evangelistic meetings with Stanley Harris and Henry Barron. They pastored churches in Hammond and Lake Charles, La., taught music and Bible at Ozark Academy and Highland

Academy. She is survived by her husband, Hallie; sons, Marvin and Melvin; and seven grandchildren.

Sally Hansen '51, Nevada, Iowa, died May 28, 2015, at age 86. She was born Dec. 4, 1928, in Nevada, Iowa, to Isaac and Elma Lyons Hornbacher. She graduated from Oak Park Academy in 1947 and married **Ivan Hansen '51** on Aug. 1, 1948. Sally was a school bus driver for the Nevada schools and a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Nevada. She enjoyed playing the piano. Survivors include her husband, Ivan; sons, Eugene and **Delvin '75**, daughter, **Yvonne Losey '73**, seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Dale Marcotte '51, Boulder, Colo., died May 16, 2015, at age 84. He was born in Palco, Kan., on Aug. 12, 1930 to Eddie and Hazel Fesler Marcotte. Dale graduated from Palco High School in 1947 and Union College in 1951 with a pre-medicine major. While attending Union College, Dale married **Mary Jensen '55**, and they became parents to four children. Dale's first marriage ended in 1973. In 1976, he married Phyllis Wilson, a widow with three children. Dale earned his medical degree in 1956 from Loma Linda University School of Medicine and took an internship at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln, Neb. He completed a residency in ophthalmology at the University of Nebraska School of Medicine in 1964, and then established a thriving private practice in Boulder, Colo. He also taught ophthalmology for 38 years as associate professor at the Colorado University Health Science Center. He continued practicing in Boulder until his retirement in 2000. His great passion for serving the less fortunate led Dale to volunteer his medical services in New Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Thailand (at a Cambodian refugee camp), and the Marshall

Islands. Survivors include his wife, Phyllis; sister, **Dixie Watkins '57**; seven children, Richard, Linda, Rebecca, Derrick, Tom, Linda and Steve; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Richard Stafford '51, Nampa, Idaho, died June 19, 2015, at age 87. He was born Dec. 27, 1927, in Kansas. He is survived by his brother, **Gene '55**, and two grandchildren.

William Courtney '52, Lincoln, Neb., died Nov. 26, 2014, at age 95. He was born Sept. 24, 1919, to William and Martha Courtney. He attended a business college in Minneapolis, Minn., and graduated from Union College. During World War II, he served in the European theater in the U.S. Army. Bill enjoyed many jobs but especially serving his country as field representative for the Red Cross. He was a member of the College View Seventh-day Adventist church for 60 years. He is survived by extended family and friends.

Harold Reiner '52, Apopka, Fla., died Jan. 14, 2015, at age 85. He was born April 8, 1929, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Like his father, Harold became a minister after graduating from Union College. He pastored in Nebraska and Michigan before he became an integral part in establishing the *It Is Written* ministry led by George Vandeman. His interests in writing, radio and photography helped him pioneer the formation of Adventist World Radio with Walter Scraggr. He also helped direct the Adventist Media Productions Center in Thousand Oaks, Calif. After retirement, he continued volunteer work at Adventist Disaster and Relief Agency (ADRA). He also enjoyed tennis and traveling with his wife **Ellen McCormick Reiner '51**. He is survived by his wife, Ellen; children, David, Julie Houmann, and Scott; and seven grandchildren.

Norman Sharp '52, Yuba City, Calif., died Aug. 21, 2015, at age 92. He was born Jan. 8, 1923, at home to Grover and Esther Sharp, near Beemer, Neb. After graduating from Beemer High School, he felt called to be a minister while working on the farm for his father. After he and others in his family became Seventh-day Adventists in 1948, he chose to study theology at Union College. He married **Virginia Fenton '51** on June 24, 1951. After graduation, he served as a pastor in Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Northern California. During his last pastorate, his wife died in a fatal auto accident. Two years later, he married Donna Allen. In retirement, Norman and Donna continued to serve the church in many ways. Survivors include his wife, Donna; daughter, Sharon Sorrels; sisters, Jean Webster and **Joan Bissell '51**; brother, **John '63**; stepsons, **Edward Allen (current faculty)**, Eric and Evan; stepdaughter, Esther; eight step-grandchildren and seven great-step-grandchildren.

J. Russell Shawver '52, Bartlesville, Okla., died July 8, 2015, at age 87. He was born in Treece, Kan., in 1927. His parents died when he was young, and went to Oak Park Academy on his own. He graduated from Union College with a double major in religion and business administration and a double minor in education and history. He met and married **Lila Davis '46**, a registered nurse and began a long career in the Adventist healthcare system, beginning with White Memorial, Glendale Adventist Hospital, and Boulder Memorial. He was the 13th employee at Kettering Medical Center and was instrumental in growing this hospital from the ground up. In 1951, he earned an M.B.A. with an emphasis in hospital administration from the University of Chicago. After nine years at Kettering, Russell became executive director of Shawnee Mission Hospital. He finished the last twelve years of his career as president

of various AHS regions from Mid-America to the east coast. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Lila; son, **James ('76)**; daughters, **Debra Wold ('74)** and **Robin Enders ('77)**; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



J. Russell Shawver

Al Stern '52, Estacada, Ore., died Jan. 28, 2014, at age 89. Al was born to Ruth Dahl and Albert Stern on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25, 1925, near Sykeston, N.D. After serving in the Navy during World War II, he graduated with a degree in religion from Union College while also studying violin, becoming a pilot and learning to tune pianos. It was in the college cafeteria that he met **Arlea Lippincott ('52)** and began a 67-plus year partnership. Al worked for the Seventh-day Adventist church for more than 40 years as a pastor and evangelist. He ended his career working at Christian Record Services for the Blind. In November, 1987, they retired in Estacada, Ore., to be near Arlea's folks. He is survived by his wife, Arlea; children, Pam Arnott, Jack and Janna; three grandchildren; and sister, Doris Borg.

Richard Barrett '53, Harrah, Okla., died Oct. 4, 2015, at age 90. He was born Aug. 9, 1925, in St. Louis, Mo. In 1946 he married **Anna Mae Houghtling ('48)** in Clovis, N.M. He was a church school teacher for 14 years be-

ginning in 1948. Richard then served as a minister from 1963-1990. He pastored seven districts in Oklahoma. He also served as a chaplain at Jay Hospital in Jay, Okla. He loved helping people, but also enjoyed tinkering, gardening and feeding birds. Survivors include his wife, Anna Mae; sons, Dennis and Edwin; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

John Fulk ('53), Lincoln, Neb., died Aug. 7, 2015, at age 89. He was born in Eugene, Ore., on Aug. 22, 1925, to Kenneth and Leola Welsh Fulk. He spent much of his growing up years in North Platte, Neb. He married **Ardis Speh Fulk '75** and raised his family in College View. John was the retired owner of Mr. John's Beauty Shop in College View, and he was a member of the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors include his children: **Jan Huckins '76**, **Joel ('84)**, and **John David ('79)**; five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Adeline Germann '53, St. Peters, Mo., and formerly of Dalton, Ga., died Dec. 28, 2014, at age 88. Adeline was a nurse and taught nursing. Later she went back to school herself and became a nurse anesthetist. In her spare time, she loved to travel, star gaze, and bird watch. She is survived by many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Janis Shultz Walter ('53), Chattanooga, Tenn., died Oct. 14, 2015, at age 82. She was born in Hinsdale, Ill., on Dec. 30, 1932 to Walter and Ethel Walker Shultz. She is survived by her sons, Dale, Daryl, Doug; daughter, Dianne, two brothers, George and Walter Shultz; sister, Elenor Jenson; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Sidney Whittemore '53, Thornton, Colo., died Nov. 8, 2014, at age 83. Sid was born in Pueblo, Colo., to William and **Florence Barnes Whittemore '53** on July

15, 1931. After graduating from Union College and serving in the Army, he started his own accounting business in Pueblo. He moved his family to Denver and worked in a semi-trailer business until starting American Storage Trailers/Airdale Trailer Sales in Dupont, Colo. Sid was always interested in collecting rock specimens and had equipment for cutting and polishing stones. He also had an extensive collection of commemorative and uncirculated coins and enjoyed camping, waterskiing, gardening and photography. He is survived by his wife **Carol Thomson Whittemore '49**; two sisters, Becky Donovan, and **Edith Bowman '58**; three children: Gene, Janae Weston, and Merilee Rifkind; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

James Dietel ('55), Brooklyn Park, Minn., died July 2, 2015, at age 86. He was born Jan. 24, 1929, in Hawkeye, Iowa. After serving in the U.S. Army, he attended Union College and the University of Minnesota, earning an engineering degree. Jim was a charter, active member of St. Croix Railroad for 44 years. He served as church organist throughout his life. Survivors include his wife, **Diane Nelson Dietel ('55)**; sister, Alyce Nanny; daughters, **Robin Fisher '80**, and **Cindy Basto '87**; son, **Mark '83**, and six grandchildren.

Lauralee Litsey Robeson '55, Gentry, Ark., died July 5, 2014, at age 82. She was born Sept. 14, 1931, in Cando, N.D., to Ray and Inger Urness Litsey. Lauralee married Martin Robeson on June 30, 1957, in Wahpeton, N.D. She worked as an elementary school teacher for 49 years in North Dakota, Arkansas, California and Texas. She was awarded the Zapara Award for Teacher of the Year while teaching in Texas. She also served as a missionary in Zambia, Africa, for eight years. Survivors include her children, Bruce, Janet Edelbach and David; seven grandchildren; and one sister, Vivian Johnson.

Gerald Wiltse '55, Missouri Valley, Iowa, died June 1, 2014, at age 84. He was born Nov. 20, 1929, in Modale, Iowa, to George and Alice Smith Wiltse. Gerald graduated from Modale High School and from Union College with a degree in religion. He also attended the University of Nebraska. He was a very inventive and creative farmer. He is survived by his daughter, Linda; son, Russell; Gerald's love, Iris Rose; siblings, Lillian Meyer, Mildred Smith and Elmer.

Roger Plata '57, Exeter, Calif., died Aug. 1, 2015, at age 79. He is survived by his wife, **Shirley Brockman Plata ('57)**; four children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Louise Bobbitt Simmons ('57), Osage, Ark., died May 21, 2015, at age 77. She was born Sept. 23, 1937, in Denver, Colo., and has been a lifelong, hands-on philanthropist ever since. She met her husband, Paul, at the Denver Community Center and they married on June 29, 1975. When Paul retired in 1986, they moved to Arkansas to care for Louise's aging parents. Louise immediately set up a community center near Osage, which eventually was relocated to its current location behind the Berryville church, where it thrives today. Survivors include her husband, Paul; son, Curtis Hardin, daughter, Candace Hadlock; sister, Shirley Wencil; stepson, Glenn Simmons; aunt, Lois Bobbitt; and four grandchildren.

Larry Tebelius ('57), Bowdon, N.D., died Sept. 5, 2015, at age 78. He was born Aug. 13, 1937, on a farm near Bowdon to George and Olivia Tebelius. Larry married Freida Brown on Oct. 6, 1957. He is survived by his wife, children, Marsha Buchwitz, Marlys Harris, and George; six grandchildren and sister, DeLores Suckut.

Jerry Werner ('57), Loveland, Colo., died April 7, 2015, at age

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77. He was born in Bowdon, N.D., on June 26, 1938, graduated from Bowdon High School and continued at Union College for two years. Jerry and Ellen were married Aug. 27, 1960. He was a carpenter for the Loveland School District for 23 years as well as a contractor, building houses around the Longmont and Loveland area. He enjoyed woodworking, riding his bicycle, walking, traveling and spending time with his family and friends. Survivors include his wife, Ellen; two sons, Mike and Dan, two grandsons, and brother, Virgil.

Ruth Elizabeth "Betty" Engelkemier '58, Phoenix, Ariz., died Jan. 21, 2015, at age 79. She was born in Newkirk, Okla., on Aug. 20, 1935, to Carl and Fanny Engelkemier. Betty served as secretary to four conference presidents in the Kansas, Louisiana, Indiana and Arizona conferences. She is survived by her brother, **Bob '54**; and her sisters-in-law, **Gladys (50)** and Fran.

Saba Swayze Anderson (59), Allendale, Mich., died Dec. 29, 2014, at age 82. She was born Dec. 20, 1932, in Farmington, N.M., to Ralph and Viola Franks Swayze. After graduating from Campion Academy in 1951, she attended Union College and taught elementary school in Colorado for several years. On August 28, 1960, she married **Lewis Anderson '59**. She became a pastor's wife and continued teaching. She and her husband served in Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana and California. From 1975 to 1986 they were missionaries in Korea, where Saba taught English at Sahm Yook College near Seoul. During a study leave at Andrews University, she finished a bachelor's degree in elementary education and earned a master's degree in English education and returned to Korea until 1986. When Lewis retired from pastoral ministry in 2003, they moved to Weimar, Calif., where he taught religion and she

taught English to students from non-English-speaking countries and managed the English lab. In 2007, they returned to their home in Allendale, Mich. Saba enjoyed reading and spending time with others. Survivors include her husband, Lewis; children, Jonathan, Eric and Gina; three step-grandchildren; and siblings, **Ester Ballard (60)** and **Ralph Swayze (75)**.

Warren Hallock '59, Shawnee, Kan., died July 30, 2015, at age 86. He was born Dec. 25, 1928, in Traer, Kan. He served in the U.S. Army and graduated from college with a degree in education. Warren was an educator for 40 years in Texas, Iowa, Colorado and Missouri. He is survived by his sons, Duane and Gary, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Cliff Welch '59, Lincoln, Neb., died Dec. 23, 2014, at age 82. He was born Dec. 19, 1932, in Eureka, Kan., to Clifford and Lillian Hartley Welch. Cliff served in the U.S. Army and was the former owner of Union Drywall. He was a member of the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors include daughters, **Brenda Fleming '78** and Susan Woledge; four grandchildren; brothers, **Fred (60)** and **Warren (60)**; and sister, Brenda Laird.

Theodore "Ted" Wick '59, Silver Spring, Md., died Aug. 22, 2015, at age 78. Survivors include his wife, Lyn; daughters; Patrice and Jana Wick-Chang; step-daughter, Erin Johnson; brothers, **Palmer '52** and **Albert '54**; and one grandchild.

Tony Latessa Jr '61, Naples, Fla., died Dec. 8, 2014, at age 81. After serving in the U.S. Army for two years during the Korean conflict, he graduated from Union College with a degree in physical education and a minor in history. He worked at 3M for 34 years as a pioneer in executive wellness with Health and Fitness Challenge programs. Tony was also a teacher for four

years at the church school in Detroit Lakes, Minn., and College View Academy in Lincoln, Neb. Survivors include his wife of 23 years, Lynda; children, Kristi Powell, **Tony Latessa III '95**, **Tammy Christensen '82**; step-children, Valerie Fuller, Charles Wilcox, Gary Weihn and Cherise Valencour; thirteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Milton Erhart '62, Boise, Idaho, died Oct. 24, 2015, at age 75. He was born June 1, 1940, in Kansas City, Kan., to Clifford and Doris Erhart. He graduated from Union College with majors in religion and history and went to the seminary at Andrews University. For many years he pastored churches in the Dakotas, Maryland and Illinois. After leaving the ministry, he sold insurance, worked in investments and developed real estate. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. Survivors include his brothers: **Wayne '66**, Lee and Stan; children, Gene, Bruce, and **Renee Karel (91)**; and eight grandchildren.

Herbert Kroschel Jr (62), Walla Walla, Wash., died Sept. 25, 2015, at age 74. He was born to Herbert and Florence Bauer Kroschel in Brawley, Calif., on Oct. 21, 1940. He graduated from Campion Academy and attended Union College from 1960-1962. On July 24, 1960, he married **Leanna Davis (61)**. He worked as a farmer, sanitation worker and custodial worker in several schools. Herbert loved the outdoors and went on many camping and backpacking trips with the family. In 2003, at the age of 63, he climbed Mount St Helens with his son Herb and grandson Pierce. He loved working with young people and was a leader for ten years in the Pathfinder youth club of his church. Herbert is survived his wife, Leanna; daughters, Shelly Groulik and Jessica Murff; son, Shawn; sister, Linda Andrews; brothers, Wesley and Ronald; and four grandchildren.

Robert Brakke (63), Sheldon, N.D., died Feb. 26, 2015, at age 86. He was a member of the Fargo Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is survived by his wife, **Alice Mae West '57**; daughter, Jonna Greene; son, Ron; one sister; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Myrna Lake Lemon '65, Buchanan, Mich., died July 22, 2015, at age 72. She was born Feb. 23, 1943, to Gene and Irene Folk Lake in Hyannis, Neb. In 1964, she married **Choice Lemon '66** in Lincoln, Neb. Myrna was an avid reader and enjoyed spending time with her family. She attended the Seventh-day Adventist church in Eau Claire. She is survived by her husband, Choice; daughters, Annette Van Alstine and Alicia James; sons, Scott and Jeff; brothers, **Kenneth Lake (57)**, Stanley Lake, Martin Lake and **Gene Lake '66**; and nine grandchildren.

Carafaye Green Cheeks '66, Mount Juliet, Tenn., died Aug. 30, 2015, at age 70, after having ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) for five years. She was born Jan. 16, 1945, in Baton Rouge, La., to C.D. and Shirley Green. Carafaye graduated from Ozark Adventist Academy, spent two years at Southwestern Junior College, and graduated from Union College. Her husband Jim was her best friend, and she loved few things more than traveling and going on adventures with him. Her greatest joys in life were her children and grandchildren. She is survived by her husband; children, Jim Cheeks, Jr., Randy Cheeks, Kristi White, **Melinda Whitlow '04** and **Nicole Reyes '04**; fourteen grandchildren; and siblings, Diana Kepper, Donnie Green and Kathy Gautreaux.

Ruth Ann Johnson Hieb (66), Las Vegas, Nev., died Dec. 15, 2014, at age 70. She was born in Hutchinson, Minn., on Dec. 23, 1943, the fourth daughter of **Stemple (32)** and Helen

Osgood Johnson. After graduating from Maplewood Academy, she attended Union College. In 1964 she was married to **Joe Hieb '65**. She and her family lived in several states—California, Nevada, Texas and North Dakota. She worked in medical offices, schools and as a volunteer hospital chaplain. Survivors include her son, **David ('87)**; two grandchildren; sisters, **Diane Vyskocil '59**, **Bernelda Barksdale '62**, and **Evelyn Swanson ('61)**; and brother, **David ('67)**.



Ruth Ann Johnson Hieb

Gary Waterhouse ('66), Oregon, City, Ore., died July 14, 2015, at age 68. He spent 40 years in pastoral ministry in Minnesota, Alaska and churches in Central California, including San Luis Obispo, Bakersfield, Hillcrest, Oakdale, Oakhurst and Clovis. Gary is survived by his wife, Arna; son, Mark; daughter, Mindy Thygeson; and five grandchildren; mother, Mabe; brother, **Greg ('76)**; and sisters, Bonnie and **Kim ('77)**.

Jo Ann Grosboll '67, Evans, Colo., died April 27, 2014, at age 67. She was born Oct. 6, 1946, in San Luis Obispo, Calif., to **A.N. ('35)** and Jeanette Grosboll. Jo attended Campion Academy and graduated from Union College with a degree in nursing. Earning a master's degree in public health from Loma Linda University, she worked at the school for several years before transferring to the University of

California—Riverside. She loved working with students and teachers alike. After working as the office manager for her brother for several years, she retired to care for her parents in their last years.

Henry Welch '70, Condor, Alberta, Canada, died May 21, 2015, at age 80. He was born in Duchess, Alberta to Janet and Richard Welch on June 28, 1934. He taught school for 14 years and completed a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from La Sierra University. He later dealt in real estate as well as being an analyst for the oil and gas industry in Central Alberta. He is survived by his wife, May; and children, Dawn, Derrick, Nathan, Wanda and Wendy.

Cindy Laue Burbach '72, Wichita, Kan., died April 29, 2015, at age 64. She graduated from the Denver campus of Union College with a bachelor's degree in nursing, obtained a master's degree in nursing from Emory University and a doctorate in public health from the University of North Carolina. She was a retired nursing professor for Wichita State University, nursing coordinator for the Wichita Public Schools, and director of epidemiology and communicable diseases for Sedgwick County. Survivors include her husband, **Daryl ('68)**, son, Collyer; two granddaughters; mother Emily Laue; and brother, Doug.

Raymond Kelch '72, Chattanooga, Tenn., died March 11, 2015, at age 69. He loved being a pastor. His church members, his ministry, his wife, children and grandchildren were the greatest joys of his life. Ray's hobbies were reading, model trains and cars, storytelling and woodworking projects. His survivors include his wife, **Marian Robbins Welch ('68)**; children, **Ray ('90)**, Michelle Waldron, and Randy; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; sisters, **Diane Watson '73**, Valerie

Young; and **Joyce Mitchell '79**. **Robin Brown McCormick '74**, Lafayette, Colo., died May 24, 2014, at age 59. She was born Feb. 9, 1955, in Delta, Colo. She met Tim McCormick in Grand Junction, Colo. They married in Scottsdale, Ariz., on April 1, 1989, and raised their family in Tempe, Ariz. She was an excellent leader to countless boys in the Cub Scouts. She was an avid skier and enjoyed hiking, wakeboarding and yoga. Robin was active in her church and book club, and she loved animals, especially her dogs, Katie and Elliot. Survivors include her husband, Tim; and sons, Shaughn and Connor.

Ardis Speh Fulk '75, Lincoln, Neb., died March 8, 2015, at age 86. She was born Feb. 4, 1929, in Tolstoy, S.D., to Jake and Florence Ericson Speh. She married **John Fulk ('53)** and raised her family in College View. Ardis was a retired beautician from the College View beauty shop, Mr. John's, and taught cosmetology classes for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. She was a member of the College View Seventh-day Adventist church. Ardis enjoyed cooking. Survivors include her husband, John, who has since passed away; children: **Jan Huckins '76**, **Joel ('84)**, and **John David ('79)**; one sister; five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Martha Scholl George '75, Delta, Colo., died June 26, 2015, at age 62. She was born May 2, 1953. After graduating from Oak Park Academy in 1971, she earned a degree in elementary education from Union College in 1975. Martha loved God, her family and teaching. She home-schooled her four children as well as taught at several different church schools before helping start the St. Maries, Idaho Church School and serving as the school board chairman for several years. The last four years she taught at the Delta Church School. She is survived by her husband, **Leonard ('75)**; sons,

Kenneth, Karl, and Lowell; daughter, Sondra; brother, Charles Scholl; sisters, **Charlene Binder ('61)**; Barbara Pooley; Delores Johnson, Carol Evans; and six grandchildren.

Steven Christensen '78, Pipestone, Minn., died July 27, 2015, at age 59. He was born Jan. 9, 1956, in Luverne, Minn., to **Dean ('47)** and **Sylvia Johnson Christensen ('47)**. After graduating from Maplewood Academy in 1974, he earned a degree in business administration from Union College and met **Lydia Serrano ('78)**. They were married July 2, 1978, and moved to Pipestone to help run the family farm. He was a builder, farmer, thinker, and pilot. He had a passion for flying. He is survived by his wife, Lydia; son, **Seth ('03)**; daughter, **Melanie ('11)**; mother, Sylvia Roderick; brothers, **Larry ('72)** and **Ken ('82)**; sister, **Kathy Erickson '75**; and one granddaughter.

Linda Dickerson Asher '81, Lincoln, Neb., died April 13, 2015, at age 58. She was born March 27, 1957, to **Richard '55** and Mary Howell Dickerson. She married **Joe Asher '79** on July 10, 1983. Linda worked for over 30 years at Bryan Health West Campus (formerly Lincoln General Hospital) as a registered nurse. Survivors include her husband Joe, son, **Brady '11**; mother, Mary; brothers, **Rick '82**, and **Gary '84** and numerous other family members.

Deborah Striha Logan ('81), Bismarck, N.D., died Sept. 10, 2015, at age 58. She was born Aug. 29, 1957, in Turtle Lake, N.D., to Clarence and Doris Boyko Striha. In 1975 she graduated from Sheyenne River Academy and attended Union College before returning to North Dakota, where she farmed near Butte, N.D. Later she graduated from United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck with a diploma in medical transcription. On Feb. 11, 1988, she married Ronald Logan in Minot, N.D. She also worked as a certified nursing as-

sistant in Bismarck. She is survived by her husband, Ronald; sons, Nathan, Casey and Bailey; and brother, Terry Striha.

Glen Lyons '82, Bend, Ore., died Jan. 6, 2015, at age 77. He was born Oct. 27, 1937, and was a longtime resident of McGill and moved to Bend, Ore., just a few years ago. He met and married the love of his life, **Carole Baker (82)**. Glen proudly served in the U.S. Navy on the U.S.S. Bennington. He was a member of the Mule Deer Foundation, and loved to fish and be in the great outdoors. He is survived by his wife, Carole; children, Jackie Knox and Russell; two sisters, Ruth and Lynn Lauzon; 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Billy Rankin (83), Lincoln, Neb., died May 20, 2015, at age 59. He is survived by his sisters, **Fauna Dean '76**, and **Paula Tompkin '82**.

Duane Schreiber '83, Lindsborg, Kan., died Feb. 3, 2015, at age 54. He was born April 30, 1960, in Ulysses, Kan., to Henry Schreiber, Jr. and Aleda Anderson Schreiber. Duane was a doctor of chiropractic in Texas for 15 years before moving to Lindsborg in 2010. Survivors include his mother, Aleda; brothers, **Robert '77** and Dale; sister, Veda Hasbarger; four nieces, two nephews, three great-nieces, and one great-nephew.

David Schneider '86, Lincoln, Neb., died Oct. 17, 2015, at age 54. He was born Aug. 25, 1961, to **David (56)** and Bonnie Knight Schneider in Loveland, Colo. David graduated from Union with a degree in nursing in 1986. He was a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and the Midwest Aerobatic Club. He is survived by his wife, **Dana Duff Schneider (83)**; parents, David and Bonnie Schneider; siblings, Vicky Lynn Hollenweger, Terri Riesenman; Lee Ann Greenlee, **Lori Christiansen '82**, and many nieces, nephews, friends and loved ones.

Jerri Rosenthal Brown '87, Garretson, S.D., died May 8, 2015, at age 49. She was born on Feb. 13, 1966, to Jon and Colleen Rosenthal. Jerri graduated from Union College and became a registered nurse. She was passionate about God and sang for church, weddings, graduations and school. She is survived by her husband **Nedd '87**; sons, Kaleb, Noah and Samuel; mother Colleen Rosenthal; sister, **Barbra Schoeneberger (93)**; and brothers, **Greg '91** and **Daniel '92**.

Duane Wehling '02, Valley Center, Kan., died Aug. 2, 2015, at age 36. He was a real estate agent for Weigand and Nies Homes. Duane grew up enjoying farming, loved family, music, the outdoors and life in general. He is survived by his wife **Kelli Wills Wehling '03**; children, Colton, Tyler and Ella; parents, Verlyn and **Linda Orr Wehling '75**; brother, **Brian '01**; sister, **Michelle Einig '04**; and grandmother, Betty Orr.

Jeannette Wetmore '03, Lincoln, Neb., died Nov. 16, 2015, at age 39. Born June 27, 1976, in Hinsdale, Ill., to Calvin and Carol Jones Wetmore, she was public services librarian and assistant professor at Union College. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and communication from Union College and a master's degree in library science from the University of North Carolina in Greensborough. Survivors include her parents,



Jeannette Wetmore

brother, Jeremy; nieces, Emily and Abigail; grandfather, Kenneth Wetmore; and many friends and loved ones.

Jessica Harder Saxton (Honorary Graduate), Saint Joseph, Mo., died April 9, 2015, at age 93. She was born Oct. 22, 1921, in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada, to John and Mary Schroeder Harder. As a young adult, she sold Christian books in the Kansas City area. Jessica married **Delmar Saxton '52**, on May 24, 1950. Having served on the Board of Trustees at Union College for 18 years, she was granted an honorary baccalaureate degree in 1990, and received the President's Award from Union College in 2000. She built Saxton Riverside Care Center in 1984 at the age of 62 and was a founding member of the Missouri Residential Care Association. She retired in 2001, having worked as the chief executive officer of Saxton Care Centers, a licensed nursing home administrator, a licensed practical nurse and a certified dietary manager. In 1991 she became an American citizen. Survivors include her children, **Calvin '76**, **Connie '78**, **Timothy '94**, **Cathy Lake (76)** and **Carolyn Bayliss (80)**; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Notice of the following deaths has been received:

Mae Beyer Amundson (46), Modesto, Calif., died Aug. 12, 2015, at age 91.

H.H. Hill '48, Colton, Calif., died Aug. 31, 2015, at age 92.

Delores Fritz Beaman (49), Moberly, Mo., died Jan. 26, 2015, at age 85.

Oneita Matthews (49), Wilsonville Ore., died Jan. 15, 2015, at age 90.

Russel Marshall (50), Burlington, Colo., died Jan. 20, 2015, at age 83.

George Burg '51, San Francisco, Calif., died May 13, 2014, at age 95.

David Killion '51, Eureka Springs, Ark., died Nov. 5, 2014, at age 89.

Myron Miller (53), Calimesa, Calif., died June 25, 2015, at age 81.

Ann Hazelton Dreizler '54, Sedona, Ariz., died Jan. 31, 2015, at age 81.

Richard Culbertson (55), Arcadia, Kan., died Oct. 20, 2014, at age 80.

Jimmie Banta (63), Torrington, Wyo., died Sept. 17, 2014, at age 71.

Wilfred Clarke (66), Maitland, Fla., died Oct. 10, 2014, at age 69.

Elmer Flemmer '71, San Antonio, Texas, died Aug. 14, 2014, at age 70.

Randy Taylor (71), Otis Orchards, Wash., died May 19, 2014, at age 63.

Katheryn Tatum-Hayden '74, Niles, Mich., died Jan. 18, 2014, at age 82.

Glen Peoples (79), Dillon, Colo., died June 17, 2015, at age 54.

Beth Manley (former employee), Portland, Ore., died March 13, 2015, at age 102.

PUBLICATION POLICY

Personal submissions for publication from college alumni and friends will be printed at Union College's sole discretion. The college may choose not to publish any information that will conflict with the values and beliefs of Union College and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Creating a tradition of giving

(continued from page 2)

Rich '69 and Lynnet DeRemer '70 Reiner owned a dozen or so rental properties in Lincoln, Neb., and knew they wanted to gift them to Union College. But, to meet their needs, the timing and the structure of the gift had to be just right.

"I had done enough reading to know that a charitable gift annuity or a charitable trust was a good option for our situation and I wanted to help one of my favorite charities," declared Rich. So he spoke with Scot Coppock, Union College's director of leadership giving, to let him know they were planning to make this gift one day in the future.

"Rich shared with me that he was thinking about setting up a charitable gift annuity with Union College, but he didn't need the income right away and asked if he could defer the payments," said Scot. He also mentioned that soon his taxable income would be reduced significantly and he wanted to establish the charitable gift annuity so he could claim the charitable tax deduction before he retired."

After asking a few questions, Scot realized a charitable gift annuity would work in the Reiner's situation, but a charitable remainder trust may be more suitable for their needs. "A charitable remainder trust allowed the Reiners to put their properties into the trust right away and create a charitable tax deduction while Rich was still working," explained Scot. "Rich and Lynnet could then collect the rental income through the trust for as long as they wanted to manage the properties, and sell the units inside the trust when they were ready."

Allowing the trust to sell the fully depreciated rental properties also meant the capital gains tax would be deferred and the Reiners would avoid having to pay it all in one lump sum. "The Reiners will still need to pay the capital gains tax,"

Scot pointed out, "but it will be spread out over many years."

"Scot's presentation was very thorough and my financial advisors were impressed with it," said Rich. "My advisors said, 'This is the year to do it,' and the projected cash flow from the charitable remainder trust will be at least equal to, or greater than, the rental income from the properties."

Rich and Lynnet set up the charitable remainder trust with their estate attorney and placed the rental units inside the trust. They listed Union College as the beneficiary of the trust and left open the possibility of letting their children help decide how the money will be used. "We hope by getting the kids involved we will help them understand why a part of our resources will go toward supporting the greater good," explained Rich, "and not be used just to buy more toys."

When asked what advice he would give to others who are considering creating their own planned gift, Rich said, "You have to realize there can be some significant financial benefits to doing this." He added, "Get some good professional advice from a lawyer, a financial advisor and certainly use the resources available through Union College."

If you want information on how you can set up a charitable remainder trust or a charitable gift annuity to improve your income stream and reduce taxes while also benefiting Union College, please contact Union's Director of Leadership Giving Scot Coppock, CSPG, at 402.486.2503 or sccoppoc@ucollege.edu. Scot is eager to help you discover how a deferred gift can benefit you and your family.

*It takes
ForeSight...*

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