

CORD MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2020 | NEWS FROM UNION COLLEGE



From cornfields to laboratories

Science programs join forces to research Nebraska crop treatments.

PLUS: Union students learn new skill amidst a pandemic

UNION
COLLEGE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Making a difference: Union Strong

For Jaylyn Schlisner, her world almost fell apart as COVID-19 swept the world and threatened her family. Her family dealt with isolation as they tried to protect her younger brother who has dealt with a lifelong heart condition.

Then her dad lost his job as the coronavirus ravaged the economy. The senior business major already worked a lot, but she feared she wouldn't be able to stay in school because she might have to return home to help support the family.

But Jaylyn has been able to stay at Union, thanks to the Emergency Relief Grant made possible in part by generosity from those who supported the UnionStrong campaign this year.

And like the rock pile that has become an icon of Union for nearly 125 years, the generosity of alumni has become a rock our current students can count on to help them finish their education and go change the world.

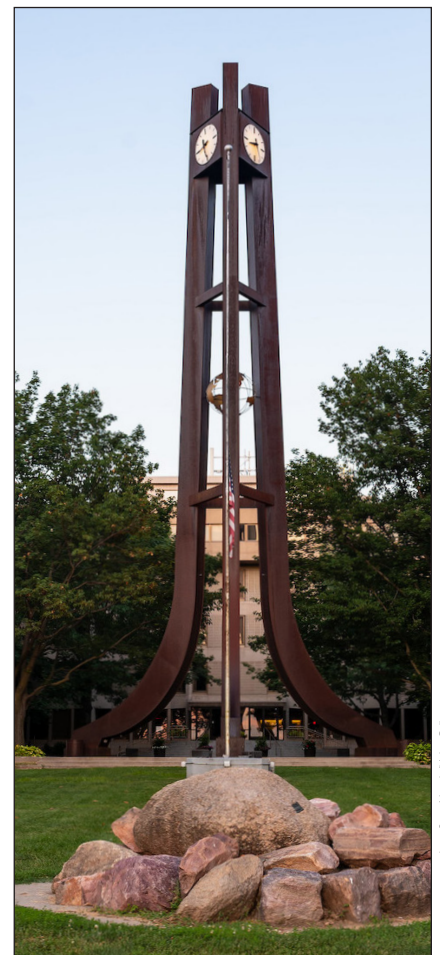
UnionStrong started with a donor challenge for May, which grew to \$50,000 for a 2:1 match, incentivized gifts for student

relief—including tuition assistance, support for food and rent and funding to help the college with added costs of transitioning our learning to online. You responded to the challenge and gave \$55,908.34!

Then two more donors stepped forward with a \$37,000 2:1 match for the month of June. Again you responded by giving an additional \$32,758!

"The Emergency Relief Grant has been so much help, especially because my dad lost his job," said Jaylyn, who plans to become an accountant and eventually teach business. "I work three jobs on campus, so it helps a lot knowing the grant is there to help make up the deficit."

Thank you for making a difference for Jaylyn and so many other students. Together we are **#UnionStrong**. 🙌



CONTENTS

STAFF

LuAnn Wolfe Davis '82
Publisher

Ryan Teller '98
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Scott Cushman '03
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**Kenna Lee Austin
Carlson '73**
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**Linda Deibel
Skinner '71**
Copy Editor

REGULARS

4 FORESIGHT

5 CAMPUS NEWS

9 WHAT'S ONLINE

**20 BIRTHS AND
WEDDINGS**

**24 KEEP IN
TOUCH**
Updates from classmates

24 IN MEMORY

**31 THE LAST
WORD**
from President Sauder



Photo courtesy of Stephen Schelller

FEATURES

10 Student teaching in a pandemic
Dani Arthur learned a whole new level of adaptability as she taught elementary students online last spring.

12 Clinical patients help heal student nurses
Mental health nursing students find encouragement during quarantine by talking with their patients..

14 Union grads plan for the worst
IRR graduates around the county help communities prepare for emergencies..

16 Battling the world's scariest diseases
A Union nursing graduate joins the front lines of defense against the likes of ebola and COVID-19.

18 Keep the light of learning burning
Union grad starts an endowment to fund faculty professional development.



photo courtesy of Dani Arthur

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ABOUT THE COVER

Sara Beaudoin, a biomedical science major, and one of her professors, Dr. Christina Burden-Page, are among a small team of Union researchers exploring the impacts of a variety of treatments on Nebraska crops. Read the story on page 5. Photo by Scott Cushman.

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photo: Scott Cushman/Union College

Union College brother

by Ken Farrow

My goals for my trip to Texas last December were two-fold: make fruitful and nurturing connections on behalf of Union College, and not repeat the pain of my first and only previous trip to Texas.

That prior visit happened when I was a small child. I became so tremendously ill that it has become part of my family's folklore. I will not burden you with the specifics. However, if you ever mention Texas to my parents, it is nearly impossible to stop them from sharing every embarrassing detail. I blamed Texas, and had successfully managed to avoid the state ever since.

Fortunately, my second trip was much better. And there is one man to thank for that: Pastor Joe Ray, a 1952 graduate of Union College. Few people can make you feel welcome and at home the way he can. His gift of hospitality made achieving my dual goals a cinch.

Pastor Ray was fortunately the first stop of the many visits I'd planned in Keene. Once I arrived at his house he invited me in, and we shared stories with each other. I learned he's spent his life in pastoral ministry with his wife, LaVon. She had just recently passed away in September 2019. I also learned he has baptized over a thousand people throughout the years.

Many of my visits are brief meetings with alumni updating them on current and future plans of the college. This meeting was no different until there was an awkward moment of silence. To be honest, I thought that was my cue to wrap it up. It was not. It was Pastor Ray thinking what he could do for me. One question from Pastor Ray changed my whole trip when asked, "Do you want to go visit the campus with me?" The campus he was referring to was Southwestern Adventist University, just a few miles away.

As we arrived on campus, I discovered Pastor Ray's memory is a veritable database of people and their relationships. He led me through the SWAU administration building introducing me to everyone he could find with any connection to Union College. Even if it was a third cousin on that one uncles' side. His memory was amazing, and in every introduction, he bestowed on me a title I'm quite proud of, "Our Brother from Union College."

Our two days of adventures together led us to the Keene church, Texas Conference offices, his brother-in-law's house, and a nursing home, Town Hall Estates. I can't even begin to tell you how many people Pastor Ray introduced me to who had some connection to Union College. The smiles on their faces, and the expression of joy, excitement and pride in their eyes as they heard



Photo courtesy of Joe Ray.

Pastor Joe Ray may be the most connected Union College alumnus in Texas. He never misses an opportunity to make new friends and connect with old ones.

about their alma mater "Union College" is unforgettable! He was so kind to me, and as we closed our evening together in the retirement home, Ray encouraged me to pray for each Union College brother or sister that he introduced me to.

Later, I would read a 2017 article about Pastor Ray from *The Flame*, a magazine published by the Texas Conference. In it, he is quoted saying "I've tried to look upon my role as a shepherd in all I do, by being kind to people and encouraging them." I'm honored to have been herded by a Christ-like shepherd like Pastor Ray.

He exemplifies one of the many ways Union's alumni can give back to the college as we work to provide a quality Christian education to our students. Pastor Ray chose to give his time, use his connections, and share his relationships—opening closed doors and introducing his new brother from Union College.

This fall, this year, the college and our students and alumni have faced unprecedented pressures from both the pandemic and the economic recession. We'd love to hear from you if you have a passion to reach out to your classmates or have an idea for bettering our alumni community. If you know of alumni who would appreciate someone from Union College reaching out to them, even if it's just to talk, let us know. And if you have a way to use your talents, resources or connections to help Union, please contact me at ken.farrow@ucollege.edu or call **402.486.2600** ext. 2200. **A**

From cornfields to laboratories: Interdisciplinary research reaps career rewards

by Estelle Trotter and Hannah Wood



photo: Scott Cushman/Union College

Dr. Seth McNeill used his passion for drones to teach a class that taught students to collect crop data using drones. Now his student research team is analyzing the data to help Nebraska farmers..

Seth McNeill, a computer science professor at Union College, has an infectious passion for small, unmanned aerial vehicles. And if you ever get the chance to discuss the subject with him, you're likely to catch drone fever too. Four years ago, he was an engineer with a tool in search of applications, and he found a valuable research opportunity in Nebraska's rolling cornfields—benefitting both students and farmers.

In 2016, McNeill was able to offer Union students a class in drone piloting thanks to a sponsorship from SaraniaSat, and several of the student pilots were ultimately hired by the company to fly drones and collect data. Colton Baker, a 2018 international rescue and relief graduate, was one of the first students hired for the project.

"We flew the drones to collect data on crop health," said Baker. "It was an awesome job." Making sense out of raw data is a key skill in the twenty-first-century workforce, and his time in the cornfields helped launch his career in data modeling. Now working as a management analyst for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), he uses his ability to make large data sets tell a coherent story to empower the agency as it makes decisions quickly during disasters and wisely as they rebuild communities.

However, drone piloting was only half of the work for this sponsored project. While out in the fields, students were also tasked with taking soil samples, and later, plant tissue samples from the same locations.

In 2018, McNeill recruited students Sara Beaudoin, Ashley Morrow, and Chad Vietz to help with the next step of the process—analyzing and comparing data to find out how different crop applications affected plant growth. Christina Burden-Page, one of Union's biology professors, also joined the research team as a mentor and team coordinator for the laboratory work.

Burden-Page loved seeing students learn new skills and abilities in the lab. Through this research, she said students were "developing critical thinking skills, good lab techniques, and confidence." She believes giving students opportunities to answer real-world questions and offer solutions that will be used in the field is much more rewarding and motivating than regular lab assignments.

Beaudoin, a biomedical science and business administration major, agrees about the importance of real-world research. Her strong relationship with Burden-Page and the need to be competitive for medical-school applications inspired her to join the research team.

"Research like this can lead to new breakthroughs and prepare me for medical school," she said. "You have to learn to adapt, pay attention to detail and be honest with yourself."

Chad Vietz, a 2020 chemistry, and biomedical science graduate, also wanted to take advantage of the research opportunity and joined the project in 2018. "I had been looking for a research position since I entered college," he said. "This opportunity gave me my first taste of research and allowed me to work more independently."

Vietz worked in a laboratory dedicated solely to the project in Union's Krueger Center. Extracting and sequencing mRNA in the plant tissue samples, the level of research he was doing is usually reserved for graduate students at most universities. "It was my first time being involved in a research environment and being faced with problems I had to figure out how to solve," Vietz said. One of the lessons he learned early is there is no place for dawdling in biochemistry. "DNA and RNA are not very stable, meaning they break down easily. You have to do high quality work quickly."

A hands-on learner, Vietz said the best part of the research was studying by doing. The laboratory techniques and complex protocol took a lot of time and patience, but because the preparation of the sample had a clear effect on the quality of the data gathered at the end of each sequencing, Vietz could see his attention to detail mattered at every step, every time. "I learned getting great results in research requires a great deal of persistence," he said. "It can be a lot of work, but I found it made it all the more rewarding."

The mRNA extraction protocol

CAMPUS NEWS |

took nearly eight hours of precise work per sample. The students started the lengthy process by grinding up a leaf from a cornstalk, separating the contents, incubating samples, and using chemicals to extract the mRNA. Finally, they ended with sequencing the mRNA, the most fascinating step to Vietz. The satisfaction he got from the research confirmed that graduate school and chemistry are the right paths for him.

For an engineer like McNeill, the technology behind the sequencing was the fun part. "The sequencer is a biomembrane—basically a cell wall—attached to electronics which, in turn, attaches to a computer's USB port," said McNeill. "Life talking to circuits; it's a really cool crossover."

The data collected "provides

a snapshot of what is going on in that cell or in that plant at the time of the sample," explained Burden-Page. "The mRNA is the messenger that tells the cell what new machinery to make. That can change based on what the cell needs to survive and do its job," she said.

While the research itself is important, McNeill designed the project with student outcomes in mind. "Multi-semester projects have been shown to help students' educations," McNeill said, referencing a Gallup-Purdue study. "Also, the ability to understand and follow a complex protocol over a long period of time is really important for a career in any STEM field."

According to McNeill, there's still a fair bit left to be done on this continuing project. Finding and optimizing good systems has been a learning process for both the students and professors. And sometimes setbacks are unavoidable, like when a faulty refrigerator renders samples unusable or a global pandemic breaks up the team. But each complication is also an opportunity for the next group of student researchers to adapt and overcome.

"This hands-on lab work is invaluable for stu-



Photo: Scott Culhman/Union College

Chad Vietz, a May 2020 graduate, joined the project in 2018 and jumped at the opportunity to perform graduate-level research on the Nebraska field samples.

McNeill said. "Whether they are going to grad school or straight into the workforce, it guides them on to even bigger and better horizons." **A**

Union receives two \$1 million gifts from AdventHealth in the past two years by Emily Roque Cisneros '17

Two Union College academic programs received a boost in January with a fifth \$1 million gift from AdventHealth in January, following a fourth \$1 million in 2019.

The 2019 gift completed a second endowment for a fully-funded chair in Union's business program that was partially funded with a previous \$1 million gift from AdventHealth in 2018. The 2020 gift will partially fund an endowed chair in the Division of Nursing.

In 2015, AdventHealth funded the first AdventHealth Endowed Chair of Business Administration with a \$2 million gift—a position held by Lisa Forbes, program director for the business administration program. Union plans to name the second AdventHealth Endowed Chair of Business Administration at the end of the school year.

"We have appreciated a strong partnership with AdventHealth over many years," said Dr. Vinita Sauder, president of Union College. "These funds allow us to continually improve our programs that supply top-quality business leaders and nurses to AdventHealth and many other healthcare facilities around the country."

AdventHealth—the second-largest private health care provider in the United States—is a Florida-based system that operates 45 hospitals and many more urgent care facilities and physician networks in 10 states including Colorado and Kansas. It is one of five health care systems operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, the same organization that runs Union College and 12 other higher education institutions throughout North America.

Educating health care leaders

Gina Creek, a 2003 Union College graduate, oversees leadership development for AdventHealth. She designs numerous internship and residency programs that help college students and recent grad-

uates develop into leaders throughout the system.

"Students from Union graduate with a dive-in-and-get-it-done attitude," she said. "That's part of the experience of being at Union. The faculty don't tell you what to do; they come alongside you, remove the barriers, and empower you."

More than 60 Union College graduates serve as C-suite executives for hospitals and health care systems around the country—including Carl Dupper. Dupper graduated from Union College in 2014 and immediately joined a management residency program with AdventHealth in Orlando while completing an MBA.

Six years later Dupper is the CEO of AdventHealth Winter Garden, a hospital in the Orlando area.

"I attribute so much of where I am to my professors in the Union College business program," he said. "Just this week, we were trying to solve a problem and I thought back to one of the lessons I learned in class. I'm continually using what they taught me."

For more information about Union's business program, visit ucollege.edu/business **A**

Union focuses new funding on student success

by Emily Roque Cisneros '17

When international rescue and relief major Madison Kamarad started her junior year, she knew two classes—Microeconomics and International Relations—were going to be challenges for her. She also knew sometimes the answer to difficult problems is finding better tools. Tutoring made available through Union's Student Success team gave her those tools.

"I'm never usually one to ask for help, but I realized I needed to learn from people who know more," said Kamarad. "My tutors were willing to work at my pace and my level. The Student Success team is doing a phenomenal job at making sure students feel helped and encouraged to do our absolute best with what we have."

Expanded tutoring for a wide variety of courses across campus is just one way Union College's new Student Success team is radically expanding support for students so they successfully find and live out their God-given calling.

"Our goal is to make sure Union students have the personal mentorship and educational experience they need to be highly sought by employers," said Vinita Sauder, president of Union College. "That's why we are prioritizing a team that will help make sure our students have everything they need to be successful."

Life coaching for every freshman

Starting this fall, every incoming freshman has a certified life coach. The coach will help each student line up courses, work through deciding on his or her major by using learning

diagnostics such as the Focus 2 assessment, and help with the adjustment to college life ... pretty much any help a student needs to be successful in their first year.

Union has four full-time coaches in place to assist the incoming class as they transition from high school. "I want their life coach to become 'their person' and help them transition into college in whatever capacity that entails," said Taryn Rouse, Union's executive director of Student Success. "The coaches will provide personalized plans for each of their students to help them focus on their needs and goals."

Embedded tutoring for the tough courses

In addition to one-on-one tutoring for any course that students need help with, the college also embeds tutors in the really tough courses. "We find students who



Madison Kamarad found success in part to embedded tutors—one of the services offered by the new Student Success Center.

took the class before and did well, said Rouse. "Then we hire them to sit in on the course again and tutor the students who need some extra help." The Student Success team will expand the embedded tutoring program to include 15 more first-year classes. Rouse has already seen success after starting the embedded tutoring program in Fall 2018—some courses improved pass rates by more than 15 percent.

Career and calling

"Many students don't really understand how to look for jobs, how to interview, or maybe even what to study.

That's where the Career Center comes in, and it's part of our Student Success initiative," said Rouse. The Career Center has been staffed by one part-time person for several years, but the role will expand to full-time allowing the center to provide more career-finding assistance—through planning career fairs, providing assessment tools such as the Clifton Strengths-Finder, and helping students learn to create resumes and perform well in interviews.

But Union will also take career prep one step further. "We believe that the practical experience and networking provided by working outside the classroom is vital to developing the skills employers crave—such as communication, problem-solving and grit," said Sauder. "Starting next school year, every student in every major will be required to complete at least one semester-long internship before graduation."

Bringing it all together

In September, Union was awarded a \$2.1 million Strengthening Institutions grant to focus on student success. In addition to funding many of the new student success initiatives, "the grant will allow us to bring several services together in one location—a one-stop location for coaching, tutoring, first-year advising assistance and disability services," said Rouse.

Funded over a five-year period, the grant will provide salaries for two additional life coaches, move the Career Center director to full time, allow the college to add extra focus to disability services, fund a student success coordinator, and add more student tutors. It will also fund renovating a portion of the library into a new Student Success Center where students will advantage of all the new services as well as those traditionally provided by the Career Center and Teaching Learning Center in one location.

"Union College has always had academic support services offered by truly amazing educators, but what makes this different is the scope," said Sauder. "The new Student Success initiatives are comprehensive and fully integrated, reaching every single student in an intentional and focused way. Receiving this grant funding is a gamechanger for our ability to make a difference for students." **A**

Magazine Writing class celebrates 25 years of writing for *Outlook*

by Ryan Teller '98



Photo: Steve Nazarov/Union College

The Spring 2020 Magazine Writing class wrote the content for the May 2020 issue of *Outlook* magazine—marking 25 years of a student-produced issue of the publication.

In Spring 2020, ten students in Union's Magazine Writing class wrote the feature articles for the May 2020 issue of *Outlook* magazine, a publication of the Mid-America Seventh-day Adventist Church with a circulation of more than 30,000. The project has become an annual tradition for the class taught by Lori Peckham, herself an editor whose experience includes managing both *Insight* and *Women of Spirit*.

The issue celebrated a 25-year relationship that began in 1995 when then-communication professor Chris Blake asked the publication if his class could produce an issue every other year. Editor Roger Morton agreed, and the project has become a valuable learning tool for communication majors ever since.

"This project gives our students the unique opportunity of working with an editorial team at every step of publishing, including brainstorming article ideas and writing approaches, as well as revising after receiving one-on-one feedback on their drafts," said Peckham. "At the end of the project we have a

publishing party at which the students receive their printed copies and a check. They are now published (and paid) authors, with real-world experience and material for their portfolio."

Over the years both the magazine and the class has changed—including transitioning from Magazine Editing class to Magazine Writing and the class writing for an issue every year instead of every other year.

Peckham continues to be grateful for the student experience. "We are blessed that Brenda Dickerson and the *Outlook* team give our students this opportunity each year," she said. "They are excellent at coaching students through the editorial process and helping them celebrate their accomplishment."

"The students in the class are required to submit their writing to at least three publications, and all the students this year received acceptances from other publications. Ashley Bower's article about white privilege, entitled "It's My Dream Too," was purchased by *Message* magazine. Lacey Stecker, Maria Kercher, and Diana Celaya will have devotionals published in the 2022 North American Division women's devotional book.

Eight of the students had stories bought by *Guide* editor Lori Futcher, who spent a week on campus speaking to classes and mentoring student writers. When she received the students' final drafts, she responded in an email to Peckham: "Your students are making me very happy today... They have learned what I consider to be the most important thing I learned in Magazine and Feature Article Writing: how to use critique to make your work better!" **A**

Union responds to COVID-19 pandemic

Union College started classes for the Fall 2020 semester on August 10—two weeks earlier than originally planned.

The semester will also conclude early with students completing finals on Tuesday, November 24. The school will then have an extended break through the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays until classes resume for the spring semester on January 11, 2021.

"We are committed to holding in-person classes this semester and making sure our students and employees stay safe," said Vinita Sauder, president of Union College. "Our planning teams feel this is the best way to accomplish both."

Campus leadership chose to adjust the schedule to help protect the health of the campus community by limiting travel throughout the semester and ensuring students are able to go home during the flu season peak over the holidays.

"Union is best experienced in person—and our students consistently remind us of this," said Sauder. "This fall we will implement plans for maintaining

proper physical distancing, cleaning and sanitizing shared spaces, safe dining, isolated quarantine spaces for those who become ill, daily health checks and requiring the use of face coverings in buildings. We believe we can have a successful semester on campus as our students continue their preparation for a life lived joyfully in God's calling."

For more information about Union's response to COVID-19, please visit college.edu/covid-19 **A**

WHAT'S ONLINE

Facebook



My Baby's Going to College

We know it's not easy to send your child off to college. Host Taryn Rouse and guests explore how parents can help students be successful. It's fun, moving and you never know what to expect.

facebook.com/ucollegene

Instagram

@ucollegene



#teamtuesday

Every Tuesday Union posts a short story highlighting one of its team members - such as 2018 graduate Jill Donald who returned to her beloved alma mater as the public services and outreach librarian.



#maskmonday

Each week we post a new photo reminding students of the importance of wearing a mask and staying safe during a pandemic.

Youtube



Ask Union video series

Have a question about Union or college in general? A new video series "Ask Union" featuring the entertaining Daniel Cress will answer all of your questions. Stay up to date and learn more at:

ucollege.edu/askunion

Virtual Recognition of the Class of 2020

Despite not being able to meet in person, Union still had the chance to honor the Class of 2020 through a virtual recognition event featuring a speech by Dr. Ben Carson, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Union conferred degrees to 202 graduates from December 2019 - August 2020—These included 48 bachelor of science in nursing degrees, 37 degrees in biomedical science, 30 Master of Physician Assistant Studies degrees, 25 in business administration and 18 in international rescue and relief. ucollege.edu/graduation



Coronavirus teaches student teachers to be adaptable

by Carrie Purkepile '03



As Savanna “Dani” Arthur looked out over the 15 young faces staring back expectantly across the classroom, she had to fight back just a little bit of panic. The senior education major had been student teaching at George Stone Elementary for little more than a month when her supervising teacher went home sick halfway through the day and left Arthur in charge.

“I learned to be flexible,” said Arthur, who had previously been teaching three classes and now had to adapt to teaching all the classes in grades 1-4 for several days. “And little did I know that would really prepare me for what happened next.”

At spring break, Arthur was scheduled to switch to Lincoln Public Schools to teach fifth grade. But as COVID-19 swept across the world, Union College and LPS were forced to move all instruction online.

For Arthur, that meant staying with George Stone, Union College’s on-campus laboratory school, but exchanging the well-equipped multigrade classroom for her college dorm with just a laptop, a whiteboard, and a light “so students can see me.” Each day she taught Bible and language arts to 11 students in grades 5-8 and math to a smaller group of fifth and sixth graders.

She believes she was blessed to be working at George Stone because they continued to have regular

Thanks to her experiences student teaching at Union College’s George Stone Elementary School, Savanna “Dani” Arthur was able to land her dream job teaching fifth and sixth grade at Spring Valley Academy in Ohio.

classes via Zoom, while many schools either canceled classes or offered limited teacher interaction. “I had to learn that this isn’t regular distance learning—it’s crisis learning,” Arthur said. “Students were suddenly forced out of the classroom, and they also are dealing with all these other stressors in their lives. I have to reach their hearts, not just teach the curriculum. That is always the goal in the classroom, but now I have to be even more intentional.”

The first couple of weeks proved challenging as she helped students grapple with using the technology at home. “But now it’s all been falling together,” said Arthur as she recalled a discussion about metaphors in language arts class. She saw the “lightbulb” go on as students understood the connection between a metaphorical battered pinata and the girl in their story. “It has been great to see that even though their world has changed, they are still connecting with new ideas.”

George Stone Elementary equals great multigrade teaching opportunities

Even in a crazy semester like that, Arthur believes her Union experience has paid dividends. “I came to Union because of the education program,” Arthur explained. As she considered pursuing a career in teaching at Adventist schools, she talked to the Adventist education superintendents in her home state of Michigan. “They told me they look for Union graduates first because of their experience in multigrade classrooms.”

Having George Stone Elementary right on campus provides great opportu-

nities for education majors to teach in a multigrade classroom all four years of their program. Arthur said they chose to keep having regular classes online this spring in part to accommodate the student teachers who needed to complete their practicum requirements.

Since she already taught a number of classes in the school, Arthur was able to approach her student teaching experience with confidence. "I had a better understanding of students as individuals and how they interact with each other and with me because I had been working with them in the classroom even before my student teaching," she said.

Switching to the upper grades for her second quarter of student teaching also allowed Arthur to learn from both supervising teachers at the school—Jackie Simpson and Jenienne Kriegelstein. "I'm so glad I had the opportunity to work with both," she said. "They have very different styles and they are both fantastic. They have taught me a lot."

For Arthur, connecting students to new ideas is the best part of the job. "One day I was trying to teach second graders how to add three-digit numbers and several weren't getting it." She remembered a suggestion to use colors to help students with math, so she gathered some colored pencils and encouraged the students to use a different color for each value place.

"You just made math fun!" one of the students exclaimed with a smile as he grasped the concept.

"Math was never my strongest subject, but now it's one of my favorites to teach," Arthur admitted. "It was great to have that validated by one of my students."

Arthur finished her student teaching experience and graduated from Union College in May. Now she is teaching fifth and sixth graders at Spring Valley Academy in Dayton, Ohio—a position she secured back in February.

Thinking back to all of her teaching experiences—especially tackling all the unexpected challenges this spring—Arthur knows it all came together to prepare her to be a great teacher. "I gained a lot more confidence in my ability, which helped me do better in my job interview and get my dream job!"

And if physical distancing closes schools again, she'll be ready. **A**



Photo: Scott Guzman/Union College

Union College recognized for excellence in educator preparation

A college degree without accreditation is a little like a car without a license plate. Even if you have the same capabilities as everyone else, you'll be stopped before getting very far. That's why the Union College Education Program is proud to announce it has earned the approval of CAEP, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

CAEP is a national accreditor which means degrees from schools approved by it are much easier to take across state lines. Requirements for teacher licensing differ from state to state, and they can be quite complicated to navigate. But having a diploma from a nationally accredited college like Union enables teachers to reduce or even bypass required classes or tests in order to attain licensure in any state. Of the more than 4,200 colleges and universities in the United States, only 341 have CAEP accredited education programs.

Helping graduates succeed as teachers no matter where their calling leads is the goal of Union's Education Program according to Peter Adams, the program director. "We provide teachers with great experience and hands-on training. They take that training with them whether they're in a one-room school with all grades or a one-grade class," he said. "They graduate with a wide variety of experience, which sets them up to be successful regardless of where they end up."

"We have a strong tradition of teaching teachers," Adams said. "Superintendents have heard that if they're looking for teachers, Union graduates have the most thorough training."

The program's alumni from the last five years now teach in 24 states and two countries, and CAEP accreditation will ensure future graduates are able to do the same with ease. "With national accreditation, our students can more easily transfer their licensure to the state they're working in, and it helps to ease that transition," Adams said. "It's an honor to be a little college in Lincoln, Nebraska, and have the same accreditation that big universities have."

Photo: Steve Naarnd/Union College

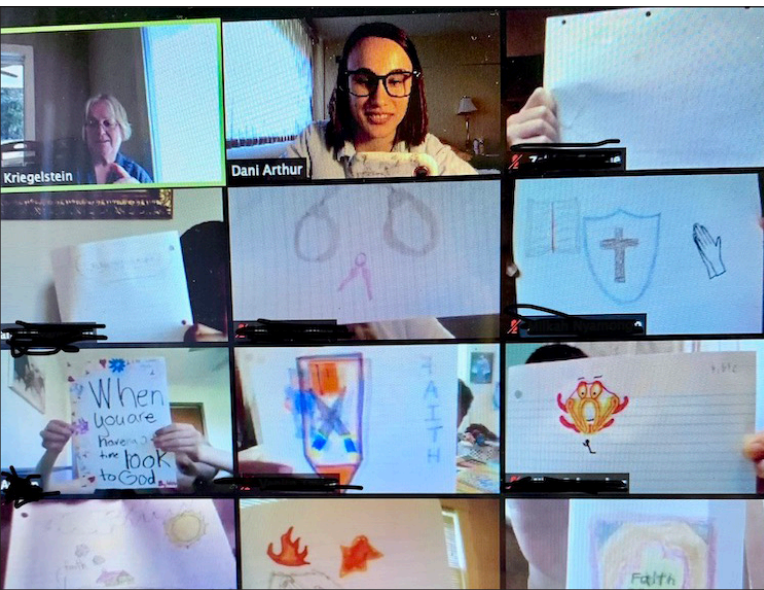


Photo courtesy of Dani Arthur

In a pandemic, clinical patients help heal student nurses

by Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04



It's not learning as usual in the age of COVID-19, but Union College nursing students in Elysia Ockenga's mental health class discovered that sometimes a change in plans can bring unexpected blessings—and benefit the student provider just as much as the patient.

The class focuses on mental health, including the importance of communication between health care providers and patients. "Therapeutic communication is the way we ask questions, have empathy, and care about patients," Ockenga said. Usually students are paired with patients at Lincoln's Regional Center to help them hone their therapeutic communication skills, but the coronavirus put an end to in-person patient visits.

Still, students had to complete clinical hours. "We needed to find a way for students to establish a relationship with patients," she explained. Virtual simulations allowed students to make decisions for virtual patients. But they didn't allow for as much communication that is so needed when establishing rapport and building a relationship with a patient.

This is where the struggles with COVID-19 provided inspiration. Worldwide, individuals who are older or more vulnerable to illness are self-isolating, putting them at risk of loneliness and anxiety. Ockenga reached out to neighboring College View church and Union Manor; Union College's HUD-funded retirement apartments, asking for volunteers who were willing to meet by phone with a nursing student once a week for four weeks.

Junior nursing major Isaiah Delarmente was paired with a local resident who was immunosuppressed and sheltering in place. Over the four-week clinical, they built a friendship. Instead of the required 15 to 30-minute phone calls, the two often spoke for an hour.

While the forum was different, it still allowed for learning and growth. "It was different than being in a hospital because over the phone you can't see nonverbal communication," Delarmente said. "I had to listen to her tone of voice and ask more clarifying questions. It was a good experience because in the nursing field you never know what you'll have thrown at you. We weren't expecting COVID to shut down classes, but this ended up being positive. It taught me that it's fundamental to get out of my comfort zone and build relationships with my patients."

Delarmente says his last phone call with his patient proved that relationship. "As we were wrapping up, she wished me luck and prayed for me. That was really meaningful."

This innovative clinical proved to Delarmente that, even during a pandemic, Union's Nursing Program is preparing him for his future career. "They've given me new experiences. I've learned that not everything is going to go my way; COVID took a lot of personal interaction away. But sometimes you just have to do things by yourself, like study and put in the work. I learned I can do that and succeed."

Senior nursing major Amanda Harland was nervous about the mental health class from the start. "It's different from other

Isaiah Delarmente built a friendship with his "fill-in" clinical patient who helped him move out his comfort zone and be adaptable to using a phone instead of in-person visits.

Photo: Eric Teem

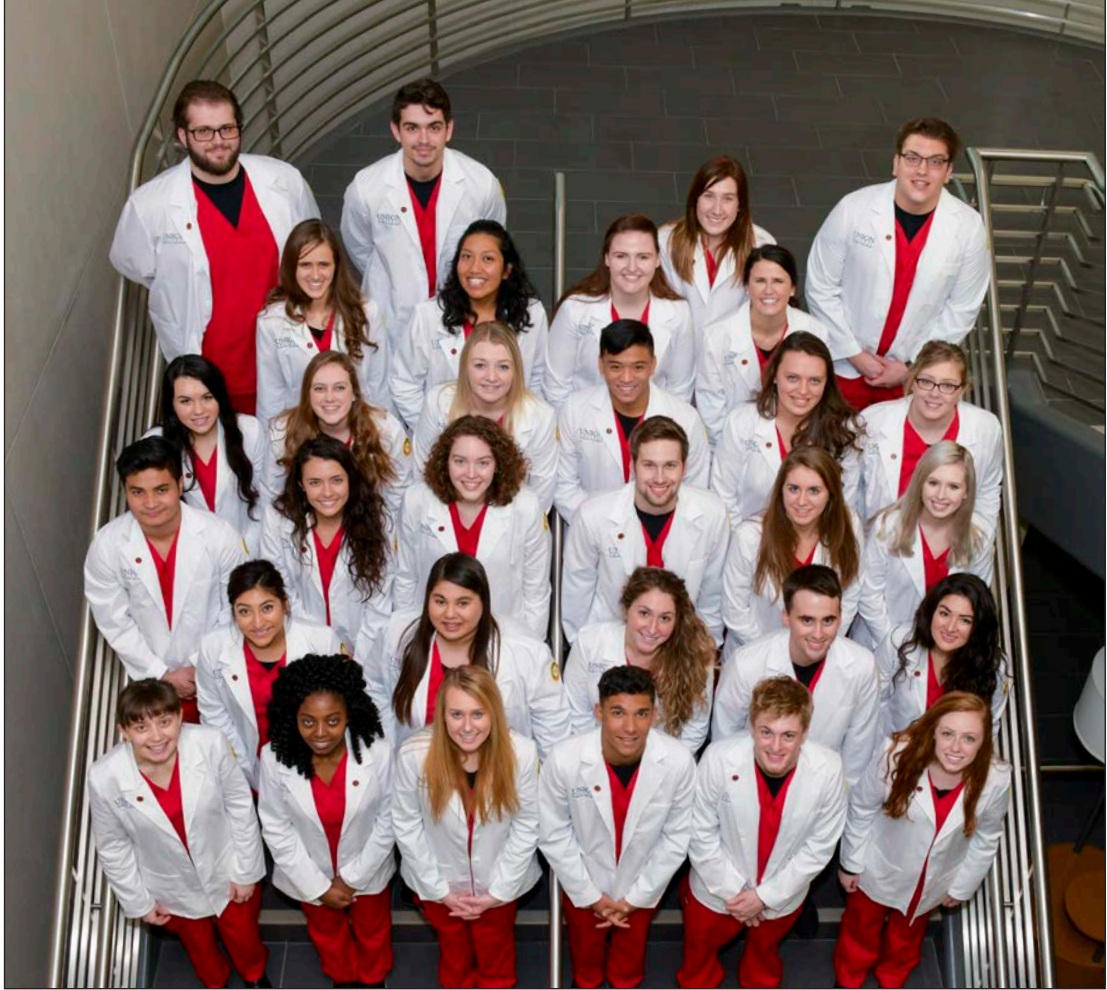


photo: Steve Nazario/Union College

All nursing students—including the graduating class of May 2021—had to adjust on the fly as the coronavirus pandemic limited their clinical opportunities. But Union professors' creativity helped them stay on track for graduation.

nursing classes," she said. "It's not a class where we give medications and do a head-to-toe assessment. Mental illness is different from medical illness, so it's not a quick fix." She was scared she wouldn't get the communication right or would say the wrong thing. But she says Ockenga showed her she could do it.

Then COVID-19 changed the direction of clinicals and in-person meetings were out. "I thought getting to know someone over the phone would be awkward," Harland says. Again, she was pleasantly surprised. "My patient talked a lot about leaning on Christ. It was really empowering for me, and I learned how I could look at life through her perspective," she says. "I was apprehensive, but this was a blessing for me. It's one of the best things that's happened in my nursing education."

Like Delarmente, Harland found that she was able to practice therapeutic communication without relying on visual clues. "I like to look at people when I'm talking to them so I can see how they react to things I ask, but I was surprised at how successful our phone calls were and how gracious my patient was. She wanted me to learn."

Like most Union students, Harland moved back home when live classes were canceled. Her family was also personally affected by the coronavirus, making it hard for her to focus. "Online learning was a challenge, but our teachers were there for us and helped us get through it."

Harland says the patient she was connected with also helped. "She'd lost her husband earlier this year, and we talked a lot about coping and how God has a plan for everyone. I found comfort in that. It's easy to get sucked into the things that are happening in the world and lose sight of what's important. My patient strengthened my faith and gave me peace."

Harland hopes future nursing students



photo: courtesy of Amanda Harland

Amanda Harland was encouraged when her clinical patient shared how she found strength in Christ.

will get the chance to experience this project, even if COVID-19 isn't a factor. "Reaching out to community members like we did to check on them, being there, and telling someone 'I'm here to listen' is something that can really change lives and perspectives. It's a great learning experience."

During their clinical phone calls, students got a chance to practice professional and therapeutic communication. But Ockenga says she didn't anticipate the larger learning the students would get. "These individuals have experienced life and were able to share with our students that we all have difficult times and ways to cope," she said. "They found a connection—the older individuals appreciated a voice on the phone, someone to listen to their stories and spend time with. The students found a relationship in which an older person cares about them and appreciates that they are spending time with them. It speaks to what our college is about—community and connection—and these students exemplify that. I'm so proud of them." **A**



Union grads plan for disaster

by Carrie Purkeypile '03

Many of us never spent much time thinking about disasters and pandemics until we found ourselves in the middle of one. But many Union graduates work in the field of disaster preparedness and response. As you might expect, 2020 has been a busy year for them!



photo courtesy of Meredith Nichols

Meredith Nichols '17 Director of Emergency Management for Custer County, Colorado

Nichols started at the Custer County Emergency Management department as an intern before graduating from Union. Over time she learned the ropes, and when her boss retired in July 2019, she was promoted to director.

"It has been a wild ride!" she said. "My first day on the job we had a tornado. I don't

think that has happened here for years. And now this global pandemic!"

Nichols and the public health director serve as the unified command for the incident within Custer County. "We have been working nonstop," she said of the last few months.

Meredith credits IRR class drills for many useful skills she employs daily. She learned to be comfortable with public speaking, to distill a complicated scenario into usable public information, to understand how people react in times of high stress, and also how to stay calm and collected through long periods of intense stress.

Custer County has very few cases of Covid-19, thanks in part to early prevention measures Nichols helped put in place. "Our community has done a great job of protecting others and themselves by not going out unnecessarily, and wearing masks when needed," she said. "It has been great to see the community come together!"

Nichols' Pandemic Tips:

- Be wise. Even as things start to open up, there will still be risk.
- Don't live in fear.
- Wear your mask in public.



photo courtesy of Tobias Watson

Tobias Watson '16 Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Bryan Medical Center, Lincoln, Nebraska

Tobias was already a certified EMT and an active firefighter before he arrived on Union's campus. But he was in search of a degree that would allow him to advance his career:

"I wanted a program that would not only give me leadership skills but also hands-on experience using those skills. There are a lot of opportunities for that at Union," he said.

Watson has been the emergency preparedness coordinator at Bryan Medical

Center since shortly after his graduation. But this year has been extra busy.

His team caught wind of an unusual virus spreading in China the first week of January.

"We started discussing some of our response plans early on," said Watson. "We were very certain we would be exposed to this virus even though we are in the middle of the country. We knew we would have large outbreaks. However, we did not predict the pandemic."

Watson explained that he and his team had already put detailed plans in place for a contagious individual entering the facility, most likely through the emergency room, and had practiced how to isolate the department to protect against contagion. "But we quickly realized we would have to put a lot of these practices in place throughout the entire hospital," he said.

He loves to be active on the front lines. So working this pandemic from his office has been hard. But his role as a resource, not only for the medical center, but also for the community is crucial.

"A lot of the relationships I have formed helped us identify resources that can help," said Watson. "Our community in Lincoln has not been directly impacted by a mass casualty disaster in recent history. I know who to call, and I'm able to help connect people with the resources they need. I am a key resource."

The Covid-19 pandemic holds an important lesson. "This and every disaster response we have shows there is a greater need for preparedness, not just response and recovery," explained Watson. "Any organization, state, or country will shell out a lot of money to recover from something—but not for preparedness. There is so much more we can do."

Watson's Pandemic Tip:

- Listen to and trust health-care professionals.

Kiana Meyers Kabanje '17 Disaster Preparedness Outreach Coordinator for Washington

"The International Rescue and Relief program (IRR) truly changed the trajectory of my career path. It prepared me to do anything I want," Kabanje reflected. "When I graduated from Union, I felt like staying within the

Adventist system would be the easy route. Being a government employee is another animal. What I liked about IRR was that it prepared us to be Christians doing ministry in any sector."


Kabanje is now a disaster preparedness coordinator on the state level. She feels Union prepared her well. "I have absolutely glowing things to say about the IRR program. I loved it so much! It totally prepared me for where I am now. Even though I'm in my 20s, I feel totally competent and qualified."

She spends a lot of time doing training in the community, and supporting disaster preparedness officials at the city and county levels. Her work at the state emergency operation center has changed during the pandemic as she and most other staff have transitioned from their everyday jobs to their incident response roles.

"The IRR tagline: Career of Adventure, Lifetime of Service is so true. Whatever happens, it may be fun, adventurous and exciting, but I know I'm really here to serve. Whether it be serving my family, my community, or my coworkers."

Kabanje's Pandemic Tips

- Make sure you're getting information from accurate sources. Check the facts and don't spread rumors.
- Even though we are currently living through a disaster, you can still be preparing for the next one. Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors, and replace expired food in disaster kits. Be prepared!

If you are interested in working in the field of public safety or emergency management, learn more about how Union's international rescue and relief program can prepare you to work in this exciting and rewarding field at college.edu/irr 



How you can prepare for disaster

according to Kiana Kabanje

1. Learn about the hazards most likely to occur where you are.
2. Have a plan for how your family will respond in each disaster scenario. Build disaster survival kits.
3. Always have two weeks of supplies at home, and smaller kits other places you spend time, such as in your car or at your workplace.



Nursing grad battles world's scariest diseases

by Carrie Purkeypille '03

Stephen Scheffler calls himself a cautionary tale. Others think of him as an inspiration.

In the last few years, Scheffler, a graduate of the Union College nursing program, has run into the disaster zone as often as he can. In 2015 he flew to Sierra Leone to care for Ebola patients on the front line, and in 2020 he moved to New York to help fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

Learning to run toward challenges

Life hasn't been easy for Scheffler. After being raised by a single mother with very few resources, he was desperate to make a successful path for himself. He first arrived at Union College considering a degree in graphic design, then spent years in indecision, struggling to find the right career fit.

Between changing majors, taking time off to help family, pausing to earn money

for tuition, and struggling academically, Scheffler took nine years to ultimately graduate with a nursing degree.

Through working with the Teaching Learning Center (now part of the Student Success Center), a doctor diagnosed Scheffler with depression and anxiety. He felt relieved to better understand why he had trouble with focus but continued to struggle. He even failed a semester of nursing courses.

But everything he had already invested in college to that point drove Scheffler to continue. "I couldn't give up!" he exclaimed.

A community of support

The teachers and staff in Union's nursing program rallied to help Scheffler succeed. At one point, he couldn't afford his medications and

the nursing professors even helped pay for his prescriptions.

"The nursing program staff were a big part of helping me get through by really working with me," said Scheffler. "They could have said, 'We don't want you here.' But they didn't."

Scheffler wants to be clear—the nursing program would never pass students incapable of doing a great job. But in his case, they stuck with him as he slowly overcame his obstacles.

"I do feel like if it had been any other program, anywhere else I wouldn't have made it," said Scheffler. "It scares me to think about that."

After Scheffler's long-awaited graduation in 2011, he passed his boards on the first try. (Union's nursing program has posted the top first-time pass rate in the state consistently for years.)

The Ebola crisis

Scheffler worked in a variety of clinical settings his first years on the job. But in 2014, a crisis caught his eye.

He opened up his browser and typed, "I'm a nurse. How can I help with Ebola?"

That query sent him to the USAID page, where he filled out applications and was soon referred to Partners in Health, a nonprofit

"I was able to help people and try to save some lives. I had the opportunity for nine weeks to work with some of the most courageous, compassionate people I've ever worked with in my whole life. It is something I can really be proud of. It feels great to be part of something like that."

organization. After a few days of intense training, Scheffler flew to Sierra Leone for a nine-week stint on the front lines of the Ebola epidemic.

"It was tough," Scheffler reflected. "There was a lot of death. It was kind of scary. It was a horrific way to die."

But he calls the experience amazing. "I was able to help people and try to save some lives. I had the opportunity for nine weeks to work with some of the most courageous, compassionate people I've ever worked with in my whole life. It is something I can really be proud of. It feels great to be part of something like that."

Scheffler believes that he was approved for service in Sierra Leone because of his experience treating patients in Nicaragua as part of his studies.

"They were only taking people with international experience," he said. "I learned a lot about cultural sensitivity through Union's Global Health Nursing class."

Covid-19 in New York City

A few weeks ago Scheffler once again volunteered to serve in the danger zone. He left his stable job as a charge nurse in Loveland, Colorado, to take a temporary assignment at a hospital overrun with Covid-19 cases in New York City.

"There is a lot of fear and frustration, and people not knowing what is going on," Scheffler



Stephen Scheffler uses the skills he learned at Union to serve his community on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic. Working with patients in a New York hospital requires him to wear several layers of protective equipment to stay safe.

said of the outbreak. "During our busiest time, I feel like a lot of nurses were scared. We didn't have much personal protective equipment. We still don't. It's very scary because you don't know who has Covid-19."

His experience with Covid-positive patients has spanned the whole range. "Some recover, some seem perfectly fine," Scheffler said. "Others died. And there are other patients who lived, but who will never be the same."

Scheffler tells the story of checking the neurological status of a previously healthy young man, with zero response. "His family no longer has him in their lives," he said sadly. "We don't know if he will ever be okay. You do your best, but you don't know what will happen."

Serving in the midst of a crisis and watching other people doubt the veracity of the illness has been discouraging for Scheffler. "Even from nurse to nurse, there are very different experiences. It blew my mind that

from one area of the hospital to the next it is so different."

He has seen the danger posed by Covid-19. "People dying alone in the hallway is real," Scheffler attests. "Just not everybody is seeing it."

A duty to respond

Some people might call him crazy for running into major crisis situations. But Scheffler doesn't have to think twice. "If I'm able, I need to go. Some situations require a response if you have the capacity to respond. I feel like not going would be really bad."

And he thanks Union for helping him build on his experience to develop an attitude of service. "When I was at Union they said, if you answer the call and go, you'll be given what it takes to handle the situation." **A**

Learn more about the Union College nursing program at ucollege.edu/nursing



Keeping the lights of learning and service burning at Union College

NEW ENDOWMENT SUPPORTS
FACULTY EXCELLENCE AND
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

by Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04

Most of us have daydreamed about giving back to the institutions that helped shape us. But for many, a financial contribution large enough to make an impact seems like an impossibility. Karla Krampert Walters '69 found a way.

Years ago, Walters read in *CORDMagazine* about Jerry and Jane Thayer's contributions to Union College through their IRAs. The story stuck with Walters, who had completed her student teaching under Jane Thayer at College View Academy. "What I learned about teaching from her has been an important part of my professional life for over 50 years," Walters says.

That personal connection and the similarities in their paths caused Walters to consider how she, too, could give back to the college she loves. "Like the Thayers, my husband, Ken, and I have spent our lives in education, earning teacher's salaries. I was impressed that Jerry and Jane Thayer found a way to make a difference by contributing in a systematic way to Union College."

In 2019, Walters set up the Karla Krampert Walters Endowment for Faculty Excellence, a permanent endowment to support faculty by funding continuing professional development. She says she was motivated to create the endowment because during her career she had discovered that "professors are often isolated from others who share their intellectual interests." She adds, "It is essential for college teachers to be given opportunities to connect with others with current ideas and developments in their fields. Their students are the ones to benefit as well, as they realize when professors are sharing the most current approaches and essential ideas."

The endowment can be used by professors in any department, and Walters says she specifically did not restrict the funds in order to give the college the flexibility to use the funds where they were most needed while developing and evolving their approach to continuing education.

"Endowments and scholarships are long-lasting ways to give," says Ken Farrow,



photo courtesy of Ken and Karla Walters

Ken and Karla Walters both spent their lives as teachers. Now they want to support Union's teachers with a new endowment for faculty professional development.

Union College's director of leadership giving, who worked with Walters to create her endowment.

"The principal is kept safe and the funds are invested to create income for future generations." Speaking about Walters' endowment, Farrow says, "This endowment is a tool we can use to recruit employees and students. These are consistent funds that offer amazing opportunities for our faculty to remain current in their fields. I was most excited about seeing Karla and Ken, who were both academics, take these steps to make sure Union's faculty won't have the same struggles they had in connecting with colleagues."

A Life of Service

Walters graduated from Union in June 1969 and married her husband, Ken, one week later. The couple moved to Berkeley, California, and Walters accepted a job teaching middle school math and language arts. She later earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in English at the University of Oregon and proceeded to teach at Tacoma Community College; California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; and the University of New Mexico. She retired in 2013 and continues to serve as an examiner for International Baccalaureate assessments.

"Working together with many public-school teachers and student teachers, I realized how rare and wonderful my own student teaching experience had been at Union College," she says. "I am very grateful for the education I received at Union College."

Walters' parents modeled philanthropy to

her from her early years. Her father worked with the Nature Conservancy to preserve native prairie near her Wisconsin hometown. Her mother, too, was generous, giving her time and talents to the church. "Combined, my parents instilled in me both a strong value for education and the idea of committing my talents and resources to make opportunities available to future generations," she says. And her time at Union helped reinforce those lessons: "What I learned more than anything at Union College was a service ethic, the idea that everyone has talents that can serve the world."

Now, Walters is using her generosity to impact the next generation and encouraging others to do the same. "Union College is near and dear to my heart, and I want to help make the kind of educational experience I had to continue for the next generation by doing a little bit to fund opportunities for the faculty. I would like all alumni to contribute in any way they find possible to support the future of the college, as a way of saluting those who have had the vision to keep the lights of learning and service burning at Union College." **A**

To learn more about setting up an endowment, scholarship, or other gift, contact Ken Farrow, Director of Leadership Giving, at ken.farrow@ucollege.edu or 402.486.2600, ext. 2200.

BIRTHS |



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17 (NIV)



Isaac Ryan Smilden was born Oct. 15, 2018, to **Sherry Flerchinger Smilden '99** and her husband, Scott. Isaac weighed 7 lbs 8.6 oz and was 20 inches long. He joins siblings: Emily Vaughn, 14; and Michael Vaughn, 11, at home in Spokane, Washington.



Alicia Fogg Wolfe '99 and her husband, Paul, welcomed Kathryn Nicole Wolfe on July 9, 2019. She weighed 5 lbs 4 oz and was 18 inches long. She joins brother, Trey, 5, at home in Coronado, California.



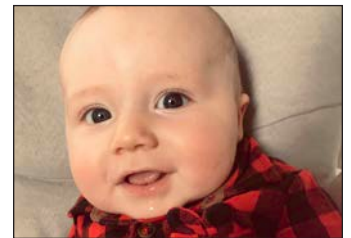
Brooklyn Grace Johnson was born June 11, 2018, to **Chris ('01) and Nicole Horst Johnson '00**. She was 8 lbs 5 oz and 21.25 inches long and joins brother, Grayson, 2, at home in Regensburg, Germany.



Kelly James Cramond '02 and her husband, Alex, are pleased to announce the birth of a second set of twins named James Alexander and Lincoln John, on October 8, 2019. They join brothers Enzo and Luca, 2, at home in Reno, Nevada.



Quinn Emery Fox was born on March 19, 2019, to **Danielle Bullard Fox '02** and her husband, Izaak. He weighed 8 lbs 1 oz and was 21 inches long. The family lives in Anacortes, Washington.



Nancy Rexinger Rogers '03 and her husband, Drew, welcomed Luke Andrew Rogers on Aug. 22, 2019. He weighed 9 lbs 3 oz and was 21.5 inches long. They live in Walla Walla, Washington.



Jeff Carlson '03 and his wife, Whitney, are pleased to announce the birth of Holden Ronald Carlson. He was born June 19, 2019, and weighed 8 lbs 4 oz and was 21 inches long. The family lives in Wichita, Kansas.



Luciana Santos Gordon '07 and her husband, Max, welcomed Emma Jade Gordon on April 13, 2019. She weighed 8 lbs 1 oz and was 21 inches long. She joins brothers: Benjamin, 9, and Jacob, 5, at home in Brady, Nebraska.

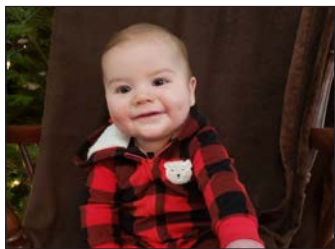


Andy ('08) and Rachel Halim Seiler '11 welcomed Ivy Moon Halim Seiler on June 3, 2019. She weighed 6 lb 9 oz and was 19.5 inches long. The family lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Korotita Sa'ofetalai Apulu was born Dec. 5, 2019, to **Edney '09 and Jubilee Lafa Apulu '09**. She weighed 6 lbs 9 oz and was 20 inches long. She joins brothers, E.L.I. Jr., 7 and Zebadiah, 5, at home in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

BIRTHS



Kristi Peason Trecartin '10 and her husband, Alex, are pleased to announce the birth of **William Raleigh Trecartin**. He was born June 24, 2019, weighed 6 lbs 13 oz and was 21.5 inches long. The family lives in Wausau, Wisconsin.



Elijah '11 and **Megan Prosser Bruette ('13)** welcomed **Miles Henry Bruette**, on Sept. 29, 2019. He weighed 8 lbs 10 oz and was 21 inches long. They live in Burleson, Texas.



Kelli Akioka-Smith '12 and her husband, Evan, are pleased to announce the birth of **Astrid Nakaomakalii Akioka-Smith**. She was born Jan. 25, 2020, weighed 6 lb 1 oz and was 17.5 inches long. Both parents are serving in the U.S. Navy overseas.



Julia Grace Barnett was born to **Benjamin '12** and **Breanna Bramblett Barnett '16** on Sept. 3, 2019. She weighed 7 lbs 8 oz and was 19.25 inches long. She joins sister, Joanna, 2, at home in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Mindy Wenberg Faley '12 and her husband, Trevir, welcomed **Cascadia Bridgett AnnaLee Faley** on July 12, 2019. She was 9 lbs 6 oz and 21 inches long and joined brother, Ezekiel, 2½, at home in Mount Vernon, Washington.



Mitch '14 and **Rachel Downey Seltman '13** are pleased to announce the birth of **Madelyn Grace Seltman**. She was born on Nov. 14, 2019, weighed 6 lbs 11 oz and 19.75 inches long. The family lives in Corcoran, Minnesota.



Grant Alan Ellstrom was born Dec. 31, 2019, to **Leif '14** and **Jen Carlson Ellstrom '14**. He weighed 6 lb 6 oz and lives with his family in Richfield, Minnesota.



Emily Caillier Andrews '15 and her husband, Matthew, are pleased to announce the birth of **Lauren Claire Andrews**. She was born Oct. 1, 2019, weighed 8 lbs, 3 oz and was 21 inches long. They live in Crookston, Minnesota.



Brad '16 and **Laura Peterson Carlson '15** welcomed **Rosalie Grace Carlson** on July 17, 2019. She weighed 8 lbs 6 oz and was 20 inches long. The family lives in Loma Linda, California.



Luke Abraham-David Carlson was born to **Eric '16** and **Jennifer Huasco Carlson '17** on Dec. 30, 2019. He weighed 5 lbs 7.8 oz and was 19 inches. He joins brother, Abel, 5, at home in Severn, Maryland.



Derek '16 and **Claire Baker Fast '16** are pleased to announce the birth of **Blaine Helen Fast** on Aug. 24, 2019. She weighed 6 lbs 5 oz and was 19.5 inches long. The family lives in Owasso, Oklahoma.



Zahari Saint Augustine was born June 2, 2019, to **Jasmin Ondap '17** and **Zachary Watkins ('11)**. He weighed 6 lbs 15 oz and was 17 inches long. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska.



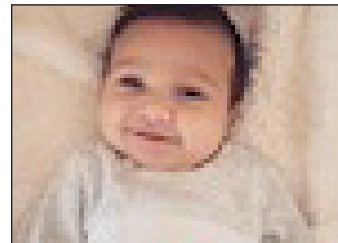
Eliezer '17 and **Emily Wood Roque Cisneros '17** welcomed **Rosalina Ruby Roque Cisneros** on Oct. 16, 2019. She weighed 7 lb 3 oz and was 20.75 inches long. The family lives in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Orson Victor Harry Collingsworth was born May 25, 2019, to **Addison '18** and **Camerine Flores Collingsworth '17**. He weighed 8 lbs 10 oz and was 19.75 inches long. The family lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Emmett William Beem was born Sept. 10, 2019, to **Kolby '18** and **Sierra Hall Beem '18**. He weighed 7 lbs 8 oz and was 20 inches long. The family lives in Dubuque, Iowa.



Andre Orduna '18 and his wife, Erin, welcomed **Mattley Maeve Orduna** on Sept. 23, 2019. Mattley weighed 7 lbs 6 oz and was 21.5 inches long. The family lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

WEDDINGS |



Debbie Knoll '05 married Matthew Gandy on Sept. 9, 2018. She is document control administrator for Gaia Herbs. Matthew is a design engineer for Mountain Showcase Group. They live in Hendersonville, North Carolina.



Brent Page '00 and Christina Burden (current faculty) were married on June 23, 2019. Brent is IT director at Bluestem Health, and Christina is assistant professor of biology at Union College. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska.



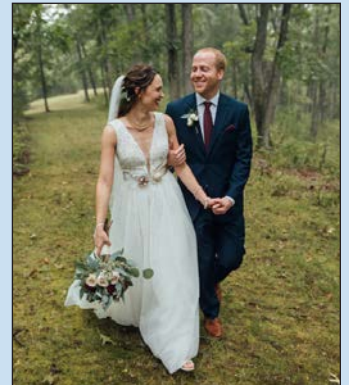
Isaac Lindsay-Borja '19 married **Tiffany Sohm '18** on August 9, 2019. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska, where Isaac is a nurse in the orthopedic trauma unit at Bryan Medical Center-West Campus, and Tiffany substitute teaches for Lincoln Public Schools.



Brittany Harwood '11 married Michael Matiko on June 19, 2019. She works for Supreme International, and Michael is an electrician with AC Dandy. They live in Millet, Alberta, Canada.



Coral Jenkins Muhammad '11 married Lamont Twyman on November 2, 2019. Coral is an emergency room nurse at Friend Community Hospital, and Lamont is a customer sales representative for NTT Data. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Allison Strom '12 married Dane Drysdale on Sept. 28, 2019. They live in Columbia, Missouri, where Allison is a nurse on a step-down unit at Boone Hospital. She is also an adjunct clinical instructor for a mental health nursing course at University of Missouri. Dane works at McClure Engineering.



Edwin Cabrera '08 and Aileen Treto married on Feb. 14, 2019, and live in Daytona Beach, Florida. Aileen is a physician and women's health director with Halifax Health Medical Center and is an attending faculty for the family medicine and obstetrics program. Edwin owns Sovereign Onpoint Solutions Wealth Management and is an investment advisor and real estate agent specializing in investments and retirement planning.



Ed Sharon '87 and Lydia Serrano Christensen ('78) were married Dec. 8, 2019. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska, where Ed is the IT director at AdventSource. Lydia is retired after 38 years of farming in Minnesota.



Tim Osborn '09 and Brittany Miller married on Oct. 27, 2019, and live in Saranac, New York. Tim pastors the North Adirondack district of churches in upstate New York. Brittany is a nurse and case manager for HCR Home Care in Plattsburgh, New York.

WEDDINGS



David Clark '13 and Amysaday Quevedo Abreo were married Aug. 2, 2019. David is a mission pastor in Guirabito, Cuba, through Andrews University seminary. His wife is studying English and plans to continue her studies in the U.S. when they return.



Rebecca Chisum ('15) and Nathan Carrillo married on September 5, 2019. They live in Haiku, Hawaii, on the island of Maui. Rebecca works in property management, and Nathan is a driver with a commercial license.



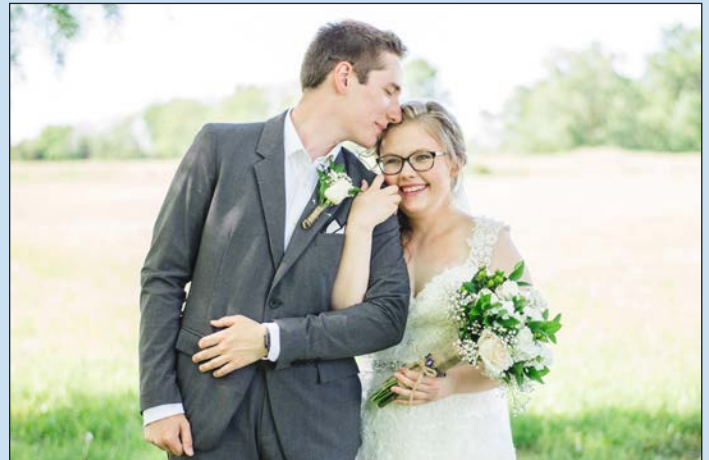
Lenny Finn '16 and **Perla Suarez '17** were married Aug. 11, 2019. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska, where Lenny is a registered nurse in the cardiac progressive unit at Bryan Medical Center and clinical adjunct instructor at Union College. Perla is a registered nurse in the neuro progressive unit at Bryan Health Medical Center.



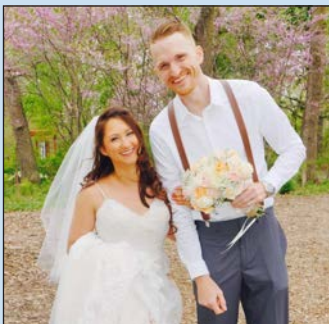
TJ Wagenknecht '18 and Almyra Velasco married on January 5, 2020. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska, where TJ is a nurse at Bryan Medical Center West Campus. Almyra is from the Philippines and has been a nurse in Bangkok, Thailand for the last five years.



Andrew Pisciotta '18 and **Jessica Santee '17** were married Oct. 20, 2019. They live in Deadwood, South Dakota, where Andrew serves in the U.S. Air Force and Jessica is a business owner and a stay-at-home mom.



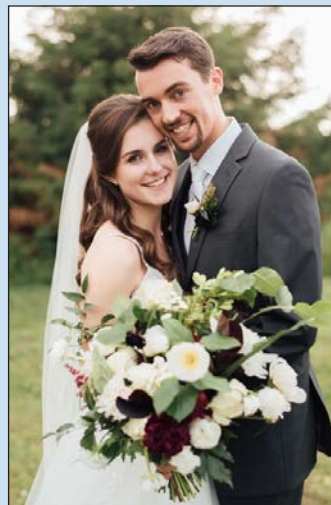
James Claque '19 married **Ellen Burgeson '19**, on May 26, 2019. James is institutional researcher, and Ellen is admissions assistant at Union College, in Lincoln, Nebraska.



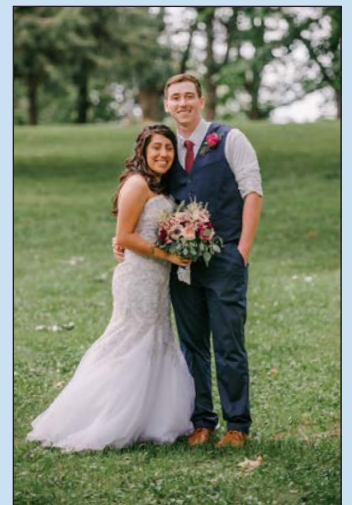
Danny Davis '10 married Cecilia Deandresi on May 12, 2019. They live in Oswego, Illinois, where Danny is an emergency room nurse, and Cecilia is a behavioral therapist.



Tito Baez '19 and **Courtney Fast '19** were married May 9, 2019. Tito is a youth specialist at Cedars in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Courtney is a nurse at Creighton University Medical Center—Bergan Mercy in Omaha. They live in Elkhorn, Nebraska.



Edward Hardy '19 married **Cheyenne Manley '19** on June 16, 2019. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska, where Edward is in dental school at University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Cheyenne is in the PA program at Union college.



Vanessa Aguilar '17 and **Zach Sloan** were married July 21, 2019. They live in Evansville, Indiana, where Vanessa is principal at Riverview Adventist Christian Academy. Zach graduated from Andrews University in computer science.

KEEP IN TOUCH |

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'67 denotes graduation year

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

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 of Union College and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1990s

Kris Cizek Shafer '91 and her husband, Michael, have been involved with foster care and have now adopted Chloe Jeanine Lynn, 4; and Timothy Kristopher Michael, 2. They join siblings: Alexander, 22; William, 20; and Emily Thompson, 18 in the family. Kris owns a therapy company and does consultant work with home health agencies, and Michael teaches and consults on electrical engineering nationwide. He assisted with developing the new engineering program at College of the Ozarks and is on their board.

2000s

Edney Apulu '09, teacher at Tafuna High School for eight years, was named one of six Tafuna High School teachers of the year, then Midwest Region Teacher of the Year; and recently 2020 American Samoa Department of Education Territorial Teacher of the Year. A celebration to honor all 2019-2020 School Teachers of the Year was held Dec. 6, 2019. After graduating from Union College, he earned a Master of Education degree in curriculum studies from University of Hawaii-Manoa. At his high school, he is department head for social studies, chair of the National Honor Society, advisor to the history club, Close-Up and JSA. After hours, he is an ASHAA official with the athletics division. Edney was inspired by **George Gibson '69** and **Karl-Heinz Schroeder (former faculty)**, who he says were not only competent educators but passionate ones as well.

IN MEMORY |



photo: Steve Nazario/Union College

Union College was built on the strength and sacrifice of those who have gone before. We thank God for the blessed hope that we will see them again soon.

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

1940s

Betty Weisz Gutknecht ('42), Lincoln, Nebraska, died Oct. 3, 2019, at age 97. She was born April 4, 1922, in Hurdsfield, North Dakota, to Andrew and Lydia Schmitke Weisz. She is survived by her daughter, **Sheila Shea '71**; son, Cordell; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; siblings: Robert Weisz, **Virginia Widicker ('45)**, **Dorothy Weisz ('49)**, **Dessa Hardin ('47)** and Helen Myres.

Dorothy Rouse Huenergardt ('42), Sonora, California, died July 1, 2019, at age 97. Survivors include her children: **Darrel Huenergardt '65** and **Cheryl Gaul '76**; five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Alice Hadden Reinshagen '42, Sautee Nacoochee, Georgia, died Nov. 6, 2019, at age 98. She was born May 27, 1921, in Valley Junction, Iowa. In 1946 she married Alfred Reinshagen. Alice taught nearly every grade in

the Miami school system. In 1971, she moved to White County, Georgia, where she taught fourth grade until her retirement in the eighties. Her favorite saying was, "Good better best. Never let it rest until your good is better and your better is best." She is survived by her children: Linda, Jerald and Ronald; 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Margaret Osgood Trautwein-Cook ('45), Walla Walla, Washington, died May 16, 2019, at age 97. Survivors include her brother, DeWitt Osgood; and sisters: Charlotte Rollenhagen and Betty Sue Keller.



Evelyn Barker

Evelyn Prusia Barker ('46), Liberal, Missouri, died Dec. 21, 2019, at age 95. She was born May 18, 1924, in Tekamah, Nebraska, the eldest of four children. After she graduated from Platte Valley Academy, she attended Union, where she met **Lyle Barker ('46)**. They were married July 2, 1946, in Tekamah, Nebraska. Evelyn taught school for three years before beginning their family. After moving to Liberal, Missouri, she earned a bachelor's degree in education and taught for 17 years. She is survived by her sons: **Guy '71**, Bruce and **Gary '77**; daughter, **Sherry Christian ('82)**; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and sisters: Shirley Woodruff and **Marilyn Kessler ('54)**.

Cora Rohde Stanley ('46), Ooltewah, Tennessee, died July 14, 2019, at age 92. She was a retired teacher who taught second grade, Head Start and reading. She start-

ed Adopt-a-Student at Southern Adventist University and was instrumental in getting McKee Baking Company to sponsor Avondale School. She is survived by her children: Richard, Kathy Mather and Ray; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Helen Tarasenko Sprengel-Lutz ('47), Loma Linda, California, died June 6, 2019, at age 93. She was born Oct. 21, 1925, to William and Elizabeth Tarasenko near Butte, North Dakota. She graduated from Sheyenne River Academy and took pre-nursing classes at Union College. She completed her nursing education at Glendale Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing in 1947 and married Dr. Reuben Sprengel in 1949. They left for Thailand in 1958 where they served as missionaries at the Bangkok Adventist Hospital. Returning to California, Helen became chair and nursing faculty at California State University in Fresno. They served again in Thailand from 1987-1995. After the death of Dr. Sprengel, she married William Lutz. Survivors include two daughters: Kaye Whitney and Jean Sprengel; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Julia Thomson Snyder ('47), Berrien Springs, Michigan, died July 2, 2019, at age 92. She was born June 25, 1927, in Pineland, Texas, to George and Ferrol Emerson Thomson. After attending Southern Missionary College for one year, she began teaching in St. Petersburg, Florida. She met **Andrew Snyder ('47)**, a serviceman on leave, and came to Union College to be in his home state. They were married on May 30, 1948, and soon after began farming in Nebraska. In 1959, they moved to Berrien Springs, Michigan, where Andy started a cement construction company. Judy completed her education and taught kindergarten for most of her 24-year career. Andy and Judy were among the group that founded what became Maranatha Volunteers International and were named volunteers of the year in 1998. She is survived by her children: Denise Grentz, David, Rebecca Becker and Rachel Kroncke; seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



Julia Thomson Snyder

Laura Anderson ('48), Dodge Center, Minnesota, died Oct. 11, 2019, at age 96. She was born March 15, 1923, in Des Moines, Iowa, to Lewis and Ida Paulsen Anderson. She earned a degree in accounting from Capital City Community College in 1945 and was an accountant for over 40 years at Triple F Feeds of Des Moines. Laura devoted much time to her church as

treasurer and Sabbath School teacher in the children's department. She enjoyed gardening, puzzles, sewing and handicrafts, and was an avid reader. She is survived by her nieces: Marilee McNeilus and Christine Losordo; and a host of devoted family members.

Ida Anderson Compton ('48), Mendota Heights, Minnesota, died Oct. 2, 2019, at age 98. Survivors include sons: **Donald ('71)** and Gordon; daughter, **Nancy Grant '82**; two grandchildren; and one sister.

Harry Haas '48, Littleton, Colorado, died Oct. 25, 2019, at age 99. He was born April 4, 1920, in Cleveland, North Dakota. He served in the United States Army during World War II and was a purple heart recipient. He was an administrative official in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri, where he made numerous lifelong friends. His favorite pastime was his cabin in Pitkin, Colorado, and jeeping on the steep and barely visible roads and trails in the mountains. Survivors include his daughters, **Diane Rasco ('70)** and **Sheryl Hasenauer '74**; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and brother, **Norman Haas '51**.

Wendell Wall ('48), Hutchinson, Minnesota, died June 30, 2019, at age 97. He was born Jan. 20, 1922, in Exira, Iowa, to **Frank '26** and **Agnes Nelson Wall '26**. As



Wendell Wall

a young man, Wendell was a dental technician in the U.S. Army for four years during World War II. He attended Union College where he met and later married **Marian Larson ('47)**. After completing prerequisites for medical school at Union College, he graduated in 1953 from the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University). Following an internship, the family moved to Wahpeton, North Dakota, where with three other Union alumni they joined the Wahpeton Clinic, founded in 1950. He was an architect on the side, designing many homes and churches. He also served on the Board of Trustees for Union College from 1983-1997. He is survived by children: **Connie McCormick ('71)**, **Wendell '75** and Jennifer; 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; and sister, **Verdell Roark '52**.

Henry Wiseman ('48), Columbia, Maryland, died May 6, 2018, at age 97. He is survived by his wife, Joyce; daughter, Jacqueline and one granddaughter.

IN MEMORY

Hernan Burgos ('49), Fort Worth, Texas, died May 4, 2019, at age 92. He was born July 14, 1926, in Santiago, Chile, and came to the United States to study in 1949. He earned a bachelor's degree from California College of Medical Technology in 1953, and a medical degree from the School of Medicine in Monterrey, Mexico in 1959. While there he met Olga Carcano, the daughter of the Italian consul. They married and moved to Texas, where he practiced medicine in Burleson and later in Fort Worth. He completed a general psychiatric residency and practiced in Fort Worth until he retired. He is survived by his wife, Olga; sons: Dante and Robert; and five grandchildren.

Lena Navis Long '49, Reno, Nevada, died June 5, 2019, at age 94. She was born Sept. 20, 1924, to Daniel and Munira Ghazale Navis, in Baghdad, Iraq. After losing her mother at the age of five, Lena and her siblings were raised in Singapore. Her family endured the Japanese occupation of Singapore throughout World War II. She married Ronald Lantry in 1963. Lena was a nurse at many hospitals and nursing homes, as well as a nursing instructor at Andrews University and Loma Linda University. After her husband's death, she married Howard Long in 1978. In 2001 she moved to Reno, Nevada, to be close to family. She is survived by her two children: Valerie and Dan; four grandchildren; and one sister.

Mavis Emmerson Luksan '49, Des Moines, Washington, died April 27, 2019, at age 91. She was born in Minnesota and graduated from Maplewood Academy and Union College. Mavis was a beloved elementary teacher in the Highline School District. Survivors include her son, Larry; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Erval Periman

Erval "Val" Periman '49, Summers, Arkansas, died Aug. 11, 2019, at age 94. He was born Aug. 12, 1924, in Lincoln, Nebraska, to Berry and Margaret Periman. Val served in the United States Army from 1943-1946 as a surgical tech. When he returned to college, he met and married

Bev Clark Periman ('49) on June 3, 1947, in Lincoln, Nebraska. They shared over 72 years together; both received their pilot licenses and owned a medical laboratory. In his church he answered Bible questions and knew gospel song lyrics. He is survived by his wife, Bev; and children, Gregory and Julie Smith.



Melvin West

Melvin West ('49), Portland, Oregon, died December 27, 2019, at age 89. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1930, he was totally fascinated with music and started piano lessons at age 10 and organ studies three years later; ultimately graduating with a Doctor of Music degree in organ performance from Boston University. His career as an educator began at Atlantic Union College in 1953, followed by 18 years at Walla Walla College before coming to Union College, where he taught music, was director of development and alumni activities and minister of music for the College View SDA Church. He also directed music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lincoln for six years. Besides his expertise as an organist, Mel was a gifted arranger and composer and played a key role in developing the current Seventh-day Adventist Church Hymnal, which contains a number of his arrangements. In 1988 he retired to the Pacific Northwest, held a position at Sunnyside Adventist Church and continued to perform. He is survived by his wife, **Betty Nilsson West ('49)**; children: Larry and Lynelle Hatton; and three grandchildren.

1950s

Mary Kay Woods Fleming '50, La Canada, California, died March 21, 2019, at age 92. Kay retired after many years as a nurse for the Glendale Unified School District. She was also a talented painter and enjoyed being part of the Valley Porcelain Artist Club for many years. Survivors include her step-daughters: Kathy and Mary; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

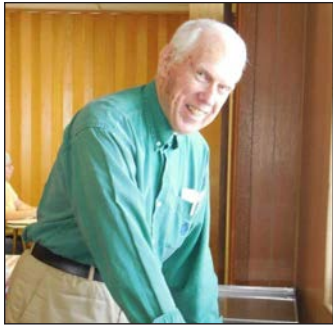
Virgil Mayer '50, Gladstone, Oregon, died Dec. 23, 2019, at age 91. He was born Aug. 8, 1928, in Madison, Wisconsin, to John and Gertrude Lemon Mayer. At Union College, Virgil met and married **Esther Alver '61** on June 3, 1950. He earned degrees in business administration and religion and was a pastor and teacher in Omaha, Nebraska, for five years. He returned to Union College in the business office for 14 years before he joined Risk Management Division of the General Conference in Riverside, California. He transitioned to Loma Linda University's risk man-

agement department, working in that area for 16 years. Virgil was a licensed insurance broker and underwriter and earned chartered property casualty underwriter certification in 1985. He concluded his career at the U.S. Department of Defense as an insurance auditor. After Esther died in 1988, he married Allycemae Moreno Warner. When they retired to Keizer, Oregon, they wintered in Yuma, Arizona, where he enjoyed gardening and painting houses. He volunteered with Maranatha Volunteers International building churches. Survivors include his wife, Allycemae; daughters, Estelle Cooper and Verdell Schaefer; sons, Verlyn and Stephen; stepchildren: James Warner, Juanita Reeder and Merrylee Warner; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and one sister.

Barbara Murphy Lucas Mellen '50, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, died May 24, 2019, at age 90. She was born March 21, 1929, to J.C. and Helene Munal Murphy in Alexandria, Louisiana. Barbara was raised in Baton Rouge and graduated from Baton Rouge High School in 1946. She completed post-graduate studies from Louisiana State University and taught school in Louisiana, Colorado and California. In 1953 she married Jack Lucas. She is survived by her children: Kathryn Carlson, **William Lucas '75** and Mary Ann Monroe; stepdaughters: Debra Fry and Cherie Chabot; 11 grandchildren, five step-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bob Cavender '51, Dallas, Texas, died Jan. 2, 2020, at age 90. He was born in Temple, Texas, on Oct. 5, 1929, to Bob and Lula Mae Flowers Cavender. He was raised in Oak Cliff and Dallas, Texas, where he first learned the art of salesmanship and deal-making as a child of the Great Depression. Bob married **Genie Gamble ('49)** on June 6, 1948, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. His career settled on the newly flourishing semiconductor industry, first with Texas

Instruments. The position he held the longest period of time, and from which he retired, was vice president of sales for North America and the Pacific Rim at TAG Electronics/Raytheon Semiconductors. Survivors include his wife, Genie; children: Steve, Kathy Lewis and Laurie; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Arthur Quance

Arthur Quance '51, Loveland, Colorado, died May 7, 2019, at age 93. He was born Nov. 11, 1925, in Staples, Minnesota, to Roy and Jessie Quance. In 1944 Arthur was inducted into the U.S. Army and served in the Atlantic as an army medic. Following the war, he came to Union College and in 1950 married **Carol Magnuson ('49)**, whom he met several years earlier at Minnesota campmeeting. He taught high school English for four years before changing careers. He earned a nursing degree from Madison College and then completed training as a certified registered nurse anesthetist in Duluth, Minnesota. For over 40 years he was CRNA and hospital administrator in hospitals in Ortonville, Minnesota, and Gettysburg, South Dakota. Survivors include his wife, Carol; daughter, **Deborah "Debbi" Lake '77**; and three grandchildren.

LaVon Stephens Ray '51, Cleburne, Texas, died Sept. 27, 2019, at age 87. She was born Jan. 19, 1932, in Fred, Texas. After graduating from Jefferson Academy, she attended Southwestern Junior College (now Southwestern Adventist University) before graduating from Union College. LaVon married Joe Ray '52, a ministerial student,

and served as a pastor's wife in Louisiana, Maryland, Wisconsin and Texas. She spent many years teaching piano lessons. She is survived by her husband, Joe; daughters: Sharon Hatten, Sheila and Carmen Shantz; son, Joe Lee; seven grandchildren; four brothers; and two sisters.

Charles Gray ('52), Columbus, Nebraska, died Nov. 26, 2019, at age 88. He was born March 11, 1931, in Lincoln, Nebraska, to Ted and Mary Deapen Gray. After graduating from Platte Valley Academy, he attended Union College until he entered the U.S. Army, where he served from 1951-1954. He earned his optometry degree from Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago. On Aug. 31, 1957, he married Eula Sealing, and they moved to Columbus where Charles worked as an optometrist until he retired in 1999. He was a member of the Columbus Sertoma Club and Lions International and assisted the Backpack Program to provide meals to students each week. Survivors include sons: Richard and Alan; daughter, Linda Hahn; sister **Judy Cherry '62**; sister, Tedra Harring; and five grandchildren.

Rose Drake Johnson ('52), Brainerd, Minnesota, died July 7, 2019, at age 87. She was born Feb. 20, 1932, in Tulia, Texas, to Floyd and Verna Dawson Drake. She met **Eugene Johnson '55** at Union College and they married on July 19, 1953. She was a private duty nurse, loving mother, caregiver to her mother and devoted minister's wife. She is survived by her husband, Eugene; children: Mitchell, Richard, René and Milton; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Joyce Leonhardt '52, Longmont, Colorado, died Sept. 3, 2019, at age 91. She was born Dec. 17, 1927, in Aurora, Nebraska, to Frank and Eva Black Leonhardt, and graduated from Champion Academy in 1947. Joyce taught secretarial skills at Auburn Academy and schools in Creede, Kiowa, Grover and Parks Business College. She loved to travel and take pictures. She wrote many poems and in 1990 won the "Who's Who in Poetry" award for her poem "To the Superbowl" about the Denver Broncos, which was published in the *World Treasury of Golden Poems*. Survivors include her niece, Jean Stanley; and nephews: John Trzil and Fred Leonhardt.

Fred Lorenz '52, Lincoln, Nebraska, died June 7, 2019, at age 87. Born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, his family moved to northern Colorado when he was in eighth grade. He graduated from Champion Academy in 1948, earned a music degree from Union College and a master's degree in music from the University of Northern Colorado. He served in the U.S. Army for two years before teaching at Sheyenne River Academy in North Dakota. While in North Dakota, he met **Beverly Reese ('53)**, who was also teaching at the academy. They married on Aug. 22, 1955. Through the

years the couple taught at many Seventh-day Adventist schools, where Fred was choir and band instructor. In 1973, they moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, to teach at College View Academy. He climbed the Grand Canyon numerous times and ran multiple marathons, including the Boston Marathon. He is survived by his sons: **Bruce '83** and **Dean '84**; and five grandchildren.

Donald Prior '52, Loma Linda, California, died Oct. 22, 2019, at age 89. He is survived by his wife **Lois Michalec Prior ('50)**; son, Gary; daughter, Cynthia; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

H. Norman Prusia '52, Denver, Colorado, died Oct. 17, 2019, at age 93. He was born Jan. 29, 1926, in Tekamah, Nebraska, to Harold and Myra Prusia. Norm was a pharmacist mate 3rd class when serving in the U.S. Navy from 1944-1947. He met **Lois Rossow ('49)** at Union College, and they were married on Sept. 3, 1951. When he retired, he was a hospital CFO. He loved sports and the outdoors, traveling, family and friends, and researching his genealogy. Survivors include his children: **Janis Parfitt '75**, **Duane '80**, and **Ron '81**; three grandchildren and sisters: **Evelyn Barker ('46)—now deceased**, Shirley Woodruff; and **Marilyn Kessler ('54)**.

Tom Fowler ('53), North Aurora, Illinois, died May 22, 2019, at age 87. He was born on the kitchen table, an only child to William Arden and Nora Fowler. He was a medic in the U.S. Army for two years and then worked for Boeing Aircraft. As youth counselor at the Seventh-day Adventist church near Seattle, Washington, he met his future wife, Barbara, who was a teacher in the church school there. Tom was dean at Oak Park Academy in Iowa, Platte Valley Academy in Nebraska and Broadview Academy in Illinois.

Donna Lewton Russell '52, Coos Bay, Oregon, died Aug. 31, 2019, at age 90. Born Aug. 11, 1929, she was the youngest of nine born to Floris and Leota Bilsland Lewton in Bennett, Colorado. After graduating from Prospect Valley High School, she earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Union College. While completing her training at Porter Memorial Hospital in Denver, she met Dean Russell, who was completing his pharmacy residency. They were married on Aug. 23, 1953, in Denver. In 1983, she completed a master's degree in public health from Loma Linda University. She enjoyed family, travel, cooking and many hobbies. She is survived by her husband, Dean; children: Frank, Elwyn, Deanna Brown and Denise; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Betty Schock Wine '53, Englewood, Colorado, died Jan. 15, 2019, at age 87. Betty grew up on a farm near Cleveland, North Dakota, and graduated from Sheyenne River Academy in Harvey, North Dakota. She earned a nursing degree at Union College

IN MEMORY

and worked at Porter Memorial Hospital in Denver, Colorado, before marrying Carroll Wine in April 1956. After they had children, she chose to stay home with them. Betty was very active in her church and enjoyed teaching life skills to Pathfinders. She worked at Mile High Academy in many roles, most recently as librarian. She enjoyed camping, gardening, dollmaking, ceramics and sewing. She is survived by sons, **David '80** and Rick; daughter, **Renae '85**; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; one sister and two brothers.

Samuel DeShay '54, Columbia, Maryland, died May 7, 2018, at age 85. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, he was born Jan. 1, 1933. He was an accomplished pianist and was known at Union College for his excellent piano playing with chemistry professor, Guy Jorgensen. He earned a medical degree from Loma Linda University and an additional doctoral degree in internal medicine from University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He served for over 20 years at the Ahoada County Hospital in Nigeria during and after the civil war of 1967-1970 and at the Masanga Leprosy Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone. From 1976-1980, Dr. DeShay was the first African-American director of the health and temperance department of the General Conference. He served as personal physician for over 20 years to the late crown prince of Ethiopia, current president of Uganda, former President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone and late President Mobutu Sese Seko of the present Democratic Republic of the Congo (then known as Zaire). He is survived by his wife: Bernice; two daughters and three grandchildren.

Christine Walker Whetmore '54, Green Bay, Wisconsin, died Jan. 4, 2020, at age 100. Born Jan. 9, 1919, in upstate New York, she was the daughter of Earl and Bessie Sutton Walker. She grew up on a farm, where she plowed the field walking behind a team of horses. She married **Clayton Whetmore ('51)** on September 3, 1950, completed a nursing degree and was an obstetrical nurse in Kansas City before starting a family. Survivors include her children: **Clayton '81**, George and Joy Lauck; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren

Ellis Olson '55, Redlands, California, died April 5, 2019, at age 94. He was born Feb. 28, 1925, in Stockholm, Sweden. He was a faculty member at Union College in the music department. Ellis was a member of the Loma Linda University Church for 40 years. Survivors include his wife, **Mary Henkelmann Olson '55**; daughters: Elizabeth and Ellen Rood; brother, Leonard; and six grandchildren.

Richard Putnam ('55), Sedona, Arizona, died Oct. 3, 2019, at age 86. He was founder and owner of Floors, Inc. for 35 years before he sold to Nebraska Furniture Mart, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, in 1990. He

is survived by his wife, Lana; sons: Kendall and Randal; brother, **William '49**; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Kenneth Cox '58, Loma Linda, California, died July 3, 2019, at age 84. He was born Aug. 22, 1934, in Chicago, Illinois, to Otto and Laura Cox. The family moved to Oklahoma where Kenneth grew up. After he and his mother became Seventh-day Adventists, he attended Southwestern Junior College in Keene, Texas, before graduating from Union College. He also studied at the theological seminary at that time located in Takoma Park, Maryland. He was a pastor in Texas and New Mexico, and an evangelist in the Chesapeake Conference, Oklahoma, Arizona, Kentucky and Tennessee. After his first wife, Marilyn, died in 1974, he began touring the globe doing evangelistic work with notable campaigns in Costa Rica and Melbourne, Australia. In 1997 he joined the Voice of Prophecy ministry as field evangelist for four years before starting his own ministry. He is survived by daughter, Laura Becker; son James; stepsons: Bart and Bob Vaughan; and several grandchildren.

Marlyn Cline ('59), Montrose, Colorado, died May 29, 2019, at age 81. He was born Aug. 14, 1937, in Wichita, Kansas, to Harvey and Ermagene Williams Cline. He grew up in Wichita and graduated from Enterprise Academy in 1955. Marlyn met Geraldine Enqstorm while attending Union College and they married in December 1956. He graduated from the University of Nebraska School of Dentistry in 1963 and started a dental practice in Montrose, Colorado. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, golfing, backpacking, fishing, hunting and restoring antique cars. Survivors include his wife, Gerry; sons, Jeffery and Jon; daughter, Jill; twelve grandchildren and four great-granddaughters.

Shirley Brenneise Goetz ('59), Lincoln, Nebraska, died July 17, 2019, at age 82. Born on an original homestead farm in Eureka, South Dakota, to Daniel and Lydia Isaak Brenneise, she was the youngest of four siblings. She married **Derald Goetz '57 (honorary degree)** on Nov. 10, 1957, in Rapid City, South Dakota. They started Goetz Foundation Coating in 1965 and successfully grew the business for over 30 years. Shirley was active in the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church, where she frequently volunteered to make meals for those in need. She was also a volunteer for the Crisis Line for many years. Survivors include her children: **Sherene Hays ('77)**, **Douglas '83** and **Dennis '84**; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

1960s

Roy Lawrence '60, Grand Island, Florida, died April 24, 2019, at age 92. He was born Dec. 8, 1926 in

Coleysville, Jamaica, to Harold and Chriscel Lawrence. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Union College, and was a mathematics professor for many years at Northern Caribbean University. He taught mathematics in high schools in Connecticut and participated in launching the Upward Bound program at the University of Connecticut. He was active in his local Seventh-day Adventist church, serving as school board chair, elder, school principal and Sabbath School teacher. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Audrey Naar Lawrence; daughters, Donna and Janette; four grandchildren; and one sister.

Joyce Russell Meyer ('60), Fargo, North Dakota, died Oct. 11, 2019, at age 84. She was born Oct. 30, 1934, in New York Mills, Minnesota, to Joel and Grace Reynolds Russell, and grew up near Hewitt, Minnesota, on the family farm. Joyce married Vernon Meyer on July 27, 1974, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. She worked as a licensed practical nurse for about 14 years in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota and Fargo, North Dakota. She is survived by her son, Danny Lee Hagen; and one sister.

Owen Berthelsen '61, Lincoln, Nebraska, died Sept. 11, 2019, at age 87. He was born July 22, 1932, to James and Emma Juhl Berthelsen on a farm in Pembina County, North Dakota. On June 22, 1952, he married **Jeraldine Swim ('63)**. Owen served in the U.S. Army during the Korean war. He was an inventor and entrepreneur who co-owned Century Manufacturing in Aurora, Nebraska. During retirement, he enjoyed volunteering at College View Academy and was a long-time member of the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors include his children: **Steven '76**, **Kelly '77**, **Gary '84**, **Kara Buck '83** and **Monique Saunders '84**; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and one brother.

William Hanson '61, Yuma, Colorado, died Aug. 9, 2019, at age 80. Bill attended Yuma High School, University of Nebraska and Union College, where he graduated in 1961. He served his country in the U.S. Army. Survivors include his wife, **JoAnn Cavin Hanson ('61)**.

Bernelda Johnson Barksdale '62, Boise, Idaho, died March 27, 2019, at age 79. She was born Dec. 3, 1939, in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Bernelda spent most of her career teaching and mentoring business and secretarial science students at Union College from 1968-94. She is survived by her husband, **Donald '64**; brother, **David ('67)**; and sisters: **Diane Vyskocil '59** and **Evie Swanson ('61)**.

Jerald Schack '62, Tolstoy, South Dakota, died May 18, 2019, at age 81. He was born Oct. 2, 1937, to Leo and Mildred Mertz Schack in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He graduated from Plainview Academy in 1956 and earned a degree in agriculture from Union College. Jerry married Martie Beeler on June 15, 1961. He taught in a rural school for three years while still active as a farmer who was building up a cattle herd. He began farming full-time in 1965 and relocated to the farm where he was raised. He married Shirlee Ericson Green at the Bowdle Seventh-day Adventist Church on Dec. 27, 1994. Jerry was elder at the Bowdle church for many years and a standout pitcher in several fast pitch softball leagues in the area. He is survived by his sons: Rhett and Flynt; daughter, **Shawn Johnson ('83)**, one brother eight grandchildren and one sister.

Judy Olson Aitken ('63), Eau Claire, Michigan, died Dec. 10, 2018, at age 75. She was born May 2, 1943, in Joplin, Missouri, to missionary-minded educators, **Boyd '39** and **Elizabeth Wester Olson '40**. Although her career began as homemaker and registered nurse, she gained a passion for refugees and embarked on a missionary

journey of more than 40 years of service. Judy founded ASAP Ministries, a non-profit organization serving the persecuted, poor, unreached and refugees, based in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She is survived by her children: Jay, Jolene Roosenberg and Julia O'Carey; and eight grandchildren.

Jeraldine Swim Berthelsen ('63), Lincoln, Nebraska, died May 17, 2019, at age 84. She was born Sept. 12, 1934, to Ora and Opal Adams Swim in Omaha, Nebraska, and grew up in Keye Paha County on the family ranch. Jeraldine graduated from Platte Valley Academy in 1951 and met **Owen Berthelsen '61** while attending Union College. She was a homemaker her entire life and dearly loved her family. Survivors include her husband, Owen (now deceased); sons: **Steven '76**, **Kelly '77**, and **Gary '84**; daughters, **Kara Buck '83** and **Monique Saunders '84**; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

June Lackey Mohr ('64), Beaumont, California, died April 9, 2019, at age 76. She was born in Wichita, Kansas, on Dec. 10, 1942, to Fehel and Anne Lackey. She and her husband, **Ted ('62)**, served as missionaries in Venezuela. She loved traveling and took two Alaskan cruises as well as visited friends and relatives in her home state of Kansas. Her favorite hobby was reading and studying her Bible. She was administrative secretary at Campus Hill Church for over 20 years and volunteered as church clerk at Campus Hill Church and at Redlands Adventist Academy. June was director of the PrimeTimers senior club at her church. Survivors include her husband, Ted; children: Tamara Shaw and Daniel; and two granddaughters.



Don Schneider

Don Schneider '64, Cleburne, Texas, died May 23, 2019, at age 76. Don was formerly president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. For close to 50 years, Don and **Marti Connell Schneider ('64)** were partners in ministry. As newlyweds, they moved

to Berrien Springs, Michigan, where Don earned a master's degree from Andrews University. His experiences in ministry included pastoring in Arkansas-Louisiana and Minnesota, department secretary in Oklahoma, Oregon and the Central Union, president of the Wyoming Conference, New Jersey Conference, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, Rocky Mountain Conference, Northern California Conference and Lake Union Conference. He was president of the North American Division for 10 years. Survivors include his wife, Marti; daughter, Carol; son, Don; and one sister.

Larry Venn ('64), Omaha, Nebraska, died June 24, 2019, at age 82. He was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on April 7, 1937 to Elbert and Erma Venn. After attending Union College and University of Nebraska—Omaha, Larry served four years in the U.S. Air Force. He worked with APICS as chapter president, SSW Omaha YMCA on the board of directors, Oak Park Academy alumni association and YMCA Indian Guides. He was a gifted youth sports coach and had a passion for golf. He is survived by his wife, Ronna; sons, Matthew and Andrew; five grandsons; and two brothers.

Wayne Erhart '66, Rockville, Maryland, died Aug. 15, 2019, at age 75. He grew up in Kansas and graduated from Enterprise Academy and Union College, with a degree in mathematics. Wayne was drafted into the U.S. Army during the height of the Vietnam War; received training to be a medic and was assigned to the "Whitecoats" at Fort Detrick near Frederick, Maryland. He continued his education by earning master's degrees in both health care administration and business administration. Wayne spent much of his professional career as insurance agent, mortgage broker, financial planner and wealth management consultant. He is survived by his wife, Rina; children: **Daphne '99**, Stephen and Andrea.

Twila Voegele Bauer '67, Dalton, Georgia, died Jan. 24, 2020, at age 84. She was born Jan. 16, 1936, in Tolstoy, South Dakota, to Jellius and Magollina Voegele. She is survived by her son, Leslie Paul; daughter, Kay Stover; and three grandchildren.

Don Blue ('67), Lincoln, Nebraska, died Nov. 9, 2019, at age 76. He was born Aug. 28, 1943, in Blair, Nebraska, to Archie and Luida Frimml Blue. Donald was a self-employed retired bricklayer; whose motto was "building Lincoln one brick at a time." He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Survivors include his wife, Christy; sons, Daniel and Derrick; daughter, Dianna; step-daughter, **Carrie Gaul '98**; four grandchildren; and brother, **Wayne Blue ('53)**.

Juanita Cox Thompson '69, Belle, Missouri, died Oct. 7, 2019, at age 72. She was born Nov. 18, 1946, to James and Eva Shipp Cox in Clovis, New Mexico. Juanita grew up on a dairy farm in Floyd, New Mexico. After graduating from Union College, she married Joseph Thompson on Jan. 17, 1971. She is survived by daughters, Darla Schneider and Karen; son, Joseph; four grandchildren; sisters: **Bobbie Gayed ('56)**, Mary Tipps and twin, Oneta Lambert.

1970s

Judith Sandstrom Barcenas ('73), Plymouth, Minnesota, died June 19, 2019, at age 65. She was a nurse for over 30 years and lived her life to serve

IN MEMORY

others. Judy loved horses, taking her grandchildren to the zoo and watching the Vikings. Survivors include her children: **Teresa Hauri ('00)**, Brian and **Tony ('99)**; eight grandchildren; and sisters: **Kathy Bailey ('70)** and Sandy Kelting.

Rhett Buckley ('76), Littleton, Colorado, died April 12, 2019, at age 61. He was born June 19, 1957 to James and **Lois McTaggart Buckley ('49)**. He married **Ronna Kulm ('78)** in 1978. He graduated from Cypress College in Southern California with a degree in mortuary science. They moved to the Denver area where he worked in the funeral industry until his untimely death. Survivors include his mother; **Lois Pegel '49**; wife, Ronna; sons, Benjamin and Bryce; one granddaughter; brothers: **Bruce ('71)** and **Kevin ('79)**.

Michael VerSteeg ('78), Bradenton, Florida, died Sept. 12, 2019, at age 59. Mike was born June 21, 1960, to Wilbur and Martha VerSteeg. He is survived by his son, Bryan; brothers: Dennis, Gary, Randy, Tom and **Rick '74**.

1980s

Timothy Mills '82, Davis, California, died June 22, 2019, at age 56. He was born Sept. 23, 1962, to Edwin and Rowena Mills in Courtland, New York. On May 8, 1983, Tim married the love of his life, Jenelle Zimmerman in Lansing, Michigan. He was a computer programmer/analyst for over 25 years, most recently with Shurman Retail Group. In 2000 he earned a GED and computer science degree. He is survived by his parents: Edwin and Rowena Mills; wife, Jenelle; children: Tyler, Elizabeth Jiminez and Kevin; one brother and one; sister; and two granddaughters on the way.

Tyne Banks O'Keeffe '84, Lincoln, Nebraska, died Jan. 11, 2020, at age 63. Born Sept. 25, 1956, in Peoria,



Tyne Banks O'Keeffe

Illinois, she was the second of four children. She graduated from Union College as **Barb Johnson Bresnahan** with degrees in early childhood education, elementary education and art education. While at Union she met and married **David Bresnahan '86**, and together they served as student missionaries in Japan. David died Feb. 28, 1987. Her artistic flair produced a variety of murals in restaurants and churches in Lincoln. She is survived by her mom, Patricia Johnson; daughters, Sarah and Lacey; son, Trent; four grandchildren; one sister and two brothers.

2000s

Hillary Neff Hutton '04, Meridian, Idaho, died Nov. 2, 2019, at age 41. Born May 25, 1978, in Boise, Idaho, she came to Union College after attending Boise State University. She spent two years as a student missionary in the Philippines. After graduation Hillary spent three years as a missionary teaching school in Taipei, Taiwan. She is survived by her mother, Joan Green; father, Larry Neff; children, Anika and Liam; one sister; and special friend, Joshua Alexander.

LeVerne Bissell (former employee), Hot Springs, Arkansas, died Sept. 14, 2019, at age 88. He was born May 10, 1931, in Seattle, Washington, to Homer and Mildred Wyman Bissell. On June 28, 1952, he married Juanita Croxton. LeVerne was an educator and administrator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, serving in Wisconsin, Indonesia, Singapore, Nebraska and the Philippines. He was an active member of the Audubon Society and enjoyed bird watching, snorkeling, shell collecting, Bible study, gardening and early morning walks. Survivors include his wife, Juanita; son, Larry; daughters: Karen Kind and Marcia Anderson; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and two sisters.

Jean Weiland Davis (former employee), Lincoln, Nebraska, died June 19, 2019, at age 86. She was born Aug. 29, 1932, in Peoria Heights, Illinois, to Eugene and Martha Strickland Weiland. At age 13, she worked as a literature evangelist for the summer to earn an academy scholarship. After graduating from Enterprise Academy, she married Earl Davis. They raised their family in Omaha, Nebraska. Jean was involved with many church leadership positions throughout her life. She completed coursework as a dental assistant and was office manager and dental assistant in a dentist's office before moving to Lincoln in March 1980 where Jean was cashier at Union College for many years. She is survived by children: Larry, Steven; **Cynthia Surdal '71**, **Connie Felton ('73)** and Cathy Bradford; three sisters; two brothers; four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Notice of the following deaths has been received:

Mary Ann Johnson Woods '45, Placerville, California, died Jan. 27, 2019, at age 95.

Robert Compton '49, Parker, Colorado, died Aug. 8, 2019, at age 94.

Kent Dickinson '49, Layton, Utah, died July 2, 2019, at age 94.

Lois Rigutto '50, Roseburg, Oregon, died June 20, 2019, at age 92.

Wallace Carlson ('50), Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, died April 28, 2019, at age 87.

Ruth Gerst '53, Loveland, Colorado, died Oct. 22, 2019, at age 94.

Ruth Nordstrom Lamar '53, Sarasota, Florida, died June 3, 2019, at age 89.

LaVern Opp '53, Walla Walla, Washington, died Sept. 15, 2019, at age 90.

Robert Lang ('57), Ooltewah, Tennessee, died Oct. 29, 2019, at age 83.

Allin Karls ('59), Canyon Lake, Texas, died July 18, 2019, at age 84.

Brenda Buckley Eveland ('72), Denver, Colorado, died in August, 2018, at age 69.

THE LAST WORD

Union events

Sept. 8 — Warrior Volleyball and soccer

The Warrior volleyball team will serve up a new season starting with an away game at 6:00 p.m. versus Faith Baptist Bible College. Watch all the home games this season at ucollege.edu/utv. The soccer team will also kick off their season on September 8 with an away game at Manhattan Christian College. We are unable to webcast the soccer home games at this time.

A note about all varsity sports this year: The fall varsity schedule and attendance policies are subject to change based on community health guidelines. Stay up-to-date at ucollege.edu/calendar

September 15-28 — Virtual Parents Weekend

Parents, we can't host you in person this year, but we invite you to join us for a series of virtual events designed especially for parents. Learn more at ucollege.edu/parents

October 21—Warrior Men's Basketball

The Warrior men's basketball team will tip off their season with an away game at Doane University at 7:00 p.m. Their first home game will be vs Ecclesia College on Nov. 7 at 8:30 p.m. at the Thunderdome. All home games will be webcast at ucollege.edu/utv

November 3—Warrior women's basketball

The Warrior women's basketball team will tip off their season with an away game at Kansas Christian College at 5:00 p.m. Their first home game will be vs Ecclesia College on Nov. 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Speedway Village. All home games will be webcast at ucollege.edu/utv

April 15-18, 2021

Mark your calendars for a special homecoming weekend on a new date: April 15-18, 2021. Reunion classes include 1950, 1951, 1960, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1970, 1971, 1980, 1981, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2010, 2011. We'll also hold special reunion events for Warrior athletics, nursing alumni and ASB officers 2001 to 2016. We'll be adding new information to ucollege.edu/reunion or contact us at 402.486.2503.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Palace plotting. A villain with a world-altering evil scheme. A queen banished. A young foreigner her unlikely successor. Anything Hollywood can produce has nothing on the book of Esther. Can this epic story prepare us for the reality we all face right now?

The biblical narrative recounts the story of an orphan Hebrew girl raised by her uncle, who whether by her own choice or not, found herself swept away from the life she had known, caught up in a pagan king's search for a new queen.

As Esther debated risking her life to expose to the king a villainous plot threatening to destroy her entire nation, she received a pep talk from her uncle reminding her of why each of us is here in this world.

"Don't think that just because you live in the king's house you're the one Jew who will get out of this alive. If you persist in staying silent at a time like this, help and deliverance will arrive for the Jews from someplace else; but you and your family will be wiped out. Who knows? Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this."

Esther 4:13-14 (MSG)

For all its drama, this story is ultimately about responding to a calling, about rising, about stepping up to serve when challenges seem insurmountable. At Union, we believe God created each of us to live out His plan—making a great difference in the lives of people on this campus and in our broader community.



Photo: Steve Nazario/Union College

Now, more than ever, this challenge may seem daunting in the face of a global pandemic and the anger boiling over against racial injustice. Esther stepped out in faith and conquered her life-changing challenge. Her story inspires us to step up to face our current challenges.

Union's mission has always been to create a community that empowers learning, service and leadership. And we pledge to stay focused on that mission regardless of the obstacles in our path.

Will you join us in that mission? Your time, financial support and prayers are vital to the strength and success of the Union experience.

Vinita Sauder
Vinita Sauder, President

Our mission

Union College is a Seventh-day Adventist community of higher education, inspired by Jesus Christ and dedicated to empowering students to learn, serve and lead.

Learn more about Union's mission and vision at ucollege.edu/mission



When you face a spiritual battle, who's got your back?

Jordi Obregón (center in photo) remembers a spiritual battle he'd been fighting for weeks. And the struggle wasn't going well. "I felt like I was losing," he said.

Jordi tried to handle it alone, but he eventually realized he needed reinforcements. Since arriving at Union College as a freshman, he had connected with Jose Miguel Marin, a junior he trusted as a spiritual leader. One evening as they hung out with friends, Jordi opened up to Jose.

Afterwards, Jose encouraged him by saying, "I know exactly what you're going through. I've been there before. You're not alone in this fight."

Jordi found someone he could count on as a friend and prayer warrior. If that's the kind of relationship you value, Union might be the right fit for you.

Schedule a virtual visit today. It's easy.

 ucollege.edu/visit or 402.486.2504

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