

CORD

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2023 | NEWS FROM UNION COLLEGE

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

Union is welcoming back singers from all eras for ReUnion 2023 in April. Join Dan Lynn and Lynn Wickham to relive music and make some new memories.

UNION
COLLEGE



Photo: Steve Nazario/Union Colleges

Out with the cramped, in with the comfortable

The amphitheater in the basement of the Everett Dick Administration Building has long been home to Union's largest courses such as Intro to Psychology, The West in the World (now The Modern World) and many others. Most any student who attended Union since the late 1960s has memories of wedging into the tightly packed plastic seats with tight-fitting flip-up desks.

But that has all changed. Thanks to gifts from generous donors to the Learning and Living Campaign, the large classroom has now been completely transformed into a modern learning space complete with tables and rolling chairs that give everyone plenty of space. Students can charge their laptops at the tables and enjoy presentations on three large LCD screens while professors use sliding glassboards at the front for accentuating a point in writing.



As Union continues to work to provide the highest quality learning experiences for students, your gifts make a difference as we upgrade technology and spaces to meet the demands of higher education today and in the future. Thank you for your generous support of Union College. If you want to discover more ways you can make a difference, visit ucollege.edu/fit/give

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Photo: Steve Nazario/Union College

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ABOUT THE COVER

Dr. Dan Lynn served as choral director at Union College from 1986 to 2015. He and Lynn Wickham, choral director from 1972 to 1986, are welcoming the Unionaires and Testerman singers back to Union to form a mass choir for ReUnion 2023. Photo by Steve Nazario.

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It's a Wonderful Life by Ken Farrow

For the Krogstads, a wonderful life meant a life of service. In fact, they spent much of their married lives as missionaries in Guam and Singapore.

Arnt '61 and Donna Wolfe '59 Krogstad earned undergraduate degrees at Union College before moving to Andrews to work on master's degrees. Then in 1963, they were asked to serve in Guam for two years. When that term ended, the couple moved to Singapore, where Arnt served as assistant treasurer for the Far Eastern Division and Donna taught at Far Eastern Academy.

The couple always felt inspired by Union's "hanging of the golden cords" each year to signify alumni mission service. "We love

Arnt and Donna Wolfe Krogstad appreciated their experience at Union and the life it inspired, so they established a Charitable Gift Annuity to help more students have the same experience (pictured here with daughter Judi).



Photo: courtesy of the Krogstads

the concept of service blended through the curriculum, attitudes, activities and religious meetings at Union," they explained.

Donna believes their family also benefited greatly by living overseas while doing mission work. "My two girls learned so much through the years and always showed respect for all cultures and people," she said. "Simply put, it's been a wonderful life."

The couple created a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) with Union College, and Arnt said he can't stop telling people about it. The couple was excited to support Union College in this way. "Union has been a significant part of our lives as well as an inspiration in making big decisions that would affect our lives," Arnt explained.

The Charitable Gift Annuity provided several benefits for Arnt and Donna. They received a tax deduction in the year they created the annuity and it will give them income for life, which helps them fund their retirement plan. Plus, Union College will receive a future gift.

One additional benefit: a portion of the income payments are treated as a return of principal, which makes that portion income tax free.

Arnt passed away in February 2023, but when he talked about Union College, he hoped his gift can bring the same peace to Union students that he experience on Friday nights. "On the farm, all we did was hard work and on Friday night we fell into bed in an exhausted heap," he recalled. "At Union, I felt like I could put all the work from the week into a large garbage bag and take it to the church on Friday nights and just leave it there. The scripture, stories and beautiful music were restorative. That is what I loved most about Union."

There are many ways to give to Union College and help us provide a quality Christian education to new generations of students. The Krogstads created a Charitable Gift Annuity to help Union students realize their dreams. If you know someone who may want to hear what's going on at Union, or just be remembered as a Union College alumnus, please let us know. Or, if you have a passion to help students achieve their goals and dreams or have questions about Charitable Gift Annuities or other charitable tools, please contact ken.farrow@ucollege.edu or call 402.486.2600, ext. 2200

Breaking NEWS As of January 1, 2023, you can do a one-time transfer (up to a maximum of \$50,000) from your IRA through a qualified charitable distribution to establish a Charitable Gift Annuity.

Payout rates

Age	One Life Payout rate*
70	5.9%
80	7.6%
90	9.7%

*Actual rate varies based on age and annuity type.

Contact Ken Farrow at ken.farrow@ucollege.edu or call 402.486.2600, ext. 2200 to learn more.

Facebook



Employees 2023 | Meet new employees including Pam Wilkinson, Union College's new associate director of Records. Watch our feed for introductions to all our new employees at facebook.com/ucollegene



Spring Tournament 2023 | Check out photos of Union's annual Spring Basketball Tournament featuring 22 teams from 10 schools around the world (including Denmark!) at facebook.com/ucollegene



Matt Talbot 2023 | Union honored Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach with the Community Partnership Award in February for their partnership with the PA and Nursing Foot Clinic. Read the whole story at facebook.com/ucollegene or at ucollege.edu

Instagram @ucollegeNE



Graduate focus | Union College graduate Madeline Temple Lowe just published a children's book titled *Pie, Oh My!* based on her favorite childhood memory. Learn more at instagram.com/ucollegene

YouTube



Amber Cook's Story

Amber Cook loves racing. And at Union College, she eventually discovered how to connect her passion to a career she loves. Watch the story at youtube.com/unioncollegene



Project Impact

Union students and employees kick off the school year with Project Impact, a day off from school to serve the Lincoln community. Watch this video to learn more about the interesting people they met along the way at youtube.com/unioncollegene

UTV



Music Festival 2023

In February, hundreds of high school singers gathered at Union from Adventist academies around the country to improve their vocal skills and create a mass choir. Check out their concert at livestream.com/utv/events/10754870



December Graduation 2022

Union held its first December graduation ceremony in 2022 to recognize those who finished their degree requirements mid-year. Watch the event at livestream.com/utv/events/10699724

Acrofest 2022 — finally!

After two postponements due to COVID, Union was able to host an in-person Acrofest 2022 this past November. Acrosport gymnastic teams from 24 high schools and colleges around the country gathered for four days in Lincoln to learn new skills, make new friends and ultimately perform for the Grand Finale show on Saturday night.

The annual Acrofest event rotates between five Adventist colleges.

Thursday and Friday provide opportunities for teams to learn new moves from expert coaches from around the country, and after a Friday night and Sabbath of worship, each team shows off their best routine.

Visit ucollege.edu/acrofest2022 to watch a video of the teaching session and the Grand Finale performance!



International Rescue and Relief in Florida

When Hurricane Ian slammed into Fort Myers, Florida, last September, the Union College International Rescue and Relief Program was in the perfect position to help.

Natural disasters provide a great opportunity for students to put their training to the test. IRR students earn a variety of certifications in emergency medical care, search and rescue, emergency management and more. And because of this training, they are often invited to assist with disaster cleanup by government agencies or other response teams.

So a group of 25 students and five alumni spent a week working in Fort Myers along side Gideon Rescue Company at the request of the Florida National Guard. The students primarily covered leaking roofs with blue tarps

to prevent more damage and helped residents remove debris from their yards and homes.

“At first it seemed impossible to find the people who needed our help the most in a city this big, where do you even start?” explained Caleb Bonilla, one of the student leaders of the response team. “But our goal in IRR, and I think even our responsibility, is to help those most vulnerable.”

For the first time, the team used multiple data tools to find neighborhoods and residents who were not receiving as much assistance after the storm and didn’t have the resources to complete restoration themselves.

“One major thing I can take away from this response is that we have the capability and responsibility to help those who often go

unnoticed during disasters,” said Kayleigh Hilyard, another student leader. “The planning tools we utilized during this response helped us to better serve communities that may feel neglected during disasters such as Hurricane Ian, and I believe they are a vital component of the planning process that should be implemented in future responses.”

In all, the team helped clean up dozens of properties during their five days working in Florida. If you’d like to learn more about their experience and see photos and video — including an appearance on the *Today Show*, visit ucollege.edu/hurricane-ian



Top left: A group of Union students worked with the Florida National Guard to manage supplies.

Top right: Adam Anderson, a senior IRR major, served as the operations chief for the trip.

Bottom left: The coast of Fort Myers took the brunt of Hurricane Ian’s wrath.

Bottom right: IRR student teams spent much of their time tarping roofs to protect homes from rain until permanent repairs could be made.

photos: Union College



Photo: Scott Cushman/Union College

Union ranked “Best College” for 17th straight year

by Scott Cushman '03

“I love you.” For some, those three little words are the most pleasing phrase. For others, it’s three different words: “You were right.” For those who work in higher education, the affirmation “U.S. News Best Colleges” carries similar resonance.

U.S. News has once again affirmed Union College as one of the “U.S. News Best Colleges” by ranking Union number 22 out of 86 regional Midwestern colleges, up from 31st place last year. This is the 17th consecutive year the publication has placed Union in the top quartile of regional schools.

“Year after year, it’s very gratifying to be recognized for the hard work everyone at Union College puts into providing a quality, affordable education for our students,” said Dr. Vinita Sauder, college president. “Union has always taken a Christ-first approach, which is very different from the values embedded in the U.S. News methodology. But even without the examples of spiritual and personal growth we at Union prize so highly, the metrics still tell a success story.”

Union also ranked highly in two supplemental lists:

#21 “Best Value Schools”

The “Best Value” designation comes from a formula that weighs the “Best Colleges” ranking against its total cost of attendance — add up tuition, fees and living expenses then subtract the average financial aid award. While the math can get complicated, the idea is simple. According to U.S. News, “the higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the deal.” Only schools ranked in or near the top half of their categories are included because U.S. News considers the most significant values to be among colleges that are above average academically

#54 “Top Performers on Social Mobility”

This list is based on the graduation rate of students eligible for the Pell Grant, a federal contribution for low-income families. Statistically, lower income students are less likely to graduate than their wealthier peers, and choosing a school that will help them stay on target for graduation increases their lifetime income.

Being recognized for affordability and social mobility is particularly affirming for the college administration. “For 131 years, we have stuck by the motto that Union’s first president, W. W. Prescott, chose: ‘They all shall be taught of God,’” said Sauder. “Not just the rich. Not just those with perfect grades and test scores. All. Our goal is to make an Adventist education accessible to as many students as possible. That’s only possible because of the steadfast financial support of our alumni and Mid-America Union constituents.”

The annual “Best Colleges” list published by *U.S. News and World Report* is the oldest and most widely read direct comparison of American colleges and universities. The rankings serve as an important resource for parents and high school students. However, no single data set can account for all of the variables that make a college the right choice for a particular student.

Many of the measures used by the U.S. News researchers are proxies for wealth, from faculty pay rates to class sizes and spending per student. According to Sauder, “What we lack in endowments and state subsidies, we make up for in the quality of our committed and caring faculty and staff — each a reflection of Christ’s educational mission. They are the true heroes behind the data.🙏”

Prepping for medical school by Annika Cambigue '24

Getting into medical school is hard enough already, but as the number of applicants explodes post-pandemic, competition is even fiercer.

“It’s getting to the point where having a good GPA isn’t enough,” said Biomedical Science Program Director Dr. Christina Burden-Page. “Students have to show themselves better suited to the career than other applicants with the same grades as them.”

Enter Professional Development I and II: a series of classes for students who want to get into a graduate or professional program in the medical field, such as medical school, PA school, dental school, sonography school and many others. While these classes are required for biomedical science majors, they are open to any student who wants to be a competitive applicant and professional.

“We’re focused on making sure we develop all aspects of a student, not just helping them learn information,” said Burden-Page, who teaches the classes. “We want to provide a holistic development of the students rather than just saying, ‘we’ll offer the coursework, you do the rest.’”

Junior Brynna Taylor recently completed Professional Development I. She is majoring in both international rescue and relief and biomedical science. She said, “Lately we’ve been working on developing a plan for how we want to develop our leadership and interpersonal skills. This class helps a lot with figuring out what I actually want to do and what strategies I need to get to that goal.”

Each class meets for one hour each week. In Professional Development I, students explore professional competencies: the skills they need to succeed in graduate programs and the workplace. Burden-Page said, “The healthcare field is looking for people who are not only smart, but also who can show they care about someone besides themselves. They know what

the career is like; they’ve actually done shadowing. They’ve shown they can be a leader by having leadership positions and can demonstrate cultural competency — how to not be offensive while dealing with somebody from outside your culture.”

Skills such as reliability, dependability and trustworthiness are as crucial as they

“We’re focused on making sure we develop all aspects of a student, not just helping them learn information.”

are hard to teach. Burden-Page focuses on making students aware of what is necessary for success. “They do a self-assessment and they also have a mentor do an assessment so they can see where they need to grow.”

Professional Development I also teaches students how to navigate the complexities of the medical school application process. Burden-Page also gives her students practical tips for shadowing, such as how to arrange shadowing opportunities, how to

record their experiences, and how to act while shadowing.

In Professional Development II, the focus is on developing critical thinking and problem solving skills that students will need for medical school entrance exams. As a class, students work on writing their personal statements, resumes, and CVs.

For Taylor, the professional development class series has helped guide her plans for her career. “I’m currently thinking about being an emergency department doctor or working in pediatrics,” she said. “Before this class, most of the careers I could see myself in were based on international rescue and relief. We had an assignment in class to think about backup plans if our first choice for career didn’t work out; that’s a common question to hear from med school interviewers. It started me thinking about what I want to do long-term.”

“I would recommend this class,” said Taylor. “I really like how Dr. Burden-Page has us work in groups and discuss things among ourselves, because it’s helpful to see different perspectives. There are a decent amount of assignments, but I love it, you know?👍”



Brynna Taylor feels much better prepared to apply to medical school thanks to the Professional Development I and II courses taught by Dr. Christina Burden-Page.

Photo: Steve Nazario/Univ. College

AdventHealth Complex Update



Work has begun on the new AdventHealth Complex that will expand the old Larson Lifestyle Center and house the new Reiner Wellness Center, pool, Nursing Program and Health and Human Performance Programs.

The new building will add 40,000 square feet of student recreation area with sports courts, a walking track, expanded workout facilities and space for a turf field. Learn more about the new facility, watch a live construction cam and discover how you can make a difference at ucollege.edu/fi





The pad for the new building has been leveled and construction will begin in Spring 2023.

To lock in prices, the steel for the new building has already been purchased and is waiting next door in the parking lot.

The utilities that ran through the construction site have been moved closer to the street and the power poles will soon be removed.

Join the Wall of Champions

Want to be a permanent part of the AdventHealth Complex? You can help us complete the \$13 million Fit for the Future Campaign and secure your spot on our Wall of Champions.

The Wall of Champions will be displayed prominently in the new facility. Take a look at the artist's concept below and consider what icon and size you might like to reserve.

As a champion donor, you'll get to choose between four sizes and twelve icons. You may choose to commemorate a plaque on your own behalf, honor someone else, or feature an organization such as your company or church.

A few of the icons are shown at right. To learn more or join the Wall of Champions, visit ucollege.edu/champions



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Brian Peoples: A behind-the-scenes view of the Senate

by Annika Cambigue '24

The average citizen never gets a behind-the-scenes look at the United States Senate. But Brian Peoples certainly isn't average. The senior international relations and history major worked in former Nebraska Senator Ben Sasse's Lincoln office for several months.

Although Peoples was originally hired as a summer intern, he was asked to stay on the senator's team into the school year. "In this internship, I've gotten a more complete idea of how the senate works," he said. "Not only do I better understand what the senator's job is, but also I've gotten to be part of the team behind the senator making sure he has what he needs to get to the right vote on time." Peoples worked at the senator's office until the end of year of 2022 when Sasse resigned his seat.

Peoples watches committee hearings to write reports for the senator's team. He also assists at community service outreach programs around the state and writes congratulatory letters to Sasse's constituents. "Working on the senator's team has definitely strengthened my patience and my ability to work with people who believe differently than I do," he said. "It's a

"One day, my boss came up to me and said, 'You Union kids all write exceptionally well. Why is that?'"

really well-rounding experience.

"A major part of my internship has been answering phone calls and emails from constituents," Peoples continued. "It sounds like a boring task, but it's not when you're dealing with people calling in about political issues. It's my responsibility to effectively communicate what the senator believes, even if my personal beliefs are different."

Applying for political internships can be competitive, but Peoples had an advantage. "Union has a really great reputation," he said. "Sasse's office has hired a lot of our students as interns, so they know we do good work. We



Senior Brian Peoples spent last summer as an intern for then Senator Ben Sasse of Nebraska. It worked out so well, they asked him to stay on for the fall semester until Sasse resigned from the U.S. Senate to take a new job.

already have a background understanding of the national and global political situation, so what we're doing isn't brand-new to us."


"One day, my boss came up to me and said, 'You Union kids all write exceptionally well. Why is that?' I told him we have some pretty awesome teachers." Peoples credits his confidence in writing to his general education English classes from Dr. Tanya Cochran. "I already knew how to write effectively and concisely when I came into the office. That was really critical to my success."

Peoples appreciates Union's practical approach to the study of international relations. While other international relations programs tend only to focus on cultures around the globe, Union places emphasis on connections between countries and how they interact. "Union's program prepares you for real-world jobs," said Peoples. "You leave the program with a much more holistic understanding of the world's

history and how we got to where we are today."

Peoples is focusing his studies on Eastern Europe and supplementing his education with Russian language classes at the nearby University of Nebraska. "I actually took the first year of classes for credit toward my degree here at Union," he said. "Union has an equivalency program that allows you to study more languages than the college itself offers."

After he completes his undergraduate degrees, Peoples plans to apply to law school. "My goal is to become an international lawyer, with the hope of one day working in the State Department in a policy advisory position on Eastern European-American relations."

Although he's looking forward to the future, the thought of graduating and leaving Union is bittersweet for Peoples. "There's a community here who cares about you and your success. The international relations program feels like family." 

Internship takes student home to a new level of ministry

by Annika Cambigue '24

Gavin Forbes spent the fall semester away from Union College in his hometown of Apopka, Florida. It wasn't because he wanted to trade the windy Nebraska autumn for the Florida sunshine — although he certainly was not complaining. The senior theology major received hands-on ministry experience at the church he grew up in and got academic credit for it.

"I was dedicated and baptized at Forest Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church," said Forbes. "Getting to intern there feels like going back to my roots. I was very blessed to have that privilege."

Every theology major at Union College participates in the capstone Leadership in Ministry experience during their senior year. This program is designed to immerse future pastors in ministry in a Seventh-day Adventist church setting. Under the mentorship of the church's pastoral team, the student applies classroom skills to real-world situations.

"I got to experience the real deal," Forbes said. Every week, he attended church meetings, shadowed pastors and led out in

worship services. He helped plan the young adults' retreat and preached sermons.

"We take classes to prepare us for our internship," Forbes said. "I learned to follow along in board meetings. There's only so much a class can teach before you enter that environment. We study complicated points of theology in class, and of course that's important, but in a church setting, it's not the main point of pastoral ministry. The point is to lead people to Jesus."

The Leadership in Ministry experience allows students to discover which parts of pastoral care they are most drawn to. Forbes was surprised to learn he enjoyed leading Bible studies. "I was nervous at first because I didn't expect it to be such a big part of pastoring," he said. "I shadowed some Bible studies with the pastors, and I was impressed by the one-on-one connections they made. It's one of the most rewarding parts of the job."


Forbes appreciated the opportunity to work with a group of mentors who are ready to support him. "The biggest lesson I've learned from them is that 90 percent of ministry is just

being there," he said. "Sometimes pastors refer to it as the ministry of presence: showing up and listening to what people have to say."

At the conclusion of his internship, Forbes accepted a pastoral position from the Florida Conference after he graduates. As he prepares to graduate in May, he credits his practicum experience with reaffirming his passion for ministry. "My internship only

"As you reach the end of college, it feels like everyone is terrified of what the future holds. But not me.

I've never been more calm. Whatever happens next, God is in control."

solidified that I am doing what God wants me to do," said Forbes. "Yes, I was talking and teaching, but in doing so I learned so much about God and his guidance. My mindset has changed a lot recently. As you reach the end of college, it feels like everyone is terrified of what the future holds. But not me. I've never been more calm, because whatever happens next, God is in control." 

After completing a pastoral internship at his home church in Florida, theology major Gavin Forbes has a job waiting for him when he graduates in May.



Photo: Scott Cushman/Union College

Union students leapt to action in mid-air medical emergency

by Annika Cambigue '24

When a fellow passenger had a medical emergency on their flight, international rescue and relief senior Allen Stafford and junior Christian Thomas sprang into action.

Stafford and Thomas were flying home to Washington State for Thanksgiving break when, two hours from their destination, the EMT training they received as part of their degree was put to the test.

"I was reading my book, and I looked up and saw a woman collapse in the aisle," said Stafford. "I got up to check if she was okay. While I was checking her pulse, she came to."

The flight attendants requested assistance from any EMTs or doctors on the flight. Thomas, along with an emergency room doctor who was also on the flight, joined Stafford at the woman's side.

"The woman started turning blue from lack of oxygen, so we gave her oxygen and the

"There is this certain relief that you have when you know you've been trained well and you know how to deal with almost anything that is thrown at you. I feel like IRR significantly prepared me to deal with situations like this."

flight attendants had other passengers move so she could lie down," said Stafford. "The doctor asked me to start an IV. Thankfully, I had been teaching a basic IV course to the pre-health professional society at Union the weekend



International rescue and relief majors Thomas Christian and Allen Stafford found themselves at the right place with the right training when they helped treat a fellow airline passenger who fell ill mid-flight as they traveled home for Thanksgiving.

before, so I was confident I could do it well."

Stafford learned to start an IV in his Advanced Care for EMS Providers class. "We had to do 10 practice sticks on a mannequin and 15 successful sticks on real people for that class to make sure we knew how to do it correctly," he said. "In the IRR program, we train how we treat."

"There is this certain relief that you have when you know you've been trained well and you know how to deal with almost anything that is thrown at you," said Thomas. "I feel like IRR significantly prepared me to deal with situations like this."

Stafford and Thomas monitored the passenger until the plane began descending when they had to return to their seats for safety reasons. After the plane landed, the doctor handed her off to the medical personnel who met them at the gate.

"I don't think our being on that flight was a coincidence," said Thomas. "I believe we are placed in positions where we can best help serve others and where we can glorify God, and I was just grateful I could do that on that plane." 🙏

A cliffside rescue: tethered to hope

by Annika Cambigue '24

When Kasondra Reel '19 signed up to spend her summer working with Big Lake Youth Camp in Sisters, Oregon, she had no idea she would be assisting in a high-stakes rope rescue. But when a climber was stranded on the slopes of nearby Mount Washington, Reel and Pastor Les Zollbrecht, the camp director, raced to get him to safety.

"I became interested in rock climbing and technical rope skills while I was in college," said the 2019 nursing graduate. "Until I came to Union, I didn't realize the world had that to offer. I was in IRROC, the international rescue and relief outdoor club, for a few years, which provided a safe environment to learn about ropes and rescues and gear." After college, Reel continued to develop her technical climbing skills while working as an emergency department nurse. When the call for help came, she was ready.

"We were preparing for family camp when I got an early morning call from Pastor Les," Reel said. "He told me a climber had fallen on Mount Washington, and the local search and rescue team needed help locating him because they were hours away. He asked if I could go out to search, so I packed up, grabbed food, gear and a rope and headed up the mountain."

Big Lake is an Adventist youth camp located at the base of Mount Washington, a 7,795-foot peak. "It's approximately a four and a half hour approach to the summit base of the mountain," Reel said. "We started our search about 8:30 in the morning. Around 1 p.m., we made verbal contact with the climber. We were able to reassure him we were there to get him to safety."

As he was preparing to summit the peak, the 17-year-old climber had fallen approximately 40 feet. His cell phone smashed underneath him in the landing, but despite a low battery and broken

screen, he had been able to make an emergency call. He was trapped on a ramp of loose shale and very slowly sliding toward a 2,000 foot drop.

Reel and Zollbrecht managed to get approximately 20 feet from the young man. Attempts to get rescuers closer to him with a helicopter failed because the wind from the

"I absolutely believe every part of that day had God's hand in it. The timing and location were too right; the right people were nearby. It makes me feel very secure in who God is."

Black Hawk's blades blew the sand and loose rocks, making his position more precarious. Reel said, "I tied in and belayed Pastor Les down to the climber. He was able to secure him and lift him to a more stable place to wait." Dragging the climber up by rope took the Big Lake duo about 20 minutes, and it took another 20 minutes for a member of the mountain rescue team to reach them from a location the helicopter could safely operate.


After a medical assessment, the search and rescue team was able to use a helicopter to lift the climber and take him to a hospital. He had been stranded for more than eight hours. After

the rescue, Reel, Zollbrecht and the mountain rescue team hiked back to the summer camp.

"We got back around 5 or 6 p.m.," said Reel. "It was a long day."

"I absolutely believe every part of that day had God's hand in it," Reel said. "The fact that the climber survived the fall at all is amazing. The timing and location were too right; the right people were nearby. It makes me feel very secure in who God is."

When she isn't assisting in rope rescues, Reel works as an emergency department staff nurse at Kettering Health in Ohio. "I was definitely prepared to be a nurse at Union. Not only were my nursing classes helpful, but also the skills I learned in my leadership minor. Minor in leadership was one of the best things I did in college. It gave me skills I use every day at work, and it made me a well-rounded individual."

Working at Big Lake as a 26-year-old was an incredible experience for Reel. "I was able to bring my nursing and medical experiences to the camp, as well as the leadership skills I developed professionally and at Union. Watching God work through the staff and myself was incredibly spiritually fulfilling." 

Nursing graduate Kasondra Reel used her Union training to rescue a stranded hiker while working at Big Lake Camp in Oregon last summer.

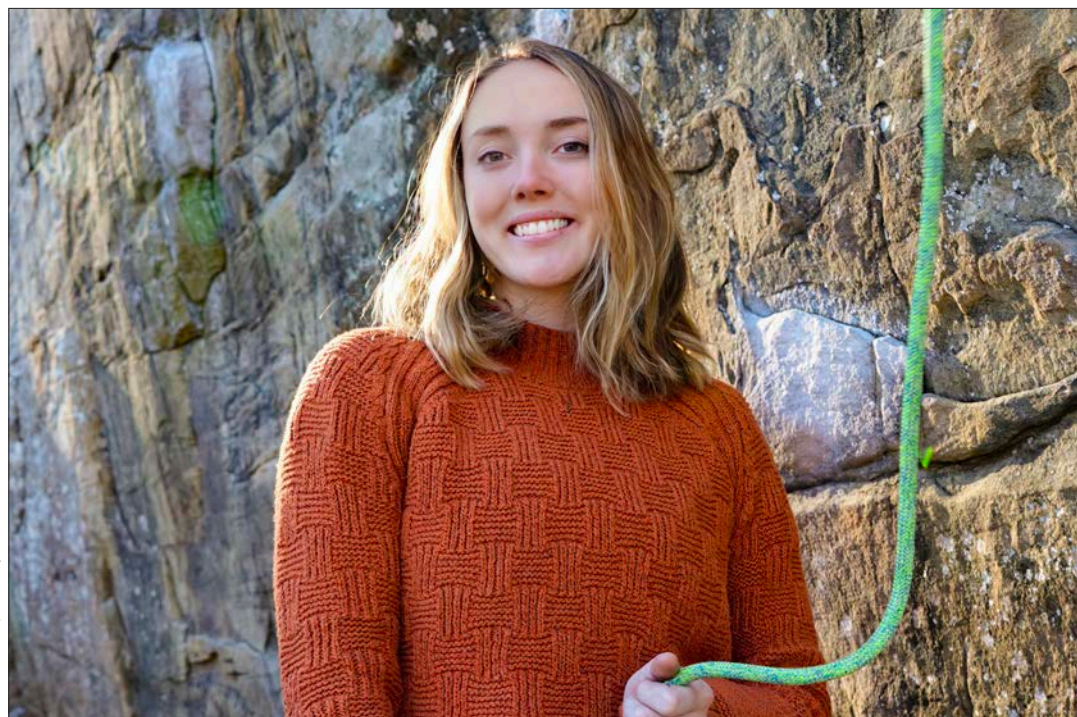


Photo: Courtesy of Kasondra Reel

WOMEN WHO CHANGED UNION |

Dr. Joan Stoner: they all shall be taught

by Debbie Forshee-Sweeney '94
and Scott Cushman '03



photo: Union College archives

In 1984, Barbara Goyne, a science professor, realized Union was not living up to its motto for a key demographic. The words of John 6:45 are emblazoned on the college seal: “They shall all be taught of God.” That vision of all didn’t yet extend to students with learning disabilities.

Before the Americans with Disabilities Act passed in 1990, few colleges or universities offered assistance to those who learn differently. Union’s administration had already given students a place to go for extra assistance with the creation of the Teaching Learning Center (TLC) in 1978. It offered support through tutoring, supplemental instruction, counseling, and teaching skills for studying and test-taking.

But a critical piece was missing: resources for students with disabilities. With the foresight and wisdom that all students should have access to their calling, Goyne reached out to a local expert on dyslexia, Joan

Stoner, then a reading specialist teaching at Lincoln High School.

Initially hired as a part-time tutor, instructors across campus began directing students with tell-tale spelling mistakes and reading difficulties to Stoner. Soon her schedule was packed, and the college hired her full-time. Stoner worked one-to-one with students, taught classes in Orthography (the study of spelling), and the Science of Language (a study of English phonetics), and eventually became the director of the Teaching Learning Center. Her work made Union one of the first private colleges in the country to offer specialized assistance for learning disabilities.

Stoner emphasized that a disability did not mean a student wasn’t bright or didn’t have a contribution to make. “That’s the real tragedy,” she said in a 1986 interview. “If we write those children out of school, we’ll lose the really tremendous brainpower that they possess.”

Under Stoner’s leadership, the TLC was awarded a grant from the Woods Charitable Fund in 1987 to focus on ensuring students with learning disabilities had access to a college education. A groundbreaking opportunity for the college, the TLC became a model for other universities as they developed similar programs.

Stoner’s passion for accessible education was guided by her belief that students with learning disabilities would thrive if given the right tools, the right support and a chance. While still at Union, she completed her doctorate in special education, published two books on dyslexia, and served in leadership roles in both the Nebraska Dyslexia Association and the International Dyslexia Association. In 1992, she became the founding director of the Louisiana Center for Dyslexia and Related Learning Disorders at Nicholls State University. But she didn’t let her broader mission distract her from the students she loved.

“Joan was a big cheerleader for all the students,” said Jennifer Forbes, a former coworker and Stoner’s successor in the TLC. “She was on their side, she loved them, and she had great confidence in them all. She never doubted they could do it.”

Stoner’s leadership, both in the TLC and in the International Dyslexia Association, made Union a top choice for dyslexic students from across the nation. Like her, many were not Adventist. Forbes remembers students in the TLC asking where they could get real

meat on campus. Stoner found an accommodation even for that request. “She would have kids out to her house to barbeque and just hang out,” said Forbes. “Anything the students brought, her husband would throw on the grill. It was a safe space for kids with disabilities to connect with each other.”

After Stoner left Union

in 1994, she continued working with both students and their teachers around the world. Sadly, she passed away in October 2022 at the age of 82, but thanks to her unyielding energy, her mission is alive in the organizations she shaped, the professionals she trained, and the students to whom she gave hope. Union College is grateful for her years of service and proud to continue her legacy in the Student Success Center.

Stoner’s leadership both in the TLC and in the International Dyslexia Association made Union a top choice for dyslexic students from across the nation.

Building the Nursing Program

by Lauren Bongard '04

Dr. Marilyn Lang McArthur, professor emerita of nursing, passed away on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at the age of 83 following a long battle with dementia. She and her husband, Frank, were married for 61 years and raised three sons, Brett, Joel, and Ryan.

McArthur started teaching at Union College in 1981 and became chair of the Division of Nursing in 1990. She also taught courses in marriage and family dynamics, championed the college's honors program, and helped develop foot-care clinics for underserved residents of Lincoln. She retired in 2004 after 23 years of service to Union and its students.

During her memorial service at the College View Church in October 2022, her son Brett eulogized her, sharing, "It's a difficult thing to summarize the life of someone like Mom... someone who was so accomplished professionally, someone who had so many dimensions to her life, and someone who was so many things to so many people."

Coworkers and former students remember McArthur's kindness, energy, and support. Her love of entertaining, gardening, the outdoors, and trying new things spilled from her personal life into her work life. She hosted dinners, shared plant starters, found new ways to have fun with students, and continually served and helped others serve.

"She pushed scholarship," recalls Ruth Mendenhall, who worked alongside McArthur in the Nursing Program. "She was an advocate for students who struggled and needed a little assistance. She was the first one to say, 'We can help.' She was always willing to help anyone."

"Marilyn wanted the best for Union, not only in the nursing program, but in every area of campus."

Her friend and coworker Linda Skinner shared, "Marilyn wanted the best for Union, not only in the nursing program, but in every area of campus. She willingly supported Union in myriad ways, from helping students to helping build buildings." Skinner recalled her as a gifted hostess and small-but-mighty force. "She dressed impeccably and, even on days she volunteered to weed gardens on campus, one couldn't tell she wasn't about to go to lunch with the mayor or someone of major importance. Everything Marilyn did, she did it with finesse and grace. She was a loyal friend, one who will be missed until we meet in Heaven."

Elysia Ockenga, director of the Union College Nursing Program and former student of McArthur, remembers her as "highly intelligent,

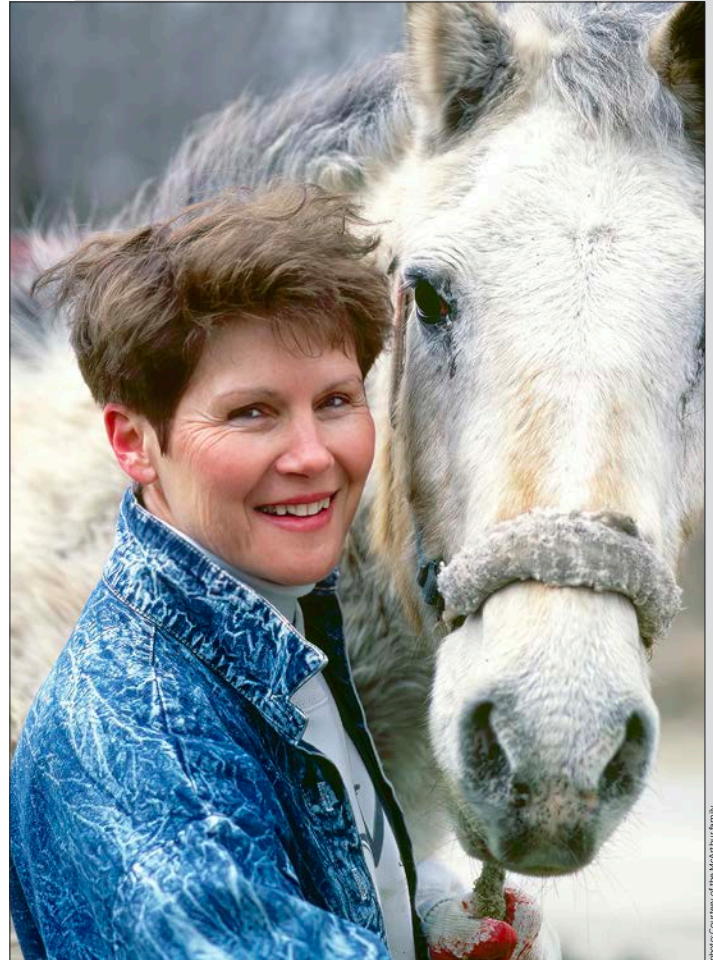



Photo: Courtesy of the McArthur family

accomplished professionally, approachable, compassionate, stylish, and fun." She said, "I appreciated how, despite her high intelligence and impressive resume, she made you feel like an equal and just as important as anyone else in the room. When I was a student, I would say to myself, 'I want to be a Marilyn McArthur when I grow up.' ... She had a great impact on all those she taught and mentored, and I can't help but believe that we all carry a little bit of Dr. McArthur with us. While her legacy lives on in her children and grandchildren, it also lives on in every student that she taught, and the world is a better place because of it." 

The McArthur family has established a scholarship to commemorate Marilyn's life. Contributions may be made online (ucollege.edu/marilyn-mcarthur) or mailed to the Union College Advancement Office.

The enemy's child

Under suspicion because of her ethnicity in WWII America, Ruth found refuge in an unexpected place.



by Kim Peckham, '82
photos: Courtesy of the Matsumura family

Ruth Matsumura sat by her mother's bed in the small, plain room. At 11 years old, she was mature enough to sense the importance of what was happening. Her eyes were on her mother who sat propped up on pillows, writing in a small black book. "I am writing down how often you should wash the sheets," said Tokino Matsumura. She stopped and looked into Ruth's eyes. "Women are strong. You must be the strength of the family. They must not see you cry."

Time was running out for Ruth's mother. No cure existed for breast cancer in 1937, and she would no longer be able to care for her mild-mannered husband, her daughter and three sons. So she earnestly scribbled down housekeeping instructions and recipes. "Never fight," she told Ruth. "People might cheat you, but you must never cheat them." She tried to think of any advice that would help her daughter navigate the future without her. "Learn to play an instrument," she said. "It will bring you pleasure for the rest of your life." She paused, then spoke as if she was saying a prayer: "God will take care of you," she said.

The immigrant family lived just west of Sacramento where James Matsumura farmed 17 acres of fruit trees. When his wife's struggle ended, he buried her near the apricot blossoms.

The remnant of the family moved to the Bay Area and Ruth began attending Mountain View Academy. She earned her way by living with a family in nearby Palo Alto and helping with their cleaning and washing.

That job ended abruptly on December 7, 1941. The family told Ruth that she needed to leave. "We don't want a Jap living in this home," they told her.

She was still welcome at Mountain View Academy. Ruth Wiest, the English teacher and a graduate of Union College, was especially kind, often inviting Ruth to her home and giving her little jobs as a way for her to earn money. Ruth's friends wanted to protect this slight, sweet-natured girl who was more-or-less alone in the world. They were



Tokino Matsumura attempted to prepare her daughter, Ruth, to take care of family she would leave behind while dying of breast cancer when Ruth was only 11.

especially concerned to hear of plans to round up and imprison everyone of Japanese descent on the Pacific coast. Miss Wiest reached out to her former dormitory dean, Pearl Rees. Principal Westermeyer wrote to his brother-in-law, the business manager at Union College. "If there is any way you can accept this girl as a student, you will save her from going into government detention." It was letters at first, but as time ran out, they picked up the phone to make expensive long-distance calls.

The army announced on Friday, March 27, 1942 that no one of Japanese ancestry would be able to enter or leave the West Coast "exclusion zone" after that Sunday. On the morning of March 29, Principal Westermeyer greeted Ruth at the entrance to Mountain View Academy. "You need to go back home and pack a suitcase," he said. "We only have today to get you out of California."

Miss Wiest hugged Ruth goodbye at the train station. "You're going to Union College," she said. "They will take care of you." As the train rolled east

through the night, Ruth tried to imagine what Union College would be like, but her imagination collapsed under the weight of loneliness. "I didn't know where I was going or what was ahead of me," she recalled. Mile after mile she sobbed quietly. What would happen to her younger brothers and her father? She knew she was blessed to have a way of escape, but the loneliness continued.

In Lincoln, she got off the train with her one small suitcase and was surrounded by Union staff. Pearl Rees was there with the college business manager, H. C. Hartman, and his wife. They tried to welcome her to this strange land. It was cold, that was for sure. Ruth had a spring jacket and only light dresses

to wear. Her bare legs broke out in rashes. She doesn't remember how long it took until she found a coat, but she knows that Miss Rees made sure she got a hat and gloves immediately. The dean was of the opinion that "A lady doesn't go to church without a hat and

"You need to go back home and pack a suitcase ... We only have today to get you out of California."

gloves.”

Ruth remembers the first time she stepped into the cafeteria. “The shocked students put their forks down and stared at me,” she recalled. Many had never seen an Asian before. It embarrassed her. “I told Miss Rees I didn’t want to go back to the dining room,” she remembered. But the dean smoothed things over. Soon Ruth was back in the cafeteria experiencing midwestern cuisine. One day, she tried a bite of cabbage. “I must let them know this is spoiled before someone gets sick,” she thought to herself. She did speak to the staff only to be told that sauerkraut was supposed to taste that way.

She was instructed to never leave the campus alone. The people of Lincoln felt no love for the Japanese in 1942. A gold star family ran a fruit stand down the street. Who knows what would happen if she crossed paths with this family who had lost a son in the Pacific conflict. On a shopping trip with Miss Rees, a stranger pointedly asked if Ruth was Filipino or Japanese. It frightened her and all she could do was nod her head.

Ruth heard that her father and little brothers had been taken to a prison camp in Wyoming where they lived and labored under harsh conditions. She would see them only once for the duration of the war. But in spite of the loneliness, she showed a spirit of gratitude. She liked her job in the furniture factory where she made chairs and baby play pens. “Mr. DeVice, the man in charge, was very kind to me,” she recalls. “I could work whenever I wanted to.” Mr. Jorgensen, the chemistry teacher, reached out to her and invited her to lunch at his home.

A high day came when a boy asked her to join him for the May Day banquet. She borrowed a gown and was disappointed to discover the young man had only wanted help waiting tables, not a date.

She remembers her friend Jaunita Lamb who invited her to her family home in Iowa for Christmas. She didn’t know until later how much effort it took for the family to get a permit to bring a Japanese person to their town. Afterwards, she refused invitations to travel for the holidays.

Anonymous friends from her time at Mountain View Academy regularly sent five dollars to Ruth in the mail. She had no other means of support. “Remember that picture of footprints in the sand? I think I was just carried,” Ruth said. She had a sense that she was being taken care of, just like her mother had promised. God was showing up in the guise of teachers from Mountain View Academy, faculty at Union, and students who embraced her as a friend.

She chose to study nursing, remembering some of her mother’s parting words to her. “I hope you become a nurse, because you’ve been such a good nurse to me.” She finished her degree in 1946 and, with the war over, moved back to the West Coast. The first money she earned was spent on a memorial headstone for her mother.

She married Ichiro Nakashima, a graphic artist, and settled in the Bay Area.



Top: Ruth stands beside her mother, Tokino, in this Matsumura family photo.

Middle-left: Ruth and Ichiro Nakashima began writing letters during the war. Ichiro, an artist, spent his career at Pacific Press Publishing Association in Mountain View, California.

Middle-center and right: Ruth Nakashima has remained active in retirement, including following her mother’s advice to embrace music.

Bottom: Ruth and her daughter, Cheryl Teruya.



He worked at Pacific Press Publishing Association, and she spent most of her career at Stanford University Medical Center. “My life changed because I was able to get an education,” she said. So much of her experience depended on taking that midnight train to Lincoln. “I had to go to a strange country, but that country was very kind to me. I think God led me to Union College.”

Today she lives near her four children in Sacramento. In the spring, Ruth takes them out to visit her mother’s grave where they picnic under the almond blossoms.

She keeps the small, black book her mother filled with instructions on the nightstand beside her bed. “My



This photo of 1969-1970 Testerman Singers under the direction of E.U. Testerman (far right) was used to promote their European tour.

Old friends, new music and memories: Union College to host choral reunion

by Lauren Bongard '04
photos: Union College archives

The last time Dr. Dan Lynn stood in front of a reunion mass choir at Union College, he remembers it was “a magical experience.” On April 13-16, 2023, he’ll have the opportunity to relive that feeling when former choral students reunite once again for a special musical homecoming during this year’s ReUnion.

Everyone who was part of Union’s select choirs, including Unionaires and Testerman Singers, is encouraged to come back for a weekend of reminiscing, reconnecting, and — of course — singing. Because singing together, according to Lynn and his onetime students, was a major part of their college experience and one they’ve been dreaming of recreating ever since.

Lynn, who served as director for 27 years before his retirement, says he’s missed his students and connecting with them. “Rehearsals were always my favorite part,” he said. “Sometimes in a performance you make it, sometimes you don’t. But in rehearsals, we could perfect and experience the music and really hone things. We experienced so many magical musical moments in rehearsals. To perfect a piece of music and make it beautiful is one of the rare treasures of life. I get goosebumps just talking about it. Singing with a good choir and hearing a good choir piece, that is heaven to me.”

This early version of Dr. Dan Lynn’s (middle row, third from the right) Unionaires was taken in 1992.

This April, he and his former choral students will have a chance to relive those memories and share their talents with others, just like they did as students.

“Union has a strong tradition of choral music,” Lynn said. “Music groups have always toured. They are a recruitment tool that bring beauty and artistry to churches that don’t always see or hear it, and to academies that learn from hearing it at a higher level.”

Lynn says many students throughout the years told him Unionaires was “the best hour on campus.” “It gave them a release, an outlet, and something completely different,” he said. “In music, we work with our emotional and artistic sides. With most other subjects, we’re working with the left side of our brains, but with music, we work with the right side, the creative and artistic side.”



Jessica Casebolt

Scharffenberg '04, who sang in Unionaires and the Octet under Dr. Lynn's direction, says she'll be back for the weekend. "The reunion for Unionaires was a big pull for me, since it is not an honor class year for me," she said. "Music was such a big part of my time at Union, and still is an integral part of worship for me. It seemed strange to graduate and not be singing five or six days a week, and actually caused a sense of withdrawal. I am really looking forward to catching up with friends and singing and worshipping together again."

One of Scharffenberg's many music-related memories happened on a tour to St. Louis. "The Octet performed a song a cappella," she said. "We were on key when we started, but by the time we finished we were one or two keys too high. Being a first soprano, I usually have high notes toward the end of the song, and this one was no different. I remember looking around and seeing the faces of the other Octet members and us all giving knowing looks that this was going to be an interesting finish. Amazingly, we finished the song and left the platform with relief that we pulled it off and no one was the wiser."

Dr. Lynn Wickham, director from 1972 to 1986, says his most treasured memories are tours and performances, such as when his group partnered with the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra. "It was unusual for the Unionaires to do that, so it was a big thing for us," he said. He also remembers the thrill of their European tour during the summer of 1982, including being led by Dr. Melvin West, singing for renowned Swedish director Herbert Blomstedt in his Stockholm church, and performing in Notre Dame cathedral. "It was a grand tour," he recalled.

Wickham has made plans to attend what will be his third choral reunion. "I'm excited to see my students," he said. "I knew them when they were in their late teens and early 20s, and I hope I recognize many faces when I get there. The biggest draw for me is our memories of singing together and wanting to repeat that."

Daniel Ikpeama '17 knew he'd attend the choral reunion as soon as he heard it was happening. "Dr. Lynn is the big reason I'm going," he said. "Even before I came to Union, he inspired me, and he's one of my main inspirations for why I'm a musician now." Ikpeama, who has a master's degree in choral conducting and is currently pursuing his doctorate in musical performance, recalls how Lynn chose him to be a soloist at the first Union College Music Festival Ikpeama attended during his high school years. "I've stuck with music since that first music fest, and Dr. Lynn inspired me to keep moving and keep growing," he said. "I'm excited to see him again. It's been a long time, so I'm really looking forward to catching up."

In preparation for a weekend of reconnecting over music, Lynn



This promo photo shows the 1982-1983 Unionaires under the direction of Lynn Wickham (front row far right).

and others are working closely with Union's alumni office to plan the event. They've chosen songs for each director's choir and the mass choir, and sheet music and recordings are going out to participants who have already registered. The tentative weekend schedule includes a Thursday evening meet and greet in Engel Hall with a potential vocal warm up, practices on Friday, singing on Sabbath and the reunion performance on Saturday evening.

Dr. Lynn encourages all former choral students to come back for the ReUnion weekend. "It will be an opportunity to sing in a large choir that you'll probably never have again," he said. "Please come, relive old memories, and make some new music and new memories."

To sign up or for more information visit ucollege.edu/reunion

During Dan Lynn's tenure at Union, the Unionaires performed a concert at the Nebraska Capitol Building every graduation weekend. This one is from 2011.



Mayo PA's career bends unexpectedly toward elbows

by Annika Cambigue '24

When Tiffany Lam graduated from Union College's Physician Assistant program in 2012, she didn't have a favorite part of the elbow. But after ten years working with one of the top elbow surgeons at the Mayo Clinic, she lights up when asked about the joint. "My favorite part of the elbow is the radial head," she said. "It's like a little golf tee."

Ranked the number one hospital in the United States, the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, is known for pioneering research in many different fields. Every day Lam performs preliminary assessments on patients with complicated elbow problems. "I enjoy the complexity of cases we have at the Mayo Clinic," she said. "The patients I see say, 'My doctors don't know what to do with me, so they sent me to you.'" Lam loves telling patients about the options they have for healing. "Working in a place where I can bring hope to people is extraordinary. Jesus's mission here on earth was to bring hope, so for

me to be able to do that in a medical setting is pretty gratifying."

Lam always knew she wanted to work in medicine. While she was growing up, her mother worked in physician offices. "My after-school care was in the office," she said. "I was inspired to be a doctor because that was all I knew." But while Lam was in her junior year of college, she had the opportunity to shadow a PA and see what the profession was all about. "The PA I shadowed was a generous, caring provider. I liked how much time he got to spend with his family. I said, 'I can't believe I didn't know about this profession! This is what I want.'"

Not only are PA programs notoriously hard to get into, but also they can be academically challenging and competitive. Lam was pleasantly surprised by the uplifting attitudes of her classmates at Union. She said, "Competitiveness is something that is really popular in our society. People say, 'I'm going

to do what I'm going to do to get ahead, and if someone goes underneath me while I climb, that's okay.' At Union I had classmates who were encouraging rather than competitive, and that was really the most remarkable thing. I have friends from Union who I still meet up with. Their encouragement through a very challenging program was priceless."

While she was at Union, Lam didn't plan on focusing her career on elbows. But God had other ideas. "For one of my preceptorships, I was assigned to a local upper extremity surgeon," she said. "Most of my other classmates got to do general orthopedic rotations." But when Lam applied to Mayo Clinic, she had extra experience with upper extremities that made her a desirable candidate for the elbow clinic. "God was leading the way from the beginning," she said.

"What stands out about Union? It's opportunities that you never expected that come before you because God is present in all aspects of Union's PA program. I thought I had my plans set, but God placed me in new opportunities every time."



"Working in a place where I can bring hope to people is extraordinary. Jesus's mission here on earth was to bring hope, so for me to be able to do that in a medical setting is pretty gratifying."



Wally and **Courtney Tait Basit '15** welcomed their second boy, Isaac James Basit on April 28, 2022. They live near Lincoln, Nebraska, where Wally works at St. Elizabeth Medical Center.



Alfred DaCosta '18, and his wife, Dennise, welcomed Ezra on July 29, 2022. He joins older brother, Moses, 10 yrs, at home in Wichita, Kansas.



Mitch '14 and **Rachel Downey '13 Seltman** welcomed Weston Alec on June 5, 2022. He joins sister Madelyn at home in Plymouth, Minnesota.



Curtis '09 and **Elisa Wright '14 Shumaker** welcomed Parker Curtis to their home in Sioux Falls, S. D., on May 9, 2021.



Dylan and **Heather Boone Frederick '16** welcomed their second child, Haven Ellanora, on June 3, 2022. Haven joins her brother Lincoln at home in Oregon, where Dylan is a director of marketing and Heather is a nursing instructor.



Martin, Jr '20 and **Sara Kemp '20 Gomez** welcomed Selah Cress on August 12, 2022. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska, where Martin works for Sampson Construction and Sara earned a master's in educational psychology to be an Evaluation Specialist at LPS.



Curtis '09 and **Elisa Wright '14 Shumaker** welcomed Brienne Adalisa to their family on September 7, 2022.



Kevin '08 and **Macy Ray '13 Spaulding** welcomed MaKenna Grace on March 9, 2022. She joins Harper at home in Springboro, Ohio.



J.C. and **Ashley Groeneweg Lynch '10** welcomed Audra Elaine on December 23, 2021. She joined two sisters at home. The family will soon move to St. Joseph, Missouri, where J.C. will work as a physician.



Tyson '13 and **Marielle Solis '14 Kahler** welcomed Everly Wren Solis on May 16, 2022, where she joined brother Levi at home in California.



Erin and **Andre Orduna '18** welcomed Jameis Dak on February 28, 2022, where he joined sister, Mattley. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska, where Andre is a cardiothoracic surgery PA at CHI Nebraska Heart Hospital.



Chad and **Michelle Christensen Saunders '05** welcomed Sylvie James on August 4, 2022. She joined brother Merritt at home in Eugene, Ore..

BIRTHS |



John and **Nikki Sackmann Yankee '08** welcomed twin girls, Isabelle Grace and Brooklyn Dawn, on August 13, 2022. They join brother Tristan at home in La Center, Washington.



Andy and **Susan Herawati Wongworawat '08** welcomed their second son, Caleb, on Mother's Day, May 8, 2022. They live in Loma Linda, California.

WEDDINGS



Chris Beasley '20 married Hannah Saalfeld Beasley on July 30, 2022, in Omaha, Nebraska. They live in Omaha where Hannah is a nurse and Chris is a PA at Inroads to Recovery, a psychiatric clinic.



Chandler Ashton '19 married **Esther Pervis Ashton '19** on May 22, 2022, in Ohio. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska, where Chandler is attending Union College to earn a business administration degree and Esther is working as a nurse.



Joseph "Dimas" Wauran '18 married **Alexandra Ufret Wauran '18** on June 19, 2022, in Pepin, Wisconsin. They live in central Florida where Alexandra is a pediatric nurse and Dimas is a middle school math teacher.



Rebecca Swanson Pottle '21 married **Cameron Pottle '22** in Lincoln, Nebraska, on July 11, 2021. They are both nurses in Lincoln.



Kayla Miller Christensen '19 married Kirk Christensen on September 3, 2022, at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter, Pennsylvania. They live in Frederica, Delaware, where Kirk is an installation technician and Kayla is an ICU nurse.



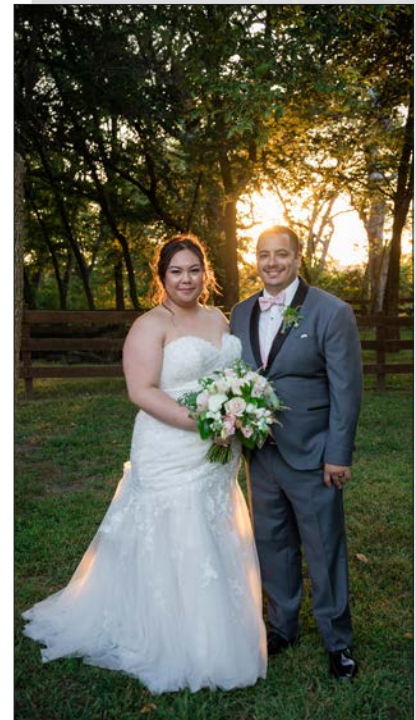
Alessandra Ladisernia Bissell married **Tylar Bissell '18** in Ocala, Florida, on October 23, 2022. Alessandra is COO of an equine boarding facility and Tylar is a PA in orthopedic surgery.



Michael Karim married **Nicole Togatorp Karim '22** on September 18, 2022, in Redlands, California. They live in Redlands where Nicole plans to start working as a nurse and Michael is a physical therapist.



Chloe Whiteman Nabb Condrey '21 married Ryan Condrey on May 14, 2022, in Omaha, Nebraska. They live in Omaha where Ryan works in HR at LRS Healthcare and Chloe is a Family Medicine PA at Nebraska Medicine.



David Dieguez married **Ysabella Paredes Dieguez '16** on August 28, 2022, at Roca Berry Farm in Nebraska. They live in Lincoln where David is a correctional officer and Ysabella is director of records at Union College.

1980s

Marie Atkinson-Smeins '84, a Luverne Elementary school counselor in Luverne, Minnesota, was among 139 school counselors honored for their role in “Recognized ASCA Model Programs” (RAMP) last July by the American School Counselor Association at their annual conference in Las Vegas. As a RAMP designated school, Luverne Elementary “is committed to delivering a comprehensive, data-informed school counseling program and an exemplary educational environment.” The RAMP designation is valid for five years and is ASCA’s highest honor.



A Luverne Elementary student slowly approaches Ally, a 7-year-old certified therapy dog, allowing her to sniff his hand before being pet while sitting beside her owner and school counselor Marie Atkinson.

1990s

Dr. Wanda Phipatanakul '90, the Westonian Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, has been named the inaugural incumbent of the Westonian Chair in Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Wanda joined the Division in 2000 as an Instructor, having studied at Union College and Loma Linda University, followed by residency at the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles and fellowship in Allergy and Immunology at Johns Hopkins. Here, she completed an MS at the Harvard School of Public Health and built a research program that has had major impact in the areas of pediatric allergy and asthma, in particular with respect to the role of environmental factors. Collaborating with several other doctors and investigators, she defined new mechanisms conferring risk of severe asthma, atopic dermatitis, and food allergy, including in disadvantaged populations. Her work has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, Nature Medicine, and other prominent journals (>300 papers so far) and has been funded by a truly astonishing set of NIH grants. An accomplished

teacher and mentor, Wanda’s many trainees have won K23 and R01 awards and have become successful independent investigators. Wanda is an elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI), among many other honors, and has served in leadership roles including currently as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Already Professor of Pediatrics since 2017, the appointment to this new chair – created by Dr. Gary Fleisher specifically to recognize Wanda’s accomplishments and to support her work going forward – represents one of the highest honors for any physician-scientist at Harvard.



Sam Huenergardt '99, CEO of AdventHealth Mid-America Region, has been named as one of Ingram’s Most Influential and Powerful Business Leaders in the Greater Kansas City Region. Huenergardt’s leadership touches more than 20,000 people every year in hospital admissions alone, and more than 3,200 others working for him at AdventHealth. The main medical center in Merriam is the centerpiece of the regional health-care system that also has more than 170,000 outpatient cases a year and generates \$3.2 billion a year in revenues. In July, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission announced that it would soon begin work on a new 71,000-square-foot cancer center. The new building will be entirely dedicated to cancer care, helping accommodate the

anticipated need for more than twice as many patients to be served by 2030. He previously oversaw a 100,000 square-foot expansion on the hospital’s main campus, and within the past year has advanced plans for a new wellness campus at Lenexa City Center and an expansion at the hospital in Ottawa. Huenergardt came to the Kansas City area in May 2018 after serving as president and CEO of Parker Adventist Hospital in Parker, Colorado. In addition to his duties there, he’s tasked with the direction of Chippewa Valley Hospital in Durand, Wisconsin.

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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.



Photo: Steve Naranjo/Personal Library/Eagle par sunset, Loos Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge

playing card games with her grandchildren. She is survived by brother, **Gaylord Klein '66**, daughters Tamara Hansen, Kathy Baker, and Laurie Wheeler; five grandchildren, including **Laurel Hansen '20**; and several great-grandchildren.

1950s

Gene Woolever '50, born Jan. 6, 1926, in Broken Bow, Oklahoma; died Jan. 30, 2022. Survivors include spouse, Bertha (Oksenholt); sons, David and Michael; daughters, Ann-Marie Steinhouse, Cheris Woolever, Rebecca Lucas and Sandra Garman; sister, Blondena Hawkins; eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, four step-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren.



Lois "Bunnie" McWilliam Simmons ('52), born July 9, 1931, in Havana, Cuba; died April 9, 2022. She was born to missionary parents in Cuba and she served as a dean of girls for 27 years in several Adventist academies in

the United States and Singapore. She is survived by her sons: Kent and Lee; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by three siblings, including **Novella McWilliam '52**.

Darlana Stanford Voegele '52, passed away at the age of 92, on May 17, 2022. Darlena was born in Randlett, Oklahoma, to Elma and Thomas Stanford. She received a bachelor's degree in nursing and met her future husband, **Wayne Voegele '58**, at Union College. They married on Aug. 25, 1952. Darlena is survived by her children, Janna Chacko, Stan Voegele and Julie Damschroder; and seven grandchildren.

Wayne Blue ('53) was born Aug. 27, 1934, in Blair, Nebraska, to Archie and Luida Frimml Blue. Wayne passed away on Oct. 22, 2022. He served in the U.S. Army (1957-1959) in the White Coat Project at Walter Reed Hospital. He owned Blue's Construction until he retired in 1996 and was a long-time member of the College View Adventist Church. Wayne is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Eldina Worley Blue '60**; daughters Cheri Blue and **Judy Blue Franklin ('84)** and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers **Raymond '57** and **Donald ('67)**.

John Greet ('53) passed away at the age of 91 on Nov. 12, 2022. He was born in Worland, Wyoming, on Dec. 24, 1930, the youngest of Frank and Edna Lucile (Pyle) Greet's six children. He attended Union College before returning to work on the family ranch south of Ten Sleep. He is survived by daughter, Cindy; son, Vernon; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Oneta; daughter Rhonda, and five siblings, including **George Greet ('36)**.



Buford Janes '54 died on Nov. 23, 2022 in Keene, Texas. He was the firstborn of Frances and Jessie Janes, born on Dec. 22, 1931. He attended Southwestern

Junior College before graduating from Union College, where he met **Margorie "Betty" Harr '54**. They were married in 1955. Buford served in the U.S. Army from 1955-1957. He began his career in blood banks in Fremont, Nebraska, before relocating to Dallas, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Betty; sister, Geraldine Montgomery; brother, Von Ray Janes, and many other relatives and friends.

John Wills '54 died on June 3, 2022. He was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota, on Oct. 8, 1929, to Lee and Edna Wills. He received a degree in music education from Union College and married **Carol Fesler Wills ('50)**. He worked as a music teacher for 10 years and as a nursing home administrator for 40 years. John is survived by his sons **Randy Wills ('76)** and wife **Ramona Greer Wills '76**, and **Rob Wills ('74)**; grandchildren: Kelly, Casey, and **Kimmy Wills Todd '10**, and six great-grandchildren.

Gloria Scott Collingsworth ('55) died on Dec. 13, 2022, and was born on Sept. 3, 1933, in Jefferson City, Missouri. She

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

1940s

Elizabeth "Bluebell" Bartel Clark ('46) of Olsburg, Kansas, passed away Oct. 31, 2022. Bluebell was born Aug. 13, 1928, in Garden City, Kansas, to John and Elizabeth Bartel. She married Walter Clark in 1950 and worked as a secretary for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Topeka for many years. She is survived by her sons, **Richard Clark '79** and **John Clark '81**, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Rolleen Betts Parker '47, born Jan. 28, 1925, in Huron, South Dakota, died April 9, 2022. She is survived by sons, Brent and Todd; daughter, Cindy; brother, Vernon; sister, **Mavis Betts Boyd '44**; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Carol Kvinge Sample Condray '47 born on Aug. 2, 1924, in Watertown, South Dakota, died on Nov. 1, 2022. Carol loved teaching, and devoted her life to education. She is survived by sons Terry and Robert; three grandchildren; a host of Norwegian cousins and many friends.

Aloha Morgenstern Wheeler ('47) passed away on Dec. 4, 2022. She was born October 2, 1927, in North Dakota She was married to **Keith Wheeler '48** and her hobbies included gardening, word searches, and

attended Union College, where she met W.B. Collingsworth and they married on Aug. 8, 1954. Dub and Gloria started a family and built a strong community of friends throughout their life in Lincoln. She is survived by husband **W.B. Collingsworth ('55)**; her children, Bruce, Connie, Breck and **Blake ('83)**; and their children and grandchildren.

Douglas Hill '55 was born March 25, 1933, in Minnesota, and died on Feb. 3, 2017. His wife, **Rachel Blom Hill ('55)** was born Sept. 12, 1934 in Minnesota and died on Sept. 15, 2022. They both attended Maplewood Academy and Union College, and married in June 1956. After his graduation from Loma Linda University School of Medicine, he interned at Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital. In 1967, they settled in Chula Vista, Calif., where he practiced family medicine until his retirement in 2006. They are survived by daughter Kerry Ann Andrade; sons Alan, Jerry, and Kenny; and several grandchildren.



Edith Pennington Beans ('55)

died on Dec. 24, 2022, in Atmore, Alabama, and was born on Feb. 27, 1935,

in Chillicothe, Missouri, to Alzia and Elsie Pennington. Edith graduated from Sunnysdale Academy and attended Union College where she met Don. They fell in love and married August 12, 1956. She taught grades 1-4 in Colorado Springs and then raised her family in Ft. Collins from 1960 to 1987. She served on the board of Campion Academy and Bass Memorial Academy, served as Director of Women's Ministry for the Gulf States Conference. Edith owned the Green Turtle Children's Store in Ft. Collins, and later, The Beans Store in Atmore for many years. She is survived by her husband of 66 years,

Donald Beans '58; her children, **Connie Mercer '81**, **Cathy McCrain '83**, Kevin, **Troy '89**, and **Jodi Burrill '88**; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

James Leeper ('56), born Oct. 14, 1938 in Waterloo, Iowa; died Feb. 4, 2022. Survivors include spouse, Judith "Judy"; sons, Jeff and Jerry; daughter, Jill McCann; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Lamoine Pearson '56 passed away Oct. 2, 2022. He was born Sept. 7, 1933, in Kansas. Lamoine attended Enterprise Academy and then Union College where he earned a degree in Business Administration and met the love of his life for 69 years, **Ruth Wagner ('52)**. They married in 1953. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served for two years. Then the couple established Pearson Masonry Company in 1962 and his craftsmanship is found all over Northern Colorado and Southern Wyoming. Lamoine was preceded in death by his parents, sister **Ramona Stafford ('52)**, and a grandson. He is survived by wife, Ruth; sister, **Evie Chaddic ('70)**, one sister-in-law **Violet McCain ('55)**; two children, **Cindy Pearson '80**, **Gary '82 (Brenda '81) Pearson**, two grand-daughters and four great-grandchildren.

Don "Doc" Runyan '57, died Jan. 24, 2021. His wife, **Millie Hall Runyan ('56)**, died on July 8, 2021. They spent their lives serving God by working with young people. Don was the choral director and voice teacher, and Millie was the dean of women at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) from 1968 through 1985. They met at Union College and married in 1956. They are survived by their four children; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Edmund Gienger ('59) was born on Oct. 22, 1932, in Jamestown, North Dakota, to Paul and Martha Wolf Gienger. He died on March 10, 2022. He spent his career as a teacher, then 40-plus years as a pastor. He is survived by his wife, Allegra Lang Gienger; children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1960s

Leroy Shultz '60 was born on Nov. 29, 1936, and died on Sept. 6, 2022. He was a pianist and organist, taught music in four Seventh-day Adventist academies during the 1960s, and was a piano technician for over forty years. While in college, he

married **Rose Chaney ('61)**, a secretarial student, in 1958. Leroy is survived by his wife, Rose; sons **Gregory ('82)** and David; six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers, **Melvin ('59)** and **Alfred '49**.

Norman Woods '60 was born March 5, 1934, in Springfield, Missouri, and died Dec. 14, 2022. He served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1958. He earned a bachelor's degree from Union College, before earning a master's degree in education, and a doctorate. He spent a year teaching at an Adventist high school in Washington before going to Walla Walla College (now University) 1961-66 where he served as dean. He then spent many years at Loma Linda University first as dean of students and later as president. He led Loma Linda during the pioneering "Baby Fae" procedure and its aftermath that launched the little-known medical facility into the international spotlight over medical ethics of interspecies transplantation and surgical research. Survivors include his wife **Phyllis Foster Woods '60**; children, Julie Scott and Michael Woods; two grandchildren, and three great-granddaughters.

Andrew Boskind '61 died on Aug. 28, 2022, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was a Vietnam Veteran, serving 1966-1968. He retired in 2007 after 35 years of practicing general surgery. Andrews is survived by his wife of 58 years, Helen Boskind; son, John Boskind, daughter, Julie Murphy, brother, Richard Boskind.

Joan Krause Denny '63 died on Aug. 1, 2022. She was born on Aug. 26, 1941, in Clinton, Missouri, to Elmer Krause and Sylvia Riffle. She married Jerry Denny on March 22, 1981. She attended Sunnysdale Adventist Academy and graduated from Union College in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She is survived by her husband, Jerry; daughters, Janelle Williams and **Jennifer Becvar '92**, son Justin; and five grandchildren.

Joyce Hagele Heim '63 died on Feb. 23, 2022. She was born to Edna and Dan Hagele in South Dakota and graduated from Plainview Academy in 1959. Joyce attended Union College and earned an RN license in 1963. In 1973, Joyce met Merlin Heim at a potluck in California, and they were later married on Aug. 4, 1974. Merlin passed away in 2017. Joyce is survived by her three stepsons Kevin, Wesley, Eric; and six grandchildren.

Jay Neil, Sr. ('63) died on April 23, 2022. After one year of college, he became dean of men at his boarding academy where he met and married his wife, Amelda, in 1961. They moved to California to continue his education at LaSierra and Loma Linda. His orthopedic surgical practice and love of church helped him minister to many over his lifetime. He is survived by his wife; children, **Jay Jr. '85**, June Dysinger; and grandchildren.

Margaret Ridler Chamberlain ('64) was born to Homer and Thelma Ridler on Jan. 28, 1939, in Greenfield, Iowa. She passed away on May 7, 2022, after a sudden illness. Margaret is survived by her husband, Bill Chamberlain, two children and five grandchildren.

Marlene Hoffman Eichelberg '64, died on March 12, 2022. Marlene was born in Jamestown, North Dakota, on Sept. 13, 1941, to Adam and Mary Hoffman. Marlene was a registered nurse and instructor at Hurley School of Nursing. Survivors include her husband of 56 years, Dwight; children, Brent, Annmarie Walker and Carey; four grandchildren; and brother, **Donald Hoffman '68**.

Lois Resler Smith '64 died on July 18, 2022. She was born in Sterling, Colorado, on Feb. 22, 1942, to Dean and Ellen Resler. She attended Campion Academy and graduated from Union College with a bachelor's degree in secretarial science. Lois married **Charles Smith '66** on July 22, 1962. Lois is survived by her husband, Charles; children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

LaVera Segebartt Moomey ('65) died on Oct. 30, 2022. She was born Dec. 10, 1941, to William and Esther (Pearson) Segebartt. She attended Enterprise Academy before graduating from Union College. LaVera married Lyle Moomey in 1970 and they resided in Davenport, Iowa, until retiring to Hepler in 1997. LaVera worked in education throughout her lifetime. Survivors include her husband, Lyle; daughter, **Rosanna Zeisner '93**; son, Douglas; five grandchildren, including **Katelyn Zeisner ('2026)**; sister, **Juanita Eitel ('61)**; and brothers, **John Segebartt '73** and Bill Segebartt.

Richard Opp ('66) was born Nov. 11, 1942 in Denver, Colorado, and died May 30, 2022. He is survived by his spouse, Gloria; daughter, Anita; son, Steven; and sister Cheryl Lynn.

Lulette Rosenthal Cowell '64 was born May 30, 1942, to Harold and **Maurine Gilbert Rosenthal '26** in Austin, Minnesota; and she died Sept. 13, 2022. Lulette taught home economics at Spring Valley Academy in Ohio before starting her own company, Cowell & Co., selling advertising specialty items for over 20 years. She is survived by her husband, Terry; four children, and eight grandchildren.

Carlos Florian ('68) passed away Aug. 29, 2021, at the age of 80. He was born in Chiclin, Peru, on July 23, 1941. He married Lydia Meza in Puerto Rico in 1963, and lived in California before settling down in Lincoln. Lydia died on March 19, 2022; and they are survived by daughters Nancy and **Marcy ('97)**; five grandchildren; and three siblings.

Gordon "Spike" Lewis '68 was born on June 19, 1947, in Billings, Mont. to Elder Morris Lewis and Barbara Kime Lewis, and died on July 20, 2022. Spike attended Southwestern Junior College before graduating from Union College. He attained his medical degree and orthopedic residency training from Loma Linda University. Spike established an orthopedic practice in Auburn, California, for over 20 years and then worked at Kaiser Permanente in Modesto for another 20 years. After retirement, Spike moved to Idaho for a slower and quieter life.

1970s

Janell Mackie Tachenko ('70) was born to Eino and Fern (McCombs) Mackie on Jan. 18, 1949; and passed away on Sept. 5, 2022. While attending Union College, she met her husband, **Cody Tachenko ('70)**. They married July 19, 1970, and settled on the M Lazy T ranch near Grassy Butte, North Dakota. Janell is survived by her husband, **Cody Tachenko**; children, **Angi Howe ('91)**, Bryan, and **Mindy Henderson '05**; siblings, **Dianna Mackie Brisco '63**, David Mackie, Jerry Mackie, Bert Mackie, and **Bonny Schmid ('78)**.

William (Bill) Strom, Jr. '72 passed away on Oct. 20, 2022. He studied math at Union and his banking career spanned nearly 50 years. He deeply loved God and was a faithful witness of the Lord's goodness and grace throughout his life. Spending time with his wife, Karin, his daughter, Rebekka, his son-in-law, Kirk, and his son Ricky was something he prioritized and cherished.

Nyla Stigge Juhl Imler '73 died Oct. 31, 2022. She was born Jan. 26, 1952, in Burlington, Iowa, to Willis and Helen Stigge. She married Richard Juhl in 1975. He preceded her in death in 1991. In 1995, she married Toby Imler. Nyla graduated from Oak Park Academy in 1970, Union College in 1973 as a BSN, Loma Linda University in 1976 as a nurse practitioner, and from University of Texas at Austin with a Ph.D. in 1983. She spent most of her career as a professor in nursing education. Survivors include her husband, Toby Imler; siblings, **Doris Semadeni ('61)**, Merwin Stigge, **Janene McGuire '80**; children, **Korine Jensen ('98)**, Toby Jr Imler, and **Kristal Ikpeama '22**; and five grandchildren.

Charlene Gibson Wirth '73 passed away on Jan. 17, 2022. She earned a bachelor's degree in dietetics from Union College, where she met her husband **Jim Wirth ('74)**. They were married on Aug. 12, 1973. Charlene is survived by her children Jared, Brad, and Trudy Soper; and five grandchildren.

1980s

Julianne Epple Downs '87 died on Sept. 19, 2022. She was born to Eugene and Joyce Epple, on May 21, 1965, in Daytona Beach, Florida. She graduated from Sunnysdale Adventist Academy studied office administration at Union College. Julianne met her husband, Doug Downs, at Sunnysdale and they were married on Aug. 11, 1985. Together they raised three children: Kristen, Lesa, and Michael. She is survived by her husband, **Doug '87**; three children; one grandchild; mother, Joyce; and brother **Robert Epple ('84)**.

1990s

Melvin Sheire '90 passed away Nov. 13, 2022. Melvin was born Nov. 17, 1943, to George and Eva Sheire. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and daughter, Sheila Preston.

2000s

Thomas Sharp '15 passed away on Jan. 25, 2022. He was born March 4, 1981, in Arcadia, California. He married **Jessica Dorval Sharp '08** on Dec. 31, 2009, and they had three boys together. He was a former 11b infantryman with the 10th Mountain Division in the U.S. Army. He graduated from Union College with a bachelor's degree in psychology and worked with veterans with PTSD in the correctional system. He is survived by wife, Jessica; children, Dominic, Logan, Willem and Finlay; his parents, Vincent and Juliana Sharp; and his brother, Vincent Lee Sharp.



Notice of the following deaths has been received:

Loretta Loewen Koenig ('44)
born on December 11, 1922, died on December 18, 2021.

Merlin Woesner '46
born on March 5, 1924 and died on July 3, 2022.

Patricia Coy Swinson ('47)
born on March 1, 1927, died on October 16, 2021.

Vernon Hansen ('48)
born on February 1, 1930, died on April 20, 2022.

Myrtle Schwandt Hessel ('48)
born on October 1, 1927, died on April 12, 2019.

Orletta Wilson Deally ('50)
born on October 11, 1929, died on August 5, 2022.

FORMER STAFF/FACULTY:



Raymond "Wayne" Elliston, Union College Faculty from 1977-1981, died on May 20, 2022. He was born in Hereford, Texas, on July 30, 1937, to Raymond and Jewell Elliston. Wayne attended Southwestern Junior College in Keene,

Texas, where he graduated from high school and began college courses. After moving to California, he married Joelle Riederer in 1970. Wayne brought the family back to Hereford a few years later, where he farmed the family land and taught at Tascosa High School in Amarillo. In 1977, the family moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he taught at Union College. After his retirement, Wayne and Joelle moved to Amarillo to be closer to his sisters. Wayne was known for his hard work, his humor, his friendships, his dedication and devotion to his wife Joelle, and his role as patriarch of the Elliston family. Wayne is survived by his wife of 52 years, **Joelle Elliston ('78)**; his sister, Evelyn Fitzpatrick, his daughters **Michelle McMillen '84** and **Kristine Lemons '97**; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His son, Michael Elliston, preceded him in death.

Betty Lou Sorenson Anderson '51
born on October 6, 1928 died on September 11, 2022.

Faye Smouse Arellano '52
born on December 27, 1928, died on her 93rd birthday, in 2021.

Blanche Schick Wheeler ('52)
born on April 20, 1933, died on July 19, 2022.

Rosemary McCown Gibbs ('54)
born on April 25, 1933, died on June 15, 2022.

Avis Jaynes Carlson ('55)
born on October 6, 1927, died on March 6, 2022.

Arlene Russell Keller Christensen ('56) born on August 7, 1937, died on July 17, 2022.

Don Gilbert '55
born on October 8, 1930, died on August 7, 2022.



Mitzi Smith Wiggle, Union College Library from 1990-2002, passed away on Oct. 3, 2022. Mitzi was born to Elwyn and Vivian Smith on Dec. 19, 1932, in Portland, Oregon. Mitzi majored in English and minored in History at La Sierra

College, where she met her husband Jerry Wiggle. They married in 1955, and then graduated together in 1956. She served overseas with her family as an English teacher at Guam Mission Academy from 1967-1972, and then later hosted the GI Center in South Korea from 1972-1983. Upon returning to the United States, Mitzi served as secretary to the treasurer of Southern Union Conference from 1983-1990. After moving to Lincoln, Nebraska, Mitzi began working as a secretary for the Union College Library in 1990 and retired from Union in 2002. Mitzi is survived by her husband, Jerry; son Eric; daughter, Anne Quirindongo; three grandchildren, including **Asheley Quirindongo Korf '06**; and six great-grandchildren.

Earl Pate, Union College Physician Assistant Professor, was born on March 9, 1941, and died on Oct. 12, 2022. Survived include his wife, Nancy, daughters Teresa Hoskinson and Melissa Walters; and step-sister Ginny, as well as many extended family members in Iowa and Wisconsin.

Anna Ruetting Franklin ('56)
born on May 6, 1935, died on June 1, 2022.

Wretha Griffin Lang ('57)
born on July 17, 1936, died on October 10, 2021.

Thelma Wood Hermilla ('58)
born on August 4, 1934, died on August 28, 2022.

Carolyn Stotz Devitt-Kiesz ('59)
born on March 10, 1939, died on May 18, 2022.

Kay Mantz Fiala ('60)
born on February 13, 1940, died on October 25, 2022.

Carol Buck Rossow ('61)
born April 21, 1939, died February 22, 2022.

Jane Zenoniani Smith ('63)
born August 31, 1941, died on January 31, 2022.

Carol McDaniel '65

born May 27, 1941, died on October 16, 2021.

Ethel Reynolds Cole Parobek ('65)

born March 5, 1926, died on December 6, 2022.

Jim Atwood ('67)

born on January 10, 1045, died on December 22, 2021.

Harold Cornell '68

born on January 10, 1937, died on June 19, 2021.

Donald Paden, Jr. '68

born on July 14, 1943, died on December 16, 2022.

David Wilkens ('68)

born July 8, 1946, died on December 15, 2021.

Grace Martin Keller ('69)

born on November 25, 1944, died on August 23, 2022.

Peter Malgadey ('71)

born on March 10, 1951, died on April 3, 2022.

Juanita Carroll Johnson '73

died on October 20, 2019.

Bill Pierson '73

died on November 19, 2022.

Ellen Reece Coe ('76)

died on November 8, 2022.

Curt Hansen ('76)

born on April 14, 1956, died on June 16, 2022.

Pamela Wilson Kaiser '80

born on November 4, 1956, died on August 4, 2018.

Merle Bradley ('81)

born on December 12, 1947, died on July 27, 2021.

Timothy Bradley '82

born on April 11, 1958, died on June 8, 2022.

Bridget LeBard Kern '89

born on September 27, 1965, died on July 18, 2021.

Autumn Paulseth Foerderer ('98)

born on October 26, 1975, died on February 27, 2022.

Let's watch Him work

“Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever!” The rich full harmonies surrounded the men of Judah as they marched away from the safety of their walled city toward a vast coalition of hardened soldiers bent on their destruction.

King Jehosephat knew his small army had no chance, so he and his people had assembled to throw themselves on God’s mercy. “Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army,” came the response. “The battle is not yours, but God’s (I Chronicles 20:15 NIV).” The prophet proceeded to tell them exactly where to find the enemy. “You will not have to fight this battle,” he concluded. “Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you (v. 17).”

As the small group marched out the next morning, they asked the choir to lead the way — singing praises about the goodness of God.

The world faces unprecedented challenges that impact each of us. And all too often I am tempted to look at seemingly insurmountable problems and try to figure it out on my own — or maybe even give up.

But we serve the same God who told King Jehosephat to stand firm and watch Him work. And when the choir approached the cliff overlooking the enemy, they saw nothing but a completely annihilated army, because “The Lord set ambushes against them ... and they were defeated (v. 22).”



Photo: Steve Nazario/Union College

I encourage you to face each new challenge with joy knowing that God is at work in your life. Please join me in praying for each of our students as they face the rigors of classwork, demands of work, and the challenges of simply growing up. And I hope you’ll join us at ReUnion this April 13–16 as our own choir reunion leads us in rejoicing in God’s goodness (see p. 20 learn more).

Let’s all watch Him work.

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.

Our vision

Union College mentors every student to become a highly sought graduate who serves joyfully in God’s calling.

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

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April 13-16, 2023

***Join your classmates for your
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***We are celebrating
The classes of 1953, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1983,
1993, 1998, 2003 and 2013
Testerman Singers and Unionaires***

Learn more and register at ucollege.edu/reunion