

CORD *magazine*

News from Union College

winter 2010

Studying for Life

UNION PREPARES STUDENTS TO
COMPETE IN A CHANGING JOB MARKET

Also ...

- *Greg Mortenson visits Union College*
- *Internships prepare students for real jobs*
- *Meet the division chairs*





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It takes
ForeSight

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About the cover:

Ruthita Fike '71, now chief executive officer of Loma Linda University Medical Center, graduated from Union with a BA in English.

Photo: Chet Williams Photography

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CORDmagazine Union College
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photo: Steve Nazario

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photo: Chet Williams Photography

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Like Deborah Yancer, many of Union's academic leaders started out on very different career paths.



photo: courtesy of Crelea Stevens

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by David Smith, Union College President

Did you know that the U.S. Department of Labor estimates that today's learner will have held 10-14 jobs by age 38?

Did you know that for students starting a four-year technical degree, half of what they learn in their first year of study will be outdated by their third year of study?

That is just a small taste of a presentation initially created through a collaboration between Colorado high school technology teacher Karl Fisch and Scott McLeod of Iowa State University. The resulting "Did You Know?/Shift Happens" has scored millions of views online and has undergone several revisions by the likes of Sony BMG Entertainment and *The Economist* magazine.

According to Fisch, "We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist using technologies that haven't been invented ... in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet."

The presentation poignantly illustrates an issue those of us in higher education would prefer not to think about: the value and utility of the degrees we confer. Confronted with this and similar research, I've had to contemplate how Union College can prepare graduates for this fluid job market and fast-changing world.

The good news is our alumni consistently tell us through surveys and their stories that Union prepared them for change. Our challenge now is to take what we have done for years without thinking about it and make it an intentional process at the center of a Union College education.

Preparing for the Unknown

You don't have to be very old to remember a time before accountants used computerized spreadsheets, before graphic designers had Photoshop and before marketers used social media. No amount of technical knowledge could have prepared professionals in these—and most other—careers for the fundamental change computers and networks brought.

We don't know what future social or technological revolutions will mean for the careers our students are preparing for today, but we do know which skills will help them succeed when change comes. Out of a large volume of research, we saw a consistent theme from employers about three skills they see as vital to success in any profession:

- Communication – The key to success in all areas of life lies in the ability to effectively share ideas, and more importantly, to actively listen when others try to communicate.
- Adaptability - All graduates must be prepared to adapt both within their field of study and for careers that may not exist yet. They must have the ability to recognize the direction of change and have the flexibility to adapt to it.
- Problem solving skills – Everyone faces complex circumstances. The graduate who knows how to work through problems will have an advantage.

We are not replacing the traditional curriculum of facts, research and technical competence, but integrating opportunities

to learn in the real (and really complicated) world both on and off our campus. We believe our approach is unique, one completely owned by the employees of our school, and makes sense for students both before and after graduation.

Learning can happen while eating at Union Market, worshipping in the church, competing on the sports field, in an advisor's office, or studying in the dorm. Most support staff impact students on a daily basis—often in more significant ways than teachers. In our new approach to higher education, every employee will take an active role in mentoring the students that he or she influences on a daily basis to help each one learn these vital skills.

We have planned several training sessions for the spring 2010 semester to help prepare faculty and staff for this role. Starting next school year, we will begin to hold each employee accountable for mentoring the students in his or her sphere of influence. We are developing measurable goals that will become a significant factor as administrators weigh promotions and pay raises each year.

The students have a part to play as well. According to *College Learning for the New Global Century*, a 2007 report by the American Association of Colleges and Universities, many students have taken a passive approach to just "getting a diploma" while not applying themselves and learning skills vital to success in a changing marketplace. And institutions have not held students accountable for just "getting by."

The personal and relational components of a Union College education, whether through mentorship, student work experiences, academic advising or internships, will require students to take a more active role in their educations. Students will work with faculty and staff to find or create opportunities to hone their communication, adaptability and problem solving skills and also assess their own progress in an electronic portfolio that will become part of their collegiate record.

As I have said, this is not a revolutionary concept at Union College, but a new intentionality applied to Union's strengths. This issue of *CORD* magazine shares the stories of several Union students preparing for real-world workplaces through internships, and tells of our alumni who have found success in very different careers than those they trained for in college. It also details the paths that led the leaders of our academic divisions to their current roles. This is an issue about change: preparing for it, adapting to it, and assessing its effects.

The Challenge

Right now parents and students are most interested in the cheapest, quickest way to a career. But all of that preparation for a single career may not be enough to help that student succeed in a world where change is the only constant.

At Union College, we hope to help students and parents understand the value of a well-rounded education that will incorporate key life skills into every area of learning and ultimately better prepare them for any challenge they might encounter. If this is the kind of education you want for the young people in your life, let us know as we continue to build this program. You can reach me at president@ucollege.edu. **A**

Enrollment exceeds expectations despite decline

by Scott Cushman

It's not often people in academia want to be proved wrong. However, last fall when two different models Union College uses to predict enrollment for the next school year projected a decrease in new students, college administrators, faculty and staff budgeted carefully and prayed diligently.

"We believe each of our students is a blessing, and we've been asking God for many blessings lately," said David Smith, college president. "When I speak to our students and hear their stories about how and why they chose Union, I know those prayers have been answered."

While enrollment for the fall 2009 semester is down compared to the last year, the college has exceeded its projections with a headcount of 883 and a full-time equivalency of 802. "The projected FTE of 780 we based this year's budget on made us tighten our belts and examine our priorities," said Rob Weaver, former vice president for Enrollment and Student Financial Services. "I think part of what allowed us to exceed the prediction was a commitment to keep tuition steady and provide more financial assistance."

To get a sense of what recent high school graduates from Union's core demographic groups are doing this year, Weaver has been talking to high school administrators. What he's heard so far indicates financial limitations are playing an increasing role in students' after-graduation plans. "We're losing kids to an uncertain economy rather than other four-year institutions," said Weaver. "They're choosing community colleges or full-time jobs instead."

Because professionals with a bachelor's degree earn on average \$10,000 more each year than someone with an associate's degree and \$16,000 more than someone with only a high school diploma, Weaver believes postponing college for economic reasons may be a short term choice.* "One of our goals now is to stay in contact with those prospective students so that when they're ready to benefit from more education, they'll chose Union College," he said.

Even with fewer students, the college continues to offer the same mix of strong academic programs, vibrant spirituality, ac-

tive social engagement, and meaningful on-campus work and leadership opportunities.

"The students who come to Union are the type of student any college would want: good grades, good test scores, motivated and highly-involved in campus life," said Malcolm Russell, vice president for academic administration. "It is clear that Union's new students bring intellectual vitality, spiritual commitment and social involvement to our campus."

*Statistics from "The Condition of Education 2009," a report prepared by the National Center for Educational Statistics.

Enrollment at a glance

Total Students883
Full time equivalent802
Countries18
States44
Male/Female Ratio49/51

College writing for the real world

by Hannab Adams

Jill Morstad doesn't give writing assignments. Instead, she offers writing opportunities that connect students with the community. Instructed to find a person or organization outside of the classroom in need of a writer, her College Writing I and II students become freelance journalists.

"I want students to understand that the opportunities for writing and speaking are as diverse and unique as the people doing it," explained Morstad, who has taught English at Union College since 2006.

One student decided to write for her home church newsletter and interviewed a member of the church board. Readers enjoyed the article so much they asked the newsletter staff to establish a "Get to Know Your Board Members" section in each issue.

"What she had done satisfied the requirements, but also opened so many doors," said Morstad. "The people students meet and speak with can become resources both personally and professionally."

Another student also chose to write for his church newsletter, but didn't have the

same smooth experience. During the final presentation of his project, he described the editors as "two crabby old ladies," who asked him to rewrite the article six or seven times because of grammar and word choices. Although the student thought the whole ordeal was "horrible," Morstad considered it a terrific learning opportunity. "How else do you understand that the things English professors emphasize do matter?" she asked.

With more than 20 years of experience teaching composition, writing and rhetoric, Morstad understands the power and necessity of communication skills. "Students discover that the communication, adaptation and problem solving skills found in academic writing are important in order to graduate from college," said Morstad, "but, depending on what awaits them after graduation, it will be just as important for those skills to translate and fit their career paths."

Morstad's goal is to help students become more comfortable and gain confidence in whatever writing situation they encounter. With new venues of communi-

cation rising through technological advances, students need to learn how to adjust their perspective and strategy in order to find a public voice.

"Ultimately what they write is not subject to my approval," said Morstad. "What they have to do is explain how they took a handful of ideas and turned it into something tangible."

Morstad is grateful for the opportunity to teach at Union. "I appreciate this college's endorsement of fundamental ethical values," said Morstad, "and its desire to make purposeful goodness as much a part of its mission as technical competence. I try to implement these simple, but crucial ideas, into my classes and course assignments."

This year all of her students belong to an organization outside of Union College's campus. They find the job connections and real life experiences gained through her classes invaluable. "What students have done has been amazing. I absolutely believe Union College students will rise to whatever creative challenges are set before them."

Union College ranked among the best baccalaureate colleges in America by Scott Cushman

U.S. *News* has once again rated Union College in the top tier for its category in the magazine's highly-anticipated annual rankings. Placing 43rd among Midwestern baccalaureate colleges, this is the fourth consecutive year Union has earned the title of one of America's best colleges.

While no standardized system can account for unique institutional strengths or the individual needs of students, Union College administrators are proud to see the institution compare favorably with its peers.

"I am very pleased to see this recognition of so many dedicated faculty, staff, students and others who make Union College a continued success," said David Smith, college president. "It affirms our mission, both as an institution and as individuals."

The category in which Union most visibly surpasses other institutions each year is the rate of alumni giving. With 35 percent of alumni supporting the college annually, Union's percentage was the seventh highest among baccalaureate col-

leges nationwide and the fourth highest in the Midwest.

"Our alumni believe in their alma mater," said LuAnn Davis, vice president for Advancement. "Their loyalty is exemplary as they give back faithfully to provide present and future generations the opportunity to experience the spirit at Union. Their gifts are a testament to their belief in the vision of the college."

The rankings have been published since 1983 as a tool for prospective students and their parents. While many academics question the publication's methodology, the list remains the most comprehensive and well-known direct comparison of schools.

This year, 319 baccalaureate colleges, divided into four regions, are included in the report. The baccalaureate college category includes four-year institutions that offer a range of degree programs in professional fields such as business, journalism, nursing and education with liberal arts degrees accounting for fewer than half of the bachelor's degrees conferred.

How schools are ranked

U.S. *News* relies on statistics provided by colleges and universities as well as surveys of administrators from peer institutions to produce the rankings. The schools are grouped according to their classification by the Carnegie Foundation so that institutions with similar goals, such as undergraduate education or postgraduate research, are compared against each other. The following 14 performance indicators are weighted to find the composite score for baccalaureate colleges.

- Assessment by peers: 25 percent
- Freshmen retention rate: 20 percent
- Graduation rate: five percent
- Proportion of classes with fewer than 20 students: six percent
- Proportion of classes with fewer than 50 students: two percent
- Average faculty remuneration: seven percent
- Proportion of professors with terminal degrees: three percent
- Student-faculty ratio: one percent
- Proportion of full-time faculty: one percent
- Admissions test scores: 7.5 percent
- Percentage of students who graduated in the top quarter of their high school class: six percent
- Ratio of admitted students to applicants: 1.5 percent
- Average spending per student by the institution: 10 percent
- Percentage of alumni that donate to the school: five percent

"I Wanta Go Back, I Gotta Go Back"

by Tiffany Doss

It's easy to miss classmates and friends from Union College after years of "slingin' de ink and pushin' de pen" together. Although you may not have time to drive all the way back to "the college [you] love best" there is another way. You can get in touch with your classmates, get an update about the school, and stay informed with a few clicks of a mouse.

There are now seven online venues available:

- ✦ The Rockpile alumni community at www.ucollegecommunity.org is a great way to get quick news stories about what's happening on the Union College campus or contact information for former classmates. The site includes class notes and a message board where you can ask questions or voice your opinion. The Rockpile also allows for online event registration and contributions to the college.
- ✦ Facebook—The Rockpile now supports Facebook Connect, making it even easier to share what's happening with your friends. You can register for upcoming events, make a donation or pass a class note. Become a fan of Union College and receive news postings on your home page from the school's news feed. Check it out at www.facebook.com/unioncollegelincolnnebraska.
- ✦ Around-the-Clock News—Request to receive this e-newsletter that brings you updates and recent highlights on campus every other month, directly to your e-mail inbox. Send your email address to alumni@ucollege.edu.
- ✦ UC Live—If you want to feel like a student again, go to uclive.ucollege.edu and watch any of the streaming videos posted. You can see full-length Warrior basketball games, catch a glimpse of Project Impact, Homecoming Reunion Concert, Parents Weekend and much more.

- ✦ Good Morning Union—Pastor Rich Carlson has been sending this inspiring electronic devotional for years. Request to be on his e-mail list at ricarlsoucollege.edu and join the thousands who receive it daily. Or view it as a blog at blogs.ucollege.edu/gmu.
- ✦ College View Church online—Miss the atmosphere and types of sermons you

heard in college? Visit www.collegeviewchurch.org where sermons are available as streaming video or as a podcast and view past worship services. You can also learn about the church's local ministries, news and other scheduled events.

- ✦ Union College's main Web site, www.ucollege.edu, has in-depth information and news about Union's

academic programs, student life, spiritual events and more. You can submit news to *CORDmagazine* or fill out a form to recommend the college to a student.

So when you "wanta go back, gotta go back," open a Web browser and head back to Union again.

Bagels or a bag? Students see through eyes of service

by Tiffany Doss



Amanda Parsons, a junior chemistry major, put on a new coat of paint at Turning Point, a center for at risk youth.

We always assume we know what people need, but usually we don't have a clue," said Emily Carlson, coordinator for Union College's annual volunteer event. "Project Impact gives students an opportunity to see through the eyes of the community and better understand what they're needing."

Last year, as assistant leader for Project Impact, Carlson delivered bagels to each of the 50 sites where Union students were volunteering. In the middle of her journey, she spotted a homeless man. Thinking he could use a bite to eat, she stopped the car, grabbed a bag of bagels and handed it to him.

She drove away feeling good about her kind deed. As she looked in her rear view mirror she watched in shock as the homeless man opened a nearby trash can and dumped the contents of the bag. He proceeded to shove his personal belongings in the bag and walked off with a smile.

"That experience taught me to not take people's needs at face value, but to dig deeper to discover what an individual may be looking for," Carlson said.

The tagline for Union College's Project Impact this year was 'Planting the Seed of



Service.' It took place Aug. 27, only 11 days after the first day of school. "It's important for the college to start off the year with service in mind," explained Carlson. "Project Impact is a launching point for volunteering. It helps build connections for students interested in serving the commu-



A group of students helped serve lunch to Lincoln's undernourished at Matt Talbot Kitchen.

nity year round, which many choose to do."

Project Impact is an annual event, which initially started with painting houses for the elderly and disabled in the Lincoln area, beginning in 1981. Now, after 27 years of service, Project Impact focuses on serving community organizations that serve the community all year long. The day is planned, led and executed by students. This event is not required, yet every year at least 85 percent of the student body volunteer their day off to rake leaves, mow lawns, paint playgrounds, wash windows, serve soup, build homes or whatever sweaty, grimy work needs to be done in the community.

This year, Project Impact focused on reconnecting with past contacts like Goodwill as well as working with new organizations like Community Crops and Sunset Farms where students planted flowers and pulled weeds.

More than 800 volunteers participated this year. An estimated 15,900 volunteers have impacted Lincoln with more than 103,000 hours of voluntary labor since its inception. According to available research, it's the longest running collegiate service day with the highest percentage of campus participants in the nation.

CAMPUS NEWS

Tea for 1,400: Greg Mortenson visits Union College

by Jacque Smith

On Sept. 22, Union College's Leadership Symposium presented speaker Greg Mortenson, co-author of New York Times bestseller *Three Cups of Tea* who was nominated this year for the Nobel Peace Prize by several members of the United States House of Representatives.

Following a failed attempt to climb Pakistan's K2 in 1993, Mortenson has devoted his life to establishing education and literacy programs in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Through the nonprofit Central Asia Institute, the impact of Mortenson's work has spread beyond the volatile regions where his programs have educated more than 34,000 children, including 24,000 girls.

Greg's work is centered around an African proverb he learned growing up in the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro (Tanzania): "Educate a boy, and you educate an individual. Educate a girl and you educate a community."

His father founded Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center and ruffled protocol at the time by predicting that within 10 years local leaders would run the hospital, not white medical missionaries. Dempsey Mortenson's prediction came true and this concept of helping local people invest in themselves has propelled his son's life of service.

On the *New York Times* bestseller list since its paperback release in January 2007, *Three Cups of Tea* has sold 3 million copies and has been published in 34 countries. The book is required reading for senior U.S. military commanders and the peace-keeping forces of several nations.

Legendary television broadcaster Tom Brokaw described Mortenson as, "one ordinary person with the right combination of character and determination, who is really changing the world."

Mortenson's title, *Three Cups of Tea*, comes from a concept in Afghani and Pakistani culture. Although symbolic, in order to do business, two individuals must have tea three times. At the first, they are strangers. After the second tea, the two become friends. By the third gathering, they trust each other like family. This process of friendship building can take



Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*, chatted with students from George Stone Elementary School after a talk on Union's campus.

years, and exemplifies the approach that Mortenson has used to make his literacy programs successful.

Jeff Joiner, chair of the Division of Emergency Management and Exercise Science and one of the co-organizers of the event, says Mortenson's message of service was a great fit for Lincoln and specifically Union College. After Joiner saw Mortenson's presentation at an Omaha church, he couldn't shake the idea of hosting him at Union. "We send service-oriented students all over the world to make a difference," Joiner said. "Greg shares that same message and mission. His story is about education and helping those who really need assistance."

Nearly the entire campus family including students, faculty and staff attended the chapel presentation at 10:30 a.m. to hear Mortenson's message, already his second event of the day. Mortenson was also the keynote presenter at the annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast earlier that morning. In the afternoon, Mortenson shared his inspiration with 400 Lincoln Public School educators. And finally, after a full day of speaking and book signings, Mortenson shared the most in-depth version of his presentation with a sold-out audience (including overflow seating) in the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Linda Becker, vice president for Student Services, helped coordinate the team of volunteers who made the event a success. "We were delighted by the community's response to both Greg's message

and to the hospitality we extended," Becker said. "While most may have only had one cup of tea following the event, we are confident that Union College is no longer a stranger to the more than 1,400 new friends we made through Greg's visit."

The Leadership Symposium is part of Union's Leadership Certification Program that, according to Becker, "helps students to develop their personal leadership potential for optimum effectiveness in life." Students who enroll in the program take advantage of leadership classes, peer mentoring and weekly cohort meetings focused on improving leadership skills.

"I feel like the leadership cohort has really opened the doors for great opportunities this year," said Kelly Phipps, a junior communication major and leadership cohort member. "Meeting Greg Mortenson was very inspirational and motivated me to get actively involved in helping make the world a better place."

Last year's Leadership Symposium featured Erin Gruwell, educator and author who was portrayed in the 2007 film *Freedom Writers* starring Hillary Swank. The 2010 symposium speaker will feature Coach Ken Carter, a high school basketball coach and motivational speaker. Carter received national notoriety when he locked out his undefeated varsity basketball team and nearly canceled the season to push the athletes to improve their grades. *Coach Carter*, the 2005 film starring Samuel L. Jackson, chronicled his experience. **A**

photo: Steve Nazario

MARKETING INTERNSHIP BECOMES TELECOMMUTE

by Kate Lechler



photo: Steve Nazzario

Brandee Eisele

It can be hard to let a good employee go. As Brandee Eisele's summer internship at Florida Hospital Publishing came

to a close, her boss decided not to let the 1400 miles between Lincoln and Orlando get in the way of a good working relationship. Eisele returned to Union College with a contract to continue working long-distance through the school year.

Eisele's journey to Orlando and back began with an interview set up by Union College's Division of Business and Computer Science. The division considers real-world experience essential to education and works with each student to ensure internship placements. "The faculty and staff are so helpful," Eisele said. "They will do anything they can to help you succeed."

The publishing division where Eisele worked is a small but growing part of Florida Hospital, the nation's busiest hospital with 18 locations throughout central Florida. From May to August, Eisele set to work marketing monographs, short informational books written by professionals to educate colleagues. "This was a new position, so I had to take it and run with it," she said. "I was nervous at first but I learned what I needed to do and what was expected of me."

Apart from developing a new position, Eisele also had the challenge of marketing a somewhat difficult product. "Monographs are not very well known and aren't as readily available as other books," she said. "They are sold by companies, not available at bookstores like Barnes and Noble, which means we have to go find our consumer base."

In order to find this consumer base, Eisele spent a good portion of her summer doing research. "During one of my marketing classes at Union, we learned about consumer demographics," she said. "I really got to apply that information this summer, which is going to be great because I'm also taking Marketing Research this fall and I already have an idea of how it's done."

Eisele says she is already working with the Division of Business and Computer Science to find another paid internship for next summer. "I may go back to Florida Hospital, but I want to try a lot of things," she said. "Internships help you understand whether you're in the right field before you finish school or sign a contract." **A**

STUDENT TEACHING ASSIGNMENT COMBINES PASSIONS

by Kate Lechler

Ashley Groeneweg, a senior from Colorado, started her career at Union College as a biochemistry and pre-med major. But each time she visited her parents, both of whom are teachers, she saw how they enjoyed their vocation and decided to follow in their footsteps. "I just liked what teachers were able to do," she said. "Switching to biology education allowed me to combine my passions."

Last school year, Groeneweg applied those passions in the classroom by taking a task-force position at Castlewood Christian School, a Seventh-day Adventist junior academy in Franktown, Colo. She taught English and reading for seventh and eighth graders and taught geometry and biology for the ninth and tenth graders. "It was a long day," she said. "I went into school at 7:30 every morning, stayed until 5 p.m., and then went home to work on grading."

The amount of work was a challenge, but Groeneweg relished the opportunity to be in the classroom and create her

own lesson plans. "It was eye-opening trying to get the students to care about the subject matter," she said. "Going back to Union and taking education classes about motivation, I kept thinking 'Oh, I wish I'd tried that!' But I had used some of the strategies without even knowing it."

Groeneweg particularly enjoyed teaching biology classes because of their interactive nature. She incorporated lab work into the students' experience and taught them how to do lab write-ups. "I was able to do this because of my experience at Union," she said. "I had a very good general biology education from Dr. Abbey, and I found myself explaining some of the concepts in the same ways he does."

After the experience, Groeneweg says she would definitely recommend task-force teaching to anyone who is considering education as a career. Not only did her time at Castlewood help cement a desire to teach, but it also allowed her to



Ashley Groeneweg with one of her students.

connect the theoretical information in her education classes with actual experience. "I'm so much more passionate about and interested in what I'm learning now because I know they are things I could have used," she said. "I've also been much more comfortable in the classroom during my [teaching] practicum." **A**

(Internship profiles continue on page 21)

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photo: courtesy of Ashley Groeneweg

What Can You Do With An English Major?

by Ryan Teller



*As CEO of
Loma Linda University Medical Center,
Ruthita Jensen Fike '71 found that studying English
at Union prepared her for far more than she dreamed.*

The girl smiled as she lowered her head to peer intently through the eyepiece at distant points of light in the heavens. As her father explained star after star, she imagined strapping into the Gemini cockpit and blasting into space to explore the wonders that unfolded before her.

Ruthita Jensen Fike '71 loved summers with her father studying the stars. "I wanted to be an astronaut," she explained. A Colorado high school teacher, her father earned summer research grants to study space at a Chicago planetarium. "I learned to appreciate astronomy during those visits."

As with many childhood dreams, hers gave way to reality. She never joined NASA or donned a space suit, but the stops along her career path proved to be as diverse as the celestial bodies she once dreamed of visiting. Fike credits what she learned at Union with preparing her ultimately to be successful. Now chief executive officer at Loma Linda University Medical Center, Fike hasn't literally traveled among the stars, but she has come a long way from the high school classroom that began her career journey.

After earning a degree in English education from Union College, she taught English for four years at College View Academy in Lincoln. Although she enjoyed her time teaching high school, the demands of a young family dictated a job requiring fewer hours each week.

Career number two began when Dean Hubbard, president of Union College, offered her a part-time job in the institutional advancement office as a grant writer. "He knew I had a background in writing," she said. "Dean believed in me and I was blessed to have him and others along the way who encouraged me." Fike's role grew to public information officer and eventually vice president for institutional advancement, an administrative position that put her in charge of alumni relations, fundraising and public relations for the school.

When her husband, Duane, took a job in Kansas City in 1985, Fike entered a doctoral program in educational administration at the University of Kansas, planning to continue a career in education. But a marketing job at Adventist Health System started career number three. "I thought I could do this health care job while going to school," she remembered. "It would help pay for college and then I could return to education."

But as she learned, the job continued to grow. Eventually she made the switch from the marketing department to operations and, when the health care system reorganized in 1989, she emerged as chief operating officer and senior vice president for Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

Fike drew from her experience as an education administrator and, after successfully overhauling patient care at the hospital, she accepted an offer to become CEO of Porter and Littleton Adventist hospitals in Denver, Colo. During her tenure from 1996 to 2002, both hospitals greatly increased market share. In fact, during 2000 and 2001, Littleton Adventist Hospital became one of the most profitable in the nation. Next she took the role of executive vice president for Centura Health, Colorado's largest health system, managing 12 hospitals including Porter and Littleton, eight senior residences and home care and hospice services.

Fike assumed her current position in 2004 as CEO of the five-campus, 1,000-bed Loma Linda University Medical Center, the teaching hospital for the Seventh-day Adventist church's flagship medical training institution, Loma Linda University. Besides overseeing the five hospitals in the system, including a children's hospital, a surgical hospital and behavioral medicine center, Fike also serves as executive vice president of the Loma

Linda School of Health Sciences, a role that includes acting as administrative liaison for the Loma Linda-run partner hospital in Hangzhou, China.

As CEO and administrator of this regional medical system serving Southern California's Inland Empire area, Fike oversees the issues facing a billion dollar, 7,000 employee operation: including juggling mind-boggling budgets, dealing with state accrediting and reimbursing agencies,



Ruthita and Duane Fike (right) enjoying biking in Colorado with their daughter, Verinda; son, Tobias; and his wife, Allison.

handling employee issues, preparing for coming health care legislation and fostering positive relationships with physicians and the university. Even though her career success came in a very different field than the degree she earned in college, Fike traces the roots of her success to what she learned at Union.

It all started at Union

Even in college, Fike's career path remained uncertain. Despite an interest in literature and writing, Fike felt pressured to pursue a career acceptable for women. "I think it was a cultural thing," she said of the perceived compulsion to become a nurse, teacher, secretary or social worker. "I've heard lots of women my age talk about experiencing the same thing." She enrolled at Union College as a social work major. But soon a career shadowing experience convinced her to pursue a different path.

Spending a day with a professional social worker as part of a class requirement, Fike experienced firsthand the drama and trauma of dealing with children and families facing great difficulty. At the end of the day, the social worker left her with a

piece of advice. “You really struggle with keeping emotional distance,” the professional explained. “You might want to reconsider your career choice.”

Seeing the wisdom in this advice, Fike decided to study English and literature and become a professional writer. But as she moved through her coursework the chair of the English department, Opal Hagelgantz, gave her some career advice. “You probably won’t be able to make a living as a writer,” the professor explained. “You need to consider taking education classes as a fallback plan.”

So Fike finished an education certification and graduated only one term later than her class with a degree in English education. “I’m really grateful Dr. Hagelgantz took an interest and gave me advice,” she said.

Fike believes her time at Union helped develop leadership skills. “I do think the smaller environment gives a lot of leadership opportunities where you can participate and explore your interests,” Fike said. She served as junior class vice president and senior class president, worked on the student newspaper and was president of Girls Club. These opportunities helped Fike overcome an overwhelming shyness that had plagued her in earlier years. “I’ve always struggled with shyness. I’m still shy,” she said. When she arrived at Union, she discovered that all students had assigned seating in the dining hall—boy, girl, boy, girl. “I didn’t go to the cafeteria for a week,” she remembered, “But Union created the environment that helped me overcome that shyness.”

Fike also appreciated the skill of the professors. “They taught me to learn how to learn,” she said. And like Hagelgantz, “the professors gave me pragmatic advice to leverage that learning to make a living.”

Finding Her True Love

Although her career has taken many twists and turns, Fike has enjoyed every minute of it. “I enjoyed teaching and education administration,” she explained. “And I love health care.” Her current position at Loma Linda draws on her unique experiences because of its ties to Loma Linda University as a teaching hospital for medical students. “Loma Linda has both education and health care so it is the perfect blend for me,” she said.

Her love for healthcare actually started long before her arrival in Kansas City. “I served as a student missionary in Vietnam,” said Fike of her time in a war-torn country where she administered hundreds of thousands of vaccinations. “I saw the impact that doctors and nurses made at crucial times in people’s lives.” She determined then the importance of healthcare and, when the opportunity came later, was willing to work hard to improve the care offered by the institutions she served. “I worked long hours, but in a profession dedicated to making the world a better place and furthering the healing ministry of Christ,” she said. “I do feel privileged. It is worth the price you pay because it is noble work.”

At each stop along the way, Fike dedicated herself to creating an environment where employees flourish. When named Adventist Woman of the Year in 1990 by the Association of Adventist Women, a colleague said of her, “One of her most special qualities is her ability to recognize, appreciate and reward the work of others.”

In 2003, when *The Denver Business Journal* named Fike Outstanding Woman in Business, Jay Picerno, a fellow executive at Centura said in *The Journal*, “Ruthita refuses to let anyone fail.

She see good in all individuals and pushes people hard to be successful.”

“I’ve seen many work settings where people didn’t have the opportunity to be their best,” Fike explained. “Talent was squelched by bureaucracy or a culture that didn’t help people thrive.” From early in her career, Fike felt a passion for developing a positive working environment, a place “where employees enjoy coming to work and where they have caring supervisors,” she said. “Everybody benefits. In education the students benefit, in health care the patients benefit.”

Advice to Students

Looking back on her college career, Fike wishes she had some of the tools that exist today to help students learn and understand their strengths and weaknesses. “I tell students to take advantage of tools like Myers-Briggs Type Indicator or StrengthsFinder to help you understand your strengths,” she said. “Try to understand what you are good at and work to develop those strengths.”

Later in life as she developed her leadership skills, Fike discovered more about herself through Gallup’s StrengthsFinder. “I’ve learned that I’m a maximizer. I like to maximize people and resources,” she explained. “I also learned I’m not that good at details. I’ve learned to quit beating myself for that and find people to work with who complement my strengths.”

She also recognizes the importance of mentors such as Dean Hubbard who were willing give her a chance. “Jim Boyle, CEO at Shawnee Mission, took a risk moving me from marketing to operations,” she said. “That was by far the best step in my career.” Lyn Behrens, former president of Loma Linda University Medical Center, also played a vital role in her growth. “I had the privilege of working with her for several years before she retired,” said Fike. “She really nurtured me.”

Having a life

Despite the demands of a CEO, Fike still finds time to spend with her husband of 36 years and her two adult children. “I love spending time with my kids,” she said. They also do a lot of traveling around the world to destinations such as Africa, China and New Zealand. Or sometimes they travel to Colorado to hike together in the mountains surrounding their home.

Ever the ardent supporter of education, Fike entered a doctoral program in educational administration at Claremont University. “I started in the school of management,” she said, “but I transitioned to the school of education to build on my master’s degree.”

And she still believes few things are more valuable than a Christian education. “Education is so critical to success,” she explained. “Your earning capacity is greater, but it’s more about your ability to navigate the issues in life. A Christian education like Union provides—in a small setting where you can move through that adolescent period where you are making choices that will affect the rest of your life—is critical. Christian education has proven to keep people connected to their church and make wiser choices in life.”

These days when Ruthita gazes at the stars, she thanks God for her opportunities and well-placed mentors in her life. “He’s opened and closed doors along the way,” she explained. “At Union, developing a spiritual life and prayer life helped prepare me for the joys and disappointments because all lives are filled with both.” **A**

MEET THE DIVISION CHAIRS

Over the past two years, Union College's academic structure has undergone significant reorganization. In addition to creating a new division, the college has appointed new chairs in all but two of the eight academic divisions.

Each of the college's academic leaders shares a unique

story of a varied career path. Many never dreamed of teaching or leading a division, but each agree that every stop along the way prepared them for their responsibilities at Union. Now they have the experience to help students learn how to be successful in life, not just a specific job or field.



Barry Forbes

Business and Computer Science

by Tiffany Doss
photos: by Steve Nazario

"My career and academic experiences have taught me that it's important to not only be intentional," said Forbes, "but to be confident and comfortable enough to learn without a teacher."

His classes often center on activities that help students establish the crucial foundation of teamwork and increase the drive and confidence to solve problems on their own.

Forbes, like many of the business and computer science instructors at Union, requires students to read newspapers and magazines that make them aware of the advancements in their fields. "It's important that students are informed and aware of what's going on in the world," said Forbes. "That way they don't have to catch up after they graduate." As chair of the division, Forbes focuses on giving students opportunities to explore the local work force, answer questions and connect with alumni in their field.

One way the division stays connected is through Best in Class, an advisory board comprised of alumni who help students in business and computing programs become the best in the class, particularly among Adventist colleges and universities. The board encompasses a wide variety of initiatives and provides the division with feedback on programs, ideas for recruiting and funding for projects. This model has since been implemented by other division across campus.

"Connecting with alumni is a great way for students and faculty to learn," said Forbes. "As chair it's great to get feedback and hear what we're doing well. The division team has great insight and intention, and I am excited to see where it will lead."

Barry Forbes, chair of Union College's Division of Business and Computer Science, knows how to be intentional. "It's so easy to float through life and not weigh the pros and cons," he said. "We need to be informed, balance our priorities, look to the future and make the hard decisions."

After graduating from Southwestern Adventist University with a degree in business management, Forbes earned a Master of Business Administration at Texas A&M University.

Shortly after completing his MBA, Forbes investigated an opportunity to manage Union's campus bookstore. With experience working at Southwestern's bookstore as a student, he thought he would enjoy working for an Adventist college and following his brother Brad '82, who had previously managed the store. He was hired as manager in 1988.

Forbes had often considered teaching and took an opportunity to instruct several business classes at Union as an adjunct professor. In 1991, he transitioned to teaching full-time, and in 2007 Forbes became chair of the Division of Business and Computer Science.

Division of Business and Computer Science

Mission

The Division of Business and Computer Science prepares professionals for Christian service in the business world by providing a quality, student-oriented education that emphasizes ethics and balances practice and theory.

Degrees and Programs

Bachelor of Science

- Business Administration—emphases in accounting, finance, management, science and small business management
- Business Education
- Computing—emphases in business, computer information systems, computer science and graphic design
- Information Technology Education

Associate of Science

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Computing

Minors

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Computer Information Systems
- Computer Science
- Marketing and Small Business Management

MEET THE DIVISION CHAIRS



Jeff Joiner

Emergency Management and Exercise Science

by Kelly Phipps

Formerly chair of the Division of Health Sciences, a reorganization of the campus' largest academic division put Jeff Joiner at the helm of the new Division of Emergency Management and Exercise Science. Two programs comprise the new division:

- the International Rescue and Relief (IRR) Program prepares students for emergency response, international development and medical careers, and
- the Health and Human Performance Program offers majors in exercise science, wellness and physical education.

While those may seem miles apart, both high-energy programs prepare students for a mission of improving lives through hands-on health education.

In addition to chairing the division, Joiner is also director of the IRR program and an associate professor of IRR and nursing. "While I've been involved with IRR since its creation, my role as program director is a whole new set of challenges for me," Joiner said.

To match the needs of his many roles, Joiner draws upon his experience as an emergency room nurse and hospital administrator.

After earning a nursing degree from Southern Adventist College in 1980, Joiner worked in almost every level of patient care from emergency room staff nurse to patient care executive and vice president. Along the way, he completed a master's in nursing as a specialist in critical care and trauma at the University

of Kentucky and is currently working toward his doctorate in leadership at the University of Nebraska. He has been a certified emergency nurse since 1984 and continues to work hospital shifts to keep in practice.

In the spring of 2001, after 12 years in health care administration and more than 20 years in patient care, Joiner felt called to teach others how to serve the needs of the world. He had been a guest lecturer at Pacific Union College and hoped to teach full-time. After sending out a few resumes he was invited to Union.

"I had not been to Lincoln before my wife, Judy, and I came to interview in April of that year," said Joiner. "There was still 20 feet of snow piled up in the K-Mart parking lot. But after that interview, we felt sure that God was leading us to Union."

Despite Nebraska's winters, Joiner stays inspired by seeing the good students and alumni are doing around the world. Many graduates are now in medical school or other graduate programs while others are working with ADRA, the Peace Corps and other organizations.

As the new director of the IRR program, Joiner plans to help the program continue to evolve into full-fledged emergency management program. Union's program is unique because of the survival training and international focus. He hopes to keep the focus on these elements while continuing to add courses that will qualify graduates to work in top-level emergency management positions here in the United States.

"I keep saying we have no idea where our IRR grads will be in five years. They can work anywhere," said Joiner. "I feel that God inspired the IRR program just for this time in the world's history."

Division of Emergency Management and Exercise Science

Mission

The Division of Emergency Management and Exercise Science promotes mental, physical, social and spiritual development of students for competent Christ-like service in their chosen profession.

Degrees and Programs

Bachelor of Science

- International Rescue and Relief—emphases in business, communication, human services and counseling, project development, paramedic, pre-PA or pre-professional
- Exercise Science
- Business Sports Management
- Fitness and Wellness
- Physical Education

Minors

- Health and Human Performance
- Exercise Science
- Business Sport Management
- Personal Training
- Fitness and Wellness
- International Rescue and Relief
- Physical Education

Facts

- The IRR department has sent several teams to assist with relief efforts in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake. These teams worked in a hospital, helped set up mobile clinics and performed search and rescue operations. (see ucollege.edu for more about the teams.)

MEET THE DIVISION CHAIRS

by Hannah Adams



Bruce Forbes

Fine Arts

Although he felt called to teach early in life, Bruce Forbes '86, chair of the Division of Fine Arts and professor of art and graphic design, found a diverse career path provided just the right experience to prepare him for his current role.

Forbes' father, an elementary school teacher, was a role model and defining influence in his son's life. "I really honor teachers," Forbes explained. "I saw what could happen when a child learns to read, how something seemingly simple can change lives."

Inspired to follow in the footsteps of his father, Forbes studied English and art education at Union College. Like many Union students, he felt the call of missionary work. Through Union's international volunteer program, Forbes spent a year in Zaire, now known as Congo.

After graduating with two degrees, he spent four years as director of Union's Media Productions, what is now the Marketing Communication department. In 1990, he moved west to work as a grant writer and researcher at Loma Linda University.

In 1993, he enrolled at Savannah College of Art and Design to pursue a master's in photography. "One of my passions is photography," explained Forbes. Without the background an undergraduate photography degree afforded, he had to work harder than his classmates. "I needed that master's degree to teach in higher education," said Forbes. "I got it to be prepared, but I

wasn't sure I would even have the opportunity. Education is a very competitive field for artists."

While attending Savannah College, Forbes gained teaching experience as a photography instructor at the nearby Savannah Country Day School. In 1997, he took his freshly honed skills and Master of Fine Arts degree to serve as head photographer for SouthComm Publishing in Alpharetta, Ga.

"I never thought I'd be back in Lincoln," Forbes said. "Nebraska was a very fond but distant memory." But in 2000 Forbes recalls a life-changing phone call. "Ryan Wells [then chair of the division] called me out of the blue. 'We have an opening, do you want to teach?' he asked."

By fall, Forbes had a full schedule. "The first few years were a blur with so much to learn and do," he said. By 2007, he earned tenure and became chair of the Division of Fine Arts in 2008.

Forbes enjoys watching graduates succeed. "We have a very high placement rate for our graduates," he explained. Many have gone on to be teachers or work in marketing departments and advertising agencies.

The division provides many outlets for students to display their skills—several musical performance groups that tour the country to recruit for Union and on-campus galleries to display their artistic creations.

"The most fun thing about this job is working with people so accomplished and passionate about their discipline," Forbes said, appreciative of the talented adjunct professors he works with who teach art, music and graphic design. "Lincoln has a vibrant art community and we have the opportunity to partner with talented professionals in the music and art world."

Division of Fine Arts

Mission

The mission of the Division of Fine Arts is to help each student grow artistically, intellectually, and spiritually through a comprehensive program based on Christian principles of service and education.

Degrees and Programs

Bachelor of Arts

- Music
- Studio Art

Bachelor of Music

- Music education
- Music performance—emphases in conducting, instrumental, keyboard or vocal

Bachelor of Science

- Art Education
- General Art
- Graphic Design—emphases in business or communication
- Music Education Instrumental
- Music Education Vocal

Associate of Science

- Art
- Graphic Design
- Music Pedagogy

Minors

- Art
- Graphic Design
- Music

Facts

- Union College sponsors three vocal performance groups and four instrumental groups including band, a chamber orchestra, a brass quintet and a string quartet. To schedule a performance contact Nancy Meier at nameier@ucollege.edu.

MEET THE DIVISION CHAIRS



Deborah Yancer

Health Sciences

by Ryan Teller

Deborah Yancer, chair of the Division of Health Sciences, knows about career change. When she accepted the position at Union this past summer, she had never worked in education or even taught a class. “I didn’t know anything about academia,” she said. “But I know that this is what God has prepared me for my entire life.”

Yancer does know nursing and health care. Only a serious accident and several months leave from her job as CEO of a California hospital gave Yancer enough pause to feel called to redirect her energy to training young health care professionals. She applied for a teaching position in Union’s nursing program largely due to her son’s positive experience as a student and employee. But because of her extensive health care management background, the college asked her to serve as chair of the division and director of the nursing program.

“I feel like this is where God wants me to be,” Yancer said of Union College. “The nursing instructors are teaching me everything they know, and I’m teaching them everything I know.”

Yancer has never backed down from a challenge. As a young Andrews University graduate working in an intensive care unit at a hospital in Benton Harbor, Mich., she soon became disgusted with the working environment and quality of patient care. “I made an appointment with the vice president for nursing,” she remembered. “I told her I wanted to

make improvements.”

Within a few months Yancer had her own unit to manage and went on to re-vamp nursing programs at several hospitals while earning a master of nursing degree in women and children’s health at the University of Kansas Medical Center along the way.

After being promoted from chief of nursing to chief operating officer at a Nashville-area hospital, Yancer tackled a daunting challenge as CEO at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in the Washington, D.C. area. The deeply troubled institution faced both state and federal investigations for care quality issues.

“It was like being part of a miracle,” she remembered. “I had to lean into God’s hands. He sent the people that I needed.” Under Yancer’s guidance the hospital rebounded in five years and won awards for care quality improvement.

Now Yancer plans to pass on what she has learned as a nurse and hospital administrator to Union’s nursing and PA students. “I have a passion to figure out how to prepare nurses and health care providers,” she explained. “It’s not about individuals. It’s about how well people connect with each other to provide care and compassion for the patient.” She believes Union’s focus on service helps students and teachers understand this goal.

For all their differences, Yancer believes facing challenges in both education and health care is fundamentally the same. “If you focus on the mission, all the side problems fall away,” she said of her goal to restructure the nursing program to better serve students’ needs.

“The mission is what will excite people. You have to keep the focus by asking what is best for the students,” she explained. “When you see the results in a student, it makes you want to work even more.”

Division of Health Sciences

Mission

The programs offered by the Division of Health Sciences promote a multidisciplinary approach to health care, thus supporting holistic concepts in restoration of humanity to God’s ideal. Placed within the context of the God-centered Christian philosophy, the Division of Health Sciences promotes mental, physical, social and spiritual development of students for competent Christ-like service in their professions.

Degrees and Programs

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Bachelor of Science

- Nursing
- Health Science—Pre-PA
- Clinical Laboratory Science

Facts

- All 2009 physician assistant graduates found employment within 3 months of graduation.
- For the last two years Union’s graduating Master of Physician Assistant Studies class has had a 100 percent first-time pass rate for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination.
- Six Union PA students have received the coveted National Health Service Corps Scholarship, covering all expenses in exchange for three years serving a medically underserved area.
- Union’s nursing program now enrolls a new class in January as well as August. This allows students to earn a nursing degree more quickly.

MEET THE DIVISION CHAIRS

by Kelly Phipps



Joe Allison

Human Development

If you ask Joe Allison '79 what he feels his strongest gift is, he'll say administration, but if you ask him about his overall favorite part of teaching, the answer is simple: recess.

Now chair of the Division of Human Development, Allison credits his teachers at Union College with pointing him in the direction of his gifts. As a high school senior visiting Union, he had planned to study the emerging field of computer science. "But I visited with Dr. Ben Bandoila about a career in education," he said. "He was so enthusiastic about the program that I never pursued computers when I arrived at Union. The rest is history."

During his days as a student at Union College, he hoped to one day come back and teach, but he never dreamed of leading the division. Twenty-five years of experience in K-12 education prepared him for the role. "I can see how I was given opportunities so that I can address education from across the entire spectrum of K-12 and every Adventist school setting offered within our system," he said.

Those opportunities included teaching in school settings ranging from a rural one-room school to an urban junior academy, and gaining experience in educational administration while serving as vice principal at Spring Valley Academy and principal at Sunnydale Adventist Academy.

The Division of Human Development has grown in a number of areas during

Allison's six years as chair. Union's social work program, once a collaboration with Nebraska Wesleyan University, is now fully accredited and independent. One of the fastest growing majors on campus, the psychology program has added another full-time faculty member. "We have diversified the elementary teaching experience which was limited to Seventh-day Adventist schools before," Allison said. "Now each student gets Adventist experience and a public school experience."

For education majors, experience in a small Adventist school begins as early as their freshman year right on campus at George Stone Elementary School, the unique lab school for which Allison also serves as principal. This allows him to continue to work with elementary students and teachers and teach his college classes with a current perspective.

But the education experience doesn't end at graduation. Allison sends a book to each new teacher, *101 Answers for New Teachers and Their Mentors* by Annette Breaux. He actively encourages superintendents to assign mentors to the new teachers and he or a fellow education professor visits each graduate in his or her new classroom. "We still have former students call and ask for advice or just to stay connected," he said.

Allison also led the team effort to renew full accreditation for the education program from NCATE, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. "I feel I have created a division environment which has been supportive and nurturing, making it a great place to work."

Perhaps most rewarding for him is watching countless students begin their careers either with a job or by advancing their studies. "It is awesome to see God work out just the right place or opportunity for our graduates," he said.

Division of Human Development

Mission

The mission of the Division of Human Development is to prepare exemplary teachers, psychology majors and social workers. The programs are driven by a commitment to holistic development, scholarship, multicultural clinical experiences and dedication to a life of service that helps others in achieving their God-given potential.

Degrees and Programs

Bachelor of Science

- Elementary Education
- Psychology
- Secondary Education—with field endorsements in art education, language arts education, music education, natural science education and social science education; and subject endorsements for biology education, business education, chemistry education, English education English as a second language, general art, history education, information technology education, instrumental music education, physical education, physics, religious education and vocal music education

Bachelor of Social Work

- Social Work

Minor

- Psychology

Facts

- The George Stone Elementary School is an onsite K-8 school that gives student teachers a chance to observe and experience a multi-grade school.

MEET THE DIVISION CHAIRS



Michelle Mesnard

Humanities

by Hannah Adams

Michelle Mesnard, chair of the Division of Humanities, never intended to work for Union College or even teach a classroom full of students. After spending four years as director of public relations at Pacific Union College, she began looking for new experiences, but never thought she'd find them in Nebraska.

"God," she prayed, "I really want to have more time with my son and a stronger connection to a church family."

When Union College invited her to interview for a job teaching communication, she accepted, but only because the interview would be good practice for other job opportunities. What she and her husband, Mike, encountered when they arrived on campus changed their mindset completely.

"We fell in love with Union," Mesnard explained, "I just love how people treat each other and support each other. You can sense it as soon as you step on campus."

That was seven years ago. Now, Mesnard's office sits across from her husband's, who also teaches English and communication. "I definitely believe this is where God wanted us to be," Mesnard said. "Coming here was an answer to prayer."

With undergraduate and graduate degrees in public relations, as well as years of experience in the field, Mesnard frequently draws from her past. Looking back at her professional mentors from

college, she recognizes their influence in her present-day teaching style. Her own college professors, Fred Kinsey and Pat Howlett, "practiced public relations and brought those experiences into the classroom," she explained. "I think I model how they taught."

Becoming the new chair of the Division of Humanities has opened up even more opportunities. "I actually enjoy the administrative side of being the division chair," Mesnard smiled. "I also enjoy being able to represent the Division of Humanities and to help us move in new and different directions."

As chair, Mesnard has developed departmental internships for communication students. "They are active in recruitment and retention, maintaining our Web site, publicizing and planning events ... many things we've wanted to do but as professors haven't had time to make possible," she said. More importantly, Mesnard explained, students are able to connect and practice what they learn in classrooms with the work they do as interns.

Mesnard believes the strength of the division lies in the experience of the teachers. "We bring practical experience to our classes," she explained of professors whose previous careers included writing, magazine editing and public relations. Writing students create an issue of *Outlook* magazine each year and drama students will perform a play this spring written by Mike.

Despite the many demands on her time as a mother, administrator and teacher, Mesnard never loses touch with the reason she came to Lincoln. "Sometimes I forget how unique this Union College community is," she said "but it's really special."

Division of Humanities

Mission

The Division of Humanities prepares students for a lifetime of meaningful interaction with their world. Our disciplines focus on refining students' ability to use language for utilitarian and aesthetic purposes, to understand and create patterns of meaning through archetype, symbol, and metaphor in poetry, to keep abreast of developments in the world, and/or to understand the present in light of the past.

Degrees and Programs

Bachelor of Arts

- Communication—emphases in journalism or public relations
- English—emphases in literature or writing and speaking
- French
- History
- International Studies
- Social Science
- Spanish

Bachelor of Science

- English as a Second Language—education
- English Education
- History Education
- Institutional Development
- International Studies
- Language Arts Education
- Social Science Education

Minors

- Communication
- Drama
- English
- Modern Languages
- History
- Pre-Law
- Social Science

English as a Second Language

Program – for students who need to increase proficiency in English before continuing other courses of study.



Bob Fetrick

Religion

by Tiffany Doss

“Young man, they’ll make a preacher out of you yet,” said an older woman to Bob Fetrick, chair of the Division of Religion, after one of his first sermons. According to Fetrick, he was a terrible preacher when he began. “My delivery was poor, my content was poor, I was just awful.”

By the time he graduated from Andrews University with a Master of Divinity degree, Fetrick had obtained vast biblical and historical knowledge. However, he felt somewhat unprepared to take the pulpit because of his limited preaching experience in college. But he soon honed his preaching skills and later found his true passion—teaching.

“While working as a conference evangelist, I visited a church one Sabbath,” said Fetrick. “I ended up teaching the pastor’s Bible study class. While explaining the lesson I began to use the chalkboard in the room. I started in the upper left hand corner and by the time the lesson ended I was scribbling in the bottom right corner, completely out of room.”

After seeing the timelines and illustrations on the board, the local pastor told Fetrick he should consider teaching. But he pushed the idea aside until years later when he and his wife, Ann, were both offered teaching positions at Union College.

After teaching for several years, Fetrick received an offer to return to pas-

toral ministry. “I thought about it for five seconds and passed,” he said. “I love teaching.” But his background as a pastor has helped Fetrick tailor his students’ educational experience and better prepare them for ministry.

Fetrick has taught at Union for 14 years and has served as chair of the Division of Religion for the past four. During his tenure, the division has increased requirements for several courses, added an Introduction to Pastoral Ministry class and increased opportunities for preaching in the field. The division is currently partnering with the Mid-America Union Conference to form an advisory council that will review course offerings, discuss ways to improve the program and help connect religion students and church leaders.

Because of his own lack of experience at preaching when he graduated from college, Fetrick has expanded opportunities for theology and religion students to get active experience in the field. Each theology major spends two years as a student pastor in one of the many Seventh-day Adventist churches within driving distance of campus. As a student pastor, each gets ample opportunity to preach and learns to lead a congregation through observing church boards and getting involved in many ministries of a local church. As a side benefit of this program, local conferences have hired a number of Union’s graduates because the conference knows they have experience and has seen what they can do.

“You can only guide students so much as a teacher,” said Fetrick. “But if students earnestly give themselves to God, He will equip them with the skills and attributes necessary to lead them in the proper direction.”

Division of Religion

Mission

The Division of Religion empowers students to serve as Christian disciples, leaders and professionals sharing the Gospel in preparation for Jesus Christ’s return.

Degrees and Programs:

Bachelor of Arts

- Theology

Bachelor of Science

- Religion—emphases in business, mission service or pastoral care
- Religious Education

Minors

- Biblical Languages
- Missions
- Religion
- Youth Ministry

Facts

- Each theology major spends two years as a student pastor at a local church gaining valuable experience in preaching and leadership.
- Union faculty take students on yearly mission trips to conduct Share Him evangelistic meetings in developing nations around the world.
- Religion professors are available to preach in Mid-America churches on their areas of specialization, such as the Spirit of Prophecy, the sanctuary, and how to preach. To schedule a seminar, email rofetrick@ucollege.edu.

MEET THE DIVISION CHAIRS



Carrie Wolfe

Science and Mathematics

by Tiffany Doss

For those who understand its rules, science is a game in which each question solved leads to a new set of puzzles. It's a game Carrie Wolfe '90 relishes playing.

"I've always loved to learn," said Wolfe, chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics. "Now, as a teacher I'm able to continually learn. I get to make science models for my classes, do research to answer students' questions more thoroughly and find neat educational clips online for my classes. Not only do I enjoy this, but it allows me to broaden my perspectives, providing me with different ways to communicate with students."

Wolfe earned a bachelor's in chemistry from Union College in 1990, and pursued a doctorate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. With a Ph.D. in hand, Wolfe accepted a job offer at Columbia Union College, where she worked for three years before her alma mater offered her a teaching position. Eagerly, she made the move back to Nebraska.

"I was excited to move back to Lincoln, it's where my roots are," said Wolfe. "Also, I always felt that teaching at a smaller college would be a good fit for me, and I was right."

Even before she began teaching, Wolfe recognized the benefits of a small campus. Her teachers at Union College became more than lecturers, they were

mentors and role models. "My professors had so many great attributes," she said. "I really appreciated their earnest interaction with the students, and now as a teacher, I try to mirror that."

For the past ten years, Wolfe has enjoyed helping Union students grow intellectually and spiritually. Each class period starts with a worship thought and throughout the lecture she pushes them to thoughtfully weigh each side of an issue, rather than "jump to a cut-and-dried answer."

Wolfe understands through her experiences as a student, teacher and now division chair, that the concepts of math and science aren't always easy to grasp. "I'm constantly looking for ways to make what they learn in the classroom more applicable to their lives as well as help motivate students to be more curious about the world they live in," Wolfe explained. She believes the challenges they face today will translate into success later in life.

As chair Wolfe is searching for new ways to raise money for updated equipment that will provide better resources for students to experience science and math. She's focused on keeping teachers' workloads balanced and representing the needs of the division to campus administration.

The division also oversees the education of pre-professional students who hope to work in the medical field. "I have been proud of the acceptance rate for pre-med, pre-dentistry and pre-physical therapy students," Wolfe said. Over the past 12 years, 80 percent of pre-med graduates have been accepted to medical school.

Wolfe sees an exciting future for the Division of Science and Math and hopes that she and her fellow professors can continue to help Union's students learn to love learning as much as they do.

Division of Science and Mathematics

Mission

Founded upon a firm belief in the Creator and guided by a Christian worldview, the Division of Science and Mathematics prepares students for service and leadership.

Degrees and Programs

Bachelor of Arts

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Physics

Bachelor of Science

- Biology
- Biology Education
- Chemistry—emphases in biochemistry or general chemistry
- Chemistry Education
- Clinical Laboratory Science
- Mathematics
- Mathematics Education
- Natural Science Education
- Physics
- Physics Education

Associate of Science

- Engineering
- Pre-Allied Health

Minors

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Physics

Facts

- Over the past twelve years, eighty percent of pre-med students have been accepted to medical school.
- Union's campus houses the Joshua C. Turner arboretum featuring more than 100 different types of trees and shrubs. The arboretum provides a place for biology students to study plant life.

(Internship profiles continue from page 9)

CAPITAL CITY PROVIDES AGENCY OPPORTUNITIES

by Kate Lechler/Hannah Adams



photo: Steve Nazario

Hannah Lindner

Lincoln native Hannah Lindner found her life's calling during a twenty-minute trip to town from her family's summer cabin in rural Minnesota. Tossing around career possibilities in the car, Lindner's mother and sister suggested social work would be a great fit because of her ability to relate to people and draw from her own experiences.

"I'm able to say 'I've been there,'" said Lindner, who is blind. "Even if I haven't directly had their experience, I can sym-

pathize and understand how they feel." After attending social work meetings during her freshman year at Union College, Lindner knew she'd chosen the right major.

Preparing for graduation this May, Lindner has already gained experience in the field. Social work professors at Union College help students find practicums that match their interests, and as a state capitol and refugee resettlement community, Lincoln offers many opportunities for mentorship in social services.

This past summer, Lindner worked in the foster care department of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. As an intern working with the application process, Lindner assisted prospective foster parents applying for the proper licenses. "In my classes, I'm learning about people who need help and how to help them," she said. "Actually seeing their needs fulfilled feels really good." Lindner's job involved tasks such as going through health forms, attaching labels to fingerprint cards and calling references. "I worked on a different project every day," she said. "The job had a lot of variety."

In order for Lindner to access informa-

tion in the office, a specialist installed JAWS (Job Access with Speech), a program that reads text on the computer. Ready for work, Lindner tackled a long list of strangers to call. "I was intimidated at first," she said. "I'm not a phone person, but I got through that first list and it got better. I really liked the personal encounters with people."

Although Lindner appreciated the learning opportunities at the department of Health and Human Services, the experience helped her continue narrowing down future plans. "I'm not the bureaucracy or agency type," Lindner explained. "I like to relate to people. Social work professors call it 'on the front lines' and that's where I like to be."

A guest speaker during a child welfare class sparked Lindner's interest and she is currently considering becoming a family specialist and help coordinate efforts for at-risk adolescents. Although that career path sounds promising, Lindner is keeping her options open.

"A lot of people say they are going to do one thing and end up doing something totally different," explained Lindner, confident and optimistic about wherever her future in social work leads. **A**

ZOO EXPERIENCE REINFORCES CAREER GOALS

"I have always loved animals," said Chelsea Stevens, a senior biochemistry major at Union College. "When I was little I found a baby bird that had fallen out of its nest and broken its wing. As I helped take care of it, the satisfaction of seeing the gangly chick grow into a strong bird fueled my desire to help animals."

Last summer Stevens discovered the internship of her dreams at the Cincinnati Zoo. Every morning, she drove the hour from her home in Dayton, Ohio, to work in the Vanishing Giants exhibit. There, she helped bathe, feed and clean up after Asian elephants and giraffes. "We started the day by scrubbing the elephants with soap and big blue brushes for their bath," she said. "We hung hay bales in nets and strung treats in buckets for the animals' enrichment." It was a lot of hard manual labor, but she appreciated the extra muscle and calluses earned by the end of summer.

She spent the afternoons as a Random Animal Encounters educator. Touring the

zoo with a variety of creatures like black snakes, rainbow boas, pygmy hedgehogs, alligator babies and Galapagos tortoises, she taught zoo visitors about her animal friends and how to interact with each one.

"I learned so much," Stevens said of the experience. "I learned how to keep smiling and answering questions even when a hedgehog is biting me, how to catch an alligator and how to tell if a corn snake has had enough sun. This experience taught me more than I can put into words."

But her experience did not end with animals. "I also learned how to work with difficult people," she said. "I feel more confident with people and secure in my own personality. I loved teaching people about animals and answering questions from wide-eyed children."

Will Stevens become a zoo vet? "Probably not" she said. "A zoo vet has to be at the zoo every day, seven days a week, every month, every year. I think I'd like to



Chelsea Stevens and Mai Tai.

be a small animal clinician. But this firsthand experience has been so helpful. I feel it will better prepare me for graduate school." **A**

photo: courtesy of Chelsea Stevens

CLASS-IFIEDS

Keep in Touch

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

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 Union College
 3800 South 48th Street
 Lincoln, NE 68506
 e-mail: alumni@ucollege.edu
 make changes online at
 www.ucollege.edu/
 cordmagazine

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

1960s

Joy Montgomery Price ('60) was a highlighted artist at the Scotts Bluff National Monument from May 15, 2009 through July 10, 2009. She displayed 11 pieces, including original acrylic, oil, and watercolor paintings along with a pencil drawing. Joy pursued her interest in art by attending Union College where she studied oil and watercolor. Joy has continued her education in art at Chadron State College, Western Nebraska Com-



Joy Montgomery Price

munity College, seminars and workshops. She is a member of the local artists' guild. Joy's work can be seen across Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming. Her works have made their way into public and private collections alike. Historian V.S. Fitzpatrick used many of her illustrations in his books. Joy is married to Mel and they make their home in Hemingford, Neb.

Kathy Melton Davis '66 retired from the Oregon Conference as executive assistant on June 30, 2008. She and her husband, Jerry, are enjoying retirement in Oregon. Kathy now works on call for the conference.

Marilyn Neumiller Renk '66 retired from the Oregon Conference in 2006 and is now the North American Division Adventist Elder Care Ministry Coordinator.

Jack Krogstad '67 was selected as a Securities and Exchange Commission Academic Accounting Fellow for a one-year term that began summer of 2009. Academic Accounting Fellows serve as research resources SEC staff by interpreting communication research materials as they relate to the agency, among other obligations. Jack holds the Union Pacific Endowed Chair in Accountancy at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. He is presently on the Board of Trustees of Union College and is the chairperson of the World Auditing Board of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He teaches undergraduate and graduate auditing and strategic management courses at Creighton University.

Mary Kunsman Rimer '67 and the 1967 Union nursing class met at Estes Park, Colo., for their first reunion. Spearheaded by Joann Grosboll, a group of five in the Denver area planned the weekend. Those in attendance were:

Joann Grosboll, Sharon Serikaku Poleschok and her husband, **Virgil '71; Bonnie Flemmer Blood '64** and her husband, **Charles '64; Judy Nelson Paulien** and her husband, **Charles '68; Bonnie Weisz Grondahl** and her husband, **Marcel '67; Sandy Belleville Mix, Darleen Tichy Ellison, Ursula Polensky Hamilton '68, Carol Moll Frembling** and her husband, **Curtis; Joy Miller Whitmire** and her husband, **Doug; Norma Ewing Anderson** and her husband, **Norman; Mary Kunsman Rimer** and her husband, **Harry '69; Kathy Register Gits** and **Virginia Scriven Blount**. From dinner on Friday night through breakfast Sunday morning, they shared 42 years of life experiences. In spite of all the routes they have taken, they agreed their time at Union was wonderful, even though they were separated from the home campus for two years. The group is planning to meet in Estes Park again in three years and plans to attend their 50th class reunion at Union in seven years.

1970s

David Burghart '70 has recently been appointed as executive director of Lakeland Health Foundation. He will be responsible for fundraising and development activities including planned giving, donor relations and capital campaigns. After earning his bachelor's degree at Union, he earned a master's degree at VanderCook College of Music.

Sandra Sumang Pierantozzi '74 earned an associate degree in secretarial science from Union College in 1974 and then earned a master's degree in education administration from San Diego State University in 2008. She is currently working for the government of Palau as Minister of State for

the Republic of Palau. She serves in a cabinet post dealing with foreign and domestic affairs of Palau. Rich Carlson was recently in Palau and where he met with Pierantozzi, other alumni and current student missionary, **Brenda Beenken**.



Sandra Sumang Pierantozzi '74, Nelson Sisor '77 and Mmeriang T Sibley Tell '80

1980s

Beth Sales Wilkins '80 received the National Federation of Paralegal Associations Pro Bono Award in October 2009. She was nominated for the award because of her extensive work with Wills on Wheels, a pro bono paralegal/attorney committee of the Rocky Mountain Paralegal Institute. Through Wills on Wheels, Beth has visited many homebound seniors whose incomes were at the federal poverty level and would not have been able to afford estate planning (wills and medical directives) assistance otherwise. Traveling well beyond the Denver metro area, she has logged hundreds of miles at her own expense to visit the elderly in nursing care facilities and low-income apartment complexes. She has also presented educational programs in many senior facilities.

Jan Rogers Jorgenson ('83) lives in Selah, Wash., and works for the Employment Securities Department of Washington State as a work source specialist in Yakima.

Michael Carlson '85 has been appointed to an executive position with GridPoint, Inc., a leading smart grid company whose software platform benefits electric utilities, consumers and the environment. Formerly Xcel Energy vice president and chief information officer, Michael has been a key player in designing and implementing the utility's groundbreaking smart grid project, the \$100 million SmartGridCity in Boulder, Colo. Michael has more than 24 years of experience in finance and technology, focusing his expertise in the application and delivery of technology to drive business value. He joined Xcel Energy in 2002 from Arthur Andersen, LLP, where he was a practice director in the areas of technology integration and financial operations.

1990s

John Engen '94 has been named the 2009 recipient of the prestigious Arthur F. Findeis Award for Achievements by a Young Analytical Scientist by the American Chemical Society (ACS). Associate professor of chemistry and chemical biology and faculty fellow at the Barnett Institute of Chemical and Biological Analysis at Northeastern University, Engen researches the conformations and movement of proteins and protein machines using state-of-the-art mass spectrometry. The recognition honors his outstanding accomplishments, including the development of novel and important analytical methods that have found significant beneficial applications in the chemical sciences.

Troy Van Horn '93 and his wife, Rebecca, welcomed a baby girl, Deborah Lucille, on Aug. 1, 2009.



Deborah Lucille Van Horn

2000s

Esther Shadday '00 has been a foster grandparent since she graduated. Prior to that time, she tutored college students while she was a student at Union. Organized nationwide in 1965, the Foster Grandparent program came to Lincoln in 1997. Though the program was originally established for grades 1-6, Esther wanted to tutor older students so she worked with students at Southeast High School for a number of years as well as students at College View Academy. She now spends 15 hours every week tutoring at Union College, working with English as a Second Language students as well as occasional students from the Teaching Learning Center. She was awarded the President's Call to



Esther Shadday

Service Award at a luncheon for Lincoln area foster grandparents in April 2009. This award recognizes ten years and 4,000 hours of volunteer service with the Foster Grandparents program. At more than 80 years old, Esther feels as though she has traveled the world through her work with students from around the world.

Mike '01 and Julie Bruce '02 Skinner want to introduce Kaitlyn Marie. She was born Feb. 4, 2009, healthy and beautiful.



Kaitlyn Marie Skinner

Thad Wilson '01 and his wife, April, welcomed a baby girl, Skyla Kenae, on Aug. 2, 2008. Skyla is the granddaughter of **David '65 and Elaine Reins ('65) Wilson**. Thad and April currently live in Loma Linda, Calif.



Skyla Kenae Wilson

Chris '05 and Lisa Nelson '02 Evenson welcomed Jakob Gunnar Evenson on Oct. 8, 2009. He weighed 8 pounds exactly and was 20 1/2 inches long. They live in South Bend, Indiana.



Jakob Gunnar Evenson

Gina Jacobs Creek '03 spoke at the Youth Workers' Leadership Training sponsored by the Washington Conference in November 2009. She will be presenting workshops on her book *Crafting a Culture*. She also spoke at the Sabbath morning general session talking about empowering our youth as leaders.

Nathan '03 and Abby Page '05 Helm welcomed a baby girl, Kylie Paige, on July 22, 2009.



Kylie Paige

Kristin Elder '05 graduated from Union College with a major in art. During her tenure at Union, Kristin proved herself to be a creative thinker in addition to her mastery of techniques in the visual arts. She has pursued various venues in art and has garnered distinction in her field. Her latest work is the following submission to National Public Radio's call for entries for their calendar design on page 24.

CLASS-IFIEDS



Kristin Elder's Artwork

Trent '07 and **Katie Jackson Russell '09** live in Auburn, Wash., and are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Noah Alexander, on Aug. 17, 2009. He was 7 lbs. 10 oz. and 20 in. long. Trent is currently the instrumental director at Auburn Adventist Academy and Katie is a substitute teacher for Buena Vista Elementary and a full-time mom. They thank the Lord for a safe and uneventful labor and delivery.



Noah Alexander Russell

Former Faculty

Ralph and **Beatrice Neall** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, as well as Beatrice's 80th birthday, on April 18, 2009. They taught in the religion department at Union College; Ralph from 1977 to 1994 and Beatrice from 1977 to 1993. The celebration of their anniversary was held at Southern Adventist University, near to their home

in Ooltewah, Tenn. Before coming to Union in 1977, the Nealls spent 17 years as missionaries in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Singapore. After retirement in 1994, they made three trips back to Cambodia to help train new pastors.



Ralph and Beatrice Neill

People Placements

Enga Almeida joined Enrollment Services as director of admissions and recruitment. Almeida previously worked for her alma mater, Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University), as associate director for enrollment management. Almeida has a bachelor's in organizational management and is working toward a master's in public administration. She has two adult sons.

Peter Blankenship joined Union as director of Dining Services. He earned his degree in business administration at Eastern Washington University and served as food service director at Upper Columbia Academy for 18 years. He and his wife, Verna, have two daughters.

Verna Blankenship is the new project manager in the Division of Business and Computer Science, supervising and mentoring the division's stu-

dent workers. She earned an associate's in office administration from Southern Adventist University and has held many positions as an administrative assistant, most recently at the Upper Columbia Conference. She is married to Peter Blankenship (see previous).

Michelle Buller joined the physician assistant studies program as clinical director and an assistant professor. She earned a master's in medical science from Midwestern University in Ariz. and held a psychiatry fellowship at the University of Iowa before coming to Union. Originally from Henderson, Neb., she previously ran a family practice in Gretna.

Becky Dewey '08 joined Enrollment Services as the enrollment marketing assistant and has already transitioned into the role of guest experience coordinator. After graduating from Union with a bachelor's in communication, Dewey spent a year on the road as a corporate journalist before returning to Union as a staff member.

Heather Dohrman joined Student Services as the mental health counselor. She received her bachelor's in psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and her master's in counseling from Doane College. Dohrman's experience includes private practice at First Step Wellness, and working as a school therapist for Child Guidance Center. She and her husband, Jack, have three children and a beagle.

Ben Holdsworth joined the Division of Religion as an associate professor. He holds a bachelor's in theology from Washington Adventist University, an MBA from Florida Institute of Technology, a master's in Biblical studies from Newbold College, and recently completed his doctorate in New Testament studies at the University of Durham.

Holdsworth and his wife, Ani, spent the last eight years in England, and before that he worked for Adventist Health Systems and as a pastor in Florida.

Jeanie Kriegelstein joined the Division of Humanities as an English as a Second Language teacher. She and her husband, John, moved to Lincoln from Alaska, and she has taught elementary and secondary students throughout the North Pacific Union. Kriegelstein received her bachelor's from Atlantic Union College and her Master of Education degree from Walla Walla University.

Jan Lemon joined the Physician Assistant Program as program assistant. After earning a bachelor's in elementary education from Southwestern Adventist University, Lemon taught elementary school for eighteen years in several conferences. Most recently, she served as the administrative assistant for education and youth in the Minnesota Conference. She and her husband, Tom, have two adult children.

Kyle Martsching '06 returned to the Teaching Learning Center as grant coordinator, a new position to oversee a grant-funded academic outreach program for high school students with learning differences. Martsching has most recently been a social worker in Lincoln and before that worked as academic coach in the Teaching Learning Center. He is married to **Cassie Milnes '04**.

Nadine Nelson assumed the role of vice president for Enrollment and Student Financial Services. Originally from South Africa, she and her husband, Vaughan, met at Andrews University where she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration. Nelson has held several positions at Andrews University, including health professions marketing coordinator,

director of strategic marketing and most recently, director of marketing and communication.

Brendan Nieto '08 joined Student Financial Services as a student finance advisor. Originally from Rochester, Minn., Nieto earned a bachelor's in business finance and accounting and served in several leadership positions, including student body president, while a student at Union.

Cynthia Owen Stokes '78 joined the Division of Fine Arts as a full-time instructor of music. Stokes has previously worked with the Music Program as an adjunct instructor and director of Concert Winds. She has over 30 years of experience teaching music at levels ranging from first grade to college levels. She has three children ranging in age from late teens to adult.

Ryan Teller '98 joined Marketing Communications as director of public relations. After graduating from Union College, he served as a publication editor and communication director for the Mid-America Union and has most recently been communication director for the Texas Conference. Teller and his wife, **Tawnya Davis ('96)**, have four young children.

Amy Watson joined the Division of Human Development as an office assistant. Originally from Lincoln, she has previously owned and operated two small businesses in Bemidji, Minn., but returned to Lincoln to be near her family and care for her grandparents. Watson has a son and three daughters ranging in age from 10-22 years old.

Lonnie Krieter ('81) joined Union's accounting department as chief accountant. Krieter attended Union College, but graduated with a bachelor's in business administration from Loma Linda Uni-

versity. For the past seven years, he has served as vice president for finance for the Seventh-day Adventist Schools of Lincoln. His wife, Bonnie, is a physical therapist.

Deborah Yancer joined the Division of Health Sciences as a professor of nursing and also chair of the division. Yancer has previously served as CEO of Enloe Medical Center in California, president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Maryland, and has held executive positions in other hospitals in Tennessee, Nebraska, Missouri and Michigan. She earned a bachelor's in nursing from Andrews University and a master's in nursing from the University of Kansas. She has three children and three grandchildren; her son, **Ben '05**, works in Union's Teaching Learning Center, and her daughter, Emily Watson, is a student at Union.

Kelly Boyd '02 joined Union's Nursing Program as a clinical instructor. She graduated from Union College with a bachelor's in nursing, and has since worked at Bryan LGH as a nurse in labor and delivery. She and her husband, Matt, have two small children.

Doug Tallman transitioned from associate director of the International Rescue and Relief Program to dean of men. Before helping start the IRR major at Union, Tallman served as a dean in three academies.

Jeff Joiner transitioned from chairing the Division of Health Sciences to chairing the newly-created Division of Emergency Management and Exercise Science, which offers majors in international rescue and relief, physical education, exercise science, and wellness.

IN MEMORY

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

Ethel Mason Foster ('34), Walla Walla, Wash., died April 1, 2009, at age 93. Her husband, Al, preceded her in death in 1998. They were married in Lincoln, Neb., in August of 1935. Ethel is survived by two sisters, Jean Mason and Nine Rogers; three children, **Phyllis Foster Woods '60, Calvin ('62)** and Douglas; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Cleora Turner Nachreiner '37, Berrien Springs, Mich., died Feb. 20, 2009, at age 99. She was a member of the Summit Ridge church in Harrah, Okla. Cleora was born in Watertown, S.D. She taught in California, Wisconsin and Michigan. She is survived by her daughter, Carol Mahlum; son, Peter; one granddaughter and one grandson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward.

Vernice Peterson Netteburg ('37), Silver Spring, Md., died Feb. 6, 2009, at age 92. She was born Sept. 12, 1926. Her husband, **Lyol ('36)**, preceded her in death on Dec. 31, 2004. Vernice attended Union College, but left to take full-time employment with the Minnesota Conference. She also worked for the Pacific Press Publishing Association and the Northern Union Conference, and spent much of her life as a homemaker. Her husband, Lyol, also attended Union College, 1935-36, and served on the Board of Trustees from 1952-76. Vernice married Lyol on April 30, 1942. They had known each other as children in the St. Paul Adventist church, and later as students at Maplewood Academy. After marrying, they lived in the third-floor attic of the Minnesota Conference office, before moving to Mountain View,

Calif., to work at Pacific Press. Vernice is survived by her son **Kermit '67**; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Eleanor Christensen Berecz ('39), Battle Ground, Wash., died Oct. 19, 2008, at age 93. She is survived by second cousin Mark Robison, current Union College humanities professor.

Gudrun Herwick Williams ('39), Grand Terrace, Calif., died March 1, 2009, at age 89. She was born Aug. 19, 1919, in Luck, Wis., and was a librarian at Loma Linda University. She is survived by her sons, Lysle and Keith; daughters, Lindy Bliss and Gay Culppepper; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

LaVeta Payne '40, Durant, Okla., died May 15, 2009, at age 93. She was born in Lebanon, Kan., Feb. 20, 1916. She taught at Platte Valley Academy beginning in 1946 and was long remembered by those students with whom she kept in touch. Her career took her to Columbia Union College, Newbold College in England, Atlantic Union College, and Southern Adventist University. She retired to Keene, Texas, and continued to care for her parents. LaVeta was a great fundraiser, helped start new church groups, and taught Sabbath school up to the week of her passing. She is survived by her sister-in-law Lenora Payne; nieces and nephews and many students.

Bonita (Bonnie) Cozad Davenport ('41), died May 29, 2009, at age 88. While working at the Union College dairy she met a dairy boy named **Glenn Davenport '43**. They were married in Estes Park, Colo., on Aug. 31, 1941, and shared 67 years together. Bonnie became a secretary; her first secretarial job was at the Nebraska Conference. After many years of moving, they came back to Union College and she served as sec-

IN MEMORY

retary to three of Union's presidents: R. W. Fowler, Robert Brown, and Myrl Manley. Bonnie and her daughter Veryl excelled on the piano and organ and played for evangelistic and church services. Bonnie and Glenn retired from denominational work in 1977 and lived in Colorado and Southern California for 32 years. Bonnie is survived by her husband, **Glenn**; daughter, Veryl Kelley; sister, **LaVonne Hilliard** ('46); grandchildren and other family and friends.



Bonnie Cozad Davenport

George Rasmussen ('41), Spangle, Wash., died Feb. 8, 2009, at age 92. Born in Spangle, he was fourth of nine children—Albert, Ellen, Jens, Carl, Elmer, Lester, Willie and **Norman** '53—all of whom preceded him in death. George enrolled at Walla Walla College to learn more about the Bible, but left after two quarters to attend Union. It was there that he went "dear hunting and caught his limit" when he met **Roma Belle Snyder** ('39) and asked her to marry him. After marrying in 1942, they returned to Walla Walla where he graduated. Intending to become a farmer, his life was changed when one of his professors told him he should be a preacher. He and Roma Belle served more than 26 churches in his lifetime, mostly in the Washington conference. They spent four years working in Egypt with his brother and volunteered for Maranatha after retirement. George was preceded in death by his daughter, Jan-

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nice. He is survived by his wife, **Roma Belle**; daughter, Jeannie Sue; son, Jack; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



George Rasmussen

Obie Hicks '42, Los Angeles, Calif., died Oct. 29, 1991, at age 72. He always appreciated the educational experience he received at Union College and credited his success in life and service to God to the Adventist educational system and strong spiritual family values. He is survived by his wife, six children, and ten grandchildren.

Ardis Aalborg ('43), Lincoln, Neb., died Oct. 26, 2009, at age 88. She worked as a dental assistant for her uncle, Frank Lopp, for 44 years. She is survived by her brother, Dale, three nephews and one niece.



Ardis Aalborg

James Chase '43, Loma Linda, Calif., died Sept. 11, 2009. He was a radio evangelist and church administrator who later served as communication director at the Seventh-day Adventist world headquarters. He later

formed the communication department, a distinction still in use today at all levels of church administration. Chase visited 160 countries while representing the Adventist Church. He and Violet retired to Modesto, Calif., where he served as an interim pastor and worked with Stanislaus County as a counselor for victims of domestic violence. He is survived by his sons, Donald and James; seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. His wife, **Violet** '43, preceded him in death by six months.



James Chase

Violet Hanson Chase '43, Modesto, Calif., died March 14, 2009, at age 87. She was born Oct. 18, 1921. Violet graduated from Oak Park Adventist Academy in 1939. She and her husband, Jim, were married at the College View Church on May 23, 1943, the same day as their graduation at Union. For many years, Violet taught at multiple elementary schools across the country and sang for her husband's evangelistic meetings. Violet and Jim retired to Modesto, California in 1984, where they ran the Adventist Retirees Association and assumed the role of "acting" pastor and pastor's wife at Parkwood Adventist Church. To the time of her death, Violet maintained a "birthday card ministry" by sending cards to every Parkwood member on their celebratory day. She was survived by her husband, **James** '43; sons, Donald and James; seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.



Violet Hanson Chase

Avonelle Hayes Haas '43, Longmont, Colo., passed away Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009, at age 93. She completed her nursing studies at Memorial Hospital in Boulder, Colo. While at Union College, she met her future husband **Gideon** '43. They were united in marriage on August 31, 1943, in Boulder, Colo. Avonelle's career as a nurse, working in physicians' offices, clinics and hospitals took her, along with her missionary husband, to many places, including Indonesia and Guam. They also served in California, Minnesota and Colorado. She volunteered at the Longmont Museum. Avonelle was an accomplished painter, a wonderful seamstress and a fabulous cook. She is survived by her husband **Gideon**, daughter **DeLora Hagen** '66, son **Harold** '69, two brothers George and Ross, seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Richard Carter '44, Las Vegas, Nev., died June 8, 2009, at 87. He was born in Saint Louis, Mo. on April 14, 1922. He married **Lenora Martha Parker** ('43). In 1947, he earned a medical degree from Loma Linda University. Richard served as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1952-1954 as a combat surgeon. Throughout his extensive medical career, he received many prestigious awards. He authored over 100 articles and book chapters in the field of

medicine. After retiring in 1994, he and Lenora moved to Indian Wells, Calif., and spent their summers in Missoula, Mont. In 1999, they moved to Las Vegas, Nev. Richard is survived by his wife, **Lenora**; children, Richard and Janet; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brother, **James '44**; and sister,



Richard Carter

Virginia Pelton ('49), Winifred Davison House '44, Seal Beach, Calif., died Jan. 20, 2009, at age 87. She was born just outside Lamar, Colo., on Aug. 9, 1921. She graduated from Enterprise Academy and attended nursing school at Boulder Sanitarium and Hospital. On Aug. 23, 1945 she married **Ben House '52**. Ben and Winnie spent many years in Colorado and retired near Gentry, Ark. After Ben died, Winnie lived briefly in North Platte, Neb., and then moved to Mesa, Ariz., where she took an active role in the Apache Junction Church. Later, she moved to Loma Linda, Calif., in order to be close to her youngest daughter, Kristi. Winnie is survived by her five children, **Carolyn Kelly '68, Karen House '73**, Wesley House, Kathleen Duval and Kristi Jorcyk; and brother, Robert.

Mildred Caviness Hoffman '46, New Rockford, N.D., died Oct. 1, 2009. She is survived by her sister, **Moneta Caviness Wines ('43)**; two brothers and her son, Timothy Hoffman.

Madeleine Dauma Coy '46, Walla Walla, Wash., died Oct. 19, 2009, at age 86. She enjoyed teaching in academies and Union College as well as in Zambia and Zimbabwe, Africa. She is survived by her husband, **Hugh Coy '74**; daughters, **Linda Wernick '70** and **Joellen Lee '76**; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Marveline Ippisch Jensen ('46) Lincoln, Nebr., died March 2, 2009, at age 85. She was a homemaker and school bus driver. She is survived by daughters; **Linda Buttler Goude ('68)** and Ann 'Laurine' Holmes; sons, **Lawrence '70, Lloyd ('72), Leland ('74), Leon ('80) and Lyle '83**; grandchildren; great-grandchildren and brother, Martin.

LeRoy Lane Albers '47, Cleveland, Tenn., died May 30, 2009, at age 84. He was an Adventist minister for 45 years and served in Nebraska, Utah, Alabama, Florida, Ohio, Iowa, and New Jersey. He enjoyed volunteer work with nursing students at Southern Adventist University. He touched many lives and wanted to give God all the glory. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Lois Dygert Albers '50**. He is survived by his daughters, Shiree Nichols and Rene Czerkasij; four grandsons; and sister June Johnson.

Howard Birch '47, Chanute, Kan., died March 25, 2009, at age 91. He was born June 26, 1917 near Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Canada. He lived several places, including Chicago, South Milwaukee, and Mission, Texas. He decided to further his education in Keene, Tex., where he met **Effie Fisher '47**. They were married July 13, 1946, in Stanley, N. M. After graduating from Union College, Howard taught in the Seventh-day Adventist school system, teaching in elementary and boarding academies in several states including Texas, Mis-

souri, Minnesota, and Georgia. Howard is survived by his wife, **Effie** and daughters, Linda Lynch, Beverly Tasche and Estella Ruggles. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, **Lester '47** and sister, **Ruby '51**.

Theodore Weis '47, Apopka, Fla., died Nov. 14, 2008, at age 98. He was born Nov. 17, 1909, in Lehigh, Kan. His denominational service included: five years teaching church school in Canada; dean of boys, math and Bible teacher at Enterprise Academy plus pastoral work in Abilene and Enterprise, Kan. in 1947; pastoring four churches in Hastings, Neb. district 1950-1951; home missionary secretary in the Nebraska Conference 1952-1953; home missionary, religious liberty, and Sabbath school secretary for East Pennsylvania Conference and then Pennsylvania Conference 1954-1968; and Sabbath school secretary, lay activities, religious liberty, and community service for the Alabama-Mississippi Conference 1968-1973. He is survived by his wife, Alice; two sons, Frank Tochterman and Fred Tochterman; one brother, Albert; 10 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by son, Clinton, and daughter, Averil Maher.

Cynthia Weddle Forshee ('48), Cody, Wyo., died Oct. 6, 2009, at age 83. She spent her early years in the Denver area, graduating from Mile High Academy. While attending Union College, she met her future husband, **Leonard Forshee ('46)**. The couple married in 1947 and returned to Colorado, where they both taught for many years. Beth later went to work for Dr. Thurston in Craig, Colo., and she felt the need to further her education in the healthcare profession. She attended Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colo. and earned a nursing degree.

She then returned to Craig and worked for Dr. Thurston for many more years. In 1973, the family relocated to Evening Shade, Ark., where they lived for almost 30 years. Beth moved to Wyoming in 2003 to be closer to her family. She enjoyed reading and animals of all kinds. She also knitted, loved flowers and was very involved in her church. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Leonard**; son, Mark and sister, Ruth Swena. Beth is survived by sons, Frank and Norman; daughter Shelly Braxton; brother, Jeff; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Vincent Agnetta '49, Boise, Idaho, died March 2, 2009, at age 86. He was born May 12, 1922. He is survived by his wife, Rowena; two sons, Daniel and Robert, and two grandchildren.

Earl McGhee '49, Dalton, Ga., died Dec. 23, 2008, at age 85. He was born March 14, 1923, and worked as a family practice physician. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn Holmes McGhee; daughters, Cheryl Rogers, Patricia Coffman, Kathy Schleier, and Judith Fehlenberg, and nine grandchildren.

James Larsen '50, Loma Linda, Calif., died of a heart attack in his home on March 22, 2009, at age 81. He was born May 24, 1927. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; son, Jim; daughter, Ruth Quick; four grandchildren and sister, Ann Linderman.

Edgar Ortner '50, Scottsdale, Ariz., died Jan. 20, 2009, at age 83. He was born Aug. 16, 1925, in Clinton, Mo. Edgar graduated from Maplewood Academy in 1943 and attended Union from 1943-1944, entering the U.S. Army in 1944 as a medical unit. He returned to Union in 1946 and earned his degree in business administration. After earning his master's

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degree in school administration from the University of Nebraska, he served at many Adventist academies. Edgar is survived by his wife, **Lois Alexander Ortner '50**; sons, Eric and Jere; three grandsons and a host of friends.

Ruth Nies Ellis '51, Englewood, Colo., died July 31, 2009, at age 78. She was born Jan. 21, 1931. She is survived by her son, **Ron '76**; daughters, **Lori Orvek '84** and **Karen Rohlf '86**; brother, **Howard ('55)**, and five grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Richard '55**.

Carol Ellis Aalborg '52, Keene, Texas, died April 10, 2009, at age 80. She was born Feb. 8, 1929. Carol served as the receptionist at the Southwestern Union Conference for nearly 20 years. She is survived by her daughter, Pam McVay; brother, **Winslow ('55)**, and two grandchildren. Her husband, **Don '52**, and her brother, **Rollin ('52)**, preceded her in death.

Donald Castonia '53, Apopka, Fla., died June 22, 2009, at age 83. He was born June 6, 1926, in Mentor, Minn. He was awarded a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars for his service in World War II. In 1948, he married **Mary Alice Christensen ('53)** and moved to Lincoln, Neb., where he attended Union College to study theology. After he graduated, they moved to Colorado, where he started his ministry as a colporteur pastor. Later he pastored several Seventh-day Adventist churches throughout Colorado and Nebraska until the late 1960s when the couple moved to Florida. In the late 1970s, after he served as pastor of Bradenton and Palmetto Seventh-day Adventist churches, they moved to Orlando, where he was the pastor of the Florida Hospital Church for six years. He served as pastor for two years at a church in Lakeland, and then returned to Orlando

as a trustee of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He retired in 1995. Donald is survived by his wife, Mary Alice; daughter, Rachel Rios; son, Paul; two sisters, Gwen Erickson and Miriam Erickson, and four grandchildren.

Gerald Bietz '54, Ooltewah, Tenn., died June 10, 2009, at age 79. He was born Dec. 7, 1929, in Cleveland, N.D. Gerry graduated from Sheyenne River Academy and later from Union College. While at Union, he met Deanie Gilliam and they were married in 1951. A few years later, he was invited to serve in the Southern Union as treasurer and associate director of the Home Health Education Service, and held that position for almost 38 years. Deanie passed away in 1999 following a brief illness. Gerry married **Jonni Bailey Lea '58** in 2004. He is survived by his wife, **Jonni**; sons, Steve and Doug; stepdaughters, NaLonna Covrig and Jenelle Grange, and four grandchildren.



Gerald Bietz

Joe Engelkemier '55, Berrien Springs, Mich., died Jan. 28, 2009, at age 79. Joe was born Sept. 25, 1929, in Newkirk, Okla. He served as a teacher at Glendale Academy and Auburn Academy. Joe also taught for many years at Andrews University in the religion department and authored several books. He is survived by his wife, **Gladys Van Scyoc Engelkemier ('50)**; sons, Marvin and Ed; daughter, Joetta Simpson; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Ardell Rouse '55, Loma Linda, Calif., died April 1, 2009, at age 76, after a long battle with cancer. He was born April 23, 1932. He is survived by his wife, Susan, and daughter, Terri Rouse.

Ruth Sutter '55, San Francisco, Calif., died Jan. 12, 2009, at age 73. She was born Oct. 2, 1935 in Lincoln, Neb. After graduating from Union College, Ruth earned a master's degree from the University of Chicago in 1957. After earning her teaching credentials she took a position with Contra Costa Community College and taught western history at Diablo Valley College until her retirement in 1990. She has authored and co-authored several books as well as articles for newsletters. Ruth is survived by her brothers, Vern and Clair. She is preceded in death by her brother, Paul.



Ruth Sutter

Geraldine Krueger Miller '56, Ooltewah, Tenn., died July 11, 2009, at age 76. She was born June 15, 1933. She is survived by her husband, **Roger Miller '60**; sons, Gordon and Marty; daughters, Holly Wright and Janine Darkens and eight grandchildren.

Leon Stickney '56, Auburn, Wash., died Aug. 17, 2008, at age 82. He was born July 10, 1926 in Minnesota. He served as teacher and school administrator in the Colorado Conference and Central California Conference. After retirement in 1991, he served in the same capacity in Hawaii. Later, he be-

came a driver/health counselor for Adventist Health Van, San Francisco. Leon is survived by his wife, **Ruth Long Stickney ('50)**; sons, Scott and Peter; daughters, Leonda George, Mindy Roberts, and Andrea Shryock; 13 grandchildren and his sister, **Lorraine Webb ('43)**.

Joe Fletcher '59, Lincoln, Neb., died July 7, 2009, at age 91. He was born in St. James, Jamaica, West Indies on June 3, 1918. He was an ordained minister who pastored many churches and helped open several church schools and one high school where he served as principal. Joe received a scholarship to Union College and then earned a master's degree. He continued his studies and earned a Ph.D. in education from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. When Joe, his wife, Mavis, and their four children moved to Lincoln in 1963, he pastored Allon Chapel Church for several years. Joe also taught at Elliot Elementary School, where he was employed for 13 years and eventually became the vice principal. The family returned to Jamaica in 1975 and Joe taught at Bethlehem Teachers College. Joe spent the last 10 years of his teaching career in Los Angeles public schools. During his career, Joe was nominated by the Academy of American Educators and then selected as an "Outstanding Educator in America" for the year 1973-74. Joe retired in Lincoln, Neb., in



Joe Fletcher

order to be close to his family. He is survived by his wife, **Mavis Lyn Fletcher '66**; sons, **Franz ('73)**, Wayne, **Garth '82**; daughter, Judy; sister, Inez Henderson and two grandchildren.

Clarence Philpott '60,

Phoenix, Ariz., died Jan. 9, 2009, at age 73. He was born in Clarksburg, W.Va., on April 1, 1935. He served many years as a pastor, most recently in Springerville, Ariz. He is survived by his sons, Daniel and Edward, and four grandchildren.

Robert Grosboll '62, Loveland, Colo., died Oct. 24, 2009, at age 67. He was born Sept. 24, 1942, in Butte, Mont. While Bob was attending Loma Linda University Medical School, he met Judy on a blind date. He graduated and they were married two days later on June 6, 1967. He was drafted into the military in 1968. He served in Vietnam as a captain and company commander with the 82nd Airborne. He was honorably discharged in September 1970. Bob and Judy moved to Loveland, Colo., in 1970 to join his father's medical practice. Bob raised his family and practiced medicine for 39 years in Loveland. Lovingly referred to as "Poppy" by his grandchildren, he was a kind, loving, generous man. He always made time for his family and made all those around him feel important and cared for. Bob



Robert Grosboll

was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma in May 1996. He battled this disease with optimism, bravery and courage. He is survived by his wife, Judith; sons Rob Jr., Christopher and Eric and eight grandchildren.

LaVonne Reinhardt Gibb '63,

Redlands, Calif., died Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, in Loma Linda, Calif., after a brief battle with brain cancer. LaVonne was born on March 14, 1942, in LaCrosse, Kan. She attended high school at Enterprise Academy in Kansas. After attending Union, she married and raised three children in Lincoln. She was an active member of the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church and she worked at Union College. She married **George Gibb '61** and moved to Columbia, Mo., 18 years ago where they resided until they moved to Redlands, Calif., in November 2008. LaVonne loved to travel and she took many trips with George all over the world, the most recent to Antarctica. LaVonne loved her friends and family deeply and she will be greatly missed by all of them. Survivors include her husband, **George**, her mother, **Lenore Schmidt Reinhardt ('37)**, her brother, Arlyn; son, **Brad Hillhouse ('88)**; daughters, **Kimberly VandenBosch '91**, **Sharla Bohman '91**, four stepdaughters, **Shelly Munch '87**, **Brenda King ('88)**, **Linda McFee '90**, **Lisa Loewen ('88)**, and 15 grandchildren.

Margaret Sanders Giblin '70,

Collinsville, Ill., died Jan. 21, 2009, at age 62, after a long battle with cancer. She was born Sept. 29, 1946. Margaret worked as a librarian. She is survived by her husband, **Daryl '68**; sister, **Sylvia Carcich '72**; sister-in-law, **Cheryl Giblin Johnson '75** and four nephews.

Elmer Hauck, '70, Hedgesville, W. Va., died Jan. 8, 2008, at age 72. He was born March 18, 1935. Elmer was the associate

treasurer of the Mid-America Union of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lincoln until his retirement. He was a member of the Williamsport SDA Church, where he served as an elder. He was also a member of the local Williamsport Church Board and Chesapeake Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Association Board. He was preceded in death by his sisters, Hilda White and Leah Lucas and four brothers, Wilber, Rueben, Ben and Arthur. He is survived by his wife, **Mary Chamberlin Hauck '58**; daughter, Debbie Bell; sons, David and Daryl; sisters, Martha Scott and Anna Hauck; brother, **Fred '59** and seven grandchildren.

Cheryl Roth Smith '70, Ar-

vada, Colo., died Sept. 29, 2009, at age 61. Raised on a wheat and cattle farm in western Kansas, Cheryl loved the plains, where she spent her childhood, and the mountain-greundeur of Colorado, where she spent all of her married life. She graduated from Enterprise Academy in 1966. Having dreamed of becoming a nurse from her early years, she started her career at Porter Memorial Hospital in Denver as an ICU/CCU nurse. Over the years she worked in many different settings including clinics, doctor's offices, and occupational health units for industry and healthcare. Cheryl was married to Doug, her academy sweetheart, on July 20, 1969. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this past summer with a family trip to Europe. Shortly after, she was diagnosed with uterine cancer. She will be remembered by all who knew her for the beauty of her clear soprano voice, her ever-present smile and her contagious laugh. Cheryl is survived by her husband, **Doug ('70)**; children, Monte and Marcquel; four grandchildren; sister, **Janice Davis '76**; brother, **Ken ('84)** and a host of other family and friends.

Barbara Fristoe Prowant '74,

Sturgeon, Mo., died March 7, 2009, at age 55. She was born June 6, 1953, in Washington, D.C. On Dec. 30, 1973, she was married to **Leonard ('72)**. Barbara earned a nursing degree from Union College and a master's degree in 1988 from the University of Missouri. She was an editor and served on the editorial board of many major national and international nephrology journals. She authored and co-authored numerous professional articles and publications. Barbara served on many professional planning committees and was co-founder of the annual dialysis conference. Barb was a tireless volunteer and served in professional organizations including the American Nephrology Nurses Association, National Kidney Foundation and Nephrology Nurses Certification Commission. She was a member of the Sunnydale Seventh-day Adventist Church, where she taught adult and children's divisions, was a Pathfinder leader, church secretary and volunteered in numerous other areas. She is survived by her husband, **Leonard**; son, Greg; daughter, Lori Wheeler; mother, Catherine Fristoe; sisters, Susan Bonjour and **Mary Jo Cannard '75**; nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her father, James.

Walter Wilder '76, Lincoln,

Neb., died Sept. 12, 2009, at age 58. He was born July 17, 1951 in Oklahoma City, Okla. Walter was a member of the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church. He worked as a baker at St. Helena Hospital and in South Dakota. When they moved to Lincoln, he was a bus driver for Good Life Coach and the Bobby Layne Orchestra. He is survived by his wife, **Joy Hilliard Wilder '76**; son, Alan; sister, Beverly; and brothers, William and Paul.

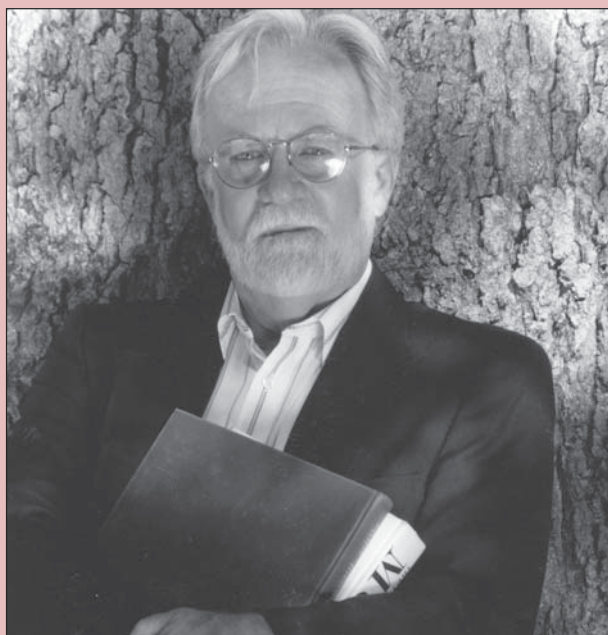
Ronda Olson Ferguson ('82),

Longmont, Colo., died Dec. 25, 2008, at age 47. She was born

IN MEMORY

Union College Science Professor Dies

Henry Zuill was born Sept. 16, 1923, in Paget, Bermuda, and died March 28, 2009, in Loveland, Colo. He earned his doctorate from Loma Linda University and taught for many years at several Adventist colleges and universities, including **Union College July '89 - Sept. '99**. He was a member of Chapel Valley SDA Church in Norman, Ark. Henry is survived by his wife, Joyce; sons, Richard and Brian; and two grandchildren.



Oct. 30, 1961. She worked as a meeting planner. Ronda is survived by her husband, Doug; stepdaughter, **Megan ('09)**; mother, **Alice "Midge" Olson '71**; sisters, **Ronalee Netteburg '68** and Rebecca Gardner, and brother, **David '72**.

Sherrie Binder '91, Lincoln, Neb., died May 29, 2009, at age 40. She was born in Lincoln on Jan. 6, 1969. She is survived by her parents, **Roger ('63)** and **Charlene ('61)** Binder;



Sherrie Binder
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brother, **Dale '87**; sisters, **Debbie Unterseher '88** and **Susan Malloy ('87)**; nieces, Ashley and Kristen Unterseher, and nephews, Ryan and Michael Malloy.

Notice of the following deaths has been received:

Grace Canaday McIver ('32), Torrington, Wyo., died March 20, 2007, at age 91.

Walter Foreman '33, Lexington, Ky., died July 29, 2009, at age 98.

Theodore Torkelson '39, Silverton, Ore., died March 29, 2008, at age 95.

Helen Seitz Seltman ('40), Nekoma, Kan., died Jan. 10, 2009.

Jeanne Griffin Dennison '41, Eugene, Ore., died Sept. 2, 2009, at age 92.

Emery Hoyt, Sr. ('41), Grand Junction, Colo., died Dec. 18, 2008, at age 91. He is survived by his wife, Esther.

Roy Henneberg '43, Hayden Lake, Idaho, died June 9, 2008, at age 89.

Audra Wood Schuman ('43), Hutchinson, Kan., died Aug. 31, 2009.

Aletha McGirr Gerst '47, North Platte, Neb., died March 16, 2009, at age 84.

Robert Johnson '47, Portland, Tenn., died Feb. 11, 2009, at age 83. He is survived by his wife, Icla.

Waverly Lebard ('48), Mt. Holly Springs, Pa., died May 23, 2008, at age 83

Jackie Fischer Neuharth ('48), Miniature, Neb., died Jan. 5, 2009, at age 79.

Bruce Sherrill ('50), Burleson, Texas, died July 22, 2009, at age 84.

Ellen Miles Cunningham '51, Amelia Court House, Va., died July 7, 2009, at age 84.

Rose Chin Brosseau '52, Portland, Ore., died Nov. 23, 2008, at age 81.

Frank Qualls '53, Kennewick, Wash., died March 5, 2008. During his last years he enjoyed participating in Maranatha projects. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn Richman Qualls ('52).

John Perryman '58, Arlington, Texas, died Aug. 8, 2009.

Gene Trout ('60), La Crosse, Kan., died June 17, 2007, at age 69. He is survived by his wife, **Deanna Aron Trout ('56)**.

Phyllis Smoak '64, Arvada, Colo., died Nov. 4, 2004, at age 68.

Arthur Hauck '73, Kansas City, Mo., died May 4, 2009, at age 56.

IRR in the News: Haiti relief efforts



Union College sent three teams of international rescue and relief student to Haiti in January and February to help with the relief efforts in the wake of the devastating January 12 earthquake. You can read about their experiences and check out local news coverage of their trip at www.ucollege.edu. Also, look for a story in the next issue of *CORD* magazine.

Values beyond worth Giving is living

by Rebekah Story,
Senior Communication/Graphic Design Major



Shirley Burton

For Shirley Burton '49, a second-generation Unionite, estate planning means giving students the kinds of opportunities that brought her joy and success.

Like most Union students to this day, Shirley's professional life began long before graduation with an on-campus job. Working at the college press, she remembers learning to value her work, and the college returning that respect by paying her and other female workers the same wages as men, a right that is assumed today but rare at that time.

After graduation, Shirley's professional life continued at Union, but as a teacher. From the other side of the desk, she got to know the students on a different level, and continued a cycle of giving—providing new students with the knowledge, support and understanding her teachers had given her.

In 1963, Shirley began working in public relations for the Adventist church, first in the Oregon Conference and then in the Pacific Union Conference. Although she faced some discrimination as a woman, she never gave up and, after 16 years of public relations experience, she became communication director at the General Conference.

Shirley has always felt a strong connection with Union College, so when it came time to write her will, she wanted to remember her dear alma mater. "We should give with joy while we are still living," Shirley said. "If you don't give until you're gone, you can't know the joy of giving. Give while you're in your right mind."

Shirley's estate plans extends her lifetime of service to a new generation. Her gift will enable worthy communication students to attend Union College and learn the values that have guided her success.

Union College is grateful for the support of dedicated alumni such as Shirley who have remembered the college in their estate plans. For information about including Union College in your plan, contact Todd Mekelburg at Union College Advancement, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, 402.486.2503, tomekelb@ucollege.edu.

*It takes
ForeSight...*

Let us know if you have remembered Union College as part of your estate planning. Become a ForeSight member or see the current list of ForeSight members by visiting www.ucollege.edu, click on Give to Union, Planned Giving Guide, then ForeSight.

CORD *magazine*

News from Union College
Vol. 74, No.2 Winter 2010

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

Address service requested

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

A Time to Remember Union College Homecoming
April 1-4, 2010

Photo: Steve Nazario

There is a time to work, a time to rest, a time to refresh... each has its place in your life. But now is "A Time To Remember." Be a part of Homecoming this year. Create new memories that will be a joy to you for years to come. It's easier than you might think. Make the arrangements today. Call your old friends and say "Let's get together at Union in April this year. I really would like to see you again..."

—David Nowack '76, Alumni Association President

Pre-register before March 18, 2010 and your name will be put into a drawing for an original McClelland painting. For more information and registration call the Union College Alumni Office at 402.486.2503 or email alumni@ucollege.edu.

NEW THIS YEAR: You can register online at www.ucollegecommunity.org/homecoming