

CORD MAGAZINE

WINTER 2016/17 | NEWS FROM UNION COLLEGE

The key to pastoring

For theology students at Union, becoming a pastor means learning much more than public speaking and Biblical languages.

UNION COLLEGE since 1891 125 YEARS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Building a Bouldering Cave

It's a law of nature—international rescue and relief students like to climb. It's a vital part of their summer survival and search and rescue training in Colorado. But on a campus hundreds of miles from the nearest mountain, these outdoor adventure seekers don't find many places to practice.

Now, nestled under the balcony in the Don Love Building Atrium, a glassed-in bouldering cave beckons climbers to practice a variety of difficult maneuvers. Instead of pushing climbers to ascend 20 to 30 feet into the air, the bouldering cave presents lateral climbing challenges

with a variety of routes around several angled walls and along the eight-foot ceiling.

This bouldering cave—which allows students to exercise, practice their skills and have fun together even in winter months—has been made possible by generous gifts from donors like you. Thank you for your commitment to helping make Union College a great experience for all our students.



Photos: Melissa Weisner/Union College

Union College's new bouldering cave opened in January 2017. Located under the balcony in the Don Love Building Atrium, the room allows students like international rescue and relief major Taylor Deddens to practice a variety of lateral climbing skills all year round.

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REGULARS

4 PERSPECTIVES
Ben Holdsworth

**5 CAMPUS
NEWS**

**8 ALUMNI
NEWS**

**10 WHAT'S
ONLINE**

**24 KEEP IN
TOUCH**
Updates from classmates

28 IN MEMORY

**35 THE LAST
WORD**
from President Sauder



FEATURES

12 A semester in the life of a church
Eliezer Roque-Cisneros discovered valuable lessons
as the pastor of a church for a semester.

16 Growing parents
As a pastor and a mom, Melissa Howell had
unique insight for her devotional book for parents.

18 The business of ministry
Dan Wysong had big dreams for his business degree
but God sent him down another path.

22 The legacy of Pastor Rich
For 35 years Rich Carlson has mentored
Union College students to be leaders.

34 5 things I wish I knew
Pastor Seth Pierce gives advice to theology graduates.



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ABOUT THE COVER

When Eliezer Roque-Cisneros spent fall 2016 as an intern at the Palisade Adventist Church in western Colorado, he realized the importance of reliance on God and relationships with people—including member Doreen Dewey. Photo by Steve Nazario.

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UNION since 1891
COLLEGE 125 YEARS



photo: Steve Nazama/Union College

Dr. Benjamin Holdsworth has taught religion and theology at Union since 2009.

The lifecycle of a theology student

by Ben Holdsworth, professor of religion

They arrive, freshmen in their first year of Greek. They come with ideas, ideals, concerns over mastering an unknown language, but intrigued with a deeper knowledge of the New Testament. They have a wide range of learning, backgrounds and experiences in churches, and different walks with God. Yet, they desire to serve Him more fully.

While the first semester moves from unknown to beginning knowledge, the most important learning is appreciation of the incredible richness of meaning in Biblical text. Faces curious, questions, and then the brightening dawn of discovery of something that changes the perspective of text and even more—learning something new about God.

With relationships built comes opportunity to mentor; to share stories, learning, experience. Then in return for established trust, you have an opportunity to shape a life, mend a heart, renew a soul, change a life. You hear of joys, sorrows, successes, mistakes, failures, and watch students change and grow through

those moments shared in class, in offices, in confidence and in prayer.

You teach with purpose, recognizing the time in the classroom, or informally outside class, may create moments that prepare a student, not just for success in college, but future leadership.

Who knows which student will be a pastor, an evangelist, a chaplain who cares for many through stressful, joyful or grieving situations of life? Who knows which one will, in the future, be used by God to impact thousands in their walk with Him? Only God knows, and through teaching, you shape one moment of the path each student takes in a class.

As seniors they are more seasoned, with deeper knowledge, wider reading, their own initial experiences in preaching, pastoring, praying, and leading in congregations as student pastors. Yet in their last few months, they are still gaining a greater knowledge to minister. You have a few more weeks to challenge minds, reinforce lessons learned, expand their horizons through reading and understanding the Bible. There is reassuring they are ready, recommendations made for that first place in ministry.

As a professor, you celebrate those last moments at graduation, wave farewell, then live in fond anticipation of how God will use their lives to bless others: new congregations or schools or hospitals. The opportunities and challenges that will increase their experience, allow them to share what they've learned, appreciate their gifts and reaffirm their calling to ministry.

The Division of Religion at Union College is a chrysalis for ministry. It is my privilege to guide and to get out of the way as students develop into ministers who will not simply preach the gospel, but who have experienced it and will continue to experience it. **A**

Union welcomes Trana as VP for Financial Administration

by Elizabeth Bearden

After three months of searching, Union College welcomes Steve Trana as vice president for Financial Administration. Trana accepted the job after a two-week interview process involving campus committees and the Board of Trustees. He took the reins of the Office of Financial Administration on December 5, just in time to finish the fall semester.

In addition to guiding the college in financial decisions, many campus service departments report to the vice president for Financial Administration, including Dining Services, Human Resources, Information Systems and Plant Services.

"We are looking forward to what Steve can add as we guide Union forward," said Dr. Vinita Sauder, Union College president. "It's a tough job with exacting standards, and we've been praying for a long time for the right person. We're very excited to add Steve to our team."

Trana graduated from Union College in 1985 with a degree in business administration and dual emphases in accounting and finance. Most recently, he worked at the Westrope and Associates Insurance Agency in Kansas City as vice president for finance, and for the Ryan Specialty Group as a transitional controller.

"My career so far has been focused on profit-centered entities. While this was a welcome challenge for many years, I am eager to devote my experience and knowledge in a more service-oriented role," Trana said. "I would like to use my professional knowledge in the

Lord's work, helping Union achieve its mission, vision, and strategic initiatives."

Trana has worked for both large industries and small companies, preparing and reviewing financial statements to assist with cost control and budgets. Trana's previous colleagues and supervisors gave glowing recommendations for his professionalism, work ethic, and quality of work. His former chief operating officer said, "Steve was a key component of the company's growth as his organizational skills, accuracy, and interface with employees, clients, and vendors were exceptional. Ultimately, we sold the company, with our buyer and potential buyers noting the quality of our financials. Steve was at the center of that transformation."

Moving to Lincoln will be a reunion for the Trana family. Jake Trana, Steve's oldest son, graduated in 2015 and currently works at Union Bank and Trust Company in Lincoln as a graphic designer. His second son, Brett, is a junior at Union, working toward a bachelor's in computing. Trana also has two other children, Elena and Cort. His wife, Jodie Allen Trana, also a 1985 Union graduate, is a business and financial management consultant. **A**

"I would like to use my professional knowledge in the Lord's work, helping Union achieve its mission, vision, and strategic initiatives."

Steve Trana and his family have long-standing connections to Union College. Steve and his wife, Jodie, graduated in 1985. Son, Jake, graduated in 2015, and Brett is currently a junior computing major. Cort and Elena still live at home.



photo courtesy Steve Trana



Photo: Steve Mazano/Union College

Expanded simulation center preps Union nurses for real practice by Emily Wood '17

The newly-expanded Nursing Simulation Center gives students like Matthew Mundall and Zachary Krall the opportunity to experience what it will be like to work in a real hospital—working with a team to care for multiple patients.

For nursing students like Zachary Krall, learning to make life and death patient care decisions can be a daunting challenge. But thanks to Union College's newly expanded Nursing Simulation Center, Krall can practice in an environment even closer to the real thing, with interconnected rooms, high-tech patient simulators and volunteer patients who mimic the experience of a real hospital.

"I'm glad I can build confidence in my ability to work effectively in a variety of settings before working with actual patients in a hospital," said Krall, a junior nursing major from Washington. The patient simulators look like people and mimic human bodily functions, allowing students to feel a pulse, assess pupil reaction, listen to lungs, respond to a patient's voice and see reactions to medication.

"Simulation offers the only opportunity for students to practice the full scope of nursing skills before they actually become a nurse," said Tracy Hagele, coordinator of Union's Nursing Simulation Center.

"Our program is unique because we emulate a real hospital," Hagele said. "The nursing students work together as a team to care for several patients in multiple rooms—just like they will in a hospital unit—but without a clinical instructor looking over their shoulder. Instead, we watch from the control room to provide constructive feedback during the debrief."

The Union College difference

Krall first visited campus in August 2016, when he helped his brother move into the residence hall.

"The faculty gave me a tour of Union's nursing program even though I had no intention of transferring," said Krall, who was already enrolled in a nursing program in Florida.

His interaction with faculty, the campus atmosphere and the experiential learning emphasis impressed Krall. The simulation center helped seal the deal—his previous college didn't have one.

One semester later, Krall knows he made the right decision. "I feel like I'm getting the preparation I need to be a great nurse," he said. "At Union, the faculty really focus on helping you succeed."

He believes the hands-on practice through the simulation center is helping him gain more confidence in clinicals and in classwork. In fact, a recent study by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing found nursing simulation prepared students just as effectively as traditional clinical rotations in hospitals. At Union, nursing students participate in a combination of simulation and clinical rotation experiences.

Expanding to create a hospital environment

According to Hagele, a lot of nursing schools focus on single patient simulations—one student working with one simulator. At Union, nursing students must work as a team to care for several patient simulators and live patients. During simulations, each nursing student talks with their patients, performs physical assessments, reviews patient charts with physician orders and lab results, retrieves and administers appropriate medications and records information on the patients' electronic health record. "This innovative method better simulates real-world nursing practice," she said.

"We believe our unique approach to simulation is one of the reasons our graduates pass the NCLEX-RN the first time," said Dr. Nicole Orian, chair of the Division of Nursing. "Union has a consistently high first-time pass rate on the national nursing licensure exam—the highest in the state of Nebraska in 2015 and 2016."

The donor-funded \$350,000 expansion doubled the current simulation space and added two new manikins.

By combining practical experience with individualized learning, Krall feels his education at Union is well rounded. "At Union, I don't get overwhelmed and feel like giving up," he said. "We learn a lot about holistic care. We're taught to treat the person and not the disease. We care about the person's well-being emotionally, spiritually, physically and psychologically—just like the nursing faculty care about us." **A**

Emily Wood is a senior communication major at Union.

It's never too early for a will

by Scot Coppock

Jeremy and Marcia Ashcraft Nordmeyer '07 protected their son Calvin, prevented a huge headache before major surgery, and have given the gift of flexibility to Union College, all by updating their estate plan.

"Whenever someone would die we would say, 'We have to update our will,'" says Marcia. "Then we had Calvin, our son, and it became even more important to update the will."

Marcia and Jeremy discussed on several occasions what their wishes were if they both died, but they didn't put anything down on paper. "We chose

ed to include Union College as a beneficiary. After all of the bills from the estate are paid, Union will receive a percentage of the remaining amount. Zimmerman asked Marcia and Jeremy if their gift should go to something specific. Marcia, brainstorming aloud said, "What is the type of gift LuAnn (Davis, V.P. for Advancement) always says Union needs? Unrestricted, that's it. We will give our gift unrestricted!"

"I want my last gift to Union to be put to the best possible use, and right now I don't know what the college will need most," Marcia said. "I want to give Union the gift of flexibility. If my gift pays for tater tots or helps with the electric bill, I don't care. Just so long as it helps the bottom line, it's all good."

Marcia Ashcraft Nordmeyer '07 and her husband, Jeremy, chose to protect their son, Calvin, and benefit Union College by creating an updated estate plan for their family.



photo courtesy Marcia Nordmeyer

a guardian for our son but did not have that written down," Marcia recalls. "We never want Calvin to be the subject of a custody battle so we formalized our wishes by updating our will."

Marcia and Jeremy worked with Norman Zimmerman, the Kansas-Nebraska Conference Trust Services Director, on updating their will as well as their medical power of attorney and living will. "Having Norm there was helpful as he facilitated the conversation and affirmed what we already knew," Marcia said.

As an ancillary benefit, having an up-to-date medical power of attorney and living will was very handy when Jeremy recently had surgery. "Having those documents meant we didn't have to scramble before Jeremy's surgery. The hospital requested them and it was one less headache we had to deal with."

While updating their will, the Nordmeyers decid-

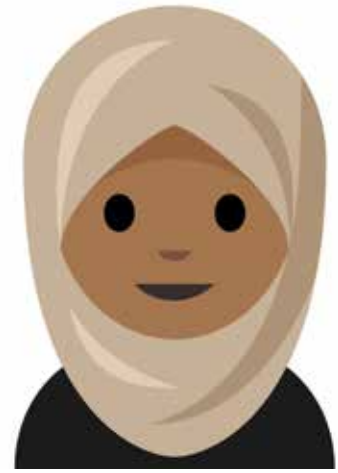
ed to include Union College as a beneficiary. When asked why she and Jeremy included Union as a beneficiary of their estate Marcia explained, "I feel like Union College helped shape my life philosophy and clarify my long-term goals. Why would I not give a final gift to Union College?"

Union College is committed to helping its alumni, friends and supporters like Marcia and Jeremy who included Union as a beneficiary of their estate, and will pay up to \$750 toward their estate planning costs. If you would like information on how you can give Union College a gift through your estate, please contact LuAnn Davis, Vice President for Advancement, at 402.486.2503 or luann.davis@ucollege.edu. LuAnn would love to help you get your estate plan up to date. **A**

Scot Coppock served as Union's director of leadership giving until November 2016.

Changing the world, one emoji at a time

by Elizabeth Bearden '18



Thanks to a design by Union alumna Aphelandra “Aphee” Messer, girls and women around the world can more accurately represent themselves online.

Teaming up with Alexis Ohanian, co-founder of Reddit, Jennifer 8 Lee, co-founder and CEO of Plympton, a literary studio, and Rayouf Alhamedhi, a fifteen-year-old Muslim girl, Messer has helped create the Hijab Emoji Project to introduce a new emoji, a girl wearing a headscarf, that will represent more than 550 million Muslim women around the world. The emoji will officially hit screens in fall 2017.

The hijab, or headscarf, not only symbolizes a part of Muslim women’s religious identity, but also stands for modesty and privacy. According to hijabemoji.org, a site Messer helped create to bring awareness about the project, “The hijab stretches much further than a piece of cloth on your head. It also influences the way you talk, the way you act, and, ultimately, your lifestyle. To say it’s an integral aspect of women’s lives is an understatement.”

Around 92 percent of people use emojis, and women are much more likely to use them than men. With some of the most populous countries in the world being predominantly Muslim, the need for a fun, cute picture to represent women online has become a necessity. Currently, Islam makes up for 23.2 percent of the world’s populous, and it is estimated that number will rise to 29.7 percent by 2050.

Messer is passionate about issues of representation. “I think people who are well-represented in media—movies, television, magazines, ads, or even emojis—often take it for granted,” Messer said. “As an English major at Union, much of my research was focused on diversity in film and literature, and how a lack of diversity hurts everyone. As an illustrator, I regularly read children’s books. Too often, I find myself wondering why the artist decided to make all their characters white when nothing in the text calls for it. Many of us have this mindset that makes us automatically envision characters as white when we’re reading. I struggle with this too—it’s a difficult mentality to overcome when you grow up seeing so little diversity in stories. I think we are slowly getting better, but there’s still so much room for improvement. One of the reasons I wanted to become an illustrator is because I want to be part of the solution.”

The project began when Alhamedhi, a teenage girl from Berlin, Germany, was texting with her friends. Each of the girls in the chat picked emojis they thought looked like them. However, Alhamedhi, who has worn hijab since she was thirteen, couldn’t identify with any of the pictures available. Alhamedhi sent an email to Apple’s customer help, but never heard back.

In August 2015, she learned how to submit a proposal to Unicode, a consortium that approves emojis. She spent two days composing her proposal, using the female runner and dumpling emojis as references. Lee answered back, and the two worked together to finalize the proposal. At that point, they contacted Messer, who worked on the design of the emoji.

Alhamedhi presented the proposal on Nov. 7, 2016, to the Unicode Consortium and it was approved a few days later. The story quickly began trending on Twitter and quickly spread worldwide. “It was pretty surreal and exciting to see something I designed in the news,” Messer said.

After completing an English degree in 2015, Messer took a semester-long internship with AdventSource, working as a graphic designer. While working on projects involving book layout, cover design and illustration, she realized her heart was in the book and art business. Messer started freelancing in September 2016, illustrating several children’s books that will appear on Audible.com next year, as well as another trending Twitter topic, Chris Thorpe’s *The Grump Who Sacked Greatland*, published on Upworthy.com in October 2016.

Messer loved Union’s small campus, its proximity to a beautiful downtown area and the open and friendly attitude of Union’s students and employees. And she appreciated the strong support system of good people who made all the difference. “My teachers at Union, particularly Tanya Cochran, Chris Blake and Mark Robison, have been a major source of support and have always encouraged me to pursue my goals.” **A**

Elizabeth Bearden is a junior English education major at Union College.

Changing nursing forever

by Michael Rohm '14

Twenty-two-year-old Elaine Jones had no idea she would help redefine the entire nursing profession before the age of forty-five. After graduating Union College in 1956, she was more concerned about leaving her mother in Nebraska to go work in the big city.

"We were farm and ranch people from Nebraska," she said. "I was my mother's only daughter."

But it was because of her mother that Jones accepted the position at Porter Hospital in Denver, Colo., and started as shift supervisor, a position usually earned after years of hospital experience.

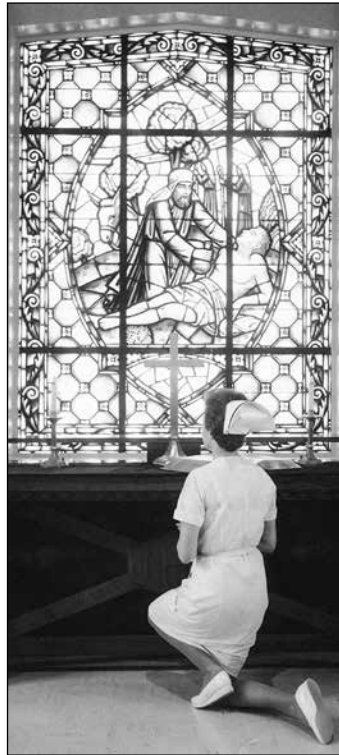
"My mother was unusual in that she graduated with a college degree in 1939 from Wesleyan University in a place and time where few women pursued post-secondary education," Jones said. "Because of that she always taught me to be an independent thinker, to be an independent person and to strive for excellence. She always encouraged me."

Thanks to her mother's inspiration, Jones earned a Master in Nursing Administration degree from UCLA in 18 months—writing a thesis about stress among directors of nursing that involved personal interviews at 46 hospitals in the Los Angeles area.

Changing the face of nursing

By the mid-1970s, only two governing bodies existed in the American nursing profession: The American Nurses Association (AMA) and the National League for Nursing (NLN). The AMA focused primarily on the everyday practice of professional nursing while the NLN focused on education and accreditation. Licensure varied by state and regulatory measures were inconsistent.

By then, Jones was executive director of the Board of Nursing in Phoenix, Ariz., a position appointed by the



Elaine Jones '56 relied on the Great Physician as she directed the formation of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing in the late 1970s.

governor of the state. As an active member in both AMA and NLN, she was well aware of their individual and collective limitations. So when she was asked to help form a task force for the purpose of providing more unity and cohesion to the nursing profession, Jones knew just where to start.

Along with the other five members of the task force—all medical directors from different hospitals across the U.S.—Jones decided to create a national network to unify the fifty state boards of nursing. The six-person team traveled the nation and met with each state board to address problems and offer a projected solution. "They could see we needed to think more about how we could regulate nursing for the future," she said.

For six years, the task force worked to create a national body that would allow the AMA and NLN to better specialize without spreading thin, one that would also address overarching concerns of regulation with a design adaptive enough to stay abreast of technology and society. Then in 1978 the

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) was formed.

Life after the National Council

Shortly after forming their unprecedented nursing governing body, the task force dissolved and Jones served as nursing director at the local community college until retiring in 2000 at age 67.

Now she enjoys life at a slower pace, including reading, gardening and social visits, such as the Homecoming reunion at Union College last April.

"Union's nursing education is at the same high standard it's always been," she said, acknowledging the nursing program's top first-time pass rates on the national licensure exam she helped to pioneer. "When I was a student at Union, the nursing instructors were outstanding. I never felt there was any one instructor who wasn't looking out

for us. I feel the same way about the current nursing program at Union. It is still outstanding."

Jones' own accomplishments are a testament to that education. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing has grown to be the regulatory body of all fifty states and four American territories, and its responsibilities include developing and managing the NCLEX-RN national nursing licensure exam.

"This was a huge movement forward in the standardization of nursing as a profession," said Dr. Nicole Orian, chair of the Union College Division of Nursing.

In August 2014 the NCSBN honored Jones and the other two surviving taskforce members for their achievements in Rhode Island at the 35th anniversary of the council's inception. "It was unbelievable," she said.

Now Jones keeps busy in Green Valley, Ariz., where she nurses her husband, a retired physician whom she married fifteen years ago. She has found her nursing skills to be as sharp as ever.

"I've always been inquisitive and interested in life and medicine," she said. "I never get burned out. There are just so many interesting things in the world." **A**

Michael Rohm '14 is a freelance writer in Bend, Ore.

WHAT'S ONLINE |



Facebook



Happy Birthday Union

As part of the Parents' Weekend festivities, Union College celebrated its 125th birthday on September 30 with a birthday party in a big tent and 125 birthday cakes.

Check out the Facebook photo album at

www.ucollege.edu/celebrate125



Soccer and volleyball tournament

In October 2016, Union launched an academy soccer tournament that coincided with the annual women's Union College Invitational Volleyball Tournament. Check out our Facebook photo albums from both events at

www.ucollege.edu/vbtournament2016winners



Youtube



Project Impact

Union College kicks off every school year with Project Impact—a day off from classes to serve the Lincoln Community. This year we followed Ashley Bower and a group of freshmen as they experienced Project Impact for the first time. Watch the video at

youtu.be/2BR9A80RH-U



Best wishes from Union

In case you missed it, Union students and faculty wished all of our donors a wonderful holiday season and a great new year. See it for yourself at youtu.be/BXFAVnTOP7U



Finding a major isn't always easy

When Joe Hofmann came to Union, he knew he wanted to serve people—he just wasn't sure how. But God led him through a few twists and turns toward a career in chaplaincy and counseling. Watch his story at youtu.be/_oq4qD9HbIQ

WHAT'S ONLINE



UCLive



Music Festival 2017

In early February music students from Mid-America academies gathered at Union for the 64th annual Mid-America Union Music Festival. Watch the band and orchestra festival concert at

livestream.com/uclive/maumusic2017-2



Fine Arts Christmas Concert

Still in the mood for Christmas music? Check out the Fine Arts Christmas Concert featuring music from a variety of instrumental and vocal groups. The performance featured the first appearance of Union's Hubbard harpsichord in more than 15 years.

livestream.com/uclive/finartschristmasconcert2016



Ucollege.edu

Read the latest news and keep up with events on Union's website.

Electronic transcript delivery

Union College now offers electronic transcript delivery through a partnership with Parchment. The new service will dramatically shorten the time it takes to fill transcript requests for students and alumni. Learn more at

www.ucollege.edu/Electronic-Transcript-Delivery

Two PA students published in scholarly journals

PA student Ashley Waldrep was recently published in the *International Journal of Cancer Research and Treatment* for her study on how well clinical exams and imaging predict the outcome of neoadjuvant chemotherapy in breast cancer patients. Her classmate Tamara Dietz also published a paper in the *Journal of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine* for her research into how prenatal and postnatal stress affect certain types of after-birth complications in preterm infants.

Read more at www.ucollege.edu/PAs-published

The other side of the law

All it took was one ride along with a Lincoln police officer and Arcelia Gomez was hooked. Now after a series of mentorships and internships, the senior social work major found a job in the Lincoln Police Department supporting crime victims.

www.ucollege.edu/other-side-law



Instagram

#ThrowbackThursday

On most Thursdays, we post a photo from our archives and invite you to tell us who is in the photo and what's happening—like this photo from 1994 of Matt Juhl, Norville Parchment and Lisa Boyd Bowen.

www.instagram.com/p/BPvo6qDDmdj



#WorldWideWednesday

Most Wednesdays we post a picture and a short quote from one of Union's 30 plus students volunteering or studying overseas this school year—including this post from Jocelyn Kendrick, who is teaching at an elementary school on the Micronesian island of Yap this year: www.instagram.com/p/BPJnD3Dzu3

A semester of a

When senior theology major Eliezer Roque-Cisneros stepped into the role of associate pastor at the Palisade Adventist Church in western Colorado, he discovered that—more than anything—his semester as a pastor taught him to rely on God.

Like Roque-Cisneros, every senior theology major spends a semester serving a church full-time under the guidance of a mentoring pastor. These internships are one more way Union helps graduates prepare for life after college.



photo: Steve Nazario/Union College

in the life CHURCH

(and its student pastor)

by Eliezer Roque-Cisneros '17

Ah yes, we've all heard it: "some things you just won't learn in a classroom." Those words never rang truer for me than this fall semester. While many of my friends returned to Union College for another semester of lectures and late night cramming, I was able to experience firsthand some of the joys (and woes) in the life of a pastor.

I grew into a greater confidence in God through the course of my ministerial internship. Confidence guided me in the (many) moments that I felt lost and clueless. I believe confidence in the heavenly Father is faith itself. It is the stepping in the dark, relying on His leading instead of my own perception of reality. The Lord drove the point home by routinely placing me in situations where complete trust was indispensable.

My mentor was Michael Shannon, pastor of a five-church district in western Colorado. He made a point of telling me each week that, "we must always be ready for the unexpected, and the only way we can be ready for that is through prayer." His insistence of relying on the Eternal was especially appreciated in an impromptu Bible study I gave.

Someday is now

Some church members invited me to join their Bible study one evening, and I attended without asking many questions—a mistake I'd soon grow from. My mentor wasn't joining us that evening, but I was excited to see church members engaging visitors outside of the church foyer on a day other than Sabbath.

We met at the agreed time and place. After some small talk, we sat down around the table. Then it happened. The host gathered everyone's attention and pronounced what could have been my death sentence, "... and now, Pastor Eli will lead us in our Bible study." He looked at me expectantly from across the table, and the eyes of the rest of the group followed his. I sat completely still with a smile plastered on my face. My expression spelled *SHOCK* in capital letters.

I thought, "Lord, now what?" and immediately the Spirit brought the answer: a memory from earlier that day. That morning I'd felt inspired to scratch down questions and Bible verses on some scrap paper, thinking they would make a great Bible study someday. And that someday was the same evening.

With this revelation in mind, I invited everyone to join me in the book of Matthew, and, having prayed for the Spirit's guidance, we studied the story of Jesus cursing a barren fig tree. I left that night blessed by the way His Spirit led. I hope the other participants felt similarly, but perhaps I was blessed more than the rest. After all, I had completely felt the hand of God.

For Eliezer Roque-Cisneros, working as a student pastor re-emphasized his calling to pastoral ministry.



Necessitation of delegation

The first month and a half were spent preparing for outreach. My mentor's district was entering its season of evangelistic meetings, and the church to which I was assigned decided to hold its meetings in mid-October. The pastor and I sat down together every Monday morning at the local Subway where we ate sandwiches, discussed the previous week's events, strategized for the week ahead, and prepared for the campaign.

We focused our efforts on visitation and establishing contact early on. I visited missing members still listed on the books who hadn't been to church in many years. I gathered much of my intel from the active membership and visited nearly every member in their home and gleaned what I could about who else I should reach out to.

By mid-September, we had put together, by God's grace, a healthy list of people who hadn't been contacted by our church in a while. Additionally, I spent my evenings going door to door and praying with residents in the area surrounding the Palisade Seventh-day Adventist Church. This helped raise community awareness about our church as well as the evangelistic series. One member even joined me one of the evenings, for which I was grateful.

Pastors in small churches spend much of their time as a team of one. With four other churches, my mentor couldn't spend all his time with me at Palisade, and I learned how lonely a pastoral career can be. Naturally introverted, I didn't think I would

mind the solitude. But it was so different from Union where there's hundreds of opportunities every day to naturally run into friends at class, work, worship, in the halls or in the cafeteria. Working in the "real world" meant social time needed to be planned and scheduled.

Summers of literature evangelism prepared me for door-to-door ministry, and I found the time spent in the community a pleasant change of pace. I also learned the importance of finding friends within my ministry. It made a huge difference to me when members volunteered to help, not just because of their wisdom and connections, but because I needed a team larger than me.

The pre-work was looking strong, all things considered. I was starting to focus more on building the evangelistic series itself. Then one Monday morning as we broke bread at Subway, my mentor asked me, "so ... have you found a master of ceremony to help you during the series yet?"

My initial thought was *doesn't the pastor usually takes care of that?* That's when it hit me. I was the pastor of that church, at least for the time being.

"Eliezer? Are you alright? You've been staring at that soda machine for a while now," the pastor waved his hand in front of my glazed over eyes and I snapped out of it. "What? Oh. Yeah. I uh ..."

Roque-Cisneros built a strong connection with the Palisade members during his semester as their pastor—including Joe Ulibarri (top) and Warren Hill (bottom).



"You haven't delegated any responsibilities yet have you?" he said laughing. We took care of that right away, but it took a bit of a toll on the congregation with such short notice.

This was a crucial moment in the development of my ministerial internship. The fiasco taught me the importance of realizing that I am not only ministering to the congregation, but alongside it. My job was to engage people in ministry, and to not try to do everything myself. This was fundamental for the rest of the semester.

Ministry is not a solo effort

Confidence in the God of Heaven is more than an intellectual pursuit, it is an attitude of gratefulness for the team of people He assembles in our church communities. Our shared purpose is to work together, advancing His gospel. I learned many times that the members aren't a liability, they are an asset. At least, they will be so long as I stay in communion with the same Spirit.

These were not isolated events. My semester was deluged in the providence of the all-knowing God. I experienced, for just a few months, what a partnership with Jesus can do, not only in the ministry of a pastor, but in the lives of real people. Working alongside the Fisher of Men has enabled me for full-time ministry in ways a classroom cannot. I won't claim to know everything about how to minister nor what the future holds for my career. I'll have to walk remembering the Lord has prevailed, still prevails and will prevail. It's an experiential confidence that no one can take away.

Our churches don't need ministerial students who are merely convinced of their calling, but convicted by it. I am more confident now because I have seen God lead. **A**



Editor's note: immediately following his internship, Eliezer Roque-Cisneros was hired by the Rocky Mountain Conference and will return to pastor in Colorado after graduation in May..

Raising parents one DEVOTIONAL at a time

by Mike Mennard

It's common for boy to meet girl (and vice versa) at Union College. Melissa Palmer and Greg Howell's love story at Union, however, is unique and certainly unlike any Hollywood romantic comedy.

Both Melissa and Greg studied theology at Union, and they found each other in Dr. Sylvester Case's Greek class. Somewhere in between parsing verbs and translating the gospels, they found true love. Dr. Case himself performed the wedding ceremony.

Ah, a tale as old as time.

Since graduating from Union in 2003, Melissa and Greg have pastored eight churches in both Washington and California. Melissa notes, "It's kind of neat how Greg and I have received our ministerial training side-by-side, from undergraduate work through seminary at Andrews." They studied together and have often pastored together. Currently, Melissa serves as full-time family pastor at the Carmichael Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northern California. Her husband Greg now pastors part-time at Carmichael while he completes a doctorate in church history.

photos courtesy Melissa Howell



As a pastor, Melissa Palmer Howell uses her own family as inspiration for ministry. She and her husband, Greg—both on the pastoral staff of the Carmichael Adventist Church in California—have four children: Caleb, 10, Toby, 7 and twins Wyatt and Brooke, 4.

"It's hard to have a split life," Melissa said. "When you're at work, you miss your kids. When you're at home, you wonder about work." Every working parent can relate, but that honesty is what makes Melissa an effective family pastor: She's in the thick of real life, yet she's not afraid to speak openly about her struggles.

In her new book, *You'll Laugh About This Someday: Devotions for Frazzled Moms*, Melissa merges her pastoral and motherly roles to help others experience God's peace even when they feel surrounded by chaos.

A pastor who is, first and foremost, a mom

One thing is for sure, Melissa said, "both parenting and pastoring have one thing in common: neither is a nine-to-five job. You never leave it, no matter what time of day or night. Both parenting and pastoring are with you always."

True, but pastoring rarely includes having a "barfing child crawl into your bed" at night. Or a young son who is convinced he is Batman. And it's candid stories like these that make *You'll Laugh About This Someday* so delightful and encouraging.

Melissa loves being a mom. Her book radiates that love. "I absolutely love watching little personalities as they grow. I love the snuggles, the cuddles. I love it all."

The book began as journal entries and Facebook posts, none of which she intended to publish in print. "Every author has an audience in mind," she says. "I think I wrote with myself in mind."

She later mustered the courage to share her thoughts with a writing group led by Seth Pierce '03, and he encouraged her to publish. It seemed impossible to Melissa that her private reflections would be useful to others. The book's reception has proven not only their utility, but how insightful, profound, and hilarious her reflections can be.

She's certainly not afraid to say what mothers are thinking but are too afraid to say aloud. Reflecting on parenting, she says, "You're never really sure you are doing it right. You definitely never feel proficient at it. About the time you think you've figured things out, everything changes."

Likewise, she's not afraid to admit things she dislikes about motherhood, such as laundry and grocery shopping. Matching socks is a constant struggle, and she has yet to get used to ... well ... poop. What's more, her dream of being a stay-at-home mom ended in defeat. "I tried it, but I found it so hard to be at home all day with a toddler."

She returned to the workforce as a pastor, the field of her college training. At first, she felt pressure, especially as a family pastor, to be the perfect mom. The fishbowl is very real to pastors, their spouses and children. Yet it didn't take long for her to know perfect is not what congregations want. "I think most parents are looking for companionship more than answers or perfection. I think my family gives people courage when they see we're not perfect either. We're going through the same struggles they are."

"If I feel any pressure now," she says, "it's simply to make sure my kids meet and fall in love with Jesus." Like all busy families, she laments, it's easy to get lost doing the little things while forgetting the big things that matter: Passionate about Jesus in all aspects of her life, Melissa wants desperately for her kids to know Him.

A mom who is very much a pastor

The uniqueness of her position is not lost on Melissa. She and Greg took their jobs at Carmichael the week before the 2015 vote at General Conference on women's ordination.

The timing of the vote has given her perspective on her vocation. "My journey is a funny one. I didn't ask for this call. I wasn't searching for it. But there was no question I felt God impressing me to take it. I didn't go looking for this, but I wanted nothing more than to be obedient to God."

She's been at Carmichael Church for eighteen months and delights in her supportive congregation and conference. "I am so honored to minister in this way. Every time I step on the platform or work with families, I feel so honored to be called. And that's all ordination really is, a public recognition of what God has already done by calling you to pastoral ministry."

The vote on women's ordination remains controversial, and Melissa is aware of that. She worries about the youth and young adults in the church and how the issue and debates may harm their view of the church. However, the vote has also provided opportunities and myriad chances to talk about what it means to be called.

Mostly, she says, "If God really wants this to stop being an issue in the church, He should stop calling women to ministry."

The need for family ministry

As both a mother and a minister to families, Melissa passionately hopes the church will find ways to help parents. While the church provides ample programming for children, it's time to consider the spiritual health of parents, too.

"Parenting is something we learn on the job," according to Melissa. "The learning curve is steep. Parents are often unsure how to talk about Jesus in the home, how to have family worship, or how to tend to their own spiritual development."

One wonders if we tended to the spiritual health of moms and dads, might we reap the harvest later with kids who adore Jesus and have a healthy view of themselves. This is the blessing motherhood has given her to her ministry—both as a mother and as a compatriot in this difficult thing called Christian parenting.

Melissa Howell's book, *You'll Laugh About This Someday: Devotions for Frazzled Moms*, is available through the Adventist Book Center and most major book sellers, including Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble. **A**

Mike Mennard is a writer, musician and adjunct professor at Union.

In the business of **MINISTRY**

by Michael Rohm '14

Dan Wysong might have been a hospital CEO by now. He might have been a Wall Street trader or an investment banker. In fact, Wysong could have logically pursued any number of careers with his degree in business finance, except for the one he picked.

"I had a lot of great offers before I graduated," he said. "Florida Hospital accepted me to their CEO fast track program, and Anderson Consulting offered me a job anywhere in America I wanted to go. I thought maybe I would trade on Wall Street for ten years and then retire and teach business."

And that is exactly what he planned to do, until he got a phone call from an unforeseen source bearing an unexpected message. Max Torkelson, president of the Upper-Columbia Conference, called Wysong six months before he was due to graduate with an offer to be a pastor.

"My grandfather was a pastor. My dad and uncle and cousin are all pastors," Wysong said. "I did not want to be a pastor."

But his willingness to follow God's calling overrode his aversion to the profession. When Torkelson encouraged him to send out résumés to churches, Wysong hesitantly agreed. "I told God, 'If you want me to be a pastor, I'll do it, but I won't try hard to seek it out. You'll have to make it clear.'"

After he received four job offers within a week, Wysong found God's will to be eminently clear.

"Because of the incredibly unlikely nature of getting four calls to be a pastor as a business finance major, I decided to do it," he said. "I've been pastoring ever since."

His unlikely career began as assistant pastor in Kirkland, Wash., five months before he officially graduated from Union College. Wysong never looked back.

"At its best, church is one of the greatest things there is," he said. "It's better than enhancing the bottom line for stockholders. What's going on with the soul is more important than how much money Apple made this year."

And so Wysong dove into his new life with the same tenacity that defined his success as a business student. After a year as assistant pastor, he went back to school, this time to the seminary at Andrews University. When he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree, Wysong returned to Kirkland as associate pastor.

For the next seven years, his role as associate pastor took him to Piedmont Park church in Nebraska and Carmichael, Calif., before he was offered the position of senior pastor in Chico, Calif., in 2012. Ready for the challenge, Wysong accepted. He soon learned the challenge was not to be taken lightly.

"The transition between associate pastoring and senior pastoring has been one of the toughest experiences of my life. You think you have it all figured out until it's your job," he said. "The emotional weight is easy to underestimate."

But the emotional component is one of the biggest reasons Wysong is still a pastor.

"Pastors get to become deep friends with a lot of different people. I have the unique privilege to be with people at their most real and raw, and I don't take that lightly."

When the emotional weight does start to threaten his health, Wysong finds respite in the house he built with his family last year, including the property that is often home to deer, bobcat and bear.

"My health and balance is connected to nature," he said. "I can be running on trails a mile from my house and run for an hour without seeing anyone. If I'd have gone into the business world, I'm sure I'd have more money, but I wouldn't have the richness of the pastoral life."

Through it all Wysong remembers to be grateful. He thanks God for directing his path; he thanks his family for supporting him; he thanks Union College for helping him build a strong spiritual foundation.

"In my travels, I have never found an institution I believe in more than Union College. It is a community that values individuals simply for being sons and daughters of God. They don't try to be a spiritual school. They just are a spiritual school."

And if there is one thing Wysong has learned in his journey through life, it is to keep listening.

"Listening to yourself and to God is most important," he said. "Listen for what makes you come alive. You will make the world best by being your truest self, by finding what you love and moving toward it. It takes courage to get out and go, but you can only steer a car that is moving."

Ultimately, Wysong has no regrets about his unexpected path after college.

"There's no way I would have the wisdom or life experiences I have if I hadn't become a pastor," he said. "I love God and I'm thankful for the direction my life has gone." **A**



Dan Wysong pastors the Chico Adventist Church in Chico, Calif. He is married to Heather Kampf '05 and they have three children—Abigaile, age 9; Grant, age 8; and Ryan, age 5.

photos courtesy Dan Wysong



photo courtesy Jessyka Albert

Diving into pastoral MINISTRY

by Michael Rohm '14

Some college graduates discover that finding a job in their field can be challenging, but 2016 Union graduate Jessyka Albert had a job waiting for her. She is one of four pastors in a church regularly attended by up to 250 members each Sabbath—a position she was offered five months before she graduated.

"I didn't have to worry about job hunting," Jessyka said. "I knew where I was going to be."

The offer to be discipleship pastor is a testament to her passion for ministry, her natural leadership skills and her love for young adults, with whom she now works closely in Bible studies, small groups, and social events. But it is also a testament to Union College's pastor internship program.

The first of its kind among Adventist colleges in North America, the semester-long pastoral practicum at Union College allows theology students to gain practical pastoral experience in a church while maintaining the structure and security of a classroom. Under close supervision from

Union faculty and a mentoring pastor, third and fourth year theology students experience the rigors of pastoral duty, including sermons, Bible studies, small groups, board meetings, hospital visits and social events.

"It's an opportunity for the student to pick up some real life ministry experience and to be mentored by a pastor," said Craig Carr, Ministerial Director for the Rocky Mountain Conference. "It allows students to really get their feet wet."

For Jessyka, her practicum in Boulder last summer was more than a chance to dip her toes in the "real world." As the young adult pastor for those five months, she had to dive in head first. Her responsibilities included rebuilding the flagging youth program, developing a leadership team of young adults, coordinating potlucks every week, and planning frequent hiking and camping trips. By her final week, regular attendance had grown from seven young adults to more than twenty.

"It was so incredible to watch young adults get excited about church," Jessyka said.

The church and conference leaders were just as excited. Before she left to finish her final semester at Union, they offered her the position of discipleship pastor. Because they wanted her to return after she graduated in the spring, the Boulder Adventist Church, in accordance with conference policy, assumed responsibility of one-third of her salary and all of her benefits. They were so eager for her to return they collected an offering during her final Sabbath to cover the remaining balance of the funds they lacked.

"I wasn't sure they would want me because of the cost of the benefits," Jessyka said. "But after potluck they came up to me and said 'We have it all covered. We want you to stay.'"

The remaining five months of classroom curriculum were demanding, but Jessyka had peace of mind in the knowledge that she would be employed immediately after graduation working with people she had grown to love. "I was already stressed out about school. I can't imagine having the pressure of trying to find a job, too," she said.

Jessyka is enjoying her new job and continues to learn from her mentors—now colleagues—at her church in Boulder. "I am treated one hundred percent as an equal here, but I have so many questions to ask," she said. "It's important to have people I can be honest with. Having mentors here like that has been an incredible gift in my life."

But the growth of the church is most important to Jessyka. "There is a lot of room for our church to grow," she said. "I feel this is something I can do for a really long time." **A**

NO manufactured moments

by Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04

Ministry happens naturally in the classroom for Tonya Rizij's Rasmusson

When Tonya Rizij's Rasmusson '00 was hired as Sacramento Adventist Academy's religion teacher in 2000, it was rare for an academy to have a dedicated Bible teacher—especially a woman. Now, in her sixteenth year at the school, Rasmusson has earned tenure teaching religion and English, and she's completing her second year as chaplain for preschool through grade 12. It's a big job that encompasses presenting class worship services and weekly chapels, planning community service days, fundraising and more. However, Rasmusson revels in her favorite part of the job—ministering to her students.

"My passion is in the teaching arena, and most of all, I enjoy being in the classroom with the kids," she said. Rasmusson emphasizes practicality in her religion classes. "We talk about what's important to the students and where they're at in their lives, how to make good decisions, how to make religion a way of life, and living our lives like Christ—full of love, acceptance and forgiveness."

That message of practical Christianity reaches both kids who have grown up in the church or are new to the faith. "Even students who came here to learn English or those who aren't Adventist get to see what's really important," she said.

Teaching offers Rasmusson a unique perspective and constant points of contact with the youth to whom she ministers. "I see these kids every day, five days a week and sometimes more," she said. "I'm at vespers, go on trips, and form real relationships with them." She shares that for many kids, the school functions as their center for spiritual growth. "As an academy teacher, I'm privileged to be part of my students' lives in a constant and personal way," she said. "I'm here for them when they're struggling with not getting a banquet date or their parents splitting up, and I'm here for the great parts of growing up, too."

While studying at Union, Rasmusson majored in religious education and English education, with a minor in youth ministry. After switching majors and a year as a task force worker, she asked Dr. Virginia Simmons, then chair of the Division of Human Development, about dropping the English major in order to graduate early. Simmons surprised her by urging she keep both courses of study. "She told me she wanted my degree to be marketable, and I needed to stick with it," Rasmusson remembered. "I'm grateful she did."

She explains that being a teacher gives her a unique relationship with those to whom she ministers. "We're a family. We look out for each other," she says. "I'm blessed to be part of this ministry, to teach them about the Bible, and to see them at their best and share in their joys. And I'm privileged to have them let me in and ask for help in the bad times, too. Teachers don't have to manufacture moments—ministry naturally happens in the classrooms, the hallways and the daily rush." **A**

Lauren Bongard Schwarz '04 is a freelance writer in Bismarck, N.D.



photo courtesy Tonya Rasmusson

Tonya Rasmusson ministers to the students of Sacramento Adventist Academy as a teacher and chaplain. She and her husband, Ryan, have two daughters: 10 year-old Inta and seven year-old Ivy, who she can see most days at work.

35 Years a Chaplain: The Pastoral **LEGAC**



photo: Steve Nisano/Union College

Pastor Rich Carlson, Union's vice president for spiritual life and one of the school's early student missionaries, has devoted his life to demonstrating the value of service and mentoring spiritual leaders at Union College.

Recounting his experience as a student missionary in Peru, a junior at Union College was quoted in the *Central Union Reaper* in October 1971 saying, "You must win them over with your love. You must come with the attitude of wanting to learn, not feeling that you have everything to offer them." A decade later, that student returned to Union College as an employee, claiming his alma mater as his mission field. Union alumni of the last 35 years will recognize in those words the leadership style of a man they learned to love as a listener, learner, counselor and friend.

Officially, he is Dr. Richard Carlson, vice president for spiritual life and associate professor of psychology and religion, but it is unlikely even he could tell you his full title without consulting Union's personnel directory. To generations of Union students and alumni, he is simply "Pastor Rich." And above any title, he will tell you his job is mentorship. "I love interacting with the kids, journeying with the students," he says. "It's been a joy and an honor."

Y of Pastor Rich Carlson

by Brittany Wren

A passion for missions

In 1971, Carlson told the *Central Union Reaper* that, “A thousand years of school can never equal the experience of mission service.” As chaplain at Union, he has encouraged thousands of students to take their lessons from the classroom to communities next door and around the world as they learn through service.

Through his leadership, Union has sent 617 student missionaries around the world, and 85 task force workers to Adventist organizations within the United States. His continued involvement in student missions reaches past Union’s Campus Ministries and extends to visiting and supporting student missionaries on behalf of the North American Division.

Emily Segura remembers the joy of having a familiar face visit when she served in Guinea. “He came to Africa and met my host family, followed me around through my daily life of shopping in the outdoor market, teaching in my tiny schoolroom, and eating rice with me,” Segura said. “You should have seen his excitement merely at presenting the gifts and letters from home and watching me open them. I appreciate his grandfatherly love and the empowerment he gives me to make my ‘what-ifs’ a reality.”

Carlson also recognizes the need for service closer to home. Project Impact began as Project BRUSH the year before he became Union’s chaplain, and under his leadership, Union’s annual event has become the nation’s largest and oldest collegiate volunteer event. From available research, no campus has a bigger event by percentage and few have as many volunteers despite 10 to 20 times the enrollment.

“Service isn’t just a one-day event,” said Cainan Ming, who has been the student coordinator of Project Impact for the last two years. “I hope students get a sense of joy from helping others and will revisit the sites. I don’t want us to just take one day of the year, I want these service projects to continue.”

Beyond Project Impact, Union’s Campus Ministries organizes volunteer opportunities for students throughout the year, from regularly scheduled events to responding to last-minute desperate pleas from individuals and groups around Lincoln.

Mentoring new leaders

When he assumed his role of chaplain at Union College in 1982, Carlson and one student worker managed all the programming for Campus Ministries. Now the office has grown to engage a staff of 35 students leading in all areas of ministry, including vespers, worship,

missions and outreach activities. “This gives them leadership training and keeps what we do current to the needs of students,” says Carlson.

He is quick to clarify for anyone who asks that he has only two duties—providing the environment and the opportunities that allow students to lead. He seeks out students with a passion for ministry, then works with them to make sure they have the resources they need to succeed as they dedicate their skills and energy to Christ.

Talking to Union students, it’s easy to find stories of how Carlson’s leadership style has changed their lives for the better. Jesse Evert, now a junior education major, recalls coming to Union as a freshman and looking for a way to belong and get involved in ministry. Carlson heard about Evert’s interests in scriptwriting and acting and approached her to write and direct the annual Easter Pageant during Homecoming weekend, which she did with the help of her best friend.

“That experience opened the door for me to become the Afterglow Coordinator in Campus Ministries for a year and a half, and to get to be on the Union For Christ team now,” Evert said. “All because Pastor Rich saw something in me and thought he could help me make a difference.”

As he works with students interested in pastoral ministry and chaplaincy, Carlson encourages them to build a team before moving forward in ministry. “Working with Pastor Rich has taught me to extinguish the corporate idea of delegation—the concept of demanding work from employees,” said Abner Campos, a senior theology major. “Instead, he invites us to empower, because it is through empowering that we experience the intersection of our gifts, passions and calling.”

According to Gina Creek ’03, Carlson is the best leadership mentor she’s ever encountered. Now director of leadership development at Adventist Health System, Creek said, “Before Pastor Rich, I always saw myself as another face in the crowd. He helped me hear the call of God on my heart.”

He also encouraged other employees to become spiritual mentors through his innovative HeartScan program. Interested students meet throughout the semester with a spiritual mentor who helps them develop a spiritual growth plan instead of keeping track of regular worship program attendance.

Experience the wisdom of Pastor Rich

Back in 1995, Pastor Rich Carlson began writing a daily email to campus—most often a devotional thought based on a scripture passage he had been reading. He has faithfully emailed these messages—dubbed Good Morning Union—every school day.

“Almost every day I get at least one e-mail from someone saying how God has used the thought for that day,” he said. “Sharing the thoughts God brings me each morning gives my personal experience with God a purpose beyond just me.” **A**

If you’d like to read them for yourself, visit www.ucollege.edu/gmu

Brittany Wren works in the Records Office at Union College.

CORD MAGAZINE

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1940s

Morris Lowry ('41) celebrated his 100th birthday on May 28, 2016. A retired educator, minister and Bible instructor, he was born in Memphis, Tenn., to missionary parents who left for the mission fields of Burma three months after he was born. Morris spent most of his career as an educator, teaching Old Testament

history and Bible classes in Adventist institutions, primarily in Texas. Now retired, he continues to fulfill his love for knowledge by sitting in on religion, history and communication classes at Southwestern Adventist University.

Ken Burden '48, Chehalis, Wash., hopes to be able to



Morris Lowry

drive to Lincoln, Neb., next year for his 70th year honor class from Union College. He says, "I am still very active, driving 10,000 miles a year and walking three miles a day. I'm living in a spacious duplex in our retirement complex since my wife of 63 years died two years ago. I was birdwatching in Brazil in January and am heading to the Bering Strait in September. I have been on 13 Maranatha trips, usually translating since we worked in Puerto Rico for 13 years. I'm enjoying retirement and still drive to reunions at Loma Linda University some years."

1950s

LaVern '53 and Doris Vietz Opp ('53) (now deceased—see page 31) celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 27, 2016, with a family gathering hosted by their sons. They were married Aug. 30, 1951, in McClusky, N.D. After graduating from Sheyenne River Academy, they attended Union College, where LaVern graduated with a religion major and history and education minors. Later he earned a master's degree in educational administration from Andrews University. After 12 years in pastoral ministry in Kansas and South Dakota, LaVern served as educational superintendent and youth director in South Dakota and Oklahoma. They later moved to Mount Vernon Academy where he was Bible instructor and vice principal, and Doris was receptionist and secretary to the principal, vice principal and treasurer. After LaVern was an academy principal in Tennessee, they moved to Idaho in 1977. LaVern was superintendent of education in the Idaho Conference, and Doris was secretary in the disability determination unit of social security for the state of Idaho. During this time LaVern was also president of the Idaho Federation of Independent Schools several times as well as a member of the Idaho Public School Elementary Approval Commission for a three-year term. Although they both retired in 1993, LaVern was interim principal of the SDA Schools of Lincoln for one year. He was also a member of the Northwest Religious Liberty Association as the government relations representative and the religious liberty secretary in Idaho. LaVern and Doris have enjoyed visiting all 50



LaVern and Doris Opp

states, plus 19 countries including five mission trips to Peru. Doris enjoys sewing and has produced beautiful pillowslips as a love ministry for terminally ill or lonely individuals. She has also produced quilts that LaVern calls "masterpieces." LaVern enjoys woodworking and has built cradles and rocking horses for grandchildren as well as toy furniture for their dolls, and pens and pencils for family and friends. Their family includes their sons, Mark and Paul; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Ed '57 and Lorle Dick Stacey '57 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family in Silverthorne, Colo., in August 2016. They were married in the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lincoln, Neb., on May 27, 1956. After graduation from Union College, they spent a year in Washington, D.C., where Ed completed a master's degree at the Seventh-day Adventist theological seminary. In 1958 they sailed to Brazil, where they worked for ten years. The next eight



Ed and Lorle Stacey

years they worked in Chile, Bolivia and Peru to complete 18 years of service in departmental and administrative work in South America. They returned to the states in December 1976. Beginning in January 1977, they worked in the Texico Conference with Ed as treasurer and Lorle in the trust department. From there they moved to the Texas Conference where they worked for 13 years. They retired from full-time work in 2002. The last 14 years Ed has continued part-time as a trust officer. They had four boys, two of whom are buried in Brazil, having died as babies. The other two boys and their spouses all graduated from Union College: **Richard Stacey '80** and his wife, **Cindy Keller Stacey '80**; **Robert Stacey '83** and his wife, **Jeannine Peak Stacey '82**. One of their six grandchildren, **Jon Stacey '10**, also graduated from Union College. Ed and Lorle have one great-grandchild.

Helton Fisher '59 recently returned home from Africa after serving at NewStart Children's Home in Harare, Zimbabwe for 12 years. He has served as plant manager and chaplain for the facility.

1960s

Jere Webb '67 has been a real estate broker in Boise, Idaho, since 1999. He has taught classes on real estate statistics to over a thousand realtors using math skills learned at Union in Dr. Leonhardt's



Jere Webb

classes. At least once a month, he enjoys preaching wherever needed. He has been married to Phyllis Sorenson Smith for 21 years, thanks to an introduction from Max Mace, his partner in evangelism and founder of the Heritage Singers. He plans to attend the 50th class reunion in April 2017 and hopes to see a lot of friends again.

1980s

Tom Seibold '85 recently authored a holiday book for children and families. *The Joys of Christmas* celebrates the timeless



Tom Seibold's new book *The 12 Joys of Christmas*.

traditions of the Christmas season and features illustrations by his wife, Sheri, whose Kansas City-based Sheri McCulley Studio licenses illustrations and pattern designs to a variety of manufacturers. The book is available on Amazon.

1990s

Doug Hardt '95 lives in Grand Rapids, Minn., and recently published a book through TEACH Services, Inc., titled *Who Was Muhammad?*—an analysis of the prophet of Islam in light of the Bible and the Quran. The book engages readers in a study of the life and teachings of Muhammad and the writings of the Quran compared to the Bible. Hardt has served as a pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for twenty years, including an eight-year stint in a predominantly Muslim region of the world.

Andrews University in July 2016. His dissertation is titled *"An Analysis of Adventist Mission Methods in Brazil in Relationship to a Christian Movement Ethos."* Marcelo teaches in the school of theology, coordinates a master's program in missiology, and manages the Center for World Missions at Brazil Adventist University.

Trista Roque ('08) was recognized as a board certified gerontological nurse. She works at Sumner Place in quality assurance and infection control. Since 2008 she has been in health care performing the duties of nursing assistant, medication administrator, registered nurse and MDS assessment nurse before assuming her current role at Sumner Place in Lincoln, Neb.

2010s

Sean Conroy '10 has published a book titled *Through the Eyes of a Young Physician Assistant*, "the story of a young man, armed only with classroom instruction and books, who, through personal experiences, becomes a true medical professional." He says he is a "physician assistant with a passion for writing." Sean has practiced medicine in Kansas in primary care, including family practice and emergency medicine, since 2010.

John Springer '15 was recently promoted to network engineer at Five Nines, a managed IT services company in Lincoln, Neb. Before joining Five Nines, he worked as an internal IT engineer for six years.

Publication policy

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

BIRTHS |



Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.

Psalm 127:3 (NLT)



Andrew Giem '00 and his wife, Marianela, are pleased to announce the birth of Abigail Grace Giem. She was born Aug. 15, 2016,



Grayson James Johnson was born July 11, 2016, to **Chris ('01)** and **Nicole Horst Johnson '00** in Kansas City, Mo.



Sebastian Isaiah Sandoval was born Feb. 4, 2016, to **Sandro '11** and **Sarah Doering Sandoval '05**.



Phillip '06 and **Crystal Domanais '07** are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Levi Atwood Burks. He was born July 29, 2016,



Jocelyn Breuer Coy '08 and her husband, Matthew, welcomed their first daughter, Aria Everly Coy, on May 3, 2016. They live in Rochester, Minn.



Rigel Muir McCutcheon was born to **Kallie Adams McCutcheon '08** and Ryan McCutcheon on Oct. 14, 2016. Rigel's new home is in Sitka, Alaska.



Raul ('14) and **Sanna Reeve Ortega '09** welcomed Emaliina Asenath Ortega on Aug. 31, 2016, in Berrien Springs, Mich.



Weston Ames Tikker was born to **Chase '09** and **Stephanie Opp Tikker ('08)** on Sept. 17, 2016.



Emmett Charles Norris was born to **Carl '10** and **Shanell Laursen Norris '09** on Sept. 3, 2016. They live in Amery, Wis.



Kayla Baker Johnson '12 and her husband, Paul, are pleased to announce the birth of Kinsley Irene Johnson, who was born May 26, 2016. They live in Ionia, Mich.



Angelina Dudina Petrenko '15 and her husband Timothy welcomed Mikko Timothy Petrenko on July 7, 2016. They live in Burnsville, Minn.

| WEDDINGS



Mindi Heinrich '11 and **Tim Huffman** were married Oct. 9, 2016, just outside of Estes Park, Colo. Both live in Lincoln, Neb.

Sherry Flerchinger Vaughn '99 married **Scott Smilden** on July 28, 2016, in Spokane, Wash., where they live.



Carl Dupper '14 and **Mollie Cummings '14** were married on June 26, 2016, in Bemidji, Minn.,. They live in Orlando, Fla.



Tyler Ellis '14 and **Olivia May '15** were married on April 10, 2016. They live in Orlando, Fla.



Cherilyn Clayville '15 and **Stephen Thorp** were married on June 5, 2016, in Oliver, B. C. They live in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Cid Coto '15 and **Tabitha Schumacher '15** were married on Aug. 7, 2016. They live in Lincoln, Neb.



Mariela Cosentino '11 married **Joe Marangella** on May 22, 2016, in Chattanooga, Tenn., where they reside.



Amanda Ashburn '16 and **Ryan Renslow** were married July 24, 2016, in Healdsburg, Calif., where they reside.



Kyle Smith '16 and **Annie Hanson ('16)** were married June 26, 2016, in Lincoln, Neb. They live in the Kansas City area.



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

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

1930s

Ida Green Wall '38, Brighton, Colo., died May 7, 2016, at age 100. She was born March 30, 1916, in Oklahoma City, Okla. Ida worked as an educator in Springfield and La Junta, Colo. In retirement, she worked with others sewing bedrolls for the homeless and making layettes for newborn infants and other projects to help the homeless. Survivors include her children: Victor Wall, Jr., Mary Miller and Diane Taylor; eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Ethel Swayze Purcell ('39), Muscatine, Iowa, died Nov. 27, 2016, at age 99. She was born Jan. 10, 1917, in Farmington, N.M., to Melville and Saba Kellogg Swayze. She married J.D. Purcell on April 11, 1942, in Longmont, Colo. She was office manager at Terra Chemicals International for 17 years before working

for her brother, **V. Warren Swayze '39**. Ethel volunteered for many years as director of the Adventist Community Service Center.

Ruth Axt Rogers ('39), Elizabeth, Colo., died July 5, 2016, at age 97. At Union College, she met **Leonard Rogers '40**, and they were married on June 3, 1940. As a pastoral couple they served in Colorado, Texas, Iowa, Oklahoma and Missouri, and then retired to Texas. She is survived by her sister, Goldie Kreiter; daughters, Cindy Hopps and Deborah Chapman; two granddaughters and one great-grandchild.

1940s

Lottie Ziprick '40, Loma Linda, Calif., died Aug. 17, 2016, at age 101. She first joined the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University) staff in Los Angeles in 1940 as a part-time secretary. She served as secretary to three presidents of Loma Linda until 1953 when she accepted a position at the UCLA School of Medicine. She then served in Takoma Park, Md., at Columbia Union College until 1965 when she returned to Loma Linda. She was assistant to the vice president for academic administration until her retirement in May 1983. Survivors include nephews: Douglas, Robert and William Ziprick and **Stephen Moline ('68)**; and nieces, Nancy Hansen and Jean Guilsoy.

Mercedes Pereda Bernal '42, Collegedale, Tenn., died Feb. 9, 2016, at age 106. She was the daughter of Manuel and Rosa Pereda. She served with her husband, **William Bernal '42**, in Peru. She is survived by her son, Norman; daughter, Hazel von Maack; brother, Adam Pereda; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Betty Hiedeman Pearce ('44), Vallejo, Calif., died June 30, 2016. She was born Jan. 10, 1922, in Empress, Alberta, Canada. Survivors include her daughters, Ann Cash and Carolyn Ballard; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Ruth Wiltse West '44, Saint Helena, Calif., died July 29, 2016, at age 94. She was born to David and Grady Lea Wiltse in Modale, Iowa. Ruth graduated from Union College with a degree in English. After teaching several years, she decided to return to school to take sec-

retarial courses. While at Pacific Union College, she met her husband, Sam West. They married on June 26, 1950, in Missouri Valley, Iowa. Ruth enjoyed working in the alumni office for Pacific Union College until her retirement in 1986. She is survived by her children: Lorna Erisman, Arthur West, Dorothy Turner; David West; eight grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Orvin Fillman '46, McDonald, Tenn., died Feb. 2, 2016, at age 93. He was born Nov. 3, 1922, in Oklahoma. He earned a degree in theology from Union College. As an ordained minister, he served in Minnesota, Wyoming, Florida and California. Survivors include his sons, T. Orvin and Jere; and three grandchildren.



Orvin Fillman

Howard Seely ('46), College Place, Wash., died May 19, 2016, at age 95. He was born to David and Ava Seely in Rugby, N.D., on Jan. 16, 1921. After graduating from Sheyenne River Academy, he spent two years at Union College and two years at La Sierra College. Howard graduated from Loma Linda Medical School in 1952. He married Sylvia Rodacker on Oct. 25, 1962, in San Diego, Calif. Throughout his career, he was a medical doctor primarily at VA hospitals in California and in the Spokane, Wash., area. Survivors include his wife, Sylvia; two daughters, Sydney, Cathy Kahn; son, Zane; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lila Davis Shawver ('46), Bartlesville, Okla., died Aug. 22, 2016, at age 89. She attended Union College and graduated from the Glendale nursing program. Lila spent their entire career associated with Adventist hospitals and retired in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Survivors include son, **Jim ('76)**, daughters, **Debra Wold ('74)** and **Robin Enders ('77)**; six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Byron Blecha '48, Grand Junction, Colo., died Aug. 3, 2016, at age 98. He was born Aug. 19, 1917, in Wellington, Kan., to Edmund and Dayse Plumleigh Blecha. He was ordained as a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist church in 1949 and retired in 1989. Byron moved to the Western Slope in 1978 and pastored churches in Grand Junction, Rifle and Glenwood Springs.

In retirement he often preached at the Fruita and Palisade churches. He was an avid gardener and is survived by his wife of 67 years, **Myrtle Lusk Blecha '48**, sister, **Phyllis Blecha**; daughters, **Arlene Hagen-sicker '73** and Marilyn Emery; son, **Edmund Blecha ('78)**; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mary Evangeline "Van" Wold Haas ('48), Ridgway, Colo., died Nov. 22, 2016, at age 85. She lived with her husband, **Elmer Haas '50** and her daughter and son-in-law, **Jeanie ('71)** and **Mike Ryan '71**. She is survived by her husband; daughters, **Mary Duval ('68)**, **Jeanie Ryan**, **Candice Hollingsead**, **Evangeline de Fluiter ('82)**; eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Norma Wolter '48, Harrah, Okla., died July 7, 2016, at age 93. She was born to **Carl '10** and **Elizabeth Wolter** on June 22, 1923, and grew up on a farm west of Wessington Springs, S.D. After graduating from high school in 1940, she and her brother, **Raymond**, attended Northern State Teacher's College at Aberdeen. After teaching several years, she completed a bachelor's degree at Union College. Through the years she taught in Minnesota, Missouri, Colorado and Arkansas. She traveled to Venezuela, Honduras, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Peru, Yap, Ghana and Ecuador on mission trips.

Delphia Bollinger Yanke ('48), College Place, Wash.,

died Feb. 3, 2016, at age 87. Del was born in Edmunds, S.D., on June 15, 1928. She graduated from Plainview Academy in South Dakota and attended Union College. On Dec. 21, 1950, she married **Bernard Yanke** in Tolstoy, S.D. They had five children. In 1967 they moved to College Place, Wash., where they have lived for 48 years. Del was an insurance billing clerk for Walla Walla General Hospital for about 25 years and involved in the Seventh-day Adventist church. She is survived by her husband, **Bernard**; sons, **Edward** and **Ernest**; daughters, **Nilda Piland**, **Lorinda Yanke** and **Jody Mitchell**; five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; and brother, **Delbert Bollinger ('48)**.

Richard Daarud '49, Lincoln, Neb., died July 4, 2016, at age 88. He was born Nov. 1, 1927, in Mandan, N.D., to **Earl** and **Amber Neuhart Daarud**. He married **Gladys Erickson ('46)** on Aug. 26, 1948 and graduated from Loma Linda University in 1953 as a medical doctor. Richard joined the Air Force and served as a physician at Madigan Army Hospital in Tacoma, Wash., and **Francis E. Warren Air Force Base** in Wyoming, attaining the rank of captain. He set up private practice as a family physician in **Lemon Grove, Calif.**, and in **Boulder, Colo.**, retiring in 1991. He enjoyed the outdoors, hiking, backpacking, camping, fishing, playing golf and his family. He is survived by his sons, **Scott '76** and **Steven '78**; daughter;

Cheryl Boulais '85; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Hayden "Corky" Lawson '49, Bakersfield, Calif., died Nov. 8, 2016, at age 88. He was born March 20, 1928, in St. Louis, Mo., to **Charles** and **Genevieve Lawson** and graduated from Enterprise Academy in 1943. At Union he met **Garnet Johnson '49**, and they married in July 1948, after their junior year.

Corky's first position after college was as principal at Highland Academy in Portland, Tenn. He earned a master's degree in secondary education at Michigan State University. In 1984 he earned a doctoral degree in administration and leadership from Loma Linda University. He was principal at Highland Academy, Grand Ledge Academy, Pioneer Valley Academy, Thunderbird Academy and Bakersfield Academy, as well as associate director of education in the Southern California Conference and superintendent of education in the Southwestern Union. Survivors include his wife, **Garnet**; three daughters, **Connie Brandt**, **Cathie Gullett** and **Cherie Vendouris**; five grandchildren; sister, **Lorraine Carter** and brother, **Glen Lawson**.



Hayden Lawson

Bill Napier '49, Walla Walla, Wash., died March 21, 2016, at age 95. William "Coach" Napier, a pioneer of Seventh-day Adventist



Bill Napier

physical education, was born Feb. 20, 1921, on a farm in Nebraska. His love of sports began in childhood, and during high school he lettered in basketball and football. During World

IN MEMORY

War II, he served in the Army Air Corps in London, Paris and Berlin. In 1946 he enrolled at Union College, majoring in biology and taking physical education classes from the University of Nebraska. He earned a master's degree in 1954 from the University of Colorado and a doctorate in 1971 from the University of Southern Colorado. He taught physical education at La Sierra University and Walla Walla University and was director of the Student Activities Center at Loma Linda University. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; daughters Vicky and Tammy; and grandchildren.



Eva Nordgren

Eva Dickerson Nordgren '49, Collegedale, Tenn., died Aug. 27, 2016, at age 93. Born to William and Nina Dickerson, she was the seventh of 11 children. She graduated from Enterprise Academy and Union College and was a member of Union's

first four-year nursing class. She taught nursing at the Boulder sanitarium and then worked in a doctor's office in Minnesota. Before they had a chance to get married, she was called to Malaysia as a missionary and sweetheart **Bill Nordgren '76** was sent on military assignment to Germany. When her term of service was ending, she wrote to Bill and said, "I'm heading home. Should I stop in Germany to see you?" Bill wrote back, "Why don't you stop, and we'll get married?" They were married on Oct. 13, 1957, in a beautiful little church in Regensburg, Germany. Eva continued her work in nursing, teaching at Union College and working at Shawnee Mission Medical Center. She is survived by her son, **William '80**; daughter, **Janya Nordgren Mekelburg '86**; and three grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be sent to Union College.

Dorothy Dunkel Oliver ('49), Raytown, Mo., died Sept. 6, 2016, at age 88. She was a lifetime member of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Survivors include her two sons: Terry and **Ken**

('71); five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Dan Peckham '49, Fort Worth, Texas, died June 17, 2016, at age 87. He was born Aug. 16, 1928, in Gothenburg, Neb., to Hubert and Gladys Hammond Peckham. Raised on a farm in Western Nebraska, he planned to be a farmer. But he was drawn by providence to work for the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a teacher and financial manager. He was ordained as a minister during a term of mission service in Korea. Dan met **Billie Jean Lambert '56**, from Bonnerdale, when she was teaching at a church school in Texarkana, Texas, and they were married in 1952. He served in the U.S. Army as a conscientious objector during the Korean War. He is survived by his wife, Billie Jean; two sons, **Kim '81** and **John '84**; brother, John; two sisters, **Margaret Lind '49** and **Mary Lou Peckham '53**; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mel Underhill '49, Keene, Texas, died June 1, 2016, at age 90. He was born Sept. 20, 1925, in Battle Lake, Minn., to John and Alice Waterman Underhill. Residing in Keene since 1961, he was head of industrial education at Southwestern Adventist University for many years before transitioning to professor in the religion department. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a member of the Keene Adventist Church. He is survived by his children: Jerry and Charles; seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, one

great-great grandchild; and two sisters.

Carl Watts '49, Redlands, Calif., died April 17, 2016, at age 96. He was born to Cloyd and Donna Kemper Watts on July 12, 1919, in



Carl Watts

Topeka, Kan. He graduated from Enterprise Academy and attended Union College before becoming the publishing secretary of the Kansas Conference. He married **Lois May Shepherdson '49** in Topeka, Kan., May 10, 1942. Carl helped found Union College's physical education department in the late 1940s. Rising to the rank of captain, he also directed the Medical Cadet Corps under Everett Dick. After serving the Missouri conference as publishing secretary, Carl and Lois May accepted a mission call to Japan in 1955 to direct the publishing ministry, then became president of the Okinawa Mission and Japan Union. In 1973, Carl moved to California and served in the Anaheim and Escondido churches, retiring in 1984. Lois May died in 2011 at age 92, in Loma Linda, Calif. Carl is survived by his daughter, **Kit Watts '66**; son, **Howard Watts ('64)**; and

two grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces including **Carolynn Weber Ytredal ('63)**.

1950s

Bill Asher '51, Littleton, Colo., died June 14, 2016, at age 87. In summer 1951, he married **Verlene Wall '51**. They made their home in Lincoln for several years. During this time, Bill took graduate work at the University of Nebraska, then earned a medical degree at Loma Linda University. He interned at Porter Memorial Hospital in Denver and then practiced general medicine at Gates Rubber Company, performed physicals for Martin Marietta Corporation, and did research at Mercy Institute for Biomedical Research. Bill started his own practice in weight control in 1964. In 1974 he began buying and managing apartment buildings and established Asher Investments while maintaining his full-time medical practice. He is survived by his sons: Mike, **Joe '79**, **Randy '84**, and **Jeff '89**; six grandchildren; two half-sisters: Juanita Williamson, Carol Case; and stepsister, Pauline Holm.

Earl Brenneise '51, Lincoln, Neb., died Aug. 15, 2016, at age 87. He is survived by his sister, **Shirley Goetz ('59)**, and son, **Earl Burns ('82)**.

Stuart Nelson '51, Cleburne, Texas, died Aug. 18, 2016, at age 87. He was born in Detroit, Mich., on Nov. 25, 1928, to Harry and Mabel Wilcox Nelson. In 1951 he graduated from Union College and, in 1956 he graduated from Loma Linda University. Stuart was a family practice physician and emergency room doctor in Takoma Park, Md. In 1977, he moved to Keene, Texas, and was the first emergency room director at Huguley Memorial Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. He married Lillie Katherine Smith Garner in Keene, Texas, on September 9, 1979. Survivors include his wife, Lillie Katherine; sister, **Barbara Barker '54**; children: Angie Garner Montoya, Jeffrey

Nelson, Alisa Garner Hill, Greg Nelson, Todd Nelson, Marlon Nelson, Bob Nelson, Chris Garner; Lianne Nelson McConnell; 19 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Alice Zendner Spomer '51, Loveland, Colo., died Oct. 3, 2016, at age 97. She was born in Thurman, Colo., on Feb. 3, 1919, to Chris and Clara Larsen Zendner. She graduated from Champion Academy in 1936 and went to Union College to pursue a teaching degree. She interrupted her college education during World War II when she taught all eight grades in a one room school in Milliken, Colo. After completing her degree, she accepted a teaching position in Shattuck, Okla., where she met Bill Spomer. They were married on May 26, 1952, and she became a full-time homemaker. Bill passed away unexpectedly in 1963, and Alice moved her family to Rifle, Colo., to be near her mother. In 1974, she moved to Loveland, Colo., where she lived the rest of her life. Survivors include her daughters, **Sue Williams '75**, **Ruth Pearson ('73)** and **Connie Dupper '81**; five grandsons and three great-grandsons.

Dwight Taylor ('51), Alvarado, Texas, died Sept. 28, 2016, at age 86. He was born Dec. 25, 1929 in Mosca, Colo., to Leo and Alta Taylor. After he graduated from Champion Academy in 1949, he attended Union College. Dwight graduated from La Sierra College with a bachelor's degree and from Andrews University with a master's degree. As an ordained minister he served as director of the Nevati mission station in Peru, departmental secretary in Iquitos, Peru, president of the North Peru Mission, district pastor for the Kansas Conference, departmental secretary for the Southern New England Conference, OFASA director for Peru and ADRA director for Peru and Mozambique. After retiring in 1995, he served as interim ADRA director in the countries of Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Yemen, Sudan, Bangladesh and Albania. He is survived by his wife, Betty; daughters, Beverly

Stafford and Renita Turner; sons, Donald and Alvin; sisters, Thelma Huffman and Evelyn Bennett; 21 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Vernon Furgason '52, Sunnyvale, Calif., died Aug. 5, 2016, at age 86. He was born in Waterloo, Iowa, on November 29, 1929, to George and Erma Mitchell Furgason. After graduating from Union College, he was a pastor in Nebraska and in California. Vernon was a teacher and chaplain at Mountain View Academy from 1971-1988. He pastored the Campbell church before he retired in 1996. He enjoyed writing and was gifted in writing poetry. He is survived by his wife, **Shirley Krupsky Furgason ('51)**.



Vernon Furgason

Ramona Pearson Stafford ('52), Milliken, Colo., died Aug. 16, 2016, at age 86. She was born Feb. 16, 1930, in Farlington, Kan. She also attended one year of secretarial college in Lincoln, Neb. Ramona met **Gene Stafford '55** in Topeka, Kan., and they were married on June 19, 1949. She worked as a secretary in Lincoln

while Gene was in dental school. She was his dental assistant, bookkeeper and secretary when he started his practice in Wayne, Neb. In 1962 they moved to Boulder, Colo., where she also assisted with recordkeeping in Gene's dental practice there. Later she worked as a secretary at Boulder Memorial Hospital and secretary to the CEO at Avista Adventist Hospital. Ramona is survived by her husband, Gene; children, Steve and **Penny Myers '83**; and two granddaughters.

Celinda Traversie '52, Eagle Butte, S.D., died Jan. 31, 2016, at age 87. She was born April 20, 1928, in White Horse, S.D., to Theophile and Lily Jewett Traversie. She began her nursing career in 1958 at the Old Cheyenne River Agency Hospital, retiring from nursing in 1997, after almost 40 years at the Pine Ridge and Eagle Butte hospitals. Celinda enjoyed old western movies and country western music, spending time with her family, and attending church. Survivors include her son, Kyle; grandson, Kason; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Doris Vietz Opp ('53), Nampa, Idaho, died Oct. 17, 2016, at age 83. She was born March 22, 1953, in McClusky, N.D., to Jacob and Katharina Vietz. She graduated from Sheyenne River Academy and attended Union College, where she did course work that prepared her for the secretarial and administration

management positions she held over the years. Doris married her high school sweetheart, **LaVern Opp '53**, on Aug. 30, 1951. Doris' most memorable work was as an administrative assistant at Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio and Highland Academy in Tennessee, where she supported Christian education and had a tremendous impact on students with whom she interacted on a daily basis. She retired from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in 1993. Doris and LaVern enjoyed traveling including multiple trips to Europe, Hawaii and Alaska. Perhaps the most meaningful travels were to Peru in support of their son Paul's non-profit organization. She is survived by her husband, LaVern; sons, Mark and Paul; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Christine Carlson Weber ('53), New London, Wis., died May 22, 2016, at age 88. She was born Sept. 25, 1927, in Vannas, Sweden, to Edvin and Ebba Engman Carlson. In November 1948, Christine traveled to America to pursue a nursing degree from Union College, and met and married Joseph Weber on January 27, 1951, in Denver, Colo. In 1959 after Joe completed medical school, their family moved to New London and started a medical practice. Christine volunteered at the New London Seventh-day Adventist Church and local schools, and was a member of the General Federation of Women's Club and the New London Lionettes. Following retirement Christine and Joe spent time traveling in their motor home where she met many wonderful people. Survivors include her husband, Joseph; sons, Steve and Kevin; daughter, Lisa Fischer; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; brother, Sven Angledal, and sister, Sue Carlson. Memorial gifts may be sent to Union College.

Naomi Reynolds Bragaw '54, Granger, Ind., died April 9, 2016, at age 86. She is survived by her son, **Jay Brand ('79)**.

Orlie Curtis '54, Napa, Calif., died May 24, 2016, at age 82. He was born Feb. 27, 1934, in Hutchinson, Kan. He enjoyed two careers during his lifetime—physicist at the National Laboratory in Oakridge, Tenn., and attorney in Stockton, Calif. Survivors include his wife, **Idella Krueger Curtis '54**; daughters, **Elizabeth Rabbitt ('79)** and Victoria Morgese; two grandchildren; and sister **Judy Dedman '60**.

IN MEMORY

Bob Engelkemier '54, Highlands Ranch, Colo., died Oct. 10, 2016, at age 85. He was born in Newkirk, Okla., to Charlie and Fanny Engelke-



Bob Engelkemier

mier: Bob attended Southwestern Junior College and graduated from Union College in 1954. He met and married LaVonne Dirksen on Aug. 2, 1953. Bob was director of patient business at Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital for 39 years. He was also an auditor

for one year after his retirement in 1996. After moving to Highlands Ranch, Colo., he added ceramic tile installer to his many jobs. He loved to paint and did many murals at his church as well as paintings of birds, barns and mountain scenes. He is survived by his wife, LaVonne; children, **Kevin '76, Murray ('77), Janna Fitzgerald '83** and **Christa Timothy ('85)**; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Yvonne Arvidson Ware '54, Aitkin, Minn., died May 20, 2016, at age 83. She is survived by her husband, **James ('57)**.

Lorraine Kostenko Sheridan '55, Fallbrook, Calif., died May 28, 2016, at age 83. She was born October 26, 1932, to Andrew and Lena Bonenko Kostenko in Butte, N.D. After graduating from Union College, she was a nurse at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln, Neb., and Tri-City Medical Center in Vista, Calif. She met her husband, Bill Sheridan, while working in Maryland. Music was Lorraine's passion. She is survived by her brother, Wilbert Kostenko; sister, Deloris Brooks; and aunt, Irene Kostenko.

Curtiss Dale '56, Summersville, W.V., died Sept. 27, 2016, at age 87. Born July 24, 1929, in Deerfield, Kan., Curtiss was the son of Clarence and Edna Bumgarner Dale. Curtiss was in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, serving a two-year tour of duty in Panama. After graduating from Union College, his first job was manager of the Book and Bible House for the Montana

Conference. On Feb. 16, 1958, he married Minnie Page in Bozeman, Mont. Curtiss spent the next two years as a singing evangelist and then as a pastor of the Miles City church. He earned an M.Div. degree from Andrews University in 1962 and pastored in Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska and Montana. After 44 years of marriage, Minnie passed away in 2002. Curtiss taught English at a language center in Korea for over a year. In 2006 at his 50th class reunion from Union College, Curtiss became reacquainted with his former classmate, **Georgia Stricker Songer '56**. They were married in August 2006. He is survived by his son, Wallace; daughter, **Camillyn Weber '85**, son, **Jonathan '91**; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Georgia Stricker Songer-Dale '56, Three Oaks, Mich., died March 9, 2016, at age 82. She was born Nov. 8, 1933, in Woodward, Okla., the daughter of George and Lydia Fehrer Stricker. She married **Hugh Songer ('63)** on July 15, 1958. Georgia was a teacher for River Valley Public Schools in Three Oaks, Mich. She was an active member and head deaconess of the Chikaming Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors include her daughter, Stacey Matthews; son, John Songer; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Rafael (Ralph) Escandon '57, St. Helena, Calif., died July 21, 2016, at age 89. He was born in

Barranquilla, Colombia, on May 21, 1927, to Antonio and Leonor Hernandez Escandon. In 1951 he graduated with a degree in commerce from Instituto Colombo-Venezolano. Rafael moved to the U.S. in 1953 to continue his studies at Union College, and two years later he married **Lena Moore '56**. In 1959 he earned a master's degree in education from the University of Nebraska and later earned a doctorate in literature and Latin American history at Universidad Interamericana. He was a professor at Creighton University and the University of Nebraska. In 1962 Rafael and Lena accepted a call to serve as missionaries in Cali, Colombia, where Rafael was president and professor at the Colegio Adventista Modelo. When their term of service ended, they moved to Angwin, Calif., where Dr. Escandon was professor of Spanish and literature in the modern language department at Pacific Union College, a position he held for 25 years. Rafael was a prolific writer, publishing 44 works in Spanish and in English. He enjoyed several sports including golf, jogging and cycling.

Ronald Atkinson '58, Lawton, Mich., died May 28, 2016, at age 89. He was born Feb. 3, 1927, in McAllen, Texas, to Lee Roy and Esther Smith Atkinson. During his early years, he developed a lifelong love of flying. He was an ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist church and served faithfully

in this capacity. He was a gifted mentor and trusted and loyal friend. Survivors include his daughter, **Nola Garner '87**, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

1960s

Chris Christensen '60, Kalispell, Mont., died May 27, 2016, at age 78. He was born in Keokuk, Iowa, on Jan. 13, 1938, to Chris and Leota Fruehling Christensen. After completing his undergraduate work at Union College, he earned a medical degree from Loma Linda Medical School in 1964. He interned at Mission Memorial Hospital in Asheville, N.C., and was in public health service from 1965 to 1967 at Shiprock, N.M., where he developed a lifelong respect for the Navajo culture. He completed surgical training at the University of Utah in 1971. In 1972 he married Diane Saxton. He worked in private practice in Ogden and Layton, Utah. Later he worked at the VA hospital in Prescott, Ariz., where he met Diane Cisco, whom he married in 1988. He retired as chief surgeon from Hot Springs, South Dakota VA hospital in 2007. He is survived by his wife, Diane; sons: David, Mark and Jeffrey; stepchildren: Beth Cisco, Mark Cisco, Laura Garner and Jeane Marie Carlson; four grandchildren and four step-grandchildren; sisters: Delores Umbarger and Doris Cameron.

Willard West ('61), Holly, Colo., died Dec. 26, 2015, at age 73. He is survived by his son, John; three siblings, two grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Olna Newball Sierra ('62), Lincoln, Neb., died Nov. 14, 2016, at age 93. She was born July 8, 1923, on Providencia Island, Colombia, South America. Olna was a member of the College View Adventist Church. After retiring from the Lincoln Regional Center, she volunteered at the Good Neighbor Center and Maranatha International. She enjoyed gardening, quilting, cooking and baking for her family. Survivors

include son, **William Sierra '72**; daughters, **Nancy Nelson '70** and Stella Link; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and brothers, Crosby Newball and Nicasio Newball.

Anna Streeter Koch '63, Buffalo, Wyo., died June 10, 2016, at age 75. She was born March 19, 1941, in Buffalo, Wyo., to Roland and Anna Mae Streeter. She graduated from Campion Academy and earned an English degree from Union College. After teaching school in Wyoming, she married Roger Koch on June 4, 1966. They made their home on a ranch in Sussex. In 1981 they moved to Buffalo where she was a substitute teacher; wrote for the *Buffalo Bulletin* and worked at the Jim Gatchell Museum. In later years she enjoyed freelance writing and travel. She is survived by her husband, Roger; three daughters: Sherri Koch, Kendy Curren and Tiffany Morgan; two sons: Rory and Raney; and nine grandchildren.

Roy Roberts '64, Fort Collins, Colo., died May 27, 2016, at age 74. He was born July 5, 1941, in Chadron, Neb. He married **Marlys Fandrich ('64)** on June 11, 1961. They spent their life together serving God in the United States, Korea, Canada, and the Philippines. He earned an M.B.A. from Andrews University in 1992. Survivors include his wife, Marlys; children: Lisa Terrell, Tonya and Todd Roberts; brother, Jay; sister, Carla Wabnitz; and five grandchildren.

Ray Quimby '66, Elgin, Ill., died Aug. 18, 2016, at age 72. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and Marines. His interests included ham radio and flying. He was an electrical inspector and senior building inspector for the city of Elgin for 16 years. He is survived by a sister, Sandra Quimby, and a brother, Brent Quimby.

Roger Miller '67, Warrenton, Ore., died Feb. 22, 2016, at age 80. He was born March 14, 1935, in Manfred, N.D. Survivors include his wife, **Joyce Sivertson Miller '57**, and brother, Dale Miller.

Gary Affolter '69, Colcord, Okla., died Aug. 28, 2016. Born Feb. 11, 1947, in Des Moines, Iowa, he was the son of **Richard ('44)** and Bette Hircok **Affolter**. Gary was a former school teacher and served as a missionary in Africa and Singapore. Gary retired from the the Gravette Middle School in 2012. He was the original owner and operator of the Apple Crest Inn Bed and Breakfast in Gentry, Ark., which was opened in 1998. He was a member of the Gentry Seventh-day Adventist Church and Compass Fellowship. He is survived by his wife, **Dianne Humpal Affolter '69**; daughter, Brittany Huls; son, Bryan Affolter; two granddaughters and his sister, **Karen Johnson '72**. Memorial gifts may be sent to Union College.

Paul Aoyagi '69, Perris, Calif., died March 30, 2016, at age 69. He is survived by his wife, Maritza; daughters, Tara Heghesan and Melissa Williams; and three grandchildren.

John Baker '69, Beatrice, Neb., died July 6, 2016, at age 70. He was born May 4, 1946 in Meridian, Miss., to **Roger '37** and Norma Lova **Baker**. John earned a master's degree in entomology. He married **Carolyn Hellweg '69** on June 29, 1969, and served in the United States Army from 1969 to 1971. John was an entomologist for the Wisconsin Insect Research Collection at University of Wisconsin and taught elementary school in Wisconsin. In Beatrice, Neb., he worked for the Nebraska Department of Education, was a substitute teacher, and was one of the founders of Phoenix Computer Service. Survivors include his wife, Carolyn; sister, **Grace Ballou '66**; and two nephews.

Becky March Vollmer ('69), Overland Park, Kan., died Oct. 7, 2016, at age 67, after a long battle with breast cancer. Becky worked for 35 years in the Shawnee Mission area doing medical transcription for Shawnee Mission Medical Center and various doctors' offices. She is survived by her husband, **Keith ('69)**; children, Tracy and Adam; four grandchildren and five sisters.

1970s

Clifton Kahler '78, Avon Park, Fla., died July 26, 2016, at age 60. He was born June 4, 1956 in San Antonio, Texas. He passed suddenly and unexpectedly from a heart attack while cycling in the annual bike ride across Iowa. He is survived by his wife, **Yvonne Flemmer Kahler '79**; children: **Brad '02**, **Vanessa '07**, and **Tyson, '13**; four grandchildren; mother, Joyce Anderson Kahler; and three sisters: **Geraldine Forbes ('76)**, **Gracie Blair '82** and **Tammy Johnson '87**.

Cynthia Owen Stokes '78, Moore, Okla., died July 1, 2016, at age 61. She often said she believed she had been given two purposes in life—to be a mother and a teacher. She raised strong and caring children and leaves behind a legacy as a life-changing teacher to the many students whom she taught the love of music during her life. She taught music at Union from 2008 to 2013. Survivors include her children: **Christopher ('02)**, **Melanie Thelen '09** and Spenser; sisters, Dixie Gaswick and **Patsy Peterson '64**; and brother, **Terry Owen '74**. Memorial gifts may be sent to Union College.

Jeff Means '94, Longmont, Colo., died Aug. 28, 2016, at age 45. He was born Feb. 2, 1971, in Denver,

Colo., to Lyle and Glynda Howard Means. Jeff had a gentle and peaceful soul and disliked conflict, yet he pursued his passions with vigor and aggressiveness. He struggled with ADHD and had a passion to help others, especially children, understand and cope with the condition, realize their potential and achieve their goals. He was senior manager of output services at KBM Group. He is survived by his daughter, Maya Raye Means; parents, Lyle and Glynda; and sister, **Julie Ketelhut ('96)**.

Notice of the following deaths has been received:

Grace Scheresky Williams ('44), Gresham, Ore., died July 9, 2016, at age 91.

Kris Gardner Underhill ('46), Keene, Texas, died May 28, 2015, at age 90.

Leo Hartman '50, Yountville, Calif., died in 2016, at age 92.

Clarence Mumford '50, Oologah, Okla., died May 15, 2016, at age 89.

Bonnie Smith Heinrich '59, Sun City, Ariz., died Aug. 3, 2016, at age 78.

Martha Lunt '62, Hendersonville, N.C., died Aug. 19, 2016, at age 79.

Martha Gibson Treat '70, Casper, Wyo., died Oct. 15, 2016, at age 68.

Virgil Poleschook ('71), Aurora, Colo., died April 26, 2016, at age 68.

Sheila Bova ('75), Portland, Tenn., died June 4, 2016, at age 67.

5 things I wished I KNEW before becoming a pastor

by Seth Pierce '03

This list could be far longer than five. A few of the top suggestions from my friends and colleagues didn't make the list. For example, "don't be creepy." That's very important for a pastor; but I can't begin to cover the subject in the space allotted. Similarly, if you don't already know how to "make friends," you may need to take a step back and rethink your career.

Disclaimers aside, here are five lessons many of my colleagues and I wish we had taken to heart sooner rather than later:

1. Ministry is who you know: As in salvation so in ministry—who you know will carry you further than what you know. Even if what you know is worth knowing, it's who you know that ensures what you know gets to who needs to know it.

When I was a theology major, we had our annual fall "meet and greet" with conference presidents—a gathering affectionately referred to as the "vege-meet market." Students who spent four years networking and preaching in various conferences got hired, but senior wallflowers had a hard time.

Your job is people. Start peopling.

2. Read deep and wide: There exists a select group of people who would be delighted if you came up to them and started talking about post-lapsarianism, Scofieldian dispensationalism, and the apophatic description of God. But most will hiss and run away.

Pastors are partly responsible for doing the homework of an entire community—your job allows you time to study and think about how theology relates to everyday life. Read widely in areas people care about. Primary sources, secondary sources—it doesn't end with your final term paper. The questions you will research only get more real with time.

You won't be able to help people discover truth if your reading consists solely of the occasional blog post and a handful of tweets. Your reading vocabulary needs to lose the sneer that accompanies the word "textbook." Embrace those fatty tomes as your new

BFFs. Build a library so you can minister intelligently to those who differ from you, including people of other faiths, cultures and perspectives.

Read deep and wide—being a peculiar people doesn't mean an insular people.

3. Play in the World of Wordcraft: Between weekly sermons, status updates, tweets, newsletters, blogs and articles—you had better know something about wordsmithing. Fred Craddock noted, "it's a tragic error to assume truth is its own evangelist."¹ Even Ellen White understood that the nutritious meals needed to be "pleasing to the sight."²

If you are clumsy or insensitive or lazy with your communication skills, it will hinder your ability to connect. Take a creative writing class; it opens doors for personal growth and ministry. Then there's that whole seminary experience that will require research papers of you. Invest in wordcraft.

4. Get more skills: Where would the church be today if Paul hadn't made tents and Peter hadn't fished?

Employment in ministry can be challenging, heartbreaking and competitive; the more marketable skills you have, the better your chances for a fulfilling ministry. Too many theology majors don't receive calls, and your degree will often give those outside of the church the impression that your talents only extend as far as the pulpit.

Adding a minor or second major increases the tools the Spirit can integrate into your ministry, and also gives you options in case a call requires waiting on the Lord. Jesus was very pragmatic about counting costs and risks (see Luke 14:28-31). Be more useful and develop marketable skills. It doesn't mean you're not confident in your calling.

5. Get over yourself and your entitlement: A lot of pastoral egos need a support garment. It wasn't until seminary that I truly appreciated how entitled ministers can be. Maybe it's our tendency toward apologetics, but we give a whole lot of reasons why we can't be bothered to work as hard as everyone else or conform to the same rules. We whine about how tough our life in middle class America is compared to everyone else. Remember, Jesus said His yoke is "easy" not "lazy." The meek inherit the earth—the clergy aren't entitled to it.

Finally, as a parting word, God's grace is sufficient for everyone—including you. Partake of the same love and grace you testify to in your community, and may Jesus bless with you with strength for the mission that lies ahead.

Seth Pierce '03 currently serves as lead pastor at the Puyallup Seventh-day Adventist Church in Washington. The author of six books, he is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in communication.

1. Craddock, F. (2002). *Overhearing the Gospel*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, p. 9

2. White, Ellen. (1907). *Letter 54*.

THE LAST WORD

Calling all medical professionals

Pastor Rich Carlson is looking for medical professionals of all kinds to take a mission trip to the Amazon River in June 2017. Each summer Pastor Rich recruits volunteers to spend 10 days helping Union physician assistant students learn critical thinking skills and discover the joy of service while providing medical treatment to the people of Peru.

If you are physician, dentist, nurse, PA, optometrist, or other medical professional and are interested in a summer adventure, contact Pastor Rich at 402.570.0496 or rich.carlson@ucollege.edu

Upcoming events

April 1 - Gymnares Homeshow

Join us for a gymnastics extravaganza at 8 pm in the Union College Thunderdome or watch it live at www.ucollege.edu/uclive

April 6-9 - Homecoming Weekend

Help us wrap up a year of celebrating Union's 125th birthday. We'll honor the classes of 1947, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2007. Register at www.ucollege.edu/homecoming

April 13-16 - Preview Days

High school students, visit Union for free! Experience classes, meet professors and find out how Union may be the perfect fit for you. Learn more at www.ucollege.edu/visit

April 21 - Fine Arts Spring Concert

The concert will begin at 8:00 p.m. in the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church sanctuary and can be viewed live at www.ucollege.edu/uclive

May 5-7 - Graduation Weekend

Come celebrate with our graduates. Learn more at www.ucollege.edu/graduation

finding a CALLING

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. - Jeremiah 29:11

Union College can trace its roots back to Adventist pioneers who wanted a place where their children could be educated as workers for God—equipped to spread the gospel across the growing country and around the world.

We still take that challenge very seriously. Our faculty and staff constantly strive to create a campus community that will encourage each student to find their God-given calling and then equip them to make a difference in their corner of the world—no matter their chosen career.

The prophet Jeremiah demonstrated the importance of this call when he recounted God's words to him in Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV):

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet among the nations."

At Union College, this doesn't happen by accident. Through personal spiritual and academic mentorship, inspiring worship, and plenty of opportunities for involvement and leadership, we pray each one of our students leaves this campus already joyfully living out God's purpose in their own lives.

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of CORD filled with stories of Union students and graduates who—like Jeremiah—followed a very specific calling to be full-time ministers for God.

Thank you for the many ways you have supported Union and our students. Please continue to pray for us as we seek to provide each student with the best educational experience possible—for this world and for eternity.



Vinita Sauder
Vinita Sauder, President

125 Years—Our Spirit Endures

Union College Homecoming
April 6-9, 2017

Join us to catch up with classmates, check out
campus changes and help us wrap up a year
of celebrating Union's 125th birthday.

Special events

- Physician Assistant program open house
- George Stone Elementary School
40th Anniversary
- Retirement celebrations for
Jim McClelland and Chris Blake

Learn more or register

www.ucollege.edu/homecoming

Honor Years

1947 1957 1962 1967 1977
1987 1992 1997 2007